The 16th Annual Conference of the Washington Ornithological Society will be held at the University Inn and Conference Center in Moscow, Idaho, from Friday, June 4 through Sunday, June 6. Field trips, led by local and experienced birders, will be conducted on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The conference also features interesting local speakers who will address topics relevant to the Pullman/Moscow/Palouse area on Friday and Saturday evenings.

The University Inn and Conference Center is located in Moscow, Idaho, 10 minutes driving time east of Pullman. It is 288 miles east of Seattle, 193 miles east of Yakima, and 76 miles south of Spokane. The Conference Committee hopes you enjoy your visit to the Pullman/Moscow area. We are offering a number of excellent field trips - space is limited, so register early! Be sure to indicate alternate choices for field trips and designate the menu items you prefer.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 20

Registrations postmarked after May 20 will be assessed a $10 late fee.

Registration begins April 15. Registration materials received as of April 15 will be processed in random order. Materials received after April 15 will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. Space on field trips is limited.

Registration at door - Applications for registration at the door of the Annual Meeting will have no guarantee of participation in the field trips or of breakfast or lunch meals. In addition, there will be a $10.00 late fee.

Cancellations received prior to May 20 will receive a refund, less a $10 processing fee. Additionally, cancellations received after June 1 will not receive a refund for any meals.

Lodging is not included in Conference fees. Please refer to the information provided and make your own arrangement.

(Continued on page 8)

Field Trip Report: Waterville Plateau, etc by Patrick Sullivan

On February 14-15, 2004, my mother and I led a WOS field trip to the Waterville Plateau covering areas from the Mansfield and Bridgeport area of Douglas County to the Fort Okanogan area of Okanogan County. This winter trip hosted ten participants with a total of 78 species. Many of these were highlights and specialty species.

Our main route on the 14th included checking several times along Bridgeport Hill Road, then onto the Waterville Plateau as far south as Mansfield, then continuing back to the Bridgeport area with a short owl hunting excursion that evening, which produced two species of owls. Several of the participants stayed overnight on the 14th, which added several species the next day that were not seen on the 14th. Everyone was well prepared for the weather and many participants had spotting scopes which helped in locating many of the species. Having two-way radios in four vehicles on the 14th also was a big help. The main highlights of the trip included the following:

1 yellow-billed loon at Chelan (Lake Chelan), Chelan Co. on the 15th
1 American white pelican in the Columbia River off Washburn Island at Fort Okanogan, Okanogan Co. (OK) on the 15th
4 tundra swans at Pateros on the Columbia River, OK (Lake Pateros) on the 13th, with 1 there on the 14th
1 male Eurasian wigeon at the mouth of the Methow River at Pateros, OK on the 14th
1 long-tailed duck observed in the Columbia River from Bridgeport Bar, Douglas Co. (DO) on the 14th
10 rough-legged hawks on the Waterville Plateau east of Mansfield, DO on the 14th
2 golden eagles over Pateros, OK on the 14th
2 merlins at Bridgeport Bar with 1 in the town of Bridgeport, DO on the 15th
9 sage grouse observed near the Leahy Junction, DO (which was a highlight for

(Continued on page 7)
Help save Reardan’s Audubon Lake:
It’s for the birds … and the birdwatchers

“For Sale by Owner.” That’s what the sign at Reardan’s Audubon Lake said in July 2003, when the Spokane Audubon Society and Inland Northwest Land Trust stepped in. And that’s what it will say if we don’t raise $50,000 by March 15, 2004.

Inland Northwest Land Trust recently purchased an option to buy the 270-acre Audubon Lake property. INLT has until March 15, 2004, to come up with $50,000 in order to extend the exclusive option to purchase for two more years. That will give INLT until March 15, 2006, to raise the rest of the purchase price and related acquisition costs or to find an appropriate conservation buyer. INLT and the landowner are still negotiating the final purchase price. Depending on who ends up owning the property, we may need to raise enough money for maintenance, improvements, and an endowment.

We need to raise the first $50,000 right away. But we’ll still need your help to raise the rest of the money over the next two years. Please help save Audubon Lake by sending your tax-deductible contributions to Inland Northwest Land Trust, 35 West Main Avenue, Suite 210, Spokane, WA 99201. Make your check payable to INLT and write “Reardan” in the memo section of the check. Money raised for Audubon Lake will go into the INLT Special Projects Fund to cover the costs of acquisition. Any money not used to acquire Audubon Lake will be restricted to other projects that permanently protect the foremost open spaces, waters, and vital habitats in eastern Washington and northern Idaho.

Located only a half-hour from Spokane in eastern Washington and adjacent to the community of Reardan on Highway 231, Audubon Lake is one of the few year-round ponds in the area and an important stopover for migratory birds making the long trek between their northern breeding grounds and southern winter havens.

Birdwatchers of all ages flock to Reardan to visit Audubon Lake and an adjacent pond. In the early morning hours, avid birdwatchers stand along the highway looking through their binoculars while flocks of birds rise and swirl as they begin another leg of their migratory travels. Because it is shallow, nutrient rich, and full of the bugs and plants that birds love to munch, the pond attracts over 200 species of waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds.

Audubon member Warren Hall has been birding at the Reardan ponds since the late 1950’s. “It is an area extremely important to many species of waterfowl, as well as migrating shorebirds,” writes Hall. “Many other species occur as breeding birds in the surrounding grasslands and marshes and wooded areas.” Over the years, Hall has observed many rare birds at the two Reardan ponds, including white-faced ibis, peregrine falcon, black-legged kittiwake, and Lapland longspur.

Audubon Lake is located on 270 acres where there are plans for a dozen houses and a new road. If developed, several of the new home sites would own a sliver of Audubon Lake. Fences, dogs, boats, and people would break up the peace and tranquility currently enjoyed by the birds. Lawn fertilizers and driveway runoff could contaminate the pond and alter its flora and fauna. Audubon Lake would be just another sliced up private pond instead of an outstanding oasis for migratory birds.

If you have any questions or to make gifts of stock or other non-cash assets, please contact Chris DeForest or Vicki Sola of Inland Northwest Land Trust at (509) 328-2939.
FROM THE BOARD  by Brian H. Bell

The weather seems to be turning, people are getting out, and interesting sightings are coming in. I hope that many of you have been able to get down either to Renton to see the great black-backed and slaty-backed gulls, or over to the eastern part of the state to see the yellow-bellied sapsucker or the lesser black-backed gull. Keep those eyes and ears open, watch for fascinating bird behavior, and prepare for late spring in eastern Washington.

You will find the registration materials for our 16th Annual Meeting this spring on June 4-6 in the Pullman/Moscow area. We have lined up a great assortment of field trips and leaders who will show us around the Palouse areas of southeastern Washington and nearby Idaho, including a couple of boat trips up the Snake River's Hells Canyon. We are fortunate to have two excellent speakers: Kas Dumrose on Friday speaking on “Natural Histories of the Palouse and Clearwater Drainage,” and Erik Stauber as our Saturday keynote speaker on “Regional Raptors and Raptor Rehabilitation.” Both speakers are highly qualified and we should have enjoyable evenings.

By now you should have received the revised Membership Directory. Thanks to all who confirmed present information or who advised us of changes. We hope to do such a revision every two years. I would like to reassure everyone that WOS does NOT sell, or otherwise make available its membership list.

I am pleased to announce that Susan Fallat has accepted the position as chair of the Membership Committee. She will be working with Tracee Geernaert, outgoing chair, and Michael Hobbs, interim chair in assuring that we have a smooth transition. We want to assure that all members are promptly and correctly entered into our membership database so that you can receive all publications and communications.

I have received some interest from a couple of people in helping out on the Hospitality Committee, and a good suggestion to help the committee in its work. At the March meeting we will have had a sign-up sheet for people willing to bring refreshments for a particular meeting. Look for this at future meetings. We are still looking for a chair for this committee.

WOS is a volunteer-oriented organization, and serving on one of the committees is a good way to meet many of the fine people of WOS and to help us out at the same time. Please let me know of any suggestions you might have for any of our positions, including the vacant ones of Vice-President and Membership Chair.

Vulture’s Roost  by Diann MacRae

It’s spring, and by the time you read this vultures, hummingbirds, and the whole summertime crew of migrants will be back and ready to nest. Kind of mind-boggling to think that this is happening all over the world. Everywhere. What will be even more mind-boggling will be if the endangered California condor some day soars over Pacific Northwest skies.

In 1602, Father Antonio de la Ascension, at Monterey Bay, California, recorded the first California condor in North America. In 1987, the last free-flying condors were taken into captivity. And, in 1992, the first California condors, along with two of their Andean cousins, were released into the wild following a successful breeding program.

Now, the Oregon Zoo, the fourth recovery site for our condor, has six birds in its half-finished breeding facility, with work going on for the rest of the buildings and the huge flight cage. When these are finished, more condors will arrive. Perhaps in the not-so-distant future we can look forward to California condors returning in the springtime!

The on-line column is moderated by a Washington resident, Anu Garg who also has an excellent book along the line of the list. To check out “A Word A Day,” just key the name into your browser. For those of you who are statistically minded, the list goes to over 500,000 people in 200 countries . . . and it’s free.

Membership News

Just a little reminder from your membership chair: if you have any changes to your address or email please pass them on to me via email or in writing. Send corrections to Membership@wos.org or to PO Box 31783 Seattle WA 98103-1783.

We are striving to improve our member support which will include publishing the directory on a regular basis. In 2002 we initiated a “Welcome to WOS” letter for new members that includes a complementary checklist and information about membership meetings. We appreciate your feedback. Send us your comments and especially any suggestions you might have to improve WOS.

Susan Fallat

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
**Book and Publication Reviews**

**Audubon in Edinburgh** by John Chalmers

Published by the National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh, 2003. The book is large format, paperback, 228 pp, and profusely illustrated with color prints, engravings, and b&w photos. Price is $49 ($31.50 Amazon.com).

Mr. Chalmers’ undertaking of just part of John James Audubon’s life is monumental and meticulously done. Audubon’s complete biography is included, concisely, but most of the text concerns his dealings with his Scottish peers and his quest to have his paintings published. What I didn’t realize before reading this portrayal was how much Audubon’s life was intertwined with that of William MacGillivray.

The Foreword is by HH The Duke of Edinburgh, an “Acknowledgement” by John Chalmers follows, and then a preface, “Audubon’s Links with the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.” The book is divided into sixteen chapters starting with Audubon’s early life, his meetings with Alexander Wilson, Robert Jameson, and William MacGillivray, his five visits to Edinburgh (in an appendix it lists six), and Audubon and MacGillivray after Edinburgh . . . with much in between.


There is an extensive bibliography, plus several pages of “Biographical Profiles,” short briefs of many famous naturalists whose names now grace our North American birds: Reverend John Bachman, Thomas Bewick, Sir David Brewster, John Gould, James Hutton, and William Swainson. Many more, including Edward Lear, were part of Audubon’s life, and it’s interesting to see these small bios sharing a few pages.

Of the many books written about Audubon, none deals specifically with his time in Edinburgh. As Mr. Chalmers comments, “It was in Edinburgh that the first engravings of his great work *The Birds of America* were made by William Horne Lizzars, and it was in this city that he became close friends with William MacGillivray.” Audubon and MacGillivray together, over a long period of time, produced the *Ornithological Biography*, the five-volume book accompanying Audubon’s paintings.

Audubon was born Jean Jacques Audubon in 1785 in what is now Haiti. He grew up in France, then was sent to America in 1803. He was quite adept at neglecting business duties, and very proficient at following his avid interest in natural history and his “hobby” of painting. It was at his first meeting with MacGillivray (in America in 1810) that he became cognizant of the fact that his bird paintings might bring him fame and fortune. In the ensuing twenty-five years his hobby of painting birds became his vocation.

Alexander Wilson, a Scot and author of the *American Ornithology*, who also met Audubon in 1810, was probably another great influence in steering Audubon’s thinking to publish his own paintings. There seemed to be no particular interest in publishing Audubon’s paintings in America, so he became a self-exiled artist and traveled to Europe in search of ways to publish his paintings. Not finding what he wanted in Paris or London, he finally ended up in Edinburgh with his works in the able hands of engraver Lizzars. His several trips to Edinburgh were between 1826 and 1839.

The book is beautifully illustrated with full-color prints of many of Audubon’s paintings including the Turkey Buzzard. It is interesting to note that Audubon early on scoffed at the idea of turkey vultures having any sense of smell (a trait now mostly accepted), and was soon attacked by naturalist Charles Waterton who believed the opposite. A wonderful array of paintings and engravings by the peers of Audubon are interspersed throughout the book. Mr. Chalmers writing is also liberally sprinkled with quotes, poems, and the writings of outstanding naturalists of the Golden Age of Edinburgh.

I highly recommend this book.

Review by Diann MacRae
RIDGFIELD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
by Wilson Cady

This 5,150 acre refuge was created in 1965 to protect the “Dusky” Canada goose, a large dark-breasted subspecies whose nesting grounds on the Copper River Delta in southeastern Alaska were altered by earthquakes. A great diversity of other bird species, including sandhill cranes are attracted to these oak and ash woodlands, areas of extensive marsh and wet fields. Although much of the refuge is closed to protect nesting bald eagles and other species, there are two units that are open to the public. Take Exit 14 from I-5 and drive west on Pioneer Street to South Ninth Avenue in Ridgefield (2.5 miles). Turn left here and drive 0.6 mile to the entrance to the River "S" Unit, on the right. The narrow entrance road goes steeply down through a ravine forested with Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and bigleaf maple where you may find brown creeper, Hutton's vireo, varied thrush (winter), and other passerines. There are several wide spots along this road where you can park and bird. After you cross the bridge over Lake River there is a parking lot, restrooms, and a small visitors center with maps, a checklist and a dry erase board to check for recent observations. A dike encircles this unit of the refuge and the water levels are managed to provide winter food and resting areas for up to 35,000 geese and 40,000 ducks. Tundra swans and sandhill cranes are abundant from fall through spring. Controlling the water level in the numerous ponds optimizes the growth of aquatic plants that provide food for wintering waterfowl. American bitterns, Virginia rails, and sora are common in these heavily-vegetated habitats. Up to a dozen species of shorebirds can be found in late summer when some of the lakes become mudflats. During the summer, mosquitoes can make birding on foot difficult, especially in shade areas.

Between October 1 and April 30, you must remain in your vehicle as you travel the 4.2-mile auto tour route loop. The only exceptions are the entrance restroom parking lot and the observation blind at Rest Lake. Use of FRS radios to communicate with other birders is highly recommended as you travel the route during these winter months. Close range observation and photography is possible as the birds get accustomed to vehicles and remain close to the roads without flinching. An exception to this rule is during the Ridgefield Refuge Birdfest held during one weekend every October when there are guided trips into the closed areas. During the rest of the year you may walk or drive the tour route although bicycles, joggers, and dogs are banned. Red-shouldered hawks, which have wintered here annually since 1991, can be found from late summer to spring in any of the forested areas along the driving route. Oregon white ash is the most common tree in the forest of this unit. A good spot to check these trees for migrants or wintering species is along the trail to the observation blind, which overlooks Rest Lake. By walking north, along the slough across from the observation blind parking lot, you may spot black-crowned night-herons roosting in trees overhanging the water. On your right, just past the observation blind, is the wheelchair-accessible Kiwa Trail, which loops through wetlands with nesting American bittern and rails. Check areas with cattails throughout the refuge for colonies of nesting yellow-headed blackbirds. After the road leaves the forest it goes around Rest Lake, a large, shallow marsh where ruddy duck, black-necked stilt, and black tern have nested. Between Rest Lake and the entrance parking lot you skirt a large meadow that attracts flocks of geese and numerous raptors.

To visit the Carty Unit go back north after leaving the River “S” Unit to the town of Ridgefield and turn left on Pioneer Street to Main Street (0.4 mile). Turn right at the stop sign and go 1.0 mile north to the entrance, on the left. This non-hunting unit, which is open year-round, preserves a Columbia River floodplain in much the same condition as in 1806 when Lewis and Clark visited the Chinook village of Cathlapotle and its 900 inhabitants. Maps of the Carty Unit and checklists are available at the parking lot kiosk.

Two trails await you on the other side of the footbridge spanning the railroad tracks. Here, a visitor center, housed in a hand-split cedar plank house built using the original Chinook techniques and materials, is being built to highlight the history and wildlife of the refuge. The trail to the left goes down a hill and along an old road skirting Carty Lake, then through cottonwood and willow stands with scattered open meadows. The willow forest around these lakes and ponds should be checked for red-shouldered hawks. A vermilion flycatcher spent one winter in the marsh near Carty Lake where large numbers of waterfowl can be observed. This trail goes for several miles through mixed hardwood forests and open meadows with several trails that branch off that can be explored.

The Oaks to Wetlands Trail, to the right of the Plank House, is a nearly-level, two-mile loop that starts under majestic Garry oaks. Western scrub-jays are common here. This is one of the few places in the state where one has a reliable chance to see white-breasted nuthatches of the subspecies "canadensis," which once were fairly common from the Vancouver Lowlands north to the Fort Lewis Prairies. This “slender-billed” form of white-breasted nuthatch is still widespread in western Oregon, but the Washington population is close to extirpation. Where this trail goes to the left, stop at the small bridge over a spring-fed wetland and check for Virginia rails. The trail continues over basalt outcroppings forested with Douglas-fir to shallow-soiled areas with Oregon ash and Garry oak. There are places where you will have good views of ponds and wetlands. In spring, Camas lilies, along with other lilies, bloom on the rocky peninsulas that jut into the ponds. The conifer forest along this trail holds many species not easily found on the rest of the refuge and is always worth checking.

Additional information can be found at the Refuge Headquarters in Ridgefield where they would also welcome reports of unusual sightings.
WOS Membership Meetings

April 5 - Ann Essinger will present "The Secret Life of the Great Blue Heron."

Great blue herons are familiar to us all, yet seem to provoke a certain mystique and fascination. Join Ann Essinger in this special exploration of the heron’s secret life through a slide-illustrated lecture. You will be introduced to members of the heron family and guided through the heron’s cycle of life by examining its habitat, feeding habits, plumage characteristics, reproduction, and beautiful courtship rituals. Also discussed will be the role of herons as bioindicators and the importance of their conservation.

May 3 - Ed Schulz and Chuck Henny will present a program on Ospreys

Dr. Henny will discuss using ospreys as a biological indicator species for a variety of pollutants and his work on ospreys in the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. Two years ago, the Oregon studies were expanded to include research on ospreys of the Puget Sound. Dr. Henny has been involved with osprey research for over thirty years and is a Research Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey out of the Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center in Corvallis, Oregon.

Ed Schulz will present photographs of the osprey colony in Everett, where he has been involved with banding and monitoring the nesting activity of some two dozen breeding pairs for several years.

June 7 – Members Slide Night

Note: Meetings are held the first Monday of each month (except July, August, and September) at the Center for Urban Horticulture on the University of Washington campus, 3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle, and are open to all. The social begins at 7:00 pm, and the program starts at 7:30 pm.

WOS Field Trips

Saturday, April 10th, 2004—Michael Hobbs will lead a trip in Kittitas County which may include Robinson Canyon, the Ellensburg area, Elk Heights, the Old Vantage Highway, and Ginkgo State Park. We will bird the lower Cascade forest/steppe, east in the shrub-steppe, and down to the Columbia River. Target birds include chukar, gray partridge, loggerhead shrike, Say’s phoebe, canyon and rock wren, western and mountain bluebird, sage thrasher, and Brewer’s, vesper, and sage sparrow.

Limit of 8 birders. For details contact Michael at (425) 869-2370 or email Hummer@isomedia.com. (email preferred)

Saturday, April 24th, 2004—Ryan Shaw and Charlie Wright will lead a Grays Harbor/Pacific County trip visiting coastal shorebird and seabird localities. These may include Bowerman Basin and the Hoquiam area, Johns River Wildlife Area, Bottle Beach and Ocosta Third Street, the Westport Jetty, and Grayland, then ending the day in Tokeland and Raymond. Very large numbers of shorebirds are probable. Target birds include snowy plover, ruddy turnstone, red knot, white-tailed kite, sora, and more.

Limit of 7 birders. Contact Charlie at (253) 862-0520 or Charlie@birdwright.com (email preferred).

Saturday/Sunday, May 1st and 2nd, 2004 Ken Knittle will lead a two-day trip for rare shorebirds and migrant passerines beginning in Lincoln County, then birding through Adams, Whitman, Garfield, Columbia, and Franklin Counties into Walla Walla County. This will be an all day/ two-day birding trip at a fast pace covering many lesser-known hot spots. Areas covered will include Swanson Lakes, Reardon Ponds, Sprague Sewer Ponds and Sprague Lake, Cow Lake, Texas Lake, Lower Cove Canyon, LaCrosse, Pomeroy, Central Ferry, Hastings Bar, Rice Bar, Tucannon River mouth, Lyon's Ferry, Walla Walla River mouth, and the Iowa Beef Ponds. Be prepared to camp, plan to bring your own food and to eat while driving. Insect repellent for ticks and mosquitoes is recommended, plus bring a jacket since this time of year can be windy and cold. Limit of 7 birders. Contact Ken at (360) 574-2590 or email washingtonbirder@hotmail.com.

Saturday, June 12th, 2004 Mark Houston will lead a trip to the Sanpoil River valley in Ferry County. Birding the riparian habitat along the Sanpoil River valley from Republic south toward Keller, there is probably more habitat here for “eastern” passerines than anywhere in Washington.

Dominated by black cottonwood, several willows, and quaking aspen as overstory trees, the riparian zone boasts a species-rich shrub-and-herb layer. Target birds include eastern kingbird, red-eyed vireo, veery, gray catbird, American redstart, northern waterthrush, and bobolink. Time permitting, three-toed and black-backed woodpecker will be sought in the Leona Mountain burn east of Curlew Lake.

Limit of 10 birders. Contact Mark at (509) 747-4585 or email markhjoust@aol.com.

Note: To find out about WOS field trips, you may contact Kraig Kemper and Ken Knittle at FieldTrips@wos.org.

2nd Annual Washington Brant Festival

April 17-18, 2004

Visit one of the Pacific Northwest’s premier birdwatching areas and celebrate our most extraordinary waterfowl — the black brant. The Drayton Harbor/Semiahmoo Bay area in northern Whatcom County is one of 53 Important Bird Areas in Washington state and annually hosts tens of thousands of birds in spring, including thousands of brant, staging and fueling for migration to their Arctic breeding grounds.

Come to the 2nd Annual Washington Brant Festival and learn more about their spectacular life cycle from speakers throughout the day. Visit five strategically placed viewing stations operated by local birders. Planned activities include birding presentations, exhibits, poster contests, etc., culminating in a raffle and live auction banquet at the fabulous Resort Semiahmoo. For more information, call Joe Meche at 360-738-0641, or visit the website of the Washington Brant Foundation at www.washingtonbrant.org.

Other Spring Bird Festivals in Washington:

Gray’s Harbor Audubon Shorebird Festival, 4/30-5/2
www.shorebirdfestival.com

Leavenworth Spring Birdfest, 5/7-5/9
www.leavenworthspringbirdfest.com

Kettle River Songbird Festival, Republic, 5/21-5/23
www.ferrycounty.com/KettleValleySongBirdFestival
everyone, 1 male beginning to "strut" to at least one female that was observed.

2 great horned owls at the Mansfield Cemetery, DO on the 14th with 1 single bird along the lower portion of Central Ferry Canyon Rd., DO on the 14th

1 short-eared owl flying along the Columbia River south of Pateros, OK, being chased by 3 black-billed magpies

3 northern saw-whet owls along the upper portion of Central Ferry Canyon Rd., DO, including one bird well observed by several birders with our flashlights. Up to 4 northern saw-whet owls were encountered at this same location the prior evening on the 13th with up to 2 birds observed and 2 heard only calling.

Horned lark - relatively good numbers encountered from several locations on the Waterville Plateau on the 14th consisting of both the "Arctic" subspecies and the local, resident breeding subspecies

30+ pygmy nuthatches observed and heard calling along the upper portion of Central Ferry Canyon Rd., DO on the 14th

1 Townsend's solitaire at Bridgeport Bar, DO on the 14th with 1 bird in the town of Bridgeport, DO on the 15th

Bohemian waxwing - Impressive numbers of this species were encountered throughout the Bridgeport area on both days, including a flock containing 1500+ birds along the lower portion of Central Ferry Canyon. All the observers were treated to good scope views, as well as hearing the birds calling at times before the flock was flushed up by a sharp-shinned hawk. Other flocks of Bohemian waxwings were encountered in lesser numbers both days at other nearby locations, primarily at Bridgeport Bar. Cedar waxwings were encountered at several locations in relatively small numbers, but at least one location hosted good comparisons of both species on the 15th.

7 northern shrikes observed from several locations in the Mansfield-Bridgeport area on both days.

10 yellow-rumped warblers at Bridgeport Bar on the 15th

25 American tree sparrows at Bridgeport Bar on the 14th

1 Harris' sparrow at Washburn Island, OK on the 15th

5+ Lapland longspurs heard calling within large flocks of horned larks and snow buntings along S.R.172 east of Mansfield on the 14th.

800+ snow buntings observed along S.R.172 east of Mansfield with 2 birds observed near Leahy Junction on the 14th

15 common redpolls well observed foraging in water birch trees along Bridgeport Hill Rd. on the 15th before being chased away by an immature northern shrike.

Sharp-tailed grouse - Two participants observed up to 7 foraging along Bridgeport Hill Rd. on their way back to Moses Lake on the late afternoon of the 14th, after the rest of the group had separated. This was one of our target species.

Good numbers of waterfowl and American coots were encountered from several locations along the Columbia River. Most were noted from the Bridgeport Bar/Washburn Island area and from S.R.173 between Brewster and Bridgeport. On our way home on the 15th, 2 participants joined us at Chelan, where the yellow-billed loon was well observed and photographed at close range along the southeast shore of Lake Chelan. The loon was previously observed by Hugh Jennings on the 14th. This 2-day trip was very rewarding to most all the participants, many of which learned about new birding areas along with seeing many highlights. My mother and I encountered several additional species, too.

Destinations that were not observed during the field trip and additional species worth mentioning include the following:

2 western grebes along the Columbia River at Pateros, Okanogan Co. on the 13th

1 red-necked grebe and 10 eared grebes on the 15th along Hwy. 97 south of Daroga S.P., Douglas Co. (DO)

1 merlin at the town of Waterville on the 13th

1 prairie falcon observed on the 15th along Hwy. 97 just north of Daroga S.P., DO

8 rough-legged hawks along S.R. 970 at Swauk Prairie, Kittitas Co. on the 13th

6 hermit thrushes, 30 cedar waxwings, 1 yellow-rumped warbler, 1 spotted towhee, and 5 golden-crowned sparrows on the 13th in extensive stands of Russian olive trees and other thick vegetation along Longmire Rd. (accessed along Hwy. 97 south of Orondo, DO)

50 snow buntings at the intersection of Hwy. 2 and S.R.172 at Farmer, DO on the 13th
FIELD TRIPS

In order to optimize the birding experience for participants, there will be car-pooling for all field trips except three "on the way" to the conference (OF-1, 2 and 3) or "on-the-way home" (OS-1, 2 and 3). WOS will reimburse field trip drivers who carry at least three people in addition to themselves at the current federal government mileage rate. Unless noted in the description, all field trips will depart from the University Inn at 5:00 am.

On the Way: PALOUSE FALLS, LYONS FERRY AND CENTRAL FERRY - The Palouse River that once flowed through Washtucna was re-routed over Palouse Falls by the great Lake Missoula floods. The river joins the Snake River at Lyons Ferry where, for 108 years, a ferry crossed the river. It was an important link for the Palouse country and the Old Mullan Military Road. The road was built by Lt. John Mullan to move military troops between Fort Benton on the Missouri River and Fort Walla Walla on the Columbia River. Central Ferry, located upstream from Lyon's Ferry, is named for the ferry that linked Whitman and Garfield counties. Palouse Falls is the summer home of white-throated swifts and peregrine falcons. Lyons Ferry, and to a lesser degree Central Ferry, have produced some unexpected species during the past few years. These two areas serve as an oasis in the expanse of dry channels and agricultural land of eastern Washington and are a magnet for birds during migration.

Friday's in-bound trip will begin in Washtucna at 10:00 a.m. Participants are to meet at Java Bloom. Sunday's out-bound trip will end in Cheney. Bob Flores, leader (Friday); Charlie Wright, leader (Sunday)

OF-1 Friday, OS-1 Sunday

On the Way: TURNBULL – Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge is located on the eastern edge of the Columbia Basin, in Spokane County. The refuge is situated within the “Channeled Scabland”, an area formed by glacial floods at the end of the last ice age. Turnbull NWR was established in 1937 to provide productive breeding and nesting grounds for migratory birds and other wildlife. The refuge encompasses approximately 16,000 acres of the scabland. The ecosystem that predominates the refuge is unique within the National Wildlife Refuge System and has characteristics that distinguish it from natural reserves worldwide.

The combination of basalt outcrops, channeled canyons and ponderosa pine forests infused in a diverse landscape of over 130 marshes, wetlands and lakes, create an environment of aesthetic beauty as well as high quality wildlife habitat. The 3,036 acres of wetlands on Turnbull NWR represent some of the last high-quality breeding habitat available in eastern Washington.

This is a "no carpool" trip. Friday's in-bound trip will begin in Cheney at 10:00 a.m. Participants are to meet at Gatto's Pizza. Sunday's out-bound trip will end in Cheney. Gina Sheridan, leader (Friday); Cindy McCormack, leader (Sunday)

OF-2 Friday, OS-2 Sunday

NW WHITMAN COUNTY – This field trip takes us into the heart of Whitman County’s channeled scabland. Fifteen thousand years ago, during the last Ice Age, a glacial dam collapsed in what is now northern Idaho, releasing the waters of a giant inland sea known as Lake Missoula. Five hundred cubic miles of water rampaged westward at 60 miles an hour in a torrent flowing with ten times the volume of all the rivers on earth. The flood carved canyons, gouged out enormous plunge pools, made rivers like the Snake and the Willamette run backward and scoured the earth of eastern Washington right down to bare basalt rock.

Today the landscape still bears the signs of these cataclysms: the flood-scoured scabland of eastern Washington, giant rocks near Portland transported all the way from Idaho by the flood, potholes and plunge pools dug by waterfalls that would have dwarfed Niagara many times over.

The field trip will visit the shallow lakes near Sprague, where nesting populations of American white pelican, eared grebe, black-necked stilt and American avocet have been observed. The scabland in the Rock Creek drainage is also the home of grasshopper, Brewer’s, lark, vesper and savannah sparrows. The Palouse River area contains nesting populations of burrowing owl, long-billed curlew and ferruginous hawk.

This trip will be offered on Saturday as well as in-bound and out-bound trips on Friday and Sunday. Friday's in-bound trip will begin in Sprague at 10:00 a.m. Participants are to meet at the Chevron station. Sunday's out-bound trip will end in Spray. Tom Weber, leader (Friday and Saturday); Scott Downes, leader (Sunday)

OF-3 Friday, SA-3 Saturday, OS-3 Sunday

Tentative Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field trips depart from Moscow</td>
<td>Friday, June 4</td>
<td>5:00am</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-the-way field trips depart from specified meeting locations</td>
<td>Friday, June 4</td>
<td>10:00am</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trips arrive or return to Moscow</td>
<td>Friday, June 4</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration desk open</td>
<td>Friday, June 4</td>
<td>3:00 - 7:30pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social with no-host cash bar</td>
<td>Friday, June 4</td>
<td>6:30 - 7:30pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Welcome, Brian Bell</td>
<td>Friday, June 4</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaker: Dr. Kas Dumroese, &quot;Natural Histories of the Palouse and Clearwater Drainage&quot;</td>
<td>Friday, June 4</td>
<td>7:45pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trips depart from Moscow</td>
<td>Saturday, June 5</td>
<td>4:30 - 5:00am</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick up box breakfasts and lunches</td>
<td>Saturday, June 5</td>
<td>4:30 - 5:00am</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trips depart</td>
<td>Saturday, June 5</td>
<td>5:00am</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trips return</td>
<td>Saturday, June 5</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social with no-host cash bar</td>
<td>Saturday, June 5</td>
<td>3:00 - 6:00pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOS Annual Meeting and Board Open Forum</td>
<td>Saturday, June 5</td>
<td>4:30pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social with no-host cash bar</td>
<td>Saturday, June 5</td>
<td>4:30 - 5:00pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banquet</td>
<td>Saturday, June 5</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Welcome, Brian Bell</td>
<td>Saturday, June 5</td>
<td>7:15pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keynote Speaker: Dr. Erik Stauber, &quot;Regional Raptors and Raptor Rehabilitation&quot;</td>
<td>Saturday, June 5</td>
<td>7:30pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick up box breakfasts and lunches</td>
<td>Sunday, June 6</td>
<td>4:30 – 5:00am</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trips depart</td>
<td>Sunday, June 6</td>
<td>5:00am</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check out deadline at motel</td>
<td>Sunday, June 6</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trips return</td>
<td>Sunday, June 6</td>
<td>3:00pm</td>
<td>University Inn Best Western in Moscow, Idaho</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of 16th Annual WOS Conference
WASHINGTON ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, MOSCOW, IDAHO, JUNE 4 THROUGH JUNE 6.

FIELD SPRINGS STATE PARK – Fields Spring State Park is a 792-acre forested camping park remotely located in the Blue Mountains of southeastern Washington. A portion of the park sits at a height of 4,500 feet, offering a spectacular view of three states and the Grande Ronde River. This volcanically originated park was named after Mr. Fields, an early settler who developed a spring used by himself and neighboring settlers. The park is set along one of the Nez Perce Indian seasonal migration routes. Puffer Butte was named for Mr. and Mrs. Puffer, homesteaders who moved their livestock to the top of the butte whenever Indians were observed. In 1974, 70 percent of the park’s Douglas fir and white fir were damaged by a Tussock Moth infestation and were removed.

This area is home to a wide variety of species including: northern goshawk; western screech owl; ruffed and blue grouse; pileated - white-headed - northern three-toed and Lewis’s woodpecker; red-naped and Williamson’s sapsucker; Clark’s nutcracker; 3 species each of chickadee and nuthatch; varied - hermit and Swainson’s thrush; mountain and western bluebird; Townsend’s solitaire; 7 species of warblers; Cassin’s finch; red crossbill; and lazuli bunting. Possibilities include: flammulated owl, mountain quail and green-tailed towhee. Ken Knittle, leader

FR-2 Friday, SA-2 Saturday

CRAIG MOUNTAIN (ID, 160M) – Craig Mountain, located 20 miles southeast of Lewiston, is a rolling forested plateau perched between the steep break-lands of the Snake and Salmon Rivers. The 40-mile long route will take you along graveled and dirt roads, some of which require a high-clearance vehicle. A 4-wheel drive vehicle is needed to see the entire area. The route is usually snow-covered from November into April. Expect some great views into Hells Canyon and the Salmon River. Dry coniferous forest, mixed conifer forest and grassland are the major habitats of the region. Highlights include: chukar, Williamson’s sapsucker, western bluebird, red-naped sapsucker, Lewis’s woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, northern goshawk, Lincoln sparrow and Clark’s nutcracker. Possible species include: great gray owl. Charles Swift, leader

SA-1 Saturday

HELLS CANYON - This field trip will board a jet boat in Lewiston for a birding trip into Hells Canyon, the deepest river gorge in the U.S. Our destination is Garden Creek Ranch, a part of the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area, which supports Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, elk, mountain lion, wolverine, black bear, ruffed grouse, partridge and quail. To date, nine rare plant species have been identified in the vicinity, including Spalding’s silene, western ladies tress and stalk-leaved monkey flower. The Conservancy and its partners have protected over 90,000 acres here. Access is available to boaters from the Snake River. We will also travel on to the mouth of the Salmon River and return with a stop at the mouth of the Grande Ronde River. TBA, leader (Friday); Bart Whelton, leader (Saturday); Charles Swift, Leader (Sunday)

A MINIMUM OF 10 REGISTRANTS IS REQUIRED FOR EACH TRIP.

FR-4 Friday, SA-4 Saturday, SU-4 Sunday

CHAIN LAKES – Benewah Lake, St. Maries, and Chain Lakes: This day long route begins in earnest at Heyburn State Park with views of dabbling ducks and close encounters with common yellowthroats. In the forested areas bordering the lake, red-naped sapsucker are likely and pileated woodpecker are frequent. From here we travel east towards St. Maries, stopping along the way to look for veery and red-eyed vireo. In St. Maries we’ll check for something besides ring-billed gulls and visit the sewage ponds for ducks, phalaropes, sandpipers and snipe.

North from St. Maries, wild turkeys are almost guaranteed, and we’ll check a feeder that has yielded purple finch on the last two trips. The quiet backwater ponds have hooded mergansers, common and possibly red-breasted mergansers, and Clark’s grebes may be seen at some of the deep water locations. The Chain Lakes route is one of the only reliable sites in north Idaho for least flycatcher. Other passerines include American redstart, MacGillivray’s and a multitude of other warblers, gray catbird, and cordilleran flycatcher.

Our final stop will be near Cataldo - one of Idaho’s most reliable bobolink sites. Also in this area are flooded grain fields, which may yield a variety of shorebirds. This route has the potential for well over 150 bird species, 80-100 are expected for the day. Jane Westervelt, leader

SA-5 Saturday, SU-5 Sunday

PRAIRIE BUTTES AND MOUNTAINS – This field trip will visit 4 different habitats in the Palouse formation: Rose Creek, Kamiak Butte, Steptoe Butte and Mary Minerva McCroskey Memorial State Park.

The Nature Conservancy’s Rose Creek Preserve is recognized as containing one of the best black hawthorn/cow parsnip riparian areas left in the entire Palouse. This habitat type, which even prior to grazing and farming, covered less than five percent of Whitman County. On the preserve, black hawthorn grows to a height of 15 feet or more. The understory of cow parsnip grows to a height of six feet, creating a cool sanctuary for wildlife during hot summer months. The preserve is also home to more than 250 species of vascular plants. Rose Creek bisects the preserve, offering life-sustaining water to more than 100 species of birds. In winter, long-eared owls roost in the dense hawthorn thickets. Some of the less common eastern Washington birds, such as gray catbirds and black-chinned hummingbirds, are also attracted to Rose Creek.

Kamiak Butte, recognized as a National Natural Landmark, reaches an elevation of 3,641 feet (second highest point in Whitman County) and offers visitors a panoramic view of the Palouse region. The park plays host to over 150 bird, mammal and vegetation species. Steptoe Butte State Park is a 150-acre, 3,612-foot-tall natural monument. Thimble-shaped, the quartzite butte looms in bald grandeur over the prevailing flat lands. Native Americans called the butte “the power mountain.” It was believed that a journey to the butte bestowed a gift of power from the mountain’s guardian spirit. The butte’s present name honors Colonel Edward Steptoe. The picnic area at the entrance to the park has always yielded a wide variety of species, among them warblers, catbirds, wrens, sparrows, orioles and grosbeaks. The butte itself has also produced sage sparrow and black-throated sparrow along with a multitude of raptors, rock wren, Brewer’s sparrow and lazuli bunting.

Mary Minerva McCroskey Memorial State Park is a gift to the State of Idaho from Virgil McCroskey, a local pharmacist and rancher, in memory of his pioneer mother. The park’s road follows the mountain top ridge through old growth timber and is the home of northern goshawk, ruffed grouse, pileated woodpecker, wild turkey and others. Cindy McCormack, leader (Saturday); Tom Weber (Sunday)

SA-6 Saturday, SU-6 Sunday

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LEWIS and CLARK TRAIL – This field trip will explore some of the same regions seen by Lewis and Clark during the Corps of Discovery's extended stay in the area. From Spalding, home of the Nez Perce National Monument Visitors Center, we will explore the upper Clearwater River to Orofino and Dworshak Reservoir. We will then travel up on to the Camas Prairie to visit regions around Winchester.

Probable species include wild turkey, ruffed grouse, osprey, bald eagle, nuthatches, warblers, western tanager, spotted towhee, chipping sparrow, savannah sparrow, song sparrow, black-headed grosbeak, lazuli bunting, Cassin’s finch, red crossbill, pine siskin and American goldfinch. Jerry Cebula, leader

SA-7 Saturday, SU-7 Sunday

MICA MOUNTAIN – This field trip through low elevation mountain meadows will travel east of Moscow visiting habitat on Spence Road, Lenville Road, Spring Valley Reservoir, Mica Mountain, Vassar Meadows and the East Fork of the Potlatch River. Stops may involve some easy walking. If time permits, we will travel North from Bovill to the meadows near Clarkia.

Probable species include: great blue heron, turkey vulture, wood duck, ruddy duck, osprey, northern harrier, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, wild turkey, spotted sandpiper, calliope hummingbird, rufous hummingbird, belted kingfisher, western wood-pewee, willow flycatcher, eastern kingbird, 5 species of swallow, 3 species of chickadee, gray catbird, cedar waxwing, orange-crowned warbler, yellow warbler, American redstart, northern waterthrush, western tanager, black-headed grosbeak and lazuli bunting. This trip also offers many possibilities including northern goshawk, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, great gray owl, Clark’s nutcracker and bobolink. Terry Gray, leader

SA-8 Saturday, SU-8 Sunday

CANYONS AND PARKS - This field trip will take us into the Snake River Canyon west of Pullman in search of local nesting species. The grade down Wawawai Canyon offers prime habitat for yellow-breasted chat, gray catbird, chukar, wild turkey, warbling vireo, red-eyed vireo and Bewick’s wren.

Wawawai County Park located in the Snake River Canyon approximately three miles upstream from Lower Granite Dam, is 49 acres in size and is the home for Virginia rail, sora, rock wren, poorwill, and common night hawk.

Traveling up-river to Clarkston (canyon and rock wren) we will visit the nature area near Chief Timothy State Park and at Hell’s Gate State Park (saw-whet owl, warblers). If time permits the trip will return via Mann Lake, Lapwai, Spalding and Coyote Grade. Harold Ward, leader

FR-9 Friday

SPEAKERS

Friday night: Kas Dumrose, "Natural Histories of the Palouse and Clearwater Drainage"

The Palouse area of eastern Washington and the nearby areas of Idaho contain a wide variety of habitats from the channeled scablands, to the rolling wheat fields of the Palouse, to the canyons of the Snake and Grande Ronde rivers and the Blue Mountains. Kas Dumrose is a Research Plant Physiologist with the USDA Forest Service at the University of Idaho. He has a degree in Forest Management from Michigan Technological University and a doctorate in Forest Resources from the University of Idaho. Kas is extremely knowledgeable of the habitats in Idaho and the Palouse region, teaches courses in landscaping for wildlife and with native plants, and is the co-editor of the ABA A Birder’s Guide to Idaho.

Saturday night: Erik Stauber, "Regional Raptors and Raptor Rehabilitation"

Our Saturday night keynote speaker will be Erik Stauber. He is a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University in Pullman, and is the Director of the Raptor Rehabilitation Program. The program aims to: provide humane medical care to injured wild birds with the primary goal of release back into the wild, and to further conservation efforts through raising public awareness about wild animals and the environment via presentations using live raptors and visual aids. Erik holds a DVM from Purdue University and a PhD from Washington State University, and has shepherded the Raptor Rehabilitation Program for twenty years presenting a wide variety of talks to a wide range of professional and lay audiences.

MEALS

Meals include box breakfasts and lunches on Saturday and Sunday and a served banquet dinner on Saturday evening. If you order both breakfast and lunch, we recommend you bring a back-pack or bag to carry your boxes. Prices include tax and gratuity.

- $8.50 each, Saturday and Sunday morning: box breakfast includes hard-boiled egg, fruit cup, breakfast bread or pastry, box of raisins, bottled juice, and coffee and tea.
- $8.00 each, Saturday and Sunday: box lunch includes sandwich (choose turkey, ham, roast beef, or vegetarian), carrot and celery sticks, potato chips, cookie, and fresh fruit. WOS will provide bottled water for the field trips.
- $18 each, Saturday evening: dinner includes entrée (choose lemon herb chicken, roast sirloin of beef, or pasta primavera), salad, vegetable, potatoes, rolls and butter, coffee and tea, and dessert.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Rooms have been set aside for conference attendees at the University Inn and Conference Center, 1516 Pullman Road, Moscow, Idaho 83843, phone 208/882-0550, toll-free 800/325-8765. www.universityinn.com

Conference attendees must make their own reservations by contacting the University Inn. You must mention the WOS conference room block to obtain the special rates.

The conference rate is $59.50 plus tax for a room with a queen bed (1 to 2 persons per room) and $69.50 plus tax for a room with two double beds (2 to 4 persons per room). These special rates are guaranteed until May 3; after this date, neither the special rate nor rooms may be available, so your make your reservations soon!
REGISTRATION FORM

Attendee:
Name:____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City, State/Province, ZIP: _____________________________
Phone(s): _________________________________________
E-mail: ___________________________________________
Field trip carpooling: check if you are willing to drive ______

Conference Fee:
$25 Adult / $10 Student                                      $__________
$10 late fee if postmarked after May 20, 2004   $__________

Membership: (all attendees must be WOS members):
Current Member ($0)                                           $__________
Renew 12-month Individual ($20) / Family ($25) $__________
New WOS Individual Member ($20)                    $__________
New WOS Family Member ($25)                         $__________
Upgrade from
   Individual to Family Membership ($5) $__________

Conference Fee / Membership Subtotal $__________

NOTICES

• ONE FORM PER PERSON. Failure to comply will result in delays in processing your registration. Download additional form(s) from www.wos.org, photocopy, or print all information on separate piece of paper.

• REGISTRATIONS POSTMARKED AFTER MAY 20 WILL BE ASSESSED A $10 LATE FEE.

• REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 15. Registration materials received as of April 15 will be processed in random order. Materials received after April 15 will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. SPACE ON FIELD TRIPS IS LIMITED.

• REGISTRATION AT DOOR - Applications for registration at the door of the Annual Meeting will HAVE NO GUARANTEE OF PARTICIPATION in the field trips or of breakfast or lunch meals. In addition, there will be a $10.00 late fee.

• CANCELLATIONS received prior to May 20 will receive a refund, less a $10 processing fee. Additionally, cancellations received after June 1 will not receive a refund for any meals.

• LODGING IS NOT INCLUDED in Conference fees. Please refer to the information provided and make your own arrangement.

• REMEMBER TO WRITE AND SIGN THE RELEASE.

PLEASE FILL OUT
BOTH SIDES OF THIS FORM
Field Trips:

No carpool trips, starting with O- are $15, other trips are $20, except for the Hells Canyon boat trips, which are $95.

Please indicate 1st through 8th (where applicable), choices for trips. Field trips will be assigned based on choices indicated and space available. If you absolutely do not want to go on a particular field trip, please cross it out completely (e.g., _____ SA-1 Hells Canyon).

If you wish to be partnered with someone on field trips, write their name here:

_______________________________________________

Note: registration will not be processed until your partner's registration form and fees are received. We cannot guarantee that we'll be able to pair you.

Friday, June 4

_____ OF-1 Palouse Falls, Lyons Ferry — Bob Flores
_____ OF-2 Turnbull — Gina Sheridan
_____ OF-3 NW Whitman County — Tom Weber
_____ FR-2 Field Springs State Park — Ken Knittle
_____ FR-4 Hells Canyon — leader TBA
_____ FR-9 Canyons and Parks — Harold Ward

Saturday, June 5

_____ SA-1 Craig Mountain — Charles Swift
_____ SA-2 Field Springs State Park — Ken Knittle
_____ SA-3 NW Whitman County — Tom Weber
_____ SA-4 Hells Canyon — Bart Whelton
_____ SA-5 Chain Lakes — Jane Westervelt
_____ SA-6 Prairie Buttes and Mountains
     — Cindy McCormack
_____ SA-7 Lewis and Clark Trail — Jerry Cebula
_____ SA-8 Mica Mountain — Terry Gray

Sunday, June 6

_____ OS-1 Central Ferry, Palouse Falls, and 'home'
     — Charlie Wright
_____ OS-2 Turnbull and 'home' — Cindy McCormack
_____ OS-3 NW Whitman County and 'home'
     — Scott Downes
_____ SU-4 Hells Canyon — Charles Swift
_____ SU-5 Chain Lakes — Jane Westervelt
_____ SU-6 Prairie Buttes and Mountains — Tom Weber
_____ SU-7 Lewis and Clark Trail — Jerry Cebula
_____ SU-8 Mica Mountain — Terry Gray

Field Trips Subtotal: $__________

Meals:

Friday - breakfast, lunch, and dinner on your own

Saturday

Breakfast (box) ($8.50) _____ T H B V (circle one)
Lunch* (box lunch) ($8.00) _____ T H B V (circle one)
Buffet Dinner** ($18) _____ B C V (circle one)

Sunday

Breakfast (box) ($8.50)
Lunch* (box lunch) ($8.00) _____ T H B V (circle one)

Meals Subtotal: $__________

*circle sandwich preference:
  Turkey (T); Ham (H); Beef (B), Veggie (V)

** circle entree preference: roast sirloin of beef (B), lemon herb chicken (C), or pasta primavera (V)

Conference Fee / Membership Subtotal: $__________

Meals Subtotal: $__________

Field Trips Subtotal: $__________

Grand Total: $__________

Make checks payable to: WOS

Send Registration Form and payment to:

Washington Ornithological Society
Attn: Treasurer
P. O. Box 31783
Seattle WA  98103-3783

RELEASE FORM

Pertaining to the activities organized by the Washington Ornithological Society for June 4, 5, and 6, 2004:

I, __________________________________________, as a member of WOS, understand the dangers involved in the activities in which I plan to participate. I will be fully responsible for any personal injuries and my personal well-being and will hold harmless the Washington Ornithological Society and its Board of Directors, agents, and staff.

Signed: _______________________________________

Dated: ________________________________________
It is time to update our request for bird sighting submissions. WOS greatly appreciates those who have been submitting field reports and would like to see others also make submissions. The Field Notes column only reflects a good account of Washington birds if the state’s active birders submit reports. Reports to listerves and the Birdbox are good ways to make other birders aware of unusual birds, but follow-ups should be submitted directly to Steve Mlodinow or myself to assure their inclusion in WOS News and North American Birds. Although we attempt to distill notable reports from other sources, the best way to get observations recorded accurately is by direct submission.

Please record and send interesting reports of rare species, out-of-season birds, high counts, and unusual locations of birds. Include location, exact date, number of birds, and observers present. Details for unusual reports or rare species submissions should include viewing and weather conditions, as well as field marks that facilitated the identification. Submission can be made in any form, but a Rare Bird Reporting form is available on the WOS website for submissions on state review species.

If in doubt of what submissions are notable, A Birder’s Guide to Washington by Hal Opperman, which has recently been published by ABA, may be used as a reference. Status information for each WA bird is included in the bar graph and annotated checklist section of the new publication. Sightings of birds that are assigned anything less than uncommon status during the period indicated in the guide, may warrant a submission to Field Notes. Rare species that are being reported repeatedly on listerves or hotlines are not necessarily being documented for the WA Bird Records Committee, so please submit details on these species at the end of each reporting period so that the records committee can adequately document the presence and duration of stay for state rarities. Watch for a forthcoming article on documentation tips by Steve Mlodinow.

Records can be submitted by e-mail or surface mail to Tom Aversa, 305NW 75th St. Seattle WA, 98117 (tom.aversa@zoo.org), or to Steve Mlodinow (SgmId@aol.com). Reports sent to FieldNotes@wos.org will be routed to both compilers.

The year is broken down into winter (December-February), spring migration (March-May), breeding season (June-July), and fall migration (August-November). Reports should be received within the first 2 weeks of the month following each reporting period to facilitate Steve making his deadline for the North American Birds column. For example, send fall reports before December 15. Steve posts an e-mail reminder on Tweeters to remind birders of these deadlines. Reports are also entered into a long-term database which was begun by Russell Rogers in his tenure as Field Notes compiler.

Good luck in the field, and please keep those reports coming in.

WOSNews 90: April / May 2004

Washington Field Notes
Submission Guidelines Update
Tom Aversa

“Washington Field Notes” are distilled from reports sent to Tom Aversa, 305NW 75th St. Seattle WA, 98117 (tom.aversa@zoo.org), Steve Mlodinow (SgmId@aol.com), and to a lesser extent from birding hotlines and listserves. For corrections or information contact the compiler at tom.aversa@zoo.org.

Snow Goose Rare in summer. 1 at Cultus Bay Island on 7/2 (TAv,CFr).
Brant Rare in summer. 1 Black type at Padilla Bay Skagit on 7/4 (SM), and 5 at Dungeness Clallam on 7/10 (PL).
Mute Swan Rarely reported. 1 remaining from May at Oak Bay CP Jefferson on 7/16 (DMa).
Mandarin Duck Introduced species apparently increasing. 1 male west of Big Lake Skagit on 6/2 (fide DiB).

Green-winged Teal Uncommon breeder in w WA. 1 female with 3 young at Stanwood STP Snohomish on 6/22, 1 female with 5 young at Sunlight Beach Island on 6/29, and 1 female with 4 young near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/29 with a total count of 70 at the latter location (SM).

Northern Pintail Returning migrant reports included 2 at Crockett Lake Island on 6/22, 6 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/22 (SM), and 2 at Swantown Island on 7/2 (TAv,CFr).
Northern Shoveler Uncommon breeder on outer coast. 1 female with 5 young at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/6 (SM).

Eurasian Wigeon Rare in WA in summer. 1 male reported at St Andrews Douglas on 6/22 (RNe).
American Wigeon Uncommon in w WA in summer. 2 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/22 (SM), 1 at Montlake Kill King on 7/13 (CSi), and 1 at Elma Grays Harbor on 7/30 (TO).

Canvaxback Uncommon and local in summer. 4 at Fields Lake Okanogan on 6/25 (TAv), 3 females with broods at Molson Okanogan on 7/3 (PS,RS), 1 female with young at Turnbull NWR Spokane on 7/5 (MrH), and 1 female at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 7/10 (KK,HA).

Greater Scaup Uncommon in summer. 2 reported near Kittitas Kittitas on 6/7 (CWr,SDo), 1 at Elma Grays Harbor from 6/10 to at least 7/1 (TO), 4 at Stanwood STP Snohomish on 6/12 (TAv), 1 at Swantown Island on 6/22 (SM) with 6 there on 7/2 (TAv,CFr), 15 at Padilla Bay Skagit on 6/29, 9 at Hoquiam STP Grays Harbor on 7/6, 7 at Ocean Shores STP Grays Harbor on 7/6 (SM) and 2 males reported at Iowa Beef Walla Walla on 7/26 (MD,MLD).

Lesser Scaup Uncommon breeder in w WA. 1 female with 2 young at Deer Lagoon Island on 7/26, and 1 female with 9 young at Stanwood STP Snohomish on 7/26 (SM).

Harlequin Duck Reports away from coast included 1 male at East Wenatchee Douglas on 6/21 (DBe), 1 female with 6 young near Darrington Snohomish on 6/21 (MFM), 1 at Lyons Ferry SP Franklin on 7/2 (BSh), 1 female with 3 young near Sullivan Lake Pond Oreille on 7/5 (KB), 3 at Twin Falls SP King on 7/14 (MFM), and 8 near Elbe Pierce on 7/25 (WW).

Surf Scoter Rare in w WA in summer. 1 female at Fort Okanogan SP Okanogan on 7/4 (PS,RS) to at least 7/10 (SDo,CWr), High count for w WA: 2840 at Padilla Bay Skagit on 6/29 (SM).

Common Goldeneye Uncommon in summer. 4 including 3 males at Sprague Lake Lincoln on 6/4, 4 including 3 males at Lake Lenore Grant on 6/5 (TAv) with 1 male remaining there on 7/1 (PL), 1 first year male at Othello Adams on 6/8 (PS,Rs) and on 6/18 (TAv), 1 first year male at Columbia NWR Adams on 6/22 (RH), 2 at Dugualla Bay Island on 6/22, 1 at Stanwood STP Snohomish on 6/22 (SM), and a pair at Oak Harbor Island on 7/10 (PL).

Barrow’s Goldeneye Early for w WA lowlands. 1 at Tulalip Bay Snohomish on 6/22 (SM).

Bufflehead A greater number of summer reports than usual included 3 at Cassimer Bar Okanogan on 6/1 (DC), 3 at Sprague Lake Pinetop on 7/4 (CWr).
Washington Field Notes

Lake Lincoln on 6/4, 10 at Lake Lenore Grant on 6/5, 1 at Wilson Creek Grant on 6/5, 3 at Vantage Kittitas on 6/5 (TAv), 1 at Vashon Island King on 6/9 (ESt), 3 at Stanwood STP Snowy Owl on 6/12, 4 at Hatton Adams on 6/17 (TAv), 1 at Port Townsend Island with 5 young on 6/28 (BN,DoW), 1 at Tulalip Bay Snowy Owl on 6/22 (SM), 1 female with 5 young on Molson Okanogan on 6/25 (TAv) with 4 remaining on 7/2 (PL), 1 at Port Townsend Jefferson on 6/26 (BN,DoW), 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/5 (BW), 1 in the Snake River Whitman on 7/6 (KK), 2 at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 7/6 (SM) with 3 there on 7/18 (CWr), 1 at Sequim Clallam on 7/9, and 1 at Oak Harbor Island on 7/10 (PL).

Red-breasted Merganser Rare in e WA in summer. 1 at Paterson Slough Benton on 7/26 (BLa,NLa).

Chukar Rarely reported from w WA. 1 of unknown origin reported at Brush Prairie Clark on 6/7 (JnW).

White-tailed Ptarmigan Uncommon in WA. 7 above Paradise, Mount Rainier NP Pierce on 7/19 (RyM) with 9 there on 7/26 (MDo,AG).

Northern Bobwhite Introduced population continues with 2 at Weir Prairie Thurston on 6/3 (JPa).

California Quail Locally uncommon. 1 east of Oakville Grays Harbor on 6/3 (BS).

Mountain Quail Rare in WA. 6 near Capitol Peak Thurston on 6/1 (BS), and 12 near Tahuya Mason on 7/27 (CSI).

Red-throated Loon Uncommon in summer. 1 at Port Angeles Clallam on 6/15 (RGe), 15 at Ocean City Grays Harbor on 7/19, and 5 at Point Grenville Grays Harbor on 7/19 (CWr).

Pacific Loon Uncommon in summer. 15 at Swantown Island on 6/29 (SM), 1 at Neah Bay Clallam on 7/2 (BN,JoM), 70 reported at Ocean City Grays Harbor on 7/19, and 15 at Point Grenville Grays Harbor on 7/19 (CWr).

Yellow-billed Loon Rare in summer. 1 remaining from May at Wanapum Dam Kittitas to at least 7/1 (PL).

Horned Grebe Rare in WA in summer. 1 in breeding plumage at Molson Okanogan on 6/25 (TAv) to at least 7/3 (PS,RS).

Red-necked Grebe Uncommon in summer in w WA. 1 at Dugualla Bay Island on 6/29 (SM), 1 at Oak Harbor Island on 7/10 (PL), 1 south of Swantown Island on 7/12 (SM), 1 at Salsbury Point CP Kittitas on 7/18 (RR), and 1 at Port Angeles Clallam on 7/24 (BN).

Eared Grebe Reports from e WA included 70 at Soap Lake Grant on 6/5, 7 at Vantage Kittitas on 6/5 (TAv), and 38 at Muskat Lake Okanogan on 7/3 (PS,RS).

Western Grebe Summer reports away from breeding areas included 1 at Elma Grays Harbor on 6/10 to at least 7/1 (TO), 70 at Useless Bay Island on 6/29 with 100 there on 7/12 (SM), 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 7/15 (NLa), 1 at Priest Rapids Yakima on 7/17 (JHe), 12 at Point Grenville Grays Harbor on 7/19 (CWr), and 1 at Union Bay King on 7/23 (fide TAv).

Clark's Grebe Locally uncommon. 1 at West Medical Lake Spokane on 6/9 (GiS), and 1 south of Alderdale Klickitat on 7/3 (WC).

Black-footed Albatross High count: 511 on Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/19 (BL). Flesh-footed Shearwater Uncommon in WA. 3 on Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/12 (RSl) with 1 on the 7/19 trip (BL).

MANX SHEARWATER Rare but increasing Uncommon in w WA. 26 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 6/1 (EkN), and 3 at Crockett Lake Island on 6/12 (BMc) to at least 6/29 (SM).

Brown Pelican High count: 660 at Westport Grays Harbor on 7/6 (JMu).

Brandt's Cormorant High count: 500 reported at Point Grenville Grays Harbor on 7/19 (CWr).

Pelagic Cormorant Uncommon away from coast. 3 at Altaona Wabakiakum on 7/10 (KK,Ha).

American Bittern Uncommon and local in e WA. 1 at Conboy Lake NWR Klickitat on 6/8 (KB), 1 at Toppenish NWR Yakima on 6/22 (KT), and 2 at Byron WMA Yakima on 7/15 (JHe).

Great Blue Heron High count: 745 at Padilla Bay Skagit on 6/29 (SM).

Great Egret Increasing in WA. 1 at Yakima RD Benton throughout the period (NLa), 9 at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 6/2 (HO,JoE) with 2 there on 7/10 (KK,Ha), 2 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 6/6 (WC), and 1 east of Wapato Yakima on 7/27 (BLa,NLa).

Black-crowned Night-Heron High count for e WA: 31 at Iowa Beech Walla Walla on 6/29 (MD,MLD). Locally uncommon. 1 at Sundale Klickitat on 7/3 (WC). Rare in w WA in summer. 3 at Skagit WMA Skagit on 7/26 (GB).

WHITE-FACED IBIS Rare in WA. 1 reported at St Andrews Douglas on 6/19 (DBe).

Turkey Vulture Reports of late migrants included 3 at Vernita Grant on 6/1 with 1 there on 6/3 (BLa,NLa), 2 at Whitby Island Island on 6/8 (fide TAv), and 1 at Seattle Grenville Grays Harbor on 7/19 (CWr).

American White Pelican Reports from e WA included a flock of 50 mostly sub-adults feeding on Mormon Crickets near Juniper Dunes Franklin on 6/16 (TAv).

Golden Eagle Uncommon in w WA. 1 immature at Deer Park Clallam on 6/26 (BN,JoM).

Merlin Rare but increasing in WA in summer. 1 reported at Othello Adams on 7/18 (R), 1 at Ballard King on 7/25 (RT), 1 at West Seattle

Swainson's Hawk at the nest, Dodson Rd., Grant, 5/24/2003

Photo by Joyce Meyer

in WA. 1 on Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/12 (BT) and on the 7/19 trip (BL), and 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/19 (PS,RS) and on 7/22 (AG).

TOWNSEND'S SHEARWATER Not previously documented north of Mexico. 1 reported west of Neah Bay Clallam in late July (Pfr).

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL Rare in WA. 1 off Cape Shoulter Pacific on 7/12 (PL,BL).

Leach's Storm-Petrel Reports included 3 on Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/12 (RSl) with 385 on the 7/19 trip (BL).

American White Pelican Reports from e WA included 23 at Lyons Ferry SP Franklin on 6/16 (TAv), 75 at Yakima Canyon Yakima/Kittitas throughout the period (DR), 1 south of Alderdale Klickitat on 7/3 (WC), 40 at Sprague Lake Adams/Lincoln on 7/4 (KB), and 250 at Badger Island Walla Walla on 7/26 (MD,MLD).
King on 7/27 (DSw), 1 at Sequim Clallam on 7/30 (RB), and 3 pairs reported nesting at Mount Vernon Skagit throughout the period (fide BAn).

Peregrine Falcon Uncommon in e WA. 2 at Palouse Falls Franklin throughout June (fide BLa), 1 at Dry Falls Grant on 7/7 (KB), and 2 at Spokane Spokane on 7/8 (GaS).

Sandhill Crane Rare and local in summer. 2 reported at Cameron Lake Road Okanogan on 7/4 (PS,RS), and 51 including 6 fledged young at Conboy Lake NWR Klickitat on 7/30 (JE).

American Golden-Plover Rare in summer 1 adult in alternate plumage at Iowa Beach Walla Walla on 6/7 (SM).

Pacific Golden-Plover Rare in summer 1 adult in alternate plumage near Stanwood Suquamish on 7/26 (SM).

Golden-Plover sp. Either species rare in summer. 1 adult near Stanwood Suquamish on 6/29 (SM).

Snowy Plover Uncommon in WA. 1 on a nest at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 6/6 (DN) with 3 there on 7/19 (PS,RS), and 6 at Midway Beach Pacific on 6/24 (Hg) with 14 reported there on 7/19 (PS,RS).

Semipalmated Plover Uncommon in e WA. 1 at Lower Crab Creek Grant on 7/19 (Rh), 5 at Potholes Grant on 7/25 (DSc), and 3 at Paterson Slough Benton on 7/26 (BLaNLa). Uncommon in w WA in June. 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 6/6 (DN), 5 near Stanwood Suquamish on 6/22 (SM), and 20 at Midway Beach Pacific on 6/24 (Hg), High count: 300 at Bottle Beach Grays Harbor on 7/31 (TaV).

Black Oystercatcher Uncommonly reported from outer coast. 6 at Point Grenville Grays Harbor on 7/19 (CrW), 1 at Tolmie Point Pacific on 6/21 (JGi), 2 near Stanwood Suquamish on 6/22 (SM), 1 at Fields Lake Okanogan on 6/25 (TaV), and 1 at Montlake Fill King on 6/29 (SMa).

Lesser Yellowlegs Early migrant reports included 2 near Stanwood Suquamish on 6/22 (SM), 1 near Cusick Pend Oreille on 6/24 (MFo,ADa), 1 at Muskat Lake Okanogan on 6/25 (TaV), and 11 at Iowa Beef Walla Walla on 6/29 (MD,MLD). Early juvenile reports included 1 at Crockett Lake Island on 7/23 (TaV,MfM), and 1 at St Andrews Douglas on 7/26 (DBe).

Solitary Sandpiper Reports included 1 near Chewelah Stevens on 6/7 (MfO) with 4 there on 7/5 (KB), 1 at Kipling Road Okanogan on 7/3, 1 at Confluence SP Chelan on 7/5, 2 near St Andrews Douglas on 7/5 (PS,RS), 1 at Potholes Grant on 7/5 (TeP), 2 at Mill Creek Walla Walla 6/16 (TaV), and 12 at Walla Walla RD Walla Walla on 6/22 (MD,MLD).

Marbled Godwit First reports included 1 at Dungeness Clallam on 7/15 (PS,RS) and 1 at Tokeland Pacific on 7/20 (CC).

Ruddy Turnstone Reports included 1 at Westport Grays Harbor on 7/12 (RSh), 1 at Dungeness Clallam on 7/24 (BN,LMu), 1 at Ediz Hook Clallam on 7/25 (DoW), 5 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/26 (PS,RS), and 1 at Bainbridge Island Kitap on 7/27 and on 7/30 (fide IP).

Black Turnstone Early reports included 25 at Westport Grays Harbor on 7/12 (RSh), and 40 at Ediz Hook Clallam on 7/24 (BN).

Surfbird Early juvenile report: 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/31 (TaV).

Red Knot Uncommon and local in summer. 40 reported at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/19 (PS,RS).

Sandpiper Rare in e WA in summer. 1 adult at Potholes Grant on 7/25 (DSc) and on 7/27 (DBe,DSc).

Semipalmated Sandpiper Reports included 1 at Crockett Lake Island on 6/29 with 6 there on 7/19, 2 at Samish Flats Skagit on 6/29 with 3 there on 7/12, 3 near Stanwood Suquamish on 6/29 with 12 on 7/24 and 7 there on 7/31 (SM), 1 at St Andrews Douglas on 7/5 (PS,RS), 2 at Ocean Shores STP Grays Harbor on 7/6 (SM) and on 7/11 (PL), 3 at Deer Lagoon Island on 7/12 with there on 7/26 (SM), 1 at Yakima RD Benton on 7/15 (BLaNLa) with 2 there on 7/29 (BW), 1 at Soap Lake Grant on 7/19 (DSc), 1 at Everett Suquamish on 7/20 (SM), 1 at Chief Joseph Dam Douglas on 7/25 (CrW).

Willet Uncommon and local in WA. 5 at Tokeland Pacific on 7/13 (PS,RS), 1 at Leadbetter Point Pacific on 7/18 (Cv), and 1 at Soap Lake Grant on 7/25 (DSc).

Wandering Tattler Locally rare. 1 at Blakely Rock on Bainbridge Island Kitap on 7/30 (BWg).

Spotted Sandpiper High altitude report: 1 at 7100’ in Horseshoe Basin of the Pasayten Wilderness Okanogan from 7/7 to 7/10 (CrW,SDo).

UPLAND SANDPIPER Rare in WA. 1 near Lyons Spokane from May (Ja) to at least 7/11 (SDo,CRW).

Whimbrel Uncommon and local in summer. 1 at Camano Island Island on 6/18 (PPp), 6 at Leadbetter Point Pacific on 6/21 (Gi), 50 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/11, and 90 at Tokeland Pacific on 7/11 (PL) with 240 there on 7/20 (CC).

Long-billed Curlew Evidence of dispersal in e WA included 7 at Lyons Ferry SP Franklin on (Dbe), 2 at Paterson Slough Benton on 7/26 (BLaNLa), and 1 at Potholes Grant on 7/28 (DSc).

Western Sandpiper Early reports included 1 at Deer Lagoon Island on 6/22, 18 near Stanwood Suquamish on 6/22 (SM), 30 at Midway Beach Pacific on 6/24 (Hg), and 2 at Lower Crab Creek Grant on 7/3 (RH).

Least Sandpiper Late for WA: 2 reported at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 6/5 (Dah).

Baird’s Sandpiper Early reports included 2 adults at Ocean City Grays Harbor on 7/19 (CrW), 1 juvenile near Stanwood Suquamish on 7/24 with 2 there on 7/31 (SM), and 2 at Potholes Grant on 7/25 (DSc) with 1 there on 7/27 (DBe, DSc).

Pectoral Sandpiper Early reports included 1 near Stanwood Suquamish on 7/17 with 2 on 7/24 and 1 there on 7/31 (SM), 2 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/19 (PS,RS) with 1 there on 7/31 (TO), 1 at Montlake Fill King on 7/5 (PM).


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7/22 (SMa,RyM), 1 at Crockett Lake Island on 7/26 (SM), and 1 at St Andrews Douglas on 7/26 (DBc).

**Dunlin** Rare in summer. 3 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 6/6 (DN) and 7/6 (SM) with 19 reported there on 7/26 (PS,RS), 3 near Stanwood Swinhonish on 6/29 with 1 there on 7/13 and 17/17 (SM), and 1 reported in basic plumage at Lower Crab Creek Grant on 7/19 (RH).

**Stilt Sandpiper** Rare in summer. 1 adult in alternate plumage near Stanwood Swinhonish on 7/13 (SM,GA1). 1 at Nisqually NWR on 7/26 (SM). There were also 4 additional juvenile migrants there on 7/26 (SM).

**Wilson’s Snipe** Uncommon in w WA in summer. 1 near Sammamish King on 6/3 (HFr), 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 6/2 (JPd) with 6 there on 6/5 (DaH), 4 at Montlake Fill King on 6/5 (MbH) with 1 there on 6/8 (KTe TA4), and 9 near Stanwood Swinhonish on 6/22 with 7 on 6/29 and an adult with 2 yearling from 7/17 to 7/31 for a very rare w WA breeding record (SM). There were also 4 additional juvenile migrants there on 7/26 (SM).

**Red-necked Phalarope** Uncommon in WA in June. 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 6/3 (KbM), and 1 at Crockett Lake Island on 6/29 (SM).

**Pomarine Jaeger** Early report: 1 on Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/12 (BT).

**Parasitic Jaeger** Early reports included 2 adults at Protection Island Jefferson on 6/29 (GG), 1 at Point No Point Kitsap on 7/4 (fide SM), and 1 at Midway Beach Pacific on 7/6 (SM).

**Long-tailed Jaeger** Early report: 1 on Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/19 (BL).

**South Polar Skua** Reports included 1 on Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/12 (BT) with 4 on the 7/19 trip (BL).

**Franklin’s Gull** Uncommon in WA. 1 at Paterson Slough Benton on 7/26 (BLa,NA). 5 at Mount Adams Yakima on 7/25 (KbM), 1 at Red Lagoon Klickitat on 7/25 (DA). 4 at Columbia NWR Grant on 7/26 (DG), and 1 at Moses Lake Grant on 7/25 (SM). High counts for w WA included 235 mostly in first summer plumage near Stanwood Swinhonish on 6/29 and 225 in alternate plumage at Deer Lagoon Island on 7/26 (SM).}

**Heermann’s Gull** Early report: 1 adult at Edmonds Swinhonish on 6/8 (DD). High counts included 5000 at Grays Harbor Grays Harbor on 7/6 (SM) and 3000 at Ediz Hook Clallam on 7/25 (DoW).

**Mew Gull** Early reports included 2 adults at Deer Lagoon Island on 6/22, 1 in first summer plumage near Stanwood Swinhonish on 7/4 (SM), and 1 adult at Oak Bay CP Jefferson on 7/16 (DMu).

**Ring-billed Gull** High count: 1620 near Stanwood Swinhonish on 7/31 (SM).

**California Gull** High altitude migrant flyovers: 2 at 6400' at Mount Adams Yakima on 7/26 (KGl).

**Common Tern** Early report: 1 at Useless Bay Island on 7/19 (SM).

**Arctic Tern** Rare near land in WA. 1 small tern in second summer plumage thought to be XANTUS’S MURRELET Considered rare in WA. 2 S. b. hypoleucus on the Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/19 (BL,AK).

**Cassin’s Auklet** Reports included 1 two miles off Port Angeles Clallam on 7/9 (PL), and 374 on Westport Pelagic Grays Harbor on 7/19 (BL).

**Rhinoceros Auklet** High count: 1300 at Ediz Hook Clallam on 6/5 ( WPd).

**Tufted Puffin** Reports included 3 at Diamond Point Clallam on 6/21 (SP), with 7 reported there on 7/15 (PS,RS), 34 at Protection Island Jefferson on 6/29 (GG), 2 at Tatoosh Island Clallam on 7/2 (BN,Mu), 1 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/11 (PL), and 4 at Point Grenville Clallam on 7/19 (CW,GrW).

**Band-tailed Pigeon** Rare in w WA. 1 at Vantage Kittitas on 6/15 (TaV), and 1 at Easton Kittitas on 7/3 (PS,RS).

**Burrowing Owl** Rare in WA. 1 reported near Underwood Skamania on 7/21 (ZB).

**Short-eared Owl** Uncommon and declining in e WA in summer. 1 at Yakima Training Center Yakima on 7/17 (JHe).

**Boreal Owl** Uncommon in WA. Reports included 2 heard giving “skiew” call at Salmo Mountain Pend Oreille on 7/5 (KB,CSe), and 1 giving breeding song at 7600’ at Armstrong Mountain Okanogan on 7/8 (SDo,CWr).

**Common Nighthawk** Reports from w WA included 1 at Vancouver Clark on 6/11 (fide JE), 1 at Juanita Bay King on 6/11 (RYM), 1 near Port Angeles Clallam on 6/12 (Mu), with 8 there on 7/9 (PL), 1 at Sucia Island San Juan on 6/16 (RR), 1 at Mount Rainier NP Lewis on 7/2 (DoS), 3 at Forton Lakes

**this species reported at Jetty Island Swinhonish on 7/7 (fide TA4).**

**Forster’s Tern** High count for e WA. 50 at Paterson Slough Benton on 7/26 (BLa,NA). Rare in w WA. 1 at Deer Lagoon Island on 7/19 (SM).

**Black Tern** High count for e WA: 120 at Calispell Lake Pend Oreille on 6/24 (MFo,DA). Rare in w WA. 4 remaining from May at Ridgefield NWR Clark on 6/2 (HO,JoE) with 6 remaining there on 7/10 (KK,HA), and 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 6/5 (DO,GA). 1 at Port Hadlock Jefferson on 7/28 (DD). 1 at Port Hadlock Jefferson on 7/28 (DD).

**Common Murres** High count: 1500 adults at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/31 (TA4). 1 at Protection Island Jefferson on 6/29 (GG).

**Skamania on 7/10 (TAv,CFr). 1 near Elma Grays Harbor on 7/20 (TO), 2 near Eatonville Pierce on 7/25 (WW). 1 at Mount St Helens Cowitz on 7/26 (RKo), 30 at Sequim Clallam on 7/27 (RR), 20 at Darrington Swinhonish on 7/27 (CM), 20 at Monroe Swinhonish on 7/28 (fide TA4), and 17 at Port Hadlock Jefferson on 7/28 (DD).**

**Black-chinned Hummingbird** Rare in w WA. 1 female at Pyramid Rock Clark on 6/7 (WC).

**Anna’s Hummingbird** Uncommon in e WA. 1 female at East Wenatchee Douglas on 6/26 and 6/27 (DBc).

**Rufous Hummingbird** Early migrant reports included 1 at Richland Benton on 6/23 (BW) and 1 at Othello Adams on 7/1 (fide BLA). High count: 26 at Discovery Bay Jefferson on 6/16 (BN).
Red-breasted Sapsucker Uncommon in e WA. 1 near Clifford Yakima on 7/4 (KB), and a pair feeding juveniles on 7/26 at Bethel Ridge Road Yakima (J B). White-headed Woodpecker Reports included 3 at Nile Creek Burn Yakima on 6/23 (JPa), 2 at Conboy Lake NWR Klickitat on 6/28 (WC), and 2 at Spring Creek Yakima on 7/27 (BS).

American Three-toed Woodpecker Reports included 6 along Forest Road 39 Okanogan on 6/26 (TAv), 1 at Mount Rainier NP Lewis/Pierce on 7/2 (DSc), and on 7/26 (fide TAv), 1 near Hogback Ridge Asotin on 7/6, 4 at Wickiup Garfield on 7/6 (KK), 1 at Salmo Mountain Pend Oreille on 7/6 (KB), 1 at Bethel Ridge Yakima on 7/26 (JB), and 2 near Chinook Pass Yakima on 7/26 (BS).

Black-backed Woodpecker Uncommon in WA. 2 at Nile Creek Burn Yakima on 6/6 (MaB) with 4 there on 6/23 (Pa), 2 at Little Pend Oreille NWR Stevens on 7/6 (MB), and 1 at Forlorn Lakes Skamania on 7/10 (TAv,CFr).

Red X Yellow-shafted Flicker Rarely reported in summer. 1 at Daroga Douglas on 6/6 (DBe), and 1 at Seattle King on 7/31 (PlO).

Olive-sided Flycatcher Late migrant reports included 1 at Ralston Adams on 6/1 (DSc), 1 at Palouse Falls SP Franklin on 6/1 (SM), 1 at Magnuson Park King on 6/7 (JH), 1 at Corfu Grant on 6/8 (PS,RS), 1 at Woodland Park Zoo King on 6/13, and 1 at Lyons Ferry SP Franklin on 6/16 (TAv).

Willow Flycatcher Locally rare. 1 singing at Woodland Park Zoo King on 6/29 (TAv).

Least Flycatcher Uncommon in WA. 2 at Bridgeport Bar Douglas on 6/6 (DBe) and on 7/5 (PS,RS), 1 at Central Ferry Canyon Douglas on 6/6 (DBe), 1 at Ringold Franklin on 6/7 (DSc), 1 at Elk Lake Spokane on 6/17 (JAWH), 1 at Indian Camp Road Douglas on 6/17 (DBe), 1 near River Bend Airport Pend Oreille on 6/19 (MFo,DA), 1 near Oroville Okanogan on 6/25 (TAv), and on 7/2 (PL), 1 at Forston Mills Snohomish on 6/26 (DD,SP), and 1 reported near Ellensburg Kittitas on 7/30 (SDo).

Gray Flycatcher Locally uncommon. 1 at Turnbull NWR Spokane on 6/24 (MF).

Cordilleran Flycatcher Status uncertain in WA. 1 remaining from May singing at Chewelah Stevens on 6/25 (MFo,DA).

Ash-throated Flycatcher Locally uncommon. 1 remaining from May near Vantage Kittitas on 6/5 (TAv) to at least 7/13 (DSc), 1 at Washucuna Adams on 6/8 (PS,RS), 1 reported at Robinson Canyon Kittitas on 6/13 (Mo), and 1 east of Orondo Douglas on 6/16 (DBe) and on 7/5 (PS,RS).

Western Kingbird Uncommon in w WA. 2 at Discovery Park King on 6/1 (AK), and 1 at Orting Pierce on 6/3 (CW).

Eastern Kingbird Uncommon in w WA. 1 near Sedro Woolley Skagit on 6/1 (JW), 1 at Corkindale Lake Skagit on 6/21, 1 at Samish Flats Skagit on 6/24 (fide DiB), and 1 near Marblemount Skagit on 7/15 (SA).

Red-eyed Vireo Late migrant reports from e WA included 1 at Lyons Ferry Franklin on 6/1 (SM), 1 at Sun Lakes SP Grant on 6/2 (DS,Sc), and 1 at Schrag Adams on 6/4 (TAv). Uncommon and local in w WA. 2 east of Oakville Grays Harbor on 6/3 (BS) with 1 there on 6/16 (JPa), 1 reported near Montesano Grays Harbor on 6/21 (PS,RS), 10 at Auburn King on 7/4 and 1 south of Lake Quinault Grays Harbor on 7/20 (CWr).

Gray Jay Locally uncommon. 1 at Fort Lewis Pierce on 6/7 (DN).

Western Scrub-Jay Range expansion continues. 1 at Lummi Island Whatcom on 6/15 (fide SM), 2 at Ballard King on 6/20 (KL) with 3 there on 7/19 (RT), an adult with young at Hoquiam Grays Harbor on 7/6 (SM), and 1 at Yakima Yakima on 7/13 (SDo).

Common Raven Locally rare. 1 at Union Bay King on 6/27 (fide TAv) and on 6/29 (KL).

Horned Lark Reports from declining lowland population in w WA included 1 at Fort Lewis Pierce on 6/7 (DN), 6 including a fledged juvenile at Midway Beach Pacific on 6/24 (JHg) with 11 there reported on 7/13, and 6 at Ocean Shores Grays Harbor on 7/19 (PS,RS).

Purple Martin Reports included 1 at Lake Sammamish King on 6/5 with 4 there on 6/26, 40 at Seattle King on 6/5, 14 at Picnic Point Snohomish on 6/5, 20 at Luhr Beach Thurston on 6/5 (fide KL), 7 at Anacortes Skagit on 6/16 (GB) with 5 there on 6/24 (WW), 2 at Bellingham Whatcom on 6/18 (SK), 5 at Port Ludlow Jefferson on 6/26 (DoW), 2 at Protection Island Jefferson on 6/29 (GG), 2 at Cultus Bay Island on 7/2 (TAv,CFr), 2 at Dukabush Jefferson on 7/2 (MMo), 1 at Dungeness Clallam on 7/9 (PL) and on 7/16 (BN,MMu), 1 at Discovery Park King on 7/13 (fide TAv), and 4 at Tacoma Pierce on 7/13 (CSc).

Tree Swallow Locally uncommon in summer. 2 at Bateman Island Benton on 6/13 (NLa), and 2 at Kennewick Benton on 7/1 (BLa).

Bank Swallow Uncommon and local in w WA. 12 near Castle Rock Cowitz on 6/21 (RkKo), 25 at Concrete-Sauk Valley Road Skagit on 6/24 (WW) with 100 there on 7/17 (HO,TAv), 4 at Corkindale Skagit on 6/25 (GB), 2 at Oso Snohomish on 6/26 (DD,SP), 3 at Willapa Bay Pacific on 6/29 (JGi), 1 near Stanwood Snohomish on 6/29 with 5 there on 7/26 (SM), 45 at Auburn King on 7/4 (CWr), and 2 reported near Krain King on 7/30 (CSc).

Bush Tit Locally rare. 10 at Potholes Grant on 7/5 (Tep).

Red-breasted Nuthatch Rare breeder in Columbia Basin. A pair with 2 fledglings at Richland Benton on 7/24 (BLa,NLa).

White-breasted Nuthatch Declining and local in w WA. 2 at Camas Clark on 7/8, and 5 at Steigerwald Lake NWR Clark on 7/19 (WC).

Brown Creeper Unusual location: 1 at 7300’ on 7/25 (BGi). Uncommon and very local in w WA. 1 at Lyons Ferry Clark on 7/26 (BT,BL).

Gray Catbird Late migrant reports included 1 at Washucuna Adams on 6/1 (SM), 1 at Ephrata Grant on 6/5 (TAv), 2 at Lyons Ferry Franklin on 6/7 (SM), and 1 at Moses Lake Grant on 6/7 (TeP). High counts included 15 at Coppei Creek Walla Walla on 6/15 (MD,MLD), and 28 south of Oroville Okanogan on 6/25 (TAv).

Northern Mockingbird Uncommon in WA. 1 near Kettle Falls Stevens on 6/6 (WCu), and 1 reported at Lake Ozette Clallam on 6/7 (fide BN).

BROWN THRASHER Rare in WA. 1 at Lyons Ferry SP Franklin on 6/2 (BT,BL).

Nashville Warbler Rare in w WA in summer. 1 at 4000’ at Mount Rainier NP Lewis on 6/15 (CC), and 1 at Mount Hardy Burn Skagit on 6/17 (JDo).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER Rare in w WA. 1 immature male at Lyons Ferry Franklin on 6/1 (SM).

“Myrtle” Warbler Rare in w WA in summer. 1 adult male at Lyons Ferry SP Franklin on 6/2 (BT,BL).

Black-throated Gray Warbler Uncommon to rare in e WA. 1 singing male at Davenport Lincoln on 6/6 (JH), and 1 at Columbia Hills Klickitat on 7/9, 1 at Trout Lake Klickitat on 7/9 (TAv,CFr).
Hermit Warbler: High count: 8 at Fort Lewis Pierce on 6/7 (DN).
Hermit X Townsend’s Warbler: Reports included 1 male near Mount Adams Skamania on 7/10, and 3 at Forlorn Lakes Skamania on 7/10 (TAv,CFr).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: Rare in WA. 1 singing at Wanapum SP Kittitas on 6/14 (ADa).

American Redstart: Reports included 1 female at Lyons Ferry SP Franklin on 6/2 (BT,BL), 1 female at Windpust Park Franklin on 6/7 (SM) and on 6/8 (PS,RS), 2 males at County Line Ponds Skagit/Whatcom on 6/11 (ST) with a pair feeding young there on 6/26 (TAv), and 3 reported there on 7/15 (SA), 1 immature male near Rypeatch Kittitas on 6/13 (MIH), 1 immature male at Beaver Lake Okanogan on 6/22 (BLa,Na), and 1 immature male at East Wenatchee Douglas on 6/26 (Dbe).

Northern Waterthrush: At western edge of breeding range. 2 singing south of Oroville Okanogan on 6/25 (TAv).

MacGillivray’s Warbler: Late migrant reports included 1 at Discovery Park King on 6/1 (AK), and 1 at Schrag–Adams on 6/4 (TAv).

Green-tailed Towhee: Rare and local in WA. 1 at Biscuit Ridge WaMu WaMu on 6/15 (BLa,Na), 3 at 5865’ on Sunset Point Garfield on 6/19, and 2 near the Wenatchee Guard Station Asotin on 6/21 (MD,MLD) and on 7/4 (MfB).

Chipping Sparrow: Reports included 2 at 7400’ on Tiffany Mountain Okanogan on 6/26 (TAv), 1 female with a receding brood patch banded at Wallula WaMu WaMu on 7/16 (HB,Na), and 1 at Montlake Fill King on 7/1 (BV) and on 7/16 (CSi).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Uncommon in e WA. 1 west of Espanola Spokane on 6/1 (IA), 1 east of Molson Okanogan on 7/2 (PL), and 1 reported singing at Cameron Lake Road Okanogan on 7/4 (PS,RS). Rare in w WA. 1 at Sucia Island San Juan on 6/16 (RR).

Brewer’s Sparrow: Uncommon at high elevation: 1 reported at Armstrong Mountain Okanogan on 7/8 (CWr). High count: 40 reported at Jameson Lake Douglas on 7/30 (DBe).

Vesper Sparrow: Uncommon at high elevation. 1 at 5000’ on Colacoom Road Kittitas on 6/7 (CWr), and 6 at 7600’ on Armstrong Mountain Okanogan on 7/8 (SDo,CA). Rare and declining in w WA lowlands. 1 at Wein Prairie Thurston on 6/3 (Pa).

Lark Sparrow: High count: 50 reported at Jameson Lake Douglas on 7/30 (DBe).

Grasshopper Sparrow: High count. 29 near Keystone Lincoln/Adams on 6/2 (Jan). Locally uncommon. 3 at Colacoom Road Kittitas on 6/7 (CWr) and on 6/22 (SDo), and 1 at Conboy Lake NWR Klklat on 7/18 (Je).

“Thick-billed” Fox Sparrow: Unconfirmed in WA. Birds thought to be this form included 3 at 3000’ in the Columbia Hills Klklat on 7/5 (BT,RSh) with 1 there on 7/9 (TAv,CFr), and 2 in the Monte Cristo Range Skamania on 7/13 (WC).

“Sooty” Fox Sparrow: Uncommon and local in W. 4 at Sucia Island San Juan on 6/16 (RR).

White-throated Sparrow: Rare in summer. 1 remaining from May at Wapato Yakima through 6/16 (AS).

White-crowned Sparrow: Late for e WA. 1 at Windpust Park Franklin on 6/7 (RSh), and on 6/3 (MD).

Lazuli Bunting: Reports from w WA included 1 at Discovery Park King on 6/1 (AK), 1 at Mount Vernon Skagit on 6/2 (Dib), 6 east of Oakville Grants on 6/3 (BS) with 3 there on 6/16 (JPa), 1 at Nisqually NWR Thurston on 6/5 (DaH), 5 at Pyramid Rock Clark on 7/7 (WC), 5 at Seattler Creek Thurston on 6/16 (KM), 2 at Hardycreek Ridge Skamania on 6/24, 12 at Lookout Ridge Skamania on 6/21, 2 at Bluff Mountain Skamania on 6/26, 7 at McKinney Ridge Skamania on 6/27 (CC), 2 near Marblemount Skagit on 7/15, 1 near Rockport Skagit on 7/16 (SA), and 2 near Kain King on 7/30 (CSc).

Bobolink: Reports included 2 near Toppenish NWR Yakima on 6/1 (HO,Joe) and on 6/22 (KT), 4 south of Usk Pend Oreille on 6/8 (fide MD), 3 near Cusick Pend Oreille on 6/24 (MfO,ADa), and 20 east of Tonasket Okanogan on 7/3 (PS,RS).

Tricolored Blackbird: Rare in WA. 2 males singing at Wilson Creek Grant on 6/5 (TAv) with 15 reported there on 6/21 (SDo), and 1 reported at St Andrews Douglas on 7/7 (RNe).

Western Meadowlark: High elevation reports included 2 at 5300’ on Naneum Ridge Road Kittitas on 7/12 (DSc), and 1 at 6800’ above Hart’s Pass Okanogan/Whatcom on 7/20 (AS). Uncommon in w WA summer. 1 at Concretie-Sauk Valley Road Skagit on 6/29 (GB,HA), and 1 at Montlake Fill King on 7/16 (CSi).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Uncommon in w WA. 1 at Montlake Fill King on 6/1 (MKl), 1 near Rockport Skagit on 6/3 (fide DiB), 2 near Stanwood Snobosh on 6/29 with 1 there on 7/21 (SM), 1 female at Enumclaw King on 7/4 (CWr), and 1 male reported at Lake Dawn Clallam on 7/20 (fide BoB).

Pine Grosbeak: Uncommon in WA. 2 at Salmo Mountain Pend Oreille on 6/21 (GIh) with 1 on 7/4 (Rko) and 4 there on 7/6 (KB), 3 at Hurricane Ridge Clallam on 6/21 (SP), 2 at Rainy Pass Skagit/Chelan on 7/10 (WWW), and 1 at Naneum Ridge Road Kittitas on 7/12 (DSc).

White-winged Crossbill: Uncommon and irregular. 2 above 6000’ on Salmo Mountain Pend Oreille on 7/19 (BW).

Lesser Goldfinch: Uncommon and local. 15 at Rock Creek Klklat on 6/8 (BLa,Na), and 3 near Lyle Klklat on 6/28 (WC).

Orange Bishop: Reports of this introduced species increasing. 1 at Ridgefield NWR Clark from 6/7 (nW) to at least 6/27 (fide JE).


June — July, 2003

WOSNews 90: April / May 2004
Field Trip Report: Skagit/Samish Flats
by Brian Bell

Eleven people joined me on January 10, 2004 for a WOS field trip to the Skagit and Samish areas under generally non-rainy skies. We started out along the back road into the Skagit Game Range and had several red-tailed hawks, a couple of bald eagles, a field full of trumpeter swans (some calling), and a number of western meadowlarks. At the main parking lot at the Skagit Game Range we ran into Marv Breece and we all walked down the west dike trail (listening to all the "mallards" giving interesting calls from the edges of the field - most of these "birds" had on hunter camo). We had northern harriers (male and female), absolutely wonderful looks at an immaturity northern shrike (at a distance of about 25 feet) - this after more distant looks at an earlier one. Through the spotting scopes the fine details of the shrike were truly beautiful. There were two greater yellowlegs in the same field as the "mallards," but they didn't seem to be bothered by these "ducks."

We left the game range and went to the north side of Fir Island where we had a field of about 7,000 snow geese and a number of trumpeter swans. In. With the swans was at least one tundra swan. A number of bald eagles were in the trees along the dike, and a probable cooper's hawk came zipping by.

On the way up to the Samish we took a brief detour along Farm-to-Market Rd (because of a train with no engines across the tracks at Bayview-Edison Rd). As we made our way back west along Josh Wilson Rd toward Bayview, we got views of a female American kestrel. Down along Padilla Bay we had views of common loon, pacific loon, scoters, and a rather unusual long-tailed duck that kept its head pulled down against its body and with short, vertically erected tail feathers (at a distance when first seen it appeared remarkably like a ruddy duck).

After lunch at the Brazalee Interpretive Center, we found both downy and hairy woodpeckers in a tree out by the highway.

Our next stop was the West 90, with several red-tailed hawks and a rough-legged hawk along the way. We were just out of our cars at the 90 when the immature gyrfalcon flew by very closely, allowing great views, and proceeded to perch on an insulator on top of a power pole along Samish Island Rd. Great looks under very acceptable light. Everyone was able to study the head pattern, the coarse streaking along the breast and belly, and the primaries much shorter than the tail. Many northern harriers over the fields, several red-tailed and rough-legged hawks (including an almost black dark morph), plus a couple of short-eared owls. The gull flock in the puddle contained a western gull.

We continued to the WDFW site at the end of Wharf Rd and had common and Pacific loons, surf and white-winged scoters, bufflehead, both goldeneyes, long-tailed duck, red-breasted merganser, horned and red-necked grebes, brant, and pelagic and double-crested cormorants on Samish Bay. On the way back off the island we had large flocks of American wigeon with several Eurasian wigeon, mallards, northern pintail, and green-winged teal.

At the sparrow spot near the T-Loop tavern, we had song and fox sparrow, brown creeper, and red-breasted sapsucker.

It was a most enjoyable and rewarding day with many excellent views of nice birds.

Bird Words

Well, I’m not sure how this column will go, but we’ll give it a try. If you read Vulture’s Roost in WOSNews 89, you will know the background for this effort. Your feedback or suggestions will be most welcome. To start, I’m going to reprint (very loosely, and with additions) one of the 1996 words from Anu Garg’s “A Word A Day” – struthious. The rest are my efforts.

*Struthious:* (stroöth é thüs), adjective. resembling or related to the ostriches or other ratite birds (from the Late Latin *struthio*) ostrich, descended from the late Greek *struthion*, derived from the Greek *struthos* sparrow, bird). Present day ostriches belong in the family *Struthionidae* and there is only one species, *Struthio camelus*. The ostrich is the only bird with two toes, and the male ostrich can give a loud roar like a lion.

Many managers treat problems with a struthious attitude – burying their heads in the sand and hoping they will go away. – Anu. Do people who wear clothing made of struthious skin get ostracized? – Anu.

*Ratite:* (ratⁱtᵉ), adjective, having a flat, unkeeled sternum, as an ostrich, cassowary, emu, or moa; noun, a bird having a ratite sternum. (from the Latin *rātītē* meaning raft + ite). These are generally long-legged birds that have lost the power of flight. It is generally accepted that they are degenerate descendents of flying birds. Ratities are generally large birds with reduced wings. Besides having an unkeeled sternum, they lack feathers with stiff vanes and oil glands. The kiwi is also a ratite, but doesn’t quite look like the others!

A warm welcome awaits you at our Exotic, Tropical Ayshford Ratite Gardens.

Approach the Ostrich with care; he bites! – Ayshford, Barbados. Ostriches, rheas, and emus are the ratites most commonly raised as livestock in the United States. Ratities produce red meat that is similar to beef or venison, and the hide makes fine leather products. – ATTRA, Arkansas.

Note: *Carinate*: (care i nätë), is the opposite of *ratite* – having a keel (carina) on the sternum. Birds that fly are carinate birds.

Flightlessness is an interesting subject. The birds mentioned above are true ratites, but there are other birds that have a keel, but do not fly – through the air, that is. Penguins have a marine existence, but “fly” very well through the water with strong pectoral muscles (attached to the keel). There are also examples here and there of other species not adapted to flight for one reason or the other, including some New Zealand rails, two of the steamer ducks, parrots from New Zealand, and a few other species that are nearly flightless.

Send comments or suggestions to Diann MacRae, WOSNews Editor at WOSNews@wos.org
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