Notes from the Washington Bird Records Committee

By Kevin Aanerud

It is easy to have a good birding day in our state because the pleasures of birding are available to us in many different ways. It could be the competition of a “big day,” or the contemplative study of a lone first-winter gull. My enjoyment is equal whether I spend an exhausting day scanning the jetties and mudflats for shorebirds on the outer coast or make a quick visit to one of the local parks to see what new migrants have arrived. However, little else in birding can compare with the emotional “high” that is felt with the discovery of a rare bird. Even a mini-rarity, like a swamp sparrow, is fun. But seeing one of those “italicized” birds on the Washington Checklist, now that can be downright euphoric.

That first moment of excitement could be quickly subdued, however, by some other realizations, such as, you’re all by yourself and you’re going to have to write a report! What else could go wrong? You didn’t bring your camera. The bird is moving quickly through the trees and it’s hard to get a good look at any details. The light is poor, so it is difficult to be objective about coloration. Or, perhaps you feel certain that the Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) is so contentious that you doubt this report would be accepted anyway.

As Chair of the WBRC, I am the primary liaison to the WOS Board and general membership. I have heard from the Board that some members of the Washington birding

(Continued on page 8)
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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WOS News 77: February / March 2002

WOS Membership Meetings 2002

Monday, March 4th: The program will feature Dr. Thomas Good presenting "Love/Hate Relationships in the Colony: How Hybridization and Competition Influence Coastal Gull Populations." Dr. Good’s PhD dissertation topic involved the glaucous-winged/western gull hybrid zone. He is a New England native and received his M.S. at the University of New Hampshire on gull foraging on intertidal invertebrates. Dr. Good is currently working as a Research Fishery Biologist for the National Marine Fisheries Service - Conservation Biology Program.

Monday, April 1st: Dave Nysewander will present Puget Sound seabird data collected during ten years of monitoring. The suite of data includes trends, distribution, and abundance for species included in the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program (PSAMP). Dave is in charge of the Marine Bird and Mammal component of PSAMP. He worked for 17 years on Alaskan marine birds and mammals with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service before coming to the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife where he has worked for the past ten years.

Monday, May 6th: Members slide night – bring your newest bird photos to share.

Monthly Membership Meetings are held the first Monday of the month (except July, August, & September). They are held at the Center for Urban Horticulture on the University of Washington campus, 3501 NE 41st St., Seattle, and are open to all. The social begins at 7:00 p.m. and the program starts at 7:30 p.m.

Directions: From I-5 take SR520 East. Take the Montlake Blvd NE exit and turn North towards the University of Washington campus. Stay in the 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 2002

Saturday, February 23

Marv Breece will lead a field trip to Drayton Harbor in Blaine. Bring a scope if you have one in order to view loons, grebes, ducks, and who knows what. Meet at Marine City Park in Blaine at 7:30 AM. Limited to 8 people. Contact Marv at mbreece@foxinternet.net or 206-634-1725.

Saturday, March 9

Andy Stepniewski will lead a trip to the Waterville Plateau. Species possible include both eagles, rough-legged hawk, gryfalcon, prairie falcon, chukar, sage grouse, long-eared owl, American tree sparrow, lapland longspur, snow bunting, and common redpoll (if they haven’t already flown north). For details and to reserve a space, call Andy at 509-877-6639 or email steppie@nwinfo.net. There is a limit of 12 birders.

WOS Field Trips allow members to explore places or revisit familiar haunts. Each trip is open to a limited number of participants. Each member may join up to four trips per year (excluding annual conference trips). Non-members may attend as a member’s guest once per year. Questions about field trips should be directed to the trip leader(s). If you would like to lead a field trip, or would like to suggest a location for a field trip, send a note to FieldTrips@wos.org.
From the President and Board

WOS is pleased to announce the appointment of Diann MacRae as Editor of WOSNews. Diann has been both editor of the newsletter in the past and a Director of WOS. She is an accomplished author and an excellent editor. She will undoubtedly be soliciting articles, notes, and other written submissions for the newsletter, so all you budding authors out there, this is your chance to see your name in print. Welcome, Diann.

The WOS Annual Meeting is the prime source of funds for the organization. Along with dues, these funds enable publication of WOSNews, Washington Birds, and other communications with the membership. The final figures on income and expenses are in for The Gorge meeting and we made approximately $2800.00. Along with monies held in reserve, this will allow us to reprint the Bird Finding Guide, continue publication of WOSNews, issue a revised WOS Directory, as well as allow publication of forthcoming issues of our journal, Washington Birds.

Progress continues on the next issue of Washington Birds (WB). Michael Donahue, Joe Buchanan, and Gene Hunn are co-editors of the journal. Michael and Joe will deal with day-to-day WB-related matters (including contacting reviewers and working with them to get their comments, and sending out manuscripts) and share corresponding editor duties (including being primary contacts with manuscript authors, providing them assistance, and reminding them of deadlines). Michael, Joe, and Gene will compile comments on authors’ manuscripts and contact the authors regarding those comments and any requested revisions. June 2002 is the goal to publish the next WB.

Preparations are underway for publication of the updated version of the WOS Directory, with a target date in March 2002. The information is in and being integrated into our database. Many members use the directory to stay in touch with each other, to plan a trip to a new area, or to seek an exotic bird. Give it a try.

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 discussion list by emailing listproc@u.washington.edu with a message text of sub tweeters your name

VULTURE’S ROOST
by Diann MacRae

It’s nice to be back! It will also be nice to have “our” birds trickling back in as spring migration will soon be in full swing. Time to look up for turkey vultures, which start arriving this month, and time to get out and say goodbye to our great winter visitors such as rough-legged hawks and gyrfalcons, and this winter’s specialties: the handsome yellow-throated warbler, black phoebe, hoary redpolls, et al. Spring is truly a time of renewal, and this year, especially, it is needed.

When rarities occur or, even when local birds are observed, it is good to have their occurrences and interesting behaviors written up. Please don’t hesitate to send in articles on your birding experiences. Our newsletter is for everyone: die-hard lister, armchair birder, biologist, feeder watcher; anyone interested in birds. It’s fun to read of other’s pursuits and findings. Also, let us know what types of articles you would like to see in the newsletter; we’ll try to include them.
ITEMS OF INTEREST

CRANE WORKSHOP: On Monday, March 18th a free workshop, "Cranes of the Pacific Flyway 2002" will be presented at The Inn at Otter Crest in Otter Crest, Oregon. The workshop will be presented by the West Coast Crane Working Group, the North American CWG, and the International Crane Foundation.

Topics to be covered will include the status of cranes in Washington, Washington state recovery plan for endangered sandhill cranes, tracking Pacific Flyway lesser sandhill cranes using satellite telemetry, wintering sandhills of the Pacific Flyway, and much more.

Note: the West Coast Crane Working Group is hoping to present at the Othello Washington Crane Festival on March 22-24 with Peter Matthiessen the featured speaker.

For more information contact Thomas J. Hoffmann, WCCWG, 341 West Olympic Place, Seattle, WA 98119; his email is thoffmann@hoffmanns.com.

CLASSES OFFERED: The Seattle Audubon Society is offering two birding classes in the upcoming months. Contact the SAS Nature Shop to register and for further information – (206) 523-4483.

“Raptor Identification and Appreciation” will be given by Jim Flynn on Thursday, February 7th, and Wednesday, February 13th (7-9:30pm) at the Center for Urban Horticulture, Douglas Classroom. There will be an all-day field trip to the Skagit/Samish flats on February 23rd. Cost is $65 for SAS members, and $80 for non-members.

“It’s Lovely Weather for Ducks . . . Loons . . . and Grebes: Seabird Seminar and Ferry Outing” will be given by WOS’s vice president, Brian Bell. A 7-9pm seminar will be presented on March 1st at the Center for Urban Horticulture, Douglas Classroom. The next day field trip on March 2nd will feature a ferry trip en route to Vashon Island and then to Point Southworth. Cost is $35 for SAS members, $50 for non-members (plus ferry fare on Saturday morning).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SAGE THRASHER STUDY: I am a graduate student at Central Washington University studying the effects of altered landscapes on sage thrasher reproductive ecology. My research area is the Quilomene and Whiskey Dick wildlife areas of eastern Kittitas County. For those not familiar with these sites, they are located off the Old Vantage Highway between Ellensburg and Vantage.

Sage thrashers are medium-sized songbirds which winter in the southwest and breed in the Columbia Basin. They are considered a shrubsteppe obligate, which means they need the sagebrush landscape to breed.

My research looks to examine how the thrashers fare when they use altered areas. These altered areas often have reduced densities of sage and contain invasive grasses such as cheatgrass. The help is needed to follow birds in the territory and locate nests. No biological experience is needed, just an ability to locate birds and the enjoyment of being outdoors.

I am hoping for volunteers to join me for mornings, starting at dawn and lasting for several hours to late morning. The time when I need volunteers to help is from late March through early May of 2002. You can join me for a single morning or, if you can spare more time, as many mornings as you would like to help out.

I hope to see you out in this beautiful and under-appreciated habitat. A spring morning in eastern Washington’s shrubsteppe is truly a wonderful experience.

If you would like to help out you can contact me via email me, Scott Downes, at downness@cwu.edu or by phone at 509-962-1638.

OREGON BREEDING BIRD ATLAS: The largest wildlife survey in Oregon’s history is found in the just-published Oregon Breeding Bird Atlas CD-ROM. The CD is the sole product of the seven-year project; most of the information will not be published in book format, at least in the near future. The CD-ROM is being reviewed by WOS Directors and a written review will appear in the next newsletter. For those interested now, the price is $25.00 and proceeds go to support research on Oregon birds. Checks should be made out to Oregon Field Ornithologists and sent to: OFO, P.O. Box 10373, Eugene, OR 97440.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRDCOUNT: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society are asking every bird enthusiast across North America to help celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Great Backyard Birdcount (GBBC) by counting birds February 15 through 18, 2002.

Families, individuals, classrooms, Scout troops — everyone interested in birds — are asked to take as little as 15 minutes on any or all of the four GBBC days to count the numbers and kinds of birds they see. They can count in their backyards, schoolyards, local parks, nature centers and sanctuaries, or other favorite birding location, including right out the office window. Reports are submitted over the Internet, at www.birdsource.org/gbbc and compiled almost immediately, for all to view in the form of animated maps, graphs, and charts. Participants can quickly see how their observations help complete the continent-wide picture of late-winter bird distributions.
More than 100,000 citizen scientists have taken part in the Great Backyard Bird Count. Their reports have helped researchers track winter finch invasions, investigate the correlation between snow cover and northerly distributions of American robins, and document “the arrival of spring” by following movements of blackbirds as they begin their migration back to their breeding grounds.

“Only with the help of birders across the continent will we be able to monitor changes in the distribution and abundance of birds and determine measures necessary to ensure their protection,” says Frank Gill, Audubon’s vice president of science and conservation.

Instructions are available at the GBBC web site, as are results from previous counts. Visitors can listen to bird songs, see bird images, and learn about species of conservation concern. Material for classrooms, tips for bird feeding, and a how-to for creating bird-friendly yards are also at the site. For more information, visit the Great Backyard Bird Count web site at www.birdsource.org/gbbc, or contact either organization — the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 in the U.S. or (607) 254-2473 outside the U.S., or Audubon at (212) 979-3083.

“Given the challenges now facing our nation, it’s more urgent than ever that we cast our vote, in a sense, to help ensure the birds and the habitats upon which they depend will be around for generations to come,” says John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. “The Great Backyard Bird Count is an easy and enjoyable way to do that.”

DO YOU ENJOY WATCHING RAPTORS?: Do you enjoy watching peregrine falcons? If you answered yes to both questions, The Tahoma Audubon needs you.

As you may know, Tacoma’s 11th Street bridge is the nesting site for a pair of beautiful peregrine falcons. The 11th Street falcons successfully raised 4 young in 2001. This year, the Tahoma Audubon and The Falcon Research Group will partner to have a wireless video feed into the Washington State History Museum. This is where you are needed.

We need volunteers to check the equipment in the Museum, observe the birds behavior for a short period of time each day. No technical expertise is required, if the equipment is not working, all you will need to do is make a phone call and I will arrange for a technician to repair the equipment.

Time requirements: Project starts February and continues until the young fledge in May or June. Orientation meeting in February and meeting upon completion of the project. One visit per week. One hour per visit. If you enjoy birds and learning please sign up for this project it is an opportunity to observe nature at its finest.

You may sign up by calling the Tahoma Audubon office at 253-565-9278 or call Dennis Weeks at 360-456-2369 or by email at dennisweeks@attbi.com.

Okanogan Conference Announcement ...continued from page 1

Field trips will be conducted on Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday; and will be led by experienced birders. We will venture out in daylight and dark to places with exotic names like Sanpoil River, Freezeout Ridge, Chesaw, Nighthawk, and Sinlahekin Valley.

We will be looking for the birds especially sought in northeastern Washington: common loon, red-necked and eared grebes, Barrow’s goldeneye, northern goshawk, spruce grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, black tern, black-chinned hummingbird, Williamson’s sapsucker, three-toed and black-backed woodpecker, least flycatcher, gray flycatcher, boreal chickadee, gray catbird, sage thrasher, American redstart, northern waterthrush, clay-colored and grasshopper sparrows, bobolink, gray-crowned rosy-finch, and white-winged crossbill – to name a few.

Come evening, we plan owling on both Friday and Saturday nights. We will set out in search for great horned, western screech, flammulated, northern saw-whet, long-eared, and great gray owl - and maybe more!

This conference will also feature an interesting speaker addressing a topic relevant to the Okanogan for both the Friday and Saturday night programs, and an early Saturday evening no-host cocktail reception followed by the annual banquet.

Conference attendees must make their own lodging arrangements directly. To be assured of a non-smoking room you should make your reservations soon at the Cedars Inn, One Appleway, Okanogan, WA 98840. Telephone: (509) 422-6431 Fax: (509) 422-4214. Be sure to ask for the WOS special flat rate of $50.00 plus tax for one or more people in a room. Rooms held for WOS but not reserved by May 15th will be released for resale.

A conference registration brochure will be included in the April/May WOSNews #78.

This brochure will describe in more detail planned field trips, speakers, recommended accommodations and meals, and contains a tentative schedule of events and the registration form. To receive discounted prices, registration forms must be post marked no later than May 31st. After registration forms are received, confirmation letters will be mailed to participants. Meal tickets, maps, field cards, and additional information will be distributed in packets that will be available during check-in at the Cedars Inn, Okanogan. Space on field trips is limited.

Early registration is recommended.

Questions regarding this event should be directed to Kraig Kemper at (206) 789-9255 or Mary Klein at 206-694-1645. Send email queries to Kraig and Mary at Conference@wos.org.
PHOTO GALLERY

Diane Yorgason-Quinn captured this fabulous sequence showing

Ron Dexter photographed these male (left) and female pine grosbeaks atop Mt. Spokane, on Christmas and New Years. Ron also saw five there on January 9, 2002.

Help us make WOSNews beautiful. Please submit your bird photos, either as prints, slides, or electronically, to Michael Hobbs, WOSNews Layout Editor, 13506 NE 66th St., Kirkland, WA 98033 WOSWeb@wos.org
PHOTO GALLERY

black-necked stilt copulating a the Othello ponds, Adams, on June 3, 2001.

Ron Dexter photographed this red-necked phalarope 9/1/2001 on a pond at his home near Spokane.
community have concerns about the functioning of the WBRC. The most notable concerns involve the rejection of records submitted by birders and the structure of the WBRC. Due to these concerns, and because it is our responsibility to maintain communication with WOS members and local birders, I want to use this opportunity to describe what it is we do. While voting whether or not to accept a report might be the most interesting or controversial task we perform, two other aspects of our work are likely more important: the collecting and archiving of bird report materials, and the publishing of these data in the form of Checklists and Committee Reports. I would like first to say a few things about voting on reports.

The acceptance of a review species report by means of a committee vote is the most common method used in states to provide a standard of credibility for reports of rarely occurring species. The success of the WBRC, which is still a relatively young committee, will ultimately be judged by the birding community’s confidence in our expertise and consistency. The WBRC rules provide that a report will not be accepted with as few as two “no” votes. This apparent conservatism is intended to ensure that accepted records are based on the broadest consensus among Committee members. Still, most reports pass with little difficulty. What sorts of reports make our voting difficult? Despite the fact that birds fly, most often when rarities are found they manage to stay around long enough to be seen by many birders, and even pose for a few still shots or a brief video. Consider the first Washington record of the rustic bunting. This bird remained in the same general area of the Kent Ponds for months and was seen by hundreds of birders. Many good photographs were taken, so there wasn’t a shred of doubt as to its identity. Now imagine, instead, the bird had been seen only by a small group of birders, none of whom had a camera with them nor were they certain of the identity until they studied the identification guides at home. The strength of this hypothetical report would depend entirely on the care in which the observers noted details and related these details into written form. Imagine another scenario in which the rustic bunting had been seen by only two observers for just a few moments. One of the observers was a novice birder. The other had some experience, but also had to rely on field guides to identify the bird. It is more than possible that they correctly identified this rustic bunting and jumped up and down in celebration of a great find. In this situation, if a written report were submitted to the WBRC it would have to include exceedingly detailed notes of every character of the bird to convince the Committee.

We all tend to have lots of confidence in our own birding skills and, as they say, “seeing is believing.” Many of us also tend to have doubts about reported rarities if we ourselves are not as fortunate to see the bird. When one of my friends calls to say “guess what I saw today?” my first comment is usually, “yeah, sure you did,” of course, only to give him or her a hard time. Having a record not accepted by the WBRC is not a reflection of one’s skill as a birder. In fact, members of the Committee have had their own reports voted down from time to time. Sometimes a rarity is seen for such a short period of time that it is virtually impossible to note many descriptive details. That has happened to me and I chose not to submit a report to the WBRC. However, I still have this sighting in my personal records and enjoy the memory of this all too brief discovery. I would encourage all of you to send in those reports even if you have some doubts regarding the eventual WBRC decision. The section on “unaccepted reports” in the WBRC Reports should not be considered irrelevant. Notes from the authors concerning each report should help to clarify why the Committee chose not to accept them. Perhaps someone might disagree with the opinions, but that is as it should be. The Committee tries to make the best effort to make informed decisions for each report.

How can you increase your chances of having a record accepted by the WBRC? First, it is essential to record very detailed descriptions of the bird’s plumage. These descriptions should be based on the physical attributes of the bird and should not rely on details obtained from field guides. It is best if the notes and drawings are recorded in the field, not later. Ideally, beginning or less-experienced birders should acquaint themselves with the physical structure of birds and should learn the names of various parts of a bird’s body, including the feather tracts, so that careful scrutiny of a bird’s plumage can be described in great detail. Also, obtaining high quality color photographs will typically complement the written description. Other notes on the bird’s use of habitat or its vocalizations, flight patterns, or behavior may also be of value and should be recorded.

But even if you don’t know the difference between greater coverts and tertaries, you can and should submit a report. Record what you see as accurately as you can, using rough sketches to explain things if necessary. Artistic skill isn’t needed. Remember to look at things like bill shape and leg color as well. There is a rare bird reporting form on the WOS website at http://www.wos.org/RareBird.htm which can be used to submit reports online or which can be used as a guide in writing a report to mail in. Reports should be sent to the Washington Bird Records Committee, P.O. Box 31783, Seattle, WA 98103, or emailed to WBRC@wos.org.

Although the WBRC meets formally once or twice a year, there are other ongoing projects that involve our time throughout the year. There is the continuous work of collecting reports, photographs, and specimen data. Ultimately, all of this material reaches Phil Mattocks, our secretary, who organizes it into a packet for each committee member to study prior to our meetings. We have had several discussions about electronic archiving, which could become a reality in the not too distant future. Digital archiving would greatly facilitate access for researchers and authors needing to review these records. I think it would be interesting to all of us if we could visit the photo archives on computer. Very recently we have concluded an inventory of the photo file, as it was important to see what was there or, more importantly, what was not there.

The responsibility to write WBRC Reports and its companion Check-list of Washington Birds is assumed by two “volunteers” from the Committee who work closely with the editor or co-editors of Washington Birds. The Washington Field Card is prepared with the most current update of WBRC records whenever a reprinting is required. Depending on circumstances of publishing, it is possible that the Field Card might reflect the status of some “review” species ahead of the most recent published WBRC Report. It is exciting to see how quickly our State List is growing!

The WBRC consists of eight members who volunteer many hours to this effort because of their interest in birds. Our collective commitment hopefully provides a useful service in adding to our knowledge of Washington birds. As Chairperson, I would like to extend encouragement to any WOS members with questions to contact us by our e-mail address, WBRC@wos.org.

Washington Bird Records Committee

...continued from page 1
A Coup for The Oregon Zoo

Lewis and Clark’s “vulture of the Columbia” is returning to Oregon. California condors won’t soar over the mighty Columbia River as they did in earlier times, but they will be the center of the fourth official breeding facility in North America at The Oregon Zoo in Portland. The Oregon Zoo’s excellent reputation and comprehensive experience in the fields of conservation, research, and husbandry got it the thumbs up from The Condor Recovery Team and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The three existing condor breeding facilities are located at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, the Los Angeles Zoo, and The Peregrine Fund’s World Center for Birds of Prey, near Boise, Idaho. By adding a fourth facility, the captive breeding program will be that much closer to realizing the recovery goal for this endangered vulture: 150 birds in a captive population, and a wild population in both California and Arizona. At present, there are 126 California condors in the three breeding facilities, and 57 free-flying condors.

The voters of the Portland area set the tune for condors returning to Oregon. In 1995, voters enthusiastically approved a Metro open spaces, parks and streams bond measure. From this open space referendum, the condor project will become a reality on twelve secluded acres in Clackamas County, not far from Portland. The Clear Creek Canyon site hopes to have facilities ready for some young condors in the summer of 2002 and, hopefully, three or four pairs of breeding condors by the fall.

Oregonians would like to see these magnificent birds with their nearly ten-foot wingspans flying gracefully over the Columbia Gorge in time for the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark’s journey across the west, but they will have to settle for adding to the numbers of healthy, living condors at the Oregon Zoo’s new facility, a hopeful wonder in itself.

. . . . . Diann MacRae

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service photos of the California Condor Recovery Program. Photos by David Clendenen (top left) and Scott Frier.
**Swans need your help!**

If you haven’t birded along the upper portion of the Snohomish River near Bob Heirman Wildlife Park, you don’t know what a treasure we have there.

**The Issue**

There is a proposal to start a tower farm across the river from the Heirman Wildlife Park. Initially there would be 4 towers - 3 about 200 feet high and one 425 feet. The proponents are very quiet about the total number of towers they ultimately see being put up. They do count on many more for cell phones, emergency channels, etc. There are currently relatively few towers being proposed, but they anticipate at least 70. before they are through. The difficulty is that the tower farm will be in the direct line of the trumpeter swans coming in to roost at night. There are at least 210 swans that use Shadow Lake at night as well as 10-12,000 ducks that feed there during the day and take off shortly after the swans arrive.

The argument is given that the swans will go around the towers. That is not too likely. The swans are part of the Western Washington population and are under a great deal of pressure. The dairy farms are decreasing and their pastures are rich and are a major food source for the swans. There is lead shot in the lakes and wetlands in Whatcom County and so far 138 swans have died from lead poisoning this year. Over 250 swans died last year so the cumulative effect is mounting. And now we are putting a tower farm on the major approach to their winter night roost site.

The hearing before the Hearing Examiner starts Jan. 31 and potentially continues on Feb. 1 for public comment. Letters to the Hearing Examiner will be considered part of the record as long as they arrive by Feb. 8.

For further information, call Martha Jordan, 425-787-0258 or myself at 425-778-7568. I am currently conservation co-chair of Pilchuck Audubon.

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**WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Balance Sheet – December 31, 2001**

(unaudited)

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<tr>
<td>Total current liabilities</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate equity:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings</td>
<td>$34,602.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>(195.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total corporate equity</td>
<td>$34,407.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Corporate Equity and Liabilities** $34,407.15

A Non-profit Corporation
Statement of Income and Operating Expenses
On the Cash Basis
12 Months Ended December 31, 2001
(unaudited)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$9,485.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>7,596.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales, Merchandise, Publications</td>
<td>3,183.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>210.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>2,480.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>$22,955.72</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchases, Merchandise</td>
<td>$2,895.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative and Office</td>
<td>365.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>4,795.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BirdBox</td>
<td>422.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>331.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>226.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly Meetings</td>
<td>904.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOSNews</td>
<td>7,705.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>4,740.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web Site</td>
<td>253.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shipping</td>
<td>218.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes, License, Other</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird Records</td>
<td>293.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$23,151.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NET INCOME** $(195.63)
Report Your Sightings

**American Crows (color bands):** Crows have been color-banded on the University of Washington campus and at sites near Maltby, St. Edward’s Park, Bridle Trails, Beaver Lake, and Rattlesnake Lake. All crows have a colored plastic band and a metal U.S. Fish and Wildlife band on one leg, and two colored bands on the other. We are very interested in resightings, which can be reported on the crow and songbird web page (http://courses.washington.edu/vseminar/main.htm), by e-mail to crow@u.washington.edu, or to Dr. John Marzluff, Wildlife Science Program, University of Washington, Box 352100, Seattle, WA 98195-2100.

**American Crows (roost sites):** Known crow roosts in King County include Montlake (Seattle), Mercer Slough Park (Factoria), and Southcenter. We would like to know about additional large roosts in King and Snohomish counties. If you see large numbers (in the dozens, if not hundreds) of crows flying at dusk or dawn, or in staging areas (congregating in trees, on buildings, or on the ground) please report your sightings to crow@u.washington.edu, or contact John Withey, Wildlife Science, University of Washington Box 352100, Seattle, WA 98195-2100. 206-543-2764.

**Purple Martins (color bands):** Stan Kostka is banding purple martins at managed nestbox colonies in North Puget Sound (Snohomish and Island Counties) as an extension of an ongoing banding program in British Columbia. He is working under, but independently of, J. Cam Finlay, Victoria, B.C., and plans on banding at least 1000 martins. Stan would appreciate any observations of martins west of the Rocky Mountains. What to look for: site location, date and time, look for bands and note the sequence of which color on which leg, whether any color band is coded, and read the band, if possible (binos or scope). Send any sightings to Stan at 28603 Kunde Road, Arlington, WA 98223 or to lynnandstan@earthlink.net, or by phone at 360-435-7236.

**Turkey Vultures (migrants/wintering/breeding):** Please report any early migrants (they start arriving in February), overwintering vultures, or possible breeding pairs later in the season. Back data is always welcome, too. Sightings will be added to an eleven-year study of turkey vultures in the Pacific Northwest by the Olympic Vulture Study. Please report vulture information to Diann MacRae, 22622-53rd Avenue S.E., Bothell, WA 98021 or to tvulture@vei.net.

**Pied-billed Grebes (diving study):** Susan McDougall is looking for help in a triangulation method of measuring foraging in pied-billed grebes. See WOSNews 76 for a full explanation. Susan can be contacted at (425) 640-6654 or by e-mail to podiceps@yahoo.com.

**Color-marked Double-crested Cormorants:** Cindy Anderson is a graduate student from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Oregon State University studying the foraging and reproductive ecology of double-crested cormorants nesting on East Sand Island at the mouth of the Columbia River. She was elated to hear that an observer spotted one of the cormorants she captured, wing-tagged, and radio-tagged this past summer from East Sand Island. Cindy captured and marked 50 double-crested cormorants during the summer of 2001. Each patagial tag is marked with black paint with a unique 2-digit code. If you can read the number, she can provide more details about that specific bird. She would also like to hear of any observations of a tagged bird, such as what the bird was doing when it was observed and did it appear to be in good condition? Any details would be most welcome. If anyone has questions, Cindy can be reached by email at andecynt@onid.orst.edu, by phone at 541-737-1969, or by snail mail at Cindy Anderson, Graduate Student, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State University, 104 Nash Hall, Corvallis, OR, 97331.

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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**  
**WINTER DEADLINE:** MARCH 15  
(December — February 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 bbandreports@patuxent.nbs.gov  
http://www.pwrc.nbs.gov/bbl
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** — annual journal
- **WOSNews** — bimonthly newsletter
- Monthly field trips
- Affordable annual conferences

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

**WOS SALES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>At Meetings</th>
<th>By Mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Window decal with circle raven logo – static-cling</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Card of Washington Birds – 3.5&quot;x6.5&quot;, 12 pp. checklist</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WASHINGTON BIRDS</strong> – Annual Journal – issues # 3, 4, 5, 6</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>issue # 7</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOSNews – Newsletter – Most issues available</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Shirt — White-headed Woodpecker logo, sizes M, L, XL</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These prices are for single items. If ordering more than one item of a kind, please call (206) 789-9255 for shipping prices.

Orders should be sent to:

Washington Ornithological Society Sales
P.O. Box 31783, Seattle, WA 98103-1783

**WOS MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL FORM**

Make check payable to Washington Ornithological Society.

Send form and payment to:

Washington Ornithological Society Membership, P.O. Box 31783, Seattle 98103

- Name: ____________________________
- Address: _________________________
- City/State/Zip: __________________
- Telephone: ( ) __________________ Work: ( ) 
- E-mail: _________________________

Individual Membership ($20): _____ Family Membership ($25): _____


Place an x beside any item you don’t want to appear in the WOS directory.

**NOTE:** WOS does not sell or loan its membership list.

**WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

POST OFFICE BOX 31783

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98103-1783

**WOSNews 77**

February / March 2002

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