February Birding  
- East and West -

On the East Side: By Gina Sheridan

Yesterday’s late-night decision resulted in another trip to the Waterville Plateau today (2/07/09). With only a bit over a half-day to bird, Michael & Roger Woodruff and I left well before dawn. Freezing fog hung over the West Plains out past Reardan, but the skies cleared further west. Temps for the day ranged from freezing to +4 degrees.

En route, we decided to try for possible early Sage Grouse, but the roads leading to the Leahy Junction lek were unplowed. Bailing on the Sage Grouse option, we continued east on Hwy. 172 and ran into a flock of 40 Snow Buntings as well as the expected Horned Larks. Perched on a large rounded rock at the southeast corner of Hwy. 172 and Heritage Road, we had nice scope views of an adult Gyrfalcon.

Since I had dipped on the Douglas County hawk owl on several previous attempts, I felt my pulse rate increase as we approached the farmstead near the junction of roads B NE and 16 NE. Fortunately, the dark blob in the tall deciduous tree on the west side of the road turned out to be the highly anticipated Northern Hawk Owl.

As Michael clicked away with his camera, Roger and I enjoyed incredible scope views of the preening hawk owl. During our 20-minute observation interval, the owl remained unperturbed by us, and never once flew off its perch. Thanks again to Steve Pink for finding this great bird at this location and for so many other helpful folks who provided current status details.

In the Mansfield cemetery, we flushed a pair of Great Horned Owls and a Sharp-shinned Hawk. From the spruce treetops, a pair of White-winged Crossbills (male & female) entertained us with a marvelous preening show. We were oohing and aahing over every plumage detail of these exquisite birds.

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The Washington Ornithological Society was chartered in 1988 to increase knowledge of the birds of Washington and to enhance communication among all persons interested in those birds.

WOS is a nonprofit educational organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking a volunteer with retail experience to assume responsibility for the marketing and sales of WOS bird-related products, under the oversight of the Board of Directors. At the moment, our merchandise includes T-shirts, decals, publications, and the Field Card of Washington Birds. The WOS Board would like the new Sales Coordinator to develop a marketing plan that would put into place an up-to-date pricing structure, production and distribution strategies, and conceptualization of new products. Please contact Brien Meilleur at treasurer@wos.org if interested.
From the Board

By Eugene Hunn, WOS President

The Board welcomes Grace Oliver as our new Membership Chair. Thanks are due to our retiring Membership Chair, Susan Fallat, for her years of quiet service behind the scenes. Grace will be working with the Board in an effort to bring back into the fold those who have let their memberships lapse, most likely simply due to inattention. I’ve been guilty of that myself on several occasions.

To make life simpler for present and future members, the Board is investigating options for online credit-card payments. We also are beginning a new feature in WOSNews — a welcome for new members.

The Patrick Sullivan Young Birders Fund (PSYBF) has now topped $10,000, our endowment threshold for initiating an awards program. Unfortunately, the economic debacle has sharply reduced the interest we can earn on this endowment for the near term. However, the Board has earmarked $400 for an initial 2009 award (see page 8).

Meanwhile, Jack Stephens is forging ahead with plans for our 2009 Annual Conference (page 4). This is a key WOS activity. In addition, we schedule field trips, monthly membership meetings in Seattle, sponsor the PSYBF and the Washington Bird Records Committee, maintain our website, and publish WOSNews and Washington Birds. What more might WOS do to support our state’s birdlife and birding community?

Perhaps the WOS Board might speak out on issues of citizen science. We are, after all, THE Washington Ornithological Society. The recent Audubon Society report (www.audubon.org/bird/bacc/index.html) on the possible impact of global warming on North American bird distributions is a case in point. Their report — based on the analysis of 40 years of Christmas Bird Count data — suggested that global warming might be the cause of the northward displacement of the wintering ranges of a substantial majority of the 305 bird species studied.

Our local papers published a summary of the Audubon report with local commentary (http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/399450_birds10.html). In that article, some novel interpretations were added to the original Audubon analysis. Local declines in Rufous Hummingbirds were attributed to competition from invading Anna’s Hummingbirds pushed north from California by global warming. Several local expert birders (Dave Hutchinson, Hal Opperman) questioned this interpretation in a discussion on Tweeters, noting that these dislocations were more likely a consequence of habitat alternation due to residential development in the Puget Sound metropolitan area rather than to climate change and interspecific competition.

Global warming is an undeniable threat, but it is important that the consequences of climate change not be conflated with other impacts. Perhaps WOS should assert its expertise in such matters affecting public policy. Perhaps WOS needs to have a Science Advisory Committee that could respond quickly when such issues come to the fore. Let us hear from you. Send your thoughts on this idea to Board@WOS.org.

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Changes in the center of abundance for 305 widespread North American bird species.
WOS warmly welcomes the following new members:

Vicki Biltz
Scott Carpenter
Graham Hutchinson
Daniel McDougall-Treacy
Robert Pippel
Dan Reiff
Barbara Shafer

Thank You,
2008 WOS Donors!

**GENERAL FUND**

Steven Mlodinow

**IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA LOTT**

Megan Lyden and Sam Mann

**PATRICK SULLIVAN**

**YOUNG BIRDER’S FUND**

American Birding Association
David Batcheldor
William Boyington
Pam Cahn
Marvin Cooper
Vera Cragin
Scott Downes
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Faye and Wade Hands
Randi Hill
Kiri Igloi
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Judith Roan
Carol Schulz
David Seay
Zoa Shumway
Jack Stephens
Carolyn Sutton
Warren Terrel
John Tubbs
Idie Ulsh
Paul Webster

**2009 WOS Conference Update**

Now is the time to mark your calendars for the 2009 WOS Conference — Friday through Monday, September 18-21, in Kelso/Longview.

There is great diversity of habitat in the southwest corner of the state, and we will do our best to cover it all. From the mouth of the Columbia to the flanks of Mt. St. Helens, we will have field trips that will cover the great variety of locations. Special treats will include access to areas in Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge that are usually not open to visitors, and birding by canoe and/or kayak.

The conference will be based at the Red Lion in Kelso, and you can now make reservations at discounted rates by calling (360) 636-4400. The Red Lion has even promised an early opening of their latte stand for the field trips! It doesn’t get much better than this. Make reservations now; the conference registration will be out soon.

Photo above: Northern Harrier. 4 Feb. 2009.
Nisqually NWR. Thurston. By Dan Streiffert.

Submit your photos to WOSNews@WOS.org and you could see your artwork published in an upcoming issue.

Photo above: Northern Harrier. 4 Feb. 2009.
Nisqually NWR. Thurston. By Dan Streiffert.
WOS Meetings

WOS meetings are free and open to all. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at the Center for Urban Horticulture on the University of Washington campus, 3501 NE 41st St. in Seattle. Doors open at 7:00 PM and the program begins at 7:30 PM.

**WILDLIFE RECOVERY**
Dr. John Huckabee
April 6, Monday

In 2008, PAWS Wildlife Center reached the milestone of having cared for over 100,000 animals since it began wildlife rehabilitation activities in 1981. The center works with wild species found in the Pacific Northwest with the aim of restoring them to health and returning them to the wild.

Dr. John Huckabee is a wildlife veterinarian who has worked for the PAWS Wildlife Center since 1998, seeing an average of 175 species of wildlife annually. His presentation will focus on what is involved in treating and rehabilitating wild birds and mammals, illustrated with examples of both commonly encountered and very unusual cases.

Dr. Huckabee graduated as a DVM from Texas A&M University in 1985. He practiced in small animal hospitals and veterinary emergency clinics in the Houston, TX, area for several years. He has been actively involved in wildlife rehabilitation and has worked closely with wildlife rehabilitators throughout his professional career. Dr. Huckabee has worked exclusively as a wildlife rehabilitation veterinarian since 1991. He has served on several nonprofit boards of directors, advisory boards, steering committees, task forces, and editorial boards since the late 1980s, and has made presentations at numerous wildlife and veterinary conferences.

**MEMBERS’ PHOTO NIGHT**
June 1, Monday

Bring your photos to share! There will be a digital projector available for your use. Photos may be brought on CD or USB flash.

**LANDSCAPING FOR WILDLIFE**
Russell Link
May 4, Monday

Russell Link is a wildlife biologist in the WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) North Puget Sound regional office in Mill Creek. A native of the San Francisco Bay area, he studied forestry at the University of Montana and earned a B.S. degree in landscape architecture from the University of California at Davis. His graduate work is in terrestrial plant ecology. He has owned a landscape contracting firm, a wholesale nursery, and an environmental consulting business.

Mr. Link began work with WDFW 12 years ago, during which time he also taught in the horticulture program at Edmonds Community College as well as wildlife-related courses through the University of WA.

Mr. Link has authored two books, *Landscaping for Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest* and *Living with Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*, both published by the University of WA Press. Russell lives on Whidbey Island with his wife and daughter.

**EFFECTS OF HABITAT FRAGMENTATION ON ANIMAL BEHAVIOR**
Josh Tewksbury
October 5, Monday

Dr. Tewksbury will discuss the effects of habitat fragmentation and patch isolation on animal behavior and the resulting effects on plant and animal population dynamics. His work has included projects in avian ecology, linking landscape structure, nest predation, brood parasitism, and the behavioral trade-offs faced by breeding birds, as well as large-scale experiments testing landscape structure and patch connectivity effects on the mutualisms enabling genetic exchange among plant populations/pollination and seed dispersal.

Dr. Tewksbury is Dept. of Biology Chair at University of Washington.

**WINTER SITE FIDELITY OF SHARP-SHINNED AND COOPER’S HAWKS**
Jack Bettesworth
November 2, Monday

Jack Bettesworth, a now retired pharmacist, has worked on raptor field research projects for the past 20 years. He holds a Master Banding Permit with the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory and with the State of Washington. He has worked on field research projects involved with Gyrfalcons, Peregrine Falcons, American Kestrels, Snowy Owls, fall raptor migration at Diamond Head (1993-1997), breeding ecology of Northern Harriers (1994-2006) and winter site fidelity of Sharp-shinned and Cooper’s hawks (2002 to present).

Sharp-shinned Hawk. Photo by Dan Streiffert

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In the town of Mansfield, we saw a couple of Eurasian Collared Doves. Working roads G NE and H NE, we simply dipped on the Snowy Owls, and the Heritage Thicket did not contain any Long-eared Owls. Rough-legged Hawks were scattered around the plateau.

Back on Hwy. 172 (east of Heritage Rd.), we had stunning views of the adult Gyr falcon. When we were at point-blank range from the bird and Michael was clicking away on his camera, we could hear the Gyr falcon vocalizing! The Gyr languidly drifted from pole to pole, and it was hard to leave this dynamic bird.

Considering that we had limited time, we wanted to make an attempt at finding White-winged Crossbills in Grant County. Sun Lakes State Park was cold, shady, and only offered us a couple of spruce trees on which to gaze. A Northern Shrike was the best bird in the park. At Dry Falls Junction (Grant Co.), there was a nice adult Golden Eagle.

While Roger was refueling at a service station in Coulee City, Michael and I split up to find the crossbills. For some reason, I was drawn to three spruce trees on the north edge of town. When I scanned the spruce trees with my binoculars, I saw two male White-winged Crossbills!

Excited by my discovery, I called out to Michael, but he had disappeared. As Roger drove toward my position, I frantically waved him down. After collecting Michael, we relocated one of the crossbills in the same tree. This bird was vocalizing quite a bit, and then flew off toward the grove of spruce trees that Michael had been previously surveying. On the corner of McEntee & Locust was a male White-winged Crossbill on the top of a tall spruce.

Later, a neighbor lady allowed us into her backyard and we all shared some lovely views of this marvelous bird. It was quite satisfying to finally find this species in Grant County.

East of Coulee City, we saw a cooperative Prairie Falcon on a power pole. Ending our birding in Davenport, we didn’t see any crossbills in the cemetery, but there were hundreds of Bohemian Waxwings swirling around town.

On the West Side
By Brian Bell

Yesterday (2/07/09) I led a group from Eastside Audubon on a trip to Port Townsend and Marrowstone Island. The day started out overcast and cool, but became sunny in the afternoon. Things were fairly quiet at the Edmonds ferry terminal, but we did see Brandt’s, Pelagic, and Double-crested cormorants, Surf Scoter, Horned Grebe, and Glaucous-winged Gull. A single California Gull flew over on the crossing. Western Grebes were near the Kingston ferry landing.

We made a stop at Point No Point and saw two Horned Grebes and a bunch of birds in the distance. Some Golden-crowned Sparrows and a Spotted Towhee were in the parking lot. Red-winged Blackbirds were calling all around. At the Hansville Store, we had all three cormorants, more Horned Grebes, and added Red-breasted Merganser, Common Loon, Pacific Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Surf Scoter, and a group of Mew Gulls with two Bonaparte’s Gulls in with them. At Port Gamble, there were many of the previously sighted birds plus White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Greater Scaup, Belted Kingfisher, Song Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Crow, and Merlin.

It was pretty quiet at Salsbury Point Park, but there were American Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, and lots of Red-breasted Mergansers. A few White-crowned Sparrows were on the lawn.

On the way up SR 19 (Chimacum Beaver Valley Rd.), we stopped and scoped three Trumpeter Swans, a first in this area for many. On the way into Port Townsend, we had a nicely perched Cooper’s Hawk. At Kah Tai Lagoon park in Port Townsend, there was a large gaggle of Mallards, several Ruddy Ducks, an American Coot, Great Blue Heron, House Sparrow, House Finch, another Cooper’s Hawk, a nice look at a male Purple Finch, and a very accommodating Lincoln’s Sparrow.

We made our lunch stop at Point Wilson by the lighthouse. We constantly scanned Admiralty Inlet, and had a fairly constant flow of birds. We saw Pigeon Guillemot, Horned Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser, Red-necked Grebe, Surf Scoter, Harlequin Duck, Common Loon, Pacific Loon (small groups of two or three flying by), Common Murre, Marbled Murrelet, and Ancient Murrelet.

Black Brant. 3 February 2009. Jefferson. Photo by Joseph Higbee

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Field Trips

Kitsap County
Saturday, April 18
Leader: Brad Waggoner

Join Brad in searching for spring migrants and lingering waterfowl at various spots in Kitsap County. Point No Point and other places in the northern part of the county will be checked, but the actual route will depend on the whims of the leader and perhaps target birds desired by trip participants. Plan on a bit of walking. Scopes are quite useful as sea-watching is a must; Kitsap County is surrounded by water.

The trip is limited to eight participants. For details, contact Brad at (206) 780-9581 or by email at wagtail@sounddsl.com.

Cle Elum Area, Kittitas County
Saturday, May 2
Leader: Michael Hobbs

If there's anywhere other than Marymoor Park that Michael knows well, it's his CBC circle in Cle Elum. Join him for a non-wintry visit to the circle area, which includes Cle Elum ponds, Elk Heights, the Swauk Prairie, Bettas Road, the Liberty area, the Teanaway, and many lesser-known nooks and crannies. Exact locations to be birded will depend on scouting. Be prepared for some walking. Return early evening.

Limited to seven participants. Meet at the Cle Elum Safeway at 6:30 AM. For details, contact Michael at (425) 318-2105 or by email at BirdMarymoor@verizon.net.

Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties
Monday, May 4
Leader: Marv Breece

Marv Breece will lead a trip to Grays Harbor and Pacific counties. We'll look for shorebirds and passerines. Potential stops are Bottle Beach, Westport jetty, Johns River, Grayland, Midway Beach, and Tokeland. Target species include Snowy Plover, Willet, Wandering Tattler, Long-billed Curlew, Red Knot, and Ruddy Turnstone. We'll meet at 5:30 AM sharp at the Ravenna Park and Ride.

Limit of seven participants. For details, please email Marv at mbreece@earthlink.net, or call (206) 634-1725.

Spokane County Birds
Saturday, May 16
Leader: Jon Isacoff

Come visit some of the birding hotspots in Spokane County! We will visit Liberty Lake County Park, Peone Prairie Wetland, and Mount Spokane. The focus of the trip will be on returning spring migrants including waterfowl, shorebirds, and a good variety of eastern WA passerines. Other target birds include Dusky Grouse, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Great Egret, Sandhill Crane, Mountain Bluebird, and Hermit Thrush. Plan for a variety of weather and approximately three to five miles of hiking.

Limited to eight participants. Please contact Jon at isacoff@gonzaga.edu or (509) 448-2629 for details.

Blue Mountains,
Columbia and Garfield Counties
Sat-Sun, May 30-31
Leader: Ken Knittle

Ken Knittle will lead this WOS field trip to the Blue Mountains, primarily Columbia and Garfield counties, in southeastern WA. Target birds are Williamson’s Sapsucker, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, gray race of Orange-crowned Warbler, and Green-tailed Towhee. We will be camping in primitive campgrounds. Bring insect repellent, your own food, and sleeping gear. We will be birding long hours from dawn to sundown.

Limit of five cars. Contact Ken at (360) 574-2590 or at washingtonbirder@hotmail.com to sign up.

Photo: Great Egret. 3 Jan. 2009.
Warm Beach. Snohomish. By Steve Mlodinow

Field Trips allow WOS members to explore new places and to revisit familiar haunts. Each member may join up to four trips per year (excluding annual conference trips). Non-members may attend as a member’s guest once a year. Questions about field trips should be directed to the trip leader(s). If you would like to lead a field trip, or would like to suggest a location for a trip, send a note to FieldTrips@wos.org.
2008 BALANCE SHEET

Assets
Bank - checking ---------------------- $ 3,394
Bank - savings ------------------------ 42,177
Other assets:
Patrick Sullivan
Young Birders Fund
(PSYBF) - (restricted) ----------- 9,200
Total Assets 54,771

Liabilities
PSYBF (restricted) ----------- 9,200

Equity
Retained earnings 40,331
Current net income 5,240
Total Equity 54,771

2008 INCOME AND EXPENSES

Income
Annual meeting 21,541
Donations 4,116
Interest 720
Membership dues 7,109
Misc. 145
Royalties 289
Sales 660
Total Income 34,580

Expenses
Administrative/office 238
Annual meeting 18,938
Bank fees 18
Birdbox 523
Bulk mail 1,141
Field cards (printing) 378
Insurance 0
Membership (reimbursement) 25
Monthly meetings
Space rental - CUH 2,340
Speaker honoraria 225
Shipping (misc.) 362
Storage facility rental 681
Taxes, licenses, etc. 10
WOS News (printing) 4,461

Total expenses 29,340
Net Income 5,240

By Patrick Sullivan.

The Young Birders Fund was first conceived by Andy and Ellen Stepniewski and established by the Washington Ornithological Society in 2005 to encourage and support young people interested in birding. After Patrick Sullivan’s death in September 2007, the name of the fund was changed to the Patrick Sullivan Young Birders Fund (PSYBF) to honor Patrick’s contributions to birding in Washington. Many WOS members have fond memories of birding with Patrick when he was quite young and watching him mature into one of Washington’s premiere birders.

Funds are generated through Andy and Ellen Stepniewski’s donation of Andy’s portion of the profits from sales of A Birder’s Guide to Washington, which Andy co-authored, and through donations from WOS, WOS members, and the general public.

Grants are available to individual young people or adults to help fund group birding activities or education for young people. We define “young birders” as anyone in the age group from pre-teens through early 20s, showing a serious interest in birds and birding. Both students and non-students are eligible and are encouraged to apply. This grant program is not intended to support graduate school activities.

PSYBF grants are intended to support activities directly related to birding, such as, but not limited to: registration fees and expenses for birding conferences and related events; fees and expenses for youth birding camps such as those offered by the National Audubon Society or the American Birding Association and Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours, and related activities; research on specific species or species groups that spend a significant portion of their life cycle in Washington; census work at a park or natural area; bird banding, when supervised by a qualified adult; and supplies and related expenses for adult-taught youth group activities centered on birding and bird study.

The fund has now grown to over $10,000 and will hopefully be self-supporting. WOS members are encouraged to donate to the PSYFB with their WOS membership renewal.

The application guidelines can be found on the WOS website (www.WOS.org).
3,000 Robins a Minute
(continued from page 1)

Audubon members took this citizen science project to heart and began to try to count these massive numbers. Some of the early counts came in at 75,000 - 100,000. These must be over-counting, right? There couldn't possibly be that many American Robins in one spot in one evening, could there?

These informal counts were repeated for a couple of years, and similar numbers came in each year. Questions began to arise: Did the same robins come and go from the roost to the surrounding orchards each night? Or were most of the robins replaced each night by new robins coming from the south?

This year (2008), Richard Repp, the YVAS representative for the GBBC, contacted Jeff Kozma and me: Would Jeff and I be willing to do detailed counts on consecutive nights, using the same methodology on both Friday and Saturday nights, to see how numbers fluctuated from night to night, and to promote this wonder of migration to all interested parties? Jeff and I both agreed. He took the Friday evening shift and I took the Saturday evening shift (Valentine's Day); nothing says love like thousands of American Robins in the air!

Our methodology would be to join other Yakima Audubon members for detailed counts. Two YVAS members took half the sky to the south of our station, Jeff (or I) took the other half to the north. Typically, these robins are spread out over a mile or so of sky, with some coming directly overhead, while others are as much as a half-mile north or south of the observer. The robins came in from the west, passing our line of sight. I counted by 50s for two minutes and then took a minute of rest; the team looking to the south and directly overhead counted by 100s for five-minute consecutive intervals with no breaks. The counting started shortly after 4:00 each afternoon and continued till almost sunset at about 5:20.

The results? The peak each night occurred between about 4:45 and 5:00, with an estimated 2,500 - 3,000 robins per minute! That alone is astonishing. Other results found that the two groups showed patterns that mirrored each other, demonstrating that the flow across the sky was roughly similar. Friday's group tallied an estimated 92,633 robins. Saturday's group was 5,948 higher (6%). Given the rough estimates we were forced to do during the peak, I would guess either of our counts could have been off by as much as 5% of the total, or at least 5,000 robins. The similarities in the two nights are amazing in that such astounding numbers came so close and the same patterns were seen in the peak times and flow of robins across the spatial landscape.

I would like to say thank you to Richard and other volunteers for helping Jeff and me to count all those robins and for encouraging us to get out and do such a count. Hopefully, this article will encourage other areas in eastern WA to get out and count robins as well. One of the still unanswered questions is, how does Yakima compare to other areas of the state in terms of robin movement? Do we see a pulse in some areas of the state, while not in others?

While we don't mind holding the mantle of Robin Capital, surely other areas have impressive numbers of their own. I have heard reports from various people of equally amazing numbers in Walla Walla and along Crab Creek near Mattawa.

Finally, if you are in Yakima in mid-to late February, come observe the spectacle for yourself. The best observing time is 30 to 45 minutes before sunset, and the best place is just west of Suntides Golf Course along Galloway Rd.

U.S. Aircraft/Bird Strikes: Common but Rarely Deadly

After a US Airways jet made an extraordinary emergency landing in the Hudson River on 15 January, there was much discussion over the role that birds may play in such incidents. Engine ingestion of Canada Geese was apparently responsible for this most recent dramatic NYC incident. (Researchers at the Smithsonian Institution have confirmed that the “snarge” removed from the aircraft was from Canada Geese. There is no way to know how many geese were involved in the incident. “Snarge” is the term for feather and organic material.) Bird strikes are not uncommon and cost the airline industry millions of dollars a year, but a dual engine flameout, as experienced over NYC, is very unusual.

Between 1990 and 2007, civilian pilots reported 79,972 bird strikes to the Federal Aviation Administration. About 85% of these came from commercial airlines and the rest involved business, private, or government aircraft. Strikes are most common between July and October. Almost 14% of these strikes involve engines. Eight strikes resulted in a total of 11 deaths. Globally, bird strikes have reportedly killed more than 220 people and destroyed more than 200 aircraft since 1988.

The collisions often occur at low altitude during takeoffs, climbs, and landings. For example, on 29 November 2007, a Western Grebe struck the No. 2 engine of a Boeing 757-200 as it climbed to 1,000 feet after takeoff from Los Angeles International Airport. The plane
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Finally, at one point, I spotted a different-
appearing loon. By following it, we were
able to pick out the Yellow-billed Loon that
has previously been reported from this spot.
The sun obligingly came out and gave us
good light, and all members were able to see
the bird. These were distant scope views,
and patience was required. In addition to
nice looks at the yellow bill, the head shape
and color were apparent.

We stopped at Point Hudson and picked up
more Harlequin Ducks, and added Brant. Our
next stop was at Oak Bay County Park where
we had Norther Pintail, Green-winged Teal,
and Bufflehead (we had been seeing these at
many places before). Across the bridge onto
Indian Island and a stop at the county park
and looking into the sun, there were lots of
Mew Gulls, a couple of California Gulls,
and a Bald Eagle. The eagle lifted off over a
hundred Brant that had been feeding further
down the beach. At Nordland, a single Greater
Yellowlegs was present.

Out at the west beach in Fort Flagler
State Park, we were able to add (very
distant views) Black-bellied Plover, Black
Turnstone, more grebes, mergansers,
scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Northern
Flicker, Sanderling, Thayer’s Gull, and
Yellow-rumped Warbler. On the pond at
Marrowstone Point, we were able to add
Northern Shoveler and Gadwall. At a pond
on the way back south, there was a single
Ring-necked Duck. At Mystery Bay, there
were a couple of House Finch and good
looks at a Varied Thrush.

Elsewhere during the trip, we saw Canada
Goose, Barrow’s Goldeneye, California
Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Red-tailed
Hawk, Killdeer, Rock Pigeon, Steller’s Jay,
Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee,
Bewick’s and Marsh wrens, American
Robin, European Starling, Dark-eyed
Junco, and Brewer’s Blackbird.

It was a great day. We all enjoyed the sun and
wound up seeing 76 species for the day.

Spring Birding Festivals

OLYMPIC PENINSULA BIRD FEST
Sequim
April 3, 4, 5
www.olympicbirdfest.org

WINGS OVER WATER FESTIVAL
Semiahmoo
April 18
www.blainechamber.com

BRANT WILDLIFE FESTIVAL
Vancouver Island
March 6 through April 26
www.brantfestival.bc.ca

GRAYS HARBOR SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL
Hoquiam
April 24, 25, 26
www.shorebirdfestival.com

TUWKILA BACKYARD WILDLIFE FESTIVAL
Tuwkila
May 9
www.backyardwildlifefair.org

LEAVENWORTH SPRING BIRD FEST
Leavenworth
May 14, 15, 16, 17
www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com

U.S. Aircraft/Bird Strikes
(continued from page 9)

returned to LAX and made an emergency landing. The bird damaged 13
fan blades, which cost more than $1 million to repair. In another case, in
December 2006, a Great Blue Heron was drawn into the engine of a Boeing
767 jet shortly after takeoff at JFK Airport in New York. The plane returned
to the airport.

NYC airspace, however, seems to be known for its flocks of Canada Geese.
There have been at least eight major strikes between geese and planes
departing or landing at New York area airports since 1995.

The primary bird threats near airports can come from waterfowl, gulls, crows,
pigeons, and starlings (in flocks), depending on the habitat and species present.
Some of the common individual strikes still tend to involve smaller birds, such
as Mourning Doves or Horned Larks.
Field Notes — June/July 2008
Compiled by Tom Aversa

“Washington Field Notes” are gleaned from reports sent to Brad Waggoner <wagtail@soundsl.com>, Doug Schonewald dschone8@donobi.net, and Tom Aversa and to a lesser extent from birding hotlines and listserves. For corrections or information contact the compiler at tom.aversa@zoo.org or 305 NW 75th St. Seattle WA. 98117.

Greater White-fronted Goose Rare in summer in WA. 1 at Port Townsend Jefferson on 6/3 (AnR), 6 at Dungeness Clallam on 6/5 (BMo), and 1 at John Wayne Marina Clallam on 7/17 (TAv).
Ross’s Goose Uncommon in WA. 1 at Pecon Spokane from 6/1 to 6/4 (TLi), and 1 at Albion Whitman on 7/16 (TrG).
Brant Uncommon in summer in WA. 9 at Dungeness Clallam on 6/5 (BMo), 1 at Padilla Bay Skagit on 6/28 (SM), and 2 at Leadbetter Point Pacific on 7/30 (RyM).
Canada Goose High count: 420 at Drayton Harbor Whatcom on 7/6 (SM).
Cackling Goose Rare in summer in WA. 1 over Bainbridge Island Kitsap on 6/4 (BWg,GG).
Tundra Swan Rare in summer in WA. 4 at Pearyagin Lake Okanogan on 6/2 and 6/3 (TAv,RyM), and 3 south of Conway Skagit on 6/4 (TAv,RyM).
Swan sp. Any swan rare in summer in WA. 2 at Bellingham Bay Whatcom on 7/6 (SM).
Green-winged Teal Uncommon in summer in w WA. 2 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 6/11 (PhK) with 3 there on 6/29 (DaH), and 2 at Bainbridge Island Kitsap on 6/12 (TAv).
Northern Pintail Reports from w WA included 3 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/2 with 2 there on 6/25 (TAv,RyM), 1 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 7/2, and 1 at South Bend Pacific on 7/2 (TAv).
Blue-winged Teal High counts included 35 at Smith Island Snohomish on 6/14, and 65 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/14 (SM).
Cinnamon Teal High count: 110 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 7/30 (TAv).
Northern Shoveler Uncommon breeder in w WA. A pair with 2 young at Kent King on 6/18 (KAn), a female with a brood of 9 near Stanwood Snohomish on 7/5, and female with a brood of 7 at Deer Lagoon Island on 7/16 (RyM).
Gadwall Uncommon breeder at outer coast. 38 adults plus a brood of 9 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 7/2, and a female with a brood of 7 at Ocean Shores STP Grays Harbor 7/2 (TAv).
American Wigeon Uncommon in summer in w WA. 1 at Juanita Bay King from 6/1 to 7/31, 8 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/4 with 6 there on 7/16 (RyM), 1 at Montlake Fill King on 6/20 (HO), 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 6/29 (DaH), and 2 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 7/2 (TAv). Uncommon breeder in WA. A female with 3 young at Conners Lake Okanogan on 7/6 (MiF), and a female with a brood of 2 at Beaver Lake Okanogan on 7/21 (TAv).
Canvasback Uncommon in summer in WA. A female with a brood at Molson Okanogan on 7/3 (KK).
Redhead High count: 116 at Hood Park Walla Walla on 6/5 (KAn). Rare in summer in w WA. 4 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 6/5 (BIC) with 16 including a brood of 6 there on 7/30 (TAv), 2 at Smith Island Snohomish on 6/8 (SM), 2 at Stanwood STP Snohomish on 7/26, and 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 7/26 (SM,BWg).
Ring-necked Duck Uncommon in summer in w WA. 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 6/5 (BIC), 3 at Everett STP Snohomish on 6/8, 3 at Deer Lagoon Island on 6/14, 2 at Crockett Lake Island on 6/14 (SM), 2 at Stanwood STP Snohomish on 6/19 (TAv) with 1 there on 7/16 (RyM), 1 at Dugualla Bay Island on 6/28 (SM) with 4 there on 7/16 (RyM), and 2 at Kent King on 7/9 and 7/20 (KAn).
Greater Scaup Reports included 1 at Hood Park Walla Walla on 6/5 (KAn), 1 at WWRD Walla Walla on 6/5 (BWg), 1 at Everett STP Snohomish on 6/8, 1 at Deer Lagoon Island on 6/14, 1 at Stanwood STP Snohomish on 6/21 (SM), 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/25 (RyM), 30 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 7/2 (TAv), 14 at Drayton Harbor Whatcom on 7/6, 12 at Neah Bay Clallam on 7/12 (SM), 4 at Crockett Lake Island on 7/16, 2 at Dugualla Bay Island on 7/16, 1 at March Point Skagit on 7/16 (RyM), and 1 at Johns River Grays Harbor on 7/17 (TAv).
Lesser Scaup Uncommon breeder in w WA. 101 including 8 females with broods at Deer Lagoon Island on 7/19 (RyM,SM).
Harlequin Duck High count: 71 at Elwah RM Clallam on 6/5 (WhD). Inland reports included 2 near Twisp Okanogan on 6/29 (KhT), 1 female with 3 young near Twisp on 7/5 (SSc), and 1 female at Mazama Okanogan on 7/12 (JoL).
Long-tailed Duck Rare in summer in WA. 1 at Soap Lake Grant on 6/11 (TAv).
Surf Scoter Rare in summer locally. 1 at Desert Aire Yakima on 6/8 (BWg), and 1 at Bonneville Dam Skamania on 7/17 (fide WC).
White-winged Scoter High counts included 180 at Port Gardner Snohomish on 6/12, and 1200 at Bellingham Bay Whatcom on 7/6 (SM).
Common Goldeneye Uncommon in summer in WA. 1 male at Desert Aire Yakima on 6/8 (BWg), 1 male at Lake Lenore Grant on 6/11 (TAv), 1 reported at Juanita Bay King on 6/12 (TaB), 2 at Crockett Lake Island from 6/14 to 7/31, and 2 at Stanwood STP Snohomish from 6/14 to 6/21 (SM).

Field Notes — June/July 2008 (continued)

Bufflehead Uncommon in summer in WA. 3 at Stanwood ST 35 31 from 6/1 to 7/31 (SM), 1 at Orz Hol Adams on 6/4 (RFI), 3 at Diablo Lake Skagit on 6/4, 3 at Lake Lenore Grant on 6/11 and 7/19 (TAv), 1 at Crockett Lake Island on 6/14, 1 at Deer Lagoon Island on 6/14, 1 at Dugualla Bay Island on 6/14 (SM) with 2 there on 7/16 (RyM), 1 at Lake Sammamish King on 6/27 (KnG), 1 female with a brood at Molson Okanogan on 7/3 (KK), 1 at Bellingham Bay Whatcom on 7/6, 1 at Drayton Harbor Whatcom on 7/6, 1 at Nehay Clallam on 7/12, 1 at Port Townsend Jefferson on 7/13 (SM), and 1 at Waprus Lake Kittitas on 7/26 (ScR).

Red-breasted Merganser Uncommon in summer in WA. 1 at Sammamish King on 6/6 (PF), 1 at Penn Cove Island on 7/4, and 1 at Nehay Clallam on 7/12 (SM).

Spruce Grouse Reports included a female with young at Salmon Meadows Okanogan on 6/29, 1 at Curthroot Pass Okanogan on 7/6 (KhT), and 1 at Bethel Ridge Yakima on 7/12 (SDO).

Dusky Grouse High count: 40 near Winthrop Okanogan on 7/23 (EH).

White-tailed Ptarmigan Uncommon locally, 2 at Paradise in Mount Rainier NP Pierce on 6/25 (GG), 2 at Slate Peak Whatcom from 6/28 to 7/19 (KhT,SSc), and 1 reported at Curthroot Pass Okanogan on 7/6 (KhT).

Pacific Loon Reports included 32 at Whidbey Island Island on 6/14 (SM), 1 at Bainbridge Island Kitsap on 6/24 and 6/25 (BWg), and 1 at Muk Bay Beach Pacific on 7/2 (TAv).

Common Loon Inland reports included 1 at Lake Terrell Whatcom on 6/2 (NW), 2 near Rock Creek Klickitat on 6/2 (Sj), 2 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 6/4 (DR), 1 at Lake Sammamish King on 6/9 (KnG), 2 at Wallula Gap Wallowa Wallowa on 6/15 (MMDLD), 1 at Marymoor Park King on 6/19 (MiH), 2 at Sprague Lake Adams/Lincoln on 6/24 (CWC), 1 at Rattlesnake Lake King on 6/27, 1 at Cedar River Watershed King on 7/13, 1 at Long Lake Ferry on 7/20, and 2 at Beaver Lake Okanogan on 7/20 (TAv).

Horned Grebe Uncommon in summer in WA. 1 at Lyman Skagit from 6/1 to 6/8 (GB), 1 at Juanita Bay King from 6/1 to 6/7 (RyM), 1 at Quartermaster Harbor King from 6/1 to 7/3 (ESw), and 3 at Drayton Harbor Whatcom on 7/6 (SM).

Red-necked Grebe Early report for w WA. 1 at Sunlight Beach Island on 7/19 (RyM).

Eared Grebe Reports included 5 at Philp Island Lake Spokane on 6/3 (MWo), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 6/11 (RgW) to 7/6 (SC), 50 at Lake Lenore Grant on 6/11 (TAv), 2 at Reardan Lincoln on 6/12, and 2 near Locke Pend Oreille on 7/24 (Jo1).

Western Grebe Reports away from Potholes included 675 at Port Gardner Sammamish on 6/8 (SM), 3 at Vancouver Lake Clark on 6/9 with 41 on 6/13 (WC) and 26 there on 7/30 (TAv), 1 at Rock Lake Whitman on 6/11 (MiH), 31 at Sunlight Beach Island on 7/16 (RyM), and 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 7/30 (DR).

Clark’s Grebe Reports away from Potholes included 4 at WWRD Wallowa Walla on 6/5 (BWg), 2 at Yakima RD Benton on 6/7 (fide BLA), and 1 at Vancouver Lake Clark on 6/9 with 4 on 6/14 (WC) and 10 there on 7/30 (TAv).

Pink-footed Shearwater High count: 400 off La Push Clallam on 7/25 (Ry,M,BWg).

Flesh-footed Shearwater Uncommon in WA. 1 off La Push Clallam on 7/25 (Ry,M,BWg).

Manx Shearwater Uncommon in WA. 6 at Destruction Island Jefferson on 6/17 (RRo), and 1 at Tatosh Island Clallam on 7/12 (SM,BWg) and 7/28 (SDO).

American White Pelican Uncommon in w WA. 2 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 6/11 (RgW).

Brown Pelican Uncommon away from outer coast. 1 at Lake Sammamish King on 6/1 (RyM), 1 at Elwha RM Clallam on 6/7 (WaD), 1 near Blane Whatcom on 6/15 (WW), 1 at Point Wilson Jefferson on 6/18 (BBW), 12 at Protection Island Jefferson on 6/22 (GG), 1 at Edmonds Sammamish on 6/27 (fide SM), and 1 at Discovery Park King on 7/16 (RL).

American Bittern Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Peone Spokane on 6/11 (Tli).

Great Blue Heron High count: 430 at March Point Skagit on 7/6 (RyM).

Great Egret Reports included 1 at Paterson Slough Benton on 6/7 (Sj), 1 at Peone Spokane on 6/26 (Tli), 12 at a rookery including an adult feeding young at Kalamazawwaw on 6/21 (RKO), 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/23 and 7/24 (YSc), and 9 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 7/30 (TAv).

Black-crowned Night-Heron Reports included 2 at Pine Creek Klickitat on 6/1 (Sj), 1 at Lyons Ferry Franklin on 6/3 (RFI), 3 at Sun Lakes SP Grant on 6/11 (TAv), 20 at Sprague Lake Adams/Lincoln on 7/4, 1 at Peone Spokane on 7/12 (Tli), and 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 7/30 (TAv).

White-faced Ibis Rare in WA. 1 at Kittzmiller Whitman on 6/11 (DiW), and 1 at Port Townsend Jefferson on 6/3 (AnR).

Turkey Vulture Locally uncommon. 1 at Sprague Lake Adams on 6/11 (MiH), 2 at Mountain Top Columbia on 6/12 (RyM), 4 at Coppel Creek Wallowa Walla on 6/16, and 1 at Yakima Canyon Yakima on 6/26 (fide DMA). Osprey High elevation report: 1 at Naches Pass King on 7/14 (EH).

White-tailed Kite Rare in summer in WA. 1 near Tenino Thurston from 6/21 (PH) to 7/28 (MiH).

Bald Eagle High count: 62 at Port Gardner Sammamish on 6/8 (SM). Uncommon locally in summer. A pair with 2 young at Yakima Canyon Kittitas on 6/12 (TAv), 1 at Reardan Lincoln on 6/12 (Jo1), 1 at Hanford Reach Benton/Franklin on 6/27 (fide BlA), and 2 at Eloika Lake Spokane on 7/27 (Tli).

Cooper’s Hawk Locally rare but increasing breeder. Pairs with nestlings were at McNary NWR Wallowa Walla on 6/20, and Columbia NWR

Dusky Grouse chick. 28 June 2008. Okanogan. Photo by Khanh Tran
Adams/Grant on 6/23 (NLa).
Red-shouldered Hawk Rare in summer in WA. 1 juvenile at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 7/30 (TAv).
Golden Eagle Uncommon in w WA. 1 near Rainy Pass Skagit on 6/14 (JBP).
Merlin Uncommon in summer in WA. A pair from May at Newport Pen Point Orwell had 3 young by 7/12 that fledged by 7/23 (JnS), a pair from May at North Seattle King by 6/1 (SiC) and fledged 5 young on 7/12 (TAv), 2 copulated at Shoreline King on 6/10 (Bjo), 1 at Seattle King on 6/18 (SiC), 1 near Colville Stevens on 6/19 and 7/20, 1 at Ballard King on 7/4 (RT), 3 at Ione Pend Oreille on 7/12 (JnS), and 1 at Kettle Falls Stevens on 7/20 (fide TAv).
Peregrine Falcon Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Columbia NWR Adams/Grant on 6/4 (NLa), a pair at Palouse Falls Franklin had 3 young on 6/8 (RFJ), 1 at Sun Lakes SP Grant on 6/11 (TAv), 3 near Metaline Pend Oreille on 6/24 (GiS,JoJ), 1 at Lows Coulee Okanogan on 7/6 (MiH), 1 at Yakima Yakima on 7/25 (KK), and 1 at Philo Lake Spokane on 7/27 (JoJ).
Prairie Falcon Rare in summer in WA. 1 above Sunrise at Mount Rainier NP Pierce on 7/20 (GW), and 1 at Hart’s Pass Whatcom on 7/22 (TAv).
Sandhill Crane Rare and local in summer in WA. 1 over WWRD Walla Walla on 6/6 (DW), and 4 at Conboy Lake Klickitat on 6/22 (LwS) with 22 breeding pairs there by 7/31 (JE).
Black-bellied Plover Reports included 30 at Dungeness Spit Clallam on 6/27 (GG), 18 at Tulalip Bay Snohomish on 6/30 (MRe), and 104 at Leadbetter Point Pacific on 7/2 (JBu).
Pacific Golden-Plover Rare in summer in WA. 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/7 (SM), 3 at Leadbetter Point Pacific on 7/2 (JBu), and 2 at Bottle Beach Grays Harbor on 7/19 (RS).
Snowy Plover Uncommon and local in WA. 2 at Midway Beach Pacific from 7/2 to 7/31 (RS).
Semipalmated Plover Late spring migrant at unusual location: 1 at Duvall King on 6/1 (EH). Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Dallesport Klickitat on 6/12 (Si), and 1 at Othello Adams on 7/25 (RFH).
American Avocet Rare in w WA. 1 at Auburn King on 6/3 and 6/4 (JLM) apparently relocated to Kent King on 6/7 (RYM) and 6/8 (RHB).
Greater Yellowlegs Reports included 1 at Tulalip Bay Snohomish on 6/8 (SM), 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/19 (TAv), 5 at Peone Spokan on 6/22 (TLJ), 3 at Columbia NWR Adams/Grant on 6/24 (RH), and 1 fifteen miles off La Push Clallam on 7/25 (RYM,BWg). First juveniles: 1 at Crockett Lake Island on 7/16, and 2 near Stanwood Snohomish on 7/16 (RYM).
Lesser Yellowlegs Early reports included 1 at Smith Island Snohomish on 6/11 (JG), 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/18 (RyM), and 2 at Auburn King on 6/23 (JLM).
Solitary Sandpiper Reports included 1 at Peone Spokan on 7/4 (TLJ), 3 at Beaver Lake Okanogan on 7/20 (TAv), 1 near Winthrop Okanogan on 7/23 (EH), 1 at Montlake Fill King on 7/25 (CSi), 1 at Lower Crab Creek Grant on 7/25 (RH), 3 at Bear Lake Park Spokane on 7/27 (TLJ), and 1 at Medical Lake Spokane on 7/27 (JA).
Williet Rare in e WA. 1 at WWRD Ilwalla Walla on 6/7* (MiH) and 6/8 (BWg), and 1 at Cow Lake Adams on 7/12 (FHJA). Uncommon and local in WA. 4 at Tokeland Pacific on 7/2 (TAv) with 7 there on 7/31 (RyM).
Wandering Tattler Uncommon in Puget Sound. 2 at Blakely Rocks Kitaip on 7/30 (BWg).
Whimbrel Rare in e WA. 1 at Dallesport Klickitat on 6/30 (Si). Reports for w WA included 4 at Dungeness Clallam on 6/5 (BMo) with 12 there on 6/27 (GG), 45 at Bottle Beach Grays Harbor on 7/2 (TAv) with 118 there on 7/19 (RS), 1 at Deer Lagoon Island on 7/16 (RYM), and 154 at Tokeland Pacific on 7/19 (RS).
Marbled Godwit Early reports included 6 at Dungeness Clallam on 6/5 (BMo) with 21 there on 6/24 (RYM,BWg), 2 at Semiahmoo Whatcom on 6/18 (WW), 1 at Tokeland Pacific on 7/2 (TAv), and 4 at Leadbetter Point Pacific on 7/6 (LCa).
Ruddy Turnstone Reports included 8 at Dungeness Clallam on 7/13 (SM,BWg), and 1 at Bottle Beach Grays Harbor on 7/19 (RS).
Black Turnstone High count: 150 at Blakely Rocks Kitaip on 7/30 (BWg).
Red Knot Reports included 1 at Bottle Beach Grays Harbor on 6/28 (DiW), 1 at Tulalip Bay Snohomish on 6/30 (MR), 1 at Black Rocks Kitaip on 7/30 (BWg), 45 at Leadbetter Point Pacific on 7/30 (RYM), and 46 at Tokeland Pacific on 7/30 (TKe).
Semipalmated Sandpiper Reports included 1 at Crockett Lake Island on 6/4 with 10 on 7/4 and 5 there on 7/19 (SM), 1 at Poulsbo Bluft Kitaip on 6/29 (RKC), 1 at Bainbridge Island Kitaip from 7/2 to 7/17 (BWg), 3 near Stanwood Snohomish from 7/2 (TAv) to 7/19 (RYM) with 2 there on 7/31, 1 at Sunlight Beach Island on 7/4, 3 at Blaine Whatcom on 7/6, 4 at Dungeness Clallam on 7/13 (SM), 1 at Tacoma Piers on 7/13 (CSC), 1 at Othello Adams on 7/15 (RH), 1 at Peone Spokan on 7/15 (TLJ), 4 at Iowa Beef Walla Walla on 7/20 (BLA,NLa), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 7/24 (RFJ), 1 at Longview Cowitz on 7/25 and 7/30 (RKC), 1 at Deer Lagoon Island on 7/26 (BBBe), 2 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 7/26, 1 at Blakely Rocks Kitaip on 7/30 (BWg), 1 at Midway Beach Pacific on 7/30 (TKe), and 6 at South Bend Pacific on 7/30 with 1 there on 7/31 (RYM).
Western Sandpiper Early report: 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/14, with the first juvenile there on 7/19 (SM).
Least Sandpiper Early report: 1 at Fort Simcoe Yakima on 6/18 (fide DGr). First juvenile: 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 7/19 (SM).

Baird’s Sandpiper Uncommon in summer in WA. 1 reported at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 7/4 (RS) and 7/6 (LsS), 1 at Peone Spokane on 7/10 (TL), 1 reported at Sandy Point Wbatum on 7/11 (AdW), and 1 at Longview Coolitz on 7/27 (Rko).

Pectoral Sandpiper Uncommon in summer in WA. 1 at Montlake Fill King on 7/22 (EvH), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 7/24 (RF), 1 at Peone Spokane on 7/25 (JoI), 23 in the Stanwood area Snohomish on 7/26 with 2 there on 7/31 (SM), and 1 at Bear Lake Park Spokane on 7/27 (TL).

Dunlin Uncommon in summer in WA. 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/7, 1 at Crockett Lake Island on 6/14 (SM), and 2 at Leadbetter Point Pacific on 7/30 (RyM).

Stilt Sandpiper Rare in summer WA. 1 adult near Stanwood Snohomish from 7/19 (SM,RyM) to 7/27 (EH).

Ruff Rare in summer WA. 1 adult male near Nahcotta Pacific on 7/31 (JGi).

Short-billed Dowitcher Early report: 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/14 (SM).

Long-billed Dowitcher Uncommon in June in WA. 4 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/1 with 7 there on 6/14 (SM), 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 6/11 (PhK).

Wilson’s Phalarope Uncommon in w WA. 6 near Duvall King on 6/1 (EH) with 3 there on 6/2 (MiH), 45 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/7 with 18 males on nests and over 40 young by July (SM) and 10 juveniles there on 7/27 (EH), 3 at Smith Island Snohomish on 6/8 with 4 on 6/12 and 1 there on 6/15, and 2 at Crockett Lake Island on 7/4 (SM).

Red-necked Phalarope Late migrants included 1 at Mud Lake Okanogan on 6/8 (KK), 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 6/11 (PhK), and 1 at Kent King on 6/12 (GuM). First fall migrants: 2 at Midway Beach Pacific on 7/17 (TAv).

Red Phalarope Early migrants included 3 off La Push Clallam on 7/25 (RyM,BWg), and 1 on the Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/26 (fide Rsh).

South Polar Skua Reports included 1 off La Push Clallam on 7/25 (RyM,BWg), and 1 on the Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/26 (fide Rsh).

LAUGHING GULL Rare in WA. 1 immature at Point No Point Kitap on 6/1 (YV,GG), and 1 immature near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/7 (SM).

Franklin’s Gull Uncommon in WA. 6 at Sprague Lake Adams on 6/5 (Rh), 6 at WWRD Walla Walla on 6/5 with 1 there on 6/8 (BWg), 1 at Spokane Valley Spokane on 6/6 (DgW), 1 at Lewis and Clark Trail SP Columbia on 6/11 (RyM), 1 at Peone Spokane on 6/14, and 1 at Nine Mile Dam Spokane on 7/20 (TL).

BLACK-TAILED GULL Rare in WA. 1 adult at Tatoosh Island Clallam on 6/18 (TWO).

Bonaparte’s Gull Reports included 1 at WWRD Walla Walla on 6/6 (BWg), 1 at Peone Spokane on 6/11 with 2 there on 6/14 (TL), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 6/16 (RgW), 200 near Blaine Whatcom on 6/18 (WW) with 275 there on 7/6 (SM), 23 at Philslo Lake Spokane on 7/26, and 11 at Reedan Lincoln on 7/29 (JoI).


Mew Gull Uncommon in June in WA. Immatures included 3 at Stanwood Snohomish on 6/4 (TAv,RyM), 1 at Point No Point Kitap on 6/9 (BWg), and 1 at Deer Lagoon Island on 6/14 (SM).

Ring-billed Gull First juvenile: 1 at Birch Bay Whatcom on 7/13 (SM).

California Gull First juvenile: 1 at Birch Bay Whatcom on 7/13 (SM).

Herring Gull Early for WA. 1 at Kalaloch Jefferson on 7/24 (RyM,BWg).

Western Gull Rare in summer in e WA. 1 reported near Lyle Klickitat on 6/1 (RF), and 1 at WWRD Walla Walla on 6/7 (MHI).

Glaucous-winged Gull Uncommon in summer in e WA. 1 at WWRD Walla Walla on 6/8 (BWg).

Caspian Tern High count: 2000 adults at Dungeness Spit Clallam on 7/3 (GG).

Elegant Tern Rare in WA. 2 at Tokeland Pacific on 7/27 (MiH), and 5 at Klipsan Beach Pacific on 7/30 (TkC).

Common Tern Rare in summer in e WA. 4 adults near Stanwood Snohomish 6/18 (RyM), and 1 immature at Semiahmoo Whatcom on 7/6 (SM).

Arctic Tern Rare nearshore in WA. 2 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/18 (RyM), and 2 at Dungeness Spit Clallam on 6/27 (GG).

Forster’s Tern Rare in w WA. 2 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 6/16 (RgW,RF). LEAST TERN Rare in WA. 1 at Everett STP Snohomish on 7/4 (KA).

Black Tern Uncommon locally. 3 near Richland Benton on 6/15 with 2 there on 7/3 (JAB), 1 at Conboy Lake Klickitat on 7/19 (fide SJ), and 1 adult at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 7/6 (SC) with 1 immature there on 7/20 (BIC).

Pigeon Guillemot High count: 300 at Protection Island Jefferson on 6/22 (GG).

Marbled Murrelet High count: 40 at Culrus Island Island on 6/14 (SM).

Cassin’s Auklet Uncommon locally. 6 west of Port Angeles Clallam on 7/18 (BWg).

Tufted Puffin Reports included 1 at Smith Island on 6/10 and 6/28 (fide RyM), 1 at Point Wilson Jefferson on 6/10 (BbW), 4 at Protection Island Jefferson on 6/22 (GG), 350 at...
in WA. Reports included 1 at Longview Klickitat from May with 5 there on 6/7 (fide KK), 9 at Washucuna Adams on 6/2 (RF), 3 at Kittitas Kittitas on 6/5 (EH), 6 with there on 6/19 (PWe), 2 at Touchet Walla Walla on 6/6 (DR), 1 at Ballard King on 6/6 (MiF), 1 at Othello Adams on 6/15, 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 6/19 (RyM), 3 at Glacial Heritage Thurston on 6/19 (Swc), 1 at Yakima Yakima on 6/27 (Dr), 3 at Edison Skagit on 6/28 (KKe,BK), 1 at Colville Stevens on 7/4 (MtB), 2 at Stanwood Snohomish on 7/5 (Swc), 1 at Dallesport Klickitat on 7/10 (MtB), 3 at Dungeness Clallam on 7/26 (RyM,BWg), and 1 at Ellensburg Kittitas on 7/31 (fide TAv).

Flammulated Owl Rare locally. 1 south of Mount Adams Yakima on 6/21 (CSi).

Northern Pygmy-Owl Uncommon in summer in w WA lowlands. 1 at Roy Pierce on 7/23 (DDe).

Burrowing Owl Rare locally. 1 at Old Vantage Highway Kittitas from May with a pair and 7 young there on 7/23 (fide Dsw).

Barred Owl High count: 22 at Bainbridge Island Kitzap on 6/27 with 86 there by 7/25 (JAc).

Great Gray Owl Rare in WA. 1 at Biscuit Ridge Walla Walla on 6/7 (Jb).

Long-eared Owl Rare in summer in w WA. 1 at Glacial Heritage Thurston on 6/26 and 6/30 (Swc).

Short-eared Owl Uncommon in summer in WA. 1 near Duval King on 6/1 (EH), 1 at Potholes Grant on 6/24 (NLa), 1 at Horse Heaven Hills Benton on 7/16 with 2 there on 7/18 (fide BLa), and 2 north of Plymouth Benton on 7/18 (DR).

Northern Saw-whet Owl Rare in urbanized Puget Sound in summer. 1 dead juvenile found at Shoreline King on 7/3 (fide TAv).

Common Nighthawk Reports from w WA included 1 at Guemes Island Skagit on 6/3 (fide HA), 3 at Point No Point Kitzap on 6/5 (KKe), 1 at Lyman Skagit on 6/5 and 6/17 (Gb), 1 at Juanita Bay King on 6/6 and 6/20 (RyM), 2 at Samish Island Skagit on 6/7 (Ha), 2 at Carnation King on 6/8 (DsW), 1 at UW King on 6/8 (Mb) and 6/25 (fide RyM), 3 at Barnaby Slough Skagit on 6/8 with there on 6/14 (JBP), 1 at Elma Grays Harbor on 6/13 and 6/26 (To), 1 at Olympia Thurston on 6/13 (LnS), 1 at Graysmarsh Clallam on 6/15 (SA), 3 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/18 (RyM), 1 at West Seattle King on 6/19 and 7/20 (Swc), 1 at Edmonds Snohomish on 6/20 (fide TAv), 2 at Usk Pend Oreille on 6/19 (Jol), and 4 at Deepcreek Spokane on 7/15 (fide GrC).

Acorn Woodpecker Rare in WA. 1 near Lyle Klickitat from 6/7 (RF) to 6/21 (Sj).

Red-naped Sapsucker Uncommon in w WA. 1 near Easy Pass Skagit from 6/4 to 6/25, 2 near Hardy Burn Skagit on 6/25 (RyM), 1 at Naches Pass King on 7/13 (MtB) and 7/14 (EH), and 2 near Windy Gap King on 7/13 (MiH).

Red-breasted Sapsucker Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Lodge pole Campground Yakima on 6/18 (MiH), and 1 at Bates Road Klickitat on 6/27 (Sj).

Red-naped X Red-breasted Sapsucker Uncommon in WA. 2 at Ahtranum Creek Yakima on 6/14 (Dr), 1 at Icicle Creek Chelan on 6/23 (MiB), and 1 at Swamp Creek Kittitas on 7/17 (Ac).

White-headed Woodpecker Reports included 1 at Little Pend Oreille NWR Stevens on 6/14 (Tl), 1 near Leavenworth Chelan on 6/19 (Md), and a pair with 4 young at Wenas Yakima on 6/20 (Ko).

American Three-toed Woodpecker Well reported. 1 near Easy Pass Skagit on 7/9 (TAv,RyM), 1 at Hardy Burn Skagit on 6/8 (JBP), 2 there on 7/9 (TAv,RyM), 1 at Hardin Burn Skagit on 6/8 (JBP), 2 near Rainy Pass Skagit on 6/8 (JBP), 1 at Lodge pole Campground Yakima on 6/19 (MiH), 4 at Baldy Pass Okanogan on 6/22 (KKe), 1 at Washington Pass Chelan/ Okanogan on 6/25 (RyM) and 6/28 (BK), 1 near Sunrise at Mount Rainier NP Pierce on 6/25 (GG), 2 at Sunset Point Garfield 6/27 (Fide TrG), 2 at Wauconda Okanogan on 7/3 (Kk), 1 at Bunchgrass Meadow Pend Oreille on 7/4 (MtB) with 2 there on 7/31 (Jol), 1 near Salmon.

Field Notes — June/July 2008 (continued)

Meadows Okanogan on 7/5 (MiF), 1 at Bumping Lake Yakima on 7/5 (fide DGr), 2 at Slide Mountain Whatcom on 7/7 (fide RYoM), 1 at Hart’s Pass Whatcom on 7/21 (MiH), 1 at Havillah Okanogan on 7/21 (TAv), 10 in the Freezeout on 7/21 (MiH), 1 at Havillah Whatcom 7/21 (EH), and 2 at Wapato Lake Kittitas on 7/26 (ScR).

Black-backed Woodpecker Uncommon in WA. 2 at Little Pend Oreille NWR Stevens on 6/14 (TLi), 1 at Sunset Point Garfield on 6/27 (fide TrG), and 1 near Little Naches River Yakima on 7/21 (AS).

Red-shafted X Yellow-shafted Flicker. Unusual in summer in WA. 1 at Admiralty Cove Island on 6/28 (SM).

Olive-sided Flycatcher Late migrants included 3 at Davenport Lincoln on 6/1 (CrC), 1 at Wanapum SP Kittitas on 6/5 (BWg), 1 at Bennington Lake Walla Walla on 6/7 (RFi), 1 at Burbank Walla Walla on 6/7 (MiH), 1 at Mill Creek Walla Walla on 6/7, 1 at Washucua Adams on 6/8, and 1 at Bateman Island Benton on 6/9 (RFi).

ALDER FLYCATCHER Rare in WA. 1 reported near Clarkston Austin on 6/11 (InT).

Least Flycatcher Uncommon in WA. 3 at Hardy Canyon Yakima from 6/1 to 6/30 (fide DGr), 1 at Washucua Adams on 6/2 (RFi), 1 at Lyman Creek Okanogan on 6/4 (PLo), 2 at Coppei Creek Walla Walla from 6/6 (BWg) to 6/26 (MD,MLD), 1 near Valley Stevens on 6/7 (TLi), 2 at Steptoe Butte Whitman on 6/9 (TrG), 1 at Little Rattlesnake Creek Yakima on 6/18 (HJg), 2 at Cassimer Bar Okanogan from 6/22 (KKe) to 7/5 (MiF), and 1 at Icicle Creek Chelan on 6/23 (MiB).

Hammond’s Flycatcher Late migrant: 1 at Sentinal Bluffs Grant on 6/4 (RFi) and 6/5 (BWg).


Gray Flycatcher Late migrant: 1 near Sperry Franklin on 6/3 (RFi).

Pacific-slope Flycatcher Late migrants included 1 at Ralston Adams on 6/4 (PWe), and 1 at Sentinal Bluffs Grant on 6/4 (RFi).

Ash-throated Flycatcher Reports from edge of WA range included 1 at Old Vantage Highway Kittitas from 6/9 (EH) to 6/16 (GG), and 1 at Wapato Yakima on 6/27 (AS).

Western Kingbird Uncommon in w WA. 2 near Duval King on 6/1 to 7/6 (EH), 1 at Marymoor Park King on 6/12 (MiH), 1 at Smith Island Snubbornish from 6/12 to 6/16 (HJg), 1 at Magnuson Park King on 6/14 (JB), and 1 at Tooosh Island Cilium on 7/13 (BPa).

Eastern Kingbird Uncommon in w WA. 1 at Smith Island Snubbornish from 6/8 to 6/12 (SM,JIG), 2 at Corkindale Creek Skagit on 6/14 (HABJP) with 1 there on 7/9 (TAv,RyM), 2 at Spencer Island Snubbornish on 6/15 with 1 there on 7/26 (SM), 1 at Tatoosh Island Cilium on 6/19 (BPa), 1 at Oso Snubbornish on 6/19 (TAv), 2 at Barnaby Slough Skagit on 6/21 (SM), 1 at County Line Ponds W’lwham on 6/28 (KKe,BK), and 1 at Butler Flats Skagit on 7/6 (GB).

Cassin’s Vireo Late away from typical nesting habitat. 2 at Washucua Adams from 6/3 to 6/8 (RFi), 2 at Sentinel Bluffs Grant from 6/5 to 6/8, 1 at Wanapum SP Kittitas on 6/5 (BWg), 1 at Mill Creek Walla Walla on 6/7 (RFi), 1 near Tenino Thurston on 6/9 with 2 there on 7/4 (PH), and 4 at Thrall Kittitas on 6/12 (TAv).

Hutton’s Vireo Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Trout Lake Marsh Klickitat on 6/28, and 2 near Mount Brook Klickitat on 7/2 (SJ).

Warbling Vireo Late migrants included 1 at Maryhill Klickitat on 6/6 (RFi), 5 at Sentinel Bluffs Grant on 6/8 (BWg), 1 at North Seattle King on 6/8, and 6 at Thrall Kittitas on 6/12 (TAv).

Red-eyed Vireo High count: 44 near Rockport Skagit on 6/21 (SM). Locally uncommon. 1 at Central Ferry SP W’lwham on 6/4 (PWe), 1 at Wanapum SP Kittitas on 6/5 (BWg), 2 at Juanita Bay King on 6/12 (TaB), 1 at Mount Pleasant Skamania on 6/16 (WC), 1 at South Prairie Pierce on 6/18 (MiH), 4 near Tenino Thurston on 7/4 (PH), 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 7/6 (LnS), and 2 at Marymoor Park King on 7/10 with 1 there on 7/17 (MiH).

Gray Jay High lowland count away from coast: 17 at Capitol Forest Thurston on 6/25 (TAv).

Western Scrub-Jay Locally uncommon breeder. A pair near Seward Park King from 6/1 to 6/30 (fide TAv), a pair with 1 juvenile at Queen Anne King on 6/12 (DoM), and a pair with 2 juveniles at Ballard King on 7/28 (RT).

Clark’s Nutcracker Uncommon in lowlands. 4 at Bingen Klickitat on 7/19 (SJ), and 1 at Phililee Lake Spokane on 7/26 (Jol).

Horned Lark Rare locally in summer. 1 at Longview Cowitz on 7/13 (RKo).

Purple Martin Rare in e WA. 1 reported briefly at Lewis and Clark Trail SP Columbia on 6/6 (EH), and 5 at Bingen Klickitat from 7/15 to 7/31 (SJ). High mortality with cold June. 10 adults found dead at nests at Camano Island Island on 6/16 (SK), and 9 dead adults found on Vashon Island King where only 14 pairs nested compared with 71 in 2007 (fide ESw).

Bank Swallow Uncommon in w WA. 2 at Duval King on 6/2 (MiH), 15 at Barnaby Slough Skagit on 6/4 (TAv,RyM), 1 near Stanwood Snubbornish on 6/7 and 7/26 (SM), 2 at Carnation King on 6/16 (GG), 10 at Stillwater King on 6/19 (MiH), 10 at Castle Rock Creek Skagit on 6/25 (RyM), 1 at Mount St Helens Cowitz on 7/11 (WC), 40 at Castle Rock Cowitz on 7/13 (RKo), 30 at Concrete-Sauk Valley Road Skagit on 7/19 (RL), and 1 at Ridgefield NWR Cowitz on 7/23 (RFi).

Mountain Chickadee Uncommon in w WA. 8 at Naches Pass King including a nesting pair (EH), 2 at Rainy Pass Skagit on 6/4, and 2 at Cascade Pass Skagit on 7/9 (TAv,RyM).

Boreal Chickadee Reports included 2 at Salmon Meadows Okanogan on 7/4 (Sk), and 3 at Salmo Mountain Pend Oreille on 7/5 (KK) with...
The Enduring Osprey

The Ospreys have arrived... One was hanging motionless over the lagoon, looking for some fish below to justify a plunge... moving its wings like a swimmer treading water, (it) falls off on one wing and comes sweeping downward to a new station where, facing back into the wind, it again hangs suspended, working its wings and concentrating on the water below.

Now it collapses, falls like a rock, splashes, and after an instant struggles up from the river once to shake itself in the air like a wet dog. I am assured that the osprey has been practicing these fine maneuvers for at least two thousand years, since Pliny the Elder wrote:

“The osprey remains itself aloft when it spies fishes in the sea with a fish in its talons, pausing just below, then dashes headlong on them and secures them, the waters being parted by its breast.” Wrapped in his toga, I suppose, Pliny stood on the banks at Ostia and saw this spectacle, just what I see here.

— Louis J. Halle

Spring in Washington, 1947
Clay-colored Sparrow  Uncommon in WA.  1 reported at Lyons Ferry Franklin on 6/3 (RF), 1 at Espanola Spokane on 6/26 (Jol) with a nesting pair on 6/27 (JA), 2 west of Molson Okanogan on 7/3, and 1 at Colville Stevens on 7/4 (RH, KK).

Breuer's Sparrow  Rare in WA.  1 north of Windy Gap King on 6/22 (EH).


Black-throated Sparrow  Rare and local in WA.  1 at Steptoe Butte Whitman on 6/28 (BK, MFM) with 1 there on 7/4 (TLi), 1 near Osoyoos Lake Okanogan from 7/17 to 7/25 (DGfB).

Savannah Sparrow  High elevation report:  2 at Hart’s Pass Whatcom on 7/22 (TV).

White-crowned Sparrow  High elevation reports included 1 at Salmo Mountain Pend Oreille on 7/14 (TLi), and both gambelii and pugetensis singing at Windy Gap King on 7/14 (EH).

Golden-crowned Sparrow  Very late for WA.  1 adult at Vantage Kittitas on 6/27 (RH).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK  Rare in WA.  1 male at Arlington Snohomish on 6/18 (DBb), 1 male at Long Beach Pacifi on 6/21 (SWh), and 1 male east of Kent King on 7/5 (Dns).

Lazuli Bunting  Uncommon in WA.  1 at Battery Ground Clark on 6/1 (JDA), 1 at Montlake Fill King from 6/1 to 7/31 with a pair there on 7/16 (CSi), 2 at Stillwater King on 6/1 (EvH) with 1 there on 7/27 (fide TAv), 3 at Duvali King on 6/2 (MiF), 1 at Marblemount Skeagit on 6/4 and 6/25 (RyM), 2 at Carnation King on 6/8 (DSw), 1 at Auburn King on 6/11 (SDn) with 2 on 6/23 and 3 young there on 7/25 (JLM), 1 at Juanita Bay King on 6/12 (TaB), 1 at Marymoor Park King on 6/12 and 6/26, 3 at South Prairie Pierce on 6/18 (MiH), 1 at Arlington Snohomish on 6/19 (TAv) and 6/25 (RyM), 1 at Mount St Helens Cowitz/Shakamania on 6/20 (Rko), 1 near Tenino Thurston on 6/21 with 10 on 7/4 (PH) and 1 there on 7/28 (MiH), 1 at Kent King on 6/23 (fide CHe), 1 at Snoqualmie WA.  1 at Othello Adams on 6/4 (RfL), 5 King from 6/2 (KnG) to 7/14 (fide TAv), and 2 at Rockport Skeagit on 6/25 (RyM) with 1 there on 6/28 (KKe, BK).

INDIGO BUNTING  Rare in WA.  1 male at Point No Point Kitsap on 6/4 (BWg) and 6/5 (TKe), 1 male at Coppei Creek Walla Walla from 6/5 (JDA) to 6/14 (MD, MLD), and 1 male at Auburn King on 6/11 (SDn, KAn).

Bobolink  Locally uncommon.  3 at Toppenish Yakima on 6/7 (LRSDaH) with 6 there on 6/17 (GG).

Tricolored Blackbird  Uncommon and local reported at Port Kelley Walla Walla on 6/7 (MiH), and 1 male apparently this species was at Wenas Lake Yakima on 6/14 (CHa).

Western Meadowlark  Uncommon and local in summer in WA.  8 at Mount St Helens Cowitz/Shakamania on 6/20, and 1 at Kalama Cowitz on 6/21 (Rko).

Yellow-headed Blackbird  Uncommon in WA.  1 at Montlake Fill King from 6/1 to 6/4 (SmR) to 6/4 (MiB), 1 at Stillwater King on 6/2 (fide TAv), and 2 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/4 (TAv, RyM) with 1 there on 6/21 (SM).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE  Rare in WA.  1 at Liberty Lake Spokane on 7/24 (RD).

HOODED ORIOLE  Rare in WA.  1 near College Place Walla Walla on 7/28 (fide MD).

Pine Grosbeak  Uncommon in WA.  6 pair on 6/27 (BA), 2 at Montford Skeagit on 6/14 (JBP), 5 there on 7/9 (TAv, RyM), 1 at Hart’s Pass Whatcom on 6/28 (KhT) with 3 there on 7/21 (MiH), 3 at Salmon Meadows Okanogan on 7/4 (SC), 2 at Mount Rainier NP Pierce on 7/12 (fide TAv), 6 at Naches Pass area King on 7/14 and 7/18 (EH), 1 at Cutthroat Pass Skeagit on 7/15 (GB), and 1 at Mount St Helens Pend Oreille on 7/18 (TLi).

Purple Finch  Locally uncommon in WA.  1 near Snowden Klickitat on 7/3 (SJ).

Cassin’s Finch  Reports from WA included 2 at Hardy Burn Skeagit on 6/14 (JBP), 5 at Government Meadow King on 7/13 (MiB), and 4 at Naches Pass King on 7/13 (MiH).

Red Crossbill  Rare locally.  A maximum of 5 at Richland Benton from 6/9 to 7/4 (fide BLa).

White-winged Crossbill  Uncommon in WA.  2 reported at Cutthroat Pass Okanogan on 7/6, 2 at Harr’s Pass Okanogan/Whatcom from 6/28 (KhT) to 7/5 (SSc) with 1 there on 7/22 (TA), and 9 at Mount St Helens Pend Oreille on 7/18 (TLi).

Pine Siskin  Uncommon in the Columbia Basin.  1 at Wallula Walla Walla on 7/11 (fide BLa).

Lesser Goldfinch  High count:  60 near Lyle Klickitat on 6/17 (GG).  Rare away from Klickitat.  1 male at Dixie Walla Walla on 6/7 (BWg), 2 at Asotin Slough, Asotin on 6/10 (MiH), and 1 reported near Stanwood Snohomish on 7/5 (SM).

Evening Grosbeak  Locally uncommon breeder.  A pair at Sammamish King on 6/19 (CHA).  ♦

OBSERVERS
Surveys and Studies
All reports are welcomed by the researchers.

**ACCIPITERS**: Winter site fidelity study.  
**Cooper’s Hawks**: Blue VID bands (note right or left leg and engraved number and letter on VID band).  
**Sharp-shinned Hawks**: Either one or two color (only) bands on the number and letter on VID band.  
Other leg has standard aluminum band. Note date, time, and location.  
Report to Jack Bettesworth, 2569 - 12th Ave. W, Seattle, WA 98119, (206) 285-5276, jjbett@comcast.net.

**AMERICAN CROWS**: Wanted Dead or Alive.  
We still want your observations of color-banded crows. If possible, please record the color and location (top/bottom left leg, top/bottom right leg) of bands. Recently banded crows now have TWO colors AND a metal (Fish & Wildlife) band on one leg, and two colors on the other. In addition, as part of our West Nile Virus monitoring efforts in the Puget Sound area, we would like to know about any dead crows you observe. If they appear freshly dead, your county health agency may also want to test them for the virus. Please report any sightings to Dr. John Marzluff, corvid@u.washington.edu.

**BURROWING OWLS**  
Year-round sightings of banded Burrowing Owls in the Columbia Basin of eastern WA. Owls banded during 2000-2004 will have a larger colored band on either the left or right leg, in addition to a smaller aluminum band. Owls banded as adults received a BLUE, GREEN, or RED band (males left leg, females right leg) while unsexed juveniles received a PURPLE or ORANGE band (left leg). All banded owls are adults. The codes are unique, with two numbers and/or letters, next to or above and below each other, and with or without a horizontal or vertical bar separating. If you see a banded owl and can read even a portion of the code or determine color, please note the date and location, and which leg, and report it to Randy Hill at work at (509) 488-2668 ext. 14, or home (509) 488-9418, or by email at randy_hill@fws.gov.

**COASTAL RAPTORS**  
Colored leg bands (Peregrine Falcons, Gyr Falcons, and Bald Eagles) and leg flags (Merlins) have been placed on raptors on beaches at Ocean Shores, Grayland, and the Long Beach Peninsula. Please note band or leg flag code, color, date, time, and location. Report sightings to Dan Varland at (360) 580-2817 or by email at daniel.varland@rayonier.com.

**COOPER’S HAWKS**  
Color bands have been placed on over 1,200 nesting Cooper’s Hawks in Victoria, British Columbia, since 1996. This is part of a long-term study on its urban-nesting ecology. Color band is uniquely coded with two vertical, alphanumeric characters and is placed on the left leg; black bands are on males, red bands on females. Please record band code and color, date, time, and location. To date, >12 different marked hawks have been reported from Washington. Report all sightings to Andy Stewart, BC Conservation Data Centre, Victoria, B.C. (250) 387-9780, or email andy.stewart@gov.bc.ca.

**FERRUGINOUS and SWAINSON’S HAWKS**  
Color bands were placed on nesting Ferruginous and Swainson’s Hawks in the general Arlington, Oregon, area of the Columbia Basin in spring 2007. This is part of a wind-power funded monitoring effort. Banding may continue in the same general area in 2008. All chicks were banded with a unique color band on one leg and a metal band on the other leg. Please note color band combination, date, and location. Report all sightings to Scott Downes, Northwest Wildlife Consultants, Inc. (509) 833-8331 or s.downes@nw-wildlifeconsultants.com.

**FERRUGINOUS HAWKS**

**WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife**

**MERLINS**

The Merlin Falcon Foundation (a 501(c)3 organization), invites you to participate in a regional citizen scientist investigation of the little-known Coastal Forest Merlin. Please visit our evolving website at www.merlinfoalcounfoundtion.org and help our national educational programs on behalf of Merlin. We gratefully acknowledge your year-round Merlin observations. Thank you for becoming a Merlin Steward and “Helping to Keep ‘em Wild!”

**NORTHERN HARRIERS**

Patagial markers have been placed on Northern Harriers as part of a long-term study of populations on Whidbey Island and in the Kent Valley. Please note the color of the tag (yellow, blue, green, or white), which wing it is on, the letter or number printed (in black) on the tag, and whether or not there is a black circle around the letter or number. Note date, time, and exact location. Report to Jack Bettesworth, 2569 - 12th Ave W, Seattle WA 98119, (206) 285-5276, or jjbett@comcast.net.

**SONGBIRD SURVEY**

We have color-marked more than 500 crows, as well as many other songbirds in the area and would appreciate any sightings of these. Be on the lookout for banded robins, Wilson’s Warblers, Swainson’s Thrushes, Song Sparrows, Spotted Towhees, Oregon Juncos, Winter and Bewick’s wrens, and Pacific-slope Flycatchers. If possible, please record the color and location (top/bottom left leg, top/bottom right leg) of bands. Please report any sightings to Dr. John Marzluff, corvid@u.washington.edu.

**TURKEY VULTURES**

The Olympic Vulture Study is working on two concurrent studies: the fall migration at Salt Creek, and the demographics of our Pacific Northwest vultures. Any sightings from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho will be welcomed. As always, date, location, and number of birds is needed. If possible, report weather, time, and any aspect of behavior. Please send to Diann MacRae, 22622 - 53rd Avenue SE, Bothell, WA 98021, or to tvulture@vei.net.

**WESTERN BLUEBIRDS**

The San Juan Islands Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project has placed colored leg bands on eight pair of birds translocated to San Juan Island during the 2007 breeding season. Each leg has a unique combination of two colored bands to assist in monitoring birds during this five-year study. Please note the color combination for each leg, date, observed location and send information to: Barbara Jensen, San Juan Islands Audubon Society, (360) 378-3068 or skylark@rockisland.com.
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

To join or renew, mail this application with your payment to:

WOS
Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 31783
Seattle, WA 98103-1783

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Check one:

- Individual membership ($25) ______
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I am enclosing an additional $ ________ as my donation to the Patrick Sullivan Young Birders Fund.