

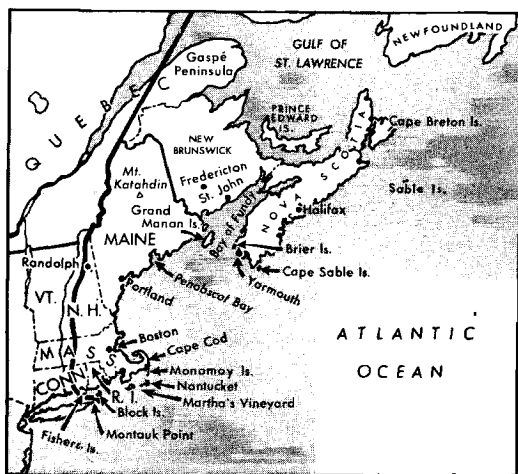
REGIONAL REPORTS

The Fall Migration August 16, 1971 to November 30, 1971

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Davis W. Finch

The fall weather was dry and mild throughout the Region, with no very strong weather fronts or severe coastal storms. Tropical storms "Beth" on Aug. 15-16 and "Doria" on Aug. 28-29 had but little avian fallout,



and November passed without a New England Dovekie wreck, though a few were blown ashore in New Brunswick. The only heavy movement of passerines was reported at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 6 and at Monhegan I., Me., Sept. 7, and a rather strong flight was apparent in New Brunswick and Maine, Sept. 16-18. Certain diurnal migrants had their "days," e.g. Com. Nighthawks August 30, Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 15 and 19, scoters Oct. 17 and Gannets Nov. 7, but for the most part observers noted few strong migratory peaks this fall. Certainly the great numbers of pelagic species found in the Bay of Fundy and the rich mixture of small gulls and phalaropes off Deer Island Point, N.B. were the highlights of the season, while the most obviously trending species were Fulmar and (still) Manx Shearwater. There was a fairly pronounced flight of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, although any observer of a few years' experience will agree that shorebirds are a little more numerous each year, this being most apparent in the case of minority birds like Hudsonian Godwits, Silt Sandpipers, Wilson's Phalaropes, to name but three. Another big flight this fall was that of White-crowned Sparrows. A widely forecast winter flight of Snowy Owls materialized satisfactorily, and Gray Jays, to a limited extent, also moved south. A small early winter flight of Bohemian Waxwings did not appear to carry the promise of

another great incursion, and similarly the southward movement of winter finches, while embracing all species, seemed destined to be a modest one. Among the many rarities of the season were Lesser Black-backed Gull and Ash-throated Flycatcher (sight records) and Le Conte's Sparrow (specimen).

LOON, TUBENOSES, GANNET — On Martha's Vineyard, a loon which allowed easy study in Tisbury Great Pond Nov. 27, and for some time thereafter, was confidently identified as Arctic Loon by experienced observers familiar with the species and with the difficulties of the Common-Arctic distinction (RWS, GGD, et al.). Of the many interesting occurrences of tubenoses this fall, no doubt the most generally appreciated by observers in the Region was the sudden appearance of Fulmars in numbers hitherto unknown. In New Brunswick, where there were only a few old records, the birds were found on six crossings of the "Princess of Acadia" between St. John and Digby, N.S., Oct. 25-Nov. 9, with no fewer than 93 on the former date (DSC, MM et al.). From the "Bluenose" between Bar Harbor, Me. and Yarmouth, N.S., counts of 54 and 117 were made on Nov. 4 & 5, respectively (Joe Hudick, fide WCT), these totals being by some margin the highest for that ornithologically well-studied crossing. In New Hampshire, a pelagic trip to Jeffries Ledge Sept. 19 found 10 Fulmars, photographed for a first state record, and 5 were found there again, Nov. 5 (DWF, RWS, A.S.N.H.). In Massachusetts, a sea trip off Rockport, also on Sept. 19, found 3-6 of the birds, and during October a series of ten sightings from shore totaled 28 individuals, 13 at First Encounter Beach at N. Eastham, Cape Cod, 8 at Halibut Pt. in Rockport, and 7 at Manomet, and at least 5 other individuals were seen during November (PKD, CAG, CWL, WRP, et al.). In marked contrast was the scarcity of Cory's, even in waters where it is very regular. Disregarding a number of reports that were almost certainly misidentified Greaters, only a very few were seen in Massachusetts, such as 3 at First Encounter Beach, Oct. 17 (WB, RAF); off the R.I. coast, where the species is probably more abundant than anywhere else in North America, only 21 were recorded all fall, the "peak" being 14 at Block I., Oct. 25 (RLF, fide SSD). Large numbers of Greater Shearwaters were present this summer in the Bay of Fundy, a situation probably in some way related to the fact that mean summer water temperatures there were the highest in 18 years, according to David Christie. Sea captains and lightkeepers were similarly impressed by the great numbers of birds, and by the fact that the birds occurred so close to shore. On Sept. 4, a Nova Scotia Bird Society sea trip out of Westport, Brier I., found 8000-10,000 Greater Shearwaters, mostly afloat in weedy "tide streaks" or convergence rows at Moore Ledge

(44°20'5"N, 60°20'7"W). Similar counts of 4000-8000 were made daily from Brier I. throughout early September, and 5000 were still there Oct. 9-11 (RRA). The birds lingered well into the fall, with counts of 696 and 526 on a round trip of the "Princess of Acadia," Oct. 28 (DSC, MM et al.) and "hundreds" off Brier I., Nov. 12 (ELM). With the many Greaters were a fair percentage of Sooties, for so late in the season,



Fulmar, Jeffries Ledge, N.H. Sept. 19, 1971. First N.H. record. Photo/Davis Finch.

with representative counts being 150 at Moore Ledge, Sept. 4, 64 between Machias Seal I., N.B. and Cutler, Me., Aug. 21 (DSC, S.J.N.C.), and 55 in Grand Manan Channel, Sept. 5 (DSC, MM et al.). A later bird was at Brier I., Oct. 9-11 (RRA), and quite notably late was a bird photographed at Stellwagen Bank off Provincetown, Mass., Nov. 6 (RS, RPE et mult. al.). Manx Shearwater is another species whose status in the Region is rapidly changing, and the high numbers mentioned in the previous report were eclipsed by September counts in the Bay of Fundy. The Moore Ledge trip conservatively estimated 50-75, Sept. 4, many of them photographed (EHC, DWF, SJF, ELM et al.), and the following day 50 were seen in Grand Manan Channel (DSC, MM et al.). Twelve other records in the Bay of Fundy Aug. 21-Oct. 25, involved 58 birds (DSC et al.), 2 were seen off North Hampton, N.H., Oct. 10 (EWP, fide RWS), a second state record, and 4 single birds were seen at various localities off the Massachusetts coast, Aug. 22-Oct. 20 (v.o., fide RPE). The season's fifth and final sighting from the "Bluenose" of the conjectural tiny black and white shearwater, mentioned in the last report, occurred Aug. 21 (ARK, WCR, RWS et al.). A dying Wilson's Petrel which was picked up at Squam L., Sandwich, N.H., Aug. 28 (HC, fide RWS) was no doubt carried inland by the storm "Doria," and a Leach's Petrel

was seen in inland Massachusetts at Quabbin Reservoir, Oct. 31 (Gagnon et al., fide CAG, WRP). In the usual prolonged fall migration of Gannets down the New England coast, the two bigger days appear to have been Oct. 24, when 2000+ were estimated off Cape Cod (CAG, WRP) and 600+ off Pt. Judith, R.I. (SSD, EAS, CW), and Nov. 7, when birds were passing Schoodic Pt., Me., at the rate of 200 per hour (WCT), 185 were counted at Rye, N.H. (LGP), and 3000 were counted passing Rockport, Mass. (AA, MA fide RPE).



Manx (rear) and Greater Shearwaters, Moore Ledge, near Brier I, N.S. Sept. 4, 1971. Photo/Davis Finch.

HERONS — The few white herons wandering north to the Maritimes were 3 Little Blue Herons in late August and a single Com. Egret in October, all in Nova Scotia. In Massachusetts, late Little Blues were seen at Plum I., Nov. 28 (JCY, RLP et al.) and at Rust I., Cape Ann, Nov. 30 (RAF et al., fide RPE), and a Com. Egret was still present at Dennysville, Washington Co., Me., Nov. 25 (DSC, CLJ, WCT). Snowy Egrets again occurred in considerable numbers on Maine's Scarborough marshes, where 100 were counted on Aug. 25 (RWS), and counts of 250-300 were made in Massachusetts in the Plum I.-Rowley area during August (v.o., fide RPE) reflecting the species' continued increase. The now usual few Louisiana Herons appeared, single birds at Monomoy, Mass., Aug. 5 (WB), at Scarborough, Me., Aug. 17-25 (RWS), and at Quonochontaug, R.I., Sept. 3-6, with another there Oct. 16-17 (EAS, DLK et al.). Two Yellow-crowned Night Herons reaching Nova Scotia were immatures seen at Brass Hill in Barrington, Shelburne Co., Aug. 22 (DWF, CDG, JRG) and at Lawrencetown, Halifax Co., Aug. 30 (EHC, fide PRD), and in the same province a Least Bittern was found at Conrad Beach, Halifax Co., Sept. 1 (EHC, fide PRD). Another Least Bittern was a startling discovery in a pear tree at Star I., N.H., Sept. 19 (HMC, A.S.N.H.).

WATERFOWL — A Gadwall was a rarity at Cape Sable I., N.S., Aug. 15 (SS et al., fide PRD). In the same province a Eur. Widgeon was seen at Three-Fathom Harbor, Halifax Co., Oct. 10 (EHC, fide PRD), and in Massachusetts, single birds were seen at Ipswich, Oct. 2-30 (PP et al., fide RPE) and at the Great Meadows Nat'l Wildlife Refuge in Concord, Oct. 30 (Steven Seron, fide RPE). A Redhead, quite

rare in New Brunswick, was seen at Eel River Bar, Restigouche Co., Oct. 1-2 (J-PL, fide DSC), and 2 Lesser Scaups, seldom reported n. of Massachusetts, were identified with Greaterers at Deroche Pond, Queens Co., P.E.I., Oct. 2 (RRH). A Barrow's Goldeneye on Cape Cod at Monomoy, Oct. 30-Nov. 14 (WRP, CAG, WB et al.) was quite unusual at that particular locality. Nearly 150,000 migrating scoters were counted from September through November in the course of the Manomet Bird Observatory's Operation Seawatch. Wayne Petersen has furnished the following breakdown of the 3-month totals: 38,153 White-wingeds, 74,020 Surfs, 7697 Commons, 25,878 unidentified (thought to be largely Surfs). The approximate 1:2 ratio of White-wingeds to Surfs was in keeping with figures from the last three years. October was, of course, the big month, with 23,676 scoters of all species on the 9th, and about 32,000 (23,540 Surf Scoters) on the 17th. In New Hampshire, Bob Smart reported a heavy inland migration of Com. Scoters, involving about 225 birds at eight localities, Sept. 26 — Nov. 5. About mid-October, a good flight of Ruddy Ducks brought a scattering of these birds to the Maritimes and larger numbers farther south, such as 70 at Rochester, N.H., Oct. 13 (Charles Flint, fide RWS), 80 at Merrymeeting Bay, Me., Oct. 24 (DJA, RWS), and in Massachusetts, 50 at Plum I., Nov. 4 (AA, MA, fide RPE), 58 at the Great Meadows Refuge, Nov. 5 (v.o., fide RPE), 118 on Squibnocket Pond, Martha's Vineyard, Nov. 27 (GGD) and 150 at Westerly, R.I., Nov. 16 (EAS). Another good count at the Great Meadows Refuge was that of 300 Hooded Mergansers on Aug. 30 (PA, fide RPE).

HAWKS, EAGLES — The only serious hawkwatching within the limits of the Region was again at Bristol-New Hampton, N.H., where 3808 Broad-wingeds were counted on Sept. 15 (a state record, RWS), and 2400 on Sept. 19 (RCH). The latter date was certainly the big day for migrant Broad-wingeds s.w. of the Region with simultaneous counts of 5289 in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts, 1723 at Pittsfield, Mass., 4300 over Cooper Hill in extreme s.w. Mass., and 8000 just across the line in Dutchess County, N.Y. An unusual "second wave" of 5000+ Broad-wingeds passed over New Fairfield, Conn. Sept. 22. An ad. Golden Eagle was well seen at New Hampton, N.H., Nov. 5 (RWS), a "subadult" at Rowley, Mass., Oct. 19 (Donald Alexander, fide RPE), and an imm. nearby at Plum I., Oct. 28-30 (RPE, et al.). A dark-phase Gyrfalcon was watched as a Peregrine stooped on it at Seal I., N.S., Sept. 26 (IAMcL, EHC, et al.) and what was almost certainly the same bird was still there Oct. 16-18 (CRKA et al.). In Massachusetts, a dark Gyr was seen at Newburyport, Oct. 10-14 (Frances Elkins et al., fide RPE), a second, also dark, at Monomoy Nov. 14 (WB, fide RPE) and presumably the same bird seen again Nov. 20 (CAG, WRP) and Nov. 28 (DHC, et al.), and at Plum I., another dark bird was present Nov. 21-28 (JCY, RLP et mult. al.). The season's total of 61 Peregrines was somewhat above the totals of the previous 3 years (39, 24, 45); 43 of this year's birds were in Massachusetts.

CRANE, RAILS, GALLINULES — A Sandhill Crane was present at a farm in West Lubec, Washington Co.,

Me., from Nov. 14 to at least Dec. 12. Discovered by Mrs. Eileen Ross, the bird was seen and photographed by a number of observers (DJA, HCA, DSC, WCT, et al.). Two reports of Yellow Rail were both worthy of credence, the first in a field at North Head, Grand Manan, Sept. 8 (Dr. M. F. Majka, fide DSC), the second at Truro, Cape Cod, in late September (Richard Cunningham, fide CAG, WRP). Two Com. Gallinules at Eel River Crossing, N.B., Aug. 1 (J-PL fide DSC) provided a first record for n. New Brunswick. The only other individuals of this species reported north of Massachusetts were at The Hawk, Cape Sable I., N.S., Sept. 6 (BKD) and at Merrymeeting Bay, Me., Oct. 24 (DJA, RWS).

SHOREBIRDS — In Nova Scotia, where the species is an uncommon vagrant, single Upland Plovers were seen at Sable I., Aug. 8 (Jean Burton, fide PRD) and at Seal I., Aug. 24 (DWF, IAMcL). Also at Seal I., a Willet of the western race *inornatus* was collected Aug. 28 (DWF, IAMcL). This was a first specimen from the Maritimes, though there have been several recent sight records in Nova Scotia, and two birds this fall, one at Conrad Beach, Sept. 11 (IAMcL) and a notably late individual at Round Bay, Shelburne Co., Nov. 28 (BKD) were believed to be westerns. About 47 Baird's Sandpipers were reported in the Region during the fall flight; the season's total of 10 in Nova Scotia was above average, and 2 on Cape Cod at Monomoy, Oct. 30 (CAG, WRP) were rather late. A Curlew Sandpiper was seen at Newburyport, Mass., Aug. 29 (PSM et al.), and a surprising but convincing report of 3 came from Three-Fathom Harbor, N.S., Oct. 31 (EHC et al.). On July 12, Wayne Petersen witnessed an impressive migration of Short-billed Dowitchers at Plymouth Beach, Mass., where between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., high, barely audible flocks of 50-300 birds were passing s.w. over the harbor and continuing inland. The birds' course appeared to be a short cut to Buzzards Bay, bypassing Cape Cod. Long-billed Dowitchers are rather scarce fall migrants in the Region, and scarcer still n. of Massachusetts. One was seen in New Brunswick on Grand Manan at Castalia, Sept. 13 (PAP), and 2 remained at Three-Fathom Harbor, N.S., Oct. 30-Nov. 21 (EHC et al.). In Maine, 4 were seen at Scarborough, Oct. 17, and 4 at Biddeford Pool, Oct. 24 (DWF, RWS, et al.). Of similar decreasing abundance n. of Massachusetts, W. Sandpipers this fall were seen at Mary's Point, Albert Co., N.B., Aug. 22 (Dr. M. F. Majka) and at Seal I., N.S., Sept. 2 (IAMcL), single birds in both cases. The fall's first Buff-breasted Sandpiper was an early individual at Newburyport, Mass., July 31 (WSE); thereafter about 70 birds were reported in the Region, 14 of them in Nova Scotia, and two sizeable flocks, both at traditional localities, were 18 at Cross Farm Hill at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 2 (SPI et mult. al.) and 14 on the ploughed fields of the Moonstone Wildlife Refuge at Matunuck, R.I., Sept. 12 (DLK, EAS et al.). A Marbled Godwit at Courtenay Bay, Saint John, N.B., Sept. 16-17 (DSC, NM, PAP) was the third provincial record, and 1 at Round Bay, Shelburne Co., N.S., Sept. 19 (BKD) was Nova Scotia's first in recent years. Farther south, 1 was seen on the New Hampshire coast at Hampton Falls, Aug. 22 (AEL, HM fide RWS),

and a total of about 14 occurred in Massachusetts. Four Ruffs were reported, single birds at Newburyport, Mass., Aug. 19 (a Reeve, RC, NC, fide RPE), Hampton Falls, N.H., Aug. 22 (AEL, HM fide RWS), Plum I., Mass., Aug. 28 (HLJ, GLS, fide RPE), and Barnstable, Mass., Sept. 30 (RC, NC, fide RPE). An **Am. Avocet** remained at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 4-24 (RAF et al.) and in New Brunswick, 2 that were seen at St. John West, Nov. 5-7 (CLJ et al., fide DSC) constituted the fourth provincial record in this century. A high count of Red Phalaropes was made at Brier I., N.S. Aug. 15, when 2700 (with about 300 Northerns) were seen close to shore (KPA). About 22 Wilson's Phalaropes were reported, including 3 in the Maritimes, single birds at Seal I., N.S., Aug. 25 (DWF, IAMcL), at Saint John West, N.B., Sept. 2-10 (DSC, JGW et al.), and at Lawrencetown, N.S., Sept. 11 (EHC, fide PRD), and an unusual concentration of these birds at Plum I., Mass., reached a maximum of 12, Sept. 1-2. (PKD, SPI, DW, et al.). Thousands of N. Phalaropes were again present from July to September between Campobello and Deer Is., N.B., and on Aug. 21, from Deer I. Point, David Christie and members of the St. John Naturalists' Club estimated no fewer than 100,000.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — Regional totals of the two commoner jaegers were 45 Pomarines and 253 Parasitics. Appropriately, a high proportion of the Pomarines were seen at sea, and most of the Parasitics from shore. The highest count of Pomarines was 10, Sept. 26, on a transit of the "Prince of Fundy" between Yarmouth, N.S., and Portland, Me. (J. B. Steeves, MWMcI, et al.). Parasitics were unusually plentiful in the Bay of Fundy, with such counts at 25+ and 30 in sight at once off the north tip of Grand Manan, Sept. 5 and 7, respectively (DSC, MM et al.). On Cape Cod a good count was 35 at First Encounter Beach, Oct. 11 (CAG, WRP, et al.). The rare Long-tailed Jaeger was reported only from New Brunswick, 1 at Miscou Channel, Aug. 3 (NM, fide DSC), an adult in Grand Manan Channel, Sept. 9 (NM, PAP, et al.). A Skua was seen on the just mentioned "Prince of Fundy" crossing, Sept. 26. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found at the south end of Monomoy, Sept. 14 (RVC, WB, et al.). Although there are at least four other records in the Region, this was a first for Massachusetts. The great mixed flock of small gulls that gathers during late summer in the Eastport-Campobello area of Maine-New Brunswick received careful scrutiny this fall from Deer Island Point, N.B., and was found to contain several rarities. Numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls varied from 2000 to 5000 from mid-September to late October, and with them occurred at the very least 3 **Franklin's Gulls**, 1 imm. and 2 ad., seen in various combinations Sept. 8 and 19, and Oct. 3, 23, & 30 (DSC, CLJ, JGW, PAP et al.). There was only a single previous record of this species in New Brunswick. At least 4 Little Gulls were also present there during October and November, and an ad. Sabine's Gull on Oct. 23 (DSC et al.). Another Little Gull was seen at Bar Harbor, Me., Aug. 20 (DWF, ADJ, WCR, RWS), and at least 6 were present in Massachusetts during the fall. The unusually early occurrence of 40-50 Black-legged Kittiwakes in

Frenchman's Bay, Me., Aug. 16, was thought to be related to the tropical storm "Beth" of that period, and accompanying these birds were 3 imm. Sabine's Gulls, carefully studied at close range (WCT). Besides the just mentioned sighting from Deer Island Pt., this rare gull was also observed in Grand Manan Channel, an imm. Aug. 21 (RKE et al., fide DSC), an ad. Sept. 25 (CLJ, fide DSC), and an ad. seen from the "Whistle" at the north tip of Grand Manan, Sept. 7 (DSC, MM et al.). Forster's Terns were scarce this fall in s. New England, and the only significant count, that of 22 at the Moonstone Refuge, R.I., Aug. 28 (DW), was related to the storm "Doria" of that date. In the same category was a Sooty Tern picked up exhausted at Sippowissett (Falmouth), Mass., Aug. 29, and cared for at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary until at least Sept. 15 (WB, fide RPE). Two Least Terns occurred in Nova Scotia, the first at Three-Fathom Harbor, Aug. 16 (IAMcL, ELM), possibly storm-borne, and another photographed at Seal I., Aug. 25 (DWF, IAMcL). Five exhausted **Royal Terns** were seen on the e. tip of Sable I. during high winds Aug. 16 (DAW, fide IAMcL), this being one of very few records for Canada. A Sandwich Tern at Wollaston Beach, Mass., Oct. 12 (DTB, fide RPE) was rare and unseasonable. The appearance of large numbers of Black Terns on the w. R.I. shore was probably related to "Doria." On Aug. 28, 27 were seen at Westport, Mass. (DTB, fide RPE) and 100+ at Pt. Judith, R.I. (SSD), and from Aug. 29 to Sept. 4, 200+ were present at Moonstone and Quonochontaug (SSD, CW et al.). No remotely comparable numbers of migrant Black Terns have been recorded in the Region in recent years. A Com. Murre and 2 Com. Puffins were seen off the New Hampshire coast at Jeffries Ledge, Nov. 14 (RWS, EVT, A.S.N.H.); while probably of fairly regular occurrence there, state records for either species are very few. A Thick-billed Murre well seen from the "Bluenose," Aug. 26 (WCT et al.) was either a summer straggler or a very early migrant. A storm the night of Nov. 19-20 caused a fair-sized Dovekie wreck in s. New Brunswick. Stranded birds were found ashore at eight localities the following day, and numbers of them were seen at several places along the Kennebecasis R. in Kings Co., including 200 at Perry Pt. (v.o., fide DSC).

DOVES, OWLS, WOODPECKERS — Mourning Doves wander regularly to Nova Scotia in late summer and fall, and apparently in increasing numbers. This year there were as many as 35 on Seal I., Oct. 9 (IAMcL). A **Barn Owl** which was closely studied at Meredith, N.H. Oct. 16 (Alexander Lincoln, Jr., fide RWS) was the first authentic New Hampshire record in many years. A good flight of Snowy Owls began in October in the northern part of the Region, the first bird being seen at Schoodic I., Me., Oct. 3 (EK). Before the end of the month, 1 or 2 had appeared on P.E.I. (RRH) and 6 in New Brunswick, including 4 on Machias Seal I. during the last week (Mr. and Mrs. Jack Russell, fide DSC). Numbers increased during November, with 16 in New Brunswick (5 of them shot), 6 reported (and doubtless many more) in Maine, and 4 in New Hampshire. In Massachusetts, the first to be reported was at Wayland, Oct. 31 (Allen Morgan et al., fide

RPE), and 8 others were seen at scattered localities in November, and 9 on the salt marshes of the Plum I.-Rowley area, Nov. 30 (DTB, fide RPE). The Region's only Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen in Massachusetts at the Marblehead Neck Sanctuary, Nov. 20 (Dorothy Snyder, fide RPE). It was again a rather poor season for Red-headed Woodpeckers, with only 13 reported. Of these, 10 were at coastal localities, 1 each in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, and Connecticut, and 8 in Massachusetts.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS, CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES — Even with incomplete data from Maine, the total of 38 W. Kingbirds this fall was above the totals of the previous 3 years: 16, 16, 22. Twenty-five of these birds occurred in Massachusetts alone. A Great Crested Flycatcher was a straggler at Sable I., N.S., Sept. 19 (DAW, WTS, fide IAMcL). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered at Appledore I. (Isles of Shoals), Me., Sept. 17, and identified by an observer familiar with the species (OHH). Along with several Great Crested Flycatchers, the bird remained until Sept. 20 (DJA, WHC). The only comparable records are specimens from Maryland (Nov. 25, 1911 and Nov. 30, 1957) and Rhode Island (Sept. 15, 1960), and a bird photographed last Nov. 22-24 at Larchmont, N.Y. Another rarity this fall was a Say's Phoebe briefly present at Dartmouth, N.S., Sept. 12 (IAMcL), apparently a second record for the province. Flocks of migrant Tree Swallows were said to be unusually large along the Massachusetts coast in August and September, with such estimates as 30,000 at Plum I., Aug. 25, 40,000 at Scusset, Sept. 14 (AA, MA, RPE), and 40,000 on outer Cape Cod, Sept. 26 (CAG). Single Rough-winged Swallows were seen in s. Nova Scotia, at Lower Ohio, Shelburne Co., Aug. 22 (DWF, JRG, CDG), and at Seal I., Aug. 25-26 (photographed, DWF, IAMcL). In the same province, a flock of 5 rather late Cliff Swallows at Martinique Beach, Halifax Co., Oct. 4 were seen to have markedly pale, "ivory-toned" rumps, and on the basis of this character were thought possibly of the race *hypopolia* of w. Canada (IAMcL, WTS). Gray Jays only infrequently stage detectable flights, but during October "considerable numbers" were seen in Nova Scotia around Halifax County (PRD), "heavy movement" was noted in New Brunswick (DSC), and the Mt. Desert region of Maine experienced a "Gray Jay explosion" (WCT). On Oct. 3, a flock of 8-10 was found at the end of Pt. Lepreau, N.B., and the same day 40-50 were seen at Deer Island Pt., "trying to get up nerve enough to fly across to Eastport, Me., a relatively short hop; they would fly out 75 or 100 yards and then turn back, and only a couple of birds were actually observed to make it all the way across." (CLJ, JGW, fide DSC). On Oct. 8 at Winter Harbor, Me., Bill Townsend saw "a steady flight of individual Gray Jays," crossing the mouth of the harbor to Grindstone Neck, and counted 23 birds in 3 hours. While only modest numbers of migrating Black-capped Chickadees were reported in New Brunswick and New Hampshire, in Massachusetts the Manomet Bird Observatory netted about 4500 between Sept. 1 and Nov. 30 (fide DVH), the previous high for the same period being 1309 in 1968. Only a few

Boreal Chickadees moved south; there were scattered reports of 5 individuals in Massachusetts in October, and a total of 9 had been banded at M.B.O. as of Nov. 9 (KSA, fide RPE). Southward movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches was also rather low-volume, and was more noticeable in the latter half of August than in early October when the peak of a strong flight usually occurs. Thirty were seen on Cape Cod at North Beach, Aug. 24 (CAG, WRP), and 8 the following day on Block I. (LSB et al.).

WRENS TO SHRIKES — Three House Wrens wandered to Nova Scotia during October, single birds at Cape Sable I., Oct. 8 (SS, fide PRD), Brier I., Oct. 11 (ELM), and Seal I., Oct. 16-18 (CRKA et al., fide PRD), and similarly 3 Long-billed Marsh Wrens, at Seal I., Oct. 11 (IAMcL), at Brier I. the same day (ELM), and at East Chezzetcook, Halifax Co., Oct. 17 (IAMcL, BKD). The two species are about equally scarce in the province. Short-billed Marsh Wrens continue to be rare throughout the Region, and the fall's only records were those of single birds in the Great Swamp area of South Kingston, R.I., Sept. 30 (DW), at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 22, Oct. 3, and Oct. 9 (RS, RPE et al., probably more than 1 bird involved), and at Cambridge, Mass., Oct. 2 (RS, fide RPE). One of the most surprising occurrences of the season was the inexplicable superabundance of Robins in e. New Brunswick during August and early September. In Albert Co., the birds threatened destruction of the commercial blueberry crop, and were shot in large numbers, the estimates varying from 15,000 (DSC, from data gathered by MM) to 30,000 (one blueberry grower). A Wood Thrush was unusual at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 1 (ELM), most of the few provincial records being in spring. On Sept. 24, a Wheatear was easily studied by 4 observers at Clark I. Village, Knox Co., Me., where it hopped about on quarry debris for two hours (LAB et al.). This was the fifth Wheatear in the Region in the last five years. Three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were recorded at coastal localities north of the species' normal limits, single birds at Monhegan I., Me., Sept. 7 (RWS), at Mary's Point, N.B., Sept. 19 (DSC) and at Seal I., N.S., Oct. 18 (RP et al., fide PRD). The first indications of flight of Bohemian Waxwings in n. New England and the Maritimes were 3 birds at East Concord, N.H., Nov. 14-17 (HWP et al., fide RWS), and 3 at Hanover, N.H., Nov. 15-17 (TB, fide RWS). In the next 3 weeks, a total of about 45 birds appeared at 5 localities in Maine, New Brunswick, and P.E.I. A N. Shrike at Sable I., N.S., Sept. 22 (DAW, WTS, fide IAMcL) was well in advance of the first arrivals in New Brunswick and New England during the last ten days of October.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — The northernmost White-eyed Vireo of the season was found freshly roadkilled at Biddeford Pool, Me., Oct. 17 (DJA, HCA, DWF, RSW-specimen to U.N.H., possibly a first for Maine). A Philadelphia Vireo was photographed at Seal I., N.S., Aug. 31 (DWF) and 2 were seen at Brier I., Sept. 6 (DWF, ELM). There are only a few records for the province. In Massachusetts, observers noted unusual numbers of Philadelphias in September, with such counts as 5 at Plum I., Sept. 16 (RPE et al.) and 8 on Cape Cod at Pochet I., Sept. 11 (CAG).

A **Warbling Vireo** collected at Seal I., Sept. 1 (DWF, IAMcL) was a first confirmed record for Nova Scotia. Two Prothonotary Warblers were photographed at Seal I., Aug. 23-26 (DWF, IAMcL), and in Massachusetts, 2 individuals were reported in August and 5 in September (v.o., fide RPE). The season's northernmost Worm-eating Warbler was seen at Appledore I., Me., Sept. 20 (DJA), one of extremely few authentic records for the state. Somewhat less rare but still quite unusual was a Golden-winged Warbler at Monhegan I., Sept. 4 (HT). One of 2 **Blue-winged Warblers** at Seal I., N.S. Aug. 24 was photographed for a first confirmed provincial record (DWF, IAMcL) and another was seen at Brier I., Aug. 30 (ELM). An imm. ♀ **Cerulean Warbler** at Appledore I., Sept. 26, was a first confirmed record for Maine (DJA, HCA, DWF, RWS, EVT, specimen to U.N.H.). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** photographed at Seal I., N.S., Sept. 26 (IAMcL, EHC, DAW) was a third provincial record, and one of very few for Canada. Pine Warblers, rare in the Maritimes, reached Seal I. Sept. 25 (IAMcL, EHC), and Oct. 17-18 (CRKA et al.), and Grand Manan, N.B., Oct. 29 (DSC et al.). Prairie Warblers have in recent years been found more and more commonly in fall at coastal localities northeast of their usual limits. In Nova Scotia, there was 1 at Sable I., Aug. 8 (IAMcL), 6 or 7 at Seal I., Aug. 24-Sept. 6 (DWF, IAMcL), another there Sept. 25 (DAW), and 1 at Dartmouth, Oct. 17 (BKD, fide PRD). In New Brunswick, 2 were seen at Machias Seal I., Aug. 21 (fifth record there, S.J.N.C., DSC), and in Maine an interesting series of observations included 1 at Warren, Aug. 31 (Beulah Lord, fide LAB), 2 at Monhegan I., Sept. 7 (RWS), 1 at Vinhaven, Sept. 9 (AW), and 1 at Mount Desert I., Sept. 12 (BG). A Kentucky Warbler at Deerfield, N.H., Sept. 18 (EWP, fide RWS) was one of very few records for the state. The usual late summer n.e. drift of Yellow-breasted Chats brought 7 of these birds to New Brunswick and at least 16 to Nova Scotia. The only Hooded Warblers aside from a few scattered occurrences in Massachusetts were 4 (2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀) at Sable I., N.S., Sept. 18-20 (DAW, fide IAMcL). Finally, there were a number of late records, the more notable being the following: single Golden-winged Warblers at Block I., R.I., Sept. 25 and Sept. 29 (SSD et al.) and at Cuttyhunk I., Mass., Oct. 1 (SH, fide RPE); a Blue-winged Warbler at Nantucket, Sept. 30 (HLJ et al., fide RPE), a Tennessee at Holderness, N.H., Nov. 14 (VHH, RCH, fide RWS), a Parula freshly dead in Middleboro, Mass., Nov. 24 (DWB), a Cape May frequenting a feeder in Lyme, Conn., Nov. 12-18 (GB, fide RCD), and an Am. Redstart at York Harbor, Me., Nov. 9 (BG).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — A singing W. Meadowlark was seen in Salisbury, Mass., Oct. 11 (RAF, fide RPE). Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found single birds at West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, Aug. 22 (ELC, RMS et al., fide GGD), at Chatham, Mass., Aug. 27-29 (WB et al., fide RPE), and at Block I., R.I., Sept. 1 (LSB et al.). Two Orchard Orioles were found, along with 30+ Baltimore Orioles, at Sable I., N.S., Sept. 19 (DAW, WTS, fide IAMcL), and a late Orchard was seen at Digby, N.S., Oct. 6 (LDD, fide PRD). At Block I. Sept. 25, an oriole described as

a wholly typical ad. ♀ **Bullock's** was identified by an experienced observer familiar with the species (Richard Bown, fide SSD). A ♀ **Brewer's Blackbird** was photographed at Dartmouth, N.S., Nov. 13 (IAMcL), this being a second provincial record. A W. Tanager was carefully observed on the New Hampshire coast at Rye, Sept. 25 (JEC, fide RWS), and 3 single Summer Tanagers occurred, at Broad Cove, Lunenburg Co., N.S., Sept. 11 (SJF, fide PRD), at Martha's Vineyard, Sept. 16 (GGD), and at Block I., R.I., Oct. 3 (EAS).

WINTER FINCHES — Migrating flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were observed almost daily throughout October at New Hampton, N.H., with a definite peak Oct. 28-29 (VHH) which corresponded exactly with the general arrival of large numbers in Massachusetts (RPE). Pine Grosbeaks were plentiful in New Hampshire's north country by late October, and a flight of these birds appeared probable; small numbers appeared in Massachusetts after mid-November. Vera Hebert noted an early flock of 30 Com. Redpolls at Bristol, N.H., Oct. 9, and in New Brunswick this species staged a "heavy flight" during the last ten days of October, after which most had apparently left (DSC), but only a few small flocks were found in Massachusetts, mainly after mid-November. On the other hand, Pine Siskins, few of which had been noted in migration farther north, abounded in Massachusetts after arrival in early November. White-winged Crossbills, fairly numerous in central and n. New Hampshire during November, appeared further south only in much smaller numbers.

OTHER FRINGILLIDS — A Black-headed Grosbeak was reported at Stage I., Chatham, Mass., Sept. 10 (RC, NC, fide RPE). A Blue Grosbeak at Cape Sable I., N.S., Sept. 22 (SS et al., fide PRD) was the only one to occur n. of Massachusetts, but in the latter state a remarkable concentration of 9 of these birds was found on Sept. 18 in a small area of weedy farmland known as Corn Hill, at Truro, Cape Cod (WB, CAG et al.). There were at least 4 others in Massachusetts, and 2 in Rhode Island. In Nova Scotia, Indigo Buntings have been known principally as vagrants in April and May, but this fall there were remarkable numbers on Seal I., with counts of 11+, Oct. 9-12 and 20+, Oct. 16-18 (IAMcL, CRKA et al.). About 78 Dickcissels were reported, 36 of these n. of Massachusetts, even without the usual Maine records. Unlike the last four years, no Lark Buntings were seen. Several records of Ipswich Sparrow were noteworthy: in New Brunswick, where there were only two previous fall records, 6 were found, 5 of them at Grand Manan and 1 at Pt. Lepreau, Oct. 29-Nov. 1 (DSC et al.) and on the New Hampshire coast, 12 Nov. 12 at Seabrook were a high total for that place (EWP). Grasshopper Sparrows, which in fall appear only quite sparsely north of their usual limits, reached St. Andrews, N.B., where 2 were seen Sept. 2 (HWMacC et al., fide DSC), and Seal I., N.S., where a single bird, Sept. 25, was followed by 2 or 3, Oct. 11-18, 2 of which remained through at least Nov. 10 (IAMcL, CRKA et al.). The capture of a **Le Conte's Sparrow** at M.B.O., Sept. 4 furnished a first and badly needed specimen record for the Region, and lent a measure of support to several recent



Mated ♂ Savannah and ♀ Ipswich Sparrows Martinique Beach, Halifax Co., N.S. Photo/I. A. McLaren.

sight records. Extralimital Seaside Sparrows were carefully observed at Hampton, N.H., Sept. 27 (PDeB et al.), and at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 9 (ELM). About 25 Lark Sparrows were reported, only 6 of them north of Massachusetts. Of the 9 Clay-colored Sparrows seen, the more unusual were single birds at Seabrook, N.H., Sept. 18 (DJA, DWF, photographed), one of very few New Hampshire records, and at Harkness Park, New London, Conn., Oct. 21 (GB, fide RCD), one of very few Connecticut records. This fall saw a particularly heavy flight of White-crowned Sparrows, noted at P.E.I. and in New Brunswick, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The peak in New Brunswick was the first week of October, when the birds were said to be "all over the place" (DSC); in New Hampshire on Oct. 3, 100+ were counted in the Lakes Region (VHH, RCH) and 53 at Littleton (RB), and of many reports in Massachusetts, the high count was 40 at Corn Hill in Truro, Cape Cod, Oct. 11 (CAG, WRP et al.). Finally, an individual with the characteristics of the western race *gambelii* was photographed at Seal I., N.S., Oct. 12 (IAMcL).

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HUDSON-ST. LAWRENCE REGION /Ned R. Boyajian

It was another notably mild fall, with southern areas experiencing considerable heavy rains but northern areas remaining fairly dry until the first heavy snows in mid-November. Hurricane Doria, which brushed the coast in late August, produced some interesting results, and there were a few good flights. But owing