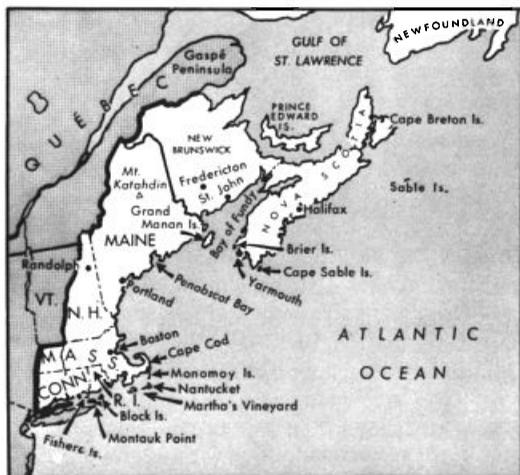


# The Fall Migration

August 1 – November 30, 1977

## NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION /Peter D. Vickery

Wet weather soaked much of the Region in September, October and November. This, and general scarcity of many common migrants evoked more than one disgruntled comment. A Cape Cod birder stated the matter succinctly, "the extreme scarcity of most



migrant passerines is beyond my comprehension." He was not alone in that assessment. Species that were well below average were the fresh-water ducks and most western shorebirds. At Manomet Bird Observatory netted *Empidonax* flycatchers showed a mean decrease of 56% as compared with the five previous autumns. Winter Wrens were almost nonexistent and *Catharus* thrushes were generally few. Both species of kinglets were very scarce; Block Island banders netted no Golden-crowned Kinglets (vs. 154 in '76) and only 7 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (vs. 115). Aside from the late August outburst, vireo and warbler numbers remained unimpressive and sparrows were but a trickle compared to last fall's migration. The few species that were recorded in better-than-average numbers included Ospreys, sapsuckers, Western Kingbirds and soft-wood warblers. In October and November large numbers of winter finches pushed into the Region.

Although no hurricane swept through the Region, tropical storm *Evelyn*, October 15 and a brisk NE storm several days later had an obvious avian impact. Several heron species, Common Nighthawks and

Chimney Swifts, seen in the Region October 18 - 22, were quite certainly carried north by these two systems.

Among the most exciting birds of the season were Nova Scotia's White Pelican, Newfoundland's American Flamingo, a Phainopepla on Tuckernuck Island New Brunswick's first Fork-tailed Flycatcher and a MacGillivray's Warbler in Massachusetts. Unquestionably the rarest bird of the season was a Variegated Flycatcher at Biddeford Pool, Maine.

**LOONS** — In November Red-throated Loons migrated through s. New England in greater-than average numbers with 520 at Andrew's Pt., Mass. Nov. 8 (*vide* RPE) and 1600 at Sandy Neck Barnstable, Mass., Nov. 7 (RP, *vide* BN) being high counts.

**TUBENOSES** — During the past several years N Fulmars have been observed in New England waters earlier each fall. Consistent with this pattern, the first fulmars were observed Sept. 20 with notable peaks Sept. 23 - 25. More than 1000 were seen in the s.e. corner of Cape Cod Bay Sept. 23 (RP, *vide* BN) and 250+ off Provincetown Sept. 25 (BN,RRV *et al.*) Curiously, few birds were seen from the Cape in October, apparently none after Oct. 21 (BN). Only two fulmars were observed from this fall's M.B.O. surveys (TLL-E) while 20 individuals (2 dark) were seen from Seal I., N.S., Oct. 3 (ELM *et al.*).

It was again a very good fall for Cory's Shearwaters. Although there were far fewer seen from the Cape, roughly 121 ± individuals (470 in '76), Blair Nikula points out that this may reflect a lack of onshore storms in October and November. Elsewhere in s. New England waters 723 ± birds were seen in 13 trips to Cox's Ledge, with 400 the high count Aug. 20 (CW *et al.*). A significant movement of 1000+ Cory's was observed 5 mi off Nantucket Sept. 23 (EFA *et al.*) while 300+ birds were seen flying past the island Sept. 24 - 25 (WRP *et al.*). The M.B.O. pelagic surveys observed 55 individuals 5 mi s. of Martha's Vineyard (hereafter, M.V.) Nov. 24 (*vide* TLL-E).

On Sept. 25 a notable pelagic flight was witnessed from Race Pt. and Truro Lighthouse, Cape Cod. In moderate SE winds 250+ N. Fulmars, 40,000+ Greater, 800+ Sooty and 50+ Manx Shearwaters, and 100+ Parasitic Jaegers were seen streaming S along the outer Cape (RRV,PDV *et al.*); the estimations of Greater and Manx almost certainly represent the largest number of each species ever observed from the Cape. Though unprecedented for shearwater numbers observed from land, it was eclipsed by an extraordinary estimated total of 200,000+ Greater Shear-

waters off S. Georges Bank Nov. 11 (Joe Van Os, *vide* TLL-E); a total never before registered in New England waters. Reported from all parts of the Region < 200 individuals were noted; high counts included 20 at Provincetown Sept. 21, 15 at First Encounter Beach Sept. 21, the previously mentioned 50 off the Cape Sept. 25 and finally nine Manx off Brier I., N.S., Sept. 3 (ELM *et al.*).

Apparently Audubon's Shearwaters are not as scarce as previously supposed. Earlier this year two birds were seen in Massachusetts waters. Added to these were a single bird seen off Cox's Ledge Aug. 13 (R Dieter, S. Emmons, *vide* CW) and four Audubon's Shearwaters seen in the Gulf Stream in the S. Great South Channel Nov. 3 (*vide* TLL-E), the last observation remarkable for its numbers and its date.

**PELICANS, CORMORANTS** — An ad. **White Pelican** in West Bay, Inverness Co., N.S., Oct. 19 – Nov. 1, was the first provincial occurrence in nearly 30 years (Ross McLeod *et al.*, *vide* IAMcL,ELM, ph.). Especially interesting is Eric Mills' contention that this bird was quite likely carried E by gale-force SW winds that blew across the Dakotas and Prairie Provinces towards James Bay. These winds then shifted SE toward the Canadian Maritimes. Mills points out that tropical storm *Evelyn* passed through the Maritimes Oct. 15 and that a second low with 80-knot winds passed across the coast of Nova Scotia Oct. 17. The White Pelican was found immediately following these heavy NE storms. He further contends that without such strong NE winds to counteract the dominant SE winds from James Bay the pelican would have continued farther S and probably by-passed Nova Scotia. The impact these two Atlantic storms had on other species will be detailed later.

Double-crested Cormorants migrated S in good numbers throughout September and October but the 23,000+ birds seen flying past Vinalhaven I., Me., Oct. 8 was a remarkable total (ICTN, *vide* RAF).

**HERONS, IBISES** — Later than normal were 14 Am Bitterns on Plum I., Nov. 12 and Little Blue Herons peaked there with 30 (26 ad., 4 imm.), Sept. 3 (*vide* RRV), while four inland occurrences in w. Massachusetts and Connecticut were considered particularly unusual. No fewer than six or seven individuals were seen in Nova Scotia (*vide* RDL). A **Great Egret** near St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 2 (*vide* MMP) and a second bird with two Snowy Egrets at White Head I., N B, the same date, were no doubt carried N by the strong storm systems that passed through the Region in mid-October (detailed ELM). The most remarkable fallout from these storms was the **American Flamingo** at Woodstock, White Bay, Nfld., Nov. 7 (Bruce Johnson, *vide* MMP). Richly colored a "deep pink to rose" there seemed little question that this bird was wild. This represents a first provincial record and the third for Atlantic Canada; previous records coming from Nova Scotia (October, 1969) and New Brunswick (November, 1973). The coincidence of these late fall occurrences strongly suggests that the three Canadian flamingos were all storm-related vagrants, most likely from the Bahamas. It is critical that all regional flamin-

gos receive close scrutiny, and that color intensity, behavior and the condition of the bird be accurately detailed. Clearly, they should not all be routinely dismissed as escapes.

Unusually late was a Louisiana Heron at Plum I., Nov. 12 (*vide* RPE). The imm. White Ibis mentioned in the breeding season report was again located near Scituate Aug. 21-28 (*vide* RRV).

**WATERFOWL** — Seemingly unique in the Region this fall was the Whistling Swan at Moosehorn N.W.R., Me., Nov. 17 – Dec. 3 (NR *et al.*, ph) A single summering Brant was seen off Monomoy Aug. 10 (WRP), while unusual inland migrants occurred at the following localities: a single bird at Franklin, N H, Oct. 20 (KCE *et al.*), three at Hampton, Mass., Nov. 9 (*vide* SK), and 150 at Sharon, Conn., Nov. 10 (AG *et al.*). Snow Geese migrated through the Region Oct. 15 – Nov. 6; the first large flock of 375 observed in w. Massachusetts Oct. 15 (DMcN). The peak occurred Nov. 5 with 1200+ Snow Geese at L. Sunapee, N H (*vide* KCE), 850+ at several other localities in the same state, and 1100+ geese were in w. Massachusetts (*vide* DMcN). Ten **Fulvous Whistling Ducks** observed at Plum I., Nov. 6 (with one individual remaining through Nov. 25), were the first in the Region in several years (*vide* RPE). No less than ten Eur. Wigeon were found in s. New England: seven at four Rhode Island localities (*vide* CW) and three on Nantucket (*vide* RRV). Certainly of note were the 500 Am. Wigeon at Lusby Marsh, N.S., Sept. 10 (CD, *vide* RDL).

Throughout New England freshwater ducks were reported in very low numbers. Northern Shovelers, Redheads, Ring-necked, Canvasbacks, and Ruddy Ducks were all well below average. Redheads reached a high of only 184 birds at Nantucket (800 in '76) and on the Cape Canvasback numbers were considered to be less than 20% of the previous year's. The Ruddy Duck concentration at Lakeville, Mass., peaked at a very low 103 (637 in '76) (BN,WRP,RRV *et al.*) In Maine, both species of goldeneye moved through their traditional locality along the Penobscot R., Bangor, in about average numbers; Barrow's reached a high of 40 in mid-November (NF,MLu,PDV). At the same locality an imm. Harlequin Duck Nov. 11 was a very rare inland occurrence. Elsewhere Harlequins numbered 85 birds, with the largest single flock 69 at Cape St. Mary's, Nfld., Nov. 14 (JW, *vide* MMP). Only five King Eiders were reported in the Region. In w. Massachusetts Oldsquaw made some unusual inland appearances: 65 birds were counted near Pittsfield, Oct. 4 (DMcN) and 25 were seen on Quabbin Res., Oct. 23 (*vide* SK). Off Tuckernuck I., Mass., 100,000 Oldsquaw were carefully estimated at their usual wintering area Nov. 25 (RRV *et al.*). Black Scoters are seen inland frequently, but 1000 near Pittsfield, w. Mass., Sept. 24 – Nov. 10 was unprecedented there (DMcN *et al.*). Remarkable was a count of 8000+ Red-breasted Mergansers off Truro, Mass., Nov. 6, this figure being the highest ever recorded in the Region.

**VULTURES, DIURNAL RAPTORS** — Turkey Vultures across the Region numbered at least 82 individuals. Scarce in Nova Scotia, an ad. Red-shouldered

Hawk was observed over Brier I., Sept. 24 (BMacT *et al.*), which constituted the sixth record in the last three years for that locality. Three **Swainson's Hawks**, all light-phase, occurred in the Region: a sub-adult was easily studied at East Haven, Conn., Sept. 28 for a second state record (NSP *et al.*). Of two Maine birds, the first was seen near Hermon Aug. 29 (MLu) and the second was closely studied over Deer I., Sept. 9 (MH). Five Swainson's Hawks in Maine within one year (four since April), all carefully identified and detailed, is nothing less than extraordinary.

Golden Eagles fairly littered Connecticut and adjacent areas this fall; six eagles (1 ad. 5 imm.) were reported. Single birds occurred at Bald Peak, Salisbury, Oct. 21 (MR *et al.*) and Sharon Nov. 18 (AG). Elsewhere in the Region a single Golden Eagle was seen soaring over Sandy Beach, Mt. Desert I., Oct. 8 (NF *et al.*). Four Gyrfalcons were seen across the Region. A near-black individual was seen on the Lordship marshes, Stratford, Conn., in mid-October (Mark Tuttle, *vide* NSP) and a gray-phase bird was studied on several occasions at Hammonasset S.P., Conn., Nov. 12-14 (LS, *vide* NSP). Farther n. a very dark Gyrfalcon was seen near Prospect Harbor, Me., Nov. 27 (PDV *et al.*) and an unusually early bird was seen on Grand Manan, N.B., Oct. 4 (*vide* DSC).

**HAWK FLIGHTS** — Hawk watches across the Region totaled 5617 Sharp-shinned Hawks, an average count. Cooper's Hawks numbered  $105 \pm$  birds; remarkable for the location were nine over Vinalhaven I., Oct. 6 (ICTN, *vide* RAF). The ratio of 53 Sharpies to every Cooper's vividly illustrates the latter species' scarcity in the Region. Approximately 653 Red-tailed Hawks were counted over New England hawk lookouts. Very rare was a single **Red-tailed Hawk** over Goose Bay, Nfld., July 29 (Richard, Blacquire, *vide* MMP), for only the third or fourth provincial record and the second this year. Broad-winged Hawk flights were not spectacular: 11,778 was the season's total for Mt. Tom, while s. Connecticut registered only 1111 (8800+ in '76). Noteworthy were counts of 2635 Broad-wingeds over Brunswick, Me., Sept. 12 (PKD *et al.*) and 3000 over Brier I., Sept. 14 (Wickerson Lent, *vide* BMacT). The regional total came to  $20,666 \pm$  individuals (not adjusted for duplication). The season's total for Peregrine Falcons was an encouraging 149 birds (78 in '76, 102 in '75). Curiously, of the dozen birds seen on Seal I., all but one were immature (BMacT, SIT). Perhaps Peregrines are beginning to recover.

**CRANES, RAILS, COOTS** — The Sandhill Crane that had been hopping from one part of e. Massachusetts to another, remained on M.V. for much of the summer and was later seen on Penikese I., Oct. 26 (*vide* RPE). The season's only Yellow Rail was reported from Seal I., Oct. 22 (*vide* RDL), just one day earlier than last year's Seal I. sighting. Indicative of the species expansion in n. New England and the Maritimes were the 200 Am. Coot at Amherst Pt., N.S., Oct. 22 (CD, *vide* RDL).

**SHOREBIRDS** — In Massachusetts Am. Oystercatchers continued in improved numbers; a high of 32 individuals was seen on Nantucket Sept. 7, while nine were on Monomoy Sept. 4 (RRV *et al.*). Three Am Avocets occurred in Connecticut and Rhode Island one each at West Haven Aug. 14 (*vide* NSP), Old Lyme Oct. 8-10 (W. Burt *et al.*), and Block I., Oct. 1 (RAF *et al.*). A Semipalmated Plover at Eastham, Mass., Nov. 25 was surprisingly late (WRP, RAF). In Nova Scotia, 900+ Am. Golden Plovers were seen during the fall, 75 birds on Sable I. in mid-September (IAMcL, *vide* ELM) and 500+ individuals at Amherst Pt., Sept. 6-11 (CD, *vide* ELM) were about average. Very late was a single golden plover on Nantucket Nov. 19 (*vide* EFA). Problematic was the observation of a white-rumped curlew at Lubec, Me., Aug. 26 (NF *et al.*). Not critically identified, the wary bird was thought to be unusually large and the striping about the head poorly defined. The white rump was unambiguous as the bird flew away. However, specifically identified, and apparently unique, was the **European Whimbrel** at Martinique Beach, Halifax Co., N.S., Aug. 19 (*vide* ELM). High counts of Whimbrel included 140+ at Monomoy Aug. 9 (CG, BN), 72 at Amherst Pt., Aug. 8 (*vide* ELM), 54 in Sackville, N.B. (*vide* ELM), and  $80 \pm$  elsewhere in New Brunswick (*vide* DSC). There were 26 Marbled Godwits reported; unusual was an inland occurrence at Hadley, Mass., July 24-27 (*vide* RPE) and notably late was one at Plum I., Nov. 12 (RJC).

A Short-billed Dowitcher, heard and critically observed at N. Scituate, Mass., Oct. 29 was surprisingly late (WRP). Five Long-billed Dowitchers in Nova Scotia was slightly more than the usual number (*vide* ELM). Complete dowitcher figures for Massachusetts were not available. Stilt Sandpipers were generally well below average; seven birds at Castalia, G.M., N.B., Sept. 10 (PDV *et al.*) seemed a notable exception. After a poor migration last year, Buff-breasted Sandpipers returned to normal levels in Nova Scotia with some ten records of 30 individuals Aug. 19-Oct. 16 (*vide* ELM). In New England, 47 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were recorded; 14 at Matunuck, R.I., Sept. 16 being the largest concentration (DW). The four Ruffs reported this fall were single birds at Newburyport Aug. 4 (*vide* RPE), Perry, Me., Aug. 13 (GB *et al.*), Quonnie, R.I., Aug. 15 (*vide* CW), and at the U. Mass. stadium, Hadley, Mass. (*vide* SK). The season's two Curlew Sandpipers were found at Ninigret, R.I., Aug. 27 (RAC, *vide* CW) and Grand Anse, N.B., in mid-August (Mike Rigby, *vide* DSC). A regional total of 34 Baird's Sandpipers was below average; the only sizable numbers reported were six at Brier I., Sept. 3-5 (ELM) and seven at Plum I., Sept. 27 (SAP, PDV *et al.*). For the second consecutive fall W. Sandpipers were again quite scarce. North of Massachusetts seven individuals were seen in Maine (PKD, PDV *et al.*), only one or two in New Brunswick (*vide* DSC) and a single bird at Warren L., Cape Breton I., N.S., Aug. 16 (RTB, *vide* ELM). Notably late was a single W. Sandpiper, seen with a Semi, at E. Orleans, Mass., Nov. 25 (WRP, RAF). Northern Phalaropes off Deer I., N.B., expanded from several thousand July 25 (WCT) to 50,000 Aug. 1 (PDV), to at least 2,000,000 birds Aug. 21 (DWF, PDV). By Sept. 12 fewer than

20,000 phalaropes remained in the area. Wilson's Phalaropes numbered 21 individuals at 14 localities, the latest a bird on Penikese I., Oct. 8 (VL, *fide* BN).

**JAEGERS** — On Cape Cod, a NE storm Sept. 21 pushed an unprecedented total of 250+ jaegers past First Encounter Beach, Eastham (CG, BN). Of this number 50+ were Pomarine, 100+ Parasitic, none Long-tailed, and 75+ unidentified. Need it be emphasized that Long-tailed Jaegers are very rare along the N.E. coast? This summer BMC<sub>T</sub> surveyed waters off the Labrador coast July 25 – Aug. 22. At the height of the jaeger migration he observed 143 Pomarine, 58 Parasitic and 356 Long-tailed Jaegers — including one dark-phase ad. Long-tailed. The above figures were considered a routine total at that time of year. Including BMC<sub>T</sub>'s Pomarine and Parasitic figures, the regional totals for Pomarine Jaegers was 283+ individuals while Parasitic Jaegers totaled a remarkable 616+ birds. At least 400+ of the latter species were seen from different localities on Cape Cod Sept. 20-25. In Newfoundland, a total of 12 ad. Long-tailed Jaegers was seen during strong NE winds from L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Sept. 11-12 (BMC<sub>T</sub>). In New England waters single birds were at Manomet Pt., Mass., Sept. 20 (WRP), Sandy Neck Sept. 25 (*fide* RPE) and a very late bird on N. Georges Bank Nov. 10 (*fide* TLL-E). Some 38 skuas, indeterminate as to species, were reported. From Cox's Ledge a light-phase South Polar Skua, was identified Aug. 24 (*fide* CW) as was a Great Skua, seen 8 mi e. of Block I., Nov. 2 (DLK, *fide* CW).

**GULLS, TERNS** — The Digby, N.S., Lesser Black-backed Gull returned for its ninth consecutive year (*fide* RDL) while in Massachusetts two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported: the first at Nauset Oct. 10 (RRV *et al.*) and the second at Sandy Neck Oct. 16 was racially identified as *graellsii* (WRP *et al.*). Two **Mew Gulls** at Sea Cove, G.M., N.B., Aug. 20 were unique in the Region (*fide* DSC). Figures for Black-headed Gulls are incomplete; 17± individuals were reported. Extraordinary was the occurrence of a sub-ad. Laughing Gull, sitting among N. Fulmars, 75 mi e. of Battle Harbour, Labrador, July 28 (BMC<sub>T</sub>). The season's two Franklin's Gulls, both winter adults, were seen at E. Orleans, Sept. 4 (BN *et al.*) and off M V., Oct. 10 (A. W. Nickerson, *fide* TLL-E). Bonaparte's Gulls again numbered at least 30,000 individuals at Deer I., Aug. 20 (DWF, PDV). The 17 Little Gulls reported represents only partial coverage for the Region. The only sizable Black-legged Kittiwake concentrations were 2500+ individuals off Tuckernuck I., Nov. 25 (RRV *et al.*) and the "thousands" reported off Nantucket Oct. 31 (EFA).

Certainly the most extraordinary gull phenomenon this fall was the remarkable number of Sabine's Gull around Cape Cod Bay: an unprecedented 11 individuals were reported. An adult was seen off Stellwagen Bank Aug. 28 (WRP *et al.*), a single immature occurred at Sandy Neck Sept. 18 (WRP), three adults were at Manomet Sept. 20, three (1 ad., 2 imm.) were

seen at First Encounter Sept. 21 (BN *et al.*), a single immature was noted on Nantucket Sept. 25, another immature occurred off Provincetown Sept. 25 (*fide* RRV), and finally, an immature was at Sandy Neck Sept. 27 (VL, *fide* BN). No doubt strong easterly storms during the period Sept. 20-25 contributed significantly to this impressive total. Elsewhere, a single Sabine's Gull was seen off Deer I., Aug. 28 (DWF)

The Region's only Gull-billed Terns were seen at Plymouth Beach, Mass., Aug. 13 and Plum I., Sept. 14 (*fide* RPE). Forster's Terns had a mediocre year with perhaps as many as 14 individuals noted in Massachusetts (*fide* RRV). Terribly late were single Forster's and Com. Terns at Salisbury Nov. 28 (DWF, WCR *et al.*). At least ten Royal Terns occurred at five e. Massachusetts localities, mostly in August, a single Block I. individual Oct. 10 was the latest reported (*fide* CW). Some 52 Caspian Terns was a better-than-average fall number. Especially unusual were: nine at Eastham Nov. 3 (CG, *fide* BN), 13 in Rhode Island in October (*fide* CW), and a single at Biddeford Pool Sept. 9, the species being surprisingly scarce in the state (PA). At least 38 Black Skimmers were found in e. Massachusetts this fall.

**ALCIDS** — Alcids were again very scarce this fall At Rockport, Mass., 20 Razorbills were observed Oct. 15, and 32 birds occurred there Nov. 26 (RAF *et al.*) Eight Razorbills were counted from the "Bluenose" Nov. 27-28 (RR *et al.*) and nine others were reported in the Region. Only 15 Thick-billed Murres were seen in New England waters and Dovekies numbered a sparse 20; six seen on two "Bluenose" crossings, Nov. 27-28 were indicative of the species' scarcity (RR *et al.*) Only 20 Com. Puffins were seen; eight occurred at Rockport Nov. 26 (RAF *et al.*).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH OWLS** — In Nova Scotia, ten Yellow-billed Cuckoos during the period Aug. 15 – Nov. 15, was above average, the latest on Sable I., Nov. 15 (AAR, *fide* RDL). Equally late and more surprising was a Black-billed Cuckoo there Nov. 14 (AAR, *fide* RDL).

In Hollis, N.H., a nesting pair of **Barn Owls** produced seven young for a first state breeding record (KCE). Elsewhere, two were found in Hadley, Mass (*fide* SK). No Snowy Owls were reported. A Hawk Owl was seen near Ft. Kent, Me., Sept. 23 (Gale Flagg, *fide* MHO), the date again suggested the possibility of breeding birds in that part of the state. A roost of 12 Long-eared Owls in Kings County, N.S., Nov. 2 was notable for that province (*fide* RDL). Seven Saw-whet Owls banded at Manomet was a good fall total (TLL-E) while in Maine six were banded at S. Waldoboro (JMC).

**NIGHTHAWKS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — The NE storms of mid-October were almost certainly responsible for the widespread fallout of Com. Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts Oct. 18-22. Single nighthawks were found in e. Massachusetts at Sandwich Oct. 18, Provincetown Oct. 21 and Chatham Oct. 22 (v.o., *fide* BN). A single nighthawk was seen on Block I., Oct. 22 (RLN). At least seven Chimney Swifts were

seen at three Cape Cod localities Oct. 18-21 (BN), while three birds were noted on Nantucket Oct. 20 (EFA), and eight were observed near Windsor, Conn., Oct. 19-21. Small numbers were seen at several places in Nova Scotia Oct. 18-23 (*vide* RDL) and a single swift was seen as far n. as St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 29 (*vide* MMP). A strikingly late individual was seen over Plum I., Nov. 11 (*vide* RPE). Perhaps related to this N movement of nighthawks and swifts were the single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at Cape Sable, N.S., Oct. 23 (*vide* RDL) and Gagetown, N.B., Oct. 25 (*vide* DSC). Remarkable was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Pride's Crossing, Mass., Nov. 13 (*vide* RPE).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Why Pileated Woodpeckers are so rare along the Connecticut-Rhode Island coastal plain is not clear; there being no great shortage of seemingly suitable habitat. But scarce they are; single birds at Old Lyme Oct. 16 (W. Burt) and Hopkinton, R.I., Nov. 6 (*vide* CW) were both noteworthy occurrences. The only Red-bellied Woodpecker n. of Massachusetts was very far n. at Ft. Kent, Me., Sept. 2 (James Gibson). Some 18 Red-headed Woodpeckers in New England was below normal; surprisingly none was reported from Nova Scotia, though four or five birds were seen on Monhegan I., Me., Sept. 15 - Oct. 4 (DWF, WCR *et al.*) and a single immature was observed on Grand Manan Oct. 8 (*vide* DSC). Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers were reported from Alexander, Me., Aug. 31 (NR) and near Peru, Mass., Nov. 30 (*vide* DMcN). Strikingly late was an E. Kingbird at Pembroke, Me., Nov. 18 (SBa). The season's total of 39 W. Kingbirds, several occurring through November was above average. The Region's only **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was an adult at Grand Bay, N.B., from late Oct. - Nov. 15 (*vide* DSC), a first provincial record. Almost coincident with the New Brunswick Fork-tailed was the extraordinary occurrence of a **Variigated Flycatcher** at Biddeford Pool, Nov. 5 - 11 (SB, DWh *et mult al.*, ph.), a first North American record (see p. —). Perhaps surprisingly, Great Crested Flycatchers were seen less frequently than W. Kingbirds in Nova Scotia; single birds on Seal I., Oct. 2 (BMacT, SIT) and at Louisbourg, Sept. 29 (RTB) were noteworthy, the latter quite likely a first Cape Breton record. At least four Say's Phoebe occurred in Massachusetts and Rhode Island Sept. 30 - Oct. 25. The Say's Phoebe flying E off Cox's Ledge Sept. 30 (SRD, NSP, PVD *et al.*) was probably not the same bird banded on Block I., Oct. 10 (SRD). In Massachusetts single birds were seen at Nauset Oct. 1, Nantucket Oct. 1 - 10, and Wellfleet Oct. 25 (*vide* RRV). The northeasternmost Acadian Flycatcher was found at Mt. Desert Rock, Me., Aug. 20 (WCR). An E. Wood Pewee at Chatham Oct. 22 was notably late (RAF, WRP).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — The late swallows noted below were, for the most part, wind-swept individuals carried N by *Evelyn* and the NE storm that followed immediately on *Evelyn's* heels. In Nova Scotia late Bank Swallows were noted at Petite Rivière Oct. 24 and Sable I., Nov. 13 (*vide* SC) Vagrant Barn Swallows included single birds at Orleans, Mass., Nov. 12 (VL, *vide* BN), Northeast

Harbor, Me., Nov. 13 (*vide* WCT), and Easton Pond, R.I., Nov. 19 (*vide* CW). Noteworthy were single Barn Swallows at Port Blandford, Nfld., Oct. 15 and St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 22 (*vide* MMP). Two Cliff Swallows at Provincetown Oct. 15 (RRV *et al.*) were likely storm vagrants but two individuals at Farmington, Me., Oct. 11 were probably not storm-related (*vide* PAC) In New Brunswick Purple Martins numbered an impressive 300 - 350 birds Sept. 4 (*vide* DSC). Blue Jays migrated S through w. Massachusetts in large numbers; 2875 birds in Windsor Sept. 28 was an exceptional total (DMcN). In recent years Com Ravens have been moving slowly S from New Hampshire and Vermont; two, possibly three, birds in the Savoy - Florida section of w. Massachusetts for at least the last three years suggest a breeding potential. Since 1969, ravens have been known to breed 50 mi n. of the Massachusetts border in Winhall Twp., Vt (DMcN). Thus it is not surprising that two **Com. Ravens** were seen at Bald Peak, Salisbury, Conn., Oct. 21 (MR *et al.*) and three there Oct. 28 (NSP, MR *et al.*) These sightings constitute first and second modern records for Connecticut, there being a questionable 19th century specimen (*vide* NSP).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES** — A Brown Thrasher at St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 16 - 18 may have been storm-related (*vide* MMP). American Robins again experienced a heavy flight, though the migration was not equal to last year's. The 20,000 robins seen moving S at dusk near Old Lyme Oct. 23 was undoubtedly the largest single concentration in the Region (*vide* W Burt). The season's only Varied Thrush was seen at E. Riverside, N.B., Nov. 13-14 (*vide* DSC). All *Catharus* thrushes appeared in very small numbers across New England, although curiously 103 Swainson's were banded at S. Waldoboro, Me., Sept. 12 - 15 (JMC) Very late was a single Gray-cheeked Thrush on Sable I., Nov. 15 (IAMcL). The Region's fall Wheatears numbered three with singles at Matthew's L., N S, Sept. 17 (GP, *vide* SC, ph.), Monomoy Sept. 29 (*vide* RPE) and Ogunquit, Me., Oct. 18 - 23 (EWP *et mult al.*). Previously unrecorded was a Wheatear, photographed on Sable I., June 18, 1977 (AAR, *vide* SC), a second spring occurrence for the island.

**WAXWINGS, PHAINOPEPLAS, SHRIKES** — Small numbers of Bohemian Waxwings began appearing in n. New England by mid-October and early November. Two early birds were seen in Brewer, Me., Sept. 14 (NF) and one was seen on Plum I., Oct. 8 - 11 (*vide* RPE). One of the most startling events of the season was the appearance of an imm. ♂ **Phainopepla** on Tuckernuck I., Oct. 7 (MLP, RLP). The Region's two previous records include an adult on Nantucket, Feb. 1973 and an immature female on Block I., Oct. 1975. The season's total for Loggerhead Shrike was only nine individuals.

**VIREOS** — Fall White-eyes Vireos on Nova Scotia's islands have apparently become an annual occurrence. Single birds were found at Seal I., Oct. 7 (BMacT, SIT) and on Sable I. Nov. 15 (IAMcL). Two White-eyed Vireos on Monhegan I., Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, were a surprise (DWF, WCR *et al.*). Yellow-throated Vireos

were scarce in s. New England; the only extralimital record was one on Monhegan I., Sept. 30 - Oct. 4 (DWF, WCR *et al.*). Only three Philadelphia Vireos were seen in Nova Scotia this fall (vs. 12 in '76). Notably late was a Warbling Vireo on Sable I., Nov. 12 (IAMcL).

**WARBLERS** — The warbler migration was best summed up as being "most disappointing." The entire Region witnessed an impressive movement Aug. 25 - 28, with Bay-breasted, Cape May Warblers and Tennessee Warblers predominating. For that brief period the warbler population on the outer Cape was estimated to comprise some 250,000 individuals (BN). There is no doubt that softwood warblers continued to benefit from the spruce-budworm infestation. After the heavy late August flight, the only sizable wave of warblers was noted on Grand Manan and Machias Seal Is., Sept. 18 - 25. Not surprisingly, the dominant species were Yellow-rumped (55%), yellowthroats (15%), and Blackpolls (10%) (*vide* DSC). Under foggy conditions 50,000 ± warblers were seen circling about the lighthouse on Machias Seal I. the night of Sept. 18. The following morning 554 dead birds were recovered, the majority yellowthroats (*vide* WCT). Obviously storm-related were the 100 imm. Yellow Warblers at St. Mary's Bay, Nfld., Oct. 22 (*vide* MMP), the number of birds carried N being quite remarkable. Late warblers included a ♂ Cape May in West Pubnico, N.S., Nov. 16 - 30 and a ♂ Black-throated Green in Orono, Me., Nov. 16 (NF) — both possibly related to the curious number of mid-November sightings on Sable I. and other parts of the Region. Additionally a Blackburnian was at Green Bay, N.S., Nov. 26 (*vide* PRD), a Bay-breasted on Sable I., Nov. 12 (IAMcL) and an Ovenbird there Nov. 11 (IAMcL).

**RARE WARBLERS** — Only five Prothonotary Warblers were reported in the Region this fall; two in e. Massachusetts and three on Sable I., Sept. 14 - 16 (AAR, *vide* PRD, ph.). Surprisingly late was a Worm-eating Warbler at Wellfleet Bay W.S., Mass., Oct. 18 (PB, *vide* BN). Orange-crowned Warblers were few this fall, only four occurred in Nova Scotia and they were reported as scarce in s. New England; 18 occurred in Massachusetts in October (*vide* RPE). One of the outstanding warbler rarities of the season was the imm. ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Salem, Mass., Oct. 18 - Nov. 23 (RSH *et mult. al.*, ph.), one of very few confirmed records for the state. The only



*Black-throated Gray Warbler, Salem, Mass., Oct. 18 - Nov. 23, 1977. Photo/ Richard S. Heil.*

vagrant Cerulean Warbler was a single bird as far n. as Sydney, N.S., present for two weeks in early September (E & R Blakeburn, *vide* PRD). Observers in Massachusetts found two Yellow-throated Warblers, while in Nova Scotia single birds were seen on Sable I., Sept. 20 - 25 (AAR, *vide* PRD) and Seal I., Oct. 4 (BMacT, SIT). A Yellow-throated Warbler in Epsom, N.H., Oct. 4 was one of only very few state occurrences (*vide* KCE). The correct dates for the Kent I., N.B. bird mentioned in the previous report are Aug. 11 - 19 (*vide* DSC). Nova Scotia's only Pine and Prairie Warblers occurred on Seal I., Sept. 5 and Oct. 1 - 2, respectively (BMacT, SIT). Single Kentucky Warblers were found in Fairfield, Conn., Sept. 5 (DH), Kingston, R.I., Aug. 11 (DLK, *vide* CW) and Seal I., Oct. 2 (BMacT, SIT). Two were noted in Chatham, Mass. (*vide* RPE). The warbler rarity of the season was unquestionably the **MacGillivray's Warbler** discovered in Lexington, Mass., Nov. 13 - 28 (RHS *et mult. al.*) Banded, measured and photographed, this was thought to be a first Regional occurrence but examination of skins at M.C.Z. brought to light a previous Massachusetts specimen found in 1972 and incorrectly labelled as Mourning Warbler. Clearly, all late



*MacGillivray's Warbler, Lexington, Mass., Nov. 13 - 28, 1977. Photo/ Simon A. Perkins.*

*Oporornis* warblers deserve close scrutiny, especially in light of the unusual number of late Mourning Warblers reported, perhaps as many as eight in October, the latest in Truro, Oct. 23 (VL, *vide* BN) Yellow-breasted Chats were sparse across the Region and the only unusual Hooded Warbler was found on Machias Seal I., Sept. 18 (*vide* WCT).

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — A **Bobolink** at Stephenville Crossing, Nfld., Sept. 17 provided one of few provincial records (*vide* MMP) but more unusual was the **Eastern Meadowlark** at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nov. 22 - 30 (BMacT). As with many w. vagrants this fall, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were fewer than usual, only 11 birds reported. Late reports confirmed at least three Massachusetts breeding records for Rusty Blackbird. This summer nesting birds were found in Savoy, Florida and Hawley (*vide* RAF). This fall Brewer's Blackbirds again appeared in e. Massachusetts; as many as 4 - 6 birds were found at the well-known chicken farm at Truro (BN, RRV *et*

al), two females were seen on Nantucket (*vide* EFA), and a single male was easily studied at Bridgewater (WRP *et al.*). A ♀ **Brewer's Blackbird** at Popham Beach S.P., Me., Oct. 2 was a first state occurrence, but not surprising in light of other New England records (DD,ECL). A Brown-headed Cowbird at Flower's Cove, Nfld., Nov. 11 was well n. of the species' known breeding range (BMacT). In Massachusetts single W. Tanagers were found at Provincetown Sept. 23 (*vide* RPE) and at Manomet early Nov. - Dec. 15 (TLL-E). Curious were single ♂ Summer Tanagers appearing at feeders in Cheshire, Conn., Nov. 29 - Dec. 10 (NSP *et al.*) and Biddeford Pool Nov. 29-Dec. 1 (FC *et al.*).

**FRINGILLIDS** — The Region experienced a generally poor fall; w. and s. vagrants were few in number and common migrant sparrows were almost equally scarce. Despite the mediocre fall, four Black-headed Grosbeaks were found; two occurred in Nova Scotia, the first at Amherst Aug. 10 (CD, *vide* PRD) and the second at West Pubnico Oct. 15 - 17 (*vide* PRD). In Massachusetts single Black-headed Grosbeaks were found at Peabody Sept. 22 and Princeton Sept. 18 (*vide* RPE). Only eight Blue Grosbeaks occurred in the s. part of the Region while two were found on Monhegan I., Sept. 30 - Oct. 4 (DWF,WCR *et al.*) and a single bird was seen on Grand Manan Oct. 10 (*vide* DSC). A ♀ Indigo Bunting in St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 3 furnished one of few provincial records (*vide* MMP). The fall total of 20 Dickcissels was slim indeed. Representing a new n. breeding limit for the state, a pair of House Finches apparently nested in Rumney, N H, two adults and three young frequented a feeder all summer (Guy Jaquith, *vide* KCE). The season's two **Lark Buntings** were seen in South Peabody, Mass., Sept. 19 - 23 (RSH *et mult. al.*) and Seal I., Oct. 1 - 2 (BMacT,SIT *et al.*, ph.), the latter a second confirmed provincial record.

**WINTER FINCHES** — Evening Grosbeaks staged a massive flight from n. parts of the Region in early September and passed through s. New England throughout September and October. In Branford, Conn., 1438 grosbeaks seen flying S in a three hour period was considered representative of the heavy movement (NSP). After mid-October Purple Finches were practically nonexistent. Apparently there was a notably poor cone crop in n. forests because Pine Grosbeaks also headed S in November and redpolls were present in large numbers in c. Maine by mid-November. Pine Siskins followed Evening Grosbeaks S, experiencing a heavy flight that was two-to-three weeks later than the grosbeaks. Finally, White-winged Crossbills were seen in good numbers in e. Massachusetts from late October - November (WRP).

**SPARROWS** — Two Grasshopper Sparrows on Seal I., Oct. 4 - 23 (*vide* PRD) was perhaps a more representative figure for the island than last year's 35. The only Seaside Sparrow n. of Massachusetts was a single bird at Eastern Egg Rock, Me., Aug. 5 (SWK). Lark Sparrows across the Region were a meagre 15 birds. The fall's 20 Clay-colored Sparrows at 11

localities was less than last year's 30 individuals, but higher than in recent years. An imm. Harris' Sparrow in Orono, Me., Oct. 15 - 17 was photographed for a second confirmed state record (NF,PDV *et al.*) and another was seen in Hancock, N.H., Nov. 10 through the period, a sixth New Hampshire occurrence (KCE *et al.*). Compared to last year's flight White-crowned Sparrows were but a trickle, very few being seen anywhere. Interestingly, two *gambellii* were found on Seal I., Oct. 5 - 9 (BMacT,SIT). Finally, White-throated Sparrows, like White-crowns, were generally few and had departed northern areas early

**CORRIGENDUM** — The record of the Franklin's Gull and two Sabine's Gulls from Cape Sable I., N S, Jan. 1976, should be deleted.

**SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS** (boldface italic), **CONTRIBUTORS** (boldface), **OBSERVERS** and other abbreviations — Dennis J. Abbott III, **Paul Adamus**, **Charles R.K. Allen**, **Edith F. Andrews**, **George Appell**, Sid Bahrt (SBa), Priscilla Bailey, Wallace Bailey, Greg Ball, Susan Bowie, **Tom Burke**, **William Burt**, **Roger T. Burrows**, Joe M. Cadbury, Peter F. Cannell, **David S. Christie**, Robert A. Clayton, **Shirley Cohrs**, Eric Cooke, Rena Cote, **Robert J. Craig**, **Peter A. Cross**, **Florence Cyr**, **Paul J. Desjardins**, Con Desplanque, **Phyllis R. Dobson**, **Paul K. Donahue**, Dale Dorr, **Susan R. Drennan**, **Kimball C. Elkins**, **Ruth P. Emery**, **Norman Famous**, Richard L. Ferren, **Davis W. Finch**, **Richard A. Forster**, James Gibson, **Arthur Gingert**, Carl Goodrich, **Richard S. Heil**, **C.W. Heilleiner**, **Bartlett Hendricks**, **Don Hoechlin**, **Mary Holmes** (MHo), **Margaret Hundley**, **Seth Kellogg**, Douglas L. Kraus, **Steve W. Kress**, **Robert D. Lamberton**, **Helen Lapham**, **Vernon Laux**, E. Christopher Livesay, **Trevor L. Lloyd-Evans**, **Michael Lucey** (MLu), **Bruce MacTavish**, **Frank W. Mantlik**, **Ian A. McLaren**, **Doug McNair**, **Eric L. Mills**, **Blair Nikula**, Ian C.T. Nisbet, **Robert L. Norton**, **Michael M. Parmenter**, Robert Pease, Simon A. Perkins, George Perry, **Wayne R. Petersen**, Elizabeth W. Phinney, **Margaret LaF. Pinsky**, Robert LaF. Pinsky, **Noble S. Proctor**, Alan A. Richards, **Mike Root**, **Nellie Ross**, **Richard Rowlett**, **William C. Russell**, Lee Schlesinger, **Robert Scully**, **John Souther**, **Robert H. Stymeist**, **Stuart I. Tingley**, **William C. Townsend**, **Richard R. Veit**, Peter D. Vickery, Dallas Wait, John Wells, David Whittier (DWh), **Charles Wood**, Manomet Bird Observatory, Museum of Comparative Zoology, ph., photographed, v.o., various observers. — **PETER D. VICKERY**, Box 14, Lincoln Center, Maine, 04458.

## QUÉBEC REGION

/Normand David and Michel Gosselin

Weather conditions were normal in August, but September was unusually cloudy and rainy. These conditions continued into October, but not for long, as "Indian Summer" brought warm and sunny periods lasting until month's end. November was generally warm and, as usual, winter soon set in. Observers must be reminded that the purpose of this column is



at I du Moine Aug. 7 (BB *et al.*), and two were at Québec City Aug. 30 (DBo). Two imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes turned up at Sherbrooke Nov. 8 (PBo). An addition to the Beauharnois area list was a **Forster's Tern** seen Aug. 21 - 25 (MM *et al.*); two Caspian Terns, always rare away from the St-Lawrence, were at Aylmer Oct. 1 - 6 (IJ,PJ). In LaVérendrye P.P., a Rock Dove was seen at L. des Fourches July 18 (DBa) Another amazing occurrence was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Brador Aug. 20 (DWF); there is only one old Labrador sight record for this species.

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH KINGLETS** — Except for a pair feeding three young at Oka Aug. 21 (PBA), all Red-headed Woodpeckers reported were immatures at the e. limit of their range: one at Cap-Tourmente Aug. 8 (SD) and Oct. 2 (DBa), the other at Giffard, Québec City, Sept. 28 (GR). Many vagrant birds may follow the n. shore of the St. Lawrence R., but very few are reported owing to lack of observers there That was not the case however for the **Ash-throated Flycatcher** discovered at Franquelin Oct. 10 by JMB. His description (details in *Bull. ornith.*), is so far the only evidence of the species' occurrence in the Province. In August and September the fewest reports since 1971, were received for Tree and Barn Swallows, but duplicated those previously established for June and July (*Club des Ornithologues de Québec*, below, *C O Q.*). Ten Bank Swallows lingered at Oka until Oct 13 (YB), two weeks later than the former latest departure date. Common Crows occurred n. of their known range: three at Blanc-Sablon Aug. 14 (DWF), and one at Schefferville Sept. 18 (BG). The very low numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets could be related to the high winter mortality of these birds as documented by LeGrand in *AB* 31:320. In each month, June through October, this kinglet was reported half as often as the average for 1971-76 (*C.O.Q.*).

**WAXWINGS THROUGH SPARROWS** — In early November the departure of Cedar Waxwings coincided with the early arrival of Bohemian Waxwings in various localities along the St. Lawrence R. valley. A Yellow-throated Vireo at Sherbrooke Oct. 5 (PBo), was unprecedentedly late. There was a heavy movement of Red-eyed Vireos and Black-and-white Warblers in August but they were notably scarce in September (*C O Q.*). Whereas the August and September reports of Tennessee Warblers were the highest since 1971, those of the Nashville Warbler were the lowest for the same period (*C.O.Q.*). A ♂ **Yellow-headed Blackbird** studied near Dorion Sept. 8 (JW) was our ninth regional record and the fourth in fall (all Sept. 8 - Oct. 6) A wounded Scarlet Tanager was seen at Beauharnois Nov. 20 (DBe), by far the latest fall record. Cardinals did not show any sign of having been hard hit by the severe 1976-77 winter; at least ten birds were reported for the season, certainly not a below-average figure A description († Nat. Mus. Can.) was received of an unconfirmed ♂ **House Finch** seen on Mt-Royal Oct 7 (MA). Observers should be aware that more than 60% of the ♀ Purple Finches banded and recaptured by Kennard (*Auk* 76:363-4) showed

“definite pink, of varying extent and intensity, over head, neck, rump, and sometimes out over the breast”

A notable influx of Pine Grosbeaks started in October along the St. Lawrence Valley, and the birds were up to three times more numerous than usual, until the end of the season (*C.O.Q.*). Pine Siskins were also well in evidence and one flock in Forillon N P , Aug. 29, comprised 3000 birds (JH). For some yet unknown reason, White-crowned Sparrows were unprecedentedly scarce this year (*C.O.Q.*).

**EXOTICS** — In this category were two first-year Black Swans (*Cygnus atratus*) of unknown origin, shot at St-Ignace I., Nov. 6 (*vide* JC); a Java Sparrow (*Padda oryzivora*) found dead in Montreal this fall (*vide* MBu), and a Red-crested Cardinal (*Paroaria coronata*) seen at Pointe-Claire in July (*vide* MM). See also *AB* 30 702

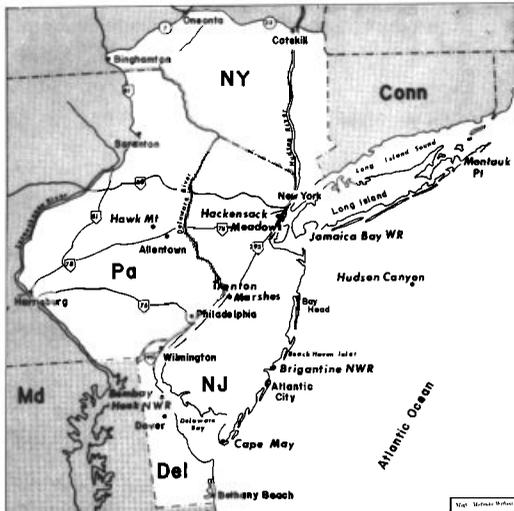
**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** — M Ainley, C. Allard, P. Bannon (PBA), D. Banville (DBa), B. Barnhurst, Y. Bédard, J.M. Belisle, D Bellemare (DBe), R. Bider, P. Boily (PBo), D Bordage (DBo), F. Brabant, M.Brigham (MBm), M Bureau (MBu), **R. Cayouette** (Québec City Area: 8191 Av. du Zoo, Charlesbourg, Qué.), J. Chabot, P Chagnon, D. Cyr, S. DeMarre, J.L. Desgranges, G Duquette, D.W. Finch, R. Fortin, B. Gauthier, G Gendron, E. Greene, D. Hamel, J. Hardy, B. Houde, L. Houde, G. Huot, I. Jones, P. Jones, M. **McIntosh** (Montréal Area: 136 Millhaven, Pointe-Claire, Qué.), **R.M. Poulin** (Hull Area: 161 Thistledown Court, Ottawa, Ont.), G. Rondeau, J. Steeves, R. Titman, J. Wright, †=detailed description on file. — **NORMAND DAVID**, Centre de Recherches Ecologiques de Montréal, 5858 Côte des Neiges #400, Montréal, Qué., and **MICHEL GOSSELIN**, 6151 Henri-Bourassa E. #107, Montréal-Nord, Que.

## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

The weather for fall 1977 was about as varied as it can be in our Region: we had temperatures in the 100s from Philadelphia to New York City in August, dropping to the high 20s along the coast in November and into the low 20s in the “normally colder” mountains. The Hazelton, Pa., area was slugged with a freak 10-12 inch snowfall October 17, but the rest of the Region was effectively snow-free through the period. Exceptionally heavy persistent rains associated with stationary extratropical northeasters in September raised coastal water levels to record highs — fortunately after the shorebird migration and just in time for waterfowl. October was average in temperature and precipitation and November was exceptionally rainy, but mild.

An abnormal occurrence of high pressure ridges centered in the Canadian Maritimes in September, coupled with coastal storms, precluded the usual cold fronts which advance across the Region northwest to southeast, bringing in their wakes hawk flights and



major passerine waves. Without exception, observers stressed the absence of large waves or flights, and concomitantly poor numbers of warblers and other insectivores. The dam burst September 28, following about 10 days of continued rain over most of the Region, and the finest hawk flights of record occurred in the ensuing weeks (see below).

Few pelagic trips were taken in the period, although some remarkable counts of pelagic birds were made from the shore of Long Island. During October's good weather excellent hawk movements occurred on the inland ridges, and splendid counts of Canada Geese and normally coastwise waterfowl were tallied inland. Draining of a greater-than-usual number of inland lakes and reservoirs in August-September, and water-management strategies which led to draining of the East Pond at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge all produced some of the best shorebirding in the northern part of the Region in years (34 species at J.B.W.R., 25 of them on September 3). Unfortunately, Bombay Hook, Little Creek and Brigantine refuges all had impossibly high water after early or mid-August, and thus some of the poorest shorebird numbers of recent memory. Red-breasted Nuthatches began moving southward in August, and chickadees in September. Typical October migrants (sapsucker, Winter Wren, both kinglets, creeper, Hermit Thrush) were in very low numbers this fall, one reporter relating this to last year's hard winter in the South. An excellent flight of skins materialized in mid-October, and while all the other winter finches soon followed, their numbers were more modest.

It was a splendid fall for rarities, and many species normally mentioned at this point were supplanted by those we call especial attention to: Northern Fulmar, Wood Stork, White Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bar-tailed Godwit, Brown Noddy, White-winged Black Tern, Say's Phoebe, Mountain Bluebird, Wheatear, "Audubon's" Warbler, Boat-tailed Grackle, Brewer's Blackbird and Lark Bunting.

**LOONS, PELAGICS, WADING BIRDS** — Unusual as to both date and location was a Red-throated Loon at Harveys L., Pa., Sept. 25 (EJ,KMcG) At least 650 Com. Loons passed Hawk Mt., with a season's record peak of 488+ Nov. 13 (AN). Unprecedented is the only word to describe the numbers of **Northern Fulmars** seen off Long Island in late September. AJL hardly believed his eyes as he watched some 24 feeding at the end of the Democrat Pt. (Fire I. Inlet) jetty during the protracted storm of Sept. 24. The same day off Montauk Pt., a pelagic trip recorded 59, four of them being seen n.w. of the point, flying out of Block I. Sound, as were several the next morning (THD,JA *et al.*). Infuriatingly, none was seen anywhere in the Region the remainder of the season, save one picked up dead at Jones Beach Nov. 10 (WW; skull to A.M.N.H.). Manx Shearwaters were well-represented, with maxima of three off Montauk Sept. 5, six there Aug. 27 (both THD *et al.*) and an abnormal influx of late birds included singles at Mecox Oct. 10 (PAB,THD), at Hudson Canyon Nov. 20 (PWS *et al.*) and at Montauk Nov. 26 (THD *et al.*). The last Greater Shearwaters (there were no later pelagic trips) were 18 at Hudson Canyon Nov. 20 (PWS *et al.*); an unidentified shearwater at Montauk Nov. 26 was probably a Cory's. The Region's latest-ever Wilson's Storm-Petrel was well seen at Montauk Oct. 9 (PAB,THD). Early Great Cormorants were seen at Greenwich Pt., Conn., Aug. 15 (DB), and experienced observer Allan Keith reported an immature from Penn. Manor, Pa., Nov. 25.

Observers at Cape May Pt. were astonished to see a **Wood Stork** come sailing in off the ocean on the surprising date of Nov. 13 (PD, ph.). It was seen on and off in lower Cape May County for the next month, but could not be reliably pinned down. Found dead Dec. 24 at W. Cape May (last winter's Brown Pelican met the same fate), it apparently provided the first New Jersey record since one at Stone Harbor in September, 1951, which in turn was preceded only by Witmer Stone's birds at Cape May Point in 1922 and 1923. The 1958 invasion apparently bypassed New Jersey.



*Wood Stork, Cape May, N.J., autumn, 1977. Photo undated, unattributed.*

**White Ibises** left over from the early summer invasion remained throughout s. New Jersey until the end of the period (e.g. Stone Harbor). Additional reports following those in the summer season account were: up to eight in early August at Little Creek, Del

(JMA); one August 23-30 in Holtwood, Pa. (MGr); one Aug 17 at Blairstown, N.J. (BH, *fide* FPW); one Sept. 12 and three going to roost Sept. 19, all in the Hackensack Meadows (below, H.M.) (RK); at least two remained in Mt. Sinai Harbor, L.I., to Aug. 17 (RWS,DC); one was at J.B.W.R., Sept. 4 (M&HH), and one at Montauk Pt., flying in off the ocean from Block I., Sept. 11 (JA) must have been particularly galling to Rhode Islanders, where the species has not been authentically recorded.

**WATERFOWL** — All observers reported an excellent flight of Canada Geese, with Hawk Mt. tallying 30,340+ and a peak of 18,450+ Oct. 7 (AN). A presumed "Richardson's" Canada Goose was at L. Ontelaunee Oct. 17 with Canadas (TC); this race or species now occurs annually. Of even more than annual occurrence, a Greater White-fronted Goose was at Higbee Beach, Cape May, Oct. 6 (JA). Excellent numbers of Snow Geese were noted from the n.e. part of the Region where they formerly were not so numerous. This change in migration patterns, doubtless associated with the species' increased abundance in s New Jersey (cf. 13,000 at Dennis Creek G.M.A. in early November, *fide* CS), saw counts like 2500 over Rye, N.Y., almost unheard of 10 years ago, but now to be expected. The Brant picture following last year's hard winter is still somewhat muddled. U.S.F.&W.S. aerial surveys of the entire Atlantic Coast in the first week of November, when most Brant can normally be expected to have arrived at the coast, totalled only 35,000 although Long Island was not included. Complete counts in early December totalled 60,000 — a low but not catastrophic figure. Still another census in January, 1978 yielded *ca.* 45,000, and waterfowl biologists are now trying to sort out the various interpretations of these conflicting results (RA, pers. comm.).

One Fulvous Whistling Duck was at the H.M., Sept. 20 (DR,GMCC), and 18 arrived at Hempstead Res., L I, Nov. 20 (RDe *et al.*), two remaining until Nov. 28. A Black Duck 100 mi out in the ocean at Hudson Canyon Oct. 24 (JKM *et al.*) may give some insight into the form's decline on the Atlantic Coast. A Green-winged Teal with brood of nine was found at Whitesbog, N.J., Aug. 3 (*fide* JKM), yet another regional breeding site. Intriguing but unverified was a report of a ♀ Pintail with young on a freshwater pond on the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Is. in mid-July. This would be only the second known breeding in coastal New York. A smattering of probably summering eiders was reported from the New Jersey coast in early fall, and by late November 300+ Commons had arrived at Montauk. An eclipse-plumaged ♂ Harlequin Duck was found at Jones Inlet, Sept. 2, where it probably summered; it was seen by many and photographed until shot (probably sitting) by a hunter who allegedly mistook it for either a Wood Duck or Black Duck. The only equivalent early report was of a male at Fire I. Inlet Sept. 25, 1971 (MC).

The usual inland fallout of migrating scoters was unusually heavy this year. Peak counts were frequently local maxima, among them the following Pennsylvania Black Scoter counts, all on Oct. 23: 140

at Harveys L. (WR,EJ,KMcG); 70 at Penn Forest Res., Carbon Co. (REW); 292 at L. Ontelaunee (MS), and 400 at Green Lane Res. (GF). The peak count of Ruddy Ducks on the lower Delaware R. was only 5000 this year, still (and permanently?) down after the disastrous oil spills of the last several years (JTM)

**RAPTORS** — Virtually all observers, north and south, coastal and inland, stressed the magnitude of this year's hawk flight. Records fell left and right, both daily and seasonal. For example, at Hawk Mt., the previous seasonal total of 8529 Sharp-shinneds in 1939 was broken by 12,803 this year; Am. Kestrels rose to 819 from 736 in 1968; at Hook Mt., Upper Nyack, N.Y., in operation only since 1971; a seasonal high of 7070 Sharp-shinneds eclipsed the 6018 in 1975, the 75 Cooper's erased the 55 in 1974 and previous totals for Marsh Hawk, Osprey, Peregrine and Merlin were overshadowed this year. At Fire Island, 2000+ Sharp-shinneds and 2500+ Am. Kestrels Sept. 29 (THD,HD *et al.*) set N.Y.C. area records, as did 300+ Merlins at Jones Beach Sept. 28 (AW,EL). In the period Sept 28–Oct. 4, a minimum of 7 Goshawks, 3225 Sharp-shinneds, 6860 Am. Kestrels and 322 Merlins passed the w. end of Fire I. Staggering as these figures were, they were effortlessly surpassed by those from Cape May Pt., which now must be considered the raptor capital of North America: in the three months of September–November, 81,000+ hawks were tallied there. If that figure were not enough by itself, note that it includes some 47,000+ Sharp-shinneds (with 11,000+ on Oct. 4 alone!), 864 Cooper's, 61 Peregrines and 766 Merlins. The seasonal total for Cape May surpasses the previous seasonal total for any one North American hawk observatory, *viz.* Duluth's 71,451 in 1970 (*fide* DH) and was double that of Hawk Mountain Superlatives fail under these conditions.

Table 1 gives a species breakdown for seven major hawk observatories in the Region for which we obtained data. We will merely point out that (1) Sharp-shinneds, Merlins, and Am. Kestrels are clearly more coastwise than cis-montane migrants; (2) the reverse is true for Broad-winged although they appeared at coastal locations this year in almost unprecedented numbers; (3) the Cooper's: Sharp-shinned ratio varied from 1:22 at Raccoon Ridge to 1:416 at Montclair, but most locations were in the 1:40 - 1:94 range (*cf.* discussion in AB 31:157); and (4) Marsh Hawk and Osprey seem equally distributed coastally and inland. Another unequivocal bright spot: a minimum of 133 separate Peregrine Falcon reports was received, including several of radio transmitter-tagged individuals. Very many were immature, although complete age breakdowns are not at hand. Golden Eagles at Hawk Mt. were 62% immature, but only 33% of Bald Eagles were. Similar data are completely unavailable for Cooper's Hawk, but should be taken in the future.

Among raptor rarities, Swainson's Hawk takes top billing, occurring at Cape May for the fourth year since 1973 (only 1974 was missed). An immature, probably second year bird, was seen Sept. 29 (SC,AN), an (-other?) immature was banded Oct. 4 (WC) and an adult was seen Oct. 29 (PD,CS). Two more Swainson's were seen in the Region this year, a sub-adult at Hawk Mt.,

**Table 1. 1977 seasonal totals for diurnal raptors at seven major hawk lookouts in the Hudson-Delaware Region.\***

Species	Sunrise Mt.	Hook Mt.	Upper Montclair	Raccoon Ridge	Skyline Ridge	Hawk Mt.	Cape May	Totals
Goshawk	18	28	5	60	39	110	21	281
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1272	7070	4577	4070	9548	12803	47790	87130
Cooper's Hawk	25	75	11	177	119	275	864	1546
Red-tailed Hawk	304	334	765	1865	534	4362	1597	9761
Red-shouldered Hawk	19	130	158	126	177	503	390	1503
Broad-winged Hawk	8585	6670	9509	10597	10509	17017	12402	75289
Swainson's Hawk						1**	3	4
Rough-legged Hawk	4	3	1	8	4	19	6	45
Golden Eagle	4	3	1	12		34	9	63
Bald Eagle	1	4	3	5	3	21	19	56
Marsh Hawk	66	270	163	88	407	374	1172	2540
Osprey	135	330	428	171	467	444	1183	3158
Peregrine Falcon	3	9	4		3	14	61	94
Merlin	3	25	7	14	19	35	766	869
Am Kestrel	100	764	1430	292	672	819	14862	18939
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>10539</b>	<b>15715</b>	<b>17062</b>	<b>17485</b>	<b>22501</b>	<b>36831</b>	<b>81145</b>	<b>201278</b>

\* dates of operation were: Sunrise (unknown); Hook (30 Aug. – 31 Oct. + 13 Nov. ); Montclair (1 Sept. – 14 Nov ), Raccoon (Sept. – Nov. + 3 days in Dec.); Skyline (Sept. – Nov.); Hawk Mt. ("Aug." to 30 Nov) and Cape May (1 Sept. – 28 Nov.). Actual days and hours of observation, plus numbers of observers and counts of vultures and unidentified hawks were generally unavailable at time of writing. Summation across columns and rows biologically valid in only certain cases, and data on percent repeats unavailable.

\*\* another seen nearby; see text for details.

seen by JB Oct. 13, and a perfect adult Sept. 29 "about 15-20 mi w. of Hawk Mt. on I-78" (†JM). Swainson's Hawks are reported almost biennially in Massachusetts, usually in fall, and there are a few recent upstate New York records in spring, but the species has never been reported from Long Island and only once before in n New Jersey. Their origins and routes are indeed mysterious.

Errant Bald Eagles began appearing in interior and coastal New Jersey in August, presaging a major eagle incursion. Table 1 data apart, there was a total of 17 Bald and 13 Golden Eagles reported from throughout the Region, among them imm. Balds at Peace Valley, Pa., Nov. 26 (FM) and Middle Creek G.M.A. (Kleinfeltersville, Pa.) Sept. 28 (WK). September 28 was the day on which observers reported simultaneous major Broad-winged and Accipiter movements from one end of the Region to the other. Sample quotes included JL's observations from Delaware "500 Broad-wingeds over Newark, 400 of them in one kettle; these birds came in from the SE; 300 leaving wooded areas the next morning 0845-0915" and JG's from w. of Unionville, Pa., "By 1 p.m., I was getting kettles of 6-700 Broad-wingeds. I estimated between 4000-5000 passed my area that day. At times they stretched from horizon to horizon in long streams. Mixed in with them were Red-taileds, Red-shouldereds, Sharpies, kestrels and Ospreys. It was undoubtedly one of the most spectacular hawk flights I have ever seen." The last lingering Broad-winged was seen Nov. 25 at Livingston, N.J. (RR), terminating an unforgettable season.

Some final observations: (1) a reasonably constantly

maintained hawk watch is clearly called for at Fire Island, L.I.; (2) no recent data have come from Cape Charles, Va., since Rustling's in the '30s; is that still a hawk concentration point; how do hawks cross Delaware if at all; and what happens at Cape Henlopen directly across Delaware Bay from Cape May? (3) we still have little firm knowledge of the birds' fates once they leave coastal concentration points such as Fire I., and Cape May; (4) all the data in Table 1 should be viewed with the circumspection engendered by the knowledge that the per cent of repeating individuals on the same day and on succeeding days is largely unknown, although it can be inferred from adequate banding data such as are available at Cape May. Radar studies are also indicated. We especially thank the following for extensive data from their respective hawk watch sites: Raccoon Ridge (Floyd P. Wolfarth), Sunrise Mt. (Fred Tetlow); Skyline Ridge (Walter Lehnes *et al.*); Upper Montclair (Montclair Bird Club); Hook Mt. (Stiles Thomas); Hawk Mt. (Alex Nagy) and Cape May (Peter Dunne).

**SHOREBIRDS** — It was a very fine season for shorebirds, with almost as many inland as coastally, the result of favorable conditions following reservoir drawdowns, flooded fields, or renewed interest in airports and turf farms. Three hundred Am. Oystercatchers at Brigantine N.W.R., Aug. 27 was a fine measure of the species' health in the Region. American Golden Plover were widespread, with sample high counts of 73 at Willingboro, N.J.; Sept 23 (VLV); 150 at Sagaponack, L.I., Sept. 9 (JA); 80 at Columbus, N.J., Sept. 18 (RB); 25 at Intercourse, Pa.,

Oct 5 (RMS); a small flock remained at J.F.K. Int'l Airport, N.Y.C., until early December (SC).

Baird's Sandpipers were better reported than in years. The highest count was four on August 25 at Jones Beach; one was at Stewart A.F.B., Newburgh, N.Y., Sept. 5 (m.ob.); two were at Green Lane Res., Pa., the first two weeks of September (GF, MBr *et al.*), one was at Spruce Run Res., N.J., Sept. 16-19 (FPW *et al.*); and the last seen was at Sagaponack Oct. 23 (JA). The potato fields at Sagaponack this year saw a repeat performance of the until-then unheard-of numbers of **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** of 1973. Beginning with a modest four on Aug. 26, numbers built up quickly in early September — the best time to see the species — until Sept. 9, when JA counted at least 70 in sight at once, and suspected that there could have been 100. No other numbers approached these, but this bird is appreciated any time, anywhere it is seen. Reports of note included five on Sept. 5 at Stewart A.F.B. (BSg.m.ob.); six at the Columbus, N.J. sod farm Sept. 3 (CVA); two at Spruce Run Res., Sept. 20-25 (GH *et al.*); three Sept. 10 at Pickering Beach, Del. (CW) and a maximum of eight at Cape May Pt., Sept. 2 (PD *et al.*). The last were two on Oct. 5 at J.F.K. Int'l Airport (SC).

Red Knots are among the scarcest sandpipers away from the oceanfront, so six each at Rye, N.Y., Aug. 7 (TB) and Greenwich Pt., Conn., Oct. 26 (A&MI) were noteworthy. None was reported at any inland New Jersey or Pennsylvania locales this fall. The peak Upland Sandpiper count was 47 at the Columbus sod farm Aug. 5 (GF). Only two Curlew Sandpipers were reported, both from Long Island: Aug. 6-14 at J.B.W.R. (THD *et al.*) and Moriches Inlet Aug. 30 (LS, WB *et al.*). Three W. Sandpipers at Tunkhannock, Pa., Sept. 5 (WR) were good inland; the coastal maximum was only 50+ at N. Line I., L.I., Aug. 5 (JA), as high water apparently precluded the usual good numbers at Delaware refuges. A Purple Sandpiper on a concrete dock at Piermont, N.Y., Nov. 1 was the first for Rockland County (VS *et al.*). Only three Ruffs were reported, with two females at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Aug. 6 (JMA). Inland Hudsonian Godwits included one Oct. 1-15 at Peace Valley Park, Pa. (DJH); two at Moorestown, N.J., Oct. 24-26 (JGo; ph. examined); and seven Oct. 18-21 at Stewart A.F.B. (KMcD *et al.*). The coastal maximum was 15 at N. Line I., Aug. 6 (m.ob.). Marbled Godwits continue scarce and very coastal; the maximum was three, also at N. Line I., Aug. 6. The premier shorebird of the season was the almost fully breeding-plumaged **Bar-tailed Godwit** found by ROP at Oak Beach Marsh, L.I., Aug. 23. It was not seen thereafter despite a small army's searching. This represented only the 4th New York State record (the previous three have been at Moriches Inlet), although it has been annual in New Jersey for the last ten years or so.

Only two Am. Avocets were seen away from their usual locations in the s. part of the Region (Little Creek, Bombay Hook and Brigantine), both at J.B.W.R.: Aug. 4-12 and Aug. 27-Sept. 3 (m.ob.). Wilson's Phalaropes were in good numbers in the n. part of the Region where waters were low, but were all but absent farther s. Three were at Little Creek Aug. 20

(JMA), and maxima were 13 at Tinicum N.W.R., Sept 6 (J.C. Miller) and 15+ at J.B.W.R. in early September (m.ob.). Red Phalaropes were seen at Hudson Canyon with regularity, with a maximum of 130 Nov. 20 (PWS *et al.*). The only one ashore was found dead on Rte 1, just s. of Indian River Inlet, Del., Nov. 12 (GW, \*U.S.N.M.).

**JAEGERS, LARIDS, ALCIDS** — The only skuas reported were a single *maccormicki* off Montauk September 24 (THD *et al.*) and one not identified as to species harrassing gulls at Fire I. Inlet Oct 1 (BSp,GQ). Late Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen through November from Montauk and Shinnecock Inlets and at Hudson Canyon. Scattered singles or small flocks had been seen earlier along the New Jersey shore, especially after storms. No Long-tailed were noted.

A flurry of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in November included a sub-adult at Riis Park, N.Y., Nov. 15-20 (JA); an adult at Jones Beach Nov. 19 (JCY,JW), two sub-adults at Mecox Bay Nov. 20 (JA,CK,McK) and the two most interesting: an adult at Hudson Canyon Nov. 20 (PWS *et al.*) and another adult at Spruce Run Res., N.J., Nov. 24 (JDeM). A Black-headed Gull at Hempstead Lake S.P., L.I., Nov. 21 was unexpected inland (JA). Excellent numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen from shore all along Long Island starting in early November, culminating in a monstrous flight of 7500+ at Montauk Nov 26 (THD,JA *et al.*). This far surpasses the previous maximum, 1750+, Dec. 29, 1957, also at Montauk (PAB *et al.*), although there has been nothing approaching that count except associated with foreign fishing fleets far offshore.

Two Gull-billed Terns feeding over the H.M at Kearney Aug. 8 (RK,IB) furnished only the second record there. The maximum Royal Tern count for the Region was, paradoxically, 41 on Oct. 10 at Shinnecock Inlet (JBI,SB). Only two Sandwich Terns were reported, at Cape May Pt., Sept. 7 (PD). The best Caspian Tern flight ever on Long Island, apart from hurricanes, saw 20 in the Hamptons Oct. 8 (PAB,JA), two were still at Barnegat Inlet Nov. 8.

#### S.A.

The outstanding bird of the season was the ad. **Brown Noddy** carefully described from Robert Moses S.P., near Fire I. Inlet, during a combination extratropical northeaster/vestigial hurricane Nov. 8 (†JA). The careful description taken by Ash, who had previous experience with the species in life, even precluded Black Noddy. This is the species' first New York State occurrence, the first for the Hudson-Delaware Region, and only the third n. of the Carolina Capes. However, one was picked up dead on Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Sept. 1, 1954, the day after Hurricane *Carol*, and three were seen during Hurricane *Donna*, Sept. 12, 1960 at Block I., R.I.

The **White-winged Black Tern** at Little Creek Ref , Del., was last reported Aug. 6 in almost full winter

plumage (JMA). A Black Tern at Montauk Pt., Oct. 9 (PAB,THD) provided one of the latest regional records. A storm-driven Black Skimmer appeared at Spruce Run Res., in n. New Jersey Sept. 25 (HDr *et al.*) but apparently succumbed the next day. One thousand, including some 25 newly hatched young, were still at Beach Haven Inlet (Holgate) Sept. 22 (BCH); the next day another 1000 were packed into a roost at Stone Harbor by high tides (CS,PS). A light, early Alcoid flight on Long Island (Dovekies, Razorbills) did produce a Black Guillemot at Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 25 (GSR,DL,RA), but was not perceived farther w. or s., nor at Hudson Canyon.

**OWLS THROUGH WRENS** — The coastal Saw-whet Owl flight was the poorest in recent memory, and no Snowy Owls were seen anywhere in the Region. A nighthawk sleeping on a porch at Gilgo, L.I., Nov. 10 was believed to have been only a Common (ROP), but was nonetheless probably the latest ever recorded in the Region. Most observers, especially those on the coast, commented on a poor Red-headed Woodpecker flight, but 63 for the season at Hawk Mt. was substantial. Unique this year was a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker on the Vassar College campus, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Nov. 15 (ASW).

It was the best W. Kingbird flight in many years (39+ birds), especially in October-November, and birds were lingering into December from Montauk to Cape May, as usual eating berries when insects became scarce. Out-of-the-way occurrences included one at Bear, Del., Sept. 24 (GP), Princeton, N.J., Nov. 24-26 (JZ *et al.*), and Greenwich Pt., Conn., Sept. 15 (DB *et al.*).

**S.A.**

The flycatcher of the season was clearly **Say's Phoebe**. No less than four were seen in the Region, as follows: Oakland, Bergen Co., N.J., Sept. 24-26 (EK *et mult. al.*); Cape May Co. Airport Sept. 24 (BEB; ph.); Island Beach S.P., Oct. 15 (JBg *et al.*) — trapped in a restroom from which it was reportedly flushed [sic!] — Fire I., L.I., Oct. 23., ph. in color by AD and CWa. There are four previous New Jersey and five New York State records. The Northeast was dotted with Say's Phoebes this fall, and one was even seen from a pelagic trip out of Rhode Island; see p. 178.

A very late Cliff Swallow [?] was at Cape May Pt., Nov 1 (PD), and the usual coastal complement of November Barn Swallows appeared this year, the latest Nov. 26 at Montauk (m.ob.). Seven Com. Ravens for the season at Hawk Mt. tied their 1975 high, two were at Raccoon Ridge Sept. 11 and one there Oct 4. Inadvertently omitted from the spring season was the report of a single raven at Raccoon Mar. 9-30, reminiscent of the one that patrolled I-287 the last few winters. Ten Black-capped Chickadees arrived in Carolina country at Princeton N.J., after a Sept. 7 cold front (RB), and two Boreal Chickadees were reported: Dallas, Pa., Nov. 9 (EJ) and Fahnsstock, S.P., Putnam Co., N.Y., Nov. 6 (DE). The early movement of

Black-capped through the city streets across the Region in late September-early October brought large numbers S, but only the two Boreals were noted. A large but not massive Red-breasted Nuthatch incursion began across the entire Region in August and continued through the period; many birds wintered at feeders or in dense ornamental conifer groves. Three Short-billed Marsh Wrens on migration in October were detected at coastal landbird traps, a good average. The **Bewick's Wren** alluded to in the Nesting Season report was actually netted and photographed at Island Beach, N.J., May 4, 1977 (ph. examined by PAB). Almost all reporters commented on reduced numbers of Winter Wrens during migration this fall

**THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS** — Three vagrant thrushes on Long Island highlighted this fall and two of them mirrored w. U.S. populations this year. A ♂ Varied Thrush was at a Lawrence, L I., brushpile Nov. 3-4 (L&LG *et al.*), one of very few regional reports away from feeders and/or in migration, an imm. ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** was photographed as it fed along the shoulder of the Ocean Highway at Jones Beach Nov. 15 but could not be relocated (MBE ph. compared with skins at A.M.N.H. by THD) — this represents the second record for New York State and the first known to us from the Atlantic coastline: and a **Wheatear** spent Oct. 16-23 at Westhampton (BB *et al.*, ph.). Late were a Wood Thrush at Denville, N J., Nov. 11 (MH) and a Swainson's in Newark Nov 14 (RD).

Above-normal numbers of N. Shrikes seemed to presage an invasion year for this species, the first appearing at Spruce Run Res., Oct. 28 (F&EC). Loggerhead Shrike, virtually a vanished species from the Region, was reported in migration (and later in winter) this year more than anytime in the last 25 years. A total of 19 probably different individuals were noted, not just during their usual (and usually missed) August peak migration, but through the season. While all were singles, inland and coastal locales were represented. This is the first tentative upturn in a depressingly downward trend for this bird since the '50s. A Philadelphia Vireo at Scott's Mt., N.J., Aug. 19 was early, as was a Solitary at Cape May Pt., Aug. 25. A White-eyed at Fire I., Nov. 20 (ph.) was almost the latest for Long Island (HD).

Warblers of note were mostly on late dates, with few rarities. Prothonotaries were at Rancocas Park, N J (VLV), and Glen Cove L.I. (BSp), both on Sept 18. One was seen at Cape May Pt., Aug. 25 with a Kentucky and a Worm-eating (JDD), and a Worm-eating netted at Manorville, L.I., Oct. 22 was probably the latest for the Region (GSR). AW recorded the last Tennessee, at Rockville Centre, L.I., Nov. 5, and also photographed a Blackburnian at Jones Beach Nov 13, the latest ever for the Region. A late Nashville was at Rye, N.Y., Nov. 5-6 (M.F.N.), a surprising Magnolia was at Fire I., Nov. 25 (THD *et al.*), and a rash of late Blackpolls included four Nov. 9 (Delaware and Westchester Cos., N.Y.), two in New Jersey on the 12th, and the last at Cape May on the 19th (JDD). An "**Audubon's**" Warbler was netted at Island Beach Oct. 30, the first fall Regional report before November

(MD). A Kentucky netted on Great Gull I., off Orient Pt., L.I., Sept. 10 was "the only bird to go into the nets that day" (JDiC). Might the Yellow-throated Warbler seen at Freehold, N.J., Aug. 18 (JP) have been a New Jersey breeder? A few migrant Hooded Warblers were seen in August and September, and the last Am. Redstart was a juvenile male Nov. 19 in Chester Springs, Pa. (PS).

Most observers commented on what a poor fall it was for warblers in general, with no especial concentrations or high counts. One exception to that trend was at Great Gull I., where JDiC banded 123 Blackpolls Sept. 23, and 62 on Sept. 30. Many more of these than usual were adults, although no comparative figures are at hand.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH BUNTINGS** — A **Boat-tailed Grackle** at Island Beach, N.J., Sept. 25 was probably the first seen there (*vide* MD); the 400 at Brigantine I., Nov. 5 (JDD) indicate the population's health in New Jersey. Probably also from New Jersey were two ♀ Boat-taileds seen on Long Island, N.Y.: at Rus Pk., Oct. 10 (LS, WB *et al.*) and possibly the same individual at the Queens Botanical Garden Oct. 22 (A&HR). Neither could be relocated despite much looking. Boat-tailed is now occurring on Long Island annually, mostly in spring. **Brewer's Blackbird** continues to increase in the Region, although observers are not being as cautious about reporting it as they should be. Impeccably described were a female at Fire I., Oct. 8 (GSR, DL, RA; ph. compared to skins at A.M.N.H., but pictures not examined by Eds.), and about 30 at Bombay Hook N.W.R., through November (DAC *et al.*). One and two, respectively, were reported from Allentown and Dimock, Pa., but descriptions or photos detailed enough to preclude Rusty have not been examined. Once again we insist that good color photos be submitted with Regional reports of Brewer's Blackbird. While we have no doubt it occurs annually in every state in the Region, there are still no specimens from any of our four states, and few recognizable photos. Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen Sept. 15 at Island Beach S.P. (JCM), and singles were at Green Lane, Pa., Sept. 17 (GF), Lewes, Del., Oct. 17 (RC, DWF), and at Lafayette, N.J., Oct. 21 (MH). A ♀ Summer Tanager at Jones Beach Sept. 18 (ROP, AJL), and an imm. male at an Elwood, L.I., feeder to Nov. 16 (AJL, HD *et al.*) were the only ones reported; the sole W. Tanager was a changing ad. male at W. Orange, N.J., Sept. 28 (RR *et al.*). A late Scarlet at Princeton, N.J., Nov. 19 had an injured wing (DW).

The better-than-average Evening Grosbeak flight which started in late September (first report was 120 in three flocks at Hatfield Swamp, N.J. on the 27th) was heralded by an errant female (local breeder?) at Tunkhannock, Pa., Aug. 14 (WR). Pine Grosbeaks invaded the area in November, appearing simultaneously on the New Jersey and Pennsylvania hawk ridges and at Fire I., on the 11th-12th. The first, as usual was montane, at Skyline Ridge Oct. 16 (LV). Pine Siskins poured through the Region in October, with maxima being 2000+ at Riis Park on the 22nd (THD *et al.*), and were even seen on all Hudson Canyon pelagic trips. In such incursions they frequently reach Bermuda. Still

present throughout the season, they were accompanied by a few redpolls, although both species were not in nearly the numbers of the huge 1969 invasion. Red Crossbills followed them in small flocks (10-20+), again nothing like 1969. Even fewer White-winged Crossbills were seen, but a moderate mid-winter flight to be discussed in the Winter Season column was presaged by an imm. male at a Hawk Mt feeder Aug. 15-16 (AN). The Dickcissel population, at least as reflected by coastal numbers, seemed to have dropped into a deep trough: only nine were reported from Long Island (maximum: four at Montauk Sept. 18), only five from New Jersey, and one each from Delaware (Summit Oct. 5: RMcL) and Pennsylvania (Unionville Oct. 16: JG). Blue Grosbeaks were unreported from New Jersey and Pennsylvania, only once in Delaware (eight on Aug. 10 at Bombay Hook, probably locals: JMA), but nine were on Long Island, with the maximum of four at Montauk Sept. 18, and one still at a feeder in the Babylon, Long Island area in mid-November.

Rockland County, N.Y.'s first **Lark Buntings** were an imm. male at a Nyack feeder Oct. 9 (RC, RFD *et al.*) and a probable ad. male at Piermont Pier Nov. 11 (TCW). Detailed descriptions of both were examined by PAB. The Region's only Henslow's Sparrow, exceedingly rare as a migrant, was meticulously described from Jerome Res., the Bronx, on the exceptional date of Nov. 6 (WS). The first of New Jersey's five Lark Sparrows was as usual in August at Cape May on the 12th (JDD); while Long Island's five were all in September except for one found "inland" at Hempstead Lake S.P., Nov. 24 and "kept" there by daily rations of seed until the S. Nassau CBC, Jan 2 (m.ob.). New Jersey's two single Clay-colored Sparrows at Island Beach (PB) and Cape May (JDD) were both on Sept. 17, while Long Island's four singles were all in October, from the 2nd at Jones Beach (AW *et al.*) to the 28th at Mecox Bay (JA). The only "Oregon" Junco was at a Vincenttown, N.J. feeder Nov. 11-17 (KT). Exceptionally early was a Fox Sparrow at Wilkes-Barre Sept. 30 (WR). A Song Sparrow at Hudson Canyon Oct. 23 may have been going to Bermuda with the siskins, and 100 Swamp Sparrows at Tinicum N.W.R., Oct. 13-16 was impressive (NP). The earliest-ever Regional Lapland Longspurs (2) were at Gilgo Beach, L.I., Sept. 29 (ROP), and several reports of hundreds of Snow Buntings were topped by 1000+ at Spruce Run Res., Nov. 15 (HDr).

**UNVERIFIED REPORTS** — It is and has been our intent to call attention to with this heading reports we have received of extreme rarities which we believe may well be correct, but for which we have not received photographs or confirming observations by others. Falling in this category this season are several exciting birds: a pair of Brown Boobies over land on Long Island; Gyrfalcons from Long Island, New Jersey and Delaware; a Spotted Redshank from Delaware, and a singing Bell's Vireo from Long Island.

**CORRIGENDUM** — In AB 31:982 we noted a "first New Jersey spring record" for W. Kingbird. In so

doing, we overlooked one already on record (AFN 11:332) from Port Elizabeth, Cumberland Co., Apr. 16, 1957.

**OBSERVERS** — (subregional compilers in bold-face): J.M. Abbott, R. Adamo, J. Allen (JAl), R. Andrews, J. Ash (JA), C.V. Atkinson, P. Bacinski, W. Baumann, M. Beyer (MBe), S. Birnbach, **Irving Black** (n.e. N.J.: 2 Beaumont Place, Newark, N.J. 07104), **Raymond Blicharz** (central N.J.: 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, N.J. 08638), J. Bloss, B.E. Blust, D. Bova, J. Brett, M. Broun (MBr), B. Bruun, J. Burgiel (JBg), T. Burke, M. Cashman, F.&E. Chapman, S. Chevalier, W. Clark, T. Clauser, R. Conner, D. Crumb, **David A. Cutler** (s.e. Penna., Del.: see below), J.D. Danzenbaker, H. Darrow, **Thomas H. Davis** (L.I. and s.e. N.Y. 94-46 85th Road, Woodhaven, Queens, N.Y. 10421), R. Deacon (RDc), **Robert F. Deed** (Rockland Co., N.Y.: 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, N.Y. 10960), J. DeMarrais, J. DiCostanzo, R. Dieterich (RDl), A. Dignan, M. Doscher, H. Drinkwater (HDr), P. Dunne, D. Ewert, D.W. Finch, G. Franchois, M. Glaspey, L. & L. Goldman, J. Golub (JGo), J. Grantham, M. Griswold (MGr), **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. N.J.: 363 James St., Phillipsburg, N.J. 08865), M. Hannisian, D.J. Hartmann, D. Heintzelman, B. Heyne, B.C. Hiatt, M. & H. Hopleins, A. & M. Ivanoff, E. Johnson, R. Kane, W. Kelley, E. Kokorsky, D. Larsen, A. J. Lauro, V. LaVia (VLV), E. Levine, J. Linehan, J. Maugams, G. McCoy, K. McDermott, K. McGuire, C.K. McKeever, R. McLaughlin, J.T. McNeil, F. Mears, **James K. Meritt** (s.w. N.J.: 809 Saratoga Terrace, Whitman Square,

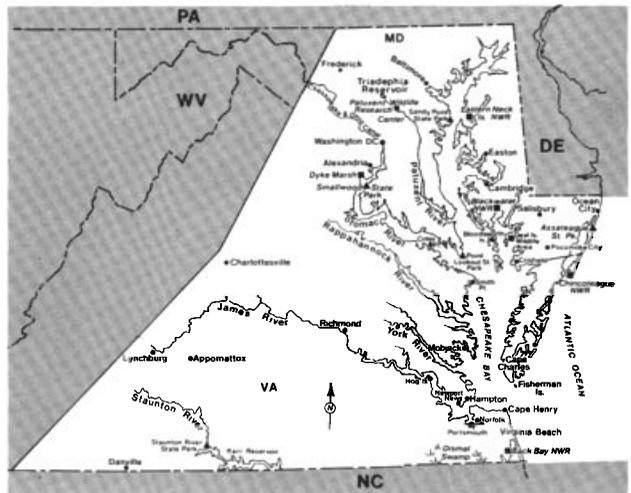
Turnersville, N.J. 08012), **Mianus Field Notes** (Westchester Co., N.Y. & adj. Conn.: c/o Tom Burke, 26 Onondaga St., Rye, N.Y. 10560), J.C. Miller, A. Nagy, J. Peachey, G. Prest, N. Pulcinella, G. Quinn, G.S. Raynor, **William Reid** (n.e. Penna.: 73 West Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, Penna. 18702), A. & H. Richard, D. Roche, R. Ryan, L. Schore, R.M. Schutsky, V. Schwartz, W. Sedwitz, B. Sequin, R.W. Smart, **P. William Smith** (coastal N.J.: 24 Heyward Hills Dr., Holmdel, N.J. 07733), M. Spence, B. Spencer (BSp), R. Stallcup, P. Street, C. Sutton, P. Sutton, K. Tischner, **John Tramontano** (Orange Co., N.Y. Biology Dept., Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, N.Y. 19940) L. Verderame, J. Wall, C. Ward (CWa), **Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club** (Dutchess Co., N.Y.: c/o Mrs. Aline Romero, Cedar View Road Pleasant Valley, N.Y. 12569), G. Watson, C. Wilds (CWl), T.W. Wilfred, W. Wilkens, D. Willard, R.E. Wiltraut, F.P. Wolfarth, A. Wollin, A.S. Worthen, J.C. Yrizarry, and J. Zerbe; CBC (Christmas Bird Count), A.M.N.H. (American Museum of Natural History); G.M.A. (Game Management Area); H.M. (Hackensack Meadows); J.B.W.R. (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge); N.W.R. (National Wildlife Refuge), U.S.N.M. (U.S. National Museum); † (detailed description examined or on file); ph. (photographs). — **P.A. BUCKLEY, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 15 State St., Boston, Mass. 02109, ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Penna. 19095.**

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/F. R. Scott

The drought of the late spring and summer continued into early October, when a rainy period began that lasted through November, resulting in both of the last two months of the period having above-normal precipitation and finally replenishing water levels in rivers and impoundments. Temperatures generally remained warm, with only October being below the mean.

On the central Piedmont of Virginia, Bazuin felt that the drought had a devastating effect on the vegetative food supply and severely reduced the amount of food available for fall and winter birds, with many weeds being unable to set seeds. This appeared to affect adversely the local summer and early fall populations of Killdeer and Eastern Meadowlarks as well as small mammals, which in turn may have been responsible for low numbers of raptors here during this period.



The Kiptopeke Beach, Virginia banding station was the only one reporting its results this year, and it recorded major flights of small land birds on September 4 - 5 and 28 - 30 and on seven occasions in October. Elsewhere, the only report of a major passerine flight was at Point Lookout, Maryland, where Rowlett found large numbers arriving at dawn on September 29. Major constituents of the flight were Common Flickers, Gray Catbirds, and Swainson's

Thrushes, species which were also in high numbers the same day at Kiptopeke Beach (CWH).

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — The first transient Com. Loon at Sandy Point S.P., Md. (hereafter, S.P.S.P.) appeared Sept. 8 (HLW), quite an early date here. Only three pelagic trips were reported this season. Two extraordinarily early **Northern Fulmars** were found 8 mi. e. of Wachapreague Inlet, Va., Sept. 24 (BW,BT), and a trip out of Ocean City, Md., SE to Washington Canyon Aug. 23 - 24 yielded four **Audubon's Shearwaters**, three of these in Virginia waters (RAR). Peak counts of other species included 26 Cory's Shearwaters on the Aug. 23 - 24 trip (RAR) and 225 Wilson's Storm-Petrels off Ocean City Sept. 18 (RAR *et al.*). Brown Pelicans continued to be found at Fisherman I., Va., up to Aug. 21 (RLand) with a high count of six on the 19th (HTA,CPW). A Great Cormorant on the Potomac R., at St. Georges I., Md., Sept. 29 (RAR) was apparently a record early date for the state, and many observers reported it along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., with a maximum of three Oct. 13 (DLH,RLake,BW). Double-crested Cormorants seemed in unusual numbers inland in early August. Counts included 15 at Alexandria, Va., Aug. 6 (JMA) and 13 at Hopewell, Va., Aug. 11 (FRS).

**HERONS AND IBISES** — Coastal postbreeding heron concentrations were generally rather poor, undoubtedly owing at least in part to low water levels (or none at all) in impoundments. The situation inland was somewhat better, and in the Hopewell, Va. area, the peak Little Blue Heron count was 20 on Aug. 31 (FRS,WKS). The previously reported Cattle Egret colony here still had six nests with young Aug. 31 (FRS,WKS), and 200 or more Cattles were present in the area until late September (HCO). Elsewhere, 15 Cattles near Manassas, Va., Oct. 7 (JRK) and one near Charlestown, Md., Nov. 18 (FLP,RAR) were unusual. An excellent inland concentration of 81 Great Egrets was found near Hopewell Aug. 7 (FRS), and Snowy Egrets peaked at a record 37 at S.P.S.P., Oct. 1 - 2 (HLW). Other inland Snowies included a high of four at Dyke marsh, Fairfax Co., Va., Aug. 29 (JMA) and two near Charlottesville, Va., Aug. 21 (TFW), the latter representing one of the few Piedmont records of this species. The major influx of White Ibises—almost all immatures—continued into the fall with maximum counts of nine (including one adult) at Chincoteague N W R., Va., Aug. 15 (BWK), five at Laurel, Md., Aug. 5 (DB), and five near Hopewell Aug. 18 (FRS). At Chincoteague Ref., birds remained through October, and the last one was seen here Nov. 4 (JWD,FRS), a record late date for Virginia.

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — An unusual concentration of well over 100,000 waterfowl was observed on the Wash Flats of Chincoteague Ref., Nov. 16. Included were an estimated 30,000 Brant, 25,000 Am. Wigeon, 5000 Gadwall, and 3000 N. Shovelers (DFA,HB). One to two Mute Swans were present at Dyke marsh, Va., July 31 - Sept. 17 (JMA), and Rowlett and Parks found a raft of 200 at Eastern Neck I., Nov. 18. The first major flight of Whistling Swans into the upper Chesapeake Bay occurred Nov. 12,

when huge numbers were noted arriving at S.P.S.P. (SJM,HLW), Eastern Neck I. (FLP *et al.*), and Talbot Co., Md., (JR). Wilds watched a flock of 28 Canada Geese fly into Chincoteague Ref., from the north Aug. 23. If these were migrants as the observer thought, this was probably the earliest arrival date for the state. A **Brant** at Green Springs, Louisa Co., Va., Nov. 25 (JBB) furnished a unique record for Virginia's Piedmont. A White-fronted Goose, apparently paired with a Canada Goose, returned to Blackwater N.W.R., Md., Nov. 2 (KB,BJ,FK), and with them were four apparently hybrid young. A White-fronted Goose also returned to Green Springs Nov. 16 (JBB), for the third successive year accompanied by two of the three apparent hybrids described as immatures two years ago. Fulvous Whistling Ducks were reported in four localities: nine on the Potomac R., near Seneca, Md., Sept. 21 (RAR), 24 at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 28 (CPW), 15 at Blackwater Ref., Nov. 4 (MK *et al.*), and one at S.P.S.P., Nov. 9 - 10 (HLW,SJM,RAR *et al.*) These are the best numbers reported in this Region in a number of years. Early duck arrivals included a Pintail at Kent I., Md., Aug. 31 (JR,LH) and two Ruddy Ducks at Eastern Neck I., Sept. 2 (JR), and a ♂ Eurasian Green-winged Teal was found at Kerr Res., Va., Nov. 26 (PEM). Up to three Harlequin Ducks were present along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel islands again, the first report being Oct. 15 (RLand *et al.*), probably a record arrival date for Virginia. Some 20,000 Surf Scoters were estimated moving S off Assateague I., Md., Oct. 23 - 24 (RAR,SW), and two to three Black Scoters were found inland at Swift Creek Res., near Richmond, Va., Nov. 20 - 22 (WCF *et al.*). A peak of 36 Hooded Mergansers at Dyke marsh Nov. 28 (OEF) was the highest local count of this species.

**HAWKS THROUGH GALLINULES** — A number of observers commented on the abundance of Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Reese termed them "the highlight of the fall migration" in Talbot County, Md. The first two transients were reported at Kiptopeke Beach Aug. 31 (DLM), and peak numbers of migrating birds included 1780 here Oct. 16 (BW) and 350 at Tilghman I., Md., Oct. 2 (JR). Maximum counts of migrating hawks at S.P.S.P. and Annapolis, Md., included 213 Red-tailed Nov. 16 and 2750 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 21 (HLW), whereas Mele found 1528 Broad-wingeds passing over nearby Severna Pk., Md., Sept. 28. A very late imm. Broad-winged was seen at Alexandria up to Nov. 29 (DFA). At Kiptopeke Beach the top Osprey count was 88 on Sept. 21 (PEM,FRS), and there were several November records, including one at Neavitt, Md., Nov. 9 (JR,KRde). Peregrine Falcons were widely reported along the coast, particularly in early October, and an adult returned to downtown Norfolk, Va., Oct. 7 and remained throughout the period (DLH). Inland, one seen in the vicinity of Alexandria from late July to Oct. 8 (JMA *et al.*), was thought to be one of the released birds from Aberdeen, Md. An ad. **Sandhill Crane** was carefully observed both in flight and at rest near Locust Grove, Kent Co., Md., Oct. 20 (SJM), and a **Black Rail** was found inland at Sweet Briar, Va., Oct. 14 (EPE,CH,NR). Reese

discovered a Purple Gallinule at a golf course pond near St. Michaels, Md., Nov. 12 which remained at least into early December.

**SHOREBIRDS** — An imm. Wilson's Plover at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 26 (DFA,HB) was late, and one was noted at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., Aug. 5 (MPM,NCM *et al.*), one of the few recorded away from the immediate coast. American Golden Plovers were widespread and in good numbers, and Wierenga noted the first one at S.P.S.P. on July 30. Maximum counts were 150 at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 26 (DFA,HB) and 850 near Locust Grove, Md., Oct. 22 (FLP *et al.*), the last a record regional count. For the second year up to seven were found inland at Green Springs, Va., Sept. 9 - 17 (JBB). Unusual records for the upper Chesapeake were a Whimbrel at S.P.S.P., Aug. 22 (MLH,SJM) and a Willet at Eastern Neck I., Md., Aug. 11 (JR). Spotted Sandpipers at S.P.S.P., Nov. 8 - 10 and Baltimore Co., Md., Nov. 13 (both HLW) were late. At Chincoteague Ref., Red Knots peaked at 2175 on Aug. 4 (CPW,RLP,EHS), and Baird's Sandpipers were reported from five localities, including one to two at Anacostia, D.C., Sept. 13 - 20 (DFA,JMA,OEF *et al.*). The previously reported **Curlew Sandpiper** at Craney I. remained at least to Aug. 11 and was seen by many observers during this period (RAB,SJM,BW *et al.*). Rowlett felt that Long-billed Dowitchers seemed to be more numerous this fall than usual and recorded 200 at Chincoteague Ref., Oct. 3. There were numerous other coastal reports, and inland records of note were singles at Dyke marsh Aug. 1 (OEF,LT *et al.*), and Green Springs Oct. 9 (JBB). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted in four localities, and at Chincoteague Ref. they were present from Aug. 2, a record early date, to Oct. 16 (CPW) with a maximum count of 30 on Sept. 2 (CPW,HTA).

Most of the godwit reports were from Craney I. and the Chincoteague area with high counts from the latter of 14 Marbleds Sept. 9 (PEM,KRce) and 21 Hudsonians Aug. 15 (BWK). A Marbled at Eastern Neck I., Aug. 11 (JR) and a Hudsonian at S.P.S.P., Oct. 4 (RAR) were unusual for the upper Chesapeake, and a Hudsonian at Chincoteague Ref., Nov. 24 (BWK) was quite late. A single Ruff remained at Chincoteague Ref., at least until Sept. 2 (BWK,CPW,HTA *et al.*), and another appeared on the Piedmont at Lilypons, Frederick Co., Md., Sept. 21 (RAR). A Sanderling near Charlottesville Aug. 21 (TFW) was out of place on the upper Piedmont, and Am. Avocets at Craney I. varied from near 500 in early August to 320 at the end of the period (DLH). Aside from small numbers at Chincoteague, the only other avocet reported was one near Berlin, Md., Sept. 9 (RAR). Thirteen N. Phalaropes off Wachapreague Inlet, Va., Sept. 24 (BW,BT) was the best count of this species, but it was really the Wilson's Phalarope that took the prize. Flocks of this species soared to record-breaking numbers in August with 74 at Craney I., Aug. 19 (DLH,TWfe) and 30 at Chincoteague Ref., Aug. 23 (CPW). Elsewhere, four were seen at Back Bay N.W.R., Va., Aug. 21 (HTA,CPW), one inland at Alexandria Sept. 7 - 8 (DFA,OEF), and one near Berlin Sept. 10 (RAR).

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — Wierenga observed two Parasitic Jaegers at S.P.S.P., Aug. 20, the third year that jaegers have been found at this upper Chesapeake locality, and 40 Great Black-backed Gulls at Alexandria Oct. 15 (JMA) were considered a high number this far inland at this date. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull which appeared at Alexandria Sept. 15 remained at least to Dec. 3 and was joined Sept. 26-Oct. 10 by an immature (DFA,JMA,OEF *et al.*). Other reports of this species were singles at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 23 (CPW), Norfolk Sept. 30 (RJT), and Cape Henry, Va., Nov. 20 (RLAnd *et al.*). A concentration of 1300 gulls (300 Herring, 200 Ring-billed, and 800 Laughing) in the Alexandria area Sept. 16 (JMA) was unprecedented for this time of year, and a single Laughing Gull was noted on the Potomac R., near Seneca, Md., Sept. 4 (JBB). Teuber found a very early—or possibly summering—Bonaparte's Gull at Pt. Lookout, Md., Aug. 9, and an ad. Little Gull was seen at Chincoteague Ref., Nov. 25 (BWK,TWms). Two or three Franklin's Gulls appeared at S.P.S.P. Sept. 14 - Oct. 30 (HLW,SJM *et al.*), and an imm **Sabine's Gull** was carefully observed at length both in flight and at rest at Craney I., Sept. 8 (PEM,KRce). Several Franklin's Gulls were also reported in the Baltimore, Md. area during this period (*vide* HLW).

A single Gull-billed Tern was found at S.P.S.P., Aug. 15 (HLW), and Forster's Tern hit an unusual peak of 1500 at Alexandria Aug. 14 (DFA). Farther up the Potomac near Seneca, one to four Forster's were noted Aug. 13 - 21 (JBB), and large numbers appeared in the Eastern Neck I. area in mid-November with 101 on Nov. 11 (FLP). Of particular interest were a sight record of a probable ad. **Sooty Tern** a few miles off Ocean City Aug. 11 (CJT) and two subad. **Bridled Terns** seen at Washington Canyon Aug. 24 (RAR), the latter a first for Virginia. The best concentration of Sandwich Terns was 14 at Fisherman I., Aug. 19 (HTA,CPW), and there were still 22 Caspian Terns at Hog I., Va. (James R.) Nov. 9 (PEM,VF). Four Black Skimmers were seen at Poplar I., Md., Aug. 23 (JR), unusual this far up the Chesapeake.

**DOVES THROUGH VIREOS** — A Mourning Dove nest with eggs on Fisherman I., Aug. 19 was built on the sand in a grassy area (HTA,CPW), and another nest with eggs at Midlothian, Va., Sept. 2 (FM) was late. A **Ground Dove** that spent virtually all day Nov. 10 at S.P.S.P., was seen by about 40 birders and was



*Common Ground Dove, Anne Arundel Co., Md., Nov. 10, 1977. First state photograph, 4th record. Photo R.A. Rowlett.*

well photographed (HLW,SJM,CSR *et al.*). This appears to represent the fourth Maryland record of the species. Among the many late records were a Com. Nighthawk at Ft. Hunt, Va., Oct. 22 (JMA), two Chimney Swifts at Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 30 (MAB,FRS,BW), and an E. Kingbird near Annapolis Sept. 27 (HLW). Western Kingbirds were reported four times, all near the coast, and single Olive-sided Flycatchers near Seneca Sept. 21 (RAR) and Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 23 (CPW) were late. The peak number of Traill's Flycatchers trapped and banded at Kiptopeke Beach was 15 on Sept. 4 (WPS *et al.*). Other *Empidonax* species trapped the same day, were four Yellow-bellied and two Acadian Flycatchers. There were several astonishing late reports of Rough-winged Swallows. Rowlett reported 10 at Lilypons, Md., Sept. 21, Wierenga had two at S.P.S.P., Oct. 1, Parks found one in Kent Co., Md., Oct. 4, and three were seen at Hog I., Va., Nov. 9 (PEM,VF). The last Barn Swallows were reported Nov. 12, one in Kent Co. (FLP) and two on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel (FRS). Stevens and Wieboldt found a Com. Raven near Rocky Mt., Va., Aug. 20, a new Piedmont location for this species. A moderately good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches moved into the Region, the first recorded Aug. 31 at Dranesville, Va. (JBB), and by mid-September they were common in most areas. Winter Wrens were very uncommon at Kiptopeke Beach with only 17 banded up to Nov. 6 versus 102 in the fall of 1976 up to Oct. 31 (WPS *et al.*). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at S.P.S.P., Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 (HLW) were quite late. Kinglets were almost unanimously reported as far down in numbers, especially the Golden-crowned, which was said to be "virtually nonexistent" in e. Maryland (DB). At Kiptopeke Beach, compared to the fall of 1976, declines for birds trapped and banded were 96% for the Golden-crowned and 68% for the Ruby-crowned (WPS *et al.*). An early imm. Northern Shrike showed up at S.P.S.P., Nov. 9 - 10 and was seen and photographed by many observers (HWL,CRS,RAR *et al.*). Although numbers of Philadelphia Vireos were low at Kiptopeke Beach, they were unusually widely reported elsewhere. At Virginia Beach, Va., where they are always rare, one appeared Oct. 1 and frequented a bird bath for about a week (RJT).

**WARBLERS THROUGH COWBIRDS** — A Worm-eating Warbler banded at Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 14 (DLM,SM) was late, whereas a Blue-winged Warbler seen in n.w. Fairfax County, Va., Aug. 13 (JBB) was early. There were more than the usual number of reports of Tennessee Warblers, and the Alexandria area had a good flight Sept. 12 - Oct. 22 (JMA). At Norfolk, where both species are rare, Hughes recorded six Tennessee and four Nashville Warblers Oct. 4, and at S.P.S.P., a Yellow Warbler Oct. 9 (HLW,DB) and a Blackpoll Nov. 2 (HLW) were late. Record numbers of N. Waterthrushes were banded at Kiptopeke Beach with a total of 189 between Aug. 22, when the station opened, and Oct. 16, and the peak two-day count was 95 on Sept. 4 - 5 (WPS *et al.*). A Wilson's Warbler at Lynchburg Aug. 6 (JHD,TD) was extraordinarily early. An estimated

5000 Bobolinks on the Choptank R., Md., Sept. 7 (JR,DQ) was the maximum number reported this fall. Late individuals included one near Willis Wharf, Va., Oct. 15 (HTA) and another at Hooper I., Md., Oct. 21 (HTA,JR). Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported, a female at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 15 (PEM) and a male near Galena, Md., Nov. 20 (RAR). An ad Red-eyed Vireo feeding a fledging Brown-headed Cowbird at Dyke marsh Aug. 14 (OEF *et al.*) was late

**FRINGILLIDS** — The last Blue Grosbeaks seen during the fall included one at Dyke marsh Oct. 15 (JMA) and another at Hooper I., Oct. 21 (HTA). A good flight of northern finches occurred, especially Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins. Although grosbeaks generally appeared first in early October, there were two earlier records, one at Vienna, Va., Sept. 13 (CRE) and one at Alexandria Sept. 15 (LT). By late November they had become very common in the n. part of the Region. Siskins, on the other hand, began to appear the third week in October and quickly became very common in the e. part of the Region with counts in the hundreds by late October. A few Red Crossbills showed up in late November, and there were two reports of White-winged Crossbills, one at Berlin, Md., Nov. 11 (FB,MH) and 13 (CRV) and five at Laurel Nov. 25 (CSR). House Finches were still feeding young in Lynchburg Sept. 18 (TH), and local record counts included 70 at Green Springs Nov. 19 (JBB) and 85 at Charlottesville Dec. 1 (CES). A ♂ Lark Bunting, making the fifth Maryland record, appeared near Galena Nov. 18 and remained into December (FLP,RAR,PGB *et al.*), where it was seen and photo-



*Lark Bunting, Kent Co., Md., Nov. 20, 1977. First state photograph, 5th record. Photo/ R.A. Rowlett.*

graphed by numerous observers, and Rowlett found Maryland's second **Le Conte's Sparrow** at Ocean City Oct. 23. A Seaside Sparrow was noted inland at Dyke marsh Aug. 13 (JMA,OEF) and 15 (LT), and a Lark Sparrow at Chincoteague Ref., Sept. 2 (HTA,CPW) was the only one reported this fall. A Tree Sparrow at Dyke marsh Oct. 16 (OEF) was possibly the earliest for Virginia, and a very early **Clay-colored Sparrow** was banded at Kiptopeke Beach Sept. 2 (DLM). Lapland Longspurs were reported first at Craney I. Oct. 22 (BW *et al.*) and at Ocean City Oct. 24 (RAR,SW).

CONTRIBUTORS — D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, R.L. Ake, (RLAke), R.L. Anderson (RLAnd), H.T. Armistead, Ken Bass, J.B. Bazuin, Jr., R.A. Beck, Henry Bielstein, Francis Brueckmann, M.A. Byrd, Danny Bystrak, P.G. Bystrak, J.H. Dalmas, Thelma Dalmas, J.W. Dillard, E.P. Edwards, C.R. Ellis, O.E. Fang, Volney Ford, W.C. Foster, C.W. Hacker, Catherine Harold, Tom Hicks, Larry Hindman, M.L. Hoffman, D.L. Hughes, Mary Humphreys, Bill Julian, B.W. Keelan, J.R. Kemper, Matt Kershbaum, Fran Kobetic, P.E. McQuarry, S.J. Mele, N.C. Middleton, D.L. Mitchell, Sydney Mitchell, M.P. Moore, Fred Murray, H.C. Olson, F.L. Parks, R.L. Pyle, Denny Quirk, Jan Reese, Kathy Rice (KRce), Kathy Riddle (KRde), C. S. Robbins, Nancy Robinson, R.A. Rowlett, W.K. Slate, II, E.H. Smith, W.P. Smith, C.E. Stevens, Leonard Teuber, C.J. Trichka, R.J. Tripician, Barry Truitt, C.R. Vaughn, Steve Whitcomb, T.F. Wieboldt, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams, Tom Wilmers (TWms), Townley Wolfe (TWfe).—F.R. SCOTT, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Va. 23226.

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#### SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

— No report was received for the autumn migration season for this Region. It is hoped that this report will be published in a future issue.

\* \* \* \*

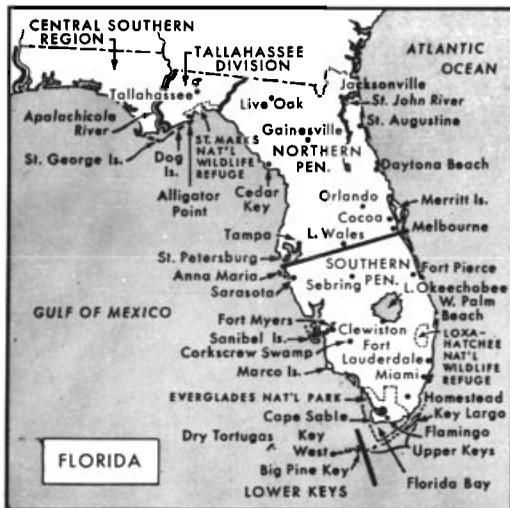
### FLORIDA REGION

/John B. Edscorn

Rare finds amply rewarded observers in a migration that was unimpressive in terms of visible bird numbers. The first northwest front of consequence swept in during early October, then a very cold nor'wester tumbled temperature records the next week—utterly unprecedented so early in the fall was a week of lows in the 40s at my central Florida home, for example. The timing of rain in this front's vanguard was not conducive to migrant fallouts or TV tower kills, but there must have been ornithological significance in such a powerful rush of frigid air from far out of the northwest, as avian vagrants from that direction began appearing thereafter. Two western strays were "firsts" for the state.

The nesting season brought little obvious recovery to the oft-cited kinglets and other winder birds which were decimated by the Arctic blast and standing snow that shocked Florida last January. American Woodcock seemed low, and many more-easily-assessed species (even jays and other residents) were so scarce that people everywhere were lamenting it by the end of autumn.

Bob Barber detailed two landbird kills over the ocean; not uncommon along other coasts and over the Great Lakes, perhaps, but rarely witnessed in Florida. When the northwest wind of the October 3 front later turned to northeast, high tide deposited freshly-dead



birds (and a red bat) on New Smyrna Beach, as did the October 11 cold front.

No localities reported notable migrant numbers perhaps because precipitation never caught major flights aloft. Scanty tower kills again prevailed at WCTV, Tallahassee (hereafter, Talla.). At Jacksonville (hereafter, Jax) Julie Cocke described an eight-year low for many species, including Cardinal (in central Florida areas I have also noted this decrease of a once-very-common bird for years). Far south at Homestead Jonnie Fisk had "almost nothing." Like many people she cited the drop in Painted Buntings—seemingly a continuing decline in recent history that is as unexplained as some area's Cardinal diminution. For all the sobering aspects of the season, readers can share at least vicariously its exciting finds herein.

**LOONS, GREBES** — If not a summer resident, an injured Com. Loon at Palm Beach Sept. 4, may have been Florida's earliest (*vide* PWS). Eyebrow-lifting so early and far s. was a Red-throated Loon at Cudjoe Key Nov. 3 (L. Page Brown) and Dec. 2 (W Hopkins). Earliest for the Northern Peninsula (hereafter, N. Pen.) was Tampa's Eared Grebe Oct. 8 (LA *et al.*). Others were again at Kingsley L., Bradford Co., Oct. 10 (L.&N. Cooks) and at Titusville Nov. 20 (B&LA), and Sarasota had one Nov. 16 (C.A. Mattison).

**TUBENOSES** — Shearwaters held sway off Canaveral Oct. 19 with 700 Cory's, 11 Greater and a Manx being reported, plus 200 large (and three black-and-white) unidentifieds (JJ). Cory's were seen again in the Gulf; four July 31 and one Sept. 17 off Clearwater (LH&+—see note at report's end) where the continuing investigations of Hopkins and others will probably prove that the species is regular. Greater Shearwaters were also in the Gulf again; one was off Sarasota Sept. 16 (DHM), while off Clearwater there were two Sept. 17 and four Oct. 9 (LH&+). Perhaps Pasco County's first was a Wilson's Storm-Petrel offshore July 31 (LH&+), and a dying **Harcourt's Storm-**

**Petrel** at St. Pete. Beach Oct. 10 established one of extremely few Gulf records (C. Peretz, D. King; \*U S F.).

**PELECANIFORMES** — Four White-tailed Tropicbirds circled thrillingly over a Canaveral boat Aug. 7 (m ob.), and one dying near a St. Pete. highway Aug. 31, was a great rarity for the Gulf Coast n. of the Keys (A Brozensky; \*U.S.F.). The most unusual of many White Pelican sightings (often inland nowadays) came from Bahia Honda, Florida Keys Nov. 3 (MB, P. Rogers), and Hamilton County Nov. 16 (R. Replanning) Single Masked Boobies were off Clearwater Aug. 27 & Sept. 17 (LH&+), and off Palm Beach Aug. 21 & Sept 5 (HPL, PWS *et al.*). A Brown Booby frequented Port Canaveral Sept. 13-15 (DH, RDB, JJ). There was an unprecedentedly early Gannet flight reported at Cedar Key July 27 (L. Williams; earliest Florida), at St George Island (hereafter, SGI), Franklin Co., Aug. 22 (HMS), and at Palm Beach Oct. 1 (HPL; earliest S. Pen.) Port Canaveral's summering Great Cormorant was last seen Aug. 13 (RDB). Others were at Mayport Oct 30 (B&LA) & Nov. 24 (BSO), at Ponce Inlet Oct. 30 (B&LA) — Nov. 6 (m.ob.), at Sebastian Inlet Nov. 5 (L. Wineland, m.ob.) and at Blowing Rocks Nov. 11 (HPL).

**WADERS** — Rare inland was Zellwood's Great White Heron Aug. 18 (JEH, JJC, JHH). Rivaling Zellwood's famous August—September birding are similarly flooded muck farm fields s. of Belle Glade (hereafter, Belle Glade connotes those fields). High August—September counts there (also see Shorebirds) included: 1900 Great Egret, 250 Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 2480 Wood Stork and 455 Glossy Ibis (GSH, PWS *et al.*). Tampa's McKay Bay is one of the few tidewater areas where Glossy Ibis are found fairly regularly; 50 were there Oct. 8 (A. Berry, W. Hoffman, R. Mumme). Scarlet x White Ibis hybrids were at Cudjoe Kay Nov. 2-6 (MB), and at Flamingo, Everglades N.P., Nov. 6 (J. Sykes, PWS *et al.*). Five Am. Flamingos were still being reported in n.e. Brevard County Nov. 12 (HPL, PWS *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL** — Snow Geese, mostly Blues, widely occurred (m.ob.), even at Key West Oct. 29 (MB, FTH, LK *et al.*). Several Fulvous and a Black-bellied Whistling Duck appeared at Zellwood Aug. 7 (JHH, JEH). Fulvous Whistling Ducks seemed scarcer in 1977; Belle Glade had the top count: 335 Aug. 7 (GSH, PWS *et al.*). In her 30+ years on the Keys, FTH saw her first Mottled Ducks at Key West Sept. 20 (FTH TW). Belle Glade had 183 of these diminished ducks Aug. 20, and what appears to be Florida's earliest Green-winged Teal Aug. 27 (PWS). Rare where seen were two Wood Ducks on Summerlin Key Nov. 15 to period's end (MB). Very early, if not summerers, were Belle Glade's two N. Shovelers Aug. 27 (GSH, PWS *et al.*), and Lakeland's Lesser Scaup Sept. 3 (JBE). A Com. Goldeneye in a little Talla. sewage pond Nov. 20 (GEM, RMC) was matched by others in similarly small pits after the period. Florida had yet another **Harlequin Duck** at Cocoa Nov. 2 — period's end (DH, RDB, m.ob.).

**RAPTORS** — Unusual in Leon County there were 110 Black Vultures there Nov. 26 (GEM), and very rare were two Oct. 23 on Big Pine Key (MB, LK). Three Mississippi Kites were rare migrants at Jax Aug 13 (BSO); Talla. Div. had a late one Sept. 14 (GEM) Three Everglade Kites were regular on the "Savannas" s. of Ft. Pierce (B&HD). Sharp-shinned Hawk movement was impressive, mainly on the e coast. The Keys produced the top number Oct 14 when 1000 passed Tavernier (JCO) and they were "everywhere" at Key West (FTH, MB). Four days later FTH received three dead or dying Sharp-shinned, and saw others sitting fearlessly, hungrily at an aviary—where they were falling dead out of trees Oct. 29. Passerine scarcity may curb the Sharpie bumper crop. Reportedly, an amazing 200 Red-tailed Hawks flocked over St. Pete., Oct. 8 (J. Post, *file* WDC). Key West's best Broad-winged Hawk flight was a low 100 on Sept. 27 (JCO). Zellwood eclipsed its old earliest N. Pen. record with an Aug. 7 Marsh Hawk (DF). A rarely-seen Osprey flight of 15 passed high over St. Augustine Sept. 12 (JPC), and one was very late near Talla., Nov. 26 (GEM). Twenty Peregrine Falcon reports were double those of Merlins (some other reported Merlins were perhaps Sharpies, sharp-winged profile when seen flying away can be deceptive).

**RAILS, SHOREBIRDS** — A Key West kestrel dropped the only Virginia Rail FTH has record of Nov. 14 (MB). WCTV felled the second autumn Black Rail for the Talla. Div., Oct. 16 (RLC). Vying for top shorebird honors was a **Mountain Plover** near St Marks Light Oct. 25 (RMC, FJ, HMS). In Zellwood's normal August—September migrating shorebird masses was the usual mix of birds that are unknown at most other inland sites, including Am. Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstone (26 on Aug. 13 — 18 in a flock — nearly tripled the record there: JBE, PJF, CG). Willet, Marbled Godwit (8th year), Sanderling, Wilson's Phalarope and others (m.ob.). Belle Glade also had high counts: 312 Black-bellied Plover, 22,500 Lesser Yellowleg, 12,450 Least Sandpiper, 4800 Short-billed Dowitcher, 1145 Stilt Sandpiper (Florida record number?), 4000 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 28 Am. Avocet and 860 Black-necked Stilt — all on Sept 10 (GSH, PWS *et al.*). The stilts peaked at 1330 there Aug. 7, as did eight Wilson's Phalaropes. The latter were Palm Beach County's first, as were 20 Red Phalaropes off Boynton Inlet Sept. 11 (HPL, PWS *et al.*).

St. Petersburg set earliest N. Pen. records with Am Woodcock Oct. 11 (LH) and Com. Snipe July 30 (WB). A **Curlew Sandpiper** at Tampa in July for the second year was last seen Aug. 12 (J.R. Stewart, Jr.) What were peep feeding on for hours Aug. 9 in ram water, fallen from the day before and gone the next, on a Miami rooftop (JBE)? Buff-breasted Sandpipers were on schedule at Zellwood in August (m.ob.), and latest by a month for the Talla. Div., was one near St Marks Light Oct. 25 (RMC).

**LARIDS** — Off Clearwater July 31 & Sept. 17 were amazingly early jaegers (LH&+). Ponce Inlet had a

Lesser Black-backed Gull Nov. 5 (B&LA *et al.*), as did Port Canaveral Nov. 6 (DH: same bird?). Ponce also hosted Florida's first believable **Mew Gull** Nov. 1 (RDB,JJ), Nov. 3 & 5 (m.ob.; photos). Another was



*Mew Gull, Ponce Inlet, New Smyrna Beach, Nov. 5, 1977. Photo Brooks H. Atherton.*

reported on our Region's boundary at Apalachicola Nov. 27 (ALL,BL,PWS). **Franklin's Gulls** were reported off Canaveral Nov. 6 (RDB,JJ, m.ob.), at Mayport Nov. 19 (BSO) and at Alligator Pt., Nov. 27 (B&LA). Bridled Terns were seen again off Clearwater; one July 31, and seven Sept. 9 (LH&+). It seems likely that this species, like Cory's Shearwater, will prove regular in the Gulf now that pelagic probes are finally sampling the area.

**DOVES** — The proliferation of White-winged Dove reports continued. There was one in Palm Beach County Aug. 12 (B. Verse), Islamorada had two Nov. 26 (HPL,GSH *et al.*) and Key West had one much of the period (FTH). Apparent migration was witnessed in w. Florida when one was flying E along the coast toward the Talla. Div., Oct. 16 (B&LA). After that, singles were at SGI, Oct. 25, Nov. 1 & 17 (JMS), at Alligator Pt., Oct. 24 (B&HD) and Nov. 1 (RMC), at St. Marks Light Oct. 25 (FJ,HMS) and Oct. 29 (B&LA), at Cedar Key Nov. 25 (RMC) and at Land-O-Lakes Oct. 29 (C. Cozart, \* not a banded introduction).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Rarities at Mullet Key, Pinellas Co., included a Mangrove Cuckoo Aug. 27 (LH,CG) and remarkably early Black-billed Cuckoos; one Aug. 25 (CB,KT,LH,JF), and two Aug. 26 (MH). Gainesville also had an early one Aug. 27 (CHC). Others in this banner year were at Lakeland Oct. 2 (PJF,JBE,CG, G. Horel), at WCTV, Oct. 13 (RLC), at SGI, Oct. 15 (HMS,RMC) and on Sanibel I., Oct. 19 (GLW). Groove-billed Anis were reported only singly at SGI, Oct. 10 (JMS) and near St. Marks Light Nov. 1 (RMC). Two very late Chuck-will's-widows were at SGI, Nov. 17 (latest Talla. Div.), where on Nov. 5 the same observer saw a **Lesser Nighthawk** on the very tree in which he collected Florida's first specimen (JMS)! A Chimney Swift reported at Wakulla Beach Nov. 9 (B. Stoutamire) was late enough to consider the possibility of Vaux's Swift. Delray Beach had the only Rufous Hummingbird Sept. 27 (PWS). A sea-roving Red-headed Woodpecker washed ashore dead on New Smyrna Beach Oct. 11 (RDB), and another was flying far offshore of Clearwater Oct. 9 (LH&+); where bound?

**KINGBIRDS, FLYCATCHERS** — Very late was an E. Kingbird near Talla., Oct. 16 (GEM) and a Gray Kingbird at Alligator Pt., Oct. 17 (C.H. Watt; latest Talla. Div.). A **Tropical Kingbird** was reported on Sugarloaf and Little Torch Keys Nov. 5 – Dec. 2 (MB,LK). Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were widespread, but not up to usual numbers. WCTV felled a Great Crested Flycatcher Oct. 17, tying the Talla. Div. latest (RLC), and an E Phoebe on Hypoluxo I., Sept. 3 set the S. Pen. earliest record (HPL,PWS). Rarities were WCTV's Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Sept. 16 (RLC) and Lakeland's Oct 4 (LA). "Trail's" type flycatchers at SGI, Sept. 22 (HMS,RMC) and at WCTV, Sept. 13 (RLC; identified as an Alder), a Least at SGI, Sept. 16 (JMS) and an Olive-sided at Key West Sept. 10 (TW,FTH). Vermilion Flycatchers were at St. Marks and Alligator Pt., Sept. 23 (B&LA; very early) and LaBelle Nov 28 (m.ob.).

**LARKS, SWALLOWS** — Earliest for Florida was SGI's Oct. 25 Horned Lark (JMS). Bank Swallows made a good showing; Zellwood had the top counts with 150 Aug. 21 (JHH, m.ob.) and 100+ Oct. 1 (JBE,PJF,CG). Perhaps evidencing their s.e. increase Barn Swallows staged an early and memorable movement, beginning with earliest local records at St Pete., July 25 (LH) and Lakeland Aug. 3 (JBE). By Aug. 6 many were migrating SE between South Bay and Miami, and they soon seemed to be on the move everywhere (JBE). An all-white one with buff breast bar was near New Smyrna Nov. 12 (ALL,BL,HPL,PWS). Rare at most peninsular localities, two Cliff Swallows were at Zellwood Aug. 21 (JHH, m.ob.) and 16 there on Oct. 1 (JBE,PJF,CG), at Delray Beach Sept. 28 (ALL,BL,PWS) and two at Loxahatchee Oct. 16 (PWS).

**NUTHATCHES, CREEPERS** — In late August I saw what seemed like an unusual movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches through s. Appalachian passes. By Oct. 2 the first of many was near Talla (GEM,RMC); then, remarkably far s., was one at Wekiwa Springs Oct. 22 (DF *et al.*) and then two at Mullet Key Oct. 23 (JF,MH,KT,WB). SGI's Oct. 12 Brown Creeper (JMS, earliest Talla. Div.) was topped by one of Florida's southernmost-ever — near Sarasota Nov. 1 (I. Roberts).

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — Hypoluxo I. near Lantana, offers a few scraps of habitat on the Gold Coast's over-developed ocean strip. Historic rarities have occurred there, including Cuban Emerald and Greater Antillean Bullfinch both in 1977; right after the big cold wave Mr. Cecil Kilmer found a Florida first on Oct. 23: a **Varied Thrush!** It was seen until Oct. 26 (m.ob.; ph.). Henry Stevenson heard call notes of Florida's earliest Swainson's Thrush at Wakulla Springs Sept. 7 and rare singing by a Veery at Talla., Sept. 22. SGI again attracted **Sprague's Pipit** One Oct. 16 was — oh, serendipity! — with a Lapland Longspur. Both were gone on the next weekend, but a paler-appearing Sprague's was there Nov. 25 (B&LA, ph.). Fairly normal numbers of White-eyed Vireos

were seen in passage, but numbers that remained afterward were low, probably reflecting last winter's hardship-induced mortality. Pinellas County had a notably early Solitary Vireo Sept. 16 (MH). Noteworthy among the season's 10+ reports of rare-but-regular Philadelphia Vireos was Pinellas County's first-ever at Mullet Key Oct. 11-13 (LA, m.ob.), and SGI's very late one Nov. 5 (JMS,BC; latest Talla. Div.) The prize of this family was a well-detailed **Warbling Vireo** near Lakeland Oct. 7 (LA, A. Smith).

**WARBLERS** — Swainson's Warbler was noted only at SGI, Sept. 21 and Oct. 3 (JMS,BC). As usual, there were too many Golden-winged and Blue-winged to enumerate, Blue-winged predominated normally (about 40:15) except at Mullet Key where Golden-winged prevailed 5:1. All were, typically, in the n.w. sector, s. to Bartow and Tampa, excepting one in Indian River County Sept. 7 (B&HD). *Two Brewster's* hybrids again occurred: at Hillsboro River S P., Sept. 10 (B&LA) and at Gainesville Sept. 12 (JEH)! Latest for the Talla. Div., was SGI's, Nov. 17 Tennessee (JMS). It was another Nashville year with one near Bartow Sept. 11 (B&LA; earliest N. Pen.), one at Alligator Pt., Sept. 26 (RMC), two at Mullet Key Oct. 11-12 (LA,JF), one at St. Pete., Oct. 16 (WB) and one at SGI, Oct. 21-22 (JMS). Earliest for the N. Pen was a Magnolia in Gainesville Aug. 26 (CHC), and unusual so far w. were SGI's Cape Mays Oct. 10 and Black-throated Blues (two each) Oct. 3 & 10 (JMS). There, also, were exceptionally early Yellow-rumped Oct. 4 (JMS). Bill Bolte saw a ♀ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** Oct. 25 on Hypoluxo I.

Ceruleans were again regular in the n.w. sector, especially in the Tampa-Lakeland zone where L. Atherton saw ten different birds Sept. 9-10. Very early was a Blackburnian near Dunedin Aug. 14 (LH,MH,KT; earliest N. Pen.), as was a Bay-breasted at SGI, Sept. 30 (JMS). Off their Atlantic route were four Blackpolls Oct. 10 (LH) and one Oct. 11 in Pinellas County (LA). Palm Warblers were extra early at WCTV, Sept. 12 (RLC), five at Gainesville Sept. 17 (JEH) and at Lakeland Sept. 21 (LA). A Kentucky at Melbourne Aug. 24 was the locally earliest by three weeks (RDB), a not exceptional date where this warbler is more regular. The only Connecticut was at SGI, Sept. 30 (JMS).

Nine Wilson's and five Canada Warblers were reported. Most unusual was the Jax Wilson's of Aug. 24 (VMM,PCP; earliest Fla.). Others were: two at Lakeland Sept. 10-11 (R. Troutman, PJF *et al.*), one near St. Pete., Sept. 12 (JF), one on Merritt I., Sept. 18 (RDB,DH), one at Jax Sept. 20 (VMM,PCP), one or two at SGI, Sept. 21 & 24 (JMS,B&LA) and two near Gainesville Sept. 25 (JEC,JJC,PM). Canadas were: near Lakeland Sept. 10 (LA,LH *et al.*), at SGI, Sept. 20 (BC,RLC,HMS,JMS), at Alligator Pt., Sept. 23 (B&LA), on Sanibel I., Oct. 6 (B. Saxinger) and at High Springs Oct. 21 (B. Muschitz, P. Lanzilloti, C. Pilkington). Canadas are now rare but regular.

**ICTERIDS** — Many areas had almost no Bobolinks (I saw none at all!), but Homestead was staging area for an immense flock of at least 15,000 which headed

SSE at dark Sept. 6 (JCO). Earliest for Florida was a **Western Meadowlark** collected near Talla., Oct. 14 during the big mid-October cold wave (HMS; \* Tall Timbers). Most interesting of the season's reported seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds were two found again at a Pinellas County dairy Oct. 9-10, where Brewer's Blackbirds also reappeared Nov. 3 (earliest N. Pen.). Three days after the end of the period the historic assemblage included every species of blackbird, grackle (except Great-tailed), *cowbird* and startling found e. of the Rockies (LH, m.ob.; details in Winter Report).

**FRINGILLIDS** — The latest Indigo Bunting for the Talla. Div., fell at WCTV, Nov. 30 (RLC). Lone Dickcissels were at Lakeland Oct. 26 (singing; LA), at Sarasota Oct. 29 (Maces) and at Jax, Oct. 31, and Nov. 2 (VMM). WCTV killed its first-ever Pine Siskins Nov. 22 (two; RLC) and, reportedly, the species made southernmost history in December. At SGI, a Savannah Sparrow tied the earliest Talla. Div. record Sept. 20 (RMC,HMS), and a Le Conte's Sparrow was just a day short of it at Talla., Oct. 19 (RMC,CHE) Lark Sparrows are often very early, as seen near St. Marks Light Aug. 8 (RMC,CHE). Others occurred at SGI, Sept. 16 (JMS,BC; \*), at Gainesville Sept. 17 (JEH), at Key West Sept. 24 & Oct. 15 (TW). Tampa had the period's southernmost Dark-eyed Junco Nov. 23-24 (Creidts). Earliest for the Talla. Div. were two Chipping Sparrows Sept. 10 (JMS), a Clay-colored Sparrow Sept. 24 (B&LA; earliest Fla.?) and a Field Sparrow Oct. 3 (JMS), all at SGI. Other Clay-colored were at St. Marks Light Oct. 10 (HMS) and SGI, Oct. 12 & 25 (JMS). It happened once before: our report's penultimate species is **Lapland Longspur** — one at SGI, Oct. 16 (B&LA; \*JMS), and one at Ponce Inlet Nov. 5-6 (PWS, m.ob.). We conclude with **Snow Bunting** at the St. Johns River mouth Nov. 19 (m ob.)

**OBSERVERS** (area editors in boldface) — Brooks Atherton, +Lynn Atherton, **Robert D. Barber**, Wes Biggs, Margaret Brown, +Charles Buhrman, Bonnie Carter, Robin M. Carter, +Debbie Case, Julie P. Cocke, Caroline H. Coleman, Jack J. Connor, Jesse E. Connor, Wm. D. Courser, Robt. L. Crawford, Bill Dowling, Helen Dowling, Caroline H. Eastman, **John B. Edscorn**, Paul J. Fellers, Judy Fisher, Dorothy Freeman, +Chuck Geanangel, +Dave Godwin, **Frances T. Hames**, Dan Heathcote, **John H. Hintermister**, +Larry Hopkins, James E. Horner, +Marie Hughes, Gloria S. Hunter, Frances James, Johnnie Johnson, **Herbert W. Kale**, Lois Kitching, Howard P. Langridge, Al. L. Liberman, Barbara Liberman, +Donald H. Mace, **Virg M. Markgraf**, Gail E. Menk, Paul Moler, Ron Mumme, Bryan S. Obst, **John C. Ogden**, Peggy C. Powell, +Alice Smith, Bob Sokol, Margie Sokol, **Henry M. Stevenson**, James M. Stevenson, Paul W. Sykes, +Karl Thompson, U.S.F.: University of South Florida, Thurlow Weed, George L. Weymouth. m.ob.: many observers, \*: specimen, names preceded by + or initials followed by + in the body of the report merit recognition for their part in Gulf of Mexico offshore investigations; this long-needed endeavor is one of the most significant contri-

butions that birders are making, and it will ultimately clarify textual failings of the past. — JOHN B. EDSCORN, Rt. 14, Box 350, Lakeland, FL 33801.

## ONTARIO REGION /Clive E. Goodwin

It was one of the poorest falls in many years, for both birds and weather. August was the coldest in a decade and the chill continued through September and early October, in what sometimes seemed an endless succession of cloudy, wet, miserable days. November was even cloudier and wetter than usual; only a couple of weeks in October had the clear bright days that usually make autumn in Ontario so delightful.



The wet periods produced few buildups of migrants along the lower Great Lakes, few "waves", and there were few periods when heavy passage was visible. What did occur was heavy movement in August and, perhaps owing to the mild weather in late October and the poor migration weather at other times, reports of late migrants as well.

The two major observatories gave a good picture of the early movement. At Long Point the 17 species of common passage warblers were a mean of 15.5 days earlier than their average earliest records, and this group was a mean of four days earlier than their previous earliest dates. Prince Edward Point (below, P.E.Pt.) told a similar story: eight species established new early arrival records, with a mean of 11 days earlier than the previous earliest date! By contrast there were very late observations of nine species of warblers across the Province, most of them in the period Oct. 3 - 20.

The season was noteworthy for the size and number of tower kills (Table 1). The losses at the generating station chimneys were totally unnecessary, the result of a decision in Toronto to leave the stack lights on except on nights when the central office felt a kill was likely. Unfortunately the Hydro officials forgot to notify the birds. John Nicholson's figures from Great

**Table 1. Tower kills in Ontario: Fall 1977**

Date	Long Pt. Light (L.P.B.O.)	Nanticoke Chimney (L.P.B.O.)	Lennox Chimney (RDW)	Great Duck I. Light (JN)
Aug. 23-24			908	
Sept. 11-12			259	
17-18	440			1339
18-19	384			101
20-21			1172	749
21-22				3190
23-24	530	415		

Duck I. indicate the magnitude of the kills that occurred at this remote location: again, it would seem that different lighting techniques might alleviate these unfortunate events, which add yet another stress to passerines. Individually the kills are negligible, but one wonders whether the same is true on a continental scale, as tall structures continue to proliferate.

But scarcity was the main feature of the fall. Once again Winter Wrens, thrushes and both kinglets were the most frequently mentioned species, but even the Yellow-rumped Warbler migration was a thin echo of its usual volume.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Common Loon concentrations started to build up in July at Quetico P.P. (SP) and off Great Duck I., Sept 17 (JN), but the main flight was in November, with as many as 2400 at Kettle Pt., Nov. 4 (AR). Several birds thought to be Arctic Loons were reported, and a record 61 Red-throated Loons, mainly in the s., included 24 at Kettle Pt. A fall concentration of 300 Red-necked Grebes was located on Manitoulin I., Oct. 1 (JN) and good numbers of Horned Grebes included 211 at Wasaga Nov. 30 (CJM,TL,EAW). Two Eared Grebes were seen. The highest Double-crested Cormorant count was 54 on Bustard I., in August (RG) and there were relatively good numbers reported throughout. One of many interesting sightings made at Moosonee and Shipsands I., on trips by AW and others, was ten Great Blue Herons Aug. 30. A Little Blue Heron was at Lorne P., from Aug. 21 (m.ob.) and there were four Cattle Egret reports, from London, Waterloo and Morrisburg Oct. 8 - Nov. 23 (DM,DCJ,PE,AJB).

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — Counts of 1000 Whistling Swans were made in the southwest (*vide* AHK) and at Long Pt., Dec. 3 (MA). Up to 17 Mute Swans were counted along the L. Ontario shore e. of Toronto (m.ob.), the species' centre of abundance. The Canada Goose flight—an average one—seemed to peak in the third week in September and again in October. Brant, on the other hand, were in exceptional

numbers in the south for fall: eight reports included 40 at Ottawa (*vide* RAF) and 1350 on Wolfe I., Nov. 3 (AEH,MM), which also had 20 Snow Geese Nov. 9 (K F N.). A White-fronted Goose was seen at Cheltenham Oct. 17 - 21 (RG).

Dabbling ducks yielded some high counts: 6000 Mallards on Wolfe I. in November (K.F.N.); over 100 Black Ducks at Ayr Oct. 15 (MS); 91 Pintails on Mud L., Oxford Co., Nov. 9 (DB) and 300 Blue-winged Teal at Salford Aug. 29 (BP). A Wood Duck on Shippans I., Sept. 1 (MJ) was n. of its range. On L. Scugog a count of 350 Ring-necked Ducks was remarkable for any time of year (RT). The buildup of Greater Scaup reached a high of 37,000 at P.E.Pt., Oct. 19 (*vide* RDW) and there was a rare bird of this species in Algonquin P.P., Oct. 2 (GT). A Barrow's Goldeneye was seen at Kettle Pt., Nov. 20 - 21 (AR,DR) and a Harlequin Duck at P.E.Pt., Nov. 5 (MHE,RDW) in addition to the now traditional birds at Ottawa and Toronto respectively. Only two King Eiders were seen, but an eider at Garson Nov. 11 - 12, was finally illegally shot by a hunter and proved to be of the *borealis* race of the Com. Eider. John Nicholson's notes on the sighting reaffirmed the hazards of eider identification: "... only marginally larger than scaup... bill showing more rounded outline in relief." The scoter migration was average for recent years, but with White-winged proportionately less common than the other two species. A ♀ Ruddy Duck with flightless young at Blenheim Sept. 4 (DR) was remarkable for both date and location.

**HAWKS** — It was not a year of exceptional hawk flights, although the raptor counts continued to show the sheer volume of movement even in an average year. The s.w. counts recorded an amazing 3845 Turkey Vultures, for example (JPK *et al.*), and over 30,000 Sharp-shinned Hawks. Great Duck I. was revealed as a link in Sharp-shinned movements with steady passage there during JN's stay, Sept. 17 - 25. Another intriguing hawk movement was of birds flying E at Ft. Erie Oct. 16 (AW). A light-phase Swainson's Hawk was seen at Mississagi L., Sept. 11 (JN), and there was a steady W movement there of Rough-legged Hawks with 200± in all. It was a Rough-legged year, with many observers reporting record numbers: for example, 381 in the southwest (*vide* AHK). Birds appeared as early as the end of September, and many counts of 40 - 80 were reported in late October. A NW movement along the L. Superior shoreline was observed at Pukaskwa and Marathon (NGE,SB-N), but nothing approaching the 1959 record of 1000 birds there. Golden Eagles were unusually common: the southwest had 17 and there were 20 elsewhere, more than double the previous high count. By contrast there were only 13 Bald Eagles seen. Three other "problem" hawks were reported in good numbers: the s.w. counts totalled 275 Ospreys, with correspondingly large counts elsewhere, 20 Peregrine Falcons with 14 elsewhere, and 30 Merlins and 37 elsewhere, plus 11 seen at Moosonee (AW *et al.*) and 16 on Great Duck I. (JN).

**CRANES, SHOREBIRDS** — A southerly Sandhill Crane (or cranes) was at Barrie Oct. 4 - 8 (CJM,m.ob.)

and in King Twp., Oct. 18 - 21 (AL,m.ob.). The shore-bird movement was unexceptional but still produced some high counts. At Angus 365 Am. Golden Plover Sept. 22 (OED) were representative of the good flight of this species and Algonquin P.P. had its first-ever Sept. 18 (DS *et al.*). Fifteen Whimbrel reports, included six birds at Ottawa, was also high for fall. Two Upland Sandpipers on Wolfe I., Oct. 13 (JAW,PEL) were exceptionally late, and a count of 35 at Ajax Aug. 7 (RN) high. Other highs included 76 Solitary Sandpipers at Capreol Aug. 16 (JN), 200 Lesser Yellowlegs at Long Pt., July 31 (GH), 13 Baird's Sandpipers at Sudbury Aug. 21 (*vide* JN) and Marathon Aug. 29 (NGE), 250 Short-billed Dowitchers at Port Rowan Aug. 16 and 55 Stilt Sandpipers there Sept. 17 (L.P.B.O.). Quite a catalogue for an unremarkable year, but probably a reflection of heavy concentrations at limited areas of good habitat. By contrast only four Purple Sandpipers were reported. Totals for rarer species were three Willets, five Marbled Godwits (included two on Shippans I.) and 16 Hudsonian Godwits. The first two were about average, but the third was substantially lower than in recent years. Both Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Wilson's Phalaropes continued their patterns of high fall numbers, and both were seen on Shippans I. (AW *et al.*); in the south a Pelee report of 142 Buff-breasted Sept. 10 (AR) was astonishing, and Blenheim had 45 Wilson's Phalaropes during August (m.ob.), an equally remarkable count. Last year we speculated that Ottawa's ten Red Phalaropes was the largest single flock ever recorded in Ontario, but this year they had 11 at Richmond Sept. 21 (RMP,BMD)

**GULLS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — A Glaucous Gull—presumably the same one—was reported from several localities along L. Ontario during July and August (m.ob.). At least one Lesser Black-backed Gull appeared along the Niagara R., Nov. 3 - 20 (RFA,m.ob.), where the gull concentrations were much reduced from last year. There were the usual sightings of smaller gulls: a Laughing appeared at Ottawa Sept. 25 (the Gawns), and Franklin's at Garson Aug. 14 - 16 (JN,JL) and P.E.Pt., Nov. 6, the latter in a gull movement that included a Little Gull and two ad. Black-legged Kittiwakes (MHE,RDW). Sabine's Gulls were reported from Ottawa Sept. 22 (BMD) and two at Sarnia Oct. 1 (DR) but apparently none was seen on the various pelagic trips this year. A Caspian Tern was seen at Lake of Two Rivers, Aug. 1 (DMcC,JM). Ontario's first-ever **Black Skimmer** was photographed at Whitby but not seen by any of the Region's more active birders, Nov. 1 (J.Burns)!

**CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A late and rare Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in Algonquin P.P., Sept. 26 (DO). Barn Owls nested successfully at St. Catharines (KMCK) and there was a bird at Ottawa Oct. 30 (m.ob.). There were few Snowy Owls reported to the end of the period, but what seemed an exceptional flight of Saw-whet Owls with 549 banded at P.E.Pt., Sept. 23 - Nov. 5. The birds were being hunted by Long-eared (25 banded) and Barred Owls, one carried a dead Saw-whet into a mist net (K.F.N.)! Short-eareds also seemed scarce, although an

exceptional six were handled by O.R.R.F.. The only Hawk Owl report was from Naughton Nov. 26 (CGB). Exceptionally heavy Com. Nighthawk movement occurred along L. Ontario Aug. 26, with hundreds of birds reported from some areas. Two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at Moosonee Aug. 28 (AW *et al.*).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Manitoulin's first-ever Red-bellied Woodpecker was in Mills Twp., Oct. 16 (CB,JL) and another was on Wolfe I., Nov. 17 (AEH). Some northerly Red-headed Woodpeckers were also seen, with the pride of place one at Marathon Sept. 27 (NGE), but there was another 40 mi n. of Iron Bridge Oct. 10 (DF) and 11 on Great Duck I., Sept. 19 - 24 (JN) suggest a larger northern population than is usually recognized. Seven N Three-toed Woodpecker sightings from Sept. 22 presaged a light flight of both three-toed species. Marathon had both an E. Phoebe and W. Kingbird Sept 4 (NGE), and another W. Kingbird was seen the next day at Pickering (JM *et al.*). Ontario's second first record of the season was a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Dorion Oct. 28 - 30 (RTa) which was photographed (AM).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH WRENS** — Some large swallow concentrations were recorded: 10,000 Trees on Amherst I., Aug. 5 (AEH,WS), 6000 in Mara Twp., Aug 30 (JAS) and 13,000 at Holland Marsh Sept. 18 (TL), and 10,000 Purple Martins at Erieau Aug. 26 (*vide* AHK). A Blue Jay was at the limit of its range at Fraserdale Sept. 3. (AW,MJ,RC). The southward trend of Com. Ravens continued with 14 sightings s. of their range and down to Holiday Beach Oct. 22 (JPK,AMI) and Belfountain Nov. 27 (AD,GB). Both nuthatches moved in numbers; White-breasteds staged a movement at Long Pt. that equalled the flights of 1965 and 1968 (*vide* DTH). A White-breasted was at Virgimatown from Oct. 16 (PWR). Only six Carolina Wrens were reported, and none at all in the southwest, although one bird was e. to Ottawa from Sept. 18 (FB).

**MIMIDS, THRUSHES** — Six Mockingbirds were reported, a severe reduction if this represents all the sightings for the fall; and indeed the birds have become very scarce in the Sudbury area (*vide* JN), one of their relative strongholds. Two pairs of Gray Catbirds were present near Shippans I., and an immature was banded there (*vide* AW). Four **Varied Thrush** reports were received although only one was adequately supported at the time of writing, a bird at Ottawa Nov. 6 - 14 (WJC,m.ob.). The season's Wheatear was at Whitby Aug. 26 - Sept. 4 (J. Krasnay,GAS,m.ob.). Three of the seven Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports were from Ottawa, of all places! (*vide* RAF).

**WAXWINGS, SHRIKES, VIREOS** — Bohemian Waxwings first appeared at Marathon Sept. 26 (NGE) and there were sightings in the s. in November, surprisingly early for this winter nomad. The latest of several late Cedar Waxwing nests was at Moosonee Aug 29, when newly hatched young were being fed (MJ) A good movement of N. Shrikes developed from mid-October, although a bird was seen at Shippans I.,

Sept. 1 (AW *et al.*). The southwest had 15, and other areas similar numbers. The 12 Loggerhead Shrike reports included one of a successful nesting near Port Hope (*vide* ERM). Rare vireo sightings were a White-eyed at P.E.Pt., Oct. 15 (RH) and two Yellow-throats at Ottawa (VBL).

**WARBLERS** — In spite of the generally light migration, some warbler species occurred in record numbers at the observatories, perhaps a reflection of the heavy August movement. At Long Pt., both Tennessees and Cape Mays continued the sharp upward trend of recent years, and Am. Redstarts almost doubled their low indices of the last three years. Most outstanding, however, were the numbers of Yellows, Bay-breasteds and Magnolias all ranging over two to three times their ten-year averages, and all close to three times higher than the indices for last year (L.P.B.O.)! Rarer warbler reports included a Prothonotary at Long Pt., Aug. 23 (EN), a Blue-winged on Great Duck I., Sept. 23 (JN) and —most remarkable of all—a Yellow-throated at Ottawa from Nov 19 (JW,m.ob.). Warbler observations on the Moosonee trips included a Black-throated Blue at Fraserdale Aug. 27 near the limit of its range, a Blackburnian at Shippans I., Aug. 31 where the species is casual in occurrence, and Yellow Warblers at Moose Factory to Oct. 12 (AW *et al.*). The race there is *amicola*, but the same race occurs across much of n. and c. Ontario and very late Yellow Warbler reports are scarce, although there was a bird at Thunder Bay Oct. 3 (KD)

**BLACKBIRDS** — A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Long Pt., Aug. 28 (JOLR,DG,SB), and an Orchard Oriole at P.E.Pt., Aug. 20 (K.F.N.). Huge flocks of blackbirds are a feature of s.w. Ontario in fall, but the east also produced some high counts on Sept. 9, with 100,000 Red-winged Blackbirds at Kingston and 15,000 Com. Grackles at Odessa (K.F.N.). A late N Oriole was at Ottawa Nov. 29 (JPN), but more noteworthy was an imm. bird of the Bullock's race at Thunder Bay Nov. 13 - 19 (KD *et al.*). The photographs of this bird await Records Committee review. A flock of 50 blackbirds at Crozier Aug. 15 were mainly Brewer's (GIP). Two Scarlet Tanagers were at Moosonee to Sept. 2 (AW *et al.*).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — A very heavy winter finch flight developed, with many observers reporting all species except Hoary Redpoll. The latter was seen only at Marathon Nov. 13 (NGE). The Evening Grosbeak movement was hard to assess, but may have exceeded the record movement in 1972. The first sightings were in late July in the south and by Oct 20 "thousands" were being reported along the Thames R. near London (JRM), and s.w. Ontario generally had its heaviest movement ever. Bennett suspected that there were at least two "waves" in the Toronto area, but by September the birds had largely left Algonquin P.P. (RT). Pine Grosbeaks were particularly numerous in the east, with P.E.Pt. having an "unprecedented" movement from Oct. 28 (RDW), but the birds followed their usual pattern of decreasing as one moved W, and neither the southwest nor Thunder Bay saw very many

to the end of the period. The other finch species were less common although a flight of 1200 Com. Redpolls at Moosonee Oct. 8 (AW *et al.*) was noteworthy.

Cardinal numbers were thought to be down in several areas, including London, one of their centres of abundance. Marathon sightings included an Indigo Bunting Oct. 22 and a Chipping Sparrow Nov. 13 (NGE). Sharp-tailed Sparrow reports in the south were from Willow Beach Oct. 24 and Nov. 12 (ERM), Ottawa Oct. 16 (m.ob.) and three at Oshawa Oct. 3 (DC). Three Le Conte's Sparrows were found, including one on Great Duck I., Sept. 23 (JN); the others were at Schreiber Sept. 10 (NJ) and Magnetawan Oct. 8 (AMi). An imm. Harris' Sparrow was seen at a West Hill feeder Oct. 17 - 19 (GS), and Kingston had its third Lark Sparrow at P.E.Pt., Sept. 30 (RDW). Several early Snow Buntings were reported, the first at Virginiatown Sept. 12 (PWR).

**SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS (boldface), CONTRIBUTORS (italic) AND CITED OBSERVERS — R.F. Andrie, M. Ansley, A.J. Bain, C. Bell, F. Bell, S. Bendall, G. Bennett, C.G. Blomme, D. Bucknell, S. Bundrup-Nielsen, D. Calvert, C.A. Campbell, W.J.**

**Clark, R. Curry, A. Dawe, K. Denis, O.E. Devitt, B.M. Dilabio, P. Eagles, M.H. Edwards, N.G. Escott, D. Fidler, R.A. Foxall, R. Gairdner, D. Graham, D. Hasley, R. Healey, G. Henson, A.E. Hughes, D.T. Hussell, W.R. Jarmain, M. Jennings, D.C. Johnson, N. Juhtand, A.H. Kelley, Kingston Field Naturalists, J.P. Kleiman, V.B. Ladouceur, L.de K. Lawrence, J. Lemon, T. Letson, P.E. Little, Long Point Bird Observatory, A. Love, C.J. Mac Fayden, A. Maki, A. Maley (AM), M. Matthews, D. McCorquodale (DMcC), E.R. McDonald, K. McKeever (KMCK), J.R. McKishnie, J.B. Miles, G. Miller, A. Mills (AMi), J. Mountjoy, multiple observers (m.ob.), D. Murray, J.P. Narraway, J. Nicholson, R. Nisbet, E. Nol, D O'Brien, Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation, G.I. Park, B. Parker, H. Petty, S. Peruniak, R.M. Poulin, P.W. Richter, A. Rider, J.O.L. Roberts, D. Rupert, J.A. Satterly, M. Scholz, G.A. Scott, W. Smith, D. Strickland, G. Sutherland, R. Taylor (RTa), G. Thorn, R. Tozer, J.A. Warren, E.A. Watson, R.D. Weir, L. Wensley, A. Wormington, J. Wright. — CLIVE E. GOODWIN, 11 Westbank Cresc., Weston, Ontario, Canada, M9P 1S4.**

## NIAGARA - CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe

Coverage of all segments of the Region was excellent this season resulting in 285 species reported including an exceptional number of rarities. Dry conditions in August produced good shorebirding but virtually uninterrupted rainfall in September and early October inundated now weedgrown mudflats and dampened birdwatchers' enthusiasm. Grounded migrant waves, generally better indicators of weather and observer activity (*e.g.*, weekends) than of the actual magnitude of movements, were hard to find, as birds moved not only with every lifting of the weather but apparently throughout the rainy periods as well. One veteran of many Texas migrations (FO) recorded the heaviest nocturnal movement he'd ever experienced when, on September 2, he heard over 100 "chips" per minute in northern Vermont and other observers noted many grounded migrants on August 30, September 16 - 23, and October 5, 10, 14 - 16, 22 - 23, and 28. Migrating during overcast conditions was perilous, however, as evidenced by the mass mortality which occurred at the Elmira TV tower September 19 - 24. Over 3800 birds of 48 species were killed including 1817 on a single night.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Good numbers of Com. Loons were reported from Vermont in mid-



October (FO) but the peak of the flight in New York occurred the second week of November with several reports exceeding 300 birds (G.O.S., R.B.A.). Red-throated Loons peaked slightly earlier with 150 at Hamlin Beach Oct. 30 (CP). Red-necked Grebes were relatively scarce with the exception of 28 on L. Memphremegog Oct. 16 (FO,CS), surely a Vermont record. Single [the same?] Eared Grebes were seen at Mayville (RHS) and Niagara Falls (DF) in late October. Vermont's fourth **Great Cormorant**, an immature, was seen Oct. 12 at Burlington (FO,CS) Two Green Herons lingered exceptionally late, Nov 19 at Lyons (MM) and Nov. 29 at Elmira (WH). Rarer southern heron sightings included an imm. Little Blue (G&WE) and a Snowy Egret (AG) at Burlington's Blodgett Beach in mid-August and an imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron at Times Beach (DF). Cattle Egrets might logically be expected to migrate S along L. Champlain thus a southbound bird Sept. 10 over Winhall (WJN) deep in the Green Mts., is surprising.

**GEESE THROUGH HAWKS** — Brant were exceptionally well reported from L. Ontario during October and November, the maximum, 5600, tallied Nov. 5 at Derby Hill. Maximum puddle duck numbers, all from Montezuma N.W.R., included 15,000 Mallards, 4000 Blacks, 2000 Gadwall and 8000 Am. Wigeon. Two Cinnamon Teal were photographed at Pendergast Pt. (RAS,RHS,LK). Best diving duck tallies were 12,000 Greater Scaup at Derby Hill, 4600 Com Mergansers at Robert Moses Power Dam (JVR) and 2000 Red-breasteds near Rochester (WL,RGS). Scoters staged a major flight throughout the Region during early October. Greatest numbers came from L. Ontario but exceptional Vermont sightings included 68 White-wingeds on L. Memphremegog and 60 Blacks on Caspian L. (FO). Eider sightings included a Common Nov. 13 at Sodus Bay (D,M&TT, *vide* R B A.) and five reports of Kings including two at Niagara Falls (DF). The last Turkey Vulture report was a single Nov. 1 at Durand-Eastman (EH,AS). Fall hawk watches are beginning to produce an interesting picture of movements and abundance. Vermont watches, manned for 550+ hours despite numerous rainouts, yielded 10 Sharp-shinned to each Cooper's Hawk. Immature Red-tailed Hawks moved along L. Ontario; 317 were headed W at Kendall Aug. 13, while 74 moved E over Braddock Bay (R.B.A.). Why? A melanistic Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawk were spotted on Vermont watches (FO). About a dozen separate Bald Eagles were reported in addition to the six released young (including one returnee from last year) present at Montezuma N.W.R. Surprisingly, only a single Golden Eagle was identified, an immature at E. Corning, N.Y., Aug. 25 (SSb, *vide* WB). Ospreys made a good showing, including 77 from Vermont watches alone. Ten Peregrines, including an immature killed by a school bus in Orleans, N.Y. (*vide* VP), were reported. Over 20 Merlins were noted, two thirds of them in Vermont.

**GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — A pair of Spruce Grouse near the top of Bald Mt., was the only sighting this season and constituted the first modern Vermont record away from Island Pond (FO). Seventeen Bobwhite in Herkimer, N.Y. (*vide* C V A.S.) and a single in E. Craftsbury, Vt. (FO) were presumably released birds. A Sept. 22 sighting of a **Sandhill Crane** over Woodstock, Vt. (LM) provided the state's second consecutive fall record. American Golden Plovers made an impressive showing throughout the Region in early October and lingered to Nov. 5 at Chazy Landing (PW) and Nov. 6 at Greece, N.Y. (R&FD). Seven Whimbrels were sighted, three in Buffalo, the remainder near Rochester. Both Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers lingered until Oct. 20. The latter in Winhall, Vt. (WJN), was an exceptional location for such a late date. Single **Willetts** were seen at Kendall, N.Y., Aug. 29 (WS, *vide* G.O.S.) and Essex Center, Vt., Aug. 18 (B&OE, *vide* FO), the latter marking only Vermont's third record and the first in nearly 50 years. Most Baird's Sandpipers staged an abbreviated migration through the Region Aug. 22 - Sept. 10. Exceptional were two at Blodgett Beach Aug. 11 (FO,CS), an early date for Vermont.

Only two Marbled and three Hudsonian Godwits were reported, two of the latter remaining in the Region until Nov. 6 (PDeB,PW). Single **Ruffs** were sighted in Charlotte (RGS) and at the Waterloo Dump (G.O.S.) and an **American Avocet** was found at S. Buffalo Aug. 12 (DF *et al.*, *vide* B.O.S.). Wilson's Phalaropes were widely reported throughout August but only three Northern and two Reds were seen, both of the latter in mid-November (G.O.S.).

**GULLS THROUGH OWLS** — Jaegers made a fine showing with 65+ tallied at Derby Hill including 29 Parasitics and one **Long-tailed Jaeger** (GS) Sept. 3. Unidentified jaegers were seen on L. Champlain Sept. 4 (H.P.A.S.) and 22 (CR), and Parasitics were seen as late as Oct. 30 at Rochester and Nov. 11 near Buffalo. An Iceland Gull at Burlington Oct. 24 (FO *et al.*) broke the Vermont arrival record by more than a month. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was present at Niagara Falls during October and November (B.O.S.) and up to six Laughing Gulls were present at Dunkirk on L. Erie during mid-October (RA,RHS). Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared in unprecedented numbers; 16 at Hamlin Beach and Braddock Bay Nov. 16 (ST,J&WL) setting regional and probably inland continental records, while a well documented sighting on L. Memphremegog Oct. 1 (EH,FO *et al.*) was only Vermont's fourth, the first in over 70 years. The rarest **Laridae** reported, however, were an imm. **Sabine's Gull** at Niagara Falls Oct. 16 (Curry & Mason, *vide* B.O.S.) and a closely observed and cautiously described imm. **Royal Tern** at Hamlin Beach Nov. 26 (CP). If correct, the latter would constitute the first upstate New York record. No more than two Franklin's and five Little Gulls were reported from any location, both maxima coming from the Buffalo area.

Yellow-billed Cuckoos continued to be reported in good numbers, with the last sightings at Fairlee, Vt., Nov. 7 (SL), an extraordinarily late date. Black-billed Cuckoos were also present in exceptional numbers in Vermont through mid-September. Nestlings were found in Wallingford Aug. 4 - 12 and a fledgling was found Sept. 4 at Barnard, Vt. Barn Owls were reported only from Chemung (WH) and Painted Post (MW). Not surprisingly, Screech Owls are proving to be widespread in the L. Champlain valley. Only three Long-eared and five Short-eared Owls were sighted, all in New York.

**SWIFTS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Chimney Swifts lingered in w. New York, 528 setting a record high on the B.O.S. fall count Oct. 9. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds also stayed extraordinarily late, 12 were feeding on *Nicotiana* in Elmira Oct. 6 (*vide* WH) and one appeared at a feeder in Holland Patent Nov. 7 (Van Dreser, *vide* PDB). Both Com. Flickers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers staged good flights throughout the Region in mid to late-September. Red-headed Woodpeckers remained scarce with only two Vermont reports. Although both three-toed woodpeckers were found in Chubb R. Swamp in July, neither species was sighted anywhere in the Region this fall. Lingered flycatchers included a Great Crested Oct. 9 (B.O.S.); Yellow-bellied Sept. 25 (FS),

E Wood Pewee Oct. 6 (FS); and an Olive-sided Sept. 28 (WJN). Unusually numerous late swallows included 3 - 400 Trees Oct. 12 n. of Watertown (MB) and 10 Banks on the Oct. 9, B.O.S. fall count. Three Gray Jays banded in Ferdinand, Vt. (MFM), two found at Porter's Corners, Saratoga Co. (RY), and four seen at Buck Pond, Herkimer Co. (LC) were the only ones reported. Both banding results (RY.V.I.N.S.) and general observations indicated a massive movement of Black-capped Chickadees this fall. A count at Braddock Bay Oct. 27 tallied 763 birds in only 45 minutes (JS). Boreal Chickadees also appeared to move in numbers in Vermont but were unreported in the rest of the Region. Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded c. New York, up to 300 were present at Hamlin Beach in October (R.B.A.), but vanished from eastern areas where they were so abundant last year.

**WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Winter Wrens remained scarce following last winter's apparent dieoff. Rarely recorded in the fall, Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen Sept. 17 (PW,SS) and Oct. 10 (ST); the latter one of the latest inland New York sightings on record. Mockingbirds continued to expand their range undaunted by last year's winter. The vanguard of a good Bohemian Waxwing flight arrived in c. New York in mid-November. A good flight of N. Shrikes commenced Oct. 14 with a single bird at Childweld, N.Y. (MB) but only three Loggerheads were sighted. Five Gray Catbirds and one Brown Thrasher were reported into November. **Varied Thrushes** invaded the Region for the second consecutive year with singles at Rochester's Durand-Eastman Pk (K.M.LN,m.ob.), Glen Falls (R&HG), and Northfield (FW); the latter only Vermont's third record. Banding captures (V.I.N.S.) and general observations indicated that Hermit Thrush populations are still well below normal. A tardy report of a White-eyed Vireo at Nose Hill, N.Y., June 19 (MR) was received.

Blue-winged Warblers not only outnumbered Golden-winged 3:1, but they outstayed the latter by two weeks, the last Blue-winged sighting occurring Sept. 18 (RC). In keeping with recent trends, Tennessee Warbler was one of the most abundant species throughout September. About a dozen Orange-crowned Warblers were reliably reported including two at Woodstock, Vt., on the extraordinarily early date of Aug. 31 (SL), and one at a Plattsburg, N.Y., feeder Nov. 15 (PW). The Cerulean Warblers recently discovered at Sandbar W.M.A., continued singing through Aug. 11 (FO,CPr). A Chestnut-sided Warbler near Albany, Vt., Oct. 16 (FO,CS) set a new state departure date and was only five days shy of a regional record. Bay-breasted Warblers continued to rank among the most abundant fall migrants (*e.g.*, 1227 died at the Elmira TV tower) and one, a regular at Durand-Eastman Pk., from Nov. 22, was last seen Nov. 27 being hotly pursued by a N. Shrike thus abruptly ending the latest regional fall record on file. Seven Connecticut Warbler reports included one banded Aug. 27 (BM,*fide* TM), an exceptionally early date. At least five Hooded Warblers were recorded, the latest Sept. 25.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at Sandy Pond Sept. 4 (*fide* PDB). An imm. Orchard Oriole Aug. 10 at Pt. Breeze (WL) was the only record this fall. A ♂ **Western Tanager** appeared briefly in Pittsford, N.Y. (WG) and a "possible" one was reported from Ithaca (JG, *fide* WB); both, to add to the incredibility, on Aug. 21. There are only about two dozen New York records (four from upstate) and the previous earliest accepted date was Sept. 17. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared in record numbers; 27 at Wallingford, Vt. (BW), 40 at Buckhorn Island S.P. (DF), and 45 in Amherst, N.Y. (DF) being among the largest numbers ever tallied for the Region. One even remained until Nov. 6 at Irondequoit (NH, *fide* G.O.S.). An apparent Blue Grosbeak was discovered at Lima, N.Y., Sept. 5 (J&AF). An imm. Dickcissel was found after Nov. 26 at Syracuse (PDB). Purple Finches staged an invasion of w. New York while Pine Grosbeaks advanced S on a broader front. Common Redpolls appeared early in numbers and Pine Siskins were abundant; 500 at Hamlin Beach Oct. 18 - 22 (R.B.A.) being the best tally. Red Crossbills were present in small numbers in many areas from early August onward; while White-winged, present through the summer in more mountainous areas, staged a major invasion with several reports of exceptional flocks including 200 at Hamlin Beach Oct. 30 (R.B.A.) which tied both state and regional maxima. A tardy report of a **Lark Bunting** near Oneida, N.Y. in May (BP, *fide* O.A.S.) was received. Always rare, a **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** was identified at Tonawanda W.M.A., Oct. 2 (RA *et al.*, *fide* B.O.S.). Best of a mere handful of Vesper Sparrow reports was 15 on Oct. 17 (FS). Many reports of mass movements of Dark-eyed Juncos in October were submitted including a record 2250 Oct. 22 at Hamlin Beach (R.B.A.). Rounding out the rarities were a Clay-colored Sparrow at El Dorado (FS, *fide* PDB) and an imm. **Harris' Sparrow** at Greece (P&BR, m.ob.). As usual White-throated Sparrows were abundant along the L. Ontario shore, 1000 Sept. 22 at Hamlin Beach being the best tally. Top Lincoln Sparrow counts were nine, on Sept. 16 in Vermont (WN), and Oct. 7 in New York (FS). Lapland Longspurs arrived very early, Sept. 21 (CP,WS), and set a new regional high of 1100 at Ft. Niagara Nov. 19 (DF *et al.*). Snow Buntings appeared in mid-October and were numerous throughout the Region by the end of the month.

**CONTRIBUTORS** (in boldface) **AND CITED OBSERVERS** — **Alleghany County Bird Club, R. Andrie, W. Benning, D.M. Boyer, E. Brooks, M. Broun, Buffalo Ornithological Society, D. Burton L. Burton, Canada Valley Audubon Society, L. Chamberlaine, R. Clark, P. DeBenedictis (PDB), F. Dobson, R. Dobson, J. Dye, M. Dye, B. Eastman, O. Eastman, E. Ellis, G. Ellison, W. Ellison, A. Foster, J. Foster, D. Freeland, Genesee Ornithological Society, J. Gibson, H. Goldman, R. Goldman, W. Gordon, A. Gosnell, E. Hamilton, N. Henderson, High Peaks Audubon Society, W. Howard, R. Johnson, L. Kibler, H. Kingery, S. Laughlin, J. Listman, W. Listman, T. Mack, B. McKinney, M. Menulin, L. Metcalf, M.F.**

**Metcalf, K. Murphy, W. Nichols, W.J. Norse, L. Nowajchile, F. Oatman, Onondaga Audubon Society, B. Peebles, C. Perrigo, M. Peterson, A. Pistorius, V. Pitzrick, C. Provost (CPr), B. Reister, P. Reister, C. Rimmer, Rochester Birding Association, M. Rusk, S. Sabo (SSb), S. Sanford, F. Scheider, C. Schultz, J. Skelly, G. Smith, R.G. Spahn, C.G. Spies, A. Stear, R.A. Sundell, R.H. Sundell, W. Symonds, S. Taylor, D. Tetlow, M. Tetlow, T. Tetlow, J. Van Riet (JVR), Vermont Institute of Natural Science, J.M. Vydra, P. Warren, B. Weeks, M. Wells, F. Willey, H. Young, R. Yunick.—DOUGLAS P. KIBBE, Box 422, Saxtons River, Vermont 05154.**

mentioned later, which normally winter in the south-eastern United States.

**LOONS, GREBES AND PELICANS** — The flight of Com. Loons was unusually heavy with some large flocks seen in several places Nov. 11 - 12 and a total of 746 flying past the hawk-watch lookout on Tuscarora Mt., Pa., Nov. 12 (CG). There were four reports of Red-necked Grebes: Fayette County, Pa., Oct. 22 (VJ,AT), Hills Creek S.P., Pa., Oct. 27 (JV), Botetourt County, Va., Oct. 31 & Nov. 6 (BK), and Wheatland L., Va., Nov. 24 (RS). A White Pelican at Hiwassee Waterfowl Ref., Tenn., Oct. 30 was noteworthy (T.O.S.).

## APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a mild Fall season with very little cold weather by the season's end. October was somewhat colder than normal but November was very much warmer. The latter part of the season was quite wet but there were only two snowfalls in a few places and one or none in most.



The small bird migration was generally fairly heavy and the warblers started moving in mid-August and continued until mid-October. The sparrow migration was also heavy in October and the northern finches made their appearance at that time. The most marked waves came on September 5 - 6 and September 19 - 20.

As usual in the fall, much of the reports' information comes from the two big banding operations, Powdermill Nature Reserve near Ligonier, Pennsylvania (hereafter, P.N.R.) and the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory near Petersburg, West Virginia, (hereafter, A.F.M.O.). There was also a major banding operation at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania.

The effects of the severe winter of 1977-78 are still evident in the reduced numbers of certain species to be

**HERONS AND IBISES** — There were very few reports of Great Egrets this fall but Little Blue Herons were reported in late August from West Virginia's e panhandle (CM) and Knoxville, Tenn., Aug. 19 (JBO) Cattle Egrets at Cherokee L., Tenn., Aug. 9 were unusual for the area (BA,LD). There were more reports of Least Bitterns than is usual in this Region Two imm. White Ibises were near Greenville, Tenn., in early August (DH).

**WATERFOWL** — With few exceptions it was not a good waterfowl year in this Region. All the expected species appeared, but numbers were generally low. This may have been due to the lack of any really cold weather. The Whistling Swan migration was spectacular and was spread out over a wider area than is usual. There were two distinct waves, one Nov. 11 - 12 corresponded to the first widespread snowfall, and another Nov. 22 - 23. On the other hand, the Canada Goose flight was not especially noteworthy. Snow Geese at Presque Isle, Pa., Sept. 23 (DS) and Pymatuning L., Pa., Sept. 25 (RFL) were rather early. Other reports came from Tuscarora Mt., Pa., seven on Oct. 23 (CG), Montour Preserve, Pa., Oct. 20 (JV), Jersey Shore, Pa., Nov. 8 (PS), and North Park, Allegheny Co., Pa., Nov. 26 - 30 (SG). Fifty-five Brant at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., ten at Colyer L., Pa., Nov. 6 - 7 (MW) and three at Montour Preserve, Pa., Nov. 8 (JV) were most unusual for the Region. It was certainly the "Year of the Scoters" with reports of White-winged from: Presque Isle, Pa., Sept. 20 (early —RH) and Nov. 20 (St), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Oct. 29 (PS), and Mountain Lake P., Md., Nov. 6 (FP), Surf Scoters at Lake Arthur, Pa., Oct. 23 (SG), Mountain Lake P., Md., Oct. 24, Nov. 6 & 19 (FP), Wilbur L., Tenn., Oct. 30 - Nov. 4 (FA), Fishersville, Va., Nov. 7 (RSn), Shenandoah L., Va., and Elkhorn L., Va., Nov. 14 (R.C.B.C.); and Black Scoters, at Presque Isle, Pa., Oct. 16 & Nov. 20 (St), 167 at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Oct. 23 (CH), Moraine S.P., Pa., Oct. 23 (SG), Rockingham County, Va., Nov. 9 (first county record) (R.C.B.C.), Hiwassee Waterfowl Ref., Tenn., Oct. 30 (T.O.S.), and Mountain Lake Pk., Md., Nov. 16 - 18 (FP).

**RAPTORS** — Some of the results of the intensive hawk migration watching are given in the accompanying table. Especially noteworthy were the high Broad-winged Hawk counts at Tuscarora Mt., Pa., and

Mendota Fire Tower, Tenn., and the Sharp-shinned Hawk counts. Sharp-shinned were in good numbers at other locations as well. The Osprey is apparently making a comeback, since many more than usual were reported. The Rough-legged Hawk migration was more extensive than usual, with a report as far s. as Asheville, N.C., Dec. 3 (MT). There were four reports of Goshawks; Roan Mt., Tenn., Aug. 28 (RP,TL), Mendota Tower, Tenn., Sept. 24 (MT), Blue Ridge Parkway, N.C., Oct. 21 (MT), Donegal, Pa., Nov. 28 (MR). Bald Eagles were reported from Kinzua Res., Pa., Sept. 5 (JP), Blacksburg, Va., Nov. 18 (LB), four different sightings in Crawford County, Pa. (RFL), with eight sighted during the season at Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG). At Tuscarora Mt., a Golden Eagle was sighted on the early date of Aug. 10, six were seen Oct. 25 and 21 for the season (CG). Another early Golden Eagle was in the Cohutta Wilderness, Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest, Ga., Sept. 9, (HD). There were four other sightings of Golden Eagles from Botetourt County, Va. (BK), Oakland, Md. (FP), Blue Ridge Parkway, N C (RR), Mt. Mitchell, N.C. (RR), and one wounded at Henburnville, Pa., in November (CS).

Four Peregrines were logged during the season at Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG), two were seen from a lookout on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Botetourt County Sept. 23 (MM *et al.*), and one was seen near Carlisle, Pa., Sept. 15 (JR). Most unusual was a **Prairie Falcon** reported from the Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest, Ga., Aug. 5 (HD).

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS AND CRANES** — Only one covey of Bobwhite was to be seen near Newcomerstown, O. (ES), an indication of the bad winter kill last winter. On the other hand Turkeys seem to be doing well in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. A record number was bagged by hunters in Berkeley County, W.Va. (CM). Turkeys were found near Poland, O., on several occasions, probably wanderers from Pennsylvania (VM). The only reports of Sandhill Cranes came as usual from the Knoxville area where three were seen Nov. 13 (JBO), and 35 at Norris L., Tenn., Nov. 13 (DH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — As usual the shorebird migration through this Region was not heavy, and was concentrated at a few places only. There was, however, a large number of unusual records. A Piping Plover was seen at Hiwassee Waterfowl Ref., Tenn., Oct. 30 (T O S.). American Golden Plovers were reported from Presque Isle, Pa., Oct. 2 - 17 (RH), Oct. 9 & Oct. 30 (DSt); Pymatuning L., Pa., Sept. 4 & Oct. 23 (RFL), Lock Haven, Pa., Oct. 17 & Oct. 20 (PS), Somerset County, Pa., Oct. 24 (RCL) and Roanoke, Va., Oct. 5 - 13 (BK *et al.*). Three Whimbrels were seen at Presque Isle, Pa., Aug. 31 (DS), one at Latrobe, Pa., Sept. 25 (MR) furnished the first s.w. Pennsylvania record, and one was at Newcomerstown, O., Oct. 16 (*fide* ES). Thirty-two Hudsonian Godwits were seen at Presque Isle Oct. 2 (RH). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from Presque Isle Aug. 26 - 28 (DSt—banded) and Sept. 16 - 18 (DS), and from Roanoke, Va., Aug. 21 - 14 and Sept. 1 - 7 (two birds —BK *et al.*). There were more reports of Stilt Sand-

pipers than is usual, and also more inland sightings of Sanderling. An Am. Avocet at Donegal L., Pa., Sept 17 provided the first s.w. Pennsylvania record (CST *et al.*). A Wilson's Phalarope was seen at Roanoke Sept 25 - 27 (BK *et al.*), and Red Phalaropes were reported from Presque Isle Nov. 27 (DS) and from Luray, Va., Aug. 23 (RS).

**GULLS, TERNS AND PARROTS** — The only remarkable gull records came from Presque Isle on L. Erie: a Glaucous Gull Nov. 27 (JH,DS), a Black-legged Kittiwake Nov. 13 (St) and 12 Great Black-backed Gulls Sept. 26 (RFL). Caspian Terns were sighted at L. Chatuge, Ga., Aug. 25 (RWL), Presque Isle Aug 13 & Sept 10 (RFL), and Colyer L., Pa., Sept. 26 (second fall record there—WM). A Forster's Tern was at Presque Isle Aug. 12 & 14 (DS). At Austin Springs, Tenn., one Least Tern was seen Aug. 7 (DL) and two, Aug. 8 (RK) for the first e. Tennessee records.

A Monk Parakeet was found in a cornfield near Knoxville Oct. 16 (T.O.S.) for the first e. Tennessee record.

**OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS AND HUMMINGBIRDS** — Short-eared Owls were seen at Presque Isle Oct 8 (DSt) and Big Meadows, Shenandoah N.P., Va., Oct 20 (RS). The Com. Nighthawk flight was thought to be poor at Tuscarora Mt. (CG), but good elsewhere. The largest count came from Pittsburgh where 600 were counted Aug. 27 and 400 Aug. 28 (PH). At P.N R., a total of 101 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was banded, 33% above average (RCL).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS AND SWAL— LOWS** — There was apparently a good south-bound flight of Red-headed Woodpeckers since several hawk watching stations reported seeing them fly along the ridges. On the other hand the migration of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was very poor, possibly a reflection of heavy winter kill in this species.

The banding of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at P N R was 15% below normal, and that of Least Flycatchers was 37% below normal (RCL). A very late Least Flycatcher was banded there on Nov. 19 (RCL).

In late August "thousands" of Cliff Swallows roosted in cornfields at Lewisburg, W.Va. (CHa). A very late Purple Martin was seen at Seneca L., O., Oct 30 (JS).

**TITMICE, NUTHATCHES AND CREEPERS** — There was a minor flight of Black-capped Chickadees to the south. One hundred were banded at P.N R., compared with an average of about 70, except for the major invasion year of 1975 when 334 were banded (RCL). The Black-capped were noted as far s. as Harrisonburg (R.C.B.C.) and Blacksburg, Va. (JM). After a period of low numbers the population of Tufted Titmice in n. West Virginia was back to normal (GAH). White-breasted Nuthatches were also back in good numbers after being subnormal for several years. The flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was rather modest, but the Brown Creeper migration was almost universally poor. Creepers apparently suffered high mortality last year.

WRENS, THRASHERS AND THRUSHES — The premier disaster species of last winter was the Carolina Wren. Even after the breeding season, numbers of this species remained low. Some signs of recovery are evident in a few places but many areas are still without wrens. However, there were reports of sightings near Warren, Pa., n. of the usual range (WH). The fall migration of the Winter Wren was very poor and this species also must have been decimated on its wintering grounds. Bewick's Wren was unreported.

As is often the case there were some late reports of Brown Thrashers: one banded at Morgantown Nov. 6 (GAH), one at Erie Nov. 24 (RBo), and one to the end of November near Warren, Pa. (CN). The southward flight of Gray Catbirds was slightly above normal.

In past years the E. Bluebird has often been a "disaster" species in a cold winter but this apparently did not happen in 1977. The breeding season was quite successful and the fall migration was unusually good everywhere. On the other hand the Wood Thrush was in low numbers with bandings about 28% below average at P.N.R. (RCL) and slightly down at A.F.M.O. (GAH). The Hermit Thrush was in low numbers, and may have been an overlooked winter "disaster" species. On the other hand Swainson's Thrush was in fine numbers. At P.N.R., 277 were banded, 36% above average (RCL), and at A.F.M.O., 508 banded was 50% above average (GAH). Field birders also reported a good flight.

KINGLETS, SHRIKES AND VIREOS — Both kinglet species were in very short supply. At P.N.R., only 111 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (56% below average) were banded (RCL), at A.F.M.O., 30 banded was 65% below normal (GAH), and at Presque Isle fewer than 10 were banded compared with a normal  $400 \pm$  (RFL). The figures for Golden-crowned Kinglet were similar. Besides the banding data the other reports also commented on the scarcity of kinglets.

A N. Shrike was at Presque Isle on the rather early date of Oct. 16 (St) and one was present at Bald Eagle S P., Pa., Nov. 8 - at least Nov. 13 (m.ob.).

There was an exceptionally heavy flight of Red-eyed Vireos; 60 were seen at one location in Allegheny County, Pa., Sept. 3 (PH). At P.N.R., 177 banded was 55% above average (RCL), while at A.F.M.O., 101 banded was 140% above the recent average. The flight of Philadelphia Vireos was also somewhat above average and one at North Pk., Pittsburgh, Aug. 17 was early (JG). The Solitary Vireo flight was poor at most places and a late date was Nov. 1 at Linville, N.C. (MP).

WARBLERS — The warbler flight started early. A Worm-eating Warbler Aug. 11 and a Tennessee Warbler Aug. 15 at Grandfather Mt., N.C., were early (MP). At A.F.M.O., the large catches of warblers started the last few days of August. In general the flight was good. Binocular birders reported good numbers. In Allegheny County it was considered the best fall migration "in years" (PH), but at Toccoa Falls, Ga., four species were reported in higher-than-normal numbers, ten in lower and two in average numbers

(RSt). At Presque Isle most species were in good numbers (RFL). At A.F.M.O., 15 species were banded in above-average numbers (eight of these in record highs), four species in average numbers and only one below-average (GAH), but at P.N.R., only four species were above normal, 20 were below, and five were average (RCL). Perhaps the most spectacular species were Tennessee Warbler, which continued impressive movements (1302 banded at A.F.M.O.), Cape May Warbler, which seemed abundant everywhere: 973 at A.F.M.O., with 117 on one day, and 358 at Pleasant Valley, Md. (KH), and Bay-breasted Warbler which continued its remarkable increases of the last few years. These three are the species that seem most sensitive to outbreaks of the spruce budworm in the north, and the large numbers found in recent years no doubt reflect the influence of these outbreaks on the breeding success. Magnolia and Nashville Warblers were also quite plentiful. At A.F.M.O., a record high 360 Blackburnian Warblers were banded (GAH), and an unusually high number of Am. Redstarts was reported there. The Yellow-breasted Chat seemed to be still in trouble; its numbers were quite low. Of the rarer species the Connecticut was widely reported, but there were very few reports of the Orange-crowned, while the Yellow-throated and the Swainson's were not mentioned.

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS — A singing W Meadowlark was present among silent E. Meadowlarks at Lewisburg, W. Va., Oct. 30 (CHA). A Brewer's Blackbird was seen at Bethel Pk., Pa., Nov. 12 (EF) and another was at Morgantown in late November (WW). There were three reports of lingering N Orioles: Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 5 - 8 (R.C.B C), Erie Nov. 28 (ZK), and Sheffield, Pa., end of November (RSm).

A breeding plumaged ♂ W. Tanager was seen at Jennerstown, Pa., Aug. 13 (PM).

FRINGILLIDS — Eighty-two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were banded at P.N.R., well above average (RCL), and the number of Indigo Buntings banded there was twice the usual average (RCL). Perhaps the best record of the period was of a ♀ **Painted Bunting** at Radford, Va., Oct. 19 (RA). A Dickcissel was seen at Lock Haven, Pa., Nov. 11 - 16 (CH), and another at Daleville, Va., Nov. 20 - 30 (WO).

A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept. 24 (GE, HF), and one was also seen near Daleville, Va., Oct. 2 (BK *et al.*). At P.N.R., only 153 Field Sparrows were banded (42% below normal—RCL), and at Morgantown, only one was banded compared with a normal 20 - 30 (GAH). Tree Sparrows were very spotty in their distribution. They came late and by the end of the period no great numbers had arrived anywhere. The White-throated Sparrow continued to thrive. Migrant numbers were much higher than normal and more and more of them are remaining in the n. part of the Region.

NORTHERN FINCHES — Of the usual winter visitors from the north only Evening Grosbeak and Pine Siskin showed any signs of big flights. Grosbeaks were seen as early as Sept. 24 at Meadville, Pa (RFL),

but the general arrival was in mid-October. By the end of October they were present throughout the Region. While not of major invasion proportions the numbers were impressive and the largest in several years. Siskins also began arriving in mid-October but were reported only in the north. The flocks were variable in number and only a few large concentrations were reported. Distribution was also rather spotty.

The House Finch continued to thrive and spread throughout the Region. The latest additions to localities reporting them are Johnson City, Tenn. (HDo), Marietta, O. (JS), Mountain Lake Pk., Md. (FP), and Warren, Pa. (WH). Purple Finches were in normal numbers but were somewhat more widespread than usual. There were only two reports of Com. Redpolls: Morgantown Nov. 12 (GAH), and Poland, O., Dec. 9 (VM). The only report of White-winged Crossbills came from Washington, Pa., Nov. 25 (RMH,EF). There were late summer reports of Red Crossbills from the s. mountains: Great Smokies in August (BSS), Roan Mt., Tenn., in late August (GE), Chatahoochee Nat'l Forest, Ga., Aug 25 (HD). There were scattered reports in the fall; Rockingham County, Va., Sept. 27 - Oct. 7 and Shenandoah Mt., Va.-W.Va., Sept. 9 (R.C.B.C.), Blue Ridge, Botetourt County in October (BK), and Charleston, W.Va., from October to the end of the period (AS).

Snow Buntings came early and were somewhat more plentiful than usual in their normal range in the north of the Region. In the east they were reported as far as Wheatland L., Va., Nov. 25 (RS), Botetourt County Oct. 31 (CMu), and Great Meadows, Shenandoah N.P., Va., Nov. 10 (DC). There were no reports of Lapland Longspurs.

CONTRIBUTORS — Robert Abbott (RA), Buddy

Adkinson, Richard Almy, Fred Alsop, William Bartolo, Ralph Bell, Richard Bollinger (RBo), Louise Borchelt, George Breiding, Dennis Carter (DC), Dollie Coxe, Harriett DiGioia, Helenhill Dove (HDo), Linda Duley, Glen Eller, Harry Farthing, Tom Finucane Emery Froelich, Carl Garner, Steve Gaulin, Beth Gilbert, Norris Gluck, Joseph Grem, Anne Hamilton, Donald Hammer, Charles Handley (CHa), Ron Harrell, Cecil Hazlett (CH), Paul Hess, Roger & Margaret Higbee (RMH), William Highhouse, Jamie Hill, Kendrick Hodgdon, George Hurley (GH), Virginia Johnson, Nick Kerlin, Barry Kinzie, Rick Knight, Zettie Krantz, Tom Laughlin, Robert C Leberman (RCL), Ronald F. Leberman (RFL), Robert W. Loftin (RWL), Dick Luria, Vincent McLaughlin, Clark Miller, Myriam Moore, Peggy Mulvihill, John Murray, Charles Musser (CMu), Charles Neel, Avis Newell, William Opengari, J.B. Owen, Jan Palmer, Glen Phillips, Rick Phillips, Margery Plymire (MP), Frances Pope (FP), Frank Preston, Mary Pulley, Rockingham County Bird Club (R.C.B.C.), Jacqueline Rollfinke, Robert Ruiz, Mark Rutledge, Ruth Samuelson (RSm), Ruth Sager (RSa), Paul Schwalbe, Charles Schwarz (CS), Ellis Shimp, Anne Shreve, Robert Simpson (RS), Merit Skaggs, Don Snyder, Ruth Snyder (RSn), David Steadman (DSt), Barbara and Steve Stedman (BSS), Jerie Stewart, Cliff Stringer (CSt), Randy Stringer (RSt), James, Jean, and Sam Stull (St), Tennessee Ornithol. Soc. (T.O.S.), Adelaide Titlow, Michael Tove, James Vanemon, Forrest Watkins, David White, Cora Williams, Merrill Wood, William Wylie. — **GEORGE A. HALL, Department of Wildlife Biology (Mail Address: Department of Chemistry), West Virginia University, Morgantown, W.Va. 26506.**

## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION /Daryl D. Tessen

For the majority of the Region autumn 1977 was typified by cool temperatures and unusually abundant precipitation. The latter happily ended last year's record drought for Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michi-

gan's Upper Peninsula (hereafter, U.P.). In these three sections August, September and most of October were cooler than normal with very substantial rainfall. For example, in the U.P., there were only five rain-free days in September. After a light frost dusted the extreme northern parts of the Region in late August a general frost did not occur until early-to-mid-October. Late October and early November saw above normal temperatures and very little precipitation.

A strong cold front on November 9 signaled the approach of winter with heavy snow in Minnesota and the U.P. Blizzard conditions prevailed in sections of Minnesota then and again on November 20 - 21. While Wisconsin and the U.P. were spared blizzard conditions substantial snows fell four times during the last week of November, with accumulation from each snowstorm ranging between 2 -10 inches. It was a white Thanksgiving and a cold exit to November in most of the Region. Only Michigan's Lower Peninsula (hereafter, L.P.), proved the exception. There August and September were warmer than normal and rainfall was lacking, continuing the dry conditions that prevailed during the summer. Fortunately October and November saw a return to cooler temperatures, accompanied with good precipitation amounts appar-



ently terminating a rapidly developing drought condition.

The blustery weather caused its share of unusual sightings; some proved truly surprising. However, eliciting more comments by observers than anything else, was the vanguard movement of winter finches into all sections of the Region. For some finch species invasion terminology was already being used at the period's conclusion.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Red-throated Loons were observed at Manitowoc, Wis. (SR) Oct. 23 and at Mille Lacs L., Minn. (KE,RJ) Oct. 25. Red-necked Grebes were found in Michigan in Berrien, Presque Isle and Leelanau Cos., and in Wisconsin in St. Croix, Winnebago, Barron and Fond du Lac Cos. The only Eared Grebe sightings occurred in Wisconsin where the summering St. Croix County bird remained until Aug 7 (CF) with another on the bay in Brown County Sept. 10 (SR,CK). Four W. Grebes were observed swimming in company with numerous Pied-billed and Horned Grebes on Shawno L., Shawno Co., Wis., Oct. 23 (SR,CK) with a late individual Nov. 25 in Big Stone County, Minn. (RJ). There were greater-than-normal numbers of White Pelicans in Minnesota and in Wisconsin. Even s.e. Minnesota had sightings including one on a late date of Nov. 14 in Dakota County (RJ). The s.w. part of the state had three 1000+ concentrations including 4000 in Freeborn County Sept. 16 (DGr). Wisconsin's 11 summering birds remained in Monroe County until Aug. 23 (EE, m.ob.) with 14 birds seen Sept. 5 - 10 in LaCrosse County (FL) and a solitary individual in Racine harbor Oct. 20 - 21 (BP,DK).

Remarkable, if correct, was the observation of an imm Olivaceous Cormorant in company with a Double-crested at Ortonville, Big Stone Co., Minn., Nov 24 (BH). Documentation is incomplete at this time but if substantiated it would represent Minnesota's first record. Two Little Blue Herons were seen at Green Bay Aug. 13 (DT). In Wisconsin Cattle Egrets were found in three places: Brown County, with as many as 15 until Sept. 30 (m.ob.), Dane County Sept. 20 (DTh) and Dodge County Oct. 3 (RD). Michigan had two in Kent County Oct. 24 (CR,DP) and four in Manistee County Oct. 29 (m.ob.). One Snowy Egret was observed Aug. 16 - 27 at Monroe, Mich. (m.ob.). In Wisconsin single birds were present until Sept. 9 at Horicon N.W.R. (m.ob.) and at Green Bay until Sept. 30 (m.ob.). Minnesota's nesting birds remained until Aug 10 at Big Stone N.W.R. Single Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found in Dodge, Milwaukee and Outagamie Cos., Wis., during the first half of the period with one in Muskegon County, Mich., in early August.

**WATERFOWL** — Michigan's Mute Swans received mixed comments about their nesting success. However, there was unanimity on their lower numbers as compared to last year, undoubtedly the result of the severe 1976-77 winter. Unusual was the sighting of a Whistling Swan Aug. 10 in Manistee County (FM,BM). This was the second year in the U.S.F.&W.S. 5-year program of Canada Goose population reduction at Horicon N.W.R., Wis. Peak numbers were significantly

lower than preceding years as evidenced by a maximum on the refuge of 130,800 Oct. 3 (RD) with 175,000 in the e.c. Wisconsin area Oct. 28. The program continues to be a highly controversial subject with seemingly as many views as people. Other Canada Goose peaks in Wisconsin included 30,000 at Grand River Marsh W.A. and El Dorado Marsh W.A. and 32,000 at Green Lake. Minnesota's maximum was 63,000 at Lac Qui Parle W.A. Four White-fronted Geese were at Horicon N.W.R., Sept. 23 - Oct. 5 (RD). There were 1500 Snow Geese at Crex Meadows W.A., Oct. 20 (JE). An imm ♂ **Barrow's Goldeneye** was found at Duluth Oct. 15 (KE) A Bufflehead was in Milwaukee Aug. 2 (DG). Harlequin Ducks appeared in Michigan with two birds present Oct. 16 - 22 in Alcona County (DL,RS *et al*) and one Oct. 22 - 23 in Presque Isle County (WG, BG) Two birds were at Duluth Nov. 28 (KE). There was another fine scoter movement through the Region This autumn the White-winged was the most numerous followed by the Black and the Surf. Several White-wingeds and Surfs were found unusually early in the season (August-September). Of special interest was the sighting of a substantial scoter migration in Berrien County, Mich., Nov. 10 - 11. A total of 400+ birds representing all three species was noted by Booth

**HAWKS** — Turkey Vultures migrated through s e Michigan in good numbers with a total of 56 birds counted during the period (*vide* AK). A light-phase Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk was present at Helmer Myre S.P., Freeborn Co., Minn., Aug. 13 - Nov 15 (DGr). The Cedar Grove Hawk Station, in Sheboygan Co., Wis., observed its best flights ever of Sharp-shinned, Osprey (86 total) and Am. Kestrel, with the best Merlin flight since 1971 (DB). Many observers in Wisconsin, especially those reporting along L. Michigan, commented on the exceptionally fine Osprey migration this fall. The only substantial Broad-winged flights were found in Wisconsin, with 1510 counted in Ozaukee County Sept. 10 (EE, DT), 350 following the Wisconsin R. in Sauk County Sept. 24 (RK) and 239 at Cedar Grove Sept. 27 (DB). Swainson's Hawks were observed in 16 Minnesota counties with a lone individual at the Cedar Grove Station Oct. 9 (DB). An early Rough-legged Hawk was noted in Olmsted County, Minn., Aug. 26 (VH). Also in Minnesota a Ferruginous Hawk was observed Oct. 16 at Big Stone N.W.R. (C&MB)

Golden Eagles were found in three Wisconsin locations: Cedar Grove Oct. 15, Nov. 11 & 21 (DB), Columbia County Nov. 12 (DT) and from Nov. 9 until early Dec., at Crex Meadows W.A. (JE). Certainly the most exciting find within this group was the well-described sighting by two separate birders of a **Caracara** in the Muskegon Dunes S.P., Muskegon Co., Mich., Sept. 3. The bird was observed in flight and perched (GW, ES). Prairie Falcons were found more frequently than usual in Minnesota with at least three, possibly five birds seen this autumn. A total of five Peregrine Falcons was reported in Michigan while Wisconsin counted 15 - 20 birds during the period, with most sightings occurring along the s.e. L. Michigan shoreline

**GROUSE THROUGH RAILS** — Spruce Grouse were observed in Michigan's U.P. (Houghton County,

three—NI), n. Wisconsin (Oneida and Iron Cos., six—PV, SR) and n. Minnesota (Cook and Itasca Cos., four—KE, RJ, DBo). There were 110 Greater Prairie Chickens found in Wilkin County (RJ) and 30 - 40 in Pine County, Minn. The largest concentration of Sandhill Cranes in the Region occurred in Norman County, Minn., Oct. 18 when 5000 were noted. Only Michigan found the King Rail this autumn with single birds in Mason County August 14 (FM) and in Monroe County Aug. 22 & Sept. 6 (DM).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Despite the lack of good habitat in some parts of the Region there was a generally good shorebird movement. Surprising numbers of some of the more unusual species were noted, in addition to an interesting variety within the group. Two Piping Plovers were seen in Columbia County, Wis., Aug. 22 (RH). A late Black-bellied Plover was found in Berrien County Nov. 25 (RS). Whimbrels were recorded in all three states: Minnesota Aug. 29 - 31, Cook County (GS), Michigan Sept. 17, Monroe County (AM), and Wisconsin Sept. 6 & 23 and a very late Oct. 12 in Milwaukee (DG, MD, EE). Willets were observed in Monroe County, Sept. 6, 7, 17 & 30 (m.ob.) with individuals in Wisconsin Aug. 20 at Horicon N.W.R. (JF) and Madison Aug. 29 & Sept. 1 (RH). A surprising number of Red Knots was observed this fall, with a total of 42 in four Michigan counties, 16 in six Wisconsin counties and about ten in two Minnesota counties.

Minnesota's second sighting of the **Purple Sandpiper** occurred this fall when one was seen and photographed in Aitkin County Nov. 14 - 17 (SB, m.ob.). A total of



*Purple Sandpiper, Big Sandy Lake, Minn., Nov. 14-17, 1977. Photo/ Lloyd Paynter.*

four W. Sandpipers was found in Wisconsin (MD, DT, RH, SR, CK) and one in Michigan (JAG). Michigan had more than the usual number of Buff-breasted Sandpipers this autumn. A total of 11 was recorded Aug. 1 - Sept. 8 from six counties (AMa, SH, BG *et al.*). Two were found in Wisconsin Aug. 3 (Columbia County, RH). A total of three Marbled Godwits was present in Wisconsin Aug. 2 - Sept. 10 in Columbia County (RH, DT). Three more were found at Pt. Mouillee, Mich., Aug. 14 - Sept. 1 (DBa, AC, JAG). At least ten Hudsonian Godwits were observed in Monroe County during the first half of the period, with a very late sighting there on Nov. 19 (JAG). One indi-

vidual was present in Columbia County, Wis., Aug. 27 (RH). Possibly the same Am. Avocet was found in Bay County (Aug. 5, DM) and Monroe County (Aug. 17 - 23, m.ob.). A Red Phalarope was in St. Joseph, Mich., Nov. 9 (WB). Minnesota's fourth record of this species was almost missed, as it was originally misidentified as a Northern, Nov. 12 - 19 at Mille Lacs L. (m.ob.). Between 25-30 N. Phalaropes were tallied in Wisconsin during August and September (m.ob.) with about seven in Michigan (m.ob.).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — Jaeger sightings occurred in Michigan and Minnesota. A total of four undetermined Jaegers was seen in Berrien County Oct. 16 - Nov. 12 (RS, WB, GW) with a Parasitic in Ottawa County Oct. 22 (BMa, HC). At Duluth two unspecified jaegers were seen Aug. 27, Sept. 17 - 18 (m.ob.) with a Parasitic Sept. 17 - 18 & 25 (L&JF). There were few Glaucous Gulls sighted. Curiously most were seen unusually early: Aug. 20 in Door County, Wis. (DTh), Oct. 5 in Lake County, Minn. (VG) and Oct. 11 in Berrien County (WB). About 17 Great Black-backed Gulls were seen in Michigan during late September and mid-November (m.ob.). Thayer's Gulls were found in Minnesota with a peak of three birds Oct. 28 - Nov. 13 near Duluth (KE, JG), one Nov. 14 in Dakota County (RJ) and another Nov. 19 in Lake County (KE, JG) Minnesota's third record of the **California Gull** occurred when three birds were studied at Mille Lacs L., Nov. 8, 11 & 15 (KE, JG, RJ).

For the third consecutive autumn a **Black-headed Gull** was found in Monroe County Nov. 19 - 29 (EC, JAG *et al.*). A Laughing Gull was seen near Manitowoc, Wis., Aug. 17 where the species had been during the summer (DT). Relatively small numbers of Franklin's Gulls were found in Minnesota and Wisconsin but 125+ were counted in an hour in Berrien County Nov. 10 (WB). A total of 4500 Bonaparte's Gulls was found at several Monroe County sites (m.ob.). Little Gulls were seen in Milwaukee—two on Aug. 2 (DG), and Green Bay Aug. 15 - 17 (EC); singles in Michigan's Ottawa County Oct. 22 (BMa, HC) and Berrien County Nov. 2, 12 - 13 (WB, RA, RS) and Minnesota's Mille Lacs L., Nov. 7 (KE, JG). Michigan had an unusual number of Black-legged Kittiwakes with birds in Ottawa County Oct. 7 & 22(2) & 24, in Muskegon County Oct. 24 and in Monroe County Nov. 19 (GW, JP, JW, JAG). Late tern sightings included Forster's Nov. 19 in Monroe County and Common Oct. 23 at Mille Lacs L. Caspian Terns were found in good numbers (50-125) at four different Wisconsin sites.

**OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Barn Owls were present in Wisconsin (three) and Michigan (pair with five young). There were very few Snowy Owls sighted in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the L.P. The exception was the U.P. where a good number was found. Two **Hawk Owls** were found at Duluth Nov. 19 with one remaining into December (DE *et al.*). There were five sites in Minnesota where Great Gray Owls were seen during late October and November. They included Duluth, Agassiz N.W.R., St. Louis, Lake and Cass Cos. Five Boreal Owls were banded at Hawk Ridge (Duluth) Oct. 21 - Nov. 18 (DE) with one at Ely,

Minn., Nov. 12 (GN). About 2400 Com. Nighthawks migrated through Columbia County, Wis., Aug. 28 (RH). There was an impressive Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration during late August in Berrien County, as evidenced by these figures: 650+ Aug. 26, 250+ Aug. 28 and 800+ Aug. 31 (WB).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLINGS** — Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found unusually far north in Minnesota with sightings in Aitkin, Otter Tail and Pennington Cos. The only Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker sightings also came from Minnesota, including Cook (six reports), St. Louis (three reports), Hubbard and Lake of the Woods Cos. A W. Kingbird was observed at leisure at Memphis, Mich., Aug. 26 (VJ) with another on S. Manitou I., Leelanau Co., Mich., Sept. 1 (AMa). Most unusual was a ♂ **Vermilion Flycatcher** in full breeding plumage discovered near Elizabeth, Otter Tail Co., Minn. It was seen and photographed by m.ob. during its two-day stay, Nov. 6 - 7, and represented the first state record (*vide* GO). Minnesota had an impressive Horned Lark migration this fall with 5000 Oct. 22 in Clay County and hundreds along the roadsides in numerous locations Nov. 21 - 27. Many of them were hit by passing cars. Over 50,000 Tree Swallows were found at Green Bay, Wis., Aug. 27 (DG). In addition to the normal sightings of Gray Jays one out-of-range bird was noted in Wilkin County, Minn., Nov. 14 (GO). Unusual were the five Black-billed Magpies that remained around Duluth until Sept. 25, again being sighted Oct. 19 (*vide* JG). Additional out-of-range species included two Com. Ravens in St. Clair County, Mich., Oct. 15 (JK,JAG,JFo), and a Boreal Chickadee in East Lansing Nov. 4 (GSt). An unusual concentration of 50 Boreals was found in a limited area of Cook County, Minn., Aug. 14 (KE).

Both Wisconsin and Minnesota observers commented on the exceptionally high numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches present during most of the period. Three Carolina Wrens were present in s.e. Michigan. These were the only reports for this species; this paucity is in direct contrast to previous years. Undoubtedly the 1976-77 winter decimated this species. There was a similar situation for the Mockingbird with two in Benzie County, Aug. 1 (SH), one in Oakland County, Mich., Sept. 30 (BB) and Duluth Oct. 16 (JG). Varied Thrushes appeared in Minnesota with an early bird at a St. Paul feeder in mid-October and two at Duluth feeders beginning Nov. 27 (*vide* JG). In Wisconsin single birds were seen in late November in Sheboygan (JS *et al.*) and Chippewa (*vide* SR) Cos. Again this fall **Mountain Bluebirds** were found in Minnesota with solitary birds in Anoka County, Oct. 22 (KL) and St. Louis County, Nov. 21 (KE). A few Bohemian Waxwings were observed as early as late October in Minnesota and during November in both Michigan and Wisconsin. There were decidedly fewer N. Shrikes seen this autumn as compared to the past several years. A few Loggerheads were noted in Wisconsin and Minneapolis.

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — The migration for both groups commenced in early August, which is earlier than normal. Both Michigan and Wisconsin

observers commented on the fine warbler movement through their states. Again this autumn there was little excitement produced within these groups. Of interest were Bell's Vireos in Wright and Houston Cos., Minn., Aug. 28 (ESt, FL), a Kentucky Warbler still on its nesting territory in Dane County, Wis., Sept. 3 (RH) and a Yellow-breasted Chat in St. Clair County, Mich

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH BUNTINGS** — An Orchard Oriole was present in Columbia County, Wis., Aug. 14 (RH). On Aug. 31 a **Western Tanager** was observed in Hoffmaster S.P., Muskegon Co., Mich (JW, ST, CR). An indication of the continued N extension of the Cardinal's range was the presence of two in Duluth this fall. Blue Grosbeaks were found in their usual sites in Rock and Murray Cos., Minn., during August. After an absence of any winter finch movement for the past several years this autumn showed promise for a bonanza winter. Apparently this is to be an invasion year for the Pine Grosbeak and White-winged Crossbill in Wisconsin and Minnesota and the Pine Siskin in all three states. Flocks ranging in size to *several hundred* for the Pine Grosbeak and White-winged Crossbill were noted in both states, predominantly in November. Pine Siskin numbers ranged between several hundred to a *few thousand* in all three states during October and November. Evening Grosbeaks were present in good numbers in Michigan, but only in n. Wisconsin and Minnesota at the period's conclusion. Common Redpolls were rapidly increasing in numbers during November in n. Wisconsin and Minnesota with a few commencing to filter down to the s. parts of the Region. Only the Purple Finch and Red Crossbill were found in sub-normal numbers with the latter being unusually scarce.

A Lark Bunting was in Pipestone County Aug 6 (RJ, OJ). Le Conte's Sparrows were found in Wisconsin Sept. 11 in Columbia County (RH) and in Michigan Sept. 23 in Leelanau County (AMa). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were discovered Sept. 14 in Columbia County (RH) and during mid-September in Minneapolis, Sept. 17 in Wilkin County (GO, GWi) and mid-October in Winona—all Minnesota. A single Lark Sparrow was on S. Manitou I., Mich., Sept. 23 (AMa). A Fox Sparrow was found on the very early date of Sept 2 in Otter Tail County, Minn. (GO). Unusually high numbers of Smith's Longspurs were present at Rothsay W.A., Wilkin Co., Minn., Oct. 12 - 23 with a peak of 200+ on Oct. 15 (KE, RJ, GO).

**SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS (boldface) and CONTRIBUTORS** — Ray Adams, Dave Baker (DBa), Dan Berger, S. Blanche, Ben Blazier, Don Bolduc (DBo), Walter Booth, Chuck & Micki Buer, E. Carhart (EC), A. Carpenter, Harry Clark, Ed Cleary (EC), Mary Donald, Robert Drieslein, **Kim Eckert (Minnesota, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, 55804)**, Eric Epstein, D. Evans, Jim Evrard, Craig Faanes, James Fowler (JFo), Jim Frank, Lee & Joann French, Janet Green, J. A. Greenhouse, Doris Gregerson (DGr), Betty Grigg, **William Grigg (n.e. Michigan, 745 Pinewood Ave., Rogers City, 49779)**, V. Grover, Dennis Gustafson, B. Harris, Vince Herring, Randy Hoffman, Sally Huston, N.J. **Inicky (Upper Peninsula, Michigan, 42 Stonegate Drive,**

Stonegate Heights, Marquette, 49855), Vic Janson, Robert Janssen, Oscar Johnson, Alice Kelley (s.e. Michigan, 3681 Forest Hill Drive, Bloomfield Hills, 48013), Charles Kemper, Dick Kinch, J. Kleiman, Randy Korotev, K. LaFord, Doug Larking, Fred Leshner, Al Maley, Frank Mantlik, Alan Marble (AMa), Bill Martinus (BMA), Doug McWhirter (s.c. Michigan, Dept. of Zoology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, 48824), Bob Morman, G. Niemi, Gary Otnes, David Pietrowicz, James Ponshair (w.c. Michigan, 10805 60th Ave., Allendale, 49401), Bill Pugh, Sam Robbins, Charlotte Runnells, G. Scott (GS), Ellen Slater, Roy Smith (s.w. Michigan, 909 Timberland Drive, Berrien Springs, 49103), Evelyn Stanley (ES), Gary Stolz (GS), Joseph Suchecki, Daryl Tessen (Wisconsin), Doug Thiessen (DTH), Scott Thomasma, Phill

Vandershaegen, T. Wells, George Wickstrom, Gerald Winkelman (GWi), Joan Wolfe—DARYL D. TESSEN, 2 Pioneer Park Place, Elgin, Ill. 60120.

*Attention Sub-Regional Editors* — The Winter and Spring season reports will be written by Kim Eckert and the Summer and Autumn seasons by Daryl Tessen. Please send your seasonal summary to the appropriate editor.

ADDENDA — A sick Purple Gallinule was found by a boy on June 23 in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It died the following day and represents the second U.P. record, *vide* William Robinson. A ♂ Blue Grosbeak was seen on July 31 at Ossineke, Michigan by Bob Allen.

## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Vernon M. Kleen

The fall migration was the best in many years. Cool weather of early August started the season on a good note; several cold fronts followed, bringing migrants through in perceptible waves—at least locally; large numbers of raptors were seen as they headed south and winter finches came in as a finale. The season was also loaded with observations of the rare and unexpected.



Many passerines appeared well ahead of schedule as the cool August weather triggered mass departure from northern nesting areas; warblers and flycatchers were especially evident beginning the second week of August and often peaking before the end of August. Migration waves were not clear-cut regionwide, but two-or-three day movements were subregionally observed. The total number of individuals for most species was good; only ducks and sparrows were in poor numbers everywhere and shorebirds locally. The early trend switched in mid-September and for the rest of the period the migration was somewhat retarded and birds were less abundant or conspicuous.

The unseasonably cool weather of early August was followed by hot days so that the month turned out average statistically; September experienced above-

normal and October below-normal temperatures, November was well above normal. The season was also a wet one—so much so that farmers found it difficult to harvest crops on time. It is possible that the late harvest and reduced fall plowing will show up in the positive column for wildlife populations next year.

As usual, many observer-hours were spent looking for the less common and out-of-place species—especially water-associated species. Therefore, data for many common species were not obtained and can not be sufficiently treated in this report. We should strive for more emphasis on the expected species and less on the unexpected.

The use of documentation forms continued to increase and the quality of birding has noticeably improved. Contributors now realize that all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation; not that evening or the next day. A total of 102 documentation forms was received: Illinois 31, Ohio 25, Indiana 24, Iowa 9, Kentucky 9, Missouri 4. All documented records are denoted by a dagger (†). Specimens are denoted by an asterisk (\*). Records which were not satisfactorily documented were either omitted or appear in the UNCORROBORATED REPORTS section.

LOONS AND GREBES — Common Loons were uncommon except in isolated instances such as the 493 in one hour at Cleveland Nov. 12 (RH) and 95 at Lexington, Ky., Nov. 23 (BHo); other maximum counts occurred in early November and totaled not more than 21 birds at any one location; early records were singles at Ft. Wayne, Ind., Aug. 17 (Haw) and Maryville, Mo., Sept. 10 (E). A Red-throated Loon was observed at Michigan City, Ind. (hereafter, Mich. C.) Nov. 20 (†KBr *et al.*). Three Red-necked Grebes were found at Land between the Lakes, Trigg Co., Ky., Nov. 19 (†CP); another was present at Ft. Wayne Oct. 18 - 20 (Haw, †EH). Horned Grebes appeared in numbers only around Cleveland, with a maximum of 130 on Nov. 27 (OD); the species was considered

uncommon elsewhere; two had appeared at Maryville, Mo., by Aug. 20 (E). Four Eared Grebes were reported from Mills County, Ia., Oct. 30 (RSi) and singles were found in Guthrie County, Ia., Oct. 16 (GBu), Brookston, Ind., Nov. 12 - 24 (†EH,m.ob.) and Columbia, Mo., Oct. 22 (WG). Except for the three W. Grebes at Iowa City, Ia., Oct. 30 (ThK) all others were noted individually as follows: Maryville, Mo., Oct. 2 (TBk); Kansas City Nov. 19 (KH); Louisville Nov. 8 (†DP,LR); Mich. C., Oct. 30 (†TiK); Cherokee, Ia., Oct. 28 (DBm) and Iowa City Oct. 27 - Nov. 3 (†N,m.ob.). Pied-billed Grebes were referred to as scarce in many areas; however, maxima of 113 and 82 were observed at Schell-Osage, Mo., Sept. 6 (JRa) and Waveland, Ind., Oct. 6 (AB), respectively.

**PELICANS THROUGH IBISES** — The largest flights of White Pelicans passed through the extreme w portion of the Region during the last half of September; the largest group, 1200, was found at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., Sept. 18 (WG); small groups were reported along the Mississippi R., with one as far e. as Mich. C., Oct. 1 (*fide* EH). More observers reported Double-crested Cormorants; migration ranged from Aug. 17 through the end of the period but primarily in October; as expected, the greatest numbers occurred in the west (especially Missouri) and fewest in the east with only two reports from Kentucky and three from Ohio. A Green Heron was still present at Antioch, Ill., Nov. 12 (DJ). Except for the 200+ at E. St. Louis, Ill. (hereafter, EStL.) Aug. 28 (D) and the 100+ in Jersey County, Ill., in late August (D), reports of Little Blue Herons were limited to five individuals or less—primarily in late August and the first week of September—and from only one or two locations per state. Cattle Egret records were even scarcer but included late departures of Nov. 2 at Columbia, Mo. (JRa); seven from Union County Ref., Ill., Nov. 12 (IM *et al.*), and s. Iowa Nov. 4 (*fide* N). Black-crowned Night Herons were considered to be in fair-to-good numbers in the west and south, but in low numbers in the east. An imm. White Ibis was present at Gilbert L., Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Aug. 6 (†H,m.ob.). Three dark ibises were noted at Schell-Osage Sept. 18 (JRa) and one was still present Oct. 1 (*fide* NJ).

**WATERFOWL** — A migrating Whistling Swan was first detected at Columbus, O., Oct. 24 (Fry); all flocks appeared in November—the majority passing through during the second and fourth weeks; a few strays were reported s. of the normal flight corridor—in Missouri and Illinois; as usual, some fell prey to gunners. The Canada Goose flocks returned to the s. Illinois and Kentucky refuges in greatly increased numbers; this marks the second consecutive year the population has increased by 100,000 birds, bringing the current total to 525,000. A Brant was noted at Columbus Oct. 23 - Nov. 10 (DT,†J,†m.ob.) and another (black form) was killed in Rock Island County, Ill., Oct. 24 (*fide* P). The only unusual occurrence of White-fronted Geese was the flock of 11 at the Pigeon River Fish and Game Area, Ind. (hereafter, P.R.A.), Oct. 11 (*fide* Haw,LCs) and one still there Nov. 5 (Haw *et al.*). Normal numbers of Ross' Geese were noted in n.w. Missouri (R) and one

was photographed at DeSoto Bend N.W.R., Ia., Nov. 21 (*fide* N). Refuge estimates indicated only one-sixth of the normal number of dabbling ducks at w Kentucky refuges by the end of the period compared to 1976 populations (JM). However, in n. Ohio, normal numbers appeared in August and September (M,LV). The maximum number of Green-winged Teal at Ottawa N.W.R., O. (hereafter, O.W.R.) was definitely up compared to past years—638 on Nov. 6 (LV), over 7000 were found at Red Rock Ref., Ia., during the height of migration (GBI). There were few comments concerning diving ducks; however, the one reported wave, even though low in numbers of birds, was detected at Cleveland Nov. 5 (M)—only Ruddy Ducks and Lesser Scaup were common. Eleven Canvasbacks reached Ft. Wayne by Oct. 13 (Haw); peak passage was late November. Inland observers took more time to identify Greater Scaup and found it rewarding, a maximum of 60 was reported from Maryville, Mo., Nov. 16 (E); good numbers were also reported from three other inland locations. Single Oldsquaws were reported from four inland locations (3 Illinois, 1 Missouri), Nov. 4 - Dec. 5. Two Harlequin Ducks were present at Mich. C., Nov. 13 - 27 (PG,†EH,†KBr). There were numerous inland reports of all three scoters and at Columbus Nov. 5 (†J *et al.*), all three were on the same reservoir at the same time. Inland records of White-winged Scoters included one or two locations—maximum of four birds—from each state except Kentucky, which reported none; Surf Scoters were at 1 - 4 locations—maximum of three birds—from each state except Kentucky; Black Scoters were seen at 1 - 3 locations from each state except Iowa and Kentucky. There were an unprecedented 27 Black Scoters at Alton, Ill., Nov. 15 (†CS *et al.*) and seven were noted at Clinton, Ill., Nov. 25 (†RP); generally the species appeared as singles with occasional groups up to four. Normal numbers of scoters were seen from the Great Lakes shorelines. An impressive 2100 Red-breasted Mergansers were noted at Cleveland Nov. 28 (M) and 64 was high for Springfield, Mo. (CB *et al.*)

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — An early Goshawk was reported from Iowa City Sept. 18 (†MN). Compared to recent years, migrant Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reportedly common; 257 Sharpies were counted at Illinois Beach S.P. (hereafter, I.B.S.P.), Sept. 26 and another 83 the following day (GR). The 96 Red-tailed Hawks through I.B.S.P., Sept. 26 was also impressive (GR). Observers found that Red-shouldered Hawks, still scarce, were showing signs of a possible slight recovery; this could only be detected by the collective reports of all contributors. Noteworthy Broad-winged Hawk flights were observed this fall; practically all concentrations passed through Sept. 17 - 27 region-wide. Swainson's Hawks were reported from four locations in Iowa Aug. 6 - Oct. 24, however, only two were documented (†TSh). There was an excellent invasion of Rough-legged Hawks; the winter outlook for the species appeared good. A Ferruginous Hawk was reported from Shenandoah, Ia., Oct. 27 (†RPh). The presence of a Golden Eagle at Grafton, Ill., Aug. 6 and later was unexpected (†H,m.ob.); another was noted at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., Oct. 22 (†RP)

Early arriving Bald Eagles appeared at Warrenville, Ill., Aug. 10 (GRi); Red Rock Ref., Ia., Sept. 24 (JSt); seven at Swan Lake Ref., Mo., Oct. 16 (WG) and Spfld., Nov. 20 (H). Marsh Hawks were rather common this fall; the one-day migration at I.B.S.P., totaled 31 (GR); early arrivals included singles at both Monticello, Ill. (JFr) and Mt. Comfort, Ind. (HWe) Aug. 26. The fall Osprey report was: Ohio 17, Sept. 8 - Oct. 15; Kentucky 4, Sept. 17 - 25; Indiana 14, Aug. 28 - Oct. 29; Illinois 46, Sept. 2 - Oct. 21; Iowa undetermined; Missouri 34+, Aug. 25 - Oct. 30. A **Prairie Falcon** made an appearance in Iowa at least for one day, Oct. 16 in Fremont County (†RSi).

#### S.A.

The amazing flight of 47 Peregrine Falcons that passed Northwestern University along the Chicago lakefront Oct. 1, was a spectacular event of unequalled significance; the flight began early in the morning and continued through early afternoon (B,†m.ob.); a total of 64 Peregrines was accounted for in the Chicago area Sept. 24 - Oct. 15 (*vide* B,†m.ob.), singles were also noted at 11 other Regionwide locations—many were documented.

Merlins were also noteworthy; none was reported from Ohio or Indiana but from 11 other locations Sept. 20 - Nov. 12 (†m.ob.). At least 27 Am. Kestrels passed I.B.S.P., on the "hawk flight" day Sept. 26 (GR).

**GALLIFORMES AND GRUIFORMES** — Native Ruffed Grouse populations have generally gone unreported in recent years; however, a few individuals were found in the n. reaches of the Region at Yellow River Forest, Ia. (DKo), Apple River S.P., Ill. (GH) and P.R.A. (*vide* Haw) this fall. The Bobwhite is a species that should continue to be watched; the species may not be in serious trouble Regionwide, but very low numbers were reported from some localities. Large flocks of Sandhill Cranes were not observed—even at the traditional Indiana refuges, however 94 were observed in Ross County, O., Nov. 12 (J); small numbers (maximum of five) were reported from n.e. Illinois, n. Indiana and two Ohio locations Sept. 26 - Nov. 23. Single Yellow Rails were encountered at Olney, Ill. (TV-tower casualty) Sept. 12 (\*LHa); Willow Slough, Ind., Sept. 24 (†EH *et al.*); and Louisville Oct. 22 - 23 (†BP, BM *et al.*).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Piping Plovers passed through the Region individually July 17 - Sept. 3 but primarily in late August; they were encountered at only six locations not including Ohio and Iowa. Five Am. Golden Plovers lingered at Columbus until Nov. 10 (J); one at Cleveland until Nov. 7 (M); and 15 at Belden, O. until Nov. 5 (OD). Three Whimbrels were spotted at I.B.S.P., Sept. 4—one had been there Aug. 21 (JN *et al.*); one to four were regularly observed at Cleveland Aug. 20 - Sept. 24 (M); and one was present at O.W.R., Oct. 9 (J). Normal numbers of Willets were reported. The three Greater Yellowlegs at Columbus Nov. 24 (J) were rather late; as was the one at Waveland, Ind., Nov. 15 (AB). From one to six Red Knots were found at eight locations not including Iowa or

Missouri Aug. 17 - Sept. 12; the species appeared more than once in three areas. The only Purple Sandpiper reported was seen regularly at Mich. C Oct. 9 - 30 (†EH). Stilt Sandpipers were considerably fewer in number than in other recent years; the same was true for Buff-breasted Sandpipers even though they were reported from all states except Iowa. A scattering of Marbled Godwits was found: two at O.W.R., Aug. 19 (LV, Fry); two at Waukegan Aug. 13 - 22 (JN, m.ob.); one at Barrington, Ill., Sept. 3 (JN, m.ob.); and EStL., Aug. 29 - Sept. 5 (D). The only Hudsonian Godwit was present Aug. 20 - 24 at Cleveland (†JHo *et al.*). Up to 17 Sanderlings were observed at Land between the Lakes Sept. 5 (JTE) single-figure numbers were reported elsewhere (m.ob.). Except for the 20 at Spfld., Sept. 15 (H, m.ob.) and 11 at both Mich. C., Sept. 7 (*vide* EH) and Milford, O., Aug. 12 (HC), Am. Avocets were encountered as singles or pairs throughout August and early September; one was present at Louisville Oct. 30 - Nov. 5 (DBE). The accompanying photo provides evidence of the **Black-necked Stilt** at Schell-Osage Oct 1 - 6; two were noted there Oct. 2 (SY *et al.*). The pelagic Red Phalarope is always noteworthy in the Region—however, the presence of five may suggest a regular migration; two were present at Mich. C., Nov 12 (†EH) and singles at O.W.R., Oct. 2 (†LV, m.ob.) EStL., Oct. 1 - 3 (†WRu, †PS); and Maryville, Mo (\*E, R). Only small numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes were reported. Up to 26 N. Phalaropes were counted at O.W.R., Aug. 7 (LV); four were noted at Champaign, Ill., Aug. 24 (JFr); singles were present at six other locations Aug. 14 - Oct. 30.



*Black-necked Stilt with Greater Yellowlegs, Schell Osage W.M.A., Mo., Oct. 5, 1977. Photo/ Jim Rathert*

**JAEGERS, GULLS AND TERNS** — Experiences with jaegers are expected along L. Michigan each fall five, two of which were identified at Parasitic Jaegers, were observed at Evanston, Ill., Oct. 1 (B); one Parasitic was present at Wilmette, Ill., Nov. 23 (GR), two were found at Mich. C., (CK *et al.*) and Gary, Ind (RG) Nov. 6 & 16, respectively. The Aug. 7 appearance of a Glaucous Gull at Cleveland was unusual (†M, †m.ob.). There were four records of Thayer's Gull from Illinois beginning Nov. 10: L. Calumet (GR, *vide* B), Chicago (*vide* B), EStL. (†, D) and L. Sangchris

(†H). Owing to the high water on the Ohio R., Ring-billed Gulls were scarce at Louisville (S); the species was also less common than expected in Iowa (m.ob.); one individual arrived at Land between the Lakes by Aug. 20 (JTE). The first Indiana record of a **Black-headed Gull** was established Aug. 20 (†EH *et al.*). Single Laughing Gulls were reported from Cleveland (†JHo) and Columbus (†J) Oct. 8 & 10 respectively; from Mich. C., Sept. 17 (†KBr) and Chicago Aug. 4 (†REi). Noting the numbers of Franklin's Gulls reported, the migration was primarily w. of the Region; however large flocks (500 - 650 birds) were recorded in the w. portion of the Region; small flocks or individuals were reported elsewhere. Bonaparte's Gulls in August were unusual: Hamilton County, Ind., Aug. 6 (HWe); Iowa City Aug. 14 (N) and Louisville Aug. 24 (BP). Two Little Gulls were identified; one at Cleveland Oct. 23 - Nov. 1 (†RHa) and one at Wilmette, Ill., Nov. 30 (GR). Over 5000 Com. Terns were present at O.W.R., Sept. 4 (LV,m.ob.); 200+ were noted at Mich. C., Sept. 9 (EH); 60 was the high total for EStL., Sept. 15 (D); 11 recently-fledged young were still present at the Waukegan nesting location Sept. 14; late departees were two at Mich. C., Nov. 5 (KBr) and one at Oregon, O., Nov. 29 (LV *et al.*). Departing Least Terns were: two noted Sept. 15 at Springfield, Mo. (NF); three Sept. 5 at EStL. (D); Aug. 28 at O.W.R. (†J); six Aug. 21 at Kansas City and one at Louisville (JEI). Exceptionally large numbers of Caspian Terns were reported from eight locations; numbers ranged as high as 250 at Jefferson City, Mo., Sept. 14 (WG); 100+ around St. Louis Sept. 17 - 22 (D); 85 at Davenport, Ia., Sept. 13 (P); 73 at Waukegan Aug. 18 (JN) and 50+ at Schell-Osage Oct. 1 (SY); one lingered at Cleveland until Nov. 20 (OD *et al.*).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A Black-billed Cuckoo at Savanna, Ill., Oct. 29 should have been gone by then (BSh). One Barn Owl was illegally shot in Logan County, Ill., Oct. 8 (\*Ill. St. Mus.); another was sighted at Cleveland Nov. 11 (RHa). There were few Long-eared or Short-eared Owls reported. A regular number of Saw-whet Owls passed into the Region; the earliest arrival was noted at Dundee, Ill., Oct. 2 (BT). Fairly large groups (75 - 500) of Com. Nighthawks were reported Aug. 25 - Sept. 16; however the average of 250 birds/mi for 21 mi in Whiteside County, Ill., Sept. 1 was quite spectacular (HH); one bird delayed departure until at least Oct. 14 at Iowa City (TSh). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird came daily to a Waterloo, Ia., feeder until Nov. 27 (TSt). There was an apparent mass exodus of Red-headed Woodpeckers this fall; many did remain in choice bottomland woods along the major rivers.

**FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — Loose flocks of 50+ and 55+ E. Kingbirds were unusual for fall; they were recorded at Lilly, Ill., Aug. 19 (DBi) and Kansas City Aug. 31 (NW) respectively; one bird remained at Louisville until Nov. 27 (†VNC, *vide* S). Stray W. Kingbirds were detected at Indianapolis Aug. 28 (†TiK) and in Jersey County, Ill., Sept. 23 (†HWu). Olive-sided Flycatchers were among the fall migrants arriving early and moving through rapidly; more than the usual number of encounters was

recorded beginning Aug. 6 at St. Joseph, Mo. (L) and Aug. 8 at Spfld. (H). The 150 Tree Swallows present at Iowa City Nov. 3 was a large number for such a late date (N). Three Barn Swallows were present at Squaw Creek Ref., Mo., Nov. 6 (L). A flock of Cliff Swallows had arrived at Normal, Ill., by July 14 (TM) and one lingered at Urbana, Ill., until Oct. 9 (JFr). The largest roost of Purple Martins was 5000 at Waukegan Aug. 26; the total dropped to nearly 3000 by Sept. 6 (JN,TC) and disappeared rapidly thereafter; one was still present at Spfld., Oct. 16 (H).

**CROWS THROUGH WRENS** — Migrating Com. Crows—26 high overhead heading due S at Greenfield, Ind., Nov. 4, ignored the calls of the local crows at treetop level (HWe); 2100 were observed in one hour in Sylvania Township, O., Oct. 22 (ET). There was a minor incursion of Black-capped Chickadees into the n. portion of the Region; it was first detected in n. Ohio before mid-October and penetrated c. Ohio in early November; the movement was not reported elsewhere. There was a modest migration of Red-breasted Nuthatches; their general appearance was from mid-September onward, but early arrivals were noted as Aug. 31 at Cincinnati (KM); Sept. 3 at Iowa City (TSh); Sept. 4 at Spfld. (H), and Sept. 10 at Cleveland (M) and Louisville (BP). Winter Wrens were noticeably scarce throughout the season. A Bewick's Wren was found at Waterloo, Ia., Sept. 28 (TSh) Carolina Wrens were still difficult to find and were reported as very scarce or absent over most of the Region; they were detected, though, at eight locations around Madisonville, Ky. (JHa). Young Short-billed Marsh Wrens were seen leaving the nest at Shreve, O. Sept. 5 (DKI); notable late dates for the species included: Nov. 15 at Des Moines (*vide* WB); Nov. 3 at Olney, Ill. (LHa); and Oct. 27 at Louisville (BP). The first **Rock Wren** ever for Indiana was observed Oct. 18 - 21 (see photo) at Winchester (RF,†m.ob.).



Rock Wren, Winchester, Ind., Oct. 20, 1977. Photo by Jeff Moore.

**THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES** — October 24 was late for the presence of a Wood Thrush at Davenport, Ia. (P). A Swainson's Thrush had arrived at Spfld., by Aug. 22 (H) and Normal, Ill., by Aug. 25 (DBi); singles lingered at Spfld., until Oct. 20 (K) and Davenport Nov. 6 (P). A Gray-cheeked Thrush appeared in St. Lucas County, Ia., by Aug. 14 (JSc) and Spfld., Aug. 22 (H); one was still present at Louisville Oct. 19 (DP). One Townsend's Solitaire was observed Nov. 19 - 22 and photographed at Chicago's Navy Pier (†MM,m.ob.). Few observers note departing Blue-gray Gnatcatchers; therefore, the presence of the species at Louisville Nov. 11 (DP); Monmouth, Ill., Oct. 16 (LM); Urbana, Ill., Oct. 9 (RCh); and Spfld., Sept. 23 (H) was noteworthy. General consensus of reports of Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers was dismal—especially so for Golden-crowned Kinglet; a Ruby-crowned had arrived at Davenport by Aug. 24 (P). Good-sized flocks of Water Pipits were observed in Ohio; the largest numbers were found Nov. 5. Two Sprague's Pipits were recorded from Maryville, Mo., Oct. 29 (\*E,R *et al.*). A few N. Shrikes reached our n. areas by early November; the earliest Oct. 16 at Waukegan (JN) There continued to be mixed reports on the abundance of Loggerhead Shrikes—but there were better-than-average numbers around St. Louis (D).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — One White-eyed Vireo remained at Louisville until Nov. 1 (JEl *et al.*); three were still present at Iowa City Sept. 24 (RD *et al.*) Two late-departing Solitary Vireos were the ones at ESTL., Nov. 6 (D) and Spfld., Nov. 1 (H). A Philadelphia Vireo made its appearance at Davenport Aug. 14 (P). The following warblers were among those which arrived during or before mid-August throughout much of the Region: Golden-winged, Tennessee, Cape May, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Palm (Kansas City Aug. 12—SPa *et al.*), N. Waterthrush, Wilson's and Canada. The most outstanding individual records of late-departees were: Nashville at Iowa City Nov. 6 (RD); Cape May at Shreve, O., Nov. 7 (DK); Magnolia at Charleston, Ill., Oct. 23 (LBH); Black-throated Blue at Lake of the Ozarks S.P., Mo., Oct. 1 (m.ob.); and two Prairies at L. Rathbun, Ia., Sept. 5 (†GW). Of interest was the arrival of a Myrtle Warbler at Magee Marsh, O., Aug. 24 (DKI) and the first Seneca County, O., record of Pine Warbler (2), Sept. 17 (TBt).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES** — One Yellow-headed Blackbird was picked out at O.W.R., Sept. 24 (J). Five Rusty Blackbirds arrived at Louisville by Sept. 10 (DP). At least 132 Brewer's Blackbirds were present at Maryville, Mo., Oct. 18 (R *et al.*) and some remained through the end of October; over 100 were found in St. Charles County, Mo., Nov. 10 (D) and Golden City, Mo., Nov. 21 (CB *et al.*); one was discernable at Mich. C., Aug. 21 (EH). A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was carefully scrutinized at Kansas City Sept. 16 (†NJ). Everyone welcomed the appearance of Evening Grosbeaks; they arrived, and disappeared almost as quickly, visiting feeders occasionally and then for only a day or so; the majority was detected from Oct. 17 on; however, one appeared at

Toledo by Sept. 22 (*vide* ET) and in Ashtabula County, O., Oct. 5 (J); flocks ranged from small numbers to over 100 birds; most were in groups of less than ten Purple Finches arrived 3 - 4 weeks before the grosbeaks and were never very common. Pine Grosbeaks appeared by the end of the period in the extreme north; 14 were observed in the Yellow River Forest, Ia., Nov. 26 (DKo); singles were normal. Only a few Com. Redpolls arrived by the end of the period, most were in the north, but there were three feeder records for St. Louis (*vide* D). Pine Siskins were among the welcome n. visitors—arriving by Sept. 26 at Indiana Dunes (KBr) and Spfld., Oct. 3 (H); the majority appeared during the second week of October and passed through in modest numbers—flocks of up to 60 individuals; on Oct. 15, several small flocks totalling over 1000 birds passed through I.B.S.P. (JN *et al.*) Not to be outdone, a king-sized flock of Am. Goldfinches (1500) was present at Land between the Lakes in late November (JTE). The five Red Crossbills at Davenport Nov. 27 (P) and one at Harper's Ferry, Ia., Nov. 26 (DKo) were the only ones reported this fall. On the other hand, White-winged Crossbills were widespread; 12 were first noted at Genoa, O., Sept. 5 (LV) but not again until early November; the majority arrived in groups of 2 - 25 after mid-November

**SPARROWS, LONGSPURS AND BUNTINGS** — Late dates for Grasshopper Sparrows were: three Nov. 7 at Spfld. (H) and one October 29 at Iowa City (ThK). Four Le Conte's Sparrows were found at O.W.R., Aug. 8 (LV *et al.*) and 15 in Nodaway County, Mo., Oct. 9 (R); the species was considered scarce in many places compared to last year. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were only encountered five times—Sept. 11 - Oct. 21; the majority were in late September. The Nov. 5 presence of a Lark Sparrow in Jefferson County, Ky. was noteworthy (†DP). A Slate-colored Junco arrived at Spfld., by Sept. 2 (K), another was at Louisville Sept. 18 (BM *et al.*) A White-throated Sparrow appeared at Iowa City by Sept. 10 (ThK). Lapland Longspurs arrived in very early October in the north, but did not become common until much later. About 30 Smith's Longspurs were observed in St. Clair County, Mo., Oct. 31 (R *et al.*). Snow Buntings, too, were widely reported—primarily in the north; although arriving at Gary, Ind., by Oct. 7 (RG), the majority did not appear until after mid-October; three reached n. Missouri (Maryville) in late October (E).

**UNCORROBORATED REPORTS** — Many records have been excluded from the report; however, the following may be correct even though supportive evidence was lacking or insufficient, Red-throated Loon Nov. 21 - 22 at Findlay Res., O.; Arctic Loon Oct. 15 at Decatur, Ill.; Mississippi Kite (2) Sept. 18 at Ozark, Mo.; Golden Eagles Nov. 12 at Union County Ref., Ill., late November at Ballard County Ref., Ky., and Nov. 25 - 26 in Allamakee County Ia., Red Phalarope Nov. 12 at Chicago.

**EXOTICS** — One Monk Parakeet was reported at Waveland, Ind., Sept. 2 (AB)

CORRIGENDUM — The 406,000 Canvasbacks reported on p. 337, *Am. Birds* 31: 3, should read 54,000.

CONTRIBUTORS — (Sectional Editors' names in boldface type; contributors are requested to send their reports to these editors.) Major contributors (A) Richard Anderson, (B) **Larry Balch**, (n. Ill.), (D) Joe Eades, (E) David Easterla, (H) H. David Bohlen, (J) Bruce Peterjohn, (K) **Vernon Kleen** (s. Ill.), (L) Floyd Lawhon, (M) William Klamm, (N) **Nicholas Halmi** (Iowa), (P) Peter Petersen, (R) **Mark Robbins** (Mo.), (S) **Anne Stamm** (Ky.), (W) Arthur Wiseman; other observers include: Jane Anderson, Kathryn Arhos, Delano Arvin, George Barker, Tim Barksdale (TBk), Tom Bartlett (TBt), Kevin Bell (KBe), David Berry (DBe), Dick Bierman (DBm), Dale Birkenholz (DBi), Richard Biss (RBi), Gladys Black (GBI), Rose Bodman (RBo), Catherine Bonner, Ken Brock (KBr), Woodward Brown, Alan Bruner, Gene Burns (GBu), Elaine Burstatte, V.N. Calvert, Marilyn Campbell, Larry Carter (LCr), Terry Carter, Lee Casebere (LCs), Robert Chapel (RCh), John Cole, Robert Collins (RCo), Harry Connor, Dennis Coskren, George Crossley, Owen Davies, Rich DeCoster, James Dinsmore, Ralph Eiseman (REi), Jackie & Diane Elmore (JEI), Ruth Erickson (REr), Joe Tom Erwin (JTE), Robert Farlow, Craig Farnes, Nathan Fay, Sam Fitton, Jim Frank (JFr), Jim Fry (Fry), Ione Getscher, Steven Glass, William Goodge, Ray Grow, Peter Grube, James Hancock (JHa), Ray Hannikman (RHa), Wayne Harness, Leroy Harrison (LHa), James Haw (Haw), John Herman (JHe), Herman Hier, Jack Hilsabeck (JHi), Bruce Hitman (BHi), Kelly Hobbs,

James Hoffman (JHo), Rich Hollis (RHo), Ed Hopkins Barry Howard (BHo), George Hubert, Virginia Humphreys, L. Barrie Hunt (LBH), David Irons Carole Johnson, David Johnson, Nanette Johnson, **Charles Keller**, (Ind.), Tim Keller (TiK), Thomas Kent (THK), Wendall Kingsolver, Dennis Kline (DKI) Jean Knoblauch, Darwin Koenig (DKo), Robert Krol Edwin Larson, Fred Loetscher, Frank Mantlik Walter Marcisz, Tom Marquardt, Karl Maslowski Lynn McKeown, Norman McLaughlin, Inez McLure Mike & Steve Mlodinow, Burt Monroe, Dean Mosman, James Moynahan, Jim Neal, Greg Neise, Mike Newlon, Thomas Nigus, **David Osborne** (s Ohio), Richard Palmer (RP), Brainard Palmer-Ball Donald Parker, Larry Parker, Sebastian Patti, (SPa) Sarah Peters (SPe), Clrell Peterson, Ruth Phipps (RPh) Janice Polk, Worth Randle (WRa), James Rathert (JRa), Lena Rauth, James Rettig (JRe), George Richter (GRi), Gerald Rosenband (GR), William Rudden (WRu), Richard Sandburg (RSa), Joe Schaufenbeul (JSc), Bernice Shannon (BSn), Betty Shaw (BSH) Tom Shires (TSh), Ross Silcock (RSi), Litha Smith Phoebe Snetsinger, Claudia Spener, Fred Stamm Mike Stasko, Bruce Stehling (BST), Thomas Stone (TSt), Jon Stravers, (JSt), David Styer (DSt), Donald Summerfield (DSu), Elliot Tramer, Don Tumlin Barbara Turner, **Laurel Van Camp** (n. Ohio), Norman Walker, Henry West (HWe), Albert Westerman Helen Wuestenfeld (HWu), Gary Wymore, Sondra Yeskie, Linda & Hank Zalatel.—**VERNON M KLEEN, Div. of Wildlife Resources, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Springfield, Illinois 62706.**

## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Robert D. Purrington

Not infrequently one finds that fall migration in the Region is characterized by an astonishing collection of extra-limital birds—western vagrants, post-breeding wanderers, boreal irruptive species, and so on—contrasting with a lack of concentration of the normal transients. Not that exceptions to this pattern are unusual, but a season that would have been featureless and unexciting without the rarities and vagrants is all too familiar. There is no great mystery to all this, but it gives to fall migration that unpredictable character which is so fascinating. Judged by the number and diversity of grounded transients, the fall was at best unexciting and seen by some as abysmal. And yet to those who were fortunate enough to see the White-tailed Kite, Glaucous Gull, and Great Kiskadee in the New Orleans area, the Lesser Black-backed Gull in Alabama, Sabine's Gull and Ash-throated Flycatcher in Arkansas, Snow Bunting in Mississippi, Mew Gull in Florida, etc., it was an exciting season indeed.

Rainfall was above normal after what was generally a dry summer, so that by the end of the period Alabama had a 10-inch excess for the year. In Louisiana August was nearly the wettest ever,

following a disastrously dry June and early July, which produced excellent shore-birding in some places and flooding in others. In the northern part of the Region rains came later, but it was still generally true that the driest part of the season came when bad weather



would have yielded the best birding. In Louisiana no significant concentrations of southbound migrants were encountered, with thrushes especially scarce, and birding success in Alabama is typified by the poor fall count at Birmingham of only 107 species and Lib Toenes' comment that the season was the "worst in memory" at Dauphin Island. In Arkansas and middle Tennessee the fall was seen as about average. Unusually there were many late records of purely insectivorous species, due in part to a mild fall, and an impressive list of unprecedentedly early records obtained by those few hardy souls who went afield, especially away from the cool of the woodlands, in early to mid-July.

On the whole the most unusual records were of species which normally winter well north of the Region, or winter or migrate along the Atlantic coast. Western vagrants did occur, including a few Scissor-tailed and Vermilion Flycatchers along the coast and the first Ash-throated Flycatcher for Arkansas, but the Great Kiskadee at New Orleans had probably been present the two previous winters and one notes in connection with the White-tailed Kite near New Orleans that the species is rapidly becoming common in the Houston area. There was some evidence of a boreal invasion, with Red-breasted Nuthatches arriving early and in numbers, and Pine Siskins were definitely on the move. Reports from early winter indicated that Evening Grosbeaks were pushing into the deep south in at least moderate numbers.

There was a little more tropical activity than in the previous fall, when no storms came ashore anywhere in the Region, but the effects of *Babe* and *Anita* which grazed the central gulf coast in the first week in September, were mostly of local interest.

While the task of the regional editor is hardly simplified by the explosive awakening or revival or field ornithology in a previously dormant part of the Region, it was, with the above caveat, gratifying to receive the 300 record slips from Mississippi, which has for so long been nearly absent from these pages.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Common Loons were somewhat early and unusually common on L. Pontchartrain and along the Mississippi coast. Summering individuals were noted at Nashville, Ft Morgan, Ala., Ship I., Miss., and near Ft. Pickens, Fla., it has become clear that a few summer annually, generally in winter plumage. Early Horned Grebes were in Alabama Sept. 10 at Gunterville Dam (RWL), the earliest for the state, and Sept. 23 in Marshall County (CDC), while Eared Grebes had arrived at Hattiesburg, Miss., by Sept. 20 (LG). Counts of up to 100 Brown Pelicans were obtained in late July and early August at the mouth of Mobile Bay (*vide* TAI,LRT), while a high of 200 for n.w. Florida came from Cape San Blas Sept. 4 (DD,CD). As many as six were seen along the Mississippi coast in early September, all wing-tagged birds recently introduced on the Chandeleur Is. (RPR *et al.*). Am. imm. Blue-faced (Masked) Booby seen at Ft. Morgan Aug. 9 (CDC) was the first August record for Alabama, but the fourth for the year. Double-crested Cormorants were present in unusual numbers on L. Pontchartrain and on the

Mississippi coast, as well as at Arkansas's L. Millwood, and were generally early. Two seen on Aug 9 at Eufala N.W.R. (JBO) were the earliest ever in fall for Alabama. Magnificent Frigatebirds over L. Pontchartrain Aug. 31 & Sept. 5 (RDP,MB) were fleeing tropical storms *Anita* and *Babe*, as was a concentration of 150 along the Mississippi coast Sept 3 (JT,LG,JI,AB). One at Biloxi Nov. 24 (BB) was very late.

**HERONS AND IBIS** — The first inland record of the **Great White (Great Blue) Heron** for Alabama was obtained when one was seen Sept. 8 at Marion by several experienced observers (HK,SH,AM) Hurricane *Babe* passed over Marion only two days before. An ad. Little Blue Heron out of season at Nashville Nov. 23 (MPS) was the latest ever by 45 days, while 90, of which  $\frac{2}{3}$  were immatures, at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., Aug. 28 (WCW) was an unusually large number for that locality. Reddish Egrets were seen in numbers in coastal Mississippi (*vide* WCW) and the 15 seen near Grand Isle, La., Aug 21 (MB) were a record concentration for Louisiana. An immature on the New Orleans lake-front Sept. 4 & Oct. 2 (RDP,MM) was the first in the city in years and evidently a product of the tropical weather. First records of Louisiana Herons for L. Millwood and Noxubee Ref., were obtained Aug 21 (CM *et al.*) & 28 (WCW), respectively. For the second consecutive fall, T.O.S. observers failed to find a single Am. Bittern, and numbers seemed low in Louisiana. Although there was only one report of Wood Storks in Alabama this fall, they were regular at L. Millwood through Oct. 1 (CM *et al.*), and a peak count of 145 at Noxubee Ref., Aug. 28 (WCW) was possibly a high for Mississippi. Peak numbers in Evangeline Par., were 86 at Vidrine Sept. 9 (JBO) White Ibises, rare inland, were noted at West Point Res., Oct. 27 (JBO), the farthest inland occurrence for Alabama, and at Lebanon, Tenn., through Aug 10 (HS,JS,m.ob.); 15 at Noxubee Ref., Sept 3 represented a record count for the refuge.

**WATERFOWL** — There were several reports of Whistling Swans from n. Alabama, a single bird was seen on the upper coastal plain at Eufala Ref., Nov 26 (JBO). One was visiting Noxubee Ref., Nov 24 (WCW). As is true every fall, there were many unprecedentedly early records of waterfowl along with several July or early August reports or birds which may have been summering. Earlier than ever in the state was a Pintail at Swan Creek Management Area, Ala. (hereafter, S.C.M.A.) Aug. 22 (DMB); Green-winged Teal were found by Brown at Wheeler N.W.R., Ala., July 18 and at S.C.M.A., Aug. 5, and were at Pascagoula, Miss., Aug. 19 (WCW,JT,RPR,LC). Three Cinnamon Teal at L. Millwood Oct. 3 (CM) established the third Arkansas record. A N. Shoveler at S.C.M.A., July 4 - 11 (DMB) was evidently summering, while one at Decatur, Ala., Sept. 2 (AM,HHF,MMcD) was the earliest ever for the state of a presumed southbound bird. Earliest ever for the inland part of the state were 17 Redheads at Wheeler Ref., Oct. 1 (RWL), the species was scarce in coastal Louisiana. Also unpre-

cedently early was a Lesser Scaup at Pensacola, Oct 15 (FW). The total of 2500 Ring-necked Ducks at Wheeler Nov. 5 (DMB) was a record count for Alabama. There were at least ten scoters reported, four White-winged, four Surf, and two Black; all were ♀-plumaged birds. Three White-winged Scoters were on L Shelby, Ala., Nov. 24 (BD) and one was seen at Nashville the following day (MLB, m.ob.); Surf Scoters were seen at Stevenson, Ala., Nov. 6 (DRJ), the earliest for the state; at Noxubee Ref., Nov. 24 (WCW); and in Metairie, La., Nov. 28 (JG, m.ob.), the fifth s.e. Louisiana record. Single Black Scoters were reported from Nashville, Oct. 29 – Nov. 10 (MLB, m ob ), the first record for that area and only the third for Tennessee, and from New Orleans Nov. 27 to the end of the period (JR, m.ob.), for the seventh area record Red-breasted Mergansers were noted in increased numbers in the New Orleans area while one at Guntersville, Ala., Oct. 17 (AM) was the earliest ever for the state.

DIURNAL BIRDS OF PREY — A count of 148 Black Vultures at Noxubee Ref., Aug. 28 (WCW) was perhaps a Mississippi record. An ad. **White-tailed Kite** seen near Raceland, La., Nov. 27 (NN,RDP) represented, including the recent nesting attempt, the third record for the state. On the basis of the expansion of its breeding range into the upper Texas coast, one should expect further Louisiana records. Mississippi Kites were late in departing as indicated by one at Gulfport, Miss., Sept. 18 (JT,AB); another at New Orleans Sept. 26 (NaN), the latest ever for s.e. Louisiana; and at Gum Cove in s.w. Louisiana Oct. 8 (JR,NN,MM,RJN). Sharp-shinned Hawks seemed definitely on the increase, with records *submitted* totalling over 230 individuals. High counts were 33 on Oct 26 at Ft. Morgan and 50 there a day later (TAI, m ob ), and 13 at New Orleans Oct. 26 (MB) following a frontal passage. The New Orleans total exceeded 50 for the fall and 100 were counted at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (*vide* CLK). A single bird at Hattiesburg, Miss., Aug. 9 (LG) was extremely early. Incidentally, one notes with mixed emotions the number of reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks (and an occasional Merlin) dining happily on small passerines at residential feeders. There were 16 reports of Cooper's Hawks, giving not much basis for optimism, considering that few observations go unreported. A Rough-legged Hawk near Jonesboro, Ark., Oct. 29 (KNP) was the earliest ever there by nearly two weeks; one in Marshall County, Ala., Nov. 20 (CDC) was the earliest Tennessee Valley record of a species which now occurs annually in the state. Of Bald Eagles there were 19 reports, including 8 adults, 6 immatures. Among these were two adults near the only known active Mississippi nest n. of Gulfport. Thirty-six Ospreys were reported, including 19 at L. Millwood Sept. 4 – Nov 13 (CM, m.ob.). There were nine known sightings of Peregrine Falcons in the Region, but only one from Louisiana, where wintering numbers seem to have declined during the past two or three years. Merlins were apparently up in numbers, or at least New Orleans observers thought so; there were 11 reports submitted.

CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — The Sandhill Crane migration brought unusual numbers farther W than normal, being especially notable in middle Tennessee where 370 were seen Nov. 23 - 24 and 84+ Nov. 30 – Dec. 2. Several were heard over Starkville, Miss., the night of Nov. 12 (RL) and one near Reserve Nov. 12 (MW) was the second ever seen in s.e. Louisiana. Two Virginia Rails were reported in Cleburne County, Ark., from May to July (GP,RP), there were no previous records for the state between May 15 and Aug. 10, although the species has bred in n. Alabama and on the Louisiana coast. A bird found dead in Metairie Sept. 9 (SP) was the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana. Although they are known to be present in the coastal marsh along the gulf in winter and in hay fields and pastures on migration, Yellow Rails are rarely seen except when special effort is made to follow mowing machines which sometimes flush them in the fall. This fall one was flushed from a Nachitoches, La., pasture Oct. 8 (CV). American Oystercatchers have rarely been seen on the Mississippi coast, although they breed sparingly on the Louisiana islands to the s.; three on Cat I., Oct 9 (AVH,GT) were thus noteworthy. An encouraging total of seven Snowy Plovers was seen on trips to Horn and Ship Is., Miss., Aug. 9 & 14 (RPR,WCW), while two Wilson's Plovers in New Orleans Sept 4 (RDP,SP,JP) concurrent with tropical storms *Babe* and *Anita*, were the first ever away from the coast in s.e. Louisiana. Nine Am. Golden Plovers seen at Ft Morgan Aug. 9 (CDC) were the earliest ever for Alabama, and several Black-bellied Plovers near Grand Isle on July 17 (RDP,MM,NN) were the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana, if southbound migrants. Ruddy Turnstones were seen inland in Arkansas in Lonoke County Aug. 20 (MP,HP), and at L. Millwood Sept. 4 & 17 (CM), the first there in 11 years. Up to three Com. Snipe seen July 4 & 6 at the S.C.M.A. (DMB) established the third summer record for Alabama, while one in Walton County., Fla., Aug 20 (FW,DR,KB) was the earliest ever for n.w. Florida by ten days. Whimbrels, unexpected anywhere in the Region in fall, were reported from Grand Isle July 17 (NN,MM,RDP) and Pascagoula, Miss., Aug. 12 & 27 and Sept. 18 (RPR,VT,RCB,WCW,JT). An Upland Sandpiper at Wheeler Ref., July 1 (DCH) was the earliest record in fall for Alabama, while one in New Orleans on Nov. 11 (JR) was the latest for s.e. Louisiana by nearly a month. Two Spotted Sandpipers at the S.C.M.A., July 4 (DMB) were unprecedentedly early for Alabama, as were four Solitary Sandpipers there July 1. An individual of the latter species in Craighead County, Ark., Oct. 25 (KS,PS) was the latest for the state by nine days. Several Red Knots near Grand Isle July 17 (MM,NN,RDP) were the earliest in fall for s.e. Louisiana, and individuals visiting Birmingham Aug. 27 (CDD, m.ob.) and two separate Lonoke County, Ark. localities Sept 11 (HH,EH,DW) were unusual finds inland. White-rumped Sandpipers are rare in fall in the Region; two at S.C.M.A., July 11 (DMB) were of interest and the earliest-ever in fall for Alabama as well. Three were at Pascagoula Sept. 5 (JT,AD), in the company of three Baird's Sandpipers. At the same locality Aug. 26 was a

very early Dunlin (RPR). Short-billed Dowitchers at the S.C.M.A., July 1 (DMB) were the earliest recorded inland in Alabama, as were two Long-billed Dowitchers there July 11. Both species were seen for the first time at L. Millwood from mid-September on (CM). A Stilt Sandpiper near Grand Isle July 17 (RDP,MM,NN) was the earliest-ever for s.e. Louisiana. By two weeks the earliest ever for Alabama was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper seen at Birmingham July 24 (CDD,CWS). There were several reports from localities in Arkansas where they are rare or had been previously unreported. Although a Marbled Godwit at Dauphin I., July 7 (LRT) was a month earlier than any previous fall record for Alabama, the species seems to occur on Louisiana's Chandeleur Is., continuously during June and July. At least 30 Am. Avocets summered near Mobile and although few were in breeding plumage, the possibility of imminent breeding in Alabama is real, perhaps stimulated by the nesting behavior of Black-necked Stilts (TAI). Forty near Grand Isle July 17 (MM,NN,RDP) were the earliest in fall for s.e. Louisiana, while a total of 460 counted in the Pascagoula R. march Oct. 1 (LG,JRu,JI), provided a record for Mississippi. Four Black-necked Stilts at Cape San Blas, Fla., Aug. 20 (DD,CD) were well w. of their normal range. The first record of **Red Phalarope** for Mississippi was obtained when one was carefully observed Oct. 9 at Hattiesburg (LG,JRu). Although Wilson's Phalaropes are at worst uncommon in fall in coastal Louisiana, the frequency of records drops rapidly to the e. along the coast. This fall two or three were seen at S.C.M.A., Aug. 5 - Sept. 7 (DMB *et al.*), many were seen along the Mississippi coast Aug. 9 - Sept. 10 (RPR,JT,LG, m.ob.), and there were other records from coastal Alabama (CDC *et al.*) and L. Millwood (CM). One at Pace, Fla., Oct. 23 (BM) was the latest ever for the section by two weeks. Northern Phalaropes were recorded Aug. 27 - 29 in Limestone County, Ala. (RB,JH *et al.*), in Arkansas's Little R. and Lonoke counties Sept. 4 - 17 (CM,HP,MP,EH,HH), and at Pascagoula Sept. 10 (KE,RPR,JT), for the third Mississippi record.

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — Two imm. jaegers were seen at the Hattiesburg sewage ponds Oct. 9 (LG,JRu); another was in St. Joe Bay, Gulf City, Fla., Sept. 18 (DD). Although there were no records of Great Black-backed Gull from n.w. Florida prior to 1973, it has been found every year since. This fall one was seen at Destin Nov. 22 (BD). Certainly the find of the fall in Alabama was an ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Ft. Morgan from Oct. 24 on (BD,MLM,HHF,TAI,m.ob., ph.), the first Alabama occurrence. A Ring-billed Gull in Crittenden County, Ark., Aug. 2 (DMB) was the earliest for the state by six days. At Apalachicola Nov. 27, a **Mew Gull** in first-year plumage was the first ever for the Florida section (PWS,AL,BL). A Black-legged Kittiwake seen at New Orleans Nov. 13 (RDP) was only the second record for s.e. Louisiana. The first record for Arkansas of **Sabine's Gull** was obtained Sept. 22 - 23 at L. Millwood (CM,CWS,RS,CMA); almost all the records from the Region and neighboring states are from September. A Com. Tern in Crittenden County Aug. 2

(DMB) was one day early for Arkansas. The only "fancy" product of Hurricane *Anita* was a Sooty Tern seen from the L. Pontchartrain Causeway Aug 30 (HLP), for the first record for New Orleans proper

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A flock of five White-winged Doves was seen at Ft. Morgan Oct. 30 (BD,LD,BY); only a few were reported from coastal Louisiana. Common Ground Doves were seen more frequently than usual in s.e. Louisiana and s. Mississippi; one at Farville, Ark., Sept. 28 (NL) was only the second September record for the state. It is only in Florida, and perhaps more especially, n.w. Florida, that both species of ani might likely occur. The occurrence of a Smooth-billed Ani, the fifth sectional record, at Pace, Fla., Sept. 17 (BM) gave observers in the area special reason to exercise care in their identification of anis. Two Groove-billed Anis were seen in November, continuing the recent trend of annual occurrence there. Far from coastal areas where they normally winter were two in Sevier County, Ark., Nov. 25 (TOW,BW), and one three days later in Miller County (CM) was similarly unexpected. Numbers in coastal Louisiana were about normal. There were four reports of Short-eared Owls involving at least six individuals; two or three at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., from Nov. 26 on (RJS,MW) were the first ever for that well-birded locality. Two ♀ Chuck-will's-widows banded at Ft. Morgan Oct. 27 (TAI,JA,IRGH) were the latest ever for Alabama, although there are winter records. As usual, a few lingered into December in coastal Louisiana. Earliest ever for a fall migrant in n.w. Florida was a Whip-poor-will in Jackson County Aug. 30 (MyG,MG), while latest ever by a month for the same area was a Com. Nighthawk lingering until Nov. 28 at Gulf Breeze (SD,BD). The individual of the *gundlachi* or *vicinus* race which summered in New Orleans, was last seen (heard) Aug. 17 (JR). A Chimney Swift at Nashville Nov. 13 (JCA) was a month later than normal and the latest ever for that area by six days. Several Black-chinned Hummingbirds were again wintering at New Orleans feeders (NaN *et al.*), and numbers of Rufous Hummingbirds were comparable. Several individuals of this species were visiting feeders in Reserve, La. (RJS).

**FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — Late E. Kingbirds were seen at Gulfport Nov. 9 (JT) and in Plaquemines Par., Nov. 12 (LW,WW). Two Gray Kingbirds seen on Horn I., Aug. 9 (RPR) provided evidence of their presence all summer; one at Gulfport Sept. 4 (JT) was the third mainland record for Mississippi; and another at Pensacola Oct. 15 (MLM, m.ob.) was the latest-ever for n.w. Florida. Suggestive of breeding was a W. Kingbird on Dauphin I., July 25 to at least Aug. 23 (RWH,TB,MN,HHF, m.ob.), there were several fall records from the s. part of the Region. Only three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in the New Orleans suburban area where a dozen or more have wintered the past few years (RDP). The discovery of a **Great Kiskadee** in New Orleans Oct. 8 (PSm, m.ob.) at precisely the same spot where one was seen on the 1975 New Orleans C B C was astonishing; that the bird was wintering for at least

the third year was a virtually inescapable conclusion. It was present through the end of the period, calling vociferously. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** in Pulaski County, Ark., Sept. 3 (EH) was the only western *Myiarchus* reported and the first of the species for Arkansas. Among the lingering insectivores was an E. Wood Pewee at Bellefontaine Pt., Miss., Nov. 7 (JT). Two sightings of ♂ Vermilion Flycatchers were received: Benton, Ala., Oct. 18 to the end of the period, the fourth inland record for the state (DHo) and New Orleans Oct. 2 (JR). A single Tree Swallow in Crittenden County Aug. 2 (DMB) was only the third August record for Arkansas, although the species normally arrives on the Gulf Coast by Aug. 1. Up to 50 Bank Swallows near Decatur, Ala., in the first week of July (DMB) were earlier than any previous fall record and suggested breeding. Also early were several hundred at Marion July 24 (CDD,HME,CWS). About 3000 were found roosting in the salt marsh near Ocean Springs in early September (RPR). A single Barn Swallow at Waveland, Miss., Nov. 26 (JT) was quite late

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH PIPITS** — Red-breasted Nuthatches surged into the Region early and in numbers, clearly presaging a major invasion. The first reports came from middle Tennessee and n. Alabama and by Sept. 22 the species had reached the coast at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (SS,BS). Two in Metairie Oct 7 (SP,JP,RDP) were the earliest-ever for s.e. Louisiana. Bierly reported unprecedented numbers at Nashville area feeders. Almost unbelievable was a report of two which spent the *summer* (June 26 on) at a feeder in Logan County, Ark. (MGr). Kingsberry commented that there had been more n.w. Florida sightings of Brown Creeper than in any year since 1969, while records of Bewick's Wrens from that section, Oct. 16 & 23 (BA,LA, m.ob.) at Panama City and Nov. 26 at Laurel Hill (DH,CLK), were the second and third in the past ten years. Migrating Gray Catbirds seen at Gulf Shores, Ala., Aug. 3 & 7 (FAI,MN,JVP,TW) were over a month early, perhaps as a result of nesting nearer the coast than ever before. A Veery near Decatur Aug. 22 (SG) was the earliest-ever for Alabama. In w. Louisiana, Sprague's Pipits are not uncommon when one knows the appropriate habitat and takes the trouble to look for them. They are readily found near Hackberry, La., and indeed can usually be found at the Bonnet Carre Spillway in s.e. Louisiana. This fall another good locality was found, the Natchitoches airport, where Viers considered them "easy to find."

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — A Philadelphia Vireo at Marianna, Fla., Sept. 12 (MyG) was the earliest for the Florida section by seven days; late individuals were recorded in Howard County, Ark., where one on Oct. 30 (CM,CMa) was 12 days late for the state, and at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Nov. 12 (LD), latest for n.w. Florida by 24 days. Also latest ever for Arkansas, this time by 17 days, was a Warbling Vireo seen Oct. 30 in Howard County (CM,CMa). An early Black-and-white Warbler was seen at Grand I., Aug. 17 (RDP,NN,MM), while one at Noxubee Ref., Nov.

26 (MF) was very late for that inland locality, unprecedentedly late was a Blue-winged Warbler at Gulf Breeze Nov. 7 (BB,LD). The earliest-ever record of Tennessee Warbler for Arkansas was of one in Hot Springs County Aug. 28 (HP); one was at Wheeler Ref on the same date (DMB). On the other hand, late birds were seen at Wheeler Nov. 24 (DMB) and at Ft Morgan a day later (BD); this the latest Alabama record. Early records of Orange-crowned Warbler included one Sept. 21 in St. Tammany Parish (JT), the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana by two weeks, and Sept. 30 at Wheeler Ref. (DMB). Two "Audubon's" Warblers were seen in Mississippi: Oct. 24 near Starkville (RL) and Oct. 31 at Gulfport (JT). At Nashville Black-throated Green Warblers were unusually abundant during the fall. Tantalizing was a report of a putative Kirtland's Warbler studied for 20 minutes on Sept. 21 near Slidell, La. (JT). Exhaustive details which included a description of the tail-wagging behavior were submitted. However, the relative difficulty of identification, the extreme rarity of the species, and the previous unfamiliarity of the observer with the bird in life, will at best merit its inclusion on the Louisiana hypothetical list. A Prairie Warbler at Grand I., July 17 (RDP,MM,NN) was the earliest for s.e. Louisiana. Mourning Warblers were encountered on three occasions in n.w. Florida: Sept. 24 (LD), Oct 4 (LD), and Oct. 15 (BM,JM,SHI,TD), the first two banded. The two reports of Connecticut Warblers came from opposite ends of the season: Aug. 23 at Dauphin I. (TB,JW), the first August record for Alabama, and Nov. 5 at Bellefontaine Pt., Miss. (JT). In both cases the principle field mark used was a complete eye-ring. A Canada Warbler at Panama City Beach, Fla., Oct. 16 (LA) was the latest for the area by six days.

**ICTERIDS AND FRINGILLIDS** — Ten Bobolinks at Jackson City, Fla., Nov. 5 (MyG,MG) were late and the number unexpected in fall. The only Yellow-headed Blackbird was a female at New Orleans Sept 4 (MB,JR). Wintering Bronzed Cowbirds continued to make news in s.e. Louisiana, with every indication that numbers continued to increase. Latest-ever for the Nashville area by nearly a week was a Blue Grosbeak there Oct. 9 (MLB), and an Indigo Bunting in Little Rock County, Ark., Nov. 4 (CM) was also unprecedentedly late. *Truly* late was a ♂ Painted Bunting in Howard County, Ark., a road-kill, Nov 13 (CM); the previous late record for the state was Sept 26. The strongest support for predictions of an Evening Grosbeak invasion came from middle Tennessee where the first seen was Oct. 1 and the numbers huge (MLB). A flock of Purple Finches reached Wheeler Ref. by Oct. 29 (DMB), the earliest area occurrence, but numbers were generally unimpressive throughout the Region. Pine Siskins, on the other hand, seemed to be staging one of the biggest invasions in memory, especially near the coast where they generally go unreported. First reports were from middle Tennessee Oct. 19, and by Nov. 12 the species had reached New Orleans (JR). An Am. Goldfinch at St. Joe S.P., Fla., Oct. 8 (BS,CD) was the earliest-ever for n.w. Florida by eight days, while latest-ever by five

days was a Lark Sparrow at Nashville Oct. 9 (MPS,DRJ). Surely a surprise at Gulf Breeze, Fla., on the balmy date of Sept. 10 was a Dark-eyed Junco (BS), almost two months early and by 23 days the earliest-ever. Four Clay-colored Sparrows were seen in s Louisiana: two in Cameron Parish Oct. 9 (JR,MM,NN), and single birds Oct. 13 & 18 (JR) at New Orleans. The first record of the **Snow Bunting** for Mississippi was established by one present at Starkville Nov. 14 - 23 (JAJ,WCW,CDC, m.ob.); the bird was photographed and banded.

**CORRIGENDUM** — The record of a Bell's Vireo Sept 11, 1976 in Bay County, Fla. (AB 31:189) is now considered suspect by the observers, who wish to have it withdrawn.

**ADDENDUM** — Omitted from the spring migration report for 1977 were the following Mississippi records: 100 White Pelicans at Hattiesburg Apr. 18 (LG); 11 Gannets off Ship I., Mar. 8 (WCW); two Whistling Swans at Noxubee Ref., Mar. 24 (JAJ); 40 Oldsquaws off Ship I., Mar. 7 (WCW), and 32 at Gulfport Apr. 1 (JT), White-winged Scoter at Gulfport Apr. 1 (JT), five Surf Scoters off Horn I., May 15 (DRB), and eight Black Scoters off Ship I., Mar. 10 (WCW); 15 Snowy Plovers on Horn and Ship Is., May 17 - 25 (RPR); jaeger sp., Ship I., Mar. 7 (WCW); Black-billed Cuckoo, Ship I., May 31 (RPR); Red-breasted Nuthatch and Short-billed Marsh Wren, Ship I., May 11 (WCW); Cape May Warbler, Ship I., May 25 (RPR).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** (area editors in boldface) — Janet C. Alexander, Brooks Atherton, Lynn Atherton, Russell Bailey, Kate Beck, Bob Best, **Michael L. Bierly** (middle Tennessee), Donald R. Bradburn, Robert C. Bradley, Mike Braun, Tom Brindley, D. Mark Brown, Ann Bullard, **Ben**

**Coffey**, Lula C. Coffey, C.D. Cooley, Leslie Cupp, Annette Duchein, Bob Duncan, C.D. Duncan, Lucy Duncan, Scott Duncan, Carol Dunham, David Dunham, Troy Durant, Kim Eckert, H.M. Einspahr, Harriett H. Findlay, Mike Fuller, Larry Gates, Katherine A. Goodpasture, Mary Graves (MGr), Scott Gravette, Marion Gray, Mary Gray (MyG), John Guthrie, **Edith Halberg** (Arkansas), Henry Halberg, John Harsh, Ralph W. Havard, Arthur V. Hays, Don Heathcote, Steve Hillberg (SHi), D. Holliman (DHo), Susan Holt, Ruth G. Howell, D.C. Hulse, John A. Imhof, **Thomas A. Imhof** (Alabama), John Izral, Jerry A. Jackson, Daniel R. Jacobson, **Curtis L. Kingsberry** (n.w. Florida), Helen Kittinger, Norman Lavers, Al Liberman, Barbara Liberman, Ren Lohofener, Roy W. Lowe, Clyde Massey (CMA), Mary Lou Mattis, Mabel McDonald, Bill Milmore, Judy Milmore, Ann Miller, Charles Mills, Mac Myers, Norton Nelkin, Nancy Newfield (NaN), **Robert J. Newman** (Louisiana), Mini Nonkes, J. Brent Ortego, Ken N. Page, Helen Parker, Max Parker, Harvey L. Patten, James V. Peavy, Ginny Petersen, Rodney Petersen, Steve Peterson (SPe), Jackie Purrington, Robert D. Purrington, Stephen Purrington, Herschel Raney, Jack Reinoehl, Don Richardson, Joe Runzo (JRu), Robert P. Russell, Charles W. Saunders, Rose Saunders, John Sellers, Peggy Smith (PSm), M. Pat Stallings, Harold Stanford, Barbara Steadman, Steve Steadman, Ronald J. Stein, Keith Sutton, Pat Sutton, Paul W. Sykes, Jr., Ann Tarbell, Tennessee Ornithological Society, George Thatcher, Lib R. Toenes, Judith Toups, Van Truan, C. Viers, Melvin Weber, **Wayne C. Weber** (Mississippi), Ted Weems, Betty Whitley, Thomas O. Whitley, Dick Whittington, Fred Wicke, Lee Wilkinson, Wiley Wilkinson, John Winn, Bill Young — **ROBERT D. PURRINGTON, Dept. of Physics, Tulane University, New Orleans, La. 70118.**

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## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

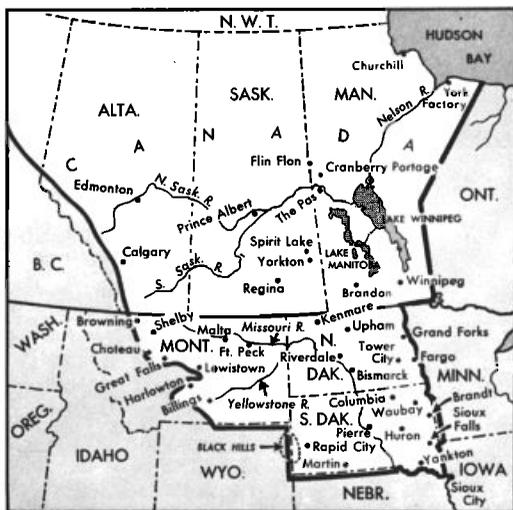
/Esther M. Serr

This fall, as usual, was generally very pleasant in the region. Mid-November brought an early blizzard from the southwest when warm gulf air collided with a strong arctic cold front. Both Dakotas and Manitoba were in the blizzard's path. Observers commented that birds survived the weather quite well. Precipitation levels were better than in 1976 but the sloughs had been so dry that all was absorbed quickly. There just wasn't enough water left for water birds.

**LOONS THROUGH WADERS** — Common Loons dispersed after nesting in Canada. Ten were found in South Dakota near the Nebraska border with eight at Gavin's Pt., Oct. 18 - Nov. 20 (WH) and four were on Angostura Res., Nov. 11 (JLM,EMS). A **Yellow-billed Loon** flashed its white bill several times on Blackstrap Res., s. Saskatoon Nov. 6 (JBG). An **Arctic Loon** was identified far out on Montreal L., Sask., by

its size and short, thick bill Sept. 9 (WCH).

Waders were rather numerous. Six Green Herons were found in South Dakota, Aug. 4 - 13 (WH,RLH), three adults and one immature were near Winnipeg, Man., Aug. 21 - Oct. 10 (D. Elliott, GCP); and another was at Fargo, N.D., Aug. 24 - Oct. 1 (EGA) Great Egrets numbered 65 in e. South Dakota (KHu,BKH) and three were at Oak Hammock, Man., Sept 10 (IAW). One Snowy Egret spent Aug. 1 - 8 at Ft Peck (CMC). Black-crowned Night Heron observations were very low; yet one immature was seen at Salyer N.W.R., N.D., Oct. 2 (GBB); and one adult with four young was observed Aug. 28 at Milo, Alta. (RJB). One imm. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was at Oak Hammock Aug. 25 where the species had been seen during the nesting season (GEH). A **Least Bittern** was noted Sept. 20 near Winnipeg (GCP) Very rare were four **White-faced Ibis** sighted Aug. 17 near Mozart, Sask. (JT). A total of 15 Cattle Egrets, including immatures, was seen Aug. 1 - 23 near Weyburn and Maxim, Sask. (FWL,RBD).



**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swans peaked at 37,000 in s.c. Saskatchewan, Oct. 13 - 15. White-fronted Geese peaked at 15,000 in early October at Indian Head, Sask. (MS) but numbers throughout the Region were lower. Snow Goose numbers were high, as usual, with 115,000 Oct. 24 at Sand Lake N.W.R., Brown Co., S.D. (RLW). Ross' Goose was an irregular migrant with 17 observed Nov. 11 - 17 at Oak Hammock; one was at Saskatoon Oct. 23 (JBG), and one in McLean County, N.D., Oct. 24 (TAG). Seventy-three Black Ducks on Nov. 5 was the largest number ever known in Manitoba (GEH,GDG). Other rare duck species in Manitoba were one Cinnamon Teal Oct. 6, near Libau; a European Wigeon Oct. 1 at Oak Hammock; one Barrow's Goldeneye, Clear L., Riding Mountain Nat'l P. (hereafter, R.M.N.P.), Oct. 18; and three ♀ Harlequin Ducks Sept. 12 at Churchill, Man. (W. Renaud, P. McLaren, DRMH); one was at Victoria Beach (PT). There was little reported of interest concerning other duck species with so little water available for them. Yet, on Oct. 20 there were 600 Green-winged Teal feeding in a stubble field near Moose Jaw, Sask. (DGH). In late October, 100 Greater Scaup were seen in Kidder County, N.D., and three were lost to hunters (RES). All three scoters continued in the Region in increased numbers with numerous reports of many Surf and Black Scoters observed in Manitoba (RFK).

**RAPTORS** — Turkey Vultures were more numerous in s. Canada. From Aug. 1 - 31 two were at Round L., Sask. (DF); six were seen at Pinawa and one was at R.M.N.P., Nov. 7. A single was seen at Patricia, Alta., Aug. 1 (PS). Reports of Goshawk, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks have increased but most reporters prefer that numbers and locations not be revealed.

*Buteo* migration was better than usual. On Oct. 20, 36 Rough-legged Hawks were seen in 55 mi w. of Winnipeg with total sightings for Manitoba of 383. Ferruginous Hawks counted in w. South Dakota, were 20 from Sept. 4 to Nov. 30 (JLM,NRW,RAW) and

one was a rare sighting at Brandon, Man. (AAM). The best movement of Red-tailed Hawks was in South Dakota, with total sightings of 184, Aug. 7 - Nov. 27. Swainson's Hawks seen in migration are an impressive sight. An estimate of 1000 was made at Lacreek N.W.R., S.D., Sept. 27 - Oct. 2, and 166 were seen in 10 mi including 130 in one field in Stanley County S.D. (BKH). A group of 55 was kettling Sept. 25, over s. Minot, N.D. (THK) and 45, mostly young, were in a field Sept. 4 - 18 at Ft. Peck, Mont. (CMC).

Golden and Bald Eagles began migrating the first week of September. There were 34 sightings of Golden in Saskatchewan; 26 in South Dakota, and seven were observed n. of Billings, Mont. (HWC,BBF). The Bald Eagle count in Saskatchewan was 73 and a flock of seven was seen roosting in aspen at Cutbank Sask. (GGA). A count along the Yellowstone R. Mont., produced 19 from Oct. 18 - Nov. 5 (Thi).

Osprey sightings for the Region totaled 27. A Gyrfalcon was seen at Isle a la Crosse, Sask., Sept. 6 (BK) one was at R.M.N.P., Oct. 10 (Tim Trotter) and one at Reliance, S.D., Nov. 12 (WCT). The Prairie and Peregrine Falcons, Merlin and Am. Kestrel all showed some increase in numbers.

**GAME BIRDS** — Eight Greater Prairie Chickens were flushed from a grassy area along the Big Sioux R., S.D., Sept. 18 (NJH). A total of 43 Sage Grouse was reported from s.w. Sask., Oct. 22 - Nov. 30 (MAG). Fifty Bobwhite were sighted in s.e. South Dakota, Sept. 4 - Nov. 19 (WH,BKH). Approximately 400 pheasants fed along with cattle on a ranch near Haynes, N.D. (CMM).

**RAILS, CRANES** — Two ad. and two imm. King Rails were observed Aug. 15 at Lacreek N.W.R. (H. Burgess). One had been seen July 20, 1977 along with previous sightings in 1973 and 1974 at this refuge.

#### S.A.

Whooping Cranes were sighted from Saskatoon through n.w. North Dakota (RAS,KRW,TLF) and as far s. as Oahe Res., Hughes Co., S.D., Aug. 20 - Nov. 7. Three young, each differently banded, were seen of the nine hatched at Wood Buffalo N.P. Reporters gave good details but it seemed impossible to follow the groups as they probably intermingled and numbers changed. It was noted in South Dakota that the adults were very attentive to their young bird. When they departed, they rose in a tight vertical spiral and were then lost from view. At Oahe Res., they rested on a sandbar Nov. 3 as a very strong south wind prevented them from leaving until Nov. 4 (RLH).

Sandhill Cranes were believed to have flown so high that their migration was missed. Some over the Black Hills, S.D. were so high they couldn't be counted which would have put them at altitudes of 8 - 10,000 ft.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Numbers were low but a total of 32 species was observed over the Region. American Golden Plovers moved through North Dakota, Aug. 21

– Nov. 5 in good numbers (JTL,DOL) and 220 were observed at Whitemouth, Man. In the prime shorebird area e of Calgary, a total of 784 Black-bellied Plovers was counted (BLA,ACS). An Upland Sandpiper was unusual Sept. 10 along the e. border of South Dakota (GF) and another was at Randle L., Sask., Sept. 14 in the forest where they are rarely seen (WCH). A group of 100 Com. Snipe was noted Sept. 17 at Lac du Bonnet, Man. (PT). One Whimbrel was seen with six Long-billed Curlew at Ft. Peck Aug. 6. Greater Yellowlegs continued to increase and were about equal in numbers to the Lessers. Several thousand dowitcher sp. were counted in Saskatchewan Aug. 8 – Oct. 2 (EWK,DGH,FB). Buff-breasted Sandpipers are seldom seen in fall but were present Aug. 23 – Sept. 20 at Regina (BLu) and Grenfell, Sask. (DGH); and six were at Oak Hammock, Man. (GEH,IAW,RFK). There may be definite reasons for concern for the Am. Avocet but 645 were found Sept. 5 in one flock at Kindersley, Sask. The same could be written for Wilson's Phalarope as only 50 were reported, but during the 1977 nesting season several thousand non- or post-breeding birds were seen in North Dakota. They were probably discouraged by low water conditions. One **Red Phalarope** was seen near Milo, Alta., Sept. 28 (RJB).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen at Regina, Sask., Sept. 5 (FWL). Two imm Iceland Gulls were seen at Saskatoon, Sept. 23 – 24. Franklin Gull numbers were most unusual after being so scarce. An estimated 50,000 were roosting on Lewis & Clark L., S.D., Oct. 6 (WH,JW) with the South Dakota total near 60,000. An imm. **Little Gull** was sighted at Grand Rapids Sept. 28, which was probably a first for s. Manitoba (CWC). Ten Sabine's Gulls were sighted in the provinces. They were at Winnipeg and Stony Mt., Sept. 4 – Nov. 25 (RWK,RFK,DRMH); at Frank L., Alta., Sept. 6 (CRH); and at Saskatoon Oct. 8 – 16 (JBG,JAW,BCG). A **Mew Gull** observed Oct. 26 – 28 at Ft. Peck provided a first Montana record (CMC). An ornithology class in Fargo, N.D., found 20 Caspian Terns Sept. 20 (RLN). The Winnipeg R. is believed to be a regular fall migration route for this species (PT). A count of terns at Lacreek N.W.R., showed 182 Forster's Aug. 2 and 275 Black Terns Aug. 17 (TRT).

**DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHERS** — A poisoning campaign was run on Rock Doves at Regina (GCA) and old grain elevators have been removed at Sheho., Sask., with the hopes of eliminating the doves (WN). Screech Owls were observed Sept. 10 – Nov. 27 at Pierre, Brookings and Burke, S.D. (CAT,GLS). One was a first for Saskatoon on Aug. 20 (BDR). Snowy Owls obviously stayed in the Arctic this year, as few were reported. There was a total of 152 Burrowing Owls sighted Aug. 1 – Sept. 20 on the c. Saskatchewan prairie. A Barred Owl at Saskatoon was very rare outside the forest (JBG) and another was seen Nov. 27 at Sandilands Prov. Forest (G.I. Nykuliak). Great Gray Owl numbers were unusually high and more expected with the snow depth in Manitoba. Common Nighthawk flights seemed best Aug. 1 – Sept. 19 over

e. Montana. Ten White-throated Swifts were late Sept. 3 at Rapid City, S.D. (NRW). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were numerous as they migrated through the Region Aug. 1 – Oct. 11. The Belted Kingfisher has made a definite increase in the Region. Saskatoon had 28 sightings Aug. 8 – Oct. 25 (PON)

**PICIDAE** — Pileated Woodpeckers increased with as many as three sighted in a day in Manitoba Sept. 14 – Nov. 19 (HWRC). A total of nine was observed in the forest area of Saskatchewan. Red-bellied seemed established in s.e. South Dakota, with two pairs sighted Oct. 21 – Nov. 30 (JW,KJH). Red-heads remained in Gregory County, S.D., until Oct. 29 (GLS). An adult with four immature was sighted in T. Roosevelt N.P., N.D., Aug. 21 (GBB). Five Lewis' were found as they came to lower altitudes for wintering in the Black Hills, S.D., Sept. 4 – Oct. 30 (VGV,EEM). Saskatchewan had 66 sightings of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker as they migrated Sept. 1 – Oct. 12 (HP,FB,EWK). Excellent details were given of a **Williamson's Sapsucker** Aug. 23 at Saskatoon (JAW,SLW).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — Great Crested Flycatchers pushed N with a total of 13 sightings over the Region and six of those at Raymore and Regina, Sask., Aug. 6 – 24 (CH,SJ). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Saskatoon Aug. 11; at Regina Aug. 25 (RT); at Winnipeg Sept. 17 (GCP) and one was studied carefully Aug. 24 at Grand Forks, N.D. (DOL). Two E. Wood Pewees were far w. in Hyde County, S D., Aug. 14 – 26 (JHH). Olive-sideds were more numerous with 13 sightings in Sask., Aug. 8 – 25 (TMB,BCG), three were at Calgary Aug. 14 – 25 (ACS); and six were along the Red R., N.D., Aug. 21 – 29 (DOL,EMW)

**CORVIDS** — Blue Jays continued to increase in Saskatchewan with 49 sightings (CDP,EKH,JDH). A big increase was also noted for the Black-billed Magpie with 1200 sightings. Common Crows peaked at 26,000 Sept. 28. All of the above were most numerous at Saskatoon and Moose Jaw. Clark's Nutcrackers were concentrated Nov. 11 n. of Billings when 18 were found (HWC,BBF).

**NUTHATCHES, VIREOS** — White-breasted Nuthatches increased in Saskatchewan, with 106 sightings while Red-breasted far outnumbered them in other areas. A **Sage Thrasher** was a first on Sept. 12 s of Chester, Mont. (HMM). American Robin migration seemed more noticeable to the reporters this fall so it would seem this common bird had a better hatch than usual. Varied Thrush was again present in the Region with six in Saskatchewan, Oct. 7 – 27 (RP,MIH). One was seen at Calgary Oct. 10 – 19 (RJB,JJP) and one was at Bismark, N.D., Nov. 19 (RNR,WAB). Townsend's Solitaires have spread farther onto the prairie where they were found at Minot, Saskatoon, Dauphin and Delta, Man., Oct. 20 – Nov. 13. Extralimital Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were: one at Ft. Peck, Oct. 6 – 9 (CMC), and at Oak Lake, Man., Nov. 8 – 17 (DRMH). Where did the Golden-crowned Kinglets go? Water Pipits made a good showing over the area Sept

4 – Nov. 10. There were 60 N. Shrike sightings, which is double the number in 1975 and 1976. Solitary and Philadelphia Vireo numbers were high with the Solitary migrating a week ahead of the Philadelphia.

**WARBLERS** — The most spectacular movement of warblers was witnessed Aug. 18 & 23 for two hours each day in a corridor between Candle and Clearsand Lakes, Sask. by WH. He estimated 4000+ Aug. 18 and 2300+ Aug. 23 as the birds crossed a clearing. He counted one minute now and then and multiplied by the total time there as the movement of birds was constant. He wrote, "It is staggering to think of the numbers that passed if the migration continued all that week." A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was compared with a **Black-and-white Sept. 5**, for a first North Dakota record at Hope (DLK).

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES** — Rusty Blackbird numbers were unusually high for South Dakota and Saskatchewan. Pine Grosbeaks started to filter into the Region during nesting season, and by the end of the fall they numbered over 100. **White-winged Crossbills** came out of the Saskatchewan forest by Aug. 1 with total sightings of 169 at the end of the period.

**SPARROWS** — Taylor observed at least 400 sparrows and finches of 16 species in a weed-bordered stubble field along a river bank near Whitemouth, Man., Sept. 24. He noted that the different species were segregated to a large degree but in the same general area. Swamp Sparrow numbers were high Sept 7 - 23 with 54 at Moose Jaw and Raymore, Sask. (SML). Field Sparrows were numerous around Rapid City and a flock of 20 was within the city (LAW).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — (Area editors in italics)  
**ALBERTA** — *R.J. Butot*, B. Lange (BLA), C.R. Hitchon, J.J. Podlubney, A.C. Slater, P. Stiles.  
**MANITOBA** — *H.W.R. Copland*, C.W. Cuthbert, G.D. Grief, D.R.M. Hatch, G.E. Holland, R.W. Knapton, *R.F. Koes*, A.A. MacLean, S. MacLean, G.C. Panting, P. Taylor, I.A. Ward. E.  
**MONTANA** — *C.M. Carlson*, H.W. Carlson, B.B. FitzGerald, T. Hinz (THi), H.M. Marble.  
**NORTH DAKOTA** — E.G. Anderson, *G.B. Berkey*, W.A. Buresch, T.L. Fuller, T.A. Gates, T.H. Kain, D.L. Kubischta, *D.O. Lambeth*, J.T. Lokemoen, C.M. Merwin, R.L. Neller-moe, R.N. Randall, R.E. Stewart, R.A. Stromstad, E.M. Welter, K.R. Willis.  
**SASKATCHEWAN** — G.G. Anweiler, T.M. Beveridge, F. Bogdan, R.B. Donison, D. Francis, B.C. Godwin, J.B. Gollop, M.A. Gollop, C. Harris, *W.C. Harris*, J.D. Hayward, D.G. Hjertaas, M.I. Houston, E.K. Hubbard, S. Jowsey, E.W. Kern, B. Kreba, F.W. Lahrman, *S.M. Lamont*, B. Luterbach (BLu), W. Niven, P. O'Neil, R. Pierson, C.D. Pike, H. Patton, B.D. Rafuse, M. Skinner, R. Temple, J.A. Wedgwood, S.L. Wedgwood.  
**SOUTH DAKOTA** — G. Froiland, W. Hall, B.K. Harris, J.H. Harter, R.L. Hill, N.J. Holden, K.J. Hoover, K. Husmann (KHu), E.E. Miller, J.L. Mortimer, E.M. Serr, *G.L. Steffen*, C.A. Taylor, John Tautin, W.C. Thietje, T.R. Tornow, V.B. VanHeuvelen, N.R. Whitney, J. Wilcox, L.A. Williams, R.A. Wilt, R.L. Wright. — **ESTHER M. SERR, 615 - 8th St., Rapid City, S.D. 57701.**

## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION /Frances Williams

Temperature and precipitation vary so greatly in this vast Region that it is impossible to give a capsule summary. Precipitation was unusually low throughout Texas and in the southwestern plains it was the third



driest year on record. Temperatures in the hundreds were daily occurrences through September. But in Nebraska precipitation was above normal with some torrential rains in the northeast and lakes were frozen as early as November 10. Contributors' enthusiasm for the migration decreased from north to south, Nebraska and Kansas observers having much to report, Oklahoma birders slightly less and Texans reporting the passerine migration passed them by.

Two new contributors did much to fill in vast gaps in the reporting area. C. Fred Zeilmaker sent an excellent summary from Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge in central Nebraska and included some records from North Platte National Wildlife Refuge and the Platte River. Scott Seltman reported from Rush, Barton, Ness and Pawnee Counties in central Kansas and included some observations from Cheyenne Bottoms National Wildlife Refuge. Incredibly, no one reports regularly from this very important Refuge.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — A Red-throated Loon was present at Caprocks Canyon S P, Brisco Co., Tex., Nov. 24 (KS). A Red-necked Grebe visited Hagerman N.W.R., Tex. (hereafter, Hagerman) Nov. 19 (WP). In August 990 Eared Grebes were present at Crescent Lake N.W.R. (hereafter, Crescent L.); by mid-November only 29 remained. Western Grebes were sighted at Hulah Res., Okla., Nov. 12 - 16 (EHi), Sam Rayburn Res., Tex., Nov. 10 (CDF), Yoakum County, Tex., Oct. 7 (KH) and Lubbock Oct 30 - Nov. 25 (m.ob.). The post-breeding population of

W Grebes at Crescent L. comprised 207 birds Aug. 4, and at North Platte N.W.R., 220 were present Oct. 11. Six groups of Pied-billed Grebe chicks were discovered Aug. 14 in Crosby County, Tex., providing a new nesting record there (KH). Flocks of White Pelicans comprising up to 2000 birds visited many reservoirs on the way S and a few individual birds lingered until the end of the period. A **Brown Pelican** spent most of October at L. Lewisville in n. Texas (DGi). There was an excellent flight of Double-crested Cormorants in the e. third of the Region with flocks of 1000 - 3000 in n. and e. Texas at Lakes Rayburn, Palestine and Ray Hubbard. There were also numerous sightings of small groups in w. Texas where the species is usually listed as "accidental". Olivaceous Cormorants remained at L. Somerville, Tex., throughout the period and a few were at Hagerman in September and October.

**HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS** — In Coffey County, Kans., 80 Little Blue Herons were present Aug. 21. An egret roost in Morris County, Tex., contained an estimated 12,000 Cattle Egrets Sept. 3. Other species present included Little Blue Heron and Great Egret (JY). Cattle Egrets visited Lincoln Sept. 4 and Coffey County Sept. 18. A white phase **Reddish Egret**, was present at San Angelo, Tex., Oct. 1 - 15 (CCW). Great Egrets were unusually numerous in e. Kansas, the largest flock comprising 50 birds in Coffey County Aug. 21. At least 90% of a flock of Black-crowned Night Herons in Crosby County were immature birds. Flocks of this species comprising up to 40 birds were present in Presidio County, Tex., during September. Least Bitterns were discovered in Hutchinson County, Tex., Sept. 24 (FC) and Big Bend N.P., Oct. 24 (JH&EGS) and Nov. 23 (JD). Wood Storks were abundant throughout n.e. Texas, with a peak of 600 at L. Rayburn Sept. 14. A **White Ibis** appeared at Newton, Kans., Aug. 26 (JaH). Other reports of this species came from L. Rayburn July 31 - Sept. 13 and L. Ray Hubbard Sept. 28. One-to-four Roseate Spoonbills were present at L. Rayburn Aug. 10 - Sept. 16.

**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swans appeared in late November at Crescent L., Trego Co., Kans., Comanche and Tillman Cos., Okla., Callahan and Tyler Cos., Tex. **Brant** were taken by Kansas hunters in Coffey County Nov. 17 and Stafford County Nov. 9 (*vide* JS). Several thousand White-fronted Geese were present at Cheyenne Bottoms N.W.R., Nov. 12. Smaller groups were noted at Crescent L., Tulsa, Hulah Res., Hagerman and Balmorhea L., Reeves Co., Tex. A severe storm at Terrell, Tex., Oct. 31 struck down a flight of White-fronted Geese and Karen Elrod counted 17 dead around her home. One or two Ross' Geese were present at Crescent L., Nov. 10 - 11, North Platte Nov. 30 and Henderson County, Tex., Nov. 27 (CDF), while a group of seven remained at Hagerman Nov. 10 - 30 (m.ob.). Black Ducks appeared at Crescent L., Sept. 13 - 15, Coffey County, Nov. 22 (JS), Rogers County, Okla., Oct. 18 - 29 (RAS) and Crosby County Oct. 9 (KH). At least 30 Greater Scaup were present in Marion County, Tex., Nov. 24 (CDF). White-winged Scoters were sighted at

Lincoln Nov. 27 (DaG), Lyon County Nov. 28 (JDe) and Brazos County, Tex., Nov. 10 (BC,SK) Surf Scoters appeared at Tulsa Oct. 20 (EHa), Lubbock Oct. 29 - Nov. 19 (AC) and Midland Oct. 23 (BE,RMS). The only Black Scoter reported was in Jackson County, Okla., Sept. 30 (JDT).

**VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS** — Seltman saw an interesting flight of Turkey Vultures in Pawnee County in late September. Large groups were riding the drafts, very high, ahead of a swiftly moving line of thunderstorms. He speculated that the flocks could have crossed Kansas that afternoon, so fast was the front moving. A White-tailed Kite was sighted in Jeff Davis County Nov. 19 (CP,MBC). Along the Brazos R., Burleson and Brazos Cos., Tex., two adult and three imm. White-tailed Kites were seen daily Aug. 12 - 21 (C&VC). Mississippi Kites nested for the first time at Hays, Kans., and a flock comprising 40 birds was sighted there Sept. 4 (MR). At Quivira N W R , Kans., adult and young Mississippi Kites were observed Aug. 14 (NaJ). Hawks are normally quite scarce in e. Nebraska, but an unusual number came through the area this fall (DaG,NoJ). Goshawks were sighted at Lincoln Oct. 2 - 3 (NoJ), Johnson County, Kans., Sept. 14 (MLM) and Wichita, Kans., Oct. 22 (DV). There were 48 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks and 28 of Cooper's Hawks in the Region. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were sighted at Denton, Neb., Oct. 16 (DaG). A flight of a thousand or more Swanson's Hawks passed over Lubbock Sept. 26 (J&CS) In Swisher County, Tex., 200 were seen Oct. 3 and 250 were in Crosby County Oct. 4. In Big Bend N P , a pair of Zone-tailed Hawks successfully fledged two young and throughout August the family was conspicuous in the Chisos Basin. Zone-taileds were also sighted in Presidio County Sept. 4 & 10 (SWe) Several Rough-legged Hawks were sighted at Lincoln during the period and one at Nacogdoches, Tex., Nov. 28 was noteworthy (CDF). One or more Ospreys were sighted at virtually every medium-to large-sized body of water in the Region. Caracaras were present in Hunt and Henderson Cos., Tex., and young Caracaras were reported in the Johnson-Hood-Parker Co area Peregrine Falcons were sighted at nine localities Merlins appeared early and were sighted at 28 localities Very early dates were at Crescent L., Aug. 15 (EPE) and Quivira Aug. 14 (NaJ).

**GROUSE THROUGH AVOCET** — A Greater Prairie Chicken visited a farm near Olathe, Kans., Oct. 29. An estimated 1060 Sharp-tailed Grouse are resident at Crescent L. Gambel's Quail were reported in Jeff Davis County and Big Bend N.P., where they have been hard to find during the past ten years. A Montezuma Quail s. of Marfa Sept. 9 presented more evidence that this species is gradually reoccupying its former range. In Ector County July 26, a wild Turkey with 15 chicks provided a new county breeding record (BE). **Whooping Cranes** either made more stops on their way south than usual or it just happened that more birders were lucky! Two Whoopers remained in Comanche County, Tex., Oct. 29 - Nov. 1 (m.ob.), 13 were at L. Meredith in the Texas Panhandle Nov. 1

(DEB) and 13 were sighted at Lubbock Nov. 3 (CS). Post-breeding populations of 5000 Virginia Rails and 5000 Soras at Crescent L. boggle the mind! In Crosby County a Com. Gallinule accompanying seven chicks Aug. 28 (RE,KH) provided a first nesting record.

American Golden Plovers were sighted during October at Tulsa, Dallas, L. Rayburn and Waco. Piping Plovers were noted at Nacogdoches July 9 and L. Rayburn July 24 & Aug. 20. Semipalmated Sandpipers were noteworthy in Osage County, Kans., Aug. 1 - 12 and Burleson County Aug. 25. Ruddy Turnstones were present in August or September at Cheyenne Bottoms, Hagerman, Burleson and Midland Cos., and L. Rayburn. In early November Am. Woodcocks were abundant in e. Kansas where flocks of 20 were found in several areas (ILB *et al.*). Smaller numbers of this species were seen in Comanche and Washington Cos., Okla., and Grayson County, Tex. Shorebirds were scarce in most areas, as some reservoirs were too full to have mud flats and playas in the west were dry. The only Whimbrel reported was at Lubbock Aug. 14. Red Knots were present at Lincoln Oct. 30, Cheyenne Bottoms Sept. 24, L. Rayburn Sept. 11, 23 & 25, Midland Aug. 30 & Oct. 24. Very late records were provided by a Pectoral Sandpiper at Hagerman Nov. 26 (FW,KWH) and a Willet at Oklahoma City Nov. 1 (SWo,JG). Dunlins were widespread July 31 - Nov. 27, most records falling in October. Up to 35 Sanderlings a day were observed at L. Rayburn in September. Small groups were seen at Hagerman, Burleson County and Dallas. A flock of 50 Buff-breasted Sandpipers spent Aug. 20 at Hagerman. This species was sighted at Tulsa Aug. 16, Dallas Oct. 8 and Waco Sept. 14. The only Marbled Godwit reported was at Lubbock Aug. 14 - 17. Northern Phalaropes were noted at eight localities. **Red Phalaropes** were present in Comanche County, Okla., Sept. 10 (JDT), Dallas Oct. 8 (WP), L. Rayburn Sept. 18 (CDF). At Oklahoma City Oct. 8 several groups of 30 or more Am. Avocets were feeding frantically in close formation at both L. Hefner and L. Overholser (JGN).

**GULLS THROUGH OWLS** — A Laughing Gull visited Oklahoma City Sept. 17 - 18 (JGN,SWo). On October 29 mixed flocks of gulls comprising "thousands" of individuals were flying in a fog at Columbus, Neb. In Linn County, Kans., McHugh estimated he had seen 75 Caspian Terns during the period. A Black Skimmer was observed in Burleson County Aug. 6, 19 & 20 (AB,MH).

Ground Doves appeared at Woodward, Okla., in mid-October (JE,PN) and in Red River County, Tex., Sept. 28 (JY). An Inca Dove was at Woodward with the Ground Dove. Groove-billed Anis, those notorious wanderers, outdid themselves this fall. They appeared in Kansas at Hays, Salina, Wichita and Cowley County, and in Texas at Big Spring, Dallas, Midland and San Angelo.

A Pygmy Owl was found dead on the road in Big Bend N.P., Sept. 22. A Long-eared Owl was sighted in the park Sept. 16. Long-eared Owls were noted in Pawnee and Rogers Cos., Kans., in November. Saw-whet Owls were netted and photographed at Crescent

L., Oct. 22 & 30. One was found dead on the road near Lawrence, Kans., Nov. 11 (STP) and two were sighted at Haysville, Kans., Aug. 8 (DV).

**GOATSUCKERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Large flocks of migrating Com. Nighthawks were seen in Johnson County, Kans. and Lawrence Sept. 1, Lincoln Sept. 17 and Oklahoma City Oct. 5. While Yantis was running a nighttime road census of deer in n.e. Texas he also counted Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows. He found the goatsuckers averaged one to each 25 acres, about 90% being Whip-poor-wills. They perched in exposed locations and sallied forth after passing insects as if they were nocturnal kingbirds. Flowers were so scarce in Big Bend N.P. that hummingbirds were concentrated at the few remaining blossoms and as many as nine Lucifer Hummingbirds could be counted in a very small area (PS) Adult ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were abundant throughout w. Texas where they are normally rare, in late August and early September. There is no way to estimate how many of the hundreds of female and young hummers present were also Ruby-throateds. An **Anna's Hummingbird** was observed in Tarrant County, Tex., Sept. 26 (MR). Male Rufous Hummingbirds were present in Rogers County, Okla., Nov. 21 (ANL) and Comanche County, Okla., Oct. 6 (JDT) A Calliope Hummingbird visited an El Paso feeder Aug. 22 - 23 (BZ,KZ). A ♀ **Blue-throated Hummingbird** was photographed at a feeder in Big Spring, Tex., Sept. 16 (SC). The photographs are on file in the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection, Texas A. & M. University.

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — A Red-bellied Woodpecker was observed in Pawnee County, Kans., throughout the period. A Lewis' Woodpecker which arrived at Midland Nov. 22 was still present at the end of the period (PN). A Williamson's Sapsucker spent the last week of September in an Odessa cemetery (GP, m.ob.). Cassin's Kingbirds visited Crescent L., Sept. 21 and St. Francis, Kans., Sept. 17 (DK). Four Wied's Crested Flycatchers were studied closely in Big Bend N.P., Aug. 20 (DEW) An Ash-throated Flycatcher appeared in Wichita Aug. 7 (DV,SJ). A Black Phoebe was found at Hagerman Nov. 11 (BV *et al.*). A Say's Phoebe at Oklahoma City Oct. 8 provided a first area record (JGN,WI). A very late Least Flycatcher (identified by call) was noted in Alpine Nov. 20 (TG).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH MIMICS** — Flights of Rough-winged Swallows estimated to comprise 5000 birds were observed in Linn County in late September (EMc). Almost every contributor commented on the invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches. The species arrived at Crescent L., Aug. 23 and was as far south as College Station, Tex., by Sept. 14. Brown Creepers were scarce in most areas although Mrs. Myers saw a phenomenal 15 on Nov. 2. She also banded eight Winter Wrens in three weeks beginning Oct. 25. Carolina Wrens continued to be low in numbers. Rock Wrens were present in Jefferson County, Kans., Oct. 29 (NaJ) and Lyon County Oct. 7 (FB). A Gray Cat-

bird remained in Washington County, Okla., Nov. 7. A Sage Thrasher was studied carefully at Wichita Nov 9 (SJ).

**THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES** — The bird of the season was an **Aztec Thrush** discovered, identified and photographed in Boot Canyon, Big Bend N.P., Aug 21 by Mimi and David Wolf, Nicholas Halmi and Deborah DeKeyzer. The lone bird closely resembled the female pictured in Peterson's and Chalif's Mexican guide, but was more heavily streaked and was thought to be a juvenile. When observed again Aug. 25 by Peter Scott and Steve West the thrush spent over two hours grubbing for insects or worms in a moist leaf-filled pothole in the dry stream bed. No later observations were reported. A Hermit Thrush in Johnson County, Kans., Nov. 9 provided a first fall record. In general, Hermit Thrushes were conspicuous by their absence, many contributors stating that only one or two were seen during the period. Mountain Bluebirds were reported in Gage County, Neb., Nov. 15 (SA) and in Tarrant County Nov. 12 (LB) but all three species of bluebirds were scarce. Except in e. Kansas, Golden-crowned Kinglets were also among the missing. Several Sprague's Pipits were present at Cheyenne Bottoms Oct. 9. A few Cedar Waxwings moved through the Region in September and October then disappeared. Northern Shrikes were sighted at Crescent L., Oct. 20–Nov. 30, Lincoln Oct. 23–Dec. 4 (DaG), Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., Nov. 25 (BZ,KZ), Palo Duro Canyon, Tex., Oct. 23 (PA).

**VIREOS THROUGH ICTERIDS** — A Black-capped Vireo was located in Big Bend N.P., Aug. 19 (DEW). Yellow-throated Vireos were seen in Presidio County Sept. 10 and College Station Sept. 17. A Red-eyed Vireo at College Station Aug. 25–Sept. 21 provided the first fall record since 1955 and one was seen in Big Bend Aug. 12. Philadelphia Vireos moved through the Region the second and third weeks of September. A bird believed to be this species was netted and photographed at Crescent L., on the unbelievably late date of Nov. 5.

Where were the warblers? Extremely low numbers of individuals were the rule and at those few localities where a diversity of species was present only two or three individuals of each could be found. Following are the more outstanding sightings: Black-and-white Warbler, Presidio County Sept. 10, Golden-winged Warbler, Lincoln Sept. 5 (DaG), Tennessee Warbler, Alpine Sept. 21–22 (TG), N. Parula, College Station Sept. 2 (GD), Magnolia Warbler, Crescent L., Sept. 10, Hartley County, Tex., Sept. 5, Randall County, Tex., Oct. 27, Townsend's Warbler, Crescent L., Sept. 11 and widespread in w. Texas, Black-throated Green, Comanche County, Okla., Aug. 10 (JMM), Black-throated Blue Warbler, Lubbock Oct. 18 & 30, Hermit Warbler, Big Bend N.P., Aug. 21–Sept. 4, Yellow-throated Warbler, Johnson County, Kans., Sept. 1, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Lincoln Sept. 17 (NoJ), Bay-breasted Warbler, Johnson County Sept. 14, Pine Warbler, Johnson County Nov. 2, Prairie Warbler, College Station Aug. 13 (MJH), Palm Warbler, Ft. Worth Oct. 8 (JHT), Northern Waterthrush, Big Bend Park Sept. 17, Connecticut Warbler, Tulsa Sept. 16 &

28 (A&LB), Canada Warbler, Ft. Worth Sept. 9 & 23. A surprising ten Mourning Warblers were netted in tall weed growth at L. Overholser, Oklahoma City, Aug 21–Oct. 1 (WH).

Seven Bobolinks visited Johnson County Oct 9. Seltman found Red-winged Blackbirds feeding a fledgling on the late date of Oct. 5. A Rusty Blackbird was observed in Pawnee County, Kans., Oct. 24. An estimated 500 Great-tailed Grackles were present in Barton County, Kans., Oct. 22 (SS).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Severe drought conditions in s.w. Texas may be the reason Pyrrhuloxias moved N and E. Observers at Lubbock, Potter, Kendall and Kerr Cos. reported they had never seen so many Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported at Waco Oct 16 (FG), Lubbock Sept. 26 (CS), Irving Sept. 29 (WP). An imm. Painted Bunting remained at Nacogdoches until the late date Oct. 19 (DEW). Evening Grosbeaks visited Crescent L., Oct. 19–Nov. 6 and arrived Nov 2 at Hays where they were still present at the end of the period. Purple Finches were reported by only nine contributors. **Common Redpolls** were present at Lincoln at the end of the period (DaG), Johnson County Nov. 18–21 (MLM) and Ochiltree County, Tex., Nov. 27 (KS). In contrast to last year Pine Siskins were common to abundant. Red Crossbills which arrived at Hays Oct. 10 were still present at the end of the period (CAE) but those in Johnson County stopped only briefly Nov. 6. **White-winged Crossbills** were sighted at Lincoln Nov. 19 (NoJ) and Olathe, Kans., Oct. 29 (STP). A Green-tailed Towhee was studied closely at Nacogdoches Nov. 19 (MW).

Sparrows were late and very scarce in most of the Region. Baird's Sparrows were recorded in Presidio County Sept. 10 and Alpine Sept. 18 & 25. Le Conte's Sparrows were reported from eight localities Oct 7–Nov. 16: Lyon County, Kans., Rogers, Payne, Osage and Washington Cos., Okla., Lubbock, Hagerman and L. Ray Hubbard. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in Reno County, Kans., Nov. 24 (DV), Payne County Nov. 5 (m.ob.), Osage County, Okla., Nov. 17 (HG) and Hagerman Oct. 15 (SB,KWH). The latter two provided first locality records. A Sage Sparrow was carefully identified at Muleshoe N.W.R., Oct. 16 (MRO). Seyffert reported seeing only 17 Chipping Sparrows in the Texas Panhandle during the season, an incredibly low number. The most common winter sparrow of w. Texas, the White-crowned, arrived in Big Spring Sept 25, a day when the thermometer reached 104° F! Lincoln's Sparrow was almost non-existent in the w. half of Texas.

McCown's Longspurs were abundant in Carson County, Tex., Nov. 27 (KS). Beginning in early November, Lapland Longspurs were common-to-abundant at Crescent L., Nowata Co., Okla. (DP), Cleveland County, Okla. (WH) and Ochiltree County (KS). Smith's Longspurs were present in large flocks in Osage County (DP) and Cleveland County (WH). Chestnut-collared Longspurs could be found in Cleveland, Carson and Brisco Cos. During the second week of November Snow Buntings appeared at Lincoln (DaG), Jefferson County, Kans. (LM), Osage County, Kans. (JS).

CORRIGENDUM — AB 31: 1019. Great-tailed Grackles did not nest in Washington County, Okla.

CONTRIBUTORS AND INITIALED OBSERVERS — **Kansas:** Ivan L. Boyd, Frederick Brock, Jim Dean (JDe), Charles A. Ely, Larry Herbert, Jane Hershberger (JaH), Sue Jehl, Nanette Johnson (NaJ), Doug Kibbe, Earl McHugh (EMc), Lloyd Moore, Mary Louise Myers, Sebastian T. Patti, Marvin Rolfs, Jean Schulenberg, Scott Seltman, Donald Vannoy. **Nebraska:** Suzy Albury, Ed P. Eitel, Daryl Giblin (DaG), Norma Johnson (NoJ), C. Fred Zeillemaker. **Oklahoma:** F.M. Baumgartner, A. & L. Bentley, Pat Bergey, Ella Delap, Jack Engleman, Howard Goard, Joe Grzybowski, Warren Harden, Elizabeth Hayes (EHa), Elizabeth Hicks (EHi), Wesley Isaacs, Deloris Isted, A.N. Loshbaugh, Janet M. McGee, John G. Newell, Paul Nighswonger, Donald Parker, Richard A. Stuart, Jack D. Tyler, Scott Wood (SWo). **Texas:** Peggy Acord, Keith A. Arnold, Al Barr, Sandy Beach,

Landon Beaver, Don E. Bell, Charles R. Brown, Lillian M. Brown, Brian Cain, Fern Cain, Angelo Capparella, Carl & Virginia Cogar, Sue Corson, Mary Beth Crabtree, Joseph DiPasquale, Gin Doran, John Duncan, Charles W. Easley, Bill Edwards, Rosemary English, C.D. Fisher, Tony Gallucci, Gayla Gatling, Fred Gehlbach, D. Gill (DGi), Karl W. Haller, Mike Hanson, Kelly Himmel, Mary J. Hubert, Sandy Korowotny, Rick LoBello, R.F.&F.H. Mason, Jody Miller, Ernest & Kay Mueller, Pat Newmeyer, L B Paul, Connie Peterson, Georgia Porter, Warren Pulich, Midge Randolph, Mark Rowland (MRo), John B. Schmidt, Peter Scott, Kenneth Seyffert, Jane & Clifton Smith, Lafayette Stankewitz, Darleen Stevens, Cliff Stogner, Rose Marie Stortz, J.H.&E.G. Strauss, J.H. Tennery, Betty Vernon, Daniel W. Watson, Steve West (SWe), Montague Whiting, C.C. Wiedenfeld, David E. Wolf, Jim Yantis, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer. —FRANCES C. WILLIAMS, 3307 Neely, Midland, TX 79703.

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

Most reporters agreed that the migration on the upper Texas coast was good-to-excellent this fall. Observers in other areas commented on drought conditions, warm temperatures, and lack of major cold fronts. The drought of summer continued in central and southwestern areas until interrupted by rains in mid-September, resumed and prevailed until mid-October, and appeared to be underway again by mid-November. Rainfall in coastal areas was less than normal but adequate to maintain fairly good marsh and field habitat. Below-normal temperatures persisted only during the first half of October, with scattered frost in northern localities. But generally mild weather assured a good population of insects and maturing of fall grasses and weeds where ample rain had fallen. The season averaged almost two southbound frontal

systems per week, most weak and short-lived, and some stalled before reaching the southern tip of Texas

The more spectacular bird movements were in association with the stronger fronts. The first such front blew from the northwest on October 11, reaching High Island at 1:00 p.m. Highest counts for October 11 follow with October 12 counts in parentheses: Gray Catbird 225+ (40), Indigo Bunting 175 (?), American Redstart 125+ (25), Magnolia Warbler 110 (6), Rose-breasted Grosbeak 110 (1), Summer Tanager 70 (20), and Tennessee Warbler 50 (?).

A few western species, rare or hitherto unknown in this Region, were observed during the season and some individuals of more easterly migrating species made unexpected appearances.

**SHEARWATERS, PELICANS** — The lure of the pelagics again drew birders to the snapper banks 40+ mi out of Port Aransas. **Cory's Shearwater** was the coveted prize, three on Aug. 27 (J&BR *et al.*), and one on Oct. 2 (TBF *et al.*). Late on the afternoon of Sept 19, after passage of a line of thunderstorms, hundreds of **White Pelicans** settled on L. Travis and L. Bastrop in the Austin area (*vide* FSW). Thirty-eight **Brown Pelicans** were located on an aerial survey of Long Reef I in Aransas Bay (RTP), and about 85 were reported near Pelican I., Corpus Christi Nov. 5 (EP, *vide* RTP). Small numbers were found from S. Padre I., south

**BOOBIES THROUGH HERONS** — A few **Masked Boobies** were found on jetties at Port Aransas and at sea Aug. 20 – Oct. 2. Interesting were four adults on Bolivar Pen., Aug. 27 (DTD), and a very late sub-adult off the Freeport jetties Nov. 12 (TLE,JGM). Two sub-adult **Brown Boobies** were found at the Port Aransas jetties Aug. 20 (R&MB *et al.*) and later. An ad. **Gannet** trailed a shrimp boat into Freeport Aug 28 (DTD,JGM) — a new earliest date for the upper coast



An imm. Gannet frequented the Port Aransas jetties mid-October - mid-November (LT). Exceptionally high counts of Anhingas were reported from the upper and c coasts mid-August - early October. The presence of unprecedented numbers of Magnificent Frigatebirds at Rockport, 97 Sept. 2 (*vide* DNW), may have been related to hurricane *Anita*. A very late individual was at Galveston Nov. 25 (H&EH). Approximately 750 Reddish Egrets were counted on Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Nov. 17 (RTP,GAU). A roost of about 500 Yellow-crowned Night Herons was found in a black mangrove swamp at the mouth of the Rio Grande Oct. 30 (JCA).

**WATERFOWL** — Incoming waterfowl found many old haunts on the upper coast too dry to be habitable. Consequently, geese and ducks concentrated in places of permanent water or departed the area entirely. A considerable die-off of geese was reported at Warren L., presumably from overcrowding (TLE). Farther e., at Anahuac N.W.R., marsh habitat was very good and waterfowl food was in good supply (RWC). An early high count of 12,000 White-fronted Geese was reported in Chambers County Oct. 9 (RWC). Thousands of Snow Geese were present on the upper coast then. A count of 1000 Fulvous Whistling Ducks at Winnie, e. of Anahuac N.W.R., Sept. 25 (MA *et al.*) was exceptional. Blue-winged Teal flights were well underway by Aug. 30. A concentration of 20,000 Blue-winged Teals was present on the Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., for four weeks from Sept. 23 (WAS) A flock of 50+ Redheads was at Austin Oct. 8 (FSW) Lesser Scaup numbering 35,000 were rafted in San Antonio Bay, Aransas N.W.R., Nov. 21, but departed after 12 hours. (JK). A ♀ Oldsquaw was seen at Aransas N.W.R., Nov. 24 (SW *et al.*), for a first refuge record. At Houston an early Surf Scoter was found Oct. 22 (JGM *et al.*), and Black Scoter Nov. 10 (WMC). A ♀ Masked Duck with three young were seen on a pond about 6 mi w. of Brownsville Oct. 22 (RN), a male was seen there Oct. 30 (JCA).

**HAWKS** — A pair of **Hook-billed Kites** was reported over Santa Ana N.W.R., Nov. 13 (DS), and an imm. **Goshawk** was observed there Oct. 29 (KAA *et al.*). Reports in years past of huge concentrations of Broad-winged Hawks along the Nueces R., n.w. of Corpus Christi in late September or early October stimulated Ms Rowlett to organize a close-site study of the 1977 fall migration. On Sept. 24, 65 observers manned a chain of 25 lookouts, about 4 mi apart, from Corpus Christi to Three Rivers, Live Oak Co. — mostly along the Nueces R. While a major flight failed to materialize, results present an interesting study of a "trickling of migrants" on a hot, windy September day in the Coastal Bend. A total of 6563 migrating raptors was reported, including 5735 Broad-wingeds, 124 Swanson's Hawks, and 423 unidentified buteos. Most of the Broad-wingeds were heading S or SSW, across the Nueces R. None were reported at coastal stations. Two major Broad-winged flights were observed prior to Sept. 24. On Sept. 21, between 11:45 a.m. and noon, an estimated 20,000 passed over s.w. Houston, kettling very high in a constant stream (MA). On

Sept. 23, between 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., 9000± Broad-winged and 1000 Swanson's Hawks passed over Welder Wildlife Ref. The remainder of the migration story, which follows, was gleaned mostly from data compiled by Mrs. Donohue. On Sept. 29, with a light southerly wind blowing, 8500 Broad-wingeds passed over Falfurrias, 60 mi s.w. of Corpus Christi. Another 15,000 were observed headed s.w. over Falfurrias Oct. 2, while at Encino 20 mi s., "vast numbers of hawks were in the sky all day." Near 6:00 p.m., Oct. 2 a fast-moving cold front reached the Corpus Christi area, pushing ahead of it a flight of 1100 Broad-wingeds observed at the Dick Brittain residence on the Nueces R., about 20 mi w. of Corpus Christi. On Oct. 3 the Brittain's reportedly observed 400,000 Broad-wingeds passing over between 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., and at dusk another 100,000 arrived to settle for the night along the river. On the following morning, Oct. 4, 250,000 Broad-wingeds were reported heading S. On that day a "vast movement" was noted at Falfurrias. Arvin patrolled the levee at Santa Ana N.W.R. (80 mi s of Falfurrias), in the evening but saw no Broad-wingeds Meantime in the Mission area, about 15 mi n.w. of Santa Ana, Mrs. Donohue had spotted 7050 Broad-wingeds in two flocks, between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m., her first since arrival of the cold front at 7:00 a.m. the day before. Where did the main flight go?

**CRANES, SHOREBIRDS** — The first Whooping Crane was observed at Aransas N.W.R., Oct. 13. Nine adults were present by Oct. 31, and remaining birds arrived Nov. 3 - 16. As of Dec. 8, 61 ad. and nine young birds were on the refuge (JK). Nineteen Am Oystercatchers were found on Mustang I., Sept. 4, while low-lying areas were still flooded from hurricane *Anita* (BH). A bird tentatively identified as a Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) was found on a roadside pond near the entrance to Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Nov. 14 (PB,DS). It was described in detail by Arvin who saw it Nov. 16 - 17. A Purple Sandpiper was found on the Freeport jetties Nov. 12 (TLE,JGM), a record early date. An unusual late concentration of 500 Stilt Sandpipers were with thousands of sandpipers on the receding shoreline of East L., Santa Ana N.W.R., Nov. 24 (JCA). Austin's sewage ponds had by far the most Wilson's Phalaropes reported, 300+, Aug. 30 - Sept. 1 (FSW *et al.*).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — An imm. Pomarine Jaeger and a Long-tailed Jaeger were reported on a pelagic trip Oct. 2 (TBF *et al.*). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake turned up at Texas City Dike Nov. 20 (EM *et al.*). Thousands of Black Terns were moving s e at sea Oct. 2 (TBF).

**ANIS THROUGH TROGONS** — Three Groove-billed Anis at Uvalde, Oct. 13, were first-ever for that area (TG). A Burrowing Owl was squeaked up from boulders near the end of Texas City Dike Nov. 24 (TLE *et al.*). A Long-eared Owl was found dead-on-road in the Corpus Christi area Nov. 11 (*vide* KM). An ad. ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbird, apparently having been seized at bottle brush flowers, was being fed upon by a very large praying mantis (WS). A ♂ **Blue-**

**throated Hummingbird** was reported at La Joya, Hidalgo Co., Nov. 26 (GSD). A ♀ **Coppery-tailed Trogon** (*Trogon elegans*) was photographed at



*Coppery-tailed Trogon, Bentsen S.P., Tex., Sept. 14, 1977. Photo/ Debbie Gendron.*

Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Sept. 14 (BD,DG). There apparently was one previous reliable sighting for Texas, in adjoining Cameron County in September 1957.

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Common Flickers were abundant (90) at High I., Oct. 12 (D&MW). A ♂ Red-bellied Woodpecker at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Oct. 29, may have been a first for Hidalgo Co. (KAA). An imm. ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker was seen at Austin Nov. 28 (FSW), a third locality record. A Say's Phoebe was located in Ft. Bend County Nov. 25 (TLE,JGM); this represented a sixth upper coast record. Olive-sided Flycatchers were in exceptional numbers — 28/day — in the Bolivar Pen.-High I. area, Aug. 20 - 21 (TLE,JGM *et al.*).

**SWALLOWS, CROWS** — The swallow migration was called "excellent" on the upper coast, with Banks seeming to predominate; several thousand Banks were working their way down Bolivar Pen., Aug. 28 (TLE). Mrs. Donahue, in Hidalgo County, called the swallow migration "unparalleled." At Bentsen S.P., Oct. 7, she estimated 88,000, mostly Barn Swallows, flying E along the Rio Grande levee. Movements of a similar nature Oct. 9 - 10 were reduced in volume by about a third. The first Mexican Crows reported on the Texas side of the Rio Grande this season was a flock of about 60 birds seen e. of Brownsville Aug. 9 (SB). By early September they could be found regularly at the renowned Brownsville garbage dump.

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAXWINGS** — This was an invasion year for the Red-breasted Nuthatch. First arrivals were noted at Austin and High I., Oct. 12. Others were seen at Galveston and at Freeport Oct. 13. On Oct. 18 a single bird paused briefly in a mesquite tree in Brownsville (SB), adding a species to the Cameron County list and setting a southernmost record for Texas. Except for the latter occurrence, reports were confined to the n. tier of counties, from

the upper coast to Austin. Brown Creeper numbers were very low Regionwide and House Wrens were scarce in most areas. Two Rock Wrens turned up in a very unlikely place — Port Aransas on Mustang I., for about two weeks in late November (LT, *vide* KM). Only slightly less curious was the presence of a Rock Wren on a clay bluff overlooking Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Nov. 19 (JCA,SB). A Sage Thrasher was a rare visitor at Anahuac N.W.R., Nov. 19 (RWC). Golden-crowned Kinglets were very scarce. Few Cedar Waxwings had been reported as the season ended, but two birds on the Anzalduas tract on the Rio Grande, Hidalgo Co., Nov. 26, were a month earlier than normal (JCA).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A Solitary Vireo at Houston Sept. 14 (JGM), set a new early record for the upper coast. A Philadelphia Vireo at San Ygnacio Sept. 21, was a first for Zapata County (B&CY). Warbler migration was impressive on the upper coast although numbers were in dozens rather than in hundreds. Canada Warblers were in surprisingly large numbers. Among the rarities was a **Virginia's Warbler** on w. Galveston I., Oct. 12 - 13 (TBF,MJ *et al.*), a first; a **Cape May Warbler** in Galveston Oct. 24 (JGM *et al.*), a first fall record; a Black-throated Gray Warbler at High I., Oct. 12 - 15 (JGM), first in several years; a sub-ad. ♂ **Golden-cheeked Warbler** — well seen and described — on Galveston I., Aug. 3 (D&MW), first record for the e. third of Texas; and a fall-plumaged Blackpoll Warbler at High I., Nov. 21 (D&MW), possibly the second fall record. Away from the coast, a ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** in fall plumage was seen at Austin Nov. 23 (FSW), a second locality record and one of very few occurrences in the e. half of Texas.

**ORIOLES, FRINGILLIDS** — The oriole migration was generally light, although N. (Baltimore) Orioles were reported abundant in the Corpus Christi area in September (KM). Three Lichtenstein's Orioles at San Ygnacio Sept. 21, may be the first recorded for Zapata County (B&CY). A high count of 135+ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was made at High I., Oct. 11 (D&MW,WB). Pine Siskins invaded the Region in November. By mid-month unusually large numbers could be seen from the upper and c. coast to the Rio Grande Delta. Arvin first noted siskins in the delta Nov. 22. Blacklock observed this species common throughout n.e. Mexico in late November. Higher counts were made near the gulf — except on the lower coast where both observers and trees are sparse numbers inland were quite small. The scarce Green-tailed Towhee was seen in the San Antonio area Oct. 8 (JB), at Austin Oct. 12 - 14 (FSW), and at Santa Ana N.W.R., Nov. 24 (JCA). A **Brown Towhee**, rare e. of the Edwards Plateau, was seen near Randolph A.F.B., n.e. of San Antonio, Nov. 4 (JE). A major influx of Savannah and Vesper Sparrows was noted at the Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., Nov. 28 (WAS). A concentration of Cassin's Sparrows at Anzalduas Nov. 26 was noteworthy: . . . "Fifteen per acre in a 10-acre open area of native and introduced grasses with scattered huisache and prickly pear" (JCA). A

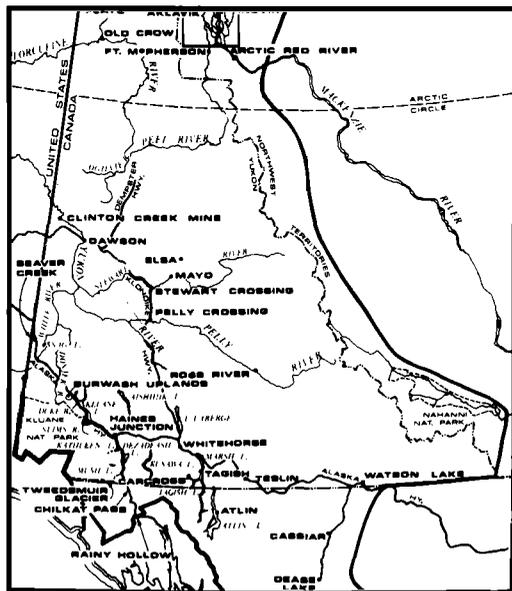
Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco was seen at Houston Oct 16 (ER). An individual of the Gray-headed race, rarely seen in the Region, was observed at Austin Nov 17 (DS).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND CITED OBSERVERS** — Margaret Anderson, Keith A. Arnold, John C. Arvin, Paul Baicich, Steve Benn, Gene W. Blacklock, Wesley Brannon, Ron and Marcia Braun, Dick and Doris Brittain, Joe Brown, Russel W. Clapper, Wesley M. Cureton, David T. Dauphin, Buzz Devine, Gladys S. Donohue, Juanita Edmison, Ted L. Eubanks, Jr.,

T. Ben Feltner, Tony Gallucci, Debbie Gendron, Henry and Edith Halberg, Bob Hill, Margaret Jones, Edward A. Kutac, Jerry Kuykendall, Kay McCracken, Elric McHenry, James A. Middleton, James G. Morgan, Ron Naveen, Richard T. Paul, Emilie Payne, Ellen Red, John and Barbara Riddle, Hank Robison, Rose Ann Rowlett, Willie Sekula, Wayne A. Shifflett, David Simon, Leona Turnbull, George A. Unland, Sheri Williamson, Doris N. Winship, David and Mimi Wolf, Bob and Carol Yutzky — **FRED S. WEBSTER, JR., 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, Texas 78731.**

## NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION /Helmut Grünberg

This was a season with variable weather. While August was really a summer month in Whitehorse, only September and part of October were true autumn months, and the second half of October and November were considered winter months with temperatures



below freezing. Temperatures were slightly above normal; 59.0°F, in August and precipitation was below normal. September was nearly normal; 44.6°, but had high precipitation. October average temperature, 36.0°, did not differ from the 30-year average, while November temperatures dropped 8.8° below the long-term average to +7°, heralding a cold winter. In November all precipitation in Whitehorse was snow. October and November precipitation was close to normal. Owing to the wet summer season and warm and dry August weather, a few rare breeding records were obtained. Otherwise, the season was not unusual.

The majority of reports came from the Whitehorse (hereafter, Whse.), area with a good number of observations from other areas in the Region. Bird watchers seemed to be leaving the inhospitable north country just like the migrating birds.

**LOONS, WATERFOWL** — The uncommon Red-throated Loon was observed near Carcross; one in summer plumage and one in winter plumage Sept 12 (H&SG).

Up to 25 White-fronted Geese were seen at Swan L., n. of Whse., Sept. 4-5 (HG), and one at Kluane L., Sept. 27 (HG). After the relatively frequent observations of Blue-winged Teals during the summer it was not surprising that they were also fairly common during fall migration in August, September and October (RB, HG, DMos, DS). One imm. female was banded in the Old Crow Flats Aug. 13 (DMos). Thirty Lesser Scaup landed on the road in Beaver Creek Oct 18, in the lights of a parking lot during a snowstorm (DMos). All but three died. Seven Harlequin Ducks were reported from Kluane L., Aug. 12 (J&PG) and one from the Whse. area Sept. 13 (HG). A rare ♂ Black Scoter was noted at Swan L., Oct. 9 (HG)

**HAWKS, FALCONS** — About 150 *Buteos* (probably mostly Red-tailed Hawks) were seen migrating up the Teslin R., Sept. 23 (RB). One Osprey was noted at Old Crow R., Aug. 28 (BH, DMos). One white Gyrfalcon [Verification needed. —Ed.], was reported from the Dempster Highway Sept. 13 (DY) and one gray phase adult from Kusawa L., Oct. 26 (DMos). Most Peregrine Falcons had left their nesting areas at Old Crow R., by Aug. 28. One adult was seen here Aug. 28 (BH, DMos). Migrating Peregrines were noted in the Whse. area Sept. 22-23 (HG).

**GROUSE THROUGH COOTS** — Twenty-two Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported from the Alaska Highway between Duke and Dorjek R., Sept 4 (DMoy). A concentration of 150 Willow Ptarmigans was observed at Lapie L., Oct. 13 (DMos). At least three White-tailed Ptarmigans were seen at Coal L., Nov. 28-30 (HG).

Large flocks of Sandhill Cranes totalling 10-15,000 birds were observed during migration up the Pelly R., at Faro Sept. 17-18 (RB, HG). American Coots were

reported from various areas of the s. Yukon Aug. 4–Sept. 21 (MD,BG,H&SG,DMos,CS). Several of ten adults and five young were photographed at Swan L., Aug. 13-14 (HG). One adult was seen feeding a young bird. This is one of few breeding records of the Yukon for this species.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two Semipalmated Plovers were seen at the Old Crow R., Aug. 28 (BH,DMos) and one at Swan L., Sept. 5 (HG). Two Killdeer were noted at the Yukon Game Farm Aug. 19 (HG). One Am. Golden Plover was reported from Marsh L., Sept. 21 (MD,DMos) and four Black-bellied Plovers from Swan L., Sept. 24 (HG). A rare observation of a Surf-bird in non-breeding plumage, was received from Kathleen L., Aug. 12 (J&PG). Fifteen Pectoral Sandpipers were seen at Swan L., Sept. 4-5 and Sept. 24 (HG). Long-billed Dowitchers increased at Swan L., in numbers from six Sept. 4 to nine Sept. 5, and finally 30 on Sept. 24 (HG). A rare Stilt Sandpiper was identified at Swan L., Sept. 5 (HG) and a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Swan L., Sept. 4 (HG). A large number of N. Phalaropes, 39, appeared at Swan L., Aug. 13 (HG).

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — The unusual sighting of a Mourning Dove was reported from the Alaska Highway near Champagne Oct. 6 (MH). An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, rare in the Region, was observed near Swan L., Sept. 4 (HG). One ♂ Hairy Woodpecker was seen at a feeder 10 mi s. of Whse., Oct. 14–Nov. 30 (KB), and one male 10 mi n. of Whse., Oct. 21–Nov. 30 (DS), both birds obviously overwintering. One to two ♀ Downy Woodpeckers, rare in the Region, were observed at a feeder 10 mi n. of Whse., Nov. 5-30 (DS), also overwintering. One Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was noted at Liard R., near Watson Lake Sept. 17 (DS).

**PASSERIFORMES** — A Gray-cheeked Thrush was seen in Whse., Aug. 1 (DS). On Canyon Mt., near Whse., a ♂ and a ♀ Golden-crowned Kinglet were observed n. of their normal breeding range Aug. 8 (HG,CS). The female carried insects such as a caterpillar and maybe flies or mosquitos in the bill, indicating that young birds were nearby. Observation of 13 N. Shrikes in ten separate reports Sept. 4–Oct. 14 in the s. part of the Region indicate that at least the majority are migrating birds (KB,HG,KMos,D&SR). Only two Starlings were reported this season in Whse., Aug. 31 (HG).

A concentration of 50-100 Yellow-rumped Warblers near Carcross Aug. 7 (HG,CS), apparently early migrating birds, and a very late observation of one in the Whse. area, Oct. 28 (HG) seem noteworthy. The Com. Yellowthroat appears to be more common in the Region than previously assumed. Eighteen yellowthroats were noted in six separate observations in the greater Whse. area, Aug. 14–Sept. 5 (HG). They may often be overlooked because of the inaccessible wet areas they inhabit and use during migration.

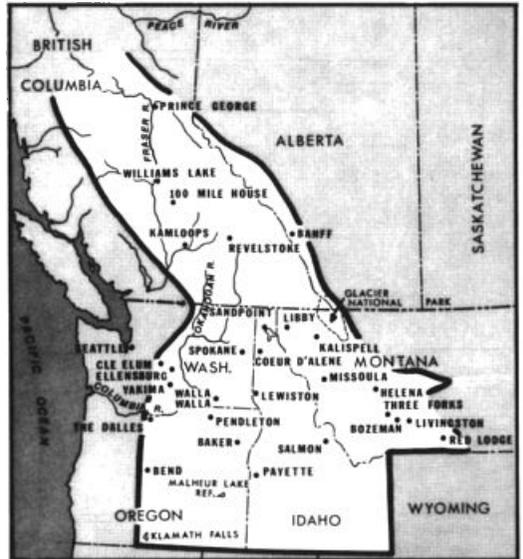
One or two ad. Red-winged Blackbirds, a fairly common species during the past year, were observed and filmed as they were feeding three young at Yukon Game Farm Aug. 6 (HG,CS). Among 40 Dark-eyed

Juncos, one bird of the rare Oregon race was identified at Swan L., Sept. 4 and another was among 20 juncos there Sept. 24 (HG). One Tree Sparrow stayed until Oct. 28 near Whse. (KB). A Smith's Longspur [Verification needed. —Ed.] was noted at the Chilkat Pass Sept. 16-18 (D&SR).

**INITIALED OBSERVERS** — Kate Bennett, Ron Butler, Malcolm Dennington, Beate Gensch, John Ginaven, Peggy Ginaven, Sharon Grünberg, Bob Hayes, Mark Hoffman, Dave Mossop (DMos), Dave Moyles (DMoy), Vivien Muir, Don Russell, Sharon Russell, Don Schuler, Carsten Schulz, Don Young. — **HELMUT GRÜNBERG, General Delivery, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 3S7.**

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION /Thomas H. Rogers

Heavy rains over much of the Region in late August brought welcome moisture and cooler temperatures but did little to bring up low water levels resulting from the year-long drought that most areas suffered. Above-normal precipitation in late September gave some help



but October was again very dry. November precipitation varied greatly from place to place. The outstanding weather conditions were the early snow and cold which struck shortly after mid-month, prematurely freezing many lakes and ponds. Temperatures moderated by the end of the month and the snow mostly melted from the lowlands.

Low water levels undoubtedly affected waterfowl, shorebirds and other water-dependent birds. The generally mild and pleasant fall periods encouraged stragglers from many bird groups to stay late—the November cold snap was too late to affect most

species. In the Bend, Oregon area Julie Johnson reported a marked dearth of birds in that rain shadow of the Cascades, even drier than normal, but most other areas apparently had reasonably good migrations and a rather large number of unusual records.

**LOONS AND GREBES** — Common Loons numbered 33, of these the largest group reported was on Island Park Res., Fremont Co., Ida, Nov. 5. An **Arctic Loon** was on Vaseux L., B.C., Oct. 25 - Nov. 21 (SRC) and one was collected on the Idaho side of the Snake R., near Asotin, Wash., Oct. 20 for the second state record, \*Washington State U. (JWW). At least five were on L. Lenore, Grant Co., Wash., Nov. 6 (JA). A Red-necked Grebe at Richland, Wash., Oct. 22 made the second record there; perhaps the same bird was there Nov. 13 (CC, MC, REW). Two appeared on a high alpine lake near Fortine, Mont., Sept. 11 (WW) and one was still at Polson, Mont., Nov. 26 (F.A.S.). A huge gathering of 500 W. Grebes was on Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., Aug. 28.

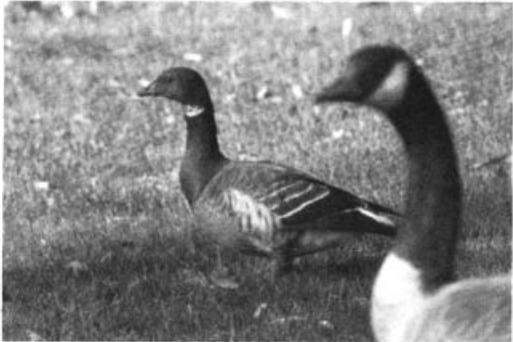
**PELICANS THROUGH IBIS** — Very few White Pelicans were seen on the Snake R., around Pocatello, Ida.; a group of 30 was on Am. Falls Reservoir Aug. 30 where usually there are hundreds. However, Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida. had an average daily count of 392 in August. One color-banded bird was shot at the trout farm near Pocatello; it had come from Colorado (CHT). A carp control program at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., influenced White Pelican use. A total of 2345 was in the basin before the lake was sprayed. By Oct. 9 1355 were present, primarily in areas where the carp kill was not complete. By Oct. 23 only 90 remained and the last were seen Nov. 5. Unlike the pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants increased, with a total of 250 on Malheur L. Oct. 2 and two through Nov. 16 (CDL). McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., had a Green Heron Nov. 3 (RH, *vide* SM) and another, tardily reported, was seen near Atomic City, Ida., June 9 (DKH). An adult and an imm. Cattle Egret were at Market Lake W.M.A., Ida., Aug. 9 (MVM) and two were near Pingree, Ida., Sept. 15 (MRC). One stayed about ten days and was photographed in a pasture at Clarkston, Wash., arriving Oct. 31 after a storm (JB,

*vide* EMcV). One was near Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 12 - 18 (KK, WS, SM, AR) and an adult and two immatures were near Merrill, Ore., Aug. 12 (CSL). Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., had a Snowy Egret Sept. 14 (ECB) and three were along the Snake R. near Ontario, Ore., Aug. 28 (WS). The species was last seen at Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 4. A **Least Bittern** was seen at Market L., Roberts, Ida., Aug. 11 (MRC). A flock of White-faced Ibis at Mud L., Jefferson Co., Ida., Aug. 18 was estimated at 2500 birds (MRC).

**WATERFOWL** — Malheur N.W.R.'s peak of 237 Whistling Swans was only a fraction of 1976's 3800 but Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., had 500, only slightly down from last year and about 1000 came through Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. The latter refuge had 175 - 200 Trumpeter Swans in November. A few wore neck collars showing their origin to have been Grand Prairie, Alta. The lone bird at Salmon, Ida. stayed until about Oct. 7 and one was at McNary N.W.R. during the entire fall period. Malheur N.W.R. had about 33. Up to five were on the Kettle R. in n.e. Washington in November (DC). Deer Flat N.W.R. had about 7000 geese. A huge concentration of 50,000-60,000 Canada Geese was at Stratford L., Grant Co. Wash., Oct. 9. Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. had 8000 in November, compared to 3000 a year ago and McNary N.W.R. had some 15,000. At Malheur they peaked at 3100. Blue L., Grant Co., Wash., had 20 Cackling Geese Nov. 6 (JA). A **Brant** was sighted at Naramata, B.C., Nov. 13 (JG) and a "**Black**" **Brant** was photographed at Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 6 (SM & B.M.A.S.). Malheur Refuge had 1000 Snow Geese



Cattle Egret, Walla Walla, Wash, Nov. 6, 1977. Photo/ Shirlev Muse.



"Black" Brant, Walla Walla, Wash., Nov. 12-18 1977. Photo/ Shirlev Muse.

and a few Ross', while Summer L. to the south had 70,000 white geese before Nov. 21. Snow Goose, a rarity at Red Rock Lakes, numbered 200 in early November. White-fronted Geese peaked at Malheur at 1135 Sept. 30. At least 10 of the latter were with the Canadas at Stratford L., and McNary N.W.R. had 25. Peak duck numbers at Malheur were 32,700, down from 97,000 last year—Am. Wigeon numbered less than a tenth of 1976's 46,000. The peak of 35,000 at Columbia N.W.R. was up a bit from last year. At Deer Flat N.W.R. duck numbers were about normal at the end of November, about 220,000, mostly Mallards. A

sight record of a **Black Duck** Sept. 10 came from Swan L., Flathead Co., Mont. (EJ). Twelve Gadwalls were on Medicine L. near Medimont, Ida., Oct. 9 (SGS). The species showed an increase at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., with 100 present all November. The lower St. Joe R. near St. Maries, Ida., had a peak of 10,650 Am. Wigeon Oct. 17 and the Pend Oreille R., Bonner Co., Ida., had 15,000 Redhead Nov. 16. A ♂ **European Wigeon** was on Swan L., Vernon, B.C., Nov. 5 (JW) and Naramata, B.C. had an **Oldsquaw** Nov. 21 (JL). A male and five females of the latter were on L. Lenore, Grant Co., Wash., Nov. 6 (JA) and one was collected on the Snake R. above Walters Ferry, presumably in the Nampa, Ida., area Nov. 9 (JH). Five White-winged Scoters were reported at Seebe, Alta. Oct. 29 (JJP); seven were on Silver L., Spokane Co., Oct. 14, and at least five were on L. Lenore Nov. 6 (JA). Penticton, B.C. had a ♀ Surf Scoter Oct. 8 (SRC) and another female was at Brewster, Wash., the same day (KK,WS). Soap L., Grant Co., Wash. yielded one Nov. 6 (JA) and the Snake R. at Clarkston, Wash., another Oct. 15 - 16 (EMcV). A female shot at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Oct. 17 made the first record there (RRS). A ♂ bird was on L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash., Nov. 12 (PH). A **Black Scoter** collected along the Columbia R. near Brewster Oct. 20, \*W.S.U., was the first recorded in e. Washington (GB, *fide* RK).

**HAWKS** — Eastern Oregon had two sightings of **White-tailed Kite**, an immature near Spray Aug. 18 (JR) and one on Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 7 - Nov. 10 (CDL). Hawk numbers in general appeared good. The scarce Ferruginous Hawk was noted: singles near Burns, Ore., at Lowden, Wash., near Ovando and Kalispell, Mont.; two adults and a young bird at a nest, 30 miles s.w. of Helena, Mont., and only 14 at Kilgore and Henry's L., Fremont Co., Ida., about the same as in 1976 but about half the number of previous years (CHT). Bald Eagles hit a record peak of 444 Nov. 30 in the L. McDonald-Lower McDonald Cr.-Flathead R. area of Glacier N.P., Mont. (ELR). A late Osprey was at Naramata, B.C., Nov. 12 (JL). The Peregrine Falcon was observed at five widely scattered localities.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Two Sharp-tailed Grouse near Fortine, Mont., were the first seen there for several years. Two coveys of Scaled Quail were sighted in the Juniper Forest s. of Connell, Wash., Nov. 19 (PC). Up to 31 Turkeys appeared at Smith's Prairie in the Nampa area in November (WH,PCO). The species was reported for the Kalispell area (F.A.S.) and eight appeared at Blue L., e. of Coeur d' Alene L., Ida (I.D.G.). A female was sighted along the Naches R., n.w. of Yakima Aug. 21 (Y.A.S.) and one was sighted s.w. of LaGrande, Ore., in the Glasshill area Oct. 1 (JBi).

**CRANES AND COOT** — Sandhill Cranes numbered over 2000 in their traditional fall staging area in Grays L. valley Sept. 23 and a like number had reached Monte Vista N.W.R. in Colorado Sept. 26. The San Luis Valley there had over 12,000 Oct. 24. By Nov. 15 over 11,000 had arrived at Bosque del Apache N.W.R.

(RCD). Greater Sandhill Cranes reached a peak of 2855 at Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 14 and three flocks of the Lesser, totaling less than 200, migrated over Sept. 29. An estimated 1500 Sandhills were on Bridge Creek W.M.A., Umatilla Co., Ore., Sept. 30 - Oct. 1. American Coot at Malheur peaked at 8400 compared to 42,000 last year but numbers at Columbia N.W.R. were down only slightly. In n. Idaho they peaked at 11,000, 11,000, and 9000 on the lower St. Joe R., Coeur d' Alene R. and Pend Oreille R. respectively.

#### S.A.

Of the seven Whooping Cranes hatched by Sandhill Crane foster parents at Grays Lake N.W.R., in s.e. Idaho, four fledged, the others apparently falling prey to coyotes. Along with five hatched in 1975 and 1976, they left mostly in early October, migrating through Colorado and arriving in New Mexico by November 15 or earlier, with the exception of one 1977 bird killed by hitting a barbed wire fence. Six appeared at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. and four were expected to winter there with Sandhill Cranes. Two juveniles, supposedly from Grays L., disappeared shortly thereafter and were believed to have continued on to Mexico with Sandhills. One of the other two birds appeared at Bernardo and the other at Las Vegas N.W.R., N. Mex. (RCD).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The Lewiston, Ida.-Clarkston, Wash. area had a disappointing migration but very good numbers and variety appeared at Reardan and in Grant Co., Wash. Cold Springs N.W.R., e. of Hermiston, Ore., had an Am. Golden Plover Oct. 1 (CC,MC), the species appeared in Pleasant Valley between Libby and Kalispell, Mont., Oct. 3 - 5 (DDeJ), and four were at Reardan, Wash., Sept. 11 - 12 (JA). Black-bellied Plovers seemed almost common, appearing in many localities and often in unusual numbers. A Ruddy Turnstone was at Tranquille, B.C., Sept. 2 (JAn) and one in winter plumage Aug. 31 at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., made the first record there (DB). Harrison L., near Harrison, Mont., had 120 Long-billed Curlews Aug. 20. Two Red Knots were carefully identified near Post Falls, Ida., Sept. 19 (SGS). Stilt Sandpipers appeared in increased numbers particularly in e. Washington, and one at Tranquille, B.C., Aug. 14 was a rarity (JAn). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Ninepipe N.W.R., Sept. 18 was Montana's first w. of the Continental Divide (DB). One or two Sanderlings were at Golden, B.C., in September (FK) and the species was sighted in the Lewiston, Ida., area (EMcV) and at Reardan and Banks L., in Washington. American Avocets peaked at 5600 in September at Malheur N.W.R. The only Black-necked Stilts reported during the fall period were two or three at L. Helena until Aug. 6 and one Sept. 11 (SMA).

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — A Parasitic Jaeger was harassing Ring-billed Gulls at Salmon Arm, B.C., Aug. 25 (RC) as was one at Richland, Wash., Sept. 18 (P & REW). One (same bird?) was at Walla Walla

Sept 23 (SM,RZ). The only Mew Gulls were seven at Golden, B.C., Aug. 6 (RRH). An imm. Sabine's Gull was sighted at Tranquille Sept. 6 - 12 (JAn) and another at the Yakima R. delta near Richland Sept. 11 was Woodley's second in ten years. There were two sightings of the Com. Tern along the Snake near Lewiston (EMcV). An Arctic Tern at the Yakima delta Oct 2 was in full breeding plumage and was watched for 30 minutes with a 60X scope (REW).

**OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — The remains of a **Barn Owl**, extremely rare in interior British Columbia, were found under a Great Horned Owl's roost tree near Vernon Oct. 24. It apparently had been killed during the summer (JG). A Flammulated Owl found dead at Invermere, B.C., in September was preserved and sent to the B.C. Museum, and one was banded at Pocatello, Ida., Sept. 23 (JJ). The pair that nested near Blewett Pass, Chelan Co., Wash. was last seen Aug. 26 (G&WH). An ailing bird found near Kuna, Ida. Sept. 22 was cared for but died later (LP). A Hawk Owl was photographed at Kimberley, B.C., Nov 11 (MVW) and one was near Vernon, B.C. Nov. 18 - 30 (MCo). Single Barred Owls were sighted at Bitterroot L., w. of Kalispell, at Yellow Bay on Flathead L., in Kalispell and at Woods Bay near Bigfork, Mont. The species was reported as having nested near Missoula, Mont. and was seen during the fall (SF) and one was at Blue L., e. of Harrison, Ida. (JMcn). An exhausted individual was picked up in a field near Fernwood, Ida., in late September and was being nursed back to health (DRJ). An ad. female and an imm. Spotted Owl were seen Aug. 26 at Blewett Pass, Chelan Co., Wash., where they nested this summer (C&WH). Great Gray Owls appeared regularly at Pleasant Valley w. of Kalispell and were seen on Bridge Creek W.M.A., Umatilla Co., Ore., and on Starvation Ridge, Wallowa Co., Ore. Poor-wills at Malheur N.W.R. were seen often near rimrocks "indicating they were moving into these areas to hibernate" (CDL). The old chimney along the Klickitat R., Klickitat Co., Wash. had 1500 Vaux's Swifts using it Aug. 27 (Y.A.S.). Anna's Hummingbird was not seen after Aug. 9 at Leavenworth, Wash., (LG) but British Columbia had a male at Kelowna Sept 16 (EL), a female at Vaseux L. Oct. 4 (SRC), and a male at a Revelstoke feeder in late November for that city's first record (JW). Overlooked last year was a report of a ♂ Anna's Hummingbird at Lakeside, Mont., Oct. 10 - 18, 1976 (JBr).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Pileated Woodpeckers were "definitely on the increase" in the Salmon, Ida., area, about ten having been sighted in October (HBR) and Weber got his first record of the species at Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash., Oct. 18. The White-headed Woodpecker, rare in s Idaho, was sighted twice and photographed in October on Daggett Creek n.e. of Boise (A&HL). A male, a female and an imm. **Purple Martin** were recorded at Merrill, Ore., Aug. 12 (CSL).

## JAYS THROUGH NUTHATCHES —

S.A.

Blue Jays continued to appear, mostly as singles but sometimes in twos or threes. In British Columbia Vernon and Kimberley each had one. Malheur N.W.R. had its second record and Umatilla, Ore., another. Washington reported the birds at Richland, Walla Walla, Spokane and Kamiak Butte. In Idaho they appeared at Idaho Falls and Nampa and in Montana they appeared at Harrison, Bozeman, Hamilton, L. McDonald in Glacier N.P., near Kalispell and near Fortine.

A group of five Scrub Jays, well-described, was reported a few mi s. of Priest River, Ida. (ES). Piñon Jays were mentioned only for Gardiner, Mont. (JEQ). The Chestnut-backed Chickadee visited a feeder in Clarkston, Wash., in late October (JWo) and a Kimberley feeder, the first since 1973. A White-breasted Nuthatch at Field, B.C., in mid-October made the first record for Yoho N.P. (TH) and one was at Golden Nov. 4 (FK).

**MIMIC THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES** — Merrill, Ore., had an imm. Mockingbird Aug. 12 (CSL) and Idaho had a sighting near Atomic City Aug 31 (MRC) and two s.w. of Oreana; three birds Sept 10 and two Nov. 30 (JH, G.E.A.S.). A belated record was of a Gray Catbird near Burns, Ore., July 4 (CDL). Mountain Bluebird numbers looked encouraging at Kimberley and in the vicinity of Spokane. Sprague's Pipit was reported only from Gardiner, Mont. Five Bohemian Waxwings were sighted in Yoho N.P., Aug 6 and a large flock near Kalispell Sept. 9 seemed very early.

**WARBLERS** — A Nashville Warbler, well-described, was at Three Forks, Mont., Sept. 27 (RL). Virginia's Warbler was reported at Rupert, Ida., Oct. 4 (WHS). Malheur N.W.R. had 1 - 2 Chestnut-sided Warblers Sept. 10 - 13 (CDL). A **Pine Warbler** watched at length at close range in Bozeman Nov. 6 was the second for the state (ET&RAH). Single Palm Warblers appeared at Golden, B.C., Oct. 8 (RRH,FK) and at Knutsford, B.C., Oct. 10 (JAn). A well-described ♂ Canada Warbler was found at Jewel Basin in the mountains e of Kalispell Sept. 10 (JR).

**BLACKBIRDS** — Bobolinks were noted near Kalispell Sept. 2. A Red-winged Blackbird at Fortine made only the fourth November record in 50 years (WW). Banff, Alta., had three Rusty Blackbirds Oct. 15 (JJP) and Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. had two Nov 12 (FBH). Walla Walla College Farm had one Oct 26 (WS). A Brown-headed Cowbird at Tranquille, B C., Nov. 5 was very late (JAn).

**FINCHES** — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Malheur N.W.R. Oct. 11 (m.ob.) and a moulting ♂ Indigo Bunting was sighted at Golden, B.C., Sept. 1 (RRH,FK). The first record of a House Finch at Golden was of a male Aug. 25 - Sept. 7 (RRH). Bozeman reported the

species Nov. 19 (SC) and the birds were common at feeders in Missoula. A Grey-crowned Rosy Finch in the Clark Fork vicinity Oct. 14 (JMcN) and two at Pinehurst Nov. 3 (JLi) were the first recorded in that area of Idaho since 1950. About 100 Black and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were feeding at the summit of Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore., Oct. 11 - 12 (CDL) and about two dozen Blacks were on Sacajawea Peak n.e. of Bozeman Aug. 17 (EH). Gray-crowned were seen frequently on Lolo Pass and in the Bitterroot Valley w. and s. of Missoula during November, not a normal situation (SF). Common Redpolls and White-winged Crossbills were appearing often enough to presage an "invasion" for the winter. The latter were seen twice in the Price Cr. - Peet Cr. area s.e. of Lima Res., s. Beverhead Co., Mont., an area where they have not previously been recorded (JS).

**SPARROWS** — A Green-tailed Towhee was spotted in the Owyhee Mts., s.w. of Oreana, Ida., Sept. 17 (JH). A Baird's Sparrow was carefully observed Aug. 27 just s. of L. Helena in Montana for the first record in that area (LS). A Lark Sparrow at Walla Walla Nov. 22 seemed very late (RM) and Sage Sparrows were still at Malheur N.W.R. in late November. The Kalispell area had a Clay-colored Sparrow Aug. 1 - 9 (JR). The usual sprinkling of Harris' Sparrow occurred over the Region. One at Richland was the third ever there (REW). Single Golden-crowned Sparrows appeared on Malheur N.W.R., at Leavenworth, Spokane and Reardan, Wash., and three were at Boise, Ida. Tranquille, B.C., had a White-throated Sparrow Oct. 8 (JAn) and Nicholson, B.C., had one Sept. 25 (FK). The only other reports were from Egan Slough e. of Kalispell Oct. 3 (JR) and e. of Bigfork Oct. 10 (MS). Four McCown's Longspurs were in a flock of Horned Larks near Blue Dome on Birch Cr., Clark Co., Ida., Aug. 28 (MRC). Two Lapland Longspurs lingered at Golden until Oct. 8. One was found near Asotin Cr., Asotin Co., Wash., Oct. 30 (GHi) and one showed up 5 mi e. of Bigfork Oct. 8 - 10 (MS). A flock of 20 Snow Buntings was on the Arco Desert west of Atomic City, Ida., Aug. 27 (CHT).

**OBSERVERS CITED** — James Acton, Jerry Ansell (JAn), Eugene C. Barney, June Berghammer, Jerry Bingner (JBi), Blue Mt. Aud. Soc., Jacqueline Brewer (JBr), Doug Bonham, George Brady, Richard Cannings, Steve R. Cannings, Don Carney, Phil Cheney, Mark R. Collie, Mary Collins (MCo), Priscilla Cook (PCo), Craig Corder, Marion Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Dan DeJong, Rod C. Drewien, Flathead Aud. Soc., Sid Frissell, Golden Eagle Aud. Soc., Larry Goodhew, James Grant, Pauline Hager, Douglas K. Halford, Terry Hammell, Ed Harper, Eve T. & Ray A. Hays, James Heckathorn, Wesley Heckathorn, Randy Heinz, Gerry Hickman (GHi), Glen & Wanda Hoge, R. R. Howie, Frances B. Huston, Idaho Dept. of Game, Joe Jeppson, Don R. Johnson, Elly Jones, Frances King, Rick Knight, Ken Knittle, Ernestine Lamoureux, Ron Lang, Al & Hilda Larson, C. S. Lawson, Jay Lewis, Joe Lint (JLi), Carroll D. Littlefield, Rose Marsh, Sid Martin (SMa), Jack McNeel, Ed McVicker, M. Vincent Mowbray, Shirley Muse, J. J. Podlubny,

Leon Powers, Joyce E. Queckborner, Arthur Rempel, Hadley B. Roberts, Jean Robocker, Joanna Ross (JRo), Edwin L. Rothfuss, Jon Sadowski, Lorelei Saxby, W. H. Shillington, Richard R. Sjoström, Esther Stewart, Shirley G. Sturts, Mae Sudan, Wally Sumner, Charles H. Trost, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Mildred V. White, Jim Wolcott (JWo) Pat & Robert E. Woodley, John Woods, Yakima Aud Soc., Ric Zarwell. \*—specimen. — **THOMAS H ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

## MOUNTAIN WEST /Hugh E. Kingery

Discovery of an overland migration of coastal species of waterbirds has come about from the combination of more birdwatchers, better optical equipment—especially telescopes—and the hundreds of irrigation reservoirs which now dot the arid western landscape



Observers cannot physically survey many of these reservoirs—some like L. Mead and L. Powell are immense and largely inaccessible, and most of the more than one hundred large reservoirs and innumerable small ones are too isolated for thorough coverage. Nevertheless, over the past five years those reservoirs which have received attention have revealed, among the usual geese, ducks, shorebirds, and gulls, surprising numbers of wayward "coastal" species. They've included Arctic and Red-throated Loons, Red-necked Grebe, Brant, Oldsquaw, three scoters, Red Phalarope, two jaegers, and nine gulls. This fall we had reports of one jaeger and one gull species and all of the others.

The ongoing drought seemed to have little tangible effect on the migration, except possibly for sending the summer breeders south early. Hack showed that at Jefferson, Colorado, half the summer species left one-to-four weeks early, and the other half left on the average departure dates. Both in Nevada, with poor food availability, and at Bear River Wildlife Management Area, Utah, with excellent food, migrants stayed only a short time, or else fewer stopped during migration (CL, RK). In Utah the coincidence of good cone crops on both spruce and fir—the first time they have peaked together in many years—caused noticeable influxes of crossbills and nutcrackers. Poor cone crops in Alberta and Colorado may have contributed to this movement (KS).

The Region reported 369 species during the season, 323 from Colorado, 255 from Nevada, 237 from Wyoming, and 115 from Utah (where too few observers sent complete lists for fair comparison).

**LOONS, GREBES** — This year, Wyoming had its second **Arctic Loon** report, from Foxpark Oct. 23 (DPK†). Coloradans saw ten, and Nevada had one, from Topaz L., s. of Carson City Oct. 15-16 (EH; he sent Topaz sightings both to Nevada and California). Rare **Red-throated Loons** stopped at Walker L., Nev., Oct. 19 (BB) and Denver Nov. 24 (JR). **Red-necked Grebes** visited Yellowstone L., Wyo., Oct. 2 (BJ†), Chatfield Res., near Denver—two Oct. 29-30 (FJ, JW†) and two Nov. 19 (DPK)—and **Union Res.**, near Longmont, Colo., Nov. 24-25 (PM *et al.*). Lake Mead's fall build-up of **Eared and W. Grebes** failed to materialize by Nov. 30, when only 600 Eareds and 5000 Westerns had assembled. **Western Grebes** in e. Colorado and Wyoming surpassed previous years; Sheridan had 97 Sept. 29, the largest flock on record there, and Boulder County, Colo., reported 1011 in October, four times as many as October 1976.

**PELICANS, CORMORANTS, HERONS** — While Nevada's breeding **White Pelicans** dropped substantially, the Colorado colony increased. On Oct. 9, 1400 assembled at the breeding site, Riverside Res., Weld Co., Colo. (GM). They remained even later, with 300 at Jackson Res., Morgan Co., Oct. 29 (PM) and 40 at Ft. Collins Nov. 13 (MJ). On Oct. 6-7, 525 moved S from L. Mohave, Nev., perhaps bound for the Gulf of California (TL). **Little Blue Herons** appeared at Union Res.—one Aug. 10 and two Aug. 13-14 (PM) and at Hygiene, Colo., Aug. 22 (TV). **Cheyenne's first Green Heron** record came with two Aug. 12 (AK). **Cattle Egrets** included one Aug. 29 and eight Sept. 11 at Brigham City, Utah (GK), one Aug. 10-19 at Mercury, Nev. (RC, ph.), and one Nov. 20 at Arden, Nev., killed by a cat when it flew into a yard (CL, \*U. of Nevada). Both Colorado and Nevada had more **Great Egrets**: Nevada had one at Lovelock Nov. 29 (RA) and 23 in s. Nevada. Colorado had 23, mostly around Boulder (the only state nesting site) but also one in July and August at Walden (Jaf). A **Least Bittern** visited Pueblo Oct. 9 (EB). Except for the 300 nests at Ruby Lakes N.W.R., Nevada had only 30 nesting pairs of **White-faced Ibises** this year, down from 3500 in 1973 (BO, PLu). The usual nesting sites harbored about 500 non-nesting adults. The **Roseate Spoonbills** which appeared in Nevada last summer (AB 31:1167) concluded their appearance Aug. 22 with two immatures at Logandale and one at Overton (GA).

**WATERFOWL** — Fall numbers declined throughout the Region. Bear R. had an Aug. 31 peak of 135,000, including 31,000 Pintails and 20,000 Green-winged Teal—about half the normal totals. The second peak did not occur until early November, with 165,000 ducks, two-thirds divers (60,000 Redheads, 19,000 Canvasbacks, 14,000 scaups). Massive numbers of puddle ducks normally appear, but not this year; Pintails particularly dropped markedly. Possibly poor production in Alberta and Saskatchewan caused the

decline (RK). Stillwater and Ruby Lakes, Nev., Farmington Bay, Utah, and Monte Vista and Browns Park N.W.R.s, Colo., also reported low numbers. Monte Vista's 5050 Pintails Oct. 1 was a normal peak, but by Nov. 30 it held only 2500 Mallards, compared with 7600 and 15,000 the previous two years.

Whistling Swans at Bear R. peaked Nov. 20 at 21,000, an increase which reflected good nesting success. Stillwater reported only 290, 10% of last year's flight. Colorado had a few more than usual, although the reports from Browns Park, Walden, and Buena Vista may portray a regular pattern of small flocks migrating over the Colorado Rockies. A flock of 40 **White-fronted Geese** barreled by L. DeSmet near Sheridan, Wyo., Nov. 13, the largest number ever observed there; at the same time 600 Snows broiled up to move S. While Bear R. had its usual 2000 Snows, the Utah Div. of Wildlife Resources reported Snows using w. Utah and e. Nevada more than usual A (Black) Brant shot during the hunting season at Farmington Bay W.M.A., adds to Utah's few records (all from that time of year—TP). Nevada has had **Shelducks** of uncertain origin at Walker L. for two years, of the seven last fall one remained this fall, a male seen Sept. 28 (CL).

Sunnyside W.M.A. produced the first Nevada report in several years of a **Fulvous Whistling Duck** Oct. 27 (PLu). Nevada had more **Wood Ducks** reported (12) than for 10 years, including one at Diamond Valley Oct. 8-15 (JE) and seven Aug. 20-21 at Ft. Churchill on the Carson R. (WS, FC, GC) **Union Res.** had 1-4 Oldsquaws during November (PM) and a hunter shot one at Farmington Bay during the season (TP). **Scoters** did not approach last year's numbers, but all three species appeared. Colorado had six **White-wingeds** in November, at Longmont, Durango, and Denver; two Blacks, at Denver Oct. 28 – Nov. 2 (JW *et al.*); and Gunnison Nov. 19 (KJC†); and eight **Surfs** Oct. 15 – Nov. 27, at Durango, Ft. Collins, Denver, and Hygiene. Casper, Wyo., had one **White-winged** Oct. 15 (SB), and two **Surfs** Oct. 22-30 (OKS) Nevada reported a **White-winged** at Las Vegas Nov. 30 – Dec. 1 (VM, CL, ph.) and one at Topaz L., Nov. 4 (EH), and two **Surfs** Oct. 15 – Nov. 4 at Topaz L. (EH), plus one Nov. 30 at Davis Dam (VM). The Region had more **Hooded Mergansers** reported than ever, topped with 57 in Boulder, Colo., during November (B A S) **Common Mergansers** arrived late and in fewer numbers than usual, although three had reached Eagle, Colo., by Oct. 9 (JM). Nevadans reported no **Red-breasted** and only three **Com. Mergansers**.

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — The most vigorous ornithological project we have heard of recently is Hoffman's hawk vigil on the Wellsville Mts., in n. Utah. Last year he made 18 trips to the lookout, which involves a 4½ hr, 3200-ft climb. This year he made the trip *daily* (almost), and counted 2765 Hawks of 15 species in 276 hours, Aug. 27 – Oct. 25. Table 1 summarizes his results. The peak migration occurred Sept. 25 – Oct. 5, with 50% of the migrants seen then; all but Goshawk and Golden Eagle peaked then. The intensity peaked in mid- to late afternoon, and seldom reached significance before noon. Passing cold fronts inhibited

**Table 1. Wellsville Mountains Hawk Watch  
Aug. 27 – Oct. 25**

<i>Species</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Accipiters	1186	
Sharp-shinned	616	60% adults
Cooper's	451	58% adults
Goshawk	34	10% adults
<i>Acc. sp.</i>	85	
Buteos	339	
Red-tailed	311	72% adults (2 Harlan's, Oct. 4)
Swainson's	17	last Oct. 14
Ferruginous	2	both Sept. 28
Rough-legged	1	Oct. 15
<i>Buteo sp.</i>	8	
Falcons	809	
Am. Kestrel	805	59.5% males
Prairie Falcon	2	
Merlin	2	
Golden Eagle	219	33% adults, 138 imm.*
Bald Eagle	5	
Marsh Hawk	154	
Turkey Vulture	6	
Osprey	5	
Unid raptors	42	
Total	2765	

\*The Golden Eagle was the only species to continue its migration into November.

migration of all species except the eagles, with the best flights on warm, fair days several days before or after a frontal passage.

Even excluding the Wellsville observations, regional *Accipiter* observations increased; Sharp-shinned particularly so, to 100 sightings. Red-shouldered Hawks visited both Colorado and Nevada: Corn Cr. had one Sept. 1-4 (CH,VM), and at Pahranaagat Ref., an adult stayed for a few days around Sept. 23 (RV,CL,VM,ph). Hoffman reports Utah's third Broad-winged Hawk on Sept. 18 in the Pilot Mts., in n.w. Utah. Broad-wingeds also ventured into the foothills of Colorado, with a road kill at Grant Sept. 3 (HH, \*D M N.H.) and one observed at Evergreen Sept. 23 (WWB *et al.*); another visited Ft. Collins Sept. 24 (F C A.S.). A late Swainson's Hawk moved through Logan Nov. 4 (JG). At Durango, a pair of Rough-legged Hawks had arrived at the same area as last year's early birds Aug. 23 (RWS) and another pair plied the tundra above Silver Plume, Colo., starting Sept. 15 (CG,EC). Nevada's non-game biologists have found 200 nesting territories of Ferruginous Hawks in the state; they checked 17 this year in n.e. Nevada, 13 of which fledged 3.2 young per nest (BO,PLU). Gyrfalcon reports came from Sheridan the first week of October (SA) and Nov. 25 (EP). The Nevada survey located 306 Prairie Falcon nesting territories in 4 years, this year the density in s.e. Nevada was 1:25 sq mi, and in s.w. Nevada 1:43 sq mi. Of 101 sites checked this year, one or more birds occupied 83. Merlins

moved into the Mountain West, with two at Logandale, the Wellsville birds reported above, 13 Wyoming birds, and 28 Colorado reports.

**CRANES** — Only eight Whooping Cranes survived in the Rocky Mt. flock, owing to weather, predators, and for one first-year bird, a barbed-wire fence near Monte Vista (MTN). The Monte Vista/San Luis Valley Sandhill Cranes numbered a normal 11,000, but plains cranes flew S along the Colorado piedmont in large numbers. October 22 saw them moving strongly, with 392 at Ft. Morgan, 600-1000 at Barr L., n e of Denver, and 800 at Chatfield, s.w. of Denver. Peak count came from Ft. Morgan Oct. 29, with 3000

**SHOREBIRDS** — Most areas had average shorebird counts with peaks such as 5000 dowitchers and 15,000 Marbled Godwits at Bear R.; 4500 Wilson's Phalaropes at Durango Aug. 17 (one the next day—RWS); and 5035 Western and 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers on the Pueblo fall count Sept. 17-18. At Blue Mesa Res., near Gunnison, Colo., the drought-lowered water level attracted 4000 Baird's Sandpipers and 500 Killdeer. In existence for less than a decade and hemmed in by mountains, the lake's success at attracting shorebirds implies a fair trans-mountain migration. The Baird's Sandpipers seen on alpine tundra to the south support this theory (AB 28:84).

Four Piping Plovers ran along Barr L. shores Aug. 13 (D.F.O.) and one was at Jackson Res., Morgan Co., Sept. 3 (JR). Counts in Kiowa County, Colo., Aug. 7 (DPK) and Pueblo and Otero Cos., Colo., Sept. 17-18 (DAG) tallied 22 and 25 Snowy Plovers respectively, probably indicative of small breeding colonies in each place. Farmington Bay reported 743 Killdeer Aug. 25, the highest regional count (TP). American Golden Plovers appeared at Casper Sept. 17 (SB), Denver Oct. 1-2 (D.F.O., DPK), and Union Res., Oct. 23 (PM), all with Black-bellieds—a species more common than usual Aug. 11 – Oct. 29. Observers in n e Colorado found five Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 11 – Sept. 18. The ten Greater Yellowlegs at Reno Nov. 6 comprised a large flock for Nevada (CP). Colorado had a record number of Red Knots, about ten, at 3-4 locations Aug. 13 – Oct. 2. Sheridan reported one White-rumped Sandpiper and Colorado had seven at 3 locations Sept. 10-18. The Denver area had eight November Dunlins. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers graced Sheridan Aug. 25, with only five other sightings there in 11 years (HD). Jackson, Wyo., had its first Black-necked Stilt Aug. 13 (A&AS). The only Red Phalarope reported this fall stayed at Union Sept. 13-14 (PM, JR *et al.*).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — Parasitic Jaegers have become regular: Colorado had six Aug. 3 – Sept. 30; one visited Sheridan Oct. 24 (HD,MC†); and at Pyramid L. were two immatures Oct. 27 and one Nov. 14 & 26 (D&KG). California and Ring-billed Gulls failed to reach the Las Vegas area by their usual time in October, although the n. Nevada numbers seemed normal (CL). Eastern Colorado attracted about half its usual Franklin's Gulls, with the top count 5780 at Pueblo Sept. 17-18 (DAG). The 14 at Sheridan Nov. 1 were late (HD). Bonaparte's Gulls favor Union Res.,

which this fall attracted 40 at their peak Oct. 22-24 (PM), the most in 4 years. The Bonaparte's which summered there molted into winter ad. plumage the third week of August (PM). Pyramid L. had 15 Bonaparte's Nov. 14. The Region had the most Sabine's Gulls ever: Pyramid L., one nearby Oct. 6 (D&KG); Topaz L., one Oct. 15 and four Nov. 4 (EH); Bear R., two Sept. 26 and four Sept. 27 (KS,JY, ph.). Firsts for their parts of Wyoming were one at Yellowstone L., Oct. 2 (BJ†) and one at Sheridan Sept. 18 - Oct. 6 (HD†). Colorado had at least four at Union Sept. 11 - Nov. 6 (PM *et al.*), one at Denver Sept. 25 (JRo), one at Grand Jct., Oct. 15 (RL), and one at Walden Oct. 16 (PG). Top Com. Tern reports came from Union—16 on Aug. 28, where it was commoner than Forster's (PM)—and 15 at L. Mead, Sept. 9 (VM). Two Least Terns visited Chatfield Oct. 1 (FJ). A flock of several dozen Black Terns flew over Loveland Pass, Colo., above 13,000 ft, Sept. 14 (CG).

**CUCKOOS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Corn Cr., Aug. 3 gave Nevada its first fall record in 3 years (CL). Often researchers who concentrate on a particular species discover unsuspected populations—Mountain West Barn Owls, for example. Marti has 25-30 under observation in the 30-mi stretch of n. Utah from Kaysville to Bear River City, many roosting in nest boxes. Millsap found 13 nesting pairs, and one non-nesting pair, in Weld and Larimer Cos., Colo., the nests in banks of dry washes. Short-eared Owl reports were sparse, except for Diamond Valley, Nev., where 13 stayed Sept. 1-15 (JE). The tally of 52 Poor-wills along a 30-mi stretch of road near Ely, Nev., tops any previous regional count. Hummingbird numbers and dates were average, except that Colorado had more Calliopes than usual. Reports included almost daily callers at Ridgway, until Sept. 6 (JRG), regulars at Silverthorne (HEK), and early September singles at Estes Park (WR), Eldora (GS), and Durango (RWS).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Scott visited the 1974 burn site w. of Jackson L., Grand Teton N.P. (AB 31:205) and reported, "I was never out of earshot of woodpeckers, and the predominant species was the N. Three-toed." He also reported coniferous seedlings springing up through a solid stand of heavy shrubs and tall grass, and found a substantial population of elk and moose. In the Wellsville Mts., several Ash-throated Flycatchers inhabited maple/chokecherry slopes and canyons; the habitat for these first Cache County records contradicts the Ash-throated's normal desert brush (SJH). A wandering Ash-throated stopped at Ft. Morgan, Colo., Sept. 2 (JCR). Mowbray found Nevada's second **Eastern Phoebe**, an immature at Corn Cr., Oct. 10. Fox discovered one **Black Phoebe** at Durango Aug. 9; and two were there Aug. 10 which stayed until Sept. 23 (RWS). The only other Colorado records come from Pueblo, where a pair nested 1972-74. An E. Wood Pewee visited Ft. Lupton, Colo., Aug. 14 (WWB,DK).

**SWALLOWS** — The only large swallow assemblages were 2700 Violet-green at Durango Aug. 20 and

1500 there Sept. 17 (RWS). At 11,500 ft—timberline—on Mt. Bross near Fairplay, Colo., Aug. 21, Campbell spent 45 min. watching "75-80 Rough-winged Swallows in groups of 3-5 flying due S about 50 ft above the ground. . . . At the same time and location, about 35 Clark's Nutcrackers were flying in the same direction about 100 ft above the ground. They were in two loose groups and took about 30 min. to pass." The swallow movement began before and continued after his observation. The only similar swallow movements we know of locally have followed river courses The Denver fall count produced only 145 Barn Swallows, about one-third of average. Durango again had Purple Martins at Summit Res., six on Aug. 12 (RWS)

**JAYS** — Cody, Wyo., produced the westernmost Blue Jays this fall—two in mid-November (PGa) From Boulder, Hering reported a new look among Blue x Steller's hybrids: a bird which looks like a Steller's, but has white-tipped tail feathers and white in the secondaries. (Boulder has a subsisting population of hybrids.) Sheridan had its first Steller's this fall—it had been a puzzling absence from the local list Wellsville hawk watchers saw 47 Com. Ravens Sept 13-Oct. 25, including "one spectacular flock of 26 soaring together with a Red-tailed and two kestrels" (SWH). Along the Colorado piedmont, Com Crows often feed on the plains and roost in the foothills, 1000 flying over Boulder to Gregory Canyon Oct. 8 was one of the largest flights reported recently.

S.A.

Wellsville watchers counted over 1500 migrating Clark's Nutcrackers Aug. 27 - Sept 29. The birds moved in flocks of 1-42 (mean, 10), traveling silently in loose flocks, not soaring and harvesting seeds like local residents. The watchers saw similar flocks at other mountain locations within 100 mi. The Mt Bross flight, 350 mi s.e., coincides with this observation. "Nutcrackers typically are non-migratory but respond to conifer seed shortages by emigration." (SV)

**WRENS TO STARLINGS** — The first of a handful of Winter Wrens came to Avon, Colo., Oct. 9 (JM) A Mockingbird strayed to Cody Oct. 20 (RH), and at Chatfield were a late Mockingbird Nov. 19 (D F O) and a late Brown Thrasher Nov. 27 (RF).

Mountain towns reported fewer Am. Robins, however Sheridan had 417 Sept. 18, attracted by the excellent wild fruit crop, and 300 flocked at Kossler L., in the Boulder foothills Oct. 23 (EV). Many moved through Ely and Jarbridge, Nev., in late October, and in November many came into Boulder City, Nev Nevada had two Varied Thrushes—one Nov. 3 on Mt Charleston and one at Corn Cr., Nov. 25 (VM) Berthoud, Colo., had the largest bluebird flock, 150 Westerns which moved through with a flock of Lesser Goldfinches and juncos Nov. 16, shortly before a heavy mountain snowfall (CC). Reporters in w Colorado consider bluebirds to be doing well, *e.g.* at McCoy, 100 Mountains moved through Aug. 23 (ME) Elsewhere bluebirds seemed scarce. A rare Blue-gray

Gnatcatcher visited Logan Sept. 1 (SWH) and n.e. Colorado had three Aug. 20-27. Only n. Wyoming reported Bohemian Waxwings: Sheridan with the most, 262 Nov. 12. At Kanab, Utah, Starlings flocked to a roost of 15,000-20,000 — a huge concentration for that desert town (JB).

**WARBLERS** — Warblers migrated in normal numbers and variety, although Lawson noted a very early movement of flycatchers and warblers in the Las Vegas valley Aug. 3. Of the fall counts, Ft. Collins produced the most warblers, including 116 Yellow-rumpeds and 148 Wilson's. Colorado reported only six rare migrants, half on the W. Slope: one Worm-eating Oct. 22-30 (PGe,SL,PM,ph.) at Boulder; a Prothonotary on the Pueblo fall count Sept. 17-18 (DAG); a Blackburnian at Eldora Sept. 9(GS); a Chestnut-sided at Durango Aug. 9-18; and the second and third W. Slope Palms, at Ridgway Sept. 1 (JRG†) and Silverthorne Oct. 8 (D.F.O.†).

Nevada had more rarities, all southern: a N. Parula Aug. 3 at Corn Cr. (CL); its fifth and sixth Magnolias at Corn Cr., Oct. 10 (VM) and Las Vegas Oct. 19 (CL); its first Cape May stayed July 28 – Aug. 3 (CL; see AB 31:1169); its fourth Blackburnian Oct. 7 at Beauty (CL); its second **Bay-breasted Warbler** Oct. 10-11 at Corn Cr. (VM, † to CL); three Blackpolls Sept. 18 – Oct. 19 (VM,CL); and its second **Canada Warbler** at Las Vegas Oct. 13 (CL).

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — A Scott's Oriole visited Dinosaur Nat'l Mon., Colo., July 24 (JFA †). Common Grackles thrive: 1706 flying to roost at Sheridan Sept. 4 (HD); 1051 on the Ft. Collins fall count Sept. 24; one at a feeder at Westcreek in the Colorado foothills (RW). Eighteen Brown-headed Cowbirds fed on the tundra at 12,000 ft near Silver Plume Sept. 17 (CG,EC). A ♂ Summer Tanager at Cody July 8-19 was far out of range (KF†). The last of the Corn Cr. Summer Tanagers stayed until Sept. 18 (CL).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Rare Cardinals appeared in Casper Oct. 27 (OKS) and Wheat Ridge, Colo., from Oct. 18 on (PE). A House Finch at Jackson Aug. 7 was unusual (BR). Common Redpolls arrived in November in Sheridan, Logan, Ft. Morgan, Silver Plume and Kenosha Pass, Colo. The Logan area, with its good cone crop, continued to attract many Red and White-winged Crossbills (although the latter disappeared in October, returning Nov. 30). Sheridan also had good numbers of Reds, and ten visited Ely Nov. 21. Colorado had scattered Reds, with Gunnison reporting flocks of up to 50 throughout the county (KJC), plus two White-wingeds on Wolf Cr. Pass Sept. 24 (SW). Fort Collins counted 98 Savannah Sparrows on its fall count Sept. 24. Despite the late date of Aug. 6-7, Grasshopper Sparrows in Baca County, Colo., were fairly common and conspicuous (DPK), and Ft. Collins had 30 on its fall count. Clay-colored Sparrows strayed W to Durango Oct. 11 (EF), Ridgway Oct. 19 (JRG), Pahrnagat Sept. 23 (CL,VM,RV, ph.), and Corn Cr., Oct. 2 (VM). Longspurs reached Corn Cr., Oct. 6—one Lapland and seven Chestnut-collared (VM).

**ABBREVIATIONS** — †—Detailed description on file with Regional Editor; \*—specimen; B A S Boulder Audubon Society; D.F.O.: Denver Field Ornithologists; D.M.N.H.: Denver Museum of Natural History; F.C.A.S.: Ft. Collins Audubon Society; ph: photograph.

**CONTRIBUTORS AND INITIALED OBSERVERS** —Nevada State Editor: please send all Nevada reports to Chuck Lawson, Box 3475, Las Vegas, Nev., 89102

Don Abrams, Jim Alfonso (JAF), Joseph F. Alston **Jessie Alves** (6), Robert Alves, Bob Andrews, Steve Amstrup, George Austin, Mary Back, Bernice Barnes, Ed Blatnik, Sophia Bogart, **W. W. Brockner** (14), Jack Brown, George Burghard, Elaine Calzolari, C L Campbell, Frank Clayton, Robert Clemans, Glenn Clifton, Theo Colburn, Marian Collins, Kevin J. Cook, Camille Cummings, Gerald Deutscher, Helen Downing, Patty Echelmeyer, Margaret Ewing, **Janet Eyre** (3), Kay Flora, Elva Fox, Richard Franz, Dave and Karen Galat, **David Galinat** (3), Peg Garlow (PGA), Peter Gent (PGe), Jim Gessamen, Larry & Jacque Goodhew, Paul Gorenzel, David A. Griffiths, C Groesbeek, J. R. Guadagno, Carol Hack, **May Hanesworth** (9), Ed Harper, Kathy Hawkins, **Louise Herring** (34), Richard Hermstad, Cliff Himmel, Stephen W Hoffman, Harold Holt, Bernie Jacoby, Mark Janos, Frank Justice, Dieter Kamm, Geb Kashin, **Ursula Kepler** (6), D. P. Kibbe, Anne King, Steven C. Kingswood, Rod Krey, Ron Lambeth, Steve Larson, **Chuck Lawson**, (42), Tommy Lee, J. C. Ligon, Polly Long, Reid L. Lowrance, **Paul Lucas** (PLu) (6), Larry Malone, Carl Marti, John Merchant, Gary Miller, Brian Millsap, Pete Moulton, Vince Mowbray, M T Nail, Bob Oakleaf, Carol Pevney, Ed Pitcher, Tim Provan, **Bert Raynes** (14), Jack Reddall, **Warner Reeser** (8), Mark C. Rhodes, Joseph C. Rigli, Joe Roller (JRo), **Ann Schimpf** (8), O. K. Scott, Gail Shickley, Kimberly Smith, M. O. Snyder, Mahlon Speers, Alice & Allen Stokes, R. W. Stransky (10), Wally Sumner, James Tate, Daryl D. Tessen, Ellen Valentine, Steve VanderWall, Tom VanZandt, Richard Voss, Alan Wallace, Judy Ward, Susan Ward, Elinor Wills, Roberta Winn, Jan Young. —**HUGH E. KINGERY, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver, Colo. 80206.**

**SOUTHWEST REGION**  
**/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and**  
**Kenn Kaufman**

Temperatures over most of the Region remained mild throughout the fall, markedly so in some areas. In Phoenix, to cite one case, the mean monthly temperatures set new all time highs four months in a row, September through December; and temperatures were broken or approached in many other localities. This mild weather was accompanied by a lingering of migrants, particularly at middle elevations. For example, at Willcox, Arizona on November 20 and 26 —by which dates the local shorebird population is normally reduced to a few Killdeer and Least Sand-



*Brown Booby. Lake Havasu, Ariz., Sept. 3, 1977*  
Compare with imm. Gannet, p. 150. Photo/ Robert Witzeman.

pipers—Stotz and Monson found Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, dowitchers, and Spotted and Western Sandpipers. Other examples of this sort were, literally, too numerous to list, especially under our newly reduced word allotment. Taken together, the myriads of slightly late migrants probably add up to the biggest avian event of the season; taken individually, the majority are simply not spectacular enough to report. Circumstances sometimes force us to concentrate on the birdwatching highlights rather than the events of greatest ornithological significance.

The birdwatching highlights of the season, although they were few, were spectacular. In late August—early September, a series of birds normally considered pelagic drew birders from all over Arizona (and much of California) to Lake Havasu on the Lower Colorado River. In late October and November, a bizarre Mexican species drew birders from all over the Southwest (and much of the nation) to Cave Creek Canyon in the Chiricahuas. The latter instance was a variation on a familiar theme: after all, nature enthusiasts have been coming to Cave Creek for years to look for the trogons there. This time, however—as detailed beyond—it was a different species of trogon.

[In the interest of space we are using certain abbreviations for outstanding areas. "Bell L." refers to a small oasis in the grasslands of s.e. New Mexico which turned up many unusual species again this fall.

B.W. Delta" denotes the point where the Bill Williams River enters Lake Havasu, on the Lower Colorado River (hereafter, L.C.R.). The Lower Colorado Valley in a larger sense is initialled L.C.V.]

**LOONS** — The Arctic Loon's former status of 'very rare' in Arizona has been modified somewhat by a gradual accumulation of records from the L.C.R. This fall, three were found, along with nine Commons on L. Havasu Nov. 20 (KK *et al.*); sightings of the species on Havasu continued through December.

**BOOBIES THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — The discovery of a **Brown Booby** at L. Havasu Aug. 19 (GM) marked the beginning of a series of visits and subsequent finds by birders of other sea birds that are rare or new for Arizona. It was still present at the end of the period. A probable second Brown Booby was on

L. Havasu Nov. 20 (RW,JW,KK *et al.*). Even rarer was the **Blue-footed Booby** above Davis Dam on L. Mohave Sept. 7 (CSL), and another, or the same, on L. Havasu Sept. 14 - 24 (JD,SCa,M&DK). Both species of boobies have wandered N to the L.C.R., from the Gulf in late summer and fall only a few times, most recently during the fall of 1971, and the Brown only in 1973.

An Anhinga near Alamos, Son., Nov. 23 - 24 (KK) was north of the species' usual range in w. Mexico.

The Magnificent Frigatebird is being seen more regularly in its summer northward wanderings to the L.C.V. One was seen on L. Havasu Aug. 31 (AEH)

**HERONS, SPOONBILLS** — A Louisiana Heron, a casual stray to Arizona, was found near Nogales Oct 29 (†G&LMa). Six Cattle Egrets at Evans L., s.w. New Mexico, in early September established a local first (DMc, *vide* RAF). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen at Bell L., Aug. 31 - Sept. 1 and Sept. 6 - 7 (JPH *et al.*); the bird was collected on the latter date after it was found fatally injured. The species is a rare autumn stray into s. New Mexico.

Three Roseate Spoonbills from the summer's minor invasion remained through August s. of Parker; the last one there was seen Oct. 2 (LC). Another individual was seen Sept. 7 in Arizona about 10 mi n. of Needles, Calif. (CSL).

**WATERFOWL** — Four White-fronted Geese at White Mountain L., Sept. 16 (GM), were apparently the first ever recorded in n.e. Arizona. An Oldsquaw was at Nogales Nov. 13 (CM,ST *et al.*); the species is casual away from the L.C.V. The only scoters noted in Arizona this fall were one ♂ White-winged on Nelson Res., s. of Springerville Nov. 24 - 26 (†DD,JB) and one ♂ Surf below Davis Dam Nov. 30 (CSL).

**RAPTORS** — A near ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was present in B.W. Delta from at least Oct. 29 through December (†KVR,AEH,DW *et al.*). This second record for Arizona was perhaps not unexpected, in light of the records in s.e. California during autumn 1976 (AB 31:223). An imm. Mississippi Kite reported

Sept. 7 near Patagonia (BW) was possibly a migrant from the breeding colony near Winkelman, Ariz.

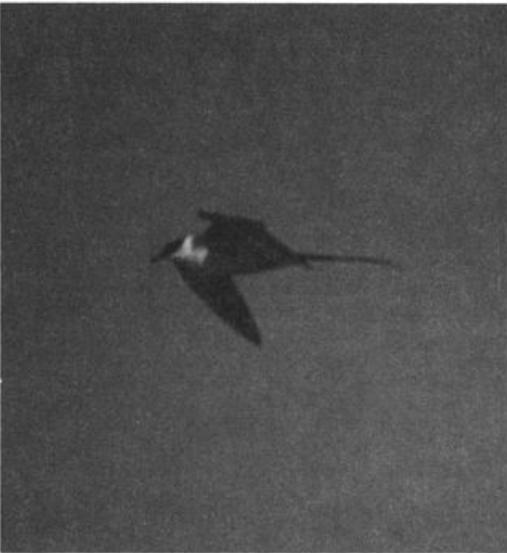
**QUAIL, CRANES** — Twelve Montezuma Quail found Oct. 17 in the Cooks Range n. of Deming (HZ *et al.*) were the first to be recorded in that area. Two Chukars seen Nov. 11 near Alamogordo (*fide* LM) may have been recent escapes or introductions; the species is known to be established in the wild only in the Farmington area.

The first Whooping Cranes to arrive at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. were two on Oct. 15—one of these being the “mystery bird” that has put in one appearance each fall in 1975, 1976, and 1977, but has otherwise disappeared for the remainder of the year. By Nov. 30 there were five birds in the Rio Grande Valley, one near Las Vegas, and apparently three to the south (probably in Mexico). The year-group breakdown was four birds from the 1975 transplant, three from 1976, and two from 1977.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two to four Snowy Plovers were seen Oct. 7 - 16 (APN *et al.*) at Morgan L., n.w. New Mexico where the species is rare. A Ruddy Turnstone at L. Havasu Sept. 3 (†KK,DSz,EC) was about the seventh for Arizona. The elusive Whimbrel occurred again in the L.C.V., with singles s. of Parker Aug. 3 (AEH).

A probable Semipalmated Sandpiper was photographed at Willcox Aug. 11 (J. Langham) and four to six (identified by call as well as morphological characters) were definitely present Aug. 13-17 (RS, KK *et al.*). Arizona has few records of this difficult species, and its true status in the state is unknown, but the occurrence of multiples at Willcox may reflect the Great Plains element in that locality's migration.

#### JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS —



*Long-tailed Jaeger, Lake Havasu, Ariz., Sept. 4, 1977. First state record. Photo/Robert Witzeman.*

S.A.

The most surprising discovery of the “Colorado R. Seabird Group” was the presence of *all three* jaeger species on L. Havasu during early fall. Two ad. **Long-tailed Jaegers** Sept. 4 (ph. RW, †JW) and one Sept. 5 (KK,DSz,EC,GR) supplied the first confirmed records for Arizona. A probable imm. Long-tailed was observed on L. Havasu Sept. 14, along with an ad. **Parasitic Jaeger** (JD,SCa). Single imm. Parasitics were also recorded on Havasu Aug. 27 (DSz,EC,GG), Sept. 3 (ST,KVR *et al.*), and Sept. 5 (KK,GR *et al.*); there are few previous records of this species in Arizona. One imm. **Pomarine Jaeger** was on L. Havasu Sept. 3 - 4, and two were seen Sept. 5 (†KK,DSz, ph.RW, †JW *et al.*); Arizona had only two previous records of this species. The identifications of immatures may be officially listed as tentative, in deference to the known difficulties involved, but direct size comparisons and study of characteristic rectrix shapes would seem to have precluded error. The occurrence of jaegers on reservoirs of the L.C.R. may be a more regular phenomenon than the scarcity of previous records would seem to indicate. It should be noted that all jaegers sighted this fall were from boats well out in the widest portions of L. Havasu, and none was seen from shore; obviously, the birds could have gone undetected in the past. Future September trips to L. Havasu should clarify the situation.

Two Heermann's Gulls were at Phoenix Oct. 6 (RBr) and an immature was s. of Parker Oct. 15 (KC); a few now wander into Arizona each year. Three Sabine's Gulls were noted: one s. of Parker Sept. 18 - 20 (BE,TB,AEH), one at Tucson Oct. 2 (HF), and one on upper L. Havasu Oct. 13 (GM); this species is a regular transient in Arizona in small numbers, especially in the L.C.V. A Caspian Tern was at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Oct. 8 - 16 (MW *et al.*), for one of the few New Mexico records of the species. Arizona's second **Black Skimmer**, only three months after the first, was on upper L. Havasu Sept. 1 - 3 (PL,DR *et al.*; ph. RW,KVR).



*Black Skimmer with Com. Terns, Lake Havasu, Ariz., Sept. 3, 1977. Second state record. Photo/Robert Witzeman.*

**PIGEONS THROUGH SWIFTS** — A lone Band-tailed Pigeon was seen at B.W. Delta Oct. 28 (KVR); the species is an extremely rare straggler to the L.C.V. At Alamogordo, N. Mex., where the White-winged Dove is apparently a recent colonizer, the last bird of the fall was seen Oct. 9 (LM). An Inca Dove near Socorro Nov. 7 - 8 (PB) was north of the usual range. A Groove-billed Ani, a casual wanderer to the Region, was seen near Roswell Oct. 20 (P. White, MW) and Nov. 14 (JPH).

A Pygmy Owl at Kirtland, N. Mex., Nov. 21 (CS) was far from its normal habitat in the mountains. Feathers of a Spotted Owl were found Oct. 16 in a canyon on Mt. Taylor n.e. of Grants, N. Mex., establishing the first record for the area.

Five Black Swifts were seen over L. Peak near Santa Fe Aug. 5 (JPH *et al.*); the species is rather rarely observed in New Mexico.

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — The ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird at Portal noted in our previous report was last seen Sept. 9, but a female was present there Aug. 31 - Oct. 8 (SSpf); an imm. male was at Ramsey Canyon Aug. 25 - 26 (BY), and a female visited Bisbee Oct. 6 - 9 (†DD). These records bring the Arizona total for 1977 up to a minimum of eight individuals, indicating the species' rapid increase here.

The expanding Anna's Hummingbird occurred again in New Mexico. On the e. side of the Sandia Mts., one male was present probably from September - Dec. 10 (Mrs. R. Girard) and another Oct. 21 - Nov. 18 (MH); another was in the Las Cruces area during the period (*vide* W. Baltosser). Very unusual, as to both area and season, were two Rivoli's Hummingbirds on the e. side of the Sandias Oct. 30 into December (MH *et al.*).

#### TROGONS, WOODPECKERS —

##### S.A.

The event of the season (if not of the decade) was the *invasion* of **Eared Trogons** (*Euptilotis neoxenus*) to s.e. Arizona. Although this Mexican endemic occurs north to within 100 mi of the U.S. border in n.w. Chihuahua, it has been considered both sedentary and scarce; so ornithologists were astounded to learn of the discovery of an ad. male in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahuas Oct. 23 (Rick Taylor). This bird was seen sporadically through Oct. 31 and almost continuously from Nov. 9 on (ph. AC,BS). Rumors of a second individual were confirmed when a female was seen accompanying the male Nov. 16. By late November there were probably *four* birds in Cave Creek Canyon; three were seen together Nov. 30, but all disappeared promptly thereafter, with the last sighting of two Dec. 2. Amazingly, *another* ad. male was found 75 mi away in Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Dec. 1 - 3 (BJo *et al.*). It would be interesting to know if these occurrences were related to habitat and food supply changes in Mexico. The birds appeared to be feeding principally on madrone berries. See also p. 135-139.

The second report of Pileated Woodpecker in New Mexico was of one at Bandelier Nat'l Mon., from early in the period (date uncertain) until early December (R. Wauer *et al.*).

**FLYCATCHERS** — An E. Kingbird was s of Parker Sept. 7-8 (PDM); the species is extremely rare in the L.C.V. (\*A.S.U.). A Great Crested Flycatcher was banded Sept. 7 (JPH) at Bell L., s.e. N. Mex., where it is rare but probably regular. Six Least Flycatchers mist-netted in the same locality Sept. 6 - 8 (JPH) added further support to last year's discovery that the species migrates in numbers through the Staked Plains of e. New Mexico.

**WRENS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA** — Five or six Cactus Wrens seen Sept. 4 in the Ladron Mts (O.&L. Van Buskirk) established a new northernmost record for New Mexico.

Near Springerville, at the site of Arizona's best-known Gray Catbird colony, late individuals were seen Oct. 16 (ST,KVR) and Nov. 24 (DD). Brown Thrasher records in Arizona this fall were singles at Teec Nos Pos Oct. 15 (ST,AG,GR,KVR) and Tucson Oct. 27 (CC).

One or more Varied Thrushes were seen sporadically from Oct. 23 on in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahuas (*vide* SSpf), five were found Nov. 19-20 in B.W. Delta (†KK,KVR *et al.*), and one at Grand Canyon Nat'l Mon., Nov. 30 (Mary Beth Riffey *et al.*). Arizona had less than 20 previous records.

A ♀ Phainopepla seen Aug. 3 at Socorro (PB) established a new northernmost record for New Mexico

**SHRIKES, VIREOS** — For the second consecutive year New Mexico received a major invasion of N Shrikes, with at least ten records by the end of the period; southern occurrences were at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Oct. 14 and later (WS), at Bosque del Apache Nov. 20 (RLT), and at Luna Nov. 25 (GM,LS) The movement was less noticeable in Arizona (with few observers in appropriate areas), but a remarkable report was received of one in the L.C.V., s. of Parker Nov. 21 (TB *et al.*); one was collected in the same area sometime in December (\*A.S.U.).

A migrant Gray Vireo, rare in the L.C.V., was seen n. of Ehrenberg Oct. 1 (PDM). A Solitary Vireo collected Sept. 8 at Bell L. (JPH) was New Mexico's first specimen of the e. race *V. s. solitarius* (*vide* A R Phillips). A Red-eyed Vireo at Farmington, N. Mex., Oct. 22 - 23 (APN) was rare for the area and unusually late. A **Philadelphia Vireo** was at Phoenix Oct. 6 - 7 (ST,†GR *et al.*); Arizona had about six previous records.

**WARBLERS** — The fall warbler migration in Arizona was considered lackluster in some areas, and "simply terrible" (DSz) at Tucson, with most species present in low numbers and few vagrants found despite increased coverage.

Genuine vagrants recorded in the Region this season included the following: **Golden-winged Warbler**, one at Bandelier Nat'l Mon., N. Mex., Aug. 21 (R.F. Rudell), one ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Wupatki Nat'l Mon., Ariz., Oct. 18 (†PS,NS) and another at

Patagonia Nov. 9 (†JB *et al.*), one ♀ **Magnolia Warbler** at Bell L., Sept. 7 (JPH); and a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Tucson Sept. 13 (DSz,EC).

No fewer than four **Black-throated Green Warblers** were found in Arizona: two at different locations near Phoenix Oct. 6 (†GR,ST), one on the San Pedro R., Oct. 22 (ST,KVR), and one s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 3 (†GR). Single Ovenbirds were found in different areas of B.W. Delta Sept. 5 (DSz) and Sept. 14 (LC), and an amazing *five* were at Teec Nos Pos Oct. 15 (KVR,ST,GR,AG)—bringing the total found in Arizona this year up to 13. The species may well be a regular rare migrant here. A **Kentucky Warbler** at Phoenix Nov. 3 - 5 (†GR *et al.*) provided the first confirmable fall record for the state, and only the second record away from s.e. Arizona, where the species occurs casually in spring.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — Two “Baltimore” Orioles were netted Sept. 7 at Bell L. (JPH), for the first Lea County records of a form which is quite rare in New Mexico. A ♂ Scott’s Oriole near Silver City Nov. 26 (RAF) may have been the same bird that has wintered there for three consecutive years. Two Summer Tanagers seen Sept. 14 at Alamogordo (LM) provided a first record for this locality, which is in the hiatus between the lower Pecos and Rio Grande Valleys; one at Pleasanton, N. Mex., Oct. 29 (JPH) was quite late.

**FRINGILLIDS** — A ♀ Painted Bunting seen Aug. 25 near Portal (†D. Wolf) was one of the few recent reports for s.e. Arizona. Single Dickcissels, rare transients in Arizona, were noted Sept. 10 at Tucson (DSz, KK, RN) and Sept. 12 at Lakeside (GM). The only Purple Finches recorded this fall were two in B.W. Delta Oct. 31 (KVR) and one there Nov. 19 - 20 (KK, PDM).

Baird’s Sparrows are currently considered rare in New Mexico, so 10+ seen in the Animas Valley Sept. 25 (JPH, Greg Schmitt) were noteworthy, as was one seen and well-described at Cochiti L. near Santa Fe Oct. 9 (B. Isaacs *et al.*). A road-killed individual of this species picked up Oct. 31 in Tucson (B. Henry) was the only recent record for the area.

**CONTRIBUTORS** (Area compilers in boldface) — Bertin Anderson, Ione Arnold, Don W. Bailey, Pat Basham, James S. Bays, Jon Bealer (JB), Robert Bradley (RBr), Tim Brush, Bonnie Burch, Scott & Lee Burge, Steve Cardiff (SCa), Larry Clark, Sue Clark, Alexander Clay, Dan Cohan, Kathleen Conine, George Constantino, Elaine Cook, Charles Corchran, Doug Danforth, Salome R. Demaree, Jeff F. Drake, Jon Dunn (JD), Bruce Edinger, Harold Fetter, Shirley Fellers, Ralph A. Fisher, Martha & Sean Furniss, Alan Gast, Grace Gregg, Sallie Harris (SHa), **Bill Harrison**, Nogales; Steve Hedges (SHe), **Alton E. Higgins**, L.C.R.; Myrtle Hilty, Sidney Hyde (SHY), Betty Jackson (BJa), Betty Jones (BJo), Per Kaijser, Doug Kibbe, Mike & Diana King, Mike Lange, Jeri Langham, Charles S. Lawson, Paul Lehman, Helen Longstreth, Blaine Lunceford, Paul D. Mack, Gerald & Laurette Maisel (G&LMa), Arch McCallum, Dale McCauly, Charles Meaker, **Gale Monson**, consultant

on Arizona records; Ruth Morse Laurence Murphy, Alan P. Nelson, Rod Norden, R. Ringler, Don Roberson, Bill Roe, Gary Rosenberg, **Ken V. Rosenberg**, L.C.R.; Barbara Roth, Vincent Roth, Bob Russell, Bert Schaughency, Nancy Scott, Peter Scott (PS), Dewey Shrout, Carol Shryock, Steve Speich (SSpe), **Sally Spofford** (SSpf), Portal; Walter Spofford (WSpf), William Stone (WS), Rich Stallcup, David Stejskal **Douglas Stotz** (DSz), Tucson; Lowell Sumner, Paul W. Sykes, Scott Terrill, Ross L. Teuber, Dick Todd **Carl S. Tomoff**, Prescott; Phil Walters, Doug Wells, Bart Whelton, Marjorie Williams, Robert Witzeman, **Bob & Carol Yutzky**, Huachucas; Henry Zeller, Allan D. Zimmerman, **Dale A. Zimmerman**, s.w. New Mexico; Marian A. Zimmerman, Abbreviations \*, specimen; †, written details on file with N. Mex. Ornith. Soc. (N.M.O.S.) or with Ariz. Bird Committee (A.B.C.); ph., photo on file with N.M.O.S. or with A.B.C.—**JANET WITZEMAN**, 4619 E. Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, Ariz. 85018; **JOHN P. HUBBARD**, 2016 Valle Rio, Sante Fe, N. Mex. 87501; **KENN KAUFMAN**, 1607 N. Mountain Ave., Tucson, Ariz. 85719.

## ALASKA REGION

/Daniel D. Gibson

Fall migration 1977 was exciting in many far-flung parts of the Region. There were five widely-scattered additions to the Alaska list, three of them new to the United States, and there were several first records in various regions of species known heretofore only from other, very distant, parts of the state. Italicized dates are latest records for Alaska.

**HERONS, WATERFOWL** — Great Blue Herons are casual fall and winter visitants w. of Prince William Sound. One bird was observed at the Kasilof R. mouth, Kenai Pen., Sept. 23 (MAM) and was seen upriver the following week (GP, *vide* MAM), and one



was observed at length at Homer Oct. 8-11 (MKD *et al.*, ph. U.A.M.). Two ad. **Whooper Swans** were carefully studied with Trumpeters at Hartney Bay, Cordova, Oct. 23 (REI *et al.*). There is no previous report e. of the Pribilof or Aleutian Is. An imm. **Bean Goose** was banded at Amchitka I., w. Aleutians, Oct. 5 (RPS, GWE *et al.*), the first fall record for Alaska. The species is regular in small numbers in spring.

A **Spotbill Duck** present at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak I., in early November (RAM, JLT) was astounding. Its occurrence was believed a result of an enormous low that came in from the west the last days of October. It represents the second Alaska record (see *Condor* 76: 288-300, 1974). Immature Garganeys were recorded almost daily at Shemya and Amchitka Is., from late August through at least early October, a total of at least eight birds at Shemya (DDG, GEH) and six banded at Amchitka (GWE *et al.*). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Kodiak Oct. 30 (MEI, RAM & JLT) was first ever in fall there; the species arrived at Shemya Sept. 21 (DDG, GEH) and Amchitka Sept. 24 (GWE *et al.*).

Of interest were a Canvasback at Juneau Oct. 18 (FAG) and two ♂ Ring-necked Ducks at Kodiak Nov. 5 (RAM, WED). At least one Canvasback and one Ring-necked Duck were present at Auke L., Juneau at the close of the period (RHA). A Tufted Duck on the Copper R. Delta Oct. 2 (REI *et al.*) was the third recorded in southcoastal Alaska; a female at Pt. Barrow Aug. 20-Oct. 12 (RAE, GEH, JPM *et al.*) was a first for n. Alaska. Smews arrived at Shemya Sept. 29 (two, DDG), and at Amchitka Oct. 6 (one, RPS).

**SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS** — A Killdeer at the Kasilof R. mouth was very late Sept. 20 (MAM). Mongolian Plovers are regular in spring but are seldom recorded in fall. Thus one bird at St. Paul I., Pribilof Is., Sept. 5 (WER, BM) is of particular interest. A Dotterel closely observed at Shemya Sept. 17 (DDG, GEH) provided a first Aleutian record and the only fall record in the state. One Bristle-thighed Curlew was observed briefly but well at Womens Bay, Kodiak, Aug. 30 (RAM, MMM), one of very few Alaska records e. of the breeding range. Two Wood Sandpipers at St. Paul Aug. 12-13 (WER), one at Adak I., Aug. 22 (RHD *et al.*), and one at Amchitka Aug. 26 (GWE) were the only ones reported.

Breeding from the arctic coast as far s. as the Yukon-Kuskokwim R. Delta and arriving and departing there *via* c. Alaska and points east, Sempalmated Sandpiper is virtually unknown in s.w. Alaska. So, of particular interest were up to two birds with W. Sandpipers at Kodiak Aug. 6-13 (RAM), the first there in over 100 years, and one at Shemya Sept. 4 (DDG), for the first Aleutian record of the species. An imm. Temminck's Stint was seen at Shemya Sept. 4 (DDG), for the third fall record in Alaska. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers arrived at St. Paul Aug. 25, and the maximum count there through mid-September was ten Sept 7 (WER). Small numbers were seen in September at both Shemya and Amchitka, and there were irregular observations at Kodiak Sept. 4-Oct. 30, the maximum being six Sept. 24 (RAM, JLT). On the Pacific coast e. of Kodiak the species is not regular, so

singles at the Kasilof R. mouth Sept. 20 & Oct 3 (MAM) are of interest. A **Curlew Sandpiper** with a flock of Ruddy Turnstones at Shemya Sept 11 (DDG, GEH) furnished a first Aleutian record; it is one of only four Alaskan records away from the arctic coast.

A **Broad-billed Sandpiper** (*Limicola falcinellus*) at Adak with a flock of turnstones in mid-August (RHD *et al.*) was new to Alaska. Juvenile Stilt Sandpipers were fairly common at Prudhoe Bay, where the species bred in 1977, during the first half of August; the maximum count there was 65 Aug. 11 (WDS), easily the highest count ever in the state. A Stilt Sandpiper at Kodiak Aug. 28 (RAM, WED, ph. U.A.M.) provided, however, only the second record ever in southcoastal Alaska (see *AB* 30:111). Buff-breasted Sandpiper, like the preceding species, departs its arctic Alaskan breeding grounds headed E, judging from the paucity of records anywhere in the state farther s. Thus one Buff-breasted at Kodiak Aug. 30-Sept. 1 (RAM, JLT, ph. U.A.M.) and one at Shemya Sept. 8 (DDG) were most unusual. Ruffs turned up in new places this fall. One was seen on the Colville R. Delta, n. Alaska, Aug 17 (JWH), and two different birds were observed at Barrow Aug. 21 (RAE, GEH *et al.*) and Sept. 2-3 (RAE, JPM *et al.*). And one was studied at Cordova Aug. 15 (REI), for the first record on the Alaska Pacific coast e. of the Aleutians. Ruffs are regular migrants in the w. Aleutians; two birds were seen at Shemya during September, one as late as the 19th.

A Black-headed Gull observed at Cordova Sept 12 (REI *et al.*), the only one reported in the Region this fall, was a first certain record for the Alaska Pacific coast e. of the Aleutians.. Numerous Ivory Gulls were attracted to a whale carcass on the beach at Barrow in October; the high count was 50-75 birds there Oct 25 (GEH), a new maximum onshore count in the state

**OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A **Barred Owl** was studied at length, photographed, and taped at n Douglas, s.e. Alaska, Oct. 1-3 (FAG, RHA, ARM, DR, ph. U.A.M.), for the first Alaskan record of the species. Perhaps the same bird was seen about one mi from this locality, at the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, Oct. 4 (RBW). Two Vaux's Swifts at Cordova Sept. 6 & 9 (REI *et al.*) and one there as late as Sept 19 (MEI) were the first southcoastal Alaska records of this fairly common mainland-southeastern bird. Up to two **White-rumped Swifts** were studied at Shemya Sept. 22-24 (DDG, GEH), for the fourth state record. A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird, seen at Wrangell Sept 29 (VKG) was the only one reported this fall.

Four imm. Violet-green Swallows arrived at Shemya Sept. 16 (DDG, GEH), and two of them remained through Oct. 2. There is no other Aleutian record. Two Barn Swallows at Womens Bay, Kodiak, Aug. 6-7 (RAM, MMM) represented only the second local record in many years; the species no longer breeds w. of Prince William Sound.

**THRUSHES THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS** — Up to four Mountain Bluebirds in the Mendenhall wetlands vicinity, Juneau, Nov. 11-25 (FAG *et al.*, ph

U. A. M.) were extremely late. There has been only one December record in the state, at nearby Glacier Bay. A **Bluethroat** at Pt. Barrow Aug. 27 (BSB, *vide* RAE) was late; there is yet no September record in Alaska. Two **Siberian Rubythroats** at Shemya, a male Sept. 27 (DDG, GEH) and a female Oct. 3 (DDG), were first recorded in fall in Alaska. A **Townsend's Solitaire** present in Juneau from Nov. 25 on (FAG, RHA *et al.*, ph. U. A. M.) was the latest ever in s.e. Alaska. The only prior winter record in the Region was a result of the warm winter of 1976-77 (*q.v.*).

An imm. **Sooty Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa sibirica*) at Shemya in mid-September (DDG, GEH) was a first record for Alaska of this e. palearctic species. An ad. **White Wagtail** carefully described at Eagle R., Juneau, Sept. 26 (ESD, WPD) provided only the second Alaskan record on the Pacific coast e. of the Aleutians. It was also the only fall report in the Region this year. A **Red-throated Pipit** closely observed at Pt. Barrow Aug. 22 (BSB, RAE, GEH) was a first for n. Alaska. There was a small passage at Shemya in early September (DDG, GEH), probably representative of an annual fall movement through the westernmost Aleutians.

Amazing was a **Black-and-white Warbler** closely observed on the Colville R. Delta in mid-October (JWH), the first of the species substantiated in the state. Alaska has been recording vagrant passerines from elsewhere in North America one at a time over the years, many of them similarly the result of reverse fall migration. New to the Pribilofs, **Orange-crowned Warbler** was seen twice: singles Aug. 22 & Sept. 2 at St. Paul (WER); nearest records have been those fall birds banded in 1971 at Izembek N.W.R. (see *Bird-Banding* 45:145-151, 1974). **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were reported late at a number of localities, but one at Juneau Nov. 28 (FAG) eclipsed all others by a month. A **Townsend's Warbler** at Shemya Oct. 3 (DDG) was the first Parulid recorded in the Aleutians w. of Unimak I.; only a small percentage of the vagrants in the w. Aleutians have been of nearctic origin. **Wilson's Warbler**, previously found in the Pribilofs at least twice, was seen Aug. 22-28 at St. Paul, up to two birds (WER).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Two **Bramblings** arrived at Shemya Sept. 17, and the maximum count there over the next two weeks was 11 on Sept. 23 (DDG, GEH); two were seen at Amchitka Oct. 3 (RPS, FL). A **Brambling** at Cordova Nov. 6-8 (*vide* REI, ph. U. A. M.) made the first southcoastal Alaska record, one of only four records ever on the Alaskan mainland. A ♀ **Evening Grosbeak**, feeding with robins and Pine Grosbeaks, was observed in Juneau from Nov. 19 on (FAG, RHA *et al.*, ph. U. A. M.). A casual winter visitant in s.e. Alaska, the species had been known only from winters 1969-70 and 1972-73. A ♀ **Bullfinch** at Shemya at the end of September (DDG) provided a first Aleutian record, the first report in the state in 15 years. **Oriental Greenfinches** were recorded again in the w. Aleutians, at least six birds at Shemya at intervals in September (DDG, GEH). There were no certain Alaskan records of this bird before 1976 (see *AB* 30:878, 991, *AB* 31:212).

Beyond the normal range, **Savannah Sparrows**

were recorded in the Pribilofs — singles on St. Paul Aug. 28 & Sept. 7 (WER) — and in the w. Aleutians — singles at Shemya Aug. 31 & Sept. 7, 12 & 16 (DDG, GEH); and a single at Amchitka Oct. 3 (RPS). At least eleven **Harris' Sparrows** had occurred in Juneau by Nov. 4 (RBW). The first arrival on Oct. 20, was finally trapped Oct. 28 and proved to be a bird that had been retrapped at that station every year since first banded there in 1972 (RBW). An imm. **Harris' Sparrow** at Kodiak Nov. 24 (WED, RAM) made the third southcoastal record. **White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows**, both casual visitants on Bering Sea islands, were recorded in numbers on the Pribilofs: up to *seven* of the former Aug. 27-Sept. 7 (WER) and up to *six* of the latter Aug. 28-Sept. 2 (WER). And an imm. **Golden-crowned** was banded at Amchitka, where it provided a first Aleutian record Nov. 2 (*vide* RPS) A **White-throated Sparrow**, casual anywhere in the Region, was observed in Juneau Nov. 20 (FAG, MEI) A **Fox Sparrow** at St. Paul Sept. 8 (WER) seemed to mark a third Pribilof record. A **Little Bunting** (*Emberiza pusilla*) closely observed at Shemya in early September (DDG) was a first for Alaska. The species breeds close at hand in n.e. Asia, and it has been found once in our vicinity—aboard ship in the Chukchi Sea, near the international dateline—at the same season (see *Auk* 91:417, 1974).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** — Robert H. Armstrong, Bonnie S. Bowen, Mairris K. Davidson, Robert H. Day, William E. Donaldson, Evelyn S. Dunn, William P. Dunn, Glenn W. Elison, Richard A. Erickson, Virgil K. Gile, Frank A. Glass, George E. Hall, James W. Helmericks, M.E. "Pete" Isleib, Ruth E. Isleib, Forrest Lee, Molly M. MacIntosh, Richard A. MacIntosh, Bobbie Mayer, Mary A. Miller, Alan R. Munro, J.P. Myers, George Pollard, William E. Rodstrom, Diane Roulston, Robert P. Schulmeister, W. David Shuford, John L. Trapp, Ralph B. Williams; ph—photograph, U. A. M.—University of Alaska Museum; N.W.R.—National Wildlife Range. — **DANIEL D. GIBSON, University Museum, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.**

## **NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION**

**/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Eugene S. Hunn**

The drought conditions of the past two years continued into mid-August with a record heat wave. The resulting low reservoirs in the Willamette Valley exposed mudflats to a noteworthy inland shorebird migration. However, shorebird rarities were widely distributed in a pattern difficult to describe as drought related. Heavy rains in late August heralded the return of normal (wet!) fall weather. The end of October brought storms to the coast and unusual inshore pelagic sightings and heavy mortality among alcids. Heavy snows in the mountains correlated with the return to normal numbers of our winter lowland Varied Thrush populations and also for good lowland numbers of **Pygmy Owls**. A week-long cold snap in



mid-November brought an early flight of northerners such as Snowy Owls, Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls, and Snow Buntings. With the return of mild weather, however, this initial movement dispersed. Abbreviations used: S.J.C.R., South jetty of the Columbia R.; V.I., Vancouver Island; †, written description on file.

**LOONS THROUGH PELICANS** — Three Yellow-billed Loon reports, all from Washington, were fewer than usual: the earliest was one at Port Gamble, Kitsap Co., Sept. 22 (PMo). Late broods of Pied-billed Grebes were found Aug. 28 at Seattle (RK) and Sept. 9 at Langford, V.I. The *Laysan Albatross* found Aug. 27 off Depoe Bay, Lincoln Co., Oreg. (ME *et al.*) seemed early, and another "white albatross", presumably this species, was reported Sept. 7 - 8 off Willapa Bay Wash., by charter boat skippers (*vide* TW). Observers on the Sept. 10 pelagic trip from Coos Bay, Oreg. reported a brief sighting of a Manx Shearwater (ME† C.A.A.S.). There is only one specimen record of this species for the Region, an individual of the race *opisthomelas* taken in British Columbia waters in 1891. The N flight of Brown Pelicans during August was delayed and less extensive than usual, although the typical predominance of juveniles was noted. The annual Oregon coastal survey Aug. 27 - 28 counted 315 including 231 immatures (*vide* AC). Reports n. of the Columbia R., ranged from one at Westport Aug. 20 (TW) to 21 off LaPush, Jefferson Co., Oct. 16 (DC).

The pelagic highlight of the season was the **Short-tailed Shearwater**. A single Aug. 20 off Westport, and pairs observed from the Ocean Shores jetty Sept. 18 (ESH, TW<sub>e</sub>) and Oct. 6 (G&WH, BH-T) were unusual but scarcely hinted at the numbers building offshore. Wahl's latest pelagic trip Oct. 9 found Sooties inshore in about normal numbers, but the proportions of Short-taileds increased toward the continental shelf reaching 90% of the shearwaters near shrimpers on the shelf edge. The trip total for Short-tailed Shearwaters was 3300+. To the end of the period a few continued to be seen regularly deep in the Georgia Straits and Puget Sound s. along the Oregon coast.

**Table 1. Pelagic Bird Observations: Tubenoses\***

<i>Species</i>	Westport, Wash., Aug. 14	Westport, Wash., Aug. 20	Westport, Wash., Aug. 21	Depoe Bay, Oreg., Aug. 27	Coos Bay, Oreg., Sept. 10	Bamfield, V.I., Sept. 10	Westport, Wash., Sept. 10	Westport, Wash., Sept. 11	Bamfield, V.I., Sept. 17	Bamfield, V.I., Oct. 1	Westport, Wash., Oct. 9	<i>Remarks (TW)</i>
Black-footed Albatross	23	22	10	39	1	2	86	30	3	17	76	good numbers
Laysan Albatross				1								
N. Fulmar	8	6	10	1			2	2		8	101	late fall influx
Pink-footed Shearwater	32	229	61	20	25	1	291	24	30	6	44	below average
Flesh-footed Shearwater								1				below average
New Zealand Shearwater		5	7	6		1	937	345	6	93	651	normal to above
Sooty Shearwater	9200	4635	2696	4000	75	352	4730	2100	631	312	1675	normal
Short-tailed Shearwater		1									3352	see text
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	28	102	53	1			23	58		107	4	below average
Leach's Storm-Petrel		1										

\*Westport sightings, *vide* TW; Depoe Bay, *vide* C.A.S.; Coos Bay, *vide* C.A.A.S.; and Bamfield, *vide* MS & BCPM.

**EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS** — Two groups of Cattle Egrets were found; four on the Long Beach Pen, Pacific Co., Wash., Oct. 5 (BH-T), and four near Portland Nov. 27 (M<sub>Sm</sub> *et al.*). Great Egrets were widely reported: two reached V.I., in August for the fourth and fifth island records (*vide* VG), but the only concentration was 58 at Coos Bay by Oct. 17, and 44 nearby at Reedsport Sept. 22 (*vide* AC). A Snowy Egret joined the Coos Bay concentration Oct. 22 (AM) with another three Nov. 7 (AC *et al.*). A third Oregon Snowy was near Woodburn in the lower Willamette Valley Nov. 4 (AS, *vide* HN). A few Black-crowned Night Herons appear w. of the Cascades each fall. This year there were three at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Aug. 6 (DF,HN), one along the Chehalis R., Grays Harbor Co., Wash., Aug. 12 (G&WH), and one at Victoria, V.I., Sept. 28 (RS). By late November the Wash. St. Game Dept. counted a record 173 Trumpeter Swans at the winter concentration near Mt. Vernon. Five Trumpeters at Ocean Shores Nov. 19 (J&GM) were the farthest s.

Single Emperor Geese, including one immature, were found at the Willapa Bay N.W.R., Wash., Oct. 7 (JWe) and Ocean Shores Oct. 13 (RR, ph.), at the Baskett Slough N.W.R., near Salem, Oreg., Oct. 16 (GG) and at Reifel Ref., Ladner, B.C., Nov. 19 - 30 (*vide* DM), for a good showing for this rare migrant. The six Blue-winged Teal at Beaverton, near Portland, Nov. 12 were late, as were two near Victoria, V.I., Nov. 18. European Wigeons were first seen Oct. 17, an eclipse plumaged male in Portland (RR), and Oct. 18 near Tacoma (RC). Thereafter the usual small percentage of wigeons were of this species. The Everett sewage ponds, Snohomish County, Wash., attract hundreds of N. Shovelers in fall, with the 2000 there Oct. 15 (KB) the high count this season. No other comparable concentrations are known in the Region, though flocks of 125 - 200 were reported from sewage ponds near Duncan, V.I., near Portland, and n.w. of Salem after mid-October. Six Redheads at N. Cowichan, V.I., Oct. 31 (M&VG) was the largest flock found. Canvasbacks were noted early this fall; a female Aug. 20 at Ilwaco, Pacific Co. (HN), a pair Aug. 26 at Olympia (G&WH), and a female Sept. 9 in Saanich (M&VG). A ♀ **King Eider** seen among scoters at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Oct. 23 (DE,JH†) was subsequently studied closely through Nov. 4 (DP,TW,AR†) for the sixth state record. About 1600 Com. Mergansers Nov. 27 near Tacoma was a very large concentration (ESH,AW).

**RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES** — The peak of Turkey Vulture migration was 92 Sept. 27 at Victoria (*vide* VG). Very late stragglers were noted, two Nov. 9 on Mercer I., near Seattle (BdA), and two Nov. 19 s. of Pt. Townsend, Wash. (TWe,BB). **White-tailed Kites** are increasing rapidly in Oregon. This fall about 15 birds, including at least three juveniles, were spread from Bandon to the S.J.C.R., on the coast, and from Cottage Grove to near Salem inland. One adult was also seen Nov. 27 at Raymond, Pacific Co., Wash., for the second record n. of the Columbia R. (BH-T).

Accipiters were conspicuous this fall. There were nine Goshawk sightings. V. Goodwill's southern V.I.

summary listed 30 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 21 Cooper's; Harrington-Tweit noted nine Sharp-shinneds and two Cooper's in s.w. Washington, and the Summers had nine Sharp-shinneds and one Cooper's in s.w. Oregon. Four Cooper's were together just s. of Mt. Hood in the Oregon Cascades Oct. 15 (DF,HN). Only one "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was reported, a dark phase bird Oct. 23 on the Lummi flats w. of Bellingham (TW). Rough-legged Hawks were first noted Oct. 15, simultaneously at Bellingham, Whidbey I., and Willapa Bay, Wash., and on Mt. Hood, Oreg. At least seven Golden Eagles were noted, all in B.C., with four in the Victoria-Saanich area where they are resident. Bald Eagles and Marsh Hawks were widely and frequently reported. A Prairie Falcon at Baskett Slough N.W.R., Nov. 13 (AC,TC) was the only west-side report. Peregrine numbers were judged fair (AC) to good (TW) this fall. Fix summarized sightings of seven including four juveniles along the Oregon coast, which is encouraging. The 63 Merlins reported clearly indicates a banner year. The 1200 Sandhill Cranes over Sauvie's I., near Portland Oct. 12 is a high count (HN).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The season produced an extraordinary number and variety of rarities. Highlights included a juv. **Mongolian Plover** discovered Sept. 11 on Bayocean spit, Tillamook Bay, Oreg. (DDeS *et al.*) The bird remained until Sept. 17 for apparently the second North American record s. of Alaska (see AB 31:140-1,1977). A **Mountain Plover** nearby at the Tillamook Bay jetty Nov. 19 - 26 was Oregon's second (DF,JG *et al.*). Ocean Shores had an **Upland Sandpiper** Sept. 2 (AR†), for the second record for w. Washington, and Iona I. yielded British Columbia's second **Curlew Sandpiper** July 30 - 31 (BMc, *vide* DM). Record numbers of Stilt Sandpipers were seen, with seven in w. Oregon (*vide* DF), up to four together near Willapa Bay, Wash., Aug. 19 - 20 (TW,AR†), and 20 on Aug. 20 at Iona I., B.C. (BMc, *vide* DM). Ocean Shores had the only Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sept. 10 - 14 (DP,AR *et al.*). Four **Bar-tailed Godwits** appeared; one - two Sept. 11 - 15 at Bandon, Oreg., were photographed for Oregon's second record (SS†,JG *et al.*), and one - two at Ocean Shores Sept. 25 - Oct. 1 for Washington's fourth record (DP,AR† *et al.*). All four had the heavily marked rump of the Alaskan race *baueri*. Three **Ruffs** were found. One at Iona I., Aug. 5 - 8, was photographed (BMc, *vide* DM), a male was near the Skagit Game Range Sept. 24 - 26 (ESH,TW *et al.*), and a female was photographed at Ocean Shores Sept. 25 - 28 (DP†,AR† *et al.*). A Black-necked Stilt Aug. 7 at Cattle Pt., San Juan I. (RW), probably associated with the invasion last summer of e. Washington by this species, rounds out the list.

American Golden Plovers were widely reported, with up to 15% of the birds of the small bright golden w. Alaskan-Siberian race *fulva* (BH-T,WSH,AC) Seven Solitary Sandpipers were reported; the one Oct. 4 at Iona I., was late (DE,JH). Lesser Yellowlegs were in above-average numbers in B.C., with the peak count 543+ at Iona I., Aug. 20 and three still there Oct. 29 (both BMc, *vide* DM). The 27 Willets Sept. 26 at Coos Bay was considered a high count (*vide* AC), as

was the ten Nov. 27 at the North River mouth, Willapa Bay, Wash. (BH-T). Ten Semipalmated Sandpipers were at Aiyansh, near Terrace, B.C., Aug. 22 (*vide* VG), and there were six sightings of this species in Oregon, with good photos of one at Tillamook Bay Aug. 20 (JG). Others were reported through Sept. 28 at Ocean Shores (AR†). Goodwill reported 83 Baird's Sandpipers seen on V.I., during August and September, and Nehls commented that Baird's were found "in almost any flock of shorebirds." Peak numbers were an unprecedented 268 Aug. 6 at Iona I. (BMc, *vide* DM) and 30 on Aug. 13 at Sauvie's I. (*vide* DF) Two Oct. 2 at Ocean Shores were exceptionally late (JWi). There were seven Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at four locations. The adult at Ocean Shores Oct. 1 is noteworthy (ESH), as most migrants here are juveniles, and the one Nov. 26 at Ocean Shores was very late (MM†). Marbled Godwits were absent in s.w. Oregon (AC), but in normal numbers elsewhere, though the 64 seen in s.w. Washington was better than expected (BH-T), and the single on Chatham Sound, near Prince Rupert, B.C., Aug. 14, was very far n. (FH†, *vide* VG). The Am. Avocet at Bandon Sept. 15 was out of place (CR, *vide* AC).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Astoria, Oreg., Aug. 21 (*vide* HN), two at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene Aug. 30 - Sept. 1 (ME, AC†), one very close at Mt. Rainer, Wash., Aug. 28 (RT†), and one late at West Pt., Seattle Oct. 8 (ES†) were unusual inland records. Three Parasitic Jaegers were also at Fern Ridge Res., Sept. 2 - 15 (*vide* AC), and one Nov. 21 at Victoria, B.C., was the latest. Pelagic reports of jaegers, gulls, terns, and alcids are summarized in Table 2.

An ad. Glaucous Gull at Nehalem Meadows, Tillamook Co., Oreg., Oct. 10 was extraordinarily early (JG,RR). More typically, one second-year and two first-year birds were reported after early November. Herring and Thayer's Gulls arrived nearly simultaneously in mid-September. Three ad. Thayer's Gulls at the Yelm dump, Thurston Co., Wash., Nov. 27 had clear yellow irides, further confounding the large-gull picture (ESH,AW). California Gulls peaked at 9500 Aug. 18 at the S.J.C.R. (DF,DI). Franklin's Gulls seemed late in arriving and slightly lower in numbers than usual. The best concentration was at the Everett sewage ponds, where up to nine were seen Sept. 18 - Nov. 6. The **Little Gull** was found in the Region for the sixth consecutive year; an adult among about 2000 Bonaparte's Gulls at the Everett sewage ponds Oct. 2 - 30 (DP *et al.*). As yet no immatures have been found. Heermann's Gulls made a late push into Puget Sound when 1500+ were counted Oct. 15 at Deception Pass, Whidbey I. (JWi), with about 100 still there Nov. 12 (TW).

The 1000 Com. Terns at Victoria Oct. 16 was the high count this fall, and the one at Dungeness spit, Wash., Nov. 12 (DS) and two in Victoria Nov. 17 (RS, *vide* VG) were the latest. Arctic Terns were identified at coastal and Puget Sound locations much more than usual this season, with the juvenile at Ocean Shores Oct. 8 the latest (ESH,TWe). Onshore terns need careful examination. Most Caspian Terns left early (BH-T), with only a few found during September, but one near Ocean Shores Nov. 27 (FK) was very late. A small flight of Black Terns occurred, with eight birds noted, the first at Westport Aug. 15 (BH-T), and five moving past Lincoln County, Oreg., coastal points Oct. 1 (DF,HN *et al.*).

Table 2. Pelagic Bird Observations: Larids, Alcids\*

Species	Westport, Wash., Aug. 14	Westport, Wash., Aug. 20	Westport, Wash., Aug. 21	Depoe Bay, Oreg., Aug. 27	Coos Bay, Oreg., Sept. 10	Bamfield, V.I., Sept. 10	Westport, Wash., Sept. 10	Westport, Wash., Sept. 11	Bamfield, V.I., Sept. 17	Bamfield, V.I., Oct. 1	Westport, Wash., Oct. 9	Remarks (TW)
Pomarine Jaeger	18	10	14	1	5	9	19	11	5	3	42	good numbers
Parasitic Jaeger	1	2	3	1	3	11	8	4	1		2	average or below
Long-tailed Jaeger	2	6	1	2	1		9	7				above average
skua sp.**	2	2	1				6	7				good numbers
Sabine's Gull	7	3	1		2	83	46	8	118	247	2	below average, except off V I
Arctic Tern	1	10	9				54	35	2			
Xantus' Murrelet		3									2	
Cassin's Auklet	50	65	103	1000	50	13	29	17	5	617	130	
Rhinoceros Auklet	632	373	479	nd	nd	16	163	48	11	10	17	
Tufted Puffin	5	3	4			2	7	2				

\*Westport sightings, *vide* TW; Depoe Bay, *vide* C.A.S.; Coos Bay, *vide* C.A.A.S.; and Bamfield, *vide* MS & BCPM  
 \*\*All those positively identified were the "South Polar" Skua, *C. maccormickii*. nd = no data

Common Murres seemed concentrated just offshore early this fall (BH-T,TW), and unusually large numbers of dead murres were beached, mostly sub-adults of the race *californica* (HN). Two Parakeet Auklets were well described off Cape Lookout Pk., Tillamook Co., Oreg., Aug. 13 (GG†,DB), and a single, perhaps one of these, was found dead nearby at Bayocean spit Dec. 3 (BT, *vide* AC). The southward trend of the Horned Puffin continued with a report of eight Aug. 1 at Triangle I., off the n.w. tip of V.I. (B C.P.M.). The Horned Puffin at Cape Lookout, Oreg., was seen again Aug. 13 & 20 (JG *et al.*).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH MARTINS** — A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** heard Sept. 2 - 11 on Sauvie's I., Oreg. (TC,JG *et al.*) and again there Sept. 28 (DF) was one of very few regional records in recent years. The first Snowy Owl was one on Quadra I., B.C., Nov. 10 (HT), the next was photographed in Seattle Nov. 19. Snowies were widespread thereafter, but in low numbers. A major movement of Pygmy Owls into the Vancouver, B.C., and Bellingham areas began in late September (DM,TW), and many sightings were made through the end of the period. One Barred Owl seen and two heard on Quadra I., Oct. 24 - Nov. 13, are local firsts (AD, *vide* VG). Single Barred Owls found dead in early November and another seen Nov. 26 (both, *vide* DM) were the third and fourth records for the Vancouver area. The very local Spotted Owl was reported from just two Cascade locations: one adult and one immature at Blewett Pass, Wash., Aug. 26 (G&WH), and five Sept. 12 in the Siskiyou N.F., w. of Grants Pass, Oreg. (P&SS). An apparent family group of three Short-eared Owls was in Everett, Wash., Aug. 19 (KB), and a few were in the Westport-Ocean Shores area throughout the period.

Black Swifts were very scarce on V.I., compared to the previous fall (VG), but were much more often reported from Oregon this season than usual (*vide* AC). Anna's Hummingbirds were found n. to the Campbell R area of V.I. (*vide* HT). Adult Anna's with juveniles appeared in August in Vancouver, B.C. (CB, *vide* DM), and in Portland (VH). Two small *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were found: a male Nov. 3 - 4 on Mercer I., Wash. (BeA), and a female Nov. 27 in Portland (RS). A ♂ **Costa's Hummingbird** came to M. Hankin's feeder in Portland all summer. Birders heard of it, the third state record, in October and it was seen and photographed through Nov. 17 (HN,JG,TC).

Only a few vagrant flycatchers were found on the coast this season: one W. Kingbird Aug. 24 near Astoria (SG), a **Tropical Kingbird** Oct. 26 - 30 in Colwood, V.I. (ND,M&VG *et al.*), and an Ash-throated Flycatcher Nov. 19 at Tillamook Bay (DF,HN *et al.*). Another Ash-throated was in Salem Oct. 14 - 16 (FS,RG†). Eight Bank Swallows were at Reifel Ref., B C., Sept. 10 and two were near there Sept. 27 (VG). Singles were seen at Ocean Shores Sept. 25 and near Everett Oct. 2 (DP *et al.*). Last reports for other swallows were two Tree Swallows at Beaverton, Oreg., Oct. 26 (JE), single Cliff Swallows in Everett Oct. 2 (DP,ESH) and in Victoria Nov. 9 (RS), and one Barn Swallow in Portland Nov. 17 (DF). An encouraging concentration of Purple Martins was the 150 over

the Bay City sewage ponds near Tillamook, Aug. 26 - 30 (SG,TL); there were 50 Purple Martins at Fern Ridge Res., Aug. 30 (ME), 32 in Seattle Aug. 31 (ESH,BME), and young martins still in the nest in Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 1 (TL).

**CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES** — An influx of Steller's Jays to s. V.I., in September, was described as an invasion (VG). Single Blue Jays were found in Poulsbo, Wash., from Sept. 27, in Eugene, Springfield, and Portland, Oreg., after Oct. 16, and another was photographed Oct. 20 in Pacific Rim N.P., V.I. (WC). A Clark's Nutcracker was far from its usual haunts at Ocean Shores Oct. 22 (ES *et al.*). More than the usual Mountain Chickadees appeared in the lowlands this season, with reports after late September of one - two birds from Cortes I., and Vancouver, Seattle, and Eugene. There was an unusually high number of Red-breasted Nuthatches on the s.w. Oregon coast. Two White-breasted Nuthatches were also near Coos Bay Sept. 12 (AM), and two Pygmy Nuthatches were at Cape Blanco Sept. 13 (TL). Another Pygmy was on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Sept. 25 (B&GR, WW†). The House Wren in Vancouver, B.C. Nov. 8 (AG, *vide* DM) was very late.

Single Mockingbirds appeared at Reifel Ref., B C., Sept. 27 (VG) and in Portland in late November (*vide* DF), and an immature was at Westport Nov. 27 (BH-T†). A vagrant Sage Thrasher was at Baskett Slough N.W.R. Nov. 19 (JG,DI *et al.*). After last winter's absence, the many reports of Varied Thrushes in normal numbers throughout Oregon and Washington after mid-September are welcome. The species remained scarce and hard to find on V.I., however (VG). About 50 Swainson's Thrushes were heard in nocturnal migratory flight over Eugene Sept. 15 (AC)! Groups of 4 - 13 W. Bluebirds were in four locations in Oregon, and about a dozen were near Hart's L., Pierce Co., Wash., Nov. 7. The first N. Shrikes were at Iona I., Oct. 4 (DE,JH), and Oct. 5 at Saanich, V.I., and Ocean Shores and Willapa Bay, Wash.

**VIREOS THROUGH TANAGERS** — A possible new breeding area for the Red-eyed Vireo about 100 mi n.w. of the nearest known breeding sites is indicated by the finding of 11 at Lakelse Lake P P near Terrace, B.C., Aug. 18 (T&MS, *vide* VG). A single Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, and N. Waterthrush, and three Am. Redstarts at the same location Aug. 17 - 18 are each at or just beyond the w limits of these species as well. A Tennessee Warbler near Astoria Aug. 24 (SG†) was one of very few records in the s. portion of the Region. Single Yellow Warblers, identified as the race *rubiginosa*, came aboard the boat off Westport on both Aug. 20 & 21 (TW). The only Hermit Warbler report was a late record of three at Cape Blanco, Oreg., Sept. 13 (TL).

**Palm Warblers** invaded. They were found at ten coastal localities this fall. The first two appeared at Newport, Oreg., Aug. 27 (GG), then one on Goose I., Grays Harbor Co., Wash., Sept. 22 (BH-T), and one at Matsqui, B.C., Sept. 28 (VG). Three other Washington sightings were in the Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor areas, Oct. 5 - 24 (BH-T). Between Oct. 24 - 29, 1 - 4 were found in Oregon at Arch Cape, Tillamook

Bay, and the North Bend area. One was found at Saanich, V.I., Nov. 18 (RS†). Single MacGillivray's Warblers at Willapa Bay and the Skagit flats both on Sept. 24 were late (GR,ESH). A single ♂ Am. Redstart was seen along the Rogue R., near Shady Cove, Oreg., Aug. 26 (*vide* HN), and a vagrant male was in Stanley Pk., Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 4 & 15 (DE,JH†).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird and two Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen well offshore from Westport Aug. 20 (TW). Forty Rusty Blackbirds near Terrace, B.C., Aug. 21 (MS, *vide* VG) were w. of the nearest known breeding areas in c. British Columbia. Two Rusties appeared at Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 27 (AG, *vide* VG). They were photographed and seen through October (DM). Another was found Oct. 11 in Manning P.P., B.C. (VG†). On Nov. 13 - 14 the second **Rusty Blackbird** ever for Oregon was found at Baskett Slough N.W.R. (AC† *et al.*). A ♂ W. Tanager in Bellevue, Wash., Oct. 2 was late (PWM).

**FINCHES AND SPARROWS** — A ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found dead at Mt. Angel, Marion Co., Oreg., Sept. 27 (*vide* HN). A winter-plumaged ♂ **Indigo Bunting** in Alton Baker Pk., Eugene Nov. 9 (AC†) represented one of few Oregon records. Evening Grosbeaks were widely reported, but in generally low numbers, except at coastal Washington localities where they are usually absent (BH-T). Two Com. Redpolls were in Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 11 (MB,BK, *vide* DM), and one was with siskins in Seattle Nov. 13 (ESH†) for the earliest ever w. Washington arrival. Red Crossbills were abundant along the Oregon coast, reported in low numbers from W. Washington, and were virtually absent from V.I. (VG,HT). A flock of 50 White-winged Crossbills was just w. of Hart's Pass, Whatcom Co., Wash., Aug. 7 (G&WH) for the only report of the species. An early migrant Savannah Sparrow was seen well offshore from Westport Aug. 21 (TW); the peak of migration for the species was in mid-September (VG,BH-T,HN). A Chipping Sparrow at Ocean Shores Oct. 8 (ESH) was late and the four - five in Eugene Nov. 11 - 17 (AC *et al.*) may overwinter. Single Harris' Sparrows were in Dungeness, Wash., Nov. 1 - 30 (*vide* DS) and in Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 5 (*vide* DM). At least 14 White-throated Sparrows were found at ten localities, with one at L. Terrell, Whatcom Co., Wash., Sept. 24 (TW) the earliest, and up to five individuals in Eugene after Oct. 9 (AC,JG,TC). Peak counts for Lapland Longspurs were all on Oct. 8, from Ocean Shores, Leadbetter Pt., and S.J.C.R. Two ♂ Snow Buntings at Siletz Bay, Oreg., Oct. 1 (JE†) were very early. Thereafter small groups were widely reported s. to near Eugene.

**CITIZEN OBSERVERS**, sub-regional editors in bold-face. — Betty Anderson (BeA), Bud Anderson (BdA), D. Bateman, B. Bernson, British Columbia Provincial Museum, M. Bruckner, K. Brunner, C. Butt, W. Campbell, Cape Arago Audubon Society, R. Carson, D. Chelimer, **A. Contreras**, Corvallis Audubon Society, T. Crabtree, N. Dawe, D. DeSante, A. Dorst, D. Edwards, M. Eggers, J. Evanich, D. Fix, R. Gerig, **J. Gilligan**, G. Gillson, M. & V. Goodwill, S. Gordon, A. Grass, J. Hall, **B. Harrington-Tweit**, F. Hart, G &

W. Hoge, V. Holmgren, D. Irons, B. Kautesk, R. Knight, F. Krause, T. Lund, B. MacDonald (BMc), J. & G. Maender, D. Mark, A. McGie, B. Meilleur (BMe), M. Moore, P. Moore (PMo), **H. Nehls, D Paulson**, B. & G. Ramsey, A. Richards, R. Ringler, C. Roberts, R. Satterfield, F. Schrock, T & M. Shepard D. Smith, M. Smith (MSm), R. Smith, E. Spragg, A. Staples, P. & S. Summers, H. Telosky, B. Thacka berry, R. Toonen, **T. Wahl** (TW), A. Wang, R. Warpala, T. Weir (TWe), J. Welch (JWe), J. Wingfield (JWi), W. Wilkins. Another 238 uncited observers contributed to the material on which this report was based. — **PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR.** Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195, and **EUGENE S. HUNN**, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103.

## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION /Dick Erickson and Joseph Morlan

California's worst recorded drought continued to affect bird distribution this season. Virginia Rails and Soras went unrecorded in Livermore Valley where normal localities dried up (AE). Increased salinity in San Francisco Bay was believed responsible for a Brown Pelican August 13 and eight Surf Scoters November 24 at Benicia (FKB) and a Common Murre at the Napa River mouth September 12 (SM) where unexpected, and 30 Western Gulls at the Martinez Dump November 22 (SM,DE) where normally found only in summer.



The drought may have contributed to an outstanding flight of irruptive species such as Varied Thrush, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Golden-crowned Kinglet into the coast and Central Valley. The dry winters in the Sierras and Pacific Northwest may have reduced the standing crop of typical winter food items driving birds south and into the lowlands. Other high mountain species and

some birds of the oak woodland such as Lewis' Woodpeckers, Steller's Jays, Acorn Woodpeckers and Band-tailed Pigeons were in higher than average numbers in the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.) Several contributors suggested that the acorn crop may have been poor in some areas as a result of the drought.

Lewis' Woodpeckers staged a major invasion while White-breasted Nuthatches appeared out of range at several localities along the entire coast. Saw-whet Owls were more common than usual along the coast and may have been part of the northern invasion.

The drought also contributed to the postbreeding "upslope drift" phenomenon which brought four Western Kingbirds into the mountains of Lake Tahoe August 8 - September 10 (WS) and a Say's Phoebe there September 10 (WS).

**LOONS, TUBENOSES** — A Yellow-billed Loon at Pt Reyes Oct. 3 (DDeS) represented the earliest fall record for the state. Arctic Loons were found inland at Topaz L., Oct. 15-16 (EH), the American R., near Fair Oaks Oct. 23 (*vide* BK), Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 8 (BED), and Eagle L., Nov. 25 (JM).

California's second **Streaked Shearwater** was well seen by two boatloads of birders on Monterey Bay Oct 9 (AS, JM†, DRo, SFB†, DP† *et al.*). Three Short-tailed Shearwaters off Humboldt Bay (*vide* DRu) and one on Monterey Bay (RS), both Oct. 1, are our earliest records in recent years. More than five off Pt. Pinos Nov. 19 (TC) was the maximum of several other reports from Monterey Bay. Elsewhere eight were seen from Pigeon Pt., Nov. 12 (BSa) and one was found dead at Pt. Reyes Nov. 19 (L. Hale *et al.*, skeleton to U.C., Berkeley).

A "Manx" Shearwater on Monterey Bay Aug. 27 was clearly seen to have white under tail coverts and rather clean underparts unlike the expected race *opisthomelas* (GMcC, JM, DRo *et al.*†). It has been submitted to the California Bird Records Committee as a Townsend's Shearwater (*P. auricularis* of w. Mexico) but identification of the various "Common" Shearwaters is not easy and observers are not in agreement over this bird. Some feel it more closely resembled the highly migratory nominate *puffinus* of the Atlantic.

Single typical Manx Shearwaters were seen on boat trips on Monterey Bay in September and October but November brought numbers to the Region : two were seen from Pt. Pinos Nov. 6 (VR, JM), 106 from Pigeon Pt., Nov. 12 (BSa), 112 from Pt. Pinos Nov. 13 (VR, DE, BJM) and two from Pigeon Pt., Nov. 24 (PM). The species occurred off Monterey by the thousands as recently as 1939 and by the hundreds as recently as 1966 (H.L. Cogswell, *pers. com.*) but only small numbers have been seen in the last decade.

It was the best fall yet for storm-petrels on Monterey Bay with *seven* species recorded! Rafts of Ashies and Blacks were present off Moss Landing at least Sept. 24-Oct. 30 with *ca.* 10,000 birds present to mid-October. Estimated ratios ranged from 7:1 in favor of Ashies to 2:1 in favor of Blacks. One-two Fork-taileds were present Sept. 24-Oct. 12; single Least was seen Sept. 8 (RS, TC *et al.*) and Oct. 9 (DRo) and up to 4-6 Wilson's Sept. 24-Oct. 23

(GMcC, JM, VR, RS, m.ob.†) was a record count Not surprising, the only Leach's was at Monterey Harbor Nov. 6 (VR, JM) during strong w. winds. The real find was the **Galapagos Storm-Petrel** first glimpsed in the rafts Sept. 24 (AS *et al.*) and well seen Oct 1 (GMcC, RS, VR, DRo *et al.*†) & Oct. 9 (SFB† *et al.*) Because of its very small size, the bird was believed to be *O.t.kelsalli* (the s. race, breeding off Peru), the same race as the only previous regional record (Carmel Jan. 21, 1969. *Auk* 87:588-589).

Most interesting was a raft of 2000 Ashy Storm-Petrels off Humboldt Bay Sept. 23 where the species had been considered casual. A "few" Fork-taileds and Leach's were seen among them but unfortunately further searching was not possible (*vide* DRu).

**PELICANS THROUGH HERONS** — A count of 4746 Brown Pelicans at Pajaro Dunes Sept. 2 was more than double the previous high count there in 1975 (J&RW). An imm. **Blue-footed Booby** on the ocean at San Francisco Sept. 1 (PM†) was only the third regional record. Following the July reports, two Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen Aug. 26: at the Golden Gate (RLv *et al.*) and at Monterey (TH, BDP).

An imm. Little Blue Heron was at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin Co., Oct. 2 (K. Yamane, *vide* DRo). Cattle Egrets were seen in the C.V., near Maxwell Sept 26 (20-SAL) and near Friant Oct. 4 (one-*vide* RH) and in the Great Basin at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct 14 (one-*vide* MT) but did not appear on the coast until Oct. 30. Fifteen Snowy Egrets were at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Oct. 1 (*vide* DRu), an exceptional number for this location. A White-faced Ibis at Honey L., Aug 4 (DW) and 20 at Sacramento N.W.R., Sept. 22 (OJK) are of interest.

**WATERFOWL** — Fifteen Whistling Swans near Loomis Aug. 21 (*vide* BK) were early and one at Honey L., Aug. 4 (DW) may have been summering. Four ad. Trumpeter Swans at Mono L., Nov 27 (DDeS†, SL†) were the first reported in the region since 1969.

At Tule L., two "Black" Brant were seen Nov 5 (BED, SS) with one bird remaining to Nov. 15 (*vide* MT). More exciting were a light-bellied Brant at Bodega Bay Nov. 22 (WMP, JR) and an imm. Emperor Goose at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 8-14 (R Ekstrom†, *vide* MT). The first White-fronted Geese had returned to Gray Lodge by Aug. 27 (BED), one day before a single Snow Goose was seen at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (*vide* MT). Two Ross' Geese at Grant L., Mono Co., Nov. 27 (DAG, DW, DDeS) were at an unusual location.

A Redhead at S. Lake Tahoe Aug. 28 (WS) and two Ring-necked Ducks near Friant Aug. 9 (RH) were noteworthy. Oakland's L. Merritt is becoming *the* spot in the Region to see Tufted Ducks. A male there Oct 27 was joined by another the next day (H. Connon, *vide* DRo) and both remained to at least Nov. 6 (SFB) One remained to the end of the period. Seven Oldsquaws were found along the coast in November and a female in summer plumage was at Tule L., Nov 13-15 (BED *et al.*). Scoters were reported inland as follows: a White-winged at Topaz L., Nov. 4 and

single Surfs there Oct. 15-16 and Nov. 4 (all EH), and at Ukiah Nov. 18 (*vide* OJK). Up to 10-20 Red-breasted Mergansers at Tule L., Nov. 5-20 (BED *et al.*) must be the record number from an inland location.

**HAWK MIGRATION** — Hawk watching has not yet caught on in the Region. This fall 75 hours were spent at Pt. Diablo on 16 partial days Aug. 15–Oct. 26 (LCB,BJM *et al.*) resulting in the following totals: Turkey Vulture 56, White-tailed Kites 5, Sharp-shinned Hawk 867, Cooper's Hawk 624, *Accipiter* sp. 121, Red-tailed Hawk 156, Red-shouldered Hawk 35, Broad-winged Hawk 7 (Sept. 21–Oct. 2, including two adults), Rough-legged Hawk 1, Ferruginous Hawk 3, Golden Eagle 3, Marsh Hawk 28, Osprey 7, Prairie Falcon 1, Peregrine Falcon 1, and Am. Kestrel 48. The overall passing rate of one bird/1 min., 40 sec. *under favorable weather conditions* was considered normal but rates of one bird/31sec., Sept. 21 and one bird/28 sec., Sept. 22 were the highest ever recorded here (LCB). Two other Broad-winged Hawks were seen Sept. 23 & Oct. 5 but other species were not recorded those days.

Unprecedented in Golden Gate Pk., San Francisco was the passage of 139 birds in 2 hours Oct. 31 (LCB). Included in the total were six Rough-legged Hawks, previously unrecorded in the park.

**RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS** — Out of range White-tailed Kites were again reported from Tule L., Oct. 5–Nov. 17 (BED *et al.*) and Honey L. (1-2) Sept. 11–Nov. 25 (SAL,LRB,JM). A Goshawk was seen at Butte Sink Oct. 9 (*vide* WA). Two *light-phase* "Harlan's" Hawks were reported: Sacramento N W R., Nov. 13 (DDeSt<sup>+</sup>) and Ft. Bidwell Nov. 26 (JM<sup>+</sup>). There may be only two previous regional records of this form (AB 25:101; Honey L., Feb. 4, 1972—DE<sup>+</sup> *et al.*). Single Red-shouldered Hawks were at Honey L., Sept. 11 (SAL) and near Grenada Nov. 9 (*vide* MT). An imm. Broad-winged Hawk at Monterey Sept. 25 (AS) was the only one seen away from Pt. Diablo. First Trinity and Humboldt County Swanson's Hawks were at Papoose L., Trinity Alps Aug. 17 (JE) and Cape Mendocino Sept. 25 (BC<sup>+</sup>). Other coastal sightings were near Rodeo Lagoon Sept. 1 (BJM) and at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 19 (DP<sup>+</sup>,TB<sup>+</sup>). The latter bird is the latest regional record. Rough-legged Hawks were present in exceptional numbers with one at Gray Lodge Aug. 14 (BK<sup>+</sup>) and one in the Arcata Bottoms Aug. 29 (CH) very early.

A Ruffed Grouse near Orick Sept. 11 (DS) and more than three at Forks of Salmon Sept. 17 (*vide* MT) were the only ones reported. Sandhill Cranes were found on the coast near Crescent City Nov. 19 (*vide* DRu) and one at Manchester Nov. 11 may have been the same bird seen at Caspar about a week later (*vide* OJK). A Com. Gallinule was seen at Tule L., Nov. 14 (BED).

**SHOREBIRDS** — One-to-two Snowy Plovers were at S. Lake Tahoe Aug. 6-14 with another there Sept. 2-4 (WS), and one on the Farallon Islands (hereafter, FI), Oct. 5 (P.R.B.O.) was the first record there. Mountain Plovers are very rare on the coast yet one in the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 29 (*vide* DRu) was the fifth

record from that general area. Two Am. Golden Plovers at Goose L., Sept. 5 and one at Mono L., Oct. 8 (both DW) were the first regional Great Basin records. Less unusual were 1-2 at Woodland Sept. 17-25 (TM<sup>+</sup>,JML *et al.*), and most significant of 75+ coastal birds was one of the race *fulva* at Pt. Pinos Sept. 10-12 (VR *et al.*).

The shorebird of the season was at L. Talawa Sept. 12 (RSW<sup>+</sup>). It was reported as a Hudsonian Godwit and almost certainly was, but the description does not eliminate Black-tailed Godwit of the Old World. There are two previous state records, one regional, of Hudsonian (AB 29:908), none of Black-tailed A. Marbled Godwit at Franklin Oct. 27 (RS,TM,DW) was noteworthy either as a late migrant or potential wintering bird. South L. Tahoe hosted a Long-billed Curlew Aug. 6 and 1-2 Lesser Yellowlegs Sept. 2-4, with another near L. Christopher Sept. 10 (all WS). Both are casual migrants in the mountains. Elsewhere Lesser Yellowlegs were reported in normal numbers with the exception of L. Talawa where present Aug. 5–Sept. 17 with a peak of 186 on Aug. 22 (RSW), the greatest concentration ever recorded in the Region. Only one Ruddy Turnstone was found inland: Mono L., Aug. 31 (DW).

A Com. Snipe at Limantour Aug. 5 (SJ) was very early. Red Knots were found inland as follows: four at Mono L., Aug. 31 (DW), one-two at Woodland Sept. 17-22 (TM<sup>+</sup>,DAG,JML *et al.*) and one at S. Lake Tahoe Sept. 23 (WS<sup>+</sup>), the first regional "mountain" record. Goose L. had a Sanderling Sept. 5 (DW), Chico had two Aug. 13 (SAL) and S. Lake Tahoe had one Aug. 11 and a peak of six Sept. 10 during their continuous presence Sept. 4-20 (WS), an impressive inland total. Semipalmated Sandpipers were carefully identified for the fourth consecutive fall: Limantour Aug. 5 (SJ<sup>+</sup>,GP,R. Halbeisen), Bolinas sewage ponds Aug. 6-9 (JE), Bodega Bay Aug. 13 (LCB,BDP) and one-two on the F.I., Aug. 19-23 (SJ,RL<sup>e</sup>V, B.Bohmke, P.R.B.O.). The Region's latest ever Baird's Sandpipers were singles at the Salinas R. mouth Nov. 10 (LS,GP) and Pajaro Dunes Nov. 12-27 (J&RW<sup>+</sup>); there are apparently no previous November records. An amazing *seven* Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were seen at L. Talawa: two Sept. 14, three Oct. 25 and two Nov. 10 (RSW<sup>+</sup>). In addition one was in the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 8-15 (CH,DRu,DA,BC *et al.*) and one at the Salinas R. mouth Oct. 2 (LCB,BDP) may have been the same bird seen at Castroville Oct. 15-19 (LCB,VR<sup>+</sup>,BGE, m.ob.) for the best showing since 1969. Stilt Sandpipers were also reported in good numbers with two at L. Talawa Oct. 25 (RSW), up to three at Woodland Aug. 25-29 (*vide* DRu), another there Sept. 19 (JML), one at Coyote Hills, Alameda Co., Sept. 8-11 (EM *et al.*), another there Sept. 21 (*vide* DRo) and Tulare County's first, near Visalia Sept. 23-24 (RAB<sup>+</sup> *et al.*). The Region's second **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was at Pt. Reyes Sept. 5-16 (JML<sup>+</sup>,E Greaves,VR,DP *et al.*). Four Ruffs were found this fall: L. Talawa Sept. 12 (RSW<sup>+</sup>), Arcata Bottoms Sept. 4-9 (*vide* DRu), Pescadero Marsh Sept. 17-18 (GG,BE,PM,TB,DP), and Año Nuevo Oct. 27–Nov. 6 (REM,PMR,TBr,TD,AE). The species has now been recorded for the last four consecutive falls.



*Ruff, Año Nuevo S.P., Calif. Nov. 2, 1977. Photo/ T.H. Davis.*

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — A Parasitic Jaeger was at Crowley L., Aug. 17 (DAG). A Long-tailed Jaeger was off Humboldt Bay Sept. 24 (*fide* DRu) and 1-2 each were seen on 5 trips off Monterey Sept. 5 – Oct. 1 (GF,TC,JL,EM,AS). Another was seen from Pt. Pinos Sept. 5 (RS). Adults at the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Aug. 31 (*fide* DRo) and near the San Rafael Bridge Sept. 12 (SM†) provide the first records from San Francisco Bay. Easily most impressive however was the adult beautifully described, drawn and photographed at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Aug. 6 (R. Ekstrom†, M. Robbins, *fide* MT) for only the second inland (first Great Basin) regional record.



*Long-tailed Jaeger, Lower Klamath N.W.R., Calif. Aug. 6, 1977. Photo/ Ray Ekstrom.*

Early Glaucous Gulls were at Pescadero Beach Oct. 25 (JR) and Pt. Reyes Oct. 26 (D. Wechsler, P.R.B.O.). Tule L. had a Glaucous-winged Gull Nov. 12-13 (BED). A Herring Gull at Limantour Aug. 5 (JE) represented one of very few recent summer records. Two at Newby I. Dump, near Milpitas Sept. 2 (SM) may have been very early migrants. Thayer's Gulls were first reported from the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Oct. 1 (SFB) and Alameda Oct. 8 (SM). As usual a few Franklin's Gulls were found; eight birds Aug. 19 – Nov. 16. A Sabine's Gull at Merced N.W.R., Sept. 14 (PC†) was followed by one at Topaz L., Oct. 15-16 and no fewer than four there Nov. 4 (both EH†) for an excellent inland showing.

Two ad. Com. Terns at S. Lake Tahoe Sept. 10 were unusual and may have been the same two birds seen there one week later (WS†). Single Arctic Terns again visited San Francisco Bay: Alameda Aug. 23 – Sept. 1 & Sept. 29 (*fide* ER), Foster City Aug. 24 (PM), and the Bay Bridge Toll Plaza Aug. 25 (JR). An immature

at the Salinas R. mouth Nov. 6 (VR†,JM,EM) provided the latest record for California. A Least Tern n.w. of Vallejo Sept. 3 (CPT) was somewhat out of place.

A juv. Marbled Murrelet found on the forest floor at Big Basin S.P., Aug. 31 represents the seventh such occurrence there since 1959 (SWS). The bird died in captivity,\* California Acad. Sci. Singer estimates a breeding population of 50 pairs in the park. For the first time since the early part of the century, Craveri's Murrelets were found in numbers on Monterey Bay. They outnumbered Xantus' Murrelets on at least two occasions: Aug. 27 with 6-10 Craveri's, 3-5 Xantus', ca. ten *Endomychura* sp. (GMC†,LCB *et al.*), and Sept. 11 with six Craveri's, no Xantus' and 18 *Endomychura* sp. (JM,VR *et al.*). Four Craveri's were seen Sept. 8 (RS,TC *et al.*), and two Sept. 24 (AS *et al.*). Off Humboldt Bay, one bird Aug. 14 and four Sept. 23-26 were believed to be Xantus' (*fide* DRu) but it is not known how carefully Craveri's was eliminated —there is an August record for Oregon (Jehl, 1975 *West. Birds* 6:109). Early Ancient Murrelets were one at Bolinas Sept. 22 and four-six there Sept. 30 – Oct. 2 (RS,JE), and one on Monterey Bay Oct. 9 (JM).

**DOVES THROUGH OWLS** — A well described White-winged Dove was at the Carmel R. mouth Oct 1 (VR† *et al.*). Vagrant Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found along the coast with one at L. Merced, San Francisco Oct. 7 (PM) and one at the Pajaro R. mouth Nov. 2 (J. Oetzel *et al.*).

A Screech Owl at 9800 ft in the Hall Natural Area Mono Co., Aug. 29 (DDeS) was very much out of place. A Flammulated Owl near L. Berryessa Sept. 23 (R. Boekelheid† *et al.*) was certainly a migrant. There are only two previous regional records of migrants. A Snowy Owl at Arcata Nov. 24-30 (DRu *et al.*) was unexpected. It has been found in the Region two out of the last ten winters. Four Pygmy Owls in the upper C.V., provided the third through sixth C.V. records. Two were at Pine Cr., Tehama Co., Nov. 6 (SAL), one was at Dog I., Tehama Co., Nov. 13 (SAL), and one was at Chico Nov. 30 (JRo,DDe). They were darker than Sierran birds suggesting they may have been long-range invaders. Short-eared Owls nested successfully along the coast. Thirteen adults and three young took advantage of a *Microtus* irruption at the Salinas R. mouth (BGE).

**NIGHTJARS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — A very late Lesser Nighthawk was at Herndon Oct. 8 (*fide* RH). Vaux's Swifts peaked Oct. 1 when over 1500 flew past Pt. Diablo (SFB,AE *et al.*), and one there Oct. 26 (LCB) was very late.

Amazing was the discovery of the northernmost documented record of Costa's Hummingbird, two males at Arcata Nov. 27 (DRu *et al.*). One stayed until the next day (BBu *et al.*) when the bottlebrush where they were feeding was removed by a work crew. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker feeding a fledgling near Mendocino Oct. 8 (FAP) represents the southwesternmost breeding locality. Two E. Kingbirds were found. One was at Ft. Barry Sept. 3 (M. Rosegay) and one visited the F.I., Sept. 14-16 (RLeV, P.R.B.O.).

Twenty-two Tropical Kingbirds reached the coast Sept 24 – Nov. 30. A late Ash-throated Flycatcher lingered at Princeton marsh Oct. 28-30 (PM, JM). An E Phoebe visited Bolinas Nov. 15-16 (RS† *et al.*). A Black Phoebe at L. Tahoe Aug. 12 (WS†) represented only the third Tahoe Basin record, and three at Honey L., Sept. 11 (SAL) were equally significant. Seven Least Flycatchers appeared along the coast: one at Pt. Reyes Sept. 18-19 (LCB, JM, DS, SJ, m.ob.†), one at L. Merced Sept. 23 (DD†, BJM), one at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 16 (PL†), and singles banded on the F.I., Aug. 17, Sept. 12, 23, and 27 (RLeV, P.R.B.O.).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Three Barn Swallows at Tule L., Nov. 5-18 (BED *et al.*) were late as were three at Honey L., Nov. 11 (LRB). Two Gray Jays were noted at Lower Twin L. in Lassen N P., Oct. 1 (BBu). This species breeds at nearby Juniper L. (*vide* D. Murphy) and this may be the source of other records in Lassen and Plumas Cos. A single **Blue Jay** was heard at Pt. Diablo Oct. 21 (LCB) and two others were photographed at Pt. St. George Oct. 30-31 (RSW† *et al.*). There is only one previous regional record, one collected at Chico Apr. 24, 1950. A vagrant Black-billed Magpie was at Mt. Shasta Sept. 22 (*vide* MT).

A Gray Catbird was at Pt. Pinos Oct. 2 (N.P. Hill, *vide* BSo) for only the seventh regional record. The Bendire's Thrasher returned to Courtland Aug. 1 (*vide* RS) where it has wintered for the last two years. A Brown Thrasher at Springville Oct. 11 – Nov. 30 (MM†, RAB† *et al.*) constituted the Region's first montane record. Two Sage Thrashers were found along the coast, with one Oct. 2-6 on the F.I. (RLeV, P.R.B.O.) and one at Pt. Reyes Nov. 5-11 (EM†, WMP).

A very late Swainson's Thrush was in San Francisco Nov. 5-7 (JM, LCB). A **Wheatear** photographed at Shelter Cove, Humboldt Co., Sept. 15 (G. Clarke) provided the second regional record. The first was June 11, 1971 on the F.I.

**KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS** — A very early Ruby-crowned Kinglet appeared at Pt. Diablo Aug. 15 (BSo). Three fledgling Water Pipits being attended by two adults at Center Basin just above Golden Bear L., Kings Canyon Aug. 24 (M. Burke, J. Wehausen, *vide* DAG) established a new breeding site for this species in the Region. The only previous known nesting sites are near Saddlebag L. A vagrant Phainopepla visited the F.I., Sept. 1 (RLeV, P.R.B.O.). Loggerhead Shrikes were found unexpectedly in the mountains with one at L. Tahoe Aug. 9 (WS) and one at Red Slate Mt., Mono Co., Sept. 10 (DAG).

A **Yellow-throated Vireo** was at Olema marsh Sept. 11-18 (J. Wilburn, P. Betlow, JW, EM, RS, BDP *et al.*). The only previous record was June 1969 on the F.I. Eight Red-eyed Vireos reached the coast Aug. 28 – Oct. 4 with a maximum of three at Pt. Reyes Sept. 13. Four documented Philadelphia Vireos were found: one at Pt. Reyes Sept. 27-28 (DRo, JM, VR, m.ob.†), one on the F.I., Sept. 14 (RLeV†, P.R.B.O.), one at the Carmel R., Oct. 16 (BDP†), and another there Oct. 29-30 (RS†, m.ob.). There are only eight previous regional records. Very late Warbling Vireos were at Carmel

Highlands Nov. 2 (TB) and at the Carmel R., Nov. 4 (JL).

**WARBLERS** — Twenty-four Black-and-white Warblers appeared along the coast Aug. 12 – Nov. 30. Only two were on the F.I. Forty-one Tennessee Warblers were found, 25 along the coastal mainland Sept. 2 – Nov. 29, and 13 on the F.I. Most unusual was one in the C.V. at Dog I., Sept. 10 (SAL†) where it furnished the second Tehama County record. A very late Nashville Warbler lingered at the Carmel R. until Nov. 19 (DP). Two Virginia's Warblers reached the coast, one at Pacific Grove Aug. 15 (MN) and one at Pt. Reyes Sept. 25 (EM). A Lucy's Warbler Sept. 25 (DDeS, P.R.B.O.) was the first for the F.I. and the tenth regionally. Single N. Parulas at L. Merced Sept. 13-15 (PM, LCB) and at Fairhaven Sept. 15 (DRu, CH) were expected, but one near Burris Pk., Kings Co., Aug. 29 (JL) was only the second C.V. record.

Six Magnolia Warblers, three along the coast Sept. 13 – Oct. 24, and three on the F.I., Sept. 10-16 were fewer than expected. The only Cape May Warblers were: one on the F.I., Oct. 3-7 (P.R.B.O.), one at Pacific Grove Sept. 11 (MN), and another there Oct. 27 (DP†, TB). Three Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported: one at Pt. Reyes Sept. 12 (EM), one on the F.I., Oct. 3, and one at Belmont Sept. 8 (FN†). A Black-throated Gray Warbler lingered late at the Carmel R. until Nov. 13 (EM). One at Burris Pk., Nov. 26 (JL) was probably wintering. Three Townsend's x Hermit Warbler hybrids were described: one Aug. 4 (TB†) s. of Carmel, one at Pacific Grove Sept. 30 (RS†, DS†) and one at Moss Beach Oct. 13 (JM). Three Black-throated Green Warblers reached the coast, all singles as follows: Pt. Reyes Sept. 16 (JM *et al.*), San Francisco found dead (*vide* LCB), and Carmel R. mouth, Oct. 17 – Nov. 13 (JR†, m.ob.). Extraordinary was the **Black-throated Green Warbler** at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam Nov. 5 (SAL†). This represents the first documented inland regional record. Eight Black-burnian Warblers were recorded: five coastal Sept. 10 – Oct. 5, and three F.I., Sept. 2-14. The Region's sixth Yellow-throated Warbler appeared at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 27-29 (DP† *et al.*). As expected it was *albilora*. Twenty-two Chestnut-sided Warblers included 15 on the mainland Sept. 2 – Oct. 22, six on the F.I., Sept. 2 – Oct. 4, and one inland at Honey L., Sept. 11 (SAL†). Five Bay-breasted Warblers included one at Pt. Reyes Sept. 11-14 (BDP *et al.*), another there Sept. 13 (JR *et al.*), one on the F.I., Sept. 10-13 (RLeV, P.R.B.O.), and one at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 6 (VR *et al.*). But these were eclipsed by the **Bay-breasted Warbler** found dead in Sacramento Oct. 31 (G. Manolis, TM, RS) for the Region's first interior record. Blackpoll Warblers totalled 60 along the coast Aug. 24 – Nov. 5 including ten on the F.I. Most unusual was the Blackpoll at Christmas Valley, L. Tahoe Sept. 17 (WS†) for the Region's first montane record. Six Prairie Warblers were tallied along the coast Aug. 30 – Oct. 2 including one on the F.I. But a **Prairie Warbler** near Corcoran Nov. 26-30 (JL) provided the Region's first interior record. At least 112 Palm Warblers reached the coast Sept. 10 – Nov. 30; 26 of which were on the F.I.

Of 12 Ovenbirds Sept. 10 – Oct. 17, six were coastal mainland and six were F.I. Eight N. Waterthrushes visited the coast Sept. 3 – Oct. 11. Six were mainland and two F.I. A Connecticut Warbler photographed at Pt. Reyes Oct. 6 (AG†) was a surprise and constituted the Region's fifth mainland record.

A Yellow-breasted Chat at Fairhaven Oct. 5 (CH) was late. There was a Hooded Warbler on the F.I., Oct. 4 (P.R.B.O.) and another near Sebastopol Aug. 28 – Oct. 15 (M. Perry *et al.*). A late Wilson's Warbler lingered at the Carmel R. until Nov. 19 (DP, TB). Five coastal Canada Warblers Aug. 30 – Oct. 29 including one on the F.I., were more than expected but a **Canada Warbler** at Davis Sept. 14-17 (T. Love *et al.*) was the Region's first inland. Forty-six Am. Redstarts Aug. 6 – Nov. 30 were all coastal including nine on the F.I.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Five Bobolinks appeared along the coast Sept. 12 – Oct. 2. Five coastal Yellow-headed Blackbirds were recorded Aug. 22 – Oct. 12. Eight Orchard Orioles visited the coast Sept. 8 – Oct. 16. A Scott's Oriole on the F.I., Sept. 12 (RLvV, P.R.B.O.) was banded and photographed for the Region's sixth record. A Rusty Blackbird at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 22 (J. Alban) was the only coastal report but one at Mono L., Nov. 26-27 (DAG *et al.*) provided the Region's first basin record. A **Common Grackle** at Hayward Oct. 13 (SM†) represented only the second regional record.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Springville Sept. 30 (MM†) was significant as there are very few montane records. Two were found in foothills around the C.V., where they are accidental. One was in the Sutter Buttes Aug. 9 (WA) and one at Marshall Station, Fresno Co., Sept. 30 (*vide* RH). Fifteen reached the coast Aug. 14 – Nov. 23. Vagrant Blue Grosbeaks appeared along the coast with three on the F.I., Aug. 16 – Sept. 12 (P.R.B.O.) and one at Pt. Reyes Sept. 25 (AG). The only Indigo Bunting was at Pacific Grove Sept. 29 (MN). A Dickcissel on the F.I., Oct. 4 (P.R.B.O.) was the Region's 15th. Green-tailed Towhees reached the coast Sept. 13 – Oct. 2 with two in Marin County and one on the F.I. Three Lark Buntings Sept. 18 – Oct. 1 were all coastal; two on the F.I., and one at Pt. Reyes. There was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Santa Cruz Oct. 4 (RM†), and one which was found last winter at Bolinas Lagoon returned Nov. 14 (P.R.B.O.).

Three Tree Sparrows found Oct. 23 (JML) at Pt. Reyes and another at Inverness Oct. 18 (WMP *et al.*), were the only coastal reports. A flock of ten at Tule L., Nov. 17-27 (BED *et al.*) were the only others found. Twenty-one Clay-colored Sparrows reached the coast Aug. 23 – Nov. 8, more than half from the F.I. Seven Harris' Sparrows were found Oct. 18 – Nov. 26 all coastal or basin. A Swamp Sparrow at 10,300 ft at Hall Natural Area Oct. 23-24 (DDeS) is the Region's second Sierran record. The nine other Swamp Sparrows were all coastal. The only Chestnut-collared Longspurs were two at Pt. Reyes Oct. 23 (JML), with one staying until Nov. 19. Nine Snow Buntings Nov. 6-30 along the coast as far south as Pt. Reyes were more than expected but one at Monticello Dam Nov.

19-30 (RS, m.ob.) was the first for Yolo County and a first for the inner coast ranges.

**ADDENDUM** — An E. Kingbird at L. Tahoe Aug. 28, 1976 (S. Lanier, D. Dinkler) was a first for the Tahoe Basin.

**CORRIGENDA** — In *AB* 31:368 the Harlequin Duck was at Brisbane, not Belvedere and on page 371 the Bohemian Waxwings were at L. Tahoe Feb. 28 not Dec. 28. Under Sharp-shinned Hawk in *AB* 31:1042 Kernville is not in the C.V. Delete a previous record of a white-vented Manx Shearwater off Marin County in 1970 (*AB* 25:100).

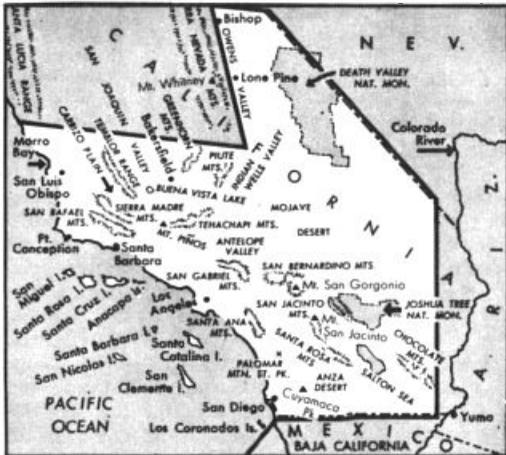
**CONTRIBUTORS** — David Anderson, Walt Anderson, Maurine Armour, Stephen F. Bailey, Larry R. Ballard, Bernice Barnes, Robert A. Barnes, Frank K. Beyer, Laurence C. Binford, Tony Bledsoe, William Bousman, Tony Briggs (TBr), Betty Burrige (BBu), Ted Chandik, Bill Clow, Allegra Collister, Paul Crawford, Tom Davis, David DeSante, Bruce E. Deuel, Denise Devine (DDe), Donna Dittman, Art Edwards, Bruce G. Elliott, Barbara Emley, Jules Evens, Lynn Farrar, Gary Friedrichsen, David A. Gaines, Kimball Garrett, Gene Gerlach, Steve Getty, Al Ghiorso, L.W. Gralapp, Rob Hansen, Ed Harper, Bill Hart, Tom Heindel, Douglas R. Herr, R. W. Hoellwarth, Craig Hohenberger, Joel Hornstein, Stuart Johnston, Margaret Keith, Paul R. Kelly, Douglas P. Kibbe, Betty Kimball, Barb Klasson (BKl), Oliver J. Kolkman, Jeri M. Langham, Stephen A. Laymon, Paul Lehman, Bill Lenarz, Ron LeValley, John Luther, Susanne Luther, Eugene Makishima, Tim Manolis, Robert E. Maurer, Brian J. McCaffery, Guy McCaskie, Peter Metropulos, Mabel Mires, Scott Moorhouse, Randall Morgan, Fran Nelson, Margot Nelson, Gary Page, Dennis Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Carmen Patterson, Frank A. Pitelka, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, William M. Pursell, Van Remsen, Jean Richmond, Patricia M. Richter, Mike Rippey, Don Roberson (DRo), Elsie Roemer, Joanna Ross (JRo), Dave Rudholm (DRu), Barry Sauppe (BSa), Dave Shuford, Steven W. Singer, Arnold Small, Bruce Sorrie (BSo), Rich Stallcup, Lynne Stenzel, Steve Summers, Wally Sumner, Michael Taylor, Kent Van Vuren, John & Ricky Warriner, Ralph S. Widrig, David Winkler, Jon Winter, †—description and/or photograph on file, \*—specimen — **DICK ERICKSON (Loons through Alcids), 770 Branran Pl., Concord, CA 94518 and JOSEPH MORLAN (Pigeons through Sparrows), Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2718 Telegraph Ave., Suite 206, Berkeley, CA 94705.**

Although *American Birds* is substantially reducing its publication delays, some are beyond editorial control. The biggest problem is still tardy receipt of Regional Reports, and usually this is caused by tardy contributors. On-time issues are possible only if everyone meets published deadlines.

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

A tropical storm dumped heavy rains over most of the Region in mid-August, but unlike last year, this storm had no winds associated with it and the only storm-related vagrants were a Blue-footed Booby and a Long-tailed Jaeger grounded in the mountains of San Diego County. The remainder of the fall had extremely stable weather with no additional rainstorms or Santa Ana conditions.



For birders the season proved most interesting. Vagrants from eastward, along with post-breeding wanderers from the south, and one or two stragglers from northeastern Siberia, started appearing in mid-August, and by the end of the period some 415 species were known to have occurred within the Region. Vagrants were less numerous than in 1974, a phenomenal year, but the variety of species occurring certainly equalled, if not exceeded, that found in 1974. Some of the more exciting species were a Black Vulture and an Olivaceous Flycatcher on the Colorado River, a Scarlet-headed Oriole and a Varied Bunting in the desert, and two Red-throated Pipits and two Grace's Warblers on the coast.

A Short-tailed Albatross off San Diego was by far the most interesting pelagic bird, although an influx of boobies from the south brought some 15 individuals to southern California. Three American Oystercatchers on the Salton Sea and four Sharp-tailed Sandpipers along the coast attracted the most attention among the shorebirds.

LOONS, GREBES — As usual a few Com. Loons were found inland during October and November. An Arctic Loon at the n. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) Aug. 25 (CGE) had probably summered locally whereas another at Salton City, Imperial Co., Nov. 27 (DM) was a fall migrant; this species is rare inland. Totally unexpected was a Red-necked Grebe at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Nov. 6 (BB,GSS); for the first interior record for the Region. Two Horned Grebes at N.E.S.S., Oct. 25 (PS) and four on L.

Perris, Riverside Co., Nov. 20 (JD,SC) were the only ones reported away from the coast.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — What could only be an imm. Short-tailed Albatross was seen with a Black-footed Albatross c. 90 mi w. of San Diego Aug. 28 (KCR); the bird was appreciably larger than the Black-footed Albatross and had a heavy-looking bill. A few N. Fulmars were present off the coast during November with one or two as far s. as Imperial Beach (EC,DP). As usual a few Least Storm-Petrels were present off San Diego with 30± seen Sept. 10-11 (GMcC).

TROPICBIRDS, PELICANS, BOOBIES FRIGATEBIRDS — Red-billed Tropicbirds were found off San Diego Sept. 10-18 with a high count of six Sept. 10 (GMcC). Brown Pelicans remained around the Salton Sea to late October with 17 counted at the s. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) Oct. 4 (DVT) and one still there Oct. 28 (BED). A few Blue-footed Boobies moved N from the Gulf of California into s. California during late August and early September with one near L. Henshaw, San Diego Co., Aug. 18 (MK, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), one off Pt. Loma Aug. 26 (LeH), another off Manhattan Beach Aug. 30 (LeH) and up to 11 on the Salton Sea Aug. 24-Oct. 9 (BDP,FH,SFB). An imm. Brown Booby, a rare straggler to s. California, was near Salton City Aug. 23 (GSS). Magnificent Frigatebirds remained around the Salton Sea through Sept. 8 (LCB) with three seen together at Salton City Aug. 23-24 (GSS,DVT); along the coast single immatures were seen from Santa Barbara s. through August and early September with one near Imperial Beach Oct. 1 (RC) and another at Avalon on Catalina I., Oct. 9 (RSc) being somewhat late.

HERONS, STORKS, SPOONBILLS — An ad Little Blue Heron was near Seeley, Imperial Co., Aug. 13 (PL) and an immature was near Imperial Beach Nov. 9 to the end of the period (hereafter, Nov. 30+) (RCS,ES); this species is rare anywhere in California. Up to four imm. Reddish Egrets, casual stragglers to s. California, were around San Diego Oct. 9-Nov. 30+ (DDe,WTE,PU). A Louisiana Heron was at S.E.S.S., Aug. 14 (SC,EAC), another was near Imperial Beach Sept. 9-11 (LCB,RSt) then 1-2 were around San Diego Oct. 31-Nov. 30+ (JK,PU). Wood Storks remained around S.E.S.S. later than usual with 25 seen Oct. 12 (DVT) and one still present Oct. 19 (PS). Up to 17 Roseate Spoonbills remained around S.E.S.S. through September, with 14 still present Oct. 19 (DVT,PS), another was at N.E.S.S., Aug. 25-Sept. 23 (EC,SC,WTE) and one was along the Colorado R near Needles Sept. 7 (CL). On the coast two of the three birds at Irvine were still present Oct. 4 (RLP) but not seen thereafter; what may well have been one of these three remained in Goleta Sept. 12-Oct. 5 (PL,LBe,RW), then appeared at Pt. Mugu Oct. 17 (LBa), and in Malibu Dec. 4 (*vide* GSS).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — A few Whistling Swans moved S into the Region during November with

one in San Diego Nov. 12 (MT) being exceptionally far s. A Ross' Goose in Goleta Nov. 30–Dec. 1 (PL,LBe) was on the coast where few are recorded. Unexpected were five Fulvous Whistling Ducks at the El Dorado Nature Center in Long Beach Nov. 19 (BD); the possibility of their being escapees from one of the nearby waterfowl aviaries must be considered. The only Eur. Wigeons reported were single males near L. Arrowhead in the San Bernardino Mts., Nov. 24-25 (KG,JD), in Long Beach Nov. 19-20 (BD,FH) and on Upper Newport Bay, Nov. 12 (BB). Interesting was a flock of 26 Greater Scaup at S.E.S.S., Oct. 24-25 (BED) and another at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) Nov. 25-26 (JD,LCB), since the species is rare inland. A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye, extremely rare in s. California, was at F.C.R., Nov. 21-26 (GSS,VR,LCB). As usual 1-3 Harlequin Ducks were present along the coast near Cambria Oct. 24–Nov. 30+ (RSm,FRT). An Oldsquaw on Morro Bay Nov. 25 (FRT) and another in Goleta Nov. 29 – Dec. 4 (PL,LBe) were the only two reported. Reports of Surf Scoters from inland localities included one near Big Pine Nov. 8-9 (TH), three at Daggett, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 29 (SC,EAC), one at Salton City Nov. 27 (DM) and single individuals around S.E.S.S., Oct. 19 (PS) & 21 (BED). Black Scoters persisted at N.E.S.S. well into September, with one found dead Sept. 3 (GSG, \* U.C.L.A.) and the last noted Sept. 19 (RFR). A few Hooded Mergansers were found along the coast and in the n.e. portion of the Region during the last half of November, as expected.

**RAPTORS** — A **Black Vulture** well seen on the California side of the Colorado R., 2 mi below Parker Dam Sept. 5 (LC,DC) represented the first believable record for s. California. Two White-tailed Kites near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 25 (EAC) were somewhat e. of their normal range in California as were 2-3 around N.E.S.S., Aug. 13 (FH,SC,DM). An imm. Goshawk at Oasis, Mono Co., Sept. 24 (JD) was the only one reported. At least ten Red-shouldered Hawks were found at eight localities e. of their normal range from Oasis s. to Finney L., the most significant being the one at Finney L., Imperial Co., Sept. 24 (H&PB). At least 12 Broad-winged Hawks were seen, with one at Oasis Oct. 30 (CH,RW,JD), one over Mesquite Springs in Death Valley Nov. 19 (KG), one at Heart Bar S.P. in the San Bernardino Mts., Sept. 18 (EAC), single individuals in the Santa Barbara area Sept. 28 (RW) & Oct. 6 (PL), and at least seven around San Diego Sept. 27–Oct. 16 (JK,DDe,EC,RC). Only a few Swainson's Hawks are reported these days so a flock of 21 on Camp Pendleton near Oceanside Oct. 22 (PB) was of extreme interest. An imm. **Zone-tailed Hawk**, a casual wanderer to s. California, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 11 (AS) and another immature was over Paso Picacho in the Cuyamaca Mts., Oct. 10 (JK). Rough-legged Hawks were more numerous than usual in November, being found along the entire coast s. to Imperial Beach, where one remained Nov. 3-9 (RCS), and throughout much of the interior; one near Big Bear in the San Bernardino Mts., Sept. 11 (EAC) was exceptionally early. The only Bald Eagles reported were around the Salton Sea with an exceptionally

early one near Seeley Aug. 13 – Oct. 29 (PL,BED) one at S.E.S.S., Oct. 11-12 (DVT) and another at N.E.S.S., Nov. 27 (DM). Reports of nine different Peregrine Falcons in the s. half of the Region were encouraging. Merlins appeared more numerous than usual with 30± individuals reported Oct. 8 – Nov. 30+

**CRANES, GALLINULES** — Five Sandhill Cranes seen flying near N.E.S.S., Oct. 25 (PS) were probably heading for the area around Brawley where some 90 regularly winter. Seven at Cuyamaca L., Sept. 24-30 (HC) represented only the second record for San Diego County. A Com. Gallinule in Baker Sept. 24 (SC) was unexpected.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Three **American Oystercatchers**, initially at Salton City Aug. 14-19 (FH,JD), then along the n.e. shore of the Salton Sea Aug. 20-30 (FH,EAC,SC), were the first to be found inland in California. The resident bird on Anacapa I. was seen Aug. 25 (TH) and 1-2 were at Frazier Pt., Santa Cruz



*Am. Oystercatchers, Salton Sea, Aug. 24, 1977. Photo/ J. M. Langam.*

I., Aug. 14 (JA). Four Black Oystercatchers at Pt. Mugu Sept. 21 – Oct. 5 (RLP,LBa) and two more on Pt. Fermin Sept. 14 (LiH) were away from areas of normal occurrence. Some Mountain Plovers were seen in the e. part of the Region, where few have been recorded, with an exceptionally early individual at F.C.R., Sept. 3 (SC,DM) and as many as eight in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino Co., Oct. 23 (VR,SC). A single Am. Golden Plover was found inland near Blythe Oct. 12 (AEH,MLL); along the coast three were seen around Goleta Aug. 26 – Nov. 30+, with the one there Oct. 25–Nov. 3 being of the Asiatic race *fulva*, another *fulva* was at Playa del Rey Oct. 23 (FH) and three *dominica* were found around San Diego Oct. 16–Dec. 2 (DDe,RC). Solitary Sandpipers appeared exceptionally numerous, with 75± individuals reported from throughout the Region Aug. 10–Oct. 22. Exceptional were two Wandering Tattlers found inland with one at S.E.S.S., Aug. 22 (BDP) and the other on the Kern N.W.R., Kern Co., Sept. 14 (RFR). A Ruddy Turnstone was at Salton City Aug. 5 (SC,DM), another was there Aug. 30 (EAC), two were

there Sept. 5 (JD,KG) and one more was at Daggett Sept. 17 (SC,DM); this species is scarce away from the coast. Up to eight Red Knots, also rare away from the coast, were at Salton City Aug. 11 - Sept. 12 (DR,RSt). A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** provided the first Regional record for the fall period in Goleta Aug. 10-11 (PL,LBe). Baird's Sandpipers moved through the Region Aug. 9 - Sept. 19 with significant concentrations such as 200+ at Tinnemaha Res., Inyo Co., Aug. 20 (TH) and 45 on Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., Aug. 13 (KG) reported. Pectoral Sandpipers were decidedly scarce, with less than 40 reported Aug. 20 - Nov. 2. Totally unexpected was the appearance of four **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers**, with one in Goleta Oct. 5 (PL,LBe), another three Oct. 24-30 (PL,RW), one at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., Nov. 9 (RW) and the fourth near Imperial Beach Oct. 27 - Nov. 2 (EC), for there are only four previous records for the Region. As usual Stilt Sandpipers were at S.E.S.S., with up to ten seen together Aug. 5 - Sept. 8 (GMcC); two in Goleta Aug. 27 (PL) were unexpected as were also two on L. Elsinore, Riverside Co., Sept. 18 (SC,DM) and another near Imperial Beach Oct. 1-5 (JK,PU) since the species is rarely reported away from the Salton Sea. A Ruff, a casual wanderer to California, was well studied in Goleta Sept. 20 (RDH). A Red Phalarope at S.E.S.S., Oct. 18-20 (PS,BED) was the only one found away from the coast.

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS** — For the first time Pomarine Jaegers were found inland with an immature at N.E.S.S., Sept. 8-12 (LCB,RSt) an adult there Sept. 11 (FS) and another immature there Sept. 24 (H&PB). As appears to be normal, small numbers of Parasitic Jaegers passed through the Salton Sea, with six individuals reported from N.E.S.S., Sept. 4 - Nov. 27 (SFB,RFR,PU,DM). Two or three Long-tailed Jaegers were seen off San Diego Sept. 10-18 (JD,GMcC) as expected, but an exhausted adult found near Pala, San Diego Co., Aug. 18 (RT, \* S.D.N.H.M.) was only the second found inland within this Region.

A Thayer's Gull in Riverside Nov. 19 (SC,EAC) was the only one reported away from the coast. Yellow-legged W. Gulls remained on the Salton Sea later than usual, with ten at Salton City Oct. 9 (PU,JD) and two still there Nov. 27 (DM). An imm. Mew Gull in Riverside Nov. 20 (JD,SC) was at an inland locality Laughing Gulls remained around the Salton Sea well into October with 40 seen Oct. 9 (JD) and one still at S.E.S.S., Oct. 27 (BED). About ten different Franklin's Gulls were reported from various points around the Salton Sea Aug. 13 - Nov. 1, and two more near Irvine Nov. 20 (GSS); small numbers move through s. California every fall. Sabine's Gulls were quite scarce off the coast with one off Goleta Aug. 28 (PL), another off Pt. Fermin Oct. 6 (JA) and ten off San Diego Sept. 10-11 (JD) being the only ones reported. However, an immature was inland at N.E.S.S., Sept. 12-15 (RSt,LiH) and another was found there Sept. 23 (WTE). A Gull-billed Tern at N.E.S.S., Nov. 27 (DM) was exceptionally late. A Com. Tern on Tinnemaha Res., Sept. 11 (TH) and three on L. Elsinore Aug. 27 (DM) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. Arctic Terns were quite numerous offshore with 40± off Goleta Aug. 28 (PL) and 250+ off San Diego Sept. 10-18 (JD). A flock of 25 Least Terns at Del Mar Sept. 5 (PU) and six near Imperial Beach Sept. 9 (LCB) were the last seen this year; this species is normally gone from California by early September. Two Black Skimmers at McGrath S.P., Aug. 22-23 (PL,LBa) were the only ones seen away from the Salton Sea and the San Diego area.

**ALCIDS** — Again Craveri's Murrelets were the only murrelets identified off s. California in August and September with five off Ventura Aug. 25 (GSS,TH) and 30+ off San Diego Sept. 10-18 (JD).

**PIGEONS, CUCKOOS, OWLS, SWIFTS** — A Band-tailed Pigeon in Long Beach Sept. 24 (JM) and another near Imperial Beach Nov. 3 (EC), both on the coast, were overshadowed by 40 on Santa Cruz I., Nov. 12 (BD). As usual a few White-winged Doves moved W to the coast with one in Lompoc Sept. 27 (JA), five in Goleta Sept. 14 - Nov. 2 (PL,BS,GH) and seven more around San Diego Aug. 13 - Oct. 1 (PU,EC); in addition one in Kelso Sept. 3 (SC) and another in nearby Cadiz Oct. 24 (VR) were somewhat n. of their normal range. A Ground Dove in Goleta Oct. 2 (DDi) and another in Kelso Oct. 23-24 (VR) were both somewhat outside the species' normal

## The California Quail

A. Starker Leopold



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range. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Tecopa Sept. 1-3 (JT) may well have been on breeding territory but one at F.C.R., Sept. 24 (SC,DM) was clearly a migrant. A Screech Owl at S.E.S.S., Sept. 6 (DVT) had to be a migrant since the species does not nest in that area. Most interesting was the discovery of a Flammulated Owl near Westmorland Oct. 4 (DDe), since records of migrants are few indeed. Four migrant Long-eared Owls were seen along the coast with one in San Luis Obispo Nov. 24 (FRT), another in Goleta Oct. 27 (PL), and single birds near Imperial Beach on Sept. 29 (PU) & Nov. 2 (EC). A flock of 14 Black Swifts over Gilbert Pass near Deep Springs Aug. 18 (TH) was of interest; four over Long Beach Sept. 13 (BD) and two over Goleta Sept. 15 (PL) were the only ones reported from along the coast. A ♂ **Broad-billed Hummingbird**, a casual straggler to California, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 20-23 (DP,PU).

**WOODPECKERS** — Some ten "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were reported from various localities within the Region Oct. 9 – Nov. 30+. An Acorn Woodpecker near Westmorland Oct. 4 (DBe) and another at Clark Mt., in e. San Bernardino Co., Oct. 16 (SC,EAC) were both appreciably e. of their normal range in California. An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, believed to be of the nominate form *varius*, was well studied at F.C.R., Oct. 30 (JD,DR). A Williamson's Sapsucker at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts., Oct. 16 (TH) was outside areas of normal occurrence. A Nuttall's Woodpecker near Barstow Sept. 17 (SC) and a Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Deep Springs Aug. 12–Sept. 3 (TH,KG) were both at the fringes of their normal ranges.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — The only E. Kingbirds reported were one at Malibu Aug. 31 (GSS) and another on Pt. Loma Sept. 11 (BS). As usual a few Tropical Kingbirds appeared along the coast with up to two in Goleta Oct. 7-10 (PL,LBe), one in Santa Barbara Oct. 11 (LBa), another at Malibu Sept. 22 (FH) and four different individuals around Imperial Beach Sept. 20–Oct. 26 (DP,EC). The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reported was one in Palo Verde, Oct. 3-8 (MLL,LC). An **Olivaceous Flycatcher**, the fourth to be well documented from California, was near

Walter's Camp on the Colorado R., Riverside Co. Nov. 9-14 (BE,AEH, \* B.L.M.). An E. Phoebe, a rare straggler to California, was at Oasis Oct. 29-30 (PU,JD) and another was seen in McGrath S.P., Nov. 13 (LS). A Least Flycatcher, suspected of being a regular vagrant to California, was well studied in Santa Barbara Sept. 18 (JD,PL,LBe) and another seen on Pt. Loma Sept. 15 (JK). A Cliff Swallow at F.C.R., Nov. 23 (VR) was exceptionally late. Two Purple Martins at F.C.R., Sept. 3 (LBe) were in an area from which few records exist.

**JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES** — A Piñon Jay near Pt. Mugu Sept. 30 (LJ) was far out of range. A Verdin near Edwards Air Force Base in n.e. Los Angeles Co., Oct. 15 (FH) was at the extreme n.w. point of the species range. Up to six Pygmy Nuthatches in Topanga Canyon Aug. 27 – Oct. 5 (LJ) and 1-2 at Yucca Valley Sept. 2-5 (SC) were in lowland localities away from the species' normal range. Two Dippers seen along adjacent creeks flowing down the e. side of the mountains of n.e. San Diego County Nov. 27 (AM) had to be migrants since these creeks are dry much of the year. Winter Wrens were found at a number of desert localities in Inyo and San Bernardino counties during October and November, and pushed far S along the coast with 2-3 found near Imperial Beach after Oct. 10 (JD,EC). A Cactus Wren at Mesquite Springs Nov. 21 (GSS) was n. of the species normal range. A Brown Thrasher, a regular vagrant to California, was in Kelso Oct. 22-23 (JD,VR,SC) and another was at Mesquite Springs Oct. 29-30 (H&PB,PL). Varied Thrushes were more numerous than usual, being found throughout the desert oases of Inyo and San Bernardino counties, and along the coast s. to San Diego from late October through November.

**KINGLETS, PIPITS, SHRIKES, VIREOS** — Once more Golden-crowned Kinglets moved into s. California, with about ten around San Diego Oct. 16 – Nov. 30+ (PH) and one near Westmorland Oct. 22 (DDe) being the southernmost reported. A **Red-throated Pipit**, a casual straggler from e. Siberia, was in Carson Oct. 20-21 (JAJ,KG) and another was near Imperial Beach Oct. 13-15 (EC,PU). A **Sprague's Pipit**, an



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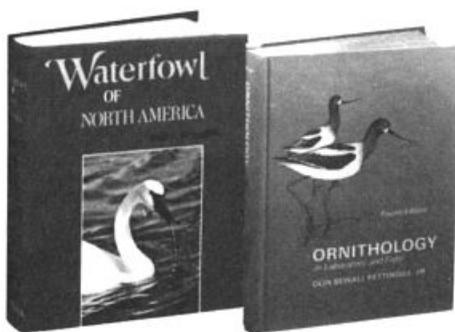
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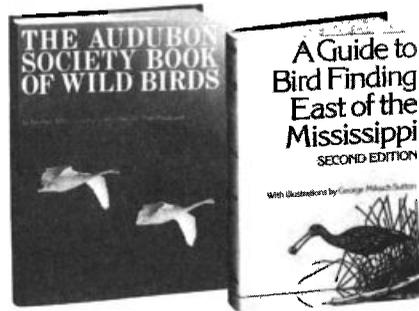
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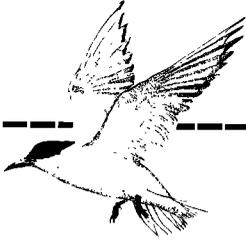
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extremely rare vagrant to California, was seen near Imperial Beach Nov. 22 (EC,GMcC). A flight of N. Shrikes brought some well into s. California with 3-4



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individuals in the n.e. corner of the Region Oct. 29 - Nov. 30+ (DDi,LCB,TH), one at F.C.R., Oct. 30 (EC,PL), one in the Cuyama Valley of e. San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 11 (KVanV) and another in the Lucerne Valley of San Bernardino Co., Nov. 27 (PVanE).

A Bell's Vireo in Morongo Valley Oct. 19 (SC,DM) was quite late. A **Yellow-green Vireo**, a vagrant from the south, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 15-19 (DDe,JA). Four Red-eyed Vireos were found in the e. part of the Region during early September with one at Oasis Sept 4 (PL,DDi), one in Death Valley Sept. 4 (JD,KG) another at F.C.R., Sept. 2 (DR,PL) and the fourth in Blythe Sept. 7-10 (IA). A Philadelphia Vireo, very rare in California, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 15 (SC,DM) and another was in Kelso Oct. 23 (JD,VR).

**WARBLERS** — A total of 26 Black-and-white Warblers was reported with most occurring Sept. 10 - Oct. 28. Unexpected was the appearance of three **Prothonotary Warblers**, with one at Oasis Aug. 17-18 (TH), another at Stovepipe Wells Oct. 29 - Nov. 5 (JD,CH,GSS) and the third near Malibu Oct. 12 (KG) A **Worm-eating Warbler**, also exceedingly rare in California, was in Santa Barbara Sept. 30 - Oct. 3 (RW,LBe) and another was on Pt. Loma Oct. 15-26 (JRJ,PU). Tennessee Warblers were about as numerous as usual, with some 30 reported Sept. 4 - Nov. 19, and all but six being from along the coast Eighteen Virginia's Warblers were found along the coast Sept. 10-28. Lucy's Warblers are extremely rare stragglers to the coast, so one on Santa Cruz I., Nov. 14 (JA,BD), another in Goleta Sept. 7 (BS) and a third near Imperial Beach Oct. 7 (JK) were of interest Northern Parulas are very rare in fall, so six was more than expected with one at Panamint Springs Oct. 11 (LBa), one near Needles Sept. 7 (CL), one in Goleta Sept. 22 (PL,BS) and three around San Diego Sept. 26 - Oct. 15 (WTE,CGE). Seven Magnolia Warblers were found with three in the n.e. portion of the Region Sept. 24 - Oct. 23 (JD,TH), one at Morro Bay Nov. 12 (EAC), another on Pt. Fermin Oct. 22 (JM) and single individuals near Imperial Beach Sept. 11 (RSt) & Oct. 14-17 (EC). A Cape May Warbler was at Oasis Sept. 4 (LBe), another at Mesquite Springs Nov. 19 (JD), a third at F.C.R., Oct. 29-30 (RW) and two more on Pt. Loma Oct. 23 (PU,EC); this species appears to be more common in California today than 10 years ago.

As usual a few Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen during October and November, with single birds in Kelso Oct. 23 (JD) & Nov. 6-7 (DM,EC), one in Redlands Oct. 24-26 (BGP), another at Morro Bay Nov. 1 (FRT) and three individuals around San Diego Oct. 2 - Nov. 6 (JB,SC,PU). Seven Black-throated Green Warblers, a regular vagrant to California, were found Oct. 15 - Nov. 8 with four in the n.e. corner of the Region and the other three along the coast. Six Blackburnian Warblers were reported, with one at Oasis Oct. 15-30 (TH), another in Sunnymead Oct. 27 (DM), one at Agua Caliente Hot Springs Oct. 10 (JK), one on Santa Cruz I., Nov. 11 (JA,BD) and three around San Diego Sept. 11-27 (RSt,VR,JK). Totally unexpected was a **Grace's Warbler** near Imperial Beach Sept. 20-22 (RCS,PU) and another there Sept.



*Black-throated Blue Warbler, Redlands, Calif., Oct. 29, 1977. Photo by Brian G. Prescott.*

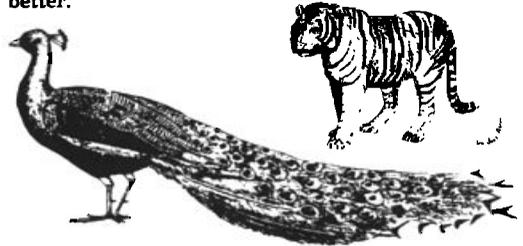
24-25 (BB,EC); there are only two previous records for the coast. Eleven Chestnut-sided Warblers Sept. 9 - Oct. 30 was about average. Five Bay-breasted Warblers were found, with one at Stovepipe Wells Oct. 29-30 (JD), one in Goleta Oct. 21-27 (PL,LBe), one in Long Beach Sept. 22 (BD) and single individuals on Pt. Loma Oct. 23 (PU) & Nov. 16 (CGE). About 40 Blackpoll Warblers were seen Sept. 3 - Oct. 19 with all but two at Oasis Sept. 24-25 (JD,TH), one at F.C.R., Sept. 3 (SC) and another at Agua Caliente Hot Springs Oct. 4 (RC) being along the coast. A Prairie Warbler was at Oasis Oct. 15-16 (TH) another was near S.E.S.S., Oct. 24 - Nov. 2 (BED) and a third was near Imperial Beach Aug. 16-17 (EC); records from inland localities are few indeed. A total of 36 Palm Warblers was found along the coast Sept. 6 - Nov. 30+. Eight Ovenbirds were reported, with three in the n.e. corner of the Region Oct. 23-30 (GSS,EC,DDi), one near Pt. Mugu Sept. 30 (LJ), two at Agua Caliente Hot Springs Oct. 4 (RC) and single individuals near Imperial Beach Sept. 18-23 (EC) and Oct. 9-10 (EC). Only seven N. Waterthrushes were reported. A Hooded Warbler, rare in California, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 24-26 (JB,EC) and another was near Ft. Piute Oct. 22 (SC,JD). The only Canada Warblers found were two near Imperial Beach Sept. 11-13 (RSt,EC) and a third there Sept. 21 (EC). More than 60 Am. Redstarts were reported Sept. 3 - Nov. 30+. Two Painted Redstarts were found along the coast with one near Pt. Mugu Oct. 13 (GSS) and the other on Pt. Loma Sept. 11 (BS).

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — Bobolinks were scarcer than normal with only three in Goleta Sept. 15-22 (PL), one at Malibu Sept. 8 (GSS) and ten around San Diego Sept. 11 - Oct. 8 (PU); however, one near N.E.S.S., Oct. 28 (PS) was at an unusual locality. Only three Orchard Orioles were reported, with one at Oasis Sept. 4 (DR), another at F.C.R., Oct. 30 (EC) and the third in Goleta Sept. 12 (BS). As usual a few "Baltimore" Orioles appeared, with one in Barstow Sept. 17 (SC,DM), three in Goleta Aug. 22 - Nov. 13 (PL,LBe) and four around San Diego Sept. 25 - Oct. 15. (JD,EC,JK). An imm. ♂ **Scarlet-headed Oriole**, a rare straggler from n.w. Mexico, was at F.C.R., Nov. 6 - Nov. 30+ (JD,LcB). As usual a few Rusty Black-

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birds were found with six at F.C.R., Oct. 29 – Nov. 19 (PU,KG,JD), one in Baker Nov. 7 (LBe), one in Long Beach Nov. 9-11 (JM) and two on Santa Cruz I., Nov. 14 (JA,BD). A ♂ Great-tailed Grackle at F.C.R., Sept. 3 – Nov. 6 (EC) and a female in Baker Sept. 1 (SC) were both far n.

Three Scarlet Tanagers, casual stragglers to California, were found, with one in Goleta Sept. 14-19 (PL,LBe), another near Malibu Nov. 20 (KG) and the third on Pt. Loma Oct. 17-19 (EC,JA). A ♂ Hepatic Tanager in Morongo Valley Oct. 1 (GSS) was a vagrant away from any known breeding locality. Three Summer Tanagers were seen in the n.e. portion of the Region Sept. 3 – Oct. 30 (JD), one was at Frazer Park, Kern Co., Oct. 24 (JAJ) and nearly 20 were found along the coast Aug. 22 – Nov. 30+.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were relatively numerous with 23 individuals reported. A Blue Grosbeak on Santa Barbara I., Oct. 22 (KG) was late. Only nine Indigo Buntings were reported, with three in the n.e. corner of the Region, five around Goleta and one near San Diego. A ♂ **Varied Bunting** at Mesquite Springs Nov. 18-21 (DDi,DR,GSS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) represented the second documented record for California. A ♂ Painted Bunting, very rare in California, was at

Vallecitos in e. San Diego Co., Oct. 4 (RC). The only Dickcissels found were one in Goleta Sept. 15-17 (LBe,PL), one near Imperial Beach Oct. 12 (DP) and a third on Pt. Loma Oct. 28-29 (CGE). A minor influx of Evening Grosbeaks brought small numbers into s California with one at Rancho Santa Fe Nov. 4-18 (PU) being the southernmost. Single Lawrence's Goldfinches at F.C.R., Oct. 21 (EC) & 24 (JD), one in Kelso Oct. 24 (VR,LiH) and another in Daggett Oct. 29 (SC) were all in an area from which few of these birds have been recorded. A Lark Bunting in Joshua Tree Nat'l Mon., Sept. 5 (SC,DM) and another at Deep Springs Nov. 25-26 (LCB,PL) were the only two reported. A Large-billed Sparrow (*L.s.rostratus*) near Imperial Beach Nov. 11 (JD) was the first to be reported on the Pacific coast in many years, although it does occur regularly at S.E.S.S. A Black-throated Sparrow, scarce on the coast, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 8 (GMcC). Five Gray-headed Juncos were found Oct. 20 – Nov. 30+. Five different Tree Sparrows were seen at F.C.R., Oct. 30-Nov. 26 (GMcC,DDi,LCB); this species is regular in this area of California at this time of the year. Eight Clay-colored Sparrows were found along the coast Sept. 10-Nov. 30+ (CGE,EC,PL,KG,AC) and another was at F.C.R., Oct. 9 (TH). A Black-chinned Sparrow in La Jolla Canyon of the Santa Monica Mts., Nov. 20 (KG) was exceptionally late and may be wintering. About ten Harris' Sparrows were found in the Death Valley area Oct. 29 – Nov. 26. A bird well-studied at F.C.R., Nov. 5-6 (JD,AS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) appeared to be a Harris' Sparrow x White-crowned Sparrow. White-throated Sparrows were relatively scarce with only eight individuals reported Oct. 28 – Nov. 30+ Six Swamp Sparrows were seen at F.C.R., Oct. 21-Dec. 6 (EC,DR,LJ), one was in Riverside Nov. 19-20 (EAC,SC), another was in Goleta Oct. 27-28 (PL) and one more was near Imperial Beach Nov. 26 (VR).

Two McCown's Longspurs were in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino Co., Oct. 22-23 (JD,VR,SC), one was near Lakeview Nov. 15-20 (DM,JD), another was in Carson Oct. 21 (KG) and single individuals were seen near Imperial Beach Nov. 12 (GMcC) & 14 (EC). Inland a Lapland Longspur was found at F.C.R., Nov. 27 (JD,PL), 1-4 were seen around Lakeview Nov. 15-25 (DM,SC) and another was at L. Henshaw Nov. 30 (DP); along the coast single birds were seen in Goleta Nov. 10 (PL) & 14-15



*Varied Bunting, Mesquite Springs, Death Valley, Calif. Nov. 19, 1977. Photo/ Arnold Small.*

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*White-crowned x Harris' Sparrow. Death Valley, Calif., Nov. 12, 1977. Photo/ Arnold Small.*

(LBe), one was at Pt. Mugu Nov. 13 (LBa), another was in Carson Oct. 15-17 (JAJ) and 3-4 were around Imperial Beach Nov. 10-17 (GMCC,EC). As usual Chestnut-collared was the most numerous longspur with individuals scattered throughout the Region along with small flocks such as 15 in the Antelope Valley Oct. 28 (JD), 20 at Daggett Nov. 27 (SC), 35 near Baldwin L., Nov. 25 (KG) and 20 at L. Henshaw Nov. 13 (PU).

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Jon Atwood, Ione Arnold, Stephen F. Bailey, Larry Ballard (LBA), Jonathan Berman, Chuck Bernstein, Louis Bevier (LBe), Laurence C. Binford, Peter Bloom, Richard C. Bradley, Hank and Priscilla Brodtkin (H&PB), Bruce Broadbooks, John Burns (JBur), John Butler (JBut), Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Harvey Chambers, Larry Clark, Dan Cohen, Armand Cohen, Robert Copper, Elizabeth Copper, Brian Daniels, Dale Delaney (DDe), Bruce E. Deuel, Donna Dittman (DDi), Jon Dunn, Bruce Edinger, Claude G. Edwards, Dick Erickson, William T. Everett, Alice Fries, David Gaines, Kimball Garrett, Gilbert S. Grant, Linda Hale (LiH), Roger D. Harris, Lew Hastings (LeH), Fred Heath, Tom Heindel, Alton E. Higgins, Craig Hohenberger, Gerrie Human, Joseph R. Jehl, Jerome A.

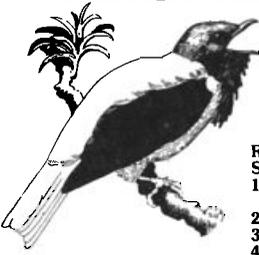
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## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION /Robert L. Pyle and C. John Ralph

Fall is the exciting season for birding in Hawaii. Arriving waterbird migrants add variety to bird populations which otherwise change little in composition during the year. Rarities and accidentals are the spice of each year's influx, and 1977 had its share. The long drought continued through the fall. Honolulu, with only one-seventh of its normal rainfall this season, now has had below-normal rain in 31 of the past 36 months. The higher mountains have had enough rain to sustain normal forest conditions, but the lowlands and drier slopes have suffered. Fortunately, most of the critical freshwater areas are more sensitive to irrigation and pumping practices than to climatic conditions, and have been maintained fairly well this fall.

**GREBES THROUGH HERONS** — A Pied-billed Grebe was found on Kauai (hereafter, K.) for the third year in a row, this time at Lihue Plantation settling basin (TT). Black-footed Albatrosses returned to Midway Atoll (hereafter, M.A.) during the week of Oct. 16, and Laysan Albatrosses had returned by Oct. 30 (NB-C). By Nov. 19, the majority of Black-footeds

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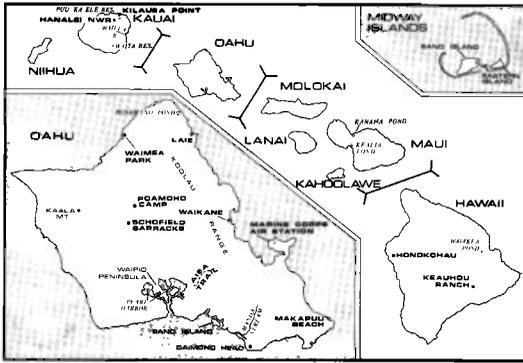
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chain, with one on Laysan I., in mid-July, and another on Tern I., French Frigate Shoals Oct. 20 (BG).

**GEESE THROUGH OSPREY** — One Brant (Black), a scarce straggler to Hawaii, was observed well at Kealia Pond, Maui (hereafter, M.) Nov. 9 (RAC,GVB). The endangered Hawaiian Duck has been seen more regularly at Waipio, O., this fall with a high count of 13 on Sept. 24 (CJR,CPR). Several scarcer ducks were also found during November at Waipio. These included a pair of Mallards, a pair of Gadwalls, usually 1-5 Green-winged Teal, two Blue-winged Teal, and six scaup (m.ob.). Green-winged Teal counts of 15 on Nov. 13 and 33 Nov. 27 at Waipio were unprecedented (RLP,WMO).

had laid eggs, and the Laysans were beginning to lay. A Short-tailed Albatross was seen the first week of November on Sand I., M.A. (NB-C), possibly the same banded individual that has returned there in several recent winters. Nesting Newell (Manx) Shearwaters on K., each fall land on lawns and highways on nocturnal flights from the mountains to the sea. Several hundred were found this fall; many were returned to the wild, but as many as 100 were killed by automobiles (GVB,TT). A Little Blue Heron in full ad. plumage was found at Waipio, Oahu (hereafter, O.) Sept. 21 (DS), in the same place where one was seen almost exactly one year earlier. Cattle Egrets, introduced in 1959, have increased and spread widely on the main islands. This fall they reached the leeward

—S.A.—

A small *Buteo*, identified as a dark phase of the endangered **Hawaiian Hawk**, or Io, was seen soaring over the Pearl City Unit of the Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O., Sept. 28 (RAC,GVB,DB). A full description of the bird was published in *The Elepaio* (38(6):67). The Hawaiian Hawk is native only to the island of Hawaii (hereafter, H.), with no confirmed records from any other island. Additionally, no mainland *Buteos* have ever been recorded on the Hawaiian Islands. What makes this Oahu report intriguing is that it occurred shortly after Kilauea Volcano on H., began a new phase of continuous strong activity. At this time, the normal easterly trade winds had been replaced by generally light winds from the south. This brought volcanic dust (and perhaps a hawk disturbed from its territory) to O., some 380 km to the northwest (RLP).



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An Osprey carrying a fish off Kailua, O., flying toward Nuupia Pond Aug. 20 (PP), and another at the pond Oct. 1 (BB), were both perhaps the same bird photographed there last May. Another was at Kanaha Pond, M., Nov. 28 (CK).

**GALLINULES THROUGH TERNS** — A Hawaiian (Com.) Gallinule, an endangered subspecies, was found at Waipio, O., Sept. 18, and is the first to be reported there in recent years (CJR). Bristle-thighed Curlews were recorded in unusually high numbers. They were seen regularly near Kii Pond, O., from September through the end of November. High counts were nine on Sept. 9 (RE), and seven on Oct. 2 (WMO,RLP). Single Bristle-thigheds were also at Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Sept. 11 (RLP,DS *et al.*), and at Hauola, Lanai, Sept. 10 (PC). On M.A., Bristle-thigheds were fairly common, with as many as 12 seen together on the abandoned runway (NB-C). Two **Whimbrels** were identified at Kii Pond, O., Sept. 25, for one of the first records from the main islands (WMO,DS,CJR,CPR *et al.*). A **Red Knot**, representing the fifth record for the state, and the first since 1968, was studied at leisure at Waipio, O., Nov. 20, 24 & 27 (WMO,RLP). Sharp-

tailed Sandpipers had an excellent flight this fall, more being recorded than in the previous 10 years combined. At Waipio, O., counts built up from two on Sept. 18 to an unprecedented 33 Oct. 15 (CJR,CPR), with six still present Nov. 27. At Kealia Pond, M., 23 were found Oct. 19 (RAC,RLP) and 17 on Nov. 7 (CK). Smaller numbers were seen on almost every waterbird spot in the state. A W. Sandpiper was observed at Waipio, O., Nov. 24 (WMO). Perhaps the prize find of the season was the **Ruff** in winter plumage found at Waipio, O., Sept. 18 (CPR,CJR). Several observers saw it through Sept. 25, when it was photographed (OB). This made the third state record. One Wilson's Phalarope was studied carefully and photographed at Waipio Aug. 30 (OB), and two were there Sept. 4 (WMO,RLP,DS). One and possibly two imm. Least Terns were at Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Sept. 11 (H.A.S.), and one at Kealia Pond, M., Oct. 18-19 (RAC,RLP). A Bonaparte's Gull was seen on Kealia Nov. 28, for one of the few state records (CK). The much-sought-after White Tern was seen through early fall at Kapiolani Pk., O., with high counts of five Aug. 28 (OB,RLP) and at least eight Sept. 23 (CPR,CJR).

**HONEYCREEPERS THROUGH FINCHES** — Twenty Palila and one Akiapolaau were at Puu Laau, H., Sept. 12 (RE). On Oct. 1 at 4800 ft, five Akiapolaau were in the Olaa Tract, H., just off Stainback Highway (CJR,CPR). This is one of the lowest altitudes registered for this endangered species, and is also in an area easily accessible to the public. In early November 15 Red-eared Waxbills were near Kahuku, O., over 30 mi from their normal range on Diamond Head and close to where several were seen during the last two winters (RAC,TAB,DW). At Kawela Bay, 3 mi away, a Yellow-fronted Canary, also normally only found at Diamond Head, turned up at a feeder Nov. 26 (RAC). These birds may have found their own way, or they might be releases or escapees. In either case, the monitoring of these and other introduced finches, heretofore confined to a small range on Diamond Head, will be an important challenge of the coming decade. The introduced **Yellow-faced Grassquit** was first reported in the state in 1974 but not resighted until two were found Aug. 4 on Halawa Ridge, O. (RJS). About 6 mi away, on Oct. 29, a flock of at least 40 was found on a recently-burned area on Manana Ridge, above Pacific Palisades (JW), very near the location of the 1974 sightings. Just how large an area in the Oahu mountains the species may occupy is open to conjecture.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Bill Bigler, Demi Black, Timothy A. Burr, Omer Bussen, Nancy Butowski-Casey, G. Vernon Byrd, Richard A. Coleman, Peter Connally, Richard Erickson, Brent Giezentanner, Cameron Kepler, W. Michael Ord, Peter Pyle, Carol Pearson Ralph, Robert J. Shallenberger, Hawaii Audubon Society, Dan Snider, Tom Telfer, John Walters, David Woodside. — **ROBERT L. PYLE, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734 and C. JOHN RALPH, U.S. Forest Service, Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, 1151 Punchbowl St., Honolulu, HI 96813.**

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Linnaean Society of New York, as part of its Centennial celebration, will host the Second Annual Meeting of the Colonial Waterbird Group at the American Museum of Natural History in New York Oct. 21 - 23, 1978. A symposium of invited papers on "Factors Affecting Productivity in Colonial Species" is scheduled for Oct. 21 and the morning of Oct. 22. Submitted papers will be given on the afternoon of Oct. 22 and the morning of Oct. 23. A workshop session the afternoon of the 23rd will conclude the meeting. Please send for information on contributed papers, abstracts for which must be received by August 1, 1978, to Dr. P. A. Buckley, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service, 15 State Street, Boston, MA 02109. For registration information, contact Helen Hays, Dep. of Ornithology, Am. Museum of Natural History, CPW at 79th St., New York, NY 10024.



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