

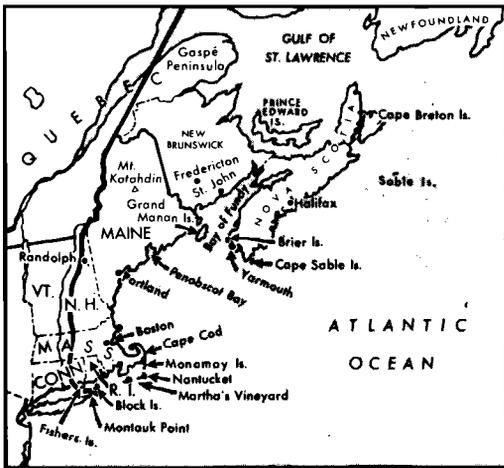
# The Winter Season

## December 1, 1972—March 31, 1973

### NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/ Davis W. Finch

The Maritimes experienced a cold and early winter adversely affecting half-hardy wintering birds, but mid-winter weather throughout the Region was marked by prolonged mild spells in January and February which kept snow depths down in the Maritimes and the ground virtually bare in much of eastern New England, and March was particularly open. These conditions probably accounted for the scarcity of birds reported at feeders in the northern part of the Region.



**FLIGHTS**—It was a good winter for Common Eiders, Gyrfalcons in New Brunswick, Black-headed Gulls in southern New England, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Northern Shrikes, Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, American Goldfinches and Red Crossbills, but an average to poor winter for Barrow's Goldeneyes, Harlequin Ducks, King Eiders, Rough-legged Hawks, Glaucous Gulls, Snowy Owls, Boreal Chickadees, Bohemian Waxwings, Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills.

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**—A total of 122 C B Cs, 72 of them published in *American Birds*, produced a list of 197 species, four additional races (including Ipswich Sparrow and Oregon Junco) and one hybrid, with six other species recorded in count period. Golden Eagle, King Rail, Little Gull, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker and Pine Warbler went unrecorded.

**GREBES, TUBENOSES**—This season's three reports of Arctic Loons came from expert observers, and despite the small measure of uncertainty inevitably

accompanying them, seemed worthy of record: single birds were seen at Warren Pt. in Little Compton, R I., Dec. 17 (KBK, DLK, FP), and in Massachusetts at Manomet Feb. 3 (RAF, VL) and Plum I., Feb. 10 (RB, RK, HP). Unreported last winter, single Eared Grebes were discovered at Schoodic Pt., Me., Jan. 14 (apparently the state's fourth sight record, WCT), at Plum I., Mass., Jan. 27 (PWP), and in Rhode Island, where there were two previous sight records at Moonstone Beach also on Jan. 27 (DLK, CW), the latter bird (?) reappearing off nearby Quonochontaug Feb. 5 (KBK). A perplexing number of reports of the considerably rarer *W. Grebe* came from a short bit of Massachusetts coastline from Plum I. south to N. Scituate. First was a bird found on Cape Ann at Magnolia Jan. 13 (CAG) which was seen by a number of experienced observers at intervals until at least Feb. 25 (HD'E, RPE, WRP *et al.*), and what was perhaps the same bird was seen at Plum I., Feb. 1 (DCA). One found at N. Scituate Feb. 5 (MM) was rediscovered at intervals to Mar. 23 (BAS *et al.*), and one photographed at Marblehead off Devereux Beach Mar. 14 (RAF) was still present at the end of the month. Excluding a few South Shore reports of possibly spontaneous origin, and considering the rather sedentary habits of wintering grebes, it seems probable that the Magnolia, Marblehead and N. Scituate birds were three different individuals, a surprising total given the scarcity of recent reports in the Region. Dick Forster, mindful of an old Massachusetts controversy relative to the very remote chance of Great Crested Grebe, stated that no confusion was possible, both the Magnolia and Marblehead birds having jet black plumage, long, thin, yellow bills, and bright red eyes. A Pied-billed Grebe at Clyde River, Shelburne Co., N.S., Jan. 24 and two there Feb. 20 were rather far north for winterers (Jim Force, *vide* PRD).

The only reports of N. Fulmars in the Bay of Fundy were ten from the "Bluenose" Dec. 7-8 (WCR) and three Dec. 21-22 (EVT *et al.*), perhaps indicating a return to "normal" abundance there after last winter's much higher counts. On transits of the Cabot Strat ferry, two were recorded Dec. 31 (WPN *et al.*), but many more later in the season, 483 being counted in 4¼ hours on the northern and unfrozen part of the crossing, Mar. 23 (DWF). In Massachusetts, two Greater Shearwaters off Revere Beach Dec. 16 (DTB, HD'E) and one off Plum I., Dec. 27 (DCA) were quite late, but more surprising was the carefully documented occurrence of 30 at various points of a transit of the "Prince of Fundy" between Yarmouth, N.S. and Portland, Me., Mar. 30, almost two months before the species' normal late May arrival in the n.w. Atlantic (PRH, RRH). A winter Manx Shearwater at Sandy Neck in Barnstable, Mass., Jan. 28 was unusual but not unprecedented in the Region (RP)

**CORMORANTS, HERONS**—C B C records of Double-crested Cormorants included two in the harbor at Yarmouth, N.S., Dec. 21-22 (EVT *et al.*) and another at Saint John, N.B., Dec. 30, new to C B Cs in the province. Farther south, the ten individuals reported on five C B Cs in Massachusetts and Connecticut reflected the changing winter status of these birds, formerly almost unknown at this season. Single Great Egrets were found as late as Dec. 23-25 at Weekapaug, R.I. (EAS) and Dec. 28-29 at Hingham, Mass. (Norman Moreau, *vide* RPE); on Cape Cod a winterer remained around E. Orleans from Dec. 23 to at least Feb. 5 (WB *et al.*) and a Snowy Egret, less frequent as a lingerer, was present at Hyannis Dec. 20-Jan. 7 (Mr. & Mrs. Steven Lawson, *vide* RPE).

**WATERFOWL**—The season's only Whistling Swans were single birds in Massachusetts, at Wareham Feb. 5 (RM), at Dartmouth Feb. 13 (WRvB) and at Westport Feb. 25 (VL *et al.*), the latter two records possibly involving the same bird. In Newfoundland, a Brant off Portland Creek Mar. 25 was unusual, the species being seldom recorded in the province (DWF), and five Snow Geese at Tracadie Harbour, P.E.I., Dec. 5 were noteworthy both for date and place (RMacD). A Eurasian Green-winged Teal at Winchester, Mass., Feb. 12 was unique this winter, reports in the Region being most usual in March and April (Harold Payson *et al.*), and single unseasonable Blue-winged Teal were found at Halifax (West) Dec. 16, the species not previously recorded on Nova Scotia C B Cs, and on Cape Cod at Sandwich Feb. 21 (RP *et al.*). Distributed much as in recent years, seven Eur. Wigeons occurred in the s.e. part of the Region; in Massachusetts, a bird again wintered at Little Harbor, Cohasset Jan. 1-Mar. 11 or later (WRP *et al.*), one was found on the New Bedford C B C Dec. 30, two were seen at Nantucket Jan. 22 (EFA), and one at S. Dartmouth Mar. 24 (SH). In Rhode Island, one remained on Gorton's Pond in Warwick Nov. 25-Jan. 1 (DW *et al.*), and another was seen at Watchemoket Cove in E. Providence Jan. 17 (FP). Five Wood Ducks on the C B C at Halifax (East) Dec. 17 seemed quite unusual, given the scarcity of the bird in the province at any season.

Redheads and Canvasbacks, unrecorded this winter north of Massachusetts, were numerous in the southern part of the Region. Nantucket, as usual, had the highest C B C total of Redheads (136) but 60+ at Martha's Vineyard Feb. 17-19 were remarkable for that place as were, to a somewhat lesser extent, 150+ Canvasbacks (GGD, ARK, RMS), and in early January, as many as 500+ Canvasbacks were present around Falmouth (CAG, WRP). What Falmouth didn't have though, for the first winter since the species' appearance there in January of 1963, was Tufted Duck, and the end of an era seemed at hand. Considering the numbers of Barrow's Goldeneyes found at certain localities in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, the species is surprisingly infrequent in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, where this winter's only reports were of single birds on the C B C at Halifax (East) Dec. 17, at Green Cove, Cape Breton Highlands N. P., Feb. 4 (WPN), and at St. Paul's Inlet, Nfld., Mar.

26 (DWF, PRH) On Prince Edward Island, counts at the species' two main wintering localities were below last year's, the highest being 110 at West River and 25 at Oyster Bay Bridge Feb. 4 (AAMaCL), and in n. New Brunswick at Dalhousie, where the thermal plant was not in operation this year and open water consequently less extensive, the season's maximum was only 28 on Dec. 20, well below the last two winters' maxima of 245 and 147 (J-PL). Elsewhere farther south in the Region the season's total including C B Cs was about 93 birds at 31 localities, the southernmost being 8 on the C B C at Buzzards Bay, an area where until quite recently the species was believed irregular and rare. A Bufflehead wintering on the upper reaches of North River near Milton, P.E.I. was thought to be the first such record in the province, though the birds winter routinely in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick (AAMaCL). The season's total of Harlequin Ducks in the entire Region was 31 birds at ten localities from Nova Scotia to Massachusetts; seven on three Nova Scotia C B Cs were more than expected there, but at New England's best Harlequin areas the highest counts obtained were below recent levels: seven at Cape Neddick, Me., Feb. 19 (HMC), 12 at Magnolia, Cape Ann Jan. 28 (DTB *et al.*) and one at Squibnocket, Martha's Vineyard Dec. 30 and Feb. 17-19 (GGD, ARK, RMS). King Eiders, totaling 35 at 15 localities from Nova Scotia to Rhode Island, were also fewer than in recent years, the only flock being 14 at Cape Elizabeth, Me., Dec. 3 which had diminished to ten by Jan. 27 (VS). Common Eiders were quite numerous, the Cape Cod C B C total of nearly 25,000 was well above the recent average, and flocks of 3000-7000 were noted at five or more coastal localities elsewhere in Massachusetts. More than usual reached the coasts of w. Rhode Island and e. Connecticut, but scoters in this part of the Region were reportedly very scarce (EAS, NSP).

**HAWKS, EAGLES**—C B C totals of these birds appear in Table I, which permits a five-year comparison of their numbers. The gradual increase of Goshawks seems clearly indicated, and though no incursion was detectable in this year's C B C figures, there were said to be more than usual in Newfoundland (HJC), Prince Edward Island where 25 or more individuals were seen or live-trapped at a pheasant farm (AAMaCL), Massachusetts where some birders spoke of a "massive incursion" (CAG, WRP), and Rhode Island where five or more winter records were somewhat above the average. A complete summation of reports for the four-month period, including C B C and count period birds, yielded the total of about 130 individuals in the Region, more than usual, but not dramatically so. The similarly complete totals of Cooper's Hawks since 1968-69 (9, 17, 48, 17, 52) indicate fluctuation in numbers of wintering birds, assuming (despite the odds) correct identification, or at least constant error. More than half of this winter's 52 reports came from Massachusetts and Rhode Island, of particular interest was an individual as far north as Caledonia Mt., N.B., Feb. 25-Mar. 1 (DSC, CET *et al.*). Rough-legged Hawks were reportedly scarce in the Maritimes, and the Regional C B C total of

TABLE I  
Numbers of Hawks and Eagles Reported on 122 Christmas Bird Counts  
Made in the Northeastern Maritime Region, 1972-73.\*

	Newfoundland	Nova Scotia	Prince Edward Island	New Brunswick	Maine	New Hampshire	Eastern Massachusetts	Rhode Island	Eastern Connecticut	Total, 69th CBC	Total, 70th CBC	Total, 71st CBC	Total, 72nd CBC	Total, 73rd CBC
Goshawk	3	2	2	3	4	5	16	1	—	5	17	23	32	36
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	19	1	3	9	7	13	—	1	23	26	74	34	55
Cooper's Hawk	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	5	6	18	8	5
Accipiter sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	0	3	3	1
Red-tailed Hawk	—	31	—	4	13	3	82	10	17	94	135	223	178	160
Red-shouldered Hawk	—	—	—	—	2	1	5	1	1	4	10	14	8	10
Rough-legged Hawk	—	11	1	28	3	6	23	1	2	51	82	104	192	75
Golden Eagle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	1	1	1	0
Bald Eagle	5	44	—	6	33	—	1	—	—	51	82	73	79	89
Marsh Hawk	—	—	—	2	—	—	44	16	3	47	59	113	74	65
Osprey	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	0	2	0	0	2
Gyr Falcon	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	1	3	1
Peregrine Falcon	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	2	2	1	2
Falcon sp.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	1	1
Merlin	—	6	—	3	1	—	3	2	—	10	8	17	7	15
American Kestrel	—	13	1	3	14	14	143	41	19	168	202	234	284	248
hawk sp.	—	3	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	3	0	3	2	8
Number of CBCs:	3	32	2	27	31	7	15	3	2	84	104	107	117	122

\*As the similar tables of the last four years, excludes birds seen count period but not on count day.

75 was a four-year low. Two Golden Eagles were found in Massachusetts, an adult present Jan. 5-Feb. 19 in the S. Dartmouth area, possibly the bird that wintered there in 1969-70 and 1970-71 (Jane Hamlin, WRP *et al.*) and one at Quabbin Reservoir Mar. 8 (THG). In New Brunswick, two Ospreys at St. Andrews Dec. 17 were new to provincial C B Cs and termed "quite unusual" by David Christie, who found the report acceptable. In many cases, however, winter "Ospreys" are probably young Bald Eagles, which can be nearly pure white below. At least eight Gyrfalcons were seen this winter: on Prince Edward Island, a gray bird seen three times (NH, *vide* AAMaL), in New Brunswick a white bird near Southampton, York Co., in November (Robert Squires, *vide* DSC), a white bird at Dalhousie Dec. 21 and a dark bird there Dec. 22-Mar. 16 (J-PL), one or more gray birds around Saint John Dec. 30-Mar. 22 (CLJ, DSC *et al.*), and a gray bird in Somerville Mar. 16 (Donald Kimball, *vide* DSC), in Maine a white bird at Phippsburg, Mar. 19 (GS) and in Massachusetts the gray bird of last fall which remained at Monomoy until at least Jan. 2 (WB, RAF *et al.*). Other than the C B C birds, four Peregrine Falcons were reported in New Brunswick (1) and Massachusetts (3), and 22 Merlins, mostly in Nova Scotia (8) and Massachusetts (7).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, RAILS, SHORE-BIRDS—As usual, the Regional C B C high of Gray Partridge was at Wolfville, N.S., where 33 were found, the only others being a total of seven on the two Prince Edward Island counts. No King Rails were recorded on C B Cs this season, but one was photographed Feb. 20-22 at Plymouth, Mass., where a bird was found wintering two years ago (CAG, WRP). The winter's northernmost Clapper Rail was at Moody Beach in York Co., Me., Jan. 1 (DJA, DWF, RWS); at any season the species is rare north of Massachusetts. As last year, a Sora was found attempting to winter at Ipswich, Mass., Jan. 7-13 (CAG, WRP *et al.*). Twenty species of shorebirds occurred in the period, including some late fall and early spring migrants. Among the former were three Piping Plovers on Cape Cod at North Beach, Chatham Dec. 23 possibly wintering there as in previous years (CAG, WRP), a Spotted Sandpiper at Middlesex Fells, Mass., Dec. 10 (RHS) and in Connecticut in even later one Dec. 30 at Eastern Point in Groton, on the New London C B C, a Lesser Yellowlegs at Brunswick, Me., Dec. 3 (Gamble, *vide* CMP), a White-rumped Sandpiper at Gloucester, Mass., Dec. 9 (Murphy *et al.*, *vide* RPE) and three Long-billed Dowitchers at Plum I., Mass., Dec. 11 (DCA). Ruddy Turnstones again wintered on offshore

rocks at traditional localities up to eight at Louisbourg, Cape Breton (IMacG, WPN *et al.*), five or more at Biddeford Pool, Me. (KCE, PWS *et al.*) and up to 38 at Little Harbor in Cohasset, Mass. (PM, MM *et al.*). Three surprising winter shorebird records came from Nova Scotia: a Red Knot at South Bar near Sydney, Cape Breton Dec. 4-Jan. 6 (IMacG), an immature ♂ Ruff with the turnstones at Louisbourg Mar. 10, perhaps a phenomenally early migrant (WPN) and at the same place a N. Phalarope seen swimming close inshore Dec. 29 (SL *et al.*). An early Am. Golden Plover appeared at Newburyport, Mass., Mar. 31 (Clark Ewer, MLG *et al.*).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS**—Late jaegers were observed on two Massachusetts C B Cs: a Pomarine off Revere Beach near Boston Dec. 16 (DTB, HD'E) and on Cape Cod at Parasitic at Brewster (NPH). Glaucous and Iceland Gulls on C B Cs in Newfoundland and the Maritimes numbered 45 and 1531 (1 : 34), while figures for New England were 6 and 33 (1 : 5); while Icelanders were in about average numbers (except somewhat lower at traditional spots in Massachusetts and New Brunswick), Glaucous Gulls were only about one third as numerous as last year. In the matter of Iceland Gull races, it would seem appropriate to discontinue the C B C procedure of counting *kumlieni* as an "additional race" unless by some means—ornithological wizardry or a shotgun—the nominate race can also be proven. In any case, a specification such as "Iceland Gull, 441 (40% *kumlieni*)" is both speculative and uninterpretable (40% of what?). Two gulls thought to be Glaucous x Herring hybrids were found in the Region, an adult at Meredith, N.H., Dec. 31 (DJA, DWF) and a subadult at Eastport, Me., Mar. 19 (photographed, DWF). The first, which resembled the supposed hybrid of last winter at Portsmouth (*Am. Birds* 26:577), was standing on the ice with Herring Gulls, and was obviously larger, with longer tarsi, heavier head and neck, heavier and longer bill, and wingtips extending only slightly beyond the tail, in all these respects a typical Glaucous. However the mantle was only slightly paler than that of Herring Gull, and the primary tips were black, though less extensively than in the Herring Gulls, suggesting in flight a rather intense *kumlieni*. The second bird was likewise in most respects a subadult Glaucous Gull, large with long dark-tipped bright pink bill and mantle paler than in any plumage of Herring Gull, but the primary tips were very dark, almost black, and extensively so. In Nova Scotia, the Lesser Black-backed Gull first seen at Digby in March of 1970 wintered there again, probably present daily although the only dates at hand are Nov. 1 (CLJ), Jan. 28 (RRH) and Mar. 30 (PRH, RRH). The Region's two Mew Gulls returned to Newfoundland for the fourth successive winter at Quidi Vidi L. in St. John's Dec. 3-17 (HJC) and to Massachusetts for the third successive winter in Newburyport harbor, where it apparently went undetected among the many Ring-billed Gulls until Mar. 13 (RAF), thereafter remaining to at least Apr. 14. Black-headed Gulls on C B Cs in Newfoundland and the Maritimes numbered 106 (*cf.*, 88, 282, 74, 72 in the last four winters) and in New England 38 (*cf.*, 2, 24, 20, 9). In Massachusetts the

highest count in the Squantum-Wollaston area was 26 on the C B C Dec 17, but 24 were still there Feb 18 (MLG) and elsewhere in New England there were at least 32 birds not recorded on the C B Cs, some in areas where they have been found infrequently heretofore, such as four or more individuals on Cape Cod during February and March, 1 at Nantucket Jan 23-26 (second island record, EFA), 2 at Katama, Martha's Vineyard Feb. 17-18 (GGD, ARK, RMS), varying numbers with about 250 Bonaparte's Gulls at Watchemoket Cove, R.I., Jan. 19-Mar. 4, the peak 14 on Feb. 4 (RCS, CW *et al.*), and two with 1000+ Bonaparte's Gulls Mar. 4-10 at Griswold's Pt. in Old Lyme, Conn. (first local record, William Burt, JMC). A hint of migration was that in Newfoundland, a peak of 40+ Black-headed Gulls at Quidi Vidi L. Dec 3 was reduced after freeze-up to a wintering population of 12 or so, and increased to 23 by Mar. 11 (HJC), about the time when numbers decrease in the southern part of the Region. The period's only Laughing Gulls were C B C birds, one at New London, two at New Bedford and one, surprisingly, at Halifax (East), and the only Little Gulls were one at Cohasset, Mass., Dec. 3 (SH), 1-3 at Newburyport throughout the winter, and at least four at Old Lyme in the period Mar. 10-24 (first local record, William Burt, JMC). A Forster's Tern on the New Hampshire coast at Seabrook Dec. 10 was the only winter tern anywhere in the Region (CAF).

**ALCIDS**—Both the Bay of Fundy and the Isles of Shoals C B Cs recorded all six species, the latter count for the first time. Single Razorbills, uncommon in Rhode Island, were found at Wecapaug Jan 21 (EAS) and Pt. Judith Jan. 29 (DW), while 2-3 remained at Galilee from Jan. 29 to at least Mar. 31 (DLK, EAS *et al.*). The southernmost Com. Murres occurred in Massachusetts, an oiled bird picked up at Brewster Feb. 24 (William Sheldon, *vide* RPE) and one seen at Nantucket Mar. 25 (EFA). Two notably high C B C totals of Black Guillemots were 151 at St. John's, Nfld. and 163 at Brier I., N.S., a new national high. On Cape Cod, a Black Guillemot at North Beach in Chatham Dec. 23 (CAG, WRP) was unusual there and the season's southernmost, as were single oiled Com. Puffins picked up at N. Eastham Dec. 25 and Eastham Mar. 9 (WB).

**OWLS**—Vary rare north of Massachusetts, a Barn Owl was seen at Plainfield, N.H., Dec. 20 (Lawrence Taylor, *vide* RAB), and even farther north of the species' limits in recent years were two Screech Owls, one of each color phase, well seen and heard at Nacawick, York Co., N.B., Dec. 30 (WAS *et al.*) It was a mediocre winter for Snowy Owls, the season's total in the entire Region being about 35 (*cf.*, 15, 58, 108 in the last three years). Of the season's five Hawk Owls, single birds at Brewer, Me., from about Dec 20 to Mar. 6 (GF *et mult.* *al.*) and at Gilford, N H., from Jan. 28 or earlier to Mar. 25 (WSL *et mult.* *al.*) attracted throngs of birders. In Nova Scotia, one photographed near New Glasgow Mar. 10 was the first provincial record in a decade (Jim Elliott *et al.*), and in areas where the species is a bit less infrequent, single

birds were seen at Hartland, N B , Mar 17 (Donald Kimball, *vide* DSC) and at Deer Lake, Nfld., Mar. 4 (PRH *et al.*). Hawk Owls in the Region in the last four years have numbered 3, 2, 1, 0. In New Brunswick, a dozen or so reports of Barred Owls were more than in most winters, and with many of the birds perched in the open, David Christie was led to wonder whether food was scarce in local woodlands or whether a minor incursion had taken place. The season's only Boreal Owls were dead birds picked up at Rocky Harbour, Nfld, Mar. 22 (PRH) and at Orono, Me., Apr. 9 (AAB); Regional totals in the last four years have been 2, 1, 1, 0, only two of them alive.

**HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS, FLY-CATCHERS**—In Massachusetts, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird which struck a window in Sudbury Mar. 18 was taken alive to Mass. Audubon's Drumlin Farm, where it survived a short while (JB); a comparably unseasonable bird was seen at Chatham Mar. 26, 1969 (AFN 23:570). The only Red-bellied Woodpeckers, a species whose northeastward advance has perhaps slowed down, were feeder birds in N. Harpswell, Me., from Nov. 6 to at least Feb. 5 (Clarence Skolfield *et mult. al.*) and in Waterford, Conn., from early fall to at least Dec. 30 (v.o., *vide* RCD). Wintering Red-headed Woodpeckers were also quite scarce; in s. New Brunswick one frequented a feeder in Lawrence Station from Dec. 8 to late January (HWMacC) and another was seen at West Musquash Dec. 26 (J.M. Le Blanc, *vide* DSC), but the only others in the Region were single birds at Brunswick, Me., Dec. 12 (v.o., *vide* CMP) and at Alton, N.H., Nov. 3 - Jan. 8 (WSL *et al.*). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at Nantucket was unique on C B Cs in New England and individuals of the considerably rarer **Northern Three-toed Woodpecker** were reported near Rocky Harbour, Nfld., Dec. 24 (first Gros Morne N. P. record, Pat McLeod, Gisela Westphalen, *vide* PRH), at Ingonish, Cape Breton Feb. 1-6 (Irene Gettas, photographed for first authenticated N.S. record by WPN), and in New Brunswick at Shippegan I., Jan. 14 (Hilaire Chiasson *et al.*) and at Clifton Royal, Kings Co., Feb. 15 (Donald McAlpine, *vide* DSC). Late flycatchers included single **W. Kingbirds** at Falmouth Heights, Mass., Dec. 16 (RP *et al.*) and at Dalvay, P E.I., Dec. 25 (first provincial record, AAMaCL *et al.*) and in New Brunswick a Great Crested Flycatcher at Sackville Dec. 2 found dead the next day (HH) and an E. Phoebe at Fredericton during C B C period (*vide* DSC).

**SWALLOWS, JAYS, TITMICE, NUTHATCHES**—Tree Swallows attempting to winter on the w shore of Rhode Island at Carolina numbered four on Jan. 31, three on Feb. 4 and one on Feb. 15, none thereafter apparently surviving as in past years (EAS, DW *et al.*). Blue Jays were numerous in Nova Scotia, and in New Brunswick where wintering birds have greatly increased since about 1967, the C B C total was the highest ever, as was the case in Maine and New Hampshire, but in certain localities in the s e part of the Region, particularly the Boston area, jays were surprisingly scarce. Boreal Chickadees were low in Nova Scotia, very low in New Brunswick, and

except for one on the C B C at Quincy, Mass., none was found south of the species' limits as a breeder. Red-breasted Nuthatches on the other hand, which last fall staged a heavy flight, were numerous throughout the Region, including the Maritimes.

———— S.A. ————

**THRUSHES, PIPITS**—Certainly the bird of the season was a **Fieldfare** discovered at St. John's, Nfld., Jan. 1, feeding with a Robin in a *Rosa multiflora* hedge (photographed, HJC *et al.*). The bird was locally reported to have been present about two weeks, but was not positively reported again after Jan. 2. Aside from the population established since 1937 in Greenland, North American records are limited to specimens from Stamford, Conn. (April, 1878) and Jens Munk I. off Baffin I. (1939), and sight records at Ottawa (Jan. 8, 1967; AFN 21:414) and Bombay Hook, Del (Mar. 30-Apr. 4, 1969; AFN 23:465). Interestingly, a bird was present this winter at Larchmont, N.Y., Feb. 3-11, and it subsequently came to light, reported by Phyllis Dobson in the N.S.B.S. *Newsletter*, that in Cape Breton two probable Fieldfares had been seen on five occasions by two independent observers during October, 1971, on the barrens south of Louisbourg, and that a third observer had independently discovered two birds there again in October, 1972.

The season's only Varied Thrushes, apparently, were single birds in count period at Ellsworth, Me. and on Cape Cod at Orleans Jan. 8 (Howard Rich *et al.*) Two Water Pipits, a notably erratic species, were seen on the C B C at St. Andrews, N.B., Dec. 17, and single birds in Massachusetts at Plum I., Dec. 29 and Truro, Cape Cod Feb. 10-13 (RAF *et al.*).

**WAXWINGS, SHRIKES**—A modest flight of Bohemian Waxwings brought about 311 birds to the Region as follows, numbers of localities in parentheses one in Newfoundland,  $\pm 40$  in Nova Scotia (4),  $\pm 20$  on Prince Edward Island (2),  $\pm 94$  in New Brunswick (10),  $\pm 147$  in Maine (9), 8 in e. Massachusetts (5) and one in Rhode Island. Comparison of these figures with those of the previous four winters (AFN 23:454; AFN 24:485; *Am. Birds* 26:580) shows that this year's flight was similar in volume and distribution to that of 1969-70. Considerably larger flights occurred in 1968-69 and 1971-72, while none whatever occurred in 1970-71. The Rhode Island bird mentioned above, one of very few state records, was seen with Cedar Waxwings at Fiskeville Mar. 7 (J. & R. Gee). The flight of N. Shrikes was impressive, with a Regional C B C total of 88 (*cf.*, in the last four winters, 36, 34, 76, 43); above average numbers were present in Nova Scotia, a "large incursion" was noted on Prince Edward Island, and the largest flight since 1965-66 in New Brunswick, where increasing numbers after about Mar. 6 indicated return migrants (DSC). It is interesting to note how few N. Shrikes get south of about c. Massachusetts, on the five big C B Cs along the Connecticut shore only two have been recorded in the last six years. Carefully identified Loggerhead Shrikes were found at Cape Spear near Cape Tormentine, N.B., Dec 20 (BH *et al.*) and at Saco, Me., Dec. 30 (AMT *et al.*)

#### WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS

—Three late warblers were reported in Massachusetts; a Parula on the Martha's Vineyard C B C Dec. 30, a Mourning Warbler picked up freshly dead in Manchester Dec. 20 (Leslie Holtz, SPI, identification confirmed by RAP), and an Am. Redstart at Chatham Dec. 18 (RVC). On the C B C at Newport Co., R.I. and Westport, Mass., Dec. 17, single Brewer's Blackbirds were seen at Portsmouth, R.I. (Charles Blake) and at Westport Pt., Mass. (DLE *et al.*); it is almost inexplicable that this count circle should have produced a total of seven Brewer's Blackbirds on four counts in the last decade, given the near total lack of reports at any season from elsewhere in the Region. In Massachusetts, a ♂ W. Tanager frequented a feeder at Annisquam from Jan. 6 to at least Feb. 25 (RPE *et mult. al.*), and another was picked up dead at Orleans Jan. 31 (WB).

**WINTER FINCHES**—As has been the case in recent winters, Evening Grosbeaks were widespread, recorded on 91 of the Region's 122 C B Cs from Newfoundland to Connecticut, with the Regional high of 1020 on the New Hampshire coast, but numbers were reported to be slightly below average in Newfoundland, the Maritimes and Maine. Purple Finch distribution was that of a normal non-flight year: very few after early winter north of Massachusetts (133 birds, on 24 of 102 counts) but reasonably plentiful in the three southern states (about 1300, on 19 of 20 counts). Pine Grosbeaks were widespread, recorded on 89 C B Cs, with above average numbers in the Maritimes and average numbers south in New England through Massachusetts, dropping off sharply thereafter, not a single bird being found on the Connecticut coast. The Regional C B C high was 524 at Concord, Mass., where the birds were concentrated by a particular abundance of crabapples. After three good flights in the last four years, this was an obvious off-year for Com. Redpolls, only 524 of which were reported on 36 C B Cs, mostly in the Maritimes and Maine and virtually none in s. New England. Interestingly, there was evidence of a late winter movement typical of the species, reports of a few larger flocks in March coming from Maine and Prince Edward Island. Pine Siskins presented a rather complicated picture: good C B C numbers in New Hampshire (*e.g.* 2210 at Laconia - New Hampton) and fair numbers in Maine, the birds widely but thinly distributed elsewhere, but a sudden increase in numbers was noted about mid-February in e. Massachusetts and in Maine. American Goldfinches were abundant from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick south and particularly so throughout New England; in Maine, where the C B C total was the highest in five years, an influx was noted during the third week of January and in New Brunswick a similar one about Feb. 6-12. Red Crossbills were distinctly more widespread and more numerous than White-wingeds, which were nearly absent from s. New England and very scarce elsewhere. Maine and Nova Scotia accounted for about 85% of the Red Crossbills reported on C B Cs, and this was said to be the first time in at least 20 years that any numbers of the birds had wintered in Nova Scotia (LBMaccp).

**OTHER FRINGILLIDS**—A ♀ Painted Bunting frequenting a feeder at Plymouth, Mass. from January to Feb. 11 was seen by many observers. The Regional C B C total of Dickcissels was only three (*cf.*, 9, 54, 10, 7 in the past four years) and no more than 14 other individuals were reported during the winter. Single late or wintering Grasshopper Sparrows were found at Economy, N.S., Nov. 18-Dec. 14 (FS), at Hampton, N.H., Dec. 23-24 (RWL) and two or three others on Cape Cod. Dark-eyed Juncos of one or another western race were reported on C B Cs at Halifax West) and Mount Desert I., and three were present around Boston during the winter. A Tree Sparrow at Oxen Pond near St. John's Nfld., Dec. 20 (Bernard Jackson) was thought to be a first record for the Avalon Peninsula. The species is a quite uncommon transient in the province, not known to breed or winter. Finally, the season's only Clay-colored Sparrow was seen at Westport, Mass., Feb. 24 (VL).

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## HUDSON-ST. LAWRENCE REGION

/ Ned R. Boyajian

It was a remarkably mild winter, in some locales the mildest on record. Open water was abundant in south and central areas, and even in the north, many larger lakes did not freeze over completely until mid-



February. Snowfall was also comparatively light. Metropolitan New York had virtually none, and most other locales reported lesser accumulations and far more rapid melt-off than is usual. Although these conditions produced a Region-wide abundance of overwintering half-hardies, including a significant number from the more "delicate" end of that spectrum, birds were by no means ubiquitously abundant. In fact, in some places, particularly southward, they seemed rather scarce. Many feeders, especially, suffered a dearth of activity. The tendency of many normal winter species to remain northward in numbers probably had something to do with this. But perhaps it was equally a case that this year, one place was just about as good as another. Birds may have been widely spread out instead of concentrated in favored areas as in more normal winters. The consequent reduction in densities, especially in the normally "good spots" observers are wont to frequent, could have created an impression of lesser numbers.

A further event of interest was the occurrence of a variety of boreal species in small-to-moderate numbers; apparently an overflow from the great invasion west of the Region.

The mild weather continued into the beginning of the migratory period bringing numerous reports of early returns. Many of these may have been individuals that wintered further north than usual. The most widespread influx of these occurred during a period of southerly winds Mar. 17-19.

**GREBES, CORMORANTS, HERONS**—Red-necked Grebes, in ones and twos, became frequent in late winter, especially in the last weeks of the season.

Most were along the ocean front, though several were noted in Long I. Sound, including one as far west as Larchmont, N.Y., Mar. 22. Two Horned Grebes at Verbank, N.Y., Dec. 6 were considered late for that locality. An Eared Grebe was present on Onondaga L., N.Y., Dec. 25-30 (MR,FS) and less surprisingly, one was present at Oak Beach, L.I., Mar. 2-18 (m.ob.). Double-crested Cormorants apparently lingered in appreciable numbers. One at Fulton, N.Y., Dec. 23 (GS *et al.*) was only the second winter record for that section of the state. On w. Long I. Sound, 8 were seen at Pelham Bay Park Dec. 28 (GK *et al.*) and at least 2 wintered in the Greenwich-Stamford area (JZ). In addition, it seems likely a southbound flock of 60 cormorants inland at Cedar Grove, N.J., Jan. 5 were Double-crested. Another unidentified flock of 20 at Munsey Park, L.I., Jan. 14 may also have been, though perhaps they were Great Cormorants from nearby Long I. Sound. A Great Blue Heron wintered at S. Onondaga, N.Y. and a migrant was seen at Stockbridge, Mass., Apr. 1, a very early date for Berkshire County. At Tobay Pond, L.I., a Great Egret appeared as early as Mar. 18. An Am. Bittern was seen at Oneida L., N.Y., Mar. 31 and 2 others at Cold Spring, Putnam Co., N.Y., Feb. 25. The latter, at least, probably wintered locally, a remarkable occurrence.

**WATERFOWL**—Although Whistling Swans were not particularly numerous, they managed to show in some unusual places. There was one at Pittsfield, Mass., Dec. 10-Jan. 7 (RG). During the return flight, flocks of 8 were seen at Great Kills Park, Staten I., Feb. 25 and Katonah, N.Y., Mar. 10. But most unusual were 3 at Québec City Mar. 17 (P.Q.S.P.B.). Also unusual for the locality was a Brant at Cote Ste. Catherine, Que. on the late date of Jan. 14. Mallards continued to increase as a wintering species in n.c. New York; counts ranging from 400 to 1300 were reported from several places. Black Ducks, on the other hand, continued low in that area. There were a few reports of up to 100 or so but otherwise G. Smith's average of 6-10 a day seemed about typical. Once again, a sprinkling of Gadwalls wintered in southern areas where formerly unknown, e.g., several on ponds in s.c. New York and along the Hudson R. A Green-winged Teal lingered at Des Chênes, Qué. until the very late date of Dec. 10 and singles of this species wintered at Springfield, Mass. and Syracuse. There was an individual of the *crecca* race of this species on Long I. at Glen Cove Jan. 14 (TZ) and much more unusual, one at Rumson, N.J., Jan. 5-7 (WS *et al.*) and 2 at Fair Haven on L. Ontario Mar. 17-24 (FS *et al.*). There were a few other puddle duck reports of note, most a result of the mild season. Single Blue-winged Teals were seen as late as Dec. 21 at Fair Haven Beach S.P., N.Y. and mid-January at Overpeck Creek, N.J. Two good local counts were four N. Shovelers at Milford, Conn., Jan. 1 and 22 Am. Wigeons at Roundout Res., Sullivan Co., N.Y., Mar. 14. A total of 15-20 Wood Ducks were reported, north to w. Massachusetts. Counts of 72 Redheads at Skaneateles L., N.Y., Jan. 13 (GS) and 70 at Oneida L., Mar. 16 (MR) seemed good for recent years. A notably rare occurrence for Hull, Qué. was a wintering Barrow's Goldeneye (m.ob.). One of this species was

also seen near Fulton, N Y, Jan 14 (FS) The approximately 500 Com. Eiders reported from Montauk in late Fall remained there, the highest winter total known for the Region. Oswego Harbor's more-or-less expected King Eider was present Jan. 14-28 (MR *et al.*) and 4-5 were seen on the coast during the season. Two unusual mid-winter occurrences for Québec were 3 Oldsquaws at Cote Ste. Catherine Jan. 4, one of which lingered to Jan. 28, and 2 Surf Scoters at Valleyfield Feb. 10. Abundant open water in southern areas attracted numbers of migrant Com. Mergansers in March. Flocks of 25-150 were present on any number of ponds and along the Hudson R.

**RAPTORS**—Turkey Vultures returned to the north quite early. There was one at Richmond, Mass. as early as Mar. 21 and 10 at Canaan, Columbia Co., N Y., Apr. 1. One was also seen Mar. 18 at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref. where it is always unusual. There had been a fair hawk flight the day before in the Hudson Valley, *e.g.*, 30 birds in four hours in mid-afternoon along the Palisades. Not unexpectedly, wintering Goshawks were much in evidence following last Fall's flight. The Connecticut Valley, Mass. (below, C.V.M.) and Long I., perhaps because of intensity of coverage, seemed to have the most, about 18 and 12 respectively. But every report covering an area of any size from Québec to New Jersey had from 1 to 8 Two or three territorial pairs of Red-shouldered Hawks were discovered on the Ferber Tract in Sussex County, N.J. in late March. Rough-legged Hawks, although found consistently in their most favored area, *e.g.*, Ft. Edwards, N.Y., Hackensaek Meadows, N.J., remained generally scarce. Some locales, *e.g.*, Montreal, recorded none until the return flight in March. Three winter Golden Eagles were reported, two in the C.V.M. (*B.N.W.M.*) and one at Verbank, N.Y., Feb. 15 (RT, *fide* OW). Several migrant Golden Eagles were seen at Derby Hill, N.Y. in the last days of March. A fuller account will appear in the Spring Report. Post-Christmas Bird Count reports of Bald Eagles, including 17 at Roundout Res., N.Y., Feb. 4, totaled 42, of which 29 were adults and **only 6 immatures** (others unspecified). Although this was considerably more than last year's 25-30, it was doubtless owing entirely to more wintering eagles this year, rather than more eagles, *per se*. Incidentally, southern reports peaked in mid-to-late February, about the time of extensive freezing northward. Twelve Ospreys at Jim Thorpe, Pa., Apr. 10 was a good count for that area. Puleston reported that 15 of the 34 Osprey nests active on Gardner's I. last year were occupied by at least one bird by Apr. 1. Four inland reports of Merlins was quite remarkable for winter. One wintered as far north as Québec City (C.O.Q., *fide* MM). Other reports were Dutchess County, N.Y., Jan. 27 (J&MK) Larchmont, N.Y., Feb. 6 (PL *et al.*) and Overpeck Creek, N.J., mid-January (NB). The post-Christmas Count reports of Gyrfalcon were all from Québec. One wintered at Québec City, one was seen at Beauharnois Jan. 14 and one, which first appeared in the Hull-Ottawa area Jan. 6, was shot near Pointe Gatineau Jan. 18.

**GAMEBIRDS, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS**—Despite some habitat loss, Ruffed Grouse were reported as having had a good

year in the Berkshires Reports seemed up in other areas also. Ring-necked Pheasants, on the other hand, continued to decline in many places. Habitat loss and cessation of stocking were the most frequently offered explanations. McIntosh reported Gray Partridges holding their own around Montreal. Up to 100 could be seen in groups of 15-20 during the winter from the commuter train between Dorval and Montreal West. A Chukar present at a feeder in Dutchess County during February was considered a recent release (*fide* OW). Small numbers of Turkeys continued to be reported with some frequency in w. Massachusetts. Most were in the C.V.M., for example, 7 at New Salem, but there were scattered sightings elsewhere as well. There were a number of interesting shorebird reports; both wintering birds and early returns. The warm front of Mar. 17 brought 5 early Am. Oystercatchers to Shinnecock Inlet. Several Ruddy Turnstones wintered along the coast, including 2 at Great Kills, Staten I. An Am. Woodcock was seen in Dutchess County Jan. 3 and a Com. Snipe at Pittsfield, Mass., Jan. 1. Am. Woodcocks also returned early; there were 2 at Sharon, Conn., Mar. 2 and one at Ile Perrot, Qué., Mar. 15. Also quite early was a Greater Yellowlegs at Larchmont Mar. 10. Purple Sandpipers wintered on the Stamford breakwater, a point considerably far west on Long I. Sound for this species. Highest count was 15 on Jan. 22. Also of considerable interest were a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Milford Pt., Conn., Jan 1 and a **Marbled Godwit** Jan. 9 and subsequently, at Moriches Inlet (m.ob.). But perhaps most startling was the presence Dec. 20, of 3-4 **Red Phalaropes** in the Oswego-Sandy Pond, N.Y. area (FS). Glaucous and Iceland Gulls seemed below par. The gull concentration at Beauharnois, Qué., a good indicator, had a high of 7 Glaucous on Jan. 15 and one or two Iceland through the season. In the south, relatively few of either species were noted. Most reports as usual, were from the major dumps. Unusual for Charlotte, Vt. was a wintering Great Black-backed Gull, present through Mar. 20 (BG). Black-headed and Little Gulls were in normal numbers along the coast. As usual, sightings of the former were fairly evenly scattered through the season, those of the latter, concentrated mostly in March. Two Com. Terns were seen at Montauk on the late date of Dec. 15, along with a good haul of Alcids; 3 Thick-billed Murres and 4 Dovekies (RK *et al.*). Otherwise Alcids were not particularly numerous. Only a few scattered Razorbills and Dovekies were reported, all from e. Long I.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS**—Five Mourning Doves wintered at Montreal and 2-3 in c Vermont, including Topsham's first. Indication of its continued increase elsewhere were 100+ at Ludlow, Mass., Feb. 28 and a total of about 280 present at 29 or 30 feeders surveyed during the winter in n. Nassau County, L.I. (L.L.A.S.). Bristol, Vt. recorded its first Monk Parakeet. It apparently appeared in the fall, but was confirmed Jan. 14. It was still present at season's end (BG). Other northward reports of parakeets included 2 in the C.V.M. and 3-4 in n. New York Heck banded 6 young Great Horned Owls at three nests in n. Nassau County. The known sites in that area are now six, with a possible seventh. There were

20 Snowy Owls during the winter around Montreal and vicinity and about 10-12 scattered elsewhere south to Dutchess County. A few small roosts of Long-eared Owls, none exceeding 5-6 birds, were reported from scattered localities. One of the most oiled birds of the season was a particularly cooperative **Great Gray Owl** present at Gill, Mass., Jan. 22 to mid-March (m ob.). Two of this species were also shot in the Hull, Qué area in late winter. But it was around Montreal that northern owls made their real showing. Only one Hawk Owl was reported, at Mt. St. Hilaire Jan. 28. But no less than 4 Great Grays were found, 3 of them in a roost at Dollard des Ormeaux Mar. 3-18 (P Q S.P.B.). There were also one, perhaps two, **Boreal Owls** at St. Laurant Mar. 19-23 (P.Q.S.P.B.). Saw-whet Owls seemed in about normal numbers Regionwide. A concentration of reports in March was probably indicative of a return flight, e.g., 4 in the Montreal area Mar. 5-20.

Belted Kingfishers were unusually frequent inland. There were 6 reports for the winter in the C.V.M. and many scattered singles in such places as Lakeville, Conn. and Amenia, N.Y. Further evidence of boreal stirrings were 7 N. **Three-toed Woodpeckers** wintering around Montreal. Several Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were also reported from northern areas though only marginally more than normally. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continued in good numbers, most unusual was one wintering at Southampton, Mass. (m ob.). Red-headed Woodpeckers also seemed in comparatively good shape. Many more wintered than usual, including singles as far north as Port Ontario, N Y and Williamstown, Mass. More important, Tramontano reported them holding their own in the rural sections of Orange County, N.Y., e.g., three at Bullville Feb. 11.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS**—A few E Phoebes were reported, including one Jan. 25 as far north as Wallingford, Conn. There were also reports of a few wintering Tree Swallows here and there, mostly on the coast, though 3 were seen over Hempstead Res., L.I., Jan. 20. A single migrant of this species returned to Red Oak Mills, N.Y. as early as Mar 17. A goodly number of Gray Jays were noted in non-breeding areas. Several were reported around Hull, including a group of 15 present around a garbage dump Feb. 17 to end of period. Other counts particularly good for the localities were 4 in the w. Adirondacks and 5 in the C.V.M. Elsewhere, 5-6 singles were reported, scattered from s. Québec to c. Vermont. There were some exceptions, for example, Jenny L., N Y Blue Jays continued low over large portions of the Region. Indicative was a 35 per cent reduction from the past five year average of winter population in seven miles along the Hudson R. in New Jersey. The highest count of Com. Raven noted was 9 at Topsham, Vt., Dec. 13. Otherwise 1-2 per sighting were reported from the usual areas in s. Québec, n. New England and the e. Adirondacks. A good movement of 350-400 Com. Crows was noted Mar. 9 on a trip from Sharon, Conn. to Scotch Plains, N.J. Boreal Chickadees, although better than average, were scarcely epidemic. Of the 35-40 reported, about half were in s. Québec. The remainder were scattered

southward, with rapidly decreasing frequency. An apparent sharp decline in Tufted Titmouse on the annual New England Survey, 2838 vs. 4464 in 1972, seemed owing to a lack of participants this year (*vide B.N.W.M.*). Hopefully this extremely useful project will not be abandoned. Brown Creepers wintered northward in great numbers. At Montreal, for instance, there were 2-3 in nearly every woodlot (*vide MM*). A House Wren was seen at E. Haven, Conn., Jan 28 (NP). Carolina Wrens continued to be reported northward in better-than-average numbers. There were 3 in the C.V.M. for the season and 2-3 others in scattered locales north to Fayetteville, N.Y.

**MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES**—A total of 14 wintering Mockingbirds in Hampden County, Mass and singles at Middlebury, Vt. and Rosemare, Qué were indicative of the northern penetration of this species, while 20 at 17 feeders on the L.L.A.S. survey was good indication of its stability in the south. A **Sage Thrasher** seen at Jamaica Bay Ref., Jan. 14-19 (m.ob.) was the second sighting on Long I. in three months (same bird?). Several northern observers, mainly east of a line, Hudson Valley-L. Champlain, commented on the great number of wintering Am Robins. Typical was Montreal, where their unprecedented frequency in yards and gardens elicited considerable radio and press comment. But to the westward, they seemed quite scarce. Except for the sudden appearance of 88 on Dec. 31 at Onondaga Hill, N Y during a period of strong SE winds, only scattered groups of 1-10 were noted. Southward, numbers seemed normal. Biggest event of the season was the second N. American record of **Fieldfare**. Discovered by Lehman, and seen subsequently by mobs, it was present at Larchmont Feb. 3-12. There seems little doubt it was an authentically wild specimen. It was shy and wary, and showed no signs of the cage-wear to which captive *Turdidae* are particularly susceptible (*vide RR*). Further, there is no evidence of any commercial trade in this species for about 15 years, nor are any currently known to be privately owned. A thorough check of zoological collections revealed none missing (*vide RR*). On Jan. 6, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found at Peru, Vt. (LW, *vide WN*) a locale remarkably far north for this species in winter. There were also 2 at Ashley, Mass., Jan.13 and numerous other sightings southward. A notable invasion of **Bohemian Waxwings** occurred in Québec, with flocks of up to 200 appearing at Hudson in December. They reached Montreal in February, where flock-size ranged from 200-300 at peak to 30-40 at end of season. Only a scattered few were noted elsewhere. In New York there was one at Fair Haven Beach S.P., Dec. 9 and 2 at Oswego Dec. 21 (FS). Another was seen at Monson, Mass., Feb. 11-12 (PM, *vide RS*). N. Shrikes remained in fairly good numbers following last Fall's flight. Typical were 6 in Berkshire County for the season, 3 at Cedarville, N.Y., Jan. 1 and four in Dutchess County in March. More unusual were several reports of wintering Loggerhead Shrikes, including birds as far north as Hampshire County, Mass., Orange and Dutchess Counties, N.Y. and W. Hartford, Conn. Migrants of this species also returned quite early, with one at Montreal Mar. 17.

**WARBLERS, ICTERIDS**—Continuing the pattern of last Fall, there were a number of reports of late-lingering warblers and a few unusual overwintering records as well. Noteworthy in the latter respect were the numerous inland reports of species which normally occur in winter only on or near the coast. For instance, several Palm Warblers and a few Com. Yellowthroats and Yellow-breasted Chats were scattered inland north to w. Massachusetts. There were also sightings of considerably greater rarity. Two Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported on Long I., one at Brookhaven Dec. 1-24 and another (*vide* DP) at Greenport Dec. 28. Still another of the *auduboni* race of the Yellow-rumped Warbler was discovered on Long I., this one carefully studied at Jones Beach Jan. 25 (AW). Single Pine Warblers wintered as far north as Durhamville, N.Y. (m.ob.) and Ashley, Mass. (DF, *vide* RS) and 2-3 were found southward. At E. Syracuse, an Ovenbird was discovered Dec. 18 (MR) and on Dec. 24, two Am. Redstarts were seen at Croton Pt., N.Y. (T&WH). But most startling, in point of time, was the report of an *Oporornis*, identified as a female Mourning Warbler, at Manhasset, L.I., Jan. 7 (PG). Reports of a few wintering Red-winged Blackbirds, Com. Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds in the highlands of c. Vermont have been increasing in recent years and the several present this winter were felt to be more than just phenomena of the season (WN). Numerous Northern Orioles (*galbula* race) perhaps as many as 30-35, were reported north to w. Massachusetts, mostly at feeders. Much more unusual were two *bullockii*. One spent the entire winter, in company with a *galbula*, at a feeder in E. Moriches, L.I. (m.ob.). The other was present January-February at a feeder in Piscataway, N.J. (m.ob.).

**WINTER FINCHES**—With one possible exception, there seemed to be no further major incursions nor other sudden changes in the patterns of relative abundance set in Fall. As usual, finches, especially grosbeaks, tended to become more localized and less evenly distributed as the season progressed. The return flight, which was well under way by mid-March, brought another brief period of more wide-spread occurrence. But there was no evidence of the extreme late lingering noted last year. Most birds were gone by month's end. Evening Grosbeaks were relatively scarce along the coast, and surprisingly, in a usually favored haunt, the C.V.M. Otherwise they were locally abundant. Typical flocks ranged in size from 50 to 200 or more and seemed to occur with equal frequency north and south. Pine Grosbeaks, in flocks of 10-50, were locally common, although decreasing somewhat in flock-size and considerably in flock-frequency, southward. At Montreal there was a decided increase in early February, with flocks of up to 200. This may have represented an incursion from the north, since by and large birds to the southward had not yet begun to move. On Jan. 13 Foxall saw several flocks of Com. Redpolls about two miles north of Hull, Qué., but otherwise they were very scarce. One or two small flocks were reported from a few northern locales. Elsewhere they occurred only as scattered individuals or were absent entirely. During mid-winter, Pine Sis-

kins were absent in some places and fairly regular in others, but seldom in flocks of more than 10-50. Overall, they were more common southward though there seemed to be more local northern concentrations than in most years. They became very widespread during the return flight, especially northward, where from mid-February through March, flocks of up to 200 were quite frequent. Red Crossbills decreased very rapidly in parts of the north after December. Many locales had only small flocks at infrequent intervals, although a few, *e.g.*, Winhall, Vt., Eagle Bay, N.Y., reported sustained numbers through the season. In the south there were a few flocks of 30-50 on Long I. and smaller, more scattered groups inland. White-winged Crossbills remained quite scarce with only scattered singles and occasional small flocks in the north and stray individuals in the south.

**OTHER FINCHES**—Nine Cardinals wintered around Montreal and 47 in the vicinity of Vergennes, Vt.; notably high counts for these northern areas. Also of interest was one seen in the w. Adirondacks at Old Forge Dec. 10. The annual New England survey recorded only 4295 *vs.* 6003 last year, but see Tufted Titmouse, above. A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak wintering in the vicinity of Syracuse was the only one reported this winter. Purple Finches were reported as notably scarce northward. Most extreme was Montreal, with only one sighting of two birds all winter. Other localities had at least scattered reports of very small groups. On the other hand, almost every area in the Region reported an abundance of Am. Goldfinches. At Pittsfield, Mass., for instance, Goodrich had a flock of 52 wintering at his feeder. On a wider scale, roving flocks of 50-500 were frequent everywhere, although centers of abundance seemed to correspond with those of the Pine and Evening Grosbeaks. In the south, several Dickcissels lingered into December and a few overwintered. A Rufous-sided Towhee wintered as far north as Ferrisburg, Vt. An individual of the *princeps* race of Savannah Sparrow at Milford Pt., Conn., Jan. 1 (NP) was a good find for that locale. Several individuals of western races of Dark-eyed Junco were reported. Most were typical *oreganus*, but two pink-sided types were seen, one at Hudson, Qué., late December-late January, the other at Monson, Mass., Jan. 29. Chipping Sparrows and Field Sparrows wintered in numbers considerably far north. The C.V.M., for instance, had at least 25 Fields for the season. Late Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded at Middlebury, Vt., Nov. 3-5 (BP) and Brookhaven, L.I., Nov. 21-Dec. 26 (DP). Another apparently wintered. It was present at a feeder during February at Amenia, N.Y. (T&WS, *vide* OW). Although Snow Buntings, N.Y. (T&WS, *vide* OW) and spottily distributed through the winter, returning birds appeared in great numbers at Montreal where two flocks of about 2000 each were noted Mar. 24-25.

**CORRIGENDA**—All from *Am. Birds* 27:34. The record of 25 Solitary Vireos in the Oneida L. Basin should be deleted. The data on Orange-crowned Warbler in the Oneida L. Basin used to exemplify Regional status that season should read, "Record early arrival Sept. 7, and late departure Nov. 2. . ." The locale

of the Myrtle Warbler with brood-patch was Jenny L., N.Y., not Vischer's Ferry. The number of Red-winged Blackbirds at L. Ontario should read "nearly 15,000. . .".

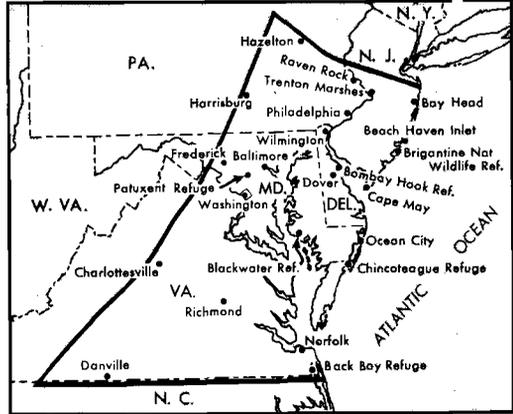
**OBSERVERS**—Dorothy Ackley, G. Albertine, M. Anderson, Pat Anderson, Betty Barnum, Roy Barth, L. Bartlett, Bruce Beehler, Al Bell, *Bird Notes of Western Massachusetts*, Irving Black, Bill Boeringer, Ned Boyajian, Francis Brabant, Darlene Bradford, Brooklyn Bird Club, William Brosseau, Ada Carter, V. Clarkson, Club Des Ornithologues De Quebec, Gary Cohen, Barbara Conolly, Normand David, Steve Dempsey, Paul Desjardins, F. Dittrich, Florence Donough, Mrs. James Downs, Laura Drummond, Ruth Dwellley, Joan Ernsting, Paul Ethier, Davis Finch, Roger Foxall, Irene Frey, Tom Gagnon, Paul Gillen, C. Goodrich, Robert Goodrich, Michel Gosselin, J. Green, Beatrice Guyett, Thelma Haight, Ron Harcourt, C. Hazlett, Otto Heck, Margaret Hendrick, L. Hodge, Tom and William Howe, Mary Ivanoff, Helen Jez, Mrs. Andrew Johnson, Richard Kane (RK), Chuck Keiweg, Ellen Keiweg, Ken Kelly, Richard Kelly, Jim and Mary Key, Bruce Kindseth, Tim Kobel, Richard Koch, George Komorowski, D. La Fontaine, Mrs. J. Lacoste, R. Laprade, Jo Ann Larson, Paul Lehman, Tom Love, Lyman Langdon Audubon Society, Mrs. Ray Lyman, Alison Macdonald, Elizabeth Macdonald, Joe MacDonald, Mrs. P. Magnuson, Helen Manson, Priscilla Martin (PM), William Mathie, Mabel McIntosh, Shirley Melum, Brian Morn, John Moyle, William Norse, Mr. and Mrs. A. Norwine, Barbara Ouimet, Belle Peebles, Sheila Peebles, Bruce Peterson (BP), W. Peterson, Noble Proctor, Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, Dennis Puleston, Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, Norman Reeds, Catherine Reid, Scott Richardson, George Rickards, Tom Riley, Marge Rusk, Richard Ryan, Eric Salzman, Lorna Salzman, William Sandford, Fritz Scheider, Cornelia Schultz, A. Schwab, Beedy Serra, Arnet Sheppard, Eve Simcovitz, D. Slongwhite, Gerald Smith, Barbara Spencer, Chris Spies, J. Steeves, Timothy Sterrett, Ken Stier, Rudolph Stone (RS), Trixie and William Strauss, Alma Stunbacher, Esther Swayer, Jack Swedberg, D. Taupiers, Bea Thomas, Terry Thormin, Robert Tillman, Doris Tirrel, Anne Townsend, Tony Townsend, John Tramontano, Tom Tynning, Mr. and Mrs. James Van Dresar, James Van Scoy, Regina Van Scoy, Fritz Waterman, Otis Waterman, Berna Weissman, Leroy Williams, Al Wollin, Jo Wright, Mary Yegella, Mary Yenlin, Robert Yunick, Joe Zeranski, Guy Zern, Ted Zinn.—**NED R. BOYAJIAN**, 9 Reading Terrace, Fair Lawn, N.J. 07410.

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ F. R. Scott and David A. Cutler

After a fairly cool fall, December was far warmer than normal for the third year in a row. Overall, January and February had relatively normal temperatures, although the averages hide the fact that there was a

bitter cold spell Jan 6-14, the rest of the month being rather warm. March averaged 4°-8°F above normal at all reporting stations. Although precipitation was somewhat above the mean for the season, snowfall was only a fraction of the expected amount. Curiously, the only fall of note was in extreme southeastern Virginia, where Norfolk reported 9 inches on January 9, a spillover from an exceptional storm in the Carolinas and Georgia.



As might be expected from the above weather summary, there were exceptional numbers of overwintering birds usually moving farther south; these were especially evident during the Christmas Bird Counts. Also of particular interest this season were the results of a number of pelagic field trips, as well as some outstanding observations made along the shore.

**GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS**—A Red-necked Grebe on the Potomac R. at Seneca, Md., Dec. 17 was extremely unusual for the Piedmont (EH *et al.*). A large concentration of Horned Grebes moved into Chincoteague N.W.R., Va. in mid January, and Vaughn estimated a peak here of 1400 on Feb. 25. An Eared Grebe was found at Craney I., Hampton Roads, Va., Dec. 21 & 26 (GSG). A light-phase **Northern Fulmar** was carefully identified 18 mi. off Ocean City, Md., Feb. 3, the first state sight record (PGD, CSR, RAR, *et al.*). Gannets were in good numbers in the s. part of the Region, with 619 noted in the Cape Henry, Va. area Dec. 31 (*vide* PWSy). Off Ocean City up to 165 were noted all winter 20-30 mi. offshore (RAR *et al.*). Twelve Great Cormorants wintered at Barnegat Inlet, N.J. (JD), and single individuals were found at several locations along the Delmarva Pen., including one near Cape Charles, Va., Dec. 27 (HTA *et al.*).

**HERONS, IBIS**—Wintering herons were in good numbers along the coast but by no means were up to the concentrations of the previous winter. Some interesting winter reports from upper Chesapeake Bay included a Green Heron near Crisfield, Md., Feb 3 (PGB *et al.*), an ad. Little Blue Heron at the same place Jan. 14 (PGB), 2 Snowy Egrets in s. Dorchester Co., Md., Dec. 26 (CSR & GCR), and an unprecedented 9 Louisiana Herons near Crisfield Dec

27 (*vide* CRV) The peak count of Great Blue Herons at a roost at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del. was 67 on Jan. 9 (NEH). Five Cattle Egrets were noted at Knott's I., Va., Dec. 9 (WWF), 2 were seen at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., Dec. 29 (RLAn & GSG), and one was found near Chincoteague, Va., Dec. 28 (CSR). There were two winter reports of Yellow-crowned Night Herons in lower Chesapeake Bay, 2 near Mathews, Va., Dec. 30 (RJW *et al.*) and one at Newport News, Va. the same day (*vide* WPS). First spring arrivals included 10 Cattle Egrets at Leipsic, Del., Mar. 15 (NEH), a Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Norfolk, Va., Mar. 18 (RLAk), and 40 Glossy Ibis at Little Creek, Del., Mar. 17 (NEH). On Mar. 13 there were 200 or more pairs of Great Blue Herons at their nests at Bluff Pt., St. Marys Co., Md. (JMA).

SWANS, GEESE—Mute Swans continued their steady increase in s. Delaware with 69 reported in the Rehoboth Beach area Dec. 30 (SHD *et al.*). Field feeding in the Whistling Swan, first reported in this Region three years ago (*Am. Birds* 24: 489, 1970) has now become common in the Chesapeake Bay area from the Rappahannock R., Va. northward and including s. e. Pennsylvania and all of Delaware. Winter records of this species are also increasing inland. Morrin reported that 836 wintered at Manor Twp., Pa., and 41 were found on the Piedmont at Seneca, Md., Dec. 17 (*vide* JWO). Twenty-two flying over Richmond, Va., Mar. 24 were unprecedented (DWS). Broun noted some unusual Canada Goose movements over New Ringgold, Pa., with a very late southward movement of 125 on Dec. 7 and a very early northward movement of 74 on Feb. 5. The first major northward flight here was of 4300 birds Mar. 14. Brant remained in relatively low numbers along the coast, though a count of 5500 at Chincoteague, Va., Dec. 28 was fairly good (PAD *et al.*). White-fronted Geese were reported four times in the Region. An ad. was seen at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., Dec. 2 (RAR), 2 were found near Bay Ridge, Md., Dec. 5 (PGD), 2 were seen at Hog I., Surry Co., Va., Feb. 3 (CRB *et al.*), and an ad. observed at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del., Mar. 18 was present several days (JL). An ad. ♂ Lesser White-fronted Goose was shot at Bombay Hook Dec. 21 and photographed (NEH). Details will be published elsewhere. Two Snow Geese wintered inland at Green Lanes Res., Pa. (GAF & AM), the third year for this, and on the coast Vaughn noted some odd movements of Snow Geese in midwinter. On Jan. 7 he observed a southward movement of 750 Snow Geese in ½ hour off Ocean City, Md., whereas 850 were seen moving on Jan. 19 northward over and off Wallops I., Va.

DUCKS—The Eurasian race of the Green-winged Teal was reported from five localities in Delaware and South Jersey, and the Eur. Wigeon was found in four different sites. Blue-winged Teal were seen in a number of places during the winter, the most notable records being 12 in s. Dorchester Co., Md., Dec. 26 (*vide* CSR) and one far inland at Warren, Va., Dec. 31 (CES). A few Wood Ducks wintered at Lynchburg, Va. (RSF), and reports of Redheads seemed to be increasing. In s. e. Pennsylvania 20 wintered at Middle

Creek Wildlife Area, near Kleinfeltersville (GAF), and 13 were seen at Allentown Mar. 24 (HM). In Chesapeake Bay Redhead numbers were much higher, the best reports being 350 at Hooper I., Md., Dec. 2 (RAR) and 5400 on the Honga R., Dorchester Co., Md., Dec. 29 (*vide* CSR). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye appeared at Shark R. Inlet, N.J., Jan. 6 for the fourth successive year and remained until Mar. 25 (KR, PWSm, and many others). Up to 4 Harlequin Ducks were present at Ocean City, Md. off and on Dec. 23-Feb. 4 (JMA, RAR *et al.*), and up to 3 were seen along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va. at least to Mar. 10 (JMA, RLAk, WWF *et al.*). A few eiders appeared at various localities along the immediate coast, the best counts being up to 20 King Eiders at Barnegat Inlet, N.J., Jan. 13-Mar. 4 (MC, PWSm *et al.*) and—along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel—12 Com. Eiders Jan. 26 and 5 King Eiders Dec. 9 (RLAk & GSG). Scoters were in good numbers in Chesapeake Bay off Hampton, Va., with a peak Jan. 22 of 5000 White-winged and 7000 Surf Scoters. At National Park, N.J. McNeill noted a peak of only 6000 Ruddy Ducks Jan. 25, a slow decline of some 50% in five years. Twenty-six Hooded Mergansers wintered on a small lake at New Cumberland, Pa. (CJ), a good number for this inland locality.

HAWKS—A Turkey Vulture roost at Princeton, N.J. contained 100 birds Dec. 16 (RJB), and the first "spring" Turkey Vulture arrivals occurred at Mill Grove and Sumneytown, Pa., Jan. 16 (EG, GAF). A roost at the latter location reached a peak of 130 on Feb. 23 (GAF). Black Vulture numbers seemed well up this winter on the Delmarva Pen., the best counts being 36 in the Ocean City, Md. area Dec. 29 (*vide* CSR) and 50 at Sudlersville, Md., Feb. 11 (NEH). Elsewhere, 2 were reported at Lewisville, Pa., Mar. 4 (PLH). Following the big fall flight of Goshawks into the Region, there were numerous winter reports of this species in the n. part of the Region, a number for Maryland, and two for Virginia. These last were single birds at Brooke Dec. 18 (CB & TBN) and Roanoke Dec. 31 (BJO). Two Broad-winged Hawks at Clifton, Va. Feb. 27 were extraordinarily early (JWE). One called loudly for some time. Bald Eagles were much in evidence during the winter in Dorchester and Somerset Cos., Md., with a peak count at Blackwater Ref. of 6 ad. and 9 imm., Feb. 10 (HTA). Elsewhere, 2 wintered at Middle Creek Wildlife Area, Pa. (CJ), and 2 adult and 2 immatures spent most of the winter at Brigantine N.W.R., N.J. (BCH). By late February and early March most of the known nests in the Chesapeake Bay area had apparently incubating birds (JMA *et al.*). The first Osprey was noted at a nest at Chincoteague, Va., Mar. 11 (CRV), and a "dark gray to brown" phase Gyrfalcon was present at Blackwater Ref. Nov. 30-Dec. 8 (PAD, WHJ, RAR *et al.*), a first sight record for Maryland.

GROUSE, MARSH BIRDS—Two Ruffed Grouse near Cape Charles, Va., Dec. 27 were extraordinary and the first record for Virginia's Eastern Shore (RCS). They may have been privately released birds. One flushed in w. Goochland Co., Va., Jan. 28 was the

farthest east report on record for s c Virginia (ABD & CES). There were far more than the usual wintering rail reports, undoubtedly due to the mild winter. Near Princeton, N.J. Blicharz, Bloor, and Macklin found 2 King Rails, 6 Virginia Rails, and 2 Soras Jan. 13, and among the other Sora reports was one inland near Woodbridge, Va., Dec. 23 (CDC & WLD). Inland Virginia Rails included one at Brooke, Va., Dec. 18 (*fide* ETM) and one at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., Jan. 13 (JMA), and 32 were reported at Back Bay Ref., Va., Dec. 29 (*fide* PWSy). A **Yellow Rail** was flushed three times at Assateague I., Md., Dec. 29 (JHB & WR), and two **Black Rails** were reported, one at Back Bay Ref., Dec. 29 (DEP & RHP) and one at Fisherman I., Va., Mar. 3 (RLAk & RLAN). The Com. Gallinule census at Trenton marsh, N.J. totaled 10 birds Jan. 25 (RJB).

**SHOREBIRDS**—An Am. Oystercatcher at Indian R Inlet, Del., Jan. 20 was undoubtedly a wintering bird (WJW). In New Jersey, the first 12 spring arrivals were noted at Tuckerton Mar. 18 (PWSm). A count of 170 Killdeers at Bombay Hook Ref., Del., Dec. 13 was considered a good-sized winter flock (NEH). Up to 3 Am. Golden Plovers were present at Smyrna, Del., Mar. 24-Apr. 1 (WB, NEH, RSm), and one was seen at Blackwater Ref., Md., Apr. 1 (BB). There were several good winter counts of Am. Woodcocks, including 25 in s. Dorchester Co., Md., Dec. 26 (*fide* CSR). Dyke noted 2 ♂♂ in courtship flights at Assateague I., Md., Jan. 4, and Fielder and McQuarry first heard them calling at Lynchburg, Va., Feb. 24. Six Whimbrels and a remarkable 123 Willets were found in the Cape Charles, Va. area Dec. 27 (HTA *et al.*), and one Whimbrel was seen at Fisherman I., Va., Mar. 10 (WWF). Holgersen found 4 early Pectoral Sandpipers at Smyrna Mar. 15, and a Stilt Sandpiper at Brigantine Ref., N.J., Dec. 3 was very late (JD). Inland near Washington, D.C. 16 Dunlin were found at Mason's Neck, Va., Dec. 23 (PAD & PGD) and 16 at Dyke marsh, Va., Jan. 1 (JMA). This species overwintered at Blackwater Ref., Md. with a peak count of 475 on Feb. 24 (HTA). The Marbled Godwit count in the Cape Charles area was 63 on Dec. 27 (JWT *et al.*), a record number, and a flock of 6 at Brigantine Ref., Jan. 13 was unprecedented for winter (JFA). Holgersen found one Ruff at Smyrna Mar. 18 and 2 on Mar. 24. One Am. Avocet was observed at Chincoteague Ref., Va., Dec. 28 (RLAk), and 60 were found at Craney I., Va., Jan. 7 (WWF). The first recorded spring arrivals were 16 at Bombay Hook Ref., Del., Mar. 18 (NEH) and 14 at Brigantine Ref., Mar. 25 (JD).

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS**—Winter reports of jaegers, almost unknown in this Region until a few years ago, were much in evidence this year. Single **Pomarine Jaegers** were noted at Back Bay Ref., Va., Dec. 29 (PWSy) and off Ocean City, Md., Feb. 3 (PGD, RAR *et al.*), and a Parasitic Jaeger was seen along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., Dec. 31 (HTA & WCR). Single unidentified jaegers were reported four times: Back Bay Ref., Dec. 29 (JHCtr)

and off Ocean City Jan. 13 and 19 and Mar. 25 (RAR, HLW *et al.*). A **Skua** 20 miles off Ocean City Jan. 13 was the first Maryland sight record of this species (RAR), and single Iceland Gulls were seen in the same general area Dec. 23 and Mar. 3 (RAR). A Great Black-backed Gull was observed flying over Clifton, Va., Mar. 27 with a small flock of other gulls (JWE). This area of the e. edge of the Piedmont is at least 12 miles from any sizable body of water. As more observers become acquainted with the small European gulls, they are reported with more frequency in the Region. There were at least six reports of the Black-headed Gull, including singles well offshore (15-20 miles) of Ocean City Feb. 3 and Mar. 25 (PGD & RAR). One interesting report was of an immature which frequented the Old Dominion University parking lot in Norfolk, Va for about two weeks and was photographed Feb. 4 (WWF, RLAk, GSG). The Little Gull was similarly reported in at least six localities, all along the immediate coast. Bonaparte's Gulls were in rather low numbers in the Cape Henry, Va. area until mid-March, when several thousands could be found along the shoreline (RLAk). A curious concentration of these birds occurred along the rivers at the upper edge of the Coastal Plain Dec. 16, the first day of the C B C period and a day of very strong NW winds following the passage of an intense frontal system. These counts, perhaps indicating a late southward overland movement, were 65, Hopewell, Va. (DWS), 46, Washington, D.C. (*fide* RLP), 24, Accokeek, Md. (RLS), and 75, Glenolden, Pa. (*fide* ER). All four of these birds were emphasized as unusual numbers on the C B Cs. The Black-legged Kittiwake was recorded on all six of the boat trips organized by Rowlett out of Ocean City, with a peak of over 200 on Feb. 3. Closer in, one was seen near Cape Henry, Va., Dec. 31 (RLAk & WWF). A Forster's Tern and a Black Skimmer at Holgate, N.J., Dec. 3 were both quite late (AM), whereas a Caspian Tern near Cambridge, Md., Mar. 25 was early (PGD).

**ALCIDS**—This was probably the best year on recent record for large alcids in this Region. At least 10 Razorbills were picked up, mostly oiled but still alive, on the New Jersey coast Jan. 7 to the end of the period, several of them ending up at the Washington, D.C. zoo (GAF, RJS *et al.*), and off Ocean City, Md. the species was noted on five of the six boat trips, with 4 seen Feb. 3 & Mar. 3 and 8 on Mar. 25 (RAR *et al.*). In addition to these, unidentified large alcids were reported on several trips, including 7 on the last date. A **Com. Murre** picked up alive on the beach at Back Bay Ref., Va., Feb. 13 was the first confirmed record for the state (*fide* DLH). One was also seen in the Sea Girt, N.J. area Jan. 20-21 (RJB & MD), and another picked up at Beach Haven, N.J., Mar. 7 ended up in the Washington zoo (JHChn). Two Thick-billed Murres were positively identified, one seen 38 mi. east of Ocean City Mar. 3 (RAR) and one picked up dead (oiled) at Barnegat Light, N.J., Mar. 10 (NE). Curiously, Dovekies were reported only three times, including one 10 mi. east of Ocean City Dec. 23 (RAR).



*Immature Razorbill, Beach Haven, N.J., Mar. 4, 1973. Oiled on breast and wing. Photo/B. C. Hiatt.*

**DOVES, PARAKEETS, OWLS**—Two Mourning Dove nests with eggs were located at Dyke marsh, Va., Mar. 4 (JMA). The Monk Parakeet, previously reported in the n. part of the Region, was confirmed for the first time in Virginia during the fall and winter at Gwynn's I., Roanoke, and Seaford (GRD). Apparent roosting nests were built at Gwynn's I. and Seaford, but no breeding in the wild has yet been reported for the state. All of the above birds have since disappeared or been "removed" by the State Department of Agriculture. There were other reports of this species from Maryland and the Delaware Valley area. Heck could find only 3 Great Horned Owl pairs nesting in Hunterdon Co., N.J., and young were visible in one Mar. 31. Only one Snowy Owl report was received, a bird at Limekiln, Pa. December and January (REC). Heck reported 50 Long-eared Owls in ten roosts in Hunterdon Co., N.J. during the winter, and Blicharz found 28 in the Princeton, N.J. area during January. Among the other reports were 3 at Longwood Gardens, Pa., Dec. 1 (JG), 3 near Sandy Point S. P., Md. mid-January to the end of the period (JS), and a road kill near Easton, Md., Mar. 11 (HTA). Sheppard banded 15 Saw-whet Owls in various places in c. Maryland, and a normal number were found in roosts in the n. part of the Region (OAH, JCM *et al.*).

**HUMMINGBIRDS TO THRUSHES**—A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was seen at Bombay Hook Ref., Del., Apr. 1, an unprecedented date (EJR), and 2 Pileated Woodpeckers wintered at Princeton, N.J., where they are normally very scarce (*vide* RJB). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was photographed near Back Bay, Va., Dec. 2 (WWF *et al.*), and a very early Barn Swallow was reported at Westmoreland, Va., Mar. 1 (JMA). Red-breasted Nuthatches were rather common all winter in the s. part of the Region, with the Cape Charles, Va. area, for example, reporting 43 on

Dec. 27 (HTA *et al.*). At Longwood, Pa. a singing ♂ and a ♀ apparently working on a nest site were found Mar. 25 (JG). Many observers reported the Winter Wren in unusually good numbers in the Delaware Valley area, and 10 were noted in the Trenton, N.J. area Dec. 30 (*vide* RJB). A heavy migration of robins occurred through much of the Region in mid-February. Good counts included 2000 at Clifton, Va., Feb. 15 (JWE) and 2000 at Longwood, Pa., Feb. 19 (JG). A Swainson's Thrush was reported near Chincoteague, Va., Dec. 28 (RPT).

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS**—A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was present at Bombay Hook Ref., Dec. 17-31 (MVB *et al.*), and another was seen at Back Bay Ref., Va., Dec. 29 (FCR & WFR). Two at Lynchburg, Va., Mar. 12 may have been extremely early transients (KF). Northern Shrikes were reported three times in s.e. Pennsylvania, one at New Ringgold Dec. 17-21 (MB), one at Penn Manor Dec. 30 (RSe), and one at Middle Creek Wildlife Area Mar. 9 (WWK). Single White-eyed Vireos were noted at Oyster, Va., Dec. 27 (JMA & DDG) and at Back Bay Ref., Dec. 29 (RHP *et al.*). Another in Dismal Swamp, Va., Mar. 30 was probably an early migrant (RLak & WWF). Two Solitary Vireos were reported, one at Back Bay Ref., Dec. 29 (RLak) and another at Little Creek, Va., Dec. 31 (WWF).

**WARBLERS**—Black-and-white Warblers were recorded on three occasions, one at Baker's Basin, N.J., Dec. 3 (RJB), another at Pomona, N.J., Dec. 18 (JD), and a third at Back Bay Ref., Dec. 29 (FCB). The only inland report of a winter Orange-crowned Warbler was one at Oxon Hill, Md., Dec. 16 (PGD), but a singing ♂ was found at Fort Eustis, Va., Mar. 10 (DLM). A late Nashville Warbler was seen at Baker's Basin, N.J., Dec. 3 (RJB), and one was present at Longwood Gardens, Pa., Dec. 10-Jan. 10 (JG). Farther south, 2 Nashville Warblers were noted at Oyster, Va., Dec. 27 (DA & NS) and one at Back Bay Ref., Dec. 29 (DEP & RHP), and a N. Parula was observed at Lawrenceville, N.J., Dec. 2 (RJB). Two more Black-throated Gray Warblers were reported in s.e. Pennsylvania in addition to the one previously reported during the fall. One was present at Swarthmore Nov. 27-Dec. 7 (HA), and Wonderly picked one up dead at Gladwyne Jan. 15. Two Prairie Warblers were seen near Cape Charles, Va., Dec. 27 (JML & HEL) and one at Chincoteague Ref., Va., Dec. 28 (MAB, SCS & JWV). Among the other winter warbler reports were an Ovenbird near Cape Charles Dec. 27 (PGD), a Louisiana Waterthrush at Denton, Md., Dec. 16 (MWH), a Connecticut Warbler at Island Beach, N.J., Dec. 30 (FHL), and a Wilson's Warbler in Washington, D.C., Dec. 18 (NS).

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS**—Rowlett found a ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ocean City, Md., Dec. 24, a ♂ was seen near Cape Charles Dec. 27 (WCR), and a pair appeared at a feeding station at Wilmington, Del., Mar. 21 (HBC & WJW), Northern Orioles wintered over most of the Region but were considerably more frequent in the s. part. At least 6 apparently wintered near Trenton, N.J. (CF, EL), and

up to 32 were noted at one time in Norfolk, Va during the period (BD, WWF). Males of the **Bullock's** race of this species occurred at Princeton Jct., N.J., Mar. 9 to the end of the period (MK, EBr, RJB) and at Gloucester, Va., Dec. 29 - Mar. 8 (MLW—photographed), the latter a first state record. Sykes found a Brewer's Blackbird near Cape Charles Dec. 27, and 11 were discovered near Back Bay Ref., Dec. 29 (WWF & WCR). Common Grackles were in larger than usual numbers in s.e. Pennsylvania. About 2500 were present at Norristown in January and February (RJM), and Hartman reported "thousands" at New Hope Jan. 8. A ♀ or imm. **W. Tanager** was present near Medford, N J, Dec. 30-Jan. 17 (HS *et al.*), and in s.e. Virginia a ♂ was seen at Back Bay Dec. 29 (HTA & MMB) and an apparent ♀ remained at Norfolk Jan. 13-Mar. 18 (RLAk, EBr, WWF *et al.*).

**NORTHERN FINCHES**—Evening Grosbeaks seemed to withdraw from the Delaware Valley area by late November, but they remained common over the s part of the Region, though generally less so than last year except in s.e. Virginia where they were unusually abundant. The Purple Finch population was universally reported as quite high in the Region, and a few Pine Grosbeaks were reported south to Washington, D.C., with a peak of 15 at Eaglesmere, Pa, Feb. 11 (CJ). A Com. Redpoll at Glenmoore, Pa, Jan. 12 was the only report of this species (JF, SAF *et al.*). Pine Siskins were somewhat erratic but were nevertheless common in parts of Virginia, especially in February and March. Red Crossbills were in good numbers in the n. part of the Region and on the Delmarva Pen. with such peak counts as 50 in s. Dorchester Co., Md. Dec. 26 (*fide* CSR), 42 at Cape Charles Dec. 27 (*fide* HTA), and 30 at Lawrenceville, N.J., Mar. 18 (BBr). The only White-winged Crossbills reported were 2 near Cape Charles Dec. 27 (PGD).

**OTHER FRINGILLIDS**—A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was present at Princeton, N.J., Nov. 24-Dec. 17 (KB), and there were three Painted Bunting reports from s.e. Virginia, a ♂ at Norfolk Jan. 8 to the end of the period (RLAk *et al.*), a pair at Portsmouth Feb. 24-25 (DP, *fide* WWF), and a ♂ at Virginia Beach Mar. 12 (CA, *fide* WWF). Although House Finches seemed much less common than in recent years in s.e. Virginia, they were in higher numbers elsewhere. Some peak counts in the s. part of the Region included 53 at Lynchburg, Va., Dec. 16 (*fide* MPM), 76 at Ocean City, Md., Dec. 29 (*fide* CSR), and 25 at Little Creek, Va., Dec. 31 (*fide* PWSy). At Wormleysburg, Pa. a pair was feeding young in a nest Mar. 23, the second year this species has nested here (AK). Observers continued to make an effort to monitor the Ipswich race of the Savannah Sparrow, and maximum counts reported included 18 in the Ocean City area Dec. 29 (*fide* CSR) and 18 at Cape Henlopen, Del., Feb. 19 (MB & CJ). Shelton found a Grasshopper Sparrow near Ocean City Dec. 29, a Henslow's Sparrow was seen at Little Creek, Va., Dec. 31 (RHP), and Holmes

counted 3 Vesper Sparrows at Urbana, Frederick Co., Md., Feb. 18. The Oregon race of the Dark-eyed Junco was reported near Chincoteague, Va., Dec. 28 (RPT) and at Lawrenceville, N.J., Jan. 6-Apr. 1 (RJB *et al.*), and Potman reported a bird in Philadelphia Nov. 4 believed to be a hybrid between the Dark-eyed Junco and the White-throated Sparrow. The open winter was particularly favorable for Chipping Sparrows, and they were recorded on 11 of Maryland's C B Cs, including 24 at Triadelphia Res., Dec. 23 (NM & DS). Lapland Longspurs were found at several localities along the coast, but the 25 at Holgate, N.J., Mar. 4 was an extraordinary count (PWSm).

**CORRIGENDA**—Twenty-six Goshawks were recorded at Cape May, N.J. during the fall, not 50 as reported (WSC—*Am. Birds* 27: 37, 1973), and only one Com. Tern was seen on the Lehigh R., Sept. 30, not 11 (RW—*ibid.*, p. 38).

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## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Robert P. Teulings

The most unusual feature of our winter season was undoubtedly the massive ice and snow storm which hit the coastal and central portions of the Region Feb. 9-11. Observers in the most severely affected areas reported vivid accounts of birds driven to starvation in the aftermath of the storm. The tactics of survival included mobbing of feeding stations, forced migration, predation and even cannibalism.



**Some Eyewitness Accounts**—On the afternoon of Feb. 10 at Hilton Head I., S.C., Harold and Rachel Axtell noticed significant flocks of sparrows, black-birds, and a variety of other land birds moving along the beach. A heavy coating of sleet covered the ground, and the flocks seemed to be desperately searching for food. The Axtells scattered millet seed in a parking area behind the dunes, soon attracting over 500 birds, many of which behaved sluggishly as if already near exhaustion. Flocks of Chipping Sparrows were seen feeding along the roadway, oblivious to close brushes with the tires of autos passing over them!

After the storm at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., Jay Carter found many passerines concentrated on the beach, including Water Pipits, Am. Robins, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers and sparrows. The birds were foraging along the water's edge, sometimes following the waves like shorebirds. A gull was seen to devour a small passerine on the beach. In the same area, Frances Needham saw a Blue Jay struggle with a Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, and then fly off with the warbler in its beak.

Dennis Forsythe and Ted Beckett both reported heavy mortality of small landbirds at Charleston and noted an exodus of warblers and gnatcatchers which had previously been regular. An incident of cannibalism, observed by Beckett, was of White-throated Sparrows feeding on dead members of their own species.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS**—On the coast, an impressive flock of over 1000 Com. Loons was massed at Cape Lookout Bight Mar. 8 (JF). Winter occurrences of Com. Loons on inland lakes were typi-

cally scattered and brief, but as many as 15 birds were reported to have overwintered at Roanoke Rapids L. (ML). A Red-necked Grebe was an unusual winter visitor at Roanoke Rapids Dec. 10 (ML), as were individuals sighted at Pawley's I., Dec. 20 (DF,PN) and Cape Hatteras Feb. 17 (GG). An inland count of 95 Horned Grebes was recorded at Roanoke Rapids L. Feb. 15 (ML). An Eared Grebe was seen Jan. 27-28 at L. Hartwell near Clemson, S.C. (SG), a rare record believed to be the second for the state. Another rarity was a Western Grebe at Bulls I., S.C., Mar. 9 (DC & DC). On the N.C. Outer Banks, an out-of-season occurrence of a Sooty Shearwater was recorded Mar. 11 at Pea I. (JP,JC). There was an unusual appearance of White Pelicans at Charleston, where as many as 25 were present in early January (DF). Fair numbers of Brown Pelicans wintered there, including some color-marked immatures which were identified as birds of Florida origin (TB). A few Brown Pelicans wintered as far n. as Morehead City, where a sizeable wintering population of at least 2000 Double-crested Cormorants was also reported (JF).

**WADERS**—Several Cattle Egrets were still present at Morehead City in late December and one of these apparently lingered through the entire season (JF). A late occurrence for the Least Bittern was recorded there Dec. 29 when an individual was flushed at the Roosevelt Natural Area (JP). Censuses of known roosting places in the Morehead City vicinity showed surprisingly large populations of some 800 Black-crowned Night Herons and an estimated 100 White Ibis (JF). The White Ibis were up sharply in that locality from last winter, particularly the number of adults, providing further evidence that the species is extending its year-around range northward. A mid-winter record for the Glossy Ibis was noted at Bodie I., Jan. 26 (HL,EL,GO,SP) following an unusual count of 11 there on the Dec. 30 CBC. On the s. coast, a Roseate Spoonbill was observed at St. Simon's I., Ga., Mar. 22 (CC, *vide* CM).

**SWANS AND GEESE**—Swans were present in normal numbers at L. Mattamuskeet, the principal refuge for the species in the Region (JD). Last winter many swans bypassed the refuge and migrated farther south, but this extended movement was not repeated this season. Canada Geese at L. Mattamuskeet were down to 8000 this winter, a mere fraction of the populations of 100,000+ there five years ago. The Pea Island N.W.R. censuses showed *ca.* 5000 Canadas present at the mid-season peak (TW), and a flock of 1200 wintered at Stevenson's Ponds near Weldon in Northampton Co., N.C. (ML). There were reports of Brant seen at several locations along the coast from Bodie I. to Wilmington, the largest being 162 on the CBC at Bodie I., Dec. 30. Snow Geese at Pea Island N.W.R. reached a high of almost 10,000, but once again the star attraction at the refuge for most observers was the Ross' Goose which has been a regular winter resident there for the past four years.

**DUCKS**—Again a Green-winged (Com.) Teal was present through the winter at Pea I. (NFW & m.ob.). Reports of casual visitors elsewhere were a Fulvous

Tree Duck shot near Georgetown, S C , Jan 9 (*vide* SG) and a drake Mandarin Duck shot on the Trent R near New Bern, N.C., Nov. 25 (*vide* RPH). The wild status of the latter bird must be questioned, but it was found to be a perfect specimen with unworn plumage indicating it had not recently been captive. Ted Beckett noted a marked scarcity of Redheads and Canvasbacks in the Charleston area this winter along with fewer Black Ducks and Ruddy Ducks. Although the count of Redheads was down in the Bodie-Pea I area, Canvasbacks were found in good numbers there (CBC data) and up to 5000 were reported to have wintered at L. Mattamuskeet (JD).

**BIRDS OF PREY**—A Goshawk was a surprise visitor near Chapel Hill Dec. 24 (HM). This is only the third recorded occurrence for North Carolina and the first outside the mountains. An ad. Golden Eagle was seen Mar. 18 at Bulls I., S.C. (PN). Two Bald Eagles wintered at L. Mattamuskeet (m.ob.) and 3 were present through the season at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston (TB). Two Ospreys were winter residents at Kerr Scott Reservoir in Wilkes Co., N.C., well north of their expected winter range. (WS). There were also at least three off-season sightings from Okefenokee N.W.R. (*vide* EC) where Ospreys are usually absent from early October until they return to nest in February. Also noted at Okefenokee were a Peregrine Falcon Jan. 9 at Gannet L. (WM,RF) and one Jan. 27 at Chesser Prairie (RTh).

**RAILS, GALLINULES**—At Brookgreen Gardens near Huntington Beach, S.C., during the days following the winter storm of Feb. 9-10, rails were driven from their normal habitat by the flooding Waccamaw R. Dozens of King, Virginia, and Sora Rails were seen on the paths and among the plantings in the public part of the garden, affording observers an unexcelled opportunity to see these usually secretive birds (FP,ED). At Morehead City, the population of wintering Com. Gallinules appears to be on the increase, probably due to the recent introduction of more man-made fresh water impoundments, sewage sludge ponds, etc. (JF).

**SHOREBIRDS**—On Feb. 10, Am. Woodcock were so abundant in the hammocks at Savannah N W R. that no moist, leaf-covered portion of the forest could be scanned without spotting one (SY,PY). This influx coincided with the heavy snowfall of that period elsewhere in South Carolina and Georgia. A late-lingering Spotted Sandpiper was present through December at Thagard's L. near Whispering Pines, N C (JC). An inland winter record for Greater Yellowlegs was noted in Northampton Co., N.C., where a single bird was present at Occoneechee Neck Jan. 20-21 (JW,ML). An unusually late Stilt Sandpiper was found at Jekyll I., Dec. 31 (RM,TM,RSm). The first **Hudsonian Godwit** ever recorded in Georgia was discovered at Sapelo I., Dec. 30 (TR,JR,JLC,LD), and another was found at Moore's Landing near McClellanville, S.C., Feb. 25 (PN).

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS**—A Parasitic Jaeger was observed Feb. 15 near Brunswick, Ga., a rare winter visitor (CM). (See also Bodie I. CBC.) The second sight record for the **Iceland Gull** in North Carolina occurred Feb. 11 at Oregon Inlet where an individual was well studied for 10 min. at the bridge (SJ,KKa). There were two reports of Black-headed Gulls from the Charleston area this winter: an individual Dec. 31 at South I. (TB,SL) and one Jan 21 at Hampton Park (DF). On Mar. 10, three Little Gulls (1 ad. and 2 imm.) were seen on Hatteras I at Buxton (JP,JC). An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake, partially oiled, was observed at close range in flight and at rest on the beach at Pea I., Dec. 31 (HL,ML *et al.*). (See also Bodie I. CBC.) A late record for a Least Tern was reported from Port Royal, S.C., Dec. 28 (OH). Approximately 30 Black Skimmers wintered in the Morehead City area (JF), and one was noted as far north as Pea I., Jan. 26 (HL,EL,GO,SP).

**DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS**—Wintering Ground Doves were found at W. Onslow Beach, N.C., Dec. 23 (GG) and Ft. Macon, N.C., Jan 27 (JF). A definite report of a resident **Monk Parakeet** has come from the Atlanta area (East Point). Although only a single bird has been seen there so far, it has been regularly present since last spring and has built a permanent roost (DC & DC). Elsewhere, one was noted on the Athens, Ga., CBC and at least two individuals were seen in the Georgia coastal area at St. Simon's I. and Sea I. during March (*vide* CM). It is not yet clear whether the species has become established at these locations. Late records of a Whippoorwill on Bogue Banks near Atlantic Beach, N C , Dec. 24 (JF) and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Wrightsville Beach Jan. 8 (DE) were noteworthy. Two rarities were seen at the Okefenokee Refuge: a Vermilion Flycatcher Jan. 13 (RF, *vide* EC) and a Gray Kingbird Mar. 22 (DP,NF).

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH VIREOS**—The winter invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches turned out to be rather modest despite earlier reports of a strong fall flight. The species was recorded on only 19 of the 30 CBC's in the Region and numbers were light to moderate. Various observers commented on a superabundance of Am. Robins this season, especially in the coastal sections following the February snowstorm. Three **Sprague's Pipits** were carefully identified among a small flock of Horned Larks at Creech's Pong in n.e. York Co., S.C., Jan. 25 (FC & WC). White-eyed Vireos were frequently seen throughout the winter period at Charleston (TB), and one was recorded at Harker's I., N.C., Jan. 22 (CRH).

**BLACKBIRDS AND ORIOLES**—The huge winter roost of several million blackbirds and Starlings which plagued residents of Scotland Neck, N.C. for the past several years failed to materialize this season. Only about 50,000 birds were present, and it is not known whether a new roost in that area has been established. Data are generally lacking on other major blackbird roosts in the Region, but it is known from CBC

tabulations that there were sizeable roosts near Atlanta and Raleigh. Red-winged Blackbirds were extremely abundant at Thomasville, Ga., and Brewer's Blackbirds were common at Rome. New findings by Robert L. Crawford and Henry M. Stevenson cast doubt on earlier reports of Bullock's Orioles at Thomasville quoted in *Am. Birds* 25:566 and 26:49. A recently collected specimen of a bird thought to be a Bullock's has proved to be a ? Baltimore Oriole with certain confusing plumage characteristics. [The two species are now one: the Northern Oriole—Ed.]

**WINTER FINCHES**—Most observers agreed it was a good season for the northern finches, although not overall a record breaker. Early arrival of Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches, as documented in the Fall summary, signalled a major influx of these visitors. Red Crossbills also made a good showing, but Pine Siskins were scarce. House Finches were reported from ten locations as far s. as Sumter, S.C., with sizeable CBC tallies of 49 at Winston-Salem, 35 at Raleigh, 82 at Greensboro, and 32 at Charlotte. There was a well-described, but uncorroborated, observation of a Hoary Redpoll at George F. Townes' feeder in Pickens Co., S.C. near Cleveland, Dec. 30 and Jan. 1. The invasion of Red Crossbills was a near-equal to the unprecedented 1969-70 season, with occurrences recorded over a wide area of the Piedmont from Winston-Salem eastward to Raleigh and Southern Pines and as far south as Turbeville, S.C. and Atlanta.

**OTHER FRINGILLIDS**—A tardy Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Wilmington Jan. 14 (KK). Again there was a mid-winter report of a Blue Grosbeak, this time an individual seen Jan. 29-30 at a feeder in Eden, N.C. (RLT, *vide* RN). A ♂ and ♀ Painted Bunting were feeder visitors through the season at Morehead City (LK, MJN, *vide* JF), while Dickcissels were reported from five locations in the Carolinas. Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrows were winter visitors as far s. as Sea I. and St. Simon's I., Ga. (m. ob.), and there were occurrences of single Tree Sparrows at a feeder in Charleston Feb. 28 (PN) and at Chapel Hill Mar. 19 (WW, *vide* RT). A White-crowned Sparrow was reported as a locally rare winter visitor at Charleston Feb. 28 (PN) and three were seen on the s. coast at Jekyll I. on the CBC Dec. 30. Elsewhere, White-crowned were conspicuously common in the Oconeechee Neck section of Northampton Co., N.C. where flocks of up to 40 were seen (ML). A Lincoln's Sparrow was observed at a Charleston feeder Dec. 7 (PN). Several observers, by carefully checking flocks of Horned Larks, were able to find Lapland Longspurs. As many as 15 to 20 of the latter species were thus found wintering at Oconeechee Neck (ML, EL, JW), and another individual was seen near Clayton, N.C., Jan. 7, the first record for Wake County since the 1890's (HL, EL). Snow Buntings were apparently very scarce in the Region this winter, the only sightings being of a single bird near Savannah Feb. 18 (*vide* PY) and one at Charleston Feb. 25 (PN).

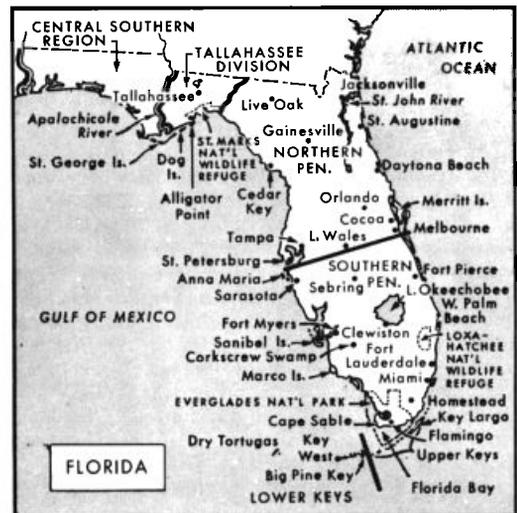
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## FLORIDA REGION

/ Glen E. Woolfenden

**WEATHER**—Winter came in like a lamb, but went out like a lion. December averaged 3°F above normal with the first cold front not until the 16th and most of its average rainfall on the 21st-22nd. January had near average temperatures, with 1-3 inches above aver-



age rainfall February brought the third greatest snow-storm in Florida's history, with a maximum of 3 inches in many northern localities. Temperatures were 3-6° below normal, and especially significant, both for the tourist trade and the welfare of certain birds, were the many days of well-below-normal daily high temperatures. Rain in February was near normal most places, but slightly below in central Florida. Unfortunately pre-1970 water levels have yet to be attained, although heavy rains locally, and especially in north Florida in March, may raise water levels some places. March summarized the season with a warm beginning and a cold ending, which resulted from several strong fronts.

**SURVIVAL**—The fine line between survival and starvation for avian insectivores always comes into sharp focus when extended cold spells occur in Florida. It is at these times that many dead or weak and underweight birds, such as Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers are found. Most birds can survive cold as long as they can feed, but with extended periods of low temperatures insect food disappears and starvation soon follows. This past February many persons around Tampa brought in Yellow-rumped Warblers dead with no apparent injuries or weak and underweight. I also received numerous reports of dead Purple Martins. As soon as daytime temperatures returned to normal inquiries regarding these birds stopped.

**LOONS, GREBES, SHEARWATERS**—Common Loons seemed down in numbers from last year throughout much of Florida (JBE) including Tampa Bay (RWS), although of normal abundance along part of the east coast (HWK). The first regional inland record of the uncommon Red-throated Loon came from High Springs, Alachua Co., Mar. 17 (RS) where a bird was picked up alive and released apparently in healthy condition. The rare **Eared Grebe** was found both at Tierra Verda Dec. 16 (JBE, VM), where it stayed for months and about 20 miles away along the Courtney-Campbell Causeway Jan. 11 (JBE). Two Audubon's Shearwaters (PWS), the only tubenose reported this winter, were seen about 20 miles off Mayport in the Atlantic Jan. 21 (PWS).

**PELECANIFORMS**—Early spring migration of White Pelicans was marked by 85 flying west over St. Marks Light Feb. 24 (JHH, HMS). McKay Bay had few this winter with a maximum of 22 (JJD), but the c. interior near Lakeland had over 100 which ranged south to Brewster (JBE *et al.*). Two Brown Boobies were seen, an adult off Indiatlantic Feb. 22 (ADC, HGC) and an immature nearby at Sharpes along the Indian R. found Mar. 9 (Maggie Bowman) and seen throughout the month (ADC, RDB *et al.*). Gannets were scarce in the n. Gulf (HMS), but occurred regularly along the Atlantic Coast where the highest count of 108 individuals (10% adults) was made off Mayport Jan. 21 by numerous members of the recently-formed Florida Ornithological Society. An Anhinga, rare in the Lower Keys, was seen on Stock Island Dec. 5 (FTH).

**WADERS**—White morph Great Blue Herons wandered north to Jacksonville Mar. 18-31 (DG), where seen last year, and Pelican I. Dec. 30 and late Mar (JB, SW) on the east coast, and St. Petersburg in Dec and Venice Mar. 29 (RLF) on the Gulf. Dark morph Great Blue Herons began nest-building near Payne's Prairie by Dec. 26 (SAN), while Cattle Egrets did not return until Mar. 1 (JHH). Cattle Egrets arrived in the Tallahassee region Mar. 17, and at Alligator Pt. the first Yellow-crowned Night Herons returned Mar. 21 (HMS). A few Reddish Egrets wintered north to Bradenton Mar. 20 (EVM), St. Petersburg Dec 18 (VM), McKay Bay, where eight were seen Mar 24 (SKR), and Dog I., Franklin Co. Mar. 3, the first winter record for the division (HMS). Another reminder of the difference in the winter birds of north and south Florida is 26 Least Bitterns along 5 mi. of Loxahatchee N.W.R. Dec. 20 (PWS) and record of one in the Panhandle, where rare in winter, at St. George I. Franklin Co., Dec. 9 (JMS). An Am. Bittern appeared at Key West Mar. 22 (FTH) where rare. Probably it was a spring migrant from farther south.

The serious decline in Wood Storks in s. Florida will continue, since nesting is rumored to have failed again at Corkscrew Sanctuary and is doomed to failure in the s. Everglades, where any young produced by 400 late March nesting pairs at the Madeira Colony, Everglades Nat'l Park (below colony, E.N.P.), will perish in June when higher water will disperse their food (JCO). No large nesting colonies of herons or ibis formed anywhere in the interior southern 'glades during the winter, attesting to the generally poor feeding conditions throughout (JCO). Several storks were seen in Wakulla Co. in December, where rare in winter (*vide* HMS). A bright red Scarlet Ibis roosted with White Ibises at Loxahatchee beginning late Feb (JD, HPL, TWM, PWS). Glossy Ibises were seen in good numbers at several localities in interior s. Florida, with 46 at Bartow Mar. 5 (HBH, JBE), a local high count. With the exception of the Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis may be one of the few colonial waders doing well in Florida.

**WATERFOWL**—Near Tallahassee Canada Geese by the hundreds as well as two white morph and ten blue morph Snow Geese occurred Jan. 28 (JBE), and five more dark morphs were seen at St. Marks Refuge Jan. 4 (CSG). Payne's Prairie not only had a Snow Goose (dark morph), Dec. 8 (SAN), but was the winter home for the rare White-fronted Goose: one appeared last fall and was still present at the end of March. Fulvous Tree Ducks continue to increase in Florida with 2500, an all-time high, at Loxahatchee December and January, 1800 in February, and 2000 in March. Scattered reports came in from elsewhere, including three on Payne's Prairie Dec. 27 (SAN), and one at McKay Bay in November and on Mar 30 (JJD), and a high of 13 at St. Marks Refuge Dec 30-Jan. 5, where the species is rare, especially in winter.

Noteworthy among the dabblers are the fourth annual return of the (same?) Eur. Wigeon to Wakulla Springs where it was seen by numerous observers, including Harold Axtell, who again raised the question

of its being a hybrid (*see Am Birds* 25 568, 1971) A Cinnamon Teal is reported having been shot at Merritt Island Refuge in December (JJ). Numbers of N. Shovelers seemed below normal (JBE), at least at McKay Bay (GEW), although a few more wintered in the Keys than usual (RTP, FTH). Early nesting of a Wood Duck at St. Marks is documented by four fresh eggs Feb. 15 (CSG). Lesser Scaup were far below usual numbers around St. Petersburg and Tampa in December (RWS,GEW), and generally in peninsular Florida this winter (JBE). At least 25 Greater Scaup were among 10,000 Lessers in the Cocoa area on the Atlantic Coast, Jan. 14 (RDB,HPL,RWS), but the species remains virtually unknown along the peninsular Gulf Coast. Records of rare sea ducks include the return in December of a **Harlequin Duck** to Miami, where seen last year, and a **Common Eider** whose wanderings in the Cocoa area were followed Nov. 24 (TWM)-Feb. 13 (RDB,WFW,ADC). The latest Com. Goldeneye on record for Brevard Co. was at Rockledge Mar. 19 (ADC). Scoters were scarcer than usual along the Panhandle coast where seen most often in Florida (HMS), which makes the second Lakeland area record of a **White-winged Scoter** Dec. 7-23 (PJF,JBE), and perhaps the same individual at Auburndale Jan. 8, all the more interesting. William B. King obtained an excellent color photograph of a **Masked Duck** along Anhinga Trail in E.N.P. Feb. 8 (JCO,WBR).

**DIURNAL RAPTORS**—Swallow-tailed Kites appeared at Mullet Key Mar. 10 (WB) and Winter Haven Mar. 17 (*vide* JBE). Everglades Kites at Loxahatchee numbered at least 21 in March (TWM,PWS) and two pairs were at the St. Johns R. Reservoir near Vero Beach in February and March (GRM,TG). Sharp-shinned Hawks seemed more common than usual in c. Florida (JBE,GEW), but reports of Cooper's Hawks varied from only one all winter (JBE) to seemingly more numerous than usual near Vero Beach (HWK). One Rough-legged Hawk was seen at Guana Wildlife Management Area, St. Johns Co., Feb. 11 (FW), and a dark-phase Short-tailed Hawk, rare in the Keys, was on Big Pine Key sporadically Jan. 20-Mar. 10 (DLR). Fewer than usual Swainson's Hawks were seen in the Homestead farmlands this winter, but two were seen Jan. 18 (JCO). Prize among the rarer Florida raptors, a **Golden Eagle**, was discovered on Payne's Prairie Jan. 4 (JBE) and photographed Jan. 9 (SAN). On Feb. 10 one was at St. Marks Light (VSP). Marsh Hawks seemed scarcer this winter in c. Florida (JBE), the Tampa area and De Soto County (GEW), and in s. Dade County where 2-5 with a maximum of 10 were seen this winter along a route where a few years ago 10-25 was normal December-March (JCO). A study of Caracaras in the Highlands Co. area begun by James N. Layne this winter resulted in a count of 21 individuals and two nests near L. Placid. Report of two Caracaras along Ft. Myers Beach from Nov. 13 on, and carrying nesting material to a small mangrove island nearby Mar. 26 (Nelsons, *vide* EJJ) is of interest because this habitat is not known to be used by the species. As expected, few Peregrine Falcons or Merlins were seen. A Peregrine was at St. Petersburg Dec. 16 (VM,JBE) and another in s.

Everglades in Dade Co Dec 18 (PWS) The few reports of Merlins supports the opinion (JBE) of rapid decline. One was at Gainesville Dec. 27 (JB), another at La Crosse Mar. 22 (JHH). J. N. Layne's census route for Am. Kestrels indicated fewer this winter than the previous five, which corroborates a general impression (JBE).

**TURKEYS, CRANES**—Far from usual habitat was a hen Turkey on a dike near mangroves south of Vero Beach (HF,WGG). Intensive study of Sandhill Cranes at Payne's Prairie revealed migration of wintering populations began Feb. 24, peaked the first week in March, and included 1328 birds (SAN). The 100 + individuals flying north near Lakeland the first week in March may have joined those on the Prairie migration staging grounds, as more left Payne's Prairie than wintered there (SAN).

**LIMPKINS, RAILS**—A Limpkin on Plantation Key Mar. 28-29 (RTP) is locally rare and suggests migration from farther south. A **Black Rail** that rushed from a dry glade control burn near Royal Palm, E.N.P Feb. 15, was captured, photographed, and released by Harold W. Werner. Wintering rails can be abundant where suitable habitat persists, as shown by 146 King Rails and 143 Soras counted along a 5-mi. stretch at Loxahatchee Dec. 20 (PWS). A **Purple Gallinule** at L. Alice, Alachua Co. Mar. 12 (JHH) could have been a wintering individual or a very early migrant.

**SHOREBIRDS**—The 11 Am. Golden Plovers seen at L. Jackson, Leon Co., Mar. 17 probably were brought east by a cold front (HMS). Three Long-billed Curlews in Franklin County Mar. 20 (Ed Reimann), is high for the area. Upland Sandpipers were seen at Titusville, one Mar. 21 and offshore from Marathon, two Mar. 27 (RS). A Solitary Sandpiper at Bartow Feb. 25 (PJF) is one of a few winter records for the area. A flock of up to 19 Purple Sandpipers was on the Mayport jetties in December-January and two were at New Smyrna Mar. 9 (Betty King *et al.*) Two Pectoral Sandpipers were seen near Gainesville Dec. 27 (DWJ), and 16 in a flock at Lakeland Mar. 29 was the only local spring record (JBE). A flock of 15 Long-billed Dowitchers Feb. 8, also was a local high count for the Lakeland area (JBE). Stilt Sandpipers wintered at the Lakeland sewage pits, as is usual, but were gone by late Mar. (JBE), while one at Eau Gallie, Mar. 27 (ADC) was considered early. One Am. Avocet was seen at Mayport Dec. 19, and 300 was the peak for McKay Bay Mar. 24 (SKR). The pelagic trip off Mayport Jan. 21 produced 19 Red Phalaropes (F.O.S.) and apparently the 40-mile gale Dec. 16 brought the one N. Phalarope seen in the Indian R. near Sebastian (VH,HV).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS**—Jaeger records for winter 1972-73 agree with the opinions of most currently active birders, namely that Pomarines outnumber Parasitics. Off Mayport on Jan. 21 members of the F.O.S. saw 18 Pomarines only. Two more were seen from Boynton Beach Dec. 9 (CYB,PWS). The only Parasitic Jaeger reported was one in the Gulf

off St Georges I Jan 19 (RdM,HMS), the second winter record for any jaeger for the division. As in several recent winters, locally rare gulls were seen at numerous localities. An Iceland Gull was at Port Canaveral Inlet Jan. 14 (RDB,HPL,PWS), and one of the few Great Black-backed Gulls that inhabit the Tampa Bay area each winter stayed at John's Pass for months (WB,GEW *et al.*). A few **Lesser Black-back Gulls** have been reported every winter since 1971 when the first specimen was obtained, but I think the bird truly has increased in Florida and is now a regular, rare winter resident as opposed to the theory that birders now report that they overlooked or were reluctant to report earlier. This winter an individual returned to Key West in October and was last seen Mar. 7 (FTH *et al.*), and one was seen at Port Canaveral Feb. 22 (ADC) and perhaps earlier in the month. **Black-headed Gulls** were reported from four localities. The earliest was seen with Laughing Gulls at a dump in Tampa Dec. 23 (SF), and another, or possibly the same individual, was seen in the Laughing Gull colony on the Bayway in St. Petersburg in March (WB). Another was along the Indian R. at Cocoa Mar. 5-14 (RDB,ADC,WFW), with possibly the same bird being sighted at Sebastian Inlet Mar. 23 by a winter visitor himself, K. C. Parkes. The prize larid was a winter-plumaged ad. **Little Gull** seen off Mayport with Bonaparte's Gulls, Jan. 21; at least 50 Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen the same day (F O.S.).

St. Petersburg has, during the previous five winters, tallied from 1400 to 3700 Laughing Gulls on the C B C, but this year on Dec. 16 the estimate was 16,000. No explanation for the much larger number is apparent at this time. The Sandwich Tern, virtually unknown inland, was in the center of the state on L. Placid Feb. 17 (FEL).

**PIGEONS, CUCKOOS, AND PARROTS**—A White-winged Dove was obtained on Mashles I. (Wakulla Co.) Jan. 7 (JMS, \*F.S.U.) which is the second divisional winter record, one was seen 15 mi. west of Vero Beach Dec. 11 (ARH,PWS). White-crowned Pigeons were more numerous than usual in the Keys in early 1973 and seemed to be increasing earlier than usual with, for example, 40 in the Plantation Key-Key Largo area Mar. 8 (RTP). The good fruit crop of the strangler fig and sacred tree of India is suggested as the cause (FTH). The Ringed Turtle Dove, known from Florida for more than 20 years primarily because of a small population in urban St. Petersburg, but one was observed on Hypoluxo I., Palm Beach Co., Mar. 19 (HPL,PWS), and another near Delray Beach from late February on (PWS). About a dozen pairs of Inca Doves inhabit one city block of Key West, where they have been for about 10 years. Cuckoo reports of interest include a Mangrove Cuckoo near Cape Coral, Lee Co., Feb. 19 (Dave Harris) and a very early Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Bartow Mar. 31 (JBE,PJF). The dozen or so Smooth-billed Anis seen near Winter Haven, and mentioned in the fall report, scattered into various nearby towns during the winter. An individual of this species also showed up at Ormond Beach Dec. 9 (GC). The Canary-winged Parakeet, a currently suc-

cessful introduction in the Miami area, is reported from Pinellas County, where two birds, probably a pair, were watched by G. Newcomer for an hour on the Courtney-Campbell Causeway Feb. 24 until a passing car killed the female (\*U.S.F.).

**OWLS, NIGHTJARS, HUMMINGBIRDS**—Short-eared Owls remained late near Cocoa where one was seen Mar. 9 (ADC) and at St. Marks where two were flushed Mar. 25 (CSG). Burrowing Owls still live on Marathon in the Keys where three were seen this winter. Several Com. Nighthawks wintered in downtown Miami; two were seen there Jan. 2 (Ira J Abramson). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds wintered at Jacksonville, where one fed on shrimp plants (MJW) and at Winter Haven (PJF). A perhaps too early individual for this season's weather was found dead near Gainesville Mar. 12 (JEH).

**FLYCATCHERS**—A W. Kingbird found at McKay Bay in November (JJD) still was present Feb. 2. Another was seen even farther north at Alligator Pt. Dec. 26 (JMS). The **Loggerhead Kingbird** (but see *Am. Birds* 26:595 regarding identification) returned to Islamorada this winter. It was seen by many (*e.g.*, Jan. 31 by Whitney Eastman), and additional photographs (SS) reportedly were taken. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were more numerous near Homestead this winter where 25 were counted Jan 25 (JMK). Three also were in St. Petersburg most of the winter (VM). One Great Crested Flycatcher near Bartow Jan. 6 is the only local mid-winter record (JBE,PJF). A **Wied's Crested Flycatcher** at St. Marks Dec. 2 (VM,WB,NOW) is a first for the Tallahassee area. Vermilion Flycatchers showed up at Thompson Co. Pk., Dade Co., November-early March, (JMK *et al.*), Kanapoha Ranch, Alachua Co., Jan. 3-Mar. 12 (JEH,BW) and at St. Marks Light and Tallahassee Feb. 18 (MJJ).

**LARKS, CREEPERS, WRENS**—A Horned Lark, identified as a Northern, was at Mayport much of the winter. It was seen from late November (NOW) to Feb. 3 (HMS) and was photographed by Dave Marvin. A Brown Creeper was at Fernandina Beach Mar 18 (HB) and at Gainesville were seen a Winter Wren Dec 27-Jan. 15 (JEH) and a Bewick's Wren Dec. 10 (DWJ)

**THRUSHES, WAXWINGS**—Wintering robins were thought to be more abundant this year than in the recent past (JBE, J. Richard Gilliland), while almost all agreed Cedar Waxwings were scarce (JBE, HWK,HMS,GEW). An exception was over 200 at Lakeland Jan. 11, but even there none was seen later (JBE).

**WARBLERS**—This season's winter and early spring warbler records mostly fall into one of two categories, uncommon and rare winterers or earlier-than-usual spring migrants. Four Worm-eating Warblers near Homestead Feb. 9 (JMK) was a high in winter ever for s. Florida, and one at Sarasota Mar 26 was early (DHM). Three Blue-winged Warblers on Stock I. Mar. 26 (RS) may well have been early mi-

grants. A Tennessee which was carefully studied near Vero Beach Jan. 18, certainly was a wintering individual, but another at Gainesville Mar. 30 (JEH) probably was an early migrant. One Nashville Warbler, rare anywhere in Florida, was seen near Bartow Mar. 24 (PJF). Parulas and Prairies were among the first sizable wave of landbird migrants to pass through Florida Mar. 14 and shortly thereafter, but several Parulas also were seen about the state in winter. Much rarer in winter is the Magnolia Warbler, one of which was near Lakeland Jan. 6 (PJF, JBE, HBH). A Cape May at St. Marks Light Feb. 24 (JHH, NOW) seems certain to have been wintering, but six together at Biscayne Nat'l Monument Mar. 9 may well have been early migrants (JCO). At least five localities reported wintering Black-throated Green Warblers, and the rare Black-throated Gray was at Big Pine Key Dec. 15 (RTP, SS).

**TANAGERS**—The big news for this group is the discovery of at least four and probably six **Stripe-headed Tanagers** on Hypoluxo I. (Palm Beach Co.). A pair was seen first Mar. 19 (HPL, PWS) and numerous observers saw them later. Strong easterly winds prevailed during the discovery and all were present through the end of March, raising the possibility of breeding. The Islamorada individual was present again at least in February. **Western Tanagers**, or at least one, were present at feeders at Vero Beach, mid-December to Jan. 24 (ARK, HWK) and Pompano Beach late January to early February (LB). A Summer Tanager was at a Jacksonville feeder all winter for the third winter (JPW) while another arrived early to the same city Mar. 7 and another even earlier to Boca Raton Feb. 11 (JRC, PWS, RHW). The remains of a late Summer Tanager were found on St. Georges I. Dec. 2 (JMS, HMS).

**FINCHES AND SPARROWS**—An ad. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was banded west of Vero Beach Feb. 16 (HW), and earlier, on Jan. 16, a ♀ Blue Grosbeak was banded at the same place (HW). A Painted Bunting Seen Dec. 27 (NOW) and a Dickcissel Jan. 9 (JPC) apparently wintered in Jacksonville. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in good numbers first to Jacksonville and St. Augustine Dec. 15, and in January at Tall Timbers Research Station (WWB), and February at Gainesville (PSF). At least 50 were along the n.e. coast, and at many places they stayed late, including at Gainesville where they lingered beyond the winter period. Purple Finches were abundant with hundreds around Tallahassee (HMS) and Gainesville (VMM) and one wandered south to Lakeland Jan. 6 (JBE, PJF) and three to Bartow Jan. 14 (PJF). A lone Pine Siskin was reported at a feeder in Jacksonville Jan. 15-25 (VMM). Am. Goldfinches seemed scarcer than in recent previous years (JHH, GEW *et al.*). Tops among the sparrows seen in Florida this winter was a **Harris' Sparrow** at High Springs from Feb. 22 on (RS) where it was seen by many and photographed (JEH). At McKay Bay Dec. 16 where a C B C party identified over 100 species by noon for the second consecutive year, were two White-crowned Sparrows found again Dec. 13 (GEW). Farther north 3 were seen in Alachua



*Harris' Sparrow, High Springs, Fla., Mar. 31, 1973.  
Photo/James Horner.*

Co. Dec. 18-Mar. 14 (CHC) and two and three were seen near Tallahassee Jan. 28 & Feb. 12 (HMS). Song Sparrows seemed more common in c. Florida including the Tampa area (GEW) in early winter (JBE).

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## ONTARIO—WESTERN NEW YORK REGION

/Clive E. Goodwin & Richard C. Rosche

The winter was memorable more for its eccentric weather than its bird life: we had a cold, wet December, a mild and dry January, cold and dry February and a wet and warm March. In total the effect was of a very open winter, with periods of almost no snow even in more northerly areas, and much rain.



In spite of the cold fall a good number of later migrants stayed on into December, and the open conditions, and the abundance of food in the south must have aided survival. Orchard after orchard had apples remaining on the trees, or available on the ground, and there was an abundance of unused wild fruit still available when spring arrived. Hence this account is embellished with records of wintering species, and some—such as Mourning Doves and Common Grackles—have become so commonplace as to not merit remark even when present in numbers in the south.

The mild March provided an unusually early spring. Much movement was one to two weeks early, and many record and near-record dates were recorded, far too many, in fact, to enumerate here. On March 15 the temperature at Toronto hit an astonishing 67°F, some 20° above normal! But the weekend brought a return to winter, and there was a reverse migration on March 18 of many of the species that had surged in during the previous few days.

Although winter finch movement was mixed there were other incursions and some of the fall movements left birds behind to liven the winter scene: the reader should note particularly Goshawks, Gyrfalcons, Gray Jays and Bohemian Waxwings.

**GREBES, CORMORANTS, HERONS**—Grebes provided a good number of winter records. There were 2 Red-necked Grebes on Kempenfeldt Bay, which

froze late this winter, on Dec. 10 (CJM *et al.*), and one at Port Franks Dec. 23 (DR *et al.*). Amherst I. had a Horned Grebe Feb. 6 & 23 (K.F.N.). Pied-billed Grebes are more usual in winter, but single birds at Sudbury Feb. 27 (KM), and on the Ottawa C B C (HNM) were noteworthy, and there were 6 on the Long Pt. C B C. There were 2 early birds at Hamilton Mar. 4 (WS *et al.*); and other early records for this section include a Double-crested Cormorant at Long Pt. Mar. 25 (JO, RC), and a Great Blue Heron at Ottawa Mar. 15 (*vide* RAF). There were numerous isolated Great Blues reported along the lower Great Lakes (below, lower Lakes) and there was one at Sydenham Jan. 5-6 (DS, CS).

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS**—The Whistling Swan movement was almost two weeks early, with reports from mid-March: at Kingston 8 at Sandhurst Mar. 12 were the earliest ever there (*vide* RDW). Once more Long Pt. missed the main concentrations, with birds again at L. St. Clair from Mar. 12, increasing to 5000 by the end of the period (m. ob.). Three birds were at London Dec. 16 (JS), and 2 at Hamilton to Feb. 9 (GM), where some 400 flew over Mar. 15-18 (m. ob.). There were 260 Canada Geese on Wolfe I. to Jan. 6 (AEB), and one at Ottawa throughout (m. ob.). The Toronto goose flock continues to increase in spite of being used by various agencies as a source of young birds for transfer elsewhere: the Jan. 7 inventory recorded 1118; the flock originates from 65 birds in January, 1964 and numbered 680 when inventoried last year, most of the birds appearing to be the descendants of the original group released. They are fed by the Toronto Parks Department, but range quite widely. Two White-fronted Geese at Kingsville Mar. 11 (JPK) were the only report of this species for the early spring movement. There were an unusual 20 Snow Geese at Ottawa Mar. 11 (EB), 2 at Wolfe I. Mar. 28 (AEH, GW) and 4 at Long Pt. Mar. 11 (JH, DH), but the bird reported on the Richmond Hill C B C proved to be an immature exotic (*vide* GB). The many early reports included 2 Gadwall at Kingston Mar. 24 (RKE); a Green-winged Teal at Delaware Mar. 10 (WRJ) and 4 at Hamilton Mar. 4 (WS); two Blue-winged Teal at Turkey Pt. Mar. 18 (GBr *et al.*) and 4 Am. Wigeon at Komoka Mar. 3 (WRJ). All of the last four species were present at Ayr Jan. 18, when a N. Shoveler was also seen (CAC *et al.*) as dabbling ducks continue to be reported in ever increasing numbers over winter, and although the Toronto Ornithological Club wild-fowl inventory showed a much reduced variety from last year this may have a reflection of poor lake conditions. A Green-winged Teal also wintered at Barrie from Jan. 21 (CJM) and 2 Wood Ducks at Kitchener (CAC *et al.*); a bird of this species at Ottawa Mar. 18 was early (*vide* RAF).

Both Redheads and Canvasback yielded some high counts; at Presqu'île there were 400 Redheads Mar. 15-31; and 100 Canvasbacks Mar. 24 (ERM). There were over 5000 Canvasbacks at River Canard Jan. 21 (JPK), and the London area had its largest numbers ever, with 2 at Strathroy Mar. 8 (WRJ), over 200 Mar. 15 (TNH) and some 5-600 in all (*vide* WRJ). A Lesser Scaup was at Ottawa to Jan. 1 (m. ob.), and a Barrow's

Goldeneye was again at Oakville throughout. There were 2 Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser hybrids at Sombra until February; past years have yielded a single bird. Kingston had good or record counts on Jan. 6: 643 Com. Goldeneye, 410 Bufflehead and 1544 Oldsquaw (K.F.N.). By contrast the Toronto area numbers were down, and one must speculate whether continuing filling operations there plus the more open lake conditions moved birds elsewhere. Harlequin Ducks were in good numbers although the Toronto I. bird failed to reappear: there were 2 in Lambton Co. Dec. 23 (DR, AR, WL) and single birds on the Hamilton C B C, at Clarkson Jan. 7 (CEG *et al.*), on the Niagara R., Dec. 6 (m. ob.) and at Toronto from mid-January (RHW *et al.*). There were 2 White-winged Scoters off Prince Edward Point (below, P.E. Pt.) Jan. 6 (JAW, RDW) and a Surf Scoter Dec. 17 was Kingston's latest (K.F.N.). Early records for diving ducks included a Ruddy Duck at Bronte Mar. 15 (MJ) with 13 the following day (AW), and 2 Red-breasted Merganser at Strathroy Mar. 10 (WRJ).

**HAWKS, EAGLES**—Goshawks seemed to be everywhere! At least 25 different birds were reported, ranging from s.w. Ontario (Ipperwash) east to Kingston and north to Sudbury. Eastern Ontario had the most, with 8 at Kingston in December (*vide* RDW). Red-tailed Hawk numbers were reduced in some of the traditional locations for winter concentrations, for example, in n.w. Toronto (*vide* GB, JSa); however, there were good numbers in some localities, especially in s.w. Ontario where 46 were counted on Dec. 23 in Lambton Co. (JPK *et al.*). A pure white bird was seen near Nashville during January (AD, GB *et al.*). Scattered Red-shouldered Hawks were seen, perhaps reflecting the open winter. Rough-legged Hawk numbers were moderate on the whole, but the species was numerous in Lambton Co. Feb. 25 (*vide* AHK). Three Golden Eagles were seen in the Sudbury area Feb. 8-26 (*vide* LR, KM), and there were 7 Bald Eagle sightings, ranging from Fort Frances (GIP, SW) to Sault Ste. Marie (WNG) and the upper St. Lawrence R. (K.F.N.). Gyrfalcons were the other hawk species to appear in record numbers: there were 8 well-documented reports over the period, and again the concentration was in the east, west to Toronto and north to Sudbury. There were 4 at Ottawa, including one that spent a lazy two weeks picking off Rock Doves in a suburban quarry, only to be shot later (*vide* RAF). Ottawa also had a Peregrine Falcon, Dec. 11-Feb. 18 (RP, RAF), and there was a bird at Midland Dec. 18 (JEE). A Merlin on Dec. 17 was Kingston's latest (RDW); the Thunder Bay C B C recorded what has become a traditional wintering bird of this species there. Buteo migration was noted at Hamilton on Mar. 9, with 60 Red-taileds (SWo, RF) and at P.E. Pt. Mar. 24, with 53 birds of 6 species (RDW).

**GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES**—Six grouse at the Barrie I. lek from Mar. 23 all appeared to be good Sharp-tailed Grouse (GB, NC), although it has been considered a hybrid population in the past; no good Greater Prairie Chicken have been seen there since 1969 (*vide* JN). The metropolitan Toronto winter

Ring-necked Pheasant population moves to the outlying townships in the summer (AWa, *vide* GB); this explains the relatively high concentrations of birds around metro feeding stations. A Sandhill Crane made one of the species' infrequent s. Ontario appearances in Kent Co. Mar. 31 (*vide* AHK). This season's batch of wintering rail attempts included a Sora at London Jan. 6 (DC *et al.*); 17 Virginia Rails on the Long Pt C B C, and 2 at Kingston which actually survived the winter (K.F.N.). Another Kingston survivor was a Com. Gallinule, the first successful wintering on record there (FC, RDW).

**SHOREBIRDS**—A late Killdeer at London Dec. 16 (MT), and Com. Snipe at Kingston Dec. 17 (RBS) and Port Hope Jan. 14-28 (RJ) were possibly attempting to winter. Early dates for snipe and Am. Woodcock at Kingston were Mar. 16 and Mar. 8 respectively (RDW, RN), and at Ottawa Mar. 16 & Mar. 28 (*vide* RAF). A woodcock was seen at Hamilton on Mar. 7 (RC), and in the area of Pt. Pelee National Park (below, Pelee) there was an early Lesser Yellowlegs Mar. 25 (AJR). Purple Sandpipers were seen at Kettle Pt. Dec. 23 (DR) and on the Niagara R., Dec. 25 (HHA).

**GULLS**—White gulls appeared in moderate numbers along the lower Lakes, and there were 9 Glaucous Gulls along the St. Clair R. over the period (DR) and 2 at London Dec. 16 (ML). Reports of a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** continued: one in Vaughan Twp. Dec. 9 (GB), and St. Davids Dec. 27 (RFA, AC). Early reports include 14 Herring Gulls at Mattawa Mar. 17, equalling the 30-year record (ARo, *vide* LdeKL), and a good count of 5000 Bonaparte's Gulls at Pelee Mar. 25 (AHK). Rarer gulls were a Little Gull at Rondeau Dec. 26 (JPK) and a Black-legged Kittiwake on the Hamilton C B C.

**DOVES, OWLS**—Mourning Doves are one of the species which are increasingly abundant in winter counts of 184 in the Toronto region (*vide* GB), 38 in Lloydtown (GB) and 60 in Simcoe Co. (CJM) are representative. Snowy Owls appeared in scattered numbers, and the Kingston area had only 8-10 birds as the microtine population on Wolfe I. apparently crashed. By Feb. 25 migrants were beginning to appear and 21 birds were seen on Amherst I. The commoner owls were in only low numbers, although some smaller concentrations were reported from favoured localities. Noteworthy individual reports were a Barred Owl in Victoria Twp. which was injured Dec. 5 and nursed back to health by Dec. 20 (KM), and a Short-eared Owl on Barrie I. Dec. 3 (JN). By contrast all the rarer owl species appeared in good numbers: single Hawk Owls were at Peterborough Dec. 17-Feb. 7 (GH), Gogama in February (*vide* KM), Ottawa, Jan. 13-Mar. 4 (m. ob.), and Barrie Dec. 3 (JM). There were also 4 Great Gray Owls in February: one shot for taking a chicken at Tehkummah Feb. 14 (KM), another which was injured and died at Nolalu Feb. 5 (AM), and other birds at Napanee Feb. 25 (MK) and in the Minesing Swamp Feb. 4 (CH, SM, CJM). Seven Boreal Owls were seen, mostly in the east and all in the New Year

however, one in Atlsa Craig Feb 6-Mar 23 was the second Middlesex Co. record (HC *et al.*), and another was seen in Algonquin P. P. Jan. 15 (RT).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS**—Noteworthy Pileated Woodpecker reports were from Rondeau, where 2 were seen Feb. 24 (AJR), and Manitoulin I., where there were 5 on Mar. 21 (CB). Two Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Lambton Co. and another 2 in Kent Co. were present throughout (*vide* AHK). The season's outstanding rarity was a Lewis' Woodpecker at Windsor Feb. 6-Mar. 10 (m. ob.); this sighting lends strong support to the Pelee sighting reported in the fall summary. The species was photographed and is new to the Province. The most noteworthy wintering report from this group was Ottawa's first winter Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, which was present to early February (AT). This species has now been recorded regularly along the lower Lakes in recent years; perhaps following the pattern of Com. Flickers which are now well established, if thinly distributed, winterers in the same area. Hairy Woodpeckers appeared in excellent numbers in s. Ontario for the first time in some years, and both species of three-toed woodpeckers were also more common: there were 14 reports of Black-backed Three-toeds and 12 of Northern Three-toeds in the south and east, with Ottawa accounting for some half of the sightings in each case. A late E. Phoebe was at Pelee Dec. 24 (JPK). Kingston's earliest recorded Horned Lark nesting was on Wolfe I. Mar. 25, when a nest with 3 eggs was found (JW); this species was in "enormous flocks" on Feb. 10 in Kent Co., and some 5000 were estimated (DR). An early Tree Swallow was at Kingston Mar. 18 (RDW).

**JAYS THROUGH WRENS**—After last fall's invasion Gray Jays were widespread. On the Canadian Shield birds were coming regularly to feeders in many localities and there were at least 35 reports from further south, and west to London (HW). The 19 on the Ottawa C B C were a record high, and there were 6 in Simcoe Co (CJM) and smaller numbers elsewhere. No return movement had been detected to the end of the period. Black-billed Magpies also provided more reports: there were 2 on the Thunder Bay C B C and another there Feb. 16 (PT); much more striking was a bird at Pelee from Jan. 12 (AJR *et al.*). One of the three Clark's Nutcrackers mentioned in the last report—the one in Paipoonge Twp.—subsequently proved to be a Mockingbird. The fact that it was misidentified by at least 27 observers, including some thoroughly competent ones, is an interesting commentary on both the hazards of field identification and the power of suggestion. After the record fall Boreal Chickadee flight there were record numbers wintering. The C B Cs tell the story well, and should be examined, but they fail to illustrate a pattern over the period that several observers detected: numbers dropped off during January but there appeared to be a migratory movement in late March, and birds were present into early April; for example, in London (JCH, DC). Exceptional numbers of wrens wintered; a House Wren was on the Pelee C B C, which also recorded 16 Winter Wrens, 18

Carolina Wrens and 7 Long-billed Marsh Wrens Carolina Wrens are showing signs of a recovery elsewhere, with birds at Toronto throughout (T.O C) and one at Kingston Mar. 18 (HQ).

**MOCKINGBIRDS THROUGH SHRIKES**—The Mockingbird noted above at the Lakehead was still present at the end of the period (KD), and one at Ottawa to Jan. 7 was the second winter record there (*vide* RAF); there were 4 other reports in the south. Noteworthy Brown Thrashers were 2 at Ottawa in January (*vide* RAF), one at Providence Bay, Manitoulin I., Dec. 3-Mar. 25 (CB), and a bird at Kingston which was the first successful wintering there (JCB). Extraordinary numbers of Am. Robins were seen: the 34 on the Ottawa C B C compares with a previous high of 6, and the record of 148 on the Toronto C B C does not do justice to the flocks of 30-60 birds which were present in many areas of the city. Isolated birds were reported north to Parry Sound (CAC), Manitoulin I. (CB) and Sudbury (EH). Two unsupported reports of Varied Thrushes were at Colborne Dec. 15-30 (ERM) and Sault Ste. Marie Dec. 14 (KB), and Ottawa had a late Hermit Thrush Dec. 3 (JHs). Eastern Ontario experienced a very good movement of Bohemian Waxwings: the 703 on the Ottawa C B C compares with a previous high there of 204, and 500 were seen in one flock on Jan. 6 (*vide* RAF); both these figures appear to represent Provincial records, but the huge flight of 1958-9 was far more widespread, as were several smaller influxes since. This year the birds ranged in moderate numbers to Sudbury, Parry Sound, North Bay and Peterborough, and there were 2 at London Dec. 1-14 (HIF). There were relatively few reports after early January. Northern Shrikes appeared in good numbers early, but then largely vanished until late winter, when a few more were seen. Early Loggerhead Shrikes were at Bronte Mar. 3 (MI, PM) and Ottawa Mar. 18 (*vide* RAF).

**WARBLERS**—In keeping with the heavy numbers of wintering reports, this group provided a host of late birds and wintering attempts: an Orange-crowned Warbler was at Long Pt. Dec. 16 (MJ,AW) and a Pine Warbler at Angus Dec. 10, when a Yellow-rumped Warbler was also seen (JM *et al.*) A bird of the latter species was also seen at Richmond Hill Dec. 30-31 (GB *et al.*) and at Pelee a peak of 10 was recorded on Feb. 20 (JAG). Com. Yellowthroats were the most frequent warblers seen, with some 12 reports in the area east to Toronto and north to London. Most were early in the winter but single birds at Port Credit (DEP *et al.*), Pelee (JPK,AR) and Hamilton (RC,JO) were present to early February at least.

**BLACKBIRDS**—The Pimisi Bay-Mattawa area had record early arrivals of a Red-winged Blackbird Mar. 11 and a Com. Grackle Mar. 19 (LdeKL,ARo). Both of these species wintered extensively further south, and a Red-winged (?—Ed.) at Coniston on Jan. 13 was Sudbury's first in winter (JN). Other winterers included 40 Rusty Blackbirds at P.E. Pt., Jan. 6 (JAW,RDW) and 70 Brown-headed Cowbirds at Waterloo Dec. 31 (CAC). A Brewer's Blackbird was seen at Aldershot on Mar. 18 (DKP,TP).

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Cardinals continue to consolidate their position to the east: for example, the 23 on the Kingston C B C were the most ever there. In 1963 a **Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** visited a feeder in Neebing Twp., and someone took a photograph about which people have argued ever since. This year the debate was finally stilled and the species' place on the Ontario list is secured by three excellent shots of a bird, again present at Thunder Bay Feb. 25-Mar. 25 (BJS); it was identified as the *littoralis* race (*vide* WEG). Winter finch movements were unusual: Evening Grosbeaks were widespread and the Peterborough and Barrie C B Cs had record counts (*vide* RB, CJM), and Ottawa had possibly the best flight ever (*vide* RAF). Further west the species was in more moderate numbers, and in the Toronto area at least tended to disappear as the winter progressed. This feature was much more pronounced in the invasion of Pine Grosbeaks, which was an excellent flight, but still only a shadow of last year: 7 C B Cs exceeded 100 birds, but only Hamilton with 354 exceeded the 200 mark, although there were 200 in Simcoe Co. Mar. 5 (CJM). In the majority of cases the flight appeared to have passed in the New Year, and the southwest had few birds at all. Redpolls and Purple Finches were almost absent, but Pine Siskins became more common as the season progressed and Kingston had unprecedented numbers after mid-January with flocks of up to 150 birds at Ivy Lea (*vide* RDW). They were common at Ottawa from late February, and made a good showing in most other areas. The 1000 Am. Goldfinches Dec. 10 at Kingston (RDW) were a good count of this species, which was generally present in moderate numbers in the south; there were 5 as far north as Lively Jan. 21 (JL). Crossbills of both species were scattered, with Red Crossbills the commoner of the two

A Harris' Sparrow was at Ottawa Nov. 26 (DP). Other sparrow records fall mainly into two groups: wintering attempts and early arrivals, and at some cost to sequence they will be reviewed in these categories. A Rufous-sided Towhee at Kingston Mar. 23 (HQ) was the earliest ever there; Ottawa had an early Savannah Sparrow Mar. 23 and a Fox Sparrow Mar. 30 (*vide* RAF); and Pimisi Bay a record early Dark-eyed Junco Mar. 14 and 6 Song Sparrows Mar. 16 (LdeKL,ARo). There were 3 Savannah Sparrow reports in December: 2 in the Toronto area (GB,JLa) and one in Kent Co. (*vide* AHK). Pelee had a Vesper Sparrow, Fox Sparrow and 40 Swamp Sparrows on Feb. 17 (JPK). Chipping Sparrows provided the major surprise: there were 5 reports of this species, which is a rare winterer at best: Brampton Dec. 1-4 (*vide* AD), Kingston throughout (JCB), Bronte Jan. 1 & 14 (MJ), Ottawa Feb. 19 (BM), and London from Dec. 16 (MEA). Other wintering sparrows included a White-crowned Sparrow at Kingston Dec. 17 (*vide* RDW), a northerly White-throated Sparrow at Wasi Falls Jan. 21-Feb. 4 (HP), a Lincoln's Sparrow on the Long Pt. C B C, and a Song Sparrow at Pary Sound Dec. 25 (CAC,JC). Snow Buntings moved in large numbers; there were 3 counts of over 1000, and in Kent Co. 8000 were estimated Feb. 10 and 5000 Feb. 24 (DR,AJR).

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WESTERN NEW YORK AND NORTH-WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.—After the severe wintry weather conditions of late fall, the winter season was surprise. Average temperatures were much above normal during December, January was more like March, and March was the warmest in many years; only February produced normal to below normal temperatures. Snowfall was far below the long-term averages and most of what fell came during December; Rochester received only 45 inches of snow (compared with 142 inches during the 1970-71 season).

Except for generalizations and comparisons, most Christmas Bird Count data is not repeated below, for specifics, the reader is referred to the published results. Records outlined below are all from N.Y. State except where otherwise noted.

SWANS AND GEESE—Single Mute Swans, always very scarce, were at Presque I., Pa., Dec 30 (DS) and at Hamburg, Erie Co., Mar. 17 & 31 (RA, TB). There were still 140 Whistling Swans on Chautauqua L. Dec. 14 (RS); spring migrants, in numbers under a hundred, were locally reported Mar. 14-31. For the second year, thousands instead of hundreds of Canada Geese wintered on Cayuga L.; migration began in late February with a big flight Mar 1 & 2 and numbers increased rapidly so that by Mar 16 a peak of 79,000, the highest ever, was at Montezuma N.W.R. and 40,000 more were on Cayuga L. (DM, RG). Farther westward, however, at the Iroquois

N.W.R., Canada Goose numbers peaked a week later at about 57,300 (JM). Until a relatively recent few years ago, Snow and Blue Geese were uncommon to rare in all parts of the Region, but now hundreds and sometimes thousands of both species continue to frequent Montezuma N.W.R. each spring along with the Canadas; however, their status has not changed in the Iroquois N.W.R. area, the other Regional goose concentration area.

**DUCKS**—As to be expected there were many more reports of half-hardy dabbling ducks than during the average winter, with Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, and Wood Duck being especially widespread. In the Finger Lakes region where they winter regularly in large numbers, a maximum of 2000 Redheads were estimated on Canandaigua L. Jan. 27 (JC *et al.*). Late fall concentrations of diving ducks included 3800 Oldsquaws and 700 White-winged Scoters on the south shore of L. Ontario at Oklahoma Beach, Monroe Co., Dec. 11 (AK) and 260 Ruddy Ducks and 145 Hooded Mergansers on Chautauqua L. Dec. 14 (FE). A Com. Eider was at Manitou, Monroe Co. on the south shore of L. Ontario, where it has been more or less regular in recent years, Dec. 14 (WL).

**HAWKS**—There was relatively little evidence of the southward invasion of Goshawks in the Region during the winter months; however, this was thought to be more a result of various individuals and statistical committees hesitating to report, rather than an absence of birds; there were four winter reports in the Rochester area, several in extreme w. New York, and another, that apparently aided in the depletion of the local Blue Jay population, occurred frequently during January near Romulus, Seneca Co. (MJ). A new Regional high of 20 was noted Mar. 29 as they moved along the south shore of L. Ontario at Webster, Monroe Co. (JC).

To continue with wintering hawks, the Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were more common locally than in the average year. Red-tailed Hawks were concentrated in good numbers on the Lake Ontario Plains (below, L.O.P.) and more Red-shouldered Hawks than usual were reported. It was generally a poor season for Rough-legged Hawks; the few that moved into the Region came later than usual and it wasn't until mid-February that maximum numbers occurred on the L.O.P.; a bad storm Feb. 13-14 was thought to have brought them in for seven were seen along a four-mile stretch of road near Romulus Feb. 14 (MJ). A dark phase Gyrfalcon was studied carefully at Presque I., Pa., Feb. 26 (DS) where it was the first record for that area and one of only a few for the State. Good color photographs, one of which is located in the Nat'l. Photoduplicate File, were taken Feb. 27 (CKr). Reminiscent of the "good old days", was an imm. Peregrine Falcon that frequented the Elmira area during Jan. where it was seen to snatch a pigeon from the air (WW).

Spring migrant hawks were evident along the south shores of both L. Erie and L. Ontario Mar. 28 & 29. On the latter date 650 Red-tailed Hawks, 150 Red-shouldered Hawks, 22 Marsh Hawks (GP) and two Golden Eagles (NM *et al.*) were reported at Braddock



Gyrfalcon, Presque Isle State Park, Pa., Feb. 26-27, 1973. Donald Snyder and (photo by) Charles Krantz.

Bay, Monroe Co. There were several reports of Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, and Pigeon Hawks during this period.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS AND RAILS**—Ring-necked Pheasant populations were thought to be down, probably resulting from poor nesting success last summer. Turkeys continued their slow but steady northward repopulation of the Region as evidenced by reports of eight at the Seneca Army Depot near Romulus, at a lower elevation than usually expected (*vide* MJ). Very late and possibly representing wintering attempts were a Virginia Rail that was caught in a muskrat trap at Montezuma N.W.R. in early Jan. (*vide* NC) and a Com. Gallinule near Rochester Dec. 23 (TT *et al.*).

**SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS**—Reports of Killdeer, Am. Woodcock and Com. Snipe were especially numerous during the early part of the season; fall migrants stayed late and spring migrants came early. Two Am. Woodcock were already performing on their breeding grounds at Belmont, Allegany Co., Mar. 6 (VP *et al.*). A single Red Phalarope, always scarce, was in the Rochester area Dec. 3 (TT *et al.*). The Franklin's Gull, observed at Presque I., Pa. on the Dec. 30 Christmas Bird Count (JS), was about the seventh record for the State (*vide* RB). One or two Little Gulls frequented both the Lower Niagara R. near Lewiston, Niagara Co. and the Irondequoit Bay area from early Dec. through Jan. 7 (m. ob.).

**DOVES**—The mild March weather probably induced a Mourning Dove to have two eggs in its nest on the record early date of Mar. 16 at Jamestown; the nest was later abandoned (CB).

**MONK PARAKEET**—There was a rash of reports of this exotic in several parts of the Region. The Waterloo, Seneca Co. individual previously reported remained all winter (JW *et al.*). Another was at Burdett, Schuyler Co. during most of Dec. (JB). Still another was reported in the Hamburg-East Aurora region during the Christmas Count period. In Chautauqua County, six reports were believed to be valid (*fide* DC) including a specimen obtained at Dunkirk Mar. 30 and now in the collection at the State University College at Fredonia (AB, *fide* DC). Referring to the Chautauqua County birds, Carlson stated, "We're not convinced, however, that these birds are from the original New York City area colonies. In fact, the specimen collected was shot just across the street from where it had escaped a week earlier. Further investigation has revealed that a pet store in Jamestown has been selling Monk Parakeets for some time. Doubtless the same is true of several pet shops in Buffalo. We need banding records, more information (I think there were many sightings in the past that were not reported because we knew the individuals were local escapes) or evidence of nesting before we can say for certain that the birds have indeed spread through upstate New York."

**OWLS**—About nine individual Snowy Owls frequented the Lake Plains during the period; one noted Feb. 21 at Hamlin Beach S.P. possessed a red plastic band on its right wing (AK) - any information? A February Long-eared Owl roost near Waterloo contained a maximum of six in the early part of the month (JT *et al.*); elsewhere, very few were reported. Small numbers of Short-eared Owls were concentrated in at least seven L.O.P. localities, with the maximum of 13 being near Waterloo Feb. 20 (DK).

**WOODPECKERS AND LARKS**—A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was far south of its normal range at Phelps, Ontario Co., Jan. 6 (WB). Seldom do we receive reports of more than just a few Horned Larks (*E. a. alpestris*); therefore, a flock of 30 in Pomfret Twp., Chautauqua Co., Jan. 20 was noteworthy (RS *et al.*).

**CORVIDS, TITS AND NUTHATCHES**—Reflecting events elsewhere on the continent last fall was a Gray Jay that remained at Ithaca where it was photographed (DK) from Dec. 12 into Feb. (m.ob., *fide* DM); this was the first authentic Regional report. Blue Jay numbers were about normal. A Com. Raven, very rare but reported with increasing frequency, was studied closely at Webster Mar. 16 (WL1); this constituted the third report for the Rochester area (*fide* TT). Black-capped Chickadee numbers were somewhat higher than average. Last fall's Ontario flight of Boreal Chickadees was reflected by a maximum of four that occurred Jan. 21-Mar. 4 on the south shore of L. Ontario at Hamlin Beach S.P. (m.ob., *fide* TT), two others were noted on the Elmira Christmas Bird Count, one was at Eden, Erie Co., Mar. 8 (TB)

and another was at Ithaca Mar. 13 (JT). Normal numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches were present while Red-breasted Nuthatches were more common and widespread than average.

**CREEPERS THROUGH SHRIKES**—Brown Creepers tended to be more common than during the average winter. Several Long-billed Marsh Wrens occurred during the early part of the season; there are no reports during the normal year. Mockingbirds held their own, with 29 individuals reported on the Christmas Bird Counts; they have yet to spread into the hilly, higher elevations as the Cardinal has done in recent years. The early part of the season also brought more than the usual number of Hermit Thrush and Ruby-crowned Kinglet reports. Up to seven Bohemian Waxwings were irregularly noted in the Rochester area at Hamlin Beach S.P. and Durand Eastman Park Dec. 3 - Mar. 3 (TT *et al.*). Cedar Waxwings were widespread in about normal numbers. Like the Rough-legged Hawk, N. Shrikes were late in arriving, but they were widespread in all sections through late Mar.

**WARBLERS**—Myrtle Warblers were more common than normal at the start of the season. An imm. ♂ Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler, thought to be the fourth N.Y. State record, frequented a Pine City, Chemung Co. suet feeder Nov. 30-Mar. 9 (WH, NC, DK *et al.*); a good written description is available and a field note is to appear in a future issue of the *Kingbird* Several Com. Yellowthroats occurred during Dec. in areas where they are often unreported at that time of the year. A very late Yellow-breasted Chat was at Pittsford, Monroe Co., Dec. 4-11 (EH *et al.*).

**HOUSE SPARROWS AND BLACKBIRDS**—An unknown disease apparently decimated up to 60 per cent of certain House Sparrow populations at feeders near Sampson S.P. (*fide* MJ). A late Northern Oriole was at Greece, Monroe Co., Dec. 18 (*fide* WL) and another spent part of the winter at an Elmira feeder Dec. 20-Feb. 2 (ABr, *fide* WH).

**FRINGILLIDS**—All of the northern finches were reported during the season. Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Grosbeaks staged the largest and most obvious southward incursion. Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills came next in abundance, followed by only a few reports of small numbers of Com. Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills. Most of the finches were most abundant in the hilly southern tier counties of New York. Maximum counts of some species included 203 Evening Grosbeaks (180 in one flock) at Alfred Dec. 24 (EB), 330 Pine Grosbeaks (150 in one flock) at W. Almond, Allegany Co., Dec. 27 (LB & DB) and 350 Pine Siskins along the L. Ontario shore east of Rochester Dec. 3 (TT *et al.*). Among the maximum count of 45 Red Crossbills at Jamestown Mar. 31 were six immatures, approximately three-fourths adult size (RS); nesting was suspected there. Purple Finches and Am. Goldfinches were about normal, although locally more common than usual.

Among other fringillid reports was a subadult ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak that wintered at Irondequoit for

the first Rochester area winter record (GL *et al.*). House Finch populations remained stable at the two regular localities in the Region — Elmira and Eggertsville, Erie Co.; a single bird was noted Feb. 26 at Ithaca (*vide* DM) where it has irregularly occurred in the past. Most all of the usual half-hardy sparrows were more abundant than on an average. Two Chipping Sparrows spent part of the winter at feeders in Jamestown (CB *et al.*) and Belmont (LB & DB). At Ithaca, an ad. ♂ Harris' Sparrow remained at a feeder Dec. 12 through mid-Mar. where it was photographed (JT, DM *et al.*). A second ad. ♂ in slightly different plumage from the first mentioned, appeared at a feeder about four miles away during the last week of Dec. (JT, DM *et al.*) In early Jan. another was found at a Waterloo feeder and because of plumage similarities, it was thought by some to possibly have been the same individual as the second Ithaca bird (JT, DM, FW, WB *et al.*). Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were scarce; however, several flocks of hundreds of the latter were reported and a flock of about 1000 was noted in the Keuka Park area (FG).

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## APPALACHIAN REGION

/ **George A. Hall**

Many oldtimers felt that this was the mildest winter in at least 50 years. If this isn't entirely accurate it is close enough. At the Pittsburgh weather station the temperature accumulation amounted to 583 day-degrees in excess of normal for the period. February was slightly below normal, but December and March were far warmer than usual. Precipitation for the period was about normal, but practically all of this came as rain, and there was little snowfall, and never any accumulation of snow.

The mild, open winter had several effects on the bird observations. For one thing feeding stations were not frequented by large numbers of birds, and many people speculated that populations were low. The mild December induced a great rash of straggling fall migrants, and the account that follows has numerous "late dates" reported. Most areas, therefore, had excellent results on their Christmas Bird Counts, both in respect to numbers of individuals and in respect to



numbers of species. For example at Carmichaels, Pa. 7 species were listed in record numbers and at Pittsburgh 10 species were so reported. Many of the stragglers or unusual winter birds made it through the winter successfully.

At the other end of the period, March was unusually warm, and vegetation was far advanced by the end of the month. While there were many individual cases of extremely early arrivals, the spring migration did not seem to be very much advanced, and general arrival dates were about normal.

Along with the late stragglers, and the early arrivals there was a major influx of "northern finches" and several real rarities for the Region.

**GREBES, PELICANS, HERONS**—Horned Grebes were not common in the northbound flight in March but in December there were some unusually large concentrations reported, as for example a flock of 75 on Deep Creek L., Garrett Co., Md., Dec. 7 (FP) and 79 on Watauga L., Tenn. Dec. 16 (GW & DL, *vide* GE). A White Pelican was present on Norris L., Tenn., Nov. 28-Dec. 23 (JO).

The mild weather was probably responsible for the large number of reports of wintering Great Blue Herons in the north, with reports coming from as far north as Warren, Pa. (WH), and Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), and a total of 10 records from the Pittsburgh area (DF). A Com. Egret Dec. 6 in Roan Co., Tenn. (CN & MWi, *vide* JO) was very late and one in Garrett Co., Md. Mar. 30 was very early (FP).

**WATERFOWL**—Unusually large numbers of ducks remained in the Region well into December, as for example 2100 ducks on L. Arthur, Pa. Dec. 10 (WOR & SR, *vide* DF). On the other hand the northbound flight was much poorer than in 1972 (*e.g.* numbers only one-fourth of 1972 at L. Arthur—DF) and no areas reported any great concentrations by the end of the period. At Elizabethton (GE), Charleston, W.Va. (NG), and Morgantown, W.Va. (GAH) the flights were very poor. The mild March weather apparently offered little inducement for the birds to come down and halt their flight. The only major flights were

reported Mar 17 when one of the few bad storms of the season produced good flights at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS) and Indiana, Pa. (CW). Although most species were reported, the small numbers make it impossible to estimate the overall status of each species.

Whistling Swans remained unusually late at Deep Creek L., Md. Dec. 17 (FP), L. Arthur, Pa. Dec. 27 (MG, *fide* DF, FWP), and Dec. 31 near Carmichaels, Pa. (RB). More unusual were the swans at McDowell Co., N.C., Dec. 16 (WH *et al.*, *fide* JH) and Jonesboro, Tenn., Jan. 10-Mar. 18 (GE). At Butler, Pa. the main spring flight passed through about Mar 14 (FWP), but in the spring there were few reports from points off of the rather rigidly defined normal flight line. Canada Geese were also migrating heavily in w Pennsylvania Mar. 14-15. There were only two reports of Snow Geese: 7 blue-phased at Oneida, Pa. in early March (*fide* FWP) and 4 blue-phased and 8 white-phased at Boone L., Tenn. Jan. 16 (PR, *fide*, GE)

Common Goldeneyes were unusually scarce at Morgantown (GAH), Lock Haven (PS) and Pittsburgh (DF) but were common in the e. Panhandle of West Virginia (CM), and one on the Dalton, Ga. Christmas Bird Count was only the second record there (AH). It is likely that most of the population found open water north of our Region. Greater Scaup are not often reliably reported from this Region, so one seen at Deep Creek L. Mar. 24 (FP) and the comment that they were more common than usual at Lock Haven (PS) are noteworthy. Oldsquaws were reported from Garrett Co., Md. Dec. 12 (FP), from L. Arthur Dec. 16 (FWP), and from Seneca L., Ohio Mar. 16-Mar. 28 (MC, JS). White-winged Scoters were reported only from Lock Haven (3 on Mar. 15—PS) and L. Arthur (2 on Mar. 24—TM, *fide* DF).

The two most interesting and novel waterfowl records came from Virginia where a **Harlequin Duck** was present near Blacksburg Feb. 20 - Apr. 7 (CA & MGR, *fide* JWM), and 8 **Fulvous Tree Ducks** were seen on Dec. 8 & 9 near Staunton (MH, *fide* RSS).

**VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES**—There was a winter roost of Turkey Vultures comprising about 250 birds near Blacksburg, Va. (JWM). Northbound migrants were reported as early as Feb. 14 at Rote, Pa. (PS) and Feb. 24 at Barnsville, O. (MC). Four Black Vultures at Barnsville Mar. 24 (MC) and 2 at Mountain Lake Park, Md. were well north of the expected range.

The heavy incursion of Goshawks noted in other Regions in the fall had not been reported in this Region, but winter records came from Lock Haven (CH, *fide* PS); Venango Co., Pa., one shot in February (*fide* FWP); Garrett Co., Dec. 17 (FP); Marietta, O., one shot in January and one seen Mar. 25 (JS); and Buncombe Co., N.C., first authentic state record, bird photographed (JH, RCR). Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported more frequently than usual, and this is encouraging news if the increase is real.

In the northern part of the Region Rough-legged Hawks wintered in good numbers and Red-tailed Hawks were in above-normal numbers. Red-tailed Hawks were nesting before Mar. 19 at Clarksville,

Pa., which is rather early (RB), and 3 Red-shouldered Hawk nests were found in Kanawha State Forest, W. Va. (NG). The only report of the season of a Golden Eagle was one sighted Jan. 14 in Tazewell Co., Va (MM), and the only Bald Eagle report was from Chambersburg, Pa. Jan. 27 (DV). An Osprey at L. Arthur, Pa. Feb. 24 (MK, *fide* DF). A Peregrine was seen at Marietta, O. on Mar. 9 (MSi&JSi, *fide* JS).

**CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS**—The only report of Sandhill Cranes was from Dalton, Ga. where 40 were seen Mar. 5 (MCo, *fide* AH). Both Virginia Rails and Soras were found near Alcoa, Tenn. Mar 14, rather early (CN & MWi, *fide* JO). Killdeer wintered in unusual numbers; 500 wintering at Coonskin Park near Charleston, W. Va. (NG), 99 on the Carmichaels, Pa. CBC (RB) and many reports from elsewhere. The mid-March migration was also very heavy. Common Snipe also wintered in unusual numbers: 24 on the Carmichaels CBC (RB) and many other reports. Here too the spring flight was good, for example 26 seen in one spot at Lock Haven Mar 23 (JV, *fide* PS). A rather late Am. Woodcock was seen at State College, Pa. Dec. 19 (MW). The only signs of shorebird migration by the end of the period were a few Pectoral Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs at various places, although a Spotted Sandpiper in Garrett Co. Mar. 28 was early (FP).

**DOVES, PARAKEETS, OWLS**—Mourning Doves wintered in good numbers at Charleston, W. Va (NG) and Warren, Pa. (WLH), but numbers were down by about 50 per cent in West Virginia's e. Panhandle (CM). Another record count was the 77 listed on the Carmichaels CBC (RB).

The Monk Parakeets at Pittsburgh wintered successfully, and a new location for the species in that area was discovered (DF). The birds had been reported at Asheville, N.C. earlier and these still persisted (RCR), while there were three reports from Rote, Pa., with an unconfirmed report of a flock of 25-35 birds there (PS).

The Barn Owl has been a species of some concern in the Region and so reports of three active nests near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), two nests near Blacksburg, Va. (JWM), and one at Clarksville, Pa. (RB) were heartening. The only reports of Saw-whet Owls came from Warren, Pa. where two were found in March (WLH & HJ).

**WHIP-POOR-WILLS, SWIFTS, KING-FISHERS**—Whip-poor-wills at Marietta, O. Mar 13 and the McClintic Wildlife Station, W. Va. Mar 31 were remarkably early (JS). Also early were 4 Chimney Swifts seen at Marietta Mar. 14, but these were not seen after the cold weather of Mar. 16-17 (JS). Belted Kingfishers, no doubt encouraged by the open water, wintered in unusually high numbers.

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS**—Wintering Red-headed Woodpeckers at Waynesburg, Pa. (RB), Morgantown (DS), and one near Johnson City, Tenn. Feb. 10 (SG, JD, MD) were unusual. An E. Phoebe remained in the Pittsburgh area

until Dec 30 (TM) The earliest migrants were seen at Lewisburg, W.Va. Feb. 9 (COH), but general arrival was not until Mar. 2 at Fancy Gap, Va. (RAK) to Mar. 15 at State College, (WSC), Indiana, Pa. (CDW), and Inwood, W. Va. (CM) with other dates within those limits.

Purple Martins had arrived at Elizabethton, Tenn. Mar. 3, a week early (FB, *fide* GE), Marietta Mar. 13 (JS), and Waynesboro, Va. Mar. 24 (RSS). It would appear that last summer's martin catastrophe will mean many empty houses this summer, as a few birds were seen at any place. Tree Swallows were at Seneca Lake, O Mar. 17 (JS), McClintic Wildlife Station Mar. 27 (NG), and Garrett Co. Mar. 29 (FP). A rather early Rough-winged Swallow was seen in Polk Co. N.C. Mar. 21 (JH).

**CORVIDS, CHICKADEES**—Com. Ravens were nesting near Warren, Pa. at the end of the period, and it was thought that possibly a second pair might be present (WLH). Ravens were also reported from Mountain Lake Park, Md. in December and January, where they are not regular (FP). Very few Black-capped Chickadees were to be found south of the normal range this year, although 6 on a CBC in Carter Co., Ky. were noteworthy (EK, *fide* AS).

**NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS, WRENS**—At Morgantown (GAH) and Dalton (APH) White-breasted Nuthatches continued to be scarce. At the latter location it was thought that the recent increase in the Brown-headed Nuthatch might be partly responsible for this decline. The Brown-headed Nuthatch continues to increase in w. North Carolina, with up to 20 individuals counted at one location (JH). Red-breasted Nuthatches were unusually common in the spruce-fir forest at high elevations in Tennessee (FB), and were numerous and widespread throughout the Region, being more common than usual at feeding stations. Brown Creepers were in moderate numbers everywhere, but the 30 seen in one day at the University Arboretum at Morgantown (DS) was most unusual.

Winter Wrens were unusually common in the north, and Carolina Wrens continue their upswing in the northern part of the range. Very noteworthy were the 32 listed on the Carmichaels CBC (RB) and the 279 on the Pittsburgh CBC (DF). A House Wren at Hendersonville, N.C. Mar. 5 was quite early (JH) and a record of Bewick's Wren at Blacksburg, (CA, *fide* JWM) was the first record in several years there.

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES**—The Mockingbird continues to move northward in force. There were 6-7 reports from Lock Haven (PS), one report in Garrett Co (FP) at a rather high elevation, one at Newcomers-town, O. (ES), and a total of 26 on the Pittsburgh CBC (DF). A Catbird remained in Pittsburgh until at least Dec. 31 (DF) and one was seen at State College, Feb. 4 (MW). As usual Brown Thrashers attempted to spend the winter in the north and the mild weather resulted in more than the usual numbers, *e.g.* 7 (normal of 3) on the Pittsburgh CBC (DBF).

American Robins also wintered in unusual numbers, and there were many more reports of Hermit Thrushes this year than usual. Two remarkable winter records were the Swainson's Thrush at Dalton Feb. 4 (MCo, *fide* APH), the second winter record there, and one banded at McClintic Wildlife Station Mar. 31 (JS)—no previous records before late April); but the prize thrush of the year was **Varied Thrush** in Allegheny Co., Pa. Feb. 3-Mar. 10 (WHv, *fide* DDF).

**KINGLETS AND SHRIKES**—Golden-crowned Kinglets were quite common in the north, but farther south, for example at Kingsport, Tenn. (TF) they were scarce. This same phenomenon was noticed for several other species which failed, apparently, to migrate to their normal wintering grounds. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were also in above average numbers.

It was an unusually good year for Northern Shrikes with 6 reports from near Warren, Pa. (WLH), four from Pittsburgh (DF), and one from Bald Eagle S P., Pa. (MCl, MW), and one from Fairview, Md (SS, *fide* DV).

**WARBLERS**—Yellow-rumped Warblers wintered in good numbers in the north, with one unusually far north at Slippery Rock, Pa. Feb. 22 (JB, *fide* DBF), but as with the kinglets mentioned above they were scarce at Kingsport, Tenn (TWF) and at Elizabethton (GDE). Pine Warblers are not often mentioned in these reports but this season reports came from: Buncombe Co., N.C.—five on the CBC, Dec. 30 (JH), Elizabethton, Tenn.—two coming to a feeder through January (PR, *fide* GE); Charlestown—arrived Mar 10 (NG); and Blue Ridge Parkway, Va.—seen Mar 14 (RSS). Some early winter stragglers were Com Yellowthroat at L. Arthur Dec. 3 (DF); Cape May Warbler coming to a feeder at Clarksville until Jan. 10 (RB), and a Black-and-white Warbler at Dalton Jan. 28 (JHy, *fide* AH). The only other migrant that arrived by the end of the period was the Louisiana Waterthrush which arrived at Charleston Mar. 25 (NG) and Elizabethton Mar. 31 (GE).

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS**—The only large concentration of blackbirds reported was a roost near Asheville, N.C. where about a million Com. Grackles and 150,000 Red-winged Blackbirds spent the winter. There were also approximately 500 Brewer's Blackbirds in this aggregation (JH). Brewer's Blackbirds were also found at Holston L., Tenn. (LRH & GE) Mar. 14. Despite the mild weather the general arrival of Red-winged Blackbirds, meadowlarks, grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds was at the normal time in early March. A Bobolink at York, Pa. Mar. 17 was a remarkably early straggler (DV). There were three apparently successful wintering Northern Orioles at Wheeling, W.Va. (CC); Waynesboro, Va. (RSS), and Kingsport, Tenn. (TF). A Western Tanager was seen at Indiana, Pa. Dec. 7 (CDW).

**FRINGILLIDS**—As usual the excitement of the winter depends upon the so-called northern finches, and with five species staging major invasions, and several others in moderate numbers this was an unusu-

ally good winter Evening Grosbeaks seem definitely to have broken the alternate year pattern prevalent a decade ago, and were widespread and abundant throughout the Region. The distribution was somewhat spotty, and while some areas reported the best numbers in recent years, other places saw only a few, and along the Ohio R. there were only a few records. The real invader of the year was the Purple Finch, which was unusually abundant in the Great Valley from Chambersburg, Pa. to Knoxville. At State College one bander banded 660 for the season (MW, *fide* WC) and at Inwood, W.Va. another bander banded over 100 (CM). Westward from the Valley a few places had equally abundant numbers but generally the distribution was spottier and numbers lower. A third species in very large numbers was the Pine Siskin, but it also had an erratic distribution, large numbers at Morgantown (GAH) and rather few at Clarksville, (RB) only 30 miles away. Red Crossbills were in modest numbers compared with the preceding three species but they were widespread throughout the Region. There were only three reports of White-winged Crossbills: one flock at State College (MMA, *fide* MW); 21 in Allegheny Co. Pa. Dec. 30 (JG, *fide* DF); and a flock seen regularly after Jan. 10 at Jersey Shore, Pa. (JV, *fide* PS). The fifth major invader was the Pine Grosbeak. All the Pennsylvania stations reported some, often in good numbers. At Lock Haven it was the best year since 1967 (PS), and there were nine separate reports in the Pittsburgh area (DF). However, there were only three reports from south of Pennsylvania: Great Meadows in Shenandoah N.P., Va. Jan. 20 (RSS) and Feb. 18 (JBB); and Cheat Mt. near Cheat Bridge, W.Va. Mar. 2 (GAH).

House Finches continue to do well at Indiana, Pa. (DW), returned to Charlestown, W.Va. for the second winter (CM), and were present at Front Royal, Va. (RA) and Blacksburg (JWM). They have arrived at Knoxville, (CM, *fide* JBO) and at Greeneville, Tenn. (JBO). The farthest penetration of the Region west of the mountains is indicated by reports from two locations in Allegheny Co., Pa. (DF). Common Redpolls did not come south in any numbers. The biggest aggregation was a flock of 40 at L. Arthur Feb. 25 (DF). There were also reports of small flocks or singles from Pittsburgh (DF), State College (MB, *fide* WC), Lock Haven, Grandfather Mt., N.C. Dec. 28, and Asheville Dec. 30 (JH).

Dark-eyed Juncos were considered to be scarce at several places. This may have been illusory as the result of the mild weather but at Charleston a CBC total of 144 compared with 627 in 1971 would seem to indicate a definite decrease. Tree Sparrows were uncommon at all locations that mentioned them. Chipping Sparrows were somewhat early in their arrival: Mar. 4 at Waynesboro, Va. (RSS); Mar. 15 at Pittsburgh (DF). The Field Sparrow was another species in low numbers on the Charleston CBC, with only 36 listed compared with 173 last year. (NG). The Charleston CBC count of White-throated Sparrows was only 249 compared with 865 a year ago (NG), but this decrease clearly reflects a shift in wintering range since the species was present in unprecedented

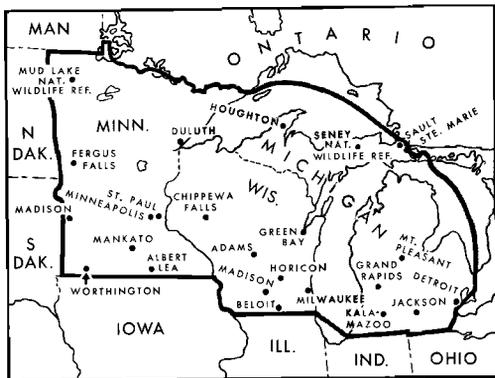
numbers in the north of the Region. At the writer's feeding station in Morgantown, it was second in abundance only to the junco, of the ground feeding birds. The White-crowned Sparrow joined its congener and winter records came from Sheffield, Pa. (TG, RS, *fide* WLH); Lock Haven (PS), West Liberty, W.Va. (ED, *fide* GP), and State College (DB, *fide* WC), all well north of the usual winter range. The only report of Lapland Longspur was of two at L. Arthur Feb. 25 (DF). Snow Buntings were reported twice from the Pittsburgh area (DF), and from Rockfish Gap on the Blue Ridge, Va. Dec. 1 (RSS). There were three reports of Harris' Sparrow: Weston, W.Va. Feb. 10 (MMe), Marietta, O., Feb. 14-Mar. 1 (JS), and Tazewell, Va. Dec. 29 (WBL).

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/ Irma W. Chipman

This was a mild and open winter, with temperatures generally above normal. The coldest weather, with snowstorms, was experienced during the first three weeks of December, after which a warming trend developed. In this Region we look forward to a January thaw which usually lasts a few days, but one which lasted three weeks—as it did this year—was unbelievable! In late January temperatures plunged, but the cold wave was of short duration. During the early cold wave in December, the lakes froze over about a month earlier than normal, and the ice went out of the lakes equally early, in March—in Lake Winnebago the earliest ever. N. Ilnicky reported the warmest winter ever recorded in the Michigan Upper Peninsula (below U.P.).



Michigan experienced a bad snowstorm March 17; no doubt many birds suffered, but some found sustenance at feeders. But Inicky reported few birds at feeders in the U.P. and banded not a single bird during January, February or March. Meanwhile, winter rains on already saturated ground raised water levels, making poor shorebirding and affecting some marsh nesters

There were more hawks than usual, but it was a very poor winter for eagles in the Thunder Bay area of Michigan (Wm. Grigg). An ad. Bald Eagle was caught in a Fox trap Feb. 16, and taken to Kellogg Bird Sanctuary, where it died Mar. 7. Worse news was that an ad. Golden Eagle was trapped, again in a fox trap, and killed, in s.w. Missaukee Co., in mid-December.

**LOON THROUGH HERONS**—Common Loons were present until the lakes froze. Two were rescued by a conservation officer on Dec. 7 in s. Mich. (MJ), three stayed near Sugar I., Ottawa Co., e. U.P. until Dec. 11 (WNG), and two were at Port Sheldon in w.c. Michigan until Dec. 23 (JP). Red-necked Grebes were observed near Kalamazoo until Jan. 1 (RA), and throughout the period in the Oconomowoc area of Wisconsin (EP *et al.*) with two found Mar. 19 at Robbins L. in s. Mich. (MJ). An Eared Grebe was found at Benton Harbor Mar. 16 (RS). Pied-billed Grebes were noted on three Wis. C B Cs, observed at Fergus Falls, Minn., Dec. 17 & Jan. 7, and they successfully wintered at Black Dog, Minn. (RBJ), Menasha, Wis. (DT), and Dane Co., Wis. (PA).

A Double-crested Cormorant was carefully observed at the end of November and Dec. 1-2 at Elkhart L. Sheboygan Co., Wis. (EK *et al.*), a late date. Great Blue Herons lingered late, with up to ten in the Monroe marshes in s.e. Mich in late December (AHK), and January sightings at St. Croix, Wis. (MO), and Sherburne, Minn. The Great Blue heronry e. of Mottville in s.e. Mich. became active on Mar. 1 with the first arrivals. By Mar. 31 the heronry totaled 60 nests, with 19 in one tree. A Green Heron Mar. 22 in Milwaukee was 2½ weeks earlier than the previous state record! The Great Egret too set an arrival record at Wayne Co., Mich. Mar. 7, with other arrivals at La Crosse Mar. 21 (JR) and Horicon Marsh, Wis. Mar. 31 (JI). There were several reports of lingering Black-crowned Night Herons, with two as late as Jan. 12 (AHK).

**WATERFOWL**—Six Mute Swans were noted at four Michigan sites, and another was seen by multitudes near Dousman, Wis., during February and March (DT). On Dec. 3, 3600 Whistling Swans were seen on the Weaver marshes, Wabasha Co., Minn (FZL), with one reported from St. Joseph, Mich. Dec 19 & Jan. 4 (FM, RS, WB), and several in the lower Detroit R. in January (AHK). Five free-flying Trumpeter Swans from introduced stock appeared at Excelsior, Minn., Dec. 30. About 300 Canada Geese wintered at Kensington Metro Park, Oakland, Minn. (RFW) In Wisconsin geese began moving northward the last week in February, but in Minnesota they wintered in at least five areas. Snow Goose winter records came from Buffalo, s.w. Mich. (RS), Wisconsin — 3 reports including Green Bay and Sturgeon Bay (blue-phase) — with 40 seen flying over the Soo, Mich. Mar 7 (SH).

A few Gadwalls were noted, including two on Paw Paw L., Mich. Dec. 19-Jan. 1 (EG, RS), and on the Madison and Hudson, Wis. C B Cs, with more than the usual number noted at Erie Marsh, and Belle Isle, (AHK). At Berrien Springs, Mich., a Pintail was seen Dec. 17 (RS), the species was present in Milwaukee during January and February (EB *et al.*), and in Alpena County, Mich., in January. A ♀ Green-winged Teal wintered in Milwaukee, (MD *et al.*) while Blue-winged Teal yielded scattered reports in December from Ortonville, Minn. (DP) Buffalo Co., Wis. (MMs), and Oconomowoc, Wis. (DS). An Am. Wigeon successfully wintered in Milwaukee (EB, MD *et al.*), while a N. Shoveler wintered at Madison, where 27 had been counted on the C B C. Wood Duck was noted on nine regional C B Cs, and wintered successfully in four locations.

On Dec. 16, a ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye, first for the w. edge of Minnesota, was seen at Ortonville (DP), a ♂ was carefully identified in Kenosha harbor, Wis Dec. 6 & 23 (RH). Other waterfowl records for the period include 100 Oldsquaws at Ludington S P, Mich., Jan. 25 (RH), 125 White-winged Scoters on L. Michigan, n. Kenosha Co., Dec. 5 (RH), two in Kenosha harbor Feb. 16 (RR), and one in Benton Harbor Mar. 19 (RS), three Ruddy Ducks at L. Geneva, Wis., Dec. 30 and 2 at Milwaukee Dec. 31 (*fide* DT), Hooded Merganser wintering at La Crosse (FL), Milwaukee (MD) and Port Washington, Wis. (TB), with one at Alpena in January (WNG).

**BIRDS OF PREY**—Two Turkey Vultures were reported in s.e. Michigan Mar. 13, which is early (AHK), but one day later than one along the Miss R. n. of La Crosse (MD, LE). In Michigan, the earliest date was Mar. 6 at Allegan State Game Area, with another there Mar. 26 (NR, PRA, MJ) An unprecedented number of Goshawks were seen in Wisconsin during the period, with 25 C B Cs reporting them. There were 25 winter reports from 12 Minn counties, which is 2-3 times the usual number (JCG) One was in Allegan Co., w.c. Mich., Jan. 20 (HC), and another was seen in Marquette Feb. 17 (JRU) Nine reports came from s.e. Michigan (AHK), with one at Jones in s.e. Michigan Feb. 26. There were sightings of Cooper's Hawks from 24 Wisconsin counties, with two birds in Allegan Co., Mich., Jan

20 (HC) and two in Ottawa Co., Mich., Feb. 18 (JP, HC). Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported from eight counties, including three reports from Detroit, where wintering birds are unusual. Large numbers of Red-tailed Hawks were reported, especially in early December in Macomb and St. Clair Cos., Mich. (total of 104 birds) with 152 others elsewhere (AHK), with numbers in w.c. Michigan (JP). Reports of a Red-shouldered Hawk eating suet from a feeder in Crow Wing Co., Minn., early November-Dec. 12, Jan. 23, & Feb. 23 could be of three different individuals. (TS). The species was reported as more numerous than usual from Michigan; Wisconsin had reports from 13 counties, reporting the bird unusually common during the period.

The Golden Eagle was observed in four areas of Minnesota Dec. 16-Feb. 26 (RBJ, FZL), with one seen feeding on a deer carcass at Lutsen, Dec. 7 (L.A. Scherer, *vide* JCG). Three well-documented reports came from Wisconsin: Juneau Co., Jan. 13 (MD, LD) and Feb. 3 (same bird? - DT), and Buffalo Co., Feb. 10 (SK). One was sighted at Allegan State Game Area Mar. 3 & 11 (NR, PRA, MJ, PJ). Others were at Fennville, s.w. Mich., Feb. 18 (TC, RS) and Mar. 18-31 (DS, RS, JW). Numbers of Bald Eagles were lower than usual in Wisconsin, but there were 21 reports, mainly along the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers. The scarcity may have been caused by the early freezing weather in December. There were four sightings in n.e. Michigan Jan. 28-Mar. 24 (RS, OBE, WNG, CB). Other period reports came from Sugar Camp, Oneida Co., Wis., Mar. 16 (EG), the St. Mary's R. throughout the period (m.ob.) throughout Foster City, U.P., Dec. 29 (LP), and 1-3 at Allegan, Mich., throughout (JAB). A white-phase **Gryfalcon** was carefully observed in Barren Co., Wis. Dec. 17, 25, Jan. 20 (AG). In Minnesota, one was found injured in Martin Co. [date and fate?—Ed]. Another was found at McGregor, Minn. Jan. 28 (TS), and one in intermediate plumage at Duluth Feb. 4 & 26 (B&DC). Finally, a dark phase Gyr was seen near the Soo, Mich., Jan. 13 & Feb. 3 (WNG). The only reports of Peregrine Falcons came from Minnesota and were early migrants. An unusual number of winter records of **Merlins** (all well-documented) were received. They included, in Wisconsin: one Dec. 16 in Shawano Co. (LMF), one in December and on Jan. 5 in Langlade Co. (BP), Juneau Co. Jan. 26 (MD, LE, WW) & Feb. 3 (DT), and one Mar. 3 at Milwaukee (DT). Minnesota sightings included one Dec. 16 at Ortonville (DP), one Jan. 23 at Ottawa Co. (GH) and one Jan. 23 in Crow Wing Co. (TS). American Kestrels wintered in good numbers.

**GAMEBIRDS, CRANES, SHOREBIRDS**—Greater Prairie Chickens were noted in Portage Co., Wis. (DH) Dec. 19, and two were in Dodge Co. Dec. 21 (CG). Sharp-tailed Grouse has made a good comeback with controlled burning to improve its habitat at Crex Meadows, Wis., and was reported as common there during the period (NS). On Dec. 20, 48 were counted in Taylor Co., Wis., and on Jan. 17 four were seen 6 mi. west of the Soo (MA, WNG). No Spruce Grouse were reported, while Bobwhites

were reported from Wisconsin only from seven counties, Waushara being the northernmost with highest number (47) on any C B C. They wintered well.

A Sandhill Crane was heard calling and its tracks found on the Waukesha C B C Dec. 17 (RA). Migrant Sandhill Cranes were returning to s. and c. Wisconsin during early and mid-March, which is very early. Two Sandhills appeared in Mason Co., Mich. Mar. 20 (EG). The species is unusual in the Detroit area, but this year three birds were seen; several had appeared in the nesting area in Jackson Co., Mich., in late March (AHK). Two Virginia Rails were sighted in late December in the Detroit area, where there are few winter records. One arrived in the Muskegon Co., Mich., Mar. 31 (GW). A large number of Am. Coots were at Port Sheldon, Mich., Mar. 27 (BM).

There was a large movement of Killdeer in the Region during the first week of March. An Am. Woodcock was flushed from a highway ditch in Kenosha Co., Mar. 3, the date a new early record for Wisconsin (RH). A **Com. Snipe**, the fifth winter record for Michigan, was found in Monroe Co. Dec. 16. (AHK), and a freshly-killed bird was found on a highway at Marquette Jan. 14 (WR). One Lesser Yellowlegs was spotted in Ozaukee Co., Wis. Mar. 28 (T&CB), and the fifth December Dunlin report for Michigan was one seen in Monroe Co. the 16th (AM).

**GULLS**—According to Minnesota birders, the Glaucous Gull was less numerous than usual on L. Superior, with no first-year birds seen, indicating a poor 1972 breeding season (JCG). There were but four reports from Wisconsin. One Iceland Gull was reported in Waukesha Co. [date?](IB, MD). There was a **Little Gull** at Belle Isle Dec. 10 (JPK); this is the second winter record of a bird rare at any time. Record numbers of Herring Gulls frequented Marquette harbor—highest count 1739+. Ozaukee County boasted a Bonaparte's Gull on Dec. 30 (GAL).

**DOVES, PARAKEETS, OWLS**—Mourning Doves nested as early as Mar. 6 in s.e. Michigan, with fledging Mar. 13. (Mrs. Cox). The species wintered well in Wisconsin, but numbers were down. Monk Parakeets were reported from at least eight locations in the Detroit area, often more than single birds, and most eating fruit in small orchards. [This may be the first official confirmation of the fears expressed about the spread of this species by agricultural interests—Ed.]

A pair of Barn Owls in Monroe Co., previously reported, were still present during the period. This is an extremely scarce bird in the area (AHK). Also reported there were nesting Great Horned Owls. Three were reported in the e. U.P., with one west of the Soo at Moran Mar. 24 (DR), and one wintering at the Cedarville dump (HH). Screech Owl, rare in the far north, was noted in Beck Co., Minn., and on Dec. 16 in Ottertail Co. at Tamarack N.W.R. (KRE). Snowy Owls made a good showing throughout Michigan, with one in Mason Co. Dec. 19 (EG), three in Muskegon (GW), and four in a 3-mile area in c. Ottawa Co. Jan. 13 (HC). It was very common in open fields s. of the Soo; where Grigg and Avery recorded 48 sightings

Jan 12-Mar 30, and calculated that there were 14 different owls wintering within 12 miles of the Soo, only one of which was a solid white ad. ♂ (*fide* WNG). The peak in Duluth harbor was six Jan. 7 (MK). There were reports from other areas, but this was not an invasion year; few were reported from Wisconsin, all singles except for nine seen at Green Bay during the period, with one still present in late March (TE). In n.e. Michigan reports were few, with one near Metz Dec. 18 and another near Hillman in mid-January (JE).

There were two well-documented reports of **Great Gray Owl** in Wisconsin. One was found dead (car kill?) near Pensaukee in Oconto Co., Feb. 23 (GJ), and another was observed in a tree in Vilas Co., Feb. 2 (HB). There were eight reports from Minnesota, which is high (*fide* JCG). Long-eared Owls made a better showing than usual. During the period 8-10 were seen in Dane Co, three in Kenosha County, and 10+ in Milwaukee County, with one in Ottawa Co., Dec. 8 (HC). Reports of single Short-eared Owls came from Fond du Lac, Wis. in December, Racine Dec. 16 (EPr), and Jan.-Feb. (MD *et al.*). In Minnesota, one was at Odessa Dec. 16 (DP), and two were seen in Ottertail Co. (KRE), where on Jan. 18 one was found dead (BAH). Six wintered in a pine plantation in Ottawa Co. (JP), as did a group of 16 in Macomb County and another bird in Wayne County (AHK).

A Hawk Owl was observed Mar. 4 in Aitkin Co., Minn. (TS *et al.*). A Boreal Owl (no details) was recorded in Duluth (*fide* JCG), and a Saw-whet Owl was at Houston, Minn., Dec. 19 (FZL). In s.e. Michigan, where there are few records, three were seen. It was also observed near Hubbard Lake (RS), La Crosse (FZL), Chippewa County (SR) and Waukesha County (CH).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH MIMIDS**—The Northern Flicker successfully wintered in 20 counties of Wisconsin but numbers were down. One intermediate red-shafted form was seen Dec. 12-14, and on Dec. 20 another pure red-shafted form also was seen at the same feeder in Duluth (MMC). The Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to extend its range northward; six individuals were seen in Minnesota, but as yet there are no breeding records. Red-headed Woodpeckers were less numerous there than usual, with numbers down in s.w. Michigan, but increasing in s.e. Michigan (AHK). One wintered near Hubbard Lake (RC). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted Dec. 31 at Rochester, Minn., (JAB) and Jan. 4 at Duluth (KS), the latter the first winter record that far north. Four birds wintered in Wisconsin; two were in Grand Rapids Jan. 29 (RB). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were recorded in Hubbard Co., Dec. 16 & Jan. 13 (RBJ,DR), Douglas Co., Dec. 22 (MG), and at the Madison Arboretum Jan. 26 (DT), Crow Wing Co., Feb. 2 (TS); and Oconto Co., Feb. 4 (JW,TE).

Migrant E. Phoebe began to appear in Wisconsin during the last two weeks of March. In s.e. Michigan, where the bird has been scarce for several years, one appeared at Kensington Park [date?] and five at Stony Creek Park [date?], one of the remaining nesting areas. (AHK). In s. Michigan, Horned Larks were almost

impossible to find after the storm of Dec 12, but by Jan. 24 they were back again (MJ). Tree Swallows and Purple Martins arrived in that area on Mar 21, but there were record early arrivals of Tree Swallows in Wisconsin, *i.e.* Mar. 12 in Buffalo County (MD, LE). Many Gray Jays were reported in the e U P, they seemed to be everywhere this past winter. There were reports from six Wisconsin counties, with numbers ranging from 1 to 25. This was an invasion year for the **Black-billed Magpie** in Minnesota. Eight birds were seen in the same period in Aitkin, Marshall, and Big Stone counties, three from St. Louis, Cherbourne, and Hubbard counties. Singles were noted in Cook (accidental this far south), and Mille Lacs counties **Clark's Nutcracker** made an appearance in several areas well east of its normal range; several reports were from Wisconsin, but only was documented. It was carefully observed in Point Beach S P, Manitowoc Co. Jan. 13 (DTi). One stayed at a feeder at Christmas L., Minn. from November to Feb 20 (RT). Another was observed in Marquette in December. Fourteen counties in Wisconsin reported Com. Ravens. They ranged as far south as Juneau Co. Jan. 14 & 20 (BF) and Jackson Co. [date?] (SR).

It was an invasion year for the **Boreal Chickadee**. In n.e. Minnesota it was reported from eight counties. It was numerous at Cedarville in the e. U.P (FH). It was found in smaller numbers in Moran (DR), St Ignace (WNG), and the Soo (BS,RHo,EA). One was observed in Berrien Springs Dec. 1-3, one at Niles Jan. 27, and 4 at Marquette (JW, EQ). It was observed in Douglas (BK), Langlade (EPr,CR) Oneida (FR) and Price counties (KK, MN). In s.e. Michigan about 46 Boreals were reported from 12 stations, The Tufted Titmouse is increasing its range northward; this winter it was reported from 16 Wisconsin counties, the northernmost was Brown County. It was an excellent winter for Red-breasted Nuthatch with numbers distributed statewide in Wisconsin, but the species was absent in the e. U.P. No Winter Wrens were reported from Michigan this past winter, after last year's plethora! Wisconsin had reports from six counties. After years of almost complete absence, Carolina Wrens are increasing in Michigan, and Minnesota had one bird Dec. 1-Mar. 1 at in Hennepin County (RBJ *et al.*) Mockingbird, rare in Wisconsin, wintered well in Michigan. One wintered, supported by a feeder in Manitowoc, and another wintered at Waterford, Racine Co. (*fide* MD). A Gray Catbird was observed at Grosse Ile Jan. 2 (JPK) and another was at Ann Arbor Dec. 30 (AM); there were only four previous winter records there. Another wintered at a feeder in Marquette (RM). Other single catbirds were located in s.w. Michigan, Milwaukee County, and Kenosha. The **Curve-billed Thrasher** which came daily to Merle Maier's feeder in Buffalo City, Wis., survived the winter, and in doing so caused much excitement among observers. The bird had built three unsuccessful nests last summer, and brought 200+ visitors to the Maier's back yard. Early in December, 2 ♂ Varied Thrushes appeared in Minnesota and remained until Mar. 10 at Waukon, Mille Lacs Co. (TS,RBJ *et al.*) A ♂ came to the Zuelka feeder in Wisconsin regularly during mid-December, and stayed until late February

It was confirmed by (EP,MD,LE,DT *et al*) One appeared in Ludington Feb 20 (EG) and was also well-documented. A **Townsend's Solitaire**, far east of its normal range, was discovered feeding on berries in Sheridan Park in Cudahy, Milwaukee Co. Feb. and photographed by Mrs. Surderski. It was seen almost daily until mid-March and confirmed by MD, LE,EP *et al* An unprecedented number of Hermit Thrushes (42) were reported from the Detroit area. Several came to feeders during the entire winter in Milwaukee. One was also observed in Kenosha Dec. 13 (*fide* MD,LE). One in Duluth Dec. 17-Feb. 24 provided the first winter record for Minnesota (RBJ,JCG *et al.*). Eastern Bluebirds were more numerous in the Detroit area than of late, with 23 birds reported in various places. At the study area in Stony Creek Park where Pinknowski has an ongoing project, he reported an early nest Mar. 24 (the bluebirds survived the storm), but he reported that a scarcity of bluebirds by Mar. 25 indicated that the true spring migration was yet to come (*fide* AHK).

Four Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported from the Detroit area, a large number for winter (AHK). One was seen in December in Waukesha Co. (OC) and Dec. 6 in Milwaukee Co. (ES). A Water Pipit was observed Mar. 8 in s.w. Michigan (RS). One was also seen Dec. 16 in Monroe, Mich. Co. and was the second winter report for that area (AHK). Bohemian Waxwings were reported from all three states but were widespread. The largest flock reported was from Marquette Co., Wis. where a flock of 150-200 tarried most of the winter feeding on the many apples left on the trees at a country orchard. In w. c. Michigan another flock of 200 was observed in Ottawa Co. Jan. 14 (HC *et al*). Northern Shrikes were more numerous than usual in the n.e. counties of Minnesota. Two were noted at Marquette Jan. 20 (EQ). They were present in excellent numbers in Wisconsin. A Loggerhead Shrike was seen at close range in Allegan Co. Mar. 4 (JP) and another was seen in n.e. Michigan near some hawks Mar. 18 (WNG - a good view with 20x scope).

**WARBLERS, ICTERIDS**—One doesn't associate warblers with northern winters but in the Detroit area an unusual number were recorded. There were 2 Orange-crowned Warblers reported, one of which flew against a window Dec. 2 in Fraser (TN) and another in a court of a school in Lincoln Park. These are the latest records for this species. Yellow-rumped Warblers were found on s.w. Michigan C B Cs; 46 were seen Six Com. Yellowthroats were found in the Monroe Co. marshes Dec. 16.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird came to the Grace Hood feeder in Green Bay December where it was seen on the C B C Dec. 17 (*fide* EC). One also came to a feeder in Macomb Co. Dec. 25-29. This is the first winter report for Michigan of a species rare in all seasons Rusty Blackbirds made their appearance at 5 locations in Wisconsin Dec. 17-Jan. 1. Brewer's Blackbirds wintered in several counties in Wisconsin (DT). A bird was present at a feeder all winter at Deerwood, Crow Wing Co. (TS).

**FRINGILLIDS**—This was an invasion winter for Evening Grosbeaks in Wisconsin and lower Michigan, there were very few at feeders in Minnesota, and only scattered reports from the U.P. (NJI). They were widespread near the Soo, however, Purple Finches were scarce. Pine Grosbeaks were reported in modest numbers in all three states but were scarce at the Soo. The Com. Redpolls, which were so numerous a year ago, were sadly missed by observers. Pine Siskins were plentiful in most areas. Red Crossbills invaded Grand Rapids with as many as 20 at one time at feeders (JP). There were modest numbers in the U. P. (NJI), but common in all parts of Michigan, and Wisconsin had impressive numbers. White-winged Crossbills were irregular in s. Michigan Dec. 12-Mar. 23 (MJ). They were almost totally absent in Wisconsin. As would be expected in a mild winter such as the Region experienced, large numbers of wintering Rufous-sided Towhees and many species of sparrows were recorded. A **Gray-headed Junco** was seen Jan. 1-Feb. 24 at Boyd, Lac qui Parle Co. (A&FE) and was the third state record for Minneapolis. Lapland Longspurs were scarce, and there were reports only from Goodhue C B C (JAB), Nicollet (JN), and Cottonwood (LR). In Wisconsin December reports were from Dodge, Dane, St. Croix and Kenosha counties. Small flocks of Snow Buntings were reported in Wisconsin, most of them in December but 100 were seen in mid-February in Barren Co. and 200 Feb. 4 in Juneau Co.

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## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/ Vernon M. Kleen and Lee Bush

The season was noted for its cloudiness and wetness. The Mississippi River flooded throughout most of its course through the Region and made birding difficult or impossible in favorite spots along its banks, especially during March. Temperatures averaged slightly above normal during December (4°F. above normal at Cleveland) but an extreme cold spell occurred just prior to and during the early part of the Christmas Bird Count (C B C) period. In southwestern Missouri, a major freeze occurred Dec. 11 and the area remained frozen until early February. January was cold to very cold in the Region the first two weeks, but was then warm to very warm the second two weeks causing a slightly above average temperature for the month.



February temperatures were near or slightly below normal for the eastern area, but above normal in the western part of the Region; however, March was above normal everywhere (up to 11.1° above normal at Cleveland and the warmest on record for Louisville).

December was very dark, only 5% of the total possible sunshine was recorded for northern Ohio, and wet. January was somewhat sunnier and not so wet—less than average rainfall. February was considered nearly average; however, March was destructive. In southwestern Missouri, the total precipitation at the end of March for 1973 was 11.81 inches compared to an average of 4.62 inches; Iowa and Illinois recorded their wettest March on record. In the eastern states, it was also very wet, but records were not set.

Because of the flooded areas and early warm temperatures, waterfowl species, which migrated from two to three weeks early, were not found in large concentrations. Many observers suggested that waterfowl populations were down, but the birds were early and had too many places to feed and rest and therefore were possibly just overlooked.

Population decreases were suggested for Blue Jays in Missouri and Illinois, Tufted Titmice and Black-capped Chickadees in Ohio. Increases were suggested for Eastern Bluebirds in Missouri, Red-headed Woodpeckers in Illinois and most of Missouri, and Blue Jays in Ohio. Many observers believe that the Red-headed Woodpecker and House Wren should be removed from the Blue List for the Middlewestern Prairie Region and one contributor believes that the Piping Plover should be added for this Region.

Recently, observers have been rather hasty in identifying dark-phase hawks and white-winged gulls without knowing all the facts about the birds they've identified. In order that further records of Harlan's Hawks and Iceland Gulls can be accepted as authentic, reporters are requested to submit full details of their field observations indicating precisely how they determined the identity of the bird in question, and how it differed from an odd-plumaged Rough-legged Hawk or Glaucous Gull. Of course, the same documentation is expected for all unusual observations before the record can be published.

EXOTICS—Much interest has been given to the expanding range of the Monk Parakeet. Apparently the species has been present in our Region for about two years, but has not been reported by any of our regular observers. At least one parakeet was present

at a feeder near Dayton, O., in early January (*fide* RM). Others have been unofficially reported from the Chicago area during the past two years.

**LOONS, GREBES**—Common Loons were reported as late as Dec. 17 at Cleveland (M) and Dec. 16 at Oakland City, Ind. (*fide* CM). Single birds were found at Notre Dame L., Ind., Jan. 1-12 (NR), and Thomas Hill, Mo., Feb. 23 (BG). One Horned Grebe wintered at Decatur, Ill. (H). A single Eared Grebe had returned to Fellow L., Mo., Mar. 10 (NF) and five were present at Jacomo, Mo., Mar. 26 (KH). The only W. Grebe was reported from Bowling Green, Ky., Dec. 16 and remained about two weeks (HeS, *fide* S). Pied-billed Grebes wintered in more than usual numbers; eight were present at Springfield, Ill., Jan. 13 (H,K), 21 were counted at L. Pewee, Madisonville, Ky., Dec. 16 (Han) and they were regularly seen in the Cleveland area (M).

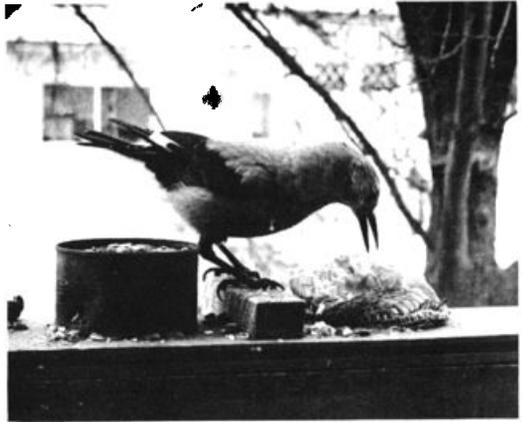
**CORMORANTS, HERONS, BITTERNs**—At least two Double-crested Cormorants remained at Crane L., Cass Co., Ill., until Dec. 2 (H,PW,BO), another was present through most of December at Loram, O. (CW). The 30 Great Blue Herons at Schell-Osage, Mo. Jan. 1 was considered unusual for that area (NF). A Green Heron was found very early at South Bend, Ind., Mar. 4. Little Blue Herons had returned to s.e. Missouri in large numbers at the end of the report period (MSO). One Black-crowned Night Heron remained at Southern Hills L., in s.w. Missouri, all winter. An Am. Bittern was found dead at Georgetown, Vermilion Co., Ill. Dec. 16 (MC).

**WATERFOWL**—At least two, possibly three, Whistling Swans wintered at Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo. (L); three were found at E. Prairie, Mo., Feb. 16 & 25 (MS; Haw), six were present at Magee Marsh, O., Feb. 18 (LV); the largest concentration of spring migrants at Magee Marsh was only 200 birds, since areas farther north were already free of ice (LV). A few Wood Ducks wintered in the Cleveland area (M) and six were found in Posey Co., Ind., Jan. 5 (NS). Scaup (both species) populations along the Cleveland lakefront were poor this year (M). A ♂ **Tufted Duck** was found at Chicago Dec. 3 with a flock of Greater Scaup (C) and was still present Apr. 10; there is no indication that this was an escaped bird. **Barrow's Goldeneyes** were reported from the Mississippi R. near the Alton Dam (Illinois and Missouri) for over two weeks beginning Jan. 15 (DMc, m.ob.), and in the St. Joseph R., Ind. (near South Bend), Dec. 3 (RSi, *fide* NR) & Feb. 18-20 (NR *et al.*). Bufflehead was reported scarce in the Cleveland area as compared to normal wintering populations (M). Single Oldsquaws were inland at Oakland City, Ind., Dec. 8-10 (CM) and L. Carnico, Ky., Jan. 24 (DC). Harlequin Ducks were identified in the St. Joseph R., Ind., Jan. 7-Feb. 3 (VI, NR, m.ob.) and at Northwestern Univ. in Chicago Dec. 23 (C). Inland reports of the White-winged Scoter included: one at Chillicothe, Ill., Feb. 18 (MF, *fide* VH) and four (2♂♂ & 2♀♀) at Sangchris L. State Park, Ill., Mar. 18 (H). Populations of sea ducks in general in both L. Michigan and L. Erie were reported down this year (B & M, respectively).

**VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES**—The first spring hawk migration was noticed in the Cleveland area by independent observers Mar. 15 (D & M) along the lakefront; only a few individuals were observed, but a definite movement occurred. At least 12 Black Vultures were found at Louisville, Ky., Jan. 27, an unusual observation for that area (LaS, AS, *fide* S). Goshawks remained "common" in much of the Region during the period. From two to four were present in the Iowa City, Ia., area in late January and one remained as late as Mar. 4 (NH); they were "too numerous to list" in Illinois being reported from over 15 northern, 13 central and 3 southern Illinois locations; the latest report was Mar. 19 (H). At least nine birds were reported from Missouri; the latest Jan. 15. There were two reported from Indiana, one injured and later died in Pike Co., Dec. 19 (CM,DM) and one at Bristol, Feb. 16 (NR). One adult was found near Cleveland, Jan. 7 (AF) for the only reported Ohio record. Records of two Harlan's Hawks have been accepted for this period; they were found at Squaw Creek Ref. Dec. 23 & Mar. 31 (L). Red-shouldered Hawks were reported more often than usual. At Terre Haute, Ind., and Springfield, Mo., the hawks visited bird feeders and ate the suet (JM & NF, respectively). Single adults were found in Chicago Jan. 1 (C) and Feb. 4 (H, B, *et al.*). As in past years, a few Broad-winged Hawks were "identified" on C B Cs. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce or below numbers throughout the entire Region. Golden Eagles were almost "common" this winter at appropriate locations; several were reported from C B Cs, especially Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky. Three adults and four immatures were found on Ill. Wildlife Refuges (throughout the state) Feb. 17; three were present at Land Between the Lakes, Ky., Feb. 24-25 (CP); up to four (all imm.) were seen on the Union Co., Ill., C B C (K,GC,MH). The latest individual reported was seen at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Mar. 22 (V). The results of the annual Bald Eagle Survey along the Illinois and Mississippi rivers showed that 964 eagles were counted (70% ad., 30% imm.—EF). An Osprey was found near Louisville during the C B C period (BM), another had returned to Ozark, Mo., by mid-March (NF). Two Peregrine Falcons were observed together at Sullivan, Mo., Dec. 28 (JE, *fide* JI).

**CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS**—Two Sandhill Cranes were found at Bowling Green, Ky., Feb. 21 (HeS), there were 36 at Oakland City, Ind., Mar. 10 (CM), singles were found at Ozark, Mo., Mar. 25 (NF) and Magee Marsh, O., Mar. 27 (SZ, *fide* LV). One Virginia Rail was closely observed at Quiver Creek, Mason Co., Ill., Feb. 10 (H,K). A Sora had returned to w. Ky. by Mar. 19 for the earliest state record (Han). The Am. Woodcock returned much earlier this year than usual, arriving in n. Illinois more than a week ahead of the previous record: Chicago, Mar. 4 (C) and Rockford, Mar. 11 (LJ). A single Baird's Sandpiper was present near Havana, Ill., as late as Dec. 2 (H,BO,PW). A Dunlin remained at Squaw Creek Ref. until Dec. 2 (L).

**GULLS**—A high of only two Glaucous Gulls (Feb. 19) was reported from the Cleveland area (MSt), however, five were found at Calumet (Chicago) Jan. 13; others included up to four different birds in the L. Chautauqua, Ill., area Feb. 1-17 (H,K) and a first year bird was at Springfield, Ill., Feb. 16-17 (H). Iceland Gulls were identified at St. Louis Jan. 13 (A), Lorain, O., Feb. 10 & 18 (CW) and two at L. Chautauqua, Ill., Feb. 3 (H). At Cleveland, Great Black-backed Gulls "made good appearances, especially in the ice periods" (M). Eleven were found there Jan. 6 (CW) and a high of 12 on Feb. 11 (D). An imm. Black-headed Gull was properly documented and identified at Quiver L. (Havana), Ill., Feb. 10; this constitutes the first state record for this species (H,K *et al.*). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was present at Springfield, Ill., Feb. 16 (H).



*Clark's Nutcracker, Pleasantville, Iowa, Dec. 19, 1972. Photo/Herb Dorow.*

**DOVES, OWLS, WOODPECKERS**—During the warm spells which occurred in Ohio in late January, Mourning Doves began cooing, suggestive of early nesting (M,D). The only report of a Barn Owl came from Sullivan, Mo., where one bird was found Feb. 23; that was the first observation of this species in that area for at least six years (JI). The arctic subspecies (*wapacuthu*) of the Great Horned Owl was found in the Chicago area Jan. 27-Feb. 4 (B,C); apparently, this is only the second Illinois record of this subspecies. One Snowy Owl was reported; it was present at the LaPorte, Ind., airport Feb. 13-Mar. 30 (NR, m.ob.). There were several Long-eared Owl reports this winter but only a few Short-eared Owls; the latter were considered scarce throughout the Region. At least two Saw-whet Owls wintered at Squaw Creek Ref. (L, m.ob.), another was found at Apple River Canyon S. P., Ill., Jan. 21 (B, *et al.*), others were present at Skokie Lagoons (Chicago) Feb. 25 (JR) and Magee Marsh, O., Mar. 15-25 (LV).

**PHOEBES, CORVIDS**—One E. Phoebe was tallied on the Sullivan, Mo., C B C, another had arrived at Rockford, Ill., Mar. 17—the earliest ever reported from there. A Black-billed Magpie was "reported" from Grafton, Lorain Co., O., Dec. 23 & 31 (EB, *vide* D). One Piñon Jay remained in the Shenandoah, Ia., area throughout the C B C period and into January (RZ).

— S.A. —

Clark's Nutcrackers invaded the Region and were "common" in Iowa. Some individuals were present there before the beginning of this report period, but had not been reported. Gladys Black of Pleasantville wrote that she "... received letters about 27 sightings of the nutcracker in Iowa in response to one of (her) stories published in the *Des Moines Sunday Register*, Feb. 4, 1973. (She) received five letters from one small town, Hull, in n.w. Iowa! All (records) were in w. or c. Iowa except one at the Mississippi R. at Dubuque." She indicated that these were the first authentic records for Iowa since 1894. (Photo).

**CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS, WRENS**—Black-capped Chickadees were detected in numbers south of their normal range near Springfield, Mo., and were easily identified by their song and plumage Feb. 3 (NF *et al.*). A few Boreal Chickadees were reported from the Toledo, O., area, but authentic identifications were not submitted; however, one bird was banded and photographed at Waite Hill (Cleveland) Dec. 23-24 (AF). Red-breasted Nuthatches were relatively common throughout the Region this winter. Clark reports that five Brown Creepers were singing "... at the Kankakee, (Ind.) Fish and Game area, Mar. 24. It is almost unheard of to hear this bird sing in our area. [!—Ed.]. Knowing the background regarding this species at Kankakee, there is no doubt ... that these birds will be breeding here." One House Wren was reported from the Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., (below, C.O.N.W.R.) C B C (DH). At least eight Bewick's Wrens were found on Kentucky C B Cs. At Sullivan, Mo., this species was missed throughout the winter period for the first time in over five years (*vide* JI); at Columbia, Mo., one individual had returned by Mar. 31 (BG). The Carolina Wren was reported as wintering in above normal numbers in the n. part of the Region, especially in the Cleveland (M) and Chicago (B) areas. Single Long-billed Marsh Wrens were found at Goose Lake Prairie, Ill., Feb. 18 (B,C) for the first winter record in n. Illinois, at Quiver Creek (Havana), Ill., Mar. 3 (H,K) and Sangchris L. State Park, Ill., Dec. 3 & Mar. 4 (H).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES, SOLITAIRES**—A few catbirds were found on C B Cs this winter, one as far north as South Bend, Ind. Brown Thrashers were fairly common throughout the winter and were reported on 11 Kentucky C B Cs alone, and as far n. as the Mary Gray Sanctuary, Ind. At least six were present in 1½ miles along the edge of Horseshoe L., Alexander Co., Ill., Jan. 25 (K). One Varied Thrush was observed for nearly a week at Storm L., Ia., beginning Nov. 17 (VC). Hermit Thrushes were considered unusual for Union Twp., Ind., Dec. 23 (*vide* NR) and St. Joseph, Mo., Dec. 10 (L). At least one, possibly two,

Townsend's Solitaires appeared at the James A. Reed Wildlife Area (Kansas City), Mo., Dec. 10 (KH), one was found just w. of Prentice, Morgan Co., Ill., Dec. 27-28 for the first c. Illinois record (BO,H,PW *et al.*), and another was seen at Squaw Creek Ref. Jan. 13-14 (LG, m.ob.).

**WAXWINGS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS**  
 —Bohemian Waxwings were first reported Dec. 2 at Sterling, Ill.; initially only one bird was present, but a maximum of three was found Dec. 25 (HaS, m ob.), one bird was found dead at Springfield, Ill., Dec. 22 (H), another was observed at Decatur, Ill., Dec. 23 (H), and one was present at Maryville, Mo., Dec. 29-31 (E,SP,R). Several N. Shrikes, all adults but one, were reported from n. Illinois, especially from the Chicago area, as late as Feb. 18 (C,B, m.ob.), a maximum of four was found there Dec. 17 (JS); the one imm. was at Thomson, Carroll Co., Ill., Jan. 18 (HaS,K); other reports were from n. Ohio, including one on the Toledo C B C and one (no date) at Oregon (*vide* LV). An Orange-crowned Warbler was banded as late as Dec. 2 at Waite Hill, O. (AF). A Pine Warbler was heard and seen in Lawrence Co., Ky., Mar. 4 (LaS, JP), five others were found at the C.O.N.W.R., Mar. 10 (K). It was quite unusual to find an Ovenbird at a feeder in the Louisville area during December (AW, *vide* BM). Immature ♂ Baltimore Orioles wintered at Illinois feeders in Salem (*vide* WJo) and Carbondale (*vide* K). A **Boat-tailed Grackle** remained at Springfield, Mo., to be included on their C B C.

**FRINGILLIDS**—An imm. ♂ **Indigo Bunting** was found in a multiflora hedge row at the Union Co. Refuge, Ill., Dec. 31; it was present there Jan. 6 & 24 (K) and banded on the latter date. This was probably the first winter record for Illinois of that species. A Dickcissel was present with a group of House Sparrows on the Terre Haute C B C. Evening Grosbeaks were widespread this winter and had only begun returning north at the end of the period. The following table shows the number of Middlewestern Prairie Region C B Cs reporting this and other species.

1972-73 Christmas Bird Count

	Ohio	Ind.	Ill.	Ky.	Mo.	Ia.
Evening Grosbeak	11	3	15	2	2	10
Common Redpoll	3	1	4	0	0	4
Red Crossbill	3	5	12	0	4	8
Vesper Sparrow	4	0	7	2	1	2

Total No. C B Cs 36 19 36 9 16 16  
 Pine Grosbeaks were very scarce but at least ten birds were reported from the Cleveland area Nov. 16-Feb. 4 (*vide* D); the two individuals found at the C O N.W.R. Dec. 30 were the first ever reported for s. Illinois (GC *et al.*). Common Redpolls were also very scarce this winter; a maximum of six at one time was the highest number reported—from Westlake, O., (HO, *vide* D). Red Crossbills were everywhere and were reported throughout the period. One large flock was found eating ragweed seeds as far as two miles away from the nearest conifer trees in Mason Co., Ill., Mar. 3 (H, K), up to 35 birds (2 flocks) were

present as far south as C O N W R Mar 10 (K) The birds may nest in the Region this year, since several Illinois observers have found isolated pairs carrying nesting material and beginning nest construction. A few Le Conte's Sparrows were found in extreme s. Illinois during the winter (H,K *et al.*) and spring migrants were present at Springfield, Ill., by Mar. 17 (H,K). Vesper Sparrows were much more common this winter than usual; s.w. Missouri reported its first winter record. Nearly all areas reported that Tree Sparrows were down; through winter banding, Lee Johnson was able to document this at Rockford, Ill. Wintering Harris' Sparrows were reported from Carbondale, Ill., (2 individuals at a feeder, DH), 1 immature at Union Co. Ref., Ill., Jan. 24-25 (K), Potato Creek State Park, Ind., Feb. 4 & 14 (VI;PR), and Columbia, Mo., Feb. 10 (BG). It was suggested that Lapland Longspurs were much less common than usual everywhere. The Smith's Longspurs were first encountered Mar. 19 at Springfield, Ill., and reach a maximum of only 30 birds Mar. 29 (H). Snow Buntings were also reported as being scarce all winter.

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## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

— Robert D. Purrington

Although on the whole mild weather prevailed throughout the Region, the winter season was spectacularly highlighted by two mid-winter storms of unusual intensity along the Gulf Coast, the first of which caused considerable mortality in southwestern Louisiana. The boreal invasion which began to take shape near the end of fall migration manifested itself in the second great influx of Evening Grosbeaks in the past four years, and an almost unprecedented movement of Red Crossbills into the Region.



Snows at New Orleans on January 11 and February 16 were the first in that subtropical locality in eight years, but the most serious impact of the January storm was felt in southwestern Louisiana, where a severe ice storm apparently resulted in considerable bird mortality. Newman vividly described observations in Baton Rouge of birds burdened with ice, unable or nearly unable to fly, and of birds having lost tails and apparently feet owing to icing of the trees. In one case, a Mockingbird was seen whose wings were frozen to its body. The real magnitude of the mortality will never be known; reports of birds *known* to have died as a result of the ice storm were limited to Roseate Spoonbills killed on or near Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. Yet in both southwestern and southeastern Louisiana there were indications that virtually all of the species noted lingering in the coastal woods in late December had either been killed or had left in the face of the severe weather. That mortality, of species which cannot be considered hardy in the United States in winter, in itself is of minimal significance, but with Newman's observations, suggests a much more widespread kill involving common winter and resident species.

As usual there was no shortage of rare vagrants, although as Newman commented, there seemed to be little pattern to their occurrence. There was, of course, the irruption of northern finches, but beyond that there failed to emerge any discernible common denominator to the observations. The movement of western species

into the coastal parts of the Region was unimpressive, the notable exceptions being a Mountain Plover in Alabama and a Curve-billed Thrasher in Louisiana (see below). Goshawks, always rare in the Region, were reported from as far south as New Orleans, and although little information was received on populations of regularly occurring species, there was some indication of an increase in numbers of wintering Sparrow Hawks, and Fox Sparrows were unusually common in some coastal areas.

**BOREAL INVASION**—During the winter of 1968-69 Evening Grosbeaks poured into the Region in unprecedented numbers; this winter an invasion of comparable magnitude occurred, which if anything was even more widespread than its predecessor. Whether numbers were greater is arguable, but Evening Grosbeaks appeared in smaller flocks at many more localities, causing considerable public notice. In middle Tennessee Farmer reported that they were more common than ever before. Several flocks were noted in New Orleans, lasting into April, and many were present in coastal Alabama. Although Purple Finches were abundant, there was only scattered evidence of an influx of Pine Siskins. Perhaps surpassing the Evening Grosbeak in terms of the excitement they generated were Red Crossbills, which were seen in Louisiana for the first time since 1888 and provided Mississippi with its first record of the species. Sightings of approximately 113 crossbills were reported, mostly in small flocks. As usual, a number of normally non-wintering species, predominantly passerines, wintered, or attempted to do so, along the Gulf Coast. Most of the records of wintering warblers came from s. e. Louisiana, but observations of orioles, Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks were widely distributed.

**LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, BOOBIES**—This was generally regarded to be good year for Com. Loons; a flock of 600+ at Gulf Breeze, Fla. Jan. 25 (RDU) was unusual for that area, as were 4 at Rockefeller Ref., La. Dec. 2 (RBH). They were also thought more common than usual in the vicinity of Grand Terre I., La. (RDP). Two Red-throated Loons on Woods Res., Tullahoma, Tenn. Dec. 2 (LS) established the 13th record for the state. Horned Grebes peaked at 400 on Jan. 1 at Woods Res. (KD&LDub) and a similar number at Mexico Beach, Fla. Jan. 13 (SS) was unusually large. Eared Grebes, on the other hand, were extremely scarce in Cameron Par., La. this winter (RJN). The second record of the Western Grebe for Mississippi was established by one closely observed on Ross Barnett Res. Dec. 2 (CB&WGW). Sixteen Brown Pelicans were seen at Calcasieu Lake, Sabine Par., Jan. 15 (JMV, JRW). The species was last recorded on the Cameron-Sabine C B C in 1957. Similarly encouraging was the count of 63 on the Dauphin I. C B C Dec. 30 (MWG). A Blue-faced Booby at Alabama Pt. Jan. 6 (RRR, CLK, m.ob.) was the fourth record for Alabama and the third in January. Unusual because of its proximity to shore was an imm. Gannet near the mouth of the Empire canal, Plaquemines Par., Jan. 20 (RJN&RBH). The species is rare west of the Mississippi R. delta.

Although a single Anhinga at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La. Dec. 23 (MW) was unusual, seven in Tensas Par., Dec. 27 (RBH&REN) were remarkably far north for a species which rarely winters.

**HERONS, WATERFOWL**—Six Green Herons in the Triumph-Venice area of s.e. Louisiana Feb. 18 (RJN,RDP,JCL&DAT) set a new high winter count for that locality. The Cattle Egret, which normally winters only coastwise in the Region, was reported Nov. 22&28 in Cannon Co., Tenn. (FB,GN), the latest in fall for middle Tennessee, and Jan. 1 in Yalobusha Co., Miss. (WMD); 17 were seen in E. Baton Rouge Par. Jan. 3 (RJN), one was observed in Point Coupee Par. Mar. 6 (RJN), and 3 were reported from Lafayette Co., Miss. Mar. 17 (WMD). One Jan. 25 at Tuscaloosa, Ala. (JCT) was the first winter record for the upper coastal plain of Alabama. These records at least suggest an increasing tendency to winter away from the coast. a Reddish Egret in Cameron Par., Jan. 14 (HDP, AJN & JRW) was especially unusual in that it was seen shortly after the severe winter storm, and two Louisiana Herons in Iberville Par. Mar. 13 (JAR & RJN) were early by more than 6 weeks for that locality. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen at Pensacola Dec. 10, 12 & 26. (RDU, LDUN, AFW & CLK), there were two previous winter records, and one stayed through Dec. 12 at Birmingham (GC), the first winter record for the mountain region of Alabama. A count of 3 Least Bitterns on the Venice C B C Dec. 28 (RDP, *et al.*) was unusual for a species rarely encountered in winter; one was still present on Feb. 18, having survived a hard freeze in the area (RJN, RDP, DAT & JCL).

———— S.A. ————

In perhaps the most serious result of the January ice storm in s.w. Louisiana, John Walther of Sabine N W R. reported hundreds of Roseate Spoonbills killed in Cameron Par. by snow, ice, and freezing temperatures. A few days later, on Jan. 13-14 only a dozen or so survivors were found, although 50-75 were observed repeated in February and March (RJN, *et al.*). Remarkable in view of this mortality was a congregation of 1400-1600 spoonbills in Vermillion Par. Mar. 9 (JL, RM, JMV), the largest number ever seen in Louisiana. The birds were thought to be potential nesters in the area.

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The second record of the Whistling Swan for Alabama's mountain region was established by one near Oneonta from Dec. 19 to at least Jan. 13 (CL, GA, m.ob.). At Gum Cove, Cameron Par., 5 Canada Geese were seen Jan. 6 (RJN, DAD & JCL). Resident observers said that the total number was on the order of 20; these may be the only "wild" Canada Geese wintering in Louisiana! A single Ross' Goose was found at Sabine N.W.R. Dec. 30 (RJN) and another had been reported from Rockefeller Ref. earlier in December. Three Fulvous Tree Ducks, present from at least Dec. 9 in Cameron Par. (RBH & RJN, m.ob.). Ring-necked Ducks and Lesser Scaup the birds may have been escapes from Rockefeller Ref.

One, and perhaps two Eur. Wigeon Jan. 6 at LeGarde's L., Anniston, Ala. (WJC) represented the second Alabama record. For the first time in many years, an Oldsquaw was seen in Baton Rouge, this on Jan. 18-19 (RJN, m.ob.). Ring-necked Ducks and Lesser Scaup were reported from middle Tennessee in numbers equal only to about 10 per cent of the numbers of a few years ago (HEP); Red-breasted Mergansers, on the other hand, reached a peak of 360 at Nashville's Old Hickory L. Nov. 22 (PC & MLB), the highest numbers ever recorded.

**RAPTORS**—It hardly needs to be said that one key to understanding population changes among raptors in the face of man's modification of the environment is the painstaking compilation of quantitative data on abundance on a year-to-year basis. This year a 118-mile census was initiated, to be run twice each winter in Montgomery, Bullock, and Macon Cos., Alabama. The results of this winter's census, taken on Jan. 16 & 19 (JEK) are as follows: Red-tailed Hawk, 38, 38, Red-shouldered Hawk, 5, 1; Marsh Hawk, 5, 11; Sparrow Hawk, 6, 8; Total, 54, 58.

The first Louisiana record of the Goshawk was obtained when a banded individual was shot near New Orleans; details will be published elsewhere. This record is perhaps the most remarkable evidence of the widespread southward movement of Goshawks during 1972-73. An injured Goshawk was captured at Gallatin, Tenn. Dec. 29 (PC & DC); it is expected that it will be possible to eventually release the bird. Another was seen at Clarksville, Tenn., Jan. 6-9 (JDA), while an imm. in Franklin Co., Ala. Feb. 10 (PLT, IFS *et al.*) was the second record for the state. Broad-winged Hawks regularly winter in the Region only in s.e. Louisiana. This winter one was seen at Decatur, Ala. Nov. 24, the latest for that state. One was found at Grand Chenier, Cameron Par., Dec. 10 (RBH & RJN), while the Venice C B C Dec. 28 (SAG *et al.*) yielded another. The second winter record for the Florida section was established by one at Marianna Feb. 18 (MG & MG). A Swainson's Hawk Mar. 1 at Ft. Deposit, Ala. (PFC) was the 9th record for the state and the first for March. Ferruginous Hawk, the fifth Louisiana record, was seen near Morrow, St. Landry Par., Dec. 16 (RJN). Golden Eagle was reported from Tennessee Nov. 11 in the Woodbury area (FB), the earliest ever, three wintered there. One Golden Eagle was seen in Madison Parish, La., Feb. 25 (DTK, RJN, WJL); three imm. Golden Eagles were seen near Tallulah, La., Feb. 10. In the same area on the same day, five unidentified eagles and four imm. Bald Eagles were seen (JWG, PEG, TWG, LAH, JBr). There were the following reports of Bald Eagles: Nov. 16-18 Nashville (*vide* MLB), Nov. 19, Cross Creek N.W.R., Tenn. (W.A.S.), Nov. 23, Pickett Co., Tenn. (RH), Dec. 8, Ross Barnett Res., Miss. (1 ad.-WN), Dec. 13, Daphne, Ala. (LPP), Jan. 1 Woods Res., Tenn. (KD&LDub);, Feb. 17, Cross L., Caddo Par. (RJN & JRS), Mar. 10, Montgomery, Ala. (1 ad.-JEK). Between December and late March, 24 Am. Kestrels were banded in the Nashville area (JRI & HR), where they were thought more common than during the past few years.

## GRUIFORMES, SHOREBIRDS, LARIDS

—Sandhill Cranes were noted in Pickett Co. Tennessee Nov. 23 (RH), where 41 were seen, and on the Nashville C B C Dec. 30, the first record for that locality. There were 31 at Gulf Shores, Ala. Jan. 7 (MLB & GDJ). A Limpkin in Bay Co., Fla. on Dec. 29 (JG, KG & MG), was at the limit of the species' range. The elusive Black Rail was seen in salt marsh at the edge of the gulf on the Cameron-Sabine C B C Dec. 30 (RBH). Am. Coots reached peak numbers of 2000 at Woods Res., Tenn. Nov. 13 (KD & LDub), well below normal numbers. Snowy Plovers continue to be nearly absent from Louisiana beaches; one was noted on the Cameron-Sabine C B C Dec. 31 and 3 were found at Rutherford Beach, Cameron Par. Jan. 7 (RJN & JCL). A new species was added to the Alabama list when a **Mountain Plover** was observed at Magnolia Springs from Jan. 6-15 (PFC, SEL, CLK, m.ob.). Photographs were obtained (*vide* TAI). Twelve were seen at Alabama Pt., Ala. Jan. 7 (MLB & GDJ). Six Whimbrels were observed at East Jetty, Cameron Par., La. Mar. 4 (AWP & RJN), and one at Alabama Pt. Jan. 7 (MLB & GDJ) was the first coastal record in winter for the state. The species winters only sparingly along the Gulf Coast. The Pectoral Sandpiper is rarely found in winter anywhere in the U.S. One at the Natchitoches fish hatchery Dec. 16 (RBH & RJN) was thus unexpected. Least Sandpipers attempted to winter near Nashville for the first time, being present until Jan. 17 (MLB). Three **Stilt Sandpipers** at Cameron Jan. 1 (RBH & RJN) were the first ever observed in winter in Louisiana. Black-necked Stilts again wintered in the Cameron area (RJN *et al.*), while one at Marcon Pt., Santa Rosa Co., Fla. Mar. 25 (DT) was considered accidental.

A Great Black-backed Gull was seen at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Dec. 30 (PFC, VDH *et al.*), for the 6th state record. Ring-Billed Gulls were well below normal at Nashville's Old Hickory L., while Franklin's Gulls at Birmingham Dec. 14 (HHK) and at Decatur Dec. 26 (DCH) were the fifth and sixth Alabama records. The first Louisiana record of the **Little Gull** was obtained on Mar. 31 when an immature was collected at Cameron (RJN & DAT—specimen to L.S.U.M.Z.). Black Terns were noted in Louisiana in Cameron Par. Dec. 30 & Mar. 25 (RJN *et al.*).

**PIGEONS, ANIS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS**—A Band-tailed Pigeon seen during January near Minden, Webster Par., (RK, *vide* RS) was the fifth record for Louisiana. Groove-billed Anis were seen in Panama City, Fla. Dec. 10 & 29 (SS & DS), and were present in usual numbers in coastal Louisiana, specifically Cameron Par., Reserve, and Venice in early winter. Following the January freeze, there were no further observations with the exception of 3 at Venice Mar. 25 (RDP). Long-eared Owls were again observed near Shreveport, the only place in Louisiana where they are currently being found, with 2 seen Feb. 16-17 (JRS & RJN). A Saw-whet Owl found dead near Eufaula Refuge Dec. 4 or 11 (MF) was the fourth record of the species for Alabama. On both the Venice and Cameron-Sabine C B Cs Dec. 28 & 31 respectively,

single Chuck-will's-widows and Whip-poor-wills were recorded. A Whip-poor-will taken near English Turn, Plaquemines Par., Feb. 28 (AFG) was one of several in that area this winter. A Com. Nighthawk was heard in W. Baton Rouge Par. Jan. 22 (RBH); winter records in Louisiana are confined mostly to New Orleans. Wintering *Archilochus* hummingbirds were at Reserve Dec. 17-Jan. 6 (RJS *et al.*). A Rufous Hummingbird at a Mobile feeder Dec. 18-19 (Mr. & Mrs. MM) was only the second ever seen in Alabama; an unidentified hummingbird was seen on Dauphin I. Jan. 5 (TM)

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH PIPITS**—In coastal Louisiana, from Cameron to Grand Isle, Red-headed Woodpeckers were much more in evidence than usual. The cause of the movement, which began quite early, is unknown. Ordinarily they are absent from the coast. The only W. Kingbirds reported were from Alabama, where one was seen Dec. 3 at Dauphin I. (TH) and others at Fairhope Jan. 1 & 11 (AN, MN, JDW, JEK, TM). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Panama City Dec. 7-8, (SS) was the latest ever there by five days; individuals were noted in Louisiana Dec. 9 at Cameron (GHL, RBH & JK), Dec. 16 on the New Orleans C B C (RDP), and on the Venice C B C Dec. 28 (MMM *et al.*). A Wied's Crested Flycatcher was observed closely on the Venice C B C (SAG, RJN, RDP, MMM & DN), and wintering *Empidonax* flycatchers were seen on the Venice count (SAG *et al.*) and on Dec. 29 on the Reserve C B C (RJS & MW). As expected, there were scattered observations of Vermilion Flycatchers ? reported belatedly, at L. Jackson, Miss., Oct. 24-Nov 28 (EA), and ad. ♂♂ at Grand Chenier, Cameron Par., Dec. 3 (RJN, MN & HDP) and Ft. Jackson, Plaquemines Par., last seen on the Venice C B C (RDP *et al.*). The latter bird apparently has wintered there since 1968; its disappearance may have been owing to the January freeze.

One or two Barn Swallows at Foley Dec. 23-Jan 7 (PFC) were the first ever observed in winter in Alabama. Apparently the result of the severe winter in the western plains states, Horned Larks were found unusually far south in Louisiana with 30 in Rapides Par. Dec. 16, (RBH & RJN) 56 near Lafayette the following day (BE), 2 at Baton Rouge Jan. 11 (RJN & RBH) coincident with the winter storm, and again at Lafayette, 21 on Feb. 3 (MBE). The Lafayette records were the first for that area. One of the outstanding rarities of the season for Louisiana was a **Curve-billed Thrasher** seen on the Cameron-Sabine C B C Dec. 31 (HP & LT) and by many observers the day following. There are two previous records for the state. Unusually late was a Swainson's Thrush seen Dec 2 in Hackberry Woods, Cameron Par. (HDP); a Wood Thrush on the Cameron-Sabine C B C (RDP & DN) added to the growing list of mid-winter records of this species. Sprague's Pipits continue to be found in small numbers in appropriate habitat in s. Louisiana, with reports from Cameron (HHJ), Reserve (RJS), and New Orleans (RDP & RJS). Three were seen in Baldwin Co., Ala. Jan. 29 (VDH).

**WARBLERS**—The first winter record for Alabama of the **Magnolia Warbler** was of one at Ft. Morgan Dec. 30 (VDH). An Audubon's type Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen in the live oaks at Ft. Jackson, Plaquemines Par., Jan. 20 (RBH), approximately the 15th record for s.e. Louisiana, and another was observed at Lafayette Jan. 26 (MBE). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was at Smith's I., Cameron Par. Dec. 9 (JK)-Jan. 1, but disappeared after the storm. By now Black-throated Green and Yellow-throated Warblers are expected in the Triumph-Venice area of s.e. Louisiana and are encountered on nearly every trip to that area. On the Venice C B C, the numbers recorded were 2 and 3, respectively. Ovenbirds were found on the Venice C B C (RDP) and in Cameron Par. Mar. 11 (RJN), the latter either a very early migrant or the only passerine straggler known to survive the January storm. Waterthrushes made a good showing this winter, with two of each species on the Venice C B C, while a N. Waterthrush banded at Ft. Morgan Feb. 12 (JVP) was the first in winter for Alabama. As late as Feb. 18 at least 3 individuals of this species were seen in the Venice area (RDP, RJN, DAT & JCL). Other records of overwintering warblers in Louisiana were of a Yellow-breasted Chat in Cameron Par. Jan. 7 (JCL & RJN), 3 Wilson's Warblers at Venice, where they are expected in small numbers on the C B C, and an Am. Redstart on the Cameron-Sabine count (RJS).

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS**—Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen near Lafayette, La. Dec. 17 (MBE, GE&KE), the first record for that locality, and at Pensacola Dec. 23 (CLK), where they have been found regularly since 1970. Although wintering orioles have become almost commonplace in the lower part of the Region, the Orchard Oriole is by far the least often reported of the "expected" species. The only one seen this winter was on the Venice C B C (SAG & RJN). There were at least 12 records of Baltimore type Northern Orioles from mid-December through early March from s.e. Louisiana, Alabama, and n.w. Florida. The only Bullock's type Northern Orioles reported were in the citrus groves near Ft. Jackson, La., where the species winters regularly; up to 8 individuals were counted. Summer Tanagers, rare in winter in the Region, were noted in Louisiana in Cameron Par. Dec. 9 (RBH, RJN & MN), Dec. 28 at Venice (SAG *et al.*), and at a Shreveport feeder from January through March (*vide* HHJ). Much less likely in winter, on the basis of past performance is the Scarlet Tanager; a ♀ at Gulf Breeze, Fla. Nov. 22 was at the very least a very late migrant, exceeding the previous extreme date for the section by 29 days.

**FRINGILLIDS**—Truly remarkable was the number of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks recorded, including two records from Tennessee. The species is noted more frequently each winter, although the general mildness of early winter 1972-73 no doubt was important. There were at least 9 records of the species, mostly at feeders, from early December well into March. Especially noteworthy were Nashville area records

Dec. 3 & 31 (BF, SF, EL, JN) and coastal Alabama sightings Jan. 3-Mar. 11 and Jan. 9-22, the first winter records for that state. The species was noted as well at Baton Rouge and Lafayette, La. At least 5 Black-headed Grosbeaks were seen, from coastal Alabama Jan. 8-Feb. 17 (SH & REH) and Mar. 16 (JDW), Pensacola Dec. 7-Jan. 4 (SG), and Baton Rouge Feb. 16 (KH, RJN, & MN). Blue Grosbeaks were encountered on Dec. 9 at Ft. Morgan (PFC), the latest for Alabama, Dec. 17-18 at Reserve, La. (MW & RJS), and Jan. 11 in Baton Rouge (RJN, HDP & PLB). Indigo Buntings are not entirely unexpected in s.e. Louisiana in winter; this season one was seen at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Dec. 16 (RJS) and another on the Venice C B C (RDP *et al.*). Painted Buntings visited at least two New Orleans feeders during December and January; another at Baton Rouge was thought to have returned to the same feeding station for at least four years (*vide* RJN). Dickcissels were reported from Tennessee where single birds were seen Dec. 28 at Clarksville (BM, *vide* JDA) and Jan. 8 at Woodbury (FB). One at Baton Rouge Mar. 19-28 (RJN & MN) may have been a surviving winter straggler. As noted above Evening Grosbeaks blanketed the Region. Though more common in the northern part of the area, they reached New Orleans in moderate numbers, certainly bettering their showing of 1968-69 (RDP), and counts of up to 100 were made on the Alabama coast, with the first birds reaching the coast by Dec. 18 (TAI). As of the end of the period there was no information available on subspecies identification. Although Purple Finches were present in unusually large numbers over the entire Region, there were relatively few reports of Pine Siskins, and in general it seems to have been a mediocre year for that northern finch. The only notable exception was at Shreveport where the species was rather common. By all odds the most exciting showing by a boreal species was the almost unparalleled influx of **Red Crossbills**. There were at least two Mississippi records, the first ever for that state, these on Oct. 29 when an imm. ♂ was picked up dead near Noxubee N.W.R. (JAJ), and on Feb. 24 when two were seen near the same spot (JAJ). In Louisiana almost 100 were reported as follows: Jan. 27 Caddo Par., 80 (JRS & RJN), Jan. 29 at Shreveport, 12 (HHJ), Mar. 20 at Monroe, 3 (DTK), and Mar. 22 at Swartz, Ouachita Par., 2 (DTK). At Nashville, one was seen Feb. 11 and ten on the 17th (MLB), the second and third area records, while the only report from Alabama was of 5 in Bankhead State Forest Mar. 1 (TAI & HHK). The Sharp-tailed Sparrow winters primarily in the coastal salt marshes of the Region; one far inland in Natchitoches Par. Dec. 17 (RBH) was unexpected. Lark Sparrows, rare in winter and uncommon at any season in s. Louisiana, were seen Dec. 24 at Reserve (RC) and Mar. 24 in Cameron Par. (RJS, JCL, RJN & MN), where 3 were found. Oregon type Dark-eyed Juncos were observed in Nashville Nov. 10, 17 & 28 (ARL), at Rockefeller Ref., La. Dec. 1 (RBH), and at Birmingham Dec. 16-Jan. 21 (JFH & MH), the fourth state record. Harris' Sparrows were observed in Tennessee at Donalson, Dec. 21-Mar. 10 (WAH, m.ob.), and at Lebanon, Jan. 20-Mar. 10 (VB, m.ob.), Fox Sparrows were significantly more common than usual

along the coast from Cameron to Dauphin I , but no comments were received from elsewhere in the Region.

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## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/ C. Stuart Houston

After a cold first half of December, it was one of the mildest winters on record throughout the region.



There was almost no snow in Montana and South Dakota, little snow in North Dakota and most of the snow had melted by mid-January, as far north as Davidson, Sask.

**WATERFOWL**—The northernmost open water reporting was from L. Wabamun, w. of Edmonton, near a large power plant, where a Pied-billed Grebe Dec. 31 and nine species of ducks included 5 Barrow's Goldeneyes Feb. 18 (LLG). Up to 4 Barrow's Goldeneyes and a single **Harlequin Duck** wintered at Calgary (VL). At Sylvan L., Alta., the last ducks departed Dec. 3, leaving about 100 frozen in the ice (HSA). Between 5000 and 10,000 Mallards wintered at Calgary, there were 106,075 Mallards and 6650 Canada Geese in the C B C at L. Andes N.W.R., S.D. and 107 Trumpeter Swans at LaCreek N.W.R., S.D. Ten Wood Ducks wintered with Mallards at Silesia, Mont. (SFM). There were 1214 Com. Mergansers at Pickstown, S.D., Dec. 27 (WH).

### S.A.

The first outbreak of "Dutch duck plague" or duck virus enteritis (DVE) in epizootic proportions among wild waterfowl occurred in the central flyway at the L. Andes N.W.R. Previous outbreaks, since the disease was first recognized in this country in 1967, had been limited to commercial and captive flocks with only incidental losses among associated wild waterfowl. This highly contagious virus disease affects only waterfowl in which it produces severe hemorrhages, especially in the digestive system. Control measures consisted of disposal of dead birds, chlorination of open water and sodium carbonate treatment of ice on the refuge to inactivate virus, and dispersal of the flock to the nearby Missouri R. where flushing and dilution would reduce the rate of transmission. Approximately 40,000 of the 100,000 mallards wintering in the area are estimated to have died during the outbreak which lasted from early January to Early March.

**ACCIPITERS, BUTEOS**—There was a moderate movement of Goshawks, with 18 observations at Edmonton, 20 at Saskatoon and 9 at Spirit L., Sask., with singles at ten other Canadian, six North Dakota and two South Dakota localities. A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Saskatoon Jan. 13 was a first winter record (JBG), one at Bowdoin N.W.R., Malta, Mont., Jan. 25 was also unusual (RJK). A Cooper's Hawk was seen at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., Jan. 26 (KFH) and another Feb. 27 & Mar. 10 at Rapid City (RK). At Edmonton there were 5 sightings of Rough-legged Hawks on three dates, Dec. 30-Feb. 17 and up to 5 wintered at Benton L. N.W.R., Great Falls, Mont. (GAH).

**EAGLES, FALCONS**—Golden Eagles were reported from 34 and Bald Eagles from 22 localities, but this year only one Bald Eagle wintered at Squaw Rapids Dam, Sask. Single, dark-phase Gyrfalcons were seen Feb. 18 & 25 near Calgary (HP, RP), Mar. 15 near Drumheller, Alta., Mar. 13 near Kindersley (DGB), Jan. 9-10 near Saskatoon (VJH) and Mar. 17 n of Rosetown, Sask. (WER) and Jan. 10-25 at L. Ilo N.W.R., Dunn Center, N.D. (CMD). Merlins as usual wintered on the Canadian prairies, with 10 on 7 dates at Edmonton and 6 sightings each winter month at Calgary, plus 26 on 16 dates at Saskatoon, 5 sightings at Moose Jaw and 2 at Brandon. Mid-winter records of Am. Kestrels included singles at Calgary Jan. 20 (BD), Winnipeg Jan. 4 (MR), Jamestown Feb. 8 (HAK); they wintered at Vermillion and Yankton, S D Prairie Falcons were reported from the Calgary area through Dec. 21 and again after Mar. 4 (VL, BD), at Vulcan, Alta., Jan. 10, 15, Feb. 7, 9 & Mar. 1 (EB), at Regina through the winter (MB), on two December and five February dates at Spring Valley, Sask. (FB), at L. Ilo N.W.R., Jan. 10 (CMD), and at Belfield, N D , Dec. 9 (RES), at Rapid City Dec. 16 (EAS) and Lacreek N.W.R., S.D., Dec. 27 (NRW), and two at Benton Lake N.W.R., Mont., in February (GAH). Peregrine Falcons were noted near Rapid City Dec. 17, 21, 26, 27, with two each on Jan. 13-14 and one Jan. 28-29 (EAS, EMS), while one was seen at Angostura Dam s. of Hot Springs, S.D. Feb. 21 (DA), and one at Marmarth, N.D. Dec. 16 (PFS).

**GROUSE, COOT**—Sharp-tailed Grouse were decreased at Edmonton, not seen at Stettler or Vulcan, Alta and rare at Tisdale, Sask., but were at their highest numbers in several years at Audubon N.W.R., Coleharbor, N.D. and in larger coveys near Rapid City. Gray Partridge were in small numbers at Vulcan, Birch Hills, Kindersley, Kenaston and Sheho, but 39 fed in one farmyard at Spring Valley, Sask. Up to 7 Am. Coots wintered at L. Wabamun, Alta. and 3 wintered near the Regina powerhouse.

**GULLS, DOVES, ANI**—Two Glaucous Gulls were seen at Pierre Dec. 20-26 (BJR). Mourning Doves wintered Bismarck, Jamestown, Grand Forks and Dunseith, N.D. and at Brookings, Yankton, Pierre and in Deuel Co., S.D. A farmer near Pickstown, S D noticed a strange magpie-like bird in the brush

about Nov 1, later, a dog or cat dragged in the specimen, the first **Groove-billed Ani** for South Dakota (BJR).

**OWLS**—Single Screech Owls were seen Jan. 9 at Lyleton, Man. (JLM), found dead Feb. 19 at Portland (DLK), identified Nov. 11 and found injured in mid-January at Jamestown (DHJ, JTL) and counted in the C B C at Tewaukon N.W.R., N.D. There was an obvious movement of pale, northern Great Horned Owls near Aberdeen, S.D. (LRL), corroborated by further band recoveries of Saskatchewan owls in the northern states. Snowy Owls were generally common, with 154 individual sightings in the Calgary area, 82 individuals on 9 dates near Edmonton (including 19 on Dec. 17, 14 on Dec. 30 and 22 on Jan. 13), 34 on 13 dates near Rosetown, 169 sightings near Saskatoon, 20 individuals on 11 dates in February near Leeds, N.D. and repeated sightings at Aberdeen, S.D.; four were banded at Holden, Alta (KT). Hawk Owls were less common than the previous winter near Edmonton but one was seen at Stettler, Alta. Feb. 27 (LML). A **Pygmy Owl** was photographed at Water Valley, n.w. of Calgary Jan. 21 (HV). A few **Barred Owls** moved south from their forest habitat, with a probable sight record for Spring Valley Apr. 6 (FB), one struck by a car in Regina Dec. 31 (photographed and released Jan. 8, R.M.) and one at Fargo Jan. 23 (EGA). A Long-eared Owl wintered at Medicine Lake N.W.R., Mont. (DNW). Short-eared Owls were absent from most localities, yet 21 and 23 at Calgary Jan. 6-7 were the highest winter concentrations ever recorded there. A Boreal Owl was captured at Robinson, N.D. Nov. 10 (CBS).

**WOODPECKERS, LARKS**—At least two Com. Flickers wintered at Lethbridge and one at Moose Jaw Red-bellied Woodpeckers wintered at Vermillion, Volin, L. Burke and Pickstown, S.D. Several Lewis' Woodpeckers wintered at and south of Sturgis, S.D (EMS, EEM). Hairy/Downy ratios at feeding trays were 10-10 at Spirit L., 6-12 at Indian Head, Sask and 4-5 at Montpelier, N.D. In spite of the mild, open winter, Horned Larks did not winter at Regina, Brandon or Lyleton, Man. and only a few were seen at Vulcan, Alta.

**CORVIDS**—A Gray Jay was seen near Saskatoon Jan. 14 & 28, one wintered at Spirit L., Sask. and one was seen near St. John, N.D., Oct. 22 (RJG) Blue Jays appeared at feeders in Calgary for the first time, wintered at Lewiston, Mont., showed an increase at Tewaukon N.W.R., Cayuga and numbered 12 at Sheyenne, N.D. Black-billed Magpies were ubiquitous on the plains, where 350 wintered at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., a few were present all winter at Jamestown, an increase was evident from presence in 13 of 15 North Dakota C B Cs and an increase was reported at several South Dakota localities. **Com. Ravens** continued their unprecedented (at least since the days of the buffalo) southward invasion begun in the fall. In Alberta, they were reported from Rochfort Bridge, Mayerthorpe, Barrhead, Drayton Valley, Devon, L. Wabamun, Stony Plain, Edmonton, Elk I. Park (15 on Feb. 3),

Smoky L., Vegreville, Vermillion, Sylvan L. (up to 15 all winter), Innisfail, Cremona, Carstairs, Cochrane, and the first-ever records for the city of Calgary. Saskatchewan raven records included Star City, Rosetown, Saskatoon (absent Dec. 24-Feb. 16), Raymore, Lanigan, West Bend, Sheho, Spirit L., Kelliher, Gerald, Tantallon, Yarbo, Rocanville, Moosomin, Spring Valley, Regina, Grenfell, Wapella, Langbank, Fairlight, Arcola, Carlyle, Moose Mtn. Park (the first since 1894), and Parkman. Manitoba reports came from Grandview, Birtle, Oak Lake, Brandon, Minnedosa, Portage la Prairie, Stonewall, Winnipeg, Arborg and Beausejour. Five ravens wintered near Willow City and eight n. of Bottineau through early February (A.B., O.M.) while single ravens were reported Dec. 2 at Rolla, N.D. (PCH), Dec. 9 at Coleharbor (DCM) and Dec. 29 & Jan. 6 near Dunseith, N.B. (RES, RCF).

A Clark's Nutcracker wintered in Edmonton, and up to 7 daily were at feeders in Rapid City.

**CHICKADEES**—Black-capped Chickadees returned in full force to feeders in Saskatoon; we seemed to have six at the writer's feeder, but banding proved the number to be 45, with some still unbanded, most visiting quite regularly. Our previous high was 1965 when we seemed to have only three chickadees yet banded 14 in three days. In 1969, 1970 and 1971 we caught none as they almost disappeared from the city. Black-capped also were "unusually common" this winter at Regina and increased at Tewaukon N.W.R. Mountain Chickadees frequented two feeders at Rapid City (LMB). **Boreal Chickadees** were seen at Brookings Dec. 1-9 (NH) and s. of Brookings in Moody Co. on Dec. 16 (BKH), the first records for South Dakota. Boreals also seemed more widespread in Alberta, with reports from Edmonton, Bon Accord, Wildwood, Caroline, Cremona (6, Jan. 21) and Calgary (4, Jan. 1) and from Saskatoon Feb. 22 and Wauchope, Sask., Dec. 27.

**NUTHATCHES, MIMIDS**—White-breasted Nuthatches, no longer considered a rarity, wintered at Sherwood Park and Calgary, Alta., Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Indian Head, Sask. (a first), with one n. of Rosetown Dec. 17. A Pygmy Nuthatch visited a Billings feeder regularly (Ray Hays). A Mockingbird present throughout December in Winnipeg, died the first week in January. Another Mockingbird at a Fargo feeding station from Nov. 30 through March, lost most of its bill between its visits of Feb. 5 & 6, but learned to roll currants with its tongue and survived, in spite of this deformity and a badly crippled foot (Fonsøe Bolin).

**THRUSHES**—Am. Robins wintered at Edmonton and Moose Jaw, Kenmare (at least 3), Sullys Hill (13), L. Ilo N.W.R. (12), Riverdale, Audubon N.W.R. (12, a first), Arrowwood N.W.R., Jamestown, Portland and Mayville, in North Dakota, and Aberdeen (25), Brookings, Pierre, Sturgis, Highmore, Rapid City and L. Burke (100) in South Dakota. A Varied Thrush at Calgary Dec. 10-30 was a new winter species (HB, VL), and one wintered at Aberdeen, S.D. (LRL).

Townsend's Solitaires included two at Mandan Dec 17 and one at Arrowwood N.W.R., N.D. Jan 17 (JCS, JM), with one at Aberdeen Nov. 9-Mar 11 (LRL), up to 23 daily in Rapid City all winter, and 1-8 at Pierre, S.D. (BJR).

**WAXWINGS**—Bohemian Waxwings were in below average numbers throughout most of Alberta and Saskatchewan, particularly after late December, perhaps related to a poor crop of rowan berries in cities, but there were thousands in Moose Jaw, 500 with one partial albino photographed at Bowdoin N.W.R. and 400 at Medicine Lake N.W.R., Mont. There were above-average numbers at Sullys Hill, Bismarck and Tewaukon N.W.R., N.D. and good numbers at Rapid City, Pierre, L. Burke and Brookings, with the first in ten years at Highmore. Cedar Waxwings failed to stay into late December in Edmonton, Saskatoon and Winnipeg this year.

**BLACKBIRDS**—Red-winged Blackbirds remained through January or all winter at Crosby, Sullys Hill, Jamestown, Bismarck, and Tewaukon, N.D. and many wintered at Brookings, S.D. Rusty Blackbirds were in large flocks at Silesia, Mont., 20 wintered at a Kenmare feedlot, 40 at Sullys Hill, 27 at Jamestown, 15 at Grand Forks, 9 at Fargo, and 17 at Bismarck. A Brewer's Blackbird survived the winter at Indian Head, Sask., but about half of a group of 15 at Aberdeen, S.D. died by mid-February.

**FRINGILLIDS**—A ♂ Cardinal wintered near Dauphin, Man. (W.J. Walley, Laurie Stephen). Evening Grosbeaks were decreased at Edmonton and Holden, Alta. and Winnipeg and Pinawa, Man., but were in above average or record numbers at most other localities, including 200 at Sullys Hill, N.D. Cassin's Finches numbered up to 25 at Aberdeen and 4 at Rapid City. A ♂ Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was near Regina Jan. 19-21 (DG), a flock of 25 at Bowman, N.D. Nov. 19 (JO), one at Aberdeen Jan. 27 through end of period (LRL) and 100 daily at a feeder s. of Rapid City (WBH). Hoary Redpolls were absent from most localities and Com. Redpolls were generally reported as scarce or decreased. Pine Siskins were in higher numbers at many localities, with 7 at Saskatoon Dec. 27, 50 at Moose Jaw Jan. 28 and up to 8 at feeders daily thereafter, large numbers at Bismarck with 150 banded (RNR), 50 at Valley City, 125 at Fargo, 200 at Aberdeen and 50 at Sioux Falls.

Red Crossbills were in above average numbers at Edmonton, Holden, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Riverdale, Bismarck, Valley City, Fargo and Brookings. A Rufous-sided Towhee wintered at a Billings feeder (Helen Carlson). Dark-eyed Juncos wintered at Regina (2), Wolseley, Sask. (2), Balmoral, Man. (1) and Riverdale (10) with one at Kenmare, N.D., Dec 31-Jan 5. At Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., 1500 Tree Sparrows wintered, while there were 454 at Sioux Falls Jan 31 and 349 at Brookings Dec. 16. Snow Buntings were generally reported in below average numbers, especially in January and February.

CORRIGENDUM—AB 27, 76, line 3, Kidder Co., not Wilder Co.

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## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/ **Frances Williams**

The winter of 1972-73 was one of the wettest and coldest on record. Many localities reported the longest consecutive period on record of below freezing temperatures. Devastating snow and ice storms occurred often. The extreme cold and snow-covered ground concentrated passerines at feeders where they were easily observed. For example, Mrs. Moorman at Perkins, Okla. reported she fed 200 birds of 24 species, in addition to more than 200 House Sparrows. Ponds, lakes and streams froze, so there were fewer wintering ducks and shorebirds than usual.

There were several reports of bird mortality owing to the extreme cold. Wes Webb, district game ranger, estimated 5000 Mourning Doves froze in Greer Co., Okla. Mrs. McGee of Lawton, Okla. wrote, "A few



small coveys of Bobwhites froze. Many doves which froze were on south side of roosting cover, or in buildings, and near food. Thirty percent of the dead doves examined had food in the crop. Several live birds examined had thick ice covering tarsi and feet." Roy Loveless, a rancher of Bosque Co., Tex. found dead doves in hay lofts and outbuildings and around the unharvested maize he had left for the birds. The game warden at Meridian, Tex. reported that a million and a half doves perished in that part of Texas (*vide* JMS). Scaled Quail were found frozen in Howard Co., Tex. (LBP). Wherever there were enormous flocks of wintering blackbirds, many were found dead under the roost.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—Com. Loons were scarce on the plains this winter, but one in Brazos Co., Tex., Feb. 6 was a first winter record (GFC). White Pelicans were reported at Trinidad, Tex., Dec. 26 (GS, OCS), Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., Feb. 17 (MB, m. ob.), Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., Jan. 4 (MSu). Double-crested Cormorants were sighted at L. Meredith in the Texas Panhandle Dec. 23 (JW), and on Buffalo L. Refuge Christmas Bird Count (hereafter C B C). A Black-crowned Night Heron at San Angelo, Tex., Jan. 13 was an unusual winter record (CCW). Am. Bitterns were located at Tulsa Dec. 20 (T.A.S.), San Angelo Jan. 13, Feb. 10 (CCW) and Brownfield, Tex., Mar. 18 (M.N.).

WATERFOWL—Whistling Swans were recorded at Dumas, Tex., Feb. 20 (CS), Hagerman Refuge Jan. 1-21 (CRB, KH), Boulder Mar. 10 (SL, m.ob.), Osage Co., Okla., Feb. 24 (EH). White-fronted Geese were noted at San Angelo and Osage Co. Two Ross' Geese were netted at Buffalo L. Refuge in December (MSu). Black Ducks wintered at Dumas (JD) and in Osage Co. (B.A.S.). Cinnamon Teal rarely winter in the Region, but were reported at Hagerman Refuge, Lubbock, Tex., San Angelo, Wichita, and Big Spring, Tex.

Wood Ducks wintered at Pueblo, Colo (VT) They were recorded on the C B C at Wichita Mts N W R , Midland, Manhattan, Kans. and Junction City, Kans. This species was noted throughout the area during late March. An Oldsquaw collected in Garvin Co., Okla. (KVH) was the only report of a "sea duck" on the plains. In late December, Hooded Mergansers were numerous in Tarrant Co., Tex. and Hagerman Refuge, and were also noted at Buffalo L. and Wichita Mts. refuges. Red-breasted Mergansers were found at Big Spring Mar. 9 (LBP, m.ob.), Osage Co., Dec. 30, Jan 18 (DG, EH), Wichita Mts., Dec. 8 (EAB).

**HAWKS**—Charles A. Ely at Hays, Kans. commented that "The Goshawk invasion seems to be the greatest since 1916-17." There were records in Kansas at Emporia, Manhattan, Junction City, Kingman, Kirwin, Lawrence, Topeka, Kansas City and Johnson Co. In Nebraska they were sighted at Lincoln, Omaha, Bellevue and Papillion. Oklahoma records were at Osage Co., Stillwater and Salt Plains N.W.R. Goshawks also appeared in Colorado at Bonny Reservoir, Boulder and Ft. Collins and in Texas at Amarillo and Callahan County.

Because of the concentration of small birds at feeders there were more reports of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks than usual. Birders had only to look out their windows to see that their largesse benefits raptors as well as song birds. But during the C B C period, only 46 Sharp-shinneds and 48 Cooper's were counted in the whole Region. Given in the size of the Region and the number of observers, this is a very small count of these Accipiters.

Rough-legged and Ferruginous Hawks were unusually common this winter. A Harris' Hawk was observed at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Dec. 11-Jan. 7 (EM) and another was noted in Jackson Co., Okla., Feb. 25 (JA). Seventy-nine Golden Eagles were sighted during the C B C, 26 of these being on Pawnee Nat'l Grasslands, Colo. In Kansas, 68 Bald Eagles during count period represented a new high (CAE). This is about the same number as were seen in all the rest of the Region. An Osprey was present at Hagerman Refuge Feb. 17 (MB, m.ob.) and one was at L. Tyler Mar. 26 (EC). A Caracara was recorded at Waco during the C B C. Prairie Falcons were more numerous and widespread than in recent years, but only three Peregrine Falcons were sighted during the entire period. Pigeon Hawks were scarce, only 12 being recorded during the C B C.

**RAILS, GALLINULES**—Virginia Rails remained through December in Lubbock Co. (ShM, DS), Ft. Collins (WS), Pueblo (VT), Longmont (RE) and L. Meredith (CBC). One at Midland Feb. 25 was a second County record (EBi). Com. Gallinules wintered at Lubbock (AB, ShM) and were sighted at San Angelo Jan. 15 (TM).

**SHOREBIRDS**—Very few contributors even mentioned shorebirds, so it may be assumed that shorebird migration was generally late this spring. Two early Am. Golden Plovers were noted at Dallas Mar. 4 (WP) and 13 were present in Brazos Co., Tex. the same

day (GFC) A Killdeer's nest with four eggs was found at Lawton, Okla., Mar. 14, about two weeks early (JMM). A Mountain Plover was noted in Schleicher Co., Tex., Jan. 23 (CCW). An Am. Woodcock was found at Hagerman Refuge Feb. 17 (MB, m.ob.) A Wilson's Snipe at Clayton, New Mex., Dec. 31 was a rare winter record (AJK).

**GULLS, TERNS**—Glaucous Gulls were reported at Oklahoma City Jan. 20-Feb. 23 (JN), Denver Dec 23, Jan. 6, Feb. 1 (JR), Berthoud (JL, m.ob - no date given). A bird believed to be Thayer's Gull was studied carefully at Dallas Mar. 17 (HN). Franklin's Gull was late at Denver Dec. 3 (SL) and early at Dallas Mar. 4 (WP). A Forster's Tern was sighted at Trinidad, Tex., Dec. 26 (GS, OCS).

**DOVES, PARAKEETS, ROADRUNNERS**—Inca Doves continue to spread northward, being reported at Ft. Worth, Denton, Tex., Palestine, Tex and Altus, Okla. When Oklahoma winds blew the nest of Monk Parakeets out of a tree at Norman, the birds rebuilt in a "severe weather warning box," (siren housing). Norman is in the heart of "tornado alley" and the siren howls loudly and frequently, but the parakeets don't seem to mind (GER). The unusual high number of eight Roadrunners was reported in Otero Co., Colo. (VT). At Norman, Roadrunners seemed to suffer from hunger during the frequent snow storms, and one found dead was in an emaciated condition (GER).

**OWLS**—Barn Owls were reported only at Dallas, College Station, Tex., San Angelo, Midland, Washita N.W.R., Okla., L. Thomas, Tex., and Great Bend, Kans. Are Barn Owls really this scarce or do birders just not know where to look? A Screech Owl took up residence in a martin house in Irving, Tex., Mar. 4 (WP). A Snowy Owl was seen several times at Omaha, Neb., Dec. 7-Dec. 15 (MW, m.ob.). A Burrowing Owl in Burleson Co., Tex., Mar. 3 was a first County record (GFC, OG). Long-eared Owls were common throughout the Region. Short-eared Owls were seen as far south as San Angelo, but this was not a major invasion year. A Saw-whet Owl was netted and banded at Hays, Kans., a third record (CAE). This species was recorded on the C B C at Boulder and Bonny Reservoir, Colo.

**WOODPECKERS**—Pileated Woodpeckers are becoming slightly more common at the western edge of their range. Recent records include Dallas Feb. 4 (HN), Emporia C B C, Hagerman Dec. 16 (RRy), Cleveland Co., Okla. (m.ob.). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were west of their normal range at Bonny Dam Dec. 31 (PJ, m.ob.), Ft. Collins, Nov. 18-Mar 12 (GF), L. Meredith C B C. A Golden-fronted Woodpecker appeared at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., during the C B C and at Dallas in December (WP). Population of Red-headed Woodpeckers is much reduced at Moffett, Okla. (RML), e. Nebraska (JM), Ft. Worth (F.W.A.S.), Cleveland Co. (GER). Five Lewis' Woodpeckers were counted during the Longmont

C B C A Williamson's Sapsucker was banded at Bryan, Tex., Feb 16(KAA) Another was noted at Amarillo Dec 24 (RRo).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS**—A Black Phoebe at Midland Mar. 10-15 was the first record since 1960 (ABC, m.ob.). Say's Phoebes were unusually abundant throughout the southwestern part of the Region. Vermilion Flycatchers were located at Eldorado, Okla., Mar. 14 (JA) and Big Spring Dec. 8 (LBP). A Violet-green Swallow in Larimer Co., Colo., Mar. 14 was a new early date (DB). A Bank Swallow in Brazos Co., Mar. 3 was 22 days early (GFC) A Barn Swallow in Curry Co., New Mex., Dec 2 was the first winter record for the State in over 30 years (DPa). A Barn Swallow nest was built at Ft Sill, Okla. in late March and had five eggs Apr. 4, a very early date (LM).

**CORVIDS**—Scrub Jays are resident in many parts of the Region and often wander into localities adjacent to their accustomed range. But this winter unusually high numbers were seen out of habitat. They were sighted at Dodge City and Morton Co., Kans., Wichita Mts., Otero Co., Pueblo Co., Colorado Springs, Boulder, Clayton, Roosevelt Co., New Mex., Midland, Amarillo and Brownfield, Tex. Steller's Jays did not wander as widely as Scrub Jays. They were most conspicuous in Colorado cities not far from the foothills. But they also reached Amarillo, Lubbock, Roosevelt Co., and the Black Mesa area of Oklahoma. Piñon Jays were sighted in many of the above locations and also at Goodland, Okla., Clayton, and Silverton, Tex

———— S.A. ————

The most interesting occurrence of the season was the invasion of Clark's Nutcrackers. The Nutcrackers soon located feeding stations in most of the cities of the plains and remained "gobbling suet" throughout the period. The Midland nutcracker had trouble trying to eat peanuts. He shelled them efficiently, but the nutmeats fell to the ground. The bird never solved the mystery of the empty shells. If the nutcrackers did not locate a source of man-supplied food, they usually stayed in areas where there were pecan, oak or pine trees. In Pueblo, nutcrackers were observed eating dead House Sparrows which had succumbed to the cold (VT).

Nutcrackers were sighted in Kansas at Dodge City, Ellis, Hays, Lacrosse, Topeka, Kansas City, and Johnson Co.; in Oklahoma at Fletcher, Wichita Mts., Norman, Stillwater; in Colorado at Lyons, Ft. Collins, Pueblo, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Weldona, Longmont, in New Mexico at Clayton and Roosevelt Co.; in Texas at Amarillo, Dumas, Canadian, Buffalo L., Umbarger, Plainview, Brownfield, Midland, Lubbock, Lamesa and Burkburnett.

Sam Gadd of Colorado Springs reported that he made an appeal through the local newspaper for people to report sightings of wandering Corvids. He received

54 replies from Colorado Springs and its suburbs and nine replies from elsewhere in the area. At least 36 of the 63 reports were of birds at feeding stations

**NUTHATCHES, WRENS**—Every contributor reported one or two records of Red-breasted Nuthatches, but only in Nebraska was the species at all abundant. Population of Bewick's Wrens increased greatly at Ft. Worth (MR) and Pueblo (VT). Carolina Wrens wintered at Pueblo (VT), Wichita, Kans. (MM), Elk City, Okla. (IB), Denver (HH) and were more numerous than usual at Amarillo (T.P.A.S.). Winter Wrens were reported only at Bellevue, Neb. (MW, m.ob.). Three Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Cheyenne Bottoms were noteworthy (EM). Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found at Pueblo (VT), Waco (LMB) and Stanton, Tex. (FW).

**MIMICS, THRUSHES**—A Mockingbird visited a feeder in Boulder the first week of February (BC) A catbird wintered at Midland (TJ), 2 were seen at Topeka on and after the C B C (*vide* CAE), and one remained at Bartlesville, Okla. until Dec. 2 (DG) Brown Thrashers wintered at Lincoln (SLD) and Hays (CAE). Nine Curve-billed Thrashers were counted northeast of Pueblo Feb. 24 (VT, m.ob.) and one was sighted during the Fort Morgan, Colo. C B C. Varied Thrushes were noted at Denver Dec. 1, Jan. 15 (LR), Springfield, Neb., Jan. 22 (MP), Omaha Jan. 27 (MP) Few Hermit Thrushes wintered in the Region. The population of E. Bluebirds has increased at Tyler (OCS) and Stillwater (ZM). There was an unusual number of records of Mountain Bluebirds in Oklahoma: Tulsa (A&BR), Wichita Mts (L.F.S.B.C.), Rush Springs (SS), Elk City (IB) Thousands of bluebirds of three species migrated through the canyons of the Texas Panhandle during mid-March (T.P.A.S.). Townsend's Solitaires were common in the western half of the Region and were sighted east to Dallas (HN, m.ob.) and south to San Angelo (TM, CCW).

**KINGLETS THROUGH SHRIKES**—More Ruby-crowned Kinglets than usual wintered in Kansas and Nebraska. Sprague's Pipits were sighted at Bellevue, Mar. 17 (RG), San Angelo C B C (CCW), and Dallas Mar. 24 (HN, m.ob.). It was the first record in seven years at the latter locality. Bohemian Waxwings staged a major invasion. They wintered at Lincoln, Omaha, Hays, Topeka, Dodge City, Junction City, Black Mesa, El Dorado, Okla., Denver, Pueblo, Boulder, Johnstown, Ft. Collins, Lubbock, Amarillo, Palo Duro Canyon. Numbers of N. Shrikes were low in Colorado.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS**—A White-eyed Vireo was recorded on the Nacogdoches, Tex. C B C. A Solitary Vireo at Dallas Jan. 20 was a first winter record (HN) A Red-eyed Vireo was noted at La Porte, Colo., Mar 4 (WS). A Tennessee Warbler was located during the Boerne, Tex. C B C. Nashville Warblers were seen during the Lubbock C B C and at Portales, New Mex., Jan. 20 (DPa). A Parula Warbler at Bryan, Tex., Mar 12 was early (KAA). A Black-throated Gray Warbler

at Big Spring Mar 23 was west of its usual range (LBP). A Yellow-throated Warbler was found during the Nacogdoches C B C. This species returned early to College Station, Mar. 17 (KAA) and Dallas, Mar. 15 (HN). A MacGillivray's Warbler was collected at Portales Jan. 26 (DPa). The specimen is at E. New Mexico University.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS**—Yellow-headed Blackbirds lingered until the C B C period and even later at Omaha, Cheyenne Bottoms, Longmont, Colorado Springs, Lubbock, Amarillo, Palo Duro Canyon and Midland. A Bullock's type Northern Oriole was sighted during the Nacogdoches C B C. Rusty Blackbirds were seen during the winter at Hays, Norman, Duncan, Lawton, Elk City, Longmont, Colorado Springs, San Angelo, Midland, Eldorado, Buffalo L, Muleshoe Refuge and Waco. Boat-tailed Grackles were sighted at Lubbock Mar. 5 (AB, ShM) and at Cheyenne Bottoms Dec. 23 (RMG). A Com. Grackle at Boulder Feb. 5 was early (SL). A W. Tanager was located at Amarillo Jan. 1 (PA).

**FRINGILLIDS**—A very early Cardinal nest was located at Norman. It was started the first week of March and held three eggs Mar. 18 (GMS). A Black-headed Grosbeak frequented a feeder in Big Spring during February (MSt, m.ob.). A Dickcissel was observed at Manhattan for a week during the C B C period (m.ob.). Another was sighted at Bartlesville Jan. 8 (GH).

The Evening Grosbeak invasion centered in Oklahoma, where the birds visited feeders in at least 21 cities and towns! In Nebraska they appeared only at Omaha. In Kansas, Evening Grosbeaks were recorded at Great Bend, Manhattan, Hays, Halstead, Junction City, Topeka, Johnson Co. and Wichita. They were more common than usual in the Colorado foothill cities. Texas records were mostly in the northern third of the State: Amarillo, Palo Duro Canyon, Tyler, Fort Worth, Denton, Nacogdoches, Gregg Co., Richardson, Muleshoe Refuge, Burkburnett and Abilene. But there was also a record in Brazos Co., so the lack of records in c. Texas may be a lack of observers rather than actual absence of the birds.

Although contributors at Omaha and Tulsa reported fewer Purple Finches than usual this winter, others noted huge increases. Charles Brown of Sherman, Tex. wrote, "Perhaps one of the most striking population changes in usual birds this year was the tremendous increase of Purple Finches. We observed immense flocks in the field, and feeding stations in town were invaded by them. Many of the sightings came immediately before and immediately after ice storms." In Perkins, Okla., 418 Purple Finches were banded in two days at a single feeding station (OP). Increased numbers were also noted in Bartlesville, Norman and Oklahoma City. In Texas, Purple Finches were abundant at Amarillo, Dallas, Lubbock, Tyler, Fort Worth, Sherman, Iowa Park and Taylor Co. Cassin's Finches were reported from Cheyenne Bottoms (EM), Portales (DPa), San Angelo (CCW, m.ob.), Amarillo (RRo, ES), Palo Duro Canyon (PA), and Lubbock (AB, ShM).

All three species of rosy finches were common in Denver. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were found at Longmont (CB, RE) and on the Pawnee Nat'l Grassland (DKP). Common Redpolls were sighted at Boulder (BE), Ft. Collins (FH), Clayton (WC, AJK). But in Omaha there were only two records (MW) in contrast to the abundance of the species last year. As usual, the distribution of Pine Siskins was spotty. Only at Johnson Co., Kans., Roosevelt Co., New Mex. and Kerrville, Tex. were they abundant. Small numbers also occurred in Lincoln, Omaha, Hays, Tulsa, Brazos Co., Tyler and Ft. Worth.

Red Crossbills were still in the Region at the end of March. Nebraska records included Lincoln, Bellevue, and Omaha. In Kansas Red Crossbills wintered at Hays, Great Bend, McPherson, Wichita, Halstead, Topeka, Dodge City and Johnson Co. In Oklahoma they occurred at Norman, Altus, Chickasha, Duncan, Lawton, Ponca City, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Broken Bow. Colorado records were at Denver, Boulder and Longmont. In Texas the species was noted at Amarillo, Lubbock, Wichita Falls and as far south as Waco and San Angelo.

Green-tailed Towhees were recorded at Dallas Dec 21 - Mar. 23 (EW, m.ob.). This species was also found during the Pueblo C B C, a late date. Rufous-sided Towhees wintered more commonly in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas than usual. A Lark Bunting was sighted on the Bartlesville C B C (DG). White-winged Juncos were sighted at Ft. Collins (FH), Pawnee Nat'l Grassland (SMc), Black Mesa region (STP), Omaha (RG), Longmont (AC), Great Bend (LN), Junction City C B C, and Colorado Springs (PJ). Slate-colored type Dark-eyed Juncos were more common than the Oregon type in w. Texas, which is the reverse of normal distribution. Harris' Sparrows were low in numbers in Oklahoma, but were frequently sighted in areas west of their usual range. Reports came from Weld Co., Colo., Ft. Collins, Morton Co., Kans., Kerrville, Boulder, Colorado Springs and Amarillo.

Flocks of Lapland Longspurs occurred at Hays, Hastings, Neb., Moffett, Okla., Elk City, Norman, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Weld Co., Pueblo, Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Nunn, Nacogdoches, Waller Co., Tex., Burleson Co., Tex., Brazos Co., Tarrant Co. and Hagerman. A Smith's Longspur sighted in Brazos Co., Feb. 2 & 4 represented a first County record (GFC). This species was recorded in Cushing Jan 30 (DI), and three at Dallas Mar. 24 were in full spring plumage (HN, m.ob.). A Snow Bunting found during the Norman C B C was later collected, a first specimen for Oklahoma (GMS). Two Snow Buntings at Manhattan constituted the second C B C record in 24 years (SW, MD).

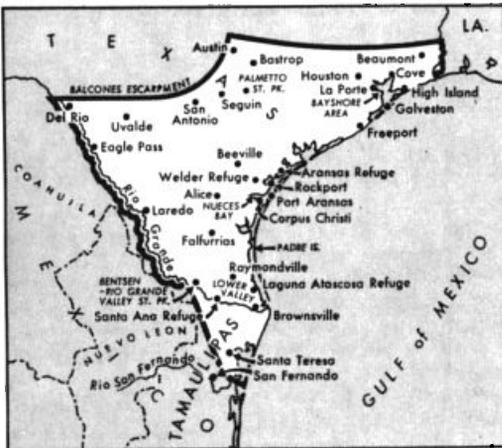
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## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/ Fred S. Webster, Jr.

A severe winter, portended by an influx of northern finches starting in late October and an ice storm in northern areas on December 10 and 11, materialized for all areas of the Region in January. Temperature lows were not extreme, but frequency and duration of cold spells and the unusual and widespread occurrence of snow, sleet and freezing rain made the season memorable. A cold spell on January 9-12 brought snow and sleet as far south as San Antonio, Victoria, Galves-



ton and Beaumont, and an ice storm to Falfurrias; temperature minimums ranged from 22° to 28° F in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, and Austin experienced 90 consecutive hours of freezing. Widespread frozen precipitation fell again on February 8 and 9; sleet covered parts of the Rio Grande Delta and temperatures again reached the low 20s. Few instances of bird mortality were reported, but lower counts of some species following the sub-freezing wet spells appeared ominous. From the delta area, reporters commented on the disappearance of hummingbirds, titmice, gnatcatchers, kinglets and warblers following winter storms. Sick and dead Mockingbirds and frozen Ground Doves were reported at Falfurrias after the sleet storm of February 8 and 9. At San Antonio, radio reports of "little birds frozen to tree branches" could not be verified, but Mourning Doves suffered heavy losses south of town (CRB). At Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, gnatcatchers, kinglets and warblers "all moved out with the cold weather in January" (LBM). Ice and snow storms "killed many of the smaller perching birds and several Roseate Spoonbills at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (RWC).

**LOONS, GANNETS, BITTERNs**—Com. Loons were scarce at Rockport (DMW). Several Horned Grebes, considered rare, were seen on the upper coast, and one was observed at Austin in mid-December (BR, MT). Mrs. Donohue counted 99 Eared Grebes and 141+ Least Grebes wintering in the Mission area of Hidalgo Co., until all vanished after a freeze on Feb. 10. Least Grebes were "fairly common" on and near Santa Ana N.W.R. Two wintered on a sewage pond at Austin (BR *et al.*). Several Western Grebes apparently wintered at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R.; reports varied from 3 to 6. One was seen swimming in the surf at Bolivar Pen., Mar. 31 (VLE, TBF, RAR & SW). Gannets were observed off the beaches of N. and S. Padre I. on 6 days Dec. 28-Feb. 22 — as many as 6 individuals on a single day. (BF). A subadult was observed feeding in East Bay and Marsh Pond (on Anahuac Ref.) Dec. 12 (*vide* RWC). On Feb. 8, an Am. Bittern was found in a shallow goldfish pond at a San Antonio residence. Bender observed it "wandering over the patio flagstones, occasionally picking at seeds put out for sparrows and doves. It roosted in a very small palm and was gone the following morning." Population of this species was again on the rise in the Corpus Christi area (KM). Numbers of Roseate Spoonbills wintered on the upper coast. An estimated 300 were at Anahuac Ref., Feb. 24 (FC).

**WATERFOWL**—This winter saw the return of great flocks of Snow Geese to the upper coast (VLE). Presumably, populations which had been wintering farther north in recent years were driven south by difficulty in obtaining food. A flock of about 20,000 was seen in w. Harris Co., Jan. 11 (VLE & TBF). Peak locality counts were 30,000+ at Cove (AM), 35,000 at Anahuac Ref. (RWC), and 80,000 at San Bernard N.W.R. (RJF). Eleven Ross' Geese were observed at Anahuac Ref. in December (RWC). This species is now seen each winter, albeit in very small numbers,

50 Black-bellied Tree Ducks wintered on the Wright Ranch near Corpus Christi (KM), and 30 Fulvous Tree Ducks remained on a pond in the Santa Maria area of Cameron Co. (WAS). Cinnamon Teal, although never common, were in relatively good numbers on the central coast. Ten drakes stayed at Santa Ana Ref. until mid-March (WAS). Some reporters remarked on a scarcity of Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Canvasbacks and Lesser Scaups, but the sample is insufficient to make a case. An **Oldsquaw** was seen by many observers at Texas City Dike, where 2 **White-winged Scoters** were found Dec. 4 and later (HN *et al.*). Four individuals of the latter species were seen flying offshore at S. Padre I., Mar. 27 (SEL). A **Com. Merganser** was observed at Austin Feb. 10 (JWW).

**HAWKS**—Sightings of White-tailed Kites were scattered from Anahuac Ref. to the Rio Grande, although reports usually involved a lone individual. At Santa Ana Ref., 25 individuals remained until mid-January (WAS). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was seen at Rockport Feb. 25 and for some days thereafter (DMW); it seems likely that this was an early migrant. A bird identified as an ad. ♀ **Goshawk** was seen at Sheldon Res., n.e. of Houston, Jan. 12 (LGB, VLE & TBF); this was a first upper coast area record. Several Swainson's Hawks were reported wintering at Aransas Ref. (CE). The Ferruginous Hawk, always scarce, was reported more often than usual, especially on the central coast. At least 2 Gray Hawks wintered on Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). A few single birds were seen between the refuge and Falcon L. Two **Golden Eagles** were observed at Anahuac Ref. in early winter (*vide* RWC); 2 were seen between Beeville and George West (Live Oak Co.) in mid-February "with numerous hawks drawn by grass fires." (*vide* KM). **Bald Eagles** (1 or 2) were seen at Anahuac Ref. on a few days (*vide* RC), and an immature was at Manor Lake, Brazoria Co., Dec. 20 (DW). Two adults and 3 immatures were seen about 25 mi. w. of Austin Dec. 26 (LTA). An **Aplomado Falcon** was seen occasionally throughout the season at Aransas Ref. (*vide* LBM, *et al.*).

**CRANES, RAILS, JAÇANAS**—During the winter, 1 ad. Whooping Crane disappeared, reducing the population at Aransas Ref. to 50. The missing bird's mate paired with a single adult nearby and they drove away the young bird of the original family group; the latter joined a pair about 4 mi. distant (LBM). Anahuac Ref. no longer has a marsh buggy and the popular "rail trips" have been discontinued. As many as 12 Jaçanas were seen at Manor L. prior to the snows in January and February, but fewer thereafter (*vide* RJF).

**SHOREBIRDS**—American Oystercatcher numbers were good at Rockport, but wintering plover species were much below normal (DMW). An unprecedented 21 Wilson's Plover were seen at Galveston's s. jetty on Feb. 1 (VLE & TBF); this species is not to be expected between December and March. "It looked as though the birds had just arrived, as they were all bunched in a flock resting" (TBF). Large flocks of Willets, Long-billed Dowitchers and Marbled

Godwits were noted in the Rockport area, while the Dunlin, usually the most numerous shorebird in winter, was down (DMW). A high count of 4000 Am. Avocets was made at Galveston on Feb. 24 (VLE, TBF & RAR).

**GULLS**—A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported at Galveston's s. jetty Jan. 28 by observers (EM & NP) familiar with the individual which wintered at Texas City Dike from 1968 to 1971. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was seen at Texas City Dike Jan. 7 (EM *et al.*) and on other January dates.

**DOVES, ANIS, OWLS**—Ground Doves reappeared on Aransas Ref. after an absence of 2 years or more (LBM), and an unusually large number was seen in the Freeport area (VLE). The post-breeding wanderings of an unusually large Groove-billed Ani population brought numbers to the central and upper coasts where they remained at least long enough to be recorded on Christmas Bird Counts. A Long-eared Owl was seen in Zapata Co., Dec. 24 (OCB).

**HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHERS, MARTINS**—Maintenance of hummingbird feeders enabled several birds to survive the winter in the Corpus Christi area (KM). Single **Green Kingfishers** were seen at Austin Feb. 5 (RAR), and at Aransas Ref. Feb. 9 (*vide* LBM). First **Purple Martins** arrived on the central coast in January. In February, frozen or starved birds were reported from each of 5 colonies under observation at Corpus Christi (*vide* KM). From Falfurrias, the Bones submitted the following account: "A week of cold, rainy weather, Feb. 16-22, dealt a severe blow to the martins in our area. When the weather cleared on the morning of Feb. 23, we found that 21 had holed up in one of our martin houses for the night. They were so weak they could hardly make it from the house, and barely able to fly. After they struggled off we never saw them again. One was dead in the house. Another fell to the ground, stiff with cold, we revived it and it was able to fly. They were skin and bones."

**JAYS, CREEPERS**—Good numbers of Blue Jays, brought south by a major post-breeding movement, remained on the central coast for the season. A Brown Creeper at Santa Ana Ref., Dec. 17 (WAS) was unusual.

**CATBIRDS, THRASHERS, ROBINS**—Two Gray Catbirds wintered at Austin (MK, JWW). Apparently this was a good season for this species on the coast. A Sage Thrasher was observed in the Falfurrias area between Feb. 11-Mar. 3 (JB). Am Robins arrived in numbers in the San Benito area of Cameron Co. in late January (CEH). Fewer numbers were noted in adjacent Hidalgo Co. in mid-February (GD). Large numbers invaded the Rockport and Corpus Christi areas and remained for the season. A wooded area in Brazoria Co. contained an estimated million robins roosting in February (*vide* RJF). A roost in the hills west of Austin comprised about 30,000 birds

(RAR). A **Clay-colored Robin** was reported at Laguna Atascosa Ref. headquarters Dec. 10 (CEH & PTM).

**KINGLETS, WAXWINGS**—Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers dropped sharply at Austin after the first winter storm of January. It was a very poor year for Cedar Waxwings at San Antonio, although "thousands" appeared with the snow of Feb. 8-9 (CRB).

**WARBLERS, ORIOLES**—A **Cape May Warbler**, described in detail, was seen at High I., Dec. 19 (DW). The scarce **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was seen at Austin Dec. 26 (FSW). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen and studied well at Mission Dec. 3 (GD). The occurrence of a **Blackpoll Warbler**, reported near Mission Dec. 4 (GD), is unprecedented. An **Ovenbird** wintered in the headquarters area at Santa Ana Ref. (WAS). A **Rufous-capped Warbler** (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) was seen well in the Falcon Dam area Feb. 10 (VLE & JLR). This common Mexican species occurs within 100 mi. of the Texas border, but had not been recorded heretofore in the U.S.A. Three pairs of **Black-headed Orioles** fed at sugar water feeders throughout the winter at Santa Ana Ref. (WAS).

**FRINGILLIDS**—Unusually large numbers of **Pyrrhuloxias** concentrated in feeding areas; about 1000 were noted in a cornfield in Starr Co., Feb. 10 (VLE & JLR). A **Black-headed Grosbeak** visited a feeder at Kingsville in early February (GC, *vide* KM). A ♂ **Orange-breasted Bunting** (*Passerina leclancherii*) was netted 3 mi. s. of Mission Dec. 2 (AM & FON). The bird was in good plumage and gave no evidence of being an escaped pet. This species is native to s.w. Mexico. Details of this occurrence will appear in the literature. The **Evening Grosbeak** invasion rivaled that of the winter of 1968-69. Again it reached as far south as San Antonio and the upper coast; Lake Jackson in Brazoria Co. was the southernmost locality reported. The extent of geographical distribution was perhaps more impressive than numbers. As many as 100 birds were observed in a single flock, but other reports ranged from a few to 50 individuals. Birds had begun to appear within a 30-mile radius of Austin by mid-January, but on the upper coast most were noted in February and March. A few still remained at San Antonio and Austin past mid-April. **Purple Finches** had a very good season; distribution closely paralleled that of the preceding species. Most arrived in January and departed before April. **Pine Siskins** were in good numbers as far south as San Antonio, and on the upper coast. An unusual scarcity of **Am. Goldfinch** was noted in the Rio Grande Delta, but numbers were good in northern areas. An early invasion of **Red Crossbills**, recorded in the fall migration report, was followed by sightings at Santa Ana Ref. (a flock of about 25 on Dec. 13 - WAS), **Corpus Christi**, **Beuscher State Park**, and Austin. The population previously reported at **Bas-trop State Park** remained into April. **Savannah Sparrows** were more abundant than usual in w. Harris Co. (VLE). **Dark-eyed Juncos** reached the central and upper coasts in greater numbers than usual. **Harris' Sparrows** were more numerous at **Welder Wildlife Ref.**

than in former years (CC). **Fox Sparrows**, usually difficult to find, were almost common in w. Harris Co. **Feltner** counted 37 on Jan. 13 and commented, "I found them even feeding out on the edges of pastures." On the **Freeport C B C**, Dec. 17, 40 were seen in a small isolated grove of salt cedars near the beach" (VLE). One was seen at **Laguna Atascosa Ref.**, Jan. 28 (CLH), although this species is not to be expected so far south. The largest influx of **Lapland Longspurs** in a decade occurred on the upper coast (VLE). High count was 820 in one field Jan. 1 (TBF & EM). A few were identified at Austin from flocks of longspurs (sp.), during the season, and 30 were found at **Seguin** (**Guadalupe Co.**) Jan. 20 (RAR).

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## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/ Thomas H. Rogers

The first half of December in the Region produced the most severe weather of the winter, lasting an unprecedented two weeks, the mercury dropping below zero at practically every reporting locality.



Helena, Mont reached  $-35^{\circ}\text{F}$  and even Lewiston, Ida. dropped to  $-10^{\circ}$ . Snowfall was generally light. The second half of the month turned abnormally mild with most precipitation in the form of rain, in about normal quantities in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and Montana west of the Continental Divide but markedly deficient elsewhere. Temperatures dipped to zero or a few degrees below in early January for a few days, then rose to daytime marks usually above freezing, and as high as  $+56^{\circ}$  at Helena! Lewiston and Walla Walla each reached  $+57^{\circ}$ . The remainder of the month was near normal in temperature but very dry, with scant snowfall. February was abnormally warm in spite of a moderate dip during the second week, and was decidedly moisture-deficient. Spokane received only .48 in., 1.38 in. below normal, and only 3.5 in. of snow. Only the Walla Walla-Clarkston area had normal precipitation. During March most areas received only one-half to one-third normal moisture and Yakima received only .01 in., the least since 1909. Only the Bozeman area reported relatively wet conditions. Temperatures continued unusually mild nearly everywhere, Yakima reporting the third warmest March since 1932. Consequently ponds dried up or were low and the snow pack in the mountains was about half of normal, presaging a hot, dry summer.

In general, abundant bird life was reported, with Fortine, Mont. a marked exception. The December cold snap froze water early and drove some species out, a few returning with milder late-month conditions. The general lack of snow cover favored the raptors and many ground feeders of other groups. However, some of the ground-feeding passerines were little in evidence, perhaps because easily available food kept them from congregating at feeding stations. The "northern finches" presented a mixed picture, with some abundant and others scarce.

**LOONS AND GREBES**—A few Com. Loons lingered into December in the Region. One was seen on the ice at Canyon Ferry Reservoir east of Helena Dec. 10. Small numbers of Horned Grebes wintered on Okanagan L. in s. British Columbia and one Eared Grebe at Okanagan Landing Dec. 26 (BAS) was very unusual. Surprisingly, 19 W. Grebes were still at Penticton, B.C. Dec. 26, after the very severe cold of early December (SRC).

**CORMORANTS AND WATERFOWL**—Ten Double-crested Cormorants on the Tri-cities (Pasco-Richland-Kennewick) C B C were the first in six years. The first of the year for McNary N.W.R. appeared on Feb. 20.

The extremely cold December weather brought many Trumpeter Swans to Red Rock Lakes Refuge where feeding operations are carried on. The peak number was 270 on Jan. 29. Thirty-one Trumpeters, including four cygnets, wintered in the display pool at Turnbull Refuge. Canada Geese, although wintering in many localities, were concentrated mostly at McNary and Columbia Refuges. They peaked at nearly 24,000 on Dec. 1 at the former refuge and at 5500 at the latter. A White-fronted Goose stayed at Okanagan Landing Dec. 10-22 (AC) and was probably

the one that turned up at Penticton Dec. 24 (SRC)

Over 130,000 Mallards plus 4000 other ducks represented the peak at Columbia Refuge and McNary Refuge had nearly 20,000 ducks, mostly Mallards, all winter. However, the Canvasback high of 300 was far below the 3000 recorded last winter, as was the peak Com. Merganser number of 600, compared to 3000 in January, 1972. Turnbull Refuge had 5000 Com Goldeneye at the first of March.

A few unusual occurrences popped up. A ♂ **Eur. Wigeon** was seen on Philleo L. east of Turnbull Refuge in mid-March and possibly the same bird appeared south of Spokane and a ♂ at Reardan Mar. 31 (JA & WH). A ♂ was sighted 20 mi. north of Coulee City, Wash. Mar. 20 (EH). Twelve Oldsquaw were at Okanagan Landing Dec. 26 (FP) and an imm. ♂ Harlequin Duck at Spokane Feb. 3 was the first fall or winter record there in about twenty years (JA & WH). A White-winged Scoter was at Penticton Dec. 26 (SRC) and one or two Red-breasted Mergansers were seen on the Spokane R. near Millwood Dec. 17-Feb. 3, furnishing the second local winter record (JA; WH)

**HAWKS**—Hawks in general were common, a reasonable explanation being that the sparse snow cover made rodents easily available. One or two Goshawks were noted at eight localities. The Baker, Ore. C B C produced a surprising 20 Red-tailed, 68 Rough-legged and 61 Marsh Hawks. **Harlan's Hawk** was seen Jan. 10 in Sweetgrass Co., Mont. (ETH & RAH) and 2 were identified Mar. 22 at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman, Wash. (JWW). Both the Golden and Bald Eagle were reported in some numbers from many localities. The rarely noted Gyrfalcon was noted at three localities, singles each time. One was on Turnbull Refuge Jan. 23 (DK & DV); another was sighted on Ahtanum Ridge southwest of Yakima Dec. 28 (EB), and a third chased Mallards at the north arm of Okanagan L., Dec. 17 (JG). The scarce Peregrine Falcon was sighted near Quincy, Wash., (PC) Baker, Ore., and near Charlo, Mont. (CJH). Exceptions to the general abundance of hawks were Missoula, Fortine and Helena, Mont. At the former locality the scarcity of Sharp-shinned Hawks and Merlins was remarkable in view of the abundance of Bohemian Waxwings.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS**—Ruffed Grouse numbers appeared to be low. Six Sage Grouse were seen strutting on Mar. 11 at Yakima Artillery Range northeast of Yakima. A single **Bobwhite** was reported with California Quail at Whitman Monument, Walla Walla Jan. 13 (JW). The latter species was common to abundant in e. Oregon and Washington and 270 were seen on the Penticton, B. C. Christmas Bird Count. Small flocks of Japanese Green Pheasants, planted at Kootenai Refuge near Bonners Ferry, Ida. in 1972, were found scattered throughout the valley there, where the open winter favored them and also the Ring-necked. A hen Turkey was seen on Umtanum Ridge north of Yakima. Several plantings have been made in Yakima County. Twenty-one of the birds were noted north of St. Maries, Ida. on the Indiana Mtn. C B C

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS**—The Virginia Rail was reported at Columbia Refuge and one was identified on the south side of Prineville, Ore. Feb. 8 (JE). Killdeer apparently wintered only along the Snake R. south of Pullman, Wash. No more than about ten Herring Gulls appeared at Coeur d' Alene L. in n. Idaho during January (JA; WH). A few Ring-billed Gulls wintered at Spokane and Wenatchee and one at Okanagan Landing Dec. 26 was unusual. A Forster's Tern on the Tri-cities C B C was very unusual.

**OWLS**—The Barn Owl appears to be pushing eastward. One was shot near a sheep ranch at Baker, Ore., in late January and another was found there a few days later. One bird was seen at Clarkston, Wash., Dec. 7. The species was seen occasionally in January at McNary Refuge, where it has been more common in the past. Single Snowy Owls were observed at Prince George, B.C. Dec. 29 (AB) and near Heppner, Ore., Dec. 13. Two sightings were made east of Walla Walla, near Dixie, during the December cold snap (FJ; DH). One or two were seen on four dates Jan. 1-16, near Davenport, Wash. and one was found south of Sprague, Wash., on the rather late date of Mar. 25 (JA, WH; S.A.S.). One of the scarce Hawk Owls was found in the mountains east of Penticton Dec. 26 (SRC). Two Burrowing Owls were still at McNary Refuge Jan. 3 but no more were seen until Mar. 19. It was a good winter for Short-eared Owls, with many reports from e. Oregon and Washington. They were observed in the Bozeman area and at Kootenai Refuge, where up to 8 were seen at a time. A Saw-whet Owl was heard from Mar. 13 on along the Little Spokane R. north of Spokane (VN & CS).

**HUMMINGBIRDS**—Three hummingbirds, a ♂ and 2 ♀♀, identified as Anna's, frequented a feeder at Wenatchee. The ♀♀ disappeared in early December but the ♂ stayed until Dec. 27.

**WOODPECKERS**—A ♀ Yellow-shafted race of the Com. Flicker was noted near the confluence of the Grande Ronde R. with the Snake R. in extreme s.e. Washington (JWW) and another was seen on Kootenai Refuge Jan. 27, the first ever there. The subspecies was also noted at Bozeman Feb. 14 & 17 (SC; PDS). Four or five White-headed Woodpeckers were found at Indian Ford, west of Sisters, Ore. A ♂ was seen near Wellpinit, Wash. Feb. 25 (WH) and one was noted south of Springdale, Wash. Mar. 17 (SAS). Up to six of the uncommon Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were observed in the old burn at Tum Tum n.w. of Spokane and single birds were seen near Clarkia, Ida. and in the Blue Mts. of s.e. Washington (JWW).

**JAYS**—About 100 Gray Jays were counted along a one-mile stretch of road at Kootenai Refuge Mar. 16. Many localities reported unusually high numbers of Com. Ravens. As many as 50 at a time fed in a field at Fortine, Mont. and the species was considered to be on the increase in the vicinity of Charlo, Mont. Up to 50 at a time were seen at Kootenai Refuge and more than usual were noted around Helena. The Kamloops, B.C. Christmas Bird Count came up with 89.

Three Clark's Nutcrackers at Prince George Dec. 30 were most unusual (AB). The species was rather scarce at most localities, at least in the valleys.

**CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS**—Chestnut-backed Chickadees were reported at Fernan Lake, Coeur d' Alene, Ida. (SGS), at Pend Oreille L., Ida. (KB) and at Goose Prairie near Yakima. Pygmy Nuthatches were recorded at Missoula (PLW; PW). The Brown Creeper was unusually plentiful at Kamiak Butte north of Pullman and on the Grande Ronde R. The seven found on the Indian Mt. C B C was a surprising number. Besides appearing in the usual localities, two of the species appeared at Walla Walla in mid-January.

**WRENS, MIMIC THRUSHES AND THRUSHES**—Bewick's Wren was reported along the Naches and Yakima Rivers and Ahtanum and Toppenish Creeks in the Yakima area. The largest number, six, was seen Mar. 2. The Tri-cities C B C turned up seven, and a few were seen near Umatilla, Ore. A Sage Thrasher was seen near Asotin Creek south of Clarkston Mar. 19 (BP). American Robins were not noted wintering in w. Montana or n. Idaho and stayed only in moderate to small numbers in most of the remainder of the Region. Exceptions were the Pullman area, where they were fairly common, and the Prineville, Ore. area, where they were described as very abundant, feeding on earthworms when the ground was not frozen and presumably on juniper berries during colder periods. A Hermit Thrush was seen near Umatilla Jan. 28 (CC).

**KINGLETS AND WAXWINGS**—Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in rather low numbers. One or two Ruby-crowned Kinglets were noted wintering at Baker and Heppner, Ore., Walla Walla, Yakima, Spokane, Clarkston and the Grande Ronde R., Washington. Bohemian Waxwings were quite abundant in the part of the Region west of the Rockies and apparently rather scarce in the e. part. However, Missoula did have a peak of perhaps 1100 in early December. The highest concentration was some 3800 at Penticton Dec. 26. Spokane had numbers up to 2000 in mid-February. Thousands were recorded in Ellensburg, Wash. and the birds penetrated south through Walla Walla, where some 300-400 were seen Dec. 1, to Baker, Prineville and Heppner, Ore. A flock of 45 was observed at the latter locality Feb. 19-20. Prineville had the first major appearance of the species in seven years, with up to 150 seen at a time and Bend, Ore. had a flock of 500 Feb. 24. Small numbers of wintering Cedar Waxwings were reported for e. Oregon and Washington. The largest number seen at once was 52 in the Spokane Valley Jan. 14.

**SHRIKES, STARLINGS AND WARBLERS**—The Northern Shrike was described as unusually scarce at Missoula and Fortine in w. Montana but seemed to be in about normal abundance elsewhere. Starlings apparently were discouraged by the very cold weather in early December in the n. Okanagan but some 1000 were counted at Penticton Dec. 26, and

51 were noted at Prince George Dec 30 Elsewhere the birds wintered in about normal numbers None wintered at Fortine, Mont. but they were noted at Kalispell. A **Myrtle type Yellow-rumped Warbler** was identified at Yakima Mar. 19 (ERC). A few Audubon's race of this warbler wintered in e. Washington. One or two were seen on two dates at Walla Walla and they may have wintered at Yakima, where they were seen Mar. 17 & 23. The Tri-cities C B C had 65, but only a few stayed. Three were seen along the Snake R near Clarkston Jan. 21 in an area subsequently razed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

**WEAVERS, BLACKBIRDS**—House Sparrow numbers at Vernon were much lower than normal with no apparent explanation, but numbers at Baker, were up An ad. ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** with an injured foot was seen on a ranch near Vernon Dec. 17. This is apparently the first winter record for interior British Columbia. The most notable concentration of Red-winged Blackbirds was a flock of 2000 along the Columbia R. near Pasco Feb. 22. Forty at Baker, Ore. Dec. 16 was a high C B C number there and 457 Brewer's Blackbirds on the Count there was the third highest ever obtained. Three were found on the Prince George C B C Dec. 30. A ♂ **Rusty Blackbird** in winter plumage was closely studied Jan. 20 about 10 mi. west of Othello, Wash. (EH & DRP) and a single bird appeared on the Ennis, Mont., C B C. (SC, DRS & PDS). Three Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen among Brewer's Blackbirds on the Yakima Indian Reservation Mar. 4.

**FINCHES**—Most localities in the Region reported Evening Grosbeaks rather common to abundant. A few Cassin's Finches were noted wintering at Vernon, Yakima and Spokane. Helena had a C B C count of 14 The House Finch, recently established at Missoula, was noted regularly through the winter, with a high count of about 65 in late December. Numbers for the species seemed not to have fully recovered from the severe winter of 1968-69 in the Okanagan but the birds were thought to be on the increase at Walla Walla. A few Pine Grosbeaks dropped into the valleys in several localities. Baker did better, with 50 on the C B C Count, the highest ever, and Prince George recorded 195 on Dec. 30. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen mostly in the more westerly parts of the Region. Flocks of around 100 or more were seen at Kamloops, B.C.; Vantage, Wash., and Baker and Heppner, Ore. and a flock was noted in the Yakima R canyon. A flock of 300 near Bozeman included an albino. A single **Black Rosy Finch** was found on the Ennis, Mont. C B C (DR). Common Redpolls were generally scarce or absent except for Helena, where 200 were seen on Dec. 9, and interior British Columbia. Thousands were reported in one flock at Vernon Jan. 14 and 167 were counted at Prince George Dec. 30. Groups up to 20 were present at Missoula. It was a good year to see Hoary Redpolls in British Columbia. Thirty-four were seen at Prince George Dec. 30 (AB) and small numbers appeared at Vernon and Lavington throughout the winter (JG). Pine Siskins likewise were absent or scarce at most localities.

However, up to 60 were noted at Missoula, where they had not been common in winter since 1964 Yakima had up to 40 at a time. American Goldfinches were noted as common at Pullman and Yakima Baker had 148 on its C B C. A flock of 300 was seen near Ellensburg Mar. 15 and a flock of 250 was seen near Spangle, Wash. Feb. 18. The only record for the e part of the Region was obtained on the Ennis, Mont. C B C. The Region nearly drew a blank on Red Crossbills. A few were seen at Vernon, Kamloops, Baker and Spokane and they were seen at Bozeman.

**SPARROWS**—An unprecedented event was the wintering of a Rufous-sided Towhee at a feeder at Bozeman. Many localities, especially in Montana, n Idaho and the Okanagan, reported the Oregon race of the Dark-eyed Junco scarce or absent but the birds seemed up to usual numbers farther west, at Pullman, Clarkston, Yakima and Walla Walla, Wash. and at Baker, Ore. A few Slate-colored type Dark-eyed Juncos appeared at a number of localities in the Okanagan, e. Washington and n.e. Oregon. Tree Sparrows were noted as scarce at Missoula and in the Okanagan. Two were found in a flock of Oregon juncos near Asotin, Wash. on Mar. 8, Weber's first record for that area in five years. Singles were seen near Coulee City, along Crab Creek west of Othello and on Yakima Indian Reservation, Wash., and one was noted at Charlo, Mont. The w. part of the Region had almost a deluge of Harris' Sparrow records, unlike anything previously recorded. Up to six were seen in several places in the Okanagan and one or more at a time were reported at Wenatchee, Quincy and the Tri-cities in Washington. The species was noted at Umatilla, Heppner and Baker in n.e. Oregon and at least three immatures apparently wintered at Bozeman. One or two were seen almost daily at Missoula all during March. White-crowned Sparrows wintered in numbers along the Snake R. and around Yakima and were reported also in the s. Okanagan, at McNary Refuge and at Spokane. A Golden-crowned Sparrow visited a feeder at Enderby, B.C. Dec 6 remaining until Jan. 3 (JM) and another came to a feeder in Vernon Feb. 15 (KG). An ad. White-throated Sparrow wintered at a feeder in Lavington, B.C and was last seen Mar. 16 (JG). Six Fox Sparrows were seen along the Snake R. at Wawawai Jan. 7 and one was there on the 21st (JWW). The species was seen in three localities close to Yakima during the winter (ERC). One or 2 Lapland Longspurs were seen with Horned Larks in Ahtanum Valley just west of Yakima in January and February. One came to a feeder at Yakima and a ♂ in winter plumage was seen Feb 8 (ERC). A few were noted in the Helena area Only a few Snow Buntings were observed, in the Bozeman and Helena areas, around Davenport and Wilbur, Wash. and at Prince George, where 37 were seen Dec 29.

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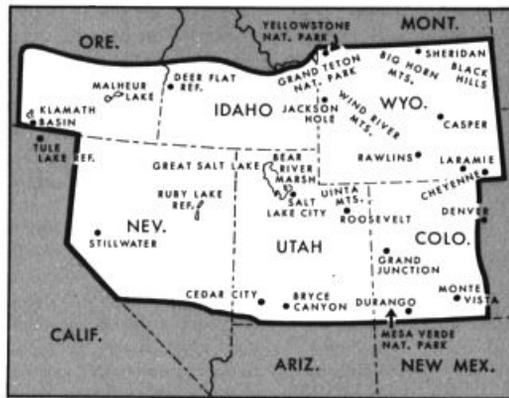
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## GREAT BASIN-CENTRAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

/ **Hugh E. Kingery**

Bitter cold the first two-three weeks in December and subsequent severe weather drove migratory birds and marginal wintering species from the Region; and, helped by a poor conifer cone crop, also drove montane birds down into the valleys.

A chronicle of the cold and snow: Salt Lake City and Grand Junction had snow cover into March, and the Rio Grande River froze solid at Alamosa, Colo.—as many Bald Eagles as Mallards wintered at Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge. Southeast Oregon enjoyed



mild weather after the early cold, but not enough to melt any water; only 2000 waterfowl braved the winter at Malheur. At Zion observers found three new and six accidental records; of these five were water-related birds, suggesting that freezes up north caused erratic movements, even into desert areas like Zion. The continuing snowfall hampered early migration, and very few migrants filtered into the Region during March, in marked contrast to 1972.

**CORMORANTS, HERONS**—For the first time in the Rocky Mountain National Park (below R.M.N.P.) area in any season, a Double-crested Cormorant came calling, on Jan. 1 (TG, \*\* to AC). The Pocatello C B C produced a new bird for Idaho—a **Green Heron**. The bird survived the winter, at least until April.

**SWANS, GEESE**—The frozen marshes of c. Utah and e. Oregon dispatched most Whistling Swans, but normal numbers wintered at Summer L., Ore. They began returning in February and had completed the peak of their migration by the end of the season. Malheur counted 14,000 Mar. 7, but most departed seemingly overnight. Ruby Lake's wintering Trumpeter Swans numbered 27 (41 last year). Malheur counted 45, including 16 cygnets. A mystery: the Malheur population has remained steady, even though 86 cygnets have been raised since 1966. At Deer Flat N.W.R., Ida., 7600 Canada Geese wintered—about half the population of a few years ago. During the January wildlife count, w. Colorado had 3901 Canada Geese—the highest in 12 years of counting. Scattered Snow Goose reports included 4 at Zion Feb. 15, the third record there (LA, AE); poor weather forced 500 to make an unusual stop near Pocatello. At Malheur Snow Geese built to 75,000 on Mar. 6.

**DUCKS**—When the Bear R. marsh froze solid Dec. 10, it left for the winter only 200 Red-breasted and Com. Mergansers and 132 Canada Geese. Then to the south, Dec. 16-20, desert-located Zion experienced an unusual influx of ducks on the Virgin R., with the usual Mallards outnumbered by Am. Wigeons and

N Shovelers (high count, 407 ducks on the C B C) At Minidoka N.W.R., Ida., the bitter cold did not move the birds off as long as open water remained; the population gradually declined to 4500 in mid-January, mostly Mallards and Pintails. Seedskadee N.W.R., Wyo., had an average winter population of 600 Mallards and 1500 Com. Goldeneyes. While the frozen marshes and rivers left a grand total of 12 Mallards at Alamosa N.W.R., Colo., nearby Monte Vista N.W.R., with artesian wells and pumps keeping water open, recorded a wintering population of 20,000 Mallards, up from 15,000 last year. Desert Lake W.M.A., Utah, saw its winter birds plummet to zero in January; then on Mar. 12 some 10,000 Pintails moved in—the largest influx of waterfowl ever seen there. Ruby L. migrants began trickling in to swell the winter low of 340 ducks to 2825 by Mar. 31, including 1120 Pintails. But Stillwater Ref. attracted a mere 38,400 migrants in mid-March, compared with last year's 82,500; large flocks enjoyed the abundant waterholes elsewhere in the valley. Likewise, Malheur's spring peak came to 73,200, lowest spring use in 4 years; Am. Wigeons contributed the most noticeable reduction, from 34,700 a year ago to 6800 this spring. Biologist McLaury credits the reduction to fewer flooded acres on the refuge plus last year's poor sago pondweed crop.

Barrow's Goldeneyes wintered as usual at Dubois but also appeared at Ruby L. Feb. 28 (very unusual) and Klamath Falls several times. An Oldsquaw stayed with a pair of Redheads at Klamath L., Mar. 17-29 (LGo). Four Hooded Mergansers strayed to Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah, Feb. 16, and 6 wintered on the Snake R. below Minidoka (WHS).

**HAWKS, EAGLES**—Reno observers found a White-tailed Kite Mar. 16. Regional C B Cs reported 20 Goshawks, probably a normal count. During the winter we had about 2 dozen other observations, fewer than last year. C B Cs counted 34 Sharp-shinned and 29 Cooper's Hawks, with occasional observations through the winter, comparable to last year. Initial fears of fewer hawks in w. Nevada dissipated with such discoveries as a troop of 61 Red-tailed Hawks near Reno Jan. 28. A congregation of 200 Red-tailed and Rough-legged Hawks gathered together near Klamath Falls at the peak of the winter concentration.

— S.A. —

The Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. counted 9077 Golden Eagles (4549 ad., 1834 imm., 2694 not aged) and 687 Bald Eagles in January—a decline of 2000 Goldenes from last year's count. Department officials attributed the decline to mild weather farther north, although other experts identify the cause as a crash in jackrabbits. Similar declines occurred at Camas N.W.R., Ida. (refuge jackrabbits plummeted from 5000 to 200) and Summer L. ("freeze, combined with a very low jackrabbit population put severe stress on eagles . . . a lower proportion of imm. birds may be the result of the December freeze on younger, less-experienced birds.") Malheur had a normal wintering population, but Deer Flat boasted 42 wintering eagles—3 times normal. In Nevada, man continued his toll of eagles,

this year's weapon steel traps set out by amateur trappers for suddenly-valuable bobcat and coyote pelts. A federal study showed 2000-3000 caught in 4 e Nevada counties, half of which died (JE). An unknown number of hawks likewise succumbed to the traps. At Seedskadee N.W.R. guns killed 4 eagles and 5 Rough-legged Hawks in 2 weeks.

In addition to the Wyoming survey, our contributors cited 349 Golden and 669 Bald Eagle observations, each up over last year by about 100. A wintering population of 40-50 Balds was discovered in Nevada's Jarbridge Mts. Ospreys visited Reno Jan. 28 and, in late March, Alamosa (rare), Zion (new), Nampa, and Sheridan. Three Gryfalcons appeared, in Idaho (CHT) and Wyoming (GR), amply substantiated by details. We had 21 Peregrine Falcon reports from 8 different locations.

**GROUSE, QUAIL**—The severe winter took a toll on some introduced game birds, while the natives survived relatively well. While scarce at Reno, Turkeys were seen at Evergreen, Colo., and a number of sites near Durango. Blue Grouse and Sage Grouse maintained normal levels, with the latter beginning to dance at Hart Mt. Nat'l Antelope Range, Ore., Malheur, and Rupert, Ida., in mid-March. On the Laramie Plains, south of Casper, the record depths of snow covered not only all the sagebrush but even all fence posts; Scott wonders about the fate of the 3000 Sage Grouse if the strutting grounds remain snow-covered during the mating season.

White-tailed Ptarmigan thrived in Colorado, with over 100 seen in February at Guanella Pass near Georgetown (m. ob.) and a covey of 8 feeding in willows Feb. 20 amid speeding skiers at Vail. However California Quail suffered a decline at Klamath Falls, Chukars dropped in Lemhi Co., Ida., and Malheur, and Gray Partridges were seen but twice all winter at Sheridan, Wyo. The Camas N.W.R. pheasant population dropped from 1000 last year to 200 this year, and "the severe winter cut quite deeply" into the Bear R. pheasants.

**CRANES, SHOREBIRDS, GULLS**—At Ft Collins, Colo., during the first warm weather Dec 19-21 after the intense cold passed, so did several flocks of Sandhill Cranes, flying south after midnight. They returned to Monte Vista Feb. 5, and built up to 4186 there with 6000 more in the rest of the San Luis Valley. Color markings show these birds breed in s.e. Idaho. The rough winter drove even Killdeer further south than usual, with none at most places during mid-winter. They pushed north early though not always with sure instinct. At Crater L., "the mild February brought wandering strangers to high places. With a dense fog shrouding everything at 6500 feet, a Killdeer was observed standing motionless in the 8-foot snowpack at 7 a.m. Feb. 9. Two hours later, and after a few warming-up wing extensions, the bird lifted into the air, directing his course down slope to more favorable conditions." At Hart Mt. they first appeared Feb 12, a month earlier than last year, and they arrived in late February at Ruby L. and Lemhi Co. Fewer than usual

early sandpipers arrived in March, the total roster includes Greater Yellowlegs at Grand Junction Mar 12 and Klamath Falls Mar. 28; Lesser Yellowlegs at Desert L. Mar. 29; Least Sandpiper at Grand Junction Mar 12; the first peeps at Hart Mt. Mar. 26; and Long-billed Dowitchers at Malheur Mar. 25. Herring Gulls made rare appearances at Klamath Falls Dec. 16, R.M.N.P. Dec. 25, and Zion Mar. 22. Details of Nevada's first records of **Sabine's Gulls**, seen last fall at Reno, will be published elsewhere.

**OWLS**—Several Barn Owls appeared on Seedskadee Mar. 14, and singles wintered at Malheur and Bear R.; however, with the December cold, three perished at Bear R., as did two at Pocatello, locations where they are not normally seen. Several observers found Screech Owls, at Ruby L. for the first refuge record, and Zion, Ft. Collins, and Durango. Snowy Owls penetrated south to Nampa Feb. 18 and Seedskadee Mar. 1. A parliament of 20 Long-eared Owls which normally roosts near Lazear, Colo., from December to February, failed to assemble this year (TC) The first Saw-whet Owls in several years were seen at Reno Jan. 31-Feb. 1, Casper, Wyo. Feb. 15, and Boulder, Colo. Dec. 16 (C B C). The first Say's Phoebe arrived at Reno Feb. 11, Unionville, Nev. Feb. 21, and Durango Feb. 28, all quite early. First swallows of spring came with Violet-greens in mid-March at Springdale and Lemhi Co., and early Trees at Malheur Feb. 27, Pueblo (JL) and Klamath Falls Mar 3, Provo, Utah, Mar. 7 (WS), and Reno Mar. 12 Malheur's Trees peaked at 1800, much reduced.

**JAYS**—Gray Jays wintered normally, except for the groups in Durango and Gunnison. The Camas Blue Jay (*Am. Birds* 27:94) was seen occasionally until Feb. 28 Idaho had two other records—remarkable for a state with but one or two periods prior to this fall: 6 on Jan. 11-20 in Gooding Co. (m.ob. *fide* CHT); and 6 on Feb. 25, with 10 Steller's Jays, in the Idaho Primitive Area (MC). Fewer Steller's Jays wintered in the high country near Boulder and Crater L., but seemed normal in Summit Co., Colo. and Bryce Canyon N. P. Their low-country incursions tapered off, but they did occur commonly at odd locations like Pocatello, Salt Lake City, Castledale, and Springdale, Utah, and Grand Junction, Hotchkiss, Saguache, and New Castle, Colo. Piñon Jays wandered as usual; large flocks occurred in the Front Range foothills, Castledale, Utah, and n. Nevada. This winter marked the first time they had visited feeders in Durango; "People 'blessed' with their numbers say they are worse than Starlings." Clark's Nutcrackers continued their fall wanderings, with more reports from most places mentioned in the fall report, plus wintering birds at Monte Vista, Durango, New Castle, Cheyenne, and Pocatello, and February and March records at Buena Vista, Colo., Salt Lake City, Dubois, and Klamath Falls. In late March w. Nevada, which has not participated in the jay influx, did have nutcrackers at Stillwater and Reno.

**CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES**—Unusual numbers of Black-capped Chickadees appeared at Zion (74 on the C B C, average 6), Grand Junction (these and Mountain Chickadees present in triple the usual numbers), and Dubois. Mountain Chickadees seemed commoner than usual at Salt Lake City, Castledale, and Reno. Camas N.W.R. had a population of 50—none last year—and a few passed through Minidoka N.W.R. in early February. Two sightings of Chestnut-backed Chickadees at Crater L. implied an increase there. Plain Titmice deserted the pinyon/juniper forest to join the chickadees in Grand Junction, and Com. Bushtits trooped through Pueblo, Colorado Springs, and Denver foothills. Red-breasted Nuthatches visited throughout the Region but in only modest numbers. Brown Creepers frequented a number of unusual locations. All but one C B Cs with over 10 party-hours found them, and they stayed all winter in places like Salt Lake City, Rupert, Klamath Falls, Durango, and Cheyenne.

**THRASHERS, THRUSHES**—A Mockingbird wintered at Unionville, Nev., and a Brown Thrasher wintered at Nederland, Colo. (SC). Pikes Peak, Malheur, and Pocatello found Varied Thrushes for C B Cs; the Pikes Peak bird stayed at least until Apr. 10. Reno recorded two observations in January, and Malheur and Rupert noted March visits of the northwestern thrush.

**WAXWINGS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS**—We had Bohemian Waxwings everywhere, from Cheyenne (where they hand-fed on raisins) and Casper to La Veta, Colo., from the Colorado Front Range to Reno. Numbers ranged from one lone bird at Durango all winter to flocks of 1700 on the Denver C B C and 950 at Malheur Mar. 20. At Sheridan, where they winter even when not found further south, numbers were down. A few Cedar Waxwings mixed with the Bohemians. Observers in Zion, Rupert, and Klamath Falls commented on reduced observations of Loggerhead Shrikes. House Sparrow population at Camas increased from 30 to 100. At Dubois, 10 came daily to a feeder, but up to 30 on cold days. "This implies that more than half of the current House Sparrow population prefers foraging to welfare, and comes for a hand-out only when self-employment is most hazardous." Western Meadowlarks, which sometimes winter, cleared out, returning everywhere in March.

**FINCHES**—Finches descended to the towns and cities, leaving the high country bare. Crater L. had no finches all season, save one Oregon type Dark-eyed Junco Feb. 23. Poor cone crops at Crater L. and w. Colorado, and probably elsewhere, contributed to the dispersal of finches (and jays?) to the low country. Evening Grosbeaks appeared everywhere. Practically all reports mentioned them, with unusual numbers reported from Salt Lake City, Reno, Casper, Cheyenne, Sheridan, and Lemhi Co. This winter Utah's first reports of **Purple Finches** came from both ends of the state, although details are on hand only for those found around Kanab and Zion, which were present Oct. 1-Dec. 31. Observer Stuart is probably

the first to look for Purple Finches among the Cassin's Cassin's Finches appeared in many places in the low country, although only Reno and Colorado Springs reported large numbers. A Few Pine Grosbeaks came out of the mountains—Cheyenne, Sheridan, Rupert, and Salt Lake City had them.

— S.A. —

Most striking feature of the winter reports involved **rosy finches**. Perhaps the heavy snow cover in the high country brought them, perhaps the shortage of food in open country. Customarily they travel in huge winter flocks, descending like falling leaves upon feeding tables, road banks, and fields free of snow cover. Every mountain town in Colorado reported hundreds—3000-5000 at Gunnison; in Wyoming, Jackson, Dubois, Laramie, and Cheyenne had flocks up to 500; Ruby L., Zion, Hotchkiss had first records. Pocatello had 300 in an historic roost in a mine shaft, but early December flocks in Lemhi Co. disappeared; did the mild weather there send them to winter in the high country, or did they move south and east? Most of the birds in these widespread flocks were Gray-crowned, although flocks in Colorado boasted varying numbers of Brown-capped. Flocks in w. Wyoming and w. Colorado had a few Blacks, and one banded at Pocatello Jan. 9 was Idaho's first winter record.

Com. Redpolls occurred in Durango Dec. 13, Casper Jan. 12, and R.M.N.P. all winter. Pine Siskins did not winter, except for a few at Cheyenne. Red Crossbills joined the finch descent into some towns, with birds coming to feeders from Laramie and Cheyenne south to Pueblo. Small flocks occurred in the mountains of Colorado, in e. Idaho, Salt Lake City, and L. Tahoe, Nev. Two errant Lark Buntings appeared briefly Mar. 7 at a Durango feeder, during a wet, heavy spring snowstorm.

**JUNCOS, SPARROWS**—White-winged Juncos spread down the Eastern Slope of the Rockies to Pueblo, Rye, and La Veta; and west to Summit Co. (Dec. 23-Feb. 3), Grand Junction, and Durango. Tree Sparrows came Mar. 13-15 to Reno and Mar. 27 to Zion for its first record. As reported last season, Harris Sparrows dispersed throughout the Region, with reports from all states except Oregon, and including 4 wintering at Reno. White-crowned Sparrows usually constitute the second-most abundant winter bird at Zion, but they never arrived this year. They also were absent from Durango, Colorado Springs, and Klamath Falls. R.M.N.P. never had seen a White-throated Sparrow until April 26, 1972; this season it had 4 reports! No Snow Buntings were seen in Sheridan, but several scattered flocks of 50 populated the n. Laramie Plains south of Casper, where possibly they winter regularly, and some were found in Lemhi Co. all winter. One strayed to Red Feather Lakes, Colo., for photographs (DB).

**ABBREVIATIONS**—\*\* sight record on file with Regional Editor.

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## SOUTHWEST REGION

### / Gale Monson

The winter was the wettest one since 1941 in all parts of the Region except possibly the lower Pecos Valley—this on the heels of an unusually rainy autumn. Storm followed storm, with only an occasional sunny interim. Near-record depths of snow amounted to nearly six feet at Flagstaff, Arizona, and on the higher part of the Santa Catalina Mountains, Arizona, for example. It was even deeper on the White Mountains of east-central Arizona. The water content of snow on the Gila River watershed in Arizona and New Mexico was 330 percent of average!

The cold accompanying these storms was not severe, but it stayed unusually late—Las Vegas, New Mexico, had a low of only 4°F on Mar. 31, following a 21-inch snowfall, and it was so cold at this late date that the same storm left snow at Albuquerque, an unprecedented 10.5 inches of it, and snow came down to below 3500 feet Mar. 29 in the Tucson area!



In the Lower Sonoran section of the Region, all the moisture meant an unusually green desert, with spectacular wild flower shows in Southwestern Arizona. The accompanying protracted cold delayed the leafing and flowering of most plants, so that mesquites at Tucson, for example, showed no sign of green at the end of the period.

As was the case during the fall, the winter was noteworthy for invasions by a number of birds in virtually unprecedented numbers. The cause of these incursions was apparently, for most species, a failure of pine nut and juniper berry crops to the north of this region and in the north part of this region.

**GREBES THROUGH HERONS**—An ad. Pied-billed Grebe at Arivaca Jct., Pima Co., Ariz., Mar. 10 was accompanied by 3 small young on an unusually early date (Anne Alden, SR). Three Double-crested Cormorants were at ponds on the San Bernardino Ranch, Cochise Co., Ariz., Feb. 24 (DDa, CM). An ad. Little Blue Heron was at Tanque Verde Ranch e. of Tucson Dec. 7-21 (CC, Don Lamm *et al.*) for an unusual winter record, and one (age?) was at El Paso Dec. 30 (*fide* GW). Cattle Egret numbers were up, with as many as 16 during January at Clint, El Paso Co., Tex. (Faye Surratt), 23 in December at Phoenix (BB, RW), 20 in March at Tempe, Maricopa Co., Ariz. (Hugh Hanson *et al.*), and at least 30 Winterhaven, Imperial Co., Calif., Mar. 26 (DE *et al.*). A Least Bittern at Blue Pt., on the Salt R. in Maricopa Co., Ariz., Mar. 17, was in a new wintering locality (RJ, JS).

**WOOD STORK**—One of the most remarkable records of the season was provided by a Wood Stork, satisfactorily photographed in flight over the highway not far e. of Tombstone, Cochise Co., Ariz., Dec. 24 (Don Schmoldt, Gerry Lasser, Roger Willmarch). There are no winter records for this region since 1903.

**WATERFOWL**—A Black Brant was found at Tucson Dec. 29-30 (HF *et al.*), while another was seen on the Arizona side of the Colorado R. about 5 miles n. of Topock, Mohave Co., Mar. 20 (Robt. Karges, Anthony Moskos). These are the third and fourth

records for Arizona. Seventeen White-fronted Geese were observed at the Las Vegas, Nev., Country Club pond Jan. 8-9 (Don Baepler, CL). An astonishing 45 Mexican Ducks in a new area for them were reported on the Davis Mts., Tex., C B C Dec. 29 (*fide* FW). Seventeen Wood Ducks in the Farmington, San Juan Co., N. Mex., area Dec. 16 (*fide* AN) were a surprising total.

**VULTURES, HAWKS**—Twelve to 14 Black Vultures were soaring at San Bernardino Ranch, Ariz., Feb. 24 (DDa, CM). A new bird for Arizona is the White-tailed Kite—one was seen at Blue Pt., Feb. 25, by two veteran observers (RJ, JS); it should be mentioned here that one was reported in the Dragoon Mts., Cochise Co., last Nov. 6 (DDa). Individual Goshawks were seen in lowlands throughout the region, some 20 records in all; 3 were observed in the Farmington, N. Mex., area Dec. 16 (AN *et al.*). A Harlan's Hawk was seen repeatedly at Phoenix Dec. 14-Mar. 25, and another was there Feb. 17-Mar. 25 (DT, RW, RN *et al.*). The ad. Red-shouldered Hawk found last September at Mormon Farm, near Las Vegas, Nev., was perhaps the same one observed there Dec. 2-Feb. 17 (CL, VM *et al.*).

On Mar. 30, RJ and JS witnessed a record number of Zone-tailed Hawks in Maricopa Co., Ariz.—6 in all at Blue Pt. and Ft. McDowell, including a flight of 3. For the second winter, an unusual number of Rough-legged Hawks was reported, including a possible first record for Mexico, one on Feb. 16 less than a mile n. of Cananea, Sonora (WR). Quite a few Bald Eagles were reported region-wide—at least 22 in singles or pairs plus as many as 11 at Conchas L., San Miguel Co., N. Mex., in February (Lyle Berger) and 5 adults about 18 miles n. of Farmington Feb. 25 (HLe). They were also seen in dry-land locations, including one adult e. of Nogales, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., Dec. 13 (Dick & Bea Smith) and one immature about 20 miles n.e. of Douglas, Cochise Co., Ariz., Dec. 26 (Walter Spofford). A dozen Peregrine Falcons were reported, a few more than usual; Merlins were also seen more often.

**SANDHILL CRANES**—Some maximum winter counts were 51 at Albuquerque Dec. 17 (*fide* AE), 10,500 on Bosque del Apache N.W.R., N. Mex., Jan. 2 (GZ), about 6500 near Columbus, Luna Co., N. Mex., Dec. 10 (RF, Tom Brake), and 800 in Kansas Settlement, Cochise Co., Ariz., Feb. 10 (BH). About 25 were seen just n.e. of Lordsburg, Hidalgo Co., N. Mex., Feb. 1 (RF), a new wintering location. About 45 were at Elephant Butte Marsh, Sierra Co., N. Mex., Jan. 9 (CH, BE) and nearly 200 near Cliff, Grant Co., N. Mex., Mar. 11 (RF). Four hundred were migrating over Bandolier Nat'l Monument, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., Feb. 25 (Marjory Swain), and flocks (maximum, 470) were sighted over Albuquerque Feb. 18-Mar. 11 (Pat Basham). Although the last ones left Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex., Mar. 16, flights of 20-25 were seen overhead there through Mar. 31 (LK).

**RAILS, GALLINULES**—One each of Virginia Rail and Sora were noted near Kirtland, San Juan Co., N. Mex., Feb. 4 (AN), and a Com. Gallinule was at the same marsh Jan. 30-Mar. 3 (CS).

**SHOREBIRDS**—Unusual for spring were Snowy Plover in Maricopa Co., Ariz.—one s. of Chandler Mar. 28 (Roland Shook *et al.*) and one at Phoenix Mar. 29-30 (RB, BB). Eight Long-billed Curlews were in an alfalfa field near Las Cruces, Dona Ana Co., N. Mex., Mar. 24 (Debra Hickman). Two Greater Yellowlegs were wintering at Farmington Dec. 16 (Donna Thatcher). A Red Phalarope was identified at Sierra Vista, Cochise Co., Ariz., Dec. 7 (DDa, CM).

**GULLS**—The Glaucous Gull reported from Boulder Beach, Nev., on L. Mead Nov. 30 was probably the same one seen at the Las Vegas dump Dec. 16 (CL). An imm. Glaucous-winged Gull was seen in the Las Vegas area Dec. 16 & 28 (CL). A surprising total of 31 Herring Gulls was counted at Lakes Avalon and McMillan, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Dec. 23 (*vide* SW). An ad. Bonaparte's Gull in winter plumage was flying along U.S. 1-8 near Sentinel, Maricopa Co., Ariz., Mar. 26 (DE *et al.*), 4 were near Loving, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Dec. 24 (*vide* SW), and 2 were at Phoenix Dec. 5 (Zona Brighton).

**DOVES, ANIS**—A White-winged Dove was listed on the Davis Mts., Tex., C B C Dec. 29 (*vide* FW). A Ground Dove was seen, usually with an Inca Dove, at Tule Springs, Nev., near Las Vegas, Feb. 18-Mar. 5 (CL, VM). Six were listed on the C B C at Bosque Ref., Dec. 16 (*vide* CH). Two or 3 Inca Doves were at a Boulder City, Nev., residence Dec. 17-Mar. 31 (L. Brose, *vide* PL). Five were reported from the Sedona, Coconino Co., Ariz., vicinity Dec. 20 (*vide* Will Osborn). Two that appeared at Bayard, Grant Co., N. Mex., last Oct. 25 stayed throughout the period (RF). Two were counted at Big Bend Nat'l Park, Tex., Dec. 31 (*vide* FW). A nest with young was found as early as Feb. 26 in the Tucson Mts. foothills (Seymour Levy). Two Groove-billed Anis were in Phoenix from at least Dec. 21 to the end of the period (RW, JW *et al.*).

**OWLS, NIGHTJARS, SWIFTS**—A Barn Owl already 6-7 weeks old was banded at Tucson Feb. 19 (HF, Steve Dubrot). Two Screech Owls were at Farmington Mar. 5 and later (JN), and at least 2 others were reported (AN). A Saw-whet Owl was found in Juan Tabo Canyon n.e. of Albuquerque in mid-December (Tom Smylie), and one was at Bitter Lake Ref., Dec. 31 (DB). A Whip-poor-will was seen on four occasions, Jan. 20-Mar. 17, at Blue Pt. (Ann Simpson, JS, RJ). Five White-throated Swifts were seen in Farmington Dec. 22 (AN) and 4 at Jackson L., San Juan Co., N. Mex., the same day (HLe). Fifteen were counted at Carlsbad Caverns Nat'l Park, N. Mex., Dec. 17 (*vide* SW). One was at El Paso Dec. 30 (*vide* GW). Four were at Portal, Cochise Co., Ariz., Dec. 31 (RW, JW), and 5 were seen there Jan. 4 (SSp).

**HUMMINGBIRDS**—Remarkably early returning hummingbirds, considering the weather, were reported at Portal, Ariz., by Isobel Hicks: Broad-tailed Mar. 4, Rivoli Mar. 4, and Blue-throated Mar. 8. A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was in e. El Paso for the fourth consecutive winter (Roberta Wilcox), and a ♀ was also present in another part of town Jan. 14-Feb. 2 (GW). A nest found in Tucson Feb. 12 fledged young; another nest "across the street" from the first was being built on Mar. 4 but was abandoned (HF, WB); a nest in Phoenix fledged young Jan. 7 (*vide* JW). A ♂ was seen in Globe, Gila Co., Ariz., Dec. 16 & Jan. 12 (Sallie Harris).

**KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS**—A Green Kingfisher was noted below L. Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., Mar. 3 (Mark Robbins *et al.*). A few Lewis' Woodpeckers were scattered throughout s.e. Arizona, they were relatively common in Phoenix, but absent at Corrales, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., where usually present (RT). As many as 6 (all ♂) Williamson's Sapsuckers were found on the e. side of the Chiricahua Mts., Ariz., Mar. 27 (Allen Crockett), as one was in Phoenix Dec. 23-Jan. 7 (Kenn Kaufman *et al.*). Four Hairy Woodpeckers were noted at Elephant Butte Marsh, N. Mex., Jan. 9-10 (CH, BE).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS**—An odd record indeed was that of a **Thick-billed Kingbird** at Laguna Dam, Yuma Co., Ariz., Dec. 17-Jan. 4 (and later?) (SBc, DT *et al.*; photographed by DT). A Coues' Flycatcher was heard calling repeatedly at Tanque Verde Ranch e. of Tucson Dec. 14 (SR). This was an unusual winter for swallows in s. Arizona: 5 Violet-greens at Tucson Jan. 1 (Phil Norton, RN *et al.*), one at Nogales Dec. 16 (RW), 2 at Phoenix Dec. 23 (SBc), one at Tucson Jan. 11 (GMo), an astonishing 150 on the Colorado R. n. of Laguna Dam Dec. 17 (*vide* JRH), 124 Tree Swallows at Phoenix Dec. 23 (m. obs.), 2 **Bank Swallows** at Phoenix Dec. 23 (Dwain & Gloria Warner) and 7 on the Colorado R. n. of Laguna Dam Dec. 17 (SBc, DT), and one Cliff Swallow at Phoenix Dec. 23 (BB).

**CORVIDS**—Steller's Jays were scattered throughout the lowlands Region-wide, but were particularly noticeable in cities like El Paso, Phoenix, and Las Vegas, where there were feeders and other inducements. They were common at Bosque Ref., Jan.-Feb (GZ), and as many as 16 were seen at Elephant Butte Marsh Jan. 9 (CH, BE). Scrub Jays were present in even more unprecedented numbers, at least in s. Arizona; one was even seen at the California side of Laguna Dam in Imperial Co., Jan. 7 (GMe). **Black-billed Magpies** were building nests at Teec Nos Pas, Apache Co., Ariz., Mar. 25 (Vernon Mayes); it is a new breeding bird for Arizona. From 30 to 60 Com Crows were found in the Mohave Valley, Mohave Co., Ariz., n.e. of Needles, Calif., at least Jan. 12-Mar. 5 (SBt).

A few large flocks of Piñon Jays were scattered in s.e. Arizona, but they had largely disappeared by late February; none were seen farther west than the Nogales area, nor farther north than the Dragoon Mts. Their numbers were fewer than usual in at least parts

of n New Mexico (PS) As many as 150 were counted in the Davis Mts., Dec. 29 (*fide* FW). Clark's Nutcrackers, common during the fall in s. Arizona mountains, had quite disappeared again by the first of the year, although 17 were still at a Portal feeder Mar. 31 (SSp), and an occasional single bird was seen in places like Patagonia, Santa Cruz Co., Ariz., and Tucson until late February. One was seen even along the Colorado R. above Laguna Dam, Ariz., Dec. 17 (*fide* JRH). Unprecedented numbers were found at Prescott, Ariz., through the winter (RJ). In New Mexico, they were abundant at Los Alamos, where at least one juvenile was seen Mar. 25 (BL), and they were found south to the Roswell, Chaves Co., area Dec. 17 (3- *fide* LK) and to Bayard Dec. 17 (1-RF). At least 3 were in El Paso most of the period (*fide* GW), and 7 were reported from the Davis Mts., Dec. 29 (*fide* FW).

**TITMICE THROUGH THRASHERS**—Up to 5 or 6 Mountain Chickadees at Blue Pt. during the winter were an unprecedented number (RJ, JS). More than usual were seen in Albuquerque (PT), one or 2 were present at Bayard, N. Mex. (RF), and 3 were at Elephant Butte Marsh Jan. 9 (CH, BE). Unusual records of Plain Titmice came from Redington Pass, e of Tucson, where 2 were seen Dec. 20 (Ross & Bette Chapin) and 3 on Jan. 15 (Bernard Weideman). A Com. Bushtit nest was found at an unusual date, Feb. 24, and in an unusual site, a palo verde tree, near Blue Pt.; young in the nest were being fed Mar. 30 (RJ, JS). A Brown Creeper was seen between Laguna and Imperial Dams, Imperial Co., Calif., Jan. 7 (GMc). A Gray Catbird, very rare in s. Arizona, was observed at Tanque Verde Ranch Jan. 8-9 (CC). Sage Thrashers were more widespread than usual.

**THRUSHES**—From mid-December to early January, large flocks of Am. Robins descended on El Paso, Tucson, and Phoenix, where they fed mainly on pyracantha berries in company with numbers of Cedar Waxwings; they thinned out in early March and by Mar. 31 nearly all had left (m. obs.). Only a few were in Albuquerque (DDe), they were common in Roswell (Jodi Corrie), and abundant at Silver City, N. Mex. (RF). Following last fall's unprecedented invasion of **Varied Thrushes** in Arizona and Nevada, more records were obtained; 7 in the Las Vegas, Nev., area, including 3 at one feeder in Boulder City (*fide* CL), one at Tucson Dec. 8-Mar. 5 (TP, SSt *et al.*), 2 at Phoenix Dec. 11-17 (David Stejskal *et al.*), one at Nogales Dec. 15-16 (sev. obs.), one in lower Sabino Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., Ariz., Feb. 10 to at least Mar. 31 (Wm. Calder *et al.*), and one in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., Mar. 27 (Dan Popper). A possible first record for New Mexico was one seen on the Silver City C B C Dec. 23 (no details available—Chancie Snyder). Unusually large numbers of Mountain Bluebirds invaded s. Arizona and s. New Mexico in December-February, sometimes feeding in the cities with robins on pyracantha berries; there were flocks in El Paso also. Townsend's Solitaires were seen almost everywhere in s. Arizona, s. New Mexico, and at El Paso in considerable numbers.

**WAXWINGS**—A considerable invasion of Bohemian Waxwings occurred in s. Nevada and n. New Mexico; none were seen in Arizona. Numerous records were reported for the Las Vegas area, the largest number seen being 65 on Mar. 18 (VM). In New Mexico, most of the reports came from Albuquerque, where a maximum of 150 were found Mar. 5 (Rita Nicklas); the earliest report was of 40 on Feb. 18 (DDe). Other reports included small flocks at Los Alamos (PS), where the first seen were 20 on Dec. 8 (L. Hawkins), small flocks up to 40 seen to mid-February at Farmington (AN), 76 at Santa Fe Dec. 28 (*fide* Roland Wauer), and about 15 at Taos, Taos Co., Mar. 15 (Dixie Gillett). They were also at Cedar Crest, Sandia Mts., Bernalillo Co., where up to 50 were seen Jan. 24 (BM).

**SHRIKES, VIREOS, WARBLERS**—A N. Shrike was seen at Bitter Lake Ref., Mar. 16 (DB), and another was found in the upper Rio Grande Valley near El Paso Jan. 13 & 17 (Louise & Wendell Yerby, GW *et al.*). An immature was at Corn Creek, Desert Wildlife Range, Nev., Dec. 30, and an adult was there Feb. 18 (both VM). Two Solitary Vireos were seen at Bonito Well, Organ Pipe Cactus Nat'l Monument, Ariz., Feb. 18 (BM), and one was at Buckhorn Marsh, near Buckhorn, Grant Co., N. Mex., Jan. 14 (RF). A Yellow Warbler was found at Boulder City, Nev. Feb. 9 (PL). An Ovenbird was found in Phoenix Dec. 23-24 (JW *et al.*), and a N. Waterthrush was there Dec. 23 (RN).

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS**—A Northern Oriole (Bullock's) was seen at Tule Springs, Nev., Feb. 27 & Mar. 5 (CL). About 15 Com. Grackles were identified at Kirtland, N. Mex., Mar. 9 (CS), as were 2 at San Antonio, Socorro Co., N. Mex., Jan. 25 (RT). A ♂ Western Tanager was photographed at Portal Dec. 16 (SSp) and one was at Phoenix Dec. 27 (SD, HLo). A Hepatic Tanager was found at Youngtown, near Phoenix, Feb. 2-Mar. 31 (*fide* JW). A ♂ on Feb. 18 and a ♀ on Feb. 25 were seen at La Morita, Sonora, Mexico, s.e. of Naco (WR).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS**—Several Pyrrhuloxias wintered in a thicket e. of the Dragoon Mts. (WBA), and 6 were seen at Bonito Well, Organ Pipe Cactus Monument, Feb. 18 (BM). Four Dickcissels were found in the upper Rio Grande Valley, at El Paso, Dec. 30 (*fide* GW). A good many more Evening Grosbeaks were about than usual; mostly in small numbers, seldom more than 50. They were especially widespread and numerous in n. New Mexico, including Farmington (AN, JN), Embudo, Rio Arriba Co. (Ellen Espinoza), Las Vegas (WH), and especially Espanola, Rio Arriba Co. (*fide* BL) and Albuquerque (m. obs.) and the Sandia Mts. (*fide* RT). Fourteen were at Socorro, Socorro Co., N. Mex., Mar. 17 (Marvin Wilkening). About 18 were in Phoenix in December (Gene Bauer *et al.*). Small numbers were in the Las Vegas, Nev., area throughout the winter (CL). Purple Finches staged a minor invasion in s. Arizona, where small numbers were found in the Tucson and Phoenix areas, as well as at Globe (maximum of 14, Feb. 22-BJ). Five

were at Bard, Imperial Co., Calif., Jan. 7 (GMc). Cassin's Finches were likewise found in s. Arizona, mostly at Portal (SSp), but also 3 at Globe Jan. 24 (BJ) and one at Phoenix Jan. 7 (HLo). In n. New Mexico they were plentiful, nearly 3200 being counted at Española Dec. 30 (BL *et al.*), and reported as numerous at Farmington (AN) and Albuquerque (PT). Five were at a feeder in the Davis Mts. area Dec. 29 (*fide* FW). Two Pine Grosbeaks were seen in the Sandia Mts., Dec. 30 (AE, Virginia Fedder), and one was at San Cristobal, Taos Co., N. Mex., Mar. 11 (WH). About 75 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen just n. of Farmington Dec. 29; the flock included at least one Black Rosy Finch (AN). At Sunset Crater Nat'l Monument, Coconino Co., Ariz., 24 were present Dec. 30 (Don Magee), and 3 were seen there Feb. 10 (RW *et al.*). Red Crossbill numbers in the s.e. Arizona mountains dropped off in January. About 80 were in Tucson through January (GMo *et al.*), with a few still present into March (WB). "Many" were reported at Phoenix through the winter (SD, RW *et al.*), and a flock was also at Nogales (BH). They were even present in s.e. New Mexico lowlands, with 23 reported in the Lakes Avalon-McMillan area Dec. 23 (*fide* SW). Rufous-sided Towhees came into the cities to eat at feeders, especially Phoenix and Tucson, and they were more numerous than usual in Albuquerque (PT).

A Grasshopper Sparrow was collected at Bosque Ref., Mar. 14 (GZ). Rufous-winged Sparrows became well-scattered in s.c. Arizona, where many sightings were made on the outskirts of Tucson and the birds often sang. Cassin's Sparrows were singing near the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center n.e. of Tucson Mar. 15 (WBA), and at least one was singing in n.w. Tucson Mar. 17-27 (Wilma & Wm. Meter). Certainly one of the most spectacular aspects of the season was the large number of **Harris' Sparrows**. They were found almost everywhere! Some of the larger numbers were: 7 at one place in Farmington (JN), at least 4 at Kirtland Dec. 1-Mar. 31 (CS), 4 at Havasu N.W.R., Mohave Co., Ariz., Dec. 12-Mar. 13 (SBt *et al.*), at least 10 at Pipe Spring Nat'l Monument, Mohave Co., Ariz. (Richard Wilt), 7 (6 banded) at Scottsdale, Ariz. (BC), 9 at Corn Creek on the Desert Wildlife Range Jan. 31 (CL), 8 at Tule Springs Nev., Feb. 27 (CL), and 4 at Boulder City Feb. 7-Mar. 31 (PL). Only in the Pecos Valley and in El Paso were they unreported. White-crowned Sparrows continued to be very scarce in n.e. New Mexico (WH). Fox Sparrows were seen in yards in the Tucson and Phoenix vicinities, including 4 (3 banded) at Scottsdale Jan. 2-Feb. 13 (BC). The first Nevada record for **McCown's Longspur** was obtained when 3-4 were located at Tule Springs Feb. 21 (CL; details to be published elsewhere). A Lapland Longspur was found at Tule Springs Dec. 10 (VM). Two to 3 **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** at Tule Springs Jan. 28 provided the second Nevada record (CL—photo).

**CORRIGENDUM:** The ♂ **Lawrence's Goldfinch** (*Am Birds* 27:101) reported as the first documented record for Nevada was actually the second (see Johnson, N. and R. Banks, 1959, *Condor* 61:303).

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## ALASKA REGION

/ Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

The winter season 1972-1973 was mild throughout most of the Region. Temperatures were several degrees colder than normal in the Aleutian Islands, where total snowfall was much greater than normal, but elsewhere, from the northern interior to southeastern Alaska, relatively mild temperatures were the order of the season. Cold weather ( $-50^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) in interior Alaska lasted for only three weeks in January. Several hardy species spent the season in areas in which they had not been found overwintering previously.

Aleutian Islands observations are by the regional editors (Eds.) unless cited otherwise.



**GREBES, ALBATROSSES, PETRELS**—Three W Grebes were reported at Auke Bay, Juneau area, during December and January (ED). There are few winter records of Laysan Albatrosses in Alaska waters, so two seen on Petrel Bank, n. of Semisopochnoi I., w. Aleutians, during the first week of December (PR) are of interest. A Fork-tailed Petrel observed off Lone I., Prince William Sound, Mar. 30 (PI), is one of few winter records for that area.

**SWANS, GEESE**—Two ad. and two imm. Whooper Swans, a family group, were seen regularly at Adak I., Mar. 13-31 (m.ob.). Two swans, probably Trumpeters, were present at Skilak, L., Kenai Peninsula, all winter (JD, *fide* MM), and three were recorded at Cordova Dec. 23 (PI). The Adak Black Brant (see fall migration) remained through the whole winter (m.ob.). On Mar. 26 four **Bean Geese** were flushed from tall grass on the shore of Clam Lagoon, Adak (DE). They were observed closely, and their calls were heard clearly. There is no previous Alaska record at this season; all other records are of spring migrants.

**SURFACE-FEEDING DUCKS**—For the fourth consecutive winter a **Black Duck** was observed at Glacier Bay Nat'l Monument. This season the bird was seen on the Salmon R., Gustavus, Jan. 20 (BP). It was suggested that it might be the same male seen there the last three winters, always with Mallards. A pair of Gadwalls was seen periodically at Adak Feb. 6-11 and Mar. 13-31 (GVB *et al.*), and at Unalaska I., e. Aleutians, 25-30 Gadwalls were seen all winter (RT). Four were seen at Cordova Dec. 23 (PI), and six were seen at Gustavus Mar. 16, other smaller groups thereafter (BP). Up to 10 Eur. Wigeon wintered at Adak (Eds. *et al.*), and one ♂ Am. Wigeon was seen there Mar. 23-30 (GVB). One Am. Wigeon was observed occasionally at Unalaska during the winter (RT); this species is rare west of the Alaska Peninsula.

**DIVING DUCKS**—Two pairs of Canvasbacks wintered on Sweeper Cove, Adak (Eds.), Peculiarly, this is the only location in Alaska at which this completely nearctic species has been found regularly in winter. Adak's latitude (51°N) is consistent with that of the northernmost wintering populations of Canvasbacks elsewhere, in continental N. America, but its location is, of course, many thousands of miles west of s. British Columbia, the nearest continental wintering area. One Canvasback was seen at Auke Bay Dec. 6-9 (ED), but it did not stay the winter. One Tufted Duck was seen at Adak Dec. 17 (GVB *et al.*), and two, a ♂ and a ♀, were seen there Feb. 9 (Eds.); the female was seen again Feb. 15. Steller's Eider is rare west of the eastern Aleutians, so a lone ♀ observed at Adak Mar. 26 (DE) is of interest. A female-plumaged Hooded Merganser at Culross Passage Mar. 22 (PI) was the only record in the Prince William Sound-Copper River Delta area during the period. A similarly plumaged bird was noted at Auke Bay during the winter (ED). One female-plumaged Smew was seen regularly at Adak Mar. 15-31 (GVB, GD, DE, & JT), and up

to seven Com Mergansers were seen there Feb 27-Mar 29 (m.ob.)

**SHOREBIRDS**—A Killdeer observed at Bartlett Cove, Glacier Bay Monument, Jan. 4 (BP), is the first there in winter since 1968. Two Dunlins, rare in winter in the Aleutians, were observed with a flock of 40+ Sanderlings at Clam Lagoon, Adak, Feb. 7 (Eds & JT), and a single Dunlin was seen there Mar. 7 (JT) A **W. Sandpiper** was seen at Adak Dec. 16, and two were observed the following day (GVB *et al.*). These birds are rare in the c. Aleutians during migration, winter records are unparalleled anywhere in the Region. Besides the Sanderlings seen irregularly through the winter at Adak, where they occur annually, a flock of 17 was seen at Montague I., Prince William Sound, Mar. 18 (PI), the first winter record for that area. A single bird at Gustavus Jan. 20 (BP) was the only record of the species there this winter.

**GULLS, ALCIDS**—Gulls were rare over the pack ice in the Bering Sea during January and February but were common at the ice edge, at about 60°N. Maximum counts of gull species seen during a cruise on the USCG icebreaker Staten Island during these two months were: 25 Glaucous on Feb. 25; seven Glaucous-winged on Feb. 25; 25 Slaty-backed on Feb 25; and 20 Ivory on Mar. 13 (GD). Thick-billed Murres and Black Guillemots were the commonest birds in the pack ice during the same cruise. The murres were seen in large flocks at the ice edge, and the guillemots were seen in most leads (one or two birds) within the pack, where they were the most numerous species. A flock of 40 Black Guillemots Mar. 4 was maximum count (GD). On Jan. 4 a total of 1033 Marbled Murrelets was counted in lower Glacier Bay (BP *et al.*) Kittlitz's Murrelets were locally common the open waters of w. Prince William Sound during the period (PI); four off Russell I., Glacier Bay Monument, Mar 29 (BP), were the first ones seen in that area this year. A Parakeet Auklet near Storey I., Prince William Sound, Mar. 31 (PI), is the earliest local record; and a Crested Auklet near Seal I., Mar. 24 (PI), was the third Prince William Sound area record, all of them this winter. Approximately 6000 Crested Auklets were observed in Akutan Pass, e. Aleutians, Feb. 14 (GD)

**WOODPECKERS, STARLINGS, ICTERIDS**—One Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at Barry Arm, Port Wells, Mar. 23 (PI) is the first record of the species in the North Gulf Coast-Prince William Sound area. The species is rare anywhere in the state. A flock of 18 Starlings at Wrangell Dec. 26 (CE) was the only record during the period. Rusty Blackbirds were widely recorded this winter. Four were present at Ft. Wainwright, Fairbanks, into mid-December (NB), and another individual was seen near College through Dec. 17 (DDG, BK, *et al.*). These are the first winter records for the Fairbanks area. Nine Rusty Blackbirds were observed at Anchorage Dec. 23 (DD *et al.*); 14 were seen at Cordova the same day (PI), and one was seen at Gustavus Jan. 4 (BP), the first local winter record there.

**FRINGILLIDS**—A flock of 50 Evening Grosbeaks fed irregularly at a Ketchikan feeder through the winter, and one bird that injured itself and subsequently died is the first specimen record for Alaska (HH, *vide* RW; \* to U.A.). The species is a casual winter visitant in s.e. Alaska. Common Redpolls occurred in numbers (up to 25) at Adak this winter (Eds. *et al.*), the first time since the winter of 1967-1968. Hoary Redpolls were outnumbered by Commons in the Fairbanks area this winter, a situation that is normally the reverse. Pine Siskins were several times more numerous this winter than in the preceding two winters in the Cordova area (PI), and they were reported in numbers from Glacier Bay (BP), Juneau (ED), and Kake (CE). A few were seen at irregular intervals in the Fairbanks area (HS), where the species is not regular. White-winged Crossbills were common to abundant throughout the forested areas of the Region during this period. They were very common all winter from Ambler, on the upper Kobuk R. (OW), and Fairbanks (m.ob.) to the Kenai Peninsula (PI, MM), Prince William Sound-Copper River Delta area (PI), Glacier Bay Monument (BP), and Juneau (ED). Isleib estimated that "hundreds of thousands if not millions" were present on the Kenai Peninsula during the winter. Red Crossbills were recorded only once during the period at Glacier Bay (BP), but 5 per cent of the crossbills on the Kenai Peninsula during the period were Reds (PI). A Lapland Longspur collected at Adak Feb. 8 (Eds.; \* to U.A.) is an unprecedented Aleutian winter record. There are only two previous mid-winter sightings in the state, both from the Kenai Peninsula. McKay's Buntings occurred at Cold Bay again this winter (EB & CR), but in smaller numbers than last winter. Two birds banded at Izembek Nat'l Wildlife Range last winter were recaptured there this winter (CR).

**CORRIGENDUM**—The Hawkins I. Clark's Nutcracker (AB, 27: 104, 1973) must be deleted.

**ADDENDUM**—Following up on recent discussion of the occurrence of palearctic cuckoos in the Region (AB, 26: 796, 892, 1972), the two 1972 specimens, both of which were forwarded to the U.S. Nat'l Museum, have been determined to be Common Cuckoos (*Cuculus canorus*) rather than Oriental Cuckoos (*C. saturatus*). As such they constitute the first N. American records of the species and add to already difficult field identification problems in the Bering Sea area.

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The first two weeks of December brought unusually cold weather to the Region, with the most severe temperatures occurring in the southern portion. The central Willamette Valley experienced the coldest temperatures since 1919. After this initial onslaught, however, temperatures moderated to normal or slightly above for the rest of the season. December brought more precipitation than normal, January was about average in this respect, but February and March had considerably less rain and snow fall than is customary.



**LOONS, PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS**—Seven records of Yellow-billed Loons in the Vancouver-Victoria-Bellingham triangle Dec. 17-Mar. 29 were reported. A good count of an estimated 700 Arctic Loons was made at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. Mar. 9 (BM & MS, *vide* WW). There were 150 Red-throated Loons at Deception Pass in the San Juan Is. Jan. 27 (WW *et al.*); a single bird of this species on Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene, Oreg., Feb. 10 (JG & DM) was highly unusual so far from saltwater. A White Pelican was found at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Feb. 25 (RB, *vide* FZ); on Mar. 20, the same or another individual was seen near tidewater on the Alsea R. (J&MC, *vide* FZ). Concentrations of 450 Double-crested Cormorants at Bellingham, Wash., Mar. 10 (NL, *vide* TW) and of 600 Brandt's Cormorants at Active Pass Mar. 9 (BM & MS, *vide* WW) are of interest. Two Com. Egrets were noted at Waldport, Oreg., Dec. 22 (RB, *vide* FZ) where one was still present Jan. 13 (WH *vide* FZ); another turned up for the Sauvie I. C B C Dec. 30. A Cattle Egret appeared at Oceanside, Oreg., Dec. 16 for the Tillamook C B C (FZ *et al.*); possibly the same bird was seen further s. at North Bend, Oreg., between Christmas and New Year's Day (HR, *vide* HN). Five Am. Bitterns were

found on the Ladner, B C , C B C, individual birds or pairs were also noted during the winter season at Ocean Shores, Wash. (G&WHO) in December, at Sauvie I. (JG & HN) and at Finley N.W.R. s. of Corvallis, Oreg., (FZ) in January, and at Brownsville, Oreg (HT, *fide* FZ) and at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver in March where two appeared to be constructing a nest as early as Mar. 21 (WR *et al.*, *fide* WW).

**WATERFOWL**—Approximately 960 Whistling Swans wintered in the Willamette Valley, excluding those which occurred near the Columbia R. (U.S.F. & W S., *fide* FZ). The Ladner, Duncan and Bellingham C B Cs all encountered this species; there were 70 Whistling Swans at the Skagit Flats in w. Washington Feb 25 (TW). A Trumpeter Swan carrying a neck band, which appeared with six other swans at Ocean Shores, Wash., Dec. 8-27 (JM) is reported by the U S F. & W.S. to have been captured for banding during molt on Alaska's Kenai peninsula last summer. Trumpeter Swans were recorded from Duncan, B.C., where three were present in December (JCo), from localities near Vancouver and from Clear L. near Bellingham where a maximum of 69 were counted on Feb. 25 (TW). The 15,000 Dusky Canada Geese wintering in w. Oregon and Washington this past winter are said to be the lowest total in fourteen years (U.S.F. & W S , *fide* FZ). Four Brant were picked out of a flock of 250 Black Brant at March Pt., Skagit Co., Wash., Feb 24 (EH). Vagrant individual White-fronted Geese were at Duncan Dec. 2 (JCo), at the Nooksack Delta Dec 31 (AB *et al.*, *fide* TW), two were in the vicinity of Victoria Jan. 22 Mar. 31 (VG *et al.*), and two others were at Finley N.W.R. all winter (FZ). Thousands of Snow Geese wintered in the vicinity of Ladner, B C (WW); up to a score were seen at intervals in the c. Willamette Valley after the first of the year (FZ *et al*). A **Black Duck** was carefully observed at Bellevue, Wash., for the Seattle C B C Dec. 31; the bird was carefully studied the next day (EH), and was still present Jan. 12 (PM). The count of 158 Gadwall made on the Vancouver, B.C., C B C was characterized as "unprecedented" (WW). A late arriving flight of imm Pintails suffered heavy mortality at Sauvie I. with the bitter cold snap which occurred in the middle of December (MN, *fide* HN). Two ♂♂ (Eurasian) Green-winged Teal were found at Sea I. on the Vancouver C B C Dec. 17; two ♂♂ were seen there again Feb 23 (MM, *fide* WW); single ♂♂ were seen at Duncan Feb 23 and at Swartz Bay n. of Victoria Mar. 22 (VG). Individuals thought to be hybrid *crecca* X *carolinensis* teal were seen at the latter place Feb. 18 (SJ, *fide* VG), and twice on the Samish Co., Wash., flats in February (NL, *fide* TW: EH). Two Blue-winged Teal were recorded on the Sauvie I. C B C, Dec. 30 and a pair of this species was discovered at Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene Mar. 1 (JG & DM). A pair of Cinnamon Teal were at Seattle Dec. 8-Jan. 11 (PM *et al*); three early arriving ♂♂ were found at Tillamook Feb 24 (JBC, RF & HN). European Wigeon were well reported for the season in the approximate central one-third of the Region. An all-white Am. Wigeon with bill and feet of normal color was in company with others at the Samish Flats Mar. 3 (NL, *fide* TW). The 56

Wood Ducks recorded on the Ladner C B C was a very high count, a ♀ was at Grays Harbor, Wash , Dec. 17 (EH); another evidently overwintered at Saanich, B. C. (AD; SJ; RS, all *fide* VG). Redheads appeared on a number of C B Cs and were additionally seen after Jan. 1 at Duncan, Vancouver, Tillamook, and Fern Ridge Res. where 22 individuals were present Feb. 10-Mar. 15 (JG & DM). A ♂ Tufted Duck was photographed Jan. 17 at the Burrard Inlet seawall in Stanley Park, Vancouver (TC, *fide* WW); another sighting was made at Clover Pt., Victoria Mar. 20 (WC, *fide* VG). Three Com. Goldeneye at the inland location of Brownsville, Oreg., Feb. 12 & 22 (HT, *fide* FZ) were out of the ordinary. Over 2900 Barrow's Goldeneyes were recorded on the Vancouver C B C; the 40 birds of this species at Cowichan Bay n. of Victoria Dec. 30 was said to be a remarkable concentration for that locality (RS & VG). Oldsquaw were well represented from Vancouver s. to Victoria during the season; a few were seen throughout the period in bays on the c. Oregon coast, where the species is normally uncommon to rare. An unusual concentration of 80 Black Scoters was at Iona I., s. of Vancouver Jan 27 (GP, *fide* WW). There were 50 Hooded Mergansers at Elk L. near Victoria Feb. 6 (MS, WW *et al.*).

**VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES**—The fourth week of February brought four sightings of early-arriving Turkey Vultures to w. Oregon, from Medford all the way to Sauvie I. where one was seen Feb 21. A White-tailed Kite was found on three occasions Dec 3-20 at Talent, Oreg., (OS). Single Goshawks were recorded on a number of C B Cs, and several times during the rest of the season in the vicinity of Victoria, one was at Tillamook on Mar. 20 (JG). The comparative infrequency of sightings for both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks is cause for concern over the well-being of these two species; Red-tailed Hawks, on the other hand, were very well reported, particularly from C B Cs in the Georgia Straits-Puget Sound-Willamette Valley trough. For the fourth consecutive winter we are in receipt of careful descriptions of sightings identified as Harlan's Hawks; this year on Dec 30 an adult and an immature were found at Burlington, Wash. (LB & EH); an adult was seen Dec. 21, Feb 24, Mar. 10 & 28 on the Lummi Flats n.w. of Bellingham (NL, *fide* TW). A bird identified as an imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen on Jan 2 at Sauvie I. and was subsequently convincingly described by the observers (JG & HN); the record is of particular interest since Gabrielson & Jewett in *Birds of Oregon*, in doubt about the few records assigned to this species in the 1880's and 90's, relegated it to Oregon's hypothetical list. A **Ferruginous Hawk** was in the vicinity of Eugene much of the winter, turning up first Dec. 31-Jan. 3 (LM *et al.*, *fide* FZ) and then being seen several times from Feb. 15 to the end of the period (JS, *fide* RL). An imm. Golden Eagle tarried at Baskett Slough N.W.R. n. of Dallas, Oreg. Dec. 26-Feb. 1 (JM & FZ); another was seen at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, Jan. 13 and again on Feb. 10 (GP & WW), two were there on Mar. 10 (GAP, *fide* WW). A Golden Eagle also spent most of January in the Saanich area n. of Victoria (VG; RS *et al.*). Bald Eagles were

reported from points n of Dallas, Oreg., with good numbers in the Gulf Is., particularly in the latter part of the winter. Many of the Region's C B Cs encouragingly reported good numbers of Marsh Hawks. A few Ospreys had drifted into the s. portion of the Region in the latter half of March; one was even seen on a nest at Saanich as early as Mar. 29 (RS, *fide* VG). Gyrfalcons were seen repeatedly in the area between Vancouver and Bellingham all winter by many observers; a gray-phase bird was noted at Ocean Shores, Wash., on three occasions in December and again three times in early February (JM; GHO; EH; DP). An imm. ? Prairie Falcon was found dead s. of Finley N.W.R. on Jan. 19 (DR, *fide* FZ); the bird was made into a specimen for the Oregon State U. collection. A most encouraging number of Peregrine sightings was reported from nearly a score of different localities widely dispersed through the s. portion of the Region; maximum number on any one day at one locality was two individuals and in one instance, possibly three birds. Merlins were less well reported, except that up to 10 individuals were estimated to have wintered on the Samish Co., Wash., flats (NL, *fide* TW) and seven mid-Willamette Valley sightings were made Jan. 17-Feb. 17 (*fide* FZ). American Kestrels were said by several observers to be in less-than-normal numbers n of the Columbia R.

**CRANE, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS**—A few Sandhill Cranes wintered at Sauvie I. near Portland, quite an abnormal occurrence. At least one and probably more Virginia Rails spent the winter in the Saanich Pen. n. of Victoria; this species was also recorded on the Vancouver and Ladner C B Cs. A dying Sora was found at Vancouver Dec. 17 (RK, *fide* WW); single birds were found at Westport, Wash., and on Westham I., s. of Vancouver, during the C B C period. Almost all reporters agreed that Killdeer had become relatively scarce after mid-December following a week of very cold weather and snow; indications are that the population may have moved southward, particularly to the coast, as Killdeer were thought to be above normal numbers along the s.w. Oregon coast during the remainder of the period (FZ). Perhaps a comparison of Killdeer totals on C B Cs in California with counts for earlier years will tell something about what became of this Region's normal wintering complement of Killdeers which never did return in any numbers for the remainder of the 1972-73 winter period. An Am. Golden Plover in company with 15 Black-bellied Plovers at Westham I. Jan. 25 (RK, *fide* WW) was an astounding find, and is the only mid-winter record for the Region known to us. The remarkable total of over 200 Black-bellied Plovers at Tillamook for the C B C Dec. 16 had probably been forced southward by the bitter weather conditions of the ten preceding days. Com. Snipe numbers, too, were reduced below normal after mid-December, undoubtedly for the same cause as affected Killdeer; snipe were also said to be present in more than usual numbers along the s.w. Oregon coast in January and February (FZ). Seven Whimbrels at Yaquina Bay Jan. 28 (WH, *fide* FZ), one there Mar. 4 (M&EE, *fide* FZ) and six there Mar. 26 (SF, *fide* FZ) all were noteworthy. The 38

Greater Yellowlegs recorded on the Victoria C B C is a surprisingly high total for anywhere within this Region in the wintertime. The fact that up to 40 Rock Sandpipers wintered in the Victoria area is also impressive (VG *et al.*); 15 were seen at Vancouver Jan. 21 (GP, *fide* WW). Least Sandpipers normally winter very sparsely in the southern portion of the Region, but observations of that species this winter were fewer than usual, again possibly reflecting effects of the early December cold snap. Dunlin, on the other hand, seemed to be present in normal or even greater-than-normal wintering numbers. Long-billed Dowitchers were reported on a number of C B Cs and at a number of other localities in December; more seem to have been found after the end of that month, however. Lone W. Sandpipers were noted at March Pt., near Bellingham, Mar. 10 (NL, *fide* TW); and at Victoria Mar. 22 (AD, *fide* VG), both more unusual dates than Jan. 2 when 60 were counted at Sauvie I. (JG & HN). A Red Phalarope was seen at the Westport, Wash., jetty Dec. 16 (EH & NL, *fide* TW); another was found the same day for the Tillamook C B C.

**GULLS, ALCIDS**—Glaucous Gulls were noted on the Vancouver and Ladner C B Cs; later in the season single birds were seen in the Vancouver-Bellingham-Victoria triangle, at Tillamook, and 20 miles at sea from Newport, Oreg. Three Bonaparte's Gulls seen at Saanich Jan. 19 (VG *et al.*) were the last reports received for the season. A Little Gull was seen in a flock of gulls off Pt. Grey, Vancouver, on the C B C there, Dec. 17; the bird was said to be noticeably smaller than the Bonaparte's Gulls which accompanied it, and the dark wing-linings were clearly seen (WC *fide* WW). The only report of Black-legged Kittiwake for the season was one found at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Jan. 28 (WH, *fide* FZ). Pigeon Guillemots were seen in number up to 65 in the San Juan and Gulf Islands by several observers at different times during the season; 20 were at Newport, Oreg., Mar. 24 (LG). The 274 Marbled Murrelets on the Vancouver C B C and the 95 on the Bellingham C B C were both high totals. Counts of 450 Ancient Murrelets Dec. 26 (AD, *et al.*, *fide* VG) and of 300 on Jan. 19 (VG & RS) at Saanich are remarkable. A few Rhinoceros Auklets were seen in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in the San Juans, the maximum count in one day being fifteen at the latter locality Mar. 30 (KK).

**PIGEONS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS**—Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle all recorded unusually high numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons on their C B Cs, migrant pigeons had worked their way northward again as far as Vancouver by the last week in February. Mourning Doves were not reported from anywhere in the Region after December. Snowy Owls appeared only in the area from Ladner s. to Samish Bay; except for a total of 6 on the Ladner C B C, the maximum one-day number was three at Ladner in mid-February (EH). Burrowing Owls were surprisingly well reported, one spent the winter at Iona I. (RP, *fide* WW), another was found at Tillamook Dec. 16 (DH, *fide* FZ), still another appeared at Finley N.W.R. Mar. 17 (FZ), and one wintered at Agate L. near Medford until mid-

February when its burrow was flooded (OS) Short-eared Owls were very well represented on many of the Region's C B Cs; there were 25 on the Lummi Flats near Bellingham Jan 21 (TW), and 43 at White City, Oreg., near Medford Dec. 30 (OS *et al.*). Four early Vaux's Swifts were noted at Eugene Mar. 24 (ND, *vide* FZ). Besides the Vancouver, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland and Medford C B Cs on which a total of 16 Anna's Hummingbirds appeared, individuals also turned up at one time or another during the report period at Duncan where one spent the entire winter (JCo), near Bellingham, near Vicotira, and at Finley N.W.R.

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS**—Common Flickers were seen at seven different locations from Vancouver s. to Corvallis at various times during the winter. A Lewis' Woodpecker at Pt Roberts on Dec. 31 (BM & RK, *vide* WW) and four on the Sauvie I. C B C were the only ones mentioned by reporters. A Black Phoebe was again found on the Gold Beach, Oreg., C B C. A Say's Phoebe was spotted 7 miles n. of Kelso, Wash., Mar. 20 (RSt *et al.*) Skylarks are declining at Victoria; the maximum number seen together at the Univ. of Victoria campus was only eight (JT, *vide* VG); 17 were found at the s end of San Juan I. Mar. 17 (RSt *et al.*). Tree Swallows preceded Violet-green Swallows into the Region in early February by about a week, with the first of the former reaching Vancouver by the 21st of the month. Barn Swallows finally left Reifel Refuge near Vancouver after Dec. 2 on which date eight individuals were seen (GA, DA & RP, *vide* WW). A Cliff Swallow appeared there as early as Mar. 25 (GP, *vide* WW), the same day that a flock of 200 was at Fern Ridge Reservoir w. of Eugene, Oreg. (JG & DM).

**JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES**—Five Gray Jays were at Duncan Feb. 24 where the species rarely occurs (JCo) A Blue Jay was at Duncan during the latter part of January (JCo), while two were seen and photographed repeatedly at Saanich from Oct. 13, 1972 through to the end of the current report period (VG *et al.*) Black-billed Magpies appeared at various times during the winter at Medford, Portland, Sauvie I., Vancouver and at Deming, Wash. Clark's Nutcrackers were found at Bellingham and at Seattle for the C B Cs; three were seen near Ilwaco, Wash., in late January (RV, *vide* TW). Single Mountain Chickadees were noted at Bellingham Dec. 11 (TW), at Vancouver Dec. 17 (WR *et al.*, *vide* WW) and at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver Jan. 13 (WW & GP). A White-breasted Nuthatch was discovered at Vancouver's Stanley Park Dec 3 (MS & BM, *vide* WW); one was also seen at Bellingham Dec. 31 (CL, *vide* TW). Two Pygmy Nuthatches turned up for the Cottage Grove, Oreg., C B C. A Wrentit was recorded on the Portland C B C Twenty Long-billed Marsh Wrens were counted at Westham I. near Vancouver on March 4 (MS & WW) A Mockingbird was at Duncan, B.C., from Dec. 9 through the end of the month (JCo); another was seen at Saanich Dec. 12 (WC, *vide* VG); still another was at Baskett Slough N.W.R. w. of Salem, Oreg. during mid-March (RL *et al.*) and two were recorded

at Medford for the C B C Up to three Hermit Thrushes evidently wintered in the vicinity of Victoria (VG *et al.*). Western Bluebirds were seen repeatedly in the c. and s. Willamette Valley in small numbers after the first week of January; 29 on the Salem C B C was an encouraging total. At the s. edge of the Region, Medford's C B C recorded 203 W. Bluebirds! A pair of this species at Victoria Mar. 9 (*vide* VG) is also of interest. Townsend's Solitaires were recorded on four of the Region's C B Cs.

**PIPITS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS**—A White Wagtail adult in winter plumage of the *ocularis* race was discovered Mar. 2 at the mouth of the Coquiltam R., about 15 miles e. of Vancouver (GA & RJ); it was subsequently seen until Mar. 21 by many observers. Good written descriptions were made, one of which was submitted to the regional editors in full (WW), but no photographs could be obtained. The record is said to be the first for British Columbia. The only Bohemian Waxwing recorded away from the Vancouver-Bellingham area where five flocks of up to 80 were seen in December and January was found at Salem, Oreg., Jan. 8 (RL). Cedar Waxwings were little reported, while N. Shrikes seem to have been quite well represented in the Region this winter, judging from C B C reports in particular. Fifteen Hutton's Vireos on the Eugene C B C was a remarkable total. Reports of single Townsend's Warblers came from Vancouver, Jan. 27-31; from Saanich, Jan. 3-Feb. 27, Ocean Shores, Wash., Feb. 17; the Humtulpis R. on the Olympic Peninsula Mar. 6; Salem, Jan. 4 & 17, and from Corvallis three times in December and in January. Yellow-breasted Chats were reported from Dexter, Oreg., Feb. 15 (JS, *vide* FZ) and from Finley N.W.R. where an individual was singing on several mornings in the second week of February (RG, *vide* FZ); we know of no previous winter record for the Region. Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted at Duncan Jan. 26 (JCo), at Reifel Refuge s. of Vancouver Mar. 21 (Ct, *vide* WW) and at the Skagit Flats Mar. 26 (RFu). Two Rusty Blackbirds were at Lummi Flats near Bellingham Dec. 10-19 (JD, DHe; TW *et al.*); another individual of this species was seen at Saanich three times in the latter three weeks of December (VG; RS). Up to six Brown-headed Cowbirds wintered at Saanich (VG *et al.*); another was at Vancouver in February and March (WR, *vide* WW)

**FINCHES, SPARROWS**—A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared regularly at a feeder in L. Oswego Dec 25-30; a good photograph was obtained (I&CC); the record is the first for Oregon and the first winter record for the Region of which we are aware. A Black-headed Grosbeak was seen in Portland Dec. 9 (CB, *vide* HN) Evening Grosbeaks seem to have been locally plentiful at scattered localities in the central portion of the Region this winter. Purple Finches were unusually numerous at Victoria (VG). Three Cassin's Finches were captured and banded at Medford Mar. 9 (OS). Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were frequently seen in the vicinity of Vancouver most of the winter (*vide* WW) Small numbers of Com. Redpolls appeared at Vancouver, Bellingham, and in the San Juan Is., mostly in late December and early January. Pine Siskins were

absent or scarce for the most part, although a flock of 200 was seen at Warrenton, Oreg., Jan. 13 (RF & HN) and "many" were said to be on Lopez I. in the San Juans Mar. 16 (RSt *et al.*). Lesser Goldfinches were seen a few times during the winter on the w. side of the Willamette Valley from Albany southward after late January. Red Crossbills were virtually absent from the Region this winter, judging by the dearth of reports for this species. The first Vancouver I. record for Lark Sparrow was supplied by one found at Saanich Feb. 7, 9 & Mar. 31 (WC, VG *et al.*); up to ten were observed at Medford during the extremely cold second week of December (OS). Dark-eyed Juncos were well reported from Vancouver s. to Medford throughout the entire report period. Several reports of Tree Sparrows, in number up to six at a locality, were received from Vancouver, Bellingham, and Victoria. A Chipping Sparrow was noted at Albany, Oreg., Jan. 22 (CG, *fide* FZ). Harris' Sparrows were present in unprecedented winter numbers, particularly in the Vancouver-Ladner-Bellingham area, although there were ten sightings from places as much to the southward as Eugene. White-throated Sparrows were seen repeatedly on the s.e. side of Vancouver I. and in the Willamette Valley throughout the winter. Lincoln's Sparrows in number up to seven in a day were recorded in six localities from Eugene n. to Vancouver at various dates scattered through the entire report period. An imm. Swamp Sparrow was photographed at L. Samamish State Park, King Co., Wash., Apr. 8 (EH, DP, PM *et al.*) after having been first discovered Feb. 25 (EH). Lapland Longspurs were recorded Dec. 12 & Jan 6, in number up to 20 on the Lummi Flats (*fide* TW); they were last seen at Ocean Shores where they had been seen repeatedly during the fall, in early Jan. (JM). Over 100 Snow Buntings were seen from late December until mid-February at the latter place (JM); a few were seen at various times in December and January between Bellingham and Vancouver (*fide* TW & WW).

**OBSERVERS**—Genevieve Arnold, Dick Asher, Range Bayer, Alex Benedict, Laurence Binford, Christie Brindle, Wayne Campbell, John & Martha Casteel, Thomas Collins, John Comer (JCo), John B. Crowell, Jr., Irving & Clary Curran, A. Davidson, Narca Dewoskin, Jim Duemmel, Merlin & Elsie Eltzroth, Roy Fisk, Sean Furness, Robert Furrer (RFu), Jeff Gilligan, Larry Goodhew, Vic Goodwill, Charles Grant, Rolland Gray, Dennis Heinemann (DHe), Dan Heyerly, Wayne Hoffman, Glen & Wanda Hoge (G&WHo), Eugene Hunn, Rick Jerema, Stuart Johnston, Kenn Kaufman, Richard Knapton, Cheryl Lavers, Norm Lavers, Robert Lucas, Bruce MacDonald, Phil Mattocks, Larry McQueen, James Micuda (JM), David Mills, Norman Minnick, Michael Morrell, James Morris, Harry Nehls, Dennis Paulson, Roy Phillips, G. A. Poynter, William Rae, Hilda Reiher, Dick Reynolds, Ron Satterfield, Michael Shepard, Jerry Smith, Richard Stallcup (RSt), Otis Swisher, J. Tatum, Howard Taylor, Colin Trefry, Rex Van Wormer, Terrence Wahl, Wayne Weber, Fred Zeillemaker—**JOHN B. CROWELL, JR.**, 1185 Hallinan Circle, Lake Oswego, Oregon, and **HARRY B. NEHLS**, 2736 S. E. 20th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION /Dave DeSante, David A. Gaines and Van Remsen

"Very cold and very wet" effectively summarizes this Region's weather during the past winter season. December started out cold and a prolonged freezing spell December 8-14, perhaps the longest continuous cold spell that this Region has experienced in fifty years, devastated trees, shrubs and crops both in the Central Valley (below, C.V.) and along the coast. Extensive stands of mature introduced eucalyptus trees in the East Bay were killed, bringing speculations of a massive fire danger for the coming summer and fall. "Chains Required" signs in the Bay Area made front page photographs. Temperatures increased somewhat in late December but generally remained below average during the remainder of the period. A very wet November foreshadowed one of the wettest winters on record. By late March most areas had received nearly double their normal rainfall. Despite the cold, wet winter, or, perhaps, because of it, numbers of our normal wintering landbirds were generally thought to be better than average. However, most of the birds concentrated in lowland and heavily planted residential areas, leaving the higher and more remote areas of the Region comparatively birdless.



**INVASION OF MONTANE AND NORTHERN SPECIES**—The fall influx left an outstanding variety of montane and northern species wintering in our Region. Band-tailed Pigeons invaded the Sacramento Valley in unprecedented numbers: at least 5000 along a 12-mile stretch of the Sacramento R. north of Sacramento Feb. 21 (RS, GM), flocks of 1000 or more in the oak grasslands east of Sacramento (BK, RS, DAG, MA *et al.*) and similar numbers in the Chico area, where hundreds foraged in orchards and even plowed fields (TM, DAG). Numbers decreased in March (RS), but many remained at the end of the

period, Band-taileds are normally rare in the C V. By contrast, the Angwin, Napa Co., C B C in the inner coast range recorded only 16 Band-tailed Pigeons as compared to an average 500 on the previous three counts (*vide* DR); the paucity of acorns may have forced these birds into the lowlands. Lewis's Woodpeckers were exceptionally common and widespread in the hills around the C.V., but their numbers were down near Angwin and Pope Valley, Napa Co. (DR, JG) About 75 Lewis' were counted along a one-mile stretch of Highway 132 east of Modesto, Stanislaus Co., Mar. 25 (MM). Eight in the Palo Alto area throughout the period (*vide* DDeS) were the only sightings from the San Francisco Bay region. A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker remained in Lafayette Feb. 21-Mar. 8, a color slide is on file (RE, LF, WP *et al.*). A Hairy Woodpecker in Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland, Feb. 13, with almost entirely black wings, may have been the northwestern *harrisi* subspecies (JM).

The fall downhill movement of Steller's Jays left a number of small bands wintering on the floor of the C V near Chico (TM) and east of Sacramento (*vide* BKi). The Black-billed Magpie near Arcata remained until Jan. 30 (DE). Clark's Nutcrackers were observed at two C.V. localities: Woodland, Yolo Co. (*vide* DAG) and Fresno (KH). Two near Felton, Santa Cruz Co., Dec. 22 (BE), one in San Francisco Jan. 11 (JVM) and one near China Camp, Monterey Co., Feb. 22 (MeA) were probably remnants of the fall coastal invasion. Another montane species, the Mountain Chickadee, appeared at four C.V. locations and another was near Requa, Humboldt Co., Jan. 13 (RLeV). Red-breasted Nuthatches could be found in C V parks and yards, but were not as common as some years; by contrast, however, none had been reported in the C.V. during the past two winters. Compared to 1969-70, the last "invasion" year, nuthatch numbers were low, i.e., "ten times fewer in coastal Humboldt Co." (DA) and none at all in the Livermore and Napa Valley Regions. Varied Thrush populations boomed. "Largest populations in six winters at Pt. Reyes" (MLR) and "largest invasion in eight winters in Chico" (LT) were typical comments from coastal and inland localities. On five coastal C B Cs, the cumulative number of Varied Thrushes exceeded by nearly twice that on the four previous counts combined and the usual ratio of one Varied Thrush to every 25 Am. Robins was up to one to every four Am Robins this season. Townsend's Solitaires appeared at Davis Jan. 5 (PB, DAG), Angwin, Napa Co., Feb. 28 (WT) and near Monticello Dam, Yolo Co., Mar. 18 (PB). Golden-crowned Kinglets were numerous at times in the C.V., but decreased in numbers during January and February. "Good numbers" wintered in the Mammoth area, Mono Co., where none were observed last winter (JMF). Cedar Waxwings were somewhat scarcer than usual. A group of 27 Bohemian Waxwings were observed northeast of Weed, Shasta Co., Dec. 23 (RS) and six were in the same area Jan. 1 (SB); two were in Springville, Tulare Co., Jan. 2 (MEM, RB).

Following last fall's excellent flight, good numbers of winter finches were found throughout the Region. As expected, Evening Grosbeaks were the most promi-

nent with reports being received from all locations in the Region including 355 counted on 19 C B Cs. The center of abundance of this invasion seemed to lie in the Sacramento Valley, where the species was common, and in the Bay Area. Peak numbers occurred between late December and mid-February after which time a gradual exodus was under way. However, some were still present at the end of the period. The largest single flocks included 60 at Berkeley Feb. 3 (WK), 250 in Piedmont, Alameda Co., Dec. 27 (ST) and 300+ near Scott's Valley, Santa Cruz Co., Feb. 14 (RS) Purple Finches were also very widespread and in excellent numbers throughout the Region. The major influx occurred in early or mid-January and lasted through February during which time they often outnumbered House Finches at Bay Area and C.V. feeders. Single flocks of 100 at Capitola, Santa Cruz Co., (WB) and 300 near Lafayette (LF) were certainly up to invasion standards. Numbers dropped steadily during March Cassin's Finches, a very rare species in our Region west of the Sierra, were also involved in this winter's invasion. Records from the C.V. included 12 at Fresno (RH, KH), four at Davis Jan. 10 (DAG) and one at Sacramento Feb. 27-Mar. 3 (*vide* BK). Along the coast, singles were identified at Santa Cruz Dec. 8 (*vide* VA), Berkeley Dec. 12-17 (VR), Pope Valley, Napa Co., Jan. 14 (LW & AG) and Tilden Park, Contra Costa Co., Mar. 31 (ST).

A number of Pine Grosbeaks were found in Lassen Co. north of their resident California range and possibly represent individuals of some unknown northern race. If so, these could be considered the first occurrences of non-California breeding Pine Grosbeaks in the state. Records include singles at Janesville Dec. 19 (AW) and Fredonyer Pass, Jan. 29 (TM, J. Conry) and ten in Lassen Park Mar. 27 (VR, P. Myers). Both Pine Siskin and Am. Goldfinch numbers were better than the past two winters, especially in the C.V., but neither species was up to invasion standards. Similarly, Red Crossbills were widely distributed but in relatively small numbers.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS—A Yellow-billed Loon was on Humboldt Bay Feb. 18-Mar. 7 (RLeV, DE, TS *et al.*) and one was photographed at Berkeley Jan. 26 (C. Maynard, *vide* VR). One Arctic and two Red-throated Loons were on L. Shasta Dec. 23 (TM), both species are very rare inland. Another inland rarity, the Red-necked Grebes, was photographed on an American R. hatchery pond, Sacramento Co., Mar. 28-31 (RGi). The W. Grebe may be in trouble. Eleven coastal C B Cs which recorded 3179 birds this winter had produced 3747 birds last winter and 12,506 in 1970-71. The reverse trend has occurred inland: eleven counts found 340 birds this winter, 126 in 1971-72 and 36 in 1970-71. Northern Fulmars were very scarce this winter, with the maximum count 30 off Humboldt Co., Dec. 5 (DE, TS). Several consecutive days of high winds in March will usually bring Fork-tailed Petrels to Monterey Harbor, as happened this year, when two were found Mar. 13 (AW). White Pelicans wintered in normal numbers, with 900 until late January in s San Francisco Bay (BE, D.F.G.) and at least 500 in the San Joaquin R. area of Merced Co. (CM, VR)

A bird which was almost certainly a hybrid Little Blue Heron X Snowy Egret wintered at Palo Alto (TC, RS *et al.*); since single ad. Little Blue Herons have been observed in the Bay Area intermittently in the past few years, the possibility of local production is suggested. Seven Cattle Egrets were found at five coastal locations and singles were seen at two spots in the C.V. A Black-crowned Night Heron nest with half-grown nestlings was found at L. Merritt, Alameda Co., Jan. 5 (BE).

**WATERFOWL**—The abnormal abundance of standing water produced by the heavy rains scattered the waterfowl in the C.V., resulting in hunter takes that were lower than last winter at every refuge. Whistling Swans, geese and dabbling ducks were much more common than usual near the coast. Diving ducks, however, were scarce everywhere; the heavy rains muddied many of the reservoirs and estuaries, and this may have been the cause. A fantastic migratory concentration of 33,000 Black Brant was on Humboldt Bay in late March (D. Henry, *vide* RLeV). An ad. Emperor Goose Dec. 30 at Humboldt Bay (RS) was a remnant of last fall's "invasion" (four records). Thirteen ad. Blue phase Snow Geese were reported from inland areas, which is more than normal. Seven white phase Snow Geese were six coastal locations Dec. 30-Jan. 15, and single Ross' Geese, very unusual away from the C.V., were at Ano Nuevo Jan. 6-22 (MeA, VR, photos) and Livermore Jan. 13-Mar. 31 (GB, AE). As usual, several Green-winged Teal (Eurasian subspecies) were at Arcata, Humboldt Co., Jan. 6-Feb. 25 (DE, TS, RS *et al.*); singles were also discovered Mar. 26 at Honey L. (RS) and Bieber (KK *et al.*), both Lassen Co. These are the first inland records for n. California. Six coastal and seven inland Eur. Wigeon were reported. An attempt by the Region's contributors to quantify sex ratios in Redheads and Ring-necked Ducks yielded a nearly 50:50 ration for the Redhead, but for the Ring-necked Duck, the ratio was biased toward males near the coast (591:342) but toward females in the C.V. (218:317). Six Oldsquaws were reported from Humboldt Co. to San Francisco Bay. A ♀ King Eider appeared in Monterey Harbor Mar. 21 (MeA, RS, *et al.*), possibly the same bird that has been found there every winter since 1969-70. Hooded Mergansers were much more common and widespread than usual. Red-breasted Mergansers, very rare inland, were found at four interior locations: singles at Tule L. Feb. 18 (RS, DDeS), L. Almanor, Plumas Co., Mar. 27 (RS), and L. Mendocino near Ukiah Mar. 31 (PM) and two at Folsom L. Jan. 1-14 (RS, DAG *et al.*); all birds were males.

**RAPTORS**—Increased raptor reporting resulted in totals doubling or tripling last winter's numbers for every species. To determine whether or not this represented true increases, C B C data from the last two years was analyzed; the results (Table 1) show that most raptors were actually down. A Goshawk was shot by a rancher near Angwin (*vide* WT) for one of our few records away from the Sierras. Six well-described "Harlan's" Hawks were reported: Gray Lodge Refuge, Butte Co., Jan. 6 (TM, RS, DW); Wil-

**Table 1**  
Comparison of 1971 and 1972 Northern California  
Christmas Bird Count Data on Raptors

Species and Location	Number Observed		Per Cent Change
	Per Ten Party Hours	1971 1972	
Sharp-shinned Hawk			
Outer Coast	.78	.44	-44%
Inner Coast	.44	.33	-25%
C. V. and Foothills	.50	.45	-10%
Cooper's Hawk			
Outer Coast	.56	.31	-45%
Inner Coast	.30	.34	+13%
C. V. and Foothills	.47	.53	+13%
Red-tailed Hawk			
Outer Coast	6.9	4.9	-29%
Inner Coast	3.8	5.2	+37%
C. V. and Foothills	9.4	7.9	-16%
Red-shouldered Hawk			
Outer Coast	.38	.29	-23%
Inner Coast	.86	.87	+01%
Rough-legged Hawk			
Outer Coast	.32	.14	-56%
Inner Coast	.11	.42	+281%
C. V. and Foothills	.23	.47	+104%
Ferruginous Hawk			
Entire Region	.15	.14	-07%
Golden Eagle			
Entire Region	.34	.28	-18%
Bald Eagle			
Entire Region	27 total	25 total	-07%
Am. Kestrel			
Outer Coast	6.7	4.8	-28%
Inner Coast	4.0	4.8	+20%
C. V. and Foothills	12.7	11.1	-13%
Merlin			
Outer Coast	6 total	15 total	
Inner Coast	3 total	7 total	
C. V. and Foothills	3 total	4 total	
Peregrine Falcon			
Outer Coast	9 total	6 total	
Inner Coast	0 total	0 total	
C. V.	1 total	3 total	

low Slough, Yolo Co., Jan. 14 (DAG); Nord, Butte Co., Feb. 18 (TM); Chico, Butte Co., Jan. 20-late Feb. (TM, RS *et al.*); Honey L. Dec. 19 (RG *et al.*),

and Lower Klamath Refuge Feb 17 (J&SL, RS) A very early Swanson's Hawk was near Merced Ref. Feb 25 (LB, RLeV, VR *et al.*). Wintering Ospreys were reported from five coastal localities; one on the Lewiston C B C, Trinity Co., Dec. 23 (DA) was far north and far inland. Prairie Falcons appeared at six coastal localities, including birds at Arcata Jan. 1 (DA) and Pt. Arena, Mendocino Co., Feb. 15-16 (RLeV, photos); this species is particularly rare on the north coast

**CRANES AND RAILS**—Sandhill Cranes were in good numbers with a peak count of 5000 Feb. 28 at San Luis N.W.R. (CM). A combination of extremely high tides and flooding from heavy rains produced some amazing counts of Clapper Rails Jan. 17-19: 150 at Dumbarton Bridge (BMcL, AP) and 73 at Palo Alto Baylands (P. Kelley). Decreases in this species were reported at Alameda (JM) and Emeryville (MLR). The Black Rail found last fall at the Dumbarton Bridge was seen Dec. 17-19 (RLeV, TS *et al.*). Common Gallinules were reported from more than the usual number of coastal localities (nine).

**SHOREBIRDS**—A Black Oystercatcher was on Treasure I., S.F. Bay, Dec. 19 (RS); this species is extremely rare away from rocky outer coast. Snowy Plover showed large decreases on this year's C B C totals from last year on eight of nine coastal counts. Killdeer staged massive influxes into coastal areas such as Humboldt, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Cos. during the freezes of early December; they clustered on city lawns and huddled around sewer drains for warmth. Wintering Am. Golden Plover were much more widespread than usual; besides the usual birds in the Loleta Bottoms, Humboldt Co., two were at Dillon Beach Jan 20 (MLR, JM), three at Pt. Reyes Jan. 23-27 (MLR, BF, JM *et al.*), one near Pescadero, San Mateo Co., Dec. 30 (PM), and one at the Pajaro R. Feb. 8 (J&RW). The birds at Loleta Bottoms increased from nine Dec. 31 to 39 on Mar. 5 (RLeV). The abundance of standing water along the coast resulted in an increase in Com. Snipe numbers; exemplifying this increase was a concentration of 190 birds at one small pond east of Bodega Bay Jan. 28 (LB). Single Wandering Tattlers, very rare inside S.F. Bay, where at Berkeley Dec. 9-17 (LB, VR) and at Dumbarton Bridge Jan. 20 (GB) Ten wintering Lesser Yellowlegs were tallied on the Hayward C B C Dec. 17 (*fide* JL), one on the Oakland C B C Dec. 17 (*fide* AP), and two at Joice Is., Solano Co., Feb. 9 (JM, GZ). An amazing number of Red Knots wintered near Oakland: 578 were counted on the Oakland C B C, including 470 in one flock at Albany (LB, VR). Red Knots are seldom that common, even in migration. As many as six Rock Sandpipers wintered at the usual location on Bodega Head Dec 20-Mar. 11 (WP, LB, J&SL *et al.*) and one was at Pacific Grove Dec. 28-Mar. 10 (W. Reese, GMcC *et al.*) Red Phalaropes occurred at nearly every coastal locality from mid-December to early January. Monterey recorded an amazing 1199 on the C B C Dec. 28, the last bird was one in Monterey Co. Jan. 27 (RS)

**JAEGER THROUGH ALCIDS**—As usual, a few wintering Pomarine Jaegers and no Parasitics were reported. At least two Glaucous Gulls were found at Arcata until Mar. 21 (DA, DE, RLeV, RS *et al.*) Singles were at Pacific Grove Dec. 28 (AW, TS), Dillon Beach Jan. 20 (MLR, JM), and Pescadero Creek, San Mateo Co., Mar. 17 (TC, BY). As usual, all were either first or second year immatures. Herring Gulls were exceptionally common in the C.V., often outnumbering the normally more common Ring-billeds and Californias; there was a major influx into the Sacramento area Jan. 10-14, when 1000+ were seen (RS *et al.*). An imm. **Franklin's Gull** was at Arcata Feb 10-Mar. 29 (DS, DE *et al.*) for the Region's third winter record. Black-legged Kittiwakes were very scarce along the coast, with only one to three birds found at any given spot; even off-shore the highest counts were only 35 off Humboldt Mar. 31 (RLeV, TS) and 30 off San Francisco Feb. 17 (VDaC). An ad. well-described from Woodland, Yolo Co., Dec. 2 (B&RL) was the first record for the C.V.

Two Com. Murres were found at Berkeley early Dec.-Jan. 12 (J&SL, LB *et al.*) and one was recorded on the Hayward C B C Dec. 17 (*fide* JL); This species is unusual far inside S.F. Bay. At least one **Thick-billed Murre** was seen at Monterey late Dec.-Jan. 26 (R Webster, RS, J&SL). Marbled Murrelets, as usual almost always paired, were noted at four coastal localities.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS**—Five **Spotted Doves** remained in Fresno throughout the winter, the first record for the Region (RH); the species had been previously unreported north of Bakersfield Roadrunners were observed on the Monterey C B C Dec. 28, at Mercy Hot Springs, Fresno Co., Feb 4 (DDeS) and along Mines Road, Alameda Co., throughout the period. Saw-whet Owls were recorded from eleven coastal and inner coast localities between Humboldt and Santa Cruz Cos.; three reached the floor of the C.V. Pygmy Owls were frequently encountered in coastal forests and in the transition zone of the Sierras. A pair observed copulating near the arid eastern edge of the inner coast range, Yolo Co., was east of the species' known breeding range (PB). Roosts of Long-eared Owls were found at Honey Lake (TM) and at two C.V. locations. An additional Long-eared was at Bolinas Lagoon Jan. 13 (LB). An unusually large influx of Short-eared Owls seemed to peak in C.V. and Great Basin localities in December and January with high counts of 52 on the Lower Klamath Refuge Dec. 10 (TM) and 60 near Davis until the end of January (DAG); many were killed on highways in the C.V. (TM). Only two were observed in the C.V. last winter. Above average numbers of Short-eareds also wintered in the Bay Area. Despite the cold weather, Poor-wills were reported from the w. Sonoma C B C Dec. 30, Tomales Bay State Park Jan. 6 (JM, GZ), near Oroville Feb. 19 (GN) and near Jenner, Sonoma Co., Feb. 21 (RLeV).

Five **Vaux's Swifts** were at Waddell Creek, Santa Cruz Co., Dec. 9 (BY, TC), only the fifth winter record for the Region. Many observers reported dramatic increases in feeder hummingbird populations during

the December freeze About 30 Anna's Hummingbirds, for instance, utilized a feeder in Berkeley during December, at which time they were absent from the nearby hills; many, however, turned up stunned or dead in suburban yards (VR). Anna's wintered at feeders in several Sierra foothill communities and one remained in Weaverville, Shasta Co., while the temperature dipped to  $-5^{\circ}\text{F}$ . (SB). This species has increased in our region in winter owing to ornamental plantings and feeders which provide food during the quiescent period of our native plants. An imm. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird, an imm. ♂ Allen's Hummingbird and an unidentified *Selasphorus* hummingbird wintered at a feeder in Berkeley (VR). Rufous Hummingbirds appeared in Pacific Grove Jan. 21 (RS, GM, ST, DDeS); the first C.V. sighting came Feb. 1 (*fide* BKi). This is one to two weeks earlier than the past two years. Allen's Hummingbirds arrived in late January as is usual, but were not abundant until March.

At least 25 "pure" Yellow-shafted and numerous "hybrid" Com. Flickers were reported this winter, a new high. A Pileated Woodpecker was seen in oak woodland, an atypical habitat, near L. Mendocino, Mendocino Co., Mar. 31. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at Peregoy Meadows Dec. 23 indicates the species is resident there at all seasons (JL).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS**—A Tropical Kingbird appeared near Santa Rosa Dec. 23 (LW, AG). A Western Flycatcher returned for the third consecutive winter to the U.C. Botanical Gardens, Berkeley, but vanished when its favorite tree was felled Dec. 17 (AP). Another *Empidonax*, thought to be a Hammond's or a Least (definitely not Traill's, Gray or Western) remained along the San Joaquin R., Fresno Co., Nov. 25-Dec. 3 (RH, Alan Craig). The prolonged December freeze probably accounts for relatively low populations of Tree and Violet-green Swallows this winter. Numbers of Trees nearly equaled Violet-greens on C B Cs and in observer reports, reversing the trend of the past two winters. A Violet-green Swallow in Arcata, Humboldt Co., Dec. 8-12, was extremely far north (TS, RLeV, DE *et al.*). About 20 Bank Swallows arrived at the mouth of the Pajaro R., Santa Cruz Co., Mar. 22 (J&RW) and four were at Coyote Hills Park, Mar. 29 (RS, GM). Rough-winged Swallows appeared at two San Joaquin Valley locations Feb. 24 and were first observed in a coastal area Mar. 7. Similarly the Barn Swallow appeared inland Feb. 18 but did not reach the coast until Mar. 4. Three extremely early groups of Cliff Swallows were observed at widely separated points in the C.V. Feb. 3 & 4; two were also observed at Fremont Feb. 5, indicating an unprecedented early arrival throughout our Region. Good numbers occurred in the C.V. by late February, but in coastal areas only after mid-March as is usual. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee was in Mix Canyon, Solano Co., Dec. 17 (DAG) and five were there Jan. 1 (R&BL); one in Stockton Mar. 22 was the first report from the C.V. (*fide* DMS). A House Wren spent one of the "coldest, wettest winters on record" in Sacramento, north of its normal winter range (Anne Manolis, TM *et al.*). Five Winter Wrens were found in C.V. locations where they are very scarce.

**MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS**—A Mockingbird was on the Mt Shasta C B C Dec 23, north of its present known range. A dead Gray Catbird, smashed as if it had arrived on the grill of a car and of unknown origin, astonished its discoverers near Los Banos Mar 25 (J&SL). A Brown Thrasher returned for the second consecutive winter to a backyard in Fairfax, where it remained through the end of the period; there are no other winter records for the region (Morton Wilson, photograph on file). Another rare mimid, the Sage Thrasher, appeared near Woodland, Yolo Co., Mar 18 (R&BL). Wintering flocks of Mountain Bluebirds seemed to concentrate in the San Joaquin Valley, where groups of 85 and 60 were observed in Madera Co. (RH), one of 60 in San Joaquin Co. (DMS) and 125 in the Panoche Valley (DDeS); scattered groups of up to six were present in the Sacramento Valley (DAG, BKi) and none at all were seen in coastal areas. It was another vintage winter for N. Shrikes with at least 20 sightings in the Tule-Honey Lake-Alturas region, six in the C.V., two at Grizzley I. Refuge (AP, GZ, JM, AM, WP) and one at Doran Park, Bodega Bay Dec. 26 (AM, WP). Loggerhead Shrike, a Blue List species, was unusually scarce in the Klamath basin Feb. 19 (LGO) and two at Cape Mendocino, Humboldt Co., were the only ones reported from the coastal region north of Mendocino Co., where they normally occur in small numbers. A Solitary Vireo was found dead in Arcata Dec. 16 (*fide* DE) and one was observed on the Hayward C B C Dec. 17; there are only four previous winter records for the Region.

Most of our uncommon wintering warblers were present in reduced numbers this winter, presumably a result of the very cold weather. Orange-crowned Warblers were generally scarce, and only one each of the Black-throated Gray and Hermit Warblers were reported. On the other hand, several very rare wintering species were present in record numbers including 4 Black-and-whites (1 from Humboldt Co.), 4 Nashvilles (all in Humboldt Co.), 7 Palms (3 from Humboldt Co.) and 1 Wilson's. Why so many of these birds winter in Humboldt Co. remains a mystery. A ♂ Yellow Warbler in San Francisco Mar. 6 (E Peterson) probably successfully wintered. Two Townsend's Warblers were found in the C.V. where they are apparently very rare but regular winter residents. Only 10 Com. Yellowthroats reported from C.V. locations indicates the continued scarcity of this species there.

———— S.A. ————

**WOOD WARBLERS**—A coordinated effort was made by the Region's observers this winter to accurately determine the relative abundance of Myrtle and Audubon's races of Yellow-rumped Warblers. The general indication was that total numbers were low but slightly better than last year's very poor winter. Differences from last year were owing to slightly fewer Myrtles but somewhat more Audubon's being noted this winter. Data from C B Cs supply good evidence that the percentage of Myrtles decreases as one moves

inland from the coast (Table 2) However, the most interesting result of the winter observations was that an apparent difference in habitat preferences exists between Myrtle and Audubon's types. "Myrtle" Warblers basically prefer riparian growth, dense lowland oak woodland or residential areas and city parks grown to dense stands of mature deciduous trees. "Audubon's" Warblers, on the other hand, prefer more open oak woodland, chapparral, grassland and open or newly developed residential areas with scattered small trees and shrubs. These results are most interesting in view of the recent A.O.U. decision to consider the two forms as conspecific.

**Table 2**  
**Analysis of C B C data**  
**on Audubon's and Myrtle-type**  
**Yellow-rumped Warblers**

	Total Yellow-rumped Warblers	Per cent Myrtle-type Warblers
Outer Coast	2089	4.2
Inner Coast	440	11.6
Inner Coast Range	625	3.8
Central Valley	2229	0.7
Sierra	11	0.0

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS**—Most observers reported exceptional numbers of meadowlarks and blackbirds throughout the winter; perhaps the very cold weather forced a withdrawal from more northerly wintering areas. Three or four Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the Arcata bottoms and a Tricolored Blackbird in the Loleta bottoms, all Humboldt Co., were noteworthy since both species are very rare along the north coast of our Region, but 50 Tricoloreds, 3 mi. S of Albion, Mendocino Co., in late January were exceptional (RD). A probable spring movement of both of these species occurred in the C.V. near Merced Feb 25 when 500 ♂♂ Yellow-headed and 100-500 thousand (!) ♂♂ Tricoloreds were seen (VR, LB). None were found in this same area Feb. 4 (VR). A **Rusty Blackbird**, the seventh Regional record, was found near Prairie Creek, Humboldt Co., Dec. 3 (DE, TS, RWi). (Two were on S. Farallon last fall but only one was reported (AB 27:118). Good numbers of orioles and tanagers were reported this winter despite the cold weather. Records included 4 Hooded Orioles in the C V, one Bullock's type of the Northern Oriole in the C V. and 3 more near the coast, one Baltimore type in Monterey in late Dec. (*fide* W. Reese) and an amazing 9 W. Tanagers, 6 near the coast and 3 in interior areas.

**FINCHES**—Three **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were reported during the winter: Dec. 3 & 28 in Mill Valley, Marin Co.—possibly two birds (MaAS), Dec. 30-Jan. 1 on the Russian R., Somoma, Co., (JH *et al.*) and

Jan 3-20 at a feeder in Soquel, Santa Cruz Co (JMi) There were only 5 previous winter records for this species. The equally rare in winter **Black-headed Grosbeak** was also reported 3 times: Dec. 19-20 at a feeder in Auburn (MA), Dec. 28 in Monterey (C B C) and Jan. 31 at the same feeder in Soquel where the Rose-breasted had occurred earlier (JM, RG). A Green-tailed Towhee was at Pt. Lobos Feb. 22 (FNe) for only the fourth coastal winter record in the Region

A Grasshopper Sparrow, very rare in our Region in winter, was hit by a car near El Nido, Merced Co., Jan. 3 (spec. to M. V. Z.) (WK). The Sharp-tailed Sparrow wintered for the third consecutive year near the Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda Co. Vesper Sparrows were present in good numbers around the edges of the C.V. and 15 individuals were reported from coastal locations, a record high. Three Tree Sparrows were at Honey L., Dec. 20-21 (RLeV, DR, SB); coastal records included one at Inverness, Marin Co., Nov 17-25 (G. Brady) and one at a feeder in Arcata Mar 9-11 (DE *et al.*). Sixty-three Slate-colored Juncos reported on C B Cs and at least 55 others reported during the winter along with 25 White-throated Sparrows on C B Cs and 30 others during the winter are best left to speak for themselves. An amazing 15 Harris' Sparrows were reported this winter: 2 from the coast, 1 near Weaverville, Trinity Co. (SBo), 9 from the C.V. and 3 near Honey L. Five Swamp Sparrows included one in the Loleta Bottoms Dec. 31-Jan. 7 (FWi, RS *et al.*) and another in Requa, Del Norte Co., Jan 13 (DE, RLeV *et al.*). Four "eastern" Fox Sparrows in the Region filled out a very good winter for our more uncommon winter sparrows. Up to 50 Lapland Longspurs wintered at Honey L.; 2 or 3 Chestnut-collareds were with them Mar. 3-4 (B&CY, TC). Two or 3 more Laplands were at Bay Farm I., Alameda Co., Dec. 17-Jan. 7 (S&KB, JL *et al.*). Apparently 4 different Snow Buntings were near Arcata Dec. 8-Jan. 5 (TS, DE, RS *et al.*) while a single at Bay Farm I. Dec. 2-Jan. 11 (JM, J&SL *et al.*) represents the southernmost record for the Region.

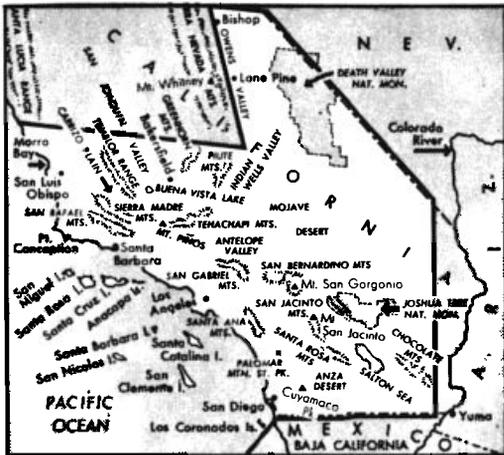
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## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/ Guy McCaskie

Southern California experienced one of the wettest winters on record with rain continuous from December through March.



Most interesting was the fact that many species invading this Region last fall were relatively scarce this winter. Piñon Jays and Clark's Nutcrackers were rare away from areas of normal occurrence, Red-breasted Nuthatches became quite scarce in the lowlands in January, and Evening Grosbeaks were virtually unrecorded after January. One can only wonder where all those birds that passed through last fall went. On the other hand Lewis' Woodpeckers and Varied Thrushes remained common throughout the period.

**GREBES**—Horned Grebes were found inland with one on the Salton Sea Jan. 27 and three on L. Mathews, Riverside Co., Feb. 24; the species is rare away from the coast.

**HERONS**—The three Little Blue Herons found around Bolsa Chica, Orange Co. during the fall remained in the area through January with one imma-

ture still present Feb. 24. Cattle Egrets were present along the coast around Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. throughout the winter with as many as 15 there in February and March. The Reddish Egret first noted on San Diego Bay Sept. 19 was still present at the end of the period. A few Louisiana Herons remained along the coast as usual with up to three around Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. Dec. 30-Feb. 4, up to five at Seal Beach, Orange Co. Oct. 25 - Jan. 27, one at Bolsa Chica Jan. 4-7, and one or two around San Diego Bay through February. The adult found at the south end of the Salton Sea (below s. end S.S.) Nov. 22 was last seen Dec. 14 (DVT).

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS**—Away from the Owens Valley, where up to 25 Whistling Swans were regularly seen during January and February, the only sightings were of single birds at California Valley, San Luis Obispo Co. Dec. 9-Jan. 25 and in Pasadena Dec. 27-Mar. 30. A most unexpected bird was a Trumpeter Swan at California Valley Jan. 13-22 (BBer, BS). Excellent photographs were obtained of it with a Whistling Swan; in recent years a few individuals have been found in coastal central and northern California, but this is the first modern-day record for S. California. Up to four blue-phase Snow Geese were present with the white-phase Snows at the s. end S. S. throughout the winter as expected. A flock of 12 Fulvous Tree Ducks seen near Brawley, Imperial Co. during January and February probably spent the entire winter in that area, unusual for that species. A couple of interesting hybrids were a ♂ Mallard X Am. Wigeon at the Salton Sea Jan. 28 and single ♂ Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal around San Diego Feb. 11 & 18. Eurasian Green-winged Teal was noted on L. Sherwood, Ventura Co. Jan. 11-27 (JD, JBu *et al.*) at the exact spot where a single bird has been found each winter since 1970-71, another was present at Solana Beach, San Diego Co. Mar. 18-24 (SS *et al.*); this form is a casual straggler to S. California, but appears more common farther north. A few Blue-winged Teal can usually be found in S. California during December and January, but when the Cinnamon Teal are moving through in February and March their numbers increase; this year over 30 individuals were reported Feb. 10-Mar. 31. The only Eur. Wigeon found were single ♂♂ at Newport, Orange Co. Dec. 30-Jan. 8, near Oceanside, San Diego Co. Jan. 14-Feb. 10 and at the s. end S. S. Dec. 10-Feb. 1. As usual a few Wood Ducks appeared throughout the Region.

A ♂ Tufted Duck present on L. Sherwood Jan. 25-31 (JAJ *et al.*) is the first for S. California; however, there are four previous records in the State. Single Oldsquaws at Bolsa Chica Jan. 1-Feb. 18, and on San Diego Bay Dec. 15 were the only ones reported from the coast this winter. The Harlequin Duck present at Marina del Rey since summer was still there Mar. 7. A White-winged Scoter at the n. end S. S. Mar. 24 (EAC & SC) was at an inland locality where it is casual. Similarly, two Surf Scoters on the Salton Sea Dec. 9 (EAC & SC) were unusual. Common Scoters were exceptionally scarce among the wintering scoters along the coast, with only six individuals reported. On the other hand Hooded Mergansers

appeared more numerous, reaching as far south as Lakeside, San Diego Co (2 on Feb 4) and the s end S. S. (1 on Jan. 20).

**HAWKS**—An ad. Goshawk hit a window in the San Ynez Valley, Santa Barbara Co. Dec. 6 and was retained in captivity (RWe), another was seen near Tecopa, Inyo Co. Feb. 26 (JT); this hawk is very rare in S California. A Red-shouldered Hawk near Big Pine, Inyo Co. Feb. 12 was east of its normal range. Some 30 Ferruginous Hawks reported from various points throughout the Region during December-February were most encouraging. Away from the Owens Valley, where Rough-legged Hawks are expected winter visitors, single birds were found south to near Escondido, San Diego Co. Feb. 25, at L. Henshaw, San Diego Co. Dec. 29-Feb. 25, and at s end S.S. Dec. 28-Jan. 28. As usual a few Bald Eagles were found around some of the larger inland bodies of water with one adult at L. Arrowhead Dec. 13, up to 10 immatures at L. Mathews Jan. 6-Feb. 24, one adult on San Jacinto Res. Feb. 24, up to 16 (5 ad 11 imm.) around L. Henshaw Dec. 13-Jan. 28. Merlins appear to be on the decline, for only five were reported this winter. The only Ospreys were one over San Diego Bay Jan. 20 and another around the s. end S S Dec. 1-22.

**SHOREBIRDS**—An Am. Oystercatcher was seen at Pelican Bay on Santa Cruz I. Oct. 6 (Ken Henwood, *vide* DG) but a bird believed to be a Black X Am. Oystercatcher was carefully studied at the west end of that island Feb. 19 (LJ); as many as three oystercatchers with much white, believed to be Am. Oystercatchers, have been noted regularly in that area during the past 4 or 5 years (Lyndal Laughrin, *vide* LJ). The **Piping Plover** noted in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., during the past two winters was again present Dec. 16-Jan. 6 (LJ, GSS, KG). Am. Golden Plovers were present at four localities with up to three at Marina del Rey Jan 1-Mar. 7, two on Newport Bay Dec. 5, one in San Diego all winter, and two near Imperial Beach Jan 20-Feb. 10; all but the Imperial Beach birds were thought to be of the race *fulva*. A Pectoral Sandpiper found near Calipatria, Imperial Co. Mar. 17 (GMcC, SS) was probably an early spring migrant; however, there are fewer than ten valid spring records for this species in California. As usual a few Stilt Sandpipers spent the winter at the s. end S.S. with up to five noted regularly January-March.

Red Phalaropes were present along the entire coast in late December and early January with as many as 75 around Imperial Beach Dec. 31 & Jan. 20, however, all appeared to be gone by February. As usual a flock of about 75 N. Phalaropes spend the winter at the south end of San Diego Bay; this appears to be the only locality in North America where this species regularly winters. Four Wilson's Phalaropes were also present with the N. Phalaropes through most of the winter; a very rare species in California at this time of the year.

**GULLS, TERNS**—Three imm. Glaucous Gulls were found along the coast with one at San Miguel I Mar. 24 (LJ), one at the Santa Clara River mouth,

Ventura Co, Mar 24-31 (ERA *et al*) and another near Otay, San Diego Co Jan 27 - Mar 4 (JD, GSS, GMcC) which is probably normal; however, an adult photographed at the s. end of S.S. Dec. 9 (EAC, SC) was not only one of the very few interior records, but appears to be the first for an adult in California. The only report of a Glaucous-winged Gull away from the coast was one at the s. end S.S. during December. Two or three Western Gulls were noted in the San Fernando Valley in early January, which is unusual as this gull rarely wanders from the immediate vicinity of the ocean. Mew Gulls occur regularly along the coast south to San Diego; however, some 600 around Prisoner's Harbor on Santa Cruz I. during mid-February was a large concentration for S. California. An ad. **Little Gull** was carefully studied at the s. end S.S. Dec. 3 (RTN); this represents the third record of this species in California, the previous two being in November and December. Black-legged Kittiwakes were almost nonexistent in this Region with two at San Miguel I. in late March and three around King Harbor, Los Angeles Co., During February being the only individuals reported. A Black Tern at Marina del Rey Feb. 17 (GSS *et al.*) was most unusual since there are but three previous winter records in California.

**ALCIDS**—Fifteen Com. Murres off San Diego Dec. 2 and 40 individuals found on six of the coastal CBCs suggested that numbers had reached S. California waters; however, only four additional reports were received of single birds seen during February.

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS**—Band-tailed Pigeons descended into the coastal foothills during the winter with hundreds around Pasadena in February and March and lesser numbers elsewhere west of the mountains. It is apparent a few White-winged Doves spent the winter on the deserts of e San Diego Co., for one or two were regularly noted around Yaqui Wells and Agua Caliente Springs throughout the period; the species is previously known only as a summer visitor to that area. Ground Doves have apparently established themselves in Pauma Valley, San Diego Co., for up to 12 were regularly present throughout the period. A Long-eared Owl seen at the s. end S.S. Jan. 6 appears to be a new species for that area. Two Saw-whet Owls located on Santa Cruz I. Feb. 16-20 represent one of the very few Channel Is. records. Up to three Poor-wills were present on the Palos Verdes Pen. throughout the winter and it appears likely that the species occurs regularly there at this time of the year. A flock of 10-20 Vaux's Swifts were regularly seen with White-throated Swifts near Oceanside, San Diego Co., all winter (AF *et al.*), a species not known to winter regularly in California, however, a large flock was in the same area during the winter of 1969-70. Most unusual was a **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., Nov 4-Jan. 20 (SW), for it represents the first winter record for California as well as the second sighting for the coast; the bird was captured, and the diagnostic tail feathers were retained.

**WOODPECKERS**—One or two yellow-shafted Common Flickers were noted around Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley throughout the winter, one was present in San Pedro all winter and another was seen in Los Angeles Jan. 13. A bird exhibiting the characteristics of a gilded Common Flicker was near Westmorland, Imperial Co. Jan. 20 Mar. 24 (EAC, SC); however, there is much variation in the plumage characters of Common Flickers occurring in California. Lewis' Woodpeckers remained conspicuous and widespread after last fall's influx, being present south to San Diego County all winter. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker believed to be *S. v. varius* was carefully studied at Furnace Creek Ranch Jan. 24 (JD); there are only three previous reports of this form in California. A Williamson's Sapsucker in Elysian Park of Los Angeles Mar. 1 and another near Lakeside, San Diego Co. Nov. 25-Feb. 1 were in lowland localities.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS**—An E. Phoebe was present at L. Sherwood, Ventura Co. Dec. 3-Jan. 5 (RS, GSS *et al.*); a rare straggler to California. The only *Empidonax* flycatcher known to winter in the Region was a Dusky Flycatcher in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co. Dec. 10 - Mar. 16. The *Coue's Flycatcher* first noted at the Brock Ranch near Holtville, Imperial Co. Oct. 28 was rediscovered Jan. 7 and seen regularly to Feb. 17 (GMcC, KG, VR *et al.*). Single Vermilion Flycatchers were noted in s.e. California at Calipatria Dec. 28-Jan. 28 and Vallecito Mar. 25; an area where the species is now quite rare. One near Tecopa, Inyo Co. Mar. 7 and another at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. Feb. 4 were at the northern limits of its range in California. Records of wintering swallows included a Bank Swallow at the Salton Sea Dec. 10 and a Barn Swallow near Imperial Beach Dec. 15-16. Rough-winged Swallows return to the Salton Sea area exceptionally early, for they were regular after Dec. 28 with 20 counted Jan. 6.

**CORVIDS**—Up to five Scrub Jays present around Niland, Imperial Co. Jan. 13-Mar. 17 were outside their normal range. Sightings of Black-billed Magpies south of their normal range included one at Furnace Creek Ranch Jan. 7, one in Shoshone Jan. 31, and another near Tecopa Feb. 25. A flock of up to 40 Com. Crows remained at the Salton Sea throughout the winter after having arrived in November. The only lowland records of Clark's Nutcrackers were of one around San Pedro all winter, two in Rancho Park of Los Angeles Feb 2, three or four on Santa Cruz I. Feb. 17, and two at Morongo Valley through Mar. 31; remarkably few considering the numbers present last fall. A Piñon Jay in San Pedro during December and another at L. Henshaw, San Diego Co. Feb. 25 were away from areas of normal occurrence.

**CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS**—Mountain Chickadees were present in the coastal lowlands including San Diego Co. throughout most of the winter in larger than normal numbers. Surprising was the rapid decline in Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers during December with practically all gone by January. Lowland sightings of Pygmy

Nuthatches included a few on the Palos Verdes Pen all winter, and three around Boneta, San Diego Co. Dec. 16-Feb. 3. A few Brown Creepers were present in the coastal lowlands; however, one in Niland, Imperial Co., Dec. 23-Mar. 17 was most unusual.

**WRENS, THRASHERS, THRUSHES**—The only reports of Winter Wrens were one in Santa Anta Canyon, Los Angeles, Co., Jan. 26-Mar. 31 and another near Victorville Feb. 26. A Brown Thrasher was well observed in Twenty-nine Palms, San Bernardino Co., Jan. 14 (CD); a rare visitor to California. A Sage Thrasher on San Miguel I., Mar. 25 was somewhat unexpected. Varied Thrushes remained common in the mountains and coastal lowlands, being reported in large numbers by all observers, and even reached the offshore islands, with 300 estimated to be present on Santa Cruz I. in mid-February. One found dead in Niland Dec. 28 (TT) is the first recorded in the Imperial Valley.

**KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES**—Away from the Owens Valley where several Golden-crowned Kinglets spent the winter, one was found at L. Mathews Feb. 24, three were on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Dec -Jan. and one was seen on Catalina I. Mar. 20. After the small influx in December the only Bohemian Waxwings were 4-6 at Yaqui Wells, San Diego Co. Dec 3-5, one at Furnace Creek Ranch Dec. 31 (M&NP), and five near Tecopa Mar. 7. A N. Shrike at Furnace Creek Ranch Jan. 2 was quite far south, but another in Eaton Canyon near Pasadena Jan. 7 - Feb. 18 (Dave Foster, *vide* MSM) was exceptional.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS**—A Solitary Vireo near Westmorland Dec. 10 and two in Riverside Dec 22 were the only individuals reported. A Black-and-white Warbler, very rare in winter, was at the south end of the Salton Sea Jan. 27-Feb. 24 (JT, DAG). Yellow Warblers now appear to be regular during the winter along the south shore of the Salton Sea and 2-3 were noted there throughout this period. A Palm Warbler, a rare bird in California, was at Legg Lake in Los Angeles Dec. 15-Feb. 10 (EN, GSS), and another was noted near Imperial Beach Jan. 13 (TT). Most interesting was the number of N. Waterthrushes found this winter; one was in Fish Canyon near Duarte, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 25-Mar. 30 (MSM), one was seen near Imperial Beach Feb. 3 (JB, SS) and at least two were at the s. end S.S. all winter (GMcC); normally no more than one or two are reported in California each winter. A Wilson's Warbler at the s. end S S Dec. 16-26 may only have been a late migrant. As usual, up to six Am. Redstarts were known to winter at the s. end S.S., two more were at the Brock Ranch near Holtville Jan. 7, and another was near Imperial Beach Dec. 9-16.

**ORIOLES, TANAGERS**—As usual a few orioles remained through the winter. Single Hooded Orioles were present in Encino during February and in San Diego during December. Northern Orioles, always the most numerous oriole in winter, were present along the entire coast with at least four in the Santa Barbara

area, six in the Los Angeles area, and six in the San Diego area, one was inland near Westmorland Feb. 19. A ♂ in Encino Feb. 6, one in Solana Beach near San Diego Jan. 2, and two others in San Diego Dec. 16-30 and Nov. 16-Mar. 31 were clearly of the eastern race *galbula*. Western Tanagers may have been scarcer than usual this winter for three at U.C.L.A. Jan. 16-25, one in Encino all winter, three around San Diego all winter, and one in Imperial Beach Feb. 25 were the only ones reported.

**FINCHES**—The Pyrrhuloxia that previously wintered near Westmorland, Imperial Co. returned for the third time, being present Jan. 28-Mar. 23 (GSS *et al.*), and another was in nearby Calipatria Dec. 17-Feb. 19 (DES, GMcC *et al.*); the species may be expanding its range into California. Along with the single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks found on the Oceanside and San Diego CBCs, one in San Luis Obispo Dec. 3 (FT), one in San Pedro Dec. 10 (SW), and another in Pasadena Dec. 24-27 (GSS) gave us an unprecedented 5 records. A Painted Bunting at a feeder in Cambria Jan. 5 (GSS, HBa) may have been the same individual that frequented a feeder in nearby Los Osos during November, and could well be an escape.

Evening Grosbeaks became scarce after November; however, a few were still reported in coastal localities during January to as far south as San Diego (one, Jan. 5), and 12 were still present in Claremont Mar. 8. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins remained common in the coastal lowlands through the winter. Large flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches remained around Westguard Pass in the White Mts. all winter but no more "blacks" were identified. A few Red Crossbills were present in the coastal lowlands for four were around L. Hollywood Dec. 31-Feb. 2, two were in Encino Jan. 5, about six were on the Palos Verdes Pen. all winter, and one was in Garden Grove Mar. 26; in addition three were seen at Morongo Valley Feb. 24, and two were at the Brock Ranch near Holtville Jan. 27.

**SPARROWS, LONGSPURS**—The only Lark Bunting found this winter was an individual near Niland, Imperial Co. Jan. 13-Feb. 19. The two **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** found at Newport Bay in November were still present Feb. 17, and had been joined by a third individual Jan. 19 (GSS *et al.*). Records of Black-throated Sparrows west of their normal range included one near Duarte Oct. 30-Apr. 2 and two near Lost Hills, Los Angeles Co. Dec. 13-20. Single Gray-

headed Juncos were found among flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos in Irvine Park, Orange Co. Feb. 10, Escondido, San Diego Co. Feb. 8-9, Morongo Valley Dec. 24, and Brock Ranch Jan. 7-Mar. 24; the species is rare but regular in S. California. Most unusual was a Tree Sparrow at the s. end S. S. Dec. 26-29 (EAC, SC), and another near Westmorland Jan. 28 (GMcC); this area is far south of the species' normal range. Harris' Sparrows were exceptionally common this winter, for some 20 reports, involving over 40 individuals, were received; birds were most numerous east of the mountains being found in the Owens Valley, Death Valley, at Oasis in San Bernardino Co., and around the s. end S. S.; however, at least seven were around the Los Angeles Basin, and another four near San Diego. On the other hand White-throated Sparrows were present in about average numbers with seven reported from along the coast and one at the s. end S. S. A Swamp Sparrow at the mouth of the Santa Clara R. Jan. 15 (HK), one near Imperial Beach Dec. 16-Jan. 20 (GMcC), and another at the s. end S. S. Dec. 29 (SC) were the only three reported; the species is rare but regular in California. Up to 25 Lapland Longspurs were around the s. end S. S. Dec. 10-Jan. 27, where they appear to be regular, and one was at the unusual locality of Thousand Oaks, Ventura Co. Dec. 20-Jan. 3 (LJ).

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