The City of Olympia “Stream Team” has initiated monitoring of purple martin nest boxes in Olympia’s East Bay. With the help of volunteers Janine Bogar, Sarah Emery, Gloria Ford, and Regina Murray the Stream Team was able to monitor sixteen nest boxes to observe nest box behavior, nest box use, and fledgling success.

Results

Stream Team’s monitoring was consistent with the information found in the literature and on websites.

The martins were first observed on 27 April 2000. The month of May provided many opportunities for viewing territorial behavior. The number of purple martins ranged from three to thirteen depending on temperature, tide, and time of observation. Territorial behavior was seen in early May with most of the birds sitting on nest boxes. Courting behavior was seen by 24 May, with males and females sitting on opposite nest boxes calling to each other.

The middle four weeks of the observation timeframe (the month of June) demonstrated mating and nest building behavior. The frequency of martins sitting on the nest boxes became fewer, while the number of martins going into nest boxes increased. Females were observed on numerous occasions going into nest boxes multiple times. The total number of martins seen during monitoring also decreased, which would account for martins leaving the site for nest building material.

During the later four weeks (the month of July) nestling behavior was observed. Adult martins were observed hovering in front of the door of the nest boxes and fewer birds were entering. Both male and females were observed during this activity, which is consistent with the literature. Fecal sac removal was also observed on a few occasions. Fecal sac removal typically begins just prior to fledging of the young. We observed the fecal sac removal two weeks and one week prior to the nestlings crowding the door.

Nestling heads were observed poking out of the nest boxes on 2 August. This was the first sighting of the juvenile birds. They were observed in seven of the sixteen nest boxes, but the inability to see all the boxes entry holes from the observation station limited actual visual verification in all the boxes.

(Continued on page 4)
WOS Membership Meetings 2000

December 4, Monday
Member slides meeting - Bring your interesting bird slides to share with the group. Northwest slides are preferred, but small numbers of interesting slides from other parts of the world welcome.

January
There will be no membership meeting in January because of New Year’s.

Monthly Membership Meetings are held at the Center for Urban Horticulture on the University of Washington campus and are open to all. The social begins at 7:00 pm and the program starts at 7:30 pm.

Directions: From I-5 take SR520 East. Take the Montlake Blvd NE exit and turn North towards the University of Washington campus. Stay in right lane and drive North on Montlake Blvd (over the bridge and past the stadium). The road will curve to the right around the Montlake Fill and merges with NE 45th St. You will quickly approach a 5 way intersection.

At the intersection turn right onto Mary Gates Memorial Drive. The Center for Urban Horticulture is 2 long blocks down on the right. There is plenty of free parking at the facility. We use the main meeting room, the backside of which faces the road.

WOS Field Trips 2000

December 2, 2000 — Saturday
Andy Stepniewski will lead a trip to the Yakima Training Center. Raptors, Sage Grouse, winter birds such as Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting are possibilities. Low species list but great vistas (hopefully!). Meet 7 am near Yakima. Limit 6. Call Andy Stepniewski. 509-877-6639 or steppie@nwinfo.net.

January 27, 2000 — Saturday
January’s field trip will be to the Skagit and Samish Flats on January 27th. It will be lead by Kraig Kemper and will be limited to eight people. Target birds will include raptors, swans, geese, ducks and sparrows. Specialties could include Prairie Falcon, Gyrfalcon, White-throated Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow and/or Swamp Sparrow. The group will meet at 8 AM at a place to be determined. Please contact Kraig for details at (206) 789-9255 or VP@wos.org.

Ruth Sullivan observed more than 200 breeding plumaged Redknot, Calidris canutus, on May 13, 2000 at Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor Co.

The Society
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At the WOS board meeting in Ellensburg there was a good discussion regarding process, schedules, deadlines, roles, responsibilities, format and content for the WOSNews. The board agreed that publication of the newsletter is a priority. We all want to see the WOSNews out to members on a regular and predictable schedule, even if this means some issues will be shorter than we’d like. There is a minimal length however where the effort and cost of publishing isn’t worth it.

In order to publish on schedule we have a goal of getting the newsletter to the printer on the last Monday of the month prior to the scheduled publication date. This means all articles need to be submitted to the editor no later than the first Monday of that month. For WOSNews #71 the deadline will be January 8, for WOSNews #72 it will be March 5, and so forth. We’ll include the deadlines for upcoming editions in each newsletter.

We also did some brainstorming on possible standard features. Ideas include trip reports, Washington birding hot spots, bird quizzes, and a report from the Rare Bird Committee. If you have suggestions we love to hear from you. The challenge is to keep the information focused on Washington birds and not duplicate too much information that is available elsewhere, such as our website or Tweeters. In the future I’ll be contacting individuals whom we know have good information to share. However, I encourage all of you to consider how you can help make your newsletter a success.

— Larry Goldstein

From the Editor –

THE LEWIS

An un-woodpecker-like
Woodpecker
Struts in a greenish-black jacket
While living with his family at Fort Simcoe

As do his uncles
Aunts and cousins abound
In the oaks and cottonwoods
Of this Indian-war community

Lewis’s apparently love it here
Basking in the history
Of the Yakama tribe
The garrisoned soldiers

Year after year, devotion sustained
Occasionally sallying out
Flycatcher-style
For unsuspecting insects

I’d mistake them easily
With their crow-like flight
And size
The slow, steady wing-beats

Until the sun
Shines-up tidy, pink bellies
Then displays their squirrelng behavior storing acorns
In the crevices of the tree bark

— Pauline Little
...The Purple Martins of East Bay, Olympia

(Continued from page 1)

Goals and Objectives

There were five goals and objectives for this monitoring project.

1) The first objective was to determine how many birds were born during the nesting season. This goal was not accomplished completely. It was determined that there was fledgling success in seven of the boxes, but many things influenced this objective. I believe towards the end we weren’t conducting observations late enough nor often enough. Martin fledglings only return to their nesting site for roughly one week and only right before dusk. They appeared to use their nesting site during this time for sleeping, which is consistent with the literature. Once fledged, (August 9, 2000) the martins were observed only once again the week after and only after the designated monitoring time ended. Additional observation times would benefit this study next season.

2) The second objective was to determine which nest boxes were used. This goal was successful. The data collected shows which boxes are being used and also for what purpose. The data show that in May more nest boxes were used for territorial behavior. More martins were sitting on the nest boxes and calling to one another. A wider variety of nest boxes had martins going in them. In the month of June fewer martins were sitting on the nest boxes and more were going in them; this would concur with nest building time. July saw a huge jump of martins going in the nest boxes and more hovering in front of the door, which coincides with feeding time. Added observation times would further benefit this study next season.

3) The third objective was to determine which pilings were used. This objective was achieved as evident in the data. Throughout the monitoring period, martins were observed utilizing all the pilings except for pilings (a), (b), and (c). This objective is important to show the range of space (in East Bay) that the martins used. It also shows what species of birds utilized East Bay and the pilings.

4) The fourth objective was to determine the sex and age of the purple martins using this site. Achieving this objective was limited by not using a spotting scope. Adult males were easy to determine because of their all over purple appearance, but subadults and females are difficult to distinguish from one another. However, the data did support that adult males were one of the first to arrive, and various pairs were distinguished, but that was attributed more to behavior than by visual appearance. Using a scope will yield better results for the study next season.

5) The last objective was to determine influences such as human disturbance and gull predation that may affect the rate of fledgling success. Human activity seemed to have little affect on the martins. People walking on the embankment, dogs swimming near the piling, and even people rowing boats through the pilings seemed to have little affect on the martins. However, the human activity could contribute to why there is a lack of activity noted on the boxes closest to the shore and road. Other species of birds had some affect on the martins. There were a few observations of martins chasing off crows, gulls, and starlings. A lack of martins was observed on August 9th, which could have been due to a falcon being present. Two boxes were utilized by a competitive species. Nest box #2 and nest box #6 were housed by house sparrows.

Conclusion

As shown from the research of Purple Martin nest box behavior and the data that was obtained this was a moderately successful first monitoring project. The project achieved many of its goals. This pilot run also provided a clearer picture of what can be done to improve future monitoring.

Additional Information

Summary - Life History of the Purple Martin

The purple martin is the largest bird of the swallow family found in Western Washington. The adult male plumage is a uniform brilliant deep blue to purple color, while the females and subadults have a duller grayish-blue complexion.

The martins diet, mythically believed to be made up mostly of mosquitoes, is now known to have much more variety. Martins will eat anything with wings ranging from flies, bees, wasps, ants, dragonflies, mayflies and grasshoppers. Mosquitoes only make up 3% of the martins diet.

Their song, while not the most musical, has a range and tone that is unique and distinct. They use their call for a variety of reasons. To attract a mate (The Dawn Song) a male will sing early in the morning before light to let a potential mate know that he has picked a nesting site and would like her to join him. They will also use their voice for territory defense, advertising, greetings, warnings, and other interactions.

The purple martin arrives in the Northwest in late April from its wintering
grounds in South America. The males immediately claim a territory or nest box and begin their distinct call to attract a mate. Once bonded, usually within three hours to three days, the pair will begin courting behavior and defense of its territory from other martins and other potential competitors.

Nest building begins approximately 4-6 weeks after the birds arrive. It lasts 3-4 weeks with the female performing the majority of nest building. Nests are usually constructed of twigs, grass and mud, but other materials may be used. Purple martins begin to use leaves near the end of nest construction, prior to and during egg laying and incubation. Leaves are placed in the center curve of the nest and are continually brought into the nest. The purpose of the leaves is still unknown, but there are various theories including providing protection from predators by hiding the eggs to creating a form of insecticide are being speculated.

The purple martin is primarily monogamous. Polygyny may occur during the nest building stage when a female is searching for nest material. If unguarded by her mate, a group of male purple martins may attempt breeding. If successful this can be beneficial to increase genetic diversity in the brood.

**Washington Field Notes**

Compiled by Russell Rogers

“Washington Field Notes” are distilled from reports sent to the compiler and to a lesser extent from birding hotlines, newsletters, and the Tweeters listserver. For corrections or information, contact the compiler.

**Washington Field Notes**  
**February - March 2000**

**Red-throated Loon** Unusual location, 1 at on Green Lake, Seattle King on 2/29 (MM).

**Pacific Loon** Uncommon in e WA, 1 at Desert Aire Grant on 2/2 until at least 2/23 (BW), 2 at Orondo Douglas on 3/12 (BL), and 1 at Potholes Grant on 3/26 (RF).

**ARCTIC LOON** First state record, 1 at Desert Aire Grant on 2/4 (MD&MLD) until at least 3/18 (EH).

**Yellow-billed Loon** Rare in e WA, 1 at Desert Aire Grant on 2/12 (BT). In w WA, 1 at Sequim Clallam on 2/3 (EkKr) until at least 3/11 (BB).

**Horned Grebe** Local high count, 8 at Richland Benton on 3/30 (BW).

**Red-necked Grebe** Uncommon in e WA in winter, 1 at Desert Aire Grant on 2/5 (MD&MLD), and 1 at Priest Rapids Yakima on 2/6 (DR).

**Eared Grebe** Reports include, 1 at Blaine Whatcom on 3/5 (DaR), and 1 at Seattle King on 3/6 (ST).

**Clark’s Grebe** Uncommon in w WA, 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 2/13 (BW) until at least 3/20 (KK), and 1 at Seattle King on 3/19 (ST).

**American White Pelican** Uncommon in w WA, 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/5 (AR), and 1 at Vancouver Clark on 2/19 (BL, PS) and on 2/20 (WC).

**Brown Pelican** Uncommon in winter, 1 at Dungeness Spit Clallam on 2/21 (fide BN).

**Double-crested Cormorant** High count, 700 at Tulalip Bay Snohomish on 3/12 (SM).

**Great Egret** Uncommon and local, 1 at Monroe Snohomish on 2/12 until at least 3/24 (DD), a high count of 8 at Vancouver Lake Clark on 2/19 (PS), and 1 at Snohomish Snohomish on 3/8 (BB) until at least 3/19 (SP).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** High count for e WA, 27 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 2/27 (DR). Uncommon and local in w WA, 5 at Fir Island Skagit on 2/12 (JB).

**Turkey Vulture** First report for e WA, 1 at Teanaway Kittitas on 3/26 (DP).

**Tundra Swan** Reports from w WA include, 17 at Dry Falls Grant on 2/25 (MD&MLD), 3 at Oroville Okanogan on 2/25 (ST), and 20 at Davenport Lincoln on 2/26 (MD&MLD). Reports from w WA include, 9 at flying over head Lake Stevens Snohomish on 2/5 (SA), 11 at Chehalis WMA Grays Harbor on 2/27 (PS), and 25 at Elma Grays Harbor on 2/27 (PS).

**Trumpeter Swan** Reports outside of regular breeding area in the north Puget Sound include, 70 at Paradise Prairie Spokane on 3/16 (MF), 4 at Ocean City SP Grays Harbor on 2/13 (BW), and 5 at Brady Grays Harbor on 2/27 (PS).

**Mute Swan** 1 at Vancouver Lake Clark on 2/19 (PS).

**Greater White-fronted Goose** Reports from e WA include, 5 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 2/2 (MD&MLD), 2 at Kennewick Benton on 2/19 (BW), 2 at West Medical Lake Spokane on 2/26 (WH), 90 at Umatilla NWR Benton on 3/1 (BW), 1 at Mondovi Lincoln on 3/3 (JA), 3 at Paradise Prairie Spokane on 3/18 (MF), 80 at Columbia NWR Adams/Grant on 3/25 (RF), and 1 at Reardan Lincoln on 3/29 (JA). Reports from w WA include, 3 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 2/13 (BW) until at least 3/25 (PS&RS), 1 at Olympia Thurston on 3/14 (CC), 3 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 3/21 (WC), and 3 at Hoquiam STP Grays Harbor on 3/25 (PS&RS).

**Snow Goose** Uncommon in e WA, 2 at Richland Benton on 2/29 (BW). Reports from w WA include, 1 at Montlake Fill King on 2/2 (TAV) until at least 3/1 (SP), 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 2/12 (BW) until at least 3/25 (PS&RS), 2 at Skamania Skamania on 2/16 (WC).

**Ross’s Goose** Uncommon in WA, 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 2/11 (MD&MLD).

**Brant** Rare at inland locations, 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/28 (fide JE). High count 2000 at Sequim Clallam on 3/5 (fide BN).

**Eurasian Green-winged Teal** Uncommon in WA, 1 at Montlake Fill King on 2/2 (TAV) and on 2/26 (JB), and 1 at Snohomish Snohomish on 3/2 (TAV) and on 2/12 (DD).

**Cinnamon Teal** First reports for e WA include, 1 at Columbia NWR Adams/Grant on 3/26 (RF). First reports for w WA include, 1 at until at least 2/28 Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/17 (fide JE).

**Gadwall** 1 at Clarkston Asotin on 2/19 (fide MK).

**Eurasian Widgeon** Uncommon in e WA, 1 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 2/21 (RF), 1 at Clarkston Asotin on 2/28 until at least 3/25 (fide MK), 1 at Philileo Lake Spokane on 3/9 (JA), and 2 at Richland Benton on 3/19 (DR). Reports from w WA include, 2 at Chehalis Lewis on 2/26 (PS), 36 at Samish Flats Skagit on 2/26 (KKe), and 28 at Samish Island Skagit on 2/28 (fide SDo).

**Redhead** Uncommon in w WA, 10 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/5 (AR) with 13 there on 2/18 (fide JE), 1 at Silvana Snohomish on 2/20 (SM), 1 at Chehalis Lewis on 2/26 (PS), and 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 3/20 (KK) and on 3/25 (PS&RS).

**Tufted Duck** Rare in WA, 1 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 3/11 (BB) until at least 3/25 (PS&RS).

**Greater Scaup** High counts include, 1000 at Port Gamble Kitsap on 2/27 (SM), and 1200 at March Point Skagit on 3/4 (BN).

**Long-tailed Duck** High counts include, 280 Port Gamble Kitsap on 2/27 (SM), and 70 Keystone Island on 3/4 (BN).

**Black Scoter** Locally uncommon, 5 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 3/25 (PS&RS).

**Common Goldeneye** High count, 300 at Tulalip Bay Snohomish on 3/12 (SM).

![White-breasted Nuthatch feeding young, Ridgefield NWR, Clark, May 28, 2000. Photo by Ruth Sullivan.](image-url)
Barrow's Goldeneye Uncommon in Columbia Basin, 1 at Potholes Grant on 2/21 (RFI).

Hooded Merganser Local high count, 60 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 2/2 (MD&MLD), 2 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 2/15 (DR), 1 at Bennington Lake Walla Walla on 2/17 (MD&MLD), and 1 at Tulalip Bay Snohomish on 3/12 (SM).

Common Merganser High counts include, 48 at Bennington Lake Walla Walla on 2/17 (MD&MLD), and 130 at Tulalip Bay Snohomish on 3/12 (SM).

Red-breasted Merganser Uncommon in e WA, 2 at Desert Aire Grant on 2/5 (MD&MLD), 2 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 2/15 (DR), 1 at Bennington Lake Walla Walla on 2/17 (MD&MLD), and 2 at Banks Lake Grant on 3/11 (BL) with 21 there on 3/29 (JA).

Osprey First reports for w WA include, 1 atKent King on 2/10 (fide RR), 1 at Brady Grays Harbor on 3/25 (PS&RS), and 1 at Elma Grays Harbor on 3/25 (PS&RS).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK Rare and local in WA, 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/19 (BL, PS).

Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawk Reports include, 1 at Monroe Snohomish on 2/3 (TAv), 1 at Silvana Snohomish on 2/20 (SM), and 1 at Montesano Grays Harbor on 3/20 (SM).

Ferruginous Hawk First reports include, 1 at Columbia Hills Klickitat on 2/6 (fide RR), 1 at Touchet Walla Walla on 2/25 (MD&MLD), 2 nest building at Richland Benton on 3/9 (BW), and 2 at Winona Whitman on 3/12 (DiW).

Merlin Uncommon in Columbia Basin, 1 atClarkston Asotin on 2/18 (fide MK), and 1 at Waterville Plateau Douglas on 3/11 (BL).


Sandhill Crane Reports from e WA include, 94 at Richland Benton on 3/1 (fide RR), 1 at Sprague Lincoln on 3/8 (JA) with 400 there on 3/12 (JA), and 2000 at Columbia NWR Adams/Grant on 3/29 (RFI). Reports from w WA include, 20 at Vancouver Lake Clark on 2/20 (WC), and 12 at Point No Point Kitsap on 3/26 (VN).

Black Oystercatcher Locally uncommon, 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 3/31 (VN).

Black-necked Stilt First reports include, 1 at Para’s Pond Adams on 3/26 (RFI), 3 at Dodson Road Grant on 3/26 (DP), 1 at Grant Co. Grant on 3/26 (RFI), and 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 3/27 (BW).

American Avocet First reports include, 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 3/19 (BW), 2 at Columbia NWR Adams/Grant on 3/26 (RFI).

Greater Yellowlegs Reports from e WA include, 1 at Bennington Lake Walla Walla on 2/3 (MD&MLD), 2 at Yakima RD Benton on 2/6 (BW), and 4 at Yakima RD Benton on 3/19 (DR).

Greater Yellowlegs Local high count, 20 at Olympia Thurston on 2/27 (PS).

Whimbrel Locally uncommon in winter, 1 at Ediz Hook Clallam on 2/27 (SM).

Long-billed Curlew First reports from e WA include, 3 at Richland Benton on 3/15 (SM).

Red Knot Rare in winter, 1 at Fort Flagler Jefferson on 2/27 (NB).

Western Sandpiper Locally uncommon in Columbia Basin in winter and spring, 10 at Yakima RD Benton on 3/4 (DR).

Least Sandpiper Locally uncommon in Columbia Basin in winter and spring 3 at Yakima RD Benton on 2/29 with 13 there on 3/15 (BW).

Rock Sandpiper Declining in WA, 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 2/28 (GT) with 8 there on 3/14 (PS&RS).

Dunlin Reports from e WA include, 4 at Moses Lake Grant on 2/4 (MD&MLD), 22 Yakima RD Benton on 2/5 (DR) with 30 there on 2/29 (BW) and 3/5 (DR), 20 Potholes Grant on 2/21 (RFI), 200 Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 2/21 (RFI), and 3 at Dodson Road Grant on 3/26 (DP).

Long-billed Dowitcher Locally uncommon in Columbia Basin in winter, reports include, 2 at Yakima RD Benton on 2/5 (DR) with 5 there on 3/30 (BW).

Franklin’s Gull Rare in WA in winter, 1 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 2/24 (MD&MLD).

Little Gull Rare in WA, 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 3/22 and on 3/25 (VN).

Bonaparte’s Gull High count, 1200 Point No Point Kitsap on 2/29 (VN).

Heermann’s Gull Locally uncommon any time of year, 1 at Tacoma Pierce on 2/27 (MDo).

Mew Gull Uncommon in e WA, 1 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 2/7 (BW) and on 2/12 (RFI). High count for w WA, 390 Point No Point Kitsap on 3/24 (VN).

SLATY-BACKED GULL Rare in WA, 1 at Tacoma Pierce on 2/6 (BL).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL First state record, 1 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 2/6 (MD&MLD) until at least 2/20 (PS).

Glaucous Gull Reports include, 2 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 2/7 (BW) with 1 there on 2/12 (KK), 1 at Tacoma Pierce on 2/5 (ST), 1 at Olympia Thurston on 3/20 (SM).

Caspian Tern First reports of the year, 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 3/27 (DR), 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 3/27 (BW), and 1 at Skamokawa WAabkakaw on 3/26 (fide AR).

Marbled Murrelet High count, 647 Point No Point Kitsap on 3/31 (VN).

Ancient Murrelet Uncommon in spring, 3 at Fort Flagler SP Jefferson on 3/5 (fide BN).

Snowy Owl Reports include, 1 at Terrace Heights Yakima on 2/12 (DGr), 1 at Davenport Lincoln on 2/15 (JA), and 1 in Grant on 2/25 (MD&MLD).
Cliff Swallow
Adams/Grant on 3/16 (RF1), 15 at Benton
Lower Monumental Dam Walla Walla on 3/23 (BW).

Great Gray Owl
Rare in WA 1 at Pullman Whitman on 2/7 (KD) and on 2/29 (fide MK).

White-throated Swift
First report for spring, 2 at Tum Tum Stevens on 3/30 (MF).

Rufous Hummingbird
First report for spring, 1 at Skamokawa Wabakiakam on 2/20 (fide AR), and 1 at Lummi Island Whatcom on 3/15 (CB).

Tree Swallow
1 at Mowich Lake, Mount Rainier NP Pierce on 3/19 (CC).

Say’s Phoebe
Reports from e WA include, 2 at Desert Aire Grant on 2/5 (MD&MLD), 1 at Bridgeport Douglas on 2/28 (MSp), 2 at Richland Benton on 3/9 (BW), and 1 at Port of Wilma Whitman on 3/13 (fide MK). Uncommon in w WA, 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/23 (fide JE), 1 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 2/28 (fide JE), and 1 at Carnation King on 3/29 (fide RR).

Loggerhead Shrike
Reports include, 1 at Richland Benton on 3/7 (DR), and 1 at Quilomene WRA Kittitas on 3/18 (PM).

Blue Jay
Uncommon in WA, 1 at Steamboat Island Thurston on 3/25 (fide BT), and 1 at Duvall King on 3/30 (fide HO).

Horned Lark
High count for w WA, 50 Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 2/3 (WC).

Tree Swallow
First report for e WA, 1 at Columbia NWR Adams/Grant on 3/14 (RF1). Early reports for w WA include, 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 2/16 with 114 there on 2/28 (fide JE), and 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 2/23 (fide BT).

Violet-green Swallow
First reports for e WA include, 2 at Columbia NWR Adams/Grant on 3/16 (RF1), 12 at Cle Elum Kittitas on 3/16 (fide PM), and 100 at Vantage Kittitas on 3/18 (PM). First reports for w WA include, 3 at Sequim Clallam on 3/9 (fide BN), and 1 at Lummi Island Whatcom on 3/18 (CB).

Barn Swallow
First report, 4 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 2/23 (fide BT).

Cliff Swallow
First reports for e WA include, 1 at Columbia NWR Adams/Grant on 3/16 (RF1), 15 at Benton City Benton on 3/19 (DR), and 2 at Frenchman Spring Grant on 3/26 (DP).

American Dipper
Locally uncommon, 1 at Lower Monumental Dam Walla Walla on 2/13 (KK). 1 building nest at Clarkston Aotin on 2/26 (fide RR).

White-throated Sparrow
Reports include, 1 at Olympia Thurston on 2/21 (BL), 75 at Pullman Whitman on 3/1 (fide MK), 1 at Silver Lake Spokane on 3/4 (WH), and 150 at Central Ferry Canyon Douglas on 3/12 (GR&BL).

Orange-crowned Warbler
Uncommon in e WA in winter, 1 at Desert Aire Grant on 2/10 (TAx), and 1 at Umartilla NWR Benton on 3/1 (BW).

Palm Warbler
1 at Everett Snohomish on 2/3 (TAx) until at least 3/1 (SP).

Common Yellowthroat
First reports include, 1 at Seattle King on 2/28 (fide RR), and 1 at Chehalis Lewis on 3/25 (PS&S).

Wilson’s Warbler
Rare in WA in winter, 1 at Blanchard Skagit on 2/20 (fide RR).

American Tree Sparrow
Reports for e WA include, 1 at Gloyd Seeps WMA Grant on 2/4 (MD&MLD), 1 at Vantage Kittitas on 2/21 (TAx) and on 2/21 (SDo), and 1 at Priest Rapids Benton on 2/12 (RF1).

Common Yellowthroat
First reports include, 1 at ALES Benton on 2/19 (BLa&NA), 4 at Quilomene WRA Kittitas on 2/21 (SDo), and 5 at Vantage Kittitas on 2/27 (SP).

Savannah Sparrow
First reports for e WA include, 2 at Umartilla NWR Benton on 3/1 (BW), and 1 at Anatone Flat Aotin on 3/25 (fide MK).

Eastern Fox Sparrow
Rare in WA, 1 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 3/12 (SM).

Swamp Sparrow
Uncommon in WA, 1 at Jensen Access Skagit on 2/19 (BN).

White-throated Sparrow
Reports include, 4 at Lankner Grays Harbor on 2/20 (BT), 1 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 3/13 (WC), 1 at Joyce Clallam on 3/17 (BN), 1 at Malone Grays Harbor on 3/20 (SM), and 6 at Oakville Grays Harbor on 3/20 (SM).

Harris’s Sparrow
Uncommon in WA, 1 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 2/3 (WC) until at least 3/13 (WC), 1 at Two Rivers WMA Snohomish on 2/3 (TAx), and 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 2/23 (fide BT).

White-crowned Sparrow
First report of the spring, 1 at Olympia Thurston on 3/23 (CC).

Lapland Longspur
Uncommon in e WA, 4 at Colville Plateau Okanogan on 3/5 (KK).

Snow Bunting
Reports include, 2 at Waterville Plateau Douglas on 2/25 (MD&MLD), 120 at Cameron Lake Okanogan on 2/25 (ST), and 50 at Havillah Okanogan on 2/25 (ST).

Tricolored Blackbird
Rare and local in WA, 11 at Gloyd Seeps WMA Grant on 2/4 (MD&MLD), and 4 at Orthello Adams on 2/20 with 1 there on 3/5 (RF1).

Common Grackle
Rare in WA, 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 2/2 (DR).

Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch
Reports include, 100 at Pearrygin Lake SP Okanogan on 2/26 (ST), and 2 at Vantage Kittitas on 2/27 (SP).

Cassin’s Finch
Uncommon in winter, 10 at Mount Spokane Spokane on 2/16 (WH), and 1 at Winthrop Okanogan on 3/5 (KK).

Common Redpoll
Reports include, 1 at Bennington Lake Walla Walla on 2/3 (MD&MLD), 30 Pearrygin Lake SP Okanogan on 2/26 (ST) with 20 there on 3/4 (SP), and 1 at Clarkston Aotin on 3/6 (fide MK). Uncommon in w WA, 1 at Mount Vernon Skagit on 3/10 (JD), and 1 at Olympia Thurston on 3/31 (fide BS).

Report Your Sightings

**Birds of Yakima County** - For a weekly column in the Yakima Herald-Republic newspaper, Denny Granstrand requests reports of recent bird sightings in Yakima county. Please send reports by early Monday evening for inclusion in that week's paper to Denny Granstrand, osprey@nwinfo.net, or post them to Tweeters.

**Red-necked Grebes** - I am searching for wintering Red-necked Grebes - both to find sites for behavioral observations, and to better understand specific features of habitats they use. I am looking for any sites where 10 or more RNGR can be observed from a given location. If you know of any "good" Red-necked Grebe sites I would appreciate the following information on the site(s): location, time of year when the birds are usually present (this can be pretty general), approximate number of grebes which can typically be seen at the site. Please send reports to Bonnie Stout, bestout@sfu.ca. (Originally appeared in WOSNews 66).

**Horned and Red-necked Grebes** – marked in Northwest Territories with unique combinations of color bands. Horned grebes were banded with red, yellow, green, and blue. Red-necked grebes with more obscure colors – burgundy, orange, white (off-white), and light blue. Report to Bonnie Stout, bestout@sfu.ca (Originally appeared in WOSNews 57)

**Double-crested Cormorants** – with the orange patagial markers were marked and telemetered on their east Sand Island breeding colony in the Columbia River estuary. Somewhere close to 50 were marked. If observers can read the number on tag and report it to Dan Roby (robyd@ucs.orst.edu) the information will be most useful to them. Time to learn something about seasonal movements of cormorants. (New in WOSNews 69)

**Brant** - For various research projects, Brant have been tagged with either 3-character leg bands usually placed on the right tarsus and read from bottom to top, or with two yellowish bands with one character each, read top to bottom. (i.e. K over D). Please report sightings of these using the web form at http://brant.bio.uaf.edu/ (Originally appeared in WOSNews 64)

**Harlequin Ducks** – banded and color-marked in Boundary Bay and Washington waters. Leg bands bear character combinations with 2 digits per band. Some also have "nasal disks," small pieces of plastic in various color and shape combinations. Report to Dr. Fred Cooke, fcooke@sfu.ca (Originally appeared in WOSNews 57)

**Northern Harrier** – patagial markers have been placed on some northern harriers as part of a long-term study of populations on Whidbey Island and in the Kent Valley. One of the study objectives is to learn more about post-nesting dispersal or migration. Please note the color of the tag, which wing it is on, and the letter or number printed on the tag. Note the date and time and the exact location. Report to Jack Bettesworth, 2569 12th Ave W, Seattle WA 98119, (206) 285-5276. jgbett@home.com. (Originally appeared in WOSNews 56)

**Cooper's Hawks** – Color bands have been placed on over 400 nesting Cooper's Hawks in Victoria, British Columbia since 1996. This is part of a long-term study on the urban-nesting ecology of this species. Most sightings to date have come from southern Vancouver Island, however, several have been reported from the Boundary Bay area near Point Roberts and a single bird was recovered at Yakima, Washington. Each color band is uniquely coded with 2 vertical, alphanumeric characters and is placed on the left leg. Black bands are on males and red bands are on females. Please note band code and color, date, and location. Report all sightings to Andy Stewart, BC Environment, PO Box 9344 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 9M1. (250) 387-9780, or email andy.stewart@gems6.gov.bc.ca (Originally appeared in WOSNews 64).

**American Crows** - John Withey is putting together a year long study of crow numbers in the Seattle Audubon CBC circle. He wants to do monthly counts, with the circle divided into 8 subsectors. He is looking for people who are willing to help. He may be contacted at 206-543-2764 or jwithey@u.washington.edu for more information. (New in WOSNews 69)

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**RARE BIRD ALERTS**

**WOS BirdBox** (425) 454-2662
**Tri Cities Area** (509) 943-6857
**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**
**FALL DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15**
(August — November sightings)
Send bird sightings to:
**Russell Rogers**
6637 Glenwood Drive SW
Olympia WA 98512
rrogers@halcyon.com

**Washington Review Species** – Reports of review species (see Washington Birds 5:1-6 or the WOS Field Card) may be sent to the “Washington Field Notes” compiler or directly to the Washington Bird Records Committee, c/o Phil Mattocks, 915 East 3rd Ave, Ellensburg WA 98926.
Please submit detailed descriptions and drawings or photographs, if possible, of unusual birds.

**BAND RECOVERIES** (“Avise” 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
Phone: (800) 327-BAND
E-mail bandreports@patuxent.nbs.gov
http://www.pwrc.nbs.gov/bbl
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October/November 2000

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