From Fan to Frantic
by Michelle Blanchard

My benchmark bird...the species that launched my birding passion, was the northern flicker. One wintry day, a ‘yellow shafted’ flicker appeared in Dad’s bird feeder, far larger than any bird we’d seen in it before. Ever since that day I’ve been a flicker fan.

So it was with a lot of happiness that I watched a pair of flickers begin their courtship in my present backyard, as early as January. Were they already a mated pair or a pair of youngsters playing house? I don’t know, but they’d been in my backyard all year.

We’d laugh when we’d hear them running around on the roof over our heads as we drank our morning coffee. They’d drum on the metal vents atop the roof and then laugh like fiends. Charming birds. Gosh, wouldn’t it be nice if they stick around??

While putting up my swallow boxes for the nesting season, I stumbled over a kestrel house that I’d bought years ago, hoping for a family of pocket rockets. But when the starlings took it over, down it came and languished, unused, in the garage for years. Aah...a flicker house. I put the house atop a sturdy pole near the well house and wondered if the flickers would find it.

They did. The flicker pair took to it immediately. They took turns drumming atop it, the house (Continued on page 13)

WOS Conference 2002 Report
by Michael Hobbs

The 2002 WOS Conference in Okanogan, June 14-16, was a big success no matter how you measure it. Over 120 members enjoyed a record 23 field trips over three days and two nights. The birds cooperated, with almost all of the target species being seen among the 187 total species, and some special surprises.

The Okanogan truly is a great place to bird, and the field trip leaders did a wonderful job showing all of us the area, finding us life birds, and generally sharing their knowledge. Thanks go out to all of them.

The conference started Friday, with two daytime field trips, a very entertaining speaker, and a couple of owling trips that night. Rick Howie’s talk about owls in the Canadian Okanagan gave a good overview of the habitat choices for the dozen or more owl species of the area. He followed that up with a Hoot-Along, featuring the rest of us doing our best to imitate owl whistles and hoots. Besides being quite humorous, it proved to be a great learning experience whose value was proved to those of us who subsequently went on the owling trips.

Saturday featured nine day-trips, a decent banquet, another top-notch speaker, and a couple of owling trips, making for a very full day! Dr. Michael Schroeder’s talk, “The Grouse of Washington”, presented all of the Washington species, placing them in ecological and historical context, and even comparing them with other grouse worldwide. He proved to be both a knowledgeable and interesting speaker, and he had already proven himself a good field trip leader earlier in the day. Thanks, Michael.

Sunday morning arrived much too early for comfort for those who owled, but we were again off birding on eight more field trips starting at the usual 5:30 a.m. to end the conference.

(Continued on page 14)
No meetings in July, August, and September. Have a great summer!

Monday, October 7th – first meeting of the new season. Come find out in which neck of the woods white-headed woodpeckers like to raise their kids! Russell Rogers will present data and results of a 1999 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife nest site selection study of white-headed woodpeckers for the east slope of the Cascade Mountains as well as some trade secrets about how to find their nests.

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

**Sunday, August 25th** — Charlie Wright will lead a trip in Grant and Adams Counties to the Potholes area, the Para Ponds near Othello and, time permitting, to the Washtucna area further east. Up to twenty species of shorebirds may be possible. Target birds include solitary, Baird’s, pectoral, semipalmated, and stilts sandpipers, and red-necked and Wilson’s phalaropes. Franklin’s gull and burrowing owl are also possible. Limit of 8 birders. For details contact Charlie at (253) 862-0520 or email BirdKing88@aol.com.

**Sunday, September 15th** — Patrick and Ruth Sullivan will lead a trip in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties to Brady Loop Road, Johns River Wildlife Area, Bottle Beach State Park, Westport, Midway Beach, and Tokeland. Species of interest will be migratory shorebirds, as well as other coastal species of waterbirds and landbirds. Target birds include bar-tailed godwit, willet, snowy plover, horned lark, Lapland longspur, red knot, Pacific and American golden-plovers, wandering tattler, common tern, brown pelican, parasitic jaeger, sooty shearwater, black-legged kittiwake, and Heermann’s gull. Limit of 8 birders. For details contact Patrick and Ruth at (253) 564-7419 or email GODWIT@worldnet.att.net.

**Wednesday, September 18th** — Kevin Aanerud will lead a field trip in Kittitas, Grant, and Adams Counties to the Vantage area, and other birding oases including the Wahluke Slope and the Para Ponds near Othello. Plan to spend the day birding for fall warblers, including blackpoll and other local species. Limit of 12 birders. For details contact Kevin at (206) 523-6195 or email raan@u.washington.edu.

**Saturday, September 21st** — Mark Houston will lead a field trip Saturday night in Pend Oreille County in search of Boreal Owl. Be prepared for very cold weather. And for those camping that night, plan for a ridge walk the next morning to look for Boreal Chickadee. Limit of 8 birders. For details contact Mark at (509) 747-4585 or email MarkHoust@aol.com.

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.

### 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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VULTURE’S ROOST

by Diann MacRae

It’s sometimes difficult for an editor to figure out just what members would like to see in their newsletters. For WOSNews, we always have Field Notes, meeting and field trip notices, other odds and ends of hopeful importance, a regular column from the Board and myself, plus a “Report Your Sightings” column. For added interest, I try to include one special interest article from a member, such as this issue’s flicker article by Michelle Blanchard. Photos and accompanying text are also very welcome such as Jan Bragg’s unusual piece on the Bullock’s oriole nest in Oregon’s Alvord Desert. That much usually fills up an issue.

What else would you like to see in WOSNews? Would you be able to write up something interesting or submit some photos? We invite members to share their birding experiences with all of us: backyard birding, scientific studies, trips – all are welcome. It will help make our newsletter a better representation of all the members.

LONGLINE FISHERIES — Another view

Dear WOSNews Editor,

I feel compelled to respond to the American Bird Conservancy article that appeared in the last issue of WOS News. The blanket condemnation of all longline fisheries is very unfair and represents only one side of the story. I can not dispute what happens in other parts of the world but I am very familiar with the longline fishery in Alaska.

The regulations to prevent seabird bycatch were in fact quickly implemented because of the diligence and foresight of the fishermen themselves. In both Canada and the United States, the halibut fleet took the initiative in bird conservation by directly requesting regulations requiring seabird avoidance measures be implemented. Both management agencies in Alaska and Canada have done so. These devices are streamer lines and have been shown by independent scientists to be effective at eliminating bird mortality when deployed correctly (see the Washington Sea Grant web page below). Vessel skippers use streamer lines because it virtually eliminates the problem of hooking birds and increases the amount of bait that actually hits the bottom which in turn increases their catch. Many of the halibut vessels are diversified and also fish sablefish while longlining halibut. Sablefish vessels do carry fisheries observers that collect bycatch data. It is inaccurate to say that there is no observer coverage on halibut vessels in Alaska. The halibut fleet in Canada has been targeted to reach 25% observer coverage in 2002 and they are initiating video systems that are cheaper and are able to identify what is being brought on board the vessel.

I would say that the halibut fishery and the agency I work for, the International Pacific Halibut Commission, have been very responsive to bird bycatch issues. In 2000, we were contracted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (the groundfish management agency in Alaska) to evaluate options for monitoring bird bycatch. We recommended possible use of video technology for monitoring bird mortality in Alaska. In 2001, NMFS has again contracted the IPHC to test the effectiveness of the technology in verifying the deployment of the bird avoidance devices. In addition, the uses of video observers to monitor line catch, thereby verifying that no birds are caught will also be evaluated. This is being done this summer in the Bering Sea.

With little exception the groundfish fleet in BC and Alaska use some form of seabird avoidance devices. These usually are tori lines. Tori is Japanese for bird and these lines run off the stern of the vessel while the crew are setting their gear. It is during the set that the birds are most vulnerable. Tori lines have streamers that hang every 5 meters. They are required to be paired on the larger boats and act as a screen to keep the birds off the gear while it is sinking. There is a wealth of information on the web and I encourage the WOS members to visit and learn about this issue. The NMFS site is full of information and I maintain a Short-tailed Albatross page with recent sightings.

Sincerely,

Tracey Geernaert
Biologist and WOS Board Member
International Pacific Halibut Commission
Seattle, WA 98145-2009

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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From the President and Board

The last formal board meeting was in April, but since that time a sub-committee of board members met frequently (and sometime frantically!) to attend to the plethora of details associated with our annual conference. We are very pleased that the Okanogan conference was such a success. See more details elsewhere in this issue of WOS News.

In addition to our annual conferences, our monthly meetings are an integral feature of our organization. The board would like to thank Bob and Becky Benton for serving as hospitality hosts earlier this year, and we’d like to welcome Joan Velikanje who will be taking over from the Bentons. It would be great if Joan could have some help; if interested, contact Joan or one of the board members at one of the meetings.

We also are in need of a Program chair to arrange for speakers for seven monthly meetings each year. This task is not as daunting as it sounds! The board will provide suggestions and contacts.

WOS had a booth at the Woodland Park Zoo’s “Festival for the Birds” on May 25. We’d like to have WOS participate in more of these events. If you’re interested in helping to staff a booth, or have suggestions for birding festivals and events that WOS should participate in, let us know!

Michael Donohue

From the President and Board

Washington Field Notes

Compiled by Tom Aversa

“Washington Field Notes” are distilled from reports sent to the compiler at 305 NW 75th St, Seattle, WA, 98117, tom.aversa@zoo.org or to Steve Mlodinow (s glamod@aol.com), at the end of each reporting period, and to a lesser extent from birding hotlines and list serves. For corrections or information contact the compiler at the above address.

Washington Field Notes
October - November 2001

Red-throated Loon Rare in e WA. 1 reported at Confluence SP Chelan on 11/29 (DBe). High count for w WA. 75 reported at March Point Skagit on 10/14 (SA).

Pied-billed Grebe High counts for e WA included 34 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 10/5 (HB), and 13 at Vantage Kittitas on 11/14 (TAv). Late breeding report: 3 adults with 2 downy chicks at Landing Lake Skamania on 10/12 (WC).

Horned Grebe Reports from e WA included 6 at Richland Benton on 10/5 (BW), 11 reported at Sprague Lake Adams/ Lincoln on 10/14 (RFl) with 4 present at least through 11/17 (CrC&JuC), and 3 at Buchanan Lake Yakima on 10/27 (DGt). High counts from w WA included 62 at Kennedy Creek Mason on 11/4 (PS&RS), and 60 at Morse Creek Bluff Clallam on 11/10 (JMz).

Red-necked Grebe Uncommon in late fall in e WA. 1 at Richland Benton on 10/5 and 10/15 (BW), 1 at Sprague Lake Adams on 10/14 (RFl), 2 at Vantage Kittitas on 11/14 (TAv), and 1 at Sacajawea SP Franklin on 11/17 (DR). High count for w WA. 600 reported at Marrowstone Point Jefferson on 10/20 (fide SM).

Eared Grebe Reports from w WA included 1 at Sequim Bay Clallam on 10/7 (BN), 11 at Mystery Bay SP Jefferson on 10/7 (PS&RS), 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/23 (MiH) until at least 11/15 (TAv), 2 at Kennedy Creek Mason on 11/4 (PS&RS), 1 at Stanwood STP Snohomish on 11/10 until at least 11/25 (SM), and 58 reported at Utsalady Bay Island on 11/23 (PS&RS).

Western Grebe High counts for e WA included 15 at Palouse RD Franklin on 11/3 (MD&MLD), and 13 at Clarkston Asotin on 11/18 (GL). High counts for w WA included 750 at Discovery Park King on 10/22 (MiH) with 1200 reported there on 10/26 (CWr), and 263 at Marrowstone Island Jefferson on 11/6 (DMu).

Clark’s Grebe Reports included 1 at Sprague Lake Adams on 10/13 (CrC&JuC), 1 at Oak Bay CP Jefferson on 10/15 (DMu) until at least 10/26 (PcG), 3 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 10/20 (SM), 1 reported at Boston Harbor Thurston on 11/4 (PS&RS), and 1 at Wind River Skamania on 11/29 (WC).

Northern Fulmar Rarely reported from shore in the Strait of Juan De Fuca. 1 at Graysmarsh Clallam on 10/13 (SM).

Photo Correction

The white undertail coverts and mostly white tail are typical of Black-bellied Plover, Jensen Access, Skagit, 8/5/2001. Photo by Patrick Sullivan.

Pacific Loon Uncommon in e WA. Reports included 1 at Confluence SP Chelan on 10/10 remaining in the area until at least 10/29, 2 at Rocky Reach Dam Chelan on 10/19 and 10/28 (DBe), 2 at Cook Lake Okanogan on 10/22 (Msp), 1 at Richland Benton on 11/1 (BW), 1 at Medical Lake Spokane on 11/10 until at least 11/13 (WH, JA), and 8 at John Day Dam Klickitat on 11/23 (SM). High count for w WA. 200 at Bainbridge Island Kitap on 10/7 (DoW).

Yellow-billed Loon Uncommon in WA. 1 at Point No Point Kitap on 11/10 (BLa&LNLa), and 1 at Sequim Bay Clallam on 11/15 (EKr).
American White Pelican Uncommon in W.A. 8 at Vancouver Lake Clark on 11/17 (WC, K.K.).

Brown Pelican Late reports included 22 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 10/6 with 17 there on 10/20, 146 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/6 with 15 there on 11/10 (PS&RS), and 1 remaining until at least 11/15 (TAv), 37 at Tokeland Pacific on 10/13, 45 at Elk River Grays Harbor on 10/20 (PS&RS), 2 northwest of Boston Harbor Thurston on 10/28 (BS) with 1 remaining there until at least 11/4 (PS&RS).

Double-crested Cormorant High counts included 100 at Yakima RD Benton on 11/13 (BW) for e WA, and 870 at Tokeland Pacific on 10/13 (PS&RS) for w WA.

Great Egret Reports included 1 at Confluence SP Chelan from the beginning of the period until 10/31 (DBe), 13 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 10/12 (WC), 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 10/13 and 10/30 (MD), 7 at Bottle Beach Grays Harbor on 10/20, 29 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/3 with 17 there on 11/17 (PS&RS) and 3 remaining until at least 11/29 (TAv), 1 at Fir Island Skagit on 11/3 (SA), until at least 11/23 (JB), 4 at Bay City Grays Harbor on 11/15 (TAv), and 1 at Samish Flats Skagit on 11/27 (SGe).

SNOWY EGRET Rare in WA. 2 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/11 (JE).

Cattle Egret Uncommon in WA. 1 reported near Brewster Okanogan on 11/6 (fide SM), 1 at Confluence SP Chelan on 11/8 (DBe), 1 at Prescott Walla Walla on 11/9 ( WHa,MD), 1 at Davenport Spokane on 11/17 (JA), 1 at Silvana Snohomish on 11/17, 1 at Stanwood Snohomish on 11/17 (DD) until at least 11/27 (SGe), 1 along the Palouse Highway Spokane on 11/19 (WC), and 2 at Burbank Walla Walla on 11/19 until the end of the period (NLs).

Green Heron Rare and late for e WA. 1 at Yakima Yakima on 11/12 (RRe) to 11/16 (DGr).

Black-crowned Night-Heron High counts included 12 at Yakima RD Benton on 11/13 (BW), and 27 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 11/17 (DR).

Plegadis sp. 1 very late individual reported as White-faced or Glossy Ibis at Bingen Klickitat on 10/2 (SJ) remained until at least 10/22 (WC) and was presumably the former species. Glossy Ibis has not yet been recorded in WA.

Tundra Swan Early reports included 4 at Snively Road Benton on 10/21 (MGr), 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/25 (TAv), 4 at Yakima RD Benton on 10/28 (DfJ), and 2 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 10/28 (WC).

Trumpeter Swan Reports away from northwest WA wintering areas included 4 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/28 (SM), 4 reported at Othello Adams on 10/31 (RFl), 1 at Toppenish NWR Yakima on 11/18 (KT), 4 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/13 (JE), with 2 there until at least the end of the period, and 90 at Elma Grays Harbor on 11/23 (TAv).

Greater White-fronted Goose Reports included 443 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 10/15 (HB), 67 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 10/6, 72 at Ocean City Sp Skagit on 10/12 (PS&RS), 4 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 10/14 (WC), 1 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 10/14 (PS&RS) until at least 11/15 (TAv), 4 at Coulee City Grant on 11/3 (fide TAv), 1 at Horsethief Lake SP Klickitat on 11/23 (SM), and 200 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/26 (fide JE) with 170 near there on 11/29 (TAv, SGe).

Ross's Goose Uncommon in WA. 1 immature at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 11/24 (SM).

EMPEROR GOOSE Rare in WA. 1 juvenile at Vancouver Lake Clark on 10/25 (TAv, SGe) with 2 birds reported on 10/30 (fide JE) and 1 remaining until at least 11/25 (WC).

Brant Uncommon away from salt water in WA. 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/30 (fide JE).

Green-winged Teal High counts included 270 at Sequim Bay Clallam on 10/24 (EKr), and 450 at Blaine Whatcom on 11/7 (TAv).

American Black Duck Remnant of introduced population remains. 1 pure female at Everett Snohomish on 10/14 (EH).

Northern Pintail High count. 3700 at Blaine Whatcom on 11/7 (TAv).

Cinnamon Teal Uncommon in winter. 2 males at Lake Farm Road Clallam on 11/3 (BN, DoW), 10 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/17 (WC) with 1 there on 11/27 (JE) and 11/29 (TAv, SGe).

Eurasian Wigeon Uncommon but increasing in e WA. 1 at Richland Benton on 11/1 to at least 11/8 (BW), 1 at Kennewick Benton on 11/18 (LN), 1 at Sprague Lake Adams/Lincoln on 11/23 (RFl), and 1 at Wenatchee Chelan on 11/24 (DBe).

American Wigeon High counts included 2500 at Dungeness Clallam on 10/7 (PS&RS), and 1350 at Sequim Bay Clallam on 11/16 (EKr).

Canvasback Reports included 20 at Sprague Lake Adams on 10/14 (CrC&JuC) with 31 there on 11/17 (RFl), 1 at Longview STP Cowitz on 10/24 (RKO), 24 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 10/28 (PS&RS) with 40 there on 11/15 (TAv), 2 at Sequim Clallam on 11/3 (BN, DoW), and 84 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 11/10 (PS&RS).

Redhead Uncommon in w WA. 1 male at Kenmore King on 10/15 (MHI), 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/20 (PS&RS), and 1 female at Stanwood Snohomish on 11/10 (SM).

Ring-necked Duck High counts included 119 at Othello Adams on 10/26 (RFl) for e WA, and 645 at Vancouver Clark on 11/24 (SM) for w WA.

Harlequin Duck Locally uncommon. 1 at Nisqually Reach Thurston on 11/8 (JPa) and 11/21 (PS&RS). High count. 35 at Protection Island Clallam on 11/24 (KGi).
**Washington Field Notes**

**Long-tailed Duck** Early reports included 10 at Dungeness *Clallam* on 10/20 (BN), and 1 male at Hoquiam STP *Grays Harbor* on 10/23 (MiH) until at least 10/28 (PS&RS).

**Black Scoter** Locally uncommon. Reports included 1 at Nisqually Reach *Thurston* on 10/19 with 3 there on 11/20 (BS), 22 at Ocean Shores *Grays Harbor* on 10/28 with 28 there on 11/10 (PS&RS), 30 at Semiahmoo *Whatcom* on 11/7 (TAv), 8 at Edmonds Snohomish on 11/10 (NL), and 25 at Restoration Point Kitsap on 11/17 (BN).

**Surf Scoter** Uncommon in e WA. A higher number of reports than usual included 1 female at Sprague Lake *Adams* on 10/13 (CrC&JuC), 1 at Lyons Ferry STP *Franklin* on 10/13 (DR), 1 at Brewster Okanogan on 10/19 to at least 10/22 (RHe), 1 male at Yackima RD *Benton* on 10/24 (BW), 2 at Chelan Falls Park *Chelan* on 10/26 until at least 10/31, 2 at Spring Canyon *Lincoln* on 10/27 (Dbc), 2 at Blue Lake Grant on 11/3 (fide TAv), and 1 at Comboy Lake NWR *Klickitat* on 11/6 (fide JE). Unusual location for w WA. 1 reported at Ridgefield NWR *Clark* on 11/3 (PS&RS). High count. 2000 at March Point *Skagit* on 10/14 (SA).

**White-winged Scoter** Uncommon in e WA. A higher number of reports than usual included 6 at Sprague Lake *Adams*; *Lincoln* on 10/14 (RFl&cC); 4 at Walla Walla RD *Walla Walla* on 10/20 (SM), 4 at Confluence SP *Chelan* on 10/21, 1 at Lake Chelan *Chelan* on 10/26, 2 at Rocky Reach Dam *Chelan* on 11/3 (DBe), and 5 including 1 adult male at Lake Lenore *Grant* on 11/7 (Ja).

**Hooded Merganser** High count. 60 south of North Beach *Jefferson* on 11/23 (KGl).

**Red-breasted Merganser** Uncommon in e WA. 1 at East Wenatchee *Douglas* on 10/29, and 2 at Confluence SP *Chelan* on 11/21 (DBe).

**Ruddy Duck** High counts included 3300 from Soap Lake to Alkali Lake *Grant* on 10/20 (SM) for e WA, and 1000 at Everett STP *Snohomish* on 10/11 (MiH) for w WA.

**Osprey** Late reports included 1 at Cooper Mountain *Chelan* on 10/20 (SE), 1 at Cook Lake Okanogan on 10/22 (Msp), 1 at Lyons Ferry Bridge *Columbia* on 11/3 (MD&MD), 1 at Snake River *Franklin* on 11/12 (LN), 1 at Paterson Slough *Benton* on 11/17 (DKe), and 1 at Ellensburg *Kittitas* on 11/20 (KeB).

**White-tailed Kite** Uncommon and local. 1 at Ridgefield NWR *Clark* on 10/13 (Rko), 1 at Brady *Grays Harbor* on 10/25 until at least 11/24 (PS&RS), 3 at Meadows *Thurston* on 11/16 (BS) with 2 there on 11/25 (RO) and 5 reported there on 11/30 (PS&RS), 2 at Mima Mounds Natural Area *Thurston* on 11/23 (RO), and 1 at Centralia *Lewis* on 11/30 (PS&RS).

**Northern Harrier** 1 albino continued from last period at ALES *Benton* until at least 11/6 (HBr). High count. 25 at Vancouver *Kitsap* on 11/30 (TAv&SGe).

**Northern Goshawk** Uncommon in adults including 1 light morph there on 11/14 with 2 adults remaining until at least 11/21 (TAv).

**Ferruginous Hawk** Late for WA. 1 dark morph reported at Confluence SP *Chelan* on 10/4 (Dbc).

**Golden Eagle** Uncommon in w WA. 1 immature northeast of Centralia at 100 meters elevation *Lewis* on 10/6 (GW), and 1 immature reported at Oak Bay CP *Jefferson* on 11/7 (DJo). High count. 8 at Cooper Mountain *Chelan* on 10/3 (SE).

**EURASIAN HOBBY** First record for WA if accepted by WBRC. 1 videotaped on 10/20 at Discovery Park *King* on 10/20 (Ka,PC).

**Merlin** Uncommon but increasing in e WA. Reports included 1 at Kennewick *Benton* on 10/8 (LN), 1 at Two Rivers CP *Benton* on 10/17 (DR), 1 at Othello *Adams* on 10/21 and 11/20 (RI), 1 at Richland *Benton* on 10/24 (BW), 1 at Mesa Franklin on 10/30 (RF), 1 north of Ellensburg *Kittitas* on 11/14 (TAv), and 1 adult male described as a Prairie race individual at Hanford *Benton* on 11/29 (BlA).

**Peregrine Falcon** Uncommon in e WA in late fall. 1 at Yakima *Benton* on 11/13 (BW), and 1 at Satus WMA *Yakima* on 11/23 (Kt,GuH).

**Gyrfalcon** Uncommon in WA. 1 immature gray morph at Samish Flats *Skagit* on 11/11 (BlA&NL). 1 at Fir Island *Skagit* on 11/25 (GT).

**Gray Partridge** Reports included 12 at Lukenbill Road *Walla Walla* on 10/13 (MD), and 14 north of Ellensburg *Kittitas* on 11/14 (TAv).

**Spruce Grouse** Rarely reported in late fall. 2 photographed on road from Loup Loup to Conconully *Okanogan* on 11/13 (SGe).

**Greater Sage-Grouse** Locally uncommon. 2 at ALES *Benton* on 11/17 (BL&NL). 1 at Asotin *Adams* on 11/7 (At&NL).

**Prairie Falcon** Uncommon in w WA. 1 at Fir Island *Skagit* on 11/17 (BlA&NL). 1 at Maryhill SP *Lewis* on 11/14 (BLa&NL).

**Wild Turkey** Reports included 11 west of Anatone *Asotin* on 10/20 (fide MK), and 14 at Mount Spokane *Spokane* on 11/30 (RD).

**Sora** Late reports included 1 at Spencer Island *Snohomish* on 10/27 (JB), and 1 immature at Confluence SP *Chelan* on 11/10 (DBe).

**Sandhill Crane** Reports for e WA included 60 at Richland *Benton* on 10/3 with 10 there on 10/14 (BW) and 7 on 11/2...

(NLa,ChS), 500 at Lower Crab Creek Grant on 10/6 (RFl), 200 at Duley Lake Okanogan on 10/12 (RHe), and 1 injured bird at Pasco Franklin on 11/13 to at least 11/15 (fide BLa). Reports from w WA included 1338 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/8 (JE), and 50 at Joyce Clallam on 10/10 (BN).

**Black-bellied Plover** Uncommon in e WA. 2 at Reedan Lincoln on 10/3 (JA), 1 at Scooteney Reservoir Franklin on 10/13 (DR), and 2 at Sprague Lake Adams on 10/14 (RF) with 1 on 10/28 and 2 there on 11/3 (CrC&JuC).

**American Golden Plover** 1 reported at Sequim Bay Clallam on 10/20 (BN,EH).

**Pacific Golden Plover** Reports included 1 at Bottle Beach Grays Harbor on 10/13 (PS&RS), and 1 at Jensen Access Skagit on 10/7 (SA).

**Golden Plover sp.** Reports of 18 (CWr) and 20 (PS&RS) at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/6 reported to be 15 Pacific and 3 American for the former report and 17 American and 3 Pacific for the latter. Birds reported as unknown golden plover were 1 at Tokeland Pacific on 10/7 and 1 at Blyn Clallam on 10/13 (SM).

**Snowy Plover** Uncommon in WA. 19 at Midway Beach Pacific on 10/14 (GT).

**Semipalmated Plover** Uncommon and late for e WA. 1 at Scooteney Reservoir Franklin on 10/13 (DR).

**Black Oystercatcher** High count. 15 at Salt Creek CP Clallam on 11/BN.

**American Avocet** Very late for e WA. 1 at Columbia NWR Adams/Grant on 10/20 (RH), until at least 10/22 (RFJ).

**Greater Yellowlegs** Late reports for e WA included 1 at Confluence SP Chelan on 10/14 (Dbc), 2 at Othello Adams on 10/26 (RF), 4 at Bennington Lake Wallow Walla Walla on 11/7 (MD&MLD), 3 at Yakima RD Benton on 11/13 (BW,NLa), and 9 at College Place Wallow Walla Walla on 11/15 (MLD). High count for w WA. 90 at Mud Bay Thurston on 10/15 with 22 remaining there on 11/21 (PS&RS).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** Late reports from e WA included 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 10/9 (BW), 5 at Othello Adams on 10/26 (RF), and 2 at Snively Road Benton on 10/27 (BLa&NLa).

**Willet** Locally uncommon. 13 at Tokeland Pacific on 10/13 (PS&RS) with 12 there on 10/14 (GT), and 1 at Kennedy Creek Marion on 10/15 (PS&RS).

**Spotted Sandpiper** Late for e WA. 1 at Esquatzel Flume Franklin on 10/21 (LN).

**Whimbrel** Uncommon and local in late fall in WA. 1 at Tokeland Pacific on 10/14 (GT) with 3 there on 10/20 (PS&RS).

**Long-billed Curlew** Reports included 17 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/12, and 41 at Tokeland Pacific on 10/13 with 35 there on 10/19 (PS&RS).

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** Uncommon in WA. 1 adult at Tokeland Pacific on 10/7 (SM), with an adult and juvenile reported there on 10/23 (MiH), and 1 juvenile there on 11/15 (TA) until the end of the period (fide TA).

**Marbled Godwit** Locally uncommon but increasing in WA. 7 at Nisqually NWR on 10/27 (BLa&NLa).

**Least Sandpiper** High count. 85 reported at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 11/10 (PS&RS).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** Reports included 5 at Othello Adams on 10/3 with 1 there on 10/26 (RF), 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/6 (PS&RS) with 2 there on 10/23 (MiH) and 3 reported on 10/28 (PS&RS), and 1 at Fir Island Skagit on 10/7 (SA).

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** Rare this late in fall in WA. 1 juvenile photographed at Satsop Grays Harbor on 11/30 (PS&RS).

**Rock Sandpiper** Reports included 1 very early bird in juvenile plumage at Ediz Hook Clallam on 10/13 (SM), 2 at Westport Grays Harbor on 10/23 (MiH), 8 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/28 (PS&RS) with 3 on 11/7 (RL), and 4 there on 11/10 (PS&RS).

**Dunlin** Early reports from e WA included 1 at Othello Adams on 10/13 with 4 there on 10/26 (RF), 8 at Sprague Lake Adams on 10/24 (JA) with 1 there until at least 10/28 (CrC&JuC), 1 at Bennington Lake Walla Walla on 11/7 (MD&MLD), and 6 at Yakima RD Benton on 11/8 with 1 there until at least 11/13 (NLa,BW).

**Stilt Sandpiper** Late for WA. 1 reported at Othello Adams on 10/13 (RF), and 1 at Scooteney Reservoir Franklin on 10/13 (DR).

**Short-billed Dowitcher** Late reports for w WA included 22 at Bottle Beach Grays Harbor on 10/13 (PS&RS), and 2 at Blaine Whatcom on 10/27 (SM), with 3 juveniles remaining there until at least 11/7 (TA).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** Late reports for e WA included 70 at Othello Adams on 10/21 (RF), 4 at Waukon Lincoln on 10/27 (DR), 1 at Mill Creek Wallow Walla Walla on 11/5 (MD&MLD), and 45 at Yakima RD Benton on 11/7 (NLa) with 22 there on 11/13 (BW).

**Parasitic Jaeger** Uncommon in southern Puget Sound. 2 at Cooper Point Thurston on 10/4 (BS). Late reports included 1 at Edmonds Swallow Beach on 10/31 (DD), and 1 at Point No Point Kitap on 11/8 (TA,BBe).

**Franklin’s Gull** Uncommon in e WA in fall. 1 at Wallula Wallow Walla Walla on 10/13 (MD), 2 juveniles at Soap Lake Grant on 10/14 (JA), and 1 at Colville STP Stevens on 11/1 (WCu).

**Bonaparte’s Gull** Reports for e WA included 2 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla
Washington Field Notes

on 10/13 (MD), 2 at Sprague Lake Adams on 10/14 (RF), with 50 there on 10/28 (Cr&Ju,C), 2 at Mill Creek Walla Walla on 11/1 (MD) with 3 on 11/2 and 1 there on 11/12 (RF), and 11 at Yakima RD Benton on 11/2 (BW). Unusual location for w WA.

Mew Gull Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Confluence SP Chelan on 10/1 to 10/24 (DBe), 1 at Kennewick Benton on 11/18 (L.N.), 1 first year bird at Bingen Klickitat on 11/23 (SM), 1 adult at Spokane Spokane on 11/24 (WJi), and 11/25 (JA).

Ring-billed Gull High count. 3000 at Stanwood STP Snohomish on 11/10 (SM).

California Gull High counts included 5500 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/20 (PS&RS) with 10,000 on 10/28 (SM) and 1500 there on 11/15 (TA).

Herring Gull High count. 500 at La Push Clallam on 11/4 (BoB).

Thayer's Gull Uncommon in e WA. 1 juvenile at East Wenatchee Douglas on 11/5 (DBe), and 2 at John Day Dam Klickitat on 11/23 (SM). High count for w WA. 200 at Ediz Hook Clallam on 10/25 and 11/25 (BN).

Black-legged Kittiwake Reports included 5 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/6 (PS&RS), 1 juvenile at La Push Clallam on 10/15, and 1 juvenile at Neah Bay Clallam on 10/15 (BN).

Sabine's Gull Late and uncommon at location. 1 juvenile at Point No Point Kitsap on 10/13 (VN).

Caspian Tern Reports included 12 at Tokeland Pacific on 10/20 (PS&RS), 1 at Everett Snohomish on 10/21 (SM), and 1 juvenile reported at Skagit WMA Skagit on 11/3 (SA).

Common Tern Late for WA. 2 at Kingston Kitsap on 10/31 (DD).

Forster's Tern Late and uncommon in w WA at any time. 1 at Edmonds Snohomish on 10/22 (DD).

LONG-BILLED MURRELET Extremely rare in e WA. 1 found alive 12 miles west of Pomeroy Garfield on 11/14 did not survive and specimen was preserved (fide SM).

Ancient Murrelet High count. 50 at Point Wilson Jefferson on 11/25 (JF).

Band-tailed Pigeon Uncommon in e WA. 2 at Lower Trout Lake Valley Klickitat on 10/17 (KGl).

Mourning Dove Locally uncommon in w WA. 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/28 (PS&RS), 37 at Sequim Clallam on 11/18 (fide BN), 2 at Nisqually Thurston on 11/23 (MB), and 1 at Woodland Park Zoo King on 11/27 (TA).

Snowy Owl Low numbers reported this fall. 1 at Palouse Highway Spokane on 11/9 (JA,WH) and on 11/19 (WC).

Great Gray Owl 1 reportedly observed at Colocum Pass Kittitas on 10/28 (SDo).

Long-eared Owl Uncommon in w WA. 1 roosting throughout day at Woodland Park Zoo King on 11/18 (TA).

Short-eared Owl Early reports for w WA included 1 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 10/25 with 6 there on 11/29 (TA,SGe).

Boreal Owl Uncommon and local in WA. 1 at FR64 Columbia on 10/20 (BLa).

Anna's Hummingbird Locally uncommon but increasing. 1 at Cottonwood Canyon Yakima on 10/26 until at least the end of the period (fide DGr), 1 at Tumwater Thurston on 10/27 (BT), 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/28 (PS&RS), 1 at Steamboat Island Road Mason on 11/7 (JZ), and 1 east of Port Angeles Clallam on 11/25 (fide BN).

Sapsucker sp. 1 likely a hybrid Red-naped X Yellow-bellied at Hood Park Walla Walla on 10/13 (CG) and 10/28 (MD&MLD).
NOTICE OF ANNUAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to members of the Washington Ornithological Society that, pursuant to the provisions of the Bylaws, this the Ballot for the Annual Election of Officers and Directors. Individual members are entitled to one vote. Family membership allows a second vote by another member of the household. (Photocopy this ballot for the second voter). The results of the Annual Election of Officers and Directors will be officially ratified at the October 2002 meeting of the WOS Board. Terms of Elected Officers and Directors begin on October 1, 2002.

Please return your ballot by September 15, 2002.

STATEMENT

I am a member in good standing. I hereby cast votes for Officers and Directors as shown on the reverse side.

________________________________________  _________________
sign                      date

PLEASE VOTE, SIGN, FOLD, TAPE, STAMP, and MAIL

WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ELECTIONS
C/O BRIAN BELL
16440 NE 160th ST
WOODINVILLE, WA 98072
Washington Ornithological Society — BALLOT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Kraig Kemper</td>
<td>Kraig and his wife, Kathy, began birding in the late 80s when they purchased 40 acres in Skagit County overlooking Padilla Bay. Kraig received his B.S. in Social Work and a B.A. in Landscape Architecture from the University of Washington. He is a landscape designer and owner of a residential design build firm, Kemper/Iversen, Limited. Kraig has served twelve years with the Padilla Bay Foundation. Kraig is past President of the Skagit Audubon Society and currently chairs their monitoring projects, including the Padilla Bay CBC and Skagit County NAMC. He is a graduate of Seattle Audubon's Master Birder program. Kraig is the current WOS President.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Brian Bell</td>
<td>Brian began birding as a kid growing up in the Santa Monica Mountains, but didn’t realize he was birding until 1972 when, as an environmental planner, he did bird surveys. The birding bug grabbed him and he has wallowed in it ever since. He’s birded extensively in Washington, California, Hawaii, other parts of the northwest and Alaska, the east (particularly Massachusetts), southeast, and southwest. He is a Birding &amp; Natural History Guide for clients in Washington and the west coast. He is a member of WOS, Seattle Audubon, Seattle Peregrine Project, ABA, and Western Field Ornithologists. He is a Master Birder and teaches classes and leads field trips for Seattle Audubon. He is the current WOS Vice President.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Rachel Lawson</td>
<td>Rachel Lawson grew up in California. While studying at UC, Davis, she started birding during a field technology class, finding the birds much more interesting than the ground squirrels she was supposed to be watching. In 1974, she moved to Seattle to go to graduate school at the UW. She worked at the Woodland Park Zoo, raised two daughters and enjoyed a second career as a cook and pastry chef. She retired last year and is happy to have more time for birding and volunteering for WOS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mary Klein</td>
<td>Native Washingtonian, long-time bird-lover, but relatively new birder. Began birding casually about five years ago, got hooked recently and has been field-tripping and class-taking ever since. She originally ran for WOS Board Secretary in response to a request for volunteers at a WOS meeting. She has previous board secretary experience and the time and skills to do the job. She’d be honored and pleased to continue to serve as WOS Board Secretary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Position 1</td>
<td>Diane Weber</td>
<td>Diane was born in Texas, raised in New Mexico, and attended college in Chicago, Illinois, and graduate school at Utah State University. She has lived in Pullman, Washington, and worked at Washington State University since 1973 where she currently is administrative assistant at the State of Washington Water Research Center. Diane began to develop an interest in birds about 10 years ago and does most of her birding with husband, Tom. Their main area of birding the past few years has been via dirt and gravel roads into the far corners of Whitman County. They are also conducting two BBS's this year for the first time. She has been president and membership chair of Palouse Audubon Society, and is currently owned by two indoor cats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Position 2</td>
<td>Denny Granstrand</td>
<td>Denny Granstrand's life as a birder started in 1978 when he stood beside his feeder in New Hampshire and had Common Redpolls and Black-capped Chickadees eat seed out of his hand. He has been active in the Yakima Valley Audubon Society since 1985, was president in 1988-89, and is now the editor of the newsletter and compiler of the Christmas Bird Count. He also writes a weekly bird sightings column for the Yakima Herald-Republic and co-founded the BirdYak (Birding Yakima County) e-mail list. Denny has birded extensively throughout Washington and will bring a knowledge of and enthusiasm for the birds of Eastern Washington to WOS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Position 3</td>
<td>Tracee Geernaert</td>
<td>Tracee Geernaert's term runs through October, 2003.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board Position 4</td>
<td>Mike Denny</td>
<td>Mike Denny’s term runs through October, 2003.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Position 5</td>
<td>Joe Buchanan</td>
<td>Joe began watching birds while attending high school in Portland, Oregon, in the early 1970s. A Washington resident since 1977, Joe received his B.S. from The Evergreen State College where his focus was ornithology and environmental chemistry, and a M.S. from the University of Washington with a major in wildlife sciences. Joe works for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife where he is the leader of the Forest Wildlife unit. A member of WOS since the organization’s inception, Joe is currently completing his first term at Board Position 5 and recently became one of the editors of Washington Birds. He is running for his second two-year term at Board Position 5.</td>
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Washington Field Notes

Barn Swallow Late reports included 1 at Mount Vernon Skagit on 10/14 (SA), 1 at Longview Cowlitz on 10/24 (RkO), 6 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 10/25 (TAv,SGe), 20 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 10/27 (JB), 1 at Confluence SP Chelan on 10/30 (DBe), 1 at McNary NWR Walla Walla on 10/30 (MD).

Cliff Swallow Very late for WA. 1 at Discovery Park King on 10/21 (SM), and 1 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 10/27 (JB).

White-breasted Nuthatch Uncommon and local in w WA. 2 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/3 (PS&RS) with 5 there on 11/29 (TAv,SGe).

Rock Wren Rare in w WA. 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 10/28 (PS&RS).

Winter Wren High count for e WA. 14 at Robinson Canyon Kittitas on 11/21 (TAv).

Marsh Wren Locally uncommon. 2 at Cle Elum Kittitas on 11/14 (TAv).

American Dipper Locally uncommon. 1 at Shinglemill Creek on Vashon Island King on 11/2 until the end of the period (ESw).

Western Bluebird Locally uncommon in w WA. 7 south of Port Angeles Clallam on 10/8 with 12 there on 10/16 (fide BN), 4 at Woodland Cowlitz on 10/20 (RkO), and 6 at Morse Creek Bluff Clallam on 10/23 (JMu).

Mountain Bluebird Late reports included 1 at the Vantage Highway Kittitas on 10/2 (RFi), 1 at the Hummocks Trail at Mount St Helens Cowlitz on 10/6 (RkO), 12 at Medical Lake Spokane on 10/27 (DR), and 1 at ALES Benton on 11/4 (BLa&NLa).

Townsend’s Solitaire Locally uncommon. 1 at Mount Pleasant Skamania on 11/21 (WC).

Hermit Thrush High count. 12 in one flock at Edmonds Snohomish on 10/8 (DD).

Varied Thrush High counts included 25 at Lyons Ferry SP Franklin on 10/20 (SM) for e WA, and 150 at Johnson Ridge Snohomish on 10/9 (DD) for w WA.

Northern Mockingbird Uncommon in WA. 1 at Edmonds Snohomish on 11/5 (DD), 1 at Skagit WMA Skagit on 11/18 (EP), and 1 at Stanwood Snohomish on 11/25 until the end of period (MR).

Bohemian Waxwing Early reports included 41 at Rooks Park Walla Walla on 11/7 (MD&MLD), 5 at McNary Dam Benton on 11/18 (PB), and 6 at Dallesport Klickitat on 11/23 (SM).

Cedar Waxwing High count. 300 at Magneson Park King on 10/13 (JB).

Orange-crowned Warbler Late reports from e WA included 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 11/5 (NLa), and 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 11/17 (DR).

Yellow Warbler Late for WA. 1 at Bay Center Pacific on 10/7 (SM), and 1 at Elwha RM Clallam on 10/13 (DD).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER Rare in WA. 1 winter male reported at Confluence SP Chelan on 10/2 (DBe).

Yellow-rumped Warbler High counts from e WA included 2000 at Confluence SP Chelan on 10/2 (DBe), 135 at Vantage Kittitas on 10/2 (RFi), and 250 at Hood Park Walla Walla on 10/6 (MD&MLD).

Black-throated Gray Warbler Late reports included 1 at Lake Stevens Snohomish on 10/6 (SA), 1 at Raymond Pacific on 10/7 (SM), and 1 at Marymoor Park King on 11/7 (MiH).

Palm Warbler Uncommon in WA. 1 at Bay Center Pacific on 10/7 (SM), 1 reported at Tokeland Pacific on 10/20, 3 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 11/10 (PS&RS), with 1 there on 11/15 (TAv).

Common Yellowthroat Late reports included 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 10/25 (TAv,SGe) with 1 there on 11/29 (TAv), and 1 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 10/25 (TAv,SGe).

Wilson’s Warbler Very late for e WA. 1 at East Wenatchee Douglas on 11/8, and 1 at Confluence SP Chelan from 11/20 to 11/26 (DBe).

Western Tananger Very late for WA. 1 at Port Townsend Jefferson on 11/8 (BBc,TAv), 1 at Stanwood Snohomish on 11/12 (SGe), and 1 at Woodland Park Zoo King on 11/27 (TAv,GT).

American Tree Sparrow Reports from e WA included 1 at Washutucu Adams on 10/20 (SM), 1 at Sprague Lake Adams on 10/24 (JA), and 10/26 (Cg&JoC), 1 at Confluence SP Chelan on 10/30 (DBe), 2 at Lyons Ferry SP Franklin on 11/3 (MD&MLD), and 12 at Coulee-Hite Road Spokane on 11/21 and 11/24 (JA).

Clay-colored Sparrow Rare in WA in late fall. 1 at Woodland Cowlitz on 11/24 (SM).

Fox Sparrow Late reports for e WA included 1 “Sooty” at ALES Benton on 11/9 (BLa&NLa), 1 “slate-colored” at Two Rivers CPS Benton on 11/17 (DR), 1 “Sooty” at Dallesport Klickitat on 11/23, 9 “Sooty” at Maryhill Klickitat on 11/23 (SM), 1 “Slate-colored” at Kennewick Benton on 11/30 (NLa,RF), and 1 at Othello Adams on 11/30 (RFi).

Swamp Sparrow Uncommon in WA. 1 at Confluence SP Chelan on 10/5 with five different birds there on 10/25 and 11/24 (DBe), 1 at Silvana Snohomish on 11/10 (SM), 1 at Marymoor Park King on 11/14 (MiH), 1 southeast of Elma Grays Harbor on 11/25 (PS&RS), and 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 11/29 (TAv,SGe).

White-throated Sparrow Uncommon but apparently increasing in WA. Reports included 1 at Confluence SP Chelan on 10/2 (DBe), 1 at Nisqually Thurston on 11/5 (BS), 1 at Charbonneau Park Walla Walla on 10/6 (MD&MLD), 1 at Bay Center Pacific on 10/7, 3 at Tokeland Pacific on 10/7 (SM), 2 at Mount Pleasant Skamania on 10/8 (WC), 3 at Sequim Clallam on 10/10 (BoB), 2 at Elwha RM Clallam on 10/13 (SM), 4 at Tokeland Pacific on 10/13 (PS&RS), 1 at Yakima Yakima on 10/13 (ELS), 1 at ALES Benton on 10/28 (BLa&NLa), 3 at Spencer Island Snohomish on 11/1 (MiH), 1 at Two Rivers CP Benton on 11/2 (DR), 2 at Monroe Snohomish on 11/3 (SM), 1 at Lummi Flats Whatcom on 11/7 (TAv), 4 at Vancouver Lowlands Clark on 11/24 (SM), 1 at Wallingford King on 11/24 (DVj), 1 at Olympia Thurston on 11/25 (RR), 6 in the Ridgefield NWR area.

Rock Wren are much less common in Western Washington than East of the Cascades. Ruth Sullivan found this one on the Ocean Shores Jetty, Grays Harbor, 10/28/2001.
Washington Field Notes

*Clark* on 11/29 (TAv), and 3 at Marymoor Park *King* on 11/30 (MiH).

**Harris's Sparrow** Uncommon in WA. 1 at Vashon Island *King* on 10/6 until at least the end of the period (ESw), 1 at Confluence SP *Chelan* on 10/29 and 10/30 (DBe), 1 at Washtucna *Adams* on 11/9 (RFI), 1 at Two Rivers CP *Benton* on 11/17 (DR), and 1 immature at Bennington Lake *Walla Walla* on 11/17 (MD&MLD).

**“Puget” White-crowned Sparrow** Uncommonly reported from e WA. 1 at ALES Benton 10/28 (BLa).

**Golden-crowned Sparrow** Uncommon in e WA. 3 at ALES Benton 10/6 with 6 there on 10/7 (DR), 1 at Lyons Ferry *Franklin* on 10/20 (SM), 2 at West Richland *Benton* on 10/22 (CJ), 1 immature at Richland *Benton* 11/13 to 11/29 (BW), 1 at Sacusawea SP *Franklin* on 11/17 (DR), and 1 at Robinson Canyon *Kittitas* on 11/21 (TAv).

**“Slate-colored” Junco** Reports included 2 at Washtucna *Adams* 10/20 (SM), 2 at Lyons Ferry *Franklin* 10/20 (SM), 1 at Seattle *King* 10/23 (DP), 1 at Samish Flats *Skagit* 10/27, 4 at Lake Terrell *Whatcom* 10/27 (SM), 1 at Monroe *Snohomish* 11/3 (SM), 1 at Richland *Benton* on 11/11 (BW), and 1 at Magnuson Park *King* 11/24 (JB), 1 at Stanwood *Snohomish* 11/25 (SM).

**Lapland Longspur** Uncommon in WA. 16 reported at Ocean Shores *Grays Harbor* on 10/6 (CWr), with 9 on 10/7 (SDo,RL) and 14 there on 10/12 (PS&RS), and 15 at Ralston *Adams* on 11/28 (RH).

**Snow Bunting** Uncommon in w WA. 2 at Ocean Shores *Grays Harbor* on 10/28 (SM).

**Black-headed Grosbeak** Very late for WA. 1 in female-type plumage at Seattle *King* on 10/23 (DP).

**Western Meadowlark** Reports for w WA included 24 at Ridgefield NWR *Clark* on 10/8 (JE) with 17 there on 11/3, 2 at Ocean Shores *Grays Harbor* on 10/12 (PS&RS), 1 at Tatoosh Island *Cullam* on 11/13 (BPa), and 7 at Nisqually *Thurston* on 11/23 (MaB).

**Rusty Blackbird** Rare in WA. 1 at Nisqually Cut-off Road *Thurston* on 11/20 (BS) until at least 11/23 (MaB,RSh), 1 at Vancouver Lowlands *Clark* on 11/24 (SM), and 1 at Brady *Grays Harbor* on 11/25 (PS&RS).

**White-winged Crossbill** Uncommon in WA. 30 at Salmo Mountain *Pend Oreille* on 11/4 (MK), and 1 just east of Loup Loup *Okanogan* on 11/10 (SGc).

**Common Redpoll** Reports during this major irruption included 8 at Sprague *Lincoln* on 11/4, 16 at Davenport *Lincoln* on 11/10 with 20 on 11/17 and 30 there on 11/21 (JA), 40 at Lummi Flats *Whatcom* on 11/11 (HO&JoE), 50 at Hallett Road *Lincoln* on 11/15 and 11/24 (JA), and 40 at Ritzville *Adams* on 11/17 (RFI) with 30 there on 11/11 (CrCJuC), 40 at Stanwood *Snohomish* on 11/18, 3 at Confluence SP *Chelan* on 11/20 with 20 there on 11/29 (DBe), 12 at the Ellensburg airport *Kittitas* on 11/21 (TAv), 1 at Spencer *Island* *San Juan* on 11/21 (RL), 5 at Lind *Adams* on 11/24 (CrCJuC), 20 at Skagit WMA *Skagit* on 11/25 (SA), 1 at Bingen *Klickitat* on 11/27 (WC), 2 at Woodland Park Zoo *King* on 11/27 (TAv), and 60 at Mount Spokane. *Spokane* on 11/30 (RD).

**Hoary Redpoll** Rare in WA. 1 at Lummi Flats *Whatcom* on 11/11 (HO&JoE).

**Pine Siskin** High count for e WA. 200 at Ritzville *Adams* on 10/28 (CrCJuC).

**American Goldfinch** High count. 250 northwest of Ellensburg *Kittitas* on 11/1 (TAv,HO).

Many were thrilled by this Tropical Kingbird that spent almost two weeks in Stanwood, *Snohomish*, in the yard of Donna Kish, one of the nicest and most accommodating hosts possible. Top photo by Quinn, 11/23/2001 (note the red spot on the top of the head).
More classes and field trips . . .

All classes are at the Center for Urban Horticulture and are sponsored by the Seattle Audubon Society

“Fall Shorebirds of Washington” with Jim Flynn, Master Birder

Autumn is the season when rarities such as bar-tailed godwits, still sandpipers, and ruffs show up. The fall migration is much longer than in spring, giving birders ample time to practice the skills they learn in class and to see the differences between adults and young birds on their first migration south. During the field trip to Grays Harbor we will see most of the common species of the Washington coast and perhaps an unusual species or two.

Class: Wednesday, August 21 and 28, 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Douglas Classroom
Field Trip: Choose one: Saturday, September 7 or Sunday, September 8
Cost: $65 members, $80 nonmembers
Limit: 25

“Introduction to Nature Photography” with Lee Barnes

Always admiring your friend's nature photos but not sure how to get started yourself? Come take this class and learn about basic 35mm photography. This course will include a discussion of equipment, composition, and lighting. Time will also be spent on general nature photography, microphotography, and--time permitting--bird photography. We will also critique the pictures we take in the field.

Class: Wednesday, September 4; Monday, September 9; Wednesday, September 11; 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Issacson Boardroom
Field Trip: Saturday, September 7
Cost: $80 members, $95 nonmembers
Limit: 12

Field trips: Saturday, September 28 (half day), and Saturday, October 12 (full day)
Cost: $130 members, $150 nonmembers
Limit: 25

“Anatomy of Birds” with Gene Lagerberg, MD, Burke Museum & Seattle Audubon specimen-preparer

Have you ever wondered what birds look like on the inside? Want to know how mammal and avian species differ in their internal and external anatomy? Join Gene as he shares his knowledge of this interesting subject through the use of bird skins, wings, and actual bird dissection. You will certainly leave this class with a more intimate understanding of birds!

Class: Wednesdays, September 11 and 18, 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Douglas Classroom (Sept. 11) and Issacson Boardroom (Sept. 18)
Cost: $30 members, $45 nonmembers
Limit: 15

Field trips: Saturday, September 7; Wednesday, September 11; 7:00-9:00 PM
Location: Issacson Boardroom
Field Trip:  Saturday, September 7
Cost: $65 members, $80 nonmembers
Limit: 25
WOS Conference

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The best moments of the conference were on the field trips. Highlights from Patrick and Ruth Sullivan's Colville Plateau trip on Friday included a surf scoter well out of range along with a Franklin's gull on Duley Lake, and a black-backed woodpecker along the northern section of Cameron Lake Road. Kraig Kemper’s Soap Lake trip featured a pair of golden eagles, singing grasshopper, brewer’s, vesper, and lark sparrows around the lakes, and three least flycatchers near the mouth of the Okanogan River. The Sullivan’s owling trip yielded a barred owl pair at the Loup Loup campground. Working north on FS 42 they called in a flammulated owl and heard long-eared owl and northern pygmy-owl.

Saturday’s field trips included six to relatively low elevations and three to high elevation routes. On Charlie Wright and Scott Downes’ Freezeout Ridge trip a pair of pine grosbeak were seen well along FS 3820. That road was a challenging drive! Nearer the trailhead on FS 3/7 was a female three-toed woodpecker, and on the ridge trail Scott almost stepped on a male spruce grouse with a female blue grouse. Everyone had fabulous looks. Boreal chickadees were seen on all of the high-elevation trips. Clay-colored sparrow and gray partridge were seen on Ryan Shaw’s Havillah and Molson trip.

Scott and Charlie combined again Saturday night for a magical owling trip. Charlie Wright’s knowledge clearly shows that in his 13 years he has brought more dedication and intelligence to his birdwatching than most of the rest of us have managed in a much greater time. He has a real feel for the birds, developed during many days and nights in the field. At the Rock Creek campground, as dusk began to fall, he started imitating a northern pygmy-owl. Quickly getting a response, he was able to locate the bird on a snag, and all were able to get nice scope view in the dwindling light. After last light, he switched to flammulated owl hoots. Over the next fifteen minutes or so he conversed with the bird using at least four different vocalizations, until he had finally coaxed it to land just a few feet away. For a few seconds we bathed it with flashlight beams and oohs and ahhs. As Charlie’s voice began to tire, Scott joined in as well, and soon there were two birders and four owls all calling together. Later, at Loup Loup campground, Charlie began to call for barred owl. While we all sensed the presence of a bird, there was no answer and nothing to see until Charlie shifted to the call of a favorite prey item, the northern saw-whet. Instantly, a barred owl flew right over our heads, landing a short distance away. Under the glare of lights, we watched as one and then a second barred owl appeared. The two owls gave quite a show, with one mounting the other momentarily as if to tell Charlie that that girl was taken. It was a night for all to remember.

Sunday’s field trip highlights included nesting horned grebe on Spectacle Lake on Brian Bell’s Palmer Lake / Champneys Slough trip, prairie falcon, black-necked stilt, and loggerhead shrike on Marv Breece’s Colville Plateau trip, and a pair of white-winged crossbill on Marcus Roening’s Roger Lake trip, part way up the Freezeout Ridge trail.

The big surprise Sunday was an alder flycatcher reported on Patrick and Ruth Sullivan’s trip to Havillah and Molson. The bird, found on Kipling Road north of Muskrat Lake, was photographed. Sound recordings were also made, and on preliminary examinations, the sonograms appear to match published sonograms for alder. It is likely that reports from 2002 will result in the first accepted records of this species in Washington State. As if an alder flycatcher wasn’t enough, the Sullivans also located a great gray owl and a barred owl at Highlands Snow Park.

Least flycatcher were seen on a surprising number of field trips (8), and multiple leasts were seen or heard on several trips. This has certainly been a good year for least flycatcher reports. Northern waterthrush were reported on five field trips, while ten field trips reported bobolink. With 187 species total, there were no stunning misses, though it was disappointing that neither gray-crowned rosy-finch nor white-tailed ptarmigan were seen on Freezeout Ridge. American redstart and northern goshawk were also missed.

The Cedars Inn worked well as a base of operations. I heard no complaints about the rooms or the food, and the bagged lunches were more than acceptable. Breakfasts and lunches were ready on time, a real challenge for the staff, considering the early hour!

Great credit and thanks should go to the organizing committee for this conference. Mary Klein (registration), Andy Stepnewski (field trips), Kraig Kemper (facilities), Tracee Geernaert, Brian Bell, Michael Donahue, and Rachel Lawson put together a great conference. Many others helped out here and there; many thanks to all! I think everyone is looking forward to the 2003 conference which will be held somewhere in Western Washington.

More information about the field trips and birds seen will be on the WOS website at www.wos.org.
Northern Flickers

And so the flickers began working industriously on MY house. At first we’d bang on the bedroom window. We could see the tips of their tails as they worked. What a beautiful close-up of the function of their stiffened tails. But they weren’t drumming now. Oh, no, they were looking for the perfect spot in which to start excavating. Coming home from work on the second day, I saw a small hole had been pecked completely through the wooden siding of the house. Muttering imprecations in half a dozen languages (the product of a twenty-year career in the Army), I put up a piece of aluminum flashing over the spot. That ought to do it.

Oh, no. Oh, my, no. The next two days were spent laughing at the befuddlement of the flickers. What is THIS stuff? And we thought it had ended. But no. My husband then goes out of town for a few days and my job entails my leaving for Yakima for two days. We both return on Friday. Saturday morning, we’re lying in bed. It’s now earlier than we usually wake up on a Saturday, even WITH a Siamese alarm cat, and we hear a different sound - over the bathroom window. It’s not drumming, it’s more muffled tapping.

We go outside, spooking the flickers away from the bathroom window. There is a reason the sound was muffled. There is a hole the diameter of a soda can in the siding over the bathroom window. The grass below it is littered with insulation. And the HOLE, oh my, the only thing separating the flicker from the inside of our bathroom is half an inch of sheet rock!!

Suddenly these flickers aren’t charming little clowns anymore, they’re destructive pests. I fill up the hole with insulation and install more aluminum flashing over it. But this time the flickers aren’t to be denied. They stretch up as high as they can and begin a second hole over the top edge of the flashing, and manage to break through again. I install even more flashing. My house looks like something one finds under a bridge.

The flickers tried once again for the kestrel house and chased the starlings out. And then they left, we hoped for good. The house has been untouched for quite a while.

But today, as I sit on my screened-in porch, planning my day, the female flicker flew in and landed atop the kestrel box. She peered in, flew in, spent several minutes making preemptory pecks (probably at that darned step) and seemed to make up her mind. She then flew to the nearest swallow box (which is home to a noisy brood of new violet-green swallows), looked around, and drummed. An indignant female violet-green erupted from the house and immediately stooped on the flicker, who ignored her. The swallow was joined by her mate, but the flicker paid no mind to them. She continued drumming on the roof over the swallow’s fledglings, probably terrorizing them.

I haven’t taken down the flashing.

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They very industriously flew in and out of the house. I could hear them inside, busily renovating by pecking away at the step below the hole that was intended to help little kestrels get out of the box. I peeked when they weren’t home. They’d almost completely removed the step. No problem. This landlady is glad to see the new renters working so hard to fix the place up.

Then the starlings showed up. A large male thought the house was just dandy in which to raise young starlings. He perched atop the house, spinning his wings and making an ugly racket, a cacophony of clicks, whistles, red-tailed hawk screams, and white-tailed kite calls. He even mimicked a California quail.........a talented Mortimer, indeed! He soon was joined by a female and together they began stuffing the house with grasses. The flickers protested, but they were no match for the aggressive starlings. And so they started drumming atop the house again.

But now it was spring, the sun was up by 0600 and we’re now being awakened by the flickers. They were like Teutonic maids who didn’t give a darn that the “Do Not Disturb” sign was hanging on the motel room door; good heavens, it was time we were out of bed.

While they were drumming at dawn and watching the starlings build in what used to be their box, the flickers came to the realization that underneath their feet was a perfectly good house, even though it was occupied by two humans and a vociferous Siamese cat. Look, here, over the bathroom window, a perfect ledge on which to perch while working, and overhead, a nice soffit to keep the bird dry. Perfect.

Male northern "red-shafted" flicker. Photo copyright Peter LaTourrette, http://birdphotography.com
ORIOLES NESTING IN THE DESERT?
by Jan Bragg

When asked where orioles nest, most people would answer “riparian areas.” NGS says they breed “where shade trees grow.” Imagine my surprise at finding a female Bullock’s oriole putting the finishing touches on a nest constructed between a utility pole and its guy wire in the Alvord Desert, eastern Oregon, on June 4, 2002. There were no trees for miles. As you can see in the photo, short sage brush and rabbit brush predominated. A draw, running down the hillside on the opposite side of the road, was dry. It was lined with serviceberry shrubs and one bitterbrush shrub, all under 10 feet. The only water was at the north end of the desert, at least a mile away. Well…there was also water, hot water, in the hot springs, just north of the nest pole, recognizable in the photo by the corrugated metal which surrounds the “hot tub.”

About every 5 minutes, the female oriole was entering the nest with mouthfuls of lining material. Her mate would wait on the guy wire as she worked, and then accompany her on each sally out to gather more lining. He was a first-year male. The nest was of gray plant fibers woven into the typical bag, about 6” deep, attached over the guy wire, with the bottom of the bag propped against the side of the pole. The bird had also used the ground wire which was running from the guy wire down the pole, as part of the structure of the bag. The nest was about 28 feet off the ground, on the west side of the pole, shaded from the hot morning sun.

A full adult male Bullock’s oriole seemed to be setting up his territory along the dry draw, presumably preferable habitat because of the shrubbery and potential for shade, although much lower than the utility pole. Was the reason the first-year male was on the phone pole because the full adult had claimed the best habitat for miles around?

(Nest observers were Jan Bragg, Bob Hansen, and Stuart Johnston.)

Photographers: the Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society is having a Photo Contest and Photo Workshop with the theme: “Our Beautiful Olympic Rivers.” Photo submission deadline is 4:00 pm on Friday, September 13th. The workshops are August Saturdays: the 10th, 17th, and 24th. For full information go to www.olympus.net/opas, or contact Sue Chickman, Contest Coordinator at 360/681-3289 or at windrg@olypen.com.
**Report Your Sightings**

**Grebe diving study:** Susan McDougall is looking for help in a triangulation method of measuring foraging, mostly in horned grebes. See WOSNews 76 for a full explanation. Susan can be contacted at (425) 640-6654 or by e-mail at 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 andecynl@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.

**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@sei.net.

**Merlin:** Detailed year-round observations are needed for scientific research of the merlin in Washington. The merlin is a small falcon: 10-12 inches long with a wingspan of 22-25 inches. The male merlin's call "Kee-Kee-Kee..." (like a high pitched Douglas squirrel) may be heard during summer near stream, river and lake forest edges. Your notes are requested and should include exact location/map, date/time, description of bird(s) and behavior. Please call ASAP: David Drummond, Principal Investigator, Coastal Forest Merlin Project, P.O. Box 4123, Bellingham, WA 98227, (360) 671-3804 or merlinology@hotmail.com

**Purple Martins (color bands):** Stan Kostka is banding purple martins at managed nest box 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.

**Western Bluebirds in Western Washington:** Please report any sightings of Western Bluebird in Western Washington, especially away from known breeding sites, to Michael Hobbs, 13506 NE 66th St, Kirkland, WA 98033 or to hummer@isomedia.com. Sightings from previous years also welcome.

**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

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**RARE BIRD ALERTS**

**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, 5421 Hanson Rd., 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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