

**SIXTH REPORT OF THE
WASHINGTON BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**

Steven G. Mlodinow
*4819 Gardner Avenue
Everett, Washington 98203
SGMlod@aol.com*

Kevin R. Aanerud
*1731 Northeast 92nd Street
Seattle, Washington 98115
k_aanerud@comcast.net*

The Washington Bird Records Committee (WBRC) has met twice – on 14 April 2002 and 16 November 2003 – since the publication of its fifth report (Aanerud 2002). During these meetings the WBRC examined 128 reports of 62 species. The Committee accepted 110 reports as records, representing 86 percent of the total number reviewed. This rate of record acceptance is similar to other state records committees. As a result of these deliberations, the Committee added three new species to the Checklist of Washington Birds: Bean Goose, Eurasian Hobby, and Painted Bunting. Dusky Thrush and Bay-breasted Warbler were placed on the Supplementary List, a category of records that are accepted by the Committee on the basis of a single observer sight report.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

It has been ten years since the publication of Washington Bird Records Committee's first report (Tweit and Paulson 1994). The original purposes of the WBRC are much the same now as then: maintain a valid Washington Bird Checklist, achieve a standard for acceptance of credible records of rarities, and establish an archive of written descriptions, photographs, and recordings. Procedures and conventions of the WBRC have remained consistent since its inception. A description of the Committee's evaluation procedures was detailed in the introduction of the first report and is briefly summarized here.

The WBRC meets usually once each year but twice annually when possible. The agenda for each meeting always includes an assessment of the Committee's past work and an establishment of new goals. Prior to each meeting, a packet of written materials and photographic evidence is distributed by the Committee Secretary to each committee member to allow time for thoughtful study and evaluation. At our meetings, the reports are considered individually and in taxonomic order. Additional evidentiary materials are sometimes presented during discussions of submitted reports, as it is not always possible to include such information in the preliminary packets. A final vote follows the end of the discussion of each report. It is the intent of the Committee to share knowledge and

expertise among themselves such that all members are as fully informed as possible. Occasionally one or more members may request to evaluate additional information before a vote is conducted for a particular report. With the full committee's concurrence, a vote can be deferred pending collection of additional information or to solicit additional expertise outside the WBRC. The Committee occasionally contacts an observer to solicit additional information if it is felt that the identification of the bird reported is likely correct, but there is insufficient detail in the report for outright acceptance.

The WBRC's decisions provide a contemporary judgment that becomes part of the permanent record. A conservative standard for accepting reports as records has been adopted to assure that accepted records have met a critical standard on par with that of the scientific community. Acceptance of a record requires an affirmative vote by at least 7 of the 8 Committee members; consequently, 2 dissenting votes are sufficient to determine a report unacceptable. Archived materials are retained for possible reassessment.

Many bird reports are submitted by the Committee's own members. There is mindfulness among Committee members to write descriptions for all "review" species seen. Past experience has proven that all too often a rarity seen by many results in far too few written submissions. The Committee votes on Committee member's reports with a full quorum present. Concerns have been raised that an unfair advantage might occur in the evaluation of such member's reports. While Committee members certainly understand this concern, we continue to support this voting convention because an open discussion with all Committee members present ultimately achieves the fairest result. The WBRC evaluates individual Committee member's reports with at least an equally critical discernment and has rejected reports that were not well substantiated.

This is the first report of the WBRC to consider a report of a subspecies that has special interest. A documented Bewick's Swan was accepted as a record based on this merit. There has always been an interest to evaluate reports of rare subspecies, but the challenge for the WBRC was how to proceed on this issue. A list of birds for consideration was prepared by one of our members, and following the input of the other Committee members, is now functioning as our guideline. Publication of this list will be forthcoming.

For purposes of the Committee's work, and for use in this document, information submitted to the WBRC to support an observation is considered a "report." A "record" is a report that has been accepted by the WBRC. The taxonomy and nomenclature used in this text are based on the American Ornithologists' Union checklist of North American birds (American Ornithologists' Union 1998). Committee members who voted on the reports contained herein were: Kevin Aanerud, Tom Aversa (November 2003 only), Bob Boekelheide, Phil Mattocks, Steve Mlodinow, Dennis Paulson, Andy Stepniewski (April 2002 only), Bob Sundstrom, and Bill Tweit.

Records supported by photographs, videotape, or recorded vocalizations are indicated in the text with a "plus sign" (+) next to the initials of the relevant contributor. Contributor's initials are associated with all accepted records, but have been removed from unaccepted reports. A list of contributors is found at the end of this document. The initial observer of a particular bird is cited only if they provided a written description or other evidence.

ACCEPTED RECORDS

Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*). A Greater Shearwater off Westport, Grays Harbor County, 24 August 2002 (+CA, BL) was Washington's first and only the fifth for the northeast Pacific.

Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*). Three Manx Shearwater reports were accepted: one off Westport, Grays Harbor County, within 3.2 kilometers of shore, 4 August 2001 (BL); two birds about 3.2 kilometers off Westport, Grays Harbor County, 18 May 2002 (BT); and one about 16 kilometers west of La Push, Clallam County, 10 May 2002 (SH). These are added to 19 previous records, ranging from 24 March to 10 October, nine of which were from June and July. All descriptions eliminated Black-vented Shearwater (*P. opisthomelas*), Townsend's Shearwater (*P. auricularis auricularis*), and Newell's Shearwater (*P. a. newelli*). See Mlodinow (2004b) for details regarding the apparent colonization of the northeast Pacific by Manx Shearwater.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*). Washington's second Brown Booby rode a sailboat's mast from Blake Island, Kitsap County, to Tacoma, Pierce County, on 18 May 2002 (JM). This record received one dissenting vote, based on concerns of ship-assistance. Washington's third record occurred shortly thereafter, when a Brown Booby was photographed off Westport, Grays Harbor County, at latitude 46.55.08, longitude 124.55.07 on 5 October 2002 (+BT, +GSM, +RTS, +FF, BL). Both records involved birds of undetermined age. Washington and Oregon now have four records combined, all since 1997, and three of which are from October (Aanerud and Mattocks 2000, Marshall et al. 2003).

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*). Four reports of Snowy Egrets were accepted, bringing the state total to 29: one at Blaine, Whatcom County, 22 August – 10 September 2001 (WW); two at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County, 8 – 11 October 2001 (JE); one near Corfu, Grant County, 20 – 25 May 2002 (+DG, BT); and one at Edmonds, Snohomish County, 20-22 May 2002 (TP). Snowy Egret records are accruing at an increasing rate, with 13 having occurred from 1999 through 2002.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*). An adult Little Blue Heron graced a slough near Ellensburg, Kittitas County, 8 – 9 June 2002 (+SR, +SM). This was Washington's third record and the first since 1989. The previous records were of birds that were first found in October.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*). Washington's second Yellow-crowned Night Heron was an immature at Wenatchee,

Chelan County, on 24 September 2001 (DB). The state's previous record was from Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, from 30 May until 8 June 1993 (Tweit and Skriletz 1996). Oregon has no records of this species (Marshall et al. 2003).

Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*). Washington's first Bean Goose record was at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County, 7 – 17 December 2002 (+PS, +RS, +BT). Eurasian experts identified this bird as *A. f. middendorffii*, which breeds in eastern Siberia (Mlodinow 2004a). Most previous North American records of Bean Goose are from Alaska during spring, but there are five prior records outside Alaska, including three of *middendorffii* (Mlodinow 2004a). Notably, Alaska had its first two fall records during September 2002 (Tobish 2002). Discussions with aviculturalists and investigation of aviculturalist listserves revealed that Bean Geese are likely not kept captive anywhere in North America and that *middendorffii* is very rare in captivity, even in Eurasia.

Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*). An Emperor Goose, still mostly in juvenile plumage, was near Vancouver Lake, Clark County, on 25 October 2001 (TA). Though typically Emperor Geese largely have molted their juvenile plumage by this date (Headley 1967), the description ruled out all other goose species. Another Emperor Goose was near Bruceport, Pacific County, from 18 January until 20 February 2002 (+SM). There have been only four records of this species since it was added to the review list in 1999. There were 29 published reports in Washington from 1982 – 1999, mostly from mid-October into early April, and entirely from west of the Cascade Mountains (Wahl et al. 2005).

Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*). An adult Bewick's Swan was at the corner of Frenchman's Hill and Dodson roads, Grant County, 1 April 2002 (EK). Though there have been rumors of Bewick's Swans occurring in Washington, this is the first documented record. In Oregon, a single Bewick's Swan was found in Klamath County during 1974, 1975, 1979, 1980, and 1981, and singles were also in Multnomah and Tillamook counties (Gilligan et al. 1994). More recently, there have been three additional reports from Oregon, all from the eastside, including one on 10 March 2002 in Wheeler County (Marshall et al. 2003). Also of note was a Bewick's Swan seen on 29 March 2002 in southeastern British Columbia near Kamloops (Cecile 2002). The preponderance of records coming from east of the Cascades instinctively seems unlikely, as most Asian waterfowl are found predominantly west of the Cascades (e.g., Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*). However, Whistling Swans (*C. c. columbianus*) migrating through eastern Washington and Oregon mostly originate from the west-central Alaskan coast, whereas those in western Washington originate mostly from the Alaska Peninsula (Bellrose 1976). Consequently, both Bewick's and Whooper Swans (*C. cygnus*) seem more likely to meet Whistling Swans bound for the eastside of Washington and Oregon. A summary of Bewick's Swan identification can be found in Knapton (2000).

Falcated Duck (*Anas falcata*). Washington's third Falcated Duck was an adult male on Samish Flats, Skagit County, 21 February – 26 March 2002 (TA, +JEi, +RS, BT). The one dissenting committee member expressed concerns regarding origin, though there were no specific data suggesting a problem in this regard. Furthermore, another Falcated Duck was in Lassen County, California, 19 March – 2 April 2002 (Glover et al. 2002). Washington's previous records are from Naselle, Pacific County, 3 January 1979, and Sequim, Clallam County, 3 July 1993 (Tweit and Paulson 1994, Aanerud and Mattocks 2000).

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*). A male Tufted Duck in alternate plumage was at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County, 9 – 20 February 2002 (BFi). This is the fifth record since the committee started reviewing this species in 1999. Prior to 1999, there were about forty published reports, with approximately 75% from the westside, and all from between the dates of 10 October and 14 May (Wahl et al. 2005).

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). Accepted reports include an adult at Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Klickitat County, on 12 September 2001 (JE); an adult near Brady, Grays Harbor County, from August to 5 December 2001 (TA); one at Bay Center, Pacific County, on 4 October 2002 (DP); an immature near Vancouver Lake, Clark County, 5 October 2002 (+SM); an immature at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County, from 30 November until 20 December 2002 (SM); an immature at Bachelor Island, Clark County, on 20 December 2002 (+JE); an immature at Skagit Wildlife Management Area, Skagit County, 25 September – 24 November 2002 (TA, MDo); an immature at Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 26 December 2002 (BS); one at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 11 January 2003 (+GG); and an immature on the Lewis Flats, Cowlitz County, on 6 March 2003 (BT). These ten records increase the state total to 25 records. Breeding and wintering populations have steadily increased in western Oregon over the last 30 years, with breeding records as far north as Polk County (Marshall et al. 2003).

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*). A dark morph adult Broad-winged Hawk was seen soaring with Red-tailed Hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) at Phileo Lake, Spokane County, on 1 April 2002 (MM). The early date was of some concern but not unreasonable given occasional early arrivals within the main portion of this species' range. This is the state's tenth record and the fourth from spring. Notably, this species has been seen annually during fall in small numbers at Chelan Ridge (*WOSNews* 66:1). These sightings are very likely correct, but most remain undocumented.

Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*). Washington's first Eurasian Hobby spent most of 20 October 2001 at Discovery Park, Seattle, King County, before departing ahead of an oncoming cold front (KA, +PC, TBF, DH). There were only ten previous North American records, all from Alaska (Dunn et al. 2002). Interestingly, Alaska's second fall record was at Shemya Island, 21 September – 5 October 2001 (Dunn et al. 2002).

Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*). An Upland Sandpiper was along Deno Road, near Spokane, Spokane County, 6 – 22 July 2002

(JA, +SR, DB). This species nested in the Spokane Valley from 1929 (and likely earlier) to 1993, with no more than 12 birds found in any given year (McAllister 1995). The 2002 record was only the fifth since this species was apparently extirpated as a breeding species.

Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*). Three Hudsonian Godwit records were added, bringing the total number of records to 17. A juvenile was at Blaine, Whatcom County, on 26 August 2001 (CB); two were at Bottle Beach (Ocosta), Grays Harbor County, on 12 May 2002 (CC); and one was at Grandview, Yakima County, on 15 May 2003 (+DG). Unfortunately, through 2002, eight other reports have yet to be reviewed.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*). The southbound migrations of 2001 and 2002 were very good for Bar-tailed Godwits. Six reports have been accepted, and at least three other reports include photographs and will likely be reviewed at the next WBRC meeting. Two adults were at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, on 7 July 2001 (+SM); a juvenile was at Blaine, Whatcom County, 14 – 22 September 2001 (JD, +SM); single juveniles were at Tokeland, Pacific County, 16 October 2001 through February 2002 (+SM) and 6 – 13 October 2002 (+SM); one was at Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 19 October 2002 (+SM); and a possible *L. l. lapponica* was at Blaine, Whatcom County, 28 August – 1 September 2002 (JD). The above records add to the 23 previous ones, and the wintering bird at Tokeland provided Washington's first winter record. The taxonomy of Bar-tailed Godwit is uncertain. There is considerable variation from west to east, with the easternmost birds having the whitest rump, lower back, and underwing and the westernmost birds being heavily mottled with gray in these areas (Hayman et al. 1986). Most authorities recognize two to three races, with *lapponica* breeding in Scandinavia and easternmost Russia, *baueri* in western Russia and Alaska, and the intermediate *menzbieri* in central Russia (Hayman et al. 1986), although some authorities recognize three additional subspecies in Russia (Engelmoer and Roselaar 1998). Birds identified as *menzbieri* have been identified on several occasions in Japan (Brazil 1991) and *menzbieri* is the predominant race in western Australia during winter (Simpson and Day 1999). The bird in Blaine was described as having a "blazing" white rump extending up to the middle of the back and underwing coverts that were "white with small and sparse gray marks." This description seems to indicate *lapponica*, though *menzbieri* could not be eliminated. There are two other west coast records of white-rumped Bar-tailed Godwits: an adult at Pt. Mugu, California, 30 August 1990 (Small 1994), and a juvenile at Bolinas Lagoon, California, 20 Sep 1988 (G. McCaskie, in litt, California Bird Record Committee files).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*). Washington's seventh accepted Curlew Sandpiper was an adult at Crockett Lake, Island County, on 18 July 2002 (+KA, PC). Two of the previous records are from May, three are from September/October, and one was from July. A report (with photograph) from near Long Beach, Pacific County, 5 – 11 August 2000 (Mlodinow and Tweit 2001) is pending review.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were documented at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, 4 September 2001 (RL, +RS) but up to three were reported there 7 – 16 September 2001 (Mlodinow et al. 2002a); one was at Samish Flats, Skagit County, on 25 August 2001 (MB); four were on Fir Island, Skagit County, on 7 September 2002 (MB); and one was on Fir Island, Skagit County, on 15 September 2002 (+SM). Only one other report has been reviewed and accepted since this species was added to the review list in 1999 (Aanerud and Mattocks 2000). About 185 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from Washington prior to 1999, about 90% of which were along the outer coast and 6% from the Puget Trough (Wahl et al. 2005).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*). Two juvenile Reeves were videotaped near Florence, Snohomish County, on 8 September 2003 (+SM), a juvenile Ruff and a juvenile Reeve were videotaped there on 13 September 2003 (+SM), and an unsexed juvenile Ruff was videotaped there on 25 September 2003 (+SM). These represent the first accepted records since this species was added to the review list in 1999 (Aanerud and Mattocks 2000), though there are several reports awaiting review, including some supported by excellent photographs. There were about 40 Washington records of Ruff prior to 1999, mostly from late August to late September and mostly from western Washington (Wahl et al. 2005).

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*). Washington's third Laughing Gull was an immature at Wentachee, Chelan County, on 4 September 2001 (DB). Previous records are from 1 September 1975 and 14 August 1982 on the outer coast (Tweit and Skriletz 1996).

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*). An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at Port Angeles, Clallam County, on 4 September 2002, was Washington's second record (BN). Washington's prior record was a bird that apparently returned to the Walla Walla River delta, Walla Walla County, and nearby areas during winters of 1999 – 2000 through 2002 – 2003 (Aanerud 2002, Mlodinow et al. 2003). A report (with photograph) from Clarkston, Asotin County, 16 – 24 March 2002 (Mlodinow et al. 2002b), is pending review.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*). Washington's eighth record of Thick-billed Murre occurred after a twelve year hiatus when an alternate plumaged adult was located approximately 50 kilometers off Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 17 February 2002 (SM, PB, +DVP). The state's ninth record was added shortly thereafter when an alternate adult was found near Diamond Point, Clallam County, and relocated near Cape George, Jefferson County, 16 December 2002 (CW, BL).

Xantus's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus hypoleucus*). Two Xantus's Murrelets of the northern race, *S. h. scrippsi*, were noted approximately 50 kilometers off Westport, Grays Harbor County, on 4 August 2001 (BL). Two more *scrippsi* were at latitude 46.53.60 N, longitude 124.54.80 W off Westport, Grays Harbor County, 5 September 2002 (GSM, BL). These represent the fifth and sixth state records since this species was added to the review list in 1997 (Aanerud and Mattocks 1997). There are more

than 30 reports antecedent to this species joining the review list, almost all from late July to early October pelagic trips (T. Wahl, unpublished data). All Xantus's Murrelets observed during organized pelagic trips that have allowed subspecific identification have been *scrippsi*. However, oceanographic surveys off Washington have produced reports of *hypoleucus* that were almost certainly correct, including two seen 58 kilometers (36 nautical miles) west of Leadbetter Point, Pacific County, on 6 September 2001 (Mlodinow et al. 2002a).

Horned Puffin (*Fratercula corniculata*). A group of six Horned Puffins in alternate plumaged were in Seattle, King County, on 29 May 2001 (RaH), and one in alternate plumage was off Westport, Grays Harbor County, at latitude 46.53.06N and longitude 124.54.13W on 5 September 2002 (+GSM, BL). These bring the number of records to 17, though a number of older reports are undocumented and have not been reviewed.

Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*). Washington's second record of Eurasian Collared-Dove was at Wenatchee, Chelan County, from 9 July until 3 September 2002 (DB, PM). Notably, this bird was seen being mounted by a male Ringed Turtle-Dove (*S. risoria*) on 14 July, but no nest or progeny were later noted. The description nicely eliminated Ringed Turtle-Dove and seemed to exclude the possibility of a hybrid. Romagosa and McEneaney (1999) summarized the range expansion of this species in North America.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*). Washington's sixth White-winged Dove was at a feeder near Kittitas, Kittitas County, between 8 and 10 June 2002 (+DE, DB, +SM). All but one of Washington's records were after 1996, and all have been from the period between May and November.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). Documentation of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo from Kettle Falls, Stevens County, 19 June 1991 (LS) belatedly reached the Committee. This species nested in Washington until the mid-1930s (Layman and Halterman (1987). There are now eight records since 1941, when this species disappeared from Whatcom County (Wahl 1995). All but one of the post-1941 records were 5 June – 3 August.

Costa's Hummingbird (*Calypte costae*). Washington's third Costa's Hummingbird was an adult male at Redmond, King County, 18 – 24 May 2002 (MW, +RS), and the fourth was an adult male at Mount Vernon, Skagit County, 15 – 16 May 2003 (+KW).

Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*). Washington's second Broad-tailed Hummingbird was an adult male near Dixie, Walla Walla County, on 7 June 2002 (MD). This record follows shortly on the heels of the first state record, from Asotin during August 2000 (Aanerud 2002).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*). Washington's third Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a juvenile in Kent, King County, between 30 December 2001 and 5 January 2002 (DS, TA). The vast majority of Pacific coast records south of British Columbia are from October through March, with a peak in November and December (Mlodinow 2003).

Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*). A Black Phoebe was at the Julia Butler Hansen Preserve, near Cathlamet, Wahkiakum County, from October 2001 into February 2002 (LH, +SM). It or another phoebe returned the next autumn and was present from 16 October 2002 – 17 March 2003, and was seen by many but not documented. An adult Black Phoebe was at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County, from 11 September 2002 into February 2003 (TA). These represent the third and fourth records. A report (including a photograph) from Washougal, Clark County (Tweit and Tice 1998), is pending review. This species' range has been expanding rapidly in western Oregon over the last 20 years, with recent nesting in northwestern Oregon (Marshall et al. 2003).

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*). Washington's fourth Vermilion Flycatcher was an immature male, near Florence, Snohomish County, on 1 November 2002 (GA). Prior records were from late October into March.

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*). Three reports of Tropical Kingbird were accepted, all involving calling birds: one at Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor County, 28 October – 6 November 2001 (KA, +SM); one near Stanwood, Snohomish County, 12 – 24 November 2001 (DD, +PB, +RS, DB); and one near Elma, Grays Harbor County, on 23 November 2002 (BR, GR, KB). There were five previous records of Tropical Kingbird for Washington. The Stanwood bird was only the second record for the Puget Trough. Tropical Kingbird vagrancy in North America has increased substantially over the last decade or two, with most records coming from October and November along the immediate Pacific Coast (Mlodinow 1998).

Tropical/Couch's Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii*). An unidentified Tropical-type Kingbird was near Edison, Skagit County, between 17 and 29 November 2002 (+JEi). It did not call and could not be identified with certainty. There were seven previous records of Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds for Washington. There are also eight published and unreviewed reports from Washington prior to 2002.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, apparently in first-spring plumage, was near Rockport, Skagit County, on 31 May 2003 (SA, +GB). Two other reports from 2003 are pending review. Washington's previous Scissor-tailed Flycatcher records were from 1983 and 1985 (Tweit and Paulson 1994).

Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). A Brown Thrasher was in Sequim, Clallam County, on 2 July 2002 (CT). This is Washington's fifth record, all since 1994.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*). Washington's fourteenth Tennessee Warbler was at Mount Pleasant, Skamania County, 4 September 2001 (WC). All but three of Washington's previous records are from fall and early winter, with dates spanning 26 August – 5 December, and most having been found 26 August – 17 September.

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*). Two new Chestnut-sided Warbler records were added to the fifteen previous records. A singing first-year male was at Graysmarsh, Clallam County, 22 – 23 June

2002 (SRA, BB), and another singing first-year male was at Lyons Ferry Park, Franklin County, on 1 June 2003 (+BFL, +SM). All but three of the state's records are from June or July.

Magnolia Warbler (*Dendroica magnolia*). Washington's ninth Magnolia Warbler was a basic-plumaged male at Wenatchee, Chelan County, on 2 October 2001 (DB). Six of the previous eight records were from fall, with dates ranging from 6 September to 21 October.

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*). Washington's fifth accepted Black-throated Blue Warbler was a male in Brier, Snohomish County, on 2 November 2002 (GD). All records have been during fall/winter, with fall birds having been first noted from 8 October – 8 November.

Blackpoll Warbler (*Dendroica striata*). Washington's twelfth Blackpoll Warbler was at Richland, Benton County, on 11 September 2002 (NL, CS). Seven of Washington's previous records were during late August and early September.

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*). Washington's twenty-fourth Black-and-white Warbler was an adult male near Carnation, King County, on 22 May 2003 (MW). There are about 15 published Washington reports (Wahl et al. 2005) that have yet to be reviewed. Washington's Black-and-white Warblers are scattered throughout the year and the state, with a small peak in late May to early June.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*). Washington's eleventh Lark Bunting was along Dodson Road, Grant County, on 24 May 2002 (LA). Most prior records were from fall, and previous records of northbound migrants were from early June.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*). Four reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak were accepted, bringing the total to 24 records. A first-spring male in Seattle, King County, 2 – 4 April 2002 (RL, +RS, +IS) provided the state's first record between late December and early May. Additionally, a first-spring male was in Ellensburg, Kittitas County, on 1 June 2002 (+PM); an adult male was in Spokane, Spokane County, 6 – 9 June 2002 (+JA); and an adult male was in Spokane, Spokane County, on 31 May 2002 (JA, MM). Most of Washington's records are of adult males from late May through late June.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). Three Indigo Bunting reports were accepted: a first year male, West Richland, Benton County, 19 July – 31 August 1999 (BLF, NL, +Tri-Cities Herald); a first year male near Potholes Reservoir, Grant County, 25 – 26 May 2002 (SD, DB, +SM); and an apparent adult male at Battle Ground, Clark County, on 7 June 2003 (NW). Of the eleven previous records, seven were from mid-May to early June.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*). Washington's first Painted Bunting was an adult male in crisp plumage at a feeder in Seattle, King County, between 10 February and 3 March 2002 (+KA, C. Kahle, TA). The Committee considered the possibility of captive origin, but felt that such was unlikely as this species is rarely kept in captivity away from the Mexican

border. Painted Bunting vagrancy has greatly increased over the last 15 years, including many wintering birds in the northeastern United States. For a detailed discussion of this species' vagrancy in North America and issues relating to cagebirds, see Mlodinow and Hamilton (2005).

Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*). Tricolored Blackbirds continue to expand their range in Washington. An adult male and two first-year male Tricolored Blackbirds were at Shillapoo Bottoms, Clark County, on 2 February 2002 (+SM). An adult male was near Potholes Reservoir, Grant County, on 20 July 2002 (JW). A male and a female were at Othello, Adams County, on 9 September 2002 (+SM). Two Tricolored Blackbirds were at Shillapoo Bottoms, Clark County, on 30 November 2002 (+SM). A flock of 30-40 was near Texas Lake, Whitman County, on 31 May 2002 (+SM, BT). This species was first noted in Washington when a breeding colony was found near Wilson Creek, Grant County, during July 1998 (Aanerud and Mattocks 2000). Tricolored Blackbirds have been reported there every year since. Multiple reports have also been received from Othello, Adams County, during the non-breeding season, but few have been documented. Additionally, there are now several records from western Washington, all from Shillapoo Bottoms, Clark County, during November – February. Finally, the Texas Lake record was about 60 kilometers from Idaho, where the species has not been recorded. Tricolored Blackbird will likely soon be removed from the review list.

Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*). The year of 2002 saw a flurry of Common Grackle records, including Washington's first breeding record. A pair was found at Ephrata, Grant County, 3 June 2002 (BT, DB), and was present into July; on 21 June, food was noted being carried into the presumptive nest tree (Mlodinow and Tweit 2002). Other records are of singles at Yakima, Yakima County, 9 March – 10 June 2002 (+DG, +RS, +SM); Kennewick, Benton County, on 19 October 2002 (DR); and at Tatoosh Island, Clallam County, on 13 June 2002 (TW). There were only seven previous Washington records, including two from the Puget Trough and five from the Tri-Cities/Walla Walla County. An older report of a Common Grackle from Tatoosh Island during June is pending review.

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*). Washington's third Great-tailed Grackle was a male at Othello, Adams County, on 15 July 2002 (BFL). The state's previous records are from Yakima County on 25 May 1987 (Tweit and Paulson 1994), and Snohomish County from 2 September 2000 to 7 January 2001 (Aanerud 2002).

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*). A Brambling from Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, from 20 February to 14 March 1992 was belatedly accepted (+MD). Washington's thirteenth, and eastern Washington's third, Brambling was at Bridgeport, Douglas County, on 23 December 2001 (MD). This was Washington's first since 1996 and only the second since 1993.

Hoary Redpoll (*Carduelis hornemanni*). A number of Hoary Redpolls were found during a massive invasion of Common Redpolls (*C. flammea*) in the winter of 2001 – 2002. The first report, from Lummi Flats, Whatcom County, on 11 November 2001 (HO), provided western Washington's first

record. Following thereafter, singles were at Cle Elum, Kittitas County, in early January 2002 (+CT); Ellensburg, Kittitas County, on 3 January 2002 (SD); Electric City, Grant County, from 5 to 20 January 2002 (+PS, DB, TA); Wenatchee, Chelan County, on 19 January 2002 (DB); Chesaw, Okanogan County, on 26 January 2002 (CW); and Elk, Spokane County, on 26 and 27 January 2002 (MM). These observations bring the state total to 13 records.

UNACCEPTED RECORDS

Manx Shearwater. Two were reported off Teawhit Head, Clallam County, 12 June 2002, by an experienced observer. Unfortunately, the birds were seen briefly, and the Committee felt that similar species, such as Black-vented and Townsend's Shearwaters, could not be definitively eliminated.

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*). A bird described by a non-birder 35 kilometers off Neah Bay, Clallam County, 19 July 2001, suggested a frigatebird, but the description was too vague for certain identification even to genus.

Red-shouldered Hawk. Though most Committee members felt the bird was correctly identified, a hawk observed at the Skagit Wildlife Management Area, Skagit County, 27 Sep 2001, by experienced observers was described too briefly for the committee to endorse.

Broad-winged Hawk. A Broad-winged Hawk report from Slate Peak, Okanogan County, 22 September 2001, was not accepted, as it was noted to have a dark undertail and a build stockier than that of a Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*).

Bar-tailed Godwit. Reports of Bar-tailed Godwits from Tokeland, Pacific County, 16 September 2001, and Leadbetter Point, Pacific County, 16 September 2002, failed to eliminate the possibility of pale Marbled Godwits (*Limosa fedoa*).

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*). A worn and faded gull was photographed and carefully described at Kennewick, Benton County, on 25 March 2003. Though the description fits Iceland Gull fairly well, the photographs show a bird with a relatively thick bill, short wings, and a washed-out but distinct tail band. One photo suggests the presence of a secondary bar. Thayer's (*L. thayeri*), Glaucous (*L. hyperboreus*), Glaucous-winged (*L. glaucescens*), and Iceland Gull pose significant identification problems in mid-to-late spring as useful field marks are often faded and atypical in appearance at that time.

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*). A Long-billed Murrelet reported off Cypress Island, San Juan County, 11 November 2001, was unanimously not endorsed by the Committee. The primary concern was that the description did not eliminate the possibility of a juvenile Pigeon Guillemot (*Cepphus columba*) or Xantus's Murrelet.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. A bird at Hood Park, Walla Walla County, 13 Oct 2001, was apparently an immature almost fully in first basic plum-

age. Though several marks supported Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the advanced molt was of concern and raised the possibility of a hybrid Red-naped x Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Vermilion Flycatcher. A pair was reported from Fort Simcoe, Yakima County, on 5 July 2002. The Committee was concerned that the description did not eliminate House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*).

Yellow-billed Magpie (*Pica nuttalli*). A tantalizing report of this species came from near Pasco, Franklin County, on 15 and 16 June 2002. Ultimately, the report was not accepted because the possibility of a Black-billed Magpie (*P. hudsonica*) with aberrant bare parts could not be eliminated.

Bay-breasted Warbler. A singing male was reported near Granite Falls, Snohomish County, on 27 June 2002. Though the Committee felt this bird was likely correctly identified, the brevity and distance of the view led to the report not being accepted.

Black-and-white Warbler. The plumage and song descriptions of one at Point Grenville, Grays Harbor County, on 7 May 2002, failed to eliminate Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*).

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*). The description of a Mourning Warbler in Pend Oreille County, 30 May 2002, lacked sufficient detail to fully eliminate MacGillivray's Warbler (*O. tolmei*).

Baird's Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii*). The description of a bird in Wenatchee, Chelan County, 6 September 2002, did not adequately eliminate the possibilities of a Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) or a juvenile Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*).

Yellow Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysopheplus*). The description of a bird reported from Bothell, King County, 9 June 2001, did not eliminate Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) and was unanimously not accepted by the committee.

Tricolored Blackbird. A report of six Tricolored Blackbirds from Othello, Adams County, 8 December 2001, mentioned prominent buffy edges to the body plumage, which generally indicates Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). Other marks noted indicated Tricolored Blackbird, and though the Committee suspects the identification was correctly made, it did not endorse the report.

Common Grackle. A bird seen briefly in Othello, Adams County, 3 July 2002, was likely of this species, but the description did not allow for confident identification.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*). Washington's second Philadelphia Vireo was found singing in Lincoln County, near Ritzville, along Upper Crab Creek, on 7 June 2002 (DBa). Washington's first was seen at Summer Falls, Grant County, on 25 September 1991 (Tweit and Paulson 1994). Notably, the one Oregon record is from Harney County, on 3 June 1991 (Marshall et al. 2003).

Dusky Thrush (*Turdus naumanni*). A Dusky Thrush, beautifully drawn, was at Mount Vernon, Skagit County, on 27 June 2002 (PA). There was one dissenting vote based, in part, on the surprising date, but an Eyebrowed Thrush (*T. obscurus*) photographed in Kern County, California, 28 May 2001 (McCaskie and Garrett 2001), sets some precedent.

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*). A detailed description and drawing of a basic-plumaged adult Bay-breasted Warbler near Moses Lake, Grant County, 21 September 2002 (DS), furnished Washington's first state record. Oregon has ten records, mostly from late May and early June, with only one record after August (Marshall et al. 2003). California records, averaging six to seven per fall, peak in October (Small 1994).

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A bird records committee is a group composed of experienced ornithologists and birders who evaluate and validate records of birds that have not been documented in a country or a region. The Peru bird records committee is largely focused on reviewing species on the list of hypothetical birds to Peru. A record is composed of information about a sighting and associated evidence intended to support the proposed identification of the species. Supporting evidence includes photographs, video, sound recordings, and a detailed narrative describing the sighting. The content of peer-reviewed publications about museum specimens also constitutes supporting evidence. The work of a bird records committee helps maintain an updated official list of the birds of a country or region.