Finches and Owls
Excerpts from a travelog posted to Tweeters by Richard Rowlett

Day 6
Sunday, January 25, 1998

My drive out of the Columbia River valley began in ominous fog but steadily turned into an elevation-layered climatic event: the dense fog broke out to overcast skies, then freezing mist, then fog again (the overcast cloud deck), then snow, then—poof!—crystal blue and bright sunshine. It was as if I was flying out of Kettle Falls.

As soon as I popped out into sunshine—the spruce, fir, larch, and lodgepole pine forest cloaked in winter’s white—my eye caught sight of a flock of dazzling pink and golden jewels in the middle of the road. Finches! White-winged Crossbills! Whoa baby, stop the car!

That was just the beginning. What was going to be a couple of hours (maybe) at and near the summit of Sherman Pass turned into an all-morning-till-past-noon systematic assessment. Sherman Pass, about 20 miles east of Republic and 20 miles west of Kettle Falls, constitutes the state’s highest (5,575 ft) mountain pass maintained year-round on the usually busy, busy and dreadfully-noisy main line across northern Washington, Route 20.

Super Bowl Sunday may be one of the quietest days of the year up here. Absolutely no traffic. Every good American stayed home, glued to the tube. Gone were all of those awful, noisy logging trucks, one after another, that spoil most visits with their downshifting and continuous grating noise that carries for miles and lingers forever.

Normally, hearing bird calls is see crossbills, page 6

Crested Caracara in Washington
A Re-examination of the Records

by Clifford M. Anderson and James T. Shiflett

The recent sighting of a Crested Caracara (Polyborus plancus) at Neah Bay, Clallam County, in January 1998, has prompted us to review the two prior reports from this state. The current state checklist (WBRC 1997) does not include this species.

Crested Caracaras normally occur in Latin America, extending from Tierra Del Fuego north to Mexico, central Florida, southern Texas and, marginally, southern Arizona (Del Hoyo et al. 1994).

This species was first reported in Washington by Balmer (1936). He stated that a local “rancher” collected an adult male see caracara, page 7

Escapee?

The International Species Information System (ISIS) Bird Abstract for 30 June 1997 lists 30 caracaras in 16 institutions. Nearly all of these are in zoos within the bird’s normal range. The zoo closest to Washington that holds this species is in Palm Desert, California. I don’t know how frequently these birds are kept by falconers. Because caracaras are carrion eaters, I would think that falconers would not choose to employ them for hunting. Other than licensed rehabbers, governmental agencies or exhibit/education facilities that do not participate in ISIS, there are probably no other legal holders of caracaras in the United States.

Posted to Tweeters by Greg Toffic, Curator of Birds at Woodland Park Zoo.
News Clips

Special issue planned for Society's 10th
WOS will celebrate 10 years as an organization in 1998. To mark the occasion, WOSNews 56 (August/September) will be an anniversary issue. Contributors are needed to help tell the story of the Society's history, changes in Washington birds and birding over the past decade, and what challenges are ahead.

Contact WOSNews editor Scott Richardson if you would like to contribute to the special issue.

Society web site among StudyWeb's best
Congratulations are in order for Dan Victor, keeper of the Society's web site. The WOS home page has been selected as a StudyWeb featured site, after being considered one of the best educational resources on the World-Wide Web by StudyWeb's researchers. The WOS home page can be found in the StudyWeb ornithology section.

StudyWeb is one of the Internet's premier sites for educational resources for students and teachers. Since 1996, expert reviewers have scoured the Internet to select sites to be included in StudyWeb's listing of educational links. Each site in StudyWeb includes a detailed review describing its editorial and visual merits.

To learn more about StudyWeb, visit <http://www.studyweb.com/>.

Highlights of WOS Board January meeting
To improve service for new members, the practice of sending a confirmation letter/information sheet will be revived.

WASHINGTON BIRDS 6 has been slightly delayed to allow final editing of two articles. The journal is expected to be out shortly, about one year after the release of WASHINGTON BIRDS 5.

The long-awaited membership directory is still in the works. The board decided to wait until after the conference to finalize the membership list to be included in the periodic directory.

Peregrine population continues to grow
During 1997, 46 Peregrine Falcon nesting sites were occupied and 64 young were produced in Washington, according to the Peregrine Falcon Working Team for Washington and Oregon. Washington's peregrine population has grown from a small handful of pairs in the early 1980s, with most breeding territories located along the coast and around Puget Sound. See WOSNews 37 for a table illustrating peregrine numbers from 1980 to 1994.

Submitted to The Murreletter 5(3) by Judy Jacobs.

OFO birding weekends offered through 1998
Oregon Field Ornithologists continues its series of OFO Birding Weekends with more than a dozen getaways in 1998. Trip sites include Klamath County, Malheur NWR, Lincoln County (includes pelagic trip), and Sauvie Island.

The weekends are intended to introduce birders to new birds, other birders, and various areas of Oregon. They normally begin at dawn Saturday and end Sunday afternoon, and are based in the same location for both Friday and Saturday night. Birders cover their own costs; a $15 participation fee is split between trip leaders and OFO.

For a schedule of OFO Birding Weekends, contact Paul T. Sullivan, 4470 SW Murray Blvd #26, Beaverton OR 97005. Phone (503) 646-7889.

Conference a success
More than 100 members went to the Skagit to participate in the 10th annual WOS conference. A full report on the conference will be published in WOSNews 54.

Subsequent to the 10th annual WOS Conference held 20-22 August 1998 in Skagit, Washington, OFO continues its series of OFO birding weekends through 1998. Trip sites include Klamath County, Malheur NWR, Lincoln County (includes pelagic trip), and Sauvie Island.

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WOSNews 53: February/March 1998
by Ruth Sullivan

[TACOMA] When a friend asked me to take two people on a field trip, I chose Ocean Shores for its variety of birds. I especially wanted to show the Arizona birders some shorebirds they don't usually see.

On 13 July, my son and I experienced a spectacular display on Bill's Spit: 2000 Western Sandpipers, body upon body for a long stretch of the beach, over 1000 Short-billed Dowitchers, and 37 Red Knots mixed with Marbled Godwits and Whimbrels. Some of them retained some breeding plumage. With this event in mind, we led our group to Ocean Shores hoping to see all these birds again—maybe even more?

How disappointed we were on 16 July, when we found the beach deserted, with only a few gulls and Whimbrels left. I felt helpless. This had happened to me before, but only when birding alone. This time I was trying to show off a Washington shorebird hot spot.

We went to the game range from the sewage ponds. When we approached the beach from a distance, we saw Caspian Terns standing on a sand bar. But what were the tiny white birds standing beside them?

We could see more clearly as we approached, and I knew they weren't Common Terns. Drawing closer, we counted seventeen of them. Elegant Terns! A first record for both of my guests.

I didn't expect Elegant Terns so early. Previously, I had seen the species in Tokeland on 28 August 1990 and at the Ocean Shores north jetty. But I had not been this close. I told the visiting birders how rare it was to see Elegant Terns in Washington, especially this early.

From where we stood, we could study adults and juveniles and compare Caspian and Elegant Terns. Suddenly, Clarence looked to the sky (he had very good eyes) and saw a big flock of little white birds. They came in one by one and settled directly in front of us.

Neither birder cared to look for more shorebirds. They only wanted to watch Elegant Terns.

Game range Elegant Tern counts in July 1997:
97 on the 16th; 157 on the 19th;
83 on the 20th; 117 on the 30th

“Timberline Sparrow” on the Yakima Training Center

by Andy Stepniewski

[Wapato] On the morning of 17 May 1997, while censusing birds along upper Cold Creek on the Yakima Training Center, I observed a “Timberline Sparrow” (Spizella breweri taverneri). The “Timberline Sparrow,” a subspecies of Brewer’s Sparrow, breeds locally in dwarfish deciduous scrub and conifer thickets near the treeline, from the central Canadian Rocky Mountains northwestward to interior, central Alaska.

This bird appeared, from a distance, somewhat like a Clay-colored Sparrow. However, its facial markings were less distinct, and it sported fine streaks on its crown instead of the pronounced median stripe of a Clay-colored. I noticed a marked difference between this bird's darker, heavily-streaked dorsum and those of the numerous, pale Brewer's Sparrows nearby. The “Timberline Sparrow” had a full eyering and a supercilium duller than its submoustachial stripe. The gray area of its nape was “dirty” with diffuse streakings.

The bird did not call or sing.

I would like to have heard it sing. As someone on Twitter once said: “It sounds like a Brewer's Sparrow on helium.”

Field identification of this subspecies is still being formulated. A recent article (with excellent color photographs) illustrates this subspecies along with look-alike sparrows such as Chipping, Clay-colored, and Brewer’s (P. Pyle and S.N.G. Howell. 1996. Spizella sparrows: Intraspecific variation and identification. Birding 28(5):374-387). I found it very useful for identifying the “Timberline Sparrow.”

Besides the visual clues used in identification, this sparrow was in a habitat seldom used by Brewer’s Sparrows, except during the hot months later in summer. It was hopping about in dense hawthorns (Craetaegus) lining the creek. It didn’t drop to lower, nearby shrub-steppe vegetation or exhibit any territorial behavior, such as singing or agitation, that would imply an intent to breed. Thus, I believe it was a migrant.
Malaria

Tweeters

Posts of the Month

Speaking as someone who nearly died of malaria, I feel obliged to state firmly that this is not a disease to get all herbal about.

I slept under mosquito netting, drank gin and tonic, and was being given what was at the time state of the art prophylaxis (Chloroquin) and managed to catch the one of first documented cases of chloroquin-resistant malaria in Malawi.

I recovered from that only to catch the first documented case of Fanzidar-resistant malaria in Malawi (some people are destined for greatness). All in all, I had four separate malaria infections, eventually building up a modicum of immunity (I went from being completely laid out to just feeling tired all the time).

East Africa is a land of naturopathic folk medicine and this was one of several diseases that the Singyanga wouldn’t touch. If you think you’ve got malaria, go to a doctor, make it clear as to what prophylaxis you’ve been using (so they use something different for treatment) and make sure you have at least one gin and tonic every day (the gin is to kill the taste of the tonic).

Mike Patterson

A lot can be added to the malaria thread and it is probably all important to varying degrees. Malaria is no joke. It’s serious. I think that I get good travel medicine advice — perhaps sometimes a little overcautious — but good.

One of the most important things that I have been told is Larium is good. But not for all people. Just like any medication, okay for some and not okay for others. There is usually a pre-travel dose regimen set up (I am not a doctor and only speak from personal experience with the understanding each should consult their own health provider). With some of the possible side effects — mood swings, hallucinations, etc. — this pre-travel regimen is excellent because you are among folks that know you and recognize any possible problems. Once you join a new group of folks at your destination, there is no comparison because everyone thinks you always act the way you do when they meet you. Even with prophylaxis, using DEET, sleeping under nets, and using any other method of avoiding bites still applies. Just part of the price we pay to chase birds!

Additionally, use the State Department to look at travel restrictions. Even then, safe countries can have problems and problem countries can be safe. We birded the Santa Marta Mountains of Colombia and had no problems at all but other areas can be iffy!

Robert Taylor

Malaria is still the number one killer of human beings on this planet. We are blessed in America, because malaria is not (currently) a problem in our medically-advanced country.

Deborah Wisti-Peterson

Auxiliary Markers

How the Bird Banding Lab deals with color-bands and collars

The BBL responds to color-marking sightings. However, we are not able to provide lists of projects using color markers.

Reports of auxiliary markers will be forwarded to the bander, if one can be identified, with a letter requesting they contact the reporter. A copy of this letter is sent to the reporter. If the bander can identify the auxiliary marker to a specific band number (except for Canada Geese), the BBL requests that number and sends a Certificate of Appreciation to the reporter.

Unfortunately, the BBL cannot put the color marker information on the Certificate (we hope to do this in the future). For certain large scale Canada Geese sightings, we forward the list to the bander who is coordinating the marking and forward a copy of the letter to the reporter.

The Federal Privacy Act prevents distribution of names and addresses, but the BBL has an exemption for Certificates of Appreciation (name and address of bander) and the Report-to-Bander (name and address of hunter/finder).

The BBL does not supply lists of those licensed for auxiliary marking on a routine basis, because they prefer that sightings are reported directly to the BBL, although reporters can also contact banders directly.

The BBL gets thousands of reports annually, with the number increasing since the toll-free reporting system began.

The BBL also handles reports of “other” banders, but often cannot identify who is doing the marking. (Most of it is illegal, but some marking of captives, which sometimes escape, is legal.)

Adapted from a Kathy Klimkiewicz post to the ORNITH-L listserver.

Banded Pigeons?

The Bird Banding Laboratory does not keep any records on the bands used on pigeons. Pigeon bands should be reported to the Avian Service Center at (405) 670-9400.
October Field Trip: Lower Columbia Basin, Walla Walla and Benton Counties
by Mike Denny

... After blast of strong wind blew across the waters of the Columbia River, Car after car arrived full of birders from Tacoma, Olympia, and Pullman. It was October 4, and the great lower Columbia Basin WOS field trip was about to begin.

With the wind firing tumble mustard stems and great round clumps of Russian thistle at us, we began our search for birds. Our attention was first focused on the old Walla Walla River Yacht Club basin. Hunkered down on these mud flats were 80 Long-billed Dowitchers and 11 Kildeer. From there we moved to Madame Dorin Park in search of the lone Red-shouldered Hawk that had been present since late September. Look as we might, we just could not find our target species. After being blown back to our autos, we headed for the nearby Walla Walla River delta. At this normally super birding location, there was nothing to see, save a few Herring Gulls and thousands of whitecaps on the Columbia.

Pushing onward, we headed west through the wind, taking highway 730 into Oregon. Now, I know there is an unwritten rule that WOS field trips are not to slip out of Washington, but that's what we did—though all for naught. We saw nothing even remotely uncommon. So back into Washington we went, across the river into southern Benton County. With the wind still howling, we drove into Plymouth and wandered about the local corps park. Still nothing to hoot about yet. We headed back into the autos west to Crow Butte State Park. This park is aptly named, as the first birds we saw were crows. As I watched a lone sycamore leaf bounce and jump across the picnic area, I heard crows mobbing something. Upon getting to the spot under the crows, we discovered a single Great Horned Owl. Not 75 feet away sat a single Long-eared Owl, a lifer and state bird for several present.

This trip did not produce many birds, but it did produce good food, good company, and many saw a part of Washington that was new to them. I guess you can’t find 100+ species every birding trip, not even on a WOS field trip. Join one of these trips and take a chance of finding new places and people in Washington. And don’t forget to bird, wind or no wind.

January Field Trip: Ridgefield NWR & Vancouver Lake, Clark County
by Wilson Cady

[WASHINGTON.] Franny Drobny joined Joe Engler (Ridgefield refuge biologist) and I to tour the refuge and Vancouver Lake on January 10. The day started out with a few flakes of snow falling and ended with a full-fledged snowstorm that has since been referred to as the “Storm of ’98” on the news. By the time the weekend was over there was more than a foot of snow on the ground.

One of the first birds encountered at the Carty Unit of the refuge was a Great Egret. Although there was only one here, we did see several others at Vancouver Lake later in the afternoon. This winter we tallied 23 Great Egrets on the Washington side of the Sauvie Island CBC, a new high number. As we strolled through the cottonwood-and-willow forest of this remnant of the Columbia River bottoms, we saw few birds other than the ever-present swans and Canada Geese. This I attributed to the cold winds and sputtering snows. We did see White-breasted Nuthatch, and Joe glimpsed a small raptor as it slipped into the flooded woodlands.

The short drive to Vancouver Lake gave us a chance to warm up. Unfortunately, that comfortable condition didn’t last in the increasing wind and snow. While checking for a Black-crowned Night-Heron that I had found roosting in the brush along a pond a few days earlier, we flushed a Green Heron. Driving along Old Lower River Road, we stopped to view a Cooper’s Hawk and spied a flock of about 400 Sandhill Cranes in the background. At the Flushing Channel, a manmade canal to bring more water into Vancouver Lake, there was a flock of over 100 Western Grebes accompanied by at least one Red-necked Grebe.

We found a Greater White-fronted Goose, but did not see the Ross’, Brant, or Emperor among the estimated 30,000 geese in the area. Having Joe along was very educational, as he is familiar with the identification and calls of the seven subspecies of Canada Geese that winter here. Our total species count for the day was 55. This is the third time that I have tried to lead a winter trip here for WOS. The first was canceled when flood waters topped the dikes. Last year we had a good turnout and decent weather. This year I was. The first was canceled when flood waters topped the dikes.

This is the third time that I have tried to lead a winter trip here for WOS. The first was canceled when flood waters topped the dikes. Last year we had a good turnout and decent weather. This year I worried about everyone making it home safely despite the fact that we all had 4-wheel-drive vehicles.

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Report Your Findings, from page 12

Mute Swan (see WOSNews 52)
All encounters. Provide date seen, number of swans, adult or juvenile, location, habitat type, and whether they were in the company of other swans or geese. Report to Martha Jordan, Washington Swan Working Group, 914 164th St SE #272, Mill Creek WA 98208.

Belted Kingfishers (see WOSNews 52)
All encounters. Provide date, location, and number of males, females, and undetermined sex. Repeat observations at individual sites would be most helpful. Report to Scott Richardson, P.O. Box 1644, Olympia WA 98507. E-mail <salix@halcyon.com>.

Song Sparrows (see WOSNews 48)
Color-banded individuals. Provide band combination, date, location, and other details. Report to Chris Hill, Department of Zoology, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195. E-mail <chill@u.washington.edu>. Phone (206) 543-0417.

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crossbills from page 1

severely impaired by all that horrible noise. So what a blessing it was this time. Absolute peace and quiet, except for two passes by the snow plow spreading sand ("bird feed") on the snow-packed roadway. How convenient! I say bird feed because that's exactly what it is. Winter finches love it. And when there is no traffic, it's even better. Get the picture?

In short, Sherman Pass near the summit was swarming with White-winged Crossbills. Numerous flocks picked in the grit, then flew up into trees, chattering and "crackling," flitting about, glistening in the sunshine against an intense blue sky and white winter wonderland below. Pine Grosbeaks (not many, maybe three total) and Pine Siskins sometimes joined the White-winged Crossbills in the roadway.

I thoroughly combed the pass, 4 miles east and 4 miles west, which was essentially the range between the top margins of the fog deck. In 1988, a devastating, lightning-sparked forest fire burned over 20,000 acres of prime forest on the upper west slope. Today it remains an awesome spectacle: tens of thousands of bare tree stalks. In the past, this burn has been notoriously productive for woodpeckers and its most notable visitor a few years ago, a Northern Hawk Owl found by Andy Stepnewski. I saw no hawk owl this time, but I did (finally, after several failed attempts) find Black-backed Woodpeckers.

My list for Sherman Pass between 08:00 and 12:30: Black-backed Woodpecker (3), Pileated Woodpecker (1), Clark's Nutcracker (1), Common Raven (18), Mountain Chickadee (34), Red-breasted Nuthatch (18), Pine Grosbeak (3), Red Crossbill (6), White-winged Crossbill (-170), Pine Siskin (22).

By the time I got to Curlew, it was the "heat" of the afternoon with only three hours of daylight left. I had only enough time to make an exploratory run back into the high country, so I went east along the Boulder Creek-Deer Creek Road. The weather changed abruptly to fog and snow and frigid cold just a few miles east of Curlew. The pass (~4600 ft) was heavily locked in winter. This stretch looked like potential Boreal Owl habitat, with large and extensive mixed spruce, sub-alpine fir, larch, lodgepole pine, and Douglas-fir forest, so I stayed till after dark, trying to drum something up. Nothing. It was a little windy in places—not to mention the forest being locked tight, heavily cloaked in snow. The area may not be as good for Boreal Owls as it seemed; elevation was perhaps a bit low. But I was there and it was worth a try. Perhaps a bit too early in the season.

Day 7

Monday, January 26, 1998

Talk about an e-mail junkie! I can't believe I'm sitting in my car, at 22:00, at Highlands Snow Park near Havillah, windows down, "star-roof" open, writing up today's notes, listening to the evening chorus of owls, and patiently waiting, waiting, waiting—hoping to hear the full hoot of the Great Gray. So far, occasional "whoops," a few soft-but-short, rapid, and incomplete series of "hoos," and some other very strange noises. All in all, any Great Gray Owl sounds are very infrequent and I have had no sightings. Otherwise, it's a calm, rather balmy (low 20's) night under the stars, with coyotes yelping, several Great Horneds around, two Barredos way far away in the direction of Mount Bupaparte, and at least two totally-obnoxious Saw-whets nearby calling with such fervor and urgency as to just about drown out everything else. "Oh shut up, already!" They are driving me crazy! This is all natural—no tapes, no imitations. I won't allow myself to do that here. If I see the Great Gray, fine. If not, that's fine, too.

Today was another glorious day filled with more of those incredible White-winged Crossbills. Once again, I stayed longer than planned in the high country, this time east of Curlew on the Boulder-Deer Creek Road, having become addicted to snow-country birding. Once again, my friend the "sandman" had been through, "seeding" the otherwise-deserted and fully snowpacked roadway.

Assessing this winter's White-winged Crossbill "irruption" is becoming an obsession—a passion. I systematically and thoroughly covered the area from near the summit to milepost 18 (about 6 miles) on the gradual downside east slope, logging every encounter in my field notebook.

The highlights along this stretch between 08:30 and noon included Black-backed Woodpecker (3), Gray Jay (5), Common Raven (2), Mountain Chickadee (38), Red-breasted Nuthatch (27), Pine Grosbeak (13; flocks of 6, 3, 1, 2, and 1), Red Crossbill (45). White-winged Crossbill (~160; flocks of 30, 20, 55, 20, and 35), Pine Siskin (~850; enormous swarms!), and Common Redpoll (5 or more; with siskins on the roadway).

Day 8

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Today, the effort was intensely focused on systematically assessing the real magnitude and distribution of White-winged Crossbills by checking out all the suspected "hot spots" along the Havillah-Chesaw-Molson loop, followed by an afternoon searching for Redpolls in the valley alder thickets.

In short, White-winged Crossbills are everywhere; many, many flocks, with a total count around 820. I surely could have found more than a thousand had I checked out promising areas southeast and southwest of Chesaw.

Winter is still very much intact up here; the current thaw has had little or no impact, as temperatures remained below freezing all day. All the primitive roads remain snow covered and frozen and easily navigable, with snow cover averaging 18 to 24 inches in the forested areas. Even so, Red-winged Blackbirds were setting up territories and singing in a few places. The Red-winged Blackbird, to the people in this area, is surely the first marker that Spring is perhaps not so far off. Molson, undoubtedly the coldest "town" in the entire state, was bedeviled by snow for two die-hard ducks, a male Common Goldeneye and a male Redhead in two tiny spots of open water on the otherwise frozen Sidley Lake.

I began the day on an "owl prow" (minus owl calling) at 05:00, quietly wandering the
caracara on 21 June 1936 in Cohasset, 1 mile south of Westport, Grays Harbor County. Jewett et al. (1953:672) list this caracara in their hypothetical bird section, stating accurately that its status would never be known for certain. They suggested that it was probably an individual reported to have escaped approximately one week earlier from Burlington, Multnomah County, Oregon, about 100 miles southeast of Westport. The specimen is currently housed at the University of Washington Burke Museum in Seattle (catalog no. UWBM 47862; fide Chris Wood).

The second report of a caracara in Washington involved a bird seen and photographed by Doug and Chandra Bruce at Ocean Shores on 13 August 1983 (Hoge and Hoge 1991). They observed the bird catching and eating small crabs among the rocks near the marina at the southeast corner of the Ocean Shores peninsula. This caracara was seen only once. The Hoges (personal communication) confirm they examined the photograph and concurred with the identification. Although this photograph was later submitted to the nascent Washington Bird Records Committee, the species was not added to the official state list, presumably because it also was considered to be an escapee. As of this writing, we have been unable to locate this photograph.

The third record is an adult Crested Caracara observed by Jim Burlingame of Clallam County. He first sighted this bird on 4 January 1998 in the town of Neah Bay. The identification was confirmed by Shiflett and Bob Norton on 21 January.

Based on the Bruce photograph and the Neah Bay sighting 15 years later, we recommend the 1983 Ocean Shores Crested Caracara, cited by Hoge and Hoge (1991), be considered the first state record.

Literature Cited

Authors’ addresses: Clifford M. Anderson, Falcon Research Group, Box 248, Bow WA 98232; James T. Shiflett, 490 Salmon Beach Rd, Anacortes WA 98221.

snow-park roads and the groomed ski and snowmobile trails. The Great Gray Owl was to remain mostly silent and elusive. Given some of the curious and strange noises they made during the night, I wondered if they may have commenced nesting. Great Horned Owls greeted the faint glimmer of first light, three Saw-whets cranked up even more intensely than the night before (as if that were even possible), and the howling coyotes were a regular feature of the soundscape.

With daylight, songbird activity cranked up. Flocks of Red and White-winged Crossbills, equally mixed, flew overhead and fed in the tops of Douglas-firs. Other birds along the trails during the first hour of daylight included Pileated Woodpecker (3), White-breasted Nuthatch (2), Gray Jay, and Steller’s Jay, all of which I missed on a December trip.

A spruce grove a quarter mile north of the Sitzmark Ski Area continues to be a hot spot for White-winged Crossbills. There were at least 140 there this morning. The flock was virtually pure White-wingeds. The odd 3 or 4 Red Crossbills tended to remain on the periphery.

Other good areas were along the snowy Mary Ann Creek Road, Fields Road, and Molson Summit Road, between Chesaw and Molson. I found White-winged Crossbills all through this area in flocks ranging from 35 to 200. Watching for nipped-off cones on the ground was useful if the birds weren’t obvious. White-winged Crossbills usually stayed up in the tree crowns, but with a little enticing with a tape or imitation, the whole flock (plus everything else in the area) becomes excited. A few owl notes and the crossbills become airborne in a frenzied electrical crackling chatter. Then they stay right there, time after time, intermittently swirling overhead, settling back in the trees, and sometimes coming down to eye level. I’ve seen few sights more spectacular than two species of crossbills, both sexes and all plumages, adorning the nearby branches of a dead, scrubby tree in full sunlight, like so many multi-colored Christmas ornaments!
**Washington Field Notes**

**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 upper case are under review by the Washington Bird Records Committee (see *Washington Birder* 5:1-6 for a complete listing of all review species).

**Washington Field Notes**

**August - September 1997**

Red-throated Loon Rare in e WA, 1 at Priest Rapids Yakima on 9/28 (PS&IRS). High count for w WA, 350 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 9/13 (SM).

Pacific Loon Uncommon in e WA, 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 9/30 (DR).

Common Loon High count in e WA, 14 at Priest Rapids Yakima on 9/7 (MD&MLD).

Yellow-billed Loon Rare in WA, 1 at Westport Grays Harbor on 9/8 (fide TB), 1 at Hastie Lake Road Doi Island on 9/14 (BMC), 1 at Rocky Point Island on 9/22 (BMe).

Red-necked Grebe First migrant for the Lower Columbia River, 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 9/30 (DR). High count for w WA, 400 at Point Roberts Whatcom on 9/20 (SM).

Eared Grebe Migrant reports from w WA include 4 at Richland Benton on 9/22 (BW), 1 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 9/28 (PS&IRS), and 1 at Chief Timothy SP Asotin on 9/30 (PS&IRS). Reports from w WA include 3 at Everett STP Snohomish on 9/7 (SM), 6 at Vancouver Lake Clark on 9/8 (PS), 1 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 9/17 (BT) and on 9/20 (PS), and 6 at Olympia Thurston on 9/29 (fide MiC).

Clark’s Grebe Reports from nonbreeding areas of e WA include 1 at Sprague Lake Adams on 9/7 (JA), and 1 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 9/28 (PS&IRS).

Pink-footed Shearwater Seldom reported from shore, 25 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 8/25 (Twe).

American White Pelican High count from Lower Columbia River, 165 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 8/3 (AS). Other reports include 5 at Sprague Lake Adams on 9/7 (JA), and 16 at Silcott Island Asotin on 9/9 (fide MR).

Brown Pelican High count, 660 at Westport Grays Harbor on 8/17 (MD&MLD). Uncommon in inland marine waters, 4 at Point No Point Kitsap on 9/15 with a high count there of 26 on 9/27 (VN), 10 at Lilliwaup Mason on 9/17 (Twe), 38 at Protection Island Jefferson on 9/24 (BT), 32 (11 ad and 21 juv) at Ed Inlet Thurston on 9/27 (BSI), and 29 at Salt Creek CP Clallam on 9/28 (DMA).

American Bittern Reports from e WA include 3 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 8/16 (WC), and 1 at Riffe Lake Lewis on 8/30 (KQ).

Great Egret Reports of migrants in e WA include 1 at Priest Rapids Yakima on 9/7 (MD&MLD), and 3 at Yakima RD Benton on 9/19 (PS) with 6 there on 9/25 (BW). High counts from Lower Columbia River in w WA include 125 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 8/18 (fide JE), and 56 at Vancouver Lake Clark on 9/1 (WC). Other westside reports outside of w WA include 1 at Totten Inlet Thurston on 8/8 (fide MiC), 1 at Olympia Thurston on 8/18 (fide MiC), 1 at Riffe Lake Lewis on 8/30 (KQ), and 1 at Rent King on 9/28 (Twe).

**SNOWY EGRET** 1 at Bay Center Pacifico on 9/28 (JaH6/ReR).

**Cattle Egret** Uncommon in WA, 1 at Elma Grays Harbor on 9/17 (BT&TS), 9/21 (PS), and 9/20 (PS).

**Green Heron** Reports include 1-3 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 8/5 until at least 9/18 (fide JE), 2 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 8/16 (WC), 3 at Ocean Shores SP Grays Harbor on 8/17 (PS). 1 at Orca Slough Samish on 8/12 (WC), and 9 at Schouwer WRA Grays Harbor on 9/18 (Twe).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** Uncommon in w WA, 1 at Spencer Island Shoshonish on 8/7 (Twe), 1 at North Jetty Columbia River Pacific on 8/14 (MD&MLD), 1 at Seattle King on 9/6 (TAV), and 3 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 9/8 (fide JE).

**Tundra Swan** Very early migrant, 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 8/19 (fide JE).

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Reports from w WA include 219 at Mcnary NWR Walla Walla on 9/5 (MD&MLD), 340 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 9/27 (MD&MLD), with 38 there on 9/28 (PS&IRS). Reports from w WA include 1 at Everett STP Snohomish on 8/29 (SM), 9 at Spencer Island Shoshonish on 9/13 (BAW), 20 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 9/13 (SM), 30 at Raymond Pacific on 9/13 (SM), and 36 at Enumclaw King on 9/30 (Twe).

**"Cackling" Canada Goose** First reported migrants, 60 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 9/18 (fide JE).

**Green-winged Teal** Uncommon breeder in WA, 7, a female with young, at Everett STP Snohomish on 8/2 (SM).

**Blue-winged Teal** Last report, 3 at Ocean Shores SP Grays Harbor on 8/17 (PS).

**Cinnamon Teal** High count, 35 at Everett STP Snohomish on 9/7 (SM).

**Northern Shoveler** High count, 5000 at Everett STP Snohomish on 9/28 (SM).

**Eurasian Wigeon** First reports include 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 8/18 (fide JE), 1 at Westport Grays Harbor on 9/17 (BT), and 1 at Dunegeness Clallam on 9/18 (Twe).

**Oldsquaw** Early report, 1 at Swantown Island on 8/10 (SM).

**Black Scoter** Early report, 1 at Point Roberts Whatcom on 9/21 (SM).

**Surf Scoter** High count, 3000 at Blaine Whatcom on 9/21 (SM).

**Common Merganser** High count, 150 at Everett Shoshonish on 9/28 (SM).

**Turkey Vulture** Uncommon in Lower Columbia Basin, 4 at ALE Reserve Benton on 9/19 (PS). Reports from w WA migrants include 22 at Montesano Grays Harbor on 8/19 (PS), 2 at Cullus Bay Island on 9/14 (KDF), a high count of 389 at Salt Creek CP Clallam on 9/8 (DME), 43 at Tukwila King on 9/27 (JHE), and 70 at Kirkland King on 9/27 (Twe).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk** 311 from 9/5 to 10/11 at Chelan Ridge Chelan (DR0).

**Northern Goshawk** 38 from 9/5 to 10/11 at Chelan Ridge Chelan (DR0).

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** Rare in e WA, 1 at Madam Dorin Park Walla Walla on 9/26 (MD&MLD) until at least 9/28 (AS).

**Merlin** First reports from w WA include 1 at Sprague Lake Adams on 9/18 (PS), and 1 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 9/26 (MD&MLD).

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Three fall highlights at Grays Harbor: Cattle Egret at Elma, and Ruff and Stilt Sandpiper at Damon Point. Photos by Ruth Sullivan.
Reports for w WA include 1 at Monroe Snohomish on 8/1 (KK), 1 at Tacoma Pierce on 8/11 (Twe), 1 at Hoquiam STP Grays Harbor on 9/20 (PS), and 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 9/25 (fide JE).

Peregrine Falcon Local in e WA, 52 ad and 3 juv at Lake Lenore Grant on 8/3 with 21 ad and 1 juv there. High count for w WA, 1 at Olympia Thurston on 9/24 (fide MC).

Prairie Falcon High count, 7 at Mount Rainier NP Pierce on 9/10 where it is a regular fall migrant (PS).

Reports from e WA include 1 at Jackson/Clallam on 8/14 (Twe), 1 at Creston/Clallam on 8/13 (Twe), 1 at Dungeness on 8/18 (MD&MLD), and 1 at Olympic Peninsula on 8/21 (SM).

American Golden-Plover Uncommon in e WA, 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 9/20 (BW), and 1 at Swanson Lakes Lincoln on 9/28 (JA). Reports from w WA include 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 8/2 (PS), with high counts of there on 22 and 9/2 (PS), 25 on 9/19 (AS), and 45 on 9/28 (BL).

Pacific Golden-Plover Reports include 1 at Jensen Access Skagit on 8/16 (Twe), 18 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 8/16 (PS), with 6 there on 9/13 (SM) and 15 on 9/19 (AS), and 1 at Everett STP Snohomish on 8/27 (SM).

Black-necked Stilt Locally uncommon, 1 at West Medical Lake Spokane on 8/19, with 3 there on 8/23 until at least 8/29 (LA).

American Avocet Rare in Clark, 1 at Seiglerd Lake NWR Clark on 9/20 until at least 10/24 (WC).

Greater Yellowlegs High count for e WA, 8 at Yakima RD Benton on 8/20 (BW), 11 high counts for w WA include 115 at Mud Bay Thurston on 9/5 (BS), and 14 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 9/17 (BW).

Lesser Yellowlegs Reports from e WA include 34 at Yakima RD Benton on 8/17 (DR), 27 at Othello Adams on 8/18 (PS), and 12 at Tokio Adams on 8/29 (PS&RS). Reports from w WA include 1 at Sprague Lake Adams on 9/7 (SM) and 1 at Great Salt Lake Lincoln on 9/11 (Twe). Reports from w WA include 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 9/25 (PS&RS), with 1 there on 9/15 (BS).

Solitary Sandpiper Reports from e WA include 1 Yakima RD Benton on 8/1 (BW), 8 at Reardan Lincoln on 8/4 (Twe), 2 at Oroville Okanogan on 8/14 (Twe), and 2 at Steigerwald Walla Walla on 8/9 (MD&MLD). 3 at West Medical Lake Spokane on 8/15 (JA), 8 at Reardan Lincoln on 8/15 (JA) with 18 there on 8/18 (Twe), 5 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 8/19 (DR), and 1 at Wallula Walla Walla on 9/27 (BW). Reports from w WA include 1 at Langley Island on 8/10 (SM), 2 at Everett STP Snohomish on 8/14 with there 3 on 8/16 (SM), 5 at Monroe Snohomish on 8/24 (KK), and 1 at Olympia Thurston on 8/26 (MC).

Willet Reports include 4 at Tokeland Pacific on 8/10 (Twe) with 8 there on 8/17 (PS), 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 8/25 (Twe) and 9/4 (GHo&WHO), 4 at Raymond Pacific on 9/13 (SM), and 1 at Dungeness Clallam on 9/18 (Twe).

Vandering Tattler Rare in the Puget Sound, 1 at Olympia Thurston on 9/24 (Twe).

Pectoral Sandpiper Reports from w WA include 2 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 9/18 (Pac&RS), and 26 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 9/27 (MD&MLD). Reports from w WA include 8 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 8/2 (PS) with 4 there on 8/21 (PS) and 14 on 9/10 (Taw), 20 at Everett STP Snohomish on 8/9 with 26 there on 8/12 (SM), and 6 on Whidbey Island on 8/10 with 7 there on 9/14 (SM).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 9/28 (BL).

Stilt Sandpiper Reports from e WA include 1 at West Medical Lake Spokane on 8/15 with 3 there on 8/17 until at least 8/19 and 1 on 9/1 (BS). Reports from w WA include 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 8/17 (WW), 1 at Reardan Lincoln on 8/18 (JA), and 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 9/30 (BA) with 1 there on 9/14 (BS), and 1 at Swanson Lakes Lincoln on 9/21 (WS). Uncommon in Puget Sound, 1 at Edmonds Snohomish on 8/28 (TTP).
WASHINGTON FIELD NOTES

JPS&RS). In w WA, 1 at Seattle King on 8/2 (Twe), 1 at Renton King on 8/10 (Twe), 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 8/20 (VN), 3 (2 fem and 1 ad) at Everett STP Schnomish on 8/20 (SM), and 1 at Skagit Flats Skagit on 8/31 (fide GB).

BLACK-BEADED GULL Rare in WA, 1 at Everett STP Schnomish on 9/28 (Twe) and 9/29 (SM).

Heermann’s Gull High counts include 2000 at Whidbey Island on 8/17 (SM), 86 at Point No Point Kitsap on 8/11 (VN), 800 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 8/13 (TAV).

Mew Gull Uncommon in e WA, 1 at Kennewick Benton on 8/24 (DR).

California Gull High count, 2000 at Whidbey Island on 8/3 (SM).

Glacous-winged Gull Uncommon in e WA, 2 (2 ad and imm) at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 8/8 with 2 there on 9/9 (MD&MLD).

Sabine’s Gull An incredible number of reports from e WA include 1 imm at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 9/1 (im) and on 9/6 (BW), 2 at Sprague Lake Adams on 9/6 (FH) with 4 there on 9/7 (JA), 1 at Crescent Island Walla Walla on 9/6 (MD&MLD), 2 at Priest Rapids Yakima on 9/7 (AS), 1 at Desert Aire Grant on 9/7 (MD&MLD), 4 at Richland Benton on 9/9 (SM), 1 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 9/19 (MD&MLD), 1 at Clarkston Asotin on 9/21 (fide MiC), 2 at Richland Benton on 9/22 with 1 there until at last 9/29 (BW), 2 at Priest Rapids Yakima on 9/28 (PS&RS), 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 9/28 (PS&RS), and 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 9/30 (DR). Reports from w WA include 2 at Point No Point Kitsap on 9/9 until at last 9/26 (BV), 1 at Cooper Point Thurston on 9/13 (BS), 1 at Fort Canby SP Pacific on 9/19 (PS&RS), and 1 at Everett STP Schnomish on 9/21 (SM).

Caspian Tern High count of 530 at Everett Schnomish on 8/3 (SM). Late report. 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 9/28 (BL).

ELEGANT TERN Rare in WA, 28 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 8/1 (Twe) with 40 there on 8/9 (BH) on 8/13 (Twe) and 74 on 8/16 (MD&MLD), 5 at Tokeland Pacific on 8/13 (TAV), 3 at Westport Grays Harbor on 8/15 (EF), 40-50 at North Jetty Columbia River Pacific on 8/16 (PS), 2 at Oak Bay Jefferson on 8/22 (PS), and 3 at Blyn Clallam on 8/22 and 2 there on 8/24 (PS).

Common Tern Reports from e WA include 3 at West Medical Lake Spokane on 8/18 (JA), 2 at Yakima RD Benton on 8/24 (BW), 19 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 9/2 with 10 there on 9/9 (MD&MLD), 11 at Desert Aire Grant on 9/7 (MD&MLD), 28 at Peninsula HUW Walla Walla on 9/16 (TAV), 12 at Sprague Lake Adams on 9/18 (PS), and 10 at Richland Benton on 9/22 (BW). High counts for w WA include 180 at Blyn Clallam on 8/22 (PS), 250 at Edmonds Schnomish on 9/4 (TAV), and 650 at Point No Point Kitsap at 9/21 with 900 there on 9/15 (VN).

Black Tern High count in e WA, 70 at Reardan Lincoln on 8/4 (Twe). Uncommon in Lower Columbia Basin. 1 at Richland Benton on 9/22 (BW), and 1 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 9/26 (MD&MLD). Rare in w WA, 2 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 9/17 (BT).

Common Tern Reports from w WA include 550 at Point No Point Kitsap on 8/21 (VN), and 300 at Edmonds Schnomish on 8/25 (TP).

Pigeon Guillemot High count, 175 at Whidbey Island Island on 8/3 (SM).

XANTUS’S MURRELET Rare WA, 2 on west Portland Felagac Grays Harbor on 9/6 (BT).

Rhinoceros Auklet High counts include 3135 at Port Townsend Kitsap on 8/11 (VN), and 800 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 8/13 (TAV).
**In the Air**

**Events past and future**

March 2, Monday
Monthly WOS meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle. David Johnson will speak about the project, Wildlife Habitats and Species Associations within Oregon and Washington Landscapes. Socialize at 7 pm; the program begins at 7:30.

March 14, Saturday
WOS Board’s final meeting until autumn.

March 20, Friday
Deadline for submissions to WOS News 54, the April/May issue.

March 25 to 28, Wednesday to Saturday
Society for Northwest Vertebrate Biology annual meeting will be held at The Evergreen State College in Olympia. For information, contact Lerry or Janet Jones at (360) 956-2345 or visit the website [http://www.evergreen.edu/wos98/](http://www.evergreen.edu/wos98/).

March 28, Saturday
The first Othello Crane Festival, with field trips to crane feeding and roosting areas every hour from 7:30 until 2:30, a geology field trip, and a photography duck hunt. Workshops on a variety of topics, including raptor rehabilitation, beginning birding, waterfowl identification, birds of the Columbia Basin, and an International Crane Foundation presentation. Youth activities, an art show, and a local school art competition are also planned. For more information, contact the Chamber of Commerce at (509) 488-2683.

April 4, Saturday
WOS Field Trip around the south slope of Rattlesnake Mountain, looking for Sage Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, and other shrub steppe species. Meet at the exit 80 rest stop on Route 82 in Prosser (Gap Road) at 7 am. Limit 12 people. For more information and to sign up, call Bill and Nancy LaFramboise at (509) 627-3655.

April 6, Monday
Monthly WOS meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle. David Drummond will talk about Merlin research. Socialize at 7 pm; the program begins at 7:30.

April 24-26, Friday to Sunday
Grays Harbor Shorebird Festival. Join dozens of birders as they marvel at hundreds of thousands of migrant shorebirds gathered at Grays Harbor. Workshops and guided field trips will be offered. See announcement elsewhere in this issue.

April 25, Saturday
Grays Harbor Bird Race, patterned after New Jersey Audubon’s World Series of Birding. Washington’s first “bird race” promises to spark friendly competition while generating funds for bird conservation.

For more information, contact event administrator Tom Schooley at (360) 357-8851.

April 25, Saturday
WOS Field Trip to Spencer Island and Everett STP. Half-day trip beginning at 6:30 am. Limited to 8 participants. For more information or to sign up, call Paul Cozens at (206) 835-0561.

May 4, Monday
Monthly WOS meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle. Eric Larsen will speak on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Priority Habitats and Species Program. Socialize at 7 pm; the program begins at 7:30.

June 1, Monday
Monthly WOS meeting at the Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle. Program is members’ slides; bring your best. Socialize at 7 pm; the program begins at 7:30.

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). Nonmembers may attend as a member’s guest once per year.

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 non-profit organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code.

Memberships extend one year from the month joined. Benefits include:
- **WASHINGTON BIRDS**, the annual journal
- **WOSNews**, the bimonthly newsletter
- Monthly field trips
- Affordable annual conferences
- Support of the **WOS BirdBox**
- Retail discount program

The Washington Ornithological Society is the premier organization for Washington’s active birders.

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**WOS MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM**

Make check payable to Washington Ornithological Society. Send form and payment to the WOS Treasurer:
Buffi Strickland, 2632 42nd Av #303, Seattle WA 98116

Name: ____________________________ Address: ____________________________
City / State / Zip: ____________________________
Telephone: (____) ______ E-mail: ____________________________
Individual membership ($20): ______ Family membership ($25): ______
Is this membership: New? ______ Continuing? ______
May we include your address in the WOS directory? (circle one) Yes ______ No ______
May we include your telephone number in the WOS directory? (circle one) Yes ______ No ______

**NOTE:** WOS does not sell or loan its membership list.
Gray Jays in western Washington lowlands (NEW REQUEST)

I am compiling information on Gray Jays in Washington and am very interested in their distribution and seasonality in the lowlands. American Birds/Field Notes reports are very few, probably because the species is just so widespread and common in the mountains. This is a request for past and present sightings of Gray Jays below 2000 feet elevation, particularly on the outer coast, Willapa Hills, Puget Lowlands, and west slope of the Cascades. Please provide location and date or month/year. Or even if it's just a memory from the past, let me know. If your record has already been in American Birds or the just-published Breeding Bird Atlas, don't sweat it. Report to Chris Chappell, 1514 Central St NE, Olympia WA 98506 E-mail <chris.chappell@wadnr.gov>.

Color-banded Crows 1 (NEW REQUEST)

I am part of a group banding a population of crows at Meadowdale Park in Snohomish County. Our birds typically have red or yellow over their aluminum band on the right leg and some other color combination on the left leg. Our project focuses on the social and kinship relationships surrounding these beach-foraging crows. We would greatly appreciate any sightings and any information on roosts in this area. Report to Renee Robinette, Animal Behavior Program, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195. E-mail <robinet@u.washington.edu>.

Color-banded Crows 2 (NEW REQUEST)

Dr. John Marzluff has had a group banding crows on the UW campus. Report to Dr. Marzluff, Wildlife Department, University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195. E-mail <corvid@u.washington.edu>.

Breeding Songbirds in Thurston and Pierce Counties (NEW REQUEST)

Nests or territories of House Wren, Vesper Sparrow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Horned Lark, and Western Bluebird are being studied in Pierce and Thurston Counties. Report to Russell Rogers at (360) 709-9870. E-mail <rrogers@halcyon.com>.

Breeding owls (NEW REQUEST)

We're trying to plug the "owl gap" in Breeding Bird Atlas data, particularly in King and Kitsap counties. We are interested in owls that appear to be on territory, paired, or nesting. Of particular interest are whether owls were calling, over what period of time calling occurred, whether a pair was present, and certain evidence of breeding (occupied nest, young seen, etc.). Provide date, species, location (county; township, range, and section or quad), and the nature of behavior indicating PPossible, PProbable, or COnfirmed nesting. Observations during fall and early winter are less likely to indicate breeding, so late winter, spring, and summer records are of greatest interest. Report to Gene Hann at 1816N 57th St, Seattle WA 98103, Phone (206) 524.8112. E-mail <hunnhome@accessone.com>.

Northward-bound Turkey Vultures (NEW REQUEST)

Migrating Turkey Vultures are being tracked by the Olympic Vulture Study. Migrants are usually seen beginning in February, but if you know of any that stayed the winter in some obscure spot, I'd like to know about those, too. Provide weather, time, number of birds, and anything else of interest. Report to Diann MacRae, Olympic Vulture Study, 22622 53rd Av SE, Bothell WA 98021. E-mail <vulture@halcyon.com>.

see Report Your Findings, page 5

WASHINGTON Ornithological Society
Post Office Box 31783
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1998

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RARE BIRD ALERTS

| WOS BirdBox                   | (425) 454-2662 |
| Seattle                        | (206) 933-1813 |
| TriCities Area                | (509) 943-6957 |
| SE Wash/N Idaho               | (208) 882-6195 |
| South Idaho                   | (208) 236-3337 |
| Oregon                        | (503) 292-0661 |
| Vancouver, B.C.               | (604) 737-3074 |
| Victoria, B.C.                | (604) 592-3381 |

Field Notes &
Washington Field Notes
WINTER DEADLINE: MARCH 15
(December – February sightings)

Send bird sightings to:
Russell Rogers
6637 Glenwood Drive SW
Olympia WA 98512
rrogers@halcyon.com

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

BAND RECOVERIES ("A vise" leg bands) should be reported. Include the band number, along with how, when, and where the band was recovered, preferably with reference 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@usgs.gov>. Phone: (800) 327-BAND.

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