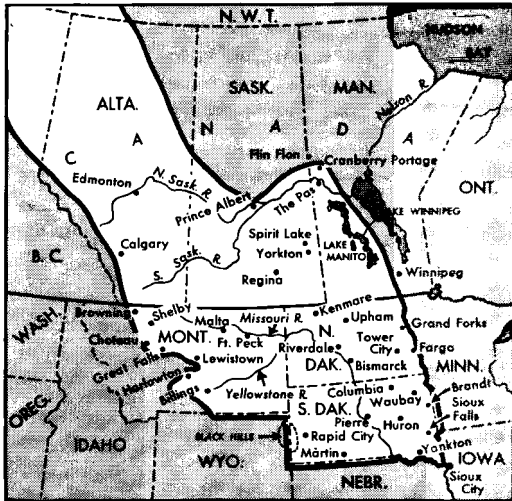


NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/ C. Stuart Houston

August tended to be warm and dry, followed by near-average weather until October 27. Then a storm with snow and freezing temperatures began on the Canadian prairies and swept southwards across the Dakotas. This resulted in an unusually early, rapid and complete exodus of waterfowl from the region, one of the most spectacular movements of waterfowl in memory (HP).



GREBES — There were 2000 Eared Grebes at Benton L. Refuge, Great Falls, Mont. Sept. 5 (GAH).

PELICAN, CORMORANT, HERONS, IBIS — At Tewaukon Refuge, Cayuga, N.D., White Pelicans peaked at 1500 Sept. 7, with 490 Double-crested Cormorants Aug. 28 and 80 Great Blue Herons Aug. 31 (EAA). A Green Heron was present through Aug. 31 at Sullys Hill Preserve, Fort Totten, N.D. (DEG) and there were 5 sightings of up to 3 at Sioux Falls Aug. 27-Sept. 11 (HK). There were 6 Cattle Egrets at Church's Ferry Sept. 11 (JTL) and 1 near Valley City, N.D. Oct. 1 (GHC). Com. Egrets were reported in August from Sullys Hill, Gilby, Valley City, Ludden and Oakes, N.D. Two Snowy Egrets were at Bowdoin Refuge, Malta, Mont. Sept. 8-15 (RJK), following a previously unreported spring sighting near Irricana, Alta. May 20 (RL, DVW). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen w. of Sioux Falls Aug. 25 and Sept. 12 (HK, RN, LMB). Three Glossy Ibises were seen near Sioux Falls Aug. 27 (HK).

SWANS — Whistling Swans arrived in N. Dakota Sept. 21 (ACF); Oct. 6 there were 450 at Goose L. near Laura, Sask., peaking at 1500 Oct. 11. Flights of swans occurred in the storm at Luseland and Craven, Sask. and Kenmare, N.D. Oct. 30, at Sullys Hill, N.D. and Stonewall, Man. Oct. 31, yet 1113 were counted near Antelope, Sask. Nov. 2 and they did not leave Sheho and Spirit L. Sask. until Nov. 5. Summer records of ad. swans near Saskatoon (2 on the river Aug. 10 and 1 on Aug. 22 and 1 at Goose L. Aug. 29) were almost certainly Trumpeters. The black bill with narrow flesh-colored stripe at the base of the mandible was clearly

seen, as was absence of yellow lores. Banko in *N.A. Fauna*: 63 states these features are not completely reliable, but the date six weeks before the Whistling Swan migration and the deep trumpet call heard by GG Aug. 22, corroborated by its resemblance to the call on a phonograph record heard soon after, suggest these are the first Trumpeter Swan records for this area in summer in this century. (JBG, GG). At the La Creek Refuge, Martin, S.D., Trumpeters increased to 93, including 26 cygnets (CAF).

GEESE — A Black Brant was seen at Beaverhill L., Alta. Oct. 17 (DD). There were still 9415 Canada Geese on the lakes and reservoirs in extreme s.w. Saskatchewan Nov. 2 (DSG) and a record 73,000 on the 4 reservoirs in South Dakota Nov. 9 (HP). A spectacular mass migration of Snow, Blue and Canada Geese into and through s. Manitoba occurred Sept. 24-26 (WGL, KG) and there were 11,000 Snows (10 per cent Blues) at Oakland, Man. Sept. 30 (RRT). There were 10,000 Snows on Beaverhill L., Alta. Oct. 17 (DD), 6000 on Teo L. near Kindersley, Sask. Oct. 11 (KJF), and on Oct. 20 there were 15,000 on J. Clark Salyer Refuge, Upham, and 35,000 on Lord's Refuge, Bottineau, N.D. (RCF).

DUCKS — Black Ducks were reported from n.e. of Nipawin (1 shot Oct. 30), Saskatoon (Sept. 5, Oct. 1 & 24), n. of Rosetown (Sept. 8), and Eyebrow, Sask. (1 banded Aug. 6), from Oakland, Man. (1 shot Oct. 4), from Bowdoin Refuge, Mont. (10 seen Sept. 15) and from Sullys Hill (Sept. 5), McHenry (3 on Aug. 14), Jamestown (2 on Oct. 18), J. Clark Salyer Refuge (2 banded) and Tewaukon Refuge, N.D. (peak of 100). There were 9 Wood Ducks at Brandon, Man. Sept. 12 (BR), 1 at Ypsilanti Oct. 23 (PFS), 4 at Fargo Oct. 20 (EGA) and record high numbers of 56 at Sullys Hill Preserve Aug. 18 (DEG) 170 at Tewaukon Refuge Sept. 4 (EAA) and 30 at Sioux Falls Sept. 12 (HK). Peak dabbling numbers included 18,170 Gadwall Sept. 8 and 19,750 Am. Widgeon Sept. 22 at Bowdoin Refuge, Mont. and 27,000 Blue-winged Teal at Medicine L. Refuge, Mont. Sept. 12. At La Creek Refuge, S.D., Canvasbacks peaked at 6925 Oct. 29, the highest number in 30 years (CAF). Sightings of 3 **Greater Scaup** Sept. 22 and ♂ and 2 ♀ **Common Soters** Oct. 24 (RP), added two new species to the Calgary list. A ♀ Harlequin was seen at Stoney Slough Refuge, s.w. of Valley City, N.D. Oct. 5 (DMB). **Surf Scoters** were seen near Calgary (2 ♀ Oct. 9 & 24, BL, RP), while the specimens collected Oct. 16 near Robinson and Minnewaukan were the first for the North Dakota (HAK, TFS); a crippled Surf Scoter was also taken at Altamont, S.C. Oct. 25 (BKH). Hooded Mergansers were reported from Nipawin, Saskatoon, Regina and Brandon, with 320 at Bowdoin Refuge, Mont. Oct. 27 and another 30 at Tewaukon Refuge, N.D. Oct. 29 (RJK, EAA).

HAWKS, EAGLES — There were 140 observations of Cooper's Hawks from 23 localities, including nearly 100 near Regina, where 13 were seen Sept. 19 (RDR). Movements of Swainson's Hawks occurred Sept. 21 at Moose Jaw and Sept. 28 at Raymore, with 73 in one sq. mi. near Tuberose, Sask. Sept. 26 (WSR) and 100 birds in one field near Upham, N.D. Sept. 15-20 (RCF). Major Red-tailed Hawk movements were at

Kenaston, Sask. Sept. 20-21, at Saskatoon, Brandon, Man. and LaMoire, N.D. Oct. 3 and Tewaukon Refuge, N.D. Oct. 4-6. There were over 120 Rough-legged Hawk sightings from 53 localities, 115 Golden Eagle sightings from 51 localities and 141 Bald Eagle sightings from 58 localities. An Osprey was seen at Calgary Sept. 10 (DVW), at Spring Valley, Sask. Nov. 2 (FB), at Jamestown Sept. 4 and Oct. 3 (JTL, PFS) and at Long L. Refuge, Moffit, N.D. Nov. 7 & 10 (RLW). There were 40 Prairie Falcon sightings from 12 localities. Peregrine Falcons were reported from only 8 localities: Sylvan L. Alta. Sept. 15 (HSA), Benton L. Refuge, Sept. 14 (GAH) and Bowdoin Refuge, Mont. Sept. 10 (RJK), Kindersley Sept. 15 (JAW) and Spirit L. Sask. Aug. 14 (FHS), Sioux Falls, Aug. 31 (HK, GB), LaCreek Refuge, Oct. 6 (CAF) and Sand L. Refuge, Columbia, S.D. Sept. 26 (RPR).

GROUSE — A Pinnated Grouse was seen at Ypsilanti, N.D. Nov. 6 (GLK).

WHOOPIING CRANES — There were observations of 40 birds from 12 Saskatchewan localities reported by and to the Sask. Museum of Natural History (MKB): 5 at Francis Sept. 20-Oct. 23; 2 near Nokomis Sept. 27; 2 near Jansen Sept. 29; 2 near Outlook Sept. 30; 3 near Eston Oct. 1; 3 (incl. 1 young) at Midnight L. Oct. 4-26; 2 s.w. of Meadow L. Oct. 8; 2 near Spruce L. Oct. 12; 7 ad. w. of Govan Oct. 23-26; 3 (incl. 1 young) near Clavet Oct. 24 and near Torquay Oct. 26; 6 flying e. of Hazlet Oct. 29. In North Dakota there were 11 birds at 7 localities: 1 at Mercer Sept. 19 to about Oct. 10 (EB); 2 at Audubon Refuge, Coleharbor, Oct. 12-27 (DCM); 1 flying s.w. of Woodworth Oct. 15 (BOM); 4 (incl. 1 young) n.w. of Valley City Oct. 17 (GA, DT); 1 s.w. of Dawson Oct. 19 (WGMc); 1 near Crosby Oct. 20 (fide WES); 1 n. of Turtle L. Nov. 9 (WGMc).

RAILS — A King Rail was seen at 30 ft. near Sioux Falls Aug. 25 (HK, RN) and a Yellow Rail was found dead in Brandon Sept. 18 (JL).

WADERS — There were 6000 Killdeer at Benton L. Refuge, Mont. Aug. 20 (GAH). A Ruddy Turnstone was seen at Calgary Aug. 23 (RP), with 2 at Saskatoon Aug. 22 and 1 on Aug. 28 (JBG). At Saskatoon, 5 Knots were seen Aug. 31, the third successive year (JBG, JAW), and there was a record flock of 60 Baird's Sandpipers Aug. 17 (SJS). There were 10,000 dowitchers, most or all Long-billed, at Benton L. Refuge Aug. 16 (GAH). A record flock of 1900 Semipalmated Sandpipers was seen near Saskatoon Aug. 31 (JAW). No less than 500 Am. Avocets were counted at Church's Ferry, N.D. Sept. 11 (JTL). At Benton L. Refuge, there were 5000 Wilson's Phalaropes during the last half of August (GAH).

JAEGER, GULLS — A Parasitic Jaeger was seen near Tofield Sept. 13 (DD) and another at Calgary Aug. 24-25 (RP, DS). Ring-billed Gulls peaked at 3000 at Calgary Sept. 25 (WGM), with 50 still present Oct. 29 (RP). There were more than 10,000 Ring-billeds at Tewaukon Refuge, N.D. Sept. 14, with 5 still present Nov. 13 (EAA); even later lingerers were 15 near Coleharbor N.D. Nov. 20 (HAK) and 15 at Lockport, Man. Nov. 21 (HWRC). One to four Mew Gulls were present at Calgary Aug. 23-Nov. 3, with 1 collected (DVW, HV — *Calgary Field-Nat.* 3: 81). Franklin's

Gulls peaked at 115,000 at Tewaukon Refuge, N.D. Sept. 14 (EAA). Bonaparte's Gulls were in evidence in Saskatchewan with 200 at Squaw Rapids Dam Sept. 19 and 500 on Oct. 21 (SDR, FWL) and 100 and 140 near Saskatoon Aug. 29 and Oct. 11, with the last 22 on Oct. 30. A Sabine's Gull was sighted at Old Wives L., Sask. Oct. 24 (JCH)

OWL, GOATSUCKER, WOODPECKERS — There were only 70 sightings of Short-eared Owls reported from only 16 localities. A spectacular flight of well over 600 Com. Nighthawks passed over Sioux Falls Sept. 4 (HK). A movement of 100 Yellow-shafted Flickers occurred at Indian Head Sept. 11 (MS). A sighting of a Lewis' Woodpecker at White Bear, Sask. May 22 was not reported earlier (SOJ). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen at Saskatoon Nov. 20 (ARS) and Moose Jaw Sept. 17-21 (EWK).

SWALLOWS, CORVIDS — Between 800 and 1000 Purple Martins congregated in Bismarck in late August and left the night of Sept. 1 (RNR). Flocks of 249, 200 and 226 Black-billed Magpies at Saskatoon were the largest reported, and suggested a major movement (JBG).

NUTHATCHES — A summary of 21 published sightings of 28 White-breasted Nuthatches by W. Garry McKay (*Calgary Field-Nat.* 3:71) indicates that this species is now regular in Alberta, correcting my statement in the 1970 fall migration report. Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in above average numbers at a number of localities throughout the region in 1971.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES — A Mockingbird was noted w. of Empress, Alta. Nov. 9 (CDB, WGM). A Wood Thrush was killed when it flew into a window at Grand Forks Sept. 24 (EGA). Single Varied Thrushes were reported from Saskatoon Oct. 4 (PO), Regina Nov. 14-17 (MB), Winnipeg Oct. 9 (NL) and Bowdoin Refuge, Mont. Oct. 14 (RJK). No less than 39 E. Bluebirds were counted near Dickey, N.D. Oct. 23 (PFS), while a single ♂ was seen near Carrot R., Sask. Oct. 20 (FWL). Townsend's Solitaires are now seen each year in fall migration, with Saskatchewan sightings this year n. of Rosetown Oct. 24 (DHR), at Saskatoon Oct. 30 (WCH) and at Moose Jaw Oct. 15-20 (EWK). Golden-crowned Kinglets seemed commoner this fall, with reports from many localities in numbers up to 20 (Kenmare Oct. 15).

STARLING, VIREOS, WARBLERS — A flock of 1100 Starlings at Saskatoon Oct. 10 was no doubt in migration; only a very small proportion winter in Saskatchewan. Three Yellow-throated Vireos were observed at Sullys Hill Preserve Aug. 31 (DEG) and Solitary Vireos remained at Fargo for an unprecedented interval, from Aug. 20 to Oct. 25 (EGA). A heavy migration of warblers and vireos occurred at Sullys Hill Preserve, N.D. Aug. 30-Sept. 1 in cool weather with an east wind, low overcast and drizzle (DEG). The second wave, chiefly Myrtles, peaked at Regina Sept. 21-22, at Bowdoin Refuge Sept. 17, at Sullys Hill Sept. 23, at Bismarck Sept. 26 and at Jamestown Oct. 3. There was a coincident modest TV tower kill at Regina Sept. 20. At Saskatoon, waves of 50 and 40 Wilson's Warblers passed through Aug. 20-24 and 100 Orange-crowned Warblers were seen Sept. 27. A

♂ Black-throated Blue in spring plumage was observed at Regina Oct. 19-21 (ELF, FHB). **Kentucky Warbler** became a new hypothetical species for Saskatchewan when one was studied at close range for two hours at Moose Jaw Sept. 25 (JCH, DR). There were 3 sightings of Connecticut Warblers at Saskatoon Aug. 23-Sept. 17 (SJS, ARS) and others at Fargo Aug. 22-Sept. 14 (EGA).

BLACKBIRDS — The largest flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds reported were 4000 at Stettler, Alta. Sept. 7 (LML), 1000 at Lemberg, Sask. Sept. 6 (RLS) and 2000 Aug. 29 at Leeds, N.D. (ACF). In Alberta, there were 3000 Brewer's Blackbirds at Stettler Aug. 28 (LML) and 1400 at Cochrane Sept. 26 (C.F.N.S.).

TANAGER, GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS — At Saskatoon, a W. Tanager was seen Sept. 23 (WCH) and up to 3 Black-headed Grosbeaks were present Aug. 25 through Sept. 1 (PO, JBG). Blue Grosbeak adults with a juvenile, w. of Sioux Falls Aug. 21 may have nested nearby (HK). Four Lazuli Buntings observed carefully at Pinawa, Man. Oct. 11 constitute the easternmost sight record for Manitoba (BNT, IH). Lark Buntings were more noticeable in South Dakota with 3 adults and 4 young at Humboldt Aug. 25 (HK) and a heavy migration through Rapid City the last week in August (EMS).

SPARROWS — One Henslow's Sparrow was identified at Sioux Falls Sept. 6, with another 2 on Oct. 22 near Humboldt (HK, GB, RN). Two Le Conte's Sparrows were seen at Altamont, S.D. Oct. 6 (BKH) and 9 near Humboldt Oct. 22 (HK). Good movements of Slate-colored Juncos occurred Sept. 16 and Sept. 25-26 at Edmonton, Sept. 20 at Bowdoin Refuge, Oct. 20 at Winnipeg and Oct. 23 at Jamestown, the 200 birds at the latter place being the highest number reported for the Region. Tree Sparrow peaks occurred Sept. 16 and again Oct. 10-15 at Edmonton, Oct. 10-17 at Saskatoon, Oct. 16 at Raymore, Sask. (73 birds) and Oct. 24 at Brandon, Man. (100 birds). Two hundred White-throated Sparrows at Bowdoin Refuge Sept. 22 was the highest number reported for the region. There was an above-average movement of Harris' Sparrows through the Region with 75 near Rosetown, Sask. Sept. 30, 300 at Bowdoin Refuge Sept. 22, 60 at Jamestown Oct. 23 and 67 at Sioux Falls Oct. 22.

LONGSPURS — Smith's Longspurs were reported from Leeds, N.D. (3 on Oct. 24, RLR), LaMoore, N.D. (1 killed at Omega Tower Oct. 4, JTL) and from near Gettysburg, S.D. where 60 were seen on Sept. 15 (BJR).

Note: The above is a summary of 80 reports from no less than 296 observers, a very concrete demonstration of interest and concern. In addition to the pleasurable hours afield, each observer has spent between 1 and 10 hours preparing his report, and each subeditor has devoted considerably more time and effort. Again, I must acknowledge my appreciation of the efforts of all observers, and particularly the work of my subeditors, without whose help this task would not be possible.

CORRIGENDA — *AB*, 25: 593: Prairie Falcon date was Jan. 3, not 23. *AB*, 25: 759: Rudolf Koes, not Hoes. The line "another w. of Dickinson, N.D. on May 21 (WGM)" refers to Cinnamon Teal, not Wood

Duck. *AB*, 25:760. LaMoore and Buchanan, N.D. refer to the Burrowing Owl, not the Saw-whet Owl. The Great Crested Flycatcher at Walhalla was on May 23, not May 29. On behalf of the gremlins in my typewriter, my apologies.

CONTRIBUTORS (area editors in boldface) — Helge Abrahamson, Ernest A. Alfstad, George Amann, Wm. Anaka, **Eliz. G. Anderson**, David M. Baker, Murv K. Baker, L. M. Baylor, P. Lawrence Beckie, Margaret Belcher, Alvin J. Binnie, **C. D. Bird**, Gilbert Blankespoor, Flossie Bogdan, Frank H. Brazier, Ed Bry, **H. W. R. Copland**, Gerald H. Cross, Dick Dekker, Anthony J. Erskine, Robt. C. Fields, Kerry J. Finley, Conrad A. Fjetland, Adrian C. Fox, Elmer L. Fox, Geoff Galloway, Ann M. Gammell, Ken Gardner, David E. Goeke, J. B. Gollop, M. A. Gollop, David S. Gray, Gary A. Hagedorn, Ian Hamilton, Duane Harding, Bruce K. Harris, Charles Harris, Wayne C. Harris, Phyllis C. Hart, Hugh H. Hedger, Harry Horton, John C. Horton, **Eliz. K. Hubbard**, Douglas H. Johnson, Brian Jordan, Sigvald O. Jordheim, Harold A. Kantrud, Parko Karvonen, **Edith W. Kern**, Rodney J. King, Leo M. Kirsch, Gerald D. Kobriger, Greg Koch, H. C. Krantz, Gary L. Krapu, Herbert Krause, Fred W. Lahrman, Jack Lane, B. Lang, Virginia Lang, R. Lazerte, Norman Lee, W. G. Leitch, John T. Lokemoen, Lloyd M. Lohr, John L. Martin, Sidney McClintock, (WGMc) Wm. G. McClure, David C. McGlauchlin, (WGM) **W. Garry McKay**, Martin K. McNicholl, Les McWilliams, Bennie O. Melland, Glen R. Miller, **Louis M. Moos**, Ron Nelson, Wm. Niven, Pat O'Neil, R. Palindat, Harvey Pietz, Robt. D. Rafuse, Robt. N. Randall, Don H. Renaud, Wayne E. Renaud, Dorothy Rhodes, W. S. Richards, Stan D. Riome, Barbara Robinson, B. J. Rose, Robt. P. Russell, Russell L. Rytter, Barnett W. Schranck, Frances A. Schultz, R. Lorne Scott, Thos. F. Sechrist, **Esther M. Serr**, **Stanley J. Shadick**, D. Shorrocks, Mary Skinner, Alan R. Smith, Sally Hoyt Spofford, **Paul F. Springer**, Willard E. Steffan, Robt. E. Stewart, Richard W. Sutton, Frank H. Switzer, Robt. R. Taylor, Walter C. Thietje, Delbert Tibke, Lowell A. Tripp, Mary G. Trump, Brian N. Turner, **R. W. Turner**, H. Vanderpol, C. Wallis, Jim A. Wedgwood, D. V. Weseloh, Robt. L. Wright, Calgary Field Naturalists Soc. — **C. STUART HOUSTON**, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/ Frances Williams

The first push of fall migrants occurred Sept. 18-19, after a front which brought snow to Colorado and rain to most of the rest of the Region. But there were no obvious "peaks" after that date, even though fronts came through about once a week. The weather was apparently too "good" during these frontal passages to push any migrants southward. Non-passerine migration produced some rarities, and most species occurred in usual numbers although somewhat late. But passerine migration was "nothing unusual, actually less than usual," as Mrs. Nichols wrote from Dallas. Passerines arrived late, lingered late, and were in general