The 2009 WOS Conference at Kelso
by Gene Hunn, WOS President

The 21st annual Washington Ornithological Society conference and bird bash — based in Kelso — is now history. From Friday, September 18, through Monday, September 21, our 102 participants (from as far afield as British Columbia, Utah, and Oklahoma) enjoyed 36 field trips led by 20 intrepid volunteers, with several “going home” trips Monday pushing the geographic envelope. The weather was mostly fine, but for a bit of rain Saturday morning, which affected the mountain trips somewhat. Jupiter lit up the evening and Venus the morning skies.

Friday evening, the Washington Bird Records Committee put on an excellent workshop (thanks especially to Kevin Aanerud, Dennis Paulson, and Ryan Merrill). They demonstrated the complexities of rare bird documentation and highlighted some of the pitfalls to be expected in the excitement of a rare bird encounter. Saturday’s keynote speaker, Robert Michael Pyle — noted lepidopterophile and Zen natural historian — entertained us well. Robert and his wife have settled into a trim century-old house with a sweeping view of the Grays River historic covered bridge and the valley below. He shared evocative experiences and observations through the years and seasons in the low-key landscape of the Willapa Hills of Wahkiakum County, one of the more out-of-the-way corners of our state and target of a series of conference field trips.

I have tallied the reports from the conference field trips. A grand total of 189 species of birds was seen (plus a few mammals, herps, and invertebrates). No great rarities turned up, but there were a number of surprises: a Gray Catbird, Nashville and Hermit warblers and a Yellow-breasted Chat, Vesper, Lark, and White-throated sparrows, for example. Sandhill Cranes were arriving for the winter, which is always exciting. Trip tallies included 33 species of ducks, geese, and swans, most of the ducks in challenging late-summer plumages. A Mute and a Tundra swan were staked out

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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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This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper.

The text continues with the list of committee chairs and board members, along with their contact information. The newsletter also mentions the Washington Ornithological Society's office location and contact information, including the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. The newsletter concludes with a list of board members and other officers, along with their respective roles and contact details. The newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of the society's leadership and communication channels. The text also highlights the society's commitment to increasing knowledge and enhancing communication about birds in Washington. The newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper, and readers are encouraged to email the board for more information. The newsletter provides a detailed description of the society's history and mission statement, emphasizing its role in the field of ornithology and its dedication to fostering knowledge and appreciation of birds in the state of Washington. The text concludes with a reference to the Washington Ornithological Society's website and contact information, allowing readers to learn more about the society and its activities. The newsletter includes images of birds, such as the dusky grouse and spruce grouse, which serve to illustrate the society's focus on ornithology. Overall, the newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of the Washington Ornithological Society's mission, leadership, and activities, and encourages readers to engage with the society and contribute to its goals.
My husband and I have been members of WOS since its founding in 1988. I became more than just a member in August 2008 when I ran into Gene Hunn at a Seattle Audubon event. Gene had just become WOS president and was talking about some of his goals for the organization. When he said he wanted to find a way to put past WOS newsletters online and make them searchable, I said, “I could help with that.”

A year later, I find myself on the WOS board. I attended my first board meeting in Ellensburg October 3rd and was pleased to be among this congenial group. I was also happy to hear about some exciting initiatives on the WOS agenda. Another positive: Unlike so many organizations in these trying economic times, WOS is in solid financial shape.

One of the encouraging developments we learned of came from the Washington Bird Records Committee. Chairman Kevin Aanerud wrote the WOS board that the WBRC wishes to continue issuing its reports every two years so as to be thorough and substantive. However, he wrote, WBRC will begin posting a simple voting tally on the WOS website annually, in the fall. The WOS board and the WBRC are also working together to make available online the original documents supporting bird records. This will require much scanning and other mundane tasks, but it will result in making this information widely available.

Another topic: the formation of county- and/or regional-level bird records committees. The need is best understood this way: Some bird sightings might be extraordinary or unprecedented for a particular county, but would not be considered special from a statewide point of view. An example is the Gray Catbird seen in King County recently, the first such sighting since 1931. The catbird sighting and other purely county rarities usually would not be considered by the WBRC, yet there would be value in vetting sightings that are unusual for a county, especially as county listing grows in popularity. The county or regional committees would not challenge the authority of the WBRC; WBRC decisions would always prevail. Still to be worked out is exactly how these county or regional committees would be organized.

WOS is also looking into how we can ensure that A Birder’s Guide to Washington by Hal Opperman remains readily available. We have communicated with the American Birding Association, which published it initially in 2003 but has not vigorously promoted it. WOS could buy copies from the ABA for resale, or we could print a second edition ourselves.

The board is moving ahead on forming a Scientific Advisory Committee to be available to provide factual information about birds, as we are sometimes asked to comment on current issues, such as the effect of wind turbines on birds. WOS is not an advocacy organization, but could perform a useful role in this regard.

Another key activity is the annual conference. The WOS board, namely Scott Downes, is already at work planning the next one, to be held in Wenatchee, June 11-14, 2010. Scott and Dan Stephens are mapping out potential field trips. Among the birds I heard mentioned were American Three-toed Woodpecker, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Flycatcher, Veery, Pygmy Nuthatch, Flammulated Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Goshawk, Sage Grouse, Grasshopper Sparrow ….

The board also discussed the end of the once popular Bird Box telephone line, which long served as a way to pass the word quickly about interesting sightings. The ancient PC with the ancient Bird Box software died about a year ago; at the time, it was getting only about one message a month, having been superseded by Tweeters and Tweet Alerts. We’re hopeful that if there is a strong desire for alerts to mobile phones, some techies somewhere will eventually produce a solution.

Need a Good Reason to Look Forward to February?
(continued from page 1)

25 Tree Sparrows, and 30 meadowlarks were among other highlights of the trip. Total species came to 78. Before disbanding and heading for home, the satisfied and bird-fulfilled group encouraged Ruth and Patrick to lead a similar trip the following year.

And so they did. The next winter (February 12-13), 13 birders joined the Sullivans. On the first morning, in sunny, cool weather, they checked a Greater Sage Grouse lek near Leahy and found seven males actively displaying. The group then worked their way up Central Ferry Canyon Rd. and out onto the snow-covered fields above the forested area, where there was a flock of 500+ Snow Buntings. Over the next few hours, they found three Golden Eagles, a Say’s Phoebe (in winter!), a Blue Jay, and at least six Northern Shrikes at different locations. Total species for 2005 was 75.

The 2006 trip (February 11-12) marked the first time all the field trip participants (14) stayed overnight in Pateros; they all went out to dinner together at a local restaurant, enjoying good food and good company. In the morning, panoramic views of the snowy North Cascades were reportedly spectacular under clear blue skies. Six Long-eared Owls were found on the way to Mansfield, and a Barn Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl at Bridgeport State Park. Great Horned Owl was added that evening, and the next day, three Snowy Owls, making this a five-owl trip! Near the end of the trip, a Chukar was discovered along Hwy. 17, and a Long-tailed Duck near Vantage. Some mammal highlights were a herd of 30 mule deer, one Yellow-bellied Marmot, a Mountain Cottontail, and a River Otter at Vantage.

The next year's trip was something of an experiment, as it was held in January instead of February (January 13-15). Word had spread about this overnight field trip and many new people had signed up, for whom this would be a first-time visit to Douglas and Okanogan counties. The weather was very cold, but everyone was bundled up and could retreat to the vehicles to warm up fingers and toes. In Patrick’s summary after returning home, he wrote, “The trip went well despite not getting all of our target species, but everyone was very satisfied.

All of us managed in a positive manner with good spirits! We had glorious bright blue skies filled with sunlight, with the entire ground covered in a deep blanket of snow as far as the eye could see.” Both the Okanogan and Methow Rivers were frozen solid, so the Columbia River was where waterbirds were found, including two Trumpeter Swans and a large raft of Redheads. Central Ferry Canyon Rd. produced an unexpected Lincoln’s Sparrow, and a thicket of Russian olive trees along Hwy. 97 yielded a Hermit Thrush and several Varied Thrushes. Five Gray Partridges were seen in Mansfield, and a Gyr falcon flew low over the snowy landscape near Dyer Hill Rd. A Barred Owl, several Brown Creepers, and a “Black” Merlin pursuing a starling at Pateros that evening were among some of the great sightings. Sadly, this was to be Patrick’s last Okanagon trip, as he passed away in the fall of that year.

Stefan Schlick of Portland, Oregon, stepped forward to co-lead the trip with Ruth the next two winters. In 2008 (February 16-18), 14 people found no fewer than 41 Sharp-tailed Grouse and a Northern Goshawk near the town of Conconully. Other great birds were Northern Pygmy-Owl, several Prairie Falcons, Pygmy Nuthatches, and the surprise bird of the trip, a McKay’s Bunting. The 2009 trip (February 14-16) posted the highest numbers yet — of both birders and birds. Sixteen people joined Ruth and Stefan, and with all those enthusiastic and sharp-eyed birders, an incredible total of 91 species were seen, among them Cassin’s Finch, Evening Grosbeak, Townsend’s Solitaire, and a huge flock of Bohemian Waxwings.

This wintertime overnight birding adventure continues to be a huge favorite with WOS members, and is an exciting and unforgettable birding experience for all who participate. The 2010 trip is scheduled for President’s Day weekend, February 13-15, and Tim O’Brien from Spokane will be Ruth’s co-leader. If you are interested in joining other avifauna enthusiasts, enjoying good food, beautiful scenery, and who-knows-what birding surprises, email Ruth at godwit513@msn.com to sign up.
WOS Field Trips

Wednesday, December 2
Skagit County Century Day
Leader: Ryan Merrill

Spend a long day birding in Skagit County in an attempt to find 100 species. We should see a variety of seabirds, waterfowl, raptors, and sparrows, plus hopefully a surprise or two. We may walk a few miles and spend some time scouting distant birds. Limit of six people. Contact Ryan at rjm284@gmail.com for details or to sign up.

Saturday, January 30
Skagit and Samish Flats
Leader: Bob Kuntz

Bob Kuntz will lead a trip to the Skagit and Samish Flats in Skagit County. Target birds will be raptors (falcons, hawks, accipiters, eagles, and owls), Snow Geese, Tundra and Trumpeter swans, and winter sparrows. Bring scope, lunch, and beverages. Dress for potentially cold, wet weather. We will meet at 8:00 AM and should finish by late afternoon (4:00 PM-ish). Meet at the Park-and-Ride at the gas station just east of I-5 at Conway exit (Exit 221). Limit of 10 participants. If you have further questions, contact Bob at (360) 834-7320 (work), or (360) 424-9099 (home, evenings only) or email Robert_Kuntz@nps.gov.

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).

If you would like to lead a field trip, or to suggest a location for a field trip, please email our Field Trip Co-Chairs, Matt Bartels and Tim O’Brien, at FieldTrips@wos.org.

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.

Saturday, December 12
Seattle Big Day
Leader: Gene Hunn

Join Gene for a Big Day of winter birding around Seattle. Stops likely include Discovery Park, Alki, Lincoln Park, Magnuson Park, and the Montlake Fill. Start time: 6:00 AM at Mee Kwa Mooks for owling; 8:00 AM at Discovery Park for non-owlers. Finish by 4:30 PM or so. Limited to 12 participants. Email enhunn323@comcast.net to sign up and for details.

Sat, Sun, Mon — February 13-15
Waterville Plateau and Okanogan Highlands
Leaders: Ruth Sullivan/Tim O’Brien

Ruth and Tim will lead this popular winter trip to the Okanogan Highlands and the Waterville Plateau. Target birds include Northern Goshawk, Greater Sage- and Sharp-tailed Grouse, Long-eared and Northern Saw-whet Owl, Pygmy Nuthatch, Bohemian Waxwing, American Tree Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Common Redpoll, and Snow Bunting. Areas covered will include the Conconully area, Havillah, Chesaw, Tonasket, Bridgeport Hill Road, Bridgeport State Park, Leahy Junction, the town of Bridgeport, Central Ferry Canyon and the Bridgeport and Cassimer Bars. The trip will also visit Cameron Lake Road, where they found a McKay’s Bunting two years ago. All overnights will be in Omak. Limited to 15 participants. For details, contact Ruth at (253) 564-7419 (leave a message please) or by email godwit513@msn.com.

Saturday, January 16
Clarkston/Lewiston Valley
Leader: Terry Gray

On this trip, we will bird the hot spots around Clarkston (WA) and Lewiston (ID). Although this area is called the Banana Belt, it can be quite cold this time of year. Bring a lunch and dress for cold weather. We will meet at Swallows Park along the Snake River toward Asotin at the boat ramp at 7:30 AM to carpool (third turnoff into the park heading south along Highway 129). Contact Terry at clgtlg@moscow.com or by phone at (208) 882-1585 for more information or to sign up. Sign-ups will open December 15.

Sunday, January 17
Adams County Big Day
Leader: Randy Hill

Expect to cover the county from the Othello area (including Columbia NWR) to Washtucna, Sprague Lake if it isn’t completely frozen, Ritzville, and whatever else the weather allows. We will look for owls and other raptors, winter finches and sparrows, and waterfowl. Start in Othello at 7:00 AM at the USFWS office at 7th & Main St. Contact hill@smwireless.net or leave a message at (509) 488-9418. Limited to three vehicles/10 participants.

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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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NOTE: All color photos on the next two pages were taken in 2009.
Hermit Thrush. Skamania. 17 August.
Photo by Joseph Higbee.

Black-tailed Gull. Commencement Bay. Pierce. 15 October. Photo by Jeffrey Cohen.

Left:
Photo by Ryan Merrill.

Right:
Yellow-rumped Warbler. Everett. Snohomish. 9 April.
Photo by Steve Mlodinow.

Mountain Bluebird. Lincoln. 10 April. Photo by Tom Munson.


Juvenile Tree Swallow. Port Susan Bay. Island. 9 June. Photo by Steve Mlodinow.

Great-tailed Grackle. East of Sprague Lake. Lincoln. 18 May. Photo by Ollie Oliver.


Cinnamon Teal. Potholes Reservoir. Grant. 9 May. Photo by Steve Mlodinow.
at Steigerwald NWR, while Post Office Lake near Vancouver offered an interesting assortment, including Wood Ducks, Eurasian Wigeon, Redheads, Canvasbacks, and Ruddy Ducks. Many Ospreys lingered; several reliable Red-shouldered Hawks were seen, but there were just two sightings of White-tailed Kites, which are quite difficult to find at this season. A fine adult Golden Eagle on Silverstar Mountain was unique.

Jamie Acker persevered two nights running, eventually recording four species of owls: Barn, Great Horned, Barred, and Northern Saw-whet. The mountain trips (St. Helens and Silverstar) offered brief sightings of Ruffed and Sooty grouse, and Wilson Cady’s group spotted Wild Turkeys while on their way home through the gorge. Oddly, no one noted California Quail. The master list we prepared beforehand proved somewhat optimistic, as 63 species we thought might turn up didn’t, including the quail. Ah, the value of negative evidence. For perspective, 40 of the 189 total species were reported by just a single field trip, many of these by “going home trips” tapping the additional diversity of the Columbia Gorge (e.g., Acorn and Lewis’s woodpeckers) and the outer coast. The going home trip via Tokeland and Midway Beach located the famous godwit flock, 1,100 strong, including one Bar-tailed and 15 Willets as well as two nearby Long-billed Curlews. At Midway Beach, they watched as a Buff-breasted Sandpiper narrowly evaded a Merlin, and enjoyed close studies of Semipalmated, Baird’s, and Pectoral sandpipers, with two Lapland Longspurs in the dunes for a bonus.

Twenty-seven species were seen just twice, notably pelagic and other seabirds reported by the Ilwaco tours to the mouth of the Columbia. These turned up Sooty Shearwaters, a Parasitic Jaeger, Common Murres, Marbled Murrelets, and Wandering Tattlers.

At the other extreme, 23 species were seen on 25 or more of our trips. Most widely noted were crows, robins, flickers, Song Sparrows, Turkey Vultures, Red-tails, American Goldfinches, Great Blue Herons, Cedar Waxwings, and Black-capped Chickadees.

There were very few lingering flycatchers, mostly Willows and wood-pewees, and just the occasional warbler/vireo flock, but together we found nearly all the expected species, including American Bitterns, Great Egrets, several Eurasian Collared-Doves, the remnant flock of Monk Parakeets in Yacolt (which likely qualify as countable now, or will in the near future), the tail end of the Vaux’s Swift migration — particularly impressive at the summit of Silverstar — and the distinctive local race of White-breasted Nuthatch.

Thanks especially to Jack Stephens, Cindy McCormack, and the late Patricia Lott for bearing most of the organizational burden for this conference, which is considerable. Thanks also to local experts who generously volunteered time and hot tips: Wilson Cady, Bob Flores, Eric Anderson, Jim Danzenbaker, Andrew Emlen, and members of Willapa Hills Audubon.

Stayed tuned: Don’t miss Wenatchee, June 11-14, 2010!
Galapagos Island: Free at Last! (of goats, that is)

Island birds are notably vulnerable, given their potential exposure to invasive rodents, plant-eaters, and disease. Earlier this year, the island of Santiago, the fourth largest island (226 square miles) in the Galapagos Archipelago, was declared goat-free. Goats had been released on the island in the 1920s, and by the 1990s the expanded offspring of these goats had destroyed much of the shrub and tree vegetation in the sensitive highlands of the island.

Santiago is home to nine species of Darwin's finches, including the unique tool-using Woodpecker Finch, and also to threatened species such as the Galapagos Rail and Galapagos Petrel.

This extensive goat-eradication project, led by the Galapagos National Park Service and Charles Darwin Foundation, makes this the largest eradication of invasive mammals from an island ever achieved. With no goats on the island, it is expected that vegetation recovery will be rapid, hopefully resulting in substantially increased bird populations.

National Wildlife Refuge Association
Birding Community E-bulletin
October 2009
WOS SALES

PUBLICATIONS
Field Card of Washington Birds (checklist) .............................................................. 1.00  ................  1.50
Washington Birds - issues 3, 4, 5, 6 ............... 6.00  ................  8.00
Washington Birds - issues 7, 8, 9 .................... 8.00  ................  10.00
A Guide to Bird Finding in Washington
By Terence Wahl and Dennis Paulson (1991) .... 6.00  ................  9.00
WOSNews Back Issues
Most issues available ........................................... 1.50  ................  2.00

T-SHIRTS
White-headed Woodpecker logo ....................... 15.00  ................  18.00
Raven head logo ............................................. 13.00  ................  18.00
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Send your order to:
Washington Ornithological Society
12345 Lake City Way NE, #215
Seattle, WA 98125

VOLUNTEER NEEDED
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.

Western Screech-Owl. Yakima. 18 Feb. 2009.
Photo by Denny Granstrand.

Common Nighthawk. Grant. 9 July 2009.
Photo by Steve Mlodinow.

Western Kingbirds. Lincoln. 9 July 2009.
Photo by Tom Munson.
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 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 Bettsworth, 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 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 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 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, 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 leg flag 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 nestling 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, >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 / SWAINSON’S HAWKS
Color bands were placed on nestling Ferruginous and Swainson’s Hawks in the general Arlington, OR, 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 sightings to Scott Downes, Northwest Wildlife Consultants, Inc. (509) 833-8331 or email s.downes@nw-wildlifeconsultants.com.

MERLINS
The Merlin Falcon Foundation is looking for sightings of Merlins. Please send your sightings to merlinfolelogy@hotmail.com or report sightings to David Drummond by phone at (360) 671-3804. We gratefully acknowledge your year-round Merlin observations. Please visit our website at www.merlinfalconfoundation.org and 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 Bettsworth, 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.
Washington Ornithological Society

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

WOS
Attn: Treasurer
12345 Lake City Way NE, #215
Seattle, WA 98125

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Check one:

Individual membership ($25) ________
Family membership ($30) _________

I am enclosing an additional $ __________ as my donation to the Patrick Sullivan Young Birders Fund.