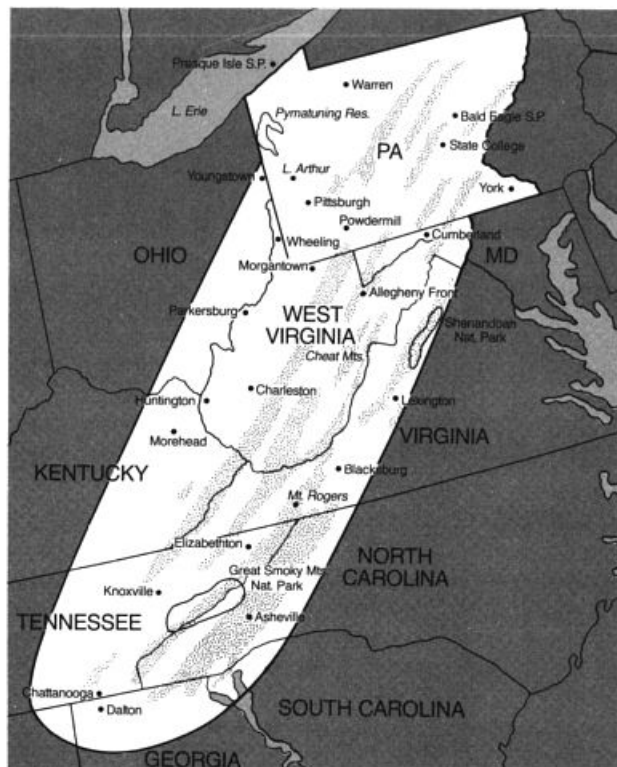


Simek (RSk), R. Simms, K. Slayton, I. Smith, **R. Smith** (RSm), J.M. Speirs, P. Stepien-Scanlon, M. Street, M. Sullivan (MSu), M. Tate (MTa), J.&J. Thomson, C. Thorpe, E. Ticknor, M. Timpf, **R. Tozer**, S. & A. Treganza, F. Urie, R. vanTwest, D. Ware (DWa), P. Walker, **R.D. Weir**, R. Westmore, **J. Wojnowski** (JWo), J. Woodcock, **A. Wormington**, D. Worthington, B. Wylie, R. Yukich, W. Yung.

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appalachian region



generally better than in recent years. The passerine species expected in October staged a pretty good flight. In November, there was a heavier than average movement of waterfowl, including grebes and coots.

The uneventful periods were occasionally interrupted by a weather-induced "fallout." There was a sprinkling of rarities, including a Regional first record. Despite the late arrival of some migrants, few remained past their normal departure time. By the end of the period there had been a moderately good influx of winter finches, promising an interesting winter ahead. The fall migration in this Region is now being

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GEORGE A. HALL

If I may borrow a term from evolutionary biology, the 1997 Autumn Migration could be designated as a routine (dare I say dull?) season, punctuated by a few episodes of excitement. The weather as well as the birding was pretty much "ho hum." At the Pittsburgh Weather Station, August and September were cooler than normal and had slightly lower than normal rainfall. October had near normal temperatures, but was much drier than normal. All in all it was a mild, pleasant season which changed abruptly in November to much colder than normal, with a 3-inch excess of rainfall. By the end of the period there had been few heavy frosts and only the "snowbelt" in Erie County, Pennsylvania, had had snow.

The migration started slowly; a series of frontal systems in August and early September were not accompanied by any substantial bird movement. The main passerine migration peaked in the first week of October, and numbers of thrushes and warblers were

stations, but comparative data for analysis were submitted from only the two big stations. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 6612 birds were banded in 109 days, giving a statistically average season of 63 species with numbers large enough to analyze. Three were banded in numbers two Standard Deviations (S.D.) above the average of the 1987-1996 period, 10 were one S.D. above average, and seven were one S.D. below average (RCL, RM). The Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant County, West Virginia, banded 3843 birds in 68 days. Of 42 species analyzed, two were two S.D. above average, and two were one S.D. below average (GAH). At both stations, comparison with the average of the 1977-1986 period gives a much gloomier picture.

Many of the hawk watch stations submitted only fragmentary data. Another monitoring project is the Waterfowl Count, which has now operated for several years at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania.

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Abbreviations: A.F.M.O. (*Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant Co., WV*); B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA*); G B W.M.A. (*Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell Co., WV*); HW (*Hawk Watch Station*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); S.H.L. (*South Holston L., Washington Co., VA/Sullivan Co., TN*); Y.C.S.P. (*Yellow Creek State Park, Indiana Co., PA*).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

For this inland Region, there was an unusual number of reports of Red-throated Loon. The Waterfowl Count at P.I.S.P. registered 204 between Oct. 24 and Nov. 27, with 43 in 2 hours Nov. 7. The average annual count there is eight (JM). Single sightings came from B.E.S.P. Nov. 15 (S&GY), Y C S.P. Nov. 8 (MH), Keystone Res., PA, Nov. 9 (M&RH), Bluestone R., WV, in early November (AMc), and Boone L., TN, Nov. 13 (RK). The Com. Loon flight was somewhat better than in recent years, with a high count of 70 at Boone L., TN, Nov. 9 (WC). Twenty-five flew by the Town Hill HW, MD, Nov. 16 (RKi), and several were seen at a hawk counting overlook on Backbone Mt, WV, Nov. 17 (GF).

It was a great year for grebes. The flight of Pied-billed Grebes was unusually heavy at most places, with high counts of 114 at S H L. Sept. 30 (WC), 47 at Y.C.S.P. Oct. 4 (MH), and 40 at L. Somerset, PA Sept. 30 (RCL). Horned Grebes were in good numbers, with a high count of 170 at Boone L., TN, Nov. 13 (RK). The rarer Red-necked Grebe was reported from S.H.L. Oct. 2-3, the earliest fall date for the state (WC), and Keystone Res., PA, Oct. 30 (MH). The Waterfowl Count at P.I.S.P. listed four Oct. 19-Nov. 2, and two were present Nov. 20-22 (JM). An Eared Grebe was at P.I.S.P. Nov. 11 (JM). For the 4th consecutive autumn Eared Grebes appeared on S.H.L., with a peak of 19 on Oct. 5 (WC, LM).

Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase throughout the Region. The highest count was 850 in 10 minutes flying down the Ohio R. at Huntington, WV, Nov. 6 (HS). Other high counts were 350 at Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 2, reduced to one Nov. 9 (RFL), and 133 at Boone L., TN, Nov. 9 (WC). Cormorants were seen flying past the Town Hill HW, MD, Oct. 11 (JPa) and over Roan Mt., TN, Sept. 14 (RK, WC, LM).

American Bitterns were reported from Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 8 (AM); L. Arthur, PA, Sept. 27 (DD); Imperial, PA, Sept. 30 (CT); P.N.R. Sept. 11-13 (RCL); and

Hamilton, TN, Sept. 29 and Nov. 22 (KC). Least Bitterns were found at P.I.S.P. Aug. 28 (JM) and Sept. 5 (GR); Pymatuning L., PA, Sept. 7 (RFL); and Hamilton, TN, Sept. 29 (KC). Great Egrets were reported more widely than normal, and there were some unusually late dates: Wood, WV, Nov. 8 (JE); Shady Valley, TN, Nov. 9 (JSh); and Bluestone R., WV, Nov. 14 (JP). The only Little Blue Herons were up to five at Cocke, TN, Aug. 3-28 (RK) and one at Quemahoning Dam, Somerset, PA, Sept. 12-20 (M&EW). Twenty-one Cattle Egrets were seen in Cocke, TN, Aug. 22 (RK). Unusually late Black-crowned Night-Herons were in Wood, WV, Nov. 1 (JE) and Boalsburg, PA, Nov. 9 (DB). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Bristol, TN, Aug. 24 (WC, LM) and Elizabethton, TN, Sept. 27 (GW, HL).

Thirteen imm. White Ibises were seen in Hamilton, TN, Aug. 13 (JCh), and two were at another location in the county Aug. 24 (KC). A Glossy Ibis was also in Hamilton Sept. 6 (JCh), the first local record since 1967. A Glossy Ibis was also reported from Augusta, VA, Aug. 18, a 3rd county record (Y&AL).

WATERFOWL

Most places experienced good flights of waterfowl, and some had the best migration in many years, but a few places had poor flights. Several reporters commented on early arrival of some species, and numbers were still good at the end of the period. There were several weather-related "fall-outs" of waterfowl: Oct. 26 in Somerset, PA (AM); Nov. 7-9 in the 5-county area around Pittsburgh (PH); Nov. 9 at Colyer L., Centre, PA (JPe); and Nov. 14 in Summers, WV (JP).

Tundra Swans at the w. Pennsylvania locations of their normal migratory path were in good numbers. Most flocks were in the 50-100 limits, but several thousand flyovers were reported from Allegheny, PA, Nov. 11 (SK), and 900 from Butler, PA, Nov. 12 (DY). Away from the normal route, swans were reported from Garrett, MD, Nov. 16 & 18 (CS); Monongalia, WV (GE, GAH); 19 at Wood, WV, Nov. 26, a late date (BM, CGu); and Augusta, VA, Nov. 8 (YL). Five Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in the concentration in Summers, WV, Nov. 14 (JP). Snow Geese continue to be more widespread and numerous than in the past. Reports of small numbers came from 6 w. Pennsylvania locations, and they were reported in the fallout in Summers, WV, Nov. 14 (JP), and in Russell, VA, Nov. 14 (BR). The increasing local populations of Canada

Geese make it difficult to judge the migration, but at Pymatuning Game Management Area, the population built up to 10,550 Oct. 25; 9100 were still present Nov. 29 (RFL).

Two small geese, presumably *B c hutchinsi*, were with the local Canada Goose population at Swoope, VA (YL). Brant are normally rare away from L. Erie, but nine were seen in the waterfowl fallout at Colyer L., PA, Nov. 9 (m.ob., *vide* JPe). Single records came from Keystone Res., PA, Nov. 7-9 (JH, JF); Manheim, WV, Nov. 9 (GF); Lock Haven, PA, Nov. 10 (DR); and Woodcock L., PA, Nov. 23 (RFL).

Most areas listed all the duck species. Dabbling ducks were in modest numbers. Some high counts were 57 Green-winged Teal at Woodcock L., Crawford, PA, Oct. 25 (RFL); 50 Gadwalls in the Crawford, PA, lakes Oct. 19 (RFL); and 80 Am. Wigeon at Pymatuning G.M.A. Oct. 25 (RFL). A Eur Wigeon was reported from near Fairmont, WV, Nov. 11 (GF). Some diving duck species were in high numbers: 540 Ring-necked Ducks at L. Arthur, PA, Nov. 8 (*vide* PH) and 400 at Tamarack L., PA, Nov. 2 (RFL); and 400 Lesser Scaup at Tamarack L. Nov. 2 (RFL). Buffleheads were unusually common throughout, with the high count of 450 on Donegal L., PA, Nov. 11 (RCL). Ruddy Ducks were more widespread and in bigger numbers than usual, with several areas reporting record counts. The highest was 650 at L. Arthur, PA, Oct. 28 (CT).

The Waterfowl Count at P.I.S.P. listed 175 Black Scoters, 72 Surf Scoters, and 68 White-winged Scoters during the season (JM). On Nov. 7, 134 migrating Blacks were counted in 2 hours (JM). Away from L. Erie, all three scoters were found at more places and in higher numbers than usual, with most records coming during the period of the fallouts listed above. Usually the rarest, the Black Scoter was reported from 8 locations in s.w. Pennsylvania, with an unusual high count of 80 at Y.C.S.P. Nov. 8 (MH), and from Centre, PA, Nov. 9 (*vide* JPe). Surf Scoters were reported from 7 locations in w. Pennsylvania, and from Huntington, WV, Nov. 3-7 (HS); S.H.L. Nov. 19 (WC); and Washington, VA, Oct. 21 (BR). White-winged Scoters were found at Colyer L., PA, Nov. 9 (*vide* JPe); Kahle L., Venango, PA, Oct. 18-Nov. 11 (GE); North Park, Allegheny, PA, Nov. 8 (MF); and Washington, VA, Nov. 4 (BR).

Hooded Mergansers continued their population surge, with most places reporting large numbers topped off by the 2000 in several lakes in Crawford, PA (RFL). Also

from *Crawford* came reports of 250 Com. Mergansers Nov. 29 (RFL), and 300 Red-breasted Mergansers Nov. 2 (RFL, IF).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES

The hawk watch on Soddy Mt., TN, tallied 1515 Turkey Vultures for the season, with a record count of 763 Nov. 9 (WH). The Osprey migration was very good, with a one-day count of 13 at Mendota Tower HW, VA, Sept. 21 (LM) and a record count of 10 Sept. 27 at Soddy Mt., TN (WH). One at Rockfish Gap, VA, Nov 9 was rather late. As many as three **Swallow-tailed Kites** were present in *Murray/Whitfield*, GA, Aug. 16–19 (m.ob., *fide* HD). A Swallow-tailed Kite was also seen at the East River Mt. HW on the Virginia/West Virginia border Sept. 20 (AMc).

Bald Eagles were reported from 14 locations away from the hawk watch stations, but the 45 birds tallied was lower than recent years. The N. Harrier continues to thrive in the north, with reports from 11 locations in the 5-county Pittsburgh area (PH). One at Imperial, PA, Nov. 5 was late (CT). The only report s. of Pennsylvania was of 19 tallied at the Hanging Rock HW, WV (RD).

Northern Goshawks were reported from Hanging Rock HW, WV, Oct. 19 & 31 and Nov. 9 (RD); from Mendota Tower HW, VA, Sept. 25 (BQ) & 27 (LM); and the Soddy Mt. HW, TN, Nov. 11, a first for that station (WH). Other goshawk reports came from P.I.S.P. Oct. 4 (RFL et al.) and Nov. 6 (DBo); Natrona Heights, PA, Nov. 16 (D&PH); and *Tazwell*, VA, Oct. 28 (TH). The hawk watch stations had good, but not spectacular, Broad-winged Hawks migrations. Mendota Tower listed 3891 during September (*fide* LM), Hanging Rock tallied 2763 for the season with a peak day of 862 Sept. 21 (RD), while Soddy Mt. had a high one-day count of 570 (WH). A Rough-legged Hawk in *Allegheny*, PA, Sept. 19 (RDo, DG) was quite early, but the only other records were from *Allegheny*, PA, Nov. 12 (same bird?; DH); *Lawrence*, PA, Nov. 21 (LW); *Venango*, PA, Nov. 23 (JS); and *Erie*, PA, Nov. 22 (TC, SSm). The Hanging Rock HW, WV, listed 11 Golden Eagles during the season (RD). At the Town Hill HW, MD, 11 were seen Nov. 16 (RKi), and one was seen at Soddy Mt., TN, Nov. 8 (WH). Other reports came from Kinzua Dam, PA, Aug. 13 (TG); Pittsburgh Oct. 25 (CT, JK); Backbone Mt., WV, Nov. 17 (GF); *Russell*, VA, Oct. 15 & 29 (BR, JB); and *Grayson*, VA, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 (LCa). This last bird was attempting to catch a turkey.

In *Warren*, PA, Am. Kestrels occupied 41 of 52 nest boxes and produced 188 eggs, of which 136 hatched and 132 birds fledged (DW). Hanging Rock HW tallied 73 kestrels (RD). It was a great season for Merlins; there were 26 birds reported at 13 localities, and several more were seen. Two were banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH). Eighteen Peregrines were reported from locations throughout the Region.

The report of 19 ad. and young N. Bobwhite coming to a yard in *Wood*, WV (BJ), was good news of this almost vanished species. The Wild Turkey continues to thrive and can now be said to be common throughout the Region. Virginia Rails were reported at Conneaut Marsh, *Crawford*, PA, Sept. 7 (RFL); *Garrett*, MD, Sept. 25 (CS); and *Greenville*, VA, Sept. 27–28, a 5th county record (KF). Soras were found at *Manheim*, WV, Oct. 13 (GF); one dead atop East River Mt., WV/VA, Sept. 30 (JP); *Elkton*, VA, Oct. 28 (MGS); *Stuart's Draft*, VA, until Oct. 20 (YL); and late at *Hamilton*, TN, Nov. 3 (KC). The only Com. Moorhen reports came from *Hartstown*, PA, Sept. 12 (RFL) and *Hamilton*, TN, Sept. 5–13 (KC). The Region was overrun with Am. Coots, which occurred in the largest numbers within memory. Counts in the hundreds were commonplace, and the maximum counts were 3100 at S.H.L. Nov. 13–14 (WC, LM); 2600 at Deep Creek L., MD, Nov. 18 (CS); and 2500 at L. Arthur, PA, mid-November (m.ob.).

Four Sandhill Cranes were at the *Lawrence*, PA, nesting site through the period. They were thought to be the nesting pair and their 1997 and 1996 offspring (*fide* PH). Migrating cranes were reported from *Hamilton*, TN, Oct. 16 (KD); at Soddy Mt. Nov. 9 (WH); and *Chatsworth*, GA, Oct. 3 & 10 (GT). More unusual was the record of one at S.H.L. Nov. 16 (E&HM).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

The dry, late summer produced mixed results for the shorebird flight. Some traditional shorebird habitats were completely dry, but in compensation some lakes or reservoirs were at low enough levels to produce some new wader habitat. Overall the flight was on the light side, but there were occasional "fallouts" which had both large numbers

and many species. Thirty-two species were reported. The normally rare Am. Golden Plover was reported at 12 sites from P.I.S.P. in the north to *Hamilton*, TN, in the south. There were few reports of the more common Black-bellied Plover, but a late bird was at S.H.L. Nov. 9 (RK, HL). American Avocets were reported from P.I.S.P., with 15 Aug. 9 (GR); *Roanoke*, VA, three in September (MS); and *Kingsport*, TN, 10 Sept. 18 (ME).

There was a good list of the rarer species, most of which were singles. Willets were reported from *Pymatuning L.*, PA, Aug. 16 (EK); *West Fairview*, PA, Aug. 16 (DHe); and B.E.S.P. Aug. 18 (G&PS). A Whimbrel was at P.I.S.P. Aug. 22 (DS). Two Marbled Godwits in *Cocke*, TN, Aug. 22–23 provided the 2nd local record (RK). The only Ruddy Turnstone report came from S.H.L. Aug. 14 (WC). Red Knots were at P.I.S.P. Aug. 28–31 (JM) and Sept. 11–26 (GR), and three Purple Sandpipers were seen Nov. 1 (RFL). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in *Cocke*, TN, Aug. 22 (RK) and at *Fairview*, *Erie*, PA, Sept. 13 (JM). Three Long-billed Dowitchers were at Y.C.S.P. Oct. 26–27 (DD).

Several of the less rare species were reported more than usual: Sanderling, at *Pymatuning L.*, PA (IF); S.H.L. (WC, LM); *Keystone Res.*, PA (MH); and Y.C.S.P. (MH, GL). White-rumped Sandpiper, at *Pymatuning L.* (DSm). Baird's Sandpiper, *Pymatuning L.* (RFL); *Cocke*, TN (RK); and *Hamilton*, TN (KC). Short-billed Dowitcher, at *Pymatuning L.* and *Woodcock L.*, PA (RFL, EK, IF); S.H.L. (WC); and *Cocke*, TN (RK). Dunlin were reported from throughout the Region with several late-November



Always a scarce migrant in the interior of the eastern states, this Willet was at Fairview, northwestern Pennsylvania, on August 16, 1997. Photograph/Don Henise

records. Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from *Centre*, PA, Aug. 18 (PR, TO, AF); *Key-stone Res.*, PA, Nov. 24 (SG); and *Cocke*, TN, Aug. 28 (RK, HL). A Red-necked Phalarope was at P.I.S.P. Aug. 22 (DS).

The season's list of unusual larids from P.I.S.P. included a jaeger (Parasitic or Pomarine) Nov. 22 (JM), Laughing Gull Sept. 17 (GC), Little Gull Oct. 8 (JM), Thayer's Gull Oct. 30 for an earliest county record (JM), Lesser Black-backed Gull Nov. 9 (JM), Glaucous Gull Nov. 19 & 21 (J&TC), and **Black-legged Kittiwake** Nov. 20, a 10th county record (JM). But P.I.S.P. did not have a monopoly on rare gulls. A Laughing Gull and a Franklin's Gull were seen at Y.C.S.P. Sept. 30 (MH, GL, LW), a Black-headed Gull was at Pittsburgh Nov. 4 for a first local record (CT), and a Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 1 (EK). Small flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at 8 locations, with high counts of 93 at S.H.L. Nov. 14 (LM, Rbi, JB) and 50 at Pymatuning L., PA, Oct. 25 (RFL).

Caspian Terns in small numbers were found at 8 locations. There were several very late dates for Com. Terns: Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 2 (RFL, IF); L. Arthur, PA, Nov. 8 (EK); and Bristol, TN, Nov. 9 (WC). Other reports came from S.H.L. Sept. 10 (WC, LM), Y.C.S.P. Sept. 20 (SG, LC), and *Pulaski*, VA, Oct. 19 (CK). As usual in recent years, Forster's Tern outnumbered the Com. Tern, with reports from 7 stations; late dates included Nov. 16 at Huntington, WV (HS), and Nov. 22 at P.I.S.P. (JD). Black Terns were more common than in recent years, with reports from P.I.S.P. Aug. 22 & 30 (DS, JF); Pymatuning Fish Hatchery, PA, Aug. 16 (RFL); *Venango*, PA, Aug. 13 (RS, *fide* JS); L. Somerset, PA, Aug. 10 (AM); and 3 reports from S.H.L. in August and September (RK).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Barn Owls were regular at Johnson City, TN (RK); one was seen at Elizabethton, TN, Aug. 21 (GW); and a very late one was at P.I.S.P. Nov. 3 (DD). The Snowy Owl at Erie, PA, reported in the Summer season was last seen September 22 (MN). Short-eared Owls in *Lawrence*, PA, Aug. 8 (RSt), and *Venango*, PA, Aug. 5 & 25 (JS) may have been breeding; probable migrants were at *Allegheny*, PA (CT); *Venango*, PA, Nov. 16 & 19 (JS); and *Armstrong*, PA, Nov. 29 (SG). A N Saw-whet Owl was banded at P.N.R. Oct. 22 (RM, RCL), 12 were banded at A.F.M.O. Aug. 8–Sept. 18 (SH), and 12 had been banded at a station in *Garrett*, MD, by mid-October (*fide* SH). Other records came

from Youngsville, PA, Oct. 1 (*fide* DW), P.I.S.P. Oct. 29 (DD), *Conneautville*, PA, Nov. 7 (AT), and *Meadville*, PA, Nov. 1 (MFi).

Most places had good migrations of Com. Nighthawk, with several good flights in *Shenandoah*, VA (DDa), "hundreds" at Huntington Aug. 26 (HS), and 1000 at Chickamauga L., TN, Sept. 3 (HSh). The 213 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds banded at P.N.R. was the highest total in 20 years, with 21 banded Aug. 30 (RM, RCL). At A.F.M.O., 724 (record-high) flyover hummingbirds were tallied, with 125 Sept. 12 (RB). There were several late dates for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds: Oct. 25 at Shady Valley, TN (JSh), and Oct. 27 in *Hamilton*, TN (JSL). A Rufous Hummingbird was coming to a feeder in *Westmoreland*, PA, from Oct. 11 to the end of the period. It was banded Dec. 1 (RM). Another Rufous Hummingbird was at a feeder, and later banded, in *Union*, GA, from Nov. 3 to at least Nov. 15 (DF). Even more exciting was an **Allen's Hummingbird** at Johnson City, TN, first seen Nov. 17, and banded and identification confirmed Dec. 3 (*fide* RK).

A maximum of six Red-headed Woodpeckers was seen at Homer City, PA, Aug. 2–31 (LC). Other records of this almost vanished bird came from *Conneaut Marsh*, PA, Aug. 10 and Nov. 9 (RFL, IF), and *Murray*, GA, Nov. 11 (HD). Migrating Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were more common than in recent years.

In *Venango*, PA, three Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen in a 20-minute period around 7 p.m. Sept. 18, and the species was recorded on 7 days Aug. 2–Sept. 9 (JS). There were also reports from Michaux S.E., PA, Sept. 1 (DHe); Pipestem S.P., WV, early September (JP); Roan Mt., TN (AT); and *Washington*, TN, Sept. 18. (RK). At P.N.R., Acadian Flycatchers were banded in the 2nd-lowest numbers ever, and E. Wood-Pewee the 3rd-lowest. Least Flycatchers were banded in average numbers (RCL, RM). The often overlooked Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported more than usual. An Alder Flycatcher was singing on Roan Mt., TN, on the late date of Aug. 18 (RK).

There were some good concentrations of migrating swallows: Tree Swallows, 1600 at Mosquito L., OH, Oct. 4 (CB), 850 at Elkton, VA, Sept. 19 (MGS), and 660 at *Conneaut Marsh*, PA, Aug. 3 (RFL); N. Rough-winged Swallows, 2000 at *Cocke*, TN, Aug. 23 (WC); and Cliff Swallows, 150 at Mt. Solon, VA, Aug. 1 (YL). There were no reports of large concentrations of Purple Martins.

CORVIDS THROUGH VIREOS

At A.F.M.O. the season count of 10,213 migrating Blue Jays was the 3rd highest count, and the best since 1991. On Sept. 30, 2598 were counted (RB). The true total would have been higher, but no counts could be made on several days of heavy flights in early October. Hundreds were seen migrating at the Mendota Tower HW (LM). There was no evidence of a southward irruption of Black-capped Chickadees, but Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared in small numbers at many places at low elevations. The 17 banded at A.F.M.O. was average (GAH). Brown-headed Nuthatches were seen at Dalton, GA, Sept. 9 (HD), and there were at least five birds in the recently established population at Kingston, TN (RK).

Carolina Wrens are making a slow recovery, with northern reports from *Venango*, PA (JS), and *Canfield*, OH (NB). A House Wren at P.I.S.P. Oct. 25 was late (MF). Winter Wrens were more numerous than usual. Singing male Sedge Wrens were at G.B.W.M.A. in late August (HS, AW), and other reports came from Y.C.S.P. Oct. 1 (GC, CG, MH), and *Hamilton*, TN, Sept. 6 (KC). Marsh Wrens were present in *Hamilton*, TN, all through the period (KC), and were found at P.I.S.P. Oct. 28 (DBO), Y.C.S.P. Oct. 4–5 (MH, GL); another *Indiana* location Oct. 4 (SG); *Washington*, TN, Sept. 27; and *Hawkins*, TN, Nov. 15 (RK).

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Morgantown, WV, as late as Nov. 5 (SS). The record of the year was a **Northern Wheatear** (ph.) in *Juniata*, PA, Oct. 7 (NP), for a Regional first. The Swainson's Thrush migration was better than in recent years, but still below historical numbers. Swainson's were the most frequently banded bird at the station on Roan Mt., TN (RK). The Hermit Thrush seems to be doing well: the 61 banded at P.N.R. (RCL, RM) and the 69 banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH) were both 2 S.D. above the 10-year average. A first-year Hermit Thrush banded on Roan Mt., TN, Sept. 12 is probably the first evidence of breeding at that locality (RK). Both P.N.R. and A.F.M.O. banded lower than average numbers of Wood Thrushes.

The N. Mockingbirds at *Meadville*, PA, Nov. 8 (RFL), and *Venango*, PA, Aug. 20 (RS) were a little n. of the normal range, and the August date was early for the usual northward dispersal. American Pipits were unusually widespread and common, with some high counts: 1000+ at L. Somerset, PA, Oct. 19 (AM); 200 at *Cumberland*, PA, Nov. 5 (DHe); and 100 at Kahle L., *Venango*, PA, Nov. 14 (GE). As usual, Cedar

Waxwing numbers varied widely from place to place, but a count of 700 at Y.C.S.P. Nov. 4 (IW) was noteworthy. The only reports of N. Shrike came from P.I.S.P. Nov. 12 (JM) & 28 (T&JC). Most welcome were the more than usual reports of Loggerhead Shrikes in Virginia at *Shenandoah* (DDa), *Botetourt* (MS), *Russell* (BR), and *Grayson* (LS); at *Monroe*, WV (AW); and 4 reports from the n.e. Tennessee region (RK). All of these stations are in or near the Great Valley, which indicates no extension of range. Philadelphia Vireos were one of the usually overlooked species reported in bigger than normal numbers.

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

The warbler flight brought only unenthusiastic reports. A few regions reported poor flights, and a few reported "pretty fair" flights, but none had extremely good numbers and there were no large fallouts. The migration peak did not arrive until about Oct. 1, and extended into mid-October. In this connection, it is interesting that Magnolia and Black-throated Blue warblers were exhibiting territorial defense behavior in the highlands of *Highland*, VA, Aug. 1 (JBz). At both P.N.R. (RM, RCL) and A.F.M.O. (GAH), the numbers of most species were less than one S.D. below average. At A.F.M.O., the spruce budworm specialists—Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted warblers—were banded in numbers more than one S.D. below the long-term average. The Blackpoll Warbler had a flight reminiscent of those 20 years ago (GAH). At P.N.R., Kentucky and Hooded warbler captures were 2 S.D. above average (RM, RCL). Two species which are often not seen, the Orange-crowned and the Connecticut warblers, had more reports than usual. Some late dates were Yellow Warbler at P.N.R. Aug. 29 & 30 (RCL, RM), Orange-crowned Warbler at P.N.R. Oct. 30 (RM, RCL), Nashville Warbler at P.I.S.P. Nov. 2 (J, TC), and Blackpoll Warbler Oct. 25 at *Montgomery*, VA (CK). As expected, the late Yellow Warblers at P.N.R. were found to be one of the far northwestern subspecies, and the late Orange-crowned Warbler was a member of one of the western subspecies (RCL, RM). A "Brewster's" Warbler was seen in *Venango*, PA, Sept. 9 (JS), and a "Lawrence's" Warbler was in *Indiana*, PA, Sept. 11 (MH, CG).

Chipping Sparrows were in good numbers, with high counts of 150+ near Warren, OH, Sept. 25 (CB), and 100+ Oct. 5 at Swoope, VA, a new fall peak count (YL). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was seen at

Washington, WV, Oct. 27 (†JBI), providing a 3rd record for the state. An aggregation of 106 Savannah Sparrows, a new peak, was at Swoope, VA, Nov. 7 (YL).

Le Conte's Sparrow was reported from *Botetourt*, VA, Oct. 1 (KS, TF). Fox Sparrows were exceptionally numerous, and they remained at migration stopovers longer than usual. There were more reports than usual of both Lincoln's and Swamp sparrows. Dark-eyed Juncos were late in arrival, but were in good numbers. At P.N.R., the 812 banded furnished the 2nd highest number on record (RM, RCL). An "Oregon" Junco was banded at P.N.R. Oct. 19 (RCL, RM). Lapland Longspurs were found in *Venango*, PA, Nov. 14 & 18 (GE); *Westmoreland*, PA, Nov. 17 (KB); and *Pulaski*, VA, Nov. 20 (CK). Small numbers of Snow Buntings were seen in 5 Pennsylvania counties: *Venango* (JS), *Allegheny* (CN), *Indiana* (M&RH), *Somerset* (AM), and *Cumberland* (DHe). High Bobolink counts were 400 in *Butler*, PA, Sept. 5 (GWi) and 200+ in *Venango*, PA, Aug. 19 & 31 (JS).

A **Brewer's Blackbird** was at Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 9 (IE, RFL). A maximum count of 17,000 Com. Grackles was noted at Y.C.S.P. Nov. 1 (R&MH). There were some late dates for orioles: Orchard Oriole, Oct. 5 at Staunton, VA (YL), and Baltimore, Oct. 24 at *Butler* (MH), and Nov. 15 & 17 at *Erie*, PA (DHC).

By the end of November, modest numbers of "northern" finches had appeared at scattered places. Purple Finches were in better numbers than in recent years, and 429 were banded at P.N.R. (RM, RCL). Red Crossbills were seen at Bear Meadows, *Centre*, PA, Nov. 24 (PR), and there were 3 reports from Roan Mt., TN (RK). A single White-winged Crossbill was seen at Bluefield, WV, Nov. 14 (AMc). Common Redpolls were reported from 3 locations in *Erie*, PA, in November (JM). Small numbers of Pine Siskins had appeared at almost all locations in November, but they did not stay in any one place very long. At A.F.M.O., the count of flyover Am. Goldfinches was 4089, with a high day's count of 440 (RB). Evening Grosbeaks appeared in November, and small flocks visited many places. By the end of the period, the flight seemed to be the best we have had for many years, but by this writing it has been a shadow of the flights of the 1960s and 1970s.

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