

were Oct. 29 (1500), 30 (200), and Nov. 1 (1000). Pine Grosbeaks were well represented in n. Minnesota and Wisconsin. Few Com. Redpolls were noted in the s. part of the region, but large numbers were reported in the n. and c. parts of Minnesota and w. Wisconsin, at least. There was one Hoary Redpoll report, from Grant Co., Minn. Nov. 21-26 (KE). Observations of Pine Siskins were spotty, but 2000 migrants were seen in one hour in Duluth Oct. 28 (JCG), and Booth noted heavy movements along the L. Michigan shore in Berrien Co. Oct. 27 (2500) and 29 (3000). Some of the peak movements of Am. Goldfinch in the same Michigan area were on Oct. 2 (3000), 3 (5000), and 26 (1500); diurnal migration was the heaviest ever noted there (WB). Both species of crossbill were common in many n. and c. locations, and a few White-winged even reached Berrien Co in late November (WB, CN, HK). Short-tailed young Red Crossbills were noted in Duluth Sept. 20 (birds had been present in August; MMC). A Lark Bunting in Cook Co., Minn. Oct. 8-10 was most unusual (JPe); also noteworthy was a Harris' Sparrow in Berrien Co. Oct. 12 (HK, TW). White-crowned Sparrows were very scarce in s.e. Michigan (fide AHK), although Valentine reported 40 banded in Alpena Co., Mich. Oct. 3. White-throated and Fox Sparrows were still present at the end of November in several locations. Other straggling sparrows were a Savannah in Duluth Nov. 7 (JCG), a Chipping at Duluth Nov. 4 (JCG), and a Lincoln's in Berrien Co. Nov. 2 (CN).

**CONTRIBUTORS** (sectional editors' names in boldface type; contributors are requested to send their reports to these editors) — Elizabeth G. Anderson, Philip Ashman, Larry Aufderheide, Ralph Baldwin, **N. R. Barger**, Wisconsin; Jim Barnes, Mrs. Elmer Basten, Ty Baumann, Marguerite Baumgartner, James A. Baumhofer, Dan Berger, John Bielefeldt, Carolyn Bintz, Tom Bintz, J. Blanich, E. C. Blomgren, D. A. Bolduc, Walter Booth, Almeda Bouldon, Manly Bowker, J. Brandenburg, J. K. Bronzel, W. D. Brown, Kathy Carr, Marjorie M. Carr, Harry Clark, Ed Cleary, D. Cole, E. Cole, Owen Davies, Richard Dean, Mary Donald, Bob Drieslein, Kim Eckert, Paul Egeland, O. B. Eustis, Mrs. L. A. Feil, Erna Fenton, O. H. Finseth, Adrian Freitag, Mr. and Mrs. M. Gabler, W. E. Gelston, Caroline Gertenbach, Ethel H. Getgood, Alta Goff, Maury Goldberg, **Janet C. Green**, Minnesota; J. A. Greenhouse, Bill Grigg, Dennis Gustafson, Don Hanbury, C. Hewitt, L. Hewitt, B. Hojnacki, Ernest Hoover, Charles L. Horn, Jr., Helen Horton, M. Ivanovs, Stuart Johnston, **Alice H. Kelley**, s.e. Michigan; Eugene Kenaga, J. P. Kleiman, Bernard Klugow, Harry Krueger, Eleanor Kuhn, Henry C. Kyllingsted, L. R. Lenz, Fred Z. Leshner, B. Litkey, Merton Maier, Ralph G. Mancke, A. J. Maley, Chuck Mead, R. W. Moore, Charles Nelson, Charles E. Nelson, Marian Norris, Alice Olsen, James Olson, Manley Olson, Jane Olyphant, Laurie Otto, J. P. Perkins, J. Peterson, James Ponshair, Mr. and Mrs. D. K. Radcliffe, Samuel D. Robbins, L. Rupp, Alan Rusch, O. A. Rustad, A. J. Ryff, Terry Savaloja, Paul Schwalbe, Gary Shugart, **Roy Smith**, s.w. Michigan; Aledia Sovacool, E. N. Stanton, Steve Ste-

fani, Philip Stutesman, K. Sundquist, Arleen Sweet, Daryl Tessen, **Allen E. Valentine**, n.e. Lower Peninsula; L. H. Walkinshaw, Carol Welch, Robert Whiting, George Wickstrom, Melvin Wierzbicki, J. Wilson, R. F. Wittersheim, Truman Wolford. — **THOMAS K. SOULEN**, Department of Botany, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455.

## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION / Vernon M. Kleen and Lee Bush

"Warm and dry" summarizes the Regional weather situation quite satisfactorily. By late August, most shallow pools and many small streams had dried up; even larger bodies of water had become dangerously low or dried up. St. Louis reported the driest August since



1929 when only .08 inches of rain fell compared to over 3 inches expected normally during the month. September was nearly normal throughout the Region; rainfall was unevenly distributed through the month with most occurring on two or three days — however, the western part of the Region still did not get its needed moisture. October was also dry; Cleveland reported two-thirds of normal precipitation and the western areas reported less than that. October temperatures were moderate throughout the Region and were above average for the most part — at Terre Haute, averaging nearly 3° above normal. November was also very mild. The first killing frosts occurred on Nov. 4 in the northern and Nov. 7 in the southern parts of the Region; however temperatures went back into the 70s as far north as LaPorte, Ind. on Nov. 14. Unexpected snowfalls came early in November but disappeared quickly. Moisture in general was again lacking: Terre Haute reported a deficiency of more than 50 per cent for the month. At the end of the period, lakes and ponds were still open and the mild weather was expected to continue into the next report period.

Some season highlights include: White Pelicans scattered throughout the Region; Harlequin Ducks at two different Illinois locations; a King Eider collected in n. Iowa; 8 Com. Scoters at an inland lake; the second Illinois record of a Gyrfalcon; an "invasion" of Peregrine Falcons; Sandhill Cranes along the Chicago lakefront; numerous reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, American Avocets and Northern Phalaropes; ten Little Gulls, a Black-legged Kittiwake and a Sabine's Gull in the Chicago area; a Snowy Owl as far south as Louisville; an abundance of migrating Common Nighthawks; a Western Tanager in Des Moines; the

return of several "winter finches"; a Baird's Sparrow in western Missouri; several Illinois reports of Harris' Sparrows and Smith's Longspurs near St. Louis.

**LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS** — Common Loons arrived noticeably later than normal this fall but were more plentiful than usual; around Chicago they hadn't been observed as often since 1952 (C). One Red-throated Loon was found at Chicago Nov. 7 (B, JR). Five Red-necked Grebes were seen on the Illinois side of L. Michigan: 1 at Wilmette Oct. 28, 3 at Ill. Dunes State Park and 1 at Glencoe Nov. 14 (B, JR). Two Eared Grebes were found at Labadie, St. Louis, in company with several Horned Grebes Oct. 7 (fide E); another was present on Wolf L., Chicago, Nov. 27; very unusual and late for that area (B, C et al.). A W. Grebe discovered at Wilmette Nov. 10 (BT) may have been the same one seen there Nov. 16; another was photographed at Iowa City, Ia. Nov. 15 (FK). White Pelicans were found throughout the Region; the first birds were reported at Swan Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Mo. Aug. 22 (WGo); one appeared at Crab Orchard Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Sept. 17 and remained as late as Nov. 16 (K); several were first discovered at Lamoni, Ia. Sept. 26, but by Oct. 5 nearly 200 were present (DG); they were common through the period at Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Mo. (L); 7 stayed in a pond near Jacksonville, Ill. from Oct. 6-15 (EL et al.); 1 was found in Green Co., Ohio, Oct. 14 (TT); single birds were also noted at several other locations; Nov. 20 was the last date any were seen. Double-crested Cormorants were more common around Chicago than in any year since 1937. (C). They first appeared at the Mark Twain Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ill. Sept. 4 and were still present at the end of the period; at least 80 were tallied there Oct. 24 (V); a peak of 37 was recorded at Red Rock Reservoir, Marion Co., Ia. during the last week of October (GB); 2 were observed at Louisville Oct. 17 (fide S); 1 was found near Cleveland Nov. 6 (M).

**HERONS, BITTERNS, IBIS** — A Snowy Egret was found in Morgan Co., Ill. Aug. 22 (JF). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron observed at the Rocky River Park, Cleveland, Sept. 26-27 was unusual for that area (D). The numbers of Am. Bitterns were down this fall according to reporters. Dryness was the suggested cause. A Glossy Ibis was found at L. Kincaid, Christian Co., Ill. Sept. 9 (H).

**WATERFOWL** — A few Whistling Swans were noted away from their normal flyway route this fall: 1 at Squaw Creek Refuge during mid-October (HB, fide L); 1 photographed at Horseshoe L., Alexander Co., Ill. Nov. 6 (LW); an imm. at Crabtree L., Kane Co., Ill. — no date given — (fide B); and at least 5 photographed at Seymour, Ind. Nov. 30 (fide S). An imm. White-fronted Goose appeared at Clarksville, Ind. Oct. 17 (JP). A few Ross' Geese continued to mix with the large flocks of Blue and Snow geese at Squaw Creek Refuge; they were present from mid-October to the end of the season (R,L). A group of 40 Gadwall at Louisville Nov. 20 was considered unusual for that area (S, LB). Two ♂ Cinnamon Teal were found in St. Charles Co., Mo. Oct. 27 (JC). On Nov. 2 an estimated 70,000 scaup, viewed for 45 minutes at dusk through a single, fixed telescope, headed n. along the

Chicago lakefront; since these birds had been flying past that area all day, there must have been a tremendous number of them present (B). A ♀ Oldsquaw was located at the Maryville, Nodaway Co., Mo. sewage lagoons Nov. 7 (R). A ♀-plumaged Harlequin Duck was found at Lock & Dam 13 along the Mississippi R. Nov. 13 (B, JR et al.) and a ♂ almost in full ad. plumage was present at Montrose Harbor, Chicago, Nov. 27 (B, C et al.). A King Eider was shot in n. Iowa in mid-November and is now a specimen in the Iowa Conservation Commission collection (fide WB). All three scoter species were found along the Ill. shores of L. Michigan this fall, but a Com. Scoter at Waukegan Sept. 8 was very early (BR); 8 other Com. Scoters at L. Ole, Ogle Co., Ill. Oct 10 constitutes a very unusual inland record for this species (ET, fide B, MS). Other scoters away from the Great Lakes included a White-winged Scoter at Springfield, Mo. Oct. 30 (NF) and a Surf Scoter at the Maryville sewage lagoons the same day (R). Several flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers totaling an estimated 50,000 were flying out of a snowstorm along L. Erie at Lorain, Ohio during a two-hour period around noon Nov. 7 (D, MST).

**HAWKS** — On Nov. 14, two Harlan's Hawks were found in Illinois: 1 at Mark Twain Refuge (A, V); 1 in Christian Co. (H). Broad-winged Hawks were noted in various flock-sizes as they migrated s. this fall; the flocks in Ogle Co., Ill. Sept. 22 totaled a few hundred individuals (MSw) but those observed in n.w. Ill. Sept. 18 ranged from 4 to 9 individuals; in Jackson Co., Ill. several observers reported flocks of 5-30 flying just above tree-top level throughout the afternoon of Oct. 5; one bird was even hit by a car (fide K); the last flock of the season was noted Oct. 20 as it passed through Winchester, Ind. (LC); a dark-phased individual was observed at Springfield, Ill. Oct. 5 (H). A Swainson's Hawk was identified in St. Louis Co., Mo. Sept 26 (E); another (light phase), carrying large prey, was seen at Barrington, Chicago, being chased by a Peregrine Falcon Oct. 10 (C). Possibly the most interesting report of the season was the capture and photography of an immature, gray phase Gryfalcon along the Mississippi R. in Jo Davies Co. Nov. 6 (KI), only the second record of this species for Illinois. Some observers consider this an "invasion" year for Peregrine Falcons; at least 8 different individuals were found in the Chicago area between Sept. 16 and Oct. 30 (B,C, mob); 1 was seen in Carroll Co., Ill. Sept. 19 (HS) and an adult ♂ was present at Squaw Creek Refuge the same day (R, et al.). A few Pigeon Hawks were reported this fall: 1 at Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 18 (TT); 1 at Dundee, Ill. Sept. 22 (RM); 1 at Palso, Chicago, Sept. 26 (B, JR); and 1 at Wilmette Nov. 2 (B, JR).

**CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — The first Sandhill Cranes for the season were reported at Murphy's Pond in w. Kentucky, 4 were seen there Oct. 10 (WGr, fide S); 30 were observed around Louisville Oct. 24 (BM, et al.); an imm. was present at Squaw Creek Refuge Nov. 13 (R, L, et al.); 450 in several flocks were counted along the Chicago lakefront Nov. 6 (B, C, et al); there had been no previous records for the lakefront area. Adult King Rails with 4 downy young were observed at Squaw Creek Refuge Aug. 28 (R, et al.). A Yellow Rail was one of several casualties

at the Springfield, Ill. TV tower Oct. 24 (PW, H). Single Piping Plovers were reported from 5 locations this fall: Lamon, Ia. Aug. 7 (DG); L. Chautauqua, Ill. Sept. 5 (H, PW); Waukegan Sept. 8 (BR); White City Beach, Cleveland, Sept. 6 (M, — photographed); Louisville Oct. 11 — very late (JP, fide S). Am. Golden Plovers were present throughout the Region from Aug. 19 to Nov. 20 in numbers of from 1 to 69. There were also several inland reports of Black-bellied Plovers and Ruddy Turnstones. One Whimbrel was found at Waukegan Aug. 28 (CO, B, et al.). An Upland Plover at Chandlerville (Cass Co.), Ill. Oct. 2 was unusual (H). Willet records for the fall included single birds Aug. 22 at Swan L. Refuge (WGo); Meredosia, Morgan Co., Ill. (JF); and White Water State Park, Ind. (LC); another bird was seen in the St. Louis area Aug. 23 (fide E). A Lesser Yellowlegs was still present at Normal, Ill. Nov. 4 (DBi). One Knot was found at L. Chautauqua Sept. 4 (H); 2 were seen at Waukegan Sept. 8 (BR); 1 was found at Quiver L., Mason Co., Ill. Oct. 11 (H). A number of Baird's Sandpipers were located this fall: 45 in central Ill. between Aug. 29 and Oct. 23 (H); 3 at Waukegan from Aug. 21 to Sept. 5 (B, et al.); up to 7 at Sparta, Randolph Co., Ill. Aug. 23-Sept. 6 (MM); 2 at Mark Twain Refuge Aug. 26 (V); and 2 at Indianapolis Sept. 19 (AS). Dunlins were found at several inland locations Oct. 9-Nov. 27 with a maximum of 75 at L. Chautauqua Oct. 23 (H); however, along the Chicago lakefront, 3100 were counted in two hours as they passed by on Oct. 23 (B, et al.). Up to 150 Stilt Sandpipers were counted at L. Chautauqua Aug. 21 (H); 1 present at Skokie Lagoons, n. Chicago, Nov. 2 was very unusual (JR). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were numerous throughout the Region; they were reported between Aug. 19 and Sept. 26 (mob) with a maximum of 50 at Squaw Creek Refuge Sept. 2 (HB). One Marbled Godwit was reported from L. Chautauqua Sept. 14-25 (H, et al.). Hudsonian Godwits were found at Squaw Creek Refuge Oct. 9 and Big L., Holt Co., Mo. Oct. 24 (L). Am. Avocets were observed in at least 14 different areas through the Region between early August and Nov. 6 — the maximum at any one location was 6. Northern Phalaropes were also fairly common: 16 individuals were reported (Mo. — 3; Ill. — 12; Ind. — 1) between Aug. 20 and Sept. 26; 7 were at L. Chautauqua Aug. 21 (H).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERN** — A Parasitic Jaeger was observed at Miller City, Ind. Oct. 24 (TN, fide B); an adult, light phase individual was seen at Wilmette Oct. 17 (B, et al.); two other probable Parasitic Jaegers (but recorded as jaeger sp.?) were also reported: 1 at Wilmette Oct. 31 (B, et al.); 1 at Squaw Creek Refuge Sept. 6 (R, et al.). Over the years, the majority of jaegers seen in the Region have been from the Indian shore of L. Michigan; they were usually observed flying from e. to w. suggesting a flyway pattern primarily down the e. shore of the lake; however, increased coverage in the Chicago lakefront area may give a better understanding to the true jaeger distribution on L. Michigan (C, B). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull was found at the w. end of L. Erie Sept. 12 (TT); an imm. was present at Rocky River Park, Cleveland, Nov. 7 (D, MSt) and 3 adults were located at Sandusky Nov. 21 (D, et al.). One ad. and one imm. Laughing

Gull were present at Waukegan Aug. 28 (CO, B, et al.). Do these birds originate from the Gulf of Mexico via the Mississippi R. or from the Atlantic Coast via the St. Lawrence Seaway? (B). Little Gulls again were numerous in the Chicago area, with at least 10 individuals, including 2 imm. and 1 subadult, reported between Aug. 15 and Dec. 4 (B, mob); 1 adult was also found at White City Beach, Cleveland, Sept. 26 (M). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was carefully identified at Evanston, Ill. Nov. 13 (B, JR, BT). An imm. Sabine's Gull was documented at Wilmette Oct. 19 (B, JR, JS). A Least Tern at Westport, Ky. Sept. 9 was rather unusual for that area (BM).

**OWLS, GOATSUCKERS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — What has happened to the Barn Owls? Few, if any, have been reported in Illinois recently. Snowy Owls began to appear in the Region by mid-November; the first report was from New Carlisle, Ind. Nov. 18-20 (fide DBu); others appeared in Ill., Ohio, and Ky. before the end of the period. Three Saw-whet Owls were banded between Oct. 16 and Nov. 11 at Davenport, Ia. (P). On Sept. 13, a Chuck-will's-widow was observed feeding around a pole lamp in Springfield, Ill.; this seems unusual (H). A Whip-poor-will banded at Carbondale, Ill. Oct. 7 set a new departure record for that species in s. Illinois (K). Large flocks of Com. Nighthawks were reported by many observers throughout the Region this fall; build-ups of migrating birds were first noted in Columbus, Ohio Aug. 20 (TT) and Chicago Aug. 22 (B); 575+ passed over Lakewood, Ohio Sept. 5 (M) and 734 in 7 flocks over Charleston, Ill. Sept. 6 (LBH); the last nighthawk seen was found in Springfield, Ill. Oct. 17 (H). Sizeable flocks of Chimney Swifts lingered beyond their normal departure schedule in several areas. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Brazil, Ind. Oct. 14 was rather late (LS); another was still in St. Louis Oct. 11 (JC).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — An E. Kingbird lingered at the Sanganois Conservation Area, Cass Co., Ill. until at least Oct. 16 (RR). A W. Kingbird was discovered at Hoover Reservoir, Delaware Co., Ohio, Oct. 10 (TT). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported as late as Oct. 17 at Joplin, Mo. (GG). E. Wood Pewees were reported later than usual: at Carbondale, Ill. Oct. 17 (DH); Tiffin, Ohio, Oct. 16 (JK); and Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 10 (TT). A Barn Swallow at Lincoln Park, Chicago, Nov. 6 was unusual (C); another at Normal, Ill. Oct. 30 was also late (DBi).

**NUTHATCHES, WRENS, THRUSH** — A few Red-breasted Nuthatches arrived as is normal this fall — by Sept. 2 at Glen Ellyn, Chicago (CO, fide C); however, they did not arrive in numbers suggesting an invasion. Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens lingered until Nov. 4 at Normal, Ill. (DBi). At Waite Hill, Cleveland, a Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded as late as Nov. 12 (AF, fide M).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A White-eyed Vireo was still present at the Sanganois Conservation Area, Ill. Oct. 16 (RR). Solitary Vireos at Columbia, Mo. Oct. 24 (LF) and at St. Louis Oct. 25 (A) were considered late for those areas. Philadelphia Vireos were more common than usual this fall, according to several observers. A Black-and-white Warbler was still at Rocky River Park Nov. 25 (D, MSt). Observers reported that

