From Seattle to the Prairies of Montana
by Jane Hadley

In June of 2007 on a trip to Wisconsin, my husband Randy Robinson and I drove through Montana and were dazzled by its beauty. We determined to return in the future to spend more time. That time arrived in June of this year.

Randy emailed the Montana equivalent of Tweeters, saying that we planned to work our way from the Beartooth Highway on the southern border in central Montana northward to U.S. Highway 2, and asked if there were any likely areas for seeing Mountain Plover west of the traditional area near Fort Peck. We were pleased to receive a reply from Barbara Cozzens, Northern Montana Prairies Program Director for The Nature Conservancy.

“The Conservancy owns a large property north of Grass Range off highway 191,” she wrote. “The Matador Ranch is in the epicenter of the Glaciated Plains, one of the last, best examples of native grassland that persists in the world today. Nine of the 13 most imperiled grassland birds in North America rest, nest or breed on the property. One of these birds is the Mountain Plover, which is fairly

Nesting Merlins Captivate a Seattle Neighborhood
by Barbara Deihl

It seemed as though Spike and Thor, the pair of Black/Pacific Merlins (Falco columbarius suckleyi) discovered and monitored in 2008, were about to nest again in the same Seattle neighborhood, in a different Douglas Fir tree, using a different abandoned crow nest. Kim McCormick and I had found that the pair was starting up the cycle again in late January of this year (2009). Until we stopped seeing Spike (adult female) in late March/early April, the new nesting site appeared to be a done deal; however, like many other aspects of this Merlin monitoring, something thought to be a certainty proved otherwise.

Through tireless searching for Spike, Kim finally found her a couple of miles north of the 2008 site, but this was not to be the final nesting ground of the pair in 2009. Following up on an email from someone on our contact list, we were to find that the pair was setting up shop about a half-mile north of the previous site, in the middle of a block, in the center tree (Doug Fir) of a stand of tall conifers. The nest was again an old crow nest and was well-protected by the dense branches of the tree. Not only that, but this nest wrapped around a good 5/8 of the tree trunk and afforded TWO viewing spots, one of which provided great views of the five young as they grew and spread into the more visible part of the nest.

The loud calls and aerobatics of these small falcons drew the attention of local residents, and news of this year’s nesting location made its way to both old and new Merlin appreciators.

(continued on page 8)
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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From the Board
by Gene Hunn, President

I’m near the end of my first year as president of WOS and “chairman of the board.” It has been challenging and an education. I was a founding member of WOS in 1988, but had only a limited involvement with the organization until Randy Hill twisted my arm to join the board while I was minding my own business at the WOS conference in Republic back in the summer of 2006.

I had done time on the Bird Records Committee (WBRC) in the early 1990s, but had other fish to fry, and so had little appreciation for what else WOS was up to. I attended a few conferences (including the fated Republic gathering), but mostly as a somewhat distant spectator, camping out and pursuing birds on my own schedule. My WOS membership lapsed several times due to my chronic inattention to such details.

In any case, no better motivation to learn what a volunteer organization has to offer than to sign on for board duty. I trust our new board members, Teri Pieper, Dan Stephens, and Jane Hadley, especially to Jack Stephens, Cindy McCormack, Scott Downes, and Dan Stephens for making it happen.

All well and good, but perhaps WOS could do more. I would like WOS to be more widely recognized as the authoritative voice on issues with respect to Washington’s bird life, not as an advocate — our founding mission specifically disavows such a role, which is perhaps the prime mission of our state’s Audubon Societies — but as an “expert witness,” ready to speak up when issues of fact arise. For example, what are the facts with respect to the impact on birds of controversial energy projects involving solar, wind, or tidal generation? We may disagree as to the wisdom or necessity of such developments, but we should all have access to the “best available science” with regard to their likely impact on our birdlife. In order to speak with authority, to offer an independent scientific assessment of relevant facts, WOS might need to empanel an advisory board of scientists and scholars willing and able to analyze, evaluate, summarize, and present evidence essential to informed public policy decisions. But we might also call upon our collective experience of Washington’s birds, now and in the past, to make concrete the costs of proposed developments.

Or maybe WOS already has enough on its plate? Anyway, food for thought.


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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, University of Washington campus, 3501 NE 41st St. in Seattle. Doors open at 7:00 PM and programs begin at 7:30 PM.

Effects of Habitat Fragmentation on Animal Behavior
Josh Tewksbury
Monday, October 5

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

Urban Accipiters
Jack Bettesworth
Monday, November 2

Jack Bettesworth will discuss the presence of Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper’s Hawks in the Seattle urban environment with regard to winter site fidelity and breeding ecology. A retired pharmacist, Jack has worked on raptor field research projects for the past 20 years. He holds a Master Bander Permit with the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory and with the State of Washington. He has worked on field research projects 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).

### Field Trips

#### Saturday, October 10
**Port Townsend and Marrowstone Island**
**Leader:** Brian Bell

We will work our way up the Kitsap Peninsula, making several stops before moving on to Marrowstone Island and Port Townsend. Stops will include Mystery Bay, Fort Flagler, and Port Townsend.

We will expect loons, grebes, alcids, waterfowl, perhaps some raptors, shorebirds, and passerines.

We'll travel mostly by car and take short walks. Scopes a plus. Bring a lunch and money for the ferry, gas, and lattes. Dress for blustery weather.

Limited to seven (7) participants.

For details, contact Brian by email at bellasoc@isomedia.com or by phone at (425) 485-8058.

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#### Saturday, October 17
**Kitsap County**
**Leader:** Brad Waggoner

Brad will lead a trip in Kitsap County covering areas from Bainbridge Island to Point No Point.

The focus for the day will be waterbirds, shorebirds, and late fall migrants. Target birds include Yellow-billed Loon, Eared Grebe, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, and rocky shorebirds.

Dress for the weather; plan to walk a good bit, and bring a spotting scope.

Limited to six (6) participants.

For details, contact Brad at wagtail@sounddsdl.com or call (206) 780-9581.

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#### Saturday, October 24
**Snake River Birding**
**Leader:** Ken Knittle

The Snake River area in late October is very seldom birded.

We will be looking for waterfowl, gulls, and late migrants. If windy, we will spend more time in the side canyons. If time and weather permit, we will bird some of the mountainous areas for Pine Grosbeak, woodpeckers, etc.

Bring your own food and water. Also be prepared for windy conditions and cold weather.

Limited to five (5) vehicles.

Contact Ken at washingtonbirder@hotmail.com or by phone at (360) 574-2590 for meeting place and time.

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#### Sunday, November 1
**Spokane County Big Day**
**Leader:** Tim O'Brien

Spokane County has many and varied habitats that can produce a nice assortment of species. We will be exploring the entire county in search of as many of those species as we can find during the daylight hours of one day.

Please expect to bird all day and bring along food, water, spotting scopes, and clothing for late fall weather, which can be unpredictable in Spokane County.

Limited to seven (7) participants.

Contact Tim for details, by phone at (509) 863-9656 or by email at kertim7179@yahoo.com.

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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).

A mileage reimbursement of at least $0.25 per mile is suggested to cover the driver's costs. If current gas prices suggest a higher rate, please reimburse the driver at a fair rate. Multiply the agreed-upon rate by the number of trip miles, and split the resulting amount among the passengers (not the driver).

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If you would like to lead a field trip or would like to suggest a location for a field trip, please email our Field Trip Chair, Matt Bartels, at FieldTrips@wos.org.

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WOS Field Trips

Saturday, November 14
Birding in the Footsteps of Townsend

Leaders:
Mike and MerryLynn Denny

Birding in the footsteps of John Kirk Townsend will start at old Fort Walla Walla. We will then proceed to bird all the areas he traveled in his quest for birds for his collection that was headed for the Smithsonian.

Look for a copy of Townsend's narrative of his journey here in 1838-1839.

No dogs, please. Bring a lunch. Wear boots and dress in layers. We will meet at Madam Dorion Park in western Walla Walla County at 7:15 AM.

Trip limited to 12 folks.

Contact Mike at (509) 529-0080 for more information or to sign up.

Sign-ups will open October 15.

Saturday, November 21
Skagit County

Leader: Gary Bletsch

Gary will lead a trip in Skagit County, with stops at Rosario Head, Lake Erie, and Green Point at Washington Park.

The main focus will be seabirds, and target birds would include Red-throated Loon; Pacific Loon; Western, Horned, and Red-necked grebe; all three cormorants; Common Murre; Pigeon Guillemot; Rhinoceros Auklet; and Marbled and Ancient murrelets. Depending on available access and what birds are being seen at the time, the day could finish with a stop at either the Samish Flats, Samish Island, or the Skagit Flats on Fir Island.

Limited to eight (8) birders.

For details, contact Gary at Garybletsch@yahoo.com or by phone at (360) 826-3750.

Sunday, November 22
Upper Columbia Basin Fall Extravaganza

Leader: Jon Isacoff

We will head west from Spokane to Reardan, Davenport, Banks Lake, Northrup Canyon, Coulee Dam, and Spring Canyon boat launch.

Expect-to-see:
Tundra Swan; wintering waterfowl; Gray Partridge; Rough-legged Hawk; Northern Shrike; large flocks of Horned Lark.

Hope-to-see target birds:
Long-tailed Duck, scoters; Common and/or Pacific loon; Chukar; Golden Eagle; Prairie Falcon; Gyrfalcon (very rare); Thayer's, Glaucous, and/or Mew gull; Northern Hawk Owl (very rare); Snow Bunting; Rosy-Finch; and possibly early Bohemian Waxwing and/or Pine Grosbeak.

Meet at 7:00 AM at Fred Meyer parking lot. Exit 283, Spokane. We will return to Spokane around 5:30 PM. Please bring lunch, snacks, and drinks. Prepare for all kinds of weather and temperatures from the 20s to the 40s. Limited to eight (8) participants, plus leader.

Contact Jon at isacoff@gonzaga.edu or by phone at (509) 448-2629 for more information or to sign up.

Please Note

The WOS Board has opted to request that field trip participants sign a liability release form. A copy of this form is posted on our website (www.wos.org) on the Field Trips page.
Have you ever reflected on how you got started in birding? Do you remember those first forays into the field, when it was all new, strange, and wonderful? Do you have friendships forged while birding that have lasted for years? Have you ever felt like telling your story — all the places you have gone, birds you have seen, people you have met, and peak experiences that stand like milestones in your life?

In *Afield, Forty Years of Birding the American West*, Alan Contreras has done just that. This is a personal account of the author's journey in the world of birding. He begins his story as a pre-teen in Eugene, Oregon, looking at yard birds at his parents' home. The tales then proceed in rough chronological order, first covering areas near his home, then eventually extending to Alaska, Texas, Arizona, and California. The geographic anchor of the book, however, remains Oregon, and the prose really shines when he talks about the wonders of his home state. Eugene, Steens Mountain, Succor Creek, the Willamette Valley all are covered, but the most reverential treatment is reserved for Malheur.

"Why? What is so special about Malheur that brings me back to mosquitoes, the dust, the hard water and the thunderstorms? The only possible answer is 'everything.'"

He proceeds to tell tale after tale of birding adventures in Malheur, of owls found out in the open during the day, trees loaded with Western Tanagers, and rarities that shouldn’t be there, but somehow always are. This is obviously hallowed ground for the author, and if nothing else, the book will want to take you back there, or as in my case, to plan your first trip.

In addition to places and birds, Contreras also lets us know about the people he met along the way. While this does lend depth to the book, some of the detail of personal friends can be a bit of a distraction from the core of the book. On the other hand, when he does get to someone you know, it is priceless.

"On a recent trip (to Malheur), one Lewis’s Woodpecker mistook a birder for a tree. Steve Mlodinow, the brilliant and colorful regional editor for *North American Birds*, was standing near the stone wall at the west side of the main lawn when the woodpecker swooped slowly across the compound and latched onto the back strap of Steve’s baseball cap. It looked around for a moment, then lurched off into the trees. It did not decide to check Steve’s skull for grubs, which was something of a pity. Had it done so, a great deal of his personality might have been explained.”

I challenge anyone who reads that, and knows Steve, not to smile.

As the passage above indicates, Contreras can write very well. He approaches my favorite birding author, Pete Dunne, when it comes to writing in a clear, humorous, and joyous way about this crazy thing we do called birding. At 133 pages, it is a quick read, and one book that you will be glad you added to your collection. I hope I run into Contreras in the field one day in Malheur. No Lewis’s Woodpecker, thank you very much.

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**Washington State Bird's Classification Altered**

In the 50th supplement to the North American Bird Checklist, released by the American Ornithologists’ Union in July 2009, the classification of the Washington state bird, the American Goldfinch, was changed from *Carduelis tristis* to *Spinus tristis*. Governor Gregoire was not available for comment.

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**Ridgefield BirdFest**

Sat-Sun, October 10-11

Come experience the beautiful Ridgefield refuge! There will be a Birders Marketplace with great buys on garden items, pottery, art, photography, birdhouses, clothes, and books. Free children’s activities include bird walks, “Wildlife Live” show, raptor displays, craft stations, storytelling, and more. See the refuge from the water on a guided kayak tour. Spectacular sunrise and sunset tours to view Sandhill Cranes flying in to a traditional roost, a rare opportunity to visit a closed area of the refuge. More information is at www.ridgefieldfriends.org/birdfest.html.
Passing of the Torch
by Tom Aversa

After ten years of compiling bird records for WOS and producing the Field Notes column, I have decided to pass the torch to one of the most capable birders I know. Ryan Merrill will be taking over this position beginning with the Fall 2009 period.

I took over from Russell Rogers in WOS News 73, with my byline first appearing on the August-September 2000 column. It has been a great pleasure as well as a load of work, but I have been honored to help WOS maintain this stretch of data for the permanent ornithological record (now available on the WOS website).

Although we depend on reports posted to Tweeters and other listserves, as well as eBird, we are completely dependent on the active birders of the state to send us regular reports throughout each reporting period. Thanks to all of you who have done so over the last ten years. Please help Ryan maintain what Russell started back in 1993.

On behalf of the WOS board and of the membership, I would like to thank Tom Aversa for a hard job well done. Tom's Washington Field Notes columns have proven invaluable as careful, systematic, and comprehensive summaries of unusual (and often not that unusual, but nevertheless important) bird sightings from across our state. I'm certain their value will increase with time, providing an essential historic record by which to judge how the canaries in our coal mine fare going forward. By my calculations, Tom has written 37 columns over a nine-plus year span, each of approximately 10,000 words (and recently beautifully illustrated by stunning photographs by local photogs), compiled from reports by well over one hundred local observers. (The latest, in WOS News 122, included reports by 130 individuals.) That adds up to over one third of a million words, with hardly a word wasted! We look forward to a smooth transition to Ryan Merrill as compiler, perhaps for the next ten years, who knows? Don't be shy and don't be late. Keep those seasonal reports coming.

Gene Hunn, President, WOS

Send in Your Sightings

Send EASTERN WASHINGTON sightings to either:
Ryan Merrill at rjm284@gmail.com
Doug Schonewald at dscrone8@donobi.net

Send WESTERN WASHINGTON sightings to either:
Ryan Merrill at rjm284@gmail.com
Brad Waggoner at wagtail@sounddsl.com

March - May sightings ........ Send in by June 15
June - July sightings .......... Send in by Aug 15
Aug - Nov sightings .......... Send in by Dec 15
Dec - Feb sightings .......... Send in by March 15

FieldNotes@wos.org
abundant on our prairie dog towns.”

Cozzens offered to show us some of her favorite spots for Mountain Plover if we stopped by. Even better, she added, “Also, if you need overnight accommodations to break up the trip, we have guest facilities available for a nominal fee of $60 (this is essentially a pass-through fee for cleaning services).” We gladly accepted this offer and put the Matador Ranch on our itinerary.

We drove from Seattle to Missoula on June 22. Our first destination was the Big Hole Valley southeast of Missoula, because we had thought it gorgeous when we drove through without stopping in 2007. (Well, actually, we did stop briefly then to look at a Short-eared Owl perched on a fence post along the road. “We’ll be back,” we said then.) This time, we saw no Short-eared Owl, but the visit was just as exhilarating. We saw a pair of Sandhill Cranes in a meadow in the Beaverhead Mountains along Highway 43 west of the May Creek campground. Near dusk, we were cruising Highway 43 just west of the town of Wisdom in the Big Hole Valley, when we saw a crane, then another and then several more. The longer we looked, the more we saw. It turned out that there were 28 cranes in that field — and several of them were doing courtship dances.

The landscape of meadows, streams, and fields of camas and hay, surrounded by the Bitterroot, Beaverhead, Anaconda, and Pioneer mountains was reward in and of itself. When we stopped, our car immediately was mobbed by dense gatherings of mosquitoes, attracted by the heat of the engine. Overhead was a flock of American White Pelicans. Wilson’s Phalaropes were abundant in the Big Hole Valley, as were Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

A day later, we drove south through the Yellowstone River Valley (aka Paradise Valley) toward Yellowstone Park. With the picturesque surroundings, it was sometimes hard to choose between looking at the landscape and looking for birds. In Yellowstone, we saw Bighorn sheep, elk, bison, pronghorn antelope, and black bear. Our destination that day was the Beartooth Highway, the stunning, winding, high-altitude section of U.S.

Highway 212 between Cooke City and Red Lodge. It more than lived up to its designation as a "national scenic byway." Beartooth Pass is at 10,947 ft. Near the top of the Beartooth Highway, we were rewarded with an excellent view of a Black Rosy Finch, a colorful and tame bird that allowed me to study it, approach it, and photograph it at relative leisure as it perched on granite boulders along the road. We also saw an American Pipit along this stretch above the tree line and, as we were descending, a Clark’s Nutcracker.

As we came out of the mountains the next day toward the prairies of eastern Montana, our destination was the pre-arranged meeting with Barbara Cozzens. On the way, we decided to stop at the War Horse National Wildlife Refuge in Petroleum County, just off state Highway 19. There are several entry points to this large and remote refuge; we entered by Blakeslee Road.

It was a fruitful stop. We spent about two hours in the sagebrush grasslands with a few scattered ponds and saw Swainson’s Hawk, Burrowing Owl, three Greater Sage Grouse, Upland Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Lark Bunting, and Vesper Sparrow, among many other species. To our delight, we got an excellent view of a badger — a first for me.

We arrived in mid-afternoon on Friday, June 26, at the 63,000-acre War Horse National Wildlife Refuge.

Below: Barbara Cozzens and Randy Robinson birding on the Montana prairie
Matador Ranch, which is close to the town of Zortman (pop. 93). After depositing our luggage, we departed in Barbara’s truck for a tour of the ranch and surrounding grasslands. First stop was a prairie dog town. We soon spotted two Mountain Plovers moving about the crew-cut vegetation. These plovers rely on the resident Black-tailed Prairie Dogs to keep the vegetation short. Some federal agencies and residents regard the prairie dogs as vermin, while other federal agencies view them as needing protection; shooting them for recreational enjoyment is not uncommon on the Montana prairies.

There has been an attempt to reintroduce endangered Black-footed Ferrets in the area. (See page 11.) Barbara said there are eight remaining ferrets in Montana and the outlook is not good. They are vulnerable to the sylvatic plague, and they depend on large, dense prairie dog towns for prey and as places to shelter, yet prairie dog towns are disappearing because of Bubonic plague, killing by humans, and conversion of native grass prairies to cropland or other uses.

The next day, Saturday, we would see another prairie dog town on the ranch with another species that cohabits with prairie dogs: the Burrowing Owl. We saw three owls, each standing on the ground next to a burrow hole. Prairie dogs sat atop other burrow holes.

The Nature Conservancy operates the Matador Ranch as a “grassbank.” It allows some local ranchers to graze their cattle on the ranch for reduced grazing fees in exchange for agreeing to conservation measures on their home ranches. The ranchers agree to preserve prairie dog colonies and Sage Grouse leks on their ranches. They agree to control weeds and not to plow native prairie grass. The cattle that graze on the Matador Ranch are carefully managed by a Nature Conservancy range scientist to try to replicate the heterogenous structure — both long and short grasses — that would have existed when bison were freely roaming the prairies.

The “glaciated plains” project that Barbara heads manages the grassbank to protect nine declining species of birds: Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Sprague’s Pipit, Baird’s Sparrow, Burrowing Owl, Ferruginous Hawk, Chestnut-collared Longspur, McCown’s Longspur, and Greater Sage Grouse. Not all are easy to find, specifically Ferruginous Hawk and McCown’s Longspur.

Scientists from PRBO, University of California-Davis, and U.S. Geological Survey recently tagged 10 curlews at the ranch as part of a research effort to find out where the curlews winter and where they might nest the next year.

After seeing the Mountain Plover, we headed to a field filled with tall grasses. We witnessed an aerobatic show put on by a pair of Chestnut-collared Longspurs that would put the Blue Angels to shame. At another spot, Barbara showed us Sprague’s Pipits. In truth, we might not have not noticed these pipits without her telling us to look very high in the sky and listen for their calls as they descended rapidly.

We were also taken to a Golden Eagle’s nest. There was no adult present, but our viewing angle prevented us from getting a good look at the chicks.

On Saturday morning, we got close-up views of a Common Nighthawk, Eastern Kingbird, Bullock’s Oriole, and House Wren in some trees and shrubs around the front door of the ranch house.

We set out for some more touring of the ranch. We had a harder time finding a Baird’s Sparrow, but Barbara was dogged in pursuit and we finally saw one in grass near the ranch house. Among other species we saw were Black-crowned Night Herons and a pair of bitterns, the latter, as usual, flying away abruptly when we unintentionally flushed them.

We reluctantly left the ranch and Barbara’s hospitality and headed for U.S. 2. We checked out the Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge about seven miles northeast of the town of Malta, and drove the circuit around the lake and wetlands, where we saw American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, White-faced Ibis, willets, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and many waterfowl. And we had a great look at a Baird’s Sparrow.

This was our easternmost stop and from here we headed back to Seattle through the beauty of Glacier National Park and the bountiful, but more familiar, wildlife of the Kalispell and Flathead Lake areas.

Photo, left: Upland Sandpiper
NOTE: All photos in this article were taken by the author.

WOS Warmly Welcomes the Following New Members

Robert Forgie
Judy Mullally
Carol Carver
James Prudente
Kathleen Foley
Elaine Nye
Brian Muzny
Jimmy Woodard
Amy Schillinger
James Mahnke
Neighborhood walkers and dog-walkers included the area in their outings, as did local photographers and bird-watchers. There was an almost-daily assemblage of interested and awed people looking through the spotting scopes, learning about Merlins, checking out the latest photo albums of recent images and visiting with one another. Like last year, the Merlins stimulated interactions of a variety of neighbors and visitors, resulting in improved community spirit and goodwill in the realms touched by these birds. (Out of consideration for the neighbors and the safety of the Merlin young, publicity of the location of the specific site has not gone out to the media or to birding listservs.)

This year, with the help of some of the “new” neighbors who gladly participated, we held a couple of informational meetings in a resident’s home, to familiarize folks with what they might expect and look forward to in the ensuing months of living around these fabulous wild birds. It paid off in many ways—a friendly sharing of knowledge and information (and scopes!) as well as several social events (evening ice-cream socials, beverage-sipping and a pot-luck picnic to celebrate the Merlins’ breeding and fledging success).

As it seems that Merlins require a healthy number and spread of tall conifers, particularly those with dead tops that provide good lookout perches and those with high-up, protected old crow or hawk nests, the urban habitat issue of careful maintenance and preservation of the big trees is proving to be very important to the continuation of providing Merlins (and humans) with a high quality environment in which to live and raise families.

A well-attended informational tree meeting was organized by a group of us from last year’s site and held this past March at a local community center. There seems to be interest, as well as some need, to share this same kind of opportunity with the “new” neighbors, perhaps some time this fall when the Merlins have dispersed into other areas. The male Merlin, Thor, will likely remain in the area, as this is (or has been) his territory, but the others will only sporadically at most, return to their birthplace this fall/early winter, if the pattern we saw last year holds for this year. The adult female will probably start showing up again in Thor’s territory in late winter, if they end up being mates for the third known year in a row.

For those interested in some birding data, here is an approximate timeline of important nesting cycle stages we witnessed and/or deduced this year. This also includes a fallen chick incident and release of said chick back to nest/fledging site:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mating (copulation)</td>
<td>April 15 – 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egg-laying &amp; incubation</td>
<td>late April/early May;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hatching</td>
<td>started near May 25;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First visible hatchlings</td>
<td>June 12;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branching</td>
<td>started June 24;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fledging</td>
<td>started June 29;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nestling tries to fly</td>
<td>crashed into a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy fallen youngster</td>
<td>cedar tree and ends up at PAWS - July 1;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flight and hunting practice</td>
<td>fledglings - June 29 to July 29;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispersal of juveniles</td>
<td>started in late July;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult male most frequently seen in places we know to be his territory</td>
<td>late July through Aug. 25 (date of this writing).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is interesting to note that last year’s timeline was about 10-14 days behind this year’s.

There are many stories to relate from this Merlin year. Record-keeping for this project has included some (but not a lot of) chronicling on paper, occasional email updates, photography, and our own flawed memories! If you want to know more, or have questions, ideas or comments, or if you have a Merlin sighting to share, please contact me, Barb Deihl, by email at barbdeihl@comcast.net. And, keep in mind that, if we wish to monitor these North Seattle Merlins and their progeny, an official study of some sort, involving VID leg bands, would be very helpful, if not absolutely necessary. I am hoping someone will...

(continued on page 11)
About the author
Retired junior-high science teacher and nature lover, Seattle Audubon volunteer Barb Deihl is finding and following her passions, with some urban Merlins leading the way and a variety of associates providing stimulating, necessary, and much-appreciated support, collaboration, consultation, and laughs as she makes her way down this new path.


Merlins Captivate Seattle Neighborhood
(continued from page 10)

come along, with abundant interest, energy, enthusiasm, time, and, of course, funding, and we can start charting the course of the influx of nesting Merlins in the Puget Sound area. Though not equipped to do something like this by myself, I will help in any way I can. It’s been a total treat and thrill to participate in this citizen-science wild bird venture so far—quite a fulfilling retirement activity! Happy Merlinning!

Reference list for more info about and photos of the North Seattle Merlins:


Seattle Audubon Earthcare, February 2009: “Magical Merlins – The Falcon Family That Captivated a Seattle Neighborhood”


Photo Galleries:
Kim McCormick: www.pbase.com/kimmccormick

Marv Breece: www.pbase.com/marvbreece/seattle_merlins_2008

Merlin information: www.merlinfalconfoundation.org

The Birds of North America series (printed) - #44 – 1993

Cornell Birds of No. America online

Status of the Black-footed Ferret from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Twenty-nine years after listing (as an Endangered Species), this two-pound weasel remains the rarest mammal in North America. Introduced diseases and a century of prairie dog control have brought it to the brink of extinction.

With the death of the last of nine captive ferrets at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in 1978, most people feared the species had become extinct. Then in 1981, hopes were buoyed by discovery of a new population near Meeteetse, Wyoming (129 ferrets observed over a five-year period). Unfortunately, these ferrets, and the prairie dogs on which they preyed, were soon ravaged by sylvatic plague and canine distemper.

Again fearing extirpation of the species, biologists rounded up the 18 survivors. These became founders of a captive population that today numbers close to 300. For safety, these ferrets are now housed in nine facilities in six states and Canada.

Three free-roaming populations have been started by reintroducing animals from this captive population—in Wyoming, South Dakota, and in Montana in 1994. Of 35 kits and five adults released in Montana in October, only eight ferrets could be located in December. In spring of 1995, two or possibly three pairs produced at least five new kits. In fall of 1995, an additional 36 ferrets were released in another prairie dog town several miles from the first site. In December of 1995, a survey of both release sites documented 24 ferrets total. The search continues for undiscovered black-footed ferret populations, but hopes are dampened by the knowledge that less than 8% of North America’s historic prairie dog acreage remains.

Website: http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/tande/ferret.html
Greater White-fronted Goose
Reports included 2 at Richland
Benton from 12/1 to 2/7 (fide BLa), 1 near Warden Adams on
12/4 (RH), 1 at Marymoor Park King on 12/5 (fide CSi) and 12/11 with 2 there on 1/15
(MiH), 7 at Tatoo Island Clallam on 12/6 (RMy), 6 at West Seattle King from 1/3 to 1/23 (fide TA),
with 3 there on 2/7 (GrS), 24 at Renton King on 1/9 (fide TA), 13 at Elwha RM Clallam on 1/11 (BWg), 17
near Snohomish Snohomish on 1/27, with 42 there on 2/23 (SP), 12 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 1/25 (PhK), and 800
at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 2/28 (MD,MLD).

Greater White-fronted Goose X
Cackling Goose Rarely reported. 1 at
vancouver lowlands Clark on 12/12 (SM).

Snow Goose Reports away Skagit/Stilly area included 1 at Soap Lake Grant on 12/1 (DSc), 2 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 12/3 (PhK) with 250 there on 12/30 (BS), 1 at Marymoor Park King from 12/4 to 1/22 with 7 there on 12/24 (MiH), 50 at Redmond King on 12/4 with 200 there on 1/2 (EH), 30 at Galvin Thurston on 12/7 (DaH), 75 at Bateman Island Benton on 12/13 (fide BLa), 520 at Seattle King on 12/20 (fide TA), 3000 near Bothell King on 12/20 (DMa), 165 near Federal Way King on 12/20 (CSc) with 3 there from 12/21 to 1/5 (HJF), 80 over Fife Pierce on 12/20, 107 at Puyallup Pierce on 12/20 with 12 there on 12/23 (fide CWr), 33 at Tacoma Pierce on 12/20 (RO), 150 at Montlake Fill King on 12/21 with 12 there on 12/27 (fide EH), 30 at Vashon Island King on 12/21 (fide ESw), 9 at Willow Grove Cowlitz on 12/22 (RKO), 58 over Kent King on 12/22 (MVe) with 650 on 12/28 (JfC) and 92 there on 1/6 (EH), 30 at Issaquah King on 12/23 (fide TA), 30 at Kirkland King on 12/26 with 2 there on 12/30 (RyM), 1 at West Seattle King on 12/26 (JfC), 10 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/27 (BL, CWr) with 5 there on 12/31 (BS), 40 at Eatonville Pierce on 12/29 (ASi), 3 at Chehalis Valley Grays

Ross’s X Snow Goose Rarely reported.
1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 1/3 (SM).

EMPEROR GOOSE Rare in WA.
2 near South Bend Pacific on 1/18 and 2/23 (RaR).

Brant Rare away from salt water in WA. 1 at Marymoor Park King on 12/5 (JfC).

Canada Goose Notable reports included 55 “Dusky” at
Brady Loop Road Grays Harbor on 12/7 (SM), 1 “Dusky” at Cape Flattery Clallam on 1/17 (BWg), and 1 apparent “B.c. maxima” at Blyn Clallam on 2/8 (SM).

Cackling Goose Reports included
76 at Moses Lake Grant on 12/1 with 232 there on 2/28 (DSc), 2000 at
Marymoor Park King on 12/11 (MiH), 1 apparent “Aleutian” at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 12/11, 14 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 12/13 (SM), 25 at
Sammish Flats Skagit on 12/26 (RMy), 22 at Snohomish Snohomish on 12/27, 1 apparent “Aleutian” at Silvana Snohomish on 1/3, 97 at Silvana Snohomish on 1/3, 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 1/3, 1 at Cape Flattery Clallam on 1/17 (BWg), 7 at Fir Island Skagit on 1/28 (RyM), and 42 at
Snohomish Snohomish on 2/14 (SM).

Tundra Swan High count: 2500 from
Fir Island to Dodge Valley Skagit on 1/25 (SM). Uncommon locally. 1 at
Montlake Fill King on 12/23 (fide ESi), 5 at Juanita Bay King from 12/30 to 2/28 (RyM), 1 at
Lake Island Kitsap on 1/3, 2 at Kitsap Lake Kitsap on 1/5 (BWg), 3 at Sumner Pierce on 1/9 (CWr), and 1 at Marymoor Park King on 1/15 (MiH).

“Bewick’s” Swan Rare in WA. 1
Brady Loop Road Grays Harbor on 1/18 (BWg) to 2/27 (RMy).

Trumpeter Swan High count: 1400
south of Snohomish Snohomish on 1/19 (TAv). Uncommon locally. 3 at
Riverbend Pend Oreille on 12/4 (TLa), 8 over Bainbridge Island Kitsap on 12/4 with 3 there on 2/7 (BWg), 6 over
Woodland Park Zoo King on 12/19, 27 at
Sammamish King on 12/22 (fide TAv), 11 at Montlake Fill King from 12/21 (CsA) to 1/18 fide (TAv), 2 at Lyle Klickitat on 12/25 with 6 there from 1/16 to 2/5

Ross’s Goose Uncommon in WA. 1
continued at Keyport Kitsap to at least 1/6
(BWg), 1 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 2/12 (WC), 1 at Royal Lake Adams on 2/27 and 2/28 (RH), and 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 2/28 (MD,MLD).

MerryLynn Denny birding the Walla Walla River delta. Feb. 2009. Photo by Mike Denny

EMPEROR GOOSE Rare in WA.
2 near South Bend Pacific on 1/18 and 2/23 (RaR).

Brant Rare away from salt water in WA. 1 at Marymoor Park King on 12/5 (JfC).

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Cackling Goose Reports included
76 at Moses Lake Grant on 12/1
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Marymoor Park King on 12/11 (MiH), 1 apparent “Aleutian” at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 12/11, 14 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 12/13 (SM), 25 at
Sammish Flats Skagit on 12/26 (RMy), 22 at Snohomish Snohomish on 12/27, 1 apparent “Aleutian” at Silvana Snohomish on 1/3, 97 at Silvana Snohomish on 1/3, 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 1/3, 1 at Cape Flattery Clallam on 1/17 (BWg), 7 at Fir Island Skagit on 1/28 (RyM), and 42 at
Snohomish Snohomish on 2/14 (SM).

Tundra Swan High count: 2500 from
Fir Island to Dodge Valley Skagit on 1/25 (SM). Uncommon locally. 1 at
Montlake Fill King on 12/23 (fide ESi), 5 at Juanita Bay King from 12/30 to 2/28 (RyM), 1 at
Lake Island Kitsap on 1/3, 2 at Kitsap Lake Kitsap on 1/5 (BWg), 3 at Sumner Pierce on 1/9 (CWr), and 1 at Marymoor Park King on 1/15 (MiH).

“Bewick’s” Swan Rare in WA. 1
Brady Loop Road Grays Harbor on 1/18 (BWg) to 2/27 (RMy).

Trumpeter Swan High count: 1400
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Woodland Park Zoo King on 12/19, 27 at
Sammamish King on 12/22 (fide TAv), 11 at Montlake Fill King from 12/21 (CsA) to 1/18 fide (TAv), 2 at Lyle Klickitat on 12/25 with 6 there from 1/16 to 2/5

Ross’s Goose Uncommon in WA. 1
continued at Keyport Kitsap to at least 1/6
(BWg), 1 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 2/12 (WC), 1 at Royal Lake Adams on 2/27 and 2/28 (RH), and 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 2/28 (MD,MLD).

MerryLynn Denny birding the Walla Walla River delta. Feb. 2009. Photo by Mike Denny

Washington Field Notes
December 2008—February 2009
Compiled by Tom Aversa

These “Washington Field Notes” were gleaned from reports sent to Brad Waggoner (wagtail@sounddsl.com), Doug Schonewald (dschone8@donobi.net), and Tom Aversa, and to a lesser extent from birding hotlines and listservices. Thank you to Tom, who is passing the torch after 10 years of serving as the Field Notes Compiler, and welcome to Ryan Merrill, who is taking over as of Fall 2009. Ryan's email is rjm284@gmail.com.
Common X Green-winged Teal

Snohomish

Uncommon in WA. 1 near Stanwood on 2/11 (TAv), 1 at Edison on 2/27 (GB), 1 at Woodland on 1/10 (Rko), 5 at Little Spokane River Spokane from 1/17 to 2/17 (Tli), 7 near Enumclaw on 1/20 (SDn), 18 at Lopez Island San Juan on 1/23 (AR), 7 at West Seattle on 1/25 (GrS), 7 near Tokeland Pacific on 2/3 (DaH), 21 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/9 (SC), 2 at Skamokawa Wahkiakum on 2/12 (KK), 12 near Ellensburg Kittitas on 2/15 (Rko), 2 at Turnbull NWR Spokane on 2/19 (Ja), and 5 at Fort Lewis Pierce on 2/27 (DDe).

Mute Swan

Introduced species. 1 at Samish Flats Skagit on 2/12 (JBP) to 2/20 (SmR).

Wood Duck

High counts included 200 at Woodinville King on 2/12 (BbK), and 300 at Hood Park Walla Walla on 2/14 (Md,MLD).

Green-winged Teal

High count: 17,000 near Snohomish Snohomish on 1/3 (SM), and 3000 at Ridgefield Clark on 2/17 (Rfi).

“Common” Teal

Uncommon in WA. 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/27 (Bl,CWr), 1 at Similk Bay Skagit on 12/27 (GB), 1 at Edison Skagit on 1/2 with 2 on 2/11 and 4 there on 2/17 (TAv), 1 at Kent King on 1/26 (JeB), and 1 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 2/16 (Sm).

“Common” X Green-winged Teal

Uncommon in WA. 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 1/3 (SM), and 2 at Edison Skagit on 1/15 (Ta,A,Ry,M), and 1 at Ridgefield Clark on 2/17 (Rfi).

Mallard

High count: 41,000 at Wanapum Kittitas/Grant on 12/8 (fide Rh). Rarely reported. 1 near Maryhill Klickitat on 12/14, and 1 near Rexville Skagit on 2/22 (SM).

Northern Pintail

Rarely reported. 1 at Samish Flats Skagit on 1/28 (Ry,M).

Northern Pintail

High count: 28,000 near Stanwood Snohomish on 1/3 (SM).

Blue-winged Teal

Rare in winter in WA. 2 females at Elwha RM Clallam on 1/11 (BWg).

Cinnamon Teal

Uncommon in winter in WA. 12 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 12/10 with 3 there on 2/4 (Ta,A,Ry,M), 1 at Montlake Fill King on 12/20 (Csi) with 3 on 12/27 (fide Eh) and 2 there on 2/12 (SmR), and 3 at Everett Snohomish on 12/26 (SA) and 2/16 (MaB).

Blue-winged Teal X Northern Shoveller

Rarely reported. 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark from November to 12/4 (SC).

BAIKAL TEAL

Rare in WA. 1 male at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 1/31 (ByC).

Gadwall

High count: 715 at Wanapum Pool Kittitas/Grant on 12/8 (fide Rh).

Eurasian Wigeon

High count: 104 males at Samish Flats Skagit on 12/27 (Ry,M). Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Riverside SP Spokane on 12/21 (Tli), 1 at Richland Benton from 1/3 to 1/10 (fide Bla), 1 at Bingen Klickitat on 1/6 (Sj), 1 at Two Rivers HMU Walla Walla on 1/19, 2 at WWRD Walla Walla on 2/7 and 2/21 (Md,MLD), 1 near Tum Tum Stevens on 2/14 (To), and 1 at Rock Island Douglas on 2/15 (Rko).

Eurasian X American Wigeon

Uncommon in WA. 1 at Magnuson Park King on 12/27 (Jb), 1 at Clarkston Asotin on 1/14 (KeC), and 1 at Rock Island Douglas on 2/15 (Rko).

Canvasback

High counts: 1400 at WWRD Walla Walla on 12/13 (DI,SM) with 2500 reported there on 1/19 (MD,MLD).

Redhead

High counts: 1480 at Wanapum Kittitas/Grant on 12/8 (fide Rh), and 3800 near Usk Pend Oreille on 2/19 (Jns). Uncommon in w WA. 1 at Seward Park King on 12/2 (fide Ta,v), 1 at Federal Way King on 12/4 (Hff), 10 reported on the Kent CBC King on 12/28 (Jf), 1 at Butler Flats Skagit on 1/20 (MaB), 3 at Montlake Fill King from 1/25 (PC) to 2/2 (Ry,M) with 5 there on 2/12 (SmR), 1 at Lake Washington King on 1/26 (Hj), 1 at Crockett Lake Island on 1/29 (Sm), and 1 at Raymond Pacific on 1/30 (To), and 3 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/4 (Ry,M,RF).

Ring-necked Duck

High counts: 1300 at Capital Lake Thurston on 12/7, and 960 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 12/12 (Sm).

TUFTED DUCK

Rare in WA. 1 female at Lake Erie Skagit from 11/1 to 2/15 (GB).

Scaup sp.

High count: 8037 at Wanapum Kittitas/Grant on 12/8 (fide Rh).

Harlequin Duck

Uncommon locally. 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/27 (Bl,CWr), and 5 at North Cove Pacific on 2/3 (DaH).

Long-tailed Duck

Uncommon locally. 1 at Seattle King on 12/2 (KAn), 1 at Othello Adams on 12/4 (Rh), 6 near Tacoma Pierce on 12/20, 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 2/27 (Bl,CWr), 1 near Brewster Okanogan from 1/23 (Mwo) to 2/3 (Sp,Gs), 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 2/7 (Dr), and 3 at Wanapum Pool Grant on 2/22 with 6 there on 2/28 (Dsc).

Black Scoter

High count: 80 off Bainbridge Island Kitsap on 12/3 (Ry,M,BWg).

White-winged Scoter

Uncommon away from salt water in WA. 1 at Puget Island Wahkiakum on 12/6 (Kk), and 1 at Chehal Chelton on 1/31 (DGr).

Common Goldeneye

High counts: 480 at McNary Dam Benton on 12/13 (Dl,SM), and 485 at Central Ferry Garfield on 1/21 (Ry,M).

Common X Barrow’s Goldeneye

Rarely reported. 1 at Bainbridge Island Kitsap on 12/22 (BWg).
**Bufflehead**  High count: 1809 at Wanapum Kittitas/Grant on 12/8 (fide RH).

**Hooded Merganser**  High count: 74 at WWRD Walla Walla on 12/14 (MD,MLD).

**Common Merganser**  High counts: 401 at Ice Harbor Dam Walla Walla on 12/20 (MD,MLD), and 400 at Kenmore King on 1/31 (EH).

**Red-breasted Merganser**  Uncommon in e WA. 2 at Yakima RD Benton on 12/5 with 4 there from 12/7 to 12/9 (fide BLa), 1 at Maryhill Klickitat on 12/14 (SM), 17 at Two Rivers HMU Walla Walla on 1/12 with 11 there on 2/7, 1 at Port Kellet Walla Walla on 1/19, and 1 at Lake Chelan Chelan on 2/8 (MD,MLD).

**Sage Grouse**  Rare and local in WA. 10 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 12/25 (AS).

**Sharp-tailed Grouse**  Uncommon and local in WA. 34 at Scotch Creek WMA Okanogan on 12/25 (KKe) with 43 on 12/30 (MWo) and 14 there on 2/19 (TAv,RyM), 1 at Foster Creek Douglas on 12/28 (SSc,MiF) with 3 on 1/18 (KB) and 2 there on 2/4 (RKo), and 2 at Mary Ann Creek Okanogan on 2/16 (SSc).

**Red-throated Loon**  High counts included 375 off West Beach Island on 1/29 (SM), and 150 at Vashon Island King on 2/2 (ESw).

**Pacific Loon**  Uncommon away from salt water in WA. 1 near Usk Pend Oreille on 12/1 (PSi), 1 at Bateman Island Benton on 12/6 (fide BLa), 1 at Maryhill Klickitat on 12/14 (SM), 1 near Bridgeport Douglas on 12/16 (MWo) with 3 on 1/31 (AS) and 1 there on 2/3 (SRSi), 5 at Two Rivers HMU Walla Walla on 2/1 (MD,MLD), 2 at Vantage Kittitas on 2/14 (SM), and 1 at Washougal Skamania on 2/28 (RKo).

**ARCTIC LOON**  Rare in WA. 1 reported at Westport Grays Harbor on 1/18 (SM).

**Common Loon**  High e WA count: 18 south of Pateros Okanogan on 1/31 (DGr).

**Yellow-billed Loon**  Uncommon in WA. 1 at Point Wilson Jefferson from November to 2/27 (VNa), 1 at Point No Point Kitsap from 12/1 to 12/9 and from 1/1 to 1/16 (VN), 4 from Dungeness to Protection Island Clallam on 12/15 (BL,CWr), 1 immature at Lake Chelan Chelan from 1/21 (KHe) to 1/31 (AS,DGr) was later found at Chief Joseph Dam Douglas from 2/11 to 2/28 (MSP), 1 at Bainbridge Island Kitsap on 1/31 (DoWIP), and 1 reported at West Seattle King on 2/18 (MkG).

**Pied-billed Grebe**  Uncommon on salt water. 1 at Tacoma Narrows Pierce on 12/20 (BL,CWr), and 1 at Alki Point king on 12/21 (GrS).

**Horned Grebe**  High counts: 110 at Lake Chelan Chelan on 1/31 (AS) with 200 reported there on 2/8 (MD,MLD).

**Red-necked Grebe**  Locally uncommon. 1 at Magnuson Park King on 12/4 (JB), 1 at Sacajawea SP Franklin on 1/1 (fide BLa), 1 at Lake Chelan Chelan on 2/8 (MD,MLD), and 1 at Washougal Skamania on 2/28 (RKo).

**Eared Grebe**  Reports included 47 near Tacoma Pierce on 12/20 (BL,CWr), 1 at Samish Island Skagit on 12/22 (GB), 1 at Caimer Bar Okanogan on 12/26 (KKe), 2 at Tri-cities Benton/Franklin on 1/3 with 3 there on 2/3 (NLa), 1 at Renton King on 1/4 (RyM), 1 at Edmonds Snohomish on 1/4 (JB), 1 at Mystery Bay SP Jefferson on 1/11 (RS), 5 at Roosevelt Klickitat on 1/17 (SF), 1 at March Point Skagit on 1/26 (RyM), 5 near Bridgeport Douglas on 1/31 (GB), and 1 at Vantage Kittitas on 2/14 (SM).

**Western Grebe**  High counts for e WA included 48 at Ice Harbor Dam Walla Walla on 12/20 (MD,MLD), 47 at Bingen Klickitat on 1/31, and 68 at Dallesport Klickitat on 2/5 (SF).

**Clark’s Grebe**  Uncommon in winter in WA. 1 at Port Kellet Walla Walla on 1/1 (MD,MLD), 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 2/3 (NLa) and 2/27, and 1 at Bainbridge Island Kitsap on 2/6 (BWg).

**Short-tailed Shearwater**  Locally uncommon. 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/27 (BL,CWr).
Tacoma Pierce on 12/15 (fide DMa), 2 near Naches Yakima on 12/17 (LBa), 3 reported at Lake Union King on 12/19, 1 at Beacon Rock SP Skamania on 12/20 (fide DMa) and 2/13 (fide WC), 1 near Mason Spokane on 12/28 (TO), 1 at Fife Pierce on 2/15 (DAh), and 1 at Suncrest Stevens on 2/21 (TO).

Osprey Rare in WA in winter. 1 at Cowitz Trout Hatchery Lewis on 2/22 (DAh).

White-tailed Kite Uncommon in WA. 5 near Chehalis Lewis on 12/14 (RO) with 2 there on 2/9 (PH), 1 at Julia Butler Hansen NWR Whidbey on 12/6, 1 at Puget Island Whidbey on 12/6 (KK), 2 at Sunnydale Thurston on 12/8 with 1 there on 2/9 (PH), 7 at Willow Grove Cowitz on 12/13 (RKo), and 1 at Curtis Lewis on 2/1 (RO).

Bald Eagle High counts included 135 from Stillaguamish to Samish Flats Skagit/Snohomish on 1/28 (TAw), and 56 at Two Rivers HMU Walla Walla on 2/1 (MD,MLD).

Northern Harrier High count: 35 at Woodland Cowitz on 2/17 (BT).

Northern Goshawk Uncommon locally 1 at Richland Benton on 12/15 and 12/25 (fide BLa), 1 near Finley Benton on 1/8 (NLs), 1 at Two Rivers HMU Walla Walla on 1/19 (MD,MLD), 1 immature reported at Kent King on 1/25 (EH), 1 immature at Samish Flats Skagit on 1/31 (AdW), 22 from 12/27 to 1/3 (RH), 2 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 1/2 (TAw), 1 at Silvana Snohomish on 1/3 (SM), 1 at Brady Loop Road Grays Harbor on 1/18 (BWg), 1 at Fir Island Skagit on 1/21 (TAw), 1 at Rice Bar Garfield on 1/21 (RYt), 1 at Elliford Okanogan on 2/18 (TAw,RyM), and 1 near Othello Adams on 2/23 (KTh).

Ferruginous Hawk Uncommon in winter in WA. 1 west of Wapato Yakima on 12/27 and 12/28 (AS), and 1 at Byrnes Road Walla Walla from 12/1 to 2/28 (MD,MLD).

Rough-legged Hawk High count: 22 near Bickleton Klickitat on 1/25 (SDo). Uncommon locally. 1 at Redmond King from 1/2 (EH) to 2/28 (fide MtB), 1 at Elwha RM Clallam on 1/3 (RYt), and 4 at Woodland Cowitz on 2/17 (BT).

Golden Eagle Uncommon in WA. 1 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 1/6 (RA), 1 at Marshall Point Skagit on 1/24 (AdW), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/2 (WC), 1 near Startup Snohomish on 2/27 (SP), and 1 near Concrete Skagit on 2/28 (fide HA).

Merlin Over 20 widespread reports from WA were received from lowland areas. This species winter abundance in those areas now precludes listing all reports in WFN. Uncommon locally. 1 at Cle Elum Kittitas on 1/19 (Lns).

Peregrine Falcon Uncommon in winter in WA. 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 12/6 and 1/8 (fide BLa), 1 at Toppenish Yakima from 12/14 to 2/20 (AS), 1 at Bingen Klickitat on 12/20 (Sj), 1 at Sacajawea SP Franklin on 1/1 (fide BLa), and 1 at Byrnes Road Walla Walla on 1/4 (JaG).

Gyrfalcon Uncommon in WA. 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 12/13 (VN,BWg), 1 adult near Reardan Lincoln on 12/16 (Ja), 1 immature near Havillah Okanogan on 12/26 (SSc,MtM), 1 adult near Pasco Franklin on 1/3 (MD,MLD), 1 immature at Centralia Lewis on 2/1 (RO), 1 immature near Mansfield Douglas from 2/6 (Gis,MWv) to 2/18 (GGt), 1 near Moses Lake Grant on 2/7 (RON), and 1 immature at Tualco Valley Snohomish on 2/19 (JOM) to 2/22 (SP), and 1 adult at Peola Road Astoria on 2/27 (KeC).
**Prairie Falcon** Uncommon in w WA. 1 at Samish Flats Skagit from November to 2/27 (GgT,RyM) with 2 there on 2/14 (BAn).

**American Coot** High count: 3000 at Two Rivers HMU Walla Walla on 1/19 (MD,MlD).

**Sandhill Crane** High count: 700 at Woodland Cowlitz on 1/24 (DaH). Locally rare in winter. 5 near Warden Adams on 12/4 (RH), 1 at Tenino Thurston on 12/8 (PH), and 4 at Scootney Reservoir Franklin on 2/15 (fide RH).

**Semipalateted Plover** Uncommon in WA in winter. 5 at Midway Beach Pacific on 2/3, 3 at Tokeland Pacific on 2/3 (DaH), and 3 at Drayton Harbor Whatcom on 2/5 (CnC).

**Black Oystercatcher** High count: 40 at Hobuck Beach Clallam on 12/4 (RYM). Locally uncommon. 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/27 (BL,CW), with 1 there on 1/26 (PH), and 2 at Semiahmoo Whatcom on 2/1 (DgP).

**Greater Yellowlegs** High count for w WA. 62 at Warm Beach Snohomish in 12/12 (SP). Uncommon in e WA in winter. 2 at Yakima RD Benton on 2/2 (BW).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Rare in winter in WA. 1 at Vancouver Clark on 12/12 (SM).

**Willet** High count: 15 at Tokeland Pacific on 1/30 (TO).

**Spotted Sandpiper** Uncommon in WA in winter. 1 Altoson Wahkiakum on 12/6, 1 at Cathlamet Wahkiakum on 12/6 (KK), 1 at Magnuson Park King on 12/13 (JB), 3 at Ice Harbor Dam Walla Walla on 12/20 (MD,MlD), 5 on the Seattle CBC King on 12/27 (fide EH), 1 at Sammamish King on 1/3 (H), 1 at Renton King on 1/4 (RYM), 1 at Newcastle King on 1/25 (fide TA), 1 at Juanita Bay King on 2/7 (RYM), 1 at Longview Cowlitz on 2/21 (Rk), and 1 at Cowlitz Trout Hatchery Lewis on 2/22 (DaH).

**Marbled Godwit** Uncommon locally. 2 at Rat Island Jefferson on 12/3 (TA,RW), and 1 at Port Townsend Jefferson on 1/11 (RS).

**Black Turnstone** High count: 150 at Port Townsend Jefferson on 12/7 (DP).

**Surfbird** High count: 100 at West Seattle King on 1/17 (fide TA).

**Western Sandpiper** Locally uncommon in winter. 30 at Port Flagler SP Jefferson on 12/3 (TA,RW), and 2 at March Point Skagit on 12/22 (GB).

**Least Sandpiper** High count away from outer coast: 92 Crotchet Lake Island on 1/29 (SM). Reports for e WA included

6 at Soap Lake Grant on 12/1 (DSc), 17 at Yakima RD Benton on 12/8 with 4 there on 1/8 (NLa), and 6 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 12/13 (DI,SM).

**Rock Sandpiper** Reports included 2 at Rat Island Jefferson on 12/3, 2 at Blakely Rocks Kitsap on 12/3 (TA,BW) with 1 there on 12/27 (fide EH), 2 at Port Townsend Jefferson on 12/6 (Ls) and 1/11 (RS), 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/31 (BS) with 10 on 12/6 (PH) and 1 there on 2/7 (SDo), 1 at Ediz Hook Clallam on 1/3 (RyM), and 1 at Westport Grays Harbor on 2/3 (DaH).

**Dunlin** High count away from outer coast: 2500 at Budd Inlet Thurston on 2/22 (PH). Reports for e WA included 15 Yakima RD Benton on 12/5 (NL), 51 at WWRD Walla Walla on 12/13 (DI,SM) with 15 there on 2/21 (MD,MlD), and 68 at Moses Lake Grant on 2/28 (DSc).

**Short-billed Dowitcher** Rare in WA in winter. 1 at Samish Flats Skagit on 12/9 (Ma).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Reports included 3 at Warm Beach Snohomish on 12/12 (SP), 1 at Samish Flats Skagit on 1/25, and 25 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/4 (RYM).

**Wilson’s Snipe** High count: 30 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/27 (BL,CW).

**Bonaparte’s Gull** High count: 1000 at Point No Point Kitsap on 2/12 (VN). Uncommon in e WA in winter. 1 at Sacajawea SP Franklin on 1/1 (fide BL).

**Mew Gull** High count: 2000 at Point No Point Kitsap on 2/14 (VN). Uncommon in e WA in winter. 1 at Asotin Landfill Asotin on 12/6 (TrG), 1 at Lyle Kickstart on 12/11 (S), 2 at McNary Dam Benton on 12/3 and 2 at WWRD Walla Walla from 12/13 (DI,SM) to 2/16 with 1 nearby on 2/21 (MD,MlD), 1 at Nespelem Bar Okanogan on 12/27 (KKe), 1 at Ice Harbor Dam Walla Walla on 1/1 (MD,MlD), 2 at Kennewick Benton on 1/3 (DR), 4 at Pasco Franklin on 1/3, 1 at Lower Monumental Dam Walla Walla on 1/4 (MD,MlD), and 1 at Richland Benton on 1/20 (NL).

**California Gull** High count: 325 at McNary Dam Benton on 12/13 (SM).

**Thayer’s Gull** High count: 280 at Hobuck Beach Clallam on 12/4 (RYM). Uncommon in e WA. 2 at WWRD Walla Walla on 12/13 (SM), 1 at Richland Benton from 1/1 to 2/4 with 2 there on 2/2 (fide BL), and 2 at Two Rivers HMU Walla Walla on 1/19 (MD,MlD).

**Slaty-Backed Gull** Rare in WA. 1 adult at Everett STP Snohomish from 12/26 (SA) to 12/28 (RtA).

**Lesser Black-Backed Gull** Rare in WA. 1 adult at Richland Benton on 1/1 and 2/10 (BL,NL), and 1 adult at WWRD Walla Walla on 1/15 (MD,MlD).

**Western Gull** Uncommon in e WA. 1 at McNary Dam Walla Walla on 12/3 (DLSM), 1 at Ice Harbor Dam Walla Walla on 12/20, 1 at Pasco Franklin on 1/3 (MD,MlD), and 1 at Bateman Island Benton on 2/10 (NL).

**Glaucous Gull** Reports included 1 at Priest Rapids Yakima on 12/7 (SDo), 1 in the Wallula area Walla Walla on 12/13 (DI,SM) to 2/16 (MD,MlD), 1 at

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**Photo by Michael Woodruff**

at Point Wilson Jefferson on 1/5 (BbW). Uncommon on outer coast in winter.
1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/27 (BL,CWr).

**Cassin’s Auklet**
Uncommon in Puget Sound. 1 at Restoration Point Kitsap on 12/6 (Bw), and 1 off Point Defiance Pierce on 12/20 (CWr).

**Rhinoceros Auklet**
Winter reports scarce. 40 from Bainbridge Island to Port Townsend Kitsap/ Jefferson on 12/3 (TAv,BWg), 1 at Dungeness Clallam on 12/15, 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/27 (BL,CWr), 1 at Point Wilson Jefferson on 2/18 (BbW). Evidence of spring influx. 472 at Point Wilson Jefferson on 2/23 (BbW).

**Mourning Dove**
High counts included 400 at Othello Adams on 12/27 (RH), and 70 at Roy Pierce on 12/22 (DDe).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove**
Rapidly increasing population. Reports from over thirty statewide locations included high counts of 27 at Reardan Lincoln on 12/6 (JoI), 6 at Puget Island Wahkiakum on 12/6 (KK), 13 at Dungeness Clallam on 12/8 (GyM), 19 at Burbank Walla Walla on 12/13 (Gil,M), 7 at Cle Elum Kittitas on 12/16 (MiH), 34 at Mansfield Douglas on 2/16 (BL,BT), 10 at Seaview Pacific on 1/6 (AR), 28 at Woodland Coastlitz on 1/10 (Rko), 22 at Fairfield Spokane on 1/14 (Mwo), 40 at Washutacna Adams on 1/21 (RyM), and 15 at Mabton Yakima on 1/25 (Sdo).

**Snowy Owl**
Uncommon in WA. 1 at Espanola Spokane on 12/1 (fide CrC), 1 at Pilchuck Tree Farm Snohomish on 12/3 with 2 on 1/24 (Sai) and 4 there on 2/28 (Sai), 1 near Davenport Lincoln from 12/10 to 2/22 with 2 there on 1/9 (Ja), and 1 near Rocklyn Lincoln on 1/30 (TLi)

Bainbridge Island Kitsap from 12/22 to 2/19 with another at Restoration Point Kitsap on 2/7 (Bw), 1 at Vashon Island King on 12/28 (Esw), 1 at Everett STP Snohomish on 12/28 (Rs), 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/21, 1 at Kitsap Grays Harbor on 12/31, 2 at Kennedy Creek Mason on 12/31, 1 at Mud Bay Thurstun on 12/31 (BS), 1 in the Richland area Benton from 1/1 to 2/14 (fide Bla), 3 at Renton King on 1/2 (Mb) with 1 there on 1/8 (TAv,RyM), 1 adult at Kent King from 1/6 (EH) to 1/11 (Js), 2 near Allen Slagit from 1/9 (fide RyM) to 1/17 (GT) with 1 there to 2/20 (SmR), 2 at Asotin Landfill Aotin from 1/17 (MiH) to 1/21 (RyM) with 1 there to 1/29 (KcC), 2 at Westport Grays Harbor on 1/19 (BT) with 1 there to 2/3 (DaH) to 2/21 (AvG), 1 at Lopez Island San Juan on 1/23 (Ar), 1 adult at Two Rivers HMU Walla Walla on 2/1 (Md,MLD), 1 at Chief Joseph Dam Douglas from 2/13 to 2/15 (fide TAv), 1 at Lake Sacajawea Coastlitz on 2/19 (Rko), 1 at Woodland Coastlitz on 2/21 (Rko), and 1 at Olympia Thurston on 2/22 (Ph).

**THICK-BILLED MURRE**
Rare in WA. 1 basic plumaged adult at Point No Point Kitsap on 1/12 (VN).

**Marbled Murrelet**
High counts: 1350 at Point Wilson Jefferson on 2/8 (SM,BWg) with 765 there on 2/13 (BbW).

**Ancient Murrelet**
High count: 1074

High counts included 27 at Reardan Lincoln on 12/6 (JoI), 6 at Puget Island Wahkiakum on 12/6 (KK), 13 at Dungeness Clallam on 12/8 (GyM), 19 at Burbank Walla Walla on 12/13 (Gil,M), 7 at Cle Elum Kittitas on 12/16 (MiH), 34 at Mansfield Douglas on 2/16 (BL,BT), 10 at Seaview Pacific on 1/6 (AR), 28 at Woodland Coastlitz on 1/10 (Rko), 22 at Fairfield Spokane on 1/14 (Mwo), 40 at Washutacna Adams on 1/21 (RyM), and 15 at Mabton Yakima on 1/25 (Sdo).

**Snowy Owl**
Uncommon in WA. 1 at Espanola Spokane on 12/1 (fide CrC), 1 at Pilchuck Tree Farm Snohomish on 12/3 with 2 on 1/24 (Sai) and 4 there on 2/28 (Sai), 1 near Davenport Lincoln from 12/10 to 2/22 with 2 there on 1/9 (Ja), and 1 near Rocklyn Lincoln on 1/30 (TLi)

with 2 there on 2/14 (fide JA), 1 at Finley Benton on 12/16 (fide Bla), 1 at Cameron Lake Road Okanogan on 12/25 (Kke), 1 at Waterville Plateau Douglas from 12/27 (Kke) to 2/14 (SSC) with 2 there on 2/8 (Msp), 1 near Pasco Franklin on 1/3, and 1 at Horse Heaven Hills Benton on 2/8 and 2/28 (fide Bla).

**NORTHERN HAWK OWL**
Rare in WA. 1 near Buzzard Lake Okanogan on 12/15 (GdK), 1 near Bridgeport Douglas from 1/21 (Msp) to at least 1/24 (DG,RH), and 1 near Mansfield Douglas from 2/3 (SP) to 2/28 (fide MSp).

**Northern Pygmy-Owl**
Uncommon locally. 1 at Cape Flattery Clallam on 1/17 (Bw), 1 at Grand Coulee Grant on 1/26 (Gs), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/4 (Rs,Rf), 1 at Harry Osborne SF Skagit on 2/14 (GB), 1 at Vantage Kittitas on 2/15 (DaH), and 1 at Richland SP Skagit on 2/16 (GB), and 2 at Liberty Lake Spokane on 2/17 (Jo).

**Burrowing Owl**
Reports included 1 at West Richland Benton on 12/14, 1 at WSU-Richland Benton on 2/13 and 2/26 (fide Bla), and 1 near Othello Adams on 2/22 (RH).

**Spotted Owl**
Rare away from old growth forest. 1 emaciated bird picked up from a backyard in Shine Jefferson on 1/30 (Ja,Bw).

**Barred Owl**
Uncommon locally. 1 at Walla Walla Walla Walla 12 on 1/1 (Md,MLD), 1 at Wapato Yakima on 1/4 (As), 1 at Yakima Yakima at 1/4 (Jo), 1 at Pasco Franklin on 1/15 (fide Bla), and 1 at Waverly Spokane on 1/14 (Mwo).
Great Gray Owl Rare in WA. 1 near Colville Stevens from 1/14 (WCu) to 1/18 (TO,KTh), and 1 at Bennington Lake Walla Walla from 2/1 to 2/11 (MD,MLD).

Long-eared Owl High count: 10 at Steamboat Rock SP Grant on 2/16 (JBP). Uncommon in WA. Kent King from 1/10 (MiB) with 2 there on 1/17 (RHb).

Short-eared Owl High count: 35 at Samish Flats Skagit at 12/17 (RhM). Uncommon locally in winter. 1 at Sunnydale Thurston on 12/8 with 3 there on 2/2 (PH), 3 near Davenport Lincoln on 12/23 (TLa), 1 at Scotch Creek WMA Okanogan on 12/24 (KKe), 1 at Mary Ann Creek Okanogan on 1/11 (JTB,MaB), 1 at Steamboat Rock SP Grant on 1/23 (MWo), and 1 at Marymoor Park King on 2/19 (MiH).

Northern Saw-whet Owl Uncommon locally in winter. 2 at Richland Benton on 1/3 (fide BLa), 1 at Discovery Park King on 11/1 (MiB), 1 at Marymoor Park King on 1/28 (MiH), 1 at Fish Hook Park Walla Walla on 1/31, 1 at Hooper Whitman on 1/31 (MD,MLD), 1 at Bridgeport SP Douglas on 2/1 (Sp), and 1 at Moses Lake Grant on 2/17 (TMn).

Anna’s Hummingbird Increasingly widespread reports included 1 Kennewick Benton from November to 12/24 (BLa,LaNa), 1 at White Salmon Klickitat from 12/1 to 2/28 (CF), 3 at Yakima Yakima from 12/1 to 12/28 (DGr), 1 at Lyle Klickitat on 12/12 (JF), 1 at Fall City King on 12/7 (fide TAv), 22 on the Sequim CBC Clallam on 12/15 (fide BoB), 14 on the Grays Harbor CBC on 12/27 (DMo), 1 at Longview Coos Bay on 1/13 (JfJ), 1 at Samish Island Skagit on 1/15, 1 at Breazaclad Skagit on 2/11 (RyM), and 1 at Stanwood Snohomish on 2/11 and 2/21 (MiW).

Rufous Hummingbird Early reports included 1 at Everett Snohomish on 1/29 (SM), and 1 at Tukeland Pacific on 2/20 (fide TAv).

Red-breasted Sapsucker Uncommon in WA. 1 at Touchet River Columbia on 1/8 (fide MD). High counts: 12 at Skagit WMA Skagit at 12/19 (MiW), and 10 at Kirkland King on 12/21 (RyM).

Red-breasted X Red-naped Sapsucker Uncommon away from Cascades. 1 Juanita Bay King from November to 12/22, and 1 at Marymoor Park King on 1/29 (RyM).

White-headed Woodpecker Reports included 1 at Box Canyon Klickitat from November to 12/30 with a pair there to 2/28 (NWw), 1 at Klickitat WMA.


Klickitat 12/25 and 12/27 (JF), 1 at Goldendale Klickitat on 1/3 (fide SJ), 1 at Cameron Lake Road Okanogan on 11/11 (JTh), and 1 at Cowboy NWR Klickitat on 2/22 (fide SJ).

American Three-toed Woodpecker Winter reports infrequent in WA. 1 at Frater Lake Pend Oreille on 12/23 (TLa).

Black-backed Woodpecker Uncommon in WA. 1 at Diamond Lake Pend Oreille on 12/28 (fide JnS), 1 near Usk Pend Oreille on 2/9 and 2/21 (PsJ), and 2 at Havillah Okanogan on 2/12 (SmR).

"Yellow-shafted" Flicker Reports included 1 at Hawk Creek King from 12/28 (fide JnS), and 10 at North Seattle King on 1/3 was found dead on 1/17 (ZF).

Say's Phoebe Uncommon in mid-winter in WA. 1 at Moses Yakima on 12/16 (JBa), 1 at College Place Walla Walla on 12/17 (JaG), and 1 at Methow Valley Okanogan on 2/6 (TeP).

TROPICAL KINGBIRD Rare in WA. 1 at Skagit Flats Skagit from November to 12/18 (RyM,HA).

Loggerhead Shrike Uncommon in winter in WA. 1 at Wanapum Grant on 2/15 (DTH), and 1 Lower Crab Creek Grant on 2/28 (DSc).

Steller's Jay Uncommon locally. 1 at Moses Lake Grant from 12/23 to 1/9 (DSc).

Blue Jay Uncommon in WA. 2 reported at Walla Walla Walla Walla from 12/1 to 2/28 (fide MD), and 1 at Rexville Skagit from November to 2/11 (TAv,RYM).

Western Scrub-Jay Range expansion continues. 10 in the Yakima Valley Yakima from 12/1 to 2/28 (DGr), 1 at Seaview Pacific on 2/6 (AR), 1 at Fort Flagler SP Jefferson on 1/11 (RS), and 1 near Duvall King on 2/15 (BrM).

Clark's Nutcracker High count: 120 at Hawk Creek Canyon Lincoln on 12/28 (MWo).

Common Raven High count: 60 eating dead voles at Samish Flats Skagit on 1/15 (TAv,RYM). Uncommon locally. 2 at Des Moines King on 12/15 (SrS), and 1 at Federal Way King on 1/19 (HJF), and 2 at West Seattle King on 1/14 (GhT).

Horned Lark Locally uncommon. 2 at Samish Island Skagit on 1/9 (RyM), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 1/21 (RfJ) and 2/4 (RyM), 2 at Kalama Coos Bay on 2/21 (Rko).

Tree Swallow First reports included 4 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 1/17 (BfC), and 2 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 1/20 (BT).

Violet-green Swallow First reports included 1 at Skookumchuck Hatchery Thurston on 2/21 (Rko), and 2 at Kettle Falls Stevens on 2/28 (WCu).

Barn Swallow Uncommon in winter. 12 swallows reported at Union Bay King on 1/14 (GlU) were probably this species, 2 at Montlake Fill King on 1/18 (GO), 3 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 1/17 (BfC) with 4 on 1/19 (ScJ) and 1 there on 1/21 (JfJ), 1 at Kent King on 1/18 (BrM), 2 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 1/20 (BT), and 1 near Cattle Point San Juan on 1/23 (AR).

Black-capped Chickadee Uncommon locally. 1 at Bridgeport SP Douglas on 12/24 (KKe), 2 at Grand Coulee Grant on 1/26 (GlS), and 1 at Lopez Island San Juan on 1/23 (AR).

Mountain Chickadee Reports indicative of irruption included 1 at Kirkland King from November to 2/28 (MiH), 1 at Mount Vernon Skagit from 12/1 to 12/27 (fide HA), 2 near Lyman Skagit on 12/7 (GB), 1 at Queen Anne King from 12/10 to 2/17 (KxK), 1 Ballard King on 12/18 and 12/20 (MWg), 1 at Bridgeport SP Douglas on 12/24 (KKe), 1 at Issaquah King from 12/26 to 2/14 (Rhb), 1 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor from 12/27 (RS) to 1/1 (LaS), 1 at Semiahmoo Whatcom on 1/9 (Rhb), 1 at Samish Island Skagit on 1/15 (TAv,RYM) and 1/24 (HA), 3 at Woodland Coos Bay from 1/18 (MBJ) to 1/25 (AR) with 1 there on 2/21 (Rko), 1 at Mansfield Douglas on 2/7 (Jko), 1 at Samish Flats Skagit on 2/8 with 2 there on 2/10 (fide HA), and 1 at Alger Skagit on 2/14 (GB).

Boreal Chickadee Uncommon in WA. 4 reported at Little Pend Oreille NWR Stevens on 1/30 (KTh).

Red-breasted Nuthatch Columbia Basin reports included 1 at Walla Walla Walla Walla from 12/14 (MD,MLD), 7 at Richland Benton on 1/3 (LaNa), and 1 at Othello Adams on 1/10 (RH).

Brown Creeper Columbia Plateau reports included 1 at Royal Slope Grant on 12/7 (fide RH), 1 at Bridgeport SP Douglas
Western Meadowlark. 22 February 2009. Montlake Fill. King. Photo by Ollie Oliver.
on 1/3 (KAn), 1 at Richland Benton on 1/3 (GuM), 2 at Nisqually Station Pierce on 1/4 (BL), 1 at Julia Butler Hansen NWR Washington 1/6 (MK,MaB), 1 at Stanwood Snohomish on 1/9 (DLt), 1 at Longview Cowlitz on 1/13 [Je], 1 at Steilacoom Pierce from 1/13 to 1/17 (DJs), and 3 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/4 (TaV,RF).

Harris’s Sparrow Uncommon in WA. 1 at Bridgeport Bar Douglas from November to 2/14 (SSc), 3 at Kennewick Benton from 12/1 to 2/28 (DR,Nla), 2 near Chewelah Stevens on 12/3 (NiH), 1 at Joyce Clallam on 12/18 (fide BoB), 1 at Richland Benton from 12/20 to 2/28 (fide BLa), 1 at College Place Walla Walla from 12/21 to 12/25 (MD,MLD), 1 at Lawrence Whatcom on 12/26 (fide RyM), 1 at Rockport Skagit from 12/27 (Ja) to 1/1 (GB), 1 at Lowend Walla Walla on 12/27 (fide MD), 1 at Satsop Grays Harbor from 12/29 to 1/4 (BL,BT), 1 at Bridgeport SP Douglas on 2/1 (SP), and 1 at West Richland Benton on 2/16 (fide BLa).

Golden-crowned Sparrow Reports for e WA included 3 at Sacajawea SP Franklin on 1/3 (MD,MLD).

“Slate-colored” Junco Reports included 1 near Two Rivers CP Benton from 12/1 to 2/28 (DR), 1 at Fall City King 12/11 (TaV), 3 at Maryhill Klickitat on 12/14 (SM), 1 at Seattle King on 12/15 (DP), 2 at Bainbridge Island Kitsap on 12/19 (BWg), 1 at Everett Snohomish on 12/20, 1 at Mount Vernon Skagit on 12/21 (SM), 2 at Moses Lake Grant on 12/23 (DSc), 3 at Silvana Snohomish on 12/25 (SM), 1 at Bingen Klickitat on 12/26 (Si), 1 at Monroe Snohomish on 1/1 (RyM), 1 at Anacortes Skagit from 1/12 to 2/10, 1 at Fir Island Skagit on 1/15 to 2/22 (fide HA), 1 near Albion Whitman on 1/22 (RyM), 1 at Florence Snohomish on 12/25 (SM), 1 at Royal City Grant on 1/29 (TaV), and 1 at Puyallup Lake SP Okanogan on 2/19 (TaV).

Lapland Longspur Reports included 14 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 12/2 (MR), 1 at Black Rock Valley Yakima on 12/20 (AS), 3 near Mansfield Douglas on 12/27 (KKe) with 1 there on 2/17 (TaV,RyM), 1 at Dot Klickitat on 1/19 (fide Si), 3 at American Camp San Juan on 1/23 (AR), 2 near Bolster Okanogan on 2/3 (GiS), and 1 at Horse Heaven Hills Yakima on 2/15 (SDo), and 2 near Clyde Walla Walla on 2/9 (MD,MLD).

Snow Bunting High counts included 250 at Muskrat Lake Okanogan on 12/26 (SSc,MtF), and 700 near Bolster Okanogan on 2/3 (GiS).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK Rare in WA. 1 female at Sequim Clallam from 12/19 to 12/28 (TC), and 1 immature male near Suncrest Stevens from 2/20 (MWo,CrC) to 2/25 (NW).

Tricolored Blackbird Rare in w WA. 1 adult male at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 12/12 (SM). Uncommon in e WA. 80 near Othello Adams on 12/27 with at least 1 there from 2/22 (RH) to 2/28 (BLa), 2 near Wallula Walla Walla on 1/15 with 4 there on 2/1 (MD,MLD).

Yellow-headed Blackbird Rare in w WA in winter. 1 at Olympic Game Farm Clallam on 12/15 (fide BoB), and 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 1/31 (fide DMo).

Rusty Blackbird Rare in winter in WA. 1 male at Silvana Snohomish from 12/21 to 12/25 with 1 female there on 1/3 (SM), and 1 at Turnbull NWR Spokane from 2/2 to 2/21 (fide CrC).

Brown-headed Cowbird High count: 100 at Wallula Walla Walla on 2/1 (MD,MLD).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch High count: 250 near Bridgeport Bar Douglas on 1/18 (KB). Rare in w WA lowlands. 1 at Discovery Park King on 12/19 (DHu), 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 12/27 (CrW,MtP), 2 at Ocean City SP Grays Harbor on 12/27 (AWg), and 1 at Semiahmoo Whatcom on 1/4 (MSz).

Pine Grosbeak Irruptive numbers widespread. 10 east of Rainy Pass Skagit on 12/1 (MR), 2 at Calispell Lake Pend Oreille on 12/4 (TLi), 9 at Mount Spokane Spokane on 12/8 (JoI), 5 near Usk Pend Oreille on 12/10 (PSi), 1 at Cle Elum Kittitas on 12/13 (fide MiH) with 12 there on 12/19 (LaN), 12 at Spokane Spokane on 12/14 with 25 on 1/11 and 8 there on 2/13 (JoI), 12 near Colville Stevens on 12/17 (WCo), 15 at Puyallup Lake SP Okanogan on 12/24 (SSc,MtF) with 100 on 1/11 (SiG,BMe) and 70 there on 2/19 (TaV,RyM), 13 near Sun Mountain Lodge Okanogan on 12/25 (SSc,MtF), 16 at Mary Ann Creek Okanogan on 12/26 (SSc,MtF) with 80 on 12/30 (MWo) and 75 there on 2/22 (MtP), 17 near Muskrat Lake Okanogan on 12/26 (KKe), 1 at Covingon King on 12/28 (fide CrW), 1 at Goldendale Kittitas on 1/3 (CF), 8 at Coupeville Island on 1/3 (SrS), 12 at Cusick Pend Oreille on 1/11 (JoI), 18 at Ellow Lake Spokane on 1/11 (TLi), 12 near Kettle Falls Stevens on 1/11 (WCo), 15 at Palouse Whitman on 1/11 (fide CrC), 6 at Coopie Creek Walla Walla on 1/12 with 8 there on 2/1, 3 at Scenic Loop Drive Walla Walla on 1/16 (MD,MLD), 1 near Eatonville Pierce on 1/18 (CIC), 15 at Springdale Stevens on 1/18 (KT), 11 at Kamiak Butte Whitman on 1/22 (RYm), 20 at Tekoa Whitman on 1/22 (GiS), 1 at Liberty Lake Spokane on 2/17 (JoI), 1 at Davenport Lincoln on 1/30 (JA), 2 at Nisqually NWR Thurston from 1/31 to 2/22 (BS), 3 at Riverside Okanogan on 2/1 (WhD), 8 at Mount Vernon Skagit on 2/7 (fide HA), 6 near Lacey Thurston on 2/6 (EK), 1 at Shoreline King on 2/11 (fide RyM), 2 at San Juan Island San Juan on 2/14 (fide RyM), 20 near Suncrest Stevens on 2/22 (fide CrC), and 4 at Fultonweather Bluff Kitsap on 2/27 (JoI).

Purple Finch High count: 95 at Skagit WMA Skagit on 12/24 (KYm). Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Moses Lake Grant on 12/23 (DSc), up to 7 at 1/1 to 1/31 (fide BLa), and 1 at Conconully Okanogan on 2/19 (TaV,KYm).

Cassin’s Finch Uncommon locally in winter. 1 at Moses Lake Grant on 12/23 (DSc), and 60 at Fort Spokane Lincoln on 12/28 (MWo).

Red Crossbill Rare in the Columbia Basin. 6 at Lyons Ferry Franklin on 1/16 (MiH) with 1 there to 1/21, 1 at Washutucna Adams on 1/21 (RYm), and 7 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 1/22 (DR).

White-winged Crossbill Irruptive numbers widespread. 1 near Palouse Falls SP Franklin on 1/16, 15 at Lyons Ferry Franklin on 1/16 (MiH) with 1 there on 1/22 (GiS), 1 near Wawawai Whitman on 1/18 (MiH) with 18 there on 1/22 (MWo), 4 at Mount Erie Skagit on 1/18 (TLi) with 3 on 2/5 (GT) and 2 there to 2/18 (HA), 4 at Washutucna Adams on 1/19 (RH) with 1 there on 1/21 (RYm), 12 at Pomeroy Garfield on 1/19 (MiH) with 3 there on 1/22 (MD,MLD), 1 at Kennewick Benton on 1/21 with 3 there on 2/2 (NLa), 4 at Rose Creek Preserve Whitman on 1/22 (RYm), 1 at Tekoa Whitman on 1/22 (GiS), 2 at Othello Adams on 1/23 (RH) with 6 on 2/17 (BLa,NLa) and 3 there to 2/28 (RH,MD), 8 at Bridgeport SP Okanogan on 1/23 (MWo), 15 at Lake Heritage Stevens on 1/23, 10 near Little Pend Oreille NWR Stevens on 1/23 (TLi), 3 at Ritzville Lincoln on 1/25, 4 at Harrington Lincoln on 1/25 (GrC) with 1 there on 1/26 (JA), 1 at Richland Benton on 1/26 with 8 there on 2/19 (BLa), 8 at Davenport Lincoln from 1/27 (JoI) to 1/29 with 5 there on 2/28 (fide CrC), 4 at Mansfield Douglas on 1/30 (RH,RoF) with 10 there on 2/7 (Ko), 2 at Coulee City Grant on 2/7 (MWo) with 9 there on 2/8 (DSc), 24...
at Spangle Spokane from 2/11 to 2/23 (MWo), 8 at Havillah Okanogan on 2/18 (TAv,RyM) with 15 there on 2/22 (MtP), and 60 north of Concomully Okanogan on 2/19 (TAv,RyM).

**Common Redpoll** High counts included 500 north of Winthrop Okanogan on 12/24 (SSc,MlF), 210 at Scotch Creek WMA Okanogan on 2/1 (WhD), and 200 at Little Spokane River Spokane on 2/28 (BIS). Uncommon in w WA. 8 at Olympic Game Farm Clallam on 12/8 (GyM), 1 at Roy Pierce on 12/18 (DDc), and 1 reported at Arlington Snohomish on 12/28 (fide SA).

**Pine Siskin** High count: 1000 at Skagit WMA Slagit on 12/19 (MiW). Columbia Basin high counts: 45 at College 12/19 (MiW). 12 at Skagit WMA Slagit on 12/28 (fide SA).

**American Goldfinch** Rare away from Klickitat. 5 at Heller Bar Assim on 1/10 (TrG) with 2 near there on 2/15 (fide KeC), and 2 at Vancouver Clark on 1/9 (KK).

**Lesser Goldfinch** Rare away from Klickitat. 5 at Heller Bar Assim on 1/10 (TrG) with 2 near there on 2/15 (fide KeC), and 2 at Vancouver Clark on 1/9 (KK).

**Evening Grosbeak** Rare in winter in Columbia Basin. 1 at Walla Walla Walla Walla on 12/14 (MD,MLD).

**Observers:**

- CSa Chris Anderson
- HA Howard Armstrong
- JA Jim Acton
- JIA Jim Alt
- KaA Karen Adair
- SA Scott Atkinson
- JAc Jamie Acker
- SAf Scott Ashlman
- BAn Bud Anderson
- KAn Kathy Andrich
- TAv Tom Aversa
- BoB Bob Boekelheide
- GB Gary Bletsch
- JB Jan Bragg
- JB Jeff Bryant
- KB Ken Brown
- MaB Marv Breece
- MtB Matt Bartels
- LBa Lee Barnes
- KBd Keith Brady
- JBP Joel Brady-Power
- BIC Bill Clemons
- ByC Bryan Crawford
- ClC Clarice Clark
- GnG Gaanan Gowles
- CrG Craig Gorder
- DC Doug Canning
- JIC Jeff Cohen
- KeC Keith Carlson
- PC Paul Cozens
- RC Rob Conway
- SC Scott Carpenter
- Sic Simone Cook
- TC Tim Cullinan
- WC Wilson Cady
- Wcu Warren Current
- MD Mike Denny
- MLD MerryLynn Denny
- ND Nate Drumheller
- WhD Drew Wheelan
- DDe Denis DeSilvis
- Sdn Sandy Daniels
- MDo Mike Donahue
- SDn Scott Downes
- EE Elias Elias
- CF Cathy Flick
- HJF Hans-Joachim Feddern
- IfJ Jeff Flynn
- MiF Michael Fleming
- RoF Ron Friesz
- RFi Bob Flores
- ZF Zsolt Farkas
- JAgJagc Jacquie Goodhew
- JfG Jeff Gibson
- MKG Mark Girling
- TrG Terry Gray
- DGr Denny Granstrand
- MGr Margaret Green
- DaH Dave Hayden DaH
- EH Gene Hunn
- MiH Michael Hobbs
- PH Paul Hicks
- RH Randy Hill
- RHb Rick Hibbs
- RHe Rick Hendrick
- LHs Lisa Hill
- DHu Dave Hutchinson
- Dl Dave Irons
- Jol Jon Isaicoff
- HJ Hugh Jennings
- JeF Jeff Jendro
- SJ Stuart Johnston
- Bje Barb Jensen
- Djs Dea Just
- Bbk Bob Kothenbeutel
- EK Eric Kraig
- GdK Gordon Kent
- KK Ken Knittle
- PhK Phil Kelley
- KKe Kraig Kemper
- Jko Jeff Koza
- Rko Russ Koppenderayer
- MKr Maurie Kirschner
- BL Bruce Labar
- TIL Tiffany Linbo
- BLa Bill LaFransoise
- NLa Nancy LaFransoise
- TL Terry Little
- DLo Dan Logan
- GLu Gary Luhm
- BrM Brien Meilleur
- GuM Guy McWethy
- GyM Guy Monty
- JoM Joyce Meyer
- Rym Ryan Merrill
- SM Steve Mlodonow
- Dma Diann MacRae
- Bmc Brendan McGarry
- SmI Scott Mills
- TmN Tom Mansfield
- Dmo Dianna Moore
- RMy Roger Moyer
- VN Vic Nelson
- Ene Ed Newbold
- GO Grace Oliver
- RO Roger Orness
- To Tim O'Brien
- BcP Bruce Paige
- DpD Dennis Paulson
- Dgp Doug Parrott
- Ip Ian Paulsen
- MtP Matt Pike
- Sp Steve Pink
- TeP Teri Pieper
- SpA Shiva Parmeswaran
- JPs John Puschock
- AR Alan Richards
- DrD Dennis Rockwell
- MrR Marcus Roening
- RaR Randy Robinson
- SmR Sam Riley
- As Andy Stepniewski
- BS Bill Shelmurden
- BIS Bill Siems
- GlS Gina Sheridan
- GrS Gary Smith
- Jns John Stuart
- LmS Lonnie Somer
- MsS Melissa Sherwood
- RsS Ruth Sullivan
- SrS Sara Schmidt
- CsC Carol Schulz
- DSc Doug Schonewald
- Ssc Stefan Schlich
- AsI Tony Sirgedas
- CsI Connie Sidles
- PSh Paul Sieracki
- MsP Meredith Spencer
- BSu Bob Sundstrom
- ESw Ed Swan
- JSw Jerry Swena
- MSz Mark Shifma
- BT Bill Tweet
- Gt Greg Tofic
- GgT Gregg Thompson
- TrT Triffy Tucker
- Rta Rick Taylor
- JTh John Tubbs
- LtK Lyn Topinka
- MVe Mark Vernon
- AdW Andrea Warner
- BW Bob Woodley
- Bbb Bob Whitney
- DoW Doug Watkins
- MiW Michael Willison
- NW Norma Wendt
- AWg Art Wang
- BWg Brad Waggoner
- MWg Mike Wagben
- MWO Michael Woodruff
- CWw Charlie Wright
- NWn Nancy Wallwork

**Corrigenda:** Field Notes #122 inadvertently omitted the nearly unprecedented report of 1 TENNESSEE WARBLER at the Elwha RM Clallam on 11/16 (BWg,SM). Another correction was that the Spokane Indian Reservation was misreported as Spokane. It should be Stevens.
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VOLUNTEER Sales Coordinator

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. 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.


Pacific Spiketail. 16 August 2009.
Skamania, Joseph Higbee, photographer.
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 same leg (note right or left leg and top/bottom color if two bands). 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, jgbett@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 at 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 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 now 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 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, please note the date and location, and which leg, and report it to Randy Hill at work (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, GyrFalcons, 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 flag color code, color, date, time, and location. Report sightings to Dan Varland at (360) 591-5959 or by email at danvarland@coastalraptors.org.

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. Each 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 note band code and color, date, time, and location. To date, >1,200 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 nestling 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 email s.downes@nwwildlifeconsultants.com.

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.merlinfalconfoundation.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 for “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 jgbett@comcast.net.

SONGBIRD SURVEY
We have color-marked many 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 Ave. 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, as well as the date and location, and send the information to: Barbara Jensen, San Juan Islands Audubon Society, (360) 378-3068 or skylark@rockisland.com.
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