

1976

Autumn Migration, 1975

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers



August was unseasonably cool and wet over most of the Region, with southern Idaho, eastern Oregon and the Bozeman area the exceptions. Snow was down to the 6000 foot level in the Canadian national parks of the Rockies before the end of the month. September was mild and very dry nearly everywhere. October, showing a sharp reversal, was cold and wet, with snow down into the valleys in western Montana. At Bozeman a severe storm with heavy snow and an east wind about October 12 was believed responsible for grounding a small flock of migrants including eastern vagrants. Another storm there ten days later had a similar effect.

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Yet that area had a large number of record late dates, mostly after the storms. November was rather cold but precipitation was varied. In general the lowlands west of the Rockies got their first snows by mid-month but they did not stay. The rain shadow area along the Cascades was dry. The end of November brought heavy snow and falling temperatures to most areas. Crater Lake National Park, where most birds depart in August, was a world apart with repeated snows piling up to a four-foot depth by the end of the period. The Whooping Crane foster-parent experiment was probably the most notable event of the season. Another highlight was Rick Howie's comprehensive report on the Yoho National Park area of British Columbia.

LOONS AND GREBES -- Single Arctic Loons appeared in e. Washington, with two observations on Granite L., Spokane Co. Oct. 27 & Nov. 1 and two at Blue L., Grant Co. Nov. 10 (JA & WH). A **Red-throated Loon** was reported from the Nampa, Ida. area Nov 5. A Red-necked Grebe on a lake at 9000 ft. elevation near Challis, Ida., Sept. 28 was Roberts' first for the species in that area. Yoho N.P., Canada had its first-ever Eared Grebe on Emerald L. Nov. 23 (BB & LW) Fifty W. Grebes were on Helena Valley Res. near Helena in late October and Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida had up to 100 in September and October.

HERONS THROUGH IBISES -- Another record of the **Green Heron** was provided by an ad. bird seen along the Umatilla R. near Umatilla, Ore., in October (C & MC). The only egret reports were of single Greats near Lowden, Wash., in late August (MCo) and near Sisters, Ore. Sept. 25 (MS) and two Snowies at L. Helena from late August to late September. Trost had a band return for a young White-faced Ibis banded in June of last year, from Sinaloa, Mex., found there in April.

WATERFOWL -- The Turnbull N.W.R. Trumpeter Swan flock at Cheney, Wash. numbered at least 32, with at least 12 cygnets reaching flight stage. Up to 36 appeared at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore. An imm. bird with a yellow neck band was at Three Forks,

Mont. Oct. 26. White-fronted Geese were counted in unprecedented numbers in e. Oregon and Washington. A flock of 80 was at Tumalo Res. n.w. of Bend, Ore. Oct 8-12 (JJ). In Washington, McNary N.W.R., Burbank, had up to 24 in late October and four were in the Richland area on two dates in October and November. In c Washington one was at Stratford and Cold Springs N W R. near Boardman, Ore. had seven Oct. 4. Snow Geese were reported in numbers only at Salmon, Ida. where large flights passed over at the time of the first heavy snowfall Nov. 9-10. Five were recorded at Brisco, B.C. Nov. 3. They are rare migrants in that area (RRH). Two in blue phase appeared at Richland and two of 17 Snow Geese at McNary N.W.R. had plumage intermediate between white and blue phase. A single **Ross' Goose** was at Deer Flat N.W.R. Nov. 11. At Malheur N.W.R. duck numbers, especially of Mallard and Pintail, were markedly higher than in the last three years. However, Mallard and Canada Geese numbers at McNary continued the decline they have shown since the mid-sixties (OV). Deer Flat N W R Pintail numbers peaked at 6100 in late August and were still at 5000 in late November. Mallards there reached 140,000 by Nov. 20. Three sightings of Gadwall added the species to the lists of Banff and Yoho N.P. (RRH) Waterfowl numbers at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. were up significantly over last year, ducks totaling over 124,000 in November. Geese peaked at 6000 there in October. A male Mallard x Pintail was on the Columbia R. at Richland Nov. 25 (REW). A lone Com. Goldeneye on the Yakima R. near Selah, Wash. Nov 11 was noteworthy (EC). Two **Oldsquaws** at Columbia N.W.R. Oct. 31 were a refuge first. White-winged Scorer sightings were up. Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash. had up to five in late October and at that lake and nearby Willow and Reardan Lakes eight were counted Nov. 1. Five were still at Reardan Nov. 9 (JA & WH). One was on the Yakima R. at Richland in late October (EM) and Yoho N.P. had six Oct. 4 (CW & LW). Most unusual was one near Charlo, Lake Co., (CJH) and four killed by hunters in the Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont. (PLW). A female Surf Scorer appeared at Richland Oct. 22 & Nov. 15 (PW & REW) and one was seen in Yoho N.P. Oct. 11 (C & LW) Up to five were on Medical L. in late October and Lenore L. in Grant Co., Wash. had one Nov. 16. Three Forks, Mont. had one Oct. 26-27 (ETH, RAH, PDS, SC) A Ruddy Duck at Fortine, Mont. Nov. 3 was the latest ever (WW). A female Red-breasted Merganser was

carefully examined with a 20X telescope in Yoho N.P. Nov 3 (RRH) and another was at Richland Nov. 13 and again Nov. 28-29 (LH, REW).

HAWKS -- A Goshawk in Yoho N.P. Nov. 9 furnished only the third record there (RRH). Rough-legged Hawks appeared in numbers in Idaho and e Washington and in the Helena Valley. A dark phase Ferruginous Hawk was sighted at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. Sept. 14 and a light phase was there Oct. 16 (JWW). A dark phase bird was compared with a dark phase Rough-legged nearby, at Warwick, Klickitat Co., Wash. Nov. 29 (EH). The Bald Eagle gathering near West Glacier, Glacier N.P., peaked at 281 adults and 96 immatures Nov. 25, up slightly from last year (TJF *et al.*). Three Gyrfalcon and seven Peregrine Falcon sightings were reported. Prairie Falcon sightings were moderately encouraging in some localities but were completely lacking in many others.

S.A.

CRANES -- Of the 14 **Whooping Crane** eggs substituted singly into nests of Sandhill Cranes at Grays Lake N.W.R. in s.e. Idaho, nine hatched, three were infertile and two were lost to predators. Six young survived to flight age. Foster parent family groups joined flocks gathering for migration and the families were seen departing between Oct. 8 and 22. The family leaving Oct. 8 at 10:30 a.m. was sighted the next day at 5 p.m. at Monte Vista N.W.R. in Colorado. On Oct. 25 the first family arrived at the wintering grounds at the Bosque del Apache N.W.R. in New Mexico. The young whoopers appeared to be doing well there (RD & RH).

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SHOREBIRDS -- A Semipalmated Plover at Fortine, Mont., Aug. 21 was a rare sighting (WW) and one in Yoho N.P. Aug. 24 was unusual. The **Snowy Plover**, rare in the region, appeared at Sunriver, Ore. Sept. 3

(JB) The Am. Golden Plover, always noteworthy in the region, appeared at Bowron Slough e. of Quesnel, B.C. Sept. 18 (KMB) and at Reardan, Wash. Sept. 27, (JA) both single birds. The species was near Bozeman, Mont. Oct. 29, a record late date by ten days (HC, SC & PDS). Richland had a surprising 17 around mid-October. Five Black-bellied Plovers at a lake near Fortine furnished the first record there in 55 years' observing (WW). Two Upland Sandpipers were found near Bowron Lakes P.P. Aug. 25 (VB, DOB & KMB). One was seen for a few days in August at Nicholson, west of Yoho N.P. and a dead one was found in the park Aug. 24 for the first record there (RRH & CW). They were unreported elsewhere except for one overlooked for the summer report, 17 mi. s. of John Day, Ore. (AC *et al.*) At Richland two rarities showed up, a Red Knot Sept 30-Oct. 1 (PW & REW) and a juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** Sept. 28-Oct. 5 (CC, MC & REW). Single Dunlins appeared at Fortine Aug. 10 & 21 (WW). A very few Stilt Sandpipers stopped at Bowron Slough, Reardan and Richland and four were near Fortine, the second record there (first-1941) (WW). Two Marbled Godwits were migrating as far west as Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., Aug. 28 (KRB). On the same date there 59 Black-necked Stilts were counted (KRB).

GULLS AND TERNS -- Spokane had an imm. **Mew Gull** at the city dump Nov. 16 (JA). A sizable group of 500 Bonaparte's Gulls appeared at Klamath Falls Oct. 19 (SS) and the birds were very common at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., with flocks of 50-100, some remaining to mid-November. Twenty-six remained in the Rupert, Ida. area until November. A Sabine's Gull was sighted in September at Bowron Slough (KMB) and two were at Stinking L. on Malheur N.W.R. (CDL). At least one Com. Tern was at Golden, B.C. Sept. 2 (FK).

OWLS -- The only Barn Owls reported were one found dead on the highway near Rupert, Ida, (WHS) and one on Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., Aug. 4 (WH). Just one Snowy Owl had appeared, in the Beaverfoot Valley near Yoho N.P. Oct. 18. Three Hawk Owls, perhaps a family group, were found Aug. 7 In Banff N.P. (GH) and a single was seen at Brisco s. of Yoho N.P. Nov. 16 (RRH & FK). A family group of

four was observed near the summit of Mt. Revelstoke, s interior British Columbia at about 6500 ft. elevation Aug 17 (AB). Two Barred Owls were heard calling at Twin Lakes, Kootenai Co., Ida. Aug. 13-15 (P & RME). Two recently fledged Great Gray Owls Aug. 26 were the first sighting ever for Roberts in the Salmon, Ida. area Another was found south of Crater Lake N.P. near the Fort Klamath dump. A Short-eared Owl was picked up dead in Yoho N.P. Nov. 19 (BBe & CW) and single Boreal Owls were seen there Sept. 25 & Nov. 16.

POORWILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- The only Poorwill records came from Ellis Creek in the vicinity of Penticton, B.C. Aug. 26 (RJC & MGS) and from Rock L. s.e. of Sprague, Wash. Sept 4 (JWW). A group of Vaux's Swifts estimated at 1000 was along the Klickitat R. s.w. of Goldendale, Wash Aug. 24. A male Broad-tailed and a male Anna's Hummingbird were with other hummers at a feeder at Chiloquin, Ore. Aug. 2 (TC & JGi). A male Anna's appeared at Missoula Oct. 26 (SSF & PLW) and when it continued to appear, Sid Frissell provided a feeder. It survived + 10°F. weather with snow on the ground but fell out of a tree Nov. 25, was rescued and was doing quite well housed in a ten gallon aquarium tank! Two unidentified hummers were at a feeder at Invermere near Radium Hot Springs, B.C. until Nov. 7 when someone told the feeder operator to take the feeder down so the bird would go south, which was probably too late. Single birds remained at Yakima and Wapato, Wash into November. All these hummers were most likely Anna's. A male Calliope was seen at Missoula on the preposterously late date of Nov. 19 (SSF).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- The scarce Williamson's Sapsucker was reported from Crater Lake N.P. Nov. 19 and two were seen on Bamber Mt., Ferry Co., Wash., Sept. 6. The only sighting of the Ash-throated Flycatcher was of one in Richland, Sept. 5 and one at Deer Flat N.W.R. A massive gathering of Bank Swallows estimated at 3000 or more was at Medical and W. Medical Lakes, Spokane Co. Aug 17. An aggregation of Barn Swallows totaling 800 was observed at Deer Flat N.W.R. Sept. 17.

JAYS THROUGH CREEPERS -- One or possibly more **Blue Jays** appeared at Bozeman Oct. 22 and stayed through the report period. At Nampa two were found Sept. 20 and at Deer Flat N.W.R. one was sighted Nov. 9. Single birds were seen at Big Fork and Swan L., Mont. (BBa, LG, ESp, UW) and at Malheur N.W.R. (DG). About ten Com. Bushtits at Lyle, Wash Nov. 28 were considerably north of their normal range (EH). At Richland a White-breasted Nuthatch Nov 21 and one or two Pygmy Nuthatches Oct. 27-Nov 30 were apparently the first records ever (REW, EM) Single Brown Creepers at Yakima Sept. 1 and Wapato, Wash. Nov. 21 were noteworthy.

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES -- Three Canyon Wrens were found at a new location, Mud L. 7 mi. w. of Naches, Wash. (GW). The Nampa area had a Mockingbird the last day of November and one was on Sunnyside Game Range near Mabton, Wash. Oct 17 (JS). A **Wood Thrush** studied carefully in the Bozeman Cemetery Oct. 16 was only the third for Montana (SC & PDS). A very late Hermit Thrush was at Lyle, Wash Nov. 28-29 (EH) and a Swainson's at Bozeman Oct 16 was 13 days later than the record late date.

WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS -- The first Bohemian Waxwing record of the season was of a single bird at Emerald L. in Yoho N.P. Sept. 12, but larger flocks did not arrive until the end of October, notably a flock of 1000 at Golden. They soon cleaned out the mountain ash berries and left. Bozeman had its first birds at the same time but Fortine had thus far been bypassed. By mid-November flocks of 2000-3000

(CDL). An imm. **Bay-breasted Warbler** was a window casualty there Oct. 10 and was preserved as a specimen (CHT). Another of this species was closely observed at Bozeman Oct. 14 for Montana's second record (PDS). A Palm Warbler in Yoho N.P. Oct. 12 (C & LW) was the only one recorded in the fall for the Region. A window-killed Ovenbird at Bozeman Sept. 11, added to the Montana State U. collection, provided the first local specimen and one of very few local records (D & MQ & PDS). Another appeared at Rupert, Ida. Sept 21 and was apparently the second record there (WHS). Twenty-six N. Waterthrushes were banded on Seventeen Mile Creek n. of Troy, Mont., mostly from late July to mid-August (KB). One appeared in Pocatello Sept. 17 (EF). The species is rare in s. Idaho; one at Richland Sept. 2 was the first ever there (EM). A very late male Wilson's Warbler was in Missoula Nov. 18 (PLW).

BOBOLINKS AND BLACKBIRDS -- A Bobolink was seen at Bozeman on the record late date of Oct. 14. The only other report for the species was of a very few at Baker, Ore., in August. Small numbers of Rusty Blackbirds appeared Oct. 12, furnishing the first record for Yoho N.P. (C & LW) and most were gone from that vicinity by Oct. 25, but singles appeared at Nicholson Nov 1 & 15. There was a distinct gap on the calendar between the last Brewer's Blackbirds Sept. 27 and the first of the Rusties. Notably late dates for Brewer's were Nov. 2, one at Coeur d' Alene L. (BBa, SGS & ESt) and Nov. 18, eight at Saltese Marsh e. of Spokane (THR). Fifteen Brown-headed Cowbirds at Field, B.C. Sept 19 (RRH) seemed remarkably late for so far north.

FINCHES -- A few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks continued to appear. Bozeman had a young or fall plumaged male at a feeder Oct. 25-30 (ET & RAH *et al.*) and an imm. male at Field Oct. 26 furnished Yoho N.P.'s second record (RRH). One was seen in Banff N.P. in early November. A Black-headed Grosbeak at Missoula Oct 10-14 was more than three weeks later than any previous record (RLH). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce or absent over most of the region, only Spokane and Walla Walla reporting them in numbers. A bird recovered at Spokane in May had been banded near Flagstaff, Ariz. Aug. 14, 1973. The only Pine

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were common in Missoula and the birds had reached LaGrande, Ore. in some numbers. A few had reached Spokane by Oct. 16. A very late Solitary Vireo was at Baker, Ore. Nov. 9 (AW). Richland had an apparently valid sighting of a **Philadelphia Vireo** Aug. 26 (EM, *fide* REW). A new Idaho record was made by a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Pocatello Sept. 13-16 (EF & CHT) and one was reported at Malheur N.W.R.

Grosbeaks down from the mountains were in the Salmon, Ida area and on the U. of Montana campus, Missoula. Common Redpolls had reached Spokane, Salmon, Rupert, Helena and Missoula. A few Lesser Goldfinches were seen at a campground n. of Lyle, Wash. Aug. 26 (TW). White-winged Crossbills were found in four unusual localities and nowhere else. Groups of at least eight at Davenport, Wash. were believed the first for Lincoln County (JA) and a few were noted in Missoula. Helena had a few at a feeder (FN) and Bozeman had them from Aug. 21 on.

SPARROWS -- October 14 was a record late date for the Green-tailed Towhee at Bozeman; the previous last date was Sept. 18. The first record for the Region for the **Brown Towhee** came from Klamath Falls, Ore. where one was examined closely Oct. 19 by an observer very familiar with the species (SS). The lone Grasshopper and Sage Sparrow reports were for the Potholes Res area n. of Othello, Wash. (WH). Yoho N.P. had its first record of a Vesper Sparrow Aug. 25 (JH) An imm. Chipping Sparrow lingered at Pocatello until Nov. 3 (EF). The only report of the Clay-colored Sparrow was Aug. 22 for Yoho N.P., where it is rare (WM). Records of Harris' Sparrow sprinkled the reports rather generously. One or two were found at Nampa, Salmon (Roberts' first there) and Rupert, Ida, two to five were at Fortine, one appeared at Ennis and one at Missoula, Mont. Richland had a single sighting and the Spokane area had more records than ever before, beginning Sept. 25. One was seen at Kalispell L., Pend Oreille Co., Nov. 28. Lavington, B.C. had one Oct. 4 through the remainder of the fall period. Indian Rock Scenic Area near Bates, Ore. was apparently a new locality for a Golden-crowned Sparrow (RAHu) White-throated Sparrows also made news, with one, Shillington's first, at Rupert; two at Pocatello (EF), one at Bozeman (SC & PDS), one or two at several places at Spokane (JA, WH, JR); one banded at Bend (GM) another seen at Spring R., (B & CG) and one at Baker, Ann Ward's first, all in Oregon. A record late Lincoln's Sparrow was at Bozeman Oct. 14, nearly two weeks after the latest previous date (SC & PDS). Kay Burk banded a surprising 17 of this species near Troy, Mont during September. A real rarity was an imm. **Swamp Sparrow** at Missoula Nov. 27 and later (PLW). Bozeman reported the only McCown's Longspurs Oct 26 Lapland Longspurs were added to the Yoho N.P list

On one date three were seen perched in larch trees at 7400 ft. elevation! (RRH).

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Autumn Migration, 1975

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

Heavy rains and high winds, particularly on the southwest and central Oregon coast the second week of November caused a marked incidence of windblown coastal and pelagic birds well inland into Lane and Douglas Counties. Weather patterns were otherwise nearly normal except for more than usual rainfall in the latter half of August.



LOONS, GREBES, TUBENOSES, PELICANS --
Single and very early Yellow-billed Loons were found

at Whidbey I., Wash., Sept. 13 (TW) and at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Oct. 19 (AS, KW, *fide* BK); another was at Eld Inlet in s. Puget Sound Nov. 28 (BE, *fide* GH). On Aug. 1 there were already 15 Arctic Loons in the n. Straits of Georgia at Campbell River, B.C. (HT); over 600 of these birds were at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., Nov. 26 (MS, *fide* VG). A few Red-necked Grebes were noted in the Straits of Georgia at Vancouver and at Campbell River in the first half of August; a concentration of 137 was near Victoria, B.C., Sept. 2 (RS, *fide* VG). More than 9000 W. Grebes were in the n. Straits of Georgia Oct. 20 (HT) and ca. 100 individuals were at Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 11 (LM). Approximately 20 Black-footed Albatrosses were counted on each of three offshore trips from Westport, Wash., Aug. 17, 24 and Sept. 7 (TW). Northern Fulmars, however, were at a peak of 120 there Aug. 17, were down to 21 the following week, and on Sept. 7 were presented by only one (TW); two were seen at Westport, Nov. 9 (BT). Numbers of Pink-footed Shearwaters out of Westport started with 44 on Aug. 17, built to 62 the next week, and then jumped to 2286 on Sept. 7 (TW). A Flesh-footed Shearwater was seen out of Westport, Aug. 17, and three were seen Aug. 24 (TW). Between 8-10 New Zealand Shearwaters were

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seen at sea Aug. 17 & 24, with 207 counted Sept. 7 (TW). The usual fall concentrations of Sooty Shearwaters were evidently missing this year, with "thousands" being mentioned only for Tillamook Sept. 6 (DF).

S.A.

The storm system which moved inland Nov. 10 carried unprecedented numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels with it into s. Oregon and the s. Willamette Valley, 100 and more miles inland; winds reached 145 m.p.h. at Cape Blanco, and exceeded 50 m.p.h. at inland points. At least 50 Leach's Storm-Petrels were picked up dead in the vicinity of Eugene and Cottage Grove where nearby Dorena Res. harbored 29 live birds immediately after passage of the storm. A dozen birds were found at Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 10, 17 birds were at Oakridge in the lower Cascades, and up to six birds were seen at Hills Creek Res., Dexter Res., at Roseburg, near Springfield, near Mapleton and along the Rogue R., near Grants Pass; a single bird was picked up alive from snow at 3000 ft. near Oakridge and was released at a lower elevation (TL, LM, SS *et al.*).

A long-dead Short-tailed Shearwater was found at Westport, Sept. 13 (BT). More than 100 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were recorded off Westport Aug. 17 & Sept 7, but only a dozen were noted Aug. 24 (TW). The Aug. 17 boat trip turned up 66 Leach's Storm-Petrels, but on the following week, numbers were down to 13, with a single individual recorded for the Sept. 7 trip (TW). Brown Pelicans appeared on the Oregon coast in record numbers; 400 were estimated to be present in Tillamook Bay at times during August and September (*fide* HN); 250 birds were surveyed from Gold Beach s. to the California border, Aug. 17 (S & PS); 200 spent much of the fall at Yaquina Bay, where most of the birds were immatures (*fide* FR). Two Brown Pelicans were photographed at Neah Bay, Wash., Aug. 9 (BP, SR, *fide* PM).

HERONS, WATERFOWL -- Three Cattle Egrets are said to have been at Coos Bay, Ore., for several days around Nov. 22 (HR). A single Cattle Egret was found near Saseenos, n. of Victoria, Nov. 23-36 (AW, V & MG *et al.*), at that place the first confirmed sighting for British Columbia was made two years earlier; another bird took up station about 3-1/2 miles away Nov. 24-

29 (PEW, *fide* VG). Great Egrets continue to appear in increasing numbers; this fall northernmost occurrences were at Boundary Bay Oct. 3-8 (DA, MF, SV, *fide* BK), at Milne's Landing on s. Vancouver I., Nov. 11-12 (RF, *fide* VG) and at Ferndale, Wash., Sept. 14 & Nov. 12 (*fide* TW). All other sightings of Great Egrets were from twelve w. Oregon locations, with remarkable concentrations of 30 birds at Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 12 (LM), and of up to 140 birds at Coos Bay in October (HR, *fide* ACo). A Black-crowned Night Heron was discovered at Grants Pass Nov. 17 (S & PS). Up to 14 Trumpeter Swans were found at Campbell River (HT), at Milne's Landing, and at Upper Thetis L on s. Vancouver I. (M & VG, MMe, LR, MS *et al.*), and at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash. (TW), during November. An imm. Emperor Goose was at Willapa Bay for several days in early October before it was shot by a hunter Oct. 11; an adult was also there during October (JW, *fide* PM). A Ross' Goose was at Ankeny N.W.R., s. of Salem, from Nov. 1 to the end of the report period (DP, E & EE, *fide* FR). A male Eurasian Green-winged Teal was seen at Saanich, Nov. 15 (VG, RS). A pair of Cinnamon Teal was at Campbell River Aug. 27 (HT), and a very late one was at Reifel Refuge Nov. 4 (CR, *fide* VG). On Sept. 21, there were three Redheads at Nisqually N.W.R. (CS, *fide* PM); three were found at Seattle Nov. 15 (G & WH); and there were up to four at Cowichan, B.C., Nov. 10-18 (VG). A sub-adult Tufted Duck was found 2-1/2 miles offshore from Vancouver's Stanley Park Oct. 24, 26 & Nov. 2 (PMa, *fide* BK). It is curious that large numbers of Barrow's Goldeneyes consistently utilize the lake at Olympia's Capitol Park, a remarkable 1654 were counted there Nov. 13, but other counts in November never found fewer than 280 birds present (G & WH). A count of 200 Harlequin Ducks was made at Oak Bay, Victoria, Oct. 22 (MS, *fide* VG).

HAWKS, EAGLES, GAMEBIRDS -- Migrating Turkey Vultures were much in evidence at Victoria Sept. 20-22; 45 were seen at Saanich Oct. 3 where a very late single bird was also observed Nov. 19 (VG *et al.*). A Turkey Vulture was still at Campbell River Oct 29 (HT). An ad. White-tailed Kite appeared at Sauvie I., Oct. 3-10 (JB, RK, HN); the same or another was noted at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, Ore., Oct 18 (B & KT, *fide* FR) and Nov. 26 (JA, RR, *fide* FR). Individual Goshawks were observed at four widely

spaced locations in the Cascades from s. British Columbia s to c. Oregon, at three lowland and at one coastal locations both in September and at the very end of the period. Aside from s. Vancouver I., there were 35 Sharp-shinned Hawk sightings from 18 locations between Campbell River and Grants Pass; 26 Cooper's Hawks were observed at 17 different localities. On s. Vancouver I., however, there were 40 reports for 53 Sharp-shinneds and 26 reports for 28 Cooper's. Thus numbers for both species were about the same as 1974. Single Swainson's Hawks were noted at Crater Lake N.P., Aug. 19 and at Mt. Rainier N.P. Sept. 6 (CW). Rough-legged Hawks first appeared in the Vancouver area Sept. 24 and in Washington's North Cascades in early October. Golden Eagles were noted three times in s.w. Oregon Sept. 13-Nov. 23 (SS *et al.*), at Eugene Oct. 25 (IE, *fide* TL), in the San Juan Is., Oct. 18 (EH), and also three times on s. Vancouver I. Aug. 25-Nov. 1. Twelve Bald Eagles were recorded for eight localities in w. Oregon and Washington during the report period, on s. Vancouver I. up to five birds would be found in a day's active birding August-November. Ospreys were reported with regularity on s. Vancouver I. until mid-October (VG); single birds were seen in Campbell

(DDS), at Tillamook, Oct. 18 (DF, HN), and near Corvallis, Nov. 29 (E & EE, *fide* FR). The only Gyrfalcon sighting this season was a dark phase bird found at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, Nov. 9 (W & HHe). A Prairie Falcon was at Mt. Rainier Sept. 1 (AC). Thirty-one sightings of Peregrines were made at fourteen localities from s. British Columbia to n. Oregon, which is slightly better than for 1974. Sixteen Merlin reports came from s. Vancouver I. and 13 sightings came from 11 other localities. A male Ring-necked Pheasant was observed at Courtenay, B.C., Nov. 17 (HT), near the northernmost limits of its range. On Sept. 4, 25 Sandhill Cranes flew s. over Cape Flattery (*fide* PM); two were at Victoria, Sept. 7 and 15 were there Sept. 17 (RS, *fide* VG); on Oct. 21, 300 birds were over Eugene (CW). Numbers of Sandhill Cranes were at Sauvie I. and Ridgefield N.W.R. through much of the fall (DDS); one was at Saanich Nov. 9 (MS, V & MG, J & DWi). Nine sightings of Virginia Rails were made in the Region during the period. Soras were noted in Vancouver Aug. 15-30 (BK) and at Seattle Aug. 16 & 31 (EG, *fide* PM) and Nov. 4 (EP, *fide* PM).

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A White-tailed Kite, Sauvie Is., Ore., Oct. 10, 1975. Photo/Ron Klein.

River, Oct. 10 (HT), at Deception Pass in Puget Sound Oct. 18 (EH), at Seattle Nov. 7-14 (D & JH, *fide* PM), at Ridgefield N.W.R. w. of Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 24

SHOREBIRDS -- Snowy Plovers were reported only from LaPush, Wash., Sept. 14 (JWn) and from Honeyman S.P., near Florence, Ore., Sept. 27 (BT) -- two individuals each. American Golden Plovers were recorded from Victoria s. to Bandon, Ore., and at six intervening coastal locations Aug. 23-Nov. 9, the latter at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG). Maximum numbers were 60 birds in a day; a few were found at Iona I., Oct. 6 and at Sauvie I., Oct. 14. Long-billed Curlews were present from Ocean Shores s. to Tokeland, Wash., Aug. 15 (G & WH)-Nov. 9 (BT *et al.*), seven at the latter place on the late date; singles were also seen in the Bellingham-Anacortes area and at Victoria between those dates (*fide* VG, TW). Whimbrel were present at favored coastal points between Long Beach, Vancouver I., and Yaquina Bay, and around Puget Sound Aug. 14-Oct. 14; the 152 at Tokeland Aug. 16 (BT *et al.*) and the 100 at Ocean Shores Aug. 15 (G & WH) were migratory concentrations. Lone Solitary Sandpipers were found this fall at Saanich Aug. 16 & 21 (V & MG, RS), at Seattle Aug. 23 (B & PEv, *fide* PM) and at Iona I., Aug. 31 (W & HHe, *fide* BK); however, at Ridgefield N.W.R., on the Columbia R., there were four present Aug. 16 (DF, *fide* HN) and five on Aug. 25 (TW). Eight Willets were at Yaquina Bay Sept. 7 (RB), one was at Coos Bay

the next day, and 13 were at Bandon Sept. 16 (TL). Red Knots occurred at Victoria, at Iona I., and at nine coastal localities from Ocean Shores to Bandon Aug. 15-Nov. 14, never exceeding eighteen at any one time. The earliest Rock Sandpiper of the season was one at Seal Rock, Ore., Sept. 13 (ACo). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported in numbers up to three from different localities, including Campbell River (HT) and Yaquina Bay (RB), both new localities for this species, between Sept. 8 at Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (JBC) and Oct. 23 at Whidbey I., Wash. (NL). Pectoral Sandpipers passed through the Region Aug. 4 Oct. 4, peak counts being 60 birds on Oct. 4 at Iona I. (J & TI, *fide* VG) and Sept. 8 at Leadbetter Pt. (JBC). Baird's Sandpipers appeared again quite widely, from the Straits of Georgia, the Victoria area, Puget Sound, Sauvie I. and coastal points between Ocean Shores and Port Orford, Ore., in numbers up to 20; extreme dates were Aug. 2-Sept. 21, both on s. Vancouver I. A Long-billed Dowitcher was recorded Sept. 21 at Campbell River, where it is said to be rare (HT); up to four Stilt Sandpipers were found at Iona I., Reifel Refuge, the fill near Aberdeen, and at Ridgefield N.W.R., Aug. 16-Sept. 14. Up to four Semipalmated Sandpipers, were seen at Leadbetter Pt., Aug. 23 (HN), at Whidbey I., Aug. 25 (EH), at Iona I. Aug. 28 (MS, *fide* VG), at the Kent Valley sewage ponds s. of Seattle, Sept. 17 (EH) and around Victoria on four dates Sept. 11-Oct. 14 (VG, RS *et al.*). Three imm. **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were discovered Sept. 6 at the mouth of the Sixes R., Curry Co., Ore., and were still there Sept. 11; another was found Sept. 7 at Bandon (TL). These occurrences are further south on the Oregon coast than previous records known to us. Also on Sept. 6 an imm., Buff-breasted Sandpiper turned up at Ocean Shores (DP, *fide* TW; JWn, *fide* PM); an adult was found at Tillamook Sept. 19 (HN) and another was noted at Friendly Cove, Nootka I., B.C., Aug. 27 (J & DWi, *fide* VG). Marbled Godwits appeared in unprecedented concentrations, eclipsing those of last fall; high counts were 73 Sept. 6 at Tillamook (DF *et al.*), 70 at Coos Bay, Nov. 22 (BF, *fide* HR), 41 at Tokeland Aug. 16 (DC, DHa, BT), 30 at Leadbetter Pt., Nov. 29 (IB) but birds were also seen repeatedly at six other places throughout the period. A Hudsonian Godwit was seen at Reifel Refuge Aug. 28-Oct. 11 (m.ob.); one was observed at Iona I., Sept. 1 & 11 (*fide* BK). Still another **Hudsonian Godwit** was found on the fill near Aberdeen Sept. 6-24 (G & WH *et al.*), the first record to our knowledge for the State of Washington. The Ruff which was present at Saanich

July 31 remained two more days (VG *et al.*). Four Sanderlings on Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene, Nov. 10-14 (LM *et al.*) were obviously storm-blown vagrants, as were the eight Red Phalaropes there Nov. 11-16, and the one at Hills Creek Res., Nov. 10 (*fide* LM). A Wilson's Phalarope was at Vancouver Sept. 1 (BK) and at Salem Aug. 1 (RL). Up

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to 60 N. Phalaropes were noted at Iona I., and at Tillamook in September, but Victoria recorded 2500 on Sept 2; the last there were 100 on Sept. 19 (RS, *fide* VG)

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- Jaeger occurrences for the boat trips from Westport (TW) were as follows:

	8/17	8/24	9/7
Pomarine	28	12	28
Parasitic	8	3	10
Long-tailed	1	5	55
Skua	7	3	7

The mid-November storms brought two Pomarines and three Parasitics to Fern Ridge Res., plus two of the latter to Dexter Res. and one more to Dorena Res. (LM *et al.*). The only other records for Pomarine Jaegers were of one at Vancouver Sept. 21 (BK) and one at the s jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 6 (HN). Parasitic Jaegers, however, were seen in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca, in Puget Sound all the way to Olympia and on the c. and s.w. coast of Washington to the Columbia R. from mid-August through Nov. 24 in numbers up to 25 per day! A Parasitic Jaeger was even seen following a plow in a field at Finley N.W.R., Aug 31 (JG *et al.*)! The only additional record for a Long-tailed Jaeger was at Friday Harbor in Puget Sound, Oct. 18 (EH) and for Skua was one in the Straits of Georgia out from Tsawwassen, Oct. 6 (VG) and two 45 mi. off the c. Oregon coast Aug. 11 (DS). A Glaucous Gull

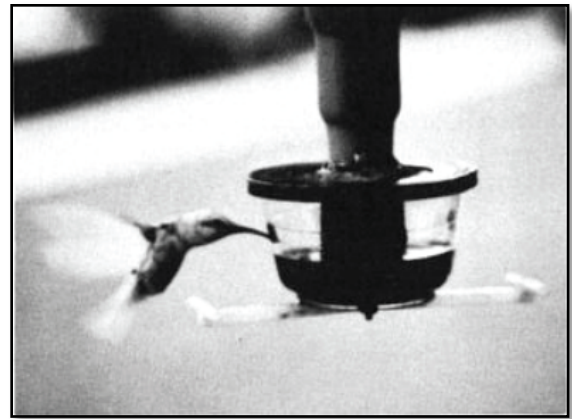
was at Yaquina Bay throughout November (FR, CW); one was seen at Victoria Oct. 14 (VG, RS). A huge concentration of 1000 Ring-billed Gulls was in a flooded field at Reifel Ref., Aug. 30 (KB, *fide* BK) and on Tillamook Bay Sept. 6 (DF). A Black-headed Gull appeared again at Victoria, being first discovered on Aug. 15 by John and Marian Steeves of Montreal; the bird was seen and photographed thereafter by many observers until Nov. 8 (VG *et al.*). A second Black-headed Gull appeared at Victoria Oct. 19 (MS, RS, *fide* VG) and also remained until Nov. 8 (MG, *fide* VG). A bird identified as a first year **Laughing Gull** was found Sept. 1 at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. (DDS, RSt, AWa), for the first supported Regional record known to us; De Sante has furnished two pages of detailed notes. Nehls saw a bird he was sure was an immature of this species at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., July 17, 1968, but he was alone at the time, so the record, although attested by a good description, has not heretofore been published. Eight Franklin's Gulls were seen at points from Campbell River to Olympia Aug. 9-Nov. 13; singles were seen at the mouth of the Columbia R., Sept. 6 (HN), at Fern Ridge Res., Oct. 14 & Nov. 20 (DG, RF, LM) and near Gold Beach Nov. 15 (ACo, CJ). An estimated 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 10-20 and 100 were at Oakridge in the lower Cascades, Nov. 11 (LM). Large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on the s. Oregon coast, Nov. 15 (ACo, CJ), 400 were at Lincoln City, Ore., Oct. 25 (FS), and up to 200 were at Tillamook Bay Oct. 18 (HN). An estimated 5000 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Victoria Nov. 8-15 (VG, RS). Little Gulls were again discovered in the Region; an adult was at the Ocean Shores sewage ponds Sept. 21 (EH, DDS, BT, AWa); another was at Seattle Nov. 15 (EH, G&WH, DHn, *fide* PM). Oregon's first **Little Gull** was recorded by Harold Wierenga of Annapolis, Md. at Tillamook Bay Oct. 20 in company with about 100 Bonaparte's Gulls; the bird was found again at Bay City Nov. 4 (JB, JG, JJ). Black-legged Kittiwakes were prominent along the central and s w Washington coasts in September, 180 at the n. jetty of the Columbia R. (HN) Sept. 6 being the peak concentration; a few were seen in the Straits of Georgia and in Puget Sound during the period. From Nov. 10-14 four adult and one imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Fern Ridge Res., where two individuals also were found dead (LM *et al.*). Between 4 and 13 Sabine's Gulls were seen on the three boat trips from Westport Aug. 17-Sept. 7 (TW) and one was seen at Florence, Ore., Oct. 26 (CW). The

mid-November storm brought single birds to Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 10-17, (LM *et al.*), to Eugene, Nov. 10 (ACo, *fide* LM), and caused one to be killed by a car in Douglas Co., Ore. (*fide* LM). Common Terns were recorded in unusually high numbers in the s. portion of the Region from mid-August through the third week of October with nine reports of 40-200 individuals in a day, the top counts all from Victoria. Late records were single birds observed at Vancouver, Nov. 1-2 (BK), seven birds at Victoria Nov. 16 (RS), and three birds at Fern Ridge Res., Nov. 10 (LM). Brian Kautesk has furnished a detailed account of a black-billed, grey-black legged imm. Com. Tern found in Vancouver Harbor with other Com. Terns Sept. 20; he observed it at less than 80 ft with 10 X binoculars in sunshine, later concluded it was very likely the Siberian race, Nordmann's Tern, *Sterna hirundo longipennis*. Arctic Terns were seen Aug 3-Sept. 27 from Campbell River s. to Yaquina Bay, maxima being 170 off Westport Sept. 7 (TW) and 30 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 6 & 13 (HN) A Caspian Tern was at Vancouver Aug. 23 (BK), the most -- 200 -- were at Leadbetter Pt., Aug. 16, and the latest (two) at Tillamook Bay Oct. 18 (HN *et al.*) A Black Tern was seen at Seattle Sept. 3 (WB, *fide* PM), and two Black Terns were found at N. Vancouver Oct. 4 (IM, GM, *fide* BK). A nest of the Pigeon Guillemot was discovered on Aug. 4 in a Vancouver park, on a rock ledge ten feet above a much-used walkway (BK). Pigeon Guillemots could be found regularly in the vicinity of Victoria until November, after which only scattered singles and couples were observed; the peak count was 88 on Sept. 2 (RS, *fide* VG). Joseph R. Jehl, Jr. writes that in mid-August at Siltcoos State Beach, about 10 mi. n of Reedsport, Ore., he picked up a dead **Craveri's Murrelet**; the bird was an adult male. The species has not previously been known to occur n. of Monterey, Calif. Two Ancient Murrelets were recorded Sept. 14, Oct 3 & 13 at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG); during November up to 15 birds were noted around Victoria (VG). Up to 60 Cassin's Auklets were observed off Westport on three boat trips Aug. 17-Sept. 7 (TW); one was seen at Victoria Oct. 7 (J & DWi, EC, *fide* VG). Rhinoceros Auklets were seen intermittently at Victoria after Aug.

9, peak numbers for a day between 5 and 41 (MS, RS, *fide* VG). Counts out of Westport, Aug. 17, 24 and Sept. 27 varied between 21 and 326 (TW); 60 were in s. Puget Sound Aug. 13 (BT), and five were at Newport Sept. 7 (FR). Eleven Tufted Puffins were seen out of Westport Aug. 24 (TW) and nine were at Cape Meares Aug. 30 (DF, HN).

OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES -- A Snowy Owl was seen in a logged area at 2000 ft. e. of Bellingham Oct. 30 (DB, *fide* TW) and one was at the Samish Flats Nov. 22 (TW). One was at Ocean Shores Nov. 23 (G & WH); three were at Ladner, B.C., by the end of November (BK). A Burrowing Owl was seen at the Eugene airport Oct. 12 and three were there Oct. 27 (LM). A Barred Owl was found at Manson's Landing, Vancouver I., Sept. 19 (M & TS, GS, *fide* VG). Thirty Short-eared Owls were at Nisqually N.W.R. in the last week of October (*fide* BT); small numbers were fairly widespread s. to Coos Bay after early October. Approximately 200 Com. Nighthawks were hawking for insects with Bonaparte's Gulls at Fulford Harbor, Saltspring I., B.C., Sept. 4 (*fide* VG). Up to a dozen Black Swifts were seen at various dates in the latter two-thirds of August n. of Victoria (V & MG, RS *et al.*); a few were seen in n. Washington during the last ten days of August (*fide* PM). On Aug. 30 there were 100 Vaux's Swifts at Tillamook (DF, HN). The species was surprisingly common at Portland in September and the first few days of October where over 1000 roosted in a chimney (*fide* DDS); five were rather late at Dexter Res., Lane Co., Ore., Oct. 12 (TL). Portland and Coos Bay seemed to be the center for Anna's Hummingbirds, with at least six recorded at the former and "many" at the latter through much of the fall; up to five birds were at Corvallis (FR), Eugene hosted one in late September and on Oct. 13 two were at Seattle Oct. 4 (EH, PM), and 1-2 were at a feeder in Saanich through the period (V & MG). A Calliope Hummingbird was at Eugene Aug. 11 (CW). Four Acorn Woodpeckers were seen n.w. of Salem Nov. 30 (FS). Lewis' Woodpeckers were virtually unreported, only four sightings having been mentioned, three from a 110-mile stretch of the Columbia R. valley and the other from Alsea, Ore., Sept. 5-Nov. 15. Individual E. Kingbirds were recorded at Samish I., Wash., Aug. 26 and at Skagit Game Range Aug. 31 (NL); another was noted at Victoria Sept. 1 (M & BMe, *fide* VG). A Say's

Phoebe was on Chehalem Mt., near Newberg, Ore., Nov. 2 (HP). Young W. Wood Pewees were still in the nest at Salem Sept. 1 (TM, *fide* RL) where a bird of this species was still present Oct. 13 & 15 (RL). An exceedingly late pair of Violet-green Swallows was seen in downtown Vancouver, Nov. 9 (BM, *fide* BK). A Tree Swallow was still at Campbell River, Nov. 2 (HT) and another was at Scappoose Nov. 17 (HN). Up to six Bank Swallows were noted in the Frazer R. delta Aug. 15, Sept. 23-24 (BM, *fide* BK, VG). Barn Swallows were seen this year at Sauvie I. Nov. 10 and near Ladner Nov. 26. The second nesting of Purple Martins at Fern Ridge Res. was 90% successful; 120 birds were there and 60 were on Sauvie I., in mid-August (TL). Up to 35 birds were at the



A Rufous Hummingbird, (male, albino), Ashland, Ore., Aug. 30, 1975. Photo/V.F. Zauskey.

colony near the Portland airport in September, the last date being Sept. 21 (TL, HP). A pair of Purple Martins fledged four young at Olympia Sept. 1 and were gone five days later (G & WH). Up to seven Gray Jays were found 15 mi. s.e. of Olympia Oct. 31 & Nov. 2 (G&WH). A Blue Jay was again found at N. Saanich Nov. 6 and it remained at least to mid-November (JWi, *fide* VG). A Black-billed Magpie was on Cortez I., B.C., Oct. 25 (HT), one was seen at Glacier, Wash., Oct. 2 and another was at Bellingham Oct. 31 (*fide* TW). Sixteen Com. Ravens were at Ankeny N.W.R., s. of Salem, Sept. 1 (JG) and two were in Portland Aug. 11 (DF). Single Clark's Nutcrackers showed up at surprisingly scattered lowland locations, mostly in late October, but also in November; six such reports were received from Vancouver s. to Newport, Ore. A White-breasted Nuthatch was found at Olympia, where it is extremely rare, Sept. 14 (G & WH). Two Wrentits were

seen at Finley N.W.R., Nov. 1 (MJ, FR). A House Wren was at Burnaby L., B.C., where it is always rare, on the late date of Oct. 11 (BK). A Rock Wren was found at Mt. Douglas, Saanich, Nov. 4 (JWi *et al.*); two were there Nov. 17 and one was still present Nov. 29 (*fide* VG). Mockingbirds appeared at Crescent Beach, B.C., Nov. 15 (*fide* BK) and at Corvallis Nov. 21 (*fide* FR). A female Mountain Bluebird was seen at Campbell River Nov. 1 (HN), and another was found at Qualicum Beach, B.C., Nov. 11 (VG, RS); 12 were at Hills Creek Res., near Oakridge, Ore., Oct. 12 (TL). Single Townsend's Solitaires were recorded s. of Alsea, Oct. 26 (*fide* DM), at Sauvie I., Nov. 16 (DF), and at Seattle Nov. 17 (MP, *fide* PM). On Oct. 12 at 5500 ft. in the N. Cascades 35 Bohemian Waxwings were seen and on Nov. 23 six were at the Lummi Flats near Bellingham (JD, *fide* TW). A single Bohemian Waxwing was found at Corvallis Nov. 21 (ASK, *fide* FR). Northern Shrikes appeared at scattered locations in late October and early November; five at Nisqually N.W.R., Oct. 19 (BT) were in the vanguard, with one at Victoria Oct. 7 (J & DWi, *fide* VG) the earliest.

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS -- A Red-eyed Vireo was seen in Vancouver Aug. 31 (BK) and two were at Campbell River Sept. 6 (HT). An imm. **Black-and-white Warbler** was found at the s. jetty of

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the Columbia R., Aug. 13 (HN) providing the first w. Oregon record of this species; another individual was discovered at Ilwaco, Wash., across the Columbia, Oct. 12 (B&PEV, *fide* PM). Two male **Tennessee Warblers** were seen well at Victoria's Beacon Hill Park Aug. 24 (RS *fide* VG); providing what is apparently the first record for Vancouver I. Three Nashville Warblers at Ocean Shores Aug. 15 and one at Ocean City S.P., Sept. 19 (G&WH) were additions to the very few occurrences on the Washington coast in migration. Two Hermit Warblers were at Cape Blanco, Curry Co., Ore., Sept. 16 (TL). Palm Warblers were found at Victoria Nov. 20 (BH, *fide* VG), at Ocean Shores where three were present Nov. 28 (BT), at Ocean Park on the Long Beach peninsula, Wash., Sept. 24 & Oct. 6 (IB),

at Toledo, Ore., Sept. 22 (DFa), and at Yaquina Bay Nov. 18-20 (RO, *fide* FR). A female or imm. Am. Redstart was at Cape Blanco Sept. 12; the next day there were 5-8 present (TL); one was also at Vancouver on the late date of Nov. 29 (MF, *fide* BK). Three Bobolinks were found at Yaquina Bay Sept. 26 (DFa, BL, *fide* FR); one was there again Oct. 18 (BL *et al.*, *fide* FR). A female Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at the Westport jetty, Aug. 31 (EH); an imm. male was at Saanich Nov. 24 (RMG, *fide* VG). A dead N. Oriole was brought in by a dog Nov. 17 at Bellingham (TW)! On Oct. 11, there was a pair of Rusty Blackbirds at Saanich (VG, RS); a male was seen there Nov. 24 (JWi, *fide* VG).

TANAGERS, FINCHES AND SPARROWS -- A late Black-headed Grosbeak was at Sauvie I., Oct. 14 (JG) Two female Pine Grosbeaks were found at Manning P P, Oct. 3 (VG); there were three observations of individuals at Vancouver in late November (*fide* BK) and on s. Vancouver I. there were four sightings of up to 20 individuals Sept. 1-Nov. 24 (*fide* VG). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at Bellingham Nov. 17 (JD, *fide* TW) and Nov. 22 when 20 birds were present (TW). Several sightings of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches also occurred at Vancouver and vicinity in November (*fide* BK); five were at Victoria Nov. 18 (JW1 *et al.*, *fide* VG). On Nov. 28 two birds of the latter species and two Com. Redpolls were noted at Mt. Lazar, 8 mi. w. of Shawnigan L., s. Vancouver I. (BH, KTa, *fide* VG). Two Com. Redpolls were discovered at Snoqualmie Pass, e. of Seattle, Nov. 29 (DF). Many observers commented on the prominence and numbers of Pine Siskins sporadically throughout the Region. A **Lark Bunting** was found and photographed at W Vancouver Oct. 5, for the first coastal record for British Columbia (IM, BK). An imm. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was photographed in c. Saanich Oct. 8 (JWi, EC, *fide* VG) apparently providing the first Vancouver I. record of this species. A Vesper Sparrow was seen at Excelsior Ridge near Mt. Baker in n. Washington Sept. 11 (K & JWs, *fide* TW). On Nov. 8 a **Gray-headed Junco** was discovered and photographed by Neil Dawe at Qualicum Beach, Vancouver I.; it was seen on Nov. 10 by the Goodwills and Leila Roberts; it is the first of the species recorded for British Columbia. Two Tree Sparrows were recorded at Reifel Refuge, Nov. 26 (MS, *fide* VG); singles were found at Vancouver Oct. 12 & 18

(BK) and at Samish I., Wash., Nov. 14 (NL). Individual Harris' Sparrows were observed at Vancouver Oct. 12 & 19 (BK), at Scappoose Nov. 27 (JG *et al.*), and at Cottage Grove Nov 28 (A & LWn, *fide* LM). White-throated Sparrows were noted at eight locations from Vancouver to Coos Bay Sept. 27-Nov. 30. An early Lapland Longspur was at Iona I., Aug. 23 (BM, *fide* BK); during September up to 45 were seen at six localities from Ocean Shores to Bandon; the only October records were from Ocean Shores twice (with a maximum of 50), Campbell River and Blaine, Wash. In November, longspurs were seen at Seattle and in the vicinity of Bellingham. Snow Buntings were recorded at Campbell River Nov 2 (HT), and at Iona I. Nov. 27 (VG), in the Bellingham area Nov. 4 & 6 (*fide* TW), and at Ocean Shores Nov 28 (G & WH).

OBSERVERS -- John Annear, Dick Asher, Ward Beecher, Dan Beighle, John Biewener, Ken Boyce, Robert Buchanan, Irving Burr, Arthur Campbell, Ernest Carhart, Alan Contreras (ACo), Deborah Cornett, John B. Crowell, Jr., A.R. Davidson, Dave DeSante (DDS), David and Mary Dudley, Jim Duemmel, E. & Elsie Eltzroth, Betty Estes, Bob and Pat Evans (B & PEv), Ianto Evans, Ben Fawver, Darrel Faxon (DFa), David Fix, Mike Forra, R. Fowler, Dan Gleason, Eugene Gerzenstein, Jeff Gilligan, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Al Grass, John and Darcy Halloran, Dudley Harrington (DHn), Bob Hay, Dave Hayward (DHa), Werner and Hilda Hesse (W & HHes), Glen and Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, John and Theresa Ireland, Martin Jacobson, Chip Jobanek, John Johnson, Brian Kautesk, Ron Klein, Gary Lee, Norman Lavers, Brad Livezey, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund, Bruce MacDonald, Don MacDonald, Greg MacDonald, Ian MacDonald, Peter Marshall (PMa), Phil Mattocks, R. MacKenzie-Grieve (RMG), Tom McCamant, Larry McQueen, Michael and Barbara Meiklejohn (M & BMe), Harry Nehls, Robert Olson, Bob Paine, E. Peaslee, Michael Perrone, Dave Potter, Hubert Prescott, Bill Rae, Fred Ramsey, Bill Reichert (BRE), Hilda Reiher, Steve Rissing, Leila Roberts, Richard Rodgers, Craig Runyan, Glen Ryder, Ron Satterfield, Allen Schultz, Floyd Schrock, Michael and Theresa Shepard, Carole Sheridan, David Simon, G. Sick, Aaron Skirvin (ASK), Rich Stallcup (RSt), Steve and Priscilla Summers, Keith Taylor (KTa), Howard Telosky, Bruce and Kathy Thompson, Bill Tweit, Steve Vida, Terrence

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The Winter Season, 1975-76

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

The entire Region had a mild winter with generally below-normal precipitation and with little snow in the lowlands. Crater Lake N. P. had five feet less snow depth than normal. Eastern Washington had a normal snowpack in the mountains, however. Only March was unseasonably cold. Bird activity was characterized by many lingering fall migrants and the wintering of species that normally move out of the Region. Similarly many spring migrants were early. Incursions of Am. Robins and Bohemian Waxwings in the western part and Com. Redpolls over the Region were impressive and wintering waterfowl were plentiful.

The LOONS, GREBES -- An **Arctic Loon** appeared on Gordon L. near Selah, Wash. Dec. 1 (Y.A.S.). The "Valley Birders" of the Lewiston-Clarkston (Idaho-Washington) area had a Com. Loon near Asotin Creek, Asotin, Wash. Jan. 17 and one bird was at Shuswap L. in the n. Okanagan of British Columbia Dec. 21. Sightings of **Red-throated Loon** were obtained in the Nampa, Ida. area Dec. 14, two birds; Feb. 14, two, and Feb. 17, one (G.E.C.). Several Red-necked Grebes were seen throughout the winter on Okanagan L. at Vernon and Penticton, B.C. The Horned Grebe was reported "on all the open lakes" in the just-mentioned area through the winter and an Eared Grebe was seen all winter at Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. (CK). Three were still in the Nampa, Ida. area Dec. 5 (G.E.C.). Western Grebes wintered in very small

numbers on Okanagan L. A single bird was on a pond near Yakima Jan. 10 and six were seen in the "Tri-cities" (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick), Wash. area Jan. 29 (Y.A.S.).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS -- A White Pelican was on the West Gallatin R. south of Manhattan, Mont., on the record late date of Dec. 7. Six Double-crested Cormorants remained at the Yakima R. mouth until Jan. 24. Forty were counted in the Nampa area Dec. 1, and two, Jan. 10. Nineteen Black-crowned Night Herons were seen in the Tri-cities area Dec. 19-Jan. 18 and six wintered at Rupert, Ida. The species appeared at Nampa and at Toppenish Game Reserve, Wash., in late March. An Am. Bittern at Rock L. in n.w. Whitman Co., Wash., Mar. 13 furnished an early record (JWW).

WATERFOWL -- A Mute Swan was at Central Park, s. of Manhattan, Mont., Mar. 20. The Trumpeter Swan population at Red Rock Lakes N. W. R., Lima, Mont., peaked at 327 Mar. 2. The mid-winter tri-state aerial survey in that area Feb. 23 revealed 623 adults and 102 cygnets, about the same total as last year but with 20% fewer cygnets. The Helena area had four Trumpeters flying over Helena Valley Res. Mar. 25 (PMcK), and Ennis, Montana had a few (ETH & RAH). Wintering Trumpeters at Malheur N.W.R. numbered about 30. Two appeared Feb. 14 along the Cheney-Spangle road, Spokane Co., Wash. (JA). Up to 20 were on the Crooked R. 40 mi. n. of Prince George, B.C. An Idaho Fish and Game Dept. aerial survey Jan. 5 of Pend Oreille R. and L., Coeur d' Alene L. and the lower St. Jo R. showed 84 Whistling Swans. Four were seen in the Richland, Wash., area Jan. 29 (ZB), and one was at Nampa Dec. 1 (G.E.C.). The Kootenai Valley in n. Ida., had about 800 by mid-March. The S. Thompson R. between Kamloops and Pritchard, B.C. had 331 Jan. 25, and over 700 wintered at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore. The migrational peak there was nearly 11,000 at mid-March. Wintering Canada Geese numbers were up at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., where the peak was 27,000 in mid-December and mild weather prevented the usual mid-January decline. Increased grain stubble feeding area at Malheur N.W.R. brought wintering numbers of Canadas to over 3000. The species peaked at 3000 at Columbia N.W.R., Othello,

Wash., in January. The Nampa area had nearly 10,000 in late December. Twenty one **Cackling Geese** were reported at McNary N.W.R. Jan. 18 (MC & S M) and some were still there at the end of March (OV). A peak of 189 White-fronted Geese was reached Mar. 12 at Malheur N.W.R. One wintered on Skaha L., Penticton, B.C., Jan. 4-Mar. 21 (SRC) and two were in the Nampa area in late January and early February. Two to five were found in Spokane Co. on three dates in February and March and ten tardily reported birds were near Lowden, Wash. Oct. 26 (NFM). A single Snow Goose was at Rupert, Ida. Jan. 1 and Nampa had 10 in early December and two, Mar. 12. Malheur N.W.R., which attracts practically all the w. part of the Region's Snow Geese, had its peak--52,100--Mar. 15. McNary N.W.R. had a Blue Goose on two dates in January (B.M.A.S.; CS) and a bird intermediate between a Snow and a Blue was found in the Coulee City, Wash. area Feb. 8 (WH). Ducks wintered in above normal numbers in e. Washington (JS). At McNary N.W.R. a peak of 39,500, mostly Mallards, occurred in November and December. At Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. the peak of 113,670 decreased slightly in January. The Nampa area had nearly 500,000 Mallards at the end of December. Peak numbers at Malheur N.W.R. were reached the week of Feb. 29-Mar. 6 at 76,000 and Pintail numbers peaked

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the following week at 63,000. Two late Mallards lingered in Yoho N.P., B.C., until Dec. 20 and Gadwall wintered much more commonly than usual on Okanagan L. A male Mallard X Pintail hybrid was captured Feb. 10 during banding operations at Columbia N.W.R. Four Cinnamon Teal were seen in the Nampa area Dec. 21. Single Eur. Wigeons showed up near Spangle, Wash. Mar. 14-15 and at Reardan, Wash., Mar. 20 (JA & WH). Six to eight Wood Ducks wintered on a creek one mi. w. of Vernon, B C and one was at Walla Walla through the winter. One was on a pond at Helena from November to late January (SM) and one in the Salmon, Ida. area Dec. 4 was unusual (HBR). Near Pocatello, where the species is rare in spring, a male was seen Feb. 28 and a female Mar. 7 (CHT). The aerial waterfowl survey over n. Idaho Jan. 5 revealed 50 Canvasback (RR). A few wintered on

Okanagan L. and several were found in the Richland area Jan 29 (Y.A.S.). One at Livingston, Mont., Feb. 22 probably wintered (PDS). Two female **Oldsquaw** frequented the Kennewick, Wash. sewage ponds Dec. 21-27 (EB; REW). A **White-winged Scoter** was photographed about Dec 15 on Lower Granite Impoundment between Clarkston and Asotin, Wash. (JW). A few Ruddy Ducks wintered in the Okanagan; four were on the Okanagan R. near Vaseux L., Mar. 8. The Jan. 5 n. Idaho aerial survey showed 990 Com. Mergansers. A Red-breasted Merganser stayed in the Tri-cities area Nov. 13-Jan. 24 (REW).

VULTURES, HAWKS -- Malheur N.W.R. had a Turkey Vulture Feb. 28; average arrival date: Mar. 19. Goshawk sightings were up somewhat but Goshawks were certainly not plentiful. There were probably a few more Cooper's Hawks than usual but they must be considered rather rare in the Region. The Harlan's subspecies of Red-tailed Hawk appeared twice in the Spokane area, (JA) singles, and 1-2 were seen at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. (JWW). Sight records of Swainson's Hawk came from the Yakima area, one Dec. 25 and from Topenish Game Reserve, two Feb. 25 (Y.A.S.). Rough-legged Hawks were generally numerous and widespread. Baker, Ore. had a Ferruginous Hawk, Dec 5, and one flew over the lodge at Crater Lake N.P. Jan 17 (GTM). On the Jan. 5 survey in n. Idaho, Bald Eagles totaled 106 adults and 13 immature birds. In the Pocatello, Ida., area 33 (12 immature birds) was the highest number, Feb. 7. Numbers were up along the Spokane R. (JS). Smaller numbers appeared at many other localities as they did for the Golden. A number of remarkable Osprey sightings came in. An adult was at a pond on Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. Dec. 12 (JR). One bird was over the Snake R. at American Falls, Ida. Jan. 21 (MRC) and one, at the s. end of Flathead L. in w. Montana, Feb. 28 (RL). The species was reported at Priest L. in n. Idaho Mar. 19 (KBr) and one was in the canyon s. of Ellensburg, Wash. Mar. 7 (SL). Three were in the Nampa area Mar. 17 (G.E.C.) and one south of Nicholson, B.C. Mar. 18 was two weeks early (RRH). The only Gyrfalcon sighting for the Region was of one in s Idaho, where a local falconer is trying to induce the state to legalize the species for falconry. It would seem that a letter to Idaho Fish & Game Dept., 300 S. Walnut, Boise, 83706--pro or con would be in order.

Total sightings of Peregrine Falcons came to six for the Region. One was of an apparently escaped bird with jesses, in e Washington. What's going on? Merlins were reported from six localities.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Blue Grouse were reported only from Sawtooth Nat'l Recreation Area, Ketchum, Ida. and Spruce Grouse only from L. Louise, Banff N.P. The only Sharp-tailed Grouse reported were four near Kamloops, B.C. and up to 26 near Sinking Creek in Lincoln Co., Wash. Sage Grouse were reported only for the Salmon area and at Yakima Firing Range of 18 birds. One Mountain Quail was sighted along the Grande Ronde R., Asotin Co., Jan. 10 and eight were found there Feb. 11 (JWW). Fifteen Turkeys were sighted in the Nampa area Dec. 1 & 13, Mar. 28 (G.E.C)

CRANES THROUGH GULLS -- Sandhill Cranes appeared at Malheur N.W.R. Feb. 21 and increased to 235 breeding pairs. They were returning to Bear Lake N.W.R. and the Pocatello area in s.e. Idaho and in the vicinity of Sprague, Wash. during the latter half of March. An apparently wintering Virginia Rail was found Jan. 13 in the Ellensburg area (Y.A.S.) and one was "singing" at McNary Park in Umatilla, Ore. Mar 21 (CC). The most northerly wintering of Killdeer was at Prince George, B.C. along the Nechako and Fraser Rivers (JC) and one had reached Nicholson, B.C. by Feb 25 (RRH). Single very late Spotted Sandpipers were reported at Nampa Dec. 21 (G.E.C.) and Salmon, Dec 24 (HBR) and a Greater Yellowlegs straggler was at the Yakima R. delta Dec. 24 (REW). Another in a snowstorm near Spangle, Wash. Mar 28 was two weeks early (WH). Even more surprising were two Lesser Yellowlegs, examined by telescope at Umatilla, Ore., Jan. 9 (CC). Least Sandpipers lingered at the Yakima R. delta until Jan. 11, when 31 were found (REW) and 21 were found Feb. 21 at Scootenay Res in the Yakima area (CC & REW). Two Dunlin were still at the Yakima delta Jan. 11, then disappeared with the coming of high water, 12 birds reappearing Mar 27 (REW). Malheur N.W.R. was the only locality reporting arrival of the Long-billed Dowitcher, Mar. 26, and Am Avocet, Mar. 29. A first-year Glaucous Gull again appeared at Coeur d' Alene Feb. 28-29 (JA & WH) and a second-year bird was at Wanapum Dam below Vantage, Wash. Mar. 21

(BH) A few Herring Gulls at Flathead L. in W. Montana were apparently the first ever recorded in that area (DS, RL) Two were sighted at Nampa Dec. 21 and one was at Rupert Mar. 7. A few were on Lower Crab Creek w of Othello, Wash. Mar. 21 (BH). An imm. bird was on the Snake R. near American Falls (CHT) and ten adults dropped into a feeding flock of Ring-billed Gulls in the Pocatello area Mar. 26 (MRC). The species wintered much more sparingly than usual in the Okanagan. A few California Gulls wintered at Penticton, B.C. (SRC) and one was seen at Umatilla, Ore. Jan. 10 (CC). Ring-billed Gulls wintered at Richland and were preparing for nesting on the Columbia R. islands there. A Mew Gull was identified at the Spokane dump Feb. 29 (WH) On the same date a Black-legged Kittiwake was sighted along the Snake R. at Clarkston, Wash., making the first record for that area (BR, *fide* JWW).

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DOVES, OWLS -- Libby, Mont, had 13 wintering Mourning Doves (EE & RE). Barn Owls are on the increase and spreading east in the Region. Four road kills were reported at Touchet, Wash.; singles were seen near Yakima on three dates; one or two were seen in the Umatilla area in December and January; two were sighted in the Asotin-Silcott, Wash. area, and three were found in the Pullman-Moscow area. The Nampa area had two, Dec. 27; a roost was located at Rupert, and Baker, Ore. had one in December. It was another good year for seeing Snowy Owls in the Reardan-Davenport area Ore. Washington, where up to six owls per day were found. The birds were reported elsewhere from the Okanagan Valley, at McNary N.W.R.; near Somers, Mont., and at Sawtooth Nat'l Recreation Area. Belatedly reported Hawk Owls were reported for L. Louise, one on Nov. 8 (GW), three at Prince George Airport Nov. 3 (JB), and one on Tabor Mt., Prince George, Nov. 15 (JB). One was sighted at Rainy Hill Campground on the Coeur d' Alene R in n. Idaho, Dec. 6 (WM). A few Burrowing Owls wintered at McNary N.W.R. A Barred Owl slept in a weeping willow in a yard at Kalamalka L. near Vernon Jan 22 (KB) and one was heard in Yoho N.P. Mar. 10 (RRH). One appeared on Lewis & Clark State College campus, Lewiston, Ida., Jan. 17 (McV) and one was taken in December near

Ennis, Mont., (SP), making the first record for that area since 1909. One was heard in Colorado Gulch in the Helena area in late January (GN & NN) An observation was obtained for the Great Gray Owl in mid-winter in the Bozeman area (JM) and one was reported near Klamath Agency, Ore., Mar. 4. Boreal Owls were regularly seen or heard in Yoho N.P. during the entire winter (BB, RRH). The only Saw-whet Owls were found at Rupert; near Pullman, Wash.; at Parson, s. of Yoho N.P., and near Vernon, where people hearing the bird thought a UFO had landed and was signaling!

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS -

- Two **male** Anna's Hummingbirds were present most of the winter in the Wenatchee, Wash. area and up to four visited feeders at Yakima, where the latest observation was of one Jan. 4 (JRo). The Belted Kingfisher wintered as far north as Prince George (JC). The appearance of two Pileated Woodpeckers near Salmon Jan. 4 was unusual. A few Lewis' Woodpeckers wintered in the Summerland-Penticton, B.C. area (SRC). Two very early birds were sighted in the Portneuf gap s. of Pocatello Feb. 8 (MM) and one at Pullman Mar. 5 was the earliest ever there (B). Thirty-eight along the Klickitat R. and Rock Creek were found in Klickitat Co., Wash. Dec. 28 (DJ). Three White-headed Woodpeckers visited a feeder at Naramata, B.C. throughout the winter (SRC). The species was also found Dec. 20 in the Blue Creek area of the Blue Mts. e. of Walla Walla. The N. Three-toed Woodpecker went undetected except in and near Yoho N P Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported only along Green Mt. Road, Penticton and in a recent burn w. of Spokane.

SWALLOWS, JAYS -- A very early Cliff Swallow was at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., Mar. 28. A Blue Jay wintered in Bozeman and was last seen Mar. 22 (PDS). Eight of the birds were reported wintering in a yard in Kennewick, Wash. (TH) and single birds were seen occasionally until Mar. 21 (CC; DF; NW & REW). One at Bigfork, Mont., has been a resident there for a year (WJ). Up to six Black-balled Magpies wintered in Yoho N.P., where they are very rare at other times. Clark's Nutcracker were common in the vicinity of

Field, Golden, and Nicholson, B.C. and a group of 20 was along the Spokane R. below Spokane Mar. 15.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS -- Two Corn Bushtits were positively identified at Westbank near Kelowna, B.C., Dec. 28 (RC & SiC), and six appeared s of Baker, Ore., Dec. 10 (AW). Bewick's Wren was common in the Yakima area and was reported near Richland (B.M.A.S.) and near Blue Creek in the Blue Mts. east of Walla Walla (B.M.A.S.). At least seven Canyon Wrens, some singing, were found at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. Mar. 20 and two pairs were seen often during the winter at Vaseux L. in the s. Okanagan Valley. A Rock Wren was found near Asotin Jan. 24 and a migrant appeared along the Grande Ronde R. south of Asotin Feb. 8 (JWW). At nearby Silcott, four wrens were seen on Feb. 21 (V.B.).

MIMIC THRUSHES, THRUSHES -- A Mockingbird was seen well on Trail Creek just w of Pocatello Dec. 20-21 (MRC; TR). A Sage Thrasher stayed in a Tri-cities yard eating Russian olives Dec 2 at least through Dec. 11 (EM). Am. Robins wintered at Spokane and the Tri-cities in very large numbers and were very common at Yakima. Larger numbers than usual were reported for the Vernon area and wintering numbers were high at Coeur d Alene. Some 5000 were seen in the Snake R. area e. of Baker Jan. 2 (JBr) Elsewhere their numbers appeared about normal. At least three wintered in Helena. Hermit Thrushes wintered at the Tri-cities.

PIPITS THROUGH STARLINGS -- In Idaho, where winter Water Pipit records are rare, one was at American Falls, Feb. 8 (MRC). Large flocks of Bohemian Waxwings appeared at Wenatchee, Yakima and Walla Walla. Record numbers were at Baker, and Spokane had possibly the greatest concentrations on record; one flock was estimated at 7000 there in early January. The birds penetrated as far south as Rupert and Nampa in Idaho. Numbers elsewhere were unimpressive A few Starlings wintered at Field and Golden and some even at Prince George, B.C.

WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS -- A few Orange-crowned Warblers stayed at the Tri-cities Dec. 2-Feb 29 (CC; EM; REW). A few Yellow-rumped Warblers wintered from s. Idaho across s. Washington to the Wapato-Parker area and one was at a Missoula feeder in mid-winter. One of the Myrtle race ate bread regularly at a feeder in Richland Jan. 24-Mar. 30 (REW). Red-winged Blackbirds wintered as far north as the Okanagan Valley. Oliver, south of Penticton, B. C. had 1500 Dec. 31. Several Rusty Blackbirds were seen at Westbank near Kelowna, B.C. Dec. 28 (RC & SiC) and in the Helena Valley two appeared Dec. 21 (SMa) and 13 on Mar. 17 (BM), the first records for the area. Brewers Blackbirds again wintered at Prince George (JC). A ranch near Othello had at least 300 Brown-headed Cowbirds around it Mar. 21-24 and other ranches in the vicinity seemed to have similar numbers (BH). Two were seen in the Helena Valley Dec. 25 (SMa).

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FINCHES Evening Grosbeak numbers were about average A Purple Finch visited a Bozeman feeder Dec. 27 (ETH, EH, CH & JP). A very few Cassin's Finches were reported in the Kamloops, Vernon and Penticton areas during the winter. House Finches wintered as far north as Kamloops and continued to increase in numbers at Missoula, Mont. Pine Grosbeak sightings were mostly in the Okanagan and the vicinity of Yoho N.P. but Fortine, Mont had a few appearances; Spokane, two; Nampa, one, Helena, one, and Canmore, Alta., one. Rather high numbers of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches appeared from the Okanagan south into c. Washington and as far south as Minam, Ore. and east to Nampa. Bozeman noted them Up to 57 visited a feeder at Prince George (JC). Ten Hoary Redpolls were seen at Prince George Jan. 2 (JB) and one was closely observed at Bigfork, Mont. Feb. 25-Mar 3 (RL). The Com. Redpoll invaded in vast numbers over nearly every part of the Region. A few got as far south as Fields, Ore., (CSL) but they seemed to miss the area just east of the Cascade Mts. Flocks of several thousands and a few between five and ten thousand were reported in the vicinity of Bigfork, Mont. (DS). Pine Siskins wintered commonly at Revelstoke, B.C. and were rather abundant at Spokane but elsewhere

their appearances were rather sparse. Am. Goldfinches appeared to winter mostly from the Okanagan south through e. Washington into n. Oregon. Red Crossbill reports were scarce or nonexistent, the only exception being the Spokane area, where flocks of five up to 140 were regular. Moderate numbers of White-winged Crossbills wintered at Glacier N.P., Revelstoke N.P. and Yoho N.P., B.C. and single birds frequented a feeder in Penticton. A few appeared in the vicinities of Bozeman, Helena and Missoula and in Spokane, the Davenport, Wash. cemetery and at Priest L., Ida.

SPARROWS -- A few Rufous-sided Towhees wintered as far north as Penticton and Vernon, B.C. A **Gray-headed Junco** was observed at length in Bozeman Mar 21 (PDS). Harris' Sparrows wintered in small numbers, often at feeders, from the Okanagan south through e. and c. Washington to s.e. Oregon, s. Idaho and S C Montana. One that wintered at Swan L., Flathead Co, Mont. was worthy of special note (EJ). Up to eight were near Richland and one at Pullman was the only one in recent years (IB). White-crowned Sparrows remained until late December at Penticton and Vernon. Two Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen Mar. 20 near Umatilla, Ore. (CC). Single White-throated Sparrows wintered at Bozeman (LM *et al.*), Livingston (UC), and Missoula (AB.). Supposedly wintering Fox Sparrows were observed in the Yakima area along Konnewoc Pass Road, two birds, Jan. 3 (Y.A.S.); along Asotin Creek near Asotin, four birds, Jan. 17 (V.B.), and at Silcott, w. of Clarkston, four Feb. 21 (V.B.). A lone Lincoln's Sparrow was found near Malheur N.W.R. Mar. 19 (DD). A Swamp Sparrow visited a Missoula feeder all winter (PLW) Two Song Sparrows wintered at feeders at Prince George (JC). At least two Lapland Longspurs were found along Asotin Creek Jan. 17 (V.B.) and the species was seen Mar. 28 at Missoula (HZ) for the only records. Lake Louise in Banff N.P. had 150 Snow Buntings Jan. 4 and up to 1500 were sighted in the Davenport, Wash., area but the birds were rather scarce or absent elsewhere.

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The Winter Season 1975-76

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The winter season was generally mild in the Region except that the first half of February and much of March had lower-than-normal temperatures. Snow was limited to higher elevations, although a late November

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Snowstorm, followed by a heavy snowfall on Dec. 12 hit Vancouver, B.C. Total precipitation was higher than average, at least in the southern portion of the Region. In late February and early March numbers of pelagic birds were found dead on Washington and northwestern Oregon beaches; some were oiled, but most had died from another unknown cause.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- Single Yellow-billed Loons were recorded repeatedly at Port Gamble, Wash, and at Eld Inlet at the s. end of Puget Sound through the winter season; other individuals were noted once at Pt. Roberts on the international border and at Saanich Inlet, Vancouver I., in mid-winter. On Jan. 3 there were 95 Red-necked Grebes at Torino, B.C., (MS, GS, *fide* VG), a remarkable concentration. Up to four Eared Grebes could be found during the season around Victoria (VG); a few individuals were also noted in the vicinity, of Vancouver, B.C., and along the n. Oregon coast from late December to mid-February. Several concentrations of up to 5000 W. Grebes were noted at various times during the winter around s. Vancouver I. A recently dead Black-looted Albatross was found on the beach s. of the Nehalem R., Ore., Mar. 27 (MK, HN). A 'wreck' of N. Fulmars occurred on the n. Oregon and Washington coasts late in February and early in March with 40 to 80 dead birds for each mile of beach in some places, the heaviest concentration seems to have been in ten mi s. of the Columbia R. On Feb. 28 there were 50 Sooty Shearwaters at Ocean Shores (G & WH). On Mar. 6, two dead **Scaled Petrels** were found on the beach by Jack Smith of the Washington Dept. of Fish & Game---one at Moclips, Wash., the other near Twin Harbors S. P, the first was badly decomposed, but the latter was in condition good

enough to be preserved; it is promised to the Univ. of Puget Sound (G & WH). On Feb. 28 the Hoges had a brief view close at hand in heavy westerly winds of a bird in flight at Ocean Shores, Wash., which they later deduced was a **Scaled Petrel**. That same day they found three Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels. Single birds of this species were observed s.w. of Pt. Roberts Feb. 16 (TW), and at Fitzhugh Sound, B.C., Mar. 23 (MS). A dead Leach's Storm-Petrel was on the beach at Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co., Ore., Mar. 6 (DF, HN). An estimated 1100 Brandt's Cormorants wintered at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. (*fide* VG), the same number was present on Greater Chain I., near Victoria, Mar. 6 where 800 Pelagic Cormorants were observed ten days later (RWC, *fide* VG). Single Cattle Egrets were seen at Harrisburg, Ore., Dec. 3 (JG, *fide* HN), at a point four mi. w. of Grants Pass, Ore., Jan. 17 (S & PS), at Longview, Wash., Mar. 7 to the end of the report period (MC, *fide* PM), and at Cloverdale, Ore., where three were present Jan. 23 (JB, HN). Up to eight individual Great Egrets at one locality or another wintered from the Columbia R. bottoms w. of Portland, s through the Willamette and Rogue R. valleys and w. the coast. A Black-crowned Night Heron was seen at Seattle Dec. 10 & Feb. 8 (*fide* PM), and at Grants Pass Mar 9 (SS); a number were recorded at Coos Bay and at Medford on Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). An Am. Bittern was at Seattle Mar. 6-7 (*fide* PM), and single birds were at Reifel Refuge s. of Vancouver, Feb. 5 (VG) and at Victoria Feb. 25 after a night of high winds (*fide* VG); two Am Bitterns were at Tillamook, Ore., for the CBC.

WATERFOWL -- Hundreds of Whistling Swans, as usual, wintered in the lower Columbia R. and in the Willamette Valley. Up to 175 Trumpeter Swans were at both Port Alberni, B.C. (HT, JW), and near Mt. Vernon, Wash., on Jan. 21 (BB, *fide* PM); eleven wintered at Duncan, B.C. (JCo). Up to five adult Trumpeter Swans were seen and heard at Ridgefield N.W.R. and across the river at Sauvie I. from December through February (JG, HN *et al.*). An estimated 7000 Canada Geese wintered in the lower Willamette Valley, with others remaining all winter at Sauvie I. A half-dozen Black Brant passed the winter at Sauvie I. (NM *et al.*); Jan. 17, there were 25 at Boundary Bay (BK, RP). An Emperor Goose was at Sauvie I., Dec. 7 to mid-January (SJ *et al.*). A few White-fronted

Geese were at Campbell River, s. Vancouver I., Seattle, Tacoma, w. of Portland and in the Willamette Valley refuges at various times during the winter. Two Snow Geese wearing orange neck-bands reportedly placed on the birds at Wrangel I., Siberia, in July 1975, were at Westham I., in the Fraser R., delta, B.C., much of the winter (RWC *et al.* *fide* VG); two "Blue" Geese Dec 8 (JG), were with the numbers of white Snow Geese which wintered on Sauvie I. (NM). A Ross' Goose was seen repeatedly at Ankeny N.W.R., s. of Salem, Ore., during the winter (FR *et al.*). A single Black Duck was noted a number of times at Seattle from late December through January (*fide* PM); two individuals of this species were discovered at Pacific City, Ore., Feb. 2 (JG *et al.*). There is considerable reason to believe that these are escapes from game farms. Six Gadwall at Ocean Shores Dec. 20 & 24 at Newport, Ore., the last ten days of December provided unusual records. One of two Eur. Green-winged Teal were noted at Vancouver all winter (BK), at Victoria in January and February (VG *et al.*), and at Nisqually N.W.R. near Tacoma, Feb. 27-Mar. 18 (BH-T). A **Blue-winged Teal** was recorded ten miles s. of Campbell River Jan. 17 (HT). A Cinnamon Teal at Scappoose, Ore., Feb. 14 (LN) was a surprising occurrence; three at Brownsville, Ore., Feb. 24 (HTa, *fide* LN) were very early migrants. A N. Shoveler at Campbell R. Jan. 3 was also a surprising winter record (*fide* HT). Two pairs of Wood Ducks wintered at Duncan, B.C. (JCo). A concentration of 70 Redheads on a pond at Walterville, e. of Springfield, Ore., Feb. 1 (CJ, *fide* LM), was an unprecedented concentration for this Region; up to a half-dozen of these birds were on s. Vancouver I. (V & MG, RS) and at Salem (RL) much of the winter. Over 1000 Canvasback were on Alsea Bay, Ore., during December (LN); 600 were at Tillamook Bay Jan. 31 (HN). The male Tufted Duck found in November at Vancouver was seen periodically until mid-January, continuing to prefer salt water habitat (BK, RP, MS). Oldsquaw numbers were at a peak of almost 300 birds in the Victoria region early in the winter; a few birds penetrated to the s. end of Puget Sound, and as many as a dozen at Ocean Shores in mid-December were not extraordinary. It was, however, unusual that there were six records of Oldsquaw on the Oregon coast all the way to Gold Beach, with 12 individuals at Yaquina Bay Mar. 21 the peak count (TC, *fide* HN). On Feb. 13 a **Steller's Eider** was found at Sidney, Vancouver I., for the third record of the species in British Columbia (JW, *fide* VG); the bird was thereafter seen repeatedly and

was photographed until Mar. 27. A female **King Eider** was discovered at Garibaldi on Tillamook Bay Mar 10 (DDS, ES) for the first Oregon record of this species, it

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GAMEBIRDS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS -- There appeared inexplicably on the Vancouver campus of U.B.C. in late November until Dec. 5 a Rock Ptarmigan in winter dress! The bird, thought to be a male, allowed a close approach for photographing, but was able and willing to fly (GGu, PMa, *fide* BK). In late December



Steller's Eider, Sidney. B.C. Photo/J. Williams.

was there the next day (TC, HN) and on Mar. 20 (JBC *et al.*).

RAPTORS -- A Turkey Vulture was seen in the vicinity of Victoria on the surprising date of Jan. 10 (RS, *fide* VG); one was seen near Albany, Ore., Feb. 7 (GG *fide* FR). The White-tailed Kite which appeared last fall at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, remained there all winter (FR *et al.*); one was also discovered for the Coos Bay CBC. Lone Goshawks were observed at Dungeness in January (S & DS_m) and in March, at Saanich in mid-January (V & MG), and on the Tillamook CBC. Aside from CBC records, there were up to a score or more of sightings for both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks from more than a dozen localities in the s. half of the Region. An ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen at Saltspring I., B.C., Mar. 7 (RS, *fide* VG). Although they were to be seen readily at favored places, Rough-legged Hawks for the second successive winter were recorded with less

frequency than they had been in the preceding year after a number of exceptionally good years. Up to two ad. Golden Eagles were seen repeatedly on s. Vancouver I. throughout the report period; individuals were also seen at Burnaby, B.C., the first week in March, at Sauvie I. through the winter, at Baskett Slough N.W.R. w. of Salem, Feb. 22, and around Medford in early January and late February. Bald Eagles were widely reported from the Puget Sound-Willamette Valley trough and on the Oregon and Washington coasts in number up to four individuals at any given locality; on s. Vancouver I. and in the Gulf Is. 30-40 birds were seen in a day several times, but peak counts occurred at Squamish, B.C., when 127 were noted Dec. 15 (JI, *fide* VG) and at Campbell R. when 75 were recorded for the CBC. Adults usually outnumbered immatures on such occasions, but not always. The s. Willamette Valley CBCs had particularly good counts of Marsh Hawks. Single Ospreys were noted at six locations in the s. half of the Region during the report period, with four of the sightings being made in March. There were five reported sightings of Gyrfalcons from as many localities in N. Washington and s. British Columbia from mid-December to mid-February. Six Prairie Falcons showed up on the Medford, Corvallis and Sauvie I. CBCs combined; one was seen repeatedly near Shady Cove on the Rogue R. in late February and early March (MM, *fide* JH), and another was at Baskett Slough N.W.R. Feb. 22 (JG, MK, *fide* HN). Exclusive of CBC, Peregrines were reported from only four localities with seven birds involved in the sightings. Merlins were better reported, from Campbell R. s. to Eugene with 14 or more birds involved, not including CBCs.

GAMEBIRDS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS -- There appeared inexplicably on the Vancouver campus of U.B.C. in late November until Dec. 5 a **Rock Ptarmigan** in winter dress! The bird, thought to be a male, allowed a close approach for photographing, but was able and willing to fly (GGu, PMa, *fide* BK). In late December



Rock Ptarmigan, U.B.C. campus, Vancouver.
Photo/V.P. Marshall.

until mid-January a bird identified as a female was at White Rock, B.C. (MS, BK *et al.*). It is possible, but seems improbable, that the birds were once captive and had been released. At least 40 Sandhill Cranes wintered at Sauvie I. (JG, HN *et al.*); hundreds stopped there in migration after mid-March (TC, JG). Approximately a score of Virginia Rails spent the winter at various points on s. Vancouver I. (JC, V & MG, RS). A pair of Snowy Plovers were seen Mar. 20 on the bay-ocean spit at Tillamook Bay, (MK, HN). One or two Ruddy Turnstones were at nine different coastal localities from Vancouver to Gold Beach at various times during the winter, but mostly in the latter half of December. A Whimbrel was at Victoria for the Dec. 27 CBC. A Wandering Tattler at Yachats, Ore., Jan 2 (TC) was out of place for that mid-winter date. Greater Yellowlegs were to be found in numbers up to ten (except for the 30 recorded by the Victoria CBC) at favored spots between Seattle and Bellingham and on s. Vancouver I. up to the first half of January. A migratory movement was evident for this species in the s. Willamette Valley after Mar. 1 (LM). Two Red Knots were at Crescent Beach, s. of Vancouver, Dec. 14-16 (ESi, *fide* BK). Between 50-60 Rock Sandpipers on jetties at Ocean Shores all winter was a large concentration for this species. Three Short-billed Dowitchers were found at Dungeness Spit, e. of Port Angeles, Wash., Mar. 25 (DB). After December, Long-billed Dowitchers were reported only from Victoria, Reifel Refuge, Nisqually N.W.R., Salem and Grants Pass in numbers up to seven. Six W. Sandpipers were still at Iona and Sea Islands s. of Vancouver on Feb. 5 (VG). A Marbled Godwit photographed at Dungeness Spit Mar. 24 (DB) is the only March occurrence for that species in this

Region known to us. A Red Phalarope at Ocean Shores, Mar. 10 (BH-T), was likewise highly unseasonal.

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GULLS, ALCIDS -- There were numerous records for the report period of Glaucous Gulls, mostly from the vicinity of the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca and from Puget Sound, but also a few coastally as far south as Newport. Cause for great wonderment indeed is supplied by Dave DeSante's dramatic account and infinitely detailed description of a bird seen in flight by him and a companion, Marty McMahon, for less than a minute but at one point within 20 feet and which can only have been an **Ivory Gull**. This remarkable observation occurred Dec 20 at the base of the north jetty to Gray's Harbor, Washington; the A.O.U. Checklist of N. Am. Birds (5th ed.) p 229, mentions other accidental occurrences in w. N America, but this is the first for the State of Washington. Western Gulls occurred repeatedly and California Gulls appeared several times at Vancouver and at Victoria during the season (BK, VG). There were 300 mostly ad. Herring Gulls at Skincuttle Inlet, Queen Charlotte Is., in n. British Columbia, Mar., 27 (MS). About two dozen Bonaparte's Gulls spent the entire winter at Burrard Inlet, Vancouver; they have always disappeared before by mid-winter (BK). Another winter plumaged ad. Little Gull showed up at Clover Pt., Victoria, Feb. 27 this year (V & MG *et al.*). A Heermann's Gull was at Victoria Dec. 4 (RF, MG, *fide* VG); representatives of this species were also recorded on the Bellingham and Gray's Harbor CBCs. Numbers of Blacklegged Kittiwakes were found inexplicably dead on ocean beaches from Tillamook n. to Vancouver I., from late January through March; the largest concentration was 60 per mile at Sunset Beach, s. of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co, Ore., Mar. 9 (DDS). Live kittiwakes congregated in numbers up to 300 at Ocean Shores and at the mouth of the Columbia R. in late February and at Hecate Strait in n BC, Mar. 26. A Caspian Tern was found at Ocean Shores on the record-setting late date of Dec. 19 (DH, EH). Small numbers of Ancient Murrelets were in waters south and east of Vancouver I. until March; on Mar. 26, 10,000 were in the Skincuttle Inlet area, Queen Charlotte Is. (MS). On the

Oregon coast, one Ancient Murrelet was found dead at Sunset Beach Mar. 9. (DDS) and two were seen alive at Yaquina Head, Lincoln Co., Mar. 21 (TC, *fide* HN). An estimated 1600 Cassin's Auklets were counted near Kelp Head, Queen Charlotte Sound, B.C., Mar 23 (MS); three oiled dead ones were on the beach at Sunset Beach, Mar. 6, where four oiled dead Rhinoceros Auklets and three oiled and dead Tufted Puffins were also found (DF, HN). Up to six Rhinoceros Auklets were seen at Victoria during the winter (VG *et al.*) and one was noted at Vancouver Mar. 14 (BK). A Tufted Puffin was seen at Cape Alava, on Washington's Olympic Pen., Mar. 1 (DBe, *fide* GH).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS A half dozen or more Snowy Owls were on the Lummi, Samish, and Skagit flats in the vicinity of Bellingham and Mt. Vernon, Wash., throughout the report period (m.ob.); a dozen were concentrated at Ladner, B.C., Feb. 14 (*fide* BK) Elsewhere, one or two Snowy Owls were recorded at Seattle, Dungeness Spit, Elma, Ocean Shores and Westport, Wash., and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., variously from mid-January to early March. A Pygmy Owl was heard calling at Security Cove, 53°N 132°W, on Mar 30, for the first record of this species in the Queen Charlotte Is. (MS). At least one Burrowing Owl wintered at the Eugene airport (LM); one was also found for the Gold Beach, Ore., CBC. A Barred Owl was found Dec 26 in N. Vancouver where it remained for a week to be photographed and seen by many (BBo, *fide* BK); another was heard hooting at Cortes I., B.C., Dec. 17 (AD, *fide* VG). Short-eared Owls returned to normal winter numbers on the Samish and Skagit Flats (NL) after the low numbers last year. The estimated 30 Short-eared Owls wintering at Baskett Slough N.W.R. and 20 at Ankeny N.W.R. (RL *et al.*) were examples of the unusual numbers present in the Willamette Valley this season Seven pairs of Saw-whet Owls responded to a six mile survey route s. of Eugene in early February (LM), one was calling on Samish I., Wash., Mar. 8 (NL) and one was recorded in January and early February at Olympia (*fide* GH); see also the Regional CBCs for additional records of this species and the next. Anna's Hummingbirds again were much noted At least eight spent the winter at Campbell R., seven at Vancouver, six at Bellingham four at one feeder -- four at Saanich, one at Bella Colla, perhaps as many as two dozen at Portland, and up to half-dozen at

Salem and Eugene. An Acorn Woodpecker was seen near Banks, Ore., Mar. 14 (TC, JG). Aside from CBC records, two Lewis' Woodpeckers were on the Washington side of the Columbia Gorge Mar. 21 (DDS), one was at Finley N.W.R. Jan. 1 (LN), and two were there Mar. 15 (GG, *fide* FR). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the *nuchalis* race was at Stanley Park, Vancouver, Mar. 2 (BK); one of the *ruber* race ten miles n. of Campbell R., B.C., Dec 26 added an unusual winter period record (HT). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was found Mar. 27 on the e. side of Oregon's Mt. Hood (*fide* DDS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES -- A **Black Phoebe** was noted at the new northern station of Yaquina Bay, Jan. 3, for the CBC; another was at Grant's Pass, Jan. 4 (SS). Single Say's Phoebes were observed at Sooke Harbour, B.C., Mar. 19-20 (V & MG, RS), and in the Klickitat Valley w. of Goldendale, Wash., Mar 21 (DDS). A shockingly early Olive-sided Flycatcher was heard in N. Seattle, Mar. 5 and then was seen on Mar 13, it was noted thereafter to the end of the report period (EP, *fide* PM). Up to 35 Skylarks were counted in the Victoria area during the winter (VG *et al.*). A Violet-green Swallow was at Duncan, B.C., on the early date of Feb 27 (JCo). 'Yen Tree Swallows at Scappoose, Ore., Jan 24 (DDS) were the first of the season. Early Rough-winged Swallows were seen at Tillamook Bay Mar. 10 (DDS, ES) and at Salem Mar. 30 (RL). A late Barn Swallow was at Seattle Dec. 26 (MG, *fide* PM), and an early one was at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, Mar. 21 Where several Cliff Swallows were present a week later (TL). A single Cliff Swallow had been recorded there Mar. 26 (LM) A Blue Jay appeared in N. Saanich Jan. 10 and remained in the same vicinity to the end of the report period (VG *et al.*). Six Black-billed Magpies spent the winter in w. Whatcom and Skagit Counties, Wash., (TW); a pair was at Quandra I., B.C., for five days commencing Jan 3 (HT). Single magpies appeared at Seattle in early March (SG, *fide* PM), at Ocean Shores Mar. 30 (DC, *fide* PM), and at Portland Mar. 31 (TC, *fide* HN). A Clark's Nutcracker spent several months at Ferndale, Wash (TW); another was at Banfield, B.C. (KS, *fide* VG) and

yet another remained at Eugene from the end of December into February (LM). Single Mockingbirds were at Crescent Beach, B.C., Dec. 5 (AG, GR, *fide* VG), at Victoria Dec. 3-Feb. 18 (VG *et al.*) and at Duncan, B.C. for the winter (JCo); the species was also found on the Dallas, Ore., and Gold Beach CBCs. Fourteen W. Bluebirds were found at Tacoma Feb. 14 (*fide* PM); the species was more common at Wolf Creek than in recent past winters (EPu). Both the Medford and Corvallis CBCs recorded encouraging totals of W. Bluebirds. On Mar. 19, nine of these birds were in the territory n. of Victoria (V & MG). A lone Mountain Bluebird was on the Samish Flats s. of Bellingham, Dec. 7 (NL); a large flock of Mountain Bluebirds was in Medford, Ore., Mar. 31 (JH). Townsend's Solitaires were recorded three times in the vicinity of Victoria and in the Gulf Is. in December and January (*fide* VG); one was at White Rock, B.C., in mid-January, another was at Bellevue, Wash., Mar. 13-29 (*fide* PM), one was observed several times in Corvallis, Ore. Nov. 29-Mar. 6, and one showed up on the Tillamook CBC.

WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Small flocks of up to 17 Bohemian Waxwings were seen four times in the vicinity of Campbell R. from early December until mid-February (HT); one to three individuals were seen at Victoria or nearby on four occasions in late January and early February and modest flocks were at Bellingham for about a month after mid-December (TW). Nine Bohemian Waxwings were at Seattle Feb. 21 (*fide* PM), 50 were at Rockport e. of Sedro Wooley, Wash., Feb. 16 (DW, *fide* PM), and a small flock was at Trail in s. Oregon, Feb. 29 (MM, *fide* JH); single individuals were seen in the s. Willamette Valley between mid-January and the end of March (*fide* LM, FR). One or two N. Shrikes spent the winter at Victoria, Dungeness and at Ankeny N.W.R.; others were observed in seven locations at various times during the winter from n. Washington s. to Eugene and w. to Tillamook. A Loggerhead Shrike was identified at Eugene Mar. 25 (LM) and another was said to be near Elma, Wash., Mar. 30 (DC, *fide* PM). A Black-and-white Warbler was discovered at Longview, Wash., Dec. 27 (JD, *fide* PM) -- the seventh record for w. Washington in the last ten years. Aside from CBC records, Orange-crowned Warblers were found at seven locations in w.

Washington and Oregon up to early March when a few additional sightings may have been of early returning migrants. Single Nashville Warblers were reported from Coos Bay on the CBC, from Newport Mar. 3 (E & EE, *fide* FR), and from Albany, Ore., Mar. 12 (GG, *fide* FR). "Myrtlebon" Warblers were widely evident in the s. half of the region, including Vancouver I. in March. A male Black-throated Gray Warbler was at Mapleton, Ore., Feb. 5 (*fide* LM), a bird of this species was at Corvallis Mar. 14 (JF, *fide* FR), and several females were at Cape Blanco, near Port Orford, Ore., Mar. 20-21 (LM). Between 15 and 20 Townsend's Warblers were found several times during the winter at Cannon Beach, Ore. (TC, HN *et al.*). Individual Townsend's Warblers were recorded, other than on CBCs, at or in the vicinities of Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia and on s. Vancouver I, mostly in December. The number of records for Palm Warblers was surprising; three were found at Ocean Shores Nov. 28 (BH-T, *fide* PM), and five were there on Dec. 20 (J & ADa); three were at Victoria in early February (DN, *fide* MS) and again in mid-March (KT, *fide* MS), and one or two were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 7-Mar. 6 (HN *et al.*). Single Palm Warblers were also noted at Portland Dec. 2 (*fide* HN), at Victoria Dec. 6 (TB, RS, *fide* VG) and Mar. 5 (MS), and at Yaquina Bay, Ore., Jan. 24 (RO, *fide* FR). Lone Com. Yellow-throats were at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene Dec. 31 (TL, AP, *fide* HN), and at Sauvie I., Jan. 17 (DDS, JG), as well as at Corvallis for the CBC. One Hermit Warbler and two Wilson's Warblers were reported on the Coos Bay CBC. A **Hooded Warbler** was found at Discovery Park in Seattle Dec. 31 (LD) and remained until Apr. 4, during which time it was seen by scores of observers and was photographed (*fide* PM); it is the first record for Washington known to us.



Hooded Warbler, Seattle. Photo/E. Spragg.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS -- A subadult **male** Yellow-headed Blackbird appeared at Sidney, B.C., Feb. 16 (J & DWi, *fide* VG); another bird of this species was in Victoria, Mar. 3 (VGu, *fide* VG). One or two Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen off and on during the winter at Vancouver (BK) and at Sidney (VG *et al.*). A male **W. Tanager** was discovered at Sauvie I., Jan. 18 and allowed a close view (JB, RCu, *fide* HN); it constitutes one of very few winter records of this species in the Region and may be the first for January. An imm. **Indigo Bunting** was seen at Alton Baker Park in Eugene Nov. 29-30 and was last seen Dec. 4 (TL); the bird at a Leaburg, Oreg., feeder for a month last winter is now thought by McQueen to have been an Indigo, rather than a Lazuli as reported in *Am. Birds* 29:734 (*fide* TL). It was generally agreed by observers that Evening Grosbeaks were present in the Region from Vancouver, Bellingham and Vancouver I., s. to Eugene in larger winter numbers than have been present for years. The 36 Purple Finches at Saanich Feb. 28 (RS, *fide* VG) was an unusual winter season concentration, as indeed was the 13 birds at Duncan, Jan. 24 (MS, *fide* VG). A Cassin's Finch was identified on the campus at Corvallis Feb. 5 (WH, *fide* FR). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was observed at Bellingham Jan. 25 (DMc, *fide* TW), two were at Saanich on Feb. 26 (E & ARD, *fide* VG), eight were at Seattle Mar. 18 (DC, *fide* PM), and 30 were at Oakridge, Ore., for the CBC. Up to three Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at Oyster Bay, Vancouver I. (HT), at Seattle

(*fide* PM), at Ocean Shores with Snow Buntings (JDa, *fide* GH), and at Yaquina Head, Ore. (*fide* FR) during the winter; scattered flocks were to be found on flats in Skagit and Island Counties, Wash., also (NL). Two red polls were found at Warm Beach, Snohomish Co., Wash., Jan. 12 (*fide* TW), one was at Saanich, Jan. 22-25 (RM-G, V & MG), four were at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, Jan. 25 (*fide* BK), and one was at Medford Mar. 3 (JH). Pine Siskins were widely abundant and much commented upon. Sixty Am. Goldfinches at Victoria, Jan. 10 (E & ARD, *fide* VG) was an unusual winter-time concentration there. Lesser Goldfinches were reported only from Corvallis where three were seen Feb. 20 (LN) and two were observed Mar. 28 (FR). Red Crossbills were observed at only six locations and in small numbers from Campbell R. s. to Cottage Grove, Ore., but both the Victoria and Tillamook CBCs listed in excess of 200 individuals. A Savannah Sparrow was at a Bella Coola, B.C., feeding station, Feb. 21 (A & LK, *fide* VG). A Tree Sparrow was seen at Bella Coola, Jan. 11 (A & LK, *fide* VG), two were at Sea I., Jan. 19 (BK), and individuals were noted at Samish I., Wash., Feb. 5 & Mar. 13 (NL); one was also found at Ankeny N.W.R., Feb. 15 (JG, MK). An early migrant Chipping Sparrow was at Medford Mar. 29 (JH), and another Harris' Sparrow was at Burnaby, B.C., Feb. 29 & Mar. 2 (IR, *fide* MS). Besides CBCs, White-throated Sparrows were noted at one time or another during the winter at four localities from Portland n. to Bellingham. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported at six localities, in addition to showing up on a number of the Region's CBCs. A Swamp Sparrow, first found on the CBC, was seen again at Fern Ridge Res., Dec. 31 (TL, AP, *fide* LM); another was seen at Ankeny N.W.R., Feb. 22 (JG, MK). Up to ten Lapland Longspurs sent the winter on the Montlake fill at Seattle (PM *et al.*); single birds were at Dungeness, Wash., after Feb. 14 (DSm), at Victoria Dec. 6 (RS, *fide* VG), at Medford, Jan. 4 (SS), and a small flock was heard at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 13 (DDS). Up to a dozen Snow Buntings were observed at one time in the vicinities of Vancouver, Bellingham and Victoria, at Campbell River, Ocean Shores, the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Yaquina Bay and at Portland, mostly after December.

OBSERVERS -- Dean Berg (DBe), Blair Bernson, John Biewener, Douglas Bonham, Brad Boyle (BBo), Tom Briggs, R. Wayne Campbell, David Castor, Mary Clanfield, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, Tom Crabtree, John B. Crowell, Jr., Richard Cummings (RCu), E & A. R. Davidson. Judy Davis, Jack & Ada Davis (J & ADa), David DeSante, Liz Diamond, Adrian Dorst, E & Elsie Eltzroth, David Fix, Jim Frick, Ralph Fryer, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Sam Goldenberg, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Al Grass, Matt Griswold, Vera Guernsey, Geraldine Guppy (GGu), Bill Harrington- Tweit, Dudley Herrington, Joseph Hicks, Wayne Hoffman, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, John Ireland, Stewart Janes, Chip Jobanek, A. G. & L. Karup, Brian Kautesk, Mark Koninendyke, Norman Lavers, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund, R. Mackenzie-Grieve, David Mark, Peter Marshall (PMa), Phil Mattocks, Merle McGraw, Dick McNeely (DMc), Larry McQueen, Norman Minnick. Harry Nehls. David Newell, Lars Norgren, R. Olson, Evelyn Peaslee, R. Phillips, Al Prigge, Eleanor Pugh (EPu), Fred Ramsey, Ian Robertson, Glen Ryder, Ron Satterfield, E. Shofferen, Michael Shepard, Ed Sing (ESi), George Sirk, Stan & Dory Smith (S & DSm), Ken Summers, Steve & Priscilla Summers, Howard Taylor (HTa), Keith Taylor, Howard Telosky, Terry Wahl, Jack & Dorothy Williams (J & DWi), Doug Wood, John Woodcock.

Spring Migration, 1976

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/Thomas H. Rogers

April and May in the Region tended toward the cold, dry side in southern interior British Columbia, eastern Oregon and eastern Washington and windier than normal in the latter two states, but from Idaho east

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conditions were in general warm and dry. An exception in Oregon was Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, where mild conditions caused an early runoff with high water levels, although precipitation was deficient. Migrations tended to be early from Idaho east because of the early spring. At Pocatello breeding activities were a week or so ahead of 1975 dates. Spokane had some early arrivals in April but a number of late ones in May. The migration at Richland, Wash. was described as poor because of disagreeable weather. Sightings of "displaced" species were mainly of more easterly species, of which nearly half were warblers. The windy spring, in a region of prevailing westerly winds, makes this somewhat surprising. Species north of their usual range were about half water-associated species and most of the rest were Fringillids. Strays from the West were few and well distributed among the bird families.

LOONS, GREBES -- *Thirty-four* Com. Loons, twice the previous record high there, waited out the snowstorm on Helena Valley Res. Apr. 27, and 52 were on Dickey L., six mi. s.e. of Fortine, Mont., Apr. 25. This is the highest number Weydemeyer has recorded in that area in 55 years; normally only a few appear. The Nampa, Ida., area had 20, May 1, and nine were at Heyburn S.P., Chatcolet, Ida May 2. Groups of up to 15 were on the Snake R. below Am. Falls, Ida. Apr. 20-25. A **Red-throated Loon** appeared in the Wenatchee, Wash. area in April (PC). A pair of Red-necked Grebes at Liberty L., Wash. had its first egg May 22 but the nest was later destroyed. All grebe use was up at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore. Eared Grebes peaked at 6200 there, compared to 1700 last year, and breeding numbers of W. Grebes were significantly higher.

CORMORANTS THROUGH EGRETS -- Double-crested Cormorants were nesting for the second year at L. Helena, where 14 birds with six occupied nests were observed May 15 (LT). The Great Blue Heron colony, new last year at Swan L., e. of Bigfork, Mont. was active again this year. The only Snowy Egret report came from Salmon, Ida. May 10 and was Roberts' first record ever there. The breeding colony of Black-crowned Night Herons at the Yakima R. mouth near Richland, Wash. is apparently no more, its demise

blamed on disturbance by fishermen and motorcyclists. The heronry of this species at St. Andrews, Grant Co., Wash. seems to be following the same pattern, but for unknown reasons, for only an adult and an immature bird were seen May 8. Very few were seen at Pocatello, where personnel of the fish hatchery were reported to be shooting them, illegally, again this year. A local judge reportedly let them off free last year when they were caught shooting Caspian Terns (CHT). On the brighter side, sighting of an Am. Bittern at Parson, B.C. May 15 was a welcome sign, for the birds seem to have been declining in that area (LW). A White-faced Ibis at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. May 18 was the first ever there and the only one reported for the Region (JR).

WATERFOWL -- Mute Swans appeared at Central Park, between Manhattan and Belgrade, Mont., Mar. 20 & May 19. Trumpeter Swan numbers at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had increased to 150 in early May. The resident population at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., numbered 37 and a normal 23 were at Malheur N.W.R. Some 10,000 Canada Geese were found in Lincoln County, Wash., Apr. 10. Breeding pairs at Malheur N.W.R. were up 9% over last year and production on the islands of the Columbia R. near Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. appeared good. The Nampa, Ida., area had a huge 4612 in mid-May. The May 10-14 count at Columbia N.W.R. revealed 905 pairs of waterfowl compared to 658 in 1975 Transects at Malheur N.W.R. indicated nearly double last year's number of duck pairs, the increase particularly in Mallards and Cinnamon Teal. Gadwall numbers at Turnbull N.W.R. peaked at 500; Am. Wigeon, 800, Wood Duck, 40; Canvasback, 200, and Com. Goldeneye, 1100. A peak Pintail migration of 20,000-25,000 was moving through the Helena area the latter half of March Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, had peaks of 10,000 Mallards, 1000 N. Shovelers, and 350 Cinnamon Teal. A pair of Wood Ducks was on Rock L., n.w. Whitman Co, Wash. Apr. 17. Up to 20 Canvasback were at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonnets Ferry, Ida. where only 2-5 are usual. A Harlequin Duck on the Salmon R. near Salmon, Ida. May 8 was Roberts' first record ever for the locality and a pair at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. May 7 was highly unusual (JR). Fourteen Red-breasted Mergansers on Phillips L. west of Baker, Ore., were Ann Ward's first for the area. At least 13 were on

Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. Apr. 10. Three were in Yoho N.P., B.C. in mid-May and the Nampa area had ten Apr. 1.

VULTURES, HAWKS -- Nampa recorded 21 Turkey Vultures May 2 and one was at Salmon, where they are unusual, on the record early date of Apr. 16. However, Vernon, B.C. had one Apr. 2. Goshawk sightings came only from Nampa; Sumpter, Ore., Spokane, and Wenas Creek, s.w. of Ellensburg, Wash. Cooper's Hawks were sighted near Spokane; Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co, Wash.; Wenas Creek; Sawtooth Nat'l Recreation Area, Ketchum, Ida., and Fortine, Mont. Several observations, more than in recent years, were made at the latter locality Ferruginous Hawks continued scarce, particularly in areas around Pocatello where they normally are found. Only one nest was found. The only other nests reported were one near Washtucna, Wash. containing two young, and one, active for the third year, at Canyon Ferry Res near Helena. One was seen near Troy, Mont. May 25 (FB). An active Bald Eagle nest was found 17 miles north of Helena (VY) and two active nests were at the mouth of the Flathead R. near Bigfork, Mont. A pair attempting to nest on Ravalli N.W.R. in the Bitterroot Valley s. of Missoula failed when the nest tree blew down in Whitman County, Wash. where the species is rare, an adult was seen at Rock L., Apr. 5 (JWW). Two birds at Phillips L. in Oregon were worthy of note. Only seven sightings of Prairie Falcons were reported. At least 50 Am. Kestrels were at Salmon Creek Res. about 10 mi. n. of Jackpot, Nev. Apr. 3 (PLu).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Eighteen Sharp-tailed Grouse, the only ones reported, were near Sinking Creek s. of Creston, Wash., Apr. 10 and on that date at least 33 Sage Grouse were on the strutting grounds just to the west. Four other Sage Grouse grounds in that general area were reported active (DW).

CRANES -- In a spot near Kittitas, Wash, 700 Sandhill Cranes spent the night of Apr. 30. (RP) and at

least 3000 were in the St. Andrews, Wash., area Apr. 10 (S.A.S.). Noteworthy were 60-75 in a field near Lapine, Ore., Apr. 24.

SHOREBIRDS -- Five Semipalmated Plovers were observed at Newman L., Wash. (WH) and one at Rupert, Ida May 3 was Shillington's first ever. The only Black-bellied Plovers reported were three at Banks L. in Washington May 13 (JA). The Nampa area reported 257 Long-billed Curlews May 31 and about 50 were in an alfalfa field s. of Ephrata, Wash., May 25. In the Pocatello area the birds survive in a few isolated pockets of cheat grass prairie. As recently as 1969 thousands nested w. of the city but agriculture has forced them out. As usual the only Upland Sandpipers for the Region appeared near the Idaho-Washington line e. of Spokane. After the late April storm a field near Helena had about 100 Willets and 200 Long-billed Dowitchers, the largest numbers ever recorded there (SM). Eight Am. Avocets, very uncommon in s. British Columbia, were on the lakeshore at Penticton May 2 (SRC) and a flock was at L. Wenas s.w. of Ellensburg Apr. 27. A nest of the species was found at Haynes L. just n. of St. Andrews, Wash., May 29 (DD). A Wilson's Phalarope at Cougar Bay on Coeur d' Alene L., Idaho May 31 was the first for that locahty; it is an uncommon transient in n. Idaho (SS). Northern Phalaropes appeared scarce. Two at Fortine May 9 furnished the second spring record in 56 years' observing (WW). Rupert, Ida, had 25, and a single bird was found at Reardan, Wash., May 18.

GULLS, TERNS -- The Nampa area had 8100 California and 900 Ring-billed Gulls May 12. An adult **Laughing Gull** in summer plumage at Malheur N.W.R. was apparently the first ever for Oregon (SL & SSu). Three Bonaparte's Gulls appeared May 29 at Nampa, where they are rarely seen. An imm. bird was at McNary N W R., Burbank, Wash., Apr. 26 (ZB & EC) and two in winter plumage were found at Ellensburg May 1 (ZB & EC) About 20 were on Magic Res. s. of Halley, Ida. (ELL) A very few appeared in e. Washington. Nampa had two Com. Terns May 1. Caspian Terns were noted mostly in s. Idaho, with up to four in the Nampa area and two at Pocatello. Rupert

had 14. Medical L., Wash., had two May 1. One was sighted at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., May 31 (THR & BW). Six Black Terns were sighted at Parson, B.C., where they had been undetected previously (RRH). Single Forster's and Black Terns appeared at the new dam reservoir at Clarkston, Wash

PIGEONS, OWLS -- Leavenworth, Wash., had a pair of Band-tailed Pigeons Apr. 23 (PC). The Barn Owl was reported only from the Nampa area, Lowden, Richland and Columbia N.W.R. in Washington. At Spokane Screech Owls nesting in a box made for squirrels, hatched young May 4 and the fledglings left the nest June 6. The birds were photographed and sound-recorded many times A **Flammulated Owl** was identified at Malheur N W R. May 9 (CDL). A **Barred Owl** nest near Loon L., Lincoln Co., Mont. May 29 was the first ever reported for the Region and reaffirms this species' southward extension (DD). A pair of Long-eared Owls, seldom found in w. Montana, was found nesting near Missoula (SSF) One in Yoho N.P. Apr. 10 made the first park record (BB). The only Saw-whet Owl sightings were of one found dead at Waterton Lakes N.P., Canada Apr. 6 and one at Davenport, Wash. cemetery May 16.

POORWILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- The Poorwill was found only near Ellensburg, Methow and Spokane, Wash., in late May. Ft. Okanogan, Wash., had the only Black Swifts, about ten, May 30-31 (EH). White-throated Swifts were reported nesting near Missoula, no details given. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were appearing in unusual places. Single birds were sighted in the Parker Heights area near Yakima and one was found dead at Bozeman. Freshly killed, apparently by a car, it apparently came from nearby and would be the first record for that locality (MD). A male at a feeder in Nicholson May 17 & 24, apparently furnished the northernmost record for e. British Columbia (RRH & FK). A male May 2 near Vernon, B.C. where the species is rare, supplied the earliest date ever there (BB) A male Anna's Hummingbird appeared at White Salmon, Wash., May 7 (MS) and Spokane had its first record for the species, a female examined carefully at very close range May 8 (JA). A visit May 8-22 at Malheur N.W R of a Calliope Hummingbird was a rare occurrence (RRS) A sampling

of first dates for the Rufous gave, for Bigfork, May 3; Richland and Prince George, B.C., Apr 30, Parker Heights and Vernon, Apr. 28, and Spokane Apr 23.

WOODPECKERS -- An active Pileated Woodpecker nest was found on Browne Mt. near Spokane and two were located in the vicinity of Bigfork. One Red-naped, two Red-breasted Sapsuckers and one bird in intermediate plumage were sighted near Fort Klamath, Ore., May 31 (PL & SL). Three observations of Williamson's Sapsucker were reported. A male was about five mi. s. of Colockum Pass in the Cascade Mts. n of Ellensburg May 8 (AC) and one was in the Moser Creek area s. of Bozeman, a new area for the species, May 23 (SC). A male was at a nest on Gold Creek near Methow, Wash., May 30 (EH). A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers was nesting at the Boise-Cascade campground and bird sanctuary on Wenas Creek at the end of May, quite unperturbed by campers of the state Audubon campout situated a few feet from the nest tree Two male and five female Black-backed. Three-toed Woodpeckers were in the Marshall, Wash., vicinity Apr. 25 and two were seen at Sumpter, Ore., May 9.

FLYCATCHERS -- Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were located along Crab Creek on Columbia N.W.R s of O'Sullivan Dam (THR & BW). A Say's Phoebe May 23 was the first ever for Yoho N.P. (CW *et al.*) A Least Flycatcher was found at the camp on Wenas Creek at the end of May (EL). The Gray Flycatcher was found there again this year, at least ten singing males May 9 (EH) and one bird seen May 27 (EL) and heard May 30 (THR). The Olive-sided Flycatcher was recorded only at Wenas Creek and on Browne Mt. near Spokane.

JAYS THROUGH CREEPERS -- The **Blue Jay** that wintered in Bozeman was last seen Apr. 24 (PDS) and "a pair" was seen along the Swan R. near Bigfork Apr 19 (WJ). Clark's Nutcracker was practically unreported, with one seen on two dates in the Nampa area and about a dozen in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokane. Heyburn S.P. had four Chestnut-backed Chickadees May 2 (P.A.S.). The only other report was of one carrying nesting material in the vicinity of Bigfork (DS).

The only Com Bushtits were several near Lyle and Centerville, Wash,

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May 1 (EH). Most Brown Creepers had left for higher altitudes but one still lingered until May at the Davenport, Wash., cemetery.

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES -- A late Winter Wren migrant was at the Davenport cemetery May 4 (JA), and two were singing along the creek at Browne Mt. near Spokane May 8. Bewick's Wren was again found at Lewis and Clark S.P., near Waitsburg, Wash. (SMu & CS). The Canyon Wren was singing in April at Trident, Mont., a new site (ETH & RAH). The species seems to be expanding its range slowly in that area. A probable Mockingbird sighting was made in Yoho N.P. (CW). A Gray Catbird appeared in Baker May 28 and lingered into June (AW) and a **Brown Thrasher** was seen near Missoula May 27 (VV). Sage Thrashers in the Pocatello area began nesting early and by Apr. 23 many nests with eggs had been located. A Varied Thrush in the Bear Trap area along the Madison R. west of Bozeman Apr. 24 added another sighting to the very few for that area (BBa *et al.*). An early Hermit Thrush was far north at Prince George, B.C., May 8. In the Bigfork area five active bluebird -- presumably Mountain -- nests were found in nest boxes but 28 boxes put up for them around a first year Scotch Pine plantation there had 28 pairs of Tree Swallows occupying them! On a farm s.w. of Spokane 65 nest boxes had 30 nests of W. Bluebirds and one of Mountain. Both species were rather common and nesting at Boise-Cascade campground on Wenas Creek in late May

KINGLET'S THROUGH SHRIKES -- Migrating flocks of up to 25 Ruby-crowned Kinglets appeared in the Davenport cemetery the last week of April. Water Pipits were practically unreported, with about 15 at Four Lakes, Spokane Co., Apr. 24 and the first arriving at Vernon, B.C. Apr. 23. A group of 17 Bohemian Waxwings still lingered at Spokane Apr. 28. A pair of

Loggerhead Shrikes at a nest near Asotin, Wash., furnished the first breeding record for Asotin County (JWW).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- A **Black-and-White Warbler** was observed at very close range at Boise-Cascade camp May 3 (ZB) and at least one **Tennessee Warbler** was positively identified at Malheur N W R. headquarters May 14 (DF). A pair of the latter species was present at Missoula for several weeks and was presumed to be nesting (AB). This would be a southward extension of the species' known breeding range. Seventeen Orange-crowned Warblers were singing May 8 on the e slope of Browne Mt. near Spokane, where they are believed to nest. This may be the best place in the Region to find the species. The Nashville Warbler was described as becoming an increasingly common migrant at Missoula (SSF). The Browne Mt. area at Spokane had 11 singing males May 8. The species is known to nest there. A male **Parula Warbler** was identified and photographed at close range at Malheur N.W.R. May 29-30 (PL, SL, PS, SSu & CT) and one was reported at Missoula (MR), no details included. A Black-throated Gray Warbler territorial male was seen in Junipers near Pocatello May 27 for the only report. Malheur N.W.R. had a Hermit Warbler May 15 (JW). A male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** singing and photographed at Missoula May 27 was still there June 1 (JK, FKr & PLW). A **Palm Warbler** was reported at Goose Prairie in the Yakima area, May 23, no details (BL *et al.*) A migrating N. Waterthrush was along the Portneuf R. near Pocatello May 21 (MM) and one was at Malheur N.W.R. May 23 (CDL) one was along the new dam reservoir near Clarkston, Wash., May 17 Two male and one female Am. Redstarts appeared on Thrapp Mt, Okanogan Co., May 30 (EH), and one visited Malheur May 23 (CDL). A female, perhaps the same bird, was seen there May 29 (PL, SL, PS & SSu). Warbler numbers in general seemed low. Baker had two male Bobolinks May 27 (AW). A lone Yellow-headed Blackbird was sighted May 2 at Revelstoke, B.C., where the species does not breed (JWo). A male and a female N. Oriole, Bullock's race, were carrying nest material around an old nest at Golden, B.C., May 23. This represents a northeastward extension of known nesting areas there (RRH). Rarely observed in the vicinity of Kootenai N.W.R., a pair of these birds appeared May 29 (DAP). Two males and a

female at Hailey, Ida, May 15 were worthy of note (ELL). A "sizeable" migration of this species was observed in the vicinity of Meadow L., Spokane Co., May 23 (FBH). Two Com. Grackles appeared in Pocatello May 11 (EF). At least one record is obtained there each spring (CHT). April 8 was a record early date for the species at Bozeman, excepting for years when they winter (PDS). A Brown-headed Cowbird had reached Prince George, B.C. as early as May 3 (JC).

F1NCHES -- A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found at Malheur N.W.R. May 29 (SSu) and a male was photographed there May 30-31 (PL, SL, PS, SSu & DT). Evening Grosbeaks were seen migrating in large numbers through some cities in e. Oregon and Washington and at Bigfork, Mont., in May. A flock estimated at 350 was feeding under elms in a park in Spokane May 28. The Purple Finch was added to Yoho N.P.'s list by a sighting May 10; more were seen later in the month (RRH). Eight House Finches, apparently four pairs, appeared in Hailey, Ida., May 15 (ELL). Large numbers of Com Redpolls still lingered at Missoula after the winter invasion, frequenting feeders into May. Two were still at Helena Apr. 28 (MB) and a very few at Spokane Apr 1-2 broke the late record there. A Lesser Goldfinch was seen well May 21 south of Pocatello (MM). White-winged Crossbills lingered at Bozeman until May 21 and a few were seen at Rupert, Ida. Apr. 12 and stayed three days.

SPARROWS -- A single Rufous-sided Towhee at a feeder in Nicholson and four at Brisco, B.C., Apr. 1 were noteworthy (FK), as was one at Fortine Apr. 2. The species has been recorded there in spring in only eight years out of 55 (WW). The Pocatello area had two Lark Bunting sightings in late May (CHT) and Rupert had four May 29. The scarce Grasshopper Sparrow was found only in the Spokane Valley near the Idaho line in early May (WH). A lone Vesper Sparrow was sighted in Yoho N.P., where it is rare, May 8 (RRH) and a male Lark Sparrow photographed them May 21 added the species to the park list (CW, RRH *et al.*). The Sage Sparrow was reported at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. (DB). In the Pocatello area the birds were singing on territory by Mar. 18 but no nests with eggs were found until May 8. Malheur N W R had a **Gray-headed Junco** May 26 (CDL). No Brewer's Sparrow

nests there were found at Pocatello until May 26. The Harris' Sparrow which wintered at Swan L. s.e. of Bigfork molted into ad. plumage and left May 12 (EJ).

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Three which spent most of the spring at feeders in Pocatello likewise molted and were singing before departing (JJ). The species was seen at Walla Walla Apr. 23 & 28 (LC & RM). One still in imm. plumage was seen at Richland Apr. 17 (REW). A huge influx of White-crowned Sparrows in Pocatello the week of Apr. 26 was apparently waiting out a storm there. There were very few Golden-crowned Sparrows Apr. 26-May 14 at Davenport, Richland and Yakima, Wash. The only **White-throated Sparrow** reported was an immature bird at the Davenport cemetery May 11 (JA & WH). Fox Sparrows were reported only at Spokane Mar. 28 and later, and near Wapato, Wash., one bird May 8 (AH). The little-reported Lincoln's Sparrow was noted at Nampa, one May 29; at feeders in Missoula; one at Richland Apr. 9 (PW), and in the Spokane area, the first Apr. 24 at Medical L. The **Swamp Sparrow** that wintered at Missoula was still there Apr. 3 (PLW). Thirty-five McCown's Longspurs at Helena Valley Reservoir Apr. 27 after the storm were the first ever for that area. The next day three flocks of about 100 each were there (SM). Four Lapland Longspurs in breeding plumage were seen at Creston, Wash., Apr. 10 (JA). The species appeared at Bozeman May 15.

OBSERVERS -- James Acton, (BBa) Benton Basham, (BBc) Brent Beam, (BB) Bea Beaven, Arnold Bolle, Doug Bonham, Margaret Brooks, Kay Burk, Zee Butler, Jim Caldwell, Arthur Campbell, Lois Campbell, Steve R. Cannings, Phil Cheney, Sharon Cotterell, Emily Cragg, Dennis Dahlke, Mike Dillard, Darrell Faxon, Edson Fichter, S.S. Frissell, Warren Hall, E. T. & R. A. Hays, Alice Horschel, Rick R. Howie, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, Wanda Jamieson, Joe Jeppson, Elly Jones, J. Keyser, (FK) Francis King, (FKr) F. Krause, Betty Lagergren, Earl Larrison, Phyllis and Stephen Laymon, Edward L. Lindquist, C. D. Littlefield, (PLu) Paul Lucas, Mike Mahoney, Rose Marsh, (SM) Sid Martin, (SMu) Shirley Muse, Delano

A. Pierce, Robert Prather, Matt Reid, Hadley B. Roberts, Thomas H. Rogers, Jim Roscoe, Connie Sherer, W. H. Shillington, Richard R. Sjostrom, P. D. Skaar, Mark Smith, Palouse Audubon Society, Spokane Audubon Society, (SS) Shirley Sturts, Priscilla and (SSu) Steve Summers, Dan Sullivan, Caryn Talbot, Larry Thompson, Don Tiller, Charles H. Trost, Virginia Vincent, Carson and Lynn Wade, Ann Ward, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Dennis Whiteman, (JW), James Wittenberger, (JWo) John Woods, Pat and Robert E. Woodley, P. L. Wright, and Vince Yannone. Total contributors were 179.

Spring Migration, 1976

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

Except for very warm days late in April and early in May, this spring continued the trend of the last several years of being cooler than normal; rainfall, however, occurred in average amounts.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS -- The major migration by Com. Loons occurred in the second half of May, which was later than usual. The Yellow-billed Loon at Eld Inlet, s. Puget Sound, was last seen Apr. 13 (BE, *fide* GH): one was at Cortes I., Wash., Apr. 4 & 7 (AD, *fide* VG), and another was discovered and photographed at Bay City, Tillamook Bay, Ore., Apr. 17 (TC). Arctic Loons were very prominent in migration along the Oregon and Washington coasts through May; on May 17, 3500 were at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. As late as June 1 Arctic Loons streamed past the s. jetty of the Columbia R. at an incredible 50 birds per minute for much of the day (HN)! On May 1 Red-throated Loons were passing that locality at the rate of 40 birds per hour (HN *et al.*); 300 were in Grays Harbor, May 15 (G & WH). A Red-necked Grebe at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 31 (HN *et al.*) was late, as were the five birds off,

Vancouver I., May 29 (BK). A few Horned Grebes were still to be found at salt water locations the last week in May; 40 at Dungeness Bay May 15 (RP, *fide* DS) was a late concentration. Two Eared Grebes were at Eld Inlet, Apr. 25 (BE, *fide* GH); one or two were at Victoria until May 6 (VG *et al.*). Aggregations of W. Grebes occurred repeatedly around s. Vancouver I. until mid-May, the maximum being 2100 at Saanich Inlet, Apr. 7 (VG). A boat trip from Westport, Wash., May 16 turned up 105 Black-footed Albatrosses, 15 N. Fulmars, 76 Pink-footed Shearwaters, five Flesh-footed Shearwaters, 10,000 Sooty Shearwaters, and 283 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels (TW *et al.*)! Up to 10,000 Sooty Shearwaters were inside Grays Harbor, Wash., May 15 (TW); they were present in the thousands off the mouth of the Columbia R. after that date. On May 31 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., a strong s.w. wind after two days of gales accompanying passage of a storm was responsible for the presence of large numbers of pelagic species; among them were 36 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and 27 Leach's Storm-Petrels counted singly in the course of several hours (JG,

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MS, HN, TC). Most remarkable, however, was the sighting of a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** which at one point was no more than 125 ft. from the observers; the unnotched tail, dark brown coloration, white rump and straighter, more deliberate flight in contrast to Leach's all were noted. At one point the bird pattered on the surface with wings outstretched at an upward angle (JG, MS). All circumstances considered there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the identification, which marks the first record of Wilson's Storm-Petrel for this Region. On May 13 at Dungeness Bay, Wash., 24 White Pelicans were observed to alight on the water before they flew off to the southwest (DS *et al.*). 3700 Brandt's Cormorants were at Active Pass in the Strait of Georgia Apr 2 (MGS). The Region's first **Louisiana Heron** was discovered at Finley N.W.R.s. of Corvallis, Ore., May 12 by Terry Finger and was seen and photographed by many observers through the end of the report period. Green Herons were noted in singles or in pairs from Finley N W R. and Tillamook n. as far as Vancouver at ten other localities, mostly in May. An imm. Cattle Egret was at Longview, Wash., Apr. 10-29

(EH *et al.*). A Great Egret at Oyehut near Ocean Shores, Wash., is said to have overwintered; it remained until Apr. 30 (DC, *fide* PM). Another was seen at Tillamook May 1 & 10 (JG *et al.*); the species was noted twice at Grants Pass, Ore., this spring (SS). Three Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at Grants Pass May 2 (SS). Am. Bitterns were reported from nine Puget Sound, Willamette Valley and coastal locations in Oregon and Washington after Apr. 24

WATERFOWL -- Two Whistling Swans were at Somenos L., s. Vancouver I., during April; one remained until May 11 (JCo, VG). A single Whistling Swan was noted at Scappoose May 1 (TC, JG). Mid-April marked the peak for migration of Black Brant along coastal portions of the s. half of the Region, with flocks comprising hundreds of birds; a few were still in s. British Columbia the last week of May. Late April and early May marked peak movements of White-fronted Geese; 400 were seen at Nehalem Meadows May 1 and a week later 600 were noted at Tillamook Bay a few miles to the south (TC, JG). On Apr. 17 there were 1000 Snow Geese on the Skagit Flats at Conway, Wash. (EH); flocks of up to 125 were seen at Duncan and near Campbell R., B.C., during the middle two weeks of April. The second w. Washington record for **Ross' Goose** occurred when one was found near Anacortes, Apr. 13 (RPA, BS, *fide* PM). Two Gadwall ducks were at Finley N.W.R., May 1 (LN) and one was at Saanich, B.C., Apr. 27 (VG *et al.*). A pair of Pintail was at the mouth of the Sooke R., Vancouver I., May 15 (VG, RS) and a few were seen still at Finley N.W.R., May 1 (LN). A male Green-winged Teal showing the white marks of both the Eurasian and American subspecies was found at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, B.C., on the late date of May 30 (BK). A bird of the Eurasian ssp. was at Vancouver Apr. 26 (BK). A female Redhead was observed at Somenos L. near Duncan, B.C., Apr. 7 (VG) and another was found at Saanich, B.C., Apr. 17 (RS, *fide* VG); four Redheads were at Cannon Beach, Ore., May 8 (TC, JG). Up to ten Ring-necked Ducks were seen at Cave Junction, Ore. (SS), near Dungeness, Wash., and on s. Vancouver I. in May. A Canvasback was at Iona I., May 18-25 (BK). Late Oldsquaws were recorded at Yaquina Bay, Ore., May 9 (RB), at Ocean Shores, Wash., May 15 (EH) and at Victoria, May 11 (VG, RS) Surf Scoters, mostly sub-adult birds, were moving n. past the mouth of the Columbia R. at the

rate of 1200 birds per hour May 31 (HN *et al.*). Ten Black Scoters were at Iona I., May 14 and one bird was still present May 30 (BK)

HAWKS, GAME BIRDS, RAILS -- The White-tailed Kite which has been at Finley N.W.R. since last October was joined by a second bird; on May 14 and 15 they were observed copulating; no nest, however, has been found (JG *et al.*). A White-tailed Kite was seen n. of Medford, May 30-31 (*fide* OS). Goshawks were observed during the report period at Alsea, Ore. (DM), at Saanich on two occasions (RS, V & MG), at Duncan (JCo), and at Manning Prov. Park (VG). There were four Oregon, four Washington and seven s. Vancouver I. sightings reported of Sharp-shinned Hawks this spring season. For Cooper's Hawks, seven Oregon, four Washington and five s. Vancouver I. sightings were the only ones reported. An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk was seen 3.5 mi s. of Harbor, Curry Co., Ore. Apr. 10 (SS *et al.*). Several Golden Eagles were seen through April and the first half of May on s. Vancouver I. (JCo, RS, VG *et al.*). As many as 18 Bald Eagles could be seen in a day in the Gulf and San Juan Is. and on s. Vancouver I.; there were five Oregon sightings involving seven birds and away from the San Juans there were three Washington records involving four birds. Marsh Hawk observations were reported from only five localities this spring. Six active Osprey nests were counted in the vicinity of Victoria (VG), while from the rest of the Region came reports of sightings from ten other places. There were four sightings of Peregrines, Apr. 10-May 18. Merlins were recorded six times at five places in Washington, three times at Portland, and twice from c. Vancouver I. Bobwhites were heard calling several miles s. of Sequim, Wash., May 20 (DS). On May 1 there were 40 Sandhill Cranes at Scappoose, Ore., (JG, TC); three flew over Dungeness May 7 and two days later one more was seen going over (DS). On Apr. 18, 30 Sandhill Cranes were observed flying 200 ft. above the summit of Mt Becher, 9 mi. w. of Courtenay, B.C. (MGS, *fide* VG), four birds of this species flew low over the beach at Torino May 1 (JCo), and one occurred near Campbell R., B C, Apr. 20 (HT). Early Soras were recorded at Snohomish, Wash. (EH), and at Saanich, B.C., (RS, *fide* VG), both on Apr. 11. Late in the evening of May 26 Ralph Fryer heard a **Yellow Rail** calling from an extensive wet-grass area between Highway No. 1 and

Somenos L. n. of Duncan; there seems to be no reason to doubt the identification (*fide* VG).

SHOREBIRDS -- Four Snowy Plover were at Tillamook Bay Apr. 3 (HN), and one was found there May 10 (JG, MK). A single Snowy Plover was at Ocean Shores Apr. 24 (G & WH) where two were seen May 15 (EH). On May 13-16 an Am. Golden Plover was at Victoria (RS, V & MG). Approximately 150 Surfbirds were at Sooke, B.C., Apr. 15 (RS, *fide* VG). More than 10 Ruddy Turnstones together were noted at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., at Grays Harbor, at Ocean Shores, at Victoria, and at Campbell R., May 7-15, the maximum being 25 at Grays Harbor May 11 (RE, *fide* GH). The Region's peak seasonal count for Black Turnstones was 155 at Vancouver Apr. 27 (BK). A Long-billed Curlew appeared at Newport, Ore., May 15 (JG, MK, MS).

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Whimbrel in numbers between 40 and 70 were seen at Tillamook, May 8-15; 120 were at Newport, May 15 and 70 were at Torino, B.C., May 1-3. Early Whimbrels were at Chatham I., B.C., Apr. 1 (KT, PN, *fide* VG) and at Willapa Bay, Wash., Apr. 4 (DDS). Single Solitary Sandpipers appeared at Iona I., May 9 (S & AR, *fide* BK), and at Saanich May 5 (V & MG). Wandering Tattlers were observed at five different localities Apr. 24-May 31, with 15 at Ocean Shores May 15 (G & WH) the top count. A Willet was at Tokeland, Wash., Apr. 12 (DC, *fide* PM) and 3-4 showed up at Yaquina Bay, Ore., May 9 (RB). Twenty Lesser Yellowlegs at Kent, Wash., Apr. 11 (BR, *fide* PM) was an early and unusual concentration for this Region. Red Knots were counted repeatedly at Tillamook Bay May 1-10 where 143 were present on the 10th (JG, MK); 300 individuals of this species were at Grays Harbor Apr. 24 (G & WH), and 150 were at Ocean Shores May 15 (EH). They were reported from four other localities Apr. 17-May 15. The 34 Rock Sandpipers at Victoria Apr. 19 was the season's high count; the last birds seen in the Region were there May 7 (VG, RS). Three Pectoral Sandpipers were discovered at Finley N.W.R., May 1 (*fide* HN); single birds were at Iona I., at Pt Roberts,

and at Vancouver, B.C., that day and the next Another Pectoral Sandpiper was at Iona I., May 17 (RPh, *fide* BK). Up to four Baird's Sandpipers were found at Iona I., at Seattle, at Sauvie I. near Portland, and at the s. jetty of the Columbia, Apr. 29-May 3. On Apr 17 an estimated 450 Short-billed Dowitchers were at Grays Harbor (BH-T); the species was reported from three other places in numbers up to 30 Apr. 22-May 15. Up to 1500 Dowitchers, "mostly Long-billed", were at Tofino, B.C., May 1-3 (JCo); 92 Long-billed Dowitchers were at Iona I., May 14 (BK) and good numbers were reported from the s. jetty of the Columbia R. the next day (DDS). Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted at Vancouver May 3 (BK), at the Montlake fill, Seattle, May 14 photographed (DP, *fide* PM), and at Cannon Beach, Ore, May 21 (DF, *fide* HN). The 5000 W. Sandpipers at Tillamook Bay May 8 (HN, WR) was the largest concentration of the season. A Marbled Godwit was at Grays Harbor, May 17 (BHT) and nine May 24 (G & WH); five occurred at Torino May 1-3 (JCo), and three were at Newport May 15 (JG, MK, MS). On May 15 a Hudsonian Godwit was discovered at Reifel Refuge (JF *et al.*, *fide* BK). Red Phalaropes were scattered all along the Oregon and s.w. Washington coasts during the first half of May, with 360 at Newport May 15 (JG, MK, MS) and 200 off Westport May 16 (TW) being the largest counts. One was at Ocean Shores Apr. 18 (E & NH). Wilson's Phalaropes were noted in more places and in larger numbers than at any season in the past; sightings occurred repeatedly at Seattle, three times at Saanich, twice at Sauvie I., Nisqually N.W.R., Dungeness, Iona I., and Cowichan Bay, and once at Westport, Aberdeen Wash., and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Apr. 30-May 31; most sightings involved between one and three birds but ten were at Nisqually May 9 and 25 were at Iona I., May 28. A noteworthy early record of Wilson's Phalarope was one at Westport Apr. 23 (EG *et al.*, *fide* PM). A very heavy migration of N. Phalaropes took place along the n.w. Oregon coast, May 8-9 with thousands of birds involved; the movement carried birds inland to Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene, to Finley N.W.R., to Baskett Slough w. of Salem, and to Sauvie I. where 30 birds were counted May 9 (TC). Many birds were still moving a week later when 150 were seen at Newport (JG, MK, MS) and 300 were seen off Westport (TW). Early N. Phalaropes were one dead on the beach at Oceanside, Tillamook Co., Ore, Apr. 17 (MK, HN) and six at the s. jetty of the Columbia R.,

Apr. 24 (HN). A female N. Phalarope May 17-18 at Iona I. was also noteworthy (VG).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS: -- An ad. Pomarine Jaeger was observed resting on the beach at Pistol R., Curry Co., Ore., May 9 (SS); five Pomarine Jaegers were seen at sea off Westport May 16 (TW), and on May 31 sixteen were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (JG, MS; TC, HN). From May 15 to May 31 Parasitic Jaegers were noted at Newport, the Columbia R. mouth, at Ocean Shores, off Westport, at Iona I., and at Victoria, six at the Columbia R., May 31, being the maximum. A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen at Ocean Shores Apr. 24 (G & WH; DHa, *fide* PM), one was found dead on the highway three mi. s. of Boiler Bay, Ore., May 8 (*fide* HN), and two were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia May 31 (JG). Lone Glaucous Gulls were at Port Gamble, Wash, Apr. 3 (EH, *fide* PM), at Torino, May 1-3 (JCo), at Tillamook May 8 (HN, WR), and off Westport, May 16 (TW); two immatures were at Torino Apr. 24 (ADd7de VG). On Apr. 9 there were 4000 Bonaparte's Gulls at Victoria (RS, VG); on May 5 there were 3200 at Active Pass where 600 were counted May 17 (MGS, *fide* VG) Bonaparte's Gulls migrated past Tillamook Bay at Barview May 8 at the rate of 200 birds per hour (HN, WR); a dozen were inland at Fern Ridge Res., May 8-9 (LN). A very early fully adult plumaged Heermann's Gull appeared at Victoria May 27 (MG, *fide* VG). On Apr 10 at Brookings in s.w. Oregon 15 Black-legged Kittiwakes were observed; May brought numerous sightings, from Oregon and Washington coastal points and from s. Vancouver I.; there were 500 at Ocean Shores May 15 (G & WH), 600 at Westport and offshore May 16 (BH-T, TW), 165 migrating e. past Victoria May 29 (VG *et al.*) and 2500 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 31 (JG, MS; TC, HN). On May 16 off Westport 58 Sabine's Gulls were counted (TW); one was seen at Tillamook Bay May 1 (TC, JG), three were noted from nearby Cape Meares May 8 (HN, WR); two were seen at Ocean Shores May 15 (EH), and two were observed at Victoria May 16-18 & 29 (MGS, RS, VG). During the first two weeks of May, Com. Terns were readily found by observers at Oregon and s.w. Washington coastal points; the peak seems to have been May 8 when 150 birds per hour were flying past Barview, Ore. (HN, WR), and May 15 when a constant migration was going by Ocean Shores (G &

WH). "Many" Arctic Terns were at Tillamook Bay May 8 (JG, TC) and at Newport May 15 (JG, MK, MS); none were found at sea off Westport May 16 (TW). On May 31 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. a **Least Tern** was carefully observed and was photographed (TC, JG, HN, MS); it provided the second state record for this species, the first having been two males collected at the same place in 1964 by Wes Batterson. A Caspian Tern at Leadbetter Pt., Apr. 3 (DDS) was early as indeed were the single bird at Tillamook Apr. 17 (MK, HN) and the 36 birds at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Apr. 24 (HN). On May 31 two Black Terns were spied migrating n. over the ocean from

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the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (JG, MS, HN, TC); one was at Ankeny N.W.R., June 1 (DPo, *fide* RL). Up to 25 Marbled Murrelets at a time were noted at the Columbia R. mouth, at Ocean Shores, in the San Juan Is, and around s.e. Vancouver I., mostly in the last two weeks of May. Four Ancient Murrelets were recorded off Westport May 16 (TW). On May 10 two Cassin's Auklets were seen at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG). Rhinoceros Auklets were seen in n. Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca and from Cascade Head., Tillamook Co., Ore., in numbers up to thirty a day, also mostly in the latter half of May. On May 16, 44 Tufted Puffins were seen off Westport (TW) and 40 were seen at Pt. Grenville, Wash. (EH).

OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A Burrowing Owl was seen s. of Corvallis Apr. 4 (LN). A pair of Barred Owls was again found at Bacus Hill, Skagit Co., Wash., Apr. 17 & May 9 (EH). A pair of Spotted Owls was discovered at Lyons, Ore., May 22 (RB, JS). One or two Short-eared Owls were reported from five different localities from Salem n. to Vancouver during the report period. Single Saw-whet Owls were recorded at Twin Harbors S.P., Grays Harbor Co., Wash., Apr. 12 (DC, *fide* PM) and at Olympia Apr. 29 (BH-T). Fifty Black Swifts were at Vancouver May 24 (BK); five were seen at Saanich May 3 (ARD, *fide* VG), and twelve were noted at Sea I. s. of Vancouver May 29 (VG). A male Black-chinned Hummingbird was present at Merle

McGraw's feeders at Shady Cove, Ore., where this species has appeared almost every year since 1968. A nest of the Anna's Hummingbird containing two eggs was discovered in a blackberry thicket near Tacoma May 26 (BRa, *fide* PM); an immature was at feeders in Portland May 10 (VH). The Tacoma record is Washington's first breeding record for the species. Other Anna's Hummingbirds were seen this spring at Campbell R. where two were noted Apr. 11 (HN), at Saanich, Bellingham, Seattle, and Portland.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS -- A pair of Acorn Woodpeckers were seen repeatedly in a white oak grove near Banks, Ore, during the season (TC, JG *et al.*). The wintering population of Lewis' Woodpeckers at Medford had almost disappeared by the end of May (OS). Seven pairs of Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported nesting at Minto I., Salem (HH) and a flock of seven was seen at Seattle May 1 (DH *et al.*, *fide* PM), but otherwise there were only five reports -- two from Oregon, three from Washington -- of single individuals of this species. A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was found just west of the Cascade crest 8 mi. n. of Marblemount, Wash., May 3 (AC); two were observed at Manning P.P. May 27 (VG). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found at Grants Pass, May 4 (SS). A nesting pair of Black Phoebe was again found near Medford the last week of May (OS). A Say's Phoebe was at Merlin, Ore., May 22 (SS). Two W. Flycatchers at Saanich, Apr. 4 (RS, *fide* VG) were very early migrants. Unprecedented numbers of W. Wood Peewees occurred in the Vancouver area in late May (BK). Skylarks were breeding in good numbers at American Camp, San Juan I., May 23 (DDS). Single Bank Swallows were noted at Cannon Beach, Ore. (TC, JG), at N. Vancouver (GAP, *fide* BK), at Matsqui, B.C. (VG), and at Iona I. (VG) where eight were also observed (BK), all during May. Purple Martins arrived late, first appearing at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, Apr. 20 and then along the Columbia R. the last week of April; they were first seen at Olympia May 2 (TL) and later were seen also at Redmond, Wash, and at Saanich. A Gray Jay was at Seattle Apr. 24 and again May 22 (DH *et al.*, *fide* PM). The Saanich wintering Blue Jay was last found Apr. 3 (*fide* VG). Four Scrub Jays were at Longview Apr. 10 (EH), and one was unprecedentedly as far north as 15 mi. from Chehalis Apr. 12 (DCa, *fide* PM).

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES -- A pair of House Wrens was observed at Quadra I., B.C., May 13 (HT), and four were found in two different localities further s on Vancouver I., May 3 (ARD, MM, *fide* VG) A Mockingbird was at Campbell R., Apr. 10-16 (GPa, *fide* HT) and a **Sage Thrasher** was discovered at Redmond Apr. 21 (BEy, *fide* PM). Three Swainson's Thrushes at Tillamook Apr. 17 (MK, HN) were early arrivals A **Veery** was found at Newport Ore., May 30 (DFa), excellent details were furnished by the observer, leaving no basis for doubt of this first for w. Oregon n. of Jackson Co., as far as we know. Western Bluebirds were reported for a number of places on s. Vancouver I., and from Mt Hood in Oregon. They were nesting near McKenna, Wash., where Mountain Bluebirds also were said to be nesting (*fide* EH). Mountain Bluebirds were observed at Tsawwassen, B.C., Apr. 18 (RP, *fide* BK) and at Long Beach on s. Vancouver I., Apr. 27 (*fide* VG). Townsend's Solitaires occurred this year in w. Oregon and w. Washington almost as widely as they had last year, coastal occurrences were at Tillamook Bay (HN) and at Leadbetter Pt. where three were present (DDS), all on Apr. 3. Solitaires also appeared on s. Vancouver I. on four occasions, Apr. 11-May 4. Flocks of Bohemian Waxwings numbering up to 50 birds were at Medford Apr. 13-26 (OS). A N. Shrike was at Sea I., s. of Vancouver on the very late date of May 18 (DS, *fide* BK), one was seen also at Victoria Apr. 17 (LR, *fide* VG) Individual Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in Curry County, Ore., at the mouth of the Winchuck R., May 8 (SS), and at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, May 14 (BK).

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS, GROSBEAKS -- A Red-eyed Vireo was at Seattle May 9 (DH, *fide* PM). Three **Tennessee Warblers** were discovered in s.w. Portland, May 5; one remained there to the end of the report period (MS, JG, HN *et al.*); this is the Region's second spring report, and the first in spring for Oregon. Up to seven Nashville Warblers were noted on the Reed College campus in s.e. Portland, Apr. 27-30 (DDS); one was seen at Colton, Ore., Apr. 28 (DF), one was near Campbell R., May 1 (HT), and two were found at Vancouver May 2 (BK). Yellow Warblers were said to be present after Apr. 10 in suitable habitat at and around Bellingham in very

good numbers (TW). "Audubon's" Warblers passed through Portland in large waves during late April and early May (DDS). On Apr. 29, 40 Black-throated Gray Warblers were counted at Colton (DF), "huge numbers" were found May 2 along the Wilson R highway between Portland and Tillamook (DDS) A Palm Warbler was found at Saanich Apr. 26 (GS, *fide* VG). Single Com. Yellowthroats at Duncan and Tzuhalem, Vancouver I., Apr. 10 (RS, *fide* VG) were early arrivals.

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Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found singly or in small numbers at seven points from Salem n. to Sea I., and in number up to several dozen at the breeding colony on Sauvie I., w. of Portland this spring. A Red-winged Blackbird nest containing four eggs was discovered at Campbell R. on the surprisingly early date of Apr. 18 (HT). Northern Orioles arrived simultaneously in favored places in w. Oregon Apr. 29-May 1; a pair was found at Courtenay, B.C., May 15, the same day a female was found near Campbell R. (HT). Single orioles were seen also at Saanich and at Vancouver the last week of May. There were 80 Brown-headed Cowbirds in a roost at Vancouver's Stanley Park Apr. 21 (BK).

FINCHES, SPARROWS – A male Lazuli Bunting was seen on Gabriola I., on the s.e. side of Vancouver I., May 27 (VGu, *fide* VG) marking the extreme n.w. point of range for this species. Evening Grosbeaks were abundant in Portland in April and again in late May; the latter half of May brought thousands in huge flocks to Corvallis (LN). In Olympia during May there were also a lot of Evening Grosbeaks, (BH-T), and by the end of May there were small flocks in Bellingham (TW). Large numbers of Cassin's Finches were seen on the e. side of Mt. Hood Apr. 25 & May 3 (DDS). Six Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were at Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood May 29 (TC, JG, MS); one was at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, Apr. 3 (BB, *fide* BK). A Com. Redpoll was seen at Vancouver on the surprising date of Apr. 8 (MP, *fide* BK). Pine Siskins were present in considerable numbers through all of w. Oregon and w. Washington

in April and May. Small flocks of Red Crossbills were found at scattered localities in the two states and on s. Vancouver I. where they seem to have been more numerous than anywhere else. On May 1 a flock of 55 White-winged Crossbills was at Torino (AD, MH, *fide* VG). A Green-tailed Towhee was found in the Medford area May 22 (OS). Lark Sparrows occurred at Cannon Beach, Ore., May 1 (TC, JG) and at Manning P. Pk., May 27, where the species had never before been noted (VG). On May 16 the first certain Washington **Black-throated Sparrow** was observed and photographed at Pt. Grenville, Wash., where the bird was feeding with other birds on the lawn at the Coast Guard Station (E & NH); unfortunately, the photographs are not publishable. A Tree Sparrow was in Stanley Park May 4 (BK). A **Brewer's Sparrow** was carefully watched for some time at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, May 14; it seems to be the first record for coastal British Columbia (BK). A pair of Harris' Sparrows was near Campbell R., May 11-14 (KC, *fide* HT), and one remained at Surrey, B.C., Apr. 14-25 (*fide* VG); single Harris' Sparrows also were noted at Ocean Shores Apr. 30 (DC, *fide* PM) and at Seattle May 26 (WD, CR, *fide* PM). Two White-throated Sparrows were at Olympia Apr. 1-May 2 (JM, *fide* GH) and one was at Richmond Beach Apr. 27 (MD, *fide* PM). Lincoln's Sparrow is an uncommon migrant in the s. half of this Region; all but one of this spring's records came between Apr. 20 and May 6 and involved possibly 20 individuals. A late Lapland Longspur was at Seattle May 7 (ES, *fide* PM) and a pair was at Solander I., B.C., May 2 (RWC, BF, *fide* VG). Four Snow Buntings were seen at Iona I., Apr. 18 (RP, *fide* BK), and two were observed at Tsawwassen Apr. 3 (RS, *fide* VG).

OBSERVERS -- Dan Bastaja, Robert Buchanan, Arthur Campbell, R. Wayne Campbell, David Castro (DCa), David Chelimer, John Comer (JCo), Kay Conway, Tom Crabtree, A. R. Davidson, David DeSante (DDS), Walter Donagho, Michael Danahue, Adrian Dorst, Ruby Egbert, Betty Estes, Bob Evans (BEy), Darrell Faxon (DFa), Bristol Foster, David Fix, Jude Fuller, Jeff Gilligan, Emile Grahls, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Vera Guernsey (VGu), Dudley Harrington, Bill Harrington-Tweit, Dave Hayward (DHa), M. Henderson, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Virginia Holmgren, Eugene and Nancy Hunn, Meta Johnson, Brian Kautesk, Mark Koninendyke, Robert Lucas, Tom

Lund, Don MacDonald, Jim Maender, Phil Mattocks, Michael Meiklejohn, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, Phil Nott, Greg Palmer (GPa), Richard Parker (RPa), Dennis Paulson, Roy Phillips (RPh), Dave Potter (DPo), G.A. Poynter, Michael Price, Robert Pringle, Bob Ramsey (BRa), W. Reid, Carroll Rieck, Stan & Ann Roberts, Leila Roberts, Betsy Rogers, Ran Satterfield, Michael G. Shepard, George Sirk, Bill Sladen, Doris Smith, Jerry Smith, Mark Smith, Ernie Spragg, Steve Summers, Otis Swisher, Keith Taylor, Howard Telosky.

Nesting Season, 1976

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

The general weather picture for summer in the Region was cool and wet. Spells of sunny weather were quickly terminated by clouds and often rain. June was reported dry only in the Kalispell, Mont., and Spokane, Wash., areas. Most areas in July were abnormally wet and cool. Vegetative growth was excellent and water levels high. The snow pack remained long in the mountains in the northern part of the Region. Nesting in southern Idaho was generally ahead of schedule and arrivals in Crater

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Lake National Park were early due to a smaller snow pack. The catastrophic bursting of the Teton Dam on the Snake River in southern Idaho swept great quantities of dangerous chemicals into American Falls Reservoir. These included herbicides, PCBs and a variety of insecticides including DDT and less persistent substances. Many drums of toxic materials have not been recovered. High levels of pesticides have been found in game fish and may have caused the death of some birds.

LOONS, GREBES -- A **Red-throated Loon** was identified on L. McDonald, Glacier N.P., Mont. (JCB). Nesting success of Red-necked Grebes was very low on Liberty L., Wash., with predation by gulls apparently the reason. Dead W. Grebes were found on the pesticide laden mud flats of Am. Falls Res., near Pocatello, Ida. About 15 were on L. Entiat, n. of Wenatchee June 2 and two were on Rock L., n.w. Whitman Co., Wash. June 6.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- Following the Teton Dam disaster 68 White Pelicans were found dead in the Rupert-Minidoka area. DDT was found in one (JH). About 56 became victims of the pesticide spill at Am. Falls Res. About 650 were seen there June 6, having flown all the way up from the nearest nesting colony, on Great Salt L., raising grave questions about the wellbeing of their young, being fed on fish loaded with toxic substances. Young Double-crested Cormorants occupied eight nests in the L. Helena nesting colony near Helena, Mont (LT).

HERONS THROUGH IBIS -- At least 47 Great Blue Heron nests were active at the L. Helena heronry (LT) and the one at Mica Bay on L. Coeur d'Alene in n. Idaho had 17 active nests. A **Green Heron** seen well as it flew over the Swan R., five mi. n.e. of Bigfork July 4 was apparently the third ever for Montana (JS & MS). A single **Cattle Egret** appeared on meadowland adjacent to Malheur N.W.R. Burns, Ore. July 12 and McNary N.W.R. had a **Snowy Egret** June 23 (WH). Black-crowned Night Herons were reported only from Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. and at the mouth of the Yakima R. near Richland, Wash. where the harassed colony there apparently was able to bring off a few young. The White-faced Ibis colony at Market L., Roberts, Ida., where 32 birds were banded June 9, seemed healthy (CHT) as was that at Malheur N.W.R., where many were fledging and dispersing in late July (DF)

WATERFOWL -- Trumpeter Swan nesting success at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. was poor with

only 47 per cent hatching success and about 20 per cent cygnet survival (19 young). Malheur N.W.R. produced 12 cygnets, survival yet undetermined, and a pair near Harrison, Mont., brought off two young. Three Trumpeters at Red Rock Lakes had yellow legs and varying amounts of yellow on bill and lores and by sight could easily be mistaken for Whistling Swans. The Trumpeter population at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., stood at 45 at the end of July. Canada Goose reproduction doubled at Malheur with 1600 goslings raised, a mild spring and lower predation contributing to the success. Turnbull had 400 Canadas at the end of the report period. Seventeen adults and 80 goslings were the most ever for L. Helena for Sid Martin Duck pairs at Malheur were up about 30 per cent over last year. Less common ducks thriving at Turnbull were Gadwall at 300, Wood Duck at 60, and Canvasback at 200. Waterfowl production at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., appeared good despite cold, damp weather. Among the unusual occurrences were a male and a female Redhead July 2 on Crater L. in Oregon, apparently the first for the park. The first nesting record for the Ring-necked Duck in the Canadian Rockies was supplied by a female with three young in Yoho N.P. July 13 (RRH & LW). A pair in the Salmon, Ida., area June 3 was unusual. A female and seven young, believed to be Com Goldeneye, were found on the Pend Oreille R., in Idaho just north of Newport, Wash. This is apparently the first breeding record for Idaho (SH, PM & DRP). A pair was noted nesting at L. Wenatchee in n.e. Washington (Y.A.S.) and a brood was reported in Powell County, Mont. June 5 (ETH & RAH). Four of the scarce Harlequin Duck were on the American R., n.w. of Yakima July 21 (EC). The Com. Merganser was described as being a nester on most of the large and wild rivers of s Idaho. It was found on the Owyhee and the Middle Fork of the Salmon R., with a nest found on the latter (CHT).

A VULTURE, HAWKS -- A Turkey Vulture nest, apparently the first ever found in the Region, was discovered near the s. end of Coeur d'Alene L. (DC). One bird in the Salmon area was Roberts' first ever during the nesting season. The species was recorded for the first time in the Livingston, Mont. area (UC), Otter L., near Vernon, B.C., had an amazing 24 of the big birds July 28 (HB). The only Goshawk reports came from Trinity Valley Ecological Reserve, s.e. British

Columbia June 10 (JG), and near Field, B.C., July 16 (LW), both singles. Swainson's Hawk numbers were good in the Pocatello area and at least four were seen in the Sprague-Ritzville, Wash. area June 27. In Oregon a flock of 20 in heavy molt were in a field near Worden June 12 and three were seen June 7 in Lower Klamath N.W.R. (HN). An incubating pair was found in both Franklin and Garfield Cos., Wash. The outlook for the Ferruginous Hawk still appeared dismal in the Pocatello area, but the Birds of Prey Natural Area at Boise had six or seven successful nests (CHT). A pair was attempting to nest near Canyon Ferry Res. near Helena but there was no sign of eggs or young. At least four were sighted in the Washtucna, Wash. area June 27 and young in the nest were observed in June at Wilsall, Mont. Single Bald Eagles appeared in Washington at Rimrock L., near Yakima June 30 and along the Yakima R., near Sunnyside Dam July 1 (HD & AH). Crater Lake N.P. had single adults July 3 & 28. Sixty-five young Ospreys were banded at Coeur d'Alene L. (DC). Two Peregrine Falcons were reported for the Region. Prairie Falcon numbers appeared to be fairly good in one area of e. Oregon and one area of Montana but the birds were scarcely reported in e. Washington and Idaho and unreported from British Columbia. The only Merlins were two in n.w. Montana.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Sharp-tailed Grouse were recorded in the Nampa, Ida. area and Flathead Valley of n.w. Montana. Up to 65 Sage Grouse

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were noted in July on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore., the only record for the period. Lyle, Wash. had a pair of **Mountain Quail** with 5-6 young July 6 (DRP).

CRANES THROUGH COOTS --

S.A.

Only three of the Whooping Cranes hatched last year by Sandhill Cranes at Gray's Lake N.W.R. in s.e. Idaho have been located this year and are doing well. One spent the summer south of the refuge (EWL) and another, near Green River, Utah (EWL; CHT). The third summered near Big Timber, Mont. (Bozeman Chronicle; EWL). The substitution of 15 eggs this year resulted in only five young whoopers surviving at report time (RCD & EWL).

Sandhill Crane nesting success at Malheur was 67 per cent better than in 1975. About 236 pairs went into the nesting season there. A Sandhill Crane at Fortine about July 20 was the second in 56 years' observing there (WW). The seldom-seen Virginia Rail was found at Fish L., 15 mi n. of Leavenworth, Wash.; at Rock L., Whitman Co., Wash., and at Coeur d'Alene L. An Am. Coot appeared on Crater L. July 16 for the first record there.

SHOREBIRDS -- Three Semipalmated Sandpipers at a lake near Fortine July 29 furnished Weydemeyer's tenth record in 56 years. An adult and two very young Snowy Plovers were seen July 21 at Lower Borax L. Res., in s e. Harney Co., Ore. (DF) and at Hot L. in the same general area nine adults were courting (HN). An Am. Golden Plover was photographed at Gloyd Seeps just north of Moses L., Wash. June 10 (PC & HO). The Nampa area reported an astounding 454 Long-billed Curlews July 17. A few nested near Pocatello, where there once were thousands. The tiny Upland Sandpiper colony, still hanging on, in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokane, revealed three adults and one nest, June 12. This is the only known colony in the Region and part of its area is reputedly slated for a housing development. A Spotted Sandpiper was in the Chinook Pass area of Mt. Rainier N P at over 5000ft. elevation July 21 (EC). A Willet at Salmon June 10 was Roberts' first ever. Remarkable were 500 W. Sandpipers at Malheur L., and 3000 at Stinking L. At Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., "peep" numbered in the hundreds or possibly thousands July 24 (SS) Malheur L. had a

maximum of 26 Marbled Godwits and a flock of 30+ was at Bear L. N.W.R. in s.e. Idaho June 25 (CHT). American Avocets were estimated at over 10,000 at Summer L. July 24 (SS) and 1370 were counted at Stinking L. Five were at Cougar Bay on Coeur d'Alene L. July 21 for apparently the first n. Idaho record since 1903 (DC). Malheur L. had up to 44 Black-necked Stilts.

PHALAROPES THROUGH TERNS -- Malheur N.W.R. counted 8100 Wilson's Phalaropes on Stinking L. and "thousands" were at Summer L., July 24. California and Ring-billed Gulls bred by the hundreds on several Columbia R. islands at the mouth of the Yakima R. These colonies appear to be expanding yearly, probably in response to garbage proliferation. The colony of these two species on Am. Falls Res. near Pocatello also appears to be increasing. Some young were ready to fly while eggs were still being incubated in other nests. Notable was a flock of 21 of the Ring-billed in Yoho N.P., B.C. July 26 and a California was at Golden, B.C. July 31 (RRH) Yoho N.P. had two ad. Mew Gulls July 14 and a few were at Golden, B.C., around July 1 for the first records for both areas (RRH). Upper Klamath L., Ore., had 42 subadult Bonaparte's Gulls in a flock June 6 (HN & OS) and the species still lingered at Wilsall, Mont. June 26 (ETH, RAH, DRS & PDS). Three were sighted in Yoho N P July 29 (RRH). Two Forster's Terns at Liberty L., Wash June 1-2 were the first for that locality (GV) and three at Reardan, Wash. June 22 were noteworthy (EH). Six Caspians were along the Columbia R. at Blalock July 6 (DRP). A Black Tern straggled into Yoho N.P. July 14 for the first record there (RRH).

OWLS -- The Barn Owl was reported from Nampa, Ida.; the Yakima area; Columbia N.W.R., and Clarkston, Wash. Scottie Creek Campground 15 mi. w. of Wenatchee, Wash., had a Flammulated Owl June 28 (SH, PM & DRP). Burrowing Owls were retreating in the face of development in the Richland, Wash., area but seemed to be doing well in the Yakima area and at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. One or two Barred Owls were found June 13-July 26 at the bog on Calispell Peak n.w. of Cusick, Wash. Single Great Gray Owls appeared at two localities in the mountains w. of Calgary, Alta. (MO & TO; RJB). An adult near Ft.

Klamath, Ore., had two newly fledged young with it June 11 (HN) and a pair s. of Bozeman, Mont., brought two young off the nest in late June (PDS). The only Boreal Owl report was of one in Yoho N.P. June 17 (CW). A family group of four imm. Saw-whet Owls were seen near Ennis, Mont June 29 (CH, EHa & PDS).

POORWILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS --
Two Poorwills were calling at Satus Pass 15 mi. n.e of Goldendale, Wash., June 3 and another was heard at Wenatchee Guard Station in the Blue Mts. of extreme s.e. Washington July 7 (DRP). The only other record was of five north of Eagle Rock, near Prineville, Ore. (I-IN) A Black Swift nest near Enderby, B.C. held a half-grown nestling July 23 and a flock of 20 was feeding close to the ground at Cherryville, B.C. July 31 (JG). The species was identified at Holter Res. near Helena, for the first record in that area (SM & LS). Several reports of the Black-chinned Hummingbird came from the Yakima area and one was found on Badger Mt., n.e. of Wenatchee One was recorded near Clearwater Forest Service Station in the Blue Mts., Garfield Co., Wash.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS --
Rupert, Ida., had a Red-headed Woodpecker June 15-25 (WHS). Lewis' Woodpeckers had at least five successful nests at Golden, B.C. A mixed pair of "red-naped" and "red-breasted" Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers had young in the nest over the July 4 weekend at Cold Springs Campground near Sisters, Ore. (HN). More reports of Williamson's Sapsuckers, than ever before, including two nests, suggested a welcome increase. Most were in Washington but they were also seen near Fortine and two records came from Idaho. White-headed Woodpeckers were found at six localities in Oregon and Washington The Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was reported at five widely scattered localities.

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A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, -- the first for w. Montana and the second for the state, was identified on lower McDonald Creek, Glacier N.P., June 18 (CM, DS & RS). The Ash-throated Flycatcher colony in Columbia N.W.R. appeared to be on the decline, with only two birds seen. The species seemed to be doing better at a colony above Buena Vista Station on the w. side of Malheur N.W.R., where many pairs were recorded in July (DF). British Columbia had several E. Phoebe records. One was at Nicholson June 20 (FK) and a pair was nesting at Brisco July 12 (FK & RRH). A bird in Yoho N.P. July 31 provided the first park record (RRH & CW) A Least Flycatcher calling on territory was watched at length in Oak Creek Canyon west of Naches, Wash. (BH) The Gray Flycatcher colony was observed again this year in the Satus Pass-Box Canyon area of Klickitat Co, Wash. and the latest date so far, July 30, recorded (EH, PM & DRP). A Western Flycatcher heard along the S Fork of Little Granite Creek at 6000ft. in the Seven Devils Mts., Idaho July 4 provided the first state record for summer south of Latah County (THR). Horned Larks appeared on top of Liao Rock, Crater L., N.P. June 21, three weeks earlier than any previous record, and five were seen on Skookumchuk Prairie at Kimberley, B.C., where they previously had been seen only on migration (MW). Two Tree Swallows at Bernard L. in the Seven Devils around 6000 ft. July 16 were far higher up than any previously reported for northern Idaho (SGS).

JAYS THROUGH NUTHATCHES -- Scrub Jays were noted rather routinely above 7000 ft. on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore. July 12-16 (DF *et al.*). A flock of 81 Com. Ravens was at Malheur L. July 24. About six Boreal Chickadees were reported June 26-27 three mi. e. of Bigfork, Mont. (NR). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee appeared in a front yard at Swan L., Mont. June 21. The species occurs there in winter (Mts. EJ). Common Bushtits were common June 4 at Lyle, Wash., the only place reporting them (DRP). At a nest project on a farm near Spokane, Pygmy Nuthatches brought off ten first broods and were rearing four second broods.

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES -- Bewick's Wren was found e. of Lyle and at Rock Creek e. of Goldendale, Wash. July 6 (DRP). Rock Wrens were heard at three locations in the Seven Devils Mts. of

Idaho at elevations of about 5500 to over 6000 ft. Single Mockingbirds appeared at the lower end of Priest L., in n. Idaho June 23 (MC) and near Centerville, Wash. July 10. The latter was reputed to have been there since Memorial Day (EH). The Spokane nest box project produced 34 first and 19 second broods of W. Bluebirds with 166 young fledged and 43 still in the nest. Mountain Bluebirds there occupied only one box and fledged three birds. A pair of W. Bluebirds, rare at Kimberley, B.C., looked over a nest box but did not stay (MW). "Many" Mountains were reported at the edges of the Umatilla National Forest in the Blue Mts., in July.

PIPITS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Water Pipits were observed on the summit of Steens Mt., in Harney Co., Ore. (P.A.S.) and were suspected of breeding on the summit of Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore. (DF). Alpine meadows at the head of the e. fork of the Pahsimeroi R. near Challis, Ida., yielded several nesting pairs with young July 25 (CHT). Warbling Vireos were found in aspens around 6000 ft. in the Seven Devils over the July 4 weekend. A Solitary Vireo July 15 was Roberts' first sighting for the *Salmon* area. A male **Tennessee Warbler** in breeding plumage, carefully identified July 28 at Indian Ford Campground near Sisters, Ore., furnished probably the fifth or sixth record for the state (TL & HN). A singing male near Nicholson, B.C., June 26 was worthy of note (RRH & FK). A male Magnolia Warbler at Brisco, B.C., July 11 was considerably south of its breeding range (FK). A male Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler appeared in a city yard at Spokane June 10 (VK). This species was the most common singing bird at the 5000-6000ft. level in the Seven Devils during the July 4 weekend. A Black-throated Gray Warbler was singing at Brooks Memorial S.P., n. of Goldendale, Wash. June 4 (DRP) and at least two singing males were there July 11 (EH). One was singing at White Salmon, Wash., July 9 (EH). Two male Hermit Warblers were associated with Townsend's Warblers foraging at Leech L., White Pass, Yakima Co., Wash. June 13 (BH). A Townsend's Warbler was observed at the Ochoco Ranger Station near Prineville, June 9 (HN). Blackpoll Warblers occurred regularly in small numbers in Yoho N.P. during June but no nests were found (RRH).

BLACKBIRDS -- Four Bobolinks in Yoho N.P. May 31-June 4 furnished the first park record (CW *et al.*), and five were seen at Wapato, Wash., June 8. At least three males and one or more females were found near Toppenish in late June and early July. The birds were reported at Bigfork where a nest was destroyed by plowing (JS & MS). Stevensville, Mont. had two males June 1 (RS) and two males and a female were observed n. of Ross Pt., w. of Coeur d'Alene June 29-July 14 (DC; NS). Upper Klamath L. in Oregon had a very few Tricolored Blackbirds June 6 (HN). Two pairs of N. Orioles, one of Baltimore and the other Bullock's were feeding young in the nest near Golden, B.C. June 26.

FINCHES -- A pair of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared at Cold Spring Campground west of Sisters June 21, was photographed and noted again July 3 (JD, HN, AS & KZ). The female made a nest but apparently did not lay eggs. A male and a female were found at Stinking L., Harney Co., Ore., July 4 (JB, *et al.*). An ad male was sighted June 29 along the W. Gallatin R. w. of Bozeman (CH, EH, PDS) and a molting or hybrid male was seen July 31 on Dupuyer's Creek, Teton Co., Mont. (ETH, PDS). A male Black-headed Grosbeak was at Marble Canyon, Kootenay N.P., B.C. June 20, considerably north of its known breeding range (CW & LW). A male Indigo Bunting was studied for hours as it sang and defended territory at the mouth of Little Alvord Creek Canyon, Steens Mt., Ore. July 20. Several pairs of Lazuli Buntings were in the immediate area (DF *et al.*). Possibly the same Indigo was observed on territory near Pike Creek, n. of Alvord Desert (JPM). Evening Grosbeaks were "incredibly" abundant in the Wenatchee Mts, w. of Wenatchee, apparently attracted by the spruce budworm outbreak in the grand fir forests. Several Purple Finches were identified at Ronald, Wash. July 1, and a few females were found on the Box Canyon road, Klickitat Co., Wash., June 30 (EH). A territorial male was found in Chelan, Wash. July 4 (REW). A male and a female were identified at Lakeside, Mont. June 4 (JCB).

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Two adults and one immature bird of the seldom observed Black Rosy Finch were located at 9730ft. on Steens Mt. in s.e. Oregon (DF). The species was also found s. of Bozeman atop Sphinx Mt., July 17 and on Hilgard Peak in August (DRS & SMS). About 30 were seen with the pipits at the head of the Pahsimeroi R. (CHT). Pine Siskins were especially abundant in the Wenatchee Mts., supposedly because of the spruce budworms. Lesser Goldfinches were again breeding a mile n. of Lyle, Wash., where adults with young begging food were found July 9-10 (EH).

SPARROWS -- The Salmon area had a Green-tailed Towhee June 19 (HBR). Four Lark Buntings were at Rupert during the summer (WHS) and a male was found near Three Forks, Mont. about July 30 (SC). Grasshopper Sparrows declined in the Spokane area. four being found, in only one area w. of the city (JA). A male was found at Pomeroy, Wash. (EH) and the species was reported at Bigfork (RL & DS). Up to five singing Le Conte's Sparrows were in the Radium, B.C. area in early July. Sage Sparrows apparently were declining on Columbia N.W.R. (JA) but were holding their own at Rattlesnake Slopes Wildlife Area north of Benton City, Wash. (REW). The birds were found at Gloyd Seeps n. of Moses L, Wash. (PC) and along Highway 205 in n.e. Harney Co., Ore. along with four pairs of Black-throated Sparrows (DF). Three spots in the Alford Sink area of s. Harney Co., hosted the latter species during the summer (GG). White-crowned Sparrows were found at five localities around 6000 ft. in the Seven Devils Mts., Ida. and on Steens Mt., Ore., at 7880ft. A male White-throated Sparrow was found n. of Parson, B.C. July 9 (FK).

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, Hans Blattner, Jacqueline C. Brewer, John Bulger, Rudi J. Butot, Dean Carrier, Phil Cheney, Urana Clarke, Maxine Clason, Sharon Cotterell, Emily Cragg, Jerry Diebert, Helen Doomink, Rod C. Drewien, David Fix, James Grant, Greg Green, Warren Hall, Camille and Ed Harper (EHa), Eve T. and Ray A. Hays, Nancy and Steven G. Herman, Bill Herrington-Tweit, John Hill, Susan Hills, Alice Horschel, Richard R. Howie, Eugene Hunn, Mts. Elly Jones, Francis King, Vivian Kohlruss, Ron Lang, Edward W. Loth, Tom Love, Sid Martin, Cliff Martinka, Phil Mattocks, Joseph P. Mazzoni, Harry

Nehls, Howard Oswood, M. & T. Oliver, Dennis R. Paulson, Newton Reed, Hadley B. Roberts, Thomas H. Rogers, Lorelei Saxby, Dave, Kevin & Ruth Shea, W.H. Shillington, Donald R., P.D. and Steve M. Skaar, Aaron Skirvin, Portland Audubon Society, Yakima Audubon Society, Nicki Strong, Shirley G. Sturts, John and Mac Sudan, Dan Sullivan, Steve Summers, Otis Swisher, Larry Thompson, Charles H. Trost, Glen Volyn, Carson & Lynn Wade, Winton Weydemeyer, Mildred White, Robert E. Woodley, Katherine Zahl.

Nesting Season, 1976

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The month of June was cool without excessive rainfall but with a great deal of cloudy weather. July brought somewhat more than usual rainfall and continued the pattern of excessively cloudy weather over all but the southernmost portion of the Region.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- Normal numbers of non-breeding Com. Loons were at coastal localities in June and July. Both Arctic and Red-throated Loons, however, were present in greater than usual numbers for those months; approximately 200 Arctic Loons at Cape Arago, Coos Co., Ore., (RLe) was an unprecedented concentration. Two Red-necked Grebes at Howard Prairie L., e. of Ashland, Ore., July 4 (P & SS) constitute the first July occurrence of this species in w. Oregon of which we are aware; a few individuals of this species were noted in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca during June and July. On June 17, seven Eared Grebes were observed at Everett, Wash., (B & PE, *fide* PM). Low numbers of W. Grebes summered at Bellingham, Birch and Boundary Bays, but on July 24 an unusual 3-4,000 were estimated to be present at Seaside, Clatsop Co., Ore. (TC, JG). A boat trip out of Westport, Wash., July 18 encountered 123 Black-footed Albatrosses, 1-5 N. Fulmars, 85 Pink-footed

Shearwaters, three Flesh-footed Shearwaters, 185 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, and one Leach's Storm-Petrel. Boat trips out of Coos Bay, Ore., July 6, 8 & 13 found 10-100 Black-footed Albatrosses, 1-5 N. Fulmars, up to ten Pink-footed Shearwaters and up to several thousand Sooty Shearwaters, and one Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel. An estimated 500 Sooty Shearwaters were off the s. jetty of the Columbia R., June 12 (JBC, JG) where an estimated 20,000 were present on June 17 (DF, HN). Large numbers were noted also from the Long Beach peninsula n. of the Columbia R. several times thereafter (IB). Over 11,000 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and 16,000 Leach's Storm-Petrels were counted in a breeding census of the Storm Is., in Queen Charlotte Sound, B.C., June 13 (B.C.P.M., *fide* RWC to VG). On June 11, a similar census of the Tree Islets in Queen Charlotte Sound resulted in an estimated breeding population of 15-25,000 for Leach's Storm-Petrel. Very few Brown Pelicans had come into the Region by the end of July. Both Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorant colonies on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. were productive this season (*fide* VG). Green Herons were noted at favored localities from Duncan, B.C., southward; they were seen repeatedly in the vicinities of Olympia, Wash., (G & WH, BH-T), and Wolf Creek, Ore., (EP *et al.*). At Coos Bay Great Egrets increased from ten to 30 as the season progressed (RLe). One or two Black-crowned Night Herons were observed at Grants Pass (P & SS), at Charleston, Coos Co., Ore., (RLe), at Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, (SJ), and at Reifel Refuge (CT, BD, *fide* VG) during June and July. During the season Am. Bitterns were recorded at Hosmer and Davis Lakes, in the high Cascades s.w. of Bend, Ore. (LM); one summered at Ocean Park, Pacific Co., Wash., (IB), and one was discovered near Olympia July 24 (G & WH).

WATERFOWL -- An ad. Trumpeter Swan appeared in Stanley Park, Vancouver, July 27 and was still present at the end of the period (BK). Six Black Brant were seen at Leadbetter Pt., Willapa Bay, Wash., June 12 (JBC, JG), one was at Victoria June 11 (MG, WS) and two were observed two days later at Saltspring I., B.C. (VG). An. imm. White-fronted Goose was at Saanich, B.C., through June 26 (V & MG, RS). On the same date there were 250 Gadwall at Iona I., s. of Vancouver (BK); a female with young of this species was at Seattle July 31 (EH). Single male Pintails were at Tillamook

June 25 (DF, HN) & July 24 (TC, JG), and at Seattle, June 24 (LF). Two male Pintails were at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., June 5-12 where a pair was noted on July 2; on the same day a male Pintail x Cinnamon Teal hybrid was seen there: it had the body of the former, the head of the latter and was closely followed by two female Cinnamon Teal (JCo). On June 5, 65 Blue-winged Teal were at Iona I. (BK); several others were seen on s. Vancouver I., in the first half of June (*fide* VG), but surprisingly two males were at Tillamook, July 31 (HN) and one male was at the Montlake fill in Seattle to July 13 (MD, *fide* PM). A pair of N. Shovelers was at the Campbell R. estuary July 31 (KC, *fide* HT). A Canvasback was at Iona I., June 5 and two were there July 11 (BK); one was at Olympia June 28 & July 17 (G & WH). Two d Greater Scaup were at Victoria June 27, where single birds were seen June 20, 21 & July 4 (RS, V & MG). Up to 15 Lesser Scaup were at Iona I., while six more were at Vancouver through the period (BK); a pair was at Sidney, B.C., July 2 (LR, *fide* VG). One or two Com. Goldeneye were at W. Vancouver during the first three weeks of June (BK). Five Barrow's Goldeneye were at Lost L., on the Santiam Pass in Oregon's c. Cascade Mts., July 3 (RK, MK, HN). A male Barrow's Goldeneye was identified on Tillamook Bay July 31, where a female Bufflehead was found that day (HN). Single Buffleheads also were noted at Ocean Shores July 12 (G & WH) and at Saanich June 3 & July 4 (LR, *fide* VG). A female Oldsquaw was seen at Saanich, June 28 (RM-G, *fide* VG). There were up to 130 Harlequin Ducks on the rocky shore s. of Campbell R. (HT)

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and up to 110 in the vicinity of Victoria (VG *et al.*) during the period; as many as six frequented the mouth of Tillamook Bay during the same months (HN *et al.*). Large flocks of White-winged Scoters were flying past Ocean Shores as early as July 11 (G & WH); elsewhere on the coast numbers of non-breeding scoters were evident, as is normal. On June 20 five Black Scoters were at Ocean Shores; two were there July 11 (G & WH). A male Ruddy Duck was observed at Victoria July 9 (V & MG). Hooded Mergansers were seen repeatedly at a number of localities on s. Vancouver I.; two females were at Iona I., July 13 (BK), and a group

of 15 was seen at Scoggins Valley Park, Washington Co., Ore., July 2 (HN). Com. Mergansers, too, were frequently noted on s. Vancouver I., the count of 180 at Cowichan Bay, July 31 (JCo) matching that of the preceding July. There were a few June observations of Red-breasted Mergansers, but the only reported July sighting came from Iona I. on the 11th (BK).

HAWKS, EAGLES, GAMEBIRDS -- Turkey Vultures were seen repeatedly at Campbell R. during the season (HT) and on Vancouver I. as far n. as Chemainus (VG *et al.*). A pair of White-tailed Kites spent the summer at a point n. of Medford, but no nest or young was ever observed (SS, OS). A pair of Goshawks nested at an old site in the Rogue R. Nat'l Forest, but two other sites were unoccupied (OS); a bird was seen at Lyons, Marion Co, Ore., July 3 (RK, MK, HN). There were fewer than ten reported sightings each for Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks during the period. Golden Eagles nested successfully near Medford (OS); an adult was noted in the Sooke Land District of Vancouver I., July 30 (V & MG), and two were seen at Orcas I., Wash., June 25 (SH, DP). At 8 p.m., June 12, just w. of the Astoria-Megler Bridge over the Columbia R., on the Washington side 11 immature and subadult Bald Eagles were seen together (JBC, JG). Bald Eagles were seen commonly on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. during the nesting season; five adults and five immatures were at Campbell R. July 19 (HT). A pair, plus three imm., Bald Eagles were to be found at the mouth of Tenmile Creek, n. of North Bend, Ore., during June and July (RL). A male Marsh Hawk was at Centralia, Wash., June 12 (BH-T), one was at Saanich June 20 (LR, *fide* VG), and a female was at Oyster R., Vancouver I., the last week of July (HT). There were ten reported Osprey nests, mostly from s. Vancouver I., and a few additional sightings away from nest sites, all in the s. half of the Region. Three Peregrine sightings were recorded, all on s. Vancouver I., this season. A Merlin was seen at Campbell R. repeatedly during July (HT); another was observed July 15 at Pacific Rim N.P., Vancouver I. (V & MG). An ad. White-tailed Ptarmigan with three young was found at 6000ft. on Mt. Albert Edward in Strathcona P.P., Vancouver I., July 24 (M & TS, *fide* VG); another was found at 6800 ft. Bobwhite were recorded at McKenna, Wash., June 13 (EH) & June 20 (SH, DP). American Coots raised young at Saanich, but the first migrants

were observed at Scoggins Valley Park, Ore., July 23 and at Olympia July 24 (G & WH).

SHOREBIRDS -- A Black Oystercatcher was discovered at Dungeness Bay, Wash., where the species is unusual, July 8 (D & LS). Two pairs of Semipalmated Plover nested on the Iona I. jetty, one successfully hatching three young (BK); migrants were back in numbers by the last week of July with 300 at Tillamook July 24 (TC, JG), and 1304 in a quarter mile on Long Beach, Wash., July 31 (IB). A single **Snowy Plover** was found at Iona I., June 14 (JF, BM *et al.*, *fide* VG, BK) for what is reputed to be only the third record of this species for British Columbia. On July 31 on the Tillamook Bay sandspit there were eight adult, and nine immature, Snowy Plovers (HN). On June 17 an Am. Golden Plover in full breeding plumage was found at Leadbetter Pt (DF, HN); two birds of this species were seen at Ocean Shores on the very early date of July 11 (G & WH). More than 100 Black-bellied Plovers frequented Leadbetter Pt., until at least the third week of June (JBC, HN *et al.*), by the second week of July individuals began to show up increasingly at various places. Surfbirds were back by the third week of July. On June 29 there were 22 Ruddy Turnstones on the n.w. side of Stephens Islet, n. of Vancouver I., on the British Columbia coast (KT, *fide* VG); by the last week of July up to four individual Ruddy Turnstones had been recorded at four localities in the s. portion of the Region. Two Com. Snipe were 'winnowing' near Campbell R., July 1 (HT). There were 25 Whimbrel still at Leadbetter Pt., June 12 (JBC, JG), where on June 17 only six could be found (DF, HN); five were still at Ocean Shores June 20, where by July 11, 50 were present (G & WH). Fifty Whimbrel were counted on Long Beach, Wash., July 19 (SH, DP). A Willet was noted at Leadbetter Pt., June 12 (JBC, JG). At Victoria up to 18 Greater Yellowlegs were found after June 25 (VG *et al.*), but it was not until after July 10 that this species was again being found elsewhere. A single Lesser Yellowlegs remained at Iona I. all of June (BK), after July 9 up to four were in the vicinity of Victoria or at Campbell R. On June 12 there were 26 Red Knot at Leadbetter Pt. (JBC, JG) where four were found June 17 (DF, HN). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was found at Iona I., July 23 (DM, *fide* BK) and July 27 (RP, *fide* BK), the dates are by far the earliest in fall for this species. The vanguard of expected Pectoral Sandpipers

appeared in the form of single birds at three s. British Columbia localities July 20-31. Two Baird's Sandpipers were found at Iona I., July 27 (RP, *fide* BK), and another was at Saanich July 30 (RM-G, *fide* VG). Dowitchers of both species reappeared in numbers during the second week of July. A Stilt Sandpiper was identified at Iona I., July 2 (DB, *fide* BK) & July 27 (RP, *fide* BK). Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported from Iona I., June 26 (BK) and from Tillamook July 31 (HN); two were said to be at Seattle July 31 (EH). On July 11 two Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared at Iona I. (BK). Four Marbled Godwits were at Ocean Shores June 20 & July 11 (G & WH), 17 were on Washington's Long Beach July 19 (SH, DP), and five were at Tokeland, Wash., July 19 (EH). An Am. Avocet was at Ridgefield N.W.R. w. of Vancouver, Wash., July 2-11 (FC, *fide* PM) On July 18 off Westport 23 Red Phalaropes were counted (TW). In June Wilson's Phalaropes were seen at McKenna, at Seattle, in Washington's Skagit Valley, at Vancouver and at Iona I., where the maximum of 13 was found June 5. In July Wilson's Phalaropes were noted at Cowichan Bay, at Seattle and at Eugene, Ore., with the two at the latter place being the maximum. A N. Phalarope was at Saanich June 26; on July 29 there were 30 at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG).

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JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- A Pomarine Jaeger off Westport July 18 (TW) was the only one reported. A lone Parasitic Jaeger was seen, too, but that species was also recorded at Victoria June 1 (VG), at the n jetty of the Columbia R., June 12 (3-JBC, JG), at Bellingham June 15, 16 & 29 when two were noted, as well as on July 2 (TW); two were seen also off Coos Bay July 13 (RLe) Six Long-tailed Jaegers were found off Westport July 18, when 8 skuas were also recorded (TW). On June 30, 1825 nests of Glaucous-winged Gulls were censused on the Chain Is. e. of Victoria (MS *et al.* *fide* VG), on July 21, 4000 nests of this species were counted on nearby Mandarte I. (MS, *fide* VG). Also of interest is the report of ten nests of this species at the harbor in Olympia at the extreme s. end of Puget Sound (BH-T). A nest tended by a Western and a Glaucous-winged Gull at Tillamook June 25 contained two small young and an unhatched egg (DF, HN). Two

ad. Herring Gulls were at Victoria June 2 & 4, where two subadults were present July 26 (RS, VG); an ad. Herring Gull was at Campbell R July 28 (HT). By the latter half of June there were several thousand subadult California Gulls at the mouth of the Columbia R. (DF, HN). Bellingham Bay hosted large numbers of non-breeding imm., California, Ring-billed, Mew, and Bonaparte's Gulls this season; after June 30 juvenile and ad. Californias and Ring-billeds began to appear. At Victoria, numbers of California Gulls were small until the end of July (VG). As many as fifty Ring-billed Gulls were seen at Tillamook Bay June 25 and again on July 31 (HN). A few Mew Gulls also spent the summer at Vancouver; 50 were counted at Capilano R., June 20 (BK).

S.A.

On the evening of July 28 at Oak Bay, Victoria, m excellent light conditions, Ron Satterfield had five minutes in which to study a gull at 20-40 feet through 8 x 40 binoculars and in direct comparison to imm. Bonaparte's Gulls; afterward he wrote a detailed description which has been passed to us by Vic Goodwill whose library helped to confirm that the bird was the Region's fifth and British Columbia's fourth (but the first immature) **Black-headed Gull**. Uncertainty as to the bird's identity was caused by either lack or inadequacy of descriptions and depictions of this plumage in the most widely used North American field guides: a helpful depiction appears at Plate 24 in Pough's *Audubon Water Bird Guide*, except that the leg color of the present bird was pink rather than yellow.

A Franklin's Gull was at Iona I. for most of June (VG, BK *et al.*); single birds also turned up the last week of July at Vancouver (BK), at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG), and at Tillamook (TC, JG). Hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls -- many more than usual -- spent the season in Bellingham Bay and in the n. Straits of Georgia; even at Tillamook there were up to 50 most of the season. By the end of July there were large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls around Vancouver, Victoria and at Washington coastal points. Northward drifting Heermann's Gulls began to appear n. to the Columbia R. in late June; by early July there were hundreds on the s.w. Washington coast and numbers had reached Victoria. Black-legged Kittiwakes were numerous at the mouth of the Columbia R., as well as along the

Washington coast and were seen regularly along the entire Oregon coast through June; a few individuals were seen in the Strait of Georgia, with numbers at coastal localities after the first week of July. An ad. Sabine's Gull was at Victoria June 1 (RS, *fide* VG) and one was seen out of Westport July 18 (TW). An ad. Forster's Tern appeared at Bellingham July 4 (TW). Up to 25 Com. Terns were at the mouth of the Columbia R., June 12 & 17; one or two were at Dungeness Bay June 30 & July 5 (D & LS); after July 10 up to six were at Bellingham and at Victoria. An Arctic Tern was noted at Victoria, July 29 (RS, *fide* VG). Unusual occurrences for Caspian Terns took place when several reached Seattle July 22 (KB, *fide* PM), two were n.e. of Campbell R., June 10 (RWC, *fide* VG), and one or two birds were seen June 14-July 13 at Torino, Vancouver I. (AD, V & MG); one at Scoggins Valley Park, Ore., July 2 (HN) was also unexpected. Lone Black Terns were at Reifel Refuge June 3 (CR, *fide* VG) and at Iona I., June 5 (BK). Fifty Pigeon Guillemots at Mandarte I. July 21 (MS, *fide* VG) was an unusual concentration; six of these birds on Dungeness Bay July 5 (DS & L) were also of interest. There were 200 Marbled Murrelets at Mitlenatch I., B.C., June 17 (RB, *fide* HT) and 50 at Oyster Bay four days later (HT). Two pairs of Ancient Murrelets were near Campbell R., June 12 (HT). A **Parakeet Auklet**, long dead, in breeding plumage, was found July 18 on the beach at Westport (BH-T); the first summer specimen of which we are aware. Virtually all Regional records have been of dead birds found at the tide line. Up to 340 Rhinoceros Auklets in a day were reported at various points around s.e. Vancouver I., during June and July, five were at Cape Meares, Ore., July 24 (TC, JG). Tufted Puffins were recorded at a few favored localities from s.e. Vancouver I., s. to the Oregon-California border during June and July, the maximum being 64 at P. Grenville, Wash., July 11 (G & WH). Single ad. Horned Puffins were seen in Hecate Strait, approx. 53°31'N., 130°W., on June 27 & 28 (RWC, KT, HC, *fide* VG).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- On June 19 two Barred Owls were found on Cortes I., e. of Campbell R., and on July 18 three were seen at the s. end of the island (AD, *fide* VG). One or two pairs of Spotted Owls were around Wolf Creek, Ore., during June and July (EP), a pair was repeatedly observed at a nest in the Rogue River N.F. (OS); the pair near Lyons, Ore.,

could not be located after mid-July. A Spotted Owl was seen at Mt. Rainier N.P., July 22 (JA *et al.* *fide* PM). A Poorwill was found in June on Roxy Ann Butte, near Medford (OS). Common Nighthawks were seen regularly at Campbell R. through the season (HT). A Black Swift was near Elma, Wash., June 15, and on June 20 near Packwood, Wash., ten birds were hawking over a clear-cut (BH-T). Up to nine Black Swifts were seen at Saanich June 3-July 10 (VG *et al.*); at Duncan, B.C., 150-200 of these birds were seen regularly through the period (JCo). A male **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was recorded at Bohemia Mt., s.e. of Cottage Grove, Ore., July 18 (MP, *fide* AC) for an addition to the few Oregon records away from Jackson County. Two pairs of Anna's Humming-

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birds summered at Saanich and one pair in Portland but no nests were found. A Calliope Hummingbird was found at 5300 ft. on King Mt., near Wolf Creek, Ore., July 25 (EP). Two male Williamson's Sapsuckers were found on the w. side of Washington's White Pass, July 17 (G & WH). A male N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen at Manning P.P., June 17 (RS, *fide* VG); one was also seen in Strathcona P.P., on Vancouver I., (unspecified date--*fide* HT). E. Kingbirds were to be found as usual in n. Washington's Skagit Valley during the nesting season (TW), two were at Oak Bay, Victoria, June 15 (RS, *fide* VG), and one of these birds appeared at Dungeness June 9 (AB, *fide* DS). Two E. Kingbirds also were found on Camano I., in Puget Sound June 17 (B & PE, *fide* PM) and near Estacada, Ore., June 12-13 (SJ); one was seen at Grants Pass June 19 (SS *et al.*). A pair of W. Kingbirds arrived at Packwood, Wash., June 13, and a week later built a nest on the same pole used last year (BH-T)! A W. Kingbird was seen in Saanich June 11 (RM-G, *fide* VG) and one was at Randle, Wash., July 17 (G & WH). A nest and three young of the W. Kingbird were found w. of Roseburg, Ore., July 11 (OS); the species bred sparingly this year but more commonly than usual at Wolf Creek (EP) and in usual numbers in the Rogue R. valley of s. Oregon (OS). Eight Ash-throated Flycatchers at Agate I., in the Medford area June 21 formed a surprising concentration (OS). A Least Flycatcher was calling on Cortes I., B.C., June 19 (AD, *fide* VG), and another was

found near Maple Falls, Wash., June 20 where its vocalizations were later recorded (NL, TW). Western Flycatchers were readily found in mid-June in n.w. Oregon's Coast Range (JBC), and around Campbell R. two weeks later (HT). A W. Wood Pewee was observed there June 16, where it is very rare (HT). Nesting of Violet-green Swallows at Campbell R., was delayed by wet weather through June, but seems subsequently to have been successful (HT). Tree Swallows, however, were late in arriving there and were much reduced in numbers (HT). At Duncan, John Comer reports 85 per cent mortality of young Tree Swallows in 50 nest boxes, and attributes this second successive poor nesting to cold weather and food scarcity. On June 5, three Bank Swallows were recorded at Iona I., and on July 9 one was seen at Vancouver (BK). Rough-winged Swallows so increased at Victoria this season as to be commoner than Tree Swallows (VG). There were possibly four pairs of Purple Martins in the Saanich district n. of Victoria this season (VG *et al.*); only one pair was at Olympia where last year there were seven pairs (G & WH). Two female Purple Martins were seen at the mouth of the Pistol R., Ore., June 26 (P & SS), and one was noted at Davis L. in the Oregon Cascades, June 20 (LM).

CHICKADEES THROUGH VIREOS -- A Boreal Chickadee was seen at Manning P.P., June 17 (RS, *fide* VG). Wrentits were to be found in three different areas near Medford (OS); a pair was noted at Wolf Creek July 30 (EP). Several pairs of House Wrens nested successfully on s. Vancouver I., (VG *et al.*). Bewick's Wrens were recorded with about the same frequency as House Wrens on s. Vancouver I. during June and July. A Mockingbird was found July 10-11 at Victoria three mi. from where one lingered last winter (VG, RS). A Gray Catbird was seen with regularity after June 18 at Butter Flats, Skagit Co, Wash., (K & JW, *fide* TW). Young Am. Robins did not appear in n.w. Oregon until July, which would indicate almost total failure of early nestings. Reports of W. Bluebirds were few; two near Campbell R., July 31 represented the first July record in that region for many years (KC, *fide* HT); single females were seen at Yelm, Wash., June 19 and at McKenna, Wash., June 26 (G & WH). A number of pairs of W. Bluebird nested in the vicinity of Wolf Creek (EP); we have no report of their nesting success in the foothills of the n.w. Willamette Valley, where the nest box

program of Hubert Prescott has enjoyed mild success. The first July reports for Bohemian Waxwings in this Region were of single birds at W Dungeness July 6 (LS), and at Bohemia Mt., s.e. of Cottage Grove, Ore., July 18 (MP, *fide* AC). Single Red-eyed Vireos were seen at W. Vancouver, B.C., at three Puget Sound lowland localities, and at two n.w. Oregon localities in June. One or two were recorded on four occasions in June and July n. of Victoria (*fide* VG). At least ten Red-eyed Vireos were in a colony near Dodge Bridge, n. of Medford (OS), and a pair raised young in an Olympia neighborhood (G & WH).

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS -- Two Black-and-white Warblers were discovered June 5 at Ridgefield N.W.R., w. of Vancouver, Wash., (A & DSt). A Tennessee Warbler was found at Manning P.P., June 16 (RS, *fide* VG). Nashville and Hermit Warblers bred successfully at Wolf Creek (EP); the former species particularly is of very localized occurrence in w. Oregon. A Nashville Warbler was noted at W. Dungeness, July 16 (LS). A Townsend's X Hermit Warbler hybrid was studied at Davis L., Ore., June 20; the song reflected elements of both parents (LM). A group of 12 Townsend's Warblers, including one begging juvenile, was observed in the Sooke Land District, n. of Victoria, July 23 (V & MG). Hermit Warblers were found at Howard Prairie L., along the Applegate R., and at Tubb Springs, e. of Ashland through the season (OS). A group of eight Hermit Warblers was seen at Olallie L., near Mt. Adams, July 29 (SH, DP). On June 22 a singing male **Bay-breasted Warbler** was found at the s. end of Howard Prairie L., Jackson Co., Ore., by Douglas Stotz of Tucson, Ariz., who subsequently observed it for 15 minutes; he has furnished a detailed account of the sighting, the first for this Region and the second for Oregon of which we have knowledge. A Yellow-breasted Chat was near Bacon Creek, Skagit Co., Wash., June 13 and 16 (NL, TW). A Ø Am. Redstart was found June 20 at Davis L., Ore., the third consecutive year for the species in that vicinity (LM). A pair of W. Meadowlarks was at Duncan, B.C. throughout the season; the first summering pair since 1971 (JCo). Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were on the Samish Flats, s. of Bellingham, June 16 (NL, *fide* TW), three appeared at McKenna, Wash., June 13 (EH). Northern Orioles, which are generally uncommon in the Region, seem to have been

recorded more frequently in the Puget Sound and Willamette Valley trough, in the interior valleys of s.w. Oregon, and on s. Vancouver I., than has been usual in recent years; the male at Courtenay, B.C., June 6 (HT), and the imm. male at Stanley Park in Vancouver June 1 (BK) are of particular interest. Lazuli Buntings were reported to be present in Whatcom and Skagit Counties, Wash., in above-average numbers (TW); they were very common at Wolf Creek

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(EP). On June 3 a male **Dickcissel** in breeding dress was found on a small island near Torino, B.C.; a written description of the observation was supplied (AD, *fide* VG) of this fast acceptable record for the Region known to the editors. In the past ten years there have been two other inadequately reported Dickcissel sightings. Evening Grosbeaks could be found in both the Coast Range and the Cascades of n. Oregon during the season; they were more common than usual during June in the Whatcom County lowlands (TW), and a few were recorded on June dates around the s. end of Puget Sound; one was at Olympia, July 25 (G & WH). Three male Cassin's Finches were noted at 5000ft. behind Packwood, Wash., June 20 (BH-T). Two female House Finches were observed at Namu in n. British Columbia, June 19 (RWC, HC, *fide* VG). House Finches were second to robins as the most common dooryard bird in Campbell R., this season (FIT). A pair of Pine Grosbeaks was seen in the Olympic Mts. of w. Washington, June 24 and one was seen there July 17 (RPr, AB, *fide* DS). A Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was noted at Paradise, Mt. Rainier N.P., June 19 (BH-T), and two were seen July 24 in Strathcona P.P. (M & TS, *fide* VG). Red Crossbills were to be found regularly on the s.w. Oregon coast (RLe). Vesper Sparrows spent the season at Sequim, Wash., on the Olympic Peninsula (DS). An ad. (Slate-colored) Dark-eyed Junco was observed at Manning P.P., June 17 (RS, *fide* VG). Brewer's Sparrows were found in a burn w. of Fish L. in the Cascades, Jackson Co., Ore., several times; the species was also noted near Emigrant L., June 20 (OS). An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow was found on one of the Tree Islets in Queen Charlotte Sound in n. British Columbia, June 11 (RWC *et al.*, *fide* VG). A Lincoln's

Sparrow was singing June 27 at Thunder L., e. of Newhalem, Whatcom Co., Wash. (DP, SH).

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End 1976

1977

Autumn Migration, 1976

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers



After a very cold, wet August, September and October brought warm, extremely dry, stable weather. November continued the extreme drought, but temperatures were more nearly normal. What snow fell in the higher valleys quickly melted and snowfall in the mountains was far below normal. Many late stragglers were noted and northern species were often late in appearing, as were mountain species that migrate vertically

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This delay in migrant influx combined with lack of bird concentrations because of scarcity of weather fronts and ready availability of food, were presumably the causes of the impression of low bird numbers. Nevertheless many unusual sightings occurred.

LOONS, GREBES -- A reasonably certain sighting of a Yellow-billed Loon on Kinbasket L., Yoho N.P., B.C. Sept. 27 was highly remarkable (FW, *fide* RRH). An Arctic Loon on L. McDonald, Glacier N.P., Mont. Sept. 14 was joined by another Sept. 17; they were last seen Sept. 25 (JCB, JK & NP). One was on Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash. Nov. 11-12 (JA; WH) and one was on the Snake R. at Asotin, Wash., Nov. 27 (DP & MP). A late Red-necked Grebe was still on Swan L., Lake Co., Mont., Nov. 8 (EJ). Two Horned Grebes on the Yakima R., n. of Yakima, were noteworthy (YAS). The Nampa, Ida. area had 250 W. Grebes Sept. 9.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES -- Southern Idaho and Malheur N.W.R., Bums, Ore., had hosted the White Pelicans. Up to 250 were on Am. Falls Res. near Pocatello and 136 were in the Rupert area Oct. 16. At Malheur the peak of 1200 was Sept. 20. Nampa counted up to 40. A peak of 130 Double-crested Cormorants was on Am. Falls Res. Aug. 25. At least 14 were shot by hunters on the first day of duck season there. A **Cattle Egret** was sighted at Rupert, Ida. Aug. 24 (WHS). Three Washington localities had Great Egret sightings. One was at the Yakima R. mouth Sept. 25 (REW) and one-two were at Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Sept. 10 & 21, and Oct. 7 & 9 (EH) and two were observed in the Clarkston area Aug. 26 – Nov. 30 (EM, JWW, JWo *et al*). Nampa had three Aug. 21 & Sept. 21 (G.E.A.S.). The latter locality also had up to three Snowy Egrets on the same dates; three were seen near Mud L., Jefferson Co., Ida. (PP). One appeared near Wallula, Wash. Aug. 14 (JG & LG) and one was still at Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 2 (DD). Rupert, Ida. had 45 White-faced Ibis in September and Malheur N.W.R. had an unusually late record, Nov. 28. A **White Ibis** was identified Nov. 13 along the Snake R. downstream from the Birds of Prey Natural Area s. of Boise, Ida. (DC & SS). The bird was later found dead, apparently shot, and was preened as a specimen (BB). Three birds believed to be immature **Yellow-crowned**

Night Heron were closely observed at Wilsall Res. just n. of Wilsall, Mont., Sept. 26 (PDS).

WATERFOWL -- Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., produced eight cygnets this year, contributing to a population there of 30. Up to 31 were seen at Malheur N.W.R. on aerial surveys. A flock of 15 flew over Nicholson, B.C. Oct. 24 (FK). One with a yellow neck band was sighted at Ennis, Mont. Sept. 19 (PDS). The heaviest Whistling Swan movement was through Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. with a peak of 1500 Oct. 26. Goose and duck numbers were relatively low, apparently because mild weather held them in Canada. About 19,000 Canada Geese remained at McNary N.W.R. Burbank, Wash. in contrast to the normal 30,000. Malheur had over 5000. Whitman Mission pond, Walla Walla, Wash. had a **Cackling Goose** (KK). The only White-fronted Goose reported was one on the Columbia R. at Richland, Wash., Oct. 31 & Nov. 14 (CC & REW). Late September saw a peak of 75,000 ducks at Malheur and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had its peak of nearly 32,000 in November. At McNary N.W.R. the peak of 16,000 ducks came in early October. The peak at Red Rock Lakes was 29,000 Oct. 7. Deer Flat N.W.R. remained the Mallard refuge, with 149,000 Nov. 17. Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida. counted over 31,000 in late November, with 11,000 Pintail and as many Ruddy Ducks. Malheur N.W.R. had over 25,000 Am. Wigeon Sept. 20 and the lower St. Joe R. in n. Idaho had over 14,000 Nov. 18 (IFG). Overall duck use at Malheur was poor, owing to the low productivity of Malheur Lake. McNary N.W.R. experienced a serious Am. Wigeon die-off late in the report period. A single male **European Wigeon** was on the Columbia R. at Richland Nov. 26 (REW). Wood Ducks peaked at 60 in August at both Swan L., Lake Co., and Smith L., Flathead Co., Mont. Nearly 15,000 Redhead were on the Pend Oreille R. in n. Idaho Oct. 23 (IFG). Up to 45 Ring-necked Ducks were on Hayden L. in November; there are very few fall records for the species in n. Idaho (SGS). Three male and two female Oldsquaw appeared at Mann L. just e. of Lewiston, Ida. Nov. 12 (MK & EP). White-winged Scoter sightings in Yoho N.P. amounted to 25 birds, up from six last year. At least nine were on Medical L., Spokane Co., Oct. 18 (JA) and a female was sighted on a small lake 14 miles e. of Colville, Wash. Nov. 21 (WH, GV, BW *et al.*). At

least four Surf Scoters were on Medical L. Oct. 18 (JA; WH). A male was on the Naches R., a few miles w. of Naches, Wash. Aug. 12 (AR) and a Ø bird was found on a sewage pond near Polson, Mont. (DB). In Lake County, Mont., Ninepipe N.W.R. had 150 Red-breasted Mergansers Nov. 19 and nearby Pablo N.W.R. had 700 Nov. 1 (L.F.B.C.).

HAWKS -- An ad. **White-tailed Kite**, tardily reported, was sighted 10 miles w. of Dufur, Ore. July 10 (BH). About 11 sightings were obtained for the Goshawk, always rather rare in the Region. A Red-shouldered Hawk was reported at Malheur N.W.R. Aug. 14-15 (RS). That refuge had large numbers of Swainson's Hawk in September. Two weekend trips to Kilgore and Henry's L. in e. Idaho revealed 28 Ferruginous Hawks each time but the species was rare, as usual, elsewhere. The annual Bald Eagle concentration along lower McDonald Creek, Glacier N.P., Mont. peaked at 281 ad. and 96 imm. birds Nov. 25, the third highest total on record (ELR). Red Rock Lakes had a peak of 31 Nov. 16 (EDS). Only one Peregrine Falcon sighting was received, that from Montana (LS). Prairie Falcon sightings were up somewhat as were those for the Merlin, one of the rarer hawks of the Region.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Blue Grouse numbers appeared to be up. The Spruce Grouse was reported only for the Fortine, Mont., area and in the Seven Devils Mts., w. of Riggins, Idaho. A White-tailed Ptarmigan, the only one reported, was found in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness s.w. of Leavenworth, Wash. Four Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported near Kimberley, B.C. in

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October (MVW). Bobwhite appeared in the Browne (Tower) Mt. area just s.e. of Spokane and at Gardena, Wash. Two Mountain Quail were found along the Grande Ronde R. in Asotin Co., Wash (JWW) and the Rupert, Ida. area had 35 (WHS).

S.A

CRANES -- The yearling Whooping Crane that summered n. of Soda Springs, Ida. left Oct. 3. The first two Whooper chicks and their Sandhill Crane foster parents at Grays Lake, Ida., left the same day. Another chick left Oct 5 but the last one remained on the refuge until leaving with its foster parents Oct. 15. All Sandhill Cranes migrated from the valley by Oct. 18 (EWL).

Sandhill Crane numbers at Malheur N.W.R. were down from last year, with the peak of 1600 Oct. 3. A pair remained until Nov 29 several flocks passed over Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash in October and a group of eight was on the ground, unusual there. About 75 stopped near Lowden, Wash. Oct. 3 and two days later an imm. bird spent three days in a garden between two homes on the outskirts of Walla Walla! (SM).

SHOREBIRDS -- The Am. Golden Plover was added to Yoho N P's list when one was sighted Sept. 7. Up to four were at nearby Golden Sept. 9-Nov. 4 (RRH; FK). The species was also reported at Reardan and Richland, Wash. Yoho N.P. also had the Black-bellied Plover added to its list when one to two were sighted there Sept. 7, and Nicholson had one-two Sept. 12 & 14 (RRH & FK). The species also appeared at Bozeman, Richland and at Turnbull and McNary N.W.R. One Sept. 25 at Fortine, Mont was only Weydemeyer's second record there in some 50 years' observing. Two Upland Sandpipers were at Golden, B.C., Aug. 27 and at Nicholson the day before (FK) and one was reported at a gravel pit n. of *Belgrade*, Mont. Oct. 7 (KD). The species had not been reported from that area in recent times. Three Willets were at Turnbull N.W.R. Sept. 22 (FBH) and one was in the Wenas L. area n.w. of Yakima Sept. 29 (YAS). Toppenish N W.R., Yakima Co., had 300 Short-billed Dowitchers Oct 27, 60 remained through Nov. 13 (EH). One was reported at Wenas L Sept. 15 (YAS). A Stilt Sandpiper found Aug. 15 added that species to the Yoho N.P. list (RRH *et al.*). A Marbled Godwit appeared at *Calispell* L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. Sept. 18 (WH & SAS). Shorebirds

made a poor showing in n.e. Washington because of high water levels. However, hundreds of shore- birds, including 300 Marbled Godwits were at American Falls Res near Pocatello Aug. 10 (CHT).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS -- A sight record of a **Pomarine Jaeger** came from Cascade Res., Valley Co., Ida. [date ?] (RS) The only other state record is of one collected in 1919 near Rupert. Two imm. Parasitic Jaegers were observed carefully near Wilsall, Mont. Sept. 26 (PDS). An ad. Long-tailed jaeger, the first ever for Yoho N.P., appeared Sept. 12 at Wapto L. (CW *et al.*) The Nampa, Ida., area reported 200 Herring Gulls Aug. 11 (G.E.A.S) and one in a plowed field near Somers, Mont., Oct. 13-15 was identified as this species (NS). Singles were sighted during August, September and October in the vicinity of Yoho and Golden, B.C. (RRH). A Franklin's Gull at Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 2 was very late (DD). This species was described as still relatively rare in the Bozeman area (PDS). A Bonaparte's Gull at the Yakima R. mouth, Richland Oct. 31 was the only sighting there this fall (CC & REW). One was sighted at Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake R. e. of Pasco, Wash. Oct. 17 (KK). The only Forster's Terns were at Fish L., Chelan Co., Wash., Sept. 12 (PC) The only Com. Terns reported were eight at Spillimacheen s. of Yoho Sept. 6 (FK). Nampa, Ida. reported five Caspian Terns Aug. 9 and nine Aug. 28.

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS -- Three belatedly reported Band-tailed Pigeons were seen up to July 24 in Mt. Revelstoke N.P., B.C. (JW). The species is very rare in interior British Columbia. An escaped Yellow-headed Parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala oratrix*) was found eating apples in an orchard at Sunny- side Game Range, Yakima Co., Wash. Nov. 26 in temperatures down to 10°F. (EH). Two Barn Owls were reported between Grangeville and Cottonwood, Ida. Nov. 27 (JL) and one or two were sighted in the Nampa, Rupert and Lewiston, Ida., areas and at Asotin, Wash. More ordinary were single sightings at Richland and near Yakima and Toppenish, Wash. One to two Flammulated Owls, tardily reported, were sighted on Hart Mt, Lake Co., Ore., at 6300 ft., May 9-June 20 and again Sept 1 (LRM). One was sighted at Rupert Sept. 26 (WHS) and an injured one picked up at Missoula was the second ever for that area (SF). The only Snowy

Owl reported was one at Logan Pass in Glacier N.P., Mont. at 6600 ft., Oct. 19 (SB). Another belated report was of two Hawk Owls near the summit of Mt. Revelstoke July 30 (JW); a single bird was found in Yoho N.P. Oct. 16 (CW), new to the park list. A Burrowing Owl in the Pahsimeroi valley s of Salmon, Ida., Sept. 18 was Roberts' first for the area. A Barred Owl was heard in October in the Helena vicinity (GN & NN) and one was seen well on Browne (Tower) Mt. at Spokane Oct 8 (THR). A Spotted Owl was heard near Blewett Pass in n. Kittitas Co., Wash. Oct. 4 (TK). A new site for the Great Gray Owl was Jack Creek Canyon e. of Ennis, Mont., where one was seen Nov 28 (JGa); one was reported just s. of Targhee Pass w of Yellowstone N.P. in October (SC). One was found at L McDonald, Glacier N.P. Sept. 21 & Oct. 3 (JCB). Apparently this species was sighted at Warm L., Valley Co., Idaho (*fide* JH) A pair of Saw-whet Owls was duetting at Swauk Campground in the Wenatchee Mts. of w. c. Washington Oct. 7 (DP) and one was heard at Lavington, B.C. Nov. 7 (JGr).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A few Black Swifts were seen in the Golden-Field, B.C. area; the latest record was of two at Field Aug. 15. The only other sighting was near Leavenworth, Wash., where seven were feeding with a flock of Corn Nighthawks Sept. 2 (LG). Anna's Hummingbird again appeared in the Cashmere-Leavenworth, Wash. vicinity (WD, LG & JG) and at Yakima Nov. 9 (YAS). One lingered at a Yakima feeder at least until Dec. 4 (EH). An "unprecedented number" of reports for the species came from the c. and s Okanagan of British Columbia in the vicinity of Penticton, Kelowna and Naramata, the latest, Nov. 29 (VA; SRC; DR, DS; KT; RY). A Ø Anna's visited a feeder at Bozeman Sept 1-12 for the first local record and the third for Montana (JP, PD S *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS AND LARKS -- The Potholes Res. area, Grant Co., Wash. yielded a sighting of two Ash-throated Fly-catchers Aug. 9 (PC) and one made a most surprising appearance in the Spokane Valley Sept. 6 (WH & THR). A late-reported sight record of an E. Phoebe at Malheur N.W.R. May 15 appears to be valid (DF). A single Gray Flycatcher was observed near Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash. Aug. 24 (PP) A few Horned

Larks in Yoho N.P. above timberline in September confirmed the species for the park (WM).

S.A.

JAYS, CROWS -- An amazing influx of **Blue Jays** produced sightings in every state and province in the Region and was the event of the fall season. Two sightings were w. of Calgary, Alta. and British Columbia recorded them at Kimberley, Revelstoke N.P. and near Yoho N.P. At the latter place they had been present May 26-Oct. 7 but no evidence of breeding was found Washington had them near Yakima, at Rich-

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land, Kamiak Butte in Whitman Co., Spokane and n. of Brewster. In Idaho they were reported at Lewiston Orchards, Moscow, Grangeville and Nampa. Montana reported them at Helena, Bozeman and Hamilton and Oregon had them at Umatilla and Bend. An extension of breeding range seems probable for the near future.

Ravens near Malheur N.W.R. have been fitted with colored wing markers. Sightings should be sent to Dick Stiehl at the refuge, P.O. Box 113, Burns, OR 97720. Include whether right or left wing or both, date, time of day, location, behavior of bird and color of marker.

BUSHTITS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS -- Ten Bushtits were found at Ft. Simcoe S.P., Yakima Co. Nov. 25 for the only report (EH). A Pygmy Nuthatch was heard along Big Creek n.w. of Victor, Mont. Aug. 2 (DAK) and eight were observed at Wasa near Kimberley, B.C. (RRH). An apparently valid report of the species came from Bozeman Oct. 31 (GB). Bewick's Wren was again found near Asotin, Wash., of one bird Nov. 24 & 27 (DP & MP; JWW) and one appeared in Indian Canyon at Spokane (JA). A Canyon Wren was heard Aug 13 at *Crater L.* (JWh) and is the first for the park.

MIMIC THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES -- The only Mockingbird reported was found on an island in the Snake R., Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa Nov. 6 (JH). Final tally of the nest box project on a farm w. of Spokane showed 209 W. Bluebirds fledged. Migrating flocks of Mountain Bluebirds appeared at only three localities: 100 s. of Kimberley Aug. 27; 104 in the Nampa area Sept. 19 and 75-100 in the Bigfork, Mont. area Sept 14. Otherwise only a few were reported. Water Pipits were reported in good numbers and from many localities. The earliest Bohemian Waxwing was a single bird in Yoho N.P. Aug. 27. Their numbers were low in e. Washington and in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia but appeared more nearly normal elsewhere. Gardiner, Mont., had large flocks from Oct. 8 on, with 1000-2000 on the 14th. Cedar Waxwing numbers seemed greater than normal. Oct. 30 was the latest date ever for Fortine, Mont. (WW). Three Loggerhead Shrikes, "doubtless wintering," were found e. of Beverly, Wash. Nov. 28 (DP & MP).

WARBLERS -- Lewis & Clark Trail S.P. near Waitsburg) Wash. had a Black-and-White Warbler Sept. 26 (MN). An imm male **Prothonotary Warbler** was banded and photographed on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore., Aug. 19 (LRM). Five Tennessee Warblers in a mixed warbler flock were in a city yard in Kimberley Aug. 17 (MVW) and singles were seen Sept. 11-12 in the Nicholson, B.C. area (FK). An ad. male Magnolia Warbler stayed in Lavington, B.C. Nov. 15-27 (MC, JGr). Two Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warblers appeared at Malheur N W R. Oct. 2-3 with about 30 Audubon's (DD). Crater Lake N.P. reported Hermit Warblers Aug. 1 and 27 (GM). A singing male **Bay-breasted Warbler**, reported late, was at Malheur N.W.R. June 7 for Oregon's third record (DD). The only N. Waterthrush records were of two birds at Wasa, B.C. Aug. 17, one in Yoho N.P. Sept. 9 (RRH) and one in Lake Co., Ore. Aug 29 (LRM). The warbler migration around Spokane was described as extremely poor; whether it indicated actual low numbers or reflected the mild weather conditions is an open question.

BLACKBIRDS -- Bobolinks occurred in the Bozeman area and were last seen around Bigfork, Mont. Aug. 3. A few were at Calispell L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. Sept. 18. A flock of 30 W Meadowlarks was still at

Missoula at the end of November. Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., had six Yellow-headed Blackbirds until Nov. 26 and 100 were along Crab Creek w of Othello, Wash. the next day (EH). A few Brown-headed Cowbirds were with other blackbirds in the Othello area Nov 26 & 28 (DP).

FINCHES -- A tardily-reported male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was banded on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore. June 22 (LRM) Evening Grosbeak numbers were mostly low and their sightings scattered, with almost none reported after October. A single male Purple Finch, rare in Yoho N.P., was seen at Field Sept. 23 (RRH) and a few visited a feeder farther s. at Invermere Oct. 23 (PM) The species was reported near Leavenworth, Wash. until Sept 28 (LG) and two males were found at Ft. Simcoe S.P., Yakima Co., Sept. 26 (EH). The House Finch was a visitor at a feeder in Bozeman Sept. 22 (RAH). Appearances of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were scant except in Yoho and Banff N.P., where a flock of 500 was near Columbia Ice Fields. A few were near Sun Valley, Ida. Nov. 12, and near Moses L., Wash. Oct. 20 **Lesser Goldfinches** were observed at Malheur N.W.R. at the end of the period. Common Redpolls had appeared only at Fortine, Mont Nov. 6 (late) and in the Yoho vicinity, first on Nov 7 Red Crossbill appearances were spotty but Yoho N.P. had very good numbers. A good spruce cone crop seemed to explain it by contrast, White-winged Crossbills there were down in numbers Swan L., s.e. of Bigfork, Mont. registered a few Sept. 26-Oct. 4

SPARROWS -- Wandering Green-tailed Towhees appeared in Crater Lake N.P., Aug. 18 & Sept. 24 (JWh). A **Baird's Sparrow** was closely observed in sagebrush southwest of Boone Peak in the Owyhee Mts. of s.w. Idaho Sept. 19 (JH). This apparently represents only the second record for the state. A brood of Chipping Sparrows at Kimberley hatched Aug. 4 and three young were raised (MVW). The only record of the Clay-colored Sparrow was of one at Golden, B.C. Aug. 2. It was suspected that the species breeds in that area (RRH). Only a few Harris' Sparrows appeared. Tumalo, Ore., just n.w. of Bend, had one Nov 24 and a small flock two days later (JJ), and Malheur N.W.R. had one Nov. 28. One or two were

seen near Asotin, Wash. Nov 20-27 (EM; DP, MP & JWW) and one was found in the Spokane Valley Sept. 29 (THR). Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. had one Oct. 23 (FBH) and Bozeman had one Oct. 17 & 24 (PDS) Up to ten Golden-crowned Sparrows were recorded in Yakima and Klickitat Cos., Sept. 21 to the end of November (EH) and they were described as common at Lyle, Wash. Nov. 5 (DP) Two or three were in the Spokane area Sept. 21-30 (WH; THR) Link R Bird Refuge, Klamath Falls, Ore., reported a White-throated Sparrow Oct. 17 (SS) and one was at Spokane Sept. 19 (WH) and Oct. 10-14 (JA). Walla Walla, Wash. had one Oct. 10 & 12 (KK) A McCown's Longspur was observed at length between Stinkingwater Pass and Stinking Water Pass on Highway 20 east of Burns, Ore., Aug. 8 (CHW). The only Lapland Longspurs reported were a few Sept. 10-Oct. 1 at Reardan, Spokane and Calispell L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (JA) and one at Malheur N.W.R. the first of October (DD).

CORRIGENDUM -- In *Am. Birds* 30:99, delete the sentence referring to hummingbirds at Invermere, B.C.

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, V. Andrew, Bill Belknap, Doug Bonham, Jacqueline C. Brewer, George Brewster, Sue Buchel, Steve R. Cannings, Dennis Cartwright, Phil Cheney, Mary Collins, Craig Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Dave DeSante, Wayne Doane, Kristi DuBois, Darrel Faxon, Frissell, (JGa) John Gaffney, (JG) Jacque and Larry Goodhew, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, (JGr) James Grant, Warren Hall, R. A. Hays, James Heckathorn, Bob Holfoss, R. R. Howie, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, Idaho Fish and Game Dept, Julie Johnson, Elly Jones, Jane Kapler, Thomas Kemp, Francis

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King, Daniel A. Knierim, Ken Knittie, Merlene Koliner, Joe Lint, Lower Flathead Valley Bird Club (L.F.B.C.), Edward W. Loth, Wayne McCrory, Peggy MacPherson, Ed DeVicker, L. Richard Mewalt, Shirley Muse, Gene & Norma Nixon, Mary Nowakowski, Nancy Paul, Dennis Paulson, Jean Perkins, Michael

Perrone, Eleanor Pruett, Peter Pyle, Dorothy Redivo, Alan Richard, Hadley B. Roberts, Thomas H. Rogers, Edwin L. Rothfuss, Lorelei Saxbe, Dennis Schmidt, Sid Sever, W. H. Shillington, Richard Sjostrom, P. D. Skaar, Robert Smith. Spokane Audubon Society, E. D. Stroops, Shirley G. Sturts, Norm Sudan, Steve Summers, K. Thom, Charles H. Trost, Glen Volyn, Carson Wade, Clarice H. Watson, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, (JWh) John White, M. V. White, (JWo) Jim Wolcott, Robert E. Woodley, (OW) John Woods, Yakima Audubon Society and Robin Yellowlees.

Autumn Migration, 1976

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

August continued the pattern of the earlier summer months by having more than average rainfall. The remaining three months of the season were drier than normal with above-average temperatures. No heavy coastal storms occurred. The result was a delayed migration for waterfowl, and many lingering passerines. The season also brought the usual quota of displaced individuals, affording ample cause for wonderment.



LOONS, GREBES AND PELAGICS -- A Yellow-billed Loon was at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 30-Nov. 28: four others were in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in Puget Sound after Sept. 27. From Oct. 9 on there were up to SO Red-throated Loons at the Columbia R. mouth. The S00-600 Red-necked Grebes at Green P. e. of Port Angeles, Wash., Aug. 24 (TW) was an amazing concentration. Over 2000 W. Grebes were at Birch Bay, Wash., Aug. 4 (BR *et al.*, *fide* VG), 7S00 at Campbell R., B.C., Oct. 10 (HT), and 1000 near Duncan, B.C., Nov. 20 (JCo). A Laysan Albatross was noted by Craig Berger. 12 mi. off Newport, Ore., Aug. 17 (f/de HN); another was found dead at Ocean Shores Sept. 11 (GVV, *fide* PM). The peak count for N. Fulmars this season was 219 off Westport Aug. 22 (next highest 36 Oct. 3

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there) (TW). Between 150 and 400 Pink-footed Shearwaters were recorded on trips from Westport (TW); a few were seen out of Banfield1 B.C. in late September (MS, *fide* VG), and along the c. Oregon coast Aug. 28-29 (JG *et al.*). Up to four Flesh-looted Shearwaters were recorded on each Westport boat trip

(TW); one was off Banfield Sept. 18 (MS, *fide* VG). Maximum count of New Zealand Shearwaters was 1232 Oct. 3; Sept. 16-26 large numbers were seen on the edge of the continental shelf off Washington (TW). Three Short-tailed Shearwaters were observed 30-40 mi. off Westport Oct. 3, and 6-9 on the edge of the continental shelf Sept. 16-26 (TW). One was seen off Cleland I, B.C., Sept. 1 (RWC, *fide* VG), one was dead at Westport Oct. 30 (BH-T), and one was seen at Seattle Nov. 20 (DP). Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel maximum was 238 on Sept. 12 from Westport; one was found dead at Yaquina Head, Ore., Nov. 28 (RO, *fide* FR). On Aug 22 there were 51 Leach's Storm-Petrels recorded out of Westport; one was off Depoe Bay, Ore., Aug. 28 (JG), and a few were noted well offshore Sept. 16-26 (TW). Numbers of Brown Pelicans, more than half immatures, were high along the Oregon coast with smaller numbers along the Washington coast; maximum count was 300-800 around Tillamook Rock, just off the n. Oregon coast, Sept. 4 (TC).

HERONS AND WATERFOWL -- Green Herons were seen repeatedly on s. Vancouver I., at Seattle, and near Tillamook Bay, Ore., Gardiner, Ore. and 3 other localities during the period. An imm. Cattle Egret was found at Port Neville, Vancouver I. Oct. 1 (MR *et al.*, *fide* VG). Great Egrets made the most widespread appearances ever; one was at the Sooke R. mouth, Vancouver I., Aug. 16-19 (ACH, VG *et al.*, photo). Another was near Pitt Meadows, B.C., Sept. 8-6 (R & WR, *fide* VG) For w. Washington one or two Great Egrets were recorded at seven different localities from mid-August until Nov. 30. In w. Oregon Great Egrets were noted at 12 different localities; maximum 37 at Gardiner Aug. 29 (WT *et al.*). A Snowy Egret was observed at Seaside, Ore., Aug. 7 (DF, JG) and (the same?) one was subsequently at Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, Sept. 19 (DDS, HN *et al.*). A Black-crowned Night Heron was at Seattle Nov. 20 (JW, *fide* PM), and up to seven were near Grants Pass, Ore., during September and October (SS). At Portland an unprecedented 18 used a roosting area all fall (JB, JG *et al.*). One and two *Least Bitterns* were seen 17 mi. n.w. of Medford from early September to late November (JH, MM). A flock of about 600 Whistling Swans arrived at Sauvie I. en masse Nov. 22 (HN *et al.*); small numbers were at Whidbey I., Wash, from Aug. 29 (EH, JW, *fide* PM), and at 14 other localities in the Region in

numbers up to 48. Up to ten Trumpeter Swans were recorded at five localities on s. Vancouver I. after Nov. 13; singles were at Ocean Shores Nov. 27-28 (G & WH), and at Sauvie I. Nov. 21 (JG, MK). The first White-fronted Geese were 32 at N. Portland Aug. 31 (MK), and a small group heard over L. Oswego, Ore., that night (JBC). On Oct. 9 large numbers flew SE over Crane Prairie Res. in the e. Cascade Mts (LN). Two Snow Geese were near Pitt Meadows in s. British Columbia Aug. 24-Sept. 1 (RR, *fide* VG); on Oct. 13 a flock of 60 was at Ocean Shores (G & WH); the species was noted elsewhere in the Region in late October and afterward. By Nov. 19, 78-100 Gadwall were in n. Portland (TC, HN); eight were at Alsea Bay, Ore., Nov. 26 (E & EE, *fide* FR), and up to ten were at Saanich after Nov. 9 (VG *et al.*). Pintail (250) concentrated early at Everett, Wash., Aug. 19 (DP); smaller numbers were present at coastal points by Aug. 15-30. Single Eur. Green-winged Teal were noted at Seattle, Sauvie I., Tillamook and Corvallis, Ore., after Oct. 30. There were up to ten Eur. Wigeon around Victoria after early October (VG); later up to four were found at ten localities in the Region. A lone Am. Wigeon at Coos Bay, Ore., Aug. 29 (JBC *et al.*) was early. On Aug. 19 there were 50 N. Shovelers at Everett; on Oct. 10 & Nov. 21 there were 1000 there (DP), the largest assemblage in the Region in ten years or more; up to 45 were found at six other locations. A Redhead was in Portland Nov. 3 (DDS), and two were at Tillamook Bay Nov. 28 (JBC, WT). Sixty Ring-necked Ducks at Forest Grove, Ore., Oct. 21 (HN), and 83 at Saanich Nov. 15 (M&TS, *fide* VG) were peak counts. Canvasback concentrated after mid-October in flocks to 600 at Samish I., Wash., the Forest Grove sewage ponds, the Columbia R. mouth, and Tillamook Bay. A male Tufted Duck was found again in late October at Vancouver's Stanley Park (BK). Almost 1400 Barrow's Goldeneye were at Capitol L., Olympia, Wash., Nov. 14 (G & WH); six first were noted there Oct. 28. At Jervis Inlet, Vancouver I., there were 250 Barrow's Goldeneye Nov. 28 (TS, GC, *fide* VG). Lone female Oldsquaws were at Stanley Park in August (BK), at Campbell R. Aug. 14 & 20 (HT); at Westport (BH-T), and Cape Meares, Ore., Oct. 30 (DDS *et al.*). There were 30 Oldsquaws at Victoria, Oct. 22, and 18 at Sidney, B.C., Nov. 4 (VG *et al.*). The concentration of 175 Harlequin Ducks at Campbell R., Aug. 20 (HT), is interesting. On Aug. 19, 250 male White-winged Scoters were at Whidbey I., and 150 male Surf Scoters were at Penn Cove (DP), early. 100

Surfs were at Protection I. Aug. 14 (MS, *fide* VG). A female Ruddy Duck with nine young at the Everett sewage ponds Aug. 19 (DP), proves another breeding record in w. Washington. On Nov. 21, 56 Hooded Mergansers and 200 Com. Mergansers were counted at L. Selmac, Ore., (SS) At Ocean Shores 120 Red-breasted Mergansers were counted Sept. 18 (G & WH), but this species was largely absent elsewhere until mid-November.

RAPTORS, GAMEBIRDS -- Victoria seems to be a migration funnel for Turkey Vultures; migrants passed S. until Nov. 6, peak numbers were 158 there Sept. 27 and 100 at Saanich Oct. 7 (VG *et al.*); elsewhere migrating vultures were observed at Stanley Park Oct. 2 (18 -- BK), at Deception Pass Oct. 3 (36 -- *fide* PM), and Grants Pass, Ore., Sept. 17 (44 -- SS). A late one was at Duncan, B.C., Nov. 13 (JCo). Two adults and two first-year White-tailed Kites were at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, all fall; the young apparently were raised on the refuge. A couple of White-tailed Kites n. of Medford also seemed to have nested undetected; they were accompanied by a fledgling Aug. 27 (J Collins). Two kites were observed throughout the fall near Riddle, Ore. (EP *et al.*). Two suspected 'harlan' Red-tailed Hawks were reported -- one from Scappoose, Ore., Nov. 21 (JG, MK), the other from near Forest Grove Oct. 21 (GH, HN). Golden Eagles were recorded seven times in the vicinity of Victoria (VG *et al.*), once in the Olympics (DS *et al.*), three times in the Willamette Valley s. of Corvallis, (-- MN, *fide* LN), and near Medford (OS) all Nov. 28. About 63 Bald Eagles were reported from nine Oregon, five Washington, (omitting a "few" in the n lowlands), and two Vancouver I. localities; eight together near Sequim, Wash., Sept. 12 (*fide* DS), and the 12 at Campbell R. Aug. 2 (HT) are of particular interest. Ospreys were seen regularly at Victoria until Sept. 15 (VG); other Vancouver I. sightings involved one at sea from Banfield Sept. 18 (MS *et al.*), a "last of the season" at Oyster Bay Oct. 8 (HT), one at Long Beach Oct. 11 (AD, *fide* VG), and seven at Sooke Oct. 29 (B& JM, *fide* VG). Ospreys were identified at Dungeness, Wash., Oct. 11 & 29 (DS *et al.*), and at Chinook Pass Nov. 11 (MC, *fide* PM); there were two other Washington sightings prior to Sept. 16. In Oregon four Ospreys were observed near the Umpqua R. mouth Aug. 29 (WT *et al.*), one was at Rogue R. Oct. 16 (OS), and one

at in. N. Albany Oct. 13 & Nov. 16 (GG, *fide* FR). Three Gyrfalcons were recorded in the Region this season; one at Reifel Sanctuary (TW), one twice at c. Saanich in mid-November (RF; V & MG), and one at White City, near Medford, Nov 30 (MM, *fide* JH). A Prairie Falcon at Dungeness Spit Aug. 12 (KG,

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fide DS) was out of place; there were three sightings near Medford and two at Albany, Ore. Peregrines were found at only seven localities, but mostly in multiple sightings. In contrast, there have never been more seasonal sightings of Merlins; perhaps 40 individuals at 25 localities. On Aug. 10 ten Spruce Grouse were found at Hart Pass in Washington; two more were seen that day on the Pasayten R. (G & WH); four were observed at Manning P.P. Oct. 12 (VG). The only reported White-tailed Ptarmigan was also at Hart Pass Aug 11 (G & WH). A covey of 45 Bobwhite was seen at McKenna, Wash., Oct. 24 (JHO, *fide* PM). Sandhill Cranes stopped at Sauvie I. the first week in September; 30-40 were still there Nov. 30; a pair was at Davis L. Sept. 6 (*fide* LN) and 60 were at Campbell R. Sept. 19 (HT); in the Medford area up to 40 were seen the last week in November. Eight Virginia Rails were recorded in two marshes on Cortes I., B.C., Oct. 20 (HT); there were five other records from n. Washington s. to Corvallis, Ore.

SHOREBIRDS -- A late Semipalmated Plover was observed at Seattle Nov. 21 (BBe *et al.*, *fide* PM). The 19 Snowy Plovers at Tillamook Bay Nov. 6 (HN) was a high count for this uncommon bird, HN had seen 12 there Sept. 25, and four there Sept. 18 (JG *et al.*); up to six were at Ocean Shores, Leadbetter Pt., and Yaquina Bay Aug. 16-Oct. 24. Ocean Shores hosted Am. Golden Plovers Aug. 21-Nov. 6, the peak counts being 50 Oct. 2-12, and 100 Sept. 18-19 (G & WH, DP). Up to six were seen from late August to mid-October at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (S.J.C.R.), (m.obs.), at Sauvie I. Sept. 11 (HN), and at Victoria Sept 8-Nov. 9 (VG *et al.*). On Aug. 26 there were 200 Com. Snipe near Pitt L., e. of Vancouver (RR, *fide* VG). One or two Long-billed Curlew were at Ocean Shores Aug. 20-

Nov. 6 (mob.); ten were at Tokeland, Wash., Oct. 30 (BH-T), and pairs were seen at Westport Sept. 11, and at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 26. Maximum Whimbrel numbers were, as usual, at Ocean Shores where 200 were counted Aug. 21; on Sept. 19, 100 birds were still there (G & WH, DP). On Aug. 7-8, two Solitary Sandpipers were recorded at Tipsoo L., 5300 ft. elev., in Mt. Rainier N.P. (RT); two were at Seattle Aug 16 and one there Aug. 21 (*fide* PM). Ten Wandering Tattlers were seen at Ocean Shores Aug. 16 and eight Sept. 24; two at Florence, Ore., Nov. 26 (ES) were late. This season contributed a record number of Willet sightings; 6-10 birds were at Yaquina Bay Aug. 28-Oct. 23; 1-4 birds were at Tokeland Sept. 11-13, one was at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 26 and single birds were at Ocean Shores Sept. 19, Oct. 2 and Oct. 10. On Aug. 18 there was an astounding total of 383 Lesser Yellowlegs at Iona I. (RP, *fide* BK). Thirty was the maximum for Red Knots, this group being at Leadbetter Pt. Aug. 21 (HN *et al.*). Ocean Shores also was the principal spot for Rock Sandpipers with 25-30 being there after Nov. 6 (G & WH, EH, *fide* PM); 40 at the Chatham Is., B.C., Nov 28 (MS, *fide* VG) was also an unusually high count. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were in the Region from Aug. 23 at Mitlenatch I., B.C., (RB, *fide* VG) to Oct. 23 at Ocean Shores; this species was sighted at five other localities. At Iona I., six were present Oct. 3 (VG). Pectoral Sandpipers were reported seen at sixteen different localities Aug. 24-Nov. 6 from Duncan, B.C., s to Medford; maximum 150 at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 26 (DM, WT) Inland Baird's Sandpipers (singles) were at Tipsoo L., Mt. Rainer N.P., Aug. 7-8 (RT), at Medford Aug. 30 (OS), at Grants Pass Sept. 21 (SS), and two birds were at Sauvie I., Aug. 14 (HN). The 6-8 at S.J.C.R. Aug. 28 and the ten at Ocean Shores Sept. 24 are unusual aggregations; the single still at Yaquina Bay Nov. 28 (GG, DF, *fide* FR) was very late. Two Silt Sandpipers were observed at Iona I., Aug. 9 (J&TI, *fide* VG), two were at Duncan Sept. 11 (JCo), and two were at 214 Yaquina Bay Oct. 9 (JA, *fide* FR) where one had been seen Sept 7 (DF). A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was found and photographed at Bandon, Ore., Sept. 23-26 (TL *et al.*), possibly another was seen flying at S.J.C.R. Oct. 9 (DDS, HN). An ad. *Ruff* was at Ocean Shores Oct. 10-27 (JW, JS, EH, *fide* PM). An Am. Avocet was at Finley N.W.R. Sept. 30 (JAn, E & EE, *fide* FR). Red Phalaropes were seen on each of the boat trips from Westport, with 341 on Aug. 22 the high count (TW); up to 20 a day were noted at a few coastal points, particularly in November. Single Wilson's Phalaropes

were identified at Whidbey I. and at Everett Aug 19 (DP), and at Victoria Aug. 1 (RS, *fide* VG).

S.A.

Ron LeValley has submitted a detailed description for a **Curlew Sandpiper** studied by him and Maggi Ford for 30 minutes at Seven Devils Wayside, Coos Co., Ore, Aug. 16, from as close as 25 feet. The bird was approaching basic or winter plumage. Darrell Faxon had previously submitted details of an observation made by him at Yaquina Bay, July 21, 1976, of possibly the same individual. We presume

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- From 12-26 Pomarine Jaegers were seen on each trip from Westport, up to three were seen at the Columbia R. mouth, at Gray's Harbor, and at Active Pass in the Gulf Islands Sept. 24-Oct 16 Observers thought it a poor year for Parasitic Jaegers, up to eight were at the Columbia R. mouth, Sept. 24-25, and at Active Pass from mid-September to Nov. 6 but most observations were of singles. Between 1-12 Long-tailed Jaegers were found on off-shore trips, and single birds were observed at Discovery Passage on the e. side of Vancouver I., the third week in August (AD, *fide* HT), at Westport Oct. 2 (TW), and at the Columbia R mouth, Sept. 25 (DM). Skuas were found on all three boat trips from Westport -- 3 on Aug. 22, 5 on Sept. 12, and 17 on Oct 3, during the cruise Sept. 16-Sept. 26 a total of 27 Skuas were counted, 13 of them on the first day (TW). Two Skuas were seen from the N.J.C.R. Sept. 11 (D & JHa, *fide* PM), and single birds were seen Oct. 1 at Ocean Shores (KB, *fide* PM), and at Active Pass (MVM, *fide* BK). Another was seen at Yaquina Bay Sept 25 (GG, *fide* FR). Glaucous Gulls all appeared at Bellingham, Wash., Nov 24 (TW) and at Campbell R. Nov. 30 (HT). For three days, Oct 9-11, a 'white-winged' gull frequented Stanley Park and was closely studied by Brian Kaukesk; his description points strongly to an **Iceland Gull** (*Larus g. kumlieni*). The imm. Black-headed Gull first seen at Victoria July 28 (RS, *fide* VG) was there Aug 6 (BHy, *fide* VG). Another Little Gull was found in the Region Nov. 30; this one at Seattle's Discovery Park (DP, DW *et al*, *fide* PM). The 500 Heermann's Gulls at Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co,

Ore., Oct. 16 (JBC) and the late 300 at Whidbey I. Nov. 7 (D & PE, *fide* PM) were high counts. On the boat trip Aug. 22 from Westport 140 Sabine's Gulls were counted; on Sept. 12 numbers were down to 90 and on Oct. 3 only 17 were seen (TW) Out of Banfield, B.C., however, on Sept. 18 almost 300 Sabine's Gulls were recorded, with 123 there a week later (MS, *fide* VG) Arctic Terns were seen Aug. 22 & Sept. 12 out of Westport with 113 birds the count on the latter date (TW). Arctic Terns were recorded in season coastally and in deepwater bays, maximum 50 at S.J.C.R. Aug. 13 (HN). Counts of 150 and 180 Caspian Terns were made at the Columbia R. mouth Aug. 13 & 28 (HN). Two Black Terns were seen at Iona I., Aug. 8-9 (DMa, *fide* BK), one at Whidbey I., Aug. 29 (EH), one was at Port Ludlow Oct. 7 (Est, *fide* PM), and one at Ocean Shores Oct. 23-Nov 6 (J & GMa, *fide* PM; G & WH).

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Strait of Georgia after Nov. 1 (m.ob.). Eight were at Yaquina Head Nov. 13 (RO, *fide* FR). Cassin's Auklets were found on all offshore trips with maxima being 342 from Westport Aug. 22 (TW), and 38 from Banfield Sept. 18 (MS, *fide* VG). A belated report of a **Horned Puffin** found June 25 at the base of Cape Lookout, Ore., was received (BL). Only 14 Tufted Puffins were recorded offshore from Westport Aug. 22, seven on Sept. 12, and one on Oct. 3 (TW); one at Victoria Aug. 15 (KT, *fide* VG).

PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS -- Thirteen Band-tailed Pigeons were still at Victoria Nov. 23 (LR, *fide* VG). It is highly doubtful that the single White-winged Dove found at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Aug. 28, got there naturally (DF, HN). Single Mourning Doves were at Campbell R., where the species rarely occurs, Sept. 12 & Nov. 13 (HT). A Snowy Owl was at Boundary Bay Nov. 20 (TW). Pygmy Owls seem to have been much more in evidence this fall than normal, with 28 reports. Single Burrowing Owls were found at S.J.C.R. Nov. 27 (WHa, HN), at Yaquina Bay Oct. 18 (RO, *fide* FR), s. of Corvallis Sept. 20 (MB, *fide* FR), at Eugene from Oct. 24 on, and at Medford from late September to Nov. 30 (OS). A Barred Owl was heard

Oct 4 at Colonial Creek Campground in N. Cascades N.P., Wash (DP). A Spotted Owl was seen through August in the Longmire area of Mt. Rainier N.P. (JAd *et al.*, *fide* PM); a family was at Blewett Pass w. of Wenatchee, Wash., Aug. 20 (T & TWe, *fide* PM). A Great Gray Owl was seen in Santiam Pass, Ore., Aug 29 (DDS *et al.*). A Long-eared Owl was found at Eugene Oct 30 (LN *et al.*), and another at Finley N.W.R., Nov. 26 (MB, GG, *fide* FR) and Nov. 27 (JBC). Ten Saw-whet Owls were recorded from Saanich and around Puget Sound s. to Eugene; of these, three were seen Oct. 23 on Oregon's Cascade Head (LN). A Poor-will was picked up dead from U.S. I-5 at Burlington, Wash, Sept. 16 (*fide* TW). On Sept. 1 there were 120 Com. Nighthawks at Salt Spring I. (VG). Hundreds of Black Swifts were flying low over U.S. 101 near Sequim, Wash., Sept. 6 (*fide* DS) On Aug. 7 there were 100 Black Swifts at Duncan (JCo), and on Sept. 15 there were a like number at Sooke (B & JM, *fide* VG) One thousand Vaux's Swifts were at Corvallis Sept. 17 (DM) and "huge numbers" in Portland the last week of September (DDS). There were 200 at Sumas, Vancouver I., Sept. 19 (J & TI, *fide* VG), and 100 at Davis L. Ore., Sept. 11 (SG, *fide* LM) Anna's Hummingbirds were mostly in s. Vancouver I.; 3-5 were at Campbell R. after Nov. 9 (HT); two were at Duncan Nov. 28-30 (JCo), and six were at Saanich all fall (VG *et al.*). Others were noted at Seattle Oct. 23 (DHA, *fide* PM), at Corvallis Oct. 25 (FR), and at Brookings, Ore., Aug. 28 (SS). A male Allen's Hummingbird was engaging in courtship flight at L. Oswego, Ore., Aug 24 (I & CC). After mid-October, Lewis' Woodpeckers were prominent in the Medford area, with 38 birds seen near White City Nov. 11 (OS), 30 were at Shady Cove, Ore., Sept. 3 (EP *et al.*). A couple of Williamson's Sapsuckers were observed at Davis L., Ore., Sept. 4 (SG *fide* LM). Single Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were near Blewett Pass, w. of Wenatchee, Sept. 25 (PC & PMa, *fide* PM), and e. of Ashland, Ore., Nov. 27 (OS). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were found at Harts Pass Aug. 10-12 (G & WH), on the n.w. slope of Mt. Baker Nov. 14 (JD, *fide* TW), e of Rose L. also in the n. Cascades Oct. 5 (DP), and in Manning P P Oct. 12 (VG). Three E. Kingbirds were seen at Everett, Wash., Aug. 15 (EH) Four Tropical Kingbirds were found in the Region this fall, the first was at Harris Beach S.P., n. of Brookings, Ore., Oct. 9-10 (SS); the second was at Torino on Vancouver I. Oct. 11 (AD, *fide* VG), the third was at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, Oct. 20-21 (DMa,

MS *et al.*, *fide* BK), and the fourth was at Ocean Shores, Nov 6-16 (DHa, J & GMa, mobs *fide* PM) A W. Kingbird was found at Malcolm I., B.C., Sept. 7 (FGH, *fide* VG).

S.A.

On Sept. 22 at Reifel Sanctuary in the Fraser R. delta, s. of Vancouver, Vic Goodwill watched a **Wied's Crested Flycatcher** for hours from as close as 30 ft. and obtained motion pictures; among field marks noted was the "large all-black bill, too stout for Ash-throated Fly-catcher." The bird was seen again Sept. 25 by others, including Brian Kautesk. The bird was seen again at Sea I., about 10 mi. to the N on Oct. 12, where it was seen by many observers and photographed: last

On Oct. 9 an Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered at Ocean Shores (DL, *fide* PM); one was also seen at Fern Ridge Res. Aug. 29 (SG, *fide* LM). Black Phoebe's were reported from Grants Pass and one was at Brookings Sept. 18 & Oct. 10 (SS)

LARKS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Forty Skylarks were found at Sidney, B.C., Nov. 27 (VG, RS). One or two Bank Swallows were seen at Cowichan Bay Aug. 23, at Saanich Aug 26, and at Victoria Sept. 5 (VG *et al.*). A late Rough-winged Swallow was noted near Banks, Ore., Nov. 13 (TC). Throughout November four Blue Jays frequented a park at Fort Vancouver, Wash., (AA *et al.*); one was seen in N. Saanich Oct. 27 (ARD, *fide* VG) and one was at feeders in Duncan Nov. 23-29 (JC) On Sept. 23 there were 23 Com. Ravens at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., (MS, *fide* VG). Seven Clark's Nutcrackers were on Onion Mt., w. of Grants Pass, Oct. 13 (SS), and 48 were seen 25 mi e of Sweet Home, Ore., Sept. 24 (E & EE, *fide* FR). A Mountain Chickadee was found at Sauvie I. Oct. 30 (TC *et al.*). Several Boreal Chickadees were at Harts Pass in the N. Cascades Aug 10-12 (G & WH). Chestnut-backed Chickadees were abundant in stunted lodgepole pine on the s.w. side of Mt. St. Helens in s Washington, in November (DDS). A White-breasted Nuthatch was discovered at Merrill L. 14 mi. w. of Campbell R. Aug

10 (RWC *et al.*, *fide* VG). A Mockingbird was seen July 28 and Aug 1 at Mitlenatch I., B.C., (RB, *fide* VG), and another was at Pacific City, Ore., Oct. 9 (FS). Fourteen W. Bluebirds were observed at Tugwell L., s. Vancouver I., Aug. 21 (VG, RS), and a family group was at Issaquah, Wash., Aug. 8 (JS, *fide* PM) Water Pipits were seen at numerous lowland localities after mid-September; 285 were at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, Oct. 4 (RR, *fide* VG). Flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were seen at five places in the n. Cascades in October; one was at Harts Pass Aug. 11 (G & WH) and flocks were at Washington Pass Aug 31; one was at Bellingham Oct. 1, and a small flock was at nearby Lummi Flats Nov. 8 (JD, *fide* TW). The first N. Shrike of the season appeared at Saanich Sept. 28 (MG, LR). A Red-eyed Vireo was at Campbell R. during August (HT), one was at Saanich Aug. 14 (VG, RS), and one was found at Stanley Park Aug. 28 (BK). A Tennessee Warbler was at Crescent Beach, Surrey, B.C., Sept. 21 (AG, GR, *fide* VG). A male Nashville Warbler was still at Saanich Nov. 15 (V & MG). Two Yellow Warblers at Saanich Oct. 5, one there Oct. 11 (VG *et al.*), and single birds at the Skagit Flats Oct. 10 (DP), and at Tou Velle Park on the Rogue R. Oct. 16 (OS) all were late. A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen along the Applegate R., in s.w. Oregon, Nov 13 (SS); 20-30 remained in Medford the first half of October (JH). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen s. of Davis L. Aug 13 (CS, *fide* LM) and again Aug. 22 (DG, *fide* LM); it represented the second record for w. Oregon. Immature **Blackpoll Warblers** were seen singly at Pitt Meadows Sept. 9 (R & WR, *fide* VG) and at Ocean Shores Sept 20 (DHy); the latter was apparently Wash-

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ington's first, and was carefully documented. Palm Warblers were seen on four occasions at Ocean Shores Sept. 16-Nov. 15 (m.ob.); this species was recorded also at Grayland, Wash., Sept. 27 (*fide* PM), and at three places on the Oregon coast Sept. 18-Oct. 10. A male Am. Redstart was s. of Davis L., Ore., Aug. 13 (CS, *fide* LM); a female was seen on Pine I., Queen Charlotte Sound, B.C., Sept. 1 (DPC, *fide* VG).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH LONGSPURS -- Up to four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Seattle Aug. 16 (EH) and Sept. 11 – 14 (*fide* PM); single birds occurred at Iona I. Aug. 24 (BH-T), at Malcolm I., and at Reifel Sanctuary Sept. 4 & 22 respectively (*fide* VG). A female N. Oriole was at Victoria Nov. 16 (RWC, VG, MS). A Rusty Blackbird was discovered at Saanich Oct. 27 (V & MG), another was seen there on Nov. 13 (RF, *fide* VG), and one was at Torino, B.C., Oct. 1 (AD, *fide* VG). On Oct. 24 seven Pine Grosbeaks were found w. of Leavenworth, Wash. (FK, *fide* PM); eight were seen at Manning P.P., Oct. 12 (VG). About 60 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were discovered at Bingen, Wash., Nov. 27 (DDS); four were at Victoria Oct. 23 (VG *et al.*), and two were on Mt. Provost, Vancouver I., Oct. 29 (JCo). A Com. Redpoll was seen at Dungeness Nov. 27 (DS). Two L. Goldfinches were seen at Salem Nov. 6; one was there Nov. 19 (FS); three were at Corvallis in November (LN). Hundreds of Red Crossbills in Santiam Pass Aug. 29 (DDS), but elsewhere only small numbers were noted. On Sept. 6 an ad. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was closely studied in Stanley Park; full details were reported (BK). A Lark Sparrow was seen at Banfield, B.C., Aug. 16 (RWC *et al.*, *fide* VG); another occurred at Medford Oct. 16 (OS). Single Tree Sparrows were found at Pitt R. Sept. 26 (RR, *fide* VG), at N. Saanich Nov. 28-29 (V & MG, JBT), and at Kent Valley, Wash., Nov. 7 (JW, *fide* PM). A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, meticulously described, was found at the Skagit Game Range near Mount Vernon. Wash., Nov. 8 (AR, courtesy PM); this is evidently the second w. Washington record, the first at the same place 1½ years earlier. A Harris' Sparrow was found at Kent Valley, Wash., Nov. 7 (JW, *fide* PM). Lapland Longspurs arrived after mid-September in n. Washington and at a few coastal points s. to Yaquina Bay; up to 45 were at Leadbetter Pt. (JBC) and at Ocean Shores (BH-T) during mid-October. A **Smith's Longspur** was discovered at Yaquina Head near Newport Oct. 17, by Darrel Faxon; he made careful observations and a written description, supported by color photographs (by Paul Reed); on Oct. 18 (RBa & RO) saw the bird. It constitutes the first recorded occurrence for Oregon, to our knowledge. On Oct. 25 Adrian Dorst found a bird on Cortes I. which he concluded was a **Smith's Longspur**, written description furnished (courtesy VG); his identification appears accurate. The only reported Snow Bunting was at Victoria Nov. 6 (IBS, *fide* VG).

OBSERVERS -- Julie Adam (JAd), John Annear (JAn), Judy Armstrong, Art Arp, Range Bayer (RBa), Blair Bernson (BBa), John Biewener, Mike Booty, Kathy Bowles, Bob Buchanan (BBu), Rob Butler, R. Wayne Campbell, Mike Carmody, D. P. Chapman, Phil Cheney, Gwen Colby, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, Tom Crabtree, Irving & Clarabelle Curran, John B. Crowell, Jr., A. R. Davidson, Dave DeSante (DDS), Adrian Dorst, Jim Duemmel, Elzy & Elsie Eltzroth, Bob & Pat Evans, Darrell Faxon, Ralph Fryer, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Dan Gleason, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Steve Gordon, Al Grass, Karl Gruebel, Warren Hall (WHo), Dudley & Jan Harrington (D & JHa), Bill Harrington-Tweit, F. Gordon Hart, Bob Hay (BHy), Dave Hayward (DHy), Gene Herb (GHe), Joseph Hicks, John Hoffman (JHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, A. C. Hollingworth, Eugene Hunn, John & Theresa Ireland, Brian Kautesk, Mark Koninendyke, Fay Krause, Dick Lindstrom, Tom Lund, Bruce Lyon, Don MacDonald, Phyllis Madden (PMa), Jim & Gloria Maender (J & GMa), Dave Mark (DMA), Phil Mattocks, Merle McGraw, Larry McQueen, B. & J. Micklejohn, M. Vincent Mowbray, Harry Nehls, Mike Newton, Lars Norgren, Robert Olson, Dennis Paulson, Michael Perrone, Roy Phillips, Eleanor Pugh, Bill Roe, Fred Ramsey, Alan Richards, Leila Roberts, Robin & Wilma Robinson, Mike Rodway, Glen Ryder, Ron Satterfield, Bill Savale, Emile Schoffelin, Floyd Schrock, Michael & Theresa Shepard, Doris Smith, Jan Smith, Eleanor Stopps (ESt), Steve Summers, Colleen Sweeney, Otis Swisher, J. B. Tatum, Keith Taylor, Howard Telosky, William Thackaberry, Ron Toonen, Gus Van Vliet, Terry Wahl, Doug Weehsler, Tom & Todd Weir (T & TWe), John Wingfield.

The Winter Season, 1976-77

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN --
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/Thomas H. Rogers

The region's winter was almost uniformly mild and close to the driest on record. The valleys and slopes well up into the mountains, were snow free practically all winter. However, most reporters described a dearth of bird life and speculated that lack of snow made food easy to get, keeping birds widely dispersed and allowing northern birds, particularly the finches, to remain at higher latitudes and in the mountains. Dozens of semi-hardy species lingered late or wintered, and early spring arrivals were many. Lakes and reservoirs were low and numerous ponds and marshes completely dry.

LOONS, GREBES -- On Swan L., in Lake Co., Mont. single Com. Loons lingered until Dec. 6 and were on Flathead L., Jan. 29 & Feb. 1 (F.A.S.). They wintered in small numbers on Okanagan L. B.C. A Red-necked Grebe was at Yellow Bay, Flathead L., Dec. 16 & Jan. 3 (DS). Single Horned Grebes apparently wintered on Flathead L. and possibly on Swan and Bitterroot Lakes in n.w. Montana (F.A.S.) and on Coeur d' Alene L., Ida. (SGS). An Eared Grebe stayed as late as Dec. 18 near Somers, Mont. (F.A.S.), and Hayden L, Ida. had two Dec. 12 (SGS).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS -- A White Pelican, probably sick, and a Double-crested Cormorant were at Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., Jan. 5 (WHS). A Great Egret wintered in the farmlands near Lowden, Wash. (DL). The Nampa, Ida., area

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had Black-crowned Night-Herons up to Dec. 27 (G.E.A.S.) and one was at Rupert Jan. 18 (WHS). An Am. Bittern at Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Wash., Feb. 21 was extremely early (EH).

WATERFOWL -- The mid-winter tri-state Trumpeter Swan survey around Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Mont., Feb. 9 revealed 839 adults and 178 cygnets, up 40%

over last winter. In s.e. Idaho 26 Trumpeters appeared wearing orange neck collars that had been attached in 1976 at Grande Prairie, Alta. Two Trumpeters were on Vaseux L., s. of Penticton, B.C., Jan. 29 (SRC). At Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. the birds peaked at 30 in early December. Freezing of lakes at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., in January caused Trumpeter numbers to drop to 17 and Canada Geese numbers to 546. However, McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. had nearly 800 Canadas in late January, increasing to over 40,000 in February. Approximately 500 were on Sprague L near Sprague, Wash., Feb. 27 and Toppenish N.W.R. Wash. had a similar number Feb. 15. The Nampa area had 6700 Dec. 5 and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., peaked at 4200 in February A White-fronted Goose was believed to have wintered at Richland, Wash. (REW). The Idaho Fish and Game Dept. counted 48,000 ducks and 14,000 Canada Geese on Am. Fall Res. s. Ida. Jan. 10-11. Peak duck numbers at Columbia N.W.R. were 53,000 in December, down from 94,000 a year ago but Mallards reached 57,000 on the Columbia R. in McNary N.W.R., Jan. 25 and Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, had over 402,000 of this species. At Malheur N.W.R. the January freeze drove most ducks out. Kootenai N.W.R., Bonnets Ferry, Ida. had 18-24,000 Mallards compared to the normal winter population of 50! A Black Duck appeared at Livingston, Mont. in January (HC, BFi). A Eur. Wigeon was observed on several dates at Kennewick, Wash., Dec. 19-Feb. 12 (CCo, REW). A few N. Shovelers lingered in the Nampa area until Dec. 27 and Lewiston, Ida. had five Jan. 8. Toppenish Creek had two in late December. Wood Duck numbers at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa reached 200 in January, and about eight wintered near Vernon, B.C. Okanagan Landing near Vernon, B C had an Oldsquaw Jan. 15 and a d Harlequin Duck was on the Okanagan R., s. of Vaseux L., Dec. 31 (SRC). A male Surf Scorer on Swan L. near Vernon Dec. 26 was most unusual (JG). A few Ruddy Ducks appeared on the Clearwater R., near Lewiston and small numbers lingered on Okanagan L. up to mid-January. Rupert reported one Jan. 21. Two Red-breasted Mergansers appeared at Salmon, Ida. Dec. 31 (HBR).

VULTURES, HAWKS -- Two Turkey Vultures near Madras, Ore, Jan. 19 were remarkably early (CS) and the Ellensburg, Wash area had two Feb. 23, and four

the next day (Y.A.S.). At least 14 widely scattered reports of Goshawk sightings were received. A few localities recorded Cooper's Hawk. In s.e. Washington, mostly around Toppenish N.W.R., 42 days' observing yielded 14 sightings (EH) and the birds regularly picked off songbirds at feeders in Missoula, Mont (SF). A dark-phase Swainson's Hawk was carefully observed Dec. 18 near Wenatchee, Wash. (N.C.A.S.), and one was reported at Wenas L., Feb. 26 (Y A.S.). Rough-legged Hawk numbers were low in most localities but appeared normal at Salmon, Ida. and "hundreds" were reported in the Rupert, Ida. area (WHS). Ferruginous Hawks made remarkable winter appearances in five localities: one w of Blackfoot, Ida. Dec. 16 (CHT); in the Rupert, Ida., area (WHS); at Tumalo, Ore., Jan. 30 (JJ); one near Sheridan, Mont, Jan. 28 (TSB, CSu), and one in Helena (Christmas Bird Count) Bureau of Land Management Bald Eagle counts for Wolf Lodge Bay, Coeur d' Alene L. showed a rise in numbers from seven Dec. 3 to a peak of 73 (67 ad., six imm.), Dec. 29, then a drop to seven Feb. 23 (JLi). The mid-winter U.S.F. & W.S. census from Columbia Falls to Polson and Ninepipe N.W.R., Pablo and w. to Thompson Falls in n.w. Montana found only 16, "down significantly" (GH). High count in the Pocatello, Ida area Feb. 5 was 38, about one-half of which were immatures. This is about one-half the normal number (CHT). Single Gyrfalcons were sighted in two localities in e. Washington. Southern Idaho seemed to have good numbers of Prairie Falcons but reports elsewhere were rather sparse. Only four Peregrine Falcon sightings came in, all (but one in Oregon), from British Columbia. Single Merlins were sighted at 16 localities scattered over the region. American Kestrels wintered in large numbers in s. Idaho and sparingly at several other localities.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- The mild, almost snowless winter apparently made it easy for this group. Two Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen in the Flathead Valley near Somers, Mont, Feb. 2, where the species apparently is scarce (F.A.S.). The only other report was from Idaho: 12 at Nampa. Sage Grouse were reported at Rupert, Ida. and s. of Creston, Wash. Up to 30 Mountain Quail appeared in the Nampa area (G.E.A.S.) The Turkey population on Bozeman Pass, e. of Bozeman, Mont. was persisting. The only other record was of a male heard 5 mi n.e. of Lyle, Wash. (EH).

CRANES THROUGH COOTS -- Two Sandhill Cranes spent February in a field n.e. of Corvallis, Mont. (RS), and the species returned to Malheur N.W.R. by Feb. 13, eight days earlier than last year. The Nampa area had a Virginia Rail Dec. 30 (G.E.A.S.), one was heard at Toppenish N.W.R., Dec. 21 (EH), and one was at a pond near Toppenish, Wash., Feb. 15 (ZB). Several Sofas were seen during late December and early January at Salmon, Ida. (HBR). Wintering Am. Coot numbers at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. were less than one-third of what they were last winter.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS -- In Idaho three Spotted Sandpipers persisted until Dec. 18 at Nampa (G.E. A. S.) and one was still at Salmon Jan. 16 (HBR)! A Greater Yellowlegs lingered at Nampa until Jan. 18 (G.E.A.S.) and one was found Dec. 25 near Springfield, Ida. (CHT). A Least Sandpiper stayed at the Yakima R. delta near Richland Dec. 4-Feb. 23 and about 30 Dunlin also wintered there (REW). A second-year **Glaucous Gull** was at the Coeur d' Alene city dump from at least Jan 29-Feb. 5 (BW, JA *et al.*) and an adult and two immatures were found on Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., Feb. 20 (SH, DP, MP). An adult was flushed from a Columbia R. island at Richland Dec. 11 (EH & REW). A gull believed to be a second-year Iceland Gull was observed at length and photographed Jan 29-30 and Feb. 5 at the Coeur d' Alene dump (BW, WH, ER, JR, THR & RW). An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull was along the Columbia R., at Alderdale, Wash., Dec. 30 (EH) and one was carefully identified Dec. 28 at Summerland, B.C. The species is very rare at any season in interior British Columbia (DC & RC & SC). Two ad. Thayer's Gulls were identified at Coeur d' Alene dump Feb. 19-21 (DP, JA, BW).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS -- Two Mourning Doves were seen near Ennis, Mont., Dec. 20 (CVD, LM, Sma & RAH) and one was e. of Bozeman Jan. 29 (JK). Twelve were found along the Flathead R. near Kalispell, Mont., Jan. 17 (BR) and Libby, Mont. had up to 27 (EE & RE). Twenty-five were still at Rupert at Christmas (WHS) and Nampa also had large numbers then (G.E.A.S.). Barn Owls were sighted at Lewiston, Rupert and Nampa, Ida., at Asotin, Walla Walla and

Toppenish N W R, Wash., and at Umatilla, Ore. A Screech Owl at Sheridan, Mont in mid-January was noteworthy (JVB & TSB). A few Snowy Owls appeared in e. Washington from Spokane to Davenport. The Okanagan Valley of British Columbia had only two records, one at Vernon Dec. 30 (JTF) and one at Tranquille Jan. 2 (JAn). One at Bozeman Dec. 22-Jan. 4 was more unusual (HH, SCo, JF), Feb. 6 one appeared 25 mi. s.e. of Fortine, Mont. (WW); and one spent December and January in Pleasant Valley, 35 mi w of

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Kalispell, Mont. (BF). Only Canada reported the Hawk Owl; one at Edgewater n. of Radium Hot Springs, B.C., Feb. 21 (FK), one e. of Skookumchuck, B.C. (*vide* MVW), and one in Turner Valley in the mountains w. of Calgary. Alta. (MRL). The mild winter found several Burrowing Owls at Toppenish N.W.R. where they stayed in holes in the banks of Marian Drain, the main irrigation drain there, or lived in small pipes emptying into it (EH, Y.A.S.). Two were at Rupert until Christmas (WHS) and one stayed at Pocatello until at least Dec. 18 (CHT). Besides four reports of Barred Owls from s. British Columbia one was noted four mi. e. of Pullman, Wash., Nov. 26-Dec. 17 (JWW) and one was sighted in Glacier N.P., Mont. (JDe, CM, NP, RT). The only Great Gray Owl reported was one perched on a telephone pole along the highway w. of Kalispell, Mont., Dec. 2 (BF). Short-eared Owls appeared scarce or rare in most localities. However, Toppenish N.W.R. had perhaps six (EH), and a small grassland near Vernon, B.C. had about eight wintering (JG). A single of the rarely observed **Boreal Owl** was photographed near Ross L., Yoho N.P., B.C., Dec. 8 (DHo) and another was observed from 15 ft. in daylight in the Chumstick Valley n. of Leavenworth, Wash, Jan. 6 (LG *et al.*). The only Saw-whet Owls were one at Orondo, Wash., Jan. 4 (PC & HO) and one freshly dead in a barn m West Richland, Wash., Jan. 26 or 27 (JD).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- One male and one female Anna's Hummingbirds were at a Yakima feeder Dec. 4 (CSL) and the species was reported again there Feb. 13 (Y.A.S.). One in West

Wenatchee Jan. 5 was probably of this species (LG). More surprising was an imm. male at a Spokane feeder from Jan 10 (JA, JR *et al.*) for that city's second record—the first in winter. An ad. female **Anna's Hummingbird** at a Lewiston feeder Nov. 20-Dec. 17 was Idaho's first (EMc, JWW, JWo). In British Columbia an adult and an immature were at Kelowna at least to December's end (RY) and two imm. were at Penticton Jan. 21 (SRC). A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was seen in the Nampa area Dec. 30 (SRu). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker stayed in Rupert until Feb. 4 (WHS). Belatedly reported were two White-headed Woodpeckers near Lakeside, Mont., Oct. 26 (EGR). A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was observed at Bitterroot L, Mont., Dec. 15 (BF) and four sightings were made in the Yoho N.P., Nicholson area (RRH). About 100 Lewis' Woodpeckers wintered at Ft. Simcoe S.P., Yakima Co., Wash. (EH). Say's Phoebe apparently wintered for the first time on record at Penticton; two were there Dec. 27-28 and Feb. 18 & 23 (SRC). One was found near Wenatchee Jan. 24 (PC) and Toppenish N.W.R. had one Dec. 18 & Jan. 3 (EH). The species had returned to Malheur N.W.R., Feb. 15 (*cf* Mar. 9, 1976) and one was near Genesee, Ida. Feb. 17 (DLH) and one or two were in the Lewiston-Clarkston area Feb. 26-27 (EMc). Ten Violet-green Swallows over the Spokane R. below Spokane (WH) and along the Columbia R., w. of Quincy, Wash. (N.C.A.S.) both Feb. 26 were the earliest ever. Two of this species and one Tree Swallow along the Columbia R. at Beverly Feb. 20 were the earliest ever for e Washington by eight days (SH, DP, MP). Richland had four or five over the Yakima R. on the unusually early date of Feb 26 (EM).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS -- The Blue Jay invasion was impressive. The species was noted in the Bozeman area Dec. 26 (BRu, JRu, SR), at nearby Belgrade Feb. 12-13, and five regularly October through February in Sheridan, Mont. (JVB, TSB). Another sizable group was reported to have wintered in Twin Bridges, Mont. One stayed through the winter in Hamilton, Mont., and others in the same valley at Lick Creek Campground (*vide* RS). The Nampa, Ida., area reported a counted high of 18 on Feb. 21, but at least twice that number were believed present (JH) and the birds appeared consistently at Lewiston (DK) Six were seen 7 mi. e. of Moscow, Ida., Dec. 15 and one at the same location Dec. 20 & Jan. 3 (DLH). The Pullman-Moscow CBC

had 24. In British Columbia one was at Nicholson Feb 20 (RRH), singles were at two feeders regularly in Kimberley (PM, MVW), three wintered at Revelstoke (JW), and Nelson had three Dec. 26 (AH, DH, VR). Blue Jays also appeared at Walla Walla and remained to the end of February (SM) and one was seen m Richland periodically Nov. 27-Jan. 22 (LL, REW). At Spokane up to ten frequented a feeder quite regularly at the w. base of Browne Mt. from fall through the winter period (JR, THR *et al.*). One in Helena overwintered and was frequently seen at a feeder (AS). A Com. Crow in Golden, B.C., Feb. 13, one in Field, B.C., Feb. 22 and a few at Brisco, B.C., Feb. 15, if overwintering, would have been the first recorded (RRH). Mountain areas reported moderate numbers of Clark's Nutcrackers, 25 was the largest group, at Browne Mt., Feb. 12. A Mountain Chickadee at Richland Jan. 23 was very unusual (EH). Twelve Com. Bushtits were positively identified in the Blue Mts. just e. of Walla Walla Dec. 18 (MC, KK, JWo). The only others were ten at Alderdale, Wash., Dec. 1 (EH). A Pygmy Nuthatch at Sheridan, Mont., Jan 4 was the first ever for that area (JVB, TSB). A Winter Wren at Nicholson, B.C., Feb. 26 was extremely early. It is believed that the species has never wintered there (RRH). A Bewick's Wren wintered one mi. n. of Asotin, Wash. and made the second record for that area (JWW). The species wintered at Walla Walla in numbers somewhat lower than seen in summer (KK). A Rock Wren was heard along Alder Creek in e. Klickitat Co, Wash., Dec. 30 & Mar. 4 (EH) and one wintered at Naramata, B.C. where winter records are few (JL). One was at Asotin, Wash., Jan. 25 (JWW).

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES -- American Robins wintered sparingly, in contrast to last winter's hordes. A Varied Thrush appeared near Arrow Rock Res., e. of Boise, Feb 18 (EC). The only Hermit Thrush sightings were in February, one in Richland, Wash. (REW) and one in Hermiston, Ore. (CCo) Three Mountain Bluebirds at Minidoka N.W.R., Feb. 16 were the earliest on record there (WHS) and also were the earliest regionally. Golden-crowned Kinglets, normally rare in winter m the Yoho-Nicholson area, were seen a number of times during the period (RRH), presumably held by mild conditions. Water Pipits were feeding along the edge of the ice on the Yakima R at Richland Jan. 10-14 (EM). Five at Sunriver, Ore. were also

unusual (JB). The Nampa area had rather large numbers in December (G.E.A.S.). The Bozeman and Gardiner, Mont areas seemed to have the biggest concentration of Bohemian Waxwings; some other areas had average or lower numbers, likely related to rather large numbers in the Yoho-Golden-upper Columbia R. Valley. Ten Cedar Waxwings were still at Nicholson, B.C., Dec. 24 (*fide* FK). In addition to the usual N. Shrikes, several reports of wintering Loggerhead Shrikes came in. One was at Asotin, Wash., Dec. 18-Jan. 25 for that area's first winter record (JWW). Toppenish N.W.R. had one Dec. 9 & 21 and Alderdale, Wash. had two Jan. 4 (EH). Columbia N.W.R. reported one Jan. 18 (DB). In Idaho two were reported at Salmon, Dec. 31 (HBR) and at Nampa there were two Dec. 18 and one Feb. 21 (G.E.A.S.).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — Orange-crowned Warblers overwintered at Richland in small numbers (EM, EMi) and Hermiston, Ore. had one Jan. 10 (CCo). One or two were at Nampa on three dates Dec. 17-Jan. 1, and one found dead was preserved as a specimen (BS). Most surprising was a Nashville Warbler at a Pullman feeder on Dec. 23, for e. Washington's first winter record (IOB & JWW). A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler at Vernon, Dec. 23 was the first in winter there (PS). Two N. Waterthrushes on the Pocatello CBC were remarkable. Western Meadowlarks were two weeks early at Kimberley, B.C. (MVW) and Feb. 19 was a very early date for Coeur d'Alene (SGS). Bozeman had one January record (PDS) and four were

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near Kalispell in mid-January (F.A.S.). Only Toppenish N.W.R. reported wintering Yellow-headed Blackbirds, two Dec. 7 and one Jan. 22 & 27 (EH). A late Rusty Blackbird was at Nicholson, B.C., Dec. 5-13 (FK), the only locality reporting the species. A Brewer's Blackbird was at Colton, Wash., Jan. 22 (OWW). Small numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds were regular with large flocks of Red-winged and Brewer's Blackbirds all winter at Toppenish N.W.R. (EH).

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeaks were unreported from e. Oregon, were very sparse or absent in e. Washington and the Okanagan of British Columbia but seemed more nearly normal elsewhere. However, moderate numbers were in the Golden, B.C. area and up to 60 frequented a feeder at Invermere, B.C. Supposedly, most of the birds stayed at higher altitudes or in the northerly parts of the region. One female Purple Finch was reported at Wiley City near Yakima Dec. 12 (EH). Wintering Cassin's Finches were practically nonexistent. Bozeman had its first winter record for the House Finch, with seven at a feeder in December and January (EHa, CH). Pine Grosbeaks went virtually unseen in the valleys. A few wintered in Bozeman and at Bigfork, a few were seen in the Yoho-Nicholson area and a few wintered at approximately 6000 ft. in Mt. Revelstoke N.P., B.C. (UW). Jim Grant strongly suspected an actual scarcity of the birds for he found none in the mountains at 4000-6000 ft. near Vernon. The only other locality reporting them was Bumping L. in the mountains w. of Yakima: one bird Dec. 14 (IL). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches seemed concentrated mostly in the Revelstoke-Glacier-Yoho N.P. area and in the Gardiner- Bozeman area. At Gardiner 2000+ were in one flock Jan. 18 (JQ). The same locality had 24 Black Rosy Finches Dec. 19 (JQ) and Pocatello had two Dec. 18 (CHT). Two Hoary Red polls were with Com. Redpolls at Nicholson Jan. 16-21 (FK, RRH). Practically all the Com. Redpolls appeared to have stayed in Canada; good numbers appeared around Mt. Revelstoke (JW) and Yoho N.P. (RRH). Pine Siskin reports were sparse; the birds may have wintered in northern and mountain areas for they appeared in Yoho N.P., Feb. 17 for that area's first winter record and increased in numbers all month (RRH). Twenty Am. Goldfinches at Revelstoke Jan. 1 supplied the first winter record in that area (UW). Red Crossbills apparently stayed in the mountains for the most part. Around Revelstoke they were abundant all winter at 3000-4000 ft. (UW). In the mountains around Wenatchee, Wash. the population was still high (PC). White-winged Crossbills were found mostly in the Yoho-Nicholson area and were singing and carrying nest material in Mt. Revelstoke N.P. at 4000 ft., Feb. 23 (JW). Otherwise the species was seen only at Pocatello, a single bird Dec. 18 (CHT).

SPARROWS -- Wintering Rufous-sided Towhees were exceedingly scarce or absent from most localities. The Yakima area seemed to have the most; a feeder near Moxee had six at a feeder all winter. Spokane recorded a very early one Feb. 23 (JR). A few Savannah Sparrows wintered at Walla Walla (KK) and one was found on Sunnyside Game Range near Yakima Jan. 16 (EH). Sage Sparrows were sighted on Yakima Indian Reservation and at Hanford Atomic Energy Res. in late February (ZB & EH). At least two Dark-eyed Juncos were at Golden through January and were not using feeders and two were at Invermere Feb. 8 (RRH). Four Tree Sparrows on Yakima Indian Reservation, Feb. 27 were considered noteworthy (Y.A.S.). Nampa had Chipping Sparrows as late as Dec. 27 (G.E.A.S.) and one was with White-crowned Sparrows at Toppenish N.W.R., Dec. 21 (EH). A few Harris' Sparrows wintered. Of special note were two near Kalispell Feb. 15 (BR) and one at a feeder in that city (LB). A White-crowned Sparrow was found along the Flathead R. near Kalispell Dec. 23 (BR). A few Golden-crowned Sparrows were wintering in the brushy foothills of Yakima and Klickitat Cos., Wash. and one showed up at Umatilla N.W.R., Ore., Feb. 27 (CCo). White-throated Sparrows were reported along Rattlesnake Creek at Missoula (AB). A few Fox Sparrows apparently wintered in the Yakima area; the Ahtanum area had three Dec. 9 (ZB), and Toppenish N.W.R. had singles Jan. 15 & 29 (EH). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were found at Toppenish N.W.R. Dec. 14 and Sunnyside Game Range Jan. 16 (EH). Only Rupert reported Lapland Longspurs, a few in late December (WHS). Apparently very few Snow Buntings made it below the Canadian border. Most of the sightings, involving very moderate numbers, were in the Glacier-Yoho N.P. area, with an additional sighting at Kelowna.

OBSERVERS CITED -- UA) James Acton, (JAn) Jerry Ansell, Arnold Bolle, Ladd Bjorneby, Jay Bowerman, Dave Brown, J.V. & T.S. Burns, I. O. Buss, Zelia Butler, Dick & Rob Cannings, (SC) Sid Cannings, (SRC) Steve R. Cannings, Helen Carlson, Erwin Carson, Phil Cheney, Mark Conwell, (CCo) Craig Corder, (SCo) Sharon Cotterell, C. V. Davis, (CD) Jeff Dawson, (JDe) Jerry DeSanto, Esther & Ray Enders, (BF) Barbara Fenner, John Fisher, (BFi) Bebe Fitzgerald, Flathead Audubon Society, Jack T. Fowle, Sidney Frissell, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Larry

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The Winter Season, 1976-77

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

Precipitation in the Pacific Northwest from November through February was at record low levels. Mid-January brought colder-than-normal temperatures to the Region for more than a week. A number of shorebird species were found at unprecedented dates and places, while certain expected winter resident predator species did not appear in the numbers they had in recent past years. Wandering finches were comparatively unrecorded. For a more complete overview of the Northern Pacific Coast Region's winter birdlife, reference to the Region's Christmas Bird Counts

(CBCs) should be made, as those records are, for the most part omitted from the season's summary which follows.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS--Six Yellow-billed Loons were found in the region during the report period; two from s.e. Vancouver I., two from Puget Sound, one from Ocean Shores, Wash., and one from Yaquina Bay, Oreg., the latter bird observed only Jan. 22. On Feb. 26 there were 1300 Arctic Loons at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., B.C. Red-throated Loons were little reported and deemed to be scarce by observers who commented. At Cordova Spit, Saanich, B.C., Feb. 5 there were 127 Red-necked Grebes (VG, RS). On Dec. 11, 60 Eared Grebes were counted at Whidbey I., Wash. (TW). On two separate cruises off the Washington and Oregon coasts, Jan. 7-13 and 29-30, Terry Wahl saw up to seven Black-footed Albatrosses on four different dates and single Laysan Albatrosses off the Washington coast Jan. 29 and off the Oregon coast Jan. 30. A few N. Fulmars were off Washington, Jan. 7-13, and large numbers were feeding off Cape Blanco, Oreg. Jan. 30 (TW); 23 birds of this species were seen on LaPerouse Bank, off Vancouver I. Feb. 13 (MS, *fide* VG). Four Sooty Shearwaters were off Grays Harbor, Wash., Jan. 11, and six were seen off the coast Jan. 29 (TW). On Jan. 11 a single Short-tailed Shearwater was observed out of Grays Harbor and another was found off s. Oregon Jan. 30 (TW). A dead Leach's Storm-Petrel was picked up on a golf course at Metchosin, Vancouver I., Feb. 22 (*fide* VG). Single Green Herons were found at various dates in January at Olympia (G & WH, BH-T), at Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co., Oreg. and at Tillamook (DDS). Numbers of Cattle Egrets in the region were at record levels, with six at Coos Bay, up to a dozen in Tillamook County, Oreg. single birds at Ocosta. Grays Harbor County, at Queets in Washington, and at Port Alberni, B.C.; a lone bird reached Cape Scott Light Station on the n.w. tip of Vancouver I., Dec. 28 (D & LW, *fide* VG)! At Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, Oreg., up to 20 Great Egrets were found in January and February, while concurrently a half dozen were resident at Tillamook Bay. Single Great Egrets also were noted at Leadbetter Pt., Willapa Bay, Wash., Dec. 18 (EP, *fide* PM) and at Bay Center a few miles across the bay. Feb. 4 (BH-T). A Snowy Egret was at Coos Bay Dec. 12 to the end of the report period (AC, BF *et al.*). More than a dozen Black-

crowned Night Herons remained in n. Portland all winter (HN); several birds also were seen in Seattle Dec. 26-Jan. 8 (*fide* PM), and one was observed at Salem, Oreg., Jan. 13 (TC). There were eight sightings of Am. Bitterns from w. Washington and n.w. Oregon Dec. 11-Feb. 15. A Least Bittern was seen repeatedly until mid-February at Medford (JH, MM).

WATERFOWL--Up to 85 Whistling Swans were noted in four localities on s. Vancouver I. at various times during the season (RWC, VE, *fide* VG, JCo); small flocks were reported wintering in the Columbia R. bottoms n.w. of Portland. Approximately 200 Whistling Swans were at the mouth of the Siuslaw R., near Florence, Oreg. Feb. 2 (CB), and twelve were at Nehalem, Oreg. Jan. 29 (JBC). Trumpeter Swans were more reported than ever before, with two reports of up to 120 individuals in January from Skagit County, Wash., being the peak concentrations; up to 60 were noted near Campbell R., B.C., Dec. 28 (*fide* HT) and 28 were recorded near Bamfield, B.C., Dec. 10 (KT, *fide* VG); other observations of up to five individuals were made from a number of localities on Vancouver I., from around Puget Sound, and from Sauvie I., on the Columbia R. 'Hundreds' of Brant were at Dungeness, Wash., Jan. 6 (KG, *fide* DS); 350 were at Tillamook Bay, Jan. 29 (JBC). An ad. Emperor Goose was seen at Ocean Shores, Wash. in flight but at close range Dec. 18 (DHn, *fide* PM). Single White-fronted Geese wintered at Grants Pass, Oreg., (S & PS) and at a spot 10 mi. n. of Gold Beach, Oreg. (WHO); one was seen at Dungeness in mid-January (KG, *fide* DS), another was at Ridgefield N.W.R., Feb. 5 (JBC *et al.*), up to three individuals were in the vicinity of Victoria, B.C., Jan. 26-Feb. 19 (VG, RS), and three were at Somenos L., Vancouver, I., Feb. 24 (JCo). Approximately 200 Snow Geese spent the winter at Sauvie I. and the nearby Ridgefield N.W.R.; two individuals were on Greater Chain I., n.e. of Victoria, Dec. 18 (RWC, *fide* VG).

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Gadwall were reported (aside from CBCs) at five different localities in w. Washington, s. Vancouver I., and n.w. Oregon in numbers of up to thirteen. Two

male Eurasian Green-winged Teals were observed at Somenos L. and at Cowichan Bay, Jan. 7-Feb. 10 (JCo *et al.*); one was found at Sauvie I., Dec. 16 (TC). The 180 Green-winged Teal at Duncan, B.C., Jan. 15 (RS, *fide* VG) was a high concentration for that locality and date. A male Blue-winged Teal was noted at Ridgefield N.W.R., Dec. 16 (TC, JG), and a male Cinnamon Teal was found at Sauvie I., Dec. 11 & 19 (JG *et al.*). European Wigeon were found in small numbers as far s. as Delake, Lincoln Co., Oreg., with an estimated 15 individuals wintering in the vicinity of Victoria. Northern Shovelers were found in numbers of up to 100 at several places in w. Oregon during January and February (HN *et al.*). A flock of 220 Wood Ducks at Grants Pass, Feb. 5 (SS) was noteworthy; 14 were found at Duncan, B.C., Feb. 15 (VG). Up to four Redheads were on a pond near Cape Meares, Tillamook Co., Oreg. after mid-January (JBC *et al.*), and up to five were found through the winter at Saanich, B.C. (VG *et al.*). Ring-necked Ducks were in good numbers at many favored localities on s. Vancouver I., in w. Washington, and in n. w. Oregon during the winter. In late December 1500 Barrow's Goldeneye were at Nanaimo, B.C. (JCo); 500 were at Olympia, Wash., Jan. 3 (*fide* G & WH). Up to 200 Oldsquaw spent the winter at Victoria (VG); there were 36 at Dungeness Bay, Jan. 6 (KG, *fide* DS), but otherwise a few were reported for Eld Inlet, in s. Puget Sound (BE, *fide* G & WH), and single birds were noted at Seattle Jan. 22 (DP, *fide* PM) and at Westport, Wash., Feb. 4 (TW). There were 170 Hooded Mergansers at Saanich Feb. 28, where 400 Com. Mergansers had been concentrated Jan. 16 (VG).

RAPTORS, CRANES, RAILS -- A lone Turkey Vulture was spotted at Medford, Oreg. Jan. 20 (MM, *fide* JH), another was at Seattle Jan. 22 (SP, *fide* PM), and two were seen the same day at Aurora, Oreg. (TC, JG). Nine White-tailed Kites wintered at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, Oreg. an adult of this species was found 9 mi. e. of Bandon, Oreg., Jan 22 (JCs). Goshawks were reported sighted four times at three localities, Sharp-shinned Hawks were noted at a score of places with an estimated 30 individuals involved, and Cooper's Hawks were found at about 15 places with up to 20 individuals involved, all exclusive of CBCs. Rough-legged Hawks were very locally common at times during the season, with seven on each date at Portland Int'l Airport, Dec.

1 (DF), at Willapa Bay, and Ilwaco, Wash., Feb. 4 (BH-T), and at Ridgefield N.W.R., Feb. 5 (JBC *et al.*). One or two Golden Eagles were seen on s. Vancouver I. on several dates, near Rockport, Skagit Co., Wash., in the Cascades, and at Medford, at one time or another during the report period. A Golden Eagle was picked up near dead, apparently from starvation, at L. Cowichan, Vancouver I., Jan. 2 weighing just three pounds; by Feb. 28 the bird was up to nine pounds and ready to be released (JCo). Up to 700 Bald Eagles were present at Seymour I., B.C., in mid- February (GP, *fide* HT), and 352 were reported at the mouth of the Harrison R., mainland British Columbia, Jan. 19 (RWC *et al.*, *fide* VG); the species was seen often on s. Vancouver I., in Skagit and Whatcom Cos., Wash., around Puget Sound, along the Columbia R. below Portland, and on the n w Oregon coast, adding up to the largest wintering numbers in a long time. A Marsh Hawk at Oyster R., Vancouver I., Jan. 3, is said to be the "first confirmed winter record for the Campbell R. area" (HT). Four Ospreys were seen in Washington and Oregon--one in December, the others in February. Reports of three Gyrfalcons were received, two from Washington and one from Oregon Single Prairie Falcons spent much of the winter at Sauvie I. near Corvallis, and n. of Medford. Surprisingly, one was seen on the coast at the mouth of the Pistol R., Curry Co., Oreg., Jan. 31 (WHo). About 20 Peregrines were recorded from a dozen different localities during the report period; the same statement summarizes the season's status for Merlins. On Dec 16 there were still two Sandhill Cranes at Ridgefield N.W.R., and 21 were observed at Sauvie I. nearby Dec. 19 (JG *et al.*). Virginia Rails were recorded up to six at a time in December, the most favored localities being Bellevue, Seattle, Vashon I., and Ocean Shores (*fide* PM), while on Cortes I., B.C., 14 birds were counted Dec. 13 (AD, *fide* VG). Single Sofas were reported from four different w. Washington locations up to mid-January.

SHOREBIRDS -- The 29 Semipalmated Plovers at Aberdeen, Wash., Feb. 19 (G & WH) were decidedly out of the ordinary. An Am. Golden Plover in full breeding plumage, seen initially at Tillamook Bay on the CBC, was still there Dec. 23 (DDS). Concentrations of 232 Black-bellied Plovers at Tillamook Bay, Jan. 23 (DF), and 275 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Jan. 29 (DF, HN) were unusual, as were 56 at Saanich, Jan. 5

(LR, *fide* VG). Up to five Whimbrels were seen one or more times during the winter season from Saanich, Victoria, Ocean Shores, Tillamook, and Yaquina Bay. A Wandering Tattler was well seen at Ocean Shores on the surprising date of Feb. 26 (DH, AR). Willets were present at favored places in the region in record numbers for any season; up to 24 were at North R., Willapa Bay, during mid- February (RE, BW, G & WH), 25 were at Yaquina Bay Jan 23 (TC), and ten were at Coos Bay for the CBC. Greater Yellowlegs, too, were present in surprising winter numbers, centered primarily in the s. Straits of Georgia and Puget Sound, the 34 at Victoria for the CBC being the top count, but 20 s. of Courtenay, B.C., Dec. 19, (*fide* HT) and the 15 at Sidney, B.C., Feb. 19 (RS, *fide* VG) also being noteworthy. There were five reports of Lesser Yellowlegs, involving single birds except for four at Ocean Shores, Dec. 19 on the Grays Harbor CBC. Twenty-two Red Knots were present at Coos Bay from late December-Jan. 13 (AC, SG). On Jan. 17 there were 66 Rock Sandpipers at Race Rocks near Victoria (MS *et al.*, *fide* VG). From Dec 9-25 five Short-billed Dowitchers were present at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I. (JCo *et al.*); a dozen birds of this species were found at Turner, near Salem, Oreg. Feb. 25 (TC). There were 45 Long-billed Dowitchers at Westport, Wash., Dec 18 (LB, BH-T); up to 17 individuals were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., and at five other locations on Puget Sound and the Strait of Georgia, mostly in February. Marbled Godwits also were present at some localities in surprising numbers, the 22 at Ocosta, near Westport, Wash., Dec 30 being the largest concentration (DP, *fide* PM); a dozen were at Willapa Bay, Feb. 13, (RE, BW) while other places where the species was noted were Tillamook and Coos Bay.

GULLS, ALCIDS, OWLS -- Nine Glaucous Gulls were seen at as many different localities from Campbell R., s. to Portland and Otter Rock, Lincoln Co., Oreg. at various times during the winter. Terry Wahl reports the Herring Gull to have been the predominant gull well offshore from Washington and Oregon during January. More than the usual scattered few wintering California and Ring-billed Gulls were present this winter in w. Oregon. On Dec. 4, 600 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. (MS, *fide* VG) with 73 in Hart Strait Dec. 23 (RWC *et al.*, *fide* VG). Blacklegged Kittiwakes were observed to be fairly well distributed

off the coast in January, with particular concentrations off s. Oregon at the end of the month (TW); 200 were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R, Feb 24 (MSm), while small

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numbers were recorded at six other localities, including two at Scoggins Valley Park, near Forest Grove, Oreg., Feb. 28 (*fide* HN). Large numbers of Corn. Murres were noted well offshore in January, particularly opposite Grays Harbor and Gold Beach, Oreg. (TW). Small numbers of Marbled Murrelets were in the Victoria area all winter (VG). Up to 375 Ancient Murrelets were in the vicinity of Victoria in the latter half of December (VG); 40 were observed at Saanich Feb. 5 (*fide* VG). Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets were found in scattered places over the edge of the continental shelf off Washington in January, and a few Cassin's Auklets were noted off s. Oregon at the end of the month (TW). On Jan. 9 a single Horned Puffin was identified 70 mi. off the Washington coast (TW). Small numbers of Tufted Puffins were observed there Jan. 7-13, and one was seen off s. Oregon Jan. 30 (TW). A few Snowy Owls were to be found in the region's most favored localities for this species--the flats from the Fraser R delta s. to Seattle--after mid-December; individuals were also recorded at Leadbetter Pt., Jan. 29, and at Coos Bay Dec 18 (AM, *fide* AC). There were eight records of Pygmy Owls from w. Whatcom and Skagit Cos., Wash., during the winter (TW). Single Burrowing Owls were found at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 24 & 26 (MSm, HN *et al.*) and at Ocean Shores Dec. 19 & 30 and Jan. 9 (DP, D & RWo, *fide* PM); the same individual could have been involved in all the sightings. Short-eared Owls were reported in small numbers from w. Washington during the winter, but several observers characterized those numbers as better than the last two years. One or two Saw-whet Owls were noted at Victoria and at Seattle on several dates in December and in early February.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH THRUSHES -- Anna's Hummingbirds were again recorded in surprising winter season numbers; six wintered at

Campbell River, B.C. feeders (HT *et al.*) three were at Maple Bay near Duncan (JCo), up to a half dozen or more were noted at one time or another in Victoria and in Saanich (VG *et al.*), and there were "good numbers" at Bellingham (TW); one was at Bellevue, Wash., for a month starting in mid-December, and single birds were recorded at Garibaldi, Oreg., Jan. 23 (DF) and at Portland Feb 8 (ES). The only report for Lewis' Woodpecker was of five individuals at Ashland, Oreg. Feb. 13 (DDS). Two Black Phoebees were found along the Applegate R., near Ruch, Jackson Co., Oreg., Feb. 13 & 19 (DDS, TC, JG, MSm). Sixty Skylarks were found at American Camp on San Juan Wash, Jan. 1-2 (LA, *fide* PM) and 50 were observed at Saanich Dec. 28 (VG *et al.*). There were 25 Horned Larks at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 24 (HN *et al.*); one was at Victoria Dec. 18-27 (VG *et al.*). Violet-green Swallows were seen at Sauvie I. and at Saanich, Feb. 19, while Tree Swallows were noted back in the region Jan. 29 when one was seen near Grants Pass (PS), with observations being made as far n. as Vancouver I. and n. Washington by mid- February. A Blue Jay appeared at Victoria Jan. 21-22 and Feb 5 (VG *et al.*); one was at Duncan through the winter, and one was seen at Finley N.W.R., in Oregon Feb. 26 (SJ) Two Blue Jays were seen repeatedly at L. Vancouver, w of Vancouver, Wash., and two others came regularly to feeders in Washougal, 25 mi. farther e. through much of the winter (AA, JG *et al.*). A Scrub Jay frequented a feeder at Chehalis, Wash., from late December through January (KB, S & ER, *fide* PM). Single Black-billed Magpies were seen at Seattle, Dec. 13, Feb. 8 & 21 (EG, GK, B & PEv, *fide* PM) and at Des Moines, Wash., Jan. 14 (KS, *fide* PM). Two Plain Titmice were found at Medford Feb 19 (JG *et al.*). Red-breasted Nuthatches were little remarked upon, and seem to have been present in relatively low numbers this winter. Twelve Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Sauvie I., Feb 19 (DF, DI) and 30-40 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 24 (MSm *et al.*) were evidently newly arrived, since such numbers had not been recorded earlier in the winter from these locations. A Mockingbird was at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, through December (WJ *fide* BK); one appeared m Portland in mid-January and remained for the rest of the winter (MK, HN *et al.*). Observers were generally agreed that Am Robins were virtually absent from w. Oregon in January and the first half of February, while Varied Thrushes were little noted anywhere in the region, with frequent comment upon their absence. Between 25-100 W. Bluebirds were

present Feb. 15-17 at Metchosin, Vancouver I. (JR, *fide* VG); the total of 49 on the Dallas, Oregon CBC was noteworthy. A Townsend's Solitaire at Tillamook Jan. 23 was the only one recorded for the report period (DF, DI).

WAXWINGS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- Cedar Waxwing flocks were noted in Olympia until mid-January, but thereafter were sporadic (BH-T); they were absent from Portland until February. In Port Angeles, Wash., 50 Cedar Waxwings were seen Jan. 19 (KG, *fide* DS). Northern Shrikes were present only in small numbers, being seen at Campbell R., Victoria, and Dungeness on repeated occasions, at Ridgefield N.W.R. and at Vancouver, Wash., twice, and once at Westham I., s. of Vancouver, B.C., and at Tillamook Up to a half million Starlings were roosting at Gresham, Oreg, Feb. 24 (DDS *et al.*). Single Orange-crowned Warblers were noted at Saanich Dec. 14, at Esquimalt Jan. 6, and at Victoria Feb. 13 (*fide* VG). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen at Hoquiam, Wash., Dec. 19 (EH, *fide* PM). On the same date five Townsend's Warbler was on Hornby I., s. of Courtenay, B.C. (WF, JL, *fide* HT); other individuals of this species were recorded in the Seattle area until Jan 4, and on a number of CBCs. A Palm Warbler, first found on the CBC, was subsequently seen Dec. 30, Jan. 6 & Feb 26 at Ocean Shores (*fide* PM); another was seen repeatedly at Scoggins Valley Park, near Forest Grove, Oreg. after being first found Jan. 15 (HN *et al.*). Two Wilson's Warblers were seen at Bellevue, Wash., Dec. 11 (TWe, *fide* PM) and two were also recorded on the Coos Bay CBC. Two W. Meadowlarks were observed at Campbell R., Dec 12, one was there Jan. 3 and again Feb. 24 for the "first confirmed winter records for the area" (HT); Feb. 12 there were 22 W. Meadowlarks at Saanich, where almost that many had been seen Feb. 9 (VG *et al.*). Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds was at Saanich, Dec. 4-5 (RS *et al.*, *fide* VG). A male Hooded Oriole came to hummingbird feeders at Depoe Bay, Oreg. Dec. 1-29 and was photographed repeatedly (RB, TC *et al.*). An adult male N. Oriole was seen at Central Pt, Oreg., Dec. 11; presumably the same bird re-appeared there, Feb. 2-20 (Lois Smith, *fide* SS). A male Rusty Blackbird was discovered at Duncan, B.C., Dec. 30 (VG). There were six sightings of one or two Brown-headed Cowbirds at Vancouver, Saanich,

Seattle and Olympia; ten individuals were at Ridgefield N.W.R., Jan. 30 (DDS).

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- Evening Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills were totally absent from much of the region this winter except for low numbers on s Vancouver I., and from Bellingham s. to Olympia. Purple Finches were scarce everywhere. February 1 at Paradise in Mt Rainier N.P., 18 Pine Grosbeaks were found (BH-T) Large numbers of Pine Siskins were reported only from Dungeness where they were present all winter (DS) A Lesser Goldfinch was recorded at Ridgefield N.W.R., Dec 16 (TC, DF, JG). Six Brown Towhees were counted at Medford Feb 19 (JG *et al.*) Up to four Savannah Sparrows

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were found at Ocean Shores Jan. 3 & 17 (G & WH) and at Seattle Feb. 11 (GUV *et al.*, *fide* PM). Lone Tree Sparrows were at Saanich Nov. 28-Jan. 22 (VG *et al.*) and at Coos Bay in late December (AC). Several Chipping Sparrows wintered at or near Medford (SS, JG *et al.*). The only report for Harris' Sparrow was one at Coos Bay in late December (AC). Single White-throated Sparrows turned up at Saanich Dec. 14-15 (RMG, V & MG *et al.*) at Ocean Shores Dec. 18 (LB, BH-T, *fide* PM), and at Fife near Tacoma Jan. 16 (DE, *fide* PM). Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded at five different localities at one time or another during the season. Up to 22 Lapland Longspurs were found on Greater Chain I., near Victoria Dec. 18-31 (RWC *et al.*, *fide* VG); eight were at Ocean Shores Feb. 26 (DH, AR, *fide* PM). Snow Buntings were said to be "very scarce" at Bellingham this winter; single birds were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Feb. 14 & 26 (MSm, HN *et al.*), and at Ocean Shores Feb. 26, but 21 were at Leadbetter Pt., Feb. 8 (DH).

OBSERVERS -- Linda Anchondo, Art Arp, Range Bayer, Laurence Binford, Charles Bruce, Ken Brunner, R. Wayne Campbell, Jim Collins (JCs), John Cromer (JCo), Alan Contreras, Tom Crabtree, John B. Crowell, Jr., Dave DeSante, Adrian Dorst, Ruby Egbert. Doris

Erickson, Val Eshleman, Betty Estes, Bob & Pat Evans (B & PEv), Ben Fawver, W. Fitzpatrick, David Fix, Eugene Gerzenstein, Jeff Gilligan, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Sayre Greenfield, Karl Greubel, Dudley P. Harrington (DHn), Bill Harrington-Tweit, Dave Hayward, Joseph Hicks, Wayne Hoffman (WHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Eugene Hunn, David Irons, Stewart Janes, Winnie Johnson, Brian Kautesk, Grace Kent, Mark Koninendyke, J. Lunum, R. Mackenzie-Grieve, Phil Mattocks, Alan McGie, Merle McGraw, Harry Nehls, G. Palmer, Dennis Paulson, Evelyn Peaslee, Stella Porubov, Sam & Erma Rich, Alan Richards, Leila Roberts, John Royle, Ron Satterfield, Emile Schoffelen, Kathleen Seekins, Michael Shepard, Doris Smith, Mark Smith (MSm), Steve & Priscilla Summers, Keith Taylor, Howard Telosky, Gus Van Vliet, Terry Wahl, Don & Linda Weeden, Tom Weir (TWe), Burr Williams, Doug & Robin Wood (D & RWo).

Spring Migration, 1977

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -- INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Effects of the continuing severe drought furnished the dominating theme for the story of bird activity during the region's spring. Water-associated birds were naturally affected most. Some species apparently moved northward with little pause or were diverted from their usual routes because of restricted water habitat. Both Egrets and Black-necked Stilts, normally rare, in most of the region made unprecedented appearances, presumably because drought to the south forced them northward. Scarcity of some groups, such as hummingbirds and warblers, may have been drought-related. Mild, very dry March and April resulted in many early arrivals, some extreme. May was about normal for both temperature and precipitation and in some cases slowed the trend toward early arrival; in other instances some very early appearances occurred during the month. The region entered the

summer with the poorest prospects on record for water and vegetative growth with rivers, lakes and reservoirs low, ponds dry and the snow pack in the mountains almost nonexistent. In a region of normally dry summers it was almost certain that the worst was yet to come.

LOONS, GREBES -- An Arctic Loon in breeding plumage showed up on Emerald L., Yoho N.P., B.C., May 19 for the first spring record for that part of the province (DH, TH). A Red-necked Grebe at Three Forks, Mont., Apr. 11 made only the third local spring record there (SC, RL). Eared Grebes, formerly thought to be rare in Yoho N. P., were recorded on at least seven dates May 12-23 (RRHI). About 2100 were

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on Stinking L., Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., through April and were on territory by mid-May. Western Grebes there numbered only 730 compared to last year's 1700.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- White Pelicans numbered 200 on Am. Falls Res., near Pocatello, Ida., May 28 and one at Salmon, Ida., May 9 was HR's first there. Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had 25 active Double-crested Cormorant nests, up from 13 last year (MB).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES-- A **Cattle Egret** arrived at Rupert, Ida. May 9 and by May 17 seven were there (WHS). At Malheur N.W.R., the species continued to increase since its first appearance in 1974 (LDN). One just s. of Dillon May 7 provided Montana's first record ever (LM). McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had two Great Egrets May 26 (EH, PM) and n Idaho had its first record of the species May 22 at Cougar Bay, Coeur d' Alene L. (SS, THR, BW). A few were at Malheur N W R., in late March (DMF) and Ninepipe N.W.R. had one Apr 9 (BC). A pond 3 mi w. of Clarkston, Wash., had one May 29 (JR) and Red

Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., hosted one Apr. 2 & May 2 (GS). The species was reported at Rupert May 2 (WHS). About 50 Snowy Egret nests were believed to be on an island in the Portneuf R., near Pocatello (CHT). One bird was in the Helena Valley, Mont., May 5 (RT) and the species was reported at Salmon, Ida. Apr. 24 (HBR). The Nampa, Ida., area reported four Apr. 26 (G.E.A.S.) and one was photographed along the Snake R., w. of Clarkston, May 1, having been first seen in late April (SM, JW). One was at Badger L., s of Cheney, Wash., May 20-27 (JA, WH, FO, BW). The old Black-crowned Night Heron breeding spot near St Andrews, Wash., was devoid of the birds, apparently the victims of cultivation and too much bird-watching. The species seemed in normal numbers elsewhere. A new colony was discovered on the Portneuf R., near the Trout farm; 60 young were banded there. Trout farm personnel were reported to be still shooting herons; efforts to stop it had limited success (CHT). A **Least Bittern** was found 3 mi s.w. of Malheur N. W.R. headquarters Apr. 29 (LDN). White-faced Ibises showed an increase over past years there; drought in Nevada was the suspected cause. Flocks of 90+ were regular there in May. Rupert, Ida. had 62 May 2 and Manhattan, Mont., the only other locality, had them Apr. 30.

WATERFOWL -- A Mute Swan was on a pond at the n. end of Okanagan L., B.C., Apr. 3 (JG). The peak of 11,118 Whistling Swans at Malheur was about 10% below last spring's and 50% below 1975's. Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., had a peak of 25 in early May. Three were on Windermere L., s. of Radium Hot Springs, B.C., May 11 (JWo). Canada Geese nesting pairs were down 17% on Malheur Refuge, and 31% in the refuge vicinity. Seven Cackling Geese appeared at Reardan, Wash., Mar. 5 (JA). Three White-fronted Geese stopped at Mondovi, 7 mi. n.e. of Davenport, Wash., Mar 19-Apr. 3 (JA) and one was at Tranquille just w. of Kamloops, B.C., Mar. 12 (JAn). Because of water lack, Snow Geese peaked at Malheur at about 18,000, about a third of last year's number. The Nampa, Ida., area had 1000 Apr. 6. A **Ross' Goose** was with a flock of 9000 Snow Geese at Crane, just e. of Malheur Ref., Mar. 23 (DMF). A shortage of refuge reports made most waterfowl estimates risky. Mallards at Turnbull peaked at 2000, two-thirds of last year's number. Pintails at Malheur reached 79,000

compared to 248,000 last year. "Huge flocks" tarried only a few days in stubble fields near Pocatello. At Turnbull they peaked at 1500, twice last year's number. Green-winged Teals at Malheur dropped to 3500 from 1976's 23,000. And Am. Wigeons dropped from 30,000 in 1976 to 5700, N. Shovelers from 17,000 to 4000; Canvasbacks from 4500 to 1500; and Ruddy Ducks from 21,500 to 19,000. Off the refuge duck pairs were down from 9060 pairs in 1976 to 1752. Surprisingly, Blue-winged Teals increased substantially at Malheur. Common Goldeneyes at 2000 at Turnbull were up nearly 100%. Unusual species records were: a **Black Duck** at Malheur May 5, the first since 1930 (DS, CT); single Eur. Wigeons at Kamloops Mar. 6 (JAn), at Reardan, Apr. 3, at Church Slough s. of Kalispell, Mont , Mar. 24 (LB), and at Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont , Mar. 31 (DB). A male Wood Duck May 19 was the first for Glacier N.P., B.C. (JWo), and Yoho N.P. had three sightings in April and May. Two male Greater Scaup at Malheur May 7-8 may have wintered (DD). The Harlequin Duck was reported only from the Entiat R., Chelan Co., Wash., Apr 6 and at Longview, Alta., May 8. Montana's first Black Scoter, an Ø bird, appeared at Ennis May 29 (PDS, SC).

VULTURES, HAWKS: -- Unusual was the sighting of a Turkey Vulture, Apr. 17 w. of Kalispell (SJ, WJ). Goshawk numbers were encouraging, with 11 individual sightings and "unusually high numbers along Boulder R., s. of Big Timber, Mont." (VY). Numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks seemed reasonably good. A scattering of Swainson's Hawks was reported from c. Washington, s. Idaho, and the Bozeman and Helena areas. The scarce Ferruginous Hawk was sighted at six localities in Oregon and Washington, in the Flathead Valley s. of Kalispell, and on Snake R. Birds of Prey Natural Area s. of Nampa, where there were 15 pairs, with 32 pairs of Golden Eagles. Four active Bald Eagle nests were reported in Flathead County, Montana, one at Olney, one in a heronry near Kalispell and two near the mouth of the Flathead R. To the s.e., Swan L. also had one and two nests with nestlings were located about 60 mi n w of Helena (VY). Fifteen Prairie Falcon sightings were received, in addition to the report of 195 pairs [?--Ed.] at Snake R. Birds of Prey Area. Four Peregrine Falcon sightings came in. There were nine reports of Merlins.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- A lone Bobwhite was noted in the Nampa, Ida. vicinity and six were found at Umatilla, Ore. A few Scaled Quail were in the juniper forest s e of Connell, and at the mouth of Crab Cr., Grant Co., Wash (EH, DW). The Wenas L. area n.w. of Yakima had eight Mountain Quail Mar. 25 (DHa). Japanese Green Pheasants were still holding on at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida, where at least one brood was seen. It has been four years since the last plant of the species there. The Nampa area had a Turkey sighting Mar. 28 and a few were seen near Lyle, Wash., on two dates in April. The species was mentioned without comment in the report from Montana's Flathead Valley.

S.A.

CRANES, COOT--Grays Lake N.W.R., in s e Idaho received 15-16 Whooping Crane eggs from Canada and about the same number from the captive flock at Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland, for placing in Sandhill Crane nests. Refuge personnel feared the young cranes would starve since the drought caused a great scarcity of frogs and insects. Three subadult Whooping Cranes from previous years' hatch had returned, an encouraging event, and the birds showed antagonism toward the Sandhill Cranes, suggesting that the former might eventually pair with their own species (CHT).

The only substantial information on Am. Coots indicated a decline at Malheur to 43,000 from 54,000 in 1976 and

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86,000 in 1975 and that, perhaps as a result, peak numbers at Turnbull N.W.R. increased to 5000 (2500 last year).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS -- Single Semipalmated Plovers, a species rarely seen in s. Idaho, appeared in the Pocatello vicinity (MRC, CHT) and up to 15 were at the Yakima delta near Richland. Ten Black-bellied Plovers at Three Forks, Mont., May 8 furnished only the second spring record for that area and three at the Yakima delta May 14 were REW's first ever in spring. Long-billed Curlew numbers dropped from 1180 in 1976 to 770 this year at Malheur. Only three nesting pairs were found in the remnant colony near Pocatello, expected to be soon wiped out by agriculture and development. A single bird was sighted at Nicholson, B.C., May 2 (FK). A **Whimbrel** was observed with a 'scope' at 60 ft. at Mann's L., e. of Lewiston Orchards, Ida. May 29 (H). The only colony of Upland Sandpipers in the region, at Idaho Road in the Spokane Valley, comprised only four birds May 8 (JA). A Solitary Sandpiper at Tygh Valley just e. of Mt. Hood in Oregon May 2 was noteworthy (DD), as were 11 Least Sandpipers at a reservoir e. of Boise Apr. 24 (JH, NH, BS). A Short-billed Dowitcher at a pond 9 mi. s.e. of George, Wash., May 7 furnished the state's fifth record (DP), and three at Central Park between Manhattan and Belgrade, Mont., Apr. 30 made the first spring record and the second record ever for the locality (PDS). A Sanderling in breeding plumage May 22 was believed to make the fifth record for Malheur N.W.R. (AC, DMF). Northern Idaho had a Marbled Godwit at Mann's L, s e. of Lewiston Apr. 28 (JWW). American Avocets were down from nearly 4000 last year to about 1200 at Malheur but an influx was reported at Rupert, Ida., lending support to the hypothesis that drought drove shorebirds N. In line with this are a number of sightings in s. interior British Columbia, where the birds are of only casual occurrence. One in Yoho N.P. was the first there (RRH, DH).

S.A.

Black-necked Stilts, normally rare in most parts of the region, made a spectacular "invasion". At Malheur about 105 were on the refuge May 13 compared to 15 last year, apparently because their principal nesting area s. and e. of Burns was dry. Some birds may have been driven N by drought at Stillwater N.W.R., in Nevada. A few showed up in s. e. Washington at Richland, George, Othello and 25 mi w. of Soap L. In Montana they appeared at Ennis, at Swan L. in Lake Co., at Ravalli N.W.R.

Wilson's Phalarope appeared at Dry L. near Fortine, Mont., in by far the largest numbers WW had ever seen there, with a peak of 112 May 22; 90 still lingered at the end of May. Only a few pairs normally breed there. Weydemeyer had four N. Phalaropes May 22, only his third spring record in more than a half century there. Single Glaucous Gulls were identified Mar. 13 & 20 at Coulee City and an Iceland Gull, at Electric City, Wash., Mar. 13 (BW). An ad. Herring Gull at Malheur Mar. 26 was the first confirmed sighting there and probably for e. Oregon (DMF *et al.*). One was reported near Missoula Apr. 9 (TD) and the species was reported for the Flathead Valley (NS). Surprisingly, the nesting colony of California and Ring-billed Gulls 4 mi s.e. of Burns, Ore., Was active even though the area, in an empty hay corral and normally completely surrounded by water, had no water at all. The 400 pairs, down from 500 last year, were about 70% Californias. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was collected at Ninepipe NWR, Apr 27, U. of Mont (BC, JS, DB). Two Caspian Terns at Three Forks May 18 and three at Ennis, Mont., May 29 furnished the third and fourth records for that area (RL, PDS, SC, RAH, ETH). The species, almost eliminated from the upper Snake R., was seen, (four), on Am Falls Res., and Market L. (MRC). Three Black Terns, common elsewhere in the region, were most noteworthy at Richland, Wash., May 30 (REW).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS -- Three Band-tailed Pigeons were seen May 21 near Page Springs, Malheur N.W.R (FR). The species is increasing as a migrant in s.e. Oregon (LDN). One was photographed at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co, Wash., May 19 (JWW). A male

Flammulated Owl was seen and heard May 9, 6 ½ mi w. of Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash (EH). A nest of Great Horned Owls near Vernon, B.C., fledged two normal and one completely albino young (JG). The only Hawk Owls were one at Banff, Alta., Apr. 1 (HB), and one near Sorrento on Shuswap L., B.C., May 23-24 (JAn). A Barred Owl photographed at Kimberley, B.C., Mar. 29 was only the second for that locality (MVW). The species was reported for Glacier N.P., Mont., in March (JK) and was believed heard at Little Bitterroot L., w. of Kalispell the same month (BF). A Spotted Owl was found a mile s. of Blewett Pass, Kittitas Co., Wash., Mar. 20 (BR). A Long-eared Owl was near Kalispell in late May (LB). Short-eared Owl numbers were high at Malheur, accompanying elimination of grazing and increased rodent populations.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- A newly-discovered colony of White-throated Swifts at Dutch Cr., just s. of Fairmont Hot Springs, B.C., may be the most northeasterly in Canada (RRH). A few Black-chinned Hummingbirds were reported in the Parker Heights area s. of Yakima (Y.A.S.) and a male at Malheur May 29 added the species to the refuge list (KK). The only Anna's reported were two Ø birds that frequented a feeder all winter at Skaha L. near Penticton, B.C., and left the first week of April, returning briefly May 1 (SRC).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- April 9 was the earliest by three weeks for Williamson's Sapsucker, near Winthrop in e. Washington (CP, JP, KA). One was at Little Bitterroot L., w. of Kalispell in April (BF). Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were on Columbia N.W.R., at Crab Cr., May 29 (JA). Three Say's Phoebe's Apr. 24 were new for HR at Salmon, Ida. Several Gray Flycatchers at Mill Creek 10 mi s.w. of White Swan, Wash., were the earliest ever by 11 days for e. Washington and furnished a new locality for the species. Several w. of Bickleton, Wash., May 3 were also in a new area (EH). Two very early Rough-winged Swallows were at Frenchglen, Harney Co., Ore., Mar. 25 (DMF).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS -- Blue Jays appeared in many places. New localities were Coal Creek up the North Fork of the Flathead R., n. of Columbia Falls, Mont.; at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont.; at a feeder in Nicholson, B.C., and in Yoho N.P. Except for two which wintered at Revelstoke and lingered to the end of May, all had apparently left for parts unknown. The other localities of occurrence were near Kalispell, in the Helena area, at Nampa, near Spokane, Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash., Walla Walla, Richland, and Kimberley. The only Pinyon Jays reported were 16 seven mi e. of Sisters, Ore., May 29 (CR) and 4-6 at Gardner, Mont., during March and again May 3 (JEQ). A few Com Bushtits were found along Satus Creek 30 mi. s. of Toppenish, Wash. (EH). Additional sites for Bewick's Wren were Lyle, Wash., and Roza Dam and Wyler in the Yakima R. canyon, Kittitas Co., Wash. (EH). Two Rock Wrens appeared in a rock slide near Revelstoke, B.C., in late April (EC).

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THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES -- A W. Bluebird appeared Mar. 19-26 at Golden, B.C., where the species is rare (RRH). Kimberley reported "a good population" of Mountain Bluebirds and a flock of 150, about 90% males was observed at Penticton Mar. 23. An amazing flock of 220 was sighted in the Alvord Desert of s.e. Harney Co., Ore., Mar. 24. A flock was reported near Stevensville, Mont., Apr. 12. Elsewhere the usual small numbers seemed to prevail. Up to 100 Ruby-crowned Kinglets a day were seen in the vicinity of Spokane near the end of April. A movement N. of Bohemian Waxwings in Yoho N.P. culminated Mar. 29 in a flock of some 1000, the largest group on record there. Northern Shrikes lingered as late as Apr. 9 at Walla Walla, Apr. 10 in the Flathead Valley, and Apr. 12 in the Spokane area. A Loggerhead Shrike at Moberly, B.C., Apr. 24 furnished the first record for that locality and possibly the same bird was photographed Apr. 29 at nearby Golden (LW, FK, RRH).

VIREOS, WARBLERS -- Four Tennessee Warblers were well-described May 28 at Wapta L., Yoho N.P. (TH). Nashville Warblers were sighted only at Salmon,

Ida. Richland, and Spokane and their numbers were down. A pair of "Myrtle" Warblers passed through Kimberley May 10 (MVW). A Hermit Warbler in Ephrata May 14-15 was the earliest ever by seven days for e. Washington (B J, SJa). A Blackpoll Warbler showed up near Missoula May 11 (DB) and Yoho N.P. had one May 27 (DH, TH). A window-killed Ovenbird was discovered May 12 at Pullman, Wash., * Wash. State U. (GTA). Wilson's Warbler made a very poor showing in e. Washington but was mentioned for Flathead L., Lewiston, Ida. and the Yakima area. The Am. Redstart at Malheur May 22 and June 3-5 was noteworthy. Five singing males near Spokane May 16 were very early (THR) and a May 13 date for the species in the Flathead Valley was almost incredible (BF). The species was mentioned for the Helena and Bozeman areas.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS -- An encouraging number of Bobolink reports came in. At Kimberley the species was "very scarce but holding steady" and at Wolf Creek to the east a male was sighted May 21 (RRH). A small colony was located at Chase, e. of Kamloops, B.C. (JAn). Four males near Toppenish May 19 were the earliest ever by a week for e. Washington (EH). Helena Valley, Bozeman and St. Maries, Ida., also had Bobolinks. The Apr. 15 arrival at Fortine, Mont., matched the previous early date there. A female Rusty Blackbird was observed with Brewer's Blackbirds at Yoho N.P., Apr. 19 (DH, RRH) and two Com. Grackles appeared near Dixon, Mont, in mid-April (JB). An apparently authentic sighting of a male and a female **Scarlet Tanager** near the end of May in Livingston, Mont., provided the first record for the state (JSi, LS).

FINCHES -- A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Naramata May 29 was the first ever for s. British Columbia (DT). A male **Indigo Bunting** banded and photographed at Pocatello, Ida. apparently provided a first state record (JHJ). A male and a female Purple Finch were carefully identified May 22 near Thorp, n.w. of Ellensburg, Wash. (DP), and the species was recorded near Rock I. Dam, Yakima Co. (PC, HO). Eight House Finches at Fortune May 5, furnished the fourth and largest sighting there (WW), and Apr. 16 was a record early date for the species at Manhattan,

Mont. (PDS). A heavy movement of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches of both races through Yoho N. P. peaked with a flock of at least 3000 in a snowstorm Apr. 16.

SPARROWS -- Several Grasshopper Sparrows at a pond 9 mi. s.e. of George May 7 set a new early record for e. Washington (DP), as did the species at Spokane with the same arrival date but down in numbers. The sparrow was believed nesting again in the Pocatello area (CHT). The Lark Sparrow, apparently rare in the Flathead Valley, was sighted May 27 near Bigfork, Mont. (MS). Washington's fourth **Black-throated Sparrow** was identified at close range south of Walla Walla in the Blue Mts foothills May 10 (KK, VK). Two **White-winged Juncos** were reported at Smith's Ferry, Ida. May 28 (BFo, BS, WHO) A remarkably late Tree Sparrow was at Whitefish, Mont., May 23 (RWW). Seemingly late single Harris' Sparrows were near Kalispell until May 2, (BRo) and at Seebe, Alta., May 13 (EHe). One that wintered in the Asotin, Wash., area was last seen Apr. 30 (EM). Single White-throated Sparrows were at Tranquille, B.C., May 11 (JAn), the Davenport, Wash. Cemetery "oasis", May 4 & 10, Ephrata, Wash., May 15 (DM), Malheur N.W.R., May 31--two birds, and the e. base of the Steens Mts , Harney Co., Ore., Mar. 24 (DMF). A lone Lapland Longspur was sighted near Creston, Wash., Mar. 22 (JS, RA). The species was noted at Rupert May 22 (WHS) and at Penticton, B C., Mar. 23, where they are uncommon any time (SRC). A **Chestnut-collared Longspur** in full breeding plumage flying over Big Southern Butte in the Pocatello area May 8, was the first for Idaho (MRC). Yoho N.P. still had Snow Buntings Mar 27.

OBSERVERS CITED -- (JA) James Acton, George T Allen, (JAn) Jerry Ansell, Riley Atkins, Kerry Atkinson, Marcy Bishop, Ladd Bjorneby, H. Boerger, D. Bonham, J. Brown, Ernie Callin, Steve R. Cannings, Phil Cheney, Mark R. Collie, Alan Contreras, B. Cooper, Sharon Cotterell, T. Dahmer, Dave DeSante, (BF) Barbara Fenner, David M. Fix, (BFo) Bob Ford, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, James Grant, Warren Hall, Terry Hammell, (DHa) Dudley Harrington, (DH) Dennis Horwood, R. A. Hays, Eve T. Hays, (EHe) E. Hebron, James & Naomi Heckathorn, Hickman, (WHO) Waneta Holiday, R. R. Howie, (EH) Eugene

Hunn, Bert Jahn, (SJa) Sylvia Jahn, (SJ) Steve Jamieson, Wanda Jamieson, Joseph H. Jeppson, Jane Kapler, Frances King, Ken Knittle, Vera Klopfenstein, Ron Lang, Phil Mattocks, Darlene Meyer, Lewis Myers, Shirley Muse, Ed McVicker, Larry D. Napier, Frank Ohme, Howard Oswood, Dennis Paulson, Curtis Pearson, Josie Pearson, Joyce E. Queckborner, Fred Ramsey, (BR) Bill Reichert, Jan Reynolds, Craig Roberts, Hadley B Roberts, T. H. Rogers, (BRo) Betty Rose, Belle Shaw, W H Shillington, (JSi) Judy Simpson, Lewis Simpson, Dick Sjostrom, P. D. Skaar, (JSm) Jan Smith, Gene Stroops, Shirley Sturts, Mae Sudan, Norm Sudan, (JS) J. Suntum, Caryn Talbot, Dudley Taylor, Charles H. Trost, Richard Trueblood, Lynn Wade, R. W. Waladt, John W. Weber, Doug Wechsler, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Mildred V. White, (JW) Jim Wolcott, (JWo) John Woods, Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society, Vince Yannone

Spring Migration, 1977

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

After 11 and 10 years, respectively, of devoted service, John B. Crowell, Jr., and Harry B. Nehls have asked to be relieved of their editorial chores. Their reports, always professional, have helped thousands to a better understanding of the birdlife of their region, and we thank them. The new editors will be Philip W. Mattocks, Jr., and Eugene H. Hunn, both of the Univ. of Washington, Seattle. We are delighted to welcome them. Send all autumn migration season reports to Mattocks, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

March brought average quantities of precipitation to the Pacific Northwest, thereby breaking the string of

seven consecutive preceding months of considerably less-than-average rainfall. The pattern of less-than-average rainfall, however, resumed for April and May. Temperature ranges were approximately normal for the report period.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS -- Two dead Yellow-billed Loons were found on Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co., Ore., the first half of April (HN), single birds were seen at Yaquina Bay, Ore., on two March dates (*fide* FR), and the bird at Eld Inlet on s. Puget Sound was seen last on Apr. 8 (*fide* GH). Single Yellow-billed Loons were noted in the vicinity of Victoria twice in March and another remained at Cowichan Bay Mar. 10-Apr. 16 (VG). Approximately 2000 Arctic Loons each hour passed the s. jetty of the Columbia R., in migration May 7-8 (HN *et al.*). Two Eared Grebes were at Brookings on the s.w. Oregon coast Mar. 22 (CVO, one was at Scoggins Valley Park, Washington Co., Ore., Apr. 2 (HN), and numbers were present with many W. Grebes on Davis L., in the Oregon Cascades Apr. 23 (LM). A single Eared Grebe was noted at Quadra I., B.C., May 1 (HT) and one or two birds were in the vicinity of Victoria Mar. 9-Apr. 20 (VG *et al.*). The count of 3000 W. Grebes at Saanich Inlet, Vancouver I., Mar. 18 was by far the highest total for this species during the season. Good numbers of Black-looted Albatrosses were found at sea up to 100 mi. off the Washington coast the third week

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of April; on May 15, 62 were observed off Westport, Wash. (TW) A single Laysan Albatross followed the vessel from 25 mi. off Westport to within five mi. of the coast Apr. 15 (TW) Small numbers of N. Fulmars were found dead on Sunset Beach through much of the spring (HN); very few were seen at sea on the boat trips (TW). Although no Pink-footed Shearwaters were recorded in April, 50 were counted at sea from Westport May 15; on the same day two Flesh-footed Shearwaters were noted (TW). Hundreds of Sooty Shearwaters were to be seen at the mouth of the Columbia R., after May 7 (HN), whereas good numbers were found at sea from Westport by the third week of

April (TW). Three freshly dead Short-tailed Shearwaters were picked up on Sunset Beach May 21 (HN). Only one Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was found on the April cruise from Westport, but on May 15 six were observed (TW). Small and scattered numbers of Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen moving steadily northward 100 mi. at sea Apr. 20-21 (TW). On Apr. 6, 1000 Brandt's Cormorants were at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. (KS, *fide* VG). Green Herons were widely noted in w. Oregon, were reported from two w. Washington localities, and a single individual was found at Duncan, B.C., during the spring season. Four Great Egrets were at Tillamook Bay Mar. 12 (JBC *et al.*), one was at Leadbetter Pt., Pacific Co., Wash., Apr 9 (DD), and one was last recorded at Salem, where it had been much of the winter, Apr. 8 (RL). The Snowy Egret which had been at Coos Bay all winter remained for the spring season (AC). A Black-crowned Night Heron was found at Yaquina Bay, Mar. 10 (RB, *fide* FR).

WATERFOWL -- A Whistling Swan was at Davis L., Apr. 21, where six had been present Mar. 6 (LM). Four Trumpeter Swans were at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I., until Mar. 19; two were at Duncan, B.C., Mar. 29 (VG, RS). 'Thousands' of Canada Geese migrated over Campbell R., B.C., Mar. 30 (HT), and 2900 were observed over Torino, B.C., Apr. 29-May 1, where many more were heard overhead in morning fogs (JCo). On Apr. 3 'thousands' of Brant had congregated at Jamestown Bay on Washington's Olympic Pen. (DS); 2500 had been at Netarts and Tillamook Bays Mar. 12 (JBC *et al.*). Two 'Tule' Geese in company with eight other White-fronted Geese stopped at Cowichan Bay May 5-7 (JCo). A male Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal was at Saanich on Vancouver I., Mar. 17-Apr. 27 (VG *et al.*). On Mar. 12, 218 Green-winged Teal were at N. Saanich (VG *et al.*). A male **Garganey** was seen and photographed at Sea and Iona Is., s. of Vancouver, B.C., May 14, May 17 & May 28 (BM, VG *et al.*); although the bird would apparently constitute the first record for British Columbia (the species has been noted previously in both Alberta and Manitoba), one cannot entirely dismiss the possibility of it being an escaped captive. European Wigeons were recorded at a few favored places in the region until Apr. 21. Five individual N. Shovelers were last seen at Saanich May 26 (LR, *fide* VG), but four pairs were still at Duncan

May 31 (JCo). On Apr. 23 several small groups of Redheads were noted on Davis L. (LM); five males were seen at Saanich Mar. 1 (M & BM, *fide* VG), and four individuals of this species were at Tillamook Bay Mar. 12 (JBC *et al.*). A concentration of 107 Ring-necked Ducks at Saanich Mar. 5 (VG *et al.*) is of interest. The 300 Canvasbacks at Tillamook Bay Mar. 12 (JBC *et al.*) comprised the largest reported concentration of the season for this species. A heavy migration of Greater Scaup occurred past the Columbia R. mouth Apr. 30 and May 7-8 (HN *et al.*); 1000 of these birds were 12 mi. n. of Nanaimo, B.C., Apr. 10 (HT). Two male Com. Goldeneye were at Genoa Bay, Vancouver I., May 31 (JCo), a pair was at Lost L., on the Santiam Highway, Marion Co., Ore., May 20 (ME, TF, *fide* AC). Barrow's Goldeneyes were recorded at a number of lakes in Oregon's high Cascades after mid-April. Up to ten Oldsquaws wintered at Yaquina Bay, Ore., until Mar. 19 (RB *et al.*), 20 were at Olympia Apr 27 (RSt, *fide* GH), and good numbers could be found around s. Vancouver I. during March (VG). Single subadult male King Eiders were found Apr. 6 at Port Angeles, Wash. (WHo) and May 8 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R (DF *et al.*). Small numbers of Black Scoters were mixed into the flocks of other scoters streaming N. past the mouth of the Columbia R., Apr. 30 and May 7-8 (HN *et al.*); 50 were at Cannon Beach, Ore., Apr. 24 (DD). A concentration of 168 Hooded Mergansers at Saanich Mar. 5 (VG *et al.*) is of interest.

RAPTORS, GAMEBIRDS -- The first Turkey Vultures of the season appeared in mid-March as far north as Hood Canal in Washington and at Sooke, B.C., on Vancouver I. A nest of the White-tailed Kite was found at Finley N.W R this spring where none could be found last year, despite the presence of a pair there which, judging by the two immatures which accompanied it by late summer, had nested successfully. This year's nest, when checked May 9, held one egg and three dead young (*fide* FR). A Goshawk was observed e. of Dungeness, Wash., Apr. 3 (DS). Sightings involving approximately ten Sharp-shinned Hawks and a dozen Cooper's Hawks were reported from w. Oregon, w. Washington, and s. British Columbia. An ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen at Saanich Apr. 23 (RS *et al.*, *fide* VG). Only three reports of Rough-legged Hawks--all from Oregon or Washington coastal points prior to the fourth week in

March--were received. A copulating pair of Golden Eagles was observed n. of Victoria Apr. 30 (VG, RS); an immature was seen in the vicinity of Victoria Mar. 10-Apr 3 (VG *et al.*). Bald Eagles numbering up to ten in a day were seen during the report period at approximately a dozen localities, ranging from the Cascades to the coast, single Marsh Hawks were observed at Davis L., and at rive localities on s. Vancouver I., on various dates in March and April; two birds were seen in Tillamook County Mar 12 and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Apr. 30--altogether a very poor seasonal representation for this species. Ospreys were noted at a minimum of ten localities from s. Vancouver I southward during the spring season, most after mid-April Only three observations of Peregrines were reported Merlins were noted only slightly more frequently. Ruffed Grouse were almost totally unreported, except from Victoria. A small group of Bobwhite was near Salem, Ore., this spring (JS); ten of these birds were seen s. of Sequim, Wash., May 26 (DS). A Turkey was seen Apr. 21 on Sidney I., B.C., where the species was introduced about ten years ago (MGS, *fide* VG). On Mar. 16 approximately 100 Sandhill Cranes flew over Brownsville, Ore. (HTa, *fide* FR); one on Apr. 5, then three on Apr. 12 were at Dungeness (DS). Ten localities reported Virginia Rails, sometimes repeatedly this spring, with only half that many noting an occasional Sora.

SHOREBIRDS -- On Mar. 12 a flock of 70 Black Oyster-catchers was observed at Malcolm I., off Vancouver I., B C (F.G. Hart, *fide* VG). On Apr. 29 there were 280 Semipalmated Plovers at Torino, B.C. (JCo). Up to four pairs of Snowy Plovers were noted at Tillamook Bay, Sunset Beach, and Ocean Shores, Wash., in April. Single Black-bellied Plovers were found at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, Ore , Apr. 20 (LM), and at Sauvie I., w. of Portland Apr 16 (JG, DI) Totals of 18, 30 and 86 Ruddy Turnstones were

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seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (DF *et al.*), at Ocean Shores, and on the Hoquiam, Wash. flats (G & WH) Apr 29-May 14. On Mar. 18 at Yaquina Bay 180

Black Turnstones were counted (DF, HN). Single Long-billed Curlews appeared at Corvallis Apr. 22 (E & EE, *fide* FR), at Yaquina Head Apr. 27 (JBC, *fide* FR), and at Ocean Shores May 23 (J & GM, *fide* GH); it is possible that the same individual was the subject of all three sightings. Numerous observations were made at coastal locations of Whimbrel Mar. 21-May 21, the 250 near Torino, B.C., Apr. 29 (JCo) being by far the largest concentration. A Solitary Sandpiper appeared at Yaquina Bay Apr. 21 (DFa, *fide* FR). A concentration of 60 Wandering Tattlers at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 8 (DF *et al.*) is noteworthy. A flock of Willets--number unspecified--was at Willapa Bay between Raymond and Tokeland in the first part of March (m.ob. *fide* PM). The 200 Red Knots at Ocean Shores Apr. 29-30 (G & WH) was by far the highest total for the season, the species being recorded only at three other localities. On Mar. 26 there were 50 Rock Sandpipers at Ocean Shores, where 20 were still present Apr. 29 (G & WH). Single Pectoral Sandpipers, rare in the region in spring, were observed at Corvallis Apr. 25 (HTa, *fide* FR) and at Port Townsend, Wash., May 21 (A & DSt). A **White-rumped Sandpiper** was found at Clover Pt., Victoria, Apr. 20 (RS, *fide* VG); the bird is extremely rare in this region. Up to six Baird's Sandpipers were noted at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. on three occasions Apr. 17-May 7 (DD, JG, DI, HN); a flock of 8000 Dunlin was there on the latter date (HN). Hundreds of Least Sandpipers were found Apr 23 at Davis L. in Oregon's high Cascades (LM). The 200 Short-billed Dowitchers at Yaquina Bay Apr. 19 (DF, HN) and the 900 Long-Billed Dowitchers near Tofino Apr. 29 were peak counts for these two species this season. Up to a dozen Marbled Godwits were recorded on three dates at Ocean Shores, and on one date at Sunset Beach, the s jetty of the Columbia R., and at Torino, Apr. 16-May 30. Two Hudsonian Godwits occurred at Ocean Shores May 14 (G & WH, AR). An estimated 20,000 Sanderlings were at Sunset Beach May 21 (HN). Single Am. Avocets were recorded at Fern Ridge Res., Apr. 23 (SG, *fide* LM) and at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver, B.C., May 19 (JSk, *fide* TW). Two Black-necked Stilts were found at Brownsville, Ore., Apr 25 (HTa, *fide* FR). On May 7, there were 40 Red Phalaropes at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (DF). Wilson's Phalaropes were seen a number of times during the spring in n Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia (TW, JCo, RS). Hundreds of N. Phalaropes were at Ocean Shores May 23 (J & GM, *fide* G & WH); 15 were at the s. jetty of the Columbia

R., May 7 (DF) while very few were seen at sea from Westport May 15 (TW).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS -- On May 15 eight Pomarine and 15 Parasitic Jaegers were recorded at sea out of Westport (TW). Other Parasitics were observed at the mouth of the Columbia R., at Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor and at Bellingham during May. Glaucous Gulls were reported seen on six occasions at various coastal points in the region, mostly in March. Small numbers of Herring Gulls were found along the Oregon coast in May after being very scarce all winter. Occasional California Gulls were noted at coastal points after mid-March. Bonaparte's Gulls were in migration along the coast from mid-April to mid-May, with concentrations of up to 900 individuals seen at two places in the Strait of Georgia on the first three days of May. Blacklegged Kittiwakes were found at a few coastal points after mid-March, the 70 at Yaquina Bay Mar. 19 (RB, *fide* FR) being particularly noteworthy. In mid-April numbers of kittiwakes were moving N. at sea off Westport; in mid-May numbers were inshore there (TW). Up to a score of Sabine's Gulls were seen off the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 8 (DE *et al.*), and at sea from Westport May 15 (TW). On Apr. 23 there were ten Forster's Terns at Davis I., in the Oregon Cascades (AW, *fide* LM). An estimated 100 Com. Terns were noted at Ocean Shores Apr. 29 & May 14 (G & WH); it was the consensus that migrant numbers past the mouth of the Columbia R. were well below normal this season, although migrant Arctic Terns there were more in evidence than usual (HN *et al.*). As early as Apr. 16 there were 30 Caspian Terns at Ocean Shores (G & WH); two were at Scoggins Valley Park, near Forest Grove, Ore., Apr 22 (HN). On the evening of May 21 an estimated 5000 Com. Murres were trading in and out between the jetties at the mouth of the Columbia R. (JBC, JGO). Pigeon Guillemots were recorded mostly in the Straits of Juan de Fuca and of Georgia, but a few were also noted from time to time during the report period along the n. Oregon coast. Marbled Murrelets were less noted, but as many as six in a day could be found at Victoria in April and in May (VG). Cassin's Auklets were said to be in good numbers off Westport in mid-April and in mid-May (TW). On May 21 several dozen Rhinoceros Auklets were just off Sea Lion Caves, near Florence, Ore. (AC *et al.*); flocks of 15-20 birds were moving N.

100 mi off the Washington coast Apr. 20-21 (TW), a few Rhinoceros Auklets could be found at Victoria from Mar. 24 to the end of May (VG *et al.*). Tufted Puffins were present at sea off Westport in mid-April, but on May 15 a high count of 35 was made (TW).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS -- On Mar. 5, seven Snowy Owls were recorded on the Samish Flats, near Bellingham (TW); an individual was at Beaverton, Ore., for several days the second week of March (DF *et al.*) A Burrowing Owl was found e. of Harrisburg, Ore., Mar. 16 & 18 (HTa, *fide* FR); another was seen at Gold Beach, Ore., Mar 22 (CW), one was at N. Portland Apr. 9 (*fide* HN), and still another was at Baskett Slough N.W.R., w. of Salem, Ore., May 4 (TM). Up to three Short-eared Owls were recorded at each of seven localities during the report period. Saw-whet Owls were reported from only three points.

S. A.

On May 3-6 a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was present at Howard Telosky's feeder, seven miles of Campbell R. on the Strait of Georgia; the record is well documented through close observation and with some useful photographs. The bird was smaller than the Rufous Hummingbirds which were also present and which were dominated by the interloper; it moved with a quiet hum during the three times an apparent courtship flight was observed, and it had a decidedly forked rather than rounded tail, all of which serve to distinguish the bird from the more likely-to-occur Broad-tailed Hummingbird. It might be added that the bird was seen by a number of other observers. This represents the first regional record for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

An out-of-place Poorwill, which later died and was found to have no body fat or food in its stomach, was caught in a Portland warehouse May 3 (HN *et al.*). Up to a dozen Black Swifts were noted on s. Vancouver I. in the last three days of May (JCo, ARD, RM-G, *fide*

VG). On May 16 there were 300 Vaux's Swifts at Corvallis, Ore., where a few had first

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appeared Apr. 18 (DM). Anna's Hummingbirds were noted singly near Campbell R., B.C., Mar. 16-23 (HT), at Corvallis Mar. 22 (DM), and at Bellingham Apr. 2 (TW); at Saanich four or five males were present through the spring and a lone female was observed three times Apr. 4-May 3 (VG, RS *et al.*); at Portland a g? Anna's acted territorially most of April and early May at Reed College (DD) and a pair was at the Hagenstein residence much of the spring (*fide* JBC). A Calliope Hummingbird appeared at Wolf Creek, Ore., Apr 14 (EP), two were seen at Eugene Apr. 19 (AC, *fide* LM), and one was seen Apr. 21 (LM). The only reported Lewis' Woodpeckers were the two found at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, May 28 (LM). A female Williamson's Sapsucker was seen at White Pass in the Washington Cascades May 1 (G & WH).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES -- There were five observations of W. Kingbirds in w. Oregon and two in w. Washington this spring; surprisingly, five of the seven records came Apr. 22-29 and could probably be explained by the wind patterns prevailing in the last few days of the third week in April. A Say's Phoebe was noted at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash., Apr. 13 (PD, *fide* TW). Willow Flycatchers were late and seemed down in numbers, but W Flycatchers seem to have been present in better numbers than several years ago when observers expressed concern about their status. A Bank Swallow was found in Manning P.P., B.C., May 27 (VG). A very early Cliff Swallow was at Roseburg, Ore., Mar. 12 (GG). Purple Martins appeared first in the second week of April at Fern Ridge Res., Portland, and Chehalem Mt., s.w. of Portland; on May 21-22 a few appeared at Gold Ray Dam, Jackson Co., Ore., for the first time in years (IL). Further evidence of the Blue Jay invasion to the Northwest of last fall and winter was furnished by records of individuals in this season at N. Bend, Ore., from last November to early April (BF, *fide* AC), at Duncan, B.C., Mar. 1-Apr. 9 (JCo *et al.*), and at N.

Saanich Mar. 6 & Apr. 19 (*fide* VG). House Wrens were reported at Wolf Creek, Ore., by Apr. 19 (EP) and were thereafter noted at a number of locations in the Willamette Valley and Puget Sound trough as far n. as Quadra I., B.C. (HT). Bewick's Wrens were said to be very common at Campbell R. (HT) and to be readily found in the vicinity of Victoria (VG). Single Rock Wrens were seen at Portland Apr. 26 (DF *et al.*), at Eugene two days later (ME, *fide* LM), and at Vancouver, B.C., May 26-29 (DMa, RW). A Mockingbird was present at Sidney, B.C., May 5-16 (Mts. T. Flint, *fide* VG), a Gray Catbird was found at Quadra I., B.C., Apr. 17 (WD, HT), and a Brown Thrasher turned up at Shady Cove, Ore., May 25 (JH). Swainson's Thrushes were late in migrating, few being present by the end of May; several observers have commented on the relative absence of this species in the region this year, causing speculation concerning the possibility of some major disaster to large numbers of these birds during migration. Western Bluebirds continue to be decidedly uncommon, appearing only at relatively few favored localities. Individual Mountain Bluebirds appeared w. of Eugene Mar. 6 (AS, AP, *fide* LM) and at Ocean Shores Apr. 9 (G & WH). Townsend's Solitaires were recorded s. of Powers, Ore., s.e. of Brownsville, at Eugene and at Victoria in April, and at Wolf Creek and on the Olympic Peninsula in May.

GNATCATCHERS, VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS -- On May 29 Wayne Hoffman found a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Big L., on the Santiam Hwy., in Oregon's Cascade Mts, the bird was foraging in a stand of lodgepole pines and Douglas firs 15-20 feet tall; there was still a bit of snow on the ground. A large flock of Water Pipits was at Davis L., Apr. 23 (LM). A N. Shrike at Florence on the Oregon coast Mar. 25 (CW) was one of five March reports, the bird at Scoggins Valley Park, near Forest Grove, Ore. Apr. 2 (HN) was the last of the season. Hutton's Vireos were less uncommon than usual, at least in n.w. Oregon and s. Vancouver I. A Red-eyed Vireo was at Saanich May 29 (RS, *fide* VG). There were six reports of Nashville Warblers --some involving more than one individual-- for w. Oregon Apr. 17-May 2. Good movements of Townsend's Warblers were noted at Corvallis Apr. 17 (LM), and in the Olympics May 5 (RJP, *fide* DS). The Palm Warbler which had been present at Scoggins

Valley Park continued to be seen until late April (HN *et al.*). Common Yellowthroats arrived early, with the most striking evidence of that fact being the "many males" at Fern Ridge Res., Apr. 6 (LM). Up to six W. Meadowlarks were recorded on the s. end of Vancouver I. in March. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were located at four places in the s. or middle Willamette Valley, at Sauvie I., at Siltcoos L., and at Davis L. in Oregon and at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash., all after the first week of April. Northern Orioles were scarce, the only record n. of Corvallis being a female at Saanich, May 21 (RM-G, *fide* VG).

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS -- Five Black-headed Grosbeaks as far n. as Dungeness, Wash., Mar 28 (SS, *fide* DS) were inexplicably early, since it was a month or more until others were recorded in the region. A Lazuli Bunting at Grants Pass Mar. 25 (GG) was even farther ahead of the rest of its tribe, the next earliest recorded arrival not being until May 7 at Corvallis. While Purple Finches were said to be scarce on Vancouver I. this spring, they were unusually numerous in n.w. Oregon. A female Cassin's Finch was at an Olympia feeder Apr. 22 (G&WH): numbers of this species were seen at Davis L., Apr. 23 (LM). A Pine Grosbeak was observed 20 mi s.e. of Brownsville, Ore., Apr 24 (GG), five or six were seen at Big L., Ore., May 9 (DD), and a pair were noted at Manning P.P., May 5 (VG). The concentration of 110 Am. Goldfinches at Scoggins Valley Park May 13 (HN) is noteworthy. A single Lesser Goldfinch was seen in Portland Mar. 14 (DD). A **Black-throated Sparrow** at Sutton L., n. of Florence, Ore., Apr 26 is said to have been recorded by good photographs (*fide* AC). Sage Sparrows were noted at Toledo, Ore., Apr. 12 (DFa), at Lebanon, Ore., Apr. 14 (WT), and at Olympia Mar. 16-Apr 3 (DH, G & WH). A Tree Sparrow was discovered at Oak Bay, Victoria Mar. 25 (M & BM, *fide* VG), and a Brewer's Sparrow turned up at Ocean Park, Pacific Co., Wash., Apr 22 (IB). A Harris' Sparrow was seen at Duncan, B.C., Mar 29-30 (JCo) and one was at Campbell R., B.C., May 2 (HT). White-throated Sparrows were observed at Eugene, at Dungeness, at Carnation, Wash., and at Saanich, the last date being Apr. 28. On Apr. 29 twenty Lapland Longspurs were at Ocean Shores (G & WH) and on May 7 two were found at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (DF). A male

Chestnut-collared Longspur was at Victoria May 1-3 (VG, RS *et al.*).

OBSERVERS -- John Annear, Range Bayer, Irving Burr, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, John B. Crowell, Jr, A. R. Davidson, Paul DeBruyn, Dave DeSante, W. DuBois, Mark Egger, E. & Elsie Eltzroth, Ben Fawver, Darrell Faxon (DFa), Ted Finnell, David Fix, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Vic Goodwill, Steve Gordon, David Hayward, Joseph Hicks, Wayne Hoffman (WHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, David Irons, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund, Jim & Gloria Maender, Bruce MacDonald, Don MacDonald, Rob Mackenzie-Grieve, David Mark (DMa), Phil Mattocks, Tom McCamant, 1040 *American Birds*, September 1977, Larry McQueen, Michael & Barbara Meiklejohn, Harry Nehls, James G. Olson, Al Prigge, R. J. Pringle, Eleanor Pugh, Fred Ramsey, Allan Richards, Leila Roberts, Ron Satterfield, Michael G. Shepard, Jeff Skriletz (JSk), Aaron Skirvin, Dory Smith, Stan Smith, Jerry Smith, Roger Stanley (RSt), Al & Debbie Staples (A & DSt), Ken Summers, Howard Taylor (HTa), Howard Telosky, William Thackaberry, Terence Wahl, Clarice Watson, Robin Weber, Al Winter.

The Nesting Season, 1977

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/Thomas H. Rogers

Except for the Bozeman-Gardiner-Red Rock Lakes area in Montana, which enjoyed normal summer weather, the drought, with abnormally high temperatures, continued into June in nearly every part of the Region. July continued dry except for western Montana and adjacent mountainous Idaho, which were decidedly wet. Temperatures were generally subnormal. Waterfowl nesting suffered markedly in drought areas but other species appeared to have a good nesting season. Exposed mudflats attracted more late spring

and early fall shorebird migrants than usual and some water-related species appeared in unusual numbers and places, supposedly driven in by worse drought to the south. Lack of water forced some early fall migration in the southwestern part of the Region.

LOONS AND GREBES--Two Com. Loon nests, one with two eggs hatched, were on two small reservoirs e. of Ashton, Ida. possibly in Wyoming June 19 (CHT). Two pairs with five young were at Pablo N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont., July 28 (MB). Lake Roosevelt, Wash., had one June 12 and two July 16 and one was on Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., July 24. One was on Rufus Woods L., near Nespelem, Wash., June 22 and five were on the Columbia R., near Wenatchee, Wash. in June. At least one pair of Red-necked Grebes nested at Cougar Bay, Coeur d'Alene L., Ida. a new locality, and seven appeared on Upper Klamath L., Oreg., June 4. A "large number" nested at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. Fortine, Mont., was the only other locality that reported them. An albinistic Eared Grebe at Malheur N.W.R. appeared wholly whitish except for black in the primaries (DMF). Western Grebes had good nesting success in s.e. Idaho at Mud L., Jefferson Co., and at L. Walcott, but apparently not at Market L., near Roberts nor at Am. Falls Res. The species was at the Yakima R. mouth, Wash., *July 14*, Woodley's first ever for that month and the species was noted in June in the Columbia Basin e. of Wenatchee.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES -- Five White Pelican nests with a total of nine eggs were found on Gull I., in L. Walcott, Blaine Co., Ida. for the first known nesting in the state since the birds were all shot out from Blackfoot Res., *ca.* 1958. About 200 were loafing near the colony June 17 (CHT). Double-crested Cormorants had 25 nests at Mud L., 23 at Blackfoot Res., and perhaps 70 at L. Walcott. The colony at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. had 40 nests. Seventy pairs were at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Oreg. up from 40 last year, but the species failed to nest at L. Helena this year. A Great Blue heronry at Ninepipe had 87 nests. A **Green Heron** was near Arco, Ida. June 9 (CHT) and one was sighted at Market L., June 12 & 21 (MRC). A **Cattle Egret** was in a field near Rexburg, Ida. June 13 (MRC) and four were near Rupert (CHT). Refuge personnel at Malheur estimated 125 pairs of Great Egrets, down

from 200 in 1976 but another observer found both Great and Snowy Egrets there in unusually high numbers in July compared to the

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previous two years (DMF). The Snowy was estimated at 50 pairs, down from 80, by refuge personnel. Black-crowned Night Heron numbers there remained steady. White-faced Ibises seemed to have good nesting success at Market and Mud Lakes and at Oxford, Ida. A flock of 40-50 was just s. of Rexburg July 30.

WATERFOWL -- Trumpeter Swans at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., produced 66 cygnets but at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., Malheur N.W.R., and Antelope L., near Harrison, Mont., nesting success was zero. Waterfowl production was down about 50% from last year at Turnbull N.W.R., and in e. Washington in general (JS). In the area surrounding Malheur N.W.R. only about 1500 ducks were produced, compared to nearly 18,000 last year, but they did better on the refuge, with nearly 16,000 young. However, Cinnamon Teal there had only about 2500 young, compared to over 17,000 last year. The species is normally the most or next to most abundant nester there. Lack of water there caused ducks to start leaving in late June. Duck production at Red Rock Lakes was about normal. Ninepipe N.W.R. had a **Ross' Goose** July 28 (F.A.S.) and two Snow Geese summered at Malheur N.W.R. (M.F.S.). Four pairs of Wood Ducks at a marsh n. of Polson, Mont., brought off 15 young and the species' success at Ninepipe N.W.R. seemed good. A male at L. Helena July 23 was unusual (SM). A female with eight nearly grown young at Dry L., July 10 gave the first ever record of nesting for the Fortine, Mont. area. A male Com. Goldeneye was on the Spokane R., in downtown Spokane July 13 (THR), and presumably the same bird was seen July 21 (JWW). A Bufflehead was at Malheur in early July (CB).

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- A **Turkey Vulture** nest with one young at Black Rock Bay, Coeur d'Alene L., Ida. was apparently the first ever found in the state

(DC, DJ). Six of the birds, mingling with ravens, were along the Thompson R., 70 mi w. of Kalispell, Mont., July 1 (BF) and one at Salmon, Ida. June 11 was unusual (HBR). Single Goshawks were reported at seven scattered localities and an active nest was located s of Stanley, Ida. (EHB). Ferruginous Hawks were more evident this summer at Malheur. One appeared near Helena and another from that area that had been shot was brought to the game department for nursing. The species was observed regularly near Three Forks, Mont. Golden Eagles seemed to be doing very well around Malheur Ref., reportedly in response to an increase among rodents and lagomorphs (DMF). Except for an active nest in June, the species went unobserved in the Bozeman area. One was noted in the Island L. area in Pleasant Valley between Libby and Kalispell, Mont., July 13 (F.A.S.). Several were brought to Montana's game department, victims of shooting, electrical burns, a mammal trap, a broken wing and apparent starvation (VY). A pair of Bald Eagles was high over Parker, Wash., July 13 (Y.A.S.) and a pair summered at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. (JAB). One was at Columbia Icefield, Banff N.P., Alta., July 31 (RJB). The Osprey population at Holter L. near Helena was maintaining itself (VY). One appeared near Seneca, Oreg., June 27 & July 12 (LDN). Prairie Falcon numbers appeared unchanged in the Malheur N.W.R. area. An active nest was found in s.e. Montana and the birds appeared at three localities in n.w. Montana. The Helena area had a sighting and two injured birds were brought to the game department. The only Peregrine Falcon sightings were one each from s. Idaho and w. Montana. The only Merlin sighting was in late June in the Okanogan Valley, Wash. (PC).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- In n. British Columbia a Spruce Grouse was seen 30 mi n.w. of Meziadin Jct, and a female of the Franklin's race, with small chicks, was on Hudson Bay Mt., 5 mi w. of Smithers (JDW) A Willow Ptarmigan was found in that general area on Mt. Cronin and a Rock Ptarmigan was sighted on Hudson Bay Mt. (JDW). Blue, Spruce, Ruffed and Sage Grouse had a good nesting season in the Salmon, Ida area, where numbers appeared to be up (HBR). Upland game birds had good nesting success in e. Washington although late broods of Gray Partridge appeared less successful (JS). Sharp-tailed Grouse continued rare in the Bozeman area. Two Mountain Quail were listed for

s.w. Idaho June 26 (G.E.A.S.). Five Turkeys showed themselves on Yakima Indian Reservation June 30 (TS) and two adults and five young were seen just n. of Lyle, Wash., June 22 (TW *et al.*).

S.A.

From the 30 Whooping Crane eggs substituted for Sandhill Crane eggs at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., 20 young hatched but two died during a May snowstorm. Mortality of the remaining birds was high because of drought-caused inadequate food supply and easy access to the nesting and rearing areas for coyotes. Of six sub-adult birds from the 1975 and 1976 hatches, three returned to Grays L., one summered along the upper Green R., n.w. of Pinedale, Wyo., another was found along Henry's Fork of the Green R. near Lonetree, s.w. Wyo., and the sixth summered in the vicinity of Ouray N.W.R., Utah as it did in 1976. The bird near Lonetree was found dead May 29. Autopsy showed

CRANES AND SHOREBIRDS -- Greater Sandhill Crane nesting success at Malheur N.W.R. was 46%. The species apparently bred in Helena Valley, where two young appeared June 12 and one in July (GH) Numbers seemed to be up in the Bozeman area Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had at least eight nests, fledgling eight chicks (JAB). One bird was near Fortine July 10. The only previous records there were of one last year and in 1975 (WW). Young Virginia Rails were found at a new breeding site north of Dillon, Mont. (KA). A single Semipalmated Plover was at Reardan, Wash., July 20 (JA) and up to five were at the Yakima R. mouth. The first sighting, July 14, was three weeks earlier than any previous records (REW). Snowy

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Plovers were seen July 16 at Lower Borax L., s.e. Harney Co., Oreg. a known nesting locality, but no young appeared (DMF). Possibly the second sighting for Idaho of a **Mountain Plover** occurred May 29

about 35 mi n. of Arco (KM). A **Ruddy Turnstone** turned up in an irrigated field near Osgood, Ida. June 21 (MRC). A **Whimbrel** at L. Helena July 16 was the first ever for that area (SM, GH). Five pairs of Upland Sandpipers and two nests with eggs were found in Bear Valley n. of Seneca, Oreg. June 9 (HBN, MK). The species also appeared on the Reedpoint Breeding Bird Survey, Mont. At Malheur, where shorebird migration began early, there were 200 Willets June 22 but only eight, July 3. Two Red Knots were at Harney L. on the refuge, June 6 (TP, NC). A Dunlin was along the Yellowstone R., near Gardner, Mont., June 12 (JEQ). Two juvenile W. Sandpipers were at Malheur Ref. on the startlingly early date of July 6 (DMF). Malheur had 2500 migrating Am. Avocets June 22 and Am. Falls Res. in s. Ida. had hundreds June 25. Up to 30 were on the mud flats at the Yakima R. mouth in July. Black-necked Stilt numbers at Malheur were high, supposedly increased by birds forced N by the drought. They nested successfully in several locations near George and in the Potholes area s. of Moses L., Wash. (m.ob.). The species summered at L. Helena, with up to three pairs present with no evidence of nesting (GH).

PHALAROPES THROUGH TERNS -- Malheur Ref had 4000 Wilson's Phalaropes June 22 and 13,000 on July 3. Williams L., B.C., had two California Gulls July 15-16 (JDW). This species, formerly rarely reported from s.e. Washington, made up about 5 – 10% of the gulls from Central Ferry to Clarkston along the Snake R., probably the result of damming the river (JWW). California Gulls were moving through the Malheur area June 22, when 4800 were seen. No gulls were produced in the California and Ring-billed colony 4 mi. s.e. of Burns, Oreg. but the colonies of both species in the Pocatello, Ida. area were mostly expanding their numbers (CHT). One or two Mew Gulls were sighted in the Smithers, B.C. area in July at Upper Gnat L., the Stikine R., and Kinaskan L., (JDW). About 250 pairs of Franklin's Gulls began nesting on Malheur L., but later deserted. One bird was sighted at Taylor Ranch Research Station, n.e. Valley Co., Ida., June 14 (CLE, TT) A Bonaparte's Gull was still at Malheur N.W.R., June 22 (LDN) and an imm. bird was sighted in the Alvord Basin, Harney Co., Oreg., June 10 (HBN). Two Arctic Terns were at Upper Gnat L., B.C., July 8 (JDW). A Caspian Tern, rare in interior British Columbia, was at Tranquille June 6 (GA). The species,

becoming rare on the Upper Snake R., in Idaho, was noted only at Island Park Res., two non-nesters June 18, and at Am. Falls Res., six non-nesters June 25 (CHT).

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS -- The only Band-tailed Pigeons to venture into the Region were one at Malheur June 27 (LDN) and one at Taylor Ranch Research Station May 29 (CLE, TT). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo self-destructed on a glass door at Echo, Oreg., about June 19 (RGS, HMS) A Black-balled Cuckoo appeared for a week starting June 23, at Helena (LS, m.ob.) and a road-killed one was found on the Portneuf R. bridge on Highway 30 w. of Pocatello June 10 (JHJ). The first nesting record for Washington for the **Flammulated Owl** was obtained at Scotty Cr. Campground, 5 min. of Blewett Pass, Chelan Co., with a pair at a nest hole in early July (DH *et al.*). An adult and a newly fledged young were photographed at Penticton for the second breeding record for British Columbia (SRC). A breeding colony of about 15 Burrowing Owls was found in w. Whitman Co., Wash., July 7 (JWW). Little Bitterroot L., Flathead Co., Mont., had a Barred Owl June 23, through July (BF). Pairs with young were observed near Republic, Wash., June 27 (TW) and near Middleport, Wash., June 29 (TW) & July 10 (RD, RH). One or two were at the bog on Calispell Peak n.w. of Cusick, Wash., June 5 & 23 (JA, WH). A pair of Spotted Owls inhabited the forest near Blewett Pass, Wash in June and July (m.ob.). Great Gray Owls nested again at the site in Hodgman Canyon s. of Bozeman, Mont, and brought off one young (m.ob.). One was sighted in s e Idaho near Henry's L., July 26 & 28 (MF, JAB, DM) and on Bishop Mt., s. of Island Park (MRC). Short-eared Owls were described as far fewer than usual in the valley s. of Flathead L., Mont., very scarce at Salmon, Ida. and were not sighted in the vicinity of Yakima Indian Reservation. No other reporting localities mentioned them. "Many" Saw-whet Owls were heard near Wickiup Res., 20 mi s.w. of Bend, Oreg. the night of May 28 (GG, DMF).

SWIFTS AND HUMMINGBIRDS -- A half-grown nestling Black Swift was found near Armstrong, B.C. at the Harland Cr. site that normally is protected by a waterfall, but was dry this year (JG). Both species were on the wing at Avalanche Camp, Glacier N.P., Mont

Four White-throated Swifts were around a quarry near Kamloops, B.C., June 4 for the most northerly record in the province (GA). The species apparently is becoming regular at Steens Mt., Harney Co., Oreg. where up to a dozen were found in July (DMF). Black-chinned Hummingbirds appeared rather far north and west Three were at Oliver, B.C., June 9 (RC), a male was at Wickiup Res., s.w. of Bend May 29 and the birds were sighted at various spots in Malheur N.W.R., May 22 (DMF, GG). A female was regular at Richland, Wash. through July (REW) and the species was regular at Parker, Wash. (Y.A.S.). An ad. male Broad-tailed Hummingbird appeared at Windfall Campground, Grant Co., Oreg. July 9 (DMF *et al.*). A male Anna's Hummingbird was at Summerland, B.C. in mid-July (RL)

WOODPECKERS THROUGH MARTINS -- Lewis' Woodpeckers seemed scarce but were seen oftener than usual at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. where at least three nests were found. An encouraging number of Williamson's Sapsucker sightings came in, including several nesting observations. One, possibly two, broods of White-headed Woodpeckers were raised at Naramata, B.C., in July (EH) and the species was seen regularly at Tieton Ranger Station w. of Yakima

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(Y.A.S.). Sightings also occurred in Klickitat County, Wash., and on Yakima Indian Reservation (EH). Nests of the Northern Three-toed Woodpecker were spotted in Hyalite Cr. Canyon s. of Bozeman (EHa, CH); along the S Fork of the Salmon R., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (DAK), and at Calispell Peak bog in that county (JA, WH). The species was noted at Rimrock L., w. of Yakima. An E. Kingbird was foraging along the Deschutes R. at Lapine S.P., Oreg. July 31 (JC). Singing male Least Flycatchers were discovered June 28 at White Mud L., near Colville, July 1 three mi. w. of Winthrop, Wash. (TW, FM), June 11 at Heyburn S.P., Ida., (BW, SS *et al.*), and June 16 along the Wenaha R., in e. Oregon (SS). Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash. had several Gray Flycatchers June 18 (EH) and the species

was noted at Malheur N.W.R. (DMF). A **Purple Martin** was sighted at Twin Falls, Ida. June 25 (GG).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES -- The pair of Blue Jays that wintered in E. Helena lingered until late July but apparently did not nest (GH) but the species bred at Union, Oreg. (KS). "Thousands" of Clark's Nutcrackers were reported making daily trips from Douglas fir to limber pine forest in the Sun R. region n.w. of Great Falls, Mont. (SH). Several Com. Bushtits were sighted at Lyle, Wash., June 18 and a pair had a nest at Satus Cr., Yakima Co., July 4 (EH). Two nests with eggs and young were located at 5500 ft. elevation in the Pueblo Mts., between Fields, Oreg. and Denio, Nev., July 16 (DMF). Two pairs of Pygmy Nuthatches were sighted 6 mi. n. of Polson, Mont. (F.A.S.). A Winter Wren at Bishop Mt., 15 mi. s. of Island Park, Ida., June 16 apparently extended the known range of the species (MRC). The only Mockingbirds to be noted were two s. of Ellensburg, Wash., near the e. end of Murray Wildlife Recreation Area (DH, KZ). At least three pairs of Gray Catbirds were believed nesting 12 mi n.e. of Pendleton, apparently the westernmost site for Oregon (DSI). Also on the w. edge of the species' range were a pair at Toppenish N.W.R., Wash. (EH), and "many" in the Blue Mts. of n.e. Oregon (m.ob.). Four at Williams L., B.C., apparently were n. of the known range of the species (JDW). A pair of Veeries at the Pendleton catbird site also was w. of previously known sites for the state (DSI) and one was at Satus Cr., Klickitat Co., Wash., July 4 (EH). Western Bluebirds at a farm w. of Spokane occupied 36 nest boxes and brought off 219 young. A male **Wheatear** was photographed at the entrance road a few miles w. of Malheur N W R., June 22 (Robert F. Ringlet).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- A wandering Tennessee Warbler stopped at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash., June 5 (JWW). A **Virginia's Warbler** banded and photographed at Hart Mt., Lake Co, May 29 was Oregon's first ever (LRM). Seebe, Alta, had a Magnolia Warbler May 29 (J JR) and a Townsend's Warbler in the Elkhorn Mts., s.e. of Helena was a rare find (GN, NN). Two N. Waterthrushes were at Crescent Cr. on the e. slope of the Oregon Cascade Mts., June 4 to at least early July and another was on the Little Deschutes R., 12 mi from

Crescent Cr. Camp during the same period (AC, ME, SG, m.ob.). American Redstarts were found in June and July at their nesting areas along Crescent Cr, and at Davis L. (AC), one in female plumage was at Malheur N.W.R., June 11 (HBN, MK), and three were at Cascade Meadows w. of Wenatchee, Wash., June 11 (MC). Bobolinks were again seen at the John Sudan farm e. of Bigfork, Mont. (F.A.S.) and near Salmon, Ida. where they are extremely scarce (HBR). An active **Bobolink** nest was found at Toppenish N.W.R., for the first definite nesting record for Washington (EH). The Tricolored Blackbird colony showed fair numbers at Upper Klamath L., near Klamath Agency, Oreg., after much reduced numbers the last two years (HBN, MK). A pair of **Orchard Orioles** was well described at Kalispell, Mont., in June (BR). Common Grackles were sighted at Twin Falls, Ida. June 25 (GG).

FINCHES -- A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was sighted at Ketchum, Ida. July 30 (WHS) and a male was in Burns, Oreg. June 5-11 (CG). Another male not in full plumage was sighted at Field, Oreg. June 10-11 (HBN, MK) and a pair nested at Barnhartvale near Kamloops, B.C. (RR, DL). This is the first breeding record for s. British Columbia and one of very few reports of the species w. of the Rockies in the province. An ad. male was seen at Naramata, B.C., May 29 (SRC) and a singing male was at Helena June 25 (GH). An ad. male Indigo Bunting in riparian habitat in the Sun R. Range n.w. of Great Falls, Mont., July 31 was the most westerly indication of breeding in the state (SH). Another male was found n. of Spencer, s.e. Idaho July 20 (KM), and a male with some imm. plumage was sighted in Chewelah, Wash., June 25 (JA, WH). What was believed to be a Ø Painted Bunting was observed at Malheur N.W.R. at a ten-ft distance June 11 (HBN, MK). Purple and Cassin's Finches were together at about 500-ft elevation near Lyle, Wash., June 18 (EH). Black Rosy Finches, some feeding young, were observed in alpine areas of Steens Mt., Harney Co., Oreg. (DMF). Hart Mt., Lake Co., Oreg. yielded two Lesser Goldfinches July 12 (DMF) and at least three were near Lyle, Wash., June 18 (EH). Six-ten White-winged Crossbills were in spruce-fir areas in Franklin Co., Ida. during July (KS).

SPARROWS -- A single Green-tailed Towhee was seen at Wenatchee Guard Station, Asotin Co., Wash, July 1. The species was looked for there last year without success (RT). Another was reported on the w side of Lewis Peak e. of Walla Walla, Wash. in July (KK). Single Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from near Bigfork, Mont. (JSu); in the Nampa, Ida area (G.E.A.S.), and at Keller Ferry, Lincoln Co., Wash (DAK), but were not found at the usual breeding grounds near Asotin, Wash. Black-throated Sparrow numbers were up in the Alvord Basin, s. Harney Co, Oreg., and two adults were at the northernmost known spot, Wrights Pt., just s. of Burns (DMF). Sage Sparrow numbers apparently had built up well in the Alvord Basin after very low numbers in 1974. A Clay-colored Sparrow was sighted July 2 & 9 near Valley, Wash (JA). Several singing male White-crowned Sparrows of

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undetermined race were at Howard L., in the n.w. part of Yakima Indian Reservation June 30 (EH). Golden-crowned Sparrows were seen during June and July in the mountains around Smithers, B.C. (JDW).

OBSERVERS CITED--James Acton, Kathleen Anderson, Gerry Ansell, John A. Beam, Erik H. Bergman, Marcy Bishop, Cathy Bolles, R.J. Butot, Richard Cannings, Steve R. Cannings, Mike Carmody, Dean Carrier, Phil Cheney, Nell Cobb, Mark R. Collie, Alan Contreras, John Contreras, (RD) Richard Donham, (RDo) Rod Drewien, Charles L. Elliott, Mark Egger, Barbara Fenner, Mike Fitzpatrick, David M. Fix, Flathead Audubon Society, Cal Giesler, Greg Gillson, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, James Grant, Sayre Greenfield, Warren Hall, Camille Harper, (EHa) Ed Harper, Dudley Harrington, Steve Harvey, (EHi) Erland Hindson, George Holton, Rick Hudson, Eugene Hunn, David S. Irons, Don Johnson, Joseph H. Jeppson, Daniel A. Knierim, Ken Knittle, Mark Koninendyke, Ray Leiner, Dick Low, Ken MacKenze, Dan Makenna, Sid Martin, L. Richard Mewalt, Fran Morlock, Larry D. Napier, Harry B. Nehls, Gene Nixon, Norma Nixon, Tom Pogsdon, Joyce E. Queckborner, J.J. Riddell, Ralph Ritcey, Hadley B.

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The Nesting Season 1977

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Eugene Hunn and Philip Mattocks, Jr.

The Region continued into the breeding season in the grip of drought. At Seattle June and July rainfall was but 43 percent of normal (0.96 in.) and temperatures were 1.90 F above average. Dry conditions were somewhat moderated in July, and their impact on bird distributions was not obvious. Owing to a temporary breakdown in communications during the transfer of editorial duties, this summary does not include the observations of many Vancouver, B.C. collaborators. Highlights missed here will be included with the fall summary. Non-standard abbreviations used are: S.J.C.R., South Jetty of the Columbia R., Clatsop Co., Ore. and V.I., Vancouver Island, B.C.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS--Common Loons nested at Pye L., n. of Campbell R., V.I. (HT) and may also have nested at two lakes near Victoria, V.I. (*fide* VG). Common and Arctic Loons were still moving N past Oregon and Washington coastal points through mid-June. The few Common and Arctic Loons were joined all summer on salt water by numbers of Red-throateds along Oregon and Washington coasts and about Victoria. Six **Yellow-billed Loons** in both nuptial and basic plumages were reported in late June and July at several points on the Queen Charlotte Is. shores (B.C.P.M.). There is but a handful of previous summer records for the Region. A few Red-necked

Grebes summered near Victoria (RS, JTa), while single Horned Grebes were reported from Tillamook Bay, Ore., Ocean Shores, Wash., and Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. Western Grebes were notably scarce this summer at Bellingham, Wash. (TW), but 300 were at Pt. Grenville on the Washington coast July 9 (G & WH), a good mid-summer concentration. A Pied-billed Grebe nest was reported from Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, Ore. and five were found in the Victoria-Saanich area. Black-footed Albatrosses were noted off the Queen Charlotte Is., five on June 19 (B.C.P.M.), and by Terry Wahl's Westport trips, June 26 & July 17 (68 each). TW's two cruises also reported N. Fulmars (6, 38) and Pink-footed Shearwaters (129, 117) as well as a few Flesh-footed Shearwaters (1, 2), which are rare but regular visitors offshore May through October in the Region. Only Sooty Shearwaters were reported inshore. He reported that storm-petrel numbers have been down all year; Fork-taileds were noted June 26 (2) & July 17 (23) off Westport, but no Leach's were observed. Both Double-crested and Pelagic Cormorants nested in good numbers on Mandarte I., S.), Georgia Straits, B.C., with 840 and 501 nests respectively, June 22 (B.C.P.M.). The Pelagic Cormorant also nested on the nearby Race Rocks, with 389 nests on June 21. Brandt's Cormorants were unusually scarce in the Victoria and Saanich area (VG). Also noteworthy were 20 Pelagic Cormorants in s. Puget Sound near Olympia all summer, although no nesting was noted (BH-T, G & WH). Green Herons were well reported n. to Agassiz, in the Fraser R. valley, B.C., where there were four on July 10 (MS). The high count was along the Chehalis R., near Oakville, Thurston Co., Wash., July 22 (G & WH). Only one Great Egret report came in, a single bird at Yaquina Bay, Ore. July 28 (DI, DFi).

WATERFOWL -- Mute Swans in the S. Vancouver I. colony numbered at least 48, including six half grown young July 23 (*fide* VG). Two **Trumpeter Swans** were found near Elma, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 11 & July 12 (G & WH, KB), and one immature was near Gold R., on the w. side of Vancouver I. all summer (HT). Neither bird was injured. An odd-plumaged Brant was noted in Lincoln County, Ore. at the Salmon R. mouth June 12 (DFi). Other Brant reported were six at Ocean Shores, Wash., June 11 & 24 and July 15, and singles at Victoria, June 1 & July 6. These are

normal numbers. It should be noted that summer Brant plumages are frequently not reliable for subspecific identifications. A healthy **White-fronted Goose** at Ocean Shores June 11 & 24 (G & WH) provides the first June record for Washington. A second White-fronted Goose, a sickly adult, was at the S.J.C.R., July 16 (HN, CS).

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Blue-winged Teal were unusually numerous along the Oregon coast (*fide* HN), and a pair at the Applegate R. mouth, Josephine Co., June 11, was a first for that southern location (SS). Blue-winged and unidentified female teals bred at several S. Vancouver I. locations (*fide* VG). The Hoges reported a Blue-winged or Cinnamon brood breasting the Black R. current near Oakville, Thurston Co., Wash.; unusual habitat for a puddle duck. A female N. Shoveler with six young at Cannon Beach, Oreg., provided an unusual nesting report w. of the Cascades. The young were grown by July 30 (*fide* HN). A second brood was reported at Seattle's Montlake fill July 4-10 (EG, KB). A Wood Duck brood at Progress, near Portland, Oreg., June 23 was the only nesting report received (DFi). Five male Ring-necked Ducks in three s. British Columbia locations June 4-18 suggested the possibility of breeding (RS, CRu, RRo, HT, KC), a rare occurrence in the Region. A few Pintail and Am. Wigeon summered on Vancouver I., as usual. So did scattered Greater Scaup and Com. Goldeneye; the scaup were noted in Oregon and Washington as well with 75 at Ilwaco, Pacific Co., Wash., June 17, a high count Barrow's Goldeneyes raised young on mountain lakes in Manning P.P., B.C., and near Santiam Pass s. of Mt Hood, Oreg. A female Bufflehead in Seattle until June 29 (EG), and single Oldsquaw in early July at two localities in s. British Columbia and a male in Tillamook County, Oreg. were notable summer stragglers. Good numbers of Harlequin Ducks summered throughout Georgia Strait; the high count of 150 was at Mandarte I. (JSm, *fide* VG). No nests were reported. White-winged and Surf Scoters summered all along the coast and into Victoria as usual. High counts were 120 White-winged in Oregon at Cape Lookout June 15 (HN, CS), and 104 Surf Scoters at Victoria's Clover Pt., June 1 (RS, HH). The only Black Scoters

were three well n. in Georgia Straits, July 7 & 28 (HT), with one at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. July 31 (ME). Hooded Mergansers nested in Oregon, near Forest Grove, Washington Co., in Washington near Oakville, Grays Harbor Co., and on Vancouver I., n to Campbell R. Common Merganser broods were also reported from Oregon; two at Cannon Beach, Clatsop Co., and one near Forest Grove, in Washington near Oakville (2 broods), and in British Columbia on s. V.I.'s Sooke R. (several broods) and Cowichan Bay (also several broods).

DIURNAL RAPTORS THROUGH QUAIL -- Goshawks nested in Oregon near Zig Zag, Clackamas Co., where an adult was feeding a juvenile June 16 (ESc). Singles were also noted in Washington near Packwood, Lewis Co., and in British Columbia near Campbell R., V.I. The seven Sharp-shinned Hawks reported were all on V.I. There were three Cooper's Hawks reported also, one at Olympia, Wash., and two from Victoria, B.C. The precise nesting status of these species in the Region needs further study. Two Red-tailed Hawk nests were cited, both by Vancouver I. reporters. Single Golden Eagles were reported in Jackson County, Oreg., (ME), and at three Vancouver I. locations. A summer concentration of Bald Eagles at Active Pass in Georgia Straits had a minimum of 74 on June 4, forty-four of which were immatures (RS). Other reports came from scattered Vancouver I. sites, the Washington coast with 13 in Clallam County, June 27-July 5 (ME), and s. to the Salmon R., Lincoln Co, Oreg. A pair of Marsh Hawks at Ocean Shores, Wash, all summer was noteworthy although no nest was found. There were three other w. Washington sightings, and Vancouver I. also reported an individual. Eight known Osprey nest sites on s. V.I. were checked. Two were successful, three were not, and the success of the remaining three was uncertain (HT, VG, RS). More than 30 individuals were noted in Washington and Oregon with notable concentrations the 15+ counted along the Rogue R., s. Oreg., (ESc), and the eight along the outer beach of Clallam County, Wash. (ME). These are good numbers. Few falcons were reported. The single Prairie Falcon in Deschutes County, Oreg., July 18 was just e. of the Cascades crest (ME), and three Merlins were reported from V.I. Four Ruffed Grouse broods on VA. were noted HT reported a good year for Ruffed Grouse around Campbell R., V.I. The Bobwhite in Washington

is apparently widely distributed in prairies and clearcuts in Thurston and Pierce Cos. BH-T found nine calling males at two new locations there this summer. The northernmost California Quail was a pair near Courtenay, V.I. (LS, HT). Mountain Quail were reported only from Lincoln County, Oreg. and near Malahat, VA., where they are probably remnants of an introduced population.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS: -- Virginia Rails bred in Oregon (at Progress near Portland), Washington (Nisqually N.W.R.), and Vancouver I (Saanich). An ad. Virginia's and breeding Soras were at Beaver Pond, Manning P.P., B.C., July 4 (RS) American Coots bred at Saanich, V.I. for the only nesting reported. Black Oystercatchers were common and nested at several points in the Victoria area. No Semipalmated Plover nests were reported, but low numbers were present on Iona I., B.C., through mid-June, and large numbers were along the Oregon and Washington coasts after mid-July. In contrast, numbers at Victoria in late July were eight this year compared to 37 in 1976 (*fide* VG). Snowy Plover bred successfully at its n. outpost at Ocean Shores with four pairs nesting and three young banded (JaS). The Am. Golden Plover at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., June 17 was unique (HN, DFi, EW). Black-bellied Plovers summered throughout coastal areas and the Georgia Straits with the high count 70 at Leadbetter Pt., June 17. A trickle of fall migrant Ruddy Turnstones was noted in late July, with two in Grays Harbor, Wash., on the 14th, a record early date for the state (BH-T). A Black Turnstone held on at Ocean Shores until June 11, a record late spring date, while the first fall bird was a single there on July 15 (G & WH). The Longbilled Curlew July 26 at the Komo Kulshan Guard Station in Washington's N. Cascades defies explanation (BU, *fide* TW). A few Whimbrel were reported from several localities on the s. Washington coast throughout

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June, and by mid-July hundreds had gathered at Ocean Shores and Leadbetter Pt. in fall migration. Spotted Sandpipers bred at Progress, near Portland, at Seattle's

Montlake fill, and at several Vancouver I. points. A single Solitary Sandpiper July 25 near Monroe, King Co., Wash., was the only one reported of this scarce migrant (MC). Both yellowlegs were widely noted in July, probably early fall migrants, although five Greater Yellowlegs June 17 at Leadbetter Pt. may have summered. AC found an unusually high percentage of Lesser Yellowlegs at inland Oregon locations. The first Wandering Tattler returned to s. V.I., July 13 (M & VG) and had reached the S.J.C.R. by July 30 (HN) The only Willets were one at Ocean Shores June 11 (G & WH), and six in Oregon at Yaquina Bay July 31 (ME). This species is rare n. of the Columbia R. Fourteen Surfbirds returned to Ocean Shores July 15 (G & WH) and 37 to the Victoria area on July 18 (RS). Red Knots apparently summered at Ocean Shores as 20 were there June 11 & 24 (G & WH). Sanderlings returned early and in large numbers with the vanguard of 500+ at Ocean Shores July 15. Unusual numbers were observed at Willamette Valley, Oreg. reservoirs in late July (AC), perhaps attracted by the extensive exposed mud produced by the recent drought. Two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were seen in Seattle July 10-11 (KB† FK). Small numbers of Semi-palmateds pass through the Region in both spring and fall. However, there is great danger of confusing them, especially in fall, with the gray, short-billed, juvenile male Westerns. The vanguard of fall Western and Least Sandpipers appeared at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, B.C., July 7, when MS counted 6500 Westerns and 3000 Least. The only Baird's Sandpipers were in Oregon; three at Agate L., Jackson Co., July 30, and three more at Yaquina Bay July 31 (ME). A lone Pectoral Sandpiper was early at Saanich, V.I., July 21 (M & VG). A very few Dunlin apparently summered on the s. Washington coast, although the single near Nanaimo, V.I., July 20 may have been an early fall migrant. Short-billed Dowitchers are clearly the common summering Dowitcher. From 40 to 100 individuals were seen on the Washington coast throughout June, and BH-T saw a cloud of 3000 on an island in Willapa Bay, Wash., June 29. The Short-billed also beat their Long-billed kin back to the Victoria, V.I., area by two days, arriving July 5 (MS), and then outnumbering the Long-billed there through the end of July (RS, VG). By contrast the Long-billed is far more frequent in late fall and winter. The single **Stilt Sandpiper** at Yaquina Bay July 28 was seen by several observers (DFi, DI, BO). Marbled Godwits were noted only at Ocean Shores where 28 lingered through June 24 (G & WH). Phalaropes were few and

scattered. TW had two Red and three N. Phalaropes off Westport July 17. VG and RS make a strong circumstantial case for nesting by Wilson's Phalarope on a pond at Cowichan Bay, V.I., where a territorial male was encountered July 7 and three young were noted July 20-23.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS -- TW's pelagic trips had good variety but small numbers of jaegers June 26 & July 17 out of Westport, Pomarine (1, 7), Parasitic (0, 2), Long-tailed (0, 3), and "South Polar" Skua (2, 5). (For a recent analysis of the West Coast Skuas see *Auk* 94:417). The earlier skuas furnished the only recent June records for these waters. Otherwise, a single Parasitic Jaeger was found by MS in s. Georgia Strait June 30. Glaucous-winged and W. Gulls continued their miscegenating ways! The large Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay island colonies appeared thoroughly and randomly mixed (BH-T). To the south, two apparently pure Glaucous-wingeds showed up in a Cannon Beach, Clatsop Co., Oreg., Western Gull colony (DFI) In Puget Sound, however, Glaucous-wingeds are all alone; a 50% reduction in the Swinomish, Snohomish Co., colony was thought owing to food supply reduction (TW) On V.I. only Glaucous-winged Gulls were reported nesting, with 423 nests counted on Race Rocks and 1666 on Mandarte I. (B.C.P.M.). California Gulls apparently move to the coast down the Columbia R., from their inland breeding colonies, beginning to arrive about mid- June (HN, DFi). By July 21, 7000 adults were counted in the mouth of Willapa Bay (BH-T) and 5000 were at the S.J.C.R., July 30 (HN). The importance of the Columbia R. route versus the Fraser R. in British Columbia is highlighted by the low numbers noted on V.I. in late July A new nesting species for the Northern Pacific Coast Region is the **Ring-billed Gull**. Jack Smith of the Washington Dept. of Game discovered 20 nests on Snag I., Willapa Bay, in 1976. That site had none this summer, but nine nests with photogenic eggs and chicks were among the Caspian Terns on Whitcomb I, in Grays Harbor (BH-T). Ring-billed Gulls nest fairly commonly to the e. but are a welcome addition to the Regional breeding fauna. A few Mew Gulls summered as usual on s. V.I. although no nests were noted. A few fall birds were s. to Yaquina Bay by July 28. Franklin's Gulls were at Victoria's Clover Pt., hot spot July 8, an adult, and again on the 30th, an immature (M & VG, RS). TW

noted that numbers about Bellingham were far below normal However, s. Oregon birders were surprised by three near Medford, Jackson Co., a new location (AC, DFi, ME) How do Bonaparte's Gulls do it? They were still migrating N. in numbers at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., June 15, and at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., June 17, but were back at Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay by the hundreds in mid-July. Most intriguing is a possible nesting site at Pye L., n. of Campbell R., V.I. (HT). Bonaparte's Gulls are not now known to nest in our Region. Heermann's Gulls arrived at Ocean Shores by June 11 (G & WH) with numbers building to 5000 adults (with but four immatures) by July 21 in Willapa Bay (BH-T) However, numbers about Victoria were down from last year (*vide* VG). The Huges counted 200 Black-legged Kittiwakes at Ocean Shores throughout the summer, somewhat fewer than normal, and there were none offshore (TW), which is typical. Seven Sabine's Gulls were found out of Westport July 17 (TW) for the only report

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S.A.

A few **Common Terns** are not unusual in mid-summer at coastal points. However, the seven pairs of small terns found nesting on a rough sandy beach on Jetty I., in Everett harbor, Snohomish Co., Wash., by DM June 9 & July 21 were unprecedented. Although the nests and eggs were photographed, it is still not certain if the terns were Common or Forster's. Either would be a Regional first. Forster's breeds e. of the Cascades and is extremely rare at any time on the w. side. Common Terns are not known to breed w. of the Continental Divide, to our knowledge! Adult and juvenile Com. Terns were positively identified at the nest site in late August (KB, PWM?). This, and the fact that Forster's Tern typically builds its nest on aquatic vegetation in freshwater marshes points strongly to *Sterna hirundo*.

Two Arctic Terns were noted offshore from Westport July 17 (TW) for the only report. Caspian Terns were noted often in small numbers n. to Neah Bay, Clallam Co, Wash. (BP), and to Cortes I., s. Straits of Georgia June 27 (CS). Their center of abundance, however, is between the Columbia R. mouth and Grays Harbor. BH-T counted 2040 nests at the latter location. Only 30 nests were successful in Willapa Bay; a large colony of previous years was apparently wiped out by high water. A single Black Tern strayed to Monroe, King Co., Wash., July 17-22 (MC) and a few were found in the Rogue R. valley, Jackson Co., Oreg., July 30 for the first local record (AC, ME, DFi). A single **Horned Puffin** was seen June 9 and off-and-on all summer in Oregon at Cape Lookout, Tillamook Co. (JG, m.ob.). Another single individual was photographed at Cape Flattery, Clallam Co., Wash., July 2 (RRi). In addition, three small nesting colonies of this species were found by B.C.P.M. biologists this summer on the w. coast of the Queen Charlotte Is., for a first Canadian and Regional breeding record. This represents an extension of about 100 km. S. from their previous southernmost colony on Forrester I., Alaska.

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- Barred Owls were nesting again at Colonial Cr. Campground, Whatcom Co., Wash., where they were first found in 1974. Another westside Barred Owl location is Cortes I., n.w. of Powell R., in the Georgia Straits, where a single bird was noted June 29 (MS, CS). Short-eared Owls nested this June at Sand Pt., in Seattle, for a local first, but the nest was destroyed by vandals (FS). A pair was near the Ocean Shores Game Range throughout June and was seen in display flight (G & WH). A probable family group was seen near Bellingham July 13 (DMc, *fide* TW), and other sightings suggestive of nesting came from near Vancouver, B.C. Up to six Poorwills at Roxy Ann Butte, Jackson Co., Oreg., in our Region's "little California" were unique Black Swifts gave cause for comment. Although fairly common and regular to the n. of the Columbia R., this summer they were noted numerous times and various places throughout w. Oregon (*fide* AC). Anna's Hummingbirds were again present all summer at Saanich, V.I., where an immature was seen from June 27 into July (RM-G, *fide* VG) and in Bellevue, King Co., Wash., one-two through July 10 (BMI), but nests were not found. A female hummingbird seen on Leadbetter

Pt., at close range but briefly June 17 exhibited some features of both Anna's and Broad-tailed Hummingbirds (HN†). An Acorn Woodpecker at Cornelius, Washington Co., Oreg., was at the species' n.w. limit (DFi). A Lewis' Woodpecker at the Nisqually N.W.R., June 11 (J & GM) was unusual, since there are no recent breeding records for the Region. The **male** Williamson's Sapsucker at White Pass in the Washington Cascades June 4 was an e. slope species at the w. edge of its range. Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported only from a restricted area in the N. Cascades. Nests were found July 3 at Hart's Pass on the Cascades crest (MPE), and July 16 near Mt. Baker (DV, *fide* TW), both Whatcom County, Wash. There were four E. Kingbirds at Agassiz e. of Vancouver, B.C., July 10 (MS) and a single at Victoria June 27 (EL, *fide* VG), but no nesting activity was reported. The W. Kingbird, however, nested again at Packwood, Lewis Co., Wash. (G & WH, BH-T), and strays appeared in coastal Tillamook and Lincoln Cos, Oreg. in mid-June (DFi, HN). The four Ash-throated Flycatchers at Roxy Ann Butte, near Medford, Oreg., July 30 were not unexpected (ME), and two Black Phoebes nearby, just s.w. of Medford at Ruch, are regular in that area. A Bank Swallow in the mountains of Skamania County, 15 km w. of Trout L., July 30 was perhaps an example of post-breeding up-slope drift from the e. side breeding populations (BH-T). Cliff Swallows "increased tremendously this year" at Portland, nearby Sauvie I., and on the Oregon coast (DFi *et al.*), and were present in higher-than-usual numbers near Campbell R., V.I. (HT). Our precious few Purple Martins had an up year with nesting pairs double that of 1976 at Florence in coastal Lane Co., Oreg. at Portland (TL), and in Seattle and Tacoma (DFe). Other colonies held their own, as at Fern Ridge near Eugene, Oreg. at Olympia and L. Whatcom, Wash. At one nest reported from Saanich, V.I., adults were feeding young July 8 (M & VG).

PARIDS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Plain Titmice were common near Medford as usual at the n. extreme of their range (ME), and Com. Bushtits ranged N to Campbell R., their n. limit (HT). A White-breasted Nuthatch in Manning P.P., July 3 represented perhaps the fifth park record (RS). The uncommon House Wren increased near Tacoma and nested near Campbell R, VA. A **Mockingbird** was at Eugene, the last week

in July (JC, *fide* AC). Details of a sighting of a **California Thrasher** at O'Brien, Josephine Co., Oreg., June 18,

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have been submitted to the Oregon Bird Records Committee (TT, PN, *fide* AC). There are but a few sight records of this species n. of the California line. A Townsend's Solitaire nest with three eggs was photographed June 12 near Crow, Lane Co., Oreg. in the Coast Range where only one previous nest was known (*Condor* 51: 190). The nest was on the ground in a clearcut at *ca.* 500 m. elevation; by June 23 three young had hatched (ph-ME). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested as usual at their n. limit near Medford. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet singing near McCleary, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., June 21 was a first for w. Washington in summer (PWM?). It breeds commonly on the e. slope of the Cascades, however, and in the mountains of Vancouver I. Red-eyed Vireos were located again this year on the Rogue R., near Shady Grove, Jackson Co., Oreg. June 13 (SS). This marks the s.w. extremity of their breeding range. California observers should be on the lookout. The Red-eyed Vireo is not uncommon n. through the Willamette Valley of Oregon (AC) and the Puget Sound area, and may be found n. to Cortes I., near Campbell R, V.I. (MS, GS). It avoids the immediate coast and the w. slope of the Coast Ranges, however. Ten Black-throated Gray Warblers on Cortes I., June 28-30 were a bit far w. at this species' n. limit (MS, GS). Hermit Warblers were apparently breeding at two Mason County, Wash., locations, n.w. of the species' favorite haunts. Two were noted at Jarrell Cove S.P., on Hood Canal June 12 (KSc) and three were singing at Staircase Campground, Olympia N.P., June 9 (BH-T). BH-T had Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, and Hermit Warblers all together at the latter site. **Northern Waterthrushes** may nest in the isolated Am. Redstart colony just e. of the Cascades crest in c. Oregon along Crescent Cr, Deschutes Co. (AC, ME *et al.*). This location is several hundred kilometers s. and w. of the nearest known breeding colonies. Yellow-breasted Chats singing near Portland June 5 & 7 were unusual (DFi). A chat was also along the Rogue R., in s. Oregon July 11 (ESc).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS --
Bobolinks on Tatoosh I., Clallam Co., Wash., June 4-5 (2 males, 2 females), provided the second record for w. Washington (BP). Yellow-headed Blackbirds are scarce breeders with us; this year they nested near Vancouver, B C., and on Sauvie's I., near Portland (DI). A few strays appeared on V.I., n. to Campbell R. A small colony of **Tricolored Blackbirds** nested near Eagle Pt., Jackson Co., Oreg., (CRo, *fide* AC). This location is across the Cascade crest from, and about 75 km. w. of the northernmost regular breeding site at Klamath L., Oreg. Northern "Bullock's" Oriole nests were found well n. at Saanich and near Courtenay, V.I., while DFi estimated a population of near 150 for Sauvie's I. The Lazuli Bunting is relatively uncommon in w. Washington and British Columbia; a singing male was at Abbotsford, B.C., June 18 (*fide* VG), two males were found near McKenna, Pierce Co., Wash. (BH-T), while 21 males were near Portland (DFi). Pine Grosbeak reports are always welcome. Three were at Manning P.P., July 3-5 (RS) and a single male was found at Rainy Pass, Skagit Co., Wash., June 4 (TW). Both sites are on the Cascade crest. Six Lesser Goldfinches were at their n. limit at Scappoose Bottoms, Columbia Co, Oreg., June 5 (DFi), and a group was well n on the coast at Devil's L., Lincoln Co., Oreg., July 28 (DF0 Red Crossbills were well reported throughout, both on the coast and in the Cascades. Outstanding were the 30 White-winged Crossbills at Mt. Rainier N.P., July 14 & 24 (CC†, TB, MD). This species is rare and irregular at any season s. of the International border Brown Towhees were numerous at the n. limit of their range near Medford (ME, AC). The male **Grasshopper Sparrow** singing at Sea I, near Vancouver, B.C., in early June was extraordinary. The bird was last seen June 18 (ph. BMa, AG, JFu, ES1, MW). This species is generally restricted to the arid interior e. of the Cascades where it is uncommon and local. The pair of **Black-chinned Sparrows** reported near Medford in late May was seen again July 23 & 29 (SG, CRo). This is the second report for the Medford area and the species is unknown elsewhere in the Region. The only Fox Sparrows reported were several singing males on the s.w. side of V.I. near the Jordan R (M & VG). These are no doubt of the race *fuliginosa*, which is said to reach its s. limit of breeding in adjacent coastal Washington. Two male White-crowned Sparrows were singing the *pugetensis* song pattern at Huckleberry Meadows, 15 km. w. of

Trout L., Skamania Co, Wash, at 1600 m elevation July 30 (BH-T). Probable *pugetensis* were singing just e. of the crest on June 30 at Howard L., Yakima Co., at a similar elevation (ESH) This coastal lowland race appears to be rapidly colonizing clearcuts and other open areas in the s. Cascades of Washington.

End 1977

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Runyan (CRu), Joy & Ron Satterfield, Emile Schoffelen (ESc), Karen Schwinkendorf (KSc), Lois Shopland, Ed Sing (ESi), George Sirk, Chuck Smith, Jack Smith (JaS), Jamie Smith (JSm), Frank Spracklin, Ernie Spragg (ESp), Kathy Stotts (KSt), Ken Summers (KSu), Steve Summers, Jeremy Tatum (JTa), H. Telosky, Joe Terlouw, (JTe), Timm TurrenTine, Barry Ulmann, Doris Vanderway, Terry Wahl, E. G. Whiteswift, Mark Wynja.

1978

Autumn Migration 1977

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers



Heavy rains over much of the Region in late August brought welcome moisture and cooler temperatures but did little to bring up low water levels resulting from the year-long drought that most areas suffered. Above normal precipitation in late September gave some help but October was again very dry. November precipitation varied greatly from place to place. The outstanding weather conditions were the early snow and cold which struck shortly after mid-month, prematurely freezing many lakes and ponds. Temperatures moderated by the end of the month and the snow mostly melted from the lowlands. Low water levels undoubtedly affected waterfowl, shorebirds and other water-dependent birds. The generally mild and pleasant fall periods encouraged stragglers from many bird groups to stay late--the November cold snap was too late to affect most

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species. In the Bend, Oregon area Julie Johnson reported a marked dearth of birds in that rain shadow of the Cascades, even drier than normal, but most other areas apparently had reasonably good migrations and a rather large number of unusual records.

LOONS AND GREBES -- Common Loons numbered 33, of these the largest group reported was on Island Park Res., Fremont Co., Ida, Nov. 5. An **Arctic Loon** was on Vaseux L., B.C., Oct. 25-Nov. 21 (SRC) and one was collected on the Idaho side of the Snake R., near Asotin, Wash., Oct. 20 for the second state record, *Washington State U. (JWW). At least five were on L. Lenore, Grant Co., Wash., Nov. 6 (JA). A Red-necked Grebe at Richland, Wash., Oct. 22 made the second record there; perhaps the same bird was there Nov. 13 (CC, MC, REW). Two appeared on a high alpine lake near Fortine, Mont., Sept. 11 (WW) and one was still at Polson, Mont., Nov. 26 (F.A.S.). A huge gathering of 500 W. Grebes was on Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., Aug. 28.

PELICANS THROUGH IBIS -- Very few White Pelicans were seen on the Snake R., around Pocatello, Ida. a group of 30 was on Am. Falls Reservoir Aug. 30 where usually there are hundreds. However, Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., had an average daily count of 392 in August. One color-banded bird was shot at the trout farm near Pocatello; Ida. had come from Colorado (CHT). A carp control program at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., influenced White Pelican use. A total of 2345 was in the basin before the lake was sprayed. By Oct. 9 1355 were present, primarily in areas where the carp kill was not complete. By Oct. 23 only 90 remained and the last were seen Nov. 5. Unlike the pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants increased, with a total of 250 on Malheur L. Oct. 2 and two through Nov. 16 (CDL). McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had a Green Heron Nov. 3 (RH, *fide* SM) and another, tardily reported, was seen near Atomic City, Ida. June 9 (DKH). An adult and an imm. Cattle Egret were at

Market Lake W.M.A., Ida. Aug. 9 (MVM) and two were near Pingree, Ida. Sept. 15 (MRC). One stayed about ten days and was photographed in a pasture at Clarkston, Wash., arriving Oct. 31 after a storm (JB,

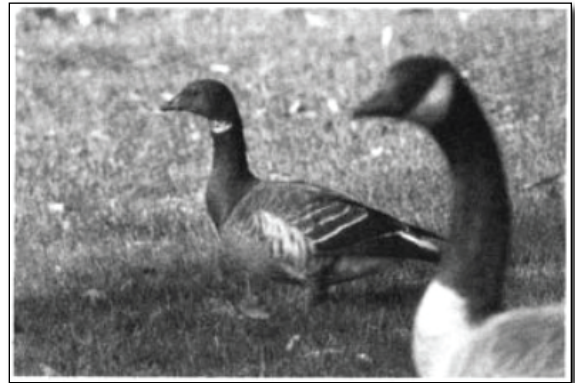


*Cattle Egret, Walla Walla, Wash, Nov. 6, 1977.
Photo/ Shirley Muse*

fide EMcV). One was near Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 12-18 (KK, WS, SM, AR) and an adult and two immatures were near Merrill, Ore., Aug. 12 (CSL) Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., had a Snowy Egret Sept. 14 (ECB) and three were along the Snake R. near Ontario, Ore., Aug. 28 (WS). The species was last seen at Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 4. A **Least Bittern** was seen at Market L., Roberts, Ida. Aug. 11 (MRC). A flock of White-faced Ibis at Mud L., Jefferson Co., Ida., Aug. 18 was estimated at 2500 birds (MRC).

WATERFOWL -- Malheur N.W.R.'s peak of 237 Whistling Swans was only a fraction of 1976's 3800 but Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., had 500, only slightly down from last year and about 1000 came through Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. The latter refuge had 175-200 Trumpeter Swans in November. A few wore neck collars showing their origin to have been Grand Prairie, Alta. The lone bird at Salmon, Ida., stayed until about Oct. 7 and one was at McNary N.W.R. during the entire fall period. Malheur N.W.R. had about 33. Up to five were on the Kettle R. in n.e. Washington in November (DC). Deer Flat N.W.R. had about 7000 geese. A huge concentration of 50,000- 60,000 Canada Geese was at Stratford L., Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 9. Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. had 8000 in November, compared to 3000 a year ago and McNary

N.W.R. had some 15,000. At Malheur they peaked at 3100. Blue L., Grant Co., Wash., had 20 Cackling Geese Nov. 6 (JA). A **Brant** was sighted at Naramata, B.C., Nov. 13 (JG) and a **"Black" Brant** was photographed at Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 6 (SM & B.M.A.S.). Malheur Refuge had 1000 Snow Geese



*"Black" Brant, Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 12-18,
1977. Photo/Shirley Muse.*

and a few Ross', while Summer L. to the south had 70,000 white geese before Nov. 21. Snow Goose, a rarity at Red Rock Lakes, numbered 200 in early November. White-fronted Geese peaked at Malheur at 1135 Sept. 30. At least 10 of the latter were with the Canadas at Stratford L., and McNary N.W.R. had 25. Peak duck numbers at Malheur were 32,700, down from 97,000 last year--Am. Wigeon numbered less than a tenth of 1976's 46,000. The peak of 35,000 at Columbia N.W.R. was up a bit from last year. At Deer Flat N.W.R. duck numbers were about normal at the end of November, about 220,000, mostly Mallards.

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A sight record of a **Black Duck** Sept. 10 came from Swan L., Flathead Co., Mont. (EJ). Twelve Gadwalls were on Medicine L. near Medimont, Ida. Oct. 9 (SGS). The species showed an increase at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. with 100 present all November. The lower St. Joe R. near St. Maries, Ida. had a peak of 10,650 Am. Wigeon Oct. 17 and the Pend Oreille R., Bonner Co., Ida., had 15,000 Redhead Nov. 16. A male **European Wigeon** was on Swan L., Vernon. B.C.,

Nov. 5 (JW) and Naramata, B.C. had an **Oldsquaw** Nov. 21 (JL). A male and five females of the latter were on L. Lenore, Grant Co., Wash., Nov. 6 (JA) and one was collected on the Snake R. above Walters Ferry, presumably in the Nampa, Ida., area Nov. 9 (JH). Five White-winged Scoters were reported at Seebe. Alta. Oct. 29 (JJP): seven were on Silver L. Spokane Co., Oct. 14, and at least five were on L. Lenore Nov. 6 (JA). Penticton, B.C. had a female Surf Scoter Oct. 8 (SRC) and another female was at Brewster, Wash., the same day (KK, WS). Soap L., Grant Co., Wash. yielded one Nov. 6 (JA) and the Snake R. at Clarkston, Wash., another Oct. 15-16 (EMcV). A female shot at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Oct 17 made the first record there (RRS). A Ø bird was on L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash., Nov. 12 (PH). A **Black Scoter** collected along the Columbia R. near Brewster Oct. 20, *W.S.U., was the first recorded in e. Washington (GB, *fide* RK).

HAWKS -- Eastern Oregon had two sightings of **White-tailed Kite**, an immature near Spray Aug. 18 (JR) and one on Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 7-Nov. 10 (CDL). Hawk numbers in general appeared good. The scarce Ferruginous Hawk was noted: singles near Burns, Ore., at Lowden, Wash., near Ovando and Kalispell, Mont.; two adults and a young bird at a nest, 30 miles s.w. of Helena, Mont., and only 14 at Kilgore and Henry's L., Fremont Co. Ida., about the same as in 1976 but about half the number of previous years (CHT). Bald Eagles hit a record peak of 444 Nov. 30 in the L. McDonald-Lower McDonald Cr.-Flathead R. area of Glacier N.P., Mont. (ELR). A late Osprey was at Naramata, B.C., Nov. 12 (JL). The Peregrine Falcon was observed at five widely scattered localities.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Two Sharp-tailed Grouse near Fortine, Mont., were the first seen there for several years. Two coveys of Scaled Quail were sighted in the Juniper Forest s. of Connell, Wash., Nov. 19 (PC). Up to 31 Turkeys appeared at Smith's Prairie in the Nampa area in November (WH, PCo). The species was reported for the Kalispell area (F.A.S.) and eight appeared at Blue L., e. of Coeur d' Alene L., Ida (I.D.G.). A female was sighted along the Naches R, n.w. of Yakima Aug. 21 (Y.A.S.) and one was sighted s.w. of LaGrande, Ore., in the Glasshill area Oct 1 (JBi).

CRANES AND COOT -- Sandhill Cranes numbered over 2000 in their traditional fall staging area in Grays L valley Sept. 23 and a like number had reached Monte Vista N.W.R. in Colorado Sept. 26. The San Luis Valley there had over 12,000 Oct. 24. By Nov. 15 over 11,000 had arrived at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (RCD). Greater Sandhill Cranes reached a peak of 2855 at Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 14 and three flocks of the Lessers, totaling less than 200, migrated over Sept 29. An estimated 1500 Sandhills were on Bridge Creek W.M.A., Umatilla Co., Ore., Sept. 30-Oct. 1. American Coot at Malheur peaked at 8400 compared to 42,000 last year but numbers at Columbia N.W.R were down only slightly. In n. Idaho they peaked at 11,000, 11,000, and 9000 on the lower St. Joe R., Coeur d' Alene R. and Pend Oreille R. respectively

S. A.

Of the seven Whooping Cranes hatched by Sandhill Crane foster parents at Grays Lake N.W.R., in s.e. Idaho, four fledged, the others apparently falling prey to coyotes. Along with five hatched in 1975 and 1976, they left mostly in early October, migrating through Colorado and arriving in New Mexico by November 15 or earlier, with the exception of one 1977 bird killed by hitting a barbed wire fence. Six appeared at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. and four were expected to winter there with Sandhill Cranes Two juveniles, supposedly from Grays L, disappeared shortly thereafter and were believed to have continued on to Mexico with Sandhills. One of the other two birds appeared at Bernardo and the other at Las Vegas N.W.R., N. Mex. (RCD).

SHOREBIRDS -- The Lewiston, Ida.-Clarkston, Wash. area had a disappointing migration but very good numbers and variety appeared at Reardan and In Grant Co., Wash. Cold Springs N.W.R., e. of Hermiston, Ore., had an Am. Golden Plover Oct. 1 (CC, MC), the species appeared in Pleasant Valley between Libby and Kalispell, Mont., Oct. 3-5 (DDeJ), and four were at Reardan, Wash., Sept. 11-12 (JA). Black-bellied Plovers seemed almost common, appearing In many localities and often in unusual numbers A Ruddy Turnstone was at Tranquille, B.C., Sept 2 (JAn) and one in winter plumage Aug. 31 at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont.,

made the first record there (DB). Harrison L., near Harrison, Mont., had 120 Long-billed Curlews Aug. 20. Two Red Knots were carefully identified near Post Falls, Ida. Sept 19 (SGS). Stilt Sandpipers appeared in increased numbers particularly in e. Washington, and one at Tranquille, B.C., Aug. 14 was a rarity (JAn). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Ninepipe N.W.R., Sept. 18 was Montana's first w. of the Continental Divide (DB). One or two Sanderlings were at Golden, B.C., in September (FK) and the species was sighted in the Lewiston, Ida, area (EMcV) and at Reardan and Banks L., in Washington American Avocets peaked at 5600 in September at Malheur N.W.R. The only Black-necked Stilts reported during the fall period were two or three at L Helena until Aug. 6 and one Sept. 11 (SMa).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS -- A Parasitic Jaeger was harassing Ring-billed Gulls at Salmon Arm, B.C., Aug. 25 (RC) as was one at Richland, Wash., Sept 18 (P & REW). One (same bird ?) was at Walla Walla

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Sept 23 (SM, RZ). The only Mew Gulls were seven at Golden, B.C., Aug. 6 (RRH). An imm. Sabine's Gull was sighted at Tranquille Sept. 6-12 (JAn) and another at the Yakima R. delta near Richland Sept. 11 was Woodley's second in ten years. There were two sightings of the Com. Tern along the Snake near Lewiston (EMcV). An Arctic Tern at the Yakima delta Oct 2 was in full breeding plumage and was watched for 30 minutes with a 60X scope (REW).

OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- The remains of a **Barn Owl**, extremely rare in interior British Columbia, were found under a Great Horned Owl's roost tree near Vernon Oct. 24. It apparently had been killed during the summer (JG). A Flammulated Owl found dead at Invermere, B.C., in September was preserved and sent to the B.C. Museum, and one was banded at Pocatello, Ida. Sept. 23 (JJ). The pair that nested near Blewett Pass, Chelan Co., Wash. was last seen Aug. 26 (G & WH). An ailing bird found near Kuna, Ida. Sept. 22 was cared for but died later (LP). A

Hawk Owl was photographed at Kimberley, B.C., Nov 11 (MVW) and one was near Vernon, B.C. Nov. 18-30 (MCo). Single Barred Owls were sighted at Bitterroot L., w. of Kalispell, at Yellow Bay on Flathead L., in Kalispell and at Woods Bay near Bigfork, Mont. The species was reported as having nested near Missoula, Mont. and was seen during the fall (SF) and one was at Blue L., e. of Harrison, Ida. (JMcN). An exhausted individual was picked up in a field near Fernwood, Ida. in late September and was being nursed back to health (DRJ). An ad. female and an imm Spotted Owl were seen Aug. 26 at Blewett Pass, Chelan Co., Wash., where they nested this summer (C & WH). Great Gray Owls appeared regularly at Pleasant Valley w. of Kalispell and were seen on Bridge Creek W.M.A., Umatilla Co., Ore., and on Starvation Ridge, Wallowa Co., Ore. Poorwills at Malheur N.W.R. were seen often near rimrock "indicating they were moving into these areas to hibernate" (CDI). The old chimney along the Klickitat R., Klickitat Co., Wash. had 1500 Vaux's Swifts using it Aug. 27 (Y.A.S.). Anna's Hummingbird was not seen after Aug. 9 at Leavenworth, Wash., (LG) but British Columbia had a male at Kelowna Sept 16 (EL), a female at Vaseux L. Oct. 4 (SRC), and a male at a Revelstoke feeder in late November for that city's first record (JW). Overlooked last year was a report of a male Anna's Hummingbird at Lakeside, Mont, Oct. 10-18, 1976 (JBr).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- Pileated Woodpeckers were "definitely on the increase" in the Salmon, Ida., area, about ten having been sighted in October (HBR) and Weber got his first record of the species at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash, Oct. 18. The White-headed Woodpecker, rare in Idaho, was sighted twice and photographed in October on Daggett Creek n.e. of Boise (A & HL). A male, a female and an imm. **Purple Martin** were recorded at Merrill, Ore., Aug. 12 (CSL).

JAYS THROUGH NUTHATCHES --

S.A.

Blue Jays continued to appear, mostly as singles but sometimes in twos or threes. In British Columbia Vernon and Kimberley each had one. Malheur N.W.R. had its second record and Umatilla, Ore., another. Washington reported the birds at Richland, Walla Walla, Spokane and Kamiak Butte. In Idaho they appeared at Idaho Falls and Nampa and in Montana they appeared at Harrison, Bozeman, Hamilton, L. McDonald in Glacier N.P., near Kalispell and near Fortine.

A group of five Scrub Jays, well-described, was reported a few mi s. of Priest River, Ida. (ES) Pinion Jays were mentioned only for Gardiner, Mont. (JEQ) The Chestnut-backed Chickadee visited a feeder in Clarkston, Wash., in late October (JWo) and a Kimberley feeder, the first since 1973. A White-breasted Nuthatch at Field, B.C., in mid-October made the first record for Yoho N.P. (TH) and one was at Golden Nov. 4 (FK).

MIMIC THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES --

Merrill, Ore., had an imm. Mockingbird Aug. 12 (CSL) and Idaho had a sighting near Atomic City Aug 31 (MRC) and two s.w. of Oreana; three birds Sept 10 and two Nov. 30 (JH, G.E.A.S.). A belated record was of a Gray Catbird near Burns, Ore., July 4 (CDL) Mountain Bluebird numbers looked encouraging at Kimberley and in the vicinity of Spokane. Sprague's Pipit was reported only from Gardiner, Mont Five Bohemian Waxwings were sighted in Yoho N.P., Aug 6 and a large flock near Kalispell Sept. 9 seemed very early.

WARBLERS -- A Nashville Warbler, well-described, was at Three Forks, Mont., Sept. 27 (RL). Virginia's Warbler was reported at Rupert, Ida. Oct. 4 (WHS) Malheur N.W.R. had 1-2 Chestnut-sided Warblers Sept. 10-13 (CDL). A **Pine Warbler** watched at length at close range in Bozeman Nov. 6 was the second for the state (ET & RAH). Single Palm Warblers appeared at Golden, B.C., Oct. 8 (RRH, FK) and at Knutsford, B.C., Oct. 10 (JAn). A well-described male Canada

Warbler was found at Jewel Basin in the mountains e of Kalispell Sept. 10 (JR).

BLACKBIRDS -- Bobolinks were noted near Kalispell Sept. 2. A Red-winged Blackbird at Fortine made only the fourth November record in 50 years (WW) Banff, Alta., had three Rusty Blackbirds Oct. 15 (JJP) and Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. had two Nov 12 (FBH). Walla Walla College Farm had one Oct 26 (WS). A Brown-headed Cowbird at Tranquille, B C, Nov. 5 was very late (JAn).

FINCHES -- A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 11 (m.ob.), and a moulting male Indigo Bunting was sighted at Golden, B.C., Sept. 1 (RRH, FK) The first record of a House Finch at Golden was of a male Aug. 25-Sept. 7 (RRH). Bozeman reported the

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species Nov. 19 (SC) and the birds were common at feeders in Missoula. A Grey-crowned Rosy Finch in the Clark Fork vicinity Oct. 14 (JMcN) and two at Pinehurst Nov. 3 (JLi) were the first recorded in that area of Idaho since 1950. About 100 Black and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were feeding at the summit of Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore., Oct. 11-12 (CDL) and about two dozen Blacks were on Sacajawea Peak n.e. of Bozeman Aug. 17 (EH). Gray-crowned were seen frequently on Lolo Pass and in the Bitterroot Valley w. and s. of Missoula during November, not a normal situation (SF). Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills were appearing often enough to presage an "invasion" for the winter. The latter were seen twice in the Price Cr. - Peet Cr. area s.e. of Lima Res., s. Beaverhead Co., Mont., an area where they have not previously been recorded (JS).

SPARROWS -- A Green-tailed Towhee was spotted in the Owyhee Mts., s.w. of Oreana, Ida. Sept. 17 (JH). A Baird's Sparrow was carefully observed Aug. 27 just s.

of L. Helena in Montana for the first record in that area (LS). A Lark Sparrow at Walla Walla Nov. 22 seemed very late (RM) and Sage Sparrows were still at Malheur N.W.R. in late November. The Kalispell area had a Clay-colored Sparrow Aug. 1-9 (JR). The usual sprinkling of Harris' Sparrow occurred over the Region. One at Richland was the third ever there (REW). Single Golden-crowned Sparrows appeared on Malheur N.W.R., at Leavenworth, Spokane and Reardan, Wash., and three were at Boise, Ida. Tranquille, B.C., had a White-throated Sparrow Oct. 8 (JAn) and Nicholson, B.C., had one Sept. 25 (FK). The only other reports were from Egan Slough e. of Kalispell Oct. 3 (JR) and e. of Bigfork Oct. 10 (MS). Four McCown's Longspurs were in a flock of Horned Larks near Blue Dome on Birch Cr., Clark Co., Ida. Aug. 28 (MRC). Two Lapland Longspurs lingered at Golden until Oct. 8. One was found near Asotin Cr., Asotin Co., Wash., Oct. 30 (GHi) and one showed up 5 mi e. of Bigfork Oct. 8-10 (MS). A flock of 20 Snow Buntings was on the Arco Desert west of Atomic City, Ida. Aug. 27 (CHT).

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, Jerry Ansell (JAn), Eugene C. Barney, June Berghammer, Jerry Bingner (JBi), Blue Mt. Aud. Soc., Jacqueline Brewer (JBr), Doug Bonham, George Brady, Richard Cannings, Steve R. Cannings, Don Carney, Phil Cheney, Mark R. Collie, Mary Collins (MCo), Priscilla Cook (PCo), Craig Corder, Marion Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Dan DeJong, Rod C. Drewien, Flathead Aud. Soc., sir Frissell, Golden Eagle Aud. Soc., Larry Goodhew, James Grant, Pauline Hager, Douglas K. Halford, Terry Hammell, Ed Harper, Eve T. & Ray A. Hays, James Heckathorn, Wesley Heckathorn, Randy Heinz, Gerry Hickman (GHi), Glen & Wanda Hoge, R. R. Howie. France, B. Huston. Idaho Dept. of Game, Joe Jeppson, Don R. Johnson, Elly Jones, Frances King, Rick Knight, Ken Knittie, Ernestine Lamoureux, Ron Lang, Al & Hilda Larson, C. S. Lawson, Jay Lewis, Joe Lint (JLi), Carroll D. Littlefield, Rose Marsh, Sid Martin (SMa), Jack McNeel, Ed McVicker, M. Vincent Mowbray, Shirley Muse, J. J. Podlubny, Leon Powers, Joyce E. Queckborner, Arthur Rempel, Hadley B. Roberts, Jean Robocker, Joanna Ross (JRo), Edwin L. Rothfuss, Jon Sadowski, Lorelei Saxby, W. H. Shillington, Richard R. Sjostrom, Esther Stewart, Shirley G. Sturts, Mac Sudan, Wally Sumner, Charles H. Trost, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Mildred V. White, Jim Wolcott

(JWo), Pat & Robert E. Woodley, John Woods, Yakima Aud. Soc., Ric Zarwell. *--specimen.

Autumn Migration, 1977

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Eugene S. Hunn



The drought conditions of the past two years continued into mid-August with a record heat wave. The resulting low reservoirs in the Willamette Valley exposed mudflats to a noteworthy inland shorebird migration. However, shorebird rarities were widely distributed in a pattern difficult to describe as drought related. Heavy rains in late August heralded the return of normal (wet!) fall weather. The end of October brought storms to the coast and unusual inshore pelagic sightings and heavy mortality among alcids. Heavy snows in the mountains correlated with the return to normal numbers of our winter lowland Varied Thrush populations and also for good lowland numbers of Pygmy Owls. A week-long cold snap in

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mid-November brought an early flight of northerners such as Snowy Owls, Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, and Snow Buntings. With the return of mild weather, however, this initial movement dispersed. Abbreviations used: S.J.C.R., South jetty of the Columbia R.; V.I., Vancouver Island, † written description on file.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS -- Three Yellow-billed Loon reports, all from Washington, were fewer than usual: the earliest was one at Port Gamble, Kitsap Co., Sept. 22 (PMo). Late broods of Pied-billed Grebes were found Aug. 28 at Seattle (RK) and Sept. 9 at Langford, VA. The **Laysan Albatross** found Aug. 27 off Depoe Bay, Lincoln Co., Oreg., (ME *et al.*) seemed early, and another "white albatross", presumably this species, was reported Sept. 7-8 off Willapa Bay, Wash. by charter boat skippers (*vide* TW). Observers on the Sept. 10 pelagic trip from Coos Bay, Oreg., reported a

brief sighting of a Manx Shearwater (ME†, C.A.A.S.). There is only one specimen record of this species for the Region, an individual of the race *opisthomelas* taken in British Columbia waters in 1891. The N flight of Brown Pelicans during August was delayed and less extensive than usual, although the typical predominance of juveniles was noted. The annual Oregon coastal survey Aug. 27-28 counted 315, including 231 immatures (*vide* AC). Reports n. of the Columbia R., ranged from one at Westport Aug. 20 (TW) to 21 off LaPush, Jefferson Co., Oct. 16 (DC). The pelagic highlight of the season was the **Short-tailed Shearwater**. A single Aug. 20 off Westport, and pairs observed from the Ocean Shores jetty Sept. 18 (ESH, TWe) and Oct. 6 (G & WH, BH-T) were unusual but scarcely hinted at the numbers building offshore. Wahl's latest pelagic trip Oct. 9 found Sooties inshore in about normal numbers, but the proportions of Short-taileds increased toward the continental shelf reaching 90% of the shearwaters near shrimpers on the shelf edge. The trip total for Short-tailed Shearwaters was 3300+. To the end of the period a few continued to be seen regularly deep in the Georgia Straits and Puget Sound s. along the Oregon coast.

Table 1. Pelagic Bird Observations: Tubenoses*

Species	Westport, Wash., Aug. 14	Westport, Wash., Aug. 20	Westport, Wash., Aug. 21	Depoe Bay, Oreg., Aug. 27	Coos Bay, Oreg., Sept. 10	Bamfield, V.I., Sept. 10	Westport, Wash., Sept. 10	Westport, Wash., Sept. 11	Bamfield, V.I., Sept. 17	Bamfield, V.I., Oct. 1	Westport, Wash., Oct. 9	Remarks (TW)
Black-footed Albatross	23	22	10	39	1	2	86	30	3	17	76	good numbers
Laysan Albatross				1								
N. Fulmar	8	6	10	1			2	2		8	101	late fall influx
Pink-footed Shearwater	32	229	61	20	25	1	291	24	30	6	44	below average
Flesh-footed Shearwater								1				below average
New Zealand Shearwater		5	7	6		1	937	345	6	93	651	normal to above
Sooty Shearwater	9200	4635	2696	4000	75	352	4730	2100	631	312	1675	normal
Short-tailed Shearwater		1									3352	see text
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	28	102	53	1			23	58		107	4	below average
Leach's Storm-Petrel	1											

*Westport sightings, *fide* TW; Depoe Bay, *fide* C.A.S.; Coos Bay, *fide* C.A.A.S.; and Bamfield, *fide* MS & BCPM.

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EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS -- Two groups of Cattle Egrets were found; four on the Long Beach Pen, Pacific Co., Wash., Oct. 5 (BH-T), and four near Portland Nov. 27 (MSm *et al.*). Great Egrets were widely reported: two reached V.I., in August for the fourth and fifth island records (*fide* VG), but the only concentration was 58 at Coos Bay by Oct. 17, and 44 nearby at Reedsport Sept. 22 (*fide* AC). A Snowy Egret joined the Coos Bay concentration Oct. 22 (AM) with another three. Nov. 7 (AC *et al.*). A third Oregon Snowy was near Woodburn in the lower Willamette Valley Nov. 4 (AS, *fide* HN). A few Black-crowned Night-Herons appear w. of the Cascades each fall. This year there were three at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. Aug 6 (DF, HN), one along the Chehalis R., Grays Harbor Co., Wash., Aug. 12 (G & WH), and one at Victoria, V.I., Sept. 28 (RS). By late November the Wash. St. Game Dept. counted a record 173 Trumpeter Swans at the winter concentration near Mt. Vernon. Five

Trumpeters at Ocean Shores Nov. 19 (J & GM) were the farthest s. Single Emperor Geese, including one immature, were found at the Willapa Bay N.W.R., Wash., Oct. 7 (JWe) and Ocean Shores Oct. 13 (RR, ph.), at the Baskett Slough N.W.R., near Salem, Oreg., Oct. 16 (GG) and at Reifel Ref., Ladner, B.C., Nov. 19-30 (*fide* DM), for a good showing for this rare migrant. The six Blue-winged Teal at Beaverton, near Portland, Nov 12 were late, as were two near Victoria, V.I., Nov. 18. European Wigeons were first seen Oct. 17, an eclipse plumaged male in Portland (RR), and Oct. 18 near Tacoma (RC). Thereafter the usual small percentages of wigeons were of this species. The Everett sewage ponds, Snohomish County, Wash., attract hundreds of N. Shovelers in fall, with the 2000 there Oct 15 (KB) the high count this season. No other comparable concentrations are known in the Region, though flocks of 125-200 were reported from sewage ponds near Duncan, V.I., near Portland, and n.w. of Salem after mid-October. Six Redheads at N. Cowichan, V.I., Oct. 31 (M & VG) was the largest flock found. Canvasbacks were noted early this fall; a female Aug. 20 at Ilwaco, Pacific Co. (HN), a pair Aug.

26 at Olympia (G & WH), and a female Sept. 9 in Saanich (M & VG). A female **King Eider** seen among scoters at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Oct. 23 (DE, JH†) was subsequently studied closely through Nov. 4 (DP, TW, AR†) for the sixth state record. About 1600 Com. Mergansers Nov. 27 near Tacoma was a very large concentration (ESH, AW).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES -- The peak of Turkey Vulture migration was 92 Sept. 27 at Victoria (*fide* VG). Very late stragglers were noted, two Nov. 9 on Mercer I., near Seattle (BdA), and two Nov. 19 s. of Pt. Townsend, Wash. (TWe, BB). **White-tailed Kites** are increasing rapidly in Oregon. This fall about 15 birds, including at least three juveniles, were spread from Bandon to the S.J.C.R., on the coast, and from Cottage Grove to near Salem inland. One adult was also seen Nov. 27 at Raymond, Pacific Co., Wash., for the second record n. of the Columbia R. (BH-T). Accipiters were conspicuous this fall. There were nine Goshawk sightings. V. Goodwill's southern V.I. summary listed 30 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 21 Cooper's; Harrington-Tweit noted nine Sharp-shinneds and two Coopers in s.w. Washington, and the Summers had nine Sharp-shinneds and one Cooper's in s.w. Oregon. Four Cooper's were together just s. of Mt. Hood in the Oregon Cascades Oct 15 (DF, HN). Only one "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was reported, a dark phase bird Oct. 23 on the Lummi flats w. of Bellingham (TW). Rough-legged Hawks were first noted Oct. 15, simultaneously at Bellingham, Whidbey I., and Willapa Bay, Wash., and on Mt Hood, Ore. At least seven Golden Eagles were noted, all in B.C., with four in the Victoria-Saanich area where they are resident. Bald Eagles and Marsh Hawks were widely and frequently reported. A Prairie Falcon at Baskett Slough N.W.R., Nov. 13 (AC, TC) was the only west-side report. Peregrine numbers were judged fair (AC) to good (TW) this fall. Fox summarized sightings of seven including four juveniles along the Oregon coast, which is encouraging. The 63 Merlins reported clearly indicates a banner year The 1200 Sandhill Cranes over Sauvie's I., near Portland Oct. 12 is a high count (HN).

SHOREBIRDS -- The season produced an extraordinary number and variety of rarities. Highlights included a juv. **Mongolian Plover** discovered Sept. 11

on Bayocean spit, Tillamook Bay, Ore. (DDeS *et al.*) The bird remained until Sept. 17 for apparently the second North American record s. of Alaska (see AB 31:140-1, 1977). A **Mountain Plover** nearby at the Tillamook Bay jetty Nov. 19-26 was Oregon's second (DF, JG *et al.*). Ocean Shores had an **Upland Sandpiper** Sept. 2 (AR†), for the second record for w. Washington, and Iona I. yielded British Columbia's second **Curlew Sandpiper** July 30-31 (BMc, *fide* DM). Record numbers of Stilt Sandpipers were seen, with seven in w. Oregon (*fide* DF), up to four together near Willapa Bay, Wash., Aug. 19-20 (TW, AR†), and 20 on Aug 20 at Iona I., B.C. (BMc, *fide* DM). Ocean Shores had the only Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sept. 10-14 (DP, AR *et al.*). Four **Bar-tailed Godwits** appeared; one-two Sept. 11-15 at Bandon, Ore. were photographed for Oregon's second record (SS, †JG *et al.*), and one-two at Ocean Shores Sept. 25-Oct. 1 for Washington's fourth record (DP, AR† *et al.*). All four had the heavily marked rump of the Alaskan race *baueri*. Three **Ruffs** were found. One at Iona I., Aug. 5-8, was photographed (BMc, *fide* DM), a male was near the Skagit Game Range Sept. 24-26 (ESH, TW *et al.*), and a female was photographed at Ocean Shores Sept. 25-28 (DP†, AR† *et al.*). A Black-necked Stilt Aug. 7 at Cattle Pt., San Juan I. (RW), probably associated with the invasion last summer of e. Washington by this species, rounds out the list. American Golden Plovers were widely reported, with up to 15% of the birds of the small bright golden w. Alaskan-Siberian race *fulva* (BH-T, WSH, AC) Seven Solitary Sandpipers were reported; the one Oct 4 at Iona I., was late (DE, JH). Lesser Yellowlegs were in above-average numbers in B.C., with the peak count 543+ at Iona I., Aug. 20 and three still there Oct. 29 (both BMC, *fide* DM). The 27 Willets Sept 26 at Coos Bay was considered a high count (*fide* AC), as

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were the ten Nov. 27 at the North River mouth, Willapa Bay, Wash. (BH-T). Ten Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Aiyansh, near Terrace, B.C., Aug. 22 (*fide* VG), and there were six sightings of this species in Oregon, with good photos of one at Tillamook Bay Aug 20 (JG). Others were reported through Sept. 28 at Ocean Shores (AR†). Goodwill reported 83 Baird's

Sandpipers seen on V.I., during August and September, and Nehls commented that Baird's were found "in almost any flock of shorebirds." Peak numbers were an unprecedented 268 Aug. 6 at Iona I. (BMc, *fide* DM) and 30 on Aug. 13 at Sauvie's I. (*fide* DF) Two Oct. 2 at Ocean Shores were exceptionally late (JWi). There were seven Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at four locations. The adult at Ocean Shores Oct. 1 is noteworthy (ESH), as most migrants here are juveniles, and the one Nov. 26 at Ocean Shores was very late (MM†). Marbled Godwits were absent in s.w. Oregon (AC), but in normal numbers elsewhere, though the 64 seen in s.w. Washington was better than expected (BH-T), and the single on Chatham Sound, near Prince Rupert, B.C., Aug. 14, was very far n. (FH†, *fide* VG). The Am. Avocet at Bandon Sept. 15 was out of place (CR, *fide* AC).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS: -- An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Astoria, Oreg., Aug. 21 (*fide* HN), two at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene Aug. 30-Sept. 1 (ME, AC†), one very close at Mt. Rainer, Wash., Aug. 28 (RT†), and one late at West Pt., Seattle Oct. 8 (ES†) were unusual inland records. Three Parasitic Jaegers were also at Fern Ridge Res., Sept. 2-15 (*fide* AC), and one Nov. 21 at Victoria, B.C., was the latest. Pelagic reports of jaegers, gulls, terns, and alcids are summarized in Table 2. An ad. Glaucous Gull at Nehalem Meadows, Tillamook Co., Oreg., Oct. 10 was extraordinarily early (JG, RR). More typically, one second-year and two first-year birds were reported after

early November. Herring and Thayer's Gulls arrived nearly simultaneously in mid-September. Three ad. Thayer's Gulls at the Yelm dump, Thurston Co., Wash., Nov. 27 had clear yellow irides, further confounding the large gull picture (ESH, AW). California Gulls peaked at 9500 Aug. 18 at the S.J.C.R. (DF, DI). Franklin's Gulls seemed late in arriving and slightly lower in numbers than usual. The best concentration was at the Everett sewage ponds, where up to nine were seen Sept 18-Nov. 6. The **Little Gull** was found in the Region for the sixth consecutive year; an adult among about 2000 Bonaparte's Gulls at the Everett sewage ponds Oct 2-30 (DP *et al.*). As yet no immatures have been found Heermann's Gulls made a late push into Puget Sound when 1500+ were counted Oct. 15 at Deception Pass, Whidbey I. (JWi), with about 100 still there Nov 12 (TW). The 1000 Com. Terns at Victoria Oct. 16 was the high count this fall, and the one at Dungeness pit, Wash., Nov. 12 (DS) and two in Victoria Nov. 17 (RS, *fide* VG) were the latest. Arctic Terns were identified at coastal and Puget Sound locations much more than usual this season, with the juvenile at Ocean Shores Oct. 8 the latest (ESH, TWe). Onshore terns need careful examination. Most Caspian Terns left early (BH-T), with only a few found during September, but one near Ocean Shores Nov. 27 (FK) was very late A small flight of Black Terns occurred, with eight birds noted, the first at Westport Aug. 15 (BH-T), and five moving past Lincoln County, Oreg., coastal points Oct. 1 (DF, HN *et al.*).

Table 2. Pelagic Bird Observations: Larids, Alcids*

Species	Westport, Wash., Aug. 14	Westport, Wash., Aug. 20	Westport, Wash., Aug. 21	Depoe Bay, Oreg., Aug. 27	Coos Bay, Oreg., Sept. 10	Bamfield, V.I., Sept. 10	Westport, Wash., Sept. 10	Westport, Wash., Sept. 11	Bamfield, V.I., Sept. 17	Bamfield, V.I., Oct. 1	Westport, Wash., Oct. 9	Remarks (TW)
Pomarine Jaeger	18	10	14	1	5	9	19	11	5	3	42	good numbers
Parasitic Jaeger	1	2	3	1	3	11	8	4	1		2	average or below
Long-tailed Jaeger	2	6	1	2	1		9	7				above average
skua sp.**	2	2	1				6	7				good numbers
Sabine's Gull	7	3	1		2	83	46	8	118	247	2	below average, except off V I
Arctic Tern	1	10	9				54	35	2			
Xantus' Murrelet		3									2	
Cassin's Auklet	50	65	103	1000	50	13	29	17	5	617	130	
Rhinoceros Auklet	632	373	479	nd	nd	16	163	48	11	10	17	
Tufted Puffin	5	3	4			2	7	2				

*Westport sightings, *fide* TW; Depoe Bay, *fide* C.A.S.; Coos Bay, *fide* C.A.A.S.; and Bamfield, *fide* MS & BCPM

**All those positively identified were the "South Polar" Skua, *C. macormickii*. nd = no data

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Common Murres seemed concentrated just offshore early this fall (BH-T, TW), and unusually large numbers of dead murres were beached, mostly subadults of the race *californica* (HN). Two Parakeet Auklets were well described off Cape Lookout Pk., Tillamook Co., Oreg., Aug. 13 (GG†, DB), and a single, perhaps one of these, was found dead nearby at Bayocean spit Dec. 3 (BT, *fide* AC). The southward trend of the Horned Puffin continued with a report of eight Aug. 1 at Triangle I., off the n.w. tip of V.I. (B.C.P.M.). The Horned Puffin at Cape Lookout, Oreg., was seen again Aug. 13 & 20 (JG *et al.*).

CUCKOOS THROUGH MARTINS -- A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** heard Sept. 2-11 on Sauvie's I., Oreg. (TC, JG *et al.*), and again there Sept. 28 (DF) was one of very few regional records in recent years. The first Snowy Owl was one on Quadra I., B.C., Nov. 10 (HT), the next was photographed in Seattle Nov. 19. Snowies were widespread thereafter, but in low numbers. A

major movement of Pygmy Owls into the Vancouver, B.C., and Bellingham areas began in late September (DM, TW), and many sightings were made through the end of the period. One Barred Owl seen and two heard on Quadra I., Oct. 24-Nov. 13, are local firsts (AD, *fide* VG). Single Barred Owls found dead in early November and another seen Nov. 26 (both, *fide* DM) were the third and fourth records for the Vancouver area. The very local Spotted Owl was reported from just two Cascade locations: one adult and one immature at Blewett Pass, Wash., Aug. 26 (G & WH), and five Sept. 12 in the Siskiyou N.F., w. of Grants Pass, Oreg. (P & SS). An apparent family group of three Short-eared Owls was in Everett, Wash., Aug. 19 (KB), and a few were in the Westport-Ocean Shores area throughout the period. Black Swifts were very scarce on VA., compared to the previous fall (VG), but were much more often reported from Oregon this season than usual (*fide* AC). Anna's Hummingbirds were found n. to the Campbell R area of V.I. (*fide* HT). Adult Anna's with juveniles appeared in August in Vancouver, B.C. (CB, *fide* DM), and in Portland (VH). Two small *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were found: a male Nov. 3-4 on Mercer I., Wash. (BeA), and a female Nov. 27 in Portland (RS). A male **Costa's**

Hummingbird came to M. Hankin's feeder in Portland all summer. Birders heard of it, the third state record, in October and it was seen and photographed through Nov. 17 (HN, JG, TC). Only a few vagrant flycatchers were found on the coast this season: one W. Kingbird Aug. 24 near Astoria (SG), a **Tropical Kingbird** Oct. 26-30 in Colwood, V.I. (ND, M & VG *et al.*), and an Ash-throated Flycatcher Nov. 19 at Tillamook Bay (DF, HN *et al.*). Another Ash-throated was in Salem Oct. 14-16 (FS, RG†). Eight Bank Swallows were at Reifel Ref., B.C., Sept. 10 and two were near there Sept. 27 (VG). Singles were seen at Ocean Shores Sept. 25 and near Everett Oct. 2 (DP *et al.*). Last reports for other swallows were two Tree Swallows at Beaverton, Oreg, Oct. 26 (JE), single Cliff Swallows in Everett Oct 2 (DP, ESH) and in Victoria Nov. 9 (RS), and one Barn Swallow in Portland Nov. 17 (DF). An encouraging concentration of Purple Martins was the 150 over the Bay City sewage ponds near Tillamook, Aug 26-30 (SG, TL); there were 50 Purple Martins at Fern Ridge Res., Aug. 30 (ME), 32 in Seattle Aug 31 (ESH, BMe), and young martins still in the nest in Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 1 (TL).

CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES -- An influx of Steller's Jays to s. V.I., in September, was described as an invasion (VG). Single Blue Jays were found in Poulsbo, Wash., from Sept. 27, in Eugene, Springfield, and Portland, Oreg., after Oct. 16, and another was photographed Oct. 20 in Pacific Rim N.P., V.I. (WC) A Clark's Nutcracker was far from its usual haunts at Ocean Shores Oct. 22 (ES *et al.*). More than the usual Mountain Chickadees appeared in the lowlands this season, with reports after late September of one-two birds from Cortes I., and Vancouver, Seattle, and Eugene. There was an unusually high number of Red-breasted Nuthatches on the s.w. Oregon coast. Two White-breasted Nuthatches were also near Coos Bay Sept. 12 (AM), and two Pygmy Nuthatches were at Cape Blanco Sept. 13 (TL). Another Pygmy was on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Sept. 25 (B & GR, WW†). The House Wren in Vancouver, B.C. Nov. 8 (AG, *fide* DM) was very late. Single Mockingbirds appeared at Reifel Ref., B.C., Sept. 27 (VG) and in Portland in late November (*fide* DF), and an immature was at Westport Nov. 27 (BHT†). A vagrant Sage Thrasher was at Baskett Slough N.W.R. Nov. 19 (JG, DI *et al.*). After last winter's absence, the many reports of Varied

Thrushes in normal numbers throughout Oregon and Washington after mid-September are welcome. The species remained scarce and hard to find on V.I., however (VG). About 50 Swainson's Thrushes were heard in nocturnal migratory flight over Eugene Sept. 15 (AC). Groups of 4-13 W. Bluebirds were in four locations in Oregon, and about a dozen were near Hart's L., Pierce Co., Wash., Nov. 7. The first N. Shrikes were at Iona I., Oct. 4 (DE, JH), and Oct. 5 at Saanich, V.I., and Ocean Shores and Willapa Bay, Wash.

VIREOS THROUGH TANAGERS -- A possible new breeding area for the Red-eyed Vireo about 100 mi n.w. of the nearest known breeding sites is indicated by the finding of 11 at Lakelse Lake P P near Terrace, B.C., Aug. 18 (T & MS, *fide* VG) A single Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, and N Waterthrush, and three Am. Redstarts at the same location Aug. 17-18 are each at or just beyond the w limits of these species as well. A Tennessee Warbler near Astoria Aug. 24 (SG†) was one of very few records in the s. portion of the Region. Single Yellow Warblers, identified as the race *rubiginosa*, came aboard the boat off Westport on both Aug. 20 & 21 (TW). The only Hermit Warbler report was a late record of three at Cape Blanco, Oreg., Sept. 13 (TL) **Palm Warblers** invaded. They were found at ten coastal localities this fall. The first two appeared at Newport, Oreg. Aug. 27 (GG), then one on Goose I., Grays Harbor Co., Wash., Sept. 22 (BH-T), and one at Matsqui, B.C., Sept. 28 (VG). Three other Washington sightings were in the Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor areas, Oct. 5-24 (BH-T). Between Oct. 24-29, Nov. 1-4 were found in Oregon at Arch Cape, Tillamook

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Bay, and the North Bend area. One was found at Saanich, V.I., Nov. 18 (RS†). Single MacGillivray's Warblers at Willapa Bay and the Skagit flats both on Sept. 24 were late (GR, ESH). A single male Am. Redstart was seen along the Rogue R., near Shady Cove, Oreg., Aug. 26 (*fide* HN), and a vagrant male was in Stanley Pk., Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 4 & 15 (DE, JH†). A Yellow-headed Blackbird and two Brown-

headed Cowbirds were seen well offshore from Westport Aug. 20 (TW). Forty Rusty Blackbirds near Terrace, B.C., Aug. 21 (MS, *fide* VG) were w. of the nearest known breeding areas in c. British Columbia. Two Rusties appeared at Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 27 (AG, *fide* VG). They were photographed and seen through October (DM). Another was found Oct. 11 in Manning P.P., B.C. (VG†). On Nov. 13-14 the second **Rusty Blackbird** ever for Oregon was found at Baskett Slough N.W.R. (AC† *et al.*). An Ø W. Tanager in Bellevue, Wash., Oct. 2 was late (PWM).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS -- A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found dead at Mt. Angel, Marion Co., Oreg. Sept. 27 (*fide* HN). A winter-plumaged male **Indigo Bunting** in Alton Baker Pk., Eugene Nov. 9 (AC†) represented one of few Oregon records. Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported, but in generally low numbers, except at coastal Washington localities where they are usually absent (BH-T). Two Com. Redpolls were in Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 1 (MB, BK, *fide* DM), and one was with siskins in Seattle Nov. 13 (ESH†) for the earliest ever w. Washington arrival. Red Crossbills were abundant along the Oregon coast, reported in low numbers from w. Washington, and were virtually absent from V.I. (VG, HT). A flock of 50 White-winged Crossbills was just w. of Hart's Pass, Whatcom Co., Wash., Aug. 7 (G & WH) for the only report of the species. An early migrant Savannah Sparrow was seen well offshore from Westport Aug. 21 (TW); the peak of migration for the species was in mid-September (VG, BH-T, HN). A Chipping Sparrow at Ocean Shores Oct. 8 (ESH) was late and the four-five in Eugene Nov. 11-17 (AC *et al.*) may overwinter. Single Harris' Sparrows were in Dungeness, Wash., Nov. 1-30 (*fide* DS) and in Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 5 (*fide* DM). At least 14 White-throated Sparrows were found at ten localities, with one at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash., Sept. 24 (TW) the earliest, and up to five individuals in Eugene after Oct. 9 (AC, JG, TC). Peak counts for Lapland Longspurs were all on Oct. 8, from Ocean Shores, Leadbetter Pt., and S.J.C.R. Two **male** Snow Buntings at Siletz Bay, Oreg., Oct. 1 (JE†) were very early. Thereafter small groups were widely reported s. to near Eugene.

CITED OBSERVERS -- Betty Anderson (BeA), Bud Anderson (BdA), D. Bateman, B. Bernson, British Columbia Provincial Museum, M. Bruckner, K. Brunner, C. Butt, W. Campbell, Cape Arago Audubon Society, R. Carson, D. Chelimer, **A. Contreras**, Corvallis Audubon Society, T. Crabtree, N. Dawe, D. DeSante, A. Dorst, D. Edwards, M. Eggers, J. Evanich, D. Fix, R. Gerig, **J. Gilligan**, G. Gillson, M. & **V. Goodwill**, S. Gordon, A. Grass, J. Hall, **B. Harrington-Tweit**, F. Hart, G & W. Hoge, V. Holmgren, D. Irons, B. Kautesk, R. Knight, F. Krause, T. Lund. B. MacDonald (BMc), J. & G. Maender, D. Mark, A. McGie, B. Meilleur (BMe), M. Moore, P. Moore (PMo), **H. Nehls**, **D. Paulson**, B. & G. Ramsey, A. Richards. R. Ringlelet, C. Roberts, R. Satterfield, F. Schrock, T & M. Shepard, D. Smith, M. Smith (MSm). R. Smith, E. Spragg, A. Staples, P. & S. Summers, H. Telosky, B. Thackaberry, R. Toonen, **T. Wahl** (TW), A. Wang, R. Warpala, T. Weir (TWe), J. Welch (JWe), J. Wingfield (JWi), W. Wilkins. Another 238 uncited observers contributed to the material on which this report was based.

The Winter Season, 1977-78

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -- INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Except for a cold spell in late December and early January, the Region experienced a mild winter. December precipitation was generally above normal with heavy snowfalls. January and February continued the trend and temperatures were normal or above, except for northwest Montana and adjacent Alberta. A deep snowpack in the mountains resulted, promising adequate summer water. More northerly and mountain areas still had much snow cover at the period's end. The long drought was over. No great influx of most northern and mountain species occurred and no unusual numbers of semi-

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hardy stragglers and winterers appeared. Persistent snow cover seemed to work hardship on species such as Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel and juncos in some localities. *[We note with deep regret the passing of Ralph Hand during the winter. His records and reports of the birds of the Northwest date back to the early 1940s in northern Idaho and continued in western Montana until his death. As a student of birds, a conservationist and a friend, he will be greatly missed.]*

LOONS AND GREBES-Small numbers of Com. Loons wintered on Okanagan L., B.C., and on the Columbia R., near Wenatchee, Wash. Omak, Wash., had one Dec. 17 and Flathead L., Mont., had the species at Bigfork in mid-December and at Yellow Bay in late January. An Arctic Loon was with one or two Com. Loons at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., Jan. 23-Feb. 28+. Supposedly the same bird was killed by a hunter there (m.ob.). Two **Red-throated Loons** were sighted Jan. 29 at Okanagan Landing; they are rare in interior British Columbia in winter (JG). Two to six were on the Columbia R., near Wenatchee Dec. 31-early February (HO). At least one Red-necked Grebe apparently wintered at Yellow Bay, for the only winter record (DS). A few Horned Grebes on the Snake R., s. of Asotin, Wash., in December and January and in the Lewiston, Ida.- Clarkston, Wash. area, in late January through February furnished the first winter records for the locality as did 25 W. Grebes; the New Lower Granite Dam Res. probably a factor (EMcV, JWW). A Pied-billed Grebe was on the Blitzen R., Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Oreg. Dec. 21. The species is only occasional there (CDL).

CORMORANTS THROUGH WATERFOWL Ten Double-crested Cormorants wintered on the Snake R., near Pasco, Wash. (CDL). A **Green Heron** was sighted along the Snake R., at Marsing, Ida. Jan. 21 (JH, BH, KE). An imm. Black-crowned Night Heron lingered at Malheur N.W.R., until Dec. 6, and two adults and one immature were observed at McNary N.W.R., Feb. 11, (WH, BW). Whistling Swans were on Swan L., s.e. of Bigfork, Mont., Dec. 6-20. Unusual were appearances of 19 at Rimrock L., w. of Yakima Dec. 17 and 12 near

Yakima Feb. 23-24 (Y.A.S.). Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had a maximum of 247 Trumpeter Swans but peak numbers at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., dropped from 16 to 6. Two were at Philleo L., Spokane Co., Feb. 18. Most of the Canada Geese were reported from the Nampa, Ida. area, which peaked at 7250 Dec. 6, and Malheur N.W.R., where 2000 wintered. Toppenish N.W.R., Wash., had 200 Feb. 16 and Turnbull N.W.R., 1000 Feb. 8. A **Cackling Goose** was with Canadas on the Columbia R., near Wenatchee Jan. 5 (PC) and two appeared near Spangle, Wash., Feb. 18 (JA). Conley L., near Cove, Oreg., had 350 White-fronted Geese Feb. 21 (MH, RR). Otherwise only singles were reported, at Malheur N.W.R., Dec. 21; near Spangle, Wash., Feb. 1 & 18; at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., Jan. 21, and on Hagerman Ref., Pocatello, Ida., Feb. 12. Snow Geese were at Swan L., near Bigfork, Mont., Dec. 2-6. One or possibly two **Ross' Geese** at McNary N.W.R., Jan. 8-Feb. 17 attracted statewide attention (KK, WS, m.ob.). Duck numbers were generally low, particularly for wintering birds. The biggest concentration reported was of 14,000 Mallards, about normal, at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. in early December. About 200 wintered there. The species peaked at 2100 in the Nampa, Ida. area, Dec. 16. The peak at Turnbull N.W.R., was 600 Jan. 5. They were almost absent in the Pocatello area, where usually there are thousands. The drought apparently was responsible. A male Mallard x Pintail hybrid was described in the Flathead Valley near Somers, Mont., Dec. 16 (DS). A few Gadwalls wintered at Red Rock Lakes and Malheur N.W.R. The Nampa area had a peak of 1250 N. Shovelers Jan. 15. Pend Oreille L. and River in n. Idaho had 7600 Redheads and Canvasbacks numbered 40 on Jan. 10 (I.F.G.). Up to 100 of the latter were at Mann's L., near Lewiston, some wintering. Large numbers were reported on Flathead L. in January and February (U.S.F. & W.S.). Common Goldeneyes were the most common wintering duck at Red Rock Lakes and 600 was the greatest concentration reported. A Harlequin Duck on the Snake R., at Marsing was the first ever for s. Idaho (JH, RH). Ten Ruddy Ducks on the winter survey on fend Oreille L., were unusual (I.F.G.). Common Mergansers numbered 890 on the winter survey in n. Idaho (I.F.G.).

HAWKS -- Six Goshawk sightings came from e. Oregon and Washington and w. Montana. A

Swainson's Hawk was reported for the Nampa, Ida. area Jan. 20, (G.E.A.S.) and the species was reported Dec. 17 near Moxee and on Yakima Indian Reservation, Wash., Feb. 16 (Y.A.S.). A Ferruginous Hawk was sighted in the Potholes area at Dodson and Frenchman Hills Roads., Grant Co., Wash., Jan. 15 (WH, BW). Wintering Bald Eagles at Wolf Lodge Bay, Coeur d' Alene L., Ida., numbered 50 ad. and ten imm. birds Dec. 30

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(I.F.G.), and a count Jan. 10 over the Pend Oreille R., Bayview, Hayden L., and Coeur d' Alene revealed 70 ad and five imm. birds (I.F.G.). In the Flathead Valley of w. Montana from Kalispell s. to Post Cr., Lake Co., and w. to Noxon, 21 were found, down from previous years (U.S.F. & W.S.). Absence of Am. Coot was believed responsible. By contrast, the Yakima R. mouth and the Columbia R., at Rocky Reach Dam near Wenatchee and between The Dalles and Cascade Locks had an unusual number of sightings (REW). Two Ospreys were near American Falls, Ida, Jan. 21 (MRC) and one was reported near Mt. Pelter in that area Feb. 19 (*fide* CHT). Single Gyrfalcons were reported from British Columbia and w. Montana. Prairie Falcons were sighted at 14 localities but there were only five sightings of Peregrine Falcons. Merlins were seen in at least seven localities.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS THROUGH GULLS -- Ruffed Grouse numbers on a winter census plot near Spokane showed a decided increase. A "good flock" of Sharp-tailed Grouse was found in n. Douglas County, Wash. A covey of ten was seen s.e. of Kalispell. Sage Grouse were sighted in the Nampa area Dec. 17 and were on their strutting grounds near Foster Flat, Malheur N.W.R., Feb. 25. Seven coveys of Gray Partridge in the Reardan-Davenport, Wash. area, totaled 50± birds. Small groups of Mountain Quail were located near Eagle Cr., Salmon R. Breaks, 30 mi s.e. of Lewiston, Ida. (DK). Up to 31 Turkeys were reported for the Nampa area and the species was sighted in the Kalispell vicinity (JR). At least six were in Marble Valley 3 mi n.w. of Addy, Wash. (JN). Greater

Sandhill Cranes had returned to Malheur by Feb 17; they numbered 820 Feb. 25. Two Lessers appeared there Feb. 25. Three Sandhills were in the Nampa area Jan. 23. Wintering Am. Coot appeared scarce. The Snake R., at Firth, Ida., had a Spotted Sandpiper Jan. 17 (MRC). A Lesser Yellowlegs was along the Columbia R., at Irrigon, Oreg. Jan. 12 (JM) and four were along the Snake R., near Asotin, Wash., Jan 22 (EMcV). A flock of 24 Dunlin at the Yakima R. mouth, near Richland, Wash., Dec. 10 & Feb. 13 may have wintered (REW). Up to three first-year Glaucous Gulls were on the Clearwater R., in Lewiston Jan. 22-Feb 26 (EMcV, JWW) and one was at the Walla Walla, Wash, city dump Feb. 8 (WS). A first-year Iceland Gull was identified at Coeur d' Alene city dump Dec. 28 (IOB, JWW) and a bird believed to be of this species was near Canyon Ferry Dam near Helena, Mont. (SM, M.A.C.). A Glaucous-winged Gull at Nampa Feb 17 was only the second sighting for Idaho (JHi). Two adults and an immature were at Richland Feb. 11 (WH) and probably the same birds were at Pasco Feb. 14 (JA). One adult was at Coeur d' Alene Dec. 28 (JWW). An ad. female **Thayer's Gull** collected at Coeur d' Alene Jan. 30 was probably Idaho's second definite record and the first specimen (JWW). Three ad. gulls at the Yakima R. mouth; Feb. 11-14 were at first thought to be Thayer's but an alternative suggested by Eugene Hunn was that they were Western x Glaucous-winged hybrids (WH, LH, RH, BK, BW, REW). A Thayer's was sighted at Orondo n. of Wenatchee Dec 12 (PC).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- Thirty± Mourning Doves wintered along the Kootenai R, between Kootenai N.W.R., and Bonnets Ferry and a few wintered along the Columbia R., in the Gifford-Bissell, Wash. area. A Screech Owl was found Dec 26 & Jan. 2 roosting in an abandoned barn w. of Bozeman, where the species is rare (JR, SC). A scattering of Snowy Owls was detected in every state and province of the Region except Alberta and e. Oregon. A Hawk Owl wintered in an apple orchard containing some spruces and Douglas firs near Vernon, B.C. (JG) and one was reported just n.e. of Pocatello in January and February (MRC, *fide* CHT). Pygmy Owls were commonly reported and appeared definitely up in numbers at Missoula and at Polson and other places in the Flathead Valley, Mont. One in the Salmon, Ida., area was Roberts first ever there and one reached the

Council, Ida., area Feb. 5 (DJ). This was the third straight winter a Barred Owl appeared on Lewis-Clark State College campus in Lewiston, Ida. (EMcV), and single birds appeared near Asotin and Colton, Wash (JWW). One in Penticton, B.C., captured a Pygmy Owl. One was found perched on a steel beam at the Fast Flux Test Facility, Hanford Atomic Energy Reservation, Benton Co., Wash., Feb. 15 (EM, REW) The Great Gray Owl was reported in Pleasant Valley w. of Kalispell (DD) and between Kalispell and Columbia Falls (MS). One was hunting voles near Vernon, B.C., Feb. 18 (JG) and a freshly road-killed bird was found at Addy, Wash., Feb. 9 (TA, *fide* SZ) Seven Long-eared Owls in a good breeding colony were on Umatilla N.W.R. near Umatilla. Oreg. Feb 20 (C & MC). Saw-whet Owls were reported at Yakima (TM) and Wenatchee (PC) and at Nampa and Deer Flat N.W.R., near Nampa (BH, JH, ST). Kootenai N.W.R., Bonnets Ferry, Ida. also had one (LDN) and the Vernon, B.C. area had several December sightings. A male Anna's Hummingbird was still visiting a feeder in Kelowna, B.C., Jan. 2 (RY) and three wintered at a Wenatchee feeder (PC). Yakima had one at a feeder before Christmas (Y.A.S.) and a female at a Lewiston feeder Dec. 11-Jan. 1 provided the second Idaho record (JWW, EMcV, JW, EB).

WOODPECKERS -- Lewis' Woodpecker numbers were "still way down" in the Wenatchee area (PC) Ten were reported for the Ahtanum Valley w of Yakima Dec. 10 and one near Naches, Wash., Feb 10 (Y.A.S.). Single birds were seen at Johnson Bar, Hell's Canyon of the Snake R., s. of Lewiston in mid- January and Feb. 18-20 (DK) and Salmon, Ida., had one Dec. 23 (HBR). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the Kalispell area Feb. 20 seemed very early (MS). A female Williamson's Sapsucker was found along Spring Cr, Upper Grande Ronde R. w. of La Grande, Oreg. Dec 20 (MH) for the only report. A White-headed Woodpecker was seen Dec. 11 at Bridge Cr., 6 mi s. of Ukiah. Oreg. (JM) and one was near Chewelah, Wash., Dec. 4-5 (JN). The only reports of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were from Harvey Cr., s.e. of Metaline Falls; near Chewelah; near Long L. Dam, downriver from Spokane, w. of Springdale, all in Washington, and at Yellow Bay, Flathead L. The N Three-toed was found only at Banff and Turner

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Valley, s.e. British Columbia and in the n. Flathead Valley area, precise location not given.

JAYS THROUGH WRENS -- Idaho had one Blue Jay near Twin Falls Feb. 13 and two in Pocatello Feb. 20 (MRC), and one at Nampa Feb. 18-19 (G.E.A.S.). In Montana one wintered in Helena (SM), one visited feeders regularly in Bozeman (PDS) and three were at feeders daily in the Kalispell area Dec. 1 on (JR). The only Washington records were of one sporadically at a hazelnut tree (AL) and one at a feeder (DR) in Walla Walla One wintered at a feeder in Coldstream near Vernon, B.C. (LB) and one appeared at a Kimberley, B C feeder, Feb. 22 (MVW). Apparently the first records of the **Scrub Jay** for Washington e. of the Cascades were of one at a feeder in Ahtanum Valley w of Yakima Dec. 10 (DW, ZB, ERC) and one at a Walla Walla feeder for about ten days beginning Dec. 17 (DR, EF). Up to 110 Com. Ravens simultaneously frequented the dump at Coeur d' Alene, Ida. Clark's Nutcrackers were very sparsely reported; Spokane seemed to have fair numbers. A Black-capped Chickadee appeared in Richland, Wash., Dec. 18 (REW) and a Mountain Chickadee visited a feeder there Jan. 1 (MC) The latter also appeared at Umatilla N.W.R., Feb 20 (C & MC). Boise, Ida. had a sighting of a flock of 15 Plain Titmice Feb. 9 (FR). The Pygmy Nuthatch was reported for the Kalispell area (E.A.S.). A Brown Creeper ½ mi w. of Wapato, Wash., in late February was noteworthy (AH). A Canyon Wren wintered at cliffs 4 mi. n. of Chewelah, Wash. (JN), and a Rock Wren was frequenting a rock jumble at Adventure Bay near Vernon, B.C. The species has wintered there previously (DP).

MIMIDS AND THRUSHES -- The only Mockingbird sighting was of one at Ephrata, Wash., Jan. 13 (PC, BJ). Except for the most northerly part of the Region, Am. Robins were reported wintering in many localities, from a few to fairly good numbers. Unusually large numbers wintered at Pocatello. A Varied Thrush was with robins there Feb. 19 (MRC). The species wintered

in good numbers at Wenatchee and one was at a feeder in Wapato, Wash., Feb. 16. At Bigfork it was regular starting Feb. 24. Malheur N. W. R. had the best spring buildup of W. Bluebirds since 1971. A Golden-crowned Kinglet there Dec. 21 supplied one of very few winter records for the refuge (CDL) Oregon had a few Water Pipits: three at Malheur Dec. 21 (CDL) and eight at Hot L., Feb. 25 (GS) In Washington one or two were at Walla Walla Dec 31 and nearby College Place had one the next day (WS) At Nampa, Ida., 30 appeared Jan. 2 (G.E.A.S.). Overall numbers of Bohemian Waxwings appeared about average, with best numbers at Bozeman, Mont.; Salmon, Ida.; Kimberley, B.C., and Spokane, where the largest flock approximated 3000 Dec. 19. A N. Shrike got as far s. as Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Jan. 21 (JH, DH). Loggerhead Shrikes were suspected of wintering in small numbers in the Pocatello area: one was there Jan. 22 and another near Shelley Jan. 17 (MRC, *fide* CHT). A few "Audubon's" Warblers were near Pocatello the last half of January (MRC) and Lewiston, Ida. had one Dec. 15 (JWW).

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS -- A few W. Meadowlarks appeared in unusual winter localities Salmon, Ida., had Dec. 25 & Feb. 24 sightings, the Kalispell area had groups of up to six birds, one was near Corvallis, Mont., Jan. 18, and Bozeman had one Dec. 26. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was with Brewer's Blackbirds at Waterville, Wash., Jan 13 (PC). Near Charlo, Mont., a male appeared Oct. 24 at a feeder and was joined in November by another one remained until Jan. 1 and the other until Jan. 8 (CJH) A **Rusty Blackbird** was with Brewer's near Pocatello Jan. 19-20 (MRC). College Place, Wash., had a male and female Brown-headed Cowbird about Jan. 8 (WS, KK). A male' W. Tanager at Meridian, Ida., Jan. 22 made the second winter the species has been sighted in that area (Efr, CF).

FINCHES -- A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at a Bozeman feeder, reportedly since October, was confirmed as that species Dec. 30 for the first winter record for Montana and probably for the Northwest (SB, BD, PDS). A rare sighting near Frenchglen, Oreg., was of 40 Cassin's Finches Dec. 21 (CDL). House Finches were present in good numbers at Bozeman

feeders all winter for the first time and visited a feeder at Ennis, Mont., Dec. 30 (PDS, WH). A flock of 30± frequented feeders near Corvallis, Mont., Dec. 23-Feb. 24 (RS) The species was regular through the winter at Kalispell feeders for the first time (F.A.S.) and a few wintered at a Helena feeder (SM). Pine Grosbeaks appeared in many localities, sometimes in large numbers. Concentrations of 1000± Gray-crowned Rosy Finches appeared at Gardiner, Mont., Salmon, Ida., and fairly good numbers were near Evans and Almira, Wash Eight at Malheur N.W.R., Dec. 17 was the second sighting there (CDL). A Jan. 24 sighting of 25 at Roza Dam in the Yakima area was noteworthy (Y.A.S.) About 12% of the rosy finches at Gardiner were Blacks (JEQ). It was a redpoll winter for many areas. Single Hoary Redpolls were reported for Gardiner (JEQ), Missoula (SF), and Ennis (JGo, SC), Mont., Nampa, Ida., (BS), and Chewelah, Wash. (JN). Influxes of Com. Redpolls occurred in many places. Pine Siskins were very scarce and Am. Goldfinches and Red Crossbills, were reported nearly as infrequently. A few Com. Redpolls at Malheur N.W.R., in December were the first ever for the refuge (LMcQ, STh, GW) as were three Pine Siskins there Dec. 17 (CDL). The only White-winged Crossbills reported were at Kalispell and (a flock of 50) at Bozeman.

SPARROWS -- A Harris' Sparrow wintered at Helena where it is rare (AS) and one at Gardiner, Mont., was the first observed there in three years (JEQ). Umatilla N.W.R., Oreg. had a Golden-crowned Sparrow Jan. 2 (C & MC). A White-throated Sparrow was at a Livingston, Mont., feeder in December (CL) and one was at Kalispell Dec. 12-13 (BR). Canmore, Alta., had one Dec. 13 (EMV). A very few Lapland Longspurs were reported for the Kalispell area (DD, MB, MS); Helena (SM); Gardiner (JEQ); Mud L, Ida. (MRC), and Asotin (JW) and Almira-Hartline (JA, WH) Wash. Snow Buntings were abundant. Some

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7500 swarmed in the Reardan-Davenport, Wash., area, Feb. 12 (JA) for the largest concentration. The Council, Ida., area had up to 70 in early January (DJ).

CORRIGENDUM -- Delete the reference to Least Flycatchers June 11 at Heyburn S.P., Ida., AB 31:1165.

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, Tom Alt, Earl Beamish, Lydia Bishop, Marcy Bishop, I.O. Buss, Zelia Butler, Scotty Bullock, Phil Cheney, Mark R. Collie, Craig & Marion Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Emily R. Cragg, Montana Audubon Council, Dan DeJong, Bob Dunbar, Kennette Elliott, Earl Fleck, (EFl) Ernest Frost, Cleo Frost, Sid Frissell, Jack Gorman (JGo), James Grant, Idaho Fish & Game Dept., Warren Hall. Brad Hammond, Willard Harper, James Heckathorn, Larry Heinz, Randy Heinz, Mark Henjum, C.J. Henry, (JHi) Janis Hilliker, (RHo) Russ Hoffmann, Alice Horschel, Bert Jahn, Dean Jones, Dwight Kilgore, Ken Knittie, Bob Kuntz, Audrey Lehman, Carroll D. Littlefield, Cary Lund, Ed McVicker, (EM). Ed Miller, Larry McQueen. Tony Mahre. Sid Martin, (Me) Jack Melland; Larry D. Napier, Jack Nisbet, Howard Oswood, David Pitt-Brooke, Joyce E. Queckborner, Jim Rees, Ron Rhoweider, Frances Reid, Hadley B. Roberts, Jean Robocker, Donald Roff, Betty Rose, (JRu), John Rumely, Georgia Sanderson, Ann Scofield, Belle Shaw, P.D. Skaar, Mae Sudan, Dan Sullivan, Wally Sumner, Ruby Sutherland, Flathead Audubon Society, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Yakima Audubon Society, Sam Taylor, (STh) Steve Thompson, Charles H. Frost, E.M. Vickery, John W. Weber, Bart Whelton, Dorothy White, Mildred V. White, Gary Wing, Jim Wolcott, Pat & Robert E. Woodley, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Robin Yellowlees, Steve Zender.

The Winter Season, 1977-1978

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Eugene S. Hunn and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

The Region experienced a mild, moderately wet winter with few birding surprises. Temperatures at Seattle-Tacoma averaged 4°F. above normal for the period with precipitation ten per cent of the long-term average, yet still enough to end the drought. The fair numbers and variety of lingering shorebirds may have been owing to the mildness of the winter, but late-lingering land birds were not evident. Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills staged minor irruptions, but other boreal and montane species apparently stayed home. Eastern *Zonotrichia*, however, were unusually common. Raptors wintered in excellent numbers. Accipiters, Red-tailed Hawks, and Bald Eagles were widely and frequently noted as common to abundant. Falcons generally were also well represented, and the elegant White-tailed Kite continued to consolidate its position in the southern half of the Region. Other potential range extensions which bear watching involve two normally sedentary species, the Scrub Jay and the Wrentit. Abbreviations used are: S.J.C.R., South Jetty of the Columbia River, Ore., V.I., Vancouver Island, B.C.; †, written description on file; and CBC, Christmas Bird Count.

LOONS THROUGH SHEARWATERS – Loons and grebes were reported in good numbers. The 109 Com. Loons Dec. 17 at Victoria was a new high for that CBC. Arctic Loons were locally concentrated as usual, mostly near Active Pass off s.e. V.I., where there were 2400 Dec. 24 (MGS, *fide* VG) and in Discovery Passage near Campbell R., V.I., with 1200+ Dec. 31 (HT). Single Yellow-billed Loons were found at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Dec. 4 & Feb. 4 (E & NH, ESi), at Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 31 (JH, †DE), and at Winslow, Bainbridge I., Wash., Dec. 31 (DP, BH-T *et al.*). Winter beach combing provides indirect evidence of avian activity in the more inaccessible offshore areas. For example, one of the seldom-observed Laysan Albatross was found dead Dec. 4 near the S.J.C.R. (MSm, *fide* ME) as was a late Leach's Storm-Petrel Dec. 4 in the Renfrew Land District, V.I. (RS, *fide* VG). One N. Fulmar was off Clover Pt., Victoria Dec. 3 (RS, *fide* VG). All other fulmar records were of birds dead on the beach; the 60 on Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co., Ore. Jan. 7 (HN), was the high count. Late records for Sooty Shearwater were of singles Dec. 3 at Cape Meares, Tillamook Co., Ore. (DF, HN), and Dec. 4 near Whidbey I., Wash. (BR), and 40 s. of Victoria, V.I., Dec. 17 (MGS, GS, *fide* VG).

The Short-tailed Shearwater fall spectacular continued into mid-December. The latest recorded for Oregon were 6+ off Cape Meares Dec. 3 (DF, HN *et al.*), for Washington were singles Dec. 4 off Whidbey I. (BR), and in Rosario Strait w. of Anacortes (MMo, TW *et al.*), and for British Columbia was one seen Feb. 11 near Victoria (VG, WC *et al.*). Two Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels off Cape Meares Dec. 12 were late (JGi, *fide* HN).

PELICANS THROUGH DUCKS -- Four Brown Pelicans near Portland, Oreg. Dec. 14 were probably driven inland by the mid-December storms (HH, RSm, *fide* HN). A few Green Herons wintered n. of the Columbia R., including two on the Cowichan R., near Duncan, V.I. (JC *et al.*) and one in Bellevue, Wash. (TWe, JBe). There were many other December reports, with 22 on Oregon CBCs. Oregon's 20± Cattle Egrets were more widely distributed than ever. Single Cattle Egrets appeared at Dungeness, Wash., Dec. 18 (DSm) and in Saanich, V.I., Dec. 7-26 (VG *et al.*). The 86 Great Egrets observed on w. Oregon CBCs was comparable to the totals of recent years. The only record n. of Oregon was of one near Tacoma Jan. 17 (JHo, *fide* TB). The Coos Bay Snowy Egret wintered again (AC, GG, TC), while another was reported nearby at Bandon, Oreg. in late February (*fide* AC). Black-crowned Night Herons appeared on six Oregon CBCs with high counts of 19 at Coos Bay Dec. 17 and 15 at Portland Jan. 1. A single on the Leadbetter Pt., Wash. CBC, Dec. 17 provided the northernmost record (*fide* IB). American Bitterns, by contrast, were widely reported only in Washington. Whistling Swans were widespread, and flocks of several hundred each wintered at the Skagit flats, Wash., and at Sauvie's I., Salem, and Eugene, Oreg. The Clear L., Wash., Trumpeter Swan concentration was up to 300, 50% above previous high counts (*fide* TW). Pitt L. e. of Vancouver, B.C., had 77 Jan. 20 (WR, *fide* DM). In addition Trumpeter Swans were found more widely than has been usual, e.g., five (3 ad., 2 imm.) near Blyn, Clallam Co., Wash., Jan. 14-28 (KG, DP, CC); four (2 ad., 2 imm.) at Ocean Shores, Wash., Feb. 5 (E & NH); six (3 ad., 3 imm.) on Sauvie's I., Jan. 21-22 (DF *et al.*); and one as far s. as Corvallis Dec. 20 (*fide* GG). The 46,000 Canada Geese counted on Willamette Valley CBCs quantifies the high numbers wintering throughout the valley (AC). The ad. Emperor Goose at

Reifel Ref., B.C., stayed through the season (DM), and another was found Feb. 11-12 near Victoria for the third area record (VG, WC *et al.*). Very few White-fronted Geese were noted, these

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mostly singles, and those at Coos Bay and Eugene in mid-December were considered most unusual (AC). At least four Eur. Green-winged Teal were found on s V.I. (†VG *et al.*), one was at Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 7 & 17 (†DE), and another was found at Sauvie's I., Feb 8 (PR, *fide* DDS). Three Blue-winged Teal lingered n. at Iona I., B.C., to at least Dec. 18 (*fide* DM), and six Cinnamon Teal at Portland Jan. 1 and 20 nearby on Sauvie's I., Feb. 16 (GG) probably wintered. Many male Eur. Wigeon were reported, with the high count of 25 on the Samish flats, Skagit Co., Wash., Feb 12 (DP). Victoria's 15,000 Am. Wigeon nearly doubled its previous CBC high count (*fide* VG) and they were in very good numbers elsewhere. A single hybrid wigeon wintered in Portland (DDS, HN). The 3-9 female Wood Ducks near Campbell R., V.I., Dec. 18 & 27 (RW, HT) furnished the first local winter records; 13+ more wintered on s. V.I. (VG). A flock of 280+ Redheads wintered at Coos Bay (DF, AC), and 24 were reported on the Eugene CBC for the only concentrations reported. Oregon coastal CBCs had high Canvasback counts with a maximum of 1523 at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln County. Lesser Scaup were down dramatically and Greater below normal at Campbell R., and in the Victoria area, V.I. (HT, VG).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS -- Sightings of distinctly a seasonal Turkey Vultures, possibly of a single individual, were made over Mercer I., near Seattle Dec 19-20 (TK) and near Lynden, Wash., Jan. 1, 27, & Feb. 15 (PDB, *fide* TW). Migrants arrived on schedule in mid- to late February (DF, HN, TW). The number of White-tailed Kites located in Oregon this season doubled from last fall to 35, with 27 counted on seven CBCs. The adult at Raymond, Pacific Co., Wash, was seen repeatedly Jan. 29-Feb. 28+ (EH, PM *et al.*, ph. J & AD). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were widely reported in very good numbers, several CBCs

had record high counts. There were also ten Goshawk sightings. Wintering Red-tailed Hawk populations were in even better shape, with Oregon observers nearly unanimously commenting on their abundance. A "Harlan's" Red-tailed was reported Feb. 24 from the Samish flats (BA, *fide* BH-T), a regular wintering locale for this form. A sub-ad. **Ferruginous Hawk** found on Sauvie's I., Jan. 28-29 (†TC, †HN) was most unusual, although not unprecedented. Rough-legged and Marsh Hawks and Golden Eagles were in normal to slightly above normal numbers throughout the Region. A concentration of **618** Bald Eagles (418 ad., 200 imm.) was counted Jan. 22 on the Squamish R. delta, B.C. Smaller concentrations included 109 Jan. 23 in the Harrison Bay area, BC (A & JG, *fide* DM); 87 (38 ad., 49 imm.) near Duncan, V.I., Dec. 17; 78 along Washington's Skagit R., Feb. 2; 25 along the Nooksack R., near Bellingham, Wash., Jan. 28; 17 around L. Quinault, Wash., Jan. 1 and 11 (3 ad., 8 imm.) on Sauvie's I., Feb. 5. Smaller groups of 1-6 Bald Eagles were much more widely reported than usual from w. Washington and Oregon. Single out-of-season Ospreys were near Oakridge, Lane Co., Ore., Dec. 30 (*fide* AC), at Ridgefield N W R., Wash., Jan. 14 (R & MB, *fide* AD), and on the Skagit flats Jan. 29 (JW *et al.*). An Osprey Feb. 26 at Albany, Ore., (GG) was considered a very early migrant. Two Gyrfalcons were noted; one in s w British Columbia Dec. 21 (DE, JH), and one in w Washington Jan. 27-Feb. 15 (*fide* TW). Prairie Falcons were widely reported in w. Oregon with eight in the Medford area Jan. 2 (*fide* SS). The only report from outside Oregon was of a single at the Skagit flats Feb. 2 (*fide* TB). Regional Peregrine reports totaled at least 20, about the same as last year, but Merlins were up with at least 60 individuals reported including 16 on the Grays Harbor, Wash. CBC, Dec. 17 (*fide* BH-T). Kestrels also fared well. California Quail numbers were down on V.I. (VG), and low numbers near Albany, Ore. were thought to be owing to last nesting season's drought (GG). The 35 Mountain Quail near Tahuya, Mason Co., Wash., Feb. 17 (*fide* TB) indicated that local populations still survive in scattered areas of s.w. Washington.

SHOREBIRDS -- Three Semipalmated Plovers at Ocean Shores Dec. 10 (G & WH, J & GM) and an Am Golden Plover near Eugene Dec. 8 (CW, *fide* AC) were notable late migrants. Several shorebird species

wintered coastally in unusually large numbers. Thirty-five Snowy Plovers at Tillamook, Ore., through February (GG, JE), and 21 at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Feb. 24 (JnB, *fide* BH-T) were surprising winter concentrations. Ruddy Turnstones wintered in small numbers at half a dozen Oregon points, while a Ruddy was at Whidbey I., Wash. Feb. 4 (B & PE), and another was in Vancouver, B.C., Feb. 24-28 (JTo, *fide* DM). At least five Whimbrels lingered at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln Co., Ore. through February (GG *et al.*) and a single was found near Victoria, V.I., Feb. 11 (VG, RS *et al.*). Seventy Greater Yellowlegs on the Victoria CBC, Dec. 17 set a local record. A dozen Wandering Tattlers scattered from Gold Beach n. to Tillamook Bay (TC, JE, GG, *fide* AC) was striking for a species totally unrecorded in most winters. The North R. delta, Willapa Bay, Wash., apparently marks the n. lima of regular winter residence for the Willet; a flock has wintered in the vicinity for four consecutive years was 18 observed Jan. 29 (EH, PM). Two Long-billed Dowitchers Feb. 17 and six Feb. 28 on s. V.I. were unusual (VG), as was the Marbled Godwit Feb. 4 at Newport, Lincoln Co., Ore. (ME, TC). Mid-December storms brought Red Phalaropes ashore, primarily at Coos Bay, Ore. Two hundred were counted there Dec. 17 (*fide* AC), and singles were inland the same day at Alma, Lane County (*fide* AC), and northward Dec. 16 at Ocean Shores, Wash (G & WH), and Dec. 18 near Victoria, V.I. (CG, *fide* VG). Later in the season two were near Tillamook, Jan. 22 (TC) and one was still near Victoria Feb 11 (WC, GS, *fide* VG).

JAEGERs THROUGH ALCIDS -- A Parasitic Jaeger at Tillamook Bay, Dec. 3 was later than usual (DF, HN), and another Jan. 2 at White Rock, B.C., was nearly a month later than any previous regional record (MSc, *fide* DM). Single Glaucous Gulls, mostly first and second year birds, were found in their usual wintering locations in the Region, s. to Yachats, Lin-

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coln Co., Ore. (ME). Ladner, B.C., had six (*fide* DML) while Duncan, VA., had three (JC *et al.*) Four W. Gulls

wintered n. to Stanley Pk., Vancouver, B.C. (DE, JH), where they are rare at any season.

S.A.

Eighteen Glaucous-winged x Western Gull hybrids were identified in Puget Sound near Seattle Dec. 31 (DP, BH-T), and the Grays Harbor CBC recorded 217. This phenotype may become increasingly common as interbreeding continues on the outer coast. Care must be exercised to distinguish these hybrids from the smaller, decidedly paler-mantled Thayer's Gull which it resembles superficially in exhibiting a dark iris, blackish (not black as in Thayer's) wingtips dorsally with whitish undersurface to the primaries. These hybrids are also frequently misidentified as Herring Gulls

Thayer's Gulls outnumbered Herrings 10 to 1 on V.I., and in Puget Sound; farther s. Herring Gulls appeared to predominate. Five thousand Bonaparte's Gulls off Victoria, V.I., Dec. 17 (*fide* VG) were many more than usual, and several hundred were noted there through the end of the period. Otherwise very few were reported. Two ad. Heermann's Gulls w. of Anacortes, Wash., Dec. 4 (TW, MMo *et al.*) and one near Victoria Dec. 12 & 17 were late. The extraordinary **Caspian Tern** carefully observed along the Skagit R., near Conway, Wash., Feb. 11 & 19 (†JeM, IK, TB) was either four months late or two months early. Five thousand Com. Murres flew through Discovery Passage near Campbell R., V.I., Dec. 31 (HT), a high count. Marbled Murrelets were reported widely and in unusually high numbers; 5200 flew past Pt. Roberts, Wash., at dawn Jan. 28 (TW), high counts were reported on several Puget Sound CBCs, and 40+ were on Willapa Bay, Wash., Jan. 29 (EH, PM). Ancient Murrelets, as usual, were concentrated about s. V.I. (*fide* VG), and the San Juan archipelago, Wash. (TW, SSp, *et al.*) The Victoria CBC, Dec. 17 logged local record counts of both Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets -- 23 and 37 respectively. Clearly the waters about s. V.I., are a very important Pacific alcid wintering ground, a point underscored by recent controversy over Puget Sound oil tanker traffic.

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- Snowy Owls remained widespread but in low numbers throughout the season. Fourteen on the Fraser R. delta, B.C., Jan. 15 was the high count (*fide* DM). Pygmy Owls invaded the Vancouver, B.C. area (*fide* DM); they also had a good winter in Oregon (*fide* AC). Single Burrowing Owls appeared at the S.J.C.R., Dec. 3 (MSm, *fide* HN), on the Eugene and Gold Beach, Oreg. CBCs, and in Seattle Feb. 19 & 26 (PMo, ESs), adding to the very few west side records. The Barred Owl in Stanley Pk., was photographed (A & JG) and remained through the period (*fide* DM). **Eight** Spotted Owls were counted on the Alma, Oreg. CBC, and three were at Oakridge, s.e. of Eugene, for its CBC. At least nine different Long-eared Owls were reported from near Vancouver, B.C., s. to Medford. Short-eared and Saw-Whet Owls seemed in normal numbers in appropriate habitat Anna's Hummingbirds are now well established and are being found in increasing numbers and in many new localities. Rufous Hummingbirds returned to Oregon on schedule in mid-February (AM), moving up the outer coast; one male in Vancouver, B.C., Feb 25 was considered early (BM, *fide* DM). The seldom mentioned Belted Kingfisher was counted in record numbers on the Campbell R., Victoria, and Seattle CBCs. The Seattle count was 50% higher than the previous 32-year high. Eleven Com. "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were reported, from Victoria s. to Eugene, and "Red-shafted" were said to be more common than usual in Oregon (GG, HN). A flock of 12 Lewis' Woodpeckers wintered again on Sauvie's I., with singles at Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 2 & 6 (*fide* DM), and Seattle Dec. 11 (JS) and a pair at Eugene Dec 8 (*fide* AC). A pair of Acorn Woodpeckers just w of Portland was pioneering Douglas fir habitat (JE *et al.*) Single Say's Phoebes were near Grants Pass, Oreg., Dec. 4 (*fide* SS) and at Baskett Slough N.W.R., w. of Salem, Oreg., Feb. 26 (TC). The four Black Phoebes seen in the Rogue and Applegate R. valleys of s.w. Oregon are resident at the n. limit of the species' range (*fide* SS). Tree and Violent-green Swallows arrived on schedule, with early dates for the Tree Swallow of Feb. 9 at Tacoma, Wash. (ESh, *fide* TB) and Feb. 22 at Cowichan, V.I. (VG), and for the Violet-green of Feb. 22 near Salem (FS), and Feb. 24 near Duncan, V.I. (JC *et al.*).

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES -- Four Blue Jays stayed throughout the season; one each in Poulsbo, Kitsap

Co., Wash. (JCa, IS), and Springfield, near Eugene, Oreg. (AC), and two in Medford, Oreg (SS)

S.A.

Scrub Jays may be spreading out from their range in the Willamette and Columbia R. valleys. One was on the Oregon coast near North Bend, Coos County all winter (LF, *fide* AM) One in Seattle Dec. 24 & Jan. 2 was a local first (AR), while two were upriver in Stevenson, Skamania Co., Wash., Jan. 8 (DF). These correlate with eastside reports from Yakima and Walla Walla, Wash.

The light influx of Mountain Chickadees to the lowlands throughout the Region continued from last autumn. A White-breasted Nuthatch stayed at a feeder in Vancouver, B.C., November-Jan. 15 (*fide* DM), and another was seen Dec. 20 & 24 in Saanich, V.I., for only the third island record (HJTa *et al.*, *fide* VG) Red-breasted Nuthatches remained scarce on V.I. (VG). Wrentits are increasing in the Willamette Valley; several CBCs there had record counts. They are abundant all along the Oregon coastal plain but heretofore rarely reported e. of the Coast Range Single Rock Wrens found Dec. 17 on Chatham I., off

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Victoria (MGS, GS, *fide* VG) and Dec. 24 on the sea wall in W. Vancouver, B.C. (DSu, *fide* DM), were unusual. A Mockingbird appeared in early January near Vancouver, B.C. (PL, JTo, *fide* DM) and another tamed in a Seattle backyard Feb. 16-Mar. 31 (DB *et al.*). Varied Thrushes remained scarce on V.I., but returned to normal numbers elsewhere after last winter's absence. Hermit Thrushes appeared by the dozens along the Oregon coast during December (DF, GG) but were in their usual low numbers elsewhere The 93 W. Bluebirds at Medford Jan. 2 were about one-third of normal numbers for the early 1970s (SS) A dozen in the sand dunes n. of Coos Bay, Oreg., Feb. 26 (LF, *fide* AM) were apparently migrating, and about 30 returned to Harts L., near Tacoma Feb. 28 (GR, *fide* TB). The only Mountain Bluebirds reported were two on the Samish flats, Wash. (JF, *fide* BH-T). Waxwings of both species were scarce. A total of only 43 Bohemians was reported, these from Campbell R, V I., Bellingham and Seattle, Wash., and spread through the season. Observers in British Columbia, Puget Sound, and s.w. Oregon all reported Cedars to be virtually absent. The Willamette Valley CBCs, however, had normal

numbers, ranging to 1033 at Eugene. A few Loggerhead Shrikes were identified, all in Oregon; two at Medford Jan. 2 (SS) and one each at Finley N.W.R., Feb. 10 (GG) and Coos Bay Feb. 26 (EGW).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- A female **Black-and-white Warbler** was found Dec. 17 on the Coos Bay CBC (MMA). The bird was subsequently photographed and seen by many observers through Jan 22 for Oregon's first winter record. The five Orange-crowned Warblers on Oregon CBCs were the only ones noted, until one appeared Feb. 9 in Saanich, V.I. (RM-G, *fide* VG). Three Nashville Warbler sightings in a single winter was most unusual; all were in Oregon, at a feeder in North Bend Dec. 3 (AM), in Corvallis Dec. 20 (AS, *fide* AC), and at Shore Acres S P, near Coos Bay Jan. 22 (EW, ME *et al.*). A few Townsend's Warblers wintered n. to V.I.; one was at Duncan Dec. 29 (JC *et al.*), another at Saanich Feb. 18 (DSt, RW). Palm Warblers remained near Newport, Oreg, to Dec. 24 (GG), in the Coos Bay area through Jan 14 (AC), and at Westport, Wash., to Feb. 4 (E & NH, BH-T). Another was found at Iona I., B.C., Dec 18-Feb. 12 (KH, JH, DM, BK). A **Northern Waterthrush** was found freshly killed at a window in North Bend, Coos Co., Oreg. Jan. 7 (CM, *fide* AC). A Ø Yellow-headed Blackbird visited Stanley Pk., Feb 21 & 25 (DE, JH). Four Tricolored Blackbirds in Medford Jan. 2 were the first there in winter for several years (*fide* SS). A first-year male N. Oriole stayed Jan 14-29 at Ladner, B.C., feeding on windfall apples (ph. CR, LE). A Rusty Blackbird was seen Dec. 24-Jan 12 in Saanich and near Duncan, V.I. (*fide* VG).

FINCHES THROUGH SPARROWS -- The only Gray-crowned Rosy Finches reported were 30+ on the Samish flats, Wash., through the period (JF, JW) and one at Campbell R., V.I., Dec. 18 (*fide* HT) Several hundred Com. Redpolls near Sea I, and Ladner, B.C., in late December were described as a small invasion (*fide* DM). Elsewhere only 25 were reported in Mt. Vernon, Skagit Co., Wash., Jan 27 (TO) and four in Seattle Jan. 17 (JS). None was reported from V.I., Bellingham, or s. of Puget Sound. Pine Siskin numbers were about normal throughout American Goldfinch numbers however, were very low in Vancouver, B.C., arid V.I., but normal elsewhere Red Crossbills continued their

fall season trends, nearly absent everywhere but the Oregon coast Two **White-winged Crossbills** were found at the North R mouth, Pacific County Dec. 11 (AR,CE), a flock of 40 was in Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County Dec. 17-18 (*fide* BH-T), and 30 more were near the Wind River Research Station, Skamania County, Dec. 18 & 25 (DF), all in Washington. These sightings indicated a significant movement S and W for this rare and erratic species. Savannah Sparrows were found n. to Victoria and Delta, B.C., with singles at both locations Dec. 17 (*fide* VG). Two Chipping Sparrows wintered at Alton Baker Pk., Eugene, Oreg. (AC). There were 11 Harris' Sparrows reported, from V.I., through Puget Sound s to Roseburg, Douglas Co., Oreg. All apparently were in the speckle-throated subdominant (not immature) plumage. There were 29 White-throated Sparrows noted, including 23 on Oregon CBCs and four on V.I. (JC, RF). A **Swamp Sparrow** seen Dec. 22 at Finley N.W.R., Benton County (ME, LM), represented w. Oregon's eighth record. The only Lapland Longspur report was of one in Victoria, V.I., Dec. 17 (VG) Flocks of Snow Buntings were s. to Leadbetter Pt, Wash., and the S.J.C.R., throughout the period, and to Tillamook, Oreg. for the CBC.

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Spring Migration, 1978

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN --
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/Thomas H. Rogers

March in the Region was almost uniformly warm and dry, the pleasant weather apparently accelerating the migration in many areas. April and May, however, were cool and very wet in most localities, with the exception of Helena and Bozeman, Mont., which continued to enjoy mild conditions. This cold, wet trend seemed to slow migration in many areas. Pocatello, Ida. Walla Walla, Wash. and Fortine, Mont., reported minimum weather effects, however, except for a tardy sparrow migration at Fortine. Conversely, the movement at Bozeman was late in spite of mild conditions. Abundant moisture indicated an excellent growing season ahead and ample moisture for rivers and reservoirs for the coming summer. About the usual number of "rarities" we reported.

GREBES -- Red-necked Grebe at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. numbered 20+ scattered over the refuge; Banff, Alta., had 16 on Apr. 23. Liberty L., Wash., had three or four pairs; one pair attempted nesting two or three times, the cause of failure unknown. The only others reported were at Newman

L., Wash., and in the Kalispell, Mont. area. Ennis, Mont., had 2000 Eared Grebes May 7. Over 300 W. Grebes were counted on Bennett Bay, Coeur d' Alene L., Ida. May 29 (SS). Of the wintering Westerns on the Snake R., at Clarkston, Wash., five still lingered May 29.

PELICANS THROUGH IBIS -- White Pelicans were nesting for the second consecutive year at Minidoka N.W.R., Blaine Co., Ida. Small numbers had reached Skaha and Vaseux Lakes near Penticton, B.C., by mid-April and 15 were near Nampa, Ida. May 25. Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had 14 on May 18 & 31. One was at Clear L., May 16 (BW) and one briefly at Newman L. (MW), both in Spokane Co., Wash. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were up in s. Idaho. Mud L., Jefferson Co., had 100+ active nests and at Minidoka N.W.R., with its several hundred birds, 22 young were banded May 23 (CT). However at Blackfoot Res., Bingham Co., there were only six active nests, down from 20 last year (CT). Eggshell thickness was checked and found high. Ninepipe N.W.R., had 84 May 31. One at Mann's L., Lewiston Apr. 29 apparently made the first spring record for n. Idaho (EM). The heronry at Benewah L., St. Maries, Ida. had 120 Great Blue nests. One in the Springdale- Hunters, Wash., area comprised 20 nests and another along the Colville R., s. of Kettle Falls, Wash., was decreasing, with only six nests. A Cattle Egret appeared May 30 near Nampa, for s.w. Idaho's first record (MG, JH, LP, BS, NH, EB). Eight arrived at Rupert, Ida. Apr. 28 (WS) and two at Minidoka N.W.R., May 23 were thought to be nesting (CT). The Nampa area had a Great Egret May 7 (G.E.A.S.); Market Lake W.M.A., Roberts, Ida. had one May 24 and two were at the trout farm at Pocatello May 28 (CT). About 50 Snowy Egrets fed at the trout farm but were not nesting there. The species no longer breeds at Market L. Contaminated winter food supply is the suspected cause (CT). The John Day Dam pool on the Columbia R. had 20 Black-crowned Night Herons Apr. 30 and up to five were in the Nampa area. The species' numbers seemed about half of last year's in s. Idaho, with eggshell thinning, broken and dented eggs. A colony on the Portneuf R., where 70 young were banded last year was unoccupied this spring (CT). The species was observed at Livingston, Mont., May 7 (UC *et al.*). Fifteen White-faced Ibis were near Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa May 30 (MG, JH, LP *et al.*) and

one was near Rupert, Ida. Apr. 28 (WS). In Oregon 32 were sighted 2 mi w. of Union May 27 (DB, CDC).

WATERFOWL -- Lake Helena, Mont., had 600 Whistling Swans Mar. 19, the highest number in 30 years' observing (SM). Trumpeter Swans had three nests on Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. At Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., the winter peak of 348 birds dropped to a breeding number of 175. Incubation began in early May and the first cygnets appeared May 30. A surprising 160 White-fronted Geese appeared at Ft. Boise W.M.A., Parma, Ida. Mar. 11; 26 still remained May 7 (J & NH). Five were on Mann's L., near Lewiston, Ida. (EM) and one was at Thompson L., near Harrison, Ida. (AB). One was at the Yakima R. delta near Richland, Wash., Mar. 11 (RW). Some 1000 Snow Geese flew over Am. Falls Dam on the Snake R., in Idaho Mar. 10. Ross' Goose numbers peaked at 8-10,000 at Miller I., near Klamath Falls, Ore. in mid-April (SS). The only other reports were of one, the first ever, at Salmon, Ida., Apr. 9 (HR) and one at La Grande, Ore., Apr. 29 (B). Fortine had an unusually high number of Mallards, 1000, Mar. 22 and the earliest hatching date ever, about May 2 (WW). Pintails peaked at 11,000 at Kootenai N.W.R., the week of Mar. 19-25 and 25,000 were on L. Helena Mar. 19 for the highest count in 30 years (SM). A 4 mile canoe trip on the Colville R., Stevens Co., Wash., Mar. 19 revealed 10,000 (JN) and 10-12,000 were briefly at Ninepipe N.W.R. Their numbers were unusually high at Fortine also. Single male Eur. Wigeons showed up at Vernon, B.C., Mar. 18 (JC) and at

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Cougar Bay, Coeur d' Alene L., Mar. 16 (SS), and two males and a female were 2 mi s.e. of Goat Cr. Station s of Swan L., Lake Co., Mont., May 17 (BH). Four pairs of Greater Scaup were on the Columbia R., n. of Wenatchee, Wash., Mar. 22 (PC). Turnbull N.W.R. had the highest numbers of goldeneye, 2376 Commons and 663 Barrow's Mar. 3. A pair of Harlequin Ducks was at Reardan, Wash., Apr. 29 (JA) and a pair of White-winged Scoters frequented Link R., Klamath Falls, Ore., Apr. 24-May 13 (SSu). A male Red-breasted

Merganser at the Yakima R. delta Mar. 12 was Woodley's second in about 10 years. One was near Clarkston, Wash., Apr. 13 (DM). Banks L., Grant Co, Wash., had 22, Apr. 19 and Phileo L., Spokane Co., Wash., had one Mar. 25 (JA). The species was also reported at Swan L., Lake Co., Mont., Apr. 13-17 (F.A.S.).

HAWKS -- A White-tailed Kite was sighted w. of Pauline L., near La Pine, Ore., at 5500 ft., May 10 (RG) Accipiter numbers appeared normal. A Goshawk nest was found in Ferry County, Wash. (SZ) Sightings of Ferruginous Hawks came from Kalispell, Bozeman and Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Mont.; the Snake R., near Walla Walla and the Juniper Forest near Connell (a nest), in Washington, and Malheur N.W.R.; Burns, and Zumalt Prairie, Wallowa Co, Ore. Ferry County, Wash., had three Golden Eagle nests (SZ). Single Gyrfalcons were sighted in n Idaho Feb. 20 (LM) and e. Washington Mar. 12 (JA). Merlins appeared at three widely scattered localities.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Sharp-tailed Grouse were mentioned only for the area s. of Creston, Wash., 11 on Apr. 9. That area also had at least 23 Sage Grouse on the strutting ground the same day. About 25 were still displaying May 20 approx. 8 km w. of Burns, Ore (ME). Yakima Firing Range, Wash., had 30 on Mar 19 and 1-2 were reported for s.w. Idaho. The latter area reported ten **Bobwhite** Mar. 25 and two May 28 (G.E.A.S.). One was found at Am. Falls, Ida. Apr. 1 (CT). Turkeys were reported in the Kalispell area and in s.w. Idaho.

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS -- Two Whooping Cranes and 5-6 Sandhill Cranes were observed approx. 2 mi s. of the Montana-Idaho border along 1-15, Apr. 21 (WHa). A Whooping Crane and many Sandhills were at Grays Lake N.W.R., May 5 (CT) Some 2500 of the latter were near St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 9 and Crab Cr., Grant Co., Wash., had 500 Apr. 30. The same number was reported for s.w. Idaho Mar. 19. At least 2000 flew over Oliver, B.C., Apr. 28. The Payette R., in w.c. Idaho had 350 Apr. 10 One was at Mann's L., Lewiston Mar. 15 (DK). A pair seen on

several dates Apr. 24-May 31 at Island L, between Libby and Kalispell, Mont., was thought to be nesting (DD). Ft. Boise W.M.A., yielded a **Yellow Rail** May 6, and five Semipalmated Plovers, Apr. 29 and ten May 7 (JH). Ponds near Grandview, Ida., yielded another of the latter May 22 (JD). The only Am Golden Plover sighting was at Mann's L., Apr. 22 & 24 for McVicker's first spring observation. Two Black-bellied Plovers were identified in the Ft. Boise area Apr. 29 for the only report (JH, JS). One pair of Upland Sandpipers appeared in the Spokane Valley at the only known breeding site in the Region. Washington State Dept. of Game, Spokane County, Spokane Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy are studying the feasibility of preserving the historic but threatened colony. Reported for s.w. Idaho were 129 Long-billed Curlews May 26 (G.E.A.S.). Adults with a young bird were found along Winchester Wasteway w of Moses L., Wash., May 28 (AT). A Red Knot appeared May 11-12 near Hayford Rd. w. of Spokane (JA, WH, BW). Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa had Dunlins May 16 (RH) as did ponds near Grandview, Ida. May 22 (JD). The Nampa area had ten Marbled Godwits Apr. 28 (MH) and Rupert had eight May 1 (WS) One was at Ladd Cr., near La Grande, Ore., May 9 (GS, DT). Single Sanderlings appeared near Davenport and Mondovi, Wash. (JA, WH, BW) and at the Grandview, Ida. ponds May 22 (JD). Two or three Black-necked Stilts appeared May 27-28 at the same pond as last year near George, Wash., (JA, EH) and one was near Springfield, Ida. Apr. 29 (CT).

GULLS AND TERNS -- The Glaucous Gulls that wintered on the Clearwater R., at Lewiston, Ida, remained until Mar. 5 when two were seen (EM) Up to 20 Herring Gulls remained there during March and April. An imm. Mew Gull at Klamath Falls Apr 16 made the second record for the county (SSu) and two ad. **Mew Gulls** along the Clearwater R., Apr. 23 added the species to the Idaho state list (JW). One Bonaparte's Gull, rare in spring in s. Idaho, appeared near Aberdeen, Mar. 26 and three were on the Snake R, Apr. 1 (CT). Three hundred were on Swan L., Vernon, B.C., May 6. West Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash, had one May 25 (JA) and one was on the Clearwater at Lewiston Apr. 29 (EM). Caspian Tern numbers in the Pocatello area looked better than for some years with groups of 15 at Magic, Island Park and Am. Falls

Reservoirs plus several isolated sightings (CT) Worthy of note was one on the Clearwater near Lewiston Apr. 15 (EM). Two Black Terns were at the farthest w. Washington breeding site 10 mi s.e. of George May 27 (EH).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- Nahahum Canyon near Cashmere, Wash., had 14 Band-tailed Pigeons Apr. 28 (PC) and one was in a yard in Moscow, Ida. Apr. 21 (LPe, *fide* DJ). Fort Boise, Ida. had a Yellow-billed Cuckoo May 15 (JH). Reports of Barn Owls came only from the Lewiston, Ida., area and from Parker Heights near Yakima, where one was found shot (*U. of Wash.). A Flammulated Owl was heard May 25 at the spot at Penticton, B.C., where fledglings were found last year (SRC). The Hawk Owl which wintered near Vernon was last seen Mar. 21 (JG) Burrowing Owl numbers at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., appeared down. The Bureau of Land Management was reported as starting to consider the species in its grazing plans in s. Idaho (CT). A Barred Owl was photographed May 26-27 at Pleasant Valley w. of Kalispell (DD) for the only report. A pair of Great Gray Owls appeared near Ft. Klamath in mid-March (EP, P & SSu) and one discovered May 2 at Pleasant Valley was found dead a few days later apparently shot (DD) A Saw-whet Owl was sighted at the Davenport, Wash., cemetery May 20 (JA). Poorwills returned to their regular breeding place at

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Chewelah, Wash, May 7, two weeks later than last year (JN). A **Chimney Swift** was over Bozeman May 31 for the second record there (RL). Black-chinned and Rufous Hummingbird numbers appeared low at Spokane and Chewelah and at Charlo, Mont. At least two male Anna's Hummingbirds were displaying at Klamath Falls from early April on.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS -- At least three Pileated Woodpecker nests were known in the immediate vicinity of Chewelah and the birds' numbers around Salmon, Ida. were still up. Five male

Williamson's Sapsuckers appeared in very close proximity along Eagle Ridge, Upper Klamath Ridge Mar 19 (SSu). An Acorn Woodpecker was found in jumper-pine habitat along the e. shore of Upper Klamath L., May 13 (SSu). Lewis' Woodpecker numbers seemed fairly good. On a census route in the Enterprise, Ore., area about 25 were found in 10 mi (CGC). The White-headed Woodpecker was found at 3 localities near Chewelah and a burn s.w. of Chewelah had at least ten Black-backed and one N. Three-toed Woodpecker. (JN). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found at the usual spot on Crab Cr., Columbia N.W.R., May 28 (JA) and two were at Wright's Pt., Harney Co., Ore., May 20 (ME).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES -- Two Blue Jays appeared in the Nampa area until May 1 (G.E.A.S.) and the one at Kimberley, B.C., remained until mid- March (CD). Single birds passed through a Spokane suburb Apr. 8 & 20 (THR) and the species finally penetrated to the e. base of the Cascades with two at Yakima Mar. 18 and earlier (ZB, HV). One was at Douglas, Wash., during March and April (EV). Two Com. Crows at Gardiner, Mont., during the spring were unusual. At least three Bewick's Wrens were along Crab Cr., Columbia N.W.R., May 21 (WH, BW). The Canyon Wren was observed near Chewelah and Northport, Wash., and the Rock Wren near Chewelah (JN) Two localities reported Mockingbirds. Lewiston had two sightings in March (EM) and one was at Malheur N.W.R., May 20 (DI). Pocatello's thousands of wintering robins started moving out Mar. 12 and Salmon, to the n. had many more than usual the first week of Mar. Several W. Bluebirds appeared at Salmon Mar. 29 for Roberts' first record there.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS -- A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was closely studied at Page Springs, Malheur N.W.R., May 20 (TF, ME). Three Tennessee Warblers, uncommon migrants in the Okanagan Valley, were at Penticton May 25 (SC). One appeared in Helena in late May (PM, LS). The Salmon, Ida, area had many more sightings of Nashville Warblers than usual (HR) and Yellow Bay, Flathead L., Mont., had one May 6 (DS). The Nampa area had two "Myrtle" Warblers May 13 (G.E.A.S.) and one was in the Davenport, Wash., cemetery May 25 (JA). A very

early male Townsend's Warbler was along Asotin Cr., Asotin Co., Wash., Mar 25 (MK). A male **Blackpoll Warbler**, carefully described, was found 5 mi e. of Bigfork, Mont., May 26 (MS) and a **Palm Warbler** was observed near Imnaha, Ore., May 12 (JB). Common Yellowthroats were described as common in the Charlo, Mont. vicinity (CH). The species was also reported from the Kalispell and Nampa areas.

BLACKBIRDS -- The more unusual occurrences of Bobolinks were: Bigfork May 27-29 (MS); a female at Gardiner, Mont., May 21 (JQ); near Hamner, Ida, May 24 where breeding is suspected (DH); two near Enterprise, Ore., May 13 (VC, MHe), and a singing male in the Aeneas Valley e. of Tonasket, Wash., May 27 (HB *et al.*). A flock of 250 Tricolored Blackbirds was at Miller I., near Klamath Falls Mar. 17 (SSu). Northern Orioles were unusually abundant around Vernon, B.C., and showed "very good numbers" in the Klamath Basin (SSu). A pair of Com. Grackles was in Helena where the species has been rare in recent years (SM). Two in courtship were observed near Menan Buttes, Rexburg, Ida. May 24; breeding is suspected but no nests have ever been found (CT).

FINCHES -- A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at Gardiner, Mont., May 17-20, the first there since 1975 (JQ). Bozeman had one May 16-20 (JP) as did Three Forks, Mont., May 19-20 (RL). Even more unusual was a male Indigo Bunting at Gardiner May 21-22 and a House Finch there was noteworthy (JQ). Cassin's Finch was apparently absent from the Fortine, Mont., and Leavenworth, Wash., areas but was more common than usual at Gardiner. Purple, Cassin's and House Finches were all found in Moore City Pk., in Klamath Falls May 13 (SSu). Flocks of rosy finches up to 3000+ visited feeders at Gardiner in March and April, with fewer in May. About 12% were Black and the rest Gray-crowneds, about 50-50 *littoralis* and *tephrocotis*. Heavy, persistent snow covering the food supply was believed responsible (JQ). White-winged Crossbills were reported only for the Kalispell area and in the Helena area in Colorado Gulch, 15 on May 6

SPARROWS -- Moore Park, Klamath Falls had two Brown Towhees Apr. 9. The spot is becoming a regular haunt for this species (SSu). Lark Buntings appeared in the Three Forks, Mont., area May 19 for the only report (RL). Three localities reported Grasshopper Sparrows: near Bigfork May 27 (F.A.S.); the Spokane Valley at Barker Rd., May 8+ (JA), and the Nampa area Mar. 4 (G.E.A.S.). The 3-4 Harris' Sparrows that wintered at Pocatello were last seen Apr. 19 when two males were singing and starting their spring molt (CT). The lone bird at Gardiner was last seen Mar. 21 (JQ). A Golden-crowned Sparrow in Umatilla, Ore., Mar 21 was at least a month early (MC). A singing male White-throated Sparrow was at Spokane May 10 (JA). Two McCown's Longspurs were watched at length at Rupert, Ida. Apr. 1 (JDo, WHS) and two Lapland Longspurs were sighted s. of Creston, Wash., Mar 18 (EH). A few were with Horned Larks at Gardiner Mar 1-4 (JQ).

ADDENDA -- An ad. Cattle Egret was seen at Market L., Roberts, Ida. Aug. 29, 1977 (SC). A Com. Bushtit was sighted May 30, 1977 at Klickitat Wildlife Recreation Area n. of Goldendale, Wash. (BW) and a White-throated Sparrow was found along Crab Cr, Columbia N.W.R., May 15, 1977 (BW). Regarding the westernmost site for the Veery in Oregon, AB 31:1165, Alan Contreras reported the species breeding regularly

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as far w. as Ochoco Guard Station in Ochoco N.F., and that he has found several on the upper reaches of the John Day R., at Canyon Creek.

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, Eugene Barney, Hal Beecher, Don Bradshaw, Mt. Bronson, Al Bruner, Janet Burcham, Zelia Butler, Steve R. Cannings, C.D. Cannon, Christopher G. Carey, Phil Cheney, Urana Clarke, Vern Coggins, Marion Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Dan DeJong, (JDo) Joe Dolan, John Doremus, Charles Duncan, Mark Egger, Tad Finnell, Flathead Audubon Society, Roy Gerig, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, James Grant, Mike Gregory, Warren

Hall, (WHa) William Harms, Jim and Naomi Heckathorn, C. Henry, (MHe) Mark Henjum, Bob Hensler, Russ Hoffman, Mark Howarth, Eugene Hunn, Don Hunter, David Irons, Don Johnson, Dwight Kilgore, Merlene Koliner, Ron Lang, Sid Martin, Patricia McKinney, Ed McVicker, Lee Merrick, Dave Mudd, Jack Nisbet. (LPe) Lee Periman, Jean Perkins, Leon Powers, Eleanor A. Pugh, Joyce Queckborner, Hadley Roberts, T.H. Rogers, Georgia Sanderson, Lorelei Saxby, Belle Shaw, W. Shillington, John Smith, Shirley G. Sturts, Mae Sudan, Dan Sullivan, Priscilla & (SSu) Steve Summers, Art Tiedeman, Dale Towiell, Charles Trost, Esther Viebrock, Harold Vredenburg, J. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Mrs. M. Wick, Robert Woodley and Steve Zender.

Spring Migration, 1978

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Eugene S. Hunn

The Region had nearly normal spring weather. Only the last half of March averaged 7°F higher than usual at Seattle, with early dates there for Cinnamon Teal and Rough-winged Swallow. Of note was the concentration of the season's only thunderstorm, 70% of the Seattle rainfall for April and May, and most of the foggy days into two brief periods, April 13-22 and May 9-15. These coincided exactly with the two periods of unusually high numbers of migrant land birds noted throughout the Region. Accipiters, Bald Eagles, and Merlins continued to be widely reported and in increased numbers, while Peregrine Falcon reports declined. Abbreviations used are: S.J.C.R., south jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg. V.I., Vancouver I., B.C., and ‡, written description on file.

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LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- Single Yellow-billed Loons were found at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Mar. 21 (DM), and a very late winter-plumaged bird (BHT) in Sequim Bay, Wash., May 7. Arctic Loons were concentrated as usual at Active Pass in British Columbia's Gulf Is., with 3000 there Apr. 13 (MSh, *fide* VG), and off Cherry and Sandy Pts., near Bellingham, Wash., where there were 1300-1800 May 18-24 (TW). Common and Arctic Loons were counted moving N by the hundreds off the coast of Oregon in mid-April, with hundreds of Arctics still moving past there in late May. In contrast, high counts of Red-throated Loons were 24 at Dungeness Spit, Wash., Apr. 2 (KG), and 300 near Ladysmith, V.I., Apr. 6 (WC, *fide* VG). The 500 Horned Grebes off Port Townsend, Wash., Apr. 1 was an extremely large aggregation (DP, SH). TW's two excursions out of Westport, Wash., May 14 & 16, furnished the only pelagic observations this spring. Species of common occurrence included Black-footed Albatross, 52 and 59, respectively, about double their long-term average, Pink-footed Shearwaters, 20 & 43, and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, 13 & 14, the latter up from last year. Rarities included two **Laysan Albatrosses** and a single Flesh-footed Shearwater, all on the May 16 trip only. No N. Fulmars were seen. Two **Brown Pelicans** s. of Newport, Oreg., May 24 were extraordinary; the species is expected only from August to December (CB, *fide* HN). Double-crested Cormorants on V.I. appeared to be down in numbers from a year ago (VG). High counts for Brandt's Cormorants were 1500 on Saltspring I., Mar. 4 and 700 at Active Pass Apr. 13, both in the Canadian Gulf Is. (*fide* VG). Elsewhere Brandt's were scattered and in the usual small numbers. Observations of Green Herons in late March and early April at Puget Sound and Oregon localities where the species did not overwinter suggest a migratory influx. A single adult reached Klaskish, near the n.w. tip of V.I., May 22 (*fide* VG). The Snowy Egret that wintered at Coos Bay, Oreg., was not seen after Apr. 23 (AM, DP, SH).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS -- VG observed three species of swan together in flooded fields near Duncan and at Cowichan Bay V.I.: Mar. 8:28 Mute Swans of the introduced population, 24 Trumpeter and 5 Whistling Swans, Four Trumpeter Swans Apr. 8 at Cowichan Bay, V.I. (JC), an imm. Whistling Swan May 12 near Dungeness, Wash. (D & SS), and three

unidentified swans May 19 flying N through the San Juans of Washington (TW) furnished late records. The wintering **Emperor Goose** at Reifel I., B.C., left after Apr. 10 (DE, JH). One pure male Eur. Green-winged Teal was well described at the Tsawwassen Ferry terminal near Ladner, B.C., Mar. 12 & Apr. 3 (†DE, JH). Hybrid males were spotted at nearby Reifel I., Apr. 10 (DE, JH) and at Saanich, V.I., Mar. 27- Apr. 28 (RS, *fide* VG). Blue-winged Teal appeared first at Comox, V.I., Apr. 29, at Seattle May 1, and then at S.J.C.R., May 6. Pairs of Cinnamon Teal arrived by Mar. 27 at both Fern Ridge Res. near Eugene, Oreg., (SG, *fide* AC), and at Federal Way, near Seattle (TS). The last Eur. Wigeon reports were males near Dungeness Apr. 23 (DS) and at Kalkish, V.I., May 14 (*fide* VG). Wood Ducks appeared to be doing well in the Region. They were increased near Albany, Oreg. (GG), numerous during May at Ft. Lewis, Wash. (CC), and 20+ pairs were known to be nesting by the end of April in the Duncan, V.I., vicinity (JC). Migrating Greater Scaup massed near Nanaimo. V.I.; 5000± were off Gabriola I., Mar. 26 and at Nanoose Bay Apr. 9 (HT). Also at Gabriola I., Mar. 26 were 2000+ Com. Goldeneye, a unique concentration (HT). About 3000 Surf Scoters/hr. flew N off the S.J.C.R., Apr. 15 (HN), and movement continued May 6 at about 225/hr. (DFi). Near Bellingham, Wash., there were flocks of 25,000±, Apr. 23 (TW) and 37,000± Apr. 30 (A & AB, *fide* TW).

DIURNAL RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES -- The White-tailed Kite at the Raymond, Wash. airport was joined by a second bird Mar. 17 (AR), but both vanished after Apr. 9, dashing hopes of a first nesting record. The kites at Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis, Oreg., also disappeared, but were presumed nesting in the area as they have the past two years (GG). Goshawks, in pairs or singles, were spotted in six locations scattered through the Region. A concentration of these sightings during the last days of April suggests a migratory movement. At least 29 Sharp-shinned and 22 Cooper's Hawks were reported through early May, about double last year's totals. Two Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks, both dark-phase birds, were described; one Mar. 3 at Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C. (†DE, JH), and another at Sauvie's I., near Portland, Oreg. Apr. 8-9 (HN *et al.*). Migrating Swainson's Hawks, rare in the Region, were reported twice; an adult near Alma, Oreg., May 5 (EW, DB, *fide* AC), and

a pair near Corvallis May 30 (ME, MS). A few Rough-legged Hawks lingered past the end of March. Two at Ladner, B.C., May 15 (BHT) and one dark phase bird over Duncan, V.I., May 28 (JC) were the latest. One Gyrfalcon was reported at Cape Meares, near Tillamook, Oreg. Mar. 18 (DFi, JE, DI). Only seven Peregrines were found, six of these in British Columbia, for a disturbingly modest showing. At least 20 Merlins, however, were reported, continuing their upward trend.

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The Sauvie's I., Sandhill Cranes departed shortly after Apr. 8 (HN), occasional migrants from points more s. passed later. The last were six flying N past Tatoosh I., off Cape Flattery, Wash., May 6 (BP).

SHOREBIRDS --Two Snowy Plovers had returned to their northern breeding outpost at Ocean Shores, Wash, by Apr. 29 (AR, G & WH) with an extralimital single at Dungeness Spit May 14 (MSy). An Am. Golden Plover on the s. delta of the Fraser R., near Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 20, is an outstandingly early spring record (DA, *fide* DM). The only Long-billed Curlews were three at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., May 22 (DFa) Whimbrels peaked at an amazing 700+ at Torino, on the West Coast of V.I., Apr. 29 (ML, *fide* JC) Solitary Sandpipers were widely noted, from Apr. 21 when one was at Toledo, Oreg., (DFa), Apr. 27, two near Tacoma, Wash., (SJ, *fide* TB), to May 15, when one was at Reifel I., B.C. (†DE, JH). As many as 20 individuals were involved with ten of these in the Willamette Valley of Oregon (GG). A single Lesser Yellowlegs with Greater on Whidbey I., Wash., Apr. 9 (DP) was an early migrant. The flock of Willets wintering at Willapa Bay, Wash., was present Mar. 12 (DP, SH), but not thereafter. A single Willet was seen on Lopez I., Wash, Apr. 30 (JS). Hundreds of migrant Red Knots are reported each spring in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor on the Washington coast, with 600-1000 at Tokeland May 15 this year (TW). Yet Red Knots are scarcely to be found elsewhere in the Region; 14 at Tillamook Bay, Oreg. May 6 (HN) was the high count outside their favored stopover area. In contrast, one

wonders how many Sanderlings there are strung out along the Pacific Coast beaches given that 1200/mi were found near S.J.C.R., Apr 15 (HN) and about 30,000 were estimated on 3 mi of sandy beach between Seaside and the S.J.C.R., May 25 (DFi, HN). The peak movement of W. Sandpipers was Apr. 29, on the Oregon coast (HN), at Torino, V.I. (ML, *fide* JC), and on the Washington coast, where 36,000 were estimated along the n. shore of Grays Harbor (DP, SH). Least Sandpipers seemed down in numbers this spring according to Oregon and V.I. observers, and were scarcely noted elsewhere. Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were carefully described at Ladner, B.C., May 9 & 23 (†DE, JH), and at Saanich, V.I., May 25 (†RS, *fide* VG). In each case the black legs, short, thick, straight bill, and gray or brown dorsal plumage without reddish was noted. Baird's Sandpipers were reported at seven localities Apr. 23-May 30, including a high count of 12 at Saanich Apr. 27 (MG, *fide* VG). Four Pectoral Sandpipers, rare spring migrants here, were reported; one at Iona I., B.C., May 10 (DE, JH), another at Campbell R., V.I., May 20 (HT), and two at Saanich May 21-23 (RS, MG, JT, *fide* VG). The outstanding rarities of the season were a breeding-plumaged **Stilt Sandpiper** at Saanich May 27-29 (JT, RS, VG), a Regional first for spring migration, and a breeding-plumaged female **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Nehalem, Oreg., May 28 (†JG, MK). About 20 Marbled Godwits on Willapa Bay, Wash., Mar. 17 & 19 (AR, Ji & LE) were very early and a high count. The Red Phalaropes off Sea Lion Caves, Lane Co., Oreg. May 21, after a day of strong onshore winds (ME, TF) were the only reported. A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes May 20 at Cowichan Bay appeared intent on repeating last summer's first V.I. breeding record (JC *et al.*).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS -- TW had one Pomarine Jaeger May 14 and seven May 16 off Westport. Another was seen there from shore May 13 (KB, JHi), as were two adults closely observed at Victoria, V.I., May 12 (RS, *fide* VG). Pomarines are rarely seen from shore at any season. A Parasitic Jaeger at S.J.C.R., Apr. 9 was a very early spring migrant (BB). Otherwise Parasitics were scarcely noted. Single skuas of undetermined species seen May 14 & 16 on Wahl's pelagic trips were the first Regional spring sightings. Four Glaucous Gulls were found. Second-year birds were at Iona I., Mar. 3 (†DE, JH), near Bellingham Apr

30 (A&AB, *fide* TW), and throughout the period at S.J.C.R., until May 6 (JE, KH), and a first-year was at Saanich, V.I., Apr. 30 (†DE, JH). The smelt run up the Columbia R., in early April attracted an estimated 50,000 gulls, mostly Californias (HN). Few of this species were otherwise noted. High counts of Bonaparte's Gulls were 1500 off Pt. Wilson in Port Townsend, Wash., Apr. 1 (DP, SH), 500 in Active Pass, B.C., Apr. 29 (RS, VG), and 200 birds/hr moving N off S.J.C.R., May 6 while 1000 more were feeding in the Columbia R. estuary (DFi). In with the Pt. Wilson stream Apr. 1, was a single ad. **Little Gull** (DP) for the second Regional spring record. The first was of an immature and an adult at Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., May 18-19, 1974 (BK, BMc, WW), a report not previously published here. An imm. Heermann's Gull at Neah Bay, Wash., Apr. 7 (EP) is so early that it may have wintered. The single ad. Heermann's Gull at Coos Bay, Oreg., May 10 was considered early (AM). Common Terns were considered scarce on the Oregon and Washington coasts this spring (HN, G & WH), but there was an unprecedented flight of 187 in the Victoria area May 12 (RS, MG, *fide* VG). Arctic Terns staged a record early showing with 15 on Apr 6 and three Apr. 9 in the Tillamook area (GG, ME), and two Apr. 15 off the mouth of the Alsea R., Lincoln Co., Oregon. (ME). Caspian Terns worked their way N, one at Coos Bay Mar. 30 (AM), three at Ocean Shores Apr 14 (G & WH), two at Vancouver, B.C., May 26 (DE, JH), and four Sooke, V.I., May 31 (M & VG). There were 15 Ancient Murrelets in Haro Strait e. of Victoria Mar. 5 (CG, *fide* VG), and one off Port Townsend Apr. 1 (DP, SH). An Ancient Murrelet in breeding plumage reported off Yaquina Bay, Oreg. May 15 may have been a summering bird (CM, *fide* ME). Forty Cassin's Auklets off Port Townsend Apr. 1 were surprisingly far from the open ocean (DP, SH). Two **Parakeet Auklets** were reported off Dungeness Spit, Wash. Apr. 15 (D & SS); the birds had bright red bills, a single facial plume, and were smaller than Rhinoceros Auklets seen nearby. This species has been well documented in the Region only very few times in the past decade. Another Horned Puffin was found dead on the beach near Yaquina Bay May 28 (BL, *fide* HN). A striking increase in the population of the Tufted Puffin colony at Haystack Rock, near Cannon Beach, Oreg. was widely noted (HN *et al.*). There were 400 individuals on just the e. and n. faces of the rock Apr. 30 (IC). However, their numbers at Yaquina Head are

decreasing owing to the erosion of nesting sites there (DFa)

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OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS, AND WOODPECKERS: -- The last Snowy Owl of the season was seen Apr. 4 on Dungeness Spit (KG, D & SS). A Long-eared Owl was near Aurora, Oreg. Mar. 1 (TC), another was found dead near Eugene Mar. 8 (LM), one was still at Sea I., B.C. Mar. 30 (VG), and an adult in Seattle Apr. 30 was the latest spring record for w. Washington (EH)

S.A.

Anna's Hummingbirds have been regular at feeders in the Region since the 1960s, but positive evidence of nesting has been scanty. GE reported details of three nests built by a female Anna's in his yard in Seattle. The first was found Apr. 3, 1977, containing two eggs. One young fledged May 5, and the nest was collected for the Museum of Natural History, Univ. of Puget Sound, Tacoma. There was a second nesting in late May of that year, and two young may have fledged before this

nest was destroyed. Apparently the same female was constructing a nest this spring on February 12 and fledged two young Mar. 27. The nests were from 9-45 ft up in exotic pines. An additional nest with young was in Seattle's Discovery Pk., Mar. 14-Apr. 2 of this year (SD, DP).

The male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** found last spring at Campbell R., V.I., appears to have returned in late May. The bird has a scarlet throat, green back and crown, and a forked tail (HT). Last year's record is pending before the B.C.P.M. review committee. Single Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen Mar. 30-Apr. 29 at Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis (ME, GG), near Bellingham Apr. 30 (DV, *fide* TW), and near Eugene, Oreg. (AP), and Ft. Lewis, Wash. (CC), both May 13. Two pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers at Willamette Pass s.e. of Eugene (LM) mark the w. edge of their range.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES -- At least ten W. Kingbirds were scattered through Oregon after Apr. 24 and several were nesting near Eugene (LM). Two vagrant Ash-throated Flycatchers appeared in Oregon; one at Coos Bay May 9 (BG, *fide* AM), and the second at Eugene May 13 (LM). Violet-green Swallows seemed to be present in reduced numbers in both Oregon (HN) and Washington (G & WH). Single vagrant Bank Swallows were noted in Seattle May 14 (EH, BMe) and a Vancouver, B.C., May 24-28 (DE, JH). A Rough-winged Swallow near Corvallis Mar. 4 was a record early arrival by two weeks (TC). Two at Campbell R., Mar. 21 (HT) and several at Ferndale, Wash., Mar. 23 (PD, *fide* TW) were also very early. An estimated 700 Cliff Swallows on Sauvie's I., near Portland Apr. 30 was a good high count (DFi, BF). An exhausted male Purple Martin picked up at L. Cowichan, V.I., Apr. 10 (JC) was three weeks early at that latitude. The usual small numbers of Purple Martins were widely reported by mid-May. The wintering Blue Jay at Poulsbo, Wash., stayed until the first week of May (IS), and possibly this same bird appeared at nearby Gig Harbor May 12-16 (M & BM). Another was found in the Mt. Baker N.F., e. of Bellingham, Wash., May 30 (JoO). Two staging Rock Wrens were on the s w side of San Juan I., Wash., Apr. 15, but were not present there May 15 (BHT). Eight Mockingbirds were reported; wintering birds at Medford and Corvallis (*fide* AC, GG) and at Seattle (DBo) lingered into March. One was at Tillamook Mar. 18-Apr. 15 (JG *et al.*). Two more were near Eugene Mar. 20 (JR, *fide* AC), and singles were noted near Puyallup, Wash., May 17 (SJ, *fide* TB) and Portland May 19 (JO). A Veery heard e. of Redmond, Wash., May 21 is one of very few w. Washington records (PE), although Veeries are common on the e slope of the Cascades n. of the Columbia R. A few W. Bluebirds were reported from only seven sites in Oregon and Washington, and nesting success at nest boxes near Eugene was poor (AP).

WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Four Bohemian Waxwings with 20 Cedars in Victoria Apr. 21-22 (L & GK, *fide* VG) were very late. Otherwise waxwings were scarcely evident until the main spring influx began by mid-May. Northern Shrikes lingered

noticeably later than usual. Single birds were on Whidbey I., Apr. 16 (MP), near Olympia, Wash., Apr. 19 (G & WH), at Sea I., B.C. Apr. 21 (DE, JH), and near Bow, Skagit Co., Wash., May 20 (TW). A Loggerhead Shrike at Sauvie's I., Apr. 8 (HN) was the only one reported. This species is a rare vagrant w. of the Cascades. A pair of Hutton's Vireos in Seattle had a nest under construction by Mar. 4 (EH) as did a pair at Saanich, V.I., Mar. 19 (JT, *fide* VG). The first Solitary Vireos were at Saanich Mar. 30 (E & AD, *fide* VG) and at Campbell R., Apr. 3 (HT). The first Warbling Vireo was Apr. 13 at Finley N.W.R., Oreg. (ME), and Red-eyed Vireos had not arrived in the Region before the end of May. The Pacific coast is not known for its migratory "waves", however, this season many observers commented on concentrated movements of small land birds. Between Apr. 13-30 there were many reports from throughout the Region of up to several hundred Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Orange-crowned Warblers, and both forms of Yellow-rumped Warbler. From May 11-19 there were similarly sized flocks of Wilson's and Townsend's Warblers, several reports of up to 50 Black-headed Grosbeaks, and in Eugene "tanagers covered the firs like Christmas tree ornaments" (LM). Many more Nashville Warblers than usual were noted; 15 were in Eugene Apr. 19 (EWI, *fide* AC), an early migrant was in Portland Apr. 4 (MS), and rare northerly reports were of two in Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 27-May 12 (†DE, DM, BK) of one in Manning P P, B.C., May 2 (VG), and of singles in the Seattle area Apr. 29 & May 7 (EH). Townsend's Warblers at Westport, Portland, and Vashon I., Wash., Mar. 12-18 (DP, DI, GR) probably spent the winter in those areas. Single yellowthroats at Lincoln City, Oreg. Mar. 28 (JE) and at the Skagit flats, Wash., Apr. 6 (AR) were the first arrivals.

ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS -- Stray Yellow-headed Blackbirds occurred widely from Victoria Apr. 8-18 (*fide* VG) to Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene May 26 (DFi, AC). The Sauvie's I. breeding colony had 20 birds Apr. 30 (DFi, BF). A N. Oriole near Tacoma, Wash., Apr. 12 was early (SJ, *fide* TB); otherwise the species arrived on time in early May. A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Portland May 16-17 (*fide* HN) produced one of very few Regional records. The

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annual spring influx of Evening Grosbeaks to lowland areas of the Region began in the Willamette Valley in mid-March and in Puget Sound the first of May, and was much more extensive than in previous years. Thirty thousand were estimated to be in Portland 'alone' (DFi, DD). By late May numbers had thinned, as usual as they moved into the mountains to nest. A Lazuli Bunting near Eugene Apr. 14 (LM) was early. This winter's Com. Redpoll movement into the Vancouver area extended until Mar. 26 when the last one was seen there (DE, JH). Red Crossbills continued numerous along the Oregon coast throughout the period, and also appeared in the Willamette Valley, Puget Sound, and V.I., from mid-April on in numbers up to 150. The winter influx of White-winged Crossbills to the coast of Washington continued into Oregon with two at Tillamook Mar. 12 (DD, LG) and 20+ near S.J.C.R. May 14 (MS, DI, JG). A pair was also seen in Vancouver, B.C., May 12-13 (†DE, JH). A possible Baird's Sparrow carefully described (†BK) from Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 30 escaped further verification. There are as yet no confirmed records for the Region. Five Harris' Sparrows were found, from Finley N.W.R., Oreg., to the Skagit flats, Wash., with the latest being one which wintered at a feeder in Dungeness, Wash., and was last seen May 5 (RP, *fide* DS). The winter's large numbers of White-throated Sparrows were reduced to six, one in Duncan, B.C., Mar. 4-15 (RV, JC), and five in Oregon with one near Albany, May 12 the latest (†MC). The Snow Buntings which wintered at S.J.C.R. were last seen on the late date of May 6 (HN).

CITED OBSERVERS – **sub-regional editors in boldface**, Dave Alcroft, Diane Beaulaurier, Alex & Alice Benedict, Blair Bernson, Thais Bock, Dawn Bohlman (DBo), Charles Bruce, Ken Brunner, Wayne Campbell, Chris Chappell, John Comer (JC), **Alan Contreras**, Marion Corder, Tom Crabtree, John Crowell (JCr), Susan Dallum, Eleanore & Albert Davidson, Paul DeBruyn, Dave DeSante, Garrett Eddy, David Edwards, Mark Egger, Jim & Lynn Erckmann (Ji & LE), Joe Evanich (JE), Pat Evans, Darrel Faxon (DFa), Tad Finnell, David Fix (DFi), B.

Friendly. Luke George, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Margaret & **Vic Goodwill**, Steve Gordon, Barbara Griffin, Steve Gordon, Barbara Griffin, Karl Gruebel, C.J. Guiguet, Kevin Harding, John Hall (JH), **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), Jeff Hill (JHi), Sue Hills, Glen & Wanda Hoge (G & WH), David Irons, Stan Johnson, Brian Kautesk, Libbie & Grant Keddie, Mark Koninendyke, Molly Lines, Bob Loeffel, Bruce MacDonald (BMc), Dave Mark, Chris Marsh, Brien Meilleur (BMe), Alan McGie, Larry McQueen, Mark & Barbara Meier (M & BM), **Harry Nehls**, Joe O'Callahan (JoO), James Olson (JO), Bob Paine, **Dennis Paulson**, Evelyn Peaslee, Michael Pertone. Al Prigge, R. Pringle, Joanne Ralston, Georgia Ramsey, Alan Richards, Ron Satterfield, Tom Shaver, Michael Shepard (MSh), Dory & Stan Smith, Irwin Smith, Mark Smith (MS). Maurita Smyth (MSy), John Sproul, Jeremy Tatum, Howard Telosky, Ray Voss, Doris Venderway, **Terry Wahl**, Wayne Weber, E.G. White-Swift.

The Nesting Season, 1978

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

June tended to be rather hot and dry in most of the Region but July was very wet in much of eastern Washington and in Idaho and northwestern Montana. The general consensus indicated excellent vegetative growth and ample moisture to suffice through the summer. Streams, lakes and reservoirs were close to normal once more.

LOONS, GREBES -- A scattering of Com. Loons lingered into June and July and even to the end of the period at many localities. Red-necked Grebes appeared at several unusual places. A pair with one young was found at Little Sweden Marsh above Waits L., s. of Chewelah, Wash., June 24 (JN) and Banff, Alta., had four adults and two young July 24 (RJB). Jasper, Alta.,

had two July 17 (RJB) and Davis L., s. of Usk, Wash., had one July 3 (JA). One was sighted near Ovando, Mont., June 26 (EM, SMi), Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., had a peak of 4000 Eared Grebes (RRS). Eared and W. Grebe numbers were way down at North Lake, W.M.A., Jefferson Co., Ida., and at Market Lake W.M.A., near Roberts, Ida. The former area had irrigation draw-down causing early mud flats but the latter area did not, indicating a likely widespread population decline in s. Idaho. Practically no W. Grebe nests were found along the reservoirs of the Snake R., but the population at Blackfoot Res. did not appear to be declining (CHT). On North Arm of Okanagan L., B.C., two small W. Grebe colonies not previously known were found (RC, RoC & SC). At Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., the carp control program resulted

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in increased breeding success for Eared Grebes but caused a decline in W. Grebes from 1200 in 1977 to 350±. Analysis of three dead birds showed starvation the cause. Pied-billed Grebes there increased as did their main food, invertebrates (CDL).

PELICANS, CORMORANTS- Most of the White Pelicans at Malheur N.W.R., left because of the scarcity of carp. Large flocks of the species loafed at L. Walcott and Am. Falls Res., in s. Idaho in mid-June but successful nesting was not evident (CHT). They were also abundant on the Snake R., near Massacre Rocks S P, at that time (EH). Up to 55 were on Frenchman Hills L., s.w. of Moses L., Wash., in late July (PM, AR). Lake Helena, Mont., had 400 non-nesters in early June (SM). Double-crested Cormorants seemed to be doing very well along the Snake R., in s. Idaho, except at Blackfoot Res., where eggs and adults disappeared, "sportsmen" the suspected cause (CHT). Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida. had 200 July 20 (JH). At Malheur only 20 pairs nested, down from 70 last year. Instead the birds were widely scattered throughout the basin, supposedly owing to lack of food at Malheur L. (CDL). Crane Prairie Res., Deschutes Co., Ore., had 20 on June 6 (HBN) and five were about 10 km w. of Moses L., Wash., June 23 (EH).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES -- Great Blue Herons at Malheur were down from 200 pairs in 1977 to 30 pairs. One bird was analyzed as starved and another succumbed to enteritis. Many were seen engaged in the unusual behavior of hunting for small rodents and insects in alfalfa fields. However, Black-crowned Night Herons there were up to 526 pairs (*cf.* 375 in 1977); Snowy Egrets 137 pairs (*cf.* 50 in 1977), and 400 pairs of Great Egrets (*cf.* 125 in 1977). White-faced Ibises decreased slightly to 190 pairs from 200 last year. An imm. Black-crowned was at the Chewelah, Wash. sewage ponds June 24-25 (JN, EH). About 60 were counted in the Moses L., Potholes area of Washington June 23 (EH). An imm. bird was at Ennis L., Mont., June 13 (PDS, SCo). Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons appeared to be in trouble at several refuges in s. Idaho, with dented and infertile eggs found. Both species were in very reduced numbers at Market Lake W.M.A. and the Portneuf site was not used at all (CHT). A Green Heron was seen at Upper Klamath L., Ore., June 5. A pair has been there regularly the last few years (ABN, OS). One was flushed near the Pocatello, Ida. trout farm June 12 (CHT). At least one pair of **Cattle Egrets** nested at L. Walcott on the Snake R., s. Idaho for the first state breeding record (CHT). One was near Hamer, Ida. June 19 (DH *et al.*). A pair of Great Egrets was at Pocatello briefly in early June (CHT). Ennis L. had a Great Egret June 11 for one of the few Montana records (ETH & RAH) and Minidoka N.W.R., had one July 20 (JH). White-faced Ibises were doing well in s. Idaho at Market, Mud and Oxford Lakes, with over 200 young banded (CHT).

WATERFOWL -- Trumpeter Swans hatched 105 cygnets at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., but only 49 survived to the period's end. Sixty-six hatched last year. At the close of the period Malheur had 14 cygnets. Canada Geese at Red Rock Lakes produced 88 goslings, about double last year's figure. Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., had 100 birds during the period and flocks of up to 150 locals formed at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., in July. Gosling numbers on the Snake R., near Nampa Ida., were up to 30% from last year. Waterfowl habitat improved on Malheur L., and 6150 duck pairs apparently nested.

Redheads were the most abundant at 2660 pairs and Ruddy Ducks next with 1885. Including the surrounding basin 22,700 duck pairs were present for the nesting season, in order of decreasing abundance as follows: Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Mallard, Pintail and Gadwall. Pintail numbers were most noteworthy; presumably they halted their N movement because of excellent water conditions Redheads moved from private land to Malheur L. to take advantage of increased food supplies there At Turnbull N.W.R., Mallard and Redhead numbers were highest, Ruddy Ducks next. A good production year was reported for McNary N.W.R. Migrant waterfowl moved into the Malheur area in late June, where Malheur Ref. had 78,000+ ducks with Pintail the most abundant. Excellent emergent vegetation provided abundant food. Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida. had 20,650 ducks July 20, primarily Lesser Scaup, Mallards, Ruddy Ducks, Gadwall, Redhead, Corn Merganser, Pintail and Canvasback, in decreasing order of abundance. Canvasback numbers at 1200 appeared good. Common Goldeneye numbered 500 Breeding Ring-necked Ducks were becoming more common in the Fortine, Mont., area but Barrow's Goldeneye and Bufflehead numbers were down Fourteen Com. Goldeneye broods were seen on lakes in that area (WW).

VULTURES, HAWKS -- Turkey Vultures were reported mostly from s. Idaho, the largest number being 14, along the highway one mi s. of Cascade July 23 (EM, SMi). Two in the Salmon, Ida., area *June 20* may have been nesting (HBR). An active nest was found at Black Rock Bay on Coeur d'Alene L., Ida. in June (DC). Up to ten birds per day appeared in the Kimberley, B.C. vicinity (MVW). *Eighty* were counted on a two-day trip in c. and s. Oregon in early July (JGO, JB) Thompson Falls, Mont., had three in June (EHa). Ferruginous Hawks apparently had a good nesting season in s.c. Idaho and may be slowly recovering from their sharp decline in the early 1970s (CHT). Nine other sightings were reported. A Buteo carefully observed at Malheur N.W.R., July 8 appeared to be a sub-adult Rough-legged Hawk. If correct, it would be the first summer observation for Oregon (JCO, JB). Bald Eagles evidenced good nesting success in the Helena area, two nests had three young and the third, two (VY). Pend Oreille L., had the first reported Bald Eagle nesting for n. Idaho, with three birds

fledged (DC). Idaho's Dept of Game checked over 175 Osprey nests on Pend Oreille and Coeur d' Alene Lakes. They averaged 15 young/nest. Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida, had 3-4 all summer but no nesting took place (LDN) This species was very common along the Flathead R, s. of Kalispell, Mont. Two active nests were found (EHa) Four localities reported Peregrine Falcon sightings.

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GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Brood counts in Wallowa County, Ore., indicated a 40% decline for both Blue and Ruffed Grouse (CC). Very poor survival for the latter was reported in the Chewelah, Wash. area due to cool, wet weather (JN). In Wallowa County White-tailed Ptarmigan were observed on Chief Joseph Mt. The species was introduced into that area in 1971 (CC). At least three Scaled Quail were sighted on Yakima Firing Range 5 km s.w. of Priest Rapids Dam June 14 (EH). Two or three Bobwhite were reported in the Nampa, Ida. vicinity (G.E.A.) and they were heard in the Walla Walla area (CS). Quail and pheasants had a very good nesting season at McNary N.W.R. Turkeys in the Rice-Cedonia, Wash., area were reported faring well (JN).

CRANES, RAILS -- A Whooping Crane in ad. plumage was observed in mid-June at Grays L., s.e. Idaho, showing very aggressive behavior toward Sandhill Cranes (CH, EHa). High predation and a late April flood cut nesting success to 34.6% for Sandhills at Malheur N.W.R. It was a "vastly improved" year for Virginia Rails and Sofas in the Chewelah, Wash., area (JN). The former had "the best year yet" at Reardan, Wash. (JA).

SHOREBIRDS -- The only Am. Golden Plover reported was one in breeding plumage in a flooded field s of Klamath Falls, Ore., July 29 (SS). Some 1300 Long-billed Curlews, most apparently nesting, were in the Malheur N.W.R. area. A pair of Upland Sandpipers at the traditional site along Idaho Rd. e. of Spokane presumably nested. The only others reported were nine

on the Reed Pt., Mont., B.B.S., comparing favorably with five in 1977 (EHa). The only Stilt Sandpiper report was of an adult at Reardan July 20-22 (JA). Malheur had 200+ Willets and 2400+ Am. Avocets. Two Marbled Godwits were at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., July 17 (RRS). Four Black-necked Stilts were observed in June and July at the pond s.e. of George, Wash., where they nested successfully last year (PM, BR). Over 5400 Wilson's Phalaropes were at Malheur.

GULLS, TERNS -- California and Ring-billed Gulls had very good nesting success on their island in the Columbia R., at the mouth of the Yakima R. About 600 of these two species again occupied the nesting site 4 mi. s.e. of Burns, Ore. Some 520 pairs of Franklin's Gulls nested at Malheur L. The species was noted along the lower Imnaha R., Wallowa Co., Ore., June 27 (BA) and one in breeding plumage showed up 15 km s. of Kalispell, Mont., July 5 (EH). Salmon, Ida. had one June 24 (HBR). Two young Bonaparte's Gulls, swimming but not able to fly, were near Pyper L., w. of Alexis Cr., s. interior British Columbia July 7 and two adults, apparently nesting, were at a small lake at the s. end of Tweedsmuir Pk., B.C., July 8 (EL). The sighting of a group of eight **Black-legged Kittiwakes** over Chickahominy Res., Harney Co., Ore., July 7 was apparently authentic (JGO). The only Com. Terns were five on the Snake R., between Lewiston, Ida. and Asotin, Wash., July 26 (JWW) and one on Frenchman Hills L., s.w. of Moses L., Wash., July 24 (PM). Two Caspian Terns were at Kamloops L., Tranquille, B.C., July 7 (RRH, DS). The species' numbers appeared to be recovering along the Snake R., in s. Idaho (CHT). Six were along the Snake at Silcott, Wash., July 19-Aug. 10 and two were along the Clearwater R., at Lewiston, Ida. July 19 (JWW).

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- A Band-tailed Pigeon appeared at Lily L., Steens Mt, Harney Co., Ore., June 7 (CCo). One of two Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Ft. Boise W.M.A., Ida., was banded June 6 (JHe) and two were again sighted in that general area July 15 (G.E.A.). A window-killed bird of this species was picked up at George, Wash., June 21 (JT) Black-billed Cuckoos were described as rare in the Bozeman, Mont., vicinity this year (PDS). Barn Owls nested at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters for the first

time since 1971 and an adult and four young were found in a drain pipe on Marian Drain, Toppenish N.W.R., Wash. Single Flammulated Owls were observed at Blewett Pass in the Washington Cascade Mts., June 23 (JBU, *fide* DP) and at Pataha Cr., Umatilla N. F., 20 mi. s. of Pomeroy, Wash., June 30 & July 7 (GB, MM, AR). Two were at Tucannon C.G., Columbia Co., Wash., July 15 (EH). Burrowing Owls were believed starting a comeback in the Rupert, Ida. vicinity, where 12 nests were found (WHS). Numbers appeared to be down in the Walla Walla, Wash. area, where old burrows seemed vacant (SMu). At the Davenport, Wash. stockyard, numbers looked better, with at least three pairs (JA). A surprising congregation of 20-30 was found along the highway between Richland and Kiona, Wash., July 25 (JL, REW). One or two Barred Owls were at Kalispell Bog, Pend Oreille Co., Wash., June 11 -July 9 (EH, JA, JR) and to the n. near Middleport June 28 (MD). One was heard at Sweat Cr. C.G., Okanogan Co., Wash., June 26 (TB, IK). A nest with a brood of Spotted Owls was found on Hamner Butte, n. Klamath Co., Ore., June 17 (EF, BH). A freshly dead Great Gray Owl was found hanging on a barbed wire fence where it had snagged itself, near Fraser L., in s. British Columbia July 24 (DCo, SH). The species was seen in the Bozeman area but the nest site of the last few years had been abandoned (PDS). One was seen near Henry's L., Fremont Co., Ida. (RRS). Long-eared Owls fledged young July 13 from a nest near Chewelah (JN). Hummingbirds remained in low numbers in the Spokane area and likewise at Chewelah except for the Calliope, which was "doing fine" at the latter place (JN). It seemed a good year for hummers at Rupert and 500± Rufous Hummingbirds were feeding from columbines near Fish L., on Steens Mt., July 25 (DG). An Anna's Hummingbird was present in June at Husum, Wash. (DF). The species has reportedly nested at nearby White Salmon (BH).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- The Klamath R. Canyon, s.w. Klamath Co., Ore., had eight Acorn Woodpeckers June 14 (SS) and the birds were reported for Tygh Valley, Ore. (KH). Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported for six localities. One was sighted 5 mi s. of Sun Valley, Ida., July 24 (EW, SMi), the species was found near Dayville, Ore., June 3 (CC),

and two adults were feeding young in a nest w. of the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., in June (EHa) The

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population was still low in Chelan County, Wash. (PC). In the Fortine, Mont. area, where it is rare, Williamson's Sapsucker was reported at the site they have used since 1973 (WW). The Salmon area had one July 18 (HBR) and 15 were seen in the Blue Mts., s. of Pomeroy, Wash., July 1, (GB, KM, MM & PM). Three nests of White-headed Woodpeckers were located in the Chewelah area (JN) and single birds were found in Ahtanum Woods w. of Yakima and at Tieton Ranger Station in the Cascades to the w. (Y.A.S.). A good number of Black-backed and N. Three-toed Woodpeckers was reported. Of special note was one of the former in Colorado Gulch near Helena June 18 (GN). A carefully described **Tropical Kingbird** was reported at Maryhill S.P., Yakima Co., Wash., June 24 (AM, MMo). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was photographed at Davis L., w. of Lapine June 13 for Oregon's second record (LBM). The Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported at Badger Mt., n. of Wenatchee, Wash., June 22 (HO). The only other reports were for the Redmond-Prineville, Ore. area (RG, FS). Meticulous observation of *Empidonax* flycatchers at Jasper N.P., Alta, June 28 led to the conclusion that three or four pairs were Willow and only one, Alder (EH). A Least Flycatcher near Fortine, Mont., for several days in mid-July was only the fourth in 58 years' observing (WW) and two males were singing near Kalispell, July 10 & 12 (EH). Three male Gray Flycatchers were detected 5 mi n. of Godman Springs in Umatilla N.F., July 2 for an E extension of the species' known range (GB, MM). Occasional W. Wood Pewees were seen and heard along the Columbia R., at Richland June 1-July 6 (PW & REW). Malheur L., had 6000 swallows, mostly Cliffs but with 300± Banks July 20. A Bank Swallow colony of 100 nest holes was in a gravel pit at McNary N.W.R.

JAYS THROUGH WRENS -- A flock of perhaps 80 Pinyon Jays, comprised of family groups with young still begging, was w. of Sisters, Ore., May 20-21 and a

second group of 30-40, mostly juveniles, was there June 18 (JBi, DI, MK, HBN). The Bozeman area had a concentration of $200 \pm$ Clark's Nutcrackers June 25. However the species seemed in low numbers at Salmon. At the Spokane farm sanctuary Pygmy Nuthatches occupied ten boxes and fledged 62 young. The species seemed absent from several prime habitat areas in c. Oregon (HBN). Spokane's farm sanctuary fledged 50 House Wrens as of July 23 with 23 still in boxes. A singing male Bewick's Wren in the Potholes area of Columbia N.W.R., Wash., June 23 established a new n. record (EH).

MIMIDS THROUGH PIPITS -- The only Mockingbird report was of one at Malheur Field Station late May-early June (CDL). At the Spokane farm sanctuary W. Bluebirds occupied 27 boxes, fledging 41 by June 25 and another 43 by July 23 with 46 still in nests. However, 27 nestlings died May 28-June 25 (WCM). In some other Washington localities the birds were scarce; at Chewelah, Mountain Bluebirds seemed to outnumber them (EH). Nineteen of the latter were seen in a plowed field at Joseph, Ore., June 11 (CC). Water Pipits were found on Chief Joseph Mt., near Joseph July 20 (VC) and in the Salmon area July 30 (HBR).

VIREOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- A Red-eyed Vireo was along the Little Deschutes R., near Gilchrist, Ore., June 12 (TL) and singles were found at Davis L., and Crescent Cr., Deschutes and Klamath Cos., Ore., June 2 (JG). Two sightings of the species in the Yakima area in mid-June were unusual (Y.A S) Two singing male Solitary Vireos were found in the Bozeman area where they are rare (PDS). A male and a female **Blackburnian Warbler** were sighted at Banff, Alta, June 27 (EH). A singing male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** in breeding plumage was at Magic Res., in the Pocatello area June 15 (SF). A singing Ovenbird was closely observed at Spillimacheen, B.C., June 16-17 (RRH) and at least three were singing in Cottonwood Canyon s. of Bozeman June 12-28 (PDS; EHa). Northern Waterthrushes were found consistently, some carrying nesting material, along the Little Deschutes R., near Gilchrist and at Crescent Cr., Ore. (AC, LBM). The species was found along the w. fork of the San Poil R, Okanogan Co., Wash., July 6 (N.C.A.).

American Redstarts were at Crescent Cr. in June (LBM). One at Salmon, July 6 was Roberts' first for that area. The Bobolink colony in the Aeneas Valley, e. Okanogan Co., Wash., had the highest breeding population in 4 years (PC). A small colony just e of Chewelah had "fair" success and the colony of at least three pairs just w. of Valley, Wash., had "good" success (JN). A few were at Toppenish N.W.R., in June (Y.A.S.). A lone male Tricolored Blackbird appeared at Upper Klamath L., Ore., where its nesting site was probably under water (HBN). A pair of N. Orioles was feeding young near Kimberley, B.C., where it is scarce (MVW). One was at L. Chatcolet, Benewah Co., Ida, July 1 for that state's most northerly recent record (DJ) and one was seen at Salmon on June 24 (HBR).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS -- Helena had a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in late June (RK) and an ad. male was sighted in Diamond, Ore., July 6 (SHe). An **Indigo Bunting** appeared at Bozeman June 2-5 (Mrs. JH & ETH). A male Black Rosy Finch was found on Vienna Pk., Sawtooth Mts., near Stanley, Ida. July 12 (EHB). A successional stage of solid bitter brush (*Purshia tridentata*) near Chiloquin, Ore., showed ten Green-tailed Towhees (SS). One was at Salmon, June 26 (HBR). Three Brown Towhees were found in Klamath R, Canyon, s.w. Klamath Co., June 14 (SS). Two male Lark Buntings were near Antelope L., 4 mi w. of Harrison, Mont., June 20 (EHa) and the n. side of Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., had two sightings in mid-June (RRS). Grasshopper Sparrows were sighted at the Nat'l Bison Range in the Spokane Valley and w. of Spokane, at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., and about 8 km s.w. of Pomeroy, Wash.

OBSERVERS CITED -- Bill Ables, James Acton, Eric H. Bergman, Greg Butcher, Jennifer Beckman (JB), John Biewener (JBi), Joe Burgiel (JBu), R J Butot, Thais Bock, Alan Contreras, Christopher Carey (CC), Char Corkran (CCo), Dean Carrier (DC), Dave Comfort (DCo), Phil Cheney, Richard Cannings (RC), Rob Cannings (RoC), Sidney Cannings (SC), Sharon Cotterell (SCo), Vic Coggins, Mike Donahue, David Fix, Eric Forsman, Scott Findholt, Debbie Golden-

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berg, Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), Jeff Gilligan, Roy Gerig, Bill Harrington-Tweit, Camille Harper, Don Hunter, Eugene Hunn (EH), Ed Harper (EHa), Eve T. Hays, John Hill (JH), Mrs. J. Harp (Mrs. JH), James Heckathorn (JHe), Kirk Horn, R.A. Hays, R.R. Howie, Sue Hackman (SH), Steve Herman (SHe), David Irons, Don Johnson, Irene Klevens, Mark Koninendyke, Ronald Keim, Carroll D. Littlefield, Edith Levey, Jim Leikes, Tom Lund, Archer Mortland, Elinor Miller, Kathy Matt, Larry B. McQueen, Mike Moore (MM), Mary Mortland (MMo), Phil Mattocks, Sid Martin, Stauffer Miller (SMi), Shirley Muse (SMu), Wilburn G. Moore, Gene Nixon, Harry B. Nehls, Jack Nisbet, Larry D. Napier, North Cascades Audubon Society (N.C.A.), James G. Olson, Howard Oswood, Dennis Paulson, Alan Richards, Bill Reichert, Hadley B. Roberts, Jan Reynolds, Connie Sherer, David Stirling, Floyd Schrock, Otis Swisher, P.D. Skaar, Richard R. Sjostrom, Steve Summers, W.H. Shillington, Charles H. Trost, John Tellinghuisen, John W. Weber, Mildred V. White, Pat & Robert E. Woodley, Winton Weydemeyer, Vince Yannone, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.).

The Nesting Season, 1978

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Bill Harrington-Tweit, Philip W. Mattocks, Jr., and Eugene S. Hunn

Temperatures for June and July were consistently 2°F above normal, averaged over the Seattle, Portland, and Medford stations. Seattle in June was dry (half the normal rainfall), but overall the three stations experienced 24% more rainfall than usual. Daily coverage of the Iona Island sewage treatment plant by Vancouver, British Columbia birders paid off handsomely with several extraordinary shorebird finds, including a Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Concentrated

during the first week of June there were records of several vagrant warblers and flycatchers, and of Upland Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, and Bobolink, mostly at coastal localities. We welcome our nesting season collaborator, Bill Harrington-Tweit, a biologist from Olympia, Washington, who serves as a sub-regional editor throughout the year.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- Common, Arctic, and Red-throated Loons were reported summering in their usual mixture of plumages from all coastal sections. Arctic Loons seemed to extend their spring migration to the end of June, as birds in breeding plumage were reported heading N. off Oregon and Washington June 24-25, at rates of up to 5/min (HN, BHT). A pair of Red-throats on Morte L., Quadra I., B.C., July 22, could have been breeding (HT); there are breeding records from the Queen Charlotte Is. An ad. Com. Loon was found on a nest at Matheson L., V.I. (R We, *fide* VG), where the species has nested before. The first breeding record for the Pied-billed Grebe in the Campbell R. area of V.I. was obtained July 22 (HT). The only reported pelagic trips were July 4 & 23, off Westport, Wash. (TW). Black-footed Albatrosses were seen in above-average numbers (166 & 64, respectively); the July 4 count was particularly high. With these birds on the 4th was a white-headed, dark-bodied bird judged to be a **Laysan x Black-footed Albatross** (TW, †BHT). One Black-footed was seen only 2 mi off

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the Columbia R. mouth June 11 (Jki, *fide* HN), and three were found dead on the beach near Yaquina Bay, Oreg., June 18 (BL, *fide* HN). About 60 N. Fulmars were noted on each of the pelagic trips. Pink-looted Shearwater numbers were somewhat low (17 & 79) and Flesh-footeds were absent, possibly owing to reduced commercial fishing activity offshore. Sooty Shearwaters were noted all along the ocean coast and twice in the Straits of Juan de Fuca; the highest count was about 35,000 off Westport July 23, when TW noted that they were "widespread and hungry". Short-tailed Shearwaters were unrecorded on the pelagic trips.

However, one was captured and photographed June 27 just offshore Cape Alava, Wash. (SSp, RP), and two carcasses were found, one June 24 at Westport (BHT) and the second July 15 on Sunset Beach, Oreg. (HN, JE). Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were in good numbers relative to last year; 43 & 69 were seen on the pelagic trips. Fork-taileds were also seen three times in the Straits of Juan de Fuca, generally from the evening ferry ride, Victoria to Port Angeles (SSp, JE). Leach's Storm-Petrels were reported once, 32 off Westport July 23, well offshore in the waters of the Warm West Wind Drift, as is typical. White Pelicans appeared twice, four adults at the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., June 11-13 (RK, CCr) and one adult on Saltspring I., off V.I., July 1 (RA, *fide* VG). The species is casual in our Region, with most sightings in the fall. Two Brown Pelicans on Yaquina Bay from mid-June were perhaps the two seen earlier this season at Newport; small numbers were present along much of the Oregon coast by the end of the period. Several hundred Brandt's Cormorants appeared at Pt. Grenville, Wash., after mid-July, apparently post-breeding migrants from farther s. as only very few non-breeding birds were present in late June (EH, BHT). Small numbers of Great Egrets were seen in late July along much of the Oregon coast, with one July 9, at Fern Ridge Res., near Corvallis the earliest (LN). Two Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen in coastal Oregon. A juvenile was at Coos Bay June 11 (AM) and another was at Yaquina Bay July 22 (JE, DI).

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS, AND RAILS: -- An ad. Trumpeter Swan appeared briefly near Sooke, V.A., July 21-22 (M&VG), and the imm. Whistling Swan stayed in the Dungeness, Wash., area through early June (SS). Gadwall brought off about a dozen broods in two Seattle locales (DP, KB, SH), and two duck species that rarely nest in the Region also bred successfully in the Seattle-Everett area this year. A single brood of Am. Wigeon was seen July 3 at the Everett sewage ponds (MP), and a brood of N. Shovelers was seen in Seattle June 25 (DP, KB). Another brood of N. Shovelers was in Portland July 10 (HN). Four drake Ring-necked Ducks and one drake with a brood were seen on San Juan I., Wash., June 24 (AR) for one of very few w. Washington nesting records. A female **Lesser Scaup** with a large brood at the Everett ponds July 3 provided the first breeding record for the Region (MP). All the diving ducks that regularly winter in the Region were

reported, although as usual only the Harlequin Duck (in British Columbia), White-winged and Surf Scoters were in large numbers. Ruddy Ducks bred at Portland (HN) and at Everett (PM, H). White-tailed Kites continued to expand their breeding range. A pair with two recently fledged young was seen near Tillamook July 28 (DT, *fide* HN) for the first coastal breeding record in Oregon. Three pairs apparently bred at their favorite stomping grounds, Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis, Oreg. (*fide* HN), and one was seen in late July at Raymond, Wash (SH), where two birds spent last winter. Goshawks may be replacing Cooper's Hawks in e. North America, but no such phenomenon is noticeable here. There were 11 Cooper's sighted throughout the Region compared to four Goshawks and 13 Sharp-shinned. Marsh Hawks are known to nest regularly only in the vicinity of Finley N.W.R. This year at least three pairs were suspected of breeding there (LN, HN) HN thought that birds observed at Tillamook, the S.J.C.R., and Leadbetter Pt., Wash., were also breeding. (G & WH) observed two adults feeding a weakly flying young bird at Ocean Shores, Wash., July 14, a first breeding occurrence for that locale. Twelve active Osprey nests at Ten Mile L. near Reedsport, Oreg., was the largest concentration known in our Region (*fide* HN). Six active nests were followed in w. Washington, and four of these fledged seven young (CS, JL). There were five active nests found in the s. V.I. area as well (*fide* VG). Two active Peregrine eyries were followed this summer. One produced three young, while the second had two young which were stolen, despite a concerned falconer's efforts to guard the eyrie. Another Peregrine was found shot dead near Aberdeen, Wash., in June. Merlins were noted only on V.I., this summer, and a possible nest was located near Campbell R., in late July (†HT). A female Spruce Grouse with about seven young was at Manning P.P., B.C., July 10 (JE), and a White-tailed Ptarmigan hen with six young was on Mt. Rainer July 21 (EP). A pair of Sofa bred at Saanich in late June (M & VG).

SHOREBIRDS -- A few Semipalmated Plovers lingered past mid-June at S.J.C.R., and Leadbetter Pt. This species has nested s. to Ocean Shores (*W Birds* 5:22). Fall migrants returned *en masse* in mid-July. Breeding Snowy Plovers were reported June 13 from Leadbetter Pt., where five nests were found (JW), and June 25 at Ocean Shores, where one family was seen

(BHT). Both Ruddy and Black Turnstones reappeared in mid-July. One Black seen June 17 near Sidney, V.I. (*fide* VG) may have been a rare summering bird, while five at Victoria July 2 were probably the first fall migrants (KRS, *fide* VG). Seven Long-billed Curlews were on Willapa Bay, Wash., June 24 (BHT), and up to six Marbled Godwits were noted there throughout June (PM, DF); this is the only locale in the Region where either summers regularly. A Long-billed Curlew at Victoria June 28 was only the fourth ever for V.I. (JKe *fide* VG). Whimbrel summered at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Willapa Bay, Grays Harbor, and Dungeness, Wash., and Chatham Sound, V.I. An **Upland Sandpiper** was reported May 29 in fields along the Wynoochee R., near Aberdeen, Wash. (†J & NS), but could not be found subsequently This

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was the first spring sighting for the Region. The three Solitary Sandpiper reports were all two to three weeks early Singles were at C. Saanich, VA., June 27 (JT, *fide* VG), Duncan, V.I., July 5 (VG), and Seattle July 7 (†KB) Lesser Yellowlegs appeared in small numbers throughout the Region after mid-July; one at Saanich June 29-30 was early (J & MH, M & VG). A very early Surfbird was at Victoria July 2 (RS, *fide* VG). Four Willets were at Yaquina Bay July 8 (HN, DF), where they are regular, and four were on Dungeness Spit, Wash, July 21 (KK), where they are casual. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was reported near Everett July 22 (†EH) and 15-25 were at Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C., July 31-Aug. 3 (EH, DP, m.ob.). The distinctive call note was heard and photographs were taken. A **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** with a bright orange head and neck was seen and photographed at Iona I., June 24-25 (RPh, †DM, m.ob.) Another Rufous-necked, possibly the same bird, was found at the same locale July 13-15 (†GA, †BM, m.ob.). These are the first validated records of this species for British Columbia and the Region, but were not entirely unexpected in light of the three recent records from California. Totally unexpected, however, was the **Spoon-billed Sandpiper** discovered at Iona I., July 30 (BS, †DM, m.ob.). It stayed until Aug. 3, long enough to be seen by hundreds of birders. The bird could be found only at high tide, when it flew in to roost on the sewage

ponds with other peep that utilize the vast mud flats of the Fraser R. delta during migration. The Spoon-billed could be readily picked out of the flock by its rufous face and throat, dark dorsal plumage, and peculiarly-shaped bill. This is the third North American record and the first outside of Alaska (see *AB* 3 1: 1036). Adult W. and Least Sandpipers appearing in the Region in late June must be non-breeders, with post breeding adults arriving in numbers after mid-July. A rare spring migrant Baird's Sandpiper was seen June 3 at the S J.C.R. (JGi); the first fall migrants were noted in the Victoria area July 9-13 (RS, MS, *fide* VG), again very early dates. Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitchers both returned during the first week of July. Peak counts of the two species reflect their relative abundance during early fall migration: over 500 Short-billeds were at Ocean Shores July 15 (G & WH) while 23 Long-billeds were near Victoria July 27 (VG). An **Hudsonian Godwit** in breeding plumage was at Iona I., June 17-18 (DK, DM, m.ob.) and a **Ruff** was at the Iona I., ponds July 30-Aug. 4, on which date two were present, for the seventh British Columbia record (DK, GA, m.ob.). Six Wilson's Phalarope strayed to the Oregon coast June 3-4 (JGi, AM).

LARIDS AND ALCIDS -- A South Polar Skua off Westport July 4 (TW) was over a month early, although two skuas were seen here this May. Two ad. W. Gulls, one mated with a Glaucous-winged Gull, were seen on Cleland I., near Torino, V.I., July 15-16 (MS, *fide* V G), and another was on territory on Protection I., near Port Townsend, Wash., July 9 (TW). These are considerably n and e. of the zone of interbreeding, which is largely restricted to Washington's outer coast (*Auk* 95:441). California Gulls pour into the Region from the e. every year in mid-to late July, using primarily the Columbia R. route. However, N. movement of California Gulls along the Oregon coast during July is also apparent Ring-billed Gulls nested in the Region for the third straight year with 12 pairs on Sand I., Grays Harbor, Wash., adjacent to the large Caspian Tern colony (JS) Mew Gulls were found nesting on four V.I. lakes this June, two near Campbell R., and two in the Torino-Ucluelet area (M & JR, *fide* VG). The ad. Franklin's Gull at Victoria July 6 was in an unusual plumage, unusually far w., and rather early (RS, *fide* VG). There was no repeat evidence of the June migration of Bonaparte's Gulls noted last year. The southernmost and largest

summering flock of this species, up to 270 birds was seen through June at Ilwaco, Wash. (HN, DF). An imm **Little Gull** was at Iona I., June 17-18 (GA, †DM, m.ob.); almost all of the previous records have been of adults in fall. Two Heermann's Gulls at Dungeness May 28 (JS) and one at Victoria June 3 (*fide* VG) were very early. Two of this species above Bonneville Dam, 150 mi up in the Columbia R., July 11 were amazingly far from their usual salt water habitat (DF). A Forster's Tern was reported at Forest Grove, w. of Portland, Oreg. July 2 (DF, DI). This species is very rare w. of the Cascades, although it is a common breeding bird e. of the mountains and is abundant in fall on the California coast. Three Com. Terns, including a subadult bird, apparently summered in the Columbia R mouth (HN).

S.A.

Last summer we reported the discovery of a colony of small terns on Jetty I., near Everett in Puget Sound. We opined that they were either Forster's or Commons, probably the latter. We were wrong on both counts. This summer 10-12 pairs of **Arctic Terns** were found breeding in the colony. On the July 13 visit two nests with eggs, three downy chicks and three recently fledged young were counted and photographed (PM, DMn). This extends the breeding range some 1300 km beyond the southernmost colonies previously known in s.e. Alaska. Some of the confusion was due to a small flock of non breeding ad. and sub-ad. Common Terns also present on the island throughout the summer.

Up to 15 Caspian Terns were seen this season on Dungeness Bay (DS, DF), which is well n. of the breeding limit at Grays Harbor. Singles appeared off V.I. and in n. Puget Sound. A Black Tern at Leadbetter Pt, June 25 (RW); was an early date for this fall stray. Like Brandt's Cormorants, Com. Murres moved N along the coast after late June. The migration was first noted at the Columbia R. mouth June 24 (HN) and at Ocean Shores June 25 (BHT). DF estimated 5-6000/hr. moving N past Tillamook Bay July 16. In 1924, Ralph Hoffman collected a female Ancient Murrelet incubating on Carrol I., near La Push, Wash., for the only breeding record s. of the Queen Charlotte Is. This summer an adult in breeding plumage July 4 off Westport (TW, †BHT) and single juveniles seen at

Alexander I., also near La Push, July 12 (†RP, SSp), and found dead on the beach at Westport July 24 (BHT) raise hopes of a

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"modern" breeding record. An estimated 25,000 Cassin's Auklets were breeding on Alexander I., in early June (RP, SSp). Many observers commented that Rhinoceros Auklets were conspicuously common along the coast during June. This may be owing to feeding habits, since in some years the bulk of the population forages well offshore, and the species appears uncommon.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS -- A Mourning Dove was near Courtenay, V.I., June 4 (HT); the species is scarce in central V.I. Mourning Doves were scarce this summer in the Willamette Valley, where they are normally quite common (HN, RL). On June 26 a **Black-billed Cuckoo** became a future University of Washington museum specimen against the window of an Audubon Society member (JGa) in Bremerton, Wash., for the first record for the Region. A Barn Owl found July 22 was the first in many years in the Campbell R. area (SR, *fide* HT). A pair of Barred Owls was at Colonial Cr. campground, Whatcom Co., Wash., for the fifth straight year (TW). A Spotted Owl was found dead, apparently shot, near Neah Bay, Wash. (MF). The Barred Owl's recent range extension s. and w. into Spotted Owl country provides an opportunity to determine how the two species will interact competitively, if at all. DF describes two Barred Owl sites and one of the Spotted Owl, all within a 10-mi circle in the Gifford Pinchot N.F., Skamania Co., Wash. These Barred Owls were in old growth forest, the Spotted Owl in second growth Douglas fir forest. This is the southernmost record of Barred Owls in the Cascades, and is less than 20 mi. of Oregon. Two Poor-will nests were found on Roxy Anne Butte, Oreg., June 12 & 17 (OS). The 300 Black Swifts seen near Newhalem, Wash., June 3 (TW) was a high count. At least six Acorn Woodpeckers nested again in a Douglas fir woodlot near Aloha, Oreg. (JE). An ad. and a juv. Lewis' Woodpecker was seen June 21-22 in a clearcut

area of the Gifford Pinchot N.F. (DF); the species was formerly more common in the Region. Two breeding pairs of Williamson's Sapsuckers June 28 and July 2 in Manning P.P., B.C., were w. of their known British Columbia breeding range (TW, *fide* VG).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS -- Eastern Kingbirds were noted in June away from their regular breeding area in the Skagit R. valley of Washington. Three singles were reported from VA., n. to Campbell R, and three other reports came from lower Puget Sound, including a pair feeding young near Redmond, Wash. (B & PE). Western Kingbirds bred at their isolated outpost at Packwood, Lewis Co., Wash., for the fourth straight year (BHT), and strays turned up near Corkindale, in the Skagit R. valley, June 3 (TW), and two were in Seattle Aug. 2 (ME). Two Ash-throated Flycatchers, quite rare in the Region, were found. One was in the coastal scrub at Tillamook July 16 (†DF, DI) and another was at Tacoma, Wash., July 18 (†CCh). A Say's Phoebe s.w. of Eugene, Oreg. June 17 (EWS, DB, *fide* AC) completes the list of eastside flycatchers wandering W this summer. Hammond's Flycatchers were reported only three times away from the Cascades, although they are known to breed in the Coast Range of Oregon, in w Washington, and on V.I. A Horned Lark nest with five eggs was found July 1 above Hurricane Ridge, Olympic N.P., Wash. (KK). Purple Martins continue to be a cause for concern. Nesting reports were mixed, but some of the colonies were not reported on this year The Scrub Jay found in Seattle last winter reappeared there July 25 (SD, DP). Common Ravens were more abundant than usual in the Willamette Valley (LN, SG, *fide* AC); they are uncommon in cultivated areas in this Region. The Bushtit was unknown on V.I. prior to the 1940s, the species is now common at Victoria (VG) and uncommon as far n. as Campbell R. (HT). White-breasted Nuthatches were reported n. of the Columbia R. Wrentits continue to be found in the Willamette Valley; this sedentary species was once restricted to the immediate vicinity of the coast. Rock Wrens are generally regarded as rock dwellers e. of the Cascades, thus BHT and DF were surprised to find them singing in June on three clearcuts in the Gifford Pinchot N.F., at 100 m. elevation, with no rocks in sight

THRUSHES THROUGH SPARROWS -- A Veery singing at Spuzzum in the Fraser R. valley n. of Hope, B.C., June 18 (TW) is at the very edge of the Region. Only four W. Bluebird reports totaling ten individuals were submitted. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Cape Arago, near Coos Bay, June 12 (DFa, *fide* HN) was very late for a migrant. Water Pipits in alpine areas of the Olympic N.P., this summer may have been breeding (KK). We know of no nesting records from the Olympics. A Water Pipit coming to drink at a backyard pool near Dungeness at sea level (DS) June 18-July 4 is difficult to explain. A pair of Red-eyed Vireos found in June along the Columbia R., near Knappa, Oreg. was only 20 mi from the Pacific Ocean (*fide* HN); they may yet be found breeding on the coast. Warbling Vireos were more abundant than usual in w. Oregon this year (HN) Several exciting vagrant warblers were found this season at Cape Blanco, Oreg. all by ATL and written descriptions are on file for each. A female Black-and-white Warbler was there June 2-3 as was a male of the same species June 3-6. A **Magnolia Warbler** there June 3 represented the first spring record for the Region Subadult male Am. Redstarts were present June 2-3 and, a different bird, June 9. HN characterizes the current status of the Yellow Warbler in w. Oregon as "not uncommon in the better areas, but quite scarce in less desirable spots" This is of concern, as numbers of Yellow Warblers breeding in the Central Valley of California have also declined greatly in recent years (see AB 27:917 and 26 899) Wilson's Warblers also have "never been so scarce" in w. Oregon (HN), although normal to above normal numbers were present in Puget Sound locales (G & WH, BHT). Black-throated Gray Warblers were noted at two sites on s. V.I., including several singing males recorded at N. Saanich (JT, VG). This species is scarce in the area although apparently suitable habitat is present and the birds are common at nearby points in Washington. Hermit Warblers were readily seen in the Hamma Hamma R. valley on the e. slope of the Olympics June 16 (CCh), which is an area that has received only minimal coverage.

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A male Bobolink near Salem June 3 was only the second record for w. Oregon (HN). Pine Grosbeaks

were noted July 11 in Manning P.P. (JE, DM) and July 3 & 12 in Mt. Rainier N.P. (DM, JSh). **White-winged Crossbills** appeared abruptly and in large numbers after July 23. By early August they had been reported in the mountains near Vancouver, B.C. (BS, DM). Throughout the Cascades, s. to the Indian Heaven area of the Gifford Pinchot N.F. (BHT), as well as in the Olympics (MP). Most were found above 120m in the Engelmann Spruce-Subalpine fir zone feeding on spruce cones and new fir needles. Pine Siskins were present in normal numbers in their usual locations. A vagrant Harris' Sparrow was reported near Campbell R., June 25 (KC, HT).

ADDENDUM -- Last fall's Oregon records of Mongolian Plover and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were substantiated by clearly recognizable photographs, for the first such documentation for either species in that state.

CITED OBSERVERS AND ABBREVIATIONS -- Ruby Alton, Gerry Ansell, Diane Beaulaurier, Kathy Bolles, Chris Chappell (CCh), **Alan Contreras**, Kay Conway. Cad Crouse (CCr), Susan Dallum, Mark Eisdorfer. Joe Evanich, Bob & Pat Evans, Darrell Faxon (DFa), Mike Fitzpatrick, David Fix (DF), Jim Galbraith (JGa), Jeff Gilligan (JGiL Margaret & **Vic Goodwill**, S. Greenfield. John & Mark Hart, Steve Herman, Glen & Wanda Hoge, David Irons, John Kenning (JKe), Jack Kiley (JKi), Rick Knight, Ken Knittie, Doug Kragh, Bob Loeffel. Robert Lucas, Tom Lurid, Janet Luther, Bruce McDonald, Dave Manuwal (DMnL David Mark (DM), Alan McGie, **Harry Nehls**, Lars Norgren, Dennis Paulson, Evelyn Peaslee, Michael Perrone, Roy Phillips (RPh), Robert Pittman (RP), Alan Richards, J. & M. Rodway, Sean Russell, Ron Satterfield, Barry Sauppe, Michael Shepard, Jim Shifflett (JSh), Dory & Stan Smith, Jack & Nancy Smith, Steve Speich (SSp), Chris Stinson, Otis Swisher, Jeremy Tatum, Doug Taylor, Howard Telosky, **Terry Wahl**, Joe Welch, Rick West (RWe). E. White-Swift (EWS), Ralph Widrig (RWi), written description of file (†), South jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg., (S.J.C.R.) and Vancouver I., B.C. (V.I.).

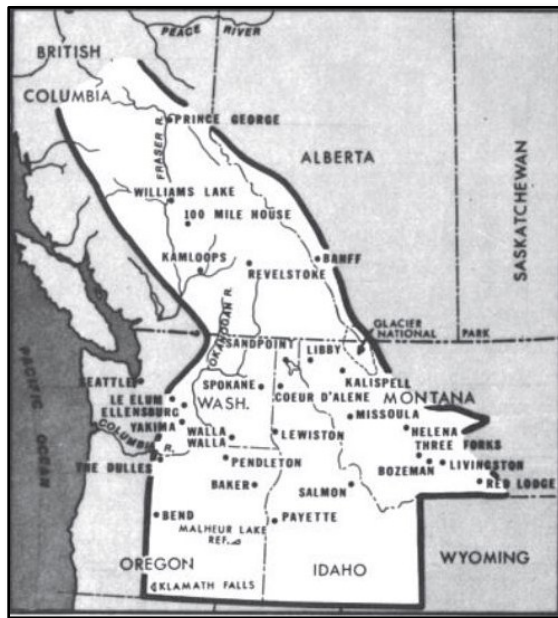
End 1978

1979

Autumn Migration, 1978

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers



The Region west of the Continental Divide had a wet, rather cool last half of August. September continued the trend over most of the Region until its last week, when a record setting drought began. Some more westerly locations received no precipitation at all in October. This continued until mid-November, when temperatures plunged sharply and many areas received snow. Those that did not, then did by the following week and the unseasonal low temperatures and near-record snow depths were here to stay. Nevertheless, many late-lingering land birds were reported, but the early freeze-up drove waterfowl out of many areas. A good cone crop apparently kept most finches at higher elevations or farther north.

LOONS, GREBES -- The largest concentration of Com. Loons were 68, on Wickiup Res., Deschutes Co., Ore., Nov. 2. Single Red-necked Grebes appeared on the Columbia R., at Crescent Bar w. of Quincy, on L. Entiat n. of Wenatchee, and in Richland, all in Washington; on Swan L., Lake Co., Mont., until Nov. S, and on Priest L., in Idaho. Pend Oreille L., Idaho had three Oct. 29.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES – Potholes Res. Grant Co., Wash., had 200+ White Pelicans Sept. 9. Hundreds were in the Rupert, Ida, area in August for a definite increase (WHS). A few Double-crested Cormorants were at Mud Lake W.M.A., Jefferson Co. Ida, And Malheur N.W.R. Ore. Washington's Potholes area s.w. of Moses L., had one Sept. 10 (JA). Great Egrets apparently were increasing in s. Idaho at Market L., near Rexburg, and at Camas N.W.R. (RG). Five were s.w. of Moses L., Wash., Sept. 10. Potholes Res. had a peak of 120 Black-crowned Night-Herons Aug. 31. The Snake R., near Bruneau, Ida, yielded a **Green Heron** Aug. 11 (MH). Market L., had 500+ White-faced Ibises in mid-September and American Falls, Ida, had 800 Aug. 22.

WATERFOWL -- A peak of 1200 Whistling Swans passed through Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., and Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., counted 444 Nov. 17. At Red

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Rock Lakes the aerial census Sept 13 revealed 164 adult and sub-adult and 38 cygnet Trumpeter Swans but the peak of 235 was Nov. 13. Nine Grand Prairie, Alta., birds with orange neck collars were at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., which is marking Trumpeters there with green collars. Refuge personnel ask AB readers to look for and report marked Trumpeters. Twenty Trumpeters were at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., at November's end and a few were reported at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore. Four were on Skaha L., Penticton, B.C., Nov. 17; four immatures in Jasper N.P., Nov. 10, and eight on Sheridan Res., Fremont Co., Ida, Aug. 25.

Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida, reported up to 2155 Canada Geese and Minidoka N.W.R., 2400. "Very large" flocks all fall were reported for McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash. (SM). Idaho's aerial survey of the Pend Oreille R., Nov. 22 found 1350, the highest number since at least 1972. At Red Rock Lakes the fall population doubled from 1977, to a high of 1050. The Columbia R., n. of Wenatchee had a Cackling Goose Nov. 7 (PC). Snow Geese appeared in the Bozeman, Mont., area in unusual numbers, with 150 passing over the city Nov. 9 and 50 at Three Forks. Seven White-fronted Geese were sighted at Cold Springs N.W.R., Umatilla Co., Ore., Oct. 7 (CC). Waterfowl population trends at McNary N.W.R. were about normal except for later peaks. Deer Flat N.W.R., reached a peak of 218,000 Mallards Nov. 30 and Minidoka N.W.R., tallied 17,800 Nov. 17 along with 3500 Gadwall and 6700 Pintail. The Coeur d' Alene R. had a peak of 7200 Mallards Sept. 22 (I.F.G.). Ravalli N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., had a **Black Duck** (JM). Deer Flat had up to 2000 Green-winged Teal. Up to 1675 Am. Wigeon were on the Penal Oreille R., and 6500 on the lower St. Joe R., n. Idaho. Minidoka had up to 2100 and had the largest number of N. Shovelers at 2100. Sept. 22 240 Wood Ducks were on the Coeur d' Alene R. (I.F.G.). The Redhead peak of 4750 on the Penal Oreille R., was less than a third of the high numbers of 1976 and 1977. Minidoka N.W.R.'s 3600 Canvasback look encouraging. That refuge also reported 6500 Lesser Scaup, 1950 Goldeneye, 7100 Ruddy Ducks, and 3000 Com. Mergansers. Soap L., Wash., had 2000- 4000 Oct. 23. In n. Idaho the Pend Oreille R., had 250 of the latter Nov. 20. A very few White-winged Scoters showed up in Franklin, Grant, and Spokane Cos., Wash., and on the Clearwater R., n. Idaho. An imm. **Surf Scoter** was on the Columbia R., near Brewster, Wash. (VM) and a female on L. Lenore, Grant Co, Wash., was very probably this species (BW): An imm. **Oldsquaw** was taken by a hunter at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida,

VULTURES THROUGH TURKEYS -- Three Turkey Vultures were sighted e, of Kalispell, Mont., Sept. 24 (BR). A tardy but very noteworthy report was of a **White-tailed Kite** along the Owyhee R., T29S, R41E, Sec. 4, Malheur Co., Ore., Apr. 21, 1978 (BDP). At least 13 sightings of Goshawks and at least 22 Cooper's Hawk sightings were made. All accipiter numbers

seemed up from last year in the Salmon, Ida, area (HBR). Trost's annual survey of Ferruginous Hawk numbers at Kilgore and Henry's L., Ida, found about 26, about the same as for the last two years. The species was also noted over Sherman Pass, Ferry Co, Wash, Aug 30 (LF), near Lowden, Wash (SM), and at Cascade, Mont (G & NN) The Bald Eagle count on lower McDonald Cr., Glacier, N.P., Mont., reached an all-time high of 618 Nov. 29. A pair raised one young at Quartz L., in the park (park personnel). At Kootenai N.W.R., the peak of 29 eagles, 24 Bald and five Golden, Nov. 29 was about three times normal and unusually early concentrations appeared along the Missouri R., from Toston to Townsend, Mont., eight Nov. 11, and near Canyon Ferry Dam, Helena, 12 on Nov. 18 (VY). The Nampa, Ida, area had eight Nov. 30. Ospreys fledged about 66 young at Cascade Res., and in Long Valley n. to McCall, Ida, What was believed to be a dark phase female Gyrfalcon was sighted in c. Oregon Oct. 31 (GG), Southwest Montana apparently had a gray-phase bird Nov. 24 (GW). A Peregrine Falcon hit a window in a s.w. Montana city Oct. I (SH) and one was reported for n. Idaho Nov. 22 (RGe). There was another report for s.w. Montana and two sightings came from s. Idaho. Four Merlin reports came from e. Washington, one from n.w. Montana, and one from n. Idaho. Blue, Sharp-tailed and Sage Grouse showed an increase in the Rupert, Ida, area (WHS). Nine **Bobwhite Quail** were on the road over Mullan Pass 15 mi. w. of Helena Sept. 17 (C & LY). Mountain Quail were sighted in the Salmon R. Breaks of w. Idaho. Prairie, Ida, had 18 Turkeys (PCo) and one was seen near Salmon, Ida, (HBR).

CRANES THROUGH COOT -- Foster parent Sandhill Cranes at Grays Lake N.W.R., s.e. Idaho, fledged three young Whooping Cranes from 13 eggs. Four of the sub-adult Whoopers hatched there in 1975-78 summered there, one stayed at Bear R., Cokeville, Wyo., and the other, at Middle Beaver Cr., Sublette Co., Wyo. All nine birds arrived safely at their wintering grounds at Bosque Del Apache N.W.R., New Mexico, along with Sandhills (RD). Colville Indian Reservation, Okanogan Co., Wash., hosted 1200 Sandhill Cranes Oct. I and St. Andrews, Wash., had a peak count of 950 Sept. 29. Seven at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida., were unusual (EM & JW) as was one at Turnbull N.W.R.

(CB) and one s; of Blewett Pass, Kittitas Co., Wash. (EH). At least five Virginia Rails were sighted at Reardan, Wash., for Jim Acton's highest number ever there. Sightings occurred in the Quincy, Wash. area (RF); at Hagerman W.M.A., Gooding Co., Ida., (BW), and at Island L., between Kalispell and Libby, Mont. (DD). The Davis L. Wickiup Res. area of Deschutes and Klamath Cos., Ore., had 12,000 Am. Coot Nov. 2 (GG).

SHOREBIRDS -- Single Snowy Plovers were sighted in the Klamath Falls, Ore. vicinity (SS) for the only report. Sightings of Semipalmated Plovers came only from the Snake R., near Nampa, Ida, (BS); the Snake in Whitman Co., Wash. (JWW), and a pond at Lewiston, Ida., (EM), two birds in each case. Only Mann's L., Lewiston, and Klamath Falls had an Am. Golden Plover (JWW, SS). Mann's L. had up to 20 Black-bellied Plovers. The Only other reports were for the Snake R., Whitman Co., and for Walla Walla, Wash. Two Whimbrels showed up near Klamath Falls Aug. 19 (SS). The Solitary Sandpiper, supposedly rare in s. Idaho, appeared at Pocatello (one) and Market L (two -- CHT), Spencer Res, Clark Co (one-AL), Nampa (one-DT), and near Hagerman (two) and at McGowan Cr., 16 mi s. of Challis (BW). An unusual sighting was of one standing in an inch of snow at 4000 ft elevation, French Mr. Saddle, five mi e. of Pierce, Ida, Sept. 17 (GI, EM & GM). A Red Knot was found in a stubble field near Davenport, Wash., Sept. 15 (MF & JHL, *vide* RF). One or two Dunlin -- one collected -- were at Mann's L., Lewiston. They are rare in Idaho (CB, JWW). A Pectoral Sandpiper near La Grande, Ore., Oct. 8 was unusual (JE). Harrison. Mont. had up to 20 Silt Sandpipers in late August. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was positively identified near Vernon, B.C., Aug. 25 (FC & JG). Single Sanderlings appeared at L. Lowell, Nampa, Ida.; near Mabel L., 50 mi n.w. of Vernon; at Reardan, Wash., and two at Wenas Res., 16 mi s.w of Ellensburg, Wash. One was collected at Mann's L., Lewiston.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS -- A **Parasitic Jaeger** was chasing Ring-billed Gulls at L. Helena Sept. 17 (GH & SH). Up to 35 Herring Gulls were sighted at Warm L., Knox, Ida, Sept. 1-Oct. 22 (JH, HR). Island Park Res., Fremont Co., Ida., had up to 19, the peak

Oct 21 (MRC) and an immature bird at Salmon, Ida., Aug. 13 was Roberts' first there. California Gulls were down in numbers from past years at Lewiston, with only one fall sighting (EM). The species was noted in the Flathead valley around Kalispell, Mont. (F.A.S.). The Yakima R. delta had 1-2 **Mew Gulls** Nov 11-12 (RH & WH, REW) and an immature bird was at Spokane's city dump Oct. 13 (JA) A Bonaparte's Gull at Salmon was the second ever there (HBR) and five were at L. Chatcolet, Kootenai Co., Ida, (BW). The Klamath Falls area had >1000 Nov. 22 (SS). A winter plumaged Com. Tern on Upper Klamath L, Ore., furnished Klamath County's first record (SS *et al.*). An **Arctic Tern** at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers, Ida., and Wash., was collected, for the second specimen from the area (JWW).

CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- A **Black-billed Cuckoo**, carefully described, was near Bigfork, Mont., late June - July 1 (MS). Barn Owls showed up in new localities, Esquatzel Coulee near Mesa, Wash (BB) and at Soap L., Wash. (CD). The birds also appeared at Richland, Wash., Umatilla, Ore., Lewiston, Mountain Home A.F.B., and Walters Ferry on the Snake R., all in Idaho. An injured Flammulated Owl was picked up in Walla Walla (SMi). Two were mist-netted in Pocatello, Ida, in late September (JJ). The only Snowy Owl report was of. one at Ladd Marsh Preserve s.e. of La Grande, Ore., Nov 9 (WCD). A Barred Owl was at Bitterroot L, w. of Kalispell Aug. 6-10 for the only report (F.A.S.). A Great Gray Owl, rarely observed at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., was found there Nov. 13 (RRS). They seemed fairly common to the s. at Island Pk., Ida, with four sightings (MRC). A Long-eared Owl was sighted Nov 25 near Belgrade, Mont., where they are seldom seen (SC, E & RH, PDS). Short-eared Owls continued scarce in the s. Okanagan Valley, B.C., with only one report. A dead Saw-whet Owl was picked up on a road at Vernon Oct. 28. A Poorwill was sighted Aug. 27 & 30 at Page Springs Camp-

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ground on the Donner and Blitzen R, Harney Co, Ore (BW) for the only report A Black Swift nest on Harland Cr., near Armstrong, B.C, contained a very young nestling Aug. 3 & 7 (JG). A group of 200 was near Cashmere, Wash., Aug. 24 (KB) and at least two were feeding low over Revelstoke, B.C., Aug. 2 (WN & JWo). Some 300 Vaux's Swifts were at Klickitat, Wash., Aug. 27 (Y.A.S.). A female Anna's Hummingbird was feeding on late flowers at Wenatchee, Wash., Nov. 2 (PC). A female Anna's was sighted in the same Spokane yard Aug. 26-27, Sept. 2 & 8, suggesting three individuals and thus a definite increase for the area (JA). Another frequented a feeder at Spokane through October and November (DS & S.A.S.). Single birds were seen at Penticton, Alta., Oct. 6 & 24 (SRC).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- Fresh workings of Pileated Woodpecker were found in the Island Pk., and Henry's L., Fremont Co., Ida, areas, where the species is considered very rare (CHT). They seemed still on the increase at Salmon, Ida, (HBR). Lewis' Woodpecker was "extremely common" during a float trip down the Salmon and Snake Rivers from Corn Cr., Lemhi Co., Ida to Clarkston, Wash., July 31-Aug. 11 (JL). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in Richland Nov. 23 for Bob Woodley's second record there. Three-toed woodpeckers were common in the Island Park area, apparently attracted by an extensive bark beetle infestation, with the Black-backed about three times as common as the Northern (MRC). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was identified at close range in Colorado Gulch near Helena Aug. 27 (G & NN). A pair of Barn Swallows was feeding recently fledged young at Banff, Alta. Sept. 11 (CGH).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS -- The Blue Jay was reported (three birds?) at three feeding stations in Kimberley, B.C. (MVW) and one was sighted 8 mi. e. of Missoula, Mont. (RS). About 75 Clark's Nutcrackers were in the vicinity of Heaven's Gate L.O., Seven Devils Mts., s.w. of Riggins, Ida, Aug. 19. Two Chestnut-backed Chickadees were spotted on the Green Fork of South Touchet R., Columbia Co., Wash., Nov. 8 (RF). The Bushtit was described as plentiful in the Rupert, Ida, vicinity (WHS). A Pygmy Nuthatch was found on Trinity Mt. A House Wren at Fortine, Mont., Aug. 22 provided the first sighting in

nine years there; where it was formerly common (WW). McNary Wildlife Pk., near Irrigon, Ore., apparently was a new locality for Bewick's Wren Sept. 23 (B.M.A.S.).

MIMICS THROUGH STARLINGS -- A very late Sage Thrasher was near Davenport, Wash., Nov. 9 (JHi). Two Varied Thrushes stopped briefly at a Bozeman feeder Nov. 13 and one was on Montana State Univ. Campus Nov. 15 (JP, SR). There are only three previous records for the area. A Hermit Thrush near Yakima Oct. 12 was unusual. The farm sanctuary w. of Spokane fledged 159 W. Bluebirds from its nest boxes. One 12 mi s. of Island Pk., Ida, Sept. 25 was noteworthy (MRC). Mountain Bluebird numbers in e. Washington appeared fairly good but only a few were reported elsewhere. Townsend's Solitaires were sighted much more commonly in the Rexburg, Ida, area than in past years (RG). Bohemian Waxwings were arriving in about normal numbers, the earliest, Oct 24 at LaGrande, Ore., and Oct. 29 in the Kalispell area. A few had reached Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Nov. 18. The Nampa area had an estimated 15,000 Starlings Sept. 10 (G.E.A.S.).

WARBLERS -- Single Nashville Warblers were sighted at Ft. Boise, s.w. Ida, Oct. 1 and Nov. 12 (JH) and one was spotted at Deer Flat N.W.R., Sept. 1 (DT). Fort Boise W.M.A. had a **Magnolia Warbler** Oct. 1 (JH). A male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was photographed at Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 7-8 for one of the top rarities (SS). "Audubon's" Warblers poured through some areas of the w. part of the Region in fantastic numbers. Heaven's Gate L.O., in the Seven Devils, Ida., had 750-1000 Aug. 19 and numbers at Spokane peaked the last week of September; at least 50 were in one yard. At Walla Walla they were "abundant all fall" and at Richland they "swamped the area" in mid-September. At Malheur N.W.R., >200 were sighted Oct. 7 and Kay Burk banded 241 near Troy, Mont., May-September. A d Townsend's Warbler and a Tennessee Warbler in a Bozeman yard Sept. 13 after an early snowstorm made the fifth and third records, respectively, for the area (PDS). A male Townsend's fell victim to a house cat at La Grande, Ore., Oct. 27 (WCD) and one was recorded in Richland Nov. 18 (JS).

BLACKBIRDS -- Three Bobolinks in autumn plumage were photographed at Lane W.M.A., 10 mi. e. of Harrison, Ida, Aug. 28 and five were along the lower Donner and Blitzen R., Malheur N.W.R., on the same date. Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Mann's L., Lewiston, may have bred there and Red-winged and Brewer's blackbirds in that area benefited from the introduction of sunflowers into the crop rotation, flocks of 1000 or more appearing frequently. The only Rusty Blackbird report was of one at Jasper N.P., Nov. 11 (BWY).

FINCHES -- Top rarity of the season was the winter-plumaged male **Brambling** at Swan L., Mont., Nov. 19-Dec. 3. Detailed description and a colored sketch of the bird were compared with a specimen in the Univ. of Montana collection (EJ & PLW). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce or absent from most reporting localities, only the Okanagan Valley, B.C., and the Klamath Falls area finding them in normal numbers. Cassin's Finch was little reported but numbers were normal around Spokane. House Finches continued to frequent feeders in Bozeman regularly and one was reported at Gardiner, Mont. (JQ). Pine Siskins apparently were mostly staying at higher altitudes. Several Black Rosy Finches were seen at 11,000 ft. on Mt. Borah, Custer Co., Ida, (HBR). White-winged Crossbills appeared in Glacier N.P., and the upper Flathead Valley of n.w. Montana, in Idaho, and in the Salmo area of extreme s.e. British Columbia. Farther w. they appeared commonly around Vernon in subalpine country in August, their numbers dwindling thereafter. This perhaps was related to the great surge of the birds s. in the Cascades as far as Mt. Hood, Ore. One was even reported in Bend, Ore., Nov. 24 (MC) and at least three at Enterprise, Ore. (ME).

SPARROWS -- The Grasshopper Sparrow was observed at Swan L., e. of Bigfork, Mont, in August (F.A.S.). Some 500 Dark-eyed Juncos were at Heaven's Gate L.O., in the Seven Devils Mts., Aug. 19. A Tree Sparrow at Fortine, Mont., Nov. 12 was only Weydemeyer's fourth in the last 33 years. Their numbers have doubled the last two winters at Rexburg, Ida, where they fed on weed seeds in abandoned fields following the Teton Dam break (RG). A Harris' Sparrow visited a Walla Walla yard in October (CS) and an adult stayed in a barn at Bozeman during bad

weather in mid- November (JSa). One trapped in a garage at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., in late November may have had the same idea in mind (RRS) An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow at Fernan L., Coeur d' Alene, Ida,, apparently furnished the first record for Kootenai County (GS). The only White-throated Sparrows reported were an adult at "P" Ranch, Malheur N.W.R., Oct 7 (SS); one at Ft. Boise (JH), and one at Bruneau, Ida, (AL). Two Fox Sparrows were found on the peninsula in L. Pend Oreille, s e of Sandpoint, Ida, in late August (LF). At Salmon, Ida,, they were very scarce, with one bird Aug. 23 (HBR), and at Spokane one sang at Browne Mt., until Sept. 26 and migrants arrived in mid-September. Lincoln's Sparrow was sighted at Little Boulder Cr. Campground s.w. of Bovill, Ida,, (BW); in the Bozeman area (PDS); 4 mi e. of Mabton, Wash., (PM) and at Spokane, Sept. 13-Oct. 5 (S.A.S.). Several Swamp Sparrows were observed closely at Barnaby L., 3 mi w. of Fortine, Mont., Aug. 23 for the first upper n.w. Montana record (WW). Eight Lapland Longspurs appeared near White L., 15 mi. s. of Penticton, B.C, Oct. 25 (WN) and e. Washington had a few w. of Harrington Nov. 5 (S.A.S.), and w. of Spokane International Airport Oct. 9 (JA).

CORRIGENDUM -- Substitute Prairie Falcon for Peregrine Falcon in the Dec. 17, 1977 Moscow, Ida,- Pullman, Wash. CBC, AB 32:819.

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, Blue Mt. Audubon Society (B.M.A.S.), B. Braunwart, Ken Brunner (KB), Kay Burk, Steve Cannings (SRC), Sharon Cotterell (SC), Canyon Birders, Phil Cheney (PC), Priscilla Cook (PCo), Mark R. Collie (MRC), Marion Corder (MC), Craig Corder, Fred Cook, Dan DeJong, Curt Dotson, Win. C. Dowdy, Red Drewien, Mark Egger, Joe Evanich, Lynn Farcar, Mike Fitzpatrick, Flathead Audubon Society (F.A.S.), Ron Friesz, Russ Gebhart (RGe), Greg Gillson, Ririe Godfrey (RG), Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), James Grant, Warren Hall, Christopher G. Harris, Steve Harvey (SH), Eve & Ray Hays, Randy Heinz, Jerry Hickman (JHi), James Heckathorn (JH), George Holton, Susan Holton (SHo), Mark Howarth, Eugene Hunn, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game (I.F.G.), Garry Ingram, Joe Jeppson, Elly Jones, Al Larson,

John Luther, Ed McVicker, Vern Marr, John Marzleff, Phil Mattocks, Shirley Miller (SM1), Shirley Muse (SM), Gary Mullen, Wayne Nelly, Gene & Norma Nixon, Jean Perkins, Bradford D. Price, Joyce Queckborner, Steve Regele, Hadley B. Roberts, Hazel Roe, Betty Rose, Jeff Safford (JSa), Jim Soden (JS), Dorothy Sattler, Rick Schoening, Belle Shaw, Connie Sherer, W. H. Shillington, Richard R Sjoström, P. D. Skaar, Gary Smith, S. Spo-

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kane Audubon Society (S.A.S.). Mae Sudan. Steve Summers, Don Taylor, Charles H. Trost, Guy Warren, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer. Bart Whelton (BW), Mildred V. White, Philip L. Wright, Brian Wylie (BWy), Jim Wolcott (JW), John Woods (JWo), Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.), Vince Yannone, Clara & Lenord Yarger.

Autumn Migration, 1978

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Eugene S. Hunn and Philip W. Mattocks



The Region had a slightly warmer and wetter August than usual based on the Seattle, Portland, and Medford stations. September was cooler and much wetter than average with four inches of extra rain even for Seattle, but October was warm with almost no precipitation. Then cold weather hit in early November with about 4°F below average throughout, over one-half the days having freezing temperatures, and snowfall to at least Portland and Seattle in mid-November. Late August and early September produced occurrences of several unusual species with most being from east of the Region: Upland Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Western Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Mockingbird, and Lark Sparrow, but also including Laysan Albatross, Rufous-necked Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Least Tern, and Xantus' Murrelet. Another group of unusual records was clustered in mid-October, with Emperor Goose and Bar-tailed Godwit from the northwest, American Avocet, Magnolia and Palm warblers from the northeast, and Tropical Kingbird from the south. The very few vagrant warbler records are from late September to mid-October.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS: -- Only two imm. Yellow-billed Loons found this fall reflect a slight decline (5 in 1976, 3 in 1977). One was at Tillamook Oreg, Oct. 29-Nov. 11 (JG, TC *et al.*); the other at Bayview S.P., Skagit Co., Wash., Nov. 24-Dec. 8 (B & PE, TW). Maximum one-day counts of Western, Horned, Red-necked, and Eared grebes in the Victoria,

V.I., area this fall were respectively 1500:300:40:3, roughly indicative of their relative winter abundance in our Region. A single **Laysan Albatross** frequented a patch of ocean about 30 km. w. of Westport, Wash. Sept. 4-10 (TW). This is but the third sighting in over 60 offshore trips from this port during the last decade.



Albatross. sp. Photo/T. Crabtree..

S.A.

On Sept. 30, Oregon pelagic birders (TC, JG) photographed an unusual albatross 25 km w. of Newport. This bird very closely resembles the one TW photographed off Westport May 3, 1970, which was subsequently identified as a 3-4 year old Short-tailed Albatross (*Calif. Birds* 1:113-5). However, doubt remains as TW's photo was overexposed, and DP has clear photos of similarly-plumaged birds taken off Westport

Sept. 13, 1970. and Sept. 12, 1971. In none of these cases have the birds been noted as larger than Black-footed Albatrosses nearby, an important Short-tailed Albatross field mark. We believe that these birds may simply be aberrant Black-footed Albatrosses, perhaps even a single individual repeatedly observed.

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Numbers of procellarid reported generally were down from last year, with maxima of; 15 N. Fulmar, Oct. 8. off Westport (TW), vs. 101 in 1977; 125 Pink-footed Shearwaters Sept. 11, off Westport, vs. 291 in 1977;

and 129 Buller's Shearwaters Sept. 10, off Westport. vs 937 in 1977. The rare Flesh-footed Shearwater kept a foothold with two Sept. 30 off Newport (TC, JG, MK). two Oct. 8 off Westport (MM), and one Oct. 14 off Cape Beale, V.I. (MGS). A Sooty Shearwater flock of about one million was estimated moving S. off Tillamook Aug. 21 (HN), while 4000 birds/min. were estimated moving N. past Grays Harbor, Wash. Sept. 11 (EH, TW) for 25 minutes with no end in sight. Comparable coastal observations are noted here each fall. Short-tailed Shearwaters did not repeat last fall's dramatic invasion, returning to more typical numbers: two Sept. 30 off Newport (TC, JG, MK), one Oct. 8 off Westport (TW, EH). and one Nov. 17 seen from shore at Florence, Oreg. (LM). Reported numbers of Fork-tailed and Leach's storm-petrels continued low, compared to 1975 and 1976, with the Fork-tailed maximum at 32 Aug. 20, off Westport (TW), down from 107 the previous fall, while Leach's were seen only off Oregon, with a maximum of six Aug. 20 off Coos Bay (ME). White Pelicans are seldom reported w. of the Cascades. Two summer reports were followed this fall by at least five between Blaine, Wash., and the Columbia R. Moot appeared during the last week of September, and one adult at Olympia stayed to Nov. 1 (RK). Brown Pelicans were down dramatically at moot Oregon congregations, with immatures less preponderant than usual (*fide* HN). The U.S.F. & W.S. survey of the Oregon coast counted 260 Nov. 10-12, and none was reported n. of Tillamook Bay.

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS -- Cattle Egrets were reported only from Grays Harbor County, Wash., with at least two individuals in mid-to-late November (*fide* BHT). Great Egrets wandered as far N. as Hoquiam and Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., with a surprising concentration of at least 16 on Sauvie's I., near Portland, Oreg. in late November (TC). Flocks of 60 Aug. 19-Oct. 27 on the estuaries of the Coos and Umpqua Rivers (HN, AM) are now to be expected. The only Snowy Egrets were three found at Gardiner, Oreg. Aug. 19 (JG), then three nearby at Coos Bay during November (*fide* AM). Wintering Trumpeter Swans first arrived Nov. 11 at Cowichan Bay, V.I. (JC), building to 164 at the Mt. Vernon, Wash., congregation by Nov. 24 (B & PE). A straggler on the Sooke R., V.I., since Aug. 10, probably summered (M & VG). A lone imm. Emperor Goose was reported, Oct. 15 - Nov. 26,

at Nehalem, Oreg. (JG, MK *et al.*). White-fronted Geese peaked Sept. 24 when 1000 were estimated at Ocean Shores, Wash. (MM, GB). A male Eur. Green-winged Teal was in Seattle Oct. 26 (†EG). The last Cinnamon Teal was one male Oct. 30 near Vancouver, B.C. (JW), and the last Blue-winged Teal was one male Oct. 20 in Oak Bay, V.I. (RS). The first Eur. Wigeon arrived at Esquimalt, V.I., Sept. 28 (RS), about two weeks early. The 10-12,000 Am. Wigeon estimated on Tillamook Bay Nov. 18 (DF) was the Regional maximum this season, as was the 8000 N. Shovelers Oct. 22 on the Everett sewage ponds, Wash. (MM, EH), a traditional concentration point. "Large numbers" of Oldsquaw passing S. off Pt. Roberts, Wash., Oct. 14 (TW), were the first signs of the fall influx. Inspired Ruddy Ducks were still raising broods as late as Sept. 1 at a newly discovered Everett, Wash., location. Three females with chicks in tow, one had five large and eight small chicks (PM, EH).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES – Vancouver Island observers coordinated their efforts to document the annual Turkey Vulture passage. The first movement was of 12 over Saltspring I., Sept. 12 (RS). The 228 Oct. 1 marked the peak. The last one was seen Oct. 31, and in all there was a total of at least 500 (*fide* VG). In addition, 50 were reported Sept. 2 at Dungeness, Wash. (DC), well ahead of the V.I. flight. The 30 on Sept. 27 near Olympia (CC), and 70 over Ashland, Oreg. Oct. 1 (*fide* OS) indicated the route S. White-tailed Kites continued to consolidate in the Region with 19 near Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene Nov. 2 (LM). Scattered individuals were noted also on the Oregon coast and n. to Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash. (BB). Accipiter numbers remained high: 10 Goshawks and 76 each of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were reported. The 40+ Red-tailed Hawks Nov. 5 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., Oreg. was a large concentration (TC). Single Swainson's Hawks Aug. 24 at Manning P.P. (AG, ph.) and Aug. 26 near Duncan, V.I. (JC) was about normal for this rare migrant. An ad. **Broad-winged Hawk** over W. Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 5 provided a first Regional record (†BS). The bird was being harassed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk providing direct size comparison. Rough-legged Hawks were first noted Sept. 16 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., and 12 were there Nov. 5 (TC). An Osprey nest still contained one young Aug. 30 in Saanich, V.I. (B & MM). One gray Gyrfalcon was seen.

Four Prairie Falcons were noted, two on the Oregon coast in mid-September, one near Medford Nov. 19, and one in the s. Washington Cascades Oct. 19. The 36 Peregrines and 68 Merlins reported made excellent news; Peregrines up dramatically from last fall and Merlins matching last year's fine showing. The usual fall migrant flock of 3-500 Sandhill Cranes had arrived at Sauvie's I. by Sept. 30 (EGW, *fide* AC). One near Victoria Nov. 11-13 was unusual (*fide* VG).

SHOREBIRDS -- Snowy Plovers hung on with eight at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Nov. 5 (FK), 28 at Tillamook Nov. 4 (HN, ME), and 22 at Coos Bay Nov. 23 (MS). American Golden Plover numbers were down, with single day maxima of 30-50 at Reifel Ref., B.C., and Ocean Shores and Leadbetter Pt., Wash. No individuals of the w. race *fulva* were noted. Only five Long-billed Curlews were reported, with none n. of Ocean Shores. Whimbrels peaked Aug. 19 with 250 at Ocean Shores (EH), dropping to 15 there Sept. 24 (MM, GB). The ten Oct. 14 at Newport were expected to winter (MS). The rare **Upland Sandpiper** was twice reported: two flew over Iona I., B.C., Aug. 26 (IBS, BMC) and another was found Aug. 30 & Oct. 3 in Saanich, V.I. (IDB, GS). Eleven well-scattered Solitary Sandpipers was a normal total, although the two Oct. 19-26 at Duncan, V.I., were late (JC *et al.*). The Willet flock at Bandon, Oreg. increased to 35 by Sept. 23 (HN *et al.*). Singles at Ocean Shores



Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Grays Harbor County, Wash. Aug. 29, 1978. Photo/Ruth Carson.

.Sept. 15 (JB, *fide* G & WH) and Dungeness Oct. 22 - Nov. 24 (D & SS *et al.*) were n. of their usual limit on Willapa Bay. The only Semipalmated Sandpiper reports accompanied by descriptive details were the three Aug. 24 at Nisqually N.W.R., Wash. (†CC), one Sept. 8 at Olympia (†CC), and one Sept. 9 at Tillamook (JG, †HN *et al.*). A third **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** of the season dropped in briefly at the Iona I. sewage ponds Aug. 25-26 (†BS, BMC). Counts of Baird's Sandpipers were back to normal after last fall's highs. Two-three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were at S.J.C.R., on the extravagantly early dates of Aug. 13-28 (m.ob. †CR). Groups of 1-3 were reported from six locations during the usual migration period of Sept. 14-Nov. 5. Stilt Sandpipers were well distributed with four Sept. 2 on Whidbey I., the high count (EH), and one Oct. 22-25 at Iona I., quite late (BS). **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** staged an unprecedented invasion. A normal fall brings in reports of two or three. This fall at least 28 were found Aug. 23-Sept. 30 at five locations, from Medford, Tillamook, and the S.J.C.R., to Victoria. The one at Ocean Shores Aug. 27 was the high count. Godwits were well represented. Single **Bar-tailed Godwits** were at Alsea Bay, Oreg. Aug. 6-8 (†TL, T & CF) and Dungeness Spit, Wash., Oct. 22-28 (†KK, †MEi). Oregon had its first **Hudsonian Godwit** ever near Bandon on the Coquille R. flats Sept. 10-19 (ME *et al.*, TC ph.). A possible second Hudsonian was reported Aug. 21 at Leadbetter Pt. (RW) and Aug. 23-24 at the S.J.C.R., but the distinctive underwing was not seen (TL, TF). Marbled Godwits were also in above-average numbers in Oregon with 100+ Sept. 10-23 at Bandon (HN, ME) and Nov. 6 at Yaquina Bay (BO, *fide* HN). The Region had **Ruffs** again for the third straight year, two at Iona I., July 30-Aug. 3 (†BS, †EH, GA), one at Hoquiam and Ocean Shores Sept. 16-24 (MC, †MM, GB), and one at Dungeness Oct. 25-26 (†KK). A single Am. Avocet found in c. Saanich Oct. 1 was photographed, for the third record for V.I. (BSe, *fide* VG) another was at Bandon Oct. 17 (TM, *fide* HN).

JAEGERs THROUGH ALCIDS --The 16 and 24 Pomarine Jaegers off Westport Aug. 20 and Sept. 11 (TW) and the 31 off Newport Sept. 30 (TC) were good counts. More than usual Long-tailed Jaegers were reported, with 21 and 16 on Sept. 10-11 off Westport, three at Ocean Shores, Sept. 1 (†G & WH), and seven

off Newport Sept. 30 (TC). Single skuas came onshore at the Long Beach Pen., Wash., Aug.

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18 (†RB) & Oct 29 (EH) were unusual. Four and five were off Westport Sept 10 & Oct 8 (TW), and seven off Newport Sept. 30 (TC, ph.) was the high count. All that could be identified were South Polar Skuas. An ad. Glaucous Gull reported at Sauvie's I., Oct. 14 (MK, *fide* HN) was early. More typical was a 2nd-year bird Nov. 18 in Vancouver. B.C. and a 1st year bird near there Nov 19 (BS). The first Thayer's Gulls were noted in Victoria Sept. 6 (RS, M & VG). Farther s. they were first seen Oct. 7-8 at Ilwaco and Westport. Wash. (HN, TW). In addition to the usual huge numbers of California Gulls along the Columbia R. and Oregon coast through September there were an estimated 14,000 between Clallam and Neah Bays in n.w. Washington Sept. 2 (CC), and 1500 near Bamfield. VI., Sept. 23 (MGS). Franklin's Gulls arrived by early August and were in good numbers in British Columbia and Washington. The high count was 13 immatures at the Everett ponds through Oct. 22 (EH, MM). The only adults seen were singles at Clover Pt. Victoria Sept. 5 (RS) and at Ocean Shores Sept. 22 (†G & WH). The two immatures at Sauvie's I. Aug. 18 (RSm, *fide* HN) was Oregon's only report. A Little Gull was seen again this fall at the Everett ponds, an adult Oct 8 among several thousand Bonaparte's Gulls (†B & PE). Ten thousand Bonaparte's Gulls massed off Victoria Oct. 28 (MGS). Single Sabine's Gulls were onshore at Forest Grove, Oreg. Sept. 10 (JG *et al.*), Pitt Lake, B.C. Sept. 24 (MF), and Oak Bay, VA., Oct. 8 (E & WC). Ten Black Terns were found; nine in Washington from Aug. 14 near Seattle (DMu) to Sept. 21 on Whidbey I. (BHT). Washington's first **Least Tern** was found Aug. 26-31 at Ocean Shores (B & PE, D & LL, GB, m.ob.). Good written descriptions (†EH, †BH) and photographs of it with Common and Caspian terns (RC) are on file. This is the northernmost record on the Pacific coast. Migrant Arctic Terns appeared in mid-August throughout the Region. Flocks of 50-100 were at Ocean Shores in late August (AR *et al.*), and 382 were seen off Westport Sept. 10 (TW). The last seen was a single Oct. 8 off Westport (TW). Common Terns appeared slightly earlier, were present in generally

higher numbers, and were seen to the end of October. Single Caspian Terns Oct. 8 at Hoquiam, Wash. (BR), and at Tillamook Nov. 4 (ME) were late, as the bulk of the population moved S. through coastal Oregon in late August to mid-September.

S.A.

Three pair of **Xantus' Murrelets**, 40 mi. off Westport Sept. 11 (TW, †EH) were studied at close range. The white underwing was noted and the face pattern sketched. All were the Guadalupe I. form, *B. hypoleuca hypoleuca*, for the second Washington record and the northernmost ever. The nine pairs of Xantus' seen on the Oct. 8 trip off Westport were all *B. b. scrippsi* (TW, EH).

Ancient Murrelets appeared a bit early, with pairs Sept. 9 off Cape Meares (MS, JG), Sept. 26 at Victoria (RS), and Oct. 13 at Dungeness Spit (SS), and in large numbers, with 300 off Saanich Oct. 31 (M & VG). The 2265 Cassin's Auklets off Westport Oct. 8 (TW) was a very high count. On Sept. 6 there were 150 Tufted Puffins still on Tatoosh I. off Cape Flattery. Wash.: by Sept. 16 there were none (BP). Five off Westport Oct. 8 (TW) were the last reported.

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS -- The season's first Snowy Owls were on Great Chain I. off V.I., Oct. 24 (BSt) and at Delta and Iona I., B.C. Nov. 10 (JI, DK). They were generally few and late this year. Five Burrowing Owls were found in w. Oregon this fall, from the S.J.C.R. s. to Medford. Single Barred Owls were found at Trout Cr. flats in the Gifford Pinchot N.F. Wash., Sept. 12 (DF) and near Olympia Oct. 19 (J & AD. ph.). Spotted Owls were found all fall at their usual Wolf Cr., Oreg. haunts (EP). The two early Long-eared Owls Aug. 13 near Alsea, Oreg. (DMc), and the one near Everett. Wash. Sept. 24 (EH) suggests the possibility of breeding w. of the Cascades. Single Com. Nighthawks in Seattle Sept. 28 (RD) and in Olympia Oct. 19 (CC) were late. Sizable flocks of Vaux's Swifts were widely reported Sept. 16-23 with 1000 in Victoria Sept. 18 (HH) the largest. A late female Rufous Hummingbird was seen at close range in Torino, V.I. Oct. 7 (ADo). A single **Acorn Woodpecker** was reported near Washougal, Wash., Sept. 29 (†RH) and would be the first acceptable record for Washington if

it were not a single-person sight record. Six kingbirds of three species were sighted. Single E. Kingbirds were at Arlington. Wash. Sept. 5 (CC) and Metchosin, V.I. Sept. 14 (BH). Single W. Kingbirds were in Vancouver, B.C. Sept. 2 (GA) in Seattle, Sept. 3 (MP) and near Albany, Oreg. Sept. 9 (GG). Topping the list was a **Tropical Kingbird** in Metchosin Oct. 22-23 (B & JH, †VG). A Say's Phoebe was on the Victoria golf course, V.A., Aug. 19 (RS, M & VG).

SWALLOWS THROUGH SHRIKES -- Two Bank Swallows were at the Everett ponds Sept. 1, and one was still there Sept. 10 (EH. PM), one was at Iona I. Sept. 4 (DK, DA). and two were in Ladner, B.C.. Sept. 14-15 (VG). Several Barn Swallows were still on Westham I., B.C. Nov. 5 (JBr, ML) and one was in Albany, Oreg. Nov. 13 in below freezing weather (GG). Only small numbers of Purple Martins were reported this August. The high count was 18 in Tacoma Aug. 21 (WW, *fide* TB) and the last one at Cape Meares, Oreg. Sept. 9 (HN *et al.*). Single Scrub-Jays were beyond their usual range in several locations; just e. of Lincoln City, at Newport, and s. of Myrtle Pt., all in coastal Oregon, and at Stevenson along the Columbia R. in Chehalis and in Seattle. The only lowland Mountain Chickadee report was of one on Sauvie's I., Aug. 13 (LR, *fide* HN). Wrentits continued their steady increase in the Wolf Cr. area of s. Oregon (EP). Single Mockingbirds were sighted, in Seattle (MD) and at Cape Meares, Oreg. Sept. 2 (*fide* HN), and in Victoria Sept. 3 (WC). Swainson's Thrushes were heard in nocturnal migration over the Wind River Ranger Station, Wash. Aug. 26-31 (DF) with the peak Aug. 27. Others were heard there Sept. 12 and in Toledo until Oct. 3 (DFa, *fide* HN). Single Swainson's Thrushes at Duncan, V.A., Oct. 14 (JC) and near Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 20 (AG) were late. The first Washington record of the **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was of one Nov 10-16 on Whidbey I. (B & PE *et al.*, †EH). Excellent photographs are on file (DP). Cedar Waxwings were widespread particularly in Oregon with young immatures reported Aug. 21 in Portland (*fide* HN) and Sept. 30 near Astoria. Oreg. (HN). A Loggerhead Shrike at Sauvie's I., Nov. 10 (TC, JG, DMA) was unusual w. of the Cascades. The season's first N. Shrikes were adults in c. Saanich and Victoria Oct 4 & 6 (RS) and in Mt. Rainier N.P., Oct. 7 (BS, SH).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS -- Heavy movements of Yellow-rumped Warblers occurred in s. Washington Aug. 28-Sept. 19 (BHT, DF) with migrants dropping from the clouds at dawn Sept. 8 & 12 near the Wind River Ranger Station. Large movements of Wilson's Warblers were noted near Portland and Wolf Cr., Oreg, in mid-August (HN, EP). A single Hermit Warbler Sept. 8 along the upper Lewis R., Wash., was the latest ever for the state (DF). Two MacGillivray's Warblers Sept. 24 in Oak Bay, V.I. (E & AID) were also late. There were four reports of Townsend's Warblers on V.I. during November. An ad. **Magnolia Warbler** was found at North Head on the Long Beach Peninsula, Wash., Oct. 21 (†RW). This is the second single-person sight record for Washington. and both have been in the fall and at this location. The only Palm Warbler reported, after last fall's dozen records was at Cape Meares, Oreg, Oct. 19 (RSm, *fide* HN). Two Yellow-breasted Chats (1 ad., 1 imm.) were in Olympia, Wash., Aug. 14 (G & JM, †BHT) for one of few Regional records n. of the Columbia R. A female Am. Redstart was seen Sept. 26 on Samish I., near Anacortes. Wash. (TW). Five migrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in late August and September, and two others at Boundary Bay, B.C., Oct. 22 were late (A & JG). A late N. Oriole was reported Oct. 30 near Newport (DFa, *fide* HN), and an imm. male was found dead in Coos Bay Nov. 1 (*fide* AM). The only Rusty Blackbird reported with details was of one seen near Ladner, B.C., Oct. 1 (†BS). Two Ø W. Tanagers at Manning P.P. Sept. 17 were late (VG).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS -- Pine Siskins were scarce in the Coos Bay area (AM). and were otherwise almost unreported from lowland Oregon or Washington. A flock of 500 was in Saanich, V.I., however Nov. 29 (RMG). There were many reports of 2-10 Red Crossbills from s. V.I., where they were almost absent last fall (*fide* VG). However, this species was reported on only three occasions elsewhere. **White-winged Crossbills** continued their late summer move into the Region. Several large flocks were in the Blewett Pass and Wenatchee areas just e. of the Cascade crest in Washington through August and September Groups of 1-6, including singing males. were found on mountains near Vancouver, B.C.,

throughout August (BS). A flock of 28 was in Manning P.P., Aug. 4 (BS), and smaller flocks were at Hart's Pass. Whatcom Co., Wash, Aug. 4 (AR) in Mt. Rainier N.P. Sept. 3 (B &

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MB), Oct. 7 (BS), and at Oldman, Skamania Co., Wash, Nov. 15 (DF). A flock of 57 Savannah Sparrows was observed departing S over the Straits from Victoria Sept. 6 (RS) during the peak of migration of this species throughout the Region. A Vesper Sparrow near Olympia Sept. 27 (CC) was the latest ever for Washington. A Lark Sparrow was at Ocean Shores Sept. 10-11 (B & PE) for about the sixth w. Washington record. Three Harris' Sparrows were found around Puget Sound, with the one near Burlington Oct. 6 (*fide* TW) somewhat early. In contrast to last fall, only one White-throated Sparrow was reported. An ad. male in Delta, B.C., Oct. 21 (MF, MP). A Fox Sparrow at Oak Bay, V.I., Aug. 25 was an early arrival there (JT) and Ocean Shores was "teeming" with the species Sept. 24 (BHT). A Snow Bunting at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 4-5 was extraordinarily early (MK, DI, JE). Otherwise the species arrived on schedule in late October, with one at 6500 ft. in the N. Cascades Oct. 22 (JDu, *fide* TW) at an unusual location, and one at Coos Bay Nov. 29 (*fide* AM) the farthest s.

CITED OBSERVERS AND ABBREVIATIONS -- (sub-regional editors in boldface) -- Dave Aldcroft, Gerry Ansell, Jack Becker (JB), Blair & Mary Bernson, Richard Biss, Thais Back, Jim Breadon (JBr), David Broughton, Greg Butcher, Eileen & Wayne Campbell, Mike Carmody. Ruth Carson, Chris Chappell. Dave Chelimer. John Comer. **Alan Contreras**, Tom Crabtree, Eleanor & Albert Davidson (E & AID), Jack & Ada Davis (J&AD), Michael Danahue. Richard Donham, Adrain Dorst (ADo), Jim Duemmel (Du), Mark Egger (ME), Mark Eisdorfer (MEi), Joe Evanich, Bob & Pat Evans, Darrell Faxon (DFa), Tad & Cathy Finnell, David Fix (DF), Mike Force, Eugene Gerzenstein, **Jeff Gilligan**, Greg Gillson, Margaret & **Vic Goodwill**, Al & Jude Grass, Richard Hamby, **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), Glen & Wanda Hoge,

Beryl & John Holt. Susann Hosie, Harold Hasford, John Ireland, Dave Irons, Don Jole, Rick Knight, Ken Knittie, Mark Koninendyke, Doug Kragh, Fayette Krause, Moira Lemon. Dick & Laura Lindstrom, Tom Lund, Gloria & Jim Maender, Bruce MacDonald (BMc), Don Mac-Donald (DMc), Rob Mackenzie-Grieve (RMG), David Marshall (DMa), Alan McGie, Larry McQueen, Barbara & Michael Meiklejohn, Mike Moore, Terry Morgan, Dennis Murky (DMu). **Harry Nehls**, Bob Olson. Bob Paine, **Dennis Paulson**. Mike Price. Eleanor Pugh. Bill Reichert. Alan Richards. Les Richards, Craig Roberts, Ran Satterfield (RS), Barry Sauppe (BS), Bill Sendall (BSe), Michael Shepard (MGS), George Sirk, Dory & Stan Smith, Mark Smith (MS), Richard Smith (RSm), Bob Straith (BSt), Otis Swisher, Jeremy Tatum, **Terry Wahl**, E.G. Whiteswift, Ralph Widrig, Wally Wilkins, Jack Williams, (?) written description on file (S.J.C.R.) South jetty of the Columbia R., (V.I.) - Vancouver I., B.C.

The Winter Season 1978-79

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

In the words of one reporter, it was a bearcat of a winter with every month experiencing subnormal average temperatures, particularly in January, when Kalispell, Montana reported 14.9°F. below normal. Snow and cold set in by early November in most parts of the Region with continuous snow cover at least into February. Precipitation was generally subnormal but owing to a late thaw it piled up disproportionately. More northerly areas however, had lower than usual depths. Freeze-up came in mid-December and only deeper lakes, fast flowing streams and warm springs remained open. Thawing began in February. Only the Klamath Basin of southern Oregon had normal conditions. Frozen water drove most waterfowl out and with them raptors dependent upon them. However Bald Eagles in the Wenatchee area subsisted on

American Coot and fish left by otters. In some places they fed on carrion. Snow cover caused hardship to small ground feeders and once crusted made survival difficult for game birds, especially quail, which, with flickers, meadowlarks and Red Crossbills, foraged along roadsides with many becoming traffic casualties. The snow also made hunting difficult for rodent-feeders, particularly Barn Owls. Some birds appeared to be unusually inactive and some died of cold and starvation. Small passerines were scarce or absent in some localities. The Walla Walla area reported higher temperatures in the mountains than in the valleys. which could have caused birds to stay at higher elevations. The "northern finches" were low in numbers. Exceptional concentrations of some species occurred, notably Horned Larks and goldfinches. Food for fruit eaters was generally adequate, barely in some areas. Other areas had fruit but no birds to eat it.

GREBES THROUGH HERONS -- A lone Red-necked Grebe was on the Columbia R., at Brewster, Wash., in late January (SJ). Swan L., Mont., had a W. Grebe Dec. 2 & 4 and one was on the Flathead R., near Kalispell, Mont., Jan. 20 (G.E.A.S.). Two Pied-billed Grebes were on the Blitzen R. Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., Dec. 23. The Columbia R. had six White Pelicans in the Hanford area. Feb. 7. and ten on Feb. 24 (GS & TF; RF & RK). A mixed-up Black-crowned Night Heron was at Lewiston, Ida, Jan. 6 (EM). An imm.-plumaged **Green Heron** appeared Dec. 2-4 along the Link R., Klamath Falls, Oreg, where it is very uncommon even in summer (SS).

WATERFOWL -- Mute Swans wintered at Livingston, Mont., and scattered individuals have spread to Yellowstone N.P. causing concern that they may compete with and adversely affect Trumpeter Swans (RS. *fide* PDS). One Mute Swan was on Okanagan L., near Vernon, B.C., Feb. 9 (DG) and three were at Kelowna, B.C., Dec. 30 (JG). They are uncommon in interior British Columbia. Whistling Swans wintered in good numbers around Klamath Falls with 850 Dec. 15 and migrant numbers swelled to 3000 in one area there Feb. 10 (SS). Some may have wintered at Malheur N.W.R. One at Salmon, Ida., Dec. 16 was noteworthy. A swan believed to be a Bewick's was carefully studied at Miller I. near Klamath Falls Feb. 2S and three others

may have been hybrid Bewick's x Whistling (SS). Trumpeter Swan numbers at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., rose to a peak of 2S3 adults and 20 cygnets in late February. Two family groups of color-marked birds from Grand Prairie, Alta. wintered there. The Montana-Idaho-Wyoming mid-winter survey found $850 \pm$ (RRS). More than the usual number wintered at Malheur where 41, including ten imm birds were seen Jan. 4. Three adults were near Springfield, Ida, Dec. 14 (WHS). Canada Geese numbers peaked at $9400 \pm$ Dec. 5 at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., but the majority left with the freeze-up. McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had $25,000 \pm$ in January and at least $30,000 \pm$ were between Wilson Cr., and Marlin, Wash., Feb. 28. About 6500, over three times last year's number wintered at Malheur. "Several thousand" wintered in s. Idaho (WHS). Over 800 wintered at Penticton, B.C., in spite of adverse conditions. The Columbia R., at Brewster had a **Cackling Goose** Jan. 14-Feb. 1 (SJ). A White-fronted Goose wintered with Canadas near Vernon and one was shot at Malheur Dec. 10. Yakima had one Dec. 31 and one was at Richland Feb. 3 (Y.A.S.; REW). This species and Snow Geese number in the thousands in the Klamath Basin by February's end. Malheur had $3500 \pm$ over Harney L., Feb. 28: some may have wintered there. A few Ross' Geese appeared with Snow Geese in February in the Klamath area (SS). Mallard numbers reached a high of $287,000 \pm$ at Deer Flat Dec. 13. Ducks, 90% Mallards reached an above-normal peak of $57,000 \pm$ at McNary N.W.R. in January. A peak of $2000 \pm$ Green-winged Teal was in the Nampa area Dec. 1. A pair of N. Shovelers was on L. Chelan, Wash., the last week of January (SJ). Some 800 Canvasbacks were between Wilson Cr. and Marlin Feb. 28 (RF). Up to 50 Greater Scaup and up to 100 Ruddy Ducks were on the Columbia R. between Brewster and Pateros, Wash, in late January (SJ). Up to four Greater Scaup were at Klamath Falls Dec. 2-Jan. 14 and the same place had a female Oldsquaw Dec. 16-17 (SS). The only Harlequin Duck reported was a male on Vaseux L., extreme s. British Columbia Dec. 29 (SRC). Single Red-breasted Mergansers appeared at Livingston, Mont., Lewiston, Ida, and Spokane (PDS & CL; EM, JA; THR).

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- A Turkey Vulture lingered at Deer Flat N.W.R., until Dec. 7 (G.E.A.S.). At least 18 Goshawk sightings were made, mostly in s.

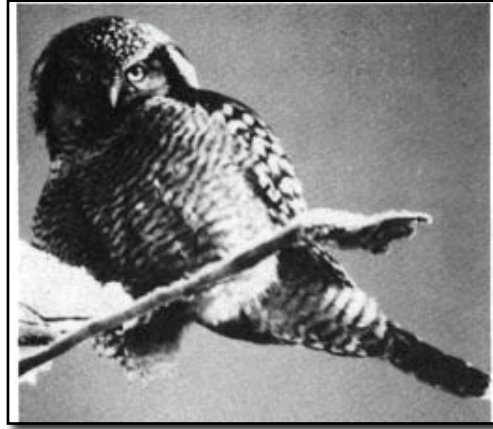
British Columbia and n.e. Washington. Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers appeared high but Cooper's Hawks were seldom noted. The latter were in above normal numbers in the Vernon area, however. Red-tailed Hawks, wintering in unusual numbers in the n. Okanagan of British Columbia, apparently suffered toward winter's end; one was found dead and another, nearly so, apparently from starvation (PJ). The Bald Eagle count sponsored by the Nat'l Wildlife Federation tallied 392 birds in Idaho (JH) and 138 in e. Washington (RK). The Klamath Basin of Oregon-California yielded about 610 (SS). The four Gyrfalcon reports received were all from w. Montana and e. Washington. There were 30 Prairie Falcon sightings but only two of Peregrine Falcons. Many more Merlin sightings than usual may indicate an actual increase in this scarce little raptor.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- On the whole these birds came through the winter surprisingly well. A small flock of Sharp-tailed Grouse, extremely unusual in the Missoula Valley, was seen along 1-90 w. of the city (PLW) and three appeared between Wasa and Ft. Steele, B.C., where they are very scarce (MVW). Eight were "budding" in birch trees e. of Bridgeport, Wash., Feb. 11, and Kamloops B.C., had 12 on Jan. 7. In the Lewiston area California Quail and Chukars appeared to have had a hard time, often gathering along roadways. The latter, seldom reported from the Grand Forks, B.C. area, were sighted there Dec. 26 (JG). Mountain Quail were sighted four times along the highway between Riggins and Weiser, Ida, Dec. 23 & 31; many were road-killed. Three were sighted Jan. 20 near Dworshak Dam, Ahsaka, Ida, (EM). Ring-necked Pheasants were actually present in increased numbers in s. Idaho and in the Bozeman area. A small flock of Turkeys was still surviving at Bozeman Pass e. of Bozeman (SC). The species was also reported at Creston, e. of Kalispell, Mont. (F.A.S.), and seven were sighted in the Mt. Hull area, s.e. of Oroville, Wash. (BH). Fifty were seen at Prairie, Ida, on three occasions (PCo).

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RAILS THROUGH GULLS -- Penticton had two Virginia Rails Dec. 26 (SRC), Vaseux L., one on Dec. 29 (OG), and one was along the Snake R., 20 mi w. of Buhl, Ida., Jan. 28 (DT). A Spotted Sandpiper was along the Link R., Klamath Falls area Feb. 25 and one was along the Mallad R., Gooding Co., Ida, Dec. 27 (DT). Single Greater Yellowlegs were sighted Dec. 17 and Jan. 21 at Klamath Falls and a Lesser Yellowlegs was found there Feb. 25 (SS). The Yakima R. delta, near Richland, Wash., had 14 Least Sandpipers Feb. 18 (REW). Dunlins numbered 45 there Dec. 9, disappeared during the freeze and 18 birds returned Feb. 18 (REW). A late Marbled Godwit was on Lower Klamath N.W.R., Dec. 3 and two very late Am. Avocets were on a frozen marsh at Klamath Falls Dec. 7-16 (SS). Single first-year Glaucous Gulls appeared at Coeur d'Alene, Ida., Dec. 26 and at Pasco, Wash., Jan. 30 (JWW). In the Klamath Falls area an ad. Glaucous-winged Gull was sighted at three different locations Dec. 13-27; an ad. Mew Gull was there Dec. 13, and three Bonaparte's Gulls Dec. 7 (SS). A Herring Gull was sighted near Creston, Mont., Jan. 18 (WJ & MS).

ROADRUNNERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -
- A Roadrunner near Caldwell, Ida, Dec. 9 was presumably an escaped bird (PW). Several Barn Owls found dead in the Nampa area were presumed to have starved (G.E.A.S.). One was sighted near Winchester Wasteway e. of Quincy, Wash., Feb. 24 (PC). At least 17 Snowy Owl sightings were reported, all from e. Washington excepting for two from s. British Columbia and one near Marsing, Ida, A Hawk Owl was observed on several dates in January at Cataldo, Ida, (m.ob.). The most southerly Pygmy Owl sightings ever for s. Idaho were of single birds at Prairie Jan. 13 (PCo) and near St. Anthony (RGo). Two Burrowing Owls entered a burrow surrounded by 5-6 in. of fresh snow near Othello, Wash., Jan. 10 (RF & TF). The only Barred Owl reports were of single sightings at Kalispell, Clarkston, Wash., and Kelowna, B.C. (one appeared to be starving). Great Gray Owl sightings were at Grand Forks, B.C.; Island L., between Libby and Kalispell, Mont.; near Tetonia, Ida, and s. of Bozeman. Short-eared Owl numbers appeared very low



Hawk Owl, Cataldo Mission, Idaho, Jan. 28, 1979. Photo/J. F. Acton.

except for a report of 17 in sage brush e. of Withrow, Wash., Dec. 23 and six seen on Jan. 20 by field trip participants in the Walla Walla area. Saw-whet Owl sightings were distinctly up however. An Anna's Hummingbird survived at a Boise feeder at least until Dec. 30 (G.E.A.S.); three were at Wenatchee Dec. 29 but disappeared during the January "deep freeze" (PC), and the Spokane bird was not seen after Dec. 29 when the thermometer dropped to -22°F. (DS).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WRENS -- A few Lewis' Woodpeckers apparently wintered at Hamilton, Mont. (CP) and in the Yakima area (Y.A.S.). One was found s.e. of Union, Ore., Dec. 9 (JE) and one was at Brewster, Wash., Jan. 13 (SJ). One was at Rocky Reach Dam n. of Wenatchee Feb. 23 (PC) and Salmon, Ida, had one Dec. 16 (HBR). Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Pendleton Dec. 26 were most unusual (SRC). A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers was observed s. of Heppner, Oreg, at the Wheeler County line (BC, CC & REW). Ten or more each of Black-backed and N. Three-toed Woodpeckers were present in the Pattee Cr. area burn, 2-3 mi s.w. of Missoula (SF). A concentration of 500 Horned Larks was found 6 mi s.e. of La Grande, Ore., Jan. 27 (JE) and one of 5000 was near Moxee, Wash., Jan. 28 (Y.A.S.). A trip from Colfax to Pasco, Wash., Jan. 30 yielded a total of 1895 along the road eating gravel (IOB & JWW). The only Blue Jay reports were of two along the Little Spokane R., n.w. of Spokane Feb. 25 and one at Kimberley, B.C., feeders all winter (MVW). Common Ravens appeared to be on the increase in the Okanagan

of s. British Columbia where at least 500 were at a slaughter house near Armstrong Dec. 30 and seen frequently through the winter (JG). The raven roost at Malheur L., Ore., was again active; >800 birds frequented it in 1977 (ST). Chestnut-backed Chickadees were reported only from the Kalispell area (F.A.S.) and five reported near Millcreek s.e. of Walla Walla Jan. 6 (DM). The only Bushtit reports were of 35 at La Grande, Ore., Jan. 18 (WCD). Two **Wrentits** at Upper Klamath L., at Howard's Bay Jan. 21 apparently furnished the most northerly record e. of the Cascades (SS). Vaseux L., s. British Columbia, had a Rock Wren Jan. 12 (SRC).

THRUSHES THROUGH PIPITS -- Varied Thrushes were found wintering in large numbers in e. Washington. At Wenatchee they were "more common than robins"; at Walla Walla they were "in various yards... especially numerous on Whitman Campus" at Lewiston, "many" were seen in town. And on the Spokane Christmas Bird Count they nearly outnumbered Am. Robins. The n. Okanagan had more reports than usual: several were still up in snow-bound country at 4100 ft. Dec. 26. Walla Walla had a Hermit Thrush Dec. 5 (SM) and Richland had one and two on Dec. 16 & 23 respectively (REW). Two W. Bluebirds wintered at Penticton (SRC). At Malheur N.W.R., nine W. Bluebirds were sighted Jan. 24 (BE) and a good buildup of Mountain Bluebirds was occurring at the end of the period. Flocks of Mountain Bluebirds totaling 200± were reported in Owyhee County, Ida, (PK). Three apparently wintered at Rupert (WHS). Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., had a report of three Wheatears: the report "withstood the test of cross examination" but refuge personnel were unable to find the birds to confirm the sighting (JRR). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was still at Vernon Dec. 4 (MCo) and Parker Heights near Yakima had one Dec. 1 (Y.A.S.). In Idaho the species was noted Feb. 11 at Hagerman fish hatchery and Feb. 18 in the Snake R. canyon n. of Buhl (DT). A Water Pipit was at Hagerman hatchery Jan. 11 (DT) and Nampa had 80 Dec. 9 (G.E.A.S.). One was along the Snake R. near Asotin. Wash. Jan. 27 and 13 were along the Clearwater R., in Lewiston Jan. 30 (EM & RG). A late report was of two **Sprague's Pipits** observed and photographed in an alpine meadow at Wilcox Mt., near the Ice Field Center, Jasper N.P., Aug. 9 (THG).

WAXWINGS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- Bohemian Waxwing numbers seemed about average in most localities. However Spokane reported a flock of 10,000± and Boise had a flock of 400 which is large for that area (LM). Some 2000± arrived at Helena in November but numbers dropped drastically, probably owing to poor food supply, then rose again to 1000± in February. Cedar Waxwings wintered in more than usual numbers. La Grande, Ore. reported 300 on Feb. 10 (WCD) and Spokane had occasional flocks of up to 50. Twenty-five were seen Feb. 1 at Malheur; they are considered occasional in s.e. Oregon in winter (ST). An Orange-crowned Warbler was studied from 10 ft. along the Link R. at Klamath Falls Dec. 13 & 28 (SS). A Yellow-rumped Warbler was near Kalispell Dec. 13-14 (BR). A few Yellow-headed Blackbirds wintered with other blackbird species in the Klamath Basin (SS) and six were found in Gooding County. Ida, Jan. 18 (DT). A very late male was near Vernon Dec. 2 (JB). Brewer's Blackbirds apparently wintered in the Kalispell area (F.A.S.). A Com. Grackle wintered at a Bozeman feeder (ETH & RAH).

FINCHES -- The **Brambling** at Swan L., Mont., was seen until Dec. 3 (F.A.S.). Evening Grosbeaks were absent nearly everywhere. Only Kimberley B.C., reported near normal numbers. At Spokane they were virtually absent until late February; 350± appeared along the Little Spokane R. Feb. 25. Cassin's Finch was scarce or absent except in the Okanagan where they were unusually common. Three House Finches at Salmon, Ida., Dec. 16 were noteworthy (HBR). Bozeman reported no sightings. Pine Grosbeaks were rarely seen and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were observed only along the Blackfoot R., n.e. of Missoula in January (AB); 50 near Cascade, Ida, Feb. 10 (MC & ZC), and two birds s.w. of Walla Walla, Feb. 4 (JO). Common Redpolls were virtually absent. Noteworthy were 3-4 at a Kennewick, Wash. feeder in early January (JD). **Pine Siskins** were "superabundant" in Douglas-fir stands across s. British Columbia; estimates placed the total population above *one million* (JG). Red Crossbill occurrences were spotty, this perhaps related to their common appearances in s. British Columbia Douglas fir forests. White-winged Crossbills were abundant in subalpine forests of spruce and in hemlock

stands of the "wet belt" of British Columbia. Singing and courtship feeding were observed at Vernon Jan. 12 (JG). Elsewhere they were reported only in the Pattee Cr. burn, near Missoula: at Swan L., e. of Bigfork, Mont., and at Polebridge Ranger Station, Glacier N.P., Montana.

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SPARROWS -- A flock of 30-40 Tree Sparrows frequented a Hamilton feeder all winter and the Rexburg area had many times their usual numbers. Harris' Sparrow sightings were sparse. One wintered at a feeder near Vernon (JG) as did one at Livingston (CL) and one was at Penticton, B.C., Dec. 27 (SRC). An imm. bird appeared at Imnaha, Ore., Feb. 3 (FC & JE) and one visited a feeder near Spokane Dec. 30 and Jan. 13 (SAS). White-crowned Sparrows were reported for Kalispell, Nampa, Rupert, Ida, and Yakima, Brewster, and Clarkston, Wash. The only Golden-crowned Sparrows were an adult at L. Lowell near Nampa Dec. 21, (DT) and two at Boise Feb. 12 (HR). A White-throated Sparrow wintered at a Livingston feeder (CL) and one wintered at Polebridge Ranger Station, Glacier N.P. (SB; JD & CM). Lewiston had Fox Sparrows Jan. 6 (C.B.) and singles appeared at Yakima Jan. 18 and near Moxee, Wash., Jan. 28 (Y.A.S.). One in Richland Jan. 28 was only Bob Woodley's fourth. A Lincoln's Sparrow was spotted in mid-January near Brewster, Wash. (SJ) and one or possibly two wintered along the Link R., near Klamath Falls (SS). Twin Falls County, Ida, had 1-4 Lapland Longspurs in late January and early February (DT). Snow Buntings mostly appeared in small numbers excepting a flock of 70 at Sullivan Meadows 8 mi. s. of Polebridge, Mont. (SB) and one of 500 near Helena Feb. 8 (SM). The birds reached as far s. as Nampa (G.E.A.S.).

ADDENDA -- A remarkable record was of a **Caracara**, tardily reported, at L. Owyhee, Malheur Co., Ore., about May 3, 1978 (*fide* CHT). Belatedly, a report came in of a **Wheatear** observed and photographed at Malheur N.W.R., June 22, 1977 (RFR).

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, John Baumbrough, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Arnold Bolle, Susan Buchel, I. O. Buss, Steve R. Cannings, (MC) Mel Carlson, Zilda Carlson, (PC) Phil Cheney, (MCo) Mary Collins. Frank Conley. (PCo) Priscilla Cook, Becky & Craig Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Jim Davidson, William C. Dowdy. Brad Ehlers, Joe Evanich, Flathead Audubon Society (F.A.S.), T. Flint, Ron Friesz, Sid Frissell, (RG) Russ Gebhart, (RGo) Ririe Godfrey, Dorothy Goertz, Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), Timothy H. Goldsmith, James Grant. Eve T. & Ray A. Hays, Bill Hebner, James Heckathorn, Wanda Jamieson, Stuart Johnston, Pip Jordan, Pat Knee, Rick Knight, Cary Lurid, Ed McVicker, Cindy Mish, Levi Mohler, Dirk Muse. Shirley Muse, John O'Connell, Colleen Powell, James R. Rees, Robert F. Ringler, Hadley B. Roberts, Hazel Roe, Thomas H. Rogers, Betty Rose, Dorothy Sattier, G. Scrivens, W. H. Shillington, Ruth Shea, Richard R. Sjostrom, P. D. Skaar, Mac Sudan, Steve Summers, Dan Taylor, Steve Thompson, Charles H. Trost, Peggy Waterman, John W. Weber, Mildred V. White, Robert E. Woodley, Philip L. Wright and Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.).

The Winter Season, 1978-79

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

Colder and drier weather than usual for the Region continued through to January. Temperatures at the Seattle, Portland, and Medford stations averaged about 4°F below normal for the two months. Precipitation was about three inches lower per month than usual. From late December to early January the daily maximum stayed at or below freezing. Such an extended period of cold is unusual, and it furthermore included 1.5 inches of rain in the Portland area January 9-11 which coated the landscape with ice. Temperatures warmed thereafter and normal rainfall returned in February. There were several noticeable

effects of the cold weather: considerable duck mortality at Sauvie's Island near Portland, a dramatic influx of sapsuckers to the lowland and urban areas. A temporary absence of small insectivorous species such as Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Townsend's Warblers, and a subsequent near absence of resident land birds from several well studied islands offshore the northwestern Washington coast.

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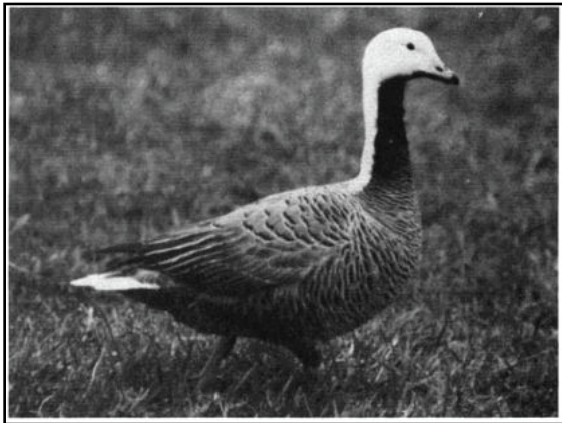
Cessation of morning song and some apparent roosting behavior were widely noted the morning of February 26 during the total solar eclipse.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- There were detailed reports this season of seven Yellow-billed Loons in upper Puget Sound and in s. British Columbia, and two others at Prince Rupert, B.C. At least three of these were seen almost weekly throughout the period. Red-necked Grebes were found in greater than usual numbers on the s. Oregon coast, whereas, the normally uncommon Eared Grebe was almost absent throughout the Region. Otherwise loon and grebe species were reported in their usual numbers. On Dec. 14 *ca.* 200 mi w. of Tillamook, Ore, SJ found one or two Black-footed Albatrosses and two **Laysan Albatrosses**. By the next day *ca.* 50 mi off Grays Harbor, Wash., there were 10 Black-footeds and two Laysans. In the same location there were about five N. Fulmars and a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel Dec. 15. On Dec. 13, while 350 mi w. of s. Oregon, (SJ) had two sightings of the **Mottled Petrel** (†SJ). Another Laysan Albatross, four Black-footed Albatrosses, and a few N. Fulmars were off Oregon Jan. 4 (TW). Another N. Fulmar was over Swiftsure Banks off Vancouver I., B.C. (hereafter, V.I.). Dec. 16 (SJ). Six small shearwaters, the one seen well a Short-tailed, were in the Strait of Juan de Fuca just s. of Discovery I., V.I. Jan. 17 (WC. *fide* VG). Fewer Green Herons than usual were found wintering in Washington, and none was reported from British Columbia. The only Cattle Egrets reported were one along the Sixes R., near Port Orford, Ore, in early December (D & JR, *fide* AC) and three near Longview, Wash. Jan. 3 (GS, *fide* SSa). There were

fewer Great Egrets than usual on the Oregon coast, but more than normal in the Willamette Valley. North of the Columbia R. a Great Egret wintered in Olympia, Wash., and one appeared near Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 19 (*fide* A & JG). Single Snowy Egrets at Coos Bay and at Bandon, Ore, apparently wintered (*fide* AC & DF). The five and eight Black-crowned Night Herons on the Coos Bay and Portland Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter, CBC), were usual. The species is much scarcer farther n.; single adults were at Grays Harbor Dec. 16 (CB, ME) and near Carnation, King Co., Wash., Feb. 11 (ME). American Bitterns were widely reported from Oregon and Washington. and n. to Sea I. and Reifel Ref. near Vancouver, B.C., in January (GA, VG).

SWANS, GEESE, AND DUCKS -- Several thousand Whistling Swans wintered in the Willamette Valley of Oregon this season, a much higher than usual population level. About 250 were on the Skagit flats, Wash. (DP, TWL and several dozen were in mixed flocks with Trumpeters in s. British Columbia. Trumpeter Swans were in their usual numbers and locations, with 200+ near Mt. Vernon, Wash., scattered smaller flocks in n.w. Washington and s. British Columbia, and one or two with Whistling Swans on Sauvie's I. near Portland. Three Emperor Geese were reported: one Dec. 2 & Feb. 22 at Sauvie's I. (JGi, *fide* HN; B & DJu, *fide* SSa), one at Nehalem Oct. 15 - Feb. 28+ (m.ob. JGi, ph.) and one at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., from Feb. 20 on (SA. DN, ph.: RW). White-fronted Geese were found at four localities in s. British Columbia with the flock of 19 at Somenos flats. Duncan. V.I. Dec. 20-30 (JC *et al.*), the largest noted. Farther s., the only reports were of three near Sequim, Wash., Dec. 17 (DSm) and one in Eugene. Ore, through the period (SG, AC). An imm. "Blue" Goose wintered with a few Snow Geese near Tacoma (†CC) for only the second w. Washington record. An ad. Ross' Goose was observed from the Sea I. jetty near Vancouver, B.C. Jan. 30 (WC, *fide* VB). Five individuals of the introduced Black Duck population near Everett, Wash. were found in that area during January. Small groups of up to 14 Gadwall wintered in a few localities on s. V.I. (*fide* VG) through January. In February, 24-44 were present at the same locations, and two males were found farther n., at Cowichan Bay. V.I. Feb. 10 (JC), indicating an early spring movement. In addition to a

few Cinnamon Teal found on CBCs. there was a pair near Seattle Feb. 4, with several other blue-winged type teal (EH, BMe). Migrant Cinnamon Teal appeared on schedule in s.w. Oregon in mid-February (*fide* AC) and at Sauvie's I., in late February (HN). Four male Blue-winged Teal were at Forest Grove. Oreg, Dec. 3 (GW. *fide* HN). Five Eur. Green-winged Teal were noted: two in the Vancouver area Jan. 7 - Feb. 5 (JI, BS, DK}, two on s. V.I., Jan. 9 & 20 (VG, RSa) and one on Sauvie's I., Feb. 14 (MS, *fide* HN). All but a very few of the reports of this form for the Region are after mid-December. A male **Falcated Teal** was shot Jan. 3 at Willapa Bay, Wash. (KG. *fide* JWe). The specimen was mounted and photographed and represents the first Washington state record, pending Record Committee assessment of possible escapee origin. The usual numbers of Eur. Wigeons were found. The high counts were 14, Sauvie's I. Dec. 24. near Portland Dec. 30, and on the Samish flats, Wash., Feb. 17-25 (MM, DP), and 13 in Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 19 (*fide* GA). The regular winter concentration of Redheads at Coos Bay numbered 375 Dec. 16 (DF *et al.*), elsewhere no more than eight were reported at any of a dozen localities. As last year, the main Canvasback concentration was the 1500 at Yaquina Bay (DF; BO, *fide* HN). A male **Tufted Duck**, with just the beginning of a tuft, was at the Everett sewage ponds Feb. 18-27 (†EH, DP, B & PE *et al.*). Several hundred Barrow's Goldeneyes again stayed on Capitol L., Olympia during December (G & WH). A young male **King Elder** was seen at Pt. Roberts, Wash. Jan. 1 & 15 (V & HH. *fide* GA; †DP, TW, KW) for about the seventh record for Washington. More Black Scoters than usual



Emperor Goose, Nehalem, Oreg, Oct. 15, 1978-Feb. 28+, 1979. Photo/Jeff Gilligan.

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were reported from coastal Oregon this winter (AC, DF, HN)

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS -- An imm. Turkey Vulture attempted to winter at Roseburg, Oreg, but died during the January freeze, despite supplemental feeding by a farmer (*fide* FP). Another immature was seen several times in Ladner, B.C., Dec. 23 - Feb. 1 (DW, KF *et al.*). Apparent migrants at Duncan, V.I., Jan. 28 (JC, JWo) and at Reedsport, Oreg, Feb. 8 (EWS) were both considered very early. The overall count of wintering White-tailed Kites in Oregon remained near last year's levels, although pairs were found in several new areas. About 20 White-tailed Kites utilized an evening roost at Fern Ridge Res, through the winter (AC, HN). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were widely reported in good numbers. There were also nine Goshawk sightings. An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** near the Eugene airport Jan. 1-22 (SGr, AC *et al.*) was well n. of its usual range to n.-c. California. Also an imm. Red-shouldered was hit by a car near Langlois, Curry Co., Oreg, Jan. 28, and recovered live (DR, ph.). These records, which possibly document a natural range expansion, are seriously clouded, however, by the release this fall of three Red-shouldered Hawks in Grants Pass, Oreg, by (DSi, *fide* AC). Red-tailed Hawks wintered in good numbers, with 368 on the Dallas, Oreg, CBC, more than doubling the high CBC tally for the state. Single Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks wintered on the Skagit flats (MM, AN) and on Sauvie's I. (HN *et al.*). Others were found during December on the Nisqually N.W.R. (BHT) and the Lummi flats w. of Bellingham (PD, *fide* TW). Observers throughout the Region commented on the reduced numbers or absence of Rough-legged Hawks.

S.A.

During Jan. 13-27, RK of the Wash. Dept. of Game coordinated several hundred observers in conducting a survey of all known Bald Eagle wintering areas in Washington. A similar census was compiled in s. British Columbia by A&JG and in Oregon (*fide* HN). A count of $4200 \pm$ Bald Eagles was totaled. The 1214 around Squamish, B.C., was the high concentration, and 814 were at Harrison Bay, B.C. The combined total of these two localities is triple that of last year. Allowing for duplication, 988 were found in w. Washington, with 381 along the Skagit R., and 107 along the Nooksack R., and $900 + _$ were found in w. Oregon. Reports of ones and twos were very widespread.

An Osprey was at Nisqually N.W.R., Jan. 4 & Feb. 4 (CC, RK, AD) and another was in Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 6 (BL, *fide* A&JG). The increase in Peregrine reports continued from fall into winter, with 34 scattered throughout the Region. Three Gyrfalcons were reported, one each in British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon during December. Merlins, kestrels, and Marsh Hawks were noted in normal numbers. A few Virginia Rails wintered as usual, and the several January records indicate that most survived the late December freeze. Four at Seattle Dec 30 was the highest count, and one was out of place on Tatoosh I., off Cape Flattery, Wash., Dec. 28 (DB).

SHOREBIRDS -- Several Semipalmated Plovers were still at Grays Harbor, Wash., and Coos Bay and Siletz Bay, Oreg, in mid- December. Singles were in Seattle Jan. 6 (EH) and near Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 6-8 (JL, *fide* GA) for very late records. About 30 Snowy Plovers were at Coos Bay through the season (AM). One to three Ruddy Turnstones, wintered n. to V.I., Vancouver, B.C., and the Lummi flats, Wash., (TW, †MD). A dozen Long-billed Curlews at Tokeland, Wash., Feb. 15 were most surprising (BHT, JB). Groups of 2-3 Whimbrels wintered at Coos Bay and Yaquina Bay as usual, also n. to Grays Harbor and along the Straits of Juan de Fuca (GVV, SSm), with two off Saanich Feb. 8 (KT, *fide* VG). A flock of $30 \pm$ Willets was again at the North R., on Willapa Bay during February (G & WH *et al.*), and about 12 were in

Newport, Oreg, also in February (SG, RL). A Wandering Tattler was late at Seal Rock, Oreg, Dec. 20 (DF, DI, JE), as were single Red Knots at Ocean Shores Dec. 16 (DP) and at Oak Bay, V.I., Dec. 19 (†LR, *fide* VG). Least Sandpipers stayed through the season to at least mid-February: one was in Victoria Feb. 2-3 (RSa, M & VG), three were in Port Angeles, Wash., Feb. 14 (KK), and 25 were on the Skagit flats Feb. 17 (DP *et al.*). Western Sandpipers were well represented as usual on the Washington and Oregon CBCs, with fewer seen thereafter. Two short-billed, gray-backed peep found Jan. 1-8 at C. Saanich, V.I. (JiW, MB, VG, RSa: †JT) are considered unidentifiable. There are only two winter records of W. Sandpiper on V.I. (VG), and none for the entire Region of Semipalmated. All Dowitchers identified to species Were Long-billed, with most reports in December. The 116 Long-billeds at Westport Dec. 10-16 (BHT) was the high count, and two were in Oak- Bay, V.I., Feb. 7 (WC, HC, *fide* VG). Marbled Godwits wintered unusually far n., and in high numbers: 30 at the North R., Dec. 22 (EP), 53 at Tokeland Feb. 15 (BHT, JB), and two throughout the period at Cadboro Bay, Saanich (*fide* VG). Greater Yellowlegs, Rock Sandpiper, and Dunlin wintered throughout and in their usual numbers.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS -- There were reports of about 24 Glaucous Gulls this season, which is a few more than last year, despite their absence from several of their usual Puget Sound dump locales. As usual, very few of these were adults, and a first-year bird at Florence, Oreg, Feb. 19 (HN) and a second-year bird inland at Eugene Jan. 21 & Feb. 9 (†SG) were the farthest s. The single W. Gulls seen on three occasions in the Vancouver area (JI, G & WA, BS) were the most northerly reported. Hybrid Glaucous-winged X Western Gulls continue to be noted; 33 were counted at Grays Harbor Dec. 16 (BHT, DP, EH, G & WH), 16 were in Seattle Dec. 30 (DP), and several were in Eugene Jan. 1 (TL). Wherever in Puget Sound that Thayer's and Herring gulls are carefully identified, Thayer's is found to be the predominant wintering species. For example, the careful reports by VG this season showed $640 \pm$ Thayer's Gulls to 40+ Herrings on s. V.I. On the outer coast, however, the Herring Gull is more numerous (BHT, EH). The 4060 California Gulls at Portland Dec. 30 was double the

previous statewide high count for CBCs. As last winter very few Bonaparte's Gulls were reported except around s. V.I., where 6000± moved N off Saanich Dec. 27 (VG) and several hundred were present Dec. 10 & Jan. 27 (RSa, *fide* VG) An imm. Sabine's Gull was seen off Cape Arago, Oreg, Dec. 17 (†AC). About ten Black-legged Kittiwakes were 75 mi w. of Grays Harbor Dec. 15 (SJ) and in Westport Feb. 9 (G & WH), smaller numbers were seen throughout the Region during December and February. Hundreds of Ancient Murrelets were seen off s. V.I. through the season (*fide* VG), and flocks of up to 50 were around the San Juan I., and in n. Puget Sound (TW, DP *et al.*). A single Tufted Puffin was 200 mi w. of Tillamook, Oreg, Dec. 14 (SJ) and about six Tufted Puffins and one **Horned Puffin** were seen 75 mi w. of Grays Harbor Dec. 15 (SJ). Another Horned Puffin was found dead on the beach at Dungeness spit, Wash., Jan. 28 (KK). There are less than a dozen records of the Horned Puffin for Washington, and very few winter records of the Tufted Puffin.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS -- Relatively few Snowy Owls were present this winter. The 22 on the Ladner CBC, Dec. 17 was the high count, and one at the S.J.C.R., through the period was the only reported from Oregon (DF, HN). A Spotted Owl was found m s.w. Mt. Rainier N.P., Feb. 5 (RT). Single Burrowing Owls were at Gold Beach, Oreg, Jan. 1 (D & JR, *fide* HN) and at the Eugene airport from late January on (AC *et al.*). A Barred Owl was located in Campbell River P., S. Langley, B.C., Dec. 30 (TH, KB, *fide* GA), and another was seen and heard Feb. 18 & 25 at the established site on Bacus Hill, e. of Sedro Woolley, Wash. (EH *et al.*). Several *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbirds were found very late; singles were in Seattle Dec. 12 (MK, ES, ph.), and at Tillamook Dec. 16 (*fide* HN), and two were in Salem Dec. 30 (*fide* SG) A male Rufous Hummingbird arrived in Seattle by Feb. 11 (B & GRE), a slightly early date Anna's Hummingbirds continue to be found in new localities, and a female was collecting nest material in Langford, V.I., Feb. 21 (G & TBr, *fide* VG). The "Red-breasted" Yellow-bellied Sapsucker staged a remarkable influx into lowland areas of the Region Dec. 29-Jan. 1. Normally very sparsely reported, there were 58 on the Eugene CBC, Jan. 1, 25 on the Seattle CBC, Dec. 30, 23 at Ocean Shores, Wash, seen by two observers (DP,

SD) Jan. 1, and up to a dozen in a day were reported then from Stanley P., Vancouver, B.C., Sequim, Wash, and Cottage Grove, Oreg, The influx followed several unusually cold days during which the temperature did not rise above freezing. After a warming trend in early January, a few single sapsuckers were seen through mid-January, and then the species returned to its usual obscurity. A Williamson's Sapsucker was brought m by a housecat Dec. 30 near Battleground, Clark Co., Wash., for the first winter record for the state (SSi, *fide* HN*).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS -- A pair of Black Phoebes was at the Denman Game Management Area just n. of Medford,

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Oreg. Jan. 27 (OS), for a new location for this species in the Region. A Horned Lark spent the season at Clover Pt., Victoria (*fide* VG), and a flock of 50 found at the Eugene airport Feb. 5 (TL, DF) was unusual. Very early Violet-green Swallows were near Aldergrove, B.C. Jan. 14 (GRy, *fide* A & JG) and in Seattle Feb. 17 (SH). Otherwise both Tree and Violet-green swallows arrived on schedule in late February. No Blue Jays were found in the Region this winter. The Scrub Jay found last year in Seattle was still present this winter. A Boreal Chickadee was found in a flock of Chestnut-backed Jan. 22 in Cypress P.P. near Vancouver (BS) for one of very few winter records for the area. During the early January cold a flock of Bushtits moved into a garage at night in Newberg, Oreg, (CR). Two White-breasted Nuthatches wintered at Scatter Cr. Ref., s. of Olympia, Wash, (CC). Five pair of Dippers were seen along the Rogue R., Oreg, Feb. 11, one of which was already actively nest-building (OS). Wrentits continued their residence in the Willamette Valley of Oregon n. at least to Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis (AC.GG). Single Mockingbirds were noted at Tillamook Dec. 16 (*fide* HN) and at Salem, Oreg, Jan. 14 (TC). More than usual Hermit Thrushes were found this winter on the Oregon coast (DF) and numbers on V.I. were threefold those of last winter (VG). Eleven W. Bluebirds at Coos Bay Dec. 17 (AM) were the first ever for the CBC

there, but only 25 were counted on the Medford CBC, down from last year and far below counts during the early 1970s. Several flocks of from 30 to several hundred Water Pipits were reported, and many smaller groups were scattered throughout the Region n. to Cowichan Bay (JC).

WAXWINGS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- As last winter, Cedar Waxwings were scarce or absent, except in the Willamette Valley, where several hundred were counted in the Eugene and Roseburg areas (AC, FP). A Bohemian Waxwing at North Bend, Oreg, Jan. 1, was most unusual (BG, *fide* AM). There was a coincidence of other reports of this species for Jan. 25-26; 300± were found at Terrace, B.C. (WC, *fide* VG), seven in w. Vancouver, B.C. (BS) and one near Vancouver, Wash. (DJo). A **Loggerhead Shrike** wintered at Sea I. near Vancouver, B.C. (GA *et al.*). Northern Shrikes were somewhat scarcer than usual this season in s. British Columbia and w. Washington and almost absent from w. Oregon. Single Orange-crowned Warblers wintered n. to Sequim (WS) and Bellingham, Wash. (TW). A late Black-throated Gray Warbler was in the Coos Bay area Dec. 17 (*fide* HN). There were many reports of Townsend's Warblers during December, several in the Vancouver area and on s. V.I., with 10 on the Grays Harbor CBC, being the high count. During January there were only two reports; seven in Discovery P., Seattle Jan. 14 (NW, SH), and one in Eugene in late January (AC). Three Palm Warblers were reported: one Dec. 10 at Westport (BHT), one Dec. 17 at Ocean Shores, Wash. (EH), and two Dec. 25 in Saanich, V.I. (DSt. *fide* VG). A **Northern Waterthrush** flew against a window e. of Seattle Dec. 30 (C & CF, TBo, *U.W.) for only the fourth record for w. Washington, all in winter. Are rare birds killed preferentially against the windows of the relatively few Audubon Society members, or are we missing a significant source of information? A male Yellow-headed Blackbird wintered in Saanich (*fide* VG), a female was s.w. of Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 14 (G & WA) & Feb. 18 (JWi), and a male was on Sauvie's I., Feb. 20 (RSm, *fide* HN). Two Rusty Blackbirds were picked out, one Dec. 23 in Duncan, V.I. (JC) and one Dec. 31 near Bellingham, Wash. (EH). A female **Hooded Oriole** stayed around a Eugene feeder Dec. 24-Feb. 28+ (LMa, AC; LMc.) photos showing decurved bill and extensive yellow underparts).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS -- A flock of 82 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches at Surrey, B.C., Jan. 1 (GRy, *fide* GA) was the only report for that species, as was the group of five redpolls on Samish I., Wash., Feb. 24 (TW). Only scattered small flocks of Pine Siskins were noted, with many locations reporting their near absence. Red Crossbills were well reported only from s. V.I. Elsewhere there were only two each at Coos Bay Dec. 17 (AM), Bellingham Dec. 31 (*fide* TW), and Sequim, Wash., Feb. 21 (KK). A Vesper Sparrow attended a feeder in Portland from early February into March (JL, HN) for a very unusual winter record. There were eight Tree Sparrows reported; four at Sea I., B.C. (GA) and one s. to Portland Dec. 30 (*fide* HN). One Chipping Sparrow wintered in Eugene (AC) and two were on the Sauvie's I. CBC, Dec. 24 (DI). Single Harris' Sparrows were found throughout the season at Sea I., B.C., on the Skagit flats and in Seattle, Wash., and at feeders in Forest Grove and Roseburg, Oreg. There were reports of 14± wintering White-throated Sparrows, which is near normal for the Region. Several Oregon observers commented on the high numbers of Fox Sparrows present this winter, and the 441 in Eugene Jan. 1, was a new statewide CBC high count by 85%. Three Lincoln's Sparrows wintered at Duncan, V.I. (JC). A **Swamp Sparrow** Jan. 1 at the Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, was Oregon's ninth record (*fide* LMc). Small groups of Lapland Longspurs were scattered in the Region: the 27 at Grays Harbor Dec. 16 (*fide* BHT) was the high



McKay's Bunting with flock of Snow Buntings,

Ocean Shores, Wash., Jan. 9, 1979. Photo/P. W. Mattocks, Jr.

count. A Snow Bunting at the Eugene airport Feb. 4 (TL, DF) was only the second local record and the farthest s. this winter. Several wintered at Tillamook and the S.J.C.R. and a flock of $35 \pm$ wintered at Ocean Shores, Wash. The birds of the season were the two **McKay's Buntings** found Dec. 16 at Ocean Shores (G & WH; EP, SP). One still in perfect breeding plumage was found alone at the base of the jetty Dec. 16-18 (AR, BMc). The other had some traces of winter rust and was seen with the Snow Bunting flock by dozens of observers through March 3. There was no evidence of prior captivity, and several photographs (DP, ES, PM) and excellent feather-by-feather written descriptions are on file (†EH, †MM, †DE). This is of course the first record for Washington and probably also for anywhere away from the Bering Sea.

CITED OBSERVERS: and abbreviations, with **sub-regional editors in boldface**. Gerry and Wendy Ansell, Scott Atkinson, Kevin Bell, Mike Bentley Thais Bock (TBo), Dee Boersma, Cathy Bolles, Gwen and Tom Briggs (G & TBr), John Bulger, Wayne Campbell, H. R. Carter, Chris Chappell, John Comer, **Alan Contreras**, Tom Crabtree, Susan Dallum, Paul DeBruyn, Michael Donahue, Alison Duryee, Marc Eisdorfer, Joe Evanich, Bob and Pat Evans, Cal and Charlotte Fanders, David Fix, Kathleen Fry, Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Greg Gillson, Margaret and **Vic Goodwill**, Steve Gordon (SG), Ai and Jude Grass (A & JG), Ken Greenfield, Sayre Greenfield (SGr), Barbara Griffin, Terry Hammell, **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), V. and H. Hesse, Sue Hills, Glen and Wanda Hoge, **Eugene Hunn**, Bob Hutchison, John Ireland, David Irons, Stuart Johnston, Don Jole (DJo), Brian and Doris Justus (B & DJu), Meredith Kangley, Rick Knight, Ken Knittie, Robert Lucas, Brian Luck, Tom Lund, Jim Lyons, Bruce MacDonald (BMc), Lela Mays (LMa), Alan McGie, Larry McQueen (LMc), Brien Meilleur (BMe), Mike Moore, **Harry Nehls**, Darryl Nelson, Audrey Newman, Bob Olson, Fred Parker, **Dennis Paulson**, Evelyn Peaslee, Susan Peaslee, Bill and Geness Reichert (B & GRE), Alan Richards, Craig Roberts, Leila Roberts, Dennis and Jim Rogers, Glen Ryder (GRy), Ron Satterfield (RSa), Susan Saul (SSa),

Barry Sauppe, Mike Shiral, Dave Sidden (DSi), Susan Signor (SSi), Dory and Stan Smith (D & SSm), Richard Smith (RSm), Ernie Spragg, Dave Stirling (DSt), Gary Suhadolnik, Wally Sumner, Otis Swisher, Jeremy Tatum, Keith Taylor, Ron Toohen, Gus Van Vliet (GVV), **Terry Wahl**, Glenn Walthall, Joe Welch (JWe), E.G. White-swift (EWS), Nat Wheelwright, Ralph Widrig, Jack Williams (JWi), Doug Wilson, Jim Wilson (JiW), Ken Wilson, Joe Woodcock (JWo), (†) = written description on file, (S.J.C.R.) = South jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg, (V.I.) = Vancouver I., B.C.

Spring Migration, 1979

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN -
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/Thomas H. Rogers

Weather in the Region, normally abnormal, ran true to form. March was warm and pleasant but generally turned cold and stormy the last week, delaying the early migration in some areas. April in the northern Rockies was generally cool and wet but much of eastern Washington tended to be dry, as was May in most localities. Water conditions at wildlife refuges were reported excellent but the snowpack in the mountains appeared below normal, leaving summer water supply somewhat in doubt. Many migrants at Chewelah in northeastern Washington arrived early but the birds' timetable apparently was little altered by the weather in most localities.

LOONS, GREBES -- Common Loons in the Kimberley, B.C., area seemed to be coming back to their regular haunts and breeding in spite of increasing numbers of campers and fishermen. Red-necked Grebe pairs again appeared at Little Sweden Marsh near Waits L., Chewelah, Wash. (JN). The birds appeared on three lakes in Okanogan County, Wash., and at Moses L.,

Wash., for a total of eight. One bird of this species, very rare in the Helena, Mont. area, was at L. Helena causeway Apr. 20 (LT, ST). The species was down to 15 from 25 last year at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonnets Ferry, Ida, The only other reports were of one on the Clearwater R., in Lewiston, Ida, and a total of six at three points on Coeur d'Alene and Benewah L., Ida, (C.B.; SGS, MK, P.A.S.). A few W. Grebes were noted in s. Idaho, w. Montana, s.e. Oregon and e. Washington.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- White Pelicans were reported plentiful on the Snake R., in the Rupert, Ida., vicinity and up to eight were at Ft. Boise W.M.A., near Boise, Ida, (JHe, NHe, RM). Wallula, Wash., had ten Apr. 12 (CFI). At Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., the birds appeared to be in good breeding condition. A pair of Double-crested Cormorants was at Meadow L., near Malaga, 7 mi s.e. of Wenatchee, Wash., May 22 (PWC). This is apparently a new locality for the species. The birds seemed

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to be doing well in s. Idaho, where 56 were banded May 23 at Minidoka N.W.R. A new colony appeared at the upper end of Am. Falls Res. but the colony at Blackfoot Res., destroyed by human interference last year, failed to reestablish itself. Mud Lake W.M.A., Hamer, Ida, had a good colony that was showing no eggshell thinning (CHT).

HERONS, EGRETS -- A Great Blue heronry at Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., comprised 250 pairs and one along the Yakima R, at Satus Cr., had 90 birds (RF). Cattle Egrets numbered about the same as last year, 4-8, at Minidoka N.W.R. (WHS; CHT). One along Lower Klamath L., near the California border provided one of very few records for that area (SS) and one appeared near Hamer, Ida, May 19 close to where one was found in June, 1978 (DH). Three pairs of Great Egrets were nesting in the heronry at Potholes Res. (RF) and one was seen at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., May 20 (RH, REW). One appeared at a heronry

in Wallowa County, Ore, May 30 (O.F.W.). Some Black-crowned Night Heron and Snowy Egret colonies in s. Idaho were showing eggshell thinning but several colonies including those at Minidoka and Mud L., appeared healthy. Fort Boise had a Snowy Egret Apr. 16 (RM). Sixty-one Black-crowned Night Herons were banded at a heron enclosure at a trout farm, where nets over the ponds are apparently taking the place of illegal shooting (CHT). Potholes Res., in c. Washington had $500 \pm$ pairs (RF). White-faced Ibises seemed to be establishing a substantial breeding area at Market L., Ida, (DH), and Minidoka N.W.R., had 50 on May 21 (WHS).

WATERFOWL -- Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., registered a good waterfowl migration with at least 300,000 birds using the Harney basin in mid-March (STh). No Whistling Swan comment was received from Malheur but up to 400 stopped at Cave L., and 65 at the Coeur d' Alene R. mouth, Kootenai Co., Ida, Conley L., e. of La Grande, Ore., had 100 and the Spangle, Wash. area reported 45. Kootenai N.W.R., Bonnets Ferry, Ida, reported a peak of only 50 and remarked that Creston W.M.A., in British Columbia had recorded similar declines (LDN). Nampa, Ida, had a peak of 89 (G.E.A.S.) and 50 stopped near Warm Springs, Mont. (PSc). The birds were not reported as stopping this spring in the Pocatello area but 106 flew over Mar. 23 (CHT). The May population of Trumpeter Swans for the Centennial Valley around Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., was 266, 173 of them on the refuge itself. An aerial survey revealed 46 active nests on the refuge and five outside of it (RRS). Up to 100 of the birds were on a sump pond near Boulder, Mont., Mar. 26 (NN). At Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., the peak was only eight. Canada Geese nesting was reported principally from Malheur, which had 750 pairs and which was low for there. Nesting success there was 43% At Kootenai N.W.R., 19 broods hatched compared to last year's 11. Turnbull N.W.R., had 300-400 adults. Conley L., La Grande, Ore, hosted 2500 White-fronted Geese Mar. 29 (JE) and Ft. Boise, Ida, had 300. Malheur had 35,000 Snow Geese and 9000 Ross' at mid-March. A blue phase Ross' Goose appeared near Burns, Ore., Apr. 18 (STh) and another was with 3000-5000 Ross' at Miller I., near Klamath Falls, Ore, In mid-April (SS) Numbers of migrant ducks at Kootenai N.W.R., dipped, mostly owing to the

decline of Pintails to 3500 from 11,000 in 1978. Six Eur. Wigeon were with thousands of Am. Wigeon in late March at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (SS). Three at Metcalf Ref., Stevensville, Mont., were noteworthy (*fide* CP). A very few appeared in the vicinity of Spokane. The Salmon, Ida, area had a flock of 800-1000 N. Shovelers, Roberts largest concentration ever. A Wood Duck with a brood of 11 was sighted near Winthrop, Wash., close to where the species wintered (RF). Turnbull N.W.R., had a peak of 210 Canvasbacks and 66, mostly males, at L. Helena were the most there since 1975 (SM). A Barrow's Goldeneye at Salmon Apr. 21 was noteworthy (HBR). Glacier N.P., Mont., had its earliest-ever sighting of a Harlequin Duck Mar. 30 on the n. fork of the Flathead R., s. of Polebridge, and one on Upper McDonald Cr., in the park May 6 wore two yellow leg bands (SJB). Okanogan County, Wash., had three sightings of the species, two of them in the Winthrop area, the other at Wells Dam (RF). The Nampa area had two White-winged Scoters May 6 and the species was seen at Ft. Boise (JHe). Bruneau S.P., Owyhee Co., Ida, had six Red-breasted Mergansers Mar. 29 and nearby C.J. Strike dam counted 18 in April (JSM).

VULTURES, HAWKS -- Fourteen sightings of Turkey Vulture in Washington included 13 individuals at Rimrock L., Yakima Co., and 13 more at Bonnie L., Spokane Co., near April's end. Swainson's Hawk sightings were fairly common in e. Washington, with a few in e. Oregon and s. Idaho and one at Boulder, Mont. Ferruginous Hawk sightings were up in e. Washington, probably owing to better coverage. Several nests were found, including five in the Juniper Forest s. of Connell (B.L.M.). The Salmon Falls Project, Twin Falls Co., Ida, reported six sightings and four active nests (I.F.G.). Golden Eagle nests in Ferry and Stevens Counties, Wash., were noted as "operating normally" (JN). Three resident ad. Bald Eagles were reported at Wasa L., near Kimberley, B.C. (MVW). Up to 100 were moving through Harney Basin, Malheur N.W.R. Six, including two probably nesting, were noted on Pend Oreille L., n. Idaho (DC). A pair at the traditional nesting site about 70 mi from Helena had two nestlings (VY). McNary N.W.R. had an Osprey May 22 (JC). The only Gyrfalcon report was of one Mar. 8, for the second consecutive year, in e. Washington (JA). Two sightings of single Peregrine

Falcons came from w. Montana. A very few Merlins were seen in s. Idaho and e. Washington.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Sharp-tailed Grouse were displaying on leks in Douglas and Okanogan Counties, Wash., in early April. About 15 leks are found each year in those counties (PWC; W.F.G.). A lek in the Pocatello, Ida, vicinity had $50 \pm$ males (CHT). A single bird that appeared in a Bozeman, Mont., yard Apr. 9 was a real mystery (JR). Up to 29 Sage Grouse were reported in the Nampa, Ida, area (G.E.A.S.) and the dancing ground s. of Creston, Wash., revealed 16 on Apr. 21 (JA). The Nampa area had two Bobwhite Quail May 19 (C & EF). Lake Lowell in that area had one Apr. 13 and a pair was found 5 mi to the s. May 19 (DT). California Quail are becoming established along the Kootenai R, near Bonnets Ferry, Ida., where private individuals have released birds. The wintering population was 60-75 and one appeared on Kootenai N.W.R. (LDN). Camp Cr., in the Imnaha, Oreg, vicinity had a pair of Mountain Quail May 31 (O.F.W.). The only Turkey report was of a hen with seven young in the Brush L., area near Bonners Ferry (DC).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS -- A possible sighting of a Whooping Crane May 23 came from Premier L., 20-25 min. of Kimberley, B.C. (Mrs. D., *fide* MVW). The St Andrews, Wash., area had 2500-3000 Sandhill Cranes in early to mid-April (JA; RF, TL, TT, N.C.W.A.S.). In the Salmon, Ida, area this species' population appears to be expanding, with more birds being reported from nontraditional areas (HBR). Two Snowy Plovers were seen on the Oregon side of White L., unit of Lower Klamath N.W.R., May 12 (SS). Malheur N.W.R., Harney Basin, an important nesting area for Long-billed Curlews, held $1500 \pm$ pairs. The species was very common in the Ephrata-Moses L., area of Washington but the species has been virtually eliminated by agriculture and housing tracts in the Pocatello area. The birds appeared to be doing well on the n. side of Am. Falls Res., however (CHT). Three Forks, Mont., had its first-ever Whimbrel record May 27 (ET & R AH, PDS). A flock of 13 was along Lower Klamath L., May 5-6 (SS). A few Upland Sandpipers returned to the e. Spokane Valley, the only nesting site w of the Continental Divide. Spokane Audubon Society, Washington Department of Game and The

Nature Conservancy are exploring ways to protect their habitat from expanding housing developments. A Willet at Mann's L., near Lewiston, Ida, was probably the first for that area (EM, SK). Single birds appeared at Salmon Apr. 15 (HBR) and at Deep Creek Res., Twin Falls Co., Ida, May 11 (I.F.G.). A sighting of Greater Yellowlegs at Salmon Apr 15 was unusual (HBR). Lesser Yellowlegs appeared Apr. 23 at Fortine, Mont., where they are rare in spring (WW). Two flocks of Marbled Godwits were sighted Apr. 26 on Ice Harbor Res. mudflats e. of Pasco, Wash. (BB, LB) and the Rupert, Ida, area had 14 on Apr 28 (WHS). McNary N.W.R. reported a Black-necked Stilt May 30 (JC). Two birds of this species were at a pond n.w. of Othello, Wash, Apr. 27 but were gone the next day (WS). At least six were near George, Wash., May 30 (PWC) and Metcalf Ref., Stevensville, Mont, had 12 (*fide* CP). Three gulls thought to be Ring-billed appeared near Fortine, Mont, for the second-ever spring date there (WW). Two terns believed to be Forster's were skimming the surface of the Spokane R., on the Idaho side of the state line May 7 (DC). One was at Salmon, Ida, May 19 (HBR).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS -- The Region had more sightings of Band-tailed Pigeons than ever before. One got as far e. as Hamer, Ida, May 12 (DH). A road-killed bird was picked up at Malheur N.W.R., May 23 (STh). Two were sighted at Joseph May 5 and two along the Imnaha R., May 9, both in n.e. Oregon (O.F.W.). Richland, Wash. had one at a feeder Apr. 30 - May 3 (L & NJ). One was near Naches, Wash., May 6 and six were seen at Milk Pond near Chinook Pass, Mt. Rainier

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N.P., May 23 (Y.A.S.) The flock of $40 \pm$ Mourning Doves that wintered at Libby, Mont., had dwindled to 8-10 by spring (E & RE). Barn Owls appeared to be on the increase at Malheur, where three nests were located. One at Spokane May 15 may have been the first for the county (JRI, WWa). Near Yakima a pair had a nest in a haystack and along Satus Cr., s. of Yakima a nest was found In a dirt bank cavity (LS). A similar site at Rufus Woods L., Okanogan Co., Wash., also held a nest (VM)

and a bank cavity at Yakima revealed an adult (LS). A brood of seven was observed in rimrock 5 mi s. of Pilot Rock, Ore., May 26 (EM). Nampa had one sighting May 26 (G.E.A.S.). Scanning a circle of 1.5 mi radius in the Reardan-Davenport, Wash., area Mar. 8 revealed *nine* Snowy Owls (JA). A Burrowing Owl was reported at Three Forks, Mont., for an unusual record (SC, RL, ET & RAH, PDS). The Salmon Falls Project reported two nest sites of Burrowing Owl. Long-cared and particularly Short-cared owl numbers appeared good. The pair of the former that regularly nested near Chewelah, Wash., did not return, but a pair of Saw-whets moved in (JN). The latter species was heard at Fernan L., Coeur d' Alene, Ida, (SGS), and the Salmon Falls Project reported sightings of four Saw-whet Owls.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS -- At least 50 Black Swifts were feeding over Park I., near Bridgeport, Wash., May 28 (VW). White-throated Swifts appeared at a new location, the Bowl and Pitcher area of the Spokane R., w of Spokane, where at least ten darted about the cliffs (JA). Anna's Hummingbird was found in four spots in Klamath County, Ore. (SS). A hummer of undetermined species at Fortine, Mont. Mar. 21 at a feeder might very well have been an Anna's. A male Rufous Hummingbird near Bozeman in May was noteworthy (JM).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- An **Acorn Woodpecker** near Lyle May 3 was apparently Washington's first (PWC). White-headed Woodpeckers were sighted in March and April, up to three birds, at Daggett Cr., n.e. of Boise (A & HL) and May 23, one near Council, Ida, (DJ). The only Ash-throated Flycatchers reported were one at Cold Springs Camp Ground 4 mi. w. of Sisters, Ore. (GG) and one along Rock Cr., Klickitat Co., Wash., May 15 (RK). The only Gray Flycatcher of record was at Malheur May 24 (GG). Up to 15 Purple Martins were sighted in the Chiloquin, Ore., area in April and May (TLu). A large colony of Bank Swallows was reported near the Okanogan R. mouth, as was a colony of 300-400, along the Snake R., in Franklin Co., both in Washington

JAYS THROUGH WRENS -- The Blue Jay that wintered at Kimberley, B.C., was last seen May 15 (MVW). A **Scrub Jay** at Lyle Mar. 31 was apparently e. Washington's first (WS). Tampico, Wash., had a "small flock" of Bushtits May 6 (ZB) and a flock of 25 Plain Titmouse was sighted at Boise Mar. 25 (HR). Pygmy Nuthatches, seldom found in w. Montana, were at Metcalf Ref., Stevensville May 19 (CP). Bewick's Wren numbers appeared satisfactory at Yakima and in the Klamath Falls area Walla Walla, Wash., also reported one May 1 (SMu).

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Fifteen sightings of Sage Thrashers in e. Washington totaled at least 28 birds (W.F.G.; Y.A.S.; JA). At least one brood had fledged in the Arco, Ida, area by the third week of May (CHT). A Mockingbird was sighted at Page Springs, Ore., and another was near Klamath Falls in May (GG; SS). Boise-Cascade Camp Ground on Wenas Cr., Yakima Co., Wash., had one May 29 (Y.A.S.) and one was found in the Bruneau, Ida., area May 18 (JD, TTh). A remarkably early Gray Catbird was in a Bozeman yard Mar. 31 (JR). The earliest previous record there is May 16. A Varied Thrush was reported at Murphy Hot Springs for about a week in early April furnished what is likely s. Idaho's first record (EB). A dead **Black-and-White Warbler** was picked up along Rocky Ford Cr., 6 mi e. of Ephrata, Wash., May 17 (DHo). Oregon produced two Tennessee Warbler sightings, one bird at Malheur N.W.R., May 27 (SS) and one at Fields May 28 (KF, DF, PS, SS). Malheur also had a **Magnolia Warbler** (SS *et al.*, EGW) and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** (KF, TF, DF, EM, PS, SS) both May 27. The migration brought single "Myrtle" Warblers to the Davenport, Wash., cemetery May 3 & 18 (JA). Several d Townsend's Warblers were listed in the Grandview- Bruneau, Ida, area May 13-21 (I.F.G.) and at Camas N.W.R., Hamer, Ida, (DH). An Ovenbird was singing in a juniper hillside area near Three Forks, Mont., June 12 (RL, DS). A N. Waterthrush was a highlight of the Salmon Falls Project May 14 (I.F.G.).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS -- The Salmon Falls Project tallied a male Bobolink May 22 for what is probably the first Twin Falls County record (I.F.G.). Bobolinks at Chewelah, Wash., returned in spite of a housing development in their preferred field, the small

colony now being sandwiched between a softball field and an apartment house complex (JN)! A large colony of Tricolored Blackbirds, 1000-2000 in number, along Lower Klamath L., near the California border was present from March to mid-May, when it disappeared (SS). Two ad. Com. Grackles were found frequenting the city park at St. Anthony, Ida, May 12 & 19 and were suspected of nesting. One was noted last year in the same place (DH). Brown-headed Cowbirds "seemed to be everywhere" in the Richland, Wash., vicinity and two observers in Kimberley reported eight and ten at feeders where normally one or two pairs visit (MVW). Numbers elsewhere drew no comments. A male Scarlet Tanager at Malheur N.W.R., May 31 was believed to be Oregon's first (DP, MS *et al.*).

FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A Black-headed Grosbeak at Fortine, Mont., May 3 furnished only the second spring record there (WW). The date seems very early. An **Indigo Bunting** was reportedly at Ketchum, Ida, May 25-27 (ph.?-*fide* WHS). At least two pairs of House Finches were noted at Fortine Apr. 20-May 20±. A female was gathering nesting material several mornings beginning May 9 but no nest was located. This nesting attempt is the first for the area (WW). A flock of 43+ Gray-crowned Rosy Finches at the sanitary landfill at Montpelier, Ida., Feb. 12 & Mar. 17 apparently provided the first record for that area (E & SMi). Crossbills, reported only from the Kimberley vicinity, were described as more numerous, with a flock of 50 seen (MVW). A single Grasshopper Sparrow was reported n. of Creston, Wash., Apr. 21 (JA). Black-throated Sparrows were believed more numerous in s.e. Oregon. Ten were observed at Malheur, five at Hart Mt., and a singing bird was found in the Klamath Hills of s. Klamath County (SS). The species was found to be a common breeder on the Salmon Falls Project. Last year two nests and two instances of adults feeding young were observed in that area (I.F.G.). The only Sage Sparrow sightings were of four in Lincoln County, Wash., Mar 31 (JH) and of one near Marlin, Wash., Apr 9 (JA). A Gray-headed Junco appeared on the Salmon Falls Project May 25 (I.F.G.). The St Andrews, Wash., area had a **Clay-colored Sparrow** Apr. 21 (L & JT). Of the sprinkling of Golden-crowned Sparrows moving through e. Washington the Davenport cemetery provided the best showing with five May 7, four May 12 and one May 19 (JA). Single Lapland Longspurs

were noted on the Salmon Falls Project Mar. 20 (I.F.G.) and in the Rupert, Ida, area Apr. 16 (WHS). At least 25 in breeding plumage were on the Sage Grouse grounds s of Creston, Wash., Apr. 14 (JA). A likely sighting of a Chestnut-collared Longspur came from the E. Wenatchee, Wash., area Mar. 4 (L & JT). A late Snow Bunting was in the Davenport, Wash., area Mar. 8 (JA).

CORRIGENDUM -- Delete the record of a Lesser Yellowlegs at Klamath Falls Feb 25, 1979, AB 33:299.

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, Ethlyn Barneby, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Larry Bow, Susan J. Buchel, Bob Bugert, Bureau of Land Management (B.L.M.), Zee Butler, Dean Carrier, Phil W. Cheney, Sharon Cotterell, John Coykendall, John Doremus, Mrs. Drysdale, Esther and Ray Enders, Joe Evanich, Kathy and Tad Finnell, David Fix, Chris Flanagan (CF), Ron Friesz, Cleo and Ernest Frost, Greg Gillson, Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), Eve T. and Ray A. Hays, Jim and Norma Heckathorn (JHe & NHe), Randy Heinz, J. Hickman (JH), Del Holland (DHo), Donnell Hunter (DH), Idaho Dept of Fish and Game (I.F.G.), Lowell and Nina Johnson, Dean Jones, Steve Kennedy, Rink Knight, Merle Koliner, Ron Lang, Al and Hilda Larson, Tracy Lloyd (TL), Tom Lund (TLu), Ed McVicker (EM), Judy Marchwich, Jeffrey S. Marks, Vern Mart, Sid Martin (SM), Elinor and Stauffer Miller (E & SM0), Ryan Miller, Shirley Muse (SMu), Larry D Napier, North Central Washington Audubon Society (N.C.W.A.S.), Jack Nisbet, Norma Nixon, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (O.F.W.), Palouse Audubon Society (P.A.S.), Diane Pope, Colleen Powell, Hadley B. Roberts, Jim Rieck (JRi), Hazel Roe, John Rumely (JR), Pat Scown (PSc), Michael Sherrill, W H Shillington, Richard R. Sjostrom, P. D. Skaar, Lee Stream, Shirley G. Sturts, Dan Sullivan, Priscilla (PS) and Steve Summers, Wally Sumner, Lorna and Jerry Tangren (L & JT) Dan Taylor, Steve Thompson (STh), Terry Thompson (TT) Tricia Thompson (TTh) Larry (LI) and Susan Thompson (ST), Charles H. Trost, Wes Walker (WWa), Washington Department of Fish & Game (W.F.G.), Winton Wey-

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demeyer (WW), Mildred V. White, E.G. White-Swift, Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.), Vince Yannone.

Spring Migration, 1979

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Eugene S. Hunn and Phil Mattocks, Jr.

The season was uniformly warmer and drier than usual throughout, based on the Seattle, Portland, and Medford weather stations. Seattle and Portland experienced 43% of the month's rainfall and a period of storm activity April 8-13, with winds briefly up to 44 mph. The few instances, however, of large numbers of migrants found were in late April and early May. We want to thank the observers and compilers who provide most of the material for this seasonal report, particularly Vic Goodwill for Vancouver Island and Harry Nehls for western Oregon. Their reports run to dozens of pages and include careful documentation and well thought out comment. In contrast, we have indications that some observers assume that their observations will be included with someone else's report, or that they are not worth the time required to send them in to *American Birds*. Attempts to analyze migration and distribution patterns, or population trends in possibly endangered species, *Accipiters* for example, are greatly aided by input from many observers. Our indexing system for these reports has

not yet reached saturation, and we welcome all information from you, readers and observers, however brief.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- The Yellow-billed Loon present all winter off Bayview S.P., Wash., was last seen May 18 (*fide* TW). Others were noted off Pt. Francis, Whatcom Co., Wash., Mar. 18 (P & DSc), at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. Mar. 31 (MSm, NC, *fide* HN), at Westport, Wash., May 12 (TW), and at Sooke, Vancouver I. (hereafter, V.I.), May 13 (DSt, *fide* VG). These numbers were above the recent average, and the dates were later than usual. The migration of loons passed unremarked this spring. Grebes were also little noted with declines suggested for Red-necked Grebes about Victoria (VG) and for W. Grebes along the Oregon coast (HN). However, 4560 W. Grebes Mar. 20 n.e. of Saltspring I., in Georgia Strait, B.C., was a good count (MS, *fide* VG). Wahl's single pelagic trip off Westport May 13 reported 111 Black-footed Albatrosses, 71 Pink-footed Shearwaters, and 18 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels; numbers well above those of the past two years. Sooty Shearwater flocks of 5000± were offshore as usual from the South jetty of the Columbia R. to Westport Apr. 28 - May 13. Northern Fulmar went unreported for the second straight spring, while in place of the few Flesh-footed Shearwaters of past years Wahl's boat had four of the erratic **Short-tailed Shearwater**. Brandt's Cormorants were concentrated as usual about s.e. V.I., with 1000 Mar. 16 off Galiano I. However, counts from nearby Active Pass have declined steadily from 3700 (in 1976), to 1000 (in 1977), 700 (in 1978), and

other egrets noted were 65 Greats Mar. 13 censused by air along the Coquille R., in s. Oregon (U.S.F. & W.S., *fide* HN). There were three Black-crowned Night Herons reported in n. Oregon May 3-12 (*fide* HN), suggesting a minor migratory movement.

SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS -- The winter flock of 275 Whistling Swans on the Skagit flats, Wash. was last noted Mar. 4 (EH *et al.*). There appears to be a hiatus between the departure of locally wintering birds and the passage of birds from farther s. as migrants peaked Mar. 22 when 100 passed over Kalama, Wash. (*fide* HN). Highlights of the Brant passage were 2000 on Boundary Bay, B.C., Apr. 3 (G & WA), "thousands" at Leadbetter Pt. (B & GR) and 1000 at Ocean Shores (TB) both Apr. 7 and 3000+ on Dungeness Bay, Wash., Apr. 19 (DS). The Nehalem Meadows, Oreg, Emperor Goose has apparently taken up residence and refuses to leave. Another Emperor Goose was reported Mar. 3-5 from Baskett Slough N.W.R., in the Willamette Valley of Oregon (JC, *fide* HN), while a third lingered with Brant at Leadbetter Pt., Feb. 20 - Apr. 7 (RW, B & GR). The U.S.F. & W.S. aerial survey of the Coquille R., in s.w. Oregon Mar. 13 recorded 11,200 Pintails and 8000 Am. Wigeon. Six male Eur.-Green-winged Teal were reported, and three of these were considered intermediate. Blue-winged Teal arrived in late April-early May on the lower Columbia R., and on s. V.I., as usual a month or two later than the Cinnamon Teal. Thirty-nine male Eur. Wigeon were cited from throughout the Region, with the latest one in Seattle May 4 (EG). HN notes that Wood Ducks arrive at Sauvie's I., in late March in large flocks, then disperse to breed. Twelve pairs were at Ft. Lewis, Wash., Apr. 26 (KS, GR *fide* TB), presumably nesting.

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500 this year (*fide* VG). Great Blue heronries of 100 nests on Ryan and Brown Is. and of 222 nests on Fisher I., in s. Washington were brought to our attention (SS *et al.*). We would appreciate more such reports in the future. Egrets as usual favored Coos Bay, Oreg, with one Cattle Egret there Apr. 3 (*fide* HN), up to three Snowy Egrets wintering to Apr. 14 (AM), and 100+ Great Egrets staying until mid-April, a few of which still lingered until May 31+ (AM). The only

VULTURES THROUGH COOTS -- The progress of returning Turkey Vultures is evident in this year's report of first migrants: Mar. 7 at Roseburg, Oreg, Mar. 8 at Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis, Oreg, Mar. 16 at Dungeness, Wash., Mar. 18 at Westholme, V.I., Mar. 21 at Orcas I., San Juan Co., Wash., and Apr. 1 at Vancouver, B.C. Six White-tailed Kites were at five locations including a pair at Vancouver, Wash., Mar. 8 (DJ) and a single near Raymond, Wash., Apr. 29 (JW.MR), where a pair was noted through last winter and spring. The *Accipiter* reports this season were

difficult to interpret. Sightings of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks are up again for the third consecutive year (to 34 and 32, respectively). However, most observations are from VG's encyclopedic summary from the s. V.I. area (25 and 16, respectively), while Washington observers reported only one Sharp-shinned and nine Cooper's. Since half of the Washington sightings are from the Dungeness area directly opposite s. V.I., a spring migration pathway up the Coast Ranges is suggested. However, the apparent gaps in reporting cloud the picture. Sixty Red-tailed Hawks were counted Mar. 3-9 by the Vancouver, B.C., Raptor Survey (*fide* JG). That survey also found 24 Rough-legged Hawks, most of which were gone by the end of March, although reports of three late-April stragglers were received. The March Vancouver Raptor Survey also found 58 Marsh Hawks. Only nine others were noted from but four additional locations, including a pair May 25 at the Ocean Shores breeding site (G & WH). Nesting Osprey pairs returned beginning Mar. 24 to Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Oreg. (DF), and Mar. 25 to Carnation, Wash. (B & PE). DF observed 15-20 Ospreys at six nest sites from the Rogue R., in s. Oregon to the Wind R., in s. Washington. According to HN: "an outstanding year" in Oregon. VG reported five active nests, one inactive, and four of unknown status in the s. V.I. area. The 21 Peregrine reports is four times the average for 1976-1978, while 15 Merlins is a shade under last spring's record 20+. Both falcons were widely distributed. Some of the introduced Bobwhite remain at large, mostly in the Hart's L. vicinity, Pierce Co., Wash. (JW, MM). and in the n. Willamette Valley, Oreg. (*fide* HN). Mountain Quail, extremely scarce n. of the Columbia R., were found at Key Center and Nisqually, both near Tacoma, Wash., during May (GR, *fide* TB; AR). Flocks of 100+ Sandhill Cranes moved N through the Willamette Valley in March and were settling in at the Region's only contemporary breeding site at Pitt Meadows on the lower Fraser R., B.C., by Apr. 1 (WR *fide* A & JG). American Coot had downy young by May 2 at Albany, Oreg. (GGi).

SHOREBIRDS -- Semipalmated Plovers peaked Apr. 28 in Oregon when 250 were counted at Tillamook Bay and the S.J.C.R. (DI, DF, *fide* HN) and May 5 on V.I., when 22 were at Cordova Spit, c. Saanich (RS, *fide* VG). A territorial pair remained into June at their 1974

breeding site at Ocean Shores (G & WH, EH). A pair of Snowy Plovers had a very early chick there May 25 (G & WH). One to four pairs of Snowy Plovers were at Leadbetter Pt. (B & GR, HF), and at Tillamook and Coos Bays, Oreg. (*fide* HN) in April and May. Three Am. Golden Plovers were observed; one Mar. 4 at Victoria (WC, *fide* VG), one May 6 at Seattle (†EP), and one May 29 at Iona I., B.C. (DK, CB, MF, *fide* A & JG). The 49 Ruddy Turnstones at Netarts Bay, Oreg. May 9 (HN) was an unusually large flock. The five Longbilled Curlews reported was an average count for spring, with the one Apr. 13 at Ocean Shores (G & WH) being quite early. An **Upland Sandpiper** May 5 in Saanich, V.I. (†RS, *fide* VG) represented one of very few spring records for the Region. Seven Lesser Yellowlegs, scarce in spring migration, were noted Apr. 25-May 30. Willets were at usual locations such as Coos Bay, with up to 32 all spring (AM), and Yaquina Bay, with 13 on Mar. 13 (RSm, *fide* HN), and n. to Willapa Bay, Wash., with four May 13 (CC). Red Knots dropped in Apr. 14 - May 25 with high counts of 100-300 Apr. 28-May 13 at their migratory "rest-stops" between S.J.C.R., and Ocean Shores.

S.A.

The Grays Harbor CBC routinely takes the Dunlin high count trophy, largely owing to the mass of birds which assemble at high tide on a development threatened mud flat adjacent to the Hoquiam airport, in Grays Harbor, Wash. On Apr. 29 "just as the tide was opening up the flats" MM encountered a staggering migrant flock here which he estimated at 125,000-150,000 birds. MM has netted and banded shorebirds for several seasons at Manomet Bird Observatory in Massachusetts. This was the largest concentration of shorebirds he had ever seen. The previous weekend there had been but 25,000 shorebirds on this mudflat (DP). The flocks in both cases were approximately 40% W. Sandpipers, 30% Dunlins, and 30% Short-billed Dowitchers. These may well be normal numbers for this time and place

A single Baird's Sandpiper May 9 at Tillamook Bay (HN, JeG *et al.*) and a single very early Pectoral Sandpiper Mar. 25 at Iona I. (DK, *fide* A & JG), represent species scarce in spring. Two breeding-plumaged **Bar-tailed Godwits** at Tokeland on Willapa Bay May 13 (†CC) furnished only the second

Washington spring record. Two **Black-necked Stilts** strayed well n.w. of their usual haunts to Scappoose Bottoms, near Portland May 7 (†SH, *fide* HN).

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Northern Phalaropes passed through very quickly with all but one reported May 12-20. For the first time in several springs no Red Phalaropes were reported.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS -- A dearth of jaeger sightings this season was partly offset by a perfect plumaged **Long-tailed Jaeger** carefully studied May 13 at the north jetty of the Columbia R. (†RH, RD). There are only two previous spring records for Washington. A Parasitic Jaeger dead on the beach at Tillamook Bay Mar. 3 (HN), together with recent December and January records suggest the possibility that a few might winter offshore. The first migrants were noted Apr. 29, about on time. Wahl's boat trip May 13 found no jaegers offshore, and just five Parasitics in the Grays Harbor channel. One Pomarine at Tokeland, Wash., May 13 (†CC) was the only one of that species noted. Seven imm. Glaucous Gulls Mar. 3-May 19, four after Apr. 29 and all but the March bird on or beyond the outer strand, appear to reflect a distinct coastal movement of more southerly wintering birds. On May 12, CR noted a "pure" Glaucous-winged Gull on a nest at Yaquina Head, Oreg, and another "pure" Glaucous-winged paired to an apparent hybrid in the Cape Meares colony, both among the more common breeding W. Gulls. DP counted a few W. Gulls in a huge smelt following concentration of gulls 150 km up the Columbia R., Mar. 16. The Western is rarely recorded away from salt water. The bulk of the 15,000+ gulls counted there were Mew Gulls with 300 Herrings, 300 Thayer's, and a single California. In past years this gull mass has had quite different composition (DP & *Am Birds* 32:1047). An ad. Heermann's Gull May 2 at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG) was very early. The Bonaparte's Gull spring passage was little noted except in the s. V.I. area where the first arrivals were Apr. 1 and peak numbers were 1250+ Apr. 19 and 1600 Apr. 24 (RS, MS, *fide* VG). Few were found there in May. TW however, reported hundreds "summering" in Bellingham Bay and Drayton Harbor, Wash. Small flocks of "Commic" Terns appeared off the Ocean Shores jetty Apr. 22 (DP), & 29 (MM), with two Arctic Terns seen closely the latter date. HN found no Com.

Terns at the S J C.R., May 12 but noted a "very heavy migration" there on the 13th, the same day CC estimated 1100 at Tokeland, 60 km n. Caspian Terns were first reported Mar. 21 from Tillamook Bay, a single (AC, *fide* HN). On Apr. 1 DR & JR counted 35/hr. moving N past Cape Blanco headed for their breeding sites on Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor where their arrival was noted Apr. 7 (B & GR, TB). Two dozen overshot to Boundary Bay s. of Vancouver, B.C., May 13 (D & SC, *fide* A & JG). Two Marbled Murrelets 50 km off Westport May 13 was most unusual since the species rarely ventures more than a few km. offshore (TW). **Horned Puffins** made waves with two reports, one heavily oiled bird dead on the beach at Tillamook Bay Mar. 30 (HN), and a juvenile May 11 at Victoria (SRS, *fide* VG). Tufted Puffins had not yet returned to their Tatoosh I., Wash., colony by Mar. 22 (BP), but a few were seen that day nearby at Dungeness (DS). Nesters began to return to the Cape Meares, Oreg, colony by Mar. 30 when four were seen, reaching 50 there by Apr. 7 (*fide* HN) and 70+ by May 12 (CR). "Many" were about Coquille Rocks in s Oregon Apr 28 (BF, *fide* HN)

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS -- Great Horned Owls had young out of the nest Apr. 20 near Roseburg (FP, *fide* HN). Snowy Owls departed early. The latest seen was one near Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 20 (G&WA). Four young Barred Owls were banded May 7 at the Bacus Hill site near Mt. Vernon, Wash. (*fide* TW). Single Barred Owl sightings were well documented from Saanich, V.I., Apr. 5-7 (MN, *fide* VG) and Seattle Apr. 15-28 (DW, GB, m.ob.). After several years of apparent decline, 20 Short-eared Owls Mar. 25 at Sea and Iona Is. (WJ *et al.* *fide* JG), and 12 on Apr. 3 at Finley N.W.R., Oreg, (FR, *fide* HN), were encouraging migratory concentrations. Single Com. Nighthawks Apr. 22 on Sauvie's I. (GW, *fide* HN) and May 1 in Seattle (†JW) were about a month early. Four **White-throated Swifts** were sighted at several Oregon coastal points; two Apr. 25 near Port Orford (BS, MSt, *fide* AM), one May 8 at Cape Lookout (CR), and one May 12 at Cape Meares, both Tillamook Co., Oreg, (DR, *fide* HN). There are very few Regional records of this species. A female Anna's Hummingbird had a nest under construction in Portland in late February, and young were at a nearby feeder by Apr. 22 (JD, *fide* HN). Nesting is also almost certain for s. V.I., under similar

circumstances (*fide* VG). VG's summary indicates at least 12 territorial males in the Victoria-Saanich area this spring. Five males were on territory as usual in Seattle's Discovery P., Mar. 8 (AR). Green backed male *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were reported from Corvallis, Oreg, Mar. 27 (EE, *fide* HN) and near Dungeness, Wash., Apr. 21 (†KK, WS). It is possible but by no means certain that these were Allen's Hummingbirds, as young male Rufous Hummingbirds occasionally have solid green backs. The several males of this description Mar. 17-early May at feeders in North Bend and Charleston on the s. Oregon coast (*fide* AM) are at the n. edge of the Allen's known breeding range. VG observed two male "Red-naped" Sapsuckers in Manning P.P., B.C., May 7, and Apr. 22 & May 8 in the same area, he also found two male "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers, one of which was suspected of having some hybrid attributes. British Columbia is the area in which the opportunity is available to definitively sort out these sapsucker forms.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES -- A pair of E. Kingbirds returned by May 27 to L. Joy near Carnation, Wash., where they nested last year (B & PE). Fifteen W. Kingbirds n. of their regular breeding range on the Umpqua R., in s. Oregon is more than usually noted. All reports were Apr. 29 - May 16. Black Phoebes were noted at their usual nesting sites in the Medford area by Mar. 9 (OS; MU, *fide* HN). A **Gray Flycatcher**, a species which breeds regularly on the e. slope of the Cascades n. to c. Washington, was on Roxy Ann Butte near Medford Apr. 14 (FR, *et al.*, *fide* HN) for a first Regional record. The bird's distinctive call was noted and it wagged its tail down, not up. Hammond's Flycatchers near Poulsbo, Wash., Apr. 30 were slightly early (DP). Other flycatchers arrived on schedule. Portland's breeding Violet-green Swallows arrived Apr. 5, about 10 days late, reflecting a generally delayed and reduced migration in w Oregon (*fide* HN). The 1400 Tree Swallows at Tillamook Bay Apr. 14 were not considered unusual (HN *et al.*), but 700 Cliff Swallows in a migratory movement Apr. 30 over Sauvie's I., was cited as a high total (DF, DI). An early Purple Martin appeared at Fern Ridge Res, near Eugene Apr. 9 (TL). This species was noted at its other limited breeding sites by the end of April. A pair nesting in a snag at 600 m in the Cascades s.e. of Cottage Grove, Oreg (TL), was one of very few

reported away from the city buildings and abandoned pier pilings that our martins prefer. A White-breasted Nuthatch on Pt. Roberts, Wash., Mar. 18 (G & WA) is 200± km. n. or w. of the nearest breeding populations. An albino Dipper on the Carbon R., near Orting, Wash, May 14 (KC) was unusual. There was only one Mockingbird report, a singing bird at Salem, Oreg, Apr. 26 (RP). A Sage Thrasher was on the Oregon coast at Tillamook Bay Mar 18 (†PM). Small flocks of 10± migrating W. Bluebirds were noted in early March at L. Oswego near Portland (JC, *fide* HN) and at Metchosis, near Victoria (JiW, *fide* VG) Twelve Mountain Bluebirds at Ft. Langley, near Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 18-21 (JG *et al.*) were away from their usual habitat, as were also singles found at Seattle Mar. 26 (RA), at Saanich Apr. 14 (WC, *fide* VG), and near Port Orford, Oreg, Apr. 21 (DR, JR, *fide* AM).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS -- Blue-gray Gnatcatchers had returned to their n. breeding outpost near Medford by Apr. 14 (FR, *fide* HN). The Loggerhead Shrike present this winter at Sea I, B.C., departed after Mar. 3 (GA, DK, *fide* A& JG). Another straggled to Cape Blanco, Oreg, Apr. 21 (DR, JR, *fide* AM). Northern Shrikes were last seen Apr. 3. Red-eyed Vireos appeared early with singles May 5 near Duncan, V.I. (*fide* JCo), and May 17 at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG). By May 27 they were common near Carnation, Wash. (B & PE). This species arrives from the e. and in some years is not reported before June. A male **Black-and-white Warbler** Apr. 7 near Coos Bay (TF, DH, *fide* AM) is the second record from that area. Oregon's fourth **Magnolia Warbler**, well described by TC, was at Salem May 5. The first Hermit Warblers were seen Apr. 25 in Eugene and Apr. 26 at the Wind River Ranger Station, Wash., where the species was abundant thereafter. Hermit Warblers are rare n. and w. of the Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Adams area, except for the e. slope of the Olympic Mts., where breeding birds were found n. to the Dosewallips R., Jefferson County May 27 (CC). A Palm Warbler was in Corvallis Apr. 14-17 for one of few spring records (EE, *fide* HN). A Yellow-breasted Chat Mar. 27 in Eugene was extremely early (AC). Others were noted at Portland May 6-15 (*fide* HN), and at Finley N.W.R., May 22 (G & MGj). The species was "very common" in Jackson County, Oreg, in late May as usual (DF). A female Am. Redstart strayed W to Finley N.W.R., Apr. 28 (†RP).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS -- A male Bobolink appeared briefly at Seattle May 25 (†BM) for w. Washington's fourth record. A new colony of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was discovered this spring near Forest Grove, Oreg, (*fide*, HN). Up to four juv. males spent the spring at Seattle's Montlake fill (DP *et al.*)

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and others were noted Mar. 11-May 27 at seven other places throughout the Region. (G & MG) counted 750 Evening Grosbeaks in the Siskiyou Mts., on the Oregon-California border May 16, a high single day total. The species was noted as common throughout Oregon, except coastally, after mid-April, but numbers were down from last year's in Seattle (EH) and were very low in Bellingham (TW). Stray Cassin's Finches were carefully described from Olympia, Wash., Mar. 20 (†G & WH), Corvallis, Oreg, Apr. 3 (FR, *fide* HN), and Cape Blanco near Port Orford, Oreg, May 31 (DF). Red Crossbills were feeding just fledged young at Metchosin, near Victoria, May 7 (BH, *fide* VG). Otherwise the species was scarcely noted. Pine Siskins were also considered scarce throughout the Region this spring on the heels of low winter numbers. The wintering Vesper Sparrow departed Portland Mar. 24 (JL, *fide* HN), while breeding birds arrived at traditional nesting stations in Washington by early April. Three strayed to Manning P.P., B.C., Apr. 22 for the second park record (VG). Lark Sparrows arrived at their w. breeding outposts near Roseburg, Oreg, Apr. 3 (FP, *fide* HN). A single stray was noted May 15 at Baskett Slough, N.W.R., near Salem, Oreg, (RP). A hybrid **White-crowned x Golden-crowned Sparrow** singing a medley of Zonotrichia themes was carefully described from Seattle's Discovery P., May 1 (†JW). Single White-throated Sparrows wintered until Apr. 14 at a Roseburg, Oreg, feeder (FP, *fide* HN) and two more White-throateds visited the same Roseburg feeder Apr. 27 (FP). Fox Sparrows on n. Washington coastal islands continued scarce this spring (BP, SR). Single (5) Lapland Longspurs were late at Leadbetter Pt., May 13 (RH, RD) and at Ocean Shores May 17 (B & GRE). This winter's **McKay's Bunting** stayed at Ocean

Shores at least until Mar. 3 (JW, R & SH, WeH). A single Snow Bunting lingered there to Mar. 10 (G & WH).

CITED OBSERVERS; and Abbreviations, with **sub-regional editors in boldface**. Gerry & Wendy Ansell, Richard Ansell, Thais Back, Doug Brown, Greg Butcher, Colin Butt, Wayne Campbell, Dick & Syd Cannings, Kim Chandler, Chris Chappell, Neal Cobb, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, Tom Crabtree, John Crowell, Richard Donham, Jay Drake, Elzy Eltzroth, Bob & Pat Evans, Ben Fawver, Tad Finnell, David Fix, Mike Force, Hal Fray, Eugene Gerzenstein, Jeff Gilligan (JeG), Greg & Marlene Gillson (G & MG), Margaret & **Vic Goodwill**, Al & Jude Grass, Stanley Held, Dan Heyerly, Wendell Hoag (Well), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Beryl Holt, Rick & Scan Hudson, David Irons, Win Johnston, Don Jole, Ken Knittie, Doug Kragh, Tom Lund, Jim Lyons, Alan McGie, Brien Meilleur, Mike Moore. **Harry Nehls**, Mark Nyhof, Bob Paine, Richard Palmer, Fred Parker, **Dennis Paulson**, Evelyn Peaslee, Marilyn Ramenofsky, Bob & Georgia Ramsay, Fred Ramsay, Bill & Geness Reichert (B & GRE), Alan Richards, Steve Rissing, Craig Roberts, Wilma Robinson, Dennis Rogers, Jim Rogers, Martin St. James (MSt), Ron Satterfield (D & PSa), Susan Saul, Kay Schimke. Deborah & Pat Schneider, Michael Shepard, Dory Smith, Mark Smith (MSm), Richard Smith (RSm), Bill Steam, David Stirling (DSt), Wally Sumner, Otis Swisher, Mike Uhtoff, **Terry Wahl**, Glenn Walthall, Doug Wechsler, Ralph Widrig, Jim Wilson (JiW), John Wingfield, written description on file (†), and Vancouver I., B.C. (V.I.).

The Nesting Season, 1979

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Summer weather in the Region can be quickly summarized as "hot and dry", although for central and eastern Washington that is normal. In spite of drought conditions, water levels in lakes, reservoirs and ponds remained satisfactory in most areas and lack of rain probably favored most nesting land birds. Increasing carp numbers helped most fish-feeders at Malheur N.W.R. A rather good number of "rarities" for the summer season perhaps primarily reflected increasingly good coverage of the Region.

LOONS, GREBES- Wells Dam Res., near Brewster, Wash., harbored 13 ad. Com. Loons July 14 (VM) and an **Arctic Loon** was studied well on Suzy's Pond 10± mi w. of Coulee Dam, Wash., July 9 (GB, VM). It was an unusually good summer for Red-necked Grebes, with sightings in w. Montana, n. Idaho, n.e. Washington. and s. Oregon. However, high winds all summer at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonnets Ferry, Ida, raised havoc with nesting attempts of Red-necked and Pied-billed grebes. A Horned Grebe at Spencer Res., just n. of Triangle, Ida, was apparently the first for that area (AL). At Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida, 2000 Eared Grebes were counted July 20. Low water levels at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., caused very poor nesting success for the species. Western Grebes showed an increase there, however, with 700± pairs. Over 280 eggs were collected from abandoned nests at Blackfoot Res., Blackfoot, Ida, Drawdown for irrigation was the cause, apparently as it was for the very few active nests on L. Walcott and Am. Falls Res., on the Snake R. (CHT). At Minidoka N.W.R., 3000 Western and 600 Pied-billed grebes were recorded July 20.

PELICANS, CORMORANTS -- The White Pelican total was record high at 1000 at L. Helena June 10. A pelican egg found floating in Malheur L, Malheur N.W.R., in July indicated that at least some of the birds were in reproductive condition, although no nesting has taken place there since 1960. Frenchman Hills Wasteway just w. of Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., had 13 of the birds July 12 (GC & DG) and 12 stopped at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., June 5 (JRR). McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had 30+ July 26 (JCo). Minidoka N.W.R., was still averaging 400, and 250 were above Am. Falls Res. in July (WHS). Forty-two nesting pairs of Double-crested Cormorants at

Ninepipe N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont., produced 99 young (F.A.S.). Five birds, adult and immature, were at the breeding area at Potholes Res., June 15 (JA), and Malheur N.W.R., had 80 pairs compared to 20 in 1978. The species seemed to be doing very well at L. Walcott, Minidoka N.W.R., and Mud Lake N.W.R., s. Ida, (CHT).

HERONS, IBISES -- Eight Cattle Egrets were in the Rupert area in late July (WHS). Malheur had 415 pairs of Great Egrets, up slightly, Potholes Res. had four birds and at least one active nest (RF). One was at McNary N.W.R., July 10 (JCo) and Ft. Boise W.M.A., s. Ida, had one July 20 (JHe). At Malheur Snowy Egrets dropped to 40 pairs from 137 in 1978. Minidoka N.W.R., had 100 of the birds (WHS) as did a marsh one mi. n. of Owyhee, Nev., June 6 (AL). Black-crowned Night Heron pairs numbered 730, up from 526 at Malheur, and Potholes Res., had at least 500 pairs (RF). White-faced Ibises were doing well in s. Idaho; >270 were banded during the summer in the Pocatello area (CHT).

WATERFOWL -- A group of 16 Mute Swans appeared at a gravel pit pond near Bozeman, Mont., in late June (PDS) and four appeared on Swan L., near Vernon, B.C., the first week of June and stayed through the period (PS). Ninety-eight Trumpeter Swan cygnets counted July 20 at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., was a good average year for the birds there (RRS). Two pairs at Turnbull N.W.R., produced five young to be fitted with green neck collars. Off-refuge sightings are solicited. At Malheur the birds had their best year since their introduction in 1958, with 35 cygnets on or near the refuge. Canada Geese averaged 350 at Turnbull N.W.R. Production at Kootenai N.W.R., was 92, double last year's, the success attributed to mammal-proof nesting structures. Thirty White-fronted Geese were along Hwy 52 between Emmett and Payette, Ida, July 20 (DJo). Duck production at Kootenai N.W.R., was expected to equal that of 1978; numbers at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., were about half of 1978's but the situation at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., was about normal. Minidoka N.W.R. had 5800 Gadwall, 1500 Canvasbacks, 800 Com. Goldeneye, 6300 Ruddy Ducks, 2400 Com. Mergansers and 100 Red-breasted

Mergansers July 20. At Fortine, Mont., Com. Goldeneye was holding its own fairly well despite the pressures of low water levels, cattle grazing, timber cutting and new housing developments. At least 60 White-winged Scotors flew over Okanagan L., Summerland, B.C., July 8 (SRC).

VULTURES, HAWKS -- Two Turkey Vulture nests were located on the Diamond Craters, Malheur N.W.R. Observers reported at least six active Goshawk nests and ten other well scattered sightings. Only four reports of Sharp-shinned Hawk came in. Two active Cooper's Hawk nests were found and seven other sightings reported, all in e. Washington and Idaho. In addition to an active nest and several other pairs in the Malheur area, nine sightings of Swainson's Hawks were reported. Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area's

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(hereafter, B.P.N.A.), preliminary data showed 15 pairs of Ferruginous Hawks fledging ten young and Malheur had four pairs. In Washington the Benton City area had two adults and four young June 4 and the Eltopia area had nine adults and at least four young (RF). The only other report was of one near Wilsall, Mont. (CH & EH). Twenty-eight Golden Eagle pairs were tentatively reported to have fledged 18 young at the B.P.N.A. A pair of Bald Eagles fledged two young near Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., and Columbia L., n. of Kimberley, B.C., had three adults June 3 (MVW). The Osprey situation appeared satisfactory. In addition to the usual, five active nests were found on a float trip from Moyle Springs to Bonnets Ferry, Ida, (PRS), and at least two active nests were on the Middle Fork of the Clearwater R., between Kooskia and Lowell, Ida, (EM). Georgetown L., w. of Anaconda, Mont., had up to four birds June 28 & July 9, and two were at Canyon Ferry Res., near Helena July 11 (PSc). The B.P.N.A. survey tentatively reported 83 pairs of Prairie Falcons fledging 67 young but only five other localities reported them. Two Peregrine Falcons and two Merlins were reported for the Region.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Four young Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported e. of Tonasket, Wash. The only other report was of a "sharp increase" from the Arco Desert to Minidoka, Ida, (WHS). The only mention of Sage Grouse was of >100 between Jarbidge, Nev., and Rogerson, Ida, July 30 (EB). Bobwhites were found up to mid-July near Stateline, Ore. (B.M.A.S., WS). Gambel's Quail was observed 5 mi s. of Horseshoe Bend, Ida, July 25 (C & EF). The transplanted Turkeys in the Chewelah, Wash. area apparently are expanding their territory for at least six were seen regularly (JN).

CRANES, RAILS -- A pair of Sandhill Cranes brought off two young at the n.w. edge of Helena (SM) and a pair was back at the usual site near Davis L., w. of Lapine, Ore. (LM). The pair at Island L., between Kalispell and Libby, Mont., apparently raised no young (DD). The Virginia Rail was reported only for Island L.; Reardan, Wash., Ft. Boise W.M.A., and Crescent Cr., n. Klamath Co., Ore., an unusual mountain location (SS).

SHOREBIRDS -- The only Semipalmated Plovers reported were single birds at the Yakima R., delta at Kennewick, Wash., July 4 (REW) and near Reardan, Wash., July 23 (JA). Forty-seven Long-billed Curlews were feeding on a grasshopper infestation at Malheur N.W.R., June 29, and 12 circled over the desert n. of Richland, Wash., July 1 (PW & REW). Single birds appeared 15 mi. e. of Moxee, Wash., June 7 (Y.A.S.) and at Salmon, Ida, June 2 (HBR). Two were near Potholes Res., June 15 (JA). Six Upland Sandpipers were seen and two more heard for the maximum count at the unique colony in the Spokane Valley July 4 (JA). The land may soon be sold for housing developments. The species was seen regularly during June and early July in Logan and Bear Valleys in the Seneca, Ore. area (JC; SCG; SS), but was unreported otherwise except for two on the Reed Pt., Mont., Breeding Bird Survey (hereafter, B.B.S.) (C & EH). Noteworthy were a Stilt Sandpiper at Pablo N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont., July 7 and a Marbled Godwit at Polson, Mont, the same day (F.A.S.). Four of the latter were at the Yakima R. mouth July 4 for Bob Woodley's second record there. Black-necked Stilt numbers were low at Malheur N.W.R., but increased substantially by the period's end. At least two were at Columbia N.W.R., June 15 (JA);

two pairs were at a pond s.e. of George June 12 (WD), and four were at sewage ponds near Wheeler July 10 (WM), all in Washington. An aerial survey over s.e. Oregon July 25 revealed hundreds of Am. Avocets and Wilson's Phalaropes many miles from their nearest nesting habitat (CDL); thousands of the latter were grouping at Am. Falls Res., June 28, supposedly having completed nesting. Nearly grown young Wilson's at Fortine, Mont., June 27 was unusually early (WW).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS -- A Parasitic Jaeger at Harney L., July 5 established only the fourth record for Malheur N.W.R. (SH). One was harassing terns on the Columbia R., 7 mi. s. of Beverly, Wash., June 3 and possibly the same one was over Lenice L., 3-4 mi. e. of Beverly June 21 (NW). The 1100 pairs of Franklin's Gulls at Malheur was the greatest number ever known to nest there. Twenty appeared at Cascade Res., near Cascade, Ida, June 17 (JHe). An ad. Bonaparte's Gull at L. Wenatchee, Wash., June 3 was remarkable (WD). A tern at Fortine, Mont., either Forster's or Common, would have been Weydemeyer's first there for either species. An **Arctic Tern**, minutely described, was observed near Somers, Mont., June 5-11 (CCa, MS, SSu). Caspian Terns moved into the Malheur area in late June and ten were seen on Rock Creek Res., 30 mi w. of Frenchglen, Ore., July 25. Supposedly they were post-breeding wanderers from Warner Valley, Ore., and n.w. Nevada (CDL). Davis L., w. of Lapine, Ore., had a pair in July (LM) and Island Park Res., Fremont Co., Ida., had two June 15 (CH & EH). A single bird appeared at Harrison, Ida, July 7 (DJ).

CUCKOOS, OWLS -- Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported at Prairie, Ida, in July (PC). The only Black-billed Cuckoos were one on the Reed Pt., Mont., B.B.S., and one at Daggett Cr., n.e. of Boise (AL, HL). A Flammulated Owl was heard in May and June near Penticton, B.C. (SRC). Six were in the Swauk Pass-Scottie Cr., area n. of CleElum, Wash., June 14 (EHu), and the species was regularly found in June and until July 7 at Starr Campground 9 min. of Seneca, Ore. (JC; SS). An estimated 152 Great Horned Owls nesting in the Blitzen Valley at Malheur produced an estimated 222 young. Burrowing Owl numbers looked encouraging at the few localities where they are known in e. Washington. Barred Owls continued to appear in

n.e. Washington and n.w. Montana. One unfortunate bird, found June 5 near Keller, Wash., was a casualty of a barbed wire fence (AM) and others responded to taped calls on night surveys there (JAR). At Island L., w. of Kalispell, Mont., a nest was found and a flying brood observed in July (DD). One was heard at Ross Cr., between Libby and Thompson Falls, Mont., June 13 (PDS). The Spotted Owl was found in two locations along the w. side of Upper Klamath L., Ore., in June (U.S.F. & W.S. biologist, *vide* SS). Young Great Gray Owls had fledged by June 20 from a nest s. of Bozeman, Mont. (CVD). Apparently a different bird was seen at Kelly Canyon n.e. of Bozeman in late June and early July and one of this species was observed on a nest n of Island Park Res., s.e. Ida., June 15 (CH, EH). A pair fledged at least two young near Kamloops, B.C. (RH). Long-eared Owl numbers appeared good, particularly at Malheur, N.W.R, where $24 \pm$ pairs generated 59 young. Eight of the nine nesting areas examined had been retired from livestock grazing last year. The Short-eared Owl population there was also high, $71 \pm$ pairs in the Blitzen Valley at Malheur producing 75 young. A high mouse population in Lincoln County, Wash., attracted large numbers of the birds; 43 were seen along the Coffee Pot L., road n.e. of Odessa June 27 (JH). Four fledgling Saw-whet Owls were near Penticton June 14 (SRC) and a pair bred successfully near Chewelah, Wash. (JN).

POORWILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- Poor-wills were reported only w of Spokane, and at the Boise-Cascade campground on Wenas Cr., s.w. of Ellensburg. An amazing 500+ Black Swifts were reported over Wells Dam Res., near Brewster, Wash., June 17 (MH). White-throated Swifts were seen in Picture Gorge, John Day R., near Dayville, Ore. (JC). The colony reportedly has been there for many years. A male Black-chinned Hummingbird was observed closely at a feeder s. of Meadow Brook Pass s. of Dale, Ore (SCG, SG, LJ). One was reported at Blewett Pass in the Washington Cascade Mts., July 10 (Y.A.S.). A female Anna's Hummingbird visited a feeder at Okanogan Falls, B.C., June 14 (SRC) and an imm. bird was sighted at Spokane July 10-11 and Aug. 1-2 & 7 (JA). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R, June 24 furnished one of very few Montana records (P.A.S.). Rufous Hummingbirds were said to be at feeders all summer at Bozeman (JM).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- A belatedly reported **Acorn Woodpecker** at Ft. Simcoe, Wash., Mar. 25, carefully described, provided the first state record (BB, CB, CP). Williamson's Sapsucker was reported 14 times, from s. British Columbia, n. Idaho and mostly, e. Washington. Lewis' Woodpecker appeared in a few n.e. Washington, Idaho, and n.w. Montana localities. White-headed Woodpeckers were reported at five localities. Only four locales produced Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker sightings and ten localities reported N. Three-toeds. Numerous Ash-throated Flycatchers were apparently on territory in an extensive grove of junipers near Diamond Craters, Malheur N.W.R. (CDL) One was reported at "a nesting area" at Badger Mt., just n. of Wenatchee, Wash. (WD) A Least Flycatcher was seen and heard at Okanagan Falls June 8, 11, 14 & 24 (SRC, RW) and one was counted in Wright's Valley on the B.B.S., near Chewelah, Wash. (EH). A male **Purple Martin** was over a pond along the Tucannon R., Columbia Co., Wash., in the Blue Mt. foothills June 14 (JWW).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES -- The only Blue Jay sighting was along the Spokane R., n. of Reardan the first week of June (SK, *fide* WH). Klamath R. Canyon near the California border in Oregon yielded a Wrentit June 8 (SS). Twenty-nine singing Winter Wrens were noted on a one-week backpack

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trip in the Glacier Park area of Washington's n. Cascades July 18-25 and one was singing on Browne Mt, near Spokane for the only other report (THR). Canyon Wrens were missing from most of the usual sites in the Bozeman area, the only report came from Bear Trap Canyon (DS), the severe winter was possibly the cause. The only other reports were of a singing male near Chewelah (JN) and one at Chelan, Wash., June 17 (WD). The Mockingbird found in May near Klamath Falls was joined by another June 27 but no nesting activity was noted (SS). Twenty observations of Sage Thrashers came from sagebrush areas of n c

Lincoln County, Wash., June 28-July 18 (JH) The B.B.S., 20 mi. e. of Pendleton, Ore., turned up five Gray Catbirds (CC); several were along Pine Cr., near Weston, Ore., July 18 (PD, RF), and the species was found in the vicinity of Naches, Nile and Yakima Indian Reservation, Wash. (Y.A.S.). A one-week backpack trip in the Glacier Park area found 30 staging Hermit Thrushes and a colony of Veeries at Ochoco Ranger Station campground e. of Prineville, Oreg, appeared to be doing well (JC). "Goodly numbers" of Mountain Bluebirds were reported in the Helena area and the Nampa, Ida, area reported 44 July 5, but the birds appeared scarce elsewhere. Western Bluebird numbers were apparently normal in most areas.

VIREOS, WARBLERS -- One or possibly two pairs of Solitary Vireos were on territory in the Kirk Hill Nature Area s. of Bozeman (CH, EH). A female Black-throated Gray Warbler on the upper Pahsimeroi R., e. of Challis, Ida, was apparently the first for the area (HBR). A supposed Hermit x Townsend's Warbler, the third such for the Davis L.-Elk L area, was found among a mixed singing population of the putative parent species (LM) A male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was singing July 7-8 at Ochoco Ranger Station campground (JC). A singing **Ovenbird**, well studied, was at the junction of the Yakima and Teanaway Rivers just e. of Cle Elum, Wash., June 9 (RH) and singing males were again found in Cottonwood Canyon s. of Bozeman (PDS). Northern Waterthrushes were singing regularly at the usual spot along the Little Deschutes R., near Gilchrist, Ore., during June (m.ob.). Yellow-breasted Chat was reported only for the Grande Ronde R., between Elgin and Imbler, Ore. (SCG), at two places in s. Idaho, at Browne Mt., near Spokane (THR), at Columbia N.W.R. (JA), and in the Yakima - Naches area (Y.A.S.). The Am. Redstart was observed along the Little Deschutes R., near Gilchrist in June (m oh.).

BLACKBIRDS -- A Bobolink was sighted at Salmon, Ida, June 2 & 30 (HBR). In Montana the birds were reported at Bigfork and at Swan Lake N.W.R., e. of Flathead L. (F.A.S.). Near Bruneau, Ida, the hayfield where the birds unsuccessfully attempted nesting yielded only a male June 16 (JSM). McCall, Ida, had one July 24 (RB). An ad. male N. (Baltimore) Oriole 35 km. n. of Hudson Hope, B.C., June 27 was far n. of its

normal range (KV). A pair of "Bullock's" again brought off young at Wasa Sloughs near Wasa, B.C. (MVW).

FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A male and a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak along Wenas Cr, s of the Boise-Cascade campground s w of Ellensburg June 29 made the third record for Washington (DH) and a male was sighted July 7 between Colbert and Chattaroy, Wash. (JK). A male was photographed at Indian Fork campground near Sisters, Ore., May 28 (JC, SCG) and a female stayed in a Helena yard the last week of July (LS). Two singing male Lazuli Buntings 29 km. s. of Chetwynd, B.C., June 26 were well n. of their usual range (KV). There was an unexpected dearth of Evening Grosbeaks in the Cascade Mrs., Deschutes Co., Ore., but July found them in high numbers in the c. Cascades of Washington including the Glacier Peak area. No unusual concentrations were reported elsewhere. Black Rosy Finches were easy to find in July and August in a cirque above Fairy L., Bridget Mrs., n. of Bozeman. Adults were feeding young there July 30 (CH, EH). A singing male and a female Lesser Goldfinch were on territory just e. of Lyle, Wash., again this summer (WS). Red Crossbills were apparently little in evidence; the one-week backpack trip into the Glacier Peak area found none at all! A Green-tailed Towhee was reported at Salmon, Ida, June 10 and July 2 (HBR). Grasshopper Sparrows were noted only in the Upland Sandpiper area of the Spokane Valley June 20 & 27 and July 8 (JA; THR). The only Sage Sparrows were at Columbia N.W.R., June 15 (JA). Up to three singing male and one female **Clay-colored Sparrows** were discovered in hedgerows of an old apple orchard in the Spokane Valley. They were noted several times June 26-July 8 (JA; WAH; LH, THR). This supposed breeding colony would be the only one w. of the Continental Divide. Unfortunately it is on land approved or proposed for housing developments. A singing male was in Camas Cr. Meadows on the w. side of Glacier N.P., Mont., July 10 (EH). White-crowned Sparrows were reported only on the B.B.S., s. of Avery, Ida, June 23 (THR, SGS). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported for subalpine meadows around Glacier Peak (THR) and in Idaho at Warm L., near Knox; at Fish L., 30 mi. s. of Elk City (JH), and near Hoodoo L., n.e. Idaho Co., 15 mi. s. of Powell Range Station, an adult flushed from a nest containing four eggs (SKe, EM).

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The Nesting Season, 1979

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Bill Harrington-Tweit, Philip W. Mattocks, Jr., and Eugene S. Hunn

This summer contributors were asked to note in particular, observations of several species that seem to be showing local declines; Common Nighthawk, Purple Martin, bluebirds, and Yellow Warbler. The

information received indicates that each bears watching in the future. Most of the breeding range expansions noted over the past few summers are continuing without interruption, except possibly that of the White-tailed Kite. Virtually all of the passerine expansions are northward movements, while water birds are expanding into the Region from the east and north. An increasing number of observers are undertaking projects involving systematic observations of a specific locale. We are grateful that we have been allowed to glean some of the more interesting findings from these studies and hope that others will be inspired to do likewise. Among these projects are the monthly census of a 300-acre city park in Seattle (coordinated by SH, EP and B & GR), weekly shorebird censuses of Leadbetter Point (RW) and Ocean Shores (DP), and the monthly raptor census of the Vancouver area (compiled by A & JG).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- The only report of nesting Com. Loons came from s. Vancouver Island (hereafter, V.I.) (*fide* VG). This species may well be extirpated as a breeder in w. Oregon and Washington. A comparison of reports of summering W. Grebes over the last 14 years indicates a gradual long-term decline in the non-breeding population in our area. No N. Fulmars were seen offshore Washington or British Columbia (TW, WC). Usually a few can be found throughout the summer. A Leach's Storm-Petrel in the Straits of Juan de Fuca July 5 (JA, *fide* VG) was unusual in its proximity to the coast. Leach's are denizens of the warm water well offshore. Nine Fork-taileds in the Straits July 14 (JH) were more usual, since they prefer to feed in the colder onshore waters. Another good Brown Pelican fall may be in the offing. The 300 at the mouth of the Rogue R., Oreg, July 27 (JR, *fide* HN) was a very high count for July, and the first V.I., record since 1973, was an immature July 28 off Pacific Rim N.P. (WC). Cormorants are apparently on the increase in breeding areas where human disturbance is at a minimum. A colony of >100 pairs of Double-cresteds was established in Grays Harbor, Wash., this summer, and its nesting success was excellent (JS). The large Mandarte I., V.I., colony has been increasing over the past few years, and the small Chain Islet colony off Victoria showed an unexpected increase this summer (MS). Also the Pelagic Cormorant colony on the Chain Islets jumped from 215 nests in 1978 to 373 this year. A newspaper account of a Magnificent Frigatebird near

the mouth of the Rogue R, in s Oregon July 24 (*fide* HN) may be plausible, since extraordinary numbers were seen in California this summer. The 165 Great Egrets

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seen in s. Oregon this spring had dwindled to two at Coos Bay June 5 (HN). Presumably they returned S to breed after wintering in the Region, as none were seen farther n. There were three reports of Black-crowned Night Herons; an adult on Reifel I., B.C., June 8 (WC). several adults throughout the season at Canby, near Portland (*fide* HN), and an immature on the S. Umpqua R., Oreg, July 1 (FP). These sightings suggested possible breeding in the Region.

DUCKS THROUGH CRANES -- Last summer's spate of unusual duck breeding records was followed by nesting only at Everett, Wash. where Gadwall, Am. Wigeon. Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck were again found breeding at the sewage ponds (DP, SD). Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and N. Shoveler summered in good habitat in several locales, but no breeding was reported. A male **Garganey** spent June 8-12 at Iona I. B.C., where the only previous regional record was of one seen in May 1977 (HC, † VG *et al.*). A natural origin is not unlikely since a number of recent Alaska records are mid-May to mid-June. DP observed an influx of male White-winged Scoters in breeding plumage into Grays Harbor in mid-July, after which they began their post-breeding molt. A molt migration following breeding could explain the presence in July of scoters in this plumage noted in previous years. Our pioneering White-tailed Kites may have run into trouble. They could not be found at Finley N.W.R., Oreg, (*fide* HN), where they bred 1976-1977. The only report from the Region was of a single bird near Riddle, Douglas Co., Oreg, June 27 (FP). This correlates with the recent decline noted in n. California (AB 33:309). An out-of-range ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen June 24 near Chemainus, V.I. (†JC, ML). Five Golden Eagle nests were found this summer in w. Washington. The nests on San Juan I. (CN, *fide* RK) and on nearby James I. (PC, *fide* TW) were in a

traditional locale, but the nests in Grays Harbor County (RK), Mason County (BB), and in Mt. Baker N.F. (SB, *fide* CC) were surprising. It has been suggested that Golden Eagles may be expanding into w. Washington as large clearcuts with abundant Mountain Beaver (*Apodonta rufa*) populations become an ever larger part of our landscape (*Murrelet* 59:77). Osprey nesting success was good on s. V.I. (VG) and in the Willamette and Umpqua valleys of Oregon (GG, FP). Marsh Hawks were noted at one inland and four coastal locations, and breeding was documented at Ocean Shores (DP). Two Peregrines were found summering in the Region. There were three sightings of Merlins around Victoria, where they have been seen almost every summer since 1974. The species is rarely found summering elsewhere in the Region. Sandhill Cranes bred for the first time in w. Oregon. A pair with two chicks was seen in early July at Wildcat Swamp, Three Sisters Wilderness, Lane Co. (DPe, JB, *fide* AP). This location is not far across the Cascade crest from established nesting areas in w. Deschutes County. At least one chick was produced at the Pitt Meadows, B.C., nesting area (DK, *fide* GA).

SHOREBIRDS -- The pair of Semipalmated Plovers on territory at Ocean Shores, Wash., disappeared in late June (EH, JS), and an ill-fated pair at Iona I., B.C., had their nest destroyed by predators (GA). Snowy Plovers also had a rough summer, at least in Washington. Only four chicks were produced on Leadbetter Pt. (RW). One chick was fledged at Ocean Shores (KK) and a second nest there was abandoned (JS). Snowies were found on a dredge spoil bank in Coos Bay this summer (BF, *fide* HN). The species may yet survive in the Pacific Northwest if it can adapt to dredge spoil and natural sand islands. Three Am. Golden Plovers June 9 at S.J.C.R. were the last of a very large number of spring occurrences. In addition to those cited in the spring report, nine birds occurred on Leadbetter Pt. (RW); one very early Mar. 28, three in late April - early May, and five in late May. One golden plover at Coos Bay July 14 (JE, BF, *fide* AM) was early. The earliest date for returning Ruddy Turnstones was July 13 until this summer when two were at Victoria July 1 (RS), eight on Cleland I., V.I., July 7 (MS), and two at Ocean Shores July 10 (DP). Black Turnstones outdid Ruddies, with 16 at Victoria June 26 (RS). Surfbirds also returned early, with 64 at Barkley Sound, V.I., July 3

(WC). Two Long-billed Curlews were at Coos Bay June 23+ (AM, HN). One was at Leadbetter Pt., June 24 (DF), and two were at Ocean Shores from July 10 (DP). A very few Whimbrels apparently summered in coastal locations, and large flocks were reported in late June and early July. The 175 at Leadbetter Pt., June 24 (DF, HN) were not present throughout June (RW). Sixty were on Cleland I., off V.I., by July 7 and 300 were at Ocean Shores July 10-19 (DP). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, but only the one July 28 at Tillamook Bay, Oreg, had accompanying details (†HN, †DF). The first flocks of W. Sandpipers were at Leadbetter Pt., June 22 (RW) and Victoria June 24 (RS). By July 10 there were 30,000 at Ocean Shores and Hoquiam (DP). Short-billed Dowitchers also massed in the same area, with 12,000 there July 10-19 (DP). An Am. Avocet was at Iona I., July 24-27 (GA, ph.).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS -- The Ring-billed Gull colony in Grays Harbor increased to 18 nests this summer (JS). Heermann's Gulls were late in arriving and slow in building up their numbers, but were common as usual by the end of the period, as illustrated by the count of 1000 birds/hr. moving past Yaquina Bay, Oreg, July 28 (TC, *fide* HN). A sub-ad. Franklin's Gull July 30 at Metchosin, V.I., was early (M & VG). Both Bonaparte's Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes seemed present in lower numbers than in years past. Five pairs of Arctic Terns nested again this year on Jetty I., in Everett, Wash. Three nests were found June 13 (DM) and adults guarding young were seen July 7 (PM). This outpost may prove temporary, as grass is overgrowing the nesting sites. The huge Caspian Tern colony in Grays Harbor held 1900 nests this summer, and 900+ of the chicks were color-banded (JS). Six Black Terns which summered along the Willamette R., between Albany and Corvallis may have bred there again (FR, *fide* HN). Several alcid species showed signs of colonizing or recolonizing unoccupied areas. *Twenty* breeding plumaged Ancient Murrelets were seen off LaPush, Wash., in mid-June (SS). One in breeding plumage was found dead at Ocean Shores July 19 (DP), and a Ø-plumaged bird was off Cleland I., V.I., July 15 (MS). TW noted ad. Tufted Puffins in several places in the San Juans, where puffins have been absent for a number of years. Two ad. **Horned Puffins** in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, s. of

Victoria, June 4 (MGU, *fide* WC), another adult investigating crevices on Island Rock, s. of Port Orford, Oreg, July 3 (BP, *fide* AM), and an adult seen in the Tufted Puffin colony on Protection L., near Port Townsend, Wash., Aug. 5-26 (†PG, EH, JnS, ph.), add to the lengthening list of sightings of adults in summer in the s. half of the Region. Although at possible nesting sites, these records should be interpreted cautiously, as young adults may "own" burrows but not breed until they are at least five years old (*Can. Field-Nature*. 93:84- 86).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS -- A calling **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, seen July 26-Aug. 1 in a riparian area along the Skykomish R., near Sultan, Wash. (†KB, †EH, †PM) was delightful news. It has been >40 years since a cuckoo has been found in breeding habitat in w. Washington. It is possible, however, that the bird was an e. vagrant. The site should be closely monitored next summer

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S.A.

The U.S. Forest Service has, over the last two summers, greatly expanded our knowledge of the distribution and abundance of Barred and Spotted owls in Washington and Oregon. They are to be commended for the extensive survey work and more importantly for the resulting changes in snag policies and timber sales that are directed toward preserving some forest for the beleaguered Spotted Owl. Approximately 120 pairs have been located on Nat'l Forest lands in Washington, and in Oregon the population levels are even better. Sixty pairs may be in the Mt. Hood area alone. (*fide* KH). Recently the Barred Owl has firmly established itself in the same habitat used by Spotted Owls. In the Gifford Pinchot N.F., Wash., where there are 13 known Barred Owl sites, Barred and Spotted owls have been heard hooting at each other (SP). The outcome of this newly established sympatric is unknown, but should be obvious within a few years, as the Barred Owl continues its explosive expansion. This species was found in three new locales in the Skagit R., drainage this summer. It crossed the Columbia R., into the Cascades of Oregon, where there were no previous records. KH heard one near Bear Springs on the s.e. side of Mt. Hood late last winter, and one was calling in June near Zigzag on the w. side of the mountain (*fide* HN, DF).

without disturbing any birds that might be present. Common Nighthawk numbers were reduced in many lowland areas around Puget Sound and the n. Willamette Valley. They were as abundant as usual, however, in clearcuts in the foothills. A male **Costa's Hummingbird** at a feeder at Molalla, Clackamas Co., Oreg, June 26-July 20 (HN, TC, ph.) is at least the fifth state record. A male *Selasphorus* hummingbird with full gorget and completely green back was found June 12 at Lincoln City, Oreg, (JE), somewhat n. of the usual range of the Allen's Hummingbird on the s.w. Oregon coast. For details on definitive identification of Allen's *vs.* Rufous hummingbirds see *The Condor* 74:25-32, 1972 and 77:196-205, 1975. Single male Calliope Hummingbirds were w. of their usual range at Manning P.P., June 10 (AG) and at Newhalem, Wash., June 2 (TW). There were no reports of Acorn Woodpeckers. This species may show drastic changes in abundance over short periods of time, especially at its n. limit in

the Willamette Valley. Williamson's Sapsucker was found again at the w. fringe of its range, at Manning P.P., B.C. (VG), and at White Pass, Wash. (DP). A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen near Courtenay, V.I. (DS, HF, *fide* VG) for one of very few records for the area.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS --

One definite and two probable nests of the Ash-throated Flycatcher in the Umpqua R. drainage (FP) were n. of their normal Rogue R. haunts. A single Ash-throated was w of its range in Washington at McKenna July 29 (†TB, EP) A Black Phoebe near Shady Cove, Oreg, was n of that species' usual range around Medford (JHi, *fide* HN). A single singing Least Flycatcher July 7-17 near Duncan established at least the third record for V.I. (†JC, ML, KI). CC found Hammond's Flycatchers more common this June in the heavily logged Willapa Hills of s.w. Washington than at comparable elevations in the Cascade foothills. Purple Martins are still in trouble. The w. Washington populations seem to be stable only where nest boxes have been provided (JD). In w. Oregon there appeared to be 50± pairs along the Columbia R., 25± at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, another 25 scattered along the coast, and a few others nesting in burn areas (JP, HP, TL). A Clark's Nutcracker along the coast at Tokeland, Wash., June 7 (TB) would be surprising even in winter. The Wrentit in Corvallis July 30 (E & EE) was a short jump n. of the population around Finley N.W.R. This species is showing steady range expansion in the Willamette Valley. Rock Wrens bred again at Spencer Butte, Eugene, Oreg, (*fide* SG). A pair nesting along the Elk R., e. of Port Orford provided the first breeding record in the Oregon Coast Range (DR, *fide* AM). Varied Thrushes were found on territories in two spots in Capitol Forest near Olympia, Wash. (BHT, G & WH), where they have not been known to breed before. A **Veery** singing in Beacon Hill P., Victoria, June 16 (†HH, †MG, *fide* VG), provided the first record for the Victoria area. Western Bluebird populations were stable in some areas, but other, often nearby areas that traditionally have been good sites have lost their bluebird populations entirely. It is only recently that Townsend's Solitaires have been discovered breeding in Oregon's Coast Range (AB 31: 1182). This summer one was found in the headwaters of the Coquille R. (AM) and three freshly fledged young were found at Alsea, near Corvallis (E & EE, *fide* HN). The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 12 mi s. of Roseburg, Oreg, June 22 (RSm,

fide HN) provided only the third Regional record outside of its usual s. Jackson County haunts. The species had a good year on Roxy Anne Butte and two nesting pairs were found at a new location near Gold Hill (OS).

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS -- July 13 was

Northern Parula day in Washington, with an ad. male near Ocean Shores (†G & WH) and another male near Neah Bay (†JF, BFe *et al.*). These established the first Regional records. An ad. male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** provided another first Regional record. This bird stayed around Still Cr. campground on Mr. Hood, Oreg, June 23 - July 15 (DMr, †HN *et al.*). A male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was seen well in Florence, Oreg, May 31 (MM, MF, *fide* AC), and another male was on the U.B.C. campus in Vancouver June 19-21 (R & SC *et al.*, *fide* (G & WA). A male Am. Redstart was at Sultan, Wash., July 27 for one of very few records for w. Washington (†DP, SD). Yellow Warbler numbers in Oregon appear to be depressed, but the species was reported to be in normal numbers in Washington and s. British Columbia. Hermit Warblers were abundant this year in the Siskiyou, Cascades, and Coast Ranges of Oregon. In Washington the species was similarly abundant in the s Cascades and was common in several river drainages on the e. slope of the Olympics. However, they could not be found in the Willapa Hills, the range that links the Oregon Coast Range and the Olympics. Hermits were found this summer in the c. Cascades of Washington, an area with few previous records. Two males were found in the Snoqualmie drainage near N. Bend (KB, EP), several were in an area above Skykomish (FW, *fide* TW), and singing males were at three sites in the Sauk drainage near Darrington (CC). The W. Meadowlark seen July 5 at Saanich provided the first July record there in four years (VG). Northern Orioles are becoming more common on s. V.I., with at least seven birds noted this summer. This species was not seen regularly on s. V.I., until the late 1960s. The 25 pairs of Tricolored Blackbirds nesting near Central Pt., Jackson Co., Oreg, (CR) was the first sizable colony in the Region since 1974. A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was seen along Puget Sound near Tacoma, Wash., June 22 (†TB), for the first record for w. Washington. Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported as abundant in s. Oregon and w. Washington, and scarce in n. Oregon and on V.I. Evening Grosbeaks

were far more common than usual on the Washington coast, around Puget Sound, and in the Victoria area, while in normal numbers elsewhere. Two Pine Grosbeaks were found June 24 in the Sharp Rocks area of the Gifford Pinchot N.F. (BS, *fide* HN). This is s. of Mr. Rainier, the usual s. limit of breeding for this species. A pair of Grasshopper Sparrows was in residence at their favorite field near Eugene after a two-year absence (TC, SG). Two singing d Black-thinned Sparrows were found May 23 and one singing male June 11 about 10 mi n.e. of Medford (DSo) Another male was found in the same ceanothus patch on Roxy Anne Butte where a pair was seen in 1977 and birds were found in 1970 and 1971 (†SG).

CORRIGENDUM -- Please delete the record of the Parakeet Auklets off Dungeness Spit in Washington (AB 32:1047). The possibility has not been eliminated that these birds were freshly fledged juvenile Rhinoceros Auklets.

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End 1979

1980

Autumn Migration, 1979

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers



Most parts of the Region were unseasonably warm and dry up to mid-November, although Spokane, Walla Walla and Yakima, Wash., and Fortine, Mont. reported above-normal precipitation in August, September turned out very dry nearly everywhere. No measurable moisture fell at Spokane from September through October 14. Most areas reported low water levels with dried-up marshes and exposed mud flats. However, Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge reported "wet year" with 1.81 in. of precipitation through November and Malheur Lake levels were very high. An unseasonable cold snap around mid-November, was rough at nearly freeze-up to ponds and lakes. The mild fall produced little in the way of exciting observations. Many late lingerers were reported, but some areas seemed not to have had bird departures significantly delayed. Double-crested Cormorants, Cattle Egrets, and Barn Owls continued to appear in new places, apparently

extending their ranges. Perhaps the most noticeable event was what didn't happen "northern" finches in general failed to arrive in normal numbers, and were, in fact, scarce or absent from most areas.

LOONS, GREBES -- The largest concentrations of Com. Loons were on L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash., Nov. 7 (WD) and Wells Pool above Wells Dam on the Columbia R., Oct. 19 (GB). The season yielded the most Arctic Loon sightings ever in October and November. Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had an imm. bird (DP, JEr, RMA); the Wells pool-Pateros-Brewster area had 1-2 (GB, NM), and one was picked up on Hwy. 20 in the Burns, Ore., area (CS, CDLS. T). A **Yellow-billed Loon** was sighted on the Snake R., 1.5 min. of Marsing, Ida., Sept. 23 (J & RC, RC, JH) for apparently the first state record. A Red-throated Loon was at the Yakima R. mouth Oct. 13: two appeared there Oct. 20, and one was on the Columbia R., 2 mi upstream Nov. 17 (REW). Two Red-necked Grebes were at Radium Hot Springs B.C., Aug. 11 (RB); one was on Twin Lakes. Kootenai Co., Ida. Aug. 26 (SGS) and the species was noted at the mouth of the Colville R., Stevens Co., Wash. (JN). Single birds were on the Wells Pool on three dates in August and September (N. M). The top number of W. Grebes was 155 on C.J. Strike Res., near Bruneau. Ida. (J & NH).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS -- White Pelicans seemed to be on the increase in s. Idaho at Deer Flat N.W.R. near Nampa and along the Snake R. Up to 300± were at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. August-October and the birds peaked at 2500 at Malheur N.W.R. Burns, Ore., in late August. At least 515 Double-crested Cormorants were in the latter area Sept. 6; 80± pairs nested there *cf.* to 60 last year (ST). Two were on Park L., Grant Co., Wash, Oct 17 (JA) and one was on Wells Pool Oct. 5 (NM, GB). The Nampa, Ida, area had 100 Sept. 23 and an immature spent Nov. 9-25 near the foot of L. McDonald, Glacier N.P., Mont. (RRW). A newly-

found Great Blue heronry of eight nests, 2 mi. e. of Bonners Ferry, Ida, apparently had six of the nests active this year (PS). A tardily reported ad. **Green Heron** was spotted 2 mi e. of LaGrande, Ore., May 26 (JE) and one was on the S. Fork of the Malheur R., s. of Riverside (BE). Six adult and four young Cattle Egrets perched on a fence 10 mi n.w. of Pocatello, Ida. Aug. 5 (CHT). The Nampa area had one (G.E.A.S.); one was near Touchet, Wash., Nov. 14 (RF) and two adults and one immature were feeding near Lawen, Ore., Sept. 5 (ST). Nesting pairs of Great Egrets were estimated at 415 at Malheur N.W.R., with the peak number of birds in the basin 1155 Sept. 6. Seven were sighted at the breeding area of the n. Potholes Res. Columbia N.W.R., Aug. 19 (JA) and one was at Boardman, Ore., Oct. 20 (MC). Snowy Egret nesting pairs at Malheur were only half of the 10-year average of 80; 190 was the peak fall count of individuals. Nampa reported 14 on Sept. 9. Black-crowned night heron numbers appeared good. An immature at Swan L. near Vernon, B.C., Sept. 12-17 furnished the most northerly record for the species in the Province (PS, PMcA). White-faced Ibises continued to increase at Malheur with nesting pairs at 150 (10-year average 70) and the fall peak, 780 birds. A migrating flock of 97 was near Pocatello Aug. 16. The birds seem to be doing well in that area but their very local distribution and their wintering in Mexico are causing concern (CHT). The Nampa area had 75 Aug. 19.

WATERFOWL -- Whistling Swans peaked at Malheur at 7500 and $225 \pm$ were on the wintering grounds of S. Thompson R., Kamloops. B.C., Nov. 18. Except for 200 at Ennis, Mont., Nov. 10, only minor numbers were reported elsewhere, mostly in c. Washington. Trumpeter Swan production at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., was up with 53 cygnets surviving to flight stage. Drying of off-refuge wetlands drove more birds into the refuge, with a peak of 349 Sept. 26. Color-marked birds from Grande Prairie, Alta., numbered five there in November. Refuge

personnel are requesting reports of marked birds, including color and if possible the number on collar or leg band. The species produced a record 33 fledged young at Malheur, with one additional cygnet raised off the refuge. Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney Wash., had a peak of 18 on Oct. 24. The largest concentration of Canada Geese, 25,000, was at Stratford, Wash., Oct. 17 (JA). Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida. had 10,000+ Nov. 29 and numbers peaked at 6600 at Malheur Nov. 15. Top numbers at Columbia N.W.R., was 12,000 and Kamloops, B.C., peaked at 1500. McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had several thousand. Other peaks were: Turnbull 2193; Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. 1130; Coeur d' Alene and Pend Oreille R., Ida. 1525, and Brewster, Wash. 1000. **Nineteen Cackling Geese** were picked out among a flock of 400 Canadas at Park L., Grant Co., Wash., Nov. 11 (JA). White-fronted Geese reached 1300 at Malheur Oct. 31 and Snow Geese 3500. Deer Flat N.W.R. had 66 White-fronted Sept. 9. Two blue-phase Snow Geese, very rare in interior British Columbia, were at Kamloops in October (RR). Ducks peaked at 18,700 at Kootenai N.W.R., half of 1979's number. Mallard production at Malheur was 5635. The fall peak at Deer Flat N.W.R., was 260,000 and Turnbull had a peak of 11,000. The top count for all ducks at Columbia N.W.R., was 49,000+. The Pend Oreille, Coeur d' Alene and St. Jo R., in n. Idaho had a peak of 8550 Mallards and also tallied 175 Wood Ducks Sept. 22 (I.F.G.). Gadwall production at Malheur was 7650 with a fall peak of 11,000+; Turnbull averaged $500 \pm$ during the fall. Malheur apparently had most of the Pintails with a peak of 39,000. Other peaks there were: Cinnamon Teal 10,000, Am. Wigeon 21,500; N. Shoveler 22,600, and Canvasback 21,000. The Lower St. Jo and Pend Oreille R., had a high of 10,750 Am. Wigeon and Turnbull peaked at 2155 Am. Wigeon and 795 Canvasback Redhead reached 12,000 on the Pend Oreille R., and Canvasback were up to 250 there. Highest Lesser Scaup numbers were at Turnbull with 1059. An aerial count at Deer Flat revealed 150 Ring-necked

Ducks, unusual there. Unusual records were of a female Greater Scaup on Upper Klamath L., Ore., Oct. 23 (SS) and 30 at Columbia N.W.R., Oct. 18 (DP); an **Oldsquaw** on Lenore L., Grant Co., Wash., Nov. 11 (JA), and a female Harlequin Duck lingering until Nov. 26 near the foot of L. McDonald, Glacier N.P. (RRW). Noteworthy were 16 White-winged Scoters on the Columbia R., near Brewster, Wash., Oct. 19 (RF) and six plus an ad. male and a Surf Scoter, on Lenore L., Nov. 11 (JA), and a Surf Scoter on Upper Klamath L., Oct. 23 (SS).

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VULTURES, HAWKS – Several notable gatherings of Turkey Vultures occurred. A dead tree near Armstrong B.C., held 39 Aug. 20 (JG) and a flock of 20 was at a carcass s. of Kimberley, B.C. A group of 14 was along the Valley-Springdale Rd., Stevens Co., Wash., Sept. 24 (JN) and the birds were "extremely common" at Malheur. Six were at an elk carcass on Darland Mt., in the Yakima area Aug. 2. Numbers for all three *Accipiters* appeared good. Swainson's Hawks fledged 13 young from four nests in Oregon (U.S.F.S. *et al.*). Ferruginous Hawk numbers in s.e. Idaho were very good. Kilgore had 13 by Aug. 14 and Henrys L., had 45 on Sept. 2. The area appears to be a major staging area preceding migration (CHT). Oregon fledged 73 from 23 nests (U.S.F.S. *et al.*). One was still at Eltopia, Wash., Nov. 2 (GS). Montana's Glacier N.P. concentration of Bald Eagles reached its peak of 497 Nov. 14, 287 of which were adults, but ad. numbers climbed to 328 Nov. 29 (RRW). Single very late Ospreys were near Cle Elum, Wash., Oct. 24 and over Crab Cr., Columbia N.W.R., the next day (JEr, Dp). Observers reported three Gyrfalcon sightings and four of Peregrines. Merlin sightings were up with 16 or more reported. Prairie Falcon sightings exceeded this number. A monitoring of raptor migration on a crest of the Bridger Range 10 mi. n.e. of Bozeman, Mont., revealed 677 individuals of 13 species. Completely unexpected was the sighting of three **Broad-winged Hawks**.

The four previous Montana records were all for the e. part of the state (FT).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- Sharp-tailed and Sage grouse were reported as quite plentiful before the hunting season in the Rupert, Ida. vicinity, but "Valley" and Mountain Quail, scarce Sharp-tailed numbers appeared good w. of Rogerson, Ida. (EB). Eastern Washington by contrast, reported the sighting of a single bird. A small covey of Bobwhite was flushed at L. Lowell; Dear Flat N.W.R. Turkeys were reported only in the Prairie, Ida. area with 36 on Oct. 20 (PCo).

CRANES THROUGH COOT -- Eight subad. Whooping Cranes that hatched at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., during 1975-1979 had arrived at their wintering grounds in the Rio Grande Valley, N.Mex., by Nov. 26. Of 24 eggs transplanted into Sandhill Crane nests at Grays L., this spring, 16 hatched and eight fledged. One was fatally attacked by a large raptor during migration (RD). Sandhill Cranes were seen migrating Aug. 5-Nov. 25. They peaked at 3400 at Malheur at October's end. Numerous flights of 30-100 passed over Potholes Res., Wash., and several hundred were seen over Cold Springs N.W.R., Umatilla Co., Ore. One was still at Kamloops, B.C., Nov. 25 (RH). American Coot had an excellent year in the Malheur-Harney Basin with 132,000 recorded Sept. 6. Columbia N.W.R., had a peak of 800, down from 1979 and Turnbull reached 7770. Numbers were much lower than usual on the Pend Oreille, Coeur d' Alene and Lower St. Jo R., of n. Idaho, with peak numbers at 14,700.

SHOREBIRDS -- Montana had two Semipalmated Plover sightings, one at Ennis Aug. 8 (PDS) and two at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Sept. 14 (BW). Alvord L., Harney Co., Ore., had seven Aug. 19 and one Aug. 31 (MS) and one was at Swan L., Vernon Sept 8-17 (JG) Up to 33 Snowy Plovers were at Alvord L., the only area reporting them, Aug. 19 - Sept. 9 (MS). Two Am. Golden Plovers were on alpine terrain at 8000 ft in Cathedral P., B.C., Aug. 28 (RH). Richland, Wash.,

had two Oct. 27 (REW) and one was at W. Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash., Sept. 20 along with a Black-bellied Plover (JA). One of the latter was heard at Reardan, Wash., the same day (JA) and Richland had two Sept. 21-22 (REW). One visited Swan L., Vernon Sept. 12 (PS, PMcA) and six were in fields s. of Klamath Falls, Ore., Oct. 14 (SS). Two flocks of Long-billed Curlews totaling 66 were at Harrison, Mont., Aug. 8 and up to seven were in the Nampa, Ida. area Aug. 10-12. A belatedly-reported **Whimbrel** was with Long-billed Curlews near Union, Ore., May 26, 1979. (JE). A **Wandering Tattler** was photographed at Caledonia Slough on the w. side of Upper Klamath L., for the second county record; the first was in 1882 (SS). Willets were described as plentiful until fall migration in the Rupert, Ida. Area (WHS) and up to four were seen in the Nampa area Aug. 12-19 (A & HL). Three were at the Yakima R. mouth Aug. 15 for Woodley's first record there. A Red Knot was observed at length at Harney L. Malheur N.W.R., Sept. 11 (DT). Up to 11 Pectoral Sandpipers appeared at Upper Klamath L., and a Baird's was at Klamath Falls Sept. 3 (SS). A single Dunlin appeared at Stratford, Wash. Oct. 17 and another was in the Nampa area Sept. 9 for the only reports s. of Canada. Three were still at Kamloops, B.C., Nov. 25 and five at Goose L., near Vernon Nov. 18-19. The species occasionally winters in the area. A Short-billed Dowitcher was identified at Harrison, Mont., Aug. 15 (PDS, CH, EH) and another was at Red Rock Lakes Sept. 14 (BW). Up to six Stilt Sandpipers frequented the Yakima R. delta Sept. 2-3 (REW) and the birds reached a peak of nine at Reardan, Wash., Aug. 25-26 (JA). The Bozeman area had one Aug. 15 (PDS) and Chewelah, Wash., noted the species in August (JN) for the only other reports. The only Semipalmated Sandpipers were 12 in the Nampa area Sept. 9 (J & NH); three at Chewelah in late August (JN), and up to 50 on Aug. 15 in the Fortine, Mont., area for Weydemeyer's largest number ever. Malheur had an impressive 23,000 W. Sandpipers in late September (ST). Marbled Godwit was reported

only for Alvord L., one Aug. 31 & Sept. 9 (MS), and for the Yakima R. delta Aug. 22 for Woodley's third record there. Malheur had 11 Sanderling Sept. 11 (DT), three were at Upper Klamath L., Sept. 23 (SS), and Reardan had two Sept. 14 and one Sept. 23 (JA). At Fortine where they are rare, seven appeared July 26 and 12 on Aug. 11 (WW). Only the Nampa area reported Black-necked Stilts, Aug. 2-19. Northern Phalarope sightings were spotty. More noteworthy observations were of four at Chewelah, Aug. 29, seven in the Nampa area Aug. 12 and up to 200 at Alvord L., in late August.

JAEGERs THROUGH MURRELETS -- Alvord L., Ore., had a **Parasitic Jaeger** (MS). The only Glaucous Gulls reported were singles at Moses L. Wash., Nov. 2 (TC) and at Wells Pool the next day (NM). Bonaparte's Gulls were moving down into e. Washington and Oregon in late October and the species was reported for the Rupert, Ida. area. Columbia N.W.R. had alone Mew Gull Oct 24 (DP, JE). An adult and a subad. Sabine's Gull were spotted at Ninepipe N.W.R., Lake Co, Mont., Sept. 15-16 (JSM, BW). A single Com Tern was sighted at Flathead L., Mont., Sept 16 (BW). An **Ancient Murrelet**, evidently wounded by a hunter, was collected on Toston Res., s. of Toston, Mont., Sept. 30 (*Montana State U. -- LT) for the third state record.

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- Single Band-tailed Pigeons appeared at Indian Rock Lookout n.w. of Bates, Ore., July 19 and Sept. 5 (RAH). Barn Owls continued extending their range in e. Washington. One near Monse Nov. 21 (NM) and one found sick at Malott Nov. 19 (CW) furnished presumably the most n. records for the state. The birds also appeared at Bridgeport; Upper Twin L, Lincoln Co.; Basin City, Franklin Co.; Quincy, George, and near Asotin. A Flammulated Owl was found dead between Walla Walla and Dixie, Wash., Nov. 17 (GWA). The only Snowy Owl report was of one at Vernon Nov 24 (DL). A Hawk Owl was found at 6500 ft on Big White Mt., e. of Kelowna, B.C.,

Oct 7 (BH). A Barred Owl was found at Bottle Bay near Sandpoint, Ida, Sept. 6 UP, JR). A Great Gray Owl was sighted Sept. 23 & Nov. 12 near Ft. Klamath for the only reports (SS). A colony of White-throated Swifts was discovered in n Ferry County, Wash. (TB, SZ). At least three different Anna's Hummingbirds appeared at Spokane Aug. 1-Sept. 29, departing in spite of feeders provided them (JA). Three were at a Wenatchee, Wash. feeder Nov. 5 (PC) A Rufous Hummingbird lingered until Oct. 18, feeding on morning glory flowers at Yakima (Y.A.S.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WRENS -- A few Lewis' Woodpeckers appeared at scattered locations in e. Oregon and Washington and s. Idaho. A female Williamson's Sapsucker was at Browne (Tower) Mt., near Spokane Sept 23 (JR). A White-headed Woodpecker appeared Sept. 30 at Falkland, n.w. of Vernon. The species is extremely rare this far n. Gray Flycatchers were positively identified near Bend, Ore., Sept. 5 (MHM) for the only report. Four Barn Swallows were still at Columbia N.W.R., Oct. 26 (DP, JEr); two at Nampa Nov. 2 (LN) and three Nov. 17 and one Dec 1 at the Yakima delta (REW). One or two Blue Jays appeared in Hamilton; near Willow Cr Res., e. of Harrison, and along the Missouri R., s. of Townsend, all in Montana. In Washington one or two were sighted at Johnson and Spokane. In British Columbia single birds were at Summerland and Kimberley. Two Com. Ravens 20 mi s. of Pocatello, Ida. were noteworthy the species has largely disappeared from that area, for unknown reasons (CHT). Nampa had 7000 Com. Crows Nov. 16. A group of eight Boreal Chickadees the largest seen in years, was in the Salmo Pass area of extreme n.e. Pend Oreille County, Wash, Sept. 30 (JA). House Wrens occupied 23 boxes at the bluebird nest box project w. of Spokane and fledged 172 young (DPI). Rock Wrens were still common Nov. 8 at Columbia N.W.R., and might even winter there (DP, JEr).

THRASHERS THROUGH STARLINGS -- Sage Thrashers were "extremely abundant" in the Wenatchee area this past summer; many were at

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Badger Mt., n.e. of the city Aug. 6 (PC). At least 50 were with large numbers of birds of other species along Foster Cr., between Bridgeport and Leahy Jct. Wash. Aug. 11 (DP) and the species was "very common" in the Rupert. Ida. area (WHS). A male Varied Thrush, very rare in s.e. Idaho, was in Rexburg Oct. 11 (RG). The bluebird nest box project near Spokane fledged 167 young W. Bluebirds from 37 boxes (DPI). Bohemian Waxwings had put in but scant appearances by November's end. Nampa counted 5500 Starlings Oct. 3.

VIREOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- A Red-eyed Vireo put in an appearance at Malheur N.W.R., Sept. 21 (ST) and one was at Fields, Ore., Aug. 15 (MS). Cold Springs N.W.R. yielded a Black-and-white Warbler Sept. 22 (REW, MC, CC). Single Orange-crowned Warblers were at Klamath Falls Nov. 11 (SS) and at L. Lowell, Nampa Nov. 27 (DT), both late dates. Fields, Ore., had a female N. Parula during the summer (NC, MS). Malheur had a **Magnolia Warbler** Sept. 28 for the first documented sighting there (CDL). A supposed Townsend's x Hermit Warbler was sighted Sept. 4 at Hyak, Wash. (EHu) and a Blackpoll Warbler was photographed at Fields, Sept. 6-8 (MS). An imm. Palm Warbler was banded at Pocatello (JJ) and an adult was seen there Oct. 18 (CHT). Another adult appeared in Indian Canyon, Spokane Sept. 14 (JA) and one was banded near Troy, Mont. (KB). Fields observed a N. Waterthrush on several dates in late August and one was netted and photographed there Sept. 6 (MS). A Connecticut Warbler at Lavington, B.C., Sept. 6 was closely compared with two accompanying MacGillivray's Warblers (MCo). Yellow-rumped Warblers, always common, must have flooded the Troy-Yaak R., Mont. area for Kay Burk banded 503 this year. An

Am. Redstart was at Fields Aug. 27-29 (MS). The Nampa area had 8000 Red-winged Blackbirds Sept. 9 and 150 Brown-headed Cowbirds Aug. 27. One of the latter was with a large flock of Red-winged and Brewer's blackbirds near College Place. Wash, Oct. 21 (B.M.A.S.). A Rusty Blackbird was at Meadow L, between Wenatchee and Malaga, Wash. Oct. 20 (PC, HO, N.C.A.S.).

FINCHES, SPARROWS -- A Rose-breasted Grosbeak stayed in Helena several days starting Aug. 1 (LS). Large numbers of very noisy Evening Grosbeaks were feeding fully fledged young along the Methow R., w. of Winthrop, Wash., Aug. 13 (DP). Little or no mention was made of the species elsewhere. Red Crossbills were almost unmentioned and apparently very scarce. A Green-tailed Towhee was along the Deschutes R., w. of Bend, Ore., Sept. 5, for the only report (MHM). Black-throated Sparrows were common around Fields and Malheur and as far n. as Fossil, Ore., with none seen after mid-August (MS). The only Harris' Sparrow reports were of one at Kelowna, B.C., through November (RY) and one at Vernon Nov. 15-20 (MCo), both at feeders. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Cathedral Park, B.C. at 7300ft., Sept. 16 (RH). Single White-throated Sparrows visited feeders at Kelowna Nov. 19 (RY) and at Spokane Oct. 14 (RW). Unusual numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows appeared at Indian Canyon, Spokane Sept. 1-29 with a peak of eight Sept. 14 (JA).

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The Autumn Migration, 1979

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Eugene S. Hunn



There was an exciting concentration of rare Migrants found during the period August 30 - September 14. Species included Dotterel, Hudsonian Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Upland

Sandpiper, Ruff, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Long-tailed Jaeger (including a dark-phase individual), Little Gull, Red-throated Pipit. Blackburnian Warbler, and Lark Bunting. Observers also noted unusual concentrations of other migrant species during that same period. There was no common geographical origin for these birds, since their breeding ranges are spread from northeastern Siberia through Canada to the central prairies of the United States. The weather station information available to us from inland locations provides no obvious clues as to causes. The movement of Corvid species was noteworthy. Several detailed counts and information on local migratory routes of Steller's Jays were received. Clark's Nutcrackers were widely but briefly present. and a few more Black-billed Magpies than usual appeared. There was a near absence of irruptive northern finches initiated this autumn at several ridge tops and mountain passes. This activity promises to receive even more attention in subsequent migrations.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS -- This promises to be an exceptional winter for Yellow-billed Loons. Reports were received of single birds at five locations between n. Puget Sound and the San Juan Is., Oct. 24-Nov. 14. TW reports that ocean food productivity was in drastic decline after midsummer, owing to reduced upwelling. Perhaps as a result, N. Fulmar and New Zealand Shearwaters were particularly scarce and

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late in arriving. Off Westport, Wash., only five N. Fulmar were noted all season, these Oct. 7 (IW). New Zealand Shearwaters peaked at 33 birds Sept. 23 off Westport (TVO, down dramatically from 1976-1977 peak high counts of near 1000. The customary token few Flesh-looted and Short-tailed shearwaters appeared. Brief sightings of small black-and white shearwaters continue to be reported. To date none have been seen well enough for specific identification as any of the following forms are possible and fit the

descriptions: *puffinus*, *opisthomelas newelli*, *Gavia buttoni*, *auricularis*, *assimilis*, and *lberminieri*. Brown Pelicans had a successful season in the Region with 650 Aug. 11 at the Rogue R. mouth, s. Oreg. (SG), 150 reaching Tillamook Bay, Oreg, by early September (DI, *et al.*), 30 along the Long Beach, Pen., Wash, Aug. 17 (JWe, *fide* SS), with one-two at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 17 and Sept. 8 (DP *et al.*). One remained at Ocean Shores as late as Nov. 23 (RT, BT *et al.*). All those reported at Ocean Shores were immatures, as was 85% of Tillamook Bay's flock. Flocks of Brandt's Cormorants were noted moving N. along the shore throughout the period with a peak count of 410 Aug. 31 (DP). This coincides with an abrupt influx observed near Victoria, V.I., of 200 Aug. 25 (MS, *fide* VG) later increasing to 1000+ Sept. 29 (E & AD, *fide* VG).

EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS -- The late fall influx of Cattle Egrets began in Oregon with two e. of Coos Bay Oct. 28 (JMc, *fide* AM), four s. of Newport in mid-November (LO, *fide* HN), and another nearby at Toledo in late November (DFa, *fide* HN). The post breeding influx of Great Egrets in early August was noted by coastal observers in Oregon (*fide* HN), and at Ocean Shores (G & WH). By mid-October 80+ were counted at Coos Bay (EWS) and by Nov. 1 numbers at Fern Ridge Res. in the s. Willamette Valley peaked at 60+ (CW). This coincided with reports in Washington of eight individuals at four locations n. to La Conner, Skagit Co. (†FB, BHT, SA, AW). A single Snowy Egret returned to Coos Bay Oct. 21+ (AM) for the season's only report. The main influx of Whistling Swans was noted at Sauvie I., near Portland, with 200 Nov. 3 (*fide* HN), and at Ladner, B.C., with 43 Nov. 11 (JWi). Trumpeter Swans arrived at the same time: 18 at Ocean Shores Nov. 3 (DP, SD), 16 off Seattle Nov. 4 (EH, DP, BR), and 28 at three sites in the Fraser R. valley, B.C., Nov. 11 (*fide* WW). A census of resident (introduced) Canada Geese estimated a lower Fraser R. valley population of 5300 Sept. 15, up from the 3700 estimated for 1976 (*fide* WW).

Single individuals with markings and size characteristic of the Aleutian race (*leucopareia*) were reported from Seattle Nov. 3 and Ocean Shores Nov. 10 (EH). There is as yet no documented record of this endangered form from Washington. Two **Tufted Ducks** were reported. A female remained at Hoquiam, Wash., Oct. 20-Nov. 12 (†DP, †PM, ME, DM *et al.*) And a male graced American L., Tacoma, Wash., Nov. 4-Dec. 12 (WWi, RC -- ph., m.ob.).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES -- The s. V.I. Turkey Vulture migration watch indicated a peak passage of 297 Sept. 24, somewhat larger and a week earlier than in 1978 (*fide* VG). First and last migrants, however, were precisely as last year's, 12 seen Sept. 11 and the last one Oct. 31. Eight White-tailed Kites at six locations reflected a continuing decline from last year's peak numbers. An adult at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 17 provided the northernmost coastal record to date (†DP, G & WH). Barry Sauppe took time off from his California seawatches to devote 55 hours Sept. 10 - Oct. 9 to hawk watching on a ridge top in Cypress P.P., n. of Vancouver, B.C. He recorded a total of 620 migrating raptors for an average rate of 11.3/hr. Best results accompanied high pressure systems with N winds and clearing skies. Sharp-shinned Hawk led the way with 420, 68% of all raptors sighted. Of these, 122 were counted Oct. 2 alone. Also well represented were: Red-tailed Hawk, 74 sighted with peaks Sept. 11 and Oct. 2-4: Am. Kestrel, 52 total, with a peak Sept. 11, and Cooper's Hawk, 25, outnumbered by Sharp-shinneds 17 to 1. Other promising lookouts pioneered this fall include Mt. Seymour, near Vancouver, B.C. (JI), Cameron Pass in the Olympic N.P. (JSm), and Slate Peak in the N. Cascades, Wash. (MD, RD). Below the ridge tops, Sharp-shinned Hawks outnumbered Cooper's only 145:90, a ratio more like that recorded at Pt. Diablo, Calif. (*West. Birds* 10:1-16, 1979), suggesting a distinct migratory pattern for the more southerly breeding Cooper's. A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was noted just n. of the California border at Harbor, Oreg. Sept. 3 (HN),

at a site where nesting is suspected. An ad. Swainson's Hawk was reported from American Camp, San Juan I., Wash., Sept. 6 (†CCh), on a lowland raptor migratory path. A Rough-legged Hawk at Finley N.W.R., near Eugene, Oreg. Sept. 22 (RP), was nearly two weeks earlier than the first reports elsewhere. By Nov. 3-4 there were 25 in the Vancouver, B.C. raptor census area. At Ocean Shores, however, they were exceptionally scarce (G & WH). Marsh Hawk was the most common species in the Vancouver census area totaling 50 Oct. 13-14, and 63 Nov. 3-4 (*fide* WW). A few pass S. along the mountain ridges of the British Columbia Coast Range as indicated by the 11 tallied at Cypress P.P. (BS) and three Sept. 23 on Mt. Seymour (JI *et al.*). Single Gyrfalcons were reported Nov. 5 near Anacortes, Wash. (TW), and at C. Saanich, V.I. (DS, *fide* VG). Two migrating Prairie Falcons were noted along the Cascade Mt. crest at Slate Peak, Wash., Aug. 29 (MD, RD). Peregrines and Merlins were widely reported in numbers closely comparable to those of last year; 35+ Peregrines and 65+ Merlins. A male Spruce Grouse at sea level at Iron Springs, Grays Harbor Co. Wash. (†B & PE), Sept. 9, may force us to revise our views of Spruce Grouse distribution. Perhaps coastal Sitka Spruce forests meet its needs as well as those of the Hudsonian zone. Wild Turkeys seem well established in the vicinity of English Camp on San Juan I., as 25+ were seen there Sept. 14 (EH, DW *et al.*). Migrating Sandhill Cranes peaked at 1000 on Sauvie I., Oct. 21 (*fide* HN). A few lingered through the end of the period (DI, *et al.*, *fide* HN).

SHOREBIRDS -- Oregon observers discovered their second **Mongolian Plover**,



Mongolian Plover, South jetty Columbia R., Oreg., Oct. 16, 1979. Photo/H. Nehls.

for the third North American record outside Alaska. This winter-plumaged individual remained at S.J.C.R., Oct. 16-21 (†HN. BB, TC, RSm, JGi, ph.). We may rule out the very similarly plumaged Great Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) by size alone in this case. Washington recorded its second **Dotterel**, also a third North American observation outside of Alaska. This juvenile was seen in the teeth of a gale Sept. 8 at Ocean Shores (†DP -- ph., SH, m.ob.). DP *et al.* conducted weekly censuses of the Hoquiam-Ocean Shores area this fall. His full report will be published elsewhere. From the data on Am. Golden Plovers, W. Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Dunlin, three migratory peaks are apparent. One was late August-early September with the arrival of the first juv. golden plovers. A second was in the third week of September, with the arrival of Pectoral Sandpipers in numbs, and a third was toward the end of October as large humors of Dunlin arrived. Western Sandpiper numbers reflect the first and third migratory peaks. This survey also documented that Short-billed Dowitchers continued to pass through our Region as late as November, with 22 on Nov. 3 and two Nov. 17. Vancouver, B.C. birders have now recorded **Hudsonian Godwits** five of the last six years.

This year two stayed at Iona I., near Vancouver, Sept. 7-Oct. 1, with one through Oct. 7 (†BS, †DK, †WW, ph., m.ob.). To the s. there were several **Bar-tailed Godwits**; a conspicuously dark-rumped *baueri* at Dungeness, Wash., Aug. 1-12 (†WS, KK, G & WH) and three singles along the Oregon coast, at Newport Sept. 1 & 22 (MSm, TC, ph.), at Coos Bay, Sept. 16 (EWS), and at Bandon Sept. 17 (TL). The last two birds were in distinctly different plumages. The 175 Marbled Godwits on Willapa Bay, Wash., Oct. 19, was a very high Regional total (JWe, *fide* SS). Stilts and avocets breed in the arid lowlands e. of the Region, and rarely stray w. of the Cascade Mts. This fall there were two reports of Black-necked Stilts in w. Oregon, one at Woodburn Aug. 17 (JGi, *fide* HN), and three near Roseburg Sept. 6 (RWa, *fide* HN). An Am. Avocet was on the Samish R. delta, Wash., Aug. 27 (KW), and two were at Basket Slough N.W.R., near Salem, Oreg. Sept. 3 (RP). A storm Oct. 26 drove many Red Phalaropes onshore. Eighty-two were counted around Grays Harbor (DP) and 30 at S.J.C.R. (HN) the next day. On Oct. 28 groups of five were inland in Oregon at Finley N.W.R., near

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Corvallis, Oreg. (CM, *fide* E & EE), and at Fern Ridge Res. (DFi). Seven remained at Ocean Shores through Nov. 17 (DP, SD). A flock of four **Upland Sandpipers** well w. of their normal route passed briefly at the Vancouver, B.C., airport Aug. 30 (†BS). The status of Semipalmated Sandpipers is clarified somewhat by the report of 71 banded in the Fraser R. delta of s. British Columbia during July and August (GK, JI, *fide* WW). DP's intensive surveys of the Grays Harbor area this fall 160± mi s.s.w., failed to turn up any. Our impression is that this peep is notably more common n. in the Region, and away from the outer coast. This suggests a path from the s.w. British Columbia area SE through the intermontane valleys. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported less frequently than has been customary at Iona I. and Ocean Shores this fall. There were only 12 individuals

noted at nine scattered locations from mid-August-Oct. 27. Those with age specified were juveniles, as is typical. A **Curlew Sandpiper** still showing traces of the breeding plumage paid a brief visit to Ocean Shores Oct. 5 (†G & WH, PS), for only the second Washington record. Stilt Sandpipers were well reported, with 25 at twelve locations, Aug. 2-Sept. 29. Buff-breasted Sandpipers had a second consecutive record year. This year's counts nearly doubled those of the 1978 bonanza with at least 47 individuals reported at 11 locations throughout our reporting area. As with Sharp-taileds, all birds of specified age were pale-bellied juveniles. Rounding out an outstanding shorebird migration were *nine* Ruffs, seen in increasing numbers annually since 1976. From one to three at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 8-15 (†JE, HN -- ph., m.ob.) provided the first documented records for Oregon. One to four were at Ocean Shores Aug. 31-Sept. 15 (DP, MC. m.ob.), and two singles were seen at Victoria, V.I., Sept. 9-10 & 24-25 (RS, M & VG).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS -- TW's Westport of Sept. 9 intercepted a good movement of Long-tailed Jaegers at the continental shelf. Twenty-four were counted including one *dark-phase* adult in perfect plumage (DP, TW, EH *et al.*). Two ad. Long-taileds also seen Sept. 9 but near Satsop, Grays Harbor Co., Wash., 50 km inland (BHT) may have taken a wrong turn in Puget Sound. Three very late skuas were reported on inshore waters; Nov. 3 at Victoria (HH, *fide* VG), Nov. 7 s. of Victoria (MS, *fide* VG), and Nov. 8 at Pt. Roberts, Wash. (†BK). Twenty-one skuas were reported on eight offshore trips out of Newport, Oreg. (TC), and Westport, Wash. (TW), Aug. 5-Oct. 7. Although West Coast skuas are presumed to be South Polar, diagnostic details were not mentioned in any case. Glaucous Gull reports were limited to an adult at Ocean Shores Nov. 17 (†DP -- ph., SD) and a first-year bird at a garbage dump in Coos Bay, Oreg. Nov. 28 (MGr, *fide* AM). Concentrations of several thousand California Gulls were reported from S.J.C.R., and

Ocean Shores from early August-mid-October. Numbers at Ocean Shores dropped thereafter (DP) as the gulls moved S along the Oregon coast (fide HN). One was n. to the Queen Charlotte Is., Aug. 11 (MS, *fide* VG). The species is only casual in Alaska. Ten thousand Mew Gulls at Tillamook Bay Nov. 11 (HN), 20,000 Bonaparte's Gulls off Victoria Nov. 17-25



Ruff in flight, South jetty Columbia R., Oreg., September 1979, Photo/Tom Crabtree.

(MS, *fide* VG), and 2000 Sabine's Gulls n.w. of Cape Flattery, Wash., Sept. 18 (DP, SH) give some indication of gull abundance in the Region in the fall. Oregon's first photographically documented **Little Gull** obliged at Newport Aug. 11-early October (LN, TC -- ph., m.ob.). Five reports between Victoria, the San Juan Is., Pt. Roberts, and Iona I., Aug. 30-Oct. 24 of a winter ad. Little Gull could reflect the presence of 1-5 birds in this area (†MGo, †T & MS, †J & TI, †KR, TW). An ad. **Black-headed Gull** in winter plumage was closely observed at Victoria's famed Clover Pt., Sept. 22 (†MS, BMa, CO, *fide* VG). It is noteworthy that Bonaparte's and Heermann's gulls

are typically represented here by 90-99% adults, and that our Little Gulls are nearly always in ad. plumage, but that our Franklin's are first-year birds by a large majority. Forster's Terns are very rare w. of the Cascade Mrs., despite breeding in the Columbia R. basin to the e. This fall four were well described; one Aug. 11 at Seattle (†EH, NH, BR), one Aug. 21 at Iona I. (†BS); one at Seattle Sept. 18-23 (WB, AR), and another Sept. 27 at Newport, Oreg. (RSm). According to Robbins, *et al.*, *Birds of North America*, Com. Terns do not regularly migrate w. of the Rocky Mts. Note the following *not* atypical high counts: 1000 at Port Angeles and 1000 at Dungeness, Wash., Sept. 4 & 13 (KG; EH, DW), and 3000 at Victoria Sept. 27 (RS, *fide* VG). Twenty off Seattle and one at Victoria Nov. 4 were quite late (DP, EH, BR; RS, *fide* VG).



*Little Gull, Newport, Oreg. Sept. 15, 1979.
Photo/Tom Crabtree.*

The 213 Arctic Terns seen offshore Westport Sept. 10 (IW *et al.*) was a high count for this species. Only ones and twos were adequately documented along the coast. Black Tern stragglers

noted were two at Everett, Wash., Sept. 11 (DH, MP), one at Seattle Sept. 16 (DP), and a very late bird at Tillamook Bay Nov. 23 (TM, *fide* HN). For the third straight year Xantus' Murrelets were recorded offshore with a pair off Westport Oct. 7 (DP, TW). Ancient Murrelets staged a major invasion this fall. Numbers built to 160 off Seattle Nov. 4 (DP, EH, BR), 20 at Tillamook Bay Nov. 10 (HN), and 2000 off Victoria Nov. 25. The 1000 Cassin's Auklets off Tatoosh I., Sept. 18 (DP, -SH) was a high count.

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS -- Another very poor Snowy Owl year appears to be ahead. The only Snowy report for the season was of one at Boundary Bay, B.C., Nov. 12 (A & JG, ES). Burrowing Owls were on the U.B.C. golf course in Vancouver Aug. 30 (PD, *fide* WW), at Yaquina Bay, Oreg, Oct. 25 (DFa, *fide* HN), and at the Eugene airport Nov. 8+ (CW). Barred Owls were reported through mid-September from five Cascade Mt. localities in Washington, and at Mt. Seymour (BD) and Manning P.P. (BS, DK), in s. British Columbia. Fledged young were found in the Glacier Peak Wilderness (CCh) and the Gifford Pinchot N.F. (DFi). A single Com. Nighthawk Oct. 5 in Portland (DA, *fide* HN) was late. A single Poorwill seen very close Sept. 22 in Oak Bay, V.I., was a local first record and most unusual (KT, *fide* VG). Black Swifts were widespread along the British Columbia and Washington coasts during early September. A flock of 100 on s. V.I., Sept. 1 (RS, VG) was the largest group, and a few still lingered around Tatoosh I., Wash., Sept. 21 (BP). Four Vaux's Swifts in N. Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 17 (AG, *fide* WW) were very late. A male and three female Rufus Hummingbirds at a feeder in Metchosin, V.I. to Oct. 9 were very late. The male stayed until Oct. 17 (BHo, *fide* VG). A pair of Anna's Hummingbirds was present at the same feeder throughout. Adult Acorn Woodpeckers were feeding young Sept. 11 in Forest Grove, Oreg. (FC). Wintering Lewis' Woodpeckers were back

up to usual numbers in the Medford area after two low years (OSw). Further n., singles were in Seattle Aug. 13 (TG) and in W. Vancouver Sept. 9 (†WW), a flock of 11 was in Cypress P.P., Sept. 29 (BS), and two were in N. Vancouver Oct. 16 (AG). Single W. Kingbirds were near Blaine Aug. 22 (TW), at Coos Bay Sept. 16 (JEn, *fide* HN), and on Sauvie I., Oct. 11 (DaR, *fide* HN). A **Tropical Kingbird** was at Bandon Oct. 27 (LT, AM). This species appears along our coast almost yearly in October-November. Vagrant Ash-throated Flycatchers appeared at Coos Bay Aug. 23 (CCo), at Yaquina Bay Aug. 24 (ME), on Orcas I., Wash., Sept. 13 (†BMe), and on Sauvie I.,

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Oct. 3 (JMo, *fide* HN). A Black Phoebe at Eugene Nov. 15 was n. of its usual range (CW). A Say's Phoebe was on Orcas I., Aug. 31 (FR *et al.*) and another was at Cape Blanco Sept. 15 (TL).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS -- Migrant Violet-green Swallows made a late and dramatic exit. DFi saw $400 \pm$ over the Gifford Pinchot N.F., in s. Washington Oct. 6 with none there Oct. 7. There were 1100 at Agate L., near Medford n. of a storm in the Siskiyou Mts., Oct. 20. The next day there were none (OSw). A last lone Violet-green was at Reifel Ref., near Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 31 (JG). Several nests of Barn Swallows at Oceanside, Oreg, still had large young Sept. 11 (HN, JEv). The latest nest of the Purple Martin TL has ever found along the Oregon coast was at Florence Sept. 1, with 23-day old fledglings being fed. The largest gathering of Purple Martins reported this year was only 18 in Seattle Aug. 25 (DH). Single Blue Jays were in Seattle in mid- November (WC) and near Vancouver, B.C. Nov. 25-Dec. 1 (DPi, †WW *et al.*). The latter bird represents only the third record for the Vancouver area. The second record previously unpublished was of one in N. Vancouver Oct. 1976 (*fide* WW). There was a striking S. movement of Steller's Jays along the Washington coast in mid-September (DP). Counts

of 50-100/hr. were made Sept. 11 & 23 in the Ocean Shores area (EH, PM). At least five Black-billed Magpies were found. At least two were in the Vancouver, B.C., area, and one each at Mt. Rainier N.P. Woodinville, and Ocean Shores, Wash. There were *nine* reports of Clark's Nutcrackers from the lowland areas of Puget Sound and s. British Columbia, all Oct. 10-24. Two Boreal Chickadees at Hart's Pass Nov. 24 (JWn) extend the observed season of occurrence of this species in the N. Cascades of Washington. Several observers in s. British Columbia and coastal Washington and Oregon noted the peak movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches to be Sept. 3-11. Single House Wrens were late at Beach Grove, B.C., Oct. 13 (A & JG) and at Saanich, V.I., Oct. 13 (RS, *fide* VG). There were reports of five Mockingbirds from Vancouver, B.C. Seattle, Sauvie I. and Coos Bay. Western Bluebirds were in their usual small numbers at Corvallis (E & EE) and Medford (OSw) late in the season. A male was in Saanich, V.I., Sept. 19 (GC, *fide* VG). High counts of several hundred Water Pipits were found Sept. 14-10 at American Camp, San Juan I. (EH, AR) and Ocean Shores, Wash. (DP, PM), and Cape Blanco. Oreg, (TL). Among this throng of pipits were two well-marked **Red-throated Pipits** Sept. 14 & 16 at American Camp (†EH, †DW, †AR *et al.*) for the first records for Washington and for the Region. More Bohemian Waxwings than usual had moved into w. Washington by the end of the period (ME, TW), and eight were seen at 5000 ft on Mt. Hood Oct. 7 (WSc, *fide* HN).

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS -- A Black-and-white Warbler hit a window in Coos Bay Oct. 12 (AM), but recovered and flew off. A well-documented **Virginia's Warbler** was found near Eugene Nov. 8 (†CW, MSc, JB) for the first w. Oregon record. A male **Blackburnian Warbler** was well seen Sept. 10 at Ocean Shores (†EH) with a large flock of migrant warblers. This would be the first record for Washington were it not a single-person sight record. A male

Chestnut-sided Warbler was reported Aug. 19 at Roseburg, Oreg. (FP, *fide* DFi). Palm Warblers returned in considerable numbers this season. The first were four at the S.L.C.R. Sept. 22 (RSm, *fide* HN). The high count was eight at Ocean Shores Nov. 8 (RT, BT), and one was n. to Victoria Nov. 24 (†J & RS, *fide* VG). A Com. Yellowthroat in Kent, Wash., Oct. 6 was late (EH). A N. Waterthrush was photographed Aug. 28 a few miles n.w. of Slate Peak in the N. Cascades of Washington (†MD, RD). A female Am. Redstart was at Ocean Shores Sept. 11 (EH, DW *et al.*). There are very few prior records of Bobolinks from the Region. This season there were two at Baskett Slough N.W.R., Oreg, Aug. 22 (†RP), two in Saanich, V.I., Sept. 22-23 (†RS, ED), *seven* in C. Saanich Oct. 16 (†RS), and two at Coos Bay Oct. 27 (EWS, BF). Nine Rusty Blackbirds were found this fall: two on s. V.I., Oct. 9-18 and Nov. 16 (*fide* VG), six at three localities near Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 13-23 (†WW *et al.*) and one at Ocean Shores Oct. 20-25 (†DP, †AR *et al.*).



Dickcissel, Lakeside, Oreg., early December, 1979. Photo/Owen Schmidt.

An Ø **Indigo Bunting** appeared at a feeder in Corvallis Nov. 2-7 (†E & EE -- ph. *et al.*). The unstreaked back and vaguely streaked flanks were noted. A male **Dickcissel** was at a feeder in

Lakeside, Coos Co., Oreg, Nov. 30-Dec. 6 (ST, †AC, OSc -- ph. *et al.*) for Oregon's first confirmed record. The flock of seven Hepburn's Gray-crowned Rosy Finches Oct. 20 in Victoria (JRy) was unique. The two Ø White-winged Crossbills Sept. 11 at Cypress P.P. (BS) and 12 near Haney, B.C., Oct. 15 (WR, DV) were the only reported. Two **Lark Buntings** were at Cape Blanco, Oreg, Sept. 15 (†DR, JR, TL -- ph.). Single Vesper Sparrows at Ocean Shores Oct. 6 (DP) and at W. Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 14 (†R & SB) were late. Lark Sparrows are vagrant n. of s. Oregon. This season there were four reports in w. Washington, all Sept. 5-8, at Leadbetter Pt., Raymond, Anacortes, and Tatoosh I. (SJ, RWi, EH, J & LE, BP). And one was at Coos Bay Oct. 7 (LT, *fide* HN). Three of the six Harris' Sparrows reported arrived Oct. 9-16. About 12 White-throated Sparrows were reported throughout the Region. One in N. Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 21 (AP, DK, GA) was the earliest, and seven of the 12 were found in mid-October.

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The Winter Season, 1979-80

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN - INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Winter over the Region was generally mild except for a cold snap in January. Much open water remained, encouraging wintering waterfowl. Precipitation was generally subnormal, resulting in often shallow or intermittent snow cover in the valleys, a low snow pack in the mountains, and prospects for a water deficient summer. Only the extreme western areas along the east base of the Cascade Mountains had normal or better precipitation. The mild winter encouraged many half hardy species to linger late or remain all winter, and a number of abnormally early arrivals appeared. Many observers considered the season dull birdwise, with low numbers. There was some indication that the open winter kept birds, particularly the "northern finches," farther north or in the mountains. Mild conditions and abundant food may have kept populations scattered, or, as Skaar suggested, the previous severe winter may have wiped out many birds that normally winter.

LOONS AND GREBES: -- A Com. Loon was on the Columbia R., at Richland, Wash., Feb. 16 (WH). A few loons wintered on Rocky Reach and Rock I. Dam pools of the Columbia near Wenatchee, Wash., and up to 25 Horned Grebes were there in December and January (PC). Groups of 1-3 Horned Grebes wintered on the Clearwater and Snake Rivers at Lewiston, Ida. (EM) and one was on Pend Oreille L., at Sandpoint, Ida. Feb. 7 (PS). A single Eared Grebe was at Turtle Rock 1 mi. above Rocky Reach Dam Feb. 11 (PC). Wells Pool on the Columbia near Brewster, Wash., had 30 W. Grebes Dec. 3 (NM) and a few were in the Wenatchee, Wash., area (PC).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS -- Seven White Pelicans wintered on the Hanford Reach of the Columbia n. of Richland (W.F.G.; Y.A.S.). Another enigmatic **Brown Pelican** was sighted below Lucky Peak Dam on the Boise R., s.e. of Boise, Ida. Dec. 29 (DT) for the state's second record. A Double-crested Cormorant was reported at Irrigon, Ore., Feb. 8 (JM). A migrating group of 52 Great Blue Herons stopped along the

Snake R., below Am. Falls Dam in s. Idaho Feb. 23. An imm. Cattle Egret taken Dec. 7 near Townsend, Mont. (*Montana State U.) provided the state's first specimen (*fide* PDS). Nineteen Black-crowned Night Herons wintered near Burley, Ida. (WS) and three were at the Ringold rearing ponds, Franklin Co., Wash., Jan. 6 (IT). Up to three were in the Richland, Wash., area during the winter (RW) and 97 were along the Link R., near Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 16 (SG).

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WATERFOWL -- A Mute Swan was found dead on Osoyoos L., n. of Oroville, Wash, Nov. 25 (NM). Whistling Swans wintered on Coeur d' Alene and Pend Oreille Lake in n. Idaho; at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash, and on the Shuswap-S Thompson R. system e. of Kamloops, B.C. The 605 birds at the latter locality Jan. 1 dwindled to 291 by Jan. 13. The adult: cygnet ratio was about 3 : 1 (RH). At Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., Trumpeter Swan numbers went to an above-average 355 from mid-January owing to freezing of much of Henry's Fork of the Snake R., in Idaho. The midwinter aerial survey Feb. 11-13 revealed 939 Trumpeters in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, an 8% increase over last winter Adults and subadults totalled 767 (RRS). Five Trumpeters; two adults and three immatures, were on Wallowa L., Wallowa Co., Ore., Jan. 13 (FC). Canada Geese peaked at 10,000+ at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida. Dec. 1. At least 2000 wintered on Pend Oreille, Coeur d' Alene and Hayden Lakes in n. Idaho. Columbia N.W.R., had 12,000 in December but their numbers dwindled to 1400 in January. Conley L. n. of Union, Ore., had 2000 White-fronted Geese Feb. 29 (MH). The mild winter enabled high numbers of ducks to winter. Deer Flat N.W.R., the "Mallard capitol" of the Region, hosted a peak of 404,000 of the birds Dec. 5 and had 30,550 Feb 20 after the ice breakup. Umatilla N.W.R., Umatilla Co., Ore., had about 50,000 Mallards Jan. 27 (DI) and 3000, high for the area, wintered on Kalamalka L., near Vernon, B.C. Waterfowl numbers in most of the

Columbia Basin of c. Washington were above normal, with Mallard concentrations especially high along the lower Columbia R. Increased field corn production there was an added attraction. Ducks at Columbia N.W.R., totalled 110,000+ in December, but dropped in numbers to 56,000 in January. A very few Gadwall were noted in the La Grande and Union, Ore. vicinities in December and at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., Feb. 7. A good wintering concentration including Gadwall and Pintail was at Livingston, Mont. Many ducks, mostly divers, wintered in the Wenatchee area, but there were a few Am Wigeon and Gadwall and more Green-winged Teal than usual. Large flocks of Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Ducks and more than the usual number of Canvasbacks frequented the Columbia R. there. The Pend Oreille R., in n. Idaho had 6200 Redhead, 75 Canvasback and 350 Lesser Scaup Dec. 17 and Pend Oreille L., had 6700, 125 and 600, respectively Jan. 11 (RR). The largest number of Com. Goldeneye reported was 2000 at Lewiston Dec. 9. Biggest concentrations of Barrow's were near Brownlee Dam on the Snake R., n. of Weiser, Ida, 200 Jan 27, and at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., 150 wintering. Pend Oreille L. had 145 Bufflehead and 925 Com. Merganser Jan. 11. Lewiston had up to 100 of the former and 25 was a high number for the Snake R., below Marsing, Ida. For "rarities", a **Black Duck** was well seen at Pocatello Feb. 7 (CT *et al.*). One or two Eur. Wigeon were at Lower Klamath Lake N W R., Ore., Feb. 9+ (SS) and the Richland vicinity had up to three Dec. 2-Jan. 5 (RW) At least five Greater Scaup were on Upper Klamath L., with hundreds of Lesser Scaup and goldeneye Feb. 23 (SS). The only Oldsquaw spotted was a pair on Lenore L., Grant Co., Wash., Dec. 8 (BW). A male' Harlequin Duck, very rare in winter in British Columbia, appeared at Nelson Dec. 8, (JS) and a male and a female were sighted at Trail Jan. 19 & 31 (ME). A female White-winged Scoter on the Columbia R. near Wenatchee was apparently the first ever recorded there (PC). At least two more were in the Lewiston area, one on the

Clearwater R., Dec. 9, and the other on the Snake R., near Asotin Dec. 16 (EM). A female Surf Scoter near Wenatchee Jan. 5 also was an apparent first there (PC). Up to six Red-breasted Mergansers were at Trail, B.C., Dec. 29-Feb. 20 (ME) and Vernon had two Jan. 12 (JG).

VULTURES AND HAWKS – Remarkably, late Turkey Vulture records were; one along the Wenatchee R., at Monitor Dec. 14 (PC) and one at Oak Creek W.R.A., Yakima Co., about 18 mi s.w. of Ellensburg Jan. 10 & 18 (LS; Y.A.S.). At least 12 sightings of Goshawks were reported. The species was "very scarce" in the s. Okanagan Valley, B.C., however (JG). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawk numbers appeared good. Rough-legged Hawks were decidedly scarce in the Bozeman and Helena areas and around Lewiston, but their numbers appeared normal elsewhere. Numbers of both Golden and Bald eagles seemed good. Highest numbers for the latter were in the Klamath Falls area with 165 feeding on mice Jan. 12 and 225 counted leaving their Bear Valley roosting site Feb. 24 (SS). Totals for the midwinter eagle count were not available. An Osprey along the Columbia R., at Whitebluffs, Benton Co., Wash., Jan. 24 was remarkable (GS). There was one report of a Gyrfalcon and seven of Peregrine Falcons. Prairie Falcon sightings were rather common. Merlins were reported more commonly than usual, at least in part because of extensive coverage by W.F.G. personnel.

TURKEYS AND RAILS -- The Turkey flock on Bozeman Pass e. of Bozeman was down to about six birds (PDS). Twenty-four were at Prairie, Ida. in December and January (PC). A few Virginia Rails, almost unheard of in winter in the Region were reported. Three were at Penticton, B.C., Dec. 25 (SC); five were seen or heard at the Yakima R. slough between Mabton and Sunnyside, Wash., Feb. 10 (KB, B & GR) and one was at a small seepage area 2 mi. n. of Rocky Reach Dam, Douglas Co., Wash., Jan. 26 (PC). The Chewelah, Wash. CBC also found the species and Wallowa County, Ore., had one Dec. 18 (*fide* WD). Equally

unusual were two Sora at the Yakima R. slough on the same date. The Pocatello C.B.C. had both species.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS -- A Spotted Sandpiper wintered at the dam on the Link R., near Klamath Falls (SS). Six Greater Yellowlegs at the mouth of Asotin Cr., Asotin, Wash., Dec. 1 were very late; one was there Feb. 16 (RG). A Pectoral Sandpiper was along lower McDonald Cr., Glacier N.P., Mont., Nov. 11 (EM). Four Long-billed Dowitchers and a Least Sandpiper were found in the Ft. Klamath, Ore., area Feb. 16 (DA, DF & Di). The Yakima R. delta, Richland, had 13 Dunlin Feb. 16 (WH & RW). At least three Glaucous Gulls were in that area during the winter (RW) and an adult and three first-year birds were at Coeur d' Alene, Jan. 11-12 (THR & SGS). Lower McDonald Cr., Glacier N.P., had an immature bird Nov. 11 (EM). For the fourth consecutive winter Glaucous-winged Gulls visited the Klamath Basin, two adults on the Link R., Dec. 15 (EP) and one immature at Klamath Falls, Feb. 15 (SS). An **Ancient Murrelet** was picked up alive on the highway near Helmsville 60 mi e. of Missoula, Mont., Dec. 2 (GA) for the state's third record. The bird died two days later (*U. of Mont.).

OWLS AND HUMMINGBIRDS -- Barn Owls still appeared on the increase, with sightings in Benton, Franklin, Grant and Yakima counties. The Lewiston area had two reports and Nampa and Am. Falls Res. had single sightings. Five were counted at Union, Ore., Dec. 15 (RRO). Snowy Owls put in an extremely poor showing, with a few sightings in the Selah, Wash., and Reardan-Davenport, Wash., areas and one at Missoula for the only reports. The only Hawk Owl report was of one on Big White Mt., near Kelowna, B.C., Feb. 14 (BH). A few Burrowing Owls apparently wintered in w. Grant and Franklin counties, Wash., and near Hardman, Ore Barred, Great Gray and Saw-whet owls were reported as uncommon in w. Glacier N.P (RD). Short-eared Owls continued scarce in the Klamath Basin but

their numbers seemed normal elsewhere. Single Saw-whets were reported near Richland, Brewster, Yakima, and Klamath Falls. The only Anna's Hummingbird report was of an ad. male photographed at Okanagan Falls, B.C., and present from autumn until Jan. 22 (*fide* SC).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS -- One or two Lewis' Woodpeckers were sighted in the Wenatchee area during January - early February. The species appears to be making a comeback in Chelan and Douglas counties (PC). One was on Short Mt., 2 mi. of Riverside Dec. 5 (JK); two appeared near Moxee Jan. 1, and one was in the vicinity of Naches Feb. 2 (Y.A.S.). A bird of this species, very rare in winter in the Klamath Falls area, was seen there Jan. 19 (SS) and Salmon, Ida. reported one Dec. 14 (HR). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, "red-breasted" race, was found along Indian Cr., Union Co., Ore., Jan. 27 (JC & JE). Good numbers of Horned Larks wintered in the Vernon, B.C. area, where they had not previously been known to winter. Conversely, the species was decidedly scarce in the Helena area. McNary Park just e. of Umatilla, Ore., had a very early Violet-green Swallow Feb. 16 (NB) and a Barn Swallow apparently feeding on insects from the water surface was skimming over the Columbia R., at the Yakima delta Dec. 1, a month after the normal late date (RW).

JAYS THROUGH CHICKADEES -- A few Blue Jays appeared. Three at Union in November stayed at least until Feb. 9 (JE *et al.*) and one was at Summerland, B.C., throughout the winter period (SC). One or

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two arrived at a feeder near Spokane in late January (EK) and one was sighted near Asotin, Wash., Dec. 1 (MK). The two at Hamilton, Mont., stayed all winter (CP). A Chestnut-backed Chickadee photographed at Waterton Lakes townsite, Waterton Lakes N.P., Alta., Feb. 10 was the first ever recorded for that area (AW, M & JS).

One at a Helena feeder furnished that area's first record (AS *et al.*).

THRUSHES THROUGH KINGLETS -- Robins apparently wintered sparsely in the Region. Wintering Varied Thrush numbers in the Wenatchee area were down from last year, with five the largest number. Dryden, Wash., had one Jan. 9 (L & JG) and one was seen near Nampa Feb. 14 (MF). It was a good winter for Hermit Thrushes in Richland with up to nine seen. Yakima had one Jan. 5 (EC). Two W. Bluebirds were found in McNary Park Jan. 2 (MC). Two Mountain Bluebirds were found near Clarkston, Wash., Jan. 7-9 and two in the Nampa area Feb. 26. Apparently wintering, four Ruby-crowned Kinglets were recorded at Nampa Jan. 19, at Yakima and Glee, singles, and at Chief Joseph W.R.A., Asotin Co. A late lingerer was at Lavington, B.C., Dec. 4.

PIPITS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- A single Water Pipit appeared at the Snake R.-Clearwater R. confluence at Lewiston Jan. 8-9 (PHi). Bohemian Waxwing numbers were somewhat above normal; the largest concentration reported was of 2000 at Columbia View Experimental Plots (hereafter, C.V.E. Plots), 2 mi. n. of Rocky Reach Dam, n. of Wenatchee, Cedar Waxwings stayed in unusual numbers (flocks up to 210), at Spokane, Yakima, Helena, the Klamath Basin and Nampa (300 Feb. 21). A Loggerhead Shrike was reported at Iona, Ore., Jan. 19 (RP) and Nampa noted a high of 1500 Starlings Feb. 17. Two Orange-crowned Warblers were braving bitter cold at Sacajewa S.P., Pasco, Wash., Jan. 20 (RW) and Parker Heights near Yakima had six Yellow-rumped Warblers Dec. 29 (Y.A.S.). An **Ovenbird** was observed at Ephrata, Wash., Nov. 12 (B & SJ). Western Meadowlarks wintered in high numbers at Helena and in the s. Okanagan. The n. arm of Okanagan L., had 60 Jan. 27 (JG). One Yellow-headed Blackbird was in a mixed flock of about 500 Tricolored and 1500 Red-winged blackbirds near Klamath Falls Dec. 16 (SG). Otter L., near Vernon had six Rusty Blackbirds Feb. 9

and two Feb. 17; two were sighted at Valley, Wash, Feb. 9 (WH & BW). A window-killed Com. Grackle was picked up in Bozeman in January (LM).

FINCHES -- Evening Grosbeaks were scarce or absent from most of the Region, appearing mostly in the n. and w. parts. The s. Okanagan reported above-normal numbers and Wenatchee had up to 100 in January and February. The only other flock of any size was one of 90 near Asotin, Wash. Purple Finches visited a Wenatchee feeder Feb. 8-23 (PC). The only note on Cassin's Finches was that they were "practically nonexistent in s. interior British Columbia" during the winter (JG). A small flock of House Finches wintered in Bozeman (JSp *et al.*) and "a good winter" there was reported for Pine Grosbeaks for the only account except for Glacier N.P., Mont., Blueslide, Wash. and Wallowa L., and Union, Ore., Gray-crowned Rosy Finch numbers were low and appearances spotty. Bozeman reported "hardly any." All the others were in c. and e. Washington and n. and e. Oregon, Not even one Com. Redpoll was reported and Pine Siskins were virtually absent, except for the Bozeman area, where a good flock wintered. American Goldfinches showed up in a number of localities, however. Red Crossbills nearly drew a blank. "Extremely few" were at Kimberley, B.C.; Penticton, B.C., had 12 on Feb. 23, and one was found on the Kalispell, Mont. CBC. There were no reports of White-winged Crossbills.

SPARROWS -- A Rufous-sided Towhee was at Vernon Dec. 23 (JG), one was reported at Nampa (C & EF), and three were at a Chukar feeding station at the C.V.E. Plots. A **Lark Bunting** visited a feeder in Boise Feb. 6 (JCr) and a Lark Sparrow was found in the Grande Ronde Valley near La Grande, Ore., Feb. 9 (HN). Equally surprising were two reports of Sage Sparrows, one along the Columbia R., in Richland Feb. 16-17 (WH & RW) and two in Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Wash., Feb. 10 (KB, B & GR). Only a few Tree Sparrows were sighted: in the Bozeman

area, at Bonners Ferry, Ida. at Reardan and Coulee City, Wash.; at Umatilla N.W.R., and near La Grande, Ore. The Mondovi area, Lincoln Co., Wash., had a Brewer's Sparrow Feb. 22 (JH). At least one Harris' Sparrow wintered at Bozeman (CI) and an imm. bird stayed near Joseph, Ore., Jan. 1-4 (FC) for the only reports. Wintering White-crowned Sparrows were reported at Yakima and Nampa. C.V.E. Plots had five Golden-crowned Sparrows Jan. 26 (HO). A White-throated Sparrow visited a Missoula, Mont., feeder periodically throughout the winter (SF); one appeared Oct. 4 in Ephrata, Wash. (B & SJ), an immature appeared at Gled near Yakima Feb. 22 (PH) and one was sighted at Island City, Ore., Nov. 1 (R & GS). Three Fox Sparrows were reported along Cottonwood Cr., Lincoln Co., Wash. (JH) and one or two were sighted at Gled and Yakima December - early February (Y.A.S.). Single birds were found in Richland Dec. 8 and Feb. 16 (WH & RW) and one wintered at a Kimberley feeder (MW). Lapland Longspurs, not reported otherwise, were found scattered throughout the Klamath Basin, with a high of 100+ on Lower Klamath N.W.R., Jan. 27 (SS). Two **McCown's Longspurs** were identified on the Idaho Nat. Energy Lab. site near Atomic City Feb. 20 (TR). Snow Bunting numbers appeared sparse except for a flock of 200 near Usk, Wash., around Christmastime (JSt) and a flock of 100 in the Nampa area, date not given (CB).

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The Winter Season, 1979-80

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Eugene S. Hunn

The winter in southwestern Oregon was several degrees warmer than usual throughout the season, and with only 76 percent of the average rainfall, based on the Medford weather station. Coincident with this were overwintering Tree Swallows at Medford, a high count of Western Bluebirds, first winter records for Oregon of the Long-billed Curlew, Ruff, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Bobolink, plus several Turkey Vultures, Northern Orioles, and other typically more southerly species. Farther north, December was the wettest month in western Washington history. Up to 40 inches of rain were recorded at stations on the west slope of the Olympics, and Seattle received exactly twice its December norm. Freezing weather and snow arrived in Seattle and Portland

January 6-10, with more below freezing weather Jan. 27-29. The first state records of the Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Phoebe, and Scott's Oriole (all southerly species) occurred in Washington, and of the McKay's Bunting (a northerly species) in Oregon. White-tailed Kites and Bald Eagles were censused especially thoroughly, and there appeared to be a late February movement of large shorebirds.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES -- The 15 Yellow-billed Loons reported this season were a few more than usual. The one at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Jan. 15+ (RB *et al.*) was the farthest s. Arctic Loons were either very scarce off Vancouver Island (hereafter, V.I.) this season or were not reported. The high count was 93 rather than a few thousand (*fide* VG). The expected few Fared Grebes were found scattered throughout the Region, after being almost unreported here last fall. There were fewer W. Grebes found than usual in w. Oregon (*fide* HN), but there were somewhat higher counts off V.I. this winter with 10,000+ in Saanich Inlet and Satellite Channel Jan. 31 (VG). Other loon and grebe species were reported in their normal numbers. A dark-phase N. Fulmar was seen 3± mi off Oak Bay, V.I., Dec. 10 (JA, *fide* VG). Eleven (two white phase, nine dark) were found dead on the n.w. Oregon beaches up to Jan. 13 (HN). Single Sooty Shearwaters were seen Dec. 7 & Jan. 6 from the Ocean Shores jetty, Wash. (G & WH, EM) and Dec. 8 from Clover Pt., Victoria (JWi, AMd, *fide* VG). The only Short-tailed Shearwater reported was one Dec. 17 off Dupont, Wash., in lower Puget Sound (BHT). Also found dead on the n.w. Oregon beaches were a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel Dec 15 at Bayocean (HN), and a very small dark storm-petrel Jan. 13 at Sunset Beach (*HN). This bird is definitely not a Leach's, but rather had measurements of either a Least or Galapagos Storm-Petrel. Fewer Brandt Cormorants than usual were reported from s. V.I. (*fide* VG) while more Pelagic Cormorants than usual were found around Olympia in lower Puget Sound (CC, BHT). Green Herons apparently

wintered in about normal numbers. There were 14 on the w. Oregon CBCs, six on the Washington CBCs, with five of these in Olympia, and no reports from British Columbia. One was found dead Jan. 31 at Sequim, Wash. (KK). Cattle Egrets were found during December in w. Oregon in "every major coastal meadowland" (DI). The high count was a flock of 31 at Lakeside, n. of Coos Bay, Dec. 13-14 (JMc, ST, *fide* AMc). The farthest n. was one at Campbell R., V.I., Dec. 5 (HT). A single individual stayed in Sooke, V.I., Dec. 23-Jan. 8 (EK, *fide* VG), and groups of 2-4 stayed at Pitt Meadows and Reifel I., B.C., until Jan. 5 & 6 (*fide* WW), at Satsop, Wash., until early January (NDo), and at Phoenix, Oreg., until Feb. 21 (MaM, OSw). The movement of Great Egrets did not involve as many birds as previous years and did not extend as far n. as that of Cattle Egrets. A single bird wintered at Olympia, Wash. (BHT *et al.*). There were no reports from British Columbia. The highest counts were 27 at Coos Bay Dec. 16 (CBC) and 24 nearby between Myrtle Pt., and Coquille Jan. 18 (DF, TL). For about the fifth year in a row Snowy Egrets wintered in the Region with two to three at Pony Slough, in Coos Bay, and one at Bandon, Oreg. (AMc, DF, TL). An ad. Black-crowned Night Heron was found on Cortes I., near Campbell R., Feb. 3 (†GDo) and two adults were at Olympia throughout the period (BHT *et al.*). An immature was on Westham I., B.C., Jan. 27 (DJ, *fide* WW) for the second-ever winter record for the Vancouver area. Sixteen were found on w. Oregon CBCs. A single *Plegadis ibis* was observed on the Tillamook CBC Dec. 15 (WC *et al.*, ph.) for the first winter record for the Region.

WATERFOWL -- Mute Swans wintered in normal numbers on V.I. (*fide* VG). The only mainland report was of one that flew into a power line Feb. 27 at Barney L., e. of Mt. Vernon, Wash. (MA). The high count of 3820 Whistling Swans on Sauvie I., near Portland, Dec. 23 reflected the generally good numbers of this species throughout the Region. Trumpeter Swan reports were

widespread in w. Washington and s. British Columbia. The first migratory movement noted of Black Brant was on the s. Oregon coast at Coos Bay Feb. 21 (KJ, *fide* AMc). The one Emperor Goose reported stayed at Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash., Jan. 25+ (*fide* SS). The usual few White-fronted Geese wintered, with 10 on the Corvallis CBC the high count. Single Black Ducks were found in Seattle through the winter (m.ob., †AR) and in Victoria Feb. 22 (†RS). These are presumed to be from one of the introduced populations, at Reifel I., B.C., or near Everett, Wash. Three "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal were noted: single males at Chimacum, Wash., Dec. 25 (KK), in Saanich, VA., Feb. 12-16 (RMG, RS, *fide* VG), and in Seattle Feb. 19+ (†AR *et al.*). A hybrid male Eur. X Am. Wigeon was found Feb. 23 in Lincoln City, Oreg. (JGi, DI, OSw, TC). The regular wintering flock of Redheads at Coos Bay numbered 425 on Dec. 16. Outside of w. Oregon the high count was seven Jan. 13 at Pitt L., B.C. (DW, *fide* WW). DF & TL intensively surveyed scaup populations in w. Oregon this season. On several

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sewage ponds, both in the Willamette Valley and on the coast, they found Lesser Scaup most numerous by about 40:1. Otherwise Greater were somewhat more abundant than Lessers both coastally and in several Willamette Valley locations. The 500 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Lighthouse P., Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 23 (WW) and 134 at Duncan, B.C., Dec. 15 (JC *et al.*) were large concentrations. The 20 in e. Linn County, Oreg, Feb 8, and 15 s. of Roseburg Jan. 17 (both DF, TL) were also considered quite high counts (HN). Counts of 250-300 Oldsquaws were recorded from several n. Puget Sound locations. Single birds were widespread elsewhere as usual, s. at least to Port Orford, Oreg, Dec. 22 (AC, SG).

RAPTORS -- That a few Turkey Vultures are found here in winter is now normal. This winter there was one at Eugene Dec. 30 (DHy), two

around Reifel I., near Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 23-Feb. 29 (m.ob., *fide* WW), and one near Sooke, V.I., Jan. 19 (*fide* VG) Migrants appeared Feb. 23 near Corvallis (A & ECa, *fide* E & EE) and Feb. 24 at Shelton, Wash. (J & AD *et al.*).

S.A.

Recently this column has indicated that based on reports received, White-tailed Kites are "consolidating", or "in decline from peak numbers" in w. Oregon. In response to this DF & TL surveyed topographic maps for likely habitat and then searched each of those this season for kites. Their findings together with those of the CBCs indicated about 50 White-tailed Kites present this winter in w. Oregon. This is about 40% higher than previous winter estimates. Interestingly, only the Tillamook area indicated any recent increase in numbers over previous years. The increase statewide came from new pairs located in coastal s.w. Oregon by DF & TL. Most of the 50 kites were paired and apparently on territory in suitable breeding habitat. There were no reports from Washington or British Columbia.

Reports of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were somewhat fewer than usual. An ad **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found Dec. 20-Feb. 23 at the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., for the first state record (DHa, †EH, †AR, †MD). Two Red-shouldered hawks again appeared in the Eugene area Dec. 29-30 (IM), and others were seen at Coos Bay Dec. 30 (*fide* HN) and near Cottage Grove, Oreg. Feb. 23 (SG). Rough-legged Hawks were in normal numbers in the Vancouver area (WW), but were still fewer than usual farther s. There were seven Golden Eagles on San Juan I., Wash., Feb. 9 (DP, JEr). The mid-winter Bald Eagle survey in Washington tallied 935 adults and 633 immatures (RK). This count is up considerably from last year. Preliminary results available from s. British Columbia indicate a drop in the censused population there (DW, *fide* A & JGr). That a few

Osprey are reported during the season has become normal. This year one was in Olympia, Wash., Dec. 22 (*fide* BHT) and not far away near Elma Jan. 12 (B & GRa, KB). Early migrants appeared Feb. 24 e. of Seaside, Oreg. (DI) and Feb. 27 near Ladner, B.C. (RPh *et al.*). At least six Gyrfalcons were reported: three in C. Saanich Dec. 15 + (M & VG, m.ob.), at least two near Reifel I., B.C., Dec. 6+ (G & WA, m.ob.), and one on the Skagit flats, Wash., Jan. 13 (B & PE). Several Prairie Falcons were found, as usual, in the Willamette Valley through the season. Another was seen on the coast at Tillamook Dec. 15 (†JGi, OSc, DA) and Jan. 4 (DF, TL). Peregrine Falcons and Merlins were reported in the same numbers as for the past several years. One well-watched Peregrine spent the winter on a bank building in Tacoma, Wash. (BGo, TB *et al.*).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS -- The 14 Ruffed Grouse at Campbell R., V.I., Dec. 16 (HT) was a high count, as was 15 along the Hoh R., Wash., Feb. 16 (J & MWn). The flock of Sandhill Cranes on Sauvie, I., Oreg. numbered 85 on Dec. 23 (JGi *et al.*), and fewer than that thereafter. The 150 there Feb. 23 (JGa, *fide* HN) were considered migrants. Five Sandhill Cranes wintered near Sedro Woolley, Wash. (TW). A few Virginia Rails survived the early January freeze. Singles were at Reifel I., B.C., Jan. 20 (WW *et al.*), in Renton, Wash., Jan. 26 (EH), and at the Skagit flats Jan. 27 (JWn *et al.*). The only Sora reported was at Reifel I., Jan. 1 (†MF, AGr, MP). Eight Semipalmated Plovers were still at Grays Harbor Dec. 15 (*fide* BHT) and one remained at Coos Bay to Jan. 18 (DF, TL). Snowy Plovers stayed at least through December at Coos Bay (DF, AMc). Sixteen were at Bayocean beach Jan. 23 (HN) and one was on Sunset Beach Feb. 23 (HN). A single Am. Golden Plover w. of Coquille, Oreg. Jan. 18 & 23 (†DF, TL; E & EE *et al.*) may have wintered and was thought to be of the *fulva* race. Single **Long-billed Curlews** wintered at Yaquina Bay (JGi, TC *et al.*) and at Delta, B.C. (†AN, JI, †DK *et al.*). Each was a first wintering record, for Oregon and the

Vancouver area, respectively. Then Feb. 23 15 Longbilled Curlews were found at Tokeland, Wash. (G & WH), where a mid-February flock had appeared last year also. Lesser Yellowlegs are most unusual in the Region during the winter. This season one was found at Port Angeles, Wash., Dec. 7 (†WS), two near Coquille, Oreg, Jan. 18 (†DF, TL), and one at Esquimalt Lagoon, V.I., Jan. 21 (LR, *fide* VG). A few Willets wintered as usual at Bandon, Coos Bay, and Yaquina Bay, Oreg. and at Willapa Bay, Wash. A Red Knot Dec. 8 at Newport was late (RPa), and 2044 W. Sandpipers still at Coos Bay Dec. 16 (TL *et al.*) was remarkable. A few W. Sandpipers wintered elsewhere in Oregon and Washington, and one was at Blackie Spit, B.C., Dec. 29 (JAW). Single Marbled Godwits were at Tillamook Dec. 15 (CBC) and Newport Jan. 19 & 27 (FR; E & EE). A flock of 75 Marbled Godwits was found Feb. 23 with the Willets at the North R., mouth on Willapa Bay (G & WH). A large flock of Marbled Godwits wintered last year at this same location. A **Ruff** found with other shorebirds in a flooded pasture near Coquille, Oreg. Jan. 18 (†DF, †TL) provided the first winter record for the Region. This follows the nine recorded in the Region last fall, including the first records for Oregon. Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpipers, and Long-billed Dowitchers wintered in their usual haunts in their normal small numbers.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS -- The usual 25+ Glaucous Gulls were reported, with records s. to Eugene and Coos Bay. Hybrid Glaucous-winged X W. Gulls were noted at Seattle, Grays Harbor, Portland, and Eugene throughout the season. Ring-billed Gulls were more numerous this winter than usual in w. Oregon. Counts of 2000+ were made in Eugene Dec. 30 (*fide* DF) and on Sauvie I., in late January (DI). The high count of Mew Gulls was 6355 at Tillamook Bay Dec. 15, down from 10,000 in November, and of Bonaparte's Gulls, the 881 at Victoria Dec. 15, down from 20,000 in November. A Heermann's Gull in Discovery P., Seattle Dec. 13 was late (DHu), as

was an ad. Sabine's Gull off the S.J.C.R., Dec. 15 (DI). Ten Blacklegged Kittiwakes Dec. 1 at the S.J.C.R (HN) was the high count. Elsewhere mostly single birds were reported, with one in s. Puget Sound at Tacoma Dec. 28-30 (B & GR, EH, AW). A very late Black Tern reported on the Astoria CBC Dec. 16 follows one found nearby at Tillamook Nov. 23. The 7518 Com. Murres at Campbell R., Dec. 16 was the highest-ever count for the CBC there (*fide* HT). There were two reports of **Thick-billed Murres** for Washington. One was off San Juan I., Dec. 6 (TW, *fide* DP), and two were seen off the Ocean Shores jetty Dec. 15 (†DP). The fall influx of Ancient Murrelets continued well into the winter High counts were the 200 off Nisqually in lower Puget Sound Dec. 11 (BHT), and 500 seen Jan. 1 along the Oak Bay-Victoria waterfront (MS, DMr). Many more Rhinoceros Auklets than usual were reported this season in lower Puget Sound. Several CBCs there had all-time high counts, but the species was found in normal numbers elsewhere. Five Horned Puffins were found dead on n.w. Oregon beaches Jan. 26-Feb. 23 (HN, JGi *et al.*). At one of these, Sunset Beach, three Tufted Puffins were found dead Jan. 13 & Feb. 23 (HN).

OWLS THROUGH CORVIDS -- Reports were received of only about 13 Snowy Owls this winter. Up to eight were in the Skagit flats area through Mar. 2 (DMc, B & PE, DP), and up to four in the Vancouver area through Feb. 12 (JAW, WW *et al.*). One at Ocean Shores Dec. 29 was the farthest s. (LL). Single Barred Owls were seen and heard at Burnaby Mt., B.C., about Jan. 10 (GB, *fide* WW) and at Bacus Hill, near Sedro Woolley, Wash., Dec. 8 & Feb. 9 (EH). A male **Costa's Hummingbird** appeared at a feeder in Florence, Oreg, Feb. 9 + (CW) for the sixth record for Oregon. Anna's Hummingbirds continue to be reported from new localities, and were thought to be more numerous than ever in w. Oregon (JGi, m.ob.). Four wintered n. to Campbell R., V.I. (HT). A male Rufous Hummingbird shared a feeder in Saanich, V.I., with a pair of Anna's Dec.

14-Feb. 29 (JSo, *fide* VG) for the only wintering record this season. Male Rufous Hummingbirds at North Bend, Oreg, Feb. 3, were a few days earlier than ever (AMc). Females arrived there Feb. 18. A male Allen's Hummingbird had arrived at Bullard Beach S.P., near Bandon, Oreg. by Feb. 24 (BB, JMo, *fide* HN). One each of the "Red-naped" and the "Red-breasted" Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers

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were seen in the same tree at the Nisqually N.W.R., Feb. 24 (†MiM). Earlier in the season only the usual wintering "Red-breasted" had been observed there. The migrations of the e. form of this sapsucker through this Region have not yet been documented. A **Black Phoebe** was seen on driftwood at Moclips Beach, Wash., Feb. 27 (†R & HO) for the first well documented record for the state. Three Say's Phoebes were found in Portland Feb. 18 (MH, *fide* HN). About a dozen Tree Swallows were seen throughout December and January along the Rogue R., near Medford, Oreg. (OSw, MaM). Two were also found at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene Dec. 29 (*fide* DF). The first large flocks of Tree Swallows appeared as usual in mid-February. The small coastal colony of Scrub Jays near Port Orford, Oreg, was reported to be thriving (AMc, J & DR). Reports of Black-billed Magpies w. of the Cascades continued from last fall. There were 7-10 along the Cowlitz R., near Morton throughout the period (RR), and others were found in Squamish and Burnaby, B.C. (WW *et al.*).

THRUSHES THROUGH BLACKBIRDS -- Single Mockingbirds were found at Ocean Shores (JWn) and Tillamook, both Dec. 15, and at Port Orford Feb. 8-26 (J & DR). Varied Thrushes were scarce on s. V.I., but were well reported elsewhere. A thrush with clearly visible buffy eye ring and face, thought to be a Swainson's Thrush, was found Dec. 15 on Mt. Prevost near Duncan, V.I. (JWo, BP, *fide* JC). Western Bluebirds were widely reported to be in better numbers in w. Oregon than for many years. The count of 553 on tone

CBCs there is up 30% from the 426 on the same counts last year. Furthermore, for the combined Medford, Eugene, Corvallis, and Salem counts, held yearly since 1963-64, this year's total was the fourth highest for those 16 years. Migrants appeared in w. Washington and on V.I. in mid-February. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was found in Salem Dec. 22 (BL, ph.) for the first winter record for the Region. Several flocks of 30-50 Bohemian Waxwings were in Bellingham until Feb. 10 (TW). Otherwise they were almost unreported. Northern Shrikes were back to their usual numbers in w. Oregon this winter after being noted as scarce last year (HN). Three single Loggerhead Shrikes were reported in w. Oregon: n. of Port Orford Dec. 22 (BGr, SC, J & DR *et al.*), near Brownsville, e of Corvallis Jan. 5 (HTa, DMe, *fide* E & EE), and at Fern Ridge Res., throughout the season (DF, TL, LM). Another Black-and-white Warbler was found in Coos Bay Feb. 19 (NB, *fide* AMc) for the fourth recent record in the area. Single Nashville Warblers were found Dec. 17 in Salem (TC) and Dec. 30 in Eugene (CBC). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was in Forest Grove, Oreg. Jan. 23 (JEv, *fide* HN). A male Wilson's Warbler was found in Saanich, V.I., Dec. 15 (NL, GS, *fide* VG), and another male Wilson's was at Boundary Bay airport, B.C., Dec. 29 (GRy, *fide* WW). Two Am. Redstarts were near North Bend, Oreg. Jan. 1 (AMc). Reports of Townsend's Warblers from Washington and Oregon were more numerous than usual. Twenty of the 25 on the Grays Harbor CBC Dec. 15 were in the Hoquiam cemetery alone (EH). The six on the Seattle CBC Dec. 29 was the highest count in 17 years, and Jan. 15 DF found 22 in Eugene. Four Palm Warblers were found Dec. 15 & Feb. 10 at the mouth of the Wilson R., near Tillamook (JGi *et al.*). Two were at Grays Harbor Dec. 15 (*fide* BHT). Singles were found in the Coos Bay area Dec. 16, Jan. 18, & Feb. 1 (J & DR, DF, TL), near Port Orford Dec. 22 - Feb. 19 (J & DR, LT), and in Victoria Dec. 29 and Jan. 4 (J & RS). Two **Bobolinks** were found at Myrtle Point, s.w. Oregon, Dec. 10 (FW, *fide* CW), following the

several extraordinary records in the area this fall. Single male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found at Pitt Meadows, Delta, and Westham I., near Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 8, Jan. 1 & 6, and Feb. 29 (†WW, A & JGr, DK *et al.*) and a female was at Sandy Pt., w. of Bellingham, Wash., Jan. 19 (EH). An imm. male Hooded Oriole stayed around a feeder in Coos Bay Dec. 16+ (GV, AMc, DF, TL *et al.*). An ad. male **Scott's Oriole** frequented a feeder in Chehalis, Wash., Feb. 11+ (C & ND) for the first record for Washington. Documentation is on file (†AR, †EH, PM-ph.). Immature male N. Orioles were found at Lakeside, n. of Coos Bay Dec. 2 (ST, AC *et al.*) and at Eugene Dec. 30 (*fide* HN). An ad. male was in s.e. Portland Jan. 9 (DI). Following the several records of Rusty Blackbird this fall, there was one male found Jan. 31 in Goldstream P.P., w. of Victoria (VG).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS -- Two male Pine Grosbeaks were seen Jan. 29 in View Royal, w. of Victoria (RF, *fide* VG), and one was on Sea I., s. of Vancouver, B.C., Feb. 21 (JMi, *fide* WW). The only Gray-crowned Rosy Finch reported was one of the gray-cheeked "*Hepburn's*" form at Boundary Bay, B.C., Jan. 16 (RPh *et al.*). Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinches, and Red Crossbills were found in low numbers throughout the Region, and were reported absent from many areas. An exception to this was the 250+ Red Cross-bills seen Feb. 17 near La Push, on the n.w. Washington coast (J & MWn). No Redpolls or White-winged Crossbills were reported. A male Rufous-sided Towhee in Eugene Feb. 2 with a complete lack of white spotting on the back was thought to be from eastern North America (†RPa). A few Savannah Sparrows were found n. to s.w. British Columbia up to Jan. 1 (MF, GRy). None were found there after the freeze of early January (*fide* WW). However, three were seen in c. Saanich Jan. 27 (AMd), and two were there Feb. 17 (*fide* VG). A Vesper Sparrow wintered at Alton Baker P., in Eugene (DF, TL). A **Sage Sparrow** was found in Seattle Feb. 17-19 (†B & PE *et al.*) for the third w. Washington record, all three of which are

coincident with the mid-February arrival of this species on its breeding range in e. Washington. There were about a dozen Tree Sparrows found in the Vancouver, B.C., area during the season (G & WA, GRy *et al.*), two were at Cowichan Bay, V.I., Jan. 18 (†VG), and one was on the Skagit flats Jan. 27 and Feb. 9 (BT, RT; EH). There were no reports from w. Oregon. Two Chipping Sparrows spent the season at a Roseburg, Ore, feeder (FP) and at least one wintered in Eugene (DF, TL). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** found at Nehalem meadows, n.w. Oregon Jan. 5 (DF, TL) stayed Feb. 29+ for Oregon's first winter record (JGi-ph., m.ob.). As is usual, about nine Harris' Sparrows were reported, from Roseburg, Ore, to Campbell R., V.I. Two White-crowned Sparrows Dec. 29 near Sayward, n. V.I., were quite far n. and constituted the first winter records for the area (HT). Reports of 12+ White-throated Sparrows in w. Oregon were near normal; only one other was noted in Wilkeson, Wash., Dec. 15 (BRo). Lincoln's Sparrows wintered in good numbers n at least to Saanich (NL) and the Vancouver, B.C., area (†PW, †IR, †CR, *fide* WW). About 30 were found regularly in Alton Baker P., in Eugene (DF, TL). A **Swamp Sparrow** Dec. 27-28 and Jan. 5 on Reifel I., provided the first documented record for the Vancouver area (†WW, DK, DMr, GDa, TW). *Five* Swamp Sparrows were noted in w. Oregon this season: two at Tillamook Dec 15 (JGi *et al.*), one at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene Dec. 29 (LM), one in Medford Dec. 29 and Jan. 11 (DE, LS, OSw), and one at Ankeny N.W.R., Jan. 27 (TC). A few Lapland Longspurs were scattered through the Region, with the 45 at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Dec. 29 the high count (SA). Particularly since last winter the scattered Snow Bunting flocks have received special attention. This year on Feb. 23 at the S.J.C.R., a **McKay's Bunting** was picked out of a flock of about a dozen Snows (†HN). The bird was seen through at least Mar. 2 for the first record for Oregon (†TC, †A & DMa, JGi-ph, *et al.*). Controversy continues as to whether a second

large bunting, not quite as cleanly white, was a hybrid or another McKay's

ESCAPEES -- An Am. Flamingo survived from November to at least Feb. 9 at Mud Bay, between Crescent Beach and Delta, s of Vancouver, B.C. (WW *et al.*). Three Monk Parakeets were nest-building in s.e. Portland in late February (HN, LT). Two birds spent the winter of 1977-78 in the same area, but had not been reported since.

CITED OBSERVERS: -- and Abbreviations (**Sub-regional Editors in boldface**). Dave Anderson, John Anderson, Gerry & Wendy Ansell, Scott Atkinson, Maynard Axelson, Range Bayer, Brent Berg, Thais Bock, George Brad, Ken Brown, Nancy Brown, Wilson Cady, Art & Elizabeth Carlson (A& ECa), Chris Chappell, John Comer, Alan Contreras (AC), Tom Crabtree, Gary Davidson (GDa), Jack & Ada Davis, Norm Donaldson (NDo), Michael Donahue, Gilean Douglas (GDo), Cliff & Neva Dunn (C&ND), David Easterlea, Elsie & Elzy Eltzroth, Jim Erckmann (JEr), Joe Evanich (JEv), Bob & Pat Evans, **David Fix**, Mike Force, Ralph Fryer, John Gatchet (JGa), Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Margaret & **Vic Goodwill**, Bill Goodwin (BGo), Steve Gordon, Al & Jude Grass (A & JGr), Sayre Greenfield, Rob Mackenzie- Grieve (RMG), Barbara Griffin (BGr), **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), Dave Hayward (DHa), Glen & Wanda Hoge, Mike Houck, David Hutchinson (DHu), Dan Heyerly (DHyl), John Ireland, David Irons, Karen Jackson, Dale Jenson, Erich Kellner, Rick Knight, Ken Knittle, Doug Kragh, Nancy Lovett, Bob Lucas, Lauren Lucke, Tom

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Lund, Alec MacLeod (AMd), Dave Mark (DMr), Arnie & Debbie Martin (A & DMA), Joy McDowell (JMc), Alan McGie (AMc), Dick McNeely (DMc), Larry McQueen, Don Menefee (DMe), Ed Miller, Jack Milstead (JMi), Marjorie Moore (MUM), Mike Moore (MiM), Joe Mosky (JMo), **Harry Nehls**, Adeline Nicol, Robert &

Hera Owen, Richard Palmer (RPa), Fred Parker, **Dennis Paulson**, Roy Phillips (RPh), Barry Powell, Mike Price, Bob & Georgia Ramsay (B & GRa), Fred Ramsay, Alan Richards, Leila Roberts, Ian Robertson, Betsy Rogers (BRo), Jim & Dennis Rogers, Craig Runyan, Glen Ryder (GRy), Ronnie Ryno, Susan Saul, Owen Schmidt (OSc), Joy & Ron Satterfield (J&RS), Michael Shepard, Lois Smith, Mrs. J. Somerville (JSo), George Sparrow, Wally Sumner, Otis Swisher (OSw), Howard Taylor (HTa), Howard Telosky (HT), Larry Thornburg, Sarah Thurman, Brenda Tom, Ron Toonen, George Vaughn, **Terry Wahl**, Art Wang, Peter Ward, Clarice Watson, Wayne Weber, Francis Whitaker, Jack Williams (JAW), Doug Wilson, Jim Wilson (JWi), John & Marilyn Wingfield (J & MWn), Joe Woodcock (JWo), (†) = written description on file, * specimen, S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Oregon.

Spring Migration, 1980

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN –
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**

/ Thomas H. Rogers

Timing of the spring migration in most parts of the Region was markedly accelerated by abnormally warm weather in March, April, and the first three weeks of May, after which heavy rains and decidedly low temperatures took over. Southern Idaho, however, had a cool, wet spring; the Richland, Washington area seemed to have a normal timetable, and migration in northeast Oregon was retarded. Space limitations preclude mention of more than a few of the record-breaking early arrivals. The Mt. St. Helens eruption was the event of *the* season--and of the century. Total destruction of all life occurred within a radius of f several miles of the peak and ashfall was reported as far away as Kimberley, B.C. and Fortine, Helena, and Bozeman, Montana,

but little or no effect on birds was noted at those localities. Impact upon bird life appeared directly related to depth of ash. From central Washington Ron Friesz reported, "It would appear that any birds that nest on the ground or that eat insects will be affected." Ash depth there was up to three inches, with drifts up to one foot deep. At Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., Jim Rees reported that many birds deserted nests in laying stages, many aquatic insects were killed, and insect-feeding birds were affected. One observer in the Yakima, Wash., area commented that the forests in the mountains were very still, with few birds found. The accompanying cold, wet weather probably aggravated the destructive effects of the ash.

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LOONS AND GREBES -- Common Loons were observed on the Clark Fork R., near Noxon, Mont., nesting next to the reservoir (CW) and 43+ were found Apr. 19 from the c portion of Banks L. to the s. end of L. Lenore, Grant Co., Wash. (JA). Red-necked Grebes were nesting along the e. shore of L. Kookanusa, Lincoln Co., Mont. (CW) and at Jumpoff Joe L., s.e. Stevens Co., Wash. (SZ) The species was noted at Kootenai N W R., and in the Coeur d' Alene L. area in n Idaho; at Spectacle L., Okanogan Co., Wash, and at Klamath Marsh, Klamath Co., Ore, for the only other reports. The largest assemblage of W. Grebes was a flock of 68 on the Chewelah, Wash., sewage ponds Apr. 30 (JN)

PELICANS AND CORMORANTS -- A few White Pelicans were on the Columbia R. n of Pasco, on the Frenchman Hills Wasteway w. of Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., and at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida. The Rupert, Ida, area had somewhat larger numbers Double-crested Cormorants were nesting at Potholes Res., where up to 21 adults were seen (RF, THR & TT). Two at Salmon, Ida, Apr. 17 were the first for that area (HBR) and two flew over Stuart L. n.w. of Vanderhoof, B.C., May 17 (GR).

HERONS THROUGH IBISES--Great Blue Herons have established a heronry at Horseshoe L. near Happys Inn, Lincoln Co., Mont., and this species had seven occupied nests at Mica Bay on Coeur d' Alene Lake. Chuck Trost warned that people should stay away from heronries during nesting time, for several colonies in the Am. Falls and Blackfoot Res. areas of s.c. Idaho moved following visits last year. Single Cattle Egrets appeared in the Rupert and Pocatello areas (WHS, CHT) and at Moses L. and Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash. (RB, RF). Deer Flat N W R. had a visit from a Great Egret Apr. 22 Five breeding pairs of Great Egrets and 400+ Black-crowned Night-Herons were occupying the heronry at Potholes Res., Apr. 25 That area received at least 1.5 in. of ash from Mt. St. Helens, but no adverse effects upon the colony were noted (RF). The Black-crowned colony at Am. Falls Res., which had not reproduced since the Teton Dam disaster in 1977, appeared to be doing so once more. The birds have moved, perhaps because of banding activity. One or two of the species appeared at Swan Lake, Vernon, B.C., May 13-31 They are rare this far north (JG). Snowy Egrets have not nested at Am. Falls Res since 1977. About 35 of the birds have been visiting the trout farm at Pocatello, and apparently were nesting in the Fort Hall area (CHT). Noteworthy was a White-faced Ibis at Mann's L., Lewiston, Ida. May 9-10 (EMc & RG).

WATERFOWL -- Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., had most of the Whistling Swans, with 8000 there and nearby, Mar. 11. Other concentrations were 2000 on Calispell L, Pend Oreille Co., Wash; 1185 in the Coeur d' Alene R. drainage; 1000 at Ennis, Mont, and 500 at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. Top number of Canada Geese was 8000 at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., and 4145 in the lower Coeur d' Alene R. drainage. Fort Boise W.M.A., Ida, had 70 White-fronted Geese Apr. 12 (J & NH) and two stopped in mid-March at Kootenai N.W.R., where they are rare (LDN). Malheur N.W.R. had 23,000 Snow Geese Mar. 25 and up to 10,000 Ross' Geese were at Miller I.,

near Klamath Falls, Ore., in early April (J & JC & SS). The duck migration at Malheur was more protracted than last year because of the mild weather. Thus the peak of 175,000 Pintails, the principal species, may not have indicated an actual decline from last year, when the peak was 300,000. At Turnbull N.W.R. many Mallard ducklings died, apparently from the volcanic ash, and the great reduction in insect numbers was expected to continue its impact upon young birds. Few waterfowl broods were being found in the Ritzville, Wash., area, a region hit especially hard by ash fallout. A Eur. Green-winged Teal at Miller I., Klamath Falls, Apr. 5 & 16 produced only the second sighting for the Klamath Basin (J & JC & SS). The Region had a meager scattering of Eur. Wigeons, including the first ever at Kootenai N.W.R. (LDN). Two Greater Scaup were on Upper Klamath L., May 10 (SS). A male Harlequin Duck, a species seldom reported from n.e. Oregon, appeared on the Wallowa R., near Minam Apr. 13 (JE) and a male was also seen at Stuart L., May 24 (GR). A pair seemed to be nesting at Kootenai Falls between Libby and Troy, Mont. (KB, CW). Eight Surf Scoters were on Swan L., Vernon, where they are rare, May 20 (MC). Two male **Black Scoters** were sighted at Stuart L. for apparently the first record for c. interior British Columbia (GR). Three Red-breasted Mergansers were diving on the Columbia R. near Pateros, Wash., May 24 (GB & VM) and three were on Spencer Res., near Triangle, Ida. May 18 (J & NH).

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- A very few Goshawks were reported in s. interior British Columbia, e. Washington, and e. Oregon. Nests of seven Goshawks and 15 Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were found in n. Lincoln County, Mont. (CW). Sixteen sightings of Ferruginous Hawks were reported, all from e. Oregon and Washington (W.D.G. *et al.*). A Bald Eagle nest along L. Kookanusa, Lincoln Co., Mont. was doing well until the female got caught in a "varmint" trap and died (CW). In May at Stuart L.,

five ad. and one imm. Bald Eagles were found, numbers which apparently represent a decline from 1972 (GR). A heavy winter-kill of fish at Wasa Slough near Kimberley, B.C., in March attracted 20 Bald and two Golden Eagles, an unprecedented concentration there (MVW). Kootenai N.F. in n.w. Montana had about 120 Osprey nests (CW). At least two pairs of Bald Eagles were nesting along the S. Fork of the Snake R. near the site of the proposed Lynn Crandall Dam (CHT). The only Peregrine Falcon reports were of one in e. Washington and one in n.w. Montana. Merlin sightings were up, apparently because more field-time was logged by the W.D.G.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- W.D.G. personnel were watching more than 20 Sharp-tailed Grouse leks in c. Washington (JHi & SZ, *fide* JN). Up to 45 were on a lek s. of Creston, Wash. (JA, BW). Three previously overlooked leks were found in the extreme n end of the Tobacco Valley n. of Eureka, Mont. (CW). The Sage Grouse lek s. of Creston had 36 males and 24 females, the highest count ever (JN & SZ) and the Yakima Firing Range had 60 males and 30 females Mar. 15 (Y.A.S.). Seventy+ were booming at Virtue Flats 12 mi. e. of Baker, Ore. (JE). Two Scaled Quail were observed at the Juniper Forest e. of Connell, Wash., May 3 (BW) and three Mountain Quail were found at Chief Joseph W.R.A., s. of Asotin, Wash., Mar 22 (RG). Ring-necked Pheasant nesting in alfalfa fields checked by the W.D.G. in four areas of Grant and Franklin counties following the ashfall showed 67.7% nest desertion, compared to less than a 7% rate in 1973. The spring Turkey gobbler season held in eight c. and e. Washington counties yielded nine ad. and 11 imm. birds by Apr. 29 (W.D.G.). Boundary County, Ida. had one bird sighted May 25 (PS).

CRANES AND RAILS -- St. Andrews, Wash., had 2000+ Sandhill Cranes Apr. 5 (PC) and 400 were near Fruitland, Ida. Apr 12 (G.E.A.S.). A pair at Ladd Marsh, Union, Ore., was rearing two young (JE) and Conboy N.W.R., Yakima Co.,

Wash., had four adults, two of which were believed to have nested there for several years (RF). A Sora was flying over Stuart L., May 21 (GR) and two at Mann's L., near Lewiston, Ida. were noteworthy. This latter spot, a wildlife preserve, is being threatened by the leasing of part of it to a model airplane club!

SHOREBIRDS -- One or two Semipalmated Plovers appeared only at Deer Flat N.W.R., in early May (LN, J & NH). The only Snowy Plovers observed were two at a probable nesting area at White L., near Klamath Falls May 5+ (SS), and six at Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., May 28 (RDP). W.D.G. reported 50 sightings of Long-billed Curlews. Single birds showed up in the Colville Valley, Stevens Co., Wash., and at Hells Gate Park near Lewiston, both unlikely places. Four pairs in the n. end of Tobacco Valley n. of Eureka were the first ever for Lincoln County (CW). Nine Upland Sandpipers, the highest number since 1956, were in their nesting area in the Spokane Valley May 18 (JA). The building slump may spare their habitat a few more years. A sighting of six Short-billed Dowitchers at Miller L., Klamath Falls Apr 28 produced the third record for the area (SS) and two were observed at Malheur N.W.R. in mid-May (OS *et al.*). One was identified at Reardan, Wash., May 24-26 (JA, BW) and seven were at Mann's L., Lewiston May 17 (RG). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers near Othello, Wash., May 6 (JEr) were a rarity there. Swan L., Vernon, had two on May 20 (JG). Marbled Godwits showed up in unusual numbers in s. Idaho, the only area reporting them. Deer Flat N.W.R. had 70 on Apr. 25, Montour had 30 the same day, and C J Strike Res., Bruneau, had 25 on Apr. 27 (J & NH). A single Sanderling, rare in the spring in the Region, was at Central Park between Manhattan and Belgrade, Mont., May 10 (PDS). "Several" Black-necked Stilts were found s.e. of George and near Othello, Wash., Apr. 23 & 27 (JEr, EH) and up to four

were seen in the Potholes Res area Apr 19, 20 & 24 (RF, DH, Y.A.S.).

GULLS AND TERNS -- Single second year Glaucous Gulls appeared at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., Apr. 12 (WS) and on the Snake R., near Pullman, Wash., Mar. 16 (RS). An ad. Glaucous-winged and a Mew gull were along the Link R. near Klamath Falls Mar. 7 (SS). Two colonies of Herring Gulls, examined the third week of May on islands in Stuart L., contained a total of 28 nests (GR). The species was noted at Ennis, Mont., Mar. 16 & Apr. 5 (PDS *et al.*). A Franklin's Gull at Stuart L., May 16 was apparently the first for that area (GR). Two on Thief Valley Res., Union Co., Ore., were the first for the county and probably also for n.e. Oregon (JJ). One of this species, rather rare in e Washington in recent years, was at Reardan May 10 (JA) and six at Kootenai N.W.R., Apr. 30 & May 7 provided unusual sightings (LDN). Up to 60 Bonaparte's Gulls stopped at Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida, Apr 30 & May 2 (WHS, CHT). They are unusual there in spring. Two Forster's Terns made a rare appearance at Kootenai N.W.R., May 30 (LDN). The species was reported nesting at Duck L., Creston W.M.A., near Creston, B.C. (*vide* LDN). Four Caspian Terns rested on Wallowa L., s. of Enterprise, Ore, and two were on Hot L. in the Grande Ronde Valley, Union Co., Ore. The species is very rare in n.e. Oregon away from the Columbia R. (JE). Trost found only one in the Pocatello area but they were nesting on an island in the Snake R. near Nyssa, Ida. (DJ).

DOVES AND OWLS -- Little Sheep Creek e of Enterprise, Oreg, had a Band-tailed Pigeon May 20 (CC) and one that appeared at a backyard feeder at Spokane May 15 came through the ashfall satisfactorily (JA & WH). Vernon, B.C., had two May 6-7 (MH) and Clearwater, n. of Kamloops, B.C., had two Apr 28 (DL). A Barn Owl was incubating in the Grande Ronde Valley by Apr. 3. One near Vernita, Wash., Mar. 22 was apparently the first for that locality (Y.A.S.). One was found dead Mar. 8 near Kamloops, where the

species is very rare (JG). Two Flammulated Owls were near Penticton where the species nested in 1979 (SRC). Burrowing Owl numbers were promising. Five pairs were found near the Idaho Nat. Engineering Lab, near Idaho Falls, where none had been noted before (EWC). A pair of Barred Owls was sighted at Moyie L., s. of Cranbrook, B.C., and one was found Mar. 20 in Pyle's Canyon near Union, Ore., in willow thickets in sagebrush-rimrock (JE). Two **Spotted Owls** were discovered n.e. of Plain, Wash., May 5 (TB & DS). The Fort Klamath area had at least 3 sightings of Great Gray Owls (SS, RDP, JC) and one was heard in late March in extreme n w Montana (CW). A female returned to the nesting site on Bridge Cr., Union Co., Ore, but no mate was seen (RR). Short-eared Owls seemed very abundant at Malheur N.W.R. Nesting by this species was observed there and near Eureka, Mont. A **Boreal Owl** was heard calling Mar. 16 at L. Abundance and Mar. 21 at Buffalo Fork, both sites just n of Yellowstone N.P. (EV, *fide* PDS). The only Saw-whet report was of one at Malheur N.W.R., Apr. 3 (ST).

POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -- Many Poor-wills had reached Wenas Cr., n.w. of Yakima by Apr. 26, the earliest date ever for e. Washington (EH). The species was also reported for Selah, Wash., and near Frenchglen and Rome, Ore. About a dozen Black Swifts appeared to be nesting about 1.5 mi upriver from Libby, Mont. (CW) and three passed over Reardan L., May 26 (JA). White-throated Swifts returned to the cliffs they occupied last year just w. of Bowl and Pitcher S.P., Spokane (JA; BW). Small colonies of the birds were found at Roaring Springs Ranch s. of Frenchglen and at Ft. Rock, Ore. (J & JC). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** appeared regularly the last half of May at Stuart L. (GR). Union, Ore., had two Black-chinned Hummingbirds May 15 and two Broad-tailed Hummingbirds May 25 (LP). Two of the latter species came regularly to a feeder at La Grande, Ore., May 12+ (JE) and a male visited a feeder at

Klamath Falls May 25 (B & CY). The only Anna's Hummingbirds were a male at Wenas Creek n.w. of Yakima May 17 (PA) and an ad. male at Klamath Falls, May 25 (B & CY).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS - Four pairs of Lewis' Woodpeckers along the Fisher R., Lincoln Co., Mont., were encouraging because the species has shown serious decline in the Fortine area (CW). Six sightings of Williamson's Sapsuckers came in from n.e. Oregon, s.e. Washington and the Cascade Mts. of Washington. White-headed Woodpeckers were found at Wenas Cr., Cle Elum and Winthrop, Wash.; near Enterprise, Ore., and at Daggett Cr., 20 mi. n.e. of Boise. The only N. Three-toed Woodpeckers reported were three in the Salmon, Ida. area (HBR) and a pair with an immature near Elk L., Deschutes Co., Ore. (ME). A very early Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen along Crab Cr., Columbia N.W.R., May 7, where the species is still surviving. One was sighted at Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore., May 29 (RDP). A Yellow-bellied and an Alder flycatcher were heard between McBride and Prince George, B.C., May 16 (GR). The **Least Flycatcher** was heard at two places at Stuart L., for the first records for n. interior British Columbia (GR). A W. Flycatcher banded at Stuart L. was the first ever for n.e. British Columbia (GR). A "tremendous" number of flycatchers of several species were stranded by a snowstorm on Memorial Day weekend at Malheur N.W.R. (J & JC). Dead swallows picked up after the ashfall at Turnbull N.W.R. presumably died of starvation. The abnormally cool weather may have been partly responsible for the lack of insects. A few swallows found dead after the ashfall at Coeur d' Alene, where hundreds of Violet-green and Cliff swallows were nesting, were also assumed to have starved. A pair of nesting Violet-greens at Spokane disappeared after the ashfall but later returned and resumed nesting activities. Dead Cliff Swallows were very evident at Malheur N.W.R. over the Memorial Day weekend when 65 were picked up at one colony. The snowstorm

may have been the cause but swallow ectoparasites were not ruled out.

JAY THROUGH WRENTITS -- Up to three Blue Jays which presumably wintered in Union, Ore., were last seen Mar. 17 (C & MCo, REW, JJ). One was sighted Mar 18 at Ft. Boise W.M.A., Canyon Co., Ida (DT). Five Bushtits, very rare in n.e. Oregon, appeared in La Grande May 25 (JE). More ordinary were four between Oreana and Triangle, Ida. Apr. 28 (A & HL). The only Wrentits reported were in the Klamath Falls area. One was in that city Apr. 17 and one or two were singing on Chase Mt. near Keno, April 18 & May 7 (SS).

MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES -- Roaring Springs Ranch s. of Frenchglen, Ore., had a Brown Thrasher May 28 (J & JC). What was apparently the first **Wood Thrush** record for Oregon was a sighting in the Mahogany Mrs., about 8 mi s.e. of L Owyhee, Malheur Co., Ore., about May 20 (TF, *fide* J & JC) and the second May 27 at Pike Cr. e. of the Alvord Desert, Harney Co (J & JC). At Pullman, Wash., a decrease of four pairs of Am. Robins to only one pair in the vicinity of John Weber's home was apparently caused by the ashfall. A Veery at Hart Mt., May 29 may have been the first ever recorded there (RDP). At the nestbox project w. of Spokane 36 clutches were recorded, 2/3 of which were W. Bluebirds' and the rest Tree Swallows, Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches and House Wrens. From all clutches an estimated 120 eggs and young disappeared without fledging and 36 were believed to have fledged by June 14. In 1979 when 42 clutches were observed, 29 eggs and young disappeared and 56 had fledged by June 10. The occurrence of both ashfall and cold weather complicated an analysis of the causes. However, two dead female W. Bluebirds found in nest boxes had distended cloacal tissue and caked ash about the crissum and on the underside of the tail. A May 28 inspection in the area showed bluebirds extremely scarce (DP).

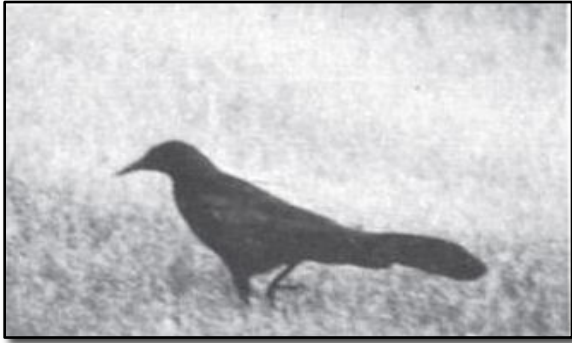
GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS -- The only Blue-gray Gnatcatcher report came from a juniper area near Pocatello Apr. 15 (CHT). A pair of Starlings was at a nest site in McBride, and furnished perhaps the first record there (GR). Malheur N.W R hosted a Hutton's Vireo May 17 (refuge staff) and Fields, Ore., had two single Bell's Vireo sightings May 22 & 24 (K & TF; SS). Single Black-and-white Warblers showed up just s of Pocatello May 8 (CHT) and in La Grande May 17 (GS). The latter evidently furnished the first n.e. Oregon record. Two **Tennessee Warblers** dropped in at Boise May 25 for what appears to be s. Idaho's first and the state's second record (JB & LE). Malheur N.W.R. had three sightings, May 11-31 (MA). An extralimital singing male Nashville Warbler was sighted in McBride May 16 (GR). A male Townsend's Warbler visited Bozeman May 24 (SC & PDS). A male Hermit Warbler was spotted e. of White Pass, Yakima Co., Wash., May 9 (WS). A singing male **Blackburnian Warbler** at the Yakima R. delta was the first ever for e. Washington and the state's second (REW). A male Blackpoll Warbler May 23 supplied Bozeman's second

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record (PDS). Manhattan, Mont., had an early Ovenbird May 24 (PDS) and several were singing at Stuart L., May 18 (GR). Single N. Waterthrushes appeared May 26 at Boise (JB) and near Diamond, Ore. (P.A.S.). A pair of Am. Restarts was found at Tumwater campground near Winton, Wash., May 25 (ME); one was near Cle Elum, Wash., May 1 (B & PE), and a male was near White R. Falls campground n. of L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash., May 25 (WHO).

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS -- Development has apparently crowded out the little Bobolink colony at Chewelah but three males were contending for territory along the n. fork of Chewelah Cr. (JN). La Grande had 25 + Bobolinks May 28 (K & MK) and the species appeared at Alder Slope s.e. of Enterprise, Ore.,

the second week of May (VC). About 4000 Tricolored Blackbirds were around Lower Klamath L. Road in early April (SS). The rarity of the season was likely the **Great-tailed Grackle**. Probably two individuals were sighted at Malheur May 16, 24 & 26 (J & JC, SS, OS, m. ob.).



A Great-tailed Grackle, Malheur N.W.R., Hdq., Oregon, May 16, 1980. Photo/Owen Schmidt.

Common Grackles were noted in Rexburg and St. Anthony, Ida. May 28. They probably nested at Rexburg last year (DH). An ad. male **Scarlet Tanager** was found along Trout Cr. s.e. of Fields May 28 for apparently the third state record (J & JC).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS -- Single male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen in Bozeman May 16, 29 & 30 (MB, SC, ETH, PDS) and one appeared in Colorado Gulch near Helena May 23 (G & NN). Evening Grosbeaks were extremely numerous in Helena, at Salmon, and in s.e. Ida., around Rexburg. A minutely described Ø Purple Finch visited a Spokane feeder Dec. 22-Apr. 9 (JA). Six Purple and five Cassin's finches were sighted at Klamath Falls May 25 (B & CY) and two were singing in McBride May 16 (GR). At Yakima after the ashfall several dead Am. Goldfinches were picked up and others reported (Y.A.S.). Caldwell, Ida. had four Lesser Goldfinches Apr. 12-15 (LL) and a pair was seen at Nampa May 12-16 (JH). Pine Siskins and particularly Red Crossbills remained scarce in most localities. White-winged Crossbills were

observed at Cody Lakes near Richards Mt., 12 mi e. of Libby, Mont., in late May (CW). A Lark Bunting appeared at Boise Mar. 10 (JCr). Grasshopper Sparrows were reported only in n. Franklin County, Wash., three birds Apr. 29 (RF & RK), and in the Tobacco Valley n. of Eureka (CW). A Black-throated Sparrow, uncommon in s.w. Idaho, was sighted in the desert at Indian Cr. Res. near the Snake R., May 4 (J & NH). Savannah and Chipping sparrows decreased in the Pullman area after the ashfall (JWW). Vernon had a Clay-colored Sparrow May 20 (JG). Two or three Harris' Sparrows frequented a Hermiston, Ore., feeder in March and April and were last seen May 6 (CCo, REW) and one singing immature was with White-crowned Sparrows at Pocatello Apr. 5 (CHT). A White-throated Sparrow was sighted at McBride May 16 (GR) and one was at Malheur May 17 (OS). Three Lapland Longspurs near Kamloops, B.C., Mar. 30 & Apr. 13 (RH) and one with Horned Larks w. of Reardan Mar. 9 (JA) were the only ones reported. Two flocks of Snow Buntings, totaling 150 birds, were sighted near Hill City, Ida. Mar. 23 (J & WH).

OBSERVERS CITED -- James Acton, Pete Arcese, Merle Archie, Sig Bakke, Jon Barnett, Mike Becker, Tom Beebe, George Brady, Robert Braunwart, Kay Burk, Steve R. Cannings, Chris Carey (CC), Jim & Judy Carlson (J & JC), Phil Cheney, Eddie W. Chew, V. Coggins, Mary Collins, Craig & Marion Corder (C & MCo), Sharon Cotterell, Jerry Cross (JCr), Larry Edwards, Mark Egger, Jim Erckman (JEr), Joe Evanich (JE), Bob & Pat Evans, Kathy & Tad Finnell, Ron Friesz, Russell Gebhart, Golden Eagle Audubon Society (G.E.A.S.), James Grant, Warren Hall (WH), Eve T. Hays, James & Naomi Heckathorn (J & NH), Martha Hett, Jerry Hickman (JHi), Wendell Hoag (WHo), Rick Howie, Dick Hoyt (DHo), Eugene Hunn, Don Hunter (DH), Don Johnson, John Johnson, Kelly & Marianne Kaplan, Rick Knight, Al & Hilda Larson, Lucy Lewellen, Dave Low, Vern Mart, Ed McVicker, Larry D. Napier, Jack Nisbet, Gene &

Norma Nixon, Lorraine Noble, Richard D. Palmer, Lloyd Paynter, Dave Plemons, Portland Audubon Society (P.A.S.), G. Rainer, James R. Rees, Hadley B. Roberts, Ron Rohweder, Thomas H. Rogers, Georgia Sanderson, Rusty Scalf, Owen Schmidt, Dick Shelhaas, W.H. Shillington, Paul Sieracki, P.D. Skaar, Shirley G. Stuffs, Steve Summers, Wally Sumner, Dan Taylor, Steve Thompson, Terry Thompson, Charles H. Trost, Ernie Vyse, Washington Dept. of Game (W.D.G.), John W. Weber, Bart Whelton, Mildred V. White, Barbara and Tom Winters, Carl Wolf, Robert E. Woodley, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.), Bob & Carol Yutzy, Steven Zender.

Spring Migration, 1980

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Eugene S. Hunn and Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

The event of the season here was the explosion of Mount St. Helens May 18. Within the immediate blast area all birdlife can be presumed absent. Of much wider effect was the ashfall from that blast. Several inches fell east of Morton, Washington, in the upper Cowlitz River valley, where R. Ryno was censusing birds during the spring. He found several birds with ash caked to their eyes and beaks, and noted a 90% drop in Tree and Violet-green Swallows, even after rain washed most of the ash from the vegetation. Elsewhere there were comments about nests covered with ash and being abandoned. Second broods were quickly restarted, however, and more precise effects of the ash fall are being investigated by numerous teams of scientists. Weather at the Seattle, Portland, and Medford stations was slightly warmer than usual with about normal rainfall until the last half of May. The period May 20-27 was colder than usual and accounted for 76% of the month's rainfall. First broods of several intensively-studied species were just fledging and losses were high. Many species of flycatchers, swallows, vireos, and warblers were noted on very early or earliest-ever

spring arrival dates. This is at least coincident with the uniformly warmer March and April. There were more reports than usual of American Golden Plover, Pectoral Sandpiper, and Baird's Sandpiper. Each of these species winters in southern South America and normally migrates east of this Region.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS -- Five Yellow-billed Loons were reported: at Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 23-24 (BK, DMA, *fide* WW), at Dungeness, Wash., Mar. 1 (†WS, D & SSm), at Clinton, Wash., Mar. 22 (EM), at Burien, Wash., Apr. 5 (DL), and in Netarts Bay, Oreg., Mar. 1-May 5 (†CF, OSc-ph, m.ob.). Common and Arctic Loons were conspicuous in migration May 4 at S.J.C.R. with an estimated 150 Commons and 2500 Arctics per hour moving N (JGi, DI, *fide* HN). No clear movements were noted in weekly censuses at Ocean Shores, Wash., however (DP *et al.*). At the usual Active Pass, VA., concentration point, MS counted 700 Arctics May 6 (*fide* VG). All closely observed W. Grebes this spring in w. Washington were dark phase birds. TW encountered good numbers of the common tubenose species off Westport, Wash., May 11, with 82 Black-looted Albatross, 83 Pink-looted Shearwaters, 13,300 Sooty Shearwaters, and 87 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels counted. The only N. Fulmar was one found dead on the beach at Newport, Oreg. Mar. 19 (BL, *fide* HN). Three Short-tailed Shearwaters were found washed ashore

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at Sunset Beach, Oreg., May 31 (HN). The imm. **Brown Pelican** Apr. 19 at Ocean Shores furnished the first spring record for Washington (DP, BR *et al.*). A colony of cormorants near Chemainus, VA., hosted 59 Double-crested and 191 Pelagic Cormorants on nests (JC). Several Great Blue Heron colonies were surveyed this spring. Fort Langley, e. of Vancouver, B.C., had 30 nests (DK, G & WA, *fide* WW), and Pitt Meadows 11 birds (APo, *fide* WW). On Quadra I., near Campbell R., V.I., eight nests were occupied

(JC). Ssa *et al.* reported 237 nests on Fisher I., near Longview, Wash., and 190 on Karlson I., 12 mi e. of Astoria, Oregon. A colony of 15+ nests on Ross I., in downtown Portland, is reported threatened by dredging. Thirty-one young were counted there May 29 (DFi, DI, HN). A distinct spring influx of Green Herons in mid-April is apparent in this season's reports. Singles and pairs were reported on 17 occasions after late April, as far n. as Campbell R. (HT). A pair nested near Duncan, V.I., in early May (JC). All ten Great Egrets reported were in Oregon, on scattered dates throughout the period. This is but a small fraction of last spring's totals. Coos Bay's last Snowy Egret departed Apr. 6 (AMc). A lone Black-crowned Night Heron at Corvallis Apr. 25 provided our only report (FR, *fide* HN).

WATERFOWL -- Most of the 300+ Trumpeter Swans at Barney L., Skagit Co., Wash., departed soon after Mar. 1 (KB *et al.*) with about 85 remaining until Mar. 9 (ES). None was reported for the Region past Mar. 23, when 1a and 2i were noted at Pitt Lake Marsh e. of Vancouver B.C. (WW). The highest count of Brant received this year was only 750. This was on Apr. 1 at Dungeness (KG), and can be compared to last spring's peak there of 3000+. The Emperor Goose at Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash., was last seen Apr. 7 (LP, MC, *fide* HN). Two were noted about 18 min. of Kelso, Wash., Apr. 13, one with a plastic sixpack holder about the throat (JMi-ph.). A record 40,000 Wrangel I. Snow Geese wintered this year between the Fraser R. delta of British Columbia and the Skagit R. delta of Washington (*fide* Wash. Dept. of Game). An ad. **Ross's Goose** established a first Ocean Shores record May 4-10 (†B & GR, KB, †BH, †DP, †CB). All three records of Ross' Geese in w. Washington have been of spring migrants. The "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal that wintered in Seattle was joined by a second, Mar. 21 only (EH), and was last seen Apr. 25 (ER). The Saanich bird lingered to at least May 2 (RS, *fide* VG). Blue-winged Teal were unusually well represented throughout the Region.

A pair at Ocean Shores Apr. 5 (EH) was about three weeks ahead of the main incursion. Numbers peaked at 36 at Seattle May 31 (EH), 37 at three sites in Saanich May 29 (*fide* VG), and 16 at Cowichan Bay, V.I. (JC) by May 30. Nearly 80% of the birds at Cowichan Bay and Seattle were males. Redheads remained scarce. Only seven individuals at four locations were brought to our attention. The affinity of Lesser Scaup for sewage treatment ponds is again evident in this season's reports, with the majority of sightings from such facilities. **Tufted Duck** fever broke out again. A male Mar. 2-9 at Vancouver, B.C. (BK, DK, m. ob., *fide* WW) was followed by a female there Mar. 23 (BK, *fide* WW). A dark gray-backed male with a short tuft appeared again this year at Everett Mar. 16-25 (B & PE, EM, †PM-ph.). The male at Hoquiam, Wash., Apr. 26-27 was in perfect plumage (†DP *et al.*). All were with scaup on sewage ponds. A young male **King Eider** was at the Westport jetty May 11 (†CB, MGu *et al.*) for Washington's eighth record and latest spring date by more than a month.

KITES THROUGH TURKEYS -- Oregon observers have noted that wintering White-tailed Kites frequently cannot be located during the subsequent nesting season (IL, DFi). Of the fifty reported from Oregon this winter, for instance, only six could be found after Mar. 1. Singles at Sauvies' I. Mar. 1 & 18 (m.ob., *fide* HN) and on the lower Columbia R., w. of Cathlamet Apr. 29-May 13 were the northernmost noted (U.S.F.W.S., *fide* HN & Ssa). Accipiter reports were up again from the previous spring, probably owing to increased reporting: six Goshawks, about 50 Sharp-shinneds, and 65 Cooper's Hawks. The V.N.H.S. March raptor survey of the Fraser R. delta region recorded 89 Red-tailed Hawks, 28 Rough-legged Hawks, 52 Bald Eagles, and 95 Marsh Hawks (*fide* JGr). Red-tailed Hawk abundance in the Seattle area dropped off sharply after early April as wintering birds departed (EH). Only two Rough-legged Hawks were reported after early March, the latest May 10 at Duncan,

VA., where they are rare (JC). Golden Eagles were at breeding locales on s. VA., San Juan I. Wash., and near Medford, Oreg. as usual. Marsh Hawks were considered common during March in the Seattle area (EH), on Sauvies' I. (KKr, *fide* HN), and on Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (JCa *et al.*). A pair at the Ocean Shores breeding site was courting Apr. 19-27 (DP, JCa), and five males and two females were seen in the vicinity Apr. 20 (DP). VG reported 6-7 active Osprey nests in the Victoria-Saanich area (m.ob.). DFi reported 6-8 nesting pairs in the Columbia R. gorge between Beacon Rock and White Salmon (m.ob.) and two at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene (TL). One gray Gyrfalcon was repeatedly observed through Mar. 27 in C. Saanich (RS, AMa, *fide* VG). The 21 Peregrine sightings matched last spring's record total, while the 35 Merlins reported was nearly double previous highs. Peregrines roosted on bank buildings in Tacoma, Wash. (BGo), and Vancouver, B.C. (DJe, MP, *fide* WW). All but four Merlins sighted were near the shores of the "inland sea", i.e., Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca. Bobwhite populations persist s.c. of McKenna, Wash. (MiM), and on Sauvies' I. (JGi, TMo, *fide* HN). Mountain Quail were noted n. of the Columbia R., where they are scarce, near Tahuya on s. Hood Canal (NS, *fide* TB), near Nisqually (G & WHo), and 6 mi w. of Mt. St. Helens, where one was heard the day before the great eruption (DA). Wild Turkeys were readily located Apr. 19 at English Camp on San Juan I., Wash. (ME).

SHOREBIRDS -- A Snowy Plover nest located at Ocean Shores held three eggs May 9 (WS) and had fledged two young by May 17 (BW, *fide* GHo). Six were seen May 24 at Leadbetter Pt. (MC, LP). These two locations mark the n. limits of this Blue-listed species' breeding range on the Pacific Coast. An early Am. Golden Plover at Coos Bay, Oreg. Mar. 18 (SG, *fide* HN) was near where the individual was sighted this winter. Two to four Am. Golden Plovers were at Ocean Shores Apr. 26-May 10 (DP, B & GR, BHT). One was at

Tillamook Bay, Oreg. May 11 (JGi, DI), and another was noted at Sooke, s. V.I., May 19 (RS, *fide* VG), a slightly above average showing for spring. Some 30 Com. Snipe winnowing throughout the spring near Randle, Wash., indicated a sizable breeding population in the Cowlitz R. valley (RR). The wintering Long-billed Curlew at Newport remained throughout the spring (m.ob.). Three singles were also noted in migration, all after Apr. 19. Nine Solitary Sandpipers Apr. 27-May 17 were about normal. A Willet at Vancouver, Wash., May 10 (DJo) furnished a most unusual inland record. Another May 13 & 19 near Victoria (†VG, K & DSu) provided the first record on s. V.I. since 1964. Red Knots were scarce in this year's reports, with a high count of 45 May 2 at Newport (LP, *fide* HN). The Ocean Shores peak count was only 12 on May 10 (DP).

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Hundreds have been the norm there in past years. The four summer-plumaged Semipalmated Sandpipers reported were all well described. The first was at S.J.C.R. Apr. 27 (†JGi, OS, ML), then came one at Finley N W.R., in the Willamette Valley May 5 (†CC), another at S.J.C.R. May 15 (†HN), and (†DP's) first Ocean Shores record June 1. These spring records are both more southerly and favor the outer coast, nearly opposite to this species' fall migration pattern. Comparable to last spring's late April concentration at Bowerman Basin, Grays Harbor, Wash., was the 100,000 W. Sandpipers recorded there Apr. 26-27 (DP *et al.*). Also present that weekend was 4000-5000 Dunlin and 10,000 Short-billed Dowitchers. Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers are rare here in spring. This year's ten sightings of Baird's and three of Pectoral were above normal. One Baird's Apr. 5 at Bowerman Basin was the earliest w. Washington record by 12 days (DP, JE *et al.*). The three May 24 at Leadbetter Pt. were the latest by 12 days (MC, LP). A breeding plumaged **Bar-tailed Godwit** was on Dungeness spit May 24 (†KKn). Two other Bar-tailed Godwit reports

were unsubstantiated. A **Ruff** at Comox, V.I., May 23 ("present for two weeks") represented a first Regional spring record (m.ob. *fide* HT). An Am. Avocet in Seattle May 28 was a local first (TS *et al.*, PM-ph). Two and three Black-necked Stilts Apr. 26 & 28 at Finley N.W.R. were even more unusual (DC, R & JK, *fide* EE). A heavy and late migration of Red Phalaropes was estimated to be 300 birds/hr. at S.J.C.R. on May 31 (HN), and brought 372 ashore at Ocean Shores June 1 (DP).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS -- The spring's usual handful of jaegers was noted this May, including reports of four Pomarines and ten Parasitics. A light phase ad. Pomarine Jaeger was at Victoria May 31 (†RS, *fide* VG), for a rare "inland sea" record. Four Glaucous Gulls were reported, with singles May 11 at Nehalem Meadows (DI) and May 17 at Newport (TC, HN), the latest. An ad. gull at Newport May 4 (DFa, *fide* HN) was either a Laughing Gull or an aberrant Franklin's. It is an unusual time and place for either. A sub-ad. Franklin's Gull turned up at Clover Pt., VA., May 26-27 (RS, M & VG). Seven Sabine's Gulls were off Westport May 11 (TW *et al.*). Four Forster's Terns passed through Portland May 20 (DFi, DI). Caspian Terns arrived Apr. 3-6 all along the Oregon and Washington outer coast, with two rounding Cape Flattery to Dungeness Bay May 28-29 (D & SSm). After heavy fall and winter numbers, just three Ancient Murrelets were noted. One was at Newport and the latest was off Victoria Mar. 27 (RS, *fide* VG). A wreck of puffins occurred on the n. Oregon beaches. Eleven dead Horned Puffins and 17 dead Tufted Puffins were found Mar. 15-Apr. 4 (HN, BL).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS -- Band-tailed Pigeon reports from V.I. indicated a marked drop in numbers there (*fide* VG). Elsewhere, particularly Puget Sound and the Medford area, the species was in normal numbers. Screech Owls were considered more abundant than usual this spring in the Duncan, V.I., area (JC) with several young birds found there during May. Single Barred Owls were located in Saanich

Mar. 17-May 23 (T & MS, *fide* VG) and at the Wind River Ranger Station, Wash., Apr. 12 (DFi). At least two were near Carnation, Wash., Mar. 10-23 (AL, B & PE). Three Short-eared Owls were observed in courtship flights over the Ocean Shores Game Range Apr. 19 (DP). Single Com. Nighthawks in Oakridge, Oreg, May 4 (TF, SG) and Eugene May 18 (TL) were both early. Elsewhere the species arrived on schedule. The first Black Swifts were also early, with singles May 12 in Toledo, Oreg., and Eugene (RSm, SG), and a group of eight in Seattle May 15 (JW). The Armory chimney at Ashland, Ore., has become noted as an important migratory way-station for Vaux's Swifts, both in spring and fall (OSw). This season the peak count was of 560 swifts entering at dusk May 14 (MUM, OSw). After May 19 only three remained through the month. Elsewhere Vaux's Swifts at Corvallis Apr. 13 (AS) and at the Wind River Ranger Station Apr. 16 (DFi) were on early dates. The Costa's Hummingbird in Florence stayed through March (DIS, *fide* CW). An imm. Anna's Hummingbird was seen Apr. 4 with the resident pair near Langford, s. VA. (BH, *fide* VG), and a female Anna's was feeding a fledgling in Edmonds, Wash., Apr. 7 (SD, *fide* WH). The Rufous Hummingbird which wintered in Saanich stayed in the same area through May (JSo, *fide* VG). A male Calliope Hummingbird was seen closely at Scenic Beach S.P. May 18 (†E & NH) for one of very few records for w. Washington. Five "Red-breasted" Yellowbellied Sapsuckers drumming at once on a garbage can lid in Flaming Geyser S.P., Wash., March 21 (TB) must have been quite a show. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker May 17, 6 mi w. of Mt. St. Helens produced one of few west side records (DA).

FLYCATCHERS **THROUGH GNATCATCHERS** -- Western Kingbirds arrived Apr. 14 & 16, somewhat earlier than usual, in Roseburg and Corvallis (FPa, EE). Farther n., there were singles on Protection I., May 5 (FK, AMn), in Saanich May 13 & 25 (E & AD, GH), near McKenna, Wash., May 15 (MiM), in Seattle

May 16 (DH), and two were at Ocean Shores May 23 (EP). Another kingbird, of unknown species, was seen in Saanich May 6 (†RS, *fide* VG). A **Black Phoebe** visited Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C., April 26 (WW, *fide* WW) for one of very few records for the Province. Six Say's Phoebes were found in w. Washington, scattered through the season. Single Hammond's Flycatchers in Saanich Apr. 20 (MS) and near Arlington, Wash., Apr. 23 (DP) were early. Also early was a W. Flycatcher in Seattle Apr. 3 (JW) and a Willow Flycatcher in N. Saanich, V.I., May 4 (B & MM). An extremely early Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen and heard in a steep wooded canyon in Seattle Mar. 1 (EP). One was in this same area in March 1976 also. A Bank Swallow and a Barn Swallow were seen May 11 several mi at sea off Westport (TW *et al.*). Adding to the season's run of very early arrivals were four Cliff Swallows at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Mar. 15 (DFi, TL), one at Seattle Mar. 30 (J & MW), a Rough-winged Swallow Mar 20 at Dungeness, Wash. (WS), a Barn Swallow Mar 21 at Victoria (RS, *fide* VG), two male and a female Purple Martin at Fern Ridge Res. Apr. 5 (TL), and a pair of Purple Martins at the L. Sammamish, Wash., colony Apr. 20 (DFe, FE) A Blue Jay was seen Mar. 9-16 at New Westminster near Vancouver, B.C. (DPi, *fide* WW), where one had been seen last fall Single Black-billed Magpies were found Mar 26-Apr. 7, at Vancouver, B.C., at Seattle, and just s. of Campbell R., V.I. Both Chestnut-backed Chickadees and Bushtits had what was described as the most successful nesting season in recent years in the Duncan, V.I., area (JC). Many more Bushtits than last year were also noted on a study plot near McKenna, Wash. (MiM). An example of nest-helpers was noted, as *three* ad. Dippers were observed feeding nestlings at a nest near the Wind River Ranger Station during April (DFi). On Apr. 20 a male Rock Wren was located on Wind Mt., 3 mi e. of Carson, Wash., along the Columbia R. (DFi, CDA) The Mockingbird found this winter at Port Orford, Oreg., stayed through the season, and two were present Apr. 20 (JR, DR) Another was seen May 8

at Sequim, Wash (DD, *fide* DS). A Sage Thrasher was found Apr. 26 on Badger Mt., w. of Eugene (TMI, *fide* HN). A Veery was seen May 27 s e of McKenna, Wash. (†MiM), and another heard near Carnation, Wash., June 1 (†EH). There are very few w. Washington records. This spring more W. Bluebirds were reported from more localities than has been the case in recent years. Evidence of nesting was obtained at Eugene, Oreg., near McKenna and Tenino, Wash., and in Saanich, V.I. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nested as usual near Medford (OSw) Two on the North spit at Coos Bay Apr 26 (BGr, AMc) were vagrants.

WAGTAILS THROUGH ORIOLES -- A wagtail of as yet undetermined species was seen May 19 at Whiffen spit, Sooke, V.I. (†J & RS, *fide* VG). Many more reports of Hutton's Vireos than usual were received this year from throughout the Region. The species was described as unusually abundant on s. V.I. (VG). Single Solitary Vireos in Langford, V.I. (GB), and Metchosin, VA. (MG), both Mar. 30, were unusually early. The Warbling Vireo arrival was both early and uniformly widespread. First reports were Apr. 24 in Corvallis (E & EE), Apr. 26 in Highland Land District, V.I. (DaS, RC), and Apr. 27 at Sultan, Wash. (ME). A Black-and-white Warbler found at Coos Bay Apr. 26 (BGr, *fide* AMc) furnished the fifth recent record from that area. The earliest report of a Nashville Warbler this season was Apr. 13 in Metchosin, V.I. (†M & VG). Migratory movements of Yellow-rumped Warblers were widely noted throughout April and into early May. Black-throated Gray Warbler arrival dates were early: Apr 2 in Corvallis (CC), Apr. 12 in Seattle (MiM), and Apr. 16 in Metchosin (MS). Migrant Palm Warblers, rare in spring, were noted in Corvallis Apr. 27 (CC) and at Ocean Shores S.P., Wash., Apr. 28 (HF). Two Wilson's Warblers Apr. 13 near Morton, Wash., were very early (RR). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from 15 localities throughout the Region and

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the season. Indications of nesting were obtained only from a traditional site in the Medford area (OSw). A N. Oriole in Roseburg, Oreg Mar. 9-20 (F & APa, *fide* HN) could have been a wintering bird. The two Apr. 16 at Campbell R. (HT) and one May 4 near Carnation, Wash. (EH), were early for those locations. The male Scott's Oriole at the feeder in Chehalis, Wash., this winter stayed to Apr. 13 (C & ND). The bird had begun singing regularly before it disappeared. The Hooded Oriole at the Coos Bay, Ore., feeder stayed to about Mar. 14 (JMc, *fide* AMc).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS -- Lazuli Buntings at Corvallis May 1 (KM, *fide* E & EE) and near McKenna, Wash., May 5 (MiM) appeared on early dates. Only a few large flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were reported during March and April. The species became noisily abundant, although less so than usual, throughout the Region in early May and most stayed through the month. Flocks of 200+ Pine Siskins were found during March in Campbell R. and in Seattle. Elsewhere smaller numbers appeared during April and May. About 20 Red Crossbills were in Saanich May 23-28 (RS, MS, *fide* VG). Elsewhere very few were reported. The Clay-colored Sparrow found this winter at Nehalem meadows, near Mohler, Oreg. stayed through Mar. 9 (OH, *fide* JGi). A bird believed to have been a hybrid Clay-colored X Chipping Sparrow wintered in Eugene through Mar. 24 (†DFi, TL). Returning White-crowned Sparrows of the race *pugetensis* reached Seattle Apr. 3 (JW) and C. Saanich, V.I. Apr. 9 (M & VG). A migrant Golden-crowned Sparrow still at Woodinville, Wash., May 28 was late (ME). Single White-throated Sparrows were found in Alsea and Eugene, Oreg. both Mar. 8 (DMa, SG) and on Sauvies' I. Apr. 26 (TC). The McKay's Bunting at the S.J.C.R. stayed through Mar. 9 (JO, *fide* HN).

CORRIGENDA -- Please delete the records of King Eider from the S.J.C.R. May 8, 1977 (*Am. Birds* 31:1038, 1977), as the observer has withdrawn the report, and of Bar-tailed Godwit at Bandon, Oreg. Sept. 17, 1979 (*Am. Birds* 34:192,

1980), as that bird was actually the one seen at Newport.

CITED OBSERVERS and ABBREVIATIONS, -
- David Anderson, Gerry & Wendy Ansell, Chuck Bergman, Thais Bock, Gwen Briggs, Ken Brown, Rob Cannings, Mike Carmody, Doug Carroll, Joan Carson (JCa), Chris Chappell, John Comer (JC), Tom Crabtree, Cliff Dalton (CDa), Eleanore & Albert Davidson, Daisy Dinsmore, Mrs. Stewart Douglas (SD), Cliff & Neva Dunn (C & ND), Garrett Eddy, Fran Edwards, Mark Egger, Elsie & Elzy Eltzroth, Jim Erckmann, Bob & Pat Evans, Craig Faanes, Darrell Faxon (DFa), Dave Fehling (DFe), Tad Finnell, **David Fix** (DFi), Hal Fray, Jeff Gilligan (JGi), Margaret & **Vic Goodwill** (M & VG), Bill Goodwin (BGo), Steve Gordon, Jude Grass (JGr), Barbara Griffin (BGr), Karl Gruebel, Mary Gustafson (MGu), Omar Halverson, **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), Bob Hay (BHa), Wendell Hoag (WH), Glen & Wanda Hoge (G & WHo), G. Houston (GH), Nancy Hunn, David Hutchinson, David Irons, Dale Jensen (DJe), Don Jole (DJo), Brian Kautesk, Ken Knittie (KKn), Doug Kragh, Fayette Krause, Kurt Kremers (KKR), Manuel Lerdan, Bob Loeffel, Aaron Loretsky, Dave Lucas, Tom Lund, Don MacDonald (DMa), Alan MacLeod (AMa), Ann Mahnke (AMn), Dave Mark (DMa), Joy McDowell (JMc), Alan McGie (AMc), Kathryn McNeeley, Barbara & Michael Meikeljohn, Tom Mickel (TMi), Ed Miller, Jim Miller (JMi), Marjorie Moore (MaM), Mike Moore (MiM), Terry Morgan (TMO), **Harry Nehls**, Jim Olson, Fred & Alice Parker (F & APa), Leonard Paul, **Dennis Paulson** (DP), Evelyn Peaslee, Donna Pike (Dpi), Allen Poynter (APo), Mike Price, Bob & Georgia Ramsay (B & GR), Fred Ramsay, Ellen Ratoosh, Bill Reichert (BRe), Dennis Rogers, Jim Rogers, Ronnie Ryno, Joy & Ron Sattelfield (J & RS), Susan Saul (SSa), Owen Schmidt (OSc), Tom Schooley, Norma Schweikhaid, Teresa & Michael Shepard (T & MS), Aaron Skirvin, Eugene Smirnov, Dory & Stan Smith (D & SSm), Richard Smith (RSm), Mrs. J. Somerville (JSo), Diane

Steward (DIS), Dave Stirling (DaS), Wally Sumner, Kaye & Dennis Suttill (K & DSu), Otis Swisher (OSw), Howard Telosky, **Terry Wahl**, Clarice Watson, **Wayne Weber**, Bart Whelton, John & Marilyn Wingfield, (†) = written description on file, S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg., V.I. = Vancouver I., B.C., V.N.H.S. - Vancouver Natural History Society.

The Nesting Season, 1980

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN – INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

June in most of the Region continued the pattern of cool, wet weather that followed the Mt. St. Helens explosion. July finally brought summerlike weather with the last half hot and almost rainless. The Bozeman, Montana area reported a dry summer but not a drought like the one east Montana had. The season appeared very good for birds, weather wise, with abundant moisture and excellent vegetative growth, but lingering volcanic ash took its toll in the swath northeast of the mountain. Surveys were conducted on the east range of the Cascade Mountains in Washington Apple Lake near White Pass, a moderate ashfall area, showed a 40.9% reduction in bird species diversity and a 43.7% reduction in Individual birds, and Conrad Lake, the heavy ash fall area, showed a 63.4% reduction in species and 62.5% reduction in individuals, compared to a non-ashfall area at Crow Creek in Cougar Valley Basin (LS, W.D.G.). A July 3 trip into Lincoln and Grant counties, Washington, found no Black-necked Stilts at the pond near George, no Common Nighthawks, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Northern Orioles, Savannah, Vesper or Sage sparrows. However, herons, gulls, terns, Horned Larks and Barn Swallows appeared

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to be doing all right. A May 18 trip into those counties indicated that Poor-wills were caught in the middle of the heaviest ash fall, for two were flushed from sagebrush in two spots west of Odessa, indicating a migrational movement. No Poor-wills were found in the Spokane area subsequently (JA). Duck counts in Lincoln County were down 50% but were normal in relatively ash-free Pend Oreille County (SZ). Observations at Browne (Tower) Mountain at Spokane, Washington where less than 1/4 inch of ash fell, indicated no significant effect on birds there, nor did the B.B.S. at Avery, Idaho, where the ash deposit apparently was a bit deeper (THR). Early results of surveys about 35 miles northeast of Mt. St. Helens showed Townsend's Warblers decreasing by over 80%; McGillivray's by 66%, and Wilson's by about 50%. Significant declines in chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets were also noted. A major crash in insect populations was the suspected cause (BH-T, U.S.F.S., *vide* N.A.S.).

LOONS AND GREBES -- Common Loons were doing well in Lincoln County, Mont., where many females swam about with young on their backs. A pair was on Maligne L., Jasper N.P., Alta., July 20 (GR) and a pair was still on Coeur d' Alene L., in n. Ida. June 18 (SGS). Spectacle L., 10 mi s.e. of Oroville, Wash., had 2 broods of Red-necked Grebes June 20 (CWe, DP) and in the same area one or two birds were on Chopaka and Sidley L. (GB, JD). Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., had a single bird June 20-July 4 (ST, Ref. Pers.). A pair was on Helena Valley Res., July 20 (SM). A pair of Eared Grebes nested for the third year in fishless Dry L., near Fortine, Mont. (WW). Coeur d' Alene L. had 20-30 W. Grebes in mid-July for the second summer record there (SGS) and a pair was on Flathead L., in w. Montana July 10 (LF). The birds were flooded out at one colony at Blackfoot Res., near Blackfoot, Ida., but managed to produce a few young. Hundreds brought off broods on nearby Am. Falls Res. (CHT). At Malheur N.W.R., about 1100 pairs were using

Malheur L. alone. About 12 birds and an active nest were found at Moses L., Wash., a new breeding locality (RF).

CORMORANTS AND HERONS -- Double-crested Cormorants were increasing, with over 100 nests, on Am. Falls Res., and the species seemed to be doing well at L. Walcott and Mud L. in s. Ida. All nests at Blackfoot Res. were again destroyed by human interference. The N. Potholes colony near Moses L., Wash., had 38 of the birds including young in 9 nests (RF). Nesting pairs at Malheur increased to 180, up from 80 last year (ST, Ref. Pets.). A single Double-crested Cormorant was at the mouth of the Coeur d' Alene R., near Harrison, Mont., July 14 (DJ). The 200 pairs of Great Blue Herons at the Potholes had good nesting success and Black-crowned Night Herons there numbered about 1000 pairs (RF). The latter species was in trouble at all s.c. Idaho colonies except the one at Am. Falls Res. There was good evidence of DDE in eggs, and thin shells. Band returns from Mexico suggested pesticides used there were adding to the effect of those applied locally. At one place someone had built a fire under the colony, causing the young in 10 nests to perish because of absent parents (CHT). At Malheur, nesting pairs dropped to 320 from 1979's 730. A Cattle Egret appeared at Massacre Rocks S.P., s.w. of Am. Falls, Ida. June 18 (WEH). A pair was at the Am. Falls colony and a pair at L. Walcott may have nested (CHT). Great Egrets at Malheur numbered 200 pairs, about half that of 1978 and 1979. The Potholes had 5 Great Egret nests, all apparently successful (RF). Two Great Egrets summered in the Pocatello, Ida. area (CHT). Snowy Egrets were on the decline in s.c. Idaho. Some fledged at Am. Falls, the first in 3 years. None was seen at island Park or Market L, where they formerly nested. Thin eggshells were not unusual (CHT). Nesting pairs at Malheur were up to 1978 numbers. One Snowy visited the Wallowa Fish Hatchery near Enterprise, June 4, for the first record for n.e. Oregon (MH). An Am. Bittern at that hatchery was the first seen there in

5 years (FC). White-faced ibis at Malheur looked fine with 600 pairs, highest ever, and numbers in s.c. Idaho were up everywhere. An apparently new colony at Am. Falls had over 100 birds (CHT). One bird at Ennis L., Mont., July 15 was the first ever in summer there (PDS).

WATERFOWL -- Trumpeter Swan numbers at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., continued to decline. They once reached an all-time high of 41 there as they reproduced under semi-captive conditions in 1976 an aerator was removed, resulting in freezeovers which forced the birds to migrate S. Returning the flock to wild and natural conditions has resulted in the decline. Probable factors in the decline are the mingling of the migrants with flocks from other areas and casualties from shooting, power lines, autos and even ingesting paper clips (DNW)! Since the species population in N. America is estimated at 4000, it is no longer considered in peril and there are no plans to return to an artificial propagation program at Turnbull (DNW). Although summering waterfowl numbers at Turnbull were about normal, nesting success was impaired by the ashfall. Goose broods, however, appeared little affected. Two areas searched for duck nests there in 1979 and 1980 had totals of 14 and 6 nests respectively even though the search effort was greater this year. Brood surveys by airboat June 21, 1979 revealed 28 duck and 2 goose broods; replicated surveys June 18, 1980 found only 4 duck and 1 goose broods. Canada Goose production on the Snake R., between Marsing and Farewell Bend in s. Ida., totaled 1542, a 26% increase over 1979 and 39% above the last 5 years' average. At Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., waterfowl numbers were low, but this was believed to be due at least partly to destruction of water control structures by excess water release in February, although the area also received much ash. At Malheur N.W.R. over 26,000 pairs of ducks nested for a good year: Redhead at 6900 pairs, Cinnamon Teal 5500 pairs, Mallards 4100 pairs, and Gadwall 3300 pairs were the most

common species By July 1 the fall migration was well under way, with 34,000 Pintail and 85,000 ducks in total using the Basin. The duck population in the Fortine, Mont., area was drastically below normal for no apparent reason (WW). Harlequin Ducks brought off broods at Kootenai Falls and on the upper Yank R., in Lincoln Co., Mont., (CW) and a brood was on the Middle Fork of the Flathead R., in n.w. Montana, in late July (DS). The Methow R., Okanogan Co., Wash., provided 2 sightings (GB, SB).

VULTURES AND HAWKS -- A surprising concentration of Turkey Vultures was near Murphy, Ida. where the birds fed on dead cattle (FB). An ad. **White-tailed Kite** was sighted between Mountain Home and Boise, Ida. July 31 (JGH). Goshawk numbers appeared good. Swainson's Hawk numbers were up at Malheur with 2-3 times as many nests found as last year. At least 27 sightings occurred in other areas. An excellent concentration of nesting Ferruginous Hawks was n. of Enterprise, Ore., with at least 35-40 reported. A nest with two young was found near Starbuck, Wash., June 27 (EH). Richland, Wash., Malheur N.W.R., and Pilot Rock, Ore., had sightings. An imm. Bald Eagle was sighted in Eagle Cap Wilderness in n.e. Oregon July 28 and one was at Rimrock L., Yakima Co., Wash., in July. Kootenai N.F., Lincoln Co., Mont., had over 120 Osprey nest sites and produced numerous Merlin sightings (CW).

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GALLINACEOUS BIRDS -- A female Spruce Grouse with four chicks was sighted July 5-6 at Billy Goat Pass about 15 mi. n. of Mazama, Wash., (MD, MEi) and another with two chicks was near Calispell Bog near Calispell Peak, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (EH, AR). The species was reported doing well in Kootenai N.F. (CW). Broods of Blue and Ruffed Grouse were practically nil near Troy, Mont. (KB). Re-nesting by upland game birds in the ashfall areas of e. Washington appeared excellent. Pheasant survival

may actually have been helped by the disruption, for later broods had much more favorable weather (RB, W.D.G.). Turkeys released in Lincoln County, Mont., appeared to be thriving (CW).

CRANES AND SHOREBIRDS -- About 3 pairs of Sandhill Cranes raised two young at Ladd Marsh, near La Grande, Ore., (RR) and a pair near Salmon, Ida., had one young (HR). Two were near Seneca, Ore., July 15 (RDP) and 2-3 were in the Helena area during the summer (SM). Single Semipalmated Plovers appeared in the Nampa area June 16 (BS); at Enterprise, Ore., July 22 (RDP), and at Prineville, Ore., July 14 (KV). Snowy Plovers were doing well at Malheur N.W.R., and one was sighted at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Ore., July 8 (KV). Up to four Upland Sandpipers were sighted in the Spokane Valley at the only breeding site in Washington, during June (JA). Three of the birds were found at the other Northwest site in Bear Valley, near Seneca, Ore., June 7 (MA *et al.*), and one was observed in Logan Valley to the e., July 16 (*vide* RDP). The species was seen on the N. Fork of the Blackfoot R., s. of Seeley L., apparently the only breeding area w of the Continental Divide in Montana (AB, *vide* PW). A wandering individual perched on a fence post about 12 mi w. of Ellensburg, Wash., July 30 (REW). The Reed Pt., Mont., B.B.S. had a record high of 12 Upland Sandpipers (WEH). Strawberry L., in the mountains s. of Prairie City, Ore., had a Solitary Sandpiper Aug. 8, for apparently the first record in the area (BM, BSh). Twelve Marbled Godwits were in the Nampa area July 30 (VC) and one dropped in at Malheur June 26. Wallowa County's first record of the species was of 14 at Joseph, Ore. July 13 (FC). American Falls Res. had 17 on June 18 (WEH). Two Black-necked Stilts appeared at Frenchman Hills and Winchester Wasteways in s. Grant Co., Wash., in July (GC, TT).

GULLS AND TERNS -- Five Herring Gulls were recorded at Warm L., Ida. (BS) and the species appeared in Lincoln County, Mont., along with occasional California, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's

gulls (CW). Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had two Bonaparte's July 3 (JA) and a Franklin's appeared at Joseph, Ore., June 1, for the first county record (FC). Caspian Terns may be making a slow comeback at Blackfoot and Am. Falls Res. in s. Idaho, but there is still cause for concern (CHT). In the Nampa area up to 14 were sighted (VC). A Forster's Tern at the mouth of Ladd Cr., near Union, Ore., was the county's first (JE, AC).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS -- Oregon had two sightings of single Band-tailed Pigeons. One near Joseph June 23 (FC) was the second ever for n.e. Oregon, and one was found along the Middle Fork of John Day R., Malheur N.F., June 19 (MA). The species had been seen previously at Indian Rock Lookout, n.w. of Bates (RH, *fide* MA). Another one appeared along the Grande Ronde R., in Asotin County, Wash., about 10 mi e. of Troy, Ore., (EH) and one was sighted at Liberty L., Wash., June 2 (G & SV). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was found dead in Hines, Ore., June 18. When the finder returned for the bird, it was gone, but fortunately he had made a very recognizable sketch of it (RM). An ad. Yellow-billed Cuckoo hit a window at Missoula in July (PW--*to U. of Mont.) for the third state record. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** showed up at Warm R., Ida. June 18 (WEH). Two Flammulated Owls were heard and seen near Diamond L., w. of Newport, Wash., June 29 (EH). In Oregon one was heard 7 mi w. of Bend June 30 (KV) and one was calling from a cavity in a snag, w. of Starr C.G., 9 mi. n. of Seneca June 8 (MA). Two nests of this species were discovered in Starkey Experimental Forest near Starkey, Ore. (EB) and one bird was seen on Spring Cr., about 20 mi n.w. of La Grande July 31 (RR). Burrowing Owls were thought to have done fairly well in the Richland, Wash., area (REW) and up to 20 were sighted in s.w. Idaho (G.E.A.S.). The species was still holding out in the Tobacco Valley at Eureka, Mont. (CW). A single Great Gray Owl was found at Warm L., Knox, Ida. July 20 (BS). Two Saw-

whet Owl nests in Starkey Experimental Forest supplied the only report for the summer (EB).

POORWILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS -
- A Poorwill heard repeatedly just n. of Ennis L., June 21, gave the first suggestion of breeding in the Bozeman latilong (PDS, WEH, SC). A gathering of 75 Com. Nighthawks was at Quincy, Wash., in July (SR) and nearby Winchester had 100 (DG). The only Black Swifts reported were 12 at Bridgeport, Wash., June 5 (MM, GBu). Before the May 18 ashfall, White-throated Swifts were nesting under Interstate 82 bridges in Kittitas and Yakima counties, Wash., but they were subsequently seen only at Selah Cr. Bridge. Site abandonment may have been the result of the 1 in of ash (EH). Unusual Black-chinned Hummingbird records were of a male about 10 mi w. of Okanogan, Wash., June 5 (MM, BGu) and at least one pair on the s.w. flank of Steens Mt., s. of Malheur N.W.R., June 3 (ME). The latter spot also had one or more pairs of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds on the same date (ME). Wapato, Wash., had one July 18 (Y.A.S.). An imm. Anna's Hummingbird visited a Spokane feeder July 19 (JA). All hummer numbers were extremely low in the Spokane area (JA, THR). A similar situation existed in the Swan Valley near Condon, Mont., where hummingbird use of feeders was only 1/3--1/4 of previous years' (ELF). Fewer Rufous and Calliope hummingbirds were noted near Troy, Mont. (KB). Possibly an abundance of wildflowers kept them from feeders.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS --
The Red-headed Woodpecker may be establishing itself in Idaho, for 4 adults and an immature were found and more matures may have been in a nest cavity, near Cathedral Pines C.G., 12 mi s. of Ketchurn July 29 (LR). An ad. male appeared near Careywood, Ida., May 29 (GD). A scattering of Lewis' Woodpeckers occurred over the Region. In Lincoln County, Mont., they shifted their ranges for up to 30 mi but appeared to nest successfully (C W). One was at Malheur for apparently the first summer record (ME). There

were at least 3 sightings of Williamson's Sapsuckers in Idaho, 3 in e Oregon and one in e. Washington. The species was "doing well" in Kootenai N.F, Mont. (CW). A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers nested at Daggett Cr., 26 mi e of Boise, Ida. on Rte. 21 (AL) for apparently the first breeding record for that area. The only N. Three-toed Woodpeckers sighted were a pair at Calispell Bog, Calispell Peak, Pend Oreille Co., Wash., June 29 (JA) and a pair near a nest along the W. Fork of the Pasayten R., n.w. Okanogan County, Wash. (ME). Concern is being expressed that the cutting of snags for firewood will adversely affect woodpeckers and other cavity nesters. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found along Dry Cr., 10 mi s. of Toppenish, Wash (EH) and two were reported at Suplee, Ore, July 15 (RDP). An Alder Flycatcher was examined closely and its song heard at Enterprise, Ore., June 21 (JE, AC). Willow Flycatchers were decidedly scarce in the Spokane area and were reported elsewhere only from s.w. Idaho and Nile, Wash.-- single birds. A female Gray Flycatcher was collected June 23, 8 mi s.c. of Twisp, Wash., for the state's northernmost record (SR). Horned Larks on the Tobacco Plains, n. of Eureka, Mont., during the summer were the first evidence of probable nesting in the Libby latilong (WW). Dead swallows were still being found at Turnbull N.W.R., in mid-June.

JAYS THROUGH WRENS -- A Scrub Jay appeared briefly in La Grande July 22 for the first n.e. Oregon record (JE). A pair of Black-capped Chickadees sighted in Richland July 20 and again Aug. 2 may have nested. This is Woodley's only summer record there. The W. Fork of the Pasayten R. had about 20 Boreal Chickadees, one pair carrying food, in early June (ME) and several were sighted July 6 at Billy Goat Pass, n. of Mazama (MD, MEi), both in Washington. A few of the Boreals were noted at Ross Cr., near Bull L., and in the Yaak R. valley, Lincoln Co, Mont. (CW). Malheur N.W.R. had 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches June 13 (Ref. Pers.) A few Pygmy Nuthatches

were noted at Libby, Mont. (CW). A Brown Creeper brought six young to a feeder near Lake Fork, Ida, June 16, for the first breeding record for that area (EF). Bewick's Wren was again found at Lewis and Clark S.P., w. of Dayton, Wash., June 27 (EH). The Canyon Wren was noted at a new Montana site, Milligan Canyon, along the Madison R., n. of Ennis (PDS, RAH, WEH).

THRUSHES THROUGH WAXWINGS -- The first breeding season records of Hermit

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Thrushes for the Coeur d' Alene lat-long were observations of two singing at Spy Glass Peak, Coeur d' Alene N.F., July 12, and eight singing between Twin Crags and Crystal L., s.e. of St. Maries, July 13 (SGS). A Veery at Indian Ford C.G., n.w. of Sisters, July 6 was the westernmost ever for Oregon (J & JC). At least four were singing at the colony on the Middle Fork of John Day R., in e. Oregon (MA). Nest boxes at Boise-Cascade C.G., n w of Yakima held 36 broods of Mountain Bluebirds (Y.A.S.) and the species was quite abundant in the Blue Mt. area of s.e. Washington (EH). Their numbers appeared good in s.w. Idaho (G.E.A.S.). A pair of Bohemian Waxwings nested at Libby, Mont. Their eggs were probably laid in late June and the young fledged about mid-July (CW). A family group of six of this species the fledglings being fed was found along the W. Fork of the Pasayten R., July 17 (ME).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS -- A Red-eyed Vireo was observed e. of Fields, Ore., June 4 (ME, TF) and one was at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters June 1 (MA, m.ob.). Umatilla N.W.R., Ore., had a Black-and-white Warbler June 7-9 (GG). Two pairs of Tennessee Warblers nested near Libby, Mont., (CW) and a single bird was seen at Jasper N.P., Alta., in mid-July (GR). A male Northern Parula appeared at Malheur July 6 (Ref. Pers.) and a singing ad. male Magnolia Warbler was spotted in Jasper N.P., in mid-July (GR). A male Black-throated Gray Warbler appeared along the Yakima

R., s. of Ellensburg, June 19 (LL). Malheur had 2 male Chestnut-sided Warblers June 8-13 and a male Bay-breasted Warbler June 9 & 13 (Ref. Pers.). A singing male of this species at Bozeman June 12 was the state's fourth and the second for that locality (JS, PDS, SC). Several singing male Ovenbirds were again found in Cottonwood Canyon s. of Bozeman (PDS) and a single bird was at Malheur June 1 (*fide* MA). One was seen and heard singing in the Wenas Valley n.w. of Yakima July 12 (G & WH). It was subsequently heard July 15, 18 & 20 (GHR). A N. Waterthrush nest was found in a bog near Philips L., Colville N.F., Stevens Co., Wash. (JN). A singing bird of this species was in Wright's Valley, a new location, June 19 (JA) and one was near West Fork, Wash., June 21 (CWe, DP). Yellow-breasted Chat numbers appeared to be picking up in the Spokane area (JA), at Richland (REW), and between Joseph and Imnaha, Ore., where an amazing 8-9 birds/mi were found along a 20 mi stretch of road (FC). There were several reports of Am. Redstarts, the first in 3 years, in Union County, Ore.

BLACKBIRDS -- Bobolinks nested near Union, Ore., after a 2 year absence. Only one or two pairs were active in this, the only known colony in the Grande Ronde Valley (MK, GS, JJ). Five of the birds were seen at Wallowa, Ore., July 22 (RDP) and Salmon, Ida. had sightings July 6 & 23 (HR). Six males were observed near Loomis, Wash., June 20 (CWe, DP) and two were along Camas Prairie w. of Springdale, Wash., in June (JA). A full-plumaged male **Great-tailed Grackle** appeared near La Grande June 5 for Oregon's third record (GS *et al.*). In Lincoln County, Mont., young Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen being fed by warblers, towhees, juncos, sparrows and even a Red-breasted Nuthatch (CW)!

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — A male Scarlet Tanager was sighted at Canyon Ferry, e. of Helena, June 8 (P & RH) and one was heard along the Jefferson R., w. of Three Forks, Mont., the same day (PDS). A photo of one at a Butte

feeder with W. Tanagers was published by the *Butte Standard* June 9 (PDS). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was along Pike Cr., Harney Co., Ore., June 4 (TF, ME). White-winged Crossbills were abundant in Jasper N.P., in mid-July (GR). Two Lark Buntings appeared June 26 near Belgrade, Mont., where they are seldom recorded (WEH) and single males were sighted in Idaho in the Arbon Valley in the Pocatello area June 10 and at Blackfoot Res., June 28 (CHT). One was found at Twin Falls June 12 (JR). Grasshopper Sparrows were found in the vicinity of Libby and Eureka for the first record of probable nesting in the latilong (CW, WW). The species was found s.e. of Dayton, Wash., June 27 (EH). The Reed Point B.B.S. counted a new high of 12 of the birds June 26 (WEH). In the Pocatello area the species appeared to be spreading slightly (CHT). Three **Baird's Sparrows** on the Reed Point B.B.S. added the species to the Columbus latilong list and three were photographed at Big L., near Columbus June 28 (WEH). Several Gray-headed Juncos were found in Sawtooth N.F., 30 mi s. of Hanson, Ida. for the first record for the latilong (JR). In Jasper N.P., Oregon and Slate-colored Juncos were present, the former by far the more numerous, and Golden-crowned Sparrows were numerous and singing at timberline in mid-July (GR). Sage Sparrows were reported only from s.w. Idaho (G.E.A.S.) and near Richland (REW). A Fox Sparrow was singing near timberline on Slate Peak in extreme n.e. Skagit County, Wash., July 17 (ME). One traditional McCown's Longspur site in the Bozeman area was destroyed by the planting of wheat (PDS).

OBSERVERS CITED--James Acton, Merle Archie, Sid Bakke, Fred Bell, Arnold Bolle, George Brady (GB), Reade Brown, Evelyn Bull, Kay Burk, Greg Butcher (GBu), Gretchen Call, Jim & Judy Carlson, Frank Conley, Alan Contreras, Vera Coons, Sharon Cotterell, John Danielson, Mike & Sue Daugherty (M & SD), Michael Donahue (MD), Glen Drowns, Mark Egger (ME), Marc Eisdorfer (MEi), Joe Evanich,

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ABBREVIATIONS: -- B.B.S., breeding bird survey; C.G., campground; Ref. Pers., refuge personnel; U.S.F.S., U.S. Forest Service.

The Nesting Season, 1980

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Bill Harrington-Tweit, Philip W. Mattocks, Jr., and Eugene S. Hunn

Mount St. Helens erupted three more times during the period, sending out limited amounts of ash in comparison with the May 18 eruption. This added to the thick layer over the northern half of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in the southern Washington Cascades and dusted additional areas of southwest Washington and northwest Oregon.

BHT surveyed bird populations in several areas of heavy ashfall and found the numbers of insectivorous foragers in the canopy level significantly reduced from last year. Seed eaters and more generalized foragers showed only minor declines, if any. Early June was wetter and colder than usual throughout the Region, based on the Vancouver, B.C., Seattle, Portland, and Medford weather stations. Thereafter in western Washington and Oregon the weather was quite warm and dry. Southern British Columbia, however, remained wetter and cooler than usual, with twice the normal rainfall in both months. Lost clutches of many species were noted throughout in early June, with most being blamed on the almost constant rain. By mid-July second broods were widely reported for many passerine species, and during August apparent third broods of Bewick's Wrens and White-crowned Sparrows were noted.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS: -- An ad. and an imm. Com. Loon were seen July 30 at Matheson L., on s. Vancouver I. (hereafter, V.I.), (B & MMe, *fide* VG). Another brood was on Mirror L., w. of Campbell R., V.I. (HT). Recent breeding reports for the Region are confined to these sites. A breeding-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon in the Queen Charlotte Is., July 13 (MS, GS, *fide* VG) furnished the fifth summer record for the Region in 11 years.



Yellow-billed Loon, Netarts Bay, Ore., May 4, 1980. Photo/Owen Schmidt. (AB 34:807).

Yellow-billed Loons are not known to breed s. of the Bering Sea coast of Alaska. An Eared Grebe at the Warrenton sewage ponds July 26 (JG, *fide* HN) provided the first summer record for w. Oregon, although the species is a common breeder to thee. Only 7 reports of W. Grebes were received, and only the s. V.I. area reported more than 25 birds. Summering W. Grebes have apparently declined. Twenty N. Fulmars were found off the Queen Charlotte Is., July 18 (MS, *fide* VG). None was seen on the July 20 pelagic trip off Westport, Wash. (TW, BHT). Fulmars have been reported off our coast every summer 1970-1978, generally in the 100s, but they have been very scarce the last 2 summer. An ad. and an imm. Brown Pelican were at Grays Harbor, Wash., by June 7 (G & WH) and small numbers could be found along the Oregon coast in early June (m.ob.), almost a month earlier than usual. The colony of Double-crested Cormorants in Grays Harbor, first formed last summer with 100 nests, has increased to 300 nests this summer (JS). Nesting pairs of Green Herons were found near Bellingham and Sultan, Wash., in June (TW, ME). Adults with immatures were seen at Duncan (JC) and Saanich, V.I. (RS, LR, *fide* VG), and in Seattle (DH, MDo) and Renton, Wash. (ES). A **Great Egret** nest with two young July 12 at the N. spit of Coos Bay (AM) established the first Regional nesting record for this species. A single Great Egret was at Iona I.,

near Vancouver, B.C., June 11 (†DK), for the first summer record for that area.

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The report of four ad. and an Black-crowned Night Heron on the Rogue R, below Grants Pass, Oregon, in late June (D & CM) could indicate breeding in the Region. Five broods of Gadwall were reported at the Montlake fill, Seattle, in late June (ER). This is one of few breeding sites within the Region. Broods of Blue-winged Teal were found at the Nehalem, Ore. sewage ponds June 21 (DI, JG, *fide* HN) and in Saanich, V.I., July 26 (RS, *fide* VG). Broods of either Blue-winged or Cinnamon Teal were at the Elk R. mouth, near Port Orford, Oregon (JR, DR) and at Ocean Shores, Wash. (G & WH). These Oregon records would be first breeding records for either teal on the outer coast of that state. The N. Shoveler bred at the Montlake fill, Seattle (ER). A female Ring-necked Duck with a brood of five young June 2 on Riffe Res., near Morton, Wash., provided a rare breeding record for the Region (RR). Coverage of sewage lagoons throughout the Region yielded an interesting list of summering ducks: Am. Wigeon, Greater and Lesser scaup, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. The Ruddy bred at the Iona I. sewage ponds, B.C. (DK), at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (B & PE), and at Waughop L., near Tacoma (NC, *fide* TB). Oldsquaw summered at Lopez I., (SA) and Dungeness (FK, KG), Wash., Victoria, V.I., (RS, *fide* VG), and Boundary Bay and Vancouver, B.C. (JWm, BK).

KITES THROUGH RAILS -- There were no reports of White-tailed Kites from anywhere in the Region this summer. Just 2 summers ago there were four known breeding pairs in Oregon, and the breeding population seemed to be increasing. There were 7 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 15 of Cooper's Hawks, including one Cooper's nest in Oak Bay, V.I. (E & AD, *fide* VG). Marsh Hawk breeding was indicated at Ocean Shores, Wash., the S.J.C.R., and Fern Ridge Res., Oregon. Otherwise, singles were noted at 4

locations inland in w. Washington, and at the Elk R. mouth, Oreg. where summer records are unusual. Osprey is generally doing well. "Fair numbers" were reported in the Willamette Valley (HN). Of 8 nests watched in the Victoria area, 5 produced young, and 3 of these were new nests (*fide* VG). Only one pair nested near Duncan, V.I., however, in contrast to five pairs several years ago (JC). One Peregrine at Iona I., July 4 & 9, (CBu, MT, DK) furnished the only report. Three White-tailed Ptarmigan were noted June 21 on Snoqualmie Peak, King Co., Wash., at the 5500 ft level (EH, AR). This species is rarely reported between Mts. Baker and Rainier. Another was seen July 27 on Three Brothers Mt., Manning P.P. (DMr), where it is also seldom reported. Thirty Sandhill Crane eggs were transferred from Idaho to the remnant breeding population at Pitt Meadows, near Vancouver, B.C. this summer. Twenty-five of these hatched and 19 had survived to late summer (*fide* WW). A pair of Sandhill Cranes summered at a pond near Santiam Pass, a short distance n. of the locale where the first breeding record for w. Oregon was obtained last summer (CBr, *fide* HN). The three birds May 19-June 9 on Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., (m.ob., *fide* WW), and the three adults June 10 near Sequim, Wash., (WS), were probably very late migrants. Immatures of both Virginia Rail and Sofa were seen during July in Seattle (ER) and in Saanich (NL, RS).

SHOREBIRDS -- Downy young Black Oystercatchers were found at Heceta Head lighthouse, n. of Florence, Oreg. (CW), and at Dungeness spit, Wash. (FK). Up to five Semipalmated Plovers were present throughout the season at Iona I. (DK *et al.*), and a nest with 4 eggs was found June 3 on the w. jetty there (RP, *fide* WW). Several Semipalmated Plovers again defended territory in early June at Ocean Shores (G & WH), but no signs of successful breeding were noted. A **Snowy Plover** was photographed at Sandspit, on the e. side of the Queen Charlotte Is., July 12 (MS, GS, *fide* VG). The 3 previous

provincial records were all from much farther s. Based on the position of the dark facial stripe and the tawny crown coloration, MS suggested that the bird may have been of a Eurasian subspecies. The Snowy Plover nesting area on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., was posted by the U.S.F. & W.S. against all human intrusion this summer. On July 9 RW noted that five pairs had produced five fledged young. Two young Snowies were seen June 22 on the N. spit. of Coos Bay, Oreg. (EE). Four Ruddy Turnstones at Leadbetter Pt., June 22 (HN) were probably summering, an event not previously documented in this Region. This makes it difficult to interpret the single Ruddy June 7 at Ocean Shores (G&WH) and the two at Dungeness Spit July 6 (FK, DS), which would otherwise appear to be the latest spring departure and earliest fall arrival dates, respectively, for Washington. There were many very early, or earliest ever, fall migrant arrivals. Some of these were: a Solitary Sandpiper July 12 in Seattle (ER), two Lesser Yellowlegs June 21 at Iona I. (DA), singles June 21 at S.J.C.R., (DI, JG) and June 27 in Seattle (ER), a Wandering Tattler July 7 at Oak Bay, V.I., (RS, *fide* VG) and two July 12 at Ocean Shores (DP), 40 Surfbirds July 12 at Ocean Shores (DP), single Semipalmated Sandpipers June 21 at Iona I. (DA), June 29 in Seattle (DP, ER) and June 30 on Cleland I., V.I. (MS, *fide* VG), single Baird's Sandpipers July 5 at Iona I. (RP) and July 12 in the Queen Charlotte Is. (MS, *fide* VG), and a Stilt Sandpiper June 20-21 at Iona I. (RP, DA). There were many more Semipalmated Sandpipers than usual seen this July in Seattle. All were at the few continuously monitored freshwater ponds on the Univ. of Wash. campus. Another very unusual Semipalmated report was of a *juvenile* collected at Ocean Shores on the very early date of July 12 (DP). There were two Red Knots at Leadbetter Pt., June 22 (HN). A Marbled Godwit, quite rare in coastal B.C., was at Esquimalt Lagoon, V.I., July 25 (†JI, M & VG). Three sightings totaling 27 birds from the Washington coast were the only ones reported elsewhere. Two **Bar-tailed Godwits** were seen on Dungeness Spit June 10

(†WS), for the ninth record for that state. American Avocets rarely appear w. of the Cascades. The bird at Lopez I., Wash., June 17-18 (†SA) was the second seen in w. Washington this year. After the large on-shore flight in late May, a few Red Phalaropes lingered along the outer coast until mid-June. The latest were singles at Tatoosh I., Wash., June 13-15 (BP, M & SDe—ph.) and at Leadbetter Pt., June 18 (RW). Nine were seen offshore from Westport; July 20 (TW *et al.*).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS -- About 200 pairs of Glaucous-winged Gulls nested on downtown Seattle buildings and wharves (GE, paper in prep.), and single pairs nested on pilings at Edmonds (DP) and Kingston (EH, AR, PM), deep in Puget Sound. The Ring-billed Gull colony in Grays Harbor has increased annually since its inception in 1977. This year there were 45 pairs nesting (JS). A few other Ring-billeds were seen in June and early July at Leadbetter Pt., and Siletz Bay, near Lincoln City, Oreg. (HN). An ad Franklin's Gull was at Pt. No Point, n of Port Gamble, Wash., June 14 (TB). There are few other regional records of midsummer ad. stragglers of this species. Immatures appeared about on schedule, July 21 at Roberts Bank, near Vancouver, B.C. (BK), and July 22 at Clover Pt., Victoria (RS). The only sizeable flocks of summering Bonaparte's Gulls noted were around s. V.I. Elsewhere there were dozens where there have been hundreds in previous summers. Blacklegged Kittiwakes also summered in comparatively small numbers this year. A few Heermann's Gulls came N early. One had reached the Chain Is., off Oak Bay, V.I., by June 11 (BH, *fide* VG). The Caspian Tern colony in Grays Harbor had about 2200 nests (JS), an increase of 300 nests over last summer. In addition, 500-800 pairs nested on Gunpowder I., Willapa Bay, Wash., this summer (RW; FH, *fide* JS). To our knowledge, this island was last visited in 1977, when only 30 nests were found. Single Caspian Terns were n. on the e. coast of V.I., to near Campbell R., July 3 (HT) and on the w. coast to

near Tofino June 29-30 (MS, *fide* VG), both at the n. limits of previous occurrence. The only Black Terns reported were singles in Seattle June 8 (BMu) and at Serpentine Fen, near Vancouver, B.C., June 15 (MHa). A die-off of Common Murres was observed along the n. Oregon beaches in late July. HN estimated that three birds/mi were washed up on each tide for over a week, with the age-ratio being nine juveniles to one adult. A breeding-plumaged **Thick-billed Murre** photographed just offshore the Queen Charlotte Is., July 16 (MS, *fide* VG) was the first summer sighting of this species in the Region. A Horned Puffin appeared again at Protection I., w. of Port Townsend, Wash., in late June and stayed through July (KH, WS, FK). One had been present there in August last year. Three Horned Puffins were seen near Flatrock and Anthony Is., in the Queen Charlottes July 17+ (MS, *fide* VG). This species is a regular summer visitor there and has bred (*Am. Birds* 31:1181).

CUCKOOS THROUGH MARTINS -- The river bottom cottonwood habitat of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo found in late July last year near Sultan, Wash., was bulldozed in early July for a gravel-dredging operation. Weekly censuses there this year had found no cuckoos up to that time (ME). A pair of **Hawk Owls** delighted many observers by raising five young in a very accessible old burn near Buckhorn campground, Manning P.P.,

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B.C. (*fide* JTo). They were discovered July 6 (SC) and were seen at least to August 10+ (SH). This location is about 450 mi. s. of the species' known breeding range in the Peace R. district of central British Columbia. Single Barred Owls were heard in different areas of Manning P.P., June 18 (WW) and July 4 (DK). An apparently wandering ad. Barred Owl was found June 6 in Discovery Park, Seattle, but could not be found thereafter (EH). Comments on the scarcity of Com. Nighthawks in lowland areas in the Region continue (HN, BHT), but the species is still locally common. After the

early June passage of migrant flocks of Black Swifts, groups of 1-2 dozen were seen through late June and July at Leadbetter Pt. (RW), Seattle (ER), Oak Bay (RS), and Metchosin (M & VG). Many were near breeding areas near Newhalem (DP) and on the upper Cowlitz R., Wash. (RR), and six were calling over Campbell R., V.I., July 1 (HT). A Rufous Hummingbird feeding two young in Victoria July 1 (EC, *fide* VG) was later than usual. There were 2 more records of **Costa's Hummingbird** in Oregon this summer. A male was photographed at a feeder in Ashland June 8-14 (†HN, MMo) and another male appeared briefly July 31+ at the same feeder in Molalla where one had been seen last year (PL, *fide* HN). JG notes that the population of Acorn Woodpeckers at the n. extent of their range in the Willamette Valley at McMinnville has been stable since at least 1968. Williamson's Sapsuckers were feeding young at nests in mid-June near Lightning L., Manning P.P. (WW, BM, DK), at White Pass, Wash., (BHT), and n.e. of Ashland, Oreg. (MMo). The two n. sites are each somewhat w. of the usual habitat for this species, but have become regular outposts. Another potential study area for the forms of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was indicated by the location July 12 of a "Red-breasted" near Pemberton, 85 ml n. of Vancouver, B.C., and a "Red-naped" near Duffey L., about 20 mi to the e. (DK, GA). A pair of N. Three-toed Woodpeckers at Blue L., s. of Crater L., Oreg, June 22, was very near the s. limit of the species' range in the Cascades (D & CM). Many E. Kingbirds were w. of their usual breeding areas this season. Singles were at Leadbetter Pt., June 11, (RW), at River Jordan, V.A., June 14 (HV, PB, *fide* VG), at Dungeness in mid-June (AB, *fide* DS), and at Ocean Shores June 28 (G & WH). Up to eight were in Jericho Park, Vancouver, B.C., June 3-17 (m. ob., *fide* WW). There were reports of eleven vagrant W. Kingbirds, a normal number, throughout the Region. An Ash-throated Flycatcher appeared June 15 at Jericho Park (†D & SW) for the eighth Vancouver record and the first outside of fall. A singing **Least Flycatcher**

reappeared near Duncan, V.I., July 12-16 at the same site as the one last year (JC). Territorial Hammond's Flycatchers were noted in deciduous riparian forests in w. Washington this summer (ME, EH, DP). This species is usually found in primarily coniferous woodlands. Skylark habitat and numbers continue to decline in parts of s. V.I. (JC). Purple Martins had a good season in w. Washington. JD reported that 21 pairs successfully bred in nest boxes in the s. Puget Sound area. DF censused ten pairs nesting in buildings in downtown Tacoma and Seattle, and eight pairs at the colony on L. Sammamish, Wash,. Further s., TL counted about 50 pairs at Fern Ridge Res., and found the species "fairly common" between Bandon and Port Orford, Oreg. The Oregon birds were all nesting in snags.

MIMIDS THROUGH ICTERIDS -- Single Mockingbirds at Tatoosh I., June 13-15 (BP, M & SDe), in Kent June 24 (DP), on Leadbetter Pt., July 9 (RW), and at LaPush July 11-13 (GB), furnished the first ever summer records for w. Washington. The pair at Port Orford, Oreg, was still present through the summer (*fide* HN). Mockingbirds have bred only once in the Region, at Victoria in 1967. Two Veeries were heard July 3 at the Alexandra Bridge over the Fraser R., about 25 min. of Hope, B.C. (WW), near the edge of the species' breeding range. Another w. Washington Veery was found July 5 n. of Skykomish (SH). The encouraging number of W. Bluebird reports this spring was not followed up. Only 2 reports were received for the summer. A pair of Mountain Bluebirds was feeding young July 19 at Sunrise, Mt. Rainier N.P., a traditional nesting area (TB). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet June 15 in Cypress P.P., W. Vancouver, B.C. (WW), was near the s. limit of the species' range. An ad. Water Pipit feeding young July 27 at 6000 ft near McKenzie Pass in Oregon's c. Cascades may have produced the southernmost breeding record for Oregon (DA, *fide* HN). Details of a **White Wagtail** sighting June 4 at Harris Beach S.P., on the s. Oregon coast (†RT) have been submitted to the Oregon

Records Committee. **Bohemian Waxwings** feeding young July 24 just n. of Hart's Pass in the N. Cascades of Washington (ME) provided the second nesting record for the state. An **Ovenbird** was found dead beneath a window in W. Seattle June 26 (SS, specimen to U.W. Museum) for the first record for w. Wash., and only the second for the Region. TL located five singing male N. Waterthrushes June 20-26 along Crescent Cr., and the Little Deschutes R., just e. of the Cascade crest in Klamath Co., Oregon. This represents a highly isolated s.w. outlier of this species' known summer range. A Yellow-breasted Chat was seen July 12 near Vancouver, Wash. (DJ). At least three Am. Redstarts were present and singing near Sultan, Wash., June 11-30 (SA, ME). The birds were territorial; but nesting evidence was not obtained (ME). There is only one breeding record for the Region (*Am. Birds* 24:711). Three Bobolinks, rare spring vagrants, were found during the first week of June: one each near Eugene, Oreg, June 1 (LM, *fide* HN & CW), in Seattle June 2-3 (†ER), at the mouth of the Sixes R., Curry Co., Oreg. June 6 (TL, DR). Another was in N. Vancouver, B.C., July 7 (†MDa). The seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds seen June 11 on Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., were apparently nesting (DK).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS -- Evening Grosbeaks were suspected of nesting in the lowlands in several areas, but the only report of dependent young was in Esquimalt, V.I. (E & AD, *fide* VG). Road kills of several hundred Evening Grosbeaks were reported in the Manning P.P. area in early July (DK, MDa, GA). Thousands of grosbeaks were gathered there, apparently in response to a spruce budworm outbreak, and heavy traffic was picking them off the road shoulders (*fide* WW). A male Indigo Bunting visited a feeder in Bandon, Oreg. June 6 (GW, *fide* AM). A recently fledged Lazuli Bunting was mist-netted and released July 8 s.e. of McKenna, Wash., one of the few w. Washington breeding locales (JWn). A single male Cassin's Finch was heard singing at Snoqualmie Pass, Wash., June 21 (EH,

AR). The species is a common breeder e. of the Cascade crest in Washington but is rarely reported on the w. side. A few Red Crossbills were noted in July at Elk R., and Corvallis, Oreg, (DR, EE), where they are unusual in summer. Elsewhere, Red Crossbills were widespread in small numbers in the Cascades and the lowlands of w. Washington and British Columbia. A single White-winged Crossbill was found July 29 in Manning P P (EH). Three **Lark Buntings** were found this June A male was at Riddle, Douglas Co., Oreg, June 6 (RWO--ph., *fide* HN). A subad. male at Oak Bay, V.I., June 7-8 (VGu, BG—ph. †M & VG) produced the first V.I. record. And a male was seen June 21 & 23 at Fort Flagler S.P., near Port Townsend, for the third record for Washington (†WS, KK). One Vesper Sparrow was reported 'from the locale that formerly held the only population on s V.I., now part of suburbia (JTa, *fide* VG) Six male Vesper Sparrows were found along the coast of n. Curry Co., Oreg., in early June, and a family group was there in late July (DR, TL). No other existing coastal breeding populations of this species are known to us. A singing male White-crowned Sparrow of the race *pugetensis* was found up the Fraser R. canyon of s. British Columbia, at Boston Bar, 40 min. of Hope, June 9 (WW). A pair of Golden-crowned Sparrows was seen late May and early June at Rolley Lake P.P., 35 mi. e. of Vancouver, B.C. (MHo, *fide* WW). Nesting was suspected but not proven.

CORRIGENDA -- The Magnificent Frigatebird at the mouth of the Rogue R, Oreg. July 24, 1979 (*Am. Birds* 33:890) has since been well documented. The several nests of Barn Swallows at Oceanside, Oreg, still had large young Aug. 11, 1979, not Sept 11 (*Am. Birds* 34:194). The male Bobolink near Salem June 3, 1978 (*Am. Birds* 32:1203), was actually seen there June 2 (EE, HN) for the sixth, not second, record for w. Oregon Please delete the record of Lesser Goldfinches in Lincoln County, Oreg., July 28, 1977 (*Am. Birds* 31:1182) at the request of the observers.

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End 1980