

## The Fall Migration August 1 — November 30, 1974

Two delayed seasonal reports will be found at the end of this section. The Spring Migration report for the Northeastern Maritime Region begins on p. 125, and the Nesting Season Report of the Hudson — St. Lawrence Region begins on p. 130. *Observers of these two Regions will help avoid such delayed publication by submitting their observations in time to meet stated deadlines.*

### HUDSON—ST. LAWRENCE REGION

/ Richard Kane and P. A. Buckley

Despite an early cold snap in the first few days of October, the fall season trailed off into warm rather than wintry weather. The mild season, coupled with heavy cone and berry crops north and south, delayed the southward passage of many species. With a few



exceptions, ducks were generally reported in poor numbers, while raptors, notably Rough-legged and Broad-winged Hawks, and Snowy and Short-eared Owls came through in good numbers. Of particular interest were inland shorebird sightings in areas not accustomed to this phenomenon, especially Vermont. Reports from northern sections presaged a three-toed woodpecker invasion this winter (both species) and there were strong flights of sapsuckers and Winter Wrens. Hermit Thrushes, creepers and (in some areas) juncos seemed down in numbers; Norse termed the Vermont junco flight "... a disaster, perhaps due to the April 9-10 snows." Observers registered conflicting verdicts regarding the influx (or absence) of Red-breasted Nuthatches (flight in Monmouth Co., N.J., not elsewhere) and Purple Finches (down in the Schenectady-southern Adirondack area, fairly common elsewhere), but there was region-wide accord in pronouncing this a poor winter finch year. Although Fox, Field and Tree Sparrow numbers seemed lower than

usual, the region was treated to a veritable deluge of White-crowned and Lincoln's Sparrows. Good flight dates were Oct. 1-5, 13-14, 19-20. This season produced some outstanding rarities and first specimens, details of which are on file with Kane.

**LOONS THROUGH WADING BIRDS**— Common Loons were reported in more than usual numbers around Montreal (MM) while Red-throated Loons along L. Ontario enjoyed "... the best flight there in years, the season's 20+ being three times the average." (PDB). Three Red-necked Grebes Nov. 17 at Griswold Pt., Conn., were the first local birds in ten years (WB), two from the Berkshires were par for that area (RJG), seven were reported from L. Champlain (*fide* JMCP), and another was at Riis Park Nov. 24 (JA, JS). An excellent count of Horned Grebes was 210 at West Haven, Conn., Nov. 28 (JS, CFH). The lone Eared Grebe, first discovered Nov. 17 at Great Kills, S.I. (JY), remained there through the end of the period (m.ob.). Among pelagics, the seasonal highlight was an Audubon's Shearwater well observed 40 mi. east of Shark River, N.J., Sept. 2 (IB, RK, JKM, AB *et al.*), one of a very few regional records and in nearly the same waters where one was seen Sept. 3, 1973 (IB). More frequent pelagic trips off the New Jersey coast may well confirm that the species is regular there in August and September. A pelagic trip out of Montauk Oct. 26 yielded the outstanding count of 210 Greater Shearwaters (JDiC, THD *et al.*) and three Cory's Shearwaters were sighted from shore at Talisman, F.I., Sept. 24 (PAB).

Among the season's best finds were two White Pelicans, the first at Ile des Fermiers, P.Q., Aug. 10 (JSt, MG *et al.*), and another (same?) at Dead Creek Ref., Vt., Aug. 20 - Sept. 19 (BBP *et mult. al.*), the fourth Vermont record. A Double-crested Cormorant on Tildy's Pond, Orleans Co., Vt., in September was unusual and possibly a first for n.c. Vermont where coverage has been sparse until recently. A concentration of 50 Great Blue Herons remained at Dead Creek Ref., Vt., Aug. - Oct. (BPG), while the annual post-breeding dispersal of wading birds found a Little Blue Heron far out of range at Ile Dupas, P.Q., Aug. 2-9 for only the second provincial record (YG) and eight Cattle Egrets at Grand Isle, Vt., Aug. 8 (WSC), as well as three Great Egrets in Québec; one at Ile Dupas Aug. 2 (YG), another at Ile du Moine Aug. 10 (MM *et al.*) and the third at Gentilly Sept. 7 (JCB, *fide* MG). The usual fall massing of Snowy Egrets in the Hackensack Meadows peaked at 350+ Sept. 21 at N. Arlington, N.J. (RK, TP). Ten Least Bitterns were sighted at St. Hyacinthe, P.Q., Sept. 23 (DC, *fide* MG) and two others lingered at Kenogami Lake, P.Q. until Oct. 20 (SB). A wandering Glossy Ibis was recorded at Ile Dupas Aug. 15 (YG).

**WATERFOWL**— Aside from scattered singles and pairs, the only report of a Whistling Swan flight was that of eight near Dallas, Pa., Nov. 16 (EJ). Good one-

location counts of migrant geese included 5000 Canada Geese in an hour over Lacute, P.Q., Sept. 30 (JSt) and 2800 Brant at Derby Hill Oct. 13 (FGS). Two of the latter species at Harvey's Lake, Pa., Oct. 14 marked only the fourth record for n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). Among the rare Atlantic Coast finds this season was an ad. **Black Brant** spotted by alert observers in a large flock of Brant at J.B.N.W.R., Oct. 14 (JA, THD *et al.*), only the seventh New York state occurrence. The bird remained in the area through Nov. 29 (PAB). The Snow Goose concentration in Québec reached 120,000 (well above last winter's Atlantic Coast total) at Cap Tourmente, where a **Ross' Goose** was shot by a hunter Sept. 30 (\*National Museum of Canada, *vide* MG), a first provincial record and regional specimen. This species has occurred regularly in recent years on the Atlantic Coast south of our region and may be overlooked in large flocks of Snows.

#### S.A.

Of dubious provenance, considering the location and the date, was a **Ruddy Sheld-duck** closely observed and photographed at L. Hardwick, Vt., Aug. 30 - Sept. 11 (FO *et mult. al.*), the third such August occurrence in the Northeast in the last two years. Although the observers described the bird (a female or immature) as "wary," the late summer date and the proximity of 24 private waterfowl keepers in s. Québec suggest it was an escapee (*vide* RR). Young birds cannot always be caught and pinioned before they fly, which fact makes the latter half of summer the logical time for ducks to elude their keepers. There is one New Jersey record for this species from Barnegat Bay, Nov. 14, 1916, a much more likely date in view of the bird's range.

The **Fulvous Tree-Duck** at N. Arlington, N.J. (see spring report) was last seen Aug. 31 (m.ob.). An encouraging count of Black Ducks was 6500 at Branford, Conn., Nov. 28 (JS, CFH), the only report of that magnitude in the region. Six ♂ Eur. Wigeon were reported from L.I., Sept. 13 - Nov. 5 (*vide* THD), about the normal number there, while a drake at Pittsfield, Mass., Oct. 3-13 was the first Berkshire County record (RJG). Of the few high duck counts reported in this period, perhaps the most outstanding was the peak Wood Duck tally of 4850 at Great Swamp N.W.R. in early October (staff), by far the region's best breeding and stopping-off place for this species. More Redhead than usual were recorded in Massachusetts, the Hudson Valley and n. New Jersey and the best Ring-necked Duck score was 125 at Richmond, Mass., Nov. 14 (RJG), a good count for that locale. A Harlequin Duck at Burlington, Vt., Nov. 23 (WGE) was a nice find, as was an imm. Surf Scoter (very rare in n.e. Pennsylvania) found dead and tangled in a fishing line in L. Waynewood Oct. 25, \*Promised Land S.P. (MPG). Also interesting were inland Black Scoter reports of 200 at three Berkshire lakes Oct. 20 (RJG), one at Gale

Meadows, Vt., Nov. 3 (TW) and five October birds in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR, MPG) where there were only four previous records.

**VULTURES THROUGH COOT** — A Turkey Vulture was again far north in the Hull, P.Q. area to mid-September (JD). After two excellent flight years, Goshawks dropped off sharply, as was evidenced at Hook Mt., N.Y. where the season total was 19 compared with 112 and 87 in 1972 and 1973 respectively (*vide* ES). Of the sparse reports elsewhere, one of a summer bird Aug. 23 at Laceyville, Pa., was intriguing (WR). By contrast, most observers reported good seasonal totals of Sharp-shinned Hawks topped by Montclair's 1820 and Hook Mt.'s 2667; the banner flight day was Oct. 1, when Talisman, F.I., had 175, an excellent coastal figure (PAB), and Hook Mt. recorded 386, their best one-day count ever (ES). Two mountains showed improved Cooper's Hawk totals, Montclair with 25 and Hook with 55 (35 above last year). Montclair tallied 773 Red-tailed Hawks for the season, an exceptional number there, while Hook totaled 177 Red-shouldered Hawks (also above last year's figure) Broad-winged Hawks put on a spectacular show at Montclair, where 23,899 passed the lookout this fall (900 above the previous high), 15,000 of these on Sept. 15-16 (MBC). The Greenwich-Stamford area came in with the second highest seasonal total of 9461 (*vide* TB). By the end of the period, Rough-legged Hawks appeared headed for a near-record flight. Champlain Valley observers reported 8-9 per day in November while the east end of L. Ontario recorded 100 for the season, 32 of those coming on Nov. 7 (FGS). Hudson Falls, N.Y., had 43 on Nov. 24 (RJG) and a season high of 115 from Palatine Bridge, N.Y., was an excellent count (RFR). A single Rough-legged at Lawrence, L.I., Oct. 2 (HH) was the earliest ever for the New York City Region (below, N.Y.C.R.).

Regional Golden Eagle reports totaled at least 20, with more than half coming from w. New Jersey, about the normal number for that state, while Bald Eagle sightings rose to 25, the 13 at Montclair marking a new high there. An astounding 150+ Marsh Hawks passed Talisman Sept. 23 (PAB), almost equalling the entire season figure at Hook Mt. A gray imm. **Gyr Falcon** was sighted at Sandy Pond, N.Y., Nov. 3 (KK, FGS *et al.*), the only report outside Québec, where another gray bird was observed at Chicoutimi Oct. 24 (NB). The dismal Peregrine Falcon and Merlin totals (45 each for the season, half on Long Island), while not yet at the nadir, were still not encouraging. On a more positive note, a flight of 1250 Am. Kestrels was observed independently at two locations on Fire Island Sept. 23 (EL, PAB).

Two Spruce Grouse were found at Madawaska, N.Y., Aug. 22 (JMCP, WP) and two **Sharp-tailed Grouse** 100 mi. northwest of Montreal at La Minerve Oct. 27 (DC) were further proof of that species' eastward range extension. Among some interesting rail reports was that of a King Rail pair with downy young as late as Sept. 1 at Old Lyme, Conn. (WB). Great Swamp N.W.R. recorded 25 Kings in September, easily the region's best count (staff). Yellow Rails were reportedly still calling at Ile du Moine Aug. 17, where one

had been seen in July (*vide* MM). A single Am. Coot stayed at Gale Meadows, Vt., Oct. 25-29, where rare (WN).

S.A.

**SHOREBIRDS** — In our region are a number of inland "hotspots" which, because of low water levels and/or food, attract fair numbers and interesting species of shorebirds that would otherwise pass routinely overhead. Some of the regularly reported ones are the N. Arlington pool in the Hackensack Meadows, the Pittsfield Sewer Beds (below, P.S.B.) in Massachusetts and stretches of the Susquehanna R. in Pennsylvania. This season saw the birth of some new "hotspots," foremost of which was Dead Creek Ref., Vt., where a draw-down of water to stimulate growth of desirable marsh plants produced a bonanza of 27 shorebirds, much to the delight of local observers. Included were two (possibly three) species new to the state and four more recorded fewer than five times in Vermont. Other choice inland shorebird areas this fall were a plowed field in Essex, N.Y., a similar spot in Northampton, Mass., and a gravel pit drained for development in Lincoln Park, N.J. (found very late in the season, unfortunately). Special attention is paid these areas in the account below.

Three Am. Oystercatchers at Jones Beach S.P., Nov. 17 represented the latest regional record (THD, LC) Dead Creek Refuge had a high of 20 Semipalmated Plovers Sept. 6 (FO, TW) and an incredible 500 Killdeer Oct. 6 (WN), very possibly an all-time regional maximum. Another 100 Killdeer at Essex, N.Y., Sept. 4 (JMCP) were the highest ever for that area. American Golden Plover maxima in s. sections were lower than in recent years (20 instead of 200-300). Three were at Dead Creek Aug. 28 (BBP *et al.*), where rare, but the number rose to 40 Sept. 7-8 (BBP). Ferrisburg, Vt., had 50 Golden Oct. 14 (BPG) and Québec's one-day maximum was 60 (*vide* MM). Only the plowed field at Essex reported the normal peak of 200-300 Sept. 1-2 (JMCP *et mult. al.*). One bird still in spring plumage at Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 7 was only the fifth record for n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). Dead Creek's high of Black-bellied Plovers was 25 on Aug. 26 (WN) and another of its rarities was a **Ruddy Turnstone** Sept. 1-2 (TW, BBP *et al.*), only the third Vermont record. Three more were found there Sept. 8 (TNM) and two were at N. Arlington Aug. 15 (RR). Outstanding for Vermont was a **Whimbrel** at Dead Creek Aug. 26 (WN), possibly a state first. Best counts of Upland Sandpipers were 15 at Dead Creek Aug. 21 (TW) and 10+ at N. Arlington Aug. 11 (HW). Lesser Yellowlegs maxima were indicative of that species' excellent flight this year; 100-150 at Dead Creek Aug. 16-26 (BBP, WN), 500 at Oak Beach, L.I., Aug. 2-3 (HMcG *et al.*) and 500-850 at N. Arlington Aug. 5-15 (RK, TP, RR).

A **Red Knot** at Dead Creek Sept. 6 (FO, TW) was only the third state occurrence; the number rose to three Sept. 19 (WN). Dead Creek's Pectoral Sandpiper flight peaked at 250 Oct. 6 (WN), while three others at the

gravel pits in Lincoln Park, N.J., Nov. 3 were very late (RK, IB). White-rumped Sandpipers occurred inland in surprising numbers, some very late in the season. The high at Dead Creek was 30 Sept. 1-2 (TW, WSc). One was at the P.S.B., where rare, Aug. 18 (RJG) and there were eight late birds at Port Ontario, N.Y., Oct. 24 (FGS). Other tardy individuals included one still at Dead Creek Oct. 28 (WSc), one at Burlington Oct. 31 (WGE), four at the Lincoln Park gravel pits Nov. 2-3 (RK, IB) and a lone bird at Jones Beach Nov. 17 (HVAS). Long Island reported only two Baird's Sandpipers, Sept. 7-8 (*vide* THD). Two others were sighted at the sewage lagoon in Thurso, P.Q., Aug. 23 (RMP, RF) and one at the P.S.B. Aug. 15 - Sept. 9 was the first there in three years (RJG). Naturally, Dead Creek had its share, with one Baird's Aug. 26 (WN), four on Sept. 5 (m.ob.) and 10 on Sept. 19 (WN), the best one-location count in recent memory. One-three others were reported at Stratford, Conn., Sept. 23 - Oct. 5 (TV *et al.*). A late Least Sandpiper was recorded at Great Kills, S.I., Nov. 23 (RA, SD). No fewer than three **Curlew Sandpipers** occurred in the region this fall, including a first provincial bird at St. Fulgence, P.Q., Oct. 10 (NB), another at Stratford, Conn., Aug. 12-28 (DWF, RWS *et al.*) and a third at J.B.N.W.R., Aug. 22 (FP, JS *et al.*). Three Stilt Sandpipers remained at Ile du Moine Aug. 1-5, where there are not many records (JWr, *vide* MM). One at Dead Creek Aug. 26 (WN), the third Vermont occurrence, lingered through Sept. 8 (m.ob.), while the season's high was 35+ at N. Arlington Aug. 4 (RK, TP *et al.*). A count of 70 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Dead Creek Sept. 6 was a high there (FO, TW). Quite uncommon for Vermont were single W Sandpipers at Dead Creek Sept. 19 and Oct. 6 (WN), and three at L. Hardwick Aug. 31 (FO). **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were thinly distributed this year away from their usual stop-over points. Seven were reported from Long Island Aug. 31 - Sept. 7 (*vide* THD). One at the P.S.B., Sept. 9 (the third Berkshire record) and two at Northampton, Mass., Sept. 27 were most unusual (RJG), as were two more at Dead Creek Sept. 1-2 (WSc, TW, BBP), a first state record. A single bird at the Essex plowed field Sept. 8 was a first for that sub-region (JMCP, EBP). New Haven had two Sept. 15 (NP, CFH *et al.*).

Continuing its decline in the region was the Marbled Godwit (four from Long Island and two from N. Arlington) but Hudsonian Godwits fared a bit better. Aside from the regular Long Island reports, there were single birds at Ile du Moine Sept. 7 (MM *et al.*), and at New Haven Oct. 12 (PJD, RE), and three more at Rye, N.Y., during October, one lingering to Nov. 19 (TB *et al.*) Away from the coast, the best count was five at N. Arlington Aug. 31 (RK, ABA, PB *et al.*). The rarest shorebird of the season was an ad. **Bar-tailed Godwit** still in high plumage at Moriches Inlet, L.I., Aug. 17-18 (THD *et mult. al.*), only the third regional and state record, but part of a pattern of recent New Jersey coastal appearances. Another first state record was that of a **Ruff** in winter plumage at Dead Creek, Vt., Sept. 19 (WN). Among the region's six Am. Avocets were singles at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., Aug. 17 (PL, THD, JA), J.B.W.R., Sept. 7-9, 28 (JDiC *et al.*) and Tobay Pond, L.I., Sept. 15 (SBD), and a pair at N. Arlington Aug. 29-30 (DR, DS). In addition to Long Island's five

and N. Arlington's seven Wilson's Phalaropes, two others at the P.S.B., Aug. 3 marked the third occurrence for Berkshire Co. (RJG). One carefully studied at Dead Creek Aug. 28 was only the second for Vermont (WSc) and remained there to Sept. 7 (m.ob.). Two more were seen there Sept. 10 (BBP *et al.*), one lingering to Sept. 19 (WN). A N. Phalarope was found at Dead Creek Aug. 21, where rare (BBP *et al.*), but the number rose to a remarkable 18 there Sept. 7-8 (m.ob.) and another was at L. Hardwick, Vt., Sept. 2 (FO, WGE *et al.*). At least three others were reported at N. Arlington Aug. 10-15 (RS *et al.*).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — A late Pomarine Jaeger was seen off Sea Girt, N.J., Nov. 16 in the company of two Parasitic Jaegers (WSa), and four more Parasitics were seen from shore at Fire Island Sept. 28 (PAB). What appeared to be a Long-tailed Jaeger in weakened condition was found at Emerald Lake S.P., Vt., Sept. 11. The bird died Sept. 12 (\*U.N.H.) and was tentatively identified as a Long-tailed on the basis of measurements (TW) [Confirmation is awaited —Eds.].

An early imm. Glaucous Gull was at Moriches Inlet, L.I., Sept. 22 (PAB *et al.*) followed by another at Shark River, N.J., Nov. 3 (PWS, RJS) and an adult at Milford, Conn., Nov. 23 (CFH). At Beauharnois, P.Q., there were 12 Glaucous and 40 Iceland Gulls, mostly first winter birds, by Nov. 30 (MM). Single imm. Icelanders were off Montauk Oct. 26 (JDiC, THD *et al.*) and at Long Branch, N.J., Nov. 9 (RK *et al.*). A Great Black-backed Gull at Newport, Vt., Oct. 22 was most unusual there (FO, JW), and the almost reliable **Lesser Black-backed Gull** returned to Jerome Res., N.Y.C., Nov. 28 (PAB). Long Island reported five Black-headed Gulls for the season and its first **Franklin's Gull** in many years, seen at Tobay Pond Sept. 26 (AJL, ROP, JDiC), this one an adult. Lone immatures of this species were recorded at Onondaga L., N.Y., Aug. 10 (PDB, RL), Sandy Pond, N.Y., Sept. 29 (FGS, PDB), where regular, and at Beauharnois, P.Q., Sept. 29 - Oct. 5 (MG, JSt *et al.*), the 11th provincial record, all since 1969.

Little Gull reports mentioned adults at Jones Beach Nov. 6-24 (AJL *et al.*) and Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 29 (SBD), four birds at Québec Sept. 4 (ND) and an adult with an immature at Montauk Nov. 24 (MBa *et al.*). Single imm. Black-Legged Kittiwakes were sighted at Sandy Pond (FGS) and Derby Hill (GWS) Nov. 13, not too surprising as they are "... occurring annually on L. Ontario" (PDB). Three more were at Beauharnois Nov. 19-30, and an early immature in the Hudson R., Sept. 5 (Alice Jones *et al.*) was only the second Dutchess County record. Another red-letter find this season was an imm. **Sabine's Gull** seen and photographed at Lucerne, P.Q., Sept. 17-23 (MB *et al.*); two were seen together there Sept. 21 (JH, RG) and another (same?) was reported at Aylmer Sept. 22 (RF, *vide* MG).

The only Gull-billed Terns were singles Sept. 15 and 27 at Tobay Pd. (AJL) and Forster's Terns were recorded for the third year in a row at Ile du Moine, four birds remaining there Aug. 1-17 (MM *et al.*). Three Least Terns at Robert Moses S.P., Oct. 12 (BS) were very late while two Caspian Terns at Larchmont, N.Y., Sept. 19 (PL) and one at Québec Sept. 4 (ND) were the only regional reports. Dovekie sightings this season included five on L.I., Nov. 11-17 (*vide* THD), two from

New Jersey (*vide* RK), 13 from the Matane-Godbout Ferry Nov. 4 (RPi) and two inland at Glenville, Conn., Nov. 14 (SS, JZ) and Stamford Nov. 15 (SMS), the latter a specimen (the first Connecticut records since 1936).

**PARAKEETS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A pair of Rose-ringed Parakeets (*Psittacula krameri*) were suspected of breeding in a park near Englewood, N.J. for the past two years, a point just across the Hudson R. from the large Bronx concentration of this species. A nest hole was discovered, although no young were seen (*vide* PVK). An Orange-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga canicularis*) was well observed at New Brunswick, N.J., Nov. 18 (CFL *et al.*) and 19 Monk Parakeets at Rye Sept. 25 (TB) furnished proof that the New York eradication program has had less than total success.

A pair of Barn Owls nesting in an abandoned tower in the Shinnecock Bay area fledged two young in August (DPO *et al.*). At least 20 Snowy Owls were reported across Québec (*vide* MG) and were "in good numbers along the Ottawa R." (RMP). Eight were reported from the Champlain Valley (BPG), several from the Adirondacks (JMCP) and at least four from the N.Y.C.R., where the earliest arrival appeared Nov. 10 at Gilgo Beach, L.I. (m.ob.). Also invading the region in good numbers were Short-eared Owls. Jones Beach had eight Oct. 20 (AW), J.B.W.R., five on Nov. 23 (TB *et al.*) and N. Arlington up to 26, Oct. 14 - Nov. 30 (m.ob.). A single bird at Iona I., N.Y., Sept. 29 was only the fifth Rockland County record (MH). The region's lone Boreal Owl was found at Québec Oct. 25 (*vide* RC), while the N.Y.C.R.'s first Saw-whet Owls were five birds on L.I., Oct. 19-20 (*vide* THD).

Some extraordinarily late Com. Nighthawks included one over West Orange, N.J., Nov. 1 (RR) and two at Riis Park Oct. 19-20 (m.ob.) and Oct. 27 (HT), followed by an equally late Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Riis Nov. 11 (JA). A flight of 1500 Com. Flickers at Robert Moses S.P., Oct. 1 (JAl *et al.*) was a good count, but a total of eight Red-headed Woodpeckers on L.I., Sept. 15 - Nov. 10 (*vide* THD) was well below last year's tally. The Oct. 5 flight of 100 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Riis Pk. (JA) was matched by hundreds at Far Rockaway, Tobay and Fire Island the same day (*vide* THD). A feeder bird at Salisbury, Vt., Nov. 26 was very late for that location (AP). Over 50 Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker reports came from Québec (*vide* RMP) and the province had recorded 20+ Northern Three-toeds by late October (MM, RMP). The only other regional reports of the latter species were two from Vermont (BPG).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS** — Reverse migration brought the region an imm. **Gray Kingbird** with noticeably cinnamon wings and tail feathers, seen and photographed at Old Lyme, Conn., Nov. 9-10 (WB), a first state record and one of the few Northeast occurrences. As usual, the region's eight W. Kingbirds were all seen on L.I., Sept. 17 - Dec. 1 (*vide* THD). Indicative of the season's good flight of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was a better-than-average count of ten at the east end of L. Ontario Aug. 31 (FGS). A late bird



Gray Kingbird, Old Lyme, Conn., Nov. 9, 1974. Photo/William Burt.

banded at Vischer Ferry, N.Y., Oct. 13 was the first October capture there in eleven years (RPY). Also very late were single Bank Swallows at Dead Creek Sept. 19 (WN) and at Easthampton, Mass., Sept. 24 (PJD). Although gone from the area as a nesting bird, Cliff Swallows passed through New Lebanon, N.Y. in excellent numbers, 600 on Aug. 11 and 1000, Aug. 17 (RJG). New Jersey recorded an unprecedented six Com. Ravens Sept. 14 - Nov. 2, all in or near the Kittatinny Mts., where in recent years one has been the maximum. A Boreal Chickadee was discovered in balsam forest on Crane Mt., N.Y., near Warrensburg Sept. 2, the first summer record for Warren County (GC). Brown Creepers were conspicuous by their absence on L.I., where virtually none were reported, while a count of 19 Winter Wrens at Burlington Sept. 28 (WGE) reflected the generally good numbers recorded elsewhere. Carolina Wrens were found to be "... increasing in upstate N.Y." (PDB) as well as in Québec, where one lingered at Wynchwood Sept. 14 - Oct. 4 (RMP *et al.*) and five at Montreal, Sept. - Nov., "an incursion for Québec" (MM). Single Short-billed Marsh Wrens, always elusive in migration, were reported at Jones Beach Sept. 18 (THD) and Riis Pk., Oct. 5 (JA). Two others were at Shelburne, Vt., Sept. 7 (WGE) and three were seen at Hunlock's Creek, Pa., Aug. 30 (WR, EJ).

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — The region's two **Wheatears** included one at Cap Tourmente Oct. 20-22 (m.ob.) and another near Chicoutimi, P.Q., Oct. 12 (SB). One-day maxima of **Water Pipits** from various points in the region evidenced a good flight of that species: 250+ at Dead Creek Oct. 6 (WN), 1000 near Middlebury, Vt., Oct. 17 in a half-hour (AP *et al.*) and 150+ at N. Arlington Oct. 26 (m.ob.). The only reports of **Bohemian Waxwings** came from Québec, where two were seen at Chicoutimi Oct. 10 (NB) and one at Hull Nov. 23 (RMP, RF), while N. Shrikes were more widely distributed. Long Island had two, one at Riis Pk., Nov. 11 (JA) and another at Mecox Nov. 16 (BS); Québec reported three for the period (*vide* MM) and the P.S.B. had one during November (GS); Vermont recorded four, the earliest at Wolcott Oct. 30 (FO), another at Ferrisburg, Nov. 1 (CH), a third at Burling-

ton Nov. 5 (BE *et al.*), and a fourth at E. Craftsbury Nov. 23 (FO). In the Adirondacks, one was at Elizabethtown Oct. 31 (GC) and a second at South Schroon Nov. 15 (JKB). Nine **Loggerhead Shrike** reports in the N.Y.C.R., Aug. 31 - Sept. 21 was a better-than-average total for that area. A **Red-eyed Vireo** at Riis Pk. Nov. 17 was the latest regional record (HMcG *et al.*) and **Philadelphia Vireo** totals seemed above average in a number of areas.

**WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS** — Continuing a recent trend, one **Golden-winged Warbler** was found very far north at Aylmer, P.Q., Sept. 1, the first fall record for that area (MoB). Rare for the coast was an ad. male of this species at Far Rockaway, N.Y., Sept. 22 (HMcG, TB *et al.*); one every five years is about par. A **Tennessee Warbler** at Riis Pk., Nov. 23-24 was the latest regional record (JA, TB, THD *et al.*). Among the species thought to be especially abundant this season was the **Cape May Warbler**. A one-day high of 30 at Westport, Conn., Sept. 11 mirrored the good flight there (JS), and New Jersey recorded above-average numbers of **Cape Mays** and **Black-throated Blue Warblers** as well (WSa, RK). Another late record was that of a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Vosburg, Pa., Nov. 9 (EC). The seasonal high for **Bay-breasted Warblers** was 30+ at Westport, Conn., Sept. 10, where "Bay-breasteds and Cape Mays outnumbered all other warblers during the first half of the month" (JS). Another seasonal high of 125 **Blackpoll Warblers** at Wilkes-Barre Oct. 5 topped off a list of 19 warbler species seen there during a heavy flight (WR). Other late birds included a **Prairie Warbler** Oct. 22 and an **Ovenbird** Nov. 1, both at Fairfield (CFH), a **Kentucky Warbler** at Robert Moses S.P., Oct. 12, a new late date for the region (BS) and a **Hooded Warbler** at Wilkes-Barre Sept. 30 (WR). Wilson's Warblers seemed fairly common in New Jersey, where several observers noted five-six individuals on various September dates (*vide* RK). A late Am. **Redstart** was seen at Griswold Pt., Conn., Nov. 11 (DB, *vide* WB). Widely scattered late October-early November reports of **Bobolinks** indicated a delayed migration of that species, at least in southern areas. The only **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** this season were males at J.B.W.R., Sept. 16 (LS) and Robert Moses S.P., Sept. 29 (AJL, BS).

**FRINGILLIDS** — The six **Blue Grosbeaks** on L.I., Sept. 15 - Oct. 19 represented a better-than-average total, but regional Dickcissel reports were decidedly below par, especially in the N.Y.C.R., where normally common in recent years. One at Dead Creek Oct. 6 was good for that locality (WN). Of the winter finches, only **Evening Grosbeaks** were widely distributed, although not in unusual numbers. A **House Finch** at a Moriah, N.Y. feeder Aug. 16 was a first for Essex Co., (TBA, TNM). Up to 100 **Pine Grosbeaks** were recorded in the Arboretum at Montreal (MM), but aside from a handful in the w. Adirondacks and n. Vermont, there were no other reports. Also absent were **Com. Redpolls**, and the only **Pine Siskin** flock worthy of mention was that of 100+ at Riis Pk., Nov. 26 (JDiC). The "maximum" of **White-winged Crossbills** was five at Bedford, N.Y., Oct. 26 (GGD). A highly unusual feeder bird was a

Grasshopper Sparrow at Dalton, Pa., Nov. 5 (AZ, *fide* WR) A Henslow's Sparrow, always rare in migration, was carefully studied at the edge of a coastal field in Old Lyme Oct. 4 for a first local record (WB). The regional total of four Lark Sparrows (all on L.I., Sept. 13-27) was about normal, as was the count of three Clay-colored Sparrows, the earliest at Lawrence, L.I., Oct. 12 (JB, HH, CW). The other two were at Montauk Oct. 19 (JA) and Robert Moses S.P., Nov. 2 (BS).

Perhaps no species in our region has increased as dramatically as the White-crowned Sparrow has in recent years. This year's flight could only be described as an inundation. "A big sparrow flight of 5000 birds at Pompey, N.Y., Oct. 13 was 25 per cent White-crowned" (DWC, *fide* PDB). Some typical counts from other areas included 135 at Robert Moses S.P., Oct. 12 (BS), 75 at Stratford Oct. 10 (JS), 150 at N. Arlington Oct. 14 (RK) and 150+ at Sandy Hook Oct. 20 (PWS *et al.*) A number of observers commented that White-crowns were the dominant species in the good sparrow fields in their areas. Not so surprising, in view of this invasion, was the appearance of three **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows**, one of them the first regional specimen of this race. That one was a female taken at Tobay Sept. 26, \*A.M.N.H., #811080 (ROP, AJL, THD, JDiC). Another adult was observed at Jones Beach S.P., Oct. 20 (AJL *et al.*) and the third was identified in a flock of White-crowns at Vernon, Vt., Oct. 17 (BAS).

The best White-throated Sparrow flight occurred at Sandy Hook, N.J., Oct. 20, where the aggregate of White-throats, juncos and Chipping Sparrows was estimated at 10,000 birds (PWS *et al.*). In a normal year, most observers report one or two Lincoln's Sparrows in their local areas; this year, some reported 10 for the season, and one bander on Long Island netted 28 against "the usual seven or eight" (DPu). In Monmouth Co., N.J., where there had been three fall records in 17 years, a total of nine was recorded on three October trips (WSa), and many observers reported three birds in a single day. At Sandy Hook, four were banded Oct. 6 (DHC), a good seasonal total at many stations. Lapland Longspurs were widely reported, but not in unusually large flocks. The premier rarity of the season was an imm ♀ **Smith's Longspur** netted and collected at Robert Moses S.P., Sept. 22 (THD, JDiC, RWS *et al.*), (\*A M.N.H. #811078). This was a first New York State and regional record, and the first on the East Coast in 100 years. Snow Buntings arrived early in good numbers at many locations. One of the better counts was 250+ at Sandy Hook Nov. 3 (PWS, RJS).

**CORRIGENDUM** — In the Spring Migration report (AB 28:781), the statement that "... an Am. Coot at Thurso, P.Q., May 27 was rare for that area (MM)." should be deleted. The coot is regular in the marshes around Thurso (*fide* RMP).

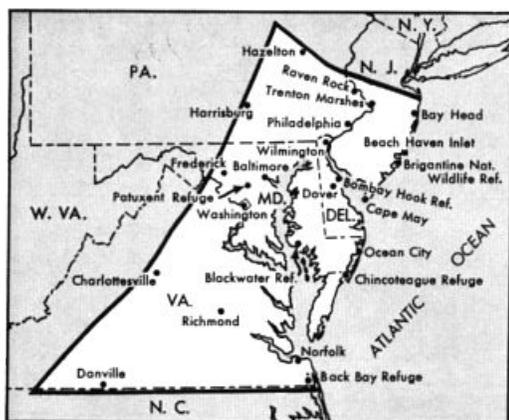
**OBSERVERS** — (sub-regional compilers in bold-face): John Alderman (JAl), Robert Arbib, Jim Ash, Peter Bacinski, Art Barber (ABa), Tom Barber (TBa), Maurice Barnhill (MBa), D. Bartholomew, Jean K. Beck, Irving Black, S. Boivin, J.C. Bourgeois, Allen Brady, N. Breton, Monty Brigham (MoB), Murray Brigham, John Bull, Tom Burke, William Burt, Geof-

frey Carleton, R. Cayouette, L. Clark, Davis H. Corkran, Earl Cowden, D.W. Crumb, D. Cyr, George G. Daniels, N. David, **Thomas H. Davis** (New York State portions of N.Y.C. Region; editor, New York Rare Bird Alert: 94-46 85th Road, Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421), **Paul De Benedictis** (PDB) (Oneida Lake Basin: Department of Biology, Syracuse Univ., Syracuse, N.Y. 13210); Steven B. Dempsey, Paul J. Desjardins, Joseph DiCostanzo (JDiC), Susan Drennan, John Dubois, Barbara Eastman, Walter G. Ellison, Richard English, Davis W. Finch, Roger Foxall, Ron Frasier (RFR), Michael P. Gadowski, Yves Gauthier, Robert J. Goodrich, Robert Gorman, **Michael Gosselin** (Québec City area: 6151 Henri Bourassa E. 107, Montreal Nord P.Q., Canada); **Beatrice P. Guyett** (Vermont: 14 Comfort Hill, Vergennes, Vt. 05491); Clifford Harris, James Harris, Charles F. Hills, Helen Hirschbein, Marjorie Hopper, Hudson Valley Audubon Society, Edwin Johnson, **Richard Kane** (New Jersey: see below); Kenn Kaufman, Chuck Kieweg, Anthony J. Lauro, Charles F. Leck, Paul Lehman, Emmanuel Levine, Robert Long, T. Norman Mason, Hugh McGuinness, **Mabel McIntosh** (Montreal area: 136 Millhaven Ave., Pointe Claire, P.Q. H9R 3V8, Canada); James K. Meritt, Montclair Bird Club, William Norse, Frank Oatman, Robert O. Paxton, Bruce B. Peterson, Elizabeth B. Peterson, **John M.C. Peterson** (Adirondacks: P.O. Box 300, Essex, N.Y. 12936); William Peterson, Alan Pistorius, Ron Pittaway (RPi), Richard M. Poulin, Don Powers (DPO), Noble Proctor, Ted Proctor, Dennis Puleston (DPu), Frederick Purnell, **William Reid** (Pennsylvania: 65 Academy St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702); Dave Roche, Richard Ryan, William Sandford (WSa), Richard Sargent, Fritz G. Scheider, Sykes Scherman, Lore Schore, Wayne Scott (WSC), Gary Shampang, Nancy Sickels, Eric Single, Robert W. Smart, Don Smith, G.W. Smith, P. William Smith, Robert J. Smith, Bruce A. Sorrie, John Souther, Barbara Spencer, Stamford Museum Staff, Jack Steeves (JSt), Helene Tetrault, Paul Von Kunitz, Tom Vrabel, Harry Wallum, C. Ward, Tom Will, A. Wollin, Jon Wood, Jo Wright (JWr), John Yrizarry, Robert P. Yunick, Al Zenke and Joe Zeranski; J.B.W.R. — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. — **RICHARD KANE**, New Jersey Audubon Society, P.O. Box 693, Bernardsville, N.J. 07924 and P.A. BUCKLEY, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 150 Causeway St., Boston, Mass. 02114.

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION / F.R. Scott and David A. Cutler

Temperatures during this period averaged well below normal, although November was slightly warmer than usual. After near-drought conditions in July, rainfall in August and September was somewhat above average but not enough to keep water levels high. Perhaps because precipitation occurred mainly as many light rains, rather than as a few heavy downpours, impoundments at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va. had dried up by Oct. 1 and remained that way until the end of the period, except for some salt water let in during some extremely high tides. October and November again

turned quite dry. Tropical storms seemed to have little effect on the Region, although *Dolly* passed northward off the coast bringing several days of light rain, wind, and cool temperatures to the coast Sept. 4-7.



The most significant weather event of the season seemed to be a series of frontal systems, northerly winds, and cold temperatures for a week or more beginning Oct. 1. Migration was very heavy during this period and was particularly visible along the coast, the weather clearly precipitating a heavy and early movement of winter residents as well as late transients. The Kiptopeke Beach, Va. banding station processed a seasonal record of 939 birds Oct. 1 (CWH *et al.*) and 911 on Oct. 8 (WPS *et al.*). H.H. Axtell witnessed a spectacular diurnal movement of birds at Cape May, N.J., Oct. 1, as did J.F. Akers in the Brigantine I., N.J. area. At Island Beach and Seaside Park, N.J., R.J. Blicharz and Ira Weigley recorded an "unbelievable" number of small land birds swarming over the area early on the morning of Oct. 4, whereas at Cape May Frank Oatman and Tom Will noted a heavy influx of land birds beginning about 10:00 p.m., Oct. 7 and continuing until about 1 p.m., Oct. 8, most of which seemed to come in off the ocean and then move northward along the Delaware Bay shore. There were also numerous other good flights during the fall, most — as usual — being associated with the passage of cold fronts through the Region. All in all, it was an eminently satisfactory migration season for the active field observer.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — A Com. Loon at Kerr Res., Mecklenburg Co., Va., Aug. 14 was unusual for the Piedmont (KMF). Red-throated Loons were migrating heavily along the coast Nov. 17. Axtell estimated that 1500 passed off Brigantine I., between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., and P.G. DuMont noted 400 in one hour at Indian R. Inlet, Del. Horned Grebes seemed considerably more common than they were during the fall of 1973, and 250 at Barnegat Inlet, N.J., Oct. 27 was considered an excellent count (RJB). An adult and an imm. **Black-browed Albatross** were carefully observed flying together off Cape May Pt., Oct. 7 (HHA & RB), probably the first regional report of this species. A **Sooty Shearwater** and an **Audubon's Shearwater** seen from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., Aug. 21 (DFA & JMA) were apparently the first of these species

to be recorded inside the Bay. Other reports of Audubon's Shearwaters included four off Delaware and New Jersey Aug. 12-15 (RAR), one off Atlantic City, N.J., Aug. 25 (JFA & JDD), and one 40 mi. e. of Manasquan, N.J., Sept. 2 (JKM, RK *et al.*), and a **Manx Shearwater** was reported well off Ocean City, Md., Aug. 8 (RAR). Peak counts of other species included 385 Greater Shearwaters at Hudson Canyon (90 mi. e. of Beach Haven, N.J.) Oct. 14 (JL) and 20 Cory's Shearwaters at Hudson Canyon Oct. 28 (PWSm *et al.*). Sixteen Greaters at Baltimore Canyon (60 mi. e. of Assateague I., Md.) Nov. 23 seemed late (RAR *et al.*), and a possible Greater Shearwater was reported inland Sept. 7 passing over West Chester, Pa. (RBG). Northern Fulmars were reported three times, one at Hudson Canyon Oct. 5 (PT), two at the same place Oct. 14 (JL), and one 50 mi. e. of Ocean City Oct. 19 (RAR & HW). There were several October records of Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 100 at Hudson Canyon Oct. 28 being extraordinarily late (PWSm *et al.*). A possible British Storm-Petrel closely examined off Ocean City Aug. 8 was almost captured in a hand net (RAR). An early Great Cormorant was seen at Cape May Pt., Sept. 28 (RAR *et al.*) and another at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 3-5 (AEK, CPW), and a Double-crested Cormorant far inland at Lynchburg, Va. the last week in September was quite unusual (KG, *vide* RSF).

**HERONS, IBIS** — A **Great White Heron** photographed at Brigantine N.W.R., N.J., Sept. 18 (EMO) was the first regional record of this white morph of the Great Blue Heron. Peak wader counts at Chincoteague Ref., included 1500 Little Blue Herons Aug. 1 and 1500 Snowy Egrets and 2500 Glossy Ibis Aug. 20 (PWSy *et al.*). A count of 320 Cattle Egrets at Doe Run, Pa., Sept.



*Great White Heron, Brigantine N.W.R., Sept. 17, 1974. Photo / Ethel M. Orpen.*

23 (RS) was quite late for such a number, and five were found at Lynchburg Oct. 19 (RSF, FH *et al.*), an almost unique fall record for Piedmont Virginia. A Cattle Egret at Cape May Nov. 20 (WSC) was very late. Louisiana Herons were reported far inland twice, one at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., July 27 - Oct. 2 (JMA *et al.*) and one at Kerr Res., Va., Aug. 14 (KMF). Two imm.

White Ibis were found, one at Lilipons, Montgomery Co., Md., Aug. 14 (PS) and another at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 20 - Sept. 8 (PWSy *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL** — The Mute Swan previously reported at Dyke marsh remained till Aug. 24 (DFA & JMA), and Blicharz noted an unusual 70 frequenting Barnegat Bay, N.J., Oct. 18 - Nov. 30. Whistling Swans were somewhat earlier than in recent years in Chesapeake Bay, the first two at Bellevue, Md. being seen Nov. 2; 1200 arrived here Nov. 16 (HTA). Canada Geese began moving into the Region in mid-September, and the first major flight occurred Oct. 1, when Axtell estimated 30,000 passing over Cape May during the day and Akers noted an even heavier movement in the Brigantine area. About 700-800 Brant over New Ringgold, Pa., Oct. 13 (MB) were perhaps the same birds seen over Hawk Mt., Pa. the same day (ACN), and one Brant remained at a local lake at New Britain, Pa. Oct. 26 - Nov. 2 (AM & JM). A White-fronted Goose was first seen at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Del., Nov. 24 (AG), and apparently a different bird was found at Rehoboth Beach, Del., Nov. 30 (DFA & JMA). One Snow and five Blue Geese at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., Sept. 28 were very early (HTA), and in lower Worcester County, Md. Snow Geese were again frequenting croplands, a practice that only began a year earlier (SHD).

Fulvous Tree Ducks appeared in several locations. Rowlett found five near Delaware City, Del., Aug. 3, two were present at Cape May Pt., Aug. 31 - Oct. 9 (JDD, KR, FO *et al.*), and one appeared at W. Ocean City, Md., Nov. 10 (CPW). A ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** appeared at Brigantine Ref., Nov. 16 (JDD), probably the same bird found here in June, and Knapp reported a Eur. Wigeon at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 15. A count of 217 Wood Ducks at Bombay Hook Ref., Aug. 25 (SRL) was considered excellent, as was a flock of 1000 Canvasbacks in Barnegat Bay Nov. 24 (JFA & JDD). A bird thought to be a ♀ **Barrow's Goldeneye** was carefully examined at Brigantine Ref., Nov. 24 (SB & PGD). It was later seen by others who confirmed the detailed field marks but who had not had enough experience with the species to confirm the identification fully. Franchois and the Mirabellas counted 80 Bufflehead at Peace Valley Park, Bucks Co., Pa., Nov. 16, a record local count. The two Com. Eiders previously reported in the Chincoteague-Wallops I., area, Va. were seen together for the first time Aug. 24 and remained in the area at least into October (CRV *et al.*), and an early one was first noted along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Sept. 8 (RLA). A few other Common as well as King Eiders were seen elsewhere along the coast with a peak of up to seven Kings at Barnegat Light Nov. 16 & 24 (RAR *et al.*). Of particular interest was a flock of 11 unidentified eiders flying 5 mi. off Ocean City, Md., Oct. 19 (RAR *et al.*). There were several unusual inland sightings of Black Scoters. On Oct. 13 Wiltraut found 100 at Penn Forest Res., Carbon Co., Pa. and Spence noted 15 at L. Ontelaunee, Pa. One week later on Oct. 20, 65 were seen at L. Ontelaunee (MJS) and 30 near Elverson, Pa., (REC). A heavy movement of scoters was noted at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 14, with an estimated 3500 passing southward in 45 minutes (RLP).

The Ruddy Duck population on the Delaware R. south of Philadelphia was estimated at 5500 on Nov. 22 versus 12,000 last year (JTM). The flock endured three oil spills last winter. Locally excellent counts of Hooded Mergansers included 125 at Pomona, N.J., Nov. 23 (JFA, SB & PGD) and 500 at Brigantine Ref., Nov. 24 (RAR *et al.*).

**HAWKS, GALLINULES** — At a roost near Fishing Creek, Lancaster Co., Pa., Oct. 27, Gamber found 400 Turkey and 68 Black Vultures, the latter probably a record count for s.e. Pennsylvania. Two Black Vultures were also present at Hawk Mt., all summer and fall (ACN, GS *et al.*). Hawk Mt. totals for the fall migration (to Nov. 22) included 18,966 Broad-winged Hawks, an all-time record number, and 6938 Sharp-shinned Hawks, the second best count since 1939 (ACN). A discouraging total was the 17 Bald Eagles — including only two immatures — the lowest count on record (ACN). The count of 319 Ospreys was also considered low. Single Goshawks were noted at Dyke marsh Nov. 10 (DFA) and Cape May Oct. 8-9 (FO & TW), and Oatman and Will estimated at least 150 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Cape May Oct. 8. An albino Red-tailed Hawk seen at Hawk Mt., Nov. 21 was apparently the same bird found the next morning at Port Jervis, N.Y., about 95 miles to the northeast (*vide* ACN). Among the 4249 Broad-winged Hawks observed at Cape May during the fall were four during November, including one on the extraordinary date of Nov. 23 (WSC). A light-phase Rough-legged Hawk at Norfolk, Va., Sept. 2 (DLH & MJH) was by far the earliest date for the state, and one near Annapolis, Md., Oct. 17 was also early (PB). Although Hawk Mt. recorded 33 Golden Eagles up to Nov. 22 (ACN), there were few reports elsewhere, most notable being an immature at Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 24 soaring with 65 Turkey Vultures (JPC, FRS, WKS *et al.*). The peak summer Bald Eagle count at Blackwater Ref. was two adults and five immatures Aug. 11 (HTA). Kunkle observed a Marsh Hawk flying westward 5 mi. off Ocean City Nov. 9, and there were three late Osprey reports of single birds, near Williamsburg, Va., Nov. 10 (BW), Linwood, N.J., Nov. 12 (BS), and Cambridge, Md., Nov. 17 (RAR & VEW). Ralston reported a white-phase **Gyr Falcon** at Wilmington, Del., Nov. 5, a first sight record for the state. The first Peregrine Falcon was noted at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 16 (LKM), and Ward and Berry recorded 59 (and banded 22) on Assateague I., Va. and Md., Sept. 21 - Oct. 19. Of the 48 that could be aged, 73 per cent were immatures, somewhat below the percentage recorded in recent years. The two ad. **Purple Gallinules** previously reported near Delaware City were seen with up to three young in August and early September (PGD, COJ, PS *et al.*), apparently the first breeding evidence for the state.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Peak counts of Am. Golden Plovers included 25 at Columbus, N.J., Sept. 1 (RJB), 37 at Upper Gwynedd Twp., Montgomery Co., Pa., Sept. 7 (AM & JM), 25 at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 9 (BBlr), and 28 at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., Oct. 13 (JMA *et al.*). The **Long-billed Curlew** was reported twice in the Chincoteague area, one on the refuge in early August

(RLA) and the other on the causeway Aug. 11 (PGD). Wilds found an impressive concentration of 2800 Black-bellied Plovers at Chincoteague Ref., Nov. 10; they were roosting in the dunes during a very high tide. An interesting pelagic observation was of 92 Whimbrels Aug. 11 and 45 on Aug. 13, all 50 mi. off Cape May migrating steadily and noisily in a southeasterly direction (RAR). Blicharz and Weigley counted a peak of 125 Upland Sandpipers at Columbus, N.J., Sept. 1, probably a record state count. Elsewhere, counts seemed lower than usual, the best report being 27 at the Princeton turf farm near Centreville, Md., Aug. 10 (PS). A Spotted Sandpiper at Codorus S.P., Pa., Nov. 3 (CRG) and two at Bombay Hook Ref., Nov. 24 (AG) were quite late, and Sykes and others recorded two exceptional counts of Lesser Yellowlegs, 3000 at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., Aug. 19 and 2000 at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 20. Two Red Knots at Elverson, Pa., Sept. 14 (REC) were a good inland record, and a Pectoral Sandpiper near New Bloomfield, Pa., Sept. 30 was locally unusual (OKS). Pectorals seemed to remain in high numbers unusually late this year, significant late counts including 82 at Hog I., Surry Co., Va., Oct. 12 (MAB) and 110 at Kiptopeke Nov. 25 (FRS). One of the more unusual reports this season was of a possible Temminck's Stint at Dyke marsh, Va., Oct. 5 (DFA, JMA, PC *et al.*). The bird was examined at length in close comparison with a Least Sandpiper and clearly had considerable white in the outer tail feathers. A Baird's Sandpiper was found at Summit Hill turf farm near Potomac, Md., Sept. 13 (AAB & ETM), and one was noted on several occasions at Chincoteague Ref. in August and September (DFA, PS, CPW).

Akers and Danzenbaker discovered a Curlew Sandpiper at Brigantine Ref., Sept. 14, and one was present at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 4-12 (DFA, AEK, BK). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from at least seven localities, the most significant count being a peak of at least 34 at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 20 (CPW), a record count for Virginia. Marbled Godwits reached a peak of eight at Brigantine Ref., Oct. 6 (JFA & JDD) and 18 near Chincoteague Oct. 14 (PP, RLP, WM). Hudsonian Godwits were found in a number of localities, two inland at Elverson, Pa., Oct. 10 (REC) being of most interest; at Chincoteague Ref. the maximum count was 31 on Aug. 10 (LKM). Ruffs were reported by many observers at both Brigantine and Chincoteague during the period, and one was found at Avalon, N.J. in mid-October (SRL). A Sanderling at Upper Gwynedd Twp., Sept. 4 was a rare inland sighting (AM & JM). At Craney I., Va. Am. Avocets remained very common all season with up to 231 during August and September (JEA, WFR, PWSy *et al.*). Peak phalarope counts included 11 Wilson's Phalaropes at Hog I., Va., Sept. 2 (MAB) and about 40 N. Phalaropes flying along the surf line at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 23 (BBwn & RAR). A ♀ Red Phalarope at Chincoteague Ref., July 7 (CPW) was the only onshore report of this species, but P.W. Smith and others estimated 500-1000 at Hudson Canyon Oct. 28.

**JAEGERS, GULLS** — Numerous Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were reported by the offshore parties, the best count being more than 60 Pomarines at Hudson

Canyon Oct. 14 (JL). Small numbers of both species were seen by Rowlett off Maryland, Delaware, and New Jersey Aug. 7-16, a rather early occurrence suggestive of summering birds. A sight record of an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was made off Ocean City, Md., Aug. 8 (RAR), and a dark-phase immature of this species was collected 2 mi. off Barnegat Inlet Nov. 2 and given to Hiatt. The specimen will be deposited in the New Jersey State Museum. Three Skuas observed carefully from the beach at Cape May Pt., Oct. 8 (HHA & RB) were the only report of this species.

This was certainly the year for unusual gulls. Early Glaucous Gulls included one near Delaware City Aug. 3 (RAR) and a second-year bird at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 22 (DFA & JMA). Three ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported, one 50 mi. e. of Ocean City, Md., Oct. 19 (RAR & HW), another at Chincoteague Ref., Nov. 4 (COH & DH), and one on the Anacostia R., D.C., Nov. 4 (RAR). A "mystery" gull, seen and photographed by many observers, remained at Brigantine I., N.J., Nov. 5-25 (JFA, EAC *et al.*) and was reported later at Barnegat Inlet (FG). It was variously thought to be an aberrant Franklin's, Mew, or Indian Brown-headed Gull or a hybrid escaped from some aviary. Two different Mew Gulls were reported, both



"Mystery Gull" at Brigantine N.W.R., Nov. 24, 1974. Photo | R.A. Rowlett.

apparently first-year birds. One "probable" was carefully examined in comparison with Ring-billed and Laughing Gulls at rest and in flight at Seven-Mile Beach near Cape May Oct. 5 (GD, AK *et al.*), and one was watched at some length, also both at rest and in flight, at Alexandria, Va., Nov. 17 (DFA & JMA). The Abbotts also found an imm. Black-headed Gull with a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls at Alexandria Nov. 24, the second local record of this species. Five Little Gulls were seen at Little Creek, Del., Aug. 10 (PS), certainly the same group reported here previously, and at Chincoteague Ref. an ad. Little Gull was seen by numerous observers Aug. 8 - Sept. 27 (RLA, PS, CPW *et al.*). Two immatures were also found here Nov. 11 (CPW). An early Black-legged Kittiwake was observed at Fort Story, Virginia Beach, Va., Sept. 7 (RLA), and the peak count from the offshore parties was 134 off Ocean City Nov. 23 (RAR).

**TERNs THROUGH ALCIDS** — Hill's Pt., Dorchester Co., Md. again had impressive tern concentrations during the fall, and on Sept. 29 Armistead counted 575 Forster's, 78 Royal, and nine Caspian Terns here, the Royal count being a county record. Two ad. Sand-

wich Terns with one begging juvenile were noted at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 23 (CPW), and eight rather late birds were found at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., Sept. 22 (RLA & WPB). The young Caspian Tern previously reported as banded Aug. 1 on Metomkin I., Va. was recaptured Aug. 24 and found to be nearly fledged (JSW). Transient Caspian Terns were in excellent numbers and remained late. Inland peak counts included 25 at Dyke marsh, Aug. 31 (DFA & JMA), 42 near Hopewell, Va., Oct. 6 (FRS), and 101 at Hog I., Oct. 6, with 52 still present at the last location Oct. 18 (MAB). One of the previously reported **White-winged Black Terns** at Port Mahon, Del. remained at least to Sept. 17 (PS), and the Chincoteague bird was seen by numerous observers throughout August and into September (BBlr, PGD, CPW *et al.*). In a belated report, the Chincoteague bird was noted associating with an ad. Black Tern and imm. *Chlidonias* on July 18. The White-winged caught a small fish and fed one of the immatures, which was fluttering and begging (HGS & JWC). A late re-nesting of Black Skimmers was clearly evidenced by the banding of 446 young on Metomkin I., Va., Aug. 24-25 (JSW). The chicks were of all ages, but one nest held tiny young no more than a day or two old. If successful, these would not have fledged until late September. The first Dovekie was seen at Spring Lake, N.J., Nov. 11 (MG), nine were found at Barnegat Inlet Nov. 16 (RAR & EW), and two at Shark R. Inlet, N.J., Nov. 24 (KR). Kunkle carefully observed a **Black Guillemot** at Thompson Beach, N.J., Oct. 22, and a large unidentified alcid was seen off Ocean City, Md., Nov. 23 (RAR).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Evidence for late nesting of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was reported twice. An adult with food and an unfledged young were discovered near Berlin, Md., Sept. 7 (CRV), and two adults feeding fledged young were noted near Williamsburg, Va., Oct. 5 (BW). The raptor banders at Cape May again had outstanding success in banding owls. Between Sept. 24 and Nov. 30 they banded 72 Barn, 36 Long-eared, 3 Short-eared, and 22 Saw-whet Owls (WSC). Clark also reported a tremendous Barn Owl flight on the night of Oct. 7, with over 50 seen in the light of the lighthouse. A Barn Owl nest with eggs on Wallops I., Aug. 24 had at least one young in early October (CRV). Numerous Snowy Owls moved into the n. part of the Region, the first report being Oct. 21 at Allentown, Pa. (REW). Farther south, one was found in Arlington, Va., Nov. 13-14 (PAD *et al.*) and perhaps the same bird in Washington, D.C., Nov. 19 (PGD *et al.*). There were other, unconfirmed reports from this area. A Short-eared Owl at Bolling Air Force Base Oct. 11 (RAR) was early, and a dead Saw-whet Owl was picked up on a road in e. Henrico Co., Va., Nov. 24 (BW). Single Saw-whets were banded at Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 20 and 21 (JPC & RFy). Some good Com. Nighthawk flights included 200 near Gordonsville, Va., Aug. 21 (HLG), 243 near Vienna, Va., Aug. 27 (CRE), and an impressive 2331 at Clifton, Va., Aug. 31 (JWE). Two late nighthawks were seen at Brigantine Ref., Oct. 6 (JDD) and one at Charlottesville, Va., Oct. 13 (CES), and an extremely late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was found at Williamsburg Nov. 2 (MAB). A

Com. Flicker banded at Newport News, Va., Nov 11 seemed to be a hybrid, with pink tail feathers and both pink and yellow remiges (DLM & SM). Armistead found an ad. Red-headed Woodpecker feeding a well-grown immature next to a nest cavity at Blackwater Ref., Aug. 11, and Axtell estimated 60 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers actually seen at Cape May Pt., Oct. 1. A bad infestation of the southern pine beetle in s. Virginia may prove detrimental to the Red-cockaded Woodpecker population in this area. According to Steirly, clearcutting of infected areas is the only known control measure, and the beetles are prone to attack the older growth pines required by the birds. A ♂ Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was present at Hawk Mt., Oct. 26 - Nov. 2 (ACN).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — There were fewer W. Kingbird reports than usual, but two from s.e. Pennsylvania were noteworthy, one at Longwood Sept. 15 (JG) and another at Media Sept. 21 (KR). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers seemed far more numerous in Virginia than usual. A record 42 were banded at Kiptopeke Beach Aug. 31-Oct. 10, with a peak of 12 on Sept. 5 (DLM *et al.*), and Fielder reported seven near Lynchburg, also on Sept. 5. An *Empidonax* flycatcher at New Hope, Pa., Nov. 22-25 was very late (VA, DJ). A responsible estimate of 500,000 Tree Swallows was made at Cape May Pt. on both Sept. 30 and Oct 1 (HHA & WF), and Cliff Swallows, very unusual in s e Virginia, were found at Back Bay Ref., Aug. 18 (DLH *et al.*) and Hog. I., Sept. 11 (MAB). A Purple Martin at Mt. Vernon, Va., Oct. 4 (DFA & JMA) was quite late, and Red-breasted Nuthatches were in fairly good numbers, with 24 banded at Kiptopeke Beach versus only four in 1973 (RFy *et al.*).

Early Winter Wrens were banded at Silver Spring, Md., Sept. 18 (PB), Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 25 (WPS), and Newport News Sept. 26 (DLM), and ten Short-billed Marsh Wrens were recorded at Saxis, Va., Aug 11 (PGD), where they had been looked for but not seen earlier in the summer. During the big flight at Cape May Pt., Oct. 1 Axtell estimated seeing 400 Gray Catbirds and 700 Swainson's Thrushes passing in 3½ hours, and at McKnight's E. Bluebird nest box project in Stafford Co., Va., the last brood fledged about Sept 7. **Wheatears** appeared twice in the Region, one seen and photographed near Coveseville, Albemarle Co., Va., Sept. 14-16 (WHM, PRM, CES *et al.*) and one at Brigantine Oct. 1 (GRW *et al.*). Clark found a late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Cape May Nov. 24, and both kinglets were trapped in record numbers at Kiptopeke Beach during October, the peak of Ruby-crowneds being 118 on Oct. 17 (DLM & SM). Water Pipits were unusually common in Maryland and Virginia, with many more than the normal reports. There were two offshore records of interest, both at Hudson Canyon, one Oct. 14 (JL) and two Oct. 28 (PWSm *et al.*). Sixteen Solitary Vireos banded at Kiptopeke Beach during the fall were a record number for this coastal station (WPS *et al.*), and a late one was seen at Lynchburg, Va., Dec 1 (FH & JH). A flight of Philadelphia Vireos occurred in mid-September at Chevy Chase, Md., with at least 20 seen (and one banded) Sept. 14-17 (PP).

**WARBLERS** — Features of the warbler migration included more than the usual mid-August records of transients and some fascinating changes in numbers of certain species. At Chincoteague Ref., Malone noted several newly arrived species Aug. 12, including Ovenbirds, Am. Redstarts, and a Wilson's Warbler, the latter probably a record arrival date for the state. On the same date Stevens found a Canada Warbler in Dismal Swamp, Va., and later saw a Golden-winged Warbler at Claremont, Va., Aug. 15. Rowlett noted ten species of land-bird transients which rested on his ship 40-50 mi. off Cape May Aug. 15, including one each of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers. Other Golden-winged Warblers, unusual near the coast in Maryland and Virginia, included one banded on Poplar I., Md., Sept. 7 (DB), one banded at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 12 (FRS), and one seen at Portsmouth, Va., Oct. 1 (GMW). Three different Brewster's Warblers were found in New Jersey, single birds at Pomona Sept. 8 and 21 and one at Brigantine Ref., Oct. 5 (JFA). Far more than the usual number of Tennessee Warblers were found in the Region. There was a heavy flight at Poplar I., Sept. 7-8, with 24 banded (DB), and 50 were counted at Cape May Sept. 22 (JDD). At Kiptopeke Beach the fall banding total was 129, with a high of 32 on Oct. 1 (CWH *et al.*). These numbers were unprecedented for the Virginia. Yellow-rumped Warblers were abundant in the Region, in strong contrast with 1973, and a ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was carefully observed at Cape May Sept. 13 (PG *et al.*). A Blackburnian Warbler at Norfolk Sept. 9 (DLH) was unusual for s.e. Virginia, and a late Ovenbird was banded at Chevy Chase Oct. 27 (PP). Ovenbirds were in record numbers at Kiptopeke Beach, with 558 banded during the eight weeks of operation. The maximum count was 157 trapped Oct. 1 (CWH). Both Connecticut and Mourning Warblers were reported by numerous observers. Of interest was a Mourning Warbler that came aboard the Cape May-Lewes ferry Oct. 9 (FO & TW) and a very late one banded at Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 20 (RFy).

**BOBOLINKS THROUGH GROSBEAKS** — The height of the Bobolink migration at Kiptopeke Beach occurred Sept. 15 when 1065 were counted passing over (FRS). There were three reports of single Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Brigantine Sept. 6 (RCC), Longwood, Pa., Sept. 15 (JG), and Cape May Oct. 14 (HHA), and Malone reported a heavy flight of N. Orioles at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 31, with up to 30 birds in sight at one time. Richards recorded Brewer's Blackbirds twice, three at Lenape, Pa., Oct. 7 and two at Cape May Oct. 12, and a very late ♂ Scarlet Tanager was seen at Poplar I., Nov. 23 (DB & PM). A heavy movement of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occurred at Longwood Gardens, Pa., Sept. 9-10 with up to 40 call notes per minute overhead (JG). Armistead found a ♀ Blue Grosbeak incubating three eggs at Bellevue, Md., Aug. 31, a record late egg date for that state. There were still two eggs present Sept. 3, but the nest was later abandoned. In contrast to this, a migrating Blue Grosbeak came aboard ship 35 mi. e.n.e. of Ocean City, Md., Aug. 8 (RAR), and a late one was banded at Kiptopeke Beach Nov. 2 (WPS). Nine Dickcissels at Longwood Sept. 15 (JG) was the largest number re-

ported this fall. Northern finches were generally in poor to moderate numbers, with very few Pine Siskins or crossbills. Early records of interest included ten Evening Grosbeaks at New Bloomfield Sept. 15 (OKS) and a single Purple Finch at Hopewell Sept. 10 (KPL).

**SPARROWS, LONGSPURS, BUNTINGS** — Singing Henslow's Sparrows remained at Saxis, Va. up to Aug. 18 (RLA *et al.*), and one was seen at Media, Pa., Oct. 7 (CUA). A **Le Conte's Sparrow**, possibly two, was found at Grandview, Hampton, Va., Nov. 23 (BW, JWV *et al.*), and the Abbotts observed a Sharp-tailed Sparrow inland at Dyke marsh Sept. 28 - Oct. 13. Lark Sparrows were reported from five localities, the first being seen Aug. 1 at Wallops I., (CRV), and two Clay-colored Sparrows were found, one at Longwood Sept. 22 (JG) and one at Cape May Oct. 7 (HHA & RB). White-crowned Sparrows seemed unusually abundant and widespread. Blicharz and Weigley found "at least 1000" at Seaside Park and Island Beach, N.J., Oct. 4, Paul Bystrak reported at least 90 each at Kennedyville and Massey, Kent Co., Md. in late October, and 20 were counted at Chincoteague Oct. 14 (RLP *et al.*). At Kiptopeke Beach, 19 were banded during the fall, three times the number of any previous year (WPS *et al.*) The last three localities are on the Eastern Shore, where the species is normally considered scarce or rare. A White-throated Sparrow was banded Aug. 28 at Chevy Chase, where the species had been observed previously during the summer (PP). Three unusual counts of Lincoln's Sparrows are at hand, up to six observed daily at New Ringgold, Pa., Sept. 25 - Oct. 4 (MB), 12 at Island Beach, N.J., Oct. 4 (RJB & IW), and an incredible 50 at L. Galena, Bucks Co., Pa., Sept. 29 (FM & RFh). Three Lapland Longspurs at Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 27 were early (DLM & SM), and up to 40 were present on Brigantine I. during November (JFA, JDD *et al.*). Vaughn and others had three early Snow Buntings at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 28, and by late November they had been recorded at many coastal localities.

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## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION / Robert P. Teulings

There was no hurricane activity affecting the Region this fall. Generally clear weather predominated and rainfall was below average with October almost rainless. September was seasonably mild, but October was much cooler than normal. Frost or freezing temperatures were recorded in most sections before mid-October, which put an end to the warbler migration and hastened the arrival of winter resident species. The most spectacular highlights of the season centered on the observations of pelagic species offshore and along the Outer Banks.



**LOONS THROUGH PETRELS** — A Com. Loon was quite early at Pea I., N.C. Aug. 15 (TH, JW) and another was seen there Aug. 23, still in full breeding plumage (RP, DP, PS). Over 500 Red-throated Loons were seen from the Ocracoke-Cedar I., N.C., ferry Nov. 30 (JF, WI, RW). A spectacular flight of migrating shearwaters was witnessed at Cape Pt., Hatteras I., N.C., on Oct. 28 by Richard Rowlett and Will McDowell. Over 8400, by actual count, were seen passing in an almost continuous stream between 6 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., nearly all Cory's. Only six Greater Shearwaters and a single (late) Sooty Shearwater were counted among them. During August and September observers who took offshore cruises out of Oregon Inlet, Morehead City, and Wilmington found an abundance of Wilson's Storm-Petrels, as well as good numbers of Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters, present off the North Carolina coast (see Table 1). Six

**Black-capped Petrels** were encountered Aug. 4 off Cape Hatteras, the third reported sighting in the past three years and probably the largest number of this tropical species yet seen in North American waters (RA, BB, PD, WF, DH, PS).

Table 1. Fall Pelagic Sightings off North Carolina

Trip	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Cory's Shearwater	9	4	56	11	9	49	15
Greater Shearwater	-	-	2	-	3	-	2
Sooty Shearwater	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Audubon's Shearwater	21	3	5	5	4	82	2
shearwater sp.	9	-	-	-	-	10	16
Black-capped Petrel	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	26	33	99	18	75	76	-
N. Phalarope	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
phalarope sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pomarine Jaeger	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Parasitic Jaeger	1	-	-	-	-	6	-
jaeger sp.	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bridled Tern	5	5	2	3	14	2	16
Black Tern	-	-	-	9	35	-	-

- A. Aug. 3 off Hatteras (RA, PD, PS & party)
- B. Aug. 4 off Hatteras (RA, PD, PS & party)
- C. Aug. 9 off Hatteras (BW)
- D. Aug. 18 off Moorehead City (PD, PS & party)
- E. Sept. 1 off Hatteras (RA, PD, RR & party)
- F. Sept. 13 off Moorehead City (JM & party)
- G. Sept. 14 off Wrightsville Beach (RC, KK *et al.*)

**PELICANS THROUGH SPOONBILL** — Numbers of Brown Pelicans were noticeably up this fall along the Outer Banks where flocks of 15-35 were not uncommon and a peak flock of 250 was seen at Oregon Inlet Sept. 15 (JHu). Nearly 200 Gannets were observed feeding off Cape Pt. Oct. 28 (RR, WMcD). It was noted that only a single adult was seen among this large aggregation. A Great Cormorant was found near Southport, N.C., Nov. 15 (FN, BN) and another at Pea I., N.C., Nov. 29 (PMcQ, RCh, EB). An estimated 14,000 Double-crested Cormorants were seen moving southward off Ocracoke I., N.C. early on the morning of Oct. 27 (RR, WMcD). This impressive flight lasted more than 30 minutes as the cormorants passed by in a solid string without interruption. A summer occurrence of a White-tailed Tropicbird off the North Carolina coast has been brought to the Regional Editor's attention by Paul Sykes who reported that he recently examined good slides of a bird photographed by a charter boat captain in July off Cape Hatteras. The observer's name is not presently available and the exact date and circumstances of the sighting are not known. A previously reported Roseate Spoonbill which turned up at Kiawah I., near Charleston, S.C. earlier this spring was still present Oct. 1 (MS, *vide* JRH).

**WATERFOWL** — An early flock of 120 Canada Geese arrived at Winston-Salem, N.C. Aug. 16 (CF). Among the earliest transients, a Blue-winged Teal was seen at Clemson, S.C., July 15 (HL), and at Pea Island

N W R. 15 were present Aug. 2 (RA, PD, PS), 300 by Aug 23 (RP, DP, PS), and 3500 by Sept. 1 (JHu). The first signs of the fall influx of Snow Geese at Pea I. were apparent Sept. 24 (JOP, JHu) and two Whistling Swans reached Currituck Sound by Oct. 6 (RLA). A White-fronted Goose was a noteworthy find on the s. Georgia coast at the Altamaha Wildlife Mgt. Area near Brunswick Oct. 26 (TM, A.A.S.), while elsewhere a Eur. Wigeon was seen at CP & L's cooling water lake (Sutton's Pond) near Southport, N.C., Nov. 15 (FN, BN). A few Brant were noted on the coast and inland in early November. The inland sightings were at L. Hartwell in w. South Carolina where a single bird was seen near Clemson Nov. 2 & 9 (SG, HL) and three were seen near Pendleton Nov. 12 (HL). Fulvous Tree Ducks were reported in the Region again this fall; 35 were observed in a single flock at Huntington Beach S.P. near Murrells Inlet, S.C., Oct. 27 (FP), and three were at Jekyll I., Ga., Nov. 1 (DC & DC). Two King Elders were found at Cape Hatteras Oct. 28 (RR; photos). A Com Eider was found as far s. as Cape Romain N. W. R. Oct. 26 (SAB) and two were seen there Oct. 31 (PL). A very early Black Scoter was seen off Buxton, N.C., Sept. 2 (JHu). Unusual inland records for this species were reported from Raleigh where an individual was found at L. Benson Oct. 25 (TQ) and from Clemson where one was seen Nov. 9 (SG).

**RAPTORS** — A good count of 31 Mississippi Kites was recorded in Sumter County, S.C., Aug. 11. The birds were seen soaring in a loose flock above I-95 at the Lynchess R. (B&SW). An ad. Golden Eagle was observed over L. Hartwell near Clemson Aug. 23 (SG), the only sighting of this species reported. There were, however, a total of 14 Bald Eagles seen at five coastal and six inland locations during the fall period. All were adults except for a single immature noted near Georgetown, S.C., Sept. 17 (FP). Peregrine Falcons were listed with rather encouraging frequency in the coastal area with reports of at least 16 individuals seen at 7 locations. One was also seen inland at Clemson Sept. 23 (HL). An Am. Kestrel was unusually early at Johns I. near Charleston July 25 (DCh), while the earliest sighting on the Outer Banks was noted Aug. 15 (TH, JW).

**SANDHILL CRANES THROUGH PHALAROPE** — November 17 was a big day for the passage of Sandhill Cranes through w. sections of Georgia and South Carolina with 40+ seen at Atlanta (TBa), 20 at Columbus (first since 1959, JMi) and 9 at Pendleton, S C (HL). Up to 30 cranes lingered in the Atlanta area through the end of the period (RM). James Pullman recorded an impressive count of 136 Am. Oystercatchers, mostly in a single large flock, at Fort Fisher, N.C., Nov. 29. Early arrival of Piping Plovers was noted at Morehead City where 55 were seen at Bird Shoal Sept. 10 (JF). American Golden Plovers were typically scarce in the Region this fall with only two coastal and three inland sightings reported, all of single birds. The inland occurrences were noted at L. Surf near Vass, N.C., Sept. 1 (RC *et al.*) and at L. Hartwell near Townville, S C, Sept. 20 & Nov. 1 (HL). A Long-billed Curlew was seen at Pea I. N.W.R. as early as Aug. 2 (RA, PD, PS) and two were present there Aug. 31 (RR). Another

was seen at Huntington Beach S.P. Sept. 13 (FP). This species is a scarce but regular fall visitor along the coast and seldom fails to attract attention wherever it appears. A late-lingering individual was present for at least a month at Oregon Inlet Sept. 26-Oct. 26 (m.ob.)

Single Upland Sandpipers were seen Sept. 15 & 21 at Cape Hatteras (JHu). Inland, individuals were seen at Goldsboro, N.C., Aug. 3 (HL) and Winston-Salem Sept. 4 (DL). Two Willets were rare inland visitors Sept. 26 at Pendleton, S.C. (AT, *vide* HL). A Baird's Sandpiper was present Aug. 15-17 at Oregon Inlet (JW, TH, KKe), two at Cape Hatteras Sept. 3 (RR), and another Sept. 1-5 at Winston-Salem (CF, PSp). A Short-billed Dowitcher found inland at Clemson Aug. 16-17 was that area's first local record (HL), and a Long-billed Dowitcher was equally unusual at Winston-Salem Aug. 15 (RS). An exceptionally high count of 1000 Stilt Sandpipers was recorded in the Bodie-Pea I. area Aug. 23 (RP, DP, PS). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen at two coastal and three inland locations between Aug. 31 and Sept. 26, all sightings being of only one or two birds. A carefully detailed sighting of a Bar-tailed Godwit Oct. 14 at North Pond, Pea Island N.W.R. was reported by John and Elizabeth Peterson, North Carolina's second record. A Hudsonian Godwit was present at Pea I. Oct. 6 (SA, AC, RC) and up to four were seen at Bodie I. Oct. 26 (RR, WMcD). An Am. Avocet made a surprising inland appearance at a farm pond near Pendleton in South Carolina's w. Piedmont Sept. 20. The bird lingered there for more than a week (*vide* PH; photos by GH). Offshore sightings of three flocks of Red Phalaropes totaling approximately 150 birds were noted 40 to 50 miles n.e. of Charleston on the late date of Nov. 14 (DK). Along the Outer Banks, small numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes were seen in late August and early September (peak count of 4 at Pea I. Sept. 3, RR) and a single N. Phalarope was present Aug. 4 at Ocracoke (B & SW).

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — In addition to offshore sightings listed in Table 1, four Pomarine Jaegers were noted along the Outer Banks Oct. 6-7 (RLA) and four at Cape Pt., Oct. 28 (RR, WMcD). Two Parasitic Jaegers were seen at Ocracoke Sept. 2, three at Hatteras Sept. 3, and six at Hatteras Oct. 28, all reported by Richard Rowlett. The latter observer also recorded a single Black-legged Kittiwake at Ocracoke Oct. 27, and 28 (all immatures) at Cape Hatteras the following day. Five late Gull-billed Terns were present Nov. 16 at N. Litchfield Beach, S.C. (PL, JRH, PN). In the Morehead City area, a notable concentration of over 5000 Com. Terns was seen at Bird Shoal Sept. 25 (JF), and a late lingerer was still present at nearby Ft. Macon Nov. 28 (RH). Inland sightings of Com. Terns were recorded at Rocky Mount, N.C. where four birds were seen Aug. 18 (BD, LF) and in the Winston-Salem area where seven birds were seen Sept. 1 (PSP) and one Sept. 20 (FH). A Sooty Tern made an uncommon appearance at Kiawah I. near Charleston July 27 and stayed there a month (DCh). Several observers reported an abundance of Sandwich Terns along the Outer Banks through mid-October with flocks numbering into the hundreds seen along the beaches at Pea I and Cape Hatteras. Fifteen still lingered at Cape Pt.

Oct. 28 (RR, WMCD) and one was seen as late as Nov. 9 near Georgetown, S.C. (JEC). Unusual inland occurrences of Caspian Terns were noted at Clemson where two visitors were recorded Sept. 5 (HL) and two at Columbus Sept. 6 (LAW). A series of inland sightings of Black Terns was also recorded, highlighted by counts of more than 100 transients at L. Hartwell near Clemson during the first week of August (CH). Elsewhere, smaller numbers, ranging from one to five birds, were seen Aug. 4 at Eden, N.C. (EB); Aug. 7 in Putnam Co., Ga. (NE); Aug. 15 in Thomas Co., Ga. (LN); and Aug. 19 in Warren Co., N.C. (ML). The largest coastal concentration of Black Terns was noted Sept. 2 when an estimated 1350 were seen from the Ocracoke-Cedar I ferry (RR). A massive flock of over 3000 Black Skimmers was present at Bird Shoal near Morehead City Oct. 13 (JF).

**SCALED PIGEON THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A bird fitting the description of a **Scaled Pigeon** was present at a feeder at St. Simon's I., Ga., August 9 and 12, as reported by C. W. Leveau. Caution would this editor to consider the bird a possible escape, although references indicate that the species has at least twice before been recorded as an accidental at Key West, Fla. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found incubating eggs at a nest site near Southern Pines, N.C. on the late date of Sept. 15, the time when many cuckoos are already migrating (JC). Black-billed Cuckoos were noted moving through the Raleigh area as early as Aug. 26 (NC), but elsewhere a late straggler was seen near Charleston Oct. 22 (PN). A Long-eared Owl was heard calling Oct. 15 at N. Wilkesboro, N.C. by Wendell Smith in an area which has apparently become an established wintering ground. A trio of Short-eared Owls was flushed from dunes at Huntington Beach S.P., highlighting a field trip by several Charleston Natural History Society members Nov. 16 (FP). A late Whip-poor-will was heard on Bogue Bank near Morehead City Nov. 29, calling in response to a tape recording (JF). Three other late lingerers were found 5 days earlier at Cedar I. by the same means (JF). Conspicuous movements of migrating Com. Nighthawks were observed in several areas of the Region in late August and early September with a massive flight of over 1000 birds noted at Winston-Salem Sept. 2 (KH).

An unusual concentration of flycatchers was present in the vicinity of Chapel Hill Sept. 28. In a day's count, a total of approx. 150 E. Wood Pewees and E. Phoebes were seen there (SA, AC, RC), 25 in one mixed flock! A Gray Kingbird was sighted near Morehead City Sept. 28 (TQ, JF). Single W. Kingbirds were seen on the Outer Banks at Pea I. Oct. 6 (SA, AC) and Ocracoke Oct. 27 (RR), and one was found inland near Raleigh Sept. 30 (DW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a noteworthy visitor at Huntington Beach S.P. Nov. 3-5 (CD, FF, FP). There were locally uncommon sightings of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Greensboro Sept. 8 (JWe), a Least Flycatcher at Clemson Sept. 23 (HL), and an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Raleigh Aug. 11 (JMu). Migrant Tree Swallows were in evidence at Augusta as early as Aug. 25 (GK, TR) and were unusually numerous at Clemson this fall from Sept. 24 - Oct. 21 (HL). The most spectacular concentration of this

species was reported, however, from Sapelo I., Ga., where at least 40,000 were present Oct. 13 (CH, PG, JHW).

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH PIPITS** — Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly common on the Outer Banks at Bodie I. by Sept. 23 (JOP) and arrivals were noted inland at Raleigh, Southern Pines and Clemson Oct. 1-2 (GW, JC, HL). Earlier-than-usual appearances of Winter Wrens were noted Sept. 28 at Columbus (WM), Oct. 1 in the Morehead City area (JF), and Oct. 8 at Southern Pines (JC). A Bewick's Wren was an early and uncommon visitor at Columbus Sept. 7 (WM), and another was a good find at Zebulon, N.C., Oct. 20 (RD). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was an uncommon inland transient at Clemson Oct. 12 (HL), and Short-billed Marsh Wrens were likewise uncommon at Columbus where two were seen Oct. 2 (JMi) and at Raleigh where one was seen Oct. 22 (GW). A Veery set a new early arrival record at Columbus Sept. 8 (FL, WM). Three E. Bluebirds were a locally rare find on the Outer Banks at Pea Island N.W.R. Nov. 29-30 (EB). Kinglets were early at Raleigh this fall with Ruby-crowneds arriving Sept. 8 and Golden-crowneds Sept. 30 (DW, GW). Am Pipits were seen at Clemson by Sept. 27 (HL), and more were said to be present in the Charleston area by the end of the period than had been seen in all of the previous fall and winter season (TB).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — A **Bell's Vireo** was an outstanding find by Eloise Potter at Zebulon, N.C., Aug. 10. Details of this record will appear later in *Chat Solitary Vireos* were found lingering in the Piedmont as late as Oct. 27 at Chapel Hill (RT, JOP), Nov. 6 at Winston-Salem (PC), Nov. 17 near Atlanta (A.A.S., *fide* JSw), and Nov. 26 at Raleigh (GW). In the coastal area, at least six Solitary Vireos were seen at the Baruch Plantation near Georgetown, S.C., Nov. 24 (TB). Single Philadelphia Vireos were uncommon fall transients at Atlanta Sept. 14 (JSw), Raleigh Oct. 4 (GW), and Clemson Oct. 14 (HL). Although numerous miscellaneous observations were reported, very little information was received concerning major warbler movements this season. At Charleston, Ted Beckett noted an early influx of W. Palm Warblers Sept. 1, large numbers of Com. Yellowthroats, N. Waterthrushes and Palm Warblers Sept. 28, and a wave of N. Parulas and Am. Redstarts Oct. 6. A tower kill involving an estimated 4000 casualties occurred on the night of Sept. 4-5 in Bladen County, N.C. (JC), but further details were not available for inclusion in this summary. On the Outer Banks, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were seen in great abundance on Ocracoke I., and heard flying overhead in countless numbers Oct. 27, with only a few remaining the following day after this massive influx (RR). Aside from these incidents, there were apparently few events sufficiently conspicuous or out of the ordinary to elicit comment.

Certain individual sightings, however, are worthy of mention because of their local rarity. Single Nashville Warblers were seen at Helen, Ga., Sept. 29 (TM, JSw) and Clemson Oct. 9 (HL), and a Connecticut Warbler was banded at Hillsborough, N.C., Oct. 20 (CB). Fall transients not often seen on the South Carolina coast

included a Worm-eating Warbler at Brookgreen Gardens Aug. 10 (FP), a Nashville Warbler at McClellanville Sept. 25 (JS), single Connecticut Warblers at N. Litchfield Beach Sept. 30 and Oct. 15 (FP), and a Wilson's Warbler at that same location Sept. 25 (FP). A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler was found dead, with the specimen still in fresh condition, at McClellanville on the late date of Nov. 5 (JD, JS). Elsewhere on the coast, a Nashville Warbler was seen at Pea I. Sept. 23 (JOP), and single Blackburnian Warblers, regarded as rare Outer Banks transients, were seen at Hatteras Light Sept. 23 (JH) and Pea I. Sept. 25 (JOP). A late Bay-breasted Warbler was found at Bodie I. Nov. 29 (RCh, *vide* PMcQ).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SNOW BUNTINGS** — At Raleigh a ♂ Brewer's Blackbird was seen Nov. 16 by Gail Whitehurst, a positive local record for a species which has been only occasionally recorded in North Carolina. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was similarly unusual at Ft. Macon, N.C., Nov. 2, believed to be the first record for Carteret County (RH). A Western Tanager was seen in Richmond Co., N.C., Aug. 10 (JC), and one returned Oct. 27 to winter for the third consecutive year at Thomasville, Ga. (RLC). A Black-headed Grosbeak, appearing to be an ad. female, was observed at Bodie I. Sept. 30 (JOP). A Dickcissel was present at a feeder in Wilmington Sept. 12 & 13 (RB, *vide* FN) and another was seen at Ocracoke I. Oct. 27 (RR). Purple Finches put in a very early appearance in the Region with arrivals noted between Oct. 1 and Oct. 18 at Raleigh, Clemson, N. Wilkesboro, Morehead City and Southern Pines. House Finches arrived in numbers at the Piedmont cities of Raleigh, Durham and Winston-Salem Nov. 2-4. Evening Grosbeaks were only sparsely present by late November, along with a few Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills. Illustrating the unpredictable nomadic nature of the **Red Crossbills**, an apparent nesting occurred in the North Carolina Sandhills area at Southern Pines where a female was seen feeding a recently fledged juvenile Sept. 1 (JC). A rare Piedmont occurrence for the Sharp-tailed Sparrow was recorded in Wake County, N.C., where two birds were found in early October at Greenview Farm (CM, ML *et al*). One of these birds was collected and is believed to be of the Nelson's race (\*N.C.S.M.). A Bachman's Sparrow seen Oct. 3 in Orange County, N.C., w. of Durham was rare local record (PP). On the coast, a Lark Sparrow was seen at Oregon Inlet Oct. 26 (RR, WMcD), and two Le Conte's Sparrows were found at Bodie I. Nov. 29 (PMcQ). White-crowned Sparrows, which seem to be steadily increasing as fall visitors and winter residents in the Region, were common on the N C Outer Banks in October (BD, LD, JOP, RR) and were present in good numbers at several inland locations by early November. One was seen Nov. 3 in s. Georgia at Okefenokee N.W.R. where the species is still a rarity (SP, *vide* EC). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded at Hillsborough Oct. 8 (CB) and Clemson Oct. 22 (HL). Three sightings of Lapland Longspurs were reported from the Outer Banks where as many as seven birds were seen at Cape Hatteras Oct. 28 (RR, WMcD). Elsewhere, an individual was seen amidst a flock of Horned Larks at the Gainsville, Ga.,

Airport Nov. 24 (JP). Snow Buntings were noted in the Region at three locations before the close of the period. One appeared Oct. 23 on the South Carolina coast at McClellanville (JS), and a surprising inland occurrence was recorded at Chapel Hill on that same date where an individual was seen feeding in a barn yard (SA, AC). A flock of 30 was later seen at Ocracoke Inlet Nov. 30 (JF, WI, RW).

**CORRIGENDA** — The June 22 sighting of Leach's Storm-Petrels noted in the last report (*Am. Birds* 28:889) was recorded off Hilton Head I., S.C., not Morehead City, N.C. The first breeding season occurrence for the Blue winged Warbler near Clemson, S.C. was recorded in mid-June rather than mid-July as indicated. The Regional Editor apologizes to the observers for these errors.

**Acknowledgment** — James Pullman and Elizabeth Teulings participated in the preparation of this summary.

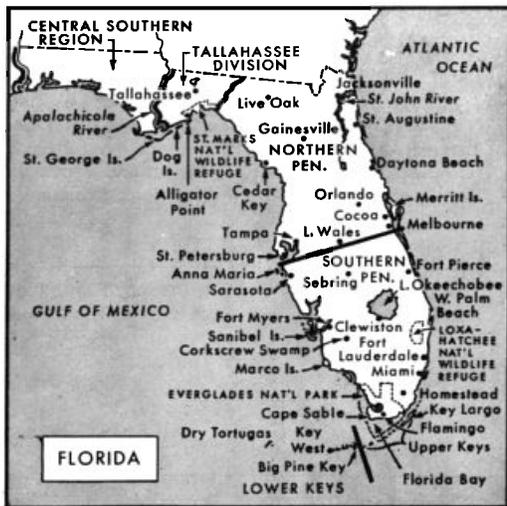
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## FLORIDA REGION

/ John B. Edscorn

A cool, autumnal ferment eventually quickens the air even in steamy Florida and, freed of summer ennui, observers sally forth to joust anew with an enigmatic *Empidonax* or a confusing fall warbler. Peninsular Florida lies east of the greatest (trans-Gulf) flyway, however, and birds of that route are not seen in large



numbers unless northwest weather fronts displace them. Such fronts generally were aborted in north Florida during the fall of 1974, and strong, contrary winds from the eastern quadrant were frequent (producing beach damage and pelagic bonanzas in the Canaveral area). Thus, no significant bird "waves" invaded the peninsula, though small numbers moved through continuously, with a paradoxical array of rarer trans-Gulf birds among them. In fact, much of the avian spectrum presented a potpourri of rarities in kaleidoscopic fashion throughout the period.

Crawford recorded notable kills at Tallahassee's WCTV tower during the fronts of Sept. 5, Sept. 23 and Oct. 17 (the latter kill — 971 birds! — was "probably the third largest" in the tower's long, lethal history), but farther south only residual frontal effects were perceptible. Bird movement in central Florida was steady, if sparse (JBE, HWK) but, despite the low numbers, a panoply of rarities accumulated at Lakeland made for the best season of local record. In south Florida, however, Mrs. Fisk had but an "average" season at her Homestead banding station, and results on the Keys essentially echoed this estimation (FTH, JCO).

By periodically aiming a scope at the moon after a stationary front finally cleared at Lakeland, I witnessed a heavy flight to the north and northwest Sept. 27 (and, to a lesser degree, for two more nights). It was almost as if trans-Gulf migrants, long grounded in central Florida, were bent on reaching the mainstream of their kind up in the Central South before striking out for Yucatan. More realistically, of course, they were probably only flying roughly "downwind" (ground air was still; aloft a

slight movement of cirrus wisps to the NE was apparent). The semiannual miracle of migration certainly has its mysterious aspects! "Reverse migrations" by hawks and jays were also reported (near the coast, where contrary, diurnal flights are most frequent). Typically, these movements are brief, but we may eventually learn that sustained, diurnal wandering to the north is the manner in which so many of Florida's Red-headed Woodpeckers vanish each fall.

**LOONS AND GREBES** — If not summering, a Com. Loon off St. Marks Aug. 16 (SP), and a Horned Grebe off Mayport Aug. 11 (JEH, JHH) set new early dates for Florida. Kingsley L., Clay Co., again had an Eared Grebe Oct. 27 & Nov. 11 (NPC, Laura H Cooks).

**PROCELLARIIFORMES** — This order made a grand showing. An albatross moving in a light east wind 21 mi. off Cape Canaveral Sept. 13 was considered a Black-browed by Johnnie Johnson (JJ, Frank Frear, Fred Kruse; possible first Florida sight record)! Cory's Shearwaters is definitely proving to be the East Coast's most common shearwater species. It is especially numerous after periods of long, hard E or NE winds, and far offshore they are apparently present until at least mid-November. In essentially still weather, 22 were counted off Mayport Aug. 10 (JBE, SS, Chuck Turner). (On the next day Hintermister and Horner saw only two there before having to make a dangerous jump to another party boat, because theirs was sinking! They had mixed feelings when the Coast Guard later managed to save the old tub.) Wind and sea were so rugged on Oct. 9 off Canaveral — strong nor'easter for days — only 27 Cory's could be identified by Johnson out of "300" large shearwaters. Amazingly, on Nov. 14 Capt. Earl Brinson reported "miles of shearwaters" there, and said that the 300 Cory's, plus 150 "unidentified" (JJ) of the next day were but a portion of them!

Apparently rather typically, Greater Shearwaters were scarce (did large numbers of the past involve misidentified Cory's?), as were Sooty Shearwaters (one Sept. 18, two Nov. 15 — JJ) and Audubon's Shearwaters (last seen Nov. 3 — JJ) off Canaveral. Puzzling, however, were the "20 small, dark shearwaters" Johnson mentioned seeing Oct. 9, when he reported three Manx Shearwaters off Canaveral. There on Sept. 15, a closely-seen convincingly-described Harcourt's Storm-Petrel was studied (RDB, JJ), and there, too, a Wilson's Storm-Petrel Nov. 3 set Florida's latest record (RDB, JJ).

**PELECANIFORMES** — Lone White-tailed Tropic-birds were reported off Canaveral Aug. 16, Sept. 18 & 22 (JJ). Single Blue-faced Boobies were there Aug. 12, 19 & Sept. 18 (RDB, JJ; latest for Florida). The previously-reported Brown Booby that adopted Stock I., Key West, was found to have been banded near Marathon Mar. 1, 1973 (fide FTH). One with a drooping wing, but able to fly, was at Port Everglades Aug. 9 (Lucille Vavak), and Venice had an injured one Oct. 3 (G.R. Collett).

**HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS** — A "Great White" Heron at Carrabelle Sept. 7 was the Tallahas-

see Division's fifth record (GEM, HMS). One was inland near Bartow Oct. 5 (JBE *et al.*), and another near Okeechobee Oct. 28 (Fred Lohrer). Unprecedented in recent history, thousands of wading birds nested *until late Oct.* in various s. Florida colonies (JAK, JCO), no doubt contributing to a gigantic host of waders (est. 71,200, plus 4,000 Boat-tailed Grackles) which fed *en masse* by Alligator Alley Nov. 23 (PWS). A Black-necked Stork (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*) — Australo-Asian — obviously escaped — was near Shark Valley Tower, Everglades N.P. all fall (PWS). Latest ever for the Tallahassee Division was a Roseate Spoonbill at St. Marks Light Oct. 13 (SS, R & LD).

**WATERFOWL** — Two **Whistling Swans** on Mosquito Lagoon late in November (*vide* GJH) were possibly the ones seen north of St. Augustine after the period (*vide* JBE). Early and rare near St. Marks Light were two **White-fronted Geese** Oct. 13 (SS, R & LD). Outstanding among multitudinous Fulvous Tree Duck reports was Sykes' estimate of 400 on L. Okeechobee Nov. 18. Varying numbers frequented Zellwood June-October, peaking on Sept. 28 at over 100 (Dorothy Freeman), and among them two **Black-bellied Tree Ducks** were photographed Aug. 15 (GSM, Reginald Hicks) (Escapees from some collection, or strays from Texas or tropical America?). Remarkably early were 13 Mallards on L. Jackson, Tallahassee Division, Aug. 28 (HMS), and three on Paynes Prairie, Gainesville, Sept. 2 (KRN, SAN; earliest N. Peninsula). An amazingly early Pintail on Tampa's McKay Bay Aug. 16 (JJD; earliest for Florida) remained for weeks. Nine Green-winged Teal on L. Jackson Sept. 20 (JMS), and four Blue-winged Teal on the Lower Keys Aug. 27 (FTH) set earliest respective divisional records. Earliest ever for Brevard Co. were: two N. Shovelers at Merritt I. N.W.R. Sept. 1, two Redheads at Melbourne Beach Oct. 20 earliest in N. Peninsula) and a Black Scoter at Canaveral Nov. 14 (RDB, JJ). Over 400 scoters of all three species (95% Blacks) were off Alligator Pt., Franklin Co., Nov. 29 (JBE, m.ob.). Leon County's first October record of a Red-breasted Merganser occurred Oct. 24 on L. Jackson (HMS).

**RAPTORS** — A **White-tailed Kite** flew just over Steve Stedman and right for the Gulf near Old Town Nov. 10! (Perhaps significantly, one coming *from the Gulf* flew right by me near Carnestown May 1, 1966.) This rarity of Florida's past now seems to occur only as a wanderer, though almost-annual reports have persisted recently. Sharp-shinned Hawk flights too numerous to list were topped by over 400 birds flying *northeast* in a steady stream for hours at Indiatlantic Beach Nov. 8 (Ken Walters). Steve Peacock counted over 500 hawks (some Broad-wingeds) in Pinellas Co., Oct. 5-6. A first for Tall Timbers was a **Golden Eagle** which presented excellent views Dec. 1 (NOW, JBE & m.ob.), after having been reported during the prior week. Once again, reports of the very rare Peregrine Falcon outnumbered those of the Merlin in Florida! What is happening? Mrs. Hames described a "small, *white-breasted* female kestrel, not much bigger than a kingbird, almost surely *F. s. sparverius* from n. West Indies," on Key Largo in mid-August (six weeks before migrants arrive).

**LIMPKIN, COOT** — About 800 Limpkins were on L. Okeechobee's w. shore Nov. 18 (PWS).

—S.A.—

Only months after first discovery of "Caribbean Coots" on the lower East Coast, one was found 300 mi. farther north at Paynes Prairie Nov. 9 (WJB & m.ob.). This raised some questions. By the period's end these coots with very high white-to-yellowish frontal shields were being found throughout the Gold Coast (from whence they vanished in spring, and reappeared with Am. Coots in fall), and they have since been found in Brevard Co., Maitland and Lakeland (RDB, JBE). A high percentage of these birds behave like males. If observers farther north will also adopt the study of endless coot foreheads (coot phenology, no less), I suspect that we will find that the "Caribbean" shields being seen in Florida (which are *not* as extreme as the example illustrated in Bond) are actually a widespread variation. Acceptance of all of these as "Caribbean Coots" has possibly been incorrect.

**SHOREBIRDS** — A Piping Plover at Zellwood Aug 18 may be Florida's only inland record (RDB, JJ). An Am. Golden Plover was there Aug. 11 (JBE, m.ob.), earliest for Florida, as were nine Ruddy Turnstones (a new high) Sept. 14 (JBE, CG). A Long-billed Curlew Nov. 22 - Dec. 24 (Wm. Ford, m.ob.) was apparently Volusia Country's first since 1912 (*vide* GSM). Upland Sandpipers were regular at Zellwood Aug. 11 - Sept. 14, and they peaked with 58 on Aug. 24 (JBE, PJF, CG, NOW). Six were west of W. Palm Beach Aug. 31 (PWS), four passed over Lakeland Sept. 15 (JBE, CG), and one flew over Plantation Key, Monroe Co., Sept. 22 (JCO). Baird's Sandpiper reports came from Key West Aug. 13 (SP, BM), Zellwood Aug. 14 (JBE) and St. George I., Oct. 5 (GEM, HMS; \*F.S.U.). A Dunlin at Merritt I. Sept. 1 was Brevard County's earliest by a month (RDB, JJ). Zellwood had the only Buff-breasted Sandpipers: two on Aug. 17 and one on Aug. 24 (JBE, PJF, NOW, CG, B & LA). A Marbled Godwit inland at Zellwood Aug. 24-31 made it the fifth consecutive year of record there (JBE, *et al.*). Sykes estimated 300 were at Flamingo Nov. 2. A very rare **Hudsonian Godwit** was at Port Canaveral Aug. 28-30 (JJ & m.ob.; earliest N Pen.; photos). Paynes Prairie's Am. Avocet of Nov 5-14 was Alachua County's second record (NPC *et al.*) Ken Alvarez saw three at Myakka S.P. Oct. 27. McKay Bay was well under recent peaks with 231 on Nov. 28 (JJD). Wilson's Phalaropes peaked at Zellwood Aug. 18 (75! — JEH, JHH). McKay Bay had four Aug. 15-17, and 19 on Sept. 2 (JJD). One was at St. Marks Light Sept. 18 (NOW), one at Miami's Virginia Key Sept. 21 (Jane Behr), and one at Port Canaveral Nov. 14 (RDB, latest Brevard Co.). Single N. Phalaropes were at Zellwood Aug. 31 (NOW, RLC, J.C. Wiese; photo), and, dead, near Stuart Sept. 25 (A. Bartleson; \*HWK)

**GULLS, TERNS** — At least two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were at Key West again Nov. 16-26 (FTH). Roseate Terns nested at Key Haven near Key

West in 1974 (where a car could be driven right to them!), but up to 200 there Aug. 6 - Sept. 8 were obviously from other, possibly nearby colonies (FTH). During the "shearwater nor'easter" of Oct. 9 Johnson also reported over 250 Sooty Terns and 50 Brown Noddies off Canaveral!

**DOVES THROUGH ANIS** — Citing 1946-1974 data, Stevenson revealed unusual abundance of Ground Doves in the Tallahassee Division, especially near the coast. Migration was implicated (the s.w. U.S. race has been collected in the area). No improvement was seen in areas where Ground Doves have declined in the '70s. Again St. Marks Refuge had a **Groove-billed Ani**; this one on Oct. 26 (RCL, NOW). Rather far north in the interior was a Smooth-billed Ani in Seminole Co., Nov. 24 (Martin & Suzanne Northrup).

**WHIP-POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A Whip-poor-will at Delray Beach Sept. 9 (PWS) was extremely early for Florida (however, previously unpublished was one singing lustily at my home Aug. 28, 1969; earliest for Fla.). An estimated 10,000 Com. Nighthawks passed over Jacksonville Sept. 4-5, with 656 counted in 1½ hours and 2200 all day at one location (VMM, JPC). a bob-tailed young Com. Nighthawk Oct. 2 revealed very late nesting at the University of Miami Campus, and booming flights were witnessed as late as Nov. 4 (Oscar T. Owre). Ogden, who hears them in the Miami-Homestead area while Christmas shopping, feels that some must winter there. Single Rufous Hummingbirds were at Homestead Oct. 19 (EJF) and at Rockledge Nov. 16 (RDB).

S.A.

**WOODPECKERS** — Citing museum verification of two features, and even a Michigan report of a similar bird, some listers are still agog at this writing over a ♀ "Golden-fronted" Woodpecker in Ft. Lauderdale. Alas, instead of a non-migratory western woodpecker on the "wrong" side of Florida, what I saw appeared to be but a Red-bellied Woodpecker exhibiting xanthochroism (which produced a golden male Cardinal in Wichita recently!). Bolte obtained superb photos (which clearly reveal that the "black" central tail area actually has an overlapping white feather of deficient length, and a defective or broken one beside it; I recently saw a ♀ Red-bellied with the same deficiency). The photos should certainly settle the mystery.

**KINGBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — Among five similar birds which soon vanished at Key West Sept. 8, one was clearly identified as a **Tropical Kingbird** (FTH, Chas. Pettengell). Hurricane "Carmen" was churning Central America then. From as near as 15 feet, Florida's second **Say's Phoebe** was studied in infinite detail as it rested *on the beach* at Seahorse Key, Levy Co., Oct. 6 (Dave Steadman, Doug Simmons, Karen Bjourndahl). Two **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** occurred. One at Gainesville Sept. 11 was identified by its yellow throat and calls (BW).



*Golden-fronted Woodpecker, northeast of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Nov. 23, 1974. Photo / William J. Bolte.*

One at Lakeland Oct. 27 (latest Florida fall record) was silent throughout a long, very close study, but it fed constantly *just above the ground in dense weeds* (a habit of this *Empidonax* which reminds one more of a yellowthroat), ignoring favorite trees of Acadian Flycatchers; Brooks Atherton photographed perfectly its yellow chin and throat, and yellowish eye-rings (JBE, B & LA, GJH, CG). A "first" for Loxahatchee N.W.R. was an Arcadian Flycatcher Oct. 28 (PWS). Single "Traill's" Flycatcher were killed at WCVT Sept. 25 (RLC), and at Key Largo (*vide* JCO; date?). A calling Least Flycatcher was seen at Alligator Pt. Oct. 22 (HMS). At Lakeland, which is not far south of E. Wood Pewee nesting range, new early and late fall dates were established Aug. 16 (earliest N. Peninsula?) and Oct. 29 (JBE). A rare **Olive-sided Flycatcher** atop a dead tree on Merritt I., Sept. 23 added yet another rarity to the amazing 305 species Barber listed in Brevard Co. in 1974! Lone Vermilion Flycatchers were at Tall Timbers Oct. 12 (WWB), Paynes Prairie in mid-October (m.ob; wintered for third year) and Tallahassee Nov. 17 (GEM).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS** — Rare on the peninsula were 16 Cliff Swallows at Merritt I., Sept. 1 (RDB, JJ), one at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Sept. 13 (PWS) and one at Lakeland Sept. 15 (JBE). Between 9:30 a.m. and noon, 280 Blue Jays flew *north* along the Inland Waterway at Marineland Oct. 12 (PCP). Virtually extinct in most of its former peninsular range, a White-breasted Nuthatch which Caroline Coleman saw at Gainesville Aug. 6, Sept. 10 & Oct. 8 was encouraging. Very early in the Tallahassee Division was a

Red-breasted Nuthatch on St. George I., Oct. 5 (HMS). Winter Wrens seemed to be more common than usual in various n. Florida localities; even Gainesville had two Nov 9 - 10 (CHC & m.ob.). Cocoa had a very early Short-billed Marsh Wren Oct. 12 (RDB).

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — A Hermit Thrush on St. George I., Oct. 12 tied the earliest Tallahassee Division record (JMS *et al.*). Latest for the N. Peninsula was a Swainson's Thrush at Gainesville Nov. 6 (CHC), as also were six Veeries near Bartow Oct. 26 (JBE, B & LA, CG). An E. Bluebird was at Key West Nov 22 & 29 (FTH, GJY *et al.*), and another was at Marathon Nov. 23 (GJY); in over 30 years Frances Hames has seen but three on the Keys! Some Florida observers have never seen a Philadelphia Vireo; they should have looked this season! Six were killed at WCTV Oct. 17 ("most ever; only 10 records in all prior years;" RLC), and one Oct. 23. Twelve passed through Lakeland for a month ending Nov. 4 (JBE, B & LA, CG *et al.*; latest N. Pen.) with a peak of four Oct. 12 (JBE & m.ob.). Barber had one at Rockledge Sept. 25.

**WARBLERS** — Latest for the Tallahassee Division were three Swainson's Warblers killed at WCTV Oct. 17 (RLC), and latest for the N. Peninsula was one studied by many and photographed by Brooks Atherton at Lakeland Oct. 19 (JBE & m.ob.; first local record, and 37th warbler species for Lakeland in five years!). Zellwood's Golden-winged Warbler of Aug. 17 (JBE, B & LA, PFJ, CG *et al.*; earliest N. Pen.) was the vanguard of many of these rather rare birds in Florida. A Blue-winged Warbler near Bartow Aug. 26 (JBE; earliest N. Pen.) was the first of a procession which was continuous for seven weeks there! Alachua Co. (JEH, JHH, BW) reported several Golden-wingeds and Blue-wingeds, as did many other areas. Mrs. Fisk banded her second Blue-winged in eight years at Homestead Oct. 19. Very early was a Nashville Warbler near Bartow Sept. 22 (PJF). A shocking 113 Magnolia Warblers were killed at WCTV Oct. 17 (RLC). But a day short of the latest N. Peninsula record was one at Lakeland Nov. 11 (PJF). Very rare in the Tallahassee Division were three Cape May Warblers killed at WCTV Oct. 17 (RLC), and one at St. George I., Oct. 5 (GEM, HMS). Earliest for Florida were three Yellow-rumped Warblers at Guana L., St. Johns Co., Sept. 24 (JPC).

A first for the Lakeland area was a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** Sept. 2 (JBE, B & LA, CG, Dave Goodwin, Larry Hopkins; earliest for Fla.). A Black-throated Green Warbler at Bok Tower, Polk Co., Nov. 24 is the latest N. Pen. record that I know of (CG). In areas where they are normally rare, Cerulean Warblers were inexplicably more numerous. Alachua Co. had singles Sept. 8, 14, 19 & 30 (JEH, JHH), Sarasota had singles Sept. 17 and Oct. 3 (Donald & Grace Mace), while Bartow had up to four per day on every outing from Aug. 18 (very early; PJF, CG) until Sept. 21, and one sang continuously Sept. 9 (JBE, m.ob.). Latest for the N. Peninsula was Lakeland's Blackburnian Warbler Nov. 4 (JBE). At WCTV 30 were killed Sept. 23, 22 on Oct. 17, and one on Nov. 8 (RLC; latest for fall in Florida). A plethora of Bay-breasted Warbler reports

included: 82 killed at WCTV on Oct. 17 and 17 on Nov 6 ("most ever in November"). Alachua Co. had one Oct. 8 (JHH), Lakeland had a total of 10 (JBE; Oct. 10-31 — latest N. Pen.), and one was on Hypoluxo I., Oct 26 (H.P. Langridge, PWS). Considered rare were two Blackpoll Warblers at Miami Oct. 8 (JMK), and one at Homestead Oct. 22 (EJF). One was very rare at Lakeland Oct. 12 (JBE, B & LA, CG). Ovenbirds were singing again at Lakeland and Bartow Sept. 29, Oct 19 & 29 (B & LA, JBE, m.ob.). Jacksonville reported a Connecticut Warbler Oct. 20 (PCP), and a convincingly described **Mourning Warbler** was studied for 30 minutes Sept. 24 at a spot where probably another was seen Oct. 9 (JPC). This is the rarest eastern warbler in Florida, excluding the seemingly extinct Bachman's Rare Wilson's Warblers were at Tallahassee Oct 9 (GEM), Rockledge Oct. 24 (RDB), and Vero Beach Nov. 2 (R. Dow; \*HWK). Single, very rare Canada Warblers were at WCTV Sept. 5 ("first since 1962," RLC), the Alafia R. Sept. 21 (B & LA), and Homestead Oct. 13 (EJF).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TOWHEES** — Red-winged Blackbirds were conspicuously scarce in many n. and c. Florida areas; one wonders if the current controversy over proposed Federal "controls" may not be "after the fact?" A N. Oriole near East Pt. Aug 23 set an earliest record for the Tallahassee Division (GEM, HMS). A **Western Tanager** was on Dog. I., Sept. 12 (Jeff & Mary Lewis); the Tallahassee Division has but 6-8 records in its history. Latest for the N Peninsula was a **Scarlet Tanager** at Jacksonville Nov 25 (JPC). These birds, like Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, were scarce this season. Cape Canaveral briefly hosted a **Black-headed Grosbeak** Sept. 26 (RDB; earliest for Florida). An extremely late Blue Grosbeak on St George I., Nov. 23 (JMS *et al.*) broke the latest Tallahassee Division record. Rare for the locality in fall was a Painted Bunting at Carrabelle Sept. 14 (GEM, HMS; earliest Tallahassee Division). No Dickcissels or Pine Siskins were seen during the period, and I heard of only one Purple Finch (though numbers appeared in December). Notably early was an Am. Goldfinch at Tall Timbers Oct. 22 (NOW). Resident Rufous-sided Towhee numbers remain low in many areas (Mrs. Fisk is now noting this in her banding nets at Homestead), but I noticed more red-eyed migrants in c. Florida than I have for several years.

**SPARROWS** — Lark Sparrows were recorded at St Marks Light Aug. 11, 16 & 24 (SP, BM), and at Alligator Pt. Aug. 21 (HMS). Three Clay-colored Sparrows were reported at Flamingo Nov. 9 (Eva S. Dickie, Fabienne Haudry). White-crowned Sparrows invaded the entire region (almost every area reported them!). Highest counts included 25 in Wakulla Co., Oct. 27 (RLC, NOW), and 17 at, interestingly, Key West Nov 4 (FTH). Earliest for the Tallahassee Division was a Swamp Sparrow at St. Marks Oct. 3 (HMS).

**OBSERVERS** (area editors in boldface) — Brooks & Lynn Atherton, **Robt. D. Barber**, Wm. J. Bolte, Julie P Cocke, Nicholas P. Cocks, Caroline H. Coleman, Robt. L. Crawford, James J. Dinsmore, Robt. & Lucy

Duncan, Paul J. Fellers, Erma J. Fisk, Chas. Geanangel, Frances T. Hames, John H. Hintermister, George J. Horel, James E. Horner, Johnnie Johnson, Herbert W. Kale, James M. King, James A. Kushlen, Bill Matheny, Virg. M. Markgraf, Gail Menk, George S. Murray, Karen R. Nesbitt, Stephen A. Nesbitt, John C. Ogden, Sam Pate, Peggy C. Powell, Steve Stedman, Henry M. Stevenson, James M. Stevenson, Paul W. Sykes, Bob Wallace, Noel O. Wamer, Gus J. Yaki. Abbreviations: F.S.U., Florida State University; m.ob., many observers; N.W.R., National Wildlife Refuge; \*, specimen. JOHN B. EDSCORN, Rt. 14, Box 350, Lakeland, Florida 33801.

## ONTARIO REGION / Clive E. Goodwin

Last fall was a difficult season to analyze. It lacked the spectacular happenings that sometimes provide a focus for attention, but at the same time provided a rather complex mixture of weather patterns, bird movements, species mix, and a host of noteworthy events, together with the most extensive coverage in Ontario's history. It almost defies summarizing!



Generalizing about the weather over a region the size of Ontario is hazardous at best, and the differences between the north — with few observers — and the well-covered south were particularly pronounced over most of the period. August in the north was cool and very wet, extinguishing the widespread forest fires that had developed in the hot, dry weather of June and July. This heat may have caused the late start to migration noted by most observers: it was well into August before any heavy migration was reported. By contrast the south was dry and rather cool, and these conditions intensified in September, culminating in mid-October with record-breaking low temperatures. Both months saw heavy movement, and by the time November arrived, dull, damp and mild, most birds seemed to have gone. Many of those birds that had not, hung on to provide record-late departure dates, in some cases well into December as the mild weather continued.

September and October were good to weekend bird-watchers, and hence reports of "record-breaking" movements. September provided a sequence of textbook frontal movements, with the key dates neatly coinciding with weekends. In later October the fronts cooperatively preceded the weekends, with the clearing high pressure giving ideal conditions for observing the heavy diurnal movements of the later fall. In all, there were ten periods of good weather-linked passage: Aug. 23-25, and 27-28; Sept. 12-14, 17-18, 20-22 and 28-29; and Oct. 7-8, 12-13, 18-20 and 26-27; and six of these overlapped weekends to some extent. November had movements on Nov. 19-20 and 26, but was a typically dull month on the whole.

The season provided more than its usual share of kills at high structures, with Sept. 20-21 being particularly destructive. The chimney at Lennox and the TV towers at Barrie and London accounted for at least 7550 birds over the period, with Bay-breasted Warblers (1359), Red-eyed Vireos (1129), Ovenbirds (1038) and Magnolia Warblers (920) the most abundant species (*vide* RDW, JW, WM). A good, but not very jolly way of sampling the migration.

John Nicholson again spent fall weekends camped at Mississagi Light, and added further to our information on the Manitoulin I. migration patterns. Surprisingly much migration was from the south, and a good hawk passage there was moving N-NW. The exceptions were Peregrine Falcons flying south. Interestingly falcons and Marsh Hawks seem to be the most significant raptors moving down the Bruce Peninsula in fall (*vide* CEG), which may fit this pattern. Clearly we still have a lot to learn on the detail of migratory movements in the Province.

**LOONS, GREBES** — Gales on the Great Lakes were few this year, and hence the offshore flights of loons and other waterbirds were not observed. The high count of Com. Loons was, as usual, off Kettle Pt. with 460 birds on Nov. 12 (AR), and other good counts were 43 at Bronte (MJ), 20 in Kempenfelt Bay (TL, AM) and 15 at Port Hope (ERM), all in mid-November. There were seven Red-throated Loons, three at Kettle Pt. and two on L. Ontario, but one on the Holland R., Nov. 10 (CH, EW, CJM) was unusual and a bird Sept. 28 at Ottawa (HNM, BG) was early. Three Eared Grebes were at Strathroy Sept. 15 - Nov. 3 (AR, m.ob.) and one at Pt. Pelee National Park (below, with its immediate area, Pelee) Oct. 28-29 (BM).

**CORMORANTS, HERONS** — Thirty-five Double-crested Cormorants over the period is a good total for recent years. Kingston had 13 in all, for the highest count in the Province (K.F.N.). A very late Green Heron was at Ottawa Oct. 14 (BD, MG), and a bird picked up dead at Moosonee on Aug. 18 was apparently this species; unfortunately no attempt seems to have been made to preserve it (SC, RT). Only one Cattle Egret was seen, but the south-west had a high of 150 Great Egrets Sept. 11 at Holiday Beach (JAG). Late herons were two Black-crowned Night Herons in Dundas Marsh (WS) and an Am. Bittern at Sarnia (AR), both on Nov. 16. Rarer members of this group were a Snowy Egret, Oshawa Sept. 1 (GAS), a Yellow-

crowned Night Heron, Pelee Aug. 24 (RC *et al.*), and a Glossy Ibis, Pelee Aug. 24-26 (DR, WN *et al.*).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Three Mute Swans at Thunder Bay from July 17 to possibly Oct. 13 were the fourth Thunder Bay record (KD, DA *et al.*). The Canada Goose flight started as early as Aug. 19 at Peterborough (KP) but seemed much lighter than usual, perhaps because it was long-extended; however, concentrations at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary (below U.C.M.B.S.) near Morrisburg reached 10,000 birds. Rick Howie is now providing data from this area, the first regular coverage in 10 years for this important sector of the Province. Brant were widespread, with Amherst I. typically yielding the highest numbers — 600 on Oct. 23 (AEH), and elsewhere there were 6, Parkhill Oct. 23, the first for Middlesex Co. (RM) and single birds from a half-dozen localities along the lower Lakes in late October. The usual small numbers of Snow Geese were seen, chiefly in the west but there were up to 7, U.C.M.B.S., Sept. 21-Nov. 7 (RH). For the rest of the waterfowl a repeat of the comments of last spring is in order: there were a host of high counts and late dates, but space will simply not permit any but the most interesting. At Rondeau P.P. a hybrid Mallard x Pintail was shot and identified by a wildfowl management officer (PS, *vide* PDP). The U.C.M.B.S. Gadwall peak was 75 on Oct. 13 and there were 90 Wood Duck there Sept. 23 (RH); another high count was 750 Am. Wigeon on Wolfe I., Nov. 9 (AEB *et al.*). Six Pintails at Wildwood Nov. 24 were late (BP), and four N. Shoveler at Strathroy, Nov. 13 were Middlesex County's latest (WRJ). Young Redheads at Sombra, Aug. 18, with 4 adults and 42 young by Sept. 1 (DR) suggest breeding in the nearby St. Clair marshes. Noteworthy high counts included 150 of this species at Clarkson Nov. 10 (JAK), 100-200 Ring-necked Ducks at Spanish in September (KM) and 150 Canvasback at Ottawa Nov. 2 (m. ob.). Canvasbacks are rare at Sudbury, but one was seen there Nov. 19 (JL). The Ottawa Barrow's Goldeneye reappeared on Oct. 19 (JH), but the Oakville bird has not so far been reported. However, both the Toronto and Clarkson Harlequin Ducks were back, Oct. 25 and Oct. 10 respectively (HK, DRG), again indicating the remarkably consistent pattern of some wintering waterfowl. Informal comments have been heard about a King Eider flight, but the only detail to-date was of six, Oct. 20 off Hamilton (MJ, AW). Scoters were in their good numbers of recent years, with a bonanza flight of Black Scoters. The highest counts were 300 at Mallorytown Landing Oct. 20 (PH, EH) and 221 in the south-west between Oct. 6 and Nov. 23 (*vide* AHK), and a bird at Pushinch L., Oct. 21 was the first for Waterloo Co. (CAC, WHS). Surf Scoters were in smaller numbers: the south-west had 52 in approximately the same period, although there were a further 200 unidentified dark scoters off Sarnia Nov. 18 (DR). Elsewhere London had some 50 Sept. 22-Oct. 23 with a peak of 25 at Strathroy Sept. 22 (JRC) — their previous high count in a year was about 6 (*vide* WRJ) — and there were 9 at Go Home Bay Oct. 12 (CH).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Coverage of raptor passage was the best in years, with the banding station at

Hawk Cliff in full operation and a carefully planned hawk watch at Holiday Beach for 27 days between Sept. 4 and Oct. 18. Totals from these two areas were some 40,950 and 47,892 respectively. Unfortunately the Hawk Cliff figures are confusing as we have details for specific days which vary very widely, probably due to inexperienced observers being overwhelmed by the host of hawks visible at times. In general the more conservative figures are used in the table below.

The above totals will suggest a good Broad-winged Hawk flight, and this was the case, but all species appeared in encouraging numbers. The Turkey Vulture population continues to show strength, and there were birds well into November with the last Nov. 26 at Hawk Cliff (WR *et al.*). One at Quetico Aug. 3 (DCS) was near the eastern edge of its range in the west of the Province. Roosting flocks provided the largest groups in the south; 40 at Stony L., Peterborough July 12 (KP) and 42 at Cayuga Aug. 24 where a Black Vulture was also reported (DAS); however, no further details are available at the time of writing.

Goshawks were in smaller, or more normal numbers this fall, with some 20 seen in addition to Hawk Cliff birds. The Accipiter movement was generally good with flights at Manitoulin Sept. 22 (JN), Toronto Sept. 14 and Prince Edward Point (below, P.E. Pt.) Oct. 7 (CEG, JEG). Where there are sufficient numbers of migrants to allow comparison in these movements, the proportion of Cooper's to Sharp-shinned Hawks was between about 1:10 and 1:20 which is the highest in recent years, although in the 1950s Cooper's Hawks could constitute as high as 30% of the Accipiters seen. The element of misidentification is always a difficult factor to assess with migrant hawks and in this context the 32 Cooper's Hawks at Hamilton seems disproportionately high, as perhaps do the 13 Red-shouldered Hawks there, unless duplication was involved. It was felt the Holiday Beach Red-shouldered count could be rather too high as well (*vide* AHK) but this species was also in good numbers elsewhere in the south-west, at Pelee with 40 on Oct. 10 and 30 on Nov. 9 (BM, JPK). Even if these totals are too high they still suggest many more Red-shouldered than have been seen in the Province for some years. Broad-winged Hawk numbers away from the traditional fly-lines include 160 on Sept. 22 at Mississagi Light — clearly a major hawk flight location (JN) — and 147 in Horseshoe Valley Sept. 14 (CJM).

A dark-phase Swainson's Hawk was reported from Barrie Is., Oct. 5 (JN); the account of the sighting is still to be reviewed by the Ontario Records Committee as there are only three or four records for the Province. It was a big Rough-legged Hawk year, with birds appearing as early as Aug. 25 at P.E. Pt. (AEH, GW), probably an all-time early arrival for the Province, and numbers reaching 173 at Wolfe I., Nov. 10 (K.F.N.) and 40 at Malton (JEM). Arrivals were general by the third week in October, and the flight seemed at least equal to those of 1970 and 1972, although the winter figures will tell this story better. Eagle reports in addition to those in the table were five Golden Eagles, principally along the lower Lakes; and 17 Bald Eagles. Of this number four were in the south-west (*vide* AHK) and five at Quetico (SP), with one on Aug. 16 there pursuing a Herring Gull

to steal a small fish (RCC). There were two Gyrfalcons, both gray birds; one at Mississagi Light Sept. 28 (JN) and one in Caledon Twp., Nov. 9 (AD). There were 14 Peregrine Falcons and 16 Merlins seen, in addition to the tabulated numbers.

**Totals of hawks seen at Hawk Cliff and Holiday Beach**

Species	Holiday Beach Hawk Watch Sept. 4-Oct. 18	Hawk Cliff Banding Station Aug. 10-Nov. 30
Turkey Vulture	1,128	700-800
Goshawk	—	21
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5,596	7,000-11,000
Cooper's Hawk	88	285+
Red-tailed Hawk	831	3,964
Red-shouldered Hawk	116	14
Broad-winged Hawk	38,154	20,000
Rough-legged Hawk	6	24
Golden Eagle	—	10
Bald Eagle	1	5-6
Marsh Hawk	194	500-800
Osprey	62	29
Peregrine Falcon	2	5
Merlin	2	7-8
American Kestrel	1,040	4,000-6,000

**GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES** — Three Spruce Grouse in Tehkummah Twp. were the first recent Manitoulin I. records (RG, *vide* KM). Sharp-tailed Grouse seemed in good numbers with 40-50 at Calstock Nov. 2 and subsequently (*vide* JBM) and 13 Great Cloche I., Sept. 2 (CBI). The Sandhill Crane news was that a pair had spent the summer in suitable habitat near Espanola, Apr. 5-Sept. 8, but it is not known if they actually nested (*vide* JN). The north-west had several flights with 25-30 over Hearst Sept. 17 (HS) and a Quetico high of 32 on Oct. 22 (SP).

**SHOREBIRDS** — After a poor start owing to high water levels in July and early August, shorebird migration was generally good and in some areas exceptional. Piping Plover were seen at Ottawa Aug. 14-24 (BD *et al.*) and Pelee Aug. 24 (JEF). Black-bellied Plover were in much smaller numbers than usual, but by contrast Am. Golden Plover made a generally good showing with record-early birds at Sudbury July 31 (JN) and Amherst I., Aug. 10 (RDW). Late sightings included a Killdeer on Manitoulin I., Nov. 14 (JWI), a Ruddy Turnstone at Ottawa Nov. 3 (BD *et al.*), an Am. Woodcock at Pelee Nov. 20 (EC) and a spotted Sandpiper on Nov. 17 at U.C.M.B.S. (RH). A Willet was at Long Pt. Aug. 9 (L.P.B.O.), and six birds at Moosonee Aug. 19 were described as this species, although unfortunately again no attempt was made to secure a skin although one of the birds was shot by an Indian (SC, RT). The five Purple Sandpipers reported are a low number for recent years, although 1968 and 1971 are comparable. A

Pectoral Sandpiper at Dundas Nov. 25 (RC) and two at Pickering Nov. 23 (JAK) were late, and the 109 at Sudbury Sept. 25 a good count (JN). The White-rumped Sandpiper flight was strong, with 106 records at Kingston between Sept. 21 and Nov. 10, and an amazing peak there of 59, Oct. 26 (RDW). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were again widespread. Birds ranged from Quetico (SP) to Ottawa and Pelee, with five reported both at Sudbury (JN *et al.*) and Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.) and 36 at Pelee with a peak of 29 on Sept. 2 (AR, *vide* AHK). Godwits are irregular in the south, and 4 reports of Marbled Godwits from the Tilbury-Pelee area, Sept. 6-14 (KO, JPK) and up to two birds at Pickering, Aug. 29-Sept. 15 (GAS, JAK) are the most in fall for many years. There were at least 24 Hudsonian Godwits, maintaining the strong showing of this species in the 1970s, with a peak of nine on Oct. 12 at U.C.M.B.S. (RH). American Avocet numbers were unprecedented for fall, as there were at least 10 birds in various localities in the south-west between Aug. 13 and Sept. 6 (m. ob.), as well as a bird at Long Pt. Sept. 1 (L.P.B.O.) and a dead bird at Long Lac, Oct. 9 (TT) the first for the Thunder Bay area (*vide* KD). Equally unusual were the nine Red Phalaropes seen between Sept. 2 — an exceptionally early date — and Nov. 17, along the lower Lakes and at Kettle Pt and Ottawa. Two to four is about the annual total for this species usually. Perhaps not surprisingly N Phalaropes also staged a positive invasion with possibly over 100 birds in all, in areas between Ottawa and Pelee and north to Sudbury.

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — Far fewer jaegers were reported than last year, and only one Pomarine, at Ipperwash Oct. 18 (DR): the account was not entirely satisfying but the observer experienced. Boat trips yielded a probable Parasitic near the Main Duck Is., Sept. 21 (RDW *et al.*) and another unidentified jaeger, and six to eight off Hamilton Sept. 22 all appeared Parasitics including one dark-phase adult (RC *et al.*) Elsewhere nine jaegers in the south-west were all called as Parasitic, and there was one at Ottawa Sept. 18 and 29 (TH *et al.*) and two or three elsewhere along L. Ontario. In many ways the most interesting jaeger report of the fall, however, was a dark immature on Aug 30 on Highway 11 at the Arctic Watershed sign (DCS), a most suggestive sighting. Two Great Black-backed Gulls at Port Hope Aug. 4 (ERM) probably reflect the small breeding population at the east end of L. Ontario. At Ottawa a hybrid Great Black-backed x Herring Gull was collected Sept. 25 and a second seen Nov. 16 & 26, and Roger Foxall notes the possibility of confusion with the Lesser Black-backed Gull. He hopes to publish a note on this shortly, as the hybrid is becoming more common.

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First year Thayer's Gull, Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 26, 1974.  
Photo / Tom Hince.

S.A.

Confusion brings up the matter of Thayer's Gulls, as Ottawa had five first year birds and one adult between Oct. 3 and Nov. 22, all identified in the field and subsequently collected and confirmed (RPi, RP, RAF), so clearly it can be done despite the skeptics. Using Ottawa documentation on earlier sightings the Ontario Records Committee reviewed immature specimens of *argentatus*, *thayeri* (collected as *a. thayeri*) and *glaucoides kumlieni* in the Royal Ontario Museum and the consensus was that indeed field identification was possible. However, the documentation being offered by observers from parts of the Province other than Ottawa was wholly inadequate for the job, and in some cases quite wrong: hence, none of the descriptions received for birds in the past fall are really adequate to eliminate plumage variations in other species. Apparently a note may be forthcoming from Ottawa and since in any case the O.O.R.C. will publish its annual report in June so much detail is inappropriate here: however, we would note that *thayeri* is intermediate in the appearance between Herring and Iceland Gulls (*kumlieni*). In the first year bird the primaries and tail are darker than the rest of the upper parts, but paler than in the Herring Gull, the head shape and bill approach the Iceland Gull, the under-primaries are pale, and there are a number of other subtleties. There is ambiguity on bill, leg and foot colour, which seem to be the only bases for most of the "observations" received. This is not to dispute that other "different" gulls appear and can be described, but to ascribe them to Thayer's without more available information seems foolhardy at best. A final word is that the immature *kumlieni* is not well described in most texts, and certainly some of the reports received seem to correspond to this race.

An adult and two imm. Ring-billed Gulls were at Quetico, where they are rare, Sept. 1 (SP). The last fall record of a Laughing Gull was in 1969, but this year there was one at Wheatley, Sept. 14-Oct. 5 (DR, AR, JWi). Yet another species to appear in bonanza numbers, probably the most ever, was Franklin's Gull. There were some 20 in the south-west between Sept. 20 and Nov. 6, with 10 at Pelee (m. ob.), an astonishing 20 at Hamilton, Sept. 29 (AE, WS), six at Long Pt. Aug. 28-Sept. 15 (L.P.B.O.) and isolated birds along L. Ontario east as far as Kingston Oct. 20 (RDW), and two at Ottawa Sept. 16 (SO) and Oct. 15-19 (m. ob.). In contrast Little Gull numbers were quite low over the period, and the only Black-legged Kittiwake reports were of up to three birds at Wheatley Oct. 29-Nov. 27 (BM *et al.*). By now it is obvious that Sabine's Gulls are regular off-shore on the lower Great Lakes in fall, and this year the Sept. 22 Hamilton boat trip had four and possibly five (RC *et al.*), but away from the Niagara ends of L. Ontario and L. Erie there are few reports and few are seen from land. This year, however, the only other sightings were from Pelee Oct. 14 and 29 (BM), the first there; and at Shirley's Bay Sept. 18-21 (RAF *et al.*), Ottawa's second ever. Ottawa had its first Forster's Tern Sept. 20-29 (RP, RAF) and there was a bird at Strathroy Aug. 24 (GM). Pelee is noted for its tern concentrations, and at the end of September early morning Com. Tern movements south along the Point were estimated at 10,000 hourly for at least two hours each day (BM). Inland reports of Caspian Terns were unusually numerous with the flock of 25 at Levack Sept. 8 (CBI) the most remarkable. A report of a Royal Tern at Kingsville, Aug. 29 (AW, RF) was suggestive, but rejected by the O.O.R.C. as too susceptible to confusion with the immature Caspian Tern for the single account to be accepted as the first sight record for the Province.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Mourning Dove populations continue to expand: there were reports of flocks up to 75, and four at Parry Sound Oct. 12 where Craig Campbell's first there in 11 years, while a bird at Homepayne Oct. 10-12 (JBM) was north of the species' range. Two Black-billed Cuckoos were recorded at Shippensburg I., Moosonee, July 21 (AW, PM). A moderate flight of Snowy Owls developed, with the first at Cannington Sept. 30 (*vide* RCL), but most birds appearing in the last few days of October and early November. The only Hawk Owl of the fall was at Englehart Oct. 20 (PWR). A Long-eared Owl killed in Nairn Twp., Sept. 3 (KM) was only the second Sudbury record, and the same area had an infrequent Saw-whet Owl sightings at River Valley Oct. 19 (RS, *vide* JL). The status of the Pelee flight was not known as banding has been discontinued there. The latest of several Com. Nighthawk records was a bird at Hamilton Oct. 11 (JC). The latest Chimney Swift was at Peterborough Oct. 3 (TB), but a remarkable 600 were at Dundas Marsh on Sept. 29 (AE, WS). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were also late and at Cambridge one lingered into November (D & SL).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — Adult Red-headed Woodpeckers with young at Tiny Marsh, Aug. 2-4, were the first nesting there (CJM). Ottawa's

second Red-bellied Woodpecker was on Sept. 1 (BD, BB, S & SG) and there was a good movement of both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, with more Hairies around than for the past seven years. The big news, however, was three-toed woodpeckers, with the first major flight since 1965-6. Black-backed were seen as early as July 20 at Gooderham (RCL) with at least 78 birds to report-time. Most appeared in early October and the flight was heaviest in the east with some 30 in Ottawa (*fide* RAF), but it extended into the south-west at Rondeau and in Lambton Co., and there was a peak of 9 on Oct. 13 on Manitoulin I. (JN). Northern Three-toeds followed the same traditional pattern, and 31 birds were seen from Oct. 13 on, with over 20 at Ottawa and an unprecedented three together at Kingston on Oct. 20 (RDW), but sightings only extended west to Wye Marsh and Richmond Hill.

**SWALLOWS, CROWS** — Late Swallows were everywhere this year. No less than 13 record late dates were listed with seven in November and Tree Swallows and Rough-winged Swallows present past the end of the period. Only some 13 November dates and one date of Dec. 1 are known to this compiler for all previous years and species combined! Only four Gray Jays were seen Oct. 13-Nov. 6, but Blue Jays again staged a massive late September flight with over 22,000 on three days at Holiday Beach alone (*fide* AHK). The Com. Crow flight was more prolonged but equally huge with some 75,000 in Essex Co. in early November (JPK). There were three Black-billed Magpies at Atikokan Oct. 1 (SP) and other birds near Highway 631 (DH) and at Crozier (IP). A Com. Raven was at Kettle Pt., Oct. 20 (AR).

**NUTHATCHES, WRENS** — Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a widespread movement, one of the best in recent years. A House Wren at Barrie Oct. 6 and a Winter Wren at Wasi Falls Nov. 10 (CH, HP) were late. Carolina Wrens were in better numbers than for many years and a minimum of 32 birds were seen with an unprecedented five at Kingston, Sept. 14-Nov. 10 (K.F.N.).

**MIMIDS THROUGH STARLINGS** — Mockingbirds occurred north and east to Hearst (HS), Pimisi Bay (Lde KL) North Bay (JNe) and L. Superior P.P. (DT). The north-west had two excellently described Varied Thrushes, at Crozier Oct. 8 (IP) and Thunder Bay Nov. 12 (JM *fide* KD), the first seen in Ontario in two years. Late thrushes included a Wood Thrush, Kingston Oct. 20 (*fide* RDW); a Swainson's, Bronte Oct. 28 (MJ); a Gray-cheeked, Ottawa Oct. 12 (TH); and a Veery, Hamilton Oct. 6 (AW *et al.*). By contrast a Hermit Thrush at Amherst I., Sept. 2 was early (RDW) as was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Stratford Aug. 24 (EE). There were 60 E. Bluebirds at Mississagi Light Oct. 13 (JN) and a pair were feeding young at Moosonee, July 24 (AW, PM). The only Bohemian Waxwings were eight at Ottawa and one at Whitby, all at the end of November (WEG *et al.*, GAS, GMo). The

N. Shrike flight was unexceptional, but started rather early from Oct. 14. Only two Loggerhead Shrikes were reported all fall! Starlings continue to increase, with sizeable flocks at Crozier for the first time (IP)

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A Warbling Vireo at Pimisi Bay Aug. 13 was the first ever for Mrs Lawrence's study area. Early records included an Orange-crowned Warbler at Hamilton Sept. 3 (DKP) and a Wilson's Warbler at Amherst I., Aug. 11 (AEH, GW). Among the sightings of rarer warblers were a Prothonotary Warbler at Dorchester Aug. 24 and 27 (CEH) and Kingston's second fall Hooded Warbler at P.E. Pt. Aug. 24 (RDW). Interestingly the London and Barrie tower kills each had both a Golden-winged Warbler and a Yellow-breasted Chat, and chats were also seen at Guelph, Stratford and Port Hope (DMcC *et al.*, EE, HC). Connecticut Warblers provided 10 reports, with a further 26 in the tower kills — a good number for this elusive species. All other vireo and warbler reports were of record-late birds, an impossible 37 in all, and only the extreme date by species will be listed here, grouped by area. At Peterborough, a Yellow-throated Vireo Nov. 3, a Red-eyed Vireo Nov. 9 and a Com Yellowthroat Nov. 11 (TB, JS, DM); at Pelee a Philadelphia Vireo Nov. 10, a Warbling Vireo Nov. 19 and a Chestnut-sided Warbler Nov. 23 (TG, EC, WB), at Ottawa a Solitary Vireo Oct. 20, a rare Golden-winged Warbler Oct. 27, a Tennessee Oct. 12, and a Canada Oct. 5 (BD, KB, TH, MG); in the London area a Black-and-white Warbler Nov. 19, a Cape May Nov. 29, and a Palm Dec. 1 (WM, DC, TNH); Simcoe Co had a Nashville Warbler Oct. 30 and a Black-throated Green Nov. 14 (AM, TL); Gananoque a Yellow Warbler Sept. 22 (RBS); the Toronto area an Orange-crowned Warbler Nov. 16, a N. Parula Nov. 18, a Magnolia Oct. 23 and an Ovenbird the next day, a Pine Warbler Dec. 1 (JMS, BKM, JAK, HH); and finally at Hamilton there were a Blackburnian Warbler Oct. 19, a Blackpoll Nov. 3, a Mourning Oct. 9 and a Wilson's Oct. 26 (MJ, RC, AW, DKP).

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — Five ♂♂ Bobolinks were on Shippans I., July 21 (AW, PM), but appeared to be transients. Blackbird reports were mainly of huge numbers of Red-winged and other species, from roosting flocks of 250-300,000 at Pelee (BM) and 130,000 at Rondeau (PDP) to 12,000 in 22 minutes' observation flying W at U.C.M.B.S. Oct. 14 (RH). Late birds were a N. Oriole at Lucknow Nov. 29 (CM) and a Scarlet Tanager at Ottawa Oct. 5 (TH, MG), and two tanagers were banded at Hornepayne (JBM, CAM). Kingston's earliest Rusty Blackbird was at P E Pt. Sept. 1 (K.F.N.) and a huge flock of 3500 were in W Gwillimbury Twp., Nov. 10 (CH, EW, CJM). Twelve Brewer's Blackbirds at Providence Bay Nov. 2 were Manitoulin's first in fall (JN), and a bird at Lakefield Oct. 7 (TB) Peterborough's first ever.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Cardinals bred at Ottawa for the first time (WEG) and there were birds north to Wasi Falls Nov. 26 and 30 (HP) and Gore Bay Aug. 8-11 (VR). Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were banded at Hornepayne, Aug. 24-31 (JBM). A bird at Peter-

borough Nov. 23 (DM) was late, as was an Indigo Bunting at Ottawa Sept. 21 (TH). The only Dickcissels were at P.E. Pt., Aug. 24 (RDW) and Kingston Sept. 20 (GW). It was not an outstanding winter finch fall, and space precludes much detail. In sum, there was a fair movement of Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches and Pine Siskins in October, scattered Pine Grosbeaks and redpolls, and only four or five reports of crossbills. A ♀ Evening Grosbeak with two fledglings at Kingston Aug. 5 (RDW) was a new breeding location for this species. The Tiny Marsh Henslow's Sparrow colony had 22 birds Aug. 4 (JHo, JW, CJM). Rarer species included a Lark Bunting at South Baymouth Oct. 14-21 (KDi *vide* CB) and two Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Oshawa Sept. 21 including one dead outside the City Hall, of all places (GAS). A report of a Lark Sparrow at Stratford Sept. 7 (EE) has no details to support it other than the fact that several persons saw it. Sparrow movement was poor on the whole, and in the nature of things would not provide the same deluge of late dates, but there were some from Homepayne; a Savannah and a Lincoln's Sparrow Oct. 18-19 and a Dark-eyed Junco Nov. 30. Other records there included a Field Sparrow Sept. 29, and two Harris' Sparrows Sept. 22-26 and Oct. 5 (JBM *et al.*); the area is, however, closer to the normal migration routes of this species than localities further south. A few Lincoln's Sparrows are still persisting in the remnant habitat at Wainfleet Bog (*vide* RFA) and a bird at P.E. Pt., Sept. 1 was Kingston's earliest (K.F.N.). Both Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings appeared early and in good numbers.

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WESTERN NEW YORK AND NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA — Although few rarities were observed in the region this fall, the passage of a series of strong cold fronts caused waves of migrants, a phenomenon more typical of spring in this region. The most pronounced wave occurred Sept. 22 when birds were grounded in such numbers that they presented, in the words of one veteran observer, "a veritable ornithological feast." Tragically, not all birds were grounded of their own volition. On the cloudy evening preceding this date, the largest tower kill ever recorded at the Elmira TV tower occurred. At least 844 individuals representing 35 species perished, bringing the season's total kill at that tower to over 1200 individuals of 44 species.

Snowfall over much of the region in early October thinned the ranks of late lingerers, but failed to produce an influx of normal winter visitors. Only the widespread arrival of Rough-legged Hawks and, to a lesser extent, Snowy Owls raised hopes of an exciting winter season as even Evening Grosbeaks were slow in arriving. Some winter finches were still unreported at the end of the period and those present were fewer than normal

LOONS, GREBES — Although Com. Loons were present in low-to-average numbers throughout the period, only two Red-throated Loons were seen, both on L. Erie Oct. 19 (MJ, WB). At least a dozen Red-necked Grebes were reported, with a maximum of seven counted on the early date of Oct. 5 on L. Ontario (M & TT). The **Eared Grebe**, a western straggler which has been noted with increasing regularity in the region, was reported Nov. 3 at Ft. Erie (m.ob., *vide* RA) and Nov. 7 at Webster Park (*vide* RO [no details]). Pied-billed Grebes were well distributed early in the period with a maximum of 31 at Montezuma N.W.R. Sept. 8 (WB), but were virtually unreported after early October except for 20 seen on Cayuga L. Nov. 23 (JG).

CORMORANTS, HERONS — Of the four Double-crested Cormorants reported, one on Chautauqua L., Nov. 1 (RS *et al.*) and two at Montezuma N.W.R. Oct. 29 (GD) are most unusual, since the fourth bird appeared at Niagara Falls, Ont., Nov. 23-24 (*vide* RA), a late date but expected locality. No invasion of southern waders materialized this fall and even regular migrants were seldom seen. Thirty Green Herons at a night roost Sept. 10 at Iroquois N.W.R. are exceptional. Near Dunkirk one bird remained as late as Oct 16 (CB). Great Egrets were reported from only four locations; one at Times Beach Aug. 7 (*vide* RA), 1-2 at Montezuma N.W.R. up to Sept. 24 (WB), two at Tonawanda Game Management Area Sept. 23, and several at nearby Iroquois N.W.R. where seven were counted Sept. 3-16 (*vide* RA). Black-crowned Night

Hérons were equally scarce with only two at Montezuma N.W.R. (WB), four at Presque Isle Sept. 27 (DF), five at Tift Nature Preserve, and a maximum of 15 on Sept. 12 at Iroquois N.W.R. (*fide* RA). While the status of this species has always been difficult to ascertain, it appears to be faring poorly. Following the occurrence this summer of a **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** at Braddocks Bay, two August reports (*fide* RO) from this area are presumed to be this same bird although no details were submitted. Except for two observations in early September on Presque Isle (DK), Least Bitterns escaped notice. American Bittern was only reported from Montezuma N.W.R., where the last was spotted Nov. 23 (JG). The absence of other reports seems to reflect a continued downward trend noted here previously.

**SWANS, GEESE** — Except for an exceptionally early bird found Oct. 6 at Charlotte by the G.O.S., the main movement of Whistling Swans through the region appears to have commenced about Oct. 20, reaching a maximum Nov. 15-18 when counts of 350 were taken at both Edinboro and Girard (DS, JB, *fide* RB). After failing to appear last year, a flock of 540 settled on Chautauqua L., Nov. 22 (RS). Twenty of these birds lingered until Nov. 29 (*fide* RO) and a single one remained on Cuba L. through Nov. 30 (*fide* RA). Canada Geese flocked into the region in late September just ahead of the season's first snowfall. Although they appeared in reduced numbers at some of their normal resting areas, i.e. Seneca L. (MJ), personnel at Montezuma N.W.R. estimated an incredible total of 23,000 present Oct. 19 (*fide* WB). This exceeds the previous New York state high fall count of 1973 by 5,000 birds. A flock of 449 Brant discovered at Sodus Bay Oct. 13 (D, M & TT) was the only evidence of their movement through the area although single birds were noted on L. Erie (RA *et al.*) and Cayuga L. (JG) in mid-November. Snow Geese stopped at Montezuma N.W.R. as early as Sept. 28, and were last seen Nov. 23 when two white and 16 blue morph birds were present. One to three Snow Geese were also reported from Iroquois N.W.R. and Presque Isle in mid-October (*fide* RA & RB).

**DUCKS** — All dabbling ducks appeared in normal numbers except for N. Shoveler and Wood Duck, which decreased. The Am. Wigeon appears to be continuing its increase. In keeping with recent trends (see *The Changing Seasons, Amer. Birds* 28 (5):883) observers continued to report larger numbers of Mallards than Black Ducks, this fall's ratio ranging from 3:1 (JG) to 10:1 (FG). Diving ducks generally arrived early but no remarkable concentrations occurred during the period and several observers remarked on the unusually low numbers. Thirty Redheads which descended on Montezuma N.W.R. Sept. 8 (WB) were extremely early as was a Ring-necked Duck seen near Dunkirk Sept. 28 (CB) and five Greater Scaup near Vineland Station, Ontario, Sept. 22 (*fide* RA). The only extralimital waterfowl identified were two **Harlequin Ducks**, a female well described in Dunkirk Harbor Nov. 16-23 (CB) and a male at Niagara Falls, Ont., Nov. 3-24 (*fide* RA), and a King Eider reported without details from Ft. Erie, Ontario Nov. 11-13 (*fide* RA). All three scoters were well represented. White-winged Scoters arrived

early, Sept. 22 (*fide* RA), but their maximum numbers during the period, 300 on Nov. 10 at Oklahoma Beach (R & SO), were easily surpassed by an immense flock of 6000 dark-winged scoters spotted on Sodus Bay Oct. 13 (D, M & TT, *fide* RO). Interestingly, only one report of a single Surf Scoter at Times Beach Oct. 6 (RA) preceded this flock's arrival. Very few Ruddy Ducks were reported although the first arrival was early, Sept. 24 (*fide* RA). Widespread reports of Hooded Mergansers were received with nearly 600 observed Nov. 22 on Chautauqua L., (RS) representing one of the highest totals ever reported in the region. A high count of 3000 Common Mergansers at Charlotte Pier in Rochester Oct. 30 (WB) is remarkable since virtually no other observers reported the species.

**HAWKS** — The total of 16 Turkey Vultures observed on the B.O.S. regional bird count Oct. 13 falls only two short of their previous October high. Other observers failed to observe this species after Oct. 2. Only four of more than 30 accipiter reports were of Goshawks, but the real surprise was that Cooper's Hawk reports outnumbered Sharp-shinned, a reversal of recent migration trends. However, a number of the Cooper's may have been known resident birds under surveillance since the summer, so any assessment of the current status of the two species would be premature. Red-tailed Hawks were found in normal numbers throughout, but a flight of 175 on Aug. 22 over Braddock's Bay (NH, *fide* RO) was both early and unusual for this area in the fall. Of about a dozen Red-shouldered Hawk reports, only one indicated that the bird was a local resident (CB). When compared with the immense numbers of Broad-winged Hawks which pass through the region each spring, this fall's total of five seems pathetic but is reflective, in part at least, of this species' reluctance to cross the Great Lakes into our region on its way south and of its virtual disappearance as a local breeder. Rough-legged Hawks abounded with several daily counts of 5-7 birds in October, while up to 17 were recorded on the L. Ontario plains Nov. 24 (*fide* RO). Only four Bald Eagles were observed, an adult and immature at Montezuma N.W.R. (WB), one immature on Iroquois N.W.R. (*fide* RA), and an adult at Conesus L., (RG, *fide* RA). Even this small number of reports nearly surpassed those of Marsh Hawks, since only four independent observers reported this species. However, members of the B.O.S. managed to locate 26 individuals in their region Oct. 13 (*fide* RA). Osprey numbers appeared normal. All three falcons were reported. The sole Peregrine Falcon was seen Sept. 22 on Curtis Road by the Connors (*fide* RO, [no details]) Both Merlins recorded were near L. Erie, one at Presque Isle Sept. 15 (RB, JHS, *fide* RB), another Sept. 23 and 24 near Dunkirk (CB). American Kestrels were widely reported.

**GALLIFORMES, RAILS** — As is too often the case, both these groups went essentially unreported by observers. Only one observer reported wild Turkeys. No meaningful evaluation of existing galliform population can be made although two reporters (JW, WB) indicated that Ring-necked Pheasant levels were low near Montezuma N.W.R. The only rail reports are from Presque Isle where a possible King Rail was seen Oct

20 (CW) and good numbers of Virginia Rails and Soras were recorded through September (DK). Common Gallinules continued in low numbers throughout the region, the only unusual report was of a late bird at Montezuma N.W.R. Nov. 3 (WB). Among the several concentrations of Am. Coots were 1000 birds Nov. 2 at Montezuma N.W.R. (WB) and an equal number at Chautauqua L. Oct. 25 (RS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Most shorebirds appeared in good numbers and several species occurred in unusual localities. Semipalmated Plovers were sparse, with the maximum 12 at Montezuma N.W.R. where one lingered until No. 2 (WB). Two Piping Plovers were recorded at Presque Isle, one Sept. 28 (DF, *vide* RB), the other "quite late" Oct. 13 (GB, *vide* RB) [both sans details]. Although the early snowfalls might have been expected to drastically reduce Killdeer numbers, members of the B.O.S. rounded up 749 Oct. 13 (*vide* RA). American Golden Plovers were widespread in small numbers; the most unusual report one of 13 at the Horseheads Industrial Complex Sept. 3 where even one was previously thought unusual (WH). Fifteen Black-bellied Plovers also appeared here Aug. 29 (WH), but this species was generally even less common in the region this fall than the Golden. Although Ruddy Turnstones are normally less common in the fall than the spring, they proved to be rare this season; two at Presque Isle in late August (DK *et al.*) constituting the only report. As usual the Am. Woodcock migration passed unnoticed, but the more readily spotted Com. Snipe was better reported with a maximum of 60 at Braddocks Bay Sept. 28 (T & MT, *vide* RO). Single Whimbrel reports from Braddocks Bay in late August and early September (m.ob., *vide* RO) marked the appearance of this irregular fall migrant. Upland Sandpipers were not reported after the end of August when the last birds left a breeding area near Horseheads (WH). Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers were poorly reported, with no records later than Oct. 13 (B.O.S., *vide* RA). This is a rather late date for the latter species if correct [no verification report]. From one to five Willets frequented the Buffalo area Aug. 13-Sept. 22, peaking Sept. 2 (*vide* RA). No unusual numbers or late Greater or Lesser Yellowlegs were reported. Up to seven Red Knot occurred in August at Times Beach where one remained until Oct. 12 (*vide* RA). The only other region reports (one to two individuals) came from Braddocks Bay (*vide* RO).

The appearance of one Purple Sandpiper near Shadigee Sept. 27 (DK) is a record early date for inland New York while three near Charlotte and another at Hamlin Beach Oct. 27 (*vide* RO) is a respectable number for late fall. The best area for Pectoral Sandpipers appears once again to have been near the Waterloo Dump where an effluent spray field for a vegetable processing plant attracted 41 individuals Oct. 4 (WB). White-rumped Sandpipers were more widely reported than most years with several reports of three birds and one as late as Nov. 23 (I & KJ, *vide* RO). Over a dozen Baird's Sandpiper reports were submitted, the season maximum five at Pendergast Pt. Sept. 1-6 (RS *et al.*). No details were provided on one individual found at Hamlin Beach on the extraordinarily late date of Nov. 2 (AK, ST, *vide* RO). A regional record of 900 Dunlin

were counted at Braddocks Bay Oct. 13 (RL, NH, *vide* RO) which might explain why most other counts were low. Species identification of dowitchers continues to be a perennial problem. While two "Short-billed" seen Nov. 14 at Montezuma N.W.R. were much more likely to have been Long-billed at that late date, little can be gained by renewing the debate. Although identification by vocalization continues to be a debated subject, observers should, when possible, record calls as a matter of course. Stilt Sandpipers were scarce almost everywhere, possibly because they were all, or at least 54 of them, at Montezuma N.W.R. on Aug. 4 (WB). The last five birds left Montezuma N.W.R. Nov. 5 only three days shy of the existing inland late date for the species November 7 proved to be the last date for both Semipalmated and W. Sandpipers (*vide* RO). The latter were unreported from Montezuma N.W.R. where they are ordinarily regular. Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers showed up at several unexpected sites including Presque Isle Aug. 25 (JAS, *vide* RB) [no details], where it was the first report in at least five years, and the Horseheads Industrial Center Aug. 29 to become the first record for Chemung County (WH) [excellent details]. The occurrence of a Hudsonian Godwit from Oct. 13-18 at Braddocks Bay (*vide* RO) and another at Iroquois N.W.R. Sept. 5 was noteworthy but is outclassed by the locally unprecedented total of 37 at Times Beach Aug. 17 (m.ob., *vide* RA). All Red Phalarope reports occurred between Nov. 10-23, with a maximum of three at Niagara-on-the-Lake (Happ, *vide* RA). All Wilson's Phalaropes were found between Aug. 23 and Sept. 15 when three were last seen at Montezuma N.W.R. (WB). An individual closely studied at Presque Isle Aug. 23 (DK *et al.*) is one of the very few western Pennsylvania records. Northern Phalaropes appeared between Aug. 31 and Sept. 26 except for five at the Waterloo Dump on the rather early date of Aug. 11 (WB).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — A dozen Parasitic Jaegers were reported between Aug. 24 and Nov. 24. Most unusual was an adult spotted flying low over an open field inland from L. Erie in the town of Pomfret Oct. 6 (CB). The only Pomarine Jaeger was identified at Hamlin Park Oct. 6 (WL, *vide* RO). An immature Glaucous Gull at Montezuma N.W.R. Nov. 2 was both early and unusual, constituting only the second record for the refuge (WB). Iceland Gulls arrived early, with one at Niagara Falls Nov. 3 (Happ, *vide* RA). Concentrations of gulls away from the Niagara R. are always of interest, but a report of 30,000 at Kendall Aug. 9 (WL, *vide* RO) is particularly intriguing. The Black-headed Gull which remained all November in the Iron Bay-Bussell Station area (m.ob.) was only the third local record. This species is still very rare in our region. Franklin's Gulls were present near Buffalo from Aug. 17 through the end of the period with up to five at Times Beach during October (*vide* RA). Little Gulls made a fine appearance both in the Niagara region, maximum five (*vide* RA), and at Rochester, maximum four (*vide* RO). Niagara Falls was visited by an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake Nov. 27 (Wagner, *et al.*, *vide* RA). The occurrence of another [immature ? no details] at Presque Isle Sept. 21 (DS, *vide* RB) was incredibly

early. Presque Isle, Times Beach, and Braddocks Bay were the only localities where Forster's Terns were found this fall (*fide* RB, RA & RO). November 17 seems a rather late date for a Com. Tern to have been frequenting Niagara Falls (RA *et al.*). A good report of 33 Caspian Terns on L. Ontario comes from N. Prosser Sept. 8 (*fide* RO).

**PARROTS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS** — A single Monk Parakeet is now nesting in Buffalo (RA) and two birds which appeared recently near Ithaca are believed to have been stolen from a research cage at Cornell University (DK). Only four Barn Owls were reported, all from three locations on the lake plains (CB, DK). This winter promises to be a good one for Snowy Owls with numerous reports, the earliest of which was Oct. 30 at Manitou (NH, *fide* RO). Despite the appearance of numerous Rough-legged Hawks and Snowy Owls, normally indicative of a low in northern microtine rodent populations, only nine Short-eared Owls were noted this fall. Major movements of Com. Nighthawks were noted Aug. 31 in Elmira (WH) and Sept. 10 at Rochester (MC, *fide* RO).

**SWIFTS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A tardy migrant Chimney Swift was present on the Ontario lakeshore Oct. 8 (PM *et al.*, *fide* RO). One Red-bellied Woodpecker was observed near Mill Village, Pa. where this species is still considered rare (DS, *fide* RB). Both three-toed woodpeckers were recorded, a Black-backed discovered Oct. 18 in N. Buffalo by Wilcove (*fide* RA [no details]), and a Northern seen Oct. 27 at the Oakland Rural Cemetery in Youngstown by McKales (*fide* RA). Both dates are unusually early for these rare winter visitants. A count of 47 E. Kingbirds at Mendon Ponds (WLI, *fide* RO) was unusually high. A Great Crested Flycatcher at Sodus Bay Oct. 5 (M & TT, *fide* RO) was very late. The 11 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers reported killed in the Elmira tower tragedy equal the previous state fall maximum if all were correctly identified. However, this seems a very late date for a major movement of this species, although Malcolm Lerch reports banding his last (of 22) on Oct. 1 this fall (*fide* FG). An Acadian Flycatcher reportedly banded Sept. 15 on Presque Isle (*fide* DF) was a rare fall record for the region and two E. Wood Pewee sightings Oct. 5 (CB, VP) are unusually late.

**NUTHATCHES, WRENS** — Red-breasted Nuthatches made a strong showing throughout the region with peak numbers (15 or more) reported in late September (CB, DF). Exceptional numbers of Winter Wrens also occurred during this time period in w. New York and at Presque Isle when up to 20 individuals per day were counted by a single observer (CB). The extremely rare Bewick's Wrens were present [no details] Sept. 26 & 27 at Braddocks Bay (NH, JS, *fide* RO). Carolina Wrens, which seem to be continuing their expansion following last year's mild winter, should be closely watched this winter to determine whether they can remain established in recently acquired territories. Only three reports of Short-billed Marsh Wrens were received, none after Sept. 30.

**THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES** — Thrushes were generally abundant in the western half of the region, particularly during the last week of September and first week in October when Hermit, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush migrations peaked. Hermit Thrushes were the most abundant with daily totals of up to 40 in early October (CB). Banding results (DK) and field observations (CB) indicated that, at least during the peak of migration, Gray-cheeked Thrushes were nearly as common this fall as Swainson's. Single Vee-ries banded Sept. 24 & 28 were unusually late birds (DK). November 24 is a late date for the maximum count (40) of Water Pipits (Rew *et al.*, *fide* RA). Flocks of Cedar Waxwings enjoyed a good berry crop throughout c. New York but no Bohemians were found anywhere in the region. Single N. Shrikes were found at seven localities, the earliest Oct. 14 at Carlton (WL, *fide* RO). Only three Loggerhead Shrikes were reported, the last at Presque Isle on the remarkably late date of Oct. 27 (JB, *fide* RB).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Only a single Yellow-throated Vireo was reported, Sept. 25 by Danner who also submitted the final Solitary Vireo report Oct. 25 (*fide* RA), following what must be considered a poor migration season for both species. Red-eyed Vireos were abundant, the 57 killed Sept. 21-22 at Elmira being the second largest kill reported in New York (91 perished at the Fire Island Lighthouse Sept. 23, 1887). Numerous Philadelphia Vireo reports were received, the most remarkable one of 17 individuals counted Sept. 21 by Schaffner *et al.* (*fide* RA). The warbler migration was good this season with most species well reported although it is sad to have to report that the high counts of ten species were recorded beneath the Elmira TV tower Sept. 22. These ten included: 20 Black-and-white, 27 Tennessee, 15 N. Parula, 89 Magnolia (state record), 31 Black-throated Blue, 33 Black-throated Green, 46 Blackburnian (previous state high 17 on Sept. 14, 1964), 32 Chestnut-sided, 246 Bay-breasted Warblers (exceeding a previous Sept. 15 record of 175 at the Empire State Building), and 38 Ovenbirds.

Noteworthy also were 25 Black-and-white Warblers seen Aug. 29 at Brighton (JC, *fide* RO) and a late report of two on Oct. 16 (Bourne, *fide* RA). Both Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers are early migrants, thus individuals of each banded Sept. 14 and 12, respectively, by Malcolm Lerch are interesting. Details seldom accompany reports of Orange-crowned Warblers, however four banded at Penn Yan (ML *fide* FG) and one netted near Barker (DK) lend credence to ten sight records, all in late September and early October. One Nashville Warbler banded at Penn Yan Oct. 30 (ML, *fide* FG) was rather late, as was a Yellow Warbler seen Oct. 1 by A. Stear *et al.*, (*fide* RA). A count of over 20 Cape May Warblers in a single hour (JC, *fide* RO) is a remarkable fall tally. Several observers remarked on decreasing numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers in recent years, but a relative change in abundance is difficult to quantify for a species as widespread and ubiquitous in its habits as this one is during migration. A wave of migrants Aug. 29 produced 25 Blackburnian and 75 Bay-breasted Warblers at Brighton (JC, *fide* RO). Late banding reports include a Chestnut-sided

Warbler Oct. 1 and Blackpoll Warbler Oct. 15 (ML, *fide* FG). No details accompanied any of the 5 Pine Warbler sightings reported between Sept. 11 and Oct. 4. Late occurring N. Waterthrushes include one banded Sept. 19 (ML, *fide* FG) and another Sept. 25 (DK). Malcolm Lerch reports banding one Connecticut Warbler on the early date of Sept. 6. Twelve Mourning Warblers were reported Sept. 23 - Oct. 5, including three banded Sept. 26 (ML *fide* FG), one Sept. 28 (DK), and a maximum of four seen per day (CB). Single Hooded Warblers reported Sept. 22 (CB) & 24 (Keoples, *fide* RA) were the records for the season.

**ORIOLES, TANAGERS** — Seven Orchard Orioles seen Aug. 9 at Carlton (WL, *fide* RO) were the only reports for the region. One tardy N. Oriole was at Durand Nov. 24 (RS, *fide* RO) an exceptionally late date for this species which rarely attempts to overwinter. The Oct. 13 occurrence in Webster of a lingering Scarlet Tanager was noted by W. Lloyd and M. Sunderland (*fide* RO).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeak migration peaked Sept. 20 - 25 with maximum daily counts of 12-20 (VP, CB). Six individuals noted Oct. 6 by N. Henderson (*fide* RO) were the earliest reports of Evening Grosbeaks, which occurred in low numbers through the end of the period. The only reports of Com. Redpolls (one) and Pine Siskins (3) came in the second week of November (*fide* RA). In marked contrast to the general absence of winter finches was the appearance of at least ten White-winged Crossbills at Belmont (JSo, *fide* LB) Sept. 1, some of which were sporadically reported throughout the remainder of the period. A Le Conte's Sparrow carefully studied on Presque Isle by Black River Audubon Society members Oct. 20 at dis-

tances down to ten feet (CW) constitutes one of the very few acceptable regional records of this elusive sparrow. Henslow's Sparrows are seldom reported during the post-breeding season, so a sight record [no details] Oct. 22 in Mecklenburg (JG) may be of interest. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow fatally injured in a window collision Oct. 10 in Fredonia is now in the S.U.N.Y. Biology Department collection (*fide* RA). All other sparrows, with the possible exception of White-throated Sparrows which peaked in early October (CB), were reported in below normal numbers, although 12 reports of Lincoln's Sparrows is about average. All three Lapland Longspurs reported were on Presque Isle (*fide* RB), where two with Snow Buntings on Sept. 28 were incredibly early. The 300 Snow Buntings estimated at Shore Acres No. 3 & 4 (JE, *fide* RO) were the only sizeable concentration during the period.

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## APPALACHIAN REGION

/ George A. Hall

"It was a great season! It was a so-so season! It was a poor season!" All of these and shades in between were used by the various reporters this year. More than ever before it depended on where you were, and when, to give a good characterization of the season. The contrasts were nowhere more evident than at the two big banding stations located perhaps 90 airline miles apart in the northern part of the Region. At the Powdermill Nature Reserve (below, P.N.R.) near Ligonier, Pa. only 4100 birds were banded in three months (three-year average is 6300), and 24 species were handled in markedly lower-than-normal numbers, while only eight species were in above-normal numbers (RFL). On the other hand at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (below, A.F.M.O.) in Grant-Tucker Cos., W. Va. a record high of 7200 birds was banded (three-year average of 2800) and 18 species were caught in record numbers during six weeks of operation (GAH). The reports of the passerine species that follow will draw heavily on the data from these two stations simply because the quantitative data they supply probably have more significance than the more impressionistic reports from field observers.



The August weather was about normal, but at Pittsburgh September was cooler and wetter than normal, October cooler and drier than normal, and November about normal. Early September was mild and the first cold weather did not arrive until the last week of the month. The first few days of October were

very cold, and it snowed in the north and at higher elevations. The A.F.M.O. banders were under about two inches of howling gales at that station at 4000 foot elevation. After this early spell the weather moderated and the rest of the period was very mild, with no winter weather until the last week in November.

Despite the relatively summer-like weather of early September the southbound migration was somewhat earlier than usual, and the reports that follow note many early arrival and early peak dates. At A.F.M.O. the real peak of migration came Sept. 15-20, about 10 days earlier than normal, and it climaxed on September 16 when a fantastic total of 660 birds were captured in 60 net-hours of effort.

Only two reports came of tower-kills of migrants, a TV tower at Youngstown, O. produced a total of 268 birds in three major kills, Sept. 28, Oct. 1, and Oct. 3 (WB), while a TV tower at Knoxville had a sizeable kill on Sept. 14-15 (JBO). No kills were reported from the motel lights atop the Blue Ridge near Waynesboro, Va. (RS) nor the power plant stacks in s. Ohio (JS) this year.

LOONS, GREBES AND HERONS — Again this year Com. Loons were reported in rather low numbers, although 16 seen Oct. 6 from the Tuscarora Mt., Pa. hawk lookout was of interest (CG). The only report of a Red-throated Loon came from Pymatuning L., Nov. 24 (RFL). Two Red-necked Grebes at State College, Pa., Oct. 9-10 were unusual for that area (WC).

The northward incursion of southern herons was more noticeable this year than in any recent year. The Great Egret, which is seen every season, was reported from Seneca L., O., Aug. 30 (JS), Charleston, W. Va., Sept. 12 (GK) and Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept. 11-21 (GE). The much rarer Little Blue Heron was seen at Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., Aug. 3-17 (GM & KM, *fide* DF) and at McClintic Wildlife Station, near Pt. Pleasant, W. Va., Aug. 15 (NG) while the very uncommon Snowy Egret was seen at Yellow Creek S.P., Aug. 11 (GM & KM). A Louisiana Heron was reported from Dalton, Ga., Aug. 12, the first local record (SP, *fide* AH) and one that had been injured by a car was brought to the Asheville N.C. zoo (RRu). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was at Elizabethton, Tenn., Aug. 16-24 (GE). Besides these unusual records the most interesting heron report came from Blackwater Falls S.P., W. Va. where an intensive migration of Black-crowned Night Herons was observed on the night of Sept. 14-15. The birds were heard calling throughout the night and several hundred must have passed over (WW). The Asheville zoo also had an Am. Bittern which had been struck by a car (RRu). A White Ibis was seen at Chattanooga (KD — no date given), and one was at Alcoa, Tenn., Aug. 29 (MWi).

WATERFOWL — It was not a good season for duck watching. Perhaps the absence of pronounced weather disturbances during the key part of the season caused them to fly over us without stopping. There were some good concentrations in a few places, i.e. Beaver Run Reservoir in w. Pennsylvania (DF), but most places saw very few. The one species that was in above-normal numbers almost throughout the Region was the Hooded Merganser.

Waterfowl did begin to arrive extremely early with Green-winged Teal at Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., Aug 3 (PH) and Am. Wigeon there Aug. 18 (DF), and N Shoveler at L. Arthur, Pa., Aug 25 (DF). Particularly early were the first flights of Canada Geese seen at Newcomerstown, O., Sept. 18 (ES), State College, Pa., Sept. 20 (WC) and at Tuscarora Mt., Pa., Sept. 20 (CG). At Pymatuning L. the population of Canada Geese was about normal at 4-5000 on Nov. 16 (RFL). Whistling Swans appeared early at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Oct 5 (MC & CHa). This year the swan flight did not deviate very much from the rather narrow normal flight path and the species was reported only from places on that route except that one at Boone L., Tenn., Nov. 11 (MD & JW) was far far out of range.

Snow Geese (white phase) were reported from Raccoon Creek S.P., Pa., Oct. 5-13 (NK) and Pymatuning L., Nov. 24 (RFL) while the blue phase was seen at Seneca L., O., Oct. 18 (JHa, *fide* JS), Pymatuning L., Nov. 24 (RFL) and L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 27-Nov. 4 (*fide* DF). A White-fronted Goose was at Elizabethton, Tenn., Nov 15 (MD & SG, *fide* GE) and one (the same?) was reported from Chattanooga (no date — KD). A Brant was also reported from Chattanooga (KD). The only reports of unusual ducks were: Surf Scoter, Crawford Co., Pa., Oct. 9 (RFL), White-winged Scoter, Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Oct. 24 (JV) and Oldsquaw, Cumberland, Md., Nov. 5 (JP).

RAPTORS — There continues to be an apparent improvement in the overall raptor picture. This year more people than ever were manning the ridges to count hawks for prolonged periods. At Tuscarora Mt. in s. Pennsylvania a total of 90 days of observation from August to Nov. 30 counted 4482 hawks of 14 species (CG). From Sept. 13 to Sept. 22 a total of 10,629 hawks of 11 species were listed at Peters Mt., Monroe Co., W. Va. (GHu). The Tennessee Ornithological Society (T.O.S.) counted 23,600 hawks, mostly Broad-winged during the season with 13,250 Broad-winged tallied at the Mendota Fire Tower (TF). These three stations were major efforts but several smaller projects were active and they too had good years. The two peak one-day counts were 4300 Broad-winged at Mendota Tower, Sept. 16 (TF) and 2684 Broad-winged at Peters Mt., Sept. 20 (GHu). At Waynesboro, Va. it was noted that the migrating hawks were out over the Great Valley rather than on the ridges (RS), while in the Charleston hill country very few hawks were seen this year in contrast to previous years (GK). Some reported high concentrations of Broad-winged were a group of 400 at one time near Mt. Mitchell, N. C., Sept 28 (DC), a flock of 470 at Milepost 203 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Sept 22 (RK), and a flight of 800 in five minutes at Peters Mt., Sept 16 (GHu).

Both the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks seem to be doing well, and there was a belated report of Sharp-shinned nesting near Athens, O. with the recently abandoned nest found on Aug. 2 (HS & NS). There was a surprising number of Goshawk reports, with some unusually early dates: Sept. 8, Allegheny Co., Pa. (MCh), and Pipestem S.P., W. Va. (SM), Sept 14 & 19, Somerset Co., Pa. (GSa & RSa), Pymatuning L., Oct. 16 (RFL), Nov. 27, Youngstown, O. (WB), and

four sightings at Tuscarora Mt. (CG). While there were fewer-than-usual reports of Rough-legged Hawks both the Red-tailed and Red-shouldered seem to be doing well. The total number of Ospreys reported, including 93 sighted from Tuscarora Mt. (CG), was most heartening. There were seven sightings of Bald Eagles reported Peters Mt., W.Va., Sept. 19 (GHu), Pymatuning L., Pa., Sept. 29 and Erie N.W.R., Pa., Sept. 30 (RFL), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Oct. 5 (MC & CHa), and three sightings at the Tuscarora Mt., Pa. lookout (CG). Tuscarora Mt. also had 23 sightings of Golden Eagles through the season while other reports came from Peters Mt., Sept. 16, Cove Mt. W.Va., Sept. 17 (GHu), Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mt. N.P., Nov. 16 (MWi, *fide* JBO). Peregrines were reported from Peters Mt., Sept. 16 & 19 (GHu), Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina, Sept. 28 (RRu), State College Pa., Oct. 19 (DB, *fide* WC), L. Arthur, Pa., Nov. 23 (DF) and three sightings at Tuscarora Mt. While these sightings were of great interest, the raptor of the fall was a **Swallow-tailed Kite** which was present at Cumberland, Md from Aug 17 to about Sept. 19 (KH). This is probably the fifth Maryland record, the first from the mountainous part of the state, and indeed is apparently the first record for the whole Allegheny Mountain region since 1908.

**CRANES AND RAILS** — The only report of Sandhill Cranes was on Nov. 16 from Norris L., Tenn., where they are fairly regular (JH, *fide* JBO). A Virginia Rail at St. Marys, W.Va. Aug. 11 was early for a migrant (JS), and one on Nov. 22 at State College was quite late (MW). A Purple Gallinule at McClintic Wildlife Station, W.Va., Sept. 11 was perhaps only the sixth record for the state. The migration of Am. Coot was exceptionally good for this Region.

**SHOREBIRDS, GULLS AND TERNS** — Shorebirds are not a big number in this Region and as usual most places reported very few, but at State College almost daily watches at the local sewage ponds, and at two w. Pennsylvania reservoirs that had low water resulted in some very good records. Most unusual was the large number of reports from widely spread areas of Am. Golden Plovers, usually very rare here. They were sighted at Weirton, W.Va., Sept. 10 (RRi), L. Oneida, Pa., two on Aug. 29 (MG & BS, DF), Seneca L., O. two, Sept. 26 (JS), Waynesboro, Va., Oct. 1 (MH, *fide* RS), Pymatuning L., Oct. 29 (RFL), and Canaan Valley, W.Va., late Sept. (JSu). Other unusual records were: Ruddy Turnstone at State College, Aug. 4 (RM, *fide* MW) and at L. Oneida, Pa., Aug. 29 (MG & BS); Willet at Austin Springs, Tenn., Aug. 11 (GE) and 30 counted during the season at Chattanooga (KD), White-rumped Sandpiper at Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., Aug. 18 (DF) and L. Oneida, Sept. 13 (BS) and Crawford Co., Pa., Oct. 27 (late — RFL); Long-billed Dowitcher at Cumberland, Sept. 4 (JP); and Stilt Sandpipers at L. Oneida (MG) and Cumberland Sept. 4 (JP). The best shorebird record of the season was the Buff-breasted Sandpiper at State College, Aug. 28, the first local record (RM, *fide* MW). Sanderling and Dunlin were much more common at the few good sites than is usual for the Region, and there were many more than the usual number of reports of Baird's Sandpiper.

Northern Phalaropes were reported from State College, Aug. 10 (EB, *fide* MW), L. Oneida, Pa., Aug. 26-29 (AG & PU, *fide* DF) and at Cedar Mountain, N.C., Sept 9 (HR).

A flight of 600 Bonaparte's Gulls at Pymatuning L. Nov. 16 was unusual. Forster's Terns were reported from Watauga L., Tenn., Sept. 17 & 29 (GW, *fide* GE) and from Knoxville Sept. 29 (JT, *fide* JBO) and the Caspian Tern seen at Donegal, Pa., Sept. 23 was apparently the first local record (RCL).

**CUCKOOS AND OWLS** — The scarcity of both cuckoo species reported earlier continued into the fall, but a young Black-billed just out of the nest on Sept. 14 in Monroe Co., W.Va. was unusual (NL).

Many observers commented that both Great Horned and Barred Owls were encountered more frequently than usual. The only report of Short-eared Owl came from State College, Oct. 27 (MW), while Saw-whet Owls were reported from the Blue Ridge Parkway in s. Virginia on Oct. 5 (RK) and from P.N.R., Oct. 28 (RFL). The Snowy Owl invasion had barely touched the Region by the end of the period with reports from Allegheny Co., Pa. Oct. 26 (PW, *fide* DF) and one shot by hunters near Youngsville in n. Pennsylvania (WH).

**NIGHTHAWKS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND WOODPECKERS** — The Com. Nighthawk flight peaked about Aug. 29-30 in the north and in early September farther south. Numbers were generally good with several nightly counts running over 1000, but oddly none were seen at the Tuscarora Mt. hawk lookout (CG). Two late dates were 200 at Waynesboro, Va., Sept. 28 (MH, *fide* RS) and one at Lewisburg, Pa., Oct. 10 (CHs).

At P.N.R. 114 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded, 33 percent above average (RCL). Migrating Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen in good numbers from some of the hawk watching stations and at A.F.M.O. At Akron, O. the Red-headed is now the third most abundant resident species of woodpecker (PWi) but this isn't true elsewhere in the Region.

**FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — Although there were a few reports of good numbers, the overall flight of flycatchers species was poor. Eastern Kingbirds were quite scarce at most places but a total of 23 seen at L. Arthur, Pa., Aug. 10 was unusual (SR, *fide* DF). The flight of E. Phoebe was poor and at P.N.R. only 25 (average 48) were banded (RCL). Least Flycatchers were normal in numbers (150 banded) at P.N.R. (RCL) but low at A.F.M.O. (4 banded — GAH). On the other hand there was good movement of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers with 93 banded at P.N.R. (average 48 — RCL) and numerous sight records from Akron (PWi) and Wise, Va. (RP). The Olive-sided Flycatcher is often overlooked in the Region in the fall, but reports came in good numbers from throughout the Region.

Barn Swallows still had young in the nest at Lewisburg, W.Va. Aug. 10 (CHs) and at Clarksville, Pa. the last swallows fledged Aug. 16 and the birds departed on the 24th (RB). No good data came in on the big fall Purple Martin roost near Charleston, which was largely inaccessible this year (CK). Some late swallow dates

were Cliff Swallow and Purple Martin over Peters Mt., Sept. 20 (NL) and Rough-winged Swallow at L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 6 (DF).

**CORVIDS, TITMICE AND NUTHATCHES**—It is heartening that the Com. Raven continues to increase in the Region. It was more common than ever in the Lock Haven, Pa. area (PS), and reports came from Mt. Davis, Pa. (NL), Peters Mt. (NL), Warm Springs Mt. Va. (CK), numerous records from the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Mt. Mitchell area (DC), and well away from the mountains it was seen at Tomlinson Run S.P., W. Va. on the Ohio R., Oct. 9 (JO, *vide* NL). There were no reports of Fish Crows on the upper Susquehanna R. at Lock Haven this year (PS). The Blue Jay migration at A.F.M.O. was not as heavy as in most years (GAH) but record counts were made in the Chattanooga area (KD).

In late October there was a minor invasion of Black-capped Chickadees but this did not compare with the invasions of a few years ago. At P.N.R. 93 were banded (RCL), at Morgantown they were more common than the resident Carolinas (GAH), and a few were reported as far south as Charleston (CK). Red-breasted Nuthatches were extremely scarce, but at Morgantown the White-breasted Nuthatch has made a good comeback after being almost totally absent for a year (GAH). Brown-headed Nuthatches were once again found in Buncombe Co., N.C. having been found there only two or three times in this century (RRu).

**WRENS, MIMIDS AND THRUSHES**—A very late House Wren was reported from Elizabethton, Tenn., Nov. 2 (GE). At A.F.M.O. the movement of Winter Wrens was remarkable with 32 banded for the season (previous season high had been 6—GAH). Readers of these accounts are probably tired of reading that the Carolina Wren is doing extremely well, but this explosion continues and it was reported as numerous at Warren, Pa. (WH) and Meadville, Pa. (RFL) in the extreme north of the Region.

The Gray Catbird flight was poor at P.N.R.: 159 banded compared to an average of 213 (RCL) and poor also at Morgantown (GAH). It may be that the northward expansion of the Mockingbird is slackening off since there were rather few reports from w. Pennsylvania (DF) and at P.N.R. populations have leveled off and may be declining (RCL).

There was a heavy migration of robins at Morgantown in the first two weeks in October (GAH), and one at the Tuscarora Mt. hawk station Oct. 27-30 with flocks of up to 100 seen (CG). Wood Thrushes were about normal at P.N.R. (RCL) and slightly above normal at A.F.M.O. (GAH). At both P.N.R. (179 banded—RCL) and A.F.M.O. (243 banded) the Swainson's Thrush flight was above average but at both places it was well below the 1973 season totals. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were quite low, however, with only 50 per cent of normal numbers banded at P.N.R. and a similar result at A.F.M.O. The tower kill at Knoxville on September 15 showed a count of 103 Swainson's Thrushes, 7 Gray-cheeked Thrushes and 115 Veerys (JBO). This last figure is remarkable not only for being rather late, but normally the Veery is almost unreported in fall in this area.

**KINGLETS AND WAXWINGS**—The numbers of both kinglet species were quite high at most places. At P.N.R. 241 (average 237) Ruby-crowneds were banded while at P.N.R. 131 Golden-crowneds and 105 Ruby-crowneds, both record highs, were banded (GAH). There were some early Ruby-crowned reports, Sept. 7, Allegheny Co., Pa. (DF) and Sept. 15, A.F.M.O. and somewhat more Ruby-crowneds remained in the Region at the end of the period than is normal.

Cedar Waxwings, which had been scarce at some places this spring, were common throughout the Region, although the flights past A.F.M.O. were not as heavy as in 1973. At Morgantown 142 were banded in October (GAH).

**PIPITS AND VIREOS**—Water Pipits were reported in good numbers from Bald Eagle S.P. (MC & CHa), Sept. 20, Roan Mt., Tenn., Oct. 5 (FB), Oakland, Md., Sept. 27, Kanwaha Co., W. Va., Oct. 22 (NG), Breathitt Co., Ky., Oct. 26 (PA), and Crawford Co., Pa., Oct. 27 (RFL). In the Great Valley at Waynesboro, Va., there had been only one previous record of the pipit but this year between Oct. 28 and November 24 at least nine reports, including flocks of up to 400 were made (RS).

Red-eyed Vireos were low at P.N.R. (71 banded compared with 131 average—RCL) but slightly above average at A.F.M.O. (GAH). The Sept. 15 tower kill at Knoxville produced 247 Red-eyed Vireos, the most numerous species. It was also the most numerous at the Youngstown tower kills but amounted there to only 38 birds (WB). White-eyed Vireos were well above normal at P.N.R. (RCL) which is in the northernmost part of the range. There were sight records for Philadelphia Vireo from Lock Haven, Pa., Sept. 8 (MC & CHa) and Breathitt Co., Ky., Sept. 22 (PA) while five were found in the Youngstown tower kills (WB) and one in the Knoxville kill (JBO). At P.N.R. only 9 (average 26) were banded (RCL) but at A.F.M.O. a new high of 33 was attained.

**WARBLERS**—The warbler flight produced the usual mixed results with Raccoon Creek S.P., Pa. (NK), Akron (PW), and Wise, Va. (RP) the movement was poor while at Marietta, O. (JS), Charleston, (CK), East Liverpool, O. (NL), Dalton, Ga. (AH), and A.F.M.O. (GAH) it was unusually heavy. Elsewhere things were considered "normal". Those places that had good flights generally had very large numbers as well as long species lists. This was particularly true at A.F.M.O. where 5994 warblers of 25 species were banded. By far the most spectacular species at several places was the Cape May Warbler. At A.F.M.O. a total of 1224 was banded and on Sept. 16 the day's total was 328 which exceeded the previous season high (GAH). In great contrast was the report of only 83 (50 per cent of average) banded at P.N.R. (RCL). Nashville and Yellow-rumped Warblers and Am. Redstarts had good flights at most places. At A.F.M.O. the leading species besides the Cape Mays were Blackpolls (1316), Tennessees (913), Black-throated Blues (769), and Black-throated Greens (406—GAH). At P.N.R. all of these except the Tennessee were below normal (RCL). Hooded Warblers were above normal at P.N.R. (RCL). Pine Warblers (seldom reported in the fall) were widespread and numerous, particularly in the Pittsburgh

area (DF). There were more than the usual numbers of reports of Orange-crowned Warblers. There were four Swainson's Warblers in the tower kill at Knoxville, another species seldom seen by local birders (JBO). The most unusual records were a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at State College, Aug. 10 (EB, *fide* MW), for the second local record, and a **Kirtland's Warbler** in Somerset Co., Pa., Sept. 21-22 (RMu, *fide* DF).

The migration started off rather early with such premature arrivals as Tennessee, Aug. 4 and Nashville, Aug. 11 at P.N.R. (RCL) and Black-throated Blue, Aug. 11 at Yellow Creek S.P., Pa. (GM & KM). At A.F.M.O. the first big wave came at about the normal time, Aug. 31-Sept. 2 but the major movement was from Sept. 15-20, a week early. The big push in the last week of September was up to its normal numbers but it seemed dwarfed by what had gone before. As mentioned in the introduction the peak day at A.F.M.O. was Sept. 16. On that same day a very intensive migration was noticed at milepost 303 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in s. Virginia. Over 3200 warblers were counted crossing the mountain in a period of an hour and 45 minutes (RK). The similarity to the events there with those routinely seen at A.F.M.O. is remarkable and this suggests that there may be many as yet undiscovered places where warblers cross the mountains in massive numbers. The peak in the third week of September was also evident in w. Pennsylvania (DF). There were some noteworthy late dates: Black-throated Green, Oct. 26, Allegheny Co., Pa. (WHa, *fide* DF), Mourning, Oct. 26 at Morgantown (GAH), Magnolia, Oct. 28 and Nashville, Nov. 6 at P.N.R. (RCL) and Hooded, Nov. 24 at Blacksburg, Va. (JM).

**BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS**— The blackbird "explosion" seems to be a thing of the past. Numbers have stabilized for most species, although these are higher than they were prior to the explosion. Several good-sized wintering concentrations were reported to be building up in the Region and these will be discussed in the next account. The Rusty Blackbird was much more common than usual, as for example exceptionally large flocks at Richmond, O., Nov. 2 (CB) and Warren, Pa., Nov. 13 (CP, *fide* WH).

A Western Tanager was carefully identified on Guest Mt near Wise, Va., Sept. 11-12 (RP). Scarlet Tanagers were in below-normal numbers at both P.N.R. and A.F.M.O.

**FRINGILLIDS**— From all early indications it does not appear that this will be a "finch winter," and with the current price of bird feed perhaps it is just as well. Evening Grosbeaks were reported as early as Sept. 17 at Warren, Pa. (WHi, *fide* WH), Oct. 5 in Allegheny Co. (GR & MR, *fide* DF) and Oct. 8 at Tuscarora Mt. (CG), but the general arrival was not until around Nov. 1. In November they appeared in small numbers throughout the Region, with no concentrations reported. Purple Finches staged another good flight in late October but there were fewer than last year. House Finches were reported from the Lock Haven (PS) and Waynesboro (RS) areas where they have been for some time and a new location at Butler, Pa. (FP). Pine Siskins were reported only from Roan Mt., Tenn. in August and September and flock in November (TMS), Bald Eagle

S.P., Pa., Sept. 20 (JV), Lock Haven, Nov. 8 (MHi) and Breathitt Co., Ky., Nov. 17 (PA). The only redpoll report came from Wise, Va., Oct. 17, the third county record (RP). Red Crossbills were reported at Eastman Mt., Ga., from Sept. 2 on (*fide* AH), from Moncove L., W.Va., Sept. 17 (NL), and Wise, Va. Nov. 2 & Nov. 16 (RP).

A Dickcissel at Lewisburg, W.Va. on Oct. 28 was the first county record (CHj). Unusual sparrow records were: Henslow's in Knox Co., Tenn., Oct. 13 (JH, *fide* JBO); Clay-colored at Wise, Va., Oct. 5 (second county record — RP); **Le Conte's Sparrow** at Wise, Nov. 3 (third state record — RP) and Harris' at Akron, Nov. 25 (JE, *fide* PWi). Tree Sparrows may have started another decline in n. West Virginia; they were very scarce there (GAH) and at East Liverpool, O. (NL) White-throated Sparrows were generally in good numbers, and the trend for more winterers to the north continued. A very early record was Sept. 12 at Lewisburg, W.Va. (CHs). Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows were reported more widely than is usual in the fall, but Fox Sparrows appeared to be scarce. Snow Buntings were reported only from State College, Oct. 30 (MW) and there were no reports of Lapland Longspurs.

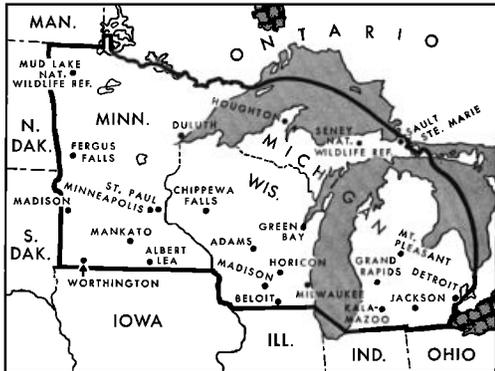
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Deadline for all Winter Season reports to reach Regional Editors is April 10, 1975. Your cooperation is to your advantage.

## WESTERN GREAT LAKES

/ Al Maley

October and November are two of the most exciting months of the year for birding in the Region. The leaves have fallen and the warblers have fled, yet there are many good birds waiting to be found. This fall was no exception, with eruptions of Three-toed Woodpeckers



and Snowy Owls and the presence of a motley crowd of vagrants of intriguing origin. Why, for example, would a Golden-fronted Woodpecker want to come to Michigan? Or a Black-throated Sparrow to Minnesota? The weather offered little explanation. Early frosts in September and snow the first week in October were typical throughout the Region, perhaps presaging a hard, cold winter. The cold relented in mid-October and November though, possibly accounting for a smattering of late warbler sightings during the first few weeks of November.

The high water levels of L. Erie continued to provide good shorebirding in that part of Michigan while other areas were forced to rely more and more on the unscenic but fruitful sewage lagoons.

**LOONS, GREBES, CORMORANTS** — One Arctic Loon was reported from L. Mille Lacs, Crow Wing Co., Minn. Nov. 2-3, which is about the quota for the Region. Two Red-throated Loons in early November in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and up to five in late October and early November in Ozaukee Co., Wisc. are also about normal. Wisconsin observers found 11 Red-necked Grebes Aug. 25-Oct. 6, while Michigan observers found only two, both at Rogers City Sept. 28. The only W. Grebes, five in all, were seen during the period Oct. 9-14 in Minnesota. Six White Pelicans appeared in Ashland Co., Wisc., Nov. 11. The Double-crested Cormorant, which seems to be hanging on in the w. end of L. Erie, is still regularly found in Wisconsin, where a maximum of 150 was present Sept. 7 at the Grand River Marsh.

**HERONS, FLAMINGO** — Several interesting heron records in Monroe Co., Mich. included a Little Blue Heron and two Louisiana Herons in late August as well as a large influx of Great Egrets (over 300 present), an event possibly related to the occurrence of 90 at the Agassiz N.W.R., Minn. Aug. 31. A total of seven Cattle

Egrets, two in Wisconsin and five in Minnesota, were reported. The only Yellow-crowned Night Herons noted were three in s. Wisconsin. At the Agassiz N.W.R. in the n.w. corner of the Region, an unlikely Am. Flamingo of unknown origin was present Sept. 25.

**WATERFOWL** — Interesting waterfowl records seem to fall into two categories: those of thousands of individuals of the common species or of single individuals of the rare species. The former include "thousands" of Whistling Swans migrating near Port Huron, Mich. Nov. 17; 185,000+ Canada Geese at Horicon N.W.R. in Wisconsin Oct. 6; 8-15,000 ducks (many Redheads) migrating in Berrien Co., Mich. Oct. 25-26; 70,000 Canvasbacks Nov. 1 with 26,000 Am. Wigeon Oct. 7 in La Crosse Co., Wisc. and 34,000 of the latter at Agassiz N.W.R. Oct. 17. The rare species reports include: single Harlequin Ducks Aug. 22-Oct. 6 in Milwaukee Co., Wisc. and Nov. 29 in St. Joseph, Mich.; King Eider on Nov. 23 at Petoskey, Mich.; and finally a Cinnamon Teal Aug. 17 in Yellow Medicine Co., Minn.

**HAWKS, EAGLES, FALCONS** — The Goshawk numbers at Duluth's Hawk Ridge were down this year; nevertheless an impressive total of 1300 was seen. A substantial 32,000 Broad-winged Hawks were counted there as well. Three Swainson's Hawks, all in Wisconsin, were observed in the period Aug. 13-Oct. 8. Rough-legged Hawks were commonly reported in Michigan, with 130 migrating through Berrien Co., Mich. on Nov. 30. Golden Eagles were scarce this fall in Minnesota (only 2 birds reported) but Wisconsin observers turned up 6 individuals. One of the two reported from Michigan was found shot at the Island Lake Recreation Area, near Detroit, the lesson being to beware of "recreationalists." Other interesting Duluth raptor records include 89 Bald Eagles, a Gyrfalcon banded Nov. 20, a Prairie Falcon Aug. 6 and eight Peregrine Falcons. Another Prairie Falcon was reported from the Carlos Avery Game Area in Minn. Sept. 4 and an additional 14 Peregrines were seen around the Region.

**CRANES, KING RAIL** — Sixty-one Sandhill Cranes noted moving south Sept. 24 at St. Ignace, Mich. may have been among the 640 counted at the Haehnle Sanctuary in s. Michigan Oct. 13. The King Rail is rarely heard about in the Region; this fall three birds were seen in Wisconsin and one in Michigan, all in the period Aug. 24-Sept. 15.

**SHOREBIRDS** — No amazing numbers were reported for any species, but a good variety was seen. Six Piping Plovers at Rogers City, Mich. in late August were the most reported. Single Willets appeared in two Wisconsin counties Aug. 13 & 25. The now almost annual Purple Sandpiper was at St. Joseph, Mich., Oct. 25 and Nov. 19-28. Maxima for Baird's Sandpiper were 25 at the Muskegon Sewage lagoon Aug. 31 and 20 at Pte. Mouillee, Monroe Co., Mich. about the same time. The Moorehead sewage lagoon in Minnesota had 24 W. Sandpipers Oct. 13. The year was not notable for Buff-breasted Sandpipers; a total of 30-40 was reported from Wisconsin and Michigan Aug. 3-Sept. 16. Only seven Hudsonian Godwits were reported, five of them near Erie, Mich. Oct. 6. Few Marbled Godwits were

reported but 2-3 were present throughout August and September near Erie, Mich., where a Ruff was well described Aug. 17 (EF, TG). Twelve Am. Avocets were recorded in Michigan (11 at St. Joseph Sept. 21 and one at Erie Oct. 26-Nov. 2); one was at the Marshall sewage lagoon in Minnesota Aug. 17. Perhaps more phalaropes than normal were seen, including five Red Phalaropes (three at St. Joseph, Mich. Oct. 3-Nov. 16, one in Racine Co., Wisc. Oct. 5), 12-18 Wilson's Phalaropes near Erie, Mich. (max. 7 on Aug. 25) and 28 N. Phalaropes, 26 of them in s. Michigan.

**JAEGERS, GULLS** — Single jaegers were reported on five dates from Berrien Co., Mich. Aug. 31-Oct. 25. Seven Glaucous Gulls had been reported from Wisconsin and Michigan by the end of the period as well as single Iceland Gulls in Minn. and Wisc. The rare Laughing Gull was reported Aug. 23 from Milwaukee Co., and Oct. 19 from Racine Co., Wisc., where very good numbers of Franklin's Gulls were seen (maximum of 485) on Nov. 1, St. Croix Co.; 25 of the latter were noted in Michigan in late September. Single Little Gulls were at Milwaukee Sept. 7 and all fall at St. Joseph, Mich. Perhaps more Black-legged Kittiwakes than normal were on the Great Lakes this fall; one was in Milwaukee Oct. 19 and two were at Erie, Mich., in late November. With them was an imm. Sabine's Gull on Nov. 29 (AM).

**OWLS, HUMMINGBIRD, NIGHTHAWK** — A widespread visitation by Snowy Owls was welcomed throughout the Region, with most areas reporting birds by mid-November. St. Louis Co., Minn. had the only Hawk Owls: three on Nov. 17. A Great Gray Owl was found shot near Duluth in September; it may have been from a family group that nested in the area. Banders at Hawk Ridge near Duluth netted 300 Saw-whet Owls during the period, interestingly enough the same number banded a few years ago in the fall at Pt. Pelee, Ont. A record of a **Rufous Hummingbird** present Aug. 4 at Grand Rapids, Itasca Co. (EW) has been accepted by the Minnesota records committee. Michigan birders have long noted migrating Com. Nighthawks; this year they counted some of them: 3767 were noted moving through Royal Oak, Mich. during early September; on Sept. 7, 5420 were counted in the Detroit area. Also a "heavy migration" was reported Sept. 8 from Berrien Co., Mich.

**WOODPECKERS, WREN** — At the very least, the presence of a **Golden-fronted Woodpecker** at a feeder in Cheboygan, Mich. from Nov. 20 on (BS *et al.*), is astounding. (See pgs. 24 and 46). Were not Red-bellied Woodpeckers so rare there, the bird might never have been given a second glance. The Region also hosted numbers of three-toed woodpeckers with "many" Black-backed in Minnesota, five in Wisconsin and two in Michigan. The seven reported N. Three-toeds included three that were "kettling" with a Rusty Blackbird over Whitefish Pt. in n. Michigan Nov. 4.

A W. Kingbird was seen in Ozaukee Co., Wisc. Oct. 6. Minnesota's sixth record of a **Rock Wren** was obtained, appropriately enough, at Pipestone Nat'l Monument Aug. 23 (KE).



*Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Cheboygan, Mich., Nov. 17, 1974. Photo / William L. Foster.*

**TITMICE, THRUSHES, WARBLERS** — For the record, an influx of Tufted Titmice was noted in the northernmost counties of Michigan's Lower Peninsula in early October. A single Varied Thrush was in Minneapolis Sept. 26. The Moorehead sewage lagoons in Minnesota produced three Sprague's Pipits Oct. 13 and one was present in Racine Co., Wisc. Sept. 29. A smattering of late warbler reports included seven species during the first three weeks of November. A Townsend's Warbler was netted and banded Sept. 20 in Sheboygan, Wisc. (JB, BT).

**FRINGILLIDAE** — Except for a few Evening Grosbeaks and the odd Pine Siskin, the northern finches were nearly absent. Two Le Conte's Sparrows were found in Wisconsin Sept. 23-Oct. 2. Highlight of the fall for Duluth birders was a **Black-throated Sparrow** present at Stony Pt. Sept. 20-23 (RJ, JG). This is even more interesting in light of another bird found near New York City as this report is being written. Three thousand Dark-eyed Juncos in Berrien Co., Mich. Oct. 12 marked a large migration that included Hermit Thrushes as well. Quite unusual was a report by Kim Eckert of a **Brewer's Sparrow** at Blue Mounds St. Park Sept. 28.

**CORRIGENDUM** — Delete the 1973 Wautoma, Wisc. report of a N. Three-toed Woodpecker, *Am. Birds*: 28:58.

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## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/ Vernon M. Kleen

The fall season was good for migrating birds as well as for birders. Observers were rewarded with outstanding rarities including new state records, many early arrival and late departure records, and minor flights of sporadic boreal species.



Ducks, defying expert predictions, remained in large numbers in Illinois; high waters in L. Erie backed up into the cultivated fields of Ottawa and Lucas counties, Ohio, to provide outstanding shorebird habitat (LV); shorebirds were missed in Kentucky as few were noted at usual locations (S); great numbers of Broad-winged Hawks passed through Illinois during mid-September (m.ob.); "an absolutely huge movement of passerines, mostly juncos and sparrows, occurred along the entire Chicago lakefront . . . on Oct. 12. Thousands of birds could be seen along the lake, and birds were constantly flying in off the lake." (B). Notable cold fronts brought large numbers of migrants into the Region of Sept. 12, 13 and 16 and Oct. 3, 12 and 14. Warblers were about "two weeks early" at Indianapolis (HWe).

Television towers were again destructive; near Des Moines, over 1500 birds (about 50% Red-eyed Vireos) were killed on the nights of Sept. 11 & 12 (DMA); a Yellow Rail was found at Cape Girardeau, Mo. Sept. 23 (TD); only a few birds were picked up at Springfield, Ill. (H). Other tower kills were not reported.

If readers remember, heavy storms of late March last year caused the death of many birds including migrants; if those birds were our winter residents, we may find low populations of those species this winter. If, however, this is not true, our returning winter residents may still face difficult times as the early September frosts damaged winter food supplies. A thorough winter population analysis would be highly desirable to detect such annual changes.

Red Rock Refuge, Ia. is a classic example of U.S. Army Corps of Engineering reasoning for construction of dams; there was supposed to be only one major flood there every 25 years; however three such floods (1969, 1973 and 1974) have occurred since the reservoir filled in 1969 — with wildlife lost again (GB).

In order to better verify observations, observers are now required to complete documentation forms for extraordinary sight records at the time of observation; such documentations have been denoted by a dagger (†) before the observer's initials. Specimens have been denoted by an asterisk (\*).

**EXOTICS** — The Ringed Turtle Dove is periodically reported in the Region; this season one (first state record) was seen at Munster, Ind. Nov. 12-13 and photographed (RK).

## LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS

— Common Loons were found in excellent numbers Regionwide; the birds of Aug. 11 & 17 at Prairie Creek, Ind. (LCr) and Aug. 14 at Lima, O., (DSm) were probably summer lingerers recently discovered; fall arrivals were first noted in early October followed by great influxes in mid-to late October yielding very high or highest-ever totals at Findlay, O., 47 on Oct. 15 (BSt); Cleveland, 45 on Oct. 24 (M); Springfield, Ill. 65 on Nov. 4 (H); St. Joseph, Mo. 30 on Nov. 3 (L); and Springfield, Mo. 9 on Nov. 2 (NF). The first and second Illinois records of the Arctic Loon were well-documented at Springfield Nov. 13, in near-adult plumage (†H, †RSa, RPI, m.ob.) and Decatur Dec. 3 (†RSa); even though these reservoirs are nearby, the birds were recognizably different. The always-rare Red-throated Loon was documented at Illinois Beach S.P., Nov. 18 (†GR) and Evanston, Ill. Nov. 24 (†B); another was reported for Hoover Res., Delaware Co., O., Nov. 18 (TT). Two Red-necked Grebes were also documented, both at Evanston, Ill. Sept. 22 (†B *et al.*) and Oct. 19 (†B, RRu). Influxes of Horned Grebes paralleled those of the loons; unusual were the migrating "flocks" of 15, 20, and 5 at Chicago, Oct. 13 (B *et al.*); maxima inland were 23 at Findlay, O., Oct. 15 (BSt); 12 at Louisville Oct. 12 (S, LB); 39 at Springfield, Ill. Nov. 17 (H); and 21 at Decatur Oct. 27 (RPI). At least six different Eared Grebes visited Decatur during the period (RSa); three had arrived at Maryville, Mo. by Aug. 31 (E, R); singles were present at Maryville again, Nov. 29-Dec. 1 (E) and Springfield, Ill. Oct. 24 (H). A record number of Pied-billed Grebes was tallied at St. Joseph, Mo. 300±, Sept. 28 (L); high numbers also were reported throughout Illinois.

White Pelicans first arrived in the west towards the end of August and peaked at 3500 at Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo. (hereafter, S.C.R.) Oct. 12 (L); 6-12 individuals visited Red Rock N.W.R., Ia. (hereafter, R.R.R.) during the period (GB); one was first noted at L. Chautauqua, Ill. Oct. 12 and was joined by another Oct. 27; both remained until Nov. 11 (m.ob.); singles were found at Horseshoe L., Alexander Co., Ill. Nov. 1 (DKe); L. Baldwin, Ill. Nov. 14 (TM); and L. Barkley, w. Ky. Nov. 20 (DHm). All Double-crested Cormor-

ants should be reported; the following notes were received: Ohio — none; Indiana — none; Kentucky — singles at Louisville, Oct. 20 (BM *et al.*) and Nov. 16 (LaS *et al.*); Illinois — a total of 15 in the entire Chicago area Sept. 25-Oct. 12 (*vide B*); 15 at Savanna, Nov. 20 (K, BSh); 1-6 per visit at L. Chautauqua, Sept. 15-Nov. 2 (m ob.); two at Hamilton, Nov. 23 (H); Iowa — 30 at R R R. in late September (234 last year) (GB); singles at Iowa City, Aug. 22 & Sept. 22 (NH); Missouri — 1-3 near Springfield during the period (NF); frequent, but in decreasing numbers from past years around St. Joseph (L)

**HERONS, WATERFOWL** — Post-breeding movements of one immature Little Blue Heron appeared at Iowa City, Aug. 16 (NH); two adults and one immature visited Louisville Aug. 3-Sept. 11 with the latter remaining until Sept. 14 (S, FS, LB); they visited Mason Co., Ill. July 20-Aug. 17 with a peak of 20 on Aug. 3 (H); two appeared at Belvidere, Ill. Aug. 19 (EB) and one in Lee Co., Ill. Aug. 4 (BSh). A high of 103 Cattle Egrets occurred in Mason Co., Ill. Aug. 24 (H); late departees were reported from Maryville, Mo. Nov. 1 (E) and Boone Co., Ia. (12) Oct. 22 (JPo). A total of ten Snowy Egrets was present at Miller City, Ill. Aug. 11 (DHy).

The first large flight of Whistling Swans was detected at Cleveland Nov. 7 when 86 birds were seen (AF); flights and numbers increased later (M); four birds were reported at the Ottawa N.W.R., O., Oct. 2 (TB); 40 appeared at Lock 13 on the Mississippi R. near Fulton, Ill. Nov. 11 (BSh); a single remained near Savanna until at least Nov. 20 (K, BSh); the only Chicago-area report was a single at Palos in late November (PD). The normal number of Canada Geese returned to the southern Illinois refuges; however, several large flocks arrived two or more weeks early; up to 2100 passed over Troy, O., Sept. 30 (BHe). The first Snow Geese to arrive were reported at DeSoto Bend N.W.R., Ia. Sept. 14 (MWi); six (blue form) at Findlay, O., Oct. 1 (BSt) and 60 at Pigeon River Ref., Ind. Nov. 2 (Haw *et al.*) were considered unusual locally. A flock of 60 White-fronted Geese were found at L. Chautauqua, Ill. Oct. 12 (H); two remained there until Nov. 2 (H). The first modern record of a **Fulvous Tree Duck** in Illinois was documented in Jackson Co. near the Big Muddy R. Aug. 24 (†RMa); many observers submitted documentations of this bird through Aug. 31; a pair of individuals was observed at Clyde, Mo. Sept. 27 (MB, *vide E*). According to the Illinois Department of Conservation, ducks were not expected to stay long in Illinois this fall because flooding eliminated much of their normal food supply; however, the ducks defied the "experts" and a half million (including 51,000 Canvasbacks at Hamilton) remained in the Mississippi and Illinois river valleys through the end of the period. Four Redheads in female plumage at Calumet, Ill. Aug. 11 & 18 may have included two young as well as the adult pair (male in eclipse plumage) which were reported at that location earlier in the summer; if so, this would be the first Illinois record of nesting Redheads (C). About half of the 300,000 Canvasback population utilized the Upper Mississippi River for resting and feeding; these birds are definitely threatened by industrial pollution. One Harlequin Duck was discovered in Evanston, Ill. Oct. 13 and may be the same one at Wilmette through Oct.

24; another (same ?) was seen Nov. 24 (*vide B*). A dead King Eider was found on a Chicago beach Nov. 24; an excellent in-hand drawing and description was prepared (†B, bird found by others). Normally, the White-winged Scoter is the most common scoter; not so this fall. This was the "greatest year ever for dark-winged scoters" (B); more than 200 were suspected in the Chicago area Oct. 6-Nov. 24; the one-day maximum of 84 on Oct. 13 included 25 identifiable Black Scoters (B), other Blacks included 14 at Hamilton, Ill. Oct. 27 (GAR); two at Maryville Oct. 25 (R, \*E), and one Oct. 27 (E); another at L. Chautauqua Nov. 29 (H). Surf Scoters included: eight at Springfield, Ill. Oct. 1 (†H); six at Decatur Oct. 14 (RSa); four at Maryville Oct. 25 (R, E) and singles at Maryville Nov. 10 & 13 (R, E); L. Chautauqua Nov. 11 (H); L. Sangchris, Ill. Nov. 5 (H), Cincinnati, Nov. 17 (WR, DSt, *vide W*); Cleveland area, Nov. 17 (MSt); and Findlay, O., Oct. 22 (BSt). Inland White-winged Scoters: ten at Findlay Oct. 24 (BSt), two at Batavia, O., Oct. 20 (KM, *vide W*); and singles in Decatur Nov. 5 (RSa) and Fulton, Ill. Nov. 29 (BSh). A group of 171 Ruddy Ducks at Madisonville, Ky. Nov. 13 was noteworthy there (JHn). Hooded Mergansers were reported in greater numbers than usual, especially around Cleveland (M).

**HAWKS** — Late departing Turkey Vultures were noted at Tiffin, O., Nov. 26 (JK) and Council Bluffs, Ia., Oct. 18 (MWi). Only five Goshawks were reported, Springfield, Mo. Oct. 13 (NF); Nodaway Co., Mo. Oct. 26 (R); s. Cook Co., Ill. Nov. 12 (*vide B*); Iowa City, Ia. Nov. 16 (NH); and Elgin, Ill. (no date given, RMo) Red-shouldered Hawks remained scarce in the north, singles were noted at Decatur, Ill. Aug. 3 (RPI) Illinois Beach S.P., Aug. 4 (C); Vermilion Co., Ill. Sept. 22 (*vide MC*); and Ft. Wayne, Ind. Nov. 18 (MWe, *vide Haw*). Rough-legged Hawks have appeared in good numbers especially in late November; this may indicate an excellent winter for them; the earliest arrival was reported from Warren Co., Ind. Sept. 28 (EH); next, Glasgow, Ky. Oct. 5 (RSt).

Golden Eagles appear to be increasing in numbers or observers are learning to identify them more accurately; Ohio — one immature at Huesten Woods S.P., Nov. 10 (DJM, DSt *et al.*, *vide W*.); Indiana — one immature at Jasper-Pulaski Conservation Area, Oct. 27 (*vide MC*); Illinois — two immatures at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Nov. 9 (*vide DF*); Missouri — four adults and one immature at Swan L., Oct. 20 (BG); one immature at Springfield, Nov. 19 (NF); and one immature at S.C.R. frequently in November (L). Many reported Bald Eagles; the earliest arrivals were: Land Between the Lakes, Ky., in late August (PS); R.R.R., Sept. 3 (GB); S.C.R., Sept. 22 (L); DeSoto Bend N.W.R., Ia. Oct. 4 (MWi); L. Chautauqua, Oct. 5 (K, H *et al.*) and Jasper-Pulaski C.A., Ind. Oct. 20 (C); in the Chicago area, both adults and immatures were found during mid-November — unusual there. The Osprey record indicates: Ohio — one; Indiana — ten, all in September, Kentucky — four, Oct. 18-Nov. 13; Illinois — 32, Sept. 7-Oct. 20; Iowa — nine, Sept. 22-Nov. 7; Missouri — seven plus, Sept. 18-Nov. 2. Peregrine Falcons have continued to appear in fair numbers; from 8 to 10 birds were reported Sept. 20 (L. Chautauqua, Ill)-Nov. 18 (Chicago); most were found in late September; Iowa

was the only state not reporting one. The only Merlins reported were the six (phenomenal) observed in one day of migration at Illinois Beach S.P., Oct. 14 (B *et al.*).

**CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — The refuge manager at Jasper-Pulaski C.A., Ind. indicated that more than 10,000 Sandhill Cranes passed through there this fall (*vide* C); flocks beyond there were seen at Miami, O., Nov. 15 (RA); Louisville, Ky. Nov. 29 (†BP, †BHo) and Frankfort, Ky. Nov. 28 (†HJ); 8-10 flocks were seen flying over Lafayette, Ind. Nov. 25 and two flocks across the Steuben/LaGrange County line, Ind. Oct. 26 (Haw *et al.*). A Virginia Rail was heard "calling" Nov. 1 at Dunes Acres, Ind. — rather unusual (C). Yellow Rails may be much more common than the scarce observations indicate; in one clover field at Liberty, Adams Co., Ill. three were flushed during mowing operations Sept. 24; the next day, two more were found (JF); one specimen was picked up at the Cape Girardeau, Mo. TV tower Sept. 23 (TD); another was observed at Booneville, Ia. Sept. 30 (EA). October records of Com. Gallinules are scarce; singles were found in Mason Co., Ill. Oct. 12 (H) and Larue Co., Ky. Oct. 25 (DE, JE). Five Piping Plovers were reported: Iowa City, Ia. Aug. 16, Sept. 8-14 (NH); Louisville Aug. 17-18 (JPa, DCo); and Cleveland, Sept. 2 (†M). Large flocks of Am. Golden Plovers passed through this fall and individuals remained until Nov. 13 at Maryville (E); Nov. 14 at Decatur, (RSa); and Nov. 11 in Mason Co., Ill. (H). Fair numbers of Black-bellied Plovers were found in Illinois this fall and remained in Mason Co. until at least Nov. 11 (H). The only Whimbrel reported was found at Waukegan, Ill. Aug. 25 (C); it was probably the same one there Sept. 2 (B, C). October 15 seems rather late for a Spotted Sandpiper at Waukegan (RPI). There were scattered records of Willets Aug. 14-Oct. 7; most were in August. Red Knots were also regularly reported. In Cleveland, a Purple Sandpiper was documented Oct. 25 (†RH). Several pages of notes and drawings were prepared in the field to assure proper documentation of the first Illinois and Iowa records of **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**; the first, L. Chautauqua Sept. 28 (†H, †RSa) and again Sept. 29 (†C, †B, †m. ob.); the other, Iowa City Oct. 3 (†NH). Excellent numbers of Baird's Sandpipers were reported. Flocks of 41 and 30 Stilt Sandpipers were large concentrations for Calumet, Ill. Aug. 3 (C) and Whiteside Co., Ill. Aug. 31 and later (BSh), respectively; a single in Whitley Co., Ind. Sept. 7 was also considered noteworthy there (Haw *et al.*). Fair numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers passed through between Aug. 3 (SCR, Mo.) and Sept. 20 (Wilmette, Ill.); except for the group of 27 at Iowa City, Ia. (NH) Aug. 10-18, flocks consisted of from two to eight birds; Kentucky and Indiana reported none. One Ruff was documented in St. Charles Co., Mo. Aug. 28 (HWu, MSc, †A, m.ob.). Only two Marbled Godwits: Calumet, Ill. Aug. 23-24 (†MM, C) and L. Chautauqua, Ill. Sept. 7 to 28 (H, m. ob.). A flock of 34 Hudsonian Godwits Aug. 29, marked the first time more than individual birds had been seen at Ottawa N.W.R., O. (LV); seven more were there Oct. 5 (TT); two appeared at Cleveland, Sept. 26 (†JHo, †m. ob.); one at Lima, O., Oct. 20 (DSm); no others were reported. Am. Avocets remain novelties for many

observers, but are of regular occurrence Regionwide; they were present Aug. 17-Oct. 27. Excellent photographs documented the **Black-necked Stilt** found at St Joseph, Mo. Oct. 26 (L *et al.*). Records of three Red Phalaropes have been accepted: L. Chautauqua, Ill. Oct. 12 (H, RSa, RPI); Wilmette, Ill. Oct. 27 (GR *et al.*), and Rocky River Park (Cleveland), Nov. 17-19 (D, FG, MSt). High counts of N. Phalaropes included 13 at L. Chautauqua, Ill. Sept. 7 (H); 12 at Maryville Aug. 31 (E,R); and 10 at Lima, O., Aug. 29 (DSm); none (formerly an uncommon migrant) from the Chicago area (B).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — Jaegers are always rare enough to be noteworthy during the fall migration, when spotted, they are usually flying and a great distance from the observer; in many cases, the jaeger cannot be relocated if the observer takes his eyes away from it. Under such circumstances, species identification is nearly impossible. Jaegers are often found in association with gulls; therefore, size comparisons may be attempted. However, how often does an observer forego the observation of a jaeger to identify a gull? Experience indicates that identifiable jaegers along the Chicago lakefront have been Parasitic; but, the possibility of the other two exists. Thirteen jaegers were sighted in the Chicago area this fall between Oct. 12 and Nov. 3 (*vide* B); eight were Parasitic, four were not identified, and one was thought to be a Pomarine (†GR, †RRu *et al.*). An adult **Long-tailed Jaeger** (third state record) was thoroughly described at Maryville, Mo. Sept. 12 (†R, E).

White-winged gulls were still scarce at the end of the period; however, an Iceland Gull was reported Dec. 2 from Moline, Ill. (†EF). Great Black-backed Gulls return regularly to the Cleveland lakefront; at least eight were found there Nov. 30 (M). Immature gulls regularly cause identification problems — even for experts, occasionally an individually recognizable gull is identified in the fall as one species then molts into another species by spring. If specimens are to be collected, here it is justifiable, since properly written documentations will not always suffice. My case in point, lengthy descriptions were prepared by two experts for a California Gull at Chicago, Oct. 26 (†B, †GR); the bird was observed for more than an hour and all details recorded, yet, minute subtleties in gull plumages can be misleading even to experts; therefore, the only acceptable record must be a properly identified specimen. Franklin's Gulls were numerous this fall Sept. 21-Nov. 23 — primarily in mid- to late October. Little Gulls were regular at Cleveland with adults and immatures both present throughout the last two months; only one immature, Oct. 15 & 31, was detected around Chicago (RRu). Inland records of Black-legged Kittiwakes were as common as those around the Great Lakes; an adult at Waukegan, Oct. 27 (†GR); immatures at Wilmette and Waukegan Nov. 3 (C, m.ob.), and Nov. 16 (GR *et al.*), respectively for L. Michigan; immatures Nov. 23 (H, RSa) and Dec. 2 (†SV) along the Mississippi R. at Hamilton and Alton, Ill., respectively; and two at Decatur Dec. 3 (RSa). The only Sabine's Gulls were inland reports at Decatur, Ill. Sept. 16-17 (RSa, m.ob.) and Springfield, Ill. Sept. 23-25 (\*H, RSa). A flock of 20 Least Terns (11 ad., 9 imm.) was observed at Cairo, Ill

Aug 11 (DHy); singles were reported from R.R.R., Aug 14 (GB); Springfield, Mo. Aug. 18 (NF); L. Chautauqua Aug. 17 (H); and Decatur Sept. 13 (RSa).

**OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — This is apparently a Snowy Owl year; singles were found at Montrose Harbor, Ill. Oct. 4-10 (TG, m.ob.); Indiana Dunes, Ind. Nov. 19 (*vide* EH); Champaign, Ill. Nov. 22 (†RAP), Huron, O., (BSt); and two Cleveland locations Nov 29 (JHo). Southward movements of Saw-whet Owls included seven banded at Davenport, Ia. Oct. 9-Nov 5 (P); and singles at Sterling, Ill. Oct. 21 (BSh); Troy, O., Nov. 9 (SP); Springfield, Ill. Nov. 8 (K) and Nov 11 (roadkill, \*H); and St. Louis, Nov. 17 (JE *et al.*) An early-arriving (?) Black-billed Cuckoo was reported from Louisville, Aug. 10 (JPa, S, FS) and late-departing Yellow-billed Cuckoo from Charleston, Ill. Nov 2 (LH). Great movements of Com. Nighthawks were detected Regionwide Aug. 28 & 29 with lesser movements into early September; individually late-departing birds were noted at Springfield, Ill. Oct. 11 (roadkill, \*H); Vermilion Co., Ill. Oct. 10 (MC); Ft. Wayne, Ind. Oct. 6 (Haw); Tiffin, O., (4) Oct. 5 (JK); and Oskaloosa, Ia. Oct. 2 (RJ). An exceptionally late Chimney Swift was present at Carbondale, Ill. Nov. 23 (†DK1 *et al.*). Large numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (91 caught) passed through Springfield, Ill. in early September; a maximum of 23 were caught Sept. 4 (K)

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS and SWALLOWS** — Ample supplies of acorns were apparently not cause enough to keep the Red-headed Woodpeckers from migrating away this fall. Reports of W. Kingbirds were non-existent for many regular areas; in w. Missouri, a high of ten (probably two families) Aug. 4 were the only ones seen (L). Banders suggested that Yellow-bellied Flycatchers have been increasing as fall migrants. Good numbers of Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported between Aug. 17, Mason Co., Ill. (H) and Oct 11, Atchison Co., Mo. (E, R). Although not a new Missouri record, three **Violet-green Swallows** were exceptional for the Lewis and Clark S.P., Oct. 7 (†MMY). September 25 was rather late for three Purple Martins at Springfield, Ill. (H).

**CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — A Black-billed Magpie was observed at DeSoto Bend N.W.R., Ia Oct 14 (†EL). Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared Regionwide in small numbers after Sept. 20; the earliest, Sept. 6 at Findlay, O. (BSt); large numbers were never reported, but a few remained to the end of the period. More Winter Wrens than usual were reported and banded; 142 were netted at Davenport, Ia. (P). The greatest number ever of Carolina Wrens are occurring around Chicago and are being found in previously unreported locations (C, B). The second Illinois **Sage Thrasher** was documented at Evanston, Oct. 24 (†GR, †B, †RRu). Early returning thrushes included a Hermit banded at Springfield, Ill. Sept. 26 (K) and Swainson's banded at Waite Hill, O., Aug. 10 (AF). Indiana observers and reporters suggested decreases in the number of migrating Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Vee-ries

**PIPITS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Water Pipits were quite common this fall in Ohio, Illinois and Missouri. One **Sprague's Pipit** was found alone in a weedy field near Cleveland, Oct. 31 (†JHo, *vide* M). Fairly large flocks of Cedar Waxwings (up to 50 birds/flock) passed through Illinois in September and October (m.ob.); the species apparently "invaded" s.w. Ohio (DO, W). Unusual for n. Ohio were single Loggerhead Shrikes at Ottawa N.W.R., Sept. 1 (BSt) and Fremont, Nov. 28 (TB). Vireo notes indicated that one or more individuals of nearly all species departed late: White-eyed Vireo, one singing male in Clark Co., Ill. Sept. 29 (K *et al.*); Bells Vireo, St. Joseph, Mo. Sept. 19 (L); Yellow-throated Vireo, Charleston, Ill. Nov. 16 (†LH); Solitary Vireo, Springfield, Ill. Nov. 1 (H) and Peoria, Ill. Oct. 17 (VH); Red-eyed Vireo, (2) Chicago, Oct. 19 (RRu, GR); and Philadelphia Vireo, Waite Hill, O., Oct. 13 (banded, AF). The latter species was reported Aug. 26 (rather early) at Fox I. in n.e. Indiana (EP, Haw). The majority of notes concerning warblers were also late records; general notes included: no Yellow Warblers around Chicago all fall, plenty of Black-throated Blue Warblers between Sept. 5, Springfield, Ill. (K) and Oct. 12, Maryville, Mo. (E) — most were found in mid-September; 100+ W. Palm Warblers at Wilmette, Ill. Sept. 20 (RRu); four Connecticut Warblers as TV tower casualties Aug. 28 (\*H) and singles banded at Davenport, Ia. Sept. 13 (P) and Springfield, Ill. Oct. 1 (K). The late-departure records (all single birds, except noted) were: Black-and-white Warbler, Columbus, O., Nov. 12 (GS, *vide* TT); Tennessee, Springfield, Ill. Nov. 5 (H); Nashville Columbus, O., Nov. 19 (*vide* TT); Cleveland, Nov. 10 (AF); New Haven, Ind. Nov. 12 (†Haw); Champaign, Ill. Nov. 15 (DF); Yellow, Springfield, Ill. Sept. 30 (K); Cape May, Decatur, Ill. Nov. 16 (RSa); Black-throated Green, Springfield, Ill. Nov. 14 (H); Lancaster, O., Nov. 4 (HK); Jasper-Pulaski C.A., Ind. Nov. 3 (DHe): Kosciusko Co., Ind. Oct. 31 (MWe, LCs); and Fulton Co., Ill. Nov. 1 (K); Bay-breasted, (2) Tiffin, O., Oct. 30 (JK); Springfield, Ill. Oct. 28 (H); Ovenbird, Columbus, O., Nov. 17 (*vide* TT); N. Yellowthroat, Charleston, Ill. Nov. 21 (LH); (2) Springfield, Ill. Nov. 17 (H); Hooded Warbler, Cumberland Falls, Ky. (singing) Oct. 5 (HJ *et al.*); and Wilson's, Columbus, O., Oct. 31 (TT).

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS** — Another new Illinois record was the presence of a large-tailed grackle at Jacksonvile, Oct. 5 (†RQR *et al.*) — also photographed; the bird was also seen Oct. 6 & 7 (†m.ob.); since its identity could not be determined in the field, the specimen was taken, and tentatively identified as a ♀ Great-tailed Grackle. Two late Scarlet Tanagers were still present at Decatur, Ill. Nov. 5 (†RSa). The first Charleston, Ill. area record of a Blue Grosbeak was established when two birds were found there Sept. 28 (†LH); the latest departure was Oct. 11 at Decatur (RSa). Evening Grosbeaks appeared in very small numbers in the n. part of the Region during November, but Purple Finches were found in "pleasing" numbers for most birders from mid-September on. Very few Pine Siskins were reported. The less conspicuous sparrows were reported regularly. From three to six Clay-colored Sparrows were present at Evans-

ton, Ill. Sept. 25 (RRu); singles were noted there Sept. 12 & 16 (RRu) and Oct. 12 (C). White-crowned Sparrows seemed scarce but Fox Sparrows numbered in the hundreds to thousands after a front moved into the Chicago area Oct. 12 (RRu); one Fox Sparrow had reached Springfield, Ill. by Sept. 30 (K). Only a few Lapland Longspurs were noted in the period; however, Snow Buntings arrived by Oct. 20 and good flights occurred thereafter; southern records were Maryville Nov. 4 & 13 and Mason Co., Ill. Oct. 27 and later (m.ob.).

*ADDENDUM* — *The following paragraph was omitted from the Middlewestern Prairie Region Winter Season Report, which appeared in Am. Birds 28 (2) 645-649, June, 1974, which see for observer list.*

**FRINGILLIDS** — Trappers around the M.T.R. reported finding several dead Cardinals buried under the snow; more than two times the previous high of total individuals were counted on the Seneca Co., Ohio C.B.C. A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited a Columbia, Mo. feeder Dec. 18 and remained through the period (RP, *fide* BG). Another w. straggler and a first Illinois record was the ♂ **Lazuli Bunting** (photographed) at an Elgin feeder Dec. 17 to 21 (RMs, †RMo, †B, m.ob.). A Dickcissel banded Dec. 8 at Charleston, Ill. reappeared Dec. 23 (LH). A scattering of Evening Grosbeaks passed through or only briefly stopped in the Region during the first two weeks of December; a few remained at Cleveland and Louisville feeders; a northward movement was not detected. Purple Finches were slow in arriving but were reported as about normal to very common by the end of the period. The ♂ House Finch reported at the Aullwood Nature Center, Dayton, O., Dec. 21 (RHe, *fide* DO) may be the first Ohio record (however, no details of this observation were received and therefore it must remain hypothetical); another male photographed and documented at a Glenview (Chicago) feeder during late December and early January was the third Illinois record (Nel, m.ob.). Common Redpolls must have moved in from the northwest; they first appeared in Iowa and n.w. Missouri in late December, then n. Illinois in early January; they gradually became more common (never abundant) in February and March; a group of 70 Mar. 3 (D) around Cleveland were the only ones reported there; extreme s. records include Springfield, Mo. Mar. 20-25 (NF), Cincinnati, Feb. 10 (RMc, m.ob.), and Charleston, Ill. (no date, LH).

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## **CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION** / **Robert K. Purrington**

The season was generally mild throughout the Region, with a slight excess of precipitation over normal October was dominated by "Indian Summer" weather which ultimately yielded in early November. The warm weather, exemplified by a late first killing front in the northern part of the Region, was evidently responsible for an unusual number unprecedentedly late records, especially of warblers. Along the coast, of course, the single most notable meteorological event was the assault on Louisiana by Hurricane *Carmen* on the evening of September 7-8. But aside from *Carmen* the

weather picture was generally a placid and even one, with no other tropical weather and with frontal passages which generally failed to produce heavy rainfall.



The lack of really vigorous cool fronts and the limited moisture and often poor timing of those which penetrated the Region led to a migration mostly devoid of large concentrations of grounded transients, and the rather extended periods of favorable winds following the fronts led to a steady but unremarkable flow of migrants through the Region. At Nashville there were fewer tower casualties than ever before, 122, owing primarily to the fact that most fronts cleared during daylight hours. Notable exceptions to this pattern were the concentrations of migrating hawks, especially Broad-winged Hawks, which accompanied the frontal weather of Sept. 21-23, 26-27, Oct. 8-10 and 15-17. Aside from the large flocks of Broad-winged, especially in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Alabama, perhaps the most interesting and encouraging reports were of good numbers of accipiters, highlighted by a total of 143 Sharp-shinned Hawks seen in northwestern Florida on Oct. 19-20. Noteworthy as well were the 12 species of migrating hawks, including nearly 1000 Broad-winged watched from the Arkansas River bluffs at Little Rock on Sept. 21.

*Carmen*, a potentially devastating storm, took aim at the Louisiana delta and New Orleans only to veer westward into the sparsely populated central Louisiana coastline. Substantial damage was incurred by the rice and sugar cane crops but whatever bird mortality may have resulted, or damage to the coastal marsh, is largely undocumented. In Florida Steadman commented that Reddish Egrets and Snowy Plovers disappeared after the storm, presumably owing to damage to favorite feeding areas there. Grand Isle was spared the worst fury of the storm and there was thus little danger to the growing colony of Brown Pelicans in the vicinity. *Carmen* proved some interesting, and a few exciting, records of birds carried by the storm or driven ahead of it, especially in coastal Alabama, on the favorable eastern side of the storm, but inland as far as Arkansas. Among those records was one of the first Noddy Tern for the state of Alabama. Unfortunately it proved im-

possible to reach Grand Isle, La., at the hurricane's eastern fringe, for many days after the landfall, because of flood waters.

Western vagrants were noted in something like normal numbers, mainly along the coast, with the expected species predominating. Exceptions were unusual numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds in southeastern Louisiana and a Buff-bellied Hummingbird at New Orleans. Of the usual western vagrant species, the following were noted: Groove-billed Ani, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Bullock's (Northern) Oriole, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

With the exception of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, which showed signs of staging a minor invasion, there was little indication of an influx of boreal species. Golden-crowned Kinglets reached the coast in slightly increased numbers and Purple Finches were early in several places, though not in unusual numbers, but there was little else to report.

**LOONS THROUGH PELECANIFORMS** — Two Red-throated Loons on L. Oliver, Ala., Nov. 3 (JM) added to the increasing number of Alabama records of this species in recent years. A Com. Loon at L. Oliver Oct. 2 (LAW) was the earliest ever for the state by one day, and two quite far out of season at Huntsville Aug. 9 (JG) established the fourth inland record for the state. Early Horned Grebes were in Ashley Co., Ark., Sept. 2 (KLS & HHS) and in Cherokee Co., Ala., Sept. 17 (WJC), the earliest ever for Alabama. Eared Grebes were reported earlier than ever or in unusual numbers over much of the Region, with one in Ashley Co., Ark., Sept. 2 (KLS & HHS) the earliest for that state by two months, and four at New Iberia Sept. 22 (MJM) the first ever seen in Louisiana in September. Reports from late October to the end of November in Alabama, the Sardis L. area of Mississippi, and at Reserve, La. all helped document the widespread occurrence of this species in the Region where, except for w. Louisiana, it is uncommon at best. A **Greater Shearwater** was seen 5 mi. s. of Ft. Morgan, Ala., July 4 (FB) and large shearwaters, probably the same species, were seen 3 mi. offshore from Panama City, Fla., Sept. 1, this a single bird, and Nov. 11, 27 individuals (SS & JH)! In the light of recent sightings off the Louisiana coast in summer, these observations lend substance to the conclusion that the Greater Shearwater probably occurs annually along the n. Gulf Coast. An unidentified storm-petrel, in all likelihood a Wilson's, seen off Perdido Bay, Ala., Aug. 21 (JEK) was only the third record for the state of any petrel. Brown Pelicans were present in good numbers in coastal Alabama, although few were seen after September, but were scarce in n.w. Florida. Picked up injured and released alive, a Blue-faced Booby found on Dauphin I., Sept. 8 (PP & LRT) in the wake of Hurricane *Carmen*, was the fifth seen in Alabama. One 2 mi. off Panama City Sept. 1 (SS & JH) may have been the first in fall for n.w. Florida, and a Brown Booby off Destin Sept. 24 (BD) was the first September record for the area. A Double-crested Cormorant at Millwood L., Ark., Sept. 2 (GRG, DRH, BLT) was either a very early migrant, or summering. Those seen at Old Hickory L. near Nashville Oct. 6 & Nov. 10 (SF, WF, DC, PC) were encouraging because of their long absence there.

Twelve Anhingas on the late date of Nov. 22 in Tensas Par., (RBH, REN, LLG) were lingering much later than usual and were possibly wintering. Magnificent Frigatebirds, fleeing *Carmen*, were seen inland over Baton Rouge and in Point Coupee Par., La. in groups numbering up to 150. Only a scattered few were noted over L. Pontchartrain at New Orleans the day after the storm.

**HERONS, STORKS, SPOONBILLS** — The white form of the Great Blue Heron continues to occur every other year or so in the Mobile Bay area of Alabama; this fall one was present on Dauphin I. July 27 - Oct. 19 (REH, SBH, LRT, m.ob.). It is gratifying to note that the recent merging has not lessened observer interest in the distribution of this form. Latest ever in fall for n.w. Florida by eight days was a Reddish Egret in Bay Co., Nov. 25 (SS); the species has become regular there in recent years. A count of 1080 Cattle Egrets was obtained along the Arkansas R. levee between Gould and Pendelton, Ark., Sept. 1 (EMH & HMP), while six in Ashley Co., Sept. 26 (KLS & HHS) were considered unusual there. Rarely encountered inland in the Region, a Louisiana Heron was observed on the Duck R. Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Aug. 27 (GL). Although the Black-crowned Night Heron does not breed in n.w. Florida, one was seen in Escambia Co., Sept. 21 (MLM *et al.*), where it was the earliest ever by 22 days. Wood Storks were found in Hempstead Co., Ark., where they are irregular, Sept. 2 & 22 (SH, CM), and 11 on the L.S.U. campus Nov. 11 (BO) were late and in an unlikely locality. A flock of 300 Roseate Spoonbills in St. Charles Par. near L. Pontchartrain Nov. 12 (JMV & JLL) was much east of the usual haunts of this species.

**WATERFOWL** — A flock of 28 Snow Geese was seen at Reserve, La. on the unusual date of Aug. 8 (MTW), and the species was early in Escambia Co., Fla., where on Sept. 25, 12 were the earliest ever by 21 days, as well as at Nashville, where two were also early by five days on Oct. 8 (TWC). Small numbers on the Alabama and n.w. Florida coast, where they are only stragglers, were mostly immatures (TAI). White-fronted Geese, regular only in s.w. Louisiana and uncommon there now, attracted more attention than usual. One at L. Millwood Sept. 29 (CM, RG, CG, RS, FS) was the earliest for Arkansas by two weeks. Other records of interest were of 15 at Holla Bend N.W.R., Ark., Nov. 20 (*vide* DAJ), two at Cross Creeks Ref., Nov. 23-28 (BBC, SB, T.O.S.), and in Baldwin Co., Ala., Nov. 9 (TAI) and Dauphin I., Nov. 15 (DB). It is becoming clear that the species occurs annually in Alabama. Fulvous Tree Ducks were unexpected as far east as Panama City, Fla., where four were seen on Sept. 22 (SS), the fourth record for the Florida section. Black Ducks seen in three places in middle Tennessee Aug. 24 & 28 & Sept. 1 are the earliest ever for that part of the state. Near Weiner, Ark., Hanebrink located an impressive concentration of some 50,000 Mallards; of special note is his estimate of the sex ratio at about 2.3 drakes to ducks.

Possible regular breeding of the Northern Shoveler in the Tennessee Valley was suggested by the observation of five near Huntsville, Ala., Aug. 9 (JG), the fifth local summering record. On the same date a Green-winged

Teal established the second August record for Alabama when it was encountered on Wheeler N.W.R. Cinnamon Teal were reported from Jonesboro, Ark., where five males were seen Sept. 21 (AJF, MWF, EJ, SCG), and Sabine N.W.R., La., a single male Dec. 1 (HDP). Almost a month early if a migrant, a Lesser Scaup was seen in Union Co., Ark. Sept. 1 (KLS, HHS, JN1, JN), there are scattered summer records. Similarly, a Bufflehead on L. Millwood Aug. 25 (CM) was remarkably early, the initial August record for the state. Apparently the bird had only just arrived. The following records of scoters were received: a Com. Scoter in n.w. Florida Nov. 3 (*vide* CLK), a Surf Scoter seen on L. Maumelle, Ark., Nov. 23 (GRG, P.C.A.S.), the third record for Arkansas, a ♀ scoter shot in Cameron Par. Nov. 8 (*vide* JMV & JRW), probably a Surf, and two White-winged Scoters, Nov. 17-29 in Putnam Co. Tenn. (BJ *et al.*) Ruddy Ducks in Cameron Par., Aug. 14 (DN) and near New Iberia Sept. 22 (MJM) were the first records for Louisiana between the first week of August and the first week in October. A single Red-breasted Merganser at Nashville's Percy Priest L., Sept. 29 (SF & WF) was the earliest ever there by over a month. A maximum count of 200 was obtained on Old Hickory L. in the Nashville area Nov. 23 (WF).

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — Because of the paucity of records of Swallow-tailed Kites after the breeding season, the observation of two in Evangeline Par., Oct. (BO) is of interest. This fall considerably more attention was given the hawk migration through the Region, especially in Arkansas, Tennessee, and n.w. Florida. Particularly notable were the numbers of accipiters observed, highlighted by counts of 82 and 61 Sharp-shinned Hawks Oct. 19 & 20, respectively, flying across the St. Joe Pen. near Port St. Joe, Fla. (SS, B.C.A.S.). At least five Cooper's Hawks were noted Sept. 23 - Oct. 19 in that area, and Chandler saw 15 at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Nov. 7. There were additional reports of one or two individuals from various localities over the Region. Although one is tempted to regard these results as encouraging, there are sufficiently as many reasons why such local (in time and space) increase might occur, that caution is surely in order. Massive flights of Broad-winged Hawks were recorded Sept. 20-22, associated with the front which entered the Region on Sept. 21, as follows: 1000 in White Co., Tenn., Sept. 20 (T.O.S.), 988 in Little Rock Sept. 21 (KLS, HHS, EMH, HMP), and 2087 on Sept. 22 in Hempstead Co., Ark. (CM). A product of the same weather was a smaller flight of 212 at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Sept. 23 (SS). On northerly winds behind the next frontal passage were 600 in Marshall Co., Ala. Sept. 26 (TF & RMcK), 68 at Nashville, Sept. 28 (T.O.S.), 27 seen near Baton Rouge Oct. 1 (SDD), and 325 at Gulf Breeze on the same date. On Oct. 13 100 were counted crossing the St. Joe Pen. (SS) following the front of Oct. 9.

Rough-legged Hawks, uncommon anywhere in the Region, were seen on three occasions in middle Tennessee Oct. 13 - Nov. 26. Golden Eagles were reported as follows: Oct. 27 n. of Maumelle L. (JB & LG), Nov. 7, Ft. Morgan, one adult, the third coastal record for Alabama (PFC *et al.*) Nov. 16 at Woodbury, Tenn., 1a, 2i (FB); Nov. 23 at Cross Creeks Ref., 1i (T.O.S.), and

Nov 27, Holla Bend Ref, 1a (PDD). There were six reports of Bald Eagles between Aug. 27 and the end of the period, involving 15 individuals (7a, 8i). Thirteen Osprey sightings were submitted embracing at least 24 individuals. Of special interest is the belated report of the nesting of 3-5 pairs in coastal Alabama during the 1974 breeding season, with one pair known to have raised young (TAI, PFC *et al.*). It has also been brought to the writer's attention that the Osprey nest at Venice claimed in the nesting season report (*Am. Birds* 28: 650, 1974) to have been the first for Louisiana, is in fact not due that honor, although it is certainly the first in many years and the only one ever to come to the attention of Lowery and Newman. But it has been learned that an Osprey nest was under more or less continuous observation from the 1930s until 1942 on Bayou Lacombe, St. Tammany Par. (DRB). Records of 20 Peregrine Falcons were received Sept. 2 - Nov. 15, including seven seen Oct 2 - Nov. 12 at Dauphin I. and Ft. Morgan (REH *et al.*) A Merlin near Decatur Aug. 22 (DCH), considered the third summer record for Alabama, was not far from the site of a June 1974 record at Birmingham. One on Dauphin I. Sept. 6 (REH) was, with the possible exception of the report above, five days earlier than records for any previous fall in the state.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Semipalmated Plovers were seen in locally record numbers in Lonoke Co., Ark., where as many as 55 were counted at one time Aug. 1-10 (GRG, DRH, BLT, APo), while two Piping Plovers on the Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee Ref. Aug. 28 - Sept. 2 (JGH, MLB *et al.*) were unexpected. A Snowy Plover in Lonoke Co., Aug. 17 (GRG, BLT, CM) was thought to have been preceded by only one previous state record, an unpublished one dating from Aug. 11, 1961 (*vide* DAJ) Perhaps associated with Hurricane *Carmen* was the first inland record of Wilson's Plover in Alabama, this a male at Eufala N.W.R., Sept. 2 (SP & SGa). A Ruddy Turnstone at Pace Pt., Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee Ref., July 28 (MLB & GDJ) was earlier than any previous fall record for Tennessee, while two Sept. 11 at the Bonnet Carre Spillway (MTW) were the first seen there and represented one of the few records for s.e. Louisiana away from the coast. Rarely observed in Louisiana in fall, a Whimbrel at Grand Terre I. Aug. 4 (RDP) is one of only two or three fall records for s.e. Louisiana. Two Solitary Sandpipers at the Bonnet Carre Spillway July 15 (RJS) were the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana. A Willet at Hattiesburg, Miss. Aug. 28 (LG) was unusually far inland, while Red Knots inland at Pace Pt., Tennessee Ref. Sept. 2-8 (MLB) represented only the fifth state record. One at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Sept. 6 (MTW) was probably the first inland record for s.e. Louisiana. Even larger than record numbers of recent years were 8085 Pectoral Sandpipers at Anderson's Minnow Farm, Lonoke Co. Aug. 1 (GRG, DRH, BLT), the greatest number for Arkansas. White-rumped Sandpipers, nowhere common in the Region in fall, were noted at Pace Pt. Aug. 28 (JGH *et al.*) and in Escambia Co., Fla. Oct. 2 (SG). Stilt Sandpipers were encountered in record numbers in the Reelfoot L. area, with 165 counted on Sept. 1 & 2 (MLB & JGH), while one at New Orleans Nov. 5 (DN) was the latest in fall for that area. Two Marbled Godwits seen in

New Orleans Sept. 8 (DN), the day after *Carmen*, were the first reported in that city in many years. A Hudsonian Godwit Sept. 13 at Crowley La. (BO & KP) was one of the few ever seen at this season in Louisiana. Sanderlings were seen inland Aug. 13 in Lake Co., Tenn. (MLB, KAG *et al.*), and at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Sept. 17 (MTW). American Avocets were widely reported from inland localities, where they are unexpected, occurring from New Orleans through middle and w. Tennessee. The earliest record was from the coast, at Cameron, La., where over 100 were seen Aug. 14 (DN), but observations at New Orleans Aug. 24 (PS, LW, WW), Baton Rouge Sept. 11 (BO & KP), and Memphis Sept. 14 (T.O.S. — third fall record for Shelby Co.), document the arrival of the species. Other inland records came from Tennessee and Arkansas Oct. 11 - Nov. 7. A single bird at Ft. Pickens, Fla., Nov. 29 (CLK *et al.*), well removed from the normal wintering range of the species, was the latest there in any fall by 20 days. Wilson's Phalaropes were also noted in unusual numbers from much of the Region Aug. 10 - Oct. 5. In Louisiana, several at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Sept. 25 (MTW) were the latest ever for s.e. Louisiana in fall, and two in Cameron Par. Oct. 5 (DN) were nearly a month later than usual.

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMER** — Williams long ago concluded from a study of jaeger records from the n. Gulf of Mexico that November and April were the most favorable times to look for them (L. Williams, *Auk* 82: 19, 1965). Supporting this assertion this fall was the observation of six jaegers, two Pomarine and four Parasitic, in Mississippi Sound, Mobile Co., Ala., Nov. 10 (TAI, JVP, TD *et al.*). The birds were watched for over two hours, allowing leisurely size comparison with Ring-billed and Laughing Gulls. Remarkable indeed were single jaegers at Millwood L., Ark. Sept. 2 (GRG, DH, BLT) and Sept. 29 - Oct. 2 (CM, CG), the first records of any jaeger for the state. Photographs of the second bird were judged by Guy McCaskie and Joseph Jehl to be of a **Long-tailed Jaeger**, and it will likely be added to the state list as such (DAJ). Especially interesting in connection with these records is the fact that Graves, after a perusal of inland records of jaegers from neighboring states, picked Millwood L. as the most likely spot, set up watch there, and was swiftly rewarded. Single ad. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were seen at Cochrane Causeway, Mobile, Nov. 5 (PFC), the earliest of seven records for the state, and at Destin Nov. 19 & 22 (BD), the second n.w. Florida occurrence. Five Franklin's Gulls at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Sept. 12-21 (RJS) were the first in 10 years in the area and the earliest ever for Louisiana, while ten Bonaparte's Gulls Sept. 27 at L. Oliver, Ala. (LAW) were by a day the earliest ever in fall for the state. A Forster's Tern on Millwood L. Nov. 6 (CM) was the latest ever for Arkansas, as was a Com Tern there Nov. 9 (CM). A Sooty Tern found dead on Dauphin I. Oct. 12 (HME) was thought to have been a casualty of Hurricane *Carmen*, as was a **Noddy Tern**, the first record for Alabama, picked up dying on Dauphin I. Sept. 8 (PP & LRT). The specimen has been deposited with the Alabama State Department of Conservation.

Properly belonging to the nesting season report is a record of 68 Least Tern nestlings banded July 20 & Aug. 3-4 in Lake Co., Tenn. (MLB, KAG, AT *et al.*). The Sandwich Tern, strictly coastal in its distribution, was found inland on the L.S.U. campus in Baton Rouge Sept. 8 (RBH & RJN) in the wake of *Carmen*. Very late and possibly wintering was a Black Tern at Mud L. in Cameron Par. Nov. 14 (RBH). Black Skimmers were recorded in several Louisiana localities where they are unexpected, and most of the reports were seemingly unrelated to the hurricane. The reports were from New Orleans, Aug. 24 to the end of the period, the Bonnet Carre Spillway, Aug. 26 - Nov. 10, Evangeline Par. and Baton Rouge, Sept. 2, and the L.S.U. campus, Sept. 8. Another inland sighting came from Hattiesburg, Miss., Aug. 28 & Sept. 14 (LG). A total of more than 1000 were counted on the Gulfport, Miss., harbor flats Nov. 5 (DN).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A White-winged Dove at Cameron, La. Sept. 29 (MM) is perhaps worth noting in view of what seem to be reduced numbers in coastal Louisiana in recent years. One at the Pensacola N.A.S. Sept. 30 (JDeL) was the earliest for n.w. Florida by 12 days. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Dec. 1 (MTW) was the latest ever for s.e. Louisiana and latest ever in fall for Arkansas was a Black-billed Cuckoo near Maumelle L. Oct. 26 (JM, JB *et al.*).

—S.A.—

Groove-billed Ani appeared in at least normal numbers in coastal Louisiana this fall, but the situation in the Florida panhandle deserves special attention. Anis provide a difficult identification problem in this area, where both species might be expected to occur. Although until recently both species were considered accidental, the Groove-billed Ani has been recorded annually in the past several winters. Ordinarily the latter species is found only as far east as s.e. Louisiana or the Mississippi coast and is quite rare on the heavily-birded Alabama coast. The Smooth-billed Ani, on the other hand, strays only rarely from the lower Florida peninsula, yet has occurred in the panhandle. This fall a Smooth-billed Ani was identified in Santa Rosa Co., Oct. 6 (DT) and three Groove-billed Anis were seen at Ft. Pickens Nov. 2-29 (KC, BD *et al.*). The problem, of course, is that the lack of evident grooves is not a definitive field characteristic unless the bird is viewed under unequivocally ideal conditions.

An injured Saw-whet Owl found near Ft. Smith Nov. 12 (*vide* RA) was the fifth record for Arkansas and the third since 1959. Large numbers of migrating Com. Nighthawks were reported at Birmingham, where on Aug. 27 & 28 counts of 280 and 165 were made (WRM, JAT, BT, DP), and Little Rock, where 500 were seen in 45 min. on Sept. 15 (EMH, HNH, HMP). A lone individual at Nashville Nov. 2 (MLB) was the latest for the area by six days. **Rufous Hummingbirds** seem to winter in s.e. Louisiana in such numbers that virtually any well tended feeder supplemented with appropriate plantings, will attract one or more individuals. The species

was present at many New Orleans feeders through the end of the period and at least four were coming to several feeders at one residence in Reserve (RJS). A ♂ **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** was at a New Orleans feeding station from Oct. 26 on (BR, RDP, RJN *et al.*), where it was photographed. This was the third or fourth record for Louisiana and the second for New Orleans. Two Rufous Hummingbirds were coming to the same feeders. The most effective plantings augmenting artificial feeders continue to be *Abutilon sp.*, bottle brush, turk's cap, sultan's turban, *Salvia sp.*, and honeysuckle. There was also a report, not verified, of a Black-chinned Hummingbird at a feeder in Harahan, w of New Orleans (*vide* RDP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH KINGLETS — High counts of migrating E. Kingbirds were made on the Arkansas R. in Lonoke Co., Sept. 2 (EMH, HNH, HMP), where 216 were seen, and Sept. 9 in Jefferson Co. where over 340 were counted (GRG & DRH). Six W. Kingbirds and two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were present just west of New Orleans during much of October (NN & CR). As usual, both species were scattered along the Gulf Coast in small numbers, but 39 Scissor-taileds flying over the Arkansas R. at dusk near Little Rock represented an unusual number so far east. A presumed Great Crested Flycatcher was seen at Woodbury, Tenn. on the very late date of Nov. 8 (FB), later than all but a few coastal records for the Region, while an Ash-throated Flycatcher, the seventh Alabama occurrence, was carefully observed Oct. 27 at Ft. Morgan (TAI). Unusually large numbers of migrating *Empidonax* flycatchers and E. Wood Pewees were noted Sept. 22 at Triumph, La. (DN), on the heels of a cool front. Vermilion Flycatchers were reported from two Louisiana localities: Miller's L., Evangeline Par., Oct. 13 (BO), and Buffalo Cove in the Atchafalaya Basin Oct. 24 (CCL). Latest ever for s.e. Louisiana was a Barn Swallow at Reserve Dec. 1 (RJS); there are three winter records for the area. Cliff Swallows were present at New Orleans in what were perhaps record numbers Sept. 8 (MM), when over 600 were seen, while a lone bird at Fairhope, Ala. Oct. 24 (AN & MN) surpassed the previous late date for the state by three days. Also late was a ♀ Purple Martin at False R., La., Nov. 17 (RBH), the first recorded in the state in November. Two reports of the southward movement of Blue Jays were submitted from Louisiana, both on Oct. 19, three days after a frontal passage: 500 at Old River (RBH) and 200 at Catahoula L. (BO). Fish Crows seen at Sardis L., Miss. Sept. 21 & Oct. 20 (WMD) were the first ever for the Tallahatchee R. basin and unusual for their distance from the Mississippi R. Although the winter report will make the situation clearer, reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches from Arkansas and Tennessee from Sept. 29 on suggested at least a minor invasion of the Region. American Robins moved into Arkansas and Louisiana in numbers on the heels of cool fronts during the first week in October. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Eldorado, Ark. Sept. 5 (JN) was the earliest ever for the state by eight days and 80 individuals banded by Katherine Goodpasture in the Nashville area Sept. 26 - Nov. 21 represent a number several times that obtained during the five previous autumns.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Latest in fall by one day for the Nashville area was a Yellow-throated Vireo at Old Hickory L., Oct. 26 (SF & WF), and a Red-eyed Vireo banded at Ft. Morgan Nov. 6 (TAI *et al.*) was the latest ever for Alabama. Among about 700 birds killed on the night of Sept. 14-15 at a radio tower in Morgan Co., Ala. were two Brewster's hybrids (\*U.S.N.M.). The species composition of the migration in progress on that date is indicated by the following table, based on specimens actually preserved.

Northern Waterthrush	117
Blackburnian Warbler	69
Ovenbird	32
Kentucky Warbler	23
Magnolia Warbler	22
Black-and-white Warbler	17
Tennessee Warbler	16
Chestnut-sided Warbler	15
Veery	10
Com. Yellowthroat	8
Red-eyed Vireo	8
15 other species	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>379</b>

Respectively the latest ever by seven days for Arkansas and w Tennessee were three Tennessee Warblers in Grant Co., Nov. 2 (HMP) and one in Memphis Nov. 6 (Mrs EC). Nashville Warblers established extreme fall departure dates in several localities: Grant Co., Ark., Nov. 2 (HMP), latest for the state by seven days, Nov. 9, Nashville area (SF & WF), latest for the area by three days, Nov. 9, Fairhope, Ala. (AN & MN), latest for the state by two days, and Nov. 18, Memphis (Mrs. EC), late for the area by about three weeks. Also the latest ever in fall for Alabama was a Magnolia Warbler at Fairhope Nov. 9 (AN & MN), and a Black-throated Green Warbler in Grant Co., Ark. Nov. 2 (HMP) was later than previous records for that state by five days. Chestnut-sided Warblers were unprecedentedly late Oct. 19 in Grant Co. (HMP), the latest for Arkansas by ten days, and on Nov. 2 in the Nashville area (SF & WF), the latest ever by nine days. A Bay-breasted Warbler was by three days the earliest ever when it appeared at Panama City, Fla., Sept. 8 (SS), and one at Memphis Nov. 7 (HD) was the latest ever there in fall by one week. A tower casualty on the night of Oct. 16-17, a Blackpoll Warbler in Nashville was by one day the latest for that area. Completing the lengthy list of late warbler records were those of two Ovenbirds at Woodbury, Tenn., Nov. 7 (FB), and a Wilson's Warbler at Birmingham Oct. 19 (HHK), the latest inland record for Alabama.

**BOBOLINK, BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS** — For a species which is typically uncommon in fall, a flock of 220 Bobolinks at Cheatham L. in the Nashville area Sept. 14 (JGH & RM) was unusual. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported three times Sept. 9 - Oct. 19 in s.w. Louisiana and coastal Alabama, where they are regular, if rare, but a male inland at Athens, Ala., Oct. 17 (DCo, RD) was somewhat more unusual. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager in winter plumage banded at Nashville Nov. 27 (KAG) was the latest for that area by over a month, a Rose-breasted

Grosbeak in Memphis Nov. 16 (BCG) was two weeks late, and an Indigo Bunting in Grant Co., Ark. Nov. 3 (HMP) was a week late for the state. Only three records of Evening Grosbeaks totaling four individuals were received, all from the n. part of the Region: Nov. 7, Woodbury, Tenn. (FB), Nov. 8, Independence Co., Ark. (MBA), and Nov. 27, Lawrenceburg, Tenn. (LC). There was little indication, then, of a significant influx. Purple Finches were present by the end of the period in small to moderate numbers, and the first to arrive at Birmingham, on Oct. 19 (HHK), were the earliest ever for the state. A very early Savannah Sparrow at Millwood L., Sept. 1 (GRG) was by 11 days the earliest for Arkansas.

The Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco figured prominently in reports received this fall, some belatedly. One was of a single bird at Conway, Ark. July 3 (PCI, DJ), another of a summering bird at Decatur Ala. from at least July 18 to Aug. 17 (DCH) and perhaps present since June. Three at Union City, Ark., Sept. 28 (JB) following a cool front were by ten days the earliest for the state, and one banded on the same day in the Nashville area was the earliest there by two days. Finally, two widely separated individuals in Escambia City, Fla., Oct. 3 (SG, MLM) were the earliest by 18 days. The Clay-colored Sparrows was again found on the Alabama coast, making a total of 16 known records, this one being of a bird banded Sept. 23 at Dauphin I. (MEM). The earliest record of the Harris' Sparrow for Alabama was of one in Birmingham Oct. 19 (GC). There are four previous records for the state. White-throated Sparrows were seen in Cherokee Co., Ala., Aug. 24 (WJC) and on Dauphin I., Sept. 14 (EF, BW, JW); the first would be the thirteenth summering record for the state (!) and the first for August, while the second, assumed a migrant, was over three weeks early. A **Lapland Longspur**, the second record ever for s.e. Louisiana and almost 40 years after the first, was seen at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Oct. 6 & 30 (RJS, MTW). Seventy were seen Nov. 22 at Cross Creeks Ref. (BBC & LCC) and shown to many observers the following day.

**CORRIGENDUM** — In the Barn Swallow map in *Am. Birds* 28: 914, 1974, the lines for 1960, 1970 and 1974 in Alabama should be very nearly the same latitude as they are in central Mississippi, not curving to the north as shown. Further, the coastal population has been breeding at the head of Mobile Bay since at least 1963. This is apparently the farthest north breeding of the coastal population. Light-breasted birds, to the extent of about 25-50% of the population, have been found throughout the northern population by banders (TAI, JVP *et al.*).

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## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/ C. Stuart Houston and Mary I. Houston

The weather in Saskatchewan this season was worth talking about! Good mid-August rains replenished the water levels that began so well in spring and were depleted during the dry summer. Cool weather first hit Sept. 8, when the thermometer failed to rise above 42° and 45° F. at Kindersley and Moose Jaw. Birds were "bathing like crazy" Sept. 25 at Moose Jaw, as if in anticipation of the frost that froze the bird bath that night. On Sept. 29 & 30, temperatures didn't rise above the 20s all day and Saskatoon received two inches of temporary snow. The thermometer rose wildly to 82° at Moose Jaw Oct. 2, but by Oct. 4 the White-throated Sparrows at Moose Jaw were again bathing frantically and sure enough, there was a seven-inch snowfall that night as temperatures plummeted to only one above zero at Regina. I drove to Regina on October 6 and for the first time in my life saw Horned Lark concentrations comparable to those seen every spring. The larks were accompanied by Lapland Longspurs and a few Snow Buntings that made their debut with the storm.



Probably these birds were more conspicuous simply because they concentrated along the only snowfree strips of the freshly ploughed highways.

After this snow melted, a true and prolonged Indian Summer was experienced, with unusually mild weather and no return of snow until the week before Christmas. It was also warm and dry at most localities in the Dakotas, although Coleharbor did receive three inches of snow November 1 and another inch on November 12.

**EGRETS, FLAMINGOS** — Three Cattle Egrets were near Churches Ferry N.D., July 23 (ECP) and a Com. Egret was at Katepwa, Sask., Aug. 31 (EMC, DRMH). A Snowy Egret near Calgary Sept. 2 was apparently the fourth Alberta record since 1909 (RB), while another near Churches Ferry Aug. 8 was a first for the area (ECP). A flamingo photographed s.w. of Park River, N.D., Oct. 3 may well have been a zoo escapee (Keith Trego).

**SWANS, GEESE** — Whistling Swans appeared at Stettler, Alta., Sept. 8 and some stayed until Nov. 4, while others arrived at Sheho Sept. 17 and Kenaston, Sask., Sept. 21. Trumpeter Swans had a poor season at LaCreek Ref., Martin, S.D., as many ponds evaporated in the dry weather. Canada Geese increased overnight from 2500 to 6000 at Regina Nov. 18. A Brant was shot at Delta, Man., Oct. 7 (RBO). White-fronted Geese appeared unusually early at Edmonton Aug. 21, Kutawagan L., Aug. 31, Spirit L., Sask., Sept. 2, Upham Aug. 31, Churches Ferry Sept. 4 and Foxholm, N.D., Sept. 5. In North Dakota, Snow Geese were uncommon at Crosby and Coleharbor, but they peaked at 92,000 at Devil's L., Oct. 9 and at 50,000 at Upham, Oct. 18. A Ross' Goose was present at Regina Sept. 12-Oct. 19 (RD, FWL), another was shot near Delta, Man., Oct. 12 (RBO) and one was observed near Gainsborough, Sask., Nov. 2 (RK, HWRC).

**DUCKS** — At Medicine L. Ref., Mont., Oct. 30 there were 60,000 Mallards, 25,000 N. Shoveler, 15,000 Am. Wigeon, 20,000 Gadwall, 54,000 other ducks,

15,000 Am. Coot and 8500 geese (DNW). At Upper Souris Ref., Foxholm, N.D., Oct. 10 there were 20,000 shoveler, 5700 Canvasback, 20,000 Ruddy and 8100 Lesser Scaup (IOR). Mallards remained late in large numbers near Nokomis, Sask., with 26,000 Nov. 9, decreasing to 17,000 the next day. The major flight of Mallards left the prairies very suddenly Nov. 10 & 11, while the last flocks of scaup passed through Sheho Nov. 14. Blue-winged Teal were last present in good numbers near Edmonton Sept. 22, many of the early departees as usual keeping ahead of the shooting season throughout their migration. A ♀ Greater Scaup was carefully studied n.w. of Cochrane, Alta., Oct. 4 (SFJ) and another was studied at Fargo Oct. 17 (KJZ). There were 2000 Com. Goldeneyes rafting at Riding Mt. N.P., Man., Oct. 13 (BR). There were four Oldsquaws on Old Wives L., Sask., (!) Oct. 20 (FB). A Surf Scoter stopped near Regina Oct. 22-28 (RT, TMB) and a Hooded Merganser was in Regina Nov. 21 (TMB).

**RAPTORS, GROUSE** — Jear Harris watched fascinated on Sept. 9 near Kindersley, Sask., as a Red-tailed Hawk caught a Cooper's Hawk, piercing the chest cavity with its talons, and then dropping the kill as Jean approached. An unusually heavy Accipiter movement occurred n.w. of Cochrane, Alta., Oct. 6 & 7, with Buteos outnumbering the Accipiters 13 to 9 the first day and Accipiters outnumbering the Buteos 50 to 4 the next (SFJ). The only appreciable movement of Swanson's Hawks reported was at Kenaston, Sask., Sept. 10 in the wind and rain (PLB). Rough-legged Hawks appeared early at a number of localities, including Edmonton Aug. 26 (GG) and three near Calgary Aug. 25 (SD). Single dark-phase Gyrfalcons were reported from Tofield, Alta., Oct. 9 (RL, JW), near Hanley, Sask., Oct. 9 (WCH), and at Reliance, S.D., Nov. 27 (WCT). There were reports of four Peregrine Falcons from Alberta, seven from Saskatchewan, one each from Manitoba and Montana, three from North Dakota and two from South Dakota. A Sage Grouse shot almost at the Canadian border near Colgan, N.D., was the farthest north for recent years (WES).

**WHOOPING CRANES** — Cranes reported to the Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History at some time during their fall passage, approximately totaled the number known to survive in the wild. The first two arrived at Dysart Aug. 19 and were watched wading, flying and landing in the stubble fields. The next singles were at Big River and Churchbridge, the latter further east than usual, both on Sept. 5. Other confirmed or authentic-sounding reports were of one at Spiritwood Sept. 12, six at Penzance Sept. 17, two at Davidson Sept. 23-Oct. 8, three at Outlook — Broderick Sept. 25, augmented by an imm. Oct. 4-8, four at Midnight Lake Oct. 1-21, one at Biggar Oct. 2, six at Tribune Oct. 2-24, three at Radville Oct. 6, four at Strasbourg Oct. 6-23, two at Guernsey Oct. 8-9, two at Nokomis-Kutawagan Oct. 7-18 and one remaining Oct. 22-30, and five at Rouleau Oct. 16-19. In the Kronau-Riceton-Lajord triangle there were two from Oct. 2-5 and again Oct. 16 & 18 and three Oct. 8-20 including one immature, and these cranes graciously remained delayed their departure until they were viewed by a cavalcade of cars which came to see them immediately following the an-

nual meeting of the Saskatchewan Natural History Society Oct. 20. There were indeed three groups in the area on Oct. 15 at 5 p.m. as separate field parties four miles apart each had two adults and an immature under observation at exactly the same hour.

S.A.

Whooping Cranes also appeared in three Montana localities, with two records from the extreme n.e. corner of the state at Westby Sept. 30 and two at Homestead Oct. 12 (DNW). More exciting, and the furthest west sighting of Whooping Cranes for many years were three independent and very plausible reports, of *nine* cranes, by three different observers from three nearby localities n. of Edgar and e. of Rockvale, all on Oct. 12, just in advance of a storm from the east (Sherry Landon, John Blackford, Troy Allen, *vide* LMM). Two Whooping Cranes rested along the river near Pollock, S.D., the last week in October (NRW).

**SANDHILL CRANES, RAILS** — Careful counts of Sandhill Crane flights coming in to roost at Kutawagan L., n.e. of Nokomis, Sask., included 2775 on Sept. 23 between 1830 and 1930 hrs., 3193 Sept. 30 between 1800 and 1900 hrs., 6928 Oct. 7 between 1745 and 1855 hrs., 5877 Oct. 21 between 1800 and 1825 hrs., and 4602 Nov. 4 between 1630 and 1750 hrs. At Kutawagan there were 8000 on Nov. 9 and a mass southward migration all day Nov. 11 (WCH, M.L. Potter), the same day that smaller flocks flew over Caron, Sask. through the afternoon (FWL). The mass Sandhill migration passed over Audubon Ref., Coleharbor, N.D., between 1400 and 1600 hrs., Nov. 16 (DCM). A Yellow Rail was killed at a TV tower near Regina Sept. 12 (RLS) and another flew from beneath a combine on a field near Somme, Sask., Oct. 10, the first record there since 1954 (Don Hooper)

**WADERS** — A flock of 300 Am. Golden Plover scattered over one field near Kronau, Sask., was the largest group seen between Oct. 3 & 19 (FWL). Plausible and detailed descriptions of W. Sandpipers from Beaverhill L., Alta., Aug. 25 (RP) and near Vanscoy, Sask., July 25 (ARS) must nevertheless remain in the hypothetical category for this difficult species, not yet confirmed for Saskatchewan. Twenty-five Hudsonian Godwits were seen at Beaverhill L., Alta., July 12 and another four Sept. 8-24, but they failed to appear in the numbers of recent years near Saskatoon, with only one report of four on Aug. 10 (SJS).

**JAEGER, GULLS, OWLS** — Two Parasitic Jaegers were at Beaverhill L., Sept. 15-24 (DD, JW) **Franklin's Gulls** peaked at an incredible 600,000 — how do they find enough food? — at Waubay Ref., S.D., Sept. 18 (EJF, KFJ), already staging for their long flight south to Peru and Chile. A hypothetical sighting of a Ross' Gull at Beaverhill L., Aug. 25, was accompanied by a description of the wedge-shaped tail, but no photograph could be obtained (RP). A Barn Owl was seen Nov. 17 at Pettibone, N.D. (HFD). Snowy Owls made their appearance unusually early, with singles Oct. 1 near Edmonton and Oct. 2 at Tofield, building up

to no less than 54 around the circumference of Beaverhill L., Alta., Oct. 20 (JW, DD). Snowies also appeared Oct. 4 at Oak Hammock Marsh, Man., Oct. 1 at Indian Head, Oct. 11 at Kindersley and Regina and there were six in one mile w. of Saskatoon Oct. 12. Snowies reached Crosby Oct. 15, Upham Oct. 17 and Coleharbor, N.D., Oct. 21. Further details will be given in Esther Serr's and Richard Rosche's winter report.

**WOODPECKERS, PHOEBES** — Common Flickers moved through Regina in numbers Sept. 14, while the movement at Crosby, N.D. was one day earlier. A single Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was noted at Moose Jaw Sept. 23 (EWK). A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was seen for the first time at Saskatoon Oct. 11 (LWO) and there were five sightings n.w. of Cochrane, Alta., Oct. 20-Nov. 18 (SFJ). A second Montana record for the E. *Phoebe* was obtained Sept. 16 near Vida (PDS).

**CORVIDS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS** — The first Gray Jay for the Fargo area was present Nov. 11 & 12 (JRF). At least 11 Clark's Nutcrackers were seen Sept. 9 in North Hell Canyon, leading into Jewel Cave Nat'l Monument S.D., suggesting that this area should be checked carefully in the next nesting season for a possible new state breeding record (R.P. Russell, Jr.). Red-breasted Nuthatches have increased in the last five years in the Black Hills with 25 at Sheridan L., Aug. 22 (KJZ). Two Pygmy Nuthatches were seen s. of Hot Springs in both September and October (RCR, EMS). A Winter Wren, uncommonly identified in migration anywhere on the plains, was studied near Cavalier, N.D., Oct. 14 (DLK). A Carolina Wren was seen almost daily Nov. 1-9, n. of Brookings, S.D. (ERE). No less than 100 Long-billed Marsh Wrens were present n. of Maidstone, Sask., Sept. 15, with three still present Oct. 14 (WCH). A Rock Wren was seen s.e. of Saskatoon in late September (W.J. Maher), one entered a house under construction at Francis, Sask., Oct. 8 (Gilbertha Liebelt), while another was studied Sept. 19 e. of Wimbledon, N.D. (DEG).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES, KINGLETS** — A Mockingbird was in Edmonton in mid-October (Mrs. Henry Dyer, *vide* RL). Two hundred Am. Robins moved through Regina with the snowfall Oct. 5. A ♂ E. Bluebird was seen Oct. 14 at Botha, Alta (GMG, PG), and another was at Ekalaka, Mont., Aug. 28 with young of the year (PDS). Golden-crowned Kinglets were unusually well distributed throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan and North Dakota throughout the fall, being reported from many localities where they are not usually seen.

**WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS** — In Melfort, Sask., on Sept. 11 there was a large movement of warblers, almost half N. Yellowthroats, with 50 evident in one tree around pink-tinted street lights after dark. Many appeared confused or dazed and sixty were found dead the next morning (DRMH). On the morning of Sept. 12, a TV tower kill at Regina included 12 Ovenbirds, 11 each of Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee and Blackpoll Warblers, 7 Bay-breasted Warblers, 3 Philadelphia Vireos, two each of Black-and-white, Wilson's and N.

Waterthrush, and one each of Yellow, Cape May, Mourning and Canada Warblers (RLS). At Birch Hills, Sask., the peak warbler movement was Sept. 13. The warbler migration was generally disappointing in Manitoba, but what can you expect in a year when Bob Arbib doesn't stop by? [— Ed.]. The warbler movement was better at Highmore, S.D., including a Black-throated Blue on Sept. 22, 25, & Oct. 4, a Bay-breasted Oct. 22-24 and a Kentucky Aug. 29 (JH). A **Nashville Warbler** banded by Edgar T. Jones at Edmonton Aug. 28 is the second record of this species for Alberta (the first having been photographed by W.R. Salt in Banff N.P. in May, 1974). An imm. Magnolia Warbler Sept. 22 at Fort Qu'Appelle was only the second fall date there in 47 years (EMC), while one was sighted in Regina Aug. 18 and another Sept. 12 (AJB). A full-plumaged ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler was sighted at Moose Jaw Oct. 7 (PRK) and another at Regina Sept. 23-24 (RT). Two Black-throated Green Warblers at Sheridan L., S.D., Aug. 22 were a first for the Black Hills (KJZ). A Pine Warbler Sept. 15 at Fargo was credibly described (KJZ, BRZ). Wilson's Warblers were more numerous than usual at Regina, Aug. 12-Sept. 16, with a wave Aug. 21 (AJB). Forty Am Redstarts were counted at Indian Head Sept. 22 (MS). Rusty Blackbirds were unaccountably absent at Sheho, Sask.

#### S.A.

**GRACKLES** — Up to 3500 Com. Grackles congregated in Rapid City Sept. 19-21 to feast on the sod-web-worm-moth invasion. These moths clung to building walls for days and were several inches deep in the gutters after the streets were cleaned (G.L. DeFord, EMS). Equal numbers of grackles collected in a night roost at Highmore, S.D., Sept. 4 (JH). Dr. Robert Gartner, South Dakota State University range ecologist, considered that this moth invasion was the product of an ecological chain reaction resulting from range over-utilization and dry, mild weather. One presumes that the moths outgrew their food supply on the parched and overgrazed pastures and then invaded the adjacent cities in search of greenery.

**TANAGER, FRINGILLIDS** — A ♀ **Scarlet Tanager**, present at Fort Qu'Appelle Oct. 7-10, appears to constitute the first fall record for Saskatchewan (EMC). A first year ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak was recorded July 31 near Pierson, Man. (RK). Purple Finches bypassed many Saskatchewan localities, with only a single individual reported from Saskatoon and very few from Regina. White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows also bypassed Grenfell. A Golden-crowned Sparrow at Regina Oct. 16 was the fourth record for Regina (RD). Small groups of Smith's Longspurs were observed in the Lyleton-Pierson district of Manitoba, Sept. 27-Oct. 29, with a peak of 40 on Sept. 27 (RK), and another eight were seen at Oak Lake Nov. 2 (DRMH).

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This is our last report. No more words can express our thanks to the more than six hundred observers who have contributed at least one observation to the seventeen quarterly Northern Great Plains reports that have been our responsibility. It's been a lot of work for Mary and me — and a lot of work for the regional editors who have given so unstintingly of their time. There's still hope for the world when so many people will work so hard for love.

What has been printed in these columns is a mere distillation, a skimming of the surface, a subjective choice of only a few highlights, from a great mass of valuable data, including detailed documentation of most of the unusual records. This material is available for the use of serious students.

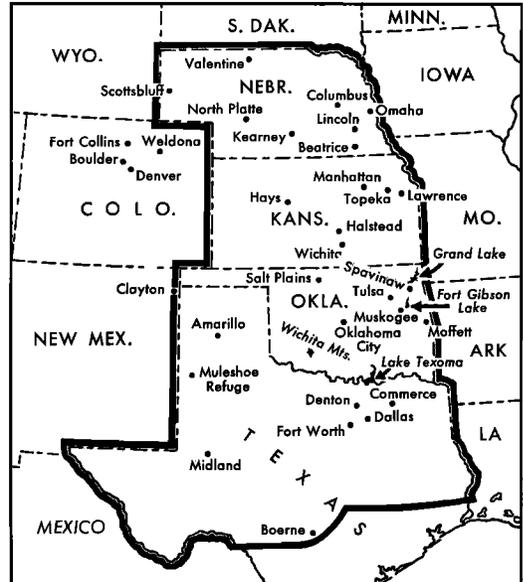
The original South Dakota reports are on file with Dr. N R Whitney in Rapid City and have been summarized by Esther M. Serr in much greater detail in the quarterly *South Dakota Bird Notes*. Duplicates of North Dakota records are on file at the Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center in Jamestown, and original Manitoba reports are on file at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature in Winnipeg. The Saskatchewan reports I will keep indefinitely. In January 1976 I will send Alberta reports to the Alberta Provincial Museum and Archives, Montana records to the Dept. of Biology, Montana State University, Bozeman, and any occasional reports from visitors to the other states or provinces, that did not originate with the regional subeditor, will be distributed to the appropriate repository as listed above.

Please give Esther M. Serr, 615 8th St., Rapid City, S D 57701, and Richard C. Rosche, P.O. Box 482, Crawford, Neb. 69339, the same cooperation you have given us. Esther is an enthusiastic and proficient birder, with proven ability at collecting and summarizing data. Richard is the former Regional Editor of the Western N Y subregion. The region is in excellent hands. Best wishes to both! — **C. STUART HOUSTON AND MARY I. HOUSTON**, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, Sask, S7N 0J8.



## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS / Frances C. Williams

After a very dry summer, the rains came with a vengeance from mid-August through October. Lakes filled and cultivated fields became swamps. Because of the drouth there was a shortage of weed seeds and fringillids. Because of the lakes and marshes, ducks, shorebirds and marsh birds were abundant. Winter passerines arrived early, but usually not in large numbers



There were several periods of outstanding migration in the Texas Panhandle, "The onset of a week of rain during the night of August 20 brought a fall migration that has been unlike any previous one. Mid-August seemed more like mid-September." (KS). In the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, September 14-16 were spectacular migration days. Over 110 birds representing 23 species were picked up dead beneath local TV towers (WP). The greatest number were orioles, followed by Yellow Warblers and Mourning Warblers. At a TV tower in Coweta, Wagoner Co., Okla., 177 birds of 28 species were picked up October 9 (JN). Most numerous were Nashville Warblers, with House Wrens next (GMS). In Kansas the week-end of November 2-3 was marked by the passing of a frontal system which brought numbers of waterfowl and the Little Gull. The following week was similar and numerous longspurs appeared.

Robert Coggeshall is a pilot who flies in and out of the Dallas-Ft. Worth International Airport. In *Woods, Wings and Water*, published by the Dallas County Audubon Society, Mr. Coggeshall wrote, "As I was landing to the north about 2330 I noted many birds in the beams of my landing lights. I must have seen at least 100 birds, perhaps a few more, from 1000 feet above ground down to about 300 feet. It is not unusual to see migrants during the spring and fall in the lights during final approach. They are generally seen from about 1500 feet on down. It is interesting to note that, although for the last

few years we generally keep the landing lights on from 10,000 feet down, I have seen night migrants only at the levels mentioned above."

**LOONS, GREBES** — Red-throated Loons were recorded in Osage Co., Okla., Nov. 16 (EH), Lancaster Co., Neb., Nov. 24 (DGi) and Morris Co., Kans., no date given (RS). Horned Grebes moved into Texas in unusual numbers, and were sighted in Archer, Brazos, Angelina, Garza, Lubbock and Midland Cos. during November. Western Grebes were reported at Lancaster Co., Oklahoma City, and five n. & w. Texas localities.

**PELICANS THROUGH ANHINGAS** — White Pelicans were present in the Region by mid-September and most had left by early November. Largest flocks comprised 8500 birds along the w. end of L. Texoma, a combined total of 5000 at Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R.s, Kans., and 1000 in Garfield Co., Okla. Double-crested Cormorants appeared at four w. Texas localities for the first time in several years. Olivaceous Cormorants were present at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., Sept. 19-Nov. 30, Walker Co., Tex., Sept. 1, and El Paso, Nov. 2. A good photograph was obtained at the latter location (BoB). In Walker Co., 500 Anhingas were still present Nov. 17.

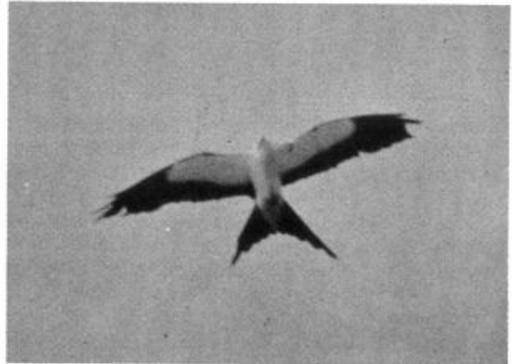
**HERONS** — Little Blue Herons were present at El Paso Sept. 21 and Linn Co., Kans., Aug. 10-Sept. 15. Cattle Egrets were recorded near Valentine, Tex., Oct. 3 & 21 (JoM) and Fabens, Tex., Sept. 21 (CD *et al.*). Eight juvenile Louisiana Herons were seen in Val Verde Co., Aug. 11. One had a plastic tag indicating it had been banded at a rookery near Lavaca Bay, 540 miles southeast. This species was common in Walker Co. and also recorded in McLennan Co., Tex. One sighted at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Sept. 8 was possibly one of those reported in *AB* 28:5. Black-crowned Night Herons were observed on upper L. Rayburn, Tex., Muleshoe N.W.R., and Howard Co., Tex.

**STORKS THROUGH SPOONBILLS** — Wood Storks were present on L. Rayburn in record numbers, as many as 300 being seen in a day on the upper part of the lake, but only one appeared at Dallas where observers normally expect up to 100 (HN). **Roseate Spoonbills** were present in Walker Co., Aug. 30-Sept. 30 and Oklahoma City, Aug. 3.

**SWANS, GEESE** — Single Whistling Swans were noted in Osage Co., Nov. 28 (EH) and Midland, Nov. 16 (TSJ). Two flocks of White-fronted Geese at the Plattsmouth Waterfowl Area, Neb., during October comprised 70 and 40 birds. Other sightings of White-fronteds were at Dallas Oct. 2 and McLennan Co., Oct. 10. High count of Snow Geese at Plattsmouth was Nov. 18 when 100,000 were present; 30 per cent of the flock were immatures. A flock of 300 Snow Geese was present at Hagerman N.W.R., Oct. 12. Snow Geese in trans-Pecos Texas are a rarity — records this fall were s.w. of Valentine, Nov. 4 and El Paso Nov. 23.

**DUCKS** — Two Black Ducks were observed in Wyandotte Co., Kans., Nov. 27 (STP). A Cinnamon Teal in Walker Co., Aug. 24 was noteworthy. Flocks of Wood Ducks comprising 17 to 87 birds occurred at Lyon Co., Kans., Oklahoma City, Dallas, and Hemphill Co. Nearly all reporters commented on the large flocks of Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks and Canvasbacks. Common Goldeneyes were reported at Nacogdoches, Walker Co., Dallas and at Lubbock in November. An Oldsquaw was present in Walker Co., Nov. 8-22 and two were seen at Draper L., Okla., Nov. 16 (GER). Two Surf Scoters were collected in Knox Co., Neb. in early October (LH), and one was sighted in Lancaster Co., Oct. 26 (DGi). Hooded Mergansers were reported in Lyon Co., Nov. 4 and Walker Co., Nov. 17.

**VULTURES, KITES** — A roost at Moss L., west of Gainesville, Cooke Co., Tex., harbored over 800 Turkey Vultures and 200 Black Vultures Aug. 13 (B & JB). White-tailed Kites were seen in Burleson Co., Tex., Oct. 16, 26 & Nov. 9 and in neighboring Washington Co., Nov. 9 (ALB, JCN). A Swallow-tailed Kite was present at Midland Aug. 23-29 (AW, m. ob.). Good photographs were obtained. The peak migration period of Mississippi Kites was Aug. 30-Sept. 2. The largest flock comprised 138 birds in Johnson Co., Tex. (CWE).



*Swallow-tailed Kite, Midland, Tex., Aug. 23, 1974.  
Photo / Wm. F. Newby.*

**HAWKS** — On September 14 in the L. Ray Hubbard area east of Dallas eight species of hawks were observed, including over 300 Broad-winged Hawks (WP). Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks were abundant through c. Oklahoma by Thanksgiving. Goshawks were sighted at Quivira N.W.R., Sept. 7 (JKH), Johnson Co., Kans., Oct. 9 and Osage Co., no date given (DGo, ED). A total of 43 Sharp-shinned Hawks was reported from 11 localities. Red-shouldered Hawks in Val Verde Co., Aug. 11 may have summered there. This species increased in Grayston Co., Tex. More than 1000 Swainson's Hawks passed over the dam at L. Meredith, Potter Co., Tex., Oct. 9-10. Rough-legged Hawks were present throughout the Region by the end of the period. A Zone-tailed Hawk was seen in Val Verde Co., Aug. 11.

Golden Eagles were seen as far east as Ottawa Co., Kans. (CWE), Ft. Worth, Dallas and Waco (MB, FB). During the period ten imm. Bald Eagles and six adults were counted in the Region. A total of 59 Ospreys was sighted. One sitting on a fence post in Valentine, Tex., Sept. 20 was some distance from the nearest lake. Caracaras were sighted in Collin Co., Tex., Aug. 30, McLennan Co., Oct. 1 and Limestone Co., Tex., Nov. 2. Ten Peregrine Falcons and seven Merlins were reported.

QUAIL, CRANES — S.A.

The spring fires in the Davis Mts., followed by a lengthy drought, caused Montezuma Quail to move out of the high country. They took up residence around ranch houses and were seen frequently in Ft. Davis. Several pairs of Montezuma Quail attended the cowboy's camp meeting at Bloys Camp the week of August 8-13. The "fool quail" were very tame and just moved over to share the paths with the hundreds of people present. In mid-October a pair of Montezumas with eight chicks walked across the main street in Ft. Davis (JoM).

Ten Whooping Cranes were seen flying south over Enid, Okla., Nov. 4. Sandhill Cranes in Kerr Co., Tex., Sept. 5-7 early migrants. Sandhill Cranes were widely dispersed in w. Texas, whether because of the abundance of water or the scarcity of food is a matter for speculation.

RAILS — King Rails were observed in Nacogdoches Co., Aug. 11 and Wichita Co., Aug. 26. Virginia Rails were sighted at nine localities in late August and early September. Over 50 Soras were present at Muleshoe N.W.R., Sept. 16 and they were accompanied by some strange visitors to w. Texas: a **Yellow Rail** was observed at a distance of five feet by four competent observers for ten minutes and four **Black Rails** were compared carefully with the Soras (BeB, SM *et al.*). A Com. Gallinule in Grayson Co., Nov. 8 was a late migrant (CRB).

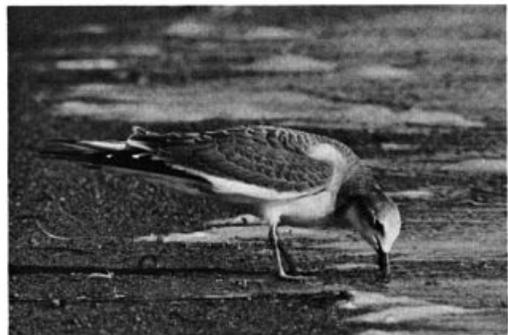
PLOVERS — Piping Plovers were recorded at Tulsa, Aug. 28, Oklahoma City Aug. 3 & Sept. 15, Hagerman N.W.R., Aug. 25 and Nacogdoches, Aug. 29. Snowy Plovers were reported in Osage Co., Aug. 24, Hagerman N.W.R., Aug. 3-25 and Wichita Co., Aug. 17-Sept. 27 as well as at several w. Texas localities. A Snowy Plover in Val Verde Co., Aug. 11 provided a first county record, but this probably reflects a previous absence of birders rather than of Snowy Plovers. Mountain Plovers were reported in Randall Co., Aug. 20 (RR, PA) and Reeves Co., Tex., Sept. 8 (B & JM).

SHOREBIRDS — Ruddy Turnstones were reported at Oklahoma City Aug. 1 & Sept. 23, Tulsa, Aug. 9-10, Muleshoe N.W.R., Sept. 16, Dallas, Aug. 17 & Sept. 9 and McLennan Co., Sept. 7 & 12. A Woodcock in Linn Co., Kans., Nov. 30 was late. Willets were reported in Kendall Co., Tex., Aug. 30. Red Knots were sighted at Oklahoma City Sept. 12-13 (JS), Lancaster Co., Aug.

11 (DGi) and Jeff Davis Co., Oct. 3 (JoM). The only sightings of White-rumped Sandpipers were at Hagerman, Aug. 12 (CRB) and Randall Co., Aug. 30 & Sept. 6. Dunlins were common at L. Rayburn and Nacogdoches with a peak of 10 present at the former locality Oct. 11. Single Dunlins were sighted in Wichita Co., Oct. 12-13 (C & BP) and Midland Nov. 9 (TSJ *et al.*). As many as seven Short-billed Dowitchers were heard calling at Hagerman N.W.R. in late August (KWH). Mr. Haller pointed out that although the separation of the dowitchers into two species is a recent taxonomic change, Chapman's handbook published in 1895, in discussing subspecies of dowitchers, stated "This bird resembles the preceding species in habits, but the baymen who gun for snipes say they can recognize it by its somewhat different notes." Western Sandpipers were noted in Lancaster Co., Sept. 1-8 and Walker Co., Sept. 15. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were sighted in Lancaster Co., Sept. 1, Tulsa, Aug. 28, Tarrant Co., Aug. 29, Dallas, Aug. 3, Sept. 7-15, and Randall Co., Sept. 6. Marbled Godwits were seen throughout the Texas Panhandle during October and single birds were seen at Hagerman Refuge Aug. 11 and Howard Co., Aug. 30. A Sanderling in Sarpy Co., Neb., Oct. 2 was late (TK).

AVOCETS, PHALAROPES — American Avocets were seen in Nacogdoches and Kendall Cos. in September and in Potter Co. on the late date Nov. 3. A **Red Phalarope** remained at Oklahoma City Sept. 7-12 and was photographed (JGN, JS). Another was located at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Sept. 21 (JGN *et al.*). Northern Phalaropes were sighted in Lancaster Co., Oklahoma City, Muleshoe and Quivira Refuges during September.

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS — A **Little Gull** was carefully identified in Coffey Co., Kans., Nov. 3-4 (JaM *et al.*). A **Sabine's Gull** was photographed at Oklahoma City, Sept. 20 (JS). Flocks of Forster's Terns comprising 80 birds were seen at L. Rayburn several times during the period. Two Com. Terns were collected at L. Rayburn Oct. 5. Other Com. Terns were noted at Oklahoma City, Dallas, and Archer Co., Tex. Least Terns were reported more frequently than usual. A Black Skimmer remained in McLennan Co., Sept. 1-12 (YD, LMB).



*Sabine's Gull, Lake Hefner, Oklahoma City, Okla., Sept. 21, 1974. Photo / John Shackford.*

**DOVES THROUGH CUCKOOS**— A Ground Dove flew into a window at Sam Houston State Univ., Sept. 30 and provided a specimen for the biology department. Inca Doves continue to extend their range in Texas. A pair of Monk Parakeets was seen in a residential area of Omaha Aug. 29. The nest of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo containing two young was found at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., Sept. 1 (KS). This species remained until Oct. 25 in Howard Co. and Nov. 9 in Burleson Co. An immature Black-billed Cuckoo was found dead at Lubbock Sept. 18 (ECK). It is now a specimen at Texas Tech University. Another of this species was sighted in Randall Co., Sept. 21 (G & ME, G & BH). Groove-billed Anis were located in Walker Co., Sept. 30, Crane, Tex., late August (RA), Tom Green Co., Tex., Nov. 2.

**OWLS, GOATSUCKERS** — Barn Owls were reported from only four localities. **Snowy Owls** were sighted in Lancaster and Otoe Cos., Neb., Nov. 6-8. An excellent description of the appearance and behavior of a bird believed to be a Hawk Owl was given by an observer in Lancaster Co., Aug. 28 (MS). A specimen of this species was collected in Lancaster Co. in 1891. A Burrowing Owl was sighted in Johnson Co., Tex., Oct. 18 (TG). A dozen Short-eared Owls had taken up residence at the Ft. Bliss sewage ponds near El Paso by the end of the period. A Chuck-will's-widow was studied carefully in Potter Co., Sept. 21 (RCu *et al.*). A goat-sucker found on the ground near Valparaiso, Neb., Oct. 9 was thought to be injured and was taken to the C.A.N.C. at Lincoln. It was identified as a Poor-will and released — it flew quite well and has not been seen since. Poor-wills were sighted in Potter Co., Oct. 13 and Lubbock Co., Oct. 15.

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — Migrating hummingbirds were abundant during August and September throughout Texas. A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird which arrived in Sherman in July remained at a feeder until the end of August (CRB). Another Black-chinned wandered east to Walker Co., Sept. 5. An imm. ♂ **Anna's Hummingbird** remained at a feeder in Midland Sept. 17-Oct. 26 (m.ob.) and a recognizable photograph was taken. The Anna's chased not only all other hummers from "his" feeder and perching tree, but also warblers and *Empidonax* flycatchers. The only time it deserted the feeder was when a very large preying mantis sat on it all day catching bees. A hummer thought to be a ♀ Anna's was observed at Kerrville Aug. 8-11. Four or more Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were sighted in Val Verde Co., Sept. 15. Rufous Hummingbirds appeared in numbers in the w. part of the state and were sighted as far east as Tyler, Tarrant, Hood & Wichita Cos., Dallas and Kerrville. In Walker Co., a Rufous Hummer was trapped in a greenhouse. It was netted, banded and photographed Nov. 4. Hummingbirds believed to be Allen's were seen at El Paso Sept. 1 (CJ) and Big Bend Nat'l Park. Aug. 17 (REC). Calliope Hummingbirds were reported in the Guadalupe Mts., Tex., Sept. 28 and Midland Aug. 11.

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — A Pileated Woodpecker was sighted at Hagerman Refuge Aug. 10 and another was seen Oct. 13 north of Gordonville,

Tex. (KWH). This species is reported to be increasing in Linn Co., Kans. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were seen at Dodge City, Nov. 25, Borden Co., Tex., Nov. 2 (M.N.) and Lubbock, Sept. 22. A Golden-fronted Woodpecker was discovered in Dallas Sept. 21 (HN, JH). Red-headed Woodpeckers increased throughout the e. half of the Region. An **Acorn Woodpecker** was sighted in Glasscock Co., Tex., Oct. 6 (M.N.) An almost incredible flycatcher concentration occurred at Muleshoe Refuge Aug. 16. Numbering over 200 in all, the flock included E. Phoebe, *Empidonax* sp., both E & W. Wood Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher Great Crested Flycatchers were common in w. Texas, where they are normally classed as "casual" migrants Black Phoebe nests containing infertile eggs were collected Val Verde Co., Aug. 11, providing the first breeding record east of the Pecos R. The nests and eggs were deposited at Welder Wildlife Foundation Museum A Say's Phoebe was sighted at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Sept. 7 (JKH *et al.*). Vermilion Flycatchers were collected at L. Rayburn, Tex., Oct. 5 & 11 A Vermilion Flycatcher was present at Lubbock Dec. 2 (JCP *et al.*).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Violet-green Swallows were reported in Johnson Co., Kans., Oct. 7 (MLM) and Dallas Sept. 15 (HN *et al.*) Blue Jays and Com. Crows were sighted at Muleshoe Refuge Oct. 17. A Com. Raven was carefully identified in Potter Co., Oct. 24 (KS). A Tufted Titmouse appeared at Dodge City Dec. 7. Black-crested Titmice wandered to Muleshoe Refuge Sept. 16. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported from 15 localities. Two at Buffalo L. Refuge Aug. 17 were early (KS).

**WRENS** — Among the birds picked up at the Coweta TV tower Oct. 9 were 20 House Wrens and four Winter Wrens (GMS). The latter species was recorded at nine localities during the period. Long-billed Marsh Wrens appeared in Walker Co. on the early date Aug. 17 and were abundant throughout the Region in October and early November. Eight Short-billed Marsh Wrens were heard singing Aug. 10 in a long-grass field in Linn Co. Five were picked up at the Coweta TV tower This species was reported at Lyon Co., Oct. 25 & 28 and was abundant at L. Rayburn. A Rock Wren was sighted at Dodge City Dec. 8 (MLM).

**MIMICS, THRUSHES** — From one to several Gray Catbirds were counted on nine out of 11 field trips to Hagerman Refuge between Sept. 8 and Oct. 13 (KWH) This species was sighted in Sherman Sept. 22 (CRB) and Tom Green Co., Oct. 2. More than 150 Brown Thrashers were concentrated in one thicket about 100 yards square near Pottsboro, Tex., Oct. 20 (KWH) A migration of Sage Thrashers was observed near Valentine, Tex., Oct. 3 when four or five were perched in each bush along two miles of road. For about ten days in late October an estimated 5000 Am. Robins gathered to roost at the e. edge of Bartlesville, Okla. Late Wood Thrushes were seen in Potter Co., Oct. 14 and Denton, Oct. 6 (JY). Hermit Thrushes were sighted in Lancaster Co., Oct. 21 and in Cleveland Co., Okla., Oct. 24 (MAJ). Veeries were sighted at Lincoln (no date given), Amarillo, Oct. 14 and Midland, Sept. 15 (JK). Mountam

Bluebirds were sighted at Wichita Mt. Refuge Nov. 30 (RPD) and were abundant in all "cedar brake" areas of c & w Texas by the end of the period.

**KINGLETS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed very early in Big Bend Nat'l Park Aug. 17 (REC) and Coppell, Tex., Sept. 3 (DJ). By mid-September they were unusually abundant throughout the Region. Thousands of Water Pipits migrated through Midland Co., Oct. 2 (EB) and several hundred were seen in Randall Co., Nov. 12-16. A single Water Pipit was sighted in Lancaster Co., Sept. 29. Sprague's Pipits were found at Hagerman Refuge Oct. 6 & Nov. 5. Mr. Haller wrote that the way to find Sprague's Pipits is to look for them in shallow ruts made by vehicles crossing grassy fields. The only Bohemian Waxwings reported were at Dodge City Nov. 18-23. A Northern Shrike was observed in Hemphill Co., Tex., Nov. 24 (KS).

**VIREOS** — A Hutton's Vireo in Val Verde Co., Aug. 11 was the first sighting east of the Pecos R. Another was seen at El Paso, no date given. Eleven Solitary Vireos were picked up at the Coweta TV tower Oct. 9. This species was abundant throughout the Region. During a stalled cool front Sept. 15 a total of 17 Red-eyed Vireos was counted at Hagerman Refuge. In Linn Co., Kans., an ad. Red-eyed Vireo was feeding two fledglings on the same date as the migration cited above. A Red-eyed Vireo appeared at Muleshoe Refuge Sept. 14 and a specimen was provided for Lubbock Co. by a cat Sept. 30.

Previous to this year, there were no fall specimens of Philadelphia Vireos in either Oklahoma or Texas, which led professional ornithologists to doubt the many sight records submitted by birders. But four of the birds picked up at the Coweta TV tower Oct. 9 were identified as Philadelphia Vireos by George M. Sutton. This lends credence to the ten records of this species submitted this fall.

**WARBLERS** — A Black-and-white Warbler was sighted in Washington Co., Okla. on the late date Oct. 27. A Golden-winged Warbler picked up at the Coweta TV tower Oct. 9 became the first specimen of this species in Oklahoma (GMS). Others were sighted in Lancaster Co., Sept. 6 (JD, RG), Johnson Co., Kans., Sept. 20, Tarrant Co., Sept. 19 (MP), Dallas, Sept. 18 (LL). Tennessee Warblers were observed at Bartlesville Aug. 23, Johnson Co., Kans., Sept. 28, Hagerman Refuge Sept. 8 & Oct. 24, Dallas, Oct. 10 & 13 (BV), and Garland, Tex., Oct. 15 (RCo). Several hundred Nashville Warblers were observed in Lubbock Co., Sept. 21. The only Virginia's Warbler reported was in Randall Co., Oct. 7 (RR). Northern Parulas were sighted at C.A.N.C., Sept. 22, Johnson Co., Kans., Aug. 8, Wichita Co., Oct. 19 and the Coweta TV tower Oct. 9.

**DENDROICA WARBLERS** — Magnolia Warblers, rarely recorded in the fall, were seen at Buffalo L. Refuge, Potter Co., Tulsa, Coweta, Dallas and Walker Co. Black-throated Blue Warblers are extremely rare migrants on the plains, so many of the following represent first or second records: Lincoln Sept. 19-20,

Omaha Oct. 11 & 12, Dodge City Sept. 24, Tulsa Oct. 6, Hagerman Refuge Oct. 13, Dallas Sept. 11, Nacogdoches Oct. 12, Randall Co., Oct. 19, Buffalo L., Sept. 21, Crosby Co., Oct. 12, Lubbock Sept. 27, Midland Oct. 3. Black-throated Gray Warblers were seen at Ft. Worth Sept. 14 (GRG), Randall Co., Aug. 24 (RR) and Buffalo L. Refuge, Aug. 8 & Sept. 5 (KS). Townsend's Warblers were noted at five localities in w. Texas during September. One at El Paso Nov. 4 was late. Blackburnian Warblers were sighted at Omaha Oct. 19, Johnson Co., Kans., Sept. 4 & Oct. 12, Bartlesville Sept. 7, Tulsa Oct. 8, Plano, Tex., Sept. 3 and Dallas TV tower Sept. 15. Yellow-throated Warblers in Val Verde Co., Aug. 11 may have summered there. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Tulsa Oct. 10 provided a late record. Chestnut-sided Warblers were sighted at Bartlesville Sept. 14, Coweta TV tower Oct. 9, Payne Co., Okla. (no date given), Potter Co., Sept. 14 & 23. Bay-breasted Warblers were observed at Dallas Sept. 7-8 (MG, HN) and Potter Co., Aug. 24, Oct. 18 & 20 (RR *et al.*). A Blackpoll Warbler found dead in Howard Co., Sept. 27 is now in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A & M. The only other Blackpoll reported was in Johnson Co., Kans., Sept. 28. A Pine Warbler at Lincoln Sept. 17 (DGi *et al.*) provided the first record since the 1870s at that locality. Others were seen at Johnson Co., Kans., Sept. 20, Lubbock Oct. 21, Amarillo Oct. 18 (G & BH). A Prairie Warbler visited a residence in Ft. Worth Aug. 18-23 (MP). On Oct. 26 two Palm Warblers were seen near the L. Rayburn dam in extreme n Jasper Co.; one of these was collected, the first specimen for the pineywoods region. A Palm Warbler at Oklahoma City Oct. 8 was photographed (JS).

**MORE WARBLERS** — Kentucky Warblers were recorded at C.A.N.C., Sept. 15 & 17, Johnson Co., Kans., Aug. 3, Tarrant Co., Sept. 6 & 7, Walker Co., Nov. 9. The "Wednesday Watchers" at Dallas had an excellent opportunity to closely study and compare Connecticut and Mourning Warblers Sept. 18. A dead warbler picked up at Sherman Aug. 28 illustrated the problem of differentiating these two species. The dead bird had very long under-tail coverts similar to the Connecticut Warbler but was apparently much too yellow for that species. It also had an almost complete eye ring except for a nearly imperceptible break in the corner (KWH). Mourning Warblers were common in the e. half of the Region. Six Yellow-breasted Chats were picked up at a Dallas TV tower Sept. 14-15 (WP).

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — Bobolinks were seen in the Nacogdoches area Sept. 20-Oct. 5, as many as six birds on one occasion. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported in Cherokee Co., Tex., Sept. 18 (LD, CM). This species was abundant in Kerr Co., Sept. 3 when observers saw four flocks comprising about 100 individuals each. A ♀ Orchard Oriole at Norman Oct. 15 was late (PWS) as were three in Archer Co., Oct. 12 (KZ). An inexplicable **Black-headed Oriole** was present at Midland Nov. 7 until the end of the period. Could a migrant Chicano family have lost a pet? (ME, m. ob.). A ♀ W. Tanager remained at Muleshoe Refuge Aug. 16-Sept. 14 and one was sighted in Crosby Co., Oct. 12. A Scarlet Tanager was observed at C.A.N.C., Sept. 20. A Hepatic Tanager was located at El Paso on the same date.

**FRINGILLIDS** — There were ten reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the Region. A Black-headed Grosbeak at Nacogdoches Oct. 24 provided a first County record (DW). Indigo Buntings were seen at Lubbock Sept. 22. The only Evening Grosbeaks were at Amarillo Aug. 30 (SS). **Pine Grosbeaks** were observed at Midland Sept. 27 & Oct. 2 (GP *et al.*). Red Crossbills appeared at Amarillo Aug. 23, Brown Towhees feeding fledglings were observed in Glasscock Co. as late as Oct. 6 (M.N.). A dead Grasshopper Sparrow was found in Lubbock Sept. 12. Le Conte's Sparrows rarely visit w. Texas, but were seen in Tom Green Co., Oct. 3 and in Reeves Co., Sept. 29. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was seen at C.A.N.C., Oct. 12 (DGI) and one was picked up at the Coweta TV tower Oct. 9. This species was common in marshes at the upper end of L. Rayburn Sept. 27-Oct. 13; as many as ten birds were seen on one date. Several Rufous-crowned Sparrows, apparently a family group, were seen at Muleshoe Refuge Aug. 16. A Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco was seen at Dodge City Sept. 29. A bander caught three Clay-colored Sparrows in Huntsville, Tex., Nov. 8. One was collected. Harris' Sparrows arrived in c. Oklahoma and n.c. Texas Nov. 5-8 but did not become numerous until the end of the month. Fox Sparrows were reported at six localities by the end of the period.

Large flocks of longspurs, mostly McCown's, arrived in the Texas Panhandle Nov. 1. Lapland Longspurs were observed in Kansas in Johnson Co., Nov. 27 (STP), Linn Co., Nov. 30, Wabausee & Lyon Co., Nov. 7-10, Dodge City Oct. 13. Smith's Longspurs were abundant in Lyon Co., with flocks comprising four hundred birds present Nov. 9 & 10. Ten Chestnut-collared Longspurs were observed in Grayson Co., Nov. 28 (CRB, SW), and flocks of 50 or more were present in Midland and Howard Cos. by Nov. 9. Snow Buntings were present in Sarpy Co., Neb., Nov 2 & 3 (RG *et al.*).

**CORRIGENDA** — AB 28:657 delete White-winged Scoter in Cleveland Co., Okla. AB 28:820 the Olive Warbler reported at El Paso was actually one-quarter mile into New Mexico. AB 28:921 delete the portion of the account of Barn Swallows that states "were absent from the piney woods area of e. Texas but they."

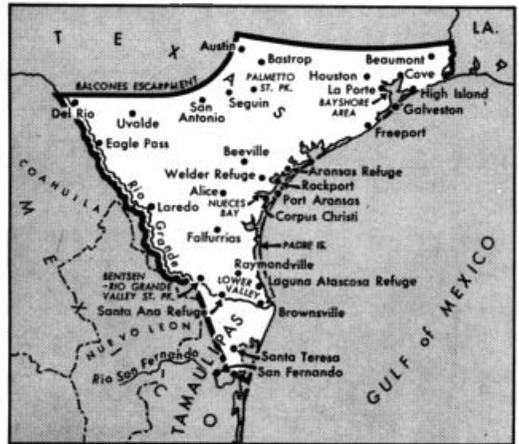
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Audubon Society, Warren Pulich, additional Dallas records, Hazel Nichols; Tarrant & Johnson Cos., Midge Randolph; Val Verde Co., Rose Ann Rowlett; Wichita & Archer Cos., Lafayette Stankewitz; El Paso, Geth White; Tom Green Co., Iris & C. C. Wiedenfeld.

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## SOUTH TEXAS REGION / Fred S. Webster, Jr.

The fall season was cooler than usual most of the time and wetter than usual part of the time. All localities tell slightly different stories. For example, Santa Ana Na-



tional Wildlife Refuge was drying up until rain came in mid-September and continued through October. Thereby lakes were filled and vegetation revived, and by November the refuge was in excellent condition (WAS). Aransas National Wildlife Refuge was on the

dry side until rainfall — including a downpour of 14.5 inches on October 31 — left the refuge with abundant fresh water and excellent habitat conditions for the Whooping Cranes (LBM). The coldest blast of the season came the last week of November but tenderest vegetation had been nipped by earlier frost and the consistently cool weather seemed to be beneficial to vegetation and kept insect activity at a minimum. Seed and fruit crops were good in most areas.

**GREBES, PELICANS** — Four **Western Grebes** arrived at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. in late November (CLR). A flock of some 400 **White Pelicans** passed over Austin Sept. 22 (RAR *et al.*), while 1500 circled southward over Comal Co. to the southwest (JLR). Late migrants, a flock of about 50, were at Austin Nov. 9-10 (AG & RAR).

**HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS** — **Snowy Egrets** were most numerous of post-breeding heron visitors at Austin (RAR). Few were seen after September. Drying lakes at Santa Ana Ref. attracted the largest concentration of wading birds seen during Shifflett's years at the refuge. Conspicuous among these were about 600 **Wood Storks** which used Willow L. for two weeks in early September (WAS). Unusually large numbers of this species were reported in areas around Rockport in late August and early September (KM & DNW). **White-faced Ibis**, until recent years extremely rare at Austin, were present for several days in late August and early September. Something about Austin's sewage ponds at this time were particularly attractive to large waders; however, it seems that other factors must have been at work to bring the ibis to this area. A southbound flight of 21 was the largest single count reported at Austin (EJS). Four **Roseate Spoonbills** were at Austin during the latter half of September (AS *et al.*). There were juvenile birds, as were most of the visiting herons. Five spoonbills were at San Antonio's Mitchell L., Sept. 26 AH, and two were at Stillhouse Hollow L., Bell Co., Sept. 12 (REC).

**WATERFOWL** — First sizeable flock of **Canada Geese** was seen in w. Harris Co., Oct. 8 (BK & ER). A small flock of **Snow Geese** passed over Austin Sept. 21 (RAR *et al.*), an early date, but 4000 were reported at Anahuac N.W.R. Oct. 6 (FC & VLE) and large numbers were on the upper coast by mid-month. A **Ross' Goose** was well observed at Austin Nov. 16 (EAK & BR), first record for the area. Two **Black-bellied Tree Ducks** were found at Austin Aug. 5 (JEG & MS), and four in the San Antonio area Aug. 30 (DW); this species has been appearing more frequently beyond the northern limits of its range. **Blue-winged Teal** was abundant by Sept. 1 and considerably reduced a month later. Use of the Laguna Atascosa Ref. by the **Redhead** continues to decline. This fall the peak population was only 19,000, compared to 150,000 only ten years ago. On the other hand, the 9000 **Canvasbacks** now using the refuge is an all-time high number (CLR).

**HAWKS** — Single **Swallow-tailed Kites** were seen at Luling, Caldwell Co., Sept. 2 (AG, RAR & SW), and at Houston, Oct. 11 (VLE & TBF). **Mississippi Kites**

were migrating through the Victoria area in late August and early September (GG). Fifteen immatures were seen on Bolivar Pen., Sept. 21 (VLE *et al.*). About 200 were seen just west of Corpus Christi Sept. 22 (KM), during a huge hawk flight. Three at Rockport Nov. 12 were very late (DNW).

Observations at Austin this season moved Miss Rowlett to comment that "virtually every norther during fall migration brings hordes of southbound raptors. On the afternoon of Sept. 21, after winds shifted to the north at Austin, we decided to check for passage of southbound diurnal migrants from a particularly suitable overlook on the Balcones Escarpment west of town. Between 4:15 p.m. and dark (about 6 p.m.) we saw eight **Am Kestrels**, an **Osprey**, a **Merlin**, and a **Peregrine Falcon** — the last two rare at Austin — flying south. Continued high cloud cover, 71° temperature, and north to northeast winds at 18-26 m.p.h. on Sept. 22 provided excellent conditions for hawk-watching. Between 11:25 a.m. and 5:40 p.m., we saw a total of 214 raptors of ten species passing southward. **Thirteen** definitely-identified **Peregrines** appears to be the greatest number of migrant **Peregrines** ever reported inland in Texas. Most birds passed singly or in small groups, only the **Broad-winged** passing in discernible flocks. **Kestrels** and **Broad-winged** were most numerous. During the remainder of the season I checked four of eight northers. Each brought additional flights, of varying species composition and numbers. **Red-tailed Hawks** were still numerous on Nov. 10, but by Nov. 24, 45 minutes of watching produced nothing. Several days of southerly winds during the season were equally unproductive" (RAR).

The hawk flight observed at Austin Sept. 21-22 is a fitting introduction to a tremendous movement of **Broad-winged Hawks** on the latter date. Some 500 birds (combined total for three localities) were reported over Houston, but from w. Corpus Christi to about 8 miles w. of the city, an estimated 15,000+ were airborne (DBri & KM). Time of day was not reported. On Sept 23, between 8 and 9 a.m., an estimated 25,000+ hawks (mostly **Broad-winged**) were moving southward in big "kettles" over Falfurrias (OCB), which is about 50 miles s. and slightly w. of the preceding locality. There is no further clue to the progress of this flight. At Schulenburg, Fayette Co., 200+ **Broad-winged** were flying s. in small groups under low clouds and with a north wind Sept. 26 (JAM). Another "big movement" was reported west of Corpus Christi, Sept. 30, during a two-hour period (DBri, *vide* KM). It would be interesting to know what hawks are doing between cold fronts, as well as how far they fly on a single hop. The spotty pattern of reports leaves gaps into which, as it were, huge flights completely vanish.

[Raptorialists seeking answers to such questions would do well to consider organizing regularly-manned hawk migration lookouts in Texas, such as now operating with such success throughout eastern Canada and the U.S. The newly-formed **Hawk Migration Association of North America** (AB 28:128, 1974) could be helpful in advising on procedures, organization, standard report forms, etc. Association with the other more northerly lookouts would surely help elucidate and probably forecast the spectacular hawk migration that feeds into the Texas funnel in autumn. —Ed.]

**CRANES** — The lone adult Whooping Crane which summered on Aransas Ref. "was observed to be in good condition until it was seen last on Oct. 8. There is no way of knowing for sure if and when it returned." Meanwhile, in Canada, four young cranes were sighted just prior to migration time, although 15 young were known to have been produced from 15 nests. First to arrive on Aransas Ref. were three pairs Oct. 17. Twenty-three individuals (including one immature) arrived Nov. 4-5, and an additional 16 (including one immature) on Nov. 10. A single adult was sighted Nov. 24, bringing the total to 49 birds (including two immatures). As of Dec. 1, eight birds were using Matagorda I., four were on St. Joseph I., three were on Lamar Pen., two were on Welder Pt., (across San Antonio Bay from the refuge (LBM).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two Am. Golden Plover, rare in fall, were seen at Austin, Sept. 20 (CE, AG & RAR). A **Whimbrel** at Mitchell L. on the early date of Aug. 6, may be a Bexar Co. first. Lesser Yellowlegs were abundant there on the same date (MH & DW). At Cove on the upper coast this species peaked at 2000+ on Aug. 19 (AKM). Red Knots were abundant on Padre I. Nat'l Seashore, Sept. 15 (KM). An estimated 500+ Pectoral Sandpipers were seen in the Cove area, Aug. 19 (AKM). Least Sandpipers were the first "peeps" to appear at Austin July 6 (FSW). Early July dates are not unusual for sandpipers, but often they are not looked for until later. Stilt Sandpipers were common at Mitchell L., Aug. 6 (MH & DW). This species showed well at Corpus Christi (KM). Western Sandpipers were found at Austin, July 13. Here, also, were 4+ early Buff-breasted Sandpipers July 30 (FSW). Wilson's Phalarope were at Mitchell L. in numbers Aug. 2 (JAM), an early date. Single **Northern Phalaropes** were seen at Austin, *July 30* (FSW) and Sept. 21 (BR), and at Mitchell L., Sept. 15 (JAM *et al.*).

**TERNs, SKIMMERS** — N. Padre I. beaches hosted an impressive buildup of terns Sept. 20, with an estimated **10,000** Common and 15,000+ Black Terns (DNW). A dead **Sooty Tern** was found on the Bolivar beach, Sept. 15 (FC *et al.*). An unusually large migration of 600+ Least Terns was found along a 20-mile stretch of N. Padre I. beach, Sept. 15 (KM). About 10,000 Black Terns were seen on Bolivar flats and e. Galveston beach Aug. 21 (JM & ER). Four Juvenile **Black Skimmers** were observed at Austin's sewage ponds, Sept. 3; two were seen as late as Sept. 11 (BR, RAR *et al.*).

**DOVES, CUCKOOS, SWIFTS** — By the first week of October, all of the large population of White-winged Doves had left Santa Ana Ref. Numbers of White-fronted Doves were down from summer. "Evidently a high percentage of these birds leave the valley (Lower Rio Grande Valley) during November" (WAS). A rather early Black-billed Cuckoo was on Galveston I., Aug. 9 (HMS). What were believed to be two **White-collared Swifts** (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) were seen near Rockport late on the afternoon of Dec. 4. They were observed in flight for up to ten minutes, at times too close for binoculars. "When the birds flew directly at us, the white circle (on the neck) could be

completely seen, separating the black head from the black body" (TWB & SJS). This widely distributed species ranges as far north as s. Tamaulipas, Mex. It breeds in mountains but wanders to lowlands at other times. We are not aware of previous U.S. sightings. Unfortunately the observers were unable to obtain a photograph. Chimney Swifts were last seen in downtown Houston Nov. 1, when 38 were observed entering a chimney of the main post office to roost (NP).

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — The **Black-crested Coquette** (*Paphosia helenae*) is a tiny hummingbird which ranges north to s. Veracruz, Mex. There is no apparent excuse for one to be in Texas, but it was evidently a member of this species that was feeding on duranta in the yard of Richard Juttner in Corpus Christi Sept. 10; the white bar on the rump would have been hard to miss. This individual was thought to be a female. A male appeared on Oct. 7, in the same yard, feeding on duranta (RJ, *vide* KM). Perhaps encouraged by these strange sightings in Corpus Christi, Dr. James, an ornithologist, in Edinburg, Hidalgo Co., confessed to seeing a member of this species (sex not communicated) outside a window Sept. 23 (PJ, *vide* KM). What was identified as a **Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** (*Amazilia tzacatl*) was feeding with Buff-bellied Hummingbirds, on Turk's Cap, at the Brownsville municipal golf course Aug. 20 (DBra & RB). Reported details seem diagnostic. This species ranges north to s. Tamaulipas. A large live oak tree in the Victoria area attracted a concentration of hummingbirds numbering from 100 to 150 or more, it being rather difficult to make an accurate count of a crowd of active hummingbirds. They appeared to be feeding high in the tree, but on what, could not be determined. All males seen were Ruby-throateds. This display continued for about a week until the advent of a cold front (*vide* GG). No date was given. The hummingbird migration at Rockport was good, with a peak count of 111 on Sept. 26. Three **Broad-tailed Hummingbirds** were seen there Sept. 13 (DNW). Rufous Hummingbird numbers kept pace with recent seasons, with later reports mostly from coastal localities.

**KINGFISHERS, FLYCATCHERS** — A **Ringed Kingfisher** was seen on the Medina R., downstream from the dam at Medina L., Oct. 18. It was reported that the species had been slighted in the area on previous occasions (JP, *vide* RTH). This locality is in e. Medina Co., west of San Antonio. A Green Kingfisher was seen below the spillway at L. Corpus Christi, Aug. 16 (SWS). A **Tropical Kingbird** was seen between Sabine Pass and Port Arthur Sept. 20 (*vide* BC). A Kiskadee visited Mr. McCracken's yard on the Nueces R. at Corpus Christi July 14-Aug. 3. Two were seen at Kingsville Oct. 26 (BP). A **Black Phoebe** was found at Pedernales Falls S.P., Oct. 16 (WS). The rocky river course which gives the park its name seems ideal for this species but the area has not been under observation consistently. A major push of *Empidonax* flycatchers was evident in the wooded hills west of Austin Sept. 23 (FSW). Olive-sided Flycatchers were concentrated at High I., Aug. 18 (VLE & TW).

**SWALLOWS, JAYS** — *Ten thousand* Rough-winged Swallows were reported at Bolivar Oct. 11 (VLE & TBF). Hundreds of Purple Martins were

southbound in the Falfurrias area, Sept. 15, flying low and feeding on an overcast, foggy morning (OCB). Brown Jays remain on the Texas side of the Rio Grande; Arvin estimated a population of 25-40 between Frontón and Salineño in Starr Co.

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH THRUSHES** — A very early Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at Bolivar Sept 30 (VLE & JLR), and a good season was indicated by subsequent reports in northern localities. Migrating marsh wrens, several Long-billed and one **Short-billed Marsh Wren** were seen at Austin, Oct. 5 (EAK & AS). A **Rock Wren** was found on rocky dikes of power company cooling ponds in the Cove area; it was observed Nov 20-23 (AKM *et al.*). This species was present in this locality in the fall of 1972. Flocks of Am. Robins were ranging through wooded areas of Bastrop Co., Nov 9 (AMW *et al.*). The Hermit Thrush had arrived in Austin Oct. 16 (FSW). A Swainson's Thrush in Brazoria Co., Nov. 23 (TPJ *et al.*), and a Veery in Austin Nov 16 (BR) were unexpected and very late.

**KINGLETS, PIPITS** — Golden-crowned Kinglets reached Austin by Oct. 15 (FSW), and were said to have reached "invasion numbers" in the Lower Rio Grande Valley by season's end (JCA). Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at Austin by Sept. 23 (FSW). Sprague's Pipit was seen at Austin, Nov. 9 (EJS). First report of Cedar Waxwings came from San Antonio, Nov. 29 (JAM).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Vireos, particularly Bell's, Philadelphia and Warbling, tarried at Austin Sept 24, an overcast day preceding a cold front (FSW). A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Nursery, Victoria Co., Nov 26 (GG). Warbler migration attracted little attention, or at least stimulated little reporting. Twenty-two Black-and-white Warblers at High I., Oct. 5 (DW) was the highest single-species warbler count reported. Noteworthy for fall were a Worm-eating Warbler at High I., Sept. 4 (VLE, BK & ER), and a Bay-breasted Warbler at Bolivar flats Nov. 10 (VLE, *et al.*). Early were a Hooded Warbler at Bolivar Aug. 15, and an Am. Redstart on Galveston I., Aug. 9 (HMS). A **Golden-crowned Warbler** (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) was well seen in "heavy river bottom understorey" near Salineño, Starr Co., Sept. 15 (JCA). The observer is quite familiar with this species. Two 1892 specimens are credited to Brownsville, and a sighting was reported near Harlingen in 1945. This species is very common in the Mexico.

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES** — Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared at Austin July 6 (FSW) and were last reported in the area Sept. 14 (AMW). A light oriole migration must be assumed from the scarcity of reports.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Twenty Blue Grosbeaks at Bolivar, Sept. 21 (VLE *et al.*) is the top count for the season. An early Purple Finch was there Oct. 20 (VLE & TBF). Lark Buntings were not found in Zapata and adjacent counties where they usually are common (OCB). A Le Conte's Sparrow was seen at Pedernales Falls S.P., Oct. 26 (JS), and two Henslow's Sparrows were seen at Austin, Nov. 16 (EJS); these species are considered rare. Two early Dark-eyed Juncos were

seen in the Houston area Oct. 19 (GC & WC). Fox Sparrows had arrived in Bastrop Co. by Nov. 9 (AMW *et al.*).

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## **NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION** **/ Wayne Neily**

The August weather pattern in the Region was almost incredible: Whitehorse had an unprecedented 7 6 inches of snow from the 21st-24th, far more than any other station reporting, followed by the year's high temperature of 81°F on the 31st. The 4 inches of total precipitation there contrasted sharply with the rest of the region, even points as close as Teslin and Haines Junction, which had only 1 inch, and no snow. Mean temperatures were: from 49°F (Chilkat Pass) to 56° (Alaska border on Haines Hwy.), slightly below normal in August; about normal, 36° (mile 203, Dempster Hwy.) — 49° (Haines Hwy. at border) in September, slightly above normal, (Dempster mile 203) to 38° (Atlin) in October; and well above normal, -10° (Old Crow) to 29° (Haines Hwy. at border) in November (Relation to normal is based on Whitehorse data over 30-year period). All time monthly lows were set at Whitehorse for September and October (11° and -12.1° resp.).

Winds over the entire season remained below average, but the precipitation pattern became only slightly less erratic than it was in August. Dezadeash, for example, usually one of the last places to get snow, led the region with 12 inches in September; by the end of the report period, there was no more than a trace of snow on the ground either there or about 120 miles away at Whitehorse, but Haines Junction, between the two, had 7 inches still well below the maximum reported of 34 inches at Old Crow, which also had the region's lowest temperature for the period, -47°F, in November.

Coverage of the area was fair to good in the north and southwestern portions, but weak in the southeastern and central parts. Unless otherwise noted, observations from Old Crow and the Yukon coast are by Dave Mossop (usually with Ron Butler and others of the Yukon Game Branch), those from the Pelly River

mouth (i.e., its confluence with the Yukon R.) by John Lammers and David McCargo, those from the Beaver Creek area by Maria Ledergerber, and those from the Kluane N.P. area by the Regional Editor.

**LOONS, GREBES** — Migration data for these groups is rather scanty, but some good August counts from the Yukon coast area are available for Arctic and Red-throated Loons. The latest Com. Loon was one at the mouth of the Pelly R. Oct. 1, while the only Yellow-billed loons reported were five along the Yukon coast Aug. 21. An Arctic Loon was seen at Mush L. (Kluane N.P.) Aug. 3 (AN), but all other reports come from the Yukon coast, where it was more abundant than the Red-throated (MK), although after a peak of 40 Arctics Aug. 21 from Komakuk Beach to the N.W.T. border, the numbers declined until they were outnumbered 18 to 10 by the Red-throated Loons Aug. 30. The questions of when and by what route these move to their wintering areas remains unanswered. Horned Grebes were reported mainly from the s.w. corner of the Region, where a peak was noticeable Sept. 17-20 (WN, JM, DB, RS, AN); the latest straggler was Oct. 30 at Lower Kathleen L. (WN, AN).

**WATERFOWL** — Most waterfowl reports are appropriately from the vicinity of the region's major breeding and moulting areas for the group, the Old Crow Flats, Mackenzie Delta and other parts of the coastal lowland. There are some indications of movements in the Shakwak Trench, but in general, data from the s. part of the Region are too scarce to complete the migration picture.

Seven Whistling Swans were observed at the extreme n.w. corner of the Region (Clarence Lagoon) Aug. 17, and from then until the end of August, counts along the coastal plain from nearby Komakuk Beach E to King Pt. showed a steady increase, mainly of adults in flocks (probably non-breeders or unsuccessful breeders). Totals for this stretch grew from 66 (54 adults) Aug. 21, to 130 (119 adults) Aug. 30. The total for the Yukon coastal plain by August 30 was 357, but this dropped to 55 by September 8. These observations correlate well with ones made at Old Crow Flats where Whistling Swan numbers declined in August until sample counts there covering about 4 per cent of the habitat showed only 30 swans (all in pairs or family groups) Aug. 31, and 148 (22 per cent in pairs or families) Sept. 3. More details on these and other northern Yukon waterfowl studies are available in unpublished reports by D. Mossop to the Yukon Game Branch. Four swans (sp.) were seen at Kluane L. Sept. 2-11 (AN, JT, WN) and two Whistling Swans at the Pelly R. mouth Oct. 10 closed out the season.

On the Old Crow Flats by mid-August, about 12,000 Canada Geese (about twice the July total) were estimated, based on sample surveys, and about 13,800 by the end of the month. As well as the substantial breeding population, it appears that as many more come into the area to moult. On the n. coast, this species was reported in numbers only for the Yukon portion of the Mackenzie R. delta, where numbers went from 200 on Aug. 27 to 485 on Aug. 30 to ten on Sept. 8. More southerly reports come from the Beaver Creek area

where flocks were seen Oct. 1 & 14, and four as late as Oct. 24. All Black Brant reports were, predictably, from the coastal area, where numbers increased from mid-July to a peak of 7000 Aug. 21, after which they declined through continuing movement westward along the coast until none were seen after Aug. 30. The only White-fronted Geese seen were 75 in the Yukon portion of the Mackenzie delta Aug. 30. The species of the Yukon coast at this season, however, is the Snow Goose, which appeared Aug. 14, built up over the next week to about 38,000, declined through westward movement (presumably along the Alaska coast) during the next week to 1600, then, with eastward movement of flocks, came up again to about 25,000 by Sept 8. Notable concentrations were 3000-5000, mixed with some Sandhill Cranes, at the Babbage R. delta Aug. 22, (MK) and a similar situation at the Blow R. delta Aug 30 (MK). Evidently this substantial population moves along this coastal plain building up fat reserves for the long migration down the Mackenzie Valley and beyond — another factor of importance in evaluating the proposed pipeline routes here.

While the Old Crow Flats may be the Yukon's most important waterfowl breeding area, it appears that they may be even more critical as a moulting area for ducks that nested elsewhere. The mid-August surveys indicated increases over mid-July populations for all the dabblers, and three of the six divers recorded, the increase being up to 20X (Green-winged Teal). Population data here are extrapolated from sample coverage of about 2.4 per cent of the 1610 sq. mi. Flats. About 3400 Mallards were in the Flats in mid-August, down to about 2900 by the beginning of September. Five were seen at mile 1170 of the Alaska Hwy. Sept. 3 (MM), and the last was a male Oct. 7 in Kluane N.P. (AN). All Pintail reports were from the north, the mid-August Old Crow Flats population of about 50,000 (3X the July 10 figure) increasing to about 55,000 by the end of the month. Several pairs were noted in the Babbage R. delta in August (MK), and the Game Branch counts showed about 100 along the Yukon coastal plain on Aug. 21, declining to 10 by Aug. 30. The 27,000 Green-winged Teal in the Old Crow Flats in mid-August doubled again to about 55,000 by the end of the month, but coastal plain counts ranged from 50 on Aug. 21 to 10 on Aug. 27, and back up to 40 on Aug. 30. A Blue-winged Teal, well north of its known range, was seen on the Old Crow Flats surveys, both in mid-August and at the end of the month. American Wigeon were well distributed in the w. half of the Region; ten were at mile 1037 of the Alaska Hwy. Aug. 11; the Old Crow Flats population of about 92,500 in mid-August remained about the same (96,000) at the end of the month. What happened to these and other large migrant flocks is a mystery, as the only report from the s. part of the region after mid-August is of one female identified in a flock of 75 ducks at Kluane L. Sept. 1 (AN). Do they too follow the Mackenzie Valley route south? Smaller numbers of N. Shovelers (480 in mid-August, 960 at the end of the month) were also on the Old Crow Flats.

Ring-necked Ducks, never too common in the Region, are apparently early migrants as the mid-August Old Crow Flats count indicated only about 500 there, less than one-quarter the July 10 figure, and none were

there by Aug. 31. Canvasbacks also left early, the mid-August Flats population of 18,000 being only slightly more than one-third the July 10 population, when it was the second most abundant species on the Flats. Only about 4000 remained by Aug. 31 - Sept. 3. Lesser Scaups were by far the most abundant ducks on the Old Crow Flats, the mid-August population of 228,000 (more than 2X the July totals) dropping to about 211,000 by Aug. 31. One adult with brood of five was also noted in the Southwest this season, although some of the scaup (sp.) reported from the Yukon Coast (50-215) or from the s.w. Yukon may have belonged to this species. Common Goldeneyes were noted in the west (1+ near White River bridge, mile 1170, Alaska Hwy.), and s.e. — (three in the Racheria R. area, mile 701, Alaska Hwy.) Sept. 3 and four resp. (MM) and six ad Barrow's Goldeneye with two broods of five each were also noted in Sulphur L. Aug. 11 (WN, DG). On the Old Crow Flats, goldeneye (sp.) were seen only on the mid-August surveys, when a population of about 2000 was indicated. Four Bufflehead seen Oct. 30 at Dezadeash L. (AN, WN) were the only ones of this species noted. Oldsquaw, scarce in the Old Crow Flats in July, increased to over 2000 there by mid-August, declining to about 700 by the end of the month. Along the Yukon coast they declined from 3000 on Aug. 21 to 100 Aug. 30, but numbers offshore here remained high. This was noticeable on windy days when large numbers gathered along the "inner" shore of Herschel I. (max. of 6050 on Sept. 4), although on a very calm day (Aug. 25) only 790 could be seen there. Average counts here were about 2500. Both Common and King Eiders were seen around the bays and lagoons of the Babbage R. delta (MK), and Game Branch counts showed 250 eider (sp.) along the Yukon coast Aug. 21, and only two on Aug. 27. White-winged Scoters (four adults with broods of 5-7 each) were at Sulphur L. Aug. 11 (WN, DG) and present in the Old Crow Flats along with Surf Scoters. Combined population figures for the two species there are about 10,000 in mid-August and 3000 at the end of the month. Yukon coast and Herschel I. counts were listed as "scoters, mostly Surf"; along the coast numbers went from 1050 on Aug. 21 to 500 Aug. 25 to none thereafter. Along the inner coast of Herschel I., the pattern was the same as that for Oldsquaws, although the numbers were smaller, ranging from ten on Aug. 25 to 1075 Aug. 21 and 1050 Sept. 4.

Common Mergansers were reported from the Pelly R. mouth, two on Sept. 30, and one Oct. 23. Merganser (probably Red-breasted) were noted in the Babbage R. delta (MK), and a flock of 35 Red-breasted Mergansers was at Dezadeash L. as late as Oct. 30 (WN, AN).

**HAWKS, FALCONS** — Goshawks were sparingly reported, from the s.w. Yukon, but one in the Kluane area Sept. 9 formed part of a discernable movement there of raptors Sept. 8-11, which included all three Sharp-shinned Hawk reports, one Red-tailed Hawk, seven Golden Eagles, two Marsh Hawks, and one American Kestrel. Not very impressive numbers, but all the result of casual observations. It would be interesting to see what a real hawk-watch might produce. Red-tailed Hawks were common in the Southwest until the end of September, last report being of two *harlani* at Haines Jct. Oct. 2. On this date the first Rough-legged

Hawk appeared in the south, also at Haines Jct. Golden Eagles were still present as late as Nov. 4, when one was at the Pelly R. mouth, and an imm. Bald Eagle held on at Klukashu as late as Nov. 11. Both were common in the s.w. Yukon earlier in the season. Marsh Hawks were reported from the Old Crow Flats (one as late as the Aug. 31 - Sept. 3 count) (DMO) s. to Haines Jct., but none after Sept. 9. The only Gyrfalcon reported was one Nov. 23 on the s. side of the Chilkat Pass, B.C. (LF, HF), and the only Merlin was Oct. 3, at Haines Jct. American Kestrels were reported only from the Whitehorse-Kluane area, and not seen after Sept. 9.

**GROUSE** — Spruce and Ruffed Grouse populations remained low, the few reports coming from the s.w. Yukon except 1-2 of the latter seen throughout October and early November near the Pelly R. mouth. Willow Ptarmigan were common in the Burwash Uplands and Chilkat Pass, and 4+ White-tailed Ptarmigan were seen n.w. of the Duke R., in Kluane N.P., Sept. 11 (WN, AN). Among the ptarmigan (sp.) reports singles near the terminus of the Tweedsmuir Glacier, n.w. B.C., Aug. 6-7 (AN) were probably Rock Ptarmigan. A Sharp-tailed Grouse was seen in the Pelly R. mouth area Oct. 31.

**CRANES, SHOREBIRDS** — At least 8 pairs of Sandhill Cranes were seen around the Babbage R. delta in August (MK), 8 were in the Old Crow Flats in mid-August, none there by the end of the month, and counts along the Yukon Coastal Plain in late August showed two present 21-27 Aug. and 42 on Aug. 30.

Two Am. Golden Plover were still on their breeding area in the Burwash Uplands Aug. 11, and a Com Snipe, apparently rather scarce in the Region, was observed at Snag L., Aug. 24. Upland Sandpipers were still common in the Burwash Uplands Aug. 11, and Spotted Sandpipers were reported across the s. Yukon, from Beaver Ck. E. to Marsh L. (MM) where the latest one was seen Sept. 4. Lesser Yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers were both last noted on Aug. 10, when small numbers were moving through the Haines Jct. area. The latter, along with N. Phalaropes, were reported as being very common in lagoons and ponds along the Yukon coast in August (MK).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — Both Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaegers were seen occasionally along the Yukon coast in August (MK). Counts of jaegers (sp.) there dropped from three on Aug. 21 to one on Aug. 27, and none thereafter (DMO).

Glaucous Gulls were seen exclusively along the Yukon coast where counts ranged from 575 Aug. 21 to 69 Aug. 25 to 130 Aug. 30. Herring Gull reports were all from the s. Yukon, the latest being Sept. 4 at Marsh L. (MM). Sabine's Gulls appeared along the Yukon coast, the maximum of 11 on Aug. 25 declining to one by Aug. 30, and Arctic Terns were also common there, peaking at 400 on Aug. 27 and dropping to ten by the 30th. Eighty were also counted in the Old Crow Flats in mid-August (suggesting a much higher population) but none were there by Aug. 31.

**DOVES, OWLS** — As usual, a few Mourning Doves strayed into the Region in September. One was at

Kluane Sept. 5 (JT) and another near the Pelly R. mouth Sept. 19-25. Great Horned Owl reports were only from the s.w. Yukon and only for August but presumably there are still some here. The lack of Hawk Owl reports is probably more significant, however, as these conspicuous birds were definitely scarcer than last year. The only one seen was Oct. 2 at Haines Jct. (LT). A highlight of the season was a stray (?) Barred Owl seen and heard at Pine L. near Haines Jct., Sept. 4 (MM), while a Great Gray Owl seen and photographed along the Takhanne R. on the Haines Hwy. Aug. 1 (DP), although within its range, is almost as scarce a sighting.

**NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Common Nighthawks were moving through the Haines Junction-Whitehorse area Aug. 28-29 (AN, WN), but no large concentrations were reported. A hummingbird (probably Rufous) was seen at the terminus of the Tweedsmuir Glacier Aug. 7 (AN), and Belted Kingfishers were reported from Haines Jct., Aug. 10 and the Beaver Creek area Aug. 25. Common Flickers (Yellow-shafted) were seen as late as Sept. 3 (one at mile 1130, Alaska Hwy., MM). A Hairy Woodpecker was seen in October in the area of the Pelly R. mouth, where a scarce Downy Woodpecker also appeared Nov. 6. Both these species were also seen at Haines Jct. during the autumn (PB). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported from Beaver Creek (Sept. 28) and the Pelly R. mouth Nov. 4.

**FLYCATCHER, SWALLOWS** — Say's Phoebes remained regular in the s.w. Yukon until Aug. 26 when the last report was of two "singing" 5 mi. w. of Kluane L. (MM). Western Wood Pewees disappeared early, the last report being of four or more in the Haines Jct. area Aug. 3, while an Olive-sided Flycatcher near there on the Haines Hwy. Aug. 10 (DG, WN) was the last of that species observed. Barn Swallows were scarce, but one was seen as late as Sept. 5 at Watson L. (MM), while Cliff Swallows were noticed in small flocks near Whitehorse Aug. 1 (WN), and at Haines Jct., where 326+ on July 30 were down to two by Aug. 10.

**CORVIDS, CHICKADEES** — Gray Jays were common from August through October, from Burwash e. to Watson L., and n. to the Pelly R. area, and Black-billed Magpies were frequent throughout the period, mainly in the s.w. Yukon, but with a report from Watson L. Sept. 5 (MM) extending its known range in that direction. Common Ravens lived up to their name throughout the period from the Pelly R. south, while Black-capped Chickadees occurred sparingly in the s.w. Yukon n. to the upper Burwash Ck. Boreal Chickadees were well reported from the Pelly R. s. to the Chilkat Pass (MM), throughout the period, while four Chestnut-backed Chickadees were seen in Rainy Hollow, B.C. (mile 52, Haines Hwy.) Sept. 2 (WN).

**DIPPER, THRUSHES** — One Dipper at Klukshu Ck. Oct. 30 increased to 6 or more by Nov. 11, suggesting at least a local migration in this species. A few Am. Robins were on the move Sept. 2 in the Chilkat Pass (WN) and most were gone by Sept. 29, when three were seen just w. of Beaver Creek, but a few remained near the Pelly R. mouth until early Nov., one as late as Nov.

6. A distinct wave of Varied Thrushes was noticed Sept. 9, when more than a dozen were counted in the Slims Valley. All reports of this species were from the s.w. corner of the Region, the last being one, Sept. 20 at Mush L. Swainson's Thrushes were not seen after one at Haines Jct., Aug. 10 (WN, DG), while four Mountain Bluebirds were still in that area Aug. 30, and a Townsend's Solitaire was seen nearby as late as Sept. 24 (AN).

**KINGLETS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Golden-crowned Kinglets edged up into the s.w. corner of the region with one at Rainy Hollow, B.C., Sept. 2 (WN) and two or more near Mush L., Kluane N.P., Sept. 19 (WN, DB, RS). Movements of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were noted Sept. 2 at Rainy Hollow (WN), Sept. 5-6 in the Slims R. area (JT) and the last were two in the Beaver Creek area Sept. 29. Water Pipits had the most neatly-defined migration period of any species, all nine reports from non-tundra areas being Sept. 3 - Sept. 16, with slight peaks Sept. 4-6, when flocks were reported from Kluane L. (JT) to Watson L. (MM) and Sept. 10. A large flock of about 175 Bohemian Waxwings was seen in the Slims R. valley Sept. 9 (WN, AN), while 26+ stayed as late as Sept. 20 in the Mush L. area. The only N. Shrike report was one Sept. 24 in the Alsek Pass, Kluane N.P. (RS, WN).

**WARBLERS** — Latest Orange-crowned Warblers were in the Beaver Creek area, two Aug. 24 at Snag L., and one Sept. 29 at mile 1210. Yellow Warblers seemed rather scarce, none reported after Aug. 10 at Haines Jct. (WN, DG). Yellow-rumped Warblers, however, were common in the s.w. part of the Region until Sept. 20, when the last two were seen at Mush L. A noticeable movement Sept. 10 at Haines Jct. consisted entirely of "Myrtles," as did all other reports, except two of several noted near Dezadeash L. Aug. 26, which were "Audubon's" (MM). The Region's first report of Townsend's Warblers in recent years was of eight just s. of the Chilkat Pass, B.C., Sept. 2 (WN), evidently migrating, possibly from known nesting areas in interior Alaska, but Yukoners should also keep an eye (and ear) open for this species in summer in suitable habitat. This Rainy Hollow area Sept. 2 also produced the Region's only fall reports of MacGillivray's Warbler (1 ♀), Wilson's Warbler (2), and American Redstart (1 ♀), (WN).

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES** — Rusty Blackbirds moved through Haines Jct. Aug. 10 - Sept. 10, and one stayed at Beaver Creek as late as Nov. 7. The only Brown-headed Cowbirds were two immatures at Dezadeash Sept. 10.

Pine Grosbeaks remained fairly common, with reports from Beaver Creek and the Pelly R. mouth from late September through November. Two Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were still on Goatherd Mt., Kluane N.P., Sept. 20, while at least six Hoary Redpolls were with a flock of ten or more Com. Redpolls at Whitehorse Nov. 17 (WN). The latter species was seen throughout the season, notable flocks being 100+ at Haines Jct., Aug. 10 (WN, DG), and 50 near the Pelly R. mouth several times in October. Eight Pine Siskins edged into the Region at Rainy Hollow Sept. 2 (WN)

**SPARROWS, BUNTINGS** — Savannah Sparrows were poorly reported, the last being one on Sept. 2 in the Chilkat Pass (WN), while the Dark-eyed Junco, our commonest bird in summer, maintained its status in this season with more reports than any other species, at least from the Pelly R. south. Only the Slate-colored race was seen, and at least one was still present at the end of the period, at Beaver Creek. The Tree Sparrow was only slightly less common with reports from the Pelly south until the last two Oct. 17 in the area of the Pelly R. mouth. Notable movements were in the Chilkat Pass Sept. 2 (WN) and at Haines Jct., Sept. 30. Chipping Sparrows vanished after reports of one or two near Haines Jct., Aug. 3, but a White-crowned Sparrow remained there until Oct. 2, even though the peak movement reported was Aug. 10-11 in the Shakwak Trench. A Golden-crowned Sparrow was seen with other species in the Chilkat Pass Sept. 2 (WN), and a Fox Sparrow near there in Rainy Hollow the same day was followed by two in the Slims R. area Sept. 4 (JT) and one Sept. 30 near the Pelly R. mouth. The only Lincoln's Sparrow was in the Slims R. area Sept. 4 (JT), and Lapland Longspurs appeared Aug. 22 at Beaver Creek, moving through the Kluane area Sept. 4-16. Two Smith's Longspurs were still on their Burwash Uplands breeding area Aug. 11, and Snow Buntings didn't appear below timberline until Sept. 30, when five arrived near Haines Jct. They were then common in the s.w. Yukon until Oct. 30, with a peak noted Oct. 13 (150+ e. of Haines Jct.).

**CORRIGENDA** — In the Spring Migration report, *Am. Birds* 28(4): 825, the reports of geese following the single White-fronted Goose report referred to Snow Geese. Also the Swamp Sparrow report (p. 828) should have been credited to Mrs. G. Yardley rather than the Regional Editor.

**OBSERVERS** — Don Blood, Paul Birckel, Ron Butler, Lloyd Freese, Hans Fuhrer, Dan Gibson, Don Hutton, Myron Kozak, John Lammers, David McCargo, David Mossop, Jim Masyk, Martin McNicholl, Arnold Nijssen, Wayne Neily, Don Pike, Ron Seale, John Theberge, Larry Tremblay. — **WAYNE P. NEILY**, Haines Junction, Yukon, **YOB ILO**.

**NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION**  
/Thomas H. Rogers

With few exceptions the fall season was very pleasant, with temperatures normal or above and very little precipitation. A striking deviation from this was August at Helena, the coldest on record and very wet, with 4.23 in. (normal, 0.98 in.) of rain. Southern interior British Columbia leaned toward the wet side with infrequent heavy showers. November departed from the pattern only in parts of e. Washington, with Walla Walla, Spokane and Colville distinctly wetter than usual but still mild. Practically no snow had fallen except in the mountains and water was mostly unfrozen even at the end of the month. By that time most of the migration was over. The general conclusion of many observers

was that the pleasant fall had delayed southward departures of many species, producing some all-time late records and kept many northern and mountain species in summer habitat. A fairly good number of displaced species was encountered, particularly among the warblers, with no apparent explanation. The shorebird movement in the Pasco-Richland area was termed "fantastic" but was poor for observers in the Spokane area because of high water levels despite the autumn drought. Several area editors reported an uninteresting season with few concentrations or waves, in fact, few birds around from day to day.



**LOONS, GREBES** — Common Loon reached a peak of 20 on Helena Valley Res. Nov. 2 and single birds on the Kootenai R. at Bonners Ferry, Ida. Nov. 25 and Rupert, Ida. Nov. 29 were rather late. An Arctic Loon was accidentally shot by a hunter at Crane Prairie, s.w. Deschutes Co., Ore. Nov. 2 (SE) and two were on Blue L., Grant Co., Wash. Nov. 24 (JA & WH). A Red-throated Loon was reported at Warm L., in the Nampa, Ida. area Aug. 6. A Horned Grebe on Phillips Res. west of Baker, Ore. Nov. 20 was considered unusual. Two ad. Pied-billed Grebes found near Baker Aug. 8 were accompanied by five chicks still in the downy stage.

**PELICANS, CORMORANTS** — White Pelicans stayed as late as Oct. 5 in the Nampa area. Peak numbers at Malheur N.W.R. in October were 900, with 125 on L. Helena Aug. 31 and 98 at Cold Springs N.W.R. Umatilla Co., Ore. Sept. 22. A Brown Pelican was found at Boise enjoying a swimming pool and food thrown to it, became ill and was treated for worms, then shipped off to s. California. Circumstances strongly suggest an escaped bird. The largest concentration of Double-crested Cormorants was reported from Helena Valley Res. Sept. 7, and the latest, four at Rupert Nov. 29, and 50 in the Nampa area Nov. 30.

**EGRETS THROUGH IBIS** — A **Cattle Egret** on the lakeshore at Salmon Arm, B.C. Nov 22 was the first for s interior British Columbia and one or two were seen on three dates in September near Malheur N.W.R. (LDN). A single Great Egret was noted in the Nampa area Aug. 28. At Malheur N.W.R. it was last seen Nov. 18 about three weeks later than last year. Six Black-crowned Night Herons lingered near Nampa to Nov. 30. The Am. Bittern was seen as late as mid-November at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. Twenty-eight White-faced Ibis, the only ones reported, were at Rupert Aug. 14.

**WATERFOWL** — A single **Mute Swan** appeared on the Canyon Ferry Res. near Helena Aug. 18 (SM). Canada Goose numbers were building up during October and November. The biggest concentration was some 30,000 at Stratford, Grant Co., Wash. Oct. 14. Deer Flat N.W.R. near Nampa had 9000 at the end of November, and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. had a peak of 6000 during that month. Malheur N.W.R. peaked at 5500, something over half that of last year, around Nov. 1. The only Cackling Goose reported was one at Reardan, Wash. Nov. 14 (JA). A flock of 30 Canada, Snow, and White-fronted Geese circled low over mountain hemlock forest at 6500 ft. elevation in Crater Lake N.P., seemingly lost in fog the morning of Oct. 20, and eight Snow Geese actually landed in a clearing. Turnbull N.W.R. near Cheney, Wash. had five Ross' Geese Nov. 1, and the species was reported at Upper Klamath N.W.R. Nov. 2 (KZ). A White-fronted Goose was with the Canadas at Stratford Oct. 12 (JA), and the species was reported for Bend, Ore. Oct. 11 (KZ).

At Malheur N.W.R. ducks peaked at 58,000 in mid-September, declined to 26,000 in October and spurted to 46,000 in mid-October, thereafter dwindling to 10,000. Gadwall and Pintail at over 15,000 were the most numerous ducks there, followed by Mallard and Am. Wigeon at over 10,000 each. Canvasback showed a slight rise over 1973, with 625 this fall, but far below the 15-30,000 reached in 1970-72. At Columbia N.W.R. waterfowl buildup was nearly identical to last year's, with ducks reaching a high of over 38,000 in November. Owing to the mild weather, the birds were still widely scattered over the Columbia Basin. At Turnbull N.W.R. Mallards and Am. Wigeon were the most abundant, peaking in November at 8000 and over 4000 respectively. Canvasback peaked at 335 there in early December and 950 Com. Goldeneye were there at that time. At Kootenai N.W.R. Mallards reached 28,000 in mid-November and the Nampa-Deer Flat N.W.R. area had a tremendous 428,000! Pintail reached 4200 there at November's end. Peaks for the commoner ducks at Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida. were Mallard, 13,500; Canvasback, 7700; Ruddy Duck, 7400; Lesser Scaup, 5200; Pintail, 3500; N. Shoveler, 3000; Gadwall, 2000; Com. Merganser, 1600; and Bufflehead, 1400.

Twenty-eight pairs of Wood Ducks plus one female were on the Portneuf R. south of Pocatello, Ida. Oct. 19. Four Oldsquaws were reported on the Madison R. in s. c. Montana Nov. 2 (RLE) and a mature male was observed at Kootenai N.W.R. Dec. 2 (DP). One appeared near Krumbo Res. near Malheur N.W.R. Nov. 2

(BH). A White-winged Scoter showed up in a hunter's bag at Minidoka N.W.R. Oct. 26 (JH). Five were at Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash. on the early date of Oct. 4 and two were at Reardan Oct. 8-19. Two Surf Scoters were at Medical L. Oct. 4-12 (JA & WH)

**HAWKS** — In the Baker area eight Turkey Vultures were sighted Aug. 18, with 16 on Aug. 23 and 29 on Sept. 16. They were described as abundant in c. Oregon Sept. 2 and a group of eight at Turnbull N.W.R. Aug 8 was noteworthy. A Goshawk observed in mid-November at Fortine, where the species is now rare, and one at the Yakima Indian Reservation Nov. 30 were the only two sightings. Only five localities reported Cooper's Hawks.

At Jefferson City, Mont., in late August two were killed when they hit a picture window (VY). Forty Rough-legged Hawks were counted on the Yakima Indian Reservation Nov. 30 and Malheur N.W.R. estimated the November population at 150 or more. To the east Baker reported 20 in the Haines-Rock Creek area Nov. 29, and Rupert, Ida., had 63 sighted during that month. They were common at Kootenai N.W.R. A few were reported in w. Montana and one at Vernon, B C Three rather late Ferruginous Hawks were found in the Pasco-Prosser, Wash. area Sept. 24 (AD & JD) and a light phase bird was seen Aug. 6 over fields near Spokane (JR). Single sightings were made in the Nampa area Sept. 11 and at Wilsall, Mont. Aug. 29 (ETH & RAH).

The annual Bald Eagle conclave at the w. end of Glacier N.P. reached at peak of 359 on Nov. 15, of which 250 were adults. Coeur d'Alene L., which is always a gathering place, yielded 16 adults and two immatures Dec. 8. An Osprey was at Kalamalka L., just south of Vernon, on the late date of Nov. 10 (SSt) Prairie Falcon numbers appeared quite good and four sightings of Peregrine Falcons and one of Gyrfalcon were reported. A few Merlins appeared, mostly in October and November.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — An adult and five young Spruce Grouse were seen in Eagle Cap Wilderness, e. of Joseph, Wallowa Co., Ore. Aug. 15, and three fully grown birds were found Sept. 29 in Kaniksu Nat'l Forest, about 10 mi. n.e. of Bonners Ferry, Ida. Up to a dozen Sharp-tailed Grouse and 25 Sage Grouse were reported from the Nampa area. Single Bobwhites were found in that area and in Oneida County, Ida (MRC).

**CRANES, RAILS, COOT** — Sandhill Cranes were migrating from Aug. 3 on. About 150 flew over the Pasco, Wash. area Oct. 4 & 13, and three adults and one immature were still in that vicinity on the late date of Nov. 10 (REW). November 23 was a record late date for the two seen with cattle near Manhattan, Mont. (CJ, *vide* HNM). Virginia Rails were found only at Reardan one or two Aug. 17 & 21. American Coot with young still in the red-headed stage were seen at Baker Aug 8, and a tremendous 20,000 were estimated on Alkali L., Grant Co., Wash. Nov. 24 (JA).

**SHOREBIRDS** — One Semipalmated Plover was at Reardan Sept. 15 and the birds were seen at Richland

Aug 30-Sept. 28, maximum 7. One seen Aug. 4 at Fortne made the sixth record in 53 years' observing (WW). American Golden Plover were seen mostly in one area but in surprising numbers. They appeared first at Cold Springs N.W.R., Umatilla Co., Ore. Sept. 22 and built up to ten Oct. 5 (CC, MC & REW). At Richland, Wash. nine were present Sept. 29 and one was still at the Yakima R. delta Nov. 26 (REW). A single bird was at Reardan Sept. 28 (JA). The Richland-Cold Springs area hit the jackpot on Black-bellied Plover also for from one to 13 appeared Sept. 21-Oct. 20 in those areas (REW). Elsewhere the birds were seen only near Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash, one Sept. 11 (JA) and near Baker, Aug. 8, one, Ann Ward's first for the area. An Upland Sandpiper at Fortne, Mont. Aug. 5 was only the third record there in 53 years' observing (WW). A very late Pectoral Sandpiper was seen at the Yakima R. delta Nov. 16; maximum number in that area was 23 on Sept. 25 (REW). Least Sandpipers also lingered late at the Yakima delta, seven being seen Dec. 7, along with eight Dunlin. The latter reached a peak of 46 there Nov. 24 (REW). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was identified at Fortne Aug. 18 and flocks of 7 and 23 observed closely near Ronan, Mont. Sept. 14 were believed to be this species (WW). One was identified Sept. 22 at Cold Springs N.W.R. feeding alone but near a flock of Long-billed Dowitchers (CC, MC & REW). A maximum of about 200 of the latter was seen Oct. 19 at the Yakima delta. Richland and Baker had their first local records for the Stilt Sandpiper. At the former locality 1-3 were seen Sept. 2-25 (CC, MC & REW; EM) and one was at Baker Aug. 24 (AW). Three were at Reardan Aug. 18 (JA). The species was seen near Bozeman Aug. 17 and Sept. 2 (PDS). The only Sandering reported were at the Yakima delta, with five the greatest number (REW). A **Red Phalarope** nearly in winter plumage was seen at Reardan Aug. 17 (WH).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — A **Parasitic Jaeger** was identified near Bozeman Sept. 28 (PDS) and another was seen at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. Oct. 14 (JS). A Herring Gull in first winter plumage was found on the Wenatchee R. near Cashmere Nov. 26 (PC & WD). Four were on the Snake R. near Asotin, Wash. Aug. 19 and two were seen on the Clearwater R. in Idaho Sept. 18 (MJP). One appeared on Am. Falls Res. Nov. 2 (MRC). Fourteen fed at the Coeur d'Alene city dump Nov. 24 (SS). A Glaucous Gull appeared at Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. for the second consecutive fall Nov. 24 (JA & WH), and Glaucous-winged Gulls which have become quite regular at Yakima Delta, first appeared there Nov. 9 and ten were at Umatilla Nov. 23. A Sabine's Gull on the Yakima R. near Richland made only the second local record there (EM). A late Forster's Tern was seen near Pateros, Wash. Sept. 15 (KB) and up to six were found in the Nampa area Aug. 7-Sept. 11. A Com. Tern put in an appearance near Baker Aug. 6 (AW) and five young and four adults of the species appeared west of Potholes Res. Sept. 11 (JA). Single Caspian Terns were in the Nampa area in August and Sunriver, Ore. had one Nov. 18 (JB).

**OWLS** — Barn Owls again appeared, one at Moxee City, Wash. Sept. 21 (EH & AWa) and two at nearby Yakima three days later. The only Snowy Owl of the

season appeared Nov. 24 near Odessa, Wash. (WH). Four Burrowing Owls were recorded in the Nampa area Aug. 4, and two were near Royal L., Columbia N.W.R. Nov. 18 and a group of 11 was seen on Saddle Mt. Ref west of Othello, Wash. Aug. 9. A Barred Owl was observed at about the 2500 ft. level at Kootenai N.W.R. Nov. 26 and a dead one was hung on Jim Grant's door-knob at Vernon, B.C. by persons unknown Nov. 23. A photograph was secured of a Great Gray Owl Nov. 8 at Aspen Grove near Merritt, B.C. (CH) and several were heard calling Oct. 11-13 at Crane Prairie Res. west of La Pine, Ore. (LN). Another was seen south of La Pine Nov. 26 (PH).

**POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A road-killed Poor-will was picked up at Swan L. near Vernon, B.C. Aug. 30 (PP) and was the only one reported. October 11 was a late date for the Com. Night-hawk at Bozeman (LM) but one over Pocatello, Nov. 13 was really surprising (MRC). Black Swifts appeared only at Mosier, Ore. Sept. 13 (FBH). A thousand or more Vaux's Swifts were watched Aug. 18 as they entered an old ice house chimney at dusk near Klickitat, Wash. Three White-throated Swifts were reported at Warm L. near Nampa Sept. 13 and several were seen over Cashmere, Wash. Sept. 9 (WD). Two hummingbirds (Anna's?) were still visiting a feeder at Yakima Nov. 15 (FB).

**WOODPECKERS** — Three Lewis' Woodpeckers at Long L. Dam downriver from Spokane Oct. 27 were distinctly late. Single Williamson's Sapsuckers were found along the Yakima-Naches highway Aug. 1 and at Cold Springs N.W.R. Sept. 7 (CC & NC). The White-headed Woodpecker was seen at three localities in the mountains of the Bend, Ore. area (KZ). The N. Three-toed Woodpecker rewarded observers in no less than five localities: Trinity Valley n.e. of Vernon, B.C., south of Crescent L., extreme n.e. Klamath Co., and in the Indian Rock area near Bates, Ore., and in the Blue Mts. n. of Enterprise, all in Oregon, and in the Salmo R. area of extreme n.e. Pend Oreille Co., Wash.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — At Phillips L. west of Baker young birds of both Willow Flycatcher and W. Wood Pewee were still in the nest Aug. 14. Tree Swallows lingered along the Bear R. north of Preston, Ida. until Nov. 26. A massive gathering of about 4500 Bank and 2600 Barn Swallows gave birders of the Nampa area a treat Oct. 7. Three Cliff Swallows were seen at Rupert on the astounding date of Nov. 29 (WHS).

**CROWS THROUGH CHICKADEES** — Common Crow numbers burgeoned at some w. localities of the Region. From late August until mid-September flocks totaling 200-300 were seen in the Vernon area heading for roosting sites. Near Baker their numbers reached 800 Sept. 25 but by Oct. 14 only one was seen. Kootenai N.W.R. had up to 300. A few Boreal Chickadees were seen at Salmo Pass, n.e. Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (JA, WH) and in Banff N.P. (SJ).

**CREEPERS THROUGH WRENS** — In the Pocatello area in November groups of Brown Creepers were

seen repeatedly, appearing to be heading for a social roost. What was believed to be a Wren Tit was seen at Baker Sept. 30 (AS). Single Bewick's Wrens were sighted in the Wapato-Parker vicinity, Wash., and one was found Oct. 11 at Sunriver, Ore.

**MIMIC THRUSHES, THRUSHES** — A Mockingbird was reported in the Nampa area Nov. 28. Western Bluebirds were noted at five widely scattered localities in Idaho and Washington, with the highest number 37 at Nampa Oct. 11. Mountain Bluebird numbers looked good, being reported from 14 localities well-scattered through the Region. Impressive migrating groups were: Peola, Wash., 150 Oct. 6; Rupert, Ida., 118 Sept. 11, and Gray's Lake N.W.R., s.e. Idaho, over 50.

**KINGLETS THROUGH WAXWINGS** — Golden-crowned Kinglets were appearing in the lowlands even as far from the mountains as Richland. Bohemian Waxwings had appeared only in small numbers and had not yet reached some wintering areas. Their favorite food, mountain ash berries, was scarce in some localities.

**WARBLERS** — A Black-and-white Warbler was positively identified Sept. 2 at Vernon, where it is very rare (KG), and a Tennessee Warbler was observed carefully at Bozeman Aug. 30 (HC, SC, ETH, RAH). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Rupert Nov. 29 was apparently the second latest record for Idaho (WHS) and near Richland two were seen Nov. 9 (CC, MC, EM, REW) and three Nov. 15 (EM). Two Nashville Warblers at Spokane Oct. 12 set a record late date there. A warbler carefully checked at Baker Nov. 13 could have been none other than a Magnolia (AW). Three Black-throated Gray Warblers in the Nampa area Oct. 12 were the only ones reported except for one near Wenatchee Sept. 30, apparently the first record there (PC). Hermit Warblers were seen in the mountains around Odell L. in extreme n.w. Klamath Co., Ore. in August and September (KZ). A Wilson's Warbler in Richland Nov. 17 apparently furnished a record late date (REW).

**BLACKBIRDS** — A Bobolink was at Harrison L., Harrison, Mont. on the record late date of Oct. 12 (HC, ETH, RAH, PDS) and another was found Sept. 8 just west of Spokane, where the species is almost never seen in autumn migration (WH). In the Nampa area Nov. 30 Brewer's Blackbirds totaling over 2200 were seen.

**FINCHES** — A Lazuli Bunting at Spokane Sept. 15 apparently provided the latest record ever for the locality (THR). Hand had the impression that Cassin's Finches have become much less common at Missoula since House Finches became established there. The former species was abundant in Crater Lake N.P., showing a significant increase over last year's numbers. Pine Grosbeaks had not yet dropped into the lowlands; single birds were sighted near Mt. Rainier and in the Wenas Creek area northwest of Yakima. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches had appeared only at Blue L., Grant Co., Wash.; about 25 on Nov. 24. The only Com. Redpoll report was of a flock of some 300 at Mara L. in the Okanagan of British Columbia Nov. 16. Pine Siskin

numbers were distinctly higher than a year ago at Crater Lake N.P. Their numbers were good at Missoula and Wenatchee and appeared normal elsewhere. American Goldfinches appeared to be decidedly scarce in most localities. Red Crossbill numbers were low, with infrequent or no sightings except at Fortine and in the Spokane area. White-winged Crossbills continued the summer trend of abundance in the mountains of the Region and near La Grande, Ore. Along the Pasayten R. below Hart's Pass Sept. 1 they were the commonest bird; about 60 were seen, outnumbering the Red Crossbills two to one (AWa). A few were seen in Banff N.P. at Peyto L. Viewpoint (SJ). Numbers up to 100 at a time were found in n.e. Washington and n. Idaho (JA & WH, SS) and many were singing in the Monashee Mts. 50 mi east of Vernon (JG). The cone crop in the latter two localities was described as good to heavy.

**SPARROWS** — A Green-tailed Towhee was reported at a hot spring south of American Falls, Ida Nov. 24, a late date (CHT), and the species was seen Sept. 27 at Bobby L. 24 mi. west of La Pine, Ore., Sept 27 (KZ). At Crater Lake N.P. the first sighting of one of these birds above the Ponderosa Pine zone in at least four years occurred Aug. 7. It was in Mountain Hemlock forest at 6500 feet. October 12 was a record early date for Tree Sparrows at Harrison, Mont. Single Clay-colored Sparrows were seen at Missoula Sept 1 (RLH) and along the Yakima R. near Ellensburg Aug 10. Two Harris' Sparrows visited a feeder at Salmon Arm, B.C. Nov. 15 to the end of the season, and one was seen west of Haines, Ore., Nov. 29 (AW). Hundreds of Golden-crowned Sparrows were mixed in with White-crowned Sparrows Sept. 4 at Tumalo, Ore., and single birds were seen in Spokane Sept. 27 & Oct 27. The first November record of Lincoln's Sparrow in e Washington was obtained Nov. 8 when one was netted near Mabton (PM & RD). The second Washington record for the **Swamp Sparrow** was obtained at Sun Lakes Campground, Grant Co., Oct. 20 (DP & LP). Lapland Longspurs showed up only near Spokane and in the Okanagan of British Columbia. A single bird appeared at Vernon Nov. 29 (JG). A few Snow Buntings arrived in November, the earliest Oct. 29 on Mt. Spokane (PB) Vernon and the Reardan-Davenport area reported them and the appearance at Kootenai N.W.R. Nov. 28 was much earlier than normal.

**ADDENDUM** — A female and an imm. ♀ **Orchard Oriole** were observed at length at Curlew L. 6 mi northeast of Republic, Wash. June 18 (HS).

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## MOUNTAIN WEST / Hugh E. Kingery

One bird — a Little Gull — and 150 rare warbler records dominated an amazing fall full of surprises. Nesting birds still sitting and young birds fledging in August and September vied with tardy records and migrant waves, encouraged by dry, mild weather. Even as warblers, thrashers, and others lingered and spread out, southwestern, eastern, seabird, and northern species pushed in to pile up a diverse and memorable fall.



LOONS — A remarkable five Arctic Loon reports came from e. Colorado, Oct. 27 - Nov. 30. Good details verified each report, and scores of observers saw some of them (†C.F.O.). Four Red-necked Grebes ventured to Boulder, Fort Collins, and San Luis Valley, Colo., Sept. 2 - Oct. 30. The population of Horned Grebes in the Boulder - Longmont area peaked at 500 in November, with almost none reported west of the Continental Divide. Eared Grebes appeared in small numbers in the e. part of the Region (310 at Hutton Lake N.W.R., Wyo., Aug. 2; 50 Aug. 3-4 at Glendo, Wyo.). A huge raft of 6000 was near Zion N.P. Sept. 25. Al-

though Las Vegas had several rafts of 300 on L. Mead Nov. 17, the population of 800-1000 rested at a mere ten per cent of the average of the last 13 years. Bear River N.W.R., Utah, counted a peak migration of W. Grebes of 13,000 on Aug. 20. Subsequently enormous numbers (perhaps replacing Eared Grebes) studded L. Mead by mid-November: 10-15,000. The plains could muster peaks of only 300 on Aug. 3-4 at Glendo and 340 at Jackson Res., Weld Co., Colo., Sept. 12.

PELICANS, HERONS — At Gunnison I., Great Salt L., 5000 White Pelicans nested this year, numbers comparable to the last two years. Bear R. subsequently counted a peak of 5000 on Sept. 15. The peak at Stillwater N.W.R., Nev., hit only 1000, in early August, half of last year's count. Eastern Colorado saw increased numbers reported, with 360 at Denver Aug. 18 and 550 at Jackson Res. Oct. 27. Two white-phase Little Blue Herons — one at Farmington Bay W.M.A., Utah (no date given — GK) and one Sept. 2 in Weld Co., Colo. (JRo) surprised. Cattle Egrets appeared in force in Colorado for the first time, with a flock of six seen with cattle in Weld Co. Oct. 4-5, plus two other n. Colorado observations. Bear R. had five on Aug. 15, and Farmington Bay had one Oct. 18. Mowbray found Nevada's second and third records, with two at Overton Nov. 9 and singles Nov. 23-30 at Las Vegas. Snowy Egrets migrated in usual numbers and dates, but then showed up in November at Bear R., and Boulder, Colo. for 3 days. A Least Bittern visited Las Vegas Sept. 8 - Oct. 11. Bear River's peak population of White-faced Ibis, 2000 birds, was a third of last year's report, and Stillwater's nesting crash resulted in drastically lower usage there. Marabou Storks (*Leptoptilus sp.*) puzzled Nevadans, with one at Stillwater Sept. 7-13 and two at Ely Oct. 10-11; presumably the birds are escapees.

SWANS, GEESE — Stillwater had 1750 Whistling Swans and Bear R. had 18,000 by Nov. 15. At Ruby Lakes N.W.R., Nev., 100 Whistlings had arrived by late October, with 34 Trumpeters arriving at the same time. Query: can hunters distinguish between the Whistling (legal) and the Trumpeter (protected)? Canada Geese seemed normal or perhaps fewer than usual. Ross's Geese showed up in Pueblo, Longmont, and Grand Junction in November, the latter a first record for the Western Slope (†C.F.O.).

DUCKS — In Nevada and Utah, Pintails dominated the migration, with 130,000, 38,300, and 24,000 counted from Bear R., Farmington Bay, and Stillwater. Canvasbacks also had a heavy flight, with Bear R. and Stillwater having 20,000 and 17,195. Usage at Stillwater dropped by 28 per cent; use at Desert Lake W.M.A., Utah, continues its increase, with 13,000 ducks this fall. Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., saw Pintails peak at 8500 in late September, then again a month later at 4300: use by Pintails jumped to three times last year's. Barrow's Goldeneyes flew into Dubois as normal on Nov. 19; into 5 Colorado locations in late November; to Bear R. by Nov. 23; and, quite unusually, two flew into Davis Dam, south of Las Vegas Nov. 30 (where they increased to 17 by Dec. 5). Bear R. had ten Oldsquaws Oct. 25, Sheridan had one Oct. 23, and Stillwater noted two Nov. 29. Bear R. had three White-winged Scoters

Oct. 25, and Boulder counted one White-winged and nine Surfs together Oct. 24 - Nov. 16 (†C.F.O.). Other Surf Scoter reports included singles at Cheraw and Prewitt Res., Colo., in October, and one at Davis Dam Nov. 30 - Dec. 5 (JO). Several observers complain that Ruddy Ducks seem declining; Denver's documentation shows a steady decrease from 2214 autumn reports four years ago to 161 reported this fall. Stillwater reports a similar decline (from 4000 to 2500), which may result, however, from its declining habitat.

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — Denver had its first Mississippi Kite Aug. 31, with a bird halfway between imm. and ad. plumage pestered by magpies and kestrels (J & JCo, †C.F.O.). Fall Accipiter observations remained similar to last year. A Red-shouldered Hawk picked a cottonwood/willow grove near Boulder Nov. 9 and apparently settled in for the winter (BW *et al.*, †C.F.O.). Broad-winged Hawks appeared for fall records at Sheridan, Wyo. Aug. 25, Prewitt Res. Sept. 12, and Boulder Oct. 30. Swainson's Hawks had an average migration, except for a spectacular chimney of 108 birds migrating on the plains east of Denver Sept. 14, and a late one at Bonny Res., Colo. Nov. 29. Bald Eagles began arriving very early, with the first at Prewitt Sept. 12. Near Durango 25 adults congregated at a salmon-spawning area, later dispersing to several locations; a few immatures joined them. Osprey observations increased: two at Seedskafee N.W.R., Sept. 20 - Oct. 5; two at Bear R. Nov. 10; five observations at Las Vegas including a late one Nov. 27; eight in e. Colorado in September and one at Durango Nov. 8. Gyrfalcon reports came from Fort Collins (JJM) and Sheridan, both on Nov. 9. Peregrine observations increased to 16, with most in September. Am. Kestrel reports also increased, including one at Zion which dove at a small bat.

Cranes attracted comment throughout the Region. Monte Vista, the normal stopping-off point, had decreased numbers, the peak of 3500 down from 4000 normal, while e. Colorado had unusual numbers: 425-600 at Jackson Res. Oct. 27 - Nov. 8; 200 at Rocky Ford Oct. 1 - Nov. 12; 50 flying over Pinyon, Colo. Nov. 13; and 205 in Baca Co., Colo. Oct. 12.

**SHOREBIRDS** — The shorebird migration offered little excitement, either in species or numbers. Best count came from Bear R. with a peak of 25,600 which included 15,000 Am. Avocets, 6000 Black-necked Stilts, 4000 Marbled Godwits, 3000 W. Sandpipers, and 2300 Baird's Sandpipers. A rarity for s. Utah was the Semipalmated Plover at Panguitch Aug. 28; late for Colorado were three on Oct. 20 at Denver. Piping Plovers wandered to Pueblo Sept. 21-22 and Jackson Res. Sept. 29 (JR). Mountain Plovers flocked — 70 at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland Aug. 12 and 50 at Pueblo Sept. 22. Logan, Utah had one Am. Golden Plover Oct. 14 and e. Colorado had 8 records, from Sept. 7 to Nov. 8. Ruddy Turnstones appeared at Casper during the fall, and at Las Vegas Nov. 7 (CSL) for the state's third record. Kousky found, and Adamus also saw, Utah's second **Wandering Tattler** at Farmington Bay Sept. 1-10; the yellow-legged, gray-bodied bird was photographed; storm activity offered no clue to its origin. Zion con-

tinues to accumulate new shorebird records with the increased attention to Kolob Res.; this time canoeists identified two Baird's Sandpipers Sept. 4 and four on Sept. 25 — the park's first documented observations. Denver had two Buff-breasted Sandpipers Sept. 6 (RA). Two Marbled Godwits, rare in s. Utah, appeared at Cedar Breaks Nat'l Mon., Sept. 9.

**GULLS** — Unusual gulls abounded in our inland desert region. Two Glaucous-winged and one Thayer's Gull consorted with Herring Gulls on L. Mead, Las Vegas, Nov. 30, with differences noted between each and the more ordinary Herring Gulls. Only a few Herring Gulls strayed to Colorado, including an early imm. Aug. 12 (PB). Zion's Kolob trips produced three California Gulls Aug. 21, and Bear R. counted 12,000 Sept. 5.

**S.A.**

Andrews points out that the Minnesota crash in Franklin's Gulls (*Am. Birds* 27:944) is reflected by e. Colorado fall visitors, which soar in huge flocks over prairie, city and mountains. Totalling fall observations on D.F.O. field trips, he found a drastic decline in 1972-73: the figures from 1971-74 — 17,683, 2307, 2187, 10,152 respectively — also suggest the population on the mend. (See pg. 75). In e. Colorado peak flocks included 15,000 Oct. 12 near Denver; 21,500 in the Pueblo area Sept. 21-22; 2100 in Baca Co. Oct. 12. Curiously this species was rare in early-day Colorado; the first flock ever reported was 200 at Denver Aug. 28, 1925; since then this gull has become an abundant fall resident.



Little Gull, Union Reservoir, Longmont, Colo., Nov. 2, 1974. Photo / Harold Holt.

A strong flight of Bonaparte's Gulls visited Colorado, with 200 at Rocky Ford Oct. 6, 75-100 at Longmont Nov. 2-11, and scattered other observations of small groups. Arriving at Longmont with the Bonaparte's came the season's most striking single find: a **Little Gull** discovered by Webb and Reddall, and subsequently seen by at least 100 observers before a cold spell drove it and the Bonaparte's out. Even a quarter mile away its dark underwings and distinctive feeding habits distinguished it from the other gulls: many close-up views confirmed the field marks of this full adult in winter plumage. An unprecedented *six* Sabine's Gulls plied e. Colorado reservoirs in five places Oct. 6 - Nov. 8, with

five of them present the weekend of Oct. 12-13. Two Black-legged Kittiwakes found themselves off course at Dubois, Wyo., Oct. 22, where Back observed the black feet, black wing-tips, and squarish tail on a day characterized by a rapidly moving Arctic cold front clashing with a second front in c. Wyoming. Another three kittiwakes visited a reservoir near Berthoud, Colo., Oct. 29-Nov. 1 (Camille Cummings).

**TERNS** — Terns made less news; Bear R. counted a peak of 6000 Forster's on Sept. 10, an increase; Cedar Breaks hosted unusual s. Utah birds Aug. 31 and Sept. 9, and late pairs lingered in Baca Co. Oct. 6 and Bonny Res. Oct. 13. With 30 Forster's, three Com. Terns fed flying young Aug. 12 at Jackson Res., a practice in which they indulge for great distances (PB). At Gunnison I., five pairs of Caspian Terns nested, an increase from none last year and one the year before. Bear R. counted an impressive 500 on Aug. 20, and on Sept. 11 Zion had four — the first record for s. Utah. One Aug. 3 at Glendo represented a rare Wyoming record. Black Terns hit a peak of 3500 at Bear R. Sept. 1.

**ALCIDS** — An Ancient Murrelet carcass found May 6 on Gunnison I., apparently a raptor kill within the previous two days, became Utah's fourth record of this aberrant alcid.

**PIGEONS, CUCKOOS** — Las Vegas had its largest number of Band-tailed Pigeon sightings ever, with flocks of 20-30 on Mt. Charleston Aug. 29 - Oct. 6. They compare to the hundreds near Reno in March, 1972 (*Am Birds* 26:636). A rare Ground Dove visited Las Vegas Oct. 18 (JB). Mourning Doves were the only species at Seedskafee migrating on schedule, although a few remained into late November there as elsewhere — except Springdale, where all had disappeared by Oct. 22 and the usual September flocks of hundreds numbered only 5-10. Denver's Fall count Sept. 14 found an average 407. Two or three Yellow-billed Cuckoos lingered at Las Vegas Sept. 12 - Oct. 4. Springdale had two records — a road kill Aug. 3 and an observation Sept. 26. Of five records in that Zion area, three are of dead birds. Mowbray found Nevada's third record of **Groove-billed Ani**, a single bird near Logandale Nov. 9, which overcame its secretive nature by perching in plain view for 10 minutes, calling regularly.

**OWLS** — Screech Owl reports tripled over last fall. The reports include two very young birds Sept. 30 at Zion, observers speculate on late nesting to avoid Great Horned Owl predation. Also at Zion, a downy young Flammulated Owl Aug. 21, probably a few days out of the nest, died; this is the park's third record, the first suggestion of breeding (\*Zion). The Burrowing Owl colony near Pueblo fared badly, as the prairie dog town suffered an inexplicable loss of its dogs; the owls dropped from 50 in 1972 to 11 this year. The last Burrowing Owl report came from Park Co., Colo., Oct. 27; Seedskafee had a mid-October road kill. A Long-eared Owl on Aug. 26 represented a rare record for s.w. Utah. Reno had two, Nov. 16-29, surprising because they dropped to that low elevation. Short-eared Owls continued about the same, with unusual records at mountain town Eldora, Colo., Oct. 14 and high plains crossroads Last Chance, Colo., Nov. 29.

**POOR-WILLS, SWIFTS** — A Poor-will flushed from 10,000 ft. in Cedar Breaks Aug. 26. Late Poor-wills included three on Oct. 12 in Baca Co., and one on Nov. 17 in Las Vegas. The White-throated Swift migration ran through the first half of October at Durango and Zion. Julian found a very tardy one flying over Boulder Nov. 26.

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — Black-chinned Hummingbirds provided the latest hummer dates, Sept. 29 at Durango, Oct. 6 at Springdale, and Oct. 8 at Grand Junction. At Pueblo, which had at least 20 nest sites this summer, a bird still sitting Sept. 7 had abandoned its attempt by Sept. 9. An Anna's Hummingbird patronized a Beulah, Colo., feeder Sept. 27 - Oct. 8 (P & WS, †C.F.O.). All Broad-tailed Hummingbirds had departed by the end of September, the last nester a female at Jefferson, Colo., Aug. 11. Rufous also left by the end of September, after a good flight which included the first visitors to Seedskafee feeders and one at Dubois which tried to feed from the red lights on a pickup camper.

**WOODPECKERS** — An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker stayed to Nov. 6-7 at Boulder (BB). Red-bellied Woodpeckers have established themselves permanently at Bonny Res., Colo., but one at Loveland, Colo. Oct. 25 - Nov. 27 had moved further west and north than any other Regional records. Reports abound of Lewis' Woodpeckers, indicating a successful nesting, although only in their usual localized pockets.

**FLYCATCHERS** — Kingbirds departed early, with a late Eastern at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland Oct. 12 and a late Western at Grand Junction Oct. 3. Great Crested Flycatchers appeared at Denver Sept. 1-2 (J & JCo) and Rocky Ford Sept. 7-8 (C.F.O.). A flycatcher identified as a Wied's Crested visited Las Vegas Oct. 13 (MVM). On Nov. 7 at Las Vegas, a Black Phoebe was catching fish. Say's Phoebes built a nest and hatched young in the bumper of a truck which thereupon drove from Gillette to Sheridan (105 miles). Helen Downing took home the pin-feathered mobile orphans, raised and fledged them on hamburger meat. "If anyone sees some Say's Phoebes hanging around a hamburger stand, tell them hello from Helen." *Empidonax* flycatchers lingered late — 16 on the Denver fall count, the last at Boulder Oct. 26, and one still at Springdale in late November. Many reported W. Wood Pewees in migration.

**SWALLOWS, JAYS** — Three Purple Martins Aug 16 at Mancos, Colo. marked a rare record (RWS). Blue Jay numbers impress Boulder observers, and the Blue/Steller's hybrids continue to entertain feeder watchers there. Blue Jays pushed to R.M.N.P. Sept. 14, consorting with Steller's Jays, and s.w. to Durango Oct. 2, where one gobbled up sunflower seeds "like there was no tomorrow." The adaptable Com. Raven inhabits desert and bleak mountaintop, feeding on carrion and garbage dumps. L. Powell observers have little avian variety, so that the ravens seem quite noticeable there, observed daily (along with the ubiquitous House Sparrows). The largest flock of Com. Crows Lawson

has seen in the southwest was 400 crossing the valley floor at Logandale Nov. 7.

**CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS** — Observers noted plentiful numbers of Mountain Chickadees in Reno, Zion, and Cedar Breaks. A Plain Titmouse Oct. 6 in Salt Lake City had moved out of its normal pinyon/juniper habitat. Red-breasted Nuthatches seem to have arrived in limited but regular numbers, from Sheridan and Cheyenne south to Pueblo, as well as in s.w. Utah. Brown Creepers spread into low elevations at Zion, Las Vegas, Reno, and Longmont. At Cedar Breaks on Aug. 26 Kertell counted 30 in one place — a remarkable concentration in the West.

**DIPPERS, WRENS** — A Dipper straggled into a 5500 ft. desert pond near Las Vegas Oct. 15, at least 50 mi. from the nearest running stream. Late House Wrens included two immatures Sept. 16 at Springdale so young they could fly only a few feet, two at Denver Oct. 20, and one Nov. 6 at Sheridan. Denver had a Carolina Wren Sept. 1-11, followed by one at Boulder Sept. 27 - Nov. 11. Winter Wrens invaded e. Colorado: Denver and Boulder each had 5-10 birds, and others appeared at Loveland, Longmont, and Colorado Springs; Las Vegas counted 12 on Oct. 19. A Short-billed Marsh Wren stopped one day at Boulder Nov. 9 (BW, RA, †C.F.O.). Zion counted only two Rock Wrens this year, although it was the most abundant wren there last year.

**MIMIDS** — Mockingbirds tarried through November in several e. Colorado locations, and Cheyenne had a late Gray Catbird Nov. 16. Two catbirds strayed west to Las Vegas in October, boosting s. Nevada's records to about five. Brown Thrashers also lingered into November in Cheyenne and e. Colorado, and drifted west. Geoghagen found one in Salt Lake City in early September; Bear R. had its first, Oct. 27 - Nov. 12 (U.A.S.); and Peter Scott found one in Canyonlands N.P. Dec. 4. Las Vegas had three Brown Thrashers (accidental in Nevada), with two Sept. 15 - Nov. 4 and another Oct. 2. Three Crissal Thrashers lurked at 4000 ft. in atypical sagebrush habitat Sept. 25 near St. George, Utah.

**THRUSHES** — Observers throughout the Region reported sharply reduced numbers of migrating Am. Robins. Varied Thrushes arrived for records near Pioche, Nev. Sept. 29 (FR, PH), and Boulder, Colo. Oct. 7 (BW). Boulder had a Wood Thrush Nov. 10 (SL, BB). A few E. Bluebirds scattered across the e. Colorado plains in October and November. Mountain Bluebird reports increased; the numbers found on the Denver fall count have improved — 135 in 1971, 252 this year. Other peak numbers included 118 on Sept. 12 during a Dubois snowstorm and 150 at Zion Sept. 6.

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLAS** — For five years Denver had no fall records of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, until one on the fall count and another Oct. 19. Golden-crowned Kinglets descended from the mountains in numbers to the e. Colorado plains, Salt Lake City, and Las Vegas. Water Pipits staged a noticeable migration with flocks of the reser-

voir shores near Cedar Breaks Sept. 9-26; 132 at Dubois Sept. 12; and 300 at Bear R. Nov. 1-23; yet on Oct. 20 they lingered at 12,000 ft. on Independence Pass. Colorado Bohemian Waxwings appeared early in Sheridan and in good concentrations at Grand Teton N.P., but the only other reported was a single bird at Loveland Nov. 17. A Phainopepla strayed to Pueblo in late October (*vide* VT).

**VIREOS** — Nevada's second **Yellow-throated Vireo** showed off for 5-10 minutes to Mowbray at Las Vegas Oct. 27. We missed Dixon's June 11 report of a **Yellow-throated Vireo**, singing steadily in cottonwoods along a river near Logan — probably Utah's first record. Andrews found Colorado's second **White-eyed Vireo** in a cottonwood/willow thicket near Denver Sept. 21 (for the first see *Am. Birds* 28:834). Solitary Vireos came in for increased fall observations in e. Colorado, with Boulder observers finding at least three not of the gray Rocky Mt. race. Red-eyed Vireos were seen three times at Las Vegas — like 1973 — and about 15 times in e. Colorado in September — a substantial increase. A Bell's Vireo visited Fort Collins Sept. 17 - Oct. 3, and Las Vegas noted one Oct. 14.

**WARBLERS** — Over 150 rare warbler records — all but a handful in e. Colorado and Las Vegas — heralded an incredible warbler fall. So many rarities piled up that the report below digests the records, attributing only the prime rarities; for detailed reports on them (as well as all Regional reports) we refer readers to the local reporters listed; and in regional or state publications.

The western states commonly see about a dozen warbler species; the rest carry rare or very rare status. Most regional records come in the spring; observers expect the fall migrants in September. This fall Nevada recorded 43 individuals of 16 rare and very rare warblers. Colorado counted 66 rare and 42 very rare (total 108) warblers of 17 species. Over half occurred in October and November, when Colorado also had late records of seven of its commoner species. Many of these birds stayed over several days — they were not merely resting for one day.

*Colorado:* Of the regular species, several Orange-crowned stayed into October (last, Oct. 26); Virginia's left on time except for October records in Durango and Baca Co. Migrant Yellow-rumped stayed to the end of the period, with 60 still at Boulder in mid-November. They normally linger longer than other warblers, but not that many that late. Black-throated Gray Warblers, breeders in the Western Slope and south-central pinyon/juniper belts, strayed northeasterly to three plains cities and, Oct. 16-18, to Eldora, 20 mi. west of Boulder in the aspen/spruce/fir belt. Observers found more Townsend's although their dates were reasonably normal (except for last dates of Nov. 3 at Durango and Nov. 9 at Boulder). A sparse plains migrant, a N Waterthrush at Westcliffe Sept. 7 had moved 50 mi west of its normal route. Wilson's Warblers apparently migrated in normal numbers, the last report coming late from Colorado Springs on Nov. 8.

Of the rare warblers, e. Colorado tallied four Black-and-whites, ten Tennesseees, 26 Nashvilles, nine Magnolias, six Chestnut-sided, four Blackpolls, and seven Palms. Among the very rare, a **Golden-winged** visited

Boulder Sept. 28, the state's second fall record. A late **Cape May**, the first fall bird, fed on a green moist river bank near Denver Nov. 20-23 (MOS). Observers counted 12 Black-throated Greens, in Boulder, Denver, and Pueblo. Boulder had a Blackburnian Oct. 20-29, the second fall record. Observers tallied five Bay-breasteds including one at Evergreen Oct. 6 and two birds at Boulder Nov. 2-12. Denver discovered a Pine Warbler Nov. 23. Colorado's first fall **Hooded Warbler** visited Pueblo Sept. 13 (CG), and Sept. 28 found a Canada Warbler at Denver. The season finished when Matthews identified the state's fifth Painted Redstart at Loveland, later seen by scores of observers Nov. 16-22.

*Las Vegas, Nevada:* Oases at Las Vegas attracted: Black-and-white Warblers Sept. 2 and Oct. 30; one Tennessee Oct. 1 - Nov. 10; two Nashvilles Sept. 22 - Oct. 18; two Magnolias, including one Oct. 1-14. Unusual numbers of Townsend's included 35 on Sept. 11 on Mt. Charleston. During the first half of September up to three Hermits were in the valley, and October found two Blackburnians, one Oct. 13 so close binoculars wouldn't focus. October 1-14 saw five different Chestnut-sided there, and at least six Blackpolls were sighted Sept. 1 - Oct. 10, with peak counts of four Oct. 1 & 4 O'Connell's **Palm Warbler** at Tonopah was Nevada's first; by Oct. 9 one had appeared in Las Vegas; on Oct. 14 observers found three! An Ovenbird strayed in Oct. 4-20, as did N. Waterthrushes once in September and several times in October, including one Oct. 1-9. The first week in September Lawson discovered 2-3 **Red-faced Warblers** — new to Nevada — in 3 different locations on Mt. Charleston.

*Utah:* In Utah, two Nashville Warblers appeared at Bear R. Aug. 15, and one stopped at Springdale Sept. 15. The Yellow-rumped came in droves — Bear R. estimated 500 Sept. 15 — and 40 fed in one Salt Lake City tree Oct. 10. Two Townsend's, seldom seen in S. Utah, were at St. George Sept. 25 (PA). Utah's second record of the **Blackpoll** and its third **Palm** perched in the same tree Sept. 19 (BW); the state's fourth **Palm** visited Salt Lake City Oct. 27 (GK).

*Black-throated Blue Warblers:* **Black-throated Blue Warblers** irrupted. Colorado previously had about 30 records. In September, seven birds appeared, followed by nine more in October, from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs — and then three materialized in November. Cheyenne shared in this abundance, with a brightly-colored male Oct. 2-3. Las Vegas, Oct. 1 - Nov. 16, had a minimum of 15 in the valley, topped by eight at Corn Creek at one time.

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — At R.M.N.P. the pointed tail feathers and buffy coloration helped identify, on Sept. 13, the first **Bobolink** in 45 years. A late Orchard Oriole jumped out of a brush pile with fall sparrows at Bonny Res. on Oct. 13. A group of 14 Great-tailed Grackles on Aug. 15, including nine young begging for food, strongly implied a successful nesting in the Las Vegas areas; birds continued to inhabit the area to late November. One was banded at Pueblo Sept. 17. Las Vegas enjoyed a visit from an Hepatic Tanager Sept. 4-11. Eleven Summer Tanagers on Sept. 1 fed on pears in a Las Vegas orchard, and a few stayed until Sept. 28. Springdale had a likely Summer Tanager Sept. 16-26, a first Zion-area record, but a range extension of only 25 mi. from Pipe Springs, Ariz.

**FINCHES** — Colorado had four September Indigo Buntings, but Springdale reports none: the population has dropped as "preferred nesting habitat in berry patches and grape tangles is reduced as farmland is converted to residential areas." An imm. **Painted Bunting** Oct. 5-9 identified by Mowbray and Lawson at Las Vegas added that species to the Nevada list. The bird was solid brown with a hint of yellow-green, a dark upper mandible, and no wing bars, streaking, or other marks. A lone Dickcissel stayed at Las Vegas Oct. 4-7. Evening Grosbeaks were present, but in great numbers. By Nov. 30, a summer group of 350 had dropped to a mere 80 at a feeder in the Denver foothills, and most other locations saw few after September. Crockett noted a ♀ Purple Finch at his feeder in Boulder Nov. 27. Rosy Finches, presumably lingering in the high mountains during the mild fall, were mostly late and scarce arriving at feeders. The first came to Nederland, Colo. Oct. 31, and Dubois had its earliest winter sighting, of 65 Nov. 3; a few filtered into other sites in November. Back found two Com. Redpolls at Dubois Sept. 12, three months earlier than the usual arrival. Zion noted abundant Lesser Goldfinches, decreasing in November as the sunflower seeds waned; the observations included a week-old bird Oct. 1. About four Lawrence's Goldfinches spent October at Las Vegas; one fell prey to a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Paltry Red Crossbill observations included 19 in plains town Longmont Aug. 27, and the first in several years at Zion, one bird Sept. 4. Yellowstone had a flock of four White-winged Crossbills Aug. 10-13.

**SPARROWS** — Grasshopper Sparrows appeared for unusual fall records: on Sept. 14 the first banded at Longmont in 16 years; one Aug. 4 in Park Co., Colo (RA); one at Bear R. (MC) and four at Las Vegas. Cassin's Sparrows, noted this summer as increased across S. Colorado's plains to Denver, also increased at Pawnee Grassland (RAR). Durango noted 15 Sage Sparrows Sept. 14. Tree Sparrows arrived in late October, except for early ones at Boulder Sept. 27, Las Vegas Oct. 7, and Colorado Springs Oct. 19. Las Vegas had two Golden-crowned Sparrows Nov. 27, but the best sparrow record was Childress' Golden-crowned at Durango Oct. 10 (GHC). Colorado counted at least 30 White-throated Sparrows; Cheyenne, as usual, had one Oct. 21, and Las Vegas had two October records. Picklesley found Reno's first two White-throated Sparrows Sept. 7, and then another one appeared Nov. 21-22. Scattered Fox Sparrows included the e. race at Cheyenne Aug. 30 and Denver Nov. 16.

**LONGSPURS, SNOW BUNTINGS** — Kertell picked up a rare Utah Chestnut-collared Longspur, a bird in intermediate plumage perched on a cholla cactus with a House Finch Oct. 10. Las Vegas had at least 16 in the valley Oct. 7. Last year Colorado counted its first Smith's Longspurs with a flock of 1000; this year Andrews found a single bird at Denver Sept. 15, feeding near cattails but showing the characteristic white shoulder patch. Then on Sept. 8 D.F.O. observers journeyed to the Pawnee Grassland and at last year's site found a migrating flock of 300; 30 remained Sept. 9 and one Oct. 3-6. The species apparently migrates in numbers through e. Colorado sometime in September,

stopping particularly at the short-grass prairie in Weld Co. The only Snow Bunting report came of a bird near Glenwood Springs Nov. 29.

**CORRIGENDA:** The 1966 record of Smith's Longspur from Colorado was rejected by the C.F.O. records committee because of "meager documentation." The Riverside Res. survey (which lies in Weld Co., not Morgan Co.) as well as observations of pelicans, herons, egrets, and California Gulls in the San Luis Valley, Antero Res., and Latham Res. were reported by Ryder, and F.C.A.S. contributed the summer reports from Fort Collins (*Am. Birds* 28:928-933). The Summer Tanager reported last summer was by no means Utah's first, with two specimens and several other observations (*Am. Birds* 28:835).

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**ABBREVIATIONS** — †: sight report; \*: specimen, C.F.O.: Colorado Field Ornithologists; D.F.O.: Denver Field Ornithologists; F.C.A.S.: Fort Collins Audubon Society; U.A.S.: Utah Audubon Society. — **HUGH E. KINGERY**, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver, Colo. 80206.

## SOUTHWEST REGION / Scott Mills, Stephen Alden and John Hubbard

Hot weather with some precipitation followed the summer monsoon in s. Arizona. In New Mexico, observers mentioned high precipitation levels, particularly from August through early October. Early snows were recorded in n. New Mexico in late August, but the winter snows did not arrive until October.



Excellent seed crops were produced by summer rains in Arizona, but rains in New Mexico seemed too late to allow many grasses and forbs to produce mature seeds. In Arizona, Fringillids, especially longspurs and Lark Buntings, arrived in greater numbers than in the previous fall. This may be a function of this season's winter food crop.

An interesting variety of vagrants appeared in the region during the report period. Shorebirds and gulls from the west and wood warblers from the east were most interesting. First records were recorded in both Arizona and New Mexico.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Common Loons, always unusual in New Mexico, were represented by single birds at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (hereafter Bitter Lake) Oct. 18 & Nov. 1 (DB, BS) and near Las Cruces Nov. 16 & 24 (BP). Another single was reported from Phoenix Nov. 2 (KI). Reports of Horned Grebes included two at Bitter Lake Nov. 3 (JH), five in the vicinity of Bonita, Ariz., Oct. 6 (DD, JB), three at Punta Santa Rosa, Sonora, Mex., Nov. 29-30 (SMi et al.) and a single near Chandler, Ariz., Oct. 5-7 (RW, JW et al.). Three very early W. Grebes were at Painted Rock Dam (hereafter P.R.D.), Maricopa Co., Ariz., since Aug. 22 (m. ob.), and counts of 35 at Elephant Butte L., N. Mex., in September (Mickey Lang) and 100, Nov. 27 (BP) were the highest counts of the many reports of this

species. An impressive 444 White Pelicans were counted at Bitter Lake, Oct. 11 (DB); 23 of the large summer flock at P.R.D. (GB *et al.*) remained on Oct. 5, and a single came down at Portales, N. Mex., and lingered for several days in late September (Tony Genaro). Three Brown Pelicans were sighted at P.R.D. Aug. 22 (GM *et al.*). Double-crested Cormorants were still at P.R.D., Nov. 7 and two were seen in Phoenix, Nov. 13-15 (JW, SD *et al.*). A **Magnificent Frigatebird**, undoubtedly the same bird seen during the summer, was observed at P.R.D., Aug. 4 (RN), Aug. 8 (ST) and Aug. 27 (Allen Guenther).

**HERONS, STORKS** — An impressive 75 Green Herons were counted at Bitter Lake, Aug. 9 (DB), and records of singles came from Kirtland, N. Mex., Sept. 23 (*vide* AN) and Pleasanton, N. Mex., Sept. 18-23 (LS). Reports of Little Blue Herons, scarce in New Mexico, were of two birds at Bitter Lake Aug. 22 and three there Aug. 30 (DB). Cattle Egrets continue to increase in the region with nine reported sightings totaling 68 individuals. Unusual was an ad. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** near Roswell, N. Mex., Aug. 31 (JS, MW). Two Wood Storks were seen at P.R.D., Aug. 8 (ST).

**WATERFOWL** — A single Whistling Swan was observed flying south with 17 Snow Geese over Tucson Nov. 12 (SA). Over 3000 Black Brant were counted in wintering areas off Punta Santa Rosa, Sonora, in the Gulf of California Nov. 28-29 (SMi *et al.*). An imm. White-fronted Goose lingered at Green Valley, Ariz., from Nov. 21 until the end of the period (SA). Arizona reports of Snow Geese were singles at St. David, Nov. 9 (m. ob.) and Sierra Vista Oct. 5 (SMi, TJ, SA). This species peaked at 14,000 at Bitter Lake Nov. 22 (DB, BS). A **Ross' Goose**, rare in Arizona, appeared n.w. of Tucson Nov. 9 (Emmy Wolfe), and two were present there Nov. 12-17 (GG, GM *et al.*). At Bitter Lake 125 Ross' Geese were counted Nov. 20 (DB), while a single bird was present among Snow Geese at McAlister L., San Miguel Co., N. Mex., Nov. 30 (JH). Black-bellied Tree Duck sightings include two n. of Phoenix Aug. 11 (MS, RB), two at Ruthrauff pond, Tucson, Sept. 22-25 (SA, SMi, TJ) and one in Phoenix, Oct. 5-6 (RW, DS *et al.*). Wood Ducks, regular but scarce in the region, were reported as follows: a pair at Ruthrauff Oct. 23 (MH) and two males there Nov. 24 (Mike and Dianna King), two males and three females near Albuquerque, Nov. 15 (CH) and one at Bitter Lake Oct. 25 (DB). One Surf Scoter (imm./fem.) was reported from Sierra Vista, Ariz., Nov. 12 (Fletcher Sillick *et al.*). Six Red-breasted Mergansers were seen at Wilcox, Ariz., Nov. 11 (m. ob.) and a female turned up at Alamogordo, N. Mex., Nov. 25 (BP). A Hooded Merganser, scarce in New Mexico, was shot by a hunter at Bitter Lake Nov. 17 (*vide* BS). The first evidence of breeding of Ruddy Duck in s.e. Arizona was the sighting of three ducklings at Kinsley Pond, Pima Co., Aug. 18 (Patty Meyers, ER).

**RAPTORS** — With the exception of Accipiters, good numbers of raptors were recorded in New Mexico by observers and in Dept. of Game and Fish censuses. (Accipiters were in better-than-usual numbers in s.e. Arizona.) More than 200 Turkey Vultures were ob-

served flying south over Roll, Ariz., Oct. 8 (JG). The latest reports of the species from New Mexico were ones and twos at Bitter Lake Oct. 4 (DB), Acomita Oct. 7 (MC, JH), and Ft. Bayard Oct. 12 (RF). Lowland Goshawks were a subadult s. of La Joya, N. Mex., Nov. 17 (MC, JH) and an adult in the Avra Valley, Pima Co., Ariz., Nov. 22 (SA). Migrating Swainson's Hawks were seen in the Phoenix area Sept. 15-Oct. 5; concentrations of 20-30 birds were seen near Oscuro, N. Mex., Sept. 18 (MC, GS) and over Las Cruces Oct. 6 (BP), and nearly 250 were seen in field n.w. of Willcox, Ariz., Sept. 21-22 (Rich Gliniski). A late individual was reported at Gila Bend, Ariz., Nov. 7 (ST *et al.*). From New Mexico, early arrival, single Rough-legged Hawks were reported at Eagle Nest, Colfax Co. (RB), the Upper Mimbres Valley, Grant Co. (RF) and s. of Las Cruces (BP), all in the week of Oct. 18-25. Another was seen flying in a snowstorm on the mesa n. of Mt. Taylor, N. Mex., Nov. 23 (MC, JH). Ferruginous Hawks were numerous in the Sulphur Springs Valley, Cochise Co., Ariz., Oct. 26 (SS). Twelve Golden Eagle sightings were recorded in Arizona during the period. Bald Eagles were reported as follows: eleven ad. at Vermejo Park, N. Mex., Nov. 27 (Ted Burt), one adult 18 mi s.w. of Rodeo, N. Mex., Nov. 21 (Joanne Vinik), two adults at Pleasanton, N. Mex., Nov. 26 (LS) and two adult and three immatures at McAlister L., N. Mex., Nov. 28 (WH). Marsh Hawks were very numerous in s.e. Arizona in mid-November. An Osprey was sighted at Ruthrauff, Tucson Sept. 26 (TJ). Only four Peregrine Falcon sightings were received, two in New Mexico and one each in Sonora and Arizona. Merlins continue to be scarce with only five individuals reported: a pair seen near Gila Bend, Nov. 7 (SD, ST *et al.*), a male seen taking a Mourning Dove in the Tucson Mts., Sept. 18 (Ruth Steffins), one at Peña Blanca, N. Mex., Nov. 15 (WS) and one killed by dove hunters near Tucson in early September (*vide* SMi). Several observers commented on apparently higher-than-usual numbers of Am. Kestrels. An unusual sighting was of a "flock" of 20 kestrels in a single mesquite tree near Wellton, Ariz., Sept. 30 (JG).

**TURKEYS THROUGH RAILS** — Twelve of the Turkeys (race *intermedia*) released at Bosque del Apache, N.W.R., N. Mex. during the summer were sighted Nov. 24 (WS). Three exceptionally early Sandhill Cranes were at Rosebud, Harding Co., N. Mex., Sept. 7 (KG); other early reports were four near Buckeye, N. Mex., Sept. 29 (JH) and three at Bitter Lake Oct. 4 (BS), while 87 were counted near Cliff, N. Mex., Oct. 22 (RF). On their wintering grounds near Kansas Settlement, Arizona, 700-800 cranes were seen Nov. 24 (Harriette Barker *et al.*). A new locality for Virginia Rail is the Laguna Indian Reservation, at Dripping Vat, N. Mex., where at least three were present Nov. 22 (JH). An imm. Sora, no doubt a migrant, was found dead on a street in Santa Fe Sept. 14 (JH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Single Semipalmated Plovers, rarely reported in New Mexico only a few years ago, were noted at Mesilla Park, Nov. 22 & 26 (BP, Rick Reid) and in Lovington, Sept. 30 (MC, JH). In Arizona, unusually large numbers were 18 seen at Pichacho Res ,

Aug. 15 (GM) and 27 at P.R.D., Aug. 22 (GM). The last sighting of Snowy Plovers at Bitter Lake was 60 birds Aug. 23 (BS). A newly hatched Killdeer at Ruthrauff, Tucson, Oct. 26 (ER) was a late nesting record. High counts of Mountain Plovers were 75 e. of Estancia, N. Mex., Sept. 23 (RT *et al.*), 25 near Rosebud, N. Mex., Sept. 7 (KG) and 39 at P.R.D., Nov. 9 (RN). An **Am. Golden Plover**, a species rarely seen in Arizona, was reported in Phoenix, Oct. 24-25 (SD, HL *et al.*). Counts of 30 Long-billed Curlews came from Buckeye, N. Mex., Sept. 27 (MC, JH) and the vicinity of Lovington, N. Mex., Oct. 4 (GS). The highest count of the species was 190 on the Colorado R., near San Luis, Ariz., Sept. 28 (RN, DT).

An **Upland Sandpiper**, rare in Arizona, was found in Phoenix, Oct. 5 (ST, SM, KA). The second state record for **Wandering Tattler** was a single in n. Phoenix Oct. 13-14 (MS, RB *vide* JW). A Red Knot in breeding plumage was sighted at P.R.D., Aug. 10 (RW *et al.*), and a molting individual was found in Phoenix Aug. 20 (ST). Pectoral Sandpipers, regular in Arizona, were reported in New Mexico where normally rare as follows: three near Kirtland Sept. 23 (*vide* AN), seven in Lovington Sept. 30 (MC, JH), and a late individual near Mesilla Dam, Nov. 22 (BP, RR). Short-billed Dowitchers continue to be reported from Phoenix and Maricopa Co., Ariz. with five sightings (4-5 individuals) during August and September. Five sightings of Stilt Sandpipers, all from s. Arizona, totaled 13 individuals. Three **Semi-palmated Sandpipers** (one specimen) were found at Picacho Res., Ariz., Aug. 15 (GM). The first Arizona record of **Ruff** was a single bird observed and photographed in Phoenix Nov. 10-Dec. (RN, DD *et al.*). Interesting was a single Am. Avocet near Kirtland, N. Mex., Nov. 11-14 (*vide* AN) and 50 near Alamogordo, Sept. 15 (BP). A Red Phalarope, a rare transient in Arizona, turned up in Phoenix Aug. 20 (ST).



*Ruff, Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 15, 1974. First state record. Photo / Janet Witzeman.*

**JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS** — An imm. jaeger (probably Parasitic) was seen at P.R.D., Aug 22 (GM) and again Aug. 29 (MH *et al.*). Herring Gull reports were two (ad. and imm.) at Sierra Vista, Ariz., Oct. 29 (DD, JB) and one ad: n.w. of Tucson Nov. 13 (GG). Single Franklin's Gulls were seen at P.R.D., Aug. 4 (RN), n.w. of Tucson, Oct. 28 (GG) and one found dead at Pipe Spring Nat'l Mon., Ariz., Sept. 24

(RWi). Ruthrauff Pond produced a Bonaparte's Gull Nov. 9 (GG) and a Heermann's Gull Nov. 2 (Doug Stotz). An imm. Sabine's Gull was seen in Phoenix Nov. 4 (RB). Common Tern sightings were reported as follows: three at P.R.D. Sept. 1 (RN), one at Bartlett L., Maricopa Co., Ariz., Sept. 14 (RN), and two at P.R.D., Oct. 5 (RN *et al.*). Two Least Terns were seen at P.R.D., Aug. 10 (RW, JW *et al.*). Two **Caspian Terns**, size and calls noted, at Bitter Lake, Sept. 13 (MW), constitute an interesting record of species is not substantiated from New Mexico and is doubtlessly rare in occurrence there.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH SWIFTS** — A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen near Gila, N. Mex., Oct. 6 (BP). The first New Mexico record of a **Black-billed Cuckoo** was an individual collected after striking a window near Silver City Sept. 13 (DZ). A vagrant Groove-billed Ani was found near Marana, Ariz., Nov. 20-24 (TJ *et al.*). Two adults and one young Flammulated Owls seen Aug. 9 near Mora, N. Mex. (KG), represent a new locality record. A Com. Nighthawk seen in Arenas Valley, Grant Co., N. Mex., Oct. 27 (RF) was late, as was a Lesser Nighthawk over Hermosillo, Sonora, Nov. 28 (SA, JS, SMi). One of the few Arizona records and the first for Maricopa Co. was of a Chimney Swift seen over Tempe Aug. 5 (ST).

**HUMMINGBIRDS AND WOODPECKERS** — Reports of unusually large numbers of hummingbirds, particularly in the lowlands and mountains of s. Arizona during August and early September, were received from many observers. Broad-tailed and Rufous Hummingbirds were particularly abundant in the White Mts., Ariz., in mid-August (SH, SMi). Continued evidence of the eastward range expansion of Anna's Hummingbird was a male seen at La Cueva, Organ Mts., N. Mex., Sept. 13 (BP). In New Mexico the last hummers reported in the north were unidentifiable females and immatures seen Oct. 1, while in the southwest the late date was Nov. 14 at Bayard (RF). An exception was a possible Black-chinned Hummingbird at Albuquerque Oct. 21 (DL). A Com. Flicker (Yellow-shafted) was present at Bitter Lake beginning Aug. 29 (JC). Red-headed Woodpeckers, spotty in New Mexico, were reported only at Albuquerque, with two on Aug. 24 (RT) and at Bitter Lake, with one Sept. 25 (DB). Beginning Sept. 4, up to 20 Lewis' Woodpeckers were present at Los Alamos (WL), and one was seen near L. Roberts, Grant Co., N. Mex., where the species is irregular (RF). Single Williamson's Sapsuckers were seen at Roswell, Sept. 14 (MW), Tombstone, Ariz., Oct. 13 (DD) and at P.R.D., Nov. 7 (ST, SD). Downy Woodpeckers appeared in Roswell Aug. 8 & 25 and once in November (MW); also in Pleasanton, N. Mex., Oct. 24-25 (JH).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A vagrant E. Kingbird was reported from near Willcox, Ariz., Aug. 18 (SH, Glen McDonnell); one was present in Santa Fe, in September (KG). A Thick-billed Kingbird feeding one young near Patagonia, Ariz., Aug. 9 is interesting since little is known about the breeding and migration dates of the species in Arizona (SS). Single late W. Kingbirds were seen s. of Tucson Oct. 26 (SMi) and

Nov 13 (TJ). A Cassin's Kingbird was present near Buckeye Sept. 27 (JH) where infrequent. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were staging for migration near Buckeye, Sept 28 with ten counted in one flock (JH); another was present near Lovington Oct. 4 (GS), and one appeared far west of its normal range in Wellton, Ariz., Oct. 13 (DR, GR). A large *Myiarchus* at Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Co., N. Mex., Sept. 7 may have been a Great Crested Flycatcher, but the possibility of Wied's cannot be discounted. A late Wied's Crested Flycatcher was seen in Avra Valley, Ariz., Sept. 14 (TJ). Five late Olivaceous Flycatchers were seen and heard at Sonoita Ck, near Patagonia, Ariz., Oct. 16, but none was seen there on Oct. 28 (SS). Two E. Phoebes, rare in w. New Mexico, were present at Glenwood, Oct. 25 (JH). A late Hammond's Flycatcher was banded at Cedar Crest, N. Mex., Oct. 10 (BM). A ♀ or imm. ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher at Cochiti, N. Mex., Oct. 18 (WS) was out of range. A Beardless Flycatcher seen Oct. 5-6 at Aravaipa Canyon, Pinal Co. (DB, JB) was at a new Arizona location. Notable records of Tree Swallows were 20 near Mora, N. Mex., Aug. 10 and at least 30 in the San Pedro Parks area, Sandoval Co., N. Mex., Aug. 20-21 (KG). A very late Barn Swallow was seen in the Avra Valley, Ariz., Nov. 2 (SA, SMi). The usual fall roost of Purple Martins near Tucson was located in a city trailer court this year from at least Sept. 14-20, and observers estimated about 15,000 individuals.

**JAYS THROUGH WRENS** — Common Crows appeared in Albuquerque starting in mid-October (Dot DeLollis), while further east and south 1-3 were identified at Clines Corners Nov. 3, Mountainair, Nov. 3 and Capitan, Nov. 8 (JH). Single Blue Jays appeared at Tesuque, N. Mex., Oct. 24-31 (Bill Huey) and at Las Vegas, Oct. 21 and Nov. 25 (WH). The only lowland report of Steller's Jay was one at Farmington, N. Mex., Oct. 9 (*vide AN*). Three Gray Jays were seen in the San Pedro Parks, N. Mex., Aug. 20 (KG) where seldom reported but probably regular. Three Clark's Nutcrackers were present in Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., N. Mex., Nov. 16 (JH). Red-breasted Nuthatches made a notable appearance in New Mexico this fall, with reports including the east side of the Sandia Mts. (BM), the Magdalena Mts. and Tillie Hall Peak (JH), Burro Mts. (GS), and a single s. of Roswell Sept. 27 (JS). A Dipper was seen on the w. fork of the Gila R., Catron Co., N. Mex., Sept. 24 (GS). Winter Wrens, unusual and irregular in the region, were represented by two individuals, one at Otowi Bridge, near Los Alamos Oct. 20 (WS) and one seen near Seven Springs, Maricopa Co., Ariz., Oct. 12-Nov. 14 (GB, RB).

**THRASHERS, THRUSHES** — A Gray Catbird appeared out of range at Farmington, N. Mex., Oct. 6-13 (AN); also one at Taos, N. Mex., Sept. 10 (Dixie Gillette). A Brown Thrasher was present at Farmington Sept. 15, 29 (AN), where it is certainly rare. A single Curve-billed Thrasher was seen just s. of Santa Fe on Aug. 21; five were present in Pleasanton, Aug. 30-Sept. 2 (JH), where the species is uncommon and local. Bendire's Thrasher appeared to be as numerous in late fall in the Avra Valley, near Tucson, as they had been during the summer. This species is probably more

numerous in winter than generally reported, as it is easily overlooked because of its close resemblance to the Curve-billed Thrasher. Many observers reported Sage Thrashers as very numerous in s.e. Arizona. American Robins had gathered in good numbers at Cedar Crest, N. Mex. by mid-November, where they were feeding on juniper berries (BM); elsewhere there were few reports of the species and no reports of concentrations. One **Varied Thrush** was observed with a flock of Am. Robins at Moccasin, Mohave Co., Ariz., Sept. 29 (RWi). Mountain Bluebirds were seen in large flocks in many parts of New Mexico and were very numerous in the lowlands of Arizona where few had appeared last year. Townsend's Solitaire also showed signs of a lowland invasion, with reports of abundance in the Upper Sonoran habitat areas around Phoenix (JW). An early migrant solitaire was noted at Cedar Crest, N. Mex., Aug. 13 (BM).

**SYLVIIDS THROUGH VIREOS** — A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed at Farmington Nov. 10 (*vide AN*). Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared Oct. 27 in the Superstition Mts., near Phoenix where from two to four were seen (RB, JW, RN). Two lowland reports of the species from the Phoenix area were also received, one in Lower Sonoran desert Oct. 30 (Mary Debert) and six at Seven Springs in junipers Nov. 11 (GB). Sprague's Pipit was sighted in the grasslands near Elgin, Ariz., Oct. 28 and Nov. 11, with at least seven seen on the former date (SS). Cedar Waxwings were reported rather widely in New Mexico, signaling a possible invasion into the state; no reports of any numbers were received from Arizona. A ♀ Phainopepla was present Oct. 25 at Pleasanton, where the species is irregular and uncommon (JH). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was observed in Phoenix Sept. 17 (Bonnie Burch) for one of the few fall Arizona records. A late *plumbeus* Solitary Vireo was seen on Oct. 28 at the Jornada Exp Range, Doña Ana Co., N. Mex. (BP). Single Red-eyed Vireos appeared in Phoenix, Aug. 6 (DS, PB), Sept. 21 (RW *et al.*) and Nov. 3 (DS). A possible Yellow-green Vireo was carefully described from the vicinity of Portal, Ariz., Aug. 31 (Bryan Obst).

**WARBLERS** — Nine reports of Black-and-white Warblers were received from throughout the region. This species appears to be an uncommon but a regular transient there. Four reports of Tennessee Warbler were received, three of singles from the Phoenix area on Aug. 25 (ST, SM, KA), Oct. 1 (ST) and Nov. 3 (SHe); also one from near Leasburg S.P., N. Mex., Oct. 4 (BP). Large numbers of Nashville Warblers were noted in the Phoenix area, and the following are reports from New Mexico, where the species is seldom reported: one at Cedar Crest Aug. 8-11 (BM) and two or three in the Burro Mts., Sept. 2 & 8 (RF). Northern Parula Warblers appeared at Phoenix Aug. 16 (ST, JW) and Sept. 2 (RB, ST); another was seen near Kaibab, Ariz., Sept. 27 (RWi). A Magnolia Warbler was seen at Tempe, Ariz., Oct. 25 (ST). The first specimen record of **Cape May Warbler** for New Mexico came from Silver City where one was found dead Oct. 4 and preserved (DZ). Black-throated Blue Warblers appeared again in the region with an incredible seven sightings! Three of these were seen at Pipe Spring Nat'l Mon, Ariz., a

female Sept. 27-28, a male Sept. 29 and another female Oct. 1 (RWi). Singles also appeared near Seven Springs, Ariz., Oct. 23 (SM, KA), at Bitter Lake Oct. 14 (DB), and Oct. 13 and 14 at Silver City (DZ *et al.*). Black-throated Green Warblers were sighted at Phoenix, Oct. 21 (ST) and Madera Canyon, Pima Co., Ariz., Oct. 23 (Eddie Chalif); also 1-2 were seen at Farmington Oct. 30-31 (*vide* AN). A ♀ or imm. ♂ **Blackburnian Warbler** was seen 7 mi. s.e. of Rodeo, N. Mex., Sept. 4 (RS). A Grace's Warbler wandered to a lowland locality at Pipe Spring Nat'l Mon., Sept. 26 (RWi). Chestnut-sided Warblers appeared in Arizona four times: singles were seen at Kaibab Sept. 27, Pipe Spring Sept. 28 and Oct. 1 (RWi) and at Ft. Huachuca Oct. 14 (Robert Smith) and Oct. 17 (Ray Steiner). A Palm Warbler was seen at Seven Springs Oct. 16 (SD, JW). In Arizona Ovenbirds appeared in Tempe Sept. 15 (SM, KA) and at Seven Springs Oct. 12-13 (GB *et al.*). Twelve sightings of N. Waterthrush were reported Aug. 21-Sept. 30. A possible Connecticut Warbler was seen in the Dragoon Mts., Cochise Co., Ariz., Sept. 2 (DD, JB, Richard Hammon) and would be the first state record if authentic. An ad. ♀ **Canada Warbler** found dead Sept. 29 at Pipe Spring Nat. Mon., (RWi) and preserved is the first record of the species for Arizona. At least nine Am. Redstart reports were received for the region, and a lowland record for Painted Redstart came from Phoenix Sept. 24 (ST).

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — The Baltimore race of the N. Oriole was reported in Phoenix Sept. 12 (ST) and at Rattlesnake Springs, N. Mex., Sept. 14 (BP); the latter is the second New Mexico record of the subspecies, the first was only last spring. Late was a ♂ Scott's Oriole at City of Rocks S.P., N. Mex., Oct. 5 (BP). At least 50 Great-tailed Grackles were present in Lovington Sept. 27-30, where the species is reported by residents as having been present and breeding for the last 3-4 years (JH); also reported at Las Vegas Aug. 14 (WH). Late were single ♂♂ W. Tanagers at Sandia Park, N. Mex., Oct. 7 (MH) and at White Sands Nat'l Mon., Nov. 28 (*vide* BP). Unusual was a Summer Tanager present Aug. 1-28 at Cedar Crest, an imm. male that lingered from the previous reporting period (BM).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Three Pyrrhuloxia were present at Cedar Pt., Chaves Co., N. Mex., Sept. 30 where they are not known to be regular (JH). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported at Bitter Lake Aug. 23 (DB). A ♂ Blue Grosbeak at Los Alamos Aug. 9 was at an unusually high altitude of 7340 feet (WL). More reports of Indigo Buntings were received from the region, where this bird is becoming increasingly regular. A late nesting of a Varied Bunting was recorded when a female was seen feeding two young in Gardner Canyon, Pima Co., Ariz., Sept. 22 (MH). A Painted Bunting was seen at St. David, Ariz., Sept. 22 (DD). No large scale irruptions of carduelines were evident in the region, except that the Lawrence's Goldfinch was abundant around Tucson where it was virtually absent last fall. Five Pine Grosbeaks were present in the San Pedro Peaks area, Aug. 20-21 (KG), and seven apparent Brown-capped Rosy Finches were at Angel Fire, Colfax Co., N. Mex., Nov. 27 (RBr). A Brown Towhee in

Farmington Sept. 29 was unusual (AN). This appears to be an especially good year for Lark Buntings with very large flocks (1000+) seen often in the vicinity of Las Cruces (BP), Tucson and the Sulphur Springs Valley. Three Lark Buntings were at Los Alamos Aug. 7 and 200 were near Santa Fe Aug. 21 (JH).

Baird's Sparrows were reported from near Elgin, Ariz., Nov. 9 & 11 (SS) but an estimate of numbers was impossible owing to the elusive nature of the species. A late Five-striped Sparrow was observed near Patagonia, Ariz., Oct. 16 (SS). The last nest reported to fledge Rofous-winged Sparrows was in Avra Valley near Tucson Sept. 9 (TJ). Botteri's and Cassin's Sparrows seemed particularly common this year in the grassland surrounding the Santa Rita Mts., Ariz., perhaps owing to the excellent summer rainfall in the area. Several nests of Cassin's Sparrow were found there, with the last evidence of nesting on Sept. 15 (TJ). Singing birds were present near Rodeo, N. Mex., Aug. 11-Sept. 10 (RS), and two late (wintering?) birds were seen in Avra Valley Nov. 2 (SMi, SA). Single Yellow-eyed Juncos were north of their usual range in the Superstition Mts., Oct. 26 (RN *et al.*) and Oct. 28 (JW *et al.*). A Tree Sparrow, a sparse winter resident in n. Arizona, was seen in House Rock Valley, Nov. 15-17 (DT), and Harris' Sparrows appeared n.w. of Tucson with one Nov. 14 (Martin Paulsen) and two Nov. 24 (Mike King). White-crowned Sparrows were reported in fewer than usual numbers in Phoenix and Globe, Ariz., but were abundant around Tucson and in s.e. Arizona. Single White-throated Sparrows appeared as follows: one banded at Tanque Verde Ranch, near Tucson, (Chas. Corchran), Patagonia, Ariz., Nov. 21 (Jeff Mangum), n.w. Tucson, Nov. 9-14 (Bill and Wilma Meter) and at Eagle Nest, N. Mex., Nov. 6-28 (RBr). Single Swamp Sparrows appeared along the Salt R., near Phoenix, Nov. 2 (PB, DS, RB, RN) and at Nogales, Ariz., Nov. 10 (Bill Harrison). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were especially abundant in s.e. Arizona during the period, and strays appeared west of their normal Arizona range with two at P.R.D., Nov. 7 (ST *et al.*) and two between Oracle and Florence Sept. 30 (Seymour Levy).

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## ALASKA REGION

/ Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

Another mild fall. The migration was most exciting in total, complementing what had already been a very exciting year. Black Brant (bad news) and swans (good news) were of interest, and the season's variety included a first for North America as well as a new family added to the Alaska list.



**SHEARWATERS, CORMORANTS** — Three **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** were identified at 52° N 179° W, n. of Gareloi I., c. Aleutians, Sept. 5 (GVB, MHD, JLT & CPD). Nine **New Zealand Shearwaters** observed at 5 different points along the 100-fathom curve in the n. Gulf of Alaska, Sept. 16-29 (KDW), provided the first records of this bird close enough inshore to qualify as Alaskan observations. Short-tailed Shearwaters have been considered far more common than Sooty Shearwaters in the c. Aleutians, and this may be the case in summer; but on Sept. 5 between the Rat and Andreanof Is. over 85% of the 61 shearwaters identified were Sooties (GVB, JLT, MHD, & CPD). **Brandt's Cormorant** nested for at least the third successive year (PI) at Seal Rocks, Hinchinbrook Entrance, Prince William Sound [below, PWS]. On Aug. 16 ten birds were in the area, one nest was being incubated, and two others were in last stages of construction. Can these birds possibly fledge young from nests begun this late? Red-

headed Cormorants made further eastward range expansion; new colonies were found on four more islands in PWS and vicinity (PI).

**SWANS** — The first two Whooper Swans of the season were seen at Adak I., Nov. 24-26 (m.ob.). There was much comment on Whistling and Trumpeter Swan movement in October. Two family groups of Trumpeters (8 and 5 birds) plus 22 swans (sp.) were seen at Harding L., s.e. of Fairbanks, Oct 12 (DDG, JLT, & TTW). Several thousand Whistling moved through the Copper River Delta [below, CRD] Oct. 12, 15, and 20 (PI), and Isleib (*fide* RBW) said that the movement lasted through the first week of November and was the heaviest he had witnessed there in many years. He estimated that at least 50,000 swans passed through that area during this period, and a check on Nov. 21 showed that a few birds of both species were still lingering. A huge flight that passed over the Mendenhall Valley, Juneau, Oct. 23 (RBW), may have been part of the same movement. The largest flock totaled 283, and many smaller flocks of 12-100+ were in view at once over a 4-mile-wide area. It was a mixed flight of both species and involved well over 5000 birds (RBW). It was the largest swan flight that that observer had seen in over 25 years in Alaska. A local family of Trumpeters was last seen at Kasilof Oct. 16 (RP), a large movement of Whistling Swans was noted at Anchorage Oct. 19-20 (m.ob.), and 65-70 swans (sp.) were seen over Juneau Oct. 26 (WPD).

**GEESE** — Small numbers of Snow Geese put down briefly at the Experimental Farm, College, on time Oct. 1 & 4 (RSH & SOM, TTW). The species passed through the CRD in light numbers early (first of October) and late (Oct. 22), and about 3500 birds were counted Oct. 15 (PI).

S.A.

At Izembek N.W.R., where a large percentage of the world's Black Brant occur in fall, the annual census indicated an unprecedented low percentage of juvenile birds. Of 13,750 brant observed, only 4.5% were juvenile, and no family groups were seen, indicating almost no brant production this year. Since 1963 the percentage of juveniles in the population has ranged from 18 to 40. Black Brant staged from Izembek *en masse* Nov. 5 (RDJ).

Very few Emperor Geese were noted in the fall in the c. and w. Aleutians (GVB, DL). Five at Adak Sept. 29 were the first seen (GWE). Five at Kodiak Oct. 6 (RM) were the first ones there. A late White-fronted Goose was noted with a flock of Canadas at Little Glacier Slough, CRD, Oct. 12 (PI).

**DUCKS** — Seventy Gadwall at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak I., Oct. 6 (RM) was a good count; one male was seen at Adak Nov. 25-26. Up to 12 Eur. Wigeon were seen at Shemya I., Oct. 26-Nov. 23 (DL). Several Canvasbacks were taken by hunters at Martin L., CRD, Oct. 12-15 (PGMi, *fide* PI), and 50-60 were reported at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau, Oct. 10 (WPD). Two pairs of Ring-necked Ducks arrived at Swan L., Sitka, Nov. 10

(CHJ & AJ, TL) and remained. Three Tufted Ducks each were at Adak and at Shemya in late October and November. One ♀-plumaged Smew was seen at Adak from Nov. 24 on (GVB, JLT, AW).

**RAILS, PLOVERS** — Twelve Am. Coots on Swan L., Sitka, from Nov. 10 on (CHJ & AJ, TL), may be the largest group ever recorded in the Region. The first Semipalmated Plover in the w. Aleutians was a bird at Buldir I., Aug. 21 (GVB, MHD, & CPD). The first fall Am. Golden Plovers in the Aleutians were single birds at Buldir (GVB, MHD, & CPD) and at Shemya (DL) Aug. 30. The main movement of this species was in mid-to late-October, with high counts at Adak Oct. 14 (AW) and at Shemya Oct. 26 (DL).

**SANDPIPERS** — Asiatic sandpipers, with one exception all representatives of species that breed as close to Alaska as the Anadyr R. basin, Magadan, were recorded in some numbers on fall passage. Most were seen at Buldir (GVB, MHD, CPD, & JLT). Probably indicative of an annual passage in the w. Aleutians, single **Long-toed Stints** were observed at Buldir on Aug. 19, Aug. 21, and Sept. 3; one ♂ Ruff was seen at Buldir Aug. 31-Sept. 1; one **Spotted Redshank** was recorded at Buldir in late August; two Wood Sandpipers were seen at Buldir Aug. 19 and one Sept. 3; one **Polynesian Tattler** was found at Buldir Aug. 21, up to five were present there Aug. 26-Sept. 3, and three were seen at Unalaska I., e. Aleutians, Sept. 25 (JLT & MHD); a **Com. Sandpiper** was observed at Buldir Aug. 31; three Whimbrels (*N. p. variegatus*) were seen there Aug. 26 and Sept. 3; and a single Com. Snipe was noted there Aug. 25. The exception was a single **Marsh Sandpiper** (*Tringa stagnatilis*), a first for N. America, that alighted near a small puddle on Buldir in early September after a strong wind. This species can be classed only as an accidental, as different from the foregoing Asiatics, since this primarily e. European and c. Asian species is not known in n.e. Asia.

Nearctic sandpipers west include a W. Sandpiper at Adak Sept. 26 (GWE, AW) and a Lesser Yellowlegs at Buldir Aug. 31.

A flock of 20 Pectoral Sandpipers at Kodiak Sept. 28 (RM) were getting quite late. Up to four Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were seen at Adak Sept. 23-26 (AW), and up to 17 were recorded as late as Oct. 26-Nov. 9 (AW, GVB, JLT). One Sanderling was seen at Buldir Aug 22-30, but the first arrivals were not seen at Adak until Nov. 3 (GVB, JLT, AW). An Upland Sandpiper photographed near Petersburg Aug. 28 (JLT) numbers among few s.e. Alaska records. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Little Glacier Slough, CRD, Sept. 6 (PI), provided a first record for the North Gulf Coast-PWS area. There are few fall records anywhere in the Region. Good flocks (e.g., 100+ on Sept. 9) of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were present in the Cohoe-Kasilof area in early September (MAM). The latest sighting there was of 5 yellowlegs (sp.) Sept. 26. A Spotted Sandpiper at Martin L., CRD, Oct. 13 (CPD), is the latest fall record for the state.

**GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS** — Mew Gulls arrived at Adak Nov. 8 (GVB, JLT), and up to 5 were seen there from then on (GVB, JLT, & AW). One Aleutian Tern

was seen on pelagic waters 20 mi. w. of Buldir Aug 23. Single Cassin's Auklets were seen at Atka I. Sept. 20 (CPD) and at Chagulak I. Sept. 22 (JLT). Nearly 1000 Cassin's were counted in groups of 2-3 in Frederick Sound, s.e. Alaska, Oct. 24 (CHJ & AJ, TL, & NW). There are very few records in s.e. Alaska in recent years. Concentrations of up to 700 Whiskered Auklets were seen near Carlisle I. Sept. 21 (JLT, CPD, & MHD), and smaller numbers were seen at Unalga, Rootok, and Tigalda Is. Sept. 27 (JLT & MHD). A Rhinoceros Auklet in Jamestown Bay, Sitka, from about Nov. 1 through Nov. 30 (CHJ) is easily the latest on record in the state.

**GOATSUCKERS** — A Com. Nighthawk observed at Cohoe Sept. 15 (MAM) is a first local record and one of only three for all of s.-c. Alaska. The species is a regular fall migrant only in s.e. Alaska; one over Auke Bay Aug. 27 (RBW) was the only one reported from that area this fall.

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — Zimmerman's summary of range expansion of Anna's Hummingbird (AB 27: 827-835, 1973) included mention of the Cordova male (photos on file — U.A.), November 1971 (AB 26: 105, 1972), but did not follow it to its conclusion on Dec. 19, 1971 (AB 26: 643). Since that time, a ♂ Anna's (photos on file — U.A.) was observed at a Sitka feeder in March 1974 (AB 28: 678, 1974), and another, unidentified, hummingbird was reported in winter 1973-74 at Juneau.

On Aug. 6 a ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was identified at an Auke Bay feeder (ESD & WPD). A few days later a male and a female were observed, then two males. Both males and the female were seen irregularly through September, at the end of which month the observers departed. On their return, Nov. 1, one male was seen. A second male visited the feeder briefly after that date, and one male was still present at the beginning of December. On Oct. 19 at another Auke Bay feeder, some miles removed from the first, a ♀ Anna's was identified (RBW). On Oct. 20 both a male and a female were seen, and from then through at least the first week of December the female regularly visited the Williamses' feeder. A number of other, unidentified, hummingbirds was reported between Juneau and Auke Bay during November (*vide* RBW). An unidentified hummingbird was reported at Sitka in late fall (*vide* CHJ), but it had not turned up at the Johnstones' feeder by the close of the period.

These fall 1974 records (probably, but not certainly, involving different birds at the two locations) demonstrate that the previous observations were not flukes and that all late fall and winter hummingbirds in this Region should be carefully scrutinized. Certainly we cannot afford to assume, as we have done in the past, that such birds are necessarily Rufous Hummingbirds, just because Rufous is the only species that is common in s.e. Alaska and that is known to breed in the state.

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Single late Com. Flickers (all Yellow-shafted) were seen on the Steese Hwy, n. of Fairbanks, Sept. 29 (TT); near Sterling, Kenai Peninsula, Oct. 2 (DKP); and at Cordova, one in late September and another Oct. 4 (PI). A

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen near Anchorage Sept. 22 (AS). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Cordova Aug. 6 (RI) is the first fall record there, and a Say's Phoebe at Alaganik Slough Sept. 5 (PI) is the only CRD record since 1940.

**CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES** — A **Mountain Chickadee** was observed in the mountains above Skagway Aug. 6 (DDG & SOM). There is one previous sight record in Alaska, in midwinter at Juneau. At least four Gray-headed Chickadees were seen at Igloo Creek, Mt. McKinley N.P., Aug. 29 (MKM, PGMc, & GFS), where there have been scattered sightings over the years. The first Gray-headed confirmed in the Fairbanks area since 1967-68 (see *AFN* 22: 648, 1968) was one banded at College Oct. 27 (LJP). It remained in the area through the rest of the period and was seen by many observers (GJD, DDG, RSH, BK, TTW). Three Boreal Chickadees were seen together at Auke Bay Oct. 14-16 (RBW), but they did not enter nearby banding traps. There are only two other s.e. Alaska records, both in fall. Only the second and third Interior records, single Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen at a College suet feeder Oct. 20 (DRK) and at Harding L. Oct 27 (PI). They were seen regularly at Kodiak this period, but numbers were down from fall 1973 (RM).

**MIMIC THRUSHES** — An astonishing vagrant, a weak **Brown Thrasher** was caught in the hand at Barrow in late September (HB). It subsequently died in captivity. Many vagrants from e. N. America, perhaps caught up in the Mackenzie R. system and wandering w. and n. from its mouth, wind up in Barrow. This is the first certain record of a member of this family in Alaska.

**THRUSHES** — Five Am. Robins at Kodiak Nov. 24 (RM & NT) were the only ones seen this fall there, although the species is common on the adjacent mainland. Mountain Bluebirds, uncommon s.e. Alaska migrants, were seen in some numbers at Juneau: 6 at Peterson Creek Oct. 3, 10 at Eagle R. Oct. 3, and 10-12 at the airport Oct. 4 (WPD). A Townsend's Solitaire was seen near Salmon Creek, Juneau, for 3-4 days, first on Oct. 29 (RBW). This would appear to be quite late, but there are virtually no departure dates for s.e. Alaska.

**ICTERIDS** — The second one in the Region in 1974, a ♀ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was closely observed e. of Cordova Aug. 18 (PI). A **Com. Grackle** with a flock of robins at Auke Bay Aug. 10 (RBW) is the fifth Alaska record.

**SPARROWS** — The *tenth annual* return of **Harris' Sparrows** to Auke Bay was marked Oct. 28 with the arrival of a banded bird, one that had been trapped there initially in Nov. 1972 and that had been re-trapped there in both April and Oct. 1973. It was re-trapped again Nov. 3 and 5 this fall (RBW). A **White-throated Sparrow**, for which thorough details are on file, was closely observed at a Kodiak feeder Nov. 24 (RM & NT). The bird remained through at least the first of December and was photographed. Another White-throated was reported at Sitka at the very end of November (TL), but there were no details as of this

writing. Lincoln's Sparrow had never been found on Kodiak before this fall, so one seen near the Buskin R. mouth Nov. 17 (RM & NT) and another 3 miles from the first Nov. 25 (NT) were of particular interest.

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

The fall of 1974 was slightly warmer and dryer than normal through October. November brought more than normal rainfall. There is, no doubt, a correlation between the extraordinary number of eastern and south-



ern species occurring in the Region this fall and the cyclonic weather patterns which dominated the first three months of the report period, but such correlation must be attempted by someone other than the harried Regional editors. There is doubtless, too, a correlation between the exciting discoveries made this fall and the

Region's growing number of birders. Details about the following occurrences appear in the account which follows: Little Blue Heron on the British Columbia-Washington border, Cattle Egret on s. Vancouver I., 100 Bald Eagles in migration at Victoria, Black-headed Gull at Victoria and in Washington, Little Gull on Vancouver I. and in Washington, Thick-billed Kingbird, of all things, on Vancouver I., Cape May Warbler in Washington, Chestnut-sided Warblers and Sharp-tailed Sparrow in s. British Columbia, and Chestnut-collared Longspur in w. Oregon.

**LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS** — A Yellow-billed Loon was in breeding plumage on Puget Sound near Olympia, Wash., Oct. 5; at the end of the month the bird was in winter plumage (BE *et al.*, *vide* GH). Another was found at Bellingham, Wash., Oct. 12 (TW). Twenty Arctic Loons at ShiShi Beach, Clallam Co., Wash., Aug. 6 (BT) was an unseasonal concentration, as was the group of ten at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 30 (HN). Early Red-necked Grebes were around Vancouver and Victoria, B.C., after Aug. 1; a count in excess of 100 was made at Ross Bay and Cordova Spit near Victoria Sept. 4 (VG). An Eared Grebe was recorded at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 24 (G & WH); others were at Vancouver, Oct. 8 (BK, *vide* WW), and w. of Corvallis, Ore., Nov. 11 (LN). Large numbers of W. Grebes arrived in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca by the end of September (TW, WW). "An incredible concentration" of 50 Pied-billed Grebes was at tiny Judson L. on the B.C.-Washington border Nov. 3 (WW *et al.*).

Offshore boat trips, four from Westport, Wash., and one from Depoe Bay, Ore., Aug. 24 - Oct. 6, all turned up Black-footed Albatrosses, 12 the maximum day count (TW, DM *et al.*). Light-phase N. Fulmars were found off Westport Aug. 25 & Oct. 6, the peak count being 20 on the latter date (TW). Pink-footed Shearwaters (115 maximum), New Zealand Shearwaters (178 maximum), and Sooty Shearwaters (12,000 maximum) were recorded on each offshore trip (TW, DM *et al.*). Lone Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen out of Westport Sept. 7 & 8 (TW). A New Zealand Shearwater was seen off Port Renfrew, B.C., Sept. 21 (WW *et al.*). Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were recorded off Westport Aug. 25, Sept. 8 & Oct. 6 in numbers to 27 (TW *et al.*); one was seen in the n. end of the Straits of Georgia daily Aug. 28-31 (MS, *vide* WW). Up to ten Leach's Storm-Petrels were seen at sea from Westport Aug. 25 & Sept. 8 (TW *et al.*).

**PELICANS, HERONS** — Two or three Brown Pelicans were seen at Westport Sept. 6 (TR, *vide* TW); pelicans are rare n. of the Columbia River. Tillamook Bay supported in excess of 100 Brown Pelicans at times during August and September, with about half of any daily total immature. A concentration of 275 Great Blue Herons at Mud Bay near White Rock, B.C., Aug. 5 (WW, BM) is noteworthy. Great excitement was generated for the local birding fraternity when an imm. **Little Blue Heron** appeared at Judson L. near Abbotsford, B.C. It was seen on both sides of the border and is new to both the B.C. and Washington lists! It was first identified by Eugene Hunn Nov. 2; local farmers indicated that the bird had been present for perhaps two

weeks. On Nov. 3 the bird was seen by other competent observers (two of whom have furnished detailed descriptions). Slides are on deposit in the photoduplicate file of the Provincial Museum at Victoria. The bird disappeared after Nov. 10 (EH, WW *et al.*). Green Herons were more widely reported than ever, from Duncan and Vancouver, B.C., s. through the Region in August and the first part of September; birds were frequently seen in the vicinity of Eugene, Ore., in that period. A Cattle Egret was present at Chinook, Wash., on the n. side of the Columbia estuary from about Oct. 10 to Nov. 22 (JW, *vide* TW). A **Cattle Egret** was picked up dead in a pasture at Cowichan, Vancouver I., Nov. 20, where it had first been seen the day before; the specimen, the first for British Columbia and the second confirmed occurrence for the province, is at the Provincial Museum in Victoria (VG). Great Egrets were frequently observed; northernmost records were from Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 1 (*vide* GH), from the Elk R., Grays Co., Wash., where two were seen Aug. 27 (DC, *vide* BT) and one was seen Oct. 5 (JS, JW, *vide* PM), and from Leadbetter Pt. Aug. 17 (AW) - Oct. 19 (EH) and where two were seen Sept. 21 (JBC). In Oregon, Great Egrets were seen at coastal points from Tillamook to Bandon where the four on Aug. 23 (CW) was the Regional one-day high; Great Egrets were seen inland on the w. side of the Cascades from Portland to Medford, through the report period. Single Black-crowned Night Herons were observed only at Reifel Refuge, s. of Vancouver in August and September (BD, NT, *vide* WW), and near Grants Pass, Ore., Aug. 21 & Nov. 25 (SS). Am. Bitterns were recorded Aug. 8 - Nov. 24 at 9 localities, two in British Columbia (Reifel Refuge and Sea I.), four in Washington (maximum six at Willapa N.W.R. Sept. 27), and three in Oregon s. to Eugene.

**WATERFOWL** — Very few Whistling Swans had been seen in the Region by Nov. 30; 50 were at Nisqually N.W.R. near Olympia Nov. 13-14 (BT), 14 were at Tillamook, Ore., Nov. 23 (HN *et al.*), and ten were at Reifel Refuge, Nov. 12 (ND, CT, *vide* WW). Up to ten Trumpeter Swans were seen in the Duncan-Vancouver-Victoria triangle after Oct. 28 (JCo *et al.*). The 17 Black Brant at Ocean Shores Aug. 24 (G & WH) were surprisingly early arrivals; very few of this species were seen in the Region during the report periods. Three **Emperor Geese** were with Black Brant at Willapa Bay Nov. 10 (JW, *vide* TW). A trickle of White-fronted Geese migrated through the Region in September and early October, the largest flock being 125 at Tofino, B.C., Sept. 4 (JCo). Snow Geese first appeared the last ten days in October when 4500 were at Reifel Refuge and at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, and an unstated number, virtually all adults, were on the Skagit Flats near Mt. Vernon, Wash. Counts of 86 Gadwall at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, Oct. 30 and of 8500 Am. Green-winged Teal at Sea I. Oct. 11 (BM, *vide* WW) both were high. Two adults of the latter species were with six chicks at Cowichan Bay Aug. 10 (JCo). Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal were not reported after the first week of October. European Wigeon showed up increasingly after mid-October, from the Vancouver area s. to Eugene. At Ladner Nov. 16 there was a good total of 300 N. Shovelers; three days later a

high count of 69 Wood Ducks was made there (WW). A ♂ Wood Duck at Manning P.P. Aug. 17 is said to have been unusual (VG). Redheads were noted at Dexter Res. e. of Eugene, at Tillamook Bay, at Seattle and at Iona I., in numbers up to four Sept. 25 - Nov. 11. The 260 Canvasbacks at Sea I. Nov. 30 (WW) was the Regional high with other sightings coming only from Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, from Tillamook Bay, from Everett, Wash., and from Reifel Refuge. A ♂ Tufted Duck was found again Oct. 19 & 27 at Vancouver's Stanley Park (BK). For some reason, Olympia, Wash., hosts a large number of Barrow's Goldeneye every November; this year the total was up to 1500 on Nov. 1, dropping to a still remarkable 200 by mid-month (G & WH). A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye was at Ladner for most of August (BK, BM, WW). Oldsquaw appeared in the vicinity of Vancouver surprisingly early in August; one was at Iona I., Aug. 4 (BK) while 67 were at Pt. Roberts, Aug. 10, where 10 were still present Aug. 29 with 17 Harlequin Ducks (WW). On Nov. 9, 22 Harlequins were recorded at Tillamook Bay (JBC, WT *et al.*) Small groups of migrating Surf Scoters, totaling 280, were seen 30 mi. out of Port Renfrew Sept. 21 (WW *et al.*); a female on Dexter Res., e. of Eugene, Oct. 19 (TL), and 7 in ♀-plumage on Lightning L. in Manning P.P., Oct. 1 (VG) were unusual. On the early date of Aug. 1 there were three ♀♀ Black Scoters at Yachats on the c. Oregon coast (CW); Oct. 19 there were 50 Black Scoters at Pt. Roberts (WW), and Nov. 9 there were 167 at Qualicum Beach, Vancouver I. (RS, *vide* VG). An impressive 60 Hooded Mergansers were counted at Willapa N.W.R. Sept. 27 (BT, JG), and on Nov. 10 another good count of 36 of this species was made at L. Selmac, Josephine Co., Ore. (SS). A count of 100 Red-breasted Mergansers at the Nisqually R. mouth, Aug. 23 (G & WH) was an early concentration.

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — At Sauvie I. w. of Portland 18 Turkey Vultures were counted Sept. 27 (HN, CS); a late bird was seen at Victoria Nov. 26 (V & MG). Observers on the 8900 ft. top of Mt. Scott e. of Crater Lake N.P., Aug. 24 recorded two Goshawks, two Cooper's Hawks, two Sharp-shinned Hawks, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Golden Eagle, a Prairie Falcon, and an Am. Kestrel all in one afternoon hour (SS, PR). On Sept. 1 Craig Roberts at the 8000 ft. level on Mt. McLoughlin s. of Crater Lake N.P. saw a Cooper's, two Sharp-shinned, a Marsh Hawk, a probable Prairie Falcon, two Red-tailed and a kestrel (*vide* OS), suggesting that the two peaks are on a hawk flyway. Five Goshawk nests were located in the Rogue R. Nat'l Forest this past summer (OS); this species was noted from four other locations in the Region. The 60 reported sightings of Sharp-shinned Hawks and almost as many of Cooper's Hawks this fall is encouraging, although in each case more than half the records originated on s. Vancouver I. A Swainson's Hawk is said to have been seen near the s.w. entrance of Mt. Rainier N.P. Sept. 24 (DHa, JG, BT). Early Rough-legged Hawks appeared s. of Crater L. N.P. Aug. 9 (EP), and at Vancouver Aug. 18 (BK), but it was not until the second week of October and thereafter that birds were more generally scattered through the s. portion of the Region; a raptor survey of the Fraser R. delta Nov. 9 turned up 32 individuals —

one more than the number of Red-tailed Hawks counted there the same day (WW *et al.*). An ad. Golden Eagle was seen in the Coast Range w. of Salem, Ore., Sept. 14 & Oct. 19 (ED, E & EE, *vide* FR); another was at Agate L., near Medford, Oct. 6 (OS), an immature was at Reifel Refuge, Nov. 10-16 (WW *et al.*), and a bird was at Manning P.P., Nov. 2 (BH, *vide* WW). The following astonishing account is furnished by Vic Goodwill: "Around 11:00 on Sept. 24 about 80 Bald Eagles were sighted moving gradually southward at about 2000 ft. over the c. Saanich Pen. Many white heads were noted. At noon, a mixed-age flock of 100 . . . was counted over Clover Pt. in Victoria. It split into two groups with 62 going westward along the coast towards Sooke, and 38 out . . . towards Port Angeles By 12:20 all had disappeared." (*vide* RWC). Bald Eagles were otherwise reported from two localities in s. British Columbia and from four places in w. Oregon Aug. 17 - Nov. 16. Raptor counts in the Frazer R. delta turned up 31 Marsh Hawks Sept. 14, 45 on Oct. 12, and 53 on Nov. 9 (WW *et al.*); five birds were at Leadbetter Pt., Sept. 21 (JBC), eight birds were at Skagit Refuge in n. Washington Nov. 1-2, and four spent the fall at the Nisqually N.W.R. near Olympia (BT), but all other reports were of one or two individuals. Four Ospreys were seen on the e. side of the Gulf of Georgia and Puget Sound from Pt. Roberts to near Olympia Aug. 8 - Oct. 6 Ospreys were seen on s. Vancouver I. until Oct. 5. A Gyrfalcon was seen on the amazingly early date of Aug. 7 in the vicinity of Vancouver (BK); another was seen on the Washington coast Sept. 8 (WW, RW), and still other individuals were at Tillamook Bay, Oct. 19 (HN) and at Ilwaco, Wash., Nov. 23 (EH, BT). Five other sightings of Gyrfalcons were made from Sept. 18 through November in n. Washington and s. British Columbia. A Prairie Falcon was observed at Mt. Rainier N.P. Sept. 27 (RT, *vide* PM). There were perhaps 20 records of Peregrine sightings this fall from about ten localities in n. and coastal Washington, s. British Columbia and n.w. Oregon. Merlins appeared at about 15 locations from s. Vancouver I. and Vancouver, B.C., southward in the Puget Sound and Willamette Valley troughs to Corvallis.

**CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — There were 13 Sandhill Cranes at Campbell R., B.C., Sept. 15 (DB, *vide* WW), 15 were at Burns Bog in the vicinity of Vancouver Oct. 11 (WB, *vide* WW), and one was at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, Oct. 28 (TM, *vide* WW); an imm. was near Victoria Oct. 5 - Dec. 1 (VG *et al.*). Over 300 Sandhill Cranes were seen at Ridgefield, Wash., Oct. 5 (G & WH); 65 over Brownsville, Ore., Nov. 15 (HT, *vide* FR) was a late concentration. A Sora was found at Burnaby L., in the vicinity of Vancouver Oct. 13 (JB, *vide* WW). One thousand Am. Coot on Dexter Res. near Eugene Oct. 19 (TL) indicated a migratory movement.

The count of 95 Semipalmated Plovers at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 30, was a marked concentration for this Region (HN) and may have coincided with the peak of migration for that species. The only report of Snowy Plover was of one at the s. jetty of the Columbia, Aug. 3 (HN). American Golden Plover occurred widely through the Region, Aug. 24 - Oct. 22; the max-

imum was 35 at Ocean Shores Sept. 28 (G & WH). Counts of 1100 Black-bellied Plovers at Leadbetter Pt., Aug. 17 (AW) and of 900 there two weeks later (HN *et al.*), together with 500 at Mud Bay, n. of White Rock, B. C., Aug. 5 and 1070 there Sept. 8 (BM, *fide* WW), all are noteworthy. The Aug. 1 observation of 200 Surf-birds at Seal Rocks, s. of Newport, Ore. (CW) was an early season high count. Up to nine Ruddy Turnstones per day were from Ocean Shores s. to Newport, and at Victoria and Vancouver, the bird at Vancouver until Nov. 11 the only record after Sept. 12. "Hundreds" of Com. Snipe were observed at Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene, Oct. 16 & 20 (LN). Up to 16 Whimbrels were seen coastally from Ocean Shores to Bandon and at Crescent Beach, B.C. and Nisqually, Wash., from early August to late October. Good details were furnished of two Upland Sandpipers found at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, Sept. 3; with one there until Sept. 5 (BM, *fide* WW). Solitary Sandpipers were up unprecedentedly this fall as usual concentrated in the Vancouver-Victoria-Burlington, Wash., triangle; seven individuals were observed at Iona I., Aug. 15 (TB, BM, WW), up to five were on the Saanich Pen. Aug. 15 - Sept. 7 (VG, RS *et al.*) and four were at the Butler Hill sewage pond, Skagit Co., Wash., Aug. 7 - Sept. 7 (NL, *fide* TW). Inland records were two at Picture L. on Mt. Baker, Aug. 16 (MS) and one near McKenna, Pierce Co., Wash., Sept. 24 & 27 (DHo, JG, G & WH). A Wandering Tattler was found at Vancouver, where it is rare, Aug. 21 (DMA, *fide* WW); all other records were coastal, the 15 at Westport Sept. 7 (TR, RW, WW) being the largest one-day count. A Willet appeared at Crescent Beach Aug. 3 & 25 & Sept. 8 (TB, BK, BM, *fide* WW), at the Skagit Game Range Nov. 25 (R & KSI, *fide* TW), with four at Yaquina Bay, Ore., Aug. 24 & Oct. 27 (TL), and three at Bandon, Ore., Aug. 22 (CW). Iona I. again hosted a surprising concentration of Lesser Yellowlegs, 150 being there Aug. 15 (TB, BM, WW) and 255 there Aug. 31; one was still present Nov. 29 (BM, *fide* WW). Lesser Yellowlegs were readily found at favored spots on s.e. Vancouver I. through the report period until Nov. 7; 42 at Cowichan Bay, near Duncan, Aug. 17 (RS, *fide* VG) was the highest one-day total. Elsewhere Lesser Yellowlegs seem hardly to have been observed. Red Knot, too, were scarce, being recorded at four Oregon and two Washington coastal localities, in the San Juan Is., and at Victoria Aug. 17 - Nov. 16; top count was 11 at Leadbetter Pt., Sept. 21 (JBC). An extremely early Rock Sandpiper in nearly complete breeding dress was found on the Westport Jetty, Aug. 11 (BT). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were identified repeatedly at Iona I. Sept. 9 - Oct. 30 (BM, WW *et al.*), six on Oct. 8 (TW). Single Sharp-taileds were found twice at Sauvie I., Sept. 27 & 30 (TL, HN, CS), and at ShiShi Beach, Wash., Sept. 20 (MA, *fide* PM); three were at Leadbetter Pt., Sept. 21 (JBC). One found at the Skagit Ref., Nov. 2 (BT) is the first known November Regional occurrence, the latest previous being Oct. 29. Counts of 100 Pectoral Sandpipers at Iona I., Sept. 18 (WW) and of 20 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 1 (TL, RL) and at Sauvie I., Sept. 30 (TL, HN) are of interest.

Baird's Sandpipers were recorded in unprecedented numbers this fall; most at coastal locations from Ocean Shores s. to Bandon, with the 120 at Nehalem Bay S.P.,

Tillamook Co., Ore., Sept. 1 and the 88 there next day (TL) being unprecedented. Baird's Sandpipers were also numerous on the Samish Flats of n. Washington Aug. 5-20 (NL, *fide* TW). Yet another high altitude occurrence of this species was recorded Aug. 3 when four individuals alighted on a frozen lake along the Sunrise Trail at Mt. Rainier (RD). An estimated 27,000 Dunlin were at Boundary Bay Nov. 9 (MS, *fide* WW). Almost 500 Long-billed Dowitchers were seen at Reifel Refuge Oct. 12 (ND, CT, *fide* WW) and over 400 were noted at Iona I. two weeks later (BM, *fide* WW). Stilt Sandpipers also were found in unprecedented numbers this fall. A flock of 13 was at Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash., Aug. 18 (PM, JWd) three were there Sept. 2, nine Sept. 5 (EH) and one Sept. 25 (RA, *fide* PM) On Aug. 29, there were eleven at Reifel Refuge (WW), two were at Duncan, B.C., Aug. 15 - 25 (JCo), one - two birds occurred on the Saanich Pen. Aug. 22 - Sept. 18 (RS, SJ, VG), single birds were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 30 (TL, HN) and Sept. 1 (RL, TL), one was at Yaquina Bay, Ore., Aug. 24 - Sept. 2 (GB, AC, TL, PRo, CW) and one was at Iona I., Sept. 9 (BM, *fide* WW). There were 13 sightings of Semipalmated Sandpipers with up to four individuals in a day from nine different localities, mostly adjacent to the Straits of Georgia and Puget Sound but also on the Washington coast and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 10 - Sept. 21. Western Sandpipers were recorded in numbers as high as 4500 during the migration peak Aug. 15 - Sept. 15. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Iona I., Oct. 6-8 (DB, TW, WW *et al.*). More Marbled Godwits were recorded in the Region this fall than ever before, mostly at Washington and Oregon coastal points from the end of August through November; 58 at Tokeland Sept. 27 (JG, BT) was the top count, though numbers in excess of 20 per day were frequent. Away from proximity to the ocean, Marbled Godwits were seen at Samish I., Sept. 3, at Seattle's L. Washington, Oct. 15, and at Dungeness Spit, Nov. 10. Two Hudsonian Godwits were seen at Iona I., Aug. 20 (M & TB), adding to the handful of Regional records — all from the vicinity of the U.S.-Canadian border. The first documented occurrence of an *Am. Avocet* on Vancouver I. was made with movies of a bird which appeared at Esquimalt Lagoon, Victoria, Aug. 8 (VG). A few Red Phalaropes, all early, were seen off Westport Aug. 25 & Sept. 7 (TW *et al.*) and at Clover Pt., Victoria, Aug. 12, Aug. 30 & Sept. 7 (VG, RS). There were 4000 N. Phalaropes in the Victoria area Aug. 31 (M & VG, RS), and 100+ Aug. 30 in the Straits of Georgia (MS, *fide* WW).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNs, ALCIDS — All four offshore trips from Westport Aug. 25 - Oct. 6 turned up Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, maximum for the former being 17 on Oct. 6 and for the latter 20 on Sept. 7. Trips from Port Renfrew Sept. 21 and from Depoe Bay, Aug. 24 found both these jaegers also. The Parasitic was, as usual, recorded from a number of other locations, one on Nov. 2 at Vancouver (BK) being late. A Long-tailed Jaeger at Tsawwassen, B.C., Aug. 17 (JP, *fide* WW) was unusual; it was also unusual that five were recorded on the Aug. 24 trip from Depoe Bay (FR *et al.*). Three Skuas were seen off Westport, Oct. 6,

with one there Sept. 7 (TW *et al.*); another was seen 65 miles w. of Newport Sept. 19 (BP, *fide* FR).

A Glaucous Gull was found at Victoria Oct. 26 (VG *et al.*). Four W. Gulls were seen at Port Renfrew and two were seen at sea from there Sept. 21 (WW *et al.*); two were at Vancouver during November (BK, MS, *fide* WW) and an immature was at Victoria, Nov. 5-7 (RF, *fide* VG). California Gulls at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 18, were estimated at 10,000 (HN); another concentration at Newport, Oct. 28, was estimated at 11,000 birds (TL). There were 500 Ring-billed Gulls at the mouth of the Nicomekl R. near Vancouver, Aug. 5 (BM, WW), and 400 were south of Ladner, B.C., Sept. 15 (WW); 90 were at Sauvie I., Sept. 30 (HN). Franklin's Gulls were seen repeatedly at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds Oct. 6 - Nov. 24 (EH, PM *et al.*); two on Nov. 24 (JWd, *fide* PM) were the Region's latest ever. Besides other occurrences in Puget Sound and the Straits of Georgia, 2 - 3 were on Fern Ridge Res., Sept. 12 - Oct. 23 (LM); and at Pitt Meadows e. of Vancouver Nov. 10 (WW). Many thousand Bonaparte's Gulls were estimated to be off Victoria Nov. 8 (V & MG). On Oct. 27 an ad. **Black-headed Gull** in winter plumage was discovered at Clover Pt., Victoria by Chauncey & Sarah Wood. It was seen daily until Nov. 1, photographed by still and motion pictures and seen by many.



*Black-headed Gull, winter adult, Clover Pt., Victoria, B.C. Oct. 29, 1974. Photo / Harold Hosford.*

The bird reappeared Nov. 6 - Nov. 13 (*fide* VG). The record is the first published of this species from this Region, but a report of an earlier sighting is now appropriate. On Nov. 4, 1972 at Ocean Shores, Wash., James Morris found an imm. Black-headed Gull on a freshwater pond and watched it at close range for 20 minutes. Full details were furnished the Regional editors. The first Regional records of Little Gulls were made that fall of 1972 also; amazingly, this fall brings more **Little Gull** records. A winter-plumaged adult in company with Mew and Bonaparte Gulls was found and motion pictures were taken at Sooke Inlet n. of Victoria, Oct. 31 (M & VG); the same or another bird was seen Nov. 7 at Clover Pt. (RE, *fide* VG). An ad. in winter plumage was discovered at Penn Cove, Whidbey I., Wash., Sept. 2 (EH). On Oct. 5 the same observer found a similarly-plumaged bird at the Everett sewage ponds; it or another bird was photographed there Nov. 7 (DP, *fide* TW), and then on Nov. 8 two adults were there, one still being present the next day (TW). Heermann's Gulls in the Region this report period were mostly adults, the peak count being an estimated

2500-3000 at Ocean Shores Aug. 24 (G & WH); with one at Victoria Nov. 30 (RF, *fide* VG). Up to 27 Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen on all four boat trips out of Westport Aug. 25 - Oct. 6 (TW *et al.*); 400 individuals, most of them adults, were on the Westport jetty Oct. 6 (BT); Kittiwakes were otherwise recorded only at the Columbia R. entrance Aug. 3 - Oct. 6 in small numbers (HN, JBC) and, surprisingly, at Fern Ridge Res. Oct. 27, (AC *et al.*). Sabine's Gulls were seen on the first three Westport boat trips and out of Depoe Bay, Aug. 24 - Sept. 8, with 23 on Sept. 7 being the maximum; out of Port Renfrew Sept. 21 there were 60 (MS, WW *et al.*). An imm. Sabine's Gull was noted at Victoria's Clover Pt., Nov. 7 (RF, *fide* VG).

On Sept. 9 there were 18 Forster's Terns at Fern Ridge Res. (DG, *fide* LM) and on Sept. 7-8 there was one at Vancouver (BK). High counts for Com. Tern were 70 at Ocean Shores Sept. 8 (WW, RW) and 120 at Victoria Sept. 22 (MS, *fide* WW); single Com. Terns were seen at Fern Ridge Res., Sept. 2 (LN) & Sept. 14 (DG, *fide* LM). Up to a score of Arctic Terns were recorded on trips from Westport Aug. 25, Sept. 7 & 8 (TW *et al.*); two were seen twice at Victoria — Aug. 18 & Sept. 10 (RS, *fide* VG). Caspian Terns were reported from 7 saltwater localities through the first week in October, the count of 120 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Aug. 30 (HN) being by far the largest; four Caspians were at Fern Ridge Res., Sept. 10 (LM). A **Black Tern** was found at Victoria Sept. 12 (RS, *fide* VG): it constitutes the second record for Vancouver I.

Four Ancient Murrelets were noted in deep water on the s. end of Puget Sound off Nisqually N.W.R., Nov. 20 (BT). Cassin's Auklets were seen in good numbers on all the offshore trips Aug. 24 - Oct. 6, peak counts being 215 from Port Renfrew Sept. 21, and 355 from Westport Sept. 8. Rhinoceros Auklets were similarly recorded, but in much smaller numbers, 38 out of Port Renfrew being the maximum. Tufted Puffins in numbers up to four were seen on the four boat trips from Westport.

**OWLS THROUGH LARKS** — Three Barn Owls were seen at Grants Pass Aug. 21 (SS); three others were seen repeatedly at Medford during the fall (OS); the Barn Owl is decidedly uncommon in this Region. A Burrowing Owl was found at Sandy Pt. Whatcom Co., Wash. Nov. 2 (EH) and again Nov. 4 (DMc, *fide* TW); one was seen at Finley N.W.R. Oct. 24 (RF1, *fide* LM), and another was discovered e. of Medford Oct. 19 (OS). The Skagit Co., Wash., Barred Owls mentioned in the Nesting Season report were last heard Oct. 2 (TRe, *fide* PM); another pair was discovered at Colonial Creek Campground, Whatcom Co., Wash., Sept. 16 (CSm, JGi, *fide* TW), subsequently verified by sight Sept. 27 (DHe, *fide* TW) and thereafter heard by other observers. A Spotted Owl was heard calling at Big Pine Campground in the Siskiyou N.F. Aug. 17 (SS); another was found in the Columbia R. Gorge on a September date (*fide* HN), and still another was photographed near Roaring R. Campground, Mt. Hood N.F. in September (*fide* HN). Snowy Owls appeared in the Vancouver-Victoria-Bellingham triangle the last three weeks of the report period, one at Seattle on Nov. 20 being the southernmost record; numbers were modest, the Samish Flats supporting only five birds by Nov. 30.

Five Short-eared Owls were at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 21 (JBC).

A Com. Nighthawk was recorded in Vancouver as late as Oct. 14 (BK). Black Swifts were seen on s. Vancouver I. several times in August and the first week of September (VG); 35 were noted at Vancouver on the late date of Oct. 3 (BM, *vide* WW), two were at Ocean Shores Sept. 28 (G & WH) and five were seen at Cape Blanco near Port Orford on the s. Oregon coast Sept. 14 (TL). A flock of approximately 1000 migrating Vaux's Swifts roosted for several nights in a large chimney at Corvallis early in September (DM); two late individuals were seen at Eugene Oct. 6 (CW). An influx of Anna's Hummingbirds into the Region took place in October, with numbers noted at Eugene (LM), Coos Bay (HR), at Vancouver, where there were at least three individuals, and in or near Victoria, where from 7-10 individuals seem to have been present. One was seen at Toledo, Ore., Oct. 5 (DF, *vide* HN), one was at Olympia, Oct. 26-Nov. 15 (BE, *vide* GH), and a female was at Duncan, B.C. after Oct. 19 for the fourth consecutive late fall and winter at the same feeder (JCo). Rufous Hummingbirds were gone from the Region by mid-September.

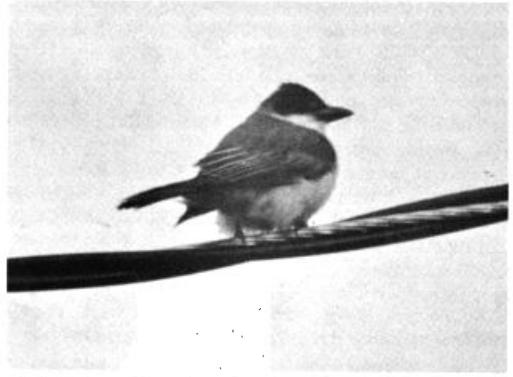
Six Acorn Woodpeckers were at Wolf Creek, Ore., where they are rare, throughout the fall (EP). Lewis' Woodpeckers were present in low numbers in the s. Willamette Valley after late October. They were numerous in the Rogue R. valley of Oregon from late September to the end of the period (OS); one was at Victoria Nov. 2 (RF, *vide* VG). A ♀ N. Three-toed Woodpecker was found on Hart Pass Sept. 21 (G & WH) and a male was seen at Rainy Pass six days earlier (EH), both in Washington's Cascades. Two family groups totaling nine E. Kingbirds were at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver Aug. 21 (WW); one was at Ocean Shores Sept. 13 (*vide* GH).

#### S.A.

Vic Goodwill provides a fascinating account of the remarkable occurrence of a **Thick-billed Kingbird** at Qualicum Beach, Vancouver I. The bird first appeared about Oct. 20 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.S. Brandon. Mrs. Brandon notified Ken Kennedy of the Canadian Wildlife Service who first saw it on Oct. 30. Puzzled by its identity, he sought assistance. On Nov. 14 the Goodwills had no trouble finding the bird and quickly identified it. Subsequently, many birders saw it, photographed it, and recorded its call notes. On Nov. 12, Ken Kennedy found the bird dead beneath a window, against which it had evidently flown. The specimen now reposes in the Provincial Museum at Victoria, where R. Wayne Campbell confirmed that the bird was a juvenile male, probably of the Mexican coastal race, but the subspecific identity has not been fixed with certainty. The identification, still to be made, of four lice taken from the corpse may possibly contribute to an inference concerning the bird's origin.

A Black Phoebe was observed at the mouth of the Winchuck R., Curry Co., Ore., Nov. 3 and another was seen on the Applegate R., Nov. 28 (SS). Lone Say's

Phoebes were found at Saanich Aug. 19 (RM-G, RS, *vide* VG), at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 30 (TL, HN), and at Victoria Sept. 10 (ARD, JWi *et al.*, *vide* VG). A count of 32 Willow Flycatchers on Cape Blanco, near Port Orford, Ore., Sept. 14 (TL) indicates that a migratory movement was in progress. Eight W. Flycatchers were found there at the same time (TL); one at Westport Oct. 6 (BT) was late. On Nov. 30, ten Skylarks were found singing on San Juan I., Wash. (EH).



*Thick-billed Kingbird, Qualicum Beach, Vancouver I., B.C., Oct. 30, 1974. Photo / Kenneth Kennedy.*

**SWALLOWS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Two Violet-green Swallows seen at Ocean Shores Nov. 8 (G & WH) were surprisingly late; there were five reports of this species still in the Region the first ten days of October, with large numbers particularly at Fern Ridge Res. At Vancouver, Bank Swallows were recorded six times; the 13 at Ladner Sept. 8 the high count and one at Iona I., Sept. 30 the latest (MS). A Bank Swallow was also recorded at Cowichan Bay, Vancouver I. (VG). Nine Barn Swallows were in Seattle Nov. 5 (FK, *vide* PM), one was still there Nov. 25 (TM, *vide* PM), one was at Bellingham Nov. 23 (TW), three were at Reifel Refuge Nov. 16 (WW) and one was at Salem, Ore., Nov. 9 (HH, *vide* FS). On Sept. 22, a flock of 20 Purple Martins was seen at Olympia (BT). Gray Jays were seen repeatedly at Coos Bay during the fall (HR). A **Blue Jay** was on the U.B.C. campus Oct. 18-23 (BK, WW *et al.*). A Blue Jay was also found at Des Moines, Wash., from Nov. 16 to the end of the report period (KB, EH, PM *et al.*). Black-billed Magpies were discovered at Harrisburg, Ore., Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 (RFI, *vide* LM) and at Rockport, Wash., Nov. 24 (DP, *vide* PM). A Clark's Nutcracker was found dead at Victoria Aug. 13 (*vide* VG). A Boreal Chickadee was seen one mi. n. of Rainy Pass in Washington's Cascades Sept. 15 (EH); another was calling at Manning P.P. Aug. 17 (WW).

A White-breasted Nuthatch was recorded at Olympia Sept. 14 where it practically never occurs (G & WH). A Wrentit was at Wolf Creek, Ore., Oct. 7 (EP); several were conspicuous in Eugene much of the season (LM). On Aug. 28 a House Wren was found at Burnaby, B.C. (DMA, *vide* WW); one was at Mitlenatch I. Aug. 15 - Aug. 27 (MS, *vide* WW), and Sept. 7, three House Wrens were at Saanich (VG, JP, RS). A Mockingbird spent the last week of October just n. of Coos Bay (HR).

On Aug. 21 & Sept. 4 up to three Gray Catbirds were observed at Pitt Meadows. A very late Swainson's Thrush was at Corvallis Nov. 3 - Dec. 3 (DM). There were up to 20 W. Bluebirds at Wolf Creek in November, a better showing than in recent years (EP); in the Rogue R. Valley after mid-September, flocks of up to 15 were to be found (OS). A Mountain Bluebird was seen two miles s.e. of Cowichan Bay Nov. 16 (VG, RS). A Townsend's Solitaire appeared at Finley N.W.R. near Corvallis Oct. 29 (*fide* FR), one was on Mt. Seymour near Vancouver Aug. 16 (DMA, *fide* WW), and another was at Saanich, Sept. 10 (RM-G, *fide* VG). Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared in the Rogue R. Valley in greater numbers this fall than at any time previously (OS).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS** — A very late Solitary Vireo was discovered at the Bay Ocean spit, Tillamook Bay, Nov. 13 (GB, RO, P<sub>RO</sub>, *fide* FR). A Red-eyed Vireo was found along Scatter Creek near Olympia Sept. 14 (G & WH). At Cape Blanco, Sept. 14 there were 30 Warbling Vireos (TL). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen at Vancouver Sept. 22 & 24 (BK); one was also seen at Burlington, Wash., Sept. 26 (JWg, *fide* TW), adding to the small number of B.C. and Washington records for this species, which has not yet been found in w. Oregon. **Tennessee Warblers** were recorded three times this fall — all by observers alone who submitted credible descriptions. The first was an adult male at Manning P.P., Sept. 14 (VG); the second was an immature at Eugene Sept. 26 (CW), and the third was an immature seen twice at Vancouver Oct. 21 & 24 (BK). A good description of an imm. **Magnolia Warbler** seen at Leadbetter Pt., Sept. 17 (IB) has been supplied; it is the first Washington record of which we have knowledge. Another first for Washington and for the Region, so far as we know, is the adult female or imm. **Cape May Warbler** viewed for some time at Bellingham Sept. 21 by two experienced observers who have submitted detailed descriptions (DHe, TW). A migrant flock containing 30 Black-throated Gray Warblers near Olympia Sept. 14 (G & WH) is of interest as is the information that migrant flocks of warblers at Wolf Creek, Ore. during the last week of August included up to a score of Townsend's Warblers (EP). An observation of a Hermit Warbler feeding a young bird at Humbug Mt. on the s.w. Oregon Coast Aug. 11 (PT, *fide* AC) is noteworthy, as is the sighting of a bird of this species at Cape Blanco Sept. 14 (TL). Another first for the Region, so far as we know, is the observation of an imm **Chestnut-sided Warbler** Sept. 29 at Reifel Refuge (S & C<sub>WO</sub>, MS). A **Blackpoll Warbler** was fully described from Cape Blanco Sept. 15 & 16 (TL); the record is the second for w. Oregon. The season produced a surprising number of records for Palm Warblers: two were seen at Reifel Refuge Sept. 29 (ND, MS, WW) and one Sept. 30 (BM, *fide* WW). At the Bay Ocean spit in Tillamook Bay, three Palm Warblers were present Oct. 18 (SD, *fide* HN), two Oct. 19 (HN), and one Oct. 27 (R & LLu) and Nov. 2 (*fide* RLu); one was at Newport Oct. 24 (P<sub>RO</sub>, *fide* FR), one was at Charleston, Ore., Oct. 26 (*fide* HR), and one was at Boardman St. Park, n. of Brookings, Ore. Oct. 27 & Nov. 3 (SS *et al.*) A **Northern Waterthrush** was found at the Duncan sewage lagoons Aug. 21 (JCo, VG). Common Yellow-

throat counts of 60 at Pitt Meadows Sept. 4 (WW), of 25 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Aug. 30 (TL, HN), of 100 there Sept. 9 (TL), and of 20 at Cape Blanco Sept. 14 (TL) all indicate migrational concentrations. An imm. or ♀ **Am. Redstart** is said to have been at Svenson, Ore., on the Columbia R. above Astoria from Nov. 11 to the end of the report period (HA, *fide* HN).

On Sept. 18, seven Bobolinks, one being a male still in nearly full breeding plumage were observed on wires in c. Saanich, n. of Victoria (RS, *fide* VG). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded several times in late August at Fern Ridge Res. (LM), at the odd locality of timberline in Manning P.P., Aug. 17 (WW), at Seattle Sept. 7 (FK, *fide* PM), at Sea I. Oct. 8 (MS, RW, *fide* WW), and at Reifel Refuge Oct. 6, when 20 were seen (CT, *fide* WW). A bright ♂ N. Oriole, said to be a "Baltimore," was photographed at the Bay Ocean spit, Tillamook Bay, Oct. 26 (R & LLu). Three records of single Rusty Blackbirds in the Vancouver area Sept. 26-Oct. 9 (BK, BM, WW) were submitted, and three records of the species — one involving two birds — came from s. Vancouver I., Oct. 23 - Nov. 6 (ARD, VG).

**TANAGERS, FINCHES AND SPARROWS** — Observations of late W. Tanagers were made at Grants Pass Oct. 20 (SS) and at W. Vancouver Nov. 3 (GAP, *fide* WW). Records of Evening Grosbeaks for the fall season were sparse, though up to 20 at a time were to be found in Saanich and Victoria between Aug. 11 & Nov. 8 (VG *et al.*), and birds were around Eugene after Oct. 1 (LM). Two Cassin's Finches were seen in Manning P.P., Aug. 17 (WW). A Pine Grosbeak was seen in the park Sept. 16 (VG), and two were found in Saanich Oct. 24 (RF, *fide* VG). One Gray-crowned Rosy Finch was seen on the summit of Middle Sister in c. Oregon Aug. 7 (LN), 150 were counted in Mt. Rainier N.P. Oct. 20 (JWd, JS, *fide* PM), and 175 were observed in Manning P.P. Nov. 2 (BH, *fide* WW). Four Com. Redpolls were found at Qualicum Beach Nov. 14 (KK, KT, *fide* VG). A flock of 700 Pine Siskins was seen on s. Vancouver I., Oct. 28 (ARD, *fide* VG). Red Crossbills were found during the period in the Cascade Mts. and at Vancouver early in the fall (WW), but were otherwise reported only from Cape Arago, Ore., Aug. 26 (AC *et al.*), and from Tillamook Nov. 9 (JBC *et al.*). White-winged Crossbills were found at Manning P.P. from mid-August until early October in numbers up to 20 or more, and were repeatedly found at Hart Pass, Cloudy Pass and Rainy Pass in the n. Cascades of Washington during September (*fide* PM, G & WH, EH). On Mt. Ashland in s. Oregon, six Green-tailed Towhees were found together Aug. 24 (OS).

Hundreds of Savannah Sparrows were at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 9 (TL) & Sept. 20 (HN). A Savannah Sparrow was found at 6,500 ft. on Mt. Rainier Sept. 5 (BT). A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was found near White Rock, B.C. in *salicornia*, Sept. 6; the observers furnished a convincing description (DB, SM, BW). The record seems to be the first for coastal British Columbia and for the Region. A **Lark Sparrow** appeared in Saanich Nov. 4, where one has come to a feeder in the two previous winters (RWC, *fide* VG); 25 Lark Sparrows were found at Agate L., near Medford Nov. 9 (OS). Lone 'Slate-colored' Dark-eyed Juncos were recorded at Olympia Oct. 17 (G & WH), and at Corvallis



cent from this date, 1973, with more than usual remaining in the still-mild Klamath, Tule and Honey L. areas. On Nov. 20th, 3,801,550 geese and 5,050,275 ducks were tallied from the Klamath and Tule Lake refuges, the C.V. and the Sacramento, San Joaquin deltas. The predominant ducks were Pintails and the highest number of ducks (all inclusive) were at San Luis Reservoir with 1,421,200 (C.F.G.).

Probably also the result of the mild fall were the low numbers reported for most of the montane and northern invasion species. The following were notably scarce this fall: Lewis' Woodpecker, Band-tailed Pigeon, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Varied Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, and Red Crossbill. Except for the nuthatch, all of these species are seed and berry eaters and this may indicate good crop conditions north of our Region. Exceptions to the scarcity of invaders were kinglets. There was a massive incursion of Golden-crowneds to the lowlands. They first appeared in late September on the coast and by mid-October they were everywhere including the C V where 110 counted at Thornton (RS, GM) was very high. Ruby-crowned Kinglets preceded Golden-crowneds by about two weeks and were also represented by excellent numbers.

A dagger (†) means that that observer has submitted an acceptable description.

All observations for the Farallon Islands (below F.I.) are to be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

Some of our regular species have been treated lightly this season owing to more-than-usual space devoted to the rare.

**LOONS, GREBES**— All loon species were reported as scarce in the Monterey Bay area (J & RW, BGE) perhaps owing to a "red tide" there in late September and October, but observers elsewhere reported normal trends. An apparently healthy Yellow-billed Loon in winter plumage was seen at Tomales Bay from Nov. 13 through the end of the period (Brady, LCB, RS † *et al.*). It was found at the exact same spot that the first California specimen was observed Dec. 3, 1967. Red-throated Loons were reported in good numbers on the coast with a high of 50, mostly in breeding plumage Sept 8 on the ocean near Stone Lagoon, Humboldt Co. (RLeV). Red-throateds outnumbered Commons and Arctics combined along the Contra Costa Co. (below C C Co.) shore of San Francisco (below S.F.) Bay (NB) and one was well described from the Los Banos Retention Dam on Oct. 20 (SA † *et al.*). They are very rare at inland localities. Equally rare inland, a single Red-necked Grebe was on the same lake on the same date (SA † *et al.*). Horned Grebes, rare but regular inland, were found at eight lakes including records from the Basin, the Sierra Nevadas, the C.V. and the coast ranges. Usual concentrations of hundreds of thousands of Eared Grebes were on Mono L. in late August and early September (SFB, RS). Western Grebes had good breeding success at Tule L. (BED) and four active nests were found at Mendota Aug. 9 (RLH, JS) where they are irregular breeders. In the e. one-third of Contra Costa Co., 163 Pied-billed Grebes were counted Nov. 5 (NB) and a late downy chick was seen at Alameda Nov. 9 (DE, JM).

**TUBENOSES** — As is now the usual case in Fall, most observations of Black-footed Albatross came from the ocean off Humboldt Co. where 15 were seen Sept. 10 (RLeV) and 11 were seen Oct. 12 (DE, TS) Northern Fulmars were scarce throughout the period and only one or two, if any, were seen per pelagic trip, north or south. Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters were observed as normal on most trips but New Zealand (Buller's) Shearwaters were more common than usual with 750 off Half Moon Bay Oct. 5 (TC, BGE) and 125 off Bodega Bay Oct. 20 (BDP). Several observers remarked that they were the commonest shearwater seen. Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were seen in Monterey Bay Aug. 8 (BGE), Sept. 17 (LCB), Oct. 5 (C.F.O.†) and Oct. 13 (F.A.S.) and the second Humboldt Co. record was obtained Oct. 12, 11 mi. w. of Eureka (DE, TS). The great storm-petrel rafts appeared again this year off Moss Landing with a total of six to eight thousand from mid-September to mid-October Blacks outnumbered Ashies 2:1 on Sept. 17 (LCB) but were thought to be about even with no drop in the total by Oct. 13 (F.A.S.). A single **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** was found near this flock on Oct. 5 (C.F.O.†), Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were there: four in Sept. (C.F.G., BGE) and one on Oct. 13 (F.A.S.) and two Least Storm-Petrels were clearly observed there Oct. 13 (F.A.S., RS†). Small numbers of Least were also seen there in 1969 and 1972.

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — White Pelicans were in usual numbers along the coast but were down in the C.V. because of low water. Brown Pelicans were on time and in usual numbers on the coast with 25-40 per cent brown-headed immatures depending upon location. At the Pajaro R. mouth, 988 was the peak of the fall on Aug. 7 (J & RW) and over 2000 at Bolinas Lagoon Sept. 8 (P.R.B.O.) was higher than ever there. An imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** well described 1 mi. w. of Trinidad Aug. 11 was the second Humboldt County record (*vide* DE, TS). Fewer than usual Green Herons were mentioned and one at Ft Bragg Nov. 19 (OJK) was the only one reported from the coast. Perhaps due to dry conditions, 85 Great Egrets were hunting mice in the Palo Alto flood basin in November (DDeS *et al.*). A single bird was at Auburn Aug. 12-18 (MA) where they are rare. A usual scattering of Cattle Egret reports, indicating no obvious upsurge, were received. A higher proportion, however, was in the C.V. with four at Mendota Aug. 15 (RLH, JS), a peak of 11 at Gray Lodge Sept. 27 (BED), one, 4 mi. e. of Red Bluff Nov. 15 (SL), two 4 mi. e. of Davis Nov. 23 (DAG) and one, s. of Rio Vista Nov. 30 (J & SL *et al.*) Single Least Bitterns were seen at Gray Lodge Aug. 5, Sept. 5 & Nov. 21 when one was found dead (BED), at Sacramento N.W.R. (below S.N.W.R.) Sept. 9 (NB) and at Clear Lake S.P. Aug. 18 (DD). They are present in small numbers but are seldom seen in this Region Three Am. Bitterns were mousing with Great Egrets in Palo Alto in November (DDeS *et al.*). A White-faced Ibis was at Mendota Oct. 10 (RLH, *vide* RH); they are rare in Fresno Co.

**WATERFOWL** — Very few Whistling Swans were seen on the coast or in the C.V. again, the result of dry conditions, and 7000 were carefully estimated at the s

end of Honey L., Nov. 30 (RS, GM). Honey L. in the Great Basin is often frozen by that time. Not only were few reports of geese received but in the early flocks of Snows very few immatures were noted, indicating poor breeding success (BED, RS). Three blue-phase Snow Geese were reported. An early Ross' Goose was at the Chico Sewage Plant Oct. 17 (RS, BM) and one was at Coyote Hills Park Nov. 17 (FN, †AE).

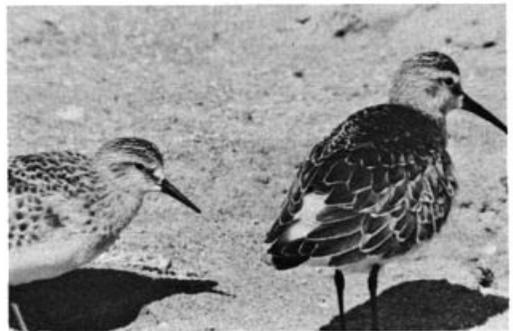
A botulism die-off in S.F. Bay was the worst in many decades for that area. About 14,000 birds perished, mostly Pintails, N. Shovelers, Ruddy Ducks and Am. Coots along with lesser numbers of waders and gulls. A two-month-long effort by State and Federal Wildlife teams was necessary to bring it under control.

A Fulvous Tree Duck, rare on the coast, was at Pt. Pinos from at least Oct. 20 to the end of the period (m.ob.). Two ♂♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal were found, one, early at Arcata Oct. 2 (GF) and one at Bolinas Nov. 19-23 (RS, many). Nine ♂♂ Eur. Wigeon were noted with the huge flocks of Americans, which is normal. Five Com. Goldeneye were found in Humboldt and Del Norte Cos. in November where they are uncommon (DE, TS), and average numbers were seen elsewhere with the usual sprinkling of Barrow's (14) at coastal ponds and foothill rivers. Seven Oldsquaws reported, all from the coast, is about average. An imm. White-winged Scoter at Avocado L., Fresno Co. (RLH, JS) and a ♀ Surf Scoter at Solano L. Oct. 8, 13 (Wilburn, *fide* BK) are both interesting as inland scoter records are scarce. Hooded Mergansers were up from the average with 24 reported at 12 localities (m.ob.) including a male Dec. 1 at Lodi, San Joaquin Co. (DS) where they are very rare.

**RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES** — Turkey Vultures were noted migrating in the C.V. as follows: Blue Gum, Glenn Co., 90 Oct. 4 (SL); 100+ at Gray Lodge Oct. 8 (BED) and 85 there Oct. 20 (R & BL). Nine Goshawks were reported, six from the Sierras, one adult at Waddell Creek, Santa Cruz Co., Nov. 11 (MZ), an adult from Pt. Diablo Oct. 20 (WMP†) and an adult from Santa Rosa Oct. 12 (GLB†). Goshawks are normally very rare away from the mountains and great care should be taken in their identification. At Pt. Diablo 141 Sharp-shinned and 155 Cooper's Hawks were tallied in 785 minutes of observation in late September and early October (LCB). Also there, LCB *et al.* recorded 103 Red-tailed, 12 Red-shouldered and over 30 Broad-winged Hawks (including two of the little known dark phase) during nearly the same period of observation. In addition, two Broad-winged Hawks were seen in Golden Gate Park Sept. 27 and one was at Rodeo Lagoon Sept. 14 (LCB). Swainson's Hawks were seen through mid-September in the C.V. and one adult 10 mi. e. of the Salinas R. mouth Sept. 1 (BGE) is noteworthy since they are rare on the coast. Rough-legged Hawks were widely observed in better-than-average numbers but as expected, only a shadow of last year's invasion. Only 11 Ferruginous Hawks were reported which is about half the average number for fall. Eagles of both species seem to be increasing slightly. Bald Eagles, however, were fairly low possibly owing to the late waterfowl migration. Ospreys were far down from last fall but nearly equal to 1971 and 1972. Prairie Falcons, Peregrines and Merlins were well reported. The Sandhill

Crane that summered at Ferndale was last seen Sept. 5 (J & SL, RS, GM). The first cranes arrived at Gray Lodge Oct. 4 (BED) and by Nov. 20, 3000 were counted by the C.F.G.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Snowy Plovers were reported as 3 at Honey L. Aug. 15 (BED), 25 at Princeton Oct. 30 (PM) and a peak of 95 at the Pajaro R. mouth Aug. 26 (J & RW). A **Dotterel** arrived on the F.I. Sept. 12, was described and well photographed until Sept. 20 when it left with a small flock of Killdeer (P.R.B.O.). This is the first record for California and the farthest south on the Pacific Coast of North America. Only 17 Am. Golden Plovers were seen, which is the same number as in 1972 but far short of the 159 in 1973. Long-billed Curlews were seen in standard numbers but 1000 Whimbrels west of Firebaugh Aug. and 480 at Mendota Aug. 15 (RLH, JS) are the largest numbers ever recorded in fall and exceptional in the C.V., where they have been thought to be uncommon except in spring. In both cases a few Long-billeds were seen with the flocks. Six Solitary Sandpipers were reported, all at inland localities which is normal, including one at Clear L., Lake Co. (DD) which is a new location for the species. Four Wandering Tattlers at Albany Aug. 11 (RD) is the largest number ever on the e. side of S.F. Bay. The seasonal high for Greater Yellowlegs was at Gray Lodge Aug. 25 when over 100 were in a single field (BED). Fewer Lesser Yellowlegs were seen than usual, however 32 at a Ferndale pond Aug. 24 (DE, TS) is a high number and it is estimated that over 70 individuals passed that pond during the season (DA). Rock Sandpipers arrived in November with four at Bodega (Conners, m.ob.), one at north jetty Humboldt Bay Nov. 10 (DE, TS) and one at s. jetty there Nov. 29 (KT). Fewer than in former years have recently been found at the Humboldt jetties. Fewer Pectoral Sandpipers were found than in any fall for the past five years and only 88 were reported Aug. 13 - Oct. 25. Two or three hundred is normal. A single **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was studied



*Curlew Sandpiper, Bolinas, Calif., Sept. 10, 1974. (on rt.) Photo / P.R.B.O.*

on Pt. Reyes Sept. 29 (PM†, JM†). This species may prove to be regular in tiny numbers in the fall. A **Curlew Sandpiper** was found with a flock of Baird's Sept. 7 at Bolinas (P.R.B.O.) was seen by hundreds, was well described and was photographed through Sept. 14. This is the third verified sighting for the Region. Baird's Sandpipers were well represented and 132 were seen,

which is higher than average. Very early Dunlins were seen again this fall. One was at Bodega Bay as early as Aug. 6 (WMP *et al.*), two were at Arcata Aug. 17 (TS) and two were at the Pajaro R. mouth Sept. 11 (J & RW). The third week of September is usually the time for first Dunlin arrivals. An unusual high of 35 Short-billed Dowitchers with over 1000 Long-billed identified by plumage and all were at Woodland Aug. 26 (RS, DW). One or two is a normal inland high. Stilt Sandpipers, always rare here, were found at Ferndale with two Aug. 24-29 (DA *et al.*), one at Moss Landing Oct. 13 (DA, DW *et al.*) and one, one mi. w. of Skaggs Is., Sept. 9 (LCB, RS). A winter plumaged **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was captured, carefully identified and photographed at Limantour, Marin Co. Aug. 21 (P.R.B.O.†). Great care must be taken in identifying this rare species from the W Sandpiper and even more so from the Red-necked (Rufous-necked Sandpiper) and Little Stints of Eurasia which are nearly identical to it in winter plumage but lack partial webbing between the toes. The **Bar-tailed Godwit** found in July in Arcata was last seen there Sept. 3 (RS, GM, J & SL\*). No less than *three Ruffs* were found this season, the first since 1967 and the fourth through the sixth records. One, found at Martinez Sept. 16 (DE, TS†) was seen by hundreds throughout the period. On Sept. 19, 20, one was at Bodega Bay (GLB, WMP†, LWG) and on Oct. 9, one was well described from a sewage pond at Hanford, Kings Co. (James Stewart, *vide* RH) One thousand Am. Avocets at L. Levitt near Susanville Oct. 14 (SL) is very high for that station. Only four Red Phalaropes were reported, all in August and September.

**JAEGERS AND GULLS** — A good jaeger year, Pomarines and Parasitics were seen on most offshore trips at a ratio of about 5:1. A high for both was logged Oct. 5 when about 25 Pomarines and 4 Parasitics were in Monterey Bay (C.F.O.). Also on Oct. 5 an ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen 2 mi. off Half Moon Bay (TC†, BGE†). At least eight skuas were reported, including one that stayed on the F.I. Sept. 16 - Oct. 14. A high of five was in Monterey Bay Oct. 5 (C.F.O.). Only the South Polar Skua, *C.s. maccormickii* has been definitely recorded from this region (and possibly from the entire North Pacific) and most likely all of those reported here are of that "race." Gulls, especially Herring had not yet arrived in numbers in the C.V. by the end of the period. Five species of gulls were seen Nov. 30 along the n.e. shore of Eagle L., including one first year Thayer's, two Herring and six Bonaparte's (RS, GM) Another Bonaparte's was at the s. shore of L. Tahoe Oct. 17 (WS). A Mew Gull Aug. 15 at King Salmon (BR, TS) was either very early or had summered, since the first normal returnees were at Arcata Oct. 18 (DE, TS). Four Franklin's Gulls, two at Humboldt Bay in August (DE, TS) and two near Moss Landing during the third week of November (JiM) were noted. High numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were seen in November, with 1000 at the Pajaro R. mouth Nov. 10 (J & RW), 11,600 at Bolinas and 45,000 at Limantour Nov. 22-28 following strong SW winds (P.R.B.O.). Heermann's Gulls were more abundant than ever around Monterey Bay where about 60,000 were found in late October and early November. Among these less than one per cent were birds of the year and an incredi-

bly unsuccessful breeding season is indicated (RS, LCB, VR). Black-legged Kittiwakes were scarce until mid-November but picked up at that time. A few Sabine's Gulls were reported, the high being seven on Sept. 7 in Monterey Bay (G.G.A.S.).

**TERNs AND ALCIDS** — Six Arctic Terns seen near the F.I., Oct. 14 (DE, TS) were the most together seen at sea. One adult flew past Pt. Pinos with Elegant Terns Oct. 7 (DDeS *et al.*). Elegants were low in the usual places and only one was at Humboldt Bay Sept. 28 (DE). Black Terns, uncommon on the coast, were at Moss Landing through September with a high of three Sept. 27 (JiM). As is now the usual case, 2-3 Thick-billed Murres were near Monterey harbor throughout the period. A Xantus' Murrelet was found dead on the F.I.(!) Aug. 6 and up to 12 were seen in deeper waters of Monterey Bay on various trips in September and October. A **Horned Puffin** was picked up dead at Moss Landing Aug. 7 (DAi) and another was seen at the F.I. Sept. 26 - Oct. 23. It was feeding actively, photographed and well described. The bird had no flight feathers on its right wing. It is interesting that of all the California records of Horned Puffin, only one was known to be able to fly! A Tufted Puffin at College Cove, Humboldt Co. Aug. 27 (RLeV), one, 7 mi. w. of Half Moon Bay Oct. 5 (TC, BGE) and at least three in the Gulf of the Farallons Oct. 14 (many) were the only ones reported.

**PIGEONS THROUGH NIGHTJARS** — A White-winged Dove in McKinleyville Aug. 2 - Oct. was the second Humboldt Co. record (*vide* DE, TS). Four Mourning Doves were found at an unusually high 10,000 ft. elevation near Saddlebag L., Mono Co. Aug. 27 (DDeS, DAG). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo of the eastern race was captured, measured and photographed on the F.I. Sept. 24. Noteworthy Roadrunner reports include four along Mines Rd., Alameda Co., Aug. 15 (RD) and four along Interstate 5 in Fresno Co. Aug. 30 (JM) Four downy young Barn Owls found Sept. 9 in Livermore (AE) was unusual as a fall nesting record. A low-elevation record for Spotted Owl was obtained when one was found injured in Trimmer, Fresno Co., at 1062 ft. Oct. 29 (*vide* RH). Three Long-eared Owls over-summered at Grizzly I. (RGi) and two were found at a roost discovered last winter in Coyote Hills Park Nov. 2 (AE). Lesser Nighthawks have become scarce in the southern C.V.; only one was reported this period (*vide* RH).

**SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Concentrations of Vaux's Swifts were observed along the coast in late September. High counts were 550 in 70 minutes over Twin Peaks, S.F., Sept. 22 (BJM) and 986 over Pt. Diablo Sept. 29 (LCB). A few Black Swifts also reported at this time included ten over Pt. Diablo Sept. 30 (LCB). A high-elevation ad. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird was near Saddle Bag L., at elevation 9800 ft. Aug. 26 (*vide* DDeS). Another male was at a Napa feeder Nov. 28 (BDP†). Pileated Woodpeckers were reported from two marginal coastal localities Muir Woods Nat'l Mon., Sept. 2 (RD) and n. of Santa Cruz (*vide* BGE). They continue to be reported with

greater frequency in the Santa Cruz Mts. A Williamson's Sapsucker was reported from the low elevation of 4500 ft. in Calaveras S.P. Oct. 9 (MK). Nuttall's Woodpeckers were reported from unusual outer-coast localities: Pt. Reyes August through October (RS, LCB) and Limantour Spit Oct. 6 (SL).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS** — An E. Kingbird was on Pt. Reyes Sept. 1 (RD). The first regional **Thick-billed Kingbird** remained in McClaren Park S.F., from Nov. 5 through the end of the period. It was photographed and seen by many (Davies, LCB, SFB†). The ninth regional **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was an adult present near Ano Nuevo, early Sept. through Oct. 5 (LCB, RS *et al.*). With three reports this fall, there are now nine records of **Great-crested Flycatcher**. The reports were from Neary's Lagoon, Sept. 26 (DB†), the F.I. Sept. 27 and Bolinas, Oct. 18 (P.R.B.O.†). An E. Phoebe, only the second regional report in the last four years, was at Pt. Pinos Oct. 27, 28 (DDeS, JF, J & SL†). Two Least Flycatchers were on the F.I., in late September and one was well described from Pt. Reyes Oct. 9 (RS, J & SL†). A pair of Horned Larks was found nesting on Bear R. Ridge this summer in Humboldt Co. at the extreme n.w. limit of its regional breeding range (*vide* DA) and one was at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co. Nov. 3 (DE, TS). Major flights of 550 and 1174 Violet-green Swallows passed over Pt. Diablo Oct. 12 & 13 (LCB). A large flock of 22 Purple Martins was over Arcata Aug. 24 (DE). Unusual concentrations of ravens were 70 in a spiralling flock over Hanford Aug. 5 (*vide* RH) and up to 30 in the hills e. of Livermore in October and November (AE).

**PARIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Mountain Chickadees were found this fall in the chapaarral of Grindstone Canyon, Glenn Co. 2500-3500 ft. elevation (AMC). There were several reports of Bushtit flocks at high elevations on the w. slope of the Sierras including up to 46 at Crane Flat, Yosemite N.P. Sept. 7-9 (DDeS, JF). This species has just recently established itself in suburban Fresno (RH, KH). Cañon Wrens continue to be reported regularly from the Trinity-Humboldt Co. border where up to four were found on the Trinity R. in early September (*vide* TS, DE). Three **Gray Catbirds** were found this fall: Mammoth L., Sept. 19-23 (John Derby, DAG), Bodega Bay Sept. 19, 20 (GLB, RLeV, LWG) and on the F.I. Oct. 15. There are now five regional records. Two Brown Thrashers were on the F.I. Oct. 9-11, one was at Fairhaven Oct. 12-13 (RLeV, DE, TS) another returned in October to a feeder in Fairfax for the fourth consecutive year, and one was in Solano Park Nov. 13 & 19 (DAG, RS). The third Humboldt Co. Sage Thrasher was found in the Arcata bottoms Sept. 24, 25 (RLeV). Individuals were seen on the F.I. throughout September and October. The fifth fall individual **Gray-cheeked Thrush** for the region was on the F.I. Sept. 25. Townsend's Solitaires were in abundance in the juniper woodlands in n.e. California in November (RS, GM) but other berry-eating species were noticeably absent.

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — A pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers found nesting on Redrock Rd. in e. Lassen Co. June 8 (FN†) is the first county

breeding record and an unusually northern Basin locality for this Region. Two were found at 7500 ft. elevation in Sugarloaf Valley, Kings Canyon N.P. in early September (RGr). The first regional **White Wagtail** was found on the F.I. Oct. 10 (photos on file). Reports this summer and fall indicate that the Loggerhead Shrike is generally holding its own with the possible exception of the S.F. Bay Area. Four Red-eyed Vireos are more than usual. One was on the F.I. Aug. 28 and three were on Pt. Reyes in late September and early October (DE†, J & SL†, WMP). Virtually unknown in recent years, here, a **Bell's Vireo** was carefully observed at Solano County Park Sept. 21 (R & BL†). Since none are now known to nest in this Region, this bird was no doubt either a vagrant or a migrant from a relict population to the north. A Solitary Vireo of the e. Blue-headed race was on Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 (DE, TS†), and at least two were on the F.I. Sept. 25-27. A Solitary of the *plumbeus* race was in Pacific Grove Oct. 6 (RS, LCB). Solitaires were still singing in the Sierras in late August and September (DDeS, RGr). Unusually late individuals at Calaveras S.P. Nov. 23 (MK) and near Santa Rosa Nov. 30 (BDP) were also in full song. A **Philadelphia Vireo**, the fifth regional record, was observed on the exceptionally early date of Aug. 24 at Tilden Park, Berkeley (RD†).

**WOOD WARBLERS** — Observers along the outer coast of our Region this fall were treated to the most spectacular invasion of vagrant warblers ever recorded. At least 652 individuals of 26 vagrant species were found Aug. 1 - Nov. 30, 2.6 times as many as were recorded during the previous "best" fall (1972). A complete summary of this season's occurrences is presented in Table 1. Data from the F.I., continuously censused since 1968 (P.R.B.O.), indicate that this exceptional number of birds was a real phenomenon and not a result of increased coverage. The record 252 individuals on the F.I. this fall was 2.4 times as many as were recorded during the previous "best" fall on the island (also 1972).

The first major wave of vagrant warblers occurred almost continuously on the F.I. Sept. 12-29 during which time 20 species were recorded. The greatest variety occurred there on Sept. 16, 17 (13 species) and the greatest quantity Sept. 27 (50 individuals!). Mainland observers were similarly far from disappointed as excellent numbers of vagrants were found all along the coast Sept. 21-30. Although never reaching the proportions of the September wave, occurrences of vagrants continued both on the F.I. and the mainland in excellent but not extraordinary numbers throughout October. The few records from November may be considered normal for the Region.

All of our "regular" vagrant warblers, with the single exception of Northern Waterthrush, were found in record or near record numbers. Especially numerous were Chestnut-sideds (12x average number [average based on the mean number of records for the past six years, 1968-1973]) and Magnolias (7x average) whose typically early migration schedules coincide with this fall's major wave. Typically later "regular" vagrants (Tennessee, Virginia's, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Prairie and Palm Warblers) were recorded in numbers that were 4-5x average. Black-and-white

**TABLE 1. Summary of the occurrences of vagrant wood warblers during the fall migration period (Aug. 1 - Nov. 30)**

Species	Inclusive dates	1974 fall occurrences					Interior	Total	No. of occurrences in previous best fall	Total no. of previous fall occurrences
		N. coast Humboldt-Del Norte	Sonoma, Marin	SE. Farallon	S. coast S.F., S. Cruz, San Mateo	S. Cruz, Monterey				
Black-and-white Prothonotary	Sep 4-Nov 29 Sep 28	3	6	2	2	1	3	17	10 (1972)	69
Golden-winged	Sep 14-16			1				1	1 (1967,69)	2
Tennessee	Sep 2-Nov 25	2	10	20	5	4	2	43	13 (1972)	93
Virginia's	Aug 16-Oct 26		4	3			1	11	6 (1972)	18
Lucy's	Nov 29							1	2 (1970)	5
Parula	Sep 19-Oct 13		5			1		6	2 (1972)	7
Magnolia	Sep 1-Oct 30	3	10	15	2	1		31	9 (1972)	33
Cape May	Sep 21-Oct 12	2	3			1		7	3 (1968)	9
Black-thr. Blue	Sep 29-Nov 25	5	5	5		2	5	22	8 (1972)	42
Black-thr. Green	Sep. 29-Oct 25			2				2	2 (1970,72)	6
Blackburnian	Sep 15-Nov 19	3	4	5		2		14	4 (1970,72)	19
Yellow-throated	Sep 16-24	1		1				2	1 (1969)	1
Chestnut-sided	Sep 2-Oct 19	4	10	20	1		1	36	6 (1973)	31
Bay-breasted	Sep 18-Oct 24	1	1	7	1			10	1 (1964,68,71)	3
Blackpoll	Sep 7-Nov 12	19	43	69	8	39		178	63 (1971)	308
Pine	Oct 19			1				1	1 (1970,73)	2
Prairie	Sep 16-Oct 16		1	2	4	1		8	7 (1972)	19
Palm	Sep 20-Nov 23	14	50	53	7	41	1	166	57 (1972)	288
Ovenbird	Sep 15-Oct 25			9				9	10 (1972)	26
N Waterthrush	Sep 16-Nov 17		1	2	2		1	6	8 (1971,72)	58
Connecticut	Sep 11-29		2	3				5	2 (1968)	3
Mourning	Sep 17-26			5				5	1 (1973)	1
Hooded	Oct 5-30							2	2 (1971)	5
Canada	Sep 15-Oct 27		1	6	1	1		9	5 (1972)	7
Am Redstart	Aug 12-Nov 4	8	22	21	4	3	1	59	38 (1972)	199
<b>TOTAL</b>		65	178	252	39	103	15	652	246 (1972)	1254

Warblers, Ovenbirds and Am. Redstarts, for some unknown reason were present in numbers that were only 2-3 times average while the N. Waterthrush was only 1 1 times average. Interestingly, all four of these species breed regularly in British Columbia and winter regularly in w. Mexico, perhaps indicating that most of this fall's vagrants initiated from areas farther east.

Even more exciting than the exceptional numbers of our "regular" vagrants was the amazing variety of truly rare vagrant warblers found this season. A ♂ **Prothonotary Warbler**, the third fall record for the Region, was at Neary's Lagoon, Santa Cruz Co., Sept. 28 (RM†, MW). An ad. ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler**, the first fall record was on the F.I. Sept. 14-16 when it was found dead (\*California Academy of Sciences). A **Lucy's Warbler**, the sixth fall record for the Region, was at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 29 (L & FN†). An amazing six **Northern Parulas** were recorded. Three were near Bodega Bay Sept. 19-27 (DE†, TS, GLB *et al.*), two were on Pt. Reyes Sept. 26-30 (TS, JM, DE† *et al.*) and one was at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 13 (RS, BM *et al.*). Seven **Cape May Warblers** this fall included three on Pt. Reyes between Sept. 21 and 30 (RS†, J & SL†, PM†, BS *et al.*), one on a boat, 40 mi. w. of the Humboldt-Del Norte Co. line Sept. 25 (GF), one at Fairhaven Sept. 25-27 (DE†, TS *et al.*), one at Ano Nuevo Oct. 9 (PM, BS) and one at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 13 (KH†,

DW). Two **Black-throated Green Warblers** were on the F.I., Sept. 29 & Oct. 25. The second and third fall **Yellow-throated Warblers** (both *abilora* race) were, one on the F.I. Sept. 16-19 (P.R.B.O.†) and one at the Samoa Coast Guard Station Sept. 24 (RLeV, GF *et al.*). An incredible 10 **Bay-breasted Warblers** were found. Seven were on the F.I., six from Sept. 18-28 and one Oct. 24, one at Pt. Reyes Sept. 23-26 (DE†, TS, EM), one at the Mad R. mouth Sept. 29 (TS, BR, DE†) and one at Sharp Park Golf Course, San Mateo Co. Oct. 16 (PM†, BS). A **Pine Warbler**, the third fall record, was photographed on the F.I. Oct. 19 (P.R.B.O.†). At least three **Connecticut Warblers**, two of them banded and photographed were on the F.I. Sept. 11-29 while two more were described from Pt. Reyes, one Sept. 26 (TS, DE†) and one Sept. 29 (PM†, AE *et al.*). Five **Mourning Warblers**, four of them banded and photographed, were on the F.I. between Sept. 17 and 26. These are the first substantiated records for the Region although one was previously described from Bolinas Sept. 16, 1973 (DDeS†). Details of all of these birds will be published elsewhere. A ♂ **Hooded Warbler** was at Santa Cruz Oct. 5, 6 (PM†, RS, LCB *et al.*) and another male was at Moss Beach Oct. 27-30 (BS, PM† *et al.*). At least 9 **Canada Warblers** were recorded, 6, from the F.I. Sept 15 - Oct. 27, one was on Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 (DE†, TS) another was at Ano Nuevo Sept. 27 (BY†) and one was

in Pacific Grove in early November (Reese, *vide* RS).

The pattern of occurrences of the various species this fall fits, in general, the pattern they have exhibited in past years, as demonstrated by DeSante (Ph.D. dissertation, Stanford, 1973) to support the hypothesis of "Mirror Image Misorientation." The question remains, however, why were these birds so abundant this year? Part of the explanation may be found by examining weather patterns during the fall. The stage for this extraordinary fall could have been set as early as the first third of August when high pressure areas became successively "trapped," first over s.-c. Canada and then over Ontario resulting in NE winds coincident with the initiation of migration of many "eastern" warblers. During the period Aug. 25 - Sept. 2, a high pressure area moved north out of the Pacific into the Gulf of Alaska and then eastward across British Columbia. The clockwise northeasterly winds associated with this high could have brought large numbers of vagrants, already moving under the influence of the early August northeasterlies, into staging areas in the Great Basin, the n. Rocky Mts. and the Great Plains. Wind, however, in n. California during this entire period remained westerly because of the action of another high over s. California. Few vagrants were recorded in California before Sept. 12. On that date, however, a major change occurred when another high began moving into s. British Columbia and became "trapped" by the action of a low over the southwest. This resulted in a "weather funnel" with prevailing winds out of the NE all the way from s. c. Canada, across the northern plains, the Rockies and the Great Basin, directly to c. coastal California. This rather unusual weather system remained more or less stable for 14 days until Sept. 28 and during that time the most amazing assortment of vagrant warblers, delineated above, inundated our Region. This weather pattern was followed by a long series of weak, unstable weather fronts, often bringing E and S winds which continued until Nov. 5 at which time a stable system of westerlies prevailed until the end of the period. (Weather data gathered from records of the U.S. Weather Bureau.)

The prevalence of westerly winds in coastal California until mid-September brought smaller than usual numbers of western warblers to the coast during this time. Approximately normal migration occurred through the C.V. and Sierra during this period when most of our western warblers passed through the state. Only fair numbers of our rarer, interior western warblers occurred during late September and October but three records of single Yellow-breasted Chats along the coast were noteworthy: Sept. 5, F.I., Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, Arcata (Hewston, *vide* DE) and Oct. 30, L. Lucerne, San Mateo Co. (JM). The lack of strong weather fronts during October and November brought fewer-than-usual Yellow-rumped Warblers into the Region. Myrtle Warblers, for example, did not reach the S.F. Bay Area until Oct. 24 (DDeS) and both Yellow-rumped forms were still in reduced numbers at the end of November.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — A few Bobolinks were present almost continuously on the F.I. during late September, which is normal, with six present Sept. 22. One was in Arcata Sept. 26-28 (GC, BDP) and two were at the surprising C.V. locality of Jelly's

Ferry Rd. Tehama Co. Sept. 21-27 (SA). A Yellow-headed Blackbird, a rare coastal visitor, was in the Arcata bottoms Sept. 22 (*vide* DE, TS). A Tricolored Blackbird, rare in Humboldt County, was seen in Bear R. Valley Oct. 12 (DS). An ad. ♂ Orchard Oriole at Mono L. Aug. 28 (MB), is the first regional record east of the Sierra. Females were identified this fall at Samoa Oct. 11 (DE, TS *et al.*) and on the F.I. Oct. 25-27. A ♂ N. Oriole (*galbula* race) was on Pt. Reyes Oct. 27 (BDP, LCB). A ♂ Summer Tanager remained near Santa Rosa from Sept. 11 through the end of the period (GLB).

**FINCHES** — The only Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported were on the F.I. where at least four were recorded during September and October. Indigo Buntings were reported from the following four locations Pt. Reyes Sept. 24-29 (WMP, PM), near Santa Rosa Sept. 24 (LWG), the F.I. late September and Pacific Grove Oct. 6 (J & SL, RS, LCB). High elevation House Finch reports include one near Hilton L. Mono Co. (9800 ft) Aug. 17, eight near Saddlebag L. Aug. 27 (10,500 ft) (DDeS, JF) and 10-15 at L. Tahoe Oct. 5 (WS). A ♂ Dickcissel was on the F.I. Oct. 14, 15. Lawrence's Goldfinches were reported from three coastal localities including one on the F.I. Oct. 18-22. Lark Buntings were on the F.I. Sept. 12 - Oct. 11 with up to six present in late September. A Savannah Sparrow was at the high elevation of 10,500 ft. near Saddlebag L. Aug. 27 (DDeS, JF). Three Grasshopper Sparrows were present on the F.I. in late September and October. The second regional **Le Conte's Sparrow** was photographed (!) on Pt. Pinos Oct. 19 (B & CY†, EM†, RB). Vesper Sparrows were reported from seven coastal localities which is normal. Black-throated Sparrows were seen at two unusual coastal localities: one at Belmont Oct. 3 (RM†), one on the F.I. Aug. 31 and one there Sept. 16 - Oct. 5.

There were seven coastal reports of Tree Sparrows this fall, which is half the previous all-time total for the coast. Late Chipping Sparrows were reported Nov. 8-10 at Belmont (FN), Nov. 17 in Ukiah (OJK) and Nov. 3 in Coyote Hills Pk. (EM). The usual number of Clay-colored Sparrows were seen. Individuals were at Pt. Reyes Oct. 9-13 (RS, JM, SFB), Samoa, Sept. 25-29 (*vide* DE, TS), on the F.I., September-November with three on a day in late September and Westhaven, Oct. 22 (RLeV, DE, TS). Brewer's Sparrows were present in September and October on the F.I. with up to ten in one day in late September and one was at Bodega Head in late September (GLB, RLeV, MLR). There was a record number of White-throated Sparrows reported with 28 mainland records, and individuals present almost continuously from Sept. 24 on the F.I. A "rusty" Fox Sparrow and an individual of intermediate characteristics were at an Oakland feeder from Nov. 13 on (J & SL). Usually rare, there was an invasion of Swamp Sparrows to the c. coast this fall. *Thirty* were reported from Marin County, with 22 in Olema Marsh alone (JM *et al.*)! They were also on the F.I. with up to two present during October and November. There was an unprecedented invasion of longspurs to the coast. As many as 50 Laplands and 60 Chestnut-collareds were reported from one field on Pt. Reyes during October and

November; up to 100 Laplands and 20 Chestnut-collareds were in the Arcata Bottoms in October with some still at each of these localities at the end of the period; and up to 120 Laplands and 20 Chestnut-collareds at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co. in mid-October. While these were the major concentrations, small flocks and individuals were reported from other areas of Marin and Humboldt Cos. and the F.I. A most unusual report was that of a Chestnut-collared Longspur seen from a boat 5 mi. off Moss Landing Oct. 5 (RS, GMc†, C.F.O.). Fifty-five Chestnut-collareds, six McCown's and only three Laplands were found at Honey L. Ref., Oct. 10 (RS, BM). Up to three Snow Buntings were present Oct. 19 - Nov. 16 on the F.I. where there is only one previous fall record.

**CORRIGENDA** — In *AB*: 28, 689 the Tropical Kingbird should be credited to AP not PM. On 28: 848, under Alcids, the statement beginning "Two Xantus . . ." should be corrected to read, "Two murrelets, Xantus or Craveri's were seen . . ." and on p. 850 add Joseph Morlan to the list of contributors. The name Peter Metropulos (correct) has been spelled wrong in several issues.

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## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Guy McCaskie

This has to be the most exciting fall season on record for variety and sheer numbers of rare birds present in the Region. Over 430 species were recorded in the Region during the four month period, as many species as recorded in the whole of California when Grinnell and Miller published their complete analysis in "The Distribution of the Birds of California" in 1944.



West Coast migrants appeared in normal numbers with shorebirds peaking in August and September, most small landbirds passing through in September, wintering sparrows arriving in late September, and the wintering waterfowl being here by late October. No influx of northern landbirds was evident, and the season would have been quite dull had it not been for the appearance of so many vagrants.

We had California's first Groove-billed Ani, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Veery and Sprague's Pipit, along with the Region's first Rufous-necked Sandpiper and Le Conte's Sparrows, as well as unprecedented numbers of some of the eastern species of landbirds. It was unusual to go into the field without seeing at least one unusual bird; the very rare becoming normal and expected by the end of October.

Why so many rare birds this fall? Weather factors over a large area may have some bearing (local weather certainly has little or no effect on the vagrants), but what weather factor or factors could bring Tropical Kingbird, Red-throated Pipit, Sprague's Pipit and Black-throated Blue Warbler all to one spot on the same day? Admittedly we have many more active birders afield today than formerly, but not appreciably more than last fall, and it is the old well-worked spots that produced most of the vagrants, not newly-discovered areas.

Since most vagrants reaching California are young of the year it is conceivable the number of vagrants reaching California from fall to fall will vary in direct relationship with breeding successes in the preceding summers. If this is true wood warblers must have had a banner nesting season in the northern woods last summer.

LOONS, GREBES — A Com. Loon found dead at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) Nov. 2 (DVT) was the only one reported from inland. A Red-necked Grebe in San Diego Oct. 27 (GSG) was far south of its normal range. Five Horned Grebes were found far inland with one at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. Oct. 20 (TH), one at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) Sept. 22 (DRo, JM), two there Oct. 26-Nov. 3 (RS *et al.*), and one near Tecopa, Inyo Co. Nov. 19 (SWe).

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — A N. Fulmar seen between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. Oct. 11 and two near San Clemente I. Nov. 27 were the only ones reported. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare anywhere along the California coast, was well seen between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. Sept. 20 (GMcC *et al.*). A New Zealand Shearwater seen near Santa Cruz I. Sept. 8 (RW, S.B.A.S.) and another off Oxnard Sept. 20 (LJ *et al.*) were both unusual sightings for s. California waters. Many Shearwaters began to appear along the coast in late October with 200-300 present at Shell Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 6-14, and a peak of 3000 off La Jolla, San Diego Co. Nov. 4 (JB).

The only Leach's Storm-Petrels reported were five far off San Diego Aug. 28 and six in that same area Sept. 14. Least Storm-Petrels were reasonably common and widespread off s. California with six seen between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. Sept. 20, two more there on Oct. 11, fifteen off San Diego Aug. 28 and at least ten there on Sept. 14. It is possible birds identified as Ashy Storm-Petrels in August and September by some birding parties off the coast were in reality Least Storm-Petrels, for no birding party reported both species, and I believe the Ashy Storm-Petrel to be rare in s. California waters before mid-October.

TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, BOOBIES, FRIGATEBIRDS — Eight Red-billed Tropicbirds were well seen around the s.w. tip of Santa Cruz I. Sept. 8 (RW, S.B.A.S.); quite far north for this warm-water associated species. An imm. Blue-footed Booby was found grounded in a San Gabriel, Los Angeles Co. yard Oct. 15 (D. Foster, *fide* GSS) and has been a captive ever since. An ad. Brown Booby was present at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) Aug. 24-Sept. 2 (IMacG, S & SL *et al.*); much rarer than the preceding species here in California. Brown Pelicans continued to be seen on the Salton Sea from the summer season with a peak of 17 on Aug. 28, and four on Oct. 19 being the last noted; this species now regularly wanders inland to the Salton Sea after the breeding season. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird was at Seacliff, Ventura Co. Aug. 27-31 (RW) and another was hanging over La Jolla Aug. 14 (JB); one was seen inland at N.E.S.S. Aug. 11 (EAC, SC) and another was at nearby Salton City Sept. 2 (JD *et al.*); always an exciting bird to see in California.

HERONS, STORKS — An ad. Little Blue Heron was present in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Aug. 28-Sept. 1 (S.B.A.S.) and another was at Bolsa Chica,

Orange Co., Nov. 17 to the end of the period (BB *et al.*), one or two are now found in this Region every year, and it is likely that the one at Bolsa Chica is the same individual that spent last winter there. As usual a few Cattle Egrets appeared along the coast in October and November with a high count of 25 near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. Nov. 9-10; two at F.C.R. Oct. 28-31 (RS *et al.*) were at an interesting locality. Wood Storks remained in the vicinity of S.E.S.S. until the end of September, reaching a peak of 368 on Aug. 28 (DVT), one at N.E.S.S. from the summer period to Sept. 19 (DE) was the only one found elsewhere.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Whistling Swans were found in the Owens Valley during November as usual, but nowhere else in the Region. An ad. and two imm. swans, believed to be Trumpeter Swans, were well seen and heard at the Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. Nov. 17 (KA); there is one other recent record of this species in s. California (see *Western Birds*, 4:111, 1973).

Up to three summering Black Brant were noted off and on at N.E.S.S. to Sept. 2. Four "Blue Geese" were with the 8000 Snow Geese at S.E.S.S. during November; disconcerting was the fact that only 1% of the birds were immatures, suggesting a disastrous breeding season.

As usual a few Blue-winged Teal were found in the coastal lagoons once the drakes came out of eclipse plumage in November. An interesting hybrid was a ♂ Green-winged Teal X Am. Wigeon near L. Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mts. Nov. 10-30 (KG). Three ♂ ♂ Eur. Wigeon had been found by the end of the period with one on Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co. Oct. 17 (FRT), one at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co. Nov. 27-30 (SF) and the other near Glendora, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 17-30 (GSS *et al.*). A Greater Scaup, scarce away from the coast, was well studied at F.C.R. Nov. 3 (DDeS *et al.*). A ♂ Tufted Duck on L. Sherwood, Ventura Co. after Oct. 30 (GSS *et al.*) is undoubtedly the same individual that spent part of the past two winters on this same lake. A ♂ Harlequin Duck was at San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co. Nov. 29 (EAC, SC) and the male that appeared at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles Co. in March of 1972 was still present at the end of the period (BB). A summering Black Scoter on Morro Bay Aug. 15-19 (FRT) was the only one reported. Three Surf Scoters at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. Oct. 20 (TH), one near Big Pine in the Owens Valley Nov. 3 (TH) and another on Little L., Inyo Co., Nov. 24 (R Newman, *fide* GSS) were interesting since the species is rare away from the coast. Three Hooded Mergansers on a small pond near Glendora after Nov. 1 (GSS) were the only ones reported.

KITES, HAWKS, OSPREY, FALCONS — Two White-tailed Kites at Brawley Nov. 28-30 (JK) were east of their normal range, and the first recorded in Imperial County; one on Santa Cruz I. Oct. 2 (LJ) was the second to reach the Channel Is. Three Goshawks were seen in Inyo Co. with one at Deep Springs Sept. 12

(J & SL), another in Big Pine Nov. 16 (TH) and the third near Tecopa Nov. 20-21 (SWE); they are probably regular in this area of the Region in fall and winter. A Red-shouldered Hawk at Big Pine Nov. 21 (TH), one at F.C.R. Oct. 28 (RS *et al.*), another there on Nov. 2 (JD) and two near N.E.S.S. Oct. 12 (KG) were all east of their normal range in California, but the species may be expanding its range here in the West. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk at F.C.R. Oct. 27 (JD, GMcC, RS) was the only one found in s. California this fall. Only ten Swainson's Hawks were reported, and eight of those were in the Owens Valley, where nesting birds still persist. Unexpected was an imm. **Zone-tailed Hawk** on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Sept. 13-20 (TW, JB); one was in the same place last fall (AB, 28:107, 1974). A few Rough-legged Hawks appeared in November with some reaching as far south as San Diego (two near Ramona Nov. 18 and three near L. Henshaw Nov. 27) and Imperial Cos. (one S.E.S.S. Nov. 28-29), and one straying west to Santa Cruz I. (Nov. 9). Over 30 Ferruginous Hawks were reported, an increase from recent years. Interesting was the appearance of an ad. **Harris' Hawk** near Imperial Beach Sept. 21 (JD *et al.*); there are three old records from San Diego Co. and it formerly was resident along the Colorado R., but is now believed extirpated in California. An ad. Bald Eagle at Taylor L. on the Colorado R. Nov. 13 (JHS) and an imm. at S.E.S.S. Nov. 20 (DVT) were the only two reported. A few Ospreys were seen along the coast from Morro Bay to San Diego, as well as on the Salton Sea and along the Colorado R. as would be expected; however, one at F.C.R. Sept. 18 (DE) was at an interesting locality.

As usual a few Prairie Falcons appeared along the coast from September onward. The only Peregrine Falcons reported were one at F.C.R. Nov. 15 (MA, BH), one on Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co. Sept. 22 (*vide* GSS), an ad. on Santa Barbara I. Oct. 11 (GSS) and another on Santa Cruz I. Nov. 9 (LJ). Merlin numbers continue to decline with but eight reported in October and November.

**CRANES, RAILS** — Up to 82 Sandhill Cranes were present near Brawley in the Imperial Valley after Oct. 3 (DVT) and two were seen near Big Pine in the Owens Valley Nov. 24 (*vide* GSS); this species occurs only locally in s. California. Six Black Rails were found around Niland, Imperial Co. Oct. 18-25 (JHS) where they probably nest; however, one on Newport Bay, Orange Co. Nov. 30 (BB) was on winter territory.

**SHOREBIRDS** — An Am. Oystercatcher that has been present on Anacapa I. since 1964 was still there Sept. 8 (RW, S.B.A.S.) and two were found on Santa Cruz I. Nov. 4 (K. Stager, *vide* SWE). Three Black Oystercatchers at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. Sept. 23 (GSS) were at the s. extreme of their normal range of the coast of California; one on San Nicholas I. Aug. 31 (LJ, KG) was the first recorded there.

A **Piping Plover** at Malibu, Los Angeles Co. Oct. 12 (*vide* GSS) was probably the same individual that spent all of last winter there; however, it did not remain this winter. Snowy Plovers were found inland in Inyo Co. on L. Elsinor in Riverside Co. and on the Salton Sea; it is undoubtedly more common away from the coast than formerly believed. An Am. Golden Plover in Goleta

Aug. 24 (RW), one near Imperial Beach Oct. 2-6 (JD, PU), one on San Nicholas I. Sept. 28 (LJ) and 13 there on Oct. 19 (LJ) appear to be the only migrants reported; three present at Playa del Rey since Sept. 4 (JAJ) and one on Newport Bay Nov. 18 (GSS) are probably wintering locally.

At least 15 Solitary Sandpipers were found in the e. portion of the Region Aug. 11-Sept. 22, and an additional ten were seen along the coast in the same period. The only Red Knots found away from the coast were two on the Salton Sea Aug. 17 (JD). Nine Pectoral Sandpipers were reported from the n.e. portion of the Region where they are normally quite scarce; however, only 43 were found along the coast and on the Channel Is. Some 95 Baird's Sandpipers were reported from throughout the Region in August and September which appears normal. A **Rufous-necked Sandpiper** found at S.E.S.S. Aug. 17 (GMcC *et al.* \* to S.D.N.H.M.) is the second for California, but only the third in North America outside Alaska. A Dunlin at S.E.S.S. Aug. 17 (JD) was exceptionally early, the species not normally arriving in California until the latter half of September. Stilt Sandpipers were found at S.E.S.S. as usual, with a high count of 23 on Aug. 11 (EAC, SC); elsewhere, single birds were seen at N.E.S.S. Aug. 17 (JB) and Sept. 2 (JD), in Santa Maria Oct. 4 (JAJ), two at Pt. Mugu Sept. 19 (GSS), one in Carlsbad Sept. 21-28 (DE, BB) and another on Otay L., San Diego Co. Aug. 22 (RP). As many as 15 Sanderlings were to be found on the Salton Sea in August and September, but they were unrecorded elsewhere except on the coast. A Red Phalarope at F.C.R. Oct. 26-28 (RS *et al.*) was most unusual, and is the only one found away from the open ocean this fall.



*Rufous-necked Sandpiper (Eroila ruficollis), Salton Sea, Calif., Aug. 17, 1974. Photo | John Butler.*

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS** — Pomarine Jaegers were exceptionally numerous offshore with a high count of some 500 between Oxnard and Santa Barbara I. Oct. 11 (GMcC *et al.*). Parasitic Jaegers were present along the entire coastline, but only in small numbers, with six near the mouth of the Santa Clara R. Sept. 13 being the most noted in one day. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was the highlight of the boat trip off San Diego Sept. 14 (GMcC *et al.*). A South Polar Skua was well seen off Oxnard Sept. 21 (H & PB); this is the only form of skua known to occur off California, but is rare in s. California waters.

Western Gulls (yellow-legged birds from the Gulf of California) were present on the Salton Sea well into September with over 100 noted on Sept. 5 (LJ). Laugh-

ing Gulls reached a peak of 170 at the Salton Sea Aug. 28 (DVT) with one still present Nov. 28 (GMcC); one at Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. Aug. 20 (BS) was unusual. Franklin's Gulls were scarcer than expected with single birds at the San Ynez River mouth Aug. 4 (BS), in Malibu Nov. 10 (GSS), at Playa del Rey Aug. 9 (JAJ) and Oct. 31 (GSS), and in San Diego Nov. 20 (JD) being the only ones reported. Heermann's Gulls are most unusual away from the coast but single birds were found at S.E.S.S. Aug. 17 (GMcC), Aug. 28 (DVT) and Nov. 2 (DVT). An imm. Sabine's Gull, casual inland, was well seen at N.E.S.S. Sept. 19 (DE, JM).

Gull-billed Terns reached a peak of 50 at the Salton Sea on Aug. 24 with two still present Sept. 12. Unusual was a Least Tern at N.E.S.S. Aug. 17 (JD *et al.*), for the species is a casual straggler to the interior of California. Black Skimmers remained around the Salton Sea longer than in previous years with two still there Nov. 17 (DVT) after reaching a maximum of 21 on Aug. 24 (GMcC).

**MURRES, MURRELETS, PUFFINS** — Ten Com. Murres were seen off Oxnard Oct. 10 (GMcC *et al.*) and six were found off San Diego Nov. 25 (JB) indicating a minor influx to s. California waters. A Craveri's Murrelet off San Diego Aug. 28 (GMcC) and another off Santa Barbara Sept. 8 (RW, S.B.A.S.) were the only two reported; this is a regular post-breeding wanderer to California waters. A recently dead Ancient Murrelet picked up near Imperial Beach Oct. 29 (RP\* S.D.N.H.M.) was quite far south. A long dead **Horned Puffin** was found on the beach near La Jolla, San Diego Co. Aug. 28 (JRJ\* S.D.N.H.M.), and represents one of the very few records for the Region. [Water-borne from elsewhere? —Ed.]

**PIGEONS THROUGH SWIFTS** — A Band-tailed Pigeon at S.E.S.S. Aug. 12-13 (DVT) is but the third found in the Imperial Valley, and another on San Nicholas I. Aug. 31 (LJ) had strayed far to the west. As usual a few White-winged Doves straggled west to the coast, with eleven noted between Santa Barbara and San Diego, and six more on the Channel Is. A Ground Dove at Big Pine, Inyo Co. Oct. 9 (TH), another at F.C.R. Nov. 10 (B & CY) and a third at the Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co. Sept. 13 (RW) were all far north of their normal range. Four Inca Doves in Blythe, Riverside Co., Nov. 17 (JHS) were new for that locality, but one near Tecopa, Inyo Co. in late September (J. Tarbel, *vide* GSS) was far to the north of its range, and another near Imperial Beach from Sept. 9 to the end of the period (JD *et al.*) was the first ever found on the coast.

Burriss Price discovered a **Groove-billed Ani** near Lakeview, Riverside Co. Nov. 4 and numerous observers were able to see it before its disappearance Nov. 16, the first to be recorded in California (photo to S.D.N.H.M.). A few Long-eared Owls were reported in Inyo Co. where they appear to be regular; however, one on Santa Barbara I. Oct. 11 (LJ) was at an interesting locality. A Poor-will near Calipatria, Imperial Co. Nov. 3 (DVT) is the first reported in that area in many years. A Black Swift over F.C.R. Nov. 2 (JD *et al.*) was at an unusual locality, and appears to be the latest ever recorded in California.

**WOODPECKERS** — Very few "Yellow-shafted Flickers" were reported, possibly owing to its demotion to subspecific rating. Lewis' Woodpeckers were exceptionally scarce with but twelve individuals being found in the Region. A Williamson's Sapsucker at Westguard Pass in the White Mts. Nov. 3 (TH) was in an area where few sightings have been made, and another at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. Sept. 15 (EAC, SC) was in the lowlands. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was carefully identified near Imperial Beach Oct. 9 (JD, PU), and is the first to be found on the coast of California.

**FLYCATCHERS** — An E. Kingbird in Santa Barbara Aug. 29-Sept. 12 (RW, BS) and another at F C R Sept. 12 (J & SL) were the only two reported. Tropical Kingbirds were scarcer than usual with one on Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co. Sept. 18 (JA), one on San Nicholas I. Oct. 20 (LJ *et al.*), and single birds near Imperial Beach Sept. 20 (JB), Oct. 24-27 (GSS *et al.*) and Nov. 9 (GMcC). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, always an exciting bird to find in California, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 17 (JD) and another was at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co. Nov. 8-10 (ABA *et al.*) On Sept. 22 the Broadkinds discovered California's first **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** in Big Sycamore Canyon of Pt. Mugu S.P. in extreme s. Ventura Co.; it remained until Oct. 5, being viewed by numerous observers, but avoiding all those with cameras. A **Great Crested Flycatcher** was present in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 27 (BS, S.B.A.S.), and another was seen on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Oct. 20 (AS *et al.*); there is but one previous record for s. California and the species is ultra rare anywhere in the State. The only E. Phoebe, a somewhat regular straggler to California, was at F C R Oct. 31 (RS). A **Least Flycatcher** was well studied at F.C.R. Oct. 28 (GMcC, RS, JD), and another was at nearby Emigrant Ranger Station Oct. 28-Nov. 24 (JD, DDeS, GSS *et al.*); although there are only two previous records for the Region the species is probably regular in small numbers, but overlooked among other similar-looking *Empidonax* flycatchers. A Coues' Flycatcher at the Pacific Palisades, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 15 to the end of the period (LJ, KG) is only the eighth to be found in California. As usual a few Vermilion Flycatchers wandered to the coast of s. California in September and October; one on San Nicholas I. Sept. 29 (LJ *et al.*) is the first recorded on the Channel Is and one at F.C.R. on Oct. 31 (RS) was at the northern limit of the species normal range.

**JAYS, CREEPERS, WRENS, THRASHERS** — A Steller's Jay in Monrovia, Los Angeles Co. Sept. 18 (BD) was the only one reported from the lowlands. A few Brown Creepers were found along the coast in September, and one was far out on the desert at Kelso, San Bernardino Co. Oct. 31 (RS). A scattering of Winter Wrens included five reported from the e. part of the Region and two more on Santa Cruz I. (Nov. 9)

A **Gray Catbird** was at Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. Oct. 26-Nov. 2 (RS, JD *et al.*) and another was on San Nicholas I. Nov. 2-3 (LJ); remarkable considering only one previous fall record exists for the Region. A Brown Thrasher, a regular straggler to California, was at Stove Pipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 26 (JD *et al.*), another

was in nearby Titus Canyon Nov. 13 (MA, BH) and a third was in Pt. Mugu S.P. Nov. 28-29 (H & PB, BB). The only Bendire's Thrasher on the coast was one in San Diego Nov. 27 (SWi). A **Curve-billed Thrasher** in Brawley Nov. 28 (JK) was only the second to be found in the Imperial Valley. A few Sage Thrashers reached the coast as usual and at least ten were seen on the Channel Is. Sept. 12-Nov. 3.

**THRUSHES, KINGLETS, PIPITS** — A **Rufous-backed Robin** at Saratoga Springs in the s. extreme of Death Valley Nov. 19 (MA, BH) was well described and constitutes the second record for California. Virtually no Varied Thrushes appeared in the Region. A **Veery** in Pt. Mugu S.P., Ventura Co. Oct. 12-16 (H & PB) was seen and photographed by many, and constitutes the first documented record for California (photo to S.D.N.H.M.).

Golden-crowned Kinglets staged a minor invasion with many along the coast south to San Diego, and reaching the Channel Is. for the first time (14 Santa Cruz I. Nov. 9-10); two at Scotty's Castle Nov. 12, and single birds at Kelso Oct. 13 and in Morongo Valley Nov. 16, were the only ones found in the e. portion of the Region.

Up to six **Red-throated Pipits** were present near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co. Oct. 19-27 (RS, GMcC, JD), two were on San Nicholas I. Oct. 20-21 (LJ, KG, GSS) and another was found on Santa Cruz I. Nov. 10 (LJ, JA); these are the first found in California since 1968. Two or three **Sprague's Pipits** remained near Imperial Beach Oct. 19-27 (GMcC *et al.* \* S.D.N.H.M.); this constitutes the first acceptable record for California, although it was long overdue in the State.

**VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS** — A Bell's Vireo at Scotty's Castle, Inyo Co. Sept. 12 (RS, J & SL) was in an area where few have been recorded. A **Yellow-throated Vireo** on Santa Catalina I. Oct. 27 (LJ) appears to be only the fourth recorded in the Region. A straggler from far to the south was a **Yellow-green Vireo** near Imperial Beach Sept. 19-20 (GMcC *et al.*), the sixth to be recorded in California. Red-eyed Vireos are rarely reported in s. California, but in recent years one or two have been found in the n.e. portion of the Region during September, suggesting it may be regular there at that time of the year; this year five were found in Mono and Inyo Cos. Sept. 8-18 (TH, DE, RS, DDeS) supporting this theory; in addition one at Scotty's Castle Nov. 2 (GMcC *et al.*) and another on the coast near Imperial Beach Nov. 3 (JD *et al.*) were exceptionally late. A **Philadelphia Vireo** near Imperial Beach Oct. 17-20 (JD *et al.*) is only the eighth ever found in California.

Black-and-white Warblers have long been regarded as rare migrants in California; this fall five were found in the e. portion of the Region, six were found along the coast and four more found on the Channel Is. Sept. 12-Nov. 28. A **Worm-eating Warbler**, an accidental stray to California, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 10 (JD *et al.*). Totally unexpected were two **Golden-winged Warblers**, one at Deep Springs, Inyo Co. Sept. 29 (TH) and the other in Big Tujunga Canyon, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 30 (CV), for it is one of the rarest of the wood warblers to reach California. Tennessee Warblers were much more numerous than usual with eight found in

Mono and Inyo Cos. an unprecedented 28 on the coast and an additional 21 on the Channel Is. At least 50 Virginia's Warblers were found along the coast and on the Channel Is. along with six seen in the e. part of the Region; virtually all occurred in September as expected. A Lucy's Warbler at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co. Sept. 19 (DE) may have lingered late after nesting locally; however, one at S.E.S.S. Sept. 28 (EAC, SC), another in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co. Oct. 2 (SWE) and a third near Imperial Beach Aug. 23-25 (JD *et al.*) were all at unusual localities. Northern Parulas are normally exceptionally rare in fall; however, six were found this fall with a male at Oasis Sept. 2 (TH) followed by a female there Sept. 23 (DRo *et al.*), a male at F.C.R. Oct. 29 (RS), a male on Pt. Fermin Oct. 6-14 (JA *et al.*), a female in San Diego's Mission Gorge Sept. 26 (DRa) and a male in nearby Imperial Beach Sept. 10-11 (JD *et al.*). Two Magnolia Warblers were found at F.C.R. (Sept. 18-22 and Oct. 29) and another in Kelso (Oct. 13) in the e. portion of the Region, and an unheard-of ten were noted on the coast between Pt. Mugu and Imperial Beach, with one more on Santa Barbara I. Sept. 19-Nov. 3. Nine Cape May Warblers were found with five occurring in Inyo Co. Oct. 28 to Nov. 10 (GSS, RS, B & CY *et al.*), one on Pt. Conception Sept. 13 (RW), one in Pt. Mugu S.P. Oct. 5 (MSanM), one near San Diego Oct. 20 (JD *et al.*) and the ninth on Santa Rosa I. Oct. 1-4 (LJ).

We have become accustomed to a few Black-throated Blue Warblers appearing in California each fall, but 30 in this region is unprecedented; 13 were found in the interior, 13 more were noted on the coast and an additional 4 were seen on the Channel Is. Seven Black-throated Green Warblers were reported along the coast with two in Santa Barbara Co. (Sept. 29 & Oct. 4), one in Los Angeles Co. (Oct. 26-27) and four in San Diego Co. (Sept. 7, Oct. 20-21, Oct. 25-27 and Nov 17). At least ten Blackburnian Warblers were seen along the coast of Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Diego Cos. between Sept. 5 and Oct. 28. Four Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in the e. portion of the Region Sept. 10-Nov. 15, and an unheard-of 14 were noted along the coast and on the Channel Is. Sept. 9-Nov. 25. We normally consider one Bay-breasted Warbler very good, but this fall seven were reported with one at Deep Springs Oct. 20 (TH), one in Long Beach Oct. 24 (JA), four around San Diego Sept. 19-Oct. 23 (JD *et al.*) and one on San Nicholas I. Sept. 29 (LJ *et al.*). Blackpoll Warblers are now regular in small numbers along the coast, but have been very rare in the interior; however, 54 on the coast and Channel Is. Sept. 13-Oct. 19 was many more than we have become used to, and 15 in the interior between Sept. 8 and 23 is exceptional. A Prairie Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was at Playa Del Rey Sept. 17-18 (H & PB), one was near Imperial Beach Sept. 8-11 (JD *et al.*), another was there Sept. 21-28 (ABA *et al.*) and a different bird was there Oct. 1 (JRJ). Palm Warblers, were more numerous than usual with 35 found along the coast and on the Channel Is. between Sept. 22 and Nov 10; two at F.C.R. Nov. 2-3 (JD *et al.*) and another near Lakeview Nov. 16 (RS *et al.*) were interesting since few records exist for the interior of the Region.

An Ovenbird at F.C.R. Oct. 28 (RS) was the only one found in the interior, but seven were reported from the

coast with one at Pt. Mugu S.P. Sept. 22-25 (H & PB), one in Long Beach Sept. 30 (JAJ), three around San Diego Sept. 26-Oct. 16 (JRJ, PU *et al.*), one on Santa Barbara I. Sept. 20 (LJ *et al.*) and another on San Nicholas I. Sept. 28-29 (LJ *et al.*). As usual a few N. Waterthrushes passed south along the e. portion of the Region with nine seen Aug. 18-Sept. 22; in addition 11 were found along the coast and on the Channel Is. Aug. 25-Oct. 26. Amazing was the occurrence of three **Connecticut Warblers** with one at Stove Pipe Wells in Death Valley Sept. 22 (DRo, JM), one near Imperial Beach Sept. 19 (GMcC) and another on San Nicholas I. Sept. 29-30 (LJ *et al.*); there are only three previous records for the Region. A **Red-faced Warbler** studied by two observers in Mission Gorge near San Diego Aug. 26 (BWS) is only the third found in California and the first for the fall period. A ♂ Hooded Warbler, a very rare straggler to California, was at F.C.R. Oct. 30-Nov. 1 (RS). Three Canada Warblers, also very rare in California, were reported with a male in Montana de Oro S.P., San Luis Obispo Co. Oct. 6 (JAJ), a male near Imperial Beach Oct. 24-26 (RS, JD *et al.*) and a female there Oct. 27 (JM *et al.*). About 75 Am. Redstarts were reported, with nearly 30 of them being seen along the e. border of the Region where they are undoubtedly regular migrants. A Painted Redstart on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Sept. 2 (PU) was the only one found.

**BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS** — Five Bobolinks noted at F.C.R. Sept. 22-Nov. 3 were the only ones seen in the e. portion of the Region; 20 along the coast between Sept. 21 and Oct. 28 and 17 more on the Channel Is. Sept. 12-Nov. 3 appear to be less than normal. A Tricolored Blackbird on Santa Catalina I. Oct. 26 (LJ) appears to be the first recorded on the Channel Is. An Orchard Oriole seen on Pt. Conception Sept. 11 (RW), one in Goleta Sept. 7-10 (S.B.A.S.), a male near Lakeview Nov. 16 (J & SL *et al.*), and three around San Diego Sept. 17-Oct. 2 (JD, ABA *et al.*) was probably an average number. Two or three Scott's Orioles were seen along the coast, where they are scarce, and two reached San Nicholas I. Aug. 30-Sept. 2 (KG, LJ). Nine "Baltimore" Orioles around San Diego Sept. 17-Oct. 21 (JD, JRJ *et al.*) and four more on San Nicholas I. Sept. 27-Oct. 21 (LJ, KG) is more than we are accustomed to. As usual a few Rusty Blackbirds appeared in the Death Valley area with four at F.C.R. Oct. 27-Nov. 17 (RS, JAJ, B & CY); one on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co. Nov. 9-10 (GMcC), another on Santa Cruz I. Nov. 8-9 (JA, LJ) and a third on San Nicholas I. Nov. 3 (LJ) were unexpected since the species is very rare on the coast of California. Two or three Great-tailed Grackles around S.E.S.S. during the period are probably normal.

A ♂ Scarlet Tanager on San Nicholas I. Nov. 1-3 (LJ) was the only one reported. Six Summer Tanagers were found in the e. portion of the Region Aug. 15-Oct. 27, including two as far north as Oasis, Mono Co. (JD, DE), and an additional nine were found along the coast and on the Channel Is. Aug. 4-Nov. 3; these are probably all stragglers from the e. population *rubra*.

**GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, FINCHES** — Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen in Inyo and San Bernardino Cos. Oct. 5-Nov. 21 (JD, SWE, H & PB),

one was at Pt. Mugu S.P. Oct. 14 (KG), three were around San Diego Sept. 16-Oct. 1 (JD *et al.*) and seven were found on San Nicholas I. Sept. 27-Nov. 1 (LJ *et al.*); a few more than normal. Only three Indigo Buntings were reported with one at F.C.R. Oct. 27 (RS *et al.*), one in Goleta Nov. 8 (PL) and the other in Pt. Mugu S.P. Sept. 27 (JD *et al.*). A **Painted Bunting** remained near Imperial Beach Sept. 21-24 (JD, GMcC *et al.*) and what may well have been a second individual was seen there Oct. 12 (RP); this is a very rare straggler to California. The only Dickcissels reported were on San Nicholas I. with single birds seen there Sept. 30 (JD), Oct. 19-20 (LJ, GSS) and Nov. 2 (LJ). Up to 400 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were around Westguard Pass, Inyo Co. during November (TH); they appear to be somewhat regular here in winter.

**SPARROWS** — Lark Buntings were slightly more numerous and widespread than normal with three found in Mono and Inyo Cos. Sept. 14-Oct. 6, five on the coast in Ventura, Los Angeles and San Diego Cos. Sept. 21-Oct. 25, and ten on the Channel Is. Sept. 28-Oct. 27. Four or five Grasshopper Sparrows at F.C.R. in September and October, and one on San Nicholas I. Oct. 19 were at interesting localities. A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** found on Newport Bay Nov. 29 (GSS) was still present at the end of the period; very rare in the coastal marshes of California. Remarkable was a **Le Conte's Sparrow** at F.C.R. Oct. 27-Nov. 1 with two there Oct. 28 (RS, GMcC *et al.*); there was only one record for California prior to this fall. Out of range Black-throated Sparrows included one in Pt. Mugu S.P. Nov. 2 (SF), one near Imperial Beach Sept. 29 (EAC, SC) and another on Anacapa I. Oct. 12 (LJ). Few "Slate-colored Juncos" were reported, but interest in this form has diminished since it was reduced to sub-specific standing. Single Gray-headed Juncos were on Pt. Loma Oct. 6-13 (JD) and Nov. 10 (ABA), and seven were seen on the Channel Is. Sept. 29-Nov. 4 (LJ), a rare but regular wanderer to the coast. At least ten Tree Sparrows were seen during November in Death Valley, an area where they are regular in limited numbers, however, one in San Pedro Nov. 6-8 (J & DM) and another on Santa Cruz I. Nov. 8-9 (JA, LJ) were unexpected. A Clay-colored Sparrow was present at F.C.R. Oct. 27-Nov. 1 (RS *et al.*), one was at Goleta Sept. 21-26 (JA, PL), another at Pacific Palisades Oct. 20-27 (LK), at least 11 were seen around San Diego Sept. 21-Nov. 15 (JD, SWi, JM) and another seven were seen on the Channel Is. Sept. 12-Oct. 19 (LJ *et al.*); an exceptional number for this rare straggler. Single Black-chinned Sparrows at S.E.S.S. Aug. 13 (HK) and at nearby Brock Experimental Ranch Aug. 24 (S & SL) were most interesting since very few records exist for Imperial County. Harris' Sparrows were quite scarce with only six or so being recorded, all in Inyo County during November. A Golden-crowned Sparrow in San Diego Aug. 14 (DRa) was exceptionally early. White-throated Sparrows may have been more common than usual with about 15 seen in e. portion of the Region, seven along the coast, and three more on the Channel Is. during October and November. Eleven Swamp Sparrows in Inyo Co. Oct. 26-Nov. 10 were exceptional, but four on the coast in Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and San Diego Cos. between Nov. 7 and 20 appear normal.

**LONGSPURS** — A ♂ McCowan's Longspur, the rarest longspur occurring in California, was well studied near Panamint Springs, Inyo Co. Oct. 28 (JD *et al.*). Only ten Lapland Longspurs were found in the e. portion of the Region, all in November, but two were on San Nicholas I. Oct. 19-20 (KG, LJ) and six were there Nov. 2-4 (LJ). Far more than the average number of Chestnut-collared Longspurs reached California this fall with individuals noted throughout the Region, and flocks such as 60 near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 17 (KG), 45 at Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. Nov. 10 (KG), and 40 on San Nicholas I. Oct. 18-21 (GSS, LJ) bringing the total number reported to nearly 200; one at F.C.R. Sept. 12 (J & SL) appears to be the earliest ever recorded in California.

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## The Spring Migration *April 1 — May 31, 1974*

### NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION / Davis W. Finch

During the first week of April a warm southerly air-flow extending up the coast as far as the Maritimes brought a scattering of early migrants to Nova Scotia and eastern Maine, many of them as much as two weeks ahead of schedule. The period April 9-12 was stormy, with three inches of snow in Boston on the tenth and

considerably more across Maine, pinning down many birds at feeders and creating a momentary situation wherein certain essentially non-predatory but hard-pressed birds were killing others. While this "cannibalism" (!) was no doubt greatly exaggerated by the Maine press ("Birds go wild; panic tied to freak storm" — Portland Press Herald, April 12), there were evidently many cases of grackles, even meadowlarks, killing, specifically beheading, such birds as redpolls, gold-finches and juncos, and in Seal Harbor, Will Russell witnessed such predation by Evening Grosbeaks on Pine Siskins. The snow melted quickly, however, and the remainder of the month was generally warm with southerly winds and rather early returning migrants. A small wave occurred just after the beginning of May, but the first significant one was May 14, followed by a particularly heavy and broad one May 16-18, which was described by Richard Forster as probably the best spring flight he had witnessed in Massachusetts. It was also by far the biggest warbler wave of the season in eastern Maine and Nova Scotia. The period May 24-26 again saw great numbers of migrants in New England and a secondary wave in Nova Scotia, and observers in Rhode Island during this period experienced a "constant peak" of birds. At Manomet Bird Observatory, where comparative figures showed the heaviest spring migration since work started there in 1966, May 16 and 24 were the "biggest" days, with 381 and 399 birds banded respectively, and these peaks coincided rather closely with peak migrant counts made by Bob Stymeist in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Wayne Petersen and party found 172 species in Essex County, Mass., May 25, and the following day Ed Thompson found 171 in Maine, both new records. Thus observers in most of New England enjoyed what was termed the "best migration in years" (Rhode Island Field Notes), the "best spring migration in 12 or 13 years at Nantucket" (Edith Andrews), and "one of the best migrations in many years" (B.O.E.M.).

