



# WOS News 69

WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

October/November 2000

## Leucistic Red-winged Blackbird



This male Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, was photographed by Ruth Sullivan in East Bay, Olympia, Thurston Co., on April 20, 2000.

This partially albinistic bird featured significant plumage aberrations, with a significant area of non-pigmented feathers on the posterior portions of the bird. It made quite a striking spectacle.

## The Purple Martins of East Bay By Sarah Clark

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

The Washington Ornithological Society was chartered in 1988 to increase knowledge of the birds of Washington and to enhance communication among all persons interested in those birds. WOS is a nonprofit educational organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. For information about the Society, contact an officer or board member, or write to:

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## From the Editor –

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

## Be Informed

WOSNews is published bimonthly by the Washington Ornithological Society to inform members about Society business, bird sightings, ornithological research, and the fun of birding. Readers are welcome to submit articles, announcements, illustrations, photographs, and other items for consideration. Contributor guidelines are available.

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Subscribe to the Tweeters email bird  
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listproc@u.washington.edu  
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sub tweeters *your name*

## 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 squirreling 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.

Kingfishers, gulls, crows, great blue herons, starlings and house sparrows were all observed utilizing 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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

## WA Christmas Bird Count Info

See <http://www.wos.org/WACBCs.htm> for additions and updates

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.

**Further Reading:** Enjoying Purple Martins More, The Martin Landlords Handbook, Richard A Wolinski. Purple Martin Book: The Complete Guide to Attracting and Housing Purple Martin, Donald and Lillian Stokes and Justin L Brown.

### Friday, December 15

PORT GAMBLE — Scott Hall, [whall@silverlink.net](mailto:whall@silverlink.net) or (360) 698-1246

### Saturday, December 16

EAST LAKE WASHINGTON — Len Steiner (425) 827-2478. We meet before 8 a.m. at Marymoor Park, the west parking lot near the windmill. The survey includes the Sammamish Valley and plateau, Snoqualmie Valley and Beaver Lake areas.

GRAYS HARBOR — Bob Morse, [rw Morse@home.com](mailto:rw Morse@home.com) or Bruce Fischer, [stump@techline.com](mailto:stump@techline.com). The count covers Ocean Shores, Westport, and Hoquiam and traditionally is one of the top two counts in Washington each year in terms of number of species seen.

TACOMA — Faye McAdams, [zest4parus@hotmail.com](mailto:zest4parus@hotmail.com) or (253) 884-4812

TROUT LAKE — Stuart Johnston [sfij@yahoo.com](mailto:sfij@yahoo.com) or (509) 493-3363 M-F, 6-9 pm

WHIDBEY ISLAND (OAK HARBOR) — Bob Merrick, [Tinekesfam@aol.com](mailto:Tinekesfam@aol.com) or (360) 678-3161. Persons wishing to participate should contact Bob Merrick before Dec. 15th for count team assignments.

YAKIMA VALLEY — Denny Granstrand, [osprey@nwinfo.net](mailto:osprey@nwinfo.net) or (509) 453-2500

### Sunday, December 17

COLUMBIA ESTUARY (includes Ft Canby, Ilwaco, Ft Columbia, and the Chinook Valley in Pacific County, WA) — Mike Patterson, [mpatters@pacifier.com](mailto:mpatters@pacifier.com) or (503)325-1365. Meet at Pig 'n Pancake at 7:00am

LYLE (includes The Dalles and Mosier) — Bob Hansen, [bhansen@teleport.com](mailto:bhansen@teleport.com) or (503) 364-6201

SAUVIE ISLAND, OREGON (includes the Ridgefield NWR and Vancouver Lake areas) — Wilson Cady [gorgebirds@juno.com](mailto:gorgebirds@juno.com) or (360) 835-5947 (Washington contact)

TOPPENISH NWR — Andy Stepniewski, [steppie@nwinfo.net](mailto:steppie@nwinfo.net) or (509) 877-6639

### Monday, December 18

SEQUIM-DUNGENESS — Bob Boekelheide, [bboek@olympus.net](mailto:bboek@olympus.net) or (360) 681-4867. We would again like to have the highest count in WA. This is something that only can be done with the help from talent from outside our immediate area. We hope all the regular birders will join in the count again and we have room for more.

### Thursday, December 28

MOSES LAKE — Teri Pieper, [tpieper@atnet.net](mailto:tpieper@atnet.net) or (509) 766-0101

WAHKIAKUM — Andrew Emlen, [skpaddle@pacifier.com](mailto:skpaddle@pacifier.com) or work: 360-795-8300 or 1-888-920-2777 home: 360-795-8009

### Saturday, December 30

EVERETT — Pilchuck Audubon Society, 425-252-0926 and leave message, or Mary Teesdale, [mteesdale@hotmail.com](mailto:mteesdale@hotmail.com) or [AFTER DEC. 14] (360) 734-9077.

GOLDENDALE/COLUMBIA HILLS — Stuart Johnston, [sfij@yahoo.com](mailto:sfij@yahoo.com) or (509) 493-3363 M-F, 6-9 pm

SATSOP — Rose DuBois, [dub@techline.com](mailto:dub@techline.com)

SEATTLE — Seattle Audubon Society, (206) 523-4483, [cbc@seattleaudubon.org](mailto:cbc@seattleaudubon.org)

TRI-CITIES — Phil Bartley, [bfufam@gte.net](mailto:bfufam@gte.net) or (509) 783-5265

### Sunday, December 31

KENT-AUBURN — Thais Bock, [tbock@concentric.net](mailto:tbock@concentric.net) or (253) 839-2044

SKAGIT BAY — Art Campbell, [rapakivi@aol.com](mailto:rapakivi@aol.com) or (206) 783-2449

### Monday, January 1

COWLITZ(WA)-COLUMBIA(OR) — Robert Sudar, [fallcreek@toledotel.com](mailto:fallcreek@toledotel.com) or (360) 423-1780

### Friday, January 5

# 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 listserv. For corrections or information, contact the compiler.

## Washington Field Notes February - March 2000

**Red-throated Loon** Unusual location, 1 at 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 (RFL).

**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 Bay *Clallam* on 2/3 (EKr) 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 *Snobomish* on 3/12 (SM).

**Great Egret** Uncommon and local, 1 at Monroe *Snobomish* 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 *Snobomish* 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 e 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 *Snobomish* 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).



White-breasted Nuthatch feeding young, Ridgefield NWR, *Clark*, May 28, 2000. Photo by Ruth Sullivan.

**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 (RFL), 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 *Snobomish* on 2/3 (TAv) and on 2/12 (DD).

**Cinnamon Teal** First reports for e WA include, 1 at Columbia NWR *Adams/Grant* on 3/26 (RFL). 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 (RFL), 1 at Clarkston *Asotin* on 2/28 until at least 3/25 (fide MK), 1 at Philleo 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 *Snobomish* 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 *Snobomish* on 3/12 (SM).

**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).

**Common Merganser** High counts include, 48 at Bennington Lake *Walla Walla* on 2/17 (MD&MLD), and 130 at Tulalip Bay *Snobomish* 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 at Kent *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 *Snobomish* on 2/3 (TAv), 1 at Silvana *Snobomish* 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 at Clarkston *Asotin* on 2/18 (fide MK), and 1 at Waterville Plateau *Douglas* on 3/11 (BL).

**Sage Grouse** Declining in WA, 13 at Leahy *Douglas* on 3/12 (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



Diane Yorgason-Quinn photographed a couple of Palm Warblers, *Dendroica palmarum*, on October 24th, 2000, near the Silver King Motel at Ocean Shores.

(BW), 1 at West Richland *Benton* on 3/19 (DR), and 12 at Quincy *Grant* on 3/26 (DP). High count for w WA, 30 at Ocean Shores *Grays Harbor* on 2/13 (BW).

**Marbled Godwit** Rare in e WA, 1 at Wautoma *Yakima* on 3/24 (GuH), high count for w WA, 70 at Ocean Shores *Grays Harbor* on 2/13 (BW).

**Ruddy Turnstone** Reports include, 2 at Ediz Hook *Clallam* on 2/27 (SM), and 1 at

Penn Cove *Island* on 3/4 (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 *Wahkiakum* 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).

**Burrowing Owl** Reports include, 2 at Kennewick *Benton* on 2/10 (BW), 1 along SR 12 in *Walla Walla* on 2/18 (SDo), and 1 at Richland *Benton* on 2/23 (BW).

**Barred Owl** Reports include, 1 at Ellensburg *Kittitas* on 2/4 (PM), and 1 at Clarkston *Asotin* on 2/19 (fide MK).

**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 *Wabkiakum* on 2/20 (fide AR), and 1 at Lummi Island *Whatcom* on 3/15 (CB).

**Three-toed Woodpecker** 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 (RfI). 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 (RfI), 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 (RfI), 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

*Asotin* on 2/26 (fide RR).

**Western Bluebird** First reports include, 3 at Davenport *Lincoln* on 2/26 (MD&MLD), and 7 at Rainier *Thurston* on 2/26 (PS).

**Mountain Bluebird** First reports for e WA include, 1 at Bickelton *Klickitat* on 2/16 (WC), 1 at Sweeney Gultch Road *Garfield* on 2/26 (fide MK), 1 at Wauconda *Okanogan* on 3/5 (KK), and an early high count of 35 near Edwall *Lincoln* on 3/17 (JA), Uncommon in w WA lowlands, 1 at Rainier *Thurston* on 2/26 (PS), 1 at Marymoor Park *King* on 3/23 (MiH), and 7 at Snohomish *Snohomish* on 3/24 (DD).

**Sage Thrasher** 1 at Dodson Road *Grant* on 3/26 (DP).

**Bohemian Waxwing** Reports include, 200 at Twisp *Okanogan* 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 (GrE&BL).

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

**Palm Warbler** 1 at Everett *Snohomish* on 2/3 (TAv) 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&RS).

**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 2/10 (TAv) and on 2/21 (SDo), and 1 at Priest Rapids *Benton* on 2/12 (RfI).

**Sage Sparrow** First reports include, 1 at ALES *Benton* on 2/19 (BLa&NL), 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 Umatilla NWR *Benton* on 3/1 (BW), and 1 at Anatone Flat *Asotin* 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 (TAv), and 1 at Nisqually NWR *Thurston* on 2/23 (fide BT).

**"Puget" 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 Othello *Adams* on 2/20 with 1 there on 3/5 (RfI).

**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 *Asotin* on 3/6 (fide MK). Uncommon in w WA, 1 at Mount Vernon *Skagit* on 3/10 (JDo), and 1 at Olympia *Thurston* on 3/31 (fide BS).

Observers: **JA** Jim Acton, **SA** Scott Atkinson, **TAv** Tom Aversa, **NB** Nigel Ball, **BB** BirdBox, **CB** Clark Blake, **JB** Jan Bragg, **WC** Wilson Cady, **CC** Chris Chappell, **MD** Mike Denny, **MLD** MerryLynn Denny, **MDo** Michael Donahue, **JDo** John Douglas, **SDo** Scott Downes, **DD** Dennis Duffy, **KD** Kas Dumroese, **JE** Joe Engler, **DfE** Donna Ferrill, **RfI** Robert Flores, **MF** Marian Frobe, **DGr** Denny Granstrand, **GuH** Gunter Hadersberger, **WH** Warren Hall, **MiH** Michael Hobbs, **EH** Eugene Hunn, **KKe** Kraig Kemper, **KK** Ken Knittle, **MK** Merlene Koliner, **EKr** Eugene Kridler, **BL** Bruce LaBar, **BLa** Bill LaFramboise, **NLa** Nancy LaFramboise, **RL** Rachel Lawson, **DLo** Dan Logan, **PM** Phil Mattocks, **SM** Steve Mlodinow, **MM** Martin Muller, **VN** Vic Nelson, **BN** Bob Norton, **HO** Hal Opperman, **DP** Dennis Paulson, **SP** Steve Pink, **GrE** Gene Revelas, **AR** Alan Richards, **DaR** Dave Robinson, **DR** Dennis Rockwell, **RR** Russell Rogers, **BS** Bill Shelmerdine, **MSP** Meredith Spencer, **PS** Patrick Sullivan, **RS** Ruth Sullivan, **ST** Sam Terry, **JTh** James Thomas, **GT** Greg Toffic, **BT** Bill Tweit, **DiW** Diane Weber, **BW** Bob Woodley, **CWr** Charlie Wright.

## 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@nwinform.net](mailto:osprey@nwinform.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](mailto: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](mailto: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 ([robzyd@ucs.orst.edu](mailto:robzyd@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](mailto: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](mailto:jgbett@home.com). (Originally appeared in WOSNews 56)

**Cooper's Hawks** - Color bands have been placed on over 400 nestling 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, time, 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](mailto: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](mailto:jwithey@u.washington.edu) for more information. (New in WOSNews 69)

## RARE BIRD ALERTS

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<b>Victoria, B.C.</b>	(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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Ellensburg WA 98926.


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

**BAND RECOVERIES** ("Avis" 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](mailto:bandreports@patuxent.nbs.gov)  
<http://www.pwrc.nbs.gov/bbl>

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Finding Birds in Washington – Book – 1991 edition	11.95	14.95		



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