

# The Autumn Migration

## August 1 – November 30, 1981

### Abbreviations frequently used in Regional Reports

ad.: adult, Am.: American, c.: central, C: Celsius, CBC: Christmas Bird Count, Cr.: Creek, Com: Common, Co.: County, Cos.: Counties, *et al.*: and others, E.: Eastern (bird name), Eur.: European, Eurasian, F: Fahrenheit, *fide*: reported by, F.& W.S.: Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft.: Fort, imm.: immature, I.: Island, Is.: Islands, Isles, Jct.: Junction, juv.: juvenile, L.: Lake, m.ob.: many observers, Mt.: Mountain, Mts.: Mountains, N.F.: National Forest, N.M.: National Monument, N.P.: National Park, N.W.R.: Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, N.: Northern (bird name), Par.: Parish, Pen.: Peninsula, P.P.: Provincial Park, Pt.: Point, not Port, Ref.: Refuge, Res.:

Reservoir, not Reservation, R.: River, S.P.: State Park, sp.: species, spp.: species plural, ssp: subspecies, Twp.: Township, W.: Western (bird name), W.M.A.: Wildlife Management Area, v.o.: various observers, N,S,W,E,,: direction of motion, n., s., w., e.,: direction of location, >: more than, <: fewer than, ±: approximately, or estimated number, ♂: male, ♀: female, ∅: imm. or female, \*: specimen, ph.: photographed, †: documented, ft: feet, mi: miles, m: meters, km: kilometers, date with a + (*e.g.*, Mar. 4+): recorded beyond that date. Editors may also abbreviate often-cited locations or organizations.

### NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

The weather this fall varied considerably. August was warm and dry throughout much of the southern part of the Region and as a result the passerine migration was not particularly heavy. A series of cold fronts in late September and early October produced a classic series of large migrant waves. Banding data from Block Island registered migratory peaks September 2, 5, 21, 26, 29 and October 4-5, 7-11. In South Peabody, Massachusetts, one observer noted 850 thrushes, 500 Bobolinks and 400 warblers passing overhead on the night of September 3-4. On October 3-4, Block Island birders recorded one of the most massive fall-outs in recent years: 300 Common Flickers, 50 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 65 White-breasted Nuthatches, 1200 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 365 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 300 Cape May Warblers, 50 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 600 Yellow-rumped Warblers and 75 Scarlet Tanagers.

The following list of birds banded on Block Island is a comparison of selected species that showed an increase this fall:

	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977
Brown Creeper	100	24	50	12	20
Red-breasted Nuthatch	71	34	3	0	28
Swainson's Thrush	41	12	24	23	25
Red-eyed Vireo	75	65	78	37	43
Black-throated Blue Warbler	64	26	10	12	10
Common Yellowthroat	35	15	46	28	23
American Redstart	40	20	27	25	11
Scarlet Tanager	31	0	4	2	11

The latter part of October was generally cold and blustery with diminished migrant activity. November temperatures were slightly above average.

The migration was characterized by a general paucity of more-or-less regular western species. Baird's Sandpipers, Western Sandpipers, Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Marbled Godwits were all notably scarce. Similarly, routine western "strays" such as Western Kingbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Dickcissel, Lark Sparrow and Clay-colored Sparrow were universally recorded in diminished numbers as compared with the previous few autumns.

**LOONS, GREBES** — The only reports of significant numbers of migrant loons included 50 Red-throated Loons off Pt. Judith, R.I., Oct. 25 (RLF, *fide* DLE) and another 75 Red-throateds off Orleans, Mass., Nov. 11 (*fide* RPE). It is unfortunate that so little effort has been made to monitor the e. coast migrations of this important family.



A Red-necked Grebe off Monomoy Aug. 12 was either a locally summering bird or an astonishingly early migrant (PT, *fide* BN). Two Red-necked Grebes were unusual inland occurrences at Stockbridge, Mass., Oct. 25 (RLF, *fide* BH). Maine's familiar W. Grebe appeared about 0.5 m s. of Reid S.P., at Indian Pt., Nov. 14+ (CH *et al.*). For the first time the bird was observed and photographically documented as a dark-phase morph. No doubt an easier field character than the feathering about the eye is bill color, which is dull greenish-yellow in dark morphs and a brighter pinkish-yellow in light morphs. Interestingly, this Maine bird has been present for at least 4 of the last 5 winters.

**TUBENOSES** — Northern Fulmars were not numerous off New England waters, only seven were reported off Tuckernuck I., Mass., Oct. 18 and 20 were noted at Stellwagen Bank, Mass., Oct. 25 (*fide* RPE). Farther n., B. MacTavish observed 12,000 ± fulmars passing L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., on the third day of a NE storm Oct. 19. On the same date an observer on the short ferry crossing between Grand Manan and Black's Harbour, N.B., recorded 550+ N. Fulmars, 700 Greater, three Sooty, and two Cory's shearwaters, the latter species provided one of few provincial occurrences (TS, *fide* CH). Cory's Shearwaters were again noted in considerable numbers

s of Cape Cod 2200 off Tuckernuck I., Oct. 18 (*vide* RPE) Just n of the Cape on Stellwagen Bank 75 ± Cory's/day through August was fewer than in recent years (*vide* BN). In contrast to the 2 previous summers, only three Cory's were reported from the Bluenose Sept. 2 (DWF *et al.*). Considering the above, a single Cory's was unusual 25 ± mi s.w. of Yarmouth, N.S., Aug. 1 (RD, *vide* RGG) and another Cory's Shearwater off the Blanc Sablon, Quebec ferry Aug. 8 was of considerable note (DM *et al.*). A last Cory's off Cape Ann, Mass., Nov. 26 was impressively late anywhere n. of Cape Cod (HHA *et al.*).

The highlight of the seabird season must have been the vast numbers of Greater Shearwaters concentrated off the e. shore of Cape Cod. Apparently feeding on huge schools of sand lance, shearwater numbers peaked in mid-October and continued well into November.

A single Sooty Shearwater was late off Rockport, Mass., Nov. 14 (RSH) Up to 50 Manx Shearwaters/day were recorded on Stellwagen Bank in August (BN *et al.*). Six Manx Shearwaters seen from the St. John, N.B.-Digby, N.S. ferry Nov. 12 were surprisingly late (RJ).

#### Greater Shearwaters off Cape Cod

Stellwagen Bank	18,000	Oct. 18
Stellwagen Bank	10,000	Oct. 25
East Orleans	10,000	Nov. 8
North Beach	10,000	Nov. 11
Chatham	5000	Nov. 28

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — White Pelicans appeared this fall near Merigonish, Pictou Co., N.S., Aug. 21 (*vide* RGG) and at Wallace Bay N.W.A., N.B., Sept. 9-12 (*vide* SIT). Not previously reported was another White Pelican at Plum I., Mass., June 7-15 (*vide* RAF) A Great Cormorant at Barnstable, Mass., Aug. 27 (*vide* RHS) was somewhat early for the Cape Cod area although the first migrants have typically appeared off the Maine and New Brunswick coasts by that time of year.

Little Blue Herons increased along the s. Maine-New Hampshire coast 8-12 Little Blues were observed at Scarborough Marsh, Me., Aug. 16 (DJA, PDV *et al.*) where 4-5 nesting pairs were reported from a nearby Casco Bay herony. Four Little Blues were found along the New Hampshire coast Aug. 25 (RAQ, *vide* KCE) and two occurred in Nova Scotia (*vide* IAMcL). Some 20 Snowy Egrets at Weskeag Marsh, Thomaston, Me., Aug. 11 included several juv. birds that were quite surely fledged at a local herony (PDV). Adults have been regular summer residents for the past several years. The presence of young egrets indicates a modest range extension E from the Casco Bay-Small Pt. region. Six Louisiana Herons at Scarborough Marsh, Me., Aug. 16 probably indicates an increase in the local breeding population for this species as well (DJA, PDV *et al.*). Extralimital herons included: two Greats in Nova Scotia (*vide* IAMcL), two ad. Yellow-crowned Night Herons in New Hampshire (*vide* KCE), two Yellow-crowned in Nova Scotia and in the same province as many as five Cattle Egrets (*vide* IAMcL). No fewer than five Glossy Ibises were found at Wallace Bay N.W.A., N.B., Oct. 1 (SIT) A White Ibis in Truro, Mass., Oct. 9 provided the first state record in several years (JY, *vide* RAF).

The Scarlet Ibis situation in Nova Scotia (AB 35: 920) took on added dimensions through the course of the summer. The original individual was found at Three-Fathom Harbour from late May to early August. Another Scarlet Ibis was located in Shelburne Harbour Aug. 9. Next, a banded Scarlet Ibis appeared at Collinscroft, near Barrington Aug. 23-26. Finally, a last individual showed up at Cranberry Head, Yarmouth Co., Sept. 5 (v.o., *vide* IAMcL). It seems likely that these birds (or bird) escaped or were released within or close to Nova Scotia.

WATERFOWL — Eleven Whistling Swans occurred in Holyoke, Mass., Nov. 11 (*vide* SK), a single bird was reported from Barrington, R.I., Nov. 27 (*vide* DVT, DLE) and three were noted in Westport, Mass., in November (*vide* RPE). A Greater White-fronted Goose was shot at Desable, P.E.I., Nov. 24 for what is believed to be a first provincial record (*vide* GH). Some 35 Brant were unusual at 3 w. Massachusetts localities Oct. 1-26 (v.o., *vide* SK). The Snow Goose flight was larger than usual in s.w. Connecticut in late October-early November (*vide* TB), while in Rhode Island, 50 birds was an above-average fall total (*vide* DLE).

A Gadwall at Exeter, N.H., Sept. 20 (DJA *et al.*, *vide* KCE)

furnished an unusual state occurrence Three Eur. Wigeon in Rhode Island were about average (*vide* DLE). It has always seemed extremely interesting that Eur. Wigeon are quite regular in small numbers from Massachusetts s. but that they are almost unknown farther n. and e., excepting Amherst Pt., N.S. Again this fall, Amherst Pt. possessed its typical four Gadwall, shovellers with young, two Redheads and Ruddy Ducks (CD, *vide* CRKA). Two Canvasbacks near Sydney, N.S., remained in the area May 2-Aug. 8 (*vide* CRKA). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was locally rare at Gill, Mass., Nov. 10 (MF, *vide* SK). Three Harlequin Ducks were found at Sachuest Pt., R.I., Nov. 5 (RG, *vide* DLE) while another eight were present at 4 e. Massachusetts localities by early November (*vide* RPE). Some 50,000 Com. Eiders off Chatham Nov. 28 (WH, *vide* BN) indicated that this species suffered no irremedial losses from the previous winter's heavy ice build-up. Twelve King Eiders in e. Massachusetts was a total decidedly above average (*vide* RPE).

VULTURES, DIURNAL RAPTORS — A Black Vulture photographed at Truro, Mass., Sept. 30 supplied one of a steadily increasing number of state sightings (*vide* BN). More unusual was a Black Vulture at Cape Wolfe, P.E.I., Nov. 22 (GH *et al.*, ph.), a first provincial record.

Limited space permits only the briefest glimpse at the enormous quantity of information gathered by this year's fall hawkwatch. Of particular interest were 1000 ± Sharp-shinned Hawks over Wellfleet, Mass., Sept. 20 flying N up the Cape (RAF, *vide* BN). By most accounts the main Broad-winged flight passed through New England Sept. 17. A Rough-legged Hawk over Mt. Wachusett, Mass., Sept. 10 was very early indeed (PR, *vide* RHS). Eight Golden Eagles were recorded in New England. Fall Gyrfalcons included a dark brown individual at Fort Lawrence, N.S., Nov. 25 (SIT), a bird of unstated color at Nauset Beach, Mass., Nov. 27 (WB, WH, *vide* BN) and farther n.e. at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, MacTavish reported six Gyrfalcons Oct. 27-Nov. 30 which was a better than average fall count (BMacT). Most observers considered this an excellent fall for Peregrine Falcons. Those impressions were mirrored by this observer, who saw more than 30 Peregrines—including 14 in one day on Monhegan I., Sept. 26 (VL, PDV *et al.*). Curiously, the Peregrine total came to 146 individuals (cf. 138, 228 + , 80-90, 149), which probably does not accurately reflect the fall flight. Information lacking from several coastal hawkwatches may account for some of the discrepancy.

CRANES, GALLINULES — In Nova Scotia, single Sandhill Cranes were seen at Seaforth July 24 and at Grand Pre Aug. 30-31 (v.o., *vide* IAMcL). In Massachusetts an ad. Purple Gallinule at Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord Sept. 17 may well have been the same individual present at the same locality last year (*vide* RAF).

SHOREBIRDS — American Oystercatchers on Monomoy reached a maximum of 34 individuals (*vide* GG). American Golden Plovers were scarcer than usual, perhaps the repeated cold fronts in September had something to do with this. Late individuals occurred at Beals I., Me., Nov. 5 (NF, *vide* MKL) and at Economy, N.S., Nov. 10-11 (FS, SIT *et al.*). Whimbrels were recorded in large numbers again this fall.

#### Fall Whimbrels—1981

Machias Seal I., N.B.	175	July 24
Machias Bay, Me.	35	late July-early Aug
Mason's Bay, Me.	40	late July-early Aug
Pine Pt., Me.	50 +	Aug. 2
Wellfleet Bay W.S., Mass.	51	Aug. 4
Lingan, N.S.	100 +	Sept. 1
Monomoy, Mass.	65	Sept. 7

Red Knots numbered 2800 ± individuals at their traditional concentration near Scituate, Mass., Aug. 3 (WRP, *vide* GG). Baird's Sandpipers experienced a poor migration with only 24 individuals recorded, the most notable of which was found at L'Anse-aux-Meadows on the late dates of Oct. 25-28 (BMacT). Also at L'Anse-aux-Meadows Oct. 25 was a W. Sandpiper, which furnished one of few unambiguous provincial records (BMacT). A W. Sandpiper at Cape Ann Nov. 27 (HHA) was notably tardy. A maximum count of 75 Long-billed Dowitchers was registered at Newburyport Sept. 25 (RSH) while a single Long-billed was decidedly uncommon at Crescent Beach, N.S., Oct. 25 (*vide* ELM). Fall Marbled Godwits were

few indeed, a single bird was uncommon at Trustom Pond, R I, Sept 9 (RAC, *vide* DLE). Hudsonian Godwits on Monomoy peaked at 95 birds in August (BN) while in Maine 37 individuals constituted a high count for the state (PDV). A seasonal total of six Hudsonian Godwits at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, indicated that the species is not as rare in the province as previously supposed (BMacT). Single Ruffs were found in Guilford, Conn., Sept. 5 (NSP) and on Campobello I., N.B., Sept. 21 (NF, *vide* MKL). For some reason N. Phalaropes never concentrated in very large numbers in the Deer I.-Campobello I.-Eastport area.

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER** — In Massachusetts, daily counts of Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers on Stellwagen Bank in late September averaged eight and 45 individuals respectively (*vide* BN). As usual, some of the most interesting Stercorariidae information came from L'Anse-aux-Meadows, one of the closest land points from which to observe migrant jaegers leaving arctic Canada. MacTavish saw 550 ± jaegers with a ratio of 3 Pomarine: 2 Parasitic. Contrary to previous autumns, he noted only four Long-tailed Jaegers—far fewer than usual—which was attributed to the lack of strong E winds. An imm. Parasitic Jaeger off Branford, Conn., Aug. 16 furnished one of few state records (NSP). Four skuas, presumably all Great Skuas, were reported: one on the Blanc Sablon, Quebec ferry July 27 (*vide* MG), two on the Bluenose ferry Sept. 19 (MKL *et al.*), one off Provincetown Oct. 18 (*vide* RPE).

For the second consecutive autumn, Lesser Black-backed Gulls appeared in sizable numbers, at least 19 individuals were reported which included: s. Connecticut (2), at least 13 (possibly 17) in Massachusetts (5 on Nantucket), Nova Scotia (2), Newfoundland (2). A first winter **Thayer's Gull** was closely examined at L'Anse-aux-Meadows Oct. 30 for what may be a first island record (BMacT). New England Black-headed Gulls numbered 19-22 individuals. Little Gulls totalled 15 birds. In November, Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared off Cape Cod in numbers comparable to the thousands of Greater Shearwaters present at the same time. Apparently the kittiwakes were also feeding on sand lance, the resource attracting the shearwaters. Some 18,000 kittiwakes were counted off Nauset Beach Oct. 31, 20,000 were observed off Orleans Nov. 11 and 10,000 were seen off Nantucket Nov. 26 (v.o., *vide* RPE, BN). Two Sabine's Gulls were observed on the Port-aux-Basques, Nfld.—N. Sydney, N.S. ferry Aug. 16 (DM *et al.*) while off e. Massachusetts single Sabine's Gulls were seen on Stellwagen Bank Aug. 30, Sept. 29-30 (BN *et al.*).

In Rhode Island, a **Gull-billed Tern** was unique at Napatree Pt., Oct. 10-11 (RLF *et al.*, *vide* DLE). For the first time in several years Forster's Terns did not experience a major flight into Massachusetts, although a single individual was noted n. to Hampton, N.H., Sept. 20 (DJA *et al.*, *vide* KCE) and two more were seen in Portland, Me., Sept. 27 (RE). Three juv. Arctic Terns were very late migrants off L'Anse-aux-Meadows Oct. 11 (BMacT). Post breeding Royal Terns were few indeed, only two were reported: one in Rhode Island and the other off Mt. Desert I., Me., Aug. 12 (*vide* WCT). New England Caspian Terns numbered 17 ± birds. In Maine, 3 imm. Black Skimmers at Wells Aug. 30 (HC, JF *et al.*) provided the first state occurrence in several years.

**ALCIDS** — It is becoming a familiar theme—the fall alcid flight off New England was again disconcertingly sparse. Four Dovekies off e. Massachusetts in late October were perhaps a bit early but, sadly, were not followed by any large numbers later on, only 16-20 birds were reported from the Massachusetts coast in November. Somewhat larger numbers occurred in Nova Scotia where 55 ± Dovekies were reported from 4 locations Oct. 19-Nov. 21 (v.o., *vide* RGBB). No doubt the most interesting alcid news came from the Machias Seal I. area where Com. Murres were confirmed nesting. Although sporadic summer visitants to Machias Seal I., for at least 10 years, nesting was confirmed in 1980 and again this summer. Common Murres breed in large numbers off Newfoundland and nest on Bonaventure I., the Magdalen I., and formerly, at least, on Bird I., off Nova Scotia. Breeding in the Bay of Fundy constitutes a major S shift in the species' breeding range.

**DOVES, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS** — This fall's **White-winged Doves** were found near Sambro, N.S., mid-September-Oct. 1 (*vide* IAMcL) and at Barnstable, Mass., Nov. 16 (RP, *vide* BN). A Hawk Owl was noted at T.N.N.P., Nfld., Nov. 2 (*vide* RB). Also in T.N.N.P., a Boreal Owl still retaining down feathers Aug. 20 was the first concrete evidence of local breeding (MB, GB, *vide* RB). Migrant

Saw-whet Owls were very much in evidence again this October Acadia University banders working on Bon Portage I., N.S. netted 41 birds the first weekend of October and 31 more Oct. 29-Nov. 2 (*vide* SIT). Additionally, the same group netted no fewer than eight Long-eared Owls. Apparently these birds are making lengthy over-water migrations and it is perhaps surprising that there are so few pelagic observations of migrant owls. However, the most unexpected visitor to Bon Portage I., was the province's fifth or sixth **Chuck-will's-widow** banded and photographed Nov. 1 (*vide* SIT).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — The fall was particularly notable for the impressive numbers of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers found on New England's coastal islands; 110 ± sapsuckers were carefully counted on Monhegan I., Sept. 26 (VL, PDV *et al.*) and 50 were noted on Block I., Oct. 3-4 (RAF *et al.*). Red-headed Woodpeckers wandered N in larger-than-average numbers: Rhode Island (5), Massachusetts (7 ±), Nova Scotia (3). At least 15 Red-headed Woodpeckers in Maine, including five on Monhegan I., Sept. 15 (HT), were without precedent (v.o., *vide* MKL, WCT). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was unusual in Williamstown, Mass., Oct. 10 (*vide* BH, ph.).

Only 25 W. Kingbird reports were fewer than in recent years (*cf* 37, 54, 47, 37). Again this fall, a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** appeared at precisely the same locality as one of last fall's birds, Chatham, Mass.—on precisely the same date, Sept. 22. The bird remained to Sept. 27 (PB, WB *et al.*, ph.). Despite careful search, no Willow Flycatchers were found at Indian Pt., N.S., the site of the province's first nesting pair in 1980. A very dark pewee sp. on Block I., Sept. 27 was closely scrutinized and strongly suggested W. Wood Pewee (*C. sordidulus*). The lower mandible was entirely dark, the back was grayish-brown lacking any greenish tint, the lower parts were extensively dark with only the belly and undertail coverts appearing paler. The description indicates a dark W. Wood Pewee beyond the range of variation of E. Wood Pewee. But without clear, unambiguous vocalizations, or, preferably, a specimen, the record is best regarded as *Contopus* sp. (JD, DWF *et al.*). An equally dark bird on Plum I., Mass., Sept. 24, 1980 (AB 35:159) should also be considered *Contopus* sp. Clearly, fall pewees deserve close study, especially their vocalizations.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Migrant Tree Swallows were reported in astonishing numbers in Rhode Island, 30,000 ± were observed at Sachuest Pt., Sept. 2 and an estimated 150,000 swallows at Galilee Sept. 7 must have been a spectacular concentration (*vide* DLE). Surprising numbers of Barn Swallows were reported across the Region in late October through November. Although the dates of occurrence do not suggest a single major reverse flight, there seems little question that even into late November these swallows can be carried N by S warm fronts.

Some 290 Purple Martins at E. Matunuck, R.I., Aug. 20 (RAC *et al.*, *vide* DLE) was an unusually large fall concentration. In New England, Blue Jays staged a large flight S in September: 1400 were observed at New Hampton, N.H., Sept. 18 (VHH, *vide* KCE), 950 were counted at Brenton, R.I., Sept. 26 (*vide* DLE) and 600 Blue Jays/day were noted in Chatham in late September and early October (BN *et al.*).

#### S.A.

Common Ravens continued their impressive expansion S. At the very s. tip of Maine, two or more resident ravens repeatedly observed at Mt. Agamenticus may quite possibly be local breeders (RC, JF *et al.*). Even more startling was news of ravens nesting s. of Concord, N.H. at Pawtuckaway S.P. — within 50 mi of downtown Boston! (*vide* DJA). Perhaps the most significant feature surrounding the above observations is the fact that these birds have shifted S and E away from the White Mts. They are now resident on the coastal plain with no apparent barriers limiting their continued range extension S. In w. Massachusetts, observations involving 10+ Com. Ravens were considered "unprecedented (v.o., *vide* SK)" Confirmed breeding is probably not far off. This is obviously a species that warrants close attention.

Boreal Chickadees shifted S in good numbers with three birds reported in s. Connecticut (*vide* TB), 12+ individuals in e. Massachusetts and "unprecedented numbers" in w. Massachusetts (v.o., *vide* SK). A movement of Tufted Titmice along s.e. Massachusetts



**FULMAR THROUGH PETRELS** — Noteworthy procellariids included a N. Fulmar at Saint-Roch des Aulnaies Oct. 17 (PDU), a Manx Shearwater at Kegashka Aug. 13, and a Greater Shearwater off Trois-Pistoles Aug. 24 (AB). More unusual was a **Cory's Shearwater** off Kegashka Aug. 13 (AB); seen with Greater Shearwaters, it showed a yellow bill, indistinct hood and uniform upperparts.

S.A.

The presence of a few storm-petrels at Quebec City in fall is an annual phenomenon. This past season however, w. Quebec was the scene of a small-scale invasion: two Leach's Storm-Petrels off Trois-Pistoles Aug. 17 (PDe) and one Sept. 27 (PC), one off Tadoussac Sept. 19 (JLD), one at Quebec City Sept. 24-25 and up to four at Quebec City and Lauzon Oct. 9-10 (FG), six off LesEscoumins (AB) and one at Laprairie Oct. 11 (BB), as well as a very late one at Pointe-au-Père Nov. 22 (GG). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were also reported: one at Quebec City Sept. 23-24 (JH, FG), one off Trois-Pistoles Sept. 27 (YA, AD), up to five at Quebec City and Lauzon Oct. 9-10-11 (FG, GD *et al.*) and two at Laprairie Oct. 10-11 (FH, PBA *et al.*).

**GANNET THROUGH RAPTORS** — An imm. Gannet was seen at Quebec City Nov. 18-19 (JH) and another was diving in L. Saint-Louis, off Beauharnois Nov. 22 (CH *et al.*); such sightings have been rather infrequent on the Upper St. Lawrence in the past 20 years although they were almost annual in the 1930s and 1940s. A Great Cormorant at LaSalle Sept. 5 (PBA) was unusual as was a Double-crested Cormorant at Murdochville Sept. 15 (ML). The only Cattle Egret of the year was on I. aux Fermiers Aug. 19-23 (ND *et al.*), and a Snowy Egret remained at a pond in Hudson Aug. 13-Sept. 6 (RM *et al.*). Three Great Egrets noted on I. du Moine Aug. 29 (MM) probably belonged to the group of four seen on nearby Commune I., Sept. 1-6 (DP *et al.*). A record late Black-crowned Night Heron was flushed from Sainte-Hélène I., Nov. 28 (PBA). An imm. White-fronted Goose reached New Richmond Oct. 25 (HB *et al.*) and two Ross' Geese were discovered at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 3 (MG *et al.*). The Eur. Wigeons of the season were ♂ singles at Cacouna Oct. 9 (GG, LH) and Georgeville Oct. 12-21 (PLD *et al.*). Aylmer had a large concentration of 800 Ring-necked Ducks Oct. 18 (BD). Two Canvasbacks at Cacouna Nov. 13 (GG, LH) and a Ruddy Duck Sept. 12 (AD) were unusual records for the Lower St. Lawrence. A Turkey Vulture at Baie Saint-Paul Oct. 13 (JFr) is no longer surprising. An unprecedented fall flight of 8000+ Broad-winged Hawks over w. Montreal I., included 1988 birds Sept. 11 and 2268 Sept. 12 and 1288 Sept. 15 (BB, MM).

**COOTS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — The Am. Coot was confirmed breeding in the Madeleine Is., with the sighting of an adult with young at Fatima Aug. 16 (VL, FS). A flock of 630 Am. Golden Plovers occurred at L. Taureau Aug. 31 (FH) and a maximum of 450 birds was on the turf farms near Station-du-Coteau Sept. 6 (RY, PS);



Western Sandpiper, Cote Ste. Catherine, Que., Sept. 6, 1981. Photo/Y. Aubry.

in the E. Townships P. Boily reported 50 birds at Ayer's Cliff Sept. 28 and 20 at Hillhurst Oct. 8. Unusual Whimbrel sightings included a flock of 110 at L. Taureau Sept. 2 (FH) and two at Aylmer the same day (BD). A Lesser Yellowlegs at Pointe-au-Père Nov. 28 (PBr, YG) was the latest ever. Western Sandpipers did not go by unnoticed: single birds were found on I. aux Grues Aug. 22 (JH *et al.*) and Pointe-au-Père Sept. 3 (GG *et al.*), and two were photographed at Côte Sainte-Catherine Sept. 5-13 (PBA *et al.*). An ad. Long-billed Dowitcher occurred on I. du Moine Aug. 29-Sept. 12 (RY, MG *et al.*). Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Saint-Fulgence Aug. 26-28 (NB *et al.*), Chandler Aug. 29 (PP, RBi) and Pointe-au-Père Oct. 3 (PBr) indicated a wide distribution for this rare fall migrant. The same is true of the Marbled Godwit, with sightings on Petite I. au Marteau, Mingan Is., Aug. 12 (AB) and Bic Sept. 12-15 (YT *et al.*). Two different Ruffs were present on the Madeleine Is.: one at Old-Harry Aug. 2-3 (YA) and one in various parts of the islands July 30-Aug. 7 (GD, YA); another was also seen briefly on I. du Moine Aug. 29 (RY). Single Red Phalaropes turned up at Saint-Fulgence Aug. 28 (NB, YB) and Quebec City Sept. 30 (AD, PDe).



Long-billed Dowitcher, Ile du Moine, Que., Sept. 6, 1981. Photo/P. Chagnon.

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Two ad. Parasitic Jaegers were sighted in Hull Sept. 2 (BD) and five in Cacouna Sept. 15 (RS); a lingering bird at Pointe-au-Père Nov. 22 (GG) set a record late date. As last year, an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was spotted off Tadoussac Sept. 20 (AR). Great Black-backed Gulls were particularly numerous in L. Saint-Jean and the Ottawa Valley in late fall (YB, MG); the increase of migrants is perhaps linked to a range expansion in the n. Beauharnois was visited by a second-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull Oct. 29 to Nov. 3 (BB). An oil spill in Quebec City's harbor in September soiled hundreds of Ring-billed Gulls, leading them to a sure death. Two ad. Mew Gulls appeared this fall, one in LaMalbaie Nov. 7-8 (YA *et al.*) and one in Beauharnois Nov. 8-9 (PBA, BB). A maximum of 10 Black-headed Gulls congregated at Etang-des-Caps, Madeleine Is., Aug. 6 (GD). Single Laughing Gulls appeared at Saint-Joseph de Beauce Aug. 22 (YM) and Bonaventure Aug. 29 (RBi); Franklin's Gulls were noted July 2 at Port-au-Saumon (LM), Aug. 18 at LaMalbaie (JH), Sept. 18 off Trois-Pistoles (BG, PP), Oct. 20 on L. Magog (PBo) and Nov. 4 at Quebec City, where a freshly dead specimen was found (JFa, \*Nat'l Mus. Nat. Sc.). Imm. Sabine's Gulls occurred in the L. Saint-Louis area Sept. 13-25 (BB *et al.*), off Tadoussac Sept. 19 (3, JLD) and Trois-Pistoles Sept. 26 (GG). Among the seabirds pushed inland by strong E winds were 150 Black-legged Kittiwakes in Quebec City Sept. 24 (FG) as well as birds near Katevale and Beauharnois in October and November (PBo, BB).

Eighty Arctic Terns were discovered in Bonaventure Aug. 29, along with 100+ birds which were probably also of the same species (RBi, PP), reinforcing the fact that, even in Chaleurs Bay, terns must be looked at closely. An extremely late Arctic Tern was still off Tadoussac Oct. 4 (MG *et al.*). Sixteen Caspian Terns visited Havre-aux-Basques, Madeleine Is., Aug. 29 (MD); this now annual phenomenon certainly represents migrants from the North Shore or Newfoundland, because local nesting could not remain unnoticed very long. As is sometimes the case, a Thick-billed Murre was

discovered in the colony of Bonaventure I., Aug. 3 (MP). A maximum of 47 Thick-billed Murres and 95 Dovekies was seen from the Matane ferry Dec. 2 (GD *et al.*). Some 125 Dovekies had been counted at Pointe-au-Père during a storm Nov. 21 (GG); a Dovekie even reached Quebec City Nov. 28 (AD). Such a movement into the Estuary had not been seen over the last decade. An oil spill near Grosse-Ile, Madeleine Is., doomed at least 1200 Dovekies in late fall (*vide* YA).

**DOVES THROUGH TURDIDS** — Free-flying but certainly domesticated Rock Doves were noted at Blanc-Sablon in July (PLn) and Rivière-au-Tonnerre Aug. 2 (MG). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo near Percé Oct. 5-8 fell prey to a cat (JW). Some localities of s.w. Quebec were visited by Hawk Owls in November: one each at I. Bizard (NP), Saint-Pierre de Wakefield (RD), Charlesbourg (MGi) and Sainte-Marthe de Vaudreuil (RM). A Great Crested Flycatcher was found dead near LG-2 dam, James Bay Oct. 21, far n. of its range (GC, *vide* YA); the specimen was wisely kept (\*Nat'l Mus. Nat. Sc.) since migrant *Myiarchus* flycatchers are exceedingly similar. An extremely late Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Saint-Ferdinand Oct. 28 (AC). Many late swallows began appearing in e. Quebec in mid-November: a Tree Swallow at Pointe-au-Père Nov. 7 (JR), a record-late Bank Swallow at Barachois Nov. 8 (RBi), a Barn Swallow at LaMalbaie Nov. 7 (FG), two at Cap-à-l'Original Nov. 8 (YG), three at Cap-d'Espoir Nov. 9-11 (DS), three at Cap-des-Rosiers Nov. 14 (MSA) and three at LaPocatière Nov. 15 (AC), as well as a record-late Cliff Swallow at Cap-d'Espoir Nov. 9 (DB). Boreal Chickadees literally invaded s. Quebec in October. In Lennoxville a Tufted Titmouse visited a feeder Nov. 5+ (ET). Many Wheatears were noted during the fall migration: one entered an arena in LaBaie Aug. 10 (GSA), another was found at I. du Moine Sept. 8-9 (MM, RY), one at Sainte-Luce Sept. 30 (PHO), an immature was attacked by a cat at Sherbrooke Oct. 10 (RL) and an ad. male was observed in Hatley Oct. 21 (PBo). The discovery of a Townsend's Solitaire near Old Harry, Madeleine Is., Aug. 20 (FS) was extremely early for this rare w. visitor.

**GNATCATCHERS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was present in Forillon Aug. 29 (BH). As in most fall seasons, a sprinkling of passerines was noted at record-late dates: Yellow-throated Vireos in Laval Oct. 67 (BCr) and Hudson Oct. 10 (RM), a Philadelphia Vireo in Montreal Nov. 15 (GG, MG), a Wilson's Warbler at Cap-à-l'Aigle Oct. 29 (PBI). The House Sparrow colonized Blanc-Sablon as witnessed by a record July 25 (PLn). A

flock of 25 E. Meadowlarks was present in August at Murdochville, in the heart of Gaspé mountains (ML). Many late N. Orioles were noted this season: on Bonaventure I., Oct. 2 (PP), Forillon Oct. 25 (BCo), Rimouski Nov. 10 (GG), Beebe Nov. 25+ (AE), and Longueuil also in late November (GP). Three Cardinals appeared in November at Sainte-Foy (YA, LSO, RBa), and singles at Saint-Romuald (LF), LaPocatière (GSI) and Saint-Raymond (GL). Dickcissels turned up in many areas: Saint-Félix de Valois Aug. 15 (FA), Sault-au-Mouton Oct. 3 (MGa, IJ), two at Cap-d'Espoir Oct. 5-12 (PP *et al.*) and one at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 12 (MG *et al.*). A nest of an Am. Goldfinch was discovered in Havre Saint-Pierre Aug. 19 (AD). Most n. finches turned up in good numbers this fall, especially Com. Redpolls, White-winged Crossbills and Pine Grosbeaks and a House Finch was recorded at Philipsburg Nov. 5-9 (CC).

**EXOTICS** — A Chilean Teal (*Anas flavirostris*) was reported from Missisquoi Bay Sept. 11 (PM). Single Chilean Flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*) photographed in Granby June 20-22 (*vide* YA), Grosse-Ile, Madeleine Is., Aug. 9 (CS), and Isle-Verte Sept. 26, plus a probable one at Baie Sainte-Catherine Aug. 11 (*vide* YA) proved clearly that all flamingos are not Am. Flamingos.

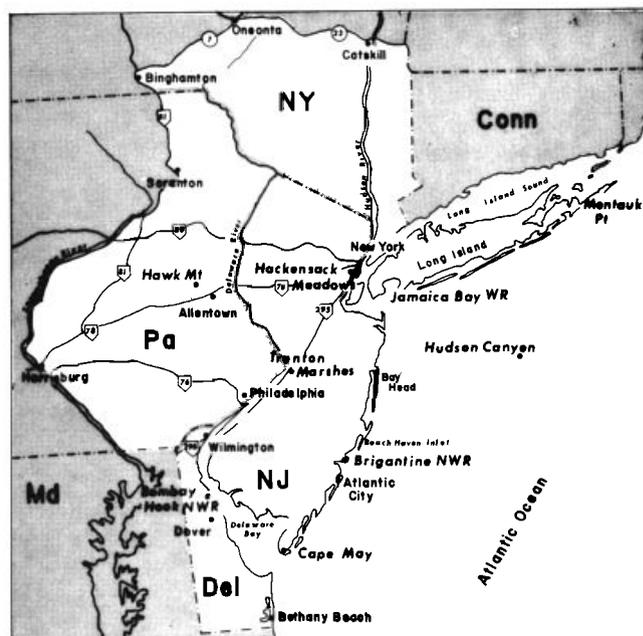
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## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/William J. Boyle, Jr., Robert O. Paxton and David A. Cutler

Opinions on the quality of the fall migration varied from "poor" to "outstanding" depending on the location and interests of the observer. It was also helpful to be in the right place at the right time, since many of the flights were heavy, but of short duration. The words "you should have been here yesterday" were heard all too frequently. For those whose spare time in the fall is spent gazing skyward from one of the many regional hawk lookouts, the season was unquestionably extraordinary, with an unusual weather pattern steering early migrants away from the traditional ridges, but eventually producing record counts for many species at most of the stations. The shorebird migration along the coast was one of the best in years but, except for two Pennsylvania locations, was considered poor inland. The passerine migration was good but not exceptional, with relatively few rarities. A massive, early influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches foretold of things to come, with the end of the season bringing a respectable incursion of Boreal Chickadees and all of the winter finches.

The drought which has been plaguing the Region for most of the past two years resumed in August after a relatively wet July. Early September was warm, but relief arrived in mid-month in the form of a



slow-moving cold front which, when it cleared, unleashed some spectacular hawk flights. The passerine migration continued heavy throughout the month, at times seemingly unconnected with the weather, into early October, when some strong cold fronts produced large numbers, although not much variety, of migrants. October continued colder and wetter than normal, but November turned dry again and the absence of early freezing weather here and to the north produced fewer than normal diving ducks on inland waters.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Excellent coastal flights of both species of loons were noted from mid-October through November, but most interesting was the passage of 456 Com. Loons at Hawk Mt., Pa., Nov. 22 (SB, JBr). A summering Horned Grebe was at Montauk, N. Y., Aug. 15 (RKe), but many observers commented on the scarcity of the species later in the season. Gross saw only one all fall in n.e. Pennsylvania, where they are usually common, and some reported none at all. Eared Grebe is becoming an annual visitor to the Region, and this fall's bird was closely observed at Bombay Hook N. W. R. (hereafter, Bombay Hook), Oct. 6 (CSu).

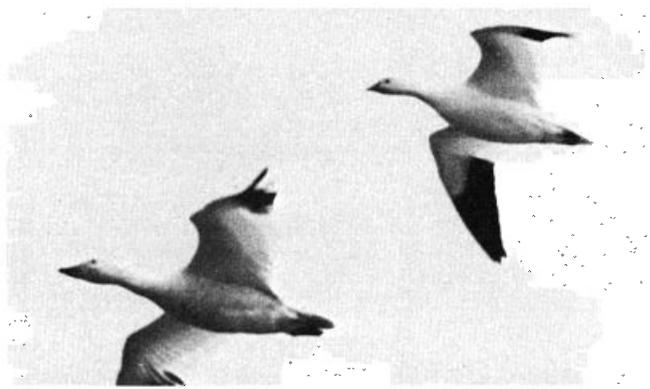
The most productive of the half-dozen pelagic trips reported this season was the Aug. 22 boat out of Montauk to about 30 mi. s. of Montauk Pt. Highlight of the trip was five Manx Shearwaters along with good numbers of Cory's and Greater plus a few Sooties (PAB, THD, BSP *et al.*). Another Manx Shearwater was photographed 121 mi. e. of Dewey Beach, Del., Aug. 31 (J. Bazuin). The only Audubon's Shearwater was seen by a lucky birder-fisherman from a fishing boat just 10 mi off Brielle, N. J., Sept. 2 (GH).

Three **Brown Pelicans** seen flying S 42 mi s.e. of Cape May, unusually far from land, were the highlight of a pelagic trip Oct. 4 (ABR, WJB, JD, PDU *et al.*). Great Cormorants continue to arrive in numbers at early dates, the first this year being an immature at Southampton, L. I., Sept. 5 (A. Keith). One at Bombay Hook Oct. 10, provided an unusual inland record and was new for the refuge (BR), while an immature found dead at Cape Henlopen the same day furnished the first Delaware specimen (BR). A lull in the hawk flight enabled Ward to tally 28,000 Double-crested Cormorants passing Cape May Oct. 11-12 (DW). One of the more exciting finds of the season was a **Magnificent Frigatebird**, briefly seen as it passed over the trees at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Sept. 7 (RJB).

One hundred Great Blue Herons at the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna R., Nov. 11 was an unusual inland concentration (RMS). Low inland water levels again brought excellent numbers of post-breeding herons and egrets to lakes and reservoirs in New Jersey, but the invasion was not of the magnitude of last year's and barely reached Pennsylvania and s. New York. Among the more unusual reports were two of different Little Blue Herons at Newburgh, N. Y. (BSe, KM), and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Morristown, N. J. (CW), all in September. The ad. White Ibis at the Stone Harbor Sanctuary (New Jersey's third adult, not first as stated in the spring report) first noted in the spring, reappeared in September and was seen by many through Oct. 5. Most intriguing were the five birds (four white, one brown), believed to be White Ibises, seen flying high over the Montclair, N. J., hawk lookout Oct. 10 (ABi, MR).

**WATERFOWL** — Although diving ducks seemed scarce inland, there were some excellent flights of sea ducks both inland and coastal. The New Jersey Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife mid-November survey found normal numbers of waterfowl in the state (439,000), but the bulk of the count (76%) consisted of only 5 species, Brant, Snow Goose, Black Duck and both scaup. Several reports of very small Canada Geese, presumably *B. c. hutchinsii*, included one closely studied in comparison with a larger Brant and other Canadas at a pond in Clinton, N. J., Nov. 9 (GH). Of the five reported White-fronted Geese, at least three were presumed to have been genuinely wild. Two were at Allentown, Pa., Nov. 17-24 (BLM, SSm) and another was at Bombay Hook Nov. 14 (ph., BA), where one or more have been annual visitors. The outstanding waterfowl find of the season was the ad. **Ross' Goose** discovered at Bombay Hook Oct. 28 (JMA) and present until at least Nov. 14, when it was photographed in flight by Augustine (ph., BA). This constituted the first record for Delaware and only the second for the Region.

A Fulvous Whistling Duck at Bombay Hook Sept. 21 (M. Garner) was the only one reported this season. Five Eur. Wigeon were noted from Long Island and New Jersey in October and November, more typical numbers than last year's 10. An excellent inland flight of sea ducks brought 22 Oldsquaw to Swartswood L., N. J., Nov. 3 (RKA) and a total of 49 by Hawk Mt., during the season (SB). Four reports of



Ross' Goose, Bombay Hook, Del., Nov. 14, 1981. Photo/Bob Augustine.

Harlequin Duck included a drake at Montauk Aug. 3-15 (P. Gillen, RKe), that apparently summered. Common Eider were widely reported from the coast this fall, but the most surprising one was the female that greeted a Mearns Club field trip to Cornwall Bay on the Hudson R., Sept. 26 (KM, m.ob.). The species is extremely rare inland and the record was a first for Orange County, although there was one across the river in Dutchess County 2 years ago. Eight King Eiders were noted from New Jersey, as well as one each from New York (Montauk, GSR) and Delaware (Lewes, JG), both Nov. 27. Numerous flocks of up to 90 Black Scoters put down on inland lakes and reservoirs in late October and early November, and there were a half-dozen scattered reports of 1-3 White-winged Scoters inland in n. New Jersey and Pennsylvania during the same period.

**VULTURES, HAWKS, FALCONS** — It was a banner year for the Region's many hawk watches as all recorded record high counts for at least one species. Even venerable Hawk Mt., with 43 years of data, listed 3 new highs (but note the words of caution from the late Maurice Broun about comparing modern data with those from the 1930s, AB 33:160). Hook Mt., N. Y., Mt. Peter, N. Y., Montclair and Cape May all reached record total counts, with Cape May's 88,937 tops for the Region.

The ever increasing Black Vulture was widely reported from the interior ridges this fall, with Hawk Mt.'s 16 being double their previous high. Two were well up the Kittatinny Ridge at Rattlesnake Mt., Sussex Co., N. J., in late September (LS), but most unusual was one at L. Minnewaska, Ulster Co., N. Y., Nov. 1 (J. & M. Key). After last spring's outstanding flight, a single Mississippi Kite appeared at the Cape May hawk watch Aug. 17 (RRu). Accipiters continue to improve, and this year made up 38% of the hawks migrating along the Hudson Palisades at Alpine, N. J., vs only 19% in 1969 (NB). The Goshawk count was the best in recent years, with 146 at Hawk Mt., and a record 37 at Cape May. Sharp-shinned Hawks were also well represented with a record 6121 at Montclair, although Cape May's 43,061 was well below last year's record. Most gratifying was the continued improvement of the Cooper's Hawk, which seems to be rebounding from its earlier problems. Every count recorded a record high for the species, with Hawk Mt.'s 839 easily exceeding the previous high of 590 set in 1939. At Baer Rocks, Pa., one of every ten Accipiters was a Cooper's, while at Cape May the ratio was 1:22.

A Red-shouldered Hawk returned to a Coatesville, Pa., suet feeder for the fifth year in a row Nov. 24 (PLH), but, in general, this is the one species of hawk whose numbers have shown no clear signs of improvement in recent years. The Broad-winged Hawk migration was an even more exaggerated repeat of the previous 2 years, when the main migration bypassed the traditional Kittatinny Ridge flyway. This year a slow-moving cold front in mid-September brought almost a week of dreary weather to the ridges. When the system broke, strong NW winds drove a massive movement of hawks well e. of the Appalachians. Hook Mt., N. Y., on the Hudson R., recorded a conservative 13,000 Broad-wingeds on the 20th, while Montclair, 24 mi s.w., had 11,000 the following day. Hook Mt. and State Line Lookout, 7.5 mi farther s., estimated that 25,000 Broad-wingeds crossed the Hudson R., Sept. 20-21 (ST, P. Bernath). The migration occurred on a broad front as thousands were noted in lowland areas as well, and reached Cape May on the 25th when 5000+ were seen. In contrast, Baer Rocks' big day was the 19th with 2166. Though traditionally a non-coastal migrant, the Broad-winged flight con-

**Table 1. 1981 Seasonal totals for seven major hawk lookouts in the Hudson-Delaware Region.**

Species	Mt. Peter, N.Y.	Hook Mt., N.Y.	Montclair N.J.	Raccoon Ridge, N.J.	Baer Rocks, Pa.	Hawk Mt., Pa.	Cape May, N.J.
Turkey Vulture	52	201	214	—	—	—	736
Black Vulture					11	16	
Goshawk	7	22	4	77	68	146	37
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1674	5067	6121	3146	5590	10579	43061
Cooper's Hawk	59	115	33	210	583	839	2086
Red-tailed Hawk	708	297	1601	2271	2225	4274	1715
Red-shouldered Hawk	62	104	104	182	171	274	445
Broad-winged Hawk	10871	18730	22342	2947	6067	9879	13917
Swainson's Hawk			1			1	7
Rough-legged Hawk	1		4	6	11	19	8
Golden Eagle	1	1		15	29	52	11
Bald Eagle	3	5	2	14	20	30	25
Marsh Hawk	87	236	214	106	185	378	2173
Osprey	209	351	574	228	422	631	1491
Peregrine Falcon	7	6	8	3	7	24	172
Merlin	5	17	17	12	22	52	1225
Am. Kestrel	592	622	1458	228	361	757	21828
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14468</b>	<b>25929</b>	<b>32680</b>	9446	15969*	28195	<b>88937**</b>
Days (Hours)	65(415)	59(400)	84	48(251)	65(420)	104	111

\*2 Gyrfalcons. \*\*1 Mississippi Kite. New high counts in boldface. We thank AM, ST, ABi, FPW, KK, SB and PDU for these data.

tinued at Cape May through October into November, with 15 on the 8th and the last Nov. 26 (PDU, CSu); the season's total for the species there surpassed Hawk Mt.'s for the first time ever.

It was also the best year ever for Swainson's Hawk. Two were in Pennsylvania at Hawk Mt., Nov. 22 (SB), and Tunkhannock Sept. 27 (WR); also of interest was a record of one at Wapwallopen, Luzerne Co., Pa., Sept. 26, 1980 (DG), omitted from last year's report. At least seven Swainson's were at Cape May Sept. 11-Nov. 9, including three in the massive kettle of Broad-wingeds Sept. 25. Others were found at Island Beach S.P., N. J., Oct. 21 (R. Conn), Hazlet, N. J., Nov. 26 (N.S. Halmi) and the first ever for the Montclair Hawk Watch Oct. 2 (ABi). Late November brought an excellent flight of Rough-legged Hawks, with 35-40 within a 5-mi radius of New Holland, Pa. (BA *et al.*), and a single observer report of a possible imm. Ferruginous Hawk at Cape May Nov. 26 (A. Nicholson, *vide* CSu).

Eagles also made an excellent showing this year, with Golden Eagles down slightly but Balds up. Hawk Mt.'s 52 Golden Eagles was tops for the Region, but 29 at Baer Rocks and 15 at Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N. J., were good counts as well. At least 16 were noted in Cape

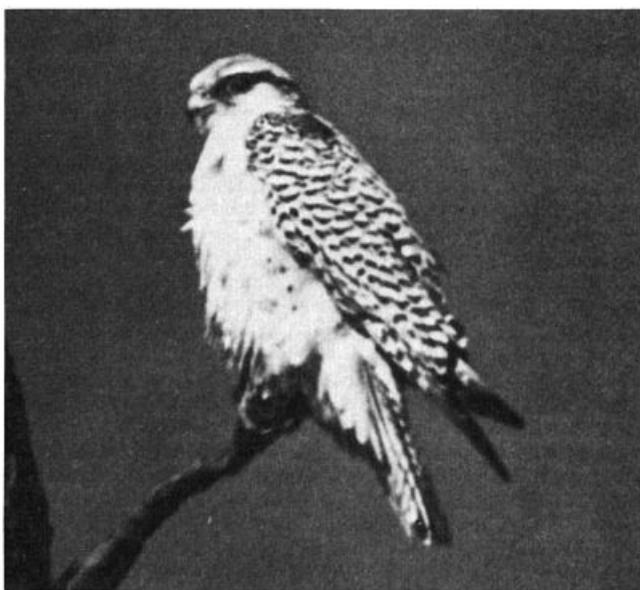
May and environs, while two made it to Delaware (RRu, GI). Cape May had a record 25 Bald Eagles for the season; 30 at Hawk Mt., and 14 at Raccoon Ridge were fine counts for those locations as well. Marsh Hawks were down slightly from the record numbers of a year ago at most watches, but Montclair managed to set a new high at 214.

The strong recovery of the Osprey from the dismal days of DDT continues unabated. Almost every station broke its previous record for the species, led by Cape May with 1491 and Hawk Mt., with 631. Falcons were also well represented in the fall migration, highlighted by four Gyrfalcons, all in s.e. Pennsylvania. Peregrine Falcon counts included a very good 172 at Cape May and a 10-year high of 24 at Hawk Mt. Merlins set a new record at Cape May with 1225 and continue to increase at Hawk Mt., where 52 were noted. Even Am. Kestrel, a species reported to be in trouble in some areas, got into the record book with new highs at Cape May with 21,828, Montclair with 1458 and a second best of 757 at Hawk Mt.

**S.A.**

The Gyrfalcon flight in e. Pennsylvania this fall was unprecedented and noteworthy. The first, a brown bird, put on a good show for 2 observers at Baer Rocks the afternoon of Nov. 14 (KK, DSi). One week later, Nov. 21, another bird, this time a dark gray one, passed the same spot at midday (KK, DSi, AG). On Nov. 27 Sid Lipschutz and Ed Fingerhood discovered a white-phase Gyrfalcon at New Holland, Pa., just 40 mi s. of Baer Rocks. This bird remained in the area and was seen by many into January. Finally, Dec. 1, Jay George located a dark gray Gyr at Mannheim, 20 mi n.w. of New Holland. This bird, too, remained to feed on the abundant Rock Doves in this area of Amish farmland and was seen at Mannheim into January.

A survey of past records revealed at least 22 reliable records of Gyrfalcon in e. Pennsylvania since 1927, plus 2 more hypothetical ones. All but 2 of these records have come from the same general area as this year's sightings, that is within a corridor about 30 mi wide and 80 mi long stretching from n. of Allentown-Bethlehem to the Susquehanna R., between Harrisburg and Lancaster. The majority of the reports are from the traditional hawk watches in the fall, where the density of observers increases the chance of their being detected, but a third of them are from farmland, mainly during the winter. That these birds follow the e. ridge of the Appalachians is evident, although how they choose it is not so clear. Upon reaching the area they find much to their liking in the open, intensively cultivated country with its prolific pigeons. We thank Ed Fingerhood, Ken Kranick and Sid Lipschutz for the material on which this note is based.



White Gyrfalcon, New Holland, Pa., Dec. 30, 1981. PhotoBob Augustine.

**BOBWHITE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — As noted in the breeding season report, the Bobwhite has declined drastically. This fall many observers again commented on the rarity or absence of this once-common species. Observers are asked to pay special attention to the status of this species, especially in areas where it is not stocked. A Sandhill Crane at Safe Harbor Dam, Pa., Oct. 7 was the only one reported this fall (S. Schreiber). A Purple Gallinule, the fourth reported in the state this year, was found freshly dead at Chatham, N. J., on the extremely late date of Nov. 20 (\*Morris Co. Outdoor Ed. Center, R. Holt).

The shorebird migration was very good, especially along the coast where 39 species were noted, although there were no rarities. The most complete data comes from T. Davis who made 37 trips to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref. (hereafter, J.B.W.R.), the best shorebird spot in the Region, June 28-Oct. 25 and attempted to record numbers for all species and adult/juvenile ratios for all migrant species seen. Adults made up 90% or more of all migrants through Aug. 23, when significant numbers of juveniles began to arrive. Thereafter the ratio gradually reversed until Sept. 19, when 90% were juveniles. Details will be published elsewhere, but some of the highlights for the 36 species noted at J.B.W.R., during the fall season appear below. Inland observers called the shorebird migration poor except on the upper Susquehanna R., prior to Sept. 10 (WR) and at Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., Pa., where ideal conditions produced excellent numbers and variety (25 species) of easily studied birds. Records by several birders at this location for the period were compiled by G. Freed.

It was not a particularly good year for Am. Golden Plover, although a few large flocks were noted. The most impressive count was of 300 at Leola, Pa., near Lancaster Oct. 20, an unusually high number for a location so far inland (T. Amico). Other sizable flocks, all on sod farms, included 120 at Columbus, N. J., Sept. 20 (RKA), 80 at Warren Sod Farm, Orange Co., N. Y., Sept. 17 (JT) and 60 near Riverhead, L. I., Oct. 11 (WJB), Six Ruddy Turnstones at L. Marburg, York Co., Pa., Sept. 1 were a first for that area (D. Heathcote). Upland Sandpiper numbers were disappointing as both breeding and migrant birds are diminishing. The peak count at Columbus was 46 on Aug. 17 (BMo), declining rapidly thereafter. Eighteen at the Wilmington, Del., airport Sept. 1 (B & FH) and 15 at the Philadelphia airport Sept. 2 (JCM) were the only other concentrations reported. Red Knot, an unusual species inland, was reported from 3 Pennsylvania locations: three at Green Lane Res., Sept. 6 (GLF), one at West Fairview Sept. 9 for the second year in a row on that date (E.C. Swab) and one at Octararo Res., Oct. 4 (PS). An impressive 170 Pectoral Sandpipers were at Green Lane Sept. 2. White-rumped Sandpipers were scarce in New Jersey, but quite plentiful on e. Long Island (PAB) and at J.B.W.R., through August and September (max. 58 Sept. 7). Baird's Sandpipers were found in ones and twos in numerous places including Green Lane (GLF, BLM, RW), Tinicum Nat'l Envir. Center, Philadelphia (B. Stocku) and the usual coastal locations. South Cape May meadows had up to five in late August (RRu).

Five Curlew Sandpipers were about average, with two at J.B.W.R., one July 20-Aug. 16 and another Aug. 7-23, two at Brigantine N. W. R., N. J. (hereafter, Brig.), late August-early September (JD, JBU *et al.*) and another at Bombay Hook Oct. 16-Nov. 5 (JMA, P. Bohanan). Stilt Sandpipers were present in higher than normal numbers at all of the coastal locations until mid-October and occurred inland as well. Reid had a total of four on 3 dates at Wyoming, Pa., after having only one record in the previous 30 years. They were present at Green Lane Aug. 3-Sept. 26, with a maximum of 48 Sept. 2, and three at Lincoln Park, N. J., gravel pits were the first ever there (TK, DO). Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared in very good numbers in New Jersey, with a peak of 66 in 2 flocks at Cape May Sept. 2 (PDU, CSI), but Raynor found very few on e. Long Island (GSR). Elsewhere, two were at Green Lane Sept. 2-7 and two near Smyrna, Del., Aug. 31 (MVB, J. Irvine, D. Mankovich).

About 11 Marbled Godwits were found, mostly in New Jersey, but one inland at Tinicum Aug. 21-Sept. 9 (JCM, BLM), was possibly the same bird previously reported from the Philadelphia airport. Hudsonian Godwits were much more plentiful, with at least 50 birds, including one at Green Lane Sept. 19 (GLF) and three at Tinicum Sept. 5 (BLM). Six Ruffs were noted, all of which appeared in August; four were in New Jersey, one at Little Creek, Del. (JG) and another at J.B.W.R. (R. Arbib, T. Stiles *et al.*).

The Bombay Hook Am. Avocet population was 325 Sept. 29 (JMA), but only one reached J.B.W.R. (Oct. 2-14) and a maximum of seven was at Brig., Sept. 4 (JD). No Black-necked Stilts were

reported n. of their Bombay Hook stronghold (55 there Aug. 2—BR). Wilson's Phalaropes were reported in small numbers from all parts of the Region, but only about 14 N. Phalaropes were found, including seven at Green Lane Res., Sept. 1 (RW, GLF).

**GULLS, TERNS** — Seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls, all but one in adult plumage, were about normal; reports came from such diverse places as Mamaroneck, N. Y. (TWB), Central Park, Manhattan (PWP *et al.*) and Brig. (HHA). An immature, rarely reported in the Region, was carefully identified at Cape May Sept. 7 (DSb, FH, RRU) and independently identified nearby the next day (RM). New York's first and only California Gull returned for the fourth year in a row to Rockland Lake S.P., where it was found by the original discoverer Oct. 20 (BW). An unseasonable imm. Black-headed Gull was at Cape May Aug. 21 (CD, JD), and for the third year in a row there were early season reports of Franklin's Gull in the Cape May area. An adult was along the shore of Delaware Bay at Villas in mid-August (RRu) and another, or perhaps the same, flew by the hawk watch Sept. 24 (PBA), while an immature was near Villas Aug. 27 (CD, JD). Prior to 1979 there was only one New Jersey state record. The only reports of Little Gull were of an immature at Mecox, L. I., Aug. 24 (PAB) and an adult at Little Creek, Del., Nov. 15 (DC).

The gull of the season was unquestionably the imm. **Sabine's Gull** discovered at Sunbury, Pa., Sept. 19 by S. Stahl and seen by many observers during its brief, 3-day visit (ph., SST). Although there is a previous record of a bird picked up dead in Erie, this is apparently the first live individual of the species noted in Pennsylvania and the first Regional record away from the coast.



Imm. Sabine's Gull, Sunbury, Pa., Sept. 21, 1981 (see page 177). Photo/Carl Shaffer.

After their invasion of the New Jersey Pine Barrens in unprecedented numbers during August (see Summer Season report), several Gull-billed Terns lingered at Whitesbog into early September (L. Little), and a late immature was at Cape May Sept. 15 (PDU, FH, DSb). Two Com. Terns on the upper Susquehanna R., at Beach Haven, Pa., Sept. 8 were unusual for the fall (DG) and a late Common was noted at Barnegat Light, N. J., Nov. 1 (WJB, JBU) and Nov. 22 (BMo). A short-legged, short-billed imm. *Sterna* seen standing and flying with Forster's at Barnegat Light Nov. 27, was identified as an Arctic Tern (RJB, BMe, GC).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was closely observed eating bees at a hive in Hope, Warren Co., N. J., on the extraordinarily late date of Nov. 15 (E. Bleiweiss). This is one of the latest dates ever for the Region and probably the latest for inland New Jersey. The Owl Banding Project at Cape May Pt. had a good year with 179 owls banded: 44 Barn, one Great Horned, 24 Long-eared, one Short-eared and 109 Saw-whet (K. Duffy, W. Clark). Only four Snowy Owls were reported, three from Long Island and one at Sandy Hook, N. J. (*vide* M. Hake), indicating a much lighter flight than last year.

A Whip-poor-will was still calling at Marmora, N. J., Oct. 6 (RM, JD) but an injured bird found at Revere, Pa., Nov. 19 was extremely late for an inland location (S. Farbotnick). Similarly, a Com. Nighthawk at Kingston, n.e. Pennsylvania, Oct. 7 was very tardy in departing (J. Hoyson). Encouraging numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, a regionally declining species, were noted in migration, especially at Cape May. The same was true for Red-headed Woodpecker: Hawk Mt. had 37 for the season (SB) and they were frequently reported from the coast.

Two very late E. Kingbirds were noted: one at Ashland Nature Center, Del., Oct. 19 (WJW) and another at Wapwallopen, Pa., Oct.

20 (DG) Twenty-two W Kingbirds, mostly from Long Island and coastal New Jersey, were about average. Half of the records were in November, including three in one tree at Montauk Nov. 23 (HM, CP). A *Myiarchus* flycatcher, believed to be an Ash-throated Flycatcher, was found and photographed in black-and-white at Cape May Sept. 6 (ABr, K. Brethwaite); although color would be desirable, the photo tends to support the identification. A largish, yellow-bellied *Empidonax* at Brig., Nov. 16, not conclusively identified, could as likely have been a W. Flycatcher as a Yellow-bellied on that late date. (DSb, RM, K. Anderson *et al.*).

**RAVENS THROUGH SHRIKES** — An excellent flight of Com. Ravens along the Kittatinny Ridge produced a record 20 at Hawk Mt. (SB) and 13 at Baer Rocks (KK). In New Jersey, three were noted at both Rattlesnake Mt. (LS) and Raccoon Ridge (FPW). A big flight of Black-capped Chickadees extended S into Delaware, where one was at Linden Green Oct. 18 (J. Patterson, K. Gordon), and brought with it impressive numbers of Boreal Chickadees. The earliest was a leucistic bird at a Gillette, N. J., feeder for several weeks Oct. 11 + (BL), but two different birds were in Dutchess County, N. Y., in October (R.T.W.B.C.) and another at Rye Oct. 25-Nov. 28 (TWB). Another report from Long Island (D. & L. Heilbrun) and six from New Jersey made a total of 11, an excellent fall count.

Almost every observer commented on the massive invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches that began in August and continued through most of the period. Counts of hundreds at single locations were not uncommon and many were still present in appropriate habitat at season's end. On the other hand, many observers commented on the scarcity of Winter Wrens. Mary Doscher, who enjoyed an excellent season banding migrant passerines at Island Beach S.P., trapped none at all this year for the first time in 8 years of banding there. The elusive Short-billed Marsh Wren was noted sparingly. Up to three were reported at Brig., in late August and early September (JD, CD) and two different birds were at the Lincoln Park gravel pits during the same period (TK, DO, RKa). One was at Port Mahon, Del., Nov. 15 (DC).

The improving situation of E. Bluebirds was evidenced by the impressive flight of 750-1000 in 9 flocks at Cape May Oct. 28 (CSu). Two **Wheatears** appeared on the same day, Sept. 27. One entertained the multitudes at Cape May Pt. S.P. for some time before retreating to the flat roof of the park garage; (P. Nistico, m.ob.); it was seen again briefly the next day. A more unusual event was the occurrence of one inland at Cruger's I., Dutchess Co., N. Y., where it was discovered that same morning (A. Brayton *et al.*). This bird lingered for several days and was seen by some of the many who searched for it.

A bird identified as a Townsend's Solitaire visited a backyard in Mt Tabor, N. J., for 10 minutes Oct. 19 and was impeccably described in every detail by the observer, who was not familiar with the species (D. Henderson). Unfortunately, it could not be relocated. The only confirmed record for New Jersey is last fall's bird at Sunrise Mt., Sussex Co. A single N. Shrike was reported for the fall, an adult at Jones Beach, L. I., Oct. 29 (L. Schore), and just six Loggerhead Shrikes: one each from Long Island and Delaware, two from Pennsylvania and New Jersey (at Cape May, as usual).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — There was an excellent flight of Philadelphia Vireos with dozens of reports from all parts of the Region. Most were clustered in mid-September, but one late straggler was at Beach Haven, Pa., Oct. 26 (DG). An astonishingly late ♂ Prothonotary Warbler was observed for about 2 hours in Port Elizabeth, N. J., Oct. 30, as close as 3 feet from a window, by an observer thoroughly familiar with the species (RDB). Although the species is a common breeder in that area, it is rarely noted in the fall. Less surprising, but also very late, was a Tennessee Warbler at Flushing Meadows, Queens, N. Y., Nov. 29 (GT). Fifteen Orange-crowned Warbler reports were about normal for the season.

A very late Black-throated Blue Warbler was banded at Ardmore, Pa., Nov. 29 (W. Marshall), and there were numerous other reports of a variety of late warblers in late October and early November. An **Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler** was banded at Tobay, L. I., Nov. 14 (ROP, AJL) for the sixth New York record, all from Long Island in November. Two dozen Connecticut Warblers were noted, mostly from New Jersey, an unusually high total, including five in one day at Lincoln Park, N. J. (TK). Mourning Warbler is much less frequently seen in the fall and is considered an early migrant, but this year 14 were reported, mainly in the second half of September. One

hit a window and died at Locust Valley, L. I., Nov. 8 (Mrs J. Grose, *vide* P. Cannell, \*Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.), and provided the latest record for New York.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS** — Seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds, all of them along the coast, were about normal Summer Tanagers at Cape May Sept. 29 (RDB) and at Montauk Oct. 10 (J. Ash) were unusual for the fall. A Black-headed Grosbeak was at the Lincoln Park gravel pits Aug. 27-Sept. 3 (DO, TK) and an imm Blue Grosbeak was a good find at Middletown, N. Y., Sept. 20 (JT) Seven Dickcissels were noted away from Cape May, where they were heard almost daily at the hawk watch during October and early November.

The season brought a good, but not great, flight of winter finches, as all of the regular species appeared in modest numbers, especially along the interior ridges. A very early Pine Grosbeak was at Hawk Mt., Sept. 14 (SB), and small flocks were at Raccoon Ridge Nov. 19 (FPW) and Pequannock Watershed, Passaic Co., N. J., Nov. 24 (RRa). Only a few Com. Redpolls were reported, the earliest at Ocean City, N. J., Nov. 5 (RM), but Pine Siskins were abundant in the n areas. Red Crossbills were found as early as Sept. 2 at Pocono Lake, Pa. (P. Street), but the other half-dozen reports were in November. The first White-winged Crossbills passed Baer Rocks Oct. 25 (KK) and they were widely reported from n.w. New Jersey during November. One even reached Delaware at Cape Henlopen Nov. 17-18 (WWF, TP, DP). Lark Sparrow reports, six from coastal locations Aug. 29-Oct. 17, were well below par for the second year in a row. Five Clay-colored Sparrows were noted, two from Long Island, two from New Jersey and one from Delaware, but this too was below normal.

**EXOTICS** — An all-white spoonbill (sp.) at Cape May Pt., Sept. 11 (T. and L. Sawtell) was presumably an escape. The Brooklyn flock of Black-hooded Parakeets, *Nandayus nenday*, is apparently thriving at Coney Island and now numbers 25 (H. McVeety, *vide* R. Arbib).

**UNCONFIRMED REPORTS** — A bird identified as an imm White-tailed Tropicbird was briefly seen flying along the beach with Royal and Caspian terns at N. Wildwood, N. J., Oct. 8, by 4 observers familiar with the species (J. & R. Krebs, F. & S. Rolf), but more complete documentation is desirable for what would be a first state record. The 4 regional records, all from Long Island, were a result of the hurricane of September 1938.

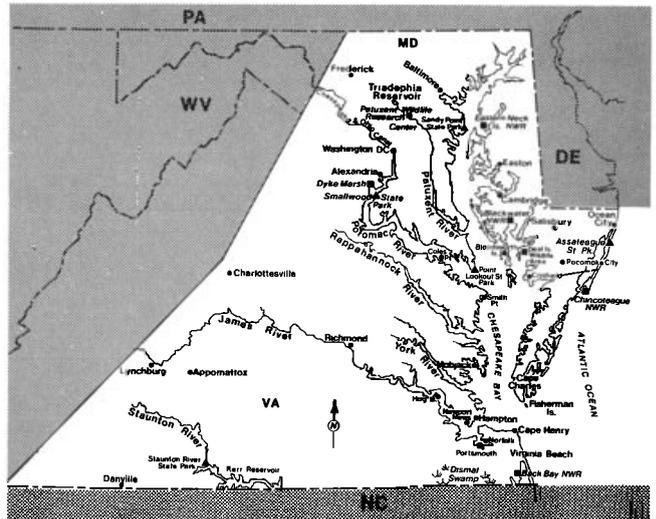
**OBSERVERS** — (Subregional compilers in boldface): J.M. Abbott, Wava Abbott, Bob Augustine, H.H. Axtell, Peter Bacinski (PBa), R.D. Barber, **M.V. Barnhill**, Seth Benz, Andy Bihun (ABi), **I.H. Black**, **R.J. Blicharz**, Ned Boyajian, Allan Brady (ABr), Jim Brett (JBr), P.A. Buckley, Joe Burgiel (JBU), T.W. **Burke**, S. Chevalier, Judy Cinquina, Joel Citron, Mark Collie, Gordon Comrie, David Czalplak, Chris Danzenbaker, John Danzenbaker, **T.H. Davis**, **R.F. Deed**, Peter Derven (PDe), Mary Doscher, **Peter Dunne** (PDu), John Ebner, A.P. Ednie, Fran File, W.W. Frech, G.L. Freed, John Ginaven, Doug Gross, Allan Grout, Barb & Frank Haas, Fred Hamer, **Greg Hanisek**, G.K. Hess, **Armas Hill** (new address: 232 Orlemann Ave., Orelan, Pa. 19075), P.L. Hurlock, Gregory Inskip, Rich Kane (RKa), Doris Kaufman, Richard Kelly (RKe), Tim Koebel, Ken Kranick, A.J. Lauro, Steve Lawrence, Bill Lecington, Adam Martin, Robert Maurer, Ken McDermott, Hugh McGuinness, **J.K. Meritt**, Brad Merritt (BMe), J.C. Miller, A. & J. Mirabella, **B.L. Morris**, Vaughan Morrison, Brian Moscatello (BMo), Frank Murphy, Dave Oster, Cruz Phillipps, P.W. Post, R.C. Preston, Ted Projector, Dorothy Projector, Rick Radis (RRa), G.S. Raynor, Michael Reese, **William Reid**, Hannah Richard, Bob Ringler, Robert Russell (RRu), P.M. Saraceni, R.M. Schutsky, Victor Schwartz, Benton Segun (BSa), David Sibley (DSb), Dave Simpson (DSi), Cynthia Slack (CSl), Steve Smith (SSm), Len Soucy, Barbara Spencer (BSp), Stanley Stahl (SSt), Sue Stappers (SSp), **O. K. Stephenson**, Clay Sutton (CSu), Pat Sutton, Fred Tetlow, Stiles Thomas, **John Tramontano**, Guy Tudor, Fred Van Sant, Dave Ward, **R.T. Waterman Bird Club**, W.J. Wayne, Berna Weissmañ, Rick Wiltraut, F.P. Wolfarth, Carl Woodward.—**WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., 15 Indian Rock Road, Warren, N. J. 07060, ROBERT O. PAXTON, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N. Y. 10027 and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, Pa. 19095.**

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION /Henry T. Armistead

With the exception of November, when temperatures were average, the fall of 1981 was cool with mean readings of 1.07°F, 0.85° and 2.98° below normal for the months of August, September and October respectively. However, most days from November 21 on were colder than usual. The drought, now in effect for a year-and-a-half, returned with a vengeance inflicting average precipitation deficits of 0.92, 0.27 and 2.18 inches in August, September and November, but October was normal. "Driest November" (Fairfax, Va., JWE), "0.34 in. in November; many large old trees dying" (Denton, Md., AJF), "James River very low" (Richmond, Va., FRS), "Some ground water levels the lowest since 1931" (Orange, Va., JM), "Liberty Reservoir down 20+ feet" (Baltimore, RFR). In spite of such an arid autumn the wild food crop was extraordinary, drawing commentary from many, and was the reason for very few birds turning up at feeders. "Extraordinary fall berry crop" (Sterling, Va., CT), "Largest mast crop in at least 21 years" (Gloucester Pt., Va., MLW), "Wild food crop is the best I've seen" (Chesapeake, Va., GW), "Wild food crops here are excellent. Few birds . . . being enticed to feeders yet" (Lexington Park, Md., EJW). Excellent coverage of prime areas for diurnal raptors, shorebirds and warblers produced better than usual reporting for these birds but few rarities were seen. Irruptive northern species, as in the past few years, became scarce at period's end after lackluster earlier flights. Italicized dates in this report indicate that the birds in question were banded.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Loons and grebes continue to be scarce with no major concentrations reported. On the Choptank R., Talbot Co., Md., 13 Com. Loons Sept. 13 was a high count for so early (JKE). Unusual in the Piedmont, four Red-throated Loons were on L. Anna, s.w. of Fredericksburg, Va., Nov. 1 (JM). Numbers of Horned Grebes continue to be very low. The seasonal high for Pied-billed Grebe was a modest 36 at Swift Creek Res., w. of Richmond (FRS), Nov. 22. Reports of pelagic birds were minimal but nevertheless rather compelling. From the shoreline of Back Bay N.W.R., Wolfe reported a **Yellow-nosed Albatross** Nov. 28, a second sight record for Virginia. On a trip that went 89 mi out from Virginia Beach Aug. 30 one Audubon's and four Cory's shearwaters were seen plus 102 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (NB, DLH, RLA *et al.*). Off Ocean City another Audubon's and three Cory's were found Sept. 12 (JKE *et al.*). Bazuin's stint as a Foreign Fishery Observer yielded a number of pelagic plums such as this list *ca.* 120 mi e. of Virginia Beach Sept. 10: one Greater, five Cory's, and five Audubon's shearwaters, 13 Wilson's and one Leach's storm-petrels and one Black-capped Petrel. He saw 16 Audubon's and 23 Cory's shearwaters 106-110 mi e. of the mouth of Chesapeake Bay (hereafter, the Bay) Sept. 2 as well as three Audubon's on both Sept. 1 & 3, these latter also 100+ mi off the Virginia coast plus a Black-capped Petrel 127 mi e. of Virginia Beach Sept. 16.

White Pelicans are becoming nearly rampant in s.e. Virginia with one at Fisherman Island N.W.R., Oct. 10 (TEA, RB), Sandbridge, Va., Oct. 4+ (*fide* NB) and Hog I., Surry Co., in the James R., *ca.* Nov. 20-26+ (FB, BW, m.ob.), this last a new locality record. This species, if it follows the pattern of the past 2 years, can now be expected in the Region at least once each reporting period. Much more unexpected was a Brown Pelican at Liberty Res., w. of Baltimore September-Oct. 18 which subsisted on crappies thrown to it by fishermen. Although about the 15th record for Maryland, this is the first from fresh water (RFR, DC, m.ob.) but they have occurred on this medium at least thrice in Virginia. Also received was a late report of one at Cobb I., Va., May 27 (HG). Gannets were scarcely reported at all but early ones were five immatures at Sandbridge Oct. 3 (NB) and one immature off Assateague I., Md., Oct. 5 (JKE), while 28 were seen from the shore of Chincoteague N.W.R. (hereafter, Chincoteague) Oct. 28 (HTA). The influx of Great Cormorants was not as pronounced as in the fall of 1980 but an immature was at Ft. Hunt, Fairfax Co., Va., Sept. 20 (JMA) and Scott counted eight from the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel District (hereafter, C.B.B.T.) at the mouth of the Bay Nov. 1. In Virginia, massive Double-crested Cormorant concentrations were 10,000 at Fisherman I., Oct. 13 (DFA, RJA), 3000 near Smith I., Oct. 18 (CP), 4000 Oct. 19 (SG) and 8000 Oct. 26 (CPW), these last at Chincoteague. Farther inland notable records were of 19 at Hunting Cr., Va., Aug. 26 (DFA), 34 at Washington, D.C., Oct. 8 (DC) and 57 at Hopewell, Va., Sept. 27



(FRS). Unprecedented late records were an Anhinga Nov. 11 and three Nov. 26+ at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach (NB, M & DM, m.ob.). The Suttons saw a **Magnificent Frigatebird** 30 mi e. of Ocean City Aug. 30.

A late foray to Smith I., Md., Aug. 1-2 revealed the presence of the usual 10 species of herons /ibises with an estimated 517 pairs including 137 of Black-crowned Night Herons and 55 Yellow-crowned Night Herons (HTA, DM, HW). Elsewhere herons were little noted except at Chincoteague. At Conowingo Dam, Md., 18 Great Blue Herons Nov. 29 was a good late fall Piedmont concentration (RFR). Peak numbers of herons at Chincoteague included 214 Little Blue Herons, 171 Great Egrets, 74 Louisiana Herons and 329 Glossy Ibises Aug. 13-14 and 948 Snowy Egrets Sept. 3-4 (CPW). Cattle Egrets often nest later than other herons and were true to form this year with 100 nests still active at Poplar I., Talbot Co., Md., Aug. 12 (DM, HW, 25 young banded) while s. of South Pt., Worcester Co., Md., a colony had 450 young and at least 15 nests still with eggs Aug. 19 (DM). Scott counted 122 Great Egrets near Hopewell Aug. 16. On Poplar I., 30 Snowy Egrets and five Little Blue Herons Aug. 12 were good local counts (HW, DM). Two adult and one young Least Bitterns were at Hampton, Va., Aug. 2 (JWD, FRS *et al.*) and one on Smith I., Md., Aug. 1 was unusual (DM, HW, HTA). Near Hopewell an imm. White Ibis Aug. 2 (FRS, JWD *et al.*) was unique and a Glossy Ibis Nov. 2-8 was late (same obs.). On Aug. 7 a seasonal high of 370 Glossy Ibises at Chincoteague was achieved (FRS *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL** — Southern outpost Mute Swans peaked at 39 at Chincoteague Aug. 25 (EG, *fide* DFH) when 374 Gadwall and 665 Blue-winged Teal were also censused. Other top counts here included 987 Whistling Swan, 2995 Black Ducks, 591 Green-winged Teal and 456 N. Shovelers Nov. 24 (EG). At Redart, Va., 250 Whistling Swans were noted Oct. 27 (MP) and 48 were at Ft. Smallwood Park (hereafter, F.S.P.), Anne Arundel Co., Md., Oct. 28 (HW) good early numbers. In Talbot County Reese examined a possible "Cackling" Goose (*Branta canadensis minima*) in a hunter's bag Oct. 29 which had a white band at the base of the neck and was very small. Unfortunately no measurements or photographs were taken prior to the bird becoming table fare and other races sometimes have white neck bands. Still rare on the upper Bay, one or two Brant were seen at F.S.P., Oct. 25 & 28 (RFR, HW), Sandy Point S.P. (hereafter, S.P.S.P.) Nov. 5 (HW) and Cambridge, Md., Nov. 28 (DC). Four White-fronted Geese turned up at Hog I., Surry Co., Va., Nov. 28-29+, a third record there, probably a family group (two ad., two imm.—BW, NB, LJ, TRW, m.ob.). At Blackwater N.W.R. (hereafter, Blackwater) one adult with two apparently Canada Goose x White-fronted Goose young again appeared Oct. 18+ (RH *et al.*). The last two Snow Geese were at Chincoteague June 5 and none were seen again until three were found Aug. 20, five on Aug. 27 and six on Sept. 10 (CPW). From 45-150 were reported by m.ob., Sept. 20 (FRS, NB). Some believe these August and early September birds may be pioneer migrants (CPW). Ten were at Leonardtown, Md., Sept. 23 (EJW). Both Snow and Blue geese have been arriving at Blackwater regularly in the last week of September for years but as recently as the



White-fronted and Canada geese, Blackwater, Md., Nov. 27, 1981. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

1960s such early arrivals were almost unprecedented in Maryland and Virginia. At Presquile N.W.R., 275 Blue Geese and 1000 Wood Ducks were estimated Dec. 3 (HCO). New for the Maryland list was a **Ross' Goose** at Blackwater Nov. 27-Dec. 6 closely observed as it grazed with other species next to the Visitors' Center (PJO *et al.*, ph.).

In Alexandria 11 Fulvous Whistling Ducks flew over one observer's house Aug. 2 (JMA). Another group of six was seen Sept. 20 in Prince George County n. of Merkle W.M.A. (JAG). Representative counts of Green-winged Teal included 400 at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va. (hereafter, Craney) Sept. 17 (TRW), 425 at Blackwater Sept. 26 (HTA) and 590 at Chincoteague Oct. 15 (EG, *vide* DFH). Blue-winged Teal peaked at 909 at Chincoteague Sept. 15 (EG, *vide* DFH) and N. Shoveler at 461 Oct. 15. The first Ring-necked Ducks were detected at Denton, Caroline Co., Md., Oct. 9 (MWH, *vide* AJF) and Beltsville, Md., Oct. 8 (RFR) and 150 was a good total for Washington, D.C., Nov. 26 (RFR). Very good by local standards were counts of 79 Buffleheads and 48 Ruddy Ducks at Swift Creek Res., Nov. 10 (FRS). A female and a second-year ♂ Com. Eider were at Ocean City Oct. 11 (RFR, m.ob.). Scott saw two King Eiders from C.B.B.T., Nov. 1. Brinkley reported 192 Black Scoters at Sandbridge Oct. 3 and 225 Hooded Mergansers at Hog I., Nov. 29.

**VULTURES THROUGH RAILS** — Substantial if not continuous monitoring of hawk flights took place at Kiptopeke Beach Field Station (hereafter, Kiptopeke) near Cape Charles, Va., F.S.P., and Assateague I., Md./Va. At Kiptopeke 9780 raptors were seen on 24 days Sept. 1-Nov. 1 (BW, A & PS, DHS, RB *et al.*). October 10 was the most extraordinary day here with 1174 hawks of 14 species including these seasonal highs: 17 Black Vultures, one Goshawk, 73 Red-tailed Hawks, four Red-shouldered Hawks, 580 Broad-winged Hawks, and 11 Peregrine Falcons (JLSc, DHS, BJF *et al.*). On this date 24 Merlins, six Peregrine Falcons, 100 Marsh Hawks and "hundreds" of Sharp-shinned Hawks passed through Chincoteague (HW, DM). Also Oct. 10 at Bellevue, Talbot Co., Md., 12 species of raptors were in migration including six Bald Eagles; 203 raptors of 9 species were here Oct. 3 with highs of 119 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 53 Am. Kestrels, excellent for an area not known as a flyway (HTA). Other top counts at Kiptopeke were 34 Marsh Hawks and 401 Am. Kestrels Sept. 12, 74 Ospreys and 38 Merlins Sept. 20, 1143 Sharp-shinned Hawks Sept. 22 and 96 Cooper's Hawks Oct. 11. Here as elsewhere on the Delmarva Pen., the direction hawks fly often seems to be more a factor of where the wind is coming from rather than what time of year it is! "... on Oct. 3 I had 880 raptors flying N. The very strong NW winds [25-35 mph] had Sharpies flying N just above treetop level. Any southbound birds were quite high. My impression after 5 years of counting is that strong winds from any quarter significantly impede the across-the-water Sharp-shinned movement" (BW). At F.S.P., 5119 raptors of 13 species were tallied on 31 days, mostly Sept. 9-Oct. 8 in an essentially one-observer operation (HW). Notable counts there were of 414 Sharp-shinned and nine Cooper's hawks Oct. 8, 1497 Broad-winged Hawks and four Bald Eagles Sept. 23, 40 Marsh Hawks and 43 Ospreys Sept. 19, 11 Merlins Oct. 3 and 148 Am. Kestrels Sept. 9. At Chincoteague 51 Marsh Hawks, 18 Merlins and 446 Am. Kestrels were counted Sept. 23 (IWA, *vide* DFH). On Assateague I., Ward found Peregrines "down considerably from the previous 2 autumns" but still had his third best total since his first year, 1970, with 24 adults and 66 immatures banded, the number of

adults an all-time record. "It appears that nesting success was diminished in the summer of 1981 in the n. Peregrine populations from which our Assateague sample is drawn. Throughout our 12-year autumn survey Merlins have increased markedly. The average number sighted per 100 man hours . . . 1970-1973 was 23.8 Merlins. During the next 4 years the figures rose to 37.9, then 54.0 in 1978-1981. We saw 345 Merlins in 1981, an all-time high" (FPW).

Other raptor sightings of interest elsewhere included 250 Turkey and 125 Black vultures near Richmond Oct. 24 (CZ). Goshawks were seen more often than usual with singles at Alexandria Oct. 9 & 11 (JMA, DFA), Piscataway Cr. marsh near Washington, D.C., Nov. 22 (PN *et al.*), Sterling, Va., Oct. 24 (CT) and Leonardtown, Md. (*vide* EJW). At Fisherman I., Oct. 3 were 61 Turkey Vultures, 106 Broad-winged Hawks, 23 Marsh Hawks, 94 Ospreys, 84 Am. Kestrels and two Peregrine Falcons—all higher totals than those achieved the same date at Kiptopeke a few mi farther n. (NB). At Wittman, Talbot Co., Md., 653 Broad-winged Hawks were seen Sept. 18 and three Rough-legged Hawks were there Oct. 19, an early date and unusual place for them (JKE). As usual, one or two Golden Eagles were at Blackwater but an immature at Deal Island W.M.A., Somerset Co., Md., Nov. 11 was unexpected (HW). Ten Bald Eagles were at Blackwater Nov. 1 (LO, *vide* CPW) and two were feeding on a dead Great Blue Heron at Poplar I., Aug. 12 (HW, DM). Other Merlin totals of note were 17 at Chincoteague Sept. 19 (NB) and 46 on Assateague I., Md., Sept. 20 (JKE). At Back Bay Oct. 17 were three Soras, one Virginia Rail and 1 Com. Gallinules (NB) but less expected were five Com. Gallinules, scarce in the Piedmont, at the Virginia Fibre Corp. sludge ponds in Amherst Co., Va., Sept. 2-3 where single Soras were also encountered Sept. 2 & 15 (RC). On Swift Creek Res., 367 Am. Coots Nov. 19 was a good Piedmont total (FRS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Chandler made 12 visits to the Virginia Fibre Corp. ponds Aug. 30-Sept. 20 securing several records remarkable for the Virginia Piedmont: one Baird's Sandpiper Sept. 2-8, two Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 30, one Buff-breasted Sandpiper Aug. 30-Sept. 2, and one Wilson's Phalarope Aug. 30—the second, first, second and third respective records for this physiographic section of the state (RC *et al.*). At the opposite end of the Region Wilds conducted 12 thorough 2-day shorebird surveys at Chincoteague Aug. 6-7 to Nov. 19-20, 10 of them recording 19 or more species with a maximum of 27 present Sept. 10-11. Among her highest counts were 32 Piping Plovers, 588 Red Knots, 715 Short-billed Dowitchers, 20 Hudsonian Godwits and two Black-necked Stilts—all Aug. 6-7; 862 Semipalmated Plovers, 221 Stilt Sandpipers, 1076 Semipalmated Sandpipers, three Marbled Godwits and 1903 Sanderlings Aug. 13-14; 477 Lesser Yellowlegs, 166 Pectoral Sandpipers, 44 Am. Avocets and one Red Phalarope Aug. 20-21 (phalarope Aug. 20); 116 Greater Yellowlegs Sept. 3-4; 24 White-rumped Sandpipers, 839 Least Sandpipers and 1031 W. Sandpipers Sept. 17-18; 11 Long-billed Dowitchers Oct. 26-27.

Out of place was a Piping Plover just s. of Washington Nat'l Airport Aug. 25 (DC). The most notable numbers of Killdeer were from the Alexandria area, such as 238 Nov. 23 (DFA). American Golden Plover was widely reported with 21 at F.S.P., Sept. 23 (HW), 56 on Assateague I., Oct. 18 (FPW) and an extremely late, carefully described individual at Remington Farms, Kent Co., Md., Nov. 29 (WRS). Perry encountered 1400 Black-bellied Plovers in the Smith I., Va., area Oct. 17. Unprecedented for this Region is the report of the European race of **Whimbrel** near Mockhorn I., Northampton Co., Va., Sept. 12 (HG). The best Upland Sandpiper count was a low one of 12 in Frederick County, Md., Sept. 24 (DHW). A Spotted Sandpiper at Hopewell Nov. 8 was late (FRS, JWD *et al.*). Always unusual on the upper Bay, single Purple Sandpipers at S.P.S.P., Nov. 21 & 23 were noteworthy (HW). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Piscataway Cr. marsh, Md., Nov. 15 was tardy (PN). Baird's Sandpipers were reported only from Chincoteague (1-3 percent from Aug. 13-Oct. 22, CPW, SC, KW) and Baltimore, where one was seen Sept. 27 (RFR, HK, BD). Six White-rumped Sandpipers and 13 Long-billed Dowitchers, both scarce species on the Bay, were at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., Oct. 23-26 and six Long-billed were still there Nov. 11 (HW). Stilt Sandpipers were more widespread than usual with "10 times the normal number of juveniles in September and October" at Chincoteague, counts ranging from 61-116 (CPW). As many as 281 of this species were at Chincoteague Aug. 23 (DFA) while farther inland and up the Bay 19 were at Blackwater Sept. 5 (HTA, AJ), seven were at S.P.S.P., Sept. 17 (HW) and three were at Baltimore Sept. 8 (RFR).

Concerning 'peep' Wilds makes the following comments: "Semis use every shorebird habitat in spring-pools, impoundments, marshes, tidal flats, sheltered beaches, but in fall migration they stick almost exclusively (over 95%) to the pools and impoundments. Virtually all the 'peep' on the tidal flats and beaches are Westerns (along with a handful of Least). Westerns are equally at home in the impoundments, both in the water and on wet mud and about 80% of the juveniles are found there. The much smaller population of adults seems to prefer the flats when they're available. . ."

In the Smith I.-Myrtle I. area 3000 W. Sandpipers were seen Oct. 17 and 200 Willets, 59 Marbled Godwits, five Whimbrel and 265 Am. Oystercatchers were estimated Oct. 23 (CP). Buff-breasted Sandpipers could muster no more than a maximum of five this fall, at Chincoteague Sept. 20 (NB *et al.*), in contrast to the record numbers seen in 1980. One Hudsonian Godwit was on Assateague I., Md., Nov. 13 (SHD) and at Chincoteague one lingered at least until Nov. 20 (CPW). The only Ruff was on Assateague I., Md., Aug. 16 (EB, RFR). At Craney Am. Avocets returned after being almost absent during the summer with as many as 221 there Sept. 17 (TRW). Three Red Phalaropes were off Ocean City Sept. 12 (JKE *et al.*). Wilson's Phalaropes made a strong showing at Chincoteague with nine present Aug. 23-29 (DFA, KW). Unusual was one at Beltsville, Md., Sept. 25 (RFR). Five N. Phalaropes were at Craney Aug. 29 (NB, DLH *et al.*) and one was at Princess Anne, Md., Sept. 25 (DM).

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER** — Single Pomarine Jaegers were at Virginia Beach Aug. 30 (NB *et al.*), Assateague I., Md., Sept. 18 (FPW, ph.) and 106 mi e. of the Bay mouth Sept. 21 (JBB). The only Parasitic Jaeger report was of one at Chincoteague Sept. 17 (FPW,\*). White-winged gulls were little noted but a Glaucous Gull and an Iceland Gull were in the C.B.B.T. area Oct. 18 (CP, BW) and an Iceland Gull was at Montgomery County, Md., landfill Nov. 17-18 (HW). Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be widely reported with a maximum of four on C.B.B.T., Oct. 18 (SG, two ph.) and sightings from unusual areas such as Salisbury, Md., Nov. 27 (HW, DM, two) and Conowingo Dam, Md., Nov. 13 (RS, *vide* DAC). As many as 613 Forster's Terns lingered at Hampton Nov. 21 (FRS, JWD *et al.*). Incredible but well-described were two **Bridled Terns** at Chincoteague Aug. 20 (SC, TM) evidently blown in by 3 days of E winds which reached 39 mph on that date. Maximum tern figures were 477 Royals at Chincoteague Oct. 26-27 (CPW), 139 Sandwich on C.B.B.T., Sept. 3 (FRS), 254 Caspians at Anacostia Naval Sta., Washington, D.C., Sept. 1 (DFA) and 53 Blacks at Chincoteague Aug. 13-14 (CPW). At Cedar Island W.M.A., 190 Black Skimmers and one Sandwich Tern were seen Aug. 2 (HTA, DM, HW), the latter the second sight record for the Maryland part of the Bay. Two late and out-of-place skimmers were at S.P.S.P., Nov. 8 (HW). The coastal high of Caspian Terns was 64 at Chincoteague Sept. 28-29 (CPW).

**OWLS THROUGH WAXWINGS** — At Washington, D.C., young Barn Owls fledged as late as Nov. 15 (DC). A Snowy Owl was reported at Ft. Belvoir, Va., Nov. 20 but was undetected during later efforts to find it (*vide* JMA). Unique was a Long-eared Owl at Gude's Nursery, Rockville, Md., Nov. 27 (SC). All the Saw-whet Owl sightings were in November at the Nat'l Arboretum, Washington, D.C. (DC), Tolchester Beach, Kent Co., Md. (DAM), Newport News (M & DM) and Sterling, Va. (CT). The best totals of Com. Nighthawk were 1258 at Laytonsville, Montgomery Co., Md., Aug. 26 (HW) and 461 at Charlottesville Aug. 30 (PY). At Washington, D.C., 100 Chimney Swifts were still present Oct. 17 and five lingered until Oct. 22 (DFA). One of the highlights of this reporting period was a *Selasphorus hummingbird* of unknown species first found in late September in Arlington, Va., and present until Nov. 25 at which point the bird was netted and incarcerated in lush surroundings with the hopes that come spring it would molt into a more recognizable plumage and be released on the arrival of suitable warm weather (JMA, CPW, m.ob., ph.). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were not to be outdone by this and staged a late departure at Ft. Hunt, Va., Oct. 28 (DFA) and an abnormally late nesting attempt at Easton, Md., where a nest contained two young Sept. 10 (FW, *vide* JGR, ph.) and the female was still there Oct. 8 but the young were gone—the latest nesting ever recorded in this Region. Red-headed Woodpeckers seem to have thrived in the presence of "an incredible acorn crop" (RC) yet



*Selasphorus hummingbird*, Arlington, Va., Nov. 1981. Photo/Bates Littlehales.

the biggest report was only of six at Blackwater Sept. 7 (JJ, CP, HTA *et al.*). A major movement of Downy Woodpeckers was witnessed at Orange, Va., Oct. 27 when 43 were counted in 90 min (JM).

Banding activities usually prevent a thorough count of flyover landbirds at Kiptopeke, a great staging area for E. Kingbird, but Scott noted 260 Sept. 9 (compared with 790 Aug. 31, 1975). Three W. Kingbirds were reported at Chincoteague Sept. 21 (KW, DP). Two records of Acadian Flycatchers singing very late and apparently on territory were made: one at Pretty Boy Res., n. of Baltimore Sept. 5 (RFR) and another in Richmond Sept. 21 (FRS). Always scarce, Olive-sided Flycatcher singles were seen Sept. 6-18 at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., near Seneca, Md. (DC), Summit Hill Turf Farm, Montgomery Co., Md. (PN), Washington, D.C. (DC) and Fairfax, Va. (JWE). On Oct. 9, 27,000 Tree Swallows were estimated on Assateague I., Va., Oct. 9 (JMA). In Washington, D.C., 400 Bank Swallows were seen Aug. 22 (DC) but of greater interest were two at sea 40 mi off Ocean City Sept. 12 (JKE). Odd for so late a date and the high count for the period were 350 Rough-winged Swallows carefully watched Oct. 8 in n. Loudoun County, Va. (JBB). Tardy Barn Swallows included two on C.B.B.T., Nov. 22 and three at Craney Nov. 28 (NB). A very late Purple Martin was at Ft. Hunt, Va., Oct. 20 (DFA) and a roost at nearby Mt. Vernon held 10,000 Aug. 12 and gradually diminished to 80 as late as Sept. 25 (JMA). This roost pales in comparison with a monstrous one which developed at Salisbury, Md., for the first time and was estimated to contain **100,000** martins, 392 of which were banded the night of Aug. 15-16 (MKK, RFR, CRV, m.ob.). Large numbers of Fish Crows were at Bellevue, probably as spinoffs from a roost on Poplar I., and 970 were counted Nov. 28 (HTA). Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a tolerable flight, becoming widespread during the period Sept. 9-14 although an exceptionally early one was reported from Kent County, Md., Aug. 22 (DAM). A Bewick's Wren banded at Kiptopeke Sept. 28 was a genuine rarity, especially along the coast (WPS). Three Short-billed Marsh Wrens were on the C.B.B.T., Sept. 20 (NB). Klockner banded an early Swainson's Thrush at S.P.S.P., Aug. 17. Always unpredictable, Cedar Waxwings were less common than in the fall of 1980. Eight early ones were at Oxford, Md., Aug. 6 (JGR).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — As usual, banding stations provided many of the most interesting records. At Kiptopeke 96 species and 12,596 individual birds were tagged on 62 days Sept. 1-Nov. 1 including 32 species of warblers (FRS, WPS, JHB, CWH *et al.*). Unfortunately, after 19 years of operation its future is uncertain

owing to a lack of qualified banders to continue this work in an area which remains an unsung Cape May. Among the most notable seasonal totals at Kiptopeke were 111 Red-eyed Vireos, 246 Black-and-white Warblers, 106 N. Parulas, 393 Black-throated Blue Warblers, 389 Ovenbirds, 177 N. Waterthrushes, 1056 Com. Yellowthroats and 2075 Am. Redstarts. September 10 was an outstanding flight day here and elsewhere throughout the Region with 641 birds of 35 species captured in 28 net hours, including 20 warbler species. On Sept. 29, 43 species were banded (JHB). Kiptopeke, in spite of its spectacular flights, is so far from major urban areas that it does not draw a year-round core of dedicated volunteers, enabling the consistency of studies of a site such as Adventure, n.w. of Washington, D.C. Three Philadelphia Vireos were at Ft. Hunt P., Fairfax Co., Va., Sept. 10 (Abbotts). Very rare on the coast in fall, a Warbling Vireo was at Kiptopeke Sept. 9 (FRS), as was a Golden-winged Warbler Sept. 20 (JHB). A quite late Golden-winged was at Beaverdam Res., Loudoun Co., Va., Oct. 11 (JBB). Outstanding was a "Brewster's hybrid warbler at Kiptopeke Sept. 14 (CWH). Orange-crowned Warblers were seen at 6 localities and eight were banded at Kiptopeke. Ten Nashville Warblers in Talbot County, Md., Sept. 26 was the top count for this species. Extremely late was a Magnolia Warbler at Newport News Nov. 21 (M & DM). At Kiptopeke Black-throated Blue Warblers were caught on 47 of 62 days, only the Com. Yellowthroat being more frequent among all bird species (53 days). The last Yellow-throated Warbler was in Talbot County Sept. 27 (JGR). Palm Warblers sustained a record low at Kiptopeke with only 30 banded (vs. 310 in 1969; FRS). Several species peaked at Kiptopeke Sept. 20 with these totals: 77 Ovenbirds, 37 N. Waterthrushes and 160 Com. Yellowthroats (JHB). Connecticut Warblers were seen at 15 places, the earliest being one at Amherst, Va., Sept. 9 (RC) and another on C.B.B.T., the next day (HTA). Very late was a Wilson's Warbler in Fairfax Nov. 21 (EDP, *vide* JWE). The best day for Am. Redstart at Kiptopeke was Sept. 10 when 351 were banded (FRS).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH BUNTINGS** — Scott counted 205 N. (Baltimore) Orioles at Kiptopeke Sept. 9. A very late Scarlet Tanager was at Newport News Nov. 5 (M & DM) and the last Summer Tanager was at Denton, Caroline Co., Md., Oct. 16 (AK, *vide* AJF). Northern finches staged a flurry of mild activity during the fall but became scarce as winter approached. The only Dickcissels reported were one at Amherst, Va., Oct. 5 (RC) and another in Virginia Beach the following day (HCI). Most Evening Grosbeaks were seen in late October or early November, the maximum being 200+ in Mathews County, Va., on the lower Bay Nov. 9 (MP). The first fall arrival

Purple Finches were three at Montgomery County, Md., landfill Sept. 11 (HW) and two at Bellevue, Md., Sept. 13 (HTA). Fledgling House Finches were reported at Annapolis Sept. 3 (JGR) and Alexandria on Sept. 4 (JMA). Surprising and unique was a White-winged Crossbill near St. Mary's City, Md., Nov. 3 (AT, *vide* EJW). Presumably an early migrant, a Savannah Sparrow was found dead in Annapolis Aug. 14 (JGR). The last Grasshopper Sparrows were one on C.B.B.T., Oct. 13 (RJA), three in Amherst Oct. 14 (RC) and one at Charlottesville Oct. 18 (PY). Wierenga reported a Sharp-tailed Sparrow of the Nelson's race at F.S.P., Oct. 2. The only Lark Sparrow record was one at Chincoteague Sept. 26 (DtC, *vide* CPW). Of much greater rarity was an ad. **Harris' Sparrow** at Denton, Caroline Co., Md., Nov. 16 (MN, *vide* AJF). Lincoln's Sparrows were seen in many localities with most records concentrated Oct. 9-10, such as four in Amherst Oct. 9 (RC). Four Lapland Longspurs were at Craney Nov. 30 (KW). Snow Bunting records of interest included 14 at L. Anna Nov. 1 (JM), 11 at S.P.S.P., Nov. 11 (HW), 45 at Hampton Nov. 21 (FRS, JWD *et al.*), 56 at Craney Nov. 27 (NB), 75 at Chincoteague Nov. 27 (JAG) and 35 at Blackwater Nov. 28 (HK, JLS, RFR, DH).

**OBSERVERS** — D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, R.J. Abbott, I.W. Ailes, R.L. Ake, T.E. Armour, J.B. Bazuin, Ruth Beck, C.R. Blem, Eirik Blom, Fred Blystone, Ned Brinkley, J.H. Buckalew, Michelle Chandler, Ray Chandler, Dermot Cooper (DtC), Sam Cooper, D.A. Cutler, Dave Czaplak, J.W. Dillard, Bob Dixon, Paul DuMont, S.H. Dyke, J.K. Effinger, J.W. Eike, B.J. Fields, A.J. Fletcher, R.D. Foy, John Frary, Hans Gabler, E. Gallagher, Steve Graves, J.A. Gregoire, J.G. Gruber, C.W. Hacker, M.W. Hewitt, Robert Hilton, D.F. Holland, David Holmes, D.L. Hughes, H.C. Irving, Jon Janosik, Clark Jeschke, Alice Jones, Leigh Jones, Hank Kaestner, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Wayne Klockner, Alicia Knotts, Richard Maldeis, Tim Melton, D.A. Mendinghall, Debbie Mignogno, Mike & Dorothy Mitchell, Jack Mozingo, Paul Nisticco, Marianna Nuttle, Lola Oberman, P.J. O'Brien, H.C. Olson, Floyd Parks, E.D. Peacock, Carl Perry, Don Peterson, Mary Pulley, J.G. Reese, R.F. Ringler, J.L. Schlesinger (JLSc), Robert Schutsky, F.R. Scott, D.H. Silsby, Ann & Paul Smith, W.P. Smith, J.L. Stasz, W.R. Stott, Clay & Pat Sutton, C.B. Swift, R.J. Tripician, Craig Tufts, Allison Turner, C.R. Vaughn, D.H. Wallace, F.P. Ward, M.L. Wass, Karl Weber, Hal Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams, Gary Williamson, E.J. Willoughby, E.M. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe, Floyd Wooters, Peter Yaukey, Charles Ziegenfus.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.

## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION /Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The year-long drought was extended to 18 months (through November), especially in Georgia and South Carolina, although a few storms battered the coast in late fall, notably November 12-14. Temperatures tended to be just slightly below normal all fall, and there were no lengthy periods of either hot or cold weather. Generally speaking, well defined but mostly dry cold fronts passed through the Region every seven days or so, but unfortunately, the majority occurred during the early part of the week. By the weekends, when most birds are afield, the waves of migrants had thinned out.

The benign weather must have kept most of the shorebirds aloft over the inland portions, and good shorebird concentrations, even along the coast, were scarce. As often happens in fall, some of the most exciting birds were seen only offshore, but observers in northern Georgia turned up a few very rare waterbirds. The warbler migration was mediocre to better-than-average, and it was quite good in eastern North Carolina. Not only was the volume of passerine migration essentially typical for the fall, but the timing was also "on schedule", with records of early migrants balancing those of late migrants. For the second consecutive fall, a modest flight of winter finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches penetrated the Region. However, no first Regional or state birds were uncovered, although one or

two were found outside our borders in the mountains of North Carolina.



**LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA** — A summer straggler, or very early fall migrant, was a Com. Loon at L. Lanier, Ga., Aug. 13 (FM) and again Sept. 5 (JC); a Red-throated Loon there Nov. 13 (JP) was an excellent find. Bazuin spent Sept. 3-16 birding far offshore—40+ mi off the coast, from the Virginia line to Cape Hatteras, N.C. The majority of the birds seen were in a handful of concentrations; grand totals of tubenoses were 718 Cory's Shearwaters, 13 Greater Shearwaters, 455 Audubon's Shearwaters, 30 Black-capped Petrels, one Leach's Storm-Petrel (Sept. 11), and 134 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Elsewhere in North Carolina, the reporting of pelagic results left much to be desired, and I was given vague species totals, unknown dates of trips, and/or semi-rumored reports. The best finds in that state were a Sooty Shearwater off Hatteras Sept. 5 (RA, PD), double-digit totals of Black-capped Petrels on all four of the Ake-DuMont



*Black-capped Petrel, Gulf Stream, off Cape Hatteras, Sept. 5, 1981. Photo/Barbara Spencer.*

pelagic trips in September and October out of Hatteras, two Harcourt's Storm-Petrels off Oregon Inlet July 29 (WI, DL—\*, N.C.S.M.) for the second state record, and a Leach's Storm-Petrel off Hatteras Sept. 6 (PD *et al.*). A pelagic trip Aug. 29 off Savannah, Ga., out of Hilton Head I., S.C., yielded 40 Cory's and 55 Audubon's shearwaters, and three Wilson's Storm-Petrels, a species surprisingly scarce in Georgia waters (TM *et al.*). Single White-tailed Tropicbirds were observed 75 mi e. of Cape Lookout, N.C., Sept. 5 (JB) and 65 mi off Savannah Aug. 29 (TM *et al.*); whereas the first fall record, and third Regional record, of Red-billed Tropicbird was of an individual seen off Oregon Inlet in August (*vide* EFP). A White Pelican seen at Mt. Pleasant, S.C., Oct. 3 (SAG, HL *et al.*) was likely the same bird reported Oct. 21 (GS) & 25 (PN *et al.*) at 2 locations in the Charleston area, and two were noted at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., Aug. 15-Oct. 23 (JG *et al.*). Casual inland was a Brown Pelican near Hope Mills, N.C., from late July-Oct. 7, with a second bird being present in early October (PR, PJC). The Blue-faced Booby that lingered most of the summer in a Brown Pelican colony near Southport, N.C., was last reported Oct. 3 (GM), and an imm. Great Cormorant was notable near Cape Lookout, N.C., Nov. 2 (HD). A few Anhingas were found this fall well inland near Fayetteville, N.C. (PJC), Augusta, Ga. (AW), and Eufaula Ref. (PB), with one in the lower Piedmont at Pee Dee N.W.R., N.C., July 30 (DM) being most unusual.

**WADERS** — A post-breeding heron roost at Augusta created quite a stir, with notable peak counts (all Aug. 22) of 1286 Cattle Egrets, 143 White Ibises, six Snowy Egrets, and three Louisiana Herons, as well as a Glossy Ibis Aug. 22-Sept. 9 (AW). Especially rare was an imm. Roseate Spoonbill at the roost Sept. 8 (CB). Otherwise inland, post-breeding waders were in short supply, with the best finds being a Cattle Egret near Piedmont, S.C., Dec. 1 (PW), 45 Wood Storks s. of Eufaula Ref., Sept. 1 (JG), and a Glossy Ibis near Fayetteville Oct. 23 (PJC). Notable along the coast was a peak of 23 Wood Storks at North Carolina's only stork hangout near Sunset Beach Aug. 25 (BL), an Outer Banks record 30 White Ibises at Pea I., N.C., Oct. 24 (JOP, EP), and three spoonbills at Harris Neck N.W.R., Ga., Oct. 3 (FM *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL** — Two Mute Swans on Pamlico Sound, N.C., at Avon Aug. 1 (VL) might have been "wild"; inland reports were considered escapees. Six White-fronted Geese at Eufaula Ref., Oct. 23 (JG, CA) were the only ones seen this fall, and the "Blue List" Fulvous Whistling Duck was missed entirely. Among early ducks were a Pintail at Pendleton, S.C., Oct. 11 (SAG *et al.*); a Green-winged Teal at Davis, N.C., Aug. 8 (BP); and six Ruddy Ducks at Ft.

Fisher, N.C., Sept. 14 (RAC, JD). Jordan Res., in e. Chatham Co., N.C., is finally beginning to fill; noteworthy there were 30 Pintails and 12 N. Shovelers Oct. 24 (SG, BW, MW), five Greater Scaups Oct. 30 (BW, MW), and six Oldsquaws Nov. 10 (BW, MW). Davis noted an unusual assemblage of waterfowl migrating with scoters s. of Ft. Fisher Oct. 24—40 Canvasbacks, 80 Pintails, and 75 Am. Wigeons.

**HAWKS** — At long last, a Mississippi Kite was seen on the North Carolina Outer Banks—an adult at Buxton Oct. 6 (GH). A Krider's Red-tailed Hawk was reported from Cumberland County, N.C., Nov. 13 (PJC), and a team of Winston-Salem birders counted 779 Broad-winged Hawks in 8.5 hours Sept. 15-19 at Pilot Mt., S.P., N.C. (RS, PC, KB, BWi). Disappointingly, only one Golden Eagle was noted, an adult at Catawba, S.C., Sept. 30 (JCo). I received at least 15 Bald Eagle reports, an excellent number, including several from the North Carolina coast, where the species has been inexplicably rare in recent years. Nonetheless, this increase in sightings is likely a result of an increase in birding activity, and perhaps not an increase in birds. For the past few summers, Marsh Hawks have been seen at Jordan Res., and one there July 25 (EG, DK, JM) and two Aug. 28 (SG) continued that trend. Are these birds just summering, or are they actually breeding (unknown away from the coast)? The fall Peregrine Falcon flight along the coast was uneventful, and none was reported inland. On the other hand, inland Merlins were noted on 12 occasions, and a good coastal count of 21, in just 1.5 hours, was made at Edisto Beach S.P., S.C., Sept. 28 (MH).

**CRANES THROUGH COOTS** — A Sandhill Crane 4 mi w. of Lillington, N.C., early November-Dec. 19 (TW, ML, THo *et al.*) was just the second for the c. part of that state, and others somewhat out of range were at Savannah, Ga., Oct. 3 (FM *et al.*) and at Eufaula Ref., Oct. 23 (JG, CA). An excellent find was a Limpkin seen in Okefenokee Swamp, Ga., Aug. 24 (B & EI). An ad. Virginia Rail seen feeding two chicks at Tybee I., Ga., Aug. 1 (DB, PB) provided a first coastal breeding record s. of North Carolina, and just the third for Georgia (two records for the Atlanta area). Steve Graves was indeed fortunate to see a Black Rail running between grass clumps in a pond at Bodie I., N.C., Oct. 19, and notable was a Com. Gallinule Sept. 19 in n.w. Richmond County, N.C. (DM). Several Am. Coots were quite early at L. Surf, near Vass, N.C., Aug. 20 (JHC, THo).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Very rare inland was an Am. Avocet near Dublin, Ga., Oct. 18 (TKP), and nine were seen in w. Pamlico County, N.C., Nov. 15 (MEW, PJC). Piping Plovers were recorded in n.w. South Carolina for the first time; one on a mudflat near Fairplay was in breeding plumage Aug. 23, and singles in winter plumage were there Sept. 6 and Sept. 20-Nov. 15 (HL, SAG *et al.*). The benign weather must have kept most Am. Golden Plovers aloft, and despite five inland records, the peak inland (and coastal) was just five, near Fairplay Oct. 18 (SAG, HL). The only inland Black-bellied Plover was in e. Durham County, N.C., Oct. 14 (BW, MW). The single report of Long-billed Curlew was quite notable—three at Little St. Simons I., Ga., Oct. 8 (C & ML). Small numbers of Upland Sandpipers were seen inland in August near Dublin, Sumter, S.C., and Durham, N.C., but a count of 46 at the New Hanover Co., N.C., airport Aug. 20 was excellent for that state (RD). Inland Willets are always noteworthy—singles were at Atlanta Aug. 2 (HG, LG) and near Wallace, S.C., Aug. 3 (DM), and five were at L. Lanier, Ga., Aug. 13 (FM). Somewhat scarcer inland were Ruddy Turnstones in North Carolina at Winston-Salem Sept. 5-7 (RH *et al.*) and near Durham Sept. 12 (AT).

Winston-Salem birders discovered a Sanderling Sept. 5 (JCu, PC) and three White-rumped Sandpipers Sept. 6-7 (RH, RS, BWi), and Sanderlings also were noted at Atlanta Aug. 2 & 29 (m.ob., *vide* TM). The rare and easily overlooked Baird's Sandpiper was detected at the Wright Brothers Memorial on the Outer Banks Sept. 5 (SG) and near Fairplay Sept. 6 (HL). Other notable inland shorebirds were 20 Dunlins near Fairplay Nov. 1 (SAG, HL); Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 30 at Dublin (TKP), Sept. 5-7 at Winston-Salem (JCu, PC *et al.*), and near Durham Sept. 12 (AT); and four Buff-breasted Sandpipers near Fairplay Aug. 30 (SAG, HL) and one Aug. 22 near Dublin (TKP). A Curlew Sandpiper at Bodie I., Oct. 22 was an excellent find, and might be the latest ever for the Region (JOP, EP), and last but not least, the second Ruff sighting for North Carolina in little over a month was a male at Cape Hatteras Point Sept. 5 (SG). Because of multiple sightings over the past few years in North Carolina, these

two Eurasian shorebirds are being de-boldfaced in that state, at least temporarily! It was a lackluster season for phalaropes along the coast, with a peak Wilson's count of only four, at Davis, N.C., Aug. 2-13 (JF *et al.*), and just a few Northern and Red-billed were reported off the North Carolina coast on the Ake-DuMont pelagic trips. However, a Northern on L. Lanier Sept. 14-16 (JP) was very rare, and a **Red Phalarope** at Atlanta Sept. 11-13 (JBe *et al.*, *fide* TM) was just the third ever for Georgia.

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — As usual, a few Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers were seen along and off the North Carolina coast, with the most interesting record being of a Parasitic chasing a Herring Gull over the Bodie I. lighthouse pond Oct. 10 (HW). Very early was a Glaucous Gull Aug. 1 at Pea I. (L & BE), and rare in summer in Georgia was an ad. Great Black-backed Gull at Jekyll I., Aug. 23-Nov. 30+ (JBe *et al.*). Georgia's third Lesser Black-backed Gull was also at Jekyll I., Aug. 24-Oct. 3 (JBe, D & AF *et al.*). Thirty Laughing Gulls at L. Marion, S.C., provided an excellent inland count Aug. 29 (BL), whereas two very early Bonaparte's Gulls were at L. Lanier Aug. 24 (JPe). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted off Hatteras Oct. 11 (PD *et al.*) and at Ft. Fisher, N.C., Nov. 14 (RD). However, the most exciting gull of the season was the **Sabine's Gull** in partial breeding plumage inland at L. Lanier Sept. 10 (JPe). This represents the second record for Georgia and the second inland record for the Region. November 7 was a very late date for a Gull-billed Tern at Jekyll I. (JG), and 186 Forster's Terns at L. Marion Aug. 29 (BL) was a good count. Only one other inland Forster's was observed, and I received three inland reports for Commons, seven for Caspians, and ten for Blacks, although the only double-digit counts were of 20 Blacks at Fayetteville Aug. 10 (PJC) and 14 Blacks on L. Lanier Aug. 13 (FM). Quite rare were three Roseate Terns at Wrightsville Beach, N.C., Aug. 9 (GM, JIP). Sightings of Sooty and (especially) Bridled terns have been scarce the past 2 years, probably a result of hurricanes in 1979 (or later), and just one report of Bridled, and none of Sooty, was received. A noddy tern, presumably a Brown Noddy, was observed at Hilton Head I., July 21 (LL). Alcids are seldom seen in fall; thus, a Dovekie noted 35-40 mi. s. of Beaufort Inlet, N.C., Nov. 6 (WI) was exciting.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A **White-winged Dove**, apparently the first in the Region since 1975, was discovered on Little Cumberland I., Ga., Nov. 19 (CWD, WWB). Two Barn Owl nests were found near Columbia, S.C., in September, one in an abandoned house and the second in a tree only 200 yards away (LGI)! Completely inexplicable was an imm. ♂ **Snowy Owl** inland at Whitmire, S.C., Nov. 14-24 (*fide* JEC); the bird was sickly and died soon after capture (\*, Clemson Univ.). I get uncomfortable when birders report "heard only" Long-eared Owls and Saw-whet Owls in the Region—hence my worry over a Long-eared heard near Wilmington, N.C., Sept. 22-23 (GM). A Chuck-will's-widow seen at Rock Hill, S.C., Sept. 30 (AC, JCo) was presumably late, whereas 160 Com. Nighthawks at Carolina Beach, N.C., Aug. 12 (RD) was notable for the coast. Absurdly early was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Cumming, Ga., Aug. 23 (JPe).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — The usual handful of W. Kingbirds was reported from the coast, and again, the species avoided detection inland. An excellent find was an imm. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Cape Hatteras Point Oct. 17 (ST *et al.*), and even rarer was an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at the same place Sept. 4 (PD) and Sept. 7 (NB, BF). The Ash-throated has now been reported on three occasions in the Region (visually only), all in North Carolina. Fall 1981 will be remembered for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers. Instead of the usual two reports, *eight* were observed—in North Carolina at Ocracoke I. (RD, JFP, BN), Wilmington (GM, KK), Carolina Beach (GM *et al.*), Burlington (AB), Raleigh (GW), Chapel Hill (BW, MW), and n. Cumberland County (PJC), and in Georgia at Jekyll I. (banded—DC). The only other *Empidonax* reports were of a couple of Leasts (usually more numerous than the Yellow-bellied), and the only Olive-sided Flycatchers were detected along the Chattahoochee R. near Atlanta—Aug. 16, two Aug. 30, and Sept. 13 (A.A.S.). An exceptional fall concentration of swallows was the 1500 near Four Oaks, N.C., Aug. 29 (TH); approximately 750 were Banks, with single Tree and Cliff swallows (all others were Barns). Quite late were a Rough-winged Swallow near Pendleton, S.C., Oct. 11 (SAG) and a Purple Martin near Fayetteville Oct. 26 (PJC).

**WRENS THROUGH VIREOS** — A singing Short-billed Marsh Wren Aug. 7 at North R. marsh, near Beaufort, N.C. (BP) was at the same site where a bird was noted singing in May. There is no breeding record for the Region, and singing birds in August or May are inconclusive of breeding. Nonetheless, the North R. site needs careful scrutiny for Short-billed next summer. Among late passerines were a Swainson's Thrush at an Atlanta feeder Nov. 15 (DLA), a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher near Durham Dec. 2 (JM), and a White-eyed Vireo near Fayetteville Nov. 13 (PJC). The majority of the seven Philadelphia Vireo sightings occurred Sept. 12-28, with an early bird near Atlanta Aug. 30 (DB, PB). One of the rarest passerines in fall migration is the Warbling Vireo: one at Atlanta Sept. 19 (JC, JP) provided a first autumn record for that heavily-birded city. No details accompanied the report, although I trust that Moore (who compiles and submits all the Atlanta sightings) scrutinized the Warbling details carefully.

**WARBLERS** — The very early "fall" migration of Prothonotary Warblers was clearly evident by Dabbs' banding of 89 near Mayesville, S.C., July 29-Aug. 15. Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers were each reported at least eight times, with the best records being six Golden-winged in the Clemson area Sept. 13-27 (HL, SAG *et al.*) and two exceptionally early Golden-winged at Atlanta Aug. 1 (JC). The only hybrid was a Brewster's seen at Charleston Sept. 17 (PN). Late warblers included a Tennessee at Chapel Hill Nov. 7 (SG, MG), a N. Parula in Johnston County, N.C., Nov. 15 (TH), a Magnolia at Southern Pines, N.C., Oct. 31 (EC), and a Blackburnian at Catawba, S.C., Nov. 22 (AC, JCo). On the other hand, early warblers were a tower-killed Cape May near Sumter, S.C., Aug. 18 (ED), a Black-throated Blue near Atlanta Aug. 9 (PB), and a Black-throated Green at Atlanta Aug. 23 (A.A.S.). Several observers in e North Carolina noted a heavier-than-usual migration of warblers, especially the "spruce budworm outbreak" species—Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted. Carusos had six Cerulean Warblers Aug. 8 at Atlanta, and elsewhere this rare and elusive migrant was noted at Clemson Sept. 12-13 (HL) and at Charleston Sept. 17 (PN).

A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Cape Lookout, N.C., Sept. 25 (SP) furnished an overdue first record for Carteret County, whereas 12+ Bay-breasted Warblers Sept. 23 (JHC, RTS) at McCain was a good count for the North Carolina Sandhills. A probable Kirtland's Warbler was reported from n. Georgia, with most field marks except the streaked back, noted. Of course, a species with only 400± individuals in existence must have complete and exhaustive details to be fully convincing, and the observer wisely was hesitant to call the bird a Kirtland's. Both Connecticut and Mourning warblers, two of the most eagerly sought migrants in the Region, were reported: a Connecticut near Atlanta Sept. 22 (HG) and Mournings near Charleston Sept. 9 (PN) and at Ocracoke I., N.C., Sept. 19 (RD). Very rare along the coast were single Canada Warblers at Harkers I., N.C., Aug. 23 (SP) and at Wilmington Sept. 20-21 (KK).

**ICTERIDS THROUGH FINCHES** — Early-arriving icterids were three Bobolinks at Charleston Aug. 7 (PN) and two Rusty Blackbirds near Fairplay Oct. 19 (SAG), while the only Brewer's Blackbird reported with details was a male near Pendleton Nov. 8 (SAG *et al.*) A good find was a ♂ W. Tanager near Edenton, N.C., Nov. 29 (AB), and infrequent along the coast were two Scarlet Tanagers and six Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the Wilmington area Sept. 25 (GM *et al.*). Seldom seen inland in North Carolina, a ♂ Painted Bunting was found in a hedgerow near Wade, Cumberland Co., Aug. 24 (PJC). Although reports from the Northeast in October and November indicated a major flight of winter finches, Regional birders noted only a mediocre flight of Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins, mainly in c North Carolina, with no reports of crossbills or redpolls. Clearly, though, it was *not* an "off season" for winter finches, and larger numbers of grosbeaks and siskins, hopefully with a few crossbills and redpolls, can be expected to filter into the area as the winter wears on. Purple Finches were seen at 2 localities Sept. 10: a ♂ individual at Cape Lookout (SP) and an ad. male near Fayetteville (PJC). This "winter finch" was not common anywhere this fall, and it continues to be outnumbered in many Piedmont cities and towns by the House Finch.

For the past 2 summers, Grasshopper Sparrows have been suspected of nesting at the Wilmington airport, and Davis saw a probable immature there Aug. 20. Migrant Henslow's Sparrows are practically never seen any more, and the single report this season was of two on

their wintering grounds w of Newport, N C , Nov 8 (JF, WI) Only two sightings of Lark Sparrows—at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., Sept. 20 (PN *et al.*) and at Blackbeard I., Ga., Oct. 17 (A.A.S.)—was a real disappointment; and Georgia had the only Clay-colored Sparrows—one banded at Jekyll I., Sept. 19 (*vide* TM) and one seen at St. Simons I., Oct. 3 (D & AF). A White-throated Sparrow was several weeks early Sept. 14 at Columbus, Ga. (JK, *vide* SPa). About par for the season were the 5 reports of Lincoln's Sparrows: near Four Oaks, N.C., Oct. 8 (TH), Eno River S.P., N.C., Oct. 18 (ME, MC), Jordan Res., Oct. 22 (AB), Clemson Nov. 7 (HL), and Pendleton Nov. 8 (HL, SAG). Last, and obviously least, was the failure of anyone to see Snow Buntings, in marked contrast to the previous fall, when one of the best flights on record occurred in the Region.

**OBSERVERS**—Robert Ake, Carole Anderson, Atlanta Audubon Society, W.W. Baker, John Bazuin, Clarence Belger, Kay Bergey, Jean Bevis (JBe), Ned Brinkley, Donna Brisse, Patrick Brisse, Allen Bryan, Eleanor Carter, J.H. Carter III, Jack Carusos, J.E. Cely, R.A. Clark, Don Cohrs, Albert Conway, June Conway (JCo), Mark Croteau, P.J. Crutchfield, Jim Culbertson (JCu), Pat Culbertson, Evelyn

Dabbs, Ricky Davis, Jack Dermid, C W Dopson Helenhill Dove, Paul DuMont, Marc Eisdorfer, Luise & Breton Ely, Dan & Ann Forster, Bill Freeman, John Fussell, Eric Garner, Hugh Garrett, Liz Garrett, S.A. Gauthreaux, Lex Glover (LGI), Maurice Graves, Steve Graves, Joe Greenberg, Tom Haggerty, Greg Hanisek, Mike Homoya, Royce Hough, Tom Howard (THo), Ben & Ellen Iannuzzi, Wayne Irvin, Dan Kaplan, Jane Knight, Kitty Kosh, Dennis Lacoss (DLa), Louise Lacoss, Carolina & Mike Lane, Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis, Vicki Little, Megan Lynch, Greg Massey, Frank McCamey, Jim McConnell, Douglas McNair, Terry Moore, Bud Needham, North Carolina State Museum, Perry Nugent, John Paget, Brainard Palmer-Ball, J.F. Parnell, Sam Pate (SPa), T.K. Patterson, Jim Pearson (JiP), Jeff Petit (JPe), E.F. Potter, Skip Prange, Elizabeth Pullman, J.O. Pullman, Parley Rassmussen, Ramona Snavely, R.T. Stamps, Graham Sturgis, Stuart Tingley, Andy Towle, Phillip Waggett, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Tommy Wagoner, Anne Waters, Gail Whitehurst, M.E. Whitfield, Herb Wilson, Bob Witherington (BWi).—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR.**, Department of Zoology, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C. 29631.

## FLORIDA REGION

/Lyn S. and Brooks H. Atherton

The month of August was characterized by hot, humid, tropical weather with light easterly winds over most of the state. Rainfall was disappointingly light except for the torrential deluge in s.e. Florida which accompanied tropical storm *Dennis* on August 17-18. Unfortunately, *Dennis*' track from Cape Sable to Cape Canaveral did little to quench what state hydrologists are referring to as the 500-year drought. It is suspected that the drought and lack of adverse weather over most of the state attributed to a relatively poor showing of migrating shorebirds at Zellwood and other favorite stopping points.

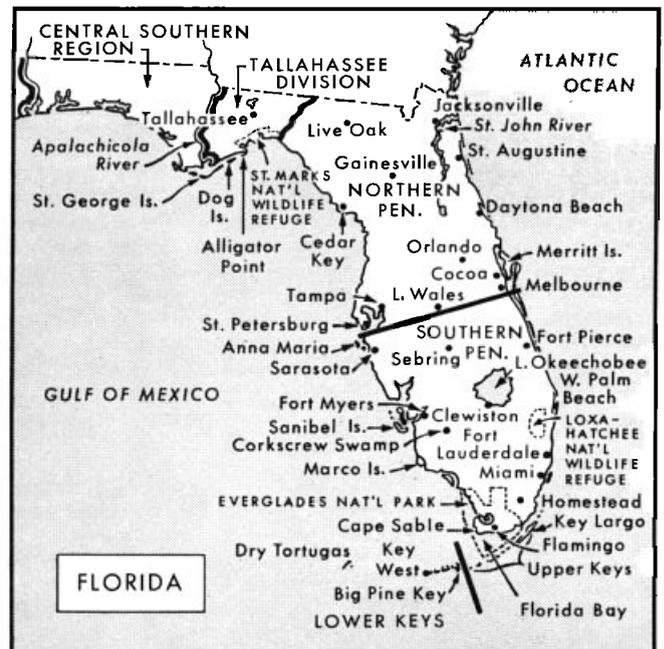
September mirrored August until the 16th when a slow-moving cold front, first good one of the season, pushed into the western end of the state. Heavy rains fell in west-central and southwestern Florida (3+ inches in the Tampa area) on the 17th. Observers reported large fallouts of migrants at St. George Island, Fort DeSoto Park, and Archbold Research Station as strong NW winds aloft powered by an intense low pressure area pushed south from as far away as Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky.

October came in with a rush as a fast-moving, but dry cold front penetrated down to central Florida on the 3rd. A temperature drop of approximately 30 degrees and strong NW winds aloft accompanied the front. Sykes reported an impressive 726 warblers of 18 species at Hypoluxo I., including 216 yellowthroats and 225 American Redstarts. Twenty species of warblers were reported at St. George Island that day. Several more weak, dry fronts passed through the state during the month. Only those with favorable winds aloft on October 8 and 19 were accompanied by reports of significant movements of migrants.

Five dry cold fronts passed through the state on November 10-11, 17-18, 20-21, 25, and 28-29 offering no relief from the worst drought in modern Florida history. Perhaps it will rain next year!

**ABBREVIATIONS**—C.S.M.: Clear Springs Mine, Polk Co.; E.N.P.: Everglades National Park; FFN: Florida Field Naturalist; F.O.S.R.C.: Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; S.G.I.: St. George I., Franklin Co.; T.T.: Tall Timbers Research Station; Tall. Div.: Tallahassee Division; U.S.F.: University of South Florida.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS**—A Com. Loon in the Marco R., Collier Co., Nov. 15 (TB) was a month early there and the only Red-throated Loon was at L. Jackson, Leon Co., Nov. 14+ (GM, SH, m.ob), the earliest for the Tall. Div. and only the second for that county. Horned Grebes were early at C.S.M., Polk Co., Oct. 10 (BD, KD, CG) and s. of Marco I., Nov. 8 (by 6 weeks, TB). An Eared Grebe at C.S.M., July 10-Oct. 10 (B & DC, CG) was probably one of five there the previous spring (AB 35:815). Another was at Merritt Island N.W.R., Nov. 21 (HL *et al.*). Nineteen Cory's Shearwaters were 35 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Oct. 7 (JJ) and hurricane *Dennis* sent two Sooty Shearwaters close to Key West Aug. 16 (AM). Two Black-



capped Petrels were 40 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Oct. 7 (JJ) and a White-tailed Tropicbird was just offshore of Palm Beach Aug. 15 (W. Munroe).

A high count of 250 White Pelicans at L. Harney, Volusia Co., Sept. 7 (DF, Wayne Freeman) was unusual so early in the season. Others in Highlands County at L. Clay in early October (C. Phypers) and L. Placid Nov. 22 (A. Reynolds) added to the increase in sightings the past few years in that area (*vide* FL). This species has become more common in fall and winter along both coasts and inland on lakes and it is hoped that is indicative of greater success on the breeding grounds. A Brown Pelican flying over I-4 in Orlando Oct. 15 (W. Freeman) and one at L. Hancock, Polk Co., Nov. 22 (B & DC) were unusual so far inland. Single Brown Boobies were 10 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Sept. 18 (JJ) and near Plantation Key Oct. 12 (S. Sprunt). Of interest because very little is reported about pelagic species in the Gulf of Mexico were other Brown Booby sightings made outside territorial waters: an adult just w. of Cozumel Oct. 24 (T & VB) and two immatures 100 nautical mi w. of Dry Tortugas Nov. 15 (M. & R. Simons).

A Great Cormorant at L. Jackson Nov. 7+ (GG, S. Graves *et al.*) was the earliest for the Tall. Div. and second at that location. Two Anhingas observed several times during the period at Boca Chica were unusual since fresh-water ponds are virtually non-existent in the Lower Keys (V. Larcombe).

**WADERS, GEESE AND DUCKS** — Well n of its usual range, a white morph of the Great Blue Heron at Beer Can I., Manatee Co., Aug. 7 (B & MS) was perhaps the same as one in Sarasota Bay observed the past summer and on Sept. 5 (RP). Reddish Egrets were considered rare at the following locations: St. Marks Lt., Aug. 8–Nov. 11 (RC, CE, m.ob.), L. Placid Sept. 5 (immature, first since 1971—C & FL) and Taylor Slough, E.N.P., Oct. 22–Nov. 14 (immature—SB). Two were also heading SE 15 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Oct. 6 (JJ). A Least Bittern late at Tallahassee Nov. 22 (RC) could have been wintering. Quite unusual inland was a Roseate Spoonbill at Zellwood Aug. 15–23 (B & LA, BP, m.ob.). During September, 2 ad. and 4 imm. Am. Flamingos frequented several areas of n.e. Florida Bay, E.N.P., especially at Snake Bight and Buoy Key (SB, B & HD).

Even along the coasts, Brant are a rare find; therefore, one inland at Duda Farms, Zellwood Oct. 24–31 (R. King, BP, m.ob.; ph. to T.T., † to F.O.S.R.C.) was quite a surprise! The only White-fronted Geese were two at Orange L., Alachua Co. (no date given—, F. Percival, J. Thul). Zellwood's Brant was joined by two Snow Geese Oct. 30–31 (BP, m.ob.). Others s. of their more usual wintering range in the Tall. Div. (although they seemed to be scarce there) were "several" on Paynes Prairie St. Preserve Oct. 26+ (JHH) and two adults at Port Charlotte Nov. 30 (C. Villarrubia, C. Kocur).

Six Fulvous Whistling Ducks at St. Marks Lt., Oct. 24 (RC, Apalachee Aud. Soc.) and six at Guana W.M.A., Oct. 26 (PP) were considered rare at those locations. In Collier County, Below and Perkins noted that ducks, especially Green-winged and Blue-winged teal, Wood and Ring-necked ducks and Lesser Scaup arrived at least a month early and were more plentiful than in the past five years. A Canvasback at Zellwood Aug. 17 (KD) had probably summered on a nearby lake. By season's end, Com. Goldeneye were still scarce in the Tall. Div., yet others farther s. were early and inland at C.S.M., Nov. 8 (BC) and Glades County, Nov. 17 (R. Fernau). The Belows reported that two Ruddy Ducks in Collier County, Nov. 8 were their first there in ten years. However, the most spectacular find in that county and one of the highlights of the season was a ♂ **Common Eider** at Doctor's Pass, Naples Nov. 12+ (J. & P. Ware, m.ob.; ph. to T.T., † to F.O.S.R.C.). This was the first well-documented record for the



*Common Eider, Naples, Fla., Nov. 12, 1981. Photo/ Brooks H. Atherton.*

Florida Gulf Coast. To the delight of birders and photographers approaching within 15 ft, the eider swam along the shoreline every morning and fed upon coquinas. Large flights of Black Scoters were reported along both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts although there were very few sightings of the other two species. A Surf Scoter was "dockside" at Port Canaveral Nov. 8 (LA *et al.*) and two were found with Black Scoters at Alligator Pt., Nov. 30 (LA, PL). Homeland, Polk Co. had an extremely high count of 135 Hooded Mergansers Nov. 21 (PF, B & DC).

**RAPTORS** — The most exciting raptor was an ad. **White-tailed Kite** at St. Marks Lt., Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (SH, RC, RKC, m.ob.; note to FFN, † to F.O.S.R.C.). Unlike those of the past few years that vanished almost immediately after being found, this one spent the night in a tree and remained until several hours after dawn, much to the delight of many birders who had travelled through the night to see it. As hurricane *Dennis* approached from the s., a kettle of 18 migrating Swallow-tailed Kites headed SE near LaBelle Aug. 16 (A & SS). Twenty at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Aug. 20 (TH) were also of interest as the species is now considered uncommon in the e. part of Palm

Beach County (*vide* PS). A Mississippi Kite at St. Petersburg Sept. 20 (J & LH, C. Buhrman) was unusual, as even in migration the species is rare in the Peninsula s. of Gainesville, its s. breeding limit. An Everglade Kite was over the St. Johns R., and State Rd 50 Oct. 28 (RH). This is only the second record for that vicinity (AB 34:153) and was probably a result of the severe drought that virtually eliminated successful nesting this year (AB Summer Report).

Hawk-watchers noted the following totals for migrating Sharp-shinned Hawks: 80 at Cape Florida Oct. 8 (15 min—B & HD), 190 on Oct. 13 and 524 on Oct. 17, Port St. Lucie (SM) and 120 at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 17 (four hours—PS, BH, HL). An imm. Cooper's Hawk was captured by an imm. Bald Eagle in Collier County, Nov. 13 (J. Dimaggio, K. Thoemke). Upon being flushed, the eagle released the *Accipiter* which at that time appeared undamaged but later died (\*U.S.F.). An "85% albino" Red-tailed Hawk near Polk City Oct. 9 (CG, PF) had "the upper surface of wings and tail white". Swainson's Hawks were rare at the following locations: one at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Nov. 16 (HL, TT), 5 (dark phase) on Bahia Honda Key Nov. 21 (MB) and one at Key West Nov. 19 (J. & E. Hanvey). Short-tailed Hawks away from their known breeding and wintering grounds at Fisheating Creek and E.N.P. are rare; therefore, singles at L. Monroe, Volusia Co., Oct. 24 (dark phase—C. Blum), the St. Johns R. at State Rd 520 Oct. 28 (FH) and Key Largo Nov. 7 (dark phase—GY) were significant. It should be noted that the species has been observed in all seasons in the past few years, along the St. Johns R., Orange Co., especially at Tosohatchee State Preserve, although actual nesting has not been observed. An ad. Golden Eagle at St. Marks Lt., Oct. 9 (JC) was the earliest for the Tall. Div. and possibly the same as ones reported in the area through the end of the period. On Nov. 28, an adult visited Cedar Key (GM) and an immature flew over Wakulla Springs (JF, S. Isherwood). A Bald Eagle at L. Jackson Aug. 3 (GM) was probably an early migrant although the species has summered there (*vide* HMS). On Oct. 10, a pond adjacent to the 190 mi marker on the Florida Tpke again hosted a Bald Eagle "convention" (AB 35:173) attended this year by 3 adults and 19 immatures (B & HD). At least 30 sightings of Peregrine Falcon included, unfortunately, one at Lakeland that died after being found unable to fly Oct. 12 (*vide* CG; \*U.S.F.).

**COOTS AND SHOREBIRDS** — A Caribbean Coot at L. Ella, Tallahassee Oct. 31+ (RC, m.ob.; LA ph. to T.T.) was apparently, in Stevenson's words, "as good an example of *caribaea* as others reported in Florida". An astonishingly high count of 125 Am. Oystercatchers at Cape Romano, Collier Co., Oct. 11 (T & VB) shattered those observers' previous s.w. Florida high of 35 and was probably the highest count ever for Florida (*vide* HMS). At other points along both coasts, we also found these fascinating birds to be more common than in the past few years. Hopefully this is an indication that the species had an exceptionally successful breeding season, despite the fact that so many of the beaches where they formerly bred are now covered by condominiums and other developers' eyesores! Perhaps the spoil islands are finally "paying off". An unusually high total of 39 Am. Avocets was rare inland at C.S.M., Sept. 18 (C & RG) as were others at L. Jackson Oct. 18 (GM) and Paynes Prairie Oct. 26+ (JHH).

A Semipalmated Plover was late at L. Jackson Oct. 19 (GM) and large numbers of Killdeer moved through again this year. At least 20 Am. Golden Plovers were noted. Three at Key West Aug. 11 (FH) were this fall's earliest and eight at L. Jackson Oct. 11 (RC, GM, HMS) was the highest fall count ever for that area. A Marbled Godwit at Port Everglades Aug. 16 (TH) was Broward County's first. An Upland Sandpiper at Stock I., Aug. 11 (FTH) was a rare find for the Keys and two Wilson's Phalaropes at C.S.M., Aug. 23 (C & RG, H. Fitzgerald) were Polk County's first. Five Am. Woodcock in Collier County Nov 15 (JP) were more than the combined totals recorded by Below and Perkins in the past 30 years! However, the same observers noted, as did we, that Com. Snipe numbers were well below normal. Two Purple Sandpipers at Ward's Bank, Jacksonville, the first week of November were early (JW), and others were at Ponce Inlet Nov. 19 (two—TR) and Ft. Pierce Nov. 26 (AA). A Stilt Sandpiper at Stock I., Aug. 11 (FTH) was considered a rare find there and two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were unusual at L. Jackson Sept. 5 (HMS, B. Monroe) and Sept. 13–19 (one—GG).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — By season's end, at least six Lesser Black-backed Gulls had arrived at various coastal locations with one

at John s Pass, Pinellas Co., Oct. 7 (L. Leddy, B. Harrington) the earliest ever and another at Stock I., Nov. 30 (FTH, P. May) the farthest s. this fall. At L. Jackson, two ad. Laughing Gulls Oct. 11 (RC, GM, HMS) and another Oct. 18 (GM) were unusual so far inland. An ad. Franklin's Gull at Toytown Landfill, Pinellas Co., Oct. 12+ was the earliest ever; two immatures were also there Oct. 14+ and Nov. 6 (LA), another was at the Pompano Beach Landfill Nov. 28 (BH). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was early just offshore of Juno Beach Nov. 1-2 (HL *et al.*).

S.A.

For many Florida observers, the bird of the season was an imm. **Sabine's Gull** that first visited Ft. Pierce Oct. 22-28 (M. Maurice, B & HD, m.ob.; ph. to T.T., † to F.O.S.R.C.). The gull was very obliging to photographers and seemed quite "tame"—allowing approach within 15 ft and feeding upon such things as leftover spaghetti noodles (!) thrown to it and the Laughing Gulls with which it associated. Sixty mi s. at Boynton Inlet Nov. 4 (LA, HL, PL) the gull was spotted again as it headed N a few mi to the L. Worth fishing pier where it remained through the next day feeding upon scraps of bait (AA, TT *et al.*). It made a final appearance 40 mi s. at the Dania fishing pier, Broward Co., Nov. 7-8 (W. George *et al.*). Although some thought more than one Sabine's Gull might be involved, Langridge's sketch and critical description of the Lake Worth gull matched the photos of the Ft. Pierce gull perfectly. That, plus the timing of appearances along the coast and identical behavior (contrasting with that species' normal behavior) indicate that all sightings were of the same gull.



*Sabine's Gull, Ft. Pierce, Fla., Oct. 22-28, 1981. Photo/Lyn S. Atherton.*

Eight Sooty Terns at Key West Aug. 16 (AM) were another result of hurricane *Dennis* and eight Bridled Terns were 20 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Sept. 18-20 (JJ). Sandwich Terns filled the sky "for a stretch of about three miles" at Longboat Key Oct. 16 (B & MS) with many thousands remaining the next day to please the F.O.S. members.

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A Zenaida Dove was reported at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 10 (HL, PS *et al.*; note to *FFN*, † to F.O.S.R.C.). After a "20 seconds or more" observation, the dove disappeared and could not be relocated. Two White-winged Doves were at Alligator Pt., Nov. 8 (GG *et al.*; \*T.T.) and another was on S.G.I., Nov. 14 (RC, CE). It is not known whether three Budgerigars at Cedar Key Nov. 28 (GM) were an indication of breeding there or perhaps just post-breeding wanderers from the Tampa Bay area, where their population is estimated in the thousands. Two Monk Parakeets in Tallahassee Sept. 11 (T. Boen) were across town from one in previous reports, and Babson Park, Polk Co., had its first nesting pair Aug. 15 (CG). However, Palm Beach County continues to be the center of "psittacine" activity. At Hypoluxo I. were two Chestnut-fronted Macaws Oct. 10+, 18 Red-crowned Parrots with a pair feeding a full-grown young Aug. 22, and two Blue-fronted Amazons Oct. 3 (PS *et al.*). The Lake Worth Golf Course had 15 Red-crowned, two Yellow-headed and five Blue-fronted Amazon parrots Oct. 5 (PS).

A Mangrove Cuckoo observed at leisure for 15 min at S.G.I., Nov. 11 (RC, GG, SH; note to *FFN*, † to F.O.S.R.C.) was completely

unexpected as it was 250 km n w of the previous northernmost record at Anclote Key where it formerly bred. It is now considered rare anywhere n. of Sanibel and sightings after September are uncommon even in the Keys where, incidentally, one was late or wintering at Key Largo Nov. 6 (GY). Also late was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Hickory Mound L., Taylor Co., Nov. 15 (RC). At least eight Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from 6 locations, with two at Ft. Desoto (LA) and one at Seminole (JF) Sept. 19 the earliest and a tailless one at Ft. Desoto Oct. 19 (LA) the latest. Although in the past few years at least one Groove-billed Ani has arrived by the end of November, none were reported this fall. A Whip-poor-will at Lakeland Aug. 19 (J. Edscorn) was perhaps the earliest ever and a nighthawk at Dog I., Franklin Co., Nov. 14 (J. Niemi, J. Cox) was very late if Common or quite rare if Lesser. Since Vaux's Swifts visited last winter (*AB* 35:294), most resident birders now carefully scrutinize all swifts; however, one at Tallahassee Oct. 30 (RC, RKC) was just a rather late Chimney Swift.

Adult ♂ and ♀ **Bahama Woodstars** at the Mary Krome Memorial Bird Sanctuary just n. of Homestead July 17-Aug. 24 (RH, SB, JK, m.ob.; ph. to T.T., † to F.O.S.R.C.) favored Florida birders as well as many from other areas of the country. There were only three previous records for this species (all in s. Florida) with the last of those in 1974. Just s. of Homestead at Florida City, on Sept. 4 (earliest ever, SB, RH, m.ob.), rare ad. ♂ and ♀ **Rufous Hummingbirds** appeared and remained through the month. Lest readers wonder, photographs and detailed descriptions of the two pairs of hummingbirds eliminated any possibility of error in identification, unbelievable as it all may seem.

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH PIPITS** — A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at w. Jacksonville Aug. 30 (SG) was a month earlier than the previous known record. Lake Bradford, Leon Co., had four late E. Kingbirds Oct. 17 (GM) and silent individuals of the **Tropical Kingbird** complex were on Hypoluxo I., Oct. 5 (B & HD) and Big Pine Key Oct. 17-18 (MB, LK). There were the usual scattered sightings of W. Kingbirds with one inland at L. Jackson Sept. 25 (HMS) and another late or wintering at S.G.I., Nov. 24 (JC, HMS) the most noteworthy. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were unusual at these locations: Ft. Desoto Oct. 9 (F. Neal), two inland at the Pinellas County Wellfields in e. Pasco Co., Oct. 22-23 (CO, BL, LA, PL), one at Alligator Pt., Nov. 8 (GG *et al.*) and another inland e. of Tice, Lee Co., Nov. 15 (B & LA, PL). An early E. Phoebe was at S.G.I., Sept. 26 (GM). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded at Casey Key Sept. 20 and 26 (A & SS) and two others calling were at Tallahassee Oct. 5 (B & LA) and Ft. Desoto Oct. 8 (LA). One at Stock I., Oct. 9 (MB, LK) was well described. High totals of nine E. Wood Pewees were recorded at Ft. Desoto on both Oct. 8 and 19 (LA). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at S.G.I., Sept. 6 (RC, CE) was the earliest for the Tall. Div., and the only Vermilion Flycatcher was a male at Lake Worth Oct. 10 (GH).

A flock of 6100 Fish Crows a "conservative estimate" was watched going to roost at the Alafia Bank, Hillsborough Co., Oct. 21 (RP). A Red-breasted Nuthatch at Ft. Clinch, Fernandina Beach Oct. 10 (M. Hines) was the only one reported. This seemed rather strange in view of last year's unprecedented "invasion" (*AB* 35:174). Five Am. Robins in Sarasota County Nov. 8 (D. & G. Mace) were very early, and a Swainson's Thrush at Tallahassee Sept. 3 (HMS) was perhaps the earliest ever. Lohrer wondered whether several Veeries that flew into the windows at Archbold Biological Station near L. Placid the latter part of September were an indication of a large migration of that species, since there were very few prior records there. A ♂ **Wheatear** at the Pinellas County Wellfields Oct. 20 (CO, BL; † to F.O.S.R.C.) provided the fourth record for Florida and the first inland. Two days later one of the previously mentioned Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was sitting in almost the exact spot on the telephone wire where the Wheatear had perched! Not only was a Sprague's Pipit back at its favorite wintering grounds at S.G.I. Causeway Nov. 11+ (RC, GG), but another was at L. Jackson Nov. 19+ (RC, GG, GM).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — A Bell's Vireo at Tallahassee Oct. 21 (HMS) was the species' third consecutive fall appearance in that area. Philadelphia Vireos were at five locations with the most noteworthy being one at Ft. Pierce Sept. 25 (St. Lucie County's first—BD) and *eight* at Ft. Desoto Oct. 8 (LA). A Warbling Vireo at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 12 (HL, CK) represented only the second Palm Beach County record.

A Prothonotary Warbler was very late or wintering at L. Ariana, Polk Co., Nov. 21 (P. Timmer), and the only Swainson's Warbler, a

rare migrant in the Pen, visited Cape Florida Oct 4 (PS *et al*) A Blue-winged Warbler was late near Tallahassee Oct 19 (GM) and Brewster's hybrids were near St. Marks (town) Aug. 31 and St. Marks Lt., Sept. 10 (HL). It seemed odd that a rare Nashville Warbler at S G I, Sept. 18 (HMS, JS) was the earliest for the Tall. Div., yet the only one reported. Magnolia Warblers, uncommon in the Peninsula, appeared in significant numbers at Ft. Desoto, ten on Oct. 8 and 15 on Oct 19 (LA). Another, the latest for the Tall. Div., was at L. Talquin, Leon Co., Nov. 15 (GM, SH). In fall, Cape May and Black-throated Blue warblers were formerly considered rare along the Gulf Coast; however, in the past few years sightings along that coast have increased. This season there were at least 15 of the former species and 11 of the latter extending from S.G.I. to Ft. Desoto and inland to Lakeland. Moving down their usual e. coast route, three each of those two species were early at Hypoluxo I., Aug. 29 (PS). A Cerulean Warbler was late at Tallahassee Sept. 30 (JC, LA, D. MacVicar), and a Blackburnian Warbler at St. Petersburg Aug. 9 (J & LH) was very early. Although Chestnut-sided Warblers are regular fall migrants in the Peninsula, 12 at Ft. Desoto Oct. 8 (LA) was an unusually high total. Excellent details accompanied the report of a **Kirtland's Warbler** at Lower Saddlebunch Key Aug. 1 (earliest ever, Alan Barron *et al*, † to F.O.S.R.C.). Palm Warblers were early near Panacea Sept. 11 (HL) and L. Jackson Sept. 13 (GM). Yellow-breasted Chats, rare any time in the Peninsula, were banded at Casey Key Sept. 19 and Oct 8 (A & SS). Others were at Ft. Desoto Sept. 19 (LA) and S.C.P., Oct 11 (PF). Interestingly, all Canada Warbler sightings except one on S G I., Sept. 18 (S. Cole) and another at L. Georgia, Orange Co., Sept 4 (TR) were from the Tampa-Sarasota area: singles at Sarasota Sept 13 (E. Miller) and the Hillsborough R., Sept. 16 (LA, PL), two at Ft. Desoto Sept. 19 (LA) and one at Beer Can I., Oct. 17 (B & MS, F O S.). A total of ten Wilson's Warblers throughout the Region was probably unprecedented. In Franklin County Sept. 9, one at Lanark (RC, CE) and two males on S.G.I. (HL) were the Tall. Div.'s earliest. Another two males were found on Hypoluxo I., Oct. 3 (PS, GH, ME), and one at Oldsmar, Pinellas Co., Nov. 28 (J. Moore, D. Goodwin, M. Hughes) could have been wintering.

**WEAVERS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — No explanation could be given for an apparent decline in House Sparrows in e. Palm Beach County (*vide* PS). We hope that, whatever the cause, Starlings will be similarly affected! Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at the following locations: L. Jackson Sept. 25 (GG *et al.*), Sunshine Speedway, Pinellas Co., Oct. 27+ (JD, LA, m.ob.) and Ft. Pierce Nov. 21 (B & HD, J. Brooks). Jacksonville had a very early N. Oriole Aug. 25 (SG) and 14 in one tree at St. Marks Lt., Sept. 12 (HL) must have been a spectacular sight! Another high total of 16 was on S.G.I., Sept. 18 (HMS, JS). Sykes reported that in Palm Beach County the Spot-breasted Oriole population still remained quite low since the cold winter of 1976. Four Brewer's Blackbirds at Sunshine Speedway Oct. 30+ (B & HD, LA) tied the earliest N. Pen. record and another was in e. Leon County, Nov. 15 (RC) where the species now occurs almost annually (*vide* HMS). Lake Jackson's Boat-tailed Grackle population (AB 33:858) was at an all-time high of 30 on Sept. 25 (HMS).

## ONTARIO REGION /Clive E. Goodwin

It was one of those falls that presents a Regional Editor with the pleasant but frustrating challenge of trying to condense a multitude of fascinating events, activities and observations into a fixed amount of space! The effort is quite hopeless, and many interesting but localized phenomena will necessarily be skimmed over or wholly ignored below.

It was also a fall that many observers saw as dull. This contradiction—a familiar one in Ontario accounts—probably reflects the prolonged period of wet weather through August, much of September and early October. Migrants bottled up along the lakeshores and at concentration points, and some strong storm systems in this period may have carried with them some of the rarities that were seen. If you were in the right places birding was good indeed. Huge numbers of the more common migrants were reported, mainly from the southwest but along the lower Great Lakes generally as well. Swallows, Blue

A W Tanager was the "prize" in a mixed flock of Scarlet and Summer tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on S G I, Oct 3 and a Summer Tanager w. of Lake Worth Nov. 19 was either late or wintering (HL). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Tallahassee Sept. 19-20 (HMS) was early and a male and female at Ft. Pierce Inlet Nov. 27 (R. Plockelman) were late or wintering. A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak at Ft. Pierce Sept. 28 (KD, BD) was perhaps the earliest for the S Pen. Late were a Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting at Tallahassee Nov. 8 (GM) and another of the latter at the Ochlockonee R., n. of Tallahassee Nov. 19 (B & LA). No Carduelinae other than Am Goldfinches were reported, even from the Tall. Div. (*vide* HMS), however, goldfinches were early at E.N.P., Oct. 30 (SB).

"Several" Le Conte's Sparrows at L. Jackson Nov. 29+ (GG, RC) produced probably the first local record of more than two of that species (*vide* HMS) and a Lark Sparrow at Boca Greens, Palm Beach Co., Nov. 18 (BH) was probably wintering. Single Clay-colored Sparrows were at these locations: Hypoluxo I., Oct. 3 (PS, GH, ME), S.G.I., Oct. 4 (JD) and St. Marks Lt., Oct. 24 (RC, Apalachee Aud Soc.). White-crowned Sparrows, uncommon winter visitors, had arrived in the Tall. Div. by the end of October (GM, RC), and an immature associating with Indigo Buntings e. of Tice, Lee Co., Oct 24 (LA) was a rarity there. The elusive Lincoln's Sparrow was found at Cape Florida Oct. 4 (AA *et al.*), Casey Key Oct. 30 (banded—A & SS) and Tallahassee Nov. 22 (RC). A Swamp Sparrow at Tallahassee Oct. 3 (GM) was the earliest for the Tall. Div., and a Lapland Longspur visited one of that species' favorite haunts, Ward's Bank Oct. 24 (JW).

**ADDENDUM** — An Olive-sided Flycatcher visited Seminole, Pinellas Co., Sept. 21, 1980 (LH *et al.*).

**CORRIGENDUM** — The southernmost record for Eared Grebe was near Summerland Key (AB 32:340) rather than Collier County (as stated in AB 35:172).

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Jays and blackbirds were most numerous, with many counts of several thousand birds.

Most noteworthy of the weather-related movements was in the period around September 8, when a large body of cold air moved across the Province and cleared out the birds from most areas. Also associated with it were some enormous tower and chimney kills: at a Peterborough T.V. tower 450 birds of 30 species were killed September 6-8 (RDM); Long Point Lighthouse accounted for 903 birds of 35 species, September 1-6 including 70 Bobolinks in one night (L.P.B.O.); but these were eclipsed by the 10,650 birds of 54 species at Lennox Generating Station stacks September 2-9 (*vide* RDW). Most of this carnage occurred on the nights of September 5-6 and September 6-7, with 3998 and 5818 birds respectively.

Some breeding season reports, delayed by the mail strike and of particular interest, are also included below.

**SOUTHERN JAMES BAY MIGRATION** — The Ontario coastline is so thinly populated and inaccessible that it is still poorly known ornithologically, although in recent years trips to Moosonee have



become regular events. This year A. Wormington and R.D. McRae spent Oct. 13-Nov. 24 in a cabin at Netitishi Pt., some 12 mi. e. of Moosonee on James Bay. This covered the freeze-up period, and some particularly interesting sightings were made. Rather than clutter these results up with records from other areas, they're sufficiently different to justify separation.

A number of seabirds were seen, notably 20 N. Fulmars Oct. 27-Nov. 19 including one dark-phase with 14 on Nov. 6 alone. Two large brown birds Oct. 23 were thought to be Procellariids and not fulmars, and an imm. Gannet was seen Oct. 29. Black Guillemots breed on this coast, and six were seen Oct. 23-Nov. 14, with a single large alcid Nov. 21.

The Bay is noted for Brant movements and 40,000 ± were counted with 28,900 Oct. 20 alone. Oldsquaw was the other numerous waterfowl species and 33,000 were seen with a peak of 14,800 Oct. 28. King Eiders were seen Oct. 21-Nov. 21 with 73 birds in all. There were also six Whistling Swans Nov. 20; 750 Am. Wigeon Oct. 20; and a Harlequin Duck Oct. 17. The only loon was a Red-throated Nov. 6.

Twelve Goshawks were seen Nov. 1 when one of two Golden Eagles occurred with another Oct. 26. Rough-legged Hawks were seen to Nov. 4. There were 37 Gyrfalcon sightings Oct. 20-Nov. 20 with 29 birds in all. Snowy Owls were common.

Most of the 12 species of shorebirds were noted singly and all were late: Oct. 20 Am. Woodcock; Oct. 23 Ruddy Turnstone; Oct. 24 Am. Golden Plover and the last of 76 Hudsonian Godwits; Nov. 2 Purple and White-rumped sandpipers; Nov. 7 Sanderling and the last of 22 Black-bellied Plovers; Nov. 14 Dunlin and Greater Yellowlegs; and Nov. 20 Red Phalarope.

Gulls included 113 Glaucous, four Iceland and 11 Great Black-backed. There were no jaegers, Sabine's or Bonaparte's gulls seen, and less common species included Lesser Black-backed Nov. 19; an Ivory Gull Nov. 13; and four Black-legged Kittiwakes.

Species at or beyond their range limits included a Brown Thrasher and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Oct. 16, Black-throated Blue and Pine warblers Oct. 15, four Rufous-sided Towhee sightings, and a Field Sparrow Oct. 14-18. Late records included a Swainson's Thrush Oct. 23, Palm Warbler Nov. 13, and Com. Yellowthroat Oct. 22. Relatively few finches were seen, but these included 97 Hoary Redpolls.

The most puzzling bird of the trip was described (AW) as a small, short-tailed pipit, pale, sandy-coloured above and below, with a few bold breast streaks and a buffy upper breast. The back was light brown and not obviously marked. It was identified as an Indian Tree-Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*), supported by the bird's tendency to dive into whatever shrub cover was available and a doubled-call note. If a Palearctic pipit is to wander to Ontario this species is one of the likeliest candidates, but there are, however, some problems with this diagnosis. Typically, *A. hodgsoni* has a very distinctively marked face and an olive-green back—in fact the British call it the Olive-backed Pipit, and observers describe the adult as a strikingly beautiful

bird. The James Bay bird was presumably an immature and the head marking would be less distinctive but some should have been visible, particularly a postocular spot, and the back apparently still may have been olive-green, not brown. It also appears there's controversy about the species' call note. Maybe some imm. Indian Tree-Pipits don't conform to the books, but while the identity of this particular bird remains a puzzle, it certainly appears to have been something quite alien to James Bay. The sighting further enhances the reputation of the Bay's s.w. shoreline as a place where quite unexpected birds can turn up.

**LOONS THROUGH PELICANS** — There was a good movement of loons along the L. Huron shoreline in October including an Arctic Loon at Kettle Pt., Oct. 20 (AR), but the Horned Grebe flight was light as this species continues in low numbers. Eared Grebes seen at Bright's Grove Sept. 15 (DR), Toronto Oct 5 (BDP) and Blenheim Oct. 21 (PAW) brought the year's total to nine, the most since 1973. A **Leach's Storm-Petrel**, well described from Attawapiskat Oct. 8 (AW) was only the third-ever in the Province, although the species may well be more regular in James Bay than is known.

**CORMORANTS, HERONS** — Double-crested Cormorants continued to prosper: there were 150 nests in 3 Essex County colonies this year (PAW) and 350 birds off Amherst I., Aug. 23 (RDW) as well as many smaller flocks both along the lakes and inland. Two Green Herons at Bracebridge Aug. 1 (RB) were near the n. edge of their range. Cattle Egrets were seen at Kingston Aug. 8 (GV, RDW), Oshawa Sept. 7 (BK) and there were three in Essex County to Nov. 4 (JPK). There were 32 Great Egret nests on Easter Sister I. this year (PAW), and single birds n. to Spry L., Sept. 1-19 (JWJ). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was at Hamilton Nov. 8 + (GB, m.ob.). Least Bitterns were n. in summer to Isaac L. (KR), and Manitoulin I. (KB), and Rondeau has 20 ± pairs with 6 nests found (PAW). There were eight in the Sept. 6-7 Lennox kill (*vide* RDW).

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — Rondeau was the main focus of a good Whistling Swan movement in the s.w., with 7457 birds Nov. 22-28 (*vide* AHK). Brant were widespread from an early 100+ Peterborough Sept. 20 (DCS) and Ottawa had a rare White-fronted Goose Oct. 25-Nov. 27 (LS *et al.*). The first of two large Snow Goose flocks at Atikokan Oct. 17 was being followed by a Bald Eagle, which turned into the second flock, causing chaos (DHE)! At Moosonee 3000 Snows were seen Sept. 25-Oct. 3, including 1800 Oct. 1. There were 850 Green-winged Teal the same day, and two Ring-necked Ducks Sept. 29 (PDP *et al.*). Other high counts included 520 Am. Wigeon at Mountsberg Nov. 1 (LJ, SK) and 2000+ Ring-necked at Shirley's Bay Oct. 25 (BMD). European Wigeon were seen at Long Pt., June 22 (CML) and Amherst I., Aug. 2 (RDW). A Wood Duck in Algonquin P.P., Oct. 24 was the latest-ever (RT), one of 17 record-late dates there. For the first time in 8 years the regular wintering Ottawa Barrow's Goldeneye failed to reappear, but two were seen there Sept. 27+ (BMD, MG), and another was at Niagara Falls Nov. 8+ (m.ob.) Harlequin Ducks continue to increase slowly: an early bird was at Presqu'île P.P., Sept. 19 (AGC) and there were 14 others. Eider reports included a rare Common at Sarnia Nov. 20 (PAY), and five Kings in November. Noteworthy summer records were of a Bufflehead at Tiny Marsh July 5 (CJM, EAM), three Ruddy Ducks at Ottawa July 28-Aug. 2 (SO, BMD), and a ♀ Ruddy with nine flightless young at Thedford, the first s.w. nesting since 1954 (TC, DM). A late Com. Merganser brood of downy young was at Silver Islet Sept. 30 (AW, WM, AM) and seven Hooded Mergansers at Kashechewan at the mouth of the Albany R., Oct. 9 (AW).

**HAWKS** — Table 1 gives evidence of the excellent hawk flight, these results from Holiday Beach P.P. (JPK *et al.*). The high Turkey Vulture totals mirror the large and increasing numbers of this species. A **Black Vulture** at Pt. Pelee N.P. (and vicinity, hereafter, Pelee) Aug. 17 (AW *et al.*) was only the fourth Ontario report in 20 years. There was an exceptional movement of Goshawks with 150+ birds from Sudbury southwards. The main movement was mid-September-Nov. 22. One of two Cooper's Hawk nests in the Pinery fledged four young (JM, DM, TC). Two westerners appeared: a Red-tailed Hawk on Amherst I., Oct. 11 thought to be of the Krider's race (ML, AEH), and a Swainson's Hawk at Holiday Beach Sept. 15 (EC). Any Broad-winged after September in Ontario is late, so a bird at Kelly L., Nov. 2 (JL) was exceptionally so. Rough-legged Hawks were widespread in

**Table 1. Holiday Beach Provincial Park 1981 Fall Hawk Migration**

Species	High Day	Number	Season Total
Turkey Vulture	Oct. 10	764	4418
Goshawk			39
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Sept. 15	2124	16753
Cooper's Hawk	Sept. 22	69	547
Red-tailed Hawk	Oct. 29	1390	6636
Red-shouldered Hawk	Oct. 29	117	530
Broad-winged Hawk	Sept. 17	33959	71185
Rough-legged Hawk	Oct. 28	33	134
Swainson's Hawk			1
Golden Eagle			30
Bald Eagle			12
Marsh Hawk	Sept. 15	59	599
Osprey	Sept. 6	22	68
Peregrine Falcon			13
Merlin			20
Am Kestrel	Sept. 6	454	3058
Total (including unidentified birds)			104712
September–October: 83 days. J.P. Kleiman <i>et al.</i>			

a good flight that began Sept. 17 at Virginiatown (PWR) and quickly moved S. The largest numbers concentrated on Amherst and K.F.N. Is (as usual) and there were 50 there Nov. 8 (K.F.N.). Nesting news from the s.w. population of Bald Eagles was mixed: no young was seen at the Arner nest, but one bird fledged from the one at Rondeau. We commented in the last report that this species is now outnumbered by Golden Eagles on migration, and the Holiday Beach figures again mirror those from the Province as a whole with 15 Balds and 30 Golden Eagles seen elsewhere. As is always the case with hawk counts, some duplication of figures is probable. Peregrine Falcon reports totalled 57+, and Merlins 80+. Toronto was the only area in the s. reporting Gyrfalcons: four Oct. 3-10 (GB, MB *et al.*).

**GROUSE, RAILS** — Both Bobwhites and Ring-necked Pheasants continued in low numbers, but 15 of the former on both the Lambton B B S. (DR) and on Walpole I., in July (NR) were encouraging, as were pheasants n. to Oliphant (LHR) and Walter's Falls (DG). Adult Turkeys survive from releases at Guelph and Valens, but no young have been seen (CAC). A Sandhill Crane summered at Rondeau (PAW), and fall birds were at Port Britain Oct. 2-4 (ERM) and Bloomfield Oct. 12 (MJE). Yellow Rails, even rarer in fall than spring, were seen on Amherst I., Aug. 27 (MM) and heard at Melbourne Sept. 17 (DMu).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The only Piping Plover at Long Pt., was seen Aug 12, and there was no breeding attempt there (DTH). Elsewhere two were on Nottawasaga Bay Aug. 16 (AJ, HC) and at Darlington Sept 7-8 (RN, m.ob.). There was an excellent Am. Golden Plover flight from an early Aug. 19 at Garson (JN) and several less common species were in exceptional fall numbers. There were six Willets reported to a late Sept. 14 at Presqu'île P.P. (JAM, HM) and high counts of seven Whimbrel Aug. 16 at Kettle Pt. (AR) and 18 at Ottawa Sept 2 (BC). Three Ruffs included birds at St. Davids July 16-19 (HHA), Willow Beach Oct. 10 (RJ) and Strathroy Oct. 12-17 (DMS, WRJ, MSS *et al.*) where low water levels provided excellent birding and equalled local high counts for many species. There were three Am Avocets seen as well, at Long Pt., July 5-6 (JD), River Canard Aug. 2 (JPK, RLB) and Whitby Aug. 10 (DB). The 24 W. Sandpipers and 100+ N. Phalaropes were also unusually high totals. By contrast the only Purple Sandpipers were one at Ottawa Nov. 17 (BMD) and 11 reports from Kettle Pt., and Erieau (AR, PAW). In good but not unusual numbers for recent years were the following: Stilt Sandpiper including several flocks of 20±; Buff-breasted Sandpiper 48+ birds, including one at Thunder Bay Sept. 14 (MR); Marbled Godwit with six in total; and Hudsonian Godwit with 41 birds, over half at Amherstview sewage lagoons. Noteworthy early records, both from Ottawa, were a Dunlin July 20 (BMD) and a Red Phalarope Aug. 25-26 (WEG), and there were five other phalaropes reported. Long Pt. had its first Wilson's Phalarope nesting June 20 (CML, KP), but the most remarkable breeding season report came from Sable I., Lake of the Woods, where two Black-necked Stilts were seen June 7 (EJT, MBT). I'm trying to secure more information on this report, but see

no reason to doubt it—stilts are unmistakable, even if there are only a couple of prior sight records for Ontario!

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — The Sarnia—Kettle Pt. jaeger movement was relatively light this year: three Pomarines and up to 37 Parasitics occurred there and at Pelee (AR, DR, m.ob.), which had a very early Parasitic Aug. 17 (MP), and there were five elsewhere Long-tailed Jaegers were in unprecedented numbers, as birds were picked up dead at Sarnia and Guelph Sept. 15 (TCF, *vide* SK) and two—well described and probably different birds—at Long Pt., Aug 6 & 10 (CML *et al.*). This equals the total fall sightings for the last 25 years, and also raises the interesting point that no one goes looking for jaegers in August. There were a few summer Glaucous Gull reports, and an Iceland at Kettle Pt., June 9 (AR). Fall arrivals were early for both species: Oct. 6 Whitby (AGC) and Oct. 31 Bracebridge (RB) respectively. Lesser Black-backed are becoming almost commonplace: there were four at Ivy Lea Sept. 22 (DRo), Pelee Oct. 2 (KM *et al.*), Erieau Oct. 12-Nov. 18 (KJB *et al.*), and Niagara Falls Nov 11 (RC *et al.*). The appearance of yellow-legged ad. Herring Gulls along L. Ontario in November (RDW, BAW, GB) precipitated more speculation about European wanderers! Black-headed Gulls were at Queenston Nov. 11-22 (m.ob.) and Rondeau Nov. 2 (PAW), and Laughing Gulls at Kettle Pt., June 7 (AR), Cobourg Oct. 25 (BCO), the first-ever there, and Port Rowan Nov. 29+ (C & SW) Bonaparte's in numbers were exceptionally widespread, and their flocks included at least six Franklin's and 50 Little gulls, mostly along the lower Lakes but Franklin's n. to Silver Islet Sept. 30 (AW, WM, AM) and Little Gulls e. to Ottawa Aug. 5 (BC). Sarnia had 28 Black-legged Kittiwakes Oct. 19+ (DR) and there were five elsewhere, but the only Sabine's reported were Sept. 26 on L. Ontario (HC) and four Pelee sightings Sept. 26-Oct. 1 (m.ob.). A Forster's Tern was e. to Ottawa Aug. 22 (IJ, BMD) and there were 17 active nests at Rondeau June 19 (PAW). Ontario's third-ever Black Skimmer, all since 1977, was at Erieau Sept. 14 (m.ob.).

**PIGEONS THROUGH NIGHTHAWKS** — The Province's third Band-tailed Pigeon in 4 years was at Long Pt., Aug. 30 (JS, PH, JT) A Mourning Dove was at Kashechewan Oct. 9 (AW). The first Snowy Owl in a light flight was an early one Sept. 17 at Colpo Bay (LHR) Normally we view Screech Owls as sedentary, but there were again birds moving in the huge Saw-whet Owl movement at Prince Edward Pt. A record 780 of the latter were banded Sept. 24-October with 111 on each of 2 nights (*vide* RDW), and many reports elsewhere. Early Hawk Owls presaged a good winter flight with birds at Virginiatown Nov. 12 (PWR), Chelmsford Nov. 15-30 (CB *et al.*), and two in the Ottawa area from Nov. 15 (MR, JK). A young Great Gray was at Manitouwadge June 25 and an adult at Longlac June 27 (JMS, LH) A Com. Nighthawk at Grand Marais Oct. 20 was late (SP).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to prosper: Stratford and Oxford Cos. had their firsts, with birds Nov. 2 (MPD) and at Ingersoll Oct. 8 (DBu, BDP)—perhaps a reflection of the thin coverage in these areas—and there were 4 Toronto area reports (*vide* AD). Red-headed's staged an invasion around Peterborough with 16 in the area (*vide* DCS) and birds n. to Bracebridge Oct. 26 (PHi). A Downy Woodpecker was seen at Attawapiskat Oct. 8 (AW), n. of its stated range. Three-toed movement was relatively light. Flycatchers and swallows yielded an abundance of late records, the latest (relatively) being an E. Kingbird at Toronto Oct. 16 (AGC). Three W. Kingbirds were at Peterborough Aug. 25 (DCS), Long Pt., June 26 (RS, DTH, ED), and a very late bird reported, however, without details from Waterloo Oct. 8. This brings the years's total to a record six. There were four Acadian Flycatcher reports from Pelee Aug. 6-20, with a high of two birds (AW *et al.*) A Gray Flycatcher, the first for Canada, was banded Sept. 11 at Toronto (DBr, RJa). Six Cliff Swallow nests were found at Thedford under a bridge (TC, DM).

**CROWS THROUGH WRENS** — Holiday Beach had a Com Raven Oct. 11 (JPK, PDP), the southernmost of six reports in the s. There was a good Black-capped Chickadee movement in October, the heaviest since 1975, and Boreals also appeared with 60+ birds reported. Both nuthatches also moved in numbers, and there were three White-breasteds at Atikokan Oct. 14 & Nov. 21 (DHE, TN) A Tufted Titmouse at Waterloo Nov. 12-29 (MS, LC *et al.*) and a Bewick's Wren at Pelee Aug. 8 (DAS) were noteworthy. Winter

Wrens nested at Rondeau and nine fall Carolina Wren reports was an encouraging total.

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — Pickering's first Mockingbird nest was found July 9 (HP, RW, RN) and a bird was n. to Dorion Nov. 9 (HA). Gray-checked Thrushes seemed in good numbers and Algonquin had its first in 20 years (RT). A Gray Catbird was at Moosonee Sept. 26 (PDP *et al.*) and a Townsend's Solitaire at Whitby Nov. 21 (RN). Water Pipits were widespread from an early Aug. 17 at Ottawa (BMD). Bohemian Waxwings and N. Shrikes also moved in good numbers from firsts Oct. 13 at Englehart (JBW) and Oct. 11 at Port Elgin (MP) respectively. Vireos included a White-eyed at Whitby Oct. 24 (NL), a Yellow-throated at Slate R., Sept. 19 (CG, JF) and a Red-eyed at Moose Factory Oct. 6 (AW).

**WARBLERS** — The many late warbler dates were eclipsed by the hangers-on of former years. An exception was a Blackburnian at Pelee Nov. 15 (S & JH). A string of early Pelee dates seemed to reflect only the poor summer coverage there in the past. Prothonotary Warblers bred at the Pinery, the northernmost nesting on record (JM, TC, DM) and there were 12 fall reports including one at Pimisi Bay Aug. 14 (LdeKL). Other s.w. breeding season reports included Yellow-rumped at Kettle Pt., to June 29 (AR, AP), a Chestnut-sided nest at Rondeau (PAW) and a Prairie Warbler nest—deserted after a cowbird laid—also in the Pinery. Rarer species included a Worm-eating at Pelee Aug. 6 & 19 (AW, DW); a Kirtland's at Morton Sept. 9 (M & TH); two Prairies at Port Hope Aug. 26 (BCO); a Louisiana Waterthrush on Wolfe I., Aug. 7 (CW); and Kentuckies at Kettle Pt., June 6 & 10 (AR) and Pelee Sept. 1 (RF). There were 12 Golden and six Blue-wingeds seen and four chats, including a bird in Algonquin P.P., Oct. 11 (WC, m.ob.). The budworm warblers were in smaller numbers, and Table 2, from L.P.B.O., illustrates this decline for the 3 species, plus one (Magnolia) not usually regarded as such, and a couple of other species for comparison. Note that the scales are not of absolute numbers, but indices, over 7 years.

**BLACKBIRDS** — There were four W. Meadowlark reports from the s. in the breeding season. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Honey Harbour June 16 (AMi), Zurich Aug. 1 (MPD), Schreiber Sept. 29 (AW, DHE, AM) and Silver Islet Oct. 18 (T.B.F.N.). Two other westerners were a N. (Bullock's) Oriole at Peterborough Oct. 31 (PH), and a W. Tanager from the Pinery—a spring report on May 11 (JM), but the first good sighting since 1973.

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Atikokan's first-ever Cardinal appeared Nov. 6-7 (DHE, TN, WK) and there were birds at Thunder Bay Oct. 29 & Nov. 19 (*vide* DA). House Finches exploded: 40+ Kingston, 20± Toronto, 15 London, and 20 or 30 elsewhere, with some breeding stations not reporting! For the first time in years all the winter finches moved, but none of the species was in very high numbers and—owing to a general lack of winter food—they moved through quickly, mainly in November. The catalogue of westerners in the Province last fall continues with Dickcissels at Fort Albany Oct. 10 (AW), Toronto Nov. 12 (GB) and Amherstberg Nov. 30 (BE); a "Spotted" Rufous-sided Towhee, Red Rock Nov. 16+ (OC *et al.*); a Lark Sparrow at Pickering Oct. 18 (RN); and Ontario's second Cassin's Sparrow, well described from Marathon Sept. 28 (AW, AM). Perhaps in a different class—because so early—was a distinctively marked Dark-eyed Junco at Pimisi Bay Aug. 28-Oct. 22 (LdeKL) the description of which suggested the *mearnsi* race. There were also seven Clay-colored Sparrow sightings, exceptional for fall. Neither



Dickcissel, Ft. Albany (James Bay), Ontario, Oct. 10, 1981. Photo/Alan Wormington.

Tiny Marsh nor the Lambton or Palgrave B.B.S., had any Henslow's Sparrows. Fall dates for the "sharp-tailed" sparrow genera were Sept. 1 for Henslows, Sept. 28-Oct. 3 for Grasshopper, Sept. 28-Oct. 8 for Le Conte's and Sept. 30-Oct. 5 for Sharp-taileds (m.ob.). Snow Buntings were in exceptional numbers, with several flocks of 1000+ from an early Sept. 29 at Little Current (CEG, JEG).

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## NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION /Douglas P. Kibbe

Well above average rainfall in September and October put an end to the summer-long drought which had plagued the Region. Although nearly constant rain hampered field outings, it did little to dampen the enthusiasm of birders as it caused some of the best shorebird groundings in recent years. Tragically, it also caused the collision of over 1500 birds with towers at Pompey and Rome, N.Y. The Lake Ontario

plains, as in past autumns, served as a major stopover point for southbound migrants and yielded by far the greatest concentration as well as more than its share of the Region's rarities. This "lake plains phenomenon", taken for granted by local residents, must be seen to be fully appreciated.

**LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — Another possible Arctic Loon was sighted near Rochester (*vide* G.O.S.) where 1000+ Com. Loons staged in early November before departing for coastal waters. Double-crested Cormorants, clearly on the increase, lingered at



many localities well into October. Only a single Little Blue Heron was noted, along with the usual scattering of Common and Snowy egrets. A Black-crowned Night Heron Nov. 7 at Rochester was rather late and a Glossy Ibis circling Gale Meadows, Vt. (WN) provided the autumn's only sighting. The Brown Pelican at Braddock Bay the latter half of September and a Barnacle Goose in a flock of Canadas on Cayuga L., Oct. 31 were known or probable escapees while an ad. White-fronted Goose on Cazenovia L., Nov. 8-10 (MR, m.ob.) continues a recent pattern of annual occurrences of this midwestern migrant. A strong October flight of Brant was noted along L. Ontario, top tallies being 3000, 1500 and 6000+ birds on the 2nd, 22nd and 29th. Peak counts of 75,000 Mallards and 11,000 Black Ducks Nov. 30 at Montezuma N.W.R., were high, and reflect a major change in the ratio of these 2 species. Previous (but perhaps less complete) counts at Montezuma tallied 10,000 Mallards and 5000 Black Ducks in 1970 and 15,000 Mallards and 13,000 Blacks in 1967. Other noteworthy totals include 1000 Oldsquaw, 9-10,000 scaup and 10,000 White-winged Scoters, all near Rochester in November. Although only one Barrow's Goldeneye was identified, at least half a dozen King Eiders were reported, all on L. Ontario or the Niagara R.

**HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — A significant movement of Red-tailed Hawks (up to 240 Aug. 11) was noted along the L. Ontario shore near Rochester during the latter half of August (G.O.S.). This flight was notable in its composition as well as its size since this species is considered a late season migrant at most fall hawk watches. At Glen Falls 1144 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 19 (HG, *fide* MP) was by far the season's best tally. An apparent melanistic one was seen at Winhall Sept. 6 (WN). Early arriving Rough-legged Hawks Sept. 9, 20 & 26 heralded a good influx. Bald Eagles were well recorded, with at least five Vermont sightings and numerous reports from w. New York where several dozen birds have now been hacked. At least two Gyrfalcons were reported from the L. Ontario plains and about a dozen Peregrines were sighted throughout the Region.

Although the absence of mudflats at Montezuma N.W.R., reduced shorebird counts there to the lowest level in memory, elsewhere inclement weather coincident with the passage of a major shorebird flight Labor Day weekend produced one of the most exceptional groundings ever documented in the Region. Rain drove 400 birds of 7 species to riverbars in the Chemung R., near Elmira (WH) Sept. 2. September 6-7 saw the greatest groundings, however, especially near Kendall, N.Y., where up to 1000 Am. Golden and 200 Black-bellied plovers, five Buff-breasted Sandpipers, 100+ Hudsonian and one Marbled godwits, six Whimbrel and a Willet were found (R.B.A., G.O.S.). Whimbrels were unusually widely reported with singles at El Dorado Shores and Sandy Pond on e. L. Ontario and Plainfield, Vt. (LM), the latter providing only the seventh state record. Purple Sandpipers put in their best showing in at least a decade on L. Ontario and the Niagara R., with 1-3 individuals reported Oct. 29+ at 7 locations. Red Knots were also unusually well reported, seven Aug. 5 on Hardwick L., setting a Vermont record. Phalaropes, on the other hand, were relatively scarce.

**LARIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Rare but regularly sighted gulls included Lesser Black-backed at Niagara Falls (B.O.S.), the Colonie landfill (KA) and Montezuma N.W.R. (O.A.S.); a Black-headed in the Niagara Falls vicinity in November (B.O.S.); and Franklin's Gulls at Rochester and Buffalo. Although now considered regular in New York, by far the season's rarest gulls were Sabine's Gulls at Buffalo Sept. 10 (B.O.S.) and another which rewarded some observers willing to walk the 2.5 mi (one way) of beach to the spit at Sandy Pond Nov. 8-12 (FS *et al.*). Little Gulls set a continental high

when 78 were tallied on L. Ontario off the mouth of Rochester's Van Lane Sewage Treatment Plant outfall. A good influx of pelagic species was recorded on e. L. Ontario. Black-legged Kittiwakes were well reported through the season; 15, including two adults Nov. 22 setting a new record. Also exceptional were the following jaeger reports: 25 off Hamlin Sept. 25; an immature over the Winhall hawkwatch Oct. 25 (WN); and 55 Parasitics off Derby Hill Sept. 29 (with 38 more on 3 dates through Nov. 28). About a half-dozen Pomarine Jaegers were convincingly reported.

The banded Monk Parakeet continued to frequent its nest in Ithaca. Bellona, N. Y., hosted the fall's only Barn Owl (ML). A Great Horned Owl, found near death at Catskill, proved upon necropsy to have high brain levels of both PCBs and DDE. Only a modest number of Snowy, Short-eared and Saw-whet owls were reported. About 1000 Com. Nighthawks circled over Elmira briefly Sept. 6 to set a new regional high. A possible Ruby-throated Hummingbird spied Oct. 27 at Rochester (G.O.S.) was rather late. Can it be coincidence that two Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers discovered near Rochester were only a week earlier and scant yards from last fall's occurrences? Only by banding these wintering strays can we hope to eventually answer questions about winter wandering.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Late-lingering flycatchers must have been hard pressed to survive in the incessant rain this fall, nonetheless a Great Crested Flycatcher was found Nov. 13 at Henrietta (KM). A possible Acadian Flycatcher was seen and heard at Winhall Sept. 9 (WN); the species has not been confirmed in Vermont in many years but may be expected given recent influxes to the s. and w. Best find of the fall, however, was a Say's Phoebe identified Nov. 8 at Marcellus (JW, m.ob.) which survived on cluster flies for at least 10 days before succumbing. A flycatcher superficially resembling an Olive-sided but with long central tail feathers near Ferrisburg, Vt. (J & MD) defied efforts to identify it; apparently being neither a Scissor-tailed nor Fork-tailed. As the Com. Raven continues to expand it becomes increasingly difficult to differentiate truly extralimital occurrences. This fall's New York reports included sightings from Allegany, Tompkins and Orleans counties. Probably only the latter sightings, from the L. Ontario plains, are outside the species' breeding range. Three hundred Black-capped Chickadees at Derby Hill Oct. 25 and 250 near Union Spring Nov. 11 were the season's best counts of this "resident" period. Included in this year's movement were record numbers of Boreal Chickadees. Few Bohemian Waxwings were reported while a modest influx of N. Shrikes was noted. The only Loggerhead Shrike reported this fall was at Braddock Bay the latter half of November (*fide* G.O.S.), remarkably late for a species now virtually extirpated from the Region.

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Two White-eyed Vireos were noted from the L. Ontario plains; at Manitou Sept. 20 and Derby Hill Sept. 27. Watch for continued increases in this expanding southern visitor. Prothonotary Warblers, rare at any season away from the Region's two known breeding areas, were recorded at Mexico Pt., Aug. 8 (FS) and Island Cottage Sept. 1 (NH). Veritable hordes of Orange-crowned Warblers descended upon the Region; at least six were banded and several dozen others were sighted. If banding studies were inaugurated at more of the Region's natural migrant concentration points, this inconspicuous w. stray might prove far more common than past records indicate. The same might be said of Connecticut Warbler, five of which were reported Sept. 6-Oct. 4. Vermont's only Yellow-breasted Chat this fall was banded at Woodstock Sept. 15 (VINS). An Am. Redstart found Nov. 1 near Rochester (NH) was notably late.

**ICTERIDS AND FRINGILLIDS** — The Pt. Breeze W. Meadowlark was still singing Sept. 26 (MD, WL). Other notable Icterids included a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Glen Falls and Altamont (*fide* BC & KA), Brewer's Blackbirds at Liverpool (FS, m.ob.) and in Hamlin (MD & WL) the same feedlot hosting last spring's flock, and a Boat-tailed Grackle whose (re?) appearance Sept. 19 at Braddock Bay (WL, MDa *et al.*, *fide* R.B.A.) may have reflected a frequent phenomenon—site fidelity by vagrants. An imm. Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Colonie Nov. 10 (MK, *fide* RY) was the only lingering Fringillid worthy of note. Two Dickcissels and an "Oregon" Junco were reported from feeders. The winter finches were well reported with Pine Grosbeaks, Com. Redpolls, and White-winged Crossbills putting in particularly good showings. Midwestern visitors included a Lark Sparrow at N. Elba Sept. 8-9 (D & KO, MP), a Clay-colored

Sparrow near Rochester Oct 20 (KG) and a Le Conte's Sparrow n of Ithaca Oct. 10 (J & KC, *vide* WB). An excellent influx of Snow Buntings in late October culminated in a count of 3000 Nov. 1 at Kendall (MDa, WL).

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## APPALACHIAN REGION /George A. Hall

It was an excellent Autumn season for birds and birders. The weather was generally mild, the migratory flight was good or heavy at most places, the number of "goodies" was impressive, and at the close of the season there were promises of an interesting winter.

At Pittsburgh all four months were cooler than normal but there was no very cold weather even in November. There too September was wetter than normal and the other months drier, but at most other stations October had abundant rainfall. There was little snow in the north by the end of the period. Until mid-November there was a steady succession of mild, pleasant days.

The migration started rather slowly in August although there were some unusually early arrival dates. A storm September 5 brought a heavy shorebird flight to the Lake Erie shore, but the first real break in the slow movement came from a cold front September 8-9, which triggered a heavy flight at the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, West Virginia and at Wytheville, Virginia. Another front September 15-16 brought a good flight to the Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pennsylvania. Other good flights came September 21-22 at Wytheville, September 26-27, and October 5 at Allegheny Front and October 11 at Powdermill. The mild October weather was responsible for a number of late dates for several warblers. The waterfowl migration was not impressive as until mid-November there was no pronounced cold front to trigger a mass movement. Despite the mild November there were not many reports of "half-hardy" stragglers remaining in the Region at the end of the period.

As is usual in the fall much of the quantitative information came from the two large banding operations, Powdermill Nature Reserve (hereafter, P.N.R.) and the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (hereafter, A.F.M.O.), this year joined by three other smaller banding stations at Presque Isle, S.P., Pennsylvania (hereafter, P.I.), near Bittinger, Maryland, and at Norris, Tennessee. The season at A.F.M.O. was a record-breaker in all respects, with over 9000 birds banded, 3600 during the period September 9-14, and capped by 935 bandings September 21. The other three stations had more normal years with 6600 bandings at P.N.R., 370 at P.I., 799 at Bittinger, and 960 at Norris.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS —** The only report of Red-throated Loon was from Seneca L., O., Nov. 19 (JS). There were 3 reports of Red-necked Grebes: Butler County, Pa., Oct. 7 (BR), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Oct. 8 (MW) and Shenandoah L., Va., Nov. 6 (YL & LT), but the flight of Horned Grebes was generally poor. Pied-billed Grebes nested at State College, Pa. (KJ).

Double-crested Cormorants were reported from P.I. (JM, SS), Allegheny County, Pa. (PH), at Donegal, Pa., for a second local record (RCL), Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL), Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), Seneca L., O. (ME), and Austin Springs, Tenn. (RK & RL), many more than the usual number of records for the Region. An imm. Gannet at P.I., Nov. 29-30 (JM & SS) provided the first local record.



Two White Pelicans were seen at Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 2 (RSt) and one was at Austin Springs, Tenn., Nov. 3-6 (GE & HF). A Brown Pelican seen at several locations in n.w. Pennsylvania, and finally captured at Erie was most likely the one that escaped from a Detroit zoo shipment (*vide* PH).

There were more than the usual number of reports of Great Egrets in the late summer, but no reports of Snowy Egrets and only one of Little Blue Herons, from the Potomac R., in e. West Virginia (CM). Cattle Egrets were seen at P.I., Sept. 14 (JBa), Warren, Pa., Sept. 12 (BH), Washington County, Pa., Oct. 23 (DF) and Letcher County, Ky., Oct. 27 (FC). A White Ibis was seen at the Hiawasee River Area near Chattanooga Aug. 30 (L & KD) and two *Plegadis* ibises (probably Glossies) were seen in Lawrence County, Pa., Aug. 1-2, for the second s.w. Pennsylvania record (DF).

**WATERFOWL —** The waterfowl flight was not impressive, and while most reporters attributed this to the mild late autumn weather, one wonders about the true status of waterfowl populations. The Whistling Swan flight was most unusual this year. The peak came after the first break in the mild weather, about Nov. 21-22, but birds had been coming through for a month and were seen on the Potomac R., in e. West Virginia (CM) and Butler County, Pa. (RBy) in late September. Canada Geese were seen as early as Sept. 23 at the Tuscarora Mt., Pa., hawk-watching station (CG). At Pymatuning L., only 3000 ± geese (well below normal) were present during most of the fall, but 5000 ± were present Dec. 6 (RFL). Twenty Brant were seen at P.I., Nov. 7 (JM & SS) and three were there Nov. 26 (JH). Snow Geese were reported from Tuscarora Mt., Pa., Oct. 18 (CG), Pymatuning L., Oct. 28 & Nov. 26 (RFL), Somerset County, Pa., Oct. 25 (R & GS), Shenandoah L., Va. (R.B.C.), and Blacksburg, Va., Nov. 2 for the first local record for the white phase (CK).

Black Scoters were unusually numerous this season with reports from Bald Eagle S.P., Oct. 11 & Nov. 6 (CH), Donegal L., Pa., Oct. 23 (RCL), P.I., Nov. 7-8 (JM & SS), and more unusually, at Kingston, Tenn., Nov. 13 (AH). Surf Scoters were reported from P.I., Oct. 24, 31 & Nov. 21 (JM, JF) and 14 were at Bald Eagle S.P., Oct. 16 (MC), while White-winged Scoters were at P.I., on the early date of Sept. 6 and also Oct. 11 & Nov. 21 (JM & SS), and at Donegal L., Oct. 23 (RCL). The best duck record for the season was that of a King Eider at P.I., Nov. 7 (JM, SS, JB). Downy young Blue-winged Teal were seen at Booker T. Washington S.P., Tenn., Aug. 14 providing the first local nesting record (DM).

**RAPTORS —** Table 1 gives a summary of the data collected at a number of the hawk-watching lookouts in the Region. The Broad-winged Hawk flight brought mixed results, being poor in the n., very good at Peters Mt., W. Va., and a record high at Chilhowee Mt., Tenn. The data in the table as well as other comments indicate that the Sharp-shinned Hawk is doing very well. A record high of Sharp-shinneds was banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH). Cooper's Hawks are not

**Table 1 Hawk Migration, Appalachian Region, Fall 1981**

	Days obs.	Sh-sh <sup>1</sup>	Br-wg <sup>2</sup>	Br-wg high	Total
Tuscarora Summit, Pa. (CG)	*	*	*	2839 (9/13)	*
Hooversville, Pa. (R&GS)	*	30	277	145 (9/16)	359
Beam Rock, Pa. (RCL)	12	72	48	*	241
Washington Mon. S.P., Md. (T&LDo)	70	1076	1522	401 (9/19)	4671**
East River Mt., W.Va. (JP)	16	10	1360	367 (9/18)	1501
Peters Mt., W.Va. (GH)	17	166	7111	2108 (9/23)	7383
Rockfish Gap, Va. (JN)	*	734	8200	*(9/22)	ca. 9000
Rockingham Co., Va. (3 lookouts) (LR, CZ)	2	7	1266	1164 (9/13)	1323**
Harveys Knob, Va. (MM)	60	469	4642	1064 (9/28)	6038**
Chilhowee Mt., Tenn. (BS)	18	18	8173	5632 (9/19)	9010**

<sup>1</sup>Sharp-shinned Hawk.

<sup>2</sup>Broad-winged Hawk.

\*data not submitted.

\*\*includes both species of vulture.

so evident from the lookouts and it is difficult to assess their current status. Red-taileds and Am. Kestrels moved S in good numbers.

Of the rarer species the Goshawk continues to attract attention. Reports from Irvine, Pa., Aug. 8 (JMo), Butler County, Pa., Aug. 8 (DF), Beam Rock, Pa., Sept. 7 (RCL) and especially Roan Mt., Tenn., Aug. 13 (RP & TL), were very early for migrants, and suggested nesting populations. There was a total of 12 reports from s.w. Pennsylvania (PH), and six at Washington Monument S.P., Md. (T & LDo). There were many reports of Rough-legged Hawk which species was once very unusual in this Region, except in the n., and it was reported as far s. as e. Tennessee (BS). The Merlin was also more common than usual with reports of 26 birds from 8 different localities. The Peregrine was reported from Beam Rock, Pa., Aug. 17 (very early) and Sept. 17 (RCL), Peters Mt., W. Va., Sept. 20 (GH), Union, W. Va., Nov. 2 (DW), Washington Monument S.P., Md., five during the season (T & LDo), Blue Ridge in s.w. Virginia, Oct. 31 (JV), Harveys Knob, Va., Sept. 29 (DP), Daleville, Va., Oct. 17 (MP *et al.*), Chilhowee Mt., Tenn., Sept. 18 & 24 (BS), and Crossville, Tenn., Oct. 5 (CN). From 14 different stations came reports of a total of 28 Bald Eagles during the migration. The Crawford County, Pa., eagles fledged five young (RFL), and the West Virginia nesting successfully fledged two (BL). Golden Eagles were reported from Tuscarora Mt., Pa., Sept. 11 (CG), Bald Eagle Mt., Pa., four during the fall (MW), Peters Mt., W. Va., Sept. 27 (GH), Washington Monument S.P., Md., 11 during the season (T & LDo), Jack Mt., Va., Nov. 27 (MCa), Blue Ridge in s.w. Virginia Oct. 31 (JV), Swannanoa, N.C., Oct. 22 (RR), and Elder Ridge, Tenn., Oct. 4 (RSt). A pair of Swallow-tailed Kites was present for some time in late summer near Dunlap, Tenn. (*vide* RSt), and a Mississippi Kite was seen from the hawk lookout on Signal Mt., Tenn., Sept. 26 (KD & BW).

**CRANES AND RAILS** — The only Sandhill Crane reports came from e. Tennessee where seven were seen at Hiawasee River Area Nov. 7 (*vide* RSt), and a total of 200± at Knoxville Nov. 6-9 (CN) (lower than normal) and 25 there Nov. 29 (EB). A Purple Gallinule at the Hiawasee River Area Sept. 8 furnished the first record there in 17 years (RSt). The bird of year in Tennessee was a Caribbean Coot near the Chickamauga Dam in November (m.ob.).

**SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS** — As usual the bulk of the shorebird reports came from the extremes of the Region, Presque Isle S.P., on L. Erie and the Kingston Power Plant near Kingston, Tenn., but this year there were some interesting records in between. At P.I., 27 species of shorebirds were seen during the season, and the top day was Sept. 5 with 400 birds of 15 species (JM). This account will touch only on the more unusual species. There were 4 reports of Whimbrels



Caribbean Coot, Chattanooga, Tenn., Nov. 28, 1981. Photo/Charles P. Nicholson.

at P.I., Aug. 1-Sept. 25 (m.ob.) and two were seen near Salem, O., Oct. 16 (RBo). Marbled Godwits were at P.I., Sept. 12 (JM & JF) and at Lock Haven, Pa., Aug. 8-17 (CH), while 12 Hudsonian Godwits were at P.I., Sept. 5 (JM, SS, JF), and Hiawasee River Area, Sept. 6 (m.ob.). An Am. Avocet was at Kingston, Tenn., Aug. 7 (MA). Buff-breasted Sandpipers continue to appear in greater numbers than in the past. This fall they were reported from: P.I., on 3 occasions (*vide* JM), Ft. Loudon, Pa., Aug. 30 (CG), Roanoke, Va., Aug. 19-26 (MP & NM), Clinton, Tenn., Aug. 25 (LTu), and Kingston, Tenn., Sept. 14 (MA). Red Knots were reported from Kingston Aug. 21 (MA), Lake Arthur, Pa., Sept. 12 (DF *et al.*) (second s.w. Pennsylvania record), and from P.I., one Aug. 27, three Aug. 29 (SS), and six Sept. 5 (DS).

Other records of interest are: Piping Plover, Roanoke Aug. 2-3 (MP & NM); Ruddy Turnstone, Slippery Rock, Pa., Oct. 21 (GW) and Kingston Aug. 31 & Sept. 10 (MA); Willet, Stuart's Draft, Va., Sept. 9 for a first county record (BM), Kingston Sept. 21-22 (MA); Short-billed Dowitcher, Ft. Loudon, Pa., Sept. 7 (CG), Donegal, Pa., Aug. 3 (RCL), Roanoke seven Sept. 4-7 (MP & MD); Long-billed Dowitcher, Hiawasee River Area Sept. 9 (L & KD); Stilt Sandpiper, P.I., Aug. 27 and 21 on Sept. 5, 9-13 (m.ob.), Athens, W. Va., Nov. 1 (JP), Roanoke Sept. 4 (MP), and Kingston Sept. 5 (CN); White-rumped Sandpiper, P.I., Sept. 6 (SS), and Roanoke Sept. 1-7 (MP); Sanderling, Roanoke Aug. 22 (NM), and Kingston Sept. 5-7 (CN). American Golden Plovers and Western Sandpipers, usually worthy of note, were too widely reported to detail individual reports. Wilson's Phalaropes were at P.I., Sept. 6 (SS), Conneaut Marsh, Pa., Sept. 13-14 (RFL), and Kingston Aug. 22 (*vide* RSt); N. Phalaropes were at P.I., Sept. 8 (DS) and Kingston Sept. 6 (L & KD); and Red Phalaropes were at Pymatuning L., Oct. 28 (RFL).

An imm. Sabine's Gull was seen on the Susquehanna R., near Sunbury, Pa., Sept. 19-21 establishing the second Pennsylvania record (SS). There were 3 sightings of four Little Gulls at P.I., Sept.



Sabine's Gull, Shamokin Dam, Pa., Sept. 20, 1981 (see page 160). Photo/Stamley C. Stahl.

12-Nov. 29 (SS & JM). A Glaucous Gull was at P.I., Nov. 21 & 29 (SS & JB). A Great Black-backed Gull appeared again at Bald Eagle S.P. (PS). Both Caspian and Forster's terns were widely and more commonly reported than usual.

**DOVES, CUCKOOS, PARROTS** — A Ground Dove hit a window at Stuart's Draft, Va., Oct. 24. It later died and the specimen was

preserved (RSn, DA) In the same part of the Region a **Groove-billed Ani** was present at Broadway, Rockingham Co., Va., Oct. 24-Nov. 18 (m.ob.). To round out the unusual records in this group a **Monk Parakeet** was seen at Christiansburg, Va., Oct. 5 (CK). After a summer in which they were quite common both species of cuckoo were scarce, with bandings at P.N.R., being well below normal.

**OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A Snowy Owl was reported from P.I., Nov. 1-30+ (JM), a bird in poor condition was captured at State College, Pa., Nov. 17 (MO), and two were seen at Bellefonte, Pa., Dec. 7 (*vide* KJ). A Saw-whet Owl banded at A.F.M.O., Aug. 29 (GAH) may have been one from the little-known local breeding population but the four bandings at P.N.R., Oct. 17-Nov. 13 (RCL), two bandings at Morgantown, Oct. 31 & Nov. 5 (GAH) as well as sightings in Allegheny County, Pa., Oct. 29 (DF), Caldwell, Pa., Nov. 30 (PS), and near Ronceverte, W.Va., Nov. 18 (DW) indicate a substantial S movement. Short-eared Owls were reported from near Leeper, Pa., Nov. 14-17 (LC) and Roanoke Nov. 26 (NM). Barred Owls were more commonly mentioned than usual but Barn Owl reports came from only Clarksville, Pa. (RB), Lewisburg, W.Va. (CHa), Norris Lake, Tenn., (JHo) and Maryville, Tenn. (JBO). The flight of Com. Nighthawks came through about normally, although only 3 large concentrations were reported: 70 at Great Cacapon, W. Va., Aug. 27 (JD), 1355 at Staunton, Va., Aug. 30 (YL), and 1800 at Harrisonburg, Va., Sept. 5 (CZ). The Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to do well in n.w. Pennsylvania. At A.F.M.O., the flight of Red-headed Woodpeckers was good, at Look Rock, Chilhowee Mt., Tenn., they were in lower-than-normal numbers (BS). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen near State College Nov. 24-Dec. 4 (CS & HH).



*Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, State College, Pa., Nov. 27-Dec. 4, 1981. Photo/Rich Wiltraut.*

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS** — A W. Kingbird was seen at Bald Eagle S.P., Aug. 31 (MW). A Total of 79 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded at P.N.R., was 14% above average (RCL). At P.N.R., the bandings of Acadian Flycatchers were 90% above average, and the bandings of E. Wood Pewees were 82% above average. There were 10 reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers from s.w. Pennsylvania (PH) including one very early report Aug. 1 (DF), four were banded at P.N.R., and one was seen in the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., Sept. 13 (HD).

A total of 350 Cliff Swallows at Millvillage, Erie Co., Pa., Aug. 14 (JM) was noteworthy. The Com. Raven continues to be reported in good numbers and at new locations. The flight of Blue Jays was very heavy at such places as Beam Rock, Pa. (RCL), A.F.M.O., and Chilhowee Mt., Tenn. (BS).

**TITMICE THROUGH WRENS** — There was a modest movement of Black-capped Chickadees into the n. part of the Region, e.g., bandings at P.N.R., up 45% over average. This movement was largely evident only in increased numbers in the normal range and few of these birds came S into the range of the Carolina Chickadee. There was a very good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches for the second year in a row. At A.F.M.O., a record high of 101 was banded with 22 captured on one day (GAH). All parts of the Region saw unusual numbers and many remained at feeders at the end of the period. Brown-headed Nuthatches were present at Asheville, N.C., in October and November (*vide* RR), and the lone Brown-headed near Waynesboro, Va., that has been a feature of that area for several years, was last seen Nov. 12 (EK). Carolina Wrens appeared to be back to normal numbers in c. West Virginia and continue to show a

comeback n of there There were reports from Erie (C & ZKr, DS) and Warren, Pa. (JSt). Again in this reporting period no one mentioned Bewick's Wren. Two late reports of Long-billed Marsh Wrens came from Austin Springs, Tenn., Nov. 4 (RK & RL), and State College Nov. 26 (MW).

**MIMIDS THROUGH KINGLETS** — Mockingbirds nested successfully at State College (MB), and were seen in Warren twice in November (TG, CP). Most observers felt that Brown Thrashers were in lower-than-normal numbers. It was definitely not a year for thrushes. The usually abundant Swainson's Thrush was in very small numbers, and bandings at P.N.R., were 28% below average (RCL), and at A.F.M.O., 10% below. At P.N.R., the Veery numbers were 45% below average, and only one was caught at A.F.M.O. Hermit Thrushes were above average at P.N.R., but most field observers found them to be in low numbers. Both kinglet species were banded at P.N.R., in well-above-average numbers, but field reports were spotty. Allegheny County, Pa. (PH), and Rockingham County, Va. (R.B.C.) had low numbers but some other locations reported good numbers.

**PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS** — Water Pipits were reported only from State College (KJ), Austin Springs, Tenn. (GE) and two at the Chilhowee Mt. hawk lookout on the early date of Sept. 24 (BS). Except for the Shenandoah Valley where there were 7 reports (R.B.C.), Loggerhead Shrikes were reported only from P.I., Nov. 11 & 14 (JM), State College in October (KJ) and Allegheny County, Pa., Oct. 18 & 26 (DF, MG). *This Blue-listed species is essentially gone from the Region.* A N. Shrike was banded at P.N.R., on the early date of Oct. 21 (RCL). Other reports were from Crawford County, Pa., Oct. 28 (RFL) & 31 (CNI), and Montour County, Pa., Nov. 21 (SST). Red-eyed Vireos were 22% below normal at P.N.R. (RCL), but were in average numbers at A.F.M.O. (GAH), and in above average at P.I. (RFL). Although bandings at P.N.R., of Philadelphia Vireos were 42% below average, field birders found them in greater-than-usual numbers.

**WARBLERS** — Generally the warbler migration was good. The numbers banded at A.F.M.O. broke all records (GAH), and at P.N.R., the flight was good (RCL), as it was at Bittinger, Md. (KH). Birders had a good season in s.w. Pennsylvania (PH), and Marietta, O. (JS). At Norris, Tenn., bandings were about as in 1980 (CN), but at P.I., and Meadville, Pa., the flight was disappointing. At P.N.R., 25 species were in above-average numbers, 4 in average numbers and only 4 (Blackburnian, Com. Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Prairie) were in below-average numbers. At A.F.M.O., only 19 species were caught in numbers warranting analysis, but 12 were in above-average numbers (especially Tennessee, Cape May and Black-throated Green), 3 were in average numbers, and 4 (Ovenbird, Com. Yellowthroat, Canada, and Am. Redstart) were in below-average numbers. The flight of Cape Mays was exceptionally heavy throughout. At Hooversville, Pa., 219 were seen Sept. 15 (R & GS), and 171 were banded Sept. 12 at A.F.M.O. (GAH). The rare Orange-crowned and Connecticut warblers were reported more commonly than is usual.

The migration of warblers started about normally in mid-August and was still going strong in early October. The continued mild weather produced a series of late dates: the usually early Canada Warbler was reported from P.I., Oct. 11 (JeS, JiS); Blue-winged Warbler, Oct. 31; Black-throated Blue Warbler, Nov. 24, Com. Yellowthroat, Dec. 1 and Palm Warbler, Dec. 2 at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE); and Am. Redstart at State College Nov. 29 (MW).

**ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS** — The only report of a late N. Oriole came from Charleston, W. Va., Nov. 26 (NG). A Brewer's Blackbird was seen at Pittsburgh Oct. 7 (DF). Scarlet Tanagers were felt to be unusually scarce at State College (MW), and a late summer record of Summer Tanager in Ohio County, W. Va., suggested breeding n. of the usual range (MK). A W. Tanager was seen at Wytheville, Va., Sept. 12 (TF).

**"NORTHERN FINCHES"** — It looks like a good winter for northern birds ahead. Evening Grosbeaks began to appear by late September with a very early date of Aug. 26 at Sheffield, Pa. (JDo). By the end of the period most localities had reported them. However, most of these birds passed through, and by Dec. 1 there were no great concentrations at feeders. In Tennessee and North Carolina large

flocks were found at high elevations in the mountains where the fir cone crop was reported to be the best in 20-25 years Pine Siskins also staged a good flight, although not as heavy as last year's, and by the end of the period were in good numbers throughout. There was no great influx of Purple Finches. Red Crossbills were abundant in the Great Smokies all season (CN), although strangely absent at nearby Roan Mt. (GE). A Red Crossbill nest was discovered in Boone County, N.C., from which the young fledged Oct. 13 (TH). This provides probably the first definite nesting discovered in the Tennessee-North Carolina area, although it has long been believed that they nested there as recently fledged young have been seen. They were common in the Shenandoah Mt. region of Virginia where a nesting was observed last year. Elsewhere flocks were seen at P.I., Oct. 31 & Nov 5 (JM), Beam Rock, Pa., Nov. 16 (RCL), Leeper, Pa., Nov. 13 (LC) White-winged Crossbills staged a major invasion in the n. At P I , 450 were seen Nov. 14 (DF1), and smaller numbers through the rest of the month. They were reported in numbers from the Warren, Pa., region in late November (*vide* WH), from Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., Nov. 14 (L & WB), and Saegertown, Pa., Nov. 13 (JBa). A flock of 50-75 Pine Grosbeaks was seen at Sheffield, Pa., Nov. 18 (NS), and a smaller flock at Morgantown Nov. 9 (MBr).

Snow Buntings were reported from Tuscarora Mt., Pa., Nov. 8 (CG), Montour County, Pa., Nov. 26 (SSt), State College Nov. 11 (MW), Pymatuning L., Oct. 28 (RFL), Botetourt County Nov. 13 (BO), and on Roan Mt., Nov. 14-18 (GE).

**OTHER FRINGILLIDS** — A Dickcissel was seen at State College in late October (*vide* KJ) and one was banded at P.N.R., Nov. 15 for a second local record (RCL). Blue Grosbeaks were present in Lewis County, W. Va., through the late summer (ES) and were in Augusta County, Va., Sept. 6 (LT). A remarkable total of 599 Am. Goldfinches was banded at P.N.R., during the season (RCL). A Lark Sparrow was seen in Waynesboro, Va., Sept. 6 (RSn). Henslow's Sparrows were found singing in Montour County, Pa., Aug. 2 and at Jefferson, Pa., Aug. 12 (RB). This species often does a lot of singing in late summer, but the record of one at Chattanooga Nov. 4-5 (L & KD) was more unusual. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at P.I., Sept. 22 & 26 (Z & CKr). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 10 (DF). Lapland

Longspurs were reported only from P I , where they were present Sept 30-Nov , 30+ (JM, SS), and from L. Arthur Nov 15 (DF)

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

During the early part of the period the weather proved variable. August ranged from nondescript in Minnesota and Michigan, to excessive rainfall in Wisconsin. September was notable for the absence of fronts during the first three weeks for both Wisconsin and Minnesota while Michigan had considerable rain. However the last week had heavy precipitation throughout the Region climaxed by the passage of a strong cold front at the month's conclusion. This ushered in unusually cool temperatures for most of October. The change to considerably milder weather around October 27-28 was preceded by a sudden burst of winter, with snow in Minnesota and Wisconsin (1-5 inches) and heavy snow in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Then Indian Summer reigned well into November with surprising temperatures of 60°-70°F covering virtually the entire Region. As expected, Minnesota saw the initial change to winter with 14 inches of snow in the Twin Cities November 19. Wintry weather gradually spread across Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula but in a less dramatic fashion. However in the Lower Peninsula the milder weather continued for the duration of the month.

The fall migration proved most disappointing. The lack of fronts during September, the main migration period, undoubtedly was a prime factor in the almost total absence of any migratory waves, especially of passerines. Many observers commented on the extreme scarcity of warblers (especially), vireos and thrushes. Shorebirds also proved scarce. The winter finch picture was confusing this fall, undoubtedly affected by the mild November. For both Wisconsin and Michigan some species showed indications of a fair to good flight, *i.e.*, redpolls, both crossbills, Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks while other species were poor or delayed, *i.e.*, Pine Grosbeak and Purple Finch. Minnesota experienced an overall poor flight.

On the positive side there was the usual number of rarities sighted Regionwide. Unfortunately the three most spectacular, Mew Gull,



Smooth-billed Ani, and Black Skimmer, were still being analyzed by the respective Records Committees. Impressive were the jaeger sightings on the Region's Great Lakes including several Long-tailed Three-toed woodpeckers were surprisingly easy to locate in the northern parts of the Region. Swans and geese lingered in good numbers into December, induced by the mildness of the late fall. In the report following, place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Two winter-plumaged Arctic Loons were studied at leisure in Minnesota this fall. One was at Duluth Sept. 12-13 (JG *et al.*) with the other at Mille Lacs L., Oct. 24-Nov. 10 (JB, TS *et al.*). A Red-throated Loon was observed at Muskegon Oct. 31-Nov. 15 (PY, TH *et al.*). In Wisconsin two were found s. of Port Washington Nov. 7 (DT) with one at Harrington Beach S.P., Nov. 25 (CS). Red-necked Grebes were found in 3 Wisconsin and one Michigan counties. A Horned Grebe was present

in Ashland at the beginning of the period (RV) At least five Eared Grebes were recorded during the period at Muskegon (m ob ) Single birds were found in Madison Sept. 24-27 (ST) and Milwaukee Nov. 12-22 (GC). Western Grebes were found in all 3 states. At Duluth one was present Sept. 23-26 (KE). Single birds were at Muskegon Aug. 31 (BB) & Sept. 13 (LF). One was in Ashland Oct. 24 (RV) and another at Harrington Beach S.P., Nov. 1 (RH, MS *et al.*). The nine White Pelicans that were present for part of the summer at Horicon N.W.R., wandered through the e.c. part of the state during early August before subsequently returning to the refuge, where they remained into September (m.ob.). Fifteen appeared at the Mead W.A., during early November (TM) with undoubtedly some of this flock dispersing to Wood Nov. 19 (DF) and Madison Nov. 23 (*fide* JH). Very late were Double-crested Cormorants at Manitowoc Nov. 21 (CS) and LaCrosse Nov. 24 (FL).

Also late were Green Herons in n. Minnesota Oct. 17 (LW) and Horicon N.W.R., Nov. 1 (KL). All 3 states had single sightings of Little Blue Heron. These included Aug. 16 at Shiawassee N.W.R., Mich. (TH *et al.*), Aug. 19 at Rush L., Wis. (DT) and during September in the Twin Cities. Horicon Marsh's Cattle Egrets lingered until October. However most unusual were the two that appeared in n. Wisconsin at Washburn Nov. 1 with one last seen Nov. 30 (SH *et al.*). This represents one of the latest records for Wisconsin. In Minnesota two were seen during September in *Blue Earth* while an injured bird was found Nov. 8 in *Polk* (S & KS). The latter also represents a late n. Minnesota date. At Horicon N.W.R., the s. herons present during the summer lingered through September. They included two Snowy Egrets and two Louisiana Herons and several Yellow-crowned Night Herons (m.ob.). Similarly, Green Bay's two Snowies were last seen in late September (BC). Unusual were the sightings in n. Minnesota of Yellow-crowned Night Herons including *Cass* Aug. 3 (DJ), *Aitkin*, three Aug. 28 & Sept. 14 (WN), and Duluth Aug. 29 (RG). A *Plegadis* ibis was observed amongst numerous Canada Geese on Theresa W.M.A., in s. *Dodge*, Wis., Oct. 5-7 (DG, MD, JI, BC, DT).

**WATERFOWL** — Several thousand Whistling Swans were reported from all 3 states during November. Owing to the mildness of the month many birds lingered into December. In Minnesota 79,000 Canadas were at the Lac Qui Parle W.M.A., Oct. 26 (*fide* OE). About the same number were located in e.c. Wisconsin, primarily at Horicon Marsh, during October, considerably below the 200,000+ characteristically found here during the mid-1970s. For Michigan the peak concentration was of 21,600 at Shiawassee N.W.R., Oct. 28 (CF). Unusual was the sighting of 45 Brant at Port Huron Oct. 22 (JF, PY). The period's only White-fronted Goose was found in Michigan's Allegan State Game Area Nov. 16 (PY). Both Minnesota and Michigan had concentrations of several thousand, *i.e.*, 5000+, Snow Geese during November. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon was near Muskegon Sept. 23 (JW, DP). Canvasbacks were found in 4 Wisconsin locales during the early part of the period. Inland Oldsquaws were found in LaCrosse Oct. 10 (FL) and Minnesota's *Ramsey* and *Becker*. Three Harlequin Ducks were at Duluth Nov. 22-29 (m.ob.). A ♀ King Eider was at Muskegon Oct. 24-31 (SM *et al.*). The scoter migration was unusually poor in both Wisconsin and Minnesota and only slightly better in Michigan.

**HAWKS** — Migrating Turkey Vulture peaks at Lake Erie Metropark included 450 Oct. 8 and 200 Oct. 16 (JF). Wisconsin had one of its rare sightings of the **Mississippi Kite** when one was watched at leisure hawking for insects along the Mississippi R., at the Eagle Valley Nature Center Sept. 6 (HKo). Sightings of the Goshawk were up significantly in all 3 states this fall. Cooper's Hawks were also seen more frequently in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Broad-winged flight was somewhat better than last year but still far below its frequent spectacular numbers. Hawk Ridge tallied 9020 Sept. 14 while Michigan had several places with totals ranging 5000-7000. The 11 Swainson's Hawks seen in the Duluth area was an unprecedented number there. The observation period extended Sept. 11-Oct. 18, the latter a record late date (KE). Wisconsin had two fall sightings, Sept. 27 in Milwaukee (JI) and Nov. 2 in *Buffalo* (JaP). Adult Ferruginous Hawks were observed Aug. 7 at Willmar (HK) and Oct. 2 in *Sibley*, Minn. (P & KL). Golden Eagles were found at Port Huron Oct. 22 (JF, PY) and Lake Erie Metropark Nov. 7 (JF). In Wisconsin one was observed Oct. 20 in *Monroe* (EE) while another was watched carrying a red squirrel in *Menominee* during mid-November (JHu). Very late

were Ospreys in *Sheboygan*, Wis., Nov. 12 (EK) and Nov. 25 in *Dane* (ST). There was an unexpected number of Gyrfalcon sightings this fall. Minnesota had at least eight birds with the earliest in mid-September. Wisconsin had 3-5 birds during late October-early November and Michigan had one during late November. Three Prairie Falcons were seen Aug. 19 in Minnesota's *Wilkin* and *Grant* (S & DM). Minnesota had an excellent Peregrine flight with a total of 28 birds statewide. Wisconsin also had a fine flight, with most sightings from along L. Michigan. Michigan reported only one sighting

**GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES** — The secretive Spruce Grouse was seen in *Chippewa*, Mich., Sept. 19 (DP). However in Wisconsin's Three Lakes—Hiles area this species was remarkably easy to locate August-late October (m.ob.). Unusual was a concentration of 30 Bobwhite in Minnesota's *Houston* Oct. 25 (JP, AM). In Michigan this species is continuing a slow increase after the devastating winters of the late 1970s. A King Rail was at Pt. Mouillee Aug. 6 (JF, DW). Two Yellow Rails were heard calling Aug. 6 from a new location in *Norman*, Minn. (LP). Late were six Com. Gallinules Oct. 12-13 in *Wabasha*, Minn. (D & WM).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Like last autumn the shorebird migration was disappointing. Again limited habitat apparently was the prime factor. The main influx passed through earlier, late July-early August, than usual. Very late were Semipalmated Plovers in Duluth Oct. 8 (KE) and Grand Marais, Minn., a record Oct. 14 (K & MH). The only Piping Plover in the Region was one Aug. 5-8 at Grand Marais, Mich. (AR). Black-bellied Plovers were almost nonexistent in Michigan this fall. Very late, especially for n. Wisconsin was one at Ashland Nov. 21 (RV). There was an unusual number of Whimbrel sightings in the Region. One was at Duluth Sept. 6 (TW) and two were at St. Joseph also Sept. 6 (WB). Wisconsin had birds at several places including Collins Marsh Aug. 1 (DT, MP) and Milwaukee Aug. 13 (DH) & Sept. 26-28 (WM, JI, GC, DG). The Nov. 4 Spotted Sandpiper at Duluth (TW) represents a record departure date. The only Willets were in Wisconsin with single birds at Manitowoc Aug. 1 (MP, DT) and just w. of Ashland Oct. 3 (RV). Late were Greater Yellowlegs near Chippewa Nov. 10 (JaP) and Ashland Nov. 14 (RV). Red Knots were found in Milwaukee during late August with two the 25th (DT) and one the 28th (DG), and one at Manitowoc Oct. 8 (CS). One was found in Michigan Sept. 19 (DP). Minnesota had only its third record for the **Purple Sandpiper** when one was discovered by Wiens at Duluth Oct. 30. It was photographed and seen by many observers that day. Michigan had single birds at Muskegon Nov. 8 (CP, HM) & 15 (SM, CR) with one at St. Joseph Nov. 12 (RS). A few White-rumped Sandpipers were seen in Wisconsin and Minnesota during August-early September. Late were Dunlins in Milwaukee Nov. 30 (BC). The rare W. Sandpiper was seen in 5 Wisconsin counties during August and September and in one Michigan county. In contrast to last fall Michigan and Wisconsin had a poor Buff-breasted Sandpiper migration. Only three birds at one locale were noted in the former and 10 birds in 4 locales in the latter state. However Minnesota had an above-average movement with 6 reporting counties and a local peak of 16 birds. A Marbled Godwit was in company with the Willet at Manitowoc Aug. 1 (DT, MP). Michigan had one on Harson's I., in early September (HD). The only Hudsonian Godwits were found in Michigan with a total of five at Pt. Mouillee Aug. 23 (BL) and Oct. 2 (PY) with one at Erie Oct. 10 (HM, BP). Six Am. Avocets were at Collins Marsh, Wis., Aug. 1 (DT, MP). This species was present through Sept. 18 at Big Stone N.W.R., Minn. Northern Phalarope was found in 4 Michigan counties including 17 on Sept. 7 at the Muskegon Water Treatment System (GW). In Wisconsin it was present in 2 counties with a maximum of five.

**LARIDS** — Another excellent jaeger migration occurred in the Region. Undoubtedly the one frustrating aspect to it was that many individuals stayed too far out over the Great Lakes to make positive identification possible. Michigan's sightings included a Pomarine at Port Huron Oct. 14 (DR), single Parasitics at St. Joseph Sept. 8 & Oct. 2 (WB, RS) and 12 (!) at Port Huron Oct. 14 (DR) with two there Nov. 6 (PY, JF), and an imm. **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Nyanquingong Pt., Aug. 16 (TH, LP, HW, SO, PH, MB). Excellent photographs of the latter species were taken. All of Wisconsin's sightings occurred at Superior's Wisconsin Pt. These included Parasitics Sept. 5 (RH) and 26 (DT) and four Oct. 10 (JI). An ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen there Sept. 5 (RH) & 13 (DT, MBe, RV, RM *et al.*), representing only the fourth

and fifth state records Three unidentified jaegers were also seen Sept 5 (RH) Minnesota had an unprecedented 42 jaeger sightings at Duluth Aug. 9-Oct. 16 (KE, TL *et al.*). Unfortunately 37 were unspecified owing to distance from shore. The five identified included three Parasitics and Aug. 24 two ad. **Long-tailed Jaegers** (KE). These latter represent only the seventh state record.

A few Glaucous Gulls were found in Wisconsin and Michigan. An Iceland Gull was observed by Heatley and Harger at Sault St. Marie Nov 27. Also in Michigan an imm. Great Black-backed Gull was seen Sept 6 at Wangoshause Pt. (DP). There were five Thayer's Gulls at Duluth between late October-November with two at Grand Marais Nov 28-29 (m.ob.). Most amazing, if correct, was the observation of an ad Mew Gull amongst Ring-billeds at Duluth Sept. 12. At most it must be considered hypothetical, according to the state's Records Committee. Laughing Gulls were seen during late August in Milwaukee (DT, DG) and Sept. 21 in *Eau Claire* (JaP). A small number of Franklin's Gulls was found August-late October in 4 different Wisconsin locations. Michigan had a single Franklin's at Metrobeach Oct 12. Little Gulls were seen in all 3 states. Wisconsin had its usual sightings at Manitowoc and Milwaukee, the latter into December. An immature was in Duluth Sept. 29 (KE) while one was at Port Huron Nov 6 (JF, PY). For the third consecutive year the **Heermann's Gull** was found at Michigan's Metrobeach Oct. 12-Nov. 1 (m.ob.). An imm Black-legged Kittiwake was seen intermittently Nov. 1-30 at Milwaukee (RH, MS, BC *et al.*). One was at St. Joseph Oct. 15 (RS) and two were at Port Huron Nov. 6 (PY, JF). Late for n. Wisconsin was a Caspian Tern in *Bayfield* Oct. 23-24 (RM). Michigan had its first fall **Arctic Tern** when an immature was watched Sept. 12 at Muskegon S P (BB). Astonishing was the sighting of a Black Skimmer Aug. 22 along Saginaw Bay in *Bay* by Mott (SMo). If accepted by Michigan's Records Committee it obviously would represent the first state record.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — A Black-billed Cuckoo seen Oct. 3 in *Houston*, Minn. was late (FL). Also truly remarkable, if correct, was the close observation (within 5 feet) of a Smooth-billed Ani by Loewecke on the Apostle Is., Sept. 26. Probably the same bird was discovered in Ashland Oct. 21 by Cooper (SCo) and Verch and photographed during a snowfall. If accepted by the Records Committee this would represent Wisconsin's first state record. Besides the possible Smooth-billed Ani, Wisconsin had two positive **Groove-billed Ani** sightings. Bill Smith discovered one along L Wisconsin in *Columbia* Oct. 17. It was seen intermittently through the 23rd (RH, ST). A second bird was found dead by Bragg near Dorchester Oct. 23 (*vide* SR). This represents the eighth and ninth state records. A Barn Owl was in *Wayne*, Mich., Sept. 15 (JBa) There were many Snowy Owl sightings during November in Michigan while Wisconsin had a below-average number. There were 3 reports of Hawk Owls from n. Minnesota during late October-November. However none of the birds stayed longer than one day. Great Gray Owls were reported from 4 n. Minnesota counties. Two Boreal Owls were banded at Hawk Ridge Nov. 3-4 (DE). The 407 Saw-whet Owls banded there this fall represents a record (DE). Epstein counted 4000+ Com. Nighthawks Aug. 29 in *Monroe*, Wis. At Grand Marais, Mich., Ryff had 1000+ Aug. 15.

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLINGS** — Far n. was a Red-bellied Woodpecker at a Duluth feeder Oct. 19 (KS). Both Minnesota and Wisconsin continued the wave of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker sightings. At Duluth a surprising number was noted migrating Sept. 19-Oct. 25 including nine Oct. 15 (m.ob.). Wisconsin had sightings of two on the Apostle Is., Sept. 3 & 10 with ten+ total in Forest and Oneida cos., during the period (m.ob.). Michigan had single birds in *Chippewa* Aug. 10 (HM, CP) and *Dickinson* Nov. 16 (NI) The N. Three-toed Woodpecker was also more common than usual in Minnesota, as witnessed by 8 reports from the n.e. section. At Muskegon S.P., 101 E. Kingbirds were counted Sept. 3 (GW *et al.*) Very late was an Oct. 3 bird in *Morrison*, Minn. (*vide* BJ). On Aug 8 there were 5000+ Tree Swallows at Thief River Falls (S & KS) Minnesota also had an unusual number of late swallow sightings, curiously all from Fergus Falls. They included a Tree Oct. 21 (G & MO), a Rough-winged Oct. 11 (GWi) and a Barn Oct. 31 (S & DM). Impressive was the concentration of thousands of Purple Martins at Winona, Minn., during August, peaking at 30,000 Aug. 14 (m.ob.).

Boreal Chickadees were unusually common in the Hiles-Three Lakes region this fall. There was a good Red-breasted Nuthatch migration in Michigan. A Winter Wren in Minneapolis during late

August was early for that area (SC) The **Bewick's Wren** sighted in a Minneapolis yard Sept 16 represented only the third recent record A Carolina Wren was found in Manitowoc Sept. 24 (CS *et al.*). A Long-billed Marsh Wren in Northfield, Minn., Oct. 31 was very late (KJ) One-two Mockingbirds were found in each of the 3 states. A Gray Catbird lingered into December in Eau Claire (JaP). Two Varied Thrushes were sighted in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. Michigan had its third record, and second consecutive year, for the **Wheatear** when one was seen and photographed Oct. 12-15 at White Pine (JM, AM). Townsend's Solitaires were found in 4 Minnesota locations including Bemidji Sept. 19-Oct. 17 (JPa, AS), Duluth Oct. 15 & 26 (KE, *vide* KS), Grand Marais Oct. 19 (K & MH) and in St. Paul Nov 11-12 (DM). Record departure dates for the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher included Sept. 11 in *Houston* (E & MF) and Sept. 13 in *Wright*, Minn. (ES). Very late was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Madison Nov. 29 (ST). Michigan's U.P., had flocks of Bohemian Waxwings appearing during November including 250 Nov. 16-17 at Marquette. Michigan had its largest number of N. Shrike sightings in recent years this fall Loggerhead Shrikes were found in *Eau Claire* and *Shawano*, Wis., during August. In Michigan a family (2 adults, 3 young) was observed during August at Metrobeach, with the last one seen Oct. 12 (RL)

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Three White-eyed Vireos were found at Metrobeach (RL). A Bell's Vireo was seen Aug. 24 at Blue Mounds S.P., Minn. (GS). The warbler migration was truly uneventful this fall. With the exception of a few very localized flights there were few birds to be seen anywhere. The poor quality of this year's movement elicited numerous comments from observers. The only interesting sightings were the Prairie Warbler in *Taylor*, Wis., Sept. 10 (SR), a Kentucky Warbler in Michigan's *Lake* Sept. 20 (JW, WW), and a Hooded Warbler in Bloomington, Minn., Aug. 23 (*vide* KG). Wisconsin's only late sighting was a record Blackpoll Warbler Oct. 31 in *Winnebago* (TZ). Michigan had a Com. Yellowthroat at Metrobeach in late November. However Minnesota had an unbelievable number of late dates. They included Tennessee Oct. 31 in *Roseau* (S & KS), Nashville Oct. 25 at Mille Lacs L. (JB), Magnolia Oct. 18 in Aitkin (LPa), Yellow-rumped Nov. 30 at Duluth (KE), Blackburnian Oct. 6 in Moorhead (L & CF), Chestnut-sided Oct. 7 in *Ramsey* (P & KL), Bay-breasted Oct. 12 at Rice Lake N.W.R. (WN), Palm Oct. 31 at Grand Marais (DB) and an Am. Redstart Oct. 18 at Duluth (KE).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH BUNTINGS** — There was one Orchard Oriole report from Michigan. A N. Oriole present Nov. 1 in *Hubbard*, Minn. (H & JF) was very late. Again this fall a ♂ Summer Tanager appeared in Duluth. It was most cooperative, being seen by many Oct. 19-Nov. 1. An imm. ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** was discovered feeding on mountain ash berries with robins in Grand Marais Oct. 19 (K & MH). While it lacked any tail feathers it otherwise appeared healthy, lingering until Oct. 25 during which time it was seen by many. This represents Minnesota's fifth record. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in good numbers, especially in Wisconsin. Pine Grosbeaks appeared in the n. parts of the Region in only fair numbers. Common Redpolls were definitely increasing in numbers by the end of the period, especially in Michigan and Wisconsin. There was a good movement of Pine Siskins although it diminished during late November in some areas. For Wisconsin and Michigan both the Red and especially the White-winged crossbills appeared early and increased in numbers during November, filtering into the southern sections. Of special interest is the gradual increase of the **House Finch** in Michigan. During the period small numbers were noted in 5 counties including a family group that was present in Southfield (EC)

Remarkable was the record arrival sightings of Com. Redpolls in Wisconsin. On Stockton I. three were present Aug. 30 with additional birds found Sept. 9-10 (RM). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was in *Dane*, Wis., Oct. 17 (RH). At Grand Marais, Minn., late sparrow sightings included Vesper Nov. 3 (K & MH) and Chipping Oct. 20 (KE). The Tree Sparrow was very scarce in Michigan. Wisconsin had an unusually good Harris' and White-crowned Sparrow migration. The former species was found twice in Michigan. Minnesota had its first **Golden-crowned Sparrow** when an adult appeared at the French feeder in mid-November at Lamberton. A ♂ Smith's Longspur, that retained most of its summer plumage, was observed Oct. 20 in *Ontonogan*, Mich. (JM). Good flocks of Snow Buntings were seen in Michigan. They included one numbering 2000+ Oct. 20 in *Marquette* (AR) and another of 2500 Nov. 21 at the Muskegon Water Treatment System (JPo, GW).

ADDENDUM — Because the Records Committee rejected the June 30 sighting of the California Gull at Madison, Wisconsin continues to lack any records for the species.

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## MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Bruce G. Peterjohn

Autumn 1981 was a typical season. Some species were abundant, some were scarce plus a few assorted rarities were thrown in for good measure. Weather patterns were fairly uniform. Heavy precipitation only fell in August; the other months were rather dry. Temperatures were mild, hovering around normal with few extremes. Few strong fronts passed through the Region and their absence was directly related with the lack of weather-induced bird movements.

Most distressing were low numbers of waterbirds, particularly grebes and waterfowl. These low numbers undoubtedly reflect the ongoing drought in areas to the north and west. Water levels were conducive for concentrating herons but generally unsuitable for shorebirds whose numbers were fair at best. Raptors provided the most encouraging news, especially increased sightings of Peregrine Falcons and Merlins. Moderate flights of Goshawks, Snowy Owls, Northern Shrikes and winter finches gave promise of some excitement this winter although passerine movements were local and unspectacular.

Potential hazards to migrating birds were also apparent. Type E botulism killed small numbers of loons along Lake Michigan but not approaching the thousands that died during the 1963-1964 outbreak. Botulism also decimated shorebirds at Huron, Ohio. At least nine hawks including four Ospreys were found shot to death at Columbus, Ohio. Finally, a TV tower at Springfield, Illinois killed 331 birds of 31 species September 2 and 466 birds of 38 species September 3. Tennessee Warblers, Ovenbirds, Northern Waterthrush, Canada Warblers and American Redstarts were the most numerous fatalities.

As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†).

ABBREVIATIONS — I.B.S.P.: Illinois Beach S.P., Ill.; M.M.W.A.: Magee Marsh W.M.A., O.; S.C.R.: Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo.; Spfld.: Springfield, Ill.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — The first migrant Common Loon appeared at Chicago Sept. 30 (PC, HR). A very spotty migration ensued with local concentrations of 25-80 although few were reported from many localities. Movement of 638 past Cleveland Nov. 29 (LRo, RH) was atypical. Normal numbers of Red-throated Loons included 4 reports from Ohio and one from Indiana. A Red-necked Grebe was rescued from a residential swimming pool in Columbus, Ind., Oct. 28 (fide BG). Single grebes also appeared at W. Chester, O., Nov. 11 (†FR *et al.*) and Hoover Res., O., Nov. 13 (†JC). An early Horned Grebe returned to Clear L., Ia., Sept. 9 (MBr). Numbers were alarmingly low; the largest flock on L. Erie comprised only 20 when there are normally hundreds. Early Eared Grebes were observed at Urbana, Ill., Aug. 5 (RCh) and Akron, O., Aug. 20-24 (FP, ph.). Normal numbers appeared in w. states; there were 7 sightings in Illinois and single birds at Merom power plant, Ind., Nov. 25 (DJ) and Cleveland Nov. 29 (†LRo, RH). A W. Grebe was noted at Thomas Hill Res., Mo., Oct. 31 (SS *et al.*). Pied-billed Grebes were also scarce, the largest reported flock was 53. Peak White Pelican movement occurred mid-September through early October with flocks of 2250 at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., Sept. 29 (SS) and 1000 at S.C.R.,



Oct. 7 (L). They appeared e. to Illinois with 53 along the Mississippi R., Oct. 26 (RCr) and 1-11 at 5 other locations. Double-crested Cormorants continued to improve. Exemplary peaks were 175 at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo., Oct. 12 (KH) and East Harbor S.P., O., Oct. 24 (JP), 163 along the Mississippi R., in Illinois Oct. 26 (RCr) and 125 at Red Rock L., Ia., Oct. 1 (RT). Many observers reported smaller numbers.

HERONS, IBISES — Favorable water levels were attractive to large heron concentrations. Great Blue Herons were particularly abundant with 195 at Red Rock L., Ia., Sept. 11 (RT) and numerous reports of 50-90. The Green Heron decline continued, the largest flock comprised only 12. Singles lingered through Nov. 9 at Dundee, Ill. (SD) and Nov. 5 at Spfld. (H). Little Blue Heron concentrations included 150 at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Aug. 30 (BP) and 60 in Jersey County, Ill., Aug. 20 (HW). Up to 20 appeared at 7 other Illinois locations while 1-3 were reported from various single sites in Ohio and Indiana. Largest Cattle Egret flocks were 53 at Maumee Bay S.P., O., Aug. 7 (JP) and 40 at Horseshoe L., Ill., Sept. 3 (fide RK) and Meredosia, Ill., Sept. 12 (P & TW). Unlike previous years, none lingered past late October. Great Egrets were unevenly distributed. They were scarce in several states but 365 were observed in Brown County, Ill., Sept. 12 (P & TW) and 75-85 were reported from 3 other locations. Snowy Egrets lingered through Oct. 1 at M.M.W.A. Elsewhere, up to nine were noted at Horseshoe L., Ill. (RK) and one appeared at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo., Sept. 7 (MCo). This summer's Louisiana Herons remained through Aug. 15 at Horseshoe L., and Sept. 12 at M.M.W.A. Notable numbers of Yellow-crowned Night Herons included 10 at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Sept. 26 (fide RK) and nine at Center L., Ia., Aug. 4 (DH *et al.*). A fair number of Least Bitterns was represented by 17 reports including 10 birds in St. Charles County, Mo., Aug. 30 (CR). Singles lingered through Nov. 12 at Goose L., Ia. (fide P) and Nov. 28 in Warrick County, Ind. (†JCa). Fifteen Am. Bittern reports was a good number for recent years. Nine were flushed at Big Marsh, Ia., Sept. 26 (FM, RM). Unidentified *Plegadis* ibises were observed at single sites in Ohio and Missouri and two in Iowa while a White-faced Ibis was closely scrutinized in St. Charles County, Mo., Aug. 30 (†CR).

**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swans filtered through traditional locations in n. states. November peaks included 840 along L. Erie, 84 at Mississippi R., Lock 9, Ia., and 71 at Hammond, Ind. Unexpected were four at Spfld., Nov. 9 (H), four at Louisville Nov. 10 (†LR, m ob) and three at S.C.R., Nov. 24-30 (†L). Canada Goose numbers were down; peaks in s. Illinois and w. Kentucky were of 153,000 and 15,000 respectively. Brant were restricted to the Great Lakes with one at Michigan City, Ind., Oct. 24 (CK, TK), six at Headlands S.P., O., Oct. 29 (†D & JH), one at Beverly Shores, Ind., Nov. 9 (†KB) and three at Vermilion, O., Nov. 13 (†JP). Small numbers of White-fronted Geese appeared e. to Illinois. Snow Geese appeared in impressive numbers with 140,000 at DeSoto N.W.R., Ia. (JR) and 325,000 at S.C.R. (L). As expected, small numbers of Ross' Geese accompanied these flocks with 2-7 at DeSoto N.W.R. and three at S C R

Comments on the duck migration varied from "poor" to "catastrophic". While aerial surveys of Mississippi and Illinois Rivers estimated 1.3 million Oct. 26 and one million Nov. 24, such numbers were not apparent to observers on the ground. In most areas, dabblers were down somewhat while divers were alarmingly low. A Eur. Wigeon was present at Chicago Nov. 14-17 (AA, †JL, m.ob.). Notable Ring-necked Duck concentrations included 3000 at Lock 9, Ia., Nov. 28 (T), 1750 at L. Rockwell, O., Nov. 1 (LRo) and 585 at Madisonville, Ky., Nov. 11 (JH). The only large Canvasback flock was of 3000+ at Keokuk, Ia., Oct. 25 (T, MN). A Com. Goldeneye at Lock 9, Oct. 8 (DK) was early. Oldsquaw were widespread in low numbers along the Great Lakes with a peak of only 26 along L. Michigan. Up to five were reported from 11 inland locations Oct. 28-Nov. 28. The only Harlequin Duck appeared at Euclid, O., Nov. 3 (†DC) while a King Eider was closely observed at Michigan City, Ind., Nov. 25-26 (†NG). Except for 100 dark-winged scoters at Chicago Oct. 25, scoters were scarce on L. Michigan. Fair numbers were observed on L. Erie with a maximum of 75 White-winged at Crane Creek S.P., Nov. 22 (JP). Inland White-winged were scarce with 1-4 at 2 sites in Iowa and Missouri. A maximum of nine Surf Scoters was reported along the Great Lakes while 1-2 appeared at inland locations in Missouri, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. Surprisingly, Black Scoter was the most numerous scoter on L. Michigan where 32 were counted at Chicago Oct. 2 (JL). Inland, 1-2 were discovered at 2 Indiana and 4 Ohio locations. The immense Red-breasted Merganser concentrations returned to L. Erie Nov. 19-28, a little later than normal.

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — The S hawk migration was one of the best in recent years. Normal numbers of Turkey Vultures included flocks of 30-120. Mississippi Kites departed on time with 12 in Fulton County, Ky., Aug. 30 (BP) and 10 at Union County Conservation Area, Ill., Sept. 2 (SE). A strong Goshawk flight developed this fall, beginning Sept. 29 at I.B.S.P., where the maximum daily count was three (RCO); most were observed in late October and November. Singles were noted at 4 other Illinois locations, 5 sites in Iowa and one in n. Ohio. Normal small numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks included peaks of 40 on Oct. 6 and 38 on Sept. 27 at I.B.S.P. (DJh *et al.*). Cooper's Hawks continued to recover. While no large numbers were reported, sightings of 1-3 birds were widespread. The only Red-tailed Hawk flights were reported from I.B.S.P., where maximum counts were 203 Oct. 22 and 137 Oct. 23 (DF *et al.*). Red-shouldered Hawks were more widely reported; 1-2 were found at 26 localities in all states except Indiana. Broad-winged Hawks staged a strong movement Sept. 16-22. Migrants Sept. 16 included flocks of 50-100 in Iowa and 100-250 at St. Louis. A widespread movement Sept. 17 brought 1600 to Jacksonville, Ill. (P & TW), 134 to Spfld. (H), 120 to Toledo (ET) and 198 to St. Louis (MP). Subsequent concentrations were local phenomena with 540 at Jacksonville, Ill., Sept. 18 (P & TW), 146 at Louisville Sept. 19 (BP), 1052 at Spfld., Sept. 21 (H) and 170 at Columbia, Mo., Sept. 22 (SS). A very late bird lingered through Nov. 29 at Big River S.F., Ill. (LM). Swainson's Hawks were present through Oct. 17 at 6 Iowa and 2 Missouri locations. Fair numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were reported with early migrants at Crane Creek S.P., O., Sept. 17 (JP) and L. Calumet, Ill., Sept. 20 (JL).

A Golden Eagle at Aldrich, Mo., Aug. 16 (†NF) was unexpected. All others appeared after mid-October with 1-2 at single Iowa and Indiana sites and 3 Illinois locations. Bald Eagles returned in late September although large numbers were not prevalent until November. Numbers along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers steadily increased to 234 by Dec. 1 (RCr). As expected, scattered birds appeared in e. states. It was a good fall for Ospreys with more than 60

reports from Illinois and 34 from Ohio. Maximum at I B S P, was 14 on Oct. 1 (RCo). Many birds lingered into November, latest reports were singles at DeSoto N.W.R. (BW) and Millersburg, Mo., Nov. 21 (SS *et al.*) and Seneca County, O., Nov. 26 (TBa). Prairie Falcon reports are increasing. This fall, singles were noted at DeSoto N.W.R., Oct. 10-Nov. 8 (m.ob.), Mills County, Ia., Oct. 20 (†BPa *et al.*), Webster County, Ia., Nov. 12 (*fide* P), Cook County, Ill., Nov. 17 (PD) and Urbana, Ill., Nov. 17-29 (†RCh). Most encouraging were the increased reports of Peregrine Falcons and Merlins. Peregrines were observed on 10 dates at I.B.S.P., including 20 on Sept. 27 and eight on Oct. 1 (RCo, DJh *et al.*). They were located at 25 other sites Aug. 24-Nov. 10. Merlins appeared on 11 dates at I.B.S.P., with a peak of 36 on Sept. 27. They were noted at 14 other locations Sept. 13-Oct. 25.

**CRANES THROUGH GALLINULES** — The Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., Ind., staging area supported 9000 Sandhill Cranes in mid-October, down slightly from previous years. Flocks of 25-400 were scattered across n. Illinois Sept. 22-Nov. 17. The primary S movement through Kentucky and s.w. Ohio occurred Nov. 6-8. Seven flocks with up to 300 cranes passed over Louisville Nov. 6 (BP, DN). Three flocks of 8-20 were observed in Ohio and a maximum of 150 cranes in 5 flocks appeared in Kentucky Nov. 7-8. Few rails were reported; either numbers are down or nobody is looking for them. King Rails were discovered at 6 sites in all states except Iowa and Kentucky while a Black Rail was briefly observed at Cone Marsh, Ia., Aug. 29 (†T). A tardy Com. Gallinule lingered through Nov. 30 at L. Calumet, Ill. (JL).

**SHOREBIRDS** — In spite of locally favorable conditions, high water levels in late August and September were not conducive for attracting or concentrating shorebirds. Piping Plovers were reported from 8 locations in all states except Iowa. A late bird lingered near St. Joseph, Mo., Oct. 27-Nov. 5 (L). American Golden and Black-bellied plovers were scarce in many areas. Largest numbers occurred along L. Erie with highs of 64 and 50 respectively. A maximum of 13 Ruddy Turnstones was reported along the Great Lakes while 1-6 were found at 7 inland locations. Twenty Whimbrel sightings along the Great Lakes was a good number for fall. Maximum count was six at Cleveland Aug. 28 (M). Upland Sandpipers were scarce, largest reported flock was of only nine. One at St. Lucas, Ia., Oct. 13 (JS) was late as were a Spotted Sandpiper at Louisville Oct. 21 (BS) and Solitary Sandpiper at Ames, Ia., Oct. 11 (JR, JS). Willets were reported only from Ohio with 5 sightings along L. Erie and inland birds at L. St. Mary's (CM *et al.*) and Cincinnati (NW *et al.*). Red Knot appeared in reduced numbers with 23 Great Lakes sightings of 1-7 birds. The only inland report was of a tardy bird at Alton Dam, Mo., Nov. 6-7 (BR). Purple Sandpipers appeared along the Great Lakes at Erie County, O., Oct. 31 (FR), Chicago Nov. 15 (JL, LA) and Waukegan, Ill., Nov. 21-22 (DJh). A flock of 32 White-rumped Sandpipers at Kentucky L., Ky., Sept. 10 (JE) was noteworthy for fall. Baird's Sandpipers were widespread through Oct. 25 with a maximum of 10. A Least Sandpiper lingered through Nov. 30 at Spfld. (H). Long-billed Dowitchers were widespread in small numbers, the largest reported flock was of 20. Only moderate numbers of Stilt Sandpipers were encountered with a maximum of 65 along L. Erie. Two at L. St. Mary's, O., Oct. 22 (CM) were late.

The notion that W. Sandpipers are uncommon in this Region is dispelled by flocks of 40 at Huron, O., Sept. 4 (TL), 20 in Ballard County, Ky., Aug. 30 (BP), 10 at two other sites and many reports of smaller numbers. Identity of October Western and Semipalmated sandpipers should be closely scrutinized. Most birds are regularly called Semipalmateds although they may most likely be Westerns. While a few Semipalmateds linger into the first days of October, reports after mid-October should be documented (see Phillips, *AB* 29:799-806). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were scarce in most areas. Largest flock was of 14 at Cleveland Aug. 31 (M) where a late bird lingered through Oct. 24-28 (†D & JH). Up to four Marbled Godwits were noted at 4 Great Lakes sites through Nov. 10. The only inland report was at L. St. Mary's Oct. 12-25 (NC, CM). Hudsonian Godwits were only observed in Ohio with nine L. Erie sightings of 1-9 birds through Nov. 17 and an inland bird at Hoover Res., Oct. 15 (J). Ruffs were discovered at Waukegan, Ill., Aug. 13 (†JW), Huron, O., Sept. 15 (†JP) and Toledo Oct. 11-12 (†HM *et al.*). At 13 Great Lakes locations a maximum of 11 Am. Avocets was recorded. Inland birds were reported from 2 sites in Missouri and Illinois with 39 at Pony Express W.M.A., Mo., Oct. 17 (L). Red Phalaropes were reported

from 6 L. Erie locations beginning with an early bird at Cleveland Aug. 27 (†D & JH). One appeared at Batavia, Ill., Oct. 25 (†MSM, RD). It was a good year for N. Phalaropes with 1-2 at 12 inland locations and flocks of 10 at Cleveland and 12 at Ottawa N.W.R., O.

**JÄEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — The only acceptably identified jaeger was a Parasitic at Sandusky, O., Nov. 7 (†CH). An Iceland Gull briefly appeared at Louisville Nov. 26 (†LR). Great Black-backed Gulls continued to increase on L. Erie and one was reported at Michigan City Nov. 14 (TC, EH). A second-year Lesser Black-backed Gull was photographed at Oregon, O., Aug. 7 (†JP). At an expected time of year, 1-2 adults were identified at 3 L. Erie locations Nov. 14-30. Thayer's Gulls were discovered at one L. Erie and 4 L. Michigan locations Oct. 25-Nov. 20 where they are regular. Inland reports were singles at Alton, Ill., Oct. 21 (BR) and a first-year bird well photographed at Louisville Nov. 21-23 (†BP, AB, m.ob.). Inland birds should be rigorously studied and preferably photographed to prove their identity. Several recent sightings have proven to be Herring Gulls upon examination of photographs. It was a good fall for w. species. Two **California Gulls** were identified at Alton Dam, Ill.— Mo., a second-year bird Oct. 17-30 and an adult Nov. 6-13 (†BR, †m.ob.). Black-headed Gulls were discovered at Lorain, O., Aug. 13 (†JP) and Chicago Oct. 24 (†JL). The only Laughing Gull was an adult reported off Catawba I., O., Oct. 31 (†m.ob.). Franklin's Gulls were scarce in most areas. Little Gulls were restricted to L. Erie with two at Lorain Aug. 13 and 1-5 at numerous localities in November. Two Black-legged Kittiwakes along L. Erie were normal but 5 inland reports were unusual with singles at Clinton L., Ill., Oct. 24 (†RCh), C J. Brown Res., O., Oct. 25-28 (†JG, m.ob.), Spfld., Nov. 19 (H), Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Nov. 21 (†RK) and Findlay, O., Nov. 29 (†fde BSt). *Sterna* terns were scarce along L. Michigan. Fair numbers appeared along L. Erie with distinct movements in early August and late September. Maximum counts were 400 Forster's and 800 Commons. Least Terns were only noted at 5 locations, 2-3 at DeSoto N.W.R., Aug. 5-8 (RP *et al.*), 1-3 at Kentucky L., Ky., Aug. 5-25 (JE), one at Horseshoe L., Aug. 8 (MS), one at Cleveland Aug. 29-31 (†M, m.ob.) and one at Huron Sept. 13 (†TBa). Caspian Terns were numerous only at Chicago with maxima of 185 Aug. 22 and 165 Aug. 5. One lingered through Nov. 8 at Alton Dam, Mo. (BR). Black Terns were very scarce except for 500 at Cleveland Aug. 14-21 (M, D & JH). A late migrant was noted at Marblehead, O., Oct. 23 (JP).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Cuckoos elicited few comments except for scattered late October sightings and a tardy Yellow-billed at Spfld., Nov. 4 (H). **Grove-billed Anis** are becoming regular fall vagrants. Singles appeared at Chicago Sept. 27 (†JL), Owensville, O., Oct. 9-Nov. 19 (ABr, †m.ob., ph.) and Lexington, Ky., Oct. 22-23 (†TH, †BM, m.ob.). The only Barn Owl report was of two pairs in Ottawa County, O. (JP). A moderate Snowy Owl flight appears to be following last year's record setting invasion. Early birds were noted Oct. 3 along L. Erie and Oct. 30 in Iowa. Most appeared during mid-to-late November at single Iowa, Indiana and Ohio locations and 7 sites in Illinois. The only Burrowing Owl was observed in Story County, Ia., Aug. 28-Sept. 16 (†HZ, m.ob.). Long-eared Owls were fairly numerous with 1-8 birds at 12 locations in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri. Short-eared Owls were scarce, only 7 reports were received. It was a good year for Saw-whet Owls with 12 banded in Winnebago County, Ill. (LJ), 10 banded at Cincinnati (RA) and 1-2 noted at 11 sites in all states except Kentucky. The peak Com. Nighthawk movement occurred Aug. 26-Sept. 1 when "hundreds-to-thousands" were observed in all states. A local mid-September movement brought 1000 to Petersburg, Ill. (CBk). Chimney Swifts were abundant in most areas with an exceptional 1720 in 1.5 hours at Chicago Sept. 3 (PC, HR). A late swift lingered through Oct. 29 at Oxford, O. (JI). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were scarce in many areas except for 200 in Lawrence and Barry cos., Mo., Sept. 5-6 (KH *et al.*). A Pileated Woodpecker at St. Joseph, Mo., was only Lawton's third record in 30 years. Red-headed Woodpeckers largely left e. states but were very numerous in w. Missouri. Early Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared at Louisville Sept. 19 (BS) and St. Louis Sept. 22 (MP). Numbers remained low, the largest reported flock was of 11.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — It was a good year for E. Kingbirds with many reports of 15-30 birds and flocks of 64 in Cherokee County, Ia., Aug. 27 (MBr) and 45 near Sumner, Mo., Aug.

24 (SS) Up to 15 W Kingbirds were noted in w. Iowa and Missouri while three at Iowa City, Ia., Nov. 5 were late (†MC). Singles wandered E to Chicago Aug. 23 (JL) and Ottawa N.W.R., O., Sept. 5-7 (†JP *et al.*). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Cone Marsh, Ia., Aug. 2 (†TD) was n. of its normal range while two lingered through Nov. 3 at Springfield, Mo. (CBn). A Great Crested Flycatcher at Chicago Oct. 25 (HR) was exceptional. In Iowa where they were thought to be scarce, 61 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded at Davenport Aug. 5-Sept. 19 (P). Since there are few fall Alder Flycatcher records from the Region, 4 Ohio reports Aug. 3-Sept. 19 indicated it may be a regular migrant if observers become familiar with its distinctive call notes. The latest E. Wood Pewee was noted in LaPorte County, Ind., Oct. 27 (DB). Normal numbers of Olive-sided Flycatchers passed through all states from early August-Oct. 5.

With the exception of Bank Swallows, swallows were reported in normal numbers. Three Tree Swallows lingered at Merom power plant, Ind., through Dec. 6 (DJ). Typical concentrations included 2500 Trees at M.M.W.A., Sept. 19 (J), 3500 Rough-wingeds at St. Joseph Sept. 16 (L) and 1000 in Fulton County, Ky., Oct. 4 (BP), 1200 Barns at St. Joseph Sept. 2, 1100 Cliff at I.B.S.P., Sept. 27 (DJh) and 200 in Fulton County, Ill., Aug. 23 (VH). While the Springfield, Mo., staging area supported its normal immense flock, Purple Martins were scarce elsewhere. Flocks of 800-1750 were only reported from 2 Chicago locations and Vincennes, Ind.

**CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS** — A **Black-billed Magpie** at Dundee Oct. 21 (†RMO) provided a rare modern record for Illinois. Since Fish Crows usually depart by early September, one at E. St. Louis, Ill., Oct. 31 (RK *et al.*) was exceptional. A moderate Black-capped Chickadee movement was detected only in Ohio. They appeared in Columbus Oct. 5 and wandered S to Oxford by Oct. 31. Except for 250 at Kelley's I., only small numbers were reported. An excellent Red-breasted Nuthatch flight developed in all areas. They first appeared Aug. 19-22 in n. states and by early October in Kentucky Peak counts were of 20-50. Early August Brown Creepers are enigmatic. One at Audubon S.P., Ky., Aug. 3 (MB, AP) was possibly a summer resident while another at M.M.W.A., Aug. 1 (KA) must have been a migrant. House Wrens lingered through Oct. 25 at Ft. Wright, Ky. (EG) and Nov. 1 at M.M.W.A. (JP). Early Winter Wrens appeared at Chicago Sept. 9 (JL) and St. Louis Sept. 17 (CR). Numbers remained low with no more than 11 at any locality. Northernly Bewick's Wrens were reported from Illiopolis, Ill., Aug. 15 (H), Chicago Sept. 18 (JL) and Iowa City, Ia., Sept. 27 (T). They were also seen at 3 Missouri sites. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were widespread, appearing at 25 locations including 23 at DeSoto N.W.R. (R & CL). One at Mahomet, Ill., Nov. 8 (RCh) was late.

**MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers received mixed reports. The only notable concentration was of 30 thrashers at Louisville Sept. 16 (BS). Single Varied Thrushes appeared at Storm L., Ia., Nov. 20 (†VC) and Kane County, Ill., Nov. 22 (†BT). A tardy Wood Thrush was banded in Winnebago County, Ill., Oct. 17 (LJ). While Hermit Thrushes were normal, other *Catharus* thrushes were generally scarce. Noteworthy concentrations were of 60 Hermits at Chicago Oct. 5 (JL) and 150 Swainson's there Sept. 4. A late Swainson's Thrush was well observed at Chesterton, Ind., Nov. 15 (KB). Golden-crowned Kinglets maintained their strong numbers of recent years; fewer Ruby-crowneds were observed. It was another poor fall for Water Pipits, 600 in Knox County, Ind., Nov. 1 (DJ) was the only notable flock. One in Johnson County, Ia., Aug. 19 (T, CB) was early. A Sprague's Pipit was briefly observed at Taberville Prairie, Mo., Oct. 11 (SS, TBk). A substantial N. Shrike movement was indicated by 12 reports from all n. states. One at Chicago Oct. 10 (JL) was early, most were seen in November. Greater than normal Loggerhead Shrike reports were received from one Indiana, 2 Ohio and n. Illinois and 5 Iowa locations. Populations in s. states appeared to be stable.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — The uneventful September weather produced an uneventful migration, good numbers only appeared in Iowa and Kentucky. Birds apparently passed through (or over) the area at fairly uniform rates, creating brief and local concentrations rather than Regionwide movements. For example, the Sept. 2-3 tower kill at Spfld., was not associated with large ground concentrations anywhere. Although sizable groups were few and far between, many early and late migrants were reported. Only the most notewor-

thy records are mentioned below Twenty-five White-eyed Vireos at Cincinnati Sept. 13 (W) was a large number for fall. Late vireos included a Solitary at M.M.W.A., Nov. 4 (JP), a Red-eyed at Ames, Ia., Nov. 4 (†JR) and a Philadelphia at M.M.W.A., Nov. 1.

Fifty-four Black-and-white Warblers at Rush L., Ia., Sept. 29 (RCu) were exceptional as was a Swainson's at Louisville Oct. 9 (†BS) Golden-winged Warblers were reported from 2 Iowa locations while the only "Brewster's" hybrid appeared at Fox I., Ind., Sept. 7 (JHa *et al.*). Tennessee Warblers returned to Winnebago County, Ill., July 20 (LJ) and were Regionwide by mid-August. Orange-crowned Warblers were well reported including 20 at Spfld., Oct. 21 (H) and a late bird at Credit L., Ia., Nov. 29 (J & JS). Nashville Warblers were present at M.M.W.A., Aug. 1-Nov. 1 while a Magnolia lingered at Oxford, O., through Oct. 26 (JI). Cape May Warblers appeared in fair numbers with a peak of six in Kentucky, two Iowa reports and an Oct. 26 bird at Oxford, O. Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported from 2 locations in Iowa and Missouri and 3 in Kentucky. An early Yellow-rumped Warbler appeared at Lorain Aug. 21 (D & JH) while the Audubon's race was documented at Iowa City Oct. 27 (†MN). Black-throated Green Warblers were present from Aug. 7 (Cincinnati—HC) through Nov. 1 (Oxford—JI). Yellow-throated Warblers are rare in Iowa but one at Cedar Rapids Nov. 4 (†R & KG) was incredible. Other late reports included a Prairie Warbler at Salamonie Res., Ind., Sept. 12 (*fide* JHa) and an Ovenbird at Hoover Res., O., Oct. 24 (KA). A moderate Connecticut Warbler flight included 18 at Chicago Aug. 14-Sept. 20 (JL) and small numbers elsewhere in n. states. One at Columbia, Mo., Sept. 14 (†SS, TBk) was noteworthy. Mourning Warblers were widespread, beginning Aug. 9 at Ottawa N.W.R. A late *Oporornis* warbler at Chicago Oct. 18-22 was suggestive of MacGillivray's but could have been a Mourning; these birds will have to be studied in the hand to be conclusively identified. A Wilson's Warbler at Waterloo, Ia., Aug. 8 (RM) was early. Numerous Am. Redstarts were reported from July 29 (Chicago—PC) through Oct. 28 (Louisville—BS, DD).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH CROSSBILLS** — The only sizable blackbird roosts were reported from 2 Kentucky sites and near Campaign, Ill. Yellow-headed Blackbirds peaked with 25 at S.C.R., Aug. 8 (L) and lingered into October at regular localities in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Noteworthy were 2 reports from St. Louis Sept. 13 & Nov. 21 (*fide* RK) and one near Dayton, O., Oct. 20 (*fide* CM). Numerous N. Oriole reports included 53 at St. Louis Sept. 2 (MP), 37 at Spfld., Sept. 3 (H) and a late bird at Danville, Ky., Oct. 3 (FL). A flock of 20 Brewer's Blackbirds was reported from St. Joseph County, Ind., Sept. 9 (*fide* MR) while two appeared at Crane Creek S.P., Nov. 2 (†JP). A ♂-plumaged **Hepatic Tanager** at Beverly, Ill., Nov. 24-30 (JF, m.ob., ph.) provided a first record e. of the Mississippi R.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were generally scarce except for 70 at Urbana, Ill., Sept. 20 (RCh). Black-headed Grosbeaks appeared at Springfield, Mo., one Oct. 1 (†EE) and two Oct. 11 (†CBn). A Dickcissel at Spfld., Oct. 31 (H) was late. The Evening Grosbeak movement was modest. Early birds appeared at Chicago Aug. 22 (JL) and Shenandoah, Ia., Sept. 17 (*fide* RP). Most were noted during late October and November with 15-50 birds composing the largest flocks. Only one bird was reported from Missouri, none from Kentucky. A juv. Purple Finch was noteworthy at Beverly Shores, Ind., Aug. 8 (KB). This species was generally scarce except for numerous early September reports in all states and a flock of 120 in Ohio. House Finches continued to increase in Ohio, 403 were banded in Lorain this year (JP). Elsewhere, they appeared at 4 Kentucky locations with 200 at Somerset Nov. 16 (JEI), 4 Indiana sites with 14 at Bloomington (SG) and one at Chicago Sept. 18 (†JL). The only Pine Grosbeak was reported from Ottawa County, O., Nov. 5 (†JP). Common Redpolls were widespread in small numbers in n. states, appearing at Rush L., Ia., Oct. 15 (MBr). Most were observed in November with up to 42 in a flock and birds s. to Dayton, O., and Kansas City. Pine Siskins invaded in excellent numbers. An early bird at Indianapolis Sept. 23 (DZ) was followed by widespread early October reports from n. states and late October sightings in the s. Peak numbers were 100-300 in all states. An early Red Crossbill at St. Louis Sept. 29 (RAn) presaged a strong flight into n. Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana. They arrived almost simultaneously Oct. 18-24 and were widespread during November. Largest flocks were 50-60 in most areas with 200 at Kansas City Nov. 15 (KH *et al.*). Only 1-2 reports were received from Ohio and Kentucky. White-winged Crossbills outnumbered Reds in Ohio where there were 7 reports of 1-13 birds. Elsewhere, they

appeared at one Iowa, 3 Missouri and 4 Illinois locations with a maximum of 32 at Dundee, Ill., Nov., 2 (SD).

**SPARROWS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING** — It was a poor fall for sparrows. While Chipping and Field sparrows were locally numerous, other species were generally scarce particularly White-crowned, White-throated and Fox.

The "spotted" race of Rufous-sided Towhee wandered E to DeSoto N.W.R., Oct. 10 (JR, JS). A Grasshopper Sparrow in Gibson County, Ind., Nov. 1 (DJ) was late. Le Conte's Sparrows at Salamonie Res., Ind., Oct. 13 (*fide* JHa) & Oct. 25 reports from Gibson County (DJ) and Louisville (BP, AB) were locally unusual as was a Henslow's Sparrow at Louisville Oct. 20. Sharp-tailed Sparrow reports included 1-3 at Huron, O., Sept. 11-Oct. 11, three at Thomas Hill Res., Mo., Sept. 29 (SS) and singles at Evanston, Ill., Sept. 14 (AA) and Chicago Sept. 27 (JL). Two Lark Sparrows at Horseshoe L., Oct. 21 were late (BR). An early Dark-eyed Junco appeared at Louisville Sept. 21 (BP). Chipping Sparrows lingered through Nov. 5 at Ames (JR) and Chicago (PC) and Nov. 29 at Spfld. (H). Clay-colored Sparrows appeared at 4 Illinois locations Sept. 18-Oct. 10 including four at Evanston Oct. 4 (JL). Harris' Sparrows were widespread in Illinois where there were 14 sightings. Twenty-one Lincoln's Sparrows at Cleveland Oct. 10 (M) were noteworthy. Lapland Longspurs returned to Hammond, Ind., Sept. 19 (*fide* KB). Large numbers invaded w. states beginning in late October with flocks of 100-500 in Illinois, Missouri and Iowa and 2000 near Cedar Falls, Ia., Nov. 15 (FM, RM). Four Snow Buntings at Cleveland Oct. 9 (M) were early. Most appeared in late October and November with good numbers in n. states including 500 at I.B.S.P., Nov. 7 (JL).

**UNCORROBORATED REPORTS** — The following sightings were not satisfactorily documented but may be valid: Pomarine Jaeger at Michigan City Aug. 8 and Rufous Hummingbird near Roaring River S.P., Mo., Sept. 2.

**CORRIGENDA** — The possible Rufous Hummingbird in Indiana Oct. 15, 1980 (AB 35:190) was at Gary, not Beverly Shores. This summer's mixed heronry in Kentucky supporting the state's first Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret nests was at Barkley L., not Kentucky L.

**EXOTICS** — A veritable zoo full of exotic and escaped birds wandered around the Region this autumn. These records included a Brown Pelican in Indiana, Flamingos (Am.?) in Ohio and Illinois, Bar-headed Goose and Ruddy Shelduck in Iowa, Ringed Turtle Dove in Indiana and Illinois, Monk Parakeets in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, Black-hooded Parakeet in Indiana and Eur. Goldfinch in Ohio and Illinois.

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## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Robert D. Purrington

It was a warm and dry fall, and consequently one generally considered unspectacular. On the other hand, while there were few massive fallouts or heavy movements of diurnal migrants the steady flow of transients behind the mostly dry fronts produced above average day-to-day birding for much of the Region. The lack of moisture made shorebirding difficult in some areas, but provided new or more extensive mudflats in others. Imhof commented on the bumper crop of wild grass and weed seeds, which would provide food for a variety of wintering species. Peak migration periods followed the fronts of September 16, October 3, 7, and 24. At New Orleans, October 8 was an extraordinary day (JR, DM) and a heavy nocturnal flight was noted the previous night (RDP).

It was already clear by the end of the period that it was to be a poor year for boreal species, notably Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches, and Pine Siskins. Juncos were nearly absent as well. Perhaps Western Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were more numerous than usual along the coast from Mississippi to Northwestern Florida, but otherwise there was little indication of an influx of western vagrants.

Increased interest in vagrant gulls, along with patient searching, seemingly was paying off, although at least two of the notable gulls found this fall were returning after previous appearances. Nonetheless, the presence of two Great Black-backed Gulls, one the first for Louisiana, a possible Western Gull, plus inland Sabine's Gull and Black-legged Kittiwake made it a banner fall.

In the report following, names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL** — A very early Com. Loon was at L. Millwood, Ark., Sept. 20 (CM); one was at Nashville July 30-Aug. 6 (MPS, VMS), the fourth area summering. Unprecedentedly early records of Eared Grebes ranged from Aug. 25 at Hattiesburg (TF, LG) to Oct. 3 at Decatur, Ala. (DMB, CAB, MSG). White Pelicans, which summer along the Gulf Coast, were early Sept. 13 at Eufala N.W.R., Ala., and at Fayetteville, Ark., where 50 were seen. Brown Pelicans began nesting on Queen Bess I., in Barataria Bay, Jefferson Par., during the first week in November (JBO). At least 200 pairs were nesting by Nov. 24. Single Masked Boobies were in Gulf, Fla., Aug. 28-29 (JMS). Double-crested Cormorants were early in Jackson, Fla., Aug. 25 (MG), Washington, Ark., Sept. 7 (CW, JN), and Weiss L., Ala., Sept. 16 (DMB). Peak numbers of 2000+ at L. Millwood and 3000+ migrating in connection with a cold front Oct. 18 in Hancock, Miss. (JT, PBr). Ortego estimated 3000+ all during November on Barataria Bay. An all-white Great Blue Heron which apparently constitutes Louisiana's first record of the Great White Heron was present on the New Orleans lakefront Oct. 31-at least Nov. 15 (DM, m.ob.). The bird was photographed (RDP) but at considerable distance. Post-breeding dispersal of Reddish Egrets led to records from Gulf Shores, Ala., to Cameron, La. Peak numbers were at least 25 at Grand Isle, La., Sept. 6 (RDP, NN, JR, SF). A white-phase bird at Cameron Oct. 26 (DM, MM, RDP, JR) was unusual. A total of 944 Great Egrets counted at Eufala Ref., Sept. 13 (DMB) set an all-time high for Alabama. Wood Storks were noted from the Red R. bottoms near Lewisville, Ark., Sept. 11 when 30 were seen, and 11 were at Eufala Ref., Sept. 13 (DMB). *Plegadis* ibises inland at the Morganza Spillway, La., Aug. 8 (DWG) and in Benton, Ark., Oct. 6 (CW) were unusual. Similarly unexpected in Arkansas was an imm. White Ibis near Lewisville Sept. 11 (WMS). A Roseate Spoonbill at Grand Isle Sept. 6 (RDP, NN, JR, SF) was the first recorded there and the fifth record for s.e. Louisiana.

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — Three Whistling Swans in Benton, Ark., Nov. 29 (CW, JN, RS) were the first known to have occurred in



the Ozark Highlands. Canada Geese rarely reach the Gulf Coast any more; one at Pass Christian, Miss., Nov. 24 (JT) was worthy of note. White-fronted Geese at Eufala Ref., Oct. 24 (DMB) were early there and one in Jackson, Miss., a day later (JT, LG, TF) was unusual. Earliest ever for Alabama, if not a summering bird, was a Snow Goose (blue morph) in Mobile, Aug. 28 (DJG). A Fulvous Whistling Duck at Mobile Aug. 29-30 (PB) was the earliest ever of only 5 coastal fall records. A Gadwall at Mobile Sept. 7 (GDJ) was earliest ever in fall for the Alabama Gulf Coast, while Pintails were early at Eufala Ref., Sept. 13 (DMB) and in Hancock, Miss., Oct. 24 (ET, JT, LG, TF). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Wheeler N.W.R., Nov. 27-at least Dec. 3 (DMB, CDC, MSG, m.ob.) provided the third record for Alabama. Early N. Shovelers were seen at Nashville Aug. 8 (DFV), the earliest ever by 18 days, at Hattiesburg Aug. 29 (LG, TF, DH), and at Blakely L., Ala., Sept. 1 (GDJ, DGJ); also early at Nashville was a Bufflehead Oct. 20 (MLB). Oldsquaws were more common than usual in s. Louisiana, as exemplified by single birds at New Orleans Nov. 7 (TC), at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Nov. 21 (MW, RJS, *et al.*), and an additional bird at New Orleans on the following day (MM, RDP). More than 20 records of scoters were submitted, involving 100+ individuals: White-winged, a female Oct. 29 at Nashville (MLB); Surf, 45 records; Black, 32. The reports came from all over the Region, mostly after Nov. 10. All 3 scoters occurred on Nashville's Radnor L., during the period. Two Hooded Mergansers at Fayetteville Nov. 10 (JN, RS) were considered unusual for that highland locale.

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — Hawk watching is not a well-developed art in Louisiana, where the conventional wisdom has been that there are few major movements and no appropriate terrain features along which major flights might move, or from which such movements might profitably be observed. This fall, one of the first serious hawk watches in Louisiana yielded 1400 Broad-winged Hawks, seven Red-taileds, six Red-shouldered Hawks, five Sharp-shinned Hawks, and one Cooper's Hawk, all in 1.25 hours Oct. 4 in the Tunica Hills near St. Francisville, La. (PMcK). Peak numbers of Broad-winged at Gulf Breeze, Fla., were 242 Sept. 18 and 249 on the 19th (BD, LD, SD), following an unusually strong early frontal passage Sept. 16. Sharp-shinned Hawks were thought to be down slightly in numbers but there were too few reports of Cooper's Hawks submitted to permit any judgment on this species. Certainly there seems to be nothing in the data or in this writer's observations to cause optimism. A possible Swainson's Hawk was reported, without details, from Hattiesburg Nov. 26 (JRM, PSR), while a Ferruginous Hawk, described in exhaustive detail, was seen in Cameron Parish, Oct. 31 (SWC, MBR). There was one report of Golden Eagle, an adult Oct. 4 at Gulf Breeze, Fla. (LD), and reports of at least 10 Bald Eagles, including three immatures. At least four were at Eufala Ref., Sept. 13 (DMB). Marsh Hawks were early at Pensacola Aug. 13 (CLK) and in Benton, Ark., Sept. 12 (JN). Records of 47 Ospreys reached this

writer, highlighted by a total of 21 Sept 3-Oct 4 on L Millwood, Ark (CM). Toups reported 12 along the Mississippi coast Aug. 15-Oct. 21. There were reports of 10 Peregrine Falcons including one from L. Millwood, one in *Escambia*, Fla., three at Fort Morgan, Ala., Oct. 4 (GDJ, DGJ) and another there Oct. 17 (DMB), one at Gulfport, Miss., and single birds at New Orleans, at Grand Terre I., La., and in Cameron Parish. Several were banded by U. of Alabama student J. Parrish at Fort Morgan during the fall. A Merlin at New Orleans Sept. 23 (JR) was the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana and up to 12 others were reported from across the Region. Both Toups and Reinoehl remarked that Am. Kestrels seemed to be up in numbers.

**CRANES, GALLINULES, SHOREBIRDS** — Sandhill Cranes were seen in Washington County, Fla., Oct. 16 (JU), at the Hattiesburg Sewage Ponds Oct. 31 (JRM, PSR), and the next day at Eufala Ref (DMB). A Virginia Rail at New Orleans Sept. 4 (JR) was the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana. A Yellow Rail captured Sept. 29 at the Skyline W.M.A., Jackson Co., Ala. (WM, *fide* DMB) was the first record for the n. half of the state. Three downy young Purple Gallinules seen in *Jackson*, Miss., Oct. 11 & 18 (MG, JT) were the result of a very late nesting; the opinion of Toups that Com. Gallinules had a very successful nesting season is echoed by this writer. An Am. Golden Plover Sept. 1 in *Escambia*, (OF) was the earliest-ever for the Florida section by 6 days, and a Com. Snipe at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Aug. 29 (MW, MA) was the earliest ever there. A Whimbrel at the same locality Sept. 5-Oct. 7 (MA, RJS, MW) was locally unusual and unexpected in fall in s.e. Louisiana. A Pectoral Sandpiper in *Jackson*, Miss., Nov. 7 (JT) was very late, while a White-rumped Sandpiper at the Pascagoula R. marsh in *Jackson*, Aug. 13 (JT, FW, ET, RD, CB) was unusual for fall. Hudsonian Godwits are rare anywhere in the Region e. of the rice fields of s.-c. Louisiana, and especially so in fall. One at Pensacola Beach Aug. 4 (PBU, MET) provided only the fourth n.w. Florida record. An Am. Avocet in *Benton*, Ark., Sept. 29 (CW, JN) was unusual for the Ozark highlands. The seventh record of the Red Phalarope for Arkansas was of one at L. Hamilton, Garland Co., Sept. 22 (MP), and two N. Phalaropes were at the Hattiesburg sewage ponds Aug. 29-30 (LG, TF, DH)

**GULLS AND TERNS** — For the eighth consecutive year, an ad. Great Black-backed Gull returned to Destin, Fla., this time Oct. 23 (BD), establishing the first October record for n.w. Florida. Two other "black-backed" gulls challenged the identification skills of coastal Alabama and Louisiana birders. One, thought to be either a Western or Lesser Black-backed Gull, was at Fort Morgan Sept. 11-27 (GDJ, DGJ, MLM, CDD, DG). It was evidently the same bird seen in the fall of 1977 and 1978, lacking a right foot, and called at the time *L. fuscus*. The dark eye, flesh-colored legs, and mantle color of this ad gull suggest *W. Gull* (*L. occidentalis*), although the latter is notably sedentary and the identification problems far from trivial. The gull is said to be approximately Herring Gull sized. The second black-backed gull, also an adult or perhaps a third-year individual, seen at New Orleans for 2 hours Nov. 14 (DM, JR, NN, RDP) has sparked a similar controversy. Fortunately the New Orleans bird was photographed at close range (RDP) and has now been identified (*fide* VR), as a **Great Black-backed Gull**, the first for the state. One or more imm Franklin's Gulls on the New Orleans lakefront Nov. 15 (RDP, JR *et al.*) were the first in years. Not to be outdone by its larger relatives above, an imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake**, the third recorded in Tennessee, announced its presence by landing on the playing field during half time of the Akron-Tennessee Tech football game Oct. 16 in Cookeville, Tenn. Efforts to flush the bird from the field were roundly booed, according to the Tech *Oracle*, which published a recognizable photograph. A **Sabine's Gull**, the fifth recorded in Arkansas, was seen and photographed at L. Millwood Oct. 4-5 (CM, HP, MP). A total of 95 Forster's Terns at Eufala Ref., Sept. 13 (DMB) was an inland Alabama maximum. Caspian Terns were early at Birmingham Aug. 17 (AM, HHW) and latest-ever for *Gulf*, Fla., Nov. 8 (CLK).

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — White-winged Doves were reported Oct. 18-26 from Cameron Parish to Fort Morgan. A Roadrunner in Fayetteville, Ark., Nov. 13 (JN) was noteworthy, and locally unusual was a Groove-billed Ani at Donaldsonville, La., Sept. 26 (MgF, MtF). The species was present in about normal numbers in coastal and near-coastal Louisiana. There were 2 records of Short-eared Owls from New Orleans, the first in several years: Oct. 26 (JR,

MB) and Dec 2 (DM) Another was seen on Grand Terre, I., La., Nov. 10-11 (JBO). A Chuck-will's-widow found freshly dead at Gulf Breeze Nov. 20 (LD) was the latest ever by 25 days for n.w. Florida. An incredible total of 30,100 Com. Nighthawks was seen by J. Neal Aug. 27 in Fayetteville, moving S ahead of an advancing rainstorm. A single Lesser Nighthawk was seen in Cameron Parish, Nov. 28 (MBR, SWC, VR, LH, TD). In contrast with recent years, the fall was a relatively poor one for w. hummingbirds, especially in the Reserve-New Orleans area where most of the records originate. Nancy Newfield found Ruby-throated migration poor and there were no Black-chinned Hummingbirds at her feeders, where several have regularly over-wintered in recent years. During the winter of 1980-81, for example, she banded 20 at various feeders in the area. One was at Reserve, La., Nov. 24 (RJS), and M. Weber had 6-7 there during the fall. An imm. *Selasphorus* hummingbird appeared at a Gulfport feeder Nov. 30 (JuH, *fide* JT). Buff-bellied Hummingbirds have now occurred in Louisiana in every fall or winter since 1974. One at Reserve Nov. 25-26 (MW) was the seventh for s.e. Louisiana. A ♂ Golden-fronted Woodpecker, found during the spring of 1981, was still present in Pensacola to the end of the period (WB, MD, BD)

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS** — Two Gray Kingbirds in Jackson County, Miss., Aug. 19 (JT) were just n. of the westernmost breeding site of the species, Horn I. There were reports of about a dozen W. Kingbirds, including three from the Mississippi coast (JT *et al.*), single birds at Nashville Sept. 3 (DFV), the fourth area record, at Fort Morgan Sept. 6 (GDJ, DGJ), and at Hattiesburg Oct. 2 (TF), plus two at Fort Morgan Oct. 17 (DMB). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were also reported from the Mississippi and Alabama coasts. An Ash-throated Flycatcher, one of about a dozen recorded for Alabama, was at Wheeler Ref., Oct. 13 (AM), the second inland record for the state. **Single Western Wood Pewees** were collected in Cameron Parish, Oct 10-11 (\*L.S.U.M.Z.), the fifth and sixth records for the state. Other pewees were seen during October in Cameron which seemed likely also to be *C. sordidulus*. An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Wheeler Ref., Aug. 22 (DMB, CDC, CAB, MSG) was unusual even though the species is regular in fall on the coast. A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher was seen at Fort Morgan Oct. 4 (PT, BD). Latest ever for n.w. Florida was a Bank Swallow in *Gulf*, Nov. 7 (JMS). Twenty-one Cliff Swallows at Pensacola Beach Oct. 24 (BD, LD *et al.*) represented an unusually large number for that area. While Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce Regionwide, one in *Jackson*, Fla., Sept. 11 (DS, MG) was earliest ever by 11 days. The only report at New Orleans, that of one Sept. 19 (JR), was also unprecedentedly early. Two Bewick's Wrens in *Washington*, Fla., Oct. 19 (JU, JB) represented only the fourth record in the last 14 years. Another in Limestone, Ala., Oct. 24 (GDJ, HHK, CDC) was also unexpected. Records of Carolina Wrens in 5 Arkansas locations near Ponca Aug. 23 (JN) were taken as evidence of recovery following recent losses due to hard winters. Earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana and probably for the state were two Short-billed Marsh Wrens at New Orleans Sept. 19 (JR).

**THRASHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — Gray Catbirds were present in impressive numbers (200+) in *Hancock*, Miss., Oct. 3 (JT, LG, TF) on the heels of a frontal passage, as were Brown Thrashers (80) American Robins were late and had arrived in only modest numbers along the coast by the end of the period. At New Orleans Sept. 18, a Wood Thrush was earliest ever (NN); latest ever, on the other hand, was a Gray-cheeked Thrush in *Jackson*, Fla., Nov. 7 (MG). An impressive total of 75+ Loggerhead Shrikes was seen in *Hancock*, Miss., Oct. 24 (JT, LG, TF), a Mississippi coastal high. A Bell's Vireo, for which there are few records anywhere in the Region outside of n.w. Louisiana where they breed sparingly, was reported from *Jackson*, Miss., Sept. 27 (JT, EL). A Warbling Vireo at Ft Pickens, Fla., Oct. 3 (BDo, HD, BD, SD) marked only the fifth fall record for n.w. Florida.

**WARBLERS** — Latest ever in fall for Alabama's Tennessee Valley was a Black-and-white Warbler near Decatur Nov. 21 (AM, HHW). A Swainson's Warbler was heard singing near Hickory, Miss., on the remarkably late date of Sept. 1 (JM). What were evidently two distinct Brewster's hybrids were seen at the Hattiesburg sewage ponds Sept. 19 & 27 (LG, TF). The total of ten Nashville Warblers seen by Reinoehl during the fall at New Orleans would have seemed incredible a few years ago. Dominating the spectacular day of Oct. 8 at New Orleans were 200 Tennessee Warblers (JR, DM); one was early at Wheeler Ref., Aug. 22 (DMB, CAB, CDC, MSG), as was

an Orange-crowned Warbler at New Iberia, La., Sept. 19 (MJM). A late Yellow Warbler was seen in Cameron Parish Nov. 28 (SWC). Magnolia Warblers were also abundant at New Orleans Oct. 8 (JR, DM), when 80+ were counted; 22 were seen in a single pecan tree the following day in Biloxi, Miss. (JT). There were four records of Cape May Warblers (a notable identification problem in fall), three from Louisiana where the species is rare at any season and especially so in fall. The latter records were Oct. 10, 24-25 in Cameron Parish (two \*L.S.U.M.Z.). One at St. Joe Pen., Fla., Oct. 24 (HMS, JMS) was the latest ever in fall for n.w. Florida. Records of Black-throated Blue Warblers, which became increasingly rare toward the w. edge of the Region, included a female at New Orleans Sept. 19 (DM), another in Hancock, Miss., Oct. 3 (TF), males at New Orleans Oct. 8 (JR, DM *et al.*), in Cameron Parish, Oct. 11 (SWC, VR *et al.*) and Oct. 24 (JBO), and eight birds on 5 dates in the Birmingham area (*vide* TAI). An imm. ♀ **Townsend's Warbler** the first ever recorded in Louisiana, was collected in East Jetty Woods, Cameron Parish, Oct. 24 (VR, SWC, TD to \*L.S.U.M.Z.). A heavy movement of Bay-breasted Warblers was noted Oct. 24 in coastal n.w. Florida and one at Fort Morgan Nov. 22 (GDJ, DGJ) was latest-ever for Alabama by 8 days. The intentions of a ♂ Blackpoll Warbler in breeding plumage at Grand Isle July 19 (RDP, NN, SF) are unknown! Connecticut Warblers were seen in Birmingham Sept. 19 & 26 (DF, CW, MMcD). A Yellow-breasted Chat banded at Nashville Nov. 15 (HR, JRi) was latest for the area by 11 days, except for winter records.

**HOUSE SPARROW THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — Rarely mentioned in these pages (and rightly so!) is the House Sparrow. It is not without some trepidation that one reports an Alabama record of 3500 achieved at Decatur, Ala., Nov. 26 (DMB, CAB). Rare in the Region in fall, and thus of interest, was a Bobolink at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Oct. 3 (MW). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at Fort Morgan Sept. 11 (GDJ, DGJ, HHK, JF), at Ft. Pickens, Fla., the next day (PT, MLM, AFW), and Oct. 3 in the same area (LG, JG). A N. (Bullock's) Oriole seen at Fort Morgan Sept. 11 (GDJ) was quite early. A W. Tanager reported from Bellefontaine Beach, Jackson Co., Miss., Aug. 22 (JT) was unexpected there and remarkably early. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at New Orleans Sept. 28 (JR) was the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana, while a Black-headed Grosbeak in Cameron Parish Oct. 10 (VR, DM, TD, DuH) equalled the earliest arrival date for Louisiana. One at Forrest City, Miss., Nov. 15 (TF, SP) was also unusual and a few others were noted along the coast during the season. A ♀ bunting thought to be a Lazuli was seen at New Orleans Oct. 8 (JR, DM), while a ♂ Painted Bunting in Santa Rosa, Fla., Sept. 14 (BM, GH, JH, RH) provided only the second September record. The record of a Dickcissel Oct. 1 at a Gulfport feeder was unusual for coastal Mississippi.

The only records of Evening Grosbeaks submitted were of single birds Oct. 3 & 5 in Nashville (MLJ, MMA). Although Purple Finches were nearly absent, one Oct. 17 in Jackson, Fla. (BS, MG) was earliest ever for n.w. Florida by nearly 2 weeks. Pine Siskins were also uncommon at best; the earliest report was of one Nov. 7 in New Orleans (JR, DM). Two Red Crossbills in Bankhead N.F., Winston

Co., Ala., Oct. 10 (EGR, KH) were evidently birds which had bred locally (*vide* TAI). A Grasshopper Sparrow seen at New Orleans Oct. 2 (DM) was by nearly 3 weeks the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana. Unusual in Logan and Washington Cos., Ark., were Le Conte's Sparrows Nov. 27 & 29 (JN, CW). Early Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen in Garland, Ark., Sept. 18 (MP) and at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, Sept. 26 (MW, RJS, MA). At least three Tree Sparrows were seen in Benton, Ark., Nov. 29 (CW, JN, RS). There were 9 records of 13 Clay-colored Sparrows Sept. 14-Nov. 28. The former, of a single bird at Gulf Breeze (BD) was earliest ever for n.w. Florida by 4 days. Coastal Mississippi records were Sept. 22 (NLN, JT) and Oct. 28 (JT—3); one was at Fort Morgan Sept. 27 (GDJ, DGJ), and eight individuals were seen Sept. 18-Nov. 28 in s. Louisiana. A Lincoln's Sparrow Oct. 24 (BD) was only the seventh record in 10 years for n.w. Florida and one on the same date at Eufala Ref. (DMB) was the second refuge record. Earliest ever for Alabama was a Swamp Sparrow at Fort Morgan Sept. 2 (GS).

**CORRIGENDUM** — The Eur. Wigeon at New Orleans in the winter 1980-81 report was incorrectly cited; it should have read thus RDP, NN (= Norton Nelkin), m.ob.

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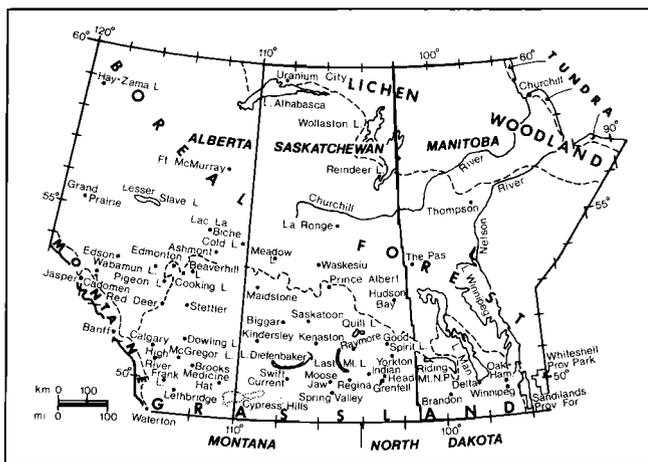
## PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/Jim A. Wedgwood

Continuing drought in the south-central area altered routing and staging of some passage migrants and affected breeding and congregating of many local species. Fall rains partially ameliorated adverse effects. The eastern and western areas were normal or were wetter than usual. Early freezes forced out some birds, but the mild fall provided excellent conditions for others. There was a rash of reports on rare species and a plethora of late dates. (Space limitations precluded inclusion in this account of much late date material).

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Kingsmere L., Prince Albert N.P. (hereafter, P.A.N.P.), held a large congregation of 160 Com. Loons Aug. 24 (MS). One **Arctic Loon** in winter plumage on Ghost Res., Alta., Oct. 27 (†SJ), and a second in summer plumage in Calgary Nov. 1-10 (DC, m.ob.), provided interesting observations of an

accidental species. In contrast were the typical 23 Arctic Loons at Churchill Aug. 25 (BC). Red-necked Grebes were on Kingsmere L., in usual numbers of 300-500 Aug. 26 (MS). Late dates abounded for ordinarily early-departing grebes, *e.g.*, Nov. 28 for a W. Grebe sighted by J. Steeves near Calgary and a Pied-billed Grebe at Lockport, Man. (RFK *et al.*). Prairie-nesting grebe populations were decimated. Syroteuk surveyed restricted Lavallee L., Sask., Sept. 20, following peak migrations. Remaining birds in the colonies of Blue-listed White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants numbered 150 and 500. Cypress L., Sask., held 210 pelicans Aug. 20 (GW) and Patricia Beach, Man., had 600 cormorants Oct. 15 (MGS). Southern herons included a **Snowy Egret** at Oak Hammock—Manitoba's 11th record—Aug. 21 (MGS, m.ob.) and two Green Herons (usual number for Manitoba), one at St. Norbert Sept. 11 (PK, m.ob.) and one at Winnipeg (RS). There were four reports of Great Egrets in Manitoba, again about average. This accidental species was also reported at Cypress L., Aug. 28 (†GW) & Sept. 5 (MG *et al.*). Several observers were concerned about the drop in



numbers of Black-crowned Night Herons and Am. Bitterns, attributing the declines to the drought. A Least Bittern was found at La Barriere Park, Man. (DK).

**WATERFOWL** — An extraordinary observation was that of three **Trumpeter Swans** calling continuously as they flew up the Red R., in Winnipeg and sighted by R. Koes Oct. 25, the first instance in decades of the species being this far e. A pair deep in the Cypress Hills still formed the vestigial population in Saskatchewan (GW). The last reported date for Trumpeters in n. Alberta was Oct. 31 with six at Clairmont L. (KL). The goose migration yielded few large concentrations (RFK). Reported peaks, all in s. Saskatchewan, were 3000 Canada Geese on Cypress L., Nov. 1 (MG), 3500 White-fronted Geese on Buck L., Sask., Oct. 2 (BL) and 10,000 Snow Geese on Deep L., Sask., Oct. 11 (LS). At Churchill, 700 imm. Ross' Geese were observed Aug. 26 (*vide* BC). A flock of 800 Canadas (*B.c. canadensis*) was still present at Val Marie, Sask., Nov. 30 (SK). A scarcity of pothole ducks in the s. and an increase in ducks in the n. characterized the duck scene. At Ft. McMurray, J. Gulley's autumn duck count was 20,428 birds, twice 1980's figure. Good-sized flocks of woodland ducks occurred: 120 Wood Ducks at Pinawa, Man., Sept. 12-20 (PT), 25 Hooded Mergansers at Wabamun L., Alta., Oct. 17 (RE), 200 Com. Mergansers at Little Arm, Sask., Nov. 26 (BL) and 225 Red-breasted Mergansers at Churchill Sept. 13 (*vide* BC).

**RAPTORS** — Again there were excellent fall counts of Goshawks, with 76 sightings reported. Although observations of Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks were well dispersed, and in spite of a good warbler migration, both species appeared to be scarcer. However, Calgary observers saw nine Sharp-shinned (SJ, JP, DC) and Saskatoonians sighted 11 (*vide* PON). The majority of Saskatchewan contributors opined that Swainson's Hawks had increased. Three hundred Buteos, including 50+ Swainson's were in a field near Sanctuary Sept. 4 (JBG). Two young Swainson's were still in the nest Aug 3 at Pilot Butte, Sask. (BL, FB). Fifty-two Bald Eagles concentrated around Squaw Rapids, Sask., Nov. 14 (WH *et al.*). Of Prairie Falcons 34 individuals were reported and of Peregrine Falcons a gratifying 25, double the 1979 total, were sighted in the s. Merlins, continuing to move into developed areas, caused the inevitable comment, "becoming common, now a damned noisy pest." (*vide* MC) Wapple counted 97 Am. Kestrels along the Biggar-Unity railway, a substantial increase over a similar survey in 1980.

**GROUSE THROUGH RAILS** — Spruce and Ruffed grouse continued to be hard to find, with populations in most areas reported below even the recent low levels. Sharp-tailed Grouse declined significantly in s.e. Manitoba (RFK) and n. Alberta—Ft. McMurray counted only four individuals compared to 273 last year (JG). Eight Sage Grouse were at Willow Cr., Sask., Oct. 26 (PB) and 22 at Val Marie Oct. 3 (SK). By Oct. 26 Rock Ptarmigan in small numbers were being seen daily at Churchill (RT).

The Canadian Wildlife Service reported 14 confirmed sightings of Whooping Cranes comprising 26 individuals, down from 70 reported in 1980 in this Region. The earliest sighting was Sept. 2, the latest Oct. 20. The Veterinary College attempted unsuccessfully to rehabilitate a Whooper that hit a wire (B.W. Johns, C.W.S., Saskatoon).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The Hudson Bay coast yielded several interesting reports, e.g., 200 Ruddy Turnstones, 200 Whimbrels, 400 White-rumped Sandpipers and—accidentals—two **Purple Sandpipers** for the sixth Manitoba record (BC, BW). Elsewhere, extralimital and rare species were noted: five Baird's Sandpipers Sept. 14, a first for the Wildlife Reserve of Western Canada (W.R.W.C.) (SJ, GB) and two W. Sandpipers, accidental in Alberta, at Grand Cache July 29 (†JP) and Buffalo L., Aug. 9 (RWS *et al.*). Few concentrations of passage migrant sandpipers occurred on the drought-affected plains, notably 1000 dowitchers, Oak L., Man., Oct. 7 (CC) and 300 Black-bellied Plovers, Buck L., Aug. 18 (BL). Similarly, disappearance of sloughs caused a paucity of prairie shorebirds like Marbled Godwit and Willet. Yet sizable concentrations of other prairie species were seen in Saskatchewan: 300 Killdeers at Condie Sept. 12 (TR), 900 Am Avocets at Cactus L., Aug. 15 (MG) and 300 Wilson's Phalaropes at Moose Jaw sewage lagoons Aug. 1 (PRK). Only 3 scattered reports came in on Upland Sandpipers, and on Long-billed Curlews there was no word whatever—especially disconcerting since both are Blue-listed. One of the Upland Sandpiper observers remarked on a pocket of 16 birds seen each day until Aug. 16 near Coalfields, s.e. Sask (BG).

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — Yet another influx of jaeger and gull species occurred in the s. Single jaegers, deemed probable Parasitics, were identified at Jackfish L., Sask., Aug. 2 (†GW) and at Regina Beach Oct. 25 (RK). Two imm. **Iceland Gulls** at Edmonton Oct. 24 (RE) supplied the sixth Alberta sighting of this uncommon species. **Thayer's Gulls** were reported twice including the identification of a rare first-year immature at Regina Nov. 4 (†RK, FL). There were large numbers of black-headed gulls: to mid-August Franklin's Gulls aggregated 9500 on Blackstrap L., Sask., (JBG), 5000 on the Swift Current sewage lagoon (CH) and 4000 on Cutbank L., Sask. (MG). My mid-October 250 Bonaparte's Gulls appeared on Eagle L., Alta. (JS, SH). Many Pinawa residents reported being awakened Sept. 24 by the cries of Caspian Terns migrating over the town. It was a foggy night and they may have been disoriented by town lights (PT).

**OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — The rare Hawk Owl was termed abundant around Edmonton where 12 were seen (RE). An amazing 13 Hawk Owls were located in the Banff, Ft. McMurray, Pinawa and Cumberland House districts. Of 127 Burrowing Owls, an impressive 81 were in the Regina-Moose Jaw tract. Great Gray Owls numbered 25 in Alberta, Edmonton observers suggesting an invasion (RE). Thirteen Great Grays, about average, but fewer than in recent years, were reported in Manitoba (*vide* RN, HC). In Saskatchewan, a record eight were seen. Long-eared Owl and Short-eared Owl populations declined further. Only two Long-eareds and 13 Short-eareds were reported. Commendable discoveries of rare owls were two Barred Owls near Cumberland House (WH *et al.*), a Pygmy Owl near W.R.W.C., Nov. 13 (SJ) and a Boreal Owl at Big Springs Cr., Alta., Sept. 11 (PS, m.ob.). Individual Saw-whet Owls were identified at Sundre (FH) and Biggar (GW), but two in Calgary fared poorly in contact with civilization: one was dead, stuck in a car grille, the other was found stunned (AW).

The 1350 Com. Nighthawks over Winnipeg August 20-23 was an unusually large migration (NC, m.ob.). The common view in Saskatchewan was that nighthawks were fewer. Autumn 1981 was a time for uncommon woodpeckers. Two ♀ Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported in Manitoba, one at E. St. Paul Oct. 15 (MGS), the other at St. Agathe Nov. 8 (SM, m.ob.). A Lewis' Woodpecker (accidental-listed) was at Sundre, Alta., Aug. 24 (FH). Unusually common were Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers, 23 being reported, and N Three-toed Woodpeckers with a total of 25.

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS** — Eastern Kingbirds were more numerous and there were good flock counts: 30 each at Coalfields (BG) and Saskatoon (JBG), 50 at Westlock, Alta. (JL) and 103 at Biggar (GW). The Blue Jay population increased in c. Saskatchewan, the species being common in Saskatoon (PON). A **Steller's Jay**, accidental-listed in Alberta, was at Canmore Sept. 26 (AS). Also in Saskatoon, Black-billed Magpies were at nuisance levels, especially at feeding stations, with some owners reporting 17 at one time (PON, m.ob.). Flocks of ten or more Boreal Chickadees were drifting out of the W.R.W.C., in September, possibly because of failure of the cone crop (SJ). Increased numbers and movements were also observed in P.A.N.P. (MS), and an unusual seven Boreals were

reported at Saskatoon (CE, m.ob.), all suggestive of an irruption. A first for Banff N.P., and fourth for Alberta was a **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** photographed at a feeder Oct. 31 (RL). A rare Winter Wren was in Regina Oct. 24 (CA, BL, D & PH). Lone Townsend's Solitaires, also rare-listed, were seen in Saskatoon Sept. 18 (PON), Swift Current Cr., Nov. 5 (PST) and Sundre Nov. 20 (FH). In Manitoba, Golden-crowned Kinglets appeared to be recovering from the crash of recent years (RFK). The Water Pipit migration peaked Sept. 4-7 & 16-25 and numbers were up. At Keeley-Canoe Lakes, w.c. Sask., 150 of them were seen daily Sept. 18-25 (WH *et al.*). An above-average total of 41 N. Shrikes was reported.

**WARBLERS** — The finest fall warbler migration in years (GW) was a fairly common evaluation, and numerous reports were received of species infrequently recorded in autumn. In Winnipeg were a Golden-winged Warbler Oct. 10 (RFK), four N. Parulas (DRH *et al.*), three Black-throated Blues Sept. 7-18 (DG *et al.*), and a Pine Warbler Sept. 16 (RFK). Black-throated Blues were also observed in Regina Oct. 1 (RK *et al.*) and near Cumberland House, Sask., Aug. 20 (WH *et al.*). A rare Nashville Warbler was at Big Springs Cr., Sept. 14 (PS) and no fewer than five were seen around Red Earth, Sask. (WH *et al.*). **Townsend's Warbler**, another Alberta rarity, was seen at Big Springs Cr., Sept. 27 (PS), as well as at Spring Valley Sept. 5 where it furnished the third Saskatchewan record (FB).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Calgary had yet another rare-listed bird, a ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak Aug. 28 (JS), a species also reported from

Moose Jaw for the third year (EK, m.ob.). Saskatoon's resident Cardinal was still present Oct. 25 (PON). Fall W. Tanagers are usually reported as singles, thus ten in Westlock was an unusually good count (RE). Pine Siskins were more common in the s.e. (RFK), less common in the n.w. where only six were sighted compared to 311 in 1980 (JG). Lapland Longspurs flew over Dilke continuously for 2 hours Sept. 23 (MB) in a massive movement and 5 days later 20,000 were 100 km to the s. at Buck L. (RK, FL). Bob Godwin photographed the seldom-seen Smith's Longspur in P.A.N.P., Sept. 5, then had the good fortune to spot two more at Coalfields Sept. 23 & 24.

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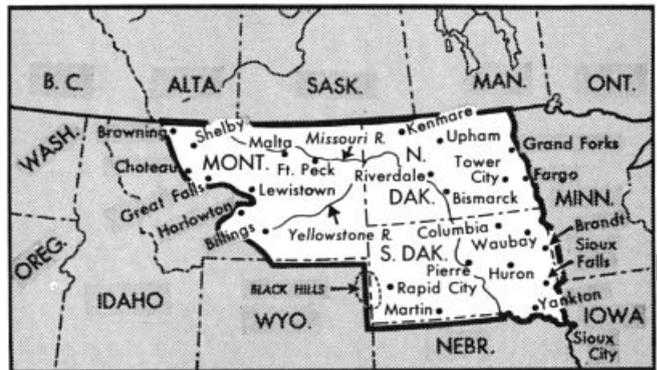
## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/David O. Lambeth

A very mild November, one of the warmest on record, ended a generally pleasant season. Wetlands remained open into late November, which resulted in numerous late records. Except for local areas in eastern North Dakota, where wet conditions delayed the harvest, and in eastern South Dakota where up to 12 inches of snow fell in November, dry conditions persisted throughout the Region provoking continued concern about wetlands. An early invasion of winter finches, post-breeding dispersal of several species, and an impressive number of rarities added interest to an otherwise ordinary migration.

**GREBES THROUGH IBISES** — Grebes were very late in leaving the Region as Red-necked were present at Ft. Peck, Mont., into November (CMC), Horneds to Nov. 24 in Yankton County, S.D. (WH), Eareds to Nov. 27 at L. Audubon N.W.R., N.D. (GGB), and a Pied-billed in Stutsman County, N.D., Nov. 21 (CAF). At Tewaukon N.W.R., N.D., White Pelicans peaked at 550 and Double-crested Cormorants at 325 during late August (DGP). For a report on the incredible variety of waders at Whitewood L., S.D., this past summer, see the Addenda. Reports of Great Egret in early September included 30 in Hamlin County, S.D., 42 at Tewaukon, eight at Audubon's new Alkali L. Sanctuary near Jamestown, and nine farther n. at Kelly's Slough N.W.R. One at Angostura Res., in extreme s.w. South Dakota may have been the first there (RCR). A Snowy Egret was in Hamlin County, Sept. 2 (KHH), and both Cattle Egrets and White-faced Ibises remained into early August, at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D., where a hailstorm in July curtailed nesting (WAS). Thirteen sightings of Green Herons were all in the e. Dakotas.

**WATERFOWL** — Large numbers of Whistling Swans remained late as shown by the estimates Nov. 21 of 750 at Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., and 1000 at Waubay N.W.R., S.D. Before recounting this season's rarities, it is worth mentioning that the hordes of waterfowl migrating through this Region, and the paucity of observers, both work to make several species seem casual or accidental when they may actually be regular but rare migrants. Imagine trying to identify in early November Ross' Geese among the 100,000 and 200,000 Snows in Ransom County, N.D., and Sand Lake N.W.R., respectively, or Greater Scaup among the 80,000 Lessers on Devil's Lake, N.D., Oct. 31! Hunters continued to provide evidence regard-



ing several rarities including: A "Black" Brant taken Oct. 24 in Sully County, S.D. (*vide* BCC), three Ross' Geese in South Dakota and three more in North Dakota, two of the latter from near Bottineau Oct. 25-26 (†BGI), and three Greater Scaup from Spiritwood L., near Jamestown Oct. 21-22 (†CAF). A mysterious white goose found dead in Deuel County, S.D., Nov. 2 had the weight and measurements of a Ross', but the bill characteristics (length, "grin patch", lack of warts) of a Snow (BKH). Additional rarities sighted included: five Oldsquaw in c. North Dakota Oct. 8-31 (†CAF), an Oldsquaw and a Black Scoter on the Minot lagoons Oct. 23-Nov. 1 (†GGB), three Black Scoters on Spiritwood L., N.D., Oct. 29 (†CAF), one White-winged Scoter in Meade County, S.D., Nov. 11-14 (NRW, JLB), two at Grand Forks Nov. 3, and an unusually high total of 11 at Ft. Peck Oct. 15-Nov. 8 (CMC). A Com. Merganser Aug. 7 and two ♀ Red-breasteds Nov. 6 were unusual finds for Angostura Res., S.D. (RCR). The highest counts received for commoner species included: 25,000 Mallards at Tewaukon Oct. 31 (CS), 14,250 Gadwall Sept. 15 and 1500 Bufflehead Nov. 6 at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont. (TWP), 200 Wood Ducks Sept. 15 at Fargo (GIO) and 250 at Salyer N.W.R., Oct. 7 (AA), 28 Hooded Mergansers on the Grand Forks lagoons Oct. 21, and 500 Com. Mergansers Nov. 24 at Upper Souris (GGB). Although 2200 Canvasbacks were at Tewaukon Oct. 23 (CS), some reporters noted that it had been a very disappointing season for this species.

**VULTURES AND HAWKS** — A Turkey Vulture at Grand Forks Sept. 29 (GSL) was a very rare occurrence for extreme e. North Dakota. Sightings of Goshawk totaled ten, more than usual, and

included one at Fargo (†MBB), two very far s in Gregory and Yankton Cos., S.D. (WH, GLS), and three in Montana (SJG, DMP). A total of 28 Broad-winged including one beautiful, black-phase adult, passed along the Red R., in 2 hours at Grand Forks Sept. 13 (SOL), and 100 Swainson's rested on fence posts and a stony hillside in Custer County, S.D., Sept. 23 (BMN). A gray-phase Gyrfalcon flew straight at and 40 ft over 4 observers near L. Sakakawea, N.D., Nov. 1 (†GBB, REM, JEB, KL). Reports of Osprey and Peregrine Falcon totaled 14 and 10, respectively. Encouraging were the 15 sightings of Merlins by SJG in Montana, and the 14 sightings around Minot, N.D. (v.o., *vide* GBB).

**CRANES THROUGH PHALAROPES** — More than 35,000 Sandhill Cranes were in Kidder County, N.D., Oct. 20 (CAF). The 250 Am Golden Plovers at the Fargo Lagoons Aug. 18 was an unusual number for fall (MAB, CAS), and one Aug. 7 at Angostura Res., was considered to be very unusual with respect to both time and place as were two carefully studied, summer-plumaged, Short-billed Dowitchers on the same date (RCR). American Woodcock, late and rarely seen in fall, were at Grand Forks Oct. 21 (DOL) and in Deuel County Oct. 28 (J. Cole). An Hudsonian Godwit was observed Oct. 3 in Grand Forks for the fourth consecutive fall (DOL, PS); this species had been considered to be a common spring migrant, but absent in fall. Equally intriguing for the same reason was the report of three White-rumped Sandpipers in Yankton County, S.D., Sept. 6 (WH, JEW). A ♀ **Red Phalarope**, at least the fourth record for North Dakota was present at Chase Lake N.W.R., Aug. 5 (†CAF). More than a thousand Wilson's Phalaropes were on the Grand Forks lagoons in mid-August, and a N. Phalarope on the Minot lagoons Oct. 23 was very late.

**GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — An imm. **Black-legged Kittiwake** soaring above the tailrace at Garrison Dam, N.D., Nov. 27 provided the sixth state record, all within the last 3 years (GBB *et al.*). North Dakota's third record for **Sabine's Gull** was of an immature at the Grand Forks lagoons Oct. 3 (†DOL, PS). An albinistic, imm. Bonaparte's Gull was among the 150 at Ft. Peck Oct. 25 (CMC), and an albinistic Black Tern was with the 100 at Grand Forks Aug. 23. Black-billed Cuckoos are rarely observed after August and thus singles at Grand Forks Sept. 28, Fargo Sept. 25, and Hyde County, S.D., Sept. 29 (JHH) were very late. The earliest Snowy Owl observed was Oct. 10 at Bottineau, N.D. (DTS), and a Barred Owl was in Fargo Oct. 23 (LLF). Saw-whet Owls were found at Grand Forks Oct. 10, Fargo Nov. 11 (GIO), and near Chester, Mont., in November (HMM). Poor-wills are hard to find in fall, but four were seen in s. Custer County, S.D., Aug. 28-Sept. 15 (MJP). Approximately 20 reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were received through Sept. 20, all from the e. two-thirds of the Dakotas. Farther w., where hummingbird identification has sparked controversy, one ♀-plumaged Rufous Hummingbird Aug. 13 (EMS, DHK) and two Calliopes Aug. 3-11 (JLB, DHK) were reported from Rapid City. Another Rufous was at Chester, Mont., Sept. 23-Oct. 8 (HMM) and a ♀ Calliope at Miles City Aug. 30 (SJG).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH THRUSHES** — A ♀ **Red-bellied Woodpecker**, the first state record for Montana, first appeared outside of Chuck Carlson's office window in Ft. Peck Nov. 2 and later found his feeder which it frequented through the end of the period (†CMC). This species had previously been found along the Missouri as far n. as Bismarck. A family group of six Cassin's Kingbirds was observed near their nest site near Miles City through Sept. 7 (SJG). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were identified Aug. 26-Sept. 7 at Grand Forks, Hope (DLK), and Minot (JEB). An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Gregory County, S.D., Aug. 9 was very early and a first for that county (GLS). Gray Jays rarely wander into North Dakota and thus singles Oct. 26 at Spiritwood L. (†CAF), and Nov. 28 at Salyer N.W.R. (†AA) were of interest. A flock of 5000+ Com. Crows was feeding in fields in Meade County, Oct. 14. A Clark's Nutcracker was seen Nov. 7 in Teepee Canyon, Custer Co. (RCR), and a Com. Raven near Chester, Mont., Nov. 30 provided a new record for L6 (HMM). In the e. Dakotas, the strongest migration of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the last 5 years, as many as 5-10 seen per outing, was underway by Aug. 4 at Grand Forks and Aug. 22 in Brown County, S.D. A very early Winter Wren Sept. 9 in Brown County, S.D., was the only report received (DAT). Single Mockingbirds were in Fargo in mid-November (CAS), Aberdeen, S.D., Oct. 24 (DAT), and Yankton County Aug. 2 (WH). A Varied Thrush near Chester, Mont., Nov. 4

supplied a new latilong record (HMM), and a Townsend's Solitaire was in Minot Oct. 25 (REM).

**WARBLERS** — The range maps for warblers in the field guide, *Birds of North America* by Robbins *et al.*, indicate that the migratory routes of several species pass through the e. edge of the Northern Great Plains Region and then swing hundreds of miles to the w. in the Canadian provinces. But, how many of these species, and others with a more easterly range, can be found with regularity in the various localities of the Region? Thanks to the diligence of veteran observers in Fargo—who for many years have accepted the challenges of struggling with confusing fall plumages and searching during the dog days of August when most of the more interesting species pass through—the following warblers are now expected in the Red River Valley each fall: Black-and-white, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Palm, Ovenbird, N. Waterthrush, Com. Yellowthroat, Mourning, Wilson's, Canada, and Am. Redstart. The Connecticut Warbler may also be regular, but is seldom definitely identified. This year, surprisingly (?), these 21 species were also recorded 200 mi farther w. at Minot, and the first 20 were observed in e. South Dakota. Eight species were found in the Black Hills, and 9 in Montana. Additional species considered not to be regular in the areas observed included Single Golden-winged in Grand Forks County Aug. 29 & Sept. 7 (SOL, DOL), a Cape May Sept. 6 in Minot (GBB), Black-throated Blues Oct. 6 & 13 in Fargo (†EHC) and Oct. 13 in Hazen (†DNS), and a MacGillivray's found dead Sept. 2 at New Town (BCP)—all in North Dakota. In Montana, a report of a Cape May near Miles City would provide, if accepted, the second state record (SJG). A ♂ Chestnut-sided at Medicine Lake N.W.R., Aug. 24 supplied the 4th state record (†PDS), and Palm Warblers Oct. 5 & 29 at Miles City (SJG) and Ft. Peck (CMC), respectively, provided the 12th and 13th state records. In South Dakota, a Black-throated Blue was reported for the Capitol Grounds at Pierre Oct. 12 (BCC). Exceptionally late records in South Dakota included a Canada Warbler Oct. 29 and an Am. Redstart Oct. 23 at Aberdeen (DAT). The only report of a Yellow-breasted Chat was of one in Yankton County Sept. 3 (WH).

**ICTERIDS THROUGH CROSSBILLS** — A late Orchard Oriole was found mesmerized under a lawn sprinkler Sept. 13 in Stanley, N.D. (BCP). At Argusville, N.D., a full-plumaged ♂ N. (Baltimore) Oriole was present Oct. 20, 6 weeks after the normal departure date. This observation was by Gale Monson of Arizona, whose account of the seasonal status of birds in 2 townships n.w. of Fargo, published in *Wilson's Bulletin* in 1934, is still the most definitive one yet published for a North Dakota locality. A Scarlet Tanager, rarely seen in fall, was in Fargo Sept. 9 (MBB). However, the most exciting tanager of the season was the ♀ **Summer Tanager** at a feeder in Billings Nov. 18, which represented the first state record for Montana (HWC). Although records for House Finches on the fringes of this Region go back several years, the observations of singles at Aberdeen Nov. 25 (DAT) and at Ft. Peck in late November (CMC) are of more than passing interest. Two Cassin's Finches were observed in Rapid City (NRW) and 10 Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen in the Black Hills Oct. 4 (GAO). There were no reports of Pine Grosbeaks following last year's major influx. Common Redpolls had appeared in all 3 states by the end of the period, the earliest at Fargo Oct. 15 (MAB). Red Crossbills were widespread in North Dakota Aug. 20+, the best showing in 5 years. Several reports from the Dakotas for the rarer White-winged Crossbill included four observations in Minot, Aug. 16-Nov. 14 (GBB), and two banded in Gregory County, S.D., Aug. 27 (GLS).

**SPARROWS THROUGH SNOW BUNTINGS** — Several of the secretive grassland and marsh sparrows become very difficult to find once singing ceases in August. Except for a very late Grasshopper Sparrow Sept. 27 at Fargo (MAB), the last report was Aug. 8 in Yankton County. Baird's Sparrows were singing through Aug. 14 at Long Lake N.W.R., N.D. (RNR), and were last reported Sept. 18 at Jamestown (CAF). The last Le Conte's were 13 in a sunflower field near Jamestown Oct. 7 (CAF), and the latest ever in Deuel County Oct. 28 (BKH). Sharp-tailed Sparrows in North Dakota were last heard Aug. 18 and last seen Sept. 4 (CAF). The first dates for Harris', White-crowned, and White-throated sparrows were all Sept. 13 at Minot where the respective peak counts were 50, 20, and 75 on Oct. 3-4 (GBB, REM). In the Red River Valley White-throated Sparrows far

outnumbered White-crowns, which are uncommon at best. The relative abundance of these 2 species is reversed in the extreme w. Dakotas and Montana. Harris' Sparrows were also very uncommon in the latter areas, but one was at Fort Peck Aug. 13-20 (CMC), and one in Rapid City Oct. 24 (GRB) was the first of the season there. Swamp Sparrows were fairly common in the Red River Valley. Farther w., a surprising ten were recorded Oct. 4 at Minot (GBB), but none were reported for Montana. A flock of 35 Chestnut-collared Longspurs was considered very late Sept. 24 in Meade County, S.D. (JLB). Snow Buntings numbered up in the thousands between Redfield and Belle Fourche, S.D., as early as Nov. 1 (DEK).

**ADDENDA** — Among records for the nesting season received belatedly from South Dakota was a remarkable set for Whitewood L., Kingsbury Co., all June 22 or July 14 (BKH, KHH): 15 Snowy Egrets (nesting confirmed, third state record), 25 Cattle Egret nests, one Louisiana Heron (2nd occurrence in state), ten White-faced Ibises (nesting confirmed, 3rd state record), seven Great Egrets (see above), and three Little Blue Herons. South Dakota's first confirmed records for nesting Great Egrets were established July 5 at L. Albert, Hamlin Co., (Stanley Lundquist, BKH, DEK), and Whitewood L., July 14.

## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Frances Williams

Heavy rains in September and October produced an abundance of food resources, excellent cover and high water levels. November was dry, balmy and beautiful. These conditions resulted in summer residents and fall migrants remaining far past their usual departure dates, but the earliest ever arrivals of Long-eared Owls, Snow Buntings and longspurs were antithetical. [In the text following, place names in *italics* are counties.]

**LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA** — Two well described Arctic Loons at Oklahoma City Oct. 10 apparently represent a new record for the state (JG). One Arctic Loon visited North Platte N.W.R., Neb., Nov. 18 (FZ). A Red-throated Loon was discovered in *Tulsa* Nov. 22 (JCH, m.ob.). A single Horned Grebe appeared at *El Paso* Sept. 6 (JD, SW). Red-necked Grebes were seen in *Dawes*, Neb., Sept. 26 (RR) and at *Lincoln* Nov. 1 (RG). A W. Grebe at *Tulsa* Sept. 28 was early. This species was noted at *Lincoln* Nov. 1 and in *Coffey*, Kans., Oct. 12. An ad. Pied-billed Grebe attended a nest containing two young in *Carson*, Tex., Aug. 20 (KS). White Pelican flocks comprising 2500 birds were present at *Marais Des Cygnes* W.M.A., Kans., Oct. 10 and in *Pawnee*, Okla., Sept. 15. At the latter place, many of the pelicans were found dead or dying Oct. 4, cause unknown. An imm. Brown Pelican found at *El Paso* July 29 was in such a weakened condition it died the next day (CB, JD). Its origin is a matter for speculation. Olivaceous Cormorants and Anhingas were present in a heronry in *Wood*, Tex., Aug. 18 (WP). Anhingas were also seen at *Dallas* Aug. 29 and *L. Texoma* Aug. 3.

**HERONS THROUGH IBISES** — A Green Heron at *Tulsa* Nov. 20 was very late, as was a Great Egret in *Osage*, Kans., Nov. 7. The Cattle Egret population in a *Muskogee*, Okla., heronry was estimated to be 16,000-18,000 individuals Aug. 9 (JCH). About 35 Cattle Egrets visited *Franklin*, Kans., during September and four were found in *Dawes* Sept. 4. Four Louisiana Herons were found at Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Okla., Sept. 28 (JLN). Least Bitterns were discovered at *Cheyenne Bottoms* W.M.A., Kans., Aug. 29 & Sept. 6 (DV) and on *L. Texoma* Aug. 3 (WP). At least five Am. Bitterns were seen in *Crosby*, Tex., during October and November. In *Lee*, Tex., 17 Wood Storks were counted Sept. 3 (JY). There were several late sightings of White-faced Ibises in w. Texas: *Castro* Oct. 9, *Hemphill* Oct. 18, *Val Verde* Nov. 18.

**WATERFOWL** — Two Trumpeter Swans were present in *Sheridan*, Neb., Oct. 10-12 (RR). Six remained at *Crescent Lake* N.W.R., Neb., through November. At *Plattsmouth* W.M.A., Neb., 200,000 Snow Geese were present Nov. 29. Approximately 45% of the flock

California Gulls, considered casual in South Dakota less than a decade ago, were observed at 3 locations. The first confirmation of nesting in the state took place July 3 at *Waubay* L., *Day* Co., (BKH, LLW).

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was comprised of immature birds. White-fronted Geese were observed in *Sheridan* Oct. 10, *Randall*, Tex., Oct. 2, *Carson* Oct. 19. At *Dallas*, two ad. Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were followed by 16 small ducklings July 18 (PJ, AM), and a Wood Duck with four ducklings was observed there Aug. 20. Wood Ducks were seen in *Dawes* and *Sheridan*, Sept. 10-Oct. 1 and in *Cimarron*, Okla., Oct. 13. An Oldsquaw in *Lyon*, Kans., Nov. 25 provided a first county record (DM). One was seen at *Tulsa* Nov. 22 (JCH). White-winged Scoters were found in *Johnson*, Tex., Oct. 23-27 (CE, m.ob.), *Lyon* Nov. 25 (DM) and *North Platte* Nov. 5 (FZ). Surf Scoters were reported in *Lincoln*, Neb., Oct. 31-Nov. 4 (RW, m.ob.) and *Big Spring*, Tex., Oct. 25 (GW, GS). A Ruddy Duck with seven ducklings was present at *Dallas* in August. Hooded Mergansers were observed in *Coffey* Nov. 22, *Cheyenne Bottoms* Nov. 3 and *Osage*, Okla., Nov. 27.

**KITES THROUGH FALCONS** — A bird believed to be a White-tailed Kite was carefully studied at *Crescent L.*, Aug. 19 (RG, EC). A massive migration of Mississippi Kites was observed in *Denton*,

Tex., Aug. 28. Approximately 800 kites sailed by in groups of up to 20 individuals in the Region, there were 32 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 19 Cooper's Hawks reported. Some contributors stated, "Good numbers of Accipiters this fall." In *Crosby*, Tex., a Goshawk was carefully identified Nov. 14 (ML). Heavy rains flooding the Trinity R. bottoms in n. Texas caused rodents to flee to higher ground. Many Red-tailed Hawks hunted in the area and Accipiters had an easy time gathering prey. Several hundred Broad-winged Hawks soared over *Robertson*, Tex., Sept. 20-25. Small groups of Broad-winged were sighted in w. Texas: Amarillo Sept. 28-Oct. 2, Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Oct. 4, *Hutchinson* Sept. 20, and Lubbock Oct. 3-9. There was a widespread movement of Swainson's Hawks Oct. 3-15. A kettle of 38 soared over *Sheridan* Oct. 4. At Oklahoma City a flight of 50, plus ten Turkey Vultures, was observed Oct. 14. Several flocks comprising 200-500 individuals were observed in *Lubbock* and *Crosby* Oct. 2-12. A Rough-legged Hawk had reached Tulsa by Oct. 17. Ferruginous Hawks were seen e. to Lincoln Oct. 26 (JDu) and *Gillespie*, Tex., Nov. 24 (E & KM). Two Harris' Hawks were seen in *Llano*, Tex., Sept. 3. A Bald Eagle in the Davis Mts., Tex., Oct. 23 was unusual for the season (PE). Sixty Ospreys were reported in the Region. Seltman counted at least 25 Prairie Falcons in w. Kansas. Only nine Peregrine Falcons were seen in the Region. A Peregrine photographed at Big Spring July 28 was unusual at that date (GS). Merlins arrived early at Tulsa July 31 (AH, m.ob.), and *Pawnee*, Kans., Aug. 30 (SS). By the end of the period, Merlins were present throughout the Region.

**PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH RAILS** — Greater Prairie Chickens were discovered in *Ottawa*, *Tulsa*, and *Washington*, Okla. A Montezuma Quail was found in *Edwards*, Tex., Sept. 17 (SHS). Apparently a disjunct population of this species still exists on private land in that county. Wild Turkeys had excellent breeding success on the Nebraska Pine Ridge this year, as the fall population was unusually high (RR). Small groups of ad. Whooping Cranes rested briefly at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., Oct. 19-Nov. 16. Only one immature was seen. Eleven Whooping Cranes visited Great Salt Plains Oct. 21. At L. Meredith in the Texas Panhandle, four Whooping Cranes were seen Nov. 9. Three others in the area were with a flock of Sandhill Cranes. A lone Sandhill Crane was seen in a flock of Snow Geese near Muskogee, Okla., Nov. 28 (JMc *et al.*). A Yellow Rail was heard at Cheyenne Bottoms Sept. 27 (m.ob.). Common Gallinules were discovered at Cheyenne Bottoms Sept. 6, Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., Nov. 10, *Hutchinson* Nov. 16, Lubbock Nov. 7 and *Val Verde* Sept. 3-Oct. 3.

**PLOVERS THROUGH PHALAROPES** — Piping Plovers were seen at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., Aug. 20 & Sept. 3. About 100 Am. Golden Plovers fed at Cheyenne Bottoms Sept. 19. At Quivira N.W.R., 313 Snowy Plovers were counted Aug. 7. An Am. Woodcock flew into a window at Oklahoma City and was killed Oct. 24. Seyffert estimated 3000 Long-billed Curlews in one flock in *Castro* Oct. 9, the greatest number he had ever seen at one time. In *Cleveland*, Okla., Grzybowski heard Upland Sandpipers flying over his house at night at an average of 12/hour Aug. 18 and 19/hour Aug. 25. Red Knots were observed at Cheyenne Bottoms Sept. 5 (RB), and *Crosby* July 25 (ML). Very late White-rumped Sandpipers were present at Cheyenne Bottoms Oct. 17 (LM) and Big Spring Oct. 10 (GW, GS). Dunlins were seen in Nebraska at Columbus Nov. 7 (BJR) and *Dawes* Nov. 1 (RR). At Cheyenne Bottoms 1100 Long-billed Sandpipers were reported at 8 localities. Marbled Godwits were noted at El Paso July 12 (KZ), Midland July 18 (JC, AW), and Hagerman N.W.R., July 30 (JB, KH). Two Hudsonian Godwits were at Dallas Aug. 14 (PJ, AM). At Nacogdoches 22 Am. Avocets were counted Oct. 7, a high count for that area (DW). Fledgling Black-necked Stilts were observed at Dallas July 25, providing the first nesting record for the county (PJ, AM). Northern Phalaropes were recorded in *Canadian*, Okla., Aug. 23 (JS, JGN), at Cheyenne Bottoms Aug. 29 (DV), *Tulsa* Sept. 21, 27 (m.ob.), and Midland on the late date of Nov. 1 (m.ob.). A Red Phalarope was observed in *Canadian* Oct. 23-24 (JS, JGN).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — A Herring Gull in *Midland* Nov. 21 was the first at that locality since 1969. An imm. Herring Gull visited L. Somerville, Tex., Sept. 3. A California Gull accompanied Ring-billed Gulls at Crescent L., Sept. 1. At least 50,000 Franklin's Gulls were at John Redmond Res., Kans., Sept. 19 and 25,000 remained as late as Nov. 7. Bonaparte's Gulls were reported at 7 localities, including a concentration of 600 on Keystone L., *Pawnee*, Okla., Nov. 21. An

imm Black-legged Kittiwake was photographed at North Platte Nov. 5 (FZ, SM). Sabine's Gulls visited North Platte Sept. 9 (FZ), Crescent L., Oct. 30 (FZ), Keystone L., Sept. 23-27 (JCH), *Canadian* Oct. 19-20 (JS) and *Crosby* Sept. 13 (KH, m.ob.). A Com. Tern was carefully identified at El Paso Sept. 26 (KZ, BZ). Three Com. Terns accompanied Forster's Terns at Oklahoma City Sept. 30.

**DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — Single Ground Doves appeared at Nacogdoches Oct. 8 and at Grapevine L., on the *Tarrant-Dallas* line Oct. 24. There were many reports of late-lingering Yellow-billed Cuckoos, including one at *Sheridan* Sept. 16 and one at Ft. Worth Oct. 14. A Groove-billed Ani visited a *Val Verde* residence daily through August and September, and was seen as late as Oct. 29. One was at El Paso July 1 (BR) and two at Midland Nov. 1 (m.ob.). A Roadrunner at Tulsa Sept. 9 was the first seen there since 1978. A Flammulated Owl in *Crosby* Sept. 21-22 provided a first county record (KH). A Burrowing Owl Oct. 8-9 gave Tulsa its first record since 1957. Long-eared Owls, which usually do not arrive in the Region until December, were in *Lyon*, Kans., Nov. 16 (BH), *Sheridan* Nov. 21 (RR), Hueco Tanks Nov. 10 (KZ), *Midland* Nov. 21 (m.ob.). Short-eared Owls were located in *Lyon* Nov. 20 (JS), *Tulsa* Nov. 1 & 29, *Ottawa*, Okla., Oct. 10-Nov. 14 (JLN) and Midland Nov. 15 (AW). A road-killed Saw-whet Owl was found in *Dawes* Nov. 23 (RR), a live one was netted at Crescent L., Nov. 14 (FZ), and the species was present in *Lyon* Nov. 14-15 (JS) and Omaha Oct. 28 (*vide MW*).

A Chuck-will's-widow at Nacogdoches Oct. 12 provided a new late record. A Whip-poor-will was found at Oklahoma City Oct. 3. In *Edwards*, Kans., 1000+ Com. Nighthawks passed over in a manner of minutes at sundown Sept. 19 (SS), while at Tulsa 500 were reported Sept. 2.

**SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — More than 10,000 Chimney Swifts roosted in an unused smoke stack at Tulsa Oct. 14 but were entirely gone Oct. 28 (JCH). In *Johnson*, Tex., 450 Chimney Swifts were present Oct. 15 and all were gone the next day (CE). Three Chimney Swifts circled over Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., Aug. 19 (RH). At least three Anna's Hummingbirds visited El Paso (EK *et al.*). One was seen in *Val Verde* on the early date Aug. 10 (V & BH). Single Rufous Hummingbirds brightened *Comanche*, Okla., Aug. 4 (JM), and Muskogee, Okla., Nov. 1-Dec. 3 (CW, m.ob.). In Texas, this species was common at Lubbock and Del Rio and was seen e. to Garland, Coppell, and Ft. Worth. A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird came to a feeder in El Paso Sept. 18-20 (JD). A Golden-fronted Woodpecker visited Big Bend N.P., Nov. 23 (RAH). A Lewis' Woodpecker provided a first record in *Comanche*, Okla., Nov. 14-22 (LA, DM *et al.*). A Williamson's Sapsucker was noted in Big Bend N.P., Sept. 16 (GO). Ladder-backed Woodpeckers were newsworthy in *Woods*, Okla., Oct. 10 (ES) and *Kingfisher*, Okla., Nov. 11 (JS, JGN).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — A Cassin's Kingbird was observed in *Castro* Oct. 9 (KS). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher strayed to Oshgosh, Neb., Oct. 14 (BJR). A congregation of 375 Scissor-taileds was seen in *Johnson*, Tex., Oct. 17 and 272 passed through Hagerman Ref., Sept. 12. An E. Phoebe in *Sheridan* Oct. 12 was late. A Black Phoebe visited Lubbock Nov. 1-13. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded in *Cleveland* Sept. 2 (JG). A W. Wood Pewee at North Platte Oct. 18 was late. Several hundred Bank Swallows swirled over the El Reno, Okla., wastewater ponds Aug. 23. Two Bank Swallows in *Osage*, Okla., Aug. 18 were the first seen there since 1978. A mixed flock of Blue and Scrub jays appeared in *Crosby* Oct. 29. Scrub Jays invaded the El Paso area and a Steller's Jay visited that city Oct. 22-Nov. 2. Three Fish Crows were observed in *Nowata* Aug. 23 (JCH). A Black-billed Magpie was seen at Greenwood, Neb., Sept. 18. This was probably a wild bird, but one at Odessa, Tex., proved to be an escaped pet. White-breasted Nuthatches wandered to *Alfalfa*, Okla., Aug. 21, Hagerman Ref., Aug. 21 and College Station Aug. 7. There was an extensive flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches. They were reported at 22 localities, sometimes in good numbers. Very early sightings were at Albion, Neb., Sept. 6 and Ingram, Tex., Sept. 22.

**WRENS THROUGH WAXWINGS** — Since, as Coggeshall wrote, cats can find the mouse-like Winter Wren better than birders can, the few reports received probably indicate a major flight. A Rock Wren at Crescent L., Oct. 13 extended the last fall date by 3 weeks. A

Gray Catbird was discovered in *Val Verde* Oct. 4. A Wood Thrush provided a first record at Muleshoe N.W.R., Sept. 28 (ML) and one was banded in *Comanche*, Okla., Oct. 7 (LMc). A Gray-cheeked Thrush visited *Crosby* Oct. 2 (ML). Townsend's Solitaires arrived at Wichita Nov. 19 and in *Rush* Oct. 27. Six were seen in a small area in *Scott*, Kans., Oct. 31. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher netted and photographed at Crescent L., Sept. 19 represented the first known Nebraska record w. of *Lancaster* (FZ). A pair of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers at Hueco Tanks Nov. 11 provided a third record for the park (KZ). Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported at only 5 localities. Sprague's Pipits were located in *Cleveland* Oct. 12-Nov. 8, Tulsa Oct. 21, 25, Nov. 1, *Johnson*, Tex., Nov. 13. A flock of six Bohemian Waxwings appeared briefly at Crescent L., Nov. 17.

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — A Yellow-throated Vireo at Tulsa Sept. 22 was late. Philadelphia Vireos were carefully identified at Ft. Worth Oct. 14 (MP) and Hueco Tanks Sept. 15 (JD). A Bell's Vireo at College Station provided the first fall record there since 1969. An ad. Bell's Vireo and two immatures visited a yard at Lawton, Okla., Aug. 13-Sept. 12 (JM) and three individuals were seen in the Kerrville area during August. Late Black-and-white Warblers were observed in *Comanche* Oct. 10, *Kinney*, Tex., Nov. 26 and Big Bend N.P., Nov. 18. A Prothonotary Warbler on the Texas A&M Univ. campus Sept. 25 provided the latest fall record by 13 days and the first fall record since 1972 (RF). A Worm-eating Warbler constituted a first record at Muleshoe N.W.R., Oct. 30 (CS, m.ob.). A Blue-winged Warbler in *Val Verde* was far w. of its usual route (GB). Tennessee Warblers were discovered at Hueco Tanks Sept. 19 (BZ) and Midland Oct. 24 (FW). Orange-crowned Warblers were unusually abundant throughout w. Texas. The largest number was found in *Gray* Oct. 7, when 45 were counted (KS). A Colima Warbler was carefully identified at Alpine, Tex., Sept. 18 (G & EW), providing one of the few records away from the Chisos Mts. A Lucy's Warbler was present at El Paso Aug. 9 (DD, DT).

A N. Parula was found at Muleshoe Sept. 27-28 (KH, ML). Fourteen Yellow Warblers were killed at a TV tower at Albion Aug. 23. A Yellow Warbler at Ft. Worth Oct. 21 was very late. A Magnolia Warbler was netted at Crescent L., Sept. 5 and others were observed there Sept. 7 & 16. One was found in *Crosby* Sept. 22 (KH). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was banded at Lincoln Sept. 30 (MBO) and one provided a first record at Muleshoe Aug. 30 (KH, ML). A Black-throated Blue Warbler from the e. and a Townsend's Warbler from the w. were both found in a Midland yard Oct. 24 (RMS). A Townsend's Warbler was netted at Crescent L., Aug. 29 (FZ) and one was seen at El Paso Oct. 25 (JD, BZ). A Hermit Warbler was found in the Franklin Mts., near El Paso Sept. 13 (JSp *et al.*). A Cerulean Warbler provided a new county record at Lubbock Sept. 27 (ML). A Blackburnian Warbler was sighted in *Randall* Sept. 15 (WW). Six Grace's Warblers foraged through the oaks in Big Bend N.P., Sept. 5 (NJ). Chestnut-sided Warblers visited *Crosby* Aug. 27 (ML) and Ft. Worth Oct. 14 (MP). A Bay-breasted Warbler was sighted in Tulsa Oct. 13 (JCH). A Blackpoll was seen in *Crosby* Sept. 22 (KH). Pine Warblers lingered in *Val Verde* Oct. 24-Nov. 17 (V & BH). A N. Waterthrush at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Aug. 23 was the earliest ever. Kentucky Warblers were sighted at College Station Sept. 4 (GD) and *Kendall* Sept. 24 (E & KM). A Mourning Warbler was seen at Sherman, Tex., Sept. 3 (KH). Hooded Warblers strayed w. to Lubbock Sept. 6, Davis Mts., Sept. 15 and El Paso Oct. 12-17. Tower kills at Albion Sept. 3 included a Canada Warbler. A late Am. Redstart visited *Crosby* Nov. 14.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — Bobolinks were found at Quivera N.W.R., Sept. 6 and *Osage*, Okla., Sept. 5. At Omaha, a N. Oriole visited a feeder Nov. 8-30+. A Rusty Blackbird was sighted in *Val Verde* Sept. 21 (V & BH). Evening Grosbeaks reached *Sarpy* Nov. 9, *Amarillo* Oct. 24, *Muleshoe* Oct. 30, *El Paso* Nov. 4. A Cassin's Finch was found at Hueco Tanks Nov. 1 (KZ). Two Pine Grosbeaks visited a feeder at Elkhorn, Neb., Nov. 12 (GJ). Three Com. Redpolls in *Dawes* Nov. 6 were early by 9 days (RR). Red Crossbills were more abundant on the Nebraska Pine Ridge this summer and autumn than in the past 13 years. Flocks of hundreds were present in September and October. This species made news at Crescent L., Lincoln, Wichita, Perry Res., Kans., *Cleveland* and Big Bend N.P. Several White-winged Crossbills were seen in Halsey N.F., Neb., Aug. 17 (RG). A Green-tailed Towhee was found in *Crosby* on the unusual date July 26. Le Conte's Sparrows were

recorded at 6 localities. A Grasshopper Sparrow was feeding nestlings in *Texas*, Okla., Aug. 16 (WE). A Grasshopper Sparrow was seen at Tulsa on the late date Oct. 11. Both Grasshopper and Baird's sparrows were visiting a bird bath at Alpine during November (G & EW). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was killed at a Coweta, Okla., TV tower Oct. 7 (JLN). A flock of White-throated Sparrows comprising 32 birds was seen in *Randall* Nov. 28, an unusual number so far w. A single bird was seen at Hueco Tanks Nov. 1. Fifty Fox Sparrows inhabited one *Crosby* thicket Nov. 14 and three were in *Randall* Nov. 28. Lincoln's Sparrows were amazingly abundant throughout w. Texas. Two Swamp Sparrows were found in *Comanche* Nov. 11.

McCown's Longspurs arrived early and in numbers in the Texas Panhandle. A few Lapland Longspurs at Lubbock Nov. 27 were also early. A Smith's Longspur provided a first record in *Sheridan* Sept. 27 (RR). Snow Buntings were more than a month early in Nebraska at Crescent L., Oct. 27, *Sarpy* Nov. 8, *Lancaster* Nov. 14, *Dawes* Nov. 11.

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** — *Kansas*: Amelia Betts, Roger Boyd, Mark Collie, Mel Cooksey (MCy), Bob Hamilton, Steve Kingswood, Duane Mitchell, Lloyd Moore, Jean Schulenberg, Scott Seltman, Sam W. Sinderson, Donald Vannoy. *Nebraska*: Evelyn Conrad, Jim Ducey (JDu), Ruth Green, Gladys Johnson, Sherry McCoy, Wayne Mollhoff, Mabel B. Ott, Richard Rosche, B.J. Rose, Melba Wigg, Rick Wright, Fred Zeilemaker. *Oklahoma*: Larry Adams, Ella Delap, Wayne Easley, Joe Grzybowski, Elizabeth Hayes, Alice Hensy, J.C. Hoffman, Jeri McMahon (JMc), Janet McGee, Louis McGee (LMc), David Morris (DMo), John G. Newell, James L. Norman, John Shackford (JSd), Eddie Stegall, Jack Tyler, Charles Wallis, Paul Wilson. *Texas*: Peggy Acord, Keith Arnold, Carole Beach, James Beach, Anne Bellamy, Ginny Boland, Lillian Brown, R. D. Coggeshall, John Cys, Jeff Donaldson, Gil Doran, Diane Dutton, Charles Easley, Pansy Espy, Robert Ferrell, Karl Haller (KH), Vern & Bernice Hayes, Richard Heil, Kelly Himmel, R.A. Huggins, Nick Jackson, Polly Jackson, Earle King, Mark Lockwood, A. Marsh, Ernest & Kay Mueller, R.L. Neill, Gard Otis, Margaret Parker, Warren Pulich, Bettie Roberts, Kenneth Seyffert, Sylvestre H. Sorola, Garry Spence, John Sproul (JSp), Cliff Stogner, Rose Marie Stortz, Dorothy Tobkin, Barry Vermillion, Gene Warren, Allen Wemple, Winnie Wester, Geth & Ed White, Scott Wilson, David Wolf, Jim Yantis, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer.—FRANCES WILLIAMS, Rt. 4, 2001 Broken Hills Rd. E., Midland, TX 79701

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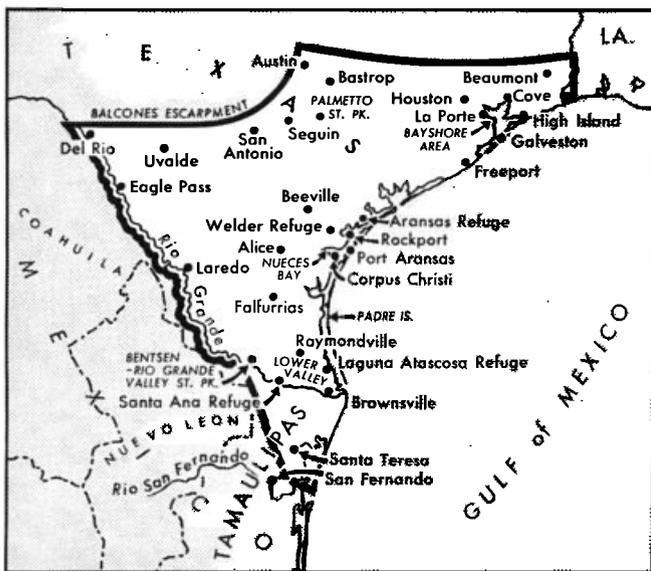
## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Victor L. Emanuel

After a generally mild and dry August, September began with a tropical depression followed by two cold fronts resulting in above-average precipitation in most areas and below-normal temperatures. Temperatures were normal through the remainder of September, but rainfall was below normal in most areas until early October. Rainfall was above normal at most locations in October. November was mostly dry and mild until the last week when above normal-rainfall occurred on the Upper Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.).

Many observers commented on the poor fall migration. Lack of rainfall during key migration times was responsible for the absence of spectacular "pile-ups" on the U.T.C., according to J. Morgan. Morgan speculated that during fall migration birds are under less stress than in the spring, since much of their migration route is over land prior to reaching the Texas coast. Thus even if they are grounded by rain they continue their migration as soon as the rain stops. On October 7 Morgan and Gallucci arrived at High Island about fifteen minutes after first light. There had been light overnight rains and some morning fog. The woods were filled with migrant birds, but before 9:00 a.m., the migrants had gone. During the remainder of the day they experienced the same phenomenon several times. Following a rain shower a migrant trap would be filled with small birds, but within the hour they would disappear. This situation contrasts with spring migration when birds reaching the Texas coast have at times flown across the Gulf of Mexico battling headwinds and rain. These individuals are likely to be more stressed and to put down in coastal

Hawk Watch Sept 26 tallied 469 Wood Storks from 12 stations w of Corpus Christi.



S.A.

The discovery of a **Jabiru** on the Oso Bay in Corpus Christi Sept. 6 by Bob Barth touched off a sensation among birders in Texas and throughout the country. Hundreds of observers watched this huge Neotropical stork feeding alongside many other waders. The Jabiru received more publicity than has been given to any other bird sighted in Texas. Stories appeared in the Corpus Christi paper almost every day accompanied by color photographs. The Jabiru was seen by television viewers on the local news. Traffic jams occurred at favored viewing sites. The Chamber of Commerce supplied information on how to find the Jabiru. There was no indication that this was an escapee from a zoo. This was the fifth Jabiru record for South Texas. All previous records have been during the late summer when Wood Storks migrate N to South Texas from their Mexican breeding colonies. National Audubon Society research teams counted 5 Jabirus in the Usumacinta Delta in s.e. Mexico in July 1972. They estimated the total Jabiru population in this region at 47 individuals. There is some indication that Jabirus are increasing in Mexico. The Corpus Jabiru climbed high on a thermal Sept. 18 and departed to the s.w. (SB).

migrant traps for at least the remainder of the day. Although large concentrations of warblers were not often found, the variety of species was excellent with 33 species of warblers reported in the U.T.C., in October. Wintering hawks and sparrows were late in appearing in numbers.

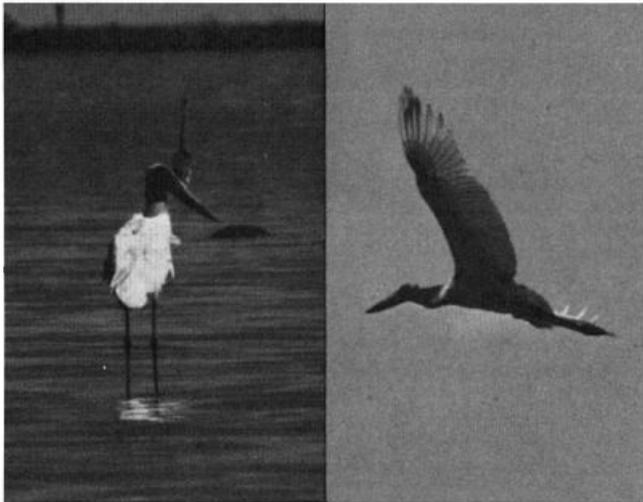
The event of the season was undoubtedly the occurrence of a Jabiru at Corpus Christi September 6-18.

**SHEARWATERS, PELICANS** — Cory's Shearwaters are now known to be regular in small numbers in the fall off the Texas coast. Four were seen Sept. 19 off Port Aransas (BW, DW) and 12 were observed Oct. 10 about 50 mi e. (CC). Brown Pelicans, which all but disappeared from the Texas coast in the early 1960s, are continuing their dramatic resurgence. An influx of sub-ad. and ad. Brown Pelicans from Mexico swelled the total Texas population to 500 ± individuals. The count of nesting pairs in Texas was 57 (DB). A most unusual observation was the sighting of a Brown Pelican w. of Houston Aug. 29 about 75 mi from the Gulf of Mexico (JM).

**BOOBIES THROUGH FLAMINGOS** — Masked Boobies were reported off Port Aransas Aug. 15 (3, all immature), Sept. 29 (two), and Oct. 10 (3 immatures and one adult). An imm. Masked Booby was seen off Boca Chica Sept. 8. An early Double-crested Cormorant was seen on South Padre I., Aug. 20. This species was abundant in South Texas by Oct. 1 (JCA). Large breeding colonies of Cattle Egrets were located in the Corpus Christi area and in the Austin area. Both colonies were active well into August. The fifth annual Coastal Bend

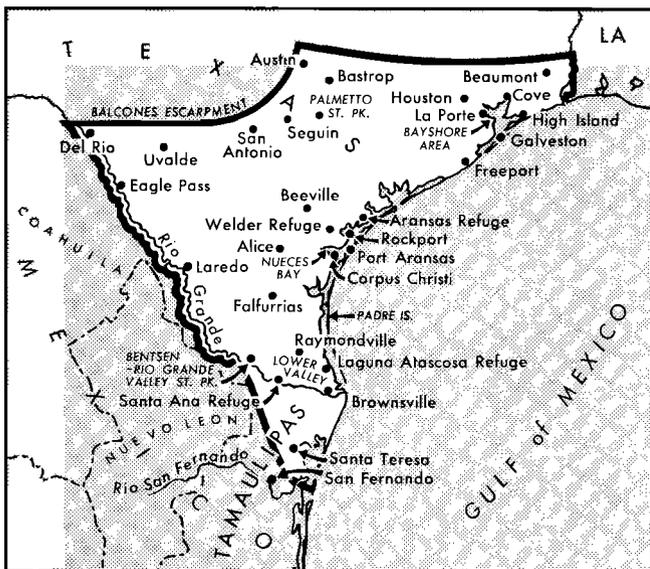
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Jabiru, Corpus Christi, Tex., Sept. 18, 1981. Photo/Ted L. Eubanks, Jr.

**VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS** — The only Swallow-tailed Kite report was of one bird Sept. 26 w. of Corpus Christi (JCA, BB). A notable concentration of 1000 Mississippi Kites was reported from Chambers County Aug. 29 (DD). A late sighting was of 13 near Austin Nov. 8. Marsh Hawks were late in arriving and seen in lower-than-normal numbers. The same was the case for Red-tailed Hawks. The largest concentration of Swainson's Hawks was 3000 near Austin Oct. 14. There were no gigantic concentrations of Broad-winged Hawks observed this fall. The Coastal Bend Hawk Watch Sept. 26 tallied only 767 Broad-wingeds, the lowest total ever (CS), but 40,000 were counted Sept. 28-Oct. 2 near Corpus. The only other major Broad-winged flights were of 8000 Sept. 17-19 along the entire coast, 2500 in Austin Oct. 6, and a flock said to be "a mile long and one-fourth mile wide" observed w. of Austin Oct. 7 at noon just ahead of a front. The last concentration reported was 2000 in Austin Oct. 14. Along US 77 between Sarita and Raymondville 14 White-tailed Hawks were counted Dec. 7 (VE, JLR). A Golden Eagle seen on the Welder Wildlife Ref., Oct. 27 was very rare for the Texas coastal bend (CC, GB). An ad. Bald Eagle migrating through Austin Aug. 28 was most unusual (J & BR). An Am. Kestrel near McAllen Aug. 22 was early (JCA). Between late September and late October 157 Peregrine Falcons were banded on South Padre I. This represents a tremendous increase over previous years and is believed to be the largest number of Peregrines ever banded at one location (KR).



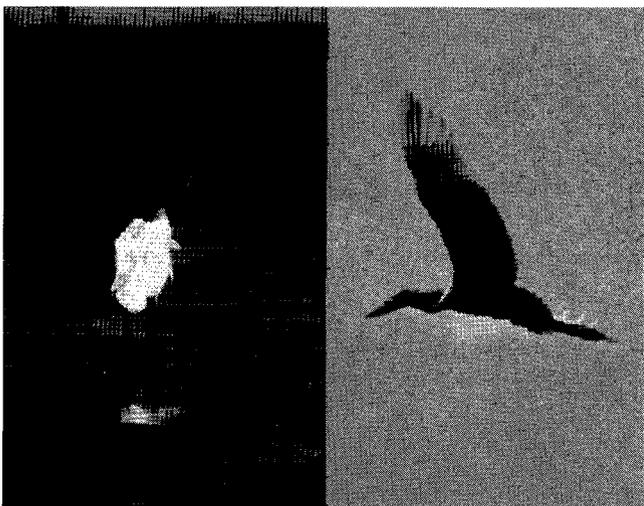
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reports are noteworthy Two on Aug 4 in Houston, the earliest ever (NL), one at High I., Oct. 18 (RP).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Black-headed Grosbeaks were reported on the U T C., as follows: one Oct. 3 at Freeport, one Oct. 6 w. of Galveston (JH), two Oct. 18 at High I.

Two Clay-colored Sparrows were seen on the Bolivar Pen., Oct. 11 (TBF). A Seaside Sparrow was noted in mangroves near Brownsville Oct 4 (CS). An early Pine Siskin was seen at Bentsen S.P., Nov. 1 (JCA).

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS** — Tom Ammerman, Edie and Nina Arnold, John C. Arvin, Bob Barth, Gene Blacklock, David Blankenship, Sheriton Burr, Steve Calver, Charlie Clark, Wes Cureton, David Dauphine, Victor Emanuel, Ted Eubanks, Jr., T. Ben Feltnr, Dave Ferry, Tony Gallucci, John Gower, Jane Hamilton, Richard Harris, Sam Jojola, Steve Labuda, Nettie Lyons, Jim Morgan, Noel Pettingell, Randy Pinkston, Barbara and John Ribble, Ken Riddle, John L. Rowlett, Will Russell, Willie Sekula, Chuck Sexton, Dan Schmidt, Elton Stillwell, Bret Whitney, David Wolf.—VICTOR L. EMANUEL, P. O. Box 33008: Austin, TX 78764.

## NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/Helmut Grünberg

Our Region experienced a relatively mild fall season, especially in November, while the total precipitation was close to the long-term average. Abundance and distribution of bird species appeared to have been normal. A total of 173 species was observed indicating that some migrating species were overlooked (*e.g.*, Sora, Wandering Tattler, Greater Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher, *Empidonax* species, Wheatear, Hermit Thrush, Warbling Vireo, Red-winged Blackbird, Golden-crowned Sparrow).

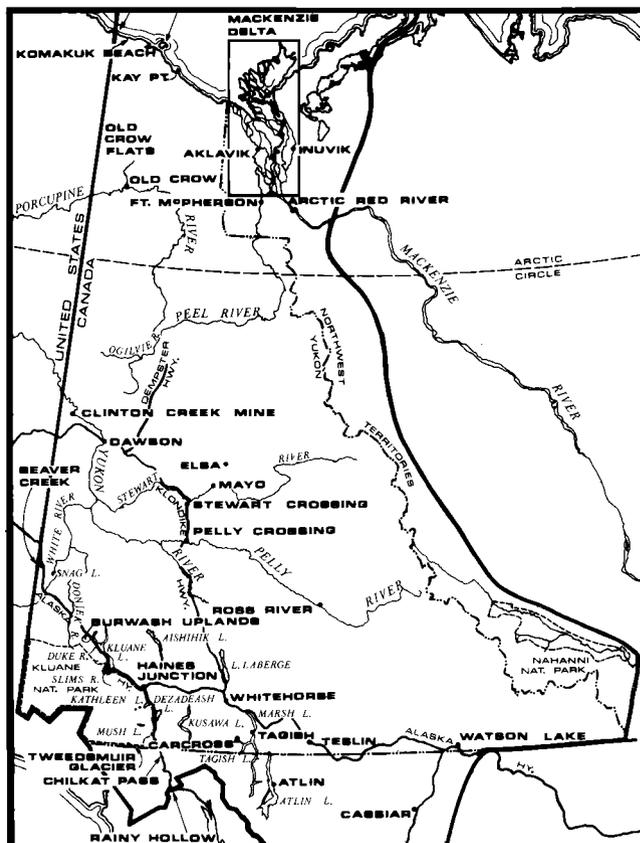
In this report, some emphasis has been placed on observations made in the northern part of the Region, especially in the MacKenzie Delta of the Northwest Territories and the adjacent north coast of the Yukon, since we do not get reports from the Arctic very often.

**LOONS THROUGH COOTS** — Of the 4 loon species observed, only the Yellow-billed Loon was rare. One individual was seen in the MacKenzie Delta, N.W.T., Aug. 20 (HG, WH). A surprisingly large number of the rare W. Grebe were observed. Seven were noted Sept. 7 and one Sept. 12 on Graham Inlet, Tagish L., n. British Columbia (MBR). Near the mouth of Blow R., n. Yukon, at least 55 "Black" Brant and six Snow Geese were seen Aug. 10. Associated with these Snow Geese and a small group of White-fronted Geese was an apparently partly albinistic White-fronted Goose with white back and wing coverts (HG, WH). About 50 Snow Geese were observed in a slough of the Yukon R., near Marsh L., Oct. 7 (MLa), and eight were seen in Whitehorse Sept. 8 (DS). A flock was heard at night in the Ladue R. area, w. Yukon Sept. 17 (RH). A late Gadwall was seen at Charlie L., Fort St. John area, B.C., Sept. 24 (CS). A belated summer report that reached the regional editor together with the notes for the current season: two ♂ and one ♀ Gadwall at the sewage lagoon of Inuvik, N.W.T., June 28, 1981 (MBE). This represents one of the northernmost reports for this species. Four ♂ Hooded Mergansers were observed on a small lake in Whitehorse (second record for the Yukon) Sept. 22 (HG).

A Swainson's Hawk was identified at Ladue R., Aug. 26 (RF). At Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse, an Osprey was observed Sept. 13 (HG, WH). A "probable" but convincing sight record of a Broad-winged Hawk was received for the Cecil L., area near Fort St. John Sept 27 (CS). Gyrfalcon and Peregrine Falcon observations were reported by 8 observers in the Yukon.

Two ♂ Blue Grouse, probably of the Northern Rocky Mountain race (*D.o. richardsonii*), were seen near Fort St. John Oct. 5 (GS, *vide* CS). A white crane was spotted among a flock of Sandhill Cranes that stopped in the fields of Pelly Farm, Yukon, during fall migration in September (HB). Attempts were made to photograph the bird (LC). According to the ornithologists at the Yukon Wildlife Department, D Mossop and R. Hayes, the identity of this bird is not certain yet (*pers. comm.*). At least 23 Am. Coots were noted near Pelly Crossing, Yukon Aug. 29 (HG, WH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The Arctic Coast of the Yukon and the MacKenzie Delta were rich in shorebirds. All uncommon and rare observations of this group of birds were made by HG and WH: A Black-bellied Plover was seen near the mouth of Blow R., Yukon Aug. 10. Up to 20 Ruddy Turnstones were observed at Shingle Pt., Yukon n. coast Aug. 4-8. One was noted near Duke R., s.w. Yukon Sept. 5 (WH only) Whimbrels in small numbers (up to three or more) were observed along the Yukon n. coast and in the MacKenzie Delta, Yukon and N.W.T., Aug. 6-16. One of the few Canadian records and



the first one for the Yukon of a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was obtained by HG and WH when one imm. individual, loosely associated with ten Pectoral Sandpipers, was observed and photographed from close distance at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse Sept. 13. Up to three Baird's Sandpipers were noted at Shingle Pt., Aug. 5-7 and one on the mudflats of Crooked Channel, MacKenzie Delta, N.W.T., Aug. 19-20. One Dunlin was observed near the mouth of Blow R., Yukon Aug 10 and up to five on the mudflats of Crooked Channel Aug. 19-20. A surprisingly large number of Stilt Sandpipers, thought to be quite rare, were observed in the n. Yukon and (mostly) the N.W.T. portion of the MacKenzie Delta: one at the mouth of Walking R., Yukon Aug 4, seven at Shallow Bay, N.W.T., Aug. 15, and up to 50 at the mudflats of Crooked Channel Aug. 18-20. Two W. Sandpipers were noted at the mouth of Walking R., Aug. 1, one at Shingle Pt., Aug. 4, two at the mouth of Blow R., Aug. 10 and at least four on the mudflats of Crooked Channel Aug. 19. One was observed at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse Sept. 13. Two Hudsonian Godwits made a brief appearance at Walking R., Aug. 1, and two were flying along the coast near Shingle Pt., Aug. 6. A single Sanderling was associated with two Ruddy Turnstones at Shingle Pt., Aug. 8.

**GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — When attempting to distinguish between Herring Gull and Thayer's Gull, note that only a few positive identifications of Thayer's Gull were made on the basis of the distribution of black-and-white at the wing tips: one to three at the mouth of Walking R., Yukon n. coast Aug. 2-4, and one at Moose

Channel, n. Yukon Aug. 11 (HG, WH). The last record of a Franklin's Gull this season came from Charlie L., near Fort St. John Sept. 6 (CS). Six individuals of the rare Black-legged Kittiwake were seen at Komakuk, n. Yukon Aug. 19 (ET, *fide* MBe).

A Mourning Dove was observed at Dezadeash L., s.w. Yukon Nov. 13 (BL). A Boreal Owl was noted at Tillei L., Logan Mts., s.e. Yukon in September (JFri), and a "probable" one was seen along the Dempster Hwy., in mid November (JFri, *fide* RF). The last Rufous Hummingbird at Graham Inlet, n. B.C. stayed until Aug. 10 (MBr). A probable Rufous Hummingbird was noted in Teslin, s. Yukon Aug. 16 (LG) and another "probable" one in Whitehorse Sept. 25 (JW, *fide* RC).

**PERCHING BIRDS** — A lone Tree Swallow appeared lost in the fog of the Arctic Ocean at Shingle Pt., Aug. 8 (HG, WH). One Blue Jay was seen at Charlie L., and one at Kin Park near Fort St. John Sept. 7 (CS). One was noted at Montney, n. of Fort St. John Oct. 27 (GS, *fide* CS). One or two Mountain Chickadees were regularly observed at a feeder in Whitehorse Sept. 20+ (D & LS). **Gray-headed Chickadees**, rarely seen even in the n. because of their inaccessible habitat, were observed and photographed in the willow jungle of the MacKenzie Delta of N.W.T: two or three were followed for an hour at a side channel of Napoiak Channel (68°39'N, 134°55'-55½'W) Aug. 16. At least three were observed several km from the above-mentioned area Aug. 17 and at least one near Crooked Channel Aug. 18-19. Another one was sighted farther e. of this area Aug. 22 (HG, WH).

There were a number of Red-breasted Nuthatch observations this season, notably one at Yellowknife Aug. 24 (possibly the first one ever seen here—DMu), a high count of ten near Atlin, B.C., Sept. 7 (HG, PM) and a late observation s. of L. Laberge Nov. 14 (HG, WH).

Apparently there was a northerly migration of this species after the breeding season. Two Starlings were seen in Dawson, Yukon, Oct. 1 (RF). Only one Palm Warbler and one Am. Redstart observation were recorded in the Fort St. John area this fall, near Charlie L., Sept. 4-5, respectively (CS).

Hoary Redpolls often in mixed flocks with Com. Redpolls were noted by several observers. The southernmost observation came from the Fort St. John area. Up to 12 were seen Nov. 1-11 (CS). It is interesting to note that CS is "wondering about the value of that supposed field mark", referring to the pure white rumps and undertail coverts, as RF, HG and others have wondered before him. Pine Siskins, Red Crossbills and, above all, White-winged Crossbills were sighted in unusually large numbers in many parts of the Region (m.ob.). A Harris' Sparrow was observed at the sewage pond of Inuvik Sept. 3 (MBe). Two Swamp Sparrows were seen n. of Fort St. John Sept. 20 (CS). Smith's Longspur appeared to have been the most common longspur along the Yukon n. coast in the first half of August. Up to 30 per day were identified. However, at least half of all the longspurs were recorded as longspur sp. (HG, WH)

**CONTRIBUTORS** — M. Bentley (MBe), F. Berger, H. Bradley, M. Brook (MBr), R. Carlson, L. Caruthers, G. Esau, J. Fraser (JFra), J. Frisch (JFri), R. Frisch, L. Geddes, D. Gordon, W. Harms, R. Hayes, G. Johnston, M. Lammers (MLa), M. Ledergerber (MLE), R. Lewis, B. Liddle, P. Mantle, D. Mossop (DMo), D. Muirhead (DMu), T. Munson, P. Osborne, K. Ostrom, L. Otto, G. Saxon, D. & L. Schuler, C. Siddle, E. Tull, J. Wheelton.—**HELMUT GRÜNBERG**, Yukon Conservation Society, 302 Steele Street, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, Y1A 2C5.

## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

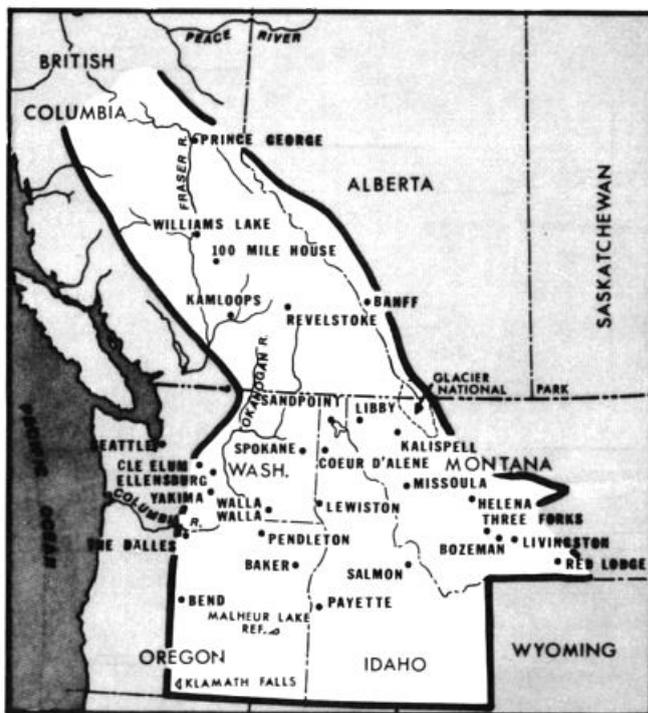
/Thomas H. Rogers

Fall weather over the Region was in general warmer and drier than normal. What little snow fell in a few higher and more northerly valleys did not persist. As a result a large number of birds lingered much later than usual, particularly waterfowl, which took advantage of lakes and ponds that remained unfrozen until nearly the end of November.

**LOONS AND GREBES** — Two Arctic Loons on L. Lenore, Grant Co., Wash., Nov. 29 were 3 weeks later than usual (JA). Single birds were seen in the Nampa, Ida., area Nov. 8-17 (A & HL). Broods of Red-necked Grebes were on Conconully L., Okanogan Co., Wash., Aug. 3 and on Swan L., s.w. of Republic, Wash., Aug. 4. Western Grebes moved through Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., Sept. 15+, 4-5 weeks earlier than usual, and peaked at 40, compared to ten last year.

**PELICANS AND CORMORANTS** — The largest number of White Pelicans sighted in the Potholes Res., s. of Moses L., Wash. was 85, down from last year's 250. Hundreds were on Am. Falls Res., w. of Pocatello, Ida., Aug. 27. Nesting pairs of Double-crested Cormorants continued to increase at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., with 235 pairs at Malheur L. Last year's count there was 180 and 1978's, only 20. One bird was around Libby Dam on the Kootenai R., Lincoln Co., Mont., Oct. 11+ (CW); one was on the river near Kootenai N.W.R., Aug. 12, and one was seen on the refuge Oct. 24 (LDN). An imm. Double-crested appeared on the Green Lakes, Three Sisters Wilderness, Ore., at 6500 ft elev., July 25 (JGO).

**HERONS THROUGH IBISES** — Great Blue Herons have established a colony of 11 nests at the e. end of Moyie L., s. of Cranbrook, B.C. and a herony with 5 nests was found at Downs L., 8 mi e. of Sprague, Wash. (DTa). A Green Heron was along the Snake R., near the upper end of Am. Falls Res., Aug. 15 (CHT). Unprecedented numbers of Cattle Egrets appeared in s. British Columbia: one at Vernon Nov. 1-21; two at Nakusp Nov. 8-25 (GD); three at Grindrod Nov. 21 (MM); 15 at Revelstoke Nov. 15-24 (JW), and one at Balfour, Nov. 27 (MM). One was sighted at Kootenai N.W.R., Nov. 19 (LDN)



and five were photographed near Lewiston, Ida., Nov. 18 (*fide* MK). Great Egret nesting pairs continued their decline at Malheur N.W.R., with only 170 cf. to 400 in 1978. However 450+ of the birds were feeding at Malheur L., Sept. 1. Snowy Egret numbers there were about average. Black-crowned Night Heron numbers there continued to drop from a high of 730 pairs in 1979 to 270 this year. Osoyoos, B.C., had three birds Sept. 9-12 (JK). An ad. and two imm. **Least Bitterns** were found in the Malheur nesting colony for the first sighting since 1977 (ST). White-faced Ibis continued its phenomenal success there with 650 pairs, up from 190 in 1978.

**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swan numbers on the Pend Oreille R., in n. Idaho were 214 Nov. 11, 2-3 times normal (I.F.G.). Trumpeter Swans for the Centennial Valley, Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., averaged 330. Fledged cygnets on and off the refuge there numbered 50. Two Trumpeters were on the Clark Fork R., near Noxon, Mont., Nov. 16 (CW). At Malheur N.W.R., nine cygnets fledged but only two survived to Oct. 6, when the total Trumpeter count was 62. Henrys L., to the e. in Idaho had eight Nov. 14 and Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., had a peak of 15 on Oct. 26.

Canada Goose peaks at November's end were 3330 at Turnbull and 9430 at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida., both somewhat above normal. The Canada peak at Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., was 3800, highest in 10 years. In n. Idaho their numbers were decidedly up, with a peak of 500+ Nov. 13 on the Pend Oreille, Lower Coeur d'Alene and Lower St. Jo R.s; a peak of 3900 at Kootenai N.W.R., in late September was 105% over last year's. At least 13 Cackling Geese were on Park L., Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 25 (JA). The only White-fronted Geese reported were: up to ten at Stratford, Wash. (JA; BW); up to eight at Bend, Ore. (TC), and only one at Richland (REW). A massive movement of many hundreds of Snow Geese passed over Bozeman, Mont., the night of Nov. 4 and a flock passed over Bend the night of Oct. 8. A single blue-phase bird was seen at Richland for the fourteenth consecutive year (REW). A Ross' Goose was shot by a hunter at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. (*vide* CP).

Deer Flat's Mallard peak of 375,000 was well above the ten year average. Duck numbers on the Pend Oreille, Lower Coeur d'Alene and St. Jo R.s were for most species well above normal; most impressive were the nearly 43,000 Mallards Oct. 16, >38,000 Am. Wigeons on the same date, and 21,500 Redheads, Canvasbacks numbered 500 there, the highest ever, but Lesser Scaup and Com. Goldeneye counts were very low. Minidoka N.W.R., had a peak of 13,100 Mallards (low) and Turnbull 12,000 (above average). Kootenai N.W.R., and Creston W.M.A., to the n. in Canada reported low duck numbers, the birds apparently overflying those areas.

Duckling production at Malheur N.W.R., was down to 30,000, the lowest in 4 years; last year's was 50,000. Of the 5 major nesting species there, Redhead and Ruddy Ducks had the greatest percentage decline. Canvasback total numbers there dropped to 2070 from last year's 15,375, supposedly because of high water levels and an excessive carp population. The count of 1900 Canvasback at Minidoka was decidedly low.

Among the rarities a Wood Duck bagged by a hunter near Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., was very unusual there (RRS). Single ♂ Oldsquaws appeared at Obed L., 30 km e. of Hinton, Alta., Oct. 31 (BW); on Browns L., s. of Ovando, Mont. (SF), and on the W. Richland, Wash. sewage pond in late October (TG, REW). One bird was sighted at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nov. 17 (A & HL). White-winged Scoters were becoming a bit more common at Kootenai N.W.R., with three Oct. 7 and two Nov. 13 & 21 (LDN). On the Snake R., near Homedale, Ida., a hunter shot one in November (*vide* ECB). A few were on L. Lenore, Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 25-Nov. 29, 12 on the latter date (JA, BW, RF); one was on the Columbia R., at Bridgeport Nov. 4 (VM) and another on Patterson L., near Winthrop, Wash., Nov. 11 (GB). The Link R., Klamath Falls, Ore., had one Nov. 14-22 (SS). Surf Scoter records were up. One at Malheur N.W.R., Oct. 15 was the first there since 1943. (MA, CDL) and one was sighted on L. Helena in Montana Nov. 14 (GH *et al.*). In Washington, Bridgeport had one Nov. 4 (VM); L. Lenore one Oct. 25, and the Spokane R., in downtown Spokane, one Oct. 7 (JA). Four Red-breasted Mergansers stayed on the s. end of Upper Klamath L., Klamath Falls Nov. 14+ (SS). A ♂ and possibly three ♀ Hooded Mergansers were on the Grand View sewage pond and five males on ponds near Bruneau, Ida., Nov. 29 (DT).

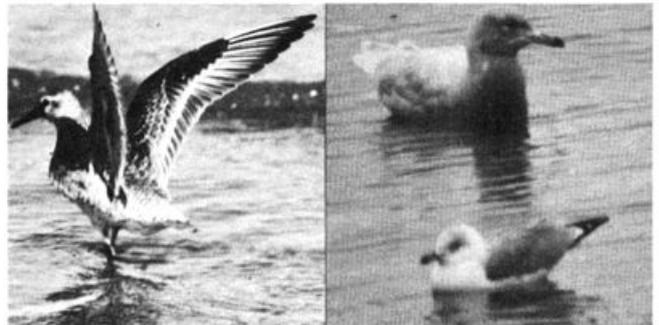
**VULTURES AND HAWKS** — An unusual concentration of Turkey Vultures, 40 in one tree, was sighted at Fish L., near L. Wenatchee, Chelan Co., Wash., Sept. 16 (Y.A.S.). A White-tailed Kite perched on a fence post in Klamath Marsh n. of Klamath Falls Oct. 24 (JGO). Red-tailed Hawks, mostly immatures, numbered 135 in the Henrys L., Ida. vicinity Aug. 29; they gather there to feed on late-to-hibernate ground squirrels. In the area also were 21 Ferruginous Hawks. A Red-shouldered Hawk near Klamath Falls Nov. 13+ furnished the first county record and only the second or third for e. Oregon (SS). The Bald Eagle conclave on Lower McDonald Cr., Glacier N.P., Mont., reached an all-time high of 639 in mid-November. Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., had 75 of the big birds Nov.

24. Idaho had a Gyrfalcon report and two Peregrine Falcon sightings were reported in e. Washington, three in Idaho and one in Alberta.

**GALLINACEOUS BIRDS** — Numbers of Blue, Spruce, Ruffed and Sharp-tailed grouse were definitely down in Lincoln County, Mont. (CW). Drought and extensive range fires in s. Idaho during the summer forced Sage Grouse into farming areas and even within Twin Falls city limits (WHS; JR). Five Turkeys were sighted e. of Tupper Guard Station 20 mi w. of Ukiah, Ore., Nov. 26 (C & MC) and eight near Creston, B.C., had spread from a n. Idaho introduction (JG).

**CRANES AND COOTS** — Greater Sandhill Cranes at Malheur N.W.R., peaked at nearly 2200 Oct. 11, about the same as last year but down from 1979's 3400. Immature birds comprised only 4.4%, indicating continuing production failures; only 23 reached flight stage on the refuge this year. Six Sandhills stopped on an island in the Kootenai R., upstream from Libby, Mont., Oct. 10 and the one imm. bird hatched in Pleasant Valley, 50 mi s.e. of Libby, fledged and flew off (CW). American Coot reached an astounding 13,000, perhaps the highest ever, at Turnbull N.W.R., Oct. 8. The n. Idaho count over Pend Oreille, Lower Coeur d'Alene and St. Jo R.s, Oct. 16 was 47,000+, nearly twice the previous high count (I.F.G.)

**SHOREBIRDS** — Worthy of note were 1-2 Semipalmated Plovers at Deer Flat N.W.R., Sept. 5-7 (JSM). Of special interest was a Killdeer at 6500 ft elev. at the Green Lakes, Three Sisters Wilderness (JGO). Sightings of Am. Golden and Black-bellied plovers were sparse. Knutsford, B.C., had two Am. Golden and one Black-bellied Sept. 26 (RH). One Am. Golden was at the Yakima R. delta, Richland, Wash., Sept. 7 (REW); Trail, B.C., had one Oct. 7-9 (ME), and two were at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oregon side, Sept. 4 (SS). One was sighted 5 mi n.w. of Coeur d'Alene, Ida., Oct. 4 (SGS). One Black-bellied appeared at Banks L., Oct. 25 (JA). A Red Knot photographed at Deer Flat N.W.R., Sept. 5 was apparently the first



*Imm. Red Knot, Lake Lowell, Canyon Co., Ida., Sept. 5, 1981. Photo/Jeff Marks.*

*Glaucous Gull (possibly barrovianus subspecies), Harrison, Mont. Nov. 15, 1981. Ring-billed Gull in foreground. Photo/P. D. Skaar.*

for that area and the second for Idaho (JSM, AL, BK). Excellent numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers were sighted in e. Washington, with 25+ at Stratford Sept. 6 and 30 at Reardan Sept. 19 (JA), and a peak of 30 at the Yakima delta Sept. 13 (REW). Two were at Am. Falls Dam on the Snake R., Sept. 13 for apparently the first record for the latilong (DT). A White-rumped Sandpiper sighted along the Palouse R., near Harvard, Ida., July 25 would be only the second for the state (JL in *Prairie Owl*, P.A.S.). A Dunlin was sighted at the mouth of Tammany Cr., 5 mi s. of Lewiston, Ida., Oct. 24 (PS, MK). Three hundred Baird's and 13 Stilt sandpipers were observed at Ninepipe N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont., Aug. 25 and another 300 Baird's were seen at nearby Pablo N.W.R., the next day (BW). One of the latter was at Blackfoot Res., Blackfoot, Ida., Sept. 19 (CHT). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Richland Aug. 2 for Woodley's first sighting there.

**GULLS AND TERNS** — An imm. Glaucous Gull found at Harrison L., e. of Harrison, Mont., Nov. 13 (ph. Nov. 15) provided the second local record and the third state observation away from Ft. Peck Res. (LM, RW, PDS). An imm. Herring Gull was noted at Harrison L., Nov. 15 (RW, PDS); four immatures were at Canyon Ferry Res., Helena in late November (SM), and an imm. bird was on Am. Falls Res., Nov. 12 (CHT). An imm. Thayer's Gull was seen at

the s end of Upper Klamath L , Nov 22 & 27 for the second e Oregon record (SS, JC) An ad Mew Gull there Nov 14 was joined by another Nov. 30 (SS). Richland had an imm. Franklin's Gull Aug. 29 & Sept. 6, Woodley's first local record and one was sighted at Nampa, Ida., Sept. 6 (VC). An ad. Bonaparte's Gull appeared at Grandview, Ida., Aug. 28 (JSM). A Sabine's Gull on the Columbia R., just n. of Richland Sept. 26 provided the fourth record there (EH) and two were at Wallowa L., Joseph, Ore., Sept. 16 (BJ). Twenty Forster's Terns were below Am. Falls Dam Sept. 11 (DT). Three Com. Terns were at Cold Springs N.W.R., Aug. 22 (C & MC) and six were at Clarkston, Wash., Sept. 30 (PS, MK). The Yakima delta had two Sept. 19 and 15 on Sept. 27 (REW).

**PIGEONS AND OWLS** — A Band-tailed Pigeon along the Spokane R., at Spokane Oct. 24 furnished the seventh latilong sighting (JA). Presumably the third Barn Owl record for the latilong was supplied by one bird at Davenport Cemetery Sept. 20 (JA) and one was sighted in Strawl Canyon 12 mi n.w. of Coulee Dam, both in Washington (VM). An ad. and one or two imm. Flammulated Owls were seen at their nest site near Kamloops, B.C., Aug. 4 for the first breeding record n. of Penticton (RH). A Barred Owl was heard at a new Montana locality, Ross Cr., Cedar Grove, between Troy and Noxon Aug. 2 (BW). Sightings of Great Gray Owls were made near Kamloops (RH), Knutsford (DW), Kelowna (BH, m.ob.), Cranbrook (GD) and Kimberley (*vide* MVW), B.C. One was observed in the N. Fork Valley on the w. edge of Glacier N.P., Mont. (WW) and four sightings were obtained in Lincoln County, Mont. (CW *et al.*). Short-eared Owls were observed many times in the Vernon area, where voles were plentiful, and were abundant in the Columbia Basin of c. Washington. The only Saw-whet Owls reported were one at Spokane Oct. 1 (JA) and one in Robinson Canyon w. of Ellensburg, Wash., Aug. 11 (RS *et al.*)

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — At Malheur N.W.R., two Black-chinned Hummingbirds May 13 and one found dead May 17 represented the sixth and seventh records there (ST). An ad. ♂ Anna's Hummingbird visited a Kelowna, B.C. feeder through November, only to be killed by a cat Dec. 5 (JG). Single hummingbirds at Yakima Oct. 30 and Wapato, Wash., Nov. 14 most likely were Anna's. Two imm. Rufous Hummingbirds frequented a Helena feeder in October, one, a male remaining at least to Oct. 22, surviving nighttime temperatures as low as 15°F. Feeders were then removed in hopes the birds would migrate (WH).

**WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS** — One, possibly two, "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were in E. Helena in late November along with one "hybrid" (PM; AW) and Nampa had one Sept. 19 (MF). A flock of 25 Lewis' Woodpeckers, the most reported, was at the Nat'l Bison Range, Moiese, Mont., Aug. 25. A "Red-breasted" Sapsucker was sighted 20 mi e. of Wenatchee, Wash., Oct. 8 (RF). A White-headed Woodpecker was found Sept. 7 n.e. of Hayden Lake, Ida., a new locality for this rather rare bird (MMA). The Tollgate, Ore. area was apparently a new location for sighting the N. Three-toed Woodpecker Oct. 28 (MC).

An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Deer Flat N.W.R., Sept. 1 (DT) and one on the Snake R. Birds of Prey Area s.e. of Swan Falls (JSM, JD, BK, MAM) were apparently the first for that part of Idaho. A W. Flycatcher was at Klamath Falls Sept. 13, where it is a rare migrant (SS).

**JAYS THROUGH WRENS** — A Blue Jay was reported for a few days, late October-early November at a feeder in Canoe Gulch, 12 mi n.e. of Libby (CW), and the Missoula, Mont. vicinity had several reports (SF). Impressive flocks of Clark's Nutcrackers were encountered in e. Oregon: 40 passing over Calamity Lookout, 30 mi n.e. of Burns Sept. 9 and 45 at the Green Lakes, Three Sisters Wilderness Oct. 26. The species was "very plentiful" in the Ketchum-Sun Valley area of Idaho.

A new, readily accessible locality for Boreal Chickadees was found at Tiffany Mt., 20 mi w. of Tonasket, Wash., where 22 were counted Aug. 2-3 (EH). A White-breasted Nuthatch at Williams L., in early October was far n. of its normal range in British Columbia (JWa). A Canyon Wren showed up at Kalamalka L. Park near Vernon Oct. 11-12; the species is very rare n. of Penticton (MCo). One was found on Horse Ridge 22 mi e. of Bend, Ore., Oct. 24 (JGO).

**THRASHERS AND THRUSHES** — A Sage Thrasher was sighted near Lostine, Ore., Sept. 28 (PS). A migrating Varied Thrush was noted Nov. 29 at C. J. Strike Res., Bruneau, Ida. (DT) and another near the coal-fired plant at Boardman, Ore., Sept. 30 (RJK). A snow storm grounded Hermit Thrushes at Bend, Ore., with at least a dozen in one backyard Oct. 11 and many in and around the city the next 4 days. Mountains Bluebirds were seen regularly in the Green Lakes area with a high of seven Oct. 3-4. In the Kimberley, B.C., area flocks of 30 or more appeared near September's end and 25 were seen in the Winas Cr. area s.w. of Ellensburg. A flock of about 25 Townsend's Solitaires was on Mt. Spokane, n.e. of Spokane Sept. 3 and 15 were counted on 2 dates in October on Horse Ridge, e. of Bend, Ore.

**PIPITS AND WAXWINGS** — Water Pipits were abundant at a few localities. In Idaho they were "all over the place" on plowed land near Twin Falls, Oct. 17; and were "very common" in the Rupert area. In Oregon they were migrating as early as Aug. 10 over Calamity Lookout and near Boardman 600± were in fallow fields Sept. 22. In Washington flocks of 100 or more were observed in the Horseshoe Basin area, Pasayten Wilderness Sept. 8-10 and were abundant in the Ephrata area in September and October. Several flocks were near White Swan, Wash., Nov. 1. A **Sprague's Pipit**, carefully identified, was sighted at Hart Mountain N.W.R., Lake Co., Ore., Sept. 22 (PS). Very few Bohemian Waxwings had arrived by the end of November.

**WARBLERS AND BLACKBIRDS** — A Tennessee Warbler at Malheur Sept. 24 was the refuge's ninth (ST); another sighting was made there Oct. 2 (TC). A meticulously described Tennessee was observed on Jumbo Mt., 6 mi e. of Orient, Wash., Aug. 26 (ATR, AM) and one was sighted at Lavington, B.C., Oct. 5-6 (MCo). An imm. Magnolia Warbler seen Sept. 30 & Oct. 2 at Malheur was the refuge's second and Oregon's eighth (CDC, MLB, ST, TC) and one was sighted at Cherry Springs, Ida., Sept. 7 (DT). An imm. ♀ Cape May Warbler, the second for the refuge, was mist-netted at Malheur Sept. 9 (ST). "Audubon's" Warbler bandings at Troy, Mont., rebounded to 846 after the post-Mt. St. Helens low of 27 (KB). A Black-throated Gray Warbler showed up at Malheur Oct. 2 and one was near Bend Sept. 20-22 (TC). Atomic City, Ida., had a Palm Warbler Sept. 20 (DT, RK, MR). A window-killed N. Waterthrush was obtained at Ketchum, Ida., Oct. 20 (WHS). Apparently a breeding pair of these birds was along the San Poil R., s. of Republic, Wash., Aug. 5 (EH).

An **Orchard Oriole** appeared at Townsend, Mont., Aug. 4 for the second state record w. of the 108th meridian (SM) and a Com Grackle was in Hines, Ore., July 12-26 (ST).

**FINCHES** — An imm. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was sighted Sept. 20 at Atomic City (DT, MR, RK, MD) and a well-described imm. **Painted Bunting**, Oregon's second, was at Tumalo S.P., Tumalo, Ore., Oct. 4 (TC). What was believed to be a ♂ Purple Finch was observed in Cheney, Wash., Sept. 3 (FBH). The only report of Black Rosy Finches was from Devil's L., 45 mi s.e. of Salmon, Ida. (HR). The appearance of Com. Redpolls at Spokane and in Lincoln County, Wash., as early as Nov. 7 and at Harrison, Mont., Nov. 15 suggested a possible invasion this winter. A flock of 200+ was at Revelstoke Nov. 23 and a few showed up in Kimberley in late November but otherwise reports were scant from British Columbia. Two-three goldfinches believed to be Lawrence's were photographed in Dietrich, Ida., Oct. 1. If confirmed, this would be the first state record (*vide* TR). The sighting of many White-winged Crossbills in n. Okanogan County and near Chewelah and Republic, Wash., may indicate the start of an incursion. A pair of this species was at Lost L. Camp, extreme n.w. Deschutes Co., Ore., near the s. limit of the species' winter range Sept. 28 (TC).

**SPARROWS** — Five Savannah Sparrows were in a meadow at the Green Lakes at 6500 ft July 25 (JGO). A Sage Sparrow, accidental in British Columbia, was sighted at White L., near Penticton Sept. 25 (A & JG). Two Golden-Crowned Sparrows were reported at Calamity Lookout Sept. 22 (MA) and an imm. bird was seen near Troy, Mont. (KB). Single White-throated Sparrows appeared at Nakusp, B.C., Oct. 4 (GD); near Helena Oct. 24 (LT *et al.*), and at Pocatello Sept. 11 (JJ). In Washington singles of this species were sighted at Spokane Oct. 19-20 (JA) and at Yakima Oct. 20+ (EC); three appeared at Richland Oct. 31 for Woodley's first local record. Lincoln's Sparrows were reported at Malheur (MA), Tumalo S.P. (TC), Spokane (THR), and Omak, Wash. (SJ). Knutsford, B.C., had two Lapland Longspurs Sept. 2 & 13 (RH); in Washington the species was observed at

Reardan Aug. 30 and at Banks L., two Oct. 25 (JA). With Lapland Longspurs on Lower Klamath N.W.R., Nov. 14 was a Chestnut-collared Longspur, the county's first and Oregon's second (SS, JGi). Snow Buntings had scarcely showed at all. One was at Vernon Oct. 16 and four were at Kimberley Oct. 13. Surprisingly, a few had already reached s. Idaho with four on Michaud Flats near Am. Falls Res., Oct. 22 and some near Shoshone on about the same date.

**CORRIGENDA**—The bird that wintered at Kelowna, B.C. (A.B. 35:319, 1981) was a White Pelican, not a Double-crested Cormorant. For the Vernon, B.C. CBC (AB 35:412, 1981) change W. Grebe from "46" to "1" and add "Pied-billed Grebe 46".

**OBSERVERS CITED**—James Acton, Mike Amicangelo (MAM), Merle Archie (MA), Eugene C. Barney, Michael L. Bierly, George Brady, Kay Burk, Jim Carlson, Mary Collins (MCo), C. Dwight Cooley, Vera Coons, Craig & Marion Corder (C & MC), Tom Crabtree, Emily Cragg, Gary Davidson, Mike Delate, John Doremus, Maurice Ellison, Mike Ferdinand, Ron Friesz, Sidney Frissell, Jeff

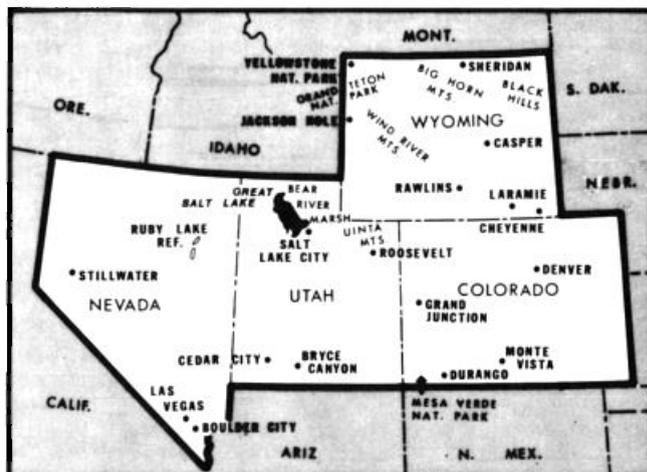
Gilligan (JGi), James Grant (JG), Al & Jude Grass (A & JG), Tony Greager, Wayne Hadley, Brian Holmes, George Holton, Rick Howie, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, Idaho Fish & Game Dept. (I.F.G.), Bob Jackson, Joe Jeppeson, Stuart Johnston, Joan King, Ronald J. Klein, Rolf Koford, Merlene Koliner, Bob Kuntz, Al & Hilda Larson, Carroll D. Littlefield, Jack Lord, Pat McKinney, Mary Mack (MM), Mary Manning (MMA), Jeffrey S. Marks, Vern Marr, Sid Martin, Megan Moorcroft (MMO), Louis Moos, Ann Musche, Larry D. Napier, James G. Olson, Palouse Audubon Society (P.A.S.), Colleen Powell, Mark Reynolds, Terrell Rich, Alan T. Richards, Hadley Roberts, T.H. Rogers, Jeff Ruprecht, W.H. Shillington, Richard R. Sjostrom, P.D. Skaar, Richard Stallcup, Shirley G. Sturts, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Dan Taylor (DT), Don Taylor (DTa), Larry Thompson, Steve Taylor and/or refuge personnel, Malheur N.W.R. (ST), C.H. Trost, Jean Waite (JWa), Doug Walkley, Ron Weeks, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton (BW), Mildred V. White, Art Whitney, Carl Wolf, R.E. Woodley, John Woods (JW), Brian Wylie (BWY), Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.).—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

**MOUNTAIN WEST**  
/Hugh E. Kingery

This fall the Mountain West reported average variety, although warmer-than-usual weather may have retarded the departure of some species. (Denver had, by November's end, its twenty-second consecutive month with above-average temperatures.) Two trends surfaced. First, pelagic species staged an above-average and well-distributed influx, particularly Arctic Loons and Sabine's Gulls. Wyoming found an Ancient Murrelet specimen, and we have a photograph of a Wandering Tattler in Utah (coastal species rather than pelagic). Second, some resident mountain birds descended into the valleys, Regionwide. The descent involved different species in different parts of the Region, and occurred even while there remained in the mountain conifer forests, large numbers of crossbills, a few of which joined the lowland invaders. Note especially jays, chickadees, nuthatches, and solitaires. The activities of the Utah Field Ornithologists (hereafter U.F.O.) continue to rewrite Utah bird distribution data. This fall they conducted a raptor watch designed mainly to identify migratory routes, and had field trips to the High Uintas in northeastern Utah and the Blanding latilong in southeastern Utah, both little-known areas. Trips to the Great Salt Lake yielded large to unimaginable numbers of birds, topped by one million Northern Phalaropes.

Observers in the Region reported 358 species, about average, with 316 from Colorado, 270 from Utah, 258 from Wyoming, and 254 from Nevada. The Utah Count exceeds its 4-year average by more than 50 and reflects the spurt of activity there. For the year, our Region tallied 396 species—15 less than the average for the past three years.

**LOONS TO HERONS** — Among the fall loons U.F.O. found Utah's second recorded occurrence of Arctic Loons, with 2-3 present at Wallsburg Nov. 21-25 (†MB, †JB, †LM, †MT, m.ob.). Sheridan reported single Arctics Oct. 19-Nov. 10 & Nov. 2-11 (†MC, †HD *et al.*) and Denver and Las Vegas reported 1-6 in October and November. Red-throated Loons occurred at Sheridan Nov. 10 (MR, JRa), Las Vegas Nov. 11-30 (VM), and Denver Nov. 20-21 (D.F.O.). Sheridan had a Red-necked Grebe Oct. 19, for the second area record (†MC), and Las Vegas had one Oct. 26-Nov. 4 (†VM). The 150 Horned Grebes at Denver Oct. 18 set the peak count for the Region (D.F.O.). Eared Grebes nested into August at Loveland, Colo. (F.A.C.). The Antelope I. Causeway in the Great Salt L. (hereafter, Antelope I.) attracted a regional peak of 20,000 Eareds Aug. 17, with only 7000 still there Sept. 3 (JN). Longmont, Colo., reported the peak count of W. Grebes with 2000 Sept. 20, and Fish Springs N.W.R., Utah had the Pied-billed peak with 712 in mid-season. White Pelicans remained into November, but the oddest record was of a group of 50 on the Rio Grande R., near its headwaters in the San Juan Mts., near Creede, Colo., in September (*vide* EF). A Great Blue Heron had flown high up to the Henrys Fork Basin, Uinta Mts., Utah Aug. 7 (U.F.O.). The usual scattering of Green Herons appeared, including one that flew into an Aurora, Colo., backyard Sept. 23 (LW).



**WATERFOWL** — Utah waterfowl numbers ran about 2/3 of last year's largest assemblage at any one time with 529,911 Sept. 1-15 (U.D.W.R.). Bear River N.W.R., reported its two commonest species, Green-winged Teal and Pintail, at 20% and 40% of last year's totals (48,000 and 55,000 respectively). These totals include only waterfowl that use state and federal wildlife refuges; they do not include numbers like the 15,000 N. Shovelers on Great Salt L., Nov. 29 (JN). Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., reported 11,950 ducks in August, including 2500 Pintails and 2500 Cinnamon Teal, and 13,300 in September, featuring 3300 Canvasbacks. Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., had 12,000 ducks, and its sister refuge, Alamosa, had 3500 in November, average peaks.

Bear River's peak of 25,000 Whistling Swans in early November was 75% of last year. A Brant at Denver Oct. 24-Nov. 2 acted fairly tame, liked the company of coots, but could fly (†FP, D.F.O.). The scattered flocks of Snow Geese (Utah had 330 Nov. 1-15—U.D.W.R.) included one Ross' Goose at Delta, Colo., Oct. 26 (MJ), and a hunter shot one at Bear R., Nov. 27 (RV). The third Utah European Wigeon stopped at St. George Nov. 14-15 (JMc, †SH, ph.). Wood Ducks continue to occur regularly with 22 at Denver and 25 at Zion during the season (D.F.O., JG). Denver had 1-3 Oldsquaws Nov. 20-21 (D.F.O.). Regionally all 3 scoters occurred—White-winged at Denver, Jackson, and Casper; Surf at Las Vegas and Zion; and a Black at Hygiene, Colo.

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — The Utah raptor study in September tallied 982 raptors of 12 species, a frequency of 7.8/hour; 27 observers worked 23 locations during the month. The tally included 388 Buteos (296 Red-tailed), 223 Accipiters (120 Sharp-shinned, 62 Cooper's), 18 Falcons (174 kestrels), 63 Golden Eagles, and 26 Ospreys. The latest Swainson's Hawk in the Region was at Denver Nov. 7 (F & JJ); the first Rough-legged was also at Denver Aug. 26 (WWB). Some of a

sizable migrating flock of 20 Ferruginous Hawks fed on prairie dog kills at Sheridan Aug. 22 (MC). Zion reported its first Black Hawk since 1976, an immature observed Oct. 3 (JG). The Bald Eagle at Dubois, Wyo., Sept. 23 had arrived early (MB) since most came in November.

**GROUSE TO RAILS** — The U.F.O. trip into the High Uintas Aug. 6-9 found 31 White-tailed Ptarmigan, including 4 broods, the progeny of transplants from Colorado. Whooping Cranes dropped into Hyrum, Utah Sept. 25 and Seedskadee Ref., Wyo., Sept. 30; six had summered on the Green R., upstream from Seedskadee. Much more visible than usual, flocks of Sandhill Cranes excited observers Oct. 1-15: 3200-4800 at Ulm, Wyo., near Sheridan (PW), and an irregularly-used migratory route along the Front Range, 602 at Denver, 350 at Loveland, 200 at Ft. Morgan, and 1500 at Colorado Springs. By mid-October the San Luis Valley, Colo., reached its peak of 13,000 (JK).

**SHOREBIRDS** — "The Grafton sewer ponds continue to rewrite the Zion bird picture. One pond was allowed to evaporate nearly dry so a leaky valve could be repaired; this produced a 12-acre mud flat with a covering of underwater mosses and algae to tempt shorebirds to linger. And the flying insects drew goatsuckers, swifts, swallows, flycatchers, and even warblers. This year probably will never be matched. It even converted K. Topham, Zion's only utility employee, into becoming a bird watcher." (JG). The ponds attracted 16 species, including Semipalmated Plovers, previously thought accidental, on 3 days; and one Black-bellied Plover Nov. 27, the first Zion record (JG). November shorebirds in the Region included Spotted Sandpiper Nov. 15 at Gravel Jct., Colo. (W.C.A.S.), Greater Yellowlegs at Fish Springs (KF), Least Sandpiper at Gravel Jct., Nov. 15 (W.C.A.S.), and 25 Westerns at Las Vegas Nov. 11 (VM).

Snowy Plovers assembled at the s. end of the Great Salt L., with 150 there Aug. 8; only one remained Aug. 29 (E & RS); Fish Springs had 80 Aug. 15-31 (KF). Denver, Casper, and Las Vegas reported Am. Golden Plovers in September, and Denver had one Nov. 5 (TM, D & LJ). Two imm. Ruddy Turnstones visited Las Vegas Sept. 4



*Wandering Tattler, Grafton Sewage Ponds, Zion Nat'l Park, Sept. 3, 1981. Photo/Jerome Gifford.*

(VM). The Zion sewage ponds yielded Utah's third reported, and first documented by photograph, **Wandering Tattler** Sept. 2-9 (†JG, †KT). Among the several October Pectoral Sandpipers were three at Delta, Colo., Oct. 27, the first latilong record (MJ). Delta also had its first Dunlin Nov. 3-15 (MJ). Dunlins also stopped at Denver and Las Vegas. A Stilt Sandpiper at Bear R., Aug. 30 provided Utah with a rare record (†E & RS), and a Semipalmated was described from Antelope I., Aug. 17 (†KV, KC). One Buff-breasted Sandpiper visited Rawlins Aug. 11, its third recorded Wyoming latilong (†FB, SFi), and four stopped at Sterling, Colo., Sept. 5-6 (RA, RB). The Great Salt L., attracts huge rafts of phalaropes during spring and fall migration; this fall an estimated 15,000 Wilson's and 55,000 N. Phalaropes assembled Aug. 17 (KV, KC). On Sept. 3, 30,000 Northern: "A great raft of them, at least 2 mi long; out in the lake, another raft. I discussed the birds with [state and federal] biologists who estimated the flocks at more than 1,000,000 birds." All had left by Sept. 27 (JN).

**GULLS TO MURRELETS** — The Region reported only two jaegers, one a Parasitic at Casper Nov. 14 (JH) and one unidentified as to species at Denver Oct. 10. Las Vegas had a Glaucous-winged Gull arrive Nov. 19 (VM). Numbers of Franklin's Gulls declined along the Front Range, with 1515 reported by D.F.O., and 3575, half as many as last year, counted at Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland, Colo. (L/L/B/L). Bonaparte's Gulls also decreased, although they stayed until Nov. 6-7 at Faust, Utah and Casper, Wyo., and Denver had 15 on Nov. 22. Sabine's Gulls staged a considerable influx. The Region

had 13 individuals reported Sept. 12-Oct. 18. Utah, with fewer than 10 records, had two at Heber Sept. 12 (†MW, KJ, BPa); Nevada, with fewer than 20 records had one at Las Vegas Sept. 21 (†WSH) and one at L. Lahontan, 50 mi e. of Carson City Sept. 28 (B & BC). Colorado and Wyoming report them almost annually, this year five birds at Denver, one at Boulder, two at Sheridan, and one at Casper. For the first time, all 4 states reported Caspian Terns in the same season (one report from each), including Colorado's ninth at Antero Res., near Hartsel Aug. 16 (†D.A.S.), and one Nov. 26 at Dubois, Wyo., lazily coasting along the Wind R. (MB). Wyoming's second **Ancient Murrelet**, picked up half alive at a Moran, Wyo., ranger station, soon expired. It had come in with a storm which brought thousands of geese and ducks (BR, \*T.S.L.)



*Ancient Murrelet, Moran, Wyo. Photo/Bert Raynes.*

**ANIS TO WOODPECKERS** — A rancher found a **Groove-billed Ani** in the foothills w. of Loveland, Colo.; it became Colorado's third record and first specimen (MD, CCu, \*D.M.N.H.). Barn Owl reports included one right in Jackson, Wyo., Sept. 27 (E & RH). Recently fledged young Screech Owls emerged in Loveland and Logan in August. At Ft. Collins, Colo., observers found Flammulated Owls Aug. 5-22, with at least five calling simultaneously Aug. 22 (KCo). This extended the little owl's range n. by one latilong. Saw-whet Owl reports included one which slept on a porch deck in Cheyenne Sept. 21 (SG). Last Poor-wills were at Ft. Morgan, Colo., Oct. 8 (JCR) and Gunlock, Utah Oct. 27 (E & RS). Unusual Black Swifts passed through s.w. Utah Sept. 23-24: nine at Zion, 20 at Summit (JG, SH). Observers reported fewer hummingbirds and earlier departures, the observations as usual keyed to artificial food sources, the feeders. One late Broad-tailed was at Paragonah, Utah Oct. 14 (SH), and the last Rufous was at Durango, Colo., Oct. 3 (EF). Rufous Hummingbirds occurred regularly in August in Wheatland and Cheyenne, Wyo. (SP, JCi). San Isabel and Ridgway, Colo., had Rivoli's Hummingbirds Aug. 2 & Sept. 15 respectively (RB & CC, JRG). Observers report that Com. Flickers are maintaining healthy populations. A movement of 50-60 Williamson's Sapsuckers in the hills w. of Cheyenne suggests a migratory route (AK). They apparently normally migrate along the low sections of the mountain conifer forests; strays like those at Boulder Sept. 22-29 (PC), and one last Mar. 24 at Bonny Res., on the Colorado/Kansas line (RB) represent wandering birds. Utahns found N. Three-toed Woodpeckers not only in the High Uintas but also in the Wasatch Mts., near Midway Aug. 10 (E & RS).

**FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS** — A late W. Kingbird fed actively from a poplar tree Oct. 31 near Boulder, Colo. (†BJ). A Cassin's Kingbird strayed into the foothills at Evergreen, Colo., Sept. 16-17 (WWB). Other October flycatchers included two Grays in Colorado, one near Blanding, Utah Oct. 9 (U.F.O.) and the other at Ridgway Oct. 13 (JRG), and a Western in the LaSal Mts., s.w. Utah Oct. 8 (MW). At Evergreen, a drop in Violet-green and Tree swallows numbers was blamed on heavy spraying for spruce budworms (WWB). A huge—for Utah—contingent of Bank Swallows was the 5000± at Bear R., Aug. 19 (E & RS, LM). Latest swallows were 87 Trees at Zion Oct. 1, Rough-winged at Ridgway Oct. 3, 20 Cliffs at Zion Oct. 3, and Barns at Provo, Utah Oct. 25 and Denver Oct. 28. Zion had had only 3 recent records of Barns until this fall when Gifford reported it "amazing to find 58 perched on a power line at the Grafton ponds Oct. 1 and 42 Oct. 3."

**JAYS TO NUTHATCHES** — Jays made mild incursions into some valley towns, with Grays in Jackson by Aug. 24, good numbers of Steller's reported in Jackson, Cody, and Lander, Wyo., n. Utah, and Colorado Springs and Ridgway. Piñon Jays visited the Front Range from Loveland to Colorado Springs, in flocks of up to 500. Like other jays, Clark's Nutcrackers dropped into valley towns, at Jarbidge, Nev., Cody, Boulder, and Colorado Springs. At Sheridan a flock of 185 flew to roost Nov. 6 (JRa). Mountain Chickadees also moved into the valleys, particularly at Cedar City, Utah, Zion, and Evanston, Wyo., plus a few in Denver and Cheyenne. Red-breasted Nuthatches also irrupted: a Boulder survey in November counted 108 in 12.5 hours of watching, with the peak of 50 in one location (LH *et al.*). A remarkable collection of 20-30 made it the commonest bird at the N A S. Eagle Rock sanctuary on the Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Colo., Aug. 17-19 (CC). Dozens crashed into windows at Colorado State Univ. at Ft. Collins during the fall. They ranged out on the plains to Briggsdale and Bonny, Cheyenne, Wheatland, and Casper, occurred at most mountain feeders, and spread into the desert at Fish Springs, Cedar City, and Las Vegas.

**WRENS TO VIREOS** — Bewick's Wrens, plentiful within their normal range, provided several records e. and n. of the usual haunts: two at Cheyenne Aug. 15 (#FK), one at Boulder Sept. 17-18 (#RV), and four Oct. 1 at Antelope I. (†JB). The Long-billed Marsh Wren at Bighorn, Wyo., Oct. 22, provided a third area record (LH-W). Canon Wrens nested in late summer in a bird box at Eldora, Colo., after the first occupants, House Wrens, had left (LE). Late Gray Catbirds were at Las Vegas Oct. 19 and at Laramie, Wyo. 3 times in November (*vide* DM). Brown Thrashers were reported from Dubois and Fish Springs in October. Cooper observed that the fall decrease in Am. Robins started a month early (in mid-October) and was much more extreme than usual; he detected a trend reflected in the whole Region. A Varied Thrush appeared at Eureka Oct. 14 (JE). A Wood Thrush stayed at Casper Oct. 11-18 (JH *et al.*). An E. Bluebird was found at Pueblo, Colo., Oct. 26 (KK, RA). Observers reported Mountain Bluebirds in what have become normal numbers. High counts included 115 Oct. 12 at Gunnison, Utah (JN) and 100 at Wheatland Sept. 7 (SP). Reports persisted to the end of the period in Colorado and Utah. An increase in the fall descent of Townsend's Solitaires included 24 in 3 hours at Boulder Sept. 23 (BJ), 20 in one Boulder yard Nov. 7 (EM), and three on the plains at Ft. Morgan Oct. 2 (JCR). Bear R., had a Sprague's Pipit Nov. 14 (†CK). Bohemian Waxwings had spread S from n. Wyoming to s. Wyoming and n. Utah. Peak count came from Sheridan, with 2000 Nov. 30 feeding in crabapple trees in Sheridan (HD). Small flocks of Cedar Waxwings roamed the Region throughout the season. An Oct. 26 Phainopepla at Beaver Dam Wash, Washington Co., Utah had overstayed by about 5 weeks (E & RS). A Red-eyed Vireo was found at the w. Nevada oasis, Dyer, Sept. 13 (NM, JL ph). The U.F.O. trip to the Blanding latilong found a **Philadelphian Vireo** feeding like a chickadee in rabbit brush at the edge of a riparian stream (†ML, TH), for the third Utah sight record. Late Warbling Vireos passed through Sheridan Oct. 9 and Denver Oct. 12.

**WARBLERS** — The Region reported 26 species of warblers, but only 12 from all 4 states. Utah does not attract as many stray migrants as the rest of the Mountain West. All of the warblers reported below as rare in Utah are fairly regular in the rest of the Region, as are Nashville and Townsend's which U.F.O. have established as regular, though sparse, Utah migrants.

Rare warblers included the following: Black-and-white—Zion's first Aug. 6 (#RL), Sinclair, Wyo., one Aug. 25 (†FB), and Las Vegas one Sept. 12 and one Oct. 19 (VM, PL); Tennessee—Promontory, Utah one Aug. 9 (†KV, KC), Mt. Home, Utah one Aug. 22 (†E & RS); Blackburnian—Longmont one Aug. 31 (MTh); Chestnut-sided—Las Vegas one Nov. 6, the first record there since 1974; **Ovenbird**—one caught and banded at Ogden, Utah Oct. 1, Utah's third record (MK); Hooded—Zion one Sept. 19 (†RN).

Semi-rarities included seven Black-and-whites, 19 Tennessees, and three Magnolias in Colorado; four Black-throated Blues in Colorado including one Sept. 21 on the Finch L. trail in Rocky Mountain N P (†MWh), and Jackson's second record Oct. 5 (JW); two Black-throated Grays and one Black-throated Green in e. Colorado; Black-polls at Las Vegas Sept. 22 & Oct. 14, and an Ovenbird at Lander, Wyo., Oct. 31 (†SF).

Among the regular migrants, Las Vegas reported a peak of 200 Orange-crowns Sept. 22-Oct. 6; 30 regional Nashvilles included seven in Utah, two Nevada, three Wyoming; a late Virginia's at

Boulder Oct. 9 (PC), Townsend's—e to Ft. Morgan Aug. 30 (JCR), on to the desert at Fish Springs Oct. 19 (KF), the first at Ruby L., Nev., Oct. 17 (†SB), and late ones Oct. 22-27 at Longmont, Boulder, Colorado Springs, and Las Vegas; abundant Wilson's, with 80 at Delta, Colo., Sept. 11 and the last ones at Denver Nov. 1 and Las Vegas Nov. 11.

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — Sheridan reported 162 Bobolinks Aug. 5, and Ruby L. had 50-100 in grainfields in mid-September. Sheridan reported 2 blackbird roosts with an estimated 8000 Starlings, 20,000 Red-wings, 15,000 Brewer's, and 20,000 Com. Grackles in use Aug. 6-Sept. 30; the roost-bound flocks caused much comment around town (HD). Jarbidge reported Com. Grackle Nov. 11-12, the first there (EB); Nevada's fifth and n. Nevada's third record in 10 years. Western Tanagers appeared in fair numbers, with 25 in one Boulder yard Aug. 19 (EM), and records well into October, the last ones Oct. 19-30 at Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, and Logan. Evergreen reported a Scarlet Tanager Oct. 3 (PH).

**FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Nevada's second **Painted Bunting** stayed at Las Vegas Oct. 27-31 (†VM, m.ob.). More locations than usual reported Evening Grosbeaks, flocks of modest size (5-50). In most places the observations declined in November. A few localities reported Pine Grosbeaks, including flocks in the aspen woods near Jefferson Colo., Aug. 10-Oct. 4 (CH, KH), and 2-3 in Cheyenne Oct. 26 & Nov. 14 (GP, FK). Pine Siskins increased over last fall. Red Crossbills continued conspicuous throughout the Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah mountains. They strayed away from the conifer forests to Denver, Ft. Morgan, Lander, and Logan. Although no one found a nest, fledgling feeding was observed w. of Boulder (VD). With the Reds came a few White-wings: in Wyoming 5 observations of 1-6 birds at Sheridan (PCo, VS), plus a few at Cody and Wheatland, and in Colorado, a few at Idaho Springs and Divide. A count of 18 Green-tailed Towhees at Ridgway Sept. 12 was high (JRG). A Brown Towhee at Lyons, Colo., Aug. 6-Sept. 4, had wandered 100 mi N of its usual limits (HL). Colorado Springs had a very late Lark Bunting Nov. 28, a male in transition plumage (†RB). The Delta latilong picked up its first Clay-colored Sparrow Sept. 1 (MJ). Harris' Sparrows included one at Fish Springs Nov. 6 (KF) and Las Vegas' first in 3 years Nov. 17 (VM). Cedar City reported a White-throated Sparrow Oct. 6 (SH). Beaver Dam Wash had eight Fox Sparrows Oct. 27 (E & RS).

**ABBREVIATIONS** — #: reported without description.

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**SOUTHWEST REGION/John P. Hubbard (New Mexico), Kenneth V. Rosenberg and Gary H. Rosenberg (Arizona and northern Sonora)**

The fall was generally mild and very dry throughout the Region. Drought conditions returned to the deserts after several consecutive wet years and ephemeral wetlands either dwindled or vanished. The only significant weather events were a tropical storm with violent winds from the Gulf of California September 4-5, and the season's only "winter" storm that swept the Region November 27-29. A cluster of unusual bird records surround these dates in the following report.

The most notable avian event was the dispersal of normally montane species into lowland areas, including several corvids, parids, kinglets, and especially cardueline finches. However systematic monitoring in several local mountain ranges detected no efflux of these species, suggesting a more northerly origin for the invading birds.

This report begins a new format in our Region with New Mexico and Arizona "split" into subregions and treated separately, as follows.

**Arizona, Sonora**

**LOONS TO STORKS** — An Arctic Loon at Springerville Nov. 26 (†DD) provided a first Apache County record, and a Com. Loon at L. Havasu Sept. 14 (MK) was early. Up to six Sooty Shearwaters and 15 Least Storm-Petrels were counted among 150+ Black Storm-Petrels off Puerto Peñasco, Sonora, Sept. 19 (KR, GR); pelagic species are poorly known in the n. Gulf of California. A Reddish Egret was at Puerto Peñasco Oct. 20-22 (B. Burch) and two were there Nov. 14 (RW, SB). A lone Wood Stork n. of Ehrenberg Sept. 22 (RH) furnished the only Arizona report this year.

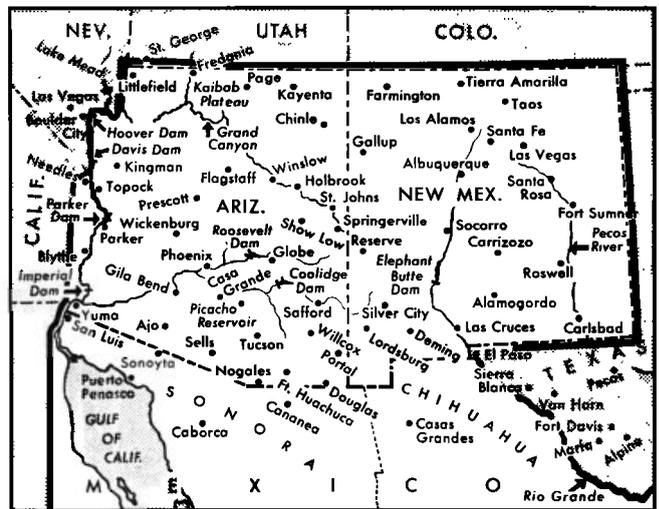
**WATERFOWL** — Up to 10 Ross' Geese had gathered at Topock by Nov. 27 (J. Dunn); a high count for the lower Colorado River Valley (hereafter, L.C.V.). Phoenix's Eur. Wigeon returned for its fourth winter (m.ob.). Owing to very dry conditions, normally abundant ducks were virtually absent from lakes near Flagstaff this fall (JC). The only scoter report was that of a Surf at Willcox Oct. 24-26 (RS *et al.*).

**RAPTORS** — An imm. White-tailed Kite near Portal Nov. 17 (†RM) supplied a second local and tenth Arizona record. A Ferruginous Hawk at Phoenix Sept. 24 was very early for the lowlands (KR, ph.). The Black Hawk seen through summer at Bill Williams Delta remained to Aug. 25 (MK *et al.*). A Caracara was near Puerto Peñasco Nov. 14 (RW, SB).

**SHOREBIRDS AND LARIDS** — Two juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were found this fall, at Tucson Aug. 13-16 (KK *et al.*) and at Ganado L., Sept. 11 (BW, ph., KR). Dunlin were reported from Willcox, Mammoth, Mesa, and L. Havasu, and Stilt Sandpipers appeared at Willcox, Bisbee, Tucson, and Ganado L. A Ruddy Turnstone at Phoenix Sept. 6 provided an eleventh state record (C. Babbitt). The only Red Phalarope was at Nogales Nov. 29 (BH).

An imm. Pomarine Jaeger was seen off Puerto Peñasco Sept. 19 (GR *et al.*). Lake Havasu again hosted an imm. Parasitic Jaeger Sept. 14-24 (MK *et al.*, ph.) for the third fall since 1977. A first-year **Glaucous-winged Gull** was at Lake Havasu City Oct. 30 (†MK) for about a fourth Arizona report. Different imm. Franklin's Gulls at L. Havasu Sept. 4 (KR) & 14 (MK) were highly irregular, and an adult was at Many Farms L., Apache Co., Sept. 12 (GR *et al.*). A Heermann's Gull at Nogales Nov. 26 (R. Bailowitz, S. Whitman) occurred on a date typical for this species. As usual, 3-4 imm. Sabine's Gulls were found, including one near Bisbee Oct. 12 that was plucked from a pond and killed by a Marsh Hawk as the observer watched (DD, AM, \*U. of A.)! Much more unusual was an ad. Sabine's in breeding plumage near Phoenix Sept. 13 (†PB).

Up to seven Forster's Terns at L. Havasu Nov. 28 (KR *et al.*) were extremely late. Remarkable, but not totally unexpected, was a well-described ad. **Arctic Tern** migrating with Commons at L. Havasu Sept. 4 (†WCH, †MK, RH). Interestingly, this bird, like the 2 previous state records, occurred after storms in the Gulf of California.



**OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A migrant Flamulated Owl flew into a window at Phoenix Oct 16 (\*A.S.U.); in 1980, two others were recovered there Oct. 7 & 10 (all, *vide* K. Ingram). Another window claimed a very late Elf Owl at Tucson Nov. 21 (*vide* WD).

A Band-tailed Pigeon at Parker Nov. 7-15 (ph., MK *et al.*) furnished about a sixth record for the L.C.V., and the second this fall (one was captured near Blythe, Calif. in August). Two Ruddy Ground Doves at Phoenix Oct. 21 (KR, ph. WCH) were most likely escapes but it is not inconceivable for this abundant Mexican species to reach Arizona naturally.

The latest Buff-collared Nightjar was calling at Aravaipa Canyon Aug. 16 (TG). Another rare migrant in the lowlands was the Whippoorwill recovered near Phoenix Sept. 5 (*vide* K. Ingram, \*A.S.U.).

Broad-billed Hummingbirds are now regular at Superior, but up to three males at Paloma Sept. 7-Oct. 1 (ph., KR *et al.*) and one at Phoenix through the fall (PB) were beyond their normal range. The summering White-eared Hummingbird at Summerhaven was seen until Sept. 4 and another was at Portal Sept. 5-30 (SS).

**WOODPECKERS TO FLYCATCHERS** — Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers of the e. race *S. v. varius* were identified at Ehrenberg Oct. 24 (MK) and at Superior Nov. 2 (KR, ph.), whereas the red-breasted race *S. v. daggetti* was at Ehrenberg Oct. 25 (WCH). Wandering Williamson's Sapsuckers were at Petrified Forest N.P., Sept. 12 (GR) and Prescott Sept. 22, the latter preceding an invasion into that area in late fall.

A Rose-throated Becard was in Guadalupe Canyon Sept. 27 (DD, AM). A probable Thick-billed Kingbird was far w. at Bill Williams Delta Sept. 5 (†BW, Who). Single E. Kingbirds were at Round Rock and Teec Nos Pos, Apache Co., Sept. 13 (ph., KR *et al.*) and a third was at Patagonia Sept. 18 (TG). On the heels of a recent nesting attempt in Cave Cr. Canyon, another Buff-breasted Flycatcher was in the Chiricahua Mts., in Whitetail Canyon Sept. 6 (RT).

**CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Common Crows dispersed into unusual lowland areas including 20 n. of Phoenix Oct. 15 (SD) and one at L. Pleasant Nov. 1 (RF). In the L.C.V., where regular occurrence has only been recorded at Cibola N.W.R., the existence of a second large winter roost at Topock was again suggested by a flock of 300 near there Nov. 29 (KR *et al.*). Another flock of 25 was near Poston Nov. 7 & 17 (MK *et al.*) and a single bird was at Parker Nov. 25 (KR, ph.). Wayward Clark's Nutcrackers were found, with one w. of Prescott Sept. 14 (CT), five between Pine and Payson Sept. 27 (*vide* CT), and one at Rustler Park, Chiricahua Mts., Nov. 23 (SG).

A White-breasted Nuthatch in suburban Mesa Oct. 13 (KR) was locally unusual. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread in the lowlands including the L.C.V., with an extremely early migrant at Tucson Aug. 16 (JS). A larger-than-normal dispersal of Brown Creepers was also detected, with up to four as far s. as Cibola N.W.R., in the L.C.V., Nov. 17-24 (MK *et al.*).

Winter Wrens seemed more numerous than usual in canyons at middle elevations, but not in the lowlands. Two Varied Thrushes were found, at Prescott Oct. 31 (CT *et al.*) and at Cave Cr. Canyon Nov. 1 (RM).

**PIPITS TO VIREOS** — Sprague's Pipits again appeared on the L.C.V., with singles n. of Ehrenberg Oct. 17 (WCH) and near Bullhead City Nov. 29 (KR). By early September, Chino Canyon's Black-capped Gnatcatcher pair had fledged eight young from 3 nests (GP *et al.*). Numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets in the L.C.V.,



*Imm. Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 2, 1981. Photo/Ted L. Eubanks, Jr.*

were unprecedented, with more than 15 birds seen Oct. 18-Nov. 31+ (MK *et al.*).

Three Red-eyed Vireos were in Apache County Sept. 10-13 (GR *et al.*) and another was near Nogales Sept. 24 (WD). A Philadelphia Vireo was at Phoenix Oct. 15 (KR, ph.) and a probable one was at Paloma Oct. 1 (KR *et al.*). Incredible were three different **Yellow-throated Vireos**, at Cook's L., Sept. 6-7 (†SG *et al.*), Bisbee Sept. 14 (†DD), and near Nogales Oct. 24 (†HL *et al.*); there were about nine previous state records. A Hutton's Vireo at Oak Cr. Canyon Aug. 9 was n. of the species' usual range (DS).

**WOOD WARBLERS** — Thirty-two species of warblers were reported during the fall season in Arizona. A Lucy's Warbler reported from Globe Nov. 3 (M. Wood) was very late. An Olive Warbler at Oak Cr. Canyon Sept. 2 (BW) was at the n. edge of its range, whereas another at Dudleyville, San Pedro R., Sept. 6 (SG *et al.*) represented an unprecedented lower Sonoran zone record. Also of local interest was a Painted Redstart at Phoenix Aug. 29 (M&S Mahaffey).

Rare but regular migrants included ten Black-and-white Warblers, four Tennessees, three N. Parulas, 11 N. Waterthrushes, and 19 Am. Redstarts. More noteworthy but not unexpected were a Black-throated Green Warbler at Phoenix Aug. 20 (DS), a Black-throated Blue near Flagstaff Sept. 6 (DS), and males at San Bernardino Ranch Oct. 12 (K. Burke) and Portal Oct. 23 (†J. Hoffman), single Ovenbirds at Ganado Sept. 11 (KR *et al.*), and Prescott Oct. 5 (PB), and Hooded Warblers at Prescott Aug. 4 (CT), Oak Cr. Canyon Aug. 9-10 (DS), and near Payson Sept. 6 (GR).

The status of Worm-eating Warblers in Arizona may be changing; 4 reports this fall came from Prescott Sept. 3-7 & Oct. 4 (CT), Parker Dam Sept. 5 (BW *et al.*, KR, ph.), and Fort Bowie Oct. 3 (G & J Maender). Prothonotary Warblers were seen Sept. 13 at Tucson (JB) and at Patagonia Sept. 18 (TG). The Yellow-throated Warbler in Cave Cr. Canyon in July remained until at least Aug. 31 (S. Carey). The only Magnolia Warbler was at Prescott Oct. 26 (CT), the only Palm Warbler was at Portal Nov. 11 (SS, RM), and the only Kentucky Warbler was reported at Tucson Oct. 12 (JB). A possible Connecticut Warbler e. of Phoenix Aug. 16 (†RB) would provide only a second state record if accepted. However, Arizona's sixth **Canada Warbler** was confirmed by many observers in suburban Tempe Sept. 23 (†A. Laurenzi *et al.*).

**ICTERIDS AND FRINGILLIDS** — A Bobolink was near Bisbee Sept. 11 (AM, ph.). The only Orchard Oriole was at Paloma Oct. 1 (GR *et al.*, KR, ph.), and a N. (Baltimore) Oriole was at Many Farms, Apache Co., Sept. 12 (BW). For the third consecutive year, a Tucson

feeder hosted a Scarlet-headed Oriole Oct. 2+ (*vide* WD). A Rusty Blackbird was at Lake Havasu City Nov. 28 (RF *et al.*, KR, ph.) Eight Great-tailed Grackles, including juveniles, at Many Farms Sept. 12 (GR *et al.*) represented a new breeding locale in n.e. Arizona.

A ♂ Pyrrhuloxia at a Globe feeder furnished only the second record there. Also n. of the usual range was a ♂ Varied Bunting at Superior Oct. 1 (G. Walsberg). The only Painted Bunting was at San Bernardino Ranch Oct. 2 (D. Lanning).

Cardueline finches were on the move. Lowland Evening Grosbeaks were at Teec Nos Pos Sept. 13 (L. Ross *et al.*), Phoenix Oct. 23 (KK), Cooks L., Nov. 14 (GR, *et al.*), plus 11 in the L.C.V., s. to Ehrenberg Oct. 18-Nov. 9 (MK *et al.*). Definite Purple Finches occurred with one at San Bernardino Ranch Oct. 12 (K. Burke, banded), and ten in Cave Cr. Canyon Nov. 22-23 (SG *et al.*). More unusual were Cassin's Finches in the desert, with one at Phoenix Nov. 8 (KR) and an unprecedented six in the L.C.V., Oct. 24-Nov. 7 (MK, JJ, WCH). This was also a Lawrence's Goldfinch year in Arizona, with small numbers passing through the L.C.V., beginning in September, and scattered records e. to Cooks L., and San Simon by November. Mostly singles were reported around Phoenix and Tucson, with the largest group being of 35 at Tucson Nov. 30.

A Grasshopper Sparrow at Teec Nos Pos Sept. 13 (KR, ph.) was a first occurrence for Apache County. Arizona's first ever **Le Conte's Sparrow** flushed from tall Bermuda grass planted for geese at Topock on the Havasu N.W.R., Nov. 29 (ph., KR, †TG, †RF). Another first for the L.C.V., was provided by a Clay-colored Sparrow Sept. 5 (†WWho, BW); four others were in Apache County Aug. 21-Sept. 13 (GR, KR).

An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow in the Hualapai Mts., Nov. 29 (KR *et al.*) was at an unusual location. Nine White-throated Sparrows were reported from e. Arizona, and the only Harris' Sparrow was e. of Phoenix Nov. 22 (A. Gast). Finally, another Arizona first was furnished by a **Snow Bunting** at Littlefield, in the Virgin R. valley of extreme n.w. Mohave County Nov. 3 (Walter Boyce, \*U. of A.). Details published elsewhere.

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## New Mexico

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — A notable influx of Com. Loons occurred in n.w. New Mexico, with four at Heron L., Oct. 6 (JH, J. Vaught) and up to five at Bluewater L., Nov. 11-19 (AM). A **Red-throated Loon**, in remnant breeding plumage, was reported at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (hereafter, Bitter L.) Sept. 18 (†MC); this species was first confirmed in the state in 1981 and is obviously rare here. The more notable records of W. Grebes included one in the Chuska Mts., Sept. 26 (*vide* AN), 2-7 in the Zuni Mts. area Sept. 16 (JT) to Nov. 11 (AM), 10 at Sumner L., Nov. 27 (WWho), and 1-2 at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (hereafter, Bosque) Aug. 8 (D & SH)-Oct. 22 (R. Teuber). Most of the birds ascribed to phase were dark; the only light ones were two at Caballo L., Oct. 13 (JH). Cormorants are rare in n.w. New Mexico, so notable were two imm. Double-crested at Bluewater L., Oct. 4 (AM). Five Olivaceous Cormorants at Las Cruces Aug. 14 (L & PH) were s. of the usual range in that part of the state.

**HERONS THROUGH WATERFOWL** — An imm. Little Blue Heron at Morgan L., Sept. 9 (†DR) supplied a first record for San Juan County and the Great Egret there Oct. 18 (AN) was also a rare straggler. Cattle Egrets staged an influx, with the more notable records including one near Farmington Oct. 6 (K. Heil), 10 near Mule Cr., and one at Silver City Nov. 28-29 (D & M Zimmerman). A Black-crowned Night Heron near Washington Pass Sept. 26 (AN)

may have furnished a first record for the Chuska Mts. Somewhat off the beaten path were 21 Snow Geese over Santa Fe Nov. 4 (JH), several near Cliff in mid-November (JE *et al.*), and one near Silver City in late November (RF *et al.*). A count of 14 White-fronted Geese near Clovis Nov. 11 (MC) was a high total for the area. The only scoter report was of a ♂ Surf 15 mi s.w. of Roswell Aug. 10-11 (P. White, ph.).

**RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES** — Mississippi Kite reports in the Rio Grande Valley consisted of up to four in the Albuquerque-Los Lunas area Aug. 7-14 (WHO *et al.*), and one or two near Mesilla Aug. 1-23 (DJ *et al.*). A count of 200+ Swainson's Hawks near Lordsburg Sept. 17 (RH) was high, even for migrant flocks. Out-of-range were single sub-ad. Harris' Hawks near Bernalillo Aug. 18 (T. Weaver) and near Corrales Aug. 27 (K. McClymonds). The Navajo Indian Irrigation Project area near Farmington continues to attract many raptors, with 100 birds counted there Nov. 7 and 123 Nov. 14—including 26 in view at one time (AN *et al.*)! A second transplant of White-tailed Ptarmigan occurred in the Pecos Wilderness with 22 birds released there Sept. 10 (WB, GS). Near the end of the period, 11 of the expected 15± Whooping Cranes had arrived in the middle Rio Grande Valley (hereafter, M.R.G.V.).

**PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS** — Out of range was a Snowy Plover at Bluewater L., Aug. 10 (†AM), and also worth noting were 10 near Clovis Sept. 26 (MC). Very rare in New Mexico is the Whimbrel, of which two were near Lordsburg Aug. 11 (†RH). Somewhat early, and unusual for the area, were 3-5 Dunlins there Aug. 11 & 24 (RH). Probable Semipalmated Sandpiper reports, a species still poorly documented in the state in autumn, were of singles at Bosque Aug. 8 and Bitter L., Aug. 15 (†D & SH). Two Short-billed Dowitchers were reported near Isleta Sept. 23 (†WHO *et al.*); the species is rare in the state. High counts for the area were 1000+ Am. Avocets and 3000+ Wilson's Phalaropes at L. McMillan Aug. 16 (D & SH).

Thirty-five or more California Gulls were still at Heron L., Oct. 6 (JH *et al.*), while the only Sabine's reported was an immature near Isleta Sept. 21-23 (WHO *et al.*, ph., DH). Common Terns were reported more widely than usual, with singles at Morgan L., Sept. 9 (†DR), Bosque (ph., D & SH), and Las Cruces Oct. 2 and perhaps earlier (†DJ *et al.*). Caspian Terns are rarely reported in the state, so notable were singles at Bitter L., Aug. 15-16 (WHO *et al.*, ph.) and L. McMillan Oct. 8 (ph., WHO, RM).

**PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS** — Three-four Band-tailed Pigeons in the Organ Mts., Aug. 15 (DJ, KZ) were unusual, as were two lingering at San Cristobal, Taos Co., to Oct. 28 (WH) and up to 20 near Silver City to Nov. 18 (M. & S. O'Byrne). A Ground Dove near Belen Oct. 12 (†WHO *et al.*) was well n. of the usual range, as were single Incas at Socorro Nov. 3-30 (PB), Capitan Oct. 14-24 (J. Johnson *et al.*), and Artesia Oct. 6 (JJ, RM). A Flammulated Owl was reportedly heard at Socorro Oct. 28 & Nov. 4 (PB), which would be late. Two to three Pygmy Owls at Aguirre Springs Oct. 15-Nov. 13 (BZ, KZ) may be the first for the Organ Mts.

**HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — An imm. ♂ Anna's Hummingbird at Monticello, Sandia Mts., Sept. 23-Oct. 16 (HS *et al.*, ph., DH) furnished perhaps the third record for the Albuquerque area. Late hummingbirds, including one near Santa Fe Oct. 29-31 (F. Ruthing) and another at Truth or Consequences to Nov. 22 (DM) could conceivably represent this species, as the more common species should have left long before. Up to 45 Acorn Woodpeckers were present at Aguirre Springs Oct. 15-Nov. 13 (BZ, KZ), for a very high count for the Organ Mts. A Lewis' at Socorro Nov. 26 (PB) was s. of the usual range, while a Williamson's Sapsucker near Loving Oct. 7 (JJ, WCH) was far e. Following a summer of scarcity in the M.R.G.V., Hairy Woodpeckers staged a small influx Aug. 8-Nov. 16—with up to 10 between Corrales and Isleta (WHO *et al.*). Southward wandering Downies included two at Ft. Sumner Nov. 27 (WHO), one at Socorro Aug. 10 (J. Shipman), and up to three reported at Percha Dam S. P., Nov. 22-27 (DM).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — An E. Kingbird in the Mimbres Valley n.n.w. of Deming Aug. 18 (RH) was w. of the usual range. Rare in n.w. New Mexico is the Black Phoebe, so two at Burnham, San Juan Co., Aug. 22 (H. H. Lesperance) were notable. Late *Empidonax* were a Western banded near Bluewater L., Oct. 10

(AM), a singing Trill's near Cliff in mid-November (JE), and single, probable Dusksies at Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Co., Oct. 23 (JH) and near Anthony Oct. 25 (BZ). The Purple Martin is rare at Albuquerque, especially in autumn, so a female or immature there Aug. 13 (WHO *et al.*) was notable.

**JAYS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Invasions by several jay species occurred into non-breeding areas, including Stellers' from the Mogollon Plateau to the Mexican border, in the Rio Grande Valley area, on Sierra Grande, and in the Organ Mts.; numbers were generally small and the most notable movements were from mid-October-November (m.ob.). Scrub Jays moved into the Rio Grande Valley and W (v.ob.), as well as locally in the upper and middle Pecos Valley (WHO *et al.*). Piñon Jays invaded the M.R.G.V. (WHO *et al.*) plus from the Mogollon Plateau area (v.ob.) S to the Organ and Alamo Hueco Mts. (RH); some of these involved fledglings, including at Silver City Aug. 9 (JH). Even Mexican Jays joined in the action, with birds moving slightly out-of-range below the Mogollon Plateau (v.ob.). Mountain Chickadee numbers increased in the M.R.G.V., in October and November, whereas Black-capped may have declined (WHO *et al.*). Bushtits persisted there near Los Lunas, and 16 birds also appeared near Corrales Nov. 18 (WHO *et al.*). Red-breasted Nuthatches occurred in the M.R.G.V. throughout the period, with 23 of the 36 recorded in September (WHO *et al.*).

**DIPPER THROUGH WRENS** — A Dipper in Nutria Canyon Oct. 11 (AM) was in only the second place of occurrence in the Zuni Mts. Late were two House Wrens in that range Oct. 11-12 (AM) and one at Ft. Sumner Nov. 27 (WHO). First records for the M.R.G.V., were single **Short-billed Marsh Wrens** near Bernalillo Oct. 22 (†WHO, VH) and near Belen Nov. 10 (†WHO *et al.*). A nest of Rock Wrens on L. Peak Aug. 6-7 (WB, GS) at 12,400 ft above sea level may be the highest recorded for the state.

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — The only autumn records of Swainson's Thrushes were singles banded at Cottonwood Gulch Oct. 10 (AM) and Albuquerque Oct. 11 (CH *et al.*); the former is only the second record for the Zuni Mts. Eastern Bluebirds staged an invasion of the M.R.G.V., with 21 birds recorded between Bernalillo and Belen Nov. 19-25 (WHO *et al.*); also, one was heard at Santa Fe Nov. 3 (JH) and a few were seen at Percha Dam S. P. Nov. 22-27 (DM). Another invader was the Golden-crowned Kinglet, with 28 recorded in the M.R.G.V., Oct. 21-Nov. 19 (WHO *et al.*), two at Ft. Sumner Nov. 27 (WHO), and five at Aguirre Springs Oct. 22 & Nov. 13 (BZ, KZ); the species was also more common than usual in the Sandia Mts (HS). A Hutton's Vireo in Guadalupe Canyon, Hidalgo Co., Sept. 14-15 (RH) furnished only the second record there.

**WARBLERS** — A diverse migration was recorded in the M.R.G.V., including several species rare in the area. Noteworthy a Prothonotary near Isleta Sept. 1, a Magnolia near Los Lunas Oct. 12, a probable Bay-breasted at Albuquerque Nov. 5, a Palm near Los Lunas Oct. 20, and single Hoodeds near Corrales Sept. 3 and near Isleta Sept. 9 (†WHO *et al.*). The rarest warblers reported were the state's first **Prairie Warbler** at Bosque Nov. 26 (†J & G Maender) and its third **Pine Warbler** near Loving Oct. 7 (†WCH). Making better showings than usual were several species, including especially the Nashville—recorded in mainly small numbers in the Zuni Mts., Sandia Mts., M.R.G.V., at Percha Dam S.P., and in the sub-Mogollon Plateau region Aug. 25-Oct. 9 (m.ob.); also notable were 82 Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers in the M.R.G.V., Oct. 11-Nov. 30 (WHO *et al.*). Hermit Warblers were more frequently recorded than usual, including an easterly report of one at Aguirre Springs Oct. 22 (BZ, KZ). A Lucy's near Anthony Sept. 6 (BZ, KZ) provided one of the few recent records there, while out of habitat were single Painted Redstarts at San Simon Cienega, Hidalgo Co., Sept. 3 (RH) and in the Alamo Hueco Mts., Aug. 25 (E. Stegall). Late records included an Orange-crowned Warbler at Percha Dam S.P., Nov. 14 and a Townsend's at Aguirre Springs Nov. 13 (BZ, KZ), while early were two Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) near Cochiti L., Aug. 3 (E. Hayes, WHO).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES** — The only Bobolink reports were of one heard near Isleta Oct. 2 (WHO) and another banded at Albuquerque Sept. 19 (CH *et al.*). New areas of occurrence for Great-tailed Grackles were at San Cristobal Nov. 16 & 20, and at

nearby El Prado Nov. 15 (WH). A tanager thought to be an imm. Scarlet—a species rare in New Mexico—was near Bernardo, Socorro Co., Nov. 7 (†WHO), while late were two ♀ Hepatics at Aguirre Springs Oct. 22 (BZ, KZ). A ♀ Varied Bunting at Antelope Pass, Peloncillo Mts., Aug. 11 (†RH) was n. of the usual range. Evening Grosbeaks staged an unusual incursion into the M.R.G.V., with 48 recorded between Cochiti L., and Los Lunas Aug. 3-Nov. 10 (Who *et al.*); one other was at Ft. Sumner Nov. 27 (Who). A few Red Crossbills also straggled into the M.R.G.V., including two near Cochiti L., Aug. 3, one near Isleta Aug. 7, and singles at Albuquerque Aug. 6 & Oct. 19 (Who *et al.*). However, the event of the season was an incursion of White-winged Crossbills into the state, including a pair feeding a fledgling on Wheeler Peak Sept. 20 (†R.R. Pasquier, J.W. Perkins)! Other records of the species included 1-6 at Sandia Crest Aug. 30-Sept. 6 (†HS *et al.*); in addition, a probable one was heard and seen on Sierra Grande Sept. 2 (JH). Very early migrants to the s.w. were Vesper Sparrows near Santa Rita Aug. 19 (RH), while a high total for the area was the five Clay-colored banded at Albu-

querque Aug. 23-Sept. 12 (CH *et al.*). Tree Sparrows are sporadic in the M.R.G.V., so notable were five at Cochiti L., Nov. 25; other probables were heard near Corrales Nov. 6 and at La Joya Nov. 5 (Who *et al.*).

ABBREVIATIONS — †, details on file with New Mexico Ornithological Society; ph., photo.

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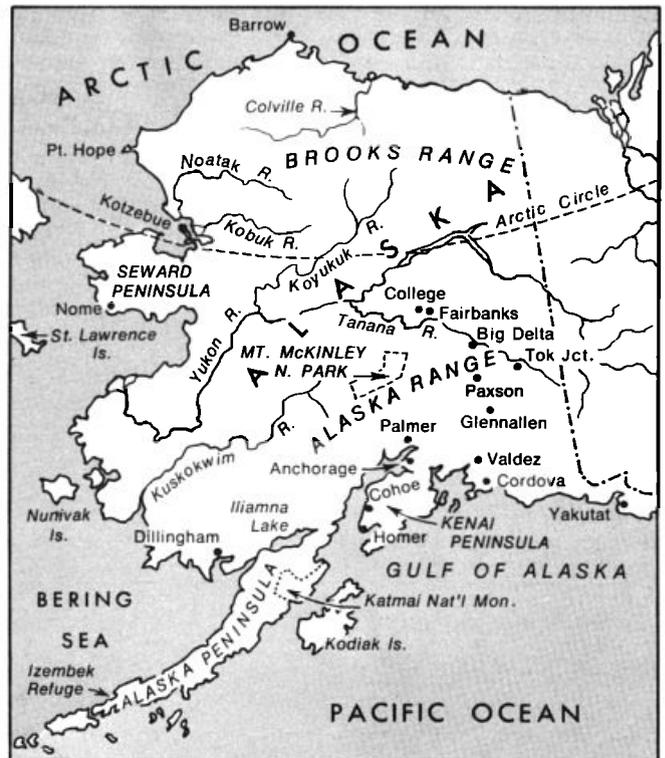
## ALASKA REGION /D.D. Gibson

Following a wet summer in 1981, early August was damp but September was clear and sunny in much of the State. Temperatures were mild throughout the period, but several observers mentioned that it was windier than usual on the Pacific coast. Continuing fieldwork at Middleton Island, isolated south of Cordova, produced more fascinating information on bird movements in the n. Gulf of Alaska, including some most unusual records that may shed light on movements elsewhere.

**GREBES THROUGH HERONS** — A W. Grebe near Klawock Oct. 12 (TK) was the observer's first record on the outer coast of Prince of Wales I. This species winters locally on protected bays in the Inside Passage. A Scaled Petrel that flew aboard a fishing vessel in Shearwater Bay, Kodiak I., during a heavy storm Nov. 9 (†JBA) was the latest record in Alaska. At least four **Cattle Egrets** at Ketchikan Nov. 11-20 (†REW, †JFK, WN, NH *et al.*) provided the first Alaska record. As a result, I believe Alaska became the last of the 49 continental states to record this heron in its extraordinary dispersal across North America.

**WATERFOWL, OSPREYS, FALCONS** — Snow Geese are extremely rare at Kodiak, so one bird at Womens Bay Nov. 7 (KA, *fide* RAM) was of interest. A Brant accompanying 300 Canada Geese on the Experimental Farm fields at Fairbanks Aug. 25 (†SJ) represents one of very few autumn records for the Interior, where the species is known primarily as a rare spring migrant. The earliest Eur. Wigeon reported this fall were a pair at Cordova Oct. 26 (MEI); a male with Am. Wigeon at Bartlett Cove, Glacier Bay Oct. 30-Nov. 30 (BBP); and a male at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak Nov. 8 (HP, *fide* RAM). There were three records of Tufted Ducks: a male in molt at St. George I., Pribilofs in late July (BEL); a debilitated female at Atka I., c. Aleutians Aug. 16 (†SJ); and a male and at least one female at Eyak L., Cordova, from mid-October on (MEI). *Eleven* Hooded Mergansers at Eyak L., in October-November was the highest count ever in the North Gulf Coast-Prince William Sound region (MEI); one ♀-plumaged bird was seen as far w. as Anchorage (DWS *et al.*), in the third week of September. Single Ospreys were unusual at Glacier Bay Sept. 8 (BBP) and at Middleton I., Gulf of Alaska Sept. 12 & 15 (TGT). Unusual records of Am. Kestrel included a male at Middleton Sept. 10-17 (TGT); a female at Lake Rose Tead, Kodiak Oct. 12 (RAM & MMM); and a male seen at intervals at Fairbanks from mid-November into early December (CHC, RSH, SOM, DDG).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Late Am. Golden Plovers included three birds at Womens Bay, Kodiak Nov. 5 (RAM); one at Craig Nov. 8 (TK); and one at Gustavus Nov. 17 (BBP). An imm. **Dotterel** observed carefully on a Cordova mudflat Aug. 27 (†RF) provided the first record of this species on the Alaska Pacific coast e. of the w. Aleutians and one of very few fall records anywhere in the state. Bar-tailed Godwits appear to be annual fall migrants e. of the Bering Sea



coast, in southcoastal Alaska. Singles were seen at Homer Aug. 8 (GJT & MMT) & 22 (TGT & LJO); two were noted at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak Aug. 25 (DWS & RAM); and the species was recorded at the Kasilof R. mouth as late as Sept. 2 (MAM). At least 10 birds seen at *Gustavus* Sept. 30 (*fide* BBP) may represent only the second South-eastern record. Single Upland Sandpipers were seen at Anchorage Aug. 2 (TGT & LJO) and at Petersburg Sept. 1 (SB). This species is rare at either location, and there are few fall records in the Region. A few Wood Sandpipers were seen at St. George this fall, the earliest Aug. 13; none after Sept. 4 (BEL & RHD). An ad. Polynesian Tattler that arrived at St. George July 29 (BEL) was early, as was one at Atka Aug. 2 (†SJ). Probably two different imm. **Little Stints** were certainly identified in the Pribilofs this season: one at St. Paul I., Aug. 20-21 (EBR, ph.) and one at St. George Aug. 23-24 (†BEL). There are now seven Alaska records, all since 1975. Three ad. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at St. George Aug. 8 (BEL) were record-early; few adults of this species occur in Alaska, but most such birds do so early in fall. Interesting locality records of Buff-breasted Sandpipers included one Aug. 29 at St. George (BEL), where it furnished a second Pribilof record; up to two birds at Middleton Sept. 16-17 (TGT); and one at Narrow Cape, Kodiak, Sept. 25-Oct. 3 (DWS & †RAM). A juv. Ruff at St. George Aug. 8 (BEL) was record-early by a day.

**GULLS THROUGH OWLS** — An ad California Gull was seen Nov 17 & 19 at the *Anchorage dump* (†TGT, †GJT *et al*), the same spot where one was seen a year ago (AB 35:215). A flock of 30+ Aleutian Terns seen off Sequel Pt., Kodiak Sept. 8 (JBA) provided one of the latest Alaska records. A Band-tailed Pigeon at *Middleton* Sept. 13 (†TGT) provided the first Pacific coast record in Alaska w. of Southeastern. One seen at Herbert R., Sept. 26 (RJG) was one of very few Southeastern occurrences as far n. as the Juneau area. An imm. Screech Owl found road-killed at *Cordova* Sept. 2 (\*MEI) provided the first certain record of this elusive bird w. of Yakutat.

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — At least six "Red-breasted" sapsuckers were seen at *Middleton* Sept. 19-21 (TGT), and one bird was observed on the e. Copper R. Delta Sept. 29 (DRH, DJH, RMB). Whether or not dispersal of this bird w. of its s.e. Alaska breeding range has gone on for years, it had not been detected until recently. An E. Kingbird was studied at *Middleton* Sept. 19 (TGT), for one of very few autumn records anywhere in the Region. A Barn Swallow observed at *Glacier Bay* Sept. 28 (BBP) was very—but not record [Oct. 11]—late.

**CHICKADEES THROUGH WAXWINGS** — A Mountain Chickadee was seen with Chestnut-backed at Juneau Sept. 9 (RBW). The species may be more regular in Southeastern than records on file suggest. Red-breasted Nuthatches were active this fall. They were abundant in the Juneau area from late July on (RJG, FAG) and in the Craig area, Prince of Wales I., all fall (TK). A few were seen at *Glacier Bay* during the period Oct. 1-Nov. 11 (BBP), small numbers were seen in September on the e. Copper R. Delta (DRH, DJH, RMB), and the species was present at *Cordova* in moderate numbers all season (MEI). At Kodiak it was locally fairly common (JBA), and a few birds were seen at *Middleton* Sept. 9-22, maximum four on 11th (TGT). A report of two Red-breasted Nuthatches at *Shishmaref*, on the Chukchi Sea coast of the Seward Pen., Sept. 4 (HJC, *vide* JSH), although not confirmed by details, was entirely plausible. This bird has been recorded in the past as far n. in w. Alaska as St. Lawrence I. (*Condor* 73 327, 1971). An ad. White Wagtail observed briefly at *Westchester Lagoon, Anchorage*, Sept. 2 (†TGT) was the first Southcoastal sighting.

— S.A. —

Single Red-throated Pipits at *Middleton I.*, Sept. 12 & 17, two on the 19th, and at least three on the 21st (†TGT) provided the first record of this bird between its w. Alaska breeding range and the West Coast of the Lower 48 states, where the species has been seen in small numbers in fall in s. California for some years (see Roberson 1980. "Rare birds of the west coast of North America," p. 337) and where the species was recently recorded in fall in the San Juan Is., Wash. (AB 34:194, 1980).

At least one Cedar Waxwing at *Middleton* Sept. 19-20 (TGT) and a flock of six Cedar Waxwings in *Cordova* Oct. 25 (MEI) were the first recorded occurrences w. of s.e. Alaska.

**VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS, COWBIRDS** — A Red-eyed Vireo at *Middleton* Sept. 20 (†TGT) provided the second record at

that location (see *Condor* 60 238, 1958) and only the second autumn record for the state. A Warbling Vireo on that island Sept. 17 (†TGT), a first record there, was not quite so astounding, since this species is much more numerous in s.e. Alaska in summer than is the former. There were several extraordinary records of wood warblers at *Middleton* in September: three Tennessee Warblers Sept. 20, at least one (and probably two) Nashville Warblers Sept. 20-21 (second Alaska sighting), an imm. Chestnut-sided Warbler Sept. 21 (first Alaska sighting), and two Com. Yellowthroats Sept. 21 (all †TGT). Maximum counts of other members of this family there included 29+ Orange-crowned Warblers Sept. 11, 17 Yellow Warblers Sept. 20, five Townsend's Warblers Sept. 11 & 19, at least five Yellow-rumped Warblers Sept. 15, and seven Wilson's Warblers Sept. 9 (TGT). At least two Townsend's Warblers at Juneau through Oct. 8 (RBW) were record-late, and a Blackpoll Warbler at *Prudhoe Bay* Sept. 10 (RLS, ph.) was one of very few recorded on the n. Alaska coast. An Ovenbird closely observed at *Prudhoe Bay* Sept. 10 (RLS, ph.) provided the first Alaska record this century, and a Canada Warbler there Sept. 24 (†RCC) was only the second recorded in Alaska, both of them in n. Alaska. Two Brown-headed Cowbirds at *Cordova*, an immature seen Oct. 1 and subsequently and an adult Nov. 17 (MEI) were the only ones reported of the species.

**FINCHES AND SPARROWS** — An imm. Black-headed Grosbeak studied carefully and described well at *Middleton I.*, Sept. 20-21 (†TGT) provided another first sighting for Alaska. In the face of a dearth of spruce cones at Kodiak, siskins and crossbills were scarce (JBA). This situation may have been more widespread than just at Kodiak. Pine Siskins were all but absent this fall at Kodiak (RAM), they were scarce in the Anchorage area after July (TGT), but moderate numbers were present at *Cordova* all season (MEI); there were 3 records at *Middleton* Sept. 15-21 (TGT). Crossbills were very scarce at Kodiak (RAM). White-winged were scarce at Anchorage after July (TGT), but both species were present in small numbers all period in the *Cordova* area (MEI), and scattered small flocks of crossbills were seen at *Kasilof* (MAM). Two White-winged were seen at *Middleton*, single immatures on Sept. 9 & 21 (TGT). To the e., a few flocks of White-winged Crossbills were seen at *Glacier Bay* (BBP), but crossbills (80% White-winged, 20% Red) were abundant all fall at Juneau (RJG); they were present in average-to-low numbers on Prince of Wales I. (TK). One Harris' Sparrow arrived at Auke Bay, Juneau Nov. 21 and remained Nov. 30+ (RBW). A Chipping Sparrow observed at *Kasilof* Aug. 3 (MAM) may be a first for the Kenai Pen.

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

The first fall storm front came on shore Sept. 17-18, grounding vagrant Western Kingbirds and Bobolinks. The previous day, with strong winds, a heavy alpine zone migration was noted by Hunn above timberline on Mt. Adams, Washington, including a Prairie Falcon at 7000 feet, ten Townsend's Solitaires at 10,000 feet, and a Golden-crowned Sparrow at 11,000 feet. Heavy storms in October and November drove a variety of pelagic birds inland. Only the Bohemian Waxwing gave any indication of impending winter invasions.

While the shorebird migration was anemic, "stint fever" assumed epidemic proportions. We have in hand detailed reports of four Rufous-necked Stints, three Long-toed Stints, two Temminck's Stints, and two Little Stints. We have received photos in support of only two of these sightings. After careful review of all supporting data and comparison with photographs and specimens of the regularly occurring species, we have concluded that, with the one exception treated in the text, none of the reports is conclusive and most are clearly attributable to more familiar species. We remain to be convinced that it is normally possible to identify immature Long-toed, Rufous-necked, and Little stints in the field. All reports received will be saved until our knowledge of stint identification evolves. Special thanks are due Dennis Paulson for consultation on these reports



**LOONS THROUGH PELICANS** — An ad. Yellow-billed Loon in breeding plumage was seen Oct. 24+ at Sequim Bay, Wash. (WS, D&SS, CF). An immature was at Victoria, V.I., Nov. 22-24 (RS *et al.*), and another was at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Nov. 11 (FW). A light-phase W. Grebe Aug. 23 at the Necanium R. mouth, Oreg. (JG, ph., DI), was described as the first found alive on the n. Oregon coast (*vide* HN). Another light-phase bird was seen Sept. 9 at Victoria, V.I. (†RS). An apparent intermediate-phase W. Grebe appeared Oct. 31 among 800 dark-phase birds at West Pt., Seattle (†TSc, †BBr, MB).

Black-footed Albatross counts peaked at 65 on Aug. 19 off Westport, Wash. (TW *et al.*), with two still there Nov. 7 (DP, TSm). On the latter date three Laysan Albatrosses were also seen, 38 mi offshore, perhaps representing normal winter numbers. Northern Fulmar came in numbers by Sept. 26 when 50 were counted *en route* to LaPerouse Banks off s. V.I. (MSh, AE, *vide* VG). TW reported 335 off Westport Oct. 10, and 359 were counted there Nov. 7 (DP, TSm), of which 5% were light-phase. Severe storms drove large numbers within sight of shore in early October (DP, HN) and again in mid-November (JG, HN), with many found dead on Oregon beaches in November (*vide* HN). Also storm-blown were seven Short-tailed Shearwaters, one Fork-tailed, and three Leach's Storm-Petrels spotted from the Port Angeles-Victoria ferry Nov. 15 (WC, *vide* VG). Numerous Leach's Storm-Petrels were driven inland by that same storm to Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Oreg. (TL, DF, SG, CW), to the S.J.C.R. (PMu, *vide* HN), to Willapa Bay, Wash. (TB *et al.*), and to Quilcene, Wash. (*vide* ES\*).

A Nov. 7 pelagic excursion off Westport produced several late records for Washington, including one Flesh-footed Shearwater and five New Zealand Shearwaters (DP, TSm). Two Pink-footed Shearwaters Nov. 21 off n. Lane County, Oreg., were also unusually late (SH, DR). The count of 425 Pink-footeds off Westport Aug. 19 (TW *et al.*) was more than double any single-day maximum since 1978. New Zealand Shearwaters remained scarce with 14 off Westport Oct. 10 the high one-day count (TW). The 30 Short-tailed Shearwaters reported was above average. The high one-day count was 20 off Westport Oct. 10 (TW).

An imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** Aug. 25 resting on a fishing boat off Coho Pt., Langara I., Queen Charlotte I., B. C. (GDe, *vide* WC, VG), was the first recorded for British Columbia, and the seventh n. of California on the West Coast (Roberson, *Rare Birds of the West Coast*, 1980: 46-47). Brown Pelicans were well represented n. to the Columbia R. mouth. One Aug. 25 near Sail Rock in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, Wash., was the only one reported from farther n. (SM). A ratio of eight immatures to each adult was estimated among "hun-

dreeds feeding on anchovies off s. Oregon Aug 30 (JG, DI *et al.*) with "many dead on these beaches" in the wake of the severe storm Nov 14 (JG, *vide* HN).

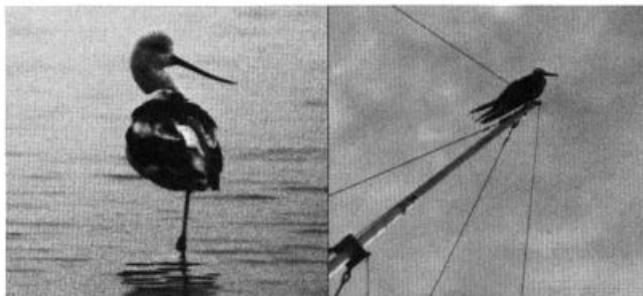
**EGRETS THROUGH DUCKS** — The count of Great Egrets peaked at a record 71 at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene Nov. 5 (DF, TL). Just eight Cattle Egrets were reported, considerably off last year's invasion totals. Seven of these were n. of the Columbia R. and, as expected, were all in November. Five Black-crowned Night Herons were reported, from Reifel I., B. C., Olympia, Wash., and Roseburg, Coos Bay, and Brookings, Oreg. An imm. ibis, presumably a White-faced, stayed Nov. 20-23 at the Humptulips R. mouth, on Grays Harbor, Wash. (RC, ph., *et al.*), for the first w. Washington record. This comes on the heels of several extralimital sightings of White-faced Ibis in the Pacific Northwest this past spring and summer.

"Some" Trumpeter Swans were noted with a flock of 1000 Whistling Swans s. of Forest Grove, Oreg., in late November (*vide* HN), and 5-7 Trumpeters were between Dallas and Corvallis Nov. 16-26 (D&MEM, R&JK, *vide* EE). This species returned as usual to its n. Washington and s. British Columbia winter haunts. An imm. Emperor Goose at the Veneta sewage ponds, near Eugene, Oreg., Nov. 21+ (RP, †DF, TM, ph., m.ob.) was the only one reported. Wintering Snow Geese numbered 70,000 by early November, based on a census from the Fraser R. delta of British Columbia to the Skagit R. delta of Washington (*vide* FM, Wash. Dept. of Game). This count exceeds the previous 30-year high by 40%, and the increase is credited to careful Russian management of the Wrangell I. breeding habitat.

Late broods of Blue-winged and Cinnamon teal were out Aug. 1 at the Nehalem sewage ponds, Oreg. (DI). Few of either species were noted after mid-September. Arrival dates of Eur. Wigeons were somewhat early: Sept. 20 at Victoria (RWA) and Oct. 10 at Seattle (ER). There were only 11 Redheads reported this fall. A ♂ **Tufted Duck** at Green L., Seattle, Oct. 3-18 (†ESH *et al.*) was the earliest-ever Washington record for the species. A ♀ Ruddy Duck had a late brood out Sept. 12 at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (ESH).

**VULTURES THROUGH CRANES** — Victoria observers again monitored the Turkey Vulture passage over s. V.I., Aug. 30-Oct. 27, with a peak of 445 Sept. 26 (*vide* VG). High daily counts of 30-50 were noted elsewhere Sept. 7-Oct. 4. Forty White-tailed Kites were tallied in Oregon with concentrations of 13 in the Rogue R. valley, including three young from a successful local nesting (*vide* OSw), ten of which had gathered at Fern Ridge Res., by the end of November (DF, TL), and two adults with four young along the Coquille R., e. of Bandon (CW). A single bird was n. of the Columbia R., on Leadbetter Pt., Oct. 7-Nov. 5 (RWi, B&GR).

Accipiters were reported in normal numbers with 25 Goshawks, 80 Sharp-shinneds, and 102 Cooper's well distributed through the season. Southern Oregon's Red-shouldered Hawk population was closely scrutinized, with three counted near Brookings (DI, JG, RP), and singles noted n. to Bandon Sept. 19 (AC) and near Lebanon Sept. 13 (BTh, *vide* HN). A dark Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk remained at Kent, Wash., Oct. 25+ (†ESH, m.ob.). Rough-legged Hawks were first noted Oct. 3 at Sea I., Vancouver, B.C. (HH, *vide* WW), and Oct. 16 at Tillamook, Oreg. (HN), and were in average numbers thereafter. The last Osprey reported was Nov. 8 at Stanwood, Wash. (*vide* PWM). Three Gyrfalcons were reported. Each was a typical "gray-phase" bird. One was found Nov. 3+, and it and another seen Nov. 10 & 22 in C. Saanich, V.I. (AK, DFr, m.ob., *vide* VG). An immature



Imm. ♂ Am. Avocet, L. Meares, Tillamook Co., Ore. Aug. 15, 1981. Photo Owen Schmidt.

Imm. Magnificent Frigatebird, Coho Pt., Langara I., Queen Charlotte I., B.C.

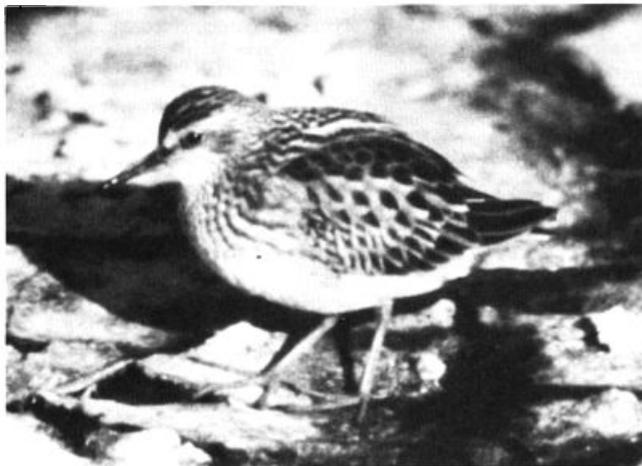
frequented the Kent, Wash., sewage ponds Nov. 7-27 (†ESH, m.ob.). The 46 Peregrine and 55 Merlin sightings were less than last fall, but near recent averages.

The first few migrant Sandhill Cranes arrived Sept. 12-14 at Dungeness and the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., and at Sauvie I., near Portland. Numbers at Sauvie I. increased to 1000+ by Oct. 10. Several flocks were noted thereafter in Oregon, including one of 410 over Springfield Nov. 3 (DF, TL).

**SHOREBIRDS** — American Golden Plover numbers were decidedly down at coastal points this fall. The Ocean Shores, Wash., count reached 40-47 Sept. 1-6 (MC, DP, ESH), which is about 30% of normal. The usual 10% or so were the small, bright race *fulva*. Whimbrels were scarce in Oregon and were at 10-20% of normal numbers at Ocean Shores (*vide* DP, ESH). The high count was 50 at Ocean Shores Aug. 15 (BHT) and at Tillamook Bay Sept. 2 (HN). The two Long-billed Curlews at Leadbetter Pt., Aug. 27 (RWi) increased to 20-27 at nearby Tokeland Sept. 21-Nov. 14 (ME, TB *et al.*). The only other reports were two Aug. 23-29 in Delta, B.C. (BK, DK *et al.*, *vide* WW), and a single Oct. 4 at Yaquina Bay, Oreg. (JG *et al.*, *vide* HN). Solitary Sandpipers were also scarce, with only eight reported, about 50% of normal. Willets were beyond their normal range at Ocean Shores, with 1-3 Aug. 15-18 (BHT, ESH *et al.*) and another there Oct. 16 (MC, SA, G&WH), and at Dungeness, Wash., which had a single Aug. 10-Sept. 26 (MC, m.ob.). One Semipalmated Sandpiper was well photographed this fall, an immature Aug. 15 at Tillamook Bay (JG). About 30 other individuals were reported.

#### S.A.

Oregon observers have documented the first Long-toed Stint s. of Alaska. The bird was first noted at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 3, relocated and identified Sept. 5 (†JG, †HN, †AC, m.ob.), and subsequently photographed and tape-recorded. It was last reported Sept. 12 (RP). The photos show the bright chestnut feather margins, long central toe, and pale base to the lower mandible. It was also definitely larger than an adjacent Least Sandpiper. We have compared these photos to a series of photographs (DP) of imm. Least Sandpipers and have found several that appear virtually identical. However, the call, a deep "chortling" trill, seems to be conclusive.



Long-toed Stint, S.J.C.R., Sept. 5, 1981. Photo/Jeff Gilligan.

Some 21 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were located throughout the Region, a normal number. A Curlew Sandpiper at Iona I., Aug. 31-Sept. 1 (†WW, †BK *et al.*) furnished the fifth provincial record and the eighth for the Region. Twenty Stilt Sandpipers were reported Aug. 16-Sept. 22, as is normal. Eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers at 6 locations was a reduction from last year's total of 14 and well below the counts during the invasion years of 1978-1979 (28 and 47, respectively). All were reported Aug. 27-Sept. 10, the Buff-breasted's usual migration "window."

A Marbled Godwit was in Delta, s. of Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 24-Sept. 1 (BM, †JW, †DK, m.ob.). Four appeared in Oak Bay, V.I., Oct. 1 (RS, m.ob., *vide* VG), with one staying until Oct. 11 (JTa). The species is very rare in coastal British Columbia. Single Bar-tailed

Godwits were reported from Dungeness Sept. 11, 26, & Oct. 9 (†WS, †KK, †D&SS), with two different birds likely involved. Two Hudsonian Godwits were at Mud Bay in Delta, B.C., Aug. 25-Sept. 2, with one remaining until Sept. 12 (BM, †WW, †DK, m.ob.). Approximately 13 Ruffs were reported. This is the sixth consecutive year in which the number of Ruff sightings has increased. Three Am. Avocets ranged W to our area. One was at Reifel I., B.C., Aug. 5-6 (*vide* WW), one was at Tillamook, Oreg., Aug. 11-30 (JG, OSc, ph., m.ob.), and the third was at Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., Aug. 16 (KB *et al.*).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Pomarine Jaegers passed offshore in unusually large numbers. TW counted 34 off Westport Aug. 19, and 34 were again tallied there Nov. 7 (DP, TSm). One Pomarine at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Oct. 24 provided a rare onshore sighting (†BK). One Parasitic Jaeger lingered into early December off Seattle, several weeks later than normal (†DH, m.ob.). Only five Long-tailed Jaegers were counted. One ad. Long-tailed was at White Rock, B.C., and Blaine, Wash., Sept. 11 for a rare sighting there (†JW *et al.*). Skua reports were also infrequent, with but six individuals found, including three off Ocean Shores Sept. 7 (ESH *et al.*). One was off Brookings, Oreg., Aug. 29 (JG, DI), and a storm-blown skua was seen from the Port Angeles-Victoria ferry Nov. 22 (WC). None of the skuas could be identified more precisely.

Two Glaucous Gulls had appeared by late November. One was near Eugene, Oreg. (TL), and a first-year bird was at the S.J.C.R., Nov. 25 (HN). A large concentration of 26 imm. Franklin's Gulls was present at the Snohomish and Everett sewage ponds Sept. 24-30 (DP, B&PE). Little Gulls were almost numerous with 5-6 birds noted. Washington sightings included one sub-adult Sept. 18 at Port Angeles (†WS, KK), one Sept. 23 off s. Whidbey I. (BR) and perhaps the same bird at the Everett sewage ponds Sept. 26 (B&PE). Another was seen off Seattle Oct. 16-30 (†DH, †TSc, EPe). The third and fourth documented records for Oregon were singles Oct. 10 on Tillamook Bay (†JG, †AC, OSc, ph., m.ob.) and Oct. 13-18 at Newport (†FS, RB). None was a first year bird. Heermann's Gulls are rarely seen away from the saltwater shoreline. Storms blew nine inland to Roseburg, Oreg. (MSa, *vide* HN), and one to Eugene (AC) Nov. 14-15, and DP noted ten about 25 mi offshore from Westport Nov. 7. This fall brought an unusual number of reports of Sabine's Gulls inshore. These occurrences were not clearly storm-related.

Two Forster's Terns were reported Aug. 26 at Pt. Roberts, Wash. (†BK), and 2-3 were at Forest Grove, Oreg., Aug. 31-Sept. 7 (†DI, JG). Three Arctic Terns seen Oct. 10 off Westport (TW) were the latest ever for Washington by 2 days. An imm. Caspian Tern on Green L., in Seattle Oct. 8-18 (FK, ER, ESH) was very late, although some remained at Tillamook, Oreg., through the month (HN). One-two Black Terns were at Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 19 (BK, BM *et al.*).

Ancient Murrelets were reported only about s. V.I., Sept. 16-Nov. 11, with a high count of 25 (*vide* VG), and in Puget Sound Oct. 23+, with a high count of only eight (PWM). Single Horned Puffins were at Cape Lookout, near Tillamook Aug. 23 (OSc, *vide* HN), and off Pt. Partridge, Whidbey I., Wash., Sept. 3 (†CP, BBe), both in areas frequented by this n. straggler in recent summers.

**OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — Single Snowy Owls Nov. 16+ in Delta B.C. (*vide* WW), and Nov. 22 over N. Saanich, V.I. (DFr), were the only ones reported. A pair of Barred Owls during October along the Umpqua R., above Glide, e. of Roseburg, marks the expanding s. frontier of this species' range (MSa, *vide* HN). A Spotted Owl seen Sept. 11 in the Chilliwack R. valley e. of Mt. Baker was near this species' n. limit (PSc, DW). Barred and Spotted owls ranges now overlap on a 400-mi front in the Cascade Range. A Poorwill Oct. 14 near Wolf Cr., Oreg., was late (EPu). There were several early October records of Com. Nighthawks, with singles Oct. 11 in Vancouver, B.C. (*vide* WW), and Sequim, Wash. (JTo, *vide* SA), the latest. There were many late reports of Vaux's Swifts from Washington, with ten over Pt. Townsend Oct. 11 the latest on record (DP *et al.*). About 2000 Vaux's Swifts were still present in a chimney in Lake Oswego, Oreg., Oct. 12 (HN), with a flock of 1000 still in Eugene Oct. 13 (DF, TL). All disappeared following the first frost Oct. 15.

Single Rufous Hummingbirds lingered until Nov. 4 in Roseburg, Oreg. (FP, *vide* MSa), and until Nov. 30 in Saanich, V.I. (*vide* VG). Single Lewis' Woodpeckers strayed W of the Cascades to Saanich Sept. 12 (*vide* VG), to near Redmond, Wash., Sept. 25 (A&NL, *vide* B&PE), and to Pt. Roberts, Wash., Sept. 26-27 (BK, DK, WW). A

“Red-naped” Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Oct 9 at Vancouver, B C , provided the third local record of this form (†BK)

Three **Tropical Kingbirds** were found in Oregon in the span of 8 days in mid-October. One was at Newport Oct. 14 (†R&JK, ph., *fide* EE), another at Garibaldi near Tillamook Oct. 17 (†BTe, ph.), and a third at Langlois Oct. 22 (†GS *et al.*, *fide* DER). Twelve W. Kingbirds were reported, with five Sept. 18-20 in the wake of the first frontal passage of the month. A *Myiarchus* flycatcher was found Oct. 4 in Langley, B.C. (ph., *fide* WW). Single Say’s Phoebes Aug. 26 at Sauvie I., near Portland (JE), and Sept. 16 near Brookings, Ore. (JG, DI, *fide* HN) were w. of their usual range, while the Black Phoebe at Roseburg Sept. 22-26 (MSa *et al.*, *fide* JE) was a bit far n. Last *Empidonax* departure dates were: Hammond’s Sept. 27 at Ladner, B C (BK); Willow, Oct. 13 at Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (RWi); and W. Flycatcher Nov. 13 in Beaverton, Ore. (ALa, *fide* HN). An Olive-sided Flycatcher Sept. 22 at Dungeness, Wash., was the latest ever for the state (WS).

**MARTINS THROUGH SHRIKES** — The largest migratory concentrations of Purple Martins reported were of only 12 birds Aug. 25 in Seattle (DH) and Aug. 30 at Nehalem, Ore. (R&JK, *fide* EE). A **Scrub Jay** found Nov. 15 in S. Langley, B.C., represented the first record for British Columbia and for Canada (WC, ph., *fide* WW). Two Black-billed Magpies at the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., Sept. 26-29 (BHT *et al.*), and another at Ashland, Ore., Nov. 2 (MM) were displaced from e. of the Cascades.

A Cañon Wren closely studied Oct. 10-15 at North Head, a rocky coastal promontory w. of Ilwaco, Wash. (*fide* RWi), was astounding, as the species is sedentary and breeds no closer than 130 mi to the e. The eight Mockingbird sightings span the period and the Region from Medford, Ore., n. to near Vancouver, B.C. Late Swainson’s Thrushes include singles Oct. 2 in Seattle (MDo\*), and Nov. 25 at Springfield, Ore. (TL). A **Veery** was reported at Tillamook Bay Oct. 4-5 (JG, OSc, *fide* HN). Western Bluebirds were noted n. of s. Oregon only at Ft. Lewis, Wash., where two immatures were present Sept. 4 (BHT), and on s. V.I., where flocks of up to eight birds were noted Sept. 21-Oct. 19 (*fide* VG).

A **White Wagtail** paid a brief visit to Seattle Nov. 8-9 for the first state record (†B&JMc, †DH). The individual was apparently an imm. male of uncertain racial origin (see *Continental Birdlife* 2:37, 1981). A Cedar Waxwing fledged a late brood Aug. 25 near Vancouver, Wash. (DJ) A migratory concentration of 1400 waxwings at Eugene Nov. 24 contained one Bohemian (DF, TL). Another on Marys Peak w. of Corvallis, Ore., Nov. 28 (R&JK, *fide* EE) and 40 above Skykomish, Wash., Nov. 7 (DD) were the vanguard of a heavy winter movement. Single Loggerhead Shrikes strayed W to Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash., Oct. 18 (GDa, *fide* HN), and to Sutherlin, n. of Roseburg, Ore., Oct. 24 (MHu, *fide* MSa).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — A Solitary Vireo Oct. 25 at Tillamook Bay (RP) was late, and a Warbling Vireo Oct. 11 at Leadbetter Pt (RWi) was the latest ever for Washington. An imm. Black-and-white Warbler was at Tillamook Bay Sept. 26 (OSc, ph., *fide* DI, HN) A Tennessee Warbler was reported Sept. 2 at Fern Ridge Res. (BO, *fide* JE). A few Yellow Warblers stayed late with singles Oct. 11 at Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (RWi), Oct. 12 at Tofino, V.I. (MSh, *fide* VG), and Nov. 7 at Eugene, Ore. (DR). An imm. **Blackburnian Warbler** at Leadbetter Pt., Oct. 4 (†RWi) was the third single-person sighting from Washington, all since 1979. Hermit Warblers lingered near Eugene until Oct. 20 (DF) and Nov. 5 (TM). An imm. **Chestnut-sided Warbler** Sept. 15 at Florence constituted the first in fall from the Oregon coast (†DF). An obscure imm. Prairie Warbler reported from Yaquina Bay Sept. 27 (†JG, OSc, DI, m.ob.) is being considered by the Oregon Bird Records Committee as a possible first state record. Palm Warblers were located as usual at coastal points from Rofino, V I , s. to the California border. The first appeared Sept. 17 near Brookings, Ore. (JG, DI, *fide* HN). One at Kent, s. of Seattle, Oct. 25 (†ESH) was the only record away from the immediate coast. Vagrant N. Waterthrushes turned up Aug. 19 on the Westport, Wash., jetty (WHa, *fide* G&WH) and Sept. 26 near Bellingham, Wash (†SVN). A Com. Yellowthroat Nov. 15 at the Skagit Game Range near Mt. Vernon, Wash. (BHT), was the latest-ever for Washington. Late Wilson’s Warblers include one at Seattle Oct. 11 (ER) and a pair on s. V.I., Oct. 20 (J&RS, *fide* VG).

**BOBOLINK THROUGH SPARROWS** — Four Bobolinks appeared in September during a period of high pressure with N winds.

Singles were at Seattle Sept 3 & 14 (DP, NC), and in Oregon at Newport (MN, *fide* JE), and at Gold Beach sewage ponds, Sept 17 (JG, DI, *fide* HN). A late Bobolink was killed Nov. 7 by a N. Shrike in C. Saanich, V.I. (ML, JH\*, *fide* VG). A Yellow-headed Blackbird Nov. 7 in Kent, Wash., was also late (ESH *et al.*). The first **Orchard Oriole** recorded for Oregon was at Yaquina Bay Sept. 27 (†JG, OSc, ph., m.ob.). It was an immature, bright yellow below, and scarcely larger than accompanying White-crowned Sparrows.

Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at Tillamook this fall, one Sept. 6 (JG, OSc) and two Oct. 5 (JG, OSc, ph.). Several Pine Grosbeaks were noted in the lowlands w. of the Cascades where they are normally noted only during winter finch invasions. Singles were in Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 4 (MDa, *fide* WW), between Chimacum and Center, Jefferson Co., Wash., Sept. 24 (KK), in the Sooke Dist., V I , Oct. 14 (J&RS, *fide* VG), and in Saanich, V.I., Nov. 1 (*fide* VG) Several flocks of up to 30 **White-winged Crossbills** appeared in the c Oregon Cascades at Waldo L., and Gold L., Sept. 1-18 (†T&AM, †AC, MSa, ph., m.ob.), and two were 20 mi n.e. at Lava Camp L., Aug. 29-late Sept. (FR *et al.*, *fide* HN). Ten White-winged were also seen below Hurricane Ridge, above Port Angeles, Wash., Sept 9 (ESH, RSt *et al.*). A Green-tailed Towhee Aug. 22 at 5000 ft on Mt Hood (GW, *fide* HN) was both n. and w. of its usual range.

A late Vesper Sparrow was at the Montlake Fill in Seattle Sept. 23-29 (TW, SA). A Tree Sparrow was at the same location Oct. 15 and Nov. 7 (†ER) for the only report this fall. An imm. **Clay-colored Sparrow** found Oct. 18 at Cannon Beach, Ore. (JG, OSc, ph.), provided a sixth state record. The only Harris’ Sparrows reported were singles Oct. 1 at Langford, V.I. (†VB), and Nov. 23 at N Saanich, V.I. (†LR). Thirty White-throated Sparrows turned up Eighteen were in Oregon and seven on s. V.I. The earliest was Sept 7 at Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (RWi), nearly a month before the next sighting. An extraordinarily early Swamp Sparrow was seen at Jericho P., Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 26 (†MP) for only the second local record.

**CITED OBSERVERS** and **ABBREVIATIONS**, with Sub-Regional editors in boldface. Scott Atkinson, Virginia Bartkow, Range Bayer, Mark Belanger, Bobby Berge (BBe), Thais Bock, Bill Brynteson (BBR), Wayne Campbell, Ralph Carlson, Mike Carmody, Nancy Colton, Alan Contreras, Mark Daly (MDa), Gordon Dawson (GDa), George Deagle (GDe), Michael Donahue (MDo), Dennis Duffy, Mark Egger (ME), Alice Elston, Elzy Eltzroth, Don & Marie Emenhiser (D&ME), Dick Erickson (DER), Joe Evanich, Bob & Pat Evans, *David Fix* (DF), Chuck Flaherty, David Fraser (DFr), Jeff Gilligan, **Vic Goodwill**, Steve Gordon, Warren Hall (WHa), **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), Steven Heinl, J. Hitchmough, Glen & Wanda Hoge (G&WH), Harold Hosford, Matt Hunter (MHu), David Hutchinson, David Irons, Don Jole, Brian Kautesk, Ken Knittle, Anne Knowles, Rick & Jan Krabbe, Doug Kragh, Fayette Krause, Art & Nancy Lang (A&NL), Al Larrabee (ALa), M. Lee, Tom Lund, Bruce Macdonald (BM), Fred Martinsen, Steve Matthews, Bob & Judy McMurtrie (B&JMc), Tom & Allison Mickel, Marjorie Moore, Pat Muller (PMu), Mark Nebecker, **Harry Nehls**, B. Ostyn, Richard Palmer, Fred Parker, **Dennis Paulson**, Curt Pearson, Evelyn Peaslee (EPe), Michael Price, Eleanor Pugh (EPu), Fred Ramsey, Ellen Ratoosh, Bill & Geness Reichert, Leila Roberts, Dennis Rogers, Joy & Ron Satterfield (J&RS), Martha Sawyer (MSa), Owen Schmidt (OSc), Pat Schneider (PSc), Tom Schooley (TSc), Floyd Schrock, Michael Shepard (MSh), Dory & Stan Smith (D&SS), Mark Smith (MSm), Terry Smith (TSm), Rich Stallcup (RSt), Eleanor Stopps, Gary Strachan, Wally Sumner, Otis Swisher (OSw), Jeremy Tatum (JTa), Berta Teale (BTe), Bill Thackaberry (BTh), Jeff Tosh (JTo), Sally van Niel (SVN), Frank Wagner, **Terry Wahl**, Glenn Walthall, Ruben Ware (RWa), Clarice Watson, **Wayne Weber**, Debra Wessel, Ralph Widrig (RWi), Jack Williams, (†) = written description on file, (\*) = specimen, S.J.C.R. = South Jetty of the Columbia R., Ore., V.I., Vancouver I., B.C.—**EUGENE S. HUNN, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103, and PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR., Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle 98195.**



## MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jules Evens, Richard A. Erickson and Ron LeValley

This fall seemed to herald the end of the drought years in our Region. The first minor storm front passed through during the third week of September, October brought storms during the first and last weeks then November appeared to bring one continual rainstorm, culminating in the most severe storm to hit the Pacific Northwest in 19 years. Most stations recorded rainfall totals well above seasonal averages and far above last year's comparable figures. Land temperatures remained mild until the last week of November and coastal ocean water temperatures cooled more slowly than usual; by the end of the period sea temperatures were about 1° C above normal, hovering around 13-14° C along the coast.

Landbird migrants first arrived at F.I., July 22 followed by small waves August 14 & 18; the first vagrant wave arrived August 23. Migration throughout the Region remained strong from late August until September 16, with especially strong numbers September 12-16. On September 17 clear skies and strong winds developed, and coupled with a storm front September 24, quelled movement until the end of the month. September 30-October 3 hosted a big wave of western migrants at Pt. Reyes and F.I. Thereafter movement slowed, however October 14-16, 20, and 27-30 were productive days.

Generally mild temperatures well into mid-October encouraged unusually late lingerers in the mountains and lowlands (see Tyrannids through Swallows below). From mid-October on there was a strong movement of montane species into the lowlands.

In the high Sierra an early snowmelt last spring followed by a productive breeding season produced "an autumn migration and up-mountain drift with great numbers and diversity . . . noticeably abundant were Nashville and MacGillivray's warblers. Conspicuously absent during breeding and migration was Wilson's Warbler. It was a banner year for the white-bark pine crop.

**Early dates:** Rough-legged Hawk Sept. 19 Pt. Reyes; Ferruginous Hawk Sept. 30 Pt. Reyes; Peregrine Falcon Aug. 21 L. Talawa, Del Norte Co.; Merlin Sept. 12 S.F.; Rock Sandpiper Oct. 23 F.I.; Dunlin Sept. 11 L. Talawa; Herring Gull Sept. 19 F.I.; Thayer's Gull Sept. 16 Abbott's Lagoon, P.R.N.S.; Mew Gull Oct. 1 Pescadero; Say's Phoebe Sept. 3 Pt. Reyes; Varied Thrush Sept. 29 Inverness; Hermit Thrush Sept. 13 F.I.; Water Pipit Sept. 6, coastal Del Norte Co.; Fox Sparrow Sept. 4 Pt. St. George.

**Late dates:** Pectoral Sandpiper Nov. 9 Arcata Bottoms; Baird's Sandpiper Oct. 1; Santa Cruz; Wilson's Phalarope Sept. 20 Davis; N. Phalarope Nov. 22 Kelseyville; Com. Tern Nov. 14 Alameda; Least Tern Sept. 1 Palo Alto; Caspian Tern Nov. 30 Crescent City; Black Tern Oct. 30 Arcata; W. Flycatcher Oct. 18; Bolinas; Rough-winged Swallow Oct. 14 Friant Dam, Fresno Co.; Cliff Swallow Oct. 17 Lodi; Swainson's Thrush Oct. 20 F.I.; Warbling Vireo Oct. 14 F.I.; Yellow Warbler Oct. 24 Bodega Bay; Wilson's Warbler Oct. 17 Bolinas Lagoon; W. Tanager Nov. 2 Inverness and F.I.; Black-headed Grosbeak Nov. 24 Inverness; Lazuli Bunting Oct. 4 near Half Moon Bay; Grasshopper Sparrow Oct. 28 F.I.; Chipping Sparrow Nov. 18 Santa Rosa.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = s.e. Farallon Is.; G.G.P. = Golden Gate Park, S.F.; H.N.A. = Hall Natural Area, elevation 10,000 ft in the Sierra Nevada, Mono County; L.V.R.S. = Los Vaqueros Res. Site, s.e. Contra Costa County; P.R.B.O. = Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory; P.R.N.S. = Pt. Reyes Nat'l Seashore; S.F. = San Francisco; S.J. = San Joaquin (Valley); † = description on file; ph. = photo on file. All observations at Palomar (near Bolinas) and F.I. should be credited to P.R.B.O.

**LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSES** — Single basic-plumage Common and Arctic loons at Crowley L., Sept. 6 (†PL) probably summered locally. The latter bird was over a month earlier than the record for an inland location: one at L. Shastina, Siskiyou Co., Oct. 9-10 (RE, MR). One or two Red-necked Grebes summered at Drake's Bay but by Aug. 15 seven were found off Drake's Beach (DS) and 37 were seen off Limantour Spit Sept. 15 (JE). One was inland at the Stockton sewage ponds Sept. 10 (†DY).

A Laysan Albatross was seen 12 mi off the Klamath R. mouth Aug. 14 (*vide* GL). Northern Fulmars were first recorded off Crescent City Sept. 10 (GL), off Humboldt Bay (CH, JS) and on Monterey Bay Oct. 3 (DLE) and by Oct. 17 100± were seen off Sonoma County (BDP). A major die-off began between Pt. Reyes and Monterey in late Novem-



ber (*vide* JE). Following last fall's hiatus, Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found in typical tiny numbers from Del Norte to Monterey County Sept. 5-Nov. 15. New Zealand Shearwaters were again scarce with 15 off Humboldt Bay Oct. 3 the maximum number reported (CH). A single Short-tailed Shearwater was there Oct. 3 (JS, CH) and 5+ were on Monterey Bay Oct. 10+ (RS, JM *et al.*). Two Manx Shearwaters seen from Pt. Pinos Oct. 11 (JD) were the only ones reported. A possible Scaled Petrel was seen on Monterey Bay Oct. 10 (†RS).

The highest reported numbers of Ashy and Black storm-petrels on Monterey Bay were 6000 and 4000 respectively Sept. 21 (RS). Three Black Storm-Petrels off Cape Mendocino Sept. 8 and one there Sept. 9 represent the first Humboldt County records and presumably the northernmost for the species (G. Friedrichsen, *vide* S.W. Harris). Least Storm-Petrels appeared on Monterey Bay in unprecedented numbers. Stallcup found 80-120 there Sept. 6 with an "ultra conservative" 200+ Sept. 21. Other observers reported lower numbers with two Oct. 17 (JD, SFB) the last seen. The previous high count was three (1972, 1974). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen on Monterey Bay Sept. 6-Oct. 18 (RS, †JM, SFB *et al.*) with three Oct. 12 (JD) the high count.

**TROPICBIRDS THROUGH IBISES** — A Red-billed Tropicbird halfway between F.I. and the mainland Sept. 20 (SC) furnished one of very few regional records. About 2000 White Pelicans were found on an aerial survey of San Francisco Bay N.W.R., Sept. 17 (RWL), the largest number in 13+ years. They were first noted at Drake's Bay Aug. 4 (*vide* DS); two immatures in the Redwood Cr. to Big Lagoon area, Humboldt Co., Aug. 22-Oct. 5 (GS *et al.*) were out of range. Brown Pelicans were conspicuous, especially late in the season, but more thorough reporting on this erratic and still officially endangered species is encouraged. At Crescent City 300-400 were present Nov. 14 (GL). An additional 100 were at the Klamath R. mouth Nov. 13 (RAE) and 300+ were near Trinidad Nov. 11 (*vide* LD). At F.I., 300-500 were still present at the end of November and a near record high count of 4025 was made in 1.5 hrs at dusk at the Pajaro R. mouth Nov. 10 (J&RW). The only Magnificent Frigatebirds seen were on the n. coast: one at the Klamath R. mouth Sept. 4 (GL) and two n. of Pt. Arena Sept. 6 (*vide* SFB).

An imm. Green Heron in the Susan R. Canyon near Susanville Oct. 23 (BS) was unusual e. of the Cascade-Sierran axis. On the coast, a Cattle Egret at Pescadero marsh Oct. 3 (AE) was early—the major arrival was not until the end of October. Five Cattle Egrets at Honey Lake N.W.R., Nov. 26 (RL&V, LD) were notable as there are few records of the Cascade-Sierran crest. A sub-ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron was at Año Nuevo S.P., Sept. 12-Oct. 17 (W. Rockman, †JM, †EH, †BrB *et al.*). The only previous unquestionable record

was of an adult that summered in the San Rafael area 1968-1973. An added bonus at Año Nuevo was a Least Bittern Sept. 19 (*vide* SFB). One-four White-faced Ibises at Zmudowski State Beach Aug. 23-Sept. 8 (DR, RS) apparently represent our earliest ever fall coastal record. Another was n. of Pt. Arena Sept. 16 (*vide* SFB).

**WATERFOWL** — Geese were present in great numbers in the Klamath Basin in November when 6 species were recorded at Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 21: Canada, Brant, Emperor (present all month with "Cacklers"), White-fronted, Snow (including "Blues") and Ross' (RE, MR). An additional inland Brant was at Butte Sink, Sutter Co., Oct. 29 (DP). Endangered "Aleutian" Canada Geese continue to increase owing to recovery team efforts and another record count was established Nov. 16 when the combined total near Crescent City and near Colusa equalled 2700 (*vide* PS).

In heavily birded w. Marin County, the following list of earliest duck reports must be close to the true arrival time for these species: Gadwall Aug. 29, Pintail Aug. 15, Green-winged Teal Aug. 28, Am. Wigeon Aug. 15, N. Shoveler Aug. 15, Redhead Sept. 15, Ring-necked Duck Sept. 21, Greater Scaup Sept. 25, Bufflehead Oct. 16, Black Scoter Oct. 7, Ruddy Duck Sept. 13 and Hooded Merganser Nov. 13 (all DS, JE).

A ♂ Mallard x Gadwall was at L. Talawa Oct. 25 (†RAE). Owing to increasing observer confidence in identifying ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal, more Blue-winged Teal reports were received this fall than ever before. Nevertheless, we are still far from knowing the true autumn status of these species. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Bolinas Lagoon Sept. 10-Nov. 15+ (DS *et al.*) established a record early date.

Another hybrid, a ♂ Ring-necked Duck x apparently Greater Scaup was at Muddy Hollow, P.R.N.S., Sept. 15 (†JE). Estimates of 28,000 and 10,000 Canvasbacks at the Stockton sewage ponds Nov. 15 (DY) & 18 (DSc) were very impressive, but only eight were left by Dec. 3 (DY). Aerial census totals of only 588 at San Francisco Bay N.W.R., Nov. 9 and 7200 on San Pablo Bay Nov. 19 were perhaps too early to record the major wintering concentrations there, however scaup totals were 13,231 and 85,000 on the same surveys (RWL *et al.*). Tufted Ducks returned to Pt. Reyes once again but their exact numbers are uncertain. Abbott's Lagoon had single "females" Oct. 7 & Nov. 14 thought to be different individuals (DS); Horseshoe Pond at Drake's Beach had one-two "males" or a "pair" Oct. 26-Nov. 14 (†KH *et al.*); and Muddy Hollow had a "pair" Nov. 7 (AE). More care is needed in dealing with this very rare species.

A ♀ Com. Goldeneye at Tule Lake N.W.R., Sept. 14 (BED) was apparently an early returnee. An Oldsquaw present at Emeryville since July 7 was last seen Aug. 11 (JM, *vide* SFB). Scoter totals were 4740 at San Francisco Bay N.W.R., and 18,760 on San Pablo Bay on the November aerial censuses (RWL *et al.*). An ad. ♂ Surf Scoter at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 4 (BED) was very early. Single juv. Hooded Mergansers were at L. Talawa Sept. 6 & 18 (RAE, GL), once again suggesting nesting in that area.

**VULTURES THROUGH RAILS** — A secondhand report of two ad. California Condors at Henry Coe S.P., Santa Clara Co., Sept. 13 seems credible (†*vide* WB). The most recent regional Coast Range records in our files are from 1974. In n.e. California, single White-tailed Kites were at Honey L., Sept. 27 (BS) and Tule Lake N.W.R., Sept. 29 (BED). The only "Harlan's" Hawk reported was an immature at Orick Oct. 26 (†RAE), the third coastal record n. of Sonoma County. Another species casual e. of the Cascade-Sierran axis, single Red-shouldered Hawks were found at Willow Cr. Valley, Lassen Co. (an immature Oct. 22 and an adult Nov. 16—both BS) and at Mono L., Sept. 11 (PJM). Given the 23 Broad-winged Hawks tallied passing Pt. Diablo Sept. 18-Oct. 8, there must have been an impressive hawk flight there this year. Almost no quantitative data were submitted on other species however. Files kept by the regional editors are the perfect catalog for this information and it is truly unfortunate that whatever information was gathered is now essentially lost, scattered among countless individual field notebooks. One dark-phase Broad-winged was at Pt. Diablo Sept. 19 (†RLeV), an immature was at Pt. Reyes lighthouse Oct. 4 (B & CY) and an adult was exceptional near Woodfords, Alpine Co., Oct. 25 (†JML). Rough-legged Hawks were again present in low numbers w. of the Great Basin. The only adult reported was near Colusa Nov. 28 (LCB, RS). Ferruginous Hawks were generally present in good numbers with 14 (most immatures, 2 dark-phase) e. of Livermore Oct. 24 (AE) an exceptional count. Generally considered casual on the n. coast, five were found in

Humboldt County Nov. 1-27+ (RLeV, BED *et al.*) An imm. Bald Eagle at Trinidad Aug. 29 (CH) was very early for the coast.

Four separate Ruffed Grouse in the Bridge Cr. drainage, Redwood N.P., Sept. 30 (T. Hofstra, M. Schroeder) were certainly more than normally expected. Similarly 40+ Sage Grouse at Bodie Aug. 27 (JD) was the largest post-breeding concentration in our files. A Clapper Rail at Princeton Harbor San Mateo Co., Nov. 14 (WB) was certainly a migrant.

**SHOREBIRDS** — A Mountain Plover at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Sept. 23-25 (BED *et al.*) was early and represented the first Siskiyou County record. Unprecedented were four July and seven August reports of Am. Golden Plovers, including two inland: Mono L., July 23 (GP) and s. of Madera Aug. 26-31 (KH *et al.*). The first juveniles were noted in w. Marin County Aug. 31 (DS) and ten other inland birds were in Siskiyou, Yolo and San Joaquin counties, Sept. 4-Nov. 11. Although the American race of golden plover has never been proven to winter in California, birds identified as such were at Pt. Reyes as late as Nov. 28 (DS).

A white-rumped Whimbrel in the Arcata bottoms Oct. 29-Nov. 1 (JS, †RAE, †RLeV *et al.*) actually most resembled typical European birds (*N.p. phaeopus*) but was undoubtedly within the range of variation of Siberian birds (*N.p. variegatus*). No European shorebird has ever been known to reach the w. coast of North America so it seems virtually certain the bird wandered down from the Siberian population. Previous North American records of white-rumped birds are presumably restricted to Alaska and the Atlantic coast. Two coastal and 11 inland Solitary Sandpipers were reported Aug. 4-Sept. 28. On Aug. 23 yet another Wandering Tattler was found at Mono L. (DAG). A juvenile at Nicasio Res., Marin Co., Sept. 21 (DS) was much closer to the coast but no less surprising.

At the Stockton sewage ponds two Black Turnstones were found Aug. 18 (†DY) with one still there Aug. 20 (PG). Two May C V sightings were the only previous inland records. Eight Red Phalaropes were found inland as follows: L.V.R.S., Oct. 14 (†DSc); two at the Stockton sewage ponds Oct. 14 (†DY), one there Nov. 18-21 (DSc, DY); Mono L., Oct. 23 (DW); L. Shastina Nov. 17-19 (RE, MR); Clearlake sewage ponds Nov. 17 (JiM) and Kelseyville sewage ponds Nov. 22 (JiM). The dates of all but the Mono L. bird match well phalarope "invasions" on the n. coast Oct. 10-13 and Nov. 14-19 during and following storms (RAE, GL, GS), indeed suggesting the origin of the inland birds.

At Alameda 1200 Red Knots Nov. 28 (*vide* ER, CS) was probably the largest Regional concentration ever. Few Semipalmated Sandpipers were found compared to recent California totals: an adult at L. Talawa July 24 (RAE, GL), four juveniles on the coast from Del Norte to San Mateo County July 24-25 (TBr, RAE, GL, JH) and eight juveniles from Marin and Monterey cos., Aug. 13-Sept. 8 (†DR, DS). Though much more work is needed, scant evidence this year suggests that juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers may actually outnumber the first few juv. W. Sandpipers to arrive in the last week of July. A Baird's Sandpiper on the Petaluma R. estuary Aug. 7 was an adult (JE), others reported are believed to have been juveniles. The first juv. Pectoral Sandpiper was near Ft. Dick Aug. 22 (RAE, GL) although few reports of this species included any age data. Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were at F.I., Sept. 20 (†KH) and Pt. Reyes Nov. 8 (†RS *et al.*). A juv. Curlew Sandpiper near Ft. Dick Aug. 28-29 (†RAE, †GL, †RLeV *et al.*) fits the pattern set by 4 of the previous 7 state records but an adult still retaining considerable alternate plumage in the Ferndale bottoms Oct. 31-Nov. 1 (†JK, JS, †RAE *et al.*) was anomalous. Five Stilt Sandpipers were found along the coast from Del Norte to Monterey County Aug. 28-Oct. 8 but one at L. Shastina Oct. 9-10 (BED, RE, MR) represented a first county record. The two juv. Buff-breasted Sandpipers found were both later than expected: L. Talawa Sept. 25 (†GL, †RAE) and L. Shastina Sept. 27-28 (RE, MR). The latter bird provided the first inland record, although the species has been found more than once near Medford, Oreg. Ruffs included a juvenile near Ft. Dick Sept. 4-11 (RAE, GS, GL *et al.*) another at the Woodland sugar ponds Sept. 11-14 (†TBe, B & HK *et al.*) and one seen briefly at Bolinas Lagoon Oct. 19 (†DS).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Surprisingly, more Long-tailed Jaegers and S. Polar Skuas were found from Sonoma County n than on Monterey Bay. The ratios were 8:4 and 10:6 respectively, indicating rather low densities on Monterey Bay.

The first juv. Glaucous-winged Gull was noted at the Klamath R estuary Sept. 14 (RAE, GL). One Glaucous-winged and seven W

gulls were 25 mi up the Klamath R., at Johnsons Oct 5 (RAE). The latter species has been known to wander much farther up the Klamath but there have been no recent reports. An imm. Mew Gull was at L. Shastina Nov. 19 (MR). About 20 Franklin's Gulls were reported Regionwide Aug. 16-Nov. 30+. Stockton's Black-headed and Little gulls returned again with first dates of Nov. 10 & Oct. 26 reported respectively, but details were very scant. A *juv.* Little Gull at Crescent City Aug. 15 (†GL, †J. Maugins) was totally unexpected as there are presumably no comparable records for w. North America. An ad. Sabine's Gull was at the Davis sewage ponds Sept. 17-20 (TBe, B & HK) and a very late bird was with hundreds of storm-dumped migrant Bonaparte's Gulls in the Arcata bottoms Nov. 27 (BED).

A Forster's Tern at Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 28 was very late and an imm. Com. Tern at adjacent Lower Klamath N.W.R., Sept. 4 furnished the first Siskiyou County record (†SS). Elegant Terns continued their biggest invasion ever: Crescent City had a maximum of five Aug. 16 (GL, RLeV *et al.*); Humboldt Bay had an *incredible* 450+ Aug. 29 (CH, RLeV, LD *et al.*); Pt. Reyes had a maximum of 140 Sept. 4 (DS); San Francisco Bay N.W.R. had 339 on an aerial census Oct. 13 (RWL) with three at Charleston Slough Sept. 11 (WB) for apparently the first Santa Clara county record; the Pajaro R. mouth had 450 Aug. 25 with the last seen Nov. 15 (J & RW); and 1000 were estimated at Moss Landing Oct. 3 (SFB). At Limantour Spit Aug. 15-20 a continual n. movement of Elegant Terns was noted (JE). Conversely, birds were seen flying down the coast at S. F., Sept. 17 (KFC).

One-two **Black Skimmers** continued to be seen in the Moss Landing/Pajaro R. area through Aug. 29 (†DR) and one was present at San Francisco Bay N.W.R., Aug. 25-Sept. 7 (RWL).

#### S.A.

A new, potential major threat to seabirds has surfaced in our Region. Beginning in 1979, reports of beached seabirds dramatically increased in Monterey Bay. The cause of this mortality proved to be entanglement with halibut gill nets. The majority were Com. Murres and Sooty Shearwaters, but numbers of cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots and Marbled Murrelets were also found. Nearly 20,000 seabirds were estimated to have drowned in nets and washed ashore October 1980-August 1981. Particularly vulnerable are Pigeon Guillemots and Marbled Murrelets, both of which exist in relatively small numbers in Monterey Bay. Alarmingly, the number of Pigeon Guillemots estimated drowned is larger than the known local population. A minor change in the fishing regulations could substantially reduce the toll on birds, but this would also reduce fishing success an unknown amount. (Calif. Dept. Fish & Game, *vide* RWL).

An "unusual" concentration of 60 Marbled Murrelets was at the Russian R. mouth Sept. 26 (BDP). Few *Endomychura* were reported: two Xantus' were far n. off Crescent City Aug. 24 (*vide* RAE), two more were on Monterey Bay Sept. 19 (DR), four Craveri's were on Monterey Bay Sept. 6 (RS) and unidentified pairs were on Monterey Bay Aug. 24 and off Pt. Pinos Oct. 11 (both JD).

**PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — One+ White-winged Dove was on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 16 & 28 (JML, BY *et al.*). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Santa Cruz Aug. 8 (SG) provided the first coastal August record (see summer report).

Records of migrant Flammulated Owls are most unusual, therefore the following are of interest: a fresh roadkill near Mineral Summit, Tehama Co., Aug. 28 (*vide* DAA) and one roosting in willows near Yreka Sept. 2 (SAL, RE, MR). Burrowing Owls were well reported. Relatively high winter numbers belie the tenuous status of this species as a breeder. In Yosemite, one Long-eared Owl was at McGurk Meadows Aug. 25 and Foresta Oct. 15-16 (JD); five were near Bodie in the Mono Basin Aug. 4 (PG) and one was at Tule-Lake N.W.R., Nov. 21 (RE, MR). A Short-eared Owl at Moss Landing Aug. 10 (SFB, DR) was early if it did not breed locally. In s. S.F. Bay 20+ were concentrated between Redwood Cr., and Belmont Slough Nov. 13 (RWL *et al.*), but none was found on 8 visits to Suisun Marsh in the n. Bay (BED). Saw-whet Owl was scarce on the c. coast (DDeS, JE), however three migrants were at F.I., Oct. 20-Nov. 3 and one was on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 28 (*vide* SFB). Four were reported from the w. slope of the Sierra.

Eleven Poor-wills Oct 7-Nov 17 probably mirror the typical migratory period. One that arrived at F.I., Oct 13 was found dead Nov. 16. A *Chordeiles* sp. flew through the Santa Clara High School stadium Oct. 16 (*vide* WB); any species is rare this late. An impressive concentration of 600+ Com. Nighthawks at L. Almanor Aug 19 (PJM) was the migratory peak; one at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct 8 (BED) was slightly late.

**SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Black Swift made a rather late passage along the coast through Oct. 10 with an apparent peak Sept. 26-Oct. 3. A **Chimney Swift** at F.I., Sept. 11-14 (P.R. B O, †KH *ph.*) provided the Region's first fall record. Vaux's Swift movement spanned Sept. 5-Oct. 17 (normal), however a late peak brought *unprecedented* numbers with up to 2000 over downtown S.F., Oct 3 (WB) and 5000+ streaming past Palomarin Oct. 13. One over Pt. Reyes Station Nov. 27 (SC) was exceptional. Two Costa's Hummingbirds were still present near the nesting site at Bixby Canyon, Monterey Co., Sept. 26 (JLu) and an ad. male present at a Redwood City feeder since mid-July remained into late September (*vide* PJM).

Acorn Woodpeckers have apparently been extirpated from Alum Rock P., Santa Clara Co., where they were formerly abundant (PG). Observers who have been in an area for extended periods are encouraged to monitor this (and other hole-nesting) species. Migrating Lewis' Woodpeckers were noted flying SE over Auburn Sept 30-Oct. 8 (BBA) and had arrived at wintering locations in the C.V. by mid-October. Vagrants reached the coast at P.R.N.S., Sept. 9 & Oct 18 (DS *et al.*), near Crescent City Oct. 13 (*vide* RAE) & Oct. 16 (GL) and inland near Rohnert Park, Sonoma Co., Sept. 30 (LCB). Four extralimital "Red-naped" Sapsuckers (*S.v. nuchalis*) were reported one male Sept. 30, F.I.; one "pure" Oct. 16, Yosemite Valley (JD), one ad. male Oct. 24, Solano L. (RS *et al.*); one at Muddy Hollow, P.R.N.S., Nov. 7 (DY). Williamson's Sapsucker was found in Yosemite at Foresta Oct. 16 (JD) and Mariposa Grove Nov. 7 (VJ).

**TYRANNIDS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Eighteen Tropical Kingbirds were on the coast from Monterey to Crescent City Sept 19-Oct. 31 (m.ob.). Seven E. Kingbirds were clustered along the c. coast Sept. 5-19 (m.ob.) with an eighth near Arcata Sept. 17 (*vide* LD). A W. Kingbird at Creighton Ranch Oct. 12-18 was about 2 weeks later than previous S.J. Valley records (RH). Four Ash-throated Flycatchers on the coast Oct. 14-18 and one near Trinidad Oct. 30 (JK) were unusually late. Two *Myiarchus* sp. were also late on the C.V. floor one at Merced N.W.R., Nov. 23 (RJB) and one at Davis Dec. 3 (*vide* TBe). Willow Flycatcher movement began Aug. 8 (early) at F.I., peaked Sept. 9 and extended into October (late) with a very late bird s. of Crescent City Oct. 13 (GL, RAE). Without precedent was a **Willow Flycatcher** in Crescent City Nov. 1-26 (GL, RAE *et al.*) but not thereafter! Single Least Flycatchers were at F.I., Sept. 3, 15 & 16 and near the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 12 (†JD). Late lingering Hammond's Flycatchers were at Yosemite Valley Oct. 14 (JD) and El Portal Oct 15 (JD). The Region's latest ever W. Wood Pewees were at Yreka Oct. 12 (RE) and G.G.P., Oct. 17 (JM). The Region's seventh Vermilion Flycatcher was photographed at Creighton Ranch Nov 1 (T. Blake).

The **Common Skylark** (see *Western Birds* 11:166) is becoming a living legend, returning to Pt. Reyes Nov. 3 (JRi) for the *fourth* consecutive winter.

On Oct. 13-14 in coastal Marin, a massive movement of Violet-green Swallows accompanied the Vaux's Swift (q.v.) wave (P.R. B O DDeS, JE). This surge must have been very concentrated as *none* reached F.I. those days. Peak movement in the C.V. was noted Sept 25 and Oct. 12-14 (RH, J. Stillwell). Late Tree Swallows were found in unusual numbers with 50+ in Alameda Nov. 23 (DSc), 600 at Suisun Marsh Nov. 29 (BED) and 22 at Lodi Sewage Ponds Dec 7 (DY). One at Ft. Dick Nov. 10 (RT) was the only late n. coast report. In keeping with the lingering trend of insectivores this fall was a Bank Swallow at Lodi Oct. 28 (†DY) and a Barn Swallow there Nov. 4-Dec 7 (DY). Small numbers of late Barn Swallows were through Nov 17. Purple Martin remained through Sept. 24 (late) on the n. coast (RAE, GL) and the last sighting was at P.R.N.S., Sept. 30 (BY).

**CORVIDS THROUGH MIMIDS** — Two Scrub Jays at May L., Yosemite at an elevation of 9275 ft, Aug. 22 (PG) were "quite gray" and may have been from the distinct Great Basin population (*A. c. nevadae*) as suggested by Gaines, 1977, *Birds of the Yosemite Sierra*. Wandering individuals were at Medicine L., Siskiyou Co., Sept 20

(SS, BED) and Terwer Valley, Del Norte Co., Oct. 12 (RAE). A Black-billed Magpie at Crescent City Nov. 18-21 (B. Tryon *et al.*) was well out of range, although not without precedent on the n. coast (Humboldt & Trinity cos.). A housing development on the Monterey Pen., has nearly extirpated the flock of Yellow-billed Magpies there; one heard Aug. 29 at Pt. Pinos (DR) may be all that remains. Common Crow is rare in the mountains, so one in Yosemite Valley Oct. 16 (JD) was noteworthy. A Clark's Nutcracker at Sanger Peak, Del Norte Co., Nov. 25 (GL) was extralimital and strong numbers at all high locations in Alpine County (JLu) probably reflect synchrony with the white-bark pine cone crop (see introduction). High numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches were reported along the edge of their range and single vagrants reached the coast near Shelter Cove, Humboldt Co., Sept. 2 (RAE), outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 19 (*fide* DS) and at Marin Headlands Oct. 15 (KFC). Red-breasted Nuthatch was "present in small numbers" on the n. coast Aug. 22-Sept. 25 (RAE, GL) and staged a strong (but not massive) invasion along the c. coast Aug. 13-Nov. 6. Numbers dwindled after mid-September at P.R.N.S. (P.R.B.O., RS, JE). Anomalously, F.I. recorded the highest number Oct. 13-Nov. 6. South of Pt. Reyes and F.I., the species was virtually unreported. Whether the subsequent decline is due to dispersal or mortality, is a difficult but intriguing problem. A Pygmy Nuthatch on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 1 (RoS) was most unusual. Brown Creeper was "more common than usual" in the C.V. (RJB, DY), in keeping with the invasion of montane species into the lowlands. Winter Wren has been detected with increasing regularity along the n.w. slope of the Sierra recently (DAA) and one in Susan R. Canyon Oct. 23 was (surprisingly) a first record for Lassen County (BS). A Bewick's Wren at F.I., Oct. 14-Nov. 30+ had only one precedent (fall 1980). A Cañon Wren reached 10,000 ft at H.N.A., in "ragged plumage" Sept. 29 (DDeS, BE) for an altitudinal record.

The Brown Thrasher that summered in Carmel was last seen Sept. 19 (*fide* SFB). Sage Thrasher wanders widely in the fall: four were reported from the C.V. floor (n. of the normal winter range) Aug. 25-Oct. 23 and six along the c. coast Sept. 26-Nov. 30. More unusual was one at Foresta Oct. 16 (JD).

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — Varied Thrush staged a fairly heavy flight coastally from mid-October through the period and was found out of habitat at several locations in the C.V. and Great Basin. A concentration of 350 W. Bluebirds along Mines Rd., Alameda Co., Oct. 11 (KFC) was most unusual; hundreds were also in Burrough Valley, Fresno Co., Nov. 6 (FY). Ten Mountain Bluebirds remained in the Sierra as late as Oct. 16 (JD) and one arrived in the S.J. Valley Oct. 22 (RH) with average numbers there after. Coastal vagrants were at F.I., Oct. 17 & Nov. 1. Townsend's Solitaire was numerous in Alpine Co., Nov. 8 (JLu) and vagrants were at Alpine L., Marin Co., Oct. 17 (*fide* SFB), outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 18 (DSc, PG, BY), F.I., Oct. 31, and Solano L., Nov. 28 (LCB, BDP, RS). The first migrant Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Muir Beach, Marin Co., July 31 (DS), one at Ft. Dick Nov. 13-29 (RT *et al.*) was far n. for a coastal migrant and a total of 24 at Palomarin was very high.

—S.A.—

Undoubtedly the landbird event of the season was the irruption of kinglets of both species into c. California. Golden-crowneds were particularly ubiquitous; one observer "encountered them everywhere in the lowlands" (SAL) while others found them foraging in sagebrush and saltmarsh. A review of the reports by m.ob. indicates that the source of the irruption was the c. Sierra. High numbers were found on the coast primarily between Sonoma and Santa Cruz, in the s. Sacramento Valley and the Mono Basin. They were unreported by thorough contributors in the n. Sierra, the n. coast and the Monterey Pen. It may be assumed that the invasion resulted from an exceptional breeding success in the mountains (and on the coast?), an hypothesis supported by successful breeding last summer at H.N.A. (DDeS) and the general impressions of various observers at various locales last spring and summer.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets also arrived in remarkable numbers, but observers were not as impressed by the abundance, perhaps because it is such a commonly encountered fall/winter species every year. A very early migrant was at Pt. Reyes Aug. 14 (RoS) and the peak at

F.I., was Oct. 21. As DDeS observed, Ruby-crowned Kinglets were "the second most abundant bird everywhere".

Two Red-throated Pipits were found at Pt. Reyes. Sept. 24 (RS *et al.*) and Oct. 18 (WR, JE). Since the first mainland record in 1978, this species has been found annually Sept. 24-Oct. 21. A single Bohemian Waxwing was at Lassen College near Susanville Nov. 25 (BS) and several flocks (totaling about 15 birds) at Lee Vining Canyon, Mono Co., Nov. 29 were feeding on juniper berries and being harried by solitaires (DAG). Of 17 N. Shrikes reported outside the n. Great Basin Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 12 (11 imm., one ad.) were coastal, four were in the Mono Basin (DAG *et al.*) and one was at Gray Lodge W.M.A., in the C.V. (BED).

An ad. **Yellow-throated Vireo** was found dead at Tierra Grande in Carmel Valley Aug. 23 (M. Yegella, JD, \* Pacific Grove Mus. of Nat. His.) for a fourth Regional record. Solitary Vireos were found in Yosemite through mid-October (JD) and one lingered at Orick until Nov. 17 (RAE). The only non-*cassinii* report was of a *V.s. plumbeus* at Big Sur Sept. 21 (PJM). Five-six Red-eyed Vireos were on the coast at Pt. Reyes, Bodega and F.I., Aug. 30-Sept. 19 (m.ob.). One Philadelphia Vireo was at Pt. Reyes Oct. 4 (B & CY), the only sighting.

**WARBLERS** — About 30 Black-and-white Warblers were on the coast Aug. 23 (early)-Nov. 30+. Inland records were at Arroyo Seco, Monterey Co., Oct. 12 (*fide* SFB) and Santa Rosa Oct. 15 (DE). A Prothonotary Warbler at F.I., Sept. 12-16 was an island first (KH ph) and another was near Davenport Oct. 16 (†CB, R. Everden). Equally unusual were two Worm-eating Warblers: Pt. Pinos Oct. 12 (DR) and outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 28-29 (BY, IT, †JE). Thirty-seven coastal Tennessee Warblers from Pt. St. George to Carmel (11 at F.I.) Aug. 18 (early)-Nov. 30 was normal. Twenty Nashville Warblers were on the immediate coast Sept. 3-Nov. 7 with 12 more at F.I., Sept. 2-Nov. 30. The daily coverage of F.I., perhaps allows for more accurate determination of migratory timing of w. species, however departure dates may be extended by the uninviting prospect of leaving. A Virginia's Warbler at Yosemite Valley July 31 (KH) was one of few w. slope records, however changing distribution (see summer report) may produce more. The only coastal vagrants were at Fairhaven Sept. 8-10 (RLeV *et al.*) and at F.I., Sept. 6-15 (two) and Oct. 1-30 (one). Five N. Parulas were along the coast Aug. 31-Oct. 11. Nineteen Magnolia Warblers (seven at F.I.) were found coastally between Fairhaven and the Carmel R., Sept. 7-Oct. 25. Single Cape Mays were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 13 (RoS, B & CY) and Oct. 3 (RS). Bodega Bay Sept. 14 (NTC, MG) and F.I., Sept. 13, Oct. 21 & 26. Eight Black-throated Blues (two at F.I.) were on the coast Sept. 10-Nov. 1 from Marin Headlands to Mad R., Humboldt Co. (m.ob.).

A very early "Myrtle" Warbler was near Orick Sept. 9-14 (RAE). Otherwise, "Myrtles" arrived simultaneously at Año Nuevo (PJM) and F.I., on Oct. 1. Early migrant "Audubon's" Warblers were noted at scattered locations on the coast and inland Sept. 11-17 (m.ob.). Movement of Townsend's Warblers began rather early at Pt. Reyes, Aug. 14 (RoS). Black-throated Green Warblers were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 14-15 (JP, *et al.*), Pt. Pinos Oct. 13 (DR) and the Carmel R., Oct. 24 (BLaB *et al.*). A Hermit Warbler and a Townsend's x Hermit hybrid lingered late in Yosemite Valley Oct. 14 (JD). Another Townsend's x Hermit was near Orick Sept. 23 (†RAE). The Region's fifth and sixth **Cerulean Warblers** were well documented singles near Mirror L., Yosemite Valley Oct. 12 (†KG) and at F.I., Oct. 23-24 (ph). The Yosemite bird provided the first interior Regional record and the Farallon bird furnished an island record. Eleven Blackburnian Warblers Sept. 14-Oct. 22 was average. Thirteen Chestnut-sided Warblers (four at F.I.) Sept. 10-Oct. 11 (m.ob.) were on the coast between Pt. Reyes and Big Sur. One was inland in the Napa Valley at Yountville Sept. 26 (*fide* SFB). Single Bay-breasted Warblers at Pt. Reyes Sept. 14-15 (B & CY, DS) and Oct. 3-7 (RS *et al.*) were the only coastal reports; one at Creighton Ranch, Tulare Co., Oct. 27 (RH) had only one interior precedent, a bird found dead in Sacramento in 1977. Seventy-five Blackpolls (30 on F.I.) on the coast from Pt. St. George to Big Sur Aug. 28-Oct. 23 was normal, but 3 interior records were most unusual: Lee Vining Sept. 11 (PJM), Solano L., Sept. 18 (†JL) and Chico Nov. 7-17 (†KVV, KC). Prairie Warblers were at F.I., Aug. 22-23, Fairhaven Aug. 27-31 (RAE *et al.*) and Bodega Bay Oct. 21 (NTC). Palm Warblers surged down the coast Sept. 12 (early) Nov. 30+ with 120 reported (25 at F.I.); none was found inland in contrast to last fall.

Only two Ovenbirds were on the mainland: singles at Big Sur R., Sept. 21 (PJM, JS) and Stinson Beach Oct. 23 (DWi). Ten reached

F I , Sept 3-Oct 10 Of eight N Waterthrushes, six were along the c coast (two F I ) Sept 4-16 (m ob ) with no others reported until Oct 19 when one was at Bodega Bay (*vide* BDP) and one was at G.G.P. (*vide* SFB). A Connecticut Warbler at the Carmel R., Aug. 31 (G Holum, *vide* DR) was the earliest occurrence for this casual vagrant. Four Mourning Warblers were found: one at Carmel R. mouth Aug. 29-31 (†JM, †DR *et al.*), one on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 7-12 (BR, †KGH, †JM *et al.*) and two on F.I., Sept. 13-14 (†P.R.B.O.). Of 13 previous Regional records, 10 are from F.I. An ad. ♂ MacGillivray's Warbler lingered at Mirror L., Yosemite Valley until Oct. 15 (JD). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were at F.I., Aug. 21 & Sept. 15; a third found freshly dead Oct. 20 was quite late. One banded at Palomarin Nov. 1 (late) was only the fourth there since 1966 and a description of the back color indicates that it may have been of the e. race *I.v. virens*. One Hooded Warbler was at Pt. Reyes Sept. 16-19 (BY, JG *et al.*); 2 interior records were most unusual: one at Susan R. Canyon, Lassen Co., Sept. 10 (BS) and one in the Mono Basin below Conway Summit Nov. 1-3 (DAG, TH, MRD, *ph.*). Six Canada Warblers (four at F.I.) were on the c. coast Sept. 12-Oct. 2. With only one fall precedent was an inland Canada Warbler at L.V.R.S., Aug. 28 (†DSc, BR). Approximately 60 (16 at F.I.) Am. Redstarts were reported along the coast Aug. 28-Nov. 6 from Pt. St. George to Carmel with a peak in the first 2 weeks of September. The earliest report came from 10,000 ft in the Sierra at H.N.A., Aug. 27 (DDeS, BE).

**ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — Seven Bobolinks were on the immediate coast Sept. 6-Oct. 17 (four at F.I.); an eighth at Abbott's Lagoon, P.R.N.S., Nov. 5 (DS, JE) was the Region's latest. Tricolored Blackbirds are rare on the n. coast but five were found from Ft. Dick to Arcata Sept. 17-Nov. 11 (RAE, GL *et al.*). Five Orchard Orioles reached F.I., Aug. 28-Oct. 18; elsewhere, singles were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 12 (BrB, JRi, B&CY *et al.*), Fairhaven Oct. 3-4 (LD, RLeV, DS *et al.*), Crescent City Nov. 6 (GL, RAE) and Orick Nov. 25-Dec. 2 (RAE, GS). The only Hooded Oriole reports were from F.I. Sept. 7 & Nov. 19 (†P.R.B.O., †KH), unprecedented there in fall. A "Bullock's x Baltimore" Oriole was at Pt. Reyes Oct. 20 (RS). It was a good year for coastal vagrant Rusty Blackbirds with four reported: Oct. 16-18+ outer Pt. Reyes (IT *et al.*), near Orick Oct. 19-20 (RAE, JS, GL), Bolinas Lagoon Oct. 24 (†DS), and F.I., Nov. 19 A Scarlet Tanager at F.I., Nov. 6 was an exceptional rarity being the ninth and latest for the Region. A ♀ Summer Tanager at Butte Sink near Colusa Oct. 31 (DP, DL) was the only one reported.

**FRINGILLIDS** — About 15 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks occurred Aug. 2-Sept. 23, then *none* was reported until November with one at Palomarin Nov. 4 and one at Fernbridge Nov. 6 (CH, JS). Very late single Blue Grosbeaks were n. of Orick Oct. 14 (GS) and at Merced N.W.R., Nov. 2 (RJB). Evening Grosbeaks were reported in high numbers from the n. coast through October (m.ob.), in Lassen N.P., in August (DM) and at scattered locations in the lowlands through the period.

At Palomarin there were "good numbers of Purple Finch, Pine Siskin and Am. Goldfinch; a large movement of Purple Finches and smaller numbers of siskins coincided with the movement of Vaux's Swifts [q.v.] Oct. 13-14" (P.R.B.O.). After high reproductive success in the Sierra (DDeS, BE), Pine Siskin invaded the C.V., from mid-October through the period (m.ob.). Perhaps the zeal for reproduction explains the observation of a siskin feeding a Lesser Goldfinch by regurgitation on F.I., Sept. 9 (KH). A Lawrence's Goldfinch at Klamath Sept. 17 (RAE) was extralimital; other coastal vagrants were at Tennessee Valley, Marin Co., Sept. 20 (D. Tobkin), Pt. Pinos Oct. 13 (DR) and F.I., Oct. 14-31. The only sighting on the C.V. floor was near Creighton Ranch Sept. 29-Oct. 17 (RH). Single Green-tailed Towhees reached the coast at F.I., Sept. 4 & Oct. 7 and at Land's End, S.F., Sept. 10 (JRi *et al.*). Eleven Lark Buntings Aug. 17 (early)—Oct. 18 was high; most unusual were individuals at False Klamath Cove, Del Norte Co., Sept. 17 (RAE) and Chico Oct. 18 (†KVV, KC).

The only report of Black-throated Sparrow was of one immature at Moss Beach, San Mateo Co., Sept. 30 (PJM), an extreme rarity on the coast. Single Sage Sparrows were at White Slough W.M.A., Lodi Sept. 18 (†DY) and s. of Byron Nov. 19 (DSc), coastal vagrants were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 13-16 (RoS, BY) and F.I., Oct. 1. One imm. Gray-headed Junco at H.N.A., Aug. 7 (DDeS, BE) was far n. of the known

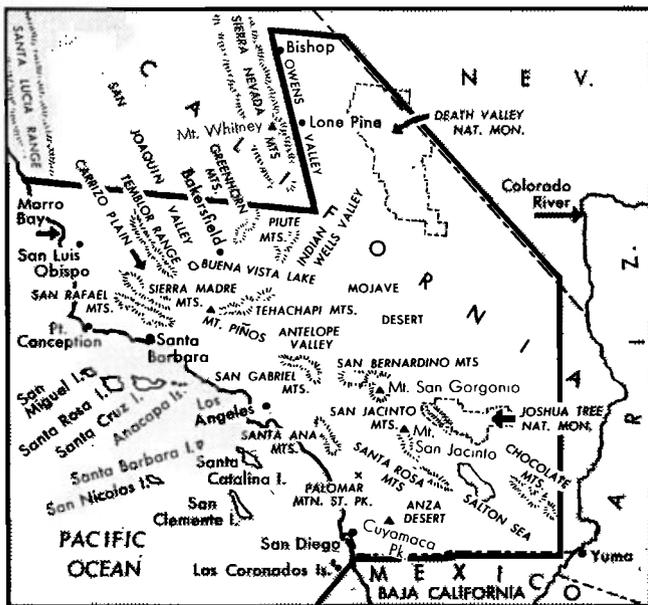
breeding location in the Sierra (Mineral Springs) Single Tree Sparrows were at F I , Oct 8, Ft Dick Nov 2-4 (RT) and Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 7 (SS). *Thirty-four* Clay-colored Sparrows along the coast (20 at F.I.) Aug. 23-Nov. 30 was the Region's highest total to date. Five Brewer's Sparrows were on the coast Sept. 8-Oct. 12, in the mountains, one was at Lassen N.P., Aug. 23 (DM) and one at Granite L., Yosemite (elev. 10,400 ft) Aug. 20 (A & EM). A Harris' Sparrow at Yreka Oct. 21-26 (RE, MR) was the only one reported. The only Swamp Sparrows away from known wintering locations on Pt. Reyes were singles at Pt. St. George (GL) and Orick (RAE), both Oct. 20. Scattered coastal sightings of Lapland Longspurs Sept 29-Nov. 22 peaked with 30 near L. Talawa Oct. 4 (RAE) Chestnut-collared reports were one at F.I., Oct. 13; two at Pt. Reyes Oct 21-Nov. 5 (DS, JE, JRi); and one at Arcata Bottoms Nov. 5 (CH) A single Snow Bunting arrived at F.I., Oct. 25 and three were found in the Humboldt Bay area Nov. 7-11 (*vide* LD).

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## SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION / Guy McCaskie

More than 425 species were found during the 15-week autumn season, including two species new to the Region, making it one of the more exciting periods in recent years. Vagrants were numerous and widespread (39 species of wood warblers reported) and many of our regularly occurring species were found in unusual localities.

An influx of mountain species into the deserts and coastal lowlands was one of the more prominent features of the fall. Golden-crowned Kinglets were widespread, with above-average numbers along the coast during October and November pushing south to the Mexican border (*e.g.*, ten on Pt. Loma October 29—REW) and some straying far out into the deserts (*e.g.*, ten at Ft. Piute, October 31—EAC). White-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers appeared out of range in small numbers along the immediate coastline and a few ventured out into the desert. Small flocks of Pine Siskins were scattered throughout the Region and Evening Grosbeaks pushed south along the mountains to at least San Diego County (one at Mt Palomar October 17+—RH). A few Mountain Chickadees along the coast, along with a Plain Titmouse at Deep Springs Sept. 7 (PEL) and ten ± Bushtits at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley Nov. 18-28 (LLN) may have been associated with the movement. Above-average numbers of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings moving



into the Region during October, bringing with them a few Varied Thrushes, were other noteworthy features of the season.

**LOONS, GREBES** — As usual a few Com. Loons were found inland with one at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) Nov. 27+ (LLN) being at the most unusual locality. A Red-necked Grebe at Redondo Beach, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 26-28 (NS) was the only one found. A Horned Grebe on Whale Rock Res., near San Luis Obispo Sept. 15 (JSR) was exceptionally early, and one at Tecopa, Inyo Co., Oct. 27 (LLN) was the only one found away from the coast.

**SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS** — Northern Fulmars appeared off the coast in mid-October with small numbers reported along the entire coastline by the end of the period. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in California waters, was 4 mi off Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 18 (LBev). Twenty Black-vented Shearwaters off Anacapa I., Aug. 29 (REW) along with nine off Goleta Sept. 4 (LBev) were early for this latitude. An Ashy Storm-Petrel captured in San Diego Nov. 22 (JRJ) had wandered a short distance inland. Least Storm-Petrels were relatively common offshore during August and September with 110 counted off Goleta Sept. 18 (LBev).

**PELICANS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Brown Pelican numbers built up to a high of 47 on the Salton Sea Sept. 17 (PJM) with none to be found in October; an immature at China Lake, Kern Co., Aug. 21 (RLB) had flown far from the head of the Gulf of California. An *Olivaceous Cormorant* at Imperial Dam, Imperial Co., Sept. 7-Oct. 7 (MK, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was only the second to have been found in California. Magnificent Frigatebirds remained scarce with only four seen along the coast during August and September, but five were together over the s. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) Sept. 10 (MK).

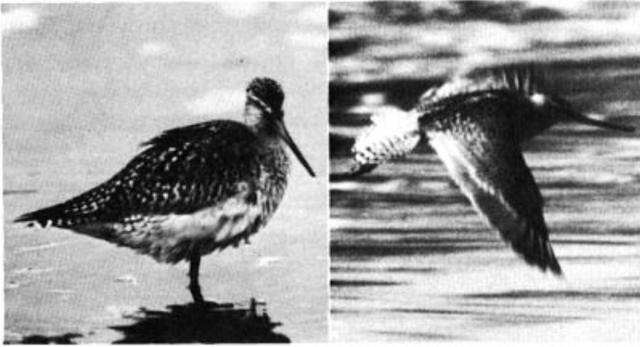
**HERONS, STORKS** — An imm. Little Blue Heron near Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Oct. 10-11 (EC) and an adult on Mission Bay in San Diego Nov. 11+ (DMacK) were the only ones found. A total of 34 Cattle Egrets at F.C.R., Nov. 28 (LLN), along with 44 at nearby Stovepipe Wells on the same day (LLN), indicated a movement of these birds through Inyo County in late November. The imm. Reddish Egret found in San Diego July 17 was still present Sept. 17 (JO) and another was found inland at Salton City Aug. 15 (BSha, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). Up to three Louisiana Herons were around Imperial Beach after Oct. 25 (DMacK) and one was at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., Nov. 29+ (LRH); small numbers occur along the s. coast each winter. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron, a casual straggler to California, was on San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., Oct. 25+ (T. Meyer, *vide* DK). An imm. Wood Stork near Oceanside, San Diego Co., Nov. 9 (TMx) was along the coast where now considered casual.

**SWANS, GEESE DUCKS** — Three Whistling Swans on L. Hodges, San Diego Co., Nov. 29 (KW) and another in a flooded field near Bard, Imperial Co., Nov. 27 (PEL) were exceptionally far s. Thirteen of the endangered Aleutian Canada Geese were near Imperial Beach Nov. 13-14 (GMcC). A Ross' Goose near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 22 (JLD), another at Harper Dry Lake, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 12 (JLD), three at F.C.R., Nov. 27 (GMcC) and another at Tecopa Nov. 8+ (TW) were all on the high desert where very rare. A Fulvous Whistling Duck was in Goleta Nov. 17-26 (HR); this species is considered accidental anywhere along the coast of California, but the presence of many captive birds leaves all sightings open to question. A Eur. Wigeon on San Elijo Lagoon Oct. 12+ (SSu) was the earliest reported this fall. A flock of 56 Wood Ducks on Isabella Res., Kern Co., Aug. 28 (RAB) was a large concentration for this Region. A Barrow's Goldeneye at F.C.R., Nov. 28 (JO) and another at nearby Stovepipe Wells the same day (LLN) were the 5th and 6th found in this area in late fall. Two Oldsquaw at Imperial Beach Nov. 6-11 (JH) were the only ones reported. A ♀ Harlequin Duck at Montana de Oro S.P., San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 5 (JSR) was in an area where small numbers may occur each winter. Black Scoters were scarce with only six reported from the entire coastline.

**HAWKS** — An imm. Goshawk at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., Oct. 17 (BB) and another near Independence, Inyo Co., Nov. 26 (JO) were in the n.e. corner of the Region where believed to occur regularly in small numbers each fall; an adult near Round Valley in the San Jacinto Mts., Nov. 4 (KB) was in an area thought to support a small resident population. At least ten Red-shouldered Hawks were reported from the n.e. portion of the Region where small numbers occur every fall, but one in Niland, Imperial Co., Nov. 11 (REW) was only the 2nd found in the Imperial Valley. As expected, a few Broad-winged Hawks moved through the Region with six reported from along the coast; an adult at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley N.M., Sept. 8 (JS) was exceptionally early. An imm. Swainson's Hawk near Imperial Beach Sept. 20 (EC) was on the coast where considered very rare. An imm. Zone-tailed Hawk, a casual straggler to s. California, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 17-19 (EC). Rough-legged Hawks were found in about average numbers with one at L. Henshaw, San Diego Co., Oct. 12-13 (RH) and another near Calipatria, Imperial Co., Nov. 11 (GMcC) being the farthest s. An imm. Bald Eagle over Topanga, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 17 (KLG) was at an unusual locality. Of the nearly 30 Merlins reported one in Goleta Oct. 30 (PEL) was clearly of the dark form *suckleyi*.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two Black Oystercatchers in Santa Barbara Aug. 12 (KA), one in Oxnard, Ventura Co., Aug. 29 (REW) and another on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., Nov. 3 (MT) were all away from areas of regular occurrence. Exceptionally early was a Mountain Plover near Lancaster Aug. 18 (JLD) with seven there at the end of the month. An Am. Golden Plover at Harper Dry Lake Sept. 7 (AS, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and another near Lancaster Nov. 1 (HLJ) were both inland where exceedingly rare; 60± along the coast would appear about normal. A Marbled Godwit near Tecopa Sept. 8 (PEL) and another at Baldwin L., in the San Bernardino Mts., Sept. 26 (EAC) were both of interest since the species is considered casual inland away from the Antelope Valley and Salton Sea. A Bar-tailed Godwit in Coronado, San Diego Co., Nov. 4-27 (BSha, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was only the second found in this Region and the 5th for California. A flock of 450 Long-billed Curlews near Lancaster Oct. 22 (KLG) was an exceptional concentration for that area. A Ruddy Turnstone at Daggett, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 7-8 (EAC, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was one of very few ever found inland away from the Salton Sea. Two Com. Snipe near Santa Maria Aug. 9 (LRB) were early. A Red Knot near Lancaster Sept. 16 (DLD) was the only found inland away from the Salton Sea.

A Sanderling, rare inland away from the Antelope Valley and Salton Sea, was near Tecopa Aug. 6 (JT) with another near Taft, Kern Co., Sept. 19 (GWP). At least 50 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported with individuals found along the entire coast from Arroyo Grande Cr., San Luis Obispo Co., to Famosa Slough, San Diego Co., as well as inland (18 near Lancaster Aug. 4) all during August and September; one in Baker, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 5 (BD), single birds at Barstow, San Bernardino Co., Aug. 15 (EAC) and Sept. 7 (AS), another at nearby Daggett Sept. 8 (PEL, ph., S.D.N.H.M.), one at S.E.S.S., Aug. 8 (JO) and two more there Sept. 14 (REW) were all in areas where basically unrecorded in fall. A Pectoral Sandpiper



Bar-tailed Godwit, Coronado, San Diego Co., Nov. 9, 1981. Photo/ Jerry Oldenettel.

near Santa Maria Aug. 4-16 (PEL) was early, especially so, as it was a juvenile. A Stilt Sandpiper at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Sept. 20 (JLD) and two in Long Beach, Los Angeles Co., Aug. 4 (BD) were the only ones found away from the Salton Sea. Three Ruffs were found along the coast with one near Santa Maria Oct. 9-29 (PEL), another at Pt. Mugu Sept. 20 (PEL) and the third in Long Beach Sept. 6-7 (JI), but one near Lancaster Aug. 29 (JLD) was less expected since the species is considered casual inland. A N. Phalarope at Pt. Mugu Nov. 15 (PEL) and another on Whale Rock Res., Nov. 22 (JSR) were late.

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — Up to three Parasitic Jaegers were inland at the n. end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) Sept. 13-20 (CM, JO) and another was at S.E.S.S., Sept. 14 (REW); small numbers regularly occur on the Salton Sea each fall. The only Long-tailed Jaeger to be seen was an adult near San Miguel I., Aug. 29 (GMCC). Two S. Polar Skuas s. of San Miguel I., Aug. 29 (REW) were in an area where small numbers may occur every year.

Single Thayer's Gulls in Santa Barbara Oct. 21 (JLD) and at Malibu Oct. 24 (KLG) were the earliest this fall. A Mew Gull in Santa Barbara Sept. 17 (KA) had evidently summered locally; one at Hermosa Beach Oct. 20 (NS) was the first of the wintering population to be seen. Seven Franklin's Gulls were found along the coast after Oct. 24 along with three around the Salton Sea in September. A Heermann's Gull, casual inland, was near Salton City on the Salton Sea Sept. 18 (PJM). A first-summer Sabine's Gull at S.E.S.S., Aug. 8 (GMCC) may have summered locally, but a juvenile there Sept. 12-14 (SCW, EC) and up to three at N.E.S.S., Sept. 17-20 (JS, REW) were clearly fall stragglers migrating S through the interior; one in Santa Barbara Sept. 22-23 (KA), another at nearby Carpinteria Sept. 19 (TW), one at Doheny Beach S.P., Oct. 11 (BSc) and a fourth on San Diego Bay Sept. 26 (DPa) were all on shore where rare.

An ad. Arctic Tern, rare on shore, was at Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., Sept. 8 (JSR, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). An imm. Least Tern present in San Diego through Oct. 28 (REW) established the latest date of occurrence in California. Black Skimmers continue to occur along the coast n. of San Diego with three at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., Sept. 1 (LBev) one of which remained through Oct. 28 (SJR), two at Pt. Mugu Aug. 23 (LBev), one at the Santa Clara R. estuary (hereafter, S.C.R.E.) Sept. 1 (LRB) and two on Morro Bay Aug. 15-17 (GPS).

**ALCIDS** — Six Marbled Murrelets were found along the coast of San Luis Obispo County during August (JSR) and eight were at Pt. Sal, Santa Barbara Co., Aug. 4 (PEL) with two remaining through Sept. 24 (PS). The only Craveri's Murrelets found this year were one between Santa Rosa I. and San Nicolas I., Aug. 29 (GMCC) and two in the surf at Imperial Beach Aug. 11-14 (REW).

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A White-winged Dove at Oasis, Mono Co., Sept. 7 (JS) was exceptionally far n. A Ground Dove in Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 4 (AS) was outside the species' range. An imm. Black-billed Cuckoo, the fifth found in California (first for s. California), was at Brock Ranch, Imperial Co., Sept. 12-13 (AS, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). A Flammulated Owl at F.C.R., Oct. 19-24 (LLN, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was one of very few ever found away from known breeding localities and gives us a clue as to when this secretive bird migrates in fall. A Spotted Owl in Santa Barbara

Nov 15+ (JLD) was outside the species' normal range. A Saw-whet Owl trapped and banded in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 26 (MSanM) was one of very few ever found in the lowlands of s. California. A Com. Nighthawk at F.C.R., Sept. 7 (PEL) was at a lowland locality outside the species' breeding range. Of interest were flocks of 12 and nine Black Swifts moving S over Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co., Oct. 14 & 16 respectively (RH) since we have little data on fall migrants; one found dead in Yucaipa, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 1 (EAC, \*S.B.C.M.) was exceptionally late. Two Vaux's Swifts over Desert Hot Springs, Riverside Co., Nov. 18 (RMCK) were late for an inland locality.

A Black-chinned Hummingbird near Imperial Beach Oct. 10 (EC) would appear to be the latest ever for a fall migrant in s. California. A ♀ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a rare straggler to California, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 8-9 (HLJ), a male was in San Diego Nov. 20-21 (REW) and another was in Blythe, Riverside Co., Oct. 4+ (IA). An Acorn Woodpecker at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 13 (PJM) was far from any breeding locality in California and could well have strayed W from Arizona. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the nominant form *varius*, rare in California, was in Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 24 (SM) and another was in Long Beach Nov. 17 (DRW); an individual of the red-naped form *nuchalis*, rare along the coast n. of Los Angeles, was at Morro Bay Oct. 20-Nov. 7 (JSR). A Williamson's Sapsucker, rare in the lowlands, was in Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 24 (EAC). Two White-headed Woodpeckers, exceptionally rare away from the mountains, were also present in Yucca Valley Oct. 24-25 (JO).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — The only E. Kingbirds reported were one inland at F.C.R., Sept. 12 (JML) and single birds along the coast in Santa Barbara Sept. 15-21 (PEL), at S.C.R.E., Sept. 16-18 (OA), near Port Hueneme Sept. 30 (S & DR) and on Pt. Loma Aug. 23 (GMCC). As usual a few Tropical Kingbirds appeared along the coast with 16 reported Sept. 14-Oct. 29. A W. Kingbird in Goleta Oct. 30-Nov. 4 (EVG, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was the latest ever recorded in s. California. A Cassin's Kingbird, casual in s.e. California, was at Imperial Dam Sept. 9 (REW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual visitant to California, was at Tecopa Aug. 31-Sept. 7 (JT). A Great Crested Flycatcher, the eighth found in s. California, was in Long Beach Oct. 30-Nov. 1 (BD, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). An E. Phoebe in Huntington Beach Nov. 13+ (SG), one on Pt. Loma Oct. 26 (REW) and another near Imperial Beach Nov. 8 (DPa, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) were the only ones reported. Three Willow Flycatchers on Pt. Loma Oct. 26-Nov. 3 (REW) were unexpected, the previous late date for a fall migrant being Oct. 27. Six Least Flycatchers were reported with an early bird in Goleta Sept. 6 (LBev) followed by one at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 3 (EAC, \*S.B.C.M.), another in Morongo Valley Oct. 11 (CM) and three along the coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura Cos., Oct. 14-15 (PS, LRB, SSu). A W. Wood Pewee at Oasis Oct. 17 (EC) and another in Huntington Beach Oct. 19 (DRW) were both late. An Olive-sided Flycatcher on Pt. Loma Oct. 9-22 (REW) along with another there Oct. 20 (GMCC) were both later than any previous late fall migrants in s. California. A Purple Martin at Oasis Sept. 8 (JS), another at F.C.R., Sept. 7 (PEL) and a third near Lancaster Sept. 6 (REW) were all fall migrants found inland where rare.

**CROWS THROUGH SHRIKES** — A flock of 700 Com. Crows near Needles, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 27 (KLG) was an exceptionally large concentration. Thirty Piñon Jays in flight over Goleta Sept. 19 (PEL) were far out of range. Single Winter Wrens on Pt. Loma Sept. 30 (REW) & Oct. 18 (DR) were farther s. than normal. A Cactus Wren at Deep Springs Nov. 27 (JO) was n. of the species' normal range. An unusually early Gray Catbird was at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Sept. 9 (JS). Single Brown Thrashers, rare in California, were in Santa Barbara Oct. 31 (DB) & Nov. 3 (LRB) along with one at F.C.R., Oct. 21 (LLN) and another at Thousand Palms Oasis, Riverside Co., Nov. 2 (RMCK). A Crissal Thrasher at Triangle Springs in Death Valley Oct. 12 (LLN) was a little w. of the species' known range. A Wood Thrush on Pt. Loma Oct. 24-Nov. 5 (BD, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was only the fifth found in California. Single Swainson's Thrushes, exceptionally rare inland in fall, were found near Lancaster Oct. 8 (JLD) & 22 (KLG) with a third at Kelso Oct. 11 (EAC); one in Casper Park, Orange Co., Oct. 30-Nov. 1 (SJR), another in Newport Beach Nov. 8 (SJR) and a third on Pt. Loma Oct. 26-Nov. 8 (JLD) were all exceptionally late. An early Red-throated Pipit in Goleta Sept. 9-11 (PEL) was followed by two near Imperial Beach Oct. 10-25 (GT), one on Pt. Loma Oct. 25-28 (DR, ph.,

S D N H M ) and another in Goleta Nov. 1 (PEL). The discovery of five Sprague's Pipits near Lancaster Nov. 22+ (JLD, ph., S D.N.H.M.) and another near Needles Nov. 27 (KLG) would suggest this casual fall transient may not be as rare as thought. An imm. N Shrike at Oasis Nov. 28 (BD) was the only one found in the Region.

**VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS** — A Hutton's Vireo at F.C.R., Nov. 27 (REW) was far outside the species' normal range. A Bell's Vireo, very rarely encountered away from known breeding localities, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 3-10 (JO) and another was at Brock Ranch Nov. 11 (REW). Even more unusual was a migrant Gray Vireo at the summit of Mt. Palomar Sept. 19 (RH). A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual vagrant to California, was at the mouth of Pico Cr., San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 3 (JSR). A Yellow-green Vireo on Pt. Loma Oct. 1 (DPa) was the eleventh to have been found in the Region. Twelve Red-eyed Vireos were found during September, with eight being along the coast where considered casual. The only Philadelphia Vireo to be found was one at F.C.R., Nov. 8 (TW).

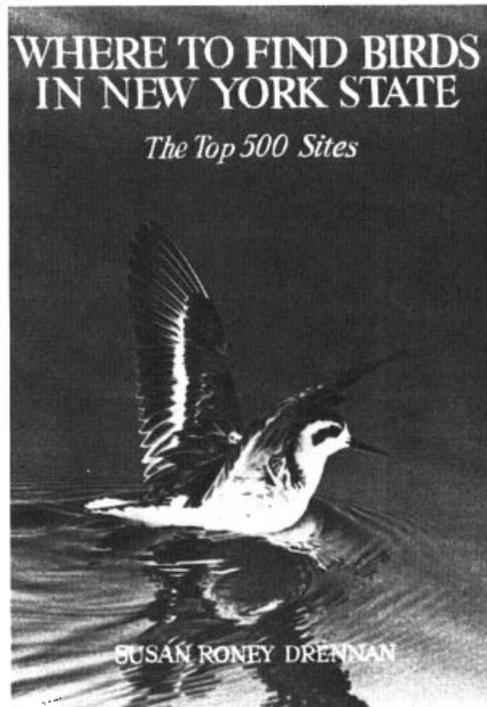
Forty-five Black-and-white Warblers were well above average for the fall migration period. A Prothonotary Warbler, a casual vagrant, was in Morongo Valley Sept. 19 (CM), another was in San Pedro Sept. 21 (JL), one was in Pasadena Sept. 27 (GSS), another was in West Los Angeles Oct. 3-4 (KLG) and a fifth was at Dana Pt., Oct. 8-11 (BSc). A Worm-eating Warbler was along Manzanita Cr., near Figueroa Mt., Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 1 (SP), one was in Topanga, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 20 (HLJ), single birds were in Long Beach Nov. 6 (BD) & 6+ (BMcl) and another was on Pt. Loma Oct. 4 (REW) for an unprecedented five during the fall period. A Golden-winged Warbler, a species recorded no more than 15 times in s. California, was in Morongo Valley Oct. 24 (GMcC) and another was near Malibu Nov. 2 (S & MW). An early Tennessee Warbler near Imperial Beach Aug. 30 (GMcC) was followed by more than 70 by period's end, certainly more than encountered during an average fall. Eighteen Virginia's Warblers along the coast during September and October along with seven inland during September would appear somewhat low. Up to three Lucy's Warblers near Imperial Beach

Aug 30 Nov 7 (EC) one at Dana Pt., Oct. 27 (BSc) and another at Gaviota Oct. 11 (NSC) were all along the coast where it is a rare transient. A N. Parula, rare in fall, was in Goleta Sept. 23-Oct. 4 (PEL), another was there Sept. 24-28 (PEL), one was in Long Beach Oct. 19-23 (BD) and a fourth was on Pt. Loma Oct. 5 (REW).

Eighteen Magnolia Warblers Sept. 11-Nov. 11 was well above average. A Cape May Warbler inland at Kelso Oct. 4 (DRW) along with one along the coast in Santa Barbara Oct. 13 (LRB) and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 20-23 (REW) was near average. Six Black-throated Blue Warblers were found along the coast Sept. 29-Nov. 13 along with one at Kelso Oct. 4 (DRW) and another in the nearby Providence Mts., Oct. 23 (GT, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). Seven Black-throated Green Warblers found along the coast of Los Angeles and San Diego Cos., during October and early November follow the pattern of occurrences set in previous years. Sixteen Blackburnian Warblers along the coast Sept. 26-Nov. 4 were more than twice the number normally encountered and one in Riverside Sept. 27 (D & BH) was at an unusual locality. A Yellow-throated Warbler, exceptionally rare in fall, was inland at Oasis Sept. 5-8 (JO) and another was along the coast on Pt. Loma Sept. 24 (REW); the summering bird in Santa Barbara was last seen Sept. 20 (LRB). A Grace's Warbler on Pt. Loma Oct. 10 (MH) was only the sixth fall vagrant to have been found in California. Ten Chestnut-sided Warblers along the coast Sept. 14-Nov. 8 were about normal, but one in Earp, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 29 (GMcC) was somewhat late. Six Bay-breasted Warblers were found along the coast Sept. 22-Oct. 11 along with one inland at Brock Ranch Sept. 14 (REW). Seventy Blackpoll Warblers were reported, including two early individuals inland at Deep Springs Sept. 5 (JO) and another in Arcadia Sept. 27 (MSanM) being at an unusual locality. A Prairie Warbler in Santa Barbara Oct. 21 (KLG) along with four near Imperial Beach Sept. 9-Oct. 10 (EC) was more than encountered in an average fall. An exceptionally early Palm Warbler at Oasis Sept. 7 (PEL) and another on Pt. Loma Sept. 9 (DR) were followed by at least 50 more including a Yellow Palm Warbler (*hypochrysea*) in Imperial Beach Nov. 15 (REW) and another in Goleta Nov. 25 (LBev).

Eight Ovenbirds Sept. 3-Oct. 26 would appear about average. The

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normal movement of N Waterthrushes in late August and early September produced records of 10 in the interior and 18 more along the coast, with one near Weldon, Kern Co., Aug. 14 (RAB, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) being a little early. A Kentucky Warbler at Morongo Valley Oct. 4 (DRW) was only the ninth to be found in this Region. A Mourning Warbler, the Region's eighth, in Carpinteria Sept. 6-7 (DLD) was followed by another at nearby Refugio State Beach Sept. 17 (PEL). A ♀ Hooded Warbler, exceptionally rare in fall, was in Kelso Oct. 4 (DRW). Four Canada Warblers, casual vagrants to California, were found with one at Morro Bay Nov. 5-7 (DS), one in Canoga Park, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 10 (TK), another in Huntington Beach Sept. 24 (SG) and the fourth on Pt. Loma Sept. 21 (PC). American Redstarts were relatively numerous with 80+ reported. A Painted Redstart at Brock Ranch Sept. 13 (DLD) was the only one found.

**BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS** — Bobolinks were widespread and relatively numerous with 150+ found along the coast (70 in Goleta Sept. 20), but one at Deep Springs Oct. 17 (EC), three at F.C.R., Sept. 12 (JML) and one in Arcadia Sept. 27 (MSanM) were the only ones reported from inland. Seven Orchard Orioles, scarce stragglers to California, were found along the coast in September and early October. Eight N. (Baltimore) Orioles found after Sept. 12 would appear normal. An early Rusty Blackbird at F.C.R., Oct. 17-18 (GMcC) and another near Lancaster Oct. 22 (JLD) were followed by four more in the e. portion of the Region during November. A Great-tailed Grackle at Dana Pt., Oct. 3 (BSc) and another in Oceanside Nov. 22-24 (SB) were both along the coast where casual.

Four Scarlet Tanagers were found with one in Goleta Nov. 17-18 (PEL), another near San Pedro Nov. 8-11 (BD), a third near Imperial Beach Nov. 7-8 (REW) and the fourth inland at Morongo Valley Oct. 24 (EAC). A ♂ Hepatic Tanager, exceptionally rare away from the limited breeding localities in California, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 12 (REW) and a female was at Ft. Piute Oct. 31 (EAC). Seventeen Summer Tanagers scattered through the s. portion of the Region was about average.

**FINCHES THROUGH LONGSPURS** — Twenty-four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 25 Indigo Buntings was a few more than



*Baird's Sparrow, Point Loma, San Diego, Oct. 8, 1981. Photo/Jerry Oldenettel.*

expected. A ♀ Blue Grosbeak at F.C.R., Nov. 21 (D & BH) was exceptionally late. A Lazuli Bunting on Pt. Loma Oct. 20 (REW) was one of the latest ever found in California. An imm. Painted Bunting at Deep Springs Sept. 17 (RSt) was about the 15th recorded in s. California. The only Dickcissels to be found were one at F.C.R., Sept. 7 (PEL), two at Yucca Valley Oct. 11 (CM) and a fourth at Dana Pt., Aug. 23 (BSc). A Cassin's Finch, a casual straggler to the coast, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 25 (HLJ). Lark Buntings were scarce, with only nine reported. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Yucca Valley Oct. 24-25 (EAC) and another near Desert Center Oct. 8 (RMcK) were both outside the species' known range in California. An imm. **Baird's Sparrow**, only the second to be found in California, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 5-10 (GMcC, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). A Rufous-crowned Sparrow, most likely *scottii*, was found at Mitchell Caverns in the Providence Mts., Oct. 18 (AS); what appears to be an isolated population of these birds was recently discovered in this area of California. A Black-throated Sparrow, very rare on the coast, was in Santa Barbara Aug. 16-Sept. 6 (KA), another was at Huntington Beach Nov. 18 (BD) and three or four were found on Pt. Loma Aug. 24-Oct. 5 (REW, DPo). Ten Tree Sparrows in the n.e. corner of the Region Oct. 31-Nov. 27 were in an area where small numbers occur annually; however, one on Pt. Loma Oct. 30 (REW) and another there Nov. 13-16 (REW) were but the fourth and fifth ever found in San Diego County. Clay-

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colored Sparrows appeared in about normal numbers with 28 reported. Harris' Sparrows were scarce with only six found, but White-throated Sparrows appeared relatively numerous with 26 reported. Swamp Sparrows were exceptionally scarce with but five found.

Two McCown's Longspurs, by far the rarest longspur occurring in California, were on the coast at Pt. Mugu Nov. 15+ (PEL), and one near Lancaster Nov. 22 (JLD) along with two near Blythe Nov. 27-29 (PEL) were inland. About ten Lapland Longspurs were found scattered throughout the Region including an early bird near Santa Maria Oct. 9 (PEL) and two as far s. as Imperial Beach Oct. 24-25 (DPa). Reports of Chestnut-collared Longspurs included seven from the immediate vicinity of the coast between Goleta and Imperial Beach and concentrations of 40± near Needles Nov. 27 (KLG) and 60± near Blythe Nov. 29 (JO).

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## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle and C. John Ralph

Although rainfall at Honolulu continued near or below normal through the fall months, water was maintained at higher levels than last year in Waipio, Honouliuli and Kii Ponds on Oahu, providing considerably better conditions for migrant waterbirds. Nevertheless, shorebirds appeared in about average numbers and the influx of migrant ducks through November was disappointingly low again this year.

**ALBATROSSES THROUGH HERONS** — Midway's perennial Short-tailed Albatross returned Oct. 25 (MN) for the 10th consecutive winter. It had lost one of its 2 bands last year, and a new one was added this year to assure continued tracking of this interesting and

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#### 1983

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February — **Philippine Islands.**

Leader, Robert Kennedy.

March — **Mexico**

(**Oaxaca & Chiapas**).  
Leader, Dave Simon.



#### 1983

March — **Taiwan, Hong Kong and Okinawa.**

Leaders, Peter Chen, Douglas McWhirter & Michael Webster.

April — **People's Republic of China.**

Leader, Steve Hilty.

#### 1983

May — **Cuba Ivory-billed Woodpecker Search.**

Leader, Wally George.

June — **Rwanda & Kenya.**

Leader, Don Turner.

July — **Colombian Amazon Workshop.**

Leader, Steve Hilty.

August — **Indonesia**

(**Java, Sulawesi and Bali**).

Leader, David Bishop.

September — **Papua New Guinea.**

Leader David Bishop.

October — **Brazil.**

Leader, Steve Hilty.

November — **Ecuador.**

Leader, Dave Simon.

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Leader, Steve Hilty.

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significant individual. The highly successful shearwater aid program on Kauai, in which citizens took downed shearwaters to well-publicized "aid stations", resulted in the rescue, banding and release of 1127 birds this fall (TT). Most were fledgling Manx (Newell) Shearwaters, a Threatened subspecies endemic to Hawaii. Among them this year were five of the Endangered Dark-rumped (Hawaiian) Petrels. Although the total in this 4th year of the program was down slightly from last year's 1358 birds, this effort clearly is having significant impact on the population of Newell Shearwaters, and is now established as a regular annual event.

S.A.

Hawaii's only resident and breeding herons are the indigenous Black-crowned Night Heron ('Auku'u) and the introduced Cattle Egret, both found now on all the main islands. Other species occurring as accidentals have been reported historically only a few times. But the past 18 months have been noteworthy indeed for occurrences of straggling herons in Hawaii.

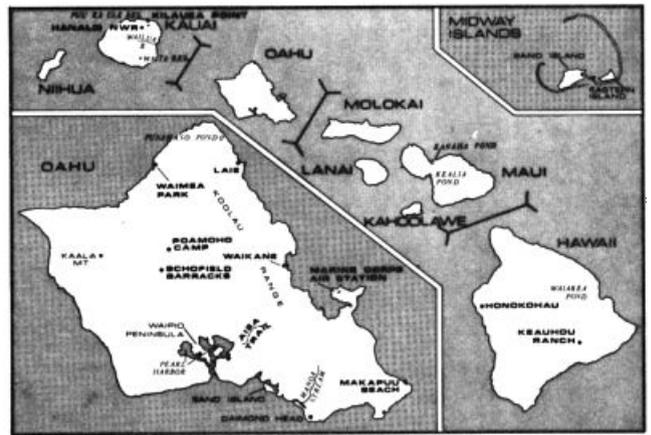
**Great Blue Heron:** One was seen briefly in flight over Opaepa Pond, H., July 19, 1981, and was found there again and photographed Sept. 12 (PA, PP, 'Elepaio 42:61-62). Another, or possibly the same one, appeared at Kii Pond, O., in late September and was seen sporadically into late November (DW, TB). The only other known records for the state are sightings on Oahu in 1963 and Maui in 1970, both reported but with no details.

**Green Heron:** The first well-documented occurrence of the species in Hawaii appeared at Lokoaka Pond, H., in December 1980 (PP). It was seen only occasionally thereafter, but was still there through this fall and into December 1981 (AT, RLP). Sightings in 1974 on Maui and Hawaii I., reported with scant observational details, are the only previous records known for the state.

**Little Blue Heron:** An adult was well-studied in a flock of Cattle Egrets at Waipio, O., Sept. 26 1981 (RLP, MO), and was seen there again Dec. 6 (PD). The only other state records of this species have been sightings in the same area in several autumns since 1966 (AB 34:204).

The first definite record of Snowy Egret for Hawaii occurred on Oahu in March 1980, followed by later sightings on Maui and Hawaii. Earlier sightings of a small white heron on Oahu in 1965 and Hawaii in 1967 cannot safely be assigned to species, nor can one or two records from the late 1800s originally reported by presumption to be white-phase Reef Herons. One sighting of a Great Egret in 1944 completes the roster of reported *Ardeidae* occurrences in Hawaii.

And finally, Oahu's renowned White-faced Ibis was seen regularly at Waipio throughout the fall (m.ob.). This rounds out 5 year in this same locality, which must be something of a longevity record for an accidental occurrence. Five or six specimens of *Plegadis* ibis were collected in Hawaii between 1872 and 1900 (Pratt, 'Elepaio 41:45), and only 1 or 2 other sightings have been reported since.



**GEESE AND DUCKS** — Geese other than Nene are casual stragglers in Hawaii. But this fall, a remarkable number of sightings was reported, especially of Canadas. From the first report Oct. 17 through late November, observers reported 1-3 Canada Geese at Honolulu Airport, 2 golf courses, 2 N.R.W.s, a military base and Kawainui Canal, all on Oahu, and from 2 wetlands on Kauai and a golf course on Maui. Nine Canadas at 5 of these locations were found on a statewide wetland survey Nov. 9 (RS). Conservatively, at least 12 different birds probably were involved. Two imm. White-fronted Geese at Waipio, O., first seen Oct. 12 (JE), remained through the fall (m.ob.). Another White-fronted was at Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 17 (PP). A (Black) Brant was reported at Ewa Beach, O., Nov. 24. It was picked up in weakened condition the next day and released at Kii Pond in James Campbell N.W.R., but was found dead 2 days later (TB).

The endemic and Endangered Koloa (Hawaiian Duck) was seen more frequently this fall in favored wetland areas on Oahu, particularly at Kii Pond. Two to five were found at Puu Kapu Res., near Waimea, H., several times in September and early October (PP). By late November, migrant N. Shovelers and Pintails numbered barely 100 at Kii and still fewer at Waipio despite good water conditions at both localities. More encouraging were the 80-100 shovelers present regularly in a smaller pond area at the Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., near Waipio, O. Unusual ducks, all in female or eclipse plumage, noted among the common migrants this fall were a Garganey at Waipio Sept. 12 & 16 (CJR, PD), three teal (probably Blue-winged) at Aimakapa Pond, H., Sept. 6 (PP), a Bufflehead at Hamaku wetland, O., Nov. 8 & 9 (RS) and three Lesser Scaup at Waipio Nov. 13-30. Two large mergansers in ♀ plumage found at Sand I., Midway Oct. 25 (MN) are significant in that only 2 previous records of Red-breasted and none of Com. Mergansers are known from the state.

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS** — Among the early fall arrivals was a flock of 50 Am. Golden Plovers found Aug. 10 in open pasture above the 5000 ft level on Mauna Kea, H. (PP). Nearly all still



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had some or most of their breeding plumage, which distinguishes early fall arrivals from the few nonbreeders that overwinter in Hawaii. When the observer's car approached this flock, the birds flushed, flew in a small circle, landed, then all immediately *sat down*, suggesting that they may have just arrived and were still exhausted from the long oceanic flight!

Migrant shorebirds in general came through about as usual, but included more uncommon species than were seen last year to add spice to this season's birding. Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral, Least and W. sandpipers, Long-billed Dowitchers (MM, PP) and Dunlin all were reported this year as singles or in pairs at the regularly-observed wetland spots on Oahu and Hawaii. Four Bristle-thighed Curlews appeared at Waipio, an unusual locality for them, on the H.A.S. trip Sept. 13, and at least five were there Sept. 16 (PD). One or two Bristle-thigheds were seen at Kii Pond Sept. 15 & 26, and one turned up on the beach at Hauola Gulch, Lanai I., Sept. 13 (PC). Five were found Sept. 20 (SS) and one on Sept. 26 (PP) at South Pt., H., an area with good curlew habitat that is seldom birded. Twenty were at Sand I., Midway Oct. 25 (MN). A **Spotted Sandpiper** with distinct wing barring and fairly bright yellowish legs showed itself well for the H.A.S. trip at Waipio Sept. 13 (MO, PD *et al.*), but was not seen again. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were seen irregularly at Waipio this fall, with the highest count of five Sept. 16 (PD). Higher numbers than this had been occurring there regularly in fall until a few years ago. Two were sighted at Kanaha Pond, M., Nov. 15 (PP) and one at Sand I., Midway Oct. 25 (MN). One or two Ruffs continue to show up each fall at Waipio; this year it was from Aug. 8 (one—PD) through at least Nov. 30 (one—RLP), with a high count of three individuals there Sept. 13 (H.A.S.).

Gulls reported this fall were mostly Ring-billed: one second-winter bird at Lokoaka Pond, H., Sept. 27-Oct. 17 (PP), an adult at Mana Pond, K., Nov. 9 (TT), and up to three individuals during November at Kii Pond and nearby areas. An imm. Bonaparte's Gull at Waipio reported first Nov. 11 (MO) remained Nov. 31+. A report of a Caspian Tern at Kanaha Pond, M., this fall (MU, *vide* CK), follows the state's first recorded occurrences of this species 2 years ago. One Least Tern was found regularly at Waipio through September (H.A.S. *et al.*).

**SANDGROUSE AND PASSERINES** — The Com. Indian (or Chestnut-bellied) Sandgrouse, *Pterocles exustus*, was introduced on Hawaii I., in 1961 as a potential game species, but was rarely recorded during the ensuing 15 years. In the mid-1970s, occasional sightings of the species began to be reported in the area s. and w. of Waimea. These have increased in frequency and in numbers sighted, with reports this season of 100+ birds a few miles s. of Waimea Aug. 16 (PP), and 200-300 along Waikoloa Stream, just w. of Waimea in early October (JG, *vide* PP). The species has now been added to the state's huntable game bird list.

An imm. 'Iiwi, always a good find on Oahu, was observed Sept. 3 about 2 mi up the Poamoho Trail, well below the spot where 'Iiwi have been occasionally seen on this trail in recent years. Red-crested Cardinals now are abundant around the Sheraton Hotel complex at the w. end of Molokai I. (TB), and a few were seen in September on Maui I., near Lahaina (MU) where they had not previously been known to occur. Six Warbling Silverbills seen Oct. 2 in dry country near the same Sheraton complex (TB) constitute the first report of this

S.A.

A remarkable sighting was made in July of one more Hawaiian endemic species long thought to be extinct. Steve Sabo reports with full details (*'Elepaio* 42:69-70, 1982) an observation of a **Bishop (or Molokai) 'O'o**, *Moho bishopi*, on Maui I., deep in the seldom-visited wet forest on the n. slope of Haleakala Mt. The bird was in good view for 30 seconds, and its distinctive songs were heard over a period of nearly 2 hours. Four species of 'o'o, in the family *Meliphagidae*, have been described, each from a different Hawaiian island. Three of these, the forms on Oahu, Molokai and Hawaii, have not been reported since the earliest years of this century, or before, and have been considered extinct. The fourth, the 'O'o'a'a of Kauai, is almost certainly doomed with perhaps fewer than ten individuals now remaining. No 'o'o was known from Maui, other than a few reports over the past 150 years of 'o'o-like birds. Most notable was a sighting in 1901 by H. W. Henshaw who knew the Hawaii and Molokai forms well and thought his bird might well have been the latter species. Sabo's sighting 80 years later thus resurrects one of Hawaii's presumed extinct species, and adds significant confirmation to its heretofore hypothetical occurrence on Maui I.

species from Molokai, and is their northernmost occurrence to date. On Hawaii I., 25 silverbills were seen Aug. 23 at South Pt. (PP), the southernmost point in the United States.

**ISLAND ABBREVIATIONS** — H. (Hawaii I.), K. (Kauai I.), M (Maui I.), O. (Oahu I.).

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## WEST INDIES REGION

/Robert L. Norton

Unstable weather conditions during the period contributed to wide distribution of stragglers, accidentals and vagrants particularly in November after a late hurricane, *Katrina*, brooded off the coast of Cuba and passed through the central Bahamas. Precipitation in the eastern Caribbean in August was slightly below average, but gained substantially in September (47% above average) as a result of tropical storms. October and November precipitation was average and slightly above, respectively at the peak of landbird migration in the eastern Caribbean.

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Storm-assisted accidentals from the Greater Antilles, ibis, gallinule and a swift species provided new records for the Virgin Islands. A Wheatear in the Bahamas increases the list of occurrences in the Region. Peregrine Falcon sightings are of regular occurrence in the last two years, possibly as a result of introductions in the eastern United States.

Reports from the Bahamas October 23-November 8 unless otherwise noted, are those of the editor who was a guest aboard the schooner Harvey Gamage during the fall semester.

**GREBES THROUGH FALCONS** — Least Grebes numbered 21 at Paradise I., New Providence, Bahamas (hereafter, B.I.) Nov. 7. A Red-footed Booby was noted roosting at Frenchcap Cay, St. Thomas (hereafter, St.T.) Aug. 18, continuing the suspicion that the species is undergoing a local range expansion. Indeed, Red-footeds were noted nesting again this year at Culebra, Puerto Rico (hereafter, P.R.) Oct. 1 (JC). Four juv. Black-crowned Night Herons were seen in the company of 10 adults at Westend Saltpond, St. Croix, (hereafter, St.C.) Oct 14 (JY, RN). Among a flock of 18 Glossy Ibises, a juv. White Ibis was seen at L. Cunningham, New Providence Nov. 8. A **Glossy Ibis** at Mangrove Lagoon, St.T., Nov. 24, provided possibly the second record there. American Flamingos (35 including four juveniles) were noted at Crooked I., B.I., Oct. 29, where they have apparently been feeding and/or roosting for several months according to residents. Four N. Shovelers were observed at Crooked I., Oct. 28. A juv. Ring-necked Duck was seen repeatedly at MRG&TC, St.T., after Nov. 24. A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Rum Cay, B.I., Nov. 1, may have been storm-assisted. Several sightings of Peregrine Falcons from San Salvador, B.I., Oct. 23; St.J., Oct. 25 (GW); St.T., Nov. 19; St.C., Oct. 14 & Nov. 25 suggest regular winter residency. Of interest was a light-phase Peregrine at St.C., possibly *tundrius*.

**GALLINULES THROUGH TERNS** — The first known occurrence of **Purple Gallinule** on St.T., at MRG&TC, Nov. 24, was a juvenile compared closely with adult and juv. Com. Gallinules (RN). A Whimbrel at St.J., Oct. 20 provided the first record for that island. A yellow color-dyed Semipalmated Plover was noted at Coral Bay, St.J., Nov. 18. A dark-phase Pomarine Jaeger appeared off Crooked I., B.I., Oct. 27 (DH, RN). Ring-billed and Herring gulls were noted at Nassau, B.I., Nov. 5-7, where many cruise ships stop and undoubtedly contribute to the winter distribution of gulls in the Caribbean. A juv. Herring Gull was seen almost continuously in the c. Bahamas, initially at Crooked I., Oct. 25, and a juv. Ring-billed was similarly observed at several cays, initially at San Salvador Oct. 23. Two juv. Com. Terns remained at Westend Saltpond, St.C., Oct. 13-14 (RN, JY); and 35 Sandwich Terns were seen at Maho Bay, St.J., Sept. 16.

**PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — White-crowned Pigeons were reported to have had a successful nesting season in the Bahamas, but shipwrecked Haitians were suspected as having an impact on the numbers of birds on Big Green and Schooner cays (RA). Four Mourning Doves were observed at San Salvador Oct 23, and one on Crooked I., Oct. 28, provided first records for these locations. The introduced White-bellied Dove on New Providence is expanding its population and becoming rather common (RA) Yellow-billed Cuckoos were not as common this fall in the Virgin Islands as last year, the first being noted Oct. 12 on St.J. (GW). A Burrowing Owl Nov. 4, at Little San Salvador, B.I., may indicate breeding through the c. Bahamian cays. Common Nighthawks were fairly common transients in the Virgin Islands Oct. 12-Nov. 15. A Chuck-will's-widow was also observed at St.J., Nov. 16.

**SWIFTS THROUGH FINCHES** — A swift sp. observed Nov 5 (GW) at St.J., was the first for the n. Virgin Islands. A carefully studied **Wheatear** was observed Oct. 29 on Andros I., B I No accompanying documentation is available. The species has been recorded from other locations in the West Indies; Cuba (Oct., 1903), Puerto Rico, (2, Sept., 1966) and Barbados (Dec.) (Bond, 1979 *Birds of the West Indies*). A Tennessee Warbler observed at Crooked I., Oct. 28, apparently provided the first report from the c. B.I. Northern Orioles continue to be found in the Virgin Islands in fall with two noted at Coral Bay, St.J., Nov. 18, predictably in the company of Shiny Cowbirds. Three House Sparrows were noted in New Providence, B.I., Nov. 5 (RN). RA reports that Indigo Buntings were far less common this season than in previous years in the B.I. A Savannah Sparrow was carefully observed at San Salvador Oct 23

**ADDENDUM** — A late report (MO) from the remote Cayman Islands is of interest. It includes a West Indian Whistling Duck (breeding?) whose range has been reduced in the e. Caribbean June 29, Grand Cayman; a Black Tern in "winter" plumage, Cayman Brac June 30; Cuban Parrots (12), Grand Cayman June 29; and a late Chimney Swift June 27 at Grand Cayman.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — MRG&TC, Mahogany Run Golf and Tennis Club.

**OBSERVERS** — Roderick Attrill (Subregional Editor), Jaime Collazo, Doug Hardy, Mark Oberle, Gerald Whitman, John Yntema—**ROBERT L. NORTON, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 101 Estate Nazareth, St. Thomas, USVI 00801.**

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