

of Pectoral Sandpipers were unprecedented: 350 (with ca. 150 Lesser Yellowlegs) at L. Taureau in the Laurentians (FH), and 200 at Québec City Oct. 7-17 (C.O.Q.). An early Purple Sandpiper reached Forillon N.P. Aug. 17 (JWm) and a total of 4 Baird's Sandpipers was found at Blanc-Sablon Aug. 11-22 (DWF). Semipalmated Sandpipers banded and color-dyed at James Bay by the Canadian Wildlife Service were noted in August at Laprairie, Québec City, Rimouski, and Chandler (*vide* RC, SH). Three Stilt Sandpipers were in the Magdalen Is., Sept. 14 (BM) and two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Québec City Sept. 18-19 (JH). Three Marbled Godwits at Fort-Rupert Aug. 8 (DB) were not unexpected. Over 100 Hudsonian Godwits were found at the filter ponds of Price Pulp Mill at Chandler Aug. 6 (SH, JS), more usual were 200 in the Magdalen Is., July 26 (R. Croteau) and 159 at Fort-Rupert Aug. 7 (DB); single birds also appeared at Ile du Moine Aug. 21 and Laprairie Aug. 29 (JS), but two near Pointe-aux-Trembles Nov. 7 (PB) were the latest ever. The second provincial occurrence of **Am. Avocet** was noted at LaPocatière Aug. 25 (RL, M. Laporte). Two Red Phalaropes were seen off Rivière-du-Loup Sept. 25 (CG) and the species appeared in the Montréal area for the second time since 1917; a single bird was near Ste-Thérèse Is. Aug. 1 (GT) and three at Laprairie Aug. 31 (ND). Three Wilson's Phalaropes at Fort Rupert Aug. 24 (DB) offered a curious analogy with the Marbled Godwits. James Bay is among the places where both were first recorded in Québec and both are now nesting in nearby Ontario (see *AB* 30:61).

JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS — Five Pomarine Jaegers were seen off Trois-Pistoles Sept. 4 (MG) and a late bird chased gulls at Côte-Ste-Catherine Nov. 13 (DH). Sightings of Parasitic Jaegers seemed unusually high: four from the Trois-Pistoles ferry Sept. 4 (MG), eight from the Matane ferry Sept. 18 (J. Leclerc), about 20 off Rivière-du-Loup Sept. 25 (CG), and two, the latest ever, at Beauharnois Nov. 20 (BB, MB). A probable ad. Glaucous X Herring Gull hybrid was studied at Beauharnois Nov. 14 (JS *et al.*), and an ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** turned up again at this locality Nov. 28 (ND, JLD). Also at Beauharnois a second-year Thayer's Gull was identified Oct. 30 (JS). The season's Black-headed Gulls included a single bird at Barachois Sept. 2 (FB) and Oct. 13 (JWm), the latter with 1200 Bonaparte's Gulls, and five in the Magdalen Is., Sept. 12-14 (BM). A Franklin's Gull was at Sherbrooke June 15-16 (RL), and the Lachne bird was sighted again Aug. 29, Sept. 15 & 24 (*vide* BB). A Laughing Gull at Ile du Moine Aug. 28 (BB), and two in the Magdalen Is., Sept. 16 (G. Chapdelaine), are representative of the species' occurrences in Québec: 15 of the 24 published records are from inland localities. Black-legged Kittiwakes have occurred annually in the Montréal area since 1969; this year single birds appeared at Beauharnois and Laprairie in November (BB, JS). For the fifth year in a row, **Forster's Terns** (2) were found at Ile du Moine (Aug. 28 — JS). Eighteen Arctic Terns and two Caspian Terns were identified at Barachois Aug. 13 (JWm), a **Roseate Tern** reappeared in the Magdalen Is. in late June after having gone undetected last year (PM). The first Dovekie arrived at Percé Oct. 28 (JWm), and a Black Guillemot reached Valleyfield Nov. 14 (CL) for a first occurrence in the Montreal area since 1892.

A Hawk Owl was found at Rivière-à-Pierre Nov. 6 (GT) and two were near Hull in late November (*vide* RMP). A Boreal Owl was banded at Ville St-Laurent Oct. 28 (BB) and possibly a different bird photographed nearby Nov. 9 (*vide* MM); another was struck by a car at Québec City Nov. 10 (PLn). Ten Saw-whet Owls were banded at V. St-Laurent in October and November (MM).

S.A.

From Blanc-Sablon DWF reported that Com. Puffins were being shot almost continuously during daylight hours on and around Ile aux Perroquets which is no more the largest breeding colony of the species on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. According to Nettleship and Lock (*Can. Field-Nat.* 87:395-402), human persecution is directly responsible for the present low number of breeding birds (59,000 in 1935, 47,000 in 1955, 21,000 in 1965, and 9250 in 1972).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS — A belated report of a **Willow Flycatcher**, July 29 (GH), added Rigaud to the few localities where it has now been seen in s.w. Québec. The migration of Tree Swallows was spectacular in the Montreal area. Some 200,000 birds passed Beauharnois Sept. 21-23 (JC), and one million swallows were reliably estimated Oct. 10 over a 15 sq. mi. area of the St. Lawrence R. opposite Côte-Ste-Catherine (BB, MM); most of these birds left within the next few days and only one hundred or so remained thereafter; twenty were seen Nov. 14 (DH), a record late date. Red-breasted Nuthatches, more numerous than in previous years, exhibited a pattern contrary to that of Blue Jays and Black-capped Chickadees, both remarkably scarce. A Carolina Wren was heard carolling in ME's garden in Senneville Nov. 3. A Brown Thrasher at Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon Aug. 19 (DWF) was as noteworthy, previous records are for Newfoundland or Belcher Islands in Hudson's Bay.

BLUEBIRDS THROUGH WARBLERS — Reports of E Bluebirds are still not numerous but involved many individuals this fall. Among the most notable: 30 at La Conception, Papineau Co., Sept. 18 (TO), 12 at Rawdon Oct. 2 (CL), and ten at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 16 (C.O.Q.). A very late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen at St-Joseph-de-Beauce Nov. 6 (PB, *vide* RL). Two Wheatears visited the southeastern part of the Province one at Laterrière, near Lac St-Jean, Oct. 15 (NB), the other at L'Islet Oct. 18 (RO), for a first occurrence on the s. shore of the St. Lawrence R. Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers were noticeably common in September, the frequency of reports for each being the highest ever (C.O.Q.). Thirteen Bay-breasted Warblers were encountered near Blanc-Sablon Aug. 11-22 (DWF), just a shade north of their known breeding limits, an ad. male at Nun's Is., Nov. 7 (P. Bannon) was one of the five warblers seen at record late dates. The others were a Nashville at Repentigny Nov. 25 (PLp), a Chestnut-sided at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 23 (JL), a Pine at Nun's Is., Nov. 7 (JS), and a Wilson's at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 18 (C.O.Q.). Three **Yellow-breasted Chats** strayed into the Québec City area; two were found dead in Limoilou, respectively Oct. 4 (LH) and Oct. 20 (BH), and the other visited CH's garden in Ste-Foy Oct. 16-24.

ICTERIDS AND FRINGILLIDS — The St-Anicet W Meadowlark (see *AB* 29:831, 30:817) was seen carrying food Aug. 5 (GH) with another meadowlark nearby; no other data have been gathered on this apparently mixed pair. The Cardinal deserves the regional 1976 breeding bird award; in addition to successful pairs at Sherbrooke and St-Lambert (see our last Breeding Season report), a male was seen feeding three young about mid-August in Hudson; this is apparently a second brood, since the female was incubating Apr. 25 and two dead nestlings had been found May 10; the same male or another was again feeding a young about mid-October (*vide* JWt). A female or imm. **House Finch** visited a feeder in Philipsburg for about twenty minutes Nov. 30 (C. Chalk); the detailed description submitted by a careful observer, stressed the smaller size compared directly

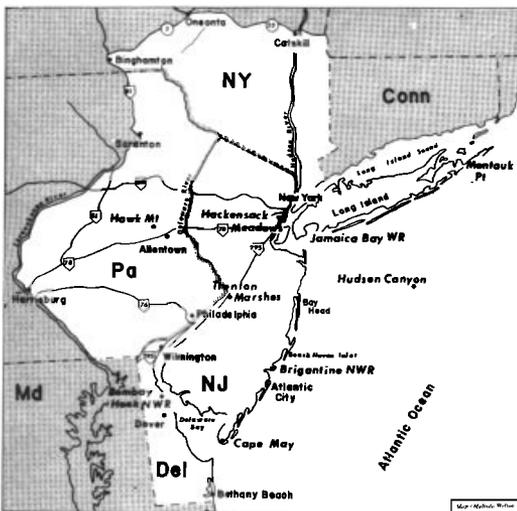
with House Sparrows, the fine streaks of the underparts, the lack of whitish facial markings (and of yellowish in the wings), and a call not unlike that of a House Sparrow. This first provincial sight record occurred at the very n.e. tip of L. Champlain, 75 mi. n of Middlebury, Vt., where the species was seen in April, 1975 (Spear, 1976, *Birds of Vermont*).

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/Robert O. Paxton, P. A. Buckley, and David A. Cutler

The period September to November, 1976 was the coldest in this region in 90 years. Strong cold fronts began in mid-August and crossed the region in steady succession, bringing incessant northwest winds and premature cold.



Some northern passerines were already moving into the region by mid-August (shorebird migration, of course, was already evident here in late June). Frontal passages concentrated immense numbers of Hermit Thrushes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and White-throated Sparrows along the coast and produced good waves in the lower Delaware Valley, although the migration was uneventful in northeast Pennsylvania. The numbers of September and October gave way to a dull November as winter finches and northern raptors were almost entirely absent. After all, they respond to food supply rather than temperature.

HURRICANE BELLE — The outstanding event of the season was the first hurricane to make landfall here since 1960. *Belle* formed east of the Bahamas on Aug. 6. After developing to hurricane strength the following day, she moved north and, without approaching other land, the eye passed over Jones Beach, L.I. soon after midnight Aug. 10. From there she continued into New England with diminishing force (see A. J. Lauro, "Hurricane Belle," *Kingbird* XXVI (4):184-189).

Area birders were on the move by 1 a.m., or as soon as they could stand up, looking for unblocked causeways to the outer beach. The rarities they found reflected the storm's pelagic course. The southern littoral species often found after previous hurricanes were either absent (Wilson's Plover, Forster's and Gull-billed Terns) or present in only small numbers (Sandwich and Royal Terns). The flavor was markedly Gulf Stream rather than Floridian or West Indian: as many Bridled as Sooty Terns for example, and "black and white" shearwaters. And the storm's nocturnal landfall may explain the prominence of night-feeding Leach's Storm-Petrels among the waifs.

The deposit of displaced birds displayed a curious pattern. Virtually nothing exotic was found where the storm's eye had crossed the beach the previous night, and very little west of the storm center or along the New Jersey coast. The best coastal concentrations were within 50 miles east of the storm center, where winds had been most intense — Bellport Bay, Shinnecock Inlet. There was nothing further out at Montauk Point. A number of highly pelagic birds was deposited inland along the storm's track, suggesting that they remained in the eye until daylight. Readers should look for the rest of the astonishing fallout in the Northeastern Maritime Region.

The prize in this region was without any doubt the adult **Yellow-nosed Albatross**† that flabbergasted Berna Weissman and Bill Howe as it passed 30 feet off Croton Pt., 20 mi. up the Hudson R. from New York City at 1:40 p.m. Aug. 10 and went on *upriver*, not to be seen again. *Another*, described as sub-adult and almost certainly a different individual, came within 15 feet of a boat at Cox's Ledge, 40 mi. e.s.e. of Montauk Pt., Aug. 21 (CW). These are the third and fourth for the "greater" region the first having been photographed off Jones Beach May 29 1960, and another found ashore on Gardiner's I. by a single observer June 8, 1971 (*Kingbird* XXI:245).

Other tubenoses were prominent among the strays Aug. 10. At Shinnecock Inlet, 15 Cory's Shearwaters were stranded on the inland side of the Ponquogue Bridge (five still there the following day), and single Sooty and Greater Shearwaters were seen (m.ob.). An unidentified "black and white" shearwater was inside Bellport Bay (W. Graves), and a shearwater carefully described as Audubon's was "hugging the shore" at Seaside Park, N.J. (CyW). These Audubon's Shearwater reports cannot be finally verified, and the only dead shearwater found after the storm was a Greater at Barnegat Light, N.J. (PWS *et al.*) Although over 100 Storm-Petrels inside Great South Bay at Smith's Pt., L.I., were reported as Wilson's (S. Kontos) and two Wilson's were in Shinnecock Bay, most storm-petrels certainly identified ashore were Leach's. Six were stranded inside the Ponquogue Bridge at Shinnecock (carefully examined for *O. castro*) 26 were in Bellport Bay (W. Graves), and one was found dead at Barnegat Inlet (J. Kennington, *N.J.A.S.). Up to six Wilson's however, were around PAB's boat in Great South Bay off Pat chogue Aug. 23, nearly two weeks after the storm.

Pelagic terns were also among the strays, with **Bridled Tern** the most remarkable among them. One sub-adult was at Tiana Beach, L.I., Aug. 10 (PAB, FGB, RWS, AJL, P. Lehman), the first certain live occurrence on Long Island. Wilcox had picked up a moribund bird in 1950, a fragment had been found in 1967 and the tentative July 1975 sight record (*AB* 29:952) is now believed firm by AJL following the Tiana Beach observation. In New Jersey, where the species has occurred after three previous

storms, three possible but unconfirmable Bridled Terns were reported: Si Stepinoff saw two flying over the N.J. Turnpike near the Hackensack Marshes (H.M.) early in the morning of Aug. 10, and five days later KR found what may have been a sub-adult 15 mi. s.e. of Barnegat Light. Sooty Terns, far more frequent after past hurricanes, were comparatively little in evidence this time. On the morning after the storm, one adult was sitting on a buoy in the Shark R. Inlet, N.J. (RR) and another was at Seaside Park, N.J. (CyW). Still another was at Cox's Ledge the following day (F. Purnell *et al.*). Only two Sandwich Terns (BS, B Conolly, ROP) and a handful of Royal Terns were found in the storm's wake.

Numerically speaking, Laughing Gull appears to have been the species most affected by the storm. Many were found on the New Jersey shore with broken wings (BCH). A half-dozen color-marked in New Jersey by Joanna Burger were reported from Cape Cod and one as far as Maine. All day Aug. 10 Laughing Gulls were streaming s.w. along the Long Island shore and the Long Island population swelled to at least 5-10,000 birds in succeeding weeks (AJL, THD). The same phenomenon was observed in New Jersey. There were numerous reports of dead Clapper Rails, and the N.J. Div. of Fish & Game evaluated the kill at about 10% of the state's estimated 200,000 birds (*vide* RK)

OTHER PELAGIC COVERAGE — Ryan pioneered a new form of offshore survey this season by riding a Coast Guard helicopter on three fishery inspection tours: Aug. 18 alone, Sept. 28 with MRH, and Oct. 18 with GT. He reports that birds of Laughing Gull size and up are readily identifiable from the cruising altitude of 450 ft., and that the pilot readily descended for closer looks. What this technique may miss in detail is compensated for by the area covered. From Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, the flights proceeded to 75 mi. off Shinnecock Inlet, thence to about 115 mi. off Barnegat Inlet, and finally to about 50 mi. off Cape May. The October trip went further s. to about 15 mi. off Ocean City, Md.

Ryan's broad offshore sweeps confirmed, as expected, that birds are not scattered at random at sea. There are consistent "hot spots". In one such area, 35 mi. s. of Moriches Inlet, L.I., not hitherto known to us as a bank or fishing area, he found at least a few shearwaters or storm-petrels on each trip even when birds were scarce elsewhere. The well-known Hudson Canyon, 85 mi. e.s.e. of Barnegat Light, N.J., remained consistently richer than other waters. For the rest, pelagic birds tended to concentrate around working trawlers. The most tantalizing sight was "about 30 small black and white shearwaters" moving rapidly s.w. 35 mi. s. of Moriches Inlet Aug. 18, a mere week after *Belle*. The October trip produced a close study of a Manx Shearwater around a trawler off New Jersey, two N. Fulmars, and a skua (sp)

Ryan's sweeps did not extend e. to that other recent "hot spot", Cox's Ledge. We have reports of 17 boat trips there between Aug. 14 and Nov. 27, and of two to Hudson Canyon, Aug. 22 and Oct. 23. The N. Fulmar expansion in the New York Bight may be pausing for breath. Individuals were found only twice in the New York - Rhode Island sector, one in Block I. Sound Oct. 9 (*vide* CW) and one Oct. 23 at Cox's Ledge (B. Dieterich, S. Emmons), though there were three at Hudson Canyon Oct. 23 (JKM, KR, JDD, JAK) and the Canyon received less coverage this year than last. Curiously, DP found one moribund inland at Brookhaven, L.I., Oct. 22.

The trickle of Manx Shearwater sight records continues. One was described from 15 mi. s.e. of Barnegat Inlet Aug. 22 (KR, AB), and one was seen from shore in a rainstorm at Democrat Pt., L.I., Oct. 31 (AJL). Nevertheless we remind our readers that although there is a good recent photograph from each state, there is no New Jersey specimen and none since 1917 from New

York. A skua (sp.) was at Cox's Ledge Aug. 11 (CW). Two more there, one Oct. 23 (B. Dieterich, S. Emmons) and another Nov. 27 (AK, BS) were particularly interesting because the late fall dates suggest Great Skua. The skua situation is still full of uncertainty, but at this point only South Polar Skuas are believed to occur here in the northern summer (AB 30:936).

LOONS TO GANNETS — The mountain ridges are important Com. Loon flyways. Hawk Mt. reported 246 for the season, with a peak of 126 Nov. 8 (AN). HA witnessed a massive offshore movement of Red-throated Loons past Barnegat Light Nov. 10, when 1000 passed in three hours during strong NW winds, another 200 passed Cape May in two hours Nov. 11. Unlike last fall, there was only one inland report, a single bird at Marsh Creek S.P., Eagle, Pa., Nov. 5 (CUA). An **Eared Grebe** at L. Struble, Chester Co., Pa., Sept. 19-24 (P & BH, REC, m ob) was the second published Pennsylvania record.

As usual, Gannet concentrations were reported from shore when rough weather coincided with migration. AJL counted 410 in 3 1/2 hours during rain and E wind Oct. 21 at Democrat Pt., and HA extrapolated an astonishing 1500 in three hours from sample counts of birds passing Barnegat Light Nov. 10

CORMORANTS THROUGH HERONS — An imm Great Cormorant inland at Assunpink State Game Area, near Hightstown, Oct. 12 (photo, WW *et al.*) was unprecedented in New Jersey, although there is an inland record in Maine and a specimen from Cornwall, Rockland Co., N.Y.

Now that Louisiana Herons have bred up the coast to Massachusetts (AB 30:927) and up the Delaware R. to Pea Patch I (AB 30:935), it is not surprising that this species' status inland during autumn dispersal is also changing radically since the "take-off" around 1970. Formerly only casual inland in s.e. Pennsylvania, individual Louisiana Herons turned up at widely scattered locations this fall: L. Galena, Montgomery Co., Pa., Aug. 29 - Sept. 19 (A&JM), Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., Pa., Aug. 20-28 (RSB, GAF), Tinicum N.W.R., Aug. 31 - Sept. 2 (JCM), and even W. to Lancaster Sept. 20 (RMS). The latest report this season was one at Montauk Nov. 28 (THD, RWS), a date exceeded only three times in New York State.

WATERFOWL — In the interior, there was "one of the best Brant flights in years" (FPW). Up to 3500 or more passed Raccoon Ridge, N.J., Nov. 26 in ten flocks, one a spectacular flock a mile wide (FPW), and an unusual 40 flew over L. Galena, Pa., Oct. 23 (A & JM).

Thirteen Fulvous Whistling Ducks at York, Pa. Sept. 29 (T.R.Hake) comprised a county record and the largest number ever recorded in s.e. Pennsylvania, but we have no companion reports to suggest another general influx like that of the early 1960s. A good count of 4000 Green-winged Teal was at Tinicum N.W.R., Nov. 22 (JCM). The refuge is now federally operated and improvements in habitat are anticipated. Three or four drake Eur. Wigeon on Long Island were about normal, but we have only one report from the rest of the Region, a drake at Port Mahon, Del., Oct. 17 (PH).

Man-made lakes and reservoirs are changing the status of transient waterfowl, particularly of the more maritime species, in the interior of the region. Where previously occasional individuals had been recorded, new inland lakes now harbor flocks of maritime waterfowl for a day or two each fall. These species must have always crossed this region, for they breed in the n. plains or interior arctic, but now they can seek flight relief during hard weather. The usual experience with deep new lakes is that, unless shallow areas support rich bottom vegetation, most grounded waterfowl depart the following day. This season, a storm downed an exceptional 67 Buffleheads Nov. 7 at L. Galena, Pa. (A&JM). Once unusual, Oldsquaws now turn up

regularly on new lakes after Great Lakes freeze-ups. Although nothing this season compared to the 70 last Dec. 1 at the Etters, Pa., nuclear station pond (J.H.Epler), small groups of up to seven were found at five localities in s.e. Pennsylvania and two in n.w. New Jersey Oct. 15 - Nov. 8 (A&JM, NP, SCS, F&BH, RMS, FT, TV). A few of all three scoters showed up at interior lakes again this fall (A&JM, M&PT, SCS). Black Scoters were exceptionally numerous inland: 16 at West Chester Res., Pa., Oct. 27 (JG), 59 at L. Ontelaunee, Pa., Oct. 26 (MRC), and two different flocks of 80 on Oct. 11 and 18 at Culver's L., Sussex Co., N.J.

JTMcN's scrupulous counts of Ruddy Ducks in the Delaware R. are especially timely in view of successive oil spills there. This year the total count at four locations climbed from 1800 on Oct. 22 to 17,280 Nov. 16. This count was made before the well-publicized *Olympic Games* oil spill of Dec. 27. The totals were an improvement over the last two years, but they compare unfavorably with the 40-50,000 of the early 1950s.

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — The most important innovation in hawk migration study this season was the visual census carried out daily Sept. 1 - Nov. 30 at Cape May Pt. for the N.J.A.S. by PJD. He produced the first comprehensive seasonal totals for Cape May, previous visual observation at C.M.B.O. having been conducted by banders with restricted visibility from blinds and with one eye on their traps. We gratefully acknowledge his data. The figures are prodigious (see Table 1). Totals are more than twice those of our largest inland count at Hawk Mt., and since Dunne was positioned at the lighthouse, an unknown number of raptors could have passed beyond his field of vision. We dare say that Cape May might well present the biggest fall concentration of raptors in North America.

More small accipiters migrate along the coast than inland. Sharp-shinned Hawks continue to increase slowly but steadily. Both Hawk Mt. (6680) and Montclair, N.J. (3320) surpassed last year's record totals (see *AB* 30:42). But Cape May's astonishing 28,258 outweighed all the inland counts put together.

S.A.

The Cooper's Hawk picture is puzzling. Inland hawk watches reported substantially fewer than last year: 124 as against 153 at Hawk Mt., 28 as against 52 at Hook Mt., N.Y., and, at Montclair, only half of last year's 24. Only two were reported from Long Island. It may be, therefore, that Cape May's steady climb from 152 in 1971 to 553 last fall to 878 this season reflects improved coverage rather than more birds. But consider the ratio of Cooper's to Sharp-shinneds: it was 1:50 at Hawk Mt., 1:87 in Westchester Co., N.Y. (*Mianus Field Notes*), 1:133 at Hook Mt., and 1:277 at Montclair. At Cape May, by contrast, the visual census produced a radically higher ratio of one Cooper's to every 32 Sharp-shinneds. And, to dispel all doubts, the Cape May banding operation trapped 135 Cooper's and 3095 Sharp-shinneds, record totals in both categories, to make a ratio of 1:23, even though the banders consider the warier Cooper's harder to catch (WSC). Weight and wing length should preclude error. Cape May Pt. is, quite simply, the Cooper's Hawk capital of the world. More than twice as many passed there this fall as were reported from all the other hawk watches in the region together.

Goshawks were slightly below last fall at all hawk watches except Cape May, well under the record figures of 1972-1973, but still above the norms of earlier years. An exceptionally early individual at Great Gull I., N.Y., Aug. 6 (m.ob.) was a reminder that the species now breeds in this region.

Buteos travel the ridges more than the coast, of course, although Red-shouldered Hawk numbers at Cape May exceeded

expectations. The main Broad-winged Hawk movement began early, with the front of Sept. 9, and Sept. 12 was the peak day at Mohonk, N.Y. (JS). Elsewhere, the biggest days came relatively late with the massive front of Sept. 21-23. Totals were higher along the more e. ridges than in the Kittatinny, which may be attributable, quite speculatively, to incessant NW winds Hook Mt. set a local record with 14,811 and Montclair's 17,821 was high, while Hawk Mt.'s 15,342 was below last year.

Cape May did it again with **Swainson's Hawks**. Yet another was banded Oct. 26 (WSC), following those of Sept. 16, 1973, and Nov. 17, 1975. In addition, no fewer than four sightings are under study by the N.J.R.B.C.: Oct. 27 (PJD, R. Grant), Nov. 9 (PJD), Nov. 28 (JDD), and Dec. 3 (E. Choate). These sightings may involve repeats, but as one adult and two different imm. plumages seem to have been described, the supposition is that there were several birds (WSC).

Golden Eagles were reported at normal or slightly higher levels, with excellent seasonal totals of 44 at Hawk Mt. (32 last fall) and 13 at Cape May (two last fall), and a scattering elsewhere. One was at Jones Beach S.P. and Lawrence Marsh, L.I., Nov. 9-11 (C. Ward, JA, JC), one in Montgomery County, Pa., Oct. 4 (GAF), one at Stone Harbor, N.J., Nov. 2 (SRL), one at Bombay Hook N.W.R. Nov. 21 (REC), and the usual one through November at Brigantine N.W.R. Bald Eagles barely kept pace with last year's poor figures: slightly down at Hawk Mt. (21 as against last year's 28, and only seven of them immatures), up to four at Montclair, all on Sept. 19, and elsewhere about average. The Osprey news, by contrast, was excellent. There were new record totals at Hook Mt. (290) and Montclair (492) and an excellent 454 at Hawk Mt. (279 last year) Moreover, the steady upward trend of these figures over the last two years confirms the welcome news from breeding areas

Falcons are heavily coastal in migration, Merlins almost totally so (21 at Hawk Mt. was average). A record 225 Merlins were banded at Cape May, and the 562 counted are believed to be about 200 short because of interruptions in the census at crucial moments (WSC). Peregrine reports permit no firm conclusions. The Cape May totals of 105 observed and 21 banded (none last year) are unparalleled, and high proportions of immatures give grounds for hope. On the other hand, 25 reports from L.I. and ten from Hawk Mt. matched last year, only one was seen in Westchester County, and none at all at Montclair despite full daily coverage. Two hand-reared Peregrines continued to be seen through the season at Brigantine and nearby Holgate, N.J.

Table 1: Migrant Raptors at Cape May Point, N.J.

<i>Species</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>Total</i>
Turkey Vulture	72	348	593	1013
Goshawk	1	5	11	17
Sharp-shinned Hawk	7953	18,089	2216	28,258
Cooper's Hawk	206	618	54	878
Red-tailed Hawk	93	711	1151	1955
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	285	408	700
Broad-winged Hawk	629	829	4	1462
Rough-legged Hawk	—	2	2	4
Swainson's Hawk	—	1	1	2
Golden Eagle	—	8	5	13
Bald Eagle	1	5	6	12
N. Harrier	300	310	347	957
Osprey	662	606	2	1270
Peregrine Falcon	47	53	5	105
Merlin	296	255	11	562
Am. Kestrel	5094	6034	339	11,467
Totals:	15,361	28,159	5155	48,675

WADERS — There were no storm-grounded concentrations of Am Golden Plovers to match last year's, but numbers were good in the right habitat. The Sagaponack, L.I., potato fields troop ebbed from 200 Sept. 5-6 (JA *et al.*) to 75 on Sept. 19 (G Tudor), and a maximum of 57 was at the Princeton, N.J., turf farm Sept. 18 (MRH). One at Wilkes-Barre Sept. 21 (WR) was noteworthy. Upland Sandpipers turned up in mostly small numbers, the best counts being 19 at Brigantine Aug. 8 (CL) and a record 60 at Columbus, N.J., Aug. 14 (GAF, RSB).

High water levels following Hurricane *Belle* spoiled shorebird conditions at prime coastal areas such as Brigantine and Bombay Hook and inland along the upper Susquehanna R., but inland pools had a banner season. A peak of 1200 Lesser Yellowlegs in the H.M. Aug. 8 was a local record. A count of 40 Pectoral Sandpipers at Green Lane Res., Pa., Sept. 17 was unusual (RW). Between 15 and 20 Baird's Sandpipers Aug. 17 - Sept 19 was a good regional total. Especially good were some inland groups such as four at Boonton Res., N.J., Aug. 28 (MRH), three at Green Lane Res., Pa. (photo, RW), and one at L. Galena, Pa., Sept. 4-6 (A & JM).

Researchers have been color-marking shorebirds at James Bay PAB observed a Sanderling with underparts dyed yellow at Jones Beach S.P. Aug. 10, the morning of Hurricane *Belle*, and TV found another at Holgate, N.J., Aug. 14. Four or five similarly marked Semipalmated Sandpipers were present in Aug. on Long Island, and a like number in the H.M. Leck observed a Semipalmated Sandpiper Aug. 23 on the Raritan R. near New Brunswick, N.J. color-banded above the tarsus, and THD found three similar birds on Long Island. Correspondence with the bander indicated that they had been marked during March-May 1976 at Paramaribo, Surinam (see notice in *Auk* 93:411).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers were low on Long Island, where only ten were reported, but they were present in all the usual New Jersey localities. Modest maxima there reached 11 at Dutch Neck sod farm Sept. 12 (RB) and 14 there and at Princeton Sept. 18 (MRH). One photographed at Green Lane Res., Pa., Sept. 16-17 (RW) was rare there. Marbled Godwits were scarce, with five at Brigantine Sept. 15 (JAk) the largest count in the region. The late summer Am. Avocet population reached 120 at Bombay Hook Sept. 11 (SRL, PGD), and three were reported from Long Island. Two Red Phalaropes at Struble L., Chester Co., Pa., Sept. 25-26 (REC, KR, JCM) were among the few records for s e Pennsylvania. Wilson's and N. Phalaropes were in only fair numbers; maxima were four Wilson's at the Pilgrim State Hospital sewage ponds, L.I., Sept. 4 (THD, TB), and four Northern's at J.B.W.R. Sept. 3-6. A N. Phalarope on the Hudson R at Piermont Pier, Rockland Co., Oct. 27 was unusual inland.

The most striking and tantalizing shorebird report of the season was an apparent *Spotted Redshank*† in winter plumage meticulously described from J.B.W.R. Oct. 4 (HT). Although a similar bird was found independently by M & JK Oct. 6, it proved impossible to give absolute confirmation to this record by photography or sustained observation. There is still no confirmed record of this species for the region, although there is a recent Connecticut specimen. Other European waders were scarce. Only three Curlew Sandpipers were observed throughout the region, a figure that could be matched in one good May day in the 1950s on the former Pennsylvania Ave. flats, Brooklyn. Three Ruffs from Long Island was a good number, but only one was reported from n. New Jersey and none at all from the usually favored s coastal sites where the water level was too high.

GULLS, TERNS — We add two more items to the growing dossier on gulls as predators upon wind-drifted passerine migrants at sea. At Cox's Ledge Sept. 25 a second-year Herring Gull gobbled up a flying but weary House Wren (Fed. of N.Y. State Bird Clubs). Dr. E. J. Reimann reports witnessing this

phenomenon often as passerines cross the last mile to shore. On one day this fall he saw four birds knocked to the water by gulls, including a flicker. See also Gus Daniels, "Laughing Gulls prey on migrants," *Linnaean Newsletter* XXVII No. 6.

Among European gulls, Lesser Black-backed were relatively scarce. Only one was reported from Long Island (Hempstead Harbor, since Oct. 22, BS). In New Jersey, an adult at Round Valley Res., Hunterdon Co., since mid-October (GH, MRH *et mult. al.*) was unusual inland. More normal was another in the H.M. in November (R. Dixon, *vide* RK). Three ad. Black-headed Gulls made a fine display at Jones Beach S.P. from Sept 4 through the period (m.ob.), and one adult was at J.B.W.R. Aug 23 - Sept. 8. Elsewhere, we learned of only one (Bombay Hook, Sept. 20, J. T. Linehan). Exceptionally, we have no Little Gull reports at all. The "mystery gull" returned to Bombay Hook Sept. 14 (JAk) for its third season. For a review of current theories of its provenance, mostly involving hybrids, see *Birding* 8 (5):325-328.

S.A.

The status of **Franklin's Gull** in the Hudson-Delaware Region is imperfectly recorded in the literature. Two Long Island reports this fall — the first local multiple occurrence of this species in one season — plus other recent records, suggest a range change, probably related to its increased occurrence (or detection) in w. and upstate New York. The lateness of records is also unusual for a midwestern vagrant. While it is unrecorded from Delaware and our portions of Pennsylvania, there are at least nine Long Island records these plus New Jersey's single, are:

breeding-plumaged adult, Orient Pt., Suffolk Co., L.I., June 2, 1940; NYSM specimen #24988 (Latham); winter-plumaged adult, Plum Beach, Brooklyn, N.Y., Nov. 7, 1948 (Alperin, Jacobsen, and Sedwitz); winter-plumaged adult, 92nd St. sewer, The Narrows, Brooklyn, N.Y., Dec. 2-16, 1951 (Grant, Doll, and Dawn), *not previously published*;
two winter-plumaged adults, Shinnecock Inlet, Suffolk Co., L.I., Sept. 1, 1954 (Reid), day following Hurricane *Carol*;
winter-plumaged adult, Montauk Pt., L.I., Nov. 17, 1954 (Boyajian and Ryan), *not previously published*;
sub-adult, Mecox Bay, Suffolk Co., L.I. June 24, 1971 (McKever);
breeding-plumaged adult, Tobay Pond, Nassau Co., L.I., Sept. 26, 1974 (Lauro, Paxton, Di Costanzo);
winter-plumaged adult, Hackensack Meadows, Bergen Co., N.J., Feb. 9-20, 1975 (Kane, Roche *et al.*), only known N.J. occurrence;
winter-plumaged adult, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, N.Y., Sept. 19, 1976 (Buckley and Sedwitz), *not previously published*: see Fig. 1, below;
winter-plumaged adult, Short Beach, Nassau Co., L.I., Oct. 31, 1976 (A.J. and B. Lauro), *not previously published*.

PAB has examined a detailed description for each of the above non-specimen or non-photograph records. While there are no local reports of juveniles, and only one of a sub-adult, the species can be distinguished from Laughing Gull in all plumages once familiarity is attained. Unfortunately there is yet no one paper or field guide definitively illustrating all differences.

An imm. **Sabine's Gull** was at Cox's Ledge Sept. 11 (THD *et al.*), and another was photographed six mi. s. off Montauk Pt



Immature Sabine's Gull, near Montauk Point, N.Y., Sept. 25, 1976. Photo by T. H. Davis.

Sept. 25 (THD), making this the second fall in a row with two records. Royal Terns wandered in good numbers as far n. as Barnegat Inlet (450 on Oct. 20, MB) and Holgate (500 on Oct. 22, JAK), but the maximum on Long Island was only 18 on Sept. 19 at Shinnecock (GSR). In addition to the two Sandwich Terns brought by Hurricane *Belle* (see above), one was discovered by two observers independently at Brigantine I. Oct. 22-23 (JAK, F Hamer). Although only two Caspian Terns were reported from Long Island, ten at Brigantine Sept. 18 (MRH) and nine at Holgate Oct. 7 (BCH) were rather high numbers.

ALCIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Very few alcid reports were received. A Com. Puffin, perhaps the rarest e. alcid in this region, was typically far offshore Nov. 27, 20 mi. s. of Montauk Pt. (AK, BS, RWS). Short-eared Owls were scarce. In the H.M. there were ones and twos where there have been flocks in recent years (RK). Most lowland observers report a decline in Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, so 91 for the season at Hawk Mt. (AN) was impressive; there had been 109 last fall. Westchester hawk watches reported 48 in September (*Mianus Field Notes*). Red-headed Woodpeckers evidently follow the ridges too; 26 passed Hawk Mt. this fall, well above last fall's 15. But only nine were reported from Long Island.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — A lucky ornithology class studied a **Gray Kingbird** at close range at Tobay Pond, L.I., Sept. 11-12 (JB, S. Quinn *et al.*). This was the sixth for the state, all from Long Island. Western Kingbirds were relatively scarce stragglers in the region. Of five in New York and three in New Jersey, only one at Nyack, 20 mi. up the Hudson R. from N.Y. City on Nov. 7 (W. Wilkens) was not coastal.

An unusual concentration of the declining Cliff Swallow was over 100 among Tree and Barn Swallows at Washington Rock S P., Somerset Co., N.J. (CL), typically inland and upland. One Boreal Chickadee at Montauk Nov. 14 (JC) was the only echo of last fall's great flight. Nor was there any significant Red-breasted Nuthatch flight, as evidenced by a season's count of only 28 at Hawk Mt. They were widespread but in small numbers. Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens at Bear Swamp in Bombay Hook N.W.R., Aug. 14 (JMA) suggest that this extremely localized species is reestablishing itself in an area where it was once regular. Another was found in a hitherto unknown site at Campbell Hall, Orange Co., N.Y., Aug. 15 (B. Seguin).

An extraordinary density of Hermit Thrushes marked this migration, at least along the coast and in the lower Delaware Valley. HA termed the coastal New Jersey numbers a "popula-

tion explosion." Over 500 were counted and 1500-2000 were estimated present Nov. 2 along the 15 mi. of barrier beach between Jones Beach S.P. and Robert Moses S.P., L.I. (THD BS). Eastern Bluebird populations were locally encouraging especially where nest box programs have been properly managed. Florence Germond's 36 pairs raised 117 young in Dutchess County, N.Y., and 45 were observed during the season at Hawk Mt. The **Wheatear** discovered at Captree S.P., L.I., Sept. 23 remained obligingly within one traffic circle for five days while hundreds of birders observed it (AJL, photo THD). This appears to be the ninth N.Y. City area record, and the first since 1970.

WARBLERS — Spruce-breeding warblers began arriving early. Tennessees were found in Dutchess County, N.Y., from Aug. 19 (MVW), and a Bay-breasted there Aug. 15 (M&JK) Tennessee Warblers were abundant again inland, although far less so on the coast. At Denville, N.J., they made up an extraordinary 231 out of 445 warblers banded all fall, with a peak of 67 on Sept. 13 (MRH). The best warbler of the season was a ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** at Montauk Oct. 2, carefully described by JA. This appears to be the seventh sight record for the N.Y. City area; a photo or specimen would be welcome.

Some southern warbler species recently expanding north eastward were in good numbers this fall, surprisingly so, for such pioneers usually withdraw in late summer. An N.J.A.S. weekend turned up an "unprecedented" three Yellow-throated Warblers at Cape May Oct. 2-3, and another was at J.B.W.R. Sept. 13 (W. Barmann). It was also a good fall for Kentucky Warbler following last spring's surge. Most unusual were one at Bashakill, Orange Co., N.Y., Aug. 21, and another there Sept. 3 (B. Seguin). Nine Hooded Warblers at Cape May Oct. 23 (N.J.A.S. weekend) and three on Long Island, all in early October (ROP, AW, L.L.A.S.), were exceptional.

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS — It is certain that a few **Brewer's Blackbirds** enter this region each fall, now that western feedlots help support an expanding population and that breeding range is extending eastward. Final verification has proven troublesome, however; no New Jersey sight record has been satisfactorily confirmed, for example. After missing last year, seven birds returned to Bombay Hook Nov. 13 (MVB) to resume a 25-year tradition. Two individual males frequented feeders at Allentown (MRC) and Hazleton, Pa. (CJ), where photographic confirmation would be extremely desirable. In the same Montauk pasture where a pair was reported last fall, a female was meticulously described Oct. 23 (K. Kaufman, E Cook), and a male reported Nov. 21 (AK). We have learned that good pictures were taken of yet another male there after the end of this season, which may prove to be the first fully confirmed Long Island occurrence, following three or four persuasive sight records.

Only two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported this season, an ad. male at Bombay Hook Aug. 13 (A.O.U. field trip) and an imm. male the same day at Brigantine (HA, L. C. Binford), a poor haul after last year's invasion. An ad. male W Tanager, whose "back saddle" was carefully noted, was at Riis Park, Brooklyn, Oct. 30 (J. Gee, J. Wall).

Dickcissel coastal passage was very low on Long Island, and a season's total of 15 on Island Beach, N.J. (JCM) was below normal. A Grover's Mill, N.J., feeder had its eighth occurrence in seven years (M & PT). Evening Grosbeaks were very sparse until the end of the period; only 13 were counted all season at Hawk Mt. (AN). Other winter finches were all but non-existent. Bill Pepper has banded an astonishing 1200 House Finches so far in 1976 at Chestnut Hill, Pa., and Ray Middleton 357 at Norris town, Pa., where the species is overwhelming House Sparrows at some feeders.

Three migrant Henslow's Sparrows were carefully identified in late October in the N.Y. City area, where it is no longer known to breed: one at Rye Oct. 17-18 (F. Purnell, D. Norris), one at Ris Park Oct. 23-24 (JA, TB *et al.*), and another there Oct. 30 (HT, JB, photo Max Larsen). Nine Lark Sparrows were reported on Long Island, all but two of them in the period Sept. 4-19 (H. Fischer, JB, JC, AW, m.ob.), and four elsewhere in the region. There were five Clay-colored Sparrow reports in the region, all but one in the period Oct. 11-24 (JAK, RB, JDD, THD, AW *et al.*). At the Reeves feeder in Boonton, N.J., where the state's second Golden-crowned Sparrow spent last winter, what was presumed to be the same bird took up residence Oct. 18.

UNVERIFIED REPORTS — A possible Le Conte's Sparrow reported from Tuckerton, N.J., by several observers in late September and early October is under study by the N.J.R.B.C. We know of some records withdrawn in this and a neighboring region, in one case when the observer discovered that some Sharp-tailed Sparrows, too, may have a thin white crown stripe. Contrary to the general impression, confusion is most likely, not with coastal Sharp-taileds, but with Grasshopper Sparrows seen from behind (the guides do not prepare one for the purplish nape streaks and white crown line) and interior races of Sharp-taileds such as *altera* and *nelsoni*. Specimens and photos prove that a few Le Conte's Sparrows winter on the s.e. coast, but extreme care is needed with sight records.

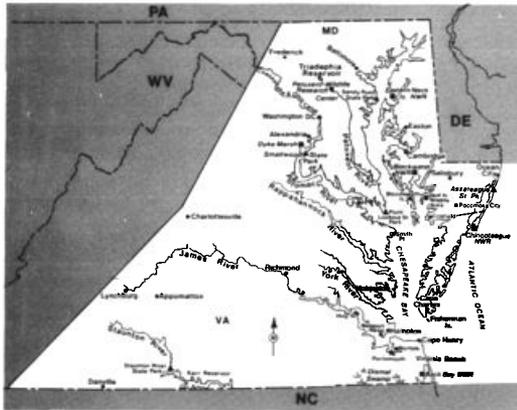
CORRIGENDUM — The imm. White Ibis at New Ringgold, Pa., July 14-21, 1976 (AB 30:934) follows at least a half dozen earlier state records.

OBSERVERS — (sub-regional compilers in boldface): J. M. Abbott, Ken Apps, Jim Akers (JAK), Jim Ash, C. U. Atkinson, Harold Axtell, Maurice V. Barnhill, Irving Black, Ray Blicharz, Ed Bloor, Alan Brady, Robert S. Brodey, Maurice Broun, Francine G. Buckley, John Bull, **Tom Burke** (Westchester Co., N.Y.: 26 Onondaga St., Rye, N.Y. 10580), Mark R. Collie, William S.

Clark, R. E. Cook, Joe Costa, **David A. Cutler** (s.N.J., s.e. Pa. Del.: see below), John D. Danzenbaker, **Thomas H. Davis** (s.e. N.Y., L.I.: 9446 85th Rd., Woodhaven, N.Y. 10421), Roy and Carol Decker, **Robert F. Deed** (Rockland Co., N.Y.: 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N.Y. 10960), Howard Drinkwater, Paul G. Dumont, Peter J. Dunne, Fran File, G. A. Franchois, Jesse Grantham, Franklin and Barbara Haas, Tom Halliwell, Greg Hanisek, Michael R. Hannisian, Edward Hastings, B. C. Hiatt Phyllis and Beryl Hunlock, Cliff Jones, **Richard Kane** (n. N.J. N.J.A.S., Scherman Wildlife Sanctuary, P.O. Box 693, Bernardsville, N.J. 07924), Allan Keith, Mary and Jim Key, Don Kunkle, Bob Larsen, S. R. Lawrence, Charles Leck, Anthony J. Lauro, Brook Lauro (BL), J. T. McNeill, J. K. Meritt, Mianus Field Notes, John C. Miller, August and Judy Mirabella, Alex Nagy, **Eleanor Pink** (Dutchess Co., N.Y.: Main St., Pleasant Valley, N.Y. 12569), Nick Pulcinella, Dennis Puleston, Gilbert S. Raynor, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa.: 73 West Ross St., Wilkes Barre, Pa. 18702), Keith Richards, Richard Ryan, R. M. Schutsky, Walter Sedwitz, Robert W. Smart, Dan Smiley, P. William Smith, Brad Snyder, Barbara Spencer, Stanley C. Stahl, Jim Stapleton, Martha and Paul Taylor, Fred Tetlow, Helene Tetrault, Stiles Thomas, Greg Toffic, **John P. Tramontano** (Orange Co., N.Y.: Biology Dept., Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, N.Y. 10940), Fred Van Sant, Marion Van Wagner, Tim Vogel, Wade Wander, R. Wiltraut, Floyd P. Wolfarth, Alvin Wollin, Charles Wood, Chauncey Wood (CyW) Jim Zamos, C.M.B.O. (Cape May Bird Observatory), H.M. (Hackensack Marshes), J.B.W.R. (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge), L.L.A.S. (Lyman Langdon Audubon Society), N.J.A.S. (New Jersey Audubon Society), N.J.R.B.C. (New Jersey Rare Birds Committee), N.Y.S.M. (New York State Museum). Symbols used include * (specimen) and † (detailed description on file). — **ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, P. A. BUCKLEY, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 150 Causeway St., Boston, Mass. 02114, and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote Pa., 19095.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION /F. R. Scott

The season was decidedly cold with all six main reporting stations having temperatures below normal for all four months. The weather got even colder as the season wore on, and October and November averaged 5.0° and 5.8°F., respectively, below the long-term averages. Precipitation, which had been light all year, continued so through August, the one exception being at Chin-



coteague, where Hurricane *Belle* dumped 7.08 in. on the area in early August, thoroughly replenishing low water levels. Rainfall was more normal the rest of the fall, with particularly large amounts during November. The only tropical storm, *Belle* passed northward offshore on August 9. Although this seemed to cause some local displacement of terns and skimmers, it had few other discernible effects.

Overall, the migration was considered fairly good by most observers, though heron and shorebird concentrations were reduced locally by too little or too much water. Flights of small land birds seemed to be relatively small, frequent, and local, and there were no reports of flights occurring over wide areas. At Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia, the best flight occurred October 11-12, when 1836 birds were trapped and banded in two days, 39% of these being Yellow-rumped Warblers (SM *et al.*).

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — A Com. Loon at Kerr Res., Va., Aug. 8 (KMF & PEM) was unusual for this Piedmont locality, and two on the lower Gunpowder R., Md., Aug. 25 (FRF *et al.*) and three at Chincoteague N.W.R., Va., Aug. 29 (FRS) may have been very early transients. More normal first arrivals were three at Sandy Point S.P., Md. (S.P.S.P. below) Sept. 10 (HLW) and two at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., Sept. 22 (JMA). A count of 36 Pied-billed Grebes at Swift Creek Res. 15 mi. s.w. of Richmond, Va., Nov. 20 (FRS) was unusually good. Only two reports of pelagic trips were received this fall both out of Ocean City, Md., to Baltimore Canyon, about 60 mi to the east. Of particular interest on these were a Greater and an

Audubon's Shearwater Sept. 3 (RAR *et al.*) and **three Audubon's**, an early N. Fulmar, and 400 Wilson's Storm-Petrels Sept. 26 (RAR *et al.*). The first Great Cormorants appeared at Ocean City Oct. 22 (RAR) and at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., Nov. 11 (DLH), and three Double-crested Cormorants at Kerr Res., Va., July 18 (PEM & KR) were an unusual summer occurrence so far inland.

HERONS AND IBISES — Coastal concentrations of herons and ibises were generally rather poor, and few observers bothered to report them. Unusual inland Green Heron counts were 12 at Green Springs, Louisa Co., Va., Aug. 11 (JBB) and 20 near Hopewell, Va., Aug. 21 (FRS). Late inland records included one near Laurel, Md., to Nov. 4 (DB) and another at Dyke marsh, Va., Nov. 20-21 (JMA). The peak count of Little Blue Herons at Alexandria, Va., was 12 on Sept. 19 (JMA), and one near Hopewell, Va., Nov. 21 (FRS) was extraordinarily late here. The previously reported concentration of Cattle Egrets near Hopewell increased to a peak of 246 on Sept. 18 (FRS), and there were still 20 present Oct. 20 (HCO). These numbers are unprecedented this far inland. In fact, the only other fall reports w. of Chesapeake Bay were at Alexandria, Va., two Aug. 30 (OEF) and one Sept. 25 (JMA). Nearer the coast, peak counts were over 1000 Cattle Egrets at a roost on Poplar I., Md., Aug. 11 (JR) and 380 at Kiptopeke Beach, Va., Sept. 5 (FRS). Single Louisiana Herons were found well inland at Kerr Res., Aug. 8 (KMF & PEM) and Alexandria, Va., Aug. 29 (OEF & LT). Closer to the coast one to two were seen at S.P.S.P., Aug. 9 - Sept. 14 (HLW *et al.*), and there were five records in Talbot and Queen Annes Cos., Md., Aug. 5-25 (JR). Three Glossy Ibises at Liberty Res., w. of Baltimore, Md., Aug. 21 (RFR *et al.*) were unusual for this Piedmont area, and four were still present at Chincoteague Ref., Va., Nov. 24 (BWK). The sole White Ibis report was an immature at Kerr Res., Aug. 1 (KMF).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Mute Swans continued to increase at Chincoteague Ref. with up to 28 reported during the period (DLH, FRS *et al.*), and Thomas noted a peak of eight apparently feral birds at Culpeper, Va., Nov. 27. A single Whistling Swan appeared at Craney I., Va., Aug. 1 (RLake) but was not found here either prior to or subsequent to this time. This species appeared to arrive in Chesapeake Bay somewhat earlier than usual, and first arrivals included 17 at St. Michaels, Md., Oct. 23 (JR) and 53 at S.P.S.P., Oct. 26 (HLW). Of special interest was a flock of 11 on Nov. 8 seen flying through Fishers Gap in the Blue Ridge on to the Piedmont of Madison Co., Va. (JBB). Later, on Nov. 15, eight were found a few miles e. of here at Culpeper (SHT). A flock of 38 Canada Geese near Hopewell Aug. 21 (FRS) seemed far too early to be migrants, but they were not seen again. A few were heard migrating over Salisbury, Md. on the night of Aug. 29 (CRV), and other arrival dates were Sept. 11 at Blackwater N.W.R., Md. (*vide* HTA), Sept. 20 at S.P.S.P. (HLW), and Sept. 22 at Presquille N.W.R., Va. (HCO). A single Brant in Baltimore Oct. 20 (RFR) was considered quite unusual. White-fronted Geese were found in three areas. Two were noted at Eastern Neck I., Md. first on Sept. 14 (FLP), and one was present at Green Springs, Va., Oct. 12 - Nov. 24 (JBB & JH). At Blackwater Ref. one was first reported Nov. 6 (PGD), and on Nov. 20 an apparent family group was found consisting of an ad. Canada Goose, an ad. White-fronted, and four apparent hybrid young (PGD, SHM, *et al.*). Sladen found a **Lesser White-fronted Goose** with some Canadas at Wye Institute, Queen Annes Co., Md., Oct. 23, and it was seen again here Oct. 25 by Reese, Kleen, and Felgenhaur. The first nonsummering Snow Goose appeared at Blackwater Ref., Sept. 24 (*vide* HTA), and an adult was noted at Green Springs Oct. 7-9 (JBB). Green Springs also produced a "Blue" Goose Oct. 21-29 (JBB & TF). Single Fulvous Whistling Ducks at Deal I., Md., Sept. 11 (PGD) and S.P.S.P., Nov. 7 (SJM & HLW) were the only reports of this irregular

species. Among the unusual inland records were a ♂ Gadwall at Kerr Res., Aug. 19 (PEM & KMF) and single White-winged Scoters near Amherst, Va., Nov. 12 (SC) and at Kerr Res., Nov. 20 (KMF). A Red-breasted Merganser appeared at Green Springs Oct. 17 (JBB), and four were seen near Amherst Nov. 21-27 (MRB & RC). Along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va. the first Harlequin Duck was noted Nov. 2 (RKY) and a Com. Eider Nov. 26 (RMC & CE).

HAWKS, GALLINULES — There were six reports of single Goshawks in the n. part of the region during the fall, beginning with one at S.P.S.P., Oct. 19 (HLW), and the peak report of Sharp-shinned Hawks was 340 in the Cape Charles, Va., area Sept. 25 (PGD *et al.*). Good peak counts at S.P.S.P. included 93 Red-tailed Hawks Nov. 14 and 23 Red-shouldered Hawks Nov. 6 (HLW). Maximum numbers of Broad-wingeds were generally below 150 at most points, though at Towson, Md. Ringer and others counted 1429 on Sept. 13. Of particular interest was a flight of 670 on the upper Piedmont of e. Bedford Co., Va., Sept. 21 (JLC), about 20 mi. s.e. of the Blue Ridge. One adult and one imm. Golden Eagle were present at Blackwater Ref. during much of November (MLH, SJM *et al.*), and three were reported on the upper Piedmont, singles near Amherst, Va., Oct. 26 (SC) and Nov. 10 (RC) and one in w. Albemarle Co., Va., Nov. 7 (MB & TFW). Of the many Bald Eagle reports, the most interesting, well away from any major water course or mountain ridge, was an adult at Green Springs Sept. 23 soaring with Turkey Vultures (JBB).

A Marsh Hawk at Green Springs Aug. 1 (JBB) was quite early, and the peak Osprey count on the Chesapeake, probably aided by NE winds, was 23 at S.P.S.P., Oct. 3 (HLW) and ten at nearby Severna Park, Md. the same day (SJM). Inland records of Ospreys seemed more numerous than usual in October, and the last reports were Nov. 7 at Assateague I., Md. (PGD) and Nov. 13 at Kerr Res. (RMC & BWgr). Peregrine Falcons had a good migration along the coast, and Ward trapped and banded a record 49 on Assateague I., Md. and Va., during the period. A very large, dark adult was present at Craney I., Va. from early November on (DLH *et al.*). Merlins were also in good numbers with more inland records than usual. Among these were at least nine at S.P.S.P., the first being very early on Aug. 9 (HLW, MLH & SJM). Other inland reports included one at Loch Raven Res., Md., Aug. 28 (EATB), singles near Amherst Sept. 23 & 28 (RC), and two at Green Springs Sept. 24 (JBB). Following the nesting of the Purple Gallinule at Upper Marleboro, Md., during the summer, at least five individuals were heard here the third week of August (RMP).

SHOREBIRDS — Thirty-two species of shorebirds were recorded at S.P.S.P. during the period, but numbers were down from 1975 owing to dry spoil areas (HLW). At Chincoteague Ref., shorebird concentrations were only fair, hindered by excessively dry flats early in the season, followed by too much water following hurricane *Belle* (CPW). Clearly the record of the season was the **Mountain Plover** at Chincoteague Ref., which made the national news services. First located by Ward on Oct. 16, it was quickly confirmed and photographed later the same day by Wilds and Malone. It was last seen positively the following day (PGD *et al.*). American Golden Plovers were in good numbers, peak counts including 42 at Anacostia Naval Air Station, D.C. (A.N.A.S. below) Sept. 18 (OEF), 31 at Wallops Station, near Chincoteague, Sept. 5 (CRV), and 22 at S.P.S.P., Sept. 3 (HLW). Other interesting reports included up to three at Green Springs Sept. 13 - Oct. 9 (JBB) and one at Liberty Res., west of Baltimore, Aug. 30 - Sept. 5 (RFR *et al.*). An interesting incident occurred Oct. 3 when Mele observed a golden plover flying in formation with a wedge of Canada Geese over Severna Park, Md. Thirty minutes later, apparently the same flock, with the

plover still in place, passed over S.P.S.P. and was recorded by Wierenga.

Single Com. Snipe at Green Springs Aug. 13 (JBB) and at S.P.S.P., Aug. 21 (DB) were early, and single Whimbrel were noted at S.P.S.P. on four occasions July 23 - Sept. 15 (HLW *et al.*) Another Whimbrel at Bellevue, Md., Sept. 25 was locally unusual (HTA), and a Willet at Kerr Res., Aug. 19 (PEM) was one of the few Piedmont Virginia records. Hoffman and Wierenga observed a flock of 17 Purple Sandpipers at S.P.S.P., Oct. 29, and Pectoral Sandpipers remained late in several areas, with four at Chincoteague Ref., Nov. 24 (CRV & FRS), one at Laurel, Md., Nov. 25 (DB), and six at Norfolk, Va., also on Nov. 25 (DLH). Inland White-rumped Sandpipers included six at Liberty Res., Md., Sept. 4-5 (RFR *et al.*), a peak of six at A.N.A.S., Sept. 19 (JMA), and at least 36 at S.P.S.P., Oct. 17 (SJM&HLW). Baird's Sandpipers were reported in four localities, one at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 17 (BWK) and two here Sept. 17-18 (CPW), and singles at Liberty Res., Sept. 6 (EATB), A.N.A.S., Aug. 28-29 (LT, OEF *et al.*), and S.P.S.P., Sept. 20-25 (HLW *et al.*). The **Curlew Sandpiper** previously reported at Craney I., Va. remained to at least Aug. 23 (RL&D, TRW *et al.*), and another was identified at Blackwater Ref., Nov. 11 (CWC & JW). Aside from two Buff-breasted Sandpipers near Bowie, Md., Sept. 11 (PGD), all reports of this species were from Chincoteague Ref., where they were present Aug. 5 - Oct. 16 (BWK, LKM & CPW). The peak count here was 15 on Sept. 17-18 (CPW). The best godwit concentrations were 20 Hudsonians at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 8 (BWK) and 12 Hudsonians at Craney I., Sept. 18-25 (DLH). Elsewhere, there were only two reports, a Marbled near Oxford, Md., Sept. 8 (JR *et al.*) and two Hudsonians on Assateague I., Md., Aug. 12 (MLH & SJM).

At least one Ruff remained at Chincoteague Ref. to Aug. 20 (CPW). American Avocet numbers increased rapidly at Craney I. after early August, reaching a record peak of nearly 500 on Oct. 8 (RL&D), whereas at Chincoteague the maximum was only 33 on Oct. 13 (LKM). The only other report was one at S.P.S.P., Aug. 25 (MLH). Rowlett's pelagic trips out of Ocean City totaled 40 Red Phalaropes Sept. 3 and three Reds and 12 Northern Sept. 26 (plus numerous unidentified ones). Peak counts of phalaropes elsewhere included six Northern at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 8 (BWK), 20 Wilson's near Chincoteague Sept. 11 (NCM & GEB), and ten Wilson's at Craney I., Sept. 18 (DLH). At S.P.S.P. one Wilson's was found Aug. 14 (MLH & HLW) and at least one Northern Sept. 25 (MLH, SJM & HLW).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — The best jaeger counts were off Ocean City, with eight Pomarines Sept. 26 and five Parasitics Sept. 3 (RAR *et al.*). Of particular interest were a Pomarine Jaeger resting on the Wash Flats at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 18 (CPW & LKM) and another on the Chesapeake at S.P.S.P., Nov. 8 (HLW). The only white-winged gull report was an imm. Iceland at Bowie, Md., Nov. 27 (RMP *et al.*). A concentration of 275 Great Black-backed Gulls Sept. 16 was unusually large for S.P.S.P. (HLW), and McQuarry found one far inland at Kerr Res., Nov. 30. Adult Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found in four localities, Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 2 (CPW), Alexandria, Va., Sept. 27 - Oct. 3 (LT & OEF), Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., Nov. 19 Dec. 6 (WWF, DLH *et al.*), and Bowie, Md., Nov. 20 (RMP). A Little Gull at Cape Henry, Va., Nov. 21 (DLH) was the only report, and a Black-legged Kittiwake off Ocean City Sept. 26 (RAR *et al.*) was quite early.

Following *Belle's* passage, there were 165 Forster's Terns with 480 Commons at S.P.S.P., Aug. 10 (MLH *et al.*), and Armistead found a mixed Forster's-Common flock at Hills Pt., Dorchester Co., Md., Sept. 27 totaling 825. A subad. **Bridled Tern** was photographed 26 mi. e.s.e. of Ocean City Sept. 26 (RAR *et al.*), apparently the second Maryland record. A Caspian Tern at S.P.S.P., July 22 (HLW) was considered a bit early here, and

numbers were good in several inland localities. Maximum counts included 50 at A.N.A.S., Aug. 28 (OEF) and 50 near Hopewell Sept. 3 (MLW). There were many reports of Sandwich Terns along the coast with a record 74 counted on two of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel islands Sept. 3 (FRS) and 27 at Back Bay Ref., Sept. 25 (DLH). Black Skimmers apparently moved inland with *Belle's* passage; Wass found three immatures near Hopewell Aug. 13, and Elliott and others noted four at Alexandria Aug. 18. An immature seen (and photographed) at Green Springs Aug. 11-22 (JBB & PC) may have been a first record for Virginia's Piedmont. Other inland reports included up to three at S.P.S.P., Aug. 10 - Sept. 16 (HLW & MLH), seven at A.N.A.S., Sept. 17 (OEF & LT), and 75 near Crisfield, Md., Oct. 2 (HTA).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES — A Mourning Dove nest with two eggs at Bellevue, Md., Sept. 12 (HTA) was later abandoned. Late cuckoos included a Yellow-billed near Oxon Hill, Md., Oct. 31 (JMA) and a Black-billed at S.P.S.P., Oct. 23 (HLW), and a Chuck-will's-widow was *singing* at Kiptopeke Beach, Va. daily Sept. 8-12 (FRS *et al.*). Other late reports were a Chimney Swift up to Oct. 30 at Baltimore (RFR *et al.*) and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at St. Michaels, Md., Oct. 9-17 (MD, *vide* JR). A **Cassin's Kingbird** in "perfect plumage" was under observation for four and one-half hours at Clifton, Va., Aug. 30 (JWE & CLE), a first state record. Western Kingbirds were reported three times, singles at Wallops I., Va., Oct. 10 (CRV) and Bellevue Oct. 11 (HTA) and two at Blackwater Ref., Oct. 25 (RFR *et al.*). Late swallow reports were numerous and included single Rough-winged at Green Springs Sept. 30 (JBB), Bellevue Oct. 3 (HTA), and Blackwater Ref., Nov. 27 (MB & CS), the last an amazing date. Two Barn Swallows were at S.P.S.P., Nov. 6 (SJM), and DuMont and others counted 28 Cliff Swallows along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Sept. 26. Not only is this last observation quite late; it is also probably the largest number ever reported on the Virginia coast.

A probable Black-capped Chickadee near Lynchburg, Va., Nov. 25 (MRB) may indicate that an echo flight of this species is occurring this year. A Brown Creeper at Seneca, Md., Sept. 12 (RFR *et al.*) was early, as was a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Washington, D.C., Aug. 31 (RAR & CB). The latter species was in excellent numbers during September and October but seemed to pull out of the n. part of the region in November. Winter Wrens were very common at Kiptopeke Beach, Va., and a record 102 were banded here Sept. 30 - Oct. 30, with a peak of 24 on Oct. 12 (SM *et al.*). Two Bewick's Wrens were also trapped here, one Oct. 23 (RWF) and another the next day (WPS). A flock of 18 Mockingbirds was noted with some surprise at Clifton, Va., Aug. 24 (JWE), and one was still incubating three eggs at Williamsburg, Va., Sept. 27 (BWms). A heavy migration of thrushes passed over Annapolis and Bellevue, Md., Sept. 25 (HLW&HTA), but it was not evident at Kiptopeke Beach, which was apparently bypassed by the main Swainson's Thrush flight

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS — Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted at S.P.S.P., Oct. 10 & 16 (HLW). An early Ruby-crowned Kinglet appeared at Amherst, Va., Sept. 11 (RC), and both kinglets were very common for the third fall in succession. At Kiptopeke Beach a record 572 Golden-crowns were banded Sept. 29 - Oct. 30 with peaks of 130 on Oct. 11 and 153 on Oct. 27 (SM *et al.*). A **Sprague's Pipit** was carefully identified at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 28 (KHB & FK), the second sight record for Virginia, and a late Cedar Waxwing nest was found at Piney River, Nelson Co., Va., Aug. 27 (MPM *et al.*) Young were being fed in the nest Sept. 10 (RC), but it was empty four days later. A belated report inadvertently omitted from the last seasonal report was of three singing **Solitary Vireos** in s

Brunswick Co., Va., June 7 (HEL). This was the first evidence of probable breeding in the e. Piedmont of Virginia, but the area is relatively close to known breeding areas in North Carolina. Late vireos included a White-eyed on Assateague I., Md., Nov. 7 (PGD), a Solitary near Baltimore Oct. 30 (RFR *et al.*), and a Red-eyed Vireo at Lynchburg, Va., Nov. 13 (KMF).

A late N. Parula was feeding three fledged young at Green Springs Aug. 13 (JBB). There were few unusual concentrations of warblers reported except for the usual high numbers of Yellow-rumpeds near the coast after mid-October. Malone estimated 600 Palm Warblers at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 20, and at Kiptopeke Beach the most interesting concentrations were 15 Tennessee Warblers and 312 Am. Redstarts banded Sept. 6 (FRS *et al.*) and 78 Black-throated Blues Oct. 11 (SM). Four Golden-winged Warblers banded at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 6-20 (DLM *et al.*) were unusual for the coast, as was another seen at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 28 (KHB & FK). Yellow-rumped Warblers seemed early everywhere, the first record being a bird banded at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 12 (RWF). Late records were surprisingly numerous in view of the persistently below-normal temperatures of the fall. Among these were a Tennessee Warbler banded at Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 30 (FRS), an Orange-crowned at a feeder at Phoenix, near Baltimore, Md., Nov. 9 (EATB), a Cape May in Millersville, Md., Nov. 13 (PB), and Prairie Warblers at S.P.S.P., Nov. 6 (DB & SJM) and Nov. 14 (DB). Other late ones included a Bay-breasted and a Mourning Warbler banded at Towson, Md., Nov. 2 (GC) and a Hooded Warbler seen at Kerr Res., Nov. 27 (JHD).

BOBOLINKS THROUGH SNOW BUNTINGS — Peak concentrations of Bobolinks included 1300 at S.P.S.P., Sept. 3 (HLW & SJM) and 1000 at Bowie Sept. 11-25 (RMP). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported twice, an apparent ad. ♀ near Stockton, Md., Aug. 10 (CFH) and an ad. ♂ at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 10 (NCM & GEB). Three Brewer's Blackbirds were found near Eldersburg, Md., Nov. 13 (RFR, EATB & JLS), and Dickcissels were reported twice, one at S.P.S.P., Oct. 5 (HLW) and one at Kerr Res., Nov. 27 (JHD). Northern finches were generally in very poor numbers, but there were a couple of very early reports of Evening Grosbeaks, one at Amherst Sept. 14 (RC) and two near Lynchburg Sept. 17 (MRB). A Purple Finch at Laurel, Md., Sept. 14 (DB) was also early. House Finches seemed more common in e. Maryland than in previous years. Wierenga noted the first migrants at Annapolis Sept. 8 with a count of 55 and numerous flocks thereafter. At Newcomb, Md., Ringler and others estimated one flock at 200-300 birds Nov. 20. Lark Sparrows were found in three localities close to the coast, and a Bachman's Sparrow was carefully identified near Seneca, Md., Oct. 7 (CWC & JW). There were three Clay-colored Sparrow reports. One was banded and photographed at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 22 (DLM *et al.*), another was seen on one of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel islands Sept. 26 (PGD, FRS *et al.*), and two were present on Assateague I., Md., Oct. 22-27 (RAR, J & MS & CPW). Walker identified an early Harris' Sparrow near Seneca Oct. 7, and a White-crowned Sparrow at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 18 (LKM) was exceptionally early. A singing Swamp Sparrow at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 11 (CFH) was quite unusual. A very early Lapland Longspur appeared at S.P.S.P., Oct. 5 (HLW), but the next one was not seen here until Nov. 6. At Craney I., 15 were present Nov. 13 (WWF *et al.*), and on n. Assateague I., Md. numbers reached an extraordinary 55 on Nov. 27. With these was a Smith's Longspur (MLH & SJM), also located the next day by Rowlett, Wierenga, and others. The first Snow Buntings were noted at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 24 (RAR) and at S.P.S.P., Oct. 27 (HLW). By mid and late November there were excellent numbers in several localities near the coast, and single birds were found inland near Hopewell Oct. 29 (MLW) and Nov. 21 (FRS).

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION /Robert P. Teulings

Hurricane *Belle* skirted the North Carolina coast August 9 bringing heavy rains and 40-50 mph winds to the Outer Banks. A tropical depression off the Georgia coast September 14 was the only other coastal storm of significance affecting the Region this fall. The major factor influencing ornithological events was the early onset of cold weather. Temperatures in September and October were well below normal, while November was the coldest on record. Some migrants were 2-3 weeks early, and the fall warbler flight appeared to be noticeably foreshortened and more concentrated than usual.



LOONS, PELAGICS, PELICANS — An early flock of seven Com. Loons, all in breeding plumage, was seen in Roanoke Sound near Nags Head, N.C., July 14 (RF), and another sighting of an individual in winter plumage was noted at Pea I., N.C. Aug. 10 (RC). A Red-necked Grebe was an uncommon find at Nags Head Nov. 12 (GW). Inland, migrating Horned Grebes were concentrated in impressive numbers at Roanoke Rapids N.C., in late November where a high count of 161 was recorded Nov. 26 (ML). A tabulation of pelagic observations made in Gulf Stream waters off the North Carolina Outer Banks from early

August through late October is shown in Table 1. These observations were highlighted by the sighting of several Black-capped Petrels and an Arctic Tern. A White-tailed Tropicbird was seen 35 miles s.s.e. of Beaufort, N.C., Aug. 24 by Allyn Powell (*vide* JF) Brown Pelicans were present in unusually large numbers in the Cape Hatteras area throughout the fall season (*vide* JHu) with a "conservative" count of 600 recorded by observers aboard the Ocracoke Ferry Sept. 24 (JOP, ET).

Table 1. Fall Pelagic Sightings off the Outer Banks

Trip	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Cory's Shearwater	—	8	13	48	—	12	—
Greater Shearwater	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Audubon's Shearwater	—	—	3	24	—	—	—
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	—	137	30	58	—	—	—
Black-capped Petrel	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Gannet	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Red Phalarope	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
N Phalarope	—	4	26	27	20	—	—
phalarope sp.	—	—	—	14	—	—	—
Parasitic Jaeger	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
Arctic Tern	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Bridled Tern	—	—	3	22	—	2	—
Black Tern	—	—	2	80	—	—	—

- A Aug. 1 off Hatteras (PD, RR *et al.*)
 B Aug. 11 off Oregon Inlet (BWi)
 C Sept. 5 off Oregon Inlet (PD & party)
 D Sept. 6 off Hatteras (PD & party)
 E Sept. 21 off Oregon Inlet (RHo)
 F Oct. 10 off Hatteras (PD & party)
 G Oct. 23 off Hatteras (PD & party)

LONG-LEGGED WADERS — In the Charleston area, two Am. Flamingos were present July 30 - Aug. 1 on Morris I. (TF, THu, PL) and four imm. Roseate Spoonbills were seen winging over the Cooper R., Aug. 11 (JD). A large aggregation of 115 Glossy Ibis was present Sept. 5 at the Bodie I. lighthouse pond on North Carolina's Outer Banks (RA). Post-breeding season dispersal resulted in locally rare appearances of herons, egrets and ibises at seven inland locations. A wandering Louisiana Heron turned up at Atlanta Aug. 5 (*vide* JS), and two imm. White Ibises were found near Townville, S.C., Aug. 28 (HL *et al.*) A Snowy Egret was seen at Chapel Hill July 21 (SA, AC) and two at Raleigh Sept. 1 (KH, CM), while single Great Egrets were observed near Leasburg, N.C., Aug. 14 (JCo) and Winston-Salem Aug. 29 (FB, RS). A late wanderer of the latter species was also found Oct. 9 at Clemson (HL).

WATERFOWL — A Mute Swan was an unusual visitor at Bodie I., Oct. 25 (PD & party). By mid-November Whistling Swans had arrived in the Region in what appeared to be record numbers, with over 25,000 present at L. Mattamuskeet (*vide* JR). An impressive variety and abundance of ducks was also present. Among the earliest arrivals were seven Blue-winged Teal seen near Frisco, N.C., Aug. 15 (JHu) and three at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston Aug. 19 (TB, SR). On Sept. 11 an estimated 3550 Blue-wingeds were counted at Pea I. N.W.R. (TS). Four Ring-necked Ducks were unusually early at Okefenoke N.W.R., Sept. 9 (WM, *vide* EC). A migrating flock of 15 Black Scoters and a Surf Scoter were seen at L. Hartwell near Clemson Oct. 27 (HL), a rare inland occurrence. A Surf Scoter was also present at Raleigh Dec. 11 (DL & party). Other noteworthy inland reports were of 173 Red-breasted Mergansers at L. Greenwood near Greenwood, S.C., Nov. 9 (RL, LL) and 184 Hooded Mergansers at Roanoke Rapids L., Nov. 25 (ML).

RAPTORS — A Swallow-tailed Kite appeared in Stanly County, N.C., near New London Aug. 31, lingering there for

three weeks (m.ob., *vide* DB). A Mississippi Kite was an unexpected visitor at Clemson Sept. 20 (HL), and two were seen at New Topsail Beach, N.C., Oct. 10 (DW, GW). Fall appearances of Rough-legged Hawks were recorded near Morehead City, N.C., Sept. 25 (TQ & party), Toccoa, Ga., Nov. 18 (JRo, *vide* RSt), and Pea I., Nov. 30 (*vide* NFW). An ad. Bald Eagle was seen Aug. 1 near Vulture, N.C., (ML), and an adult and immature were observed in the Clemson area in late September and early October (SG, HL). Georgia sightings of Bald Eagles were reported from Columbus, Cumberland I. and Roswell, and a Golden Eagle was seen in Seminole County, Ga., Oct. 14 by Joe Knight (*vide* RLC). A **Prairie Falcon** was well seen at the U.S.D.A. Vegetable Research Farm near Charleston Oct. 7, South Carolina's second record (PN). Coastal observers noted unusually good numbers of Peregrine Falcons during the fall period. At least 32 sightings were recorded at Pea I. N.W.R. (*vide* NFW), and 70 Peregrines were counted during ten consecutive days of observation in early October at Cumberland I. (JV, ME) All but a few of the birds seen were immatures. Three inland sightings were also reported from Clemson, Raleigh and Winston-Salem.

SHOREBIRDS — Conspicuous August movements of Whimbrel were noted along the beaches of Hatteras I. by Joe Hudick

S.A.

Among the migrants seen by this observer near Cape Point Aug. 20 was a Whimbrel-like bird fitting the description of a **Slender-billed Curlew** (*Numenius tenuirostris*). Key identifying characters were the close resemblance to a Whimbrel in size and bill length, white tail with dark barring, and white rump. Unfortunately, no photographs were taken to document the record, and although the bird was still present the following day, it did not linger long enough to be seen by other observers

Hudsonian Godwits appeared once again at Pea I. N.W.R., where one was present as early as Aug. 10 (RC) and up to four were later seen through the first week of October. Twenty-five to 30 White-rumped Sandpipers were among several thousand "peep" congregated at Bodie I. lighthouse pond Sept. 5 (RA) A Baird's Sandpiper was an uncommon migrant seen there the preceding day (MB, RCh, BF). Another individual of the latter species was also found near Morehead City at Fort Macon Sept. 28, a first record for that coastal locality (JF). Over 2000 Red Knots were seen on Jekyll I. and Cumberland I., Nov. 20-21 (TM, VM *et al.*). Near Savannah 91 Am. Avocets were found on Barnwell I., Sept. 4 (*vide* PY). Three early Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from the Outer Banks Aug. 5 (RF), and a flock of 15 was seen at Morehead City Sept. 7 (RB, *vide* JF).

Inland, some interesting and unusual sightings were recorded. Four Black-bellied Plovers were a good find at L. Hartwell near Clemson Oct. 17 (HL), as were six Am. Golden Plovers near Sumter, S.C., Nov. 10 (ED, BB). A Ruddy Turnstone was seen at L. West Point near Columbus, Ga., Sept. 7 (GWn), and 45 Pectoral Sandpipers were a surprising find in a cattle feedlot near Pendleton, S.C., Oct. 9 (HL). Three Baird's Sandpipers were recorded at Clemson from late August through early October (SG, HL), and up to four were present at Greenview Farm near Raleigh Oct. 7-13 (RH, TH). First records for Upland Sandpiper and Buff-breasted Sandpiper were added to the Clemson area checklist Sept. 2 (SG), and another Buff-breasted Sandpiper was a rare visitor at Columbus Sept. 7 (GWn). A Stilt Sandpiper was seen Aug. 28 and two Dunlin Nov. 8 at Thomasville, Ga., both first local records (RLC). Elsewhere a vagrant Am. Avocet was found near Sumter Oct. 7 (ED).

GULLS AND TERNS — A Lesser Black-backed Gull was well studied at Long Beach, N.C., Sept. 28 by Jean McCoy and party, the southernmost occurrence so far recorded for this species in the Region. Earlier sightings have all been from the Outer Banks area. At Nags Head, N.C., an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was seen over the surf Nov. 18 (RS, HS). A **Franklin's Gull** was found by two alert observers in the company of Laughing Gulls at Huntington Beach, S.C., Sept. 26 (RL, LL), a second state record. Inland sightings of gulls and terns were highlighted by the Oct. 2 discovery of a **Sabine's Gull** at Salem L., near Winston-Salem (PCu). The bird, in full breeding plumage, remained through Oct. 6, during which time it was seen by a host of observers and was well photographed. Two unusually early Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at Thundering Springs L., in Laurens County, Ga., Aug. 29 (TP). A pair of Sooty Terns was blown inland to Claxton, Ga., by a tropical depression passing along the coast Sept. 14. One of the birds, an immature, was picked up and identified after hitting a power line (*vide* PY). A first occurrence of Com. Terns was recorded at Thomasville Aug. 26 (RLC); and two Laughing Gulls were seen there Sept. 27, the area's second record (RLC). Elsewhere a Caspian Tern was seen at Clemson Aug. 22 (HL, PF) and two in the Winston-Salem vicinity Aug. 29 (first local record; FB, RS).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS — An out-of-range White-winged Dove was seen at Buxton, N.C., Nov. 26 and lingered in the area through Dec. 3 (JHu). At Raleigh a Ground Dove was an unexpected visitor Sept. 12, the first record for Wake County (JH, *vide* RH). Late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen at Chapel Hill, N.C., Oct. 28 (JOP) and Greenville, S.C., Nov. 5 (PCG). Another late hummingbird showed up in Mrs Jack Duffield's suburban Raleigh yard Nov. 2. The bird was closely observed during the three days it was present and appeared to be a ♀ **Rufous Hummingbird** (RH, TH). Attempts to collect the bird were unsuccessful, leaving an element of uncertainty concerning the identification because of the very close similarity in ♀-plumage between Rufous, Broad-tailed and Allen's Hummingbirds. Rufous seems the more likely possibility since specimens have previously been taken in South Carolina and Maryland, whereas the Broad-tailed Hummingbird has been found only as far e. as Louisiana and Allen's has never been reported in the East or Southeast. Two South Carolina occurrences of Gray Kingbirds were recorded during the period, one in Berkeley County Aug. 7 (PC) and another at Kiawah I., Sept. 26 (EF). Observations of W. Kingbirds were reported from the North Carolina coastal area where single birds were seen Oct. 6 at Fort Macon (JF) and Oct. 10 near Grandy (CH). Inland, Olive-sided Flycatchers were uncommon finds at Winston-Salem Aug. 17 (KH) and Clemson Sept. 17 (PH, *vide* SG). An unusually early sighting of migrant Cliff Swallows was noted on the Outer Banks July 31 (PD & party), and two Bank Swallows were seen near Toccoa Falls, Ga., as early as Aug. 10 (RSt).

CORVIDS THROUGH VIREOS — A Com. Raven was a very unusual coastal visitor at Georgia's Cumberland I., in early October (JV, ME), far from its normal mountain haunts in the extreme n.w. section of the state. Elsewhere two ravens were seen Oct 3 at Pilot Mountain, N.C., confirming their continued presence at that Piedmont location (RHo). Fish Crows were reported to be common in August and early September in the Greenwood, S.C., area (RL, LL), and six were seen and heard at Hickory Knob S.P. on Clark Hill Reservoir Aug. 14 (RL, LL). Up to 110 Fish Crows were present at Raleigh's L. Wheeler in early November (JM). This species shows every indication of rapidly expanding into the Piedmont, establishing itself as a regular summer and fall resident in the vicinity of large lakes and reservoirs. Red-breasted Nuthatches were seen as early as Sept. 23 on the Outer Banks (JOP, ET) and were in evidence over much of

the Region before the end of the period. A very early Brown Creeper was recorded at Augusta, Ga., Sept. 2 (*vide* GK) A Bewick's Wren was an uncommon find at Atlanta Oct. 31 (*vide* JS), as was one seen near Greenwood, S.C., Oct. 26 (RL, LL) Philadelphia Vireos were seen in above-average numbers in the Hillsborough-Chapel Hill area this fall (7 sightings Aug. 22 - Sept. 13; JCo, JP), and a Warbling Vireo was closely observed at Charleston Aug. 29, a very rare coastal record (PN).

WARBLERS — The fall warbler migration was described as "spectacular" in the Winston-Salem area (RS), highlighted by heavy waves Sept. 30, Oct. 10-12 and Oct. 20. Tennessee, Cape May, Blackburnian and Magnolia Warblers were seen in unusual abundance. Observers at Columbus were likewise impressed with the heavy warbler flight in their locality, culminated by the passage of thousands of migrants Oct. 17 (*vide* SP). Movements along the Outer Banks were, by contrast, generally unspectacular (*vide* NFW), although an influx of several thousand Palm Warblers Oct. 11 at Ocracoke I. drew special comment (PD, RR). Among the traditionally uncommon migrants, Nashville Warblers made a very good showing in the Clemson area where nine sightings were recorded Sept. 18 - Oct 29 (HL). Observations of this species were reported from almost a dozen other locations scattered throughout the Region. Wilson's Warblers were also widely reported, the earliest Aug 22 at Tybee I., Ga. (*vide* PY).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Raleigh Sept. 19 (RH), and a ♀ Brewer's Blackbird was recorded there Nov. 14 (CO). An individual of the latter species was also present at Charleston Sept 22 (PN). A W. Tanager in ♀ plumage was an unusual visitor at Aiken, S.C., Oct. 4 (JBH), while elsewhere a wandering Painted Bunting turned up at Raleigh Aug. 1, well out of its normal range (JM). House Finches, possibly summer residents, were seen near Madison, Ga., Aug. 15 (SP) and at Raleigh Aug 29 (KH). An early sighting of three Purple Finches was recorded Sept. 23 at Reidsville, N.C., and Dark-eyed Juncos were seen there Sept. 19 (*vide* EB). At Atlanta a Le Conte's Sparrow was a good find Nov. 6 (VJ *et al.*). A Lark Sparrow was well studied at Orton Plantation near Wilmington, N.C., Sept. 11 (RD) and another seen at Pea I., Sept. 22 (JOP, ET). A Snow Bunting was seen at Beaver Dam Reservoir, a new lake site in n. Wake County, N.C., Nov. 13 (RH); and a **Harris' Sparrow** was seen at the same location Nov. 21 by Clark Olson. Two Outer Banks sightings of Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded during October (PD, RR), and a well-marked adult of this species was seen at Fort Fisher, N.C., Oct. 4 (RD). Lincoln's Sparrows were seen at seven coastal and inland locations, highlighted by the report of six individuals seen in the Toccoa, Ga. area Oct 2 - Oct. 23 (RSt). A Lapland Longspur was found with a flock of Horned Larks at Pendleton, S.C., Nov. 2, and at least six were later seen in the same area Nov. 30 (HL).

CORRIGENDUM — Ten Least Bitterns were seen at Raleigh May 2, 1976 instead of ten Am. Bitterns as reported in *AB* 30:827.

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FLORIDA REGION

/John B. Edscorn

Autumn's unprecedented array of rarities climaxed the most exciting year on record. Bicentennial 1976 turned up some 94% of all extant species ever recorded in Florida, despite the uniquely large number of casuals and accidentals which inflate this state's bird list. Amazingly, rarities highlighted every week of the period from August 1 through November! Those of wide readership interest included, in chronological order, Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff, Bahama Mockingbird, Brewster's and Lawrence's Warblers, two Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Wheatear (Central Southern Region), Bronzed Cowbird, Snow Bunting, Thick-billed Murre, Loggerhead Kingbird and many more.



Rarities are not the only consideration, but little else distinguished the season. Overall bird numbers were nowhere unusual, and the weather was not conducive to "fallouts" or TV tower kills. Tallahassee's WCTV took only a third of its usual toll, its worst kill of 66 (Oct. 18) being eclipsed by 90 casualties (Oct. 11) at Cape Canaveral's smaller and relatively unknown WCKS tower. October was the coldest ever, and November the

second coldest at Tallahassee, but such extremes were not typical farther south.

Illustrating a perennial problem, there was rumor of a Townsend's Solitaire (we need details or a disclaimer).

VISITORS: many Floridians freely, patiently, sometimes almost constantly share bird information (often involving other visitor's finds); please return the kindness with immediate word of Florida rarities that you see or hear of.

EVERYONE: field ornithology relies on solid records; please report rarities on Florida's "hot-line" immediately so that they can promptly be photographed, verified and shared by all.

LOONS, GREBES — Twenty Com. Loons, in threes and fours, passed SSW over inland Paynes Prairie near Gainesville 7:30 - 8 a.m., Nov. 14 (JHH). Florida's fourth **Arctic Loon** died just after it was found Apr. 12 at Indian Rocks Beach, but it wasn't reported until Hopkins saw it in a freezer Aug. 10 and took it to U.S.F. A Horned Grebe on Newnan's L., Nov. 10 (JEC BM) was unusual in Alachua County, as it is at all but a very few favored inland lakes [Auburndale had its usual 200+ — JBE] Kingsley L., Clay Co., had a very early Eared Grebe Sept. 14 (still present Nov. 23; Laura & Nicholas Cocks). Broward County's first ever was at Ft. Lauderdale Nov. 26 — end of period (WG, BH), and at Jacksonville (hereafter "Jax") one swam with domestic ducks "within five feet" of Bryan Obst Nov. 27. The belated report of a **Western Grebe** seen "within 20 feet by ornithology student John Watson at Holmes Beach Dec. 27 1973 is an appreciated, better-late-than-never record, remarkable for Manatee County.

TUBENOSES — Cory's Shearwater was, as we have come to expect, the East Coast's commonest shearwater. Historic, however (coming on the heels of the Texas Cory's record), was a very close Cory's — and five Greater Shearwaters — off Clearwater Sept. 25 (WB, LH, DG, CB; second U.S. record for Cory's in the Gulf of Mexico?). The Greaters were not Pinellas County's first the first one was picked up at Ozona July 15 (*, U.S.F.). Among several Audubon's Shearwater reports was Tom Brindley's July 31 account of a seemingly-feeding Audubon's being tumbled in beach breakers at Cape Canaveral — even surfacing upside down in their aftermaths and permitting bathers within five feet before flying on to repeat its antics. Another surprise of Pinellas County pelagic investigations was the **Leach's** ("fork-tailed") **Storm-Petrel** off Clearwater Aug. 15 (CB, LH, KT), one of very few Gulf Coast reports for the U.S.

PELECANIFORMES, WADING BIRDS — Treasure-diver Tom Ford saw a White-tailed Tropicbird off the Marquesas Keys (Lower Keys) Aug. 15. Many White Pelicans remained all summer and fall inland at Lakeland (a popular wintering area in recent years). Intriguing but unidentified was an imm. booby at St. George I. (hereafter "S.G.I."), Franklin Co., Nov. 14 (B&LA). Tallahassee's L. Jackson hosted a **Great Cormorant** (Nov. 4 — NOW; Nov. 5 — WWB, RLC), and 66 Magnificent Frigatebirds off S.G.I., Oct. 7 (JMS) comprised a number "never before approached" in the Tallahassee Division ("TalDiv") Tying the earliest TalDiv record was an Am. Bittern at L. Jackson Sept. 3 (HMS, MH). Recalling reports of other years were 30+ Glossy Ibis flying SW over Plantation Key (Upper Keys) Sept. 2, undoubtedly Caribbean-bound (RTP).

WATERFOWL — For the third year **Black-bellied Whistling Ducks** appeared. An "extremely wary" flock of five foiled collecting by flushing at 200+ feet on the closest stalk (Frank Mon talbano, Greg Williams) near Bartow Sept. 9. The highest Fulvous Whistling Duck count — 800 — came Aug. 28 (RHP PWS) from flooded muck-farm fields SE of Belle Glade (here

after simply "Belle Glade," meaning those fields).

Nine Mottled Ducks Oct. 29 at S.G.I. were a record number there, and eight were still present Nov. 14 (JMS; latest TalDiv). By late November one Lakeland phosphate pit had attracted 200 Gadwalls, three locally rare Pintails and 300 Green-winged Teal (m ob) Five N. Shovelers at Stock I. (Key West) Sept. 1 were the Lower Keys' earliest (WB, PWS *et al.*). Tampa's Nov. 7 Old-squaw tied the earliest Northern Peninsula ("N.Pen.") record (D G&SL); a small pond at Toytown Dump, St. Petersburg ("St. Pete") had one Nov. 29 (LH), as did a Titusville Beach lagoon Nov. 15 (Betty & Karl Eichorn) — December (Becky Paine).

A summering Surf Scoter was still at Alligator Pt., Aug. 23 (Helen Kittinger, MH), and the most interesting among other reports was Lakeland's Surf Scoter Nov. 6 (PJF, CG; photos) — Dec. 9 (BK *et al.*), a great rarity in the peninsular interior. A rarity anywhere in Florida today, a **Common Merganser** was at Ft. George Inlet near Mayport Nov. 24 (NOW). Inland Auburn-dale's 42 Red-breasted Mergansers Nov. 13 (gone Nov. 14) far exceeded all previous Lakeland area records combined (PJF, JBE)

RAPTORS — Latest TalDiv Mississippi Kite reports came from Wakulla Springs Sept. 14 (JMS) and St. Marks N.W.R. Nov. 26 (Anne Stamm *et al.*). Not comparable with w. Florida's record flight, but noteworthy was our own Region's top accipiter count 273 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 23 Cooper's Hawks flying north at St. Augustine Oct. 17 (Steve Sutton, WCH *et al.*). Another "reverse migration" into a stiff NNW wind produced a count of 42 Sharpies at Boca Grande Pass Oct. 23 (THP). Red-tailed Hawk numbers were encouraging and, presaging December records down-state, S.G.I. had a *kriderii* Nov. 2 (JMS). There was nothing encouraging in the continuing Red-shouldered Hawk downfall. As usual, the Lower Keys "funnel" produced high Broad-winged Hawk counts: Big Pine Key with 200 Oct. 8 (LK), Key West with 200 Oct. 23 (Stanley Kitching) and 300 Oct. 25 (TW). Rarely seen **Rough-legged Hawks** were at S.G.I. ("east-bound" Nov. 9; JMS) and Paynes Prairie (Nov. 13; SAN) — two in one season! Remarkably early was an Oct. 27 **Golden Eagle** at Tall Timbers Research Station (HMS; earliest TalDiv). In the same Winter Haven tree, Geanangel again saw an Osprey catch and eat a Red-winged Blackbird.

For the first time in several years, Merlins exceeded (barely) endangered Peregrine Falcons. Two Peregrines died — one sick, one shot — at Naples, where Ted Below has seen but three in 20 years

FRANCOLINS, RALLIDAE — Two **Black Francolins** at Belle Glade Aug. 15 (GH, TPM, PWS) will be remembered perhaps as Florida's "Adam and Eve" if the species succeeds as it has in s.w. Louisiana. Goodwin detailed a **Yellow Rail** at St. Pete Oct. 30. So-called "Caribbean" Coots again returned with northern coots, and I am told that "that" frontal shield variation has now been seen in the Pacific Northwest (as it surely will be elsewhere in the north). An authoritative *coup de grace* yet awaits [Yes, alas, I used ink in my Life Lists, too — JBE.]

SHOREBIRDS — Outstanding were Amelia Island's 100+ Am. Oystercatchers Nov. 13 (Joyce Williams) and Cedar Key's 300 Sept. 5 (SAN). Seven Am. Golden Plovers were at five locations Aug. 15 — Nov. 27 (m.ob.). Like Zellwood, Belle Glade revealed that heavy shorebird migration takes place over Florida's interior; notable there were such inland rarities as two Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 15 & 28, and nine Willets on the latter date (PWS, RHP, GH, TPM). Zellwood peaked with three turnstones and 19 Willets Aug. 14 (JBE *et al.*). Perhaps thinned by July's very early southward movement, many shorebirds were lower in numbers than usual at Zellwood in mid-August, and few counts merit reporting. Exceptions might be 62 Semipalmated Plovers and 38 not-so-Solitary Sandpipers Aug. 14

(JBE *et al.*), and an early high of 142 Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 7 (LH, CG, CB). Rare where seen were Upland Sandpipers in Levy County Aug. 8 (two; GEM), near Key West Sept. 4 (B&LA) and at Gulf Stream, Palm Beach Co., Sept. 6 (PWS). Rarely reported in fall, a White-rumped Sandpiper was Belle Glade's Aug. 28 prize (RHP, PWS).

Tampa's July **Curlw Sandpiper** was not certainly seen after July 31 (by which time its ruddy color was nearly gone), though some thought they discerned that "needle" amid thousands of dowitcher "straws" in August. For the seventh consecutive year, inland Zellwood had a Marbled Godwit, beginning Aug. 7 (LH, CG, CB). While Buff-breasted Sandpipers were taken for granted at Zellwood, singles were rare at Tallahassee Sept. 3 (HMS, MH) and Ft. Pierce Sept. 30 (H&WD *et al.*). Zellwood's prize was a **Ruff** Aug. 21 (B&LA *et al.*). Belle Glade's 237 Black-necked Stilts (many young) of Aug. 15 comprised a notable concentration (GH, TPM, PWS). Outside of Zellwood's expected Wilson's Phalaropes (low August peak; no doubt thinned by earlier flights), there were singles at Tallahassee Aug. 24 (HMS), Tampa Aug. 29 & Sept. 19 (D&SL) and St. Pete Oct. 3-9 (LH, KT *et al.*).

LARIDS — The Iceland Gull of Nov. 13 at the St. Johns R mouth was very early (JMS, BSC). For the third year a Lesser Black-backed Gull appeared at Johns Pass, St. Pete (Nov. 6, D,G&SL), but it soon vanished. If not summering, six Herring Gulls were very early at Mullet Key (St. Pete) Sept. 14 (LH). At Gainesville, where unusual, 30 Laughing Gulls passed over in apparent migration to the SE at 9 a.m., Sept. 12 (JHH).

Of interest Aug. 15 were 94 Gull-billed Terns inland at Belle Glade (GH, TPM, PWS). Clearwater's Sept. 25 pelagic trip yielded 1000+ Com. Terns and *three* of the few Bridled Terns ever recorded anywhere on the Gulf Coast (LH, WB, CB, DG)! Two Royal Terns were inland at Lakeland Sept. 25 (JBE). On the Ft. Pierce "Sears" roof (where Least Terns nest, as I am told that they began doing in the Miami area "in the '40s") 1000+ Black Terns roosted Aug. 19 (H&WD), and two were very late at St. Marks Light Nov. 29 (NOW). A Brown Noddy rested at Key West Aug. 31 (TW) & Sept. 1 (WB, JL).

ALCIDS — Florida's first **Thick-billed Murre** swam around L. Worth's fishing pier most of Nov. 20, even accepting fish scraps! Billy Matthews was finally able to summon William, Sr., who with Langridge and Gloria Hunter confirmed every detail at 20 feet before dark. Some 50 birders then began assembling before dawn, but the *rara avis* could not be found along that coast. Apparently, South Carolina has the only other southern record.

DOVES, PARROTS — White-winged Doves were shot by hunters at Lakeland (Oct. 9; not a tagged Game Commission release; *vide* GJH) and at S.G.I. (remains found Oct. 24; JMS, BSC), and one — unshot — was at Loxahatchee N.W.R. Nov. 20 (GH, HPL). Four Red-crowned Parrots remained on Hypoluxo I (Lantana) Aug. 15 — period's end (TPM, PWS). Rose-tinged Parakeets (N. Miami residents reportedly "since the '30s") are colonizing at St. Augustine; seven there Nov. 6 (WCH, PCP) were said to have "started with a pair six years ago" Budgerigars, beginning with releases at least 25 years ago (JBE) near St. Pete, and probably augmented by other introductions, are spreading southward. Venice has "large flocks," and some are now seen at Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda (THB).

CUCKOOS, HUMMINGBIRDS — Pinellas County's "first fall" Mangrove Cuckoos were at Mullet Key Aug. 10 & Sept. 19 (LH, WB, KT), and one was very late at Englewood Oct. 15 (Blanch Mink). Black-billed Cuckoos were at Gadsden County Sept. 6 (GEM), Ft. Lauderdale Oct. 12 (WG), S.G.I. Oct. 10, 14, 19 (JMS, BSC) & 22 (HMS), and — very late — at Boynton Beach Nov. 7 (two; HPL, PWS *et al.*) A Groove-billed Ani was

inland near Tallahassee Oct. 24 (HMS), and St. Marks had three Nov. 21 (NOW, RLC, CMA). Two Chuck-will's-widows were at S.G.I., Oct. 21 (JMS, BSC; latest TalDiv), and a Rufous Hummingbird near Gainesville Nov. 6 was almost exactly where it or another was seen Oct. 29, 1975 (JJC).

FLYCATCHERS — This family made history. Very rare in the n.c. interior was Gainesville's Gray Kingbird Sept. 1 (Robert Replenning). Late ones were at Delray Beach Nov. 11 (PWS), Key West (TW) and Matanzas Inlet (BSO) Nov. 15 and Safety Harbor Nov. 27 (DG). About 25 W. Kingbirds — far too many to list — were very widely seen from Sept. 22 on. A **Loggerhead Kingbird** — the second in 1976 — appeared Nov. 25 near the original 1972 Islamorada location (Louise Bethea, Gisela Grimm, Virginia Hank & m.ob. into Dec.). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were too plentiful to enumerate.

Fork-tailed Flycatchers — two of them occurred! Barber studied a notch-tailed, gray-backed, E. Kingbird-like imm. at Rockledge Sept. 17 which "matched Peterson's Mexican plate in every detail." Then a two-hour search with camera was fruitless, and Florida's fourth sighting (one unpublished) went unproven like the rest. The jinx ended exactly a month later when Joe Van Os of New Jersey photographed a splendid adult at Chokoloskee. Southeastern birders, who didn't hear of it in time, find consolation in recalling that this species has "stayed put" only very briefly in Florida.

Earliest for the Region was an E. Phoebe at Alligator Pt., Sept. 11 (Charles Watt). A classic, calling **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Gainesville Oct. 5 (CHC) made Florida's third fall in a row for this rarity. Least Flycatchers were "frequent" at S.G.I., Sept. 9 - Oct. 14 (JMS, HMS)! A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher was far south Nov. 11 near Lantana (AYA, CBA, Nancy & Reuben Cooley).

LARKS, SWALLOWS — A rarity (seemingly more regular now) was a **Horned Lark** at S.G.I., Oct. 10 (JMS, BSC), and New Smyrna Beach had *five* Nov. 25 (RDB). The latter were cut to two intimidated birds by Nov. 28, and dune-hunting raptors were seen (HPL, TPM, PWS, RHP). Ted Below reported "several hundred" Bank Swallows at Naples Aug. 28. Five Cliff Swallows (possibly early migrants) were frequenting their amazingly disjunct nest area at Port Mayaca Aug. 27, and four seemingly-recent nests were seen (JBE). Migrants were at Boca Chica Aug. 21 (very early; TPM, RHP, PWS), Gulf Stream Sept. 6 (eight birds; PWS), Key West Sept. 18 (three; WG), St. Pete Oct. 25 (LH) and Loxahatchee N.W.R. Nov. 21 (latest S. Pen.; JBE, PJF, CG).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — A Scrub Jay on Weedon I., Sept. 28 (DG) was "the first for St. Pete area since 1962" (*vide* LH). Noteworthy was Gainesville's Red-breasted Nuthatch Oct. 29 (David Johnston), as was S.G.I.'s Brown Creeper Oct. 24 ("rare" there, but three were seen Oct. 29) and House Wren Sept. 16 — just short of the earliest TalDiv record (JMS, BSC). Winter Wrens seemed late and scarce in n. Florida, while Short-billed Marsh Wrens seemed more common in c. Florida than this writer ever witnessed before, beginning with the Lambeth's very early Tampa bird Oct. 3.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES — North America's third **Bahama Mockingbird** - and second in 1976 — was reported at Stock I., Aug. 31 (JL). It soon disappeared, perhaps provoked by its smaller but quarrelsome relatives (Mockingbirds also harassed the 1972 Antillean Palm Swifts nearby). Three Am. Robins were incredibly early at St. Pete Sept. 24 (WB; earliest N.Pen.); did they nest in c. Florida, as suspected of a Tampa pair in June?

Good thrush flights were heard at night over Tallahassee Sept. 10 (HMS), over Bushnell and Newport Sept. 27 (mostly Veeries; JBE) and over Tampa Oct. 10-11 (nearly 100 calls per minute — mostly thrushes; RM) Unusual was a Wood Thrush on Hypo-

luxo I., Oct. 9 (HPL), and "unprecedented" were five in Brevard County, Oct. 11 (RDB, JJ). Swainson's Thrushes were notably early (S.G.I., Sept. 9; JMS, BSC) and late (Mullet Key, Nov. 3, LA). Gainesville's "unusually heavy thrush migration" included a very late Veery Nov. 8 (JEC).

KINGLETS THROUGH MYNAS — In the best Golden-crowned Kinglet invasion of recent history (not altogether jokingly, Wamer termed them "abundant" in the TalDiv by December), very early "pairs" reached S.G.I. by Oct. 18 (JMS, BSC) and Gainesville Oct. 20 (BM). One far south near Tampa Nov. 27 (RM) heralded other c. Florida records in December. Gainesville's Sept. 14 Ruby-crowned Kinglet was apparently Florida's earliest in history (JEC, JJC, JEH, JHH, RW) Florida, and the S.G.I. causeway, had their **second** 1976 **Sprague's Pipit** Nov. 6 (JMS) into December (m.ob.; photos by RDB) Five very early Cedar Waxwings were on Hypoluxo I., Oct. 12 (TPM, PWS), and Lakeland had a streaked imm., Oct. 24 (CG) Indian Hill Mynas sparsely populate many "Gold Coast" cities [reportedly introduced over 20 years ago]; Sykes witnessed late nesting at Gulf Stream Aug. 15.

VIREOS — Very early was a Solitary Vireo at St. Pete Sept. 15 (earliest N. Pen.; CB, WB, Frances Smith), and very late were two Black-whiskered Vireos near there Sept. 19 (latest N Pen., CB, KT, LH). Although it makes tedious reading, *fifteen* Philadelphia Vireos should be chronicled, if only in compressed "telegraphese": S.G.I., Sept. 25 (four), Oct. 10 (three) and Oct. 14 (all JMS, BSC); Sarasota Sept. 27 (DHM); Cape Canaveral Oct. 11 (RDB); Hypoluxo I., Oct. 12 (TPM, PWS); Ft. Lauderdale Oct. 13 (WG, BH); Lakeland Oct. 15 (L&BA); Hillsboro River S.P., Oct. 16 (RM) and Sanibel I., Oct. 23 (L&BA).

WARBLERS — Florida listed 36 warbler species during the fall — 21 in *one* Bartow spot Sept. 12 (JBE, CG, LH, KT) — for a 1976 total of 38 (plus three hybrid individuals — two in September). The most unusual of five Swainson's reports involved the late bird at Lakeland Oct. 17 (Greg Lambeth, m.ob.). Lakeland and Gainesville typically predominated in Golden-wingeds and Blue-wingeds too numerous to list, and the Lakeland area had a **Brewster's** Sept. 6 (L&BA; c. Florida's second in '76) topped by a perfect **Lawrence's** Sept. 13 (JBE, WB, Pam Biggs, HE, BK, Judy Howard)!

In one Lakeland tree Oct. 17 were 34 Tennessees (m ob.), Wally George termed them "common" at Ft. Lauderdale Sept. 12 - Oct. 22, and WCTV killed a very late one Nov. 11 (RLC) The earliest TalDiv Orange-crowned was at S.G.I., Oct. 1 (HMS, JMS). *Seven* Nashvilles?! Yes! — Cape Canaveral Oct. 11 (RDB, JJ), St. Marks Light Oct. 14 (F. Stoutamire), Jax (PCP) and Sarasota (Edith Miller) Oct. 15, Gainesville Oct. 20 (CFP) and S.G.I., Oct. 21 & Nov. 6 (latest TalDiv; JMS, BSC)!

The Region's earliest-ever Magnolia was at Tallahassee Aug. 17 (GEM). Normally rare in fall in the Region's w. portions, Cape Mays were widely reported there, and WCTV had its largest fall kill ever (five; Oct. 18; RLC). Yellow-rumped were very early in six areas, and incredibly early at Sugarloaf Key Sept. 4 (earliest Florida; L&BA, JL) and Alligator Pt., Sept. 25 (earliest TalDiv; L&BA).

Two **Black-throated Gray Warblers** occurred (plus one in w. Fla.): at Lakeland Oct. 10 (George Horel) and at Mullet Key Nov. 3-4 (LA, LH; WB)! About 19 Ceruleans were reported Aug. 21 - Sept. 25 (Tallahassee, Gainesville, Lakeland, Tampa & St. Pete). A very late Blackburnian was at Jax Nov. 26 (latest N Pen.; PCP), and Tallahassee's Aug. 11 Chestnut-sided was Florida's earliest ever (GEM). Gleaned from a flurry of Bay-breasted reports were S.G.I.'s single of Sept. 23 (earliest TalDiv, JMS, BSC), and the locally unprecedented 16 near Lakeland Oct. 17 (PJF) Common in spring but very rare on the West

Coast in fall was Mullet Key's Blackpoll Oct. 20-21 (LH).

Earliest Divisional records were set by Palm Warblers at Tampa Sept. 19 (D&SL), an Ovenbird at WCTV Aug. 4 (RLC) and one in Palm Beach County Aug. 7 (RHP). Three areas reported *singing* Ovenbirds (CHC, PJF, RM). A Yellow-breasted Chat was very late at St. Pete Nov. 13 (CB, WB, DG), and a Hooded Warbler was very early there Aug. 1 (LH).

When Florida reports *seven* Wilson's and *ten* Canada Warblers in fall — exclusive of those in w. Florida — such an historic occurrence deserves (like the seven Nashvilles) space at least for "bare bones" reporting! **WILSON'S WARBLER:** Key West Sept. 18-19 (very early; WG), Alligator Pt., Sept. 25 (L&BA), Mullet Key Oct. 1 (CB), Gainesville Oct. 18 (CFP), Lakeland Nov. 6 (PJF, CG; two through December — m.ob.); and Tallahassee Nov. 20 (latest TalDiv; NOW). **CANADA WARBLER:** Bartow Sept. 12-13 (LH, JBE, CG, KT, m.ob.), Gainesville Sept. 14 (JEC, JJC, JEH, JHH, RW), St. Pete Sept. 21 (DG), S.G.I., Sept. 25 (JMS, BSC), High Springs Sept. 26 (Carol Yokum), Hillsboro River S.P. (RM) and S.G.I. (JMS, BSC) Oct. 3 WCTV Oct. 9 (RLC) and Gainesville Oct. 16 (JEH). Canadas have been increasing in fall.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — Panacea's Oct. 31 Bobolink was very late (NOW). Among many Yellow-headed Blackbird reports, Bob Wallace's on Merritt I., Aug. 3 apparently set Florida's earliest fall date. Earliest for the N. Pen. was an Oct. 16 Rusty Blackbird at Jax (JPC). Near Boynton Beach Nov. 7 (GH, HPL, Al Liberman) & Nov. 11 (HPL) was Florida's fourth and southernmost **Bronzed Cowbird!** The earliest TalDiv record was set by two Scarlet Tanagers at S.G.I., Sept. 16 (JMS, BSC).

FRINGILLIDS — Single Dickcissels were at S.G.I., Oct. 5 (JMS, BSC), Jax Oct. 28-29 (VMM) and West Palm Beach Oct. 19 - Nov. 1 (AYA, m.ob.). A Purple Finch was very early at Jax Nov. 22 (VMM), as was a Grasshopper Sparrow at Key West Oct. 4 (MB; earliest Lower Keys) and at Cape Canaveral Oct. 11 (RDB; earliest N.Pen.). Le Conte's Sparrows were prizes at

Alligator Pt., Nov. 21 (NOW, RLC, CMA) and at Paynes Prairie Nov. 13 (SAN). Eight Lark Sparrows were reported — from S.G.I., Aug. 21 south to Key West Oct. 25 (m.ob.). Dark-eyed Juncos were early and quite widespread.

Clay-colored Sparrows were discerned at S.G.I., Oct. 10 (two JMS, BSC) and at Key West Nov. 8 (LK, MB) and Nov. 19 (FTH *et al.*). Stevenson described a "banner year" for White-crowned Sparrows, beginning with his extremely early two at Alligator Pt., Oct. 5. Jax had a Fox Sparrow Nov. 4 (earliest N. Pen.; JPC) Arthur Inwood banded a Lincoln's Sparrow at Ft. Lauderdale Oct. 29 (earliest S.Pen.), and the Lakeland area had its first ever Nov. 13 (JBE, PJF). In conclusion, another rarity by Jim Stevenson and Bonnie Carter: **A Snow Bunting** at the St. Johns R mouth Nov. 13 (earliest of Florida's very few records). An historic season!

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ONTARIO REGION

/Clive E. Goodwin

Low temperatures in late August ushered in the coldest fall in over forty years. We had October weather in September, October was more like November and November often seemed like winter. The early fall was noteworthy for many reports of late nestings, only a few of which can be noted below. By mid-August heavy migration had started and the cool weather seemed to move the birds through more quickly than usual.

The details of migration correlated well with major weather systems. A cold front on August 6 seemed to stimulate heavy passage at Pimisi Bay over the next few days (LdeKL), but it was the front of August 13 that brought the first heavy passage to the southern observatories at Long Pt. and Prince Edward Pt. (below, P.E. Pt.), and weather systems on August 29 were also associated in widespread movements. September 5 was noteworthy for the appearance of Scarlet Tanagers at and beyond the limits of their ranges; successive low pressure systems had moved west across the north of the Province September 4-5. One of the heaviest movements of the fall, and the heaviest and most widespread to that time, was between September 15-18. Major hawk flights occurred on the 18th at Hawk Cliff (*vide* WR), Long Pt. (*vide* DH) and Hamilton (*vide* RC), and kills occurred at tall structures as heavy nocturnal movement was reported across the lower Great Lakes. The unsettled weather of the rest of the month resulted in heavy but isolated groundings, but it was not until the front of October 6-7 that heavy passage occurred from Long Pt. to Kingston (RDW), and Kettle Pt. had large flights of waterbirds (AR). The last period of widespread movement was

on November 7-8 with reports from Kingston, Toronto (DHA) Hawk Cliff, Long Pt. and Kettle Pt., where details of the exceptional waterbird passage are given below.

LOONS, GREBES — This year Kettle Pt. again yielded exceptional viewing of migrant waterbirds, as gales on L. Huron forced the birds close to shore. Over 1200 Com. Loons were seen



with 950 on Oct. 31 alone and 105 on Nov. 7. The flights included up to 36 Red-throated Loons (AR *et al.*), and five Arctic Loons were identified from mid-October to Nov. 14 by an experienced observer (AR). Common Loons were in good numbers elsewhere with three flocks of 100 birds or over reported and 43 as early as Aug. 14 at Hamilton (RC, JO). There were eight Red-throated records. Eared Grebes appeared mostly in the November aggregations of Horned Grebes along the lower Great Lakes: there were eight in all, including a bird at Mitchell Oct. 10 (JD).

CORMORANTS, HERONS, IBISES — The largest group of Double-crested Cormorants in Ontario in many years was a flock of 350+ on Pelee I., Sept. 25 (GF, CAC, RD). Other reports were mainly of ones and twos, and a bird at Atikokan Sept. 13 was the first ever there (DHE, TN). Late herons included a Green in King Twp., Oct. 24 (AS) and a Black-crowned Night at P.E. Pt., Nov. 6 (K.F.N.). The Little Blue Heron influx continued with birds at Cheltenham July 16 (RG) and Amherstview Sept. 18-20 (KFE, RKE, m.ob.), but there was only one Cattle Egret reported in the period; these birds seem to leave the Province quickly once the breeding season is finished. There were a dozen Great Egret reports away from the species' center of abundance along the L. Erie shores. Six Glossy Ibis in Dundas Marsh Sept. 24 (RSn *et al.*) was an exceptional number for fall in Ontario.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — The swan and goose migration was average, with the only noteworthy numbers in the east off Wolfe I., where 20,000 Canada Geese were seen Oct. 31 (*vide* RDW), and in the southwest at Kettle Pt., where up to 300 Whistling Swans, 25 Brant and some 1200 Snow Geese were seen in late October (AR, DR). Everyone is tired of hearing about Gadwall numbers, but the 15 at Chelmsford July 11 (JN) is an indication of the northward spread of the species. A Blue-winged Teal on Shipsands I., Sept. 26 (AW, MJ) was north of its Ontario range, although the eastern race of this species has been recorded near there in the breeding season. Two Wood Ducks at Marathon Sept. 5 (NGE) were also far north, and many observers noted good numbers of this species; for example, 42 in Algonquin P.P., Sept. 19 (RT). High counts of diving ducks included 150 Canvasback at Ottawa Nov. 6 (m.ob.), and 730 Bufflehead at P.E. Pt. the next day (K.F.N.), the most ever for each of these locations. However, the highest provincial totals for both species were from the Niagara R., with 3000 and 2800 respectively in late November (m.ob.). The huge scaup flocks at P.E. Pt. were carefully estimated at 100,000 on Oct. 10 with Greater predominating (MHE). The peak Oldsquaw count at Wasaga Beach Oct. 31 was 2300 (CJM *et al.*) and there was a bird inland at Lakefield Nov. 24 (DM).

Ottawa's regular Barrow's Goldeneye returned Oct. 21 (BD), and was the only one reported this fall. However, Harlequin Ducks continued in good numbers with at least three in the Toronto area from Oct. 16 (HE, m.ob.) and others at Kettle Pt., Sept. 27 (AR) and Point Pelee N.P. (and environs, below, Pelee) Nov. 12 (AW, KJB). Nine King Eiders ranged along the lower Great Lakes from Presqu'île P.P. on the east to Pelee on the west the count is higher and the spread of observations much wider than in recent years. A "pelagic" trip on L. Superior Oct. 6 yielded only 25 White-winged Scoters (NGE). In 1970 we commented on the steady increases in numbers of the two rarer scoter species — Black and Surf — especially along the lower Great Lakes, and this trend continues. This could be no more than a return to the numbers that occurred around the turn of the century, when the species were apparently more common than in recent years. This year Kettle Pt. had the highest numbers with totals of 363 Black and 117 Surf (AR, DR *et al.*), but 45 Surf on L. Scugog Oct. 26 were the most ever in that area (RT) and Algonquin P.P. had unprecedented numbers with 37 in three areas Oct. 13 (RT *et al.*) The Park is never a good place for

ducks, and two Red-breasted Merganser sightings there were also noteworthy (m.ob.), as was a late bird at L. Chemong Nov. 24 (DM).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Latest of a number of late Turkey Vulture reports was a bird at Toronto Nov. 6 (CEG, JEG), and the remarkable Holiday Beach total (Table 1) is testimony to the continued spread of this species. The Table also records good flights of Goshawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Broad-winged peaks were between Sept. 18 and 20, although 1247 at Hawk Cliff Sept. 28 was late for such a high count, and Mississauga Light finally recorded a movement of this species Sept. 5, when 236 birds moved mainly N (JN). Good Red-tailed movements occurred between mid-October and mid-November. The Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation handled both Red-tailed and Red-shouldered with gunshot wounds (KMCK). **Swainson's Hawks** appeared for the second successive year in the Province, on Sept. 19 and Oct. 3-4 (HHA, WHK, MHF, JL), and it is perhaps noteworthy that the species was also reported in 1974 — after years with no sightings at all! On July 26 a Rough-legged Hawk nest was located at Radar Site 416 near Cape Henrietta Maria (JPP), the first authenticated breeding in the Province. The nest was on the only man-made structure for miles around! A light flight of this species developed: the first was on Manitoulin I., Sept. 26 (CB) and there were up to 75 on Amherst I. by Nov. 7 (AEH *et al.*). Six Golden and ten Bald Eagles were seen in addition to those tabulated. Ospreys still had young in the nest at Penetanguishene Aug. 19 (AS). Falcon reports included a Gyrfalcon at Manitoulin I., Sept. 26 (JN), and 17 Peregrines and 33 Merlins in addition to the tabulated birds. Some of these sightings could be duplications, as the migrating hawks tend to follow the lakeshores west and so do the observers' locations! This year four Peregrines were released in the Ottawa area (Hull, Québec) by Environment Canada, and the observers from that area did not include this species in their report for this reason

Table 1. Hawk Totals From Four Stations in Ontario

Location Year Days' Coverage	Holiday Beach		Hawk Cliff		P.E. Pt.		Hamilton
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1976
Turkey Vulture	570	2100	366	708	18	94	77
Goshawk	6	5	41	34	—	32	14
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10,619	14,275	10,481	15,201	1086	905	786
Cooper's Hawk	52	216	410	527	25	53	23
Red-tailed Hawk	1936	4075	4183	4462	433	156	289
Red-shouldered Hawk	64	555	40	17	5	57	38
Broad-winged Hawk	25,466	28,013	8282	5973	800	1016	6665
Swainson's Hawk	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Rough-legged Hawk	55	56	8	5	—	2	4
Golden Eagle	6	5	3	7	—	—	—
Bald Eagle	—	3	1	1	—	1	1
Marsh Hawk	219	408	1165	908	113	165	30
Osprey	28	95	49	100	4	2	18
Peregrine Falcon	1	9	3	4	—	—	3
Merlin	3	7	7	8	6	—	1
American Kestrel	1623	3059	5473	6169	44	33	168
Unidentified Hawks	43	507	N/A	N/A	256	271	—

SHOREBIRDS — For a year with poor shorebird habitat there were a remarkable number of reports. As the fall advanced water levels dropped, but too late for the peak movements. At Thunder Bay what little habitat formerly existed has been filled in or dredged (*vide* KD), accounting for the paucity of records from that area in recent years.

Piping Plovers were seen at Cobourg Aug. 10 (ERM) and at Erieau on the record-late dates of Nov. 11-13 (PDP, KJB, AW) It was another good year for Am. Golden Plover, which seem to

be becoming more common in fall migration: noteworthy were 350 at Ottawa Sept. 2 (m.ob.), 300 Bramalea Oct. 10 (AD), 100 in Evanturel Twp., Oct. 11 (JW) and a late bird at Hamilton Nov. 28 (KMcL). Algonquin P.P. had Black-bellied Plover Aug. 20 and Sept. 16 (MB, RS). There were a number of very late dates recorded: Am. Woodcock in Algonquin P.P. Oct. 28 (RP); a Com. Snipe at Marathon Nov. 28 (NGE); an Upland Sandpiper in s.w. Ontario Oct. 19 (*vide* AHK); and a Sanderling at Presqu'île P.P., Nov. 28 (DM). The latest of several late Spotted Sandpipers were two at Kingston Nov. 7 (K.F.N.). There was a late Baird's Sandpiper on Wolfe I. the same day (FC), and this species was in good numbers everywhere with particularly high counts of 12 at Atikokan (SP) and 21 in the southwest (AHK).

Four Whimbrels were recorded along L. Ontario and at Ottawa, and other unusually high counts were 25 Solitary Sandpipers seen Aug. 20 at Capreol (JN) and three Willets at Blenheim Oct. 21 (DR). Eight Purple Sandpiper records are about average for recent years; one bird was picked up shot in the controlled hunting area of Presqu'île P.P.! Most outstanding count in a good flight of White-rumped Sandpipers was 60, P.E. Pt., Nov. 6 (K.F.N.). Two Dunlin at Kelly L., Aug. 20 (JN) were early. A Curlew Sandpiper at Blenheim Aug. 22 (NR *et al.*) was the rarest shorebird of the fall. Four Long-billed Dowitcher sightings — two each from Ottawa and Hamilton — were reported to be adequately documented. Other once-rare fall migrants included 35 Buff-breasted Sandpipers west to Atikokan and north to Marathon; the last was a late Oct. 6 at Bramalea (GM). The past three years have yielded unusual numbers of Marbled Godwits: this year there were five, again with a very late bird, at Rondeau Nov. 10 (PAW). Hudsonian Godwits returned to something like normal numbers, and although Ottawa had 51 Sept. 1 (BD *et al.*) the rest of the season yielded reports of only about 20 birds. Phalaropes followed a similar pattern: there were ten Reds at Ottawa Oct. 23 (BD, TH), the most ever seen in the Province; and 14 Northerners at Kelly L., Aug. 22 (JL) in quite good flights of both species.

CRANES THROUGH GALLINULES — The Massey Sandhill Cranes were last seen Sept. 20 (LS) and the Ottawa bird first reported in spring vanished after Oct. 3 (JS). King Rails east of L. Erie are noteworthy, and there were two: one at Hamilton Sept. 12 (RR) and one in South Scugog marsh Aug. 4 (JK). Algonquin Park is no more noted for rails than it is for waterfowl, so a Virginia Rail Aug. 19 (HS) and a Sora Aug. 22 (WC *et al.*) caused great excitement; this spread to the latter bird, which flew into a balsam fir. Ron Tozer notes that it is safe to say that no one ever saw a Sora in a balsam fir in Algonquin Park before! Between 250 and 300 Soras were estimated at Blenheim sewage lagoons Oct. 10 (PDP, KJB *et al.*). A Com. Gallinule at Wingham Nov. 17 (R & NM) was late and an Am. Coot at Marathon Oct. 10 (NGE) a long way north!

JAEGERS, GULLS — It was one of the heaviest jaeger movements ever recorded, although their relative absence from western L. Ontario — the traditional area of abundance — reinforces the idea that the sightings are more related to storms on the Great Lakes moving the birds close to shore than to the species' actual abundance. This year the great mass of observations was from the Kettle Pt.-Sarnia area, with up to 33 birds on Nov. 7 alone and ten on other dates during the period, with the bulk of the birds Parasitics, but including six Pomarines (AR, DR) Rupert's observations were particularly interesting because they were made from the entry to the ship channel from L. Huron, and he tells of two groups of jaegers soaring up high in the sky and moving off overland, following the St. Clair R. south. An even more intriguing report comes from the Rutherglen area: a strung-out flock of some 25 birds identified as Pomarine Jaegers flew E just over tree-top height Oct. 20 (LdeKL). A bird

lacking central tail-feathers but otherwise with a description corresponding well to a Long-tailed Jaeger was seen at Hamilton Sept. 6 (RF, AW).

A very early Glaucous Gull appeared at Pelee Sept. 25 (JAG), and an average movement of this species followed. Great Black-backed Gulls increase steadily along the lower Great Lakes eight were seen in the southwest this fall, and a bird was north to Honey Harbour Oct. 6 (DAS). At Ottawa a Great Black-backed X Herring hybrid occurred on Nov. 15 (RMP). At least two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** — an adult and a first year immature (m.ob.) — were seen in the enormous concentrations of gulls along the Niagara R. in October and November. Estimates of the total numbers ranged as high as a quarter of a million birds, and it was possible to identify 13 species there in one day! To a birder the impact of this incredible swirl of life rivaled the spectacles of the falls themselves. Ottawa had ten Thayer's Gulls from an early Sept. 7 (*vide* RAF). A late Ring-billed Gull was in Algonquin P.P., Oct. 2 (RT, R&HS). Small gulls were in good numbers. Laughing Gulls are the rarest of this group, but there was one at Pelee Oct. 16 (JAG, JWi, *et al.*) and the southwest also had up to 14 Franklin's Gulls (*vide* AHK). To the east there were two Franklin's at Ottawa Sept. 10 (RK), a Little Gull at P.E. Pt., Oct. 17 (CEG, JEG), and the Kingston area also had a Black-legged Kittiwake Nov. 9 (RDW, BAW). The largest concentration of Little Gulls was at Queenston with 15 on Oct. 31 (*vide* RFA), and there were 17 kittiwakes west of Kingston, with a total of 13 over the period at Kettle Pt. (AR *et al.*). Boat trips accounted for only one of the four Sabine's Gulls seen, off Grimsby Oct. 3 (m.ob.); the others were at Ottawa Oct. 6 (RGo *et al.*), Kettle Pt., Oct. 22 (DR) and Niagara Oct. 31 (RFA). There were two Caspian Terns inland at Wildwood Aug. 25 (BP). Toronto's new Eastern Headland provided nesting sites for seven pairs of Caspian Terns and 1200 Com. Tern pairs, the most successful station in Ontario (*vide* HB).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Mourning Doves were recorded at Atikokan Sept. 29 and Oct. 1 (SP) and in Algonquin P.P., Oct. 13-16 (RT, DS). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Sudbury Sept. 21 (CGB) and a Black-billed at Marathon Aug. 29 (NGE). All these species are common further south, but rare in these areas. A Barn Owl was at Kingston July 22 - Sept. 27, and then on Nov. 17 a nest was located with five young 4-5 weeks old (K.F.N.). One of the parents was banded and presumed to be a bird that had recovered from an injury and been released in the area. A small movement of Great Horned Owls occurred at P.E. Pt., Oct. 11 when five were seen (K.F.N.), and the first of a light Snowy Owl flight was a bird found dead at Atikokan Oct. 21 (*vide* SP). Both Long and Short-eared Owls also moved south in small numbers: a Long-eared in Vaughan Twp., Sept. 23 (GB) was so early it could have been a local bird. One Hawk Owl was reported, at Massey Nov. 15 (NGE), and the only two Boreals were picked up dead on Highway 401 outside Kingston and Brighton, Nov. 2-3 (SB-N). Night banding at P.E. Pt. netted 189 Saw-whet Owls Oct. 1-24 and 7 Long-eareds Oct. 11-28 (K.F.N.). A Chimney Swift at Kingston Nov. 22 (RDW, RMP) and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Kincardine Oct. 1 (GH) were both late.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Haultain Oct. 28 (GC) was well east of the species' limited Ontario range, and a Red-headed Woodpecker in MacGregor Twp., Oct. 7 (*vide* KD) was rare in that area. Both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers seemed unusually scarce across the southeastern reporting regions, with field trips frequently failing to record either species! Ottawa was the only locality to record numbers of three-toed woodpeckers, with about five Black-backed and seven Northern over the period (*vide* RAF) A W. Kingbird was seen at Lake of the Woods P.P. Aug. 11

(MDM). The other flycatcher records were all of late birds: an E. Kingbird at L. St. Peter Sept. 13 (RT), a Great Crested Flycatcher at Hamilton Oct. 11 (RC), an E. Phoebe at Pimisi Bay Oct. 5 (LdeKL), a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher killed at Peterborough Sept. 20 (DM), and an E. Wood Pewee recorded in the southwest Oct. 17 (*vide* AHK).

LARKS THROUGH CROWS — Some high counts of Horned Larks were recorded; for example, 3000 at Singhampton Oct. 24 (PVS). Enormous Tree Swallow flocks are often a feature of the early fall, and this year 250-300,000 were estimated at Matchedash Bay Aug. 9 (CH). A count of 10,000 at P.E. Pt. Oct. 9 (HQ, RDW) was a noteworthy late concentration. London again yielded December swallows, with two to four Rough-winged Dec. 1 (WRJ, GEM) and a Tree Dec. 3 (WRJ). A Barn Swallow was seen at Moose Factory to Oct. 2 (AW, MJ).

A small flight of Gray Jays occurred with a bird at Otter L., Kingston (*vide* RDW) and two at Cognashene (DAS) on Nov. 6, and others at Fergus Nov. 18 (JOLR) and Ripley Sept. 19 (GH). There was also a movement of Black-billed Magpies, with an "invasion" at Atikokan which had 14 reports Oct. 13 - Nov. 12 (SP), two at Savant L., Oct. 18 - Nov. 16 (ND) and birds in the south at Markstay Sept. 19 (EB) and at Kingston Oct. 24 (R & PG), the first there since 1898. The gradual increase in Com. Ravens across the more northerly areas of Southern Ontario make five Simcoe County records (*vide* CJM) expected, but not 45 moving SW at Arkona Oct. 9 (DR, SR), numbers without precedent in s.w. Ontario in post-pioneer times.

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS — Black-capped Chickadees were very scarce on migration this fall, and the only two Boreals were at Kingston Oct. 30 (RDW). Late records included a Brown Creeper at Marathon Nov. 28 (NGE), a House Wren at Hamilton Nov. 28 (AW, BW) and a Short-billed Marsh Wren at Coldwater Oct. 3 (CJM, TL *et al.*). Carolina Wrens may have done better in the east than in the southwest: there was a brood of four at Port Credit (*vide* DRG) and there were seven Kingston records (*vide* RDW). A Bewick's Wren made one of its rare appearances in the Province at Long Pt., Sept. 28 - Oct. 23 (L P B.O.).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES — Late records in these groups include a Gray Catbird at Atikokan Oct. 24 (DHE) and a Wood Thrush at Kingston Nov. 7 (RDW). Many reporters said thrush migration was heavy, with Hermit and Gray-cheeked Thrushes and both species of kinglets in particularly good numbers — over 2000 of the latter were banded at P.E. Pt. alone. The E. Bluebird movement was the best in years, with flocks of over ten birds from seven locations. Seven Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported from three areas between Aug. 14 and Sept. 11: three at Ottawa (BB, JM), two in Mara Twp. (JAS) and two at P.E. Pt. (K F.N.). There are about a dozen records of **Wheat** in the Province, with most of them in late September and early October and half of them from the north and west. Two birds this year reinforced the pattern: one was at Moosonee Oct. 1 (AW) and one at Deep River Oct. 16-18 (*vide* PW).

WAXWINGS THROUGH VIREOS — Bohemian Waxwings were in good numbers at Marathon from Oct. 10 (NGE) and a bird was at Silver Islet Nov. 7 (*vide* KD). In the south two were at Kingston Oct. 26 (PEL) and four in the Bronte area Oct. 2 (PVD). Cedar Waxwings were moving in numbers at the end of November with flocks up to 200 at Toronto (E&HK, m.ob.). The N Shrike movement was heavy: starting with a bird at Thunder Bay Oct. 2 and continuing into late November, most area editors reported 12 to 15 sightings each, and the movement extended across the whole of the Province. By contrast only five Loggerhead Shrikes were seen. Two White-eyed Vireos were seen at Hamilton Oct. 23 - Nov. 2 (RC, MJ, AW).

WARBLERS — The warbler movement was early and unexceptional. Again it was dominated by what Dave Hussell termed the "presumed budworm" warblers, a pithy description for Cape Mays (the Hussell nominee for warbler of the year), Tennessees and Bay-breasted. This account, however, is dominated as usual by late dates; chronicles of warbler migration always seem to be the antithesis of the event itself! Prothonotary Warblers were at Long Pt., Aug. 14 (L.P.B.O.) and Durham Sept. 15 (WF) Prince Edward Pt. had a rare Blue-winged Sept. 11, and late records there were a Yellow Warbler Sept. 21, two Palm Warblers Nov. 7 (K.F.N.) and a Chestnut-sided Oct. 8 (FC) There were some early records too — for example, an Orange-crowned at Toronto Aug. 24 (GB) and a Blackpoll at Rockhouse Pt., Aug. 15 (RFA, *et al.*). Late Hamilton area reports included a Nashville Warbler Nov. 15 (DKP, TP), a Magnolia at Nanticoke Oct. 28 (RC), a Blackpoll at Hamilton itself Nov. 7 (AE, KMCL), and an Am. Redstart at Bronte Nov. 7 (MJ). Northern Parulas in Mara Twp., Sept. 12 & 25 (JAS) and a Connecticut Warbler in Waterloo Sept. 17 (RBr) were noteworthy for these areas. Shipsands I and Moosonee yielded a Hooded Warbler and a late Black-and-white Warbler Sept. 27, and a Wilson's Warbler Oct. 1 (AW, MJ). Long Point had two Kentucky Warblers: one banded Aug. 12 (EN) and one killed at the lighthouse Oct. 25-26. The observatory also had a late Black-throated Green Oct. 31 (L.P.B.O.) A late Black-throated Blue was seen at Whitby Oct. 20 (MBA) Easterly Yellow-breasted Chat records were from Durham Sept. 15 (WF) and P.E. Pt., Aug. 28 (K.F.N.).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — A Bobolink was late at Mississagi Light Oct. 2 (JN), and at Whitby 2000 were counted in half an hour Aug. 21 (DC). An Orchard Oriole was at Georgetown Aug. 22 (M & FH) and a late N. Oriole at Hamilton Nov. 7 (MW). There were huge numbers of blackbirds recorded again a mixed flock of 100,000 at Peterborough Oct. 26 (*vide* DCS) was one such flock, and 5000 Rusty Blackbirds in Kent County Nov. 14 (DR) was an exceptional number for this species. Three Brewer's Blackbird reports include ten at Coldwater Oct. 3 (TL, CJM). Four Scarlet Tanagers at Moose Factory Sept. 25, with one to Oct. 2 (AW, MJ) and three at Kearns (JNk) and three at Marathon (NGE), both on Sept. 5, were northerly records.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — An imm. cardinal was being fed at Owen Sound Oct. 11 (FB). There were late Indigo Buntings, the latest being at Moose Factory Oct. 1 (MJ) and Marathon Oct. 13 (NGE), of all places. A Dickcissel was at Windsor from Nov. 1 (m.ob.). There were thousands of Am. Goldfinches at P.E. Pt. and Holiday Beach and a good movement of Purple Finches. However, other winter finches were scarce: Evening Grosbeaks were few everywhere except Crozier (GP) and Algonquin, Pine Grosbeaks appeared in small numbers at widely scattered localities, redpolls and siskins were absent or only in scattered small flocks, and there were characteristically isolated reports for both species of crossbills. The only Hoary Redpoll was at Marathon Nov. 28 (NGE).

A Rufous-sided Towhee at Sudbury Nov. 26-27 (OZ) and a Savannah Sparrow in Algonquin Oct. 10 (RT) were both late. The last date for Henslow's Sparrows at Tiny Marsh was Aug. 11, when 19 were seen (CH). A Le Conte's Sparrow, rarely seen in any season, was in Pearson Twp., Sept. 12 (KD). Another elusive species, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, was recorded at Dundas Marsh with three Oct. 17-22 (RC, RHW, AW) and one mist-netted at Ottawa Oct. 2-3 (CG, m.ob.) was the first in fall there. An early Tree Sparrow was at Crozier Sept. 26 (GP) and two at Marathon Nov. 28 were late (NGE), as was a Field Sparrow at the edge of its range on Oct. 17 at Mindemoya (CB). There were three Harris' Sparrows in the south, at Kincardine Sept. 20 (GH) and Bronte Oct. 10 and 14 (PVD, MJ). There were heavy movements of both Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings. The longspur

movement was throughout October, and 500 at Erieau Oct. 30 (PDP, KJB) was the largest single flock reported. Peak Snow Bunting movement followed about three weeks later, with flocks of up to 500 birds moving over a wide front near Stratford (m ob) on Nov. 14, although the largest single flocks of 1000 at Toronto (m.ob.) and 2000 at Earlton (PWR) were also on Oct. 30

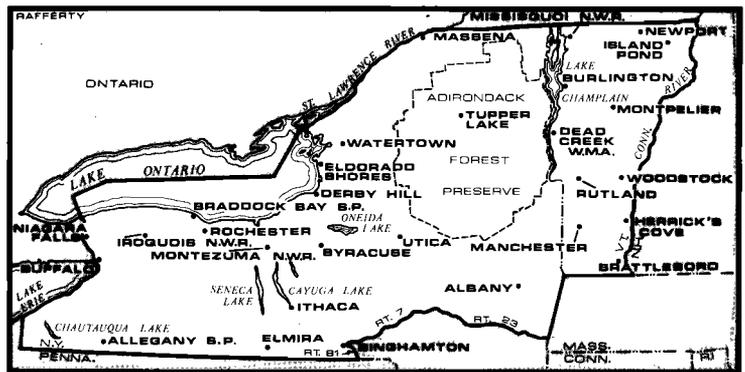
ERRATUM — The reference to a total of 1000 Red-necked Grebes on Manitoulin I. between Apr. 17 and May 2 (AB 30:833) was in error. The total was the same as peak count of 440.

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe



A shift in the jet stream brought record cold to the region throughout the period. Wet weather persisted through the first half of the fall but most areas had received relatively little, if any, snow by the close of the period. With an excellent wildfood crop available in the form of acorns, cones, fruits, and berries, few lingerers or winter finches were noted at feeders.

Many observers found that high water and cold weather combined to produce a disappointingly short migration season with few peaks and only a smattering of rarities. Overall, however, fall appeared normal if such a term can be realistically applied to a season when all avian populations exhibit tremendous fluxes

The results of the pilot phase of the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas Project were unavailable until recently and did not enter into last season's report. Although obviously out of place in the fall summary, the results of this ambitious project are of such significance to the future of ornithology in Vermont that a brief summary is provided here in hopes that it will induce many more observers to assist in this invaluable project. Observers in the pilot phase of the project confirmed breeding in 136 of 159 possible breeding species sighted during the summer. The rigors of field work convinced all participants that total coverage of all of the 10-sq.-mi. blocks in the state was unattainable in the project's (and most observers') life span, so a random sample of one sixth of the blocks (i.e. 179) was selected from throughout the

state to be surveyed within the next five years.

Additional blocks which encompass unique habitats will also be surveyed if they are brought to the attention of the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. This will insure that the value of the survey as a baseline data source for evaluating the environmental consequences of future land development will be maximized since all critical areas (i.e. sensitive habitats) will be surveyed. All interested birders are urged to contact the Vermont Atlas Project, c/o V.I.N.S., Woodstock, Vt. 05091 for specific details

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Red-throated Loons were widely reported from mid-October on with the high tally six from the Rochester lakeshore Nov. 14 (AK). Undoubtedly the Red-throated which caused the most excitement, however, was one found walking down Center Street in Rutland, Vt., Oct. 27 (PD). Only five reports of Red-necked Grebes were submitted, all from L. Champlain or L. Ontario. Only small concentrations of Horned Grebes were noted, the best numbers (40-60) coming from L. Champlain. An ad. **Eared Grebe**, retaining much of its breeding plumage, was sighted at Braddock Bay Oct. 10 (CP) Montezuma N.W.R. again led all areas with an estimated 100 Pied-billed Grebes in early September (WB). About a dozen Double-crested Cormorants were sighted including a good tally of four at Braddock Bay Sept. 28 (NH, *fide* R.B.A.) and two on L. Memphremagog in extreme n e Vermont Aug 26 (FO & CS)

Southern herons were again well represented with an ad. **Little Blue** at Iroquois N.W.R. Oct. 30 (DF); two August reports of solitary Cattle Egrets near Rochester and an extraordinary eleven in Addison County, Vt., feeding in the snow with cows Nov. 7 (SL *et al.*). The latter were undoubtedly from the late nesting colony in L. Champlain noted last season. Eight Great Egrets at Iroquois N.W.R. (JM, *vide* B.O.S.) were the best of ten reports which included four Vermont sightings, the most unbelievable of which was a "pink" bird at Button Bay near Burlington Oct. 25 (PB). A **Louisiana Heron** which lingered at Montezuma N.W.R. Aug. 25 - Sept. 9 (m.ob.) may have been the same bird observed on the Sage Creek Marshes in Oswego County (MR) three days later. All three Least Bittern sightings were made at Montezuma N.W.R. Solitary Mute Swan reports came from Times Beach (DF) and Selkirk Shores S.P. (MR). Brant exhibited an exceptionally concentrated movement through the Region; virtually all reports coming from the e. half of L. Ontario Oct. 22-26. Top Oldsquaw counts were 1400 at Irondequoit Bay Nov. 14 (AK) and 5000 which passed up the Niagara R. into L. Erie in an hour on Nov. 19 (DF). Single **Harlequin Ducks** were observed on L. Ontario at Pt. Breeze Oct. 16 (CP) and Derby Hill Nov. 20 (SS *et al.*). Eight hundred White-winged Scoters were sighted at Irondequoit Bay Nov. 14 (AK), but Surf Scoters were scarce and the best Black Scoter tally was, surprisingly, 20 at Grotton Pond in n. Vermont Oct. 5 (SA). Common and Red-breasted Mergansers were, as usual, present in numbers on L. Ontario with a mixed flock of 2000 at Oswego Nov. 4 (JG) and some 3000 Red-breasted along the lake w. of Rochester Nov. 7 (F&RD).

HAWKS — The remarkable increase of the Turkey Vulture in Vermont is reflected by the presence of at least 46 in a mid-October roost at Bridport, Vt., in the L. Champlain valley (AP). Reasons behind the increase of this species in the region, which has occurred in the face of apparent declines on the wintering grounds (see *Am. Birds* 30 (5):909-915), are worthy of further, intensive study. Regularly manned hawk watches in Vermont yielded several interesting findings. Essentially equal numbers of Goshawk and Cooper's Hawk were sighted but Sharp-shinned proved to be ten times as abundant as either of the other species. Alarming few (only 19) Red-shouldered Hawks were seen, considering the watches were manned a total of 287 hours. This species appears headed for serious trouble although the reasons behind its decline remain nebulous. Habitat loss and persistent pesticides are two likely culprits. An albino Red-tailed Hawk remained at Lima, N.Y., through the first three weeks of November (A&JF). Observers in the L. Champlain valley termed this a "great fall" for Rough-legged Hawks, but except for an unusually early one Sept. 5 on the Ontario lakeshore (*vide* G O S) no indications of an influx were reported from other areas

Seven of the ten Bald Eagle reports were from Vermont. Two Golden Eagles were also reported from Vermont, both *sans* necessary confirming details. Sixty-four Ospreys were tallied by Vermont hawk watches, down from last year's high of 71 but still an encouraging total for a species in desperate straits prior to the curtailment in the use of chlorinated hydrocarbons. No indication was given that any of the nine Peregrine Falcon sightings were of marked birds released in either of the past two summers as part of Cornell's reestablishment program. Six Merlins were noted in New York, while 11 were sighted in Vermont.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A single Spruce Grouse sighting in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom (LM) is the first regional report submitted in at least two years. Despite the paucity of sightings, only two alert observers (FO & RR) suggested its addition to the Regional Blue List and it seems likely that the species may soon be quietly extirpated from much of its

original range in the Region while observers bemoan the apparent decline of better known, widely distributed species. The Vermont Atlas Project, which will survey specific unique habitats in addition to the randomly selected blocks, may help clarify the status and distribution of this seldom-seen denizen of our boreal forests. A **Sandhill Crane** spotted in a field south of Panton, Vt. Sept. 11 (FH) was probably the same bird that passed over the Winhall hawk watch Sept. 30 (WN). Both were extraordinary sightings since the species has only been recorded in Vermont on three previous occasions (in 1872, 1882 and 1961). An energetic birder surveying a marsh near Hamlin, N Y from an arboreal perch sighted the season's only King Rail (GW). At last report, observers attempting to duplicate his feat had suffered only minor injuries.

Many observers bemoaned the scarcity of shorebirds owing to flooding in normal concentration areas, while others, more fanatic, turned to flooded fields in their quest for rarities. Rochester area observers fared better than most with 100 Am Golden Plovers at Hamlin Sept. 15 (CP *et al.*), up to three Whimbrels in a field in Kendall in mid-September (R.B.A.), a Willet Aug. 13 at Braddock Bay and a **Ruff** there the following day (RSp, *vide* G.O.S.). Montezuma N.W.R. listed most of the high sandpiper counts including: an estimated 2000 Semipalmated Sept. 9 (SS), 400 Pectorals in early September, 250 White-rumped Sept. 5 (WB), up to 11 Baird's until Sept. 21 (WB) and 15 W. Sandpipers until Sept. 9 (WB). Purple Sandpipers were reported from Oct. 30 on at five locations, all along L. Ontario except for three birds at Niagara Falls Nov. 6 (SS). Remarkable numbers of Dunlin lingered along the lakeshore w. of Rochester again this year; with tallies of 800 on Oct. 24 and 300 Nov. 7 (F&RD, *vide* G.O.S.) setting new inland New York late records. Hudsonian Godwits were virtually absent with only four sightings. Phalaropes put in a good appearance in w. New York, although none were noted in Vermont. Among the best reports were five Northerners at Montezuma N.W.R. Sept. 4 (D, M, & TT, *vide* R.B.A.), ten Reds at Derby Hill Oct. 22 (SS), and up to six Wilson's at Montezuma N.W.R. in early August (SS). All three species showed short, well defined migration periods; Northerners occurring between Aug. 8 and Sept. 4, Wilson's from Aug. 7 to Sept. 15, with the Reds rushing through last, Oct. 22 - Nov. 7

LARIDS — The high water and cold weather apparently forced other observers to turn to gull-watching in desperation. Perhaps as a consequence some extraordinary sightings were made. Solitary Pomarine Jaegers were sighted four times Oct. 10-24 in the Rochester area (R.B.A.). Parasitic Jaeger, as usual the most frequently observed jaeger on L. Ontario, was present in unprecedented numbers, with 35 at Derby Hill Oct. 10 (MR) alone. Ten other sightings were also reported including six more birds Oct. 10 in the Rochester and Buffalo areas and five between Pt. Breeze and Charlotte Nov. 11 (R.B.A.). Both white-winged gulls arrived at the end of October, with two Iceland at Webster on the 28th (AK) and a Glaucous at Niagara Falls Oct. 31 (RA *et al.*). It would be interesting to compare these arrival dates (and the sightings detailed below) with some from last winter's gull hotspot, the Robert Moses Power Dam, but unfortunately no reports were received from the Dam. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was sighted at the Colonie landfill near Schenectady Nov. 2-6 (*vide* RY) and an adult and an immature occurred on the Niagara R. during November (*vide* B.O.S.)

Franklin's Gulls were found in the Niagara R. area from Sept. 9 on, with up to ten present at the Falls during November (*vide* B.O.S.), but did not appear near Rochester until near the end of the period when two were spotted (R.B.A. & G O S) Bonaparte's Gulls were tallied in exceptional numbers throughout the region. An estimated 36,000 were present on the Niagara R. Nov. 14 (DF, *vide* B.O.S.) and a strong flight occurred on L. Champlain later that month. An adult and an imm **Black-**

headed Gull, always rare in inland New York, were observed on the Niagara R. in November (*vide* B.O.S.). Examination of nearly two dozen Little Gull reports indicates a gradual flow of birds E from the Niagara R. area as the season progressed. This species peaked in the Buffalo area in mid-September but did not appear in numbers to the east (max. 8 at Charlotte) until the second week of November. Several sightings at Derby Hill indicate the movements continue to at least the s.e. end of L. Ontario, although the presumed overland route to the Atlantic coast remains a mystery. An imm. **Sabine's Gull** first noted at Niagara Falls Nov. 6 (SS) apparently remained through the 14th (B.O.S.). Immature Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at Derby Hill, Niagara Falls, and in the Rochester area. Three of the L. Ontario sightings were of single birds in early October, while two birds were seen at both Rochester and Niagara Falls in November. One of the Niagara Falls birds was apparently an adult (*vide* B.O.S.). Forster's Terns were well reported, with up to ten at Braddock Bay in mid-September (CP) and one or two at three other locations.

S.A.

The most astonishing find since the invention of the Thayer's Gull was the discovery of 10-plus adults at the waterfilled "borrow pits" in Kendall Aug. 28 (WL). This observation is extraordinary in number, location, and date and would be summarily dismissed were not the occurrence thoroughly documented and subsequently verified (CP) and were not both observers among Rochester's best. Up to three ad. Thayer's were observed at this site by many observers during the first week of September (R.B.A.). It appears, based on this occurrence that this "species" current casual status in the Northeast may be subject to serious question. The occurrence of ten adults in late August may seem preposterous but if these observations are correct, a myriad of questions regarding the "species" actual status in the region are raised. Vocal and behavioral differences from Herring Gulls were noted in the Kendall birds and await further documentation and investigation by some enterprising avian ethologist.

ALCIDS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A **Common Murre** found floundering in a Calais, Vt., pasture Nov. 25 was released after reportedly being identified by a state game biologist. One can only hope it was photographed as well. A single Monk Parakeet, hopefully an isolated escapee, was sighted at Greece, N.Y. (F&RD). Barn Owls were found at Honeoye Falls and Lima (R B A.), and in Odessa three young fledged from a church steeple in September (WB). Vermont's only Screech Owl was, again, at Burlington (FO & CSc). No Snowy Owl invasion seems imminent as only a single bird was reported this fall. A Com. Nighthawk at Lima, N.Y., Oct. 16 (AF, *vide* R.B.A.) was late, while a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Woodstock, Vt., Oct. 24 (JV) was unprecedented. Always uncommon in e. Vermont, Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted on two separate occasions near Springfield (GB & AG). The only three-toed woodpeckers reported were a Black-backed at Island Pond, Vt. (FO, RR *et al*) where expected, and a probable Northern in Sweden near Brockport, N.Y. Sept. 24 (GW & SG). An E. Phoebe was sighted in Geneseo, N.Y., Nov. 14 (D, M. & TT), a remarkable date considering how cold the season was. Olive-sided Flycatchers are normally among the earliest species to leave, so a Sept. 17 bird at Winhall was considered "fairly late" (WN). A half dozen November Tree Swallow sightings included three at Niagara Falls (DF) and one at L. Morey until Nov. 14, the latter a record late occurrence for Vermont.

JAYS THROUGH VIREOS — Vermont's Northeast Kingdom was the site of this season's only Gray Jay sightings (FO *et al*). Having just been added to Vermont's confirmed breeding list, the Tufted Titmouse seems determined to continue its range expansion northward. A bird was present at Clarendon throughout September and much of October (HP). Although considered very scarce by feeder watchers, Red-breasted Nuthatches were abundant in boreal areas where a bumper cone crop was available. House Wrens observed at Hamlin Beach Oct. 30 (*vide* R.B.A.) and Lima Nov. 14 (*vide* R.B.A. & G.O.S.) both exceed the previous inland New York late date. A **Wheatear** was observed to within six feet Sept. 24 near Long Point S.P., Cayuga Co., N.Y. (SS). Reportedly, this is only one of several sightings in the Northeast this fall. Four Bohemian Waxwings, including two immatures, were studied in a flock of Cedars in Bennington, Vt Nov. 23 (MV). The earliest of 20 widely scattered N. Shrike reports was one Oct. 22 (RR & FO), while the latest of six Loggerheads was sighted Oct. 30 (*vide* G.O.S.). Although we normally consider ourselves north of the wintering "blackbird" roosts, an estimated quarter-million Starlings were present at Gates, N.Y. Nov. 21 (JS). Two White-eyed Vireos were observed in New York; the first Aug. 20 at Newstead (DF) and another in Elizabethtown Oct. 2, 4 & 11 (GC). The latter record is exceptionally late for such a northern locality.

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — Extraordinary, if correct [no details], is a report of a Prothonotary Warbler in West Hartford, Vt., Aug. 21 & 22 (EJ). There are four early specimens from Vermont but no substantiated records since 1916. Nearly all of the ten Orange-crowned Warblers sighted were found Sept. 3-17 but two remarkable birds were found Nov 28 at Mendon Ponds (A&JF, *vide* R.B.A.). Even more astonishing, however, is the fact that two Am. Redstarts were also found there on the same date (A&JF, *vide* R.B.A.). Seldom sighted in the fall, a Cerulean Warbler was discovered in Penfield Sept. 16 (*vide* G.O.S.). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was carefully studied at Braddock Bay Sept. 4 (WL) while a Kentucky Warbler occurred to the east at Webster ten days later (WLI, *vide* G.O.S.). Ordinarily considered rather late migrants, Pine Warblers were the exception to the rule this fall, as there were numerous sightings Aug. 21 - Sept. 4 and only two reports in October. Connecticut Warbler reports were more numerous than usual with about eight records, all of which fell within a two-week period, Sept. 11-25. A N. Oriole observed feeding on grapes in Elmira Nov. 2 (*vide* WB) was this season's latest Rusty Blackbirds exhibit strong flocking behavior during the fall but frequently go unnoticed in their wooded swamp haunts. Apparently only one substantial flock, 500 birds near Rochester, was noted this fall by observers.

FRINGILLIDS — A single Dickcissel found Nov. 18 at Cuba L. in Allegany County (AS, *vide* A.C.B.C.) was the only report this fall. Small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks started showing up in mid-August in some areas. These scattered early arrivals were probably a consequence of post-breeding dispersals and only limited numbers were present even by the close of the season. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins apparently deserted most of the rest of the region for the Vermont mountains where they abounded. Pine Grosbeaks and Red Crossbills, on the other hand, were scarce everywhere. White-winged Crossbills were present in numbers at Island Pond and in Chubb River Swamp, both areas where they are believed to have nested this summer. The appearance of a ♂ Eur. Goldfinch at Penfield Nov. 23 (JL, *vide* R.B.A.) may increase speculation regarding the continued existence of an East Coast colony but the probability is far greater that the bird was an escapee. Late lingering sparrows, which are most frequently spotted as they visit feeders, were quite uncommon this fall. This observed scarcity, however, is probably more a reflection of a bountiful natural food supply

this fall which reduced feeder visitations than a consequence of unseasonably cold weather. Lingers noted through the end of the period included a Rufous-sided Towhee (J&MFO), a Savannah Sparrow (VP), a couple of Chipping Sparrows, and several Field Sparrows. Eight Henslow's Sparrows seen at Clarence, NY, Sept. 18 (DF) is a very good fall tally. Single "Oregon" Juncos were reported in w. New York at Lima (AF) and East Amherst (DF). A Clay-colored Sparrow carefully studied at Saranac Lake Oct. 24-25 (ROH) was the first local fall record and the only regional report. The Adirondack Mts. seem an unlikely spot for the only sighting of a mid-western breeder and makes one wonder how many go unnoticed in the Chipping Sparrow flocks so common in w. New York. An immense grounding of White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows occurred on Hamlin Beach Sept. 28 (RC). Conservatively estimated at 250 and 1500 birds, respectively, this is the largest upstate New York fall tally for either species. Weather conditions responsible for this tremendous sparrow movement may also have been responsible for the Sept. 27 appearance of single Lapland Longspurs at Kendall (WL) and White River Junction (WE)

CORRIGENDA — The Red-throated Loon reported

APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a year almost without an autumn season. The fall migration began somewhat early in an almost classical fashion. From mid-August to the end of September the various species moved through at about the expected times and in good numbers. The usual "waves" developed as the weather systems advanced across the northern regions. At Pittsburgh August was much cooler than usual and on the dry side. September was warmer than usual with normal precipitation. In early October weather patterns changed drastically. Both months were colder than normal and indeed at most places November was the coldest on record. October was slightly wetter than normal but November drier than usual. Throughout the two latter months the weather was generally uniform, but rather uniformly bad. The character of the migration also changed and many places reported poor flights of the "October" species. The small bird migration ranged from "best ever" at Marietta, O. (JS), "spectacular," Shenandoah N.P. (DC), to "normal," w. Pennsylvania (PH). The two large-scale banding operations had rather different results. At Powdermill Nature Reserve (P.N.R.) near Ligonier, Pa., a total of only 4100 birds was banded during the period while the average number there is about 6000 (RCL), but at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (A.F.M.O.) near Petersburg, W. Va., the total of 4900 birds was the second best year on record (GAH). Another large-scale banding program at Presque Isle State Park, near Erie, Pa. reported 1600 birds banded (RFL). At Youngstown, O., there were only three TV tower kills during the fall totalling about 200 birds on Aug. 24, Sept. 17 and Oct. 9 (WB). The only other tower kill reported was at a firetower near Morgantown on Oct. 2-3.

The first major wave took place Sept. 11-12 when Presque Isle had its biggest day, A.F.M.O. had its second largest wave, and exceptionally large movement of small birds was noted at Mt. Davis S.P., Pa. (NL & SS). There was also a good flight at this time at Shenandoah N.P. (DC). At A.F.M.O. the heaviest wave was Sept. 19-20 but other stations did not report this one. The final September wave was about Sept. 27 at a number of places. At Newcomerstown, O., there was a major wave Oct. 15-19 (ES) but most other places reported few concentrations of birds after Oct. 1

grounded in Lewis County last winter was actually a Red-necked Grebe. The Am. Avocet reported near Lyons this spring was actually the second Regional spring record, the first being a bird seen at Montezuma N.W.R. in May 1973 by many observers

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LOONS, GREBES AND CORMORANTS — The Com Loon has been a marginal species in this Region in recent years but may be making a comeback. There were numerous reports, with 18 being sighted at Pymatuning L., Pa., Oct. 23 (RFL) and most interestingly 47 were seen flying by the hawk lookout on Tuscarora Mt., in s.c. Pennsylvania November 7 (CG). The only reports of Red-throated Loons came from Presque Isle S.P., Pa., with four sightings from Oct. 24 to Nov. 28 (*vide* DS). In w. Pennsylvania the migration of Horned Grebes was poor (PH) but elsewhere it was normal. The only Double-crested Cormorant report was from Presque Isle Nov. 11 (SSt).

HERONS AND IBISES — For several years the number of Great Egrets appearing in the Region in late summer has been steadily increasing and this year, with reports coming from throughout, was the best ever. Little Blue Herons were reported from Dalton, Ga., July 29 (HD), Austin Springs, Tenn., Aug. 8-28 (DL) and L. Arthur, Pa., Aug. 16-21 (m.ob.). A Snowy Egret was at Salem, Va., Aug. 9 (BK). One of the best records of the season was of an ibis of the genus *Plegadis* at L. Arthur, Pa., Sept. 6-11 (photographed — DD & EF). The bird was not identified as to species, although it was most probably a Glossy. Either species would be new for s.w. Pennsylvania.

WATERFOWL — Except for a somewhat heavier than usual flight of Mallards the waterfowl flight was generally poor. All the expected species appeared, as well as a few unusual ones, but the numbers were generally low. This may have been the result of the rather uniform weather (unpleasant as it was) during October and November in which the waterfowl overflew the Region. Several Mute Swans were present at Donegal, Pa., until mid-November (RCL). The flight of Whistling Swans to the wintering grounds produced a rather small migration across the Appalachians. Four Whistling Swans were seen flying over the Blue Ridge Parkway in Botetourt Co., Va., Oct. 27 (MM) and 11 were seen at Fisher's Gap in Shenandoah N.P., Nov. 8, the first record for the park (JB & ST). Both of these locations are well south of the usual flight line. At Pymatuning L., Pa. the fall aggregation of Canada Geese numbered about 8-10,000, about normal numbers (RFL). Snow Geese were reported from Presque Isle S.P., Sept. 26 (JSt), Pymatuning, Pa., Sept. 26 and Oct. 27 (RFL), Donegal, Pa., Oct. 20-Nov. 4 (RCL), Hooversville, Pa., Nov. 1 (GRS), L. Arthur, Pa., Nov. 7 (TM), and 47 flew by the Tus-

carora Mt. hawk lookout Nov. 5 (CG). Most unusual for the Region were three Brant at Presque Isle, Nov. 21 (JBa).

Forty-five Gadwall at L. Arthur in October (PH) was an unusually good count for this Region. Oldsquaws were reported only from Lock Haven, Pa., Oct. 28 (PS) and L. Arthur Nov. 7 (PH) besides four records at Presque Isle, (JSt). All three species of scoter were seen on numerous occasions at Presque Isle from Oct 10 through mid-November. White-winged Scoters were reported from Botetourt County, Va., Oct. 27 (BK) and a Black Scoter was shot near Knox, Pa., Oct. 13 (WF). A female eider (probably a King Eider) was at Presque Isle, Pa., Oct. 27 (JaS).

RAPTORS — The organized counting of hawks moving south along the Appalachian Ridges is attracting more effort each year. This year the results were somewhat mixed with most lookout stations reporting good numbers of birds but all agreeing that it was not one of the best years. The counts of Broad-winged Hawks reported were: Tuscarora Mt., Pa., 3662 (CG); Peters Mt., W.V., 6298 (1624 on Sept. 25) (GHu); Cumberland Gap, Ky., 545 on Sept. 21 (AS); 23 lookouts in Virginia, 26,002 with 3717 at Harvey's Knob and 2641 at Milepost 92, Blue Ridge Parkway on Sept. 25 (TF, BK); Mendota Fire Tower, Va., 6200 (TF), Taccoa Falls, Ga., 556 (530 on Oct. 2 — RS). A Black Vulture at Proctor, Pa., Oct. 1 was well north of the usual range (CS). Goshawks were sighted at Hooversville, Pa., Oct. 16 & Nov. 1 (GRS), at P.N.R., Oct. 21 (RCL) and 13 were logged during the season at Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG). There were more than the usual number of reports of both Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks from throughout the Region, but both species remain rare birds here. Rough-legged Hawks were reported from Pymatuning L., Pa., (several occasions — RFL); L. Arthur, Pa., Nov. 14 (RBy); Nittany Valley, Pa., Nov. 6 (MC & CHa); Seneca L., O., Oct. 18 (JS); Blacksburg, Va., Nov. 24 (MR) and as far south as Taccoa Falls, Ga., Nov. 18 (RS).

At Tuscarora Mt., Pa., a total of 24 Golden Eagles was logged during the season, and most unusual was one sighted at Newcomerstown, O., far from the usual range, Oct. 1 (*vide* ES). Only seven Bald Eagles were logged at Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG) and other reports came from L. Arthur, Pa., Nov. 14-28 (PH); Pymatuning L., (m.ob.); Bath County, Va. (JMH); Botetourt County, Va., Sept. 16 & Oct. 10 (*vide* BK); and Watauga L., Tenn. Oct. 30 (FA) and Norris L., Tenn., Aug. 22 (JH). Peregrine reports came from Presque Isle, Pa., Oct. 1 (DS); Waterford, Pa., Oct. 4 (SS), Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 6 (RFL); Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Oct. 2 (MC & CHa); Tuscarora Mt., Pa., 4 during the season (CG), Botetourt County, Va., Oct. 3 (BK); Austin Springs, Tenn., and Wilbur L., Tenn., several dates in October (m.ob.), and near Dalton, Ga., Oct. 3, first local record (HD).

GROUSE AND CRANES — In the n. part of the Region, the Ruffed Grouse continues at a low point in the population cycle. Sandhill Cranes were reported from Presque Isle, Pa., Sept. 20 (JaS) and Knox County, Tenn., where three were seen on the fall bird count, Sept. 26 (JBO) and one at Norris L., Nov. 25 (JH).

SHOREBIRDS — As expected most of the shorebird records came from Presque Isle S.P. on L. Erie where 30 species were logged in a systematic study throughout the season. Some of the rarer species not reported elsewhere were: Wilson's Plover, Sept. 10, Whimbrel, Aug. 1, Sept. 16, 17; Purple Sandpiper, Nov. 21, 30, Long-billed Dowitcher, Aug. 7; Hudsonian Godwit, Sept. 4, Oct. 10, and Red Phalarope, Oct. 22, 26 and Nov. 10 (DS). The shorebird flight was also good in the Elizabethton, Tenn., area (GE). American Golden Plovers were reported from five locations in Pennsylvania with a high count of 24 at Avis Sept. 16 (JV). Baird's Sandpipers and Dunlin were more widely reported than usual. Other records of note were: Willet, Shenago Reservoir, Pa., Aug. 21-28 (EF & CF), White-rumped Sandpiper, L.

Oneida, Pa., Sept. 5 (PH), Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 19-23 (DL & RL), Presque Isle Oct. 17, 22 (DS), Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Union City, Pa., Aug. 24 (JaS), Shenago Reservoir, Pa., Sept. 5 (DK) and Presque Isle Sept. 14 (DS), Marbled Godwit, Dalton, Ga., Aug. 13-22 (HD), Presque Isle Sept. 17 (DS), and Avis, Pa., Oct. 11-13 (PS). The Avis and Dalton records were the first for the areas. Northern Phalaropes were reported from L. Oneida, Pa., Aug. 27 (PH), Siegal Marsh, Erie Co., Pa., Aug. 29 (RBo), and Presque Isle Oct. 11 & 12 (RS).

GULLS, TERNS, AND OWLS — There was a heavy flight of both Ring-billed and Herring Gulls at the Allegheny Reservoir near Warren, Pa., Oct. 25 (TG). The most interesting gull records came from L. Erie where an Iceland Gull was seen on Sept. 26 (JSt), a Franklin's Gull Oct. 22 (DS), a Black-legged Kittiwake Nov. 14 (JaS), and an unidentified jaeger Nov. 28 (JaS). Caspian Terns were more widely reported than usual. Forster's Terns were reported from Presque Isle Aug. 8 (RBo), Daleville, Va., Aug. 16 (BK), and Austin Springs, Tenn., Aug. 21 and Sept. 4 (PR & RL). A Common Tern at Watauga L., Tenn., Oct. 2 (PR) was noteworthy for that area.

A photograph of a Snowy Owl appeared in the Washington, Pa., local newspaper [date?] but none of the local bird students saw the bird. At Elizabethton, Tenn., three of the four known nesting sites for Barn Owls were active in late fall (GE), and one was reported from Lewisburg, W. Va., Sept. 4 (COH), and one at Ligonier, Pa., in August (JVB). A Saw-whet Owl was seen in Washington County, Pa., Oct. 4 (RBy) and a Short-eared Owl at Presque Isle Nov. 30 (SS).

GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS — A Whip-poor-will at Big Meadows, Shenandoah N.P., Oct. 2 (ST) was late as was one found moribund in Knoxville Oct. 14 (JBO). Common Nighthawks moved through the Region at the normal time but no unusually large concentrations were reported and many observers failed to comment. Sixty-nine Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded at P.N.R., 13% below average but up from 41 last year (RCL).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Leeper, Pa., Oct. 27 (LC) was the first local record and reports from Irvine, Pa., Oct. 20 & 29 (WH) were from north of the usual range. In most of w. Pennsylvania the Downy Woodpecker is at the lowest numbers in memory (PH) and Hairy Woodpeckers remain at a low ebb both there and in n. West Virginia.

There were an above-average number of reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers from w. Pennsylvania (PH). This species was reported at Morgantown (banded) Aug. 22 (GAH) and at Presque Isle Aug. 29 (JSt), both rather early dates. Sixty-nine were banded at P.N.R. (RCL). Data from P.N.R. would indicate that the E. Wood Pewee is a possible Blue List species. The numbers banded in the last five years show a steady down trend, 49, 39, 37, 33, 32, and only 16 this year (RCL). The rarely reported Olive-sided Flycatcher was found at Charleston, W. Va., Sept. 11 (NG), Fort Loudon, Pa., Sept. 12 (CG), Elizabethton, Tenn., Sept. 19 (LH), and three records from s.w. Pennsylvania (JH), and two sightings (no bandings) at P.N.R. (RCL).

LARKS, SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS — Horned Larks were thought to be almost completely absent from s.w. Pennsylvania (PH) and were also missing at Waynesboro, Va. (RSn). Late Tree Swallow records came from Hooversville, Pa., Oct. 10 (GRS) and Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 17 (GE). Barn Swallows were also present at Austin Springs Oct. 17, quite late (GE). A concentration of 1000 Cliff Swallows near Lewisburg, W. Va., Aug. 24 was noteworthy (COH). The Com. Raven continues to do well. It was present all season on Roan Mt., Tenn. (GE) Out-

of-range records came from Warren, Pa., Oct. 30 (TG) and Kane, Pa., Nov. 22 (four — MH). On the evening of Sept. 25 a total of 30 ravens was observed flying into a night roost near A F.M.O. (GAH & RBe). The usual heavy migration of Blue Jays along the Allegheny Front at A.F.M.O. did not occur this fall (GAH) and the flight at P.N.R. was also greatly reduced (RCL).

TITMICE, NUTHATCHES AND WRENS — There was no major flight of Black-capped Chickadees to the south this year, but out-of-range records came from Blacksburg, Va., Sept. 5 (CA) and Lewisburg, W. Va. Sept. 19 (COH). The flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was very light, but birds found in Rock-bridge County, Va., at 2400 feet, Aug. 1 (CSt) may represent a new breeding station. Carolina Wrens were seen several times during the fall at Warren, Pa. At P.N.R. (RCL) and elsewhere in s w Pennsylvania (PH) the Carolina Wren populations are down from the peak of a year or so ago, but are still above the average levels. Of unusual interest were the Short-billed Marsh Wrens which appeared at Charleston, W.Va., in late July and attempted to nest in early August (ASH). There are few previous nesting records for the state. This species commonly appears in some places in late summer and one wonders if other nestings have occurred and been overlooked.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES — Mockingbirds appeared in the n. part of the Region at Knox, Pa., all fall (WF), Warren, Pa., November (WH) and Saegertown, Pa., Nov. 14 (RFL). The flight of all thrush species brought rather mixed results. In s.w. Pennsylvania the entire flight was poor (PH), as it was also at Charleston (NG). At P.N.R. only 16 Wood Thrushes were banded (second lowest year — RCL) but at A.F.M.O. a record high of 67 was banded. A date of Oct. 12 in Allegheny County, Pa., was late (MBR). At A.F.M.O. 564 Swainson's Thrushes, a record high, was banded during September (GAH), but at P.N.R. the bandings were below average. One at Dalton, Ga., Sept. 10 was extremely early (AH). Thirty-four Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH). A Veery at A F.M.O. on Sept. 29 was very late (GAH).

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS AND PIPITS — Unusually early Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at Latrobe, Pa., Aug. 14-15 (JMC). At A.F.M.O. 118 (new high) Ruby-crowned and 170 (new high) Golden-crowned Kinglets were banded, 121 of the Golden-crowns being captured on one day, Oct. 16 (GAH). At P.N.R. the kinglet flight was below average. As usual the Cedar Waxwing showed no consistency from place to place with "exceptionally plentiful" in s.w. Pennsylvania (PH), "good flight" at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), "abundant" in Shenandoah N.P. (DC), but almost absent at Morgantown (GAH); the usual heavy flight at A F.M.O. did not occur. It was an unusually good year for Water Pipits in the n. part of the region, and they were reported as far south as Roan Mt., Tenn., Nov. 10 (ESc) and Stuart's Draft, Va., Nov. 4 (JMH).

SHRIKES, VIREOS AND WARBLERS — At Presque Isle N. Shrikes were seen on Nov. 7, 20, and 28 (JSt) and one was at Saegertown, Pa., Nov. 14 (TP). Some late records for White-eyed Vireo were one banded at Morgantown Oct. 16 (GAH) and a w. Pennsylvania tower kill between Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 (DK). Solitary Vireos were extremely numerous in the heavy flight of small birds near Mt. Davis, Pa., Sept. 11-12 (NL) but were below normal at both P.N.R. (RCL) and A.F.M.O. (GAH).

The warbler flight started somewhat earlier than usual with a number of early August dates and continued at a fairly regular pace through September. The onset of bad weather put an end to it at most places, but there were some October flights. At P N R., only three species were banded in above-average numbers, eight in average numbers and 13 in below-average numbers

(RCL), while at A.F.M.O., six were in above-average, six in average, and six in below-average numbers (GAH). There was, however, little agreement between the two stations as to which species were in which category. Both stations agreed that Black-and-white Warblers were above average and that Black-throated Blue, Blackpoll, and Connecticut Warblers were in below-average numbers. At A.F.M.O., Tennessee Warblers remained at high numbers (824 banded) and Magnolia Warblers (189 banded) were at a new high (GAH). Connecticut Warblers and Orange-crowned Warblers were reported more widely and more commonly about the Region than normal. The usual heavy flight of Yellow-rumped Warblers at Morgantown did not develop and this species was below normal at P.N.R. (RCL). Away from the big banding stations the binocular birders generally found the warbler migration to be good, particularly early in the season. A "Brewster's" hybrid was seen at Presque Isle Sept. 11 (JSt, SSt). There were some rather late dates Nashville, at A.F.M.O., Oct. 16, Tennessee at North Park, Pa., Oct 16 (JG) and Magnolia at Jennerstown, Pa., Oct. 30 (BM)

TANAGERS AND FINCHES — A Summer Tanager was present Nov. 20-22 at a feeder in Pine Grove Mills, Pa (MW) Both the late date and the location are noteworthy. Another late tanager was a Scarlet at Johnson City, Tenn., Nov. 7 (GE) There were two reports of W. Tanagers from Dalton, Ga., a male Sept 16 & 25 (SP) and a female Sept. 17 (HD), the first local records

At Morgantown fewer than the normal number of Cardinals were present during the fall roaming period, and by the end of November most feeders in the area had far less birds than is usual, although there had been much snow (GAH). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Allegheny County, Pa., Oct. 14 was somewhat late (TM). At P.N.R., Indigo Buntings were observed flying with warblers along the crest of a wooded ridge during September (RCL). There were three reports of Dickcissels Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 15-19 (RL & DL), Leeper, Pa., Oct 26 (LC) and State College, Pa., Nov. 10 (MRo).

The "Northern Finches" were almost totally absent this season. There was only a scattering of reports of Evening Grosbeaks, and while these came from all over the Region, even as far south as Dalton, Ga., no one reported any great numbers nor were any of the flocks permanently located. A Pine Grosbeak was reported at Monroeville, Pa., Oct. 27 (BZ). The only report of Com. Redpoll was from State College, Pa. (MW) The fall flight of Purple Finches was unimpressive at most places House Finches continue to move westward and were reported at a feeder at St. Albans, W. Va., the first report for the Great Kanawha Valley (NG). At Carlisle, Pa., 60 House Finches were seen at one time at a feeder, Nov. 6 (RBe). Some index of the population of these birds at places of long establishment is given by the banding of 68 during the period at Indiana, Pa (CW) House Finches have now reached Maryville, Tenn. (JBO) The fall flight of Am. Goldfinches was very poor and Pine Siskins were almost unreported. The only report of Red Crossbill was from Shenandoah Mt., Va. near Harrisonburg (no date — MP)

A Le Conte's Sparrow was carefully identified near Amsterdam, Va., Nov. 13 (JVi). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported from Presque Isle Oct. 3 (SSt), and Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept 25-Oct. 3 (DL). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Presque Isle Sept 25 (SSt), and a Harris' Sparrow was at Devola, O., Nov 1 (JS) The migration of Tree Sparrows was on the low side at most places. At Morgantown White-throated Sparrows were in good numbers but White-crowns were low (GAH). Lincoln's Sparrows were scarce at State College, Pa. (MW). By the end of the period Snow Buntings were fairly well distributed through n Pennsylvania and were reported as far south as Rockingham County, Va. (JMH) and Shenandoah N.P. (ST). The only report of Lapland Longspurs came from Presque Isle, where they were present from Sept. 14 (early) to Nov. 13 (JSt).

CORRIGENDUM — The report of Bank Swallows nesting at Linville, N.C. (*Am. Birds*, 30:842, 1976) was in error. A swallow was seen there but no nesting occurred.

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

Record drought, heat and cold characterized this autumn season. But for a brief respite in early August, the Region's drought continued unabated through autumn. For Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan's Upper Peninsula (hereafter U.P.) it developed into the worst drought on record. In the Lower Penin-



sula (hereafter L.P.) its severity proved variable, being most critical in the north and central portions and less severe in the south. During the period many ponds, marshes and smaller lakes dried up. The northern half of Minnesota experienced many forest fires, while Wisconsin and the U.P. had fewer forest fires but numerous marsh fires. As a result of the extreme dryness camping, fishing and even hunting were banned in many sections of the Region.

Accompanying the drought was unusually warm weather with record highs occurring during August and early September (mid- to upper 90s). Temperatures during the remainder of September modified, but the advent of October saw a return to the higher readings (upper 80s). However by mid-October the weather changed dramatically; summer turned almost immediately into winter as unseasonably cold temperatures settled upon the Region. By late October - early November subzero readings were being recorded. This unseasonably cold weather persisted through November, resulting in the absence of any Indian Summer this year. By mid-November most lakes in Wisconsin, Minnesota and the U.P. had frozen, with those in the L.P. freezing over before the end of the period.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Common Loons began to appear in scattered areas of the more s. sections of the Region by mid-August. In Berrien County, Mich., a large dieoff of loons occurred during early November with 700-1000 found along the county beaches. Red-throated Loons appeared only in Wisconsin with a total of eight in Ozaukee County and two in Milwaukee County (EE, CF, DG, DT). Red-necked Grebes were found in Wisconsin (four counties), Michigan (two counties) and Minnesota (two counties). The rare Eared Grebe was recorded only in Michigan with one August 19-21 at Muskegon (VJ *et al*) and another at St. Joseph, Berrien Co., Aug. 21 (RS, NL *et al*). The W. Grebe appeared in Wisconsin at three different locations: two Oct. 2 in St. Croix County (CF); one Oct. 25-31 at Milwaukee (EE, DG, DT, MD *et al*); and one Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, at Madison (RK). In Minnesota 125 White Pelicans were on Marsh L., Lac Qui Parle Co., Sept. 25 with a very late single bird in Big Stone County Nov. 28, while Wisconsin had this species on the Mississippi R. in LaCrosse Co., Aug. 23 & 28 (19 and 23 birds respectively — FL) and in Dunn County Nov. 3 (6 birds — CF).

Late herons included a Great Blue at Duluth Nov. 26 (JG) and 60 Nov. 30 in Monroe County, Mich., a Green at L. Mille Lacs, Minn., Nov. 2 (RG) and a Least Bittern Oct. 18-23 in Marquette County, Mich. (fourth county record — NI). Interesting heron sightings for Michigan included two Little Blues Aug. 8, one Aug. 22 & 25 (JAG, SJ, AM, TW), three Snowy Egrets Aug. - Sept. 4 (EC, JHAN, JAG, SJ) and two Yellow-crowned Nights Aug. 8 (H&EC), all in Monroe County. Minnesota had a lone Snowy Egret present at the Agassiz N.W.R., Aug. 13 - Sept. 7 (SV). Wisconsin's main heron interest continued to be the Oconto Marsh, Oconto Co., where the last of the nesting Cattle and Snowy Egrets were seen Aug. 29 and Sept. 4 respectively (DT, HL). In addition two of the four summering Louisiana Herons remained well into August with the last noted Sept. 4 (HL). Two Yellow-crowned Night Herons were observed in Milwaukee Aug. 30 - Sept. 25 (EE). Four Glossy Ibises appeared in a slough in Columbia County, Wis., Sept. 23-26, where they were seen by many observers. Two White-faced Ibises were found in Big Stone County, Minn., Sept. 9 (TS).

WATERFOWL — Beyond the usual scattered pairs of Mute Swans in Benzie County, Mich. (AMar), a lone bird was found on the El Dorado Marsh, Fond du Lac Co., Wis., Sept. 24 (RK)

S.A.

This fall a five year program involving both the U S Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to decrease the fall Canada Goose population at Horicon Marsh (N.W.R. and Wildlife Area) was initiated. Over the past years the geese have used the marsh and surrounding area in ever increasing numbers until 200,000 to 250,000 have

become common. It is felt that such a large concentration poses a serious threat to the flock itself, should disease break out. In addition the Horicon Marsh area is unable to support such a large concentration. Towards this end the refuge waters were lowered this summer, corn was not planted on the marsh and a hazing program was instituted. The latter consisted of noisemakers (scare-aways and shellcrackers) distributed around the marsh and airboats that traversed the waterways. In this initial year little could be determined about the program's immediate success or failure. Canadas peaked in the Horicon area at 202,000+ during Oct. 8-21. However far fewer geese could be observed this fall along the infamous Highway 49 stretch than in past years. In addition the geese left the Horicon area earlier than usual, moving to more westerly located sites in the state (i.e., Grand River Marsh, Necedah N.W.R., Lakes Maria and Green, etc.). Many more flocks were seen along the Lake Michigan shoreline than is normal. Much discussion and debate about the program has already occurred. Certainly it will be watched closely in the ensuing years by many interested parties.

Harlequin Ducks were observed on L. Superior near Duluth Oct. 31 (1 i), Nov. 5 (1 m), Nov. 18, 24, 27 (2 i) (m.ob.), while in Wisconsin one was found in Douglas County Nov. 5 (GN, TD) and in Milwaukee Aug. 3 - Sept. 1 (m.ob.) with a different bird between Nov. 4 - 20 (EE). The scoter migration evoked considerable comment from observers this fall. All three species passed through the region in substantial numbers, commencing in early October and tapering off by mid-November. Maximum numbers included 38 White-wingeds in Ozaukee County, Wis., Oct. 23, (DT) and 100 in Benzie County, Mich., Oct. 7, (AMar), 110 Surf in Ozaukee County Oct. 16 (DT), and 33 Black also in Ozaukee County Oct. 9 (DT) and 45 in Benzie County Oct. 8, (AMar). Generally the Surf proved to be the most numerous, followed closely by the Black and then the White-winged.

HAWKS — At the Hawk Ridge Nature Preserve in Duluth 87 days between mid-August and late November were spent counting the migrating hawks. The most interesting numbers included totals of 308 Goshawks, 21,974 Sharp-shinned (twice the previous record high), 40 Cooper's, 30,010 Broad-wingeds (half of the 1970 record high), 19 Golden Eagles, 1207 Marsh, 25 Peregrine Falcons and 41 Merlins. Both Michigan's and Wisconsin's hawk migration proved less substantial except at Grosse Ile, Mich., where 11,800 Broad-wingeds were tallied during October and 2500+ Broad-wingeds were noted passing over Wisconsin Pt. (Douglas Co.) on Sept. 20 (GN, TD). While quantitatively there was variation in the hawk migration qualitatively nothing proved lacking. Minnesota recorded its first **White-tailed Kite** with the careful observation of one on the Rothsay Wildlife Area, Wilkin Co., Oct. 11 (GO). An ad. Swainson's Hawk was observed at the Cedar Grove Hawk Station, Sheboygan Co., Wis., Aug. 30 (DB) while a kettle of 70 was noted at Pipestone, Minn., Sept. 26 (RJ). A Ferruginous Hawk was found in Chippewa Co., Minn., Sept. 8 (GO).

Certainly the most unique find within this group was the imm. **Black Hawk** hit by a truck along a rural road outside of Bemidji, Baltrami Co., Minn., Sept. 18. The bird died shortly thereafter. It was discovered to be in heavy molt. While it showed no obvious signs of captivity, careful examination of the skin at the Raptor Rehabilitation Center (Univ. of Minn.) showed fret marks on most of its feathers. Whether this stress was due to captivity or nutritional stress from coming such a great distance is uncertain at this time. Solitary Golden Eagles were recorded in Juneau County Wis., Oct. 17, (SK, GB) and Ottawa County

Mich., Oct. 24, (BM). There were two **Gyr Falcon** sightings during the period. The first was an exceptionally early bird at Hawk Ridge Minn., Sept. 19 (MK) and the second a dark phase bird at Pt. Mouillee, Monroe Co., Mich., Nov. 25 (JK, AM). The latter represents the first record for this species in s.e. Michigan Wisconsin's first **Prairie Falcon** record was an imm. female caught and banded in Vernon County, Oct. 31 (BS). Another individual was recorded in Minnesota at Blue Mounds S.P. Oct. 17 (LH). Additional Peregrine Falcon sightings included three individuals elsewhere in Minnesota, three in Michigan and 18 in Wisconsin.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS — A lone Spruce Grouse was seen in Cook County, Minn., Sept. 20 (ES) and two were in Barron County, Wis., Oct. 20 (*vide* CF). Three imm. King Rails were present in Houston County, Minn., into August (D&GW), with a single bird at Pt. Mouillee, Mich. (JAG).

SHOREBIRDS — A tardy Semipalmated Plover at Duluth Nov. 1 contributed the latest fall date for Minnesota (RJ). Piping Plovers were observed only in Wisconsin with one in Milwaukee Aug. 13 (DG, EE) and three in Marinette County Aug. 29 (DT) An Am. Golden Plover in Milwaukee Nov. 19 represented a late sighting (EE). Late lingering Am. Woodcocks included birds Nov. 15 in Alger County and Nov. 16 in Ingham County Mich (BB). Solitary Whimbrels were found in Michigan — Sept. 2 at Erie Marsh, Monroe Co. (JAG, SJ) and Oct. 3 in Presque Isle County (BG, WG) and Minnesota — Sept. 17 in Cook County (TDy). Willets were reported from all three states. In Wisconsin a total of 35-40 was recorded Aug. 4 - Sept. 8 from Douglas (GN, TD), Fond du Lac (RKn), Milwaukee (EE, DG) and St. Croix (CF) Cos.; in Michigan there was a total of nine Aug. 21 - Oct. 9 including Benzie (CFr), Berrien (CW), Emmet (BA) and Muskegon (BB, JV) Cos.; in Minnesota an amazingly late individual was found at Maplewood S.P. Nov. 7 in Otter Tail Co. (L & CF), Red Knots also were found in all three states, with 23 in Michigan (Macomb, Monroe, Berrien, Muskegon and Monroe Cos.), eight in Wisconsin (Douglas, Milwaukee, Columbia, Sheboygan, Brown and Oconto Cos.) and one in Minnesota (Duluth).

A remarkably early Purple Sandpiper was carefully studied at Pt. Mouillee Sept. 7-8 (EF, SJ). Late Pectoral Sandpipers were found in LaCrosse Co., Wis., Nov. 22 (FL). There were four sightings of the White-rumped Sandpiper, uncommon in fall, including a record late departure date for Minnesota of Oct. 17 (Duluth — TS). The only substantial numbers of dowitchers and Stilt Sandpipers occurred in Monroe County, Mich.: 200 and 100 respectively. Western Sandpipers were found in Michigan, with seven in Macomb County Aug. 24 (BP) and seven in Monroe County until Sept. 16; Wisconsin had single birds in Brown County Aug. 27 (DG) and Douglas County Sept. 30 (GN, TD) There was a surprising number of sightings of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper this autumn. In Wisconsin they included 1-5 birds on six different occasions in Milwaukee (EE, DG, DT), also Sept. 3 in Marathon County (SK) and Sept. 6 in Douglas County (GN, TD); in Michigan Aug. 4 at Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw Co., Aug. 14-15 in Presque Isle County (BG, WG), Aug. 24, two at the Ann Arbor airport (TW), Aug. 28 in Alpena County (JGa), Sept. 4, five in Muskegon County (JP, HC), Sept. 8-12 in Monroe County (RC, DM *et al.*), Sept. 12, two in Emmet County (BAI), and Sept. 18 in Benzie County (CFr); in Minnesota, Sept. 11 in Aitkin County (RJ), Sept. 11 in Ramsey County (MMv), Sept. 14 at Duluth (DBO) and Sept. 19 in Otter Tail County (GO).

The only Marbled Godwits were found at Pt. Mouillee, with two birds Sept. 2-12 (m.ob.), and two different birds in late September (JAG, AM, SJ). Hudsonian Godwit sightings in Michigan included one at Shiawassee N W R , Aug. 26 (VJ) and

six birds intermittently in Monroe County between Sept. 6-23 (m ob), and the first record for the n.e. L.P. of one on Sept. 22 (WG), in Wisconsin a single bird was at Green Bay Aug. 26-27 (DT, DG); and in Minnesota three birds were in Ramsey County Sept 11 (MMv) and one in Lincoln County, Sept. 25 (RJ). **Ruffs** were observed this fall in Wisconsin, with one at Green Bay Aug. 14 (DT), and in Minnesota with two in Lyon County Sept. 12 (KE) and one in Otter Tail County Oct. 2 (GO). A Sanderling found on Nov. 7 provided a new late departure date for Minnesota (L. Mille Lacs — D&GW). The only Am. Avocet sighting this fall was of two in Milwaukee Aug. 19 (DG). Minnesota's second state record for the **Red Phalarope** occurred when one was found on Oct. 29 at L. Mille Lacs (TS). Michigan had three sightings of this species, including one Oct. 16, in Muskegon County (BBo, JV), one Oct. 17-25 in Berrien County (WB, BMo), and one Oct. 31 in Ottawa County (HC). Northern Phalaropes were found in Michigan with 19 birds in Muskegon County Aug. 21 (GW), one in Macomb County Aug. 24 (BP), six birds total intermittently between early August and mid-September in Monroe County (m.ob.). Wisconsin had six birds in Barron County Sept. 13 (CF) and single birds at Green Bay Aug. 22 (DT) and Milwaukee Oct. 26 (DG).

GULLS — There was a surprising number of jaeger sightings this fall They included unidentified species at Superior, Wis., Sept 17 (GN, TD) and St. Joseph, Mich., Oct. 1, 11 & 13, with a Parasitic observed at Grand Haven, Ottawa Co., Mich., Oct. 29 (LF) However there was an unprecedented number of sightings at Duluth, with a total of 18 seen during August. Sixteen of these proved to be Parasitic, six of which were adults (m.ob.) with the other two Pomarine, one a light phase and the other a dark-phase adult (KE). An amazing array of gulls was observed in the Region during the period. Glaucous Gulls were found in all three states with all sightings occurring during November: Nov.1 in Lake Co., Minn. (RJ); Nov.25 two at Rogers City (BG, WG), Nov 27, three at Marquette (*vide* AR) and one at Pt. Mouillee (JAG), Nov. 27, two in Douglas Co., Wis. (CF). An Iceland Gull was found at Duluth Oct. 17 (TS). Minnesota found only its second **Great Black-backed Gull** when an immature was seen intermittently Sept. 3 - Oct. 3 at Duluth (JG). This species was also present in s.e. Michigan with three birds in Monroe County Oct. 31 and one in Macomb County Nov. 14. A **California Gull** was carefully studies on L. Mille Lacs, Aitkin Co., Sept. 9 (TS). This represents only the second Minnesota record for this species. Again this fall a **Black-headed Gull** was discovered during late November in Monroe County. However it was only seen for two days, the 24th and 25th (JK, AM, TW). A surprising number of Laughing Gulls summered in Wisconsin and a few individuals lingered into August; with ththe last three observed in Manitowoc County Aug. 15 (DT). An adult in winter plumage was at the Erie Power Plant (Monroe Co.) Mich., Nov. 14 (JF). Several Franklin's Gulls were seen intermittently during the season in Berrien and Monroe Counties. In Wisconsin this species was found in Milwaukee (two, Sept. 6, EE) and in St. Croix County, where after mid-September its numbers gradually increased to 136 by Oct. 10 (CF). Little Gulls were regularly seen at three localities this fall. Milwaukee had two, possibly three adults from early August until early November. They were joined by an immature during October (m.ob.). In Michigan 11-15 individuals were present intermittently during the period in Berrien County (WB, RS, GS) and up to four birds in early September with seven on Nov. 25 in Ottawa County (BM, GW, BBo). The sighting of a Black-legged Kittiwake on Mille Lacs Lake, Aitkin Co., Oct 30 (JG) provided Minnesota with only its second record of this species. The reader must know by now that if one wants to look for gulls in Michigan the place is Monroe County. In addition to the species mentioned this county also produced two

Black-legged Kittiwakes (la, li) Nov. 14-16 (JK, JAG) and a **Sabine's Gull** Oct. 28&30 (TK, JAG, SJ).

TURNS THROUGH KINGFISHERS — A Nov. 5 sighting of a Caspian Tern provided the first November record for Minnesota (Crow Wing County — EC). A **Groove-billed Ani** photographed by Ponshair in his backyard Oct. 16 (Allendale, Ottawa Co.) was Michigan's fourth record. A Barn Owl was observed at the Cedar Grove Hawk Station, Wis., Sept. 18 (DB) with two birds also found in Michigan, Ann Arbor Aug. 24 and Macomb County, Oct. 15. Snowy Owls began to appear in all three states from mid- to late October and generally moved S during November. Most unusual was the appearance of an uninjured bird during the second week of August at Marine City, Mich. (JBa) where it remained into November. Certainly the find within this group was the appearance of a **Hawk Owl** in Barron County, Wis., where it was first seen Nov. 12 (CF) and again Nov 20 (BA). Three Great Gray Owls were in Roseau County, Minn., Nov. 26-28 (RN). Boreal Owls were banded in both Minnesota and Michigan, with eight Oct. 22 - Nov. 14 at Hawk Ridge (DE) and three Oct. 31 - Nov. 6 at Whitefish Pt., Chippewa Co. (WG), respectively. A total of 140 Saw-whet Owls was banded at the Cedar Grove Hawk Station, Wis., this fall (DB). The **Chuck-will's-widow** that was observed during July at Kalamazoo was last seen Aug. 18 (RS). Wisconsin's most exciting bird of the season proved to be a **Rufous Hummingbird** that appeared in a wildlife area on the n. edge of Racine Sept. 14. It was discovered perched in a tree and was observed feeding on insects and the jewelweed in the area (NS). It was seen in the same locale on the following two days (RK). The sighting is the first record of the species for the state.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLINGS — Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were found in Wisconsin along the Brule R., Douglas Co., Aug. 25 (EE) and just north of Appleton Nov. 20-26 Outagamie Co., (DTi *et al.*). In Michigan one was observed in Chippewa County Nov. 1 (WG). A W. Kingbird was found along L. Superior's n. shore at Toffe Aug. 20 (RJ) One appeared Aug. 18-26 in the identical location in St. Croix County, Wis., as one did last year (CF). Minnesota experienced a major invasion of Gray Jays into the s. and w. parts of the state They appeared at the Agassiz N.W.R. by late September, in Hennepin and Washington Cos. by late October, and Lac Qui Parle and Olmsted Cos. by mid-November. Possible causes for this abnormal movement were the dryness and excessive fires farther north. In Minnesota the Black-billed Magpie was found in good numbers with a few birds being sighted in the more e and s. parts of the state. The Carolina Wren was found in Wisconsin (two sightings), Minnesota (two) and Michigan (three). Both Minnesota and Wisconsin reported single Mockingbirds while Michigan had at least six. A **Curve-billed Thrasher** was found at Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co., Sept 9 (KE), providing Minnesota with its first state record. Varied Thrushes (one or two) appeared at Duluth in late Oct. - early Nov. (PH, JH), with a **Mountain Bluebird** just north of Duluth Oct. 24 (JG). The first **Townsend's Solitaire** in Minnesota in several years was recorded this fall in Crow Wing County Sept 24 (RM). Four hundred Water Pipits were counted at Fremont, Mich., Oct. 13 (ES). Bohemian Waxwings first appeared in the region at Duluth Oct. 21 (DS), and a solitary individual was seen heading due N over L. Superior at Whitefish Pt., Mich., Nov 1 (WG). A major movement, bordering on an invasion, of N Shrikes occurred this fall. It commenced about mid-October and continued into December. A surprising number of areas from all three states commented on numbers ranging from 15-20 to as high as 50-60 passing through during the period! A Logger-

head Shrike was observed at Rogers City, Mich., Oct. 11 and seen feeding on a Least Sandpiper the next day (BG, WG). However in Minnesota there were 13 "claimed" sightings of this shrike sp. If correct it represents more birds than have been observed within the state in the past several years combined.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — In both Wisconsin and Minnesota these two groups were characterized by a lackluster fall migration with almost no unusual sightings or dates and absolutely no major waves. In Michigan, while the same condition prevailed for the vireos, most observers commented on the fine warbler migration that passed through during August and September. Almost 1500 warblers were banded at Muskegon during this time (LW). However Michigan observers also failed to record any unusual species or dates. In fact the only noteworthy sightings were the **Worm-eating Warbler** recorded for the third straight November, this one in Duluth on the 11th (MC) and a Yellow-breasted Chat found in Washington County, Minn., Aug. 29-30 (JD).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH BUNTINGS — A **Summer Tanager** came to a feeder in rural Duluth Oct. 12-21, providing Minnesota with its first fall record (m.ob.). Blue Grosbeaks were found in Pipestone County Aug. 10 and until Sept. 26 at Blue Mounds S.P., (RJ), both in Minnesota. There was remarkable unanimity among birders in all three states this fall about the movement of winter finches (Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Com. Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Red and White-winged Crossbills) and their abundance at the period's conclusion — almost none and very scarce! Curiously the one exception to this pattern seemed to be the Pine Grosbeak which often was found more frequently than the Evening Grosbeak. The only place in the Region where any finch numbers were recorded was at Whitefish Pt., where Oct. 31 - Nov. 1 Grigg found 1267 Evenings and 255 Com. Redpolls passing through. However these birds did not move into the L.P., according to birders there. The most interesting sightings within this group proved to be the **House Finches** in Michigan. On Apr. 14 a male was banded by Horton at her banding station in Wayne County, representing the first state record. Single males were banded this fall (Aug. 6-8) in Muskegon County by Walkinshaw, providing Michigan's second, third and fourth records. A Hoary Redpoll was carefully identified in a flock of 34 Com. Redpolls at Wisconsin Pt., Douglas Co., Nov. 24 (GN, TD). The Spotted race of the Rufous-sided Towhee appeared in Minnesota in surprising numbers this autumn. One was in Rock County Sept. 23 & 26, with five on Oct. 3; two in Murray County Oct 1 & 4; and one appeared at a feeder in Minneapolis in early November, remaining into December. Lark Buntings were found in Minnesota with a single bird in Duluth Sept. 26, 27 & 30 (JG), six in Cottonwood County Oct. 2 (MB), and one at a feeder in Winona from Nov. 12 through the end of the period (RJ).

Three Le Conte's Sparrows were noted between Oct. 11-18 in Waukesha County, Wis. (JB) with a single bird in Minneapolis Oct. 31 (LH). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in Price County, Wis., Sept. 17, (MH) and Milwaukee Sept. 9, (EE), in Duluth, Sept. 19, (EC) and two in Wilkin County, Minn., Oct. 9 (GO), and St. Joseph, Mich. Oct. 2 (RS, MM, EW). The Tree Sparrow was considerably less common this year than the record build-up of last fall and winter. The Harris' migration proved to be a good one in Minnesota with predictable poorer numbers in Wisconsin and Michigan. Unusually early were the three Lapland Longspurs that appeared along Milwaukee's lakeshore Sept. 9 (EE). Flocks of 300 and 450 were found in the state during October. Smith's Longspurs were recorded in Minnesota at Duluth, Sept. 25, (DS), Aitkin Co., Sept. 28 (LP) and Wilkin Co., seven, Oct. 9 (GO). A lone Chestnut-collared Longspur was found in Wilkin County, Oct. 11 (GO). Both Wisconsin and Michigan had Snow

Buntings appearing in early October with good numbers being noted by November. For example, 2000 were found in Ottawa County and 3000+ in Muskegon Co., Mich.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION /Vernon M. Kleen

Except for a few species or groups of birds, the fall migration was rather dull. Only shorebirds, warblers and some thrushes were evident in normal or above normal abundance; noticeable waves, although small, in mid-to-late August brought in many passerine migrants. The drought or near-drought conditions



created mudflats in many places where such habitat is usually not so extensive — this was great for shorebirds and herons. Observers noted few hawks and few ducks (especially in the northern parts of the Region and along the major lakes).

The drought was responsible for a botulism outbreak at the lake at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport — nearly 1000 shorebirds died. About 1000-3000 Common Loons died from suspected botulism in the southern and eastern portions of Lake Michigan (primarily along the Indiana and Michigan shorelines) during early November.

As surmised, rainfall for the period was well below normal and the accumulated yearly total was very low; temperatures were also subpar for the Period — only 1-2°F. below normal in August, but gradually decreasing so that by November, it was 5-8°F below normal. The latter two months were the coldest on record for many areas.

Since all extraordinary sight records must now be thoroughly documented at the time of observation, more accurate and informative data is being collected. A total of 708 documentations was received this season: Ill. 32; Ind. 14; Iowa 11; Mo. 9; Ky. 7 and Ohio 5. All documented records are denoted by an asterisk (*) Specimens are denoted by a dagger (†). Records which were not satisfactorily documented appear in the UNCORROBORATED REPORTS section.

EXOTICS — Mute Swans: one at Dayton, Ohio, Nov. 14 (RPo, m ob.) and two in Franklin County, Ohio, from mid-August to Nov. 15 (*fide* TT).

LOONS AND GREBES — Good to excellent numbers of Com Loons were reported from most areas. Except for the two reported at Springfield, Mo. Aug. 4-6 (CB), they were primarily found from mid-October through mid-November with maximum numbers between 25 and 43. A **Yellow-billed Loon** was encountered at Springfield, Ill. (hereafter, Spfld.) Nov. 14-18 (*H, m ob.) — providing the first Illinois record and possibly the first truly inland record. Single Red-throated Loons were reported from four areas. Two Red-necked Grebes were present at Spfld., Oct. 24 (H) and singles were noted at five inland locations. Horned Grebes were generally uncommon; except for the concentrations of more than 100 in L. Erie around Cleveland for much of the season, maxima were 35-40; two were in near-adult plumage at Waveland, Ind., Sept. 5 (AB). Up to 24 Eared Grebes were present at Council Bluffs, Ia., Oct. 30 (RS) and 11 at Maryville, Mo., Sept. 20 (E); four at Dixie L., Mo., Nov. 6 (IA) and three near Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 26 - Nov. 25 (NJ *et al.*); singles occurred at L. Chautauqua, Ill. (hereafter, L. Chau.) Nov. 11 (H) and Spfld., Nov. 15-28 (H). Single W. Grebes were reported from Spfld., Oct. 18-21 and Oct. 27-28 (H); Nodaway County, Mo. Oct. 21 (E); Brookville Res., Ind. Nov. 9 (*BW *et al.*), Kansas City, Mo. Nov. 1 & 7 (*fide* NJ); Decatur, Ill. Nov. 20 (RPa), and Michigan City, Ind. Nov. 26-28 (ASi *et al.*). Maximum numbers of Pied-billed Grebes were 155 at Spfld., Sept. 23 (H) and 130 at Maryville Sept. 20 (E); the species was considered scarce around Louisville, Ky.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — White Pelicans first arrived in w. Missouri around mid-August, peaked (about 250 birds) in mid-September and were last noted Nov. 21 (WG, m ob), at least six appeared at Iowa City, Ia. Oct. 4 (NH) and four at Red Rock Refuge, Ia. (hereafter, R.R.R.) remained until Sept 13 (GB); two were found at the Mark Twain N.W.R. (near Grafton), Ill. (hereafter, M.T.R.) Oct. 4 (PS) and one was there Nov. 10-28 (JEa); another was present in Tazewell County, Ill., Nov. 6 (VH) and the one in Rock Island County, Ill. the past year finally departed in late November (EF). More observers are reporting Double-crested Cormorants — but that does not necessarily mean they are becoming more numerous; over 150 were present at Thomson, Ill., Sept. 26 (EF) and 50 at M.T.R., Sept 16 (JEa); the species was recorded from more than 20 areas encompassing two or more locations in each state. At least 250

Great Blue Herons were feeding in drying marshes at L. Ruthven, Ia., Sept. 3 (JD); other concentrations included fewer than 30 birds. Late-departing Green Herons were singles at Spfld., Nov. 10 (H) and Ottawa N.W.R., Ohio (hereafter O.W.R.) Nov. 7 (KA). Post-breeding distribution of Little Blue Herons was not very apparent; however, at least one bird was found in each state; four lingered at E. St. Louis, Ill. (hereafter, E.St.L.) until Oct. 5 (JEa). A group of 43 Cattle Egrets was counted at O.W.R. Aug. 17-21 (LV *et al.*); one lingered there until Oct. 30 (BSt); another was still present at Indianapolis Oct 21 (TA). The only Snowy Egrets reported were: three at E.St.L., Aug. 5 - Sept. 2 (JEa, m.ob.); two at Schell Osage, Mo., Aug. 8 (CB); and one in Alexander County, Ill. Aug. 27 (BPj). It was unusual to find a Louisiana Heron at Spfld. Oct. 4 & 5 (*H, m.ob.). The best records of Black-crowned Night Herons were of 280 birds counted at E.St.L., Aug. 12 (JEa) and 40 at Louisville Aug. 17 (S, FS). The only records of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were of six at R.R.R. Aug. 30 (GB); maximum of five at Squaw Creek Ref., Mo. (hereafter, S.C.R.) Aug. 29 (NJ *et al.*), and singles at three other locations. The Nov. 21 observation of a Least Bittern in Cook County, Ill. was quite unusual (RE *et al.*) A newspaper photo and account documented the presence of a **Wood Stork** at Land-between-the-Lakes, Ky., in early August (exact date not available). One dark ibis species was reported from S.C.R., Aug. 21 (JH).

WATERFOWL — Many observers reported Whistling Swans; maximum numbers were reported after Oct. 31 in n. Illinois, Indiana and especially Ohio; the largest single group was of 121 in extreme n.e. Iowa Nov. 18 (DKo); one had arrived at Columbus by Oct. 22 (TT); the earliest was one bird at Woodstock, Ill., Oct. 1 (DFI). A few flocks of Canada Geese were found in Ohio (1000+ birds Sept. 19 at Cleveland, M), Illinois and Kentucky during the last 12 days of September. One **Brant** was discovered at Union County Cons. Area, Ill., Oct. 15 (DT, m.ob.) and two were present later — photos available. White-fronted Geese were not very abundant this fall and were primarily reported only from Missouri and Iowa. Good numbers of Snow Geese (both forms) passed through the Region; early reports were of single birds at Columbus Sept. 17-22 (*fide* TT, m.ob.) and M.T.R. Sept. 16 (JEa). The only Ross' Goose reported was found at Maryville Nov. 13-14 (E).

Some reporters suggested that the duck populations, especially Mallards, were up this fall. A maximum of 300 Wood Ducks was found at Dade Park, Ky., Oct. 6 (RDo *et al.*); 84 at Mansfield, Ohio, Oct. 9 (JHe); and 63 at Cleveland Oct. 18 (M) From one to four Greater Scaup were present at Maryville Oct 28 - Nov. 20 (E); four were identified at Spfld., Oct. 31 (H) and three there Nov. 24 (H). Single Oldsquaws were documented for five inland areas and there were two at Thomas Hill, Mo., Nov. 14 & 21 (IA *et al.*). All three scoters were widely reported in small numbers, Sept. 22 - Nov. 30, with most observations in October. The largest flock was 111 (41 Blacks) at Chicago Oct. 25 (B) White-winged Scoters totaled 30 at ten locations; Surf, 33+ at 11 locations; and Black, 29+ at nine locations; many were not documented. The largest number of Hooded Mergansers ever seen at O.W.R. was reported Nov. 7 of 62 birds (LV). The earliest ever Com. Merganser for Kentucky was reported at Louisville Oct. 16 (DP). An early Red-breasted Merganser arrived at Evanston, Ill., by Sept. 10 (B).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Medium-sized groups of Turkey Vultures were noted at several locations; the largest concentrations were 150 at R.R.R. Sept. 19 (GB) and 90 at Mansfield Sept 30 (JHe). A Mississippi Kite was observed over the Aurora/Barry Co., Mo border Sept 5 (*KH *et al.*) A few Goshawks were

observed; the first documented record was of a bird at Cleveland Oct 30 (*EBA); others began appearing in mid-November. There were only a few other accipiters reported; only one Cooper's Hawk was reported for all of Iowa this fall; three in one day, Oct. 8, at Illinois Beach S.P., Ill. (hereafter, I.B.S.P.) is some kind of modern record (B). The total number of Red-shouldered Hawks reported was twelve (excluding those in the s. portion of their range); high count was three in Highland County, Ohio, Nov. 28 (KA); two others were found in Trumbull County, Ohio, Aug. 31 (CJ); there were two fall records for Iowa, one for Missouri, one for Indiana and two for n. Illinois. The only large number of migrating Broad-winged Hawks was 1500+ in less than 30 minutes over Tiffin, Ohio, Sept. 18 (TB); the latest record was of one bird at I.B.S.P. Nov. 6 (GR). Rough-legged Hawks generally appeared in late October or early November and were in very good numbers — at least in the north and west; the first bird arrived at Iowa City Sept. 29 (NH). Only three Golden Eagles were reported, two at Monroe Res., Ind., Oct. 24 (TA), Nov. 6 (SG) and Nov. 14 (SG); and one at S.C.R. Oct. 31 (JH). Bald Eagles appeared on schedule but were found only in small numbers at first.

The first Marsh Hawk of the season was noted at Dundee, Ill., Sept. 4 (RMn); 15 passed over L. Michigan near Chicago in 20 minutes Oct. 14 (C); and 25 moved through St. Charles County, Mo. in one hour Oct. 16 (JEa). The migratory period for Ospreys ranged from Aug. 29 to Nov. 20 with the majority passing through between Sept. 10 and Oct. 20; no birds were reported from Kentucky; there were 15 in Ohio, 6 in Indiana, 27 in Illinois, 4 in Iowa and 11 in Missouri. Several Peregrine Falcons were reported; two were mentioned for O.W.R. Oct. 12 (*vide* TT), all others were reported individually; O.W.R. Oct. 3 (LV); Columbus Oct. 15 (KA); Cincinnati Nov. 14 (KM); s. of Elnora, Ind., Nov. 28 (*TK); Spfld., Sept. 10 (H); Lanesville, Ill, Sept. 18 (*HWs); I.B.S.P., Sept. 19 (*JN); Grafton, Ill., Sept. 25 (JEa); Savanna, Ill., Sept. 25 (HS); Waukegan, Ill. (*JN *et al.*); Iowa City Sept. 26-27 (*MN *et al.*); and Springfield, Mo., Oct. 3 (*vide* NF) (Many of these birds were not documented; therefore, they can only be considered as hypothetical in future references). There were eleven Merlins reported; those which were documented included: singles in Johnson Co., Ia., Sept. 16 (*NH); Washington Township, Ind., Sept. 25 (*DA); Waukegan, Ill., Sept. 25 (*JN); and Carbondale, Ill., Oct. 13 (*MT0).

CRANES AND RAILS — An estimate of 13,000 Sandhill Cranes was reported (no date) for the Jasper-Pulaski Conservation Area, Ind. (*vide* RMm); only a few small flocks or groups were reported elsewhere and those were near their normal flight lines, two were present at Beardstown, Ill., extremely early, Aug. 30 (*BBE). The Aug. 29 occurrence of a Virginia Rail in Franklin Co., Ky. (*DCo) and Aug. 15 presence of at least one at the Monroe Res., Ind. (SG) were considered noteworthy there. Fifty-two Soras were flushed from a Waveland, Ind., marsh Sept. 5 (AB). Two Yellow Rails were reported: one in a field near Louisville, Oct. 22 (*BPB) and one near Barrington, Ill., Sept. 19 (*vide* RMn).

SHOREBIRDS — Owing to the drought or near-drought conditions, observers found shorebirds in more places and greater numbers than usual. Illinois observers are now evaluating shorebird concentrations and habitats on a regular basis to determine the significance of each area. Piping Plovers were noted in several areas. Fairly good numbers of Am. Golden Plovers appeared; at least 800 were present at O.W.R. Oct. 3 (LV, m.ob.); late departees were noted at M.T.R. (ten) Nov. 13 (JEa) and L. Chau. (two) Nov. 20 (DFr). Good numbers of Black-bellied Plovers were also reported; there were four November records, two of which were as late as Nov. 20 The

only Whimbrels reported were found near Cleveland: one Sept. 9 & Oct. 2 and two Sept. 25 (M, NK, DH). There were several reports of Willets at O.W.R., but the 50 at Cleveland Aug. 21 (DH) seems unprecedented. The Nov. 14 record of a Lesser Yellowlegs near Louisville was unusual there (BPB) and the highest count reported for the species was 300 at L. Chau, Aug. 28 (H). Red Knots were welcome migrants to many areas, from one to four birds were noted at eight locations Aug. 24 - Oct. 10. Three separate Purple Sandpipers were reported: one at Waukegan, Ill., Oct. 27 (*C); one at Michigan City, Ind., Nov. 28 (MSm); and one again at Waukegan Dec. 5 (*JN *et al.*) Stilt Sandpipers were seen in unusual numbers at OWR throughout August and September; one was reported from Columbus July 18 (TT); up to 150 were recorded at L. Chau, Aug. 7 (H). Almost everyone who found grassy shorelines found Buff-breasted Sandpipers; there were no exceptionally large groups — the maximum was 22 at Cleveland Sept. 11 (*vide* M), the migration ranged from July 31 to Oct. 10 with the majority being reported Aug. 19 - Sept. 22; Kentucky was the only state not reporting any.

Five Marbled Godwits were present at O.W.R. Sept. 4 (LV), one was seen at L. Chau., Aug. 28 - Sept. 19 (H, m.ob.), another at L. Calumet, Ill., Aug. 29 (B) and one more at E.St.L. from Aug. 30 to at least Sept. 2 (JEa, m.ob.). Thirty Hudsonian Godwits were noted at O.W.R. Oct. 3, only four were found there Sept. 4 (LV, m.ob.). A Ruff appeared at Spfld., Sept. 15 (*H *et al.*) and remained for the benefit of many observers through Sept. 20. Indiana was the only state where Am. Avocets were not detected; the species occurred mostly as singles but in groups of up to 20 birds at five areas. A Red Phalarope was reported from Cleveland Oct. 19 (*DH); L. Chau., Sept. 19 (H, RPA *et al.*) and Oct. 9-10 (H, RPA); and Palos, Ill., Oct. 26 (B, GR) A fair number of Wilson's Phalaropes was reported; maxima were 15 at L. Chau., Sept. 1 (RPA) and 13 at L. Calumet Aug. 15 (C), most numerous Aug. 7 - Sept. 1; however, three were still at E.St.L. Oct. 5 (JEa). Up to five N. Phalaropes were found at Brazil, Ind. Sept. 15 & 18 (LS) and the species was spotted on several occasions at O.W.R. during August and September, there were only three records for Illinois.

JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS — There were few jaegers observed along L. Michigan compared to recent years (B), the only one seen was at Evanston, Ill., Oct. 25 (GR); another was struck by a car in Calumet, and proved to be emaciated (*vide* B); it was quite unexpected to find one at Council Bluffs, Ia., Sept. 4 (*TH). The suspected Long-tailed Jaeger at L. Chau, Sept. 4 (*H, m.ob.) will be remembered as "jaeger, species" in the records; West Coast experts, upon examination of written and photographic evidence, lean towards Parasitic rather than Long-tailed. At least 28 Great Black-backed Gulls were present at O.W.R., Nov. 7 (LV, m.ob.); five were reported from Port Clinton, Ohio, Nov. 8 (OD); singles were noted at Indiana Dunes Oct. 19 (NC) and Winthrop Harbor, Ill., Nov. 14 (*JN) Exceptional numbers of Franklin's Gulls were reported; examples included: 5000 at R.R.R. Oct. 1-3 (GB); 500+ at Kansas City, Mo. Oct. 9 (NJ); 53 at Spfld., Oct. 15 (H); 18 at Columbus Oct. 16 (BPj); and lesser numbers at four other Ohio locations Sept. 4 - Nov. 25 (m.ob.). The first **Black-headed Gull** for Missouri was collected at Maryville Oct. 30 (†E). The only Little Gulls reported were singles at Chicago Oct. 14 (C) and Cleveland Oct. 31 (M) & Nov. 7 (DH). The third Iowa record of a **Black-legged Kittiwake** was recorded Oct. 27-28 at Iowa City (*NH), an injured individual was picked up near Charleston, Ill., Oct. 31 (*vide* LBH); and one bird was found in Clark Co., Ind. Nov. 7 (*JEI). The only Sabine's Gulls reported were found in Illinois one, Spfld., Sept. 23 (H); one, L. Chau., Oct. 10 (RPA), and one, Evanston, Oct. 17-18 (C, m.ob.) Most of the terns moved

through in normal numbers. Four Least Terns were still present at Springfield, Mo., Sept. 14 (CB); two at E.St.L., Aug. 28 - Sept. 2 (JEa); and singles at Spfld., Aug. 11-20 (H), Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 28 (NJ), and Louisville Aug. 15 (JEl).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The **Ground Dove** documented at Rockport, Ind. Oct. 27 was apparently the second state record for the species (*RCo, RMa). Late-departing Yellow-billed Cuckoos included a window specimen at Indianapolis Nov. 4 (†HWs) and an observation at Forest Glen, Ill., Nov. 1 (MC). An apparent Barn Owl was heard two consecutive nights in early September near Ft. Wayne (*vide* Haw); confirmed observations were singles at Columbus Nov. 9 (KA) and in Jefferson County, Ky. Oct. 29 (DP). There was a minor invasion of Snowy Owls; one found in Butler County, Ohio, Nov. 21 (*TS) was later caught and banded (RA); another appeared at Swan L., Mo. Nov. 4 & 13 (*vide* WG); there were four Illinois records including two road casualties. Short-eared Owls moved into the Region in early-to-mid-October but were most conspicuous in late October and November where groups of up to nine were encountered; more normal numbers consisted of four or fewer birds; the species was not reported from Iowa, Indiana or Kentucky. Five Saw-whet Owls were observed in the Cincinnati area in November (RA); one had appeared at the Pigeon River Cons. Area, Ind. by Oct. 2 (MWe *et al.*); 18 were banded at Davenport Oct. 10 - Nov. 5 (P); the earliest of two birds banded in Spfld., was caught Oct. 27 (K).

The only exceptionally large flock of migrating Com. Nighthawks reported consisted of "several thousand birds" over Columbus Sept. 3 (TT); there were four other groups reported in the range of 100-200 birds, but the remainder was less than 100 birds, the majority passed through during the first three days of September — the one exception was over Cincinnati Aug. 24 (KM), late departees were singles at Richmond, Ind., Oct. 15 (*vide* ASI) and Decatur, Ill., Oct. 27 (RPa). Observers noted that Red-headed Woodpeckers had a rather successful breeding season — however, both adults and immatures moved out early as if they were anticipating hard times. Early-arriving Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted at Charleston, Ill., Sept. 12 (LBH) and Louisville Sept. 19 (LR).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS — The only W Kingbirds reported outside normal ranges were individuals at Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 29 (TT) and Decatur, Ill., Sept. 18 (*HWe). An Alder Flycatcher "was singing an imperfect but recognizable song" at Northbrook, Ill., Sept. 12 (B). Single Least Flycatchers were found at Spfld., Oct. 6 & 19 and Nov. 9 (H). An unidentified *Empidonax* flycatcher was documented at Barrington, Ill. Nov. 25 (*CW). Occasional large concentrations of swallows were encountered; 5000 Tree Swallows at M.T.R. Oct. 5 (JEa); 2000 at St. Marys, Ohio, Aug. 26 (WR *et al.*); and 1000 at Rend L., Ill., Oct. 16 (MMo); 6686 Bank Swallows were noted at O.W.R. Aug. 1 (LV, m.ob.). A Black-billed Magpie was found at Larabee, Ia., Oct. 24 (MB).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS AND WRENS — At Columbus the first influx of Black-capped Chickadees was detected Nov. 11 (BPj); however, this was not an invasion year (as was last year) and the species was generally confined to its normal range. The only detailed record of a **Boreal Chickadee** came from Des Moines; the bird was first detected at a feeder (MWa), later photographed (NH) and still present in early December (m.ob.). Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a fairly good influx, first appearing in very late August and early September; good numbers continued throughout the migratory period. The presence of a Brown Creeper at Charleston, Ill.,

Aug. 15 suggested local breeding rather than early migration (LBH). An exceptionally early Winter Wren was detected at Indianapolis, Ind. Aug. 29 (HWs); a few birds arrived in late September, but the majority in October. Bewick's Wrens were reported as scarce at Danville and Louisville, Ky.; two were noted at Whitewater S.P., Ind., Oct. 13 (*vide* LPe) and another at Lake-of-the-Ozarks, Mo., Oct. 9-10 (*vide* NJ). Only a few Carolina Wrens were noted this fall in Iowa; other reports were normal. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were widespread in August, late reports were of individuals at Oldham, Ky., Oct. 24 (DP) and Iowa City Oct. 10 (MN).

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES — There has been an apparent "invasion" of Varied Thrushes; one flew into a window at Urbana, Ill., Oct. 11 (*DFr) and another was at Spfld., Nov. 16 - Dec. 4 (*H, m.ob.). A fresh Swainson's Thrush carcass was found at Cincinnati Nov. 13 (†BMr). The Gray-cheeked Thrush migration may have been somewhat sporadic; the species was reported in good numbers in some areas and scarce in others, one bird was banded at Spfld., as late as Oct. 12 (K). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet appeared at Lexington, Ky., Sept. 5 (DCo) — the earliest Kentucky record. Water Pipits were reported in good to excellent numbers — somewhat early in a few areas. A **Sprague's Pipit** was present at a Spfld., golf course Oct. 1 (H). Northern Shrikes staged an excellent movement into the Region, 15-20 birds were reported, the first at Chicago Oct. 14 (C) and Cleveland Oct. 30 (EBA); others were detected in the n. portions of Iowa, Illinois and Ohio during the second week of November with some locally established by Nov. 30. Loggerhead Shrikes included two at Cleveland Aug. 29 (DH), one in Daviess County, Ind., Aug. 8 - Oct. 10 (*DA) and one at Tiffin, Ohio, Nov. 15 (TB).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Comments received were primarily of early arrivals or late departures; therefore the most significant early arrivals were: Cape May Warbler Aug. 21, Magee Marsh, Ohio (TT) and Aug. 25, Spfld. (H); Black-throated Blue Aug. 21, Magee Marsh (TT); Myrtle Sept. 3, Spfld., (K) and Sept. 11, Louisville (*vide* S, m.ob.); Palm Sept. 12, Louisville (BPB); Connecticut TV-tower casualty Aug. 24, Spfld. (†H) and other late August c. Iowa and Illinois records (NH, RPa). The most significant departure records were White-eyed Vireo Sept. 25, Iowa City (*vide* NH); Sept. 12, Columbia, Mo. (WG) and Sept. 6, Loraine, Ohio (*vide* OD), Worm-eating Warbler Aug. 21, Magee Marsh, (TT); Golden-winged Sept. 25, Louisville (BPB); Nashville Oct. 30 Evanston, Ill. (C); Cape May Nov. 22 Spfld. (H); Black-throated Blue Oct. 10 Danville, Ky. (FL) and Oct. 4, Dundee, Ill. (RMn), Bay-breasted Nov. 23, Spfld. (K); Blackpoll Nov. 22, Spfld. (H), Prairie Aug. 29, c. Ohio (TT); Ovenbird Nov. 19, Spfld. (*vide* K), Connecticut Oct. 16, Shreve, Ohio (DKI) and Oct. 2, Iowa City (FK); Hooded Sept. 21, Ft. Wayne (Haw); and Am. Redstart Oct. 30, Evanston (C).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — Blackbird roosts built up normally during the period; however, the editor was not given details concerning any major problem roosts. November feeder reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks consisted of two birds, one at Columbus Nov. 21 to at least Dec. 6 (photo HGS) and one at Cincinnati for a week in late November (ASw, *vide* W). Only three Evening Grosbeaks were reported — each in a different state. There was only a small migration of Purple Finches; the earliest were recorded in very late August and others trickled through during the remainder of the period. One **House Finch** visited a Sterling, Ill., feeder, Sept. 17-18 (*HS). Very few Pine Siskins retreated this far south; a total of less than

20 birds was reported. For a non-invasion year, it was unusual for two Red Crossbills to appear at Springfield, Mo., Aug. 21 (*PR); another was a "window casualty" at Maryville Oct. 25 (†E); 12 were encountered at I.B.S.P. Oct. 16 (JN) and 20 in the Mason County, Ill., forest Nov. 11 (LA). The Lark Bunting at Maryville, Mo. Sept. 16 (†E) was unexpected. Savannah Sparrows were considered relatively common this fall. A **Baird's Sparrow** was collected at Maryville Sept. 9 (†E). Le Conte's Sparrows were widely reported this fall; high numbers at single locations were: up to 20 at M.T.R., in late October (JEa); and 10-20 (max. of 22) at Iowa City, Sept. 26-29 (*MN, m.ob.); one was documented at Cleveland Oct. 30 (*DH, M *et al.*); six were reported from four Indiana locations and there were many Illinois records between Sept. 12 and late October. There were nearly as many Sharp-tailed Sparrows as Le Conte's; up to ten were reported from M.T.R. Sept. 12 - Oct. 24 (JEa); six at Lacon, Ill. Oct. 2 (LA, MMA); three at Willow Slough, Ind. Oct. 9 (CK, TK) and two at Austin, Ind. Oct. 10 (*DP, photo BPB); the first and last for the Region were found at Chicago, Sept. 3 (B) and Nov. 2 (C), respectively; two birds were reported from both Missouri and Iowa. Early migrant Dark-eyed Juncos appeared at Evanston Aug. 29 (*vide* B) and Chicago Sept. 2 (B); the Sept. 11 record for Decatur, Ia., was early for that state (DKo). A "hybrid" junco × White-throated Sparrow was observed (and later drawn and described) in Henry County, Ky. Nov. 26 (*BPB). The earliest flight of Lapland Longspurs was noted at I.B.S.P. Sept. 25 (JN); others were not reported until some time later — but there were large numbers of birds found; the 35-40 birds in Trigg County, Ky., Nov. 12 was significant there (JEr). Snow Buntings, too, were widely reported in good numbers — especially in the n. portions of the Region; flocks ranged from a few birds (occasionally just singles) to over 100; the earliest arrival was Oct. 16 at Warren Dunes S.P., Ind. (*vide* HWb); more normal arrivals were Oct. 31 or later; the birds ranged as far south as Dayton, Ohio (25), Nov. 14 (RPo); Hamilton County, Ohio (1), Nov. 6 (*vide* W); Monro Res., Ind. (1), Nov. 1 & 9 (SG); Maryville (1), Oct. 31 - Nov. 22 (E); and St. Charles County, Mo. (3), Nov. 14-27 (*vide* JEa, m.ob.).

UNCORROBORATED REPORTS — Marbled Godwit at Louisville, Aug. 29. Many of the scoters and falcons would normally have been published here, and will be in the future, if not documented.

CORRIGENDUM — The dates for the Red Phalarope at S.C.R. AB 30:848 should be May 25-26, not May 2-28.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION /Robert D. Purrington

A season such as this is the stuff of which a Regional Editor's dreams (or nightmares) are made! In any other year, the unprecedentedly cold October and November and the resultant avalanche of early arrivals and departures would have been the



central theme of this report. Indeed, these sorts of data, and those indicative of population trends ought normally to be given the greatest attention in these pages. But this fall one might have indulged oneself and focused on extralimital records of Arctic Loon in Mississippi, Red-throated Loons and Western Grebes in Arkansas and Mississippi, unusual numbers of scoters, a Purple Sandpiper in Arkansas (to be reported elsewhere), a possible Ivory Gull in Louisiana, a Wheatear in Florida, and several Clay-colored Sparrows. Or perhaps he would have been excused had he emphasized the single locality of Grand Isle, La., and what was seen there in September alone: Swainson's Hawk, possible Wood Sandpiper, Curlew Sandpiper (late August), Northern Phalaropes, Sabine's Gull, Roseate Tern, Franklin's Gull, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Yellow-headed Blackbird! And yet the most remarkable story of the season was unfolding on an oil rig 75 miles out in the Gulf off the Louisiana-Texas border — astonishing not for the records of pelagic species which were accumulated, but because of the number and variety of species seen, including many not expected at sea even during migration. As full an account as is possible is given below.

As for the Region at large, it was indeed an extraordinary season from a meteorological point of view. October was the coldest ever, or nearly so, over the entire tier of states, and the frigid November was without precedent. A 22°F low at Birmingham on November 23 equalled the record low for the date, and the month was the coldest of the century. The November frontal passages brought rains which moderated the near-drought conditions which had prevailed and a series of week-end cool fronts beginning in late August contributed to what was seen as an unusually productive season afield. In Louisiana and Florida September 11 produced some remarkable records, while October 10 in the Florida section was a day of large raptor movement. Passerine migration was heavy at Venice on October 17 following a cool front but species variety was mediocre. The cold fall, while it seemed to explain a dearth of migrant insectivores in early November, made more remarkable the lingering almost into December of several flycatchers and swallows. On the other hand there was no tropical weather at all, for only the third time this century, from the birder's point of view a mixed blessing. Apparently the phenomena discussed here are not unrelated; high-level steering currents which turned hot, moist air away from the Gulf allowed much cooler air to move into the south from October on.

There was, by the end of the period, no sign of a true boreal invasion, though Purple Finches appeared in near record numbers. There were no reports of Pine Siskins or Evening Grosbeaks. The expectation which many seemed to have, that arctic weather would, *ipso facto*, result in a boreal influx, was largely groundless.

As was the case last fall, there was little evidence of displacement of western species and many of the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, and Vermilion Flycatchers were simply returning to winter territories previously occupied. The hummingbirds which winter at New Orleans feeders (and elsewhere) are generally western species; this fall they were fewer in number and late in arriving.

J Brent Ortego spent 27 days aboard an oil production platform in the Gulf of Mexico 75 mi. S 25°E of Galveston, Tex. between Oct. 4 and Nov. 18 (and returned later to the same location), gaining an almost unique opportunity to observe trans-Gulf migrants and pelagic birds over the northern Gulf. During that period he observed 1415 individuals belonging to 93 species, including not a few surprises. Most common were Mourning Doves (269) and Cattle Egrets (105). Highlighting his records were sightings of an unidentified **albatross** (Nov. 28), a total of four Gannets, eight Blue-faced Boobies, a Pomarine Jaeger (Nov. 27), Black-legged Kittiwake (Nov. 14), **Flammulated Owl** (Nov. 3), Black-headed Grosbeak (Oct. 17), **Lark Bunting** (Oct.

15), and Clay-colored Sparrow (Oct. 6, 7). A listing of all species is clearly impossible; it is hoped that a detailed analysis will be published elsewhere considering the surpassing importance of these records to an understanding of migratory movements near the northern Gulf coast. However, to summarize, Ortego observed birds belonging to 16 orders, including 278 passerines of 45 species. Among these were three Anhingas, eight species of heron, eight falconiform birds, two Soras and two Com Gallinules, a Groove-billed Ani, a Burrowing Owl, two Com Flickers, a Red-headed Woodpecker, two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, three flycatchers, 40 swallows of three species, 39 House Wrens (four species of wrens), 141 warblers of 14 species (nearly half Yellow-rumped), and 32 fringillids of 12 species. A detailed study of species composition, weather conditions, flight direction (if available) and other factors may help to distinguish in some degree among those species which may have hitched a ride to the platform, those which may have overshot the coast, and those which were true trans-Gulf migrants.

LOONS THROUGH CICONIIFORMS — Although the Arctic Loon is difficult to identify with certainty in winter, a bird thought to be of this species was seen at close range on Sardis L., Miss., Nov. 13 (WMD). A trace of the black throat was seen. There was no previous Mississippi record. Red-throated Loons, unusual in the Region but certainly less so than the previous species, were seen in Clark County, Ark., Oct. 23-24 (FB, SLA, SS), and at Gulf Shores, Ala., Nov. 18 (HHK, CB). Western Grebes, which are being reported with increasing frequency in the Region, were at L. Millwood, Hempstead Co., Ark., Oct. 10 — 31 (CM, HP, MP) and Sardis L., Miss., Nov. 8 (WMD), while a Red-necked Grebe, the third Nashville area record, was seen on Old Hickory L., Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 (MLB, m.ob.). Difficult to explain was a Horned Grebe at Hattiesburg, Miss., Aug. 31 (LG), but almost equally early were Eared Grebes, one at Hattiesburg Sept. 10 (LG) and another one day later near the mouth of Bayou Lafourche, Lafourche Par. (RH, RJS), the first September record for Louisiana. Observers in Arkansas and the Florida section commented on the large flocks of White Pelicans seen, while the high count of Brown Pelicans for n.w. Florida was 90 at St. Joseph Bay on Oct. 10 (SJS, BHS). Two imm. Gannets at Gulf Shores Nov. 6-13 (TAI, m.ob.) were earlier than previous fall records by two weeks. Ortego's Gannets off the Louisiana-Texas border were seen Nov. 14 & 17 and were interesting because of the relative scarcity of the species west of the Mississippi delta.

Reddish Egrets, which wander widely along the coast after breeding in s.e. Louisiana, were reported in somewhat unusual numbers; 23 at Cameron Sept. 11-12 (TD) and 12 at Grand Isle Sept. 26 (RDP) were the largest concentrations. At least four were seen on the Mississippi coast (WCW, LG, JT), which is only just beginning to get the coverage it deserves. An Am. Bittern at Destin Sept. 11 (CLK, EL, F.M.W.) was the earliest for n.w. Florida by 18 days and a Least Bittern at Gulf Shores Nov. 8 (TAI, JVP) was the latest for Alabama disregarding five winter records. Later still was one recorded by Ortego 75 mi. offshore in the Gulf Nov. 13. A Glossy Ibis was seen in Bay County, Fla. where either species of *Plegadis* is considered casual, Oct. 29 (MAO), and a single *Plegadis* sp. at Magnolia Springs Nov. 29 (PFC) was only the fourth winter record for Alabama.

WATERFOWL — Reports of waterfowl populations reaching this writer were generally encouraging but there was not enough information at hand to justify any firm conclusions. There were, however, nine extremely early records of seven species of ducks, supporting a general feeling of early waterfowl movements into

the Region. At Wheeler N.W.R., Ala., numbers were considered good, with 22,500 Canada Geese, 1300 Snow Geese, and 45,000 ducks present at the end of the period (TZA). The total of 4.5 million ducks estimated in s. Louisiana on the late November L W F.C. census was typical of recent years. A healthy Canada Goose seen (flying and resting) in Baton Rouge Aug. 7 (KZ, BZ) was without precedent. Locally unusual records of White-fronted Geese came from Monroe County, Ark., Oct. 13, where 55 were seen. New Orleans Oct. 24 (JK), a flock of 42 in a location where few are seen anymore, and Cherokee, Ala., Oct. 24 (JVP), three birds. Early Snow Geese were seen at Nashville Sept. 21 (LOT), the earliest ever there, at Wheeler Ref. Sept. 22 (WCD), the earliest ever for Alabama, and at St. Joe, Fla., Oct. 2 (NW), the earliest for that section.

Two Mallards at Destin Sept. 11 (CLK, SL, F.M.W. *et al.*) were by 17 days the earliest ever. In Louisiana the species was present in record numbers in late November, with 90% of the estimated total of 840,000 being in s.w. Louisiana. A Black Duck at Gallatin, Tenn., Aug. 22 (DC, PC) was the earliest ever for middle Tennessee by ten days. Pintails were noted in Limestone County, Ala., July 13-24 (DCH), and what was probably an early fall arrival was seen in Baldwin County Aug. 24 (JVP, GDJ). Gadwalls were unprecedentedly early at Destin where five were seen Sept. 11 (CLK, SL, m.ob.) and at Gallatin, Tenn., Sept. 29 (DC, PC). The earliest record of the Am. Wigeon in Alabama in fall was of one at Wheeler Ref. Sept. 8 (CDC, KH). Three Green-winged Teal summered (July 13 - Aug. 5) in Limestone County (DCH) and there were two other August records for the state this fall. Five at Destin Sept. 11 (CLK, SL, m.ob.) were the earliest ever for that area by 22 days.

A report of 1000 Canvasbacks at Ross Barnett Res., Madison Co, Miss., Dec. 2 (WHT) was encouraging, as were increased numbers in Louisiana. A Greater Scaup in Lawrence County, Ala., Oct. 10 (DH) was earlier than any previous fall record for the state, while four early November sightings of Com. Goldeneyes in various Alabama localities and at Hattiesburg, Miss. made clear the early arrival of this species. Also early were a Bufflehead at Nashville Oct. 28 (MLB) and several Oldsquaws in Alabama, n.w. Florida, and Louisiana Nov. 12-22. There were at least nine records of scoters totalling 18 birds distributed as follows: Common — 10, White-winged — 1, Surf — 8. All the records were from inland localities except for those from Louisiana Common and Surf Scoters photographed at Sardis L. provided the first documented occurrence of these species in Mississippi (WMD). The only White-winged Scoter reported was one seen at Sardis L. Nov. 13 (WMD). At least three Ruddy Ducks summered in Alabama and one in Cameron Parish; Sept. 4 was the earliest for Louisiana in fall by one month.

DIURNAL RAPTORS, CRANES, RAILS — A Mississippi Kite at Wheeler Ref., Sept. 4 (CDC, SG) was slightly late, but 15 at Memphis Sept. 28 (RJ) were remarkable for a species which is usually gone from the Region by Sept. 1. Although a Goshawk seen Oct. 24 in Calhoun County, Ala. (CWS) provided only the third record for the state, the big news among the accipiters was made by the Sharp-shinned Hawk. In Louisiana it was agreed to be more common than in recent years, but a total of 1897 seen flying over the St. Joe Peninsula Oct. 1-22 (SJS, DPS, BHS) and a peak of 1500 on Oct. 10 boggles the imagination. Ortego recorded one offshore Oct. 6. Forty-seven Cooper's Hawks were reported from Ft. Morgan, Gulf Breeze, and St. Joe (*vide* CLK) during the hawk watch, but went almost unreported elsewhere. Marsh Hawks were seen on the extremely early dates of Aug. 8 in St. Clair County, Ala. (JVP), the earliest ever for the state, and Aug. 13 in Cameron Par. (JK). A Swainson's Hawk near Leesville, La., Sept. 11 (RH, RJS) was only the fifth recorded in s.e. Louisiana.

Four reports of Golden Eagles were received involving five birds, two from Arkansas and one each from Louisiana and Alabama. Only three sightings of Bald Eagles were submitted, a fact which may be meaningless. These included one at L Millwood, Ark., Aug. 29 (CM), the second August record for the state, and the return of a pair to their nest site near Lafitte, La. on Sept. 16 (*vide* FBa). Records of 41 Ospreys are at hand, including 18 seen at L. Millwood Sept. 5 - Nov. 3 (CM). A nesting season record on July 21 at Choctaw N.W.R., Ala. (JVP, RJR) is especially noteworthy. At least 21 Peregrine Falcons were seen including seven in Alabama, one each in Arkansas and middle Tennessee, seven in n.w. Florida, and three in Louisiana. There were reports of ten Merlins, from which one can draw no conclusions, though perhaps mild optimism is warranted. Ortego's observations included a Peregrine, a Merlin, and five Am Kestrels. Single Sandhill Cranes in Marshall County, Ala., Oct. 30-31 (RDS) and in Lafayette County, Miss., Nov. 2 (WHT) were unusual at those inland localities. A Virginia Rail at Nashville Aug. 14 (MLB) was the earliest ever there by 24 days.

SHOREBIRDS — American Golden Plovers, whose fall migratory route generally carries them away from the Region, seemed more widespread than usual and were reported in small numbers from late August through the end of the period. A Piping Plover on Horn I., Miss., Aug. 1, and 13 individuals there on Aug. 3 (WCW) were very early, as were two Snowy Plovers at the same location Aug. 4 (WCW). One would like to think that the latter species might find some undisturbed nesting habitat on Horn or adjacent islands. A Piping Plover seen on Curlew I. in the Chandeleurs June 27 (RDP, MM) may have been a very early southbound migrant. Inland records of the Ruddy Turnstone this fall came from L. Purdy, Ala. where one seen Aug. 7 (HHK) was the earliest ever in fall for the state, and the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., Aug. 14 (RH). In Louisiana some concern resulted from the difficulty of finding the species at Grand Isle and Cameron where it is normally quite common.

The only comment on the Solitary Sandpiper was by Kingsberry who noted its absence this fall in n.w. Florida. A baffling shorebird seen near Grand Isle, La., Sept. 22 by two expert observers (RK, RJN) was identified as a Wood Sandpiper after a study of specimens and recourse to other sources. The bird was observed carefully under nearly ideal circumstances in the company of both species of yellowlegs and was flushed several times. Although there appear to be no records for the contiguous 48 states, there has been a marked increase in its numbers in the Aleutian Is. This observation brings to mind the occurrence, heretofore unpublished, of another Siberian species, the Mongolian Plover, at Grand Isle in April, 1975. Willets, unusual away from the coast, were seen at the Big Sandy Unit, Tenn N.W.R. Aug. 28 (MLB) and at Hopefield on the Tennessee-Arkansas border Oct. 18 (JGH). Peak counts of Pectoral Sandpipers at Lonoke, Ark., were 1000 on Aug. 28 and Sept 5 (EMH). A very late individual of this species was seen at Hopefield on Nov. 23 (JGH).

Several Baird's Sandpipers were reported from inland localities in Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee including 13 at L. Millwood on Oct. 17 (CM); the usual scattered birds were seen along the coast. Quite remarkable, two Curlew Sandpipers were reported from opposite ends of the Louisiana coastline; Aug. 22 in Lafourche Parish near Grand Isle (MM, NN) and Sept 4 in Cameron Parish (RJN, RK *et al.*). There had been only one previous occurrence, also a sight record. During a search for the first of these birds on Aug. 23, four Dunlin seen (RJN, RK, BC) were the earliest ever in fall for Louisiana, except for an ambiguous July 10 record. Another was early in n.w. Florida,

where it occurred on Sept. 18 at Marianna (MG). The second record of the Marbled Godwit for the Nashville area was of one seen Aug. 17-24 at Gallatin (DC, PC, m.ob.). Although there had been four previous sight records for Alabama, a **Hudsonian Godwit** seen and photographed Oct. 12-23 at Wheeler Ref. (MH, TB) removed the species from the hypothetical list. A Sanderling on the New Orleans lakefront Sept. 27 (NN) was only the second record for the metropolitan area. American Avocets were seen in better than usual numbers and in localities where they are rarely encountered. The earliest record was of five in Polk County, Ark., Aug. 6 (AMcW, LC) and their presence was considered noteworthy at Gallatin, Tenn., at Destin and Cape San Blas, Fla., and at Sardis L., Miss. An unusual concentration of 267 at Mobile Nov. 13 was the largest ever for Alabama (TAI). A Red Phalarope at L. Millwood Oct. 10-Nov. 3 (JL, CM, HP, MP) was the fourth record for Arkansas. Northern Phalaropes, which normally migrate along the Atlantic coast, were seen at Cross Creek N.W.R., Aug. 28(LH, JGH), in coastal Louisiana Sept. 18-25 near Grand Isle (RH, RJS, m.ob.) — at least four birds — and at Hattiesburg Sept. 21 (LG). There were four previous records for Louisiana.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Earliest ever for Arkansas was a Ring-billed Gull at L. Millwood Aug. 15 (CM). A **Laughing Gull** there Oct. 3 (CM) in the company of Franklin's Gulls was the first substantiated record of the species for Arkansas. Another at Nashville Oct. 19-23 (SF, WF, m.ob.) was the sixth occurrence for the area. Franklin's Gulls were seen in unprecedented numbers at L. Millwood, where up to 68 were counted and a single bird in Lafourche Parish, near Grand Isle Sept. 22 (RJN, RK) was the first in s.e. Louisiana in 15 years. A bird identified as an ad. Ivory Gull seen at Cameron Oct. 30 (JK) defies explanation; needless to say, there is no previous Louisiana or Gulf Coast record. Hardly less exciting was an imm. **Sabine's Gull**, a species never before recorded in Louisiana, seen at Grand Isle Sept. 11 (RH, RJS). Late Forster's Terns were at Nashville Oct. 31 (MLB) and at L. Millwood Nov. 7 (CM); a Com Tern at Sardis L., Miss., Nov. 7 (WMD) was the first recorded locally. Not content with a Sabine's Gull, Hines and Stein, some 15 minutes later, found a Roseate Tern at the same location on Barataria Pass at the e. end of Grand Isle. The identification of this species, whose claim to status on the Louisiana list has always been arguable, was based on the "chivy" call with which Hines was familiar. Latest ever for n.w. Florida was a Caspian Tern at St. Joe S.P., Oct. 24 (CLK) and a Black Tern Oct. 10 near Guntersville, Ala., was the latest inland occurrence for the state. Also late was an individual of this species seen offshore by Ortego Oct. 15.

Groove-billed Anis were generally difficult to find during the fall, especially in s. Louisiana where they are regular; none was reported from Grand Isle or Venice and few from Cameron. Some were seen in New Orleans and two were recorded in n.w. Florida where they have recently become regular in small numbers. An injured Saw-whet Owl which was picked up on the roadside in Jackson, Miss., Nov. 12 (Mr. & Mrs. Fatherse) and which later expired, was the second record for that locality and for the state. Although not a good hummingbird year by the standards of New Orleans feeder watchers, there were nonetheless several Rufous and Black-chinned Hummingbirds regularly visiting feeders and at least three Rufous Hummingbirds were coming to a Reserve, La., yard. The Buff-bellied Hummingbird which over-wintered the past two years in New Orleans failed to appear this October. Gratifying at the very least was a count of 66 Red-headed Woodpeckers amassed by the Memphis chapter, T O S, Oct. 31 in Shelby Forest S P

FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS — Although scattered W. Kingbirds were seen in coastal Louisiana, mostly in September and October, single birds in Arkansas near Arkadelphia Aug. 29 (FB, JB) and in Pulaski County Sept. 4 (HP, MP, EMH, HNH) were more of a surprise. At least a dozen Scissor-tailed Flycatchers appeared in mid-October in Kenner, La., where they have over-wintered the past three years (RDP). The only western *myiarchus* reported was an Ash-throated Flycatcher at Grand Isle Sept. 26 (RDP). Two or three E Wood Pewees lingered at Ft. Morgan Nov. 5-11 (TAI, JVP), in spite of the unusually cold fall; one on the latter date was the latest ever for the state. One of the birds was banded and found to be "fat and healthy" (TAI). As many as two Vermilion Flycatchers were reported from Magnolia Springs, Ala., Oct. 30 - Nov. 29, the female which wintered at Fontainebleau S.P., La., last year had returned by Nov. 21 (RDP, MM, NN). For the first time in five years a few Horned Larks were seen at L. Millwood, Ark., through Nov. 14 (CM). A Tree Swallow at Magnolia Springs Aug. 8 (PFC) was the earliest for the Alabama coastal plain, but a Rough-winged Swallow at Wheeler Ref., Oct. 30 (CDC, TB, BG) was the latest ever for inland Alabama. Barn Swallows also lingered at Wheeler until Oct. 30 (CDC, TB, BG), and at Mobile until Nov. 13 (TAI, m.ob.), and were seen at Sabine N.W.R. Nov. 14 (MJM) and Nov. 20 at Lakeshore, Miss. (LG). All of these are near-record dates and occurred in the face of record cold

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAXWINGS — Although a Red-breasted Nuthatch banded at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Sept. 22 (LD) was the earliest ever for that area by 12 days, it did not, as such reports often do, foretell an invasion. Three House Wrens in Morgan County, Sept. 10-11 (DCH, ENP) established early fall arrival dates for the state. The first Bewick's Wrens since 1969 in s.e. Louisiana were two seen at Laplace Nov. 27 (RJS, MW). Two Long-billed Marsh Wrens at Tuscaloosa Oct. 2 (JCT) were the earliest in fall for the Alabama coastal plain. The possibility of breeding was raised by the presence of several singing Short-billed Marsh Wrens near Siloam Springs, Ark., Aug. 3 (WE). A Gray Catbird in Cameron Parish Aug. 13 (JK, WW, LW) was a month early if a southbound migrant. Very late were a Swainson's Thrush at Marianna, Fla., Nov. 21 (M & MnG, KW) and a Veery at Ft. Morgan Nov. 9 (TAI), this the second November record for Alabama. A **Wheatear** seen and photographed at St. Joe Peninsula Sept. 26 (LA, BA, StL, m.ob.) was the first ever for n.w. Florida and the third state record. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were early at Nashville, where one equaled the earliest fall date of Sept. 9 (MPS) and in Memphis Sept. 19 (RJ). Golden-crowned Kinglets reached the s part of the Region in above average numbers. A single Sprague's Pipit at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Oct. 30 (RH, MW) substantiates the continued presence at that locality in small numbers, despite recent flooding of the spillway. Cedar Waxwings were remarkably early at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., Aug. 22 (WCW), appeared in early September in Nashville, and eight at Elgin A.F.B., Fla., Oct. 13 (SL) were the earliest ever for n.w. Florida

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Bell's Vireo in Bay County, Fla., Sept. 11 (BA, LA) was the fourth area occurrence, while Philadelphia Vireos at Birmingham Sept. 2 (JVP), Nashville Sept. 3 (SF), and Wheeler Ref. Sept. 11 (CDC) all indicated an unusually early flight. A Worm-eating Warbler at Nashville on Oct. 9 (ATT) was the latest ever there in fall. Peak migration of Yellow Warblers through the New Orleans area took place around Aug. 20 with Kennedy estimating 100-200 per hour afield in the appropriate brushy habitat. Earliest ever in fall for the Nashville area was a Magnolia Warbler Aug. 21 (HR, JR), a Cape May Warbler at Oxford, Miss., Oct. 10 (WMD, SSD) was

only the second recorded by Davis there in 13 years. Again unprecedentedly early at Nashville was a Yellow-rumped Warbler Sept. 12 (MLM). Two separate Black-throated Gray Warblers at Gulf Breeze Oct. 1 and 3 (StLi, RD) were the fifth and sixth records for n.w. Florida. With the exception of winter records, a Black-throated Green Warbler found dead at Birmingham Nov. 16 (RRR) was the latest ever for Alabama. On the other hand, earliest ever for that state was a Blackburnian Warbler at Marion Aug. 19 (HHK, GDJ); two at Wheeler Ref. Aug. 24 (MB, AM) also were earlier than the previous fall date for Alabama. Blackpoll Warblers are rare in fall along the central Gulf coast; this fall one was seen at Grand Isle Sept. 18 (RH, RJS)

A Pine Warbler at Cheatham L. Oct. 16 (RJM) was the latest ever for the Nashville area and latest ever for Alabama was a Prairie Warbler at Gulf Shores Nov. 8 (TAI, JVP). A Palm Warbler at Little Rock Sept. 4 (EMH, HNH) was by almost a month the earliest ever for Arkansas. Connecticut Warblers continue to occur annually in Alabama, generally in late September, this fall one was seen at Birmingham Sept. 25 (JVP, EGR, JAT) A Com. Yellowthroat at Hopefield, Tenn., on the late date of Nov. 23 (JGH) was noteworthy. Wilson's Warblers again had a good fall as evidenced by a number of sightings in n.w. Florida where it is considered rare in fall, and by above average numbers in s. Louisiana, where it winters. Late individuals were seen at L. Millwood, Ark., Oct. 17 (CM) and Nov. 11 at Ft. Morgan (TAI, RGH), the latest ever for Alabama. Also latest ever was a Canada Warbler Oct. 10 at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (SuLi).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS — Bobolinks, uncommon in fall in the Region, were seen in Alabama on the early date of Aug. 24 (AM, MB), in Limestone County, and several were seen at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Sept. 4-12 (RH, RJS, MW). Somewhat surprising was an E. Meadowlark seen by Ortego Nov. 1-2. There were four sightings of Yellow-headed Blackbirds reported Sept. 22-Nov. 13, three from Louisiana and one from Alabama. The latter, a Nov. 6 sighting at Magnolia Springs (TRH, VDH), was the first November record for the state. Northern (Bullock's) Orioles were found in typical numbers, and most seriously tended New Orleans feeders could boast one or more. A female at Santa Rosa I., Fla., Oct. 16 (SL, EL, SuLi) was by 20 days the earliest record of a species which is considered locally accidental. One of the few western vagrants seen was a ♀ W. Tanager seen in Cameron Parish Sept. 11-12 (TD)

Two very early Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen in Little Rock Aug. 29 (EMH, HNH). Female Painted Buntings at St. Joe Pen, and Gulf Breeze, Oct. 8&17 (SJS, LD), respectively, represented only the fourth and fifth fall records and the latest ever for n.w. Florida. Also unprecedentedly late was a female at Ft. Morgan Nov. 5 (CDC). Purple Finches were generally early and in good, sometimes record, numbers. A single bird in Bay County Oct. 29 (MAO) was the earliest ever for n.w. Florida and three at Ft. Morgan Nov. 8 (TAI, JVP) were the earliest ever for Alabama's coastal plain. The third record of the House Finch for middle Tennessee was obtained when one was seen in Cannon County from Nov. 23 through the end of the period (FBr). Very early reports of Am. Goldfinches were received from Noxubee Ref., Aug. 22 (WCW) and Tishomingo S. P. Aug. 27 (WCW), both in Mississippi, while the earliest ever for the Florida section were two at Santa Rosa I., Oct. 16 (SL, EL, SuLi) Four Savannah Sparrows at Birmingham Sept. 11 (TAI) were the earliest ever for Alabama. Similarly early and in an unusual locality was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Sept. 19 (RH), the first record for that well-birded area and earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana. Clay-colored Sparrows put on something of a show in n.w. Florida where two were seen at

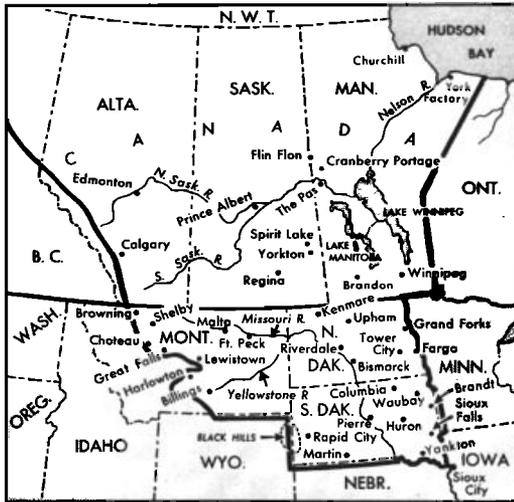
Gulf Breeze Oct. 15 (RD, StLi), two at Panama City Oct. 30 (BA, LA), and one at Marianna Nov. 7-8 (MG, DS). There were five previous records. Another was seen at Willow I. in Cameron Parish Nov. 13 (RH, RJS). The following early records were obtained for the *Zonotrichia/Melospiza* sparrows: three White-crowned Sparrows at St. Joe, Fla., Oct. 1 (SJS, DPS) earliest ever, a White-throated Sparrow at Memphis Sept. 23 (JL), Lincoln's Sparrows Sept. 25 at Gentry, Ark. (WE) and at Nashville a day later (MLB, RJM), Swamp Sparrow in Limestone County, Ala., Sept. 3 (MB), earliest for the state by two weeks, and a Song Sparrow at Farville, Ark., Oct. 5 (NL, CL). The first September record of the Fox Sparrow and the earliest ever for Alabama was of one at Wheeler Ref. Sept. 25 (DCH). A Smith's Longspur was seen near Gentry, Ark., Oct. 2 (WE).

CORRIGENDUM — It has been pointed out (Robert D. Barber, *vide* Henry M. Stevenson) that the presumed Wilson's Storm-Petrel reported at Marianna, Fla., Sept. 25, 1975 (*AB* 30:83) could well have been a Harcourt's Storm-Petrel on the basis of the description given by the observers. It should therefore be considered to have been an unidentified Storm-Petrel.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS **/Esther M. Serr**

Fall weather in the region could have been considered normal if the spring and summer had not been so lacking in moisture. By early fall many areas were drought-stricken and conditions were compared to the "dirty thirties". With the dryness the



temperatures remained warm and there was less wind than usual. The birds stayed longer; because of space limitations late dates are not listed.

LOONS, CORMORANTS — Common Loon reports totaled 60 over the Region. A flock of 23 was at McBride L., Sask., Sept. 18 (WCH) and a family of five was seen Aug. 15-24 at Caroline, Alta. (RJB). Loons lingered at small dams and reservoirs in the Dakotas and Montana Sept. 20 - Nov. 31 (PCH, NRW, WH, CMC). A **Red-throated Loon** provided the first authentic record for over 30 years at Silver Falls, Man. (RK, RFK, WN).

There were reports of 56 Red-necked Grebes with highs in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Horneds were in average numbers and Eareds peaked at 175 Aug. 5 in Upper Souris N.W.R., N. Dak., (IOR) and at 200 on Frank L., Alta. Sept. 21-26 (RJB). There was a concentration of 200 Pied-billeds Sept. 27, on Burke L., S. Dak., (GLS).

Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., supported a peak of 3000 White Pelicans Aug. 1-30 (JRF). In Deuel County, S. Dak., there were 2000 at Clear L., Sept. 25, and 1000 at Round L., Oct. 2. The unusual numbers were taking advantage of low water levels for easy food supply. They probably took 20,000 fish a day which would have surely later succumbed to winter kill (BKH). Double-crested Cormorants were present in most areas but still in low numbers.

WADERS — Great Blue Herons are not plentiful but there were 100 Aug. 20 - Sept. 12 at Indian Head, Sask. (MS). In Deuel County Aug. 17 there were 67 in one slough (BKH). It was unusual to find five Green Herons near Sioux Falls, S. Dak. (WH). The only Little Blues were singles at Delta at the s. end of L. Manitoba Aug. 13-19 (RS, SGS, JPG) and at Oak Hammock Marsh, n. Winnipeg Nov. 3 (m.ob.). On Sept. 13, 15 Great Egrets were observed at Rush L., Day Co., S. Dak. (BKH), and two stayed during September at Waubay N.W.R. A Louisiana Heron Set. 18 at Oak Hammock might have been the same bird seen there this summer (RK, RFK). Black-crowned Night Heron numbers are still low, with Manitoba, North Dakota and Saskatchewan reporting the most numbers. A Least Bittern was studied Sept. 28 at Burle L., S. Dak. It was unusual to find 20 Am. Bittern Sept. 15 at Spring Valley, Sask. (FB). An imm. **White-faced Ibis** at Valeport, Sask., Oct. '13 (FWL) provided a second provincial record.

SWANS — Whistling Swans were most numerous in Saskatchewan. Saskatoon had a peak of 4000 Sept. 26 - Nov. 17 (PON) and 5000 were seen Oct. 20 at Cumberland House (WCH).

GEESE — Personnel from the Canadian Wildlife Service took counts in w. Saskatchewan with the following peak numbers Canadas, 91,000 Oct. 13; White-fronteds, 97,000 Sept. 23-24 Snows, 170,000 Oct. 13-14; Ross', 18,000 Sept. 22-23. On the Yellowstone R., Mont., there were 7500, Billings to Fairview Nov. 15-16 (TH). Canadas peaked at 35,000 at Audubon N.W.R., N. Dak., Oct. 27 (DCM). There was a high of 25,000 in late September at Delta (REJ) and the early October peak at Oak Hammock was 30,000.

Unusual for Alberta in October was a Brant, at Hastings L. and three were at Cooking L. (PD, WRS). North Dakota topped the Snow Goose counts with 210,000 in five n.c. counties (State F. & G., *vide* ITL). There were 110,000 Snows in late September between the Delta and Oak Hammock areas. There were five Ross' Geese at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., N. Dak. (LAJ); and twelve at Oak Hammock and Portage la Prairie, Man., Sept 25-Oct. 2 (BK, CWC); on Sept. 24 singles were at Milo, Alta (RJB) and Ft. Peck, Mont.

DUCKS — The abnormally dry weather dried many potholes and sloughs, forcing the ducks to depend on larger bodies of water. Mallards totaled 31,000, Oct. 28 - Nov. 30 at Gavin's Pt Missouri R., S. Dak. (WH). The count on Oct. 9 in the Lemford Leader area was 250,000 and on Oct. 20 at Cumberland House Sask., it was 200,000 (WCH).

Single Black Ducks were found at seven places in s. Sask Aug. 10 - Oct. 30. One at Ft. Chipewyan, Alta., was unusual so far west. Wood Ducks have increased, probably owing to production on the Refuges and are beginning to appear in the Provinces. Arrowwood N.W.R., N. Dak., hosted 6830 Canvasbacks Oct. 13 (JWM) and in late September, Delta, Man., had 18,000 (REJ). Twelve Greater Scaup were on the w. side of L. Winnipeg Oct. 30 (RK, RFK, WN). A flock of 30 was unusual at Elk Island N.P., Alta., Oct. 30 (SJ, TJ). Oldsquaw continued to appear in the area with a total of eight reported. Rare for Alberta were two each at Carseland and McGregor Lakes (RJB). Harlequin Ducks were found at Edmonton and Jasper, 16 on Oct. 10 (TT, GHF) and two were at Regina (GGA). All three scoters have been present in the Region for three straight years. If there were more observers it could be determined whether or not they are regular migrants (BKH). South Dakota reported three each of Surf and Black Scoters in mid-October, mainly on smaller lakes. At Shell L., Sask., there were 50 White-wingeds Aug. 29 (WCH, SML) Calvin's Pt. Dam counted 6000 Com. Mergansers Nov. 25 Hoodeds totaled 63, Oct. 25 - Nov. 28 in South Dakota. Saskatchewan listed 44, and seven were at Ft. Peck Oct. 24. Sixty Red-breasted were in the Lancer-Leader area and 26 at Valeport, Sask., Oct. 24 (FWL). Three were unusual at Gavin's Pt. Nov. 11; 22 were at Grand Beach, Man., Oct. 30 (RK, RFK).

HAWKS, EAGLES — Turkey Vultures were more conspicuous in migration than usual in South Dakota, where 45 were seen. Six were noted Aug. 15 at Grenfell and 15 were at Indian Head, Sask., in mid-September (GGA, MS). Saskatchewan had a normal total of 29 Goshawks and five were at Ministik L., Alta., Nov. 17 (LB).

Sharp-shinned showed increases over 1975 reports. Saskatchewan counted a total of 94 and w. South Dakota had 17. A cold front Sept. 18-19 brought 15 to Ft. Peck. Cooper's Hawk observations increased in Saskatchewan with 35, and a family of four was seen Edson, Alta., Aug. 11 (RCC). Six were in South Dakota, Sept. 5 - Nov. 23. Five were noted Sept. 18-19 (CMC)

and three were seen in Manitoba.

South Dakota reported Red-tailed Hawk numbers at 106; half of those in the Black Hills (B.H.A.S.). Alberta had 70 with 50 in the Calgary area, Aug. 7 - Oct. 25 (JM, RJB). Broad-winged were most often reported from Saskatchewan with 11 during August and September; two were at Ft. Peck, Sept. 18-19. Singles were unusual at Travers Res., Alta., Oct. 31 and at Grand Beach, Man. Oct. 3. Spectacular was the migration of 500 Swainson's Hawks Sept. 22 at Rouleau, s.w. Saskatchewan. It was concentrated over and on two sections of land with some circling in the air and others ground-hopping while feeding on the abundant crickets (GGA). Swainson's were also reported on the increase from other areas. Rough-legged Hawks were subject to 63 sightings in Saskatchewan; they were a welcome sight in w. South Dakota after a five-year absence. After a cold front, 23 were counted in e. Pennington County, Oct. 24 (JLM, EMS). South Dakota counted 11 Ferruginous Hawks with five, Nov. 17 in c. Hyde County — one was injured and four were circling overhead (JHH). A total of 198 Bald Eagles was counted in w. Saskatchewan. There were 65 noted on the Billings-to-Fairview count Nov. 3-16 (TH). Marsh Hawk reports were down from 1975 South Dakota listed the most with half the total on the prairie adjacent to the Black Hills (JLM, B.H.A.S.). Ospreys from two nests produced 14 known chicks in Montana (RDS).

FALCONS — Gyrfalcons seemed to be working down from the north and had just barely crossed the border by Nov. 30. Prairie Falcon sightings exceeded those of 1975 by 20. Saskatchewan and South Dakota had 25 each. The total of Peregrines was 24 — another increase. The highest total was ten from Ft. Chipewyan and Grouard, Lesser Salve L., Alta., Aug. 3 - Sept. 22 (GRAE, GMG). Eight Merlins were seen near Calgary, Aug. 16 - Oct. 31 chasing flickers and dragonflies (ACS, WA, RJB). Two were seen Sept. 17 and Nov. 26 at Edmonton (E.B.C., RWT). American Kestrel was estimated to be down by 25% in Montana (RDS). South Dakota recorded 134 sightings, with 66 of these in Yankton and Bon Homme Cos., Aug. 8 - Nov. 25 — those on the latter date were probably the last of the migration.

GROUSE — This was an exceptional year for grouse in n.e. Montana. Bowdoin N.W.R. counted at least 200. At a two-day hunter check station, Ft. Peck, there were 167 Sharp-tailed, 12 Sage, and 17 Gray Partridges taken by 79 hunters — averages of 2.5 birds and hunting time of 1.2 hours (MWA). Ten White-tailed Ptarmigan were atop Whistler Mt., Jasper, Sept. 15 (DVW). A Ruffed Grouse population is building in the Turtle Mts., N. Dak. (RGR). Two Greater Prairie Chickens were unusual Oct. 16, n. Lyman County and one was seen in Brookings County, S. Dak. (RLH, BKH). Pheasant numbers are down owing to loss of habitat in the Dakotas. Gray Partridges appeared to be increasing e. of Calgary and Edmonton with a total of 167 reported, and Brookings and Turner Cos., S. Dak. listed 90 (GF, CB, NJH). At Morden, Man., 36 Turkeys were found in mid-September (JPG) and 49 on Sept. 26 at s. Hot Springs, S. Dak. (JLM, EMS).

CRANES, RAILS — In Saskatchewan 11 Whooping Cranes were observed in ten sightings, Sept. 1 - Oct. 20. Six were flying with Sandhills over w. Perkins County (AH). Fourteen were sighted late in October at Lacreek N.W.R., S. Dak. Sandhills were loafing near Quill Lakes and Semans, Sask., where 50,000 were counted Sept. 25 (WCH, SML). A Count by C.W.S. - U S F & W.S. had 46,000 for all of Saskatchewan Oct. 26-29. Flocks of thousands crossed over the Peace R. area, Alta., Sept. 22-27 (EC).

Soras were concentrated at Burke L., S. Dak., Sept. 27 - Oct. 15, peaking at 20 on Oct. 4. American Coot numbers were 62,000 on Sept. 14 at Delta, Man. They peaked at 9000 at Bow-

doin N.W.R., Sept. 14; 5000 at Big Stone L., S. Dak., Sept. 6 (BKH); 2000 at Long L., N.W.R., Oct. 9 (RLW) and 3000 at Upper Souris N.W.R., N. Dak., Oct. 10 (IOR). All this after almost no reports for three years.

SHOREBIRDS — Some of the best shorebirding in the region must be in a fan-shaped area to the east of Calgary extending at least 35 miles. Beaverhill L. east of Edmonton, probably "feeds" birds into the area; the return trip in the spring may bring birds into this area from McGregor L., n. of Lethbridge. Besides birds there must be birders interested in shorebirds and Calgary has them. Owing to drought this irrigated area in the Calgary "fan" was reduced to mud flats and low water areas. Such conditions make for close, quick viewing which is a joy in prairie birding. The area is accessible because of country roads connecting the many little towns — but there is no sizeable marsh. The following are species totals and report periods for the area: Black-bellied Plover 306, Aug. 1 - Oct. 31; Solitary Sandpiper 35, Aug. 1-13; Greater Yellowlegs 395, Aug. 7 - Sept. 26; Lesser Yellowlegs 505, Aug. 1 - Sept. 26; Baird's Sandpiper 223, Aug. 1 - Sept. 20; Least Sandpiper 170, Aug. 1 - Oct. 3; Long-billed Dowitcher 965, Aug. 7 - Oct. 30; N. Phalarope 89, Aug. 2 - Sept. 24. Reports came from a widespread area in Saskatchewan and the highest totals were: Semipalmated Plover 36, Aug. 1 - Sept. 6, Pectoral Sandpiper 200, Aug. 15 - Oct. 17; Semipalmated Sandpiper 225, Aug. 8 - Sept. 7; Sanderling 150, Oct. 23 at Wynyard, feeding on frozen shores and on ice in the middle of a lake (WCH); Stilt Sandpiper 70, Aug. 8 - 29; Marbled Godwit 130, Aug. 1 - Sept. 29; Hudsonian Godwit 2515 with a peak of 1100 at Saskatoon (JBG); Am. Avocet 282, Aug. 1 - Oct. 20; Wilson's Phalarope 300, Aug. 7 - Sept. 12; Long-billed Curlew peak 57, the largest concentration ever in Saskatoon, Aug. 2-8 (JBG).

Manitoba has large area marshes such as Delta and Oak Hammock and the best numbers there were: Piping Plover 7, Aug. 22-26 (JL); Am. Golden Plover peak 150, Sept. 18 - Oct. 20 (RJW, PH); Dunlin, five, Aug. 22 - Oct. 2; Buff-breasted Sandpiper 65, of which 25 were at Portage la Prairie Aug. 21 (GG). Six Whimbrel were seen in J. Clark Salyer N.W.R., N. Dak., Aug. 18, (D. Cunningham, *vide* JTL). North Dakota reported six Am. Woodcock Sept. 3-16 — one in Pembina County, in a place where courtship had been seen previously (DLK); four were at Jamestown (RES), and one at Fargo. A ♀ Red Phalarope was in full breeding plumage Aug. 17 at Freezeout L., Mont. (Carlson, Fitzgerald, *vide* Tom Rogers). Red Knots were seen Aug. 27 - Sept. 3 at Fargo and Golden L., N. Dak. (EGA, DLK) and three, Sept. 16-19, at Beaverhill L., (E.B.C., MSWB, LMW).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Jaegers are a rare find but each season a few are seen. A Parasitic was seen Aug. 24 at Edmonton (ERW) and one, Sept. 9-24, at Frank L., (HW, LW). An imm. Pomarine was harassing gulls at Ft. Peck. Single Glaucous Gulls were seen Aug. 5 at L. Claire, Oct. 6 at Ft. Chipewyan (GRAE) and Nov. 13 at Edmonton (DVW). Mew Gulls were noted Aug. 2 & Sept. 13 at Ft. Chipewyan and Sept. 12 & 21 at Edmonton (DVW). Franklin's Gulls increased in South Dakota with 11,300 Sept. 25-30 in Yankton and Bon Homme Cos., and 4000 Aug. 24, Waubay L., Day Co. At Wynyard, Sask., 2500 Bonaparte's were seen Sept. 26. An imm Sabine's Gull was seen Sept. 13 at Ft. Chipewyan. Two imm Least Terns were at Gavin's Pt., S. Dak., Aug. 15. In Deuel County, S. Dak., 25 Caspian Terns was a high number for a species so seldom reported. Black Terns were few.

CUCKOOS, DOVES — Band-tailed Pigeons are unusual in this region. One was seen Aug. 2, n.e. of Edson, Alta., (RCC) and another was at a feeder at Chester, Mont., Nov. 5 (HMM). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted Aug. 1 at Pierre (RLH) and

Sept 30 in Clay County, S. Dak. (B. Lemons, *vide* WH).

OWLS - South Dakota reported nine Screech Owls Oct. 2 - Nov 30, and 17 Great Horneds. One of those was flying at Reliance in bright sunlight at 100°F temperature on Sept. 18 (WCT) Three young were fledged Aug. 7 at Irricana, Alta. A total of 52 Snowies was observed in the region; October 22 was the first date they were seen in the U.S. A Hawk Owl was sighted Oct 20 near Winnipeg and three were in n. Alberta, Aug. 3 & Nov 3 A Pygmy Owl was observed at Jasper Nov. 14 (GHF, PF). Burrowing Owls had a good year in Montana, with 40 known young raised to flight stage (C. M. Russell N.W.R.). A Barred Owl was on a plowed fire break at Emerado, N. Dak., Nov. 9 (RNR) A Great Gray Owl was sighted Nov. 9 at Elaine L., Sask. (WCH) A Long-eared Owl with four young Aug. 4 was unusual at L. Claire (GRAE). Short-eared Owls were seen daily in Wood Buffalo N.P. in August.

GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRDS — A Whip-poor-will was seen Aug. 3, at Hudson Bay, Sask., and a road-kill was found Sept. 19 at Winkler, Man. (JPG). A **Poor-will** was found in Custer S P., S. Dak., Sept. 12 (RLH). Common Nighthawks were still scarce. Four Rufous Hummingbirds were at Calgary Aug. 7 - Oct 9 (DD, KAM). An **Anna's Hummingbird** was seen in Calgary Sept. 28 - Oct. 31 providing the first known record for Alberta The song was recorded and photos taken (KAM, HWP, RJB)

PICIDS — Common Flicker migration peaked at 300 on Sept. 14 at Indian Head, Sask. (MS). Single Pileateds were observed Sept 6 at Spruce Woods and Nov. 6 at Riverton, Man. (BR, HWRC) Red-bellieds invaded South Dakota again; six birds were reported Sept. 3 - Nov. 15 (WH, KJH, GLS). One Lewis' Woodpecker was photographed Nov. 11-27 at St. Norbert, Man. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers reported in South Dakota totaled ten Aug 21 - Sept. 20. Five Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were seen within the Saskatchewan forest. Two were unusual south of it at Moose Jaw Sept. 8 and at Saskatoon Oct. 11. Northerns were at Ft. Chipewyan and Spirit R., Alta., Sept. 6 and one was at Hadashville, Man., Nov. 7 (HWRC, R. Nero).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — Four Great Crested Flycatchers were at Armit Aug. 3 and a first for Regina was seen Sept 1 (MB). Eight hundred Purple Martins rested on Bismarck's water tower Aug. 31 and a daily average of 300 was there Sept. 10-13.

CORVIDS — Gray Jays moved from the forest into the open during the season. At Good Spirit L., Sask., there was an influx of hundreds Sept. 16 and about seven daily, always on the move, until Nov 15 (WJA). Saskatoon had the largest reported influx of Blue Jays in the Province when 225 were seen Oct. 1 - Nov. 23. For the first time 30 came to Chester, Mont. (HMM) as they spread westward. Saskatoon must have been buried under a total of 55,000 Com. Crows Sept. 21-25 (PON).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES — A Mountain Chickadee stayed at Joliet, Mont., Aug. 1 - Nov. 7 (KBH). Nine Boreals were on the Alberta prairie, Aug. 20-24. **Pygmy Nuthatches** gave Rapid City birders a surprise when ten at one time were at a feeder at Piedmont, S. Dak., at 3700 ft. elevation Nov. 7-30 (DAD) Since 1948 there have been glimpses of this species about once in ten years. The White-breasteds and Red-breasteds were driven out of a Ponderosa Pine by the Pygmies whereupon the "leader" would chase its own kind

WRENS, SHRIKES — Three Carolina Wrens were unusual Sept. 18-30 at Brookings, S. Dak. (CP, GF). Six Varied Thrushes were out of territory Aug. 27 - Nov. 6 in Saskatchewan (FHB, JBG, MEC). One was at Fargo Nov. 18 (ELD, EGA, CAS) Saskatoon had an unusual Wood Thrush Sept. 28. South Dakota birders saw 53 E. Bluebirds. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was believed to be a first sighting for the Black Hills and w. South Dakota, when it was seen at Rapid City Oct. 30 (NRW). Water Pipits were seen Region-wide in considerable numbers. Bohemian Waxwings arrived Sept. 9 in s. Perkins County, S. Dak (AH). Most shrikes were observed in South Dakota. Loggerheads totaled 38, Aug. 1 - Sept. 19 (JLM, NRW, WH). The Northern count was 28, Oct. 9 - Nov. 30.

WARBLERS — There were 28 different species reported, but many were in small numbers. Single Golden-wingeds were at Brookings, S. Dak., Aug. 29 and Minot, N. Dak., Sept. 6 (NJH, GBB). Three N. Parulas were seen Sept. 9-13 at Highmore, S. Dak. (JHH). A Black-Throated Blue was banded Sept. 7 in s. Brookings Co., and one was at Highmore Sept. 24. Singles were also at Saskatoon Sept. 25 (LWO) and Regina Oct. 17 (RD, CPr). Black-throated Greens were seen Sept. 11 - Oct. 1 at Oak Hammock, Regina (TL, EL); at Brookings (CAT) and one was banded at Burke, S. Dak. Two Pine Warblers were at Winnipeg (GCP). There were 11 Yellow-breasted Chats at Highmore, Sept 6 - Oct. 11.

FINCHES, TANAGERS — Cardinal reports totaled 14 in the e. half of South Dakota. Single Scarlet Tanagers were in Pembina County, and in Fargo Aug. 20 - Sept. 26 (DLK, EGA) and another was at Winnipeg. There were 50 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches in Badlands, S. Dak., (RAW) and 100 in the Black Hills, Nov. 14 (NRW).

SPARROWS — There were 28 species on the move. The only Grasshopper Sparrows mentioned were 28 in South Dakota and one at Regina (TMB). Fifteen Le Conte's were sighted Sept. 25 - Oct. 13 in Yankton County, S. Dak. Harris' Sparrow reports totaled 610, with 420 in South Dakota (IW, EAS, BLG); 167 were banded at Brookings, Sept. 21 - Nov. 16. Fox Sparrows seem to have greatly increased with 336 reported, 193 of those in Saskatchewan. There were 118 Sept. 19 at Hudson Bay (WCH) Saskatchewan counted the most Lapland Longspurs with 135,000 at Semans and Rouleau Sept. 24-27 (GGA, WCH). They peaked at 25,000 Oct. 2 at Oak Hammock. Snow Buntings numbered 5000 at the same marsh Oct. 23.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances Williams

"Coldest fall in 80 years." "November 12 the mercury dropped to 17° — more like late December." "Very dry throughout the summer and fall." "Major winter snowstorm Nov 12-14 followed by another Nov. 27-28." "The wild food crop is poor and many small ponds and marshy areas are dry." "Lakes frozen by last week of November." "Cold broke all records."

Given the above conditions, the early appearance of Rough-legged Hawks, jaegers, Snowy Owls, Northern Shrikes and Snow Buntings was not unexpected. But why did Ground Doves, Groove-billed Anis, Black Phoebes, Phainopeplas and Pyrrhuloxias wander northward into the cold? Why were Poor-wills, Com Nighthawks and Yellow-billed Cuckoos still present in late November?



LOONS, GREBES — Red-throated Loons were reported at DeSoto Bend N.W.R., Neb., Nov. 3 (AS) and at Bellevue, Neb., Nov 17 (RG). An Arctic Loon was discovered at Winfield, Kans., Nov. 26 by an observer who first became acquainted with the species during several months in Alaska (MT, *vide* DV). Red-necked Grebes were sighted in Palo Pinto County, Tex., Nov 25 (KN), Bellevue Oct. 12 & 14 (AS, RG), and Lancaster

County, Neb., Oct. 17 (DG). Two Horned Grebes in Gillespie County, Tex., Nov. 8 provided a new county record (RFM, JHM) Western Grebes were noted at Lancaster and Sarpy Cos., Neb., Jefferson, Kingman and Cowley Cos., Kans., Oklahoma and Osage Cos., Okla., Midland, Lubbock and Freestone Cos., Tex Pied-billed Grebes were feeding young in Palo Pinto and Ellis Cos., Tex. in late July.

PELICANS THROUGH ANHINGAS — White Pelicans were abundant throughout the Region Sept. 9 - Oct. 19 and a few birds remained as far north as Coffey County, Kans. until the end of the period. High counts were 3500 at Hagerman N W R., Tex., Oct. 4 and 2000 in Pawnee County, Okla., Oct. 2 In Linn County, Kans., 1500 Double-crested Cormorants were counted Oct. 2 and 85 were recorded at Hagerman N.W.R.. Oct 17 At least six were seen in Crosby County, Tex., an unusual number any place in w. Texas. Olivaceous Cormorants were noted in Walker County, Tex., Sept. 3 & 10 (KBB) and Dallas Sept 30 (HN). An Anhinga was observed at Dallas Oct. 20 (ABI *et al*) and seven were present in Hutchinson County, Tex., Oct 11 (FC).

HERONS — A flock of Cattle Egrets comprising 500 birds spent the first two weeks of September in Tulsa County, and 17 birds visited Hudspeth County, Tex., Sept. 15 (KJZ). One Cattle Egret was located in Johnson County, Kans., Sept. 6 (JL) A Reddish Egret was seen in Burleson County, Tex., Aug. 28 (MH *et al*). At Tishomingo N.W.R., Okla., 200 Great Egrets were sighted Aug. 4. Louisiana Herons were present in Walker County, Tex. as late as Nov. 24 (KBB). A Black-crowned Night Heron visited Jeff Davis County, Tex., Sept. 6 (JM), 30 were counted in Wichita County, Tex. (J & EK), and 75 were present in Hudspeth County Sept. 14-18 (KJZ). Least Bitterns were reported at Tulsa Sept. 12 (KH_a), Palo Pinto County July 24 (KN), Tarrant County, Tex., Sept. 6 & 11 (JKr, MPa).

STORKS THROUGH SPOONBILLS — Wood Storks visited Dallas Sept. 11-15. White-faced Ibises were unusually common at 12 Texas and three Oklahoma localities. The largest flock comprised 142 birds in Hudspeth County (KJZ). A White Ibis was sighted in Walker County, Tex., Oct. 22 (KBB). Roseate Spoonbills were reported in Texas in Clay County Aug 18-20 (Ecr, MB), Crockett County Sept. 7 (MC *et al*), Walker County Oct. 5-20 (KBB).

SWANS THROUGH MERGANSERS — A Whistling Swan was present in Johnson County, Kans. at the end of the period (DH, m.ob.). One was sighted at Balmorhea L., Reeves Co., Tex., Nov. 15 (SR, HK). A Brant was seen at Hagerman N W R., Nov. 6 (CRB) and another (or the same?) was on the other side of L. Texhoma at Tishomingo N.W.R., Nov. 21 (S&SB). There is only one extant specimen of this species in Texas and Sutton lists Brant as hypothetical in Oklahoma. There were five records of White-fronted Geese during October including 40 birds at Oklahoma City Oct. 10 and 46 at Hagerman N.W.R, Oct 16 A Ross' Goose appeared at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., Nov 11 (m.ob.).

Black Ducks were seen in Wyandotte County, Kans (LM), Comanche County, Okla., Nov. 28 (JCa) and Hagerman N W R., Nov. 13 (CRB). Two Mottled Ducks were sighted in Walker County Sept. 3. Cinnamon Teal were seen at Plattsmouth, Neb., Nov. 14 (GWo) and Linn County, Kans., Sept. 11 (NJ). A European Wigeon was found in Hudspeth County, Tex., Nov 16 (AC). If one wishes to observe Wood Ducks, it appears that Ft Worth Nature Center is the place to go: 25 were counted there Sept. 25 (B&JH). In Tulsa eight ♂ Wood Ducks were on a small pond in the center of a crowded residential area Nov. 28 (ABe) A

single Wood Duck was sighted in Hudspeth County Sept. 14 (BRZ). Diving ducks were extremely scarce throughout.

Oldsquaws visited Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R. Kans., Nov. 7, Midland, Nov. 21-30 (RMS, m.ob.) and Balmorhea L., Nov. 15 (SR). Surf Scoters reached Pratt, Kans., Oct. 29-31 (MDS) and Midland Oct. 30 (GP, m.ob.). A Black Scoter remained at Pratt Oct. 20 - Nov. 5 (MDS). Ten contributors commented on Hooded Mergansers — the species was either present in unusual numbers or was sighted in areas where it is not a regular visitor. A flock estimated to comprise 200 birds was at Hagerman N.W.R., Nov. 13-14.

KITES THROUGH FALCONS — A Swallow-tailed Kite visited Midland Aug. 14-28 (PH, m.ob.), providing a second county record. Most contributors noted an increase in sightings of both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. A Goshawk was sighted in Howard County, Tex., Oct. 23 (LBP, SC). No Swainson's Hawk flocks of more than 20 individuals were reported. Broad-winged Hawks were seen west to Crosby, Howard, Midland and Ector Cos. in w. Texas. Rough-legged Hawks arrived by late October throughout the Region. A **Gray Hawk** was studied carefully in Jeff Davis County Sept. 9 (PE). There were several confirmed sightings of Black Hawks in the Chisos Mts., Big Bend N.P. There are more reports of both Bald and Golden Eagles in the Region each fall and winter. This is not owing to more birders, but an actual increase observed by those who have worked in the same area for many years. A Bald Eagle residing in the Davis Mts. was scavenging on sheep carcasses. An imm. Bald Eagle with an orange-red marker on its right wing was sighted in Pawnee County, Okla., Nov. 26 (ES, EH).

A minimum of 76 Ospreys was sighted during the period and several contributors reported three to five Ospreys instead of the usual single bird. Caracaras were sighted in Freestone County, Tex., Oct. 5 (PCC) and in Parker County, Tex., Sept. 19 (PA). Aplomado Falcons were reported by competent birders in two widely separated areas of w. Texas but because of the scarcity of this species even in Mexico it seems best to be skeptical of all records unless substantiated by photographs or multiple observers. Prairie Falcons were recorded eastward to c. Oklahoma and Dallas. Only nine Peregrines were reported in the Region but Merlins were present in unusual numbers by the end of the period.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH GALLINULES — A Greater Prairie Chicken was killed by flying into a building in downtown Tulsa Nov. 8 (JT). A downy Bobwhite chick in McClain County, Okla., Sept. 25 was evidence of a very late hatching date. Whooping Cranes stopped in Phillips County, Kans. (KB) and Russell County, Kans. (RW) during late October. King Rails were noted in Palo Pinto County Sept. 5 and Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Kans., Sept. 26. Virginia Rails visited Hagerman N.W.R., Aug. 9 (CRB) and Big Bend N.P., Aug. 13 (DSS). **Yellow Rails** killed at a TV tower in Wagoner County, Okla., Sept. 27 & Oct. 3 provided the first Oklahoma records since 1842 (JN). This species was also seen in McPherson County, Kans. Oct. 17 (AJ). A Com. Gallinule with one chick was sighted in Hutchinson County, Tex. during August (FC).

PLOVERS THROUGH PHALAROPES — There were scattered records of Piping Plovers from Hagerman N.W.R. south to Burleson County. The peak of shorebird migration at Hagerman N.W.R. was Aug. 28 when at least 1000 birds were present. A Ruddy Turnstone provided a first record for Lubbock Sept. 5 (PD *et al.*). Others were noted at Tulsa Oct. 6-19 and Oklahoma City Aug. 14, Sept. 2 & 12 (MPo *et al.*). At Tulsa, Am. Woodcocks were sighted Aug. 29-30 (DS, ES) and in Kiowa County, Kans., Am. Woodcocks were present Nov. 21 (TF). Several hun-

dred Com. Snipe and Long-billed Dowitchers were present in flooded areas near L. Wichita, Tex., Nov. 3 (ECr, MB). Vagrant Long-billed Curlews were recorded in Hudspeth County Sept. 11 (KJZ) and Dallas Aug. 27 (HN *et al.*). Red Knots were sighted at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Sept. 26 and in Lancaster County Sept. 18. Four Dunlins were present at Hagerman N.W.R., Oct. 23 (CRB). Stilt Sandpipers in Hudspeth County Sept. 14-18 provided a new county record (BRZ, KJZ). At Hagerman 150 Stilt Sandpipers were counted Sept. 4. Buff-breasted Sandpipers normally one of the rarest sandpipers in the Region, appeared at localities from Linn County, Kans. (EC) south to Burleson County, Tex. (MH) and west to Nolan County, Tex. (SC). Earliest date was July 25 at Oklahoma City and latest was Oct. 8 at Tulsa. Reports of both Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits were numerous. Throughout the e. half of the Region Am. Avocets were unusually common. Four N. Phalaropes were present in Lancaster County Sept. 19.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Two imm. **Parasitic Jaegers** remained in Jefferson County, Kans., Nov. 6-20 (BF KHo, m.ob.) and three, also immature, were observed in Coffey County, Kans., Nov. 18-24 (LM, DAE, m.ob.). Still another was feeding on a road-killed rabbit in Finney County, Kans., Nov. 1 (MDS, AW). The bird was repeatedly flushed by passing traffic and nearly hit several times.



Parasitic Jaeger, Coffey County, Kans., Nov. 24, 1976. Photo by Jean Schulenberg.

Herring Gulls provided new records in Howard County Oct. 24-30 (LBP, SC) and Montgomery County, Tex., Nov. 24 (KBB RRM). An estimated 20,000 Franklin's Gulls were at L. Texoma Oct. 17 and 2000 were still present at the end of the period. Each fall and winter of recent years Bonaparte's Gulls have provided numerous new county records and appeared in ever increasing numbers at all large reservoirs. Now it appears that Black-legged Kittiwakes may be following the same pattern. The latter was reported at Lubbock Nov. 6 (PD, m.ob.), Tarrant County Nov. 21-25 (MR, JR, m.ob.), Coffey County Nov. 24 (DAE, JHS). Excellent details were submitted for a sighting of **Sabine's Gull** in Wichita County, Tex., Sept. 26 (J & EK). Forster's Terns provided new records in Freestone County Sept. 10 (PCC) and Howard County Sept. 10 (LBP) and remained at Hagerman until

Nov. 18 (KWH). Three Least Terns were observed at Oklahoma City Aug. 8, 20 at Hagerman Oct. 17 and single birds at Midland Sept. 1 & Oct. 8.

DOVES THROUGH CUCKOOS — Ground Doves frequently wander northward in fall, so sightings in Lubbock County Oct. 31 (DS, LMK) and Crosby County Oct. 20 & Nov. 2 (KH, DSt) were not unexpected. But one at Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 13 & 15 seems incredible although excellent details were presented (CC). The only observers still reporting Monk Parakeets are in Norman, Okla. Have the parakeets disappeared from the rest of the Region? An unusually late Yellow-billed Cuckoo hit a window of a Sherman, Tex., residence Nov. 16 (RS). Seven Groove-billed Anis were present at San Angelo, Tex., Nov. 7 (CCW) and one was in Dallas Sept. 30 (EW, MJC).

OWLS — A Barn Owl nest which contained four nearly grown owlets was located in Tom Green County, Tex., Aug. 3 (TM). Although it is just two years since the last invasion of **Snowy Owls**, several of these handsome visitors were present by the end of the period. In Oklahoma City a Snowy Owl established residence at Will Rogers airport and the control tower personnel took great interest in it. When the owl was featured on the evening TV news the airport was flooded with birders. Other Snowy Owl reports included a single bird in Geary County, Kans., Nov. 5 (CW), three in Omaha Nov. 16-28 (MW, m.ob.) and one in Jefferson County, Kans., Nov. 23 (RM, MPE). Short-eared Owls were reported at five Oklahoma localities including a flock comprising 40 or 50 birds in Washington County Nov. 20 (ED). Outside Oklahoma the only record was in Ellis County, Kans.

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A Poor-will was found in a semi-torpid state in a fireplace in an El Paso home Nov. 4. The bird spent three days in the fireplace before being removed and released. It flew off after a few minutes in the sun (KJZ). An injured Poor-will was delivered to the Erskine bird rehabilitation center in Midland Nov. 5 and a Com. Nighthawk was brought in Nov. 10. Poor-wills were reported in Jackson and Comanche Cos., Okla., Oct. 9-11. In Cleveland County, Okla., Com. Nighthawks remained until Oct. 26. A flight of more than 1000 Com. Nighthawks occurred over Oberlin, Kans., Sept. 5 (RL). An Anna's Hummingbird visited a feeder in El Paso Nov. 13-14. A Rufous Hummingbird was alive after the El Paso snowstorm of Nov. 14-15 but was found dead Nov. 17. Other Rufous hummers were sighted at Fort Worth Aug. 28-31 and Wichita County, Tex., Aug. 15. A **Calliope Hummingbird** was photographed in mid-August at a Tarrant County feeder belonging to Mr. & Mrs. William Evans. Calliopes also visited Big Bend N.P., Aug. 20 (MI, m.ob.). Will the



Calliope Hummingbird, Tarrant County, Tex., Aug. 11-13, 1976. Photo by Landon Beaver.

prevalence of feeders reveal that Calliope Hummingbirds are frequent plains visitors just as Broad-tailed and Rufous Hummingbirds are? And how many of those imm. *Selasphorus* hummers are really Allen's?

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — There was a widespread failure of the pecan crop in Oklahoma and Texas which resulted in a decrease in numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers. Perhaps the winter reports will reveal where the birds went. In Delaware County, Okla. Red-headed Woodpeckers stored acorns in bluebird houses, then enlarged the holes to retrieve the acorns (OM). R.F. Lang has driven along I-80 between Grand Island and North Platte, Neb. every summer for at least ten years. He reports that until two years ago he never saw Red-headed Woodpeckers along the highway but now 15 or more are seen each trip. He believes the dead Am. Elms along the way have attracted the birds. A note received too late for the nesting season revealed that two Red-cockaded Woodpecker nests were discovered in Trinity County, Tex. One was successful, with two young fledged. The other was usurped by Red-bellied Woodpeckers. As late as Oct. 5 there were still E Kingbirds in Rogers County, Okla. (RLS). One E. Kingbird wandered to Presidio County, Tex., Sept. 9 (JM). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Omaha Sept. 10 was far north of the usual range of the species (CN, m.ob.). Black Phoebe regularly wander northward in late fall and winter but one which appeared in Titus County in n.e. Texas Nov. 8 rather overdid it (JHY). A Great Crested Flycatcher was sighted in Jeff Davis County Sept. 10 (JM). An E. Wood Pewee was recorded in Ellis County, Kans Oct. 18 (MER). In Linn County, a pair of E. Wood Pewees was feeding a fledged young on the late date Aug. 28.

SWALLOWS THROUGH JAYS — Over 2000 migrant swallows roosted in Palo Pinto County, Sept. 19. At least 95% were Barn Swallows with Rough-winged, Cliff, Tree and Bank also present. A group of 25 Rough-winged Swallows was sighted in Linn County Oct. 24 and Tree, Barn and Cliff Swallows all remained in Sarpy County until the end of October. Purple Martins were still feeding young in the nest Aug. 2 in Johnson County. An amazingly late Purple Martin was observed in Ellis County, Kans., Nov. 14. Invading Blue Jays seemed to be more abundant in the Texas hill country than the resident Scrub Jays. At San Angelo Blue Jays were more numerous than they had been since the mid-60s. A Steller's Jay visited Lubbock Sept. 12 (KR). Scrub Jays were noted at Dodge City (JCh), Cowley County, Kans. (MT) and Lubbock (GJ). A Black-billed Magpie was sighted at Norman, Okla., Sept. 30 (KM). Large flocks of Com. Crows visited El Paso, Midland and Crosby County late in the season. Piñon Jays stored grasshoppers in crevices of tree bark in Wichita County, Kans. A single Piñon Jay was wintering at Pratt, Kans. (MDS) and one was sighted at Lubbock Nov. 8-9 (MD, m.ob.).

CHICKADEES THROUGH WRENS — A Mountain Chickadee was observed on Oklahoma's Black Mesa Sept. 7 (JW). A Verdin nest found in Jackson County, Okla., contained two dead birds, possibly killed by hail. A White-breasted Nuthatch was found in Crosby County. There were records of Red-breasted Nuthatches from 15 localities. Brown Creepers were also numerous throughout. A Carolina Wren remained at Hays, Kans. at the end of the period (CAE, MER). Cactus Wrens were recorded in Moore County in the Texas Panhandle (FC). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was sighted at Hays Oct. 21. Rock Wrens continued to take advantage of man's dam building proclivities and were observed on rip-rap in Coffey, Osage and Oklahoma Cos. An "out of habitat" Rock Wren was seen on a brush pile near a cattail marsh in Oklahoma County.

MIMICS AND THRUSHES — Gray Catbirds were sighted in Crosby County Sept. 13 (RE) and Lubbock Sept. 26 (GJ). Brown Thrashers lingered until November in Ellis County, Kans., and one in Hudspeth County Nov. 7 provided a new distribution record. Curve-billed Thrashers arrived at the Wichita Mt. N.W.R., Okla., Oct. 22. Young Curve-billed were observed in Jackson County, Okla. during August. Curve-billed Thrashers have resided in Kearny County, Kans. the past two years (MDS). A **Rufous-backed Robin** was photographed at Langtry, Tex., Nov. 11 & 18 (PBR). Wood Thrushes were sighted in Hutchinson County, Tex., Oct. 16¹ and Sherman Sept. 27. Mountain Bluebirds were abundant in the Texas Panhandle south to the Lubbock area. A flock of E. Bluebirds comprising 53 individuals visited Linn County Oct. 2 (NJ). The only Townsend's Solitaire reported was in Ector County, Tex., Oct. 9 (BE).

KINGLETS THROUGH SHRIKES — Golden-crowned Kinglets arrived by the end of September and flocks of 20 to 30 were not uncommon. In Kerr County, Tex., Golden-crowns outnumbered Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Sprague's Pipits were found in Tulsa & Cleveland Cos., during early November. Phainopeplas were observed at Lubbock Sept. 19 (m.ob.) and Oct. 14 (PD, DB) and at Midland Nov. 23 (TSJ). At least three **Northern Shrikes** were present in the Amarillo area at the end of the period (m.ob.) and one was found at Oklahoma City (IGN, JS).

VIREOS — White-eyed Vireos were sighted in Sarpy County in August & September (MW). Bell's Vireos were feeding a fledgling in Crosby County as late as Sept. 2. A Yellow-throated Vireo was observed at Lubbock Sept. 10 (GJ). Excellent details

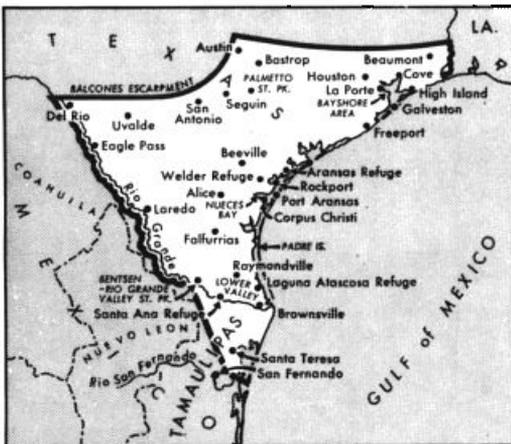
were submitted of a sighting of a **Yellow-green Vireo** in Kerr County Sept. 19 (RFM, JHM). Philadelphia Vireos were sighted in Kansas in Johnson County in Oklahoma at Black Mesa, Oklahoma City and Rogers County, in Texas at Ft. Worth and Crosby County.

WARBLERS — A Swainson's Warbler was observed at Dallas Aug. 27 (HN). Golden-winged Warblers visited Dallas Sept. 15 (DE), Johnson County, Kans., Sept. 8 (CM) and Black Mesa Sept. 9 (JW). Northern Parulas were present in Sarpy and Lancaster Cos., in early September. Magnolia Warblers were reported in Johnson County Sept. 27 and Sherman Sept. 11. Townsend's Warblers at Amarillo Sept. 5 and Midland Sept. 4 were not unexpected but one at Dallas Oct. 14 provided a new county record (LP, WP). Blackburnian Warblers were noted at Omaha, Johnson County, Oklahoma City and Black Mesa during September. Chestnut-sided Warblers paused briefly in Johnson County, Omaha, Oklahoma City and Walker Co. Bay-breasted Warblers were sighted in Omaha, Lincoln & Johnson County and one was killed at a TV tower in Wagoner County Okla. Pine Warblers were reported at Dallas Sept. 18 (DE) and Lincoln Sept. 5 (DG). A Palm Warbler was discovered on Black Mesa Sept. 17 (JW). Ovenbirds were seen the first week of October in Ellis County, Kans., Comanche County, Okla. and Wichita County, Tex. A Louisiana Waterthrush was carefully studied at Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., Sept. 18 (BRZ). Mourning Warblers were sighted at Dallas Sept. 8 (BV) and Johnson County Sept. 24 (JH). A Yellow-breasted Chat was observed in Palo Duro Canyon Oct. 2 (KS). Canada Warblers were noteworthy in Johnson County, Black Mesa, Sherman and Kerr County. (Continued on p. 244).

SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

The jetstream, that current of fast-moving air that flows around the earth at high altitudes, shifted much farther south than usual this summer. The resulting high-altitude "vacuum" caused Atlantic hurricanes to turn north and east, away from the Texas coast, while cold waves were drawn southward unusually early. October and November temperatures were much below normal; for example, average normal temperature at Austin is 70.1° in October and 59.1° in November, but this year was 61.3°



and 51.6°, respectively. Rainfall was above normal, especially in October, and some coastal areas remain saturated. Habitat and food crops were good. Two weather-related incidents serve to illustrate once again the effects of rain and cold on bird populations. (1) High Island, the slightly elevated, tree-covered "island" at the head of flat, treeless Boliver Peninsula where spring "fall-outs" are often spectacular, we learn can be an effective migrant trap in fall as well, as reported by David E Wolf on Oct. 30. Prior to this date rain and high wind had prevailed for about three days, doubtless stopping and holding southbound migrants in the High Island sanctuary. Wolf reported a wind shift to northwest on Oct. 29, and clearing skies after nightfall. The following day was clear and cool, the woods alive with migrants — including 14 species of warblers. "There were so many individuals present that we soon became familiar with such normally uncommon and hard-to-identify warblers as fall-plumaged Tennessee and Bay-breasted." Highest counts were of Golden-crowned (30+) and Ruby-crowned Kinglets (175+), Tennessee Warblers (45+), Black-throated Green (35+) and Bay-breasted (25+) Warblers, and Indigo Buntings (75+) Numbers were greatly reduced by Oct. 31. (2) Tony Gallucci intensely birded western Harris County in late November and was on hand when a severe cold front moved in on the morning of Nov. 28, leaving "snow and ice piled on the ground." Some effects of the cold wave on bird populations were: Disappearance of an estimated 90% of geese and ducks from the area; absence of the Bald Eagles which frequent Warren L.; reduction of American Kestrels from 26 to three, while the Marsh Hawk — the only species to increase — more than doubled in number "The birds (in general) that were seen were on barbed wire fences or sitting on unfrozen patches of road. The road-sitters included a Great Blue Heron, several Great Egrets, a rail

yellowlegs, meadowlarks, blackbirds and sparrows."

The season was notable especially for the first certified Texas record of the Yellow-nosed Albatross, Cory's Shearwaters in the Gulf of Mexico, another outstanding flight of Broad-winged Hawks in the Corpus Christi area, a record number of Whooping Cranes returning to Aransas N.W.R., a marked increase in wild (?) parrots in the Rio Grande Delta, another Blue Jay invasion, and a heavy movement of N. (Baltimore) Orioles along the coast.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS — With the cold weather of November, Com. Loons came in good numbers to inland lakes and coastal bays. The **Yellow-nosed Albatross** was lifted from the Texas hypothetical list when a supposedly injured bird (adult) was picked up on the beach on S. Padre I. in late October. It is reported doing well at Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville (*vide* JCA). Sighting of an individual of this species at the S. Padre I. jetties, May 14, 1972, was reported in this column. On Oct. 2, 45 birders walked aboard the Scat Cat, operating out of Port Aransas to the snapper banks, with high expectations. Last year a small party had reported Cory's Shearwaters on this route and the report was published mainly on the strength of the birders' known skills and integrity (*AB*: 30:95). Other reports came this summer and fall (no details available), so some degree of anticipation seemed warranted. Nor were hopes unfounded. The first **Cory's Shearwater** was spotted about 30 mi. out, but that was only the start of a fruitful shearwater day. When the non-birding members of the party had settled down to serious fishing, a group of 45 Cory's was spotted. Numerically lesser groups were seen later, awing and afloat. It is not known how many individuals put in multiple appearances, but the snapper banks appeared to be headquarters (*vide* EAK). This writer agrees that an Atlantic shearwater has no business in the Gulf of Mexico, and assumes that the species will remain in hypothetical status, for Texas, but at least 45 birders have become believers. A large movement of White Pelicans was noted Sept. 22-23 at Austin (EAK) and at Corpus Christi (KM), respectively. A "tame" sub-adult **Blue-faced Booby** entertained photographers on the Port Aransas jetty Aug. 28. An adult was seen at Freeport Aug. 16 (EIS), and 2 sub-boobies were at the snapper banks Oct. 2. At least one **Brown Booby** was seen from the Scat Cat Sept. 4 (BR, JR & JWW). Flooded woodland along the lower Rio Grande attracted good numbers of Anhingas in September.

WATERFOWL — Geese, particularly Snow, were in usual abundance on the central and upper coastal plains by early November. If duck numbers seemed thin in some localities it was probably owing to dispersal over vast areas of watery environment. Mallards were in good numbers on the upper coast, but apparently the most numerous duck species was the Green-winged Teal. Blue-winged Teal were abundant in September and October in this area. A concentration of 750 Canvasbacks on a small lake in n. Hidalgo County (JCA) was one of the largest reported in some years. A count of 52 Com. Goldeneyes at Goose I S P., Nov. 12, was unusually high (DNW & PY). A ♂ **Masked Duck** was found on a pond near Brownsville Aug. 29 (JC). On Aug. 31 two males in breeding plumage and one female were observed and on Sept. 5, four females. Subsequent investigations "found the males displaying and courting the females. At least some of these birds remained throughout the period, but no young were ever seen. On Nov. 15, one male in eclipse plumage and one female were observed. These birds have been seen through the month of December." (SB).

HAWKS — The Broad-winged Hawk spotlight was on Nueces County. Mrs. McCracken's column, *Bird Notes*, in the Corpus Christi *Caller*, Oct. 17, furnished details. The Dick Brittain

family has lived under the flyway for three years, and observed that on about the same dates each autumn hordes of Broad-wingeds roost overnight in trees along the Nueces R. bottomland, about 20 mi. w. of the Corpus Christi bayfront. This season the first hawk flight, a "small one," arrived Sept. 10, and consisted mainly of 3500 Broad-wingeds. Smaller flights continued until Sept. 22 when an "enormous migration" (no count given) settled into the trees. On this date Mrs. McCracken watched some 1000 Broad-wingeds come to roost in trees near Calallen between 6:00-7:30 P.M.; they began leaving, in a westerly direction, by 7:30 A.M. The Brittain's observed the first "really big" migration on the expected date, Sept. 23, with 50,000 Broad-wingeds, but on the evening of Sept. 27, an estimated **100,000** Broad-wingeds arrived. "They were like a dark cloud hovering over the river." A strong cold front came in during that night and next morning the hawks "began leaving early, riding the north wind, not waiting for thermals. One by one, little kettles of 25 to 50 birds formed and moved south with the wind." Departure continued into the late morning hours. The last large migration was noted on Oct. 10 when, during a three-hour period, Broad-wingeds moved over Corpus Christi on a 10-mile front (KM). Largest numbers reported in Hidalgo County, near the Rio Grande, were 2200 on Sept. 24, 9200 on Sept. 26, and 6200 on Oct. 1 (GSD). No "connecting" flights were reported, and we must conclude that little migration was noted in areas other than those mentioned. A **Ferruginous Hawk** was seen at Port Isabel Sept. 27 (SB), an early and presumably rare sighting; however, six were noted in coastal sections of Cameron County between October and December (JCA, SB). A ♀ Peregrine Falcon, at Austin on the early date of Aug. 1, was watched as it captured a sandpiper at the city sewage ponds (AB & WS).

CRANES, JACANAS, SHOREBIRDS — Whooping Cranes began arriving at Aransas N.W.R. on Oct. 17, and by Nov. 30, 56 adult and 12 young had been counted, setting records for total young and total crane population (BH). A **Jacana** was present at a marshy resaca south of San Benito from late September through October (JCA, *et al.*). Shorebird numbers at Austin's sewage ponds indicated an early influx of considerable volume by mid-July. Two Am. Golden Plover were seen on Bolivar Pen., Nov. 6 (TG). Good numbers of most sandpiper species were reported as much favorable habitat was available. A large concentration of W. Sandpipers was noted on the Bolivar Flats Sept. 25 (MJ & TPJ).

GULLS, TERNS — An imm. **Little Gull** visited Austin's sewage ponds briefly Sept. 10 (NRC & MAM). This bird, second for the locality, was well observed and described as it flew with Black Terns. A sub-adult **Sabine's Gull** was found at the Padre I. causeway, Corpus Christi, Oct. 3 (ROA, *et al.*). It remained in the area for about a week and was much photographed. The remains of a Black-legged Kittiwake was found on the spillway at Falcon Dam, Starr Co., Nov. 26 (JCA). The Com. Tern was the most common species in a very large tern migration on N. Padre I. Oct. 16 (KM). Black Terns had returned in good numbers by mid-July. On Sept. 4, a migration of this species was observed 4-10 miles out from Port Aransas; southbound groups totalled about 1000 individuals (BR *et al.*).

PARROTS — Should parrot sightings continue at the present rate in Cameron County, birders may be forced to redefine their status. Generally it has been assumed over the years that free-flying individuals seen occasionally are merely escaped caged birds. But when groups begin to appear, this stand becomes less credible. Then one ponders the long range effect of habitat destruction in n.e. Mexico. Clearing of brushland for (currently) grain crops throughout the Mexican side of the Rio Grande

Delta has drastically altered the landscape. In addition, completion of a large man-made lake on the Rio Corona, about 175 miles s w from Brownsville, no doubt affected nesting areas of the three species under consideration. Specifically, a flock of ten Green Parakeets (*Aratinga holochlora*) was seen at Brownsville Nov 25 (DBe & PB). A flock of six Red-crowned Parrots (*Amazona viridigenalis*) has been seen "often but irregularly" in Brownsville for more than a year, without evidence of breeding (SB) This species was heard at Santa Ana N.W.R. Nov. 21 (JCA) Eleven Yellow-headed Parrots (*Amazona ochrocephala*) were seen over Southmost Palms sanctuary Sept. 24. "The caretaker said that he had seen them frequently up to Aug. 15 but rarely after that" (JAJ). The latter species apparently is more likely to wander to the coast from nesting grounds, as over the years L Irby Davis reported occasional sightings by fishermen in the delta of the Rio San Fernando, about 70 mi. s. of Brownsville The Yellow-headed is also more in demand as a caged bird than the two preceding species.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A Green Violet-ear was seen at last year's historical site in Hays County, but on the early dates of May 21 - July 6 (MD). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were "quite common" at Brownsville throughout the fall season; as many as 30 could be found in a day's time by the persistent birder. By the end of November the majority had departed (DBe & SB). A male Ringed Kingfisher was seen on the Guadalupe R. at New Braunfels Aug. 28-29 (JH & LH), a new record for Comal County. One was seen at Brownsville Sept. 22-23 (SB) while the Rio Grande was at flood stage. A Green Kingfisher was seen near Jonestown, Travis Co., Oct. 16 (CWE). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher migration at Corpus Christi was noteworthy for duration and numbers and was especially evident on Sept 23 (KM). *Empidonax* flycatchers were plentiful in August in the w. half of the Region. Swallows, migrating by day and skimming the treetops (or grass-tops) impress the viewer as being ubiquitous, and it is difficult to discern when a migration is heavier than usual. Nevertheless, we pass on the word that migration was heavy in Hidalgo County in September for Bank and Barn Swallows (GSD), and assume that an estimated 10,000 Barn Swallows reported at Alice on a single day (ROA) was rather unusual. A concentration of 1000 Tree Swallows at Santa Ana N W R., Nov. 25 (JCA), impresses, whether they be migrant or wintering birds. Two staging areas for Purple Martins were under observation by Mrs. McCracken; one at Corpus Christi built up to about 3000 birds during the first 10 days of August, and one at nearby Robstown built up in late July and lasted for about a month, with some 5000 martins present. In neither gathering were adult males noted.

JAYS, CROWS — As is their habit in certain years, more northern populations of Blue Jays pushed southward during the first half of October, invaded the zone occupied by resident birds and spilled deeper into South Texas. This incursion was noted along the coast to below Corpus Christi in considerable numbers Westward, jays were present at Alice and San Antonio and onto the Edwards Plateau, but along this line huge gaps appear in the coverage. Good news for touring birders — it is no longer necessary to seek out the Mexican Crow at the Brownsville city dump! As Arvin writes, "this species has broken out of its foothold at the Brownsville Sanitary Landfill again this fall with flocks (up to 500 but mainly in the 12 to 50 range) being seen, mostly in the coastal sections of Cameron County as in past eruptions." Movement was first noted in September. About 500 crows were reported on Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. in mid-November (PWN).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAXWINGS — The first Red-breasted Nuthatch was reported at Austin Oct. 28 (FSW),

another at High I. Oct. 30 (DEW *et al.*); no other reports were received. A House Wren at Houston Aug. 29 (JGM) was very early. This species reached Brownsville by Sept. 25 (SB). A Brown Thrasher was carefully identified at Brownsville Oct. 26 (DBe, NB & SB). Highest count was 40+ at High I. Oct. 6 (JGM) A Sage Thrasher was found at Falcon Dam Nov. 26 (JCA). Am Robins made an early appearance (no date) "by the thousands" at Corpus Christi (KM). A few had reached the Rio Grande by Nov. 22 (GSD). Two early Cedar Waxwings appeared at High I Oct. 31 (DEW *et al.*), but the first flock (25+) was reported in Houston Nov. 21 (DTD).

VIREOS, WARBLERS, ORIOLES — A Yellow-green Vireo was seen in Starr County Sept. 21 (JAJ & FZ). Sifting through the usual deluge of warbler reports from the upper coast, it appears that the Black-and-white was most consistently numerous, from early September into October, with the Canada Warbler running a close second. One would suspect a typographical error in the case of the latter, were it not for a good showing in the Rio Grande Delta as well. A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler was present near Harlingen, Cameron Co., Nov. 29 (*vide* DDeS) A Prairie Warbler was seen at Brownsville Oct. 25 (DBe, NB & SB). A male of this species was seen in Wilson County Aug. 13 (WS). A very heavy movement (1500 est.) of N. (Baltimore) Orioles occurred w. of Corpus Christi Sept. 6 (DBr). At High I 50+ were counted on the same date, then again on Sept. 25 (JE & TE). On Sept. 21 a heavy movement was indicated at Brownsville by the presence of 150+ birds in a single yard (SB).

FRINGILLIDAE — Indigo Buntings peaked at High I. with 200 Oct. 17 (JE & TE), but seemed to be less conspicuous elsewhere. Purple Finches and Am. Goldfinches were present in only small numbers by the end of the season, and Pine Siskins had not been reported. Savannah, Vesper and White-crowned Sparrows were scarce until Oct. 30 when a sizeable influx was obvious along the n. fringe of the Region. The Fox Sparrow reached San Antonio by Nov. 14 (SH), an early date. An early Lincoln's Sparrow was seen at Brownsville Sept. 24 (SB).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN- INTERMOUNTAIN REGION /Thomas H. Rogers

After a very cold, wet August, September and October brought warm, extremely dry, stable weather. November continued the extreme drought, but temperatures were more nearly normal. What snow fell in the higher valleys quickly melted and snowfall in the mountains was far below normal. Many late stragglers were noted and northern species were often late in appearing, as were mountain species that migrate vertically



This delay in migrant influx combined with lack of bird concentrations because of scarcity of weather fronts and ready availability of food, were presumably the causes of the impression of low bird numbers. Nevertheless many unusual sightings occurred.

LOONS, GREBES — A reasonably certain sighting of a Yellow-billed Loon on Kinbasket L., Yoho N.P., B.C. Sept. 27 was highly remarkable (FW, *fide* RRH). An Arctic Loon on L. McDonald, Glacier N.P., Mont. Sept. 14 was joined by another Sept. 17; they were last seen Sept. 25 (JCB, JK & NP). One was on Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash. Nov. 11-12 (JA; WH) and one was on the Snake R. at Asotin, Wash., Nov. 27 (DP & MP). A late Red-necked Grebe was still on Swan L., Lake Co., Mont., Nov. 8 (EJ). Two Horned Grebes on the Yakima R., n. of Yakima, were noteworthy (YAS). The Nampa, Ida., area had 250 W. Grebes Sept. 9.

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — Southern Idaho and Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., had hosted the White Pelicans. Up to 250 were on Am. Falls Res. near Pocatello and 136 were in the Rupert area Oct. 16. At Malheur the peak of 1200 was Sept. 20. Nampa counted up to 40. A peak of 130 Double-crested Cormorants was on Am. Falls Res. Aug. 25. At least 14 were shot by hunters on the first day of duck season there. A **Cattle Egret** was sighted at Rupert, Ida. Aug. 24 (WHS). Three Washington localities had Great Egret sightings. One was at the Yakima R. mouth Sept. 25 (REW) and one - two were at Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Sept. 10 & 21, and Oct. 7 & 9 (EH) and two were observed in the Clarkston area Aug. 26 - Nov. 30 (EM, JWW, JWo *et al.*). Nampa had three Aug. 21 & Sept. 21 (G.E.A.S.). The latter locality also had up to three Snowy Egrets on the same dates; three were seen near Mud L., Jefferson Co., Ida. (PP). One appeared near Wallula, Wash. Aug. 14 (JG & LG) and one was still at Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 2 (DD). Rupert, Ida. had 45 White-faced Ibis in September and Malheur N.W.R. had an unusually late record, Nov. 28. A **White Ibis** was identified Nov. 13 along the Snake R. downstream from the Birds of Prey Natural Area s. of Boise, Ida. (DC & SS). The bird was later found dead, apparently shot, and was preserved as a specimen (BB). Three birds believed to be immature **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were closely observed at Wilsall Res. just n. of Wilsall, Mont., Sept. 26 (PDS).

WATERFOWL — Trumpeter Swans at Turnbull N W R Cheney, Wash., produced eight cygnets this year, contributing to a population there of 30. Up to 31 were seen at Malheur N W R on aerial surveys. A flock of 15 flew over Nicholson, B.C. Oct. 24 (FK). One with a yellow neck band was sighted at Ennis Mont Sept. 19 (PDS). The heaviest Whistling Swan movement was through Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. with a peak of 1500 Oct. 26. Goose and duck numbers were relatively low, apparently because mild weather held them in Canada. About 19 000 Canada Geese remained at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash in contrast to the normal 30,000. Malheur had over 5000. Whitman Mission pond, Walla Walla, Wash. had a **Cackling Goose** (KK). The only White-fronted Goose reported was one on the Columbia R., at Richland, Wash., Oct. 31 & Nov. 14 (CC & REW).

Late September saw a peak of 75,000 ducks at Malheur and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had its peak of nearly 32 000 in November. At McNary N.W.R. the peak of 16,000 ducks came in early October. The peak at Red Rock Lakes was 29 000 Oct. 7. Deer Flat N.W.R. remained the Mallard refuge with 149,000 Nov. 17. Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida. counted over 31,000 in late November, with 11,000 Pintail and as many Ruddy Ducks. Malheur N.W.R. had over 25,000 Am. Wigeon Sept. 20 and the lower St. Joe R. in n. Idaho had over 14,000 Nov. 18 (IFG). Overall duck use at Malheur was poor, owing to the low productivity of Malheur Lake. McNary N.W.R. experienced a serious Am. Wigeon die-off late in the report period. A single ♂ **European Wigeon** was on the Columbia R. at Richland Nov. 26 (REW). Wood Ducks peaked at 60 in August at both Swan L. Lake Co., and Smith L., Flathead Co., Mont. Nearly 15 000 Redhead were on the Pend Oreille R. in n. Idaho Oct. 23 (IFG). Up to 45 Ring-necked Ducks were on Hayden L. in November there are very few fall records for the species in n. Idaho (SGS). Three ♂ and two ♀ Oldsquaw appeared at Mann L. just e. of Lewiston, Ida. Nov. 12 (MK & EP). White-winged Scoter sightings in Yoho N.P. amounted to 25 birds, up from six last year. At least *nine* were on Medical L., Spokane Co., Oct. 18 (JA) and a female was sighted on a small lake 14 miles e. of Colville Wash. Nov. 21 (WH, GV, BW *et al.*). At least four Surf Scoters were on Medical L. Oct. 18 (JA; WH). A male was on the Naches R., a few miles w. of Naches, Wash. Aug. 12 (AR) and a ♂ bird was found on a sewage pond near Polson, Mont. (DB). In Lake County, Mont., Ninepipe N.W.R. had 150 Red-breasted Mergansers Nov. 19 and nearby Pablo N.W.R. had 700 Nov. 1 (L.F.B.C.).

HAWKS — An ad. **White-tailed Kite**, tardily reported was sighted 10 miles w. of Dufur, Ore. July 10 (BH). About 11 sightings were obtained for the Goshawk, always rather rare in the Region. A Red-shouldered Hawk was reported at Malheur N.W.R. Aug. 14-15 (RS). That refuge had large numbers of Swainson's Hawk in September. Two weekend trips to Kilgore and Henry's L. in e. Idaho revealed 28 Ferruginous Hawks each time but the species was rare, as usual, elsewhere. The annual Bald Eagle concentration along lower McDonald Creek, Glacier N.P., Mont. peaked at 281 ad. and 96 imm. birds Nov. 25 the third highest total on record (ELR). Red Rock Lakes had a peak of 31 Nov. 16 (EDS). Only one Peregrine Falcon sighting was received, that from Montana (LS). Prairie Falcon sightings were up somewhat as were those for the Merlin, one of the rarer hawks of the Region.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Blue Grouse numbers appeared to be up. The Spruce Grouse was reported only for the Fortune Mont., area and in the Seven Devils Mts., w. of Riggins, Idaho. A White-tailed Ptarmigan, the only one reported, was found in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness s.w. of Leavenworth, Wash. Four Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported near Kimberley, B C in

October (MVW). Bobwhite appeared in the Browne (Tower) Mt. area just s.e. of Spokane and at Gardena, Wash. Two Mountain Quail were found along the Grande Ronde R. in Asotin Co., Wash (JWW) and the Rupert, Ida. area had 35 (WHS).

S.A.

CRANES — The yearling Whooping Crane that summered n. of Soda Springs, Ida. left Oct. 3. The first two Whooper chicks and their Sandhill Crane foster parents at Grays Lake, Ida., left the same day. Another chick left Oct. 5 but the last one remained on the refuge until leaving with its foster parents Oct. 15. All Sandhill Cranes migrated from the valley by Oct. 18 (EWL).

Sandhill Crane numbers at Malheur N.W.R. were down from last year, with the peak of 1600 Oct. 3. A pair remained until Nov. 29. Several flocks passed over Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. in October and a group of eight was on the ground, unusual there. About 75 stopped near Lowden, Wash. Oct. 3 and two days later an imm. bird spent three days in a garden between two homes on the outskirts of Walla Walla! (SM).

SHOREBIRDS — The Am. Golden Plover was added to Yoho N.P.'s list when one was sighted Sept. 7. Up to four were at nearby Golden Sept. 9 - Nov. 4 (RRH; FK). The species was also reported at Reardan and Richland, Wash. Yoho N.P. also had the Black-bellied Plover added to its list when one to two were sighted there Sept. 7, and Nicholson had one - two Sept. 12 & 14 (RRH & FK). The species also appeared at Bozeman, Richland and at Turnbull and McNary N.W.R. One Sept. 25 at Fortine, Mont. was only Weydemeyer's second record there in some 50 years' observing. Two Upland Sandpipers were at Golden, B.C., Aug. 27 and at Nicholson the day before (FK) and one was reported at a gravel pit n. of *Belgrade*, Mont. Oct. 7 (KD). The species had not been reported from that area in recent times. Three Willets were at Turnbull N.W.R. Sept. 22 (FBH) and one was in the Wenas L. area n.w. of Yakima Sept. 29 (YAS). Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., had 300 Short-billed Dowitchers Oct. 27, 60 remained through Nov. 13 (EH). One was reported at Wenas L. Sept. 15 (YAS). A Stilt Sandpiper found Aug. 15 added that species to the Yoho N.P. list (RRH *et al.*). A Marbled Godwit appeared at *Calispell L.*, Pend Oreille Co., Wash. Sept. 18 (WH & SAS). Shorebirds made a poor showing in n.e. Washington because of high water levels. However, hundreds of shorebirds, including 300 Marbled Godwits were at American Falls Res. near Pocatello Aug. 10 (CHT).

JAEGERs THROUGH TERNS — A sight record of a **Pomarine Jaeger** came from Cascade Res., Valley Co., Ida. [date ?] (RS). The only other state record is of one collected in 1919 near Rupert. Two imm. Parasitic Jaegers were observed carefully near Wilsall, Mont. Sept. 26 (PDS). An ad. Long-tailed jaeger, the first ever for Yoho N.P., appeared Sept. 12 at Wapto L. (CW *et al.*) The Nampa, Ida., area reported 200 Herring Gulls Aug. 11 (G E A S) and one in a plowed field near Somers, Mont., Oct. 13-15 was identified as this species (NS). Singles were sighted during August, September and October in the vicinity of Yoho and Golden, B.C. (RRH). A Franklin's Gull at Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 2 was very late (DD). This species was described as still relatively rare in the Bozeman area (PDS). A Bonaparte's Gull at the Yakima R. mouth, Richland Oct. 31 was the only sighting there this fall (CC & REW). One was sighted at Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake R. e. of Pasco, Wash. Oct. 17 (KK). The only Forster's Terns were at Fish L., Chelan Co., Wash., Sept. 12 (PC). The only Com. Terns reported were eight at Spillimacheen s. of Yoho Sept. 6 (FK). Nampa, Ida., reported five Caspian Terns Aug. 9 and nine Aug. 28.

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS — Three belatedly reported Band-tailed Pigeons were seen up to July 24 in Mt. Revelstoke N.P., B.C. (JW). The species is very rare in interior British Columbia. An escaped Yellow-headed Parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala oratrix*) was found eating apples in an orchard at Sunnyside Game Range, Yakima Co., Wash. Nov. 26 in temperatures down to 10°F. (EH). Two Barn Owls were reported between Grangeville and Cottonwood, Ida., Nov. 27 (JL) and one or two were sighted in the Nampa, Rupert and Lewiston, Ida., areas and at Asotin, Wash. More ordinary were single sightings at Richland and near Yakima and Toppenish, Wash. One to two Flammulated Owls, tardily reported, were sighted on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore., at 6300 ft., May 9 - June 20 and again Sept. 1 (LRM). One was sighted at Rupert Sept. 26 (WHS) and an injured one picked up at Missoula was the second ever for that area (SF). The only Snowy Owl reported was one at Logan Pass in Glacier N.P., Mont. at 6600 ft., Oct. 19 (SB). Another belated report was of two Hawk Owls near the summit of Mt. Revelstoke July 30 (JW); a single bird was found in Yoho N.P. Oct. 16 (CW), new to the park list. A Burrowing Owl in the Pahsimeroi valley s. of Salmon, Ida. Sept. 18 was Roberts' first for the area. A Barred Owl was heard in October in the Helena vicinity (GN & NN) and one was seen well on Browne (Tower) Mt. at Spokane Oct. 8 (THR). A Spotted Owl was heard near Blewett Pass in n. Kittitas Co., Wash. Oct. 4 (TK). A new site for the Great Gray Owl was Jack Creek Canyon e. of Ennis, Mont., where one was seen Nov. 28 (JGa); one was reported just s. of Targhee Pass w. of Yellowstone N.P. in October (SC). One was found at L. McDonald, Glacier N.P. Sept. 21 & Oct. 3 (JCB). Apparently this species was sighted at Warm L., Valley Co., Idaho (*vide* JH). A pair of Saw-whet Owls was duetting at Swauk Campground in the Wenatchee Mts. of w. c. Washington Oct. 7 (DP) and one was heard at Lavington, B.C. Nov. 7 (JGr).

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — A few Black Swifts were seen in the Golden-Field, B.C. area; the latest record was of two at Field Aug. 15. The only other sighting was near Leavenworth, Wash., where seven were feeding with a flock of Com Nighthawks Sept. 2 (LG). Anna's Hummingbird again appeared in the Cashmere-Leavenworth, Wash. vicinity (WD, LG & JG) and at Yakima Nov. 9 (YAS). One lingered at a Yakima feeder at least until Dec. 4 (EH). An "unprecedented number" of reports for the species came from the c. and s. Okanagan of British Columbia in the vicinity of Penticton, Kelowna and Naramata, the latest, Nov. 29 (VA; SRC; DR, DS; KT; RY). A ♂ Anna's visited a feeder at Bozeman Sept. 1-12 for the first local record and the third for Montana (JP, PDS *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS AND LARKS — The Potholes Res. area, Grant Co., Wash. yielded a sighting of two Ash-throated Flycatchers Aug. 9 (PC) and one made a most surprising appearance in the Spokane Valley Sept. 6 (WH & THR). A late-reported sight record of an E. Phoebe at Malheur N.W.R. May 15 appears to be valid (DF). A single Gray Flycatcher was observed near Satus Pass, Klickitat Co., Wash. Aug. 24 (PP). A few Horned Larks in Yoho N.P. above timberline in September confirmed the species for the park (WM).

S.A.

JAYS, CROWS — An amazing influx of **Blue Jays** produced sightings in every state and province in the Region and was the event of the fall season. Two sightings were w. of Calgary, Alta. and British Columbia recorded them at Kimberley, Revelstoke N.P. and near Yoho N.P. At the latter place they had been present May 26 - Oct. 7 but no evidence of breeding was found. Washington had them near Yakima, at Rich-

land, Kamiak Butte in Whitman Co., Spokane and n. of Brewster. In Idaho they were reported at Lewiston Orchards, Moscow, Grangeville and Nampa. Montana reported them at Helena, Bozeman and Hamilton and Oregon had them at Umatilla and Bend. An extension of breeding range seems probable for the near future.

Ravens near Malheur N.W.R. have been fitted with colored wing markers. Sightings should be sent to Dick Stiehl at the refuge, P.O. Box 113, Burns, OR 97720. Include whether right or left wing or both, date, time of day, location, behavior of bird and color of marker.

BUSHTITS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS — Ten Bushtits were found at Ft. Simcoe S.P., Yakima Co. Nov. 25 for the only report (EH). A Pygmy Nuthatch was heard along Big Creek n.w. of Victor, Mont. Aug. 2 (DAK) and eight were observed at Wasa near Kimberley, B.C. (RRH). An apparently valid report of the species came from Bozeman Oct. 31 (GB). Bewick's Wren was again found near Asotin, Wash., of one bird Nov. 24 & 27 (DP & MP; JWW) and one appeared in Indian Canyon at Spokane (JA). A Cañon Wren was heard Aug. 13 at *Crater L.* (JWh) and is the first for the park.

MIMIC THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES — The only Mockingbird reported was found on an island in the Snake R., Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa Nov. 6 (JH). Final tally of the nest box project on a farm w. of Spokane showed 209 W. Bluebirds fledged. Migrating flocks of Mountain Bluebirds appeared at only three localities: 100 s. of Kimberley Aug. 27; 104 in the Nampa area Sept. 19 and 75 - 100 in the Bigfork, Mont. area Sept. 14. Otherwise only a few were reported. Water Pipits were reported in good numbers and from many localities. The earliest Bohemian Waxwing was a single bird in Yoho N.P. Aug. 27. Their numbers were low in e. Washington and in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia but appeared more nearly normal elsewhere. Gardiner, Mont., had large flocks from Oct. 8 on, with 1000 - 2000 on the 14th. Cedar Waxwing numbers seemed greater than normal. Oct. 30 was the latest date ever for Fortine, Mont. (WW). Three Loggerhead Shrikes, "doubtless wintering," were found e. of Beverly, Wash. Nov. 28 (DP & MP).

WARBLERS — Lewis & Clark Trail S.P. near Waitsburg, Wash. had a Black-and-White Warbler Sept. 26 (MN). An imm ♂ **Prothonotary Warbler** was banded and photographed on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore., Aug. 19 (LRM). Five Tennessee Warblers in a mixed warbler flock were in a city yard in Kimberley Aug. 17 (MVW) and singles were seen Sept. 11-12 in the Nicholson, B.C. area (FK). An ad. ♂ Magnolia Warbler stayed in Lavington, B.C. Nov. 15-27 (MC; JGr). Two Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warblers appeared at Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 2-3 with about 30 Audubon's (DD). Crater Lake N.P. reported Hermit Warblers Aug. 1 and 27 (GM). A singing ♂ **Bay-breasted Warbler**, reported late, was at Malheur N.W.R. June 7 for Oregon's third record (DD). The only N. Waterthrush records were of two birds at Wasa, B.C. Aug. 17, one in Yoho N.P. Sept. 9 (RRH) and one in Lake Co., Ore. Aug. 29 (LRM). The warbler migration around Spokane was described as extremely poor; whether it indicated actual low numbers or reflected the mild weather conditions is an open question.

BLACKBIRDS — Bobolinks occurred in the Bozeman area and were last seen around Bigfork, Mont. Aug. 3. A few were at Calispell L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. Sept. 18. A flock of 30 W. Meadowlarks was still at Missoula at the end of November. Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., had six Yellow-headed

Blackbirds until Nov. 26 and 100 were along Crab Creek w. of Othello, Wash. the next day (EH). A few Brown-headed Cowbirds were with other blackbirds in the Othello area Nov. 26 & 28 (DP).

FINCHES — A tardily-reported ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was banded on Hart Mt., Lake Co., Ore. June 22 (LRM). Evening Grosbeak numbers were mostly low and their sightings scattered, with almost none reported after October. A single ♂ Purple Finch, rare in Yoho N.P., was seen at Field Sept. 23 (RRH) and a few visited a feeder farther s. at Invermere Oct. 23 (PM). The species was reported near Leavenworth, Wash. until Sept. 28 (LG) and two males were found at Ft. Simcoe S.P., Yakima Co., Sept. 26 (EH). The House Finch was a visitor at a feeder in Bozeman Sept. 22 (RAH). Appearances of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were scant except in Yoho and Banff N.P., where a flock of 500 was near Columbia Ice Fields. A few were near Sun Valley, Ida. Nov. 12, and near Moses L., Wash. Oct. 20. **Lesser Goldfinches** were observed at Malheur N.W.R. at the end of the period. Common Redpolls had appeared only at Fortine, Mont. Nov. 6 (late) and in the Yoho vicinity, first on Nov. 7. Red Crossbill appearances were spotty but Yoho N.P. had very good numbers. A good spruce cone crop seemed to explain it. By contrast, White-winged Crossbills there were down in numbers Swan L., s.e. of Bigfork, Mont. registered a few Sept. 26 - Oct. 4.

SPARROWS — Wandering Green-tailed Towhees appeared in Crater Lake N.P., Aug. 18 & Sept. 24 (JWh). A **Baird's Sparrow** was closely observed in sagebrush southwest of Boone Peak in the Owyhee Mts. of s.w. Idaho Sept. 19 (JH). This apparently represents only the second record for the state. A brood of Chipping Sparrows at Kimberley hatched Aug. 4 and three young were raised (MVW). The only record of the Clay-colored Sparrow was of one at Golden, B.C. Aug. 2. It was suspected that the species breeds in that area (RRH). Only a few Harris' Sparrows appeared. Tumalo, Ore., just n.w. of Bend, had one Nov. 24 and a small flock two days later (JJ), and Malheur N.W.R. had one Nov. 28. One or two were seen near Asotin, Wash. Nov. 20-27 (EM; DP, MP & JWW) and one was found in the Spokane Valley Sept. 29 (THR). Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. had one Oct. 23 (FBH) and Bozeman had one Oct. 17 & 24 (PDS). Up to ten Golden-crowned Sparrows were recorded in Yakima and Klickitat Cos., Sept. 21 to the end of November (EH) and they were described as common at Lyle, Wash. Nov. 5 (DP). Two or three were in the Spokane area Sept. 21-30 (WH; THR). Link R. Bird Refuge, Klamath Falls, Ore., reported a White-throated Sparrow Oct. 17 (SS) and one was at Spokane Sept. 19 (WH) and Oct. 10-14 (JA). Walla Walla, Wash. had one Oct. 10 & 12 (KK). A McCown's Longspur was observed at length between Drinkingwater Pass and Stinking Water Pass on Highway 20 east of Burns, Ore., Aug. 8 (CHW). The only Lapland Longspurs reported were a few Sept. 10 - Oct. 1 at Reardan, Spokane and Calispell L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash. (JA) and one at Malheur N.W.R. the first of October (DD).

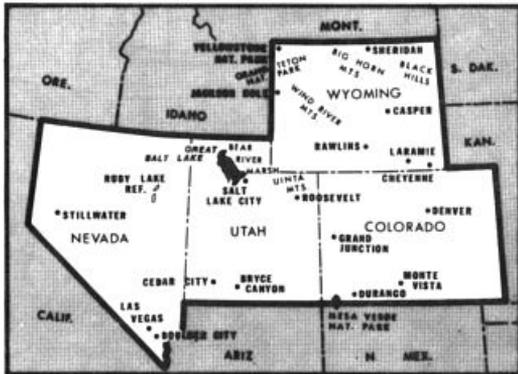
CORRIGENDUM — In *Am. Birds* 30:99, delete the sentence referring to hummingbirds at Invermere, B.C.

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MOUNTAIN WEST /Hugh E. Kingery

For the appearance of more than 50 storm-petrels and a frigatebird in Nevada, (including one disoriented storm-petrel which flew around a Las Vegas football stadium during a game, recorded on film clips), observers credit Hurricane *Kathleen*. A contemporaneous White Ibis at Sheridan in northeastern Wyoming apparently arrived owing not to *Kathleen*, but to winds caused by two tropical depressions.



Extremely dry, warm weather probably contributed many late records: shorebirds in Colorado until November 24, in Nevada to November 27; the last swallows November 24 and the last hummingbirds November 18. Unknown causes led to a Regional flight of scoters and a dispersal to plains and valleys by coniferous-associated species, especially Mountain Chickadees.

Among common breeding birds — swifts, flickers, and swallows — Scott, Moulton and Kertell observed the replacement of breeding populations with migrants. Their reports emphasize the useful information generated by continued study of specific areas and non-exotic species.

LOONS, GREBES — Prange detected two separate migratory movements of loons and grebes on L. Mohave, Nev.: one in mid-October (72 Com. Loons, 50 Horned Grebes Oct. 24-25) and another in mid-November (73 Com. Loons Nov. 15). Arctic Loon records increased, with three observations in Nevada Oct. 19 - Nov. 14 (CL, VM), including the first s. Nevada specimen; and six in Denver and Longmont, Colo., Oct. 23 - Nov. 20 (BA, VR, JR). A Red-throated Loon at Denver Oct. 27-30 (VR, JC,

MOS,†) was well-described; most Colorado records lack detailed descriptions. A Red-necked Grebe at Longmont was seen well Nov. 2 (AC, CC, AM, BA). An estimated 300 Horned Grebes passed through Boulder in October (BB). Eared Grebes built to a population of 3000 Oct. 10 - Nov. 22 on L. Mohave (SP) and W. Grebes massed s. of Las Vegas as usual, with numbers estimated Nov. 26 at 15,000 on L. Mead and 5000 on L. Mohave (CL, SP). Bear River N.W.R., Utah, produced 400 young W Grebes, a number diminished by nests abandoned because of a dropping water level (RK).

S.A.

STORM-PETRELS — Where but Las Vegas? Blurred film clips of a U.N.L.V. football game Sept. 11 show a dark-rumped, fork-tailed storm-petrel, either a Black, or a dark-rumped Leach's like the one found at Salton Sea, Calif., the same week. Hurricane *Kathleen* (which peaked Sept. 10) is credited with bringing that bird, as well as the two **Least Storm-Petrels** on L. Mohave Sept. 12 (SP), one there Sept. 17 (CL), and the 50-70 **Least Storm-Petrels** found by state biologists on L. Mead near Saddle I. Sept. 14 (*vide* CL, all #, and all first, incredible Nevada records).

PELICANS TO FRIGATEBIRDS — White Pelicans peaked at 7000 at Bear R. Aug. 10 (RK). A hawk watch on Brian Head Park, Iron Co., Utah, Sept. 12 produced few hawks, but did witness two flocks of White Pelicans, 45 and 39 in number, flying SW (PS). An imm. Brown Pelican visited L. Mohave Aug. 15 (MBo). Bear R. produced 250 young Double-crested Cormorants this summer (RK). Sixty-nine gathered on the Truckee R. near Reno Aug. 8 (JA). Many stayed late: to Nov. 24, 25, and 30 respectively at L. Mead, Pueblo, and Denver. The hurricane receives credit for the Sept. 17 Magnificent Frigatebird at Davis Dam, Nev. (CL, ph. #).

HERONS, IBISES — A Little Blue Heron waded in an irrigation ditch at Farmington Bay W.M.A., Utah on Sept. 6 (SH) and six visited Prewitt Res., Logan Co., Colo., Oct. 6 (WDG). The Green Heron at Logan Sept. 18 may have been the first in the Cache Valley (KLD). Cattle Egrets also increased in Colorado with four at Denver Sept. 21 (PE) and singles at Pueblo Oct. 30 (EB) and Boulder Oct. 31 (EL). Bear R. continues its occasional reports with two Aug. 17-18 (JD). Bear River produced 4000 White-faced Ibis young (RK). Kanab, Utah, had a migrant Aug. 26 (SH). Durango, Colo., counted 18 from Aug. 1 - Oct. 10 and small flocks passed by Barr L., near Denver, Sept. 25 Wyoming's most remarkable record was a fully-plumaged ad **White Ibis** present at Sheridan Sept. 12-13 in a small pond with cattails in a cattle pasture (HD, PH, MC). Downing provided an excellent description and conducted extensive research to find possible escapes, which apparently it was not. Her research into weather patterns suggests that two tropical depressions from Baja, California, responsible for winds aloft, could easily have carried the birds as far northeast as Sheridan.

WATERFOWL — At Bear R., an intensive predator control program (aimed principally at skunks and California Gulls) improved waterfowl nesting success significantly — 50 per cent of the nests were destroyed in 1975, only 18 per cent in 1976 Production was 1600 Canada Geese and 16,000 ducks, including 10,246 Gadwalls. The migratory peak occurred there Oct. 15 with 172,050 ducks (50,000 of them Pintails), and 5000 Canada Geese (RK). Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., had a slow migration with lower numbers, the peak including 13,500 ducks in early September. Ruby Lakes N.W.R., Nev., peaked in late August at 24,000 ducks plus 25,100 coots (RH). Stillwater W.M.A., Nev peaked at 56,000 in mid-October, including 24,230 Canvas

backs, a number equivalent to 29 per cent of the Pacific Flyway population counted in January, 1976 (LHo). Stillwater's water problems persist, with the normal 24,000 acres of water reduced to 5000 acres, much of it marginal habitat.

SWANS — Bear River's Whistling Swans peaked at 18,500 on Nov. 18 (RK) and Ruby Lakes had 820 at its peak Nov. 9 (RH). As cold weather drove them from the northern refuges, 140 arrived at Pahrnagat N.W.R., Nev., Nov. 20, and Kanab had its first record in 20 years, 11 on Nov. 26 (CH). Poor nesting plagued the Region's Trumpeter Swans: the 25 pairs at Yellowstone N. P. and the 22 pairs at Ruby Lakes each produced only one cygnet (RS, RH) and Jackson Hole, Wyoming's flock of 50 had few cygnets left in November (BR).

DUCKS — The seven Com. Shelducks at Fallon, Nev. in September (NS, MBa) rank with the Nevada flamingo records as likely escapes; three shelducks last spring at the same place also were classified as escapes. Fallon's summer Oldsquaws stayed through Aug. 2 (*Am. Birds* 30:983); Davis Dam had two on Nov. 24 with Barrow's Goldeneyes (CL, ph†, U.N.R.).

Scoters staged a Regional flight greater than last year's: 37 scoters found, and on Nov. 6 all three species of North American scoters swam on the same Colorado reservoir! The reports include: White-winged Scoter: Laramie, Wyo., six from Oct. 23 for four weeks (HHS); Jackson L., Wyo., one Oct. 20 (B & MR); Sheridan, Wyo., one Nov. 15 (HD, PH); Hygiene, Colo., 20 Oct. 23 - Nov. 27 (TVZ, BB, JR, BK, FAC); Durango, Colo., 30 Oct. 23 (RSW); Bear R., four Nov. 1-8 (one shot by a hunter, RK); Fallon, Nev., two Nov. 7 (PT, ph U.N.R.). Surf Scoter: Grand Teton N. P., two Oct. 13 (EWe) and one Oct. 31 (MW); Laramie, one Oct. 23 (HHS); Denver, one Oct. 27-30 (VR, JC, MOS); Hygiene, two Nov. 6 (JR). **Black Scoter:** Denver, three Oct. 12 (VR, JC, JR); Boulder, two Oct. 23 (JR); Hygiene, two Nov. 6 (TVZ, BB, JR); Ely, Nev., three Oct. 21-22 (SS); Sunnyside W M A., Nev., one Nov. 11 (hunter kill, * U.N.R.). The latter constitute Nevada's second and third records, and first specimen.

HAWKS, EAGLES — Western hawk watches rarely tally large numbers, but Hoffman found a raptor lookout point in the Wellsville Mts., near Logan, Utah, where he counted 461 hawks in 56 hours on 18 days, Sept. 18 - Nov. 28. The lookout's drawback, from the standpoint of the watcher, is the 3000-ft. 4½-hour climb to reach it. The first date had the best totals: 30 Sharp-shinned, 50 Cooper's, 25 kestrels, and 10 Golden Eagles. In the 18 days he counted a total of 107 Golden Eagles (3-13 daily), 99 Sharp-shinned, 73 Cooper's, 13 Goshawks, 51 kestrels, 46 Marsh Hawks, and 34 Red-taileds. Query: why so few Red-taileds, and so few Buteos (only 3)?

A Red-shouldered Hawk stayed one day at Denver Sept. 27 (BA,††). Many observers reported very early arriving Rough-legged Hawks: Durango, Aug. 9 (RWS), Zion N. P. Aug. 20 (LW), Boulder Aug. 28 (*vide* BB), Lander, Wyo., Sept. 10 (MB). Low numbers of jackrabbits apparently drove Ferruginous Hawks S from c. Nevada in late August. Perhaps this also explains the early Rough-legged Hawks. At Casper, Wyo., Golden Eagles have decreased again, a worrisome report, while Bald Eagles have increased (OKS). At November's end sick waterfowl and dead carp attracted 70 Bald Eagles to Bear R., with the other high count 19 at Prewitt Res. (JR).

GROUSE, CRANES — Base populations of Blue Grouse, Sage Grouse, and Chukars at Eureka, Nev., were 966, 10,450, and 10,178 respectively (DE). The first two were down from the 1960s, the latter about the same. Western Colorado observers mapped the progress of one Whooping Crane: it passed through Grand Junction at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 17, with 25 Sandhills (DG)

and overnights 85 miles south at Ridgway, Colo., with 19 Sandhills (JRG). In October and November, four second-year and two yearling Whooping Cranes arrived at Monte Vista with the Sandhills. One juvenile died after striking a barbed-wire fence (PJF). Eastern Colorado observers tried similar mapping with the unusually high numbers of south-flying Sandhills which migrated along the Colorado Piedmont: Oct. 15 — 1400 at Pawnee Nat'l. Grassland (SL, VR) and 250 at Boulder (PJ); Oct. 16 — 250-300 at Milton Res., Weld Co., (DA) and 1200 which overnights at Barr L. (BA); Oct. 17 — 100 at Boulder, 99 at Longmont; Oct. 20 — 600 at Rocky Ford and Ordway (BK) A few Monte Vista-bound cranes flew over the 14,000-foot Sawatch Range near Buena Vista, Colo. (JP, date n.a.).

SHOREBIRDS — Highest counts of shorebirds came from Bear R.: 20,000 Western, 10,000 Baird's, and 7000 Least Sandpipers, and 8000 Marbled Godwits in September. Except for that the shorebird migration was un spectacular. Highest other count was Reddall's 1221 on 3 n.e. Colorado reservoirs Sept. 6 The Denver Fall Count Sept. 11 came up with only 375 shorebirds, 221 of them Killdeer. Normally numbers on that count are 3-4 times that, with twice as many Killdeer. Stray Am. Golden Plovers appeared in October at Pahrnagat Ref. and the Denver area (CL, BA, TG, VR, WWB). Late in the fall one Black-bellied Plover, never common Mountain West migrants, straggled to Logan Oct. 6 (AS), 20 to Fallon Oct. 30 (PT), and singles to Denver Oct. 31 - Nov. 3 (JR, MOS), Boulder Nov. 17 (BK), and Prewitt Res. Nov. 24 (JR). Rare Ruddy Turnstones still in summer plumage stopped at Fallon Aug. 1, the fourth or fifth Nevada record; at Ordway, Colo. Sept. 5 (EW) and Barr L. Sept. 11-13 (JR, BA, TG). A large flock of dowitchers at Bear R. Aug. 18 included two Red Knots (JD). Late shorebird records included 90 Least Sandpipers at Las Vegas Nov. 24 (CL, VM), one Dunlin at Fallon Nov. 27 (PT); a Long-billed Dowitcher at Alamo, Nev., Nov. 20 (AA, PL, WP). Stilt Sandpipers established rare records at Kanab Aug. 24 (second s. Utah record, SH†) and Las Vegas, with two Sept. 7 and one Sept. 17 (CL #) Sheridan had four Hudsonian Godwits Aug. 17 (MC, PH, HD†) At Bear R., Am. Avocets produced 3000 young and Black-necked Stilts had 1000 young. The largest flocks of shorebirds reported in Nevada were 600 N. Phalaropes at Fallon Aug. 1 and 300 Wilson's plus 200-300 Northern's at L. Mohave Aug. 29 - Sept. 12. The fall brought five Red Phalaropes to L. Mead Sept. 19 (CL) and singles to Las Vegas Aug. 7 (CL) and Barr L. Sept. 11 (BA, JR, ††).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Of seven jaegers reported for the Region, three were identified positively as Parasitic: birds at Farmington Bay Sept. 6 (SH†), Davis Dam Sept. 17 (CL), and L. Mead Nov. 14-24 (CL, ph #). The others, probably Parasitics, occurred at Barr L. Sept. 11 and Sept. 17-25 (BA, ††) and Bonny Res. Nov. 6, and Prewitt Res. Nov. 24 (JR, ††). Lake Mead had one imm. Glaucous-winged Gull Nov. 14 and 1-3 Thayer's Gulls Nov. 10-24 (CL); Prewitt Res. had a Thayer's Gull Nov. 24 (JR, ††). Best Regional count of Herring Gulls came with 37 at Bonny Res. Nov. 14 (MM).

S.A.

California Gulls, like most gulls, harass other water-related species and often prey on their eggs and young, many observers have commented recently on their multiplying numbers in the Mountain West. A Bear R. Refuge predator control program sprayed California Gull eggs with diesel fuel, and as a result, only 500 young hatched from the 10,242 eggs laid this summer (RK) Without knowledge of this program, Lawson commented from Las Vegas: "Among most of the gulls and the

California and Ring-billed in particular we are seeing almost no immatures. On Nov. 24, for example, of 1000+ California and Ring-billed, less than one per cent (about 8-10) were first-year birds, three per cent were second-year birds, and the remainder were third-year and other birds. Has anyone else made a similar observation?"

Sheridan's California Gulls usually stay through November but left by Sept. 30 this year; at Jackson Hole the opposite occurred, with some staying to late November. The fall brought two reports of Laughing Gulls in e. Colorado: three at Ordway Sept 5 (EW, ††) and one at Longmont Oct. 23-25 (JR, AC, ††). Colorado has enjoyed a series of reports of this Gulf Coast species over the past 3-4 years. A storm-blown imm. Heermann's Gull appeared Sept. 17 at Davis Dam, Nev., Nevada's third sighting (CL). Sabine's Gulls appeared at L. Mohave Sept. 15 (SP, CL, ph), Davis Dam Sept. 17 (CL), and Logandale Oct. 6 (VR, ph); three of the five Nevada records are supported by photographs. Longmont also attracted an ad. Black-legged Kittiwake Sept. 25 - Nov. 13 (PM, SL, BW) and an immature Nov. 27-28 (PM, JR, ††). Nevada rated the Com. Tern as "almost common" with 43 reported Aug. 7 - Oct. 10, including 14 on Sept. 26 at three locations in s. Nevada. Coloradans could rate it the same, with 17 reported at Loveland, Longmont and Gunnison Sept. 12 - Oct. 23.

CUCKOOS, OWLS — Collister banded an imm. Black-billed Cuckoo at Longmont Sept. 16, her first. Colorado finally had its first record of the **Groove-billed Ani**, at Bonny Res. Oct. 3 (MM, BW) Prange reports a good population of Barn Owls at L. Mohave, almost every abandoned mine shaft has a nesting pair, and he has found ten road kills this year. Zion's Spotted Owls were seen during August, and a rare Colorado migrant passed through the dense lodgepole pine at Dillon, Colo., the evening of Sept. 5 (HEK). Riddle L. in Yellowstone Park had a Great Gray Owl Aug. 25-26 (SG). An estimated 300 Short-eared Owls staged a large migration through Bear R. at the end of November (RK), making the ten at Monte Vista seem inconsequential.

NIGHTJARS TO HUMMINGBIRDS — The Poor-will at L. Mohave Nov. 15-22 provided a provocative late record. The Region had many late September reports of Com. Nighthawks, but the ones at Las Vegas Oct. 5 (CL) and Pueblo, Colo., Oct. 25 (JCL) were unusually late. Black Swifts had a successful nesting season in s.w. Colorado, judging by the 150 seen high above Ouray, Colo., Sept. 27 (HEK). A *Chaetura* swift at Ridgway, Colo., Sept. 26 could have been either Chimney or Vaux's (HEK, JRG) At Zion, P. Scott noted a gap of a month between the departure of nesting White-throated Swifts in late July and the arrival of migrants in September (50 on Sept. 10). Hummingbirds stayed late in several places: Durango to Oct. 17 (Rufous, RWS), Logan Oct. 23 (Broad-tailed, AS), Reno Oct. 30 (Rufous, IH), and Nov. 18 (Black-chinned, BP).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — M. Moulton observed an interesting transition among flickers at Bonny Res., located where the flicker races interbreed. In late summer the population was predominantly "Yellow-shafted"; in mid-September the "Red-shafteds" moved in, so that by Oct. 2 the ratio was 25 Red to 5 Yellow. (The birds were not all pure, but included some intergrades.) Most "Yellow-shafteds" which strayed west to Denver. Boulder, Ridgway and Durango appeared in September. At a Colorado Springs cemetery, however, a migratory surge of 68 "Red-shafteds" arrived Aug. 8. While the last Red-headed Woodpeckers left Sheridan Aug. 27 and Bonny Sept. 25, lingerers occurred at Baca Co. Oct. 20 (VR) and Durango Oct. 23 - Nov. 5, the latter feeding on pinyon nuts (RWS)

S.A.

At Grand Teton N. P., in 1974 the Park Service allowed a lightning-caused forest fire to burn out naturally; the fire consumed 3500 acres of timber. The fire generated natural succession, the Park Service objective, and also a woodpecker haven. Last summer a survey of one 100-acre plot in the remote burn area counted 39 pairs of N. Three-toed and five pairs of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers — the burn area may support as many as 2000 Three-toeds! The Black-backed attracted to the burn are the first recorded for the park

Three August Ash-throated Flycatchers at Denver and Ft Morgan (BA, JCR, D.F.O.) added to the e. Colorado summer records. A late E. Phoebe occurred at Denver Oct. 24 (JR) A large movement of *Empidonax* flycatchers occurred at Ridgway, Colo., Sept. 27, with 32 counted, probably bottled up against high mountains to the south by several days of storm clouds

SWALLOWS, JAYS — Durango saw another build-up of Violet-green Swallows, with 3500 Aug. 14 and 1500 Sept. 19, the 80 on Oct. 16 were latest in the Region (RWS). Zion noted a gap between breeding and migrant swallows like that observed for swifts. Breeders left by early August, and then 200 Violet-greens appeared Sept. 9 (KK). Late Tree Swallows included birds Oct. 23 at Logan (AS), Oct. 24 at Longmont (VR), and Oct. 25 at Barr L. (BA). Ft. Mohave, Nev., had 500 on Nov. 24 (CL, VM) Other late swallows included six Rough-wingeds at L. Mead Nov. 22 (VM) and two at Las Vegas Nov. 24 (CL, VM); October Barns at Logan, Longmont, and Barr; and two Cliffs at Monte Vista Oct. 24 (PJF).

JAYS — Blue Jays spread, geographically and numerically New locations included Douglas and Dubois, Wyo., Salt Lake City and Logan. Steller's Jays staged noticeable invasions into valley towns of n. Utah and w. Wyoming, from Salt Lake City to Jackson; only a few, and a few Scrub Jays, dropped to the Colorado plains, and they strayed no further than ten miles from their usual foothills habitats. Pifion Jay flocks ranged far, with 150 in Boulder during September, two at Bonny Oct. 2 (MM), one at Ft. Morgan Oct. 6 (JCR), and one at Longmont Oct. 17 (F.A.C.), all far from their conifer nesting sites. Flocks appeared in residential areas of Cheyenne and Cody, Wyo., Buena Vista, Colo., Cedar City, Utah, Reno, and Las Vegas. Clark's Nutcrackers dropped to unusual lowland locations: Buena Vista, Boulder, and Hesperus, Colo., Jackson, Wyo., and even out onto the Thunder Basin Grassland.

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS — Mountain Chickadees caused the most comment of regular Mountain West birds, with dozens reported from dozens of plains locations and valley towns. They outnumbered Black-cappeds in many Colorado sites. The trend reached from Colorado Springs to Sheridan, from Cheyenne west to Logan and Kanab, and to valley towns like Grand Junction and Buena Vista. The trend apparently did not affect Nevada much, although one appeared at a Boulder City feeder Nov. 1-7 (PL). At a Dubois feeder Nov. 20 two well-described **Bridled Titmice** appeared, 5-6 feet from the observers and compared directly with Mountain Chickadees (S&EW, †). This remarkable first Wyoming record for a presumably sedentary species, if not referring to escaped caged birds (unlikely in a small mountain town like Dubois), may constitute the ultimate evidence of the widespread *Parid* dispersal. Some White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers joined the Mountain Chickadees in the plains descent. Even Pygmy Nuthatches left their diagnostic Ponderosa Pines, for Cottonwoods at Boulder and Barr L.; unusual numbers were

banded at Hesperus close to the Ponderosa belt (ML). Creepers reached Ft. Morgan and Bonny in October. This flight of conifer inhabitants has occurred when the Rocky Mountain conifers have almost no cones. None of these species feed on the cones, but does the lack of a cone crop signal other changes in the trees which affect their food supply?

WRENS, THRASHERS — Observers reported nine Winter Wrens, the first at Reno Sept. 19 (IH), Barr Oct. 23 (BA), and Evergreen Oct. 25 (ECT). A Mockingbird strayed to Jackson Sept 16, possibly a new bird for n.w. Wyoming (BR). Brown Thrashers regularly wander in the fall; the one at Ogden Nov. 7 is one of only a handful of Utah records (MLK). An aggressive thrasher pushed all birds, including jays, off a feeder at Eldora, Colo., Oct. 26 - Nov. 3.

THRUSHES THROUGH WAXWINGS — Several Am. Robins winged over the 14,264-foot summit of Mt. Evans, Colo., Aug 20 (BK) and among the albino robins reported this fall was one at Sheridan, first observed in May, 1975. Varied Thrushes visited Casper Nov. 12-30 (*vide* OKS) and Durango Nov. 21 (RWS). The **Wood Thrush** at Pahrnagat N.W.R. Oct. 6-7 was Nevada's second record (RV, CV, CL, #); others appeared at Ft. Morgan Sept. 28 (JCR), Boulder Sept. 29 and Nov. 18 (SL, BK). Eastern Bluebirds appeared in rare flocks: 16 at Bonny Sept. 18 (MM) and 20 at Pueblo Oct. 30 (JCL). Colorado observers reported large flocks of Mountain Bluebirds, such as 500 Sept. 12 between Hartsel and Fairplay (CLC) and 200 in the Uncompahgre R. Valley, Ouray Co., Sept. 25-26 (HEK). Zion's Blue-gray Gnatcatchers left Aug. 18, but Ridgway had 19 migrants Sept 27. A few Golden-crowned Kinglets joined the chickadees on the plains, with a number of October records along the Colorado/Kansas line and 59 observations in Boulder County in November. The records extended to Sheridan, Logan, Zion, and Las Vegas. Near Reno the Alves came across a "fantastic" flock of 2000 Water Pipits, covering all the fences and fields. Sheridan observers checked six Sprague's Pipits Sept. 10 at close range (PH, MC, HD) and one occurred at Boulder Aug. 23 (FH, ††). November brought Bohemian Waxwings throughout n. Wyoming and Utah.

WARBLERS — To many observers warblers symbolize the migration; they epitomize its quality. Often the yardstick is the number of rare ones seen by the observer. Judged by that criterion, the 1976 fall migration was dull, with about two-thirds of the variety of last year. However Boulder County, Colo., reported twice as many Yellow-rumped Warblers as last year (BB), Boulder City, Nev., had over 200 Yellow-rumped the first week of November (PL); and on Sept. 26-27 — 439, mostly Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, and Wilson's, were counted during a wet stormy siege at Ridgway, jammed against the base of the high and rugged San Juan Mts. (HEK).

Notable late ones and rarities included a Nov. 22 Nashville at Boulder (FH *et al.*), one N. Parula at Longmont (AC) and three Magnolias in Colorado, including one Nov. 4 at Pueblo (EB, *vide* JCL), Cape Mays at Boulder Sept. 21 (KN) and Oct. 31 (BK); ten Black-throated Blues in e. Colorado and five in s. Nevada, including one still present Dec. 3 (CL, VM) — observers have found so many Black-throated Blues during the past three autumns that the species probably no longer merits "rare" status in Colorado and Nevada; four Black-throated Greens in Colorado (one Nov. 16 at Pueblo, EB); one Blackburnian at Pahrnagat Ref. Oct. 7 (CL); a Chestnut-sided at Casper in mid-September (LL); a Bay-breasted, banded, Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 at Denver (MOS); a Blackpoll Oct. 7 at Pahrnagat (CL); and a late Wilson's at Denver Nov. 7-8 (HEK). Of particular interest were a summer Pine Warbler at Pingree Park, w. of Ft. Collins (TPB) and an autumn bird which occurred at Boulder Nov. 13

(BK, SL). The two **Pine Warblers** at Douglas, Wyo., Sept 9 (LN†) constitute Wyoming's first report.

BLACKBIRDS — Even with their retreat before the spreading Com. Grackles, Brewer's Blackbirds remain abundant w. of the foothills of the Rockies. Representative of that were flocks of 5000 at Sheridan Sept. 26; 1822 at Ouray, Colo. Sept. 27, and 5000 at Las Vegas Nov. 24 (CL, VM). Las Vegas reported the largest flocks yet of Great-tailed Grackles, with 50 Oct. 21 (VM) and smaller flocks at L. Mead, Logandale, L. Mohave, and Davis Dam. Three occurred at Bayfield, Colo., Oct. 19 (RWS).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A hybrid Rose-breasted/Black-headed Grosbeak found its way to a foothills feeder at Eldora Oct. 30 (GS). Purple Finches appeared at Boulder Oct. 18 - Nov 18 (VR, BK) and Barr L. Oct. 30 (BA); and at Sheridan Nov 10 Hesperus had unusual numbers of Cassin's Finches all fall (ML), two strayed E to Baca Co. Oct. 20 (VR) and five made a rare valley appearance at Las Vegas Nov. 7. Red Crossbills reacted to the poor cone crop by largely disappearing, but inexplicably a flock of 4-8 White-winged Crossbills stayed in Cheyenne Oct 13 - Nov. 30 (LC, CCo). Many White-throated Sparrows came in, with two birds at Ridgway in late October (JRG) and one at Zion Oct. 5 for the third park record. Changes in irrigation patterns this summer prevented flooding of the Pueblo Swamp Sparrow habitat; hence none were observed there this fall (JCL). They did reach to Evergreen Oct. 24 (WWB) and s. Nevada had six records (CL, VR).

CORRIGENDA — Contributors have pointed out the following corrections: *Am. Birds* 30:871 — the Bendire's Thrasher was singing at Vernon, not Kamas; *Am. Birds* 30:747 — Flickers were common all during the period at Sheridan; *Am Birds* 30:747 — It was not a flock of 100 Pectoral Sandpipers, but rather 100 Least Sandpipers — this mistake misled the Changing Seasons Editor also (30:678). *Am. Birds* 30:870 — the Purple Martins occurred at Barr L. Apr. 29.

ABBREVIATIONS — †: Details on file with Regional Editor, ††: Details on file with Colo. Field Ornithologists; *: Specimen to Univ. of Nevada, Reno; #: Details to be published in *Western Birds*; D.F.O.: Denver Field Ornithologists; F.A.C.: Foothills Audubon Club.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and
Kenn Kaufman

After an undistinguished August, September brought two major storm systems. The first of these, Hurricane *Kathleen*, arrived violently September 9-10, precipitating Arizona's first (and last?) sightings of **Least Storm-Petrel** in the Davis Dam area; for more details see the Mountain West and Southern Pacific Coast Regions, and the Changing Seasons. The storm also brought multiples of **Magnificent Frigatebird**: four were riding gale-force winds northward across I-10 near Tacna, Arizona on September 10 (Scott Robinson); others were found later in adjacent Regions. A second period of rain occupied most of the last week of September. This produced some visible concentrations of migrant passerines; during a break in the weather on the 26th, Carl Tomoff described a pile-up of migrants at Prescott reminiscent of an Eastern-states "wave."



October and November in the Region reproduced, in microcosm, the pattern of the continent: warmer and milder than usual in the western areas, surprisingly cold and snowy farther east. In Arizona many species lingered (or many lingerers survived), but the seemingly delayed arrival of such common fare as Audubon's Warblers and White-crowned Sparrows lent a "birdless" aspect to many areas through October. Due to space limitations, most of the numerous late arrival and departure dates cannot be listed here.

More and more Southwestern birders are taking advantage of the "oasis effect" — the phenomenon wherein strays and vagrants concentrate in small patches of favorable habitat when these are surrounded by large tracts of unfavorable habitat. Some "oases" mentioned repeatedly below are Boone's Draw, on the plains of Roosevelt County, east-central New Mexico; the Bill Williams Delta (below: B.W.Delta), where the Bill Williams River empties into the Colorado River twenty miles northeast of

Parker, Arizona; and Sabino Canyon, northeast of Tucson at the south base of the Santa Catalina Mountains.

LOONS, GREBES — Arizona Com. Loons away from the Colorado R. were at Phoenix, Springerville, and twice at Prescott; three at Evans L., s.w. New Mexico, Nov. 6 (RAF) were notable.

Horned Grebes continue to be turned up by alert observers nine were reported at five Arizona locations Oct. 15 - end of period. Notable for the Prescott, Ariz., region were single W Grebes on Watson L., Sept. 15 & Oct. 29 (CST).

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — A White Pelican present Oct. 10-17 on Willow L. (CST) was unusual for the Prescott area Olivaceous Cormorant records are becoming regular; Arizona had singles on Parker Canyon L., Oct. 21 (#B & CY), and Patagonia L., Oct. 24 (#B & CY, DD). In s.w. New Mexico the species occurred on Evans L. (RAF *et al.*); singles thought to be this species were near Antelope Wells Aug. 16 (BP) and near Cloverdale Aug. 7 (Jbd) — both were out-of-place no matter what species they were.

An odd heron observed Aug. 14-15 at the B.W.Delta, Ariz and carefully described (#DStz), may have been a Louisiana x Little Blue hybrid; both species breed in coastal Sonora, the likely origin of this bird, Four Little Blue Herons, a notable number for New Mexico, were found Aug. 24 at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (GZ). A single Cattle Egret was observed Oct. 1 (WH) at Las Vegas, a new area of occurrence for the species in New Mexico.

A single imm. **White Ibis** was photographed at Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex., Sept. 21-27 (BWS *et al.*), and an extraordinary *nine* individuals were present (and beautifully photographed) at Bosque del Apache Sept. 17 - Oct. 5, with one present there as late as Oct. 21 (GZ *et al.*). There were only two previous records for New Mexico!

Some 250 White-faced Ibis, an amazing number for the area dropped out of the sky at Morgan L., n.w. N. Mex., Sept. 11 (APN). The species is unusual in Arizona after October however, several at Cibola N.W.R. (KVR) and one at Phoenix (JW *et al.*) remained into December.

WATERFOWL — More White-fronted Geese were reported in Arizona than in most recent years. A flock of 32 was at Picacho Res., Sept. 21 (BJo, MH); two were seen Oct. 3, and 14 on Oct. 28 near Ehrenberg (KVR, L&AH); and two at Phoenix from Oct. 15 on (ST *et al.*) established only the sixth local record A flock of 35+ Snow Geese in the snow near Cloverdale, s.w. New Mexico, Nov. 14 (JPH *et al.*) was eye-catching and rather unusual for the area.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks celebrated their new name (see *Auk* 93:875-879) by nesting at St. David, Ariz. (B&CY *et al.*) with two immatures still present Nov. 20 (DD); this is only the first or second nesting record in the San Pedro Valley.

A severe botulism outbreak near Alamogordo in August and September claimed the lives of about 3000 birds — mainly N Shovelers and teal, but also other ducks and waterbirds. Wood Ducks showed up more widely than usual in the Pecos and Rio Grande Valleys of New Mexico, and several Hooded Mergansers were seen in the latter area. One or more ♂ Surf Scoters at Evans Lake Nov. 6 and later (#RAF) added to the handful of records for New Mexico.

As of the end of the period, several Barrow's Goldeneyes and two Oldsquaw had returned to the Davis Dam area; details will be in the winter report.

RAPTORS — On Sept. 22, seven hours of watching yielded 152 raptors of eleven species over Sierra Grande, n.e. New Mex

ico, totals included 42 Kestrels, 36 Turkey Vultures, 25 Sharpshinned, and 22 Red-tailed (JPH). Such "hawk mountains" or concentration points for migrating raptors are relatively few and little-known in the Southwest.

PTARMIGAN THROUGH GALLINULES — The White-tailed Ptarmigan reaches its southern outpost in New Mexico, and is considered "endangered" there; evidence of its continued presence included reports of five seen and one photographed on Wheeler Peak Sept. 15 (Don Cunico, Jack Crellan), and two seen on Santa Fe Baldy in November (#Fred Stimson).

As of the end of the period, six of the Whooping Cranes from the Gray's Lake foster-parent experiment had returned to winter quarters in New Mexico. Three first-year and two second-year birds were at Bosque del Apache N.W.R., and one second-year bird was at Bernardo State Game Refuge (*vide* Jack Woody). One of these stopped en route at Corrales Nov. 6 (RLT *et al.*); a second-year individual at Bernardo S.G.R. Oct. 6 (Jim Sands *et al.*) may have been an unaccounted-for seventh bird.

An imm. **Purple Gallinule** in Sabino Canyon Sept. 11-17 and possibly later (BJo, DSztz, #KK, m.ob.) was only the second acceptable Arizona record in the last quarter-century.

SHOREBIRDS — Although there are few records for Semipalmated Plover in n. Arizona, CST had five during the period north of Prescott. The only Am. Golden Plover in Arizona was one Sept. 24-25 (RBr, SB, JT) at Phoenix, where the species occurs annually. A well-detailed individual near Alamogordo Sept. 26 (#BP) was one of the few credible records for New Mexico, where there are only sight records.

Two Ruddy Turnstones at Phoenix Aug. 7-8 (SB, #JW *et al.*) established the fifth Arizona record, a **Whimbrel** photographed w of Lordsburg Aug. 10 (BB) was the only verified recent record for New Mexico. None was found in Arizona this year, but six or more were across the river in flooded fields s. of Ripley, Cal., July 31 - Aug. 2 (KVR *et al.*). Two Red Knots, rare in New Mexico, were at Bitter Lake N.W.R. Oct. 14 (BWS, D. Boggs).

Several species of shorebirds appeared at Tyrone, s.w. New Mexico, Aug. 28 - Oct. 5, including Baird's Sandpipers (RAF). Baird's were common as usual in appropriate habitat in Arizona; the high count was 250+ at Willcox Sept. 5 (MRo, DSztz). One at Phoenix Nov. 24 (DSztz, SRD, HL) was extremely late. Unusual for New Mexico was a Stilt Sandpiper n. of Albuquerque Sept. 7 (#RLT). Small numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers, Marbled Godwits and Sanderlings appeared as usual at the major concentration points for shorebirds in Arizona.

S.A.

There was one definite Red Phalarope report this fall: one at Phoenix Sept. 28-30, detailed and photographed (RBr, #R&JW). As usual, several less definite reports were received. Many of these seem to be based on N. Phalarope *adults*, which are paler and plainer-backed than the immatures and thus approach the field-guide renditions of the autumn Red. On several dates in mid-September, only 10% of the Northern Phalaropes were adults (KK), and these stood out noticeably from the numerous immatures; in areas where fewer Northern Phalaropes occur, the few adults might easily be singled out and mistaken for Reds.

Perhaps the season's most bizarre report was that of an apparent *Am. Oystercatcher* seen at night by spotlight near Antelope Wells, s.w. N. Mex., Aug. 10 (#JbD). The observer — quite experienced at spotlighting — gave a thorough and convincing description, though we are aware of the great scarcity of inland records of this species.

GULLS, TERNS — Single imm. Sabine's Gulls were at Davis Dam Sept. 17 (CSL) and at Bitter Lake N.W.R. Oct. 1 (BWS *et al.*). At Tucson an immature was seen Sept. 24 - Oct. 2, with a second immature present Sept. 25-26 and an *adult* there Sept. 25 (RBa, GM, m.ob.). Adults are much less frequent inland than first-year birds.

In the Lower Colorado Valley KVR noted the first Caspian Terns in late July and the first Com. Terns Aug. 26; both species were seen regularly through Sept. 19. In the remainder of the Region both these species are rare; the only other Caspian noted this fall was at Patagonia L., Ariz., Aug. 7 (DD *et al.*) A **Common Tern** collected Aug. 30 (* to Smithsonian) at Morgan L., extreme n.w. New Mexico (CGS), established the first confirmed record of the species in that state.

CUCKOOS, OWLS, NIGHTIARS — New Mexico's second confirmed **Black-billed Cuckoo** was mist-netted at Boone's Draw Sept. 6 (CGS). A Roadrunner seen Nov. 20 e. of Fredonia, extreme n. Arizona, was at the periphery of the species' range (B Lunceford, *vide* SH).

A brief survey Sept. 14-15 turned up a Ferruginous Owl in lower Sabino Canyon, where the species has apparently not been seen since 1973 (KK, JW *et al.*). Evidently a downslope movement of Saw-whet Owls occurred. One was seen at Quemado, N. Mex., another was at Mt. Taylor, N. Mex., and two road casualties were found in the Santa Fe area, all Nov. 10-22, one which reached the Lower Sonoran desert north of Phoenix, was hit by a car Nov. 30 (*vide* E. Radke). Intriguing was the presence of a Whip-poor-will in Ramsey Canyon, Ariz., from Nov. 19 through the end of the period (B&CY *et al.*).

HUMMINGBIRDS — Two ♂ Lucifer Hummingbirds were present at feeders at Portal Sept. 9 - Oct. 6, with an imm. male also present in early September (SS, m.ob.); extensive notes by DAZ (#) and photographs by the Spoffords document the record. The number of individuals suggests that the birds might have nested locally.

An ad. ♂ Calliope Hummingbird Sept. 2 in Ehrenberg (AH, *vide* KVR) was unusual for the Lower Colorado Valley. A ♂ Rivoli's Hummingbird wandered north to Prescott Sept. 26 - Oct. 1. (B. Burns, CST). Northeast of their normal range were three or more Blue-throated Hummingbirds at Silver City Sept. 17-30 (M. Moseley, DAZ).

The latest Violet-crowned Hummingbird in Ramsey Canyon, Ariz., was one seen Oct. 13 (B&CY). Broad-billed Hummingbirds seemingly nested late in upper Guadalupe Canyon, with young still present in two nests in August (BB).

KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS — Single ♂-plumaged Green Kingfishers, regular wanderers to s.e. Arizona, were at Patagonia in late September (GH, RM, #B&CY) and at St. David Oct. 9 (#BL *et al.*).

A single imm. Red-headed Woodpecker, always noteworthy in the Southwest, was at Socorro Oct. 9-10 (PB). Lewis' Woodpeckers appeared at Prescott (where somewhat irregular) Oct. 15, and four were present by the end of the period (CST). A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker on Sierra Grande, N. Mex., Sept. 22 (JPH) was a local first.

Two Downy Woodpeckers were found Nov. 26 at Teec Nos Pos, extreme n.e. Arizona, an area where the species is rarely recorded but may winter regularly. One of these had extensive white spotting on the wing-coverts and was possibly a more northern or eastern race, not *P. p. leucurus* of the Arizona mountains (DSztz, R&JW).

FLYCATCHERS — Significant further elucidation of the *Empidonax* picture in east-central New Mexico occurred this

fall Extensive mist-net operations at Boone's Draw Sept. 4-16 (JPH *et al.*) yielded over 200 *Empidonax* flycatchers of six species, the majority (170 birds) were **Least Flycatchers!** Another 25 were Willow Flycatchers, and there were very small numbers of Dusky and Hammond's. Three **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** (* to Smithsonian, Univ. New Mex., Delaware Mus. Nat. Hist.) established the first records for the state, while four W. Flycatchers were among the easternmost ever recorded for the species (another bird thought to be a Western was seen Sept. 9 at Clayton - #WC).

Peripheral records of Tropical Kingbirds in August included two east of Douglas and three near Winkelman, Ariz. (DD, GM *et al.*), these were probably summering birds rather than part of the northward fall dispersal. Single **Great Crested Flycatchers**, rare in New Mexico, were banded and photographed at Boone's Draw Sept. 5 (CGS) and Sept. 10 (BMcK). An E. Phoebe, uncommon in Arizona, was at the B.W.Delta Nov. 15 (AH, *vide* KVR)

A possible *E. Wood Pewee* found by Bob Yutzy in Ramsey Canyon, Ariz., Sept. 23-25 (#B&CY,AC,FS), was carefully described, photographed, and tape-recorded; the evidence is still under examination by the Arizona Bird Committee.

CORVIDS — Arizona's first **Blue Jay**, long overdue, appeared Oct 31 - Nov. 9 at an "oasis situation" n.w. of Page; excellent photos documented the record (#Joan Middleton, *vide* RPB). Our original doubts as to the bird's wild status (it was somewhat tame in behavior) were mostly dispelled by the logical location and timing of the occurrence, as well as by the news of a major invasion to the north of us this fall. A Scrub Jay in B.W.Delta Sept 15-16 and several sightings south of Parker through November (KVR *et al.*) were quite unusual for a year in which no major flight to the lowlands occurred.

The Black-billed Magpie may be re-invading n.e. Arizona, where it was common prior to the turn of the century. The species is now numerous at Teec Nos Pos, and several were seen in November (DStz, R&JW) at Many Farms, where first noted four years ago. In addition, one was seen Nov. 18 (B. Lunceford, *vide* SH) at Fredonia, n.w. Arizona; numbers have occurred recently near adjacent Kanab, Utah (SH), so further records at Fredonia seem likely.

PARIDS THROUGH WRENS — A **Black-capped Chickadee** was found at Teec Nos Pos, extreme n.e. Ariz., Nov. 26 (#DStz, R&JW) There have been very few Arizona records; however, the species is resident in the San Juan Valley of adjacent n.w. New Mexico No Mountain Chickadees were reported from the s. Arizona lowlands; unexpected, therefore, were several in the B W Delta Nov. 14 (KVR,DW) — apparently the first for the Lower Colorado Valley! Also at low elevation were eight at Cabezon, N. Mex., Oct. 18 (JPH), and others appeared at Las Cruces, Albuquerque, the San Juan Valley, and in n.e. Ariz. at Moenave and Chinle Wash. A Bushtit at B.W.Delta Nov. 16 (KVR) was one of very few records for the Lower Colo. Valley.

Red-breasted Nuthatches seemed scarce in Arizona, but a good flight developed across New Mexico, with records in such lowland areas as the San Juan Valley (CS *et al.*), c. Rio Grande Valley (LH *et al.*), and at Boone's Draw, where six were banded (JPH *et al.*). This movement was echoed by Pygmy Nuthatches, considerably more unusual in the lowlands; singles were noted Sept 2 at Albuquerque (#JE), Aug. 27 at Socorro (#PB), and Sept 8 at Boone's Draw (photos -BMcK).

Although the Brown Creeper is generally scarce in the Lower Colorado Valley, Rosenberg found them to be fairly common by mid-November in B.W.Delta and points south. Winter Wrens were first noted Oct. 13 at B.W.Delta (KVR), Oct. 19 at Socorro (#PB), Oct. 23 at Peppersauce Canyon, Ariz. (PN, DStz), and

Nov. 13 at Ramsey Canyon (B&CY); eleven had been reported by the end of the period, presaging exceptional numbers during the winter.

MIMIDS, THRUSHES — The status of Bendire's Thrasher in New Mexico outside the breeding season is poorly known, a careful sight record of one was made near Hatchet Gap Nov 7, and one was collected near Antelope Wells Nov. 12 (JPH).

Rufous-backed Robin reports were scarce, with only two by the end of November. However, one of these appeared unusually far east in the lower (Arizona) half of Guadalupe Canyon, Oct 21 (GM, PW). New Mexico's first documented **Varied Thrush** (* to Univ. New Mexico) was collected by a cat in Albuquerque Oct 18 (*vide* RLT). Another was seen Oct. 17 at Bandelier Nat Mon (#R. Wauer). While a few reach the n.e. United States almost annually, the species seems less inclined to move southward, it is uncommon at Albuquerque's latitude even in California.

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS — Golden-crowned Kinglets staged one of their largest invasions ever, with individuals and flocks reported from at least 19 lowlands localities throughout Arizona and New Mexico by the end of November. Similarly, November sightings of N. Shrikes in three n.e. Arizona areas (DStz, R&JW) presaged a major flight winter for this species. An unexpected discovery involved numbers of Sprague's Pipits in the lower Animas Valley and vicinity, s.w. New Mexico, in mid-November, with at least 25 seen on snow-free roads e. of Cloverdale on the 13th (#JPH).

One or possibly two Hutton's Vireos, rarely recorded in the Lower Colorado Valley, were at B.W. Delta Nov. 14-16 (AH, *vide* KVR). Migrant Gray Vireos are seldom noted in the Arizona lowlands; one south of Yuma Sept. 6 (KVR) was apparently the first fall record for the Lower Colorado Valley. The only definite Red-eyed Vireo reported was one at Sabino Canyon Oct 4 (#WGR).

WARBLERS — Opposite edges of the Region agreed on one basic tenet: the early-fall predominance of Wilson's Warblers. In the Lower Colorado Valley, KVR termed this species "the most abundant migrant"; and at Boone's Draw Sept. 4-16, no less than 214 of 275 warblers netted were Wilson's. Among the remaining warblers netted at Boone's Draw, individuals of distinctly western forms seemed to outnumber eastern forms by four to one, although the sample was not large enough for strong conclusions.

Despite impressions of a lacklustre migration and scarcity of migrants after mid-September in some areas, a surprising number of eastern warblers appeared. A **Prothonotary Warbler** at Sabino Canyon Sept. 10 (#Bjo *et al.*) was Arizona's fifth. At Boone's Draw, where New Mexico's first confirmed **Golden-winged Warbler** occurred last April, a male was seen Sept 5 (#JPH). A **Magnolia Warbler**, quite rare in the Region, was banded and photographed at Boone's Draw Sept. 9 (BMcK) Arizona's Bicentennial vagrant was an imm. **Cape May Warbler** on Sycamore Creek n.e. of Phoenix Oct. 30 (#ST,#JW) — the second record for the state; the first occurred in 1875!

Single **Black-throated Green Warblers** were carefully studied at Sabino Canyon Sept. 14-16 (DStz,#KK,ST) and at Phoenix Sept. 26 (ST); caution is necessary at such atypically early dates, which coincide with the main passage of Hermit x Townsend's Warbler hybrids. A **Blackburnian Warbler** at Peppersauce Canyon, Ariz., Oct. 21-24 (#DStz,RNd *et al.*) established the state's third acceptable sight record. A clearly photographed imm **Bay-breasted Warbler** at Santa Fe Oct. 20 (JE) represented only the fourth record for New Mexico. A **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Patagonia Sept. 25 (#DStz,MH) was quite early; the three previous Arizona records and the four from n. Sonora have all

occurred between mid-October and mid-March. Two **Mourning Warblers** were netted at Boone's Draw: an imm. male collected (* to Smithsonian) Sept. 8 (CGS) and an ad. male banded and photographed Sept. 10 (BMcK) provided the second and third records for New Mexico. The imm. ♂ **Hooded Warbler** found at Pleasanton, N. Mex., July 27 lingered until Oct. 11 (#LS); another was at Dixon, N. Mex., Aug. 29-30 (Jack Whetstone *et al.*) and an adult male was at Patagonia, Ariz., Sept. 14 (#DStz,GG). Most records of this species in the Region are in spring rather than fall. A ♂ **Canada Warbler** at Roswell Sept. 22 (#MW) was only the second recorded in New Mexico.

Among the less unusual warblers, the Black-and-white noted at Portal the first week in July remained until Aug. 11 (F. Ranson), and another was at B.W.Delta Sept. 16 (KVR); Arizona normally sees more than this during a fall. Single Tennessee Warblers were at two points near Springerville, Ariz., Aug. 10 (ST, SB) and Aug. 12 (DStj), one was banded and photographed at Boone's Draw Sept. 10 (JPH), and another was seen at Peppersauce Canyon Oct. 24 (#ST *et al.*); records of this species have increased in recent years. Northern Parulas appeared Oct. 13 in Sabino Canyon (DStz) and Nov. 13 near Parker (KVR). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Albuquerque Oct. 22 (DDL) and a female was reported e. of Phoenix Nov. 21 (#CAS). Single Chestnut-sided Warblers were noted in Sabino Canyon Sept. 14 (TP,#DStz *et al.*), Sept. 25 (#RPR), and Oct. 13 (#Dtz, GG *et al.*), and another was in Peppersauce Canyon Nov. 21 (#DStz,BJo *et al.*). Myrtle Warblers were recorded more commonly than usual in New Mexico w. of the Rio Grande this fall (JPH). Arizona had reports of five N. Waterthrushes and ten Am Redstarts, which is about average.

According to *Birds of Ariz.*, Virginia's Warbler is casual in the Lower Colorado Valley, but intensive coverage there this season turned up six Aug. 26 - Sept. 7 (KVR *et al.*). An Olive Warbler in Gallinas Canyon of the Black Range, s.w. New Mexico, Sept. 3 (DAZ) was one of the few records for that area. A Grace's Warbler at Bitter Lake N.W.R., N. Mex., Oct. 27 (BWS) was late and at an unusually low elevation.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — Single Bobolinks, rare transients in Arizona, were found Sept. 10 near Phoenix (ST) and Sept. 13 near Palominas, Cochise Co. (#BY). An imm. ♂ "**Baltimore**" **Oriole** (* to Smithsonian) at Boone's Draw Sept. 12 (JPH) provided the first specimen record for New Mexico. A ♂ Scott's Oriole remained through the end of the period in an area near Silver City where such a bird has wintered for the last two years (*vide* Jean Ralston), and a male came to feeders at Globe, Ariz., as late as Nov. 9 (*vide* BJa).

Burgeoning Great-tailed Grackle populations continue to cause comment. At Isleta, N. Mex., an impressive concentration of 2500-3000 was roosting Sept. 19 (O. Van Buskirk), while seven seen Oct. 12 at Aragon, N. Mex. (JPH), may signal an expansion into that pine plateau area. At Globe, Ariz., the species was present through the autumn for its second year (BJa). A Com. Grackle at Los Alamos, N. Mex., Nov. 12-13 (LH) was unusual there and late.

A Summer Tanager at Sabino Canyon Nov. 13 (TP,DStz *et al.*) appeared small and dark and was thought to be possibly of the eastern race, *P. r. rubra*. Although it is rare in Arizona, all late fall and winter specimens have proven to be of this form.

FRINGILLIDS — Late reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were imm. males n. of Tucson Oct. 31 (Ray Harm) and at Pleasanton, N. Mex., Nov. 17-19 (#LS). An imm. ♀ **Painted Bunting** collected Nov. 8 on the Colorado R. north of Ehrenberg, Ariz. (B. Anderson, *vide* KVR) established the first confirmed record away from the s.e. corner of the state and also the latest fall record for Arizona! Less unusual, but still notable, were three individuals banded and photographed at Boone's Draw Sept. 10 (CGS *et al.*).

Several Dickcissels were present at Boone's Draw Sept. 4-12 (JPH), and one was found at an oasis situation 80 mi w of Phoenix Sept. 5 (ST, KK, R&JW). A **Brown-capped Rosy Finch** nest with young was discovered Aug. 21 at Nambu L., e. of Santa Fe. Photographs (Paul Hendricks) confirmed this as the first documented breeding of the species in New Mexico, although nesting has been suspected in the past. A single ♀ **White-winged Crossbill** was studied as it foraged with 20 Red Crossbills on Sierra Grande Sept. 23 (#JPH); this was perhaps the fourth record for New Mexico. A **Baird's Sparrow** was seen Nov. 27 about 30 mi. n.e. of Deming (#BP, L&AH); there are practically no recent records for s.w. New Mexico, although evidently it was fairly common a half-century or so ago.

The Sonoita Creek colony of Five-striped Sparrows, which was quite successful in 1975 (ten adults present, 15 young fledged), suffered a serious setback this year. Only four adults returned, one of which promptly disappeared, and no young were fledged during the 1976 season (*vide* S. Mills).

The first Sage Sparrow in the Parker area showed up Sept. 5 (KVR), ten days earlier than any previous record away from the breeding grounds. The first Dark-eyed Junco noted in the Parker region was, oddly, a Slate-colored on Sept. 30, possibly an early record for this form (KVR, DW). A Gray-headed Junco, rare in the Lower Colorado Valley, was found s. of Parker Nov. 19 (KVR). One Tree Sparrow, a sparse winter visitor to n.e. Arizona, was with a flock of juncos in Chinle Wash Tes Nez Iah Nov. 26 (DStz, R&JW). A Clay-colored Sparrow was reported Oct. 24 near Sonoita, Ariz., by an observer familiar with the species (#CY). An apparent imm. **Field Sparrow** was closely observed Oct. 20 in Albuquerque (#DDL); the species is quite rare that far west.

There were indications of a better-than-average Harris' Sparrow year in s. Arizona; and in the extreme northeast, where records are few, one was seen at Teec Nos Pos Nov. 26 (DStz, R&JW) — the bird may be regular there, but birders are not Reported Golden-crowned Sparrows were subadults near Parker Oct. 21 (KVR), at Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Oct. 24 (DStj), near Phoenix Nov. 6 (CAS), and one remarkably early at Patagonia Sept. 20 (CY). Reports of White-throated Sparrows in New Mexico were almost numerous, occurring statewide, and by the end of the period it was clear that this winter would be one of the biggest ever for the species in Arizona.

A final extraordinary record was the observation of a single Chestnut-collared Longspur at Antelope Wells, extreme s.w. New Mexico, on Aug. 2 (#BP) — an "early record" practically in a class by itself.

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ALASKA REGION

/Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

It was a very mild fall, through into the winter season throughout the Region and there were many resultant late departures.

GREBES, ALBATROSSES — Regular but rare in fall in Southeastern Alaska, Pied-billed Grebes were observed as follows: one on Ward L., Ketchikan, Oct. 22-24 (DDG) and three together on Swan L., Sitka, Nov. 28 (CHJ). An ad. **Short-tailed Albatross**, well-described from just n. of Tanadak I. (at 52°N 177°47'E), w. Aleutian Is., Aug. 27 (GP) was the first recently reported in the Region.

WATERFOWL — A pair of "Common" Teal on Swan L., Sitka, Nov. 28 (CHJ) may represent the first Southeastern record of a Green-winged Teal not *carolinensis*. A ♀-plumaged Garganey was observed at Buldir I. Aug. 30 - Sept. 4 (GVB, WER, DWW), the first fall record in the Aleutians. Impressive local counts of Gadwall in southcoastal Alaska included 150 at Red L., Kodiak I., during the third week of November (RNT) and 105 at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak, Oct. 24 (RAM & JLT). A ♂ Redhead on Swan L., Sitka, Nov. 28 (CHJ) is of interest from several standpoints: it provides the second fall record in Southeastern, the latest fall record in the state, and the *only* fall report in 1976! An ad. ♂ Ring-necked Duck at Cordova Nov. 25

(PI) represented the second local fall record. One ♂ Canvasback at Cordova Nov. 2 (PI) was also late. Up to seven Tufted Ducks present at Amchitka I. from Oct. 11 through the end of the period (GEH & GWE) provided the highest fall count known in the Region. The only records of Smew this fall were from Amchitka: three ♀-plumaged birds present Oct. 19-24 and one on Nov. 22 (GEH & GWE).

SHOREBIRDS — A breeding-plumaged Rufous-necked Sandpiper in *Valdez Narrows* Aug. 19 (PI & RI) was the first recorded in southcoastal Alaska and the third for the Pacific coast east of the Aleutians. Up to three Rufous-neckeds were seen periodically at Buldir Aug. 19 - Sept. 11 (GVB *et al.*), and one was recorded at Amchitka Aug. 28 (MAS). Up to three Long-toed Stints were observed at Buldir Aug. 1-5 and Aug. 26 Sept. 25 (GVB *et al.*). A single Temminck's Stint present at Buldir Aug. 20-25 (GVB, WER, DWW) was the third in fall for the Region, the first for the Aleutians. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were recorded as early as Aug. 12, a breeding-plumaged bird at St. Paul I., Pribilof Islands (BFK *et al.*). Up to four were seen at Buldir, Sept. 17-22 (GVB & WER), one was seen at Kiska I. Oct 3 (GVB), one was seen at Amchitka Oct. 15 (GEH), and 12+ were seen at Middle Bay, Kodiak, Oct. 24 (RAM & JLT).

One Spotted Redshank was observed on a Buldir bog Sept. 21 (GVB), the token fall bird in 1976. A Greenshank was present at Buldir at the beginning of the period and was seen through Aug 6 (GVB *et al.*). Late Greater Yellowlegs included three at Middle Bay, Kodiak, Oct. 17 (JLT) and one at the Juneau airport Oct. 27 (DDG & CS). After the most impressive spring movement of Wood Sandpipers on record in Alaska this year (*q.v.*), there were three (more than usual) fall records: singles at St. Paul Aug. 12 (BFK *et al.*), and at Buldir Aug. 20 (GVB *et al.*) and Sept. 13 (GVB & WER). Single Polynesian Tattlers were seen at Buldir Aug. 4 & 7, and up to three were present Sept. 2-7 (GVB *et al.*).

Two **Marbled Godwits** were observed at the Kasilof R. mouth Kenai Peninsula, Aug. 19 (MAM), providing the first fall record for the Region. Hudsonian Godwits were present in good numbers this fall: 23 at the Kasilof R. mouth Aug. 13 and 64 there Aug. 16 (DBM), 10 at Cordova Aug. 20 (SES), and one at Cordova late on Sept. 22 (PI). One Com. Snipe (*C. g. gallinago*) was seen at Buldir Aug. 28 - Sept. 17 (GVB, WER, DWW) and was joined by a second individual Sept. 15 (GVB).



GULLS, TERNS — An ad. Ring-billed Gull was studied at Homer Nov. 28 and again in early December (RAM). A single Black-headed Gull present at Buldir at the beginning of the reporting period was still there at the end of September, when the observers departed (GVB *et al.*). A single Mew Gull-of-the-year present at Buldir Sept. 17-21 was joined by another Sept 22, and both were seen daily through the 27th (GVB *et al.*). The origin of these birds (*i.e.*, *L. c. kamtschatschensis* from Asia or *L. c. brachyrhynchus* from Alaska) was not determined. Five Bonaparte's Gulls at Red L., Kodiak, Nov. 14-20 (RNT) heralded the first Southcoastal overwintering records, to be discussed later. *Forty-three hundred plus* Ross' Gulls at Point Barrow Sept. 29 (GJD & DAW) was over four times the previous high count for the state, also at that location. Two breeding plumaged Com. Terns (*S. h. longipennis*) at St. Paul Aug. 11 (BFK & DH) closed out, on time, a year in which there were a number of Bering Sea records.

DOVES, HUMMINGBIRDS — Primarily fall visitants in the Region, Mourning Doves were recorded in Southeastern, at the Stikine R. mouth, at least four birds in late September (GEH SOM), and as far west as c. Alaska, one at Talkeetna Sept. 24 (*vide* DKP). A ♂ *Anna's Hummingbird* present from early sum

mer at least through September at Wrangell (VG, SOM, GEH) represented the first Regional record since January 1975.

WOODPECKERS — "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were more numerous than usual in Cordova during August and September (PI); one observed at Karluk L., *Kodiak, Nov. 6* (JLT) was the first flicker recorded for that island and the latest ever in the state. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were more widely reported than usual: female at Palmer on Aug. 16 (DKP), male at Mile 115 Parks Hwy. Oct. 10 (DKP & SP), one at Coho Oct. 21 (MAM), and there were at least two Fairbanks records during the fall as well (ERH, others).

FLYCATCHERS — An E. Kingbird was observed near *Delta Junction* Sept. 21 (TGT), the third, and latest, fall record in the state, the first such in c. Alaska. A **Tropical Kingbird** was studied at close range as it hunted from roadside to telephone lines and the treetops in an adjacent yard at Ketchikan Oct. 23-24 (DDG; details on file U.A.M.). This first Alaska sighting would seem to dovetail with the species' well-known northward fall movements along the coast farther south (see fall reports from the other Pacific regions over last decade). A W. Wood Pewee at Cordova *Sept. 19* (PI) was the later of only two September records in the state, both from Southcoastal.

THRUSHES — An Am. Robin at *Amchitka* Oct. 16 (GEH) was totally unexpected, a first for the Aleutian Islands. Rare migrants in the Aleutians, single Wheatears were seen at Buldir Sept. 13 and 18 (GVB & WER); one that came aboard ship in Prince William Sound during a snowsquall Oct. 27 (PI) was only the second fall/winter record in southcoastal Alaska.

WAGTAILS, VIREOS — Single juvenile White Wagtails were seen at Buldir Sept. 20 & 22 (GVB & WER); these first fall Aleutian records number among very few September records in the state. One Yellow Wagtail well seen at Cordova Aug. 18 (SES) was the first recorded for Southcoastal. A lone Yellow Wagtail at Buldir Sept. 9 (GVB, WER, DWW) provided only the second fall record in the w. Aleutians. A **Red-eyed Vireo** observed at the Stikine R. mouth Aug. 31 (SOM) represented the first fall record for the state.

WOOD WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS — Two **Magnolia Warblers** were observed in the Juneau area in early fall, one Aug. 6 (RBW) and the other the same week (*vide* RBW). But one that came aboard ship in the n. Bering Sea, 125 km SSW of Nome, Sept. 13 (DAW) was astounding! A juvenile Brown-headed Cowbird seen at Cordova Sept. 19 (PI & RI) proved to be a first Southcoastal record.

TANAGERS, FINCHES — A singing ♂ W. Tanager at the Stikine R. mouth Aug. 31 (SOM) was the latest recorded in southeastern Alaska. One Brambling observed at Adak I. Oct. 16 (GVB & RSS) marked the first recent fall record in the Aleutians. Following the first Alaska records of **Oriental Greenfinch** (*Carduelis sinica*) this spring and summer (*q.v.*), a single bird was observed at close range at Buldir Aug. 19 (GVB *et al.*). These records will be discussed in detail elsewhere. Harris' Sparrow arrived at Juneau Oct. 12, one banded bird that fed regularly about banding traps and that was joined by two unbanded individuals Nov. 2 (RBW).

ADDENDA AND CORRIGENDA — JE & ME (AB 30:877) should have been referenced as Jack and Mary Endicott. Anent the Pine Grosbeak reference (AB 30:878) *P. e. kamtschatkensis* is the correct name of the subspecies being discussed.

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

August continued the pattern of the earlier summer months by having more than average rainfall. The remaining three months of the season were drier than normal with above-average temperatures. No heavy coastal storms occurred. The result was a delayed migration for waterfowl, and many lingering passerines. The season also brought the usual quota of displaced individuals, affording ample cause for wonderment.



LOONS, GREBES AND PELAGICS — A Yellow-billed Loon was at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 30 - Nov. 28; four others were in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and in Puget Sound after Sept. 27. From Oct. 9 on there were up to 50 Red-throated Loons at the Columbia R. mouth. The 500-600 Red-necked Grebes at Green P. e. of Port Angeles, Wash., Aug. 24 (TW) was an amazing concentration. Over 2000 W. Grebes were at Birch Bay, Wash Aug. 4 (BR *et al.*, *vide* VG), 7500 at Campbell R., B.C., Oct. 10 (HT), and 1000 near Duncan, B.C., Nov. 20 (JCo). A Laysan Albatross was noted by Craig Berger, 12 mi. off Newport, Ore Aug. 17 (*vide* HN); another was found dead at Ocean Shores Sept. 11 (GVV, *vide* PM). The peak count for N. Fulmars this season was 219 off Westport Aug. 22 (next highest 36 Oct. 3

there) (TW). Between 150 and 400 Pink-footed Shearwaters were recorded on trips from Westport (TW); a few were seen out of Banfield, B.C. in late September (MS, *fide* VG), and along the c. Oregon coast Aug. 28-29 (JG *et al.*). Up to four Flesh-footed Shearwaters were recorded on each Westport boat trip (TW); one was off Banfield Sept. 18 (MS, *fide* VG). Maximum count of New Zealand Shearwaters was 1232 Oct. 3; Sept. 16-26 large numbers were seen on the edge of the continental shelf off Washington (TW). Three Short-tailed Shearwaters were observed 30-40 mi. off Westport Oct. 3, and 6-9 on the edge of the continental shelf Sept. 16-26 (TW). One was seen off Cleland I., B.C., Sept. 1 (RWC, *fide* VG), one was dead at Westport Oct. 30 (BH-T), and one was seen at Seattle Nov. 20 (DP). Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel maximum was 235 on Sept. 12 from Westport; one was found dead at Yaquina Head, Ore., Nov. 25 (RO, *fide* FR). On Aug. 22 there were 51 Leach's Storm-Petrels recorded out of Westport; one was off Depoe Bay, Ore., Aug. 28 (JG), and a few were noted well offshore Sept. 16-26 (TW).

Numbers of Brown Pelicans, more than half immatures, were high along the Oregon coast with smaller numbers along the Washington coast; maximum count was 300-500 around Tillamook Rock, just off the n. Oregon coast, Sept. 4 (TC).

HERONS AND WATERFOWL — Green Herons were seen repeatedly on s. Vancouver I., at Seattle, and near Tillamook Bay, Ore., Gardiner, Ore. and 3 other localities during the period. An imm. Cattle Egret was found at Port Neville, Vancouver I. Oct. 1 (MR *et al.*, *fide* VG). Great Egrets made the most widespread appearances ever; one was at the Sooke R. mouth, Vancouver I., Aug. 16-19 (ACH, VG *et al.*, photo). Another was near Pitt Meadows, B.C., Sept. 5-6 (R&WR, *fide* VG) For w. Washington one or two Great Egrets were recorded at seven different localities from mid-August until Nov. 30. In w. Oregon Great Egrets were noted at 12 different localities; maximum 37 at Gardiner Aug. 29 (WT *et al.*). A Snowy Egret was observed at Seaside, Ore., Aug. 7 (DF, JG) and (the same?) one was subsequently at Sauvie I., n.w. of Portland, Sept. 19 (DDS, HN *et al.*). A Black-crowned Night Heron was at Seattle Nov. 20 (JW, *fide* PM), and up to seven were near Grants Pass, Ore., during September and October (SS). At Portland an unprecedented 18 used a roosting area all fall (JB, JG *et al.*). One and two *Least Bitterns* were seen 17 mi. n.w. of Medford from early September to late November (JH, MM).

A flock of about 600 Whistling Swans arrived at Sauvie I. en masse Nov. 22 (HN *et al.*); small numbers were at Whidbey I., Wash., from Aug. 29 (EH, JW, *fide* PM), and at 14 other localities in the Region in numbers up to 45. Up to ten Trumpeter Swans were recorded at five localities on s. Vancouver I. after Nov. 13; singles were at Ocean Shores Nov. 27-28 (G&WH), and at Sauvie I. Nov. 21 (JG, MK). The first White-fronted Geese were 32 at N. Portland Aug. 31 (MK), and a small group heard over L. Oswego, Ore., that night (JBC). On Oct. 9 large numbers flew SE over Crane Prairie Res. in the c. Cascade Mts (LN). Two Snow Geese were near Pitt Meadows in s. British Columbia Aug. 24 - Sept. 1 (RR, *fide* VG); on Oct. 13 a flock of 60 was at Ocean Shores (G&WH); the species was noted elsewhere in the Region in late October and afterward.

By Nov. 19, 75-100 Gadwall were in n. Portland (TC, HN); eight were at Asea Bay, Ore., Nov. 26 (E & EE, *fide* FR), and up to ten were at Saanich after Nov. 9 (VG *et al.*). Pintail (250) concentrated early at Everett, Wash., Aug. 19 (DP); smaller numbers were present at coastal points by Aug. 15-30. Single Eur. Green-winged Teal were noted at Seattle, Sauvie I., Tillamook and Corvallis, Ore., after Oct. 30. There were up to ten Eur. Wigeon around Victoria after early October (VG); later up to four were found at ten localities in the Region. A lone Am. Wigeon at Coos Bay, Ore., Aug. 29 (JBC *et al.*) was early. On

Aug. 19 there were 50 N. Shovelers at Everett; on Oct. 10 & Nov. 21 there were 1000 there (DP), the largest assemblage in the Region in ten years or more; up to 45 were found at six other locations. A Redhead was in Portland Nov. 3 (DDS), and two were at Tillamook Bay Nov. 28 (JBC, WT). Sixty Ring-necked Ducks at Forest Grove, Ore., Oct. 21 (HN), and 53 at Saanich Nov. 15 (M&TS, *fide* VG) were peak counts. Canvasback concentrated after mid-October in flocks to 600 at Samish I., Wash., the Forest Grove sewage ponds, the Columbia R. mouth, and Tillamook Bay. A ♂ Tufted Duck was found again in late October at Vancouver's Stanley Park (BK). Almost 1400 Barrow's Goldeneye were at Capitol L., Olympia, Wash., Nov. 14 (G & WH); six first were noted there Oct. 28. At Jervis Inlet, Vancouver I., there were 250 Barrow's Goldeneye Nov. 28 (TS, GC, *fide* VG). Lone ♀ Oldsquaws were at Stanley Park in August (BK), at Campbell R. Aug. 14 & 20 (HT); at Westport (BH-T), and Cape Meares, Ore., Oct. 30 (DDS *et al.*). There were 30 Oldsquaws at Victoria, Oct. 22, and 18 at Sidney, B.C., Nov. 4 (VG *et al.*). The concentration of 175 Harlequin Ducks at Campbell R., Aug. 20 (HT), is interesting. On Aug. 19, 250 ♂ White-winged Scoters were at Whidbey I., and 150 ♂ Surf Scoters were at Penn Cove (DP), early. 100 Surfs were at Protection I. Aug. 14 (MS, *fide* VG). A ♀ Ruddy Duck with nine young at the Everett sewage ponds Aug. 19 (DP), proves another breeding record in w. Washington. On Nov. 21, 56 Hooded Mergansers and 200 Com. Mergansers were counted at L. Selmac, Ore., (SS) At Ocean Shores 120 Red-breasted Mergansers were counted Sept. 18 (G&WH), but this species was largely absent elsewhere until mid-November.

RAPTORS, GAMEBIRDS — Victoria seems to be a migration funnel for Turkey Vultures; migrants passed S until Nov. 6, peak numbers were 158 there Sept. 27 and 100 at Saanich Oct. 7 (VG *et al.*); elsewhere migrating vultures were observed at Stanley Park Oct. 2 (18 — BK), at Deception Pass Oct. 3 (36 — *fide* PM), and Grants Pass, Ore., Sept. 17 (44 — SS). A late one was at Duncan, B.C., Nov. 13 (JCo). Two adults and two first-year White-tailed Kites were at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, all fall; the young apparently were raised on the refuge. A pair of White-tailed Kites n. of Medford also seem to have nested undetected; they were accompanied by a fledgling Aug. 27 (J Collins). Two kites were observed throughout the fall near Riddle, Ore. (EP *et al.*). Two suspected 'harlani' Red-tailed Hawks were reported — one from Scappoose, Ore., Nov. 21 (JG, MK), the other from near Forest Grove Oct. 21 (GH, HN).

Golden Eagles were recorded seven times in the vicinity of Victoria (VG *et al.*), once in the Olympics (DS *et al.*), three times in the Willamette Valley s. of Corvallis, (— MN, *fide* LN), and near Medford (OS) all Nov. 28. About 63 Bald Eagles were reported from nine Oregon, five Washington, (omitting a "few" in the n. lowlands), and two Vancouver I. localities; eight together near Sequim, Wash., Sept. 12 (*fide* DS), and the 12 at Campbell R. Aug. 2 (HT) are of particular interest. Ospreys were seen regularly at Victoria until Sept. 15 (VG); other Vancouver I. sightings involved one at sea from Banfield Sept. 18 (MS *et al.*), a "last of the season" at Oyster Bay Oct. 8 (HT), one at Long Beach Oct. 11 (AD, *fide* VG), and seven at Sooke Oct. 29 (B& JM, *fide* VG). Ospreys were identified at Dungeness, Wash., Oct. 11 & 29 (DS *et al.*), and at Chinook Pass Nov. 11 (MC, *fide* PM); there were two other Washington sightings prior to Sept. 16. In Oregon four Ospreys were observed near the Umpqua R. mouth Aug. 29 (WT *et al.*), one was at Roque R. Oct. 16 (OS), and one at N. Albany Oct. 13 & Nov. 16 (GG, *fide* FR). Three Gyrfalcons were recorded in the Region this season — one at Reifel Sanctuary (TW), one twice at c. Saanich in mid-November (RF; V&MG), and one at White City, near Medford, Nov. 30 (MM, *fide* JH). A Prairie Falcon at Dungeness Spit Aug. 12 (KG,

fide DS) was out of place; there were three sightings near Medford and two at Albany, Ore. Peregrines were found at only seven localities, but mostly in multiple sightings. In contrast, there have never been more seasonal sightings of Merlins; perhaps 40 individuals at 25 localities.

On Aug. 10 ten Spruce Grouse were found at Hart Pass in Washington; two more were seen that day on the Pasayten R. (G & WH); four were observed at Manning P.P. Oct. 12 (VG). The only reported White-tailed Ptarmigan was also at Hart Pass Aug 11 (G&WH). A covey of 45 Bobwhite was seen at McKenna, Wash., Oct. 24 (JHO, *fide* PM). Sandhill Cranes stopped at Sauvie I. the first week in September; 30-40 were still there Nov. 30; a pair was at Davis L. Sept. 6 (*fide* LN) and 60 were at Campbell R. Sept. 19 (HT); in the Medford area up to 40 were seen the last week in November. Eight Virginia Rails were recorded in two marshes on Cortes I., B.C., Oct. 20 (HT); there were five other records from n. Washington s. to Corvallis, Ore.

SHOREBIRDS — A late Semipalmated Plover was observed at Seattle Nov. 21 (BB *et al.*, *fide* PM). The 19 Snowy Plovers at Tillamook Bay Nov. 6 (HN) was a high count for this uncommon bird, HN had seen 12 there Sept. 25, after four there Sept. 18 (JG *et al.*); up to six were at Ocean Shores, Leadbetter Pt., and Yaquina Bay Aug. 16-Oct. 24. Ocean Shores hosted Am. Golden Plovers Aug. 21-Nov. 6, the peak counts being 50 Oct. 2-12, and 100 Sept. 18-19 (G&WH, DP). Up to six were seen from late August to mid-October at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (S J C.R.) (m.obs.), at Sauvie I. Sept. 11 (HN), and at Victoria Sept 8 - Nov. 9 (VG *et al.*). On Aug. 26 there were 200 Com. Snipe near Pitt L., e. of Vancouver (RR, *fide* VG). One or two Long-billed Curlew were at Ocean Shores Aug. 20 - Nov. 6 (m ob.); ten were at Tokeland, Wash., Oct. 30 (BH-T), and pairs were seen at Westport Sept. 11, and at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 26. Maximum Whimbrel numbers were, as usual, at Ocean Shores where 200 were counted Aug. 21; on Sept. 19, 100 birds were still there (G&WH, DP).

On Aug. 7-8, two Solitary Sandpipers were recorded at Tipsoo L., 5300 ft. elev., in Mt. Rainier N.P. (RT); two were at Seattle Aug 16 and one there Aug. 21 (*fide* PM). Ten Wandering Tattlers were seen at Ocean Shores Aug. 16 and eight Sept. 24; two at Florence, Ore., Nov. 26 (ES) were late. This season contributed a record number of Willet sightings; 6-10 birds were at Yaquina Bay Aug. 28 - Oct. 23; 1-4 birds were at Tokeland Sept. 11-13, one was at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 26 and single birds were at Ocean Shores Sept. 19, Oct. 2 and Oct. 10. On Aug. 18 there was an astounding total of 383 Lesser Yellowlegs at Iona I. (RP, *fide* BK). Thirty was the maximum for Red Knots, this group being at Leadbetter Pt. Aug. 21 (HN *et al.*). Ocean Shores also was the principal spot for Rock Sandpipers with 25-30 there after Nov. 6 (G&WH, EH, *fide* PM); 40 at the Chatham Is., B.C., Nov. 28 (MS, *fide* VG) was also an unusually high count. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were in the Region from Aug. 23 at Mitle-natch I., B.C., (RB, *fide* VG) to Oct. 23 at Ocean Shores; this species was sighted at five other localities. At Iona I., six were present Oct. 3 (VG). Pectoral Sandpipers were reported seen at sixteen different localities Aug. 24 - Nov. 6 from Duncan, B.C., s to Medford; maximum 150 at Leadbetter Pt. Sept. 26 (DM, WT) Inland Baird's Sandpipers (singles) were at Tipsoo L., Mt. Rainier N.P., Aug. 7-8 (RT), at Medford Aug. 30 (OS), at Grants Pass Sept. 21 (SS), and two birds were at Sauvie I., Aug. 14 (HN). The 6-8 at S.J.C.R. Aug. 28 and the ten at Ocean Shores Sept. 24 are unusual aggregations; the single still at Yaquina Bay Nov. 28 (GG, DF, *fide* FR) was very late.

Two Stilt Sandpipers were observed at Iona I., Aug. 9 (J&TI, *fide* VG), two were at Duncan Sept. 11 (JCo), and two were at

Yaquina Bay Oct. 9 (JA, *fide* FR) where one had been seen Sept 7 (DF). A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was found and photographed at Bandon, Ore., Sept. 23-26 (TL *et al.*), possibly another was seen flying at S.J.C.R. Oct. 9 (DDS, HN). An ad. *Ruff* was at Ocean Shores Oct. 10-27 (JW, JS, EH, *fide* PM). An Am. Avocet was at Finley N.W.R. Sept. 30 (Jan, E & EE, *fide* FR). Red Phalaropes were seen on each of the boat trips from Westport, with 341 on Aug. 22 the high count (TW); up to 20 a day were noted at a few coastal points, particularly in November. Single Wilson's Phalaropes were identified at Whidbey I. and at Everett Aug 19 (DP), and at Victoria Aug. 1 (RS, *fide* VG).

S.A.

Ron LeValley has submitted a detailed description for a **Curlew Sandpiper** studied by him and Maggi Ford for 30 minutes at Seven Devils Wayside, Coos Co., Ore., Aug. 16, from as close as 25 feet. The bird was approaching basic or winter plumage. Darrell Faxon had previously submitted details of an observation made by him at Yaquina Bay, July 21, 1976, of possibly the same individual. We presume these are the first Oregon records for this species.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — From 12-26 Pomarine Jaegers were seen on each trip from Westport, up to three were seen at the Columbia R. mouth, at Gray's Harbor, and at Active Pass in the Gulf Islands Sept. 24-Oct 16. Observers thought it a poor year for Parasitic Jaegers, up to eight were at the Columbia R. mouth, Sept. 24-25, and at Active Pass from mid-September to Nov. 6 but most observations were of singles. Between 1-12 Long-tailed Jaegers were found on off-shore trips, and single birds were observed at Discovery Passage on the e. side of Vancouver I., the third week in August (AD, *fide* HT), at Westport Oct. 2 (TW), and at the Columbia R. mouth, Sept. 25 (DM). Skuas were found on all three boat trips from Westport — 3 on Aug. 22, 5 on Sept. 12, and 17 on Oct 3, during the cruise Sept. 16 - Sept. 26 a total of 27 Skuas were counted, 13 of them on the first day (TW). Two Skuas were seen from the N.J.C.R. Sept. 11 (D&JHa, *fide* PM), and single birds were seen Oct. 1 at Ocean Shores (KB, *fide* PM), and at Active Pass (MVM, *fide* BK). Another was seen at Yaquina Bay Sept 25 (GG, *fide* FR).

Glaucous Gulls appeared at Bellingham, Wash., Nov 24 (TW) and at Campbell R. Nov. 30 (HT). For three days, Oct 9-11, a 'white-winged' gull frequented Stanley Park and was closely studied by Brian Kaukesk; his description points strongly to an **Iceland Gull** (*Larus g. kumlieni*). The imm. Black-headed Gull first seen at Victoria July 28 (RS, *fide* VG) was there Aug 6 (BHy, *fide* VG). Another Little Gull was found in the Region Nov. 30; this one at Seattle's Discovery Park (DP, DW *et al.*, *fide* PM). The 500 Heermann's Gulls at Sunset Beach, Clatsop Co., Ore., Oct. 16 (JBC) and the late 300 at Whidbey I. Nov 7 (D&PE, *fide* PM) were high counts. On the boat trip Aug. 22 from Westport 140 Sabine's Gulls were counted; on Sept. 12 numbers were down to 90 and on Oct. 3 only 17 were seen (TW) Out of Banfield, B.C., however, on Sept. 18 almost 300 Sabine's Gulls were recorded, with 123 there a week later (MS, *fide* VG)

Arctic Terns were seen Aug. 22 & Sept. 12 out of Westport with 113 birds the count on the latter date (TW). Arctic Terns were recorded in season coastally and in deepwater bays, maximum 50 at S.J.C.R. Aug. 13 (HN). Counts of 150 and 180 Caspian Terns were made at the Columbia R. mouth Aug. 13 & 28 (HN). Two Black Terns were seen at Iona I., Aug. 8-9 (DMa, *fide* BK), one at Whidbey I., Aug. 29 (EH), one was at Port Ludlow Oct. 7 (ESt, *fide* PM), and one at Ocean Shores Oct. 23 - Nov 6 (J&GMa, *fide* PM; G&WH).

Ancient Murrelets were found in n. Puget Sound and in the Strait of Georgia after Nov. 1 (m.ob.). Eight were at Yaquina Head Nov. 13 (RO, *fide* FR). Cassin's Auklets were found on all offshore trips with maxima being 342 from Westport Aug. 22 (TW), and 38 from Banfield Sept. 18 (MS, *fide* VG). A belated report of a **Horned Puffin** found June 25 at the base of Cape Lookout, Ore., was received (BL). Only 14 Tufted Puffins were recorded offshore from Westport Aug. 22, seven on Sept. 12, and one on Oct. 3 (TW); one at Victoria Aug. 15 (KT, *fide* VG).

PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Thirteen Band-tailed Pigeons were still at Victoria Nov. 23 (LR, *fide* VG). It is highly doubtful that the single White-winged Dove found at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Aug. 28, got there naturally (DF, HN). Single Mourning Doves were at Campbell R., where the species rarely occurs, Sept. 12 & Nov. 13 (HT). A Snowy Owl was at Boundary Bay Nov. 20 (TW). Pygmy Owls seem to have been much more in evidence this fall than normal, with 28 reports. Single Burrowing Owls were found at S.J.C.R. Nov. 27 (WHa, HN), at Yaquina Bay Oct. 18 (RO, *fide* FR), s. of Corvallis Sept. 20 (MB, *fide* FR), at Eugene from Oct. 24 on, and at Medford from late September to Nov. 30 (OS). A Barred Owl was heard Oct. 4 at Colonial Creek Campground in N. Cascades N.P., Wash (DP). A Spotted Owl was seen through August in the Longmire area of Mt. Rainier N.P. (JAd *et al.*, *fide* PM); a family was at Blewett Pass w. of Wenatchee, Wash., Aug. 20 (T&TWe, *fide* PM). A Great Gray Owl was seen in Santiam Pass, Ore., Aug. 29 (DDS *et al.*). A Long-eared Owl was found at Eugene Oct. 30 (LN *et al.*), and another at Finley N.W.R., Nov. 26 (MB, GG, *fide* FR) and Nov. 27 (JBC). Ten Saw-whet Owls were recorded from Saanich and around Puget Sound s. to Eugene; of these, three were seen Oct. 23 on Oregon's Cascade Head (LN).

A Poor-will was picked up dead from U.S. I-5 at Burlington, Wash., Sept. 16 (*fide* TW). On Sept. 1 there were 120 Com. Nighthawks at Saltspring I. (VG). Hundreds of Black Swifts were flying low over U.S. 101 near Sequim, Wash., Sept. 6 (*fide* DS). On Aug. 7 there were 100 Black Swifts at Duncan (JCo), and on Sept. 15 there were a like number at Sooke (B & JM, *fide* VG). One thousand Vaux's Swifts were at Corvallis Sept. 17 (DM) and "huge numbers" in Portland the last week of September (DDS). There were 200 at Sumas, Vancouver I., Sept. 19 (J&TI, *fide* VG), and 100 at Davis L. Ore., Sept. 11 (SG, *fide* LM).

Anna's Hummingbirds were mostly in s. Vancouver I.; 3-5 were at Campbell R. after Nov. 9 (HT); two were at Duncan Nov. 28-30 (JCo), and six were at Saanich all fall (VG *et al.*). Others were noted at Seattle Oct. 23 (DHA, *fide* PM), at Corvallis Oct. 25 (FR), and at Brookings, Ore., Aug. 28 (SS). A ♂ Allen's Hummingbird was engaging in courtship flight at L. Oswego, Ore., Aug. 24 (L&CC). After mid-October, Lewis' Woodpeckers were prominent in the Medford area, with 38 near White City Nov. 11 (OS), 30 were at Shady Cove, Ore., Sept. 3 (EP *et al.*). A pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers were observed at Davis L., Ore., Sept. 4 (SG *fide* LM). Single Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were near Blewett Pass, w. of Wenatchee, Sept. 25 (PC&PMa, *fide* PM), and e. of Ashland, Ore., Nov. 27 (OS). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were found at Harts Pass Aug. 10-12 (G&WH), on the n.w. slope of Mt. Baker Nov. 14 (JD, *fide* TW), e. of Rose L. also in the n. Cascades Oct. 5 (DP), and in Manning P. P. Oct. 12 (VG).

Three E. Kingbirds were seen at Everett, Wash., Aug. 15 (EH). Four Tropical Kingbirds were found in the Region this fall, the first was at Harris Beach S.P., n. of Brookings, Ore., Oct. 9-10 (SS); the second was at Tofino on Vancouver I. Oct. 11 (AD, *fide* VG), the third was at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, Oct. 20-21 (DMA, MS *et al.*, *fide* BK), and the fourth was at Ocean Shores, Nov. 6-16 (DHa, J&GMA, m obs *fide* PM). A W

Kingbird was found at Malcolm I., B.C., Sept. 7 (FGH, *fide* VG).

S.A.

On Sept. 22 at Reifel Sanctuary in the Fraser R. delta, s. of Vancouver, Vic Goodwill watched a **Wied's Crested Flycatcher** for hours from as close as 30 ft. and obtained motion pictures; among field marks noted was the "large all-black bill, too stout for Ash-throated Flycatcher." The bird was seen again Sept. 25 by others, including Brian Kautesk. The bird was seen again at Sea I., about 10 mi. to the N on Oct. 12, where it was seen by many observers and photographed; last date not reported. The species is reportedly new to Canada.

On Oct. 9 an Ash-throated Flycatcher was discovered at Ocean Shores (DL, *fide* PM); one was also seen at Fern Ridge Res. Aug. 29 (SG, *fide* LM). Black Phoebes were reported from Grants Pass and one was at Brookings Sept. 18 & Oct. 10 (SS).

LARKS THROUGH WARBLERS — Forty Skylarks were found at Sidney, B.C., Nov. 27 (VG, RS). One or two Bank Swallows were seen at Cowichan Bay Aug. 23, at Saanich Aug. 26, and at Victoria Sept. 5 (VG *et al.*). A late Rough-winged Swallow was noted near Banks, Ore., Nov. 13 (TC). Throughout November four Blue Jays frequented a park at Fort Vancouver, Wash., (AA *et al.*); one was seen in N. Saanich Oct. 27 (ARD, *fide* VG) and one was at feeders in Duncan Nov. 23-29 (JC). On Sept. 23 there were 23 Com. Ravens at Active Pass in the Gulf Is., (MS, *fide* VG). Seven Clark's Nutcrackers were on Onion Mt., w. of Grants Pass, Oct. 13 (SS), and 48 were seen 25 mi. e. of Sweet Home, Ore., Sept. 24 (E&EE, *fide* FR). A Mountain Chickadee was found at Sauvie I. Oct. 30 (TC *et al.*). Several Boreal Chickadees were at Harts Pass in the N. Cascades Aug. 10-12 (G&WH). Chestnut-backed Chickadees were abundant in stunted lodgepole pine on the s.w. side of Mt. St. Helens in s. Washington, in November (DDS). A White-breasted Nuthatch was discovered at Merrill L. 14 mi. w. of Campbell R. Aug. 10 (RWC *et al.*, *fide* VG). A Mockingbird was seen July 28 and Aug. 1 at Mitenatch I., B.C., (RB, *fide* VG), and another was at Pacific City, Ore., Oct. 9 (FS). Fourteen W. Bluebirds were observed at Tugwell L., s. Vancouver I., Aug. 21 (VG, RS), and a family group was at Issaquah, Wash., Aug. 8 (JS, *fide* PM). Water Pipits were seen at numerous lowland localities after mid-September; 285 were at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, Oct. 4 (RR, *fide* VG). Flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were seen at five places in the n. Cascades in October; one was at Harts Pass Aug. 11 (G&WH) and flocks were at Washington Pass Aug. 31; one was at Bellingham Oct. 1, and a small flock was at nearby Lummi Flats Nov. 8 (JD, *fide* TW). The first N. Shrike of the season appeared at Saanich Sept. 28 (MG, LR). A Red-eyed Vireo was at Campbell R. during August (HT), one was at Saanich Aug. 14 (VG, RS), and one was found at Stanley Park Aug. 28 (BK). A Tennessee Warbler was at Crescent Beach, Surrey, B.C., Sept. 21 (AG, GR, *fide* VG). A ♂ Nashville Warbler was still at Saanich Nov. 15 (V&MG). Two Yellow Warblers at Saanich Oct. 5, one there Oct. 11 (VG *et al.*), and single birds at the Skagit Flats Oct. 10 (DP), and at Ton Velle Park on the Rogue R. Oct. 16 (OS) all were late. A Black-throated Gray Warbler was seen along the Applegate R., in s.w. Oregon, Nov. 13 (SS); 20-30 remained in Medford the first half of October (JH). A **Bay-breasted Warbler** was seen s. of Davis L. Aug. 13 (CS, *fide* LM) and again Aug. 22 (DG, *fide* LM); it represented the second record for w. Oregon. Immature **Blackpoll Warblers** were seen singly at Pitt Meadows Sept. 9 (R&WR, *fide* VG) and at Ocean Shores Sept. 20 (DHy); the latter was apparently Wash-

ington's first, and was carefully documented. Palm Warblers were seen on four occasions at Ocean Shores Sept. 16 - Nov. 15 (m.ob.); this species was recorded also at Grayland, Wash., Sept. 27 (*vide* PM), and at three places on the Oregon coast Sept. 18 - Oct. 10. A ♂ Am. Redstart was s. of Davis L., Ore., Aug. 13 (CS, *vide* LM); a female was seen on Pine I., Queen Charlotte Sound, B.C., Sept. 1 (DPC, *vide* VG).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Up to four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Seattle Aug. 16 (EH) and Sept. 11-14 (*vide* PM); single birds occurred at Iona I. Aug. 24 (BH-T), at Malcolm I., and at Reifel Sanctuary Sept. 4 & 22 respectively (*vide* VG). A ♀ N. Oriole was at Victoria Nov. 16 (RWC, VG, MS). A Rusty Blackbird was discovered at Saanich Oct. 27 (V&MG), another was seen there Nov. 13 (RF, *vide* VG), and one was at Tofino, B.C., Oct. 1 (AD, *vide* VG).

On Oct. 24 seven Pine Grosbeaks were found w. of Leavenworth, Wash. (FK, *vide* PM); eight were seen at Manning P.P., Oct. 12 (VG). About 60 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were discovered at Bingen, Wash., Nov. 27 (DDS); four were at Victoria Oct. 23 (VG *et al.*), and two were on Mt. Provost, Vancouver I., Oct. 29 (JCo). A Com. Redpoll was seen at Dungeness Nov. 27 (DS). Two L. Goldfinches were seen at Salem Nov. 6; one was there Nov. 19 (FS); three were at Corvallis in November (LN). Hundreds of Red Crossbills in Santiam Pass Aug. 29 (DDS), but elsewhere only small numbers were noted. On Sept. 6 an ad. **Grasshopper Sparrow** was closely studied in Stanley Park; full details were reported (BK). A Lark Sparrow was seen at Banfield, B.C., Aug. 16 (RWC *et al.*, *vide* VG); another occurred at Medford Oct. 16 (OS). Single Tree Sparrows were found at Pitt R. Sept. 26 (RR, *vide* VG), at N. Saanich Nov. 28-29 (V&MG, JBT), and at Kent Valley, Wash., Nov. 7 (JW, *vide* PM). A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, meticulously described, was found at the Skagit Game Range near Mount Vernon, Wash., Nov. 8 (AR, *courtesy* PM); this is evidently the second w. Washington record, the first at the same place 1½ years earlier. A Harris' Sparrow was found at Kent Valley, Wash., Nov. 7 (JW, *vide* PM). Lapland Longspurs arrived after mid-September in n. Washington and at a few coastal points s. to Yequina Bay; up to 45 were at Leadbetter Pt. (JBC) and at Ocean Shores (BH-T) during mid-October. A **Smith's Longspur** was discovered at Yaquina Head near Newport Oct. 17, by Darrel Faxon; he made careful observations and a written description, supported by color photographs (by Paul Reed); on Oct. 18 RBA and RO saw the bird. It constitutes the first recorded occurrence for Oregon, to our knowledge. On Oct. 25 Adrian Dorst found a bird on Cortes I. which he concluded was a **Smith's Longspur**, written description furnished (*courtesy* VG); his identification appears accurate. The only reported Snow Bunting was at Victoria Nov. 6 (BS, *vide* VG).

OBSERVERS — Julie Adam (JAd), John Annear (JAn), Judy Armstrong, Art Arp, Range Bayer (RBA), Blair Bernson (BBE), John Biewener, Mike Booty, Kathy Bowles, Bob Buchanan (BBu), Rob Butler, R. Wayne Campbell, Mike Carmody, D. P. Chapman, Phil Cheney, Gwen Colby, John Comer (JCo), Alan Contreras, Tom Crabtree, Irving & Clarabelle Curran, John B. Crowell, Jr., A. R. Davidson, Dave DeSante (DDS), Adrian Dorst, Jim Duemmel, Elzy & Elsie Eltzroth, Bob & Pat Evans, Darrell Faxon, Ralph Fryer, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Dan Gleason, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Steve Gordon, Al Grass, Karl Gruebel, Warren Hall (WHa), Dudley & Jan Harrington (D & JHa), Bill Harrington-Tweit, F. Gordon Hart, Bob Hay (BHy), Dave Hayward (DHy), Gene Herb (GHe), Joseph Hicks, John Hoffman (JHo), Glen & Wanda Hoge, A. C. Hollingworth, Eugene Hunn, John & Theresa Ireland, Brian Kautesk, Mark Koninendyke, Fay Krause, Dick Lindstrom, Tom Lund, Bruce

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jon Winter and Dick Erickson

This fall witnessed a continuation of the drought that has plagued the region for the past year. A very strong, stable high pressure system remained over the northern Pacific, preventing the normal autumn storms from forming in the Gulf of Alaska. However, the temperate weather provided ideal birding conditions on the coast, much to the delight of boat trip participants. In the Sierras all of the major passes were open until Christmas. Birds remained longer at high elevations, with abundance of food and open water. Many ponds were still ice-free in late November. In the Central Valley geese arrived later than normally.



With more birders in the field than ever before the fall period provided a number of surprises. Areas such as Point Reyes were particularly well covered. The best finds of the period were Scaled Petrel, Blue-footed Booby, Tufted Duck, Mississippi Kite, Upland Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Great Crested

Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler and Hepatic Tanager. An asterisk means that documentation is on file with the editors. C.V.=Central Valley, F I =Farallon Islands.

LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSES — The Yellow-billed Loon apparently present on San Francisco Bay (hereafter S.F. Bay) since January, was last seen at Emeryville Aug. 2 (BGE). A Red-necked Grebe at Clear L., Sept. 6 (*vide* DR) provided our earliest inland record. A Horned Grebe at Mono L., Aug. 14 (M B R G.) was probably summering. Repeated careful censusing of Mono L. revealed a peak of 730,000 Eared Grebes there Aug 30. The birds remained longer this year; 500,000 were still present Nov. 20 (M.B.R.G.). Two newly-fledged Pied-billed Grebes at L. Temescal, Oakland Nov. 21 represented our latest nesting record (RS). Four Black-footed Albatrosses off Humboldt Bay Oct. 2 (*vide* DRu) were the only ones reported after August. A Laysan Albatross was seen 25 mi. off Cape Mendocino Sept. 10 (*vide* DRu). Northern Fulmars were seen in small numbers except for 100+ seen from Pt. Reyes Nov. 28 (JE). Amazing was the presence of one on a brackish lagoon at the mouth of San Gregorio Creek, San Mateo Co., Nov. 7 (PM). Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found on Monterey Bay Sept 2 (RS *et al.*), Sept. 18 (JL, DR *et al.*), Oct. 2 (SS), and off Humboldt Bay Nov. 21 (*vide* DRu). A Short-tailed Shearwater was found dead on the Samoa Spit Nov. 12 (*vide* DRu) and one was seen off Monterey Nov. 14 (RD, M.A.S.). Manx Shearwaters were seen on Monterey Bay Sept. 13 - Oct. 11 with three Oct. 3 (S C R C.) the maximum. The region's second **Scaled Petrel** was found recently dead near the Mad R. mouth Aug. 11 (*vide* S. Harris, DRu). This species was unrecorded in California prior to 1976, yet four were found dead on beaches this year.

Six species of storm-petrels were found off Moss Landing. Ashies and Blacks were present at least Sept. 25 - Nov. 14 with 6000 Ashies Oct. 9 (G.G.A.S.) and 2000 Blacks Oct. 9-11 (G G A S., A.B.A.) the most seen. Single Fork-taileds were seen occasionally in October and November but a Leach's Oct. 3 (W. Reese, DeR, S.C.B.C.) was the most unusual. Two Least's were there Oct. 11 (RS, A.B.A.) and single Wilson's were seen Oct. 9 (SFB, G.G.A.S.), Oct. 11 (RS, A.B.A.), and Oct. 17 (JL). Elsewhere 12 Fork-taileds, 37 Ashies and 27 Blacks were reported. In addition 25 Blacks off Sonoma County, Oct. 17 (BDP *et al.*) were impressive.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — Late White Pelican reports were at Tule L. (6) Nov. 22 (MT) and Grant L., Mono Co. (1) Nov 28 (TH). Brown Pelican numbers were down from last year with 417 the high count at Pajaro Dunes Aug. 22, only 21% of these immature (J&RW). They ranged far into S. F. Bay where 22 were counted at Benicia Sept. 21 (FKB). Most exciting, however, were two inland; one photographed at L. Siskiyow Aug. 29-30 (Ken Beatty*, *vide* MT) and another well described at Sacramento Nov. 3-10 (S.G.Hibma*, *vide* BK); both immatures. There is only one previous inland record in the region. Even more unusual was the imm. **Blue-footed Booby** found at New Hogan Res., Calaveras Co., Sept. 15 (D.Zeiner, A. Petrovich, *vide* BK) and seen by many until it died Oct. 18 (*vide* BGE). This is the second regional record. Details will be published elsewhere.

One or two Green Herons were at Mono L., Aug. 8-18 (M B R G.) and another was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Sept. 7 (*vide* MT). They are rare in the Great Basin. Forty-seven Cattle Egrets were reported from the coast and six from the C.V. Twenty-five Great Egrets at Tule L., Nov. 22 (MT) was a very high number for this late date. Eight migrant White-faced Ibis

were at Mono L., Aug. 8 (M.B.R.G.) and 30 were on their wintering grounds near Los Banos Aug. 22 (JM *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — No less than 75 Whistling Swans were found at nine locations on the coast between Bodega Bay and Santa Cruz in late November. Two at Lower Klamath N W R Aug. 1 were probably cripples (MT). Many birds arrived early this year, but then mild weather kept the later arrivals farther north, especially the geese. (*vide* BED). Aleutian Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*) were present at Castle Rock, Crescent City Oct. 25 - Nov. 17 with a peak of 365 on Nov 3. By Nov. 7 the first arrivals were found near Colusa and a total of 1250 was there Nov. 12, a new record count for the subspecies. Apparently the establishment of three areas in California closed to all Canada Goose hunting is helping to save these birds (PS *et al.*). A Snow Goose at Tehama Aug. 31 was early (SAL) Single "Blue" Geese were at Tule L., Nov. 15 (*vide* BED) and Nov 22 (MT), at Honey L., Nov. 26 (JM), and at Los Banos Nov. 28 (AE).

Gadwall numbers were up at inland localities and one at Eleanor Res. (4600 ft.) Sept. 24 was a first record for Yosemite N.P. (DAG). There were six coastal reports of Eur. Wigeon and four from the interior, including one in the Sierra Nevada at L. Christopher, El Dorado Co., Oct. 15 (WS*). At Sacramento N.W.R. an amazing 2000 Ring-necked Ducks were seen Oct 25 (*vide* SAL). Twenty-one Greater Scaup carefully identified among Lessers at S. Lake Tahoe Nov. 26 (WS*) was our largest inland concentration ever. Twelve on Lewiston L. Oct. 24 and an early individual at the Chico sewage ponds Oct. 8 (SAL *et al.*) were the only others reported inland. The ♂ Ringed-necked X Tufted Duck hybrid had returned to Rodeo Lagoon by Oct 16 for its third winter (BJM* *et al.*). At L. Merritt in Oakland the ♂ **Tufted Duck** found Oct. 31 (Harold Connin) was joined by a female on Nov. 7 (Eric Caine, JM); both remained through Nov 30 (m.ob.). There are only four previous regional records. Three Buffleheads at Tule L., Aug. 8 (MT) and one at S. Lake Tahoe Aug. 19-20 (WS) were either very early or summering. Only three Oldsquaws were reported along the coast in November, yet one was shot inland at Delevan N.W.R., Nov. 7 (*vide* BK). A Harlequin Duck at Pt. St. George, Del Norte Co., Aug. 28 (SS) had probably summered there. A male on S. F. Bay s. of Candlestick Park, San Mateo Co., Nov. 20 (*vide* DR) was unusual away from the ocean surf. Two ♀ White-winged Scoters at S. Lake Tahoe Nov. 24 followed a ♀ Surf Scoter there Oct. 7-9 (WS*) Other inland Surf Scoters were two females at Indian Creek Res., Alpine Co., Oct. 31 (WS) and a male at Shadow Cliffs Park, Alameda Co., Nov. 14 (AE). The only inland Red-breasted Merganser was a female at Redding Nov. 19 (PD).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — Hawk migration at Pt Diablo was watched carefully early in the season as shown in Table 1. Impressive Osprey numbers suggest an early migration through our area. The Sept. 7 Swainson's Hawk with a red wing tag had been marked as a juvenile near Richland, Wash., in 1975 or 1976. These and further observations by Binford *et al* seem to indicate a "normal" fall migration. Much is left to be learned, however, and observers are encouraged to report full details (especially time of observation and numbers of *all* species) of their visits to this exciting area. The rarest bird to be found in Pt. Diablo's short history was the ad. **Mississippi Kite** there Sept. 13 (WMP, A. Mericourt), only the second regional record. Nine Broad-winged Hawks were seen Sept. 16 - Oct 23 (LCB *et al.*) with four on Sept. 25 (BGE *et al.*) the maximum.

At the n.e. limit of their range, two or three California Condors were in the Tulare County foothills Aug. 26 - Sept 26 (RAB, JLi). Continuing their phenomenal success, White-tailed Kites were reported north and east of their normal range this fall. One at Honey L., Sept 10 was the first Lassen County

Table 1.

Raptors seen from Pt. Diablo and Twin Peaks Aug. 15 - Sept. 21. Data courtesy of Brian J. McCaffery.

Species Date Span	no. days seen	total no. birds	most seen single day
Turkey Vulture Aug 21-Sept. 21	11	98	26 - Sept. 7
White-tailed Kite Aug 27-Sept. 21	3	9	5 - Sept. 21
Sharp-shinned Hawk Aug 31-Sept. 21	16	427	161 - Sept. 21
Cooper's Hawk Aug 26-Sept. 21	14	158	49 - Sept. 21
Red-tailed Hawk Aug 26-Sept. 21	14	350	129 - Sept. 7
Red-shouldered Hawk Sept 7-21	7	14	5 - Sept. 21
Swainson's Hawk	1	1	1 - Sept. 7
Marsh Hawk Aug 26-Sept. 21	7	12	3 - Sept. 7
Osprey Aug 26-Sept. 17	11	29	12 - Sept. 12
American Kestrel Aug 31-Sept. 21	11	65	24 - Sept. 14
<i>Accipiter</i> sp.		76	
<i>Buteo</i> sp.		7	
"hawk" sp.		2	
Total Number		1247	

Coverage: 101 hours on 26 partial days
All single day high counts from Pt. Diablo

record (SAL) but three were there Nov. 26 (JM, CH). For its eighth year the albino Red-tailed Hawk, "High Voltage", returned to the Rodeo Lagoon area by Aug. 28 (BJM). "Harlan's" Hawks were seen at Gray Lodge Nov. 1 (BD, SAL) and Lava Beds Nat'l Mon., Nov. 7 (SAL, SS). Red-shouldered Hawks were seen at unusual locations: two immatures at S. L. Tahoe Sept 8, one to at least Sept. 27 (WS* *et al.*), one immature at Honey L., Sept. 10 (SAL), one at Modoc N.W.R., Sept. 11 (SAL), an adult near Grenada, Siskiyou Co., Oct. 30 -mid Nov. (*fide* MT) and an ad. road-kill found near Alvarado, Alameda Co., Nov 11 (SM). The species is virtually unknown away from the coast and C. V. and all but the last are believed to be first county records (Wilbur, S.R. 1973. *Western Birds* 4:15-22). The first San Mateo County Swainson's Hawks was an immature at Año Nuevo Pt., Aug. 22 (PM). Seven were reported from inland locations Ferruginous Hawks at Cape Mendocino Sept. 20 - Oct. 31 (BC, DRu *et al.*) and Quincey Nov. 25 (JM, CH) were in unusual locations. An imm. Bald Eagle at the F.I., Oct. 1 was the first confirmed record there.

A ♂ Blue Grouse found "booming" at 7500 ft. near S. Lake Tahoe Nov. 13 was behaving abnormally (WS). Unexpected

coastal sightings of Sandhill Cranes were one in the Arcata Bottoms Nov. 17 (*fide* DRu) and 23 over Fremont Nov. 23 (EM *et al.*). Clapper Rails eating Salt Marsh Harvest Mice (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*) at Palo Alto Oct. 24 (JW) and Virginia Rails eating dragonflies at Bodego Bay Aug. 7 (FBe) were utilizing unusual food resources.

SHOREBIRDS — Over 200 Am. Avocets at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Nov. 22 (*fide* MT) were late. At Mono L. 105 Semipalmated Plovers Aug. 20 (M.B.R.G.) was a very impressive number for an inland locality. Eighteen Am. Golden Plovers were reported from the coast with three near Petaluma Sept 9 (CP) and two at Coyote Hills Park, Alameda Co., Sept. 18 (*fide* DR) in more interesting locations.

An **Upland Sandpiper** at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Sept 13 (Bill Marshall* *fide* SH, DRu) represents only the fourth regional record. There were five coastal reports of Solitary Sandpipers, four in the C. V. and five in the Great Basin, all in August and September. One at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite N. P. (8600 ft.) Oct. 1 (DAG) was less expected. The region's second inland Wandering Tattler was seen at Mono L., Sept 14 (DW, M.B.R.G.). Ruddy Turnstones were reported inland as follows: one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Aug. 1 (*fide* MT), one at Mono L., Aug. 7 and another there Aug. 23 (M.B.R.G.), two at Gray Lodge Aug. 18 (BED), and one at the Visalia sewer ponds Aug. 9-10 (JL, RAB*). Far more Red Knots were reported from the interior than usual: one at Honey L., Aug. 22 (SAL), two at Topaz L., Aug. 12 (RS), a total of 10 at Mono L., Aug 3-30 (M.B.R.G.) and one at Black Butte Res., Glenn Co., Oct 4 (SAL). Inland Sanderlings were one at Clear L., Aug. 28 (DRo), three at Mono L., Aug. 16-17 and another there Sept 14 (M.B.R.G.). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was carefully studied at Mono L., Aug. 5 (DW*, M.B.R.G.). There are now more than ten fall records for the region. Incredible was the total of at least 450 Pectoral Sandpipers seen Aug. 1 - Nov. 14. The largest concentrations were 95 near L. Talawa Sept. 18 (SS) and 75+ at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 8 (*fide* MT). Single Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were detected at the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 1-9 (S H, DRu* *et al.*) and near Visalia Oct. 11 (JLi, RAB*). There are some 13 previous records, only two of those from the interior. The only Stilt Sandpiper reported was one at Rodeo Lagoon Sept. 4 (VR, SFB). New for the region were the two **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** at the Salinas R. mouth Aug. 27 - Sept. 6 (RS *et al.*), the seventh occurrence for California. A ♀ Ruff was in the Ferndale Bottoms Sept. 16-17 (BC, DRu* *et al.*) and a male was present at Pacific Grove from Oct. 28 on (R.Branson, RS, m.ob)

An incredible exodus of Wilson's Phalaropes occurred at Mono L. in early August. After 20,000 were there on Aug 4, only 1000 could be found the next day. Northern Phalaropes peaked later with 21,600 on Aug. 30 (M.B.R.G.). Late N. Phalaropes were singles at the Salinas R. mouth Nov. 13 (RS), Redding Nov 17 (Bill Oliver, *fide* SAL) and Estero Americano on the Sonoma - Marin County line Nov. 21 (JE, DS). Red Phalaropes were present in moderate numbers along the coast from Aug. 27 until late November when thousands arrived; 10,000 were estimated on Tomales Bay Nov. 21 (JE, DS).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were in normal numbers on Monterey Bay but 50+ of each over the Eel R. Canyon off Humboldt Co., Oct. 2 (*fide* DRu) were high counts. Five Parasitic Jaegers were seen within S F Bay Aug. 25 - Nov. 14. Two-to-four Long-tailed Jaegers were on Monterey Bay Sept. 2 (RS *et al.*) with one there Sept. 18 (DRo, JL *et al.*) and two were at the Eel R. Canyon Oct. 2 (SH, *fide* DRu) At least ten South Polar Skuas were seen on Monterey Bay Sept 2 - Oct. 17. One or two were in the vicinity of the F. I., Sept 11-20 and two or three were at the Eel R. Canyon Oct. 1 (*fide* DRu)

Single Glaucous Gulls at the Berkeley dump Nov. 18 (*vide* DRo) and the Redwood City dump Nov. 25 (PM) were the only ones seen. In the Sierra Nevada a first-year Thayer's Gull was well described at S. Lake Tahoe Oct. 24-30 (WS*). Franklin's Gull were in good numbers as follows: one near Petaluma Sept. 11 (BBu* *et al.*), one at Fresno Sept. 14 (RH*), one at Sacramento N.W.R., Sept. 18-26 (SAL*), 2-4 at Arcata Oct. 3-30 (DRu *et al.*), one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 15 (BED), one off Monterey Oct. 17 (JL, JM, G.G.A.S.), one at Palo Alto Oct. 23 (JW) and one at Bodega Bay Nov. 7-12 (CP* *et al.*). Heermann's Gulls ranged far into S. F. Bay this fall. One was at Benicia Aug. 7-16 and three were there Oct. 9 (FKB). Good numbers of Sabine's Gulls were reported offshore but 200 at the Eel R Canyon Oct. 2 (*vide* DRu) were exceptional. Two immatures were found inland at S. Lake Tahoe Sept. 25 - Oct. 1 (WS*) where they are very rare.

Offshore boat trips s. of the Golden Gate found numbers of Arctic Terns Aug. 13 - Oct. 3; and 12+ were seen Aug. 29 - Sept. 15 on Monterey Bay beaches. More out of place were six at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Sept. 4 and two there Oct. 17 (SFB). As usual a few Elegant Terns remained on the coast into November with the last at Inverness Nov. 23 (WMP, JR *et al.*). Single Black Terns at Drake's Beach Sept. 3 (DS*) and off Monterey Oct. 11 (*vide* DRo) were the only coastal reports.

Most species of alcid were seen in "typical" numbers this fall. A **Guadalupe Xantus' Murrelet** (*Endomychura h. hypoleuca*) was the highlight of the C.F.O. boat trip on Monterey Bay Oct. 2 (RS, GMcC *et al.*). This is the northernmost state record (first regional) of a race that is rare even off S. California, although this was a good fall for them there. Northern Xantus' Murrelets (*E. h. scrippsii*) were seen regularly on Monterey Bay with eight Sept. 11 (SFB *et al.*) the most seen. Elsewhere five were seen offshore between Pescadero and Santa Cruz Aug. 14-15 (BL) and another was the Eel R. Canyon Oct. 2 (SH, *vide* DRu). Very encouraging were the 37 Ancient Murrelets seen inshore from Pt. Reyes to Monterey in November. And finally, yet another Horned Puffin (a healthy adult) was seen about five mi. off Pt. Sur, Monterey Co., Aug. 17 (BSO*).

PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — A single White-winged Dove on the F.I. Sept. 24 was the only one reported (P.R.B.O., RLeV). A Mourning Dove appeared at a rather high 11,200 ft. near Forester Pass, Inyo Co., Sept. 9 (G. Beebe). A Long-eared Owl found in Willows at Princeton Harbor Oct. 27, provided San Mateo County with its first record (PM). Another was found at Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., Sept. 18-20 (*vide* DRu). This species is rare along the n. coast. A Poorwill that had been banded there Apr. 24 this year was recovered on Oct. 23 at Palomarin, Marin Co. (P.R.B.O., BSo).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A flock of 150 Black Swifts was foraging after a rainstorm at Springville, Tulare Co., Sept. 11 (*vide* RAB). At least 43 birds were seen migrating past Pt. Diablo Aug. 15 - Sept. 21. Their numbers peaked at 21 on Sept. 21 (BSM). Vaux's Swift numbers peaked there with 61 on Sept. 7 (BJM). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird seen Sept. 15-18 was the first ever for the F.I. (P.R.B.O., RLeV). This species, although it breeds a short distance inland, is rare anywhere along the coast. Most interesting was an apparent Costa's X Anna's Hummingbird hybrid that appeared at a feeder in Oakland in July and remained through Nov. 30 (DE*, DRo *et al.*), the first documented occurrence for our region. A concentration of 30 Rufous Hummingbirds was seen Aug. 21 at Fall River Mills, Shasta Co., (SAL). This species moves through the mountains in the fall feeding on late wildflowers at higher elevations, but a few appear on the coast in fall. At least 26 were banded at P.R.B.O.-Palomarin for the period

(BSO). Always rare along the coast, a ♀ Calliope Hummingbird was banded at P.R.B.O.-Palomarin Aug. 31 (*vide* BSo). Lewis' Woodpeckers were observed in large concentrations along the n.w. edge of the C. V. throughout the period (SAL) while two appeared on the coast, where they are rare, at Bolinas Sept. 14 (BSO) and at Pt. Reyes Sept. 9 (BJM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Tropical Kingbirds made an impressive showing this fall with 15 seen Sept. 21 - Nov. 28 from Humboldt County to Año Nuevo. The sole E. Kingbird was at Redding Sept. 14 (PD*). A convincing description of a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was submitted for a bird seen just w. of Bolinas, Marin Co., Oct. 3 (DS*, SFB*, BC). This bird may have been present since Sept. 24 (BSO). A single E. Phoebe was found in Lafayette Aug. 29 (LF*). This species is rarely found at this season.

S.A.

Many observers have asked the editors about the occurrence of certain Tyrannids on the F.I. that have yet to be published. Because of the difficulties involved in the identifications the editors have waited for other opinions. On June 15, 1975 an *Empidonax* was collected on the F.I., which was sent to Allan Phillips, who stated that it was a Willow Flycatcher (*E. trillii brewsteri*). The specimen is now Cal. Acad. of Sci. #69274. On June 15, 1975 a bird was banded, measured, and photographed that was thought to be an E. Wood Pewee (*Contopus virens*). This fall yet another bird thought to be a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** (*E. flaviventris*) was banded, photographed, measured, and released Sept. 16 on the F.I. The identification of both are still in question. These two records will be submitted to the C.F.O. Records Committee. The editors will accept the committee's decision.

A compact little wave of 12 Willow Flycatchers was seen on Dog Island, Tehama Co., Aug. 15 (SAL). Five Least Flycatchers were reported for the fall period. Three were banded on the F.I., two on Sept. 17 and a single bird Sept. 9 (P.R.B.O., RLeV). Another calling bird was carefully described a mile n.e. of Cape Mendocino Sept. 23 (BC*) and yet another was found dead in Golden Gate Park Sept. 15 (LCB). A total of 211 W. Flycatchers was banded at P.R.B.O.-Palomarin with a peak movement between Aug. 21-28 (P.R.B.O., BSo). A significant wave of 21 W. Wood Pewees was seen on Pt. Reyes Sept. 14 (LCB). A major flight of Violet-green Swallows passed over Pt. Diablo, where 1894 birds were seen in 4-1/2 hours Oct. 5 (LCB). A single Bank Swallow Sept. 5 and a single Barn Swallow Sept. 4 at Humboldt Bay are of interest: there are few county records (DE, SH). Purple Martins appeared along the coast in larger-than-normal numbers. At least 19 were seen from Bodega Head to Año Nuevo Aug. 3 - Sept. 25 (m.ob.).

CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES — A flock of 265 Piñon Jays was seen at the Lava Beds N.M. Nov. 6 (SAL, SS). A Winter Wren at Dog I. Oct. 18 was very early for the C.V. (SAL). The Bendire's Thrasher reported last winter in Courtland returned Aug. 8 and remained through Nov. 30 (A. Parker). Two Brown Thrashers appeared this fall; one Oct. 10 at Sunol Park, Alameda Co., (AE* *et al.*) and another banded and photographed at P.R.B.O.-Palomarin Oct. 20 (P.R.B.O., BSo*). Four Sage Thrashers appeared along the coast, the earliest on the F.I. Sept. 5 and the latest at Santa Cruz Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, a first county record (TB*, RM *et al.*). One was inland at Delevan N.W.R. Aug. 5 (*vide* SAL). The presence of a ♀ Mountain Blue-

bird with two young at Crazy Park, Del Norte Co., Aug. 8 is most interesting (SS). The species is not known to breed in this county and its status in n.w. California is poorly known. A most unusual concentration of 100+ Townsend's Solitaires was seen at Lava Beds N.M., Nov. 6 (SAL).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — Diligent watching at selected coastal locations has revealed a magnitude of migration larger than suspected. Some 90 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen on 11 days between Aug. 27 - Sept. 21 with a peak of 35 on Sept. 7 at Pt. Diablo (BJM). A peak movement of Ruby-crowned Kinglets was noted on Oct. 18 at Dog I., where 38 were seen (SAL). Water Pipits were seen at 13,200 ft. near Forester Pass, Inyo Co., Sept. 7 — probably a new state altitude record (G. Beebe). Twelve N. Shrikes, a normal number, were reported, ten inland and two on the coast, with the first Oct. 30 at King Salmon, Humboldt Co., (*vide* DRu). A lone Loggerhead Shrike appeared Oct. 24 at Humboldt Bay (SS). Generally considered resident, Hutton's Vireos appeared at Bidwell Park, Butte Co. Nov. 15 (SAL) and (one bird) on the outer coast at Rodeo Lagoon Nov. 7 (JW *et al.*). Are some populations of this species migratory? A Solitary Vireo that appeared to be of the eastern race (*V.s. solitarius*) was seen on the F.I. Sept. 24 (P.R.B.O., RS, RLeV). Although brighter green on the back with a rather striking blue-gray head, this race closely resembles its western counterpart (*V.s. cassini*) so caution in identification must be exercised. Single Red-eyed Vireos were seen at Fairhaven Sept. 12 (SS, SH), on the F.I., Sept. 30 (P.R.B.O., RLeV), and on Pt. Reyes Sept. 19 (JW *et al.*). **Philadelphia Vireos** staged a "mini-invasion" this fall. Three were recorded; two were banded on the F.I., Sept. 12 & 25 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) and another appeared on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 22 (DE*, JM* *et al.*) Between Aug. 21 - Sept. 19 some 436 Warbling Vireos were banded at P.R.B.O.-Palomarin of which 95% were immatures. They peaked on Aug. 28 with 41 banded; the last passed through Oct. 18 (P.R.B.O.-BSO).

WOOD WARBLERS — In numbers and diversity this fall failed to rival 1974 and 1975. But as always a few exciting species turned up. Inland two major waves were observed in the C.V. on Aug. 1-4 and Sept. 22-23 consisting of Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Wilson's, and Hermit Warblers. Coastally, three major waves brought an array of "eastern" warblers to the region. The first was noted Sept. 20-22 followed by another Sept. 24-27. A smaller wave Oct. 24-25 closed the major movements of "eastern" warblers.

Black-and-white Warblers were reported in larger numbers than ever before. A total of 29 were seen between Aug. 7 - Nov. 11, all, with one exception, were coastal from Humboldt County to Pacific Grove. One seen Sept. 30 - Nov. 11 at Dog I., was the only inland report (SAL *et al.*). Tennessee Warblers did not lag far behind with 25 reported (five on F.I.) between Sept. 5 - Nov. 21, twenty-four of which were on the coast from Fairhaven to Pt. Pinos. One was at Dog I., Oct. 26 providing Tehama County with its first record (SAL). At least four Virginia's Warblers, all coastal, were found; singles at Pacific Grove Sept. 12-17 (RS *et al.*), the F.I., Oct. 15 (P.R.B.O., RLeV), Pt. Reyes Oct. 24 (Wesley, Weathers* *et al.*), and Moss Beach Sept. 21-22 that proved to be the first San Mateo County record (PM, BSA *et al.*). Northern Parulas were seen at Carmel R., Oct. 9-11 (RS *et al.*), Pt. Reyes Sept. 25-26 (m.ob.), and at Inverness, Marin Co., Sept. 9 (BL*). Thirteen Magnolia Warblers were reported. Since 1967, including the banner fall numbers of 1974 and 1975, Magnolia Warblers averaged about 9 records/year. This year all were coastal from Fairhaven to Pacific Grove Sept. 5 - Oct. 31. Five Cape May Warblers were reported; two on the F.I. Sept. 26 and another there Sept. 24 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) and single birds at Pt.

Reyes Sept. 25-29 (DE, RS, JW, JM, WMP, m.ob.) and another apparently different bird was there Oct. 3 (SFB). A total of four Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen; a female at Pt. Reyes Sept. 25 (JW, m.ob.), another at Asilomar Oct. 28 (RS *et al.*), a male on the F.I. Oct. 18 (P.R.B.O., RLeV), and another at Golden Gate Park, Oct. 28 (*vide* LCB). The Black-throated Green Warbler is something of an enigma in our region. There are only ten regional fall records, half of which have been on the F.I. All of the mainland records are coastal. Two were recorded on Pt. Reyes for the first time this fall on Oct. 19 (DE* *et al.*), one apparently an ad. male. The vast majority of "vagrant" warblers in California have been immature birds.

The temperate fall weather probably influenced a Hermit Warbler to remain at Moss Beach, San Mateo Co., until Nov. 10 (PM). The best landbird find of the fall was a **Cerulean Warbler** at Fairhaven Sept. 2-4 (BC*, DE*, SH m.ob.). This marked the first regional and fourth state record. Blackburnian Warblers made a good showing with a total of eight found Sept. 22 - Oct. 30 (two on F.I.) all coastal from Pt. Reyes to Montara, San Mateo Co. The region's fifth **Yellow-throated Warbler** was seen on Pt. Reyes Sept. 2-7 (WMP, m.ob.) A total of 15 Chestnut-sided Warblers was seen, all coastal Sept. 19 - Nov. 29 from Fairhaven to the Carmel R. Two were reported in November, a month for which there were only two previous records. More Bay-breasted Warblers (seven) were found this fall than normally: two on the F.I., Sept. 24 and Oct. 2-3 (P.R.B.O., RLeV), two at Fairhaven Sept. 19-21 and Sept. 22-23 (*vide* DRu), one at the Samoa Coast Guard Station, Humboldt Co., Sept. 5, one at Sunnybrae, Humboldt Co., (*vide* DRu) and one on Pt. Reyes Oct. 23 (AE*). A total of 58 Blackpoll Warblers was seen Sept. 4 - Oct. 28 from Mad River County Park, Humboldt Co., to Pt. Pinos and all but one Sept. 10 at Honey Lake N.W.R. (SAL *et al.*) were coastal. Three Prairie Warblers, which is about average, were found; singles at Samoa Sept. 22 and at Mad River County Park, (*vide* DRu) and the third was at Sharp Park, San Mateo Co., Sept. 24 - Nov. 28 (PM, m.ob.). Nine Ovenbirds were found which is half the regional high of 18 for the fall of 1975. All were coastal (five on the F.I.) Sept. 6 - Oct. 14 in the greater S. F. Bay area. Northern Waterthrushes were reported in good numbers with ten seen Sept. 5 - Oct. 3 along the coast from Crescent City to the Carmel R., and one was found inland at the Modoc N.W.R., Aug. 22 (SAL). Three Hooded Warblers were reported; single females at the Carmel R., Sept. 15 (RS), and at Pt. Diablo, Marin Co., Sept. 7 (BJM*). An imm. male was found in Petaluma Aug. 26, providing the second record for the region (Don Yasuda). A late Wilson's Warbler was seen in Golden Gate Park Nov. 28 (EM *et al.*). Always rare in fall, single Canada Warblers were at Pt. Reyes Oct. 8 (RS, Will Russell), Drake's Beach Sept. 11 (JL, SLU, WMP, m.ob.), Fairhaven Oct. 23 (DRu*, SS*, *et al.*), and Pacific Grove Oct. 3 (BH* *et al.*) American Redstarts were found in more than twice their normal numbers (mean about 25/fall) with 57 reported Aug. 14 - Nov. 26 all coastal except for one at Dog I., Aug. 27 a first county record (SAL).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS — This fall seven Bobolinks were seen; two at Neary's Lagoon, Santa Cruz, Oct. 17-23 (TB* *et al.*), and single birds on the F.I. Sept. 11, 22, 30 (P.R.B.O., RLeV), and two were at Crespi Pond, Pt. Pinos Sept. 18 - Oct. 2 (*vide* DRo). Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds made their way to the coast, three from the Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt Co., to Pt. Reyes Sept. 18 - Oct. 21 and two on the F.I. Sept. 18, 30 (P.R.B.O., RLeV). Three Orchard Orioles were on the F.I., two Sept. 24 and another Oct. 1 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) with singles at Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., Nov. 1 (BC *et al.*), Bear Valley, Marin

Co., Sept. 30 (WMP *et al.*), and on Pt. Reyes Sept. 19 (LCB, BDP, GLB *et al.*). A movement of 30 "Bullock's" Orioles was seen passing Dog I. Aug. 1 (SAL). A single "Baltimore" Oriole was seen on the F.I. Oct. 13 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) and with perhaps another at Bear Valley, Marin Co., [no details]. Two more coastal Rusty Blackbirds were found, at Cape Mendocino Oct. 21 (BC), and at the Arcata Oxidation Ponds, Humboldt Co., Nov. 10-13 (*vide* DRU). Two of California's rarest tanagers put in an appearance this fall. An ad. ♂ **Hepatic Tanager** was seen at Solano County Park Sept. 2 (DAG* m.ob.) creating the region's third and California's northernmost record. The fifth regional Scarlet Tanager was recorded Oct. 22 on the F.I. (P.R.B.O., RLeV) Western Tanagers were seen on eight days Aug. 27 - Sept. 17 with a total of 37 birds (peak Sept. 8 with 20) on Twin Peaks, S.F., (BJM).

FRINGILLIDS — Seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported with six along the coast and one inland Aug. 17 - Oct. 24. Quite scarce on the coast, a ♀ Blue Grosbeak was seen at Neary's Lagoon Sept. 14 - Oct. 3 (TB*, DP, RM *et al.*) while inland a flock of eight was seen at the Chico Oxidation Ponds Aug. 13 (SAL). Only two Indigo Buntings were reported; one on the F.I., Sept. 5 (P.R.B.O., RLeV) and one on Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 (JW *et al.*). The region's fifth fall Dickcissel was seen at Princeton, San Mateo Co., Aug. 24 (PM*, JM). An Am. Goldfinch at L. Tahoe Nov. 22 was above its normal vertical range (WS). At least 231 Lesser Goldfinches streamed by Pt. Diablo Aug. 26 - Sept. 20 (peak 55 on Aug. 27) (BJM). Two Red Crossbills in Golden Gate Park Oct. 29 had apparently summered and may have bred (LCB). An out-of-range Green-tailed Towhee was seen at Battery Wallace, Marin Co., Oct. 24 (BBU* *et al.*). Upslope drift undoubtedly accounted for a Rufous-sided Towhee at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite N.P., Oct. 31 at 8900 ft. (JL, SLu). Four Lark Buntings were seen: singles at Pt. Reyes Oct. 25 (WMP *et al.*) and Sept. 19 (CH, GZ, GLB, LCB *et al.*), another at Bodega Bay Sept. 18 (JW *et al.*) and an ad. male at Belmont Oct. 15 (FN* *et al.*). Nine Vesper Sparrows appeared on or near the coast (four on the F.I.) Sept. 2 - Oct. 16 from Pt. Reyes to Santa Cruz. Another out-of-range Black-throated Sparrow was seen on the F.I. Sept. 18-26 (P.R.B.O., RLeV). The F.I. recorded two Tree Sparrows, one each on Oct. 12 and 28 while another was banded at Palomarin Oct. 26 (P.R.B.O., RLeV, BS0). Nine Clay-colored Sparrows were reported (six on the F.I. Sept. 12 - Nov. 14). Single birds at Pigeon Pt., Oct. 16 and at Neary's Lagoon Oct. 10 were respectively the first San Mateo and Santa Cruz County records (PM* *et al.*). Seven Swamp Sparrows were seen along the coast from Cape Mendocino to the Carmel R. Oct. 10 - Nov. 28. Two were found inland; one at the Brannon I. State Recreation Area, Sacramento Co., Nov. 22 (JM) and the other at L. Tahoe Nov. 5 — the first record for the Tahoe Basin (WS *et al.*). Two Lapland Longspurs were seen at Honey Lake N.W.R. Nov. 26 (CH *et al.*), a surprisingly low count for this area in late fall. Nineteen Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found along the coast from the Arcata Bottoms to Halfmoon Bay Sept. 25 - Nov. 6. Only six were found inland at Honey Lake N.W.R. Nov. 26 (JM). A Snow Bunting was found at Bodega Bay Nov. 13 but disappeared the same day (AE*, GB).

ADDENDA — Single Mountain Plovers seen at Fairhaven Oct. 15 (DE) and the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 20-23, 1974 (TS, DRU *et al.*) were omitted from AB 29:(1). The following 1975 light-bellied Brant (*Branta bernicla hrota*) sightings, all singles on S. Humboldt Bay, should be added to AB 29: (3) and (4): adults Feb. 27 and Mar. 7, immature Mar. 21, and adults Apr. 10, 22 and May 5 (all Bill Henry, *vide* DE, TS). In AB 30: (1) a Bay-breasted Warbler at Tomales Pt., Oct. 2 (JM) was omitted. The discovery of a dead Chimney Swift (specimen to Calif Acad of

Sciences) at Mono County Park, July 11, 1976 and the presence of five more birds here July 12, 1976 (RS *et al.*) should be added to AB 30: (5).

CORRIGENDA — The Ground Dove noted at Pigeon Pt in AB 30:762 should be credited to Tony Bledsoe. The Costa's Hummingbird reported at Weaverville in AB 29:904 should be deleted. In AB 30:764 the birds in Olema Marsh were Swamp Sparrows, *not* Harris' Sparrows. Credit the Violet-green Swallow in AB 30:763 to PM not RM. The Townsend's Solitaire at Santa Cruz AB 30:763 should be credited to Jim Morris and not Joe Morlan.

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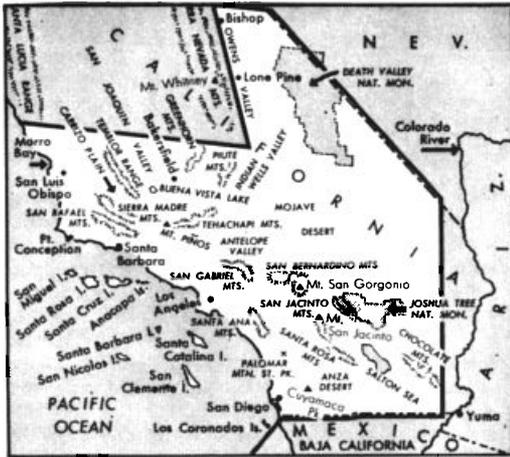


SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

A hurricane in September was the major meteorological event of the year; the rest of the season remained clear and dry with no major cold fronts from the north.

West Coast migrant landbirds appeared scarcer than normal throughout the period. We had an early push of vagrant species of eastern landbirds during September, but little appeared to be moving in October. No species new for the Region were discovered.

HURRICANE KATHLEEN — California is not normally associated with hurricanes, but hurricanes were recorded in September 1918, 1932 and 1939. During the night of September 9, 1976, Hurricane *Kathleen* struck the Pacific coast of Baja California, and traveled due N close to the 115th meridian by noon Sept. 10, the storm was centered close to the Salton Sea, bringing high winds and heavy rainfall. On Sept. 12 Ted Parker saw "hundreds" of **Least Storm-Petrels** during two brief stops at the Salton Sea, and alerted interested observers. A count of 112 was made at the extreme s. end of the Salton Sea (S.E.S.S.) Sept. 15 (GMcC, JD, KG), and 110 were visible from Desert Beach at the n. end of the Salton Sea (N.E.S.S.) on the same day (MZ)



The total number present was probably 500-1000. The majority disappeared within two weeks, and may have actually found their way back to the Gulf of California, since no dead birds were found (DVT). A few individuals persisted on the Salton Sea into October, as evidenced by the presence of one off Salton City on Oct. 10 (JD, PU), seven at the mouth of Salt Creek (MZ) and another near the mouth of the New River both on Oct. 21 (DVT).

A **Leach's Storm-Petrel**, of the race *chapmani* from the San Benito Is., off the Pacific coast of Baja California, at S.E.S.S. on Sept. 15 (GMcC, PL, KG, JD) was the only other storm-petrel found. A **Red-billed Tropicbird** caught by a dog in Morongo Valley on Sept. 11 (EAC — *S.B.C.M.) was the first found inland in California. Six **Magnificent Frigatebirds** (4 males, 1 female, 1 immature) over the open desert 5 mi. west of Blythe on the same date (RL) had also been displaced by the storm, as was an immature at S.E.S.S. Sept. 19 (EAC, SC).

LOONS, GREBES — Five Com. Loons were found around the S.E.S.S. Oct. 23 - Nov. 20 (DVT, R & EC), one was at Desert Center, Riverside Co., Nov. 10 (JD) and another was found dead at Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts. Nov. 28 (JRG). A **Horned Grebe** at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) Sept. 4-5 (DR, IM) and another on Tinnemaha Res., in the Owens Valley Sept. 9 (TH) were exceptionally early; one was at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley (hereafter S.C.) Nov. 24 (GSS).

FULMARS, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — A N. Fulmar off Ventura Aug. 11 (LJ) had probably summered locally, but eight around the n. Channel Is. during November (JA, KG, LJ) and another off La Jolla, San Diego Co. Nov. 12 (JD) were arrivals from the north. Up to five New Zealand Shearwaters were seen around Anacapa and Santa Barbara Is. Aug. 18 - Oct. 3 (VR, KG, LJ) but were overshadowed by more than 2000 s. of San Miguel I. Sept. 26-28 (RLP).

The only **Ashy Storm-Petrels** reported were off Ventura Sept. 17, six there on Sept. 20 and five off the Palos Verdes Pen. Sept. 22 (JA). A small white-rumped storm-petrel seen off Anacapa I. Aug. 18 (IM, VR) might have been a Galapagos Storm-Petrel; there is only one verified record for the United States (Auk 87:588-589, 1970) but it has been found off Baja California. Three **Least Storm-Petrels** off the Palos Verdes Pen. Sept. 22 (JA) and one near Anacapa I. Oct. 3 (LJ) were the only birds reported n. of San Diego.

TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, FRIGATEBIRDS — Red billed Tropicbirds were seen off San Diego on four occasions Sept. 11-19, with a high of three on Sept. 12 (GMcC *et al.*), and one was off Santa Barbara I., Oct. 3 & 17 (LJ, BB). White Pelicans reached a peak of 4000 at S.E.S.S. Oct. 21 (DVT) a flock of 500 flying S along the desolate Panamint Valley Oct 3 (KG) was a surprise, but indicates that numbers move south across e. California towards the Salton Sea. The number of **Brown Pelicans** at S.E.S.S. remained around 40 through August then started to drop, with 23 still present Oct. 5 (DVT), and one remaining as late as Nov. 13 (DVT). A few **Magnificent Frigatebirds** were still along the coast in August as indicated by two immatures over Leucadia, San Diego Co. Aug. 20 (AF) and another over Santa Barbara Aug. 23 (RW); an immature at S.E.S.S. Aug. 18 (DVT) was the only other sighting unrelated to *Kathleen*.

HERONS, SPOONBILLS — Adult Little Blue Herons remained around the mouth of the New River at S.E.S.S through August (DVT); an immature at Leucadia, San Diego Co., Aug. 27 (AF) was the only one found along the coast. Cattle Egrets continue to increase as fall visitors to coastal California with some large groups reported, such as 31 near San Simeon San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 26 (EAC, SC), 33 in Whittier, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 16 (DWF), 32 at Elsinore, Riverside Co., Sept 6 (AF), 30 near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Nov. 7 (PU) and 21 on San Clemente I. Oct. 13 (LJ), with smaller numbers else where. An imm. Louisiana Heron at Imperial Beach after Nov 17 (JD) was the only one reported. Two **Least Bitterns** were at F.C.R. Aug. 17 (RS) and another was there Sept. 4 (DR); records from desert oases may help to establish migration periods for such secretive species. The imm. Roseate Spoonbill remained around S.E.S.S. through Sept. 19 (EAC, SC).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Two Brant at S.E.S.S. Oct. 21 (DVT) had probably summered locally. Snow Geese built up to 16,300 on Nov. 18 at S.E.S.S. with three "Blue" Geese present with them. As usual, a few **Blue-winged Teal** were present along the coast in November with up to eight around Goleta, Santa Barbara Co. (PL), and five near Huntington Beach, Orange Co (JA, D & LD). Four Eur. Wigeon were reported with single males at F.C.R. Nov. 24 (GSS, JAJ), near L. Arrowhead Nov. 25 (KG) at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., Nov. 25-26 (PL, GH) and at S.E.S.S. Nov. 5 (PFS); an interesting variety of localities. A number of **Wood Ducks** were reported with the southernmost being one in Santee, San Diego Co., Nov. 23 (WTE) and another at S.E.S.S. Oct. 30 (DVT). The ♂ **Tufted Duck** that spent the past four winters on L. Sherwood, Ventura Co., returned by Nov 19 (JAJ). Totally unexpected was a ♀ **Barrow's Goldeneye** at F.C.R. Nov. 26-28 (GMcC, RS — p. S.D.N.H.M.); there are only three other records for S. California.

The **Oldsquaw** summering on San Diego Bay was present Oct 10 (JD); another was near Huntington Beach Nov. 26 (R & MW) A ♂ **Harlequin Duck** was near Cambria, San Luis Obispo Co after Nov. 20 (FRT); a female near Malibu, Nov. 25-28 (BB) was a little far south. A **White-winged Scoter** was F.C.R. Nov. 24 27 (GSS, JD) and another was near Imperial Dam Nov. 14 to the end of the period (SS). Three **Surf Scoters** at S.E.S.S. Oct. 29 Nov. 5 (PFS, DVT) were fall migrants as were the single birds at Oasis, Mono Co., Oct. 19 (MH), at Little L., Owens Valley Oct 23 (RN), and on Holiday L. in the Antelope Valley Nov. 20 (KG) Only five **Hooded Mergansers** were reported, but one of these was at F.C.R. Nov. 28 (FM) where rare.

KITES, HAWKS, FALCONS — A **White-tailed Kite** was at N.E.S.S. Aug. 11 (JD) & Oct. 29 (LJ), and two were in the Antelope Valley Nov. 20 (KG). A **Goshawk** in Big Pine, Inyo Co

Oct 2 (TH) was the only one reported. A remarkable number of Red-shouldered Hawks was found Aug. 13 - Nov. 20 in high desert areas with one at Oasis (DR, PL, TH), one at S.C. (RS, VR), up to three at F.C.R. (VR, JA, DE), one at L. Tami near Barstow (VR), one at Little L., (SC), one at Baker Dam in Joshua Tree N.M. (NS), and two in the Antelope Valley (KG); all were e. of the species' normal range. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk moving down Pt. Loma Oct. 20 (WTE) and another in Fillmore, Ventura Co., Nov. 25 (DS) were the only two noted. A Swainson's Hawk over Goleta Sept. 2 (RW) was of interest. A few Rough-legged Hawks were reported during November with two at S.E.S.S. Oct. 30 - Nov. 30 (DVT) and one near Otay, San Diego Co., Nov. 14 (D & LD) being the southernmost. Bald Eagles had returned to favored wintering localities such as L. Matthews, Riverside Co. by mid-November (8 present Nov. 28); an imm. flying past Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 23 (DHo) and another at S.E.S.S. Oct. 22 - Nov. 18 (DVT, PFS) were both at interesting localities. Six Peregrine Falcons were reported during the period with one over F.C.R. Aug. 18 (RS). Thirteen Merlins were seen between Sept. 22 and the end of the period.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — Two Sandhill Cranes were in Encino Oct. 14-22 (SW, JBr). The Anacapa I. Am. Oystercatcher was seen Aug. 18 (VR), Sept. 4 (GH) & Nov. 13 (FH). A Black Oystercatcher at Goleta Sept. 2 (RW) was only the fourth there in ten years. A Semipalmated Plover was near Blythe, Riverside Co., where few records exist. A Snowy Plover in Baker, San Bernardino Co., Aug. 28-29 (PU, JD) was the only one inland away from the Salton Sea. A Mountain Plover near Olancha Oct. 31 (TCS, WTE) appears to be the first reported from the Owens Valley. American Golden Plovers were exceptionally scarce this fall, with only four individuals reported Sept. 5 - Oct. 28 (JD, PL, LJ, D&LD), however, one was seen inland at S.E.S.S. Oct. 23 (PFS) and two more near Brawley Oct. 31 (PFS, EMM); a bird was at Goleta Sept. 2 through November (BS, RW).

A Ruddy Turnstone at Salton City Aug. 6-14 (PU, R&EC) and another at S.E.S.S. Sept. 15 (JD) were the only two seen away from the coast. As usual a few Red Knots appeared on the Salton Sea with a high count of 12 made on Sept. 15 (JD) and a very late individual at S.E.S.S. Nov. 20 (R&EC). More than 40 Baird's Sandpipers were reported passing through the Region Aug. 14 - Oct. 3. Pectoral Sandpipers were present Sept. 6 - Oct. 30 with 23 in Blythe Sept. 27 (JD, PU) being the largest flock. A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was carefully identified on Catalina I. Oct. 5 (LJ); the fourth for S. California. Stilt Sandpipers reached a peak of 125 at S.E.S.S. Aug. 14 (PU, R&EC); three at N.E.S.S. Sept. 15 (JD) were the only ones away from S.E.S.S.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — Six or seven Parasitic Jaegers were seen around N.E.S.S. Sept. 10-19 (JD, KG, EAC) and a late individual was there Nov. 28 (MH). Five Long-tailed Jaegers were seen off San Diego Sept. 11 (GMcC), another was found there Sept. 18 (JD), at least two were seen off Ventura Sept. 12 (LJ, KG). Eight South Polar Skuas were seen on the waters s. of San Miguel I. Sept. 28-29 (RLP). A Laughing Gull at Huntington Beach Oct. 18 (R&MW) was most interesting, the species is a casual straggler to the coast; one at S.E.S.S. Oct. 21 (PFS) was the latest seen. Franklin's Gulls were scarcer than usual with only six found along the coast Sept. 27 - Nov. 22 and three on the Salton Sea Aug. 6 - Sept. 19. A Bonaparte's Gull was near Olancha Oct. 31 (TCS, WTE); this species is rare in the Owens Valley. A Heermann's Gull was seen at S.E.S.S. Oct. 5 (DVT). Sabine's Gulls were scarce off the coast in September and October with four off San Diego on Oct. 18 being the highest day count reported. An imm. Sabine's Gull was found at Oasis Sept. 20-21 (SF & KLB)

A count of 715 Com. Terns at M.E.S.S. Sept. 16 (MZ) indicates how numerous this species can be on the Salton Sea, elsewhere, one near Blythe Sept. 4 (JD) and three on Big Bear L. Oct. 2 (EAC, SC) were of interest because of their localities. A Least Tern at S.E.S.S. Sept. 13 (DD) may have been associated with *Kathleen*; this species is a casual straggler there; the date is very late. Black Skimmers remained on the Salton Sea to the end of the period; up to six were around San Diego Bay throughout the period.

ALCIDS — Two Com. Murres off Ventura Aug. 11 (LJ) and another off the Palos Verdes Pen., Sept. 22 (JA) had probably summered. A Pigeon Guillemot at Ventura Aug. 18 (VR) was unexpected, but two found about 50 mi. off San Diego Sept. 1 (RLP) established the southernmost record for California. Most interesting was the appearance of the nominate form of Xantu's Murrelet (*E. h. hypoleuca*) off the coast with one near Anacapa I. Aug. 18 (VR) and 17 seen off San Diego Sept. 11-18 (GMcC *et al.*); this form breeds on Guadalupe I. and is rare in S. California waters. Craveri's Murrelets were more common than normal with one near Anacapa I. Aug. 18 (VR) and a minimum of 45 off San Diego Sept. 11-18 (JD *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A Band-tailed Pigeon at Deep Springs Sept. 9 (CH, RS) and another on Clark Mt. Aug. 28 were east of, and one on Santa Cruz I. Sept. 19 was west of their normal range. Eight White-winged Doves were reported between Goleta and San Diego Aug. 23 - Oct. 23, one at Stove Pipe Wells Sept. 9 (RS) was north of its normal range. An Inca Dove at F.C.R. Oct. 29 - Nov. 28 (R&EC, FH, LB) established the northernmost record in the state. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen along the Colorado R., where they nest, until early September (GSS, JD); one on Catalina I Oct. 5 (LJ) was unexpected.

Some interesting sightings of Long-eared Owls were reported including two at S.C. on Oct. 23 (JD), two at nearby Mesquite Springs Oct. 5-15 (VR), one at S.E.S.S. Nov. 20 (WTE) and one on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 10 (GMcC). A Com. Night-hawk near Imperial Beach Sept. 25 (VR, EAC) appears to be the first recorded on the coast of S. California and one of the very few ever seen away from known nesting localities. Three Black Swifts over Whittier Sept. 4-8 (DWF) were the only ones reported.

S.A.

Of extreme interest was the occurrence of a **Chimney Swift** nesting in Ventura. The Chimney Swifts first appeared on June 13 (*Am. Birds* 30:892, 1976) and remained in the area through the summer, constantly using a chimney at 1955 Sunridge Drive. On Aug. 2 a check of the chimney revealed a nest with three or four young. By Aug. 16 the young were near the top of the chimney and one was seen to take flight. Four swifts were using the chimney on Sept. 21, and three were still there on Oct. 1 (JBo). There is no previous record of successful nesting for California.

The **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** that frequented a feeder near Santa Paula was last seen Sept. 19 (GSS).

WOODPECKERS — An Acorn Woodpecker at Algodones Dunes in e. Imperial Co., Oct. 20 (PM) was far outside its normal range. A Lewis' Woodpecker on Catalina I. Oct. 5 (LJ) was the only one reported. An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Panamint Springs Nov. 28 (SF & KLB) was the form *S. v*

varius, a rare straggler to California. A bird collected in San Luis Obispo Nov. 7 (EVJ) proved to be *S. v. nuchalis*, a casual visitor there, and one at F.C.R. Oct. 16 (JD) was almost certainly *S. v. ruber*, an accidental wanderer from northward. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker in Riverside Sept. 21 (VR) was at a lowland locality.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — As usual a few Tropical Kingbirds appeared coastally with ten reported Sept. 22 - Oct. 24, one seen near Niland, Oct. 23 (PFS, EMM) was of special interest. A W. Wood Pewee at Panamint Springs Oct. 30-31 (DE) was exceptionally late. A male Vermilion Flycatcher at Oasis Aug. 19 - Oct. 2 (JM, TH) established the northernmost record for California; two males were in the Antelope Valley Nov. 20 (KG). Purple Martin, a declining species in California, normally go unreported as fall migrants. Two were at Oasis Sept. 4 (IM) and one was over Big Pine Sept. 25 (TH). On the coast two were at Santa Barbara Sept. 2 (RW), four were near Ventura Sept. 6 (PL) and about 12 were noted around San Diego Sept. 10-25 (LCB, JD).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — Two Piñon Jays on Catalina I. Sept. 13 with one present Sept. 28 (LJ) came as a surprise because the species is an accidental stray to the coast. The presence of two Com. Bushtits on Anacapa I. Aug. 11 (KG) indicates the species is not quite as sedentary as the literature would suggest. A White-breasted Nuthatch near Westmorland, Imperial Co. Aug. 6 (JD, PU) was the second recorded in the se desert. A few Brown Creepers were found at desert oases of Inyo County during October (three at F.C.R. Oct. 29-30) indicating a movement through that area. An exceptionally early Winter Wren was on Santa Cruz I. Sept. 20 (JA) and another was on Santa Barbara I. Oct. 17 (LJ).

THRASHERS, THRUSHES, KINGLETS, PIPITS — A Gray Catbird, a rare fall straggler to S. California, was on Pt. Loma Sept. 24-25 (KVV) and another was there Oct. 17-18 (RS). This fall produced five reports of Brown Thrashers; this is more than is normal. A Bendire's Thrasher in San Pedro July 30 - Aug. 2 (IPL, JD) and another at Malibu Sept. 1 (TC) were the only two found along the coast. Varied Thrushes were exceptionally scarce. Golden-crowned Kinglets invaded the Region in unprecedented numbers and were responsible for some interesting records such as up to six at F.C.R. (JD), one at S E S S. (R & EC), 13 on Santa Cruz I. (*vide* GH), at least 18 on Anacapa, Santa Barbara and Catalina Is. (LJ), one on Pt. Loma (JD) with at least 15 found around San Diego in October and November (PU). A Sprague's Pipit in Carson, Los Angeles Co. Oct. 21-24 (GSS) was the eighth to have been found in California.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS — A Gray Vireo was on Anacapa I. Sept. 14 (LJ) and another on San Clemente I. Sept. 23 (LJ) were accidental. An imm. Yellow-green Vireo near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Oct. 25 (JK) was the seventh in California. Three Red-eyed Vireos were found in Inyo County Sept. 5-6; one at Mesquite Springs (JM) another at F.C.R. (DR, IM) and the third at Deep Springs (JD, PL). A Philadelphia Vireo was collected in Kelso Oct. 10 (EAC, SC, *S.B.C.M.), one was on Pt. Loma Oct. 15-17 (GSS, RS), another was near Imperial Beach Sept. 19 (GMcC), and a fourth was on Santa Barbara I. Oct. 17 (BB, LJ).

Only 11 Black-and-white Warblers were reported Sept. 9 - Nov. 27. A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler at S.C. Oct. 15-16 (JD, RS) was only the sixth reported in S. California in the fall. Virginia's Warblers were less numerous than usual coastally

with only 15 found; one was in Big Pine Aug. 19 (SC), two were at F.C.R. Aug. 29 (PU) and another there Sept. 5 (IM). N. Parulas are normally quite rare in fall; this year six individuals were reported, from Deep Springs, Mesquite Springs, F.C.R., and three from Imperial Beach (PU). Seven Magnolia Warblers were reported. The only two Cape May Warblers reported were both exceptionally early with one at S.C. Aug. 29 - Sept. 5 (VR, JM) and the other at Kelso Sept. 8 (JD, LB). Six ♂ Black-throated Blue Warblers were found Oct. 16 - Nov. 5. Southern California always has a few Black-throated Green Warblers each fall and this year six were reported Sept. 9 - Oct. 22. Five Blackburnian Warblers were reported, from Aug. 30 - Nov. 6, from Mesquite Springs (BB), Morongo Valley (DM), Tapia Park (SW), Pt. Loma (H&PB), Imperial Beach (BB). Unexpected were two Yellow-throated Warblers with one in Goleta Sept. 16-19 (PL, BS) and the other near Imperial Beach Oct. 3 (BB), both appeared to be of the w. race *albiflora*. Only five Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported, from Deep Springs (SF & KLB), Pt. Mugu S.P. (*vide* GSS), Imperial Beach (JD, PU). Four Bay-breasted Warblers were found: S.C. (RS, DR), Lancaster, Kern Co., (KG), Imperial Beach Sept. 19-24 (VR, JD) and later (GMcC). Nearly 30 Blackpoll Warblers were found along the coast and three more inland. The rarest warbler in S. California this fall was a drab ♀ **Pine Warbler**, found by Joseph R. Jehl Jr., on Pt. Loma Oct. 13-16 (BS — p. S.D.N.H.M.); there are three other records for the Region.

A Prairie Warbler was at Morro Bay Sept. 14 (Dan Guthrie, *vide* GSS) and another was near Imperial Beach Sept. 9-11 (LCB, PL); one, found by Donna Dittman at S.C. Nov. 11-28 (GA, D & LD — p. S.D.N.H.M.) was only the second from an inland locality. Ten Palm Warblers were found along the coast and on the offshore islands between Sept. 23 and the end of the period, another was at F.C.R. Oct. 24 (TH). Only three Ovenbirds were reported. About 20 N. Waterthrushes were found in the e. part of the Region Aug. 18 - Oct. 31 and with nine more coastally Sept. 10 - Nov. 7. Eight Canada Warblers was unexpected, inland one was in Morongo Valley Sept. 28 (DM), coastally single birds were in Goleta (PL), Pt. Mugu S.P. (H & PB), Long Beach (JA), Oceanside (PU), Pt. Loma (D & LD), Santa Rosa I. Sept. 14 and on San Clemente I. (PJ). Nearly 70 Am. Redstarts were reported from the Region with more than 30 of these being seen along the e. border during the first half of September. A Painted Redstart was present in Solana Beach, San Diego Co. Sept. 15-16 (BRW) and another was in nearby Coronado from Nov. 21 on (R & EC).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Bobolinks were found along the coast, Sept. 2 - Nov. 13, with up to 35 in Goleta (PL, BS), two at Malibu (JD), seven in Long Beach (MH, J&DM), five in Whittier (DWF), one at Newport (DHo), 25 near Imperial Beach (PU) and eight on the Channel Is. (LJ). Inland, where Bobolinks are much rarer, one was at S.C. Sept. 4 (DR) and five individuals were at F.C.R. Aug. 29 - Oct. 3 (VR, KG). The only Orchard Orioles reported were two at F.C.R. Sept. 20 (SF & KLB), one at Malibu Oct. 2 (VR) and another on Pt. Loma Sept. 11-12 (RS, JM). A "Baltimore" Oriole in San Luis Obispo Oct. 31 (FRT) was the only one found. A flock of 25 Tricolored Blackbirds were at L. Tami near Barstow Oct. 4 (VR) east of the species' normal range. A Rusty Blackbird was at Oasis Nov. 27 (LCB, JSL), one was at Deep Springs Nov. 10 (GA), another was in the Saline Valley Nov. 27 (KAA, TH), four were seen at F.C.R. Oct. 29 - Nov. 27 (R & EC, RS) and another was in Kelso Oct. 30 (PU, JD). A ♂ Scarlet Tanager, a casual straggler to California, was banded in San Luis Obispo Nov. 27 (FRT). A Hepatic Tanager was still on Clark Mt., Aug. 28 (VR); a probable nesting locality. The only vagrant Summer Tanagers were one at Goleta Sept. 16 (BS) and another near San Diego Sept. 15-21 (RPS).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were more numerous than usual with nine found in the e. part of the Region Oct. 2 - Nov. 28, and 11 along the coast Sept. 6 - Oct. 25. Over 20 Indigo Buntings were seen Aug. 7 - Oct. 17. A real surprise was an imm. ♂ Painted Bunting at S.C. Nov. 27-28 (LCB — p S.D.N.H.M.); there are less than 12 California records. Dickcissels were found in small numbers. Two Red Crossbills at F C R Sept. 7-8 (JD, PL) and one or two more there Nov. 20-30 (TH, DHe) were at an unusual locality.

A Lark Bunting at F.C.R. Aug. 28-29 (VR), another on San Clemente I. Sept. 8-9 (LJ) and two on Santa Barbara I. Oct. 3 (LJ) were the only ones reported. A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Deep Springs Nov. 10 (GA). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** well seen at Little L., Inyo Co. Oct. 23-24 (RN) establishes the second record for S California. Three Sharp-tailed Sparrows were back on Newport Bay, Oct. 23 (GSS). Five Black-throated Sparrows on Santa Barbara I., Sept. 12 (LJ) was a remarkable number there. The only Gray-headed Juncos to be found were one at Oasis Nov. 25-28 (RS, LCB), one at N.E.S.S. Nov. 1-3 (MZ) and a third at Brock Ranch near Holtville Nov. 10 (JD). As usual a few Tree Sparrows were found in the n.e. part of the Region, unexpected was one in Whittier Nov. 11 (D & LD) and another in San Diego Nov. 13 (JD). As usual a few Harris' Sparrows were found in the n.e. part of the Region with 13 reported from Inyo County. About 25 White-throated Sparrows were found, about average. Eight Swamp Sparrows, a rare but regular wanderer to California, were found.

LONGSPURS — Two or three McCown's Longspurs were around Imperial Beach Oct. 31 - Nov. 12 (JD, PU). Only seven Lapland Longspurs were reported. Chestnut-collared Long-

spurs were found in about average numbers between Sept 27 and the end of the period.

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This, regrettably, is the last report that will be submitted to us by Davis W. Finch. It is, in its original form, probably the finest and most complete regional report we have ever received, and represents literally weeks of sorting, compiling, and analyzing the contents of some 14 pounds of correspondence. Unfortunately, the manuscript ran to 14,500 words: three times the allowable length. The editor has done his best to reduce this without committing total mayhem; even as edited it is still the longest we will ever publish. Readers wanting the uncut version may write **AMERICAN BIRDS**; there will be a charge, depending on the number of requests, to be announced, for reproducing and mailing the 54-page manuscript.

While we are sad at losing one of our outstanding Regional Editors after almost ten years of extraordinary service, we are happy to announce that henceforth this role will be filled by Peter D Vickery, whose address is Box 14, Lincoln Center, ME 04458. Reports for the Spring Migration season — Mar. 1 — May 31, 1977, should be sent to him *no later than June 30*. It is hoped that the efficient network of contributors built up by Davis Finch will continue to function for the new editor.

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION **/Davis W. Finch**

The first hurricane to affect the Region in recent years, "Belle" crossed Long Island in the early morning of Aug. 10 and moved up the Connecticut River Valley, continuing, much weakened, northeastward to northern Maine. The storm having followed a wholly oceanic track, the birds it brought were limited to tubenoses, among them two species new to Connecticut, and a few non-exotic gulls and terns. Arctic air masses dominated the

Region's weather after about the first week of October, temperatures for the remainder of the period being decidedly below normal and winds unremittingly from the west, but despite the bitterness, a remarkable number of "soft" birds lingered well into early winter. Predictably, these were largely species that had been especially numerous as fall migrants.

Although New England's lakes and valleys are of obvious ornithological interest, the Region is first of all defined by its coasts, in the fall some would say by its islands. The importance of the ocean barrier in concentrating landbirds at coastal traps was never more apparent, an enumeration of the regular "western" strays illustrating both their abundance this fall and their coastal occurrence: Red-headed Woodpecker 25 (4 inland), W Kingbird 25 (3), Yellow-headed Blackbird 21 (1), Lark Sparrow 31 (1), Clay-colored Sparrow 30 (0). Not to belabor the point, or dishearten the inland birder, it could be pointed out that of 39 individuals of 26 species boldfaced in this report, only four occurred away from the coast. Bruce Mactavish's two months of intense birding at Seal Island proved, if proof were needed, that island's situation as a bird observatory extraordinarily well placed for measuring the southwestward passage of birds from Nova Scotia and detecting drifted strays. All Seal Island records below are by Mactavish, except as noted. One curious result of extensive island birding this fall was that certain Regional breeders, e.g. Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Grasshopper Sparrows, were detected more frequently as vagrants than as regular fall migrants.

Though no records were received from Prince Edward Island and only incomplete ones from New Brunswick, coverage of the Region was otherwise excellent.

LOONS, GREBES — An Arctic Loon was at Provincetown Oct 2-3 (WB, CAG, JH, BN *et al.*). Three Red-throated Loons at Placentia Bay, Nfld. about Aug. 12 were unusual both for date and locality (WG, CVMcB). One or more pairs were found at the Grey Is., Nfld. (JEM *et al.*). In the same province a Red-necked Grebe at Cape Broyle Oct. 3 was notable; two at Sandwich, N H., Aug. 22 were very early (MC, TR). Two migratory peaks of commoner species were 137 Horned Grebes around Lakeville, Mass., Nov. 5 (WRP) and 100 Pied-billed Grebes at Amherst, N S., Oct. 1-6 (CD).

ALBATROSSES — Albatrosses persisted in their presence off the Region's coasts. The first was seen Aug. 1 inshore of the Isles of Shoals and an hour later about 12 mi. e. of Hampton. The bird was identified as **Black-browed Albatross** (SAG, DL, PP *et al.*) The unusual proximity in time and place of the Aug. 1 sightings to the Massachusetts Black-browed Albatross sightings of July 11 (18 mi. off Rockport) and July 24 (Newburyport harbor), strongly suggests a single bird. The season's two other reports were of **Yellow-nosed Albatrosses**, an adult or near-adult observed from the "Bluenose" ferry about 40 mi. off Yarmouth, N S., Aug. 20 (DS *et al.*) and a subadult seen at fifteen feet at Cox's Ledge, R.I., Aug. 21 (CW *et al.*). The "Bluenose" albatross provided a second record for that crossing, while the Cox's Ledge bird marked a first Rhode Island record.

FULMAR, SHEARWATERS — One of two especially interesting reports from Atlantic Canada came from BDMact, who, on Aug. 18, saw 950 N. Fulmars, 7000 Greater, 4500 Sooty, and 8 Manx Shearwaters on the St. Anthony-Lewisporte ferry, these being the highest totals of the first three species reported in the Region. Secondly, at Seal I., N.S. on Oct. 10 a massive southward exodus from the Bay of Fundy took place: 75 N. Fulmars, 6000 Greater Shearwaters and 400 Sooty Shearwaters, the fulmars reportedly all light-phase (BDMact, IMacG, IAMcL, ELM) Other high counts of Greater Shearwaters in Nova Scotian waters this fall were 5000 in areas w. and n.w. of Brier I., Aug. 26 (RGG, ELM) and 1000 still there Sept. 20 (DWF, WCR) and 5000 off Seal I. Aug. 30 (IAMcL).

Off the New England coast the M.B.O. gathered data from eight trips to Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals, to deep water to 50 mi. s. of Georges Bank, and to the Gulf of Maine, totaling 69 days of observations Aug. 1 - Nov. 29 (TLL-E *et al.*). The data show the near absence of N. Fulmars during August (only two individuals), their gradual appearance during October and a marked increase during November, with a four-month total of just under 500. A B.B.C. trip to Stellwagen Bank Oct. 30 found 60 fulmars among which, surprisingly, the dark to light bird ratio was between two and three to one (HD'E, WRP, RRV *et al.*) Other fulmar reports from New England waters totaled 129 individuals, 51 light, 41 dark, 37 unspecified — largely light?

It was a remarkable season for Cory's Shearwaters, some 36 reports totaling about 2446 individuals, most in waters off s. New England. M.B.O. recorded 107 on Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals on 21 dates Aug. 1 - Oct. 31, and birders at Cox's Ledge found a total of 461 on 11 trips there Aug. 11 - Oct. 1, most in August, and 253 were reported in the Block I. area on eight dates Aug. 2 - Oct. 31. Of about 1150 reported from Nantucket Sept. 18 - Oct. 10, as many as 1000 were seen streaming E along the s. shore early in the morning of Sept. 26 (JFK, WRP, RRV *et al.*). In Cape Cod Bay, nine reports on eight dates Aug. 6 - Nov. 14 totaled 470 birds. The more impressive Bay totals were 200 at Provincetown Oct. 10 (WB, CAG, BN), 100 at Sandy Neck in Barnstable Oct. 17 (WRP) and 100 at Eastham Nov. 6 (RAF, CAG, BN *et al.*). A few Cory's Shearwaters occurred extralimally: single birds along the "Bluenose" route Aug. 7 (EWP *et mult. al.*) and Aug. 28 (DWF, WCR, PDV *et mult. al.*), the former at an unspecified point, the latter about 40 mi. off Yar-

mouth. In Connecticut a bird was picked up as far inland as Woodbury Aug. 10, following Hurricane "Belle," there being no previous records for the state (Mrs. John Danaher, DJ *et al.*)

Greater Shearwater was the most numerous tubenose observed by the M.B.O. survey, with records for 63 days totaling slightly over 13,000 individuals. A peak occurred in late October on Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals but as many as 1200 were still present in the Gulf of Maine as late as Nov. 12. On Cape Cod numbers of Greater Shearwaters occurring inshore from the third week of September to the second week of November were termed unprecedented (WRP); 5000 were estimated on a B.B.C. boat trip about ten mi. ESE of Chatham Sept. 26 (HD'E, RPE, CAG *et al.*) but Blair Nikula felt that they numbered perhaps 15,000. Seven other reports from the lower Cape Oct. 3 - Nov. 6 all involved sightings of 1000-2000 birds and it was considered that these may have totaled about 10,000 (RRV). A probable explanation of this phenomenon was an influx of squid widely noted in the Northeast this summer and fall.

Manx Shearwaters seemed widely but thinly distributed from Cox's Ledge to n. Newfoundland; including those already mentioned for that province, 39 reports for the Region involved 80 individuals, 58 of them in Massachusetts where the maximum was 13 at Sandy Neck in Barnstable Aug. 18 (v.o., *fide* RHS) and the latest were two at Nauset Nov. 15 (SH).

STORM-PETRELS — The single most significant item of avian fallout from Hurricane "Belle" was a **White-faced Storm-Petrel** found at Milford Pt., Conn., Aug. 10 (Robert Muller,* to Birdcraft Sanctuary in Fairfield, *fide* JS). "Belle's" course brought only a few birds to the Region's s. coast: 20 Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Stonington, Conn., Aug. 10 (RJC) and 12 at Quonochontaug, R.I. on the same date, (RAC *et al.*), single Leach's Storm-Petrels over the marshes at Plum I., Mass., Aug. 10 & 11 (WD, JS) and two of each species at Seabrook, N H., Aug. 10 (JEC, DWH, EWP). Connecticut reports included three Leach's over Old Lyme Aug. 10 (WGB) and four reported at Haddam Aug. 11 (v.o., *fide* NSP). Farther up the valley 15 were found in Southwick, Mass., Aug. 10 (SK *et al.*), and 13 in the Agawam-Springfield area Aug. 10; four Leach's and a positively identified Wilson's were seen criss-crossing the Longmeadow, Mass.-Enfield, Conn. line, possibly a first Wilson's for w. Massachusetts (JC, SK). Northernmost Massachusetts Leach's were two in Northampton Aug. 10 (CH). Somewhat e. of the track were two probable Wilson's in Storrs, Conn., Aug. 10 (RJC), and one at Madbury, N.H., on the same date (DJA) and one at Hebron Aug. 11 (ES *et al.*, *fide* VHH) were both doubtless storm-related. Birds identified as Leach's Storm-Petrels were present on Georges Bank and Nantucket Shoals at the time of the storm, the M.B.O. survey recording 242 on 11 dates Aug. 1-13. Other "Belle" records appear *infra* (Gulls, Terns).

PELICAN, CORMORANTS, FRIGATEBIRD — In Nova Scotia, a **Brown Pelican** was floating off Seal I., Sept. 18 gorged with herring (E & G Crowell, *fide* RGG), providing the eighth provincial record, and the first Regional record in at least a decade. A Great Cormorant at L. Winnepesaukee, N.H., Sept. 1 was unusual inland and remarkably early (TR), and an ad Double-crested Cormorant with Greats at Brier I., N.S. was late Nov. 26 (MLi, RRV). As many as 8914 migrating Double-crested were reported from Block I., Oct. 18 (RLF, DW) An imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** reported without details at N Chatham, Mass., Aug. 11 was probably a result of Hurricane "Belle" (v.o., *fide* WB).

HERONS — A Great Blue Heron at Miquelon Nov. 20 was an uncommon occurrence there (RME) and in Nova Scotia on Oct. 27, 135 were seen in the air at once over the s.w. corner of Seal I., departing SW (BDMact, SIT) [Seal I. records below are all

BDMact except where noted]. Elsewhere in the Province there were a Little Blue Heron at Centreville, Cape Sable I. from late July to at least Aug. 7 (CDG, JRG *et al.*), single Snowy Egrets at Lawrencetown Sept. 5 (IAMcL) and Louis Head, Shelburne Co., for a week subsequent to Oct. 30 (GDP, Robert Turner, *vide* RDL), and single Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Seal I. Aug. 21 (IAMcL) and Sept. 25. In New England the higher counts of Cattle Egrets were, in Massachusetts, totals of 44 both at Ipswich Aug. 1 and Dartmouth Aug. 8 (v.o., *vide* RHS) and in Rhode Island 40 at Little Compton Aug. 16 (DLE). Of about 16 Regional Louisiana Herons the northernmost were two at Georgetown, Me., to Oct. 5 (EG).

WATERFOWL — An imm. Whistling Swan at Monomoy Oct. 30 was regionally unique this fall (CAG, BN, WB). The Snow Goose migration was under way by late September when a few occurred at Bethel, Me. On Oct. 4 flocks of 60-100 passed over Lincoln Center, Me., Mt. Tom, Mass. and Old Greenwich, Conn., but the peak of the flight seemed to occur about a month later on Nov. 2, 5000 were seen following the Connecticut R. Valley S over Littleton, N.H. in a flock said to be two mi. long (v.o., *vide* RAB). The few Gadwalls to reach the Maritimes this season were one at Souris, P.E.I., Sept. 10 (BDMact), six at Morien Bar, C.B., Sept. 12 (SMAcL) and one at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 21 (DWF, WCR *et al.*). Eight Eur. Wigeons were reported Sept. 25 - Nov. 21 at six localities in s.e. Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

A count of 800 Redheads at Nantucket Nov. 19 was by far the Region's highest (EFA); in Nova Scotia two of these birds at Port Joli Nov. 25 (BDMact) and a Canvasback shot at Cole Harbor Nov. 21 (Sherman Glazebrook, *vide* REa) were rarities. A ♀ Tufted Duck associating with 200 Ring-necked Ducks at Long Plain, Mass., Oct. 8 was apparently unique in the Region (MRC) in Maine, a pronounced influx of goldeneyes along the Penobscot R. at Bangor was noted Nov. 6, when 200 Commons and 40 Barrow's were present, (MLu, *vide* WCT) and a count of 59 Barrow's Goldeneyes at this traditional locality Nov. 14 (NF, *vide* PDV) is almost surely a record for the e. United States. Harlequin Ducks this fall numbered about 22 at seven localities in Nova Scotia, Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and a total of nine King Eiders occurred at six localities in coastal New England Sept. 25 - Nov. 27. Scoter migration was again monitored by M.B.O., October figures for birds passing Manomet Pt being 3974 White-winged, 18,904 Surfs, 2524 Blacks and 22,385 unidentified. Lloyd-Evans considered this about average, peak days were Oct. 19 (1549 scoters/hour), Oct. 20 (1502/hour) and Oct. 26 (2034/hour). Northeasternmost Ruddy Ducks were two in St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 13-18 (v.o., *vide* HJC); about 20 were reported at six localities in the Maritimes; a peak of 637 at Lakeville, Mass., Nov. 11 was the highest count in the Region in years (SH, WRP).

VULTURES, DIURNAL RAPTORS — The season's northernmost Turkey Vulture was one at Kouchibouguac N.P., N.B., Aug. 12 (JRB); on Cape Cod, the occurrence of four Turkey Vultures over Eastham Oct. 24 was considered unprecedented (RAF, WRP). A light-phase ad. **Swainson's Hawk** was found at Monomoy Aug. 20 (WB, AM *et al.*) and a dark bird was studied soaring over Lincoln Center, Me., Oct. 26 (PDV).

An ad Golden Eagle at Riverside, Albert Co., N.B., Nov. 14 was the only one to be reported from Canada (DSC). Ospreys were considered "abundant" in w. Massachusetts (RJG) and in Connecticut (TWB, FWM, NSP); September Ospreys over hawk lookouts in s.w. Connecticut and closely adjacent New York totaled 234 (*cf.* 92 in 1975). The season's two Gyrfalcons were both early, Sept. 24 at Cape Sable, N.S. (CRKA) and Oct. 3 at West Barnstable, Mass. (RP, HW). The Regional total of unmarked Peregrine Falcons was 78 (*cf.* 102 last fall): nine adults, 16 immatures and 53 of unspecified age.

S.A.

The raptor of the season was a **Zone-tailed Hawk** discovered by Andrew R. G. MacInnis at Musquodobit Harbor, N.S., Sept. 24. The bird remained to Oct. 4, was studied by a number of skilled observers (RB, IMacG, IAMcL, ELM, WPN), and photographed. Bearing no bands or jesses, wild in its behavior, unknown in raptor collections in the Maritimes and hardly a species favored by falconers, the bird was almost certainly an authentic vagrant, and an extraordinary one, since in the United States Zone-tailed Hawks have apparently occurred extraliminally only in California and Nevada.

HAWK FLIGHTS — Observers at hawk lookouts were unanimous in considering this a disappointing fall for Broad-winged Hawks. The best day at Mount Tom, Sept. 9, produced only 595, and totals were below last year's at most New England lookouts. The period Sept. 18-21 saw the heaviest movement, and Sept. 19 was a clear peak at many places.

CRANES, RAILS — In Nova Scotia, a noisy **Sandhill Crane** frequenting cornfields around Port Williams Oct. 30 - Nov. 18 provided a first provincial record (RRA, SB, PRH *et al.*) Another Sandhill Crane was briefly present at Saco, Me., Nov. 30 - Dec. 1 (RC, PDV *et al.*, photo). Wandering rails included a Clapper at Seal I., N.S., Oct. 26 - Nov. 5 (BDMact, SIT) and a Virginia in the French island of Langlade during November (MJB, *vide* HJC). Three Yellow Rail sightings came from Wells Beach, Me., Sept. 10 (EK *et al.*, *vide* PDV), Seal I., N.S., Oct. 23 (BDMact, SIT) and Hammonasset Beach S.P., Conn., Nov. 1 (NSP *et mult.* al.).

SHOREBIRDS — In Massachusetts Am. Oystercatchers at Monomoy numbered 14 during July and eight later, three lingering to Oct. 16 (BN *et al.*). At Nantucket the highest count was 14 on Aug. 12 (EFA), and in Rhode Island, five were seen at three coastal localities Aug. 10-17, another at Hammonasset Beach S.P., Conn., Aug. 12 (RJC). Five or six Am. Avocets occurred in the period Aug. 26 - Oct. 20, the northernmost a bird at Canning, Kings Co., N.S., Sept. 18 and for 7-10 days, a fifth provincial record (JW *et mult.* al., *vide* PRH). In Massachusetts single birds were present at Plum I. Aug. 26 - Sept. 26 (HTW, *et al.*), at Wellfleet Sept. 16-21 (PBa *et al.*), the same or another at Nauset Oct. 11-20 (PBU *et al.*) and in Rhode Island two remained at Block I. Sept. 11-26 (SRD *et al.*). In Maine a **Black-necked Stilt** at Cobscook S.P. in Dennysville Aug. 21 was a second state record, the first being an 1889 specimen (MS *et al.*, *vide* WCT, PDV). Among the larger flocks of Am. Golden Plover were 67 at Lamoine, Me., Sept. 6 (WCT), 40 at Manchester, N.H., Oct. 8 (RWL, HWP *et al.*) 40 at Hadley, Mass., Sept. 8 (MY) and in Rhode Island 40 at Richmond Sept. 1 (DW) and 45 at Kingstown Sept. 24 (KBK). At Nova Scotia's Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary the count of 500 Com. Snipe Oct. 10 was extraordinary, eclipsing any previous regional maximum (CD). The shorebird rarity of the season was a photographically documented **Eurasian Curlew** discovered by SP and RRV at Monomoy Sept. 19, which remained until at least Oct. 12 (WB, CAG, BN). This was only the second record for continental North America, the first being the still extant Long Island specimen from 1853. Much less rare but still quite notable were *four* white-rumped whimbrels of one or another Old World race: one at Matthews L., Shelburne Co., N.S., Aug. 20 (GDP), two with three *hudsonicus* on the Tantramar Marshes near Sackville, N.B., Sept. 25 (CD) and one at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 1, the latter reportedly identified as nominate *phaeopus* (MLG). The higher *hudsonicus* Whimbrel counts in New England were 117 on the New Hamp-

shire coast Aug. 10 (DJA) and on Cape Cod 80 at S. Wellfleet July 28 - Aug. 2 (WB) and 200 at Monomoy Aug. 2-3 (CAG). One at Storrs, Conn., Aug. 5 was the first local record since 1893 (RJC). Marbled Godwits numbered about 16 in the period July 5 - Nov. 26. A Hudsonian Godwit total of 108 at eight Nova Scotia localities July 18 - Oct. 30 was high. Maine and New Hampshire records totaled only three individuals. In Massachusetts high counts were 100 at Monomoy July 25-28 and 200 there Aug. 11 (WB), and 72 at Plum I. on the same date. Away from these spots Hudsonian Godwits were scarce: 25 at ten localities in the southern three states, the latest single birds at Nauset (BN) and at Ninigret, R.I. (GB, DLK, EAS), both Nov. 21. A Long-billed Dowitcher at Matthews L., N.S., Sept. 29 was the only one reported north of Massachusetts (RSW); in the Newburyport-Plum Island area the birds were reported Aug. 17 - Nov. 11, the peak apparently 120 on Oct. 17 (MLI, RRV), the latest two at Duxbury, Mass., Nov. 27 (WRP). Seventeen Stilt Sandpipers at five Nova Scotia localities Aug. 1 - Sept. 26 were about average; incomplete New England records totaled 136 at 13 localities, more than half of them occurring at Plum I. (RAF), two there as late as Oct. 31 (JFK *et al.*). Four Upland Sandpipers appeared in s w Nova Scotia Aug. 20 - Sept. 19; one at Kensington, N.H., Oct. 6 was notably late (SHP *et al.*, *vide* KCE). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were scarce; six occurred at three localities in Nova Scotia Aug. 18 - Sept. 19, and in New Brunswick the only ones were three in Saint John West July 22 (CLJ) and one at Mary's Pt. Oct. 20 (DSC). In New England the totals were 25 for 11 localities. The fall's Ruffs were a juvenal at Mary's Pt., N.B., Aug. 17-18 (MM, NM, PAP), a Reeve in Georgetown, Me., Aug. 24 - Oct. 5 (EG), a juvenal at Rowley, Mass., Aug. 17 (MCM) and a bird of unstated age at Nauset Aug. 28 (CAG, BN). The Nauset Curlew Sandpiper alluded to in the previous report was present June 15-20 (BN *et al.*, ph.); fall birds were a molting adult at Mary's Pt., N.B., July 31 - Aug. 19 (SIT *et mult.* *al.*) and at Newburyport-Plum I., a basic-plumage bird July 9-12 (RSH *et al.*) and an adult in nearly intact breeding plumage Aug. 3 - Sept. 9 (MCM, RRV *et al.*). Baird's Sandpipers in the Region this fall totaled 54, about average, and occurred at 22 localities, all coastal except for three single birds in inland Massachusetts. The earliest was July 8 at Plymouth Beach, Mass. (MCM), the latest Nov. 4 at Trustom Pond, R.I., Nov. 4 (DLK). Single Western Sandpipers occurred at Brier I., Aug. 27 (ELM) and at Matthews L., Aug. 30 & Oct. 7 (RSW). In the s. three states observers mentioned its scarcity: *only 34* were reported from 14 localities July 23 - Nov. 21, the poorest fall for W. Sandpipers in years. Red Phalaropes in waters w. and n.w. of Brier I., N.S., numbered 5000 Aug. 26 (RGG, RF, ELM), increasing to 20,000 by Sept. 20 (DWF, WCR *et al.*) and at its apparent peak Aug. 26-29 the N. Phalarope concentration off Deer I., N.B., was estimated at about *two million* (DWF, PDV *et al.*). Finally, about 29 Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from nineteen localities July 1 - Sept. 22.

JAEGERS — Pomarines and Parasitics reported during the period totaled 102 and 245 respectively; the M.B.O. survey found Pomarines at sea more numerous (28 on 13 dates Aug. 1 - Oct. 31) than Parasitics (six on five dates Aug. 15 - Nov. 4), but numbers of Parasitics were observed off Cape Cod: 40 off Provincetown Oct. 10 (WB) and 50 off Eastham Oct. 26 (BN). In Newfoundland the St. Anthony-Lewisporte transit of Aug. 18 produced six Long-tailed Jaegers, five adults and a juvenal (BDMact), these unique in the Region except for an individual at Nantucket Sept. 17 (HLJ, GLS, *vide* EFA). The fall total of 59 skuas, a figure utterly unthinkable just a few years ago, included counts of eight along the "Bluenose" route Aug. 7 (EWP, A S N.H.) and seven in the Seal I. seabird event of Oct. 10. The M B O. survey found 32 on twenty dates Aug. 1 - Nov. 27, most of these in October (15) and November (14).

GULLS, TERNS — Single Iceland Gulls at four localities in Maine and Massachusetts during September may have been previously undetected summerers. In Nova Scotia the well-known Lesser Black-backed Gull at Digby had returned by Sept. 19 (DWF, WCR *et al.*) and on Cape Cod an adult was photographed Oct. 9 at Nauset, the same or another being seen at Wellfleet Nov. 14 (BN, VS). Four ad. **Mew Gulls** were a surprising total for the season: in New Brunswick one at St. Andrews Aug. 7 was a second provincial record following the *brachyrhynchus* specimen of May 5, 1969 (HWMacC, NM, see *AFN* 23:570); in Nova Scotia one was seen at Brier I. Aug. 19 (DS) and another was near Canning Oct. 3 and was photographed Nov. 7 for a first confirmed provincial record (IAMcL, ELM, JW, see *AB* 30:692); one was present at Monomoy Aug. 17-18 (CAG, BN). About 39 Black-headed Gulls from 21 localities included five singles in Maine and Atlantic Canada during August, probable summerers. In Newfoundland a second-year Laughing Gull in St. John's harbor Aug. 8 was well north of the species' usual limits and unlike most Newfoundland occurrences, not storm-borne (SIT). Clearly brought inland by "Belle" Aug. 10 were five Laughing Gulls (with two Com. Terns and five Least Terns) in the Southwick-Agawam-Longmeadow area of Massachusetts. Two Least Terns occurred farther north at Northampton the same day (CH) and the Longmeadow birds (four Laughing Gulls, three Least Terns) were seen criss-crossing the Connecticut line (JC, SK). Later in the season a count of 1450+ Laughing Gulls at Pt. Judith, R.I., Oct. 16 was notably high (RLF). A winter-plumage ad. **Franklin's Gull** at Monomoy Sept. 11 was the only one reported this year (WRP *et mult.* *al.*). At Deer I., N.B., Bonaparte's Gulls were, like N. Phalaropes, exceptionally abundant in late summer, numbering 25-30,000 Aug. 26-29 (DWF, PDV *et al.*). Little Gulls totaled about 35 at 17 localities, of birds reported by age adults outnumbered juvenals 12 to three. The only large concentration of Black-legged Kittiwakes reported was that of 12,000+ off Brier I., N.S., Nov. 27, these said to be 95% adults (MLI, RRV). There were five reports of single Sabine's Gulls: a hooded adult at Deer I., N.B., Aug. 26 (DWF), a gray-naped winter adult at Newburyport Sept. 6 - Oct. 10 (RRV *et mult.* *al.*), a juvenal photographed at Cox's Ledge, R.I., Sept. 11 (THD), a bird of unstated age at Nantucket Sept. 17 (GLS, *vide* EFA) and a juvenal in Massachusetts Bay at 42°38'N 70°04'W as late as Nov. 3 (TLL-E); other individuals were reported at Nauset Aug. 10, Martha's Vineyard Sept. 5 and Barnstable Oct. 30 (*vide* RPE). The four Gull-billed Terns to occur this year appeared in a five-day period, individuals at Nauset Aug. 14 (CAG, BN) and in Rhode Island at Quonochontaug Aug. 11 (ST), at Charlestown Pond Aug. 12 (DW) and near Sakonnet Aug. 14-15 (DLE, RE, CW). An ad. **Sooty Tern** at Cox's Ledge Aug. 11 possibly brought by "Belle" was unique in the Region this year (AC, RAC, DLK). Thirteen Royal Terns were reported from eight localities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, all but two in August, and a single Sandwich Tern occurred at Monomoy Aug. 24 (WB). In s. New England Caspian Terns numbered at least 42 at nine localities Aug. 1 - Oct. 21, some notable counts being nine at Plum I., Sept. 29 (HD'E, KH), and on Oct. 12, 16 at Monomoy and eight at Nantucket (WB, SP). A **White-winged Black Tern** in breeding plumage at Miscou I., N.B., Aug. 19, was a *third* provincial record and only the fourth for the Region (J-PL; see *AB* 25:835).

ALCIDS — Only nine Razorbills were reported in New England waters during October and November, but during November four Com. Murres were reported from three Massachusetts localities. Thick-billed Murres summering in the area from Mount Desert I., Me. northeastward to Grand Manan and Deer I., N.B. from late July to mid-September numbered as many as 21 at eight localities, some of these birds lightly oiled

(NF, DWF, WCT *et al.*). Thick-billed Murre and Dovekie reports in New England amounted only to 13 and 66 individuals respectively during October and November. About 11 Com. Puffins were seen off Cape Ann and Cape Cod Oct. 30 - Nov. 27.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — In recent years Mourning Doves have come to be widespread fall and early winter visitors to the Maritimes; this season birds present at Seal I, N S numbered up to 35 on several dates after Oct. 10, and 20 were still there Nov. 7. During September and October about ten Yellow-billed Cuckoos occurred in Maine, mostly on the islands, two in New Brunswick, 15 in Nova Scotia including eight at Seal I Sept 23 - Oct. 10, and in Newfoundland three in St. John's Sept 4 - Oct. 28. The total of 30 was twice the number reported in the four Regional states. A Black-billed Cuckoo at Lamoiné, Me., Nov. 28-29 was extraordinarily late (Babbidge, *vide* WCT). The season's only Snowy Owls were six widely scattered individuals appearing Nov. 4-30; a **Boreal Owl** closely studied at Roxbury, Oxford Co., Me., Oct. 28 was unique this year (Fred Martineau, *vide* PAC, PDV). Com. Nighthawk counts Aug. 19-28 in Hampden County, Mass. totaled 3519 (SK, MY *et al.*) but on Aug 27, 4000 were estimated at Plymouth, N.H. (SAG) and 535 counted in the Housatonic R. Valley of Connecticut (WL). Unusually late were a Chimney Swift at Milford Pt., Conn., Nov. 6 (RLE) and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Newburyport Oct 16 (WRP), two of the latter occurring as far east as St. John's Nfld., Sept. 25 & Oct. 1 (DB, *vide* HJC).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — Apart from Connecticut, only four Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported, in Maine at Winterport Nov. 1 - Dec. 1 (*vide* PDV) and near Kennebunkport Nov. 7 - Dec. 1 (CR), and in Massachusetts at Chatham Aug. 31 - Sept. 8 (OE) and Gloucester Nov. 14-30 (RSJ *et al.*) Numbering 25 at 18 localities Sept. 12 - Nov. 14, Red-headed Woodpeckers were fewer than in some recent falls; among birds reported by age, immatures outnumbered adults ten to four. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker at Gloucester, Mass., Nov. 20 was unique south of the species' breeding grounds (JN *et al.*) and the much rarer Northern Three-toed was reported only from Chesuncook L., Me. in the second week of September (*vide* WCT, PDV) and at Fogo I., Nfld., Sept. 25 (JEM) The fall's W. Kingbirds were 25 at 22 localities July 28 - Oct 24 Three **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** brought to seven the total of Regional occurrences since 1968; an apparent immature, photographed at Seal I., Aug. 24-26, was a second record for Nova Scotia and Canada (IAMcL). In Maine a full-tailed bird was present at Martinsville Sept. 9-15 (GC, MH), another in Kennebunk Oct. 1-8 (RSA, SH, AMT *et mult al.*; ph.), this one having a brown stripe in the center of its coal-black crown (DJA). Five of these birds have now occurred in Maine, four since 1970. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Hingham, Mass., Aug. 2 was unique this fall (P. Craig *et al.*, *vide* RHS); a spring record previously unavailable was that of one at Chichester, N.H., Apr. 18-20 (DJA, SAG, HWP, TR). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** carefully studied at Block I., Sept. 25 was a second Rhode Island record and a sixth Regional record, the fifth since 1971 (FPF *et al.*). On Cape Cod a **Say's Phoebe** occurred at Monomoy Sept. 6 (WB), another at Wellfleet Sept. 25-27 (PBu, VS, *vide* RPE, BN). The season's only Acadian Flycatchers were three banded at Appledore I, Me., an adult Aug. 18, two immatures Aug. 24 (EWP). At Seal I., N.S. late *Empidonaces* were a Least Oct. 20 and a Yellow-bellied Nov. 8, the latter positively not a Western.

SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — In Massachusetts a late Bank Swallow was at Truro Oct. 21 (MCM) and the Region's last Barn Swallows were all reported Nov. 7: one at Pittsfield (RJG), two at Southwick, said to be by far the latest ever in the Connecticut R. Valley (SK) and two at Chatham (WB,

CAG, BN). A Gray Jay was seen near Petersham, Mass., Oct 23 (BGB) and one or two others were present nearby Nov. 14-20 (George Champoux *et al.*). A Tufted Titmouse near Princeton, Washington Co., Me., Oct. 3 was the northeasternmost reported to date (NR). Red-breasted Nuthatch migration was strong after mid-August in s.w. Nova Scotia (50-100 per day at Brier I Aug 31 - Sept. 3 — ELM). At Appledore 40 were banded in August (EWP), at Block I., only 85 in the period Aug. 30 - Nov. 22, more than half of them Sept. 20 - Oct. 4 (EL).

WRENS, MIMIDS, THRUSHES — At Seal Island 37 House Wrens Sept. 18 - Nov. 7 and 13 Long-billed Marsh Wrens Sept 18 - Nov. 15 were exceptional totals. A **Bewick's Wren** at Monomoy Oct. 12 was one of extremely few recent Regional records (WB, CAG), and single Carolinas in Maine at Appledore in August (banded, EWP) and at Portland in early October (*vide* PDV) were unique north of Massachusetts. The season's seven migrant Short-billed Marsh Wrens were single birds at Seal I Sept. 22, at Bonnet Shores, R.I., Oct. 26 (DW), at Ludlow, Mass., Oct. 27 (SK *et al.*) and in Connecticut at Old Lyme Sept 21 and Oct. 1 (WGB) and at N. Greenwich Oct. 30 (TWB *et al.*) A heavy flight of Am. Robins was noted this fall at many localities. In Nova Scotia Shirley Cohrs termed unprecedented the numbers occurring virtually throughout the province during October and early November; at Seal I., 2500 appeared Oct 25 followed by hundreds daily until the morning of Nov. 9 when as many as 10,000 were estimated passing SW, this movement apparent simultaneously on the nearby mainland at Lockport (GDP). The following day robins were the most abundant land-birds seen in the Gulf of Maine from the "Bluenose" (WCR) but in spite of this spectacular exodus from Nova Scotia there were still 1000 or more in Yarmouth Nov. 28 (ML, RRV). In e. Maine Townsend wrote of the "almost continuous passage Oct 17 - Nov. 10 of flocks of up to 200 birds every hour of every day" and in the Damariscotta area Emerson detected a peak of robins Nov. 7-10 and a greater one Nov. 20-23. Observers in New Hampshire, e. Massachusetts and coastal Rhode Island reported a similar pattern (KCE, RPE, EAS). Hermit Thrushes also abounded almost everywhere, counts of 50 at Salisbury and Plum I., Oct. 30 (RAF), 70 at Seal I., Nov. 9 being but two examples, and the occurrence of unusual numbers during November were reported everywhere.

A Varied Thrush at Rockport, Mass. Nov. 11 was unique this fall (M. Arey, *vide* RRV), a Wood Thrush at Kejimikujik N P., N.S., Nov. 22 was the Region's latest and extraordinary on that date (PRH). Seven or eight E. Bluebirds in Nova Scotia Aug 3 - Nov. 7 were above average.

WHEATEAR — Fall Wheatears in the previous decade have totaled 15, occurring Aug. 11 - Oct. 31, two in August, 11 in September and two in October. This fall's 14 birds are listed in Table 1, from which it should be apparent that the birds did not depart from the recent pattern of chiefly coastal occurrences by single birds, the majority in September. An interesting report was that of ten or more Wheatears alighting in a snowstorm the night of Aug. 31 - Sept. 1 on a ship at 63°09'N 59°16'W, in the n Labrador Sea s.e. of Baffin I., these birds, one would suppose, being eastbound migrants (SIT). At the other latitudinal extreme, a Wheatear was reported on Eleuthera in the Bahamas Oct. 1 (Harold Connor, *vide* EFA).

SOLITAIRE THROUGH SHRIKES — In New Hampshire a **Townsend's Solitaire** at Charlestown Oct. 20-24 was a first state record and the Region's third since last fall (GLK, WWK, *vide* KCE). Five Blue-gray Gnatcatchers occurring in Nova Scotia Aug. 2 - Oct. 31 included one at Seal I., on the latter date, by two weeks the Region's latest (BDMact, SIT). Exceptional numbers of Water Pipits passed southward, spectacular peaks occurring

Table 1. Wheatears, Fall 1976

1	Duxbury Beach, Mass.	Aug. 23-30	(MCM <i>et al.</i>)
1	Charlestown, R.I.	Sept. 7	(DR)
1	Stonington, Conn.	Sept. 7-11	(OD, RCD, EAS)
2	Saint John, N.B.	Sept. 13-16	(DSC, CLI, JGW <i>et al.</i>)
1	Monhegan, Me.	Sept. 16-17	(RLP <i>et al.</i>)
1	Nantucket, Mass.	Sept. 18-19	(Betty Reyes <i>et mult. al.</i> , <i>fide</i> EFA)
1	Annisquam, Mass.	3rd week Sept.	(Mrs. J. Teal, <i>fide</i> RAF)
1	Lamoine, Me.	Sept. 24-28	(PM, WCT)
1	Summit, Victoria Co., N.B.	Sept. 26	(Erwin and Marion Landauer, <i>fide</i> DSC)
1*	Wellfleet, Mass.	Oct. 1	(J. Amen <i>et al.</i> , <i>fide</i> (RRV))
1	Nauset Beach, Mass.	Oct. 2-14	(CAG, BN <i>et al.</i>)
1	Milton, Mass.	Oct. 2-6	(R. Chase, <i>fide</i> RRV)
1	Nantucket, Mass.	Oct. 13	(EFA, JCA <i>et al.</i>)

*injured; specimen to W.B.W.S.

in late September around St. John's, Nfld. and in s.w. Nova Scotia and a shade later in New England. The only flock of Bohemian Waxwings during the period was 40 at S. Bristol, Me., Oct. 5 (Jessie Prizer *et al.*, *fide* PDV), but single birds were seen at Biddeford Pool, Me., Sept. 4 (RC, AMT, *fide* PDV) and at Nantucket Oct. 11, perhaps a first island report (MRC). About 33 N Shrikes were reported, most arriving in late October and early November and none occurring s. of Massachusetts, and Loggerheads, one of the Region's rarest passerines, numbered 14, Aug. 8 - Nov. 9.

VIREOS — Southern vireos in Nova Scotia were a White-eyed netted at Bon Portage I., Oct. 9, a first confirmed record for Atlantic Canada (CC, *A.U.) and individuals seen at Seal I., Sept. 20 & Oct. 11 (IAMcL, ELM), single Yellow-throateds occurring there as well Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 (IAMcL). A Seal I. Solitary Vireo Oct. 16-17 strongly suggested a western race. About 12 Philadelphia Vireos in Nova Scotia Aug. 22 - Sept. 29 were more than usual. Single late vireos in the Region were a White-eyed at Wellfleet, Mass., Nov. 3 (BN), Solitaires at Seal I., Nov. 7, at Greenwich, Conn. Nov. 8 (TWB) and at Strong, Me., Nov. 9 (*fide* PAC), a Red-eyed at Plum I., Oct. 30 (RHS), and Warblings at Block I., Oct. 14 (banded, EL, HL) and at Chatham, Mass., Oct. 19-24 (RRV *et al.*).

WARBLER MIGRATION — Some patterns of last fall's migration (AB 30:34-35) reappeared this year, those species whose populations seem related to spruce budworm outbreaks being again superabundant. Very early Tennessees had returned to the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts by July 19, 22, 23, when single birds were seen at Florence (THG, *fide* SK). A major movement was noted in e. Maine in the third week of August (WCT), 65 had been banded at Appledore by the end of the month (EWP), while very few were banded at M.B.O. and only 22 at Block I., during the entire season, good August numbers occurred in c. Massachusetts and in Connecticut, e.g. 24 at Newtown Aug. 17, 25 at Litchfield Aug. 18 (v.o., *fide* CFH) and 60 at Tolland Sept. 6 (RJC, RLN). Throughout the Region Cape Mays were plentiful: at M.B.O. the first was netted Aug. 16, and the 1975-76 fall banding totals (mean) reflected a 156% increase over the five-fall mean 1970-74 (TLL-E), but the count of 500 at Monomoy Sept. 8-10 may better convey the birds' abundance

(WB). Bay-breasted Warblers remained at a very high level in an influx at Brier I., Aug. 23-24 they were as abundant as Cape Mays (ELM); Bay-breasted banded at Appledore outnumbered Blackpolls 47 to 18 in August (EWP). Though they were a shade less numerous at M.B.O. this season (103, *cf.* 122 last fall) still the mean of these was 621% over the five-fall mean 1970-74

RARER WARBLERS — Southern warblers were few The twelve Prothonotaries occurring Aug. 18 - Oct. 11 were curiously distributed: eight in n. New England and the Maritimes, none on Cape Cod. Single Blue-winged at Grand Manan Aug. 20 (WG) and Seal I., Aug. 27 and Sept. 3 (IAMcL) were unique in the Maritimes, and Nova Scotia Orange-crowned numbered as many as 18, Sept. 26 - Nov. 22, 16 of these at Seal I., (BDMact, SIT), about 44 being reported in New England. A Magnolia Warbler alighting Sept. 15 on a ship at 62°55'N 60°23'W, off s. e. Baffin I., was astonishing (SIT). A previously unreported Cerulean Warbler occurred at Outer Bald Tusket I., N S, June 19 (FWD, PRH *et al.*). Single Yellow-throateds were seen at Seal I. Sept. 18-19 (BDMact, IAMcL, ELM) and at Nantucket Oct. 4 (Barbara Smith, *fide* EFA). Of ten Pine Warblers reaching Nova Scotia, eight were at Seal I. Oct. 11 - Nov. 2 and of about 17 Prairies in the Maritimes eight were there Sept. 18 - Oct. 20 Regional Kentuckys totaled nine, the northernmost at Appledore on an unspecified date in August (EWP). Until recently unknown in Nova Scotia, four Connecticut Warblers occurred at Seal I. from late Aug. to Oct. 15 (IAMcL, BDMact) Another was seen at Fredericton, N.B., Sept. 9 (PAP) and New England reports totaled 42 individuals, all but three in September. It was a good fall for Yellow-breasted Chats: of about 57 occurring north of Massachusetts, 39 in Nova Scotia included 23 at Seal I. Sept. 18 - Nov. 10 and one was found as far east as Lord's Cove on the Burin Peninsula, Nfld., Sept. 23 (RM, *fide* HJC) Hoodeds in the Maritimes were single birds at Brier I., Aug. 29-30 (BDMact), at Machias Seal I., N.B., Sept. 16 (DWF, WCR) and at Seal I. Oct. 1-5.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — Yellow-headed Blackbirds numbered 21, Aug. 24 - Nov. 22, 11 in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, ten in Nova Scotia. The latter were *eight ad. males* at Cape Sable Sept. 6 (NC *et al.*), an immature there Sept. 17, another in Yarmouth Nov. 20 (MWH), the Cape Sable flock being unprecedented in the Region. An Orchard Oriole was at Seal I. Sept. 4, and a ♀ "Bullock's" Oriole was identified there Nov. 9. A young ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole strayed to St. John's, Nfld., Sept. 25 (HJC, MMP). On Cape Cod two ad. male and two ♀ **Brewer's Blackbirds** were found at Truro Oct. 23-27, one remaining to Nov. 14, and the species was at last photographically confirmed for New England (RRV *et mult. al.*) In Nova Scotia a ♀ **W. Tanager** was identified at Cranberry Head near Yarmouth Sept. 14 (MWH, AH), and Scarlet Tanagers numbered about 17, including seven at Seal I. Sept. 22 - Oct. 17, a late bird occurring at Bangor, Me., Nov. 11-12 (L.E., *fide* PDV) The fall's few Summer Tanagers were three at Block I. Sept. 26 - Oct. 6 (RAF, HL, DR *et al.*) and one at Duxbury Beach, Mass., Oct. 7 (MCM).

FRINGILLIDS — About 25 Blue Grosbeaks at 15 localities Aug. 20 - Oct. 25 were more than usual. A ♂ **Painted Bunting** at Tilton, N.H. Aug. 6 or 7 was the first in the Region in several years (Florence Nadd, *fide* KCE, VHH). Dickcissels numbered 86, Aug. 15 - Nov. 26, perhaps a shade above average; 33 of these were in Massachusetts, 30 in Nova Scotia, and the northeasternmost individual occurred at Lord's Cove on the Burin Pen., Nfld., Sept. 23 (RM, *fide* HJC). Unique this fall were a **Green-tailed Towhee** at Wenham, Mass., Oct. 11 (v.o., *fide* RAF) and a **Lark Bunting** at Monhegan Sept. 18-19, ph., for a first confirmed Maine record (RLP, WCT, PDV *et al.*).

"WINTER" FINCHES — Evening Grosbeaks were few and late it was not until Nov. 23-25 that a widespread if moderate movement was apparent. Pine Grosbeaks occurred in very small numbers from Maine to Connecticut after the third week of October, Com. Redpolls were virtually unreported, and Pine Siskins, quite scarce throughout, staged a flight just barely detectable in s. New England Oct. 15-17. Small numbers of both crossbills were present in n. New England; in the southern three states 32 Reds at six coastal localities Sept. 29 - Nov. 28 indicated a very weak flight, and the only White-winged were four at Rockport, Mass., Nov. 29.

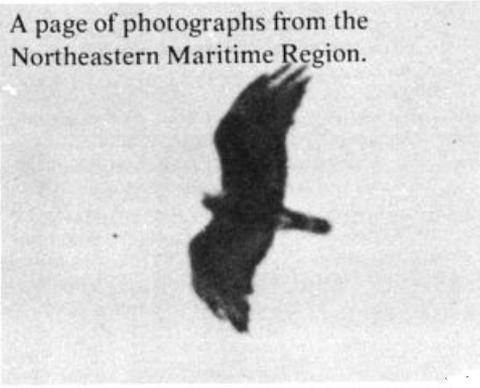
SPARROWS, ETC. — Of as many as 35 Grasshopper Sparrows present at Seal I. Oct. 10 - Nov. 15, more than half were found Oct. 11-15; seven others occurred in Atlantic Canada, the northeasternmost at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 20 (HJC, MMP), while no more than 20 were reported at nine s. New England localities Oct. 12 - Nov. 26. An ad. **Le Conte's Sparrow** was observed at Provincetown Oct. 25, the details not at hand (WB *et al.*, *vide* RPE, BN). Single **Henslow's Sparrows** were found at Seal I., Oct. 12-13 & 24, ph., the latter ph. for a first confirmed record for Atlantic Canada. The only other Henslow's was at East Haven, Conn., Oct. 15 (NSP *et al.*). Noteworthy north of Massachusetts were single Seaside Sparrows at Quoddy Head State Park, Me., Aug. 20 (SBa *et al.*, *vide* PDV) and (again) at Economy, N.S., Oct. 24-26 (FS). The season's Lark Sparrow total was 31 at 18 localities from late August to Oct. 25, 20 of these in September and all but one at coastal points. Clay-colored Sparrows were about three times as numerous as in any previous fall, 30 occurring at 11 coastal localities Sept. 6 - Nov. 7, at least 15 on Cape Cod and three at Seal I. Sept. 18-21, Oct. 2-3 and Oct. 16-18 (EHC, SJF, BDMact *et al.*). Migrant White-crowns appeared at many localities Sept. 13-15 and most observers considered the flight good to excellent, peak counts, both on Oct. 25, being 250 at Seal I. and 100 at Provincetown, the only *gambelii* being seen at Monhegan Oct. 4 (DWF, WCR). Large numbers of White-throated Sparrows were also a feature of the season, both in Nova Scotia and New England, e.g. 750 at Seal I., Nov. 9, 1000+ at Provincetown Oct. 27 (BN). A Lapland Longspur at Castalia, G.M., Sept. 17 was early (DWF, WCR *et al.*) Finally, a particularly heavy fall flight of Snow Buntings was apparent in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, and along the New England coast from Maine to Nantucket.

ADDENDA — Some important records unavailable for previous reports this year include a **W. Grebe** at Hampton, N.H., Mar. 13, a first state record (JBG *et al.*, *vide* DJA), a **White Ibis** at Amherst, N.S., June 9, one of few records for Atlantic Canada (CD), and an E. Phoebe at Witless Bay, Nfld., during July, a first provincial record (HJC). Small numbers of Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found breeding at Salisbury, Conn. in 1975 and 1976 (RJC). Hitherto unpublished is the record of an unquestionable ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** at Orono, Me., July 28, 1957 (Frank Beyer, *vide* WCT).

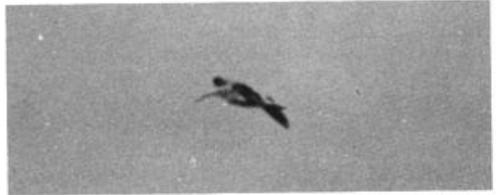
CORRIGENDA — An editorial commented in the Hudson-Delaware spring migration report (AB 30:818) which implied a Rhode Island breeding of Manx Shearwater should be deleted, as should a record of Am. Golden Plover last winter (AB 30:692). The locality of the April Buff-breasted Sandpiper (AB 30:813) was Conrad's Beach, Halifax Co., N.S. The May **W. Wood Pewee** at Monomy (AB 30:814) was seen by WB, CAG, and was not a first Regional occurrence. In a sentence detailing Pine Warbler arrival dates (AB 30:814) read Scituate, R.I., not Mass. The Clay-colored Sparrow photographed at Seal I., N.S., Nov. 2, 1975 (AB 30:35) was not a first confirmed provincial record, a Seal I. bird having been photographed May 18, 1975.

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A page of photographs from the
Northeastern Maritime Region.



*Zone-tailed Hawk, Musquadoiboit Harbor, N.S.,
Sept. 24 - Oct. 4, 1976. Photo (Oct. 3) by Eric Crowell.*



*Eurasian Curlew, Monomoy, Mass., Sept. 19 - Oct.
12, 1976. Second record for continental North
America. Photo (Sept. 20) by Richard Veit.*



*Cory's Shearwater, Woodbury, Conn., Aug. 10, 1976.
First state record. Photo by David Junkin II.*



*Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Kennebunk, Me., Oct. 1-8,
1976. Photo (Oct. 7) by Sibley Higginbotham.*



*Sandhill Crane, Saco, Me., Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 1976.
Photo by Peter D. Vickery.*



*Wheatear, Monhegan I., Me., Sept. 16-17, 1976.
Photo by Richard Plunkett.*

(Continued from p. 197).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH TANAGERS — Meadowlarks present at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex. are estimated to be 40% Eastern, 60% Western (JAG). Rusty Blackbirds were unusually abundant in s.w. Oklahoma and n.e. Texas. Western Tanagers were as scarce in w. Texas in fall migration as they were in spring

FRINGILLIDS — A fledgling Cardinal was being fed at Garland, Tex., Sept. 13 (MF). Pyrrhuloxias moved northward to several localities in the Texas Panhandle. Black-headed Grosbeaks were recorded east to Wichita County, Tex. (J&EK, LS) and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were recorded at several w. Texas localities. A Blue Grosbeak in Linn County remained until Oct. 3 and a ♂ Painted Bunting was sighted in Comanche County Oct. 16 & 26 (CAF). Purple Finches were abundant by the end of the period, but Pine Siskins were almost completely absent. Evening Grosbeaks were reported only in Ellis County, Kans. An ad ♂ Pine Grosbeak which appeared in Big Spring, Tex., Aug. 6 did not stay long enough to be verified by a second observer (SC). Red Crossbills arrived in Ellis County Nov. 3 and Omaha Nov. 7 (Econ, TB). A **White-winged Crossbill** was sighted at Omaha Nov. 11 & 23 (Econ, TB).

Baird's Sparrows and Le Conte's Sparrows were present at Muleshoe N.W.R. during the last week of November (JAG). Le Conte's Sparrows were sighted in Linn County Oct. 3, found dead at Dallas Oct. 15 and present in good numbers at Hagerman during November. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were unusually numerous at Lincoln mid-September to mid-October (DG) and one in Lyon County, Kans., Sept. 3 provided a first county record (J&BS). Tree Sparrows and Harris' Sparrows were abundant in Oklahoma and n. Texas by the end of the period. In recent years Harris' Sparrows have been more common in w. Texas than Fox Sparrows but this fall both were unusually numerous. A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** visited a feeder at Amarillo Nov. 12-18 (RR *et al.*) but disappeared the day before the Texas Ornithological Society's fall field trip convened there. Swamp Sparrows were present in Linn & Ellis Cos., Kans. and Tulsa

Longspurs arrived in the Region in early November although their usual arrival corresponds to the Christmas Bird Count period **Snow Buntings** at Lincoln Oct. 31 & Nov. 7 were "unheard-of early," as Giblein states they rarely appear before February. Snow Buntings were also reported in Jefferson, Coffey and Osage Cos., Kans., in mid-November (HC, NJ).

The Last Word

The gradual improvement our readers have seen over the past few years has taken a rather sudden leap forward with this issue. There are actually sixteen pages in full color in this issue, including two covers and the double page spread (our first gatefold) featuring the lovely Eskimo Curlew. Further changes are planned but we want your views and opinions of our new style, content, and typography.

In recent weeks we have been asked repeatedly by our readers, often in tones of anxiety, whether we were really planning to junk

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the technical articles, and the regional reports, and come out with something slick, pretty, and "popular." The answer is in this issue; our goal, and it may be somewhat difficult to attain, is to maintain (and even enhance) the scientific merit and validity we have increasingly gained, and still present this in a form that is clean and attractive in design. We hold that science and art are not incompatible. But yours is the final judgment; we await it with anticipation.