CAN YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

By Bob Morse

Are you deaf? Actually, no one is “deaf” anymore. With the advent of political correctness, we are now referred to as “hearing impaired”. Some of us are just more hearing impaired than others. As we grow older, many of us suffer from hearing loss; there are an estimated 31 million people in the United States who have a significant hearing loss. This condition can occur across the entire spectrum of frequencies or only at the higher frequencies, where those of us who are birders realize that we can no longer hear Golden-crowned Kinglets and some of the higher pitched warbler songs.

Non-traumatic hearing loss comes about slowly, incrementally. We often don’t know we have a problem until inevitably our birding friends utter that troubling refrain “can’t you hear that?” This happened to me, and after having my family remind me of my deteriorating hearing, I decided it was time to do something about it. A simple hearing test demonstrated that I was gradually losing my hearing, especially at the higher frequencies.

The audiologist I visited offered a wide assortment of hearing aid styles for my consideration. Some were for behind the ear (BTE), others were in-the-ear (ITE) or in-the-canal (ITC), and one was almost completely in the ear canal (CIC) and difficult to see. They even have disposable hearing... (Continued on page 10)

Scavenging

This account details interesting scavenging behavior that I observed in Stanwood, Snohomish County, WA on November 16, 2000. Upon arriving at the Smith Farms Wildlife Area on Eide Rd., I immediately noticed two Rough-legged Hawks (Buteo lagopus) on the ground in the grain stubble within 15 feet of each other. One bird, (later identified as a light morph adult female), was busy feeding on something, while the second bird (later identified as a light morph adult male) stood by, apparently patiently waiting for his turn. The food in question was a male Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos). Although I could not ascertain how the duck died, I suspected that it was probably injured or killed by one of the many hunters in the area since it would be unlikely for Rough-legged Hawks to kill such large prey (Bent 1937). This species has been recorded feeding on carrion many times, by myself and others (Kaufman 1996). Erlich et al (1988) list carrion as a secondary food source for this species.

I observed the birds for ten minutes with my spotting scope from 100 yards away. As I watched, a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), which appeared to be an immature Harlan's type bird by it's jet black plumage and light eye color, suddenly flew in and displaced the female rough-leg from the carcass. She flew off to a large hard wood over the Leque Farm building, apparently imperturbable. The male stood his ground, and then proceeded to wait patiently as the juvenile bird gorged for the next fifteen minutes. I watched as the immature Harlan's crop swelled so that it was plainly visible that this bird was getting its fill. At this point, the male rough-leg marched up... (Continued on page 5)
The Society

The Washington Ornithological Society was chartered in 1988 to increase knowledge of the birds of Washington and to enhance communication among all persons interested in those birds. WOS is a nonprofit educational organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. For information about the Society, contact an officer or board member, or write to:

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Thank you Glaxo Wellcome

The Society is the proud recipient of a $500 donation from Glaxo Wellcome, Inc. on behalf of Marcus Roening and Heather Baldash who have generously given time to WOS. THANK YOU Glaxo and thank you Marcus and Heather!
From the President…

“It's like déjà vu all over again”

In order to get a head start on the next election of officers, I wanted to provide the membership with an outline of what to anticipate for the election which will occur in September 2001. The upcoming ballot will include the following positions: President; Vice-president; Secretary; Treasurer; Board Position #1 (second year of a two-year term); Board Position #2; Board Position #3; and Board Position #4. Board Directors serve a two-year term and may serve up to two consecutive terms. Election of Board Directors is staggered so that two are elected one year and three are elected the following year. We'd like to get names for a year and three are elected the following term); Board Position #2; Board Position #1 (second year of a two-year term); Board Position #3; and Board Position #4. Board Directors serve a two-year term and may serve up to two consecutive terms. Election of Board Directors is staggered so that two are elected one year and three are elected the following year. We’d like to get names for a possible slate of candidates as soon as possible so that we can announce the names in the issue of WOSNews prior to the issue which contains the ballot.

WOS is also seeking volunteers for the following Board appointed positions:

- **Hospitality Chair** - Opens the meeting room at CUH for monthly meetings; provides refreshments or insures refreshments are provided.

- **Program Chair** - Schedules speakers/programs for the monthly meetings. Transmits information regarding programs to WOSNews editor in a timely fashion. Serves as the point of contact for ideas about speakers/presentations.

- **Merchandise/Sales Manager** - Maintains inventory of past issues of WOSNews, Washington Birds, Bird Finders' Guide, T-shirts, checklists, window decals, etc. and provides them for membership meetings and annual meeting. Responds to mail order requests for items.

- **Bird Box System Administrator** - Maintains the program and hardware for the BirdBox. A separate phone line is installed in the administrator's home at WOS.

If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please contact me for additional information. Serving on the Board is a rich and rewarding experience. The people I’ve had the pleasure to serve with have been energetic, dedicated, and very knowledgeable. Each person brings a unique set of skills and experience which helps the organization identify new ideas and methods for accomplishing our mission of increasing knowledge regarding the birds of Washington. I’ve learned a lot from working with various Board members and associated committee members over the past five years and would encourage people to consider participating as a member of the board or on one of our committees. It's a great group of folks to spend time with and it provides a vital service to all of those people who have an interest in Washington's birds. Remember, WOS is a volunteer organization and the only way it can be successful is to have members volunteer to participate in the activities of the society.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

—Scott Morrison

Thank You Charlotte Escott!

The Board would like to say a big Thank You to Charlotte Escott for her years of dedication and service to WOS. She resigned from her most recent duties as Treasurer at the end of December. In addition to her responsibilities as Treasurer, she handled the correspondence, and sales of books, publications and other merchandise. For many years, she has also served as financial advisor to the Board, preparing financial statements and keeping up-to-date on our non-profit status. Charlotte’s hard work, knowledge, and abilities will be missed.

Be Informed

WOSNews is published bimonthly by the Washington Ornithological Society to inform members about Society business, bird sightings, ornithological research, and the fun of birding. Readers are welcome to submit articles, announcements, illustrations, photographs, and other items for consideration. Contributor guidelines are available.

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Visit the Society’s web site at http://www.wos.org

Subscribe to the Tweeters email bird discussion list by emailing listproc@u.washington.edu with a message text of sub tweeters your name
13th Annual Meeting set for the Columbia Gorge

Mark your calendars for the 13th Annual Meeting of the Washington Ornithological Society to be held in The Dalles, Oregon, June 15 - 17, 2001.

The Columbia River Gorge is an area of splendid scenic beauty and great birding. Thick layers of basalt from fissure flows formed the Columbia Plateau which was subsequently scoured by outpourings from glacial Lake Missoula. The Gorge was formed by the Columbia River cutting down through the basalt and its tributaries have eroded steep-sided channels from the uplands to the main channel. These rocky canyons with their attendant riparian vegetation, along with upland expanses of shrub-steppe and sagebrush open prairie, Ponderosa pine woodlands, Garry oak, aspen groves, and Douglas fir stands provide rich and varied habitat for a multitude of bird species. The open waters of the Columbia River and its backwater lakes and ponds are excellent waterfowl habitat. High cliffs along the Oregon side are replete with spectacular waterfalls which host dippers.

Specialty birds in the Gorge include Acorn Woodpecker, Lesser Goldfinch, Ash-throated and Gray Flycatcher, as well as a host of other birds which regularly occur in the Columbia Basin. Field trips will target areas such as Goldendale, Rock Creek, the Klickitat River basin, Satus Pass, Lyle, and other birding hot spots.

Field trips will be held on Saturday and Sunday. We're exploring the prospect of an afternoon field trip in The Dalles area on Friday. A colloquium is planned for Saturday afternoon, and early evening no-host cocktail hour/reception followed by the annual banquet.

We look forward to seeing you in June!

Registration forms will be included in WOSNews 72.

Room rates at the Shilo are as follows:

- 1 Queen facing parking lot $69
- 2 Queen facing pool $79
- 1 King facing pool $89
- Mini suite - 2 Queen - mountain view $89
- Mini suite - 2 Queen - partial river view $89
- Mini suite - 2 King - mountain view $99
- Mini suite - 2 King - partial river view $99

Toll free reservations 1-800-222-2244
Motel direct line (541) 298-5502
Website www.shiloinns.com/Oregon/the_dalles.html

Rates are for 1 or 2 people - extra persons over age 12 are $10 each per night. King suites have queen size hide-a-beds. Rollaway is $15 which includes extra person charge.

Oregon Field Ornithologists Birding Weekends

Our sister organization south of the border, the Oregon Field Ornithologists, is continuing its series of weekend field trips in 2001 called OFO Birding Weekends. The aim of these weekends is to bring birders together, see new species and explore new birding locations.

OFO Birding Weekends normally begin at dawn Saturday and end early Sunday afternoon. Participants are sent a letter in advance of each weekend, suggesting lodging, meeting place, and other details. Participants must register by the Tuesday before the weekend they want to attend. Registration is $15 per person for each weekend. Questions? Call (505) 646-7889

Send your registration to:
Paul T. Sullivan
4470 SW Murray Blvd. #26
Beaverton, OR 97005

We’ll publish the schedule for the subsequent next two months in upcoming issues of WOSNews. More information is on the web at http://www.oregonbirds.org/ofowkends2001.html.

March 24-25 Jackson County – raptors and waterfowl, early migrants, specialties of SW Oregon. Base: Ashland

April 28-29 Umatilla County – will look for early spring migrants like Long-billed Curlews, Sandhill Cranes, waterfowl, and songbirds. Base: Hermiston.

May 12 Spring North American Migration Count.

May 26-27 Come explore the birding haunts of this spectacular county in another time zone to find spring migrants and early summer nesters. We will look for shorebirds, raptors, waterfowl, and songbirds too. Base: Ontario
Scavenging Hawks

...continued from page 1

to the carcass and displaced the Harlan's, which stepped aside, nonchalantly. After several minutes of watching the rough-leg feed, this bird flew off. During this time, an adult Harlan's Hawk, that seems to be a perennial winter resident in this area, flew within 50 yards of the carcass and displaced a third rough-leg from a nearby fence post. Although these two birds also appeared interested in the carcass, they both flew out of the immediate area. After apparently feeding to his capacity, the male rough-leg then flew off and joined the adult female in the shade tree over the farm. I left the carcass area at this point in order to get better looks at the rough-legs.

This was not the end of scavenging observations however, as when I returned to observe ten minutes later an adult Red-tailed Hawk was dining at the carcass. This time, an immature Northern Harrier (Circus cyaneus) was waiting in attendance within 15 feet, for its turn to feed. This harrier was marked with a green patagial marker. I discovered later that it was a female that had been trapped and marked near the Oak Harbor sewage treatment facility on Whidbey Island on July 3, 2000 by Jack Bettesworth as part of his harrier project. Since I had not positively identified the unfortunate duck that was providing all this good eating, I moved toward the carcass to do this. The red-tail flew off, and this provided an opportunity for the harrier to move in and get a quick meal. At the site of the feast, I noted that most of the meat had been removed from the bones, although the feet, wings and head of the duck remained. After I vacated the area, another harrier flew in and began to feed, and the tagged harrier again began waiting nearby. I should also note that several crows (Corvus brachyrhynchos) and ravens (Corvus corax) came near the carcass, but seemed unsuccessful in efforts to get food or displace the raptors.

This entire sequence raises several points for discussion. How important is scavenging to raptors such as these three species? I have noted Northern Harriers feeding on ducks at least five times at many different locations, and it was doubtful whether they killed any of them. Red-tails have also been recorded scavenging many times by myself as well as in published accounts (Bent 1937, Sheffield and Jobe 1996). Preston and Beane (1993) state that fresh carrion is readily eaten when available to Red-tailed Hawks, and my personal observation of a pair of adult red-tails feeding on a recently road-killed deer this past October confirmed this. It appears that raptors not considered "scavengers" may often feed on carrion, and that these food resources could be a more important element of their diets than is commonly believed. It is probable that this opportunistic feeding strategy may be more prevalent in habitat that receives heavy hunting pressure through concentrated carcass availability. Although raptors' scavenging behavior is considered to be more prevalent during winter (Buchanan 1991, Palmer 1988, Sheffield and Jobe 1996), the birds that I observed on a relatively mild November day were just exploiting an easily available food resource.

Another interesting element of this observation was the presence of adult Rough-legged Hawks, which acted as if they may have been a pair. Several studies (Kjellen 1994, Olsen and Arsenault 2000) have indicated that male rough-legs winter further south than females. The latter study concluded that this segregation of wintering ranges is probably the result of sexual size dimorphism and the resulting differential tolerances for extreme weather conditions. This would explain the paucity of sightings of adult males in western Washington. The adult rough-legs that I observed may have been in transit at the time of my observation. Rough-legs are thought to arrive back on territory paired in the spring, (Olsen and Arsenault 2000). Although it is purely speculative on my part, these birds may have been moving south together.

LITERATURE CITED:


[Editor’s Note: I really enjoyed this article, since it sheds some light on the mysterious survival of the harrier. As an undergraduate at the University of California, Berkeley I had a professor of zoology who once quipped that the “marsh hawk” was really an illusion based on his extensive field work. He rarely saw this species successfully capture anything, in spite of many attempts. He figured the energetics just didn’t pencil out!]
On June 4, 2000, Ruth Sullivan found both a Hermit x Townsend's Warbler hybrid (left) and an apparently pure Hermit Warbler on Walker Mountain, Jefferson Co. The bird on the left has a greenish wash over the back and yellow extending down over the breast, while the one on the right is white-breasted all the way up to the bib, and the back is gray.


This Northern Hawk Owl, *Surnia ulula*, has been thrilling birders from both Canada and the United States. It has been spending the winter just south of the border near Blaine, Whatcom Co., WA since January 7, 2001. Michael Hobbs found the bird very cooperative on January 8, when it perched unperturbed for photos.
PHOTO GALLERY

This Spotted Owl, *Strix occidentalis*, was a beautiful find for Ruth Sullivan at Whites Pass, *Yakima Co.*, June 24, 2000.

Surely Ruth Sullivan isn't the only WOS member taking photographs. Your recent photos will appear on these pages (and on the web) if you send your prints or slides to Michael Hobbs, 13506 NE 66th St, Kirkland, WA 98033. Please label your photos and indicate if you want them returned. Please, please, please, please...


Below right: This Red-breasted Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus ruber*, was seen entering and leaving this nest hole by Ruth Sullivan at Rimrock, *Yakima Co.*, on June 24, 2000.
Swan Lead Poisoning Die-off
Washington Swan Coalition
February 8, 2001

In late December 2000 and continuing into February 2001 trumpeter swans are dying from lead poisoning in north Whatcom County, Washington and over the border into the Sumas Valley in British Columbia. As of February 4 more than 176 trumpeters have been picked up dead or dying on the ponds they use for night roosts. Most of the birds, at least 150 are from the U.S. side.

This is the second year in a row for this die-off and in the same area. Last year the total known dead was 87, this year there are more than twice this number and the winter season still has several weeks to go. A similar die-off also occurred in 1992 in this same area. It is unclear why eight years passed before these recent die-offs have occurred again.

Our Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service are working on finding where the swans are picking up the lead shot.

The swans pick up the lead shot in areas where they are feeding. They ingest the pellets, thinking they are grit (small stones). Lead shot pellets are the same general size of the grit they prefer. Grit is needed to aid in the grinding of food in their gizzards.

Depending on what a swan eats for food, it takes only 3 to 4 pellets to cause lead poisoning. Some of the birds found dead have more than 30 pellets in their gizzards. Lead poisoning results when the food is ground against the grit and lead shot in the gizzard during digestion. Lead is a soft metal and gets ground down easily and then is taken into the blood stream causing the symptoms of lead poisoning. Sometimes this process is slow and the birds can survive. Other times, if they eat corn for example, the grain is hard and the lead is ground down more quickly, thus resulting in a high release of lead into the system and the swans die.

Swans spend their winter days feeding in agricultural fields or adjacent wetlands then go to night roosts, typically a lake or slough. Swans fly into the night roosts, if they feel ill they do not leave the roost the next day, the bird gradually gets weaker and eventually die at the roost site.

The replacement of toxic lead shot by non-toxic alternatives will help to conserve the health of our bird populations and their habitats for everyone to enjoy.

NON-TOXIC AMMUNITION - WHAT IS IT?

The ammunition made from other metals or combination of metals has been shown to have minimal to no toxicity on wildlife. There is on-going research to find better ammunition that will work as well as lead and be benign to the environment and wildlife. Several non-toxic alternatives have been developed and approved for use, including:

- Bismuth shot
- Tungsten-matrix shot
- Steel shot
- Tungsten-iron shot
- Tin shot
- Tungsten-polymer shot

At this time, these alternatives are currently more expensive than lead, although the cost is coming down and the difference in price for some shot is nominal. The cost to work with lead poisoned wildlife and the deaths of non-target species including swans, raptors and others is substantial. It is time for the public to stop subsidizing hunting at the cost of our environmental health and wildlife resources.

CURRENT REGULATIONS

Non-toxic shot has been required for all waterfowl hunting in the United States since 1991 and in Canada since 1999.

In Washington State: Non-toxic shot required for all waterfowl hunting. For upland birds lead is still used in all areas except Skagit County and 10 Dept. of Fish and Wildlife owned lands where pheasants are released. This is only a small portion of the pheasant release sites.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is studying the ban of lead for all bird hunting. The Washington Swan Coalition is working to educate the public about the lead ammunition issue and to gain support to encourage our WDFW to ban lead for ALL bird hunting in Washington.

For more information on lead shot and lead poisoning visit the Canadian Wildlife Services website, http://www.cws-scf.gc.ca/pub/hunting/nontoxic.html.

Also visit the WDFW website, http://www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/game/water/nontoxicshot.htm, for information on the their continued work to ban lead shot for upland bird hunting.
Trumpeter swan *Cygnus buccinator*

*Identification Tips:*
- Length: 45 inches Wingspan: 95 inches
- Large, long-necked waterbird with short legs and a short duck-like bill
- Long neck held straight up with a kink at base
- Black bill
- Culmen straight
- Black of bill extends up to eye but does not encircle it
- V shaped demarcation on forehead between black bill and white feathering
- Black legs and feet
- Entirely white plumage
- Sexes similar

*Immature:*
- We are still arguing about this section! Check back later.
- Body grayer than adult

*Similar species:*

The very large Trumpeter Swan is unlikely to be confused with anything but other swans. White Pelicans, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, and Snow Geese are all white birds that from a great distance could look like swans but all have black primaries. The adult Mute Swan can be told from the adult Trumpeter Swan by its orange and black knobby bill. The adult Trumpeter Swan is very similar to the adult Tundra Swan but it is slightly larger, has a straight culmen, the bill has no yellow spot, the eye is almost enclosed by black, and the white feathering on the head extends in a V shape into the dark bill.


Tundra swan *Cygnus columbianus*

*Identification Tips:*
- Length: 36 inches Wingspan: 85 inches
- Large, long-necked waterbird with short legs and a short duck-like bill
- Long neck held straight up with a kink at base
- Black bill with variably-sized yellow spot at base
- Culmen somewhat concave
- Black of bill extends up to eye but does not encircle it
- Straight demarcation on forehead between black bill and white feathering
- Black legs and feet
- Entirely white plumage
- Sexes similar

*Immature:*
- We are still arguing about this section! Check back later.
- Body grayer than adult

*Similar species:*

The very large Tundra Swan is unlikely to be confused with anything but other swans. White Pelicans, Whooping Cranes, Wood Storks, and Snow Geese are all white birds that from a great distance could look like swans but all have black primaries. The adult Mute Swan can be told from the adult Tundra Swan by its orange and black knobby bill. The adult Trumpeter Swan is very similar to the adult Tundra Swan but it is slightly larger, has a straight culmen, the bill has no yellow spot, the eye is enclosed by black, and the white feathering on the head extends in a V shape into the dark bill. In the far northwest, a subspecies of the Tundra Swan shows more yellow at the base of the bill and could be confused with the Alaskan Whooper Swan. The Whooper Swan has yellow in the bill that goes beyond the nostril.
CAN YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

(Continued from page 1)

aids and cochlear implants. After we discussed the various alternatives, I selected a pair of Seimens CIC hearing aids for a 30-day trial. A wax impression of my ear (all ear canals have different shapes) was taken, and along with my recent hearing test results, was shipped to the factory. Two weeks later I was birding in the field with my new hearing aids. I was delighted that everything seemed so loud; the forest was alive with new sounds.

It wasn't until the next weekend, when I went birding with Kevin Aaenerud on a WOS field trip, that I was disappointed to realize that he could detect calls that I still could not. Once again I heard that refrain "can't you hear that?"

On my return visit to the audiologist, I discovered that all hearing aids are not created equally. Most hearing aids help only with the lower frequencies, where most human conversation occurs (500Hz to 4,500Hz). She had no suggestions when I explained that it was important that my hearing aid amplify both the lower and the higher frequencies, so I could hear all the bird songs and calls.

I knew Hal Opperman had a hearing aid, so I called him, as well as the American Birding Association. Both gave me the name of the Haas Hearing Center in Pennsylvania which manufactures a set of hearing aids specifically designed for birders. They amplify the higher frequencies as well as the lower, so it is possible to hear the complete palette of avian utterances. After sending my ear impressions and the hearing test results, they were able to send "The Birder" hearing aids within two weeks.

The following morning I spent several hours in the woods birding and listening to sounds I hadn't heard in 10 years: calling Golden-crowned Kinglets, the sound of a leaf hitting the ground, the crunch of my own footsteps walking on leaves. What I had been missing was incredible. I could see (hear!) that birding was going to be completely fun again. I also appreciated the ability to adjust the volume; I could turn it up in the field, but down in noisy situations, like restaurants (or when "listening" to my wife). I immediately purchased "The Birder" hearing aids from the Haas Hearing Institute for $3,200; $1,500 less than the previous ones from Seimens.

It is important to note that not all hearing loss can be remedied by auditory enhancement. Occasionally, some hearing loss may be so severe at the higher frequencies that the improvement with a hearing aid is not as noticeable or beneficial.

But, if you are putting off getting your hearing tested and trying out hearing aids, I urge you to take the steps now to improve your hearing, and therefore your life. As a birder you will be delighted with the results. It will make your birding a lot more enjoyable and certainly more productive.

To understand more about hearing loss and the options for hearing aids, I recommend the following web sites:

www.ablehearing.com/hearing.aids.htm
www.hearingaidhelp.com

For more information on “The Birder” hearing aids contact Barbara Haas at fbhaas@ptd.net or 717-445-5010 or write her at Haas Hearing Center, 2469 Hammertown Rd, Narvon, PA, 17555.

*An audiologist is certified by the American Speech and Hearing Association and is qualified to test, diagnose, and make recommendations for hearing remediation.

The opinions presented in this article are those of the author, and do not imply an endorsement of any products by the Washington Ornithological Society.
Report Your Sightings

Birds of Yakima County - For a weekly column in the Yakima Herald-Republic newspaper, Denny Granstrand requests reports of recent bird sightings in Yakima county. Please send reports by early Monday evening for inclusion in that week's paper to Denny Granstrand, osprey@nwinfo.net, or post them to Tweeters.

Red-necked Grebes - I am searching for wintering Red-necked Grebes - both to find sites for behavioral observations, and to better understand specific features of habitats they use. I am looking for any sites where 10 or more RNGR can be observed from a given location. If you know of any "good" Red-necked Grebe sites I would appreciate the following information on the site(s): location, time of year when the birds are usually present (this can be pretty general), approximate number of grebes which can typically be seen at the site. Please send reports to Bonnie Stout, bestout@sfu.ca (Originally appeared in WOSNews 66).

Horned and Red-necked Grebes – marked in Northwest Territories with unique combinations of color bands. Horned grebes were banded with red, yellow, green, and blue. Red-necked grebes with more obscure colors – burgundy, orange, white (off-white), and light blue. Report to Bonnie Stout, bestout@sfu.ca (Originally appeared in WOSNews 57)

Collar-marked Geese and Swans — marked with colored neck collars can be reported through the Bird Banding Laboratory. The more information that you can provide, the more likely the individual bird or marking project can be identified. Important information to send is (1) Size, shape, color of marker, color of codes, shape and placement of codes on the marker (a sketch can be more useful than a written description), (2) Age of the bird, sex of the bird if available (3) Date the bird was observed (4) Exact location the bird was observed (5) Your name, address, and preferably a daytime telephone number in case they have a question. Call your report in to 1-800-327-BAND (please do not use this number if you have live Canada Goose observations or several birds to report!), or FAX it to 301-497-5717 or email to COLLAR@USGS.GOV.

Double-crested Cormorants – with the orange patagial markers were marked and telemetered on their east Sand Island breeding colony in the Columbia River estuary. Somewhere close to 500 were marked. If observers can read the number on tag and report it to Dan Roby (robyd@ucs.orst.edu) the information will be most useful to them. Time to learn something about seasonal movements of cormorants. (Originally appeared in WOSNews 69)

Brant - For various research projects, Brant have been tagged with either 3-character leg bands usually placed on the right tarsus and read from bottom to top, or with two yellowish bands with one character each, read top to bottom. (i.e. K over D). Please report sightings of these using the web form at http://brant.bio.uaf.edu/ (Originally appeared in WOSNews 64)

Cooper's Hawks – Color bands have been placed on over 400 nestling Cooper's Hawks in Victoria, British Columbia since 1996. This is part of a long-term study on the urban-nesting ecology of this species. Most sightings to date have come from southern Vancouver Island, however, several have been reported from the Boundary Bay area near Point Roberts and a single bird was recovered at Yakima, Washington. Each color band is uniquely coded with 2 vertical, alphanumeric characters and is placed on the left leg. Black bands are on males and red bands are on females. Please note band code and color, date, time, and location. Report all sightings to Andy Stewart, BC Environment, PO Box 9344 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria, BC, Canada V8W 9M1. (250) 387-9780, or email andy.stewart@gems6.gov.bc.ca (Originally appeared in WOSNews 64)

American Crows - John Withey is putting together a year long study of crow numbers in the Seattle Audubon CBC circle. He wants to do monthly counts, with the circle divided into 8 subsectors. He is looking for people who are willing to help. He may be contacted at 206-543-2764 or jwithey@u.washington.edu for more information. (Originally appeared in WOSNews 69)

RARE BIRD ALERTS

WOS BirdBox (425) 454-2662
Tri Cities Area (509) 943-6857
SE Wash/N Idaho (208) 882-6195
South Idaho (208) 236-3337
Oregon (503) 292-0661
Vancouver, B.C. (604) 737-3074
Victoria, B.C. (604) 592-3381

Field Notes & Washington Field Notes
WINTER DEADLINE: MARCH 15
(December — February sightings)
Send bird sightings to:
Russell Rogers
6637 Glenwood Drive SW
Olympia WA 98512
rrogers@halcyon.com

Washington Review Species – Reports of review species (see Washington Birds 5:1-6 or the WOS Field Card) may be sent to the “Washington Field Notes” compiler or directly to the Washington Bird Records Committee, c/o Phil Mattocks, 915 East 3rd Ave, Ellensburg WA 98926.

Please submit detailed descriptions and drawings or photographs, if possible, of unusual birds.

BAND RECOVERIES (“Avise” leg bands) should be reported. Include the band number, along with how, when, and where the band was recovered, preferably with reference to the nearest town. Persons who report bands receive a Certificate of Appreciation telling where, when, and by whom the bird was banded, so be sure to include your full name and address with all reports.

Report to:
Bird Banding Laboratory
12100 Beech Forest Road, Suite 4037
Laurel MD 20708
Phone: (800) 327-BAND
E-mail bandreports@patuxent.nbs.gov
http://www.pwrc.nbs.gov/bbl
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