Shorebirds at Montlake Fill, Seattle, in 1996

by Christopher J. McInerny

During the summer of 1995, purple loosestrife was removed from around the ponds at Montlake Fill on the University of Washington campus, in the hope that migrant shorebirds would be attracted to the muddy edges. The following year, I systematically monitored shorebird species and numbers to see how the ponds were used and to determine the effects of loosestrife removal.

During and around migration periods—April to May and July to November—I checked the Fill on a daily basis, except for one 10-day period. I thought WOS members, especially the loosestrife pullers, would be interested in the results.

The total count of shorebird “bird-days” during 1996 was 662, with 95 bird-days in the spring and the remaining 567 in the autumn (bird-days are total bird counts for all days combined). The predominate species using the Fill was the Least Sandpiper (n=374 bird-days), followed by the Long-billed Dowitcher (n=86), Western Sandpiper (n=83), and Pectoral Sandpiper (n=41). Other species seen occasionally through both periods included Spotted Sandpiper, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Semipalmated Sandpiper. Species observed only once or twice included Stilt Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, Baird’s Sandpiper, and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.

The period of spring migration was relatively short, extending from mid-April to the end of May. All species came through during this time, in no particular order.

The autumn migration differed from spring in four striking ways: 1) the period was much longer, extending from early July through late October; 2) some species (Pectoral Sandpiper and most of the rarities) were seen only during autumn—nearly all were juveniles; 3) migrants visited the Fill during different periods—Least and Western Sandpipers came through in July and August, for example, see Montlake Fill, page 11

Sequim-Dungeness CBC sets state record

by Scott Atkinson

The 1996 Sequim-Dungeness Christmas Bird Count, held December 21, recorded 144 species to set a new state record. The tally eclipsed the previous high of 142, set on the Grays Harbor count in 1975.

The key seemed to be the number of every-other-year or every-third-year species found. Although participants tallied no “screaming rarities,” the count was not without its highlights, including Osprey and Anna’s Hummingbird from Diamond Point; 4 Marbled Godwits at Port Washington; 3 Snow Buntings, 2 Ancient Murrelets, and 11 American Pipits on the Dungeness Spit; Glaucous Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Sora, and a White-throated Sparrow from Graysmarsh (private); Greater Yellowlegs at Jamestown; and an American Tree Sparrow from the Taylor Cutoff/Lost Mountain area.

Owls were prominent on the tally. Eight species were found, including 13 Snowy Owls (11 on Dungeness Spit) and, at Lost Mountain, a Stix species.

Counters were fortunate to be out before snowstorms blanketed the region days later. More than 50 field observers and 15 feeder-watchers took part. Weather was generally favorable, although an icy east wind caused a passerine hunker-down at mid-day and adversely affected counts of divers (due to wave action). Special thanks go to Bob Boekelheide, the count compiler.
WASHINGTON BIRDS editor slot open; candidates sought

The WOS Board has begun a selection process for a new editor of Washington Birds, beginning with volume 7, which is due for publication in 1998. The commitment is for three volumes (one per year), plus a transition period with current editor Hal Opperman during publication of volume 6 (1997). This editorship, as with all other positions in the organization, is without financial compensation.

A job description can be obtained by phoning WOS President Michael Carmody at (360) 754-6186. Hal Opperman, editor for volumes 3 to 6, is available for inquiries at (206) 455-1364. Please submit applications or nominations to Michael no later than May 31.

Officer nominees invited for upcoming election

Members who serve as officers have a chance to guide the future of WOS. The nomination committee is now accepting inquiries for all officer positions, including President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The President is the chief executive officer of the organization and presides over all meetings. The Vice President fills in for the President, as needed. The Secretary records meeting proceedings and provides minutes to the Board. The Treasurer maintains accounts records and provides minutes to the Board. The Secretary records meeting proceedings and manages the Society’s funds. All positions carry one-year terms, which begin in October. The Board meets four times per year and at the annual conference.

If you or someone you know might be interested, contact Marcus Roening, nominations committee chair, before May 15. Brief messages may be left at (800) 485-0498 mailbox 361-1345. Longer messages should be left at (206) 756-0215.

Tri-Cities to be biggest WOS conference ever

WOS members enthusiastically registered for the upcoming annual conference, to be held in Kennewick from May 1 to 4. By late March, about 140 members had registered and some field trips were full. A full report on the conference will be presented in the June WOS News.

Washington birders enjoy Thanksgiving Bird Counts

On Thanksgiving Day, 1996, Washington birders tallied species and individuals within 75 15-foot-diameter circles (cyinders) at 47 locations. Fifty-seven of the one-hour counts were in western Washington, with the remaining 18 being east of the Cascades.

In western Washington, 54 species were detected, with Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch, Black-capped Chickadee, Pine Siskin, and Chestnut-backed Chickadee being most common. Among 37 species detected in eastern Washington, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Dark-eyed Junco, California Quail, and House Sparrow were dominant. Apparently, feeding stations are found in many of the small count circles.

Wild Turkey ranked 51st on a list of 171 species reported from 407 circles in 12 western states.

Thanksgiving Bird Counts were begun in Virginia in 1966. This was the fifth year for coordinated counts in the western United States. More information on the Thanksgiving Bird Count is available from Dr. John G. Hewston, Natural Resources Building, Humboldt State University, Arcata CA 95521.

New AOU Check-list on its way this year

The American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU) Committee on Classification and Nomenclature, generally known as the Check-list Committee, is nearing completion of the 7th edition of its Check-list of North American Birds, which should appear in its typical printed form in 1997.

We do not intend to put the full check-list out in electronic form, at least not immediately. However, in conjunction with a check-list supplement to be published with the July 1997 Auk, the committee plans to present a list of scientificSee Clips, page 3
**Oregon Birding Weekends offered by OFO**

Oregon Field Ornithologists announces monthly birding weekends to introduce birders to new areas of Oregon, to new bird species, and to each other. The OFO Birding Weekends will normally begin at dawn Saturday and end Sunday afternoon, and will be based in the same city both Friday and Saturday night. Most travel will be by private cars on public roads, with some walks on trails. Trip leaders will provide recommendations for lodging and will guide participants to sites and birds.

For more information, contact Paul T. Sullivan, 4470 SW Murray Blvd #26, Beaverton OR 97005. Phone (503) 646-7889.

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**Reminder of owling’s thrill by Ruth Sullivan**

When the news came of a Northern Hawk Owl on the Eastern Washington University campus in Cheney, I was one of the many people to go see the rarity. The weather was excellent for travel, and the owl was so tame that few birders returned home without seeing it.

Finding the owl was easy: most birders just looked for a gathering of people with binoculars. In my case, a kindly security officer pointed out the bird.

The Northern Hawk Owl is a sleek, medium-sized, “earless” owl with a long tail and long, pointed wings. It is active during daylight and often hovers like a kestrel when searching for prey.

I spent three weekends in Cheney observing the behavior of this striking owl. I noticed that it preferred high, exposed lookouts, which it reached by skimming low above the ground at great speed, then rising abruptly to perch. When it sighted prey, it would plummet into the grass to make a capture, then take the victim to a convenient perch for eating. It seemed very tolerant of people and spent much of its time in areas with a lot of activity.

What is it about owls that so fascinates people? From a dainty Saw-whet Owl peering out from the depths of a spruce, to an awesome Great Horned Owl gliding silently in the twilight, to a sleek Northern Hawk Owl catching voles beside the EWU football field—I find the thrill and excitement of owling indescribable.
Attuvian Adventure

by Ted Peterson

Three WOS birders—Bob Morse, Hal Opperman, and I—traveled to Attu Island in May and June 1996 to experience the isolated Aleutian outpost and to search for rare Asian birds. Attour Incorporated has offered these trips for 20 years at a current cost of about $5000 for three weeks. Since these tours started, about a dozen WOS members have participated.

Attu is a rugged, starkly beautiful island located at the western tip of the Aleutian chain, about 1500 miles west of Anchorage and 230 miles east of the Russian Commander Islands. Attu is uninhabited, except for a Coast Guard station that will soon be phased out. Birding access beyond 1999 or 2000 is problematic.

Attu is also the site of a National Historic Battlefield, where Japanese and United States armed forces fought a bloody battle during World War II. Debris from this battle and hastily-constructed airstrips is strewn across the landscape, often providing protection for birds.

The island’s location off the coast of Asia’s Kamchatka Peninsula lends great potential for migrating Asiatic species, some of which are blown eastward off course. Birders on Attu hope for storms at sea and strong westerlies to increase the chance of exotic fallouts. It is one spot in North America where one can start the birding day with the reasonable possibility of either a new North American record or a rare continental bird.

Our accommodations were spartan, consisting of poorly-maintained, 1950-vintage buildings with some running water, bunkbeds, and an outhouse. In spite of these conditions, we enjoyed the cooking of a super chef and the skills of excellent, knowledgeable leaders.

On each birding day, we divided into groups to explore the varied habitats of the Attu landscape by hiking and biking. The bikes greatly extended the range of our daily activities. All groups kept in touch by CB radio, and a rare bird sighting usually precipitated an exciting chase. These pursuits often involved racing 10 to 15 miles over muddy or rugged trails in all weather conditions—many thrills and spills!

Our spring trip was blessed with many days of lovely, mild weather, with a few storms thrown in. Because of an unusually early spring, we were late for most waterfowl and many shorebirds, so our overall bird counts were down. It was, however, a great year for rarities. We ended up with an impressive species list.

The birding highlights of our excursion included a Whooper Swan with five cygnets and a Brambling on eggs (first North American breeding records), Great Spotted Woodpecker (previously only one single-observer sighting), Oriental Turtle-Dove and Yellow-breasted Bunting (5th ABA records), and Red-flanked Bluetail (7th ABA record). We saw at least 25 other species, many of them Eurasian specialties.

Attu was unique and special for each of us. The shared experiences and friendships made with fellow birders were an important part of this “spring camp.” We left the island in great physical condition, with outstanding birding memories, and looking forward to getting back to Washington’s summer weather.

SITE GUIDE

Woodland Bottoms, Cowlitz County

by Ken Knittle

Woodland Bottoms is a great birding area with easy freeway access off and on for travelers heading south toward Oregon. You can pull off just to stretch your legs for a few minutes or spend half a day exploring this area of southwest Cowlitz County. It’s even a good place to check at night for Barn, Great Horned, and Short-eared owls.

In winter, large flocks of geese feed in the agriculture fields along with flocks of Sandhill Cranes and Tundra Swans. Other possibilities include Green Heron; Great and Cattle egrets; and Brant, Ross’s, Snow, and White-fronted goose.

In summer, the large trees along the river produce Red-eyed Vireo, House and Bewick’s wrens, and Yellow-breasted Chats. The chats can be heard calling off and on all night. They prefer the brushy areas near the water’s edge.

To get to Woodland Bottoms, take the Dike Access Road off I-5 just north of Woodland, and head west toward the Columbia River. Geese are commonly found in the field to the north. At the T intersection, you can turn right for a different angle on the geese. This is a dead-end road, but it can be productive due in part to less traffic.

Turning left at the T, check for rare blackbirds in the flocks, and watch for ducks in the agriculture fields along with flocks of Sandhill Cranes and Tundra Swans. Other possibilities include Green Heron; Great and Cattle egrets; and Brant, Ross’s, Snow, and White-fronted goose.

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**BOOK REVIEW**

**America's 100 Most Wanted Birds**
by Steven G. Mlodinow and Michael O'Brien
Falcon Press Publishing © 1996

softcover, 7.25" x 10.25", 496 pages
cover price $24.95

Review by Lisa M. Smith

*America's 100 Most Wanted Birds* is quite a handsome book, with its visually appealing typographical layout, glossy covers, and the 40-page concluding section that contains 80 color photos ranging from serviceable to spectacular. This section includes stunning photos of Red-billed Tropicbird (which also graces the front cover) and Tropical Parula, as well as impressive photos of Garganey, White-winged Tern, and Green Violet-ear.

This book is not, of course, a photo essay about birds. It is “a guide to finding the 100 rarest regularly occurring birds in the Lower 48 states,” and as such contains more than enough data to keep a statistician happy. The book consists of two main sections: Species Accounts and Site Guides (which include Atlantic and Pacific pelagics).

Each species account is prefaced with a line drawing by Todd Telander and includes several useful features:

- Practical information about status and distribution.
- Best bets, set off in a shaded box making it easy to locate when flipping through the book. Describes handy tips and favored locales.
- Identification, to supplement and correct information provided in major field guides. Provides comparative descriptions of field marks for birds similar in appearance.
- Sighting lists/tables, an easy-to-read feature that provides raw data about sightings.
- In many accounts, either a bar graph or histogram that shows at a glance the pattern of sightings over a twelve-month period.

The site guides in the second main section of the book are more than simple directions to find a bird; they also describe in more detail information found in “best bets” in the species accounts, as well as recommend places to stay (or not to stay), where to eat, and where to fill your gas tank. Symbols and legends on maps are crisp and seem straightforward. I find it reassuring to have such practical information at hand, tips to inspire even a homebody birder like me to plan an adventure farther afield.

The bibliography appears comprehensive and substantive. Throughout species accounts, the authors cite many articles and books as points of reference to debate and support identification features, citations I feel offer a wide range of usefulness for the spectrum of birding expertise, from novice to professional ornithologist, from armchair birder to more serious lister.

As a novice birder myself, I must trust that the authors provide accurate information in *America's 100 Most Wanted Birds*, so I'll defer to more knowledgeable birders to judge the merits of content. However, I found the writing clear and the reading interesting. This book is handsome, practical, informative, and an absolute joy to look through. I encourage you to do as the back cover says: Get this book!

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**Washington birds in the scientific literature**

Compiled by Jon. Anderson


On the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest in 1990-92, 17 activity centers were surveyed. Only 10 (59%) produced young; average interval of reproductive success was once every three years or less. Elsewhere in the Spotted Owl range, average annual reproductive success appears to be much higher than the 27% found in this study. Inclement weather can play a major role in determining reproductive success.


The authors analyzed spring and fall densities of Gray Partridge in the Palouse prairie of southeast Whitman County (Pullman to Colton) to determine long-term (1940-1992) population trends. Density was higher during 1982-1992 (6.72 birds/km²) than during 1940-1954 (3.45 birds/km²). This higher density contrasts with a series of reports indicating that the population was in serious decline.


During the first week of January, 1995, the authors observed a magpie repeatedly foraging through a hole in the ice of a frozen pond in Kittitas County. They inspected the hole and found a concentration of backswimmers (Notonectidae) and diving beetles (Dytiscidae). Magpies were relatively successful; during a 10-minute period, 2 birds made 32 foraging attempts, of which 26 (81%) were successful.
by Janice Bragg

It was a glorious morning for Seattle's Christmas Bird Count. The sky was clear and pale blue. Mount Rainier was bathed in the pink light of sunrise, the water was still, and the world was covered in wondrous white. Every branch, every twig, every blade of grass above the snow, was swathed in ice, and it all glistened as the day got lighter. We kept pausing to exclaim over the beauty around us...and to catch our breath as we trudged through 16 inches of snow. By the time we got to the north end of the park, it was after 11 and the sun was strong.

We started scanning the playing fields despite the glare off the snow, when something caught our eyes in the background, flying over NOAA. It was a Short-eared Owl! We’d been hoping to see one, maybe two, because I’d seen two there on December 8 and 14. There it was, flying low over the glistening fields, listening, we supposed, for the scurry of vole feet under the snow. It dropped often to the ground, seemed to searched with its talons, and then would take off again. Moments later, there were two, one along the fenceline that separates NOAA from Magnuson Park, and another farther west, near “Building 9.” It seemed as if we were ahead of schedule, at least in terms of owls, since we’d had to wait till dusk last year to get them.

Two people, in fact the only people we’d seen all morning, approached behind their unleashed dogs and asked what we were watching. We pointed out an owl to the dog, then another. “There, flying near the buildings, is a Short-eared Owl!” It was CBC glee repeating itself.

Moments later, there were two, one along the fenceline, a Short-eared Owl was perched atop a skinny, twenty-foot-tall deciduous tree. The light on it was perfect and it seemed I could see every feather. The head was rotating around, as only an owl’s head can do. I wished I had a camera!

After watching the perched owl a minute or two, I was ready to go. “So you’re just going to sit here?”

“No, this is the way you do it,” Herb replied.

I couldn’t believe it. We had so much more ground to cover. With the snow, we’d been really slow. It was already 12:45 and we had only done Magnuson. How could we just sit there?

“Come on, Herb, you don’t really think this place could support three short-ears, do you?” He just laughed. I was beginning to wish I’d never suggested there might be three. It was so preposterous. There was an owl flying around over the field between us and the main buildings and there was this one, perched to my right. Two owls, finito. I was about to protest, when it happened. “Oh, my gosh, I think there are three!” I squealed.

“Where?”

“There, flying near the buildings, there’s two! Oh my gosh, we have three owls!” He saw the two and then asked, as he turned to look, “And is the other one still perched over here?”

“You bet your booty it is! Yippee, three owls! Herb, we have three Short-eared Owls!” It was CBC glee repeating itself.

Clearly, getting three Short-eared Owls was something we hadn’t expected. As we marveled over them, we thought about how last year we’d been surprised to see two. Always the optimist, Herb thought out loud, “Hmm, I wonder if next year we’ll see four?”
**WOS Retail Discount Program, 1997 Update**

WOS members can save money by taking advantage of the WOS retail discount program. The following vendors offer special rates to those who identify themselves as members of the Society. Patronize these vendors to save money while birding in Washington. Thanks to David Buckley for coordinating the program.

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<th>Vendor Name</th>
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<td>10% off optics reconditioning; trade shop prices</td>
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<td>Flora and Fauna Books</td>
<td>Contact: David Hutchinson</td>
<td>10% discount when reserving based on availability; mention membership for coordinating the program.</td>
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<td>Alice Bay Bed and Breakfast</td>
<td>Contact: Julie Russeau</td>
<td>10-50% off rates, based on season, call for rates</td>
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<td>Palace Hotel</td>
<td>Contact: Paul Jinneman</td>
<td>20% off Sunday to Thursday, January to April, for 2 more nights</td>
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April 1997
Compiled by Russell Rogers

“Washington Field Notes” are distilled from reports made to birding hotlines, Audubon newsletters, the Tweeters listserver, and directly to the compiler. For corrections or information, contact the compiler.

Species names in uppercase are under "Washington Field Notes" are distilled from reports made to birding hotlines, Audubon newsletters, the Tweeters listserver, and directly to the compiler. For corrections or information, contact the compiler.

Washington Field Notes

October - November 1996

Red-throated Loon Uncommon at inland locations. 1 at Woodland Cowlitz on 11/27 (JE). Pacific Loon Uncommon in WA. 1 at Roosevelt Klukwan on 10/26 (MD&MID), 3 at Spokane Lake Lincoln on 10/27 (JE), 1 in Benton on 10/29 (DR), 1 at Blue Lake Grant on 11/3 (JE), 1 at Ruchland Benton on 11/4 (BWA), 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 11/27 (DR), and 1 at Crow Butte SP Benton on 11/27 ([BA\NL]). Horned Grebe High count for w WA. 300 at Blaine Whatcom on 11/9 (SM).

Red-necked Grebe Uncommon in lower Columbia Basin. 1 at YRD Benton on 10/9 (BW), 2 at Richland Benton on 10/17 with 1 there on 11/18 (BWA), and 1 at Plymouth Benton on 10/26 (MD&MID). Brown Pelican Uncommon in late fall, especially at Vantage.

Black-crowned Night-Heron High count for e WA, 20 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 10/29 (DR), and for w WA, 13 at Fir Island Skagit on 11/3 (JE). Tundra Swan Reports for e WA include, 2 at VRWR Walla Walla on 10/16 (MD&MID), 25 at YRD Benton on 10/16 (DR), 14 at McNary NWR on 11/28 (MD&MID), 35 at Richland Benton on 11/18 (BWA), and 3 at Kennewick Benton on 11/18 (WH). High counts for w WA include, 140 on Samish Flats Skagit on 10/31 (JE) and 430 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/4 (JE). Other reports from w WA include, 1 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 10/24 (NC) and 5 at Sequim Clallam on 11/17 (BU) with 6 there on 11/25 (RE). Trumpeter Swan High count for w WA. 100 at Skagit Flats Skagit on 10/31 (JE) and 160 at Stanwood Skagit on 11/16 (SM). Other reports include, 2 at Sequim Bay Clallam on 10/29 (PS), 1 at Spencer Island Skimn on 11/3 (SM), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/5 (JE), 52 at Stillaguamish Flats Skagit on 11/14 (TA). Greater White-fronted Goose Reports from e WA include, 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 10/19 (DR), 51 at Sprague Lake Adams on 10/20 (JA), 1 at Lyle Klukwan on 10/26 (MD&MID), and 1 at Walla Walla Walla Walla on 11/9 (MD&MID). Reports from w WA include, 40 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/9 (JE), 147 at Sequim Clallam on 10/30 (BU), 30 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 10/18 (JE) and on 10/20 (WCI), 16 at Skagit Flats Skagit on 11/17 (JE) and 12 at Gene Coulon Park King on 11/22 (KA). Great Egret Uncommon in e WA in late fall, 1 at YRD Benton on 10/9 (BW), 1 at Brooks Lake Grant on 10/13 (BR), 1 at Walla Walla Walla on 10/17 (MD&MID), 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 10/19 (DR), and 6 at Dodson Head Grant on 10/31 (TA). Black-bellied Whistling-Duck High count, 43 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/27 (JE) with 6 there on 11/21 (TA). In other parts of w WA, 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 11/11 (RS) and on 11/12 (PS).

Cattle Egret Rare in WA. 4 at George Grant on 10/11 (PS), 1 at Hurlubuck Walla Walla on 11/16 (RL\NL), 3 at Samish Island Skagit on 10/12 (JE) through at least 10/21 (KG), 2 at Edson Skagit on 10/19 (SM), and 1 at Monroe Snohomish 10/24 (RR). Snow Goose Reports from outside of regular wintering grounds in Snohomish and Skagit Counties, 1 at YRD Benton on 10/16 (BWA), 1 at Maryhill Klukwan on 11/29 (SM), and 3 at Hoquiam STP Grays Harbor on 10/27 (PS), 3 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/27 (PS), 2 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/5 (JE), 1 at Defair Mason on 11/6 (PS), 5 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/15 (JE), and 1 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 11/20 (WC).

Blue Heron Rare in WA. 1 at Stanwood Skagit on 10/19 (SM) and 1 at Everett Skagit on 11/12 (SM).

Ross's Goose Rare in WA. 1 at Woodland Cowlitz on 11/11 (PS) and on 11/24 (KK).

Empperor Goose Rare in WA. 1 at Tacoma Pierce on 10/16 (JE) and 1 at Tokeland Pierce on 10/16 (WCI) and on 10/18 (PS).

Great Egret Rare in w WA. 1 at Woodland Cowlitz on 11/18 (JE) and 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/29 (JE).

Canada Goose High count. 163,500 on Lower Columbia River on 11/4 (JE).

Dusky Canada Goose High count. 900 on Lower Columbia River on 11/5, 100 at Vancouver Clark on 10/21, 100 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/21, and 150 at Vancouver Clark on 10/21 (JS).

Barnacle Goose High count. 23,000 on Lower Columbia River on 11/5 (JE).

Albina" Canada Goose High count. 2500 on Lower Columbia River on 11/5 (JE).

Wood Duck Reports include, 18 at Ellensburg Kittitas on 10/11 (TA), 83 at Wailalu Walla Walla on 10/17 (FEIDMID), and 1 at Maryhill STP King on 10/17 (TA), and 14 at Salmon Creek Clark on 11/6 (TA).

Northern Pintail High counts, 2300 in Klickitat on 10/26 (MD&MID) and 5000 at Everett STP Skagit on 10/5 (SM).

Eurasian Wigeon Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 11/2 (DR) and 1 at Spearfish Park Klukwan on 11/29 (SM).

Redhead Uncommon in w WA. 2 at Hoquiam STP Grays Harbor on 10/24 (TA) and on 10/27 (PS). 1 at Port Office Lake Clark on 11/9 (WC), and 1 at Seattle King on 11/2 (KA).

Ring-necked Duck High count. 330 at Stanwood Skagit on 11/16 (SM).

Tufted Duck Rare in WA. 1 at Ilwaco Cowlitz on 11/8 (WCI) and at least 11/24 (MK).

Greater Scaup High count, 500 at Blaine Whatcom on 11/6 (SM).

Oldsquaw Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Sprague Lake Lincoln/Adams on 10/28 (KS). 1 at YRD Benton on 11/1 (WCI), 8 at Lake Lincoln/Adams on 10/21 (SM), and on 11/16 (JE), and 1 at Columbia NWR Grant on 11/7 (RH).

High count for w WA. 400 at Protection Island Clallam on 11/1 (JE).

Surf Scoter Uncommon, but regular in fall in e WA. 1 at Soap Lake Grant on 10/2 (JA), 2 at Maryville STP Klickitat on 10/11 (PS), 1 at Vantage Kittitas on 10/29 (BWA), 1 at Sprague Lake Lincoln/Adams on 10/12 (JE), and 1 at Coulee Lake Grant on 11/13 (JE).

White-winged Scoter Uncommon, but regular in e WA. 2 at Park Lake Grant on 10/27 (JS) and 1 at Sprague Lake Lincoln/Adams on 10/26 (KK).

Common Goldeneye High count for e WA, 30 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 10/30 (DR).

Barnegoldeneye Reports for Columbia Basin and Corr., 5 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 10/30 (DR), 2 at Maryhill STP Klickitat on 11/29 (SM), and 5 at Little White Salmon River Mouth Skamania on 11/10 (WC).

Bufflehead High count, 3000 at Blaine Whatcom on 11/15 (JE).

Hooded Merganser High count. 43 at Kent snacks Ellensburg on 11/17 (JE).

Common Merganser High count for e WA. 200 at Ponce Spokane on 11/11 (RD).

Red-breasted Merganser Sparse in e WA. 1 at
Pacific Two Rivers CP Training Center
Walla, Walla
WWRD
American Golden Plover
Sparse in e WA, 2 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/13 (AS). Northern Harrier Uncommon in Columbia Basin, 1 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 11/10 (AS).

Swallows NS’s Hawk Last reports for e WA include, 1 at College Place Walla Walla on 10/2 (MD&MID), 1 at Whitman Mission Walla Walla on 11/10 (MD&MID), and 1 at Deep Creek Spokane on 10/20 (MV).

Ruffed Grouse Last reports for e WA include, 1 at Walla Walla on 10/6 (AS) “Harlan’s” Red-tailed Hawk Reports include, 1 at Swinomish Slough Skagit on 11/3 (VA) and 1 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 11/9 (SM).

Ferruginous Hawk Last reports for e WA include, 1 at Prescott Walla Walla on 10/6 (MD&MID), 1 at Sprague Lake Adams on 10/30 (JA), 1 at Rocklin Lincoln on 11/3 (JA), and 1 at Kennewick Benton on 11/4 (DR).

Rough-legged Hawk First reports for e WA, 2 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/6 (AS), 2 at Prescott Walla Walla on 10/12 (MD&MID), 3 at Medical Lake Spokane on 10/12 (DR), and 2 at Ritzville Adams on 10/12 (DR). High count for e WA, 24 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/20 (AS). Early reports for w WA include, 1 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 10/5 (DU), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/25 (JE), and 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/27 (PS).

Peregrine Falcon Uncommon in e WA, 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 10/20 (NR), 1 at Sacajawea SP Franklin on 10/21 (DR), and 1 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/30 (BW, BLA&NLA) and on 10/26 (DR).

Gyrfalcon Reports from e WA include, 1 at Mondrot Lincoln on 10/26 (UA), 1 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 11/3 (AS), and 1 at County Well Road Benton on 11/23 (BLA&NLA). Reports for w WA include, 1 at Dungeness NWR Clallam on 10/1 (BL), 2 at Dungeness NWR Clallam on 10/21 (PA), and 1 at Sequim Clallam on 10/21 (fide BL), and 1 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 11/3 (DU).

Prairie Falcon High count in e WA, 4 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/13 (AS). Uncommon and local in w WA, 1 at Edison Skagit on 11/3 (fide BK) and 1 at Skagit Flats Skagit on 11/25 (PS).

Sage Grouse 37 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 11/28 (AS).

Sooty Owl High count in w WA, 1175 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/9 (JE).

Black-bellied Plover Reports from e WA include, 3 at Stull Lake Douglas on 10/2 (JA), 3 at WWRD Walla Walla on 10/11 (MD&MID), 2 at Scooteneney Reservoir Franklin on 10/15 (DR), 32 at Lower Yakima NWR Walla Walla on 10/15 (MD&MID), and 2-4 at YRD Benton on 10/20 through at least 11/2 (DR, BW).

American Golden Plover Sparse in e WA, 2 at WWRD Walla Walla on 10/11 (MD&MID). 1 at Scooteneney Reservoir Franklin on 10/15 (DR), 2 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/15 (DR), and 1 at YRD Benton on 10/18 through at least 10/27 (in mb). Only report from w WA. 1 at Yakima Walla Walla on 10/36 (BL).

Pacific Golden Plover Reports from w WA, 1 at Bingen Klacko on 10/19 (WC), 4 at Icc Harbor Dam Frankfort/Walla Walla on 10/27 (KK), Montesano Walla Walla on 10/15 (KK), 2 at YRD Benton on 10/28 (BLA&NLA) with one there on 10/29 (BW), 4 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 10/31 (DR), and 1 at YRD Benton on 11/3 and on 11/9 (BW).

Oscar Sparrow in late fall, 1 at YRD Benton on 10/7 (PS), 1 at Touchet Walla Walla on 10/11 (MD&MID), 1 at Belfair Mason on 10/3 (PS), 1 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 10/12 (fide SJ), and 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 11/23 (BL).

White-tailed Kite Uncommon and local in WA, 1 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/28 (PS) and 1 at La Grande Pierce on 11/17 (BL).

Northern Harrier High count for e WA, 63 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/13 (AS). Common in Columbia Basin, 1 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 11/10 (AS).

Bonaparte’s Gull High counts for e WA, 17 at WWRD Walla Walla on 10/18 (MD&MID) and 30 at Puget Sound, 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 11/12 (SM), and 2 at WWRD Walla Walla on 10/28 (TS).

Herring Gull Last report, 2 at Tokeland Pacifc on 11/9 (TAv).

Mew Gull Uncommon in e WA, 1 at Kennewick Benton on 10/1 (BW, BLA&NLA). 1 at Wallula NWR Walla Walla on 10/12 (MD&MID), 2 at Kennewick Benton on 11/11 (DR), and 1 at Wenatchee Chelan on 11/30 (LT). High count in w WA, 2150 at Stillaguamish Flats Snohomish on 11/5 (SM).

Gull Last report for e WA, 1 at Touchet Walla Walla on 10/11 (MD&MID). Herring Gull First report for e WA, 1 at Yakima Walla Walla on 10/11 (MD&MID).

Thayer’s Gull First report for e WA, 1 at Yakima Walla Walla on 10/11 (MD&MID).

Western Gull Uncommon in e WA, 1 at YRD Benton on 11/9 (BW).

Glauous Gull First report for WA, 1 at Kent King on 11/22 (KA).

Black-legged Kittiwake Rare in e WA, 1 at John Day Dam Klacko on 11/29 (SM). Uncommon in Puget Sound. 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 10/25 (VI) and 1 at Budd Inlet Thurston on 11/13 (BS).

Common Tern Last report, 1 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 11/9 (SM).

Forster’s Tern Last report, 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 10/19 (DR).}

April 1997
9
Benton on 10/27 (SR) with 1 there on 11/9 (BW), 1 at Seattle King on 10/19 (JB), and 3 at Stanwood Snohomish on 10/19 (SM).

Black-billed Magpie uncommon in WA, 1 at Richland Benton on 10/13 (BLa&NLa) and on 10/14 (BW), 1 at WWWRD Walla Walla on 10/15 (BW) and on 10/19 (MD&MID), 1 at College Place Walla Walla on 10/19 (MD&MID), 1 at Omalak Okanogan on 11/17 (SA), and 1 at Shell Mayer Skagit on 10/27 (KK), 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 10/23 (VM), and 1 at Vancouver Clark on 11/19 (SHrl).

Western Scrub-Jay First local record, 1 at Kennewick Benton on 11/5 (DR) and on 11/6 (BW, BLa&NLa). Locally uncommon in w WA, 1 at Seattle King on 10/19 (JB), 2 at Point No Point Kitsap on 10/21 (VNH), 1 at Seattle King on 10/24 (BLa), 3 at Hansville Kitsap on 10/29 (BSl), 1 at Saygicw Skagit on 11/11 (Ride BK), and 1 at Mount Vernon Skagit on 11/23 (SA).

Common Raven High count in e WA, 57 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/13 (AS), Mountain Chickadee Locally uncommon, 2 at Lyons Ferry Franklin on 10/12 (MD&MID) and 3 at Vancouver Clark on 11/11 (SHrl).

Canyon Wren Last report, 1 at Vernonia Bridge Isanti on 10/18 (AS), Bewick’s Wren Uncommon and local in e WA, 1 at Plymout Benton on 10/26 (MD&MID), 1 at Sprague Lake Lincoln/Adams on 10/28 (BLa), and 4 at Madame Dorian SP Walla Walla on 11/7/1 (DR).

Flicker Last report, 1 at Madame Dorian SP Walla Walla on 11/11 (DR).

Western Buckbird Locally uncommon, 3 at Kingston Kitsap on 11/12 (VN).

Townsend’s Solitaire Late report, 1 at Everett Snohomish on 11/7 (AS).

Sudden Turn piy late report, 1 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 11/12 (SM).

Skagit WMA Skagit on 11/13 (SM).

Northern Mockingbird Uncommon in WA, 1 at Tocklicka Pacific on 10/31 (PS) and 1 at Sequim Clallam on 11/13 (fide BN).

Bohemian Waxwing Uncommon in w WA, 10 at Skagit WMA Skagit on 11/24 (SA).

Northern Shrike Reports from e WA include, 1 at Wallats Columbia on 10/12 (MD&MID), 5 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/13 (AS) with 6 there on 10/27/AS), 2 at Snoake River Juniper on 10/20 (DR), 1 at Benton on 10/27 (BW), and 6 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/27 (AS). Reports from w WA include, 1 at Seattle King on 10/9 (VNH), 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/27 (PS), 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 10/27 (VNH), and 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/4 (MD&MID). Uncommon in w WA, 1 at Joyce Clallum on 11/19 (fide BN) and 1 at Skagit WMA Skagit on 11/24 (SA) and on 11/25 (PS).

Chipping Sparrow Last report for e WA, 1 at Turnbull NR Wspoke on 10/11 (DR), Rare along outer coast, 1 at Tocklicka Pacific on 10/30 (TAV).

Lark Bunting 1 at Tocklicka Pacific on 10/30 (TAV) and on 10/31 (BLa).

Fox Sparrow High count in w WA, 48 at Everett Snohomish on 10/31 (TAV).

Song Sparrow High count, 400 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 11/12 (SM).

Lincoln’s Sparrow Last reports for e WA, 2 at Paterson Benton on 10/26 (MD&MID) and 1 at Richland Benton on 11/12 (BW) with 1 there on 11/23 (DR). High count for w WA, 15 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/21 (TAV) and 25 at Skagit WMA Skagit on 11/24 (SA).

Swamp Sparrow Rare in WA, 1 at Crow Butte SP Benton on 11/7 (BLa&NLa) and 1 at Everett STP Snohomish on 11/26 (SM).

White-throated Sparrow Reports include, 1 at Walla Walla Junction Walla Walla on 10/27 (KK), 1 at Walla Walla Walla Walla Walla Walla on 10/27 (MD&MID), 1 at College Place Walla Walla on 11/28 (MD&MID), 1 at Lake Forest Park King on 10/6 (JB), 1 at Mt Pleasant Skamania on 10/10 (WC), 1 at Lopez Island San Juan on 10/16 (PS), 2 at Stanwood Snohomish on 10/19 (SM), and 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/6 (VNH) with 2 there on 11/21 (TAV), 1 at Olympia Thurston on 11/9 (BLa), 1 at Stimson Island Kitsap on 11/12 (IP), and 2 at Skagit WMA Skagit on 11/24 (SA) and on 11/27 (SM).

“Puget” White-crowned Sparrow Rare in e WA, 1 at Maryhill SP Kitsat on 11/29 (SM).

Golden-crowned Sparrow Rare in e WA, 1 at Richland Benton on 10/4 (BW), 6 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/6 (AS), and 1 at Windust Franklin on 11/28 (MD&MID).

Harris’s Sparrow Only report for period, 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 10/15 (DR).

“Slate-colored” Dark-eyed Junco Reports include, 1 at Mt Pleasant Skamania on 10/12 (WC), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/11 (JE), and 1 at Benton (SM). The following Junco reports from w WA include, 1 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 11/20 (PS), and 1 at Skagit Flats Skagit on 11/9 (fide BK).

Lagland Longspur Reports include, 1 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/20 (AS) with 1 there on 11/10 (AS), and 1 at Lummi Flats Whidbey on 10/5 (SM), 2 at Washougal Skamania on 10/31 (SM), and 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 11/25 (VA). Uncommon and local in w WA, 1 at Puget Island Wahlutzum on 10/20 (PS) and 1 at Skagit Flats Skagit on 11/9 (fide BK).

Yellow-billed Loon Reports from e WA include, 1 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 11/10 (AS) with 2 at Richland Benton on 11/12 (AS) and 1 on 11/13 (AS).

Purple Finch Uncommon in e WA, 2 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 11/13 (AS) with 2 there on 10/27 (AS) and 1 on 11/13 (AS).

Cassin’s Finch Last report for WA, 1 at College Place Walla Walla on 10/24 (MD&MID), 1 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 10/27 (AS), and 1 at Richland Benton on 11/12 (BSM) and 1 at Richland Benton on 11/21 (BW), Rare in w WA, and 1 at District Line Road Skagit on 11/7 with 1 there on 11/30 (fide BK).

White-winged Crossbill Irregular in WA, 8 at Jacks Pass Snohomish on 11/1 (KR).

Lesser Goldfinch Reports from WA, 1 in Kitsch on 10/26 (MD&MID), 2 at Lyki Klickitat on 11/21 (SM), and 4 at Maryhill Kitsat on 11/29 (SM).

Abbreviations: CP County Park, e eastern, imm immature, juv juvenile, LCB Lower Columbia Basin, mb montane basin, ne northeastern, nw northwestern, NWR National Wildlife Refuge, RD River Delta, se southeastern, sw southwestern, SP State Park, STP Sewage Treatment Ponds, w western, WAA Washington Agriculture, WWRD Walla Walla River Delta, YRD Yakima River Delta.

April 25 to 27, Friday to Sunday
Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival, centered at Bowerman Basin and Hoquiam High School, features field trips, lectures, and arts and crafts. Request a brochure from the Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce at (360) 532-1924 or (800) 321-1924.

April 26, Saturday
WOs Field Trip to Ocean Shores and Bowerman Basin. Meet at the Ocean Shores McDonald's at 8:30 a.m. Red Knots, Snowy Plovers, Peregrine Falcons, and early neotropical migrants are likely. The Bowerman portion of this trip is in conjunction with a Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival trip. Limited to 40 participants. For more information or to sign up, call Jim Flynn at (206) 772-5568.

May 1 to 4, Thursday to Sunday
Ninth annual WOS conference at Kennewick, featuring birds of the shrubsteppe: Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, Ferruginous Hawk, and Gray Flycatcher. See the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve story in WOS News 46, or request information from Bill and Nancy LaFramboise at (509) 627-3695.

May 8, Monday
There is no monthly WOS meeting this May. See you at the conference.

May 10, Saturday
International Migratory Bird Day. Also, North American Migration Count. For details, contact Jim Stasz, NAMC Coordinator, P.O. Box 71, North Beach MD 20714. Phone: (410) 257-9540.

June 2, Monday
Monthly WOS meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle. The program will be members' slides. Bring your best. Socializing begins at 7 p.m.; the program begins at 7:30. This will be the last monthly meeting until September.

June
WOs Field Trip to Blewett Pass. Meet at Ravenna Park and Ride at 06:00. Limited to 10 participants. For more information or to sign up, call Kevin Aanerud at (206) 523-6195.

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 as a member's guest once per year.

Editor, from page 3
compile and present data from every Washington count.

A Long-eared Owl site guide turned into a more general owl guide, but it won't appear until next fall, because it focuses on winter owl finding.

The final missing piece resulted from a lack of response to my “In the Air” invitation for stories from January 1, the day when year lists begin and everyone starts at zero. Maybe next year.

This issue has an article on shorebird use of ponds at Montlake Fill. Contrary to appearance, this is not intended as a spiteful dig at the reader who responded to the recent membership survey with the request: "no more articles on Montlake Fill."

We have a busy year ahead, too, with a conference report in June and news from the Washington Bird Records Committee in the next few issues.

As always, I welcome submissions of articles, photographs, and illustrations for future issues of WOS News. I try to work closely with contributors so we can all be happy with the results: a solid newsletter for the Society.

Despite our best efforts, we sometimes slip. It's hardest for me to accept when those slips are self-induced. For my mistakes in WOS News 46, I offer apologies to Ruth Sullivan ("an pipit" is certainly non-standard English usage) and Phil Mattocks and Kevin Aanerud (Black-headed Gull is no longer "Common").

Montlake Fill, from page 1
while Pectoral Sandpipers were present only from late September through October, and 4) migration occurred in waves, with adults preceding juveniles. For some species, such as Western and Least Sandpipers, the adult wave was followed immediately by the juvenile wave. For Long-billed Dowitcher, however, juveniles appeared eight weeks after the bulk of adult migrants had passed.

Two juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were observed at the Fill in 1996. The first was found by Kevin Aanerud, the second by Stephen Addinall and me. Photographs suggest they were separate individuals, representing the first and second records of this species at the site. The Stilt Sandpiper was the first to be reported from the Fill in eight years.

This survey showed that Montlake Fill ponds provided good habitat for migrating shorebirds during 1996, arguing that the removal of purple loosestrife was a worthwhile exercise. I plan to complete a similar survey in 1997 and combine the results in a manuscript to be submitted to WASHINGTON BIRDS. I welcome shorebird records from other observers visiting the Fill. I can be reached at 621 Harvard Ave E. #21, Seattle WA 98102. Phone (206) 323-4310. E-mail <cmcinern@fred.fhcrc.org>.
As part of a long-term study of Song Sparrow behavior, over 1000 Song Sparrows have been color-banded in Discovery Park, Seattle, and lesser numbers at Skagit Wildlife Management Area. We are interested in any sightings of color-banded sparrows, especially sightings in Seattle away from Discovery Park.

Each sparrow carries two bands on each leg. One of the four bands is aluminum. The others are plastic, solid-color bands: light blue, dark blue, light green, dark green, yellow, red, mauve (pinkish purple), orange, black, and white.

Please report the color and location of each band. For example "left leg dark blue over dark blue, right leg orange over metal." Send reports to Chris Hill, Department of Zoology, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195. E-mail <cchill@u.washington.edu>. Phone (206) 543-0417.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Okanogan National Forest needs volunteers to assist Forest Service biologists in surveying cliff areas for Peregrine Falcons. Volunteers must have good birding skills, an ability to observe for extended periods, and strong outdoor skills (hiking, orienteering, etc). Two or three field days are expected, with one in May and one or two in June. Interested persons should contact Kent Woodruff or Sarah Haggerty, Methow Valley Ranger District, as soon as possible. Phone (509) 996-4002.

Volunteers needed to help monitor breeding neotropical migrant species at McChord Air Force Base south of Tacoma in Pierce County. The project includes searching for and monitoring nests, point count surveys, and banding and color-banding individual birds to assess population densities. This project is sponsored by The Nature Conservancy of Washington and McChord Air Force Base. For further information contact Russell Rogers, 4510 Glenn Way SW, Seattle WA 98116. Phone (206) 935-6280 or via the internet at <rrogers@halcyon.com>.

Volunteers needed to run several MAPS stations in the south Puget Sound area, at McChord AFB, Fort Lewis, The Evergreen State College, and The Morse Preserve. No experience necessary. Learn how to monitor productivity and survivorship through banding. For further information contact Don Norman, 2112 NW 199th St, Seattle WA 98177. Phone (206) 542-1275.