Over the past couple of years, there have been several reports of Emperor Geese from Snohomish County. These sightings have mostly been attributed to the same two individual birds, and these birds have generally been disparaged as probable escapees. A review of recent Snohomish County records, however, reveals that more than two Emperor Geese are likely involved. Furthermore, a review of records from the lower 48 states reveals that the Snohomish County sightings occur within established vagrancy patterns.

The Snohomish Emperors

Excluding a record from Port Susan Bay (NE corner of the county) during the winter of 1987-88 (American Birds 42:311), the first recent Snohomish County sighting of an Emperor Goose occurred during January 1992 when two immatures appeared on Blackman Lake in the city of Snohomish. They arrived with a flock of Canada Geese and a Tundra Swan after the famous Inaugural Day storm of that year. At first, they were reportedly somewhat wary, but within a week or two became quite tame. The last reliable sighting was in May, though there were rumors of over-summering.

In the fall of 1993, the Blackman birds were again seen, with the first reliable report coming on October third (WOSNEWS 29:2). Their presence on the lake was intermittent, and one bird had permanently disappeared by late January 1994. The other became more of a permanent fixture thereafter until found dead in April (WOSNEWS 31:2). During this period an Emperor Goose was also being reported sporadically from the Everett Public Boat Launch in the Port of Everett (photo below). It was first seen in March and last seen on May 29th (WOSNEWS 33:3). On that last date, Greg Tofic and I saw the bird in the company of a number of Canadas, including one “Cackling” Canada Goose. We were both familiar with the Blackman Lake birds and felt that this bird was a different individual based on plumage and soft-part characteristics. Neither the Cackler nor the Emperor were seen again.

On October 20th another Snohomish County Emperor Goose was observed in a buffalo pasture on Everett’s south side. In the same flock were twenty or so “Cackling” Canadas, a Snow Goose and a number of larger Canadas. The Emperor and most of the Cacklers were gone the next day. Notably, this pasture has been good for wayward Snow and White-fronted geese in the past.

The Blackman Lake birds were eventually quite tame and could almost be hand fed. The Port of Everett bird was somewhat shyer and did not approach as close as its companion Canadas. The buffalo pasture bird was too distant to establish tameness.

Status and Distribution

The Emperor Goose breeds on the Arctic tundra of western Alaska and easternmost Siberia, feeding on mudflats and wet tundra. The bulk of the population then winters nearby in the Aleutian Islands where they feed along seaweed beds and on mudflats (Madge and Burn 1988). Despite this short migration route, Emperors do stray to very distant places. There are records from as far afield as Hawaii (Madge and Burn 1988), Japan (Madge and Burn 1988), and Orange County, California (Roberson 1980). In the lower 48 states, this species is actually a regular visitor. Over 230 birds have been reported south of Canada, and more than 50 of these have been seen during the last ten years.

The occurrence of Emperor Geese south of Canada is not nearly as surprising as the distribution of these records. Nearly half of the sightings have been from more inland locations (see table 1), not from the outer coast. The single best spot has been the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Ref.
On lists and listing: an open letter to Nick Barber

Byron K. Butler

Editor's note: the following discourse on the never-ending merits-of-listing debate first appeared on the Internet's BirdChat and is reprinted here with the author's permission.

Nick Barber, who I believe is 12 years old and soon to become the most curious of all known species, the teenager, asks about rules governing acceptable birds on one's birding life list. Responses to Nick's query began with straightforward and correct explanations for keeping lists according to ABA rules for competitive listing and also for keeping personal lists where one can create his or her own rules. Then the listing discussion turned to silly/idiotic lists, dream lists, poop lists, etc. All of these concepts of lists have in common the notion that the list (whatever it may be—life, year, state, yard, dream, poop, etc.) is an end product of the birding experience. That is, there is an assumption that the primary motive for going birding is to produce a list, to maintain it, to further its development, and that once this is done there is nothing further to do in the field.

Here I would like to offer an alternative view of why birders should keep lists. I should also reiterate up front that although I am not a supporter of competitive listing and therefore do not refer to myself as a lister, I do keep lists of all kinds and also encourage others to do so. In my conception the list is not an end product, rather it is a necessary tool for a good program of bird study.

An analogy is that a bird list is to an ornithologist (amateur or pro) what a ratchet and socket set is to an auto mechanic. No one expects mechanics to buy a socket set just to own them, they buy them to work on engines which is their real goal. We all know that mechanics are darn proud of their tools and often buy unnecessary ones just to build their collection; nevertheless, a mechanic with an impressive tool chest but no engines on which to work is a rather pitiful sight. Being able to make engines run the way they were designed to run is what being a mechanic is all about. Being a mechanic is not about collecting tools.

A birder with an impressive life list but with no knowledge of bird lore and no idea of how to use The List as a tool to acquire knowledge of the life histories of birds is similar to the well-tooled but engineless mechanic. Ornithology is about the study of birds, not about the maintenance of lists. More importantly, the entire field experience is enhanced by the knowledge of birds and this makes bird study much more fun than simply listing.

In recent years I've witnessed large numbers of birders who have driven hours to sites where target birds occur, to spend only the 10 to 20 minutes necessary to get that all important life "tick." They focus just on bird identification, then leave without further observation of the bird's behavior, the habitat, etc.

I've often wondered about this peculiar behavior of birders. Why spend the time and money to identify a bird then leave before studying it further? My conclusion is that once a bird has been identified birders simply do not know what else to do with it. In order to study a bird further one must be prepared to ask insightful questions and know how to make meaningful observations. No one is born knowing how to do this—it requires training, and most birders do not know how to get this training. In addition, that work is required to develop these skills is antithetical to the reasons why some take up birding in the first place. Many birders take to the field for purely recreational purposes and do not welcome what they see as the additional pressure of having to work against an uphill grade to learn bird lore. Another complexity is that bird study is often considered too "scientific." Unfortunately, we currently live in a very anti-science culture where strong feelings that science is too hard for the average person to understand are not easily dispelled.

I wish I could find the right words to explain that these perceptions are not correct. Bird study does require a little bit of work, but it is minimal and not at all difficult. Mostly it just involves reading nontechnical descriptive studies of birds which are easy to understand without any background in biology. Of course, one can get very scientific about bird study, but this isn't necessary for the amateur birder. Moreover, this study is fun and rewarding because it opens up whole new windows for viewing the world we live in, thereby leading to greater fulfillment from birding than listing alone can offer.

Young people like Nick need role models to emulate. Unfortunately, in ornithology we have only two readily visible role models. One is the professional scientist which, as we have seen in the recent (BirdChat) discussion on the scientific collecting of birds, is portrayed negatively as either a wanton killer of nature's beauty or as an arrogant SOB with no respect for amateur birders (neither portrayal is correct by the way). The other is the competitive lister to whom The List is an end product. How nice it would be if we had a third alternative, the amateur ornithologist to whom lists are tools used to advance the study of the life history, ecology, behavior, and biology of birds without requiring a sophisticated scientific background. Actually, becoming an amateur ornithologist is easy to do.

So, for Nick, and others, I offer this alternative. Begin with careful notes in a well-kept field logbook. These don't have to be too detailed. Each entry should have the date, time, location, weather conditions, notes on other relevant conditions, a description of the habitat, and a list of the bird species detected with the numbers of individuals per species. Then you can add any other notes you wish, like observations of behavior, descriptions of plumages, and even drawings. The lists you keep, whether life, year, yard, etc. are merely extracts of the information in your field logbook and amount to nothing more than different ways of organizing that informa-
tion. By learning how to ask the right questions of your observations the lists will become tools to further your study of birds and will not be the end products of your birding effort.

How well these lists assist your study of birds depends on the rules you choose for keeping the lists. The more rigid the rules, the better a list will serve as a tool and the more quickly you will learn about birds. By way of an example for establishing these rules, Nick asks about recording, as "life birds," heard-only shorebirds in a mixed flock. In this hypothetical scenario a mixed-species flock of shorebirds is in view but visual identifications of one or more species has not been made. If, Nick asks, a bird vocalization is heard that can be identified to species, even though the bird has never been identified visually, can this species be counted on one's life list? According to current ABA rules the answer is yes; however, I strongly urge birders to avoid this practice. The heard-only rule was not established with this purpose in mind and using the rule in this manner will only result in poor birding skills because it permits birders to forgo developing the requisite skills necessary to make visual identifications. This avocation is called bird-"watching" because we call upon our sense of vision more often than our sense of hearing when receiving sensory inputs from birds. Vision is the primary sensory modality of humans as it is better adapted than our hearing for making fine-grained discriminations and mental maps. Shorebirds in a flock can be identified by visual cues which are far more reliable than audible cues for most species and by disciplining yourself to take the extra time to make the visual identification fewer overall errors will result. Recall this issue concerns listing life birds with which, by definition, the birder has had no prior experience; so why rely on the weaker of the two senses? However, using vocalizations to "assist" identifications of life birds is highly desirable.

The concept of the list as a tool rather than as an end product has other advantages. Mike Smith offers three "silly" lists he maintains: (1) list of bird species whose nests he's found, (2) list of species whose chicks he has banded, and (3) list of species he has seen copulating. I agree that if the list is viewed simply as an end product these three lists may be rather silly. However, if the list is viewed as an extract of organized information from a field logbook which is to be used to further bird study then I think these three lists are great ideas. Most of biology is about reproduction and all three lists deal with reproduction in birds in some form. If careful notes have been kept describing nests, nestlings, and courtship behavior, including copulation (which is very important from the biological standpoint and is not a perversion as some believe), then Mike probably has a decided advantage over most amateur and professional ornithologists. We really know very little about the reproductive biology of most species of birds and right now the study of avian mating systems is one of the hottest areas of ornithological research.

So, Nick, this message is mostly for you. At your young age you can still choose which paths in life you wish to go down. Starting as early as you are, you can easily develop into a leader in the ornithological community, either as a professional or as an advanced amateur, if you so desire. Whether you do so will depend on your choice of a role model. Indirectly your question about keeping lists is a question about choosing a role model so it is appropriate that you are asking this question now. I hope I can influence you away from the role model of the competitive lister who maintains lists as end products of a game and instead I can steer you toward the concept of lists as tools for the rewarding study of birds.

As a final comment, someone stated that American Birding Association staffers are listening to BirdChat. If so I have a message for the ABA, a fine organization of which I am a proud member. The ABA is doing many things right and is doing them well. However, I have one wish for a change in the ABA and that is for it to do more to promote the "beyond identification" aspects of amateur birding. The ABA appears to me to be dominated by the listing-only mind set to such a point that for most beginning birders the "only" role model they see for amateur birding is the competitive lister. I wish to see the ABA develop amateur bird study and to create a visible role model for amateur ornithology as an alternative to the competitive lister. There are many birders right now who would flourish in an environment of bird study but are made to feel like second class citizens by listers simply because they do not have impressive life lists. Many of these people are "backyard" birdwatchers who closely monitor small geographic areas and have data sets worthy of analysis. Unfortunately, the label "birder" has become more prestigious than "birdwatcher" in recent decades, but it is actually the birdwatcher who is the true amateur ornithologist.

Byron Butler is a self-described 47-year-old grad student ... Ph.D. candidate ... who "takes pride in being an all-around naturalist." He studies at the Yale University and lives in nearby Guilford, Connecticut. He was in private business before deciding "rather late in life" to "pursue my intellectual interests - which, of course, center on natural history." To date he has "studied and taught all areas of natural history including ecology, evolutionary biology (both micro- and macroevolution), animal behavior (both classical ethology & behavioral ecology) systematics, biogeography, botany, microbiology, wildlife biology..." He has been a birder since 1975 and in his spare time gives presentations to bird clubs, teaches birding skills workshops and occasionally leads field trips. He threatens someday to return to the Northwest where he was briefly stationed while in the Navy.
Preening—some answers and some questions
Dennis Paulson

For an exercise in the Master Birder program, a bunch of Seattle Audubonites observed birds preening and wrote up their observations. I summarized them, and I think they are sufficiently interesting to warrant sharing with the membership of WOS. Detailed accounts were written about the following species in and around Seattle in February 1994: Western Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant (4 accounts), Canada Goose, Mallard (4), Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Turkey Vulture, American Coot, Ring-billed Gull (2), Glaucous-winged Gull (incl. hybrid) (3), Rock Dove (2), and American Goldfinch, with sketchier descriptions for Northern Flicker and American Crow. Songbirds were difficult to observe preening.

Generalities
Typically no apparent sequence, often described as “random.” Nevertheless, several people mentioned that birds started on the breast and then proceeded to other parts of the body. Often a bit of preening on upper wing surface, then under wing, then back to upper wing, or preen the right side, then to midline, then either to left or right on next motion. Why not more methodical?

Contact or possible contact with preen gland mentioned for grebe, cormorant, goose, Mallard, vulture, Glaucous-winged Gull, dove, and goldfinch. Several people mentioned bill and/or head moved to area above tail base, but not a single one specifically mentioned seeing preening gland contacted (I have seen preen gland exposed and rubbed on preening birds). Very clear that some birds performed preening with no move toward tail base!

Some species rubbed head on feathers. Was this to spread oil already on head or do ducks appear to be rubbing because they have to flatten head against plumage to use bill because of head shape? Mentioned for cormorant, Mallard (3), both goldeneyes and Ring-billed Gull.

In a few cases, birds very methodically pulled wing and tail feathers through bill, presumably to “zip them up.” Some birds did not preen flight feathers while watched. Some birds pushed bills deep into feathers, making observers think they were after ectoparasites.

Many birds (typical of all?) scratched head, and sometimes other parts of the body, with foot. Mentioned for cormorant (3), goose, Mallard, scaup, both goldeneyes, coot, Ring-billed Gull (2), Glaucous-winged Gull (incl. hybrid) (3) and goldfinch.

Many birds shook their entire body or at least flapped wings vigorously during preening. Specifically mentioned for grebe, cormorant (“shivering”), goose, both goldeneyes, vulture, and Ring-billed and Glaucous-winged gulls.

Preening birds typically stopped at brief intervals to take in their surroundings (watching for predators?) and became alert when other birds came near. One Mallard in the midst of preening was “totally absorbed,” perhaps because a confirmed city bird.

When bird stretched, wing and leg on same side often stretched simultaneously (why?).

Feathers came out of some birds while preening; were they in molt or can feathers be dislodged? Mentioned for grebe*, cormorant*, Mallard, and Glaucous-winged gulls. Asterisked species probably are in molt at this time of year.

A goldfinch appeared to get oil from its preen gland with its bill, wipe the bill on a branch, step on the wiped spot, then scratch its head or comb a wing feather with the (oiled?) foot! This observation gets the prize for “most sensational” and indicates that watching passerines would be worthwhile.

Preening bouts varied from “frenetic” to leisurely. Preening activity may be contagious; >1/2 of roosting group of gulls and 1/3 of roosting Rock Doves preened at once, also 10-15 of another group of gulls. A few birds combined preening with apparent bathing.

Several people assigned names to particular behaviors so they could be recorded more easily. These included obvious behaviors (Drowse, Gape and Mute) and behaviors defined specifically for the purpose of description (Nudge, Rub and Nibble).

Comparisons
Birds preened less on water than when on land (why do you think this would be?) However, some species preened extensively on water (species such as scaups that don’t get out on land like some of the others do). A few observations mentioned water birds rolling over to preen their belly (probably all water preeners do this).

In one case, Mallards and Lesser Scaups preened while Northern Shovelers and American Wigeons didn’t during the same period.

Two cormorants mostly picked with bill (one thought to have contacted preen gland), another mostly rubbed with head (didn’t obviously contact preen gland)

Both cormorants (3) and vulture extended wing during process (an important part of preening or independent of it?).

Interesting questions raised
Is preening a regularly scheduled activity each day or a more random do-it-when-you-can process? Is it more likely to occur when the bird feels unthreatened?

Would some sort of order in preening and/or differences in species appear if we watched several individuals of each species? Do coots really preen less than ducks? If so, is it because ducks fly more and need to keep their feathers in better order?

Is preening more intense during molting, when a lot of feathers are about to fall out, the plumage somewhat disarrayed because of this, and the birds can feel it happening?

Is preening effective without oiling? Does the bill retain oil from the preen gland very long? Could there be any other sources of oil besides the preen gland? Do birds use their tongues while preening?

Is preening stimulated visually or tactilely? Do birds get “itchies?”

Do birds that fly most of the time (e.g., swifts) preen in flight?

Most of these questions could be answered by observation.
Navy prepares to turn the tide - while volunteers struggle to 'build' a new Jetty Island home for Caspians and Arctics

Fred Bird

The Everett Arctic and Caspian Tern saga continues (see WOSNEWS No. 32, 2-6; Aug. '94) at a frantic pace. Volunteers under the stalwart leadership of John Flavin have been working long hours to put out a “welcome home” sign — pulling, digging and raking by hand to clear a nesting site on Jetty Island — before several thousand Caspian and perhaps six Arctic Terns return in mid April.

Flavin spotted the first returning Arctic "scout" on March 9th over the long, narrow barrier island that protects the Everett waterfront.

Meanwhile, on the mainland across the Snohomish River channel from Jetty Island mechanized government troops have worked almost as hard to lay down a “not welcome” mat. Plastic sheeting covers 426,000 square feet of the north end of the sprawling Everett navy base (a.k.a. “Naval Station Everett”) in an attempt to dissuade any nesting. The plastic, held in place by 4,000 sandbags, covers most everything, including healthy lawn areas. The only break is in the middle where the Navy hopes to build ballfields this summer — about where the Caspians nested last year. The recreational area (human recreation, that is) is covered by wires strung between hundreds of stakes. The Navy hopes the wires will also keep the terns away. We'll see. There is also construction scheduled at the northwest corner of this plastic and wire morass where two Arctic pairs nested last year. In addition to the passive plastic, returning terns can expect the area will be patrolled to dissuade any sneak laying. This event should be interesting to observe.

Will it work? Flavin's irregulars certainly hope their Caspian Acres subdevelopment — complete with tern decoys — will attract the huge Caspian colony (almost doubling in size annually) and also provide a safe home for the dwindling Arctic colony.

The regulars on the Navy base have a simpler chore: just keep the unwanted terns from landing and laying. One question would be: if the terns are successfully chased off the base, will they go half a mile to Jetty Island? Or will they go to the huge gravel parking lot surrounding the Everett Chamber of Commerce building — just 100 yards from the base? Stayed tuned.

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JETTY ISLAND — on a wet and windy March weekend Rob Harrower and John Flavin (above, left to right), and Stuart Mackay, John and Alex Sidles (below, left to right) work to clear Scot’s broom from the island for a tern nesting site.

EVERETT MAINLAND — awash in a sea of plastic (above), “Naval Station Everett” (what do they have against good English?) prepares to fend off returning terns, while (below) the Chamber of Commerce parking lot next door looks inviting.

— photos Fred Bird
Recovery plans published for Upland Sandpiper, Snowy Plover

Washington's endangered breeding shorebirds, the Snowy Plover and the Upland Sandpiper, are subjects of separate recovery plans—the first in a series of such recovery plans for the state's threatened and endangered species—recently issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Upland Sandpiper
Upland Sandpipers in Washington are at the periphery of the species' breeding range. Nesting in the state has not been confirmed since 1987 and only a few birds have been seen during recent decades, primarily in the east Spokane Valley.

Drained wetlands, residential development, gravel mining, and the spread of exotic vegetation (spotted knapweed) have destroyed or usurped habitat where the sandpipers formerly were found. Habitat losses have been so extensive that Washington may no longer contain landscape features that attract and support the sandpipers.

Broadening the search for Upland Sandpipers may reveal previously undetected nesting areas for the species, in the Blue Mountains or Pend Oreille County for example. Given the severe habitat degradation in the traditional east Spokane Valley breeding sites, recovery is dependent upon locating or establishing birds in new areas.

Snowy Plover
The status of the Snowy Plover in Washington is less dire, but the "pale little ghost of the sand dunes" suffers from habitat loss and human disturbance. Fewer than 10 nests have been found annually at the two known nesting areas during recent years. Nine chicks were known to have fledged during 1994.

Snowy Plovers along the coast have adapted to life on unstable substrates—dynamic dune systems and open beaches that erode and accrete seasonally and annually. The spread of introduced European beachgrass has changed the structure of the dune system and reduced the amount of the sparsely vegetated substrate favored by nesting plovers. The popularity of recreational activities, from beachcombing to fishing to off-road vehicle driving, have added to the pressures affecting plovers trying to raise young.

Recovery plan authors have assembled the latest information on the biology, ecology, and status of each species. The plans contain information on habitat requirements, management actions, and strategies to rebuild populations to a level where the species can be delisted. The most comprehensive information available on these endangered breeding shorebirds in Washington is found in the recovery plans.

To receive a copy of either plan, contact: Manager, Endangered Species Section, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia WA 98501-1091.

Table 1

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<th>Location</th>
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Snohomish Emperors

The tameness of the Snohomish County Emperor Geese is part of what has brought their origin into question. However, geese occurring in places where waterfowl are fed do tend to become tame. In coastal southern California, Ross', Snow, and White-fronted geese are all uncommon to rare. Nonetheless, each of these occur regularly in city parks where they usually become quite tame. Even Brant have become tame. Most leave in spring, though some stay on permanently. In general, these birds are considered to be of wild origin despite their trusting nature. In Washington, I recently (October 1994) approached to within one yard of five Cackling Canadas at the Port of Everett. These Cacklers were actually tamer than the Emperor that had been there, yet they are almost certainly not of captive origin.

Conclusion

In summary, there were at least three (and probably four) Emperor Geese in Snohomish County during 1993 and 1994. Their inland location is not at odds with established patterns elsewhere in the Lower 48, and they have occurred largely at the expected time. Their tameness is of some concern but is not out of the realm of common "wild" goose behavior.

Though patterns do not allow us to decide with absolute certainty that any given bird is of "wild" origin, patterns do help us establish likelihood. The good fit with established patterns strongly suggests that the Snohomish County Emperor Geese are truly of "wild" origin.

Literature Cited

11311 19th Avenue SE, #C317
Everett, Washington 98208
The Washington BirdBox beckons

The Washington BirdBox, a new service for birders sponsored by WOS, is up and running as of April 1st. The BirdBox is a "voice mailbox" that can be accessed 24-hours-a-day from any touch-tone phone. It is designed to serve as a rapid and responsive means of communication for birders to report sightings of rare and unusual birds. The BirdBox telephone number is 206-454-2662.

The BirdBox is a public service. There is no fee to the caller other than whatever normal long distance charges apply.

To use the BirdBox, call the number and follow the prompts. To exclude accidental callers and discourage nuisance messages, a screening feature asks for the number of species of chickadees resident in Washington. Enter this number on your telephone keypad. If you have given the correct number, the next prompt asks for the area code from which you are placing your call—to help us understand use patterns. Then you hear the time and date of the most recent message in the mailbox, followed by the main menu:

- enter 1 to listen to messages;
- enter 3 to leave a message for other callers;
- enter 5 to leave a private comment for the system administrator; or
- enter 9 to exit the BirdBox.

When you enter numbers, press firmly and deliberately. The system sometimes fails to register the tone if you "graze" the key too quickly.

The most recent message is played back first, the second most recent next, and so on to the 12th—the maximum number the BirdBox is set to save (when the 13th message comes in, the oldest one falls off). If you want to pause in the middle of a message, press the # key (allowing you to stop as many times as you wish to write down details), then press 1 to begin the message again—avoiding the need to leave the BirdBox and call back.

Another feature is the "toll-saver." If the BirdBox has not answered by the third ring, it means that no new messages have been left in the mailbox in the last 24 hours. You can avoid toll charges by hanging up.

When recording a message, you can edit or re-recording it before saving it. Press # when you want to interrupt recording or when you have finished, then follow the prompts. Keep messages short and to the point, allowing users to get in and out of the system quickly, saving toll charges and freeing the line for other callers.

Recorded messages should include your name, phone, date, time, species seen, and good, clear directions (landmarks, DeLorme coordinates, etc.). The more details given on a bird (plumage, vocalization, etc.), the better chance others have to find the bird.

The software was developed by Bill Principe and other Los Angeles birders. There are two BirdBoxes in use in California. Washington's is the first BirdBox to offer statewide coverage.

Bob Morse, with crucial assistance from Ruby Egbert, spearheaded the Washington BirdBox project, researching the hardware and software requirements and getting WOS to support paying the monthly telephone charge. The BirdBox runs from a 386 computer installed in Hal Opperman's Medina home. Hal also serves as the system administrator.

If you have questions on use, or malfunctions to report, leave a message in the system administrator's private mailbox in the BirdBox, or telephone Hal directly at 206-455-1364.

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**Statement of Income and Operating Expenses on the Cash Basis**

12 Months Ended December 31, 1994

(continued)

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<td>Taxes, other &amp; licenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income (loss)</strong></td>
<td>$(363.03)</td>
<td>3.24</td>
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**Washington Ornithological Society**

A Non-Profit Corporation

Balance Sheet—December 31, 1994

(continued)
With the publication of this issue of WOSNEWS, Fred Bird concludes a lengthy period as editor. The next newsletter to be published following the annual meeting in June will be the work of an as yet undetermined individual.

Within the next two months the WOS Board will appoint a new editor for WOSNEWS. This individual has the overall responsibility of producing the newsletter six times a year. To do so requires the editor to solicit, select and edit articles and photographs for each edition. The editor is allowed a great deal of editorial freedom, as the primary expectation of the Board is that the newsletter be a tool for communication among the membership.

Working with the editor and chosen by the editor will be another member responsible for the newsletter design and layout. Others will also be sought to assist the editor with the production and mailing of the newsletter. However, the overall responsibility for the quality, content, and distribution of WOSNEWS lies with the editor.

The position of WOSNEWS editor is an attractive opportunity. The WOS Board understands that a new editor will mean a slightly different focus to the publication. In allowing such creative liberty, the WOS Board would expect consistency over time and would expect the new editor to serve for at least three years.

As with all WOS positions, the editor of WOSNEWS is a volunteer. Our bylaws allow for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses, but the editor's time and effort are a significant contribution to the organization.

The opportunity to continue Fred's excellent tradition, supported by the resources of WOS, while developing one's own individual style should be a stimulating motivation for the right person.

The Board can't know the talents and availability of all our 600 members, but we do know there are people out there who can do this job well. We encourage you to apply. If you see yourself serving as newsletter editor, please contact any board member (see page 11), or feel free to call me at 360-943-2051. I am very interested in your ideas about the newsletter and the new editor.

113 West 5th Avenue
Olympia, Washington 98501

Newsletter editor sought—apply within
Michael Carmody
WOS President

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113 West 5th Avenue
Olympia, Washington 98501

New address
WOS has a new address for the most important of reasons: parking. Henceforth, we can reached at Post Office Box 31783, Seattle, WA 98103-1783 where the parking is plentiful but the University District's colorful habitat will be missed. Meanwhile, don't worry if you mailed anything to the old address, it is still good for several months.

Dues and meeting places
Members can be forgiven any confusion as to the new WOS dues and the location of WOS' Seattle-area meetings—both have changed and recent publications have given different information. Here's the bottom line: starting this year WOS dues are $20 for individuals and $25 for families. WOS meetings have moved from the Burke Museum to the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle.

Have you renewed?
All 1994 WOS memberships expire with this issue of WOSNEWS. If you have not yet renewed your membership you should submit your 1995 dues ($25 for individuals and $25 for families) to the address above. Members who joined after October 1994 are paid up through 1995. If you have questions, please call WOS Treasurer Charlotte Escott at 206-634-1894.

Bellingham birders meet at 7 p.m. at Fairhaven Public Library. For information, call Terry Wahl at 360-733-8255.

Washington Ornithological Society monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle. The program is "Show & Tell." Bring your slides. WOS will not meet again until Sept. 11th.

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with a walk at the UW's Arboretum, 8-10 a.m. Meet at 7 a.m. at The Park Bench, a coffee house, 4208 East Madison for coffee and conversation, or join the walk at 8 a.m. at the Arboretum's Graham Visitor Center. Call Seattle Audubon for information at 206-523-4483.

Rainier Audubon's Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Tour, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit five Rainier members' homes in south King County, promoting WDFW's Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program and collecting used binoculars for El Salvador. Call Debbie Fisher at 206-852-7766 for info.

Okanogan (or Okanagan depending on your national preference) Big Day Challenge on either side of the border. For information, contact Dick Cannings at 604-734-9489 or Andy Stepniewski at 509-877-6639.

Bellingham birders meet at 7 p.m. at Fairhaven Public Library. For information, call Terry Wahl at 360-733-8255.

Washington Ornithological Society and Western Field Ornithologists joint annual meeting in Spokane. For information and registration, see pages 9-10. Contacts are Bill Tweit (360-754-7098) or Russell Rogers (206-935-6280).
The Twentieth  
Western Field Ornithologist  
and The Seventh  
Washington Ornithological Society  
Annual Meeting Spokane, Washington  
June 16-18, 1995

The 1995 joint annual meeting of the Western Field Ornithologist (WFO) and the Washington Ornithological Society (WOS) will be held in Spokane, Washington on June 16-18. The focus of the meeting will be the birds of the Okanogan Highlands, Columbia Basin, and the Palouse area of Washington and Idaho.

ACCOMMODATIONS
The Spokane Holiday Inn will host this year's meeting. They have arranged a very reasonable price for WFO and WOS members at $58 per night, single or double occupancy. To make reservations for a room, please contact the Holiday Inn directly at 509-747-2021. Make sure that you tell them that you are part of the WOS-WFO Annual Meeting. If you are interested in camping, sites are available nearby at the Riverside State Park. Directions to the park will be included with your confirmation letter.

FIELD TRIPS
Field trips will be conducted each day of the convention. Full-day trips will take place on Friday and Sunday, with half-day trips to local areas on Saturday morning. Buses will be provided for each trip at an extra cost of $14 for the full-day trips and $8.50 for the half-day trips. Buses are equipped with overhead storage (for scopes and field bags), air conditioning and restrooms. Registration for specific routes will be on a first come basis. For safety purposes, we would prefer that no one follows along behind the buses in their own vehicles.

Special Sunday trips will be arranged for participants returning to central and western Washington. These trips will work their way westward so participants will already be half way home when done. Groups sizes will be 10-14 people, or a maximum of 5 cars per group. The cost for participating in these trips will be $5 per person.

Salmo Mountain area (Friday and Sunday)
Salmo Mountain in the Selkirk range is home to several boreal species, including Boreal Chickadee and Spruce Grouse. Other birds to look for on this trip would be Three-toed Woodpecker, Gray Catbird, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart and Bobolink.

The Palouse Region (Friday and Sunday)
On Friday this trip will visit Idaho localities in the St. Maries and Plummer area, such as Heyburn State Park. On Sunday this trip will visit Washington localities such as Hole in the Ground, Steptoe and Kamiak Buttes (isolated patches of forest) in Whitman County. Expect to see birds such as Sora, Grasshopper Sparrow and White-throated Swift.

Spokane localities (Saturday)
These short trips Saturday morning will go to Mount Spokane, Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Riverside State Park and other local hot spots. Some of the birds to expect are Ruffed Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Partridge and possibly Clay-colored Sparrow.

Homeward bound:
Moses Lake, Potholes Reservoir, Route 2, and Blewett Pass (Sunday)
This trip on Sunday is planned for those participants returning to central and western Washington. There will be no buses. Groups will be limited to five cars each. The exact route will be up to each leader. Sign-up for specific routes at time of registration.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Thursday, June 15
5-8:00 PM Registration

Friday, June 16
5:00 AM Breakfast Buffet
6:00 AM Field trips depart (return around 4 PM)
4-8 PM Registration
5:30-6:30 PM PM Social Hour- No host Bar
6:30 PM Dinner buffet
7:30 PM WFO Board Meeting, WOS Board Meeting

Saturday, June 17
5:00 AM Breakfast Buffet
5:30 AM Field trips depart (return around 10 AM)
10:00 AM Paper Session
12 Noon Lunch Buffet
1:00 PM Paper Session continues
3:30 PM Beverage Break
4:30 PM ID panel
6:00 PM Social Hour- No host Bar
7:00 PM Banquet and speaker

Sunday, June 18
5:00 AM Breakfast Buffet
6:00 AM Field trips depart (return 3:00 PM)

MEALS
Meals will be offered individually (see Registration Form on next page). The following meals will be offered: all-you-can-eat breakfast buffets on Friday, Saturday and Sunday include eggs, bacon, cold cereal, muffins, coffee and tea ($5.75); box lunches on all-day field trips include a sandwich, apple, chips, and can beverage ($5.50); Friday Dinner buffet will include two different pasta dishes, bread, salad and beverage ($11.00); all-you-can-eat lunch deli buffet on Saturday includes salad and beverage ($8.75); the Saturday banquet will be a choice of a chicken or fish dish, vegetables, salad, bread and beverage ($16.00).
REGISTRATION FORM

Name ____________________________________________
Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City ______________________________________________
State _____________________________________________
Zip _______________________________________________
Phone ( ) ________________________________

Registration Fees

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<th></th>
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<td>WOS or WFO Member and guest</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>if mailed before May 15*</td>
<td>$25.00 X</td>
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<td>$_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOS or WFO Member and guest</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>if mailed after May 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Member (includes memberships in both WOS and WFO)</td>
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*WOS members get an extra grace period due to the newsletter being late.

Meals

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Field Trips

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<tr>
<td>Full day trip on Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half day trips on Saturday</td>
<td>$8.50 X</td>
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<td>$_______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Sunday trip for those returning to the west</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-Shirt*</td>
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TOTAL (Check enclosed) $_______

FIELDTRIP PLANNING

For planning purposes, please circle below the trips that you are interested in participating in—one trip per day. Seats on trips are on a first come, first served basis. Seating at time of registration is limited to availability.

Salmo Mountain Fri - Sun
The Palouse, Idaho Fri - -
Whitman Co. - - Sun
Spokane locales - Sat -
Tumbull - Sat -
Mt. Spokane - Sat -
Homeward Bound - - Sun

If attending banquet, please indicate which meal and how many you would prefer: Chicken________Fish________

If you are interested in presenting papers or displaying an exhibit, please let us know by May 1, 1995.

Please return this form and a self-addressed stamped envelope for your confirmation information to:

WOS-WFO Annual Meeting
c/o Russell Rogers
4510 Glenn Way SW
Seattle, Washington 98116

If you have questions, please call Russell Rogers at 206-935-6280, or e-mail rogers@halcyon.com.

*T-Shirts, 100% cotton t-shirts commemorating this year's WOS-WFO meeting, designed by northwest wildlife artist Linda Feltner.
Research assistants sought

Jim Hallett, WSU Zoology, is looking for four people to conduct bird surveys (point-count or band transect) in the Selkirk Mountains of NE Washington from May 1st to July 30th. The ability to aurally and visually identify NW birds, and work independently or as part of a team is essential. The salary is $1,320/month, with housing and most board provided. Send resume, letter describing birding experience, and two references to Jim at: Zoology Dept., WSU, Pullman, WA 99164-4236, or FAX to 509-335-3184, or e-mail to Hallett@wsu.edu

Songbird surveyors needed

Weyerhaeuser seeks surveyors capable of identifying coastal forest songbirds by sound and sight for habitat management plan project. Study area located in SW Washington near Pe Ell. Salary is $12.54/hour. Vehicle for survey work provided. Applicants must pass job-related physical, including drug screening and hearing/vision test, and provide housing and transportation to Pe Ell. Starts April 24th (or until jobs filled) and runs through June. Contact Tricia MacLaren, Weyerhaeuser Company, 360-942-6400 and leave message. Fax cover letter and resume/references ASAP to 360-291-3463.

Shorebird information wanted

In a continuing effort to identify important areas for wintering and migrant shorebirds in W. Wash., Cascadia Research seeks information on shorebird abundance in the greater Puget Sound area (including Hood Canal), the San Juans, and Willapa Bay—information on sites of any size and from any season—to be included in a final report summarizing survey efforts since 1990. Contributors will be acknowledged. Please send copies of field notes, journals, computer files, etc. along with your name/address/phone, dates, times, and number of birds observed (totals of unidentified “peeps,” etc. are fine) to Joseph R. Evenson, Cascadia Research Collective, 2181/2 w. 4th Av., Olympia, WA 98501.
Time for a change of pace
Fred Bird

I've just returned from a wonderful week hiking and "accidental" birding in southeast Arizona, and I am reminded that other priorities beckon and the time is ripe.

Nancy, my wife, encouraged me to tag along as she joined a commercial tour through the desert mountains. No, it wasn't a birding group. It was a hiking tour, offering steep and challenging five to eight-mile hikes daily through parts of the Saguaro National Monument, the Santa Catalina Mountains, the Huachucas, and the Chiricahua.

Though I was the only birder among 21 people, the others were quite tolerant of my eccentricity. For my part I'm thrilled to report that (1) I successfully moderated my enthusiasm so as to not drive spouse and tour companions crazy and (2), most importantly, my knees surprisingly survived some 8,000 up-and-down feet. The latter feat being unimaginable just a year ago.

It was about a year ago that a neighbor emptied his basement and handed me an old bicycle. Late last summer I took to riding fairly seriously and can now report I ride between 50 and 100 miles a week and I've spent my cat's college fund on a sleek two-wheeler and a full Spandex wardrobe. On me the biking gear looks odd enough when I'm riding, but imagine the shock to the birders I (encased in elastic) encountered recently at the Skagit Game Range. My goal for the opening months of my coming 49th year is to comfortably complete the 196-mile Seattle To Portland (STP) bicycle ride which will be held one week after the WOS annual meeting in June.

So much for the preamble.

It's time for a change and change of pace. I noticed recently that life is getting a bit too hectic and the rush of events and deadlines is obscuring more important priorities, one of which is enjoying the Black-chinned Sparrow I finally saw last week after four trips to Arizona.

After seven years with a gamut of WOS responsibilities, this issue is the last edition of WOSNEWS I shall produce. I strongly encourage members to come forth and take advantage of this opportunity to expand their talents as WOSNEWS editor. Citing my own example, being a "hotshot" birder or a literary giant is not a prerequisite. Enthusiasm, a little time, and at least two fingers to type and dial with is.

Lastly, I would like to thank WOS Boss Michael Carmody for accepting my resignation, Dennis Paulson for sharing his strong opinions on commas and life, and the many contributors who have made and will continue to make this publication a success.

1249 NE 92nd Street
Seattle, Washington 98115

A HARRIS SPARROW (left), pictured with a Golden-crowned Sparrow, entertained birders along Russell Road in the Kent Valley this winter (2/23/95).
— photo Ruth Sullivan