Last call for BBA data: Submit!

Final call for BBA data: The submission deadline for BBA data is August 15, 1996! Please send in those cards! Data postmarked after this deadline run the risk of not being included in the database. We hope to go to press in October and the final maps need to be printed ASAP. We can take any breeding records noted after 1986, as long as the year, township/range/quad (or section if you don’t know the quad), species, and breeding evidence is noted. Breeding records of rare species need to be accompanied by substantiating details or photos. Mail atlas cards, short forms, or even the details of your breeding records just written down on a piece of paper to:

Michael R. Smith
5014 49th Ave S
Seattle WA 98118

Questions? Call (206) 722-4522 or send e-mail to <whimbrel@u.washington.edu>.

Pest bird control: Problems with organophosphate poisons

by Michael Marsh

Flocking birds such as starlings are often considered to be serious pests, so pesticides are sometimes used to kill them. People are generally not aware that poisoned birds or their carcasses often contain enough residual poison to kill any predator or scavenger that eats them. The hazard to raptors and other predators is made even greater, when organophosphate (OP) poisons are concerned, by the effects of OP poisoning on behavior.

OPs cause convulsions and tonic muscle contractions, which signal “easy prey” to a predator. Recent research showed that American Kestrels preferred to attack House Sparrows that had been dosed with an OP (fenthion) when they were offered together with untreated birds in a test situation.

Adverse effects from two organophosphates, fenthion and famphur, have recently been reported in the Pacific Northwest. Legal use of fenthion (in Rida-Bird perches) caused the death of a Great Horned Owl, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and probably a Red-tailed Hawk. Apparently illegal use of Warbex (active ingredient, famphur) led to the deaths of 19 Bald Eagles. Officials in Idaho suspect that a similar practice is occurring there. Dead starlings have been picked up, and a dead Red-tailed Hawk had a high concentration of famphur in its crop contents and tissues. At least three other red-tails and two owls are believed to have been affected.

Regulatory steps are underway to improve control of the uses of both the see poisons, page 7
Jetty Island ferry operating through August

A passenger ferry departing from Everett will take birders to Jetty Island, a United States Navy dredge-spoil island that has supported nesting Caspian Terns [see WOSNews 32].

The ferry runs every half hour on Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 am to 5:30 pm and on Sundays from 11 am to 5:30 pm. One late-night run (9 pm) will be made on August 23. The last scheduled trips will be September 1. Runs may be canceled in inclement weather.

The ferry departs from the 10th Street Boat Launch and Marine Park, eight blocks north of the Naval Station and Marina. This is a different location from previously mentioned. To find it, head back around 3 or 4 pm.

If you are willing to help, call John Flavin at (206) 744-0805 so he will know when you can assist. — Posted to Tweeters by Ed Schulz.

Benton County mocker fledgling two young

Northern Mockingbirds have fledged at least two young west of Richland, according to the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society Bird Alert. Tony Greager visited Buckskin Loop in late July and observed four mockingbirds, two of which had hatched this year. — Posted to Tweeters by Bill and Nancy LaFramboise. [See WOSNews 39 for more on Washington’s mockingbirds.]

Sunset cruises to Protection Island join discount program

Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge, at the mouth of Discovery Bay, is home to nesting and migrant populations of several bird species and hosts numerous marine mammals. The Port Townsend Marine Science Center (a non-profit educational organization at Fort Worden State Park) offers cruises aboard a well-appointed and comfortable 65-ft motor yacht that departs Port Hudson Marina in downtown Port Townsend at 6:30 pm to explore the biological and historic dimensions of this island refuge.

PTMSC offers trips to help participants gain a better understanding of marine ecosystems and the wonders of natural science. On-board naturalists familiar with the island and the waters around the Olympic Peninsula provide excellent commentary on local birds, mammals, geology, and weather. Ticket prices of $30 per person reflect a $5 discount program.

Help with habitat work to encourage tern nesting

Almost all the brush (blackberries, lupine, etc.) has been cleared from Jetty Island and an area has been fenced (about 130’ x 500’). We are currently trying to rake up as much of the grass and remaining growth as possible in order to get down to sand (terns nest on the bare ground). Caspian Tern decoys will be put out next spring to try to lure them to the area.

The work primarily involves raking and hauling a wheelbarrow. However, we are birders first and chain gang members second, so binoculars are kept close at hand: every excuse to stop and watch is exploited to the fullest. There are often terns, gulls, cormorants, spotted sandpipers, plovers, osprey, swallows, some eagles, and a northern harrier. We usually catch the first ferry (10 am Saturday or 11 am Sunday) and head back around 3 or 4 pm.

Use toll-free line to report bird bands

The National Biological Service has announced a toll-free telephone number — (800) 327-BAND — for reporting recovered bird bands. New bands embossed with the toll-free number will be introduced during 1996 and 1997. In a 1995 trial, the public reported band recoveries more often when bands included the 800 number than when only an address was given.

WOSNews will include the new telephone number on the “Report Your Findings” page.

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 organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Membership in WOS, including a subscription to WOSNews and the Society’s annual journal, Washington Birds, is available to individuals at a rate of $20 per year and to families for $25 per year. Dues should be sent to:

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Subscribe to tweeters through <listproc@u.washington.edu>

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discount for WOS members. To reserve a spot or for additional information, call the PTMSC at (360) 385-5582 or send e-mail to <ptmsc@olympus.net>.

Home page focuses on ornithology

BIRDNET. The Ornithological Council World-Wide Web home page, is now available at <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET>. BIRDNET is planned to provide "one stop shopping" on the Internet for scientific information about birds and ornithology. BIRDNET will include information about ornithological scientific societies (officers, meetings, journals, etc.) and links to related societies, policy news and action alerts from the Ornithological Council and AOUNET, resolutions approved by societies, information about jobs, funding opportunities with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners in Flight and other programs, links with state ornithological societies, and more. Reprinted from Ornithological Newsletter No. 112.

Extirpation for Washington's breeding Upland Sandpipers?

For the fourth consecutive breeding season, surveyors detected no Upland Sandpipers at the traditional nesting site in the eastern Spokane Valley. State wildlife biologist Howard Ferguson completed sandpiper surveys in the region during May.

The City of Spokane's growth apparently displaced the species, which was last confirmed nesting there in 1987.

Trio of WOS birders share Attu adventure

Three of Washington's dedicated birders spent 4 weeks this spring on Attu Island at the end of the Aleutian chain.

Ted Peterson, Bob Morse, and Hal Opperman hiked through mud and biked over rugged terrain to find such vagrants as Great Spotted Woodpecker, Oriental Turtle-Dove, Yellow-breasted Bunting, and Red-flanked Bluetail. Attu Island birders also confirmed the first North American breeding by Whooper Swan and Brambling.

Ted, Bob, and Hal left the island in great physical condition with outstanding birding memories and the desire to get back to Washington's summer weather.

Steppie's Notes

by Andy Stepniewski

Early in the morning on 13 July, I spent several hours observing fledgling Grasshopper Sparrows on the Yakima Training Center. Because of training, there have been frequent fires over several large parts of the 300,000-acre installation. Rejuvenating shrub-steppe is just what the Grasshopper Sparrows seem to like.

I have never focused on Grasshopper Sparrows in July before. Usually I note them singing as they arrive in late April and through May and then they just sort of disappear.

That morning, I watched one of the parents bringing caterpillar-like insects about 3 cm long to two or three recently-fledged juveniles. They lacked the pronounced head streakings of adults and their grayish coloration was unlike the adults' warm tones. Structurally they were Grasshopper Sparrows through and through.

I noticed the juveniles' call note is the most insect-like of Washington's common sparrows. Juvenile Brewer's Sparrows have a protracted (sort of trilly) liquid note, Vesper a more liquid chip, and Sage almost a junco-like smack.

It amazes me how this species can slip in and out of Washington almost unnoticed. The same seems to hold for Oregon. *Birds of Oregon* describes them as "essentially unreported in migration."

I'll try to keep an eye out for these birds this month to learn when they depart. I'm curious also if they join the mixed-species flocks (Brewer's, Vesper, Lark, and Sage Sparrows) of shrub-steppe passerines that rove the sagelands in August and early September, presumably as they are drifting south out of the state.
New Federal Duck Stamp features Surf Scoters

The 1996-97 Federal Duck Stamp went on sale nationwide for $15 on July 1.

Federal Duck Stamps, formally known as Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, must be purchased annually by waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and older. However, they are also purchased by a growing number of stamp collectors and other conservationists as a way to contribute to wildlife and habitat conservation.

Money from the sale of Duck Stamps is used for wetlands acquisition for the National Wildlife Refuge system. Since 1934 when the Duck Stamp was created, stamp sales have raised $500 million for the purchase of more than 4 million acres of habitat for the refuge system, which now includes 508 units nationwide. Federal Duck Stamps are sold for $15 at most U.S. Post Offices, national wildlife refuges, sporting goods stores, and K-Mart and Wal-Mart stores. They cost $1 in 1934 when they were first sold.

The 1996-97 Federal Duck Stamp — the first to depict a recognizable landmark — was designed by artist Wilhelm Goebel of Somerset, New Jersey. It features a pair of Surf Scoters in flight over New Jersey’s southern shoreline with historic Barnegat lighthouse in the background. — Fish and Wildlife Service news release, 25 June.

Washington birds in the literature

Compiled by Jon. Anderson

The scientific literature contains a number of ornithological and natural-history oriented journals in which Washington birds are featured. WOSNews will attempt to highlight articles from these periodicals that apply to birds in our state. These citations give author name, date of publication, and title, followed by the journal name, volume, and page numbers.

Few articles specific to Washington birds have appeared since the last WOSNews, but one here covers both Oregon and Washington and a couple from Idaho and British Columbia apply to our state.

Wilson Bulletin is the quarterly journal of the Wilson Ornithological Society, Northwestern Naturalist is the tri-annual publication of the Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology, and the Journal of Range Management is the bi-monthly publication of the Society for Range Management. See your librarian for assistance in finding these journals.


The authors investigated the short-term influence of fire on xeric (dry) Sage Grouse habitat in southeastern Idaho from 1990 to 1992. A prescribed fire in 1989 removed Wyoming big sagebrush/threetip sagebrush canopy cover from about 57% of a 5800-hectare area, potentially influencing brood-rearing habitat. Although the fire created a mosaic of sagebrush areas interspersed with open areas supporting abundant grasses and forbs, the relative abundance of males, females, and broods of Sage Grouse were similar in burned and unburned habitat. The cover of forbs important in Sage Grouse summer diets was also similar in burned and unburned habitat. However, the abundance of Hymenoptera (wasps), an insect order important in grouse diets, was significantly lower in burned habitat. The research did not support the contention that fire may enhance Sage Grouse brood-rearing habitat.


Although Marbled Murrelets usually feed singly or in pairs, they will participate in feeding flocks. The authors describe a dense concentration of murrelets in the Strait of Georgia where Marbled Murrelets were the major initiators of and participants in mixed-species feeding flocks. They observed murrelets diving for Pacific Sand Lance and in the process attracting Glaucous-winged Gulls (the main co-participant), Common Mergansers, Pigeon Guillemots, Mew Gulls, and Pelagic Cormorants. The study emphasizes the role that diving birds play in initiating and maintaining mixed-species feeding flocks of seabirds.


Breeding Bird Surveys between 1968 and 1990 indicate that cowbird populations were abundant and stable on National Forests in the Pacific Northwest. Data were presented for the Colville, Gifford-Pinchot, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Okanogan, and Wenatchee National Forests in Washington; 13 national forests in Oregon; and the Columbia Gorge National Recreation Area. Surveys walked in 1993 had high cowbird numbers in riparian zones in the Umatilla National Forest. Relative abundance of cowbirds was higher in grazed and ungrazed riparian areas than in fragmented forest. Cowbird abundance was considered an additional grazing program cost.
Washington Ornithological Society
Membership Survey 1996

Please Mail to: P.O. Box 31783, Seattle, WA 98103-1783 or bring it with you to the Annual Conference at Ocean Shores.

All information obtained will be confidential

Section 1: Membership Information

Name (optional):

Phone:

e-mail:

Address:

Occupation:

Do you utilize ornithology or birding in your profession? If so, how?

How long have you belonged to WOS?

How would you describe your participation in WOS (circle one):

very active
(attend most monthly meetings, conventions, field trips, always read WOSNews, volunteer, etc.)

somewhat active
(attend some meetings, conventions, often read WOSNews, etc.)

less active
(attend few meetings or activities, rarely read through WOSNews)

not active
(this survey is the first time I've been active)

Do you belong to other birding/environmental organizations (please list)?

Section 2: Publications

Please rate WOSNews according to the following scale:

1  2  3  4  5
very unsatisfied  less satisfied  satisfied  more satisfied  very satisfied

Overall: _____ Content: _____ Format/Layout: _____ Graphics/Illustrations: _____

August 1996
What features of **WOSNews** do you consider most valuable?

What features of **WOSNews** do you consider least valuable?

What, if any, changes would you like to see in **WOSNews**?

Please rate **Washington Birds** according to the same scale as above:

Overall: _____ Content: _____ Format/Layout: _____ Graphics/Illustrations: _____

What, if any, changes would you like to see in **Washington Birds**?

**Section 3: Activities**

Please rate the following WOS activities according to the scale above:

Monthly Membership meetings: ______ Comments/suggestions for meetings:

Annual Convention: ______ How many Conventions have you attended? ______

Suggestions/Comments:

Field Trips: ______ How many field trips have you attended? ______

Suggestions for new trips/Comments:

Retail Discount Program: ______ Have you used this program in the last year? ______

Suggestions for additional retailers? Comments:

Are you interested in participating in any of the WOS Committees:

_____ Membership _____ Programs _____ Publicity

_____ Fund Raising _____ Hospitality _____ Publications

Are you interested in serving as an Officer or Board Member in the future?

Overall Suggestions for WOS Officers and Board members (please feel free to use additional pages if necessary):
poisons, from page 1

Rid-a-Bird perch and Warbex (currently classified as a drug rather than as a pesticide). However, the problem of controlling populations of flocking birds remains unsolved. Scare devices are available, but even if they work, the birds just become someone else's problem. How can knowledge of starling ecology be used to manage their numbers?

Starlings disperse during the spring and summer to individual nesting sites, making it difficult to affect them 'en masse'. They require lots of animal food for their offspring, chiefly insect larvae extracted from lawns and pastures. Thus they are actually beneficial during this season. In summer, however, they may harm fruit in orchards. In fall and winter they congregate at livestock feed lots to feed and gather in large roosts at night, creating a nuisance. It is their tolerance level for other starlings nearby that permits them to become serious pests. Farmers claim that starling excrement makes feed unpalatable to cattle, and they consume significant amounts of feed (on the other hand, a research group in this country caged starlings over a calf feeding trough so that their droppings fell into it, and found that calves fed at this trough grew significantly faster than controls.)

Netting, to prevent roosting in structures, is costly and a nuisance to maintain. Birds flock to cattle operations to obtain feed, and feeding is usually done in the open at large installations. When feeding is done inside a building, it's claimed that curtains to exclude birds are not practical because of ventilation problems.

Clearly, denying food, roosts, and nesting sites to the starlings would be more effective in reducing their numbers than any scare devices. In Whatcom County, starlings use facilities of several industries. They feed at dairies and roost and at a pulp mill or at a grain shipping terminal. Cooperation among the environmental managers of these different industries will be essential to control starling populations in this region. — From an article in Pesticide Monitoring in the Northwest, posted to Pacific Bios-net and ECOLOG-L and forwarded to ORNITH-L.

WOS Conference News

SCIENTIFIC PAPER SESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday afternoon at the Ocean Shores conference will be devoted to these six presentations:

**Bill Ritchie**, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Ecology and conservation of the Marbled Murrelet in Washington

**Scott Richardson**, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Prospects for Snowy Plover nesting in Washington

**Dave Nysewander**, Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program
New information from Puget Sound waterbird surveys

**Bonnie Dickson and Donald Norman**, Adopt-a-Beach
Pre-oil spill Beached Bird Surveys in Washington

**Joe Buchanan**, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Abundance of wintering and migrant shorebirds at Willapa Bay, Washington

**Michael R. Smith and Phil Mattocks**
The Washington Breeding Bird Atlas

ELECTION APPROACHES

WOS members assembled at the Ocean Shores conference will have an opportunity to vote for officers and directors. The following slate has been drawn up for the election.

OFFICERS
President Michael Carmody Third and final term
Vice President Marcus Roening First term
Secretary Jan Lewinshon Second term
Treasurer Janice Bragg First term

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Position 1 Tom O'Connell First term
Position 2 *Scott Ray Second year of two year term
Position 3: Diann MacRae First Term
Position 4: *Martha Jordan Second year of two year term
Position 5: David Jennings First Term

* Not an elective office this year. Martha Jordan was appointed to complete the term of Barb Jensen, who resigned mid-term.
Red-throated Loon Unusual in location, 1 at Elma Grays Harbor on 2/13 (BR&GR, et al.).

Pacific Loon High count of 600 at Bellingham Whatcom on 2/18 (UDu).

Common Loon Uncommon in winter along Snake River, 2 at Clarkston Asotin on 2/18 (LLV).

Yellow-billed Loon The same location as in the last report, 2 at Sequim Bay Clallam until at least 3/17 (G&JoD).

Eared Grebe Reports from w WA include, 1 at Samish Bay Skagit on 2/10 (fide BK), 1 at Sequim Bay Clallam on 2/20 (BN), 1 at Washington Park Skagit on 2/24 (fide BK), and 1 at Marrowstone Island Jefferson on 3/12 (BR&GR, et al.).

Clark's Grebe 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 2/5 (VN).

American White Pelican High counts from e WA include. 32 at Badger Island Walla Walla on 3/9 (MD&MID) and at Wallula Walla Walla on 3/17 (WHe&MaS).

Brown Pelican Uncommon in winter. 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 2/19 (BW).

Double-crested Cormorant Unusual high count for se WA of 50-60 at Alomota Whidbey on 3/4 (GHa).

Green Heron Uncommon in WA in winter. 1 at Onalaska Lewis on 2/1 (RW).

Black-crowned Night-Heron High count for w WA of 10 at Fir Island Skagit on 2/4 (SA).

Tundra Swan High counts for w WA of 40 at Walla Walla Walla Walla on 3/8 (MD&MID) and 74 at Atkins Lake Douglas on 3/23 (AS).

Trumpeter Swan Reports outside of normal wintering grounds in northern Puget Sound, 5 in Skokomish River Valley Mason on 2/5 (AB), 8 ad and 2 imm at Woodland Cottidls on 2/16 (JE), and 3 at Sooes Clallam on 2/18 (BN).

Greater White-fronted Goose Reports from e WA include. 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 2/28 (BW), 9 at Two Rivers Walla Walla on 3/1 (MD&MID), and 20 at Atkins Lake Douglas on 3/23 (AS) with 22 there on 3/28 (JA). Reports from w WA include. 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 2/22 (FS), 2 at Auburn King on 3/10 (BR&GR, et al.), 1 at Tacoma Pierce on 3/10 (fide TBl), and 2 at Auburn King on 3/10 (FB).

Snow Goose Uncommon in e WA. 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 2/9 (BW) until at least 3/1 (MD&MID). Reports from w WA outside of wintering grounds in Snohomish and Skagit counties, 290 at Frenchman's Bar, Vancouver Clark on 2/19 (BW), and 1 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 2/21 (BW) and on 2/22 (PS), with 2 at this location on 3/23 (DP).

"Blue" Goose Rare in WA. 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 2/10 (DoJ) until at least 3/9 (MD&MID).

ROSS'S GOOSE Rare in WA. 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 2/28 (BW). 1 at Bailie Memorial Youth Ranch Franklin on 3/30 (MD&MID) and 1 at Samish Flats Skagit on 2/13 (KK) until at least 2/22 (BN).

Brant High count of 2500 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 3/3 (fide Du).

Canada Goose High count from e WA of 12,000 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 3/1 (MD&MID).

Wood Duck High count from w WA of 22 at Bailie Memorial Youth Ranch Franklin on 3/30 (MD&MID), and 1 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 3/31 (SM).

Green-winged Teal High counts from Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 3/10 (fide BK), and 1 at Marrowstone Island Jefferson on 3/12 (BR&GR, et al.).

Northern Pintail High count from e WA of 230 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 3/1 (MD&MID).

Blue-winged Teal First report for the spring, 1 at Skagit WMA Skagit on 3/20 (fide SSh).

Clanamon Teal First report for the spring, 2 at Curtis Lewis on 3/26 (BR&GR, et al.).

Eurasian Wigeon (Uncommon in e WA, 1 at Wallula Walla Walla on 2/6 (JA&WHe), 1 at Richland Benton on 2/9 until at least 3/7 (DR), 1 at Goldenfale Kitsitat on 2/23 (LG), 1 at Hood Park Walla Walla on 3/9 (MD&MID), high count of 4 at Spokane Spokane on 3/16 (WHe&MaS), 1 at Hood Park Walla Walla on 3/17 (WHe&MaS), 1 at Atkins Lake Douglas on 3/23 (AS) and 3/30 (KK), and 3 at Two Rivers Walla Walla on 3/30 (MD&MID). High count for w WA of 15 at Samish Flats Skagit on 3/4 (DV).

Canvasback High count for e WA of 700 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 3/1 (MD&MID).

Redhead High count for e WA of 300 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 3/9 (MD&MID). Reports from w WA include. a high count of 17 at LaCamas Lake Clark on 2/6 (WC), 1 at Auburn King on 2/13 (GR&DE, et al.), 1 male at Hoquiam STP Grays Harbor on 2/18 (G&HoWh), 3 at Clear Lake Skagit on 3/9 (fide BK), and 1 at Kent King on 3/10 (fide TBl).

Ring-necked Duck High count for e WA of 255 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 3/9 (MD&MID).

Tufted Duck Rare in WA. 1 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 3/17 (fide RR) until at least 3/30 (BN).

Lesser Scaup High count for e WA of 500 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 3/9 (MD&MID).

KING EIDER The bird reported in last WFN at Hasting Lake Boat landing Island was seen throughout the period (mi ub).

Harlequin Duck Bird reported in last WFN from Walla Walla Walla Walla was seen through at least 3/9 (MD&MID).

Black Scoter Locally uncommon, 1 female at Anacortes Skagit on 3/27 (fide BK).

Red-breasted Merganser Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Banks Lake Grant on 3/28 (JA).

Turkey Vulture First report from e WA, 1 at Port Simcoe Yakima on 3/17 (BN). Only report from w WA. 1 at Menlo Pacific on 3/26 (BR&GR, et al.).

Osprey First spring arrivals, 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 3/30 (JE) and 1 at Port of Everett Snohomish on 3/31 (SM).

White-tailed Kite Rare and local in sw WA, 2 at Julia Butler Hansen NWR Washkúkun on 2/4 (LG) and 1 at Raymond Pacific on 2/11 (GHoWh).

Swainson's Hawk First report for the spring, 1 at Toppenish NWR Yakima on 3/16 (TGe).

Rough-legged Hawk Uncommon on outer Olympia Peninsula, 1 at Cape Flattery Clallam on 3/21 (fide BN).

Golden Eagle 1 near Bayview Skagit 2/4 (SA) and 2/16 (FS).

Gyrfalcon Reports from e WA of a possible 6 individuals: 1 at Moxee Yakima on 2/1 (AS), 1 imm gray morph at Hansan Grant on 2/10 (JA), 1 imm gray morph at Moses Lake Grant on 2/10 (JA), 1 at Reedar Lincoln on 2/13 (Mf&HH), 1 subadult gray morph at Davenport Lincoln on 2/25 (JA), and 1 at Hartline Grant on 3/1 and 3/3 (JA). Reports from w WA. 1 imm at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 3/15 (KK) and 1 imm at Samish Flats Skagit on 3/10 (TGe).

Prairie Falcon Rare in WA, the bird reported in last WFN at Samish Flats Skagit last reported on 2/17 (BN), and 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 3/2 (BlA&La).

Virginia Rail Uncommon in lower Columbia Basin in winter. 2 at Richland Benton on 3/12 (BW&NL).

Sora 1 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 3/31 (SM).

Sandhill Crane Reports from e WA include, first northbound (small flock at Richland Benton on 2/18 (TG), 57 at Finley Benton on 3/5 (DR), 30 at Richland Benton on 3/7 (MG), 1000's at Columbia NWR Adams on 3/7 (fide AS), 800 at Othello Adams on 3/9 (fide RR), 1200 at Columbia NWR Adams on 3/22 (HP), and 900 at about 5
Whimbrel
Uncommon in winter

American Avocet
First report for e WA, 2

Black-bellied Plover
2 at Sequim Bay Clallam on 2/18 (BoB).

Pacific Golden Plover
Uncommon in WA in winter, 1 at Fir Island Skagit on 2/4 (SA).

American Avocet
First report for e WA, 2 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 3/21 (BW).

Lesser Yellowlegs
8 at Penn Cove Island 2/6 (KK).

Willet
1 reported in last WFN, at Olympia Thurston through at least 2/13 (SR), 1 at Tokeland Pacific on 2/11 (GHo&WhHo), 6 at North River mouth Pacific on 2/21 (BW), and 1 at Ediz Hook Clallam on 3/10 (BN).

Whimbrel
Uncommon in winter along coast, 1 at Tokeland Pacific on 2/11 (GHo&WhHo) with 3 there on 2/21 (BW).

Long-billed Curlew
First spring reports for e WA, 1 at north of Sunnyside Yakima on 3/16 (RR&GG), 1 at Richland Benton on 3/16 (PBu), 1 at Yakima Yakima on 3/17 (BN), and 2 at Moxee Yakima on 3/23 (SR). Locally uncommon, 1 at Stillaguamish RD Snohomish on 3/23 (SM). High count for w WA of 37 at Tokeland Pacific on 3/26 (BR&GR, et al.).

Marbled Godwit
High count of 200 at Tokeland Pacific on 2/11 (GHo&WhHo).

Rock Sandpiper
2 at Ediz Hook Clallam on 2/12 ( RR&RRo) with 1 there on 3/10 (BN) and 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 3/13 (BR&GR, et al.).

Dunlin
Reports for the Walla Walla RD Walla Walla include, 25 on 2/19 (DR), 29 on 3/1 (MD&MID), 7 on 3/9 (MD&MID), 190 on 3/21 (BW), 223 on 3/30 (DR), and 186 on 3/30 (MD&MID). High counts for w WA of 12,000 at Samish Flats Skagit on 2/10 (fide BLa), and 3000 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 3/31 (JDu).

Little Gull
Uncommon winter visitor, 2 at Point No Point Kitsap on 2/18 through at least 2/26 and another 1 there on 3/6 (VN), and 1 at American Lake Pierce on 2/20 (WC).

Bonaparte’s Gull
High count of 3500 at Point No Point Kitsap on 2/22 (VN).

Mew Gull
Uncommon in Columbia Basin in winter, 1 at Richland Benton on 2/16 (DR) and 1 at Kennewick Benton on 3/7 (DR).

California Gull
High count for e WA of 1000 at Wallula Walla Walla on 3/30 (MD&MID).

Herring Gull
High count for w WA of 15 at Neah Bay Clallam on 2/18 (BNS&BT).

Thayer’s Gull
Uncommon in e WA, 1 at Richland Benton on 2/17 (DR).

SLATY-BACKED GULL
1 bird reported infrequently at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 2/3 (DP), 2/15 (RR), 3/3 (BLa, NLa&RR), and 3/6 (DaL).

Western Gull
Uncommon in e WA, 1 at McNary Dam Benton on 3/2 (JD), 2 at Wallula Walla RD Walla Walla on 3/9, with 3 adults there on 3/30 (MD&MID), and 1 at Hood Park Walla Walla on 3/17 (WHo&MaS).

Glaucous-winged Gull

Lewis’ Woodpecker
1 at Washougal Skamania on 2/27 and on 2/29 (WC).

Say’s Phoebe
First reports for the spring include, 1 at Asotin Asotin on 2/17 (CV), 1 at Asotin Creek Asotin on 2/18 (PSu&MK), 1 in Ferry on 2/19 (KK), 2 at Clarkston Heights Asotin on 3/2 (PSu), and 1 at Washougal Skamania on 3/13 (WC).

Purple Martin
First report for the spring, 2 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 3/10 (FA).

Tree Swallow
First reports for e WA include, 1 at Smyrna Grant on 3/16 (RR), 1 at Midway Columbia on 3/24 (NLa&BLa), 1 at Richland Benton on 3/25 (BW), and 1 at Kennewick Benton on 3/27 (PB). Additional reports for w WA include, 1 at Tokeland Pacific on 2/11 (GHo&WhHo), 1 at Skagit WMA Skagit on 2/16 (fide BK), 2 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 2/18 (JDu), 100 at Brady Grays Harbor on 2/20 (BR&GR, et al.), and 1 at Dungeness Clallam on 2/29 (DSm&SS).

Violet-green Swallow
First reports for e WA, 1 at McNaurry NWR Walla Walla on 2/15 (NLa), 9 at Winthrop Okanogan on 3/16 (CB), and 20 at Wallula Walla Walla on 3/17 (fide TG). Additional reports for w WA include, 1 at Lake Stevens Snohomish on 3/14 (SA), 2 at Drady Grays Harbor on 2/20 (BR&GR, et al.), 1 at Fir Island Skagit on 3/1 (fide BK), 1 at Port Angeles Clallam on 3/1 (fide BN), and 350 at Ebey Island Snohomish on 3/31 (SM).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow
First reports for w WA, 2 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 3/10 (JE), 3 at Hansville Kitsap on 3/23 (RR&GG), 1 at Montlake Fill King on 3/23 (EH), and at Skagit WMA Skagit on 3/24 (SA).

Cliff Swallow
First report for e WA, 1 at Canony Terrace Benton on 3/22 (NLa). First reports for w WA, 1 at Hansville Kitsap on 3/23 (RR&GG), and at Skagit WMA Skagit on 3/24 (SA).

Blue Jay
Uncommon in WA, 1 at Cheney Spokane on 2/22 (JA).

Clark’s Nutcracker
Unusual location, 2 at Central Ferry Douglas on 2/15 (FS).

Black-billed Magpie
Uncommon in w WA, 1 at Marysville Snohomish on 2/14 (SA).

Brown Creeper
1 at Kennewick Benton on 3/30 (TG).

House Wren

Winter Wren
1 at West Richland Benton on 2/3 (TG).

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**White-throated Sparrow** Reports from w WA include, 1 at River 5 unit Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/3 (LG), 1 in Bayview Skagit on 2/20 through at least 3/4 (fide BR), and 1 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 3/31 (JDu). **Harris’s Sparrow** Reports from w WA include, 1 at Stanwood Snohomish on 3/23 until at least 3/26 (SM), and 1 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 3/31 (JDu). **Lapland Longspur** Reports for w WA include, 3 at Hadley Walla Walla on 2/6 (BWR&RF, et al.), 20 at Mansfield Douglas on 3/23 (AS), and 1 at Chesaw Okanogan on 3/24 (AS), and at Coos Bay National Wildlife Refuge, 1 at Bridgeport Douglas on 3/23 (AS). **Sage Thrasher** First reported for the spring, 6 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 3/17 (RR), 2 at Toppenish Yakima on 3/23 (EH), and at Quilomene WRA Kittitas on 3/26 (JDu). **Northern Mockingbird** Uncommon in WA, 1 at Richland Benton on 3/19 (SW), 1 at Ballie Memorial Youth Ranch Franklin on 3/30 (MD&MD), and 1 at Stanwood Snohomish on 3/6 (JG) throughout period (in ob). **Brown Thrasher** First reported in last WFN, 1 at Ryclicom Lincoln at least at 2/19 (fide JA). **Loggerhead Shrike** First reports for e WA, 1 at Wallula Walla Walla on 3/9 (MD&MID). 1 adult at Dodson Road Grant on 3/16 (RKL&SP), 1 adult at Priest Rapids Yakima on 3/17 (SP, AS&S), and at Wintthrop Okanogan on 3/28 (fide RR). Last reports for w WA, 1 banded at Sequim Clallam on 3/13 (Ekr), 1 at Montlake Fill King on 3/23 (EH), and at Cape Flattery Clallam on 3/29 (fide BN). **Palm Warbler** Uncommon in WA, the bird reported in last WFN at Dunegens Clallam last reported on 2/1 (PS), and 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 2/25 until at least 3/3 (PS&RS). **Common Yellowthroat** First report of the spring in w WA, 1 singing at Olympia Thurston on 3/31 (TS). **Dickcissel** Rare in WA, 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 2/18 until at least 2/24 (NSc). **American Tree Sparrow** Last report for e WA, 2 at Bridgeport Douglas on 3/23 (AS). **Brewer’s Sparrow** First report for e WA, Quilomene WRA Kittitas on 3/26 (JDu). **Vesper Sparrow** First reports for e WA include, 1 at Richland Benton on 3/12 (RF), at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 3/19 (JF), and at Quilomene WRA Kittitas on 3/26 (JDu). **Sage Sparrow** First reports for e WA, 1 at Quilomene WRA Kittitas on 3/7 (fide RR), 1 at Kennewick Benton on 3/17 (TG), and 1 at Quilomene WRA Kittitas on 3/25 (JDu). **Savannah Sparrow** Locally uncommon in winter, 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/12 (UE). **“Slate-colored” Fox Sparrow** Rare in the Puget lowlands. 2 at Spencer Island Snomoshim on 3/31 (SM). **Song Sparrow** High count for w WA of 200 at Spencer Island Snomoshim on 3/31 (SM).
August 31
Early registration deadline for WOS Annual Conference. Registration packets have been mailed to members. For questions or additional details contact Bob Morse at (360) 943-8600 or Bill and Nancy LaFramboise at (309) 627-3695.

September 1 Sunday
Field trip to Vancouver, B.C. Visit hot spots of southwestern Canada, including Iona Island and Boundary Bay. Meet at 07:00 at McDonalds on Lader Trunk (Highway 10 just west of Highway 17). A spotting scope is a necessity. Limited to 6 people. Contact Steve Mlodinow at (206) 337-6666 for further information or to sign up.

September 8
The state's second Eurasian Dotterel, a juvenile, appeared at Ocean Shores in 1979.

September 13-15
The Western Bird Banding Association meets in Portland, Oregon. To register, contact Ellen Stephenson at (360) 695-9204. For other meeting questions, contact Bob Altman at (503) 658-2537 or via e-mail at <alt8bird@aol.com>.

September 14-16
A Red-throated Pipit was found with American Pipits on San Juan Island in 1979. It was a first for Washington, although California has at least 66 records.

September 26-29
WOS Annual Conference at Ocean Shores carries the theme "Shorebirds and Seabirds of Washington," with several field trips, invited papers, and featured speakers.

October 6
A Gray-cheeked Thrush at

November
Field trip to Walla Walla County. Date and details to be announced in October WOS News.

In the Air
Events past and future

December
Field trip to the Waterville Plateau with Andy Stepniewski. Date and details to be announced in an upcoming WOS News.

WOS field trips allow members to explore unfamiliar places or revisit familiar haunts. Each trip is open to a limited number of participants. Each member may join up to four trips per year (excluding annual conference trips). Non-members may attend one trip per year as a member's guest.

Whidbey Island July field trip report
by Steve Mlodinow
The July field trip was a shorebird-focused outing to Whidbey Island and beyond. The participants gathered at Mukilteo State Park, where they were admonished by a testy park ranger for parking in an empty parking lot. Having recovered from this encounter, we drove onto the 7 miles driven and 100 species seen the day (month? year?) was a Hudsonian Godwit that circled overhead and flew away around 9 am. We would have given each other high fives, but the mud was too sticky to get much lift off. Other shorebirds at Crockett included about 1000 Western, 100+ Least, and 10 Semipalmated Sandpipers, a handful of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, both dowitcher species, a few Killdeer, 20 Semipalmated Plovers, a Black-bellied Plover, a Spotted Sandpiper, and a Black Turnstone (yes, out on the mud).

Penn Cove was next. The highlight at the cove was definitely the group of rocky shorebirds at the base of the San de Fuca pier. The 150 or so birds here included 33 Ruddy Turnstones, about as many Surfbirds, and roughly 100 Black Turnstones. Most of the birds were in alternate plumage and afforded us spectacular, point-blank views. After leaving Penn Cove, we birded the west side of the island from Hastie Lake Road to Swantown Road. Here we had more alcids, loons, gulls, and the like.

Swantown Lake, unfortunately, had too much water to be of use for shorebirds. Our 17th shorebird species was Black Oystercatcher; a couple were skulking about the rocks at the end of Hastie Lake Road. Next on the route was the seaplane base near Oak Harbor.

Though there was nothing of particular note at the base, birds were numerous and included hundreds of scoters, twenty plus Harlequins, and a Red-breasted Merganser at Forbes Point.

We had finished our Whidbey run. It was about 3 pm. What next? Call the WOS BirdBox.

What? A Lesser Goldfinch at the Everett sewage plant? Off we went. Unfortunately, we were unable to relocate this vagrant, but did find a Northern Shoveler with four young. The trip ended with a quick jaunt onto Spencer Island, which provided the 18th shorebird (a snipe) along with more peeps, yellowlegs, dowitchers, etc. The final total was 140 miles driven and 100 species seen between 7 am and 7:30 pm.
More than 400 Double-crested Cormorants were color-banded in southwestern British Columbia in 1994 and 1995 and more banding was expected in 1996. Colors are red (Chain Island near Victoria), orange or white (Mandarte Island near Sidney), green (near Tsawwassen), blue (Five-finger near Nanaimo), and yellow (Crofton). Color bands are all numbered. Reports should include color (and number, if possible), date, time, and location. Sightings will be acknowledged in reports. Contact Ian Moul at (604) 598-3141 or e-mail at <foulbay@islandnet.com>.

Pan-American Shorebird Program Flag Codes

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WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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RARE BIRD ALERTS

- **WOS BirdBox** (206) 454-2662
- **Seattle** (206) 933-1831
- **TriCities Area** (509) 943-6957
- **SE Wash/N Idaho** (208) 882-6195
- **South Idaho** (208) 236-3377
- **Oregon** (503) 292-0661
- **Vancouver, B.C.** (604) 737-3074
- **Victoria, B.C.** (604) 592-3381

Audubon Field Notes &
Washington Field Notes
Fall deadline: December 15
(August-November sightings)

Send bird sightings to:
Russell Rogers
4510 Glenn Way SW
Seattle, WA 98116

Please submit detailed descriptions and photographs, if possible, of unusual birds.

BAND RECOVERIES ("A vise" leg bands) should be reported to the National Biological Service. Include the complete, exact band number, along with how, when, and where the band was recovered, preferably with reference (miles and direction) to the nearest town. Persons who report bands receive a Certificate of Appreciation telling when, where, and by whom the bird was banded, so be sure to include your full name and address with all reports. Report to: Bird Banding Laboratory, 12100 Beech Forest Road Suite 4037, Laurel MD 20708. E-mail: <BBL@nbs.gov>. Phone: (800) 327-BAND.