

# The Autumn Migration

August 1—November 30, 1982

## NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Richard A. Forster

It is extraordinarily difficult to capsule a season as diverse as fall in terms of numbers of species and bulk of migrants. This report will surely overlook some records and observers' sightings in the more than 300 pages of reports received. Any oversight is clearly mine.

In general weather during the period was not conducive to migration. Many of the cold fronts that moved through the area took an unusual track producing northeast rather than northwest winds. A moderate nor'easter in October produced some excitement, at least in coastal Massachusetts, but such storms have become less dependable than in the past. High temperatures and strong southwest winds in October, and particularly in November, favored reverse migration and provided some extremely late records.

The general consensus was that it was almost universally a poor fall migration. Field observers are not out constantly and if observers are not out when major flights occur then migration is termed a bust. A truer sense of overall migration can be judged by banding stations whose efforts are relatively constant from year to year but subject to the vagaries of weather. At Manomet Bird Observatory (hereafter, M.B.O.), Lloyd-Evans termed the migration "average" with some species down and others making a recovery from recent losses.

One final comment. The overwhelming bulk of reports emanates from offshore islands and barrier beaches where knowledgeable observers go to see rare species and concentrated migrants. Obviously unfavorable weather will produce widely varying results from year to year.

**LOONS, GREBES** — The first migrant Red-throated Loons were noted in Newfoundland in mid-September but the only numbers of any consequence were noted at Pt. Judith, R.I., with a maximum of 59 Nov. 15, a date when three birds were grounded by a storm in northern New Hampshire. Six Red-necked Grebes at Squam L., N.H., Aug. 16 (TR, *vide* KCE) were strikingly early, especially for an inland location. Two locations in inland Maine also had Red-necked Grebes, but few were reported until late November when 200 were observed at Cutler, Me. (NF, *vide* ML). Very few Horned Grebes were reported and Pied-billed Grebe was said to be "closer to normal numbers after several years of scarcity" in w. Massachusetts (SK). Maine's W. Grebe returned again Nov. 6 (PDV) and another, probably the one seen last spring, was found at Duxbury, Mass., Nov. 28 (WRP).

**TUBENOSES** — Northern Fulmar was not particularly numerous until October. At Mt. Desert Rock, Me., 15 were observed daily Oct. 22-27, 13 were noted Oct. 9-16 in Massachusetts both from land and on pelagic trips, and 75 were seen at Seal I., N.S., Oct. 15. Four N. Fulmars off the New Hampshire coast Nov. 2 (DJA) were most unusual, as was an albino bird observed about 300 mi e. of Newfoundland Nov. 22 (RGG). Cory's Shearwater was reported mainly from Rhode Island waters: max. 427 Aug. 21 (DLK). Greatest concentrations of Greater Shearwater were recorded in October with 3000+ at Seal I., N.S., Oct. 15, and 2000 at North Beach, Orleans, Nov. 11. Only a few Sooty Shearwaters were observed and Manx was also scarce, with max. 10 at Stellwagen Bank, Mass., Oct. 17. Leach's and Wilson's storm-petrels were observed on the usual *Bluenose* ferry crossings in August and September. As many as 15 Leach's were seen at Barnstable, Mass., Oct. 10 after a storm which was also responsible for one in Greenwich, Conn., Oct. 11 (TB).

**HERONS, IBISES** — Most of the excitement in this group revolved around a few species. The peak count of Little Blue Heron



S.A.

In the past, few pelagic trips have been attempted in late summer to the warm waters s. and w. of Massachusetts but 2 were made this season. A 2½ day trip met with spectacular success at Hydrographer Canyon about 75 mi s.e. of Nantucket. Fortunate observers were treated to views of **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, Audubon's Shearwater, South Polar Skua and Long-tailed Jaeger. The other trip to waters s. of Martha's Vineyard was shrouded in controversy. More than 100 people, including many of the area's most competent observers, saw a small black-and-white shearwater that was unanimously identified as an Audubon's. Subsequent photographs have left viewers divided on the correct identification and it is best left unspecified (RRV, WCR).

was Sept. 19 at Plum I., Mass., when 18 were counted at an evening roost. Up to four of this species lingered in N. Scituate, Mass., through November. There were a number of late reports of Cattle Egrets, many as a result of reverse migration. In Nova Scotia a single Cattle Egret was at Brier I., Sept. 5, four were at Cape Breton in late October and three were present during November. One in Rexton, N.B., Nov. 6-9 was considered very unusual. On Nov. 5 in Maine three were in Greenville and eight in Shirley. From Nov. 6-16 a total of 18 Cattle Egrets was reported from 6 Massachusetts localities. A stray Snowy Egret was at Port au Port Pen., Nfld., Sept. 6. Six or more Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen in Eastham, Mass., Aug. 30 and four others were reported in the state. Nova Scotia had three Yellow-crowns in September and three were present most of September on Monhegan I., Me. A Least Bittern was out of place at Seal I., Oct. 11 and several reporters commented on the absence of Am. Bittern. Glossy Ibis normally departs from our area in early September so an individual Nov. 23, in Richmond, Mass. (far inland), was extremely late as well as out of place.

**WATERFOWL** — The only Whistling Swans reported were three that put down in Pittsfield, Mass., Nov. 14 and remained through the reporting period. The Snow Goose migration was average, with the first flocks totalling 121 noted at Block I., R.I., Oct. 2. The bulk of the

migration passed through from mid-October to early November with flocks, several observed at hawk watches, reported from New England. Gadwall remain well established in s. New England and six reported from Nova Scotia at A.P.B.S. (Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary), Nov. 17 is indicative of their spread. The 1510 Green-winged Teal at Plum I., Mass., Nov. 18 was by far the highest count for the Region. The usual Eur. Wigeons were reported, the first one in Rhode Island Oct. 8 and another at Barrington, R.I., Nov. 1-19. One was in Ipswich, Mass., most of October and November and one at inland Longmeadow, Mass., Oct. 18-22 was considered very unusual. The best count of Am. Wigeon was 1200 at E. Providence Res., R.I., Oct. 30. Ring-necked Duck received much comment with the earliest being 16 at Lakeville, Mass., Aug. 31. Typical reports included 500 in Manchester, Me., Oct. 3 and 120 and one Redhead at Pictou Harbor, N.S., Nov. 7. The only substantial count of Lesser Scaup was 150+ at Granton, Me., Sept. 30. The timing of migration and status of this species throughout the Region needs clarification. Barrow's Goldeneye is uncommon-to-rare throughout the Region; the best place to find it is Bangor Dam, Me., where nine were seen Oct. 24 and 31 were present Nov. 21. Two inland at Gill, Mass., Nov. 5 were noteworthy. A spectacular concentration of 25,000+ Oldsquaws was noted at Nantucket, Mass., Nov. 26. Inland in Massachusetts, 13 sightings totalling 49 individuals from late October to November 20 were termed 10 times the usual fall sightings. There was the normal number of Harlequin Ducks reported. A new wintering location at Sachuest Pt., R.I., hosted 13 on Nov. 27. Common Eiders were everywhere s. to Massachusetts. Two King Eiders in Newfoundland were deemed noteworthy while one at Guilford, Conn., Aug. 14 was rare and unseasonal (TB). There was very little comment on all 3 scoter species but an impressive count of 4000+ Red-breasted Mergansers was at Provincetown, Mass., Nov. 14 (BN).

**VULTURES, DIURNAL RAPTORS** — The wealth of data representing this group would necessitate a lengthier report than space allows so only generalizations and highlights will be noted. Turkey Vulture has increased dramatically in the s. portion of the Region and is reflected in unseasonal sightings in n. areas. In Nova Scotia, two were late at Brier I., Oct. 24 and one was seen as late as Nov. 3 in Maine. The first fall report of **Mississippi Kite** occurred in N. Easton, Mass., Sept. 1 where one was found with a broken leg (*fide* RAF, M.C.Z.). The coastal migration of Sharp-shinned Hawk was well documented. More than 1000 were recorded at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 26. At 3 Rhode Island locations on Oct. 2, 1610 were recorded but these may include some duplication. Reports of Cooper's Hawk seem to be increasing but still are fewer than 10% of Sharp-shinned sightings.

There were a few reports of migrating Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks in late October and early November but no significant numbers were observed. The Broad-winged Hawk flight was termed "poor to fair" (KCE) or "below recent averages" (SK) although as many as 2000 were seen at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 26. A few Rough-legged Hawks were reported in November but a major flight was clearly not developing. Lack of comments for Bald Eagle and Marsh Hawk provide inconclusive evidence of their populations. A Golden Eagle was observed in Waterside, N.B., Nov. 17, one was observed migrating in Littleton, Mass., Sept. 19 and another was banded in Hancock, Mass., Oct. 16 (*fide* SK).

The best Osprey count was 105 Sept. 17 at Mt. Agamenticus, Me. Continuing a recent trend, there were numerous reports of Osprey into mid-November. The only report of Gyrfalcon was from the well-known location at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld. There were considerably fewer sightings of Peregrine Falcon this fall (particularly in s. areas) but Merlin proved just the opposite. From Sept. 16-19, 133 were observed at Monhegan I., Me., and Merlin was well reported elsewhere.

**CRANES, RAILS, GALLINULES** — The only Sandhill Crane was sighted in Andover, Mass., Oct. 2 and again at nearby Plum I., Oct. 4. There were almost no reports of rails but two of the elusive Yellow Rails were seen in Rhode Island at Barrington Oct. 13 and Jerusalem Oct. 31 (*fide* DLE). An imm. Purple Gallinule at Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, Mass., Oct. 24 (LR, ph.) was, remarkably, the third successive fall sighting at that location. American Coot numbers continued very low, indicating either a change in migration pattern or indifferent reporting.

**SHOREBIRDS** — The shorebird situation was normal. The highest count of Am. Oystercatcher was 38 at Monomoy I., Mass., Aug. 22 and a crippled bird was in nearby Chatham Nov. 18, well beyond normal departure date. Killdeer numbering 250 in Ipswich, Mass., Nov. 6 was an excellent count. Greatest numbers of Am. Golden Plovers were reported from the n. areas of the Region with 175 in Newfoundland Sept. 25 (66% juv.), 215 at Amherst, N.S., Sept. 1 and 325 at St. Shott's, Nfld., Aug. 30. Whimbrel were also better reported from the n. with peaks of 83, St. Shott's, Nfld., Aug. 30, 120+ at Lusby Marsh, N.S., in late August, and 200+ at the same location in mid-September. A late individual was shot at Witless Bay, Nfld., in the second week of November.

Thirty Upland Sandpipers at Martha's Vineyard, Aug. 30 was extraordinary and one at Lusby Marsh, N.S., Oct. 31 was very late. There were no large counts of Pectoral Sandpiper but there were almost unanimous reports of this species lingering into November. The same holds true for White-rumped Sandpiper with over 100+ seen at Hartlen's Pt., N.S., Oct. 16 and 40 still present Nov. 4. Of 37 Baird's and 17 Buff-breasted sandpipers most records occurred in the late August-early September period although several late October reports were noted. Long-billed Dowitcher and Stilt Sandpiper in this Region are most frequently recorded in Massachusetts with peaks for Long-billed Dowitcher of 75 at Plum I., Oct. 3 and Stilt Sandpiper 33 there Sept. 3 (RSH). Late individuals of each species included a dowitcher, probably Long-billed, in Nova Scotia Nov. 21 and a Stilt Sandpiper at Plum I., Nov. 9. Of 15 sightings of Marbled Godwit nine were in Massachusetts, but the two each in Nova Scotia and Maine were unusual. Reports were concentrated in August and September. Most Hudsonian Godwits were reported from Massachusetts with 150 at Monomoy Aug. 1 but 30 at Scarborough, Me., Aug. 18 were exceptional.

Most ad. Ruffs pass through our area before this reporting period and few juveniles are reported. This season's Ruffs included two in Massachusetts and two present in W. Lawrencetown, N.S., Aug. 17. Unique for the season was an Am. Avocet at Quonochontaug, R.I., Sept. 12-17. Within this Region the Red is the most common phalarope in Nova Scotia, witness the count of 10,000 at Brier I., N.S., late August to early September. Late counts of Red Phalaropes were 225 off the New Hampshire coast Nov. 2 (DJA, *fide* KCE) and 350 at Rockport, Mass., Nov. 13 (RSH). The flock of N. Phalaropes off Campobello I., N.B., was estimated at 100,000 Aug. 1 (NF). There were few reports of Wilson's Phalarope, the most noteworthy being two in Nova Scotia and 2-3 at Scarborough, Me., Aug. 8-19.

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER** — There were the usual number of skua sightings on the *Bluenose* ferry crossings and one was seen during a storm at Eastham, Mass., Oct. 10 when 20+ Pomarine and 85+ Parasitic jaegers were also seen. The previous day at Barnstable, Mass., there were 125 Parasitic Jaegers. Otherwise jaegers were thinly reported throughout most of the season except for *Bluenose* crossing Oct. 6 when ten Pomarines were seen (PDV). There were more than 20 reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls from Newfoundland to Connecticut with at least 15 individuals in Massachusetts. An individual returned to Digby, N.S., for the 14th year. An extraordinary sight was a Laughing Gull and Ivory Gull in Newfoundland Nov. 7. Black-headed Gulls arrived at Glace Bay, N.S., by Sept. 12 and the number of young birds present suggests breeding somewhere on this continent. In Newfoundland, 55 Black-headed Gulls were present Nov. 7. By late September "thousands" of Bonaparte's Gulls were present at Campobello I., N.B., and included eight Little Gulls, the Region's highest count. A thousand Black-legged Kittiwakes off Lubec, Me., Oct. 16 was a high count for such an early date. Single Sabine's Gulls were noted in September and October in Massachusetts.

The flight of Forster's Tern was poor with 25 at Monomoy I., Mass., Sept. 11 the best count. One seen at Grand Manan I., N.B., was a rare sighting. Two Roseate Terns at Provincetown, Oct. 8 were late but one there Nov. 11 was extremely so (BN). Similarly Black Terns at Provincetown and Chatham in late November were well beyond normal departure dates. The usual late summer Royal Terns were observed in s. New England. A "probable" Bridled Tern was observed in Buzzards Bay, Mass., Aug. 28 (RSH, RRV, BN). A Sandwich Tern was observed at Nantucket in August and two, one possibly the same individual, were noted at Barnstable and Plymouth, Mass., in September. Black Skimmers were notably scarce in the s. with the best count 11 at Ninigret Pond N.W.R., R.I., during much of September.

**ALCIDS** — In recent years the fall season has witnessed little activity in this group and this year was only slightly better. There was a flurry of Dovekie activity Oct. 13-16 when 20 were at Seal I., N.S., 19 on the ferry to Monhegan I., Me., and reports of smaller numbers from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Maine. Otherwise counts were modest. On Oct. 26, five Dovekies were seen at Barnstable and seven in Eastham, Mass., where Puffin was also seen. There were scattered Dovekie reports in November and storm conditions brought 152 to Pemaquid Pt., Me., Nov. 24 (SH). Additional Puffin sightings were of 20 off Brier I., N.S., Sept. 5 and in the usual *Bluenose* reports. Razorbill and Thick-billed Murre reports were also scarce. On Nov. 20, 50 Razorbills and 15 Thick-billed Murres were seen at Rockport, Mass., where other movements of large unidentified alcids were noted Nov. 19 & 26.

**S.A.**

On Sept. 17 a cat deposited a dead bird at the Harrison residence in Middleboro, Mass. The cat's owners were puzzled over the identity of the bird and eventually the specimen was delivered to Kathleen Anderson, Director of Manomet Bird Observatory. She identified the bird as a **Marbled Murrelet** of the Asiatic race, *perdix*. Remarkably, this is the sixth such extralimital occurrence in North America in recent years. The bird was an adult and the flight feathers were in heavy molt leading to speculation as to when it actually arrived in the area.

**DOVES THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — A **White-winged Dove** at Monhegan I., Sept. 20-Oct. 4 (DWF, PDV) adds to the increased number of reports for this species in recent years. Yellow-billed Cuckoo is often encountered in October but this year there were few reports. Single Snowy Owls were reported from Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Maine and Massachusetts during the latter half of November, so four singles in Rhode Island, where it is decidedly uncommon, during the last week of November was surprising. Three separate Short-eared Owls landed on a drilling rig 200 mi e. of Newfoundland in late October providing further documentation of their erratic wanderings. Hawkwatchers at Little Round Top, N.H., were startled to see a Short-eared Owl migrating overhead Sept. 20. The last resident Chuck-will's-widow was recorded at Martha's Vineyard in mid-August. The Com. Nighthawk migration goes largely ignored but in the Connecticut R. Valley, Mass., observers recorded 12,000+ Aug. 20-Sept. 4. These were considered normal numbers (SK).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Red-bellied Woodpecker is now established in the s. portion of the Region albeit the population is small. Evidence of continued expansion is indicated by reports from Hampden, Me., Nov. 8-13 and Hampton, N.S., Oct. 28. Reports of Red-headed Woodpecker outnumbered Yellow-bellied Sapsucker almost 2:1. Most reports of Red-headed were of immatures. The sapsucker is an inconspicuous species with a precise migration in late September-early October. A very late sapsucker was observed in Newfoundland Nov. 10. Of 16 reports of W. Kingbird, eight were in November and were probably a result of reverse migration. Of these the most unusual was in Newfoundland Nov. 18-19. Vagrancy among flycatchers is well documented so the following should not be so shocking. A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was found at Central Chebogue, N.S., Sept. 4 (CRK). For the third successive fall a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** (Holt, *vide* RPE) was seen in Massachusetts, this one at Nantucket Sept. 16 & 18. A well-described *Myiarchus* flycatcher at Brier I., N.S., Nov. 14 could only have been an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (EM). Because *Empidonax* flycatchers are nearly impossible to identify in the fall, they are largely ignored, except for Yellow-bellied. An indication of their frequency and timing of migration is provided by banding figures from Appledore I., Me., where 28 were banded Aug. 20-Sept. 9 (DWH). Olive-sided Flycatcher received favorable comment. In Nova Scotia it was said to be "most reported in some years". Four were seen together in Lincoln, Mass., Sept. 1, and one was late at Block I., R.I., Oct. 3 (WRP).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Largely as a result of warm temperatures and prolonged SW winds there were many reports of late sightings of Tree and Barn swallows. During November 11 Tree Swallows were noted in Massachusetts and one at Fundy N.P., N.B., was considered exceptionally late. The annual Novem-

ber return of Barn Swallows was widespread this year. The onslaught apparently began Nov. 6 and was reported from Connecticut (4), Rhode Island (4), Massachusetts (14), Maine (4), and New Brunswick (2). Unrelated but nonetheless late was a Barn Swallow in Newfoundland Oct. 10, and *seven* Cliff Swallows there Oct. 3. Enigmatic is a report of a 30-second sighting of a Cave Swallow in the company of Barn Swallows at Cherry Hill Beach, N.S., Aug. 14 (J & SC).

The comings and goings of our commoner birds, like Blue Jay, deserve closer scrutiny. Largely as a result of an acorn crop failure, Blue Jays began moving S in mid-September. The extent of the departure is impossible to determine but a count of 1000 migrating at Sakonnet Pt., R.I., Oct. 2 was suggestive. Farther n. where the Blue Jay population is smaller, 75-250 were noted daily at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 13-16. Common Raven is continuing to establish itself in the s. as 2-3 residents was almost a daily sight at a hawkwatch at Mt Wachusett, Mass., in September. Vying as the bird of the season if a truly wild individual was a **Jackdaw**, *Corvus monedula*, found at Nantucket, Mass., Nov. 27 (SP) and present into December. Another sedentary common species received special attention. Observers in Maine, at the n. edge of the Tufted Titmouse's range, reported over 100 titmice—a substantial increase. Further evidence of this movement is provided by M.B.O. banding data which recorded its second highest fall banding total for this species (TL-E). After last fall's massive irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatch they were noted as being scarce or nonexistent. The exception was at Fundy N.P., N.B., where the large numbers were attributed to a heavy cone crop.

**WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES** — There is agreement that Winter Wrens are recovering from recent declines but the population is still low. The Region's two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were in Framingham, Mass., Sept. 25, and Monhegan I., Sept. 28 (DWF). A **Redwing**, *Turdus iliacus*, appeared in a St. Johns, Nfld., backyard Nov. 28 and was seen by many observers for the next few days. An enormous migration of Am. Robins was reported from Nova Scotia Oct. 23-26. At least 5000 were at Brier I., "thousands flying high and low in Lunenburg County" and a "minimum" of 5000 in the Pubnico area. Unique for the Region was a Varied Thrush at Holderness, N.H., Oct. 7-8 (R. Dearborn, *vide* KCE). Other thrushes, with the exception of Veery, were poorly reported. Good numbers of Veeries were reported in late August-early September and a late bird was seen at Fundy N.P., N.B., Sept. 12. The fall total at M.B.O. was the highest since 1976. The total number of Gray-cheeked Thrushes reported was four. There were seven Wheatears reported—one in Newfoundland in October, one at Argyle Head, N.S., Oct. 12, one at Seabrook, N.H., Sept. 28, one at Block I., Oct. 1-2, and one at New Canaan, Conn., Oct. 10. Two present at Baker I., Me., Aug. 13 (WT) were unusually early.

A late **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at St. Johns, Nfld., Nov. 17 (DB) furnished only the third provincial record. Good numbers of both kinglets were reported and Golden-crowneds were termed abundant in Nova Scotia from late September on with 200+ at Brier I., Oct. 23-24. A few N. Shrikes were reported in November from Newfoundland to Massachusetts but no invasion was evident. There were only 5 reports of what has now become a rare visitor to the Region. Four Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in coastal Massachusetts Aug. 29-Oct 2 and one at Middletown, R.I., Nov. 20.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — There was a good migration of vireos and warblers in late August and early September in most areas. Yellow-throated Vireo reports were limited to September with three in Nova Scotia, two in Maine and 15 in Massachusetts. Red-eyed Vireo had a fine flight during the big wave. From Aug. 29-Sept. 9, 123 were banded at Appledore I., Me. (DWH) and M.B.O.'s fall total of 170 was 21% above the previous high. Philadelphia Vireo also seemed to have a good fall with 15 banded at Appledore I., and a total of 23 reports in Massachusetts during September. Warbling Vireos seemed more prevalent than usual with two seen in Nova Scotia in September. A late Warbling Vireo was at Marblehead Oct. 5 but one banded at M.B.O., Nov. 11 posted a record late date.

As with vireos, warblers were best recorded during the late August-early September period with a less obvious concentration around Sept. 19. The "southern" warblers were recorded in the lowest numbers of recent years with no Cerulean or Kentucky reported. A Prothonotary was seen in Nova Scotia Aug. 15, another at Sable I. in mid-September and one was banded at Appledore I., Aug. 31. Two Yellow-throated Warblers were present in Nova Scotia Aug. 28 &

Sept. 6. The only others were one at Appledore I., Aug. 29 and one at Marblehead Sept. 28. Golden-winged Warbler is rarely seen in the fall. One at Broad Cove, N.S., Sept. 6 was unusual. A female was seen at Monhegan I., Sept. 14 and three were banded at M.B.O., the latest Sept. 30, a late date. The usual few Blue-winged Warblers were in Nova Scotia and Maine and a late one was seen at Marshfield, Mass., Nov. 6-27. During the good wave some species were recorded in excellent numbers including Black-and-white, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Bay-breasted, Wilson's, Canada, and Am. Redstart. From Aug. 29-Sept. 9, 88 N. Waterthrushes were banded at Appledore I. (DWH). A Louisiana Waterthrush at Monhegan I., Me., Sept. 5 was unprecedented that far n. (PDV). There was much comment about Orange-crowned Warbler. In Nova Scotia, 13 were recorded in October and November, seven were recorded in September and 16 during October in Massachusetts and at Monhegan I., Me., 11 were seen Oct. 13-15 (PDV). Prairie Warblers are now regular fall visitors to Nova Scotia with this season's total being six. Yellow-breasted Chat numbers were average but Connecticut Warblers were very low except in Massachusetts where 13 were reported in September. The highlight in St. Johns, Nfld., occurred late in the season. A Wilson's was seen Nov. 17-19, Nashville and Orange-crowned Nov. 19 and Prairie Warbler Nov. 28, the latter for a first provincial record.

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH BUNTINGS** — Orchard Orioles depart shortly after finishing breeding in July. Thus, one at Monhegan I., Sept. 29 was remarkable and three in Peabody, Mass., Aug. 8 slightly less so. Northern Orioles, reverse migrants, were widely reported through the Region as far n. as Newfoundland in November. Six Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen in Nova Scotia where it is "becoming regular". There were 10 additional sightings in the Region. A Summer Tanager at Monhegan I., Sept. 12 was unique for the Region. Blue Grosbeaks totalled a low 13 but one at Martha's Vineyard Nov. 7-10 was late. Dickcissels fared better, with more than 30 recorded, the most unusual being two in New Brunswick in October and two in Newfoundland in November.

Most of the winter finches were described as being almost nonexistent, at least in the s. Only a handful of Evening Grosbeaks began filtering in to non-breeding areas regionwide. Purple Finch was generally perceived to be in good numbers in many areas. Christmas Bird Counts will prove or disprove this suspicion. There were no reports of Com. Redpoll and Pine Grosbeak was reported only from Nova Scotia. A few Pine Siskins were reported from Nova Scotia in breeding areas in late summer-early fall but the only other report was of a single bird at Marblehead Oct. 2 (JS). With one exception crossbills continued the negative finch report. Four Red Crossbills, the only ones reported, were seen in Nova Scotia as were 12-15 White-wingeds. A report of five White-winged Crossbills in Chatham,

Mass., Oct. 13 was clearly an anomaly. However, 520+ White-wingeds were at Gros Morne N.P., Nfld., Nov. 2. Finches were indeed lacking in s. areas but was the lack of finches in the n. real or merely an absence of notable concentrations?

Even in what was termed a lackluster fall migration, there were some bright spots. Two Le Conte's Sparrows were recorded. One was at St. Paul's, Nfld., Sept. 19-20 (BM) and the other at Newburyport, Mass., Oct. 31 (RSH, JS). A bird fitting the description of an imm. Henslow's Sparrow was noted in Glovertown, Nfld., Sept. 22 (RB). A Seaside Sparrow at Grand Manan I., N.B., Aug. 22-Sept. 6 was well out of a range and one at Hampton Falls, N.H., Sept. 19 was a rarity. The w. vagrants, Lark and Clay-colored sparrows, were recorded in below-normal numbers with only 13 Lark and seven Clay-colored reported. Of these the most unusual report was of a Lark Sparrow at Cape St. Mary's Pt., Nfld., Sept. 26. Lloyd-Evans' comments on sparrows is worth repeating. "Considered as a group, northern breeding sparrows continued the previous six-year low, 38% below the mean for 1972-1976." The lack of White-crowned Sparrow elicited more comment than any other species. From Oct. 9-16 at Seal I., N.S., Bruce Mactavish saw only three White-crowns, all adults, where "in recent years during the same period one could expect 100-400+". Few Lapland Longspurs were reported but flocks of Snow Buntings numbering in the hundreds were widespread. In Massachusetts, the Snow Bunting flight was termed excellent with the maximum 1000 at Plum I., Nov. 8.

**ADDENDUM** — Not included in this report, for a variety of reasons, are several reports of extreme rarities. Included are records of Polynesian Tattler, Spotted Redshank, Red-necked Stint and Ringed Plover from Newfoundland, Yellow-billed and Arctic loons from Massachusetts, Wilson's Plover from Rhode Island and Band-tailed Pigeon from Connecticut.

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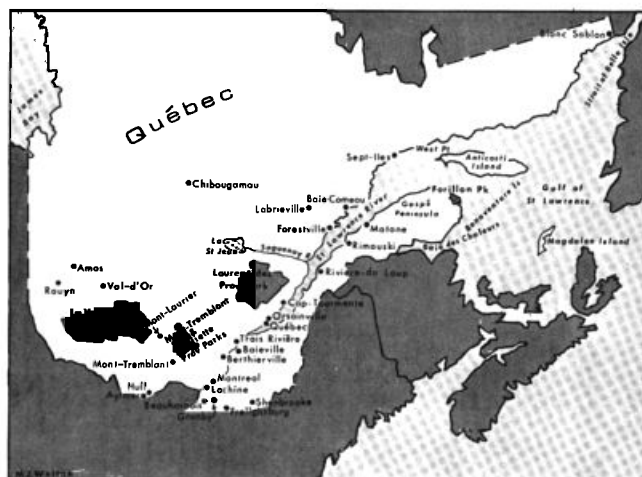
## QUEBEC REGION

/Normand David and Michel Gosselin

Temperatures were below average in August and, except in the far north, above average during the rest of the season. Precipitation, however, was normal all months, except in October when a 50% decrease was noted.

For some people there seems to be a sharp division between naturally occurring birds and those that have been (or could have been) introduced or assisted. Unfortunately, the latter are often neglected or ignored, even in authoritative literature. For many, the mere suspicion of previous captivity or assistance seems enough to deny the very presence of a bird; a reason for this may be that the natural and human worlds are perceived by some as being totally different and separate.

Accordingly, when a bird is suspected of having been released or escaped from captivity, there is often a tendency to make a final (and unqualified) decision as to its origin. But there often is no way to come to an undisputed conclusion when trying to decide whether or not a given bird is of captive origin. After all hypotheses have been considered and all evidence weighed, doubt may remain. Probability is not a synonym for certainty. It is thus important to always make the



distinction between known facts and mere opinions on the origin of a bird.

We believe that most occurrences of free-flying birds deserve to be documented appropriately, even if they are suspected (or known) to have been "assisted". Some of our most common species are imports, and others may well be able to follow the same path.

**LOONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS** — Arctic Loons were found on both sides of Ungava Pen.: a pair at L. Pio (58°17'N, 69°32'W) in mid-July (LG) and several off Nuvuv Pt., at the end of July (IJ). The presence of up to three N. Fulmars near the Madeleine Is. (Aug. 9, 13, 22—PBA, JH, YA) can be related to the abundance of shearwaters noted by local fishermen (*vide* YA); additional noteworthy sightings included 185 Greater Shearwaters from the P.E.I. ferry Aug. 9 (PBA) and 55 near Old-Harry Aug. 12 (JH). The latter species was also noted unusually late: a bird at Bergeronnes Nov. 5 (AB), and up to ten from the Matane ferry Nov. 11-19 (JH, YG, m.ob.). Five Greater and three Sooty shearwaters were seen Aug. 18 from the new ferry route from Havre Saint-Pierre to Anticosti (GD, NL). The now regular presence of Manx Shearwaters in the Gulf of St. Lawrence was again illustrated by sightings near the Madeleine Is., Aug. 4-Sept. 8 (FG, JH, PC, GF, YA).

An aerial survey of the s. shore of L. Saint-François, on the St. Lawrence R., produced six Great Egrets Aug. 23 (JS). A sizable incursion of Cattle Egrets brought single birds to Gaspé mid-September to mid-October (*vide* PP), Harrington-Harbour c. Oct. 1 (*vide* KB), Bergeronnes Oct. 3 (AB) and Sainte-Anne du Lac Oct. 16-18 (*vide* JC, DSH), 17 birds to Rapide-des-Joachims Oct. 30 (GP *et al.*), two near Amos at about the same date (MP, *vide* YA), and singles to Rimouski Nov. 1 (YG), Cap-des-Rosiers Nov. 1 (JF), and Sainte-Anne des Monts for 2 weeks in mid-November (ADs); these localities are all away from the more heavily birded s. areas. A Green Heron at Sherbrooke Nov. 3 (JRU) was the latest ever. A *Plegadis* ibis found at Sherbrooke Sept. 12 (PBI) was not automatically a Glossy Ibis; fall records in this Region are extremely few and the possibility of a White-faced Ibis should never be excluded (even in spring). Found at LesMéchins Sept. 4, an ad. **American Flamingo** was stoned to death by teenagers the next day (*vide* ADs, \*Nat'l Mus. Nat. Sc.). Although excessively lean and in perfect plumage, the question of its origin remains unanswered. The same can be said of a bird shot at I. aux Grues Sept. 16, 1972.

**WATERFOWL** — Three adult and six young Whistling Swans were found Aug. 20 at 60°25'N, 76°35'W in the Ungava Pen. (GGU, *vide* JG), near the only area where the species breeds in the Province (see *Can. Field-Nat.* 84:398-399). Spotted Oct. 14, an ad. **Bean Goose** was seen at Cap-Tourmente until Oct. 21 when shot by a hunter (YA, MG, JH, CS). Measurements (*vide* AR) indicated the race *rossicus*, breeding in the w. tundra of the U.S.S.R. and wintering in Europe. This is the first documented occurrence of this race in North America; two other Siberian races wander occasionally in Alaska. Three birds not identified to subspecies have apparently been filmed at Port Colborne, Ont., Apr. 9, 1933. Both Ross' and White-fronted geese



*Bean Goose, Cap-Tourmente, Que., Oct. 19, 1982. Photo/N. David.*

were also present at Cap-Tourmente in October, an annual event. At Cap Saint-Ignace, a juv. **Common Shelduck** was shot Sept. 18 by a hunter who reported that a second bird was also present (\*seen by JFG, ADc). Rather frequent in aviaries, this Old World bird is also

capable of long-distance displacement as attested by several occurrences in Iceland. It has already been reported in Massachusetts (A.O.U. 1957) and probably in the Azores (Bannerman 1966). A ♀ Mallard at Kuujuaq Aug. 12 (YA) was far from its range, the same is true of five Gadwalls in Havre aux Basques, Madeleine Is., Aug. 8 (PBA), a first local occurrence. Northern Quebec being largely unexplored ornithologically, it is not surprising that many records help delineate breeding ranges: a ♀ Ring-necked Duck with seven young at 58°10'N, 69°34'W, W of Kuujuaq, at the end of July, another with four young at 58°13'N, 68°58'W in mid-July (LG), a ♀ Harlequin Duck with five young at 71°15'W on the Eastmain R., July 16 (RBe), and two broods of Black Scoters at 55°46'N, 66°03'W, n. of Schefferville, at the end of August (LG). A ♂ White-winged Scoter at 53°30'N, 71°00'W, in c. Quebec July 24 (RBe) furnished another indication that the species could be found breeding there.

**RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — An Osprey was found at Sagluc July 30 (RS) and good numbers were reported on the recently-created reservoirs in n. Quebec (RBe). A Bald Eagle at Caniapiscou Aug. 12 (YA) and two Red-tailed Hawks at L. Nichéon July 21 (RBe) were somewhat n. of their range. An imm. Swainson's Hawk shot at Rivière-au-Renard Aug. 22 (*vide*, BC, ph., N.M.N.S.) represented the northeasternmost occurrence in North America. A young Am. Kestrel found dead near L. Yasinski Aug. 4 and several sightings on the James Bay territory (YA) indicate that this bird is apparently pushing N. The Sandhill Crane that summered at Barachois was last seen Sept. 8-15 (ND, PDU), two birds were also sighted at Matapédia Oct. 15 (PBr). As predicted in AB 35:922, the Piping Plover was found breeding on the North Shore, with the discovery of two adults and two young at Moisie July 30 (AB). Two Lesser Yellowlegs at 55°46'N, 66°03'W, n. of Schefferville, at the end of August (LG) were rather unusual, whereas a Solitary Sandpiper at Saint-Romuald Oct. 31 (ADc) was unprecedentedly late. Single W. Sandpipers were found in Aylmer Aug. 14 (RDb), Vaudreuil Aug. 14-20 (BB, MM, GH), and Côte Sainte-Catherine P.P., Sept. 19 (YA). Two Least Sandpipers at I. du Moine Nov. 13 (PM) were the latest ever, while 13 Purple Sandpipers at Saint-Romuald Nov. 6 (PDe) formed a large flock for a species rare on the w. St. Lawrence R. A Stilt Sandpiper at Capucins Aug. 17 (ADs, LJ) provided a first record in Gaspésie; the bird is nevertheless regular in s. Quebec, and even in the Madeleine Is. A fourth Regional report of the **Long-billed Dowitcher** since 1979, at Rimouski July 24 (GG, LH), shows that the bird is perhaps of annual occurrence.

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — The only Long-tailed Jaeger of the fall migration was seen from the Matane ferry Sept. 11 (ADs). Rarer Larids included a Franklin's Gull at LaMalbaie Oct. 11 (FG), single Lesser Black-backed Gulls at LaMalbaie (GSe) and off Tadoussac (DBr *et al.*) Oct. 9, and at Montmorency Nov. 20+ (CV, m.ob.), as well as an imm. Sabine's Gull at Quebec City Sept. 11 (GL). Furthermore, a very late imm. Forster's Tern was found in Aylmer Nov. 7 (RL). Seven Dovekies were reported in mid-July from L. Pio, 30 ± km inland from Ungava Bay (LG). For the second year in a row, this species was abundant in the St. Lawrence Estuary, with maxima of 208 from the Matane ferry Nov. 13 (JH), and 480 at Bergeronnes Nov. 28 (AB); two also reached Saint-Siméon, Charlevoix Co., on the latter date (JLD). A flock of 13 Razorbills at Saint-Romuald Oct. 27 (PDe) was noteworthy. A Com. Murre at Quebec City Oct. 10 (RBA, GG) was apparently the westernmost occurrence ever on the St. Lawrence; eight had been reported from the Saint-Siméon ferry the same day (MGa). Thick-billed Murres and Com. Puffins were less obvious, with highs of respectively six and three from the Matane ferry in November (JH, YA).

**CUCKOOS THROUGH MOCKINGBIRDS** — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Metabetchouan Sept. 29 (NT) was the first for the L. Saint-Jean area. A calling Boreal Owl at Cap-aux-Meules Aug. 28 indicates that the species still resides on the Madeleine Is. (YA). Two Red-headed Woodpeckers were recorded outside their range: an adult at L. Jacques-Cartier, Laurentides P.P., Sept. 16 (DBa) and an immature at Rimouski Nov. 6-16 (YG). A Say's Phoebe was photographed at Beauport Oct. 4 (ADc, PDe, ph. N.M.N.S.), while a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at LaBaie Oct. 26 (Gsa). Two Barn Swallows, apparently of the American subspecies, *erythrogaster* spent the summer in Ivujivik (*vide* IJ). The possibility of the European race, *rustica* distinguished by its wide black collar and whiter underparts, must be

considered with n sightings of this bird, as five out of 23 reports in W. Greenland were of this race (Salomonsen, 1967). A Golden-crowned Kinglet was recorded n. of its range July 8, on the James Bay road near the Eastmain R. (YA). Again this year, the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found at Cap-Tourmente, this time Aug. 17 (RCm). A Wheatear was met with at L. Pio, Ungava, in mid-July (LG), while the only one of the fall migration was at Mont-Joli Sept. 19-26 (YG, m.ob.). The E. Bluebird was reported in good numbers at the edge of its range: one at Amos Aug. 21 (HJ), four at Bergeronnes Sept. 4 (AB) and 24 at Courville Oct. 11 (ADc). The nest of a Mockingbird was found in Chandler during the summer, a first in Gaspésie (PP).

**VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES** — A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Quebec City Oct. 10 (DBI), the latest date known for this bird in the Province. Among warblers, a **Blue-winged Warbler** at Saint-Anaclet Sept. 8 (YG *et al.*) and an Orange-crowned Warbler at Havre-Aubert Aug. 22 (YA) provided first occurrences in the respective areas. Many record-late warblers were noted: a Yellow in Rimouski Nov. 20-22 (RCt), a Chesnut-sided in Sainte-Foy Nov. 4 (GB), and a ♂ Black-throated Blue in Lévis Nov. 18 (GSi). The first Yellow-breasted Chat of Rimouski was found Aug. 31 (GG). A ♀ Scarlet Tanager was sighted at L. Joannès, Abitibi, July 4; a male was also apparently heard at the same place (EvW). One of the few Sharp-tailed Sparrows ever in the Montreal area was discovered in Hudson Oct. 2 (PBa). Mystery still surrounds the origin of E. Meadowlarks reported from Murdochville in migration; this fall, a high of 45 has been noted Oct. 1 (ML). North of Schefferville, at 55°46'N, 66°03'W four Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen in late August (LG); this is a species whose expansion is to be closely watched. House Finches were not reported this summer, probably owing to a lack of feeders in operation. Records of the fall included two male and two females or immatures at L. Nominique Aug. 14 (RCw), an imm. male at Quebec City Sept. 9 (CV), a male and six females or immatures in Sherbrooke Sept. 11 +, some of the latter being fed by the adult (JRu, m.ob.); one was also near Wilson's Corners Oct. 29 (JM, *vide* DSH), and a pair returned to Philipsburg Nov. 20 (CC).

**ADVENTIVES** — A Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*) was present at Barachois July 23-Sept. 18 (JRo, m.ob.); the species' original range lies from Mongolia to India. This bird often escapes from captivity and can travel great distances; a Bar-headed Goose had been shot in 1975 on Southampton I., N.W.T. (*vide* RH) and one has even reached Spitzbergen recently (*Alauda* 48:25). New facts came to light on the subject of Chukar acclimatization. Nineteen birds were released in Rigaud during the fall of 1980, the following summer one brood at least was observed, and in the spring of 1982 two birds were still present (LD, *vide* PS). Two Chukars were also reported from Lac-

Marois May 22, 1981, (HR, *vide* PS) and one was found in Mirabel Dec. 12, 1981 (RP). Last spring, someone was seen releasing two birds in Westmount (*vide* PS). See also *AB* 34:143, 878. A covey of wild Turkeys was reported from Saint-Fabien, Panet Twp., last summer (*vide* RM); it is not known whether the parents were from the original stock of 1978 or released recently (see *AB* 35:162). A pair of Bobwhites at Saint-Féréol Aug. 17 (JLG) was certainly released locally because the locality is very far from the species' known range. A Black-billed Magpie in Longueuil Sept. 29-Oct. 11 (RDp, m.ob.) appeared tame and had much-frayed tail feathers; these characters are not, in themselves, irrefutable proof of a captive origin (see *AFN* 19:42-44). However, because this particular bird was a brownish-hooded juvenal, it should have been in fresh plumage, and had thus likely been brought from the Prairies as someone's pet.

**NOTE** — It has been our practice to include in this column sightings that were made from the ferry between Blanc-Sablon, Que., and St. Barbe, Nfld., in the n. half of the Straits of Belle-Isle. However, it was brought to our attention that, according to the boundaries delineated in the Gulf by an agreement between the Provinces, the route of the ferry is almost entirely in Newfoundland waters. Northern Fulmars, Greater, Sooty, and Manx shearwaters reported from Blanc-Sablon (Aug. 2 & 23, 1976; Aug. 14 & 25, 1977, June 16 & Aug. 4, 1978; July 10, 1980—in *AB* 31:153; 32:181, 33 158, 34:877) must then be considered as technically in Newfoundland waters.

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## HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

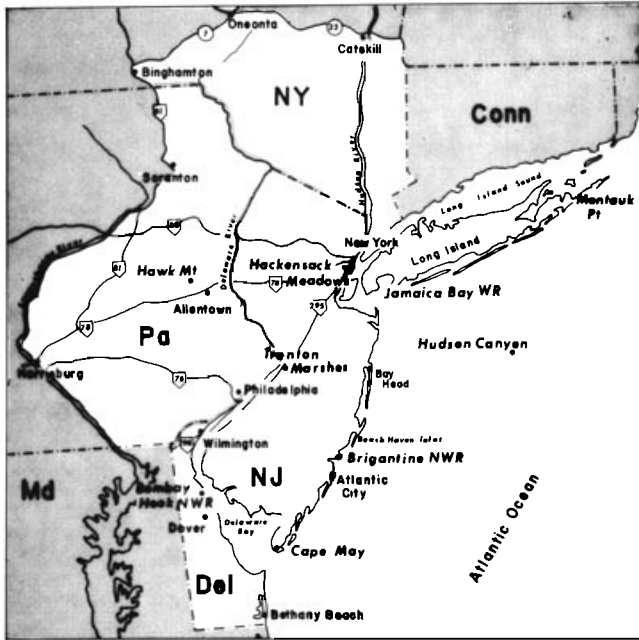
Fall 1982 offered vivid illustrations of weather's effect on migration. The fall passage began with a bang when a series of August cold fronts culminated in the granddaddy of them all August 29. That front brought record low temperatures (46°F. at Philadelphia, 43° at Allentown, 38° at Wilkes-Barre) and a torrent of passerines. At Higbee's Beach, Cape May, New Jersey, where a coastal grove concentrates migrants, birds poured through during the morning of August 29: 1000+ Eastern Kingbirds, 80 *Empidonax* flycatchers, two Olive-sided Flycatchers, four Philadelphia Vireos, 120 Tennessee Warblers, 40 Magnolia Warblers, 65 Blackburnian Warblers, four Mourning Warblers, 95 Canada Warblers, 500+ American Redstarts, 700-1000 Northern Orioles (DS, CS, BMo). Twenty-nine species of warblers were recorded at Cape May that day. Further north at Island Beach, New Jersey, Doscher had her biggest banding day of the season that same morning, including 26 Veeries, more than she usually bands in an entire autumn.

One more massive flight accompanied the cold front of September

4-5. As Kranick prepared to begin his day's coverage of the Baer Rocks hawk watch, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania September 5, he became aware that warblers were all around him: "Cape Mays by the thousand, Magnolias, Tennessees, Blackburnians not far behind. Never have I seen anything even remotely comparable." Thereafter the migration seemed to peter out, especially on the coast. The few fronts that passed tracked mostly to the north, producing easterly winds on the coast ("back door highs"). Most western or plains species were low. Hawks were dispersed over a broad front. Waterfowl remained in the north, as did winter finches. Things improved in November, however, when major cold fronts followed a balmy first week. Fronts on November 6-7 and 13 piled up impressive totals of hawks, loons, and swans in the mountains, and good coastal water bird passages.

Some frequently mentioned localities are abbreviated below as follows: B. Hook: Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig Brigantine N.W.R., Atlantic Co., N.J.; H.M.: Hackensack Meadows, Hudson and Bergen Cos., N.J.; J.B.W.R.: Jamaica Bay W.R., New York City; and Tinicum: Tinicum Nat'l Environmental Center, Philadelphia.

**GREBES THROUGH HERONS** — Horned Grebes continued their "downward spiral" (GH). None were seen at all in e. Pennsylva-



nia (LL, WR), and the best coastal count was of only 10 at Brig Oct. 26 (RM).

A stray **White Pelican**, apparently adult, soared over Cape May Pt., Oct. 18 (M. Maurer, DS, HL, ph. CS), a second county record. Some measure of the steadily growing Double-crested Cormorant passage down the coast was 4000 on the Delaware coast Oct. 4 (WWF) and 13,000 passing Cape May Oct. 10 (DWa). Good numbers also came down the Hudson; 106 at Piermont, Rockland Co., N.Y., Oct. 1 (RD) tied the local maximum. Migration was still going on inland Nov. 6 when 25 passed over Baer Rocks, Pa. (KK).

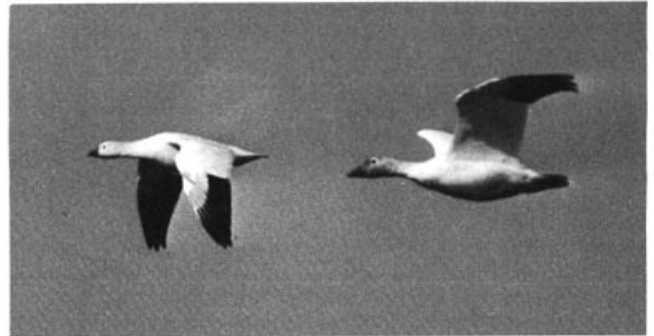


*White Pelican, Cape May Pt., N.J., Oct. 18, 1982. Photo/Clay Sutton.*

On the "back door high" of Oct. 9-10, flocks of 28 and 45 Great Blue Herons passed Cape May (AM); the total count there Oct. 10 was 200 (DWa). The farthest-flung Glossy Ibises in late-summer dispersal were singles at Tunkhannock Aug. 23, the second or third known in e. Pennsylvania (WR), and at Goshen, Orange Co., N.Y., Aug. 30 (J. Fitzpatrick) and three at Galesville Airport, Ulster Co., N.Y., in mid-November (JT).

**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swan passage was on schedule but more concentrated than usual when cold fronts followed the balmy first week of November. On Nov. 8, 1500 reached Muddy Run, Drumore, Lancaster Co., Pa., 94 were over Hawk Mt., Pa., SB's largest personal count there ever. After 20 at Baer Rocks Nov. 7 (KK), the great front of Nov. 13 brought 14 there and 43 over Hawk Mt.

It is not certain what proportion of the wintering Brant population crosses the mountains and what proportion comes down the coast, but the early November cold fronts brought unusual numbers of them, like swans, over the ridges: 90 and 250 over Baer Rocks, Pa., Nov. 6-7, and 750 during the same 3 days at Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N.J. (FW) were the largest of a number of reports. The now-annual White-fronted Geese included a pair at Brig Oct. 9-Nov. 1 (B. Starika, RM), one of the Greenland race at B. Hook after Nov. 20 (*vide* AH), and one at Prospect P., Brooklyn (JY). The Region had **Ross' Geese** for the second year in a row, this time two: B. Hook Oct. 17-Nov. 30+ (BS, E. Witner, J. Gordon), the same location where Delaware's first was photographed last November (AB 36:158); and Brig Oct. 23-Nov. 30+ (J. Danzenbaker, AM, ph. AB), possibly joined by another in November, New Jersey's second (*cf.* AB 26:586 for a sight record at Brig in winter 1971-72). We suspect that increased e. observations of Ross' Goose reflect more careful observation rather than a distribution shift.



*Ross' Goose with Snow Goose, Brigantine N.W.R., N.J., Oct. 31, 1982. Photo/Alan Brady.*

The only Fulvous Whistling Duck was an immature at Brig Aug. 13 (†P. Desjardins, ph.). Up to nine Eurasian Wigeon were a bit above average. A ♂ Tufted Duck, believed to be wild, was at Central Park L., N.Y.C., Nov. 29 into December (L. Pohner *et al.*), where two females were reported last winter.

The annual watch for migrant diving ducks touching down at inland lakes was disappointing this fall, largely because of mild weather, although Lewis blames increased hunting pressure at L. Struble and Marsh Creek, Pa. The now usual Oldsquaw flights over the mountains on November cold fronts were a bit low (*e.g.*, ten over Baer Rocks Nov. 6—KK), but sizable inland groundings included 18 in a flooded quarry near Allentown Nov. 13 (BM) and 49 at L. Marburg, Pa., Nov. 7 (DH). As usual, Black Scoters were the most frequently reported scoter inland (*e.g.*, 75, Cornwall Bay, N.Y., on the Hudson R., Nov. 10—BSe), but numbers were mostly below last year. Eight Surf Scoters at Wild Creek Res., Pa., Nov. 19 (DG, J. Gibson) were more unusual.

**VULTURES, RAPTORS** — Black Vultures seem to have made another quantum jump upward in n. New Jersey. A group in the Great Swamp—Bernardsville area peaked at eight Nov. 30 (*vide* IB, H. Boyce, RK), and 22+ were reported in the n.w. hills (*vide* GH). Oddly enough, none were reported across the border in New York. In a more traditional part of the range, 40 at a feed lot near Lewes, Del., Nov. 6 (WWF, J. Aull) was an amazing coastal concentration.

NB, whose years of careful counting of birds coming down the Hudson at the Alpine, N.J., overlook are among this Region's most concrete gauges of population trends, reports that Turkey Vultures continue to increase. This season's total was about 10% above last year, and "a few hundred % over 10 years ago."

For the fourth straight year, Mississippi Kites appeared in early fall at Cape May. Most if not all were immatures, suggesting either post-breeding dispersal from the s. or some as yet undiscovered breeding location nearby. Up to three were seen each day Aug. 14-16 (CS, RR, RRa, MB), and more may have been involved. A different immature was at Stowe Cr., Cumberland Co., N.J., Aug. 14 (CS), and still another at Cape May Court House Sept. 20 (A. Nicholson).

The hawk watches reported generally low numbers compared to recent years, but the weather seems to have accounted for that. Tranquil conditions worked against any concentrations in September or October, either on the ridges or the coast, so it is hard to draw

conclusions about the populations of the earlier migrant raptors. Things picked up considerably along the ridges with the fronts of Nov. 6-13 and there were good counts of later migrant species.

Goshawks appear to be erupting again. Although totals nowhere approached the great years of 1972-73 (e.g., 141 at Hawk Mt., cf. 428 in 1972 and 357 in 1973), they have been generally higher in the last 2 falls than in any fall since 1973. The high proportion of adults points to food pressure rather than breeding success. DSH found 67% immatures at Bake Oven Knob, Lehigh Co., Pa., which compares with 79% in the great invasion of 1972 and 65% in the 1973 "echo" flight. The very high Sharp-shinned Hawk totals since 1977 were not maintained this fall on coastal Long Island or the Kittatinny-Blue Mt. ridge, probably for lack of cold fronts in September-October, but respectable counts along the front ridge in New Jersey (4746 at Montclair) and at Cape May (45,586) approached recent fall figures. The high proportion of Cooper's Hawks to Sharp-shinned Hawks since 1979 continued at Hook Mt., N.Y. (increased to 1:39), Hawk Mt. (steady at 1:13), and Baer Rocks (increased to 1:7.8), but elsewhere slipped a bit. Kranick recalls that the historic ratio at Baer Rocks was about 1:10.

Buteos were low along the coast, on E winds, but the sharp cold fronts of early November concentrated spectacular numbers of Red-tailed Hawks along the ridges. November 13 was a particularly dramatic day along the Blue Mt. ridge, Pa.: 797 Red-taileds at Hawk Mt., 893 at Baer Rocks (along with the waterfowl already mentioned), and an all-time daily high of 914 at Bake Oven Knob (BM). Broad-winged Hawks, by contrast, dispersed in the placid September air. Migrant kettles meandered by any time Sept. 9-24, as often as not away from the ridges. For example, 1404 over Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., Pa., during the morning of Sept. 13 (R. Bardman, D. Croll) nearly equalled Hawk Mt.'s best day, 1911 Sept. 13. These conditions make any generalizations about Broad-winged Hawk populations rash, and the same applies to Red-shouldered Hawks, although there were some impressive counts of them in November on the ridges. Swainson's Hawks were widely reported, although fewer than last fall's record. An immature was banded at Wind Gap, Pa., Sept. 19 (P. Kärner), two were at Hawk Mt. (SB), and up to six at Cape May late August-Oct. 5 (PD, RR, CS, DWa). It was an off year for Rough-legged Hawks.

Eagle figures were rather encouraging, not only in their totals, but in the percentage of young birds. Hawk Mt.'s 54 Golden Eagles make the third straight fall of 50+ (1975-79 average, 36), and other excellent ridge counts included 15 (10 imm.) at Raccoon Ridge, N.J., and 36 at Bake Oven Knob, Pa., where DSH calculated 46% immatures. A fair scattering of singles were elsewhere, such as Eastport, L.I., Nov. 21 (J. Clinton), Dutchess County, N.Y., Aug. 12 (R.T.W.B.C.), Rocky Hill, Somerset Co., N.J., Sept. 19 (B. Merritt), and West Chester, Pa., Oct. 24 (JG), but coastal totals, such as Cape May's six, were low. Bald Eagles were even more scattered, as usual (especially so in the light September winds). Hawk watch totals were mixed, but, on balance, mildly encouraging. Hawk Mt.'s 33 was the second year at 30 or better (1975-79 average, 24). DSH found 45% of the 18 at Bake Oven Knob immatures, "a marked improvement over much lower percentages of immatures . . . during the DDT era." One of eight Bald Eagles at Muddy Run, Pa., bore a wing tag believed to have been attached in South Carolina (RS).

Ospreys set no records at inland hawk watches, but placid September weather was probably to blame. There is ample reason to believe that the species' rapid recovery is continuing. Cape May's 2206 was by far the highest total since the present hawk watch began in 1976. CS reported veritable kettles of Ospreys at Cape May in early October when 100+ /day passed, with a peak of 250+ Oct. 3.

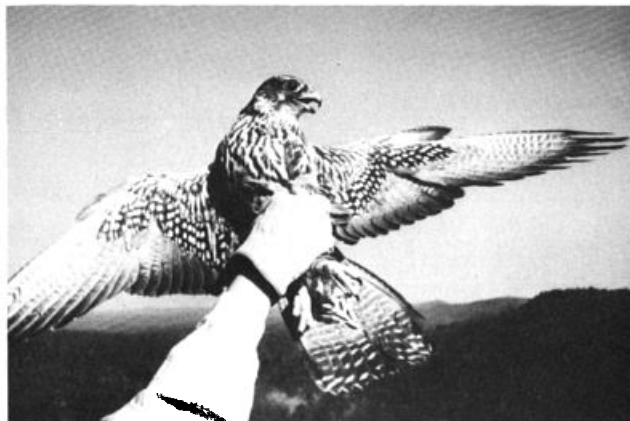
It was another spectacular Gyr Falcon year in the mountains. Soucy banded an imm. female Nov. 8 in Stokes S.F., Warren Co., N.J., probably only the second Gyr Falcon ever banded in the e. United States. Six were observed elsewhere along the ridges: three at Baer Rocks (gray Oct. 23; white Nov. 7; gray Nov. 20—KK), two at 183 Lookout, 16 mi downridge from Hawk Mt. (dark Oct. 16; light Nov. 27—SB), and one at Raccoon Ridge Nov. 24 (FW). Away from the mountains, one surprised Latourette, a veteran hawk watcher, over his house at Lawrenceville, N.J., Oct. 1. KK observes that of seven Gyr Falcons at Baer Rocks in the last decade, the first was Nov. 10, 1973, and the other six have come "in a surge" since 1980.

Peregrine migration began with a record early bird Sept. 6 at Baer Rocks (KK), and Cape May's total of 363 was the highest since the watch began in 1976. PD adds that additional sightings, corrected for duplication, make 418 a more plausible total figure. Early October

was particularly heavy with 50 (Oct. 1), 51 (Oct. 4), and 50 (Oct. 9) on a "back door high" (CS, AM). Elsewhere, the picture was not so optimistic. Hawk Mt.'s eight was the lowest ever, while the Long Island beach flight was well below recent falls, perhaps for lack of cold fronts. PD theorizes that Peregrines and Merlins often migrate offshore, so that E winds concentrated them on the New Jersey beaches. Merlins, too, set a record at Cape May with 1675.

American Kestrels were in poor numbers so universally that something other than dispersal in tranquil weather may be involved. No organized hawk watch known to us had normal numbers. Declines from the 1975-81 average ranged from 11% at Montclair, N.J., through 40% at Cape May and Mt. Peter, N.Y. (despite the longest hours of coverage ever there), to 72% at Breezy Pt., at the s.w. tip of Long Island.

[We thank the following for hawk watch data: Seth Benz (Hawk Mt., Pa.), Andrew Bihun (Montclair, N.J.), Peter Dunne and Clay Sutton (Cape May, N.J.), D.S. Heintzelman (Bake Oven Knob, Pa.), Kenneth Kranick (Baer Rocks, Pa.), Andrew Martin (Mt. Peter, N.Y.), Steve Nord (Fire Island, N.Y.), Hannelore Richard (Breezy Pt., L.I.), Fred Tetlow (Sunrise Mt., N.J.), Stiles Thomas (Hook Mt., N.Y.), and Floyd P. Wolfarth (Raccoon Ridge, N.J.)



Imm. ♀ Gyrfalcon, Kittatinny Mts. Raptor Banding Sta., Stokes S.F., N.J., Nov. 8, 1982. Photo/Len Soucy.

CRANES, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — Two of the now-annual Sandhill Cranes turned up this season: Cape May, Oct. 15-16 (PD, DWa), and Washington Boro, Pa., Oct. 20 (RS). Cooley had the enviable fortune of flushing a Yellow Rail in dry grass at the edge of a marsh in E. Patchogue, L.I., Oct. 23. Shorebirds were even more localized in favorable habitat than usual. Most inland lakes held high water in August, the ensuing drought exposing mud flats too late for most waders and wader-watchers. Shorebirding was good at a few prime spots where water levels were right, such as Tinicum, L. Octoraro, Chester Co., Pa., and J.B.W.R., where the East Pond was drawn down once again to favor waders, and where Davis had a redoubtable 27 species Sept. 18.

S. A.

Some of the Region's shorebird specialists are adding a new precision to their field work by distinguishing adults from immatures, a skill which the excellent *Guide to the Identification and Ageing of Holarctic Waders*, by A.J. Prater, J.H. Marchant, and J. Vuorinen (B.T.O. Guide 17, 1977) helps make possible. In several years of intensive coverage at J.B.W.R., Davis has charted the spread between adult arrival dates and the later arrival of juveniles. This season, both adults and immatures arrived a week or more later than usual, which he attributes to late nesting in the arctic rather than to weather factors in migration, and lingered later than usual in good numbers, perhaps because of the mild fall. Both Davis and Dunne commented upon this fall's low proportion of immatures. Whether this reflects a poor breeding season in the arctic, as Dunne suggests, or whether such low proportions are a normal hazard for which shorebird species compensate by relatively long life spans, as Davis suggests (*Kingbird, in press*), must await the accumulation of more data about the normal proportion of juv. shorebirds here in fall.



Among a number of late lingering shorebirds, a Piping Plover Nov. 5 at Henlopen, Del. (DW) was noteworthy. American Golden Plovers were a bit below last year, despite E winds, but there were some good coastal concentrations, e.g., 300 at Jenkins Sound, Cape May Co., N.J., rather late Nov. 14 (RM). The best of relatively anemic inland counts was 87 at New Holland, Pa., Oct. 25 (TA, J. Peterson). Whimbrel were generally low, the best count being a mere 30 at Tuckerton, N.J., July 31 (WJB). The inexorable decline of Upland Sandpipers continues. The best assemblage was of only 30 at the Columbus sod farms, Burlington Co., N.J., Aug. 8 (*vide* AH), and the only other double-digit reports were 15 at Elmer, Salem Co., N.J., in mid-August (JH), the same number at Wilmington airport Aug. 20 (LL), and 12 at Cape May Aug. 22 (DS).

Davis's study at J.B.W.R. found lower numbers than last year of several species of shorebirds, all but one of which breeds exclusively w. of Hudson's Bay: Western, White-rumped, Pectoral, and Stilt sandpipers, and Long-billed Dowitcher. The best Pectoral Sandpiper count was 250 at S. Cape May Meadows Aug. 11 (DS). We have reports of about a dozen widely scattered Baird's Sandpipers, below normal, the only multiple count being two at Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., Pa., Sept. 13 (N. Thorpe). Curlew Sandpipers were low, too, only singles at J.B.W.R., July 28-Aug. 12 (TD *et al.*) and at Brig Oct. 15 (RC) being known to us.

Reinforcing the general paucity of w. and plains waders, Buff-breasted Sandpipers came in only ones and twos at traditional airport and sod farm sites. The best counts were only five at Wainscott, L.I., Sept. 18 (J. Ash) and six or seven at Dutch Neck, Monmouth Co., N.J., Sept. 18-24 (RK, E. Bloor). Twelve to fifteen Marbled Godwits, all coastal this time, were about average. Hudsonian Godwits were less numerous than last year. Aside from 18 at S. Cape May July 30 (*vide* PD), there were no spectacular groups.

The late summer Am. Avocet build-up reached 240 at Little Creek, Del., Oct. 10 (LL). A handful of stragglers northward included one at Rye, Westchester Co., N.Y., Sept. 6 (V. & K. McGrath), a second county record. Pickering Beach, Del., had all 3 species of phalaropes Oct. 12, following a strong northeaster (one Red, nine Wilson's, six Northern, *vide* AH). One Red Phalarope at L. Musconetcong, Morris Co., N.J., Oct. 12-14 (TH, m.ob.) furnished a first confirmed record for n.w. New Jersey, and another coastal storm Oct. 25 brought one ashore at Roosevelt Inlet, Del., with the jaegers mentioned below (WWF, WF). A concentration of 18 Wilson's Phalaropes at Delaware City Aug. 14 (AM) may be a regional record for this expanding species. A smaller-than-usual scattering of inland N. Phalaropes included two Aug. 28 at Forty Fort, n.e. Pa. (WR) and one at Mercer Co. Park, N.J., Sept. 4 (B. Murray).

**JAEGERS TO ALCIDS**— More jaegers than usual were ashore in New Jersey (15+ Parasitics at Island Beach for the season, with a maximum of three Nov. 26—RC), and in Delaware. A strong northeaster Oct. 9 brought five to Cape Henlopen, at least some of them Pomarines, the less common species onshore (R. Ringler) and a storm brought eight Parasitics to the same point Oct. 25 (WWF).

We doubt that Lesser Black-backed Gulls are fully counted in this Region, but this fall we have reports of six in the N.Y.C.-L.I. area (BW, JY, ROP, S. Safire), including the faithful Mamaroneck, Westchester Co., repeater (TB), but only one from New Jersey (*vide* RB). Although the familiar California Gull did not return this fall to Rockland Co. Park, N.Y., a sub-adult was convincingly described at Mecox, L.I., Sept. 1 (V. Emanuel, P. Mathiessen *et al.*). Only four Black-headed Gulls were reported (H.M., J.B.W.R., and Liberty S.P., N.J.), and two single Little Gulls at J.B.W.R. into August and at Manasquan Inlet, N.J., Nov. 12 (TH) must be the lowest fall numbers in decades.

Repeating the last 2 summers' curious behavior, but in smaller numbers, a few Gull-billed Terns fed in the New Jersey Pine Barrens in August, the last being at Whitesbog, Burlington Co., Sept. 1 (L. Little). Royal Terns wandered N in average numbers, peaking at 114 on e. Long Island Sept. 29 (PB) and at 100+ at Stone Harbor Pt., N.J., Sept. 31 (CS). The latest were two at Mecox, L.I., Nov. 11 (P. Gillen) and 16 at Cape Henlopen Nov. 27 (DW). The only Sandwich Tern reported was at Cape May Aug. 28 (CS). Twenty-five Caspian Terns at Island Beach in August (*vide* PD) was the coastal maximum, but inland there were only twos and threes at Green Lane Res., Pa. (Sept. 8—G. Freed), Peace Valley L., Pa. (Sept. 6—AM), and Mannington Marsh, Salem Co., N.J. (Aug. 2—RRA). Black Terns were extremely low, after several years' decline. Long Island re-

ported none at all, and the best count known to us was of a mere four coming down the Hudson R., at Alpine, N.J., Aug. 21 (NB).

Two early Dovekies, one off Riis Park, N.Y.C., Oct. 30 (*vide* THD) and another at Cape May Oct. 28 (PD, DS *et al.*) were not followed by a flight.

**OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS**— The Cape May owl banding project caught only 89 owls this fall, 53 of them Saw-whet Owls (K. Duffy), only about half as many as last year, but a new owl observation project there reported 200, 147 of them Barn Owls Oct. 9-Nov. 27 (RR). A meager five Snowy Owls turned up: Lansdale, Pa., Oct. 20-23 (*vide* AM), Westchester County, N.Y., Nov. 29 (K. Anderson), Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Nov. 19 (*vide* KMD), and e. Long Island Nov. 19 & 25 (P. Stoutenburgh and J. Garraty, ph.).

The season's Ruby-throated Hummingbird total passing Hawk Mt., this Region's best gauge for this species, was an average 88, with a very good 13 on Sept. 14 (SB).

Red-bellied Woodpeckers have now reached the higher Catskills. One was at Ashokan Res., Sullivan Co., N.Y., Nov. 15 (F. Murphy). Red-headed Woodpeckers remain highly localized. To the good populations already known at Lebanon State Forest, N.J., and Cape May Co. P., may be added one along the Conestoga R., Lancaster Co., Pa., where Amico counted 14 from a canoe in 10 mi Aug. 30. Only seven passed Hawk Mt., all fall, however (BM, SB).

**FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES**— About 16 W. Kingbirds along the coast (nine on Long Island, seven in New Jersey) were below recent levels, but three inland were noteworthy: Dutchess County, on the very early date of Aug. 10 (R.T.W.B.C.) and two in n.w. New Jersey in mid-September (B. Harsh, GH, m.ob.). Common Ravens continue their slow increase. The Mt. Peter, N.Y., hawk watch had its first in October (J. Cinquina), three or four were in n.w. New Jersey at the season's end (J. Dowdell, V. Abraitys), and a much more unusual one was well e. of the main ridge at Allendale, Bergen Co., N.J., Oct. 24 (†ST).

The only Boreal Chickadee reported in this off year was at Fort Tryon P., N.Y.C., Oct. 12 (L. Pohner, *vide* P. Post). Red-breasted Nuthatches were low following last fall's irruption. Both outstanding passerine rarities of the season were small thrushes. An imm. ♂ Mountain Bluebird was at Brig Nov. 21 (BMo, ph. S. LaFrance, J. Garcia). This provided the first confirmed New Jersey record, although three were recorded in New York between 1975 and 1978, all in fall, and one in e. Pennsylvania in March 1973. This Region has missed Wheatear only one autumn since 1976 (in 1980); this fall's bird was at Accabonack, e. L.I., Sept. 13-16 (J. Terry, L. Penny).



Mountain Bluebird, Brigantine N.W.R., N.J., Nov. 21, 1982. Photo/ Serge LaFrance.

Most observers found Golden-crowned Kinglets abundant, and Boyajian had twice his normal numbers at Alpine, N.J. Boyajian also documents a steady increase in Mockingbirds passing that point in

autumn: from one/20 hrs. in 1968-72 to one/10 hrs. in 1977-80 to three/10 hrs. in 1982. The only N. Shrike reported was at Piermont, Rockland Co., N.Y., Nov. 20 (C. Harten, E.A. Pollock). Only seven of the seriously declining Loggerhead Shrikes were found, four of them at Brig and Cape May (RR, RM, J. O'Connor), plus singles at Galesville Airport, Ulster Co., N.Y., Nov. 7-14 (KM), near Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N.J., Sept. 12 (F. Schleicher), and Compass, Lancaster Co., Pa., Nov. 19, for the third straight year (*vide* AH).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — It was the best Philadelphia Vireo fall in years (*e.g.*, three banded Sept. 19 at Tobay, L.I.—AL). The early migration of transient warblers has already been commented upon. Much less known is the almost stealthy departure of more southerly breeding species. Sibley's thorough August coverage at Cape May, reminiscent of August banding at Island Beach years ago, turned up five Prothonotary Warblers Aug. 9-16 and 59 Worm-eating Warblers for the month. Blue-winged Warblers reached their peak at Cape May with 40 on Aug. 15-16. Five Golden-winged Warblers at Higbee's Beach Aug. 29 and an ad. male at Tyler Arboretum, Philadelphia Aug. 17 (JG) show the same early passage of the Region's breeding species. Sibley found 90 Yellow Warblers at Cape May Aug. 13, but only four Yellow-throated Warblers during the entire month.

Cape May Warblers were strikingly localized. In contrast to Kranick's experience recounted above and 30 at Allentown Aug. 29 (S. Smith), they were almost absent from the coast. If you think Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers grow ever commoner, Boyajian's figures prove it: 242/10 hrs. passing the Alpine, N.J., overlook in 1968-72, and 1146/10 hrs. in 1979-82. A Swainson's Warbler at Baer Rocks, Pa., Sept. 11 (A. Grout, KK) furnished probably a first local fall record. A ♀ Hooded Warbler, normally an early departer, was exceptionally late Nov. 7 at J.B.W.R. (DR).

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS** — The only Yellow-headed Blackbird known to us was in the H.M., at Kearny Sept. 20 (RK). Dickcissels were less than daily overhead at Cape May, and only nine were reported elsewhere. Winter finches were all but totally absent, not only the cyclical siskins and crossbills, but the now regular Evening Grosbeaks.

A Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*nelsonii*) was observed at Struble L., Chester Co., Pa., for the second year in a row, and the third time in the last 6 years (*vide* LL). Six Lark Sparrows were low, as were six Clay-colored Sparrows (four around N.Y.C., one at Cape May Oct. 18—HL, and one in Delaware Oct. 1—WWF), strangely few for a bird increasingly observed in recent summers in upstate New York.

**UNCONFIRMED REPORTS** — The detailed written analysis of a shorebird identified at Cape May July 10 as a Greater Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) has been the subject of divergent opinions here and in England. Greater Golden Plover breeds in Iceland and has been confirmed in Newfoundland, and the possibility of this species' occurrence in our Region should encourage careful study of golden plovers, particularly in breeding plumage. At the same time it must be borne in mind that most shorebirds breeding in Iceland (*e.g.*, Com. Redshank) depart eastward, and that the origin of our "European" stragglers may well be Alaska and Siberia.

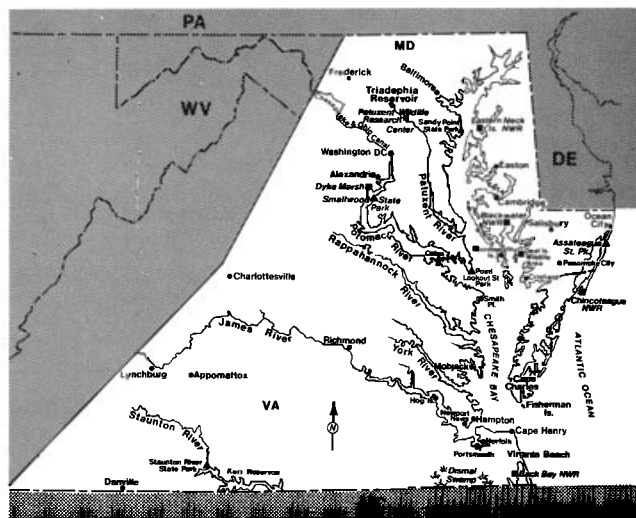
**OBSERVERS** — (subregional compilers in boldface) J. Abbott, Tom Amico, M. Barnhill, Seth Benz, I. Black, R. Blicharz, Ned Boyajian, Alan Brady, P. Buckley, Joe Burgiel, Thomas Burke, Robert Conn, Thomas Davis, R. Deed, S. Dempsey, Mary Doscher, Peter Dunne, Ed Fingerhood, Fran File, William Fintel, W.W. Frech, J. Ginaven, Doug Gross, Jerry Haag, Tom Halliwell, Greg Hanisek, Dan Heathcote, D.S. Heintzelman, Armas Hill, Phyllis Hurlock, Peggy Jahn, Rich Kane, Kenneth Kranick, Don Kunkle, A. Lauro, S. Lawrence, Harry LeGrand, Larry Lewis, Sid Lipschutz (SLI), Robert Maurer, Ken McDermott, J. Meritt, August Mirabella, B. Morris, Brian Moscatello (BMO), Steve Nord, Eleanor Pink (for Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, R.T.W.B.C.), Rick Radis (RRa), G. Raynor, William Reid, Don Riepe, Robert Russell, R. Schutsky, Keith Seager, Benton Seguin (BSe), Dave Sibley, Bill Stocku, Clay Sutton, Stiles Thomas, J. Tramontano, Dave Ward (DWA), W. Wayne, D. Weesner, Berna Weissman, F. Wolfarth, John Yrizarry.—**ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12K, New York, N.Y. 10027, **WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR.**, 15 Indian Rock Road, Warren, N.J. 07060, and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa. 19095.

## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Henry T. Armistead

This was a most unusual fall characterized by major flights of landbirds in late August and early September due to a series of strong cold fronts then. These flights remained unsurpassed later on when there was a lack of such fronts. August was very cool and November was warm. Consequently the tail end of the landbird migration was diffuse and protracted. The end of fall was even harder to determine than it usually is as waterfowl straggled in in anemic numbers, northern finches and other eruptive species failed to appear and warm weather birds lingered. The best warbler waves in many localities were on August 29. Shorebirding was the reverse with the best activity after mid-September. Deviation from normal of regional temperatures: August -1.6°F, September -1.2°, October -0.5°, November +2.8°; precipitation: August -1.2 inches, September -1.0 inches, October -0.1 inches, November +0.1 inches. Abbreviations: Assat. I., Assateague I., Md.; Balt., Baltimore, Md.; Black., Blackwater N.W.R.; C.B.B.T., Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, Va.; Chinc., Chincoteague N.W.R.; D.C., Washington, D.C.; Kip., Kiptopeke Banding Station, Cape Charles, Va.; S.P.S.P., Sandy Pt. State Park; + (with initials), and others (*et al.*); underscored date indicates birds were banded.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Common Loons were underreported with representative counts of 35 at Hooper's I., Md., Oct. 17 (CP, HTA) and 30 over the Nat'l Wildlife Federation's Claude Moore Center, Sterling, Va., Nov. 9 (CT) being among the highest totals. Notable were single Red-throated Loons at Ft. Hunt, Va., Oct. 12 (JMA, DFA) and in D.C., Nov. 28 (DC), always a rarity in the District area. Horned Grebe continues to be scarce with no reports of large concentrations but 60 in the Richmond area Nov. 28 (FRS+) was a



good total for there. Single Eared Grebes were at Piney Run P., Carroll Co., Md., Sept. 27 (RFR) and Chinc., Oct. 7-19 (CPW, RFR, ES, JLS, m.ob., ph.). This is not a premier region for Pied-billed Grebe. Even so the high of 14 at Chinc., Sept. 20-21 (CPW) was unrealistically low. Pelagic birding was nearly nil. Nevertheless an Audubon's Shearwater was seen Aug. 10, 20 mi e. of False Cape, Va., from Old Dominion U. research ship *Holton* (RLA). Off Ocean City Sept. 11 were 200 Wilson's Storm-Petrels and one Greater Shearwater (*vide* RN). A White Pelican was at Cape Charles Oct. 19-Nov. 14 (DS, PV) and two were at Chinc., Oct. 24 (SW, TE+) continuing to manifest a year-round presence one is tempted to label as regular.

Brown Pelicans continued their spectacular, unprecedented invasion well into December, especially in the Virginia capes area. At Cape Charles (Wise Pt.) 47 were carefully counted at point blank range from a small boat Sept. 7 (HTA, MEA, GLA), a record state total. On Wallop's I., Va., 18 were seen July 18 (*vide* CRV). Seven were at Chinc., Aug. 16-17 (DFA). Two were at Back Bay N.W.R., Oct. 10 (M & RC). Two were seen from C.B.B.T., Nov. 24 (HL) and seven were at Yorktown, Va., Nov. 30 (*vide* BW). Several in the Ocean City area were last seen in early August (*vide* HLW). Stasz saw 300 Gannets off Ocean City Nov. 11, the only notable count received.

Great Cormorants are now regular at favored locales as early as late September, this fall's first ones surfacing at C.B.B.T., Sept. 25 (CP, HTA, PGD+) and the first record for D.C., was of one carefully observed Oct. 17 (BS, DC). Excellent counts of Double-crested Cormorant were made including 35 in D.C., Sept. 6 (DC), 535 at Cape Charles Sept. 11 (HTA), 50 at Hunting Creek, Va., s. of D.C., Sept. 12 (JMA), 300 at Hooper's I., Oct. 10 (HTA), 6500 in the Chinc.-Wallop's I. area Oct. 17-19 (CPW, CRV), 1500 on the James R., Va., Oct. 28 (BP), 3000 at Irish Grove Sanctuary near Crisfield, Md., Nov. 6 (EMW, JLS+) and six late birds near Hopewell, Va., Nov. 28 (FRS+), the lower counts being high for these more inland areas. FRS continued their poor showing away from the coast (RFR, FRS, JMA, DHW). As usual the heron site extraordinaire was Chinc., where the following seasonal highs were achieved: Great Blue Heron, 104, Oct. 7-8 (CPW+), Little Blue Heron, 592, Sept. 6 (DFA), Great Egret, 350, Oct. 7-8 (CPW+), Snowy Egret, 1580, Sept. 20-21 (CPW+), Louisiana Heron, 47, Sept. 18 (DFA) and Glossy Ibis, 102, Aug. 4-6 (CPW), these last 2 totals unimpressive but nevertheless the best on hand. In the quasi-late category were these heron sightings: a Green Heron Nov. 10, a Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nov. 5, eight Glossy Ibises Nov. 3, all at Irish Grove (JLS), four imm. Little Blue Herons along the Elliott I. road Nov. 9 (EMW+), a Cattle Egret in D.C., Nov. 24 (DC), a Snowy Egret in Jug Bay, upper Patuxent R., Md., Nov. 13 (JG) and a Least Bittern at Back Bay Oct. 10 (M & RC), some of these attributable to the mild fall. Other heron counts of interest were 525 Cattle Egrets at Kiptopeke Sept. 5 (HTA), 14 Great Egrets at Lilypons, Frederick Co., Md., Aug. 15 (TE), 171 Snowy Egrets in Black. headquarters pond Sept. 4 (MEA, HTA), and four Yellow-crowned Night Herons in Balt., Aug. 20 (EB, RFR). Thirty Glossy Ibises over the nation's capitol Sept. 28 were most unusual (DC). As late as Aug. 30 Mignogno found Cattle Egret nests with viable eggs at South Pt., s. of Ocean City, Md.

**WATERFOWL** — Observers were unanimous that waterfowl which normally arrive in mid-late fall were in very poor numbers, a situation which continued well into December. Of course this was not so of most dabblers, many of which occur in the Region in larger numbers in September than they do, say, during the Christmas Bird Count period. Southern outpost Mute Swans were in excellent numbers with 45 at Chinc., Oct. 2 by Scott and a record 16 at Hooper's I., Oct. 10 (HTA). Rare on the upper Chesapeake Bay, 20 Brant at Sandy Pt., Nov. 5 were remarkable (WK). Unique was a White-fronted Goose at Black., Oct. 31 (BS). As early as Sept. 30 Wilds saw 700 Snow Geese (including 13 Blues) at Chinc., and 145 Blues were at Black., Oct. 9 (HTA). Snows continue to forage over the upper Eastern Shore from their Bombay Hook N.W.R. base as evidenced by 5000 at Ridgely, Caroline Co., Md., Nov. 26 (MWH). Excellent counts of Black Ducks away from their usual coastal strongholds were 180 on a farm pond in w. Baltimore County Nov. 20 (RFR) and 350 on the upper Patuxent R., Oct. 16 (BP). Good Black. counts were of 75 Green-winged Teal, 190 Blue-winged Teal and five N. Shovelers Aug. 16, a bit early for such a concentration on one pond, and 550 Pintails with 675 Green-winged Teal Oct. 9, a more typical situation (HTA). Fancy ducks included a ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** Sept. 28-Oct. 3 at Chinc. (JM+; seen in same scope field as a Reeve and several Hudsonian Godwits Oct. 1—JLS+; a tentative first state sight record) and a ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., Sept. 17-Oct. 27 (DMo). Selected duck maxima include 1000 Blue-winged Teal at Chinc., Oct. 2 (JM), 325 N. Shovelers at Craney I., Va., Nov. 19 (TRW) and 1100 Wood Ducks at Presquile N.W.R., Hopewell, Va., Nov. 30 (HCO). Inland ducks of interest were a late Blue-winged Teal at Piney Run P., Nov. 11 (RFR), 160 Ring-necked Ducks in D.C., Nov. 5 (DC), and 163 Lesser Scaup with 48 Ring-necked Ducks on L. Anna s.w. of Fredericksburg, Va., Nov. 2 (JM). At least two Com. Eiders frequented C.B.B.T., one a male Sept. 25+ (CP, HTA+) another a female or imm. male Oct. 14+ (RLA+). At Assat. I., Aug.

21 were 32 aseasonal Black Scoters (HLW, DMo) Ruddy Ducks continue in very low supply on the Potomac R. (JMA), but 750 were on the York R., Va., Nov. 29 (BP). At Sterling, Va., 30 Hooded Mergansers were notable for the Piedmont Nov. 28 (CT) and three Com. Mergansers at Richmond Oct. 24 were very early (FRS, JWD, DP).

**RAPTORS THROUGH RALLIDS** — In only 26 days (148 hours of coverage), 14,177 raptors were counted at Kiptopeke with major flights Sept. 25, Oct. 2 & 10 (BW, DS, A & PS+). Twelve species were recorded Sept. 25, Oct. 2-3 & 7 and 13 species Oct. 11. Season totals were 9286 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 153 Cooper's Hawks, 115 Red-tailed Hawks, eight Red-shouldered Hawks, 796 Broad-winged Hawks, 24 Bald Eagles, 291 Marsh Hawks, 638 Ospreys, 41 Peregrine Falcons, 96 Merlins and 2313 Am. Kestrels. Notable counts include 2064 Sharp-shinned and 36 Cooper's Sept. 25, 21 Peregrines Oct. 7, 52 Marsh Hawks Oct. 10, 176 Ospreys Oct. 2 and 686 Am. Kestrels Oct. 10, the latter 2 new state high counts. The best flights occurred with strong NE winds. Kiptopeke misses many falcons which pass a few mi farther e. Others are missed because the station often does not operate in the late afternoon. An impressive number of hawks, especially Sharpies, are seen migrating N here as are also large numbers of passerines. On Sept. 26, 638 Sharpies were counted 2-3 p.m. If spotty coverage produces such results one can only fantasize what would happen if this important site were manned continuously. At nearby Wise Pt., 17 Merlins were banded Sept. 27 out of 180 passing through that day (HG, *vide* RLA), a record state count, and c 150 were banded for the season and an ad. ♀ Goshawk was banded on Fisherman's I., Nov. 21 (CPG, *vide* MAB). On Assat. I./Chinc., 121 Peregrine Falcons were banded (PW, *vide* JC; cf. 140 in 1979, a record year; 90 in 1981). A Goshawk was seen at Mt. Vernon, Va., Nov. 18 (JMA).

High counts from Hooper's I., were 222 Sharpies Oct. 17 and 83 plus 21 Red-tailed and six Red-shouldered Oct. 24 (HTA, CP) Sharpies peaked at 259 Oct. 1 at Chinc. (IWA). The best Broad-winged Hawk count was of 1012 over Sterling Sept. 24 (CT). The earliest Rough-legged Hawk was one at Bellevue, Md., Oct. 16 (HTA). An extremely early Peregrine was reported at Hooper's I., Aug. 29 (HM). Good news continues to come from the Bald Eagle circuit as a result of the best ever monitoring of 2 major roosts. One near Hopewell, Va., was checked 13 times June 12-Aug. 29 (FRS, MAB, CWH+) with maxima of 24 adults/23 immatures July 28 and 13 adults/28 immatures Aug. 12 (18 were here May 20, 1971—MAB). No adults were seen after Aug. 29 and Scott believes the adults may be Florida birds which pass S late in the summer. The Hopewell roost is a nocturnal one but another on Aberdeen Proving Ground (U.S. Army) n. of Balt., is a roost and feeding area. The best counts at Aberdeen were 28 on Jan. 8, 24 on Aug. 7 and 17 on Aug. 23 (JO). These figures represent the biggest single site roosts ever reported for Virginia and Maryland.

The mild fall induced Ospreys to linger. Two were at Stumpy L., Va. Beach Nov. 25 (GW) and another at Swift Creek Res., near Richmond Nov. 28 (MA+). A Sandhill Crane was at Tilghman I., Md., Nov. 27 (GCR+, *vide* RLK, ph.). King Rails continue to haunt the Claude Moore Center with two there Sept. 14-Oct. 16 (CT), unusual for the Virginia Piedmont. The fresh remains of a Sora were found in downtown Balt., Aug. 26 (RFR) and 15 were noted near Tappahannock, Va., Oct. 14 (BP). A Purple Gallinule was at Chinc., Aug. 14-17 (AG, DFA+). The highest Am. Coot count was 350 at Swift Creek Res., Nov. 5 (FRS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Wilds, D.F. Abbott *et al.* continued to survey Chinc. shorebirds on an almost weekly basis and conducted 13 mostly 2-day censuses Aug. 4-Nov. 16. Peak species counts were 24 on Sept. 20-21 and Oct. 7-8. Again one is struck by the scarcity of some species such as Killdeer (4 records; high of three), Com. Snipe (2 records of singles), Solitary Sandpiper (one), Willet (high of 15) and complete misses of Upland Sandpiper and Am. Woodcock. Because of rains "Counts from July 21-Sept. 6 were 61% below average, 78% below in the impoundments and 22% below in tidal areas" (due to high tides) "... In this period Greater Yellowlegs were down 59%, Lessers 67%, Short-billed Dowitchers 89%, Pectoral Sandpipers 89%, Least Sandpipers 83%, Semipalmated and W. sandpipers 48%, and Sanderlings 75%." From mid-September-early November impounded areas by contrast became "first rate" and above average counts were had for Greater Yellowlegs, up 112%, Lesser Yellowlegs 332%, Red Knots 240%, Pectoral Sandpipers 219%, Least Sandpipers 112% and Dunlin

59% (CPW). Among the more noteworthy highs were only 70 Short-billed Dowitchers Aug. 4-6, 170 Whimbrel Aug. 7-8, 16 Spotted Sandpipers, 589 Semipalmated Plovers, 32 Piping Plovers all Aug. 16-17, 63 Stilt Sandpipers and four Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 20, 47 Am. Golden Plovers and 24 Buff-breasted Sandpipers Sept. 18, 794 Least Sandpipers and four Am. Avocets Sept. 20-21, 582 Lesser Yellowlegs, 266 Long-billed Dowitchers, 20 Hudsonian Godwits and 1206 Sanderlings Sept. 30-Oct. 1, 386 Greater Yellowlegs, 483 Pectoral Sandpipers, 15 White-rumped Sandpipers and 1141 Semipalmated Sandpipers Oct. 7-8, 332 Red Knots and 737 W. Sandpipers Oct. 18-19. Two Baird's Sandpipers were seen Sept. 16-Oct. 8. At nearby Wallop's I., Vaughn saw 225 Am. Oystercatchers Oct. 4 and three Marbled Godwits Oct. 17. The best Am. Golden Plover count away from the coast was of 17 in D.C., Oct. 17 (DC). A very early Com. Snipe was at Irish Grove Aug. 5 (JLS). At Byrd' airport e. of Richmond the Peakes saw 25 Upland Sandpipers Aug. 8 and 16 were in Frederick County, Md., Aug. 21 (DHW). The last two Willets were at Irish Grove Aug. 2 (JLS), typical of the early departure of the Bay breeding birds. A Red Knot at Balt., Sept. 6 (RFR+) was unusual as was a Purple Sandpiper on the C.B.B.T., Sept. 8 (MEA, HTA). A late White-rumped Sandpiper was at Chinc., Nov. 7 (RFR). A Baird's Sandpiper was at Triadelphia Res., Howard Co., Md., Sept. 12 (HM). Least Sandpipers lingered until Dec. 5 at Hopewell (FRS). Good Chesapeake Bay counts were of 750 Dunlin at Hooper's I., Oct. 17 (CP+) and 115 Long-billed Dowitchers at Black., Oct. 9 (HTA). Semi-rare were a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Summit Hill Turf Farm near D.C., Sept. 21+ (PO+), single Hudsonian Godwits at Remington Farms, Kent Co., Sept. 26 (RFR) and Kent I., Queen Annes Co., Oct. 20 (DMo), one-two Red Phalaropes on L. Kittimagundi, Columbia, Oct. 6-12 (m.ob., ph.) and four more off Ocean City Sept. 11 (*vide* RN) and single Wilson's Phalaropes at Assat. I., Aug. 21 (HLW, DMo), Lilypons Aug. 22 (RFR) and Denton Oct. 11 (MWH)—these all in Maryland. A Ruff was at Chinc., Oct. 1 (JLS, DB+). Craney I., which is seldom in good condition for shorebirds anymore, nevertheless was home to 250 Am. Avocets Sept. 28 and Oct. 15 (TRW). A Wilson's Phalarope was also seen in D.C., Aug. 14-16 (BS, DC).

**JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS** — On Nov. 4 Stasz saw a Pomarine and two Parasitic jaegers at Ocean City and a Parasitic was also at Chinc. (CPW, ES). Lesser Black-backed Gull is so widespread now that only pre-October birds will be mentioned here plus one high count. The first ones were at Assat. I., Aug. 21 (DMo, HLW), Tilghman I., Talbot Co., Md., Sept. 12 (RFR+), Ft. McHenry in Balt., Sept. 24 (RFR, WEB) and C.B.B.T., Sept. 25 (CRB, HTA, CP+). Wilds photographed "five recognizably different ones, all at close range. They were in various stages of molt into ad. winter plumage." These were all on C.B.B.T., Oct. 17! Later the same day she saw another at Chinc. It is worth remembering at this point that the first North American specimen was collected on Assat. I., Oct. 7, 1948 (JHB). This Oct. 17 count was a new high for Virginia. Also at Chinc. were an imm. Black-headed Gull Oct. 18-Nov. 4 and an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake Nov. 15 (CPW). Another imm. kittiwake was at Cape Henry Nov. 20 (RLAk, DH, TRW+). Out of place were single Gull-billed Terns at Black., Aug. 16 (HTA), the second Dorchester County record, and in D.C., Aug. 20 (DC), a second record for there. Czaplak also saw a Royal Tern in D.C., Aug. 16, also the second for the District. The last Gull-billed Terns were two at Chinc., Sept. 30, down from 43 there Aug. 16-17 (CPW). Notable among lingering Forster's Terns was one in D.C., Nov. 23 (DC) and 90 at Pt. Lookout S.P., Md., Nov. 18 (EMW) where Wilson also counted 192 Com. Terns Sept. 14. Royal Terns were widely reported on Chesapeake Bay, lingering into mid-November at many locations. Of note were four as far up as Balt., Oct. 2 (RFR), 100 at Hooper's I., Oct. 17 (CP, GLA, HTA) and four at Sandy Pt., Nov. 14 (WK). Sandwich Terns were in modest numbers such as 25 on Fisherman I., Sept. 7 (MEA, HTA) but one at Ocean City Sept. 19 was unusual (HM). Caspian Terns were in excellent supply with 350 on Hart and Miller Is., Balt., Sept. 6 (RFR, EB, HK), later down to 150 Oct. 2 (RFR), 50 in D.C., Aug. 28 (DC), 79 at Chinc., Sept. 20-21 (CPW) and 67 at Black., Oct. 10 (HTA), the last being one at Jamestown, Va., Nov. 20 (FRS+). Except for Chinc., where 57 were seen Aug. 16-17 (DFA), Black Tern was surprisingly scarce in this Region. Therefore two in D.C., Aug. 4 (DC) were of interest. As usual big concentrations of Black Skimmers were on Fisherman I., with 600 there Sept. 9 (MEA, HTA) and 750 Sept. 25 (CP, HTA).

**DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES** — Fort McHenry's Ringed Turtle

Doves hatched two young Oct. 1 (WEB) at this small urban site in Balt., where Bielenberg has recorded 184 species in the past 5 years (list forthcoming in *Maryland Wildlife*). Late food-carrying Yellow-billed Cuckoos were at Remington Farms Aug. 29 (RFR) and Kip, Sept. 11 (BW). In spite of this the lowest number was banded at Kip since 1963 (WPS)—four. An ad. Barn Owl was incubating 6 eggs at Edgemere, e. of Balt., Oct. 17 (RFR). This species is notorious for its bizarre nesting schedule. The only Long-eared Owl report was of one in D.C., Nov. 15 (DC). A Saw-whet Owl was in Alexandria Nov. 27 (DC) and another was banded Oct. 28 near Sandy Spring, Md., as was a late Whip-poor-will (N & SM, *vide* JSW). In the late category were a Com. Nighthawk in Salisbury Oct. 11 (JLS), a Chimney Swift at Ft. Hunt, Va., Oct. 30 (JMA) and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Denton Oct. 14 (MN). At Black Walnut Pt., on Tilghman I., 26 Ruby-throateds were seen Aug. 21 (JKE). On Smith I., Va., 250 Com. Flickers were migrating Oct. 2 (M & RC). An early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Irish Grove Sept. 17 (JLS). Eastern Kingbird concentrations included 75 at Black Walnut Pt. (JKE+) and 300 on Fisherman I. (RLA, RLAK) Aug. 22 and 601 at Cape Charles Sept. 5 (HTA). The last report was of one at Westover, Somerset Co., Md., Oct. 7 (JLS). The only W. Kingbirds were singles at Chinc., Oct. 7 (CPW), Eastern Neck N.W.R., Nov. 11 (RD) and Hog I., Surry Co., Va., Nov. 30 (GW). Early Yellow-bellied Flycatchers included singles at Newport News (M & DM) and Patuxent W.R.C. (PL) Aug. 13 and the last was a windowkill in Kensington, Md., Oct. 12 (AH).

Olive-sided Flycatcher was evidenced by a veritable bonanza of reports, the most interesting from the Eastern Shore where they are rare: at Fair Hill, Cecil Co., Aug. 19, Sept. 5 & 8 (SM, *vide* MBV), Irish Grove Aug. 25 (JLS), Hooper's I. (HM) and Black Walnut Pt (JKE) Aug. 29, these all in Maryland. Tardy swallows, no doubt a result of the mild fall, were three Rough-winged at Noland's Ferry, Frederick Co., Oct. 31 (DHW) and two Barns at Piney Run P., Oct. 24 (RFR). Last year's monster Purple Martin roost in Salisbury, discovered by Vaughn, began forming again toward the end of June, reached 5000 July 13, 15,000 July 16, then down to 10-12,000 in August. About 830 were banded (CRV, JLS+). No birds remained on Aug. 27. Another mammoth roost was in Hampton, Va., carefully estimated at 15,000 Aug. 27 and **40-45,000** Aug. 29 (M & RC). One of the season's non-events was the near absence of Red-breasted Nuthatch, many of the most active observers reporting none (JMA, CSR, DHW, HTA, GW) or a few on scattered dates. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was on C.B.B.T., Oct. 16 (RLA). At Hooper's I., 1460 Am. Robins were migrating N Oct. 24 (HTA). Varied thrush results were obtained at Kip., where season totals were four Wood Thrushes (3rd lowest; lowest since 1964), 53 Gray-cheeked Thrushes (lowest since 1963) and 500 Veeries (3rd highest; 142 banded Sept. 6). A late Swainson's Thrush was at Tolchester Beach, Md., Oct. 29 (DAM, JGG). One of the rarities of the season was a **Wheatear** on the Chinc wash flats Oct. 2 (MVB, SM), Virginia's fourth. A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in D.C., Nov. 26 (BS, ph.). Rare as Eastern Shore breeders, Cedar Waxwings were seen feeding two juveniles at Tilghman I., Sept. 12 (LWC, RFR+), a very late date for this sort of thing. Waxwings staged a lackluster flight until late November and then came on with a vengeance with reports such as 915 at Richmond Nov. 21 (JWD, FRS+). Double-brooded Loggerhead Shrikes drew notice at Richmond with the first young fledging June 4 and two adults seen with three young Aug. 29, an unprecedented Virginia date (DP, *vide* FRS).

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — Excellent waves of migrants appeared in late August and early September, the remainder of the migration being much less dramatic and more diffuse owing to lack of cold fronts. One observer found 19 warbler species on the Maryland Eastern Shore both Aug. 15 & 29, the latter one of the best days of the fall (RFR). At Kip., 12,042 birds of 95 species (32 of them warblers) were banded in 19,433 net hours Sept. 4-Oct. 31 (WPS, FRS, JHB, RF, CWH, JPC+) with continuous coverage save for Oct. 25 when there was a massive nor'easter with 50 mph winds. Commonest catches were Yellow-rumped Warbler 6362, Am. Redstart 1152, Com. Yellowthroat 578, Veery 500 and Black-throated Blue Warbler 268. September 5 was an outstanding day with 406 birds of 37 species banded. On Sept. 24, 38 species were netted. A late Solitary Vireo was in Dismal Swamp Nov. 13 (LJ, MB). At Kip., 52 Red-eyed Vireos were banded Sept. 9, attracted by this year's abundant sassafras fruit (FRS). A Philadelphia Vireo at Greensboro, Md., Sept. 29 (MWH) was the first for Caroline County. A Warbling Vireo was at Kip, Sept. 24 (JPC), a fall rarity on the coast. A Brewster's Warbler was

reported from Oakton, Va., Aug. 26 (KHW). August 29 was one of the best warbler days of the fall with waves as big as might be expected a month later. At Bellevue then were nine Tennessees, seven Magnolias, eight Cape Mays and nine Chestnut-sideds (HTA). Seven mi w. of there at Black Walnut Pt., were 22 Cape Mays, four Wilson's and 19 Canada's (JKE). In Kent and Queen Anne's cos., Md., were 24 Magnolias, eight Cape Mays, 10 Blackburnians and 10 Chestnut-sideds (RFR). Even such an unlikely warbler spot as Back Bay had 19 species with four Tennessees, three Blackburnians and four Bay-breasteds (M & RC). A very late N. Parula was in D.C., Nov. 7 (BS). Only ten Cape May Warblers were banded at Kip., the lowest since 1965 (cf. 1974 when 125 were caught—FRS). On Oct. 22, 907 Yellow-rumped Warblers were banded at Kip., out of an estimated 45,000 passing through there (RF, FRSt). Kiptopeke had a poor season for Bay-breasted Warblers (seven; lowest since 1963), Blackpoll Warblers (23; 3rd lowest) and Prairie Warblers (14; lowest since 1966). Four W. Palm Warblers there Sept. 5 were very early. Northern Waterthrush is often one of the earliest migrants and one was at Newport News, Va., Aug. 2 (D & MM). The last Louisiana Waterthrush was at Nassawango Cr., Md., Sept. 14 (JLS) and the latest Hooded Warbler was in Richmond Oct. 12 (FRS).

**BOBOLINK THROUGH BUNTINGS** — A late Bobolink was on C.B.B.T., Oct. 31 (FRS, JWD) and an extremely late one was in Norfolk Nov. 12 (M & RC; excellent description). On Fisherman's I., Anderson found a "pre-fledgling chick, 8-10 days old" E. Meadowlark Sept. 5, probably a record late nesting. At Black Walnut Pt., 200 N. (Baltimore) Orioles were seen Aug. 21 (JKE). A late Summer Tanager was at Denton, Md., Oct. 18 (AK). In Newport News the Mitchells banded a late Rose-breasted Grosbeak Nov. 19. A Blue Grosbeak was feeding young in the nest as late as Sept. 6 in Denton (RBF) and at Chancellorsville, Va., one was carrying food to newly-fledged young Sept. 21 (JMA). The total of 29 Indigo Buntings banded at Kip., was the lowest since 1966. A ♂ Dickcissel was at Oxon Hill, Md., Oct. 11 (DC, BS) and another was in D.C., Oct. 22 (DC). Pine Siskin and Evening Grosbeak were almost nonexistent this fall and numbers of Purple Finch, House Finch and Am. Goldfinch were also poor (v.o.). On the C.B.B.T., Oct. 16 were a Grasshopper and a Vesper sparrows (RLA). A Seaside Sparrow at Dyke Marsh near D.C., Sept. 25 was

most unusual (DFA, JMA). Single Lark Sparrows were at Chinc. (MVB, SM) and Back Bay (M & RC) Aug. 29 and another was reported from Leesburg, Va., Oct. 30 (EP). Due to the mild fall numbers of many sparrows were very low through the period (v.o.). In Norfolk two Clay-colored Sparrows were seen Sept. 27 (one Sept. 25; M & RC). A very early Lincoln's Sparrow was in Newport News Aug. 15 (D & MM). One Lapland Longspur and one Snow Bunting were at Cape Henry Nov. 20 (RLak, TRW+). Very early Snow Buntings were at Chinc., Oct. 24, one (SW), Ocean City Oct. 26, two (JLS) and in Prince Georges County, Md., Oct. 30, one (PN).

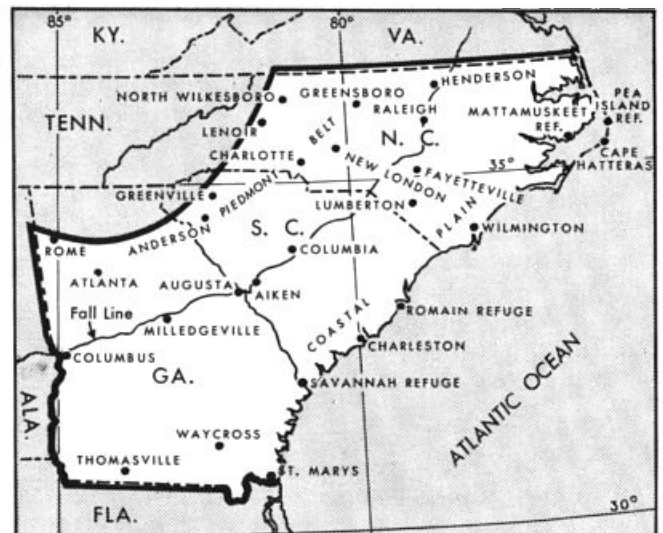
**OBSERVERS** — D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, Robert Abbott, I.W. Ailes, R.L. Ake (RLak), R.L. Anderson, Mary Arginteanu, G.L. Armistead, M.E. Armistead, M.V. Barnhill, J.B. Bazuin, W.E. Bielenberg, C.R. Blem, Eirik Blom, Daniel Boone, Mike Britten, J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, Michelle & Ray Chandler, Janice Chase, J.P. Church, L.W. Coble, James Cubie, David Czaplak, Richard Danka, J.W. Dillard, P.A. DuMont, P.G. DuMont, S.H. Dyke, Tom Eck, J.K. Effinger, J.W. Eike, Ethel Engle, Tad Finnell, W.A. Fintel, A.J. Fletcher, R.B. Fletcher, R. Foy, Hans Gabler, John Gregoire, J.G. Gruber, Al Guarente, C.W. Hacker, M.W. Hewitt, J.J. Hiner, Alice Holland, David Hughes, Leigh Jones, Hank Kaestner, D.L. Kirkwood, R.L. Kleen, Wayne Klockner, Alicia Knotts, Harry LeGrand, Paul Leifer, Nancy & Stuart MacClintock, Sean McCadless, D.A. Mendinhall, Debbie Mignogno (DMo), Dorothy & Mike Mitchell, Jack Mozingo, Myriam Moore, Harvey Mudd, Ron Naveen, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Lola Oberman, Ron Naveen, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Lola Oberman, Paul O'Brien, H.C. Olson, Joseph Ondek, Chris Pague (CPg), F.L. Parks, Elizabeth Peacock, Dwight & Richard Peake, Carl Perry, Darrell Peterson, Bill Portlock, Mary Pulley, George Reiger, R.F. Ringler, C.S. Robbins, G.C. Rollefson, Betsy Roszell, F.R. Scott, Dot Silsby, Ann & Paul Smith, Ed Smith, W.P. Smith, J.L. Stasz, Byron Swift, Craig Tufts, Peter Vankevich, C.R. Vaughn, D.H. Wallace, Prescott Ward, K.H. Weber, J.S. Weske, Steve Whitcomb, H.L. Wierenga, Bill Williams, Gary Williamson, E.J. Willoughby, E.M. Wilson, R.E. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.

## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

The fall of 1982 in the Southeast was characterized by an abundance of days with fog, haze, overcast, or drizzle. These weather features were mainly because of slow-moving high pressure centers, stalled cold fronts off the coast, and low pressure areas along these fronts. Frontal systems bringing clear, cool weather with strong northwest winds were infrequent, especially in October and November, when such fronts are normally common. On the whole, temperatures were near normal for most of the season, with a warming trend for much of November; many Coastal Plain towns had no freeze by the end of the period. Rainfall was near normal in most parts of the Region, but late fall was somewhat dry.

The scarcity of strong frontal systems, coupled with an abundance of northeast winds, meant a rather normal and thus typically lackluster migration for the Region. Migrants filtered through on schedule, neither early nor late, on predominantly southwest directions toward the wintering grounds. The passerine migration, therefore, was mediocre to moderately good in the western Piedmont, but characteristically rather dull in most of the Coastal Plain; few notable coastal waves of passerines were reported. Waterbirding on inland lakes was rather disappointing, as most lakes were near full and strong storms and fronts were uncommon. The winter finch flight was nonexistent, except for Purple Finches; but after two fairly good winters in succession, most birders expected a lean fall and winter for this group in the Southeast. Rarities were few and far between, with the most exciting birds being seen off the coasts of Georgia and North Carolina.



**TV TOWER KILL** — Five or ten years ago, and longer, there was a contingent of ornithologists/birders in the Southeast (including states outside the Region) that regularly combed the ground beside TV towers and skyscrapers for migrants killed by the structures during the previous evening's flight. Reports of such migration kills have been extremely scarce in recent years, not because of the birds but because of the birders. Thus, it was gratifying to learn of the monitor-

ing of a large TV tower-kill near White Lake, N.C., on the night of October 11-12. J. Carter and Parnell found 1300 birds of 51 species, including 26 warbler species, at this site approximately 45-50 miles from the coast. Highlights included two Sharp-tailed Sparrows, six Seaside Sparrows (both of which have been regular victims in previous kills here), a Black Rail, a Black-billed Cuckoo, and the following warblers: two Golden-wingeds, a Swainson's, a Worm-eating, and two Nashvilles.

**LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS** — Perhaps a record count for the North Carolina Piedmont was the **280-300** Com. Loons on Jordan Res., e. Chatham County Nov. 29 (BW, MW, JPay). Quite rare inland were single Red-throated Loons at Jordan Res., Nov. 26 (RD) and at Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 16-21 (PB *et al.*); whereas Georgia's fourth record for **Eared Grebe** was of a bird Sept. 20-21 at Pendergrass (JP), the exact location where up to six were found several years ago. Only one of the 5 scheduled Ake-DuMont pelagic trips departed as scheduled off Hatteras, N.C., this fall; no rarities were found Oct. 9, though three Greater Shearwaters and 50 Black-capped Petrels were of interest (RLA, PGD, DS). The first **Manx Shearwater** record between Florida and the North Carolina Outer Banks was of one seen off Skidaway I., Ga., Nov. 14 or 15 (CH). Seldom seen from shore was an Audubon's Shearwater at Bodie I., N.C., Aug. 15 (DK, NB). White-tailed Tropicbirds are seen annually during the warmer months in the Gulf Stream off our coast, but almost always just one/pelagic trip. An adult and an immature thus provided a good count off Cape Lookout, N.C., Aug. 15 (WI). Rare for North Carolina was a White Pelican flying N over Croatan Sound Nov. 3 (DC), whereas one or two in the Charleston, S.C., area Nov. 25-27 (WH *et al.*) were perhaps birds that have wintered there in recent years. A Brown Pelican was quite unusual inland, seen in flight near Augusta, Ga., Nov. 15 (DBM). Approximately 100 pelicans in n.e. Pamlico County, N.C., Nov. 26 (MEW, TS) was a good total for the mainland side of Pamlico Sound; this species has undergone a welcome population explosion in the state over the past several years. Also on the rise are inland Double-crested Cormorant reports, probably owing to an increase in large reservoirs; the best count was of 30-35 at Jordan Res., Sept. 4 (C.H.B.C.). Notable Anhinga sightings included one at Sunset Beach, N.C., Aug. 12 (DK, EG), two as late as Sept. 28 near Fayetteville, N.C. (PJC), and 7-11 most of the season on Ben Hill L., Ga. (TKP).

**WADERS** — The post-breeding heron roost in Augusta, Ga., again comprised 1000+ birds in late summer (*fide* AW). Among good counts there were four Louisiana Herons and 383 Little Blue Herons Aug. 10 (CB), and 1004 Cattle Egrets and eight Snowy Egrets Aug. 24 (CB). The two **Great Blue (White) Herons** at Augusta this summer were seen into the fall, with one until Oct. 21 (CB). Another white-phase bird was rare but regular at Jekyll I., Ga., Sept. 18-early October (HG, PB, TM). A number of wader records came from Jordan Res.—late were a Green Heron Nov. 17 (BW, MW), a Cattle Egret Nov. 29 (BW, MW), a Great Egret Nov. 14 (BW), and a White Ibis Oct. 9 (AT); and rare were a Black-crowned Night Heron Aug. 5 (DK *et al.*) and a Yellow-crowned Night Heron Oct. 2 (RD, AB). Fayetteville, N.C., was also host to several notable wader occurrences: a peak of 55 Cattle Egrets Aug. 7, four Snowy Egrets in August and September, and a Black-crowned Night Heron Aug. 20 (PJC). At most other inland sites, however, the moderately wet summer and early fall kept reservoirs higher than usual at this time of year, a situation that discourages post-breeding waders from landing and foraging. A handful of Wood Storks as usual spent the summer and early fall at Sunset Beach, N.C. (m.ob.); and farther n. 26 White Ibises were notable Oct. 14 at Pea I., N.C., where these ibises are now permanent residents (JOP, EP). Very rare was an ad. **Roseate Spoonbill** near Beaufort, N.C., Sept. 13-14 (J & NG). Could this have been the same bird present in that area in May, avoiding detection for over 3 months?

**WATERFOWL** — The only inland report of Whistling Swan was of two birds at Beaverdam Res., n. Wake, N.C., Nov. 17 (RD). Fulvous Whistling Ducks have been quite scarce in the Region since their astonishing "boom" in the 1960s; however, fall 1982 saw an encouraging flurry of sightings. A group of 16 was near Darien, Ga., Nov. 28 (DM, PM), and near the North Carolina coast were singles Nov. 21 at Bodie I. (DT, TH), Nov. 22 at Cedar I. (RB, MC, E & SM), and Nov. 26 at Pamlico Pt. (MEW, TS). They probably occurred in South Carolina, as well, though no one there reported them. Notable puddle

ducks included an early Blue-winged Teal at Atlanta Aug. 8 (PB), a ♂ Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston Nov. 27 (AW, VW), and an excellent 4500 Am. Wigeons in n.e. Pamlico County Oct. 30 (PJC, MEW). A count of **3200** Ring-necked Ducks near Raleigh, N.C., Nov. 19 (JM) was exceptional; and of interest inland were single Com. Goldeneyes near Fairburn, Ga., Nov. 20-22 (DM, PM) and near Atlanta Nov. 25 (PB, HG), as well as 11 goldeneyes at Jordan Res., Nov. 29 (BW, MW). Completely out of season was a ♂ Com. Eider at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., in early September (BS *et al.*); whereas an ad. ♂ Common at nearby Cape Lookout Nov. 20 (FP, CD) was most unusual for the Region. The only inland scoter was a ♂ Surf on L. Oconee, Ga., Oct. 17 (RDo). Other good scoter sightings were a very early ♂ Surf at Pamlico Pt., Aug. 20 (MEW, TP, GL) and 1000+ Blacks just off Jekyll I., Nov. 28-29 (BM, DMA).

**KITES THROUGH GALLINULES** — Swallow-tailed Kites have not fared particularly well as breeders in South Carolina in recent years; thus, completely inexplicable were counts of **40+** near the Santee R. delta July 5 and **100** July 16 (M & PF). The origin of this many kites is a mystery, as at most 10-15 pairs are believed to nest within 50 mi of the area. Two Mississippi Kites Aug. 29 near Townville (HL, PH, AA) provided just the second record for n.w. South Carolina. The heavy inland autumnal hawk flights typically occur to the w. of this Region; however, a number of birders manned a hawk watch at Pilot Mountain S.P., N.C., tallying 2643 birds of 14 species (F.C.A.S.). Notable there were 1780 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 22 (RS *et al.*), single Bald Eagles Sept. 18 (M.A.S.) and Sept. 25 (RS, PC), and a Merlin Sept. 29 (PC). A tally of 92 migrating Red-tailed Hawks at the Chattahoochee R. Nat'l Recreation Area, Ga., Oct. 24 (FM) was noteworthy, as was an early and rare Rough-legged Hawk at Raleigh Oct. 2 (DT). The only Golden Eagle for the fall was an immature at Hanging Rock S.P., N.C., Oct. 30 (N & LS). The 14 reports of Bald Eagles involved approximately 16 birds, evenly divided adult: immature; no one saw more than two birds at any locale. An Osprey was late Nov. 20 near Dublin, Ga. (TKP). The coastal flight of Peregrine Falcons and Merlins was just ordinary at best, perhaps owing to a scarcity of fronts of NW winds. However, Peregrines were noted inland at Jordan Res., Sept. 21-25 (BW, MW, AT); near Fayetteville Sept. 28 (PJC); and near Atlanta Nov. 2 (JG *et al.*). Only two inland reports of Merlins, at Pilot Mt. and Dublin, was highly disappointing.

The Sandhill Crane flight through c. Georgia, normally peaking in mid-November, was very late, and most cranes passed over the Atlanta area in early December (*fide* TM); 30 over Dublin was a good tally there Nov. 30 (TKP). Rare inland were Com. Gallinules w. of Marietta, Ga., Oct. 24 (DM, PM) and near Winston-Salem, N.C. Nov. 13 (ZB).

**SHOREBIRDS** — An Am. Avocet, one of the rarest shorebirds inland, was Atlanta's first ever Nov. 13-22 (JB). Another on a tidal flat was quite unusual at Portsmouth I., N.C., Nov. 24 (JF). This island, at the s. end of the Outer Banks, has long been known to harbor an abundance of shorebirds in the fall on its extensive mud and sand flats; however, it is accessible only by boat and, until this fall, has been under-birded. Fussell made a number of trips to Portsmouth this season; the highlight was the state's (and Region's) fourth **Bar-tailed Godwit** Sept. 22-Oct. 10, but the first one documented (JF *et al.*, ph). Other notables there were **200+** Marbled Godwits Oct. 10 (DC, LP) and Long-billed Curlews Sept. 6-Oct. 10, with **three** on the latter date (JF, DC, LP). Of the 7 coastal and inland reports of Am. Golden Plovers, only one involved more than two birds—eight at Beaverdam Res., Sept. 19 (ML, RD). Black-bellied Plovers were found inland in North Carolina at Beaverdam Res., Sept. 18 (RD), Jordan Res. Oct. 31 (BW, MW), and Fayetteville Sept. 15-Nov. 8 (PJC); and near Dublin, Ga., Sept. 21-29 (TKP). Rare inland in fall were Upland Sandpipers at Falls of the Neuse Res., near Durham, N.C., Aug. 28 (DK *et al.*) and near Dublin Aug. 21-28 (TKP). Other highlights from the Georgia interior were eight Willets Sept. 7 (CB) and three late W. Sandpipers Oct. 30 (AW) at Augusta; a late Spotted Sandpiper Nov. 27 (PB, HG, TM) at Atlanta; a Stilt Sandpiper Sept. 25-29 in Forsyth County (JP); and a Ruddy Turnstone Aug. 1, an early Com. Snipe Aug. 29, and six Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 21 at Dublin (TKP).

The only exciting inland shorebirding was found at Beaverdam Res., n. of Raleigh. In addition to the plovers already mentioned, birders there found a very rare Red Phalarope Sept. 18 (ML, KM),

five Sanderlings Sept. 19 (ML, RD), a good tally of 75 Least Sandpipers Sept. 19 (RD), a White-rumped Sandpiper Sept. 29 (ML *et al.*), a Baird's Sandpiper Sept. 19-21 (ML, RD), four Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 19 (ML, RD), and seven Buff-breasted Sandpipers Sept. 12 (ML). Elsewhere inland, single N. Phalaropes were quite surprising at the Falls of the Neuse Res., Sept. 18 (RD) and very late Nov. 6-9 near Fayetteville (J & SW, PJC); and a Red Phalarope was at the Falls of the Neuse Sept. 18 (RD), possibly the same bird seen the same day a few miles to the e. at Beaverdam Res. Five Sanderlings at Jordan Res., Sept. 4 (C.H.B.C.) was a good count, as were 13 Dunlins there Oct. 23 (AB, RD). Another notable tally was the 14 Long-billed Dowitchers at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., N.C., Nov. 21 (AB); this species possibly winters on impoundments at the refuge. Also near the coast were a late White-rumped Sandpiper at Pamlico Pt., Nov. 14 (PJC *et al.*) and a Baird's Sandpiper at Pea I., N.C., Sept. 6 (RD).

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — A few scattered coastal and offshore sightings of Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers were reported, as expected, but a count of 19 Pomarines off Cape Lookout, N.C., Oct. 30 (WI) was quite high. No Long-tailed Jaegers were observed, but Irvin had single skuas (sp?) off Cape Lookout Aug. 22 & Sept. 19, the latter bird harassing Bridled Terns; these were the first for the Region between Aug. 1 and Dec. 29 (see Lee, *AB* 33:715-721). The first skua was very dark in color, whereas the second was uniformly medium brown; the dates suggest South Polar Skuas. Apparently the earliest-ever Iceland Gull for the Region was an immature at Cape Lookout Oct. 17 (JF, WI, RJH). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are no longer outstanding finds along the coast, although early and rather rare were adults in Georgia Oct. 1 at Jekyll I. (DP, AWy) and Oct. 9 on St. Simons I. (PMo, TM *et al.*) and Cumberland I. (JPe); no more than two birds were believed involved (*vide* TM). A Bonaparte's Gull was early at Morehead City, N.C., Sept. 1 (JF), whereas Georgia's second **Black-legged Kittiwake** was an immature observed by Haney off Skidaway I., Nov. 13 or 14. Somewhat far inland were up to ten Gull-billed Terns feeding over soybean and corn fields near Swanquarter, N.C., Aug. 11 (ML, LP). Very late for North Carolina was a Gull-billed at Portsmouth I., Oct. 10 (JF). Perhaps because of a scarcity of storms and other unsettled weather, terns on inland lakes were in low numbers. Forster's Terns were reported inland only in Georgia: Atlanta Aug. 8 (TM *et al.*), Augusta Nov. 20 (AW), and Dublin Nov. 30 (TKP); Commons only at Falls of the Neuse Aug. 9 (BW, MW) and Beaverdam Sept. 21 (ML, AC, DC); and Caspians only at L. Lanier, Ga., Aug. 25 (five birds—FM). The rare and difficult-to-identify Roseate Tern was adequately described only from Cape Hatteras Pt., N.C., Aug. 27 (AB), where one in breeding plumage was seen at rest with Com. Terns.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — November 24 was a very late date for a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, at Lowland, N.C. (MEW, TS). There were 5 reports of the uncommon and elusive Black-billed Cuckoo, including coastal records at Ft. Fisher, N.C., Oct. 15 (GM) and at Pea I., Oct. 17-18 (two birds—JOP, EP). Rare and quite early was a Saw-whet Owl found with an injured wing in a parking lot in Smyrna, Ga., Oct. 30 (*vide* CK); it was later rehabilitated. Over 3000 Com. Flickers were observed in migration after a cold front Oct. 15 at Ft. Fisher (GM). Another fall passed without an inland sighting for W. Kingbird, nor were notable numbers (more than two/day) reported from the coast. Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were observed near Chapel Hill, N.C., Sept. 21 (JPay), Atlanta Sept. 25 (PB), Carolina Beach, N.C., Oct. 15 (GM), and Charleston Oct. 17 (PN). The most interesting of the many "non-Yellow-bellied" *Empidonax* reports was of a singing Alder Flycatcher along the Neuse R., near Durham Aug. 16 (BW, MW), quite unusual for this annoyingly silent group of birds in fall migration. The always noteworthy Olive-sided Flycatcher was found only near Atlanta: one Sept. 5 (TM *et al.*) and another or the same 2 mi away the following day (DL, JC, JP).

**SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS** — Good concentrations included 200 Bank Swallows, normally uncommon on the coast, at Sullivan's I., S.C., Sept. 6 (TR) and 500 Fish Crows near Fayetteville Oct. 10 (PJC). The fall flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was rather light, being fairly common in a few places in North Carolina, but quite scarce in most areas. The Bewick's Wren, nearly extirpated in the Region and in the adjacent s. Appalachians, was noted in Forsyth County, Ga., Oct. 27 (JP). Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed Oct. 22-Nov. 6 at Jordan Res. (AB, RD) and at Fayetteville Nov. 30 (PJC). Surprisingly rare along the coast was a Yellow-

throated Vireo at Bodie I., Sept. 6 (TF), and Philadelphia Vireos were found 10 times—at 4 sites in North Carolina and at Atlanta on 6 occasions. One at Wilmington Oct. 28 (GM) was not only scarce for the coast but unusually late.

**WARBLERS** — Golden-winged Warblers were of interest along the coast at Pea I., Aug. 29 (JMcC, JW) and neighboring Bodie I., Sept. 5-6 (TF), as well as at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston Sept. 23 (TR). Interestingly enough, a Blue-winged Warbler was reported with each of the 3 Golden-wingeds! Very early Blue-wingeds were at Fayetteville Aug. 7 (PJC) and Raleigh Aug. 13 (JM), and a "Brewster's" hybrid was well-described from Fayetteville Oct. 12 (PJC). Whereas most warblers were reported in usual numbers, Nashvilles were clearly up, at least in the w. Piedmont; observers in the Clemson, S.C. (AA), and Atlanta (*vide* TM) areas had many more birds than normal. This species has increased noticeably in the Region as a fall migrant over the past 10 years and is not as rare as the literature indicates. Notable warblers along the coast at Portsmouth I., were a Tennessee Sept. 6, a Blackburnian Sept. 24, a Bay-breasted Sept. 9, and a Connecticut Sept. 23 (JF); whereas five Chestnut-sideds at Charleston Oct. 17 (PN) was a good count for that area. Late warblers included a Tennessee and a Bay-breasted at Marietta, Ga., Nov. 1 (NI), and a N. Parula at Augusta Nov. 13 (CB, AW). Two of the rarest warblers were seen only once—a ♀ Cerulean on the typically early date of Aug. 9 near Raleigh (JM) and a Mourning at nearby Beaverdam Res., Aug. 15 (DT, KK). In addition to the Connecticut Warbler at Portsmouth were individuals near Atlanta Sept. 5 (A.A.S.), Marietta Sept. 13 & 15 (NI), and at Jordan Res., Oct. 2 (RD, AB). Wilson's Warblers were reported 11 times, including several along the coast; one Aug. 25 at Marietta was early (NI).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES** — Although most winter Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the Region appear with other blackbirds inland, birds in the fall usually occur along the coast. This season there were a female and an imm. male at Pea I., Sept. 6 (HL, RLA, PGD) and an imm. male at a feeder in Pine Knoll Shores, Carteret County, N.C., Oct. 1 (KKi). Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were rather late at Atlanta Oct. 31 (DP), as was one at a Newport, N.C., feeder Nov. 5-8 (MR, JF). Usually an off-year for winter finches will see a few fall reports of Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins; there were none for either finch all season, nor for Red Crossbills. However, Purple Finches were in fairly good numbers. The Painted Bunting reported in the summer near Fayetteville was still present and singing Aug. 4 (PJC); another Painted was quite late at Charleston Nov. 25 (WH). An overdue first record for Carteret County, N.C., was a Dickcissel at Fussell's feeder in Morehead City Nov. 19 & 22. One of the least seen migrants in the e., is the Henslow's Sparrow; a large group of birders found one along the Chattahoochee R., near Atlanta Oct. 17 (D & AF *et al.*). Migrating Lark Sparrows were not rare in the 1960s along the coast, at least on the Outer Banks; but for some unknown reason the birds have become hard to find lately, with reports of only three birds all fall—Aug. 26 at Pea I. (AB), Sept. 7 at Portsmouth I. (JF), and Nov. 7 at Darien, Ga. (PB). A Clay-colored Sparrow was a good find inland at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Ga., Oct. 17 (PB), and two were at Oriental, N.C., Nov. 8 (DF). Only 3 reports of Lincoln's Sparrows was very poor; birds were near Chapel Hill Oct. 6 (ME), Pendergrass Oct. 17 (JP), and Townville, S.C., Nov. 14 (AA). No longspurs or Snow Buntings were reported for the season.

**ADDENDUM** — A Swainson's Hawk near Raleigh Mar. 21, reported with some reservation in *AB* 36:841, is apparently a valid record. Full details have recently been published (*Chat* 46:80-81); this is the first spring sighting for the Region and just the second convincingly described for North Carolina.

**OBSERVERS** — R.L. Ake, Atlanta Audubon Society, Alan Avakian, Clarence Belger, Rich Boyd, Patrick Brisse, Jerry Brunner, Allen Bryan, Norm Budnitz, Zach Bynum, Ann Carter, Derb Carter, J.H. Carter III, Jack Carusos, Chapel Hill Bird Club, Margaret Conderman, P.J. Crutchfield, Pat Culbertson, Chip Davis, Ricky Davis, Roger Doxsey (RDo), P.G. DuMont, Marc Eisdorfer, Mitch & Phyllis Feller, Tad Finnell, Dan & Ann Forster, Forsyth County Audubon Society, Dorothy Foy, John Fussell, Eric Garner, Hugh Garrett, Jim & Nancy Godwin, Joe Greenberg, R.J. Hader, Paul Hamel, Chris Haney, Tom Howard, William Hutcheson, Nancy Iha, Wayne Irvin, Dan Kaplan, Cliff Kevill, Kathy Kirkman (KKi), Ken Knapp, Dennis Lacoss, Gary Lancaster, Harry LeGrand, Merrill

Lynch, Bob Manns, Didi Manns (DMA), Greg Massey, Karen Mason, Frank McCamey, D.B. McCaslin, Dennie McClure, Pam McClure, Jim McConnell (JMcC), Ecky & Sue Meadows, Mecklenburg Audubon Society, Peggy Moore (PMo), Terry Moore, Jim Mulholland, Perry Nugent, John Paget, Dick Parks, J.F. Parnell, T.K. Patterson, Fred Patton, Johnnie Payne (JPay), Lance Peacock, Jeff Petit (JPe), Tim Playforth, Elizabeth Pullman, J.O. Pullman, Tom

Reeves, Mary Roberts, Dave Sibley, T. Simpson, Neil & Lynn Smith, Ramona Snavelly, Barbara Spencer, Don Tarbet, Andy Towle, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Jim Walterman, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Jim & Shirley Wheeling, M.E. Whitfield, Anne Wyand (AWy).—HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27609.

## FLORIDA REGION

/Lyn S. and Brooks H. Atherton

The 500-year drought was broken at least temporarily this year. For example, over 63 inches of rain fell in Ft. Myers, more than 10 inches above the annual mean. Unfortunately for the birders, the weather produced a few migrant fallouts. The period was also characterized by higher than average temperatures which persisted well into December, probably causing what seemed like above-average numbers of late migrants. Nevertheless, observers throughout the state remarked about the unusual abundance of robins, goldfinches and waxwings present early in the period.

August was typically tropical—hot, lots of rain, light and variable winds. In fact, tropical high pressure cells dominated Florida weather patterns and prevented the intrusion of early-winter cold fronts throughout the season.

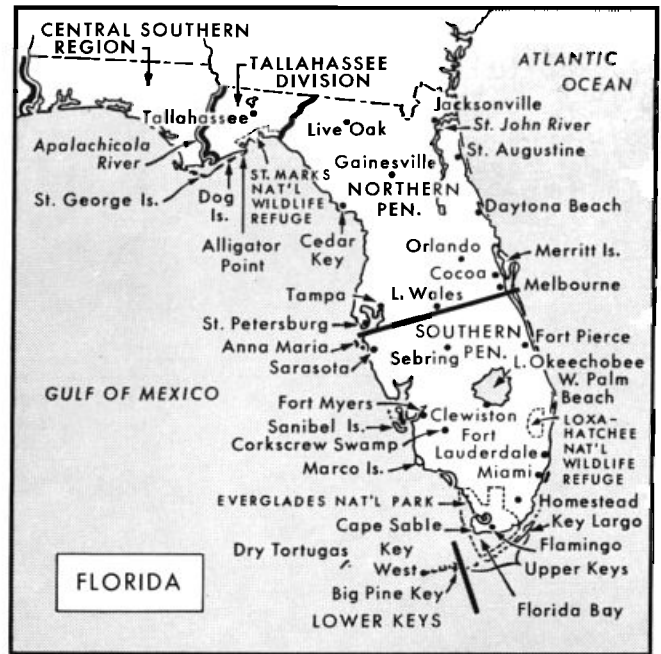
A massive but mild cold front traversed the state on September 4-5 depositing over 2 inches of rain near St. George Island and over 1.5 inches at Daytona Beach. This front was responsible for the unusually large number of Eastern Kingbirds and Common Nighthawks at Jacksonville. On September 21, the strongest cold front of the season swept into the Panhandle bringing with it widespread rain. Good fallouts were reported from many areas. However, a phenomenal "tower kill" was reported at the Crystal River Power Plant (see specifics below).

October and November were again dominated by the tropical high pressure ridge which built and rebuilt itself along Florida's east coast. Summer-like rain showers and light southerly winds were disrupted only by a strong but dry cold front on October 14-16 which produced good fallouts on Sanibel Island and in Broward County.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.C.: Cape Canaveral; D.F.B.G.: Duda Farm-Belle Glade, Palm Beach Co.; E.N.P.: Everglades Nat'l Park; F.F.N.: Florida Field Naturalist; F.O.S.R.C.: Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; F.S.M.: Florida State Museum; M.I.N.W.R.: Merritt Island N.W.R.; Tall. Div.: Tallahassee Division; T.S.P.: Tallahassee Sewage Plant; T.T.R.S.: Tall Timbers Research Station. Please note: "† to F.O.S.R.C.", unless otherwise indicated, means *only* that documentation of a sighting has been submitted for review; results of the Committee are published annually in *F.F.N.*

**LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS** — On Nov. 28, a Com. Loon was rather unusual inland in a borrow pit near Moore Haven (FL) while, ironically, 26 others were 20 mi e. of C.C. (JJ). Lone Eared Grebes were at L. Jackson, Leon Co., Oct. 15 (earliest Tall. Div.—GM) and near St. Marks Light, St. Marks N.W.R., Oct. 21 (HMS). Poor weather conditions prevented identification of an imm. albatross heading S 20 mi e. of C.C., Oct. 5 (JJ). The following Cory's Shearwaters were offshore C.C.: five Sept. 5 (10-15 mi—DR), three Sept. 20 and four Sept. 27 (20 mi—JJ), one Nov. 11 (40 mi—JRJ). Four Greater Shearwaters were 20 mi e. of C.C., Sept. 13 (JJ). Two Audubon's Shearwaters met similar fates: one was found dead on the beach at Washington Oaks S.P., Flagler Co., Aug. 7 (DM) and another died shortly after being retrieved from the water 10 mi offshore Ft. Pierce Inlet Aug. 17 (JB). Another, apparently healthy, was 10 mi e. of C.C., Sept. 5 (DR).

An ill imm. Brown Booby found in Sarasota Bay Aug. 24 was brought into the Wildlife Center of Sarasota where it lived for about 2 months, then died (*vide* PS). An adult at Crocker Reef Buoy, Florida Keys Sept. 18 (AS) could have been the same as one seen later that day at Conch Reef Buoy. In Palm Beach County, Brown Pelicans are



Oct. 2 and one adult Nov. 27 (PP). A 1000-bird heronry in n. Madison County Aug. 21 (GM, HMS) was 99% Cattle Egrets! The White Ibis population of the Marco and Rookery Bay roosts has declined over 50% (TB) and indications are that the species is declining in all of s. Florida (*vide* JK). Three Glossy Ibises at L. Jackson Oct. 6 (HMS) were county rarities. Unusual inland were Roseate Spoonbills at Palmdale Oct. 8 (seven—LA) and Myakka River S.P., Nov. 29 (25—ES). After a violent NE storm, 265 Fulvous Whistling Ducks sought refuge in Port Canaveral Oct. 24 (JJ, m.ob.). The species is seldom seen in the Florida Keys, so 46 at Cowpens, Florida Bay Oct. 30 (AS) were unexpected.

usually encountered as lone birds or in very small groups, even at locations where they are fed by fishermen. Therefore, 78 (75% imm.) at the Lake Worth Fishing Pier Nov. 13 (BH, PWS) were considered noteworthy. Near the end of the period, two were inland in Orlando on Clear L., where, apparently, one has remained since first discovered in 1979 after hurricane *David* moved up the e. coast (*vide* DWF).

**WADERS, GEESE AND DUCKS** — An Am. Bittern at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Sept. 6 (PWS, BH) was an early arrival there. The Great Blue Heron population in w. Collier County more than doubled during the period and, although the numbers were still considered low, the increased activity was encouraging (*vide* TB). Lake Jackson's 150 Great Egrets Nov. 11 (HMS) was the highest count ever for Leon County. Reddish Egrets, usually rare on the n.e. coast, appeared at Ward's Bank, Duval Co., Sept. 1 (PP) and Nov. 26 (white phase—NW); Matanzas Inlet, St. John's Co., had three immatures

South of their usual range were five Snow Geese at M.I.N.W.R., Oct. 24 (m.ob.) and an immature at Duck Key Nov. 2-4 (early—HND). Even more unusual were single Brant at Flamingo Nov. 19+ (PA, m.ob.) and M.I.N.W.R., Nov. 28+ (DS, H & WD). Apparently, duck populations were about normal in most of the Region as the only comment concerning status came from the s.w. coast where, similar to last year, ducks appeared in high numbers in n.w. Collier County



but were virtually nonexistent in the s portion (JP) Perhaps due to high water levels, D.F.B.G.'s high of 700 Blue-winged Teal Sept. 4 (PWS, GH, ME) was only 7% of the high of 2 years ago. Uncommon in the Lower Keys were one Ring-necked Duck Nov. 27 and nine Green-winged Teals plus nine Am. Wigeon Nov. 28+ (GY). A Pintail was early at D.F.B.G., Sept. 11 (PWS) and two ♂ Mallards, uncommon in the wild in Palm Beach County, appeared there Oct. 17 (BH, PWS). The only Oldsquaw reported was at M.I.N.W.R., Nov. 28 (DS). Although no scoters were found at their more usual haunts in the Panhandle, several appeared not only much farther s. but rather early. Common Scoters included a female at M.I.N.W.R., Oct. 23 (WH *et al.*), one taken to the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary Oct. 28 (*fide* MK) and another at Cape Romano Oct. 29 (TB). On the latter date, single White-winged and Black scoters were discovered at the Melbourne Sewage Treatment Plant (JJ, DS).

#### S.A.

Although some Black-bellied Whistling Ducks have been observed in the past, they were assumed to be escapees. However, our investigation concerning a flock of at least 35 at a pond e. of Sarasota convinced us that this was a migratory flock. The property owner said that originally 11 ducks arrived in October or November of 1981 and they stayed through the winter. Five or six remained through the summer, but none was observed with young. More arrived during the latter half of this fall. Although wary, the whistling ducks fed on corn scratch that the property owner put out for the large number of domestic Mallards and Muscovies which he introduced prior to the whistling ducks' initial arrival.

**RAPTORS** — At L. Kissimmee Nov. 23 (VW), two ad. Everglade Kites and one immature remained from summer. Another was at the Savannas Rec. Area, Ft. Pierce Sept. 22 (H & WD). Those were the only reports of the species outside its usual breeding range (see summer report). Included in a major raptor movement heading S at Cape Florida S.P., Oct. 10 (LA, BA, BN) were two Marsh, 152 Sharp-shinned, 11 Cooper's and 11 Broad-winged hawks, three Peregrine Falcons, 10 Merlins and seven Am. Kestrels. During a "reverse migration" movement Nov. 4 (HND), the following hawks flew NE past Long Key: 86 Broad-winged, three imm. Swainson's, 28 Sharp-shinned and one imm. ♂ Cooper's. A note discussing raptor movements in the Keys, with emphasis on "reverse migration", is being prepared for *F.F.N.* (*fide* HND). An ad. ♂ Marsh Hawk arrived early in Hillsborough County Aug. 28 (WH, KM, EJ) and 13 at D.F.B.G., Sept. 26 (BH, PWS) was an unusually high total for one locality. Other Sharp-shinned Hawk movements were of 35 at Big Pine Key Oct. 5 (MB) and 30 over Matheson Hammock, Dade Co., Oct. 16 (BN, T.A.S.). Two Broad-winged Hawk kettles passed Sugarloaf Key Nov. 16 and 25 individuals soared over Key West Nov. 17 (HND, FH). A dark-phase Short-tailed Hawk, rare in Lafayette County, appeared in the Steinhatchee W.M.A., Oct. 30 (RWS). A light-phase bird was at Big Pine Key Nov. 21 (MB) where it (or a similar one) encountered another (dark-phase) feeding on a ♂ Am. Kestrel Nov. 29 (HND, MB, GY). Two Swainson's Hawks at Big Pine Key Oct. 9 (MB) were perhaps the same as on Nov. 17 (HND). Four others were at Summerland Key Oct. 13 (MB) and one appeared in E.N.P., Nov. 8 (BN). Bald Eagle sightings are considered rare as far w. as Liberty County (*fide* HMS); therefore, single adults at Alum Bluff Nov. 24 and near Bristol Nov. 28 (WWB) were noteworthy. Peregrine Falcon sightings were down 33% from last year; hopefully, this is not indicative of the species' overall status. Interestingly, one landed on the mast of a ship approximately 40 mi. w. of Key West Oct. 21 (JEC).

**QUAIL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — Three half-grown Bobwhites in n. Leon County Oct. 15 (HMS) were indicative of late breeding. A Sandhill Crane at Hickory Mound L., Nov. 19 (HMS, JEC) and up to 44 at L. Jackson Nov. 25-29 (unprecedented number there—TE, JEC, GM) were unusual for the Tall. Div.

An excellent migration of Black-bellied Plovers through w. Palm Beach County was indicated by the 2700 at D.F.B.G., Oct. 10 (PWS, BH). The rare Am. Golden Plover was at the following locations: Virginia Key, Dade Co., Nov. 6 (BN, T.A.S.), L. Jackson Nov. 17 (two—JEC) and 21 (one—MA), Key Largo Nov. 26 and near Bahia Honda Key Nov. 27 (same bird?—GY). On the s.w. coast, where Snowy Plovers are undoubtedly fighting a losing battle against human encroachment, four ad. Snowy Plovers with six chicks on Longboat

Key throughout August (M & BS) and seven at nearby Siesta Key Nov. 5 (SB) were welcomed discoveries. Piping Plovers, absent for several years in the Florida Keys (*fide* FH), were at Key West Nov. 8 (one—JL) and Sunshine Key Nov. 11 (ten—HND). American Oystercatchers appeared in good numbers again this year with 100 at Cedar Key Aug. 29 (DF), 41 at Alligator Pt., Franklin Co., Oct. 12 (HMS, CW), 136 at Cape Romano Oct. 14 (TB) and 11 in Port Canaveral Nov. 25 (JJ) considered high numbers for those areas. Black-necked Stilts were rare fall migrants at the following locations: Kee I., Collier Co., Sept. 16 (seven—TB), near St. Marks Light Sept. 22-25 (JEC, LA, BA) and Snake Bight, E.N.P., Nov. 27 (HL). Port Canaveral had a surprising 185 Am. Avocets Oct. 24-30 (WH, JD, JJ).

Two Solitary Sandpipers at Palmdale Nov. 20 (LA, BA) were either late or wintering. A Long-billed Curlew again spent the season at Ward's Bank (PP) and another at Boca Raton Oct. 20 (BH) was Palm Beach County's third record. At the T.S.P., a Ruddy Turnstone Sept. 19 and two Sanderlings Sept. 5 (GM) were Leon County rarities. Although Red Knots winter in great numbers on the s.w. coast, five at Ft. Pierce Sept. 9 (JB) were unusual. White-rumped Sandpipers, regular in spring but usually very rare in fall, were at the following locations: St. John's R., in n.w. Seminole County (five—DWF) and Cape Romano (three—TB) on Sept. 5 and Port Canaveral Oct. 24-29 (two—LA, BA, BP *et al.*; \* to T.T., *fide* HMS). A lone Baird's Sandpiper was an outstanding "find" on Longboat Key Sept. 6-14 (M & BS, EM *et al.*; † and ph. to F.O.S.R.C.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers in small numbers stopped at their usual haunts, but one at Port Canaveral Sept. 1 (DS, RCS; ph. to Brevard Mus. of Nat. Sci. and His.) was only the fifth record for Brevard County. A Ruff at Belle Glade Aug. 27 (SI) and a Reeve at Port Canaveral Oct. 24-25 (LA, BA, BP *et al.*; ph. to T.T.) highlighted the shorebird migration. At least in the s.w. portion of the state, Com. Snipe were plentiful and in n.w. Collier County they were considered the most abundant in 30 years (JP). One arrived early at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Sept. 6 (BH, PWS). Single Wilson's Phalaropes made rare appearances at T.S.P., Aug. 26 (HMS, JMS) and Hooker's Pt., Tampa Oct. 30 (late—LH, WH, SP *et al.*) and a N. Phalarope at Garden Key, Dry Tortugas Sept. 28 (RS) was the first ever there. Another was unusual onshore at Port Canaveral Nov. 2-3 (LA, BP, JJ).

**LARIDS** — Jaegers appeared in good numbers off the Atlantic Coast during November. One boat captain reported seeing an average of 25/day heading S off Broward County (*fide* WG). An imm. dark-phase **South Polar Skua** was identified as it flew 15 mi offshore Cape Canaveral Sept. 5 (DR; † to F.O.S.R.C.). Toytown Landfill hosted the only Franklin's Gulls, two immatures Nov. 12+ and an adult Nov. 29-30 (SP, LA). Another spectacular discovery was an ad winter-plumaged **Black-headed Gull** at T.S.P., Aug. 8-23 (GM *et al.*; † and JEC ph. to F.O.S.R.C.). This established Florida's first summer record and first Tall. Div. occurrence. Lesser Black-backed Gulls appeared at Port Canaveral Oct. 29 (first-winter plumage—HMS) and Tampa Bay in mid-October (adult—SP). The only Great Black-backed Gull reported from the Gulf coast visited Toytown Landfill Nov. 15 (first-winter plumage—SP). Immature Black-legged Kittiwakes were in Port Canaveral Oct. 24-25 (JJ, m.ob.), 2 mi e. of Cocoa Beach Nov. 11 (JRJ) and 4 mi offshore Juno Beach, Palm Beach Co., Nov. 13 (JPI).

A late or wintering Gull-billed Tern, considered a rare species anytime in n. Collier County, was feeding with Sandwich Terns and Laughing Gulls at Kee I., Collier Co., Nov. 26 (TB). Two Royal Terns flying over scrub habitat at Archbold Biological Station, Highlands Co., Oct. 22 (FL) were quite unexpected. In Florida, large numbers of Com. Terns are usually encountered only offshore; however, 100+ appeared in Port Canaveral Nov. 11 (JJ) after heavy NE winds. An ad. Sooty Tern died shortly after being found in a s.w. Miami yard Sept. 2 (MC; \* to U. of Miami). Others were offshore C.C., Sept. 5 (two juv., one ad.—DR) & Sept. 13 (three—JJ). Black Terns were considered late at Rookery Bay, Collier Co., Nov. 6 (three, latest ever there by 6 weeks—TB) and Sebastian Inlet, Brevard Co., Nov. 12 (one—GH, HL).

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — The origin of a White-winged Dove at Cudjoe Key Oct. 1 (MB) was unknown although the species does breed in the Homestead area. One at Hickory Mound L., Taylor Co., Oct. 18 (HMS) and two at St. George I., Oct. 22+ (SC, LA, BA) were most likely w. strays. A Ground Dove was a rarity at Garden Key, Dry Tortugas Sept. 28 (RS). Black-hooded Parakeet flocks were encountered throughout the season at several locations in

the Miami-Homestead area where the species is becoming a rather common exotic (J & SS); however, the status was unknown of a flock of six along U.S. 41 near 40-Mile Bend (BL). A pair discovered last year at Dundee, Polk Co., had built a nest when observed Nov. 27 (CG, BC). Six Canary-winged Parakeets, origin unknown, appeared briefly at a feeder on Sanibel I., in late August (KCE). A flock of 24 Red-crowned, two Blue-fronted, two Lilac-crowned, one Yellow-headed and one Red-loreed parrots on Hypoluxo I., Nov. 29 (PWS, BH) must have been a colorful sight, although a bit noisy! Black-billed Cuckoos appeared in Rookery Bay Sept. 1 (TB), near Bartow Sept. 19 (PF), Orange Park, Clay Co., Oct. 3 (HC) and Sanibel Oct. 15 (LA). A Burrowing Owl was at Key West Oct. 2 (KW) and another was found dead at nearby Flemming Key Oct. 3 (*fide* MB). No burrow has ever been found in the Key West area, although the species does nest farther n. in the Keys (*fide* FH).

Good flights of Com. Nighthawks were observed in Lee County (LA) and 290 heading S over s. Jacksonville Sept. 5 (JPC) were a result of the early front. One heard calling at Kendall, Dade Co., Nov. 18 (BN) was either late or wintering. An early Whip-poor-will at Winter Haven Aug. 25 (CG) was found unable to fly, but it recovered in 2 weeks and was released. Another at Casey Key Nov. 14 (A & SS) was recaptured after having been banded at the same station one year prior. That was the second Whip-poor-will to return to that station after being banded there the previous year. Chimney Swifts, once considered rare anytime in Dade County, appeared there throughout the summer and fall—indicating even farther southward breeding range expansion (*fide* OB; see summer report). A swift at Lanark, Franklin Co., Nov. 6 (GM, RC) was late for *pelagica* [possibly *vauxi*?]. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are sometimes recorded in large numbers at locations along the coast during spring “fall-outs”; however, seven hummingbirds [sp.?] simultaneously in a Tallahassee yard Oct. 14 (BS) was very unusual for fall. A Rufous Hummingbird appeared during October through November (BN, m.ob.) in a yard near Homestead where last year’s pair was found (see *AB* 36:170).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS** — A Com. Flicker at Key West Nov. 28 (GY, HND, FH) was a rarity for the Lower Keys, although the species breeds in the Upper Keys. An E. Wood Pewee was early at Casey Key Aug. 19 (A & SS) and large numbers were recorded along the Gulf coast after the major fronts. Single Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded at Casey Key Sept. 15 & 20 (A & SS) and good numbers of Acadian Flycatchers moved through the Tall. Div., during the period (HMS). Two “Trail’s” Flycatchers were banded at Casey Key Sept. 26 (A & SS) and another was on St. George I., Oct. 1 (HMS). Frontal activity resulted in an unusually high number of six Least Flycatchers at St. George I., Sept. 21 (JMS). Five at Wellington Nov. 7 (PWS *et al.*) were probably wintering.

Stray W. Kingbirds appeared at a number of locations and among the more notable sightings were early ones near Tallahassee Aug. 28 (earliest Tall. Div.—JMS) and in Dade County Sept. 13 (BN, OB). On their S journey, six Western and three late Gray kingbirds plus a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher fed together at Sanibel I., Nov. 1 (LA). Throughout the state, all who commented agreed that E. Kingbirds were abundant during migration. The most noteworthy observation occurred 8 a.m.-10 a.m., Sept. 5 (JPC) when approximately 1100 flew over s. Jacksonville! Another late Gray Kingbird lingered at Virginia Key, Dade Co., Nov. 6 (T.A.S.). About average numbers of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers appeared along the coasts, but one near Apopka Oct. 20 (H & WD) and another in Bartow Nov. 7 (third county record—PF, CG, RG) were unusual so far inland. One was late at Medart, Wakulla Co., Nov. 28 (H & WD *et al.*) and seven had arrived by Nov. 29 (GY, FH, MB) in Key West, where the species has been absent for the past several winters.

**SWALLOWS THROUGH PIPITS** — Zellwood had an early Tree Swallow Aug. 21 (LH, m.ob.) and 100+ Rough-winged Swallows flocked at L. Harbor, Palm Beach Co., Oct. 26 (high numbers—HMS). A Cliff Swallow at Ft. Pierce Sept. 22 (H & WD) was considered unusual there and 41 at D.F.B.G., Oct. 3 (PWS, GH) was the highest total ever for the county. Despite driving rains, at least 3000 swallows (75% Barns, others apparently Trees) aided by 20-30 knot N winds flew rapidly past Conch Key Nov. 5 (HND). A Blue Jay was a rarity in Florida Bay Sept. 26 (RLH). The bird of the season was a Rock Wren at St. George Island S.R.A., Nov. 27+ (first state record—LH, JH, m.ob.; † and BA ph. to F.O.S.R.C.). The wren thrilled observers with its antics—hopping under and atop the shin-



Rock Wren, St. George I. State Rec. Area, Fla., Nov. 27, 1982. Photo/ Brooks Atherton.

gled pavilions and among piles of lumber as it foraged. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Tallahassee Sept. 16 (TM) was the earliest for the Tall. Div., and possibly the state (*fide* HMS).

In the Gainesville area, thrushes in general were reported as “more common than usual” (BM) and Veeries were considered “unusually common” and “abundant” in n.e. and c. Florida, respectively (PP, HK). Single Veeries were early at Delray Beach Sept. 5 (PWS) and Maitland Sept. 6 (HK). In Pinellas County frontal activity accounted for the presence of 28 Veeries Sept. 26 (RPH *et al.*) and 29 Swainson’s Thrushes Sept. 21 (Dunedin Hammock—LH *et al.*). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was found dead in a Lake Worth yard Nov. 9 (late date—GH). Single Wood Thrushes, rare fall migrants in the Peninsula, were at Sanibel I., Oct. 16 (LA) and Lakeland Oct. 17 (PF, TP). Perhaps due to their scarcity last year, it seemed as if Am. Robins invaded in unprecedented numbers. At least in the Peninsula, most agreed that their initial sightings this fall involved more individuals than their entire totals of last fall *and* winter! One at E.N.P., Oct. 6 (WB) was early. A Sprague’s Pipit was at the species’ perennial winter home on St. George I. Causeway Nov. 27+ (LH, JH, m.ob.).

#### VIREOS AND WARBLERS —

##### S.A.

A “tower kill”, perhaps Florida’s most spectacular, occurred at the Crystal River Power Plant on the night of Sept. 22, as the first major cold front moved through the peninsular Gulf Coast. The next morning, 1273 birds were dead—the majority at the conventional plant and only 57 at the nuclear plant. Included in the kill were 640 White-eyed Vireos, 121 Red-eyed Vireos and 20 species of warblers. The number of White-eyed Vireos killed in that one night surpassed the species’ 25-year autumn total of the T.T.R.S. tower kills (*fide* HK). Warblers retrieved included 157 N. Parulas, 94 Com. Yellowthroats and 60 Palms (DSM; \* to F.S.M., note to F.F.N.).

An imm. Bell’s Vireo was a rare migrant at Hypoluxo I., Sept. 25 (PWS, WG *et al.*) and six Yellow-throated Vireos in Pinellas County Sept. 26 (JM, JF) was a high total for fall along the Gulf coast. Philadelphia Vireos were widespread, with the earliest Oct. 8 at Palmdale (LA) and Hypoluxo I. (ME, CK, GH) and the latest at Lakeland Oct. 31 (CG).

Except during frontal activity, the warbler migration was considered by most to be rather unspectacular, although a few species appeared in somewhat higher than usual numbers. Lone Brewster’s Warblers were at Dunedin Hammock, Pinellas Co., Sept. 19 (LH *et al.*) and Orange Park, n. Clay Co., Oct. 9-10 (HC). After the first major front passed through, Tennessee Warblers were abundant on St. George I., Sept. 21 (130—JMS) and at Sanibel I., Sept. 23 (63—LA). At least on the s.w. coast, Orange-crowned Warblers seemed to be unusually common by the season’s end (LA). Single Nashville Warblers were at Delray Beach Oct. 8 (BH, WB, WG) and Cape

Florida Oct 9 (WB, BN) Sawgrass Lake County P, Pinellas Co., had 15 Chestnut-sided Warblers Sept. 22 (high total—LH, RPH). Early arrivals in Palm Beach County were a Magnolia Warbler Sept. 6 (PWS) and a Cape May Warbler at Hypoluxo I., Sept. 5 (PWS, BH *et al.*) Black-throated Blue Warblers again reached the Gulf coast where singles were early at Longboat Key Aug. 31 (M & BS) and Sanibel I., Sept. 2 (LA); another, especially rare in fall in the Tall. Div., was at St. Marks Light Sept. 22 (JEC). Another outstanding discovery and the season's rarest warbler was an ad. ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** at Garden Key, Dry Tortugas Sept. 15 (WBR; † to F O S R.C.). The Blackburnian Warbler migration must have reached its peak when the major September front passed through, as the species was by far the most numerous migrant in the ensuing "fall-outs" with 26 at St. George I., Sept. 21 (JMS), 40 at Sawgrass Lake County P., Sept. 22 (LH, RPH) and 17 at Sanibel I., Sept. 23 (LA). A Palm Warbler was early for the Tall. Div., at St. George I., Sept. 11 (JMS) and the "fall-out" at Colohatchee P., Broward Co., Oct. 15 (WG, FJ) included a very high total of 50 Bay-breasted Warblers.

A Prothonotary Warbler in the Big Cypress Nov. 27 (OB) must have been wintering. A Swainson's Warbler was at Dania, Broward Co., Sept. 11 (WG) and another was banded at Casey Key Oct. 3 (A & SS) Great numbers of Ovenbirds, particularly apparent after fronts, swept through the peninsula with high counts of 30 at Lakeland Sept. 25 (CG) and 35 in Pinellas County Sept. 26 (CB *et al.*). Connecticut Warblers, especially rare in fall, were at San Felasco S.P., Sept. 15 (BM), Crystal River Power Plant Sept. 22 (DSM; \* to F.S.M.) and West Palm Beach Oct. 24 (RHP). Its very secretive behavior contributes to the Mourning Warbler's status as a very rare migrant. However, several hatching-year females (yellow throat merged into yellow breast, no breast band) were detected this season: at St. George I., Sept. 21 (JMS), Casey Key Sept. 27 (banded, but wing minus tail length not measured—A & SS; ph. to T.T.) and Sanibel I., Oct. 14 (LA) Although Hooded Warblers are abundant along the Gulf coast in spring after fronts, 36 in Pinellas County Sept. 26 (CB) was an unusually high total for fall. A ♂ Wilson's Warbler at Key West Oct. 21 (JEC) and a female at Cape Florida S.P., Oct. 18 (MW) were well below numbers of the past few seasons, but the 12 Canada Warblers easily topped previous regional records. The earliest arrived at Ft. Pierce Sept. 1 (H & WD, JB) and the latest was at Lakeland Oct. 8 (TP, PF). Five in the Tall. Div., Sept. 11-22 (JMS, TM, JEC) was a record there also. Yellow-breasted Chats, rare in fall even in the Tall. Div., were at St. George I., Aug. 28 (SC), banded at Casey Key Aug. 30-Oct. 17 (four, unprecedented number there—A & SS) and at Lakeland Oct. 2 (PF).

**TANAGERS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS** — A ♀ Summer Tanager was late or wintering at Delray Beach Nov. 25+ (PWS) and ♀ W. Tanagers, rare strays that sometimes winter, were at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 9 (TT) and Sanibel I., Oct. 21 (LA). Although Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are regular fall migrants, 16 at Birch P., Ft. Lauderdale Oct. 16 (BH, WG, W & JB) was an unusually high number and one at a feeder in Florida City through November (m.ob.) was possibly wintering. Although Blue Grosbeaks are late migrants, one at St. Marks Light Nov. 14 (TE) and three at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Nov. 21+ (GH, PWS) lingered later than usual. A Painted Bunting at Alligator Pt., Oct. 12 (HMS, CW) was a rare fall migrant in the Tall. Div. Other rarities included a Clay-colored Sparrow at Delray Beach Nov. 17 (BH) and a Lark Sparrow near Sarasota Sept. 18 (sixth county record—D & GM). Contrary to usual experiences with this elusive species, Henslow's Sparrows were observed with relative ease by late November at several locations in the Tosohatchee State Preserve (BP, BS). LeConte's Sparrows appeared at M.I.N.W.R., Oct. 24 (HK, LM, SSP), Payne's Prairie State Preserve Nov. 17 (two imm., one ad., probably wintering—BM) and in the town of St. Marks Nov. 28 (KD, H & WD *et al.*). Two Lincoln's Sparrows were at Wellington Nov. 7-9 (PWS, HL) and Tallahassee's summing White-throated Sparrow (see summer report) was last recorded Aug. 22 (HMS). In the Tall. Div., the uncommon White-crowned Sparrow visited Hickory Mound L., Oct. 18 (HMS) and Black Swamp, Leon Co., Oct. 21 (GM) Especially unusual on the s.e. Coast, singles were at Ft. Pierce Nov. 6 (JB) and Tropical P., Dade Co., Nov. 25 (imm.—DO).

Considering no other area editors mentioned Bobolinks, Duda-Belle Glade's 1360 Bobolinks Sept. 11 (PWS) was rather impressive. Yellow-headed Blackbirds eluded more northerly observers, but four were found in the Lower Pen.: Lower Matecumbe Key Oct. 4 (at feeder—*fide* KS) and s. Sarasota Oct. 4-5 (RHH), n. Sarasota Oct. 18 (RM) and Flamingo early November (female—*fide* OB). Five Brew-

er's Blackbirds in Pinellas County Nov. 4 (LA, BP) were joined by two others by Nov. 27 (DG, JM) and a Brown-headed Cowbird at Garden Key, Dry Tortugas Sept. 28 (RS) was a rarity there.

**CORRIGENDUM** — Cedar Key's 300 Am. Oystercatchers Sept. 5, 1976 (AB 31:167) was the highest total for Florida rather than the 125 last year at Cape Romano (AB 36:169). Five published CBCs also listed higher totals than Cape Romano (*fide* TB). Please delete Connecticut Warbler, S.G.I., Sept. 30, 1977 (AB 32:196).

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## ONTARIO REGION

/Ron D. Weir

Record cold in August over most of Ontario, including frosts in the southwest, sped migrants on their way. September turned mild, even hot and humid, and without frosts south of Sudbury, which led many observers to comment on the paucity of groundings. Heavy overhead night songbird flights were noted September 14-16, 21-23, 26-28 with rates of passage from 3000-7000 birds per hour over Peterborough, Long Point, Toronto and Kingston. Thousands of Swainson's Thrushes and some Gray-cheekeds flew over Kingston September 10-11 and Sudbury September 27-28, yet none was to be found the following morning. Hawk days were September 4, 5, 11, 18-23, 26, and a massive flight of Broad-wingeds occurred over Holiday Beach September 21. Kills at tall towers numbered 875 at the Long Point lighthouse and 154 at the Lennox chimneys where strobe lights have at last been installed following the unbelievable die-off last autumn. The reversal of the seasons continued into October and the month was mild but wet. October 15-17 saw significant numbers of waterfowl pass Kettle Point, hawk movement at Whitby and Manitoulin Island, and owls at Prince Edward Point. Alf Rider noted kinglets and creepers at Kettle Point October 17 in such numbers that gulls were "flycatching the kinglets in the air." In the closing three days of October, great excitement surrounded the finding of four vagrant flycatchers and we await with anticipation the Changing Seasons which may explain it all! Apart from a temporary taste of winter November 5-7, very mild weather prevailed to month's end. While Goshawks irrupted, winter finches did not. Observers throughout the north commented on the heavy cone and fruit crops which likely held



the winter finches there. An exciting close to the season was provided by an alcid and Yellow-throated Warblers!

Abbreviations for place names used in the text below are: A.P.P.: Algonquin Provincial Park; M.I.: Manitoulin Island; Pelee: Point Pelee National Park area; M.L.: Mississagi Light; P.P.P.: Presqu'île Provincial Park; P.E.Pt.: Prince Edward Point; S.L.I.: St. Lawrence Islands National Park.

In the text following, place names in italics denote counties.

**LOONS, GREBES** — The Com. Loon flight was impressive. Notable were 262 at Atikokan Sept. 10 (SP), 180 at M.I., Sept. 21 (JN), 300 at Georgina I., L. Simcoe Sept. 28 (PV), 385 at P.E. Pt., Oct. 31 (RDW) and 140 at P.P.P., Nov. 3 (RDM). There were 120 migrating at M.L., Oct. 1 (JN), 345 passing Kettle Pt., in the first hour after sunrise Oct. 9 (AR) and 228 there Nov. 11 (AR). Red-throats were scarce with two at Kingston Aug. 6 (THi, AN), singles at S.L.I., Oct. 27 (DAS), P.E.Pt., Oct. 31 (RDW), Sarnia Nov. 7 & 27 (DR), four in Ottawa (BMD) and the season's total at Kettle Pt., was six (AR). A few Red-necked Grebes were reported from widespread locations and the 60 at M.I., Oct. 5 (JN) was the largest number by far. One Eared Grebe was in Hamilton Bay Aug. 29-Sept. 1 (KM, RC) and two were at Port Stanley Sept. 17-20 (FG, WG) bringing the number for Ontario in 1982 to eight. A W. Grebe, a rare visitant in the s., was reported off the Cranberry Marsh Aug. 20 (J & NL).

**CORMORANTS, HERONS** — Fallout from the expanding population of nesting Double-crested Cormorants was evident along the lower lakes. In e. L. Ontario, peak numbers were 450 at Amherst I., Aug. 17 (K.F.N.), 300 at P.P.P., Sept. 5 (WP, RDM) and 100 were still at P.E.Pt., Sept. 28 (M. Boyd). In w. L. Erie, the largest group reported was 290 at Pelee (DR). Singles were n. to Moosonee Sept. 11, Oct. 3 (RDM) and that at Atikokan Oct. 30 was late (DL). Ontario's third Little Blue Heron for 1982 remained at Rondeau Aug. 22-Sept. 1 (Ii) (PAW). Cattle Egrets appeared late with one n. to Thunder Bay Oct. 6-7 (JE) and nearby Dorion Oct. 23 (*vide* RDJ), three in *Prince Edward* Nov. 1-13 (TS), two at Port Rowan Nov. 3 & 8 (EHD, LB) and one at Hay Bay (*vide* KC). Only four Great Egrets were reported—Long Pt., Barcovan Beach, *Northumberland* and P.P.P., Aug. 12-Sept. 17. Single Snowy Egrets were at Hamilton Bay Aug. 1 (KM), Long Pt., Aug. 3 (L.P.B.O.) and Dundas Oct. 13 (RF). That of Aug. 3 was joined by another Aug. 5 to remain until Sept. 4 (L.P.B.O.). Ten sight records of Least Bitterns came from Ajax, *Lambton, Kent, Essex, Long Pt., Pickering* and P.P.P. In addition, at the Long Pt. lighthouse, two were killed, two were banded and five were heard at night overhead Sept. 14-16 (L.P.B.O.). Late herons included a Green at Port Credit (L & XF) and a Black-crowned Night at Ottawa (SG), both Nov. 7.

**SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS** — The main flight of Whistling Swans was seen in *Lambton, Essex, and Kent* where 1600 passed Nov. 5-14 (*vide* AHK). East of a line joining Barrie to Toronto, a strong movement of Brant was noted Nov. 7 with tallies of 1280 at Pembroke (JBo), 720 at Kingston (K.F.N.), 320 at P.P.P. (RDM, P. Brown) and 250 at Whitby (DB). This autumn's White-fronted Goose was found at Middleborough I., near Moose Factory Oct. 6 (RDM), continuing the recent trend to annual occurrences of this rare mid-western migrant. A ♂ Gadwall in A.P.P. provided the area's second record ever (GT, J. Murphy). Single drake Eur. Wigeons were at Sarnia Oct. 16 (DR, KJB) and Sparrow L., near Gravenhurst Nov. 27 (RLB). Rare and late was the N. Shoveler at Peterborough Nov. 2-29 (RDM, AGC *et al.*). Perhaps the single Redheads shot on Partridge R., James Bay Sept. 19 & 24 (RDM) indicate that the species is not as rare there as previously thought. Virtually no Canvasbacks were reported away from Niagara Falls where 5000 were present Nov. 20 (K.F.N.). Ottawa's faithful Barrow's Goldeneye returned Nov. 27 for its fourth consecutive winter (BMD). The eight Harlequin Ducks at Kettle Pt., and singles at P.E. Pt., Humber Bay P., and Burlington are typical of the species' strong showing in recent autumns. Five King Eiders were at P.E.Pt., Nov. 7 (K.F.N.) and singles were at Shirley's Bay Nov. 25 (BMD) and Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 27 (RWK *et al.*). Black Scoters were widespread and one at Atikokan Nov. 1 was only the second ever there (DL). Notable waterfowl concentrations included 10,000 Mallards at Cranberry Marsh Nov. 21 (JM), 900 Green-winged Teals at Rondeau Sept. 14 (PAW), 600 Am. Wigeons at Long Pt., Sept. 18 (L.P.B.O.), 138 N. Shovelers Oct. 25 and 825 Black Scoters Oct. 24 at Shirley's Bay (BMD, THi) and 5-10,000 Com. Mergansers at Hay Bay Nov. 16 (AEB).

**HAWKS** — Noteworthy Turkey Vultures included 80 roosting on the edge of Pelee Oct. 17 (RHo), one n. to Moose Factory Sept. 16 (RDM), late birds at M.I., Oct. 30 and P.E.Pt., Nov. 7 (K.F.N.) and one wearing a blue wing tag with black letters 'Y7' near Kingston Oct. 17 (MD). Goshawks upstaged their exceptional movement of 1981 as 175+ birds were reported. In addition to those listed in Table 1, peak numbers were 16 at Port Rowan Oct. 23 (L.P.B.O.), 22 on M.I., Oct. 30 (JN) and 24 at P.E.Pt., Nov. 13 (JHE, RDW). Heavy Sharp-shinned movement was widespread in early September with 175 at P.E.Pt., Sept. 4 (K.F.N.), 200 heading w. from M.I., Sept. 6 (JN) and 490 flying E off the tip of Long Pt., Sept. 8 (L.P.B.O.). Birds still moving at season's close included 500 at Pelee Nov. 26 (AHK). Record numbers of Red-taileds passed M.L., where 379 were flying W over the strait Oct. 17 (JN). A heavy Broad-winged flight of 15,515 moved over Holiday Beach Sept. 21 (JPK). Two reports of the very rare Swainson's Hawk await adjudication by the provincial records committee, one at Pelee Sept. 9 (JEF) and a dark-phase bird at Trent R., *Northumberland* Sept. 15 (AGC). Reports of Golden Eagles numbered 30, fewer than the 35 Balds; both totals include those at Holiday Beach. An imm. Bald wearing a yellow right wing tag and hacked near Batavia, N.Y., was seen at Hawk Cliff Oct. 2 (BD), Port Rowan Oct. 19 (DJTH, MM) and Sarnia Nov. 19 (RSn, DM, DR).

Table 1. Hawk totals at two stations, Autumn 1982

Species	Holiday Beach P.P. <sup>1</sup>	Hawk Cliff <sup>2</sup>
Turkey Vulture	4131	2386
Goshawk	56	23
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10,106	7036
Cooper's Hawk	526	369
Red-tailed Hawk	4680	3572
Red-shouldered Hawk	776	86
Broad-winged Hawk	29,615	8405
Rough-legged Hawk	128	14
Golden Eagle	13	3
Bald Eagle	9	5
Marsh Hawk	576	415
Osprey	79	61
Peregrine Falcon	15	4
Merlin	10	12
Am. Kestrel	2607	1017
Totals (including unidentified birds)	53,776	23,897

<sup>1</sup>(JPK *et al.*) Sept.-Nov.: 85 days. <sup>2</sup>(DEF *et al.*) Sept. 3-Nov. 27: 57 days

Late Ospreys were at Dundas Marsh (AW, DF) and Kingston (JA) Nov 7. The three Gyrfalcons s. of Moosonee, where a white bird was seen Oct. 15 (RDM), include a grey-phase at Kleinburg Oct. 19 (GBE), single dark-phase birds at Cranberry Marsh Oct. 28 (EM) and Ottawa Nov 20-30 (PJ *et al.*). Away from Holiday Beach, 63 Peregrines and 78 Merlins were noted. Fourteen Peregrines were at Pelee Oct. 1 (JPK) and a banded immature studied at Oshawa's Second Marsh Sept 19 & 26 (GS).

**CRANES THROUGH PHALAROPES** — Two Sandhill Cranes were on M.I., Sept. 6 (RT), 150 over Ignace (MJM) & 80 over Atikokan Sept. 15, 18 & 21 (DE *et al.*) and two passed M.L., Sept. 22 (JN). One spent the entire reporting period at N. Gower (*vide* BMD) while six were at Huntsville Oct. 9 (LC). Sixty Soras were apparently having their big day in a marsh of wild rice at Rondeau Sept. 14 (AHK). The ever elusive Yellow Rail was flushed from the Richmond Swamp Aug. 7 suggesting possible breeding there (BMD). The shorebird flight was disappointing. For the first fall since 1977, no Piping Plovers were reported. In sharp contrast to the flight of Black-bellied Plover, Am. Golden Plovers were numerous. Led by the 500 at Aylmer Oct. 5 (FG, WG), there were flocks of 100+ at Barrie Sept. 6 (CJM), and Wolfe I., Oct. 20 (K.F.N.) with birds n. to Virginiatown Sept 29-30 (PWR). Most of the 111 Whimbrels were seen along Lakes Erie and Ontario, but one was at Barrie Sept. 9 (JJ) and six and 16 at Pembroke & Ottawa respectively Sept. 6 (JBo, BMD). Single Willets were at Humber Bay P., Aug. 6 (JK), Long Pt., Sept. 5 (D. Baldwin) and P.P.P., Sept. 8 (HI). Purple Sandpiper reports numbered 4 at P.P.P., Oct. 17, Nov. 7 & 16 (AGC, RDM *et al.*), 4 at Cobourg Nov. 6-8 (BCO) and singles at Ottawa Nov. 5 (BMD *et al.*), Erieau Nov. 13 (*vide* AHK) and Niagara Falls Nov. 27 (*vide* RWK). Two White-rumped at the Havelock lagoon Aug. 4 (AGC) were early and heralded 62+ records, 19 of which were at P.P.P., Nov. 2 (CE & JEG). Some 92+ Baird's were reported Aug. 13-Sept. 19. Early Dunlin arrived at Long Pt., Aug. 19 and Amherst I., Aug. 21 (L.P.B.O., K.F.N.). Thousands were counted in a huge night flight leaving James Bay over Moosonee Oct. 19 (RDM). Nicely documented W. Sandpipers include two at Whitby June 4 & 6 (MB, DB), six at Grand Bend Sept. 5 (DR, R. Brown) and singles at St. Catharines Aug. 4 (RWK, MEF *et al.*), Harrow Aug. 6 (JEF), P.P.P., Aug. 23 (RTo), Shirley's Bay Sept. 6-12 (BMD *et al.*), Amherst I., Sept. 18 (RKE) and Hamilton Sept. 26 (RC, GBr, KM).

Seven Long-billed Dowitchers and 24 Stilt Sandpipers were recorded. The two Stilt Sandpipers at the Dundas Marsh Oct. 31 were late (KM). Only six Buff-breasted were seen away from the extreme s w where 22 were in Rondeau Sept. 13 (PAW) and 14 in Pelee Oct. 2 (JB). Reports of Hudsonian Godwits totalled 35. Rarities included a Ruff at Rondeau Sept. 13 (PAW) and an Am. Avocet at Holiday Beach Nov. 2 (EC, ASW). Ottawa was the centre for N. Phalaropes as 30 were present in the last week of August (BMD) followed by nine at Strathroy Sept. 5 (WRJ, WG). Only six Reds were reported: Constance Bay Aug. 25, Dundas Marsh Aug. 29 (WC *et al.*), S.L.I., Sept. 15 & 19 (THi, DAS), Shirley's Bay Sept. 18-19 (BMD *et al.*), Cobourg Nov. 27-30 (ERM). Among the more noteworthy late records were four and one Semipalmated Plovers at Amherst I., and Dundas Marsh respectively Nov. 7 (K.F.N., WC, DAS) an Am. Woodcock at Shirley's Bay Nov. 30 (BMD), Solitary Sandpiper at Havelock Oct. 17 (AGC, CV), Least in *Durham* Nov. 15 (RTo, JM) and Wilson's Phalarope at Dundas Marsh Oct. 9 (KM). The 76 dowitchers at Kingston Nov. 27 were remarkable for their lateness as well as numbers and all were identified as Short-billed in spite of efforts to find a Long-billed (RBS, NS).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Thirty jaegers passed Kettle Pt./Sarnia Aug. 27-Nov. 27 consisting of two Pomarines, 23 Parasitics and five unidentified (DR, AR, KJB *et al.*). A Pomarine was at S L I, Nov. 9 (DAS) and Deep R., Nov. 16 (WW). Twelve Parasitics were at Hamilton Oct. 9 (RC, KM *et al.*) and singles at Pembroke, Whitby, Long Pt., Rondeau and L. Simcoe raised the season's total to 42. A Glaucous Gull at Port Stanley Sept. 20 was early (DR) as was a Kumlien's race Iceland at the Newtonville dump *Durham* Oct. 18 (AGC). Great Black-backed were numerous along the lower lakes, but inland an immature at Peterborough Aug. 15 (RDM) was their eighth ever and another at Sauble Beach/Wiarton Nov. 11-15 was unusual (JJ). Five Lesser Black-backed were seen, which is two above the fall average since 1976, at Ottawa Aug. 28 (BMD *et al.*), Port Stanley Sept. 5 (FG, WG), Kettle Pt., Oct. 30 (J & RS), Newtownville Nov. 5 (AGC) and Niagara Falls (*vide* RWK). There

was a sudden influx of 2600 Herring Gulls to Sudbury Nov 9 (JN). Four Thayer's were at the Nepean dump Nov. 13-24 (*vide* BMD), their regular area of occurrence, and four others were shared between Moose Factory Oct. 23 (RDM), Humber Bay P., Nov. 7 (CE & JEG), Lindsay Nov. 19—a first for *Victoria* (RDM) and Niagara Falls Nov 20 (MHE, PM, K.F.N.). Also at Niagara were up to three Black-headed during November (*vide* RWK).

At Sarnia, an ad. Ring-billed wore a yellow and orange wing tag #108 Sept. 4 (DR) and eight Franklin's were tallied Oct. 15 (PAY). Single Franklin's were at Erie Beach Sept. 26, Fort Erie Oct. 3, Niagara Falls Nov. 13 & 28 (RFÁ *et al.*) and Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 27 (CW, LW *et al.*). Bonaparte's were impressive as 10,000 were moving W along the n. side of Long Pt., Nov. 5 amid snow squalls (L.P.B.O.) and thousands swirled below Niagara Falls Nov 20 of which 97+% were adults (PM). Denis Rupert estimated only about 3% immatures among those passing Sarnia. Away from Niagara Falls, Little Gull reports numbered 26 of which 21 were from L. Erie and the rest from L. Ontario. Six Sabine's Gulls, all immatures, were at Burlington Oct. 9 (RC), Sarnia Oct. 15-16 and Nov. 13 (DR, KJB, MS *et al.*) and Ottawa Sept. 18-19 (RAF, THa).

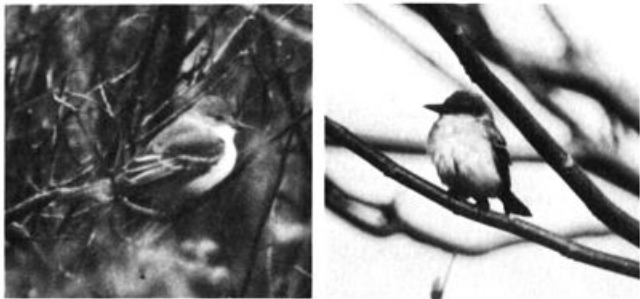
#### S.A.

The numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes seen in s. Ontario this autumn were amazing. They began at Hamilton with one immature Sept. 25 followed by ten immatures Oct. 9 and the next day E winds pushed 33 immatures inshore there (RC, KM *et al.*). Three kittiwakes were noted entering the mouth of the St. Clair R., at Sarnia Oct. 11, presumably heading towards L. Erie, and 12 more were there in October plus two in November (DR, PAY). Elsewhere, an immature was picked up alive on Nottawasaga Bay Simcoe in late October (*vide* CJM) and another was dead at Erie Beach Nov. 11 (*vide* RFA). An adult passed P.E.Pt., Nov. 6 (K.F.N.), two were at Ipperwash Nov. 13 (JPK) and an immature was on Amherst I., Nov. 15 (R. Tait). At least 69 reports were received and one wonders just how many there were over the expanse of the Great Lakes and entering the St. Clair R., when observers could not be on watch.

Single Forster's Terns were e. to P.P.P., Aug. 17 (WP), Shirley's Bay Sept. 18 (MR) and Amherst I., Oct. 17 (JHE *et al.*). Caspians made rare appearances in A.P.P., Aug. 4 (SE), Ottawa Aug. 25 (BMD), Pembroke Sept. 19 (JBo), and Moosonee Sept. 24 where there were five (RDM). The 300 Black Terns at Erie Beach Aug. 7 was an encouraging sight (*vide* RFA) and one was still at Fort Erie Oct. 30 (AS). A **Razorbill** at Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 27 (BD, KM *et al.*) was an outstanding sighting and the first since March 1972. Any alcid at any time of year on the Great Lakes is exciting.

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Single Mourning Doves, rare but regular along the James Bay coast, were in the Moosonee area Sept. 11, 16 & 23 (RDM). First arrivals in a light Snowy Owl movement were on Amherst I., Nov. 18 (SH) and Kettle Pt., Nov. 20 (*vide* AHK). Simultaneously at Cumberland Nov. 19, one Hawk Owl appeared (RMP). The Saw-whet flight, although well below the 1981 record, was above average. At Long Pt., 80 were banded (L.P.B.O.) while at P.E.Pt., there were 441 of which 224 were banded and processed in a massive push Oct. 15-17 (K.F.N.). A latest ever Whip-poor-will was at M.L., Oct. 1 (JN). Heavy Com. Night-hawk passage was noted. Some 400 were heading SE over Atikokan Aug. 5 (DE), 120 over Sudbury Aug. 13 (WM) and many migrated down the Humber Valley Aug. 15 (BW). The maximum Ruby-throated Hummingbird count was at Hawk Cliff where 255 passed in 3 hours Sept. 3 (BP). Late birds were at Atikokan Sept. 23 (DL), Sharbot L., Oct. 4 (*vide* SP) and Gravenhurst Oct. 16 (RLB).

**WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A Com. (Red-shafted) Flicker was seen on 3 occasions in Port Hope during August (ERM). Single Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Long Pt., Sept. 11 (L.P.B.O.) and Ottawa Nov. 10 (BMD) were the only two reported Black-backed Three-toeds irrupted into s.e. Ontario with 25+ reports in Ottawa alone (BMD) and birds s. to P.E.Pt., P.P.P., Cobourg, Whitby, Lakefield and Gravenhurst. Its cousin, the N. Three-toed, failed to follow and Ottawa reported only four (BMD). Ontario hosted a preminent array of western flycatchers this fall. A



Ash-throated Flycatcher, Whitby, Ont., Oct. 29, 1982. Photo/ R. Doug McRae (l). Gray Kingbird, Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 31, 1982. Photo/Paul Davidson (r).

**Gray Kingbird** at Ottawa Oct. 31 (ph. JW, EL, BMD *et al.*) was only the second confirmed for Canada. The W. Kingbird stayed in Toronto Sept. 29-Oct. 6 (GBe, m.ob.). Also obliging was the **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** at Deep R., Oct. 28-Nov. 14 (ph. WW *et al.*) bringing the year's total to two. Great excitement surrounded the two **Ash-throated Flycatchers**. The first was found at Whitby's Cranberry Marsh Oct. 29 (ph. JM, RDM) to provide Ontario's only photographic evidence, while the second, with less gray extending to the side of the neck, was found at P.E.Pt., Nov. 7 (M. Brown, RR, GV, RDW). The only previous Ontario record was at Pelee in November 1962. Extreme care should be taken with late autumn *Myiarchus* flycatchers. About 10,000 Tree Swallows were on Wolfe I., Sept. 26 (K.F.N.) and 750 Cliff at Port Rowan Aug. 29 (L.P.B.O.). A heavy Purple Martin movement occurred along Long Pt., Aug. 3-Sept. 14 led by 1900 Aug. 20 (L.P.B.O.). Indicative of the mild autumn were the swallow records, *viz.* Tree at Bath Nov. 13 (JHE, RDW), Bank at the Dundas Marsh to Oct. 24 (KM, RF) and Rough-winged at London Nov. 28 (GM, WRJ).

**JAYS THROUGH WRENS** — A juv. Gray Jay was at Tobermory Aug. 4 (DK), perhaps a peripatetic from M.I. Singles s. of the breeding range were in the Coldwater area Oct. 24 (EAM, CJM) and Wolfe I. (*vide* AEB). Crossing the strait W leaving M.L., Oct. 4 were 18 Com. Ravens (JN), the same day one appeared at Hamilton (G. Meyers). Another passed Hawk Cliff Oct. 17 (DEF), but numbers along the Bruce Pen. were normal (JJ). A steady passage of Black-capped Chickadees occurred at Rutherglen in August and November (LKL), but an irruption was not detected along L. Erie nor Ontario nor was it a flight year for Red-breasted Nuthatches. Louise Lawrence at Rutherglen wrote of these vociferous, mercurial birds moving in large numbers through the forests right to the end of the period. Only five Carolina Wrens were noted; in the Niagara area, Ajax and Pelee, but the 28 Short-billed Marsh Wrens at Richmond Aug. 7 was a surprise (BMD).

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — Rare but apparently regular was the Mockingbird Sept. 23 at Moose Factory (RDM). At Whitby, late mimids included a Gray Catbird Nov. 8 (D. Ruch) and Brown Thrasher Nov. 30 (DB). Over 400 E. Bluebirds were reported in widespread migration, 132 in the largest group at Hamilton Nov. 7 (KM). A Water Pipit at Long Pt., Aug. 6 (L.P.B.O.) was early and another in A.P.P., Nov. 21 (JJ, J. Miles) was late. Two Bohemian Waxwings at Moosonee Sept. 20 (RDM) and a single consorting with Cedars at Cranberry Marsh Oct. 30 (MB) were the only ones s. of Atikokan where arrivals on Nov. 7 & 13 were earliest dates (DE). A modest flight of N. Shrikes was noted and the 11 Loggerheads keep our hopes up for an improvement in the species' fortunes. One was still in Oshawa Nov. 30 (DC). A White-eyed Vireo was seen in Toronto Sept. 9 (GBe) and Bronte Oct. 10 (MJ), the same date one was killed at the Long Pt. Lighthouse (L.P.B.O.). Single ♂ Solitaires, perhaps perplexed by the spring-like weather, were still singing in A.P.P., Sept. 30 (RTo), at Kettle Pt., Oct. 24 (AHK) and the latest of several tardy Red-eyes was at P.E.Pt., Nov. 7 (K.F.N.). A Warbling Vireo was well n. of its normal range at Moosonee Sept. 19 for that area's first record (RDM).

**WARBLERS** — Late records overwhelm the warbler accounts and space limitations preclude listing them all. A N. Parula was at London Nov. 28 (*vide* WRJ), Yellow at Moosonee Sept. 27 (RDM), Black-throated Blue at Sudbury Oct. 3 (WM), Yellow-rumped still in the

breeding areas at Atikokan and A.P.P., Nov. 11 & 13 (DE, DS), Black-throated Green and Ovenbird at Hamilton Nov. 7 (*vide* KM) and N. Waterthrush at Long Pt., Oct. 31 (L.P.B.O.). Late Yellows at Moosonee are regular (RDM) and it is of interest to know which subspecies is involved since the species' migration through s. Ontario is virtually over by late August. The fall migration index at L.P.B.O., shows a sharp rise in this season's index over 1981 for 4 species *viz.* Tennessee 80/36, Magnolia 98/46, Bay-breasted 98/22, Blackpoll 81/42. Connecticut's numbered 14 killed at the Long Pt. lighthouse and 15 banded (L.P.B.O.) together with 15 reports from elsewhere. Among the rare warblers were a Prothonotary at Rondeau Sept. 6 (PAW), Brewster's hybrid at the Wye Marsh Sept. 8 (JT), Louisiana Waterthrush at Wolfe I., Aug. 16 (LW), three Yellow-breasted Chats at Long Pt., Aug. 7 and Sept. 1 & 12 (L.P.B.O.) and another at Forest Oct. 23 (AR), two Hoodeds at Long Pt., Aug. 23 & Sept. 15 (L.P.B.O.). Extralimital for any time of year was the **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Moosonee Oct. 14 for their first ever (ph. KA, RDM *et al.*). This wanderer was last seen Nov. 13 picking over bread at a feeder (WH). Farther s. but still n. of the usual range were two other Yellow-throateds at feeders in Kingston Nov. 23 (DOS) and Cornwall Nov. 29-Dec. 10 (ph. LH, *vide* BMD).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH CROSSBILLS** — Single Bobolinks were at the n. edge of their range at Moosonee Sept. 12, 15 & Oct. 23 (RDM). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Lindsay Sept. 9 (RDM, RH *et al.*) was the only one reported. Late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in Whitby to Oct. 30 (m.ob.) and Cornwall Nov. 1-7 (ph. BM). Another was n. to Moosonee Sept. 25 (RDM) where an Indigo Bunting appeared Oct. 12 for their second ever (RDM). A late Indigo was in Ottawa Oct. 31 (WEG). Four Dickcissels were at Long Pt., Sept. 26 (L.P.B.O.), Rondeau Oct. 19 (PAW), Aylmer Nov. 30 (PW *et al.*) and Amherstburg throughout November (BE). Most of the winter finches were scarce. Only a few Evening Grosbeaks moved S of a line joining North Bay to M.I., and the Purple Finch flight was also weak. House Finches disappeared from several areas of summer concentration, perhaps the source of the 225 at St. Catharines Nov. 20 (MEF). Two early Pine Grosbeaks were in A.P.P., Oct. 6 followed by one at Kettle Pt., Oct. 26 (AHK) and another at Cyprus Lake P.P., Oct. 31 was accompanied by 20 Com. Redpolls (MP), the only report. Red Crossbills were regular and common on the e. side of A.P.P., in September and October (RTo) and a few were near Sudbury Sept. 12 and Nov. 11 (HB, JN) and Atikokan Oct. 15 (DE). White-winged numbered 650 at Moosonee from Oct. 25 (RDM, WH) and a few others were reported from S.L.I., A.P.P., Bowmanville and Sudbury.

**SPARROWS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING** — Four Le Conte's Sparrows were good finds at Long Pt., Aug. 18 and Nov. 7 (L.P.B.O.), Bronte Sept. 17 (MJ) and Toronto Oct. 16 (ADo) as were the six Sharp-taileds at Oshawa, Deep R., Dundas Marsh, Pembroke, Shirley's Bay and S.L.I., Sept. 21-Oct. 27. This species is probably often overlooked. A Clay-colored appeared at Barrie Aug. 22 (EAM, CJM) and another was killed at the Long Pt. lighthouse Sept. 16-17 (L.P.B.O.). Field Sparrows are accidental at Thunder Bay so the two there Sept. 26 were a good find (MJM) as was one in A.P.P., Oct. 9 (BC). An early White-crowned was in Gravenhurst Aug. 16 (RLB) and the Lapland Longspur on Amherst I., Sept. 18 was the earliest ever for the Kingston area (K.F.N.). Snow Buntings were widespread after mid-October in average numbers.

**CORRIGENDUM** — The Long-billed Dowitcher (AB 36: 847, 1982) was seen at Port Stanley and not Strathroy.

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## NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

The fall started out dry and, in most of the Region, unseasonably cold. The upper Susquehanna Valley was nipped by frost as early as August 22 and 28, although some reporters gloated over pleasantly late first frost dates. This early cold snap stimulated strong early movements of many migrants. Generally mild conditions then prevailed until late October and induced some birds to linger into November, including more than a dozen species of shorebirds. Because conditions were generally balmy few groundings were noted. Nonetheless a fine array of shorebirds was located and an exceptional influx of maritime species occurred. Atlas work produced several new late nesting dates in New York while in Vermont nocturnal migrant counts hint at the possible role of the Connecticut River valley as a migration corridor.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — As usual the Rochester area hosted the best concentrations of Com. Loons with several counts of 2-300 birds. Fewer Red-throated Loons and Red-necked Grebes were reported than usual but the peak Horned Grebe count, also from the Rochester area, was a healthy 300. At least one imm. Gannet frequented L. Ontario between Rochester and Derby Hill Oct. 16-Nov. 28 (m.ob.). Montezuma N.W.R.'s White Pelican lingered through October while another appeared briefly at Eldorado Shores Aug. 1 (SK, *vide* G.O.S.). The phenomenal growth of the Little Gallo I., Double-crested Cormorant colony, which now numbers 595 nests (LC), accounted for some exceptional tallies on e. Lake Ontario. Best counts were of 500 off Pillar Pt., Aug. 8 (DO) and 217 at Derby Hill Oct. 16 (FS). Vermont led all areas with 35 Great Blue Herons at Dead Creek W.M.A., 18 Green Herons at Shelburne Pond in August (J & MD) and 58 Cattle Egrets on Grand I. (DC).

The appearance of a Cattle Egret at Newstead Nov. 24 (DF, *vide* B.O.S.) was less surprising than this species' apparent failure to successfully colonize the w. New York marshes to date. Scattered reports of up to four Great Egrets were received, the latest Oct. 12. Single Snowy Egrets were seen at Montezuma N.W.R., in August, and in Vermont on the Missisquoi R., Sept. 14 (TM) and at Roundy's Cove just n. of Herrick's Cove Sept. 24 (WN).

A somewhat tardy Black-crowned Night Heron tarried at Rochester until Oct. 31. Both American and Least bitterns were scarcely reported, single birds at Iroquois N.W.R., and Winooski, Vt., constituting the sole sightings of the latter species. A Glossy Ibis that checked into a pond in Weston, Vt., Aug. 24 (RF *et al.*) and another at the mouth of the Winooski R., Sept. 5 (JM) constituted the only records. This species has remained surprisingly rare as a vagrant considering the health of coastal breeding populations.

**WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS** — Mute Swans put in late fall appearances at 3 New York localities: Fair Haven, Cayuga L., and Perch River W.M.A., the latter area hosting three birds. While this species flourishes in mid-Atlantic coastal areas, it continues to be rare in our Region even during fall when post-breeding movements might be expected. A modest flight of Brant was noted along L. Ontario, best counts being made in early November. The concern that increasing Mallard populations in the e. may genetically swamp Black Duck populations is considered unfounded by some. Consider, however, that 180,000 of the former staged at Montezuma N.W.R., this fall. Other puddle duck tallies were unremarkable. Despite mild



conditions most diving ducks were well reported, scaup, White-winged and Surf scoters, Ruddy Ducks and Hooded Mergansers making the best showings. The season's only rarity was a Harlequin Duck seen Oct. 18 on L. George (KO, *vide* MP).

No influx of Goshawks was noted in the Region although they reportedly (*vide* NC) staged an invasion of the Great Lakes states. Only a few Rough-legged Hawks had been noted by the close of the period. The occurrence of two immatures and an ad. Golden Eagle over Deer Leap near Bristol, Vt., Nov. 4 (MM, GS) was followed 6 days later by the appearance of another immature (MM, JS). No other Golden was reported but there were 15+ sightings of Bald Eagles (mostly color-marked released birds) from more than 6 localities. Marsh Hawks and Osprey were well reported, both lingering into November. Imagine the odds against a dark-phase Gyrfalcon colliding with a plane at the Buffalo airport—\*Buffalo Museum of Science. Other falcon encounters involved 24± Peregrines, eight Merlins, and, Sept. 3 at Dead Dreek W.M.A., 25 Am. Kestrels. The latter is an excellent count even for the L. Champlain valley. Few areas of Vermont are capable of supporting such a density. Spruce Grouse were reported from known breeding locations in New York and Vermont. A "possibly" Gray Partridge was seen near Herrick's Cove (WN). Any specific information regarding past extralimital releases of this species anywhere would be much appreciated.

**CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS** — A Sandhill Crane visited Montezuma N.W.R., Aug. 25 (VD, RS) continuing the pattern of regular occurrences. Although annual since 1975, the sightings show no regular pattern, occurring in all seasons. Although Piping Plovers have been extirpated as a breeding species and are very rare even as migrants, an immature appeared at Eldorado Shores (GAS). Peak Killdeer counts at Dead Creek W.M.A., and Cocksackie, 150 and 80 birds respectively, were well below the record of 300. Surprisingly enough the 2 tallies were more than 2 months apart, Aug. 8 & Oct. 10 respectively. A fine fallout of larger shorebirds was recorded amidst the usual protestations of "no habitat" and "no flight." Up to 26 Hudsonian Godwits were present on Onondaga L., in mid-September while another 6 or more visited the Rochester area. While no Marbled Godwits accompanied them, an extraordinary number of Whimbrels was noted during the same period, most along the Ontario lake plains. Up to 58 were tallied in flight at Hamlin Beach S.P., Sept. 15 (CP, BS), while groups of one to 11 were found at 3 other locations Aug. 25-Sept. 26. Willets apparently pass over earlier since all 3 w. and c. New York sightings (1-2 birds each) came in mid-August. Vermont had 2 fall sightings, one at Dead Creek W.M.A., in late July (J & MD) and another on the Winooki R. delta Oct. 9 (JM). While thousands must fly over the Region each fall, we normally consider ourselves fortu-

nate to have any records of the 3 aforementioned species

Many, but not all, of the smaller shorebirds were also well represented this fall, particularly from Dead Creek W.M.A., where a management drawdown attracted birds and birders in seldom-seen numbers. Best tallies there included 18 Baird's Sandpipers Sept. 16 (FO *et al.*), a regional record, 220 Least Sandpipers Aug. 29 (WE *et al.*), 22 Dunlin Sept. 13, (J & MD), and at least two Wilson's and up to nine N. Phalaropes (WE, m.ob.). In c. New York, W. Sandpipers put on a strong showing, up to 3/day late August-early September; Red Knots were exceptionally common with 2-8/day in late August up to 59 by mid-September at Rochester; 2-3 Long-billed Dowitchers were found in September and October and Wilson's and N. phalaropes were found in small numbers in many localities until Nov. 6 & Oct. 3, respectively. Rarities included 2 sightings of Buff-breasted Sandpipers in the Rochester area the first half of September, and another at Colchester, Vt., Sept. 4 (JM) and two at Dead Creek W.M.A., Sept. 7 (WCS), a Ruff at Montezuma N.W.R., Aug. 25 (VD, *fide* WB) and another possible Ruff seen briefly in flight at Dead Creek W.M.A., Sept. 6 (FO, WN *et al.*) the latter Vermont's first, if correct. Mild weather induced numerous shorebirds to linger, including 50 Pectoral Sandpipers still present at Rochester Nov. 2 (CC), and may have delayed the arrival of Purple Sandpipers. The latter, best considered a regular vagrant on L. Ontario, was not recorded there this year until Nov. 24. In Vermont, however, it was discovered near McKuen's Slang Nov. 6 (JA), the state's first in many years.

**GULLS THROUGH OWLS** — Although pelagic Larids occur regularly on the e. Great Lakes as fall vagrants, this year's influx, particularly on e. L. Ontario was little short of an invasion. Parasitic remained the most common jaeger, with well over 50 sightings Aug. 10 (extremely early)-Nov. 24. Virtually all the sightings were made between Eldorado Beach and Rochester, only a single bird being reported on L. Erie. Pomarine Jaegers also put in an excellent showing with 25 ± sightings Sept. 16-Nov. 24 on L. Ontario. The biggest surprise, however, was the Black-legged Kittiwake invasion. Over 150 sightings were reported Sept. 16-Nov. 24. Best counts came from Derby Hill and Sandy Pond on the s.e. L. Ontario shore where 132 were tallied Oct. 10-23 alone (*fide* PD), 29 of them Oct. 16 (FS). Despite the relatively large number of birds involved, little evidence of the invasion was observed farther w., and only a single bird was seen on L. Erie at Dunkirk Harbor. Only two of the kittiwakes were reported as adults and it is assumed that the remainder were, as usual, immatures. Other rarities included a Black-headed Gull at Niagara Falls during mid-November (RK, *fide* B.O.S.), Lesser Black-backed Gulls Oct. 13 at the Colonie landfill (WS, *fide* BC) and the Tompkins County dump Nov. 13 (JC *et al.*, *fide* WB), single Franklin's Gulls near Rochester in November and Buffalo in September and November, and the now-expected array of Little Gulls along L. Ontario from early September on. A Glaucous Gull at Dunkirk Harbor Sept. 4 (TDM, FR) was very early, particularly for L. Erie, while a Com. Tern at Charlotte until at least Nov. 8 was exceptionally late, its tardiness apparently induced by a wing injury (R.B.A., G.O.S.). Only a half dozen Forster's Terns were reported, but a fine flight of Caspian Terns occurred, particularly at Rochester where up to 30/day could be seen in August (R.B.A.).

Any Alcid seen in the Region is newsworthy, so the occurrence of two this fall must be considered unusual, despite the influx of other pelagics. Observers (FS *et al.*) at Derby Hill Oct. 21 were treated to views of a **Thick-billed Murre** which landed offshore, and a **Razorbill** seen Nov. 27 at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. (*fide* B.O.S.) must surely have at least violated our airspace prior to its arrival. Both presumably traveled up the St. Lawrence R., since no weather induced "wrecks" were noted elsewhere. An adult and two young Barn Owls were found, unfortunately dead, in a silo at Perch River W.M.A. (SB, *fide* LC) in Jefferson County, well n. of most recent New York sightings. The only other records this fall were of one in Ithaca (*fide* WB) and two in New Haven, Vt. (DC). A few Snowy Owls were noted Nov. 14+ but very few Long-eared or Short-eared owls were reported. A Saw-whet Owl which 'stooped' repeatedly on your editor at dusk near Saxtons River, was one of 6 ± recorded, all in the e. portion of the Region.

**GOATSUCKERS THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Whip-poor-wills heard Sept. 11 at Ferrisburg (J & MD) and flushed Oct. 3 at Andover (WN) both exceeded previous Vermont late departure dates. A pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fledged two young in August in Allegany County (A.C.B.C.) and two lingered until early

October (H P A S ) The 16 Red-bellied Woodpeckers tallied in Sterling, N.Y. (FS) indicated at least a locally-thriving population but the species has been unreported recently in areas on the n. fringe of its range. Red-headed Woodpeckers, on the other hand, were found in the Champlain Valley (sev.ob.) and at Tupper R., high in the Adirondacks (CD). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker flight through c. New York was termed the best since 1977 (PD) but was apparently unremarkable elsewhere. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were well reported, only two on Willsboro Pt., L. Champlain (RM, *fide* H.P.A.S.) and another at Fairfax, Vt., being clearly vagrant. Only a single N. Three-toed Woodpecker was noted, in the Adirondacks.

A **Western Kingbird** appeared Oct. 3 at Canadaigua (RD, *fide* R.B.A.) while an Acadian Flycatcher was identified somehow at Venice Sept. 1 (SK, *fide* WB). Two tardy Tree Swallows foraged over Round Pond near Rochester Nov. 27 (KG).

Six Gray Jays were banded at Ferdinand, Vt. (MFM) and five were seen in the Town of Webb, N.Y., both known breeding areas. At Jenny L. (RY, *fide* BC), a nest of Blue Jays fledged Aug. 18, more than 2 weeks past the previous New York record, while a brood of Black-capped Chickadees that fledged Aug. 13 was 10 days later than ever. The Fish Crows continued at Ithaca. Common Ravens were widely reported, extralimital reports including two in the Catskills and 6 ± sightings in Allegany County where breeding could be imminent. Tufted Titmice continue to increase along the n. border of their range and expansion into mountainous areas bypassed in the original invasion seems also to be occurring. Red-breasted Nuthatches were generally sparse but at Jenny L., fledglings left their nesting cavity Aug. 22 (RY, *fide* BC) setting yet another New York record.

**THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS** — A Wood Thrush at Selkirk Shores S.P., Oct. 30 (FS) was rather tardy but the general absence of lingering thrushes was apparent, a result perhaps of a mediocre berry crop. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher found Nov. 28 at Durand-Eastman P. (MD, WL) set a new state and Regional late departure record. Although flocks of up to 500 Cedar Waxwings were noted in several locations in September, with berries scarce, few lingered through the season. An exception was at Ithaca where many fed throughout early November. A modest influx of handsome, and in one instance singing, N. Shrikes commenced in early November. No Loggerhead Shrikes were seen away from the nesting area on Pt. Breeze where apparently only one of this year's young survived. A White-eyed Vireo banded Oct. 4 at Ithaca (*fide* WB) was unusual and late. A wave of migrants Sept. 1 flooded Venice, N.Y., with ten Philadelphia Vireos, 90 Tennessee and 110 Cape May warblers, all recorded in the span of 2 hrs (SK). Notables included a Prothonotary Warbler in Island Cottage Woods near Rochester in late August (m.ob.), a banded 6 year old Black-and-white Warbler that struck a Woodstock, Vt. window in late October (GM, *fide* WE), six Orange-crowned Warblers and three Connecticut Warbler reports (one banded). Atlas workers produced several exceptionally late nesting warbler records including a Magnolia nest with 5 eggs Aug. 29 (EB), a month and a half late, and a "Myrtle" Warbler nest that fledged young Sept. 6 (RY, *fide* BC), 3 weeks past the previous record. Few warblers lingered past usual departure dates, despite a mild September and October, most apparently taking their cue from the August frosts. In e.c. Vermont nocturnal counts of migrants overhead (by flight calls) showed a preponderance of movement near the Connecticut R. valley with much lower counts away from the river valley (WE). Clearly here is an avenue deserving further investigation, preferably with simultaneous ceilometer counts.

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS** — Four hundred migrant Bobolinks at Dead Creek W.M.A., Aug. 12 (J & MD) was probably a record Vermont count. In c. New York the species, normally one of the earliest Icterids to depart, lingered until mid-October in at least 2 localities. The W. Meadowlark and Orchard Orioles continued to be found at Pt. Breeze until mid-August. Despite mild mid-fall weather only one N. Oriole was noted lingering until mid-November. More unusual was the Rose-breasted Grosbeak at an Alfred feeder during the same period (CK). Surprising also was the fact that the season's only Dickcissel, at Woodstock, Vt., Oct. 21 (WE) was not at a feeder. Most winter finches were only sparingly reported, if at all, Am. Goldfinches being a notable exception, at least in w. New York. House Finches are making pests of themselves at many feeders as they continue to expand, apparently unchecked, from one urban area to another. A Henslow's Sparrow at Greece



Sept. 9 (MD) was the only sighting. This secretive species is, not surprisingly, seldom noted in fall making its true departure dates something of a mystery. Chipping Sparrows staged a strong flight through e. Vermont late September-mid-October (WE *et al.*). Although Lapland Longspurs arrived early, Oct. 10 at Coxsackie (*vide* BC), very few were noted thereafter. Snow Buntings were also generally scarce.

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## APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was a mild and benign fall season, but it was also one of the dullest ornithological seasons in recent years. The weather certainly was ideal but there were no great waves of migrants, and no signs of an influx of northern species.

August was generally drier than usual, except in the Knoxville area where the period began with local flooding, and had near-normal or slightly below temperatures. September was drier than normal and cooler than normal at Pittsburgh weather station. October was much drier than normal with a deficiency of over two inches at Pittsburgh, but had normal temperatures. November was much warmer and slightly wetter than normal. There had been practically no snowfall in the north by the end of the period and most of the fall was pleasantly warm and mild.

There were no pronounced frontal systems moving through, and so the bird migration lacked the spectacular events of other years. The passerines started to move south in mid-August and there were larger-than-normal peaks in late August. The first really good wave of passerines came September 3-5 at both the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (hereafter, A.F.M.O.) in *Grant*, W.Va., and at Norris, Tenn. Another good peak of movement was September 19-22 at the same two places. The peak of the hawk migration seemed to occur about September 19 at most places. Warbler migration was still in evidence in early October. However, the waterfowl movement was very poor, probably because of the mild weather in late October and November. There was a sprinkling of late dates for various species, but there were not as many of these as in other years.

As is usual in the fall season much of the quantitative data comes from the two big banding stations: Powdermill Nature Reserve, Ligonier, Pa. (hereafter, P.N.R.) and A.F.M.O. Two other stations contributing data were at Presque Isle S.P., Pa. (hereafter, P.I.S.P.) and Norris, Tenn. The station at P.N.R. had its best year ever with 10,129 birds banded (best day, October 10 with 364 bandings—RCL). The results at A.F.M.O. were not up to last year's record 9000+ with only 6708 birds banded (best day August 30 with 449 bandings—GAH). At Norris 823 birds were banded, somewhat higher than last year (CN), but at P.I.S.P., the 200 birds banded represented the worst season since the start of that operation (RFL).

Place names in italics are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH HERONS** — Common Loons were generally in low numbers, but totals of 26 on Oct. 16 and 121 Nov. 13 flying past the Tuscarora Mt., Pa. hawk lookout were noteworthy (CG). Two Red-necked Grebes were seen at L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 15 (JG). The Double-crested Cormorant continues to appear in the Region more commonly than in the past. This season 9 localities from P.I.S.P., in the n. to Nickajack Dam, Tenn., in the s. reported them from mid-September to late November.

Seven localities reported Great Egrets in the late summer, and the numbers seen begin to approach those of some 20 years ago. Snowy Egrets were reported from Kingston, Tenn., Aug. 9 (PHA, K & LD), and one at P.I.S.P., Oct. 3 represented the first fall record there (SS). Little Blue Herons were reported from Salem, Va., Aug. 17-22 (NM), Troutville, Va., mid-August (MWO), Hiwassee Recreational Area,



Tenn., Aug. 23 (RS), and Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 25 (J & BM). Cattle Egrets were found at Pymatuning L., Pa., three Oct. 31 and one to Nov. 13 (m.ob.); from near Barnesville, O., two Nov. 3-29 (ME), *Rowan*, Ky., late November (FB), and Shenandoah L., Va., Oct. 23 (R.B.C.). The most unusual heron records were of Yellow-crowned Night Herons from *Cumberland*, Pa., Sept. 2 (SS), *Warren*, Pa. (first local record), Oct. 15 (WHI), *Austin Springs*, Tenn., Oct. 15 (SG & MD); *Knoxville*, Tenn., Oct. 24 and *Ft. Foudon*, Tenn., Oct. 25 (A & JM); and *P.N.R.*, Pa., Nov. 5 (RCL & RM). American Bitterns were reported from *State College*, Pa., Oct. 27 (BA); *Marietta*, O., Aug. 9 (CB); *Rowan*, Ky., Sept. 8, and Nov. 8 & 10 (FB); and *Austin Springs*, Tenn., Sept. 28-Oct. 21 (GE).

**WATERFOWL** — The waterfowl migration was not very good, even for this Region which usually has low numbers. At Erie Pa., counts of 350 Whistling Swans and 800 Redheads Nov. 6, 2000 Scaup Oct. 16 and 4000 mergansers Nov. 13 were labelled "unimpressive" and far below normal (GM). The mild fall probably kept many ducks in the n. until the end of the period. The Whistling Swan migration was only moderate with concentrations reported only from Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 13 (RFL), *Sheffield*, Pa., Nov. 9 (NS), and *Butler*, Pa., Nov. 15 (MG) and 123 flying by the Tuscarora Mt. lookout Nov. 27 (CG). Unusual records were of one at *State College*, Pa., in August (KJ), and P.I.S.P., Sept. 21 (JB) & Sept. 24 (SS). There were several out-of-range records: *Princeton*, W.Va., Nov. 21 (JP); *Rockingham*, Va., Oct. 22 (R.B.C.); *Roanoke*, Va., Nov. 28 (JA); and *Savannah Bay*, Tenn., Nov. 16-23 (LD). The flight of Canada Geese was about average. The only large flock reported was 300 over *Sheffield*, Pa., Oct. 28 (NS), but at the Tuscarora Mt. lookout small flocks were seen Sept. 19-Oct. 23 with a total of 186 Oct. 2 (CG). At Pymatuning L., Pa., the peak number was 8000 Nov. 20 (down somewhat—RFL). Up to three Brant were seen at P.I.S.P., Nov. 3-26 (GM, SS) and at

Edinboro L., Pa., Nov. 13 (DS). Snow Geese were reported from Wooster, O., Oct. 11 (JBr); Berkeley, W.Va., Nov. 15 (RD); Botetourt, Va., Nov. 20 (NM); Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 20 (RFL); and Hooversville, Pa., Nov. 24 (RSa).

Of the more unusual ducks a Eur. Wigeon was seen at Savannah Bay, Tenn., Nov. 20-30+ (LD, AD). Oldsquaws were at Lock Haven Nov. 20 (CH) and Rowan, Ky., Nov. 18-29 (FB). Black Scoters were at P.I.S.P., Oct. 16-Nov. 20 with a high of five Oct. 16 (GM), and at Lock Haven, Pa., Oct. 24 (CH). Surf Scoters were reported from Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., Oct. 13 (JMc) and P.I.S.P., Oct. 13 & 23 (GM), and White-winged Scoters were at P.I.S.P., Oct. 16-Nov. 30+ (DS) and at Savannah Bay, Tenn., Nov. 2 (LD).

**RAPTORS** — The autumn hawk flight through the Appalachians was not as heavy as last year. Data from the major lookouts are summarized in Table 1. Despite the generally low numbers, there were some striking exceptions. At Mendota Tower, Va., 9182 Broad-wingeds were counted Sept. 22, with 7454 of these coming through between 12 noon and 1 p.m. (TF). At Bear Rocks, W.Va. (A.F.M.O.) 1984 Broad-wingeds came through in the hour of 3-4 p.m., Sept. 19 (GP). At Townsend, Tenn., 1845 Turkey Vultures were counted between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m., Oct. 21 (GW & HW).

Goshawks were unusually common, with a total of 17 counted through the season at Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG), and one at Elizabethton, Tenn., Aug. 21-25, was remarkably early for a migrant (GE & HF). Two Swallow-tailed Kites were seen near Santee, Ga., in early August (*vide* TM). Rough-legged Hawks were not as common in the n. as in some years but one was seen as far s. as Wise, Va., Nov. 20 (RP). A total of 36 Bald Eagles was reported from 21 localities with five in one day, Sept. 22 at Mendota Tower, Va. (ES). A total of 39 Golden Eagles was sighted at Tuscarora Mt., with nine Nov. 13 and eight Nov. 14 (CG). Other Golden Eagle sightings were from Hooversville, Pa., two Oct. 22 (RSa); East River Mt., Va. (JP); Bear Rocks, W.Va., Sept. 11 & 19 (GP); Washington Mon. S. P., Md. (L & TD); and Botetourt, Va., Oct. 31 (BO). Peregrines were reported from Pleasant Gap, Pa., Aug. 15 (PS); Allegheny, Pa., Oct. 26 (DF); State College, late September (ES); Tuscarora Mt., two Sept. 24 (CG); Washington, Md., Oct. 8 & 14 (L & TDo); Kennedy Peak, Va., Sept. 25 (CZ); Signal Peak, Tenn., Oct. 9 (KD & LK); and Kingston, Tenn., Oct. 11 (KD).

Table 1. Hawk Migration, Appalachian Region, Fall 1982

	Days Obs.	Sh-Sh. <sup>1</sup>	Br-wg. <sup>2</sup>	Br-wg. high	Total
Tuscarora Summit, Pa. (CG)	85	1032	2498	948 (9/19)	4883
Washington Mon. S.P., Md. (T & LDo)	*	1657	1470	* (9/19)	4626
Bear Rocks, W.Va. (GP)	16	72	7953	2880 (9/19)	8120
East River Mt., W.Va. (JP)	12	24	1127	*	1187
Peters Mt., W.Va. (GH)	16	93	3545	*	3711
Kennedy Peak, Va. (CZ)	8	38	1897	1098 (9/12)	2029
Reddish Knob, Va. (CM)	3	11	478	235 (9/13)	586
Harvey's Knob, Va. (DP)	73	1114	7953	1762 (9/22)	10,055
Rockfish Gap, Va. (MH)	*	*	4300	1218 (9/24)	
Chilowee Mt., Tenn. (AHO)	21	25	1183	258 (9/19)	1507**
Tennessee, 17 lookouts (LF)	*	86	6072	1174 (9/17)	6412

1. Sharp-shinned Hawk.  
\* Data not submitted

2. Broad-winged Hawk  
\*\* includes both vultures

**CRANES AND SHOREBIRDS** — Early Sandhill Cranes were at Dalton, Ga., Oct. 27 (HD), while 60 were seen there Nov. 29 (DC & HW), at Chattanooga, Tenn., 700+ were counted Nov. 14-28 (*vide* RS), and at Knoxville, 510 Nov. 4-25 (*vide* CN). The Caribbean Coot



American Avocet, Garrett Co., Md., Aug. 9, 1982, first fall and documented county record. Photo/F. Pope.

reported from Chattanooga last year was present again this fall (JSt).

In general, shorebird watching was not particularly good. The normal rainfall in late summer made for an absence of good feeding sites. There were some interesting records however. There were many more than the usual number of records of Am. Golden Plover, White-rumped and Baird's sandpipers and Sanderling. The Pectoral Sandpiper was unusually abundant for this region. The records of rarer species were: Piping Plover, Kingston Tenn., Aug. 7-4 (L & MA); Hudsonian Godwit, Kingston, Aug. 16 (BS); Red Knot, Woodcock L., Pa., Sept. 8 (RFL), P.I.S.P., Aug. 29, Sept. 1 & 11 (GM, SS); Stilt Sandpiper, Pymatuning L., Pa., Sept. 26-29 (RFL, SF), P.I.S.P., Aug. 28-29 and Sept. 24 (GM, SS), Roanoke, Va., Aug. 7 (BK); Purple Sandpiper, P.I.S.P., Nov. 13 (GM, KA); Willet, P.I.S.P., Aug. 14 (KA & JBa); Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Sept. 18-19 (MW, CH & MC); Roanoke Sept. 9 (MP), and Kingston Sept. 12 (LF); N. Phalaropes were seen at P.I.S.P., Aug. 23 (GB), Knoxville Sept. 1 (CN); and Wilson's Phalaropes were at Cumberland, Pa., Sept. 14 (SS) and Kingston Aug. 26 (m.ob.). There were 3 reports of avocets: Washington, Pa., Aug. 9 (TFe); Garrett, Md., Aug. 9 (FPO), and Kingston Aug. 9 & 21 (m.ob.).

The only interesting gull records from P.I.S.P., on L. Erie this season were of Little Gulls Nov. 6, 20 & 28 (GM, SS, JiS). The most unusual gull record came from L. Somerset, in the mountains, where a Black-legged Kittiwake was seen Sept. 23 (RM). There were over 2500 Ring-billed Gulls at Pymatuning L., in late November (RFL). There were many more than the usual number of reports of Caspian Terns, and up to three Forster's Terns were at P.I.S.P., Aug. 17-Nov. 6 (GM).

**CUCKOOS AND OWLS** — Both cuckoo species remained at low numbers. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo feeding young Sept. 13 in Washington, Md., was unusually late (L & TDo).

Barn Owl reports came from Allegheny, Pa. (DF), Rote, Pa. (PS), Lewisburg, W.Va. (CHa), and Stuart's Draft, Va. (MH) and Lyndhurst, Va. (JHi). At Clarksville, Pa., Great Horned Owl populations were increasing (RB) but no other reporters mentioned this species. Short-eared Owls were at P.I.S.P., Oct. 20 (DS) & Nov. 2 (GM); at State College, Nov. 1 (DM); at Rockingham, Va., Nov. 7 (R.B.C.); at Wooster, O., three on Nov. 30 (JBr), and at Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 25 (2nd local record) (RK). A Saw-whet Owl was banded at A.F.M.O., Aug. 19 (GAH) and an injured one was found at Hagerstown, Md., Nov. 24 (L & TDo). Other records were in Greenbrier, W.Va., Oct. 15 (DW) and at Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 2 (VD).

**NIGHTHAWKS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND WOODPECKERS** — The migration of Com. Nighthawks was not impressive anywhere and the only large concentration was of 2500 seen at Waynesboro, Va., Sept. 1 (MH). The flight was rather prolonged and 2 late observations were of 15 at Pittsburgh Oct. 5 (E & KP), eight at Waynesboro, Va., Oct. 12 (MH) and two at Chattanooga Oct. 30 (RS). At Chattanooga a concentration of 5000+ Chimney Swifts was seen Oct. 16 (LK). At P.N.R., 97 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded with the last Sept. 29. This is 33% above the average (RCL). At A.F.M.O. 159 were netted but not banded (GAH).

The Red-headed Woodpecker continues to decline and only 7 localities reported it. Most of the records now come from the Shenan-

doah Valley, Va., but elsewhere only a scattered few occur. After extending its range into Crawford in n. Pennsylvania the Red-bellied Woodpecker has apparently retreated from that area, but continues to do well in the Ligonier Valley, Pa. (RCL). The migration of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was below normal at both P.N.R. (RCL) and A.F.M.O. (GAH). The Hairy Woodpecker continues its slow but steady decline in numbers.

**FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS** — It was a good season for the smaller flycatchers. At P.N.R., all the *Empidonax* species were in above-average numbers, and elsewhere there were more sight records than usual for the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. At Clarksville, Pa., 25 E. Phoebes were banded, a record number, as was the 16 E. Wood Pewees banded there (RB). Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from State College, Pa. (KJ), P.N.R. (two banded—RCL), P.I.S.P. (RH), Augusta, Va. (LT), Botetourt, Va., Wooster, O. (JBr) and A.F.M.O. (one banded—GAH). The most spectacular flycatcher record was of a Say's Phoebe at State College, Pa., Oct. 8 (BA).

There were some late observations of swallows: Cliff Swallow Oct. 17 at Greensburg, Pa. (DSm); Barn Swallow Oct. 9 L. Arthur, Pa. (DF), Oct. 20 at P.I.S.P. (DS); Oct. 7 Austin Springs, Tenn. (RK); Rough-winged Swallow Oct. 16 P.I.S.P. (KA), and Leetown, W. Va., Oct. 19 (RD). The Com. Raven continues to increase in w. Pennsylvania and there were several low elevation sightings in the Elizabethton, Tenn. area (GE).

**TITMICE THROUGH MOCKINGBIRDS** — There was a small S movement of Black-capped Chickadees through w. Pennsylvania (RCL) and n. West Virginia (GAH). This species occasionally moves S in numbers but the Carolina Chickadee is normally thought to be strictly sedentary. However, three were banded at P.N.R. (RCL), and one at A.F.M.O. (GAH), both areas well out of the normal range. After the heavy flight of last year, Red-breasted Nuthatches were essentially absent from the Region. Only two were banded at A.F.M.O., and few were heard there. Most areas reported only one or two if any sightings.

The Carolina Wren is still in low numbers in the n. although records came from as far n. as Warren, Pa. (WH). There were no reports of Bewick's Wren. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were reported at some rather late dates: Nov. 11 Shenandoah L., Va. (R.B.C.); Nov. 13 Athens, W. Va. (JP); and Nov. 14 (P.I.S.P. (KW) and earlier this species had been more common than usual. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were found at Hebron, O., Sept. 15 (CB); Botetourt, Va., Sept. 25 (BO & BK); Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 6-15 (GE); and Knoxville, high count of five Oct. 11 (PHt & KM). A Mockingbird was at Sheffkeld, Pa., Nov. 5-30 (NS).

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — At both A.F.M.O. (GAH) and P.N.R. (RCL), as well as at Norris, Tenn. (CN) all thrush species were banded in above-average numbers. At P.N.R., the 619 Swainson's Thrushes banded was 93% above average but at A.F.M.O., the 518 was only 8% above. On the other hand at P.I.S.P., very few thrushes were banded (RFL) and they were uncommon or missing at Waynesboro, Va. (RSn). A late Swainson's Thrush was seen Nov. 7 in Westmoreland, Pa. (DSm). There was a concentration of 3000 Am. Robins at Jefferson, Pa., Nov. 1 (RB) and a roost at Sheloceta, Pa., peaked at 12,000 birds Oct. 26 (R & MHj). Eastern Bluebirds still had young in the nest at Bald Eagle, S.P., Pa., Aug. 7 (PS).

Both kinglet species were thought to be in low numbers at most places, but the bandings at P.N.R. were well above average (RCL). Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen at Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., in August (MK), early for a migrant but is there a nesting population there? Cedar Waxwings were abundant almost everywhere. At P.N.R., a total of 1245 was banded with 296 on one day (RCL). Water Pits were seen in Rowan, Ky., Oct. 22 (FB) the first local record; other records came from several spots in the Shenandoah Valley in West Virginia (RD) and Virginia (R.B.C.), and an interesting record of 110 at L. Somerset, Pa., Oct. 24 (DR *et al.*).

The only report of N. Shrike was from Warren, Pa., Nov. 18 (DPA). The Loggerhead Shrike appears to be a vanishing species, so it is worthwhile to list all of the records: Crawford, Pa., Aug. 17—one (CNi), Butler, Pa., Sept. 20—one (FL); Blacksburg, Va., Oct. 9 & 15 (JMu), Elizabethton, Tenn. area—one bird (GE); Knoxville, several in area and five Sept. 26 (CN); and in Rockingham, Va., the only place with numbers, a total of ten from 6 localities (R.B.C.).

The commoner vireo species were in about average numbers and

the rarer Philadelphia Vireo was reported more often than usual by field birders and 69 (171% above average) were banded at P.N.R. (RCL).

**WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS** — With a few exceptions binocular birders found warblers to be rather scarce, but some species were in good numbers. On the other hand, the banding stations at P.N.R., A.F.M.O., and Norris, Tenn., had above-average results, but at P.I.S.P., the banders had their worst season since the start of that operation (RFL). At P.N.R., 23 species were above average in abundance, 3 about average and 7 below average (RCL). At A.F.M.O., of the species caught in numbers permitting meaningful analysis, 7 were above average, and 5 below, one being average. At Norris only one species was mentioned as above average and 5 below. At Pittsburgh field birders found 5 species to be in unusually high and 12 to be in unusually low numbers. One species that all agreed was in good numbers was the Cape May Warbler, of which A.F.M.O. banded 1052 (221 Aug. 30—GAH) while 337 were banded at P.N.R. (RCL). Other species that seemed to be in good numbers were Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, and particularly the Yellow-rumped (979 Yellow-rumped banded at P.N.R. (GAH), 155 banded at Morgantown (GAH) and 89 at Clarksville, Pa. (RB). The most conspicuous below-normal species at A.F.M.O. was the Tennessee where only 761 (down from 1016 average) were netted. The Tennessee was also in below-average numbers at Norris (CN). Most stations agreed that the Am. Redstart was in below-average numbers. Other species showed the usual mixed pattern of being scarce some places and common in others. Of the rarer species Connecticut Warblers were more commonly reported than usual, but Orange-crowns were scarcer than usual. A Worm-eating Warbler at P.I.S.P., Oct. 11 (BC) was unusual. In general, the migration seemed a little early: the day of biggest captures at A.F.M.O. was Aug. 30. At Wooster, O., the biggest wave ever recorded there was Aug. 22 (JBr). There were some late dates: Connecticut, Augusta, Va., Oct. 21 (LT); N. Parula, P.I.S.P., Nov. 5 (RW); Yellow-breasted Chat, Athens, W. Va., Nov. 13 (JP); and Palm Warbler, Nov. 27, Lewisburg, W. Va. (CHa).

A Brewer's Blackbird was at Clarksville, Pa., Nov. 5 (RB). There were 3 reports of large blackbird roosts: Sheloceta, Pa., with nearly 12,000 birds (M & RHj), Hooversville, Pa., with 5000 grackles (R & GSa); and near Jefferson, Pa., with 18,000 birds in early November (RB). These roosts had decreased in numbers by the end of the period. There were two late dates for Bobolinks: Oct. 10 at Roanoke (MDo) and Lewisburg, W. Va., Nov. 27 (CHa). A N. Oriole was at a feeder at Edinboro, Pa., Nov. 5 (DS). Late dates for tanagers were Summer, McCreary, Ky., Oct. 5 (PSh), and Scarlet Oct. 21 at Knoxville (BM).

**NORTHERN FINCHES** — By the end of the period there had been essentially no movement of "northern" finches into this Region. There were reports of small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks from 8 areas, as far s. as the Chattahoochee N.F., in n. Georgia (HD), but none of these places saw more than a few. Pine Siskins which had been so abundant last winter were reported only from one or two places. Red Crossbills were reported from the nesting area on Shenandoah Mt., Va. (R.B.C.) but the only other report was of a single bird at Pittsburgh Nov. 28 (J & LFr). There was, however, a moderate flight of Purple Finches, but most observers thought them to be in below-normal numbers. The House Finch continues to consolidate its numbers and is reaching the proportions of a pest at some places.

**OTHER FRINGILLIDS** — Some observers felt that there were fewer than the normal number of Cardinals about, but this may have been the result of the mild weather keeping them away from feeders. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks staged a good flight but the count of 92 in one day by one observer in Campbell, Tenn., was unique (JHo). A bird which was identified as a Black-headed Grosbeak, but which may have been a hybrid, was at a feeder at Monterey, Va., in late October (YL). Interestingly, this was the same feeder that produced a Varied Thrush a few years ago. A Dickcissel was seen at Monterey Oct. 25 (CZ). The only other Dickcissel reports came from Butler, Pa., Aug. 7 (DF) and Boardman, O., Nov. 12 (CKp). Dark-eyed Juncos were in normal or slightly below numbers, but again this may be an artifact of the weather. An "Oregon" Junco was at Edinboro, Pa., Nov. 17-26 (DS). The movement of White-crowned Sparrows

was very poor but White-throated Sparrows came early and were in good numbers. Tree Sparrows were again conspicuous only by being in low numbers. There was a number of rarer species reported: Lark Sparrow, Waynesboro, Va. (third winter for this bird—LT), and Blackburg, Va. Oct. 13 (CK); Sharp-tailed Sparrow, State College, Pa., Sept. 23-Oct. 13 (MK); Clay-colored Sparrow, L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 9 (3rd successive year there—DF) and one banded at Harrisonburg, Va., Sept. 30 (new county record—CMe). A Fox Sparrow was seen in the Barrens near State College on the remarkable date of Aug. 1 (KJ, MW). Snow Buntings had not appeared in any numbers in the n. by the end of the period, but there were unusual reports from the s. part of the Region: Shenandoah Mt., Va., Oct. 28 (LT) and Big Meadows, Blue Ridge N.P., Nov. 1 (HB). The only reports of Lapland Longspur were from the extremes of the Region, P.I.S.P., Oct. 3-20 (SS, DS) and Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 23-27 (2nd local sighting—RK).

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

Contrasting weather prevailed for most of the autumn period. August was predominantly warm with frequent readings in the upper 90°sF. Locally severe thunderstorms were spawned by the warm temperatures, usually accompanied by heavy rains. September was also quite warm, except for Michigan, but precipitation proved highly variable. Generally the northern half of the Region received substantial rainfall while the southern half was much drier. The first half of October was warm with cooler temperatures prevailing the remainder of the month. Precipitation was below average. For November Wisconsin and Michigan experienced Indian Summer conditions until mid-November while Minnesota was cold, with blizzard conditions occurring in the southwestern section at mid-month. Periods of cool and warm weather alternated for the duration of the month. Precipitation was considerably above average Regionwide for the entire month.

The migration proved to be one of the most *lackluster* in recent memory. Most regular migrants, *i.e.*, shorebirds, thrushes, vireos and warblers, were found in unusually low numbers. However the group that elicited the most negative comments were the winter finches. They proved *unbelievably scarce* this fall. Rarities did appear to break the monotony, especially in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but in keeping with the "down theme" of the season only a disappointing few lingered beyond the initial sighting. In the following text place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH IBISES** — Impressive numbers of Com. Loons were tallied in Michigan including 236 at Arcadia Oct. 31 (KW) and 600 at St. Joseph Nov. 5 (RS, WB). Again this autumn a winter-plumaged **Arctic Loon** was found in Minnesota. It was located at Garrison on Mille Lacs L., Sept. 16-28 (TSa). Red-throated Loons were seen in Wisconsin starting with an early sighting at Superior Sept. 26 (DT). A total of about 10 birds was found in *Ozaukee* during October (RSu *et al.*), with a rare inland sighting Nov. 2 on Shawano L. (MP). Michigan had two birds intermittently during early November at St. Joseph (RS, WB). Red-necked Grebes were sighted until early November in Wisconsin and Michigan. An Eared Grebe in partial breeding plumage was seen by Mueller at Milwaukee Aug. 31. A W. Grebe was at Wisconsin's Harrington Beach S.P., Oct. 30 (DT), with a very late bird at Crosby, Minn., Nov. 16-21 (WN, TSa). A White Pelican was seen in Duluth Aug. 19 (DGr) with an injured bird in *Redwood* Nov. 21 (JS). After a very quiet late spring and summer



Wisconsin had several fall sightings. One was observed by Polk Sept 4-Oct. 2 in *Dunn*. Another was seen flying over the Cedar Grove banding station Oct. 1 (DB). An injured bird was captured on the Wisconsin R., at Portage Oct. 16 (*fide* KL). Lastly, one appeared on L. Wisconsin in *Columbia* Nov. 14-21 (RH, DT). Wisconsin had its now-usual concentrations of Double-crested Cormorants during August-September from the c. and n. thirds of the state. In Minnesota an estimated 5000 were on Lake of the Woods Sept. 12 (K & SS). Minnesota recorded its first **Anhinga** with one seen kettling with hawks over Hawk Ridge Sept. 20 (KE, JG *et al.*). Great Blue Herons and Am. Bitterns were still present at the end of the period at Crex Meadows W.A. (JH). All 3 states recorded Cattle Egrets until early November. Late was a Great Egret at Minnesota's Weaver Marsh Nov. 20 (RJ, BL). Green Bay's pair of Snowy Egrets was joined by three others during August, lingering until early October. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were found in Minnesota with four in *Atkan* Aug. 1-15 (WN). Wisconsin had one at the Manitowoc impoundment Aug. 16-17 (CS). Also at Manitowoc was a *Plegadis* ibis that was observed flying along the lakeshore Oct. 7 (CS).

**WATERFOWL** — The pair of Mute Swans that nested at Superior's Allouez Bay wandered over to Duluth Oct. 20-Nov 11. Thousands of Whistling Swans were observed migrating W-E across Wisconsin Nov. 13, including large flocks heading straight across L. Michigan (m.ob.). Expectantly Michigan had its peak concentrations Nov. 13-14 with 5000 both in *Ottawa* and *Muskegon*. The peak in Minnesota occurred Nov. 16-20 with 7000 at Weaver Marsh

Canada Geese peaked at about 90,000 Nov 1 at Horicon N W R. Brant were recorded in all 3 states. For Wisconsin one was in a flock of Canadas near Gordon Sept. 25 (DT) and six were in a flock of Canadas flying inland from L. Michigan at Harrington Beach S.P., Oct. 16 (DG). One was seen at Grand Marais, Minn., Nov. 16 (KE, K & MH). An adult was found dead along L. Huron, *Huron* Nov. 19 (CSh). Also in Michigan were three White-fronted Geese Nov. 6 in *Allegan* (WB, RS). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon was at Metrobeach, Mich., Sept. 17 (JBa). Early were Com. Goldeneye and Bufflehead Sept. 10 at Muskegon. A Canvasback Aug. 7 in *Dunn*, Wis., was also early. Common Goldeneyes that summered at Manitowoc remained until late August. Unusual was an Oldsquaw at Crex Meadows W.A., Oct. 21 (JH). Minnesota had two Harlequin Duck sightings, both in *Cook*. The scoter migration was above average in all 3 states with an unusual number of inland sightings. Peak numbers included 25-30 Surfs and 110-130 Blacks in Wisconsin and Michigan, with slightly lower numbers of White-winged noted.

**HAWKS** — A Turkey Vulture in *Wood*, Wis., Nov. 21 was late (DF). Again this fall Wisconsin recorded a **Mississippi Kite** with one found dead at Kaukauna's Thousand Islands W.A. (*fide* TE). Record numbers of Goshawks were seen in Wisconsin and Minnesota during October-November; at Hawk Ridge 5819 were tallied. Wisconsin's 2 hawk banding stations recorded lower but still record numbers while Michigan's flight was described as being very good. The other Accipiter species' flights were far less spectacular, ranging from good to poor. The Broad-winged flight was again characterized as mediocre. Hawk Ridge tallied only 17,809 for the season with Wisconsin's stations similarly recording low numbers. The main movement for Wisconsin occurred Sept. 18, as noted by several observers. Particularly noteworthy was the Tralers' sighting of 5000-10,000 migrating over Peshtigo Pt., that day. Michigan had major movements Sept. 18 & 22, with 4000+ tallied the latter date. A Swainson's Hawk was seen at Mazomanie, Wis., Sept. 18 (RH) with one in Michigan's *Monroe* Sept. 22 (PY). A late individual was seen Oct. 14 in Minnesota's *Polk* (K & SS). Exceptionally early was a Rough-legged Hawk seen by Robbins Aug. 1 at Stetsonville, Wis. This species was found to be unusually scarce in Wisconsin and Michigan. In contrast was the almost-record 724 seen at Hawk Ridge.

At least ten Golden Eagles were seen in Wisconsin this fall, an unusual number of sightings. The 207 Bald Eagles counted at Hawk Ridge represents a record number (DE). Significant was the sighting of Gyrfalcons in all 3 states. Three were banded at Hawk Ridge Nov. 8-22. A gray-phase lingered at the Muskegon Wastewater System (hereafter, M.W.S.) Oct. 17-31 (JP *et al.*). In Wisconsin gray-phase birds were seen at Cedar Grove Oct. 27 (JI) and Green Bay Nov. 27 (DT). Six Prairie Falcons were seen in w. Minnesota during October with one at Duluth Aug. 28 (SK). Michigan had only its second **Prairie Falcon** record when an injured bird was found Nov. 5 near Hubberdston. It was rehabilitated and subsequently released (LL). The Peregrine migration was characterized as good in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

**GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES** — Spruce Grouse were seen in Wisconsin's *Forest* (BR) and *Vilas* (three, JB). Michigan had birds in *Gogebic* (JM) and *Dickinson* (FK). Peak Sandhill Crane numbers included 9000 Oct. 17 in *Norman*, Minn., 900+ Oct. 27 in *Jackson*, Mich., and 525 Oct. 30 at Crex Meadows W.A., Wis. At the latter site birds were present as late as Nov. 29 (JH). A King Rail was found Sept. 4 at Michigan's Pt. Mouillee (HD). At Wisconsin's Horicon N.W.R., a maximum of 20 (!) was noted Sept. 1 (staff).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Truly remarkable was the discovery of a Killdeer nest in a Muskegon parking lot on Nov. 20! The nest and four eggs were photographed with snow as a background. They hatched Nov. 22 with the young still alive Nov. 24 (GW). Wisconsin had several Whimbrel sightings, including three Aug. 30 at Manitowoc (CS), two Sept. 1 on Long I. (DV) and Sept. 20-21 at Milwaukee (JI, DG). One was at Michigan's Metrobeach Aug. 2 (DL). A Spotted Sandpiper Nov. 4 at Manitowoc (CS) was late. Seven Willets were at New Buffalo Aug. 1 (RA) with Wisconsin birds Sept. 15 in *St. Croix* (DF) and Oct. 19 at Milwaukee (WW). The latter represents a record late departure date. Several hundred Greater and Lesser yellowlegs were present at Horicon N.W.R., during the latter part of August. Very late were individuals of both species Nov. 21 at Manitowoc (CS), with a Lesser at Erie, Mich., also Nov. 21 (BB *et al.*). Michigan had a total of 40 Red Knots with about 20 recorded in Wisconsin,

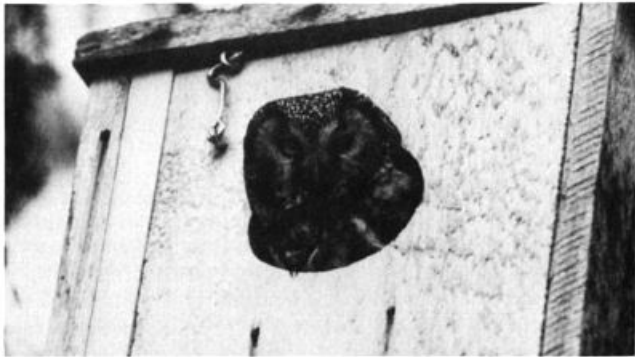
including a very late Nov. 10 bird at Manitowoc (CS). The individual at Duluth Oct. 10-13 represents a record late departure (DGR, BU). A **Purple Sandpiper** at St. Joseph Oct. 10 was early (RS). Very late was a Nov. 16 Pectoral Sandpiper at Grand Marais (K & MH). A total of 25-30 White-rumped Sandpipers was seen in Wisconsin, with six in Michigan. A **Curlew Sandpiper** was studied at Milwaukee Sept. 10 (BC). A concentration of 400 dowitchers was at Horicon N.W.R., Sept. 30. An unusual number of W. Sandpipers was recorded in Wisconsin (30-35) and Michigan (20-25). These 2 states also noted good numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers with 45 in Michigan and 15+ in Wisconsin. Hudsonian Godwits were found at Horicon N.W.R., with four Aug. 25 (staff) and three Sept. 15 (TS). Point Mouillee had three Aug. 13 (JBr) and seven Sept. 28 (PY), while one was at Ann Arbor Oct. 23 (RW). Most unusual was the sighting of four **Ruffs** Oct. 30 in Wisconsin's *Columbia* (RM). This represents an exceptionally late date. American Avocets (several) were unusually easy to see at Horicon N.W.R., Aug. 16-Oct. 31 (m.ob.), especially from mid-August until mid-September. One was also at Manitowoc Oct. 14 (CS). Michigan had single birds at Holly Sept. 12 (CH) and St. Joseph Oct. 31 (RS). No fewer than five **Red Phalaropes** were found in Michigan between Sept. 21-Nov. 13. Sites included Erie, M.W.S., Fremont Sewage Ponds, St. Joseph and Gull L. (m.ob.). The Wilson's and N. phalaropes were unusually common at Horicon N.W.R., with 50 of each species seen, the former peaking Sept. 30 and the latter Aug. 23. Additional Northern's were seen at Madison (max. six) and Manitowoc with a total of nine seen in Michigan.

**LARIDS** — In contrast to previous falls the jaeger movement was a major disappointment Regionwide. Both Duluth and Superior had almost no sightings and there were only a few additional individuals noted elsewhere. Outstanding was a **Pomarine Jaeger** at Duluth and Superior Sept. 6 (KE, LE *et al.*) with another observed in Wisconsin's *Ozaukee* Sept. 18 (BC). For Wisconsin these are only about the fourth and fifth records. Immature Parasitics (possibly only one bird), were seen at Duluth Aug. 3-27. Six Parasitics were seen at Port Huron Oct. 16 (BB, DR). Unidentified jaegers were seen in Wisconsin with one at Green Bay Aug. 20 and two in *Ozaukee* Oct. 23 (DT). Glaucous Gulls were found at 4 Michigan sites including Port Huron, Muskegon and *Schoolcraft* and *Berrien*. Wisconsin had birds at Manitowoc and Superior. An ad. Iceland Gull was identified at Minnesota's Grand Marais by Eckerton Nov. 16. An ad. Thayer's Gull in company with three Glaucous and many Herrings was watched at leisure Nov. 30 at Superior by Polk. Adult Thayer's were also seen in Duluth Oct. 17-Nov. 25 with an immature present Oct. 22 (KE). Another ad. Thayer's was seen by many Oct. 30 at Minnesota's E. Beaver Bay. Truly an outstanding find was the ad. **Mew Gull** studied at close range Sept. 19 at Knife River (DBo, BP *et al.*). This represents Minnesota's first record. A Laughing Gull was at New Buffalo, Mich., Aug. 1 (RA). Franklin's Gulls were seen at Milwaukee from August into November (m.ob.). Birds were seen twice at Manitowoc during the early part of the period (CS). Also in Wisconsin was one in *Dunn* Sept. 13 (JP) with 100 in *Polk* Oct. 5 (JHu). In Michigan single birds were in *Houghton* Sept. 6 (AW), intermittently Oct. 2-Nov. 7 in *Berrien* (WB, RS) and eight at Port Huron Oct. 15 (DR).

Manitowoc's Little Gulls lingered only until early August (CS). However Milwaukee had as many as 15 present at the Coast Guard Impoundment during the period. A few birds lingered into December (m.ob.). In Michigan, single birds were sighted at M.W.S., Sept. 29 (HC, JO) and at Port Huron Oct. 15 (DR). Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at Port Huron with one Oct. 15 (DR) and three Oct. 16 (AR *et al.*). Immature Sabine's Gulls were seen in all 3 states. One was in Milwaukee Sept. 27-28 (WM *et al.*). Another was at Port Huron Oct. 15-16 (AR, BB, TH, DR). For Minnesota one was seen at Big Stone N.W.R., during mid-October by many observers. Late were four Forster's Terns Nov. 21 at Erie (BB *et al.*).

**PIGEONS THROUGH SWIFTS** — As most of us recognize, luck plays a major role when birding. Witness Minnesota's fourth **Band-tailed Pigeon** that flew by Hawk Ridge Sept. 18 but was seen by only a few of the 200 observers present. Wisconsin had its tenth **Groove-billed Ani** when Freese discovered an individual n. of Fountain City Aug. 26. It remained through Sept. 11 (FL, JP, DT *et al.*). A record 36 Great Horned Owls were banded by Evans at Hawk Ridge this fall, suggesting a movement at least in this part of the Region. It was definitely not a Snowy Owl year, with a maximum of only ten reported from the entire Region. Remarkably early was one seen by

the controllers at the Oshkosh Airport Sept. 21 (*vide* TZ). Wisconsin had one of its rare **Hawk Owl** sightings with one discovered by Follen and Luepke (KLu) Nov. 6 along Hwy. 27 n. of Ladysmith on the *Sawyer-Rusk* line. Minnesota had only 3 reports, 2 from Duluth with the third near Fergus Falls Nov. 7 (S & DM). Too late for the summer report was a **Burrowing Owl** nest near Hardwick. The adults and three young remained into August. Also in Minnesota was one seen near Mountain Lake Aug. 1-Oct. 15 (m.ob.). Minnesota had three **Great Gray Owl** reports while Wisconsin had one bird near Brule that was seen intermittently during the summer, but became cooperative for several days during late November (BK *et al.*). A **Boreal Owl** was found in *Ontonagon*, Mich., Oct. 14 (AM). Thousands of Chimney Swifts were observed migrating along Milwaukee's lakeshore Aug. 29 (BC).



*Boreal Owl, Ontonagon Co., Mich., Oct. 14, 1982. Photo/T. Matthiae.*

**HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Very late, especially for the Upper Peninsula was a **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** Oct. 2 at White Pine. **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** continue the N extension of their range. All 3 states reported individuals at feeders in late November in at least one extreme n. county. **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker** sightings continue at a record pace in Minnesota and Wisconsin. For example Duluth had 50+ recorded Oct. 5-28 with a peak of 14 on Oct. 16 (m.ob.). Suddenly the rarer N. **Three-toed Woodpecker** is being seen more frequently. Minnesota had a total of 15 individuals during the period including a possible family group of three Aug. 6 at Scenic S.P. (T & PL) and seven at Duluth Oct. 14-Nov. 22 (m.ob.). Even Wisconsin had sightings including a cooperative male, possibly a pair, s.w. of Brule during the second half of November (BK, JP). Another bird(s?) was located in *Polk* Aug. 7 (KK) & Nov. 23 (CJ).



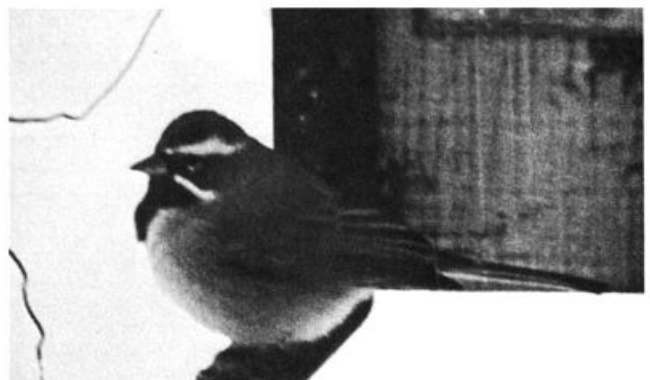
*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Aitkin Co., Minn., Oct. 22-28, 1982. Photo/W. Nelson.*

An imm. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was watched and photographed near Aitkin, Minn., Oct. 22-28 (m.ob.). Very late was a **Least Flycatcher** that was banded Nov. 18-19 by Adams in *Kalamazoo*, Mich. Wisconsin had only its second record for the **Vermilion Flycatcher** when a male was briefly observed at Harrington Beach S.P., in company with E. Phobes and other passerines (CG, HK, RT). Late were a **Rough-winged Swallow** Oct. 9 in *Berrien* (RS) and a **Barn Swallow** Oct. 30 in *Ozaukee* (DT, BC). A **Black-billed Magpie** was observed flying over the Cedar Grove banding station Oct. 3 (DB). A **Carolina Wren** was found Oct. 2 along the Wisconsin R., n. of Mazomanie (RH). In Michigan single birds were found Oct. 21 in *Alpena* (RSm, SS), Nov. 21 at *Allendale* (JPo) and Nov. 30 at

*Kalamazoo* (CF). Very late for n. Wisconsin was a **Brown Thrasher** Nov. 28 in *Bayfield* (LE). There were very few **Varied Thrushes** seen this fall with only three from Wisconsin and two from Minnesota. Encouraging were the positive comments from certain locales in Wisconsin and Minnesota about the numbers of E. **Bluebirds** passing through this fall. Soulen's discovery of a **Wheatear** in *Roseville* Sept. 27 is noteworthy on 2 counts. It represents Minnesota's first record and it was found in a shopping center parking lot! The only **Townsend's Solitaire** sighting just made it into the period as it was found Nov. 30 at *Two Harbors* (JC). Most surprising was the presence of a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** in Duluth Oct. 27 (BU). This is a record departure by 1½ months. Almost no **Bohemian Waxwings** were seen this fall. **Northern Shrikes** were dramatically reduced in numbers in Wisconsin, while Michigan reported fair numbers, but considerably below the major invasion of last year.

**VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Both groups had *absurdly poor* flights Regionwide. No sizable numbers and few rarities were noted. Two **White-eyed Vireos** were at *Metrobeach* Aug. 27 (DE). A **Bell's Vireo** was still in *LaCrosse* Aug. 7 (FL). A tardy **Yellow-throated Vireo** was in *Sauk*, Wis., Oct. 8 (KL). Michigan late sightings included an **Orange-crowned** and a **Bay-breasted Warbler** Nov. 10 in *Kalamazoo* (RA). Additional late observations for Wisconsin included a **Black-and-white Warbler** in *Eau Claire* Oct. 11 (JP) and a **N. Parula** in *Sauk*, Oct. 7 (KL). Interesting birds included a **Prairie Warbler** at *Manitowoc* Sept. 8 (FF), **Kentucky Warblers** Sept. 11 in *Lake*, Mich. (JW) and Sept. 24 in *Eau Claire* (JP) which is unusually far n. in Wisconsin. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was also seen Sept. 11 in *Lake* (JW) with **Hooded Warblers** in *Ottawa*, Mich., two Aug. 7 (SM) and *Sauk*, Wis., one Aug. 28 (DT).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH BUNTINGS** — Three **Orchard Orioles** were seen in *Milwaukee* Aug. 5 (MB, WW) with one Sept. 9 at *Metrobeach* (DL). A ♂ **Summer Tanager** was discovered Oct. 30 in *Lutsen*, Minn. (MBr). **Cardinals** continue their range extension in Wisconsin and Michigan. In Wisconsin by late November single birds were coming to feeders in *Superior*, *Port Wing* and *Ashland* (LE, DV). An imm. ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** was seen in *Manitowoc* Sept. 29 (CS) and at the *Encampment Forest*, *Lake Co.*, Minn., Oct. 10-11 (JSa). One of the most dismal winter finch pictures in years unfolded this autumn. It has been many years since so few of almost all species have been seen. For Wisconsin and Minnesota only the **Am. Goldfinch** and **Purple Finch** were seen in good numbers while in Michigan this was true for only the **Purple**. *Every* other species occurred in *ridiculously low* numbers or was *nonexistent*. It seems to augur a long, silent winter at the feeders! Michigan's **House Finches** were reported from 4 counties with a maximum of 14 at one feeder. **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** appeared at the two "standard" Wisconsin sites, near *Mazomanie* Sept. 18 (RH) and *Milwaukee* Sept. 20-Oct. 1 (JI, DG, BC). The big discovery in Wisconsin this autumn was the appearance of two **Black-throated Sparrows**. After a strong SW wind



*Black-throated Sparrow, Hortonville, Wis., Nov. 26, 1982. Photo/T. Anderson.*

one appeared at the *Jurack* feeder near *Hortonville* Nov. 21. It was seen by many and photographed. The second bird appeared at the *Gralow* feeder w. of *Fifield* Nov. 30 and also was seen by many and photographed. Both birds were present well into December. They represent only the fourth and fifth state records. The **Harris' Sparrow** flight in Wisconsin, in contrast to last fall, was unusually poor. An

amazingly early, record-shattering Lapland Longspur was watched along the main dike at Horicon N.W.R.; by Gustafson Aug. 3. For both the Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting considerably fewer were seen this fall as compared to last. Single Smith's Longspurs were found in Minnesota Sept. 26 at Duluth (KE) and Oct. 2 at Brooklyn Park (OJ).

**ADDENDUM** — Predation was confirmed for the Boreal Owl nest mentioned in the summer period, not nest collecting as was originally suspected.

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## MIDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Bruce G. Peterjohn

Weather patterns were atypical this autumn. August and September were cooler than normal with low temperatures occasionally reaching the 30's and 40's in the northern states. November was more like a normal September with daily highs frequently above 60°F. Precipitation varied across the Region. Iowa and Missouri experienced above-normal rainfall. Elsewhere, October was quite dry with few strong cold fronts while November was very wet as the result of frequent storms moving out of the southwestern United States.

While the cool late August temperatures produced an early start to the fall passerine migration, this season will be remembered for the variety of species lingering well past their normal departure dates. The mild late autumn temperatures allowed many migrants to remain well into November. Since few strong cold fronts passed through, most observers agreed that birding was not particularly exciting. However, locally strong movements were associated with most of the fronts. With the exception of an outstanding Goshawk invasion, incursions by northern species were practically nonexistent. In addition to the many late records, a strange array of accidentals was detected including Brown Pelicans, Ancient Murrelet, Ground Dove, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Western Wood Pewee, Western Tanager and Painted Bunting.

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

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.O.N.W.R.: Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill.; I.B.S.P.: Illinois Beach S.P., Ill.; S.C.R.: Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo.; Spfld.: Springfield, Ill. In the text following, italicized place names are counties.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Migrant Com. Loons returned during early October and peaked Nov. 12-15 along the Great Lakes where there were several reports of 100-200+. Inland sightings included 200 at Alum Creek Res., O., Nov. 23 (JM) and 6 additional groups of 20-60. Red-throated Loons were noted at one Indiana and 7 Ohio locations Oct. 26-Nov. 25 with a maximum of three at Alum Creek Res., O., Nov. 14 (†m.ob.). The only Red-necked Grebe was discovered at Lower Pine L., Ia., Sept. 20 (†PHa). An early Horned Grebe returned to Jacksonville, Ill., Aug. 27 (TW, BO). Maxima included 150-500/day along L. Erie Nov. 9-16 and an inland group of 260 at C.O.N.W.R., Nov. 24 (JR). An ad. with two imm. Eared Grebes at Forney L., Ia., Aug. 22 may have nested there (TB *et al.*). Migrant reports consisted of 1-3 grebes at 4 Missouri, 5 Iowa and 6 Illinois sites Aug. 22-Nov. 28, one at Brookston, Ind., Oct. 7 (AB) and 2 Ohio sightings including four at C.J. Brown Res., Nov. 13-Dec. 5 (DO, JG, †m.ob.). Single W. Grebes were discovered at 3 Illinois locations Oct. 22-Nov. 27 and Indiana Dunes S.P., Ind., Oct. 23 (†FV, m.ob.). Pied-billed Grebes remained scarce at many areas; the only noteworthy concentrations were 400+ at Merom power plant, Ind., Oct. 31 (DJ) and 114 at Willow Slough, Ia., Sept. 15 (BW). The



White Pelican, Gibson Co. Power Plant L., Ind., Oct. 31, 1982. Photo/D. Jones.

largest White Pelican concentration was 500 at Saylorville Res., Ia., Sept. 18 (MM). Farther e., good numbers in Illinois included 11-13 at 3 locations Sept. 11-Oct. 16, Indiana singles in Gibson Oct. 31 (DJ, ph.) and near Clinton Nov. 27-29 (RE, m.ob.) while the four summering birds along w. L. Erie remained through Nov. 14. Two Brown Pelicans briefly observed along the Mississippi R., at Keokuk Oct. 18 provided a fifth record for Iowa (†EF). Double-crested Cormorants appeared in unprecedented numbers for recent years. Iowa concentrations included 650 at Saylorville Res., Oct. 10 (JS), 500 at Coralville Res., Oct. 12 (TS) and 350 at Red Rock Res., Oct. 22 (RT). Other noteworthy reports included 300 at Huron, O., Nov. 13 (J, JM), 240 at East Harbor S.P., O., Oct. 25 (JP), 130 at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Oct. 15 (RG, BR, m.ob.) and 125 in Clay, Mo., Oct. 12 (L) while inland flocks of 15-40 were widely observed.

**HERONS** — Most herons appeared in typical numbers although the post-breeding dispersal of several species was particularly strong.

Great Blue Herons were numerous with maxima of 296 at Coralville Res., Ia., Oct. 3 (T) and 260 at L. Chautauqua, Ill., Sept. 4 (RR). Green Herons remained scarce, lingerers to Nov. 6 in *Madison*, Ill. (RG) and Nov. 10 at Somerset, Ky. (JE). A maximum of 100+ Little Blue Herons was present at Horseshoe L., Ill., during August. There were 16 additional reports from Illinois, above-normal numbers in n.w. and c. Missouri, 2 sightings in Ohio and Kentucky, 3 in Iowa and 4 in Indiana where one lingered through Nov. 11 in *Gibson* (DJ). Cattle Egrets invaded Missouri, Iowa and Illinois with flocks of 203-357 at S.C.R., Sept. 27-Oct. 5 (L), 145 in *Pulaski*, Ill., Sept. 4 (PK), 100-150 at Forney L., Ia. (*fide* JD) and 23-98 from 5 additional sites. They were found at only single locations in the other states with a maximum of 25 along L. Erie. The mild weather was responsible for 10 November sightings with the latest Nov. 26 at Riverton W.M.A., Ia. (BB). Great Egrets were only numerous in Illinois where flocks of 200-270 were reported from 3 locations. Up to 10 Snowy Egrets appeared at 3 locations near Alton, Ill. through Oct. 9 while 1-5 were present in the w. L. Erie marshes through Oct. 14. Other reports included one at DeSoto N.W.R., Ia., Aug. 13 (*fide* TB) and two at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo., Aug. 28 (KH). The only Louisiana Heron wandered N to L. Calumet, Ill., Aug. 18-28 (JL). Black-crowned Night Herons were rather scarce; the largest concentration was of only 85. As many as ten Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from 16 locations including a late bird at Louisville Oct. 21 (S, FS). Fourteen Least Bittern reports were received with a late bird at Champaign, Ill, Nov. 15 (†BC) while 1-4 Am. Bitterns were found at 13 sites. *Plegadis* ibis were found at single locations in Indiana and Missouri. An imm. White Ibis was reported from Powersburg, Ky., Aug. 15 (†RGU) and four at Mingo N.W.R., Mo., Aug. 3 (†SD, BL).

**WATERFOWL** — A Whistling Swan near Glasgow, Ky., Aug. 29 (†RSt) was extraordinary while two in *Ottawa*, O., Oct. 4 were early migrants (JP). Migration across the Great Lakes extended into December with a peak Nov. 13-14 when hundreds moved along L. Erie. A flock of 570 at Mississippi R. Lock 9, Nov. 19 was the largest ever in Iowa (JR, m.ob.). Elsewhere, 125 were noted at Findlay Res., O., Nov. 8 (BS) while smaller numbers were found at 21 other inland sites; most noteworthy were 1-5 at 2 n.w. Missouri locations (L, LG), St. Louis (m.ob.) and Olney, Ill. (LH). Seventeen Brant flew by Evanston, Ill., Nov. 12 (†JGr *et al.*), five were discovered at the Great Lakes Naval Base, Ill., Nov. 14-Dec. 10 (†JL, m.ob.) and 1-2 were noted at 4 L. Erie locations Nov. 9-17 (†m.ob.). A maximum of 13 White-fronted Geese was reported from 4 Illinois sites while two appeared at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Sept. 18 (TY) and one at Merom power plant, Ind., Oct. 31 (DJ). As an example of its Regionwide distribution, 150,000 Snow Geese at one Missouri and 2 Iowa locations represented typical fall concentrations there while 600+ at Findlay Res., Nov. 9-14 were exceptional for Ohio (JF). The usual small numbers of Ross' Geese were noted in w. Iowa and w. Missouri during November.

The mild weather produced a protracted duck migration with "poor-average" numbers at most localities. With the exception of local concentrations of Gadwall, Am. Wigeon and Wood Ducks, puddle ducks were particularly scarce. A Eur. Wigeon was discovered at Palos, Ill., Oct. 25-Nov. 27 (†JL, m.ob.). Five young Am. Wigeon accompanied a female at Willow Slough, Ia., Aug. 7-18, providing a second breeding record for that state (BW).

Diving ducks generally appeared in better numbers than last year, but Canvasbacks remained scarce. An early Bufflehead returned to Horseshoe L., Ill., Oct. 8 (JEa). Oldsquaw were scarce with a maximum of 30 along L. Michigan, none along L. Erie and only 6 November inland sightings S to Alton Ill./Mo. Single Harlequin Ducks were discovered at 2 L. Erie and 3 L. Michigan locations Oct. 16-Nov. 21 (†m.ob.). The scoter flight was disappointing. Up to 14 White-winged were observed along the Great Lakes beginning with an early migrant at Chicago Sept. 15 (JL), while 1-4 appeared at 5 inland sites in Iowa, Ohio and Illinois. Similar numbers of Surf and Black scoters were reported from the Great Lakes. Inland reports were restricted to 3 sightings of 1-2 Surfs in Indiana and Illinois and 7 sightings of 1-4 Blacks in Illinois and Ohio plus four at Louisville Nov. 22 (†BPB). Red-breasted Mergansers were numerous at inland reservoirs and along the Great Lakes where the L. Erie staging areas supported numbers well in excess of 100,000 during November.

**HAWKS** — Except for an impressive Goshawk movement, this fall's hawk migration was unremarkable. The few noteworthy flights

were reported by hawk watchers at I B S P (DJo, JN, RD, JGr, GR *et al.*). No large Turkey Vulture flocks were reported although many lingered into November. A Mississippi Kite was discovered at Marais Temps Clair W.M.A., Mo., Aug. 26 (BK).

#### S.A.

Goshawks staged their largest recorded invasion of the Region. Early migrants were noted in *Mitchell*, Ia., Sept. 22 (†JH) and *Vermilion*, Ill., Oct. 6 (SB) but most were observed during late October and early November. They were most numerous in the Chicago area where 220 flew past I.B.S.P., Nov. 3-6 including 95 on Nov. 5; many others were reported Elsewhere, 14+ Goshawks were reported from both Iowa and Missouri while they appeared at 5 sites in Indiana and 3 in Ohio. One wandered S to Mingo N.W.R., Mo., by Dec 2 (JoS). As expected, most birds were adults.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk migration was noticeable only along the L. Erie islands while increased numbers of Cooper's Hawks were reported from many areas. The largest Red-tailed Hawk movement occurred Nov. 15 with 133 at I.B.S.P. The Red-shouldered Hawk migration was typical of recent autumns. A strong Broad-winged Hawk movement developed Sept. 16-21 with 345 at I.B.S.P., Sept. 16, 500+ near Waverly, Ia., Sept. 18 (RM), 3 flocks of 100-300 at Cincinnati Sept. 19 (*fide* W), 4395 at Bensenville, Ill., Sept. 19 and 500 on Sept. 20 (J & CS), 300+ at Kennett, Mo., Sept. 20 (HS) and 2000 at Oregon, O., Sept. 21 (JM). One at I.B.S.P., Nov. 4 was late (JN) Swainson's Hawks were reported from 6 Missouri, 4 Iowa and 3 Illinois locations with a late migrant at Urbana, Ill., Nov. 6 (†RCh). Few Rough-legged Hawks were observed except for 17 at I.B.S.P., Nov. 17. An imm. Golden Eagle at C.O.N.W.R., Sept. 21 was early (JR). Single eagles at a total of 6 locations in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri Nov. 3-28 were expected. Bald Eagles returned to traditional wintering areas by late September and good numbers were observed during November. Normal small numbers were scattered across e. states. A late Marsh Hawk nest was reported from *Emmet*, Ia. (BMo). Migrants were noted in numbers at several areas including 61 at I.B.S.P., Nov. 5 and 30+ roosting at the Lawrenceville, Ill airport (LH). Osprey were widely observed, with a maximum of only six. They lingered through Nov. 14 at Columbus, O. (JF) and Smithville L., Mo. (L). Prairie Falcons were found at Pisgah, Ia., Sept. 25 (B & LPa) and near Columbia, Mo., Nov. 20 (†WG) while as many as four returned to the traditional Lawrenceville, Ill. airport wintering site (LH). A maximum of ten Peregrines was reported from I.B.S.P., Sept. 25 where a total of 27 were sighted Sept. 18-Oct. 15. Three at Salamonie Res., Ind., Oct. 3 were exceptional for an inland location (†SS). Single Peregrines were discovered at 29 additional locations in all states. Thirty-three Merlins flew past I.B.S.P., Oct. 14 where the total was 57 Sept. 15-Oct. 15. Singles were encountered at 23 additional sites.

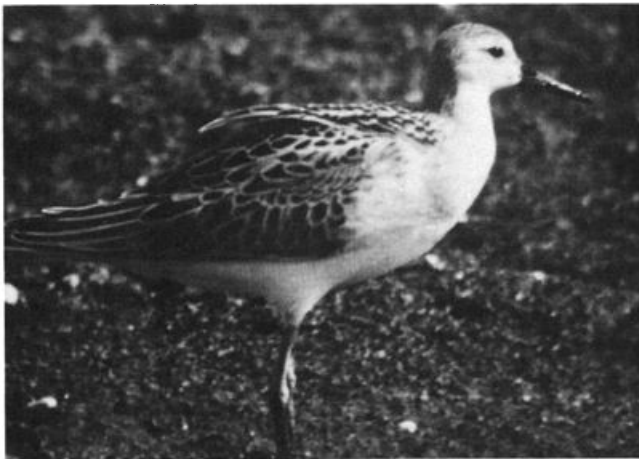
**GROUSE THROUGH COOTS** — Numbers of most gallinaceous birds remained low. The wet weather was thought to be responsible for declines in Iowa. Along its traditional migration route, Sandhill Crane was reported from n.e. Illinois Sept. 18-Nov. 5 with a maximum of 1030 at Flossmoor Oct. 3 (PHU) while Kentucky reports Nov. 5-28 included several flocks of 100-350 at Louisville Nov. 14-16 (BPB). Extralimital reports were limited to six in w. Kentucky at Ballard W.M.A., Oct. 19 (TY), seven at Rebel's Cove W.M.A., Mo., Nov. 16 (JW) and an exceptional 300 roosting at Indian L., O during mid-November (*fide* JF). Rails were also scarce. Only one King Rail was reported, few Virginias were observed and the Sora maximum was 20. A Yellow Rail was briefly observed at Urbana, Ill., Sept. 29 (†RCh). An imm. Purple Gallinule was found in s.w. *Cook*, Ill., Oct. 30; it subsequently died in captivity (\*PD). Common Gallinules were fairly numerous with September maxima of 42 at L. Calumet, Ill (JL) and 35 at Gary, Ind. (SJ). They lingered until Nov. 9 in *Fulton*, Ill (LP, m.ob.). November Am. Coot concentrations of 2600 in *Pulaski* (JE) and 2000 at L. Pewee (JHa) were noteworthy for Kentucky

**SHOREBIRDS** — As usual, comments on the shorebird migration varied from poor to excellent depending on local habitat conditions. This fall's flight was fairly typical with few noteworthy concentrations and many reports beyond normal departure dates. A Sempalmated Plover lingered through Nov. 2 at Cleveland (M). Single Piping Plovers were noted at 7 locations in Illinois, Iowa and Ohio Aug 14-



Sept. 6 with an exceptionally late bird in *LaSalle*, Ill., Nov. 13 (LA). Several flocks of 100-150 Am. Golden Plovers were reported while Black-bellied Plovers were widespread in groups of 20 or fewer. A maximum of nine Ruddy Turnstones was noted along L. Erie into early November while scattered singles were found elsewhere. The largest concentration of Com. Snipe was 48. Whimbrels were restricted to the Great Lakes with 7 L. Erie and 4 L. Michigan reports Aug. 7-Sept. 26. Numbers peaked during mid-September with 22 at Chicago (JL) and five at Oregon, O. (CH). Upland Sandpipers were recorded through Sept. 16 with a maximum of 17 in *Knox*, Ind., Aug. 8 (DJ). A late Solitary Sandpiper appeared at Gary, Ind., Oct. 23 (SJ). Willets were more numerous than last year with 12 reports from all states Aug. 3-Sept. 14. Red Knots were only reported from Ohio and Illinois with 1-4 along the Great Lakes through Sept. 26 and scattered inland singles including one at L. St. Mary's, O., Oct. 23 (CM, JHn).

A Purple Sandpiper was found at Chicago Nov. 7 (JL) and three appeared at Huron, O., Nov. 24-25 (JP *et al.*). Normally an uncommon or rare fall migrant, White-rumped Sandpiper was widely distributed with reports of 1-10 from all states. Singles lingered through Nov. 10 at Louisville (BPB), Nov. 15 at Metzger Marsh W.M.A., O. (JP) and Nov. 26 at Waukegan, Ill. (†RB). Baird's Sandpipers were equally numerous with a maximum of 11 in *Dickinson*, Ia. (DH). Several Baird's were reported to have lingered as late as Nov. 21. Since they are not known to be late migrants and should be in winter plumage by then, November Baird's sightings should be documented. Dunlin were numerous with 1000 at Ottawa N.W.R., O., Nov. 7 and many reports of 100-400. Long-billed Dowitchers are proving to be fairly common Great Lakes migrants with maxima of 110 at Metzger Marsh W.M.A., O., Oct. 12 (TL) and 45 at L. Calumet, Ill., Oct. 10 (JL). Up to six were reported from scattered inland locations with a late migrant at C.O.N.W.R., Nov. 23 (JR). Stilt Sandpipers were also numerous with a Great Lakes peak of 157 at Winous Pt., Ottawa, O., Aug. 9 (JP *et al.*) and 4 inland reports of 35-68; many lingered into late October. Fifty W. Sandpipers at Hoover Res., O., Sept. 18 comprised a noteworthy inland concentration (J). Smaller numbers were scattered across all states with late birds at Alum Creek Res., O., Nov. 14 (JM) and two at Green River L., Ky., Nov. 28 (†JE). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were widespread in Ohio but scarce elsewhere; as many as nine were observed Aug. 25-Oct. 1.



Ruff, Fremont Co., Ia., Sept. 11, 1982. Photo/B.J. Rose.

Between 1-3 Marbled Godwits appeared along L. Erie through Oct. 14 and appeared at single locations in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana Aug. 15-Oct. 5. As many as 13 Hudsonian Godwits were observed along w. L. Erie through Oct. 27 while 1-3 were encountered at 3 Illinois and 2 inland Ohio sites Aug. 8-Sept. 26. A Ruff near Tabor Sept. 8-12 provided a second record for Iowa (†RS, m.ob., ph.). Along the Great Lakes, Sanderlings peaked with 53 at Headlands S.P., O. (TL). They also lingered fairly late with Nov. 13 sightings from Chicago (JL) and Brookville Res., Ind. (TP). A total of 19 Am. Avocet sightings from all states was rather high. The largest flock—sixteen—was in *St. Louis*, Mo., Aug. 25 (P & PH) while two at Louisville Nov. 13 was the latest report (DN *et al.*). An early Red Phalarope returned to Cleveland Sept. 3-8 (M). Singles appeared at 3 other L. Erie locations through Nov. 21 and inland at Greenhills, O., Sept. 25 (†NW) and Spfld., Sept. 19 & Oct. 3 (†H). Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce except along

L. Erie where the maximum daily count was 20. One at L. St. Mary's, O., Nov. 7 was late (†JSh). Northern Phalaropes were again fairly numerous with a L. Erie maximum of 13 at Oregon Sept. 17 (CH) while 1-3 were reported from 11 inland sites in Ohio, Iowa and Illinois.

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS**—An imm. Pomarine Jaeger was thoroughly documented from L. Carlyle, Ill., Nov. 18-30 (BR, †RG, m.ob.). At least three different Parasitic Jaegers were noted along L. Erie Sept. 27-Nov. 13 (†m.ob.) and one was observed at I.B.S.P., Oct. 2 (JN *et al.*) Four additional unidentified jaegers were reported including one at E. Alton, Ill., Nov. 2 (BR *et al.*). Glaucous Gulls returned to the Great Lakes Nov. 12 while inland singles appeared in *Buchanan*, Nov. 15 (†L), Spfld., Nov. 27 (H) and *Schuyler*, Ill., Dec. 4 (RCh). A Great Black-backed Gull at Michigan City, Ind., Aug. 21 (†KB *et al.*) provided the only acceptable report away from L. Erie. Now regular there, at least seven different Lesser Black-backed Gulls were discovered along L. Erie; one Oct. 14, the remainder during November (m.ob.). Thayer's Gulls were documented from 3 Great Lakes locations Oct. 22-Nov. 29 and an immature was studied at E. Alton, Ill., Nov. 3-6 (†RG, m.ob.). Repeating 1981, an ad. California Gull was discovered at E. Alton, Ill., Oct. 31 (†RG, †PS). Between 1000-2000+ Ring-billed Gulls occupied lakes in Iowa and w. Kentucky after Oct. 31. The only Black-headed Gull was encountered at Lorain, O., Sept. 2 (†JP) while single Laughing Gulls were found at *Madison*, Ill., Sept. 17 (BR), Starve L., O., Sept. 26 (†J *et al.*) and Spfld., Sept. 27-30 (H). Franklin's Gulls invaded the e. states with 88 at L. Chautauqua, Ill., Oct. 31 (TPU) plus Oct. 20 sightings of 24 at Chicago (PC, HR), 23 at Spfld. (H) and 20 at L. Waveland, Ind. (†AB). Between 5-12 were reported from 3 additional locations Oct. 17-31 e. to C.J. Brown Res., O. (CM *et al.*). As many as four Little Gulls were scattered along L. Erie after Sept. 22. Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported from 2 L. Erie and 2 L. Michigan locations Oct. 22-Nov. 27 (†m.ob.) and one appeared inland at E. Alton, Ill., Oct. 29 (†RG). Five Sabine's Gulls along the Great Lakes Sept. 18-Nov. 13 represented a good fall flight (†m.ob.).

Terns were generally scarce along L. Michigan while L. Erie maxima included 400 Forster's and several groups of 1000-3000 Com. Terns during late August and early September. A Forster's Tern at Merom power plant Nov. 21 was late (DJ). One or two Least Terns were reported from 6 sites in all states except Ohio and Missouri July 30-Sept. 6. Caspian Terns were numerous along the Great Lakes with a maximum of 228 at Huron, O. (TL) and lingered through Nov. 5 along L. Erie. Smaller numbers appeared inland including 50 at Saylorville Res., Ia., Sept. 18 (RL). Black Terns were scarce except at Cleveland where 600-1000 were present during mid-August and one lingered through Oct. 31 (†RH *et al.*). An Ancient Murrelet was thoroughly studied and photographed at Evanston Nov. 16-21, providing a second record for Illinois (†GR, m.ob., ph.).

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS**—A Ground Dove was briefly observed at Brazil, Ind., Aug. 21 (†AB), providing a third sighting for that state. Cuckoos lingered at many areas. Latest of four November Yellow-billed was a freshly dead bird found at Chicago Nov. 22 (\*PC) while Black-billed remained through Oct. 31 at Carbondale, Ill. (KM). A Groove-billed Ani at Chicago Sept. 24-25 (†JL) provided this fall's only sighting. Barn Owl reports included an injured bird at Dearborn, Mo., Nov. 5 and 1-2 at Urbana, Mo., into October (GT *et al.*), Stockton, Mo., Oct. 25 (JW) and Chicago Nov. 25+ (AA). Snowy Owls were scarce with only 3 sightings from Illinois, Indiana and Ohio Nov. 26-30. Two ad. Burrowing Owls were observed with three young at Sioux Center, Ia., Aug. 2 (†DH) and a migrant was discovered in a N. Kansas City warehouse Sept. 29 (*vide* JO). Other migrant owls were also scarce. Only 1-2 Long-eareds were found at 5 locations, 1-8 Short-eareds at 12 sites and 1-2 Saw-whets at 6 locations; none were observed in Kentucky. Unusual in n.w. Missouri, a Chuck-will's-widow was heard calling in *Holt* Aug. 6 (L). A road-killed Whip-poor-will in *Tippecanoe*, Ind., Oct. 3 was late (DA). Noteworthy Com. Nighthawk concentrations consisted of 788 and 2430 at Danville, Ill., Aug. 30-31 (J & ME) and 1350 at Chicago Sept. 13 (AA). One at Louisville Nov. 11 was extraordinary (HF). Chimney Swifts were abundant, especially in Ohio and Illinois where several flocks of 1000-1500 were reported. The largest reported Ruby-throated Hummingbird concentration was 13, the latest sightings Oct. 16 in Missouri and Indiana. "Red-shafted" Flickers were observed at Willow Slough, Ia., Oct. 20 (BW) and Springfield, Mo., Oct. 10 (m.ob.). A Pileated Woodpecker near St. Joseph, Mo., Sept. 27-Oct.

5 was unusual in n.w. Missouri (*vide* LG). Red-headed Woodpeckers received mixed reports. While 204 were observed along the Chariton R., Ia., Oct. 2 (RC), they largely disappeared from n. and c. Iowa after early October. A **Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker** was studied in Porter, Ind., Nov. 13 (†CF).

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — The E. Kingbird migration was disappointing except for 35 at Merom power plant Aug. 29 (DJ). One lingered through Oct. 1 at Rolling Prairie, Ind. (*vide* MR). Western Kingbirds wandered E to Indian Hill, O., Aug. 13 (†FR), Jacksonville, Ill., Aug. 29 (RR, m.ob.), Indiana Dunes Nat'l Lakeshore, Ind., Aug. 29 (†JWh) and Sept. 11 (†KB) and Spfld., Nov. 29-30 (†H). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers "invaded" Illinois with singles at Belleville Sept. 5-9 (TF, m.ob.), Quincy Oct. 10 (†A & RR) and L. Clinton Oct. 12 (†T & PPU). In Missouri, a migrant flock of 100 was observed near Republic Oct. 3 (JDo) and one remained at Stockton Oct. 20 (JW). A late Great Crested Flycatcher lingered at Headlands S.P., O. through Oct. 23 (†RH *et al.*). A **Say's Phoebe** was thoroughly studied at I.B.S.P., Sept. 25-26 (†JR, †JL, m.ob.). *Empidonax* flycatchers were generally scarce; only a few Yellow-bellieds were reported and Least were found in very low numbers. Single Alder Flycatchers were identified at Forney L., Ia., Aug. 17 (TB, BPa) and Headlands S.P., O., Sept. 11 (J). All late wood pewees should be closely scrutinized and not assumed to be Easterns. While E. Wood Pewees were identified at Spfld., Oct. 27 (H) and *Greene*, O., Oct. 21 (J), a singing **Western Wood Pewee** was heard at Spfld, Oct. 8 (†H). A very late undetermined wood pewee was at Brookville Res., Ind., Nov. 13. Olive-sided Flycatchers appeared in all states Aug. 1-Sept. 29.

Tree Swallows congregated in s.w. Indiana with 6000 on Oct. 17 and lingered through Nov. 21 at Merom power plant (DJ). Bank Swallows were scarce except for 4000+ at Winous Pt., O., during early August (JP *et al.*). A large swallow concentration at S.C.R., Sept. 18 included 5000 Rough-winged (L) while one lingered until Oct. 31 in *Alexander*, Ill. (JR). An estimated 2500 Barn Swallows were present at S.C.R., Sept. 18 (L). They lingered into November at 4 locations with the latest in *Steuben*, Ind., Nov. 13 (JHW, SS). Largest reported Purple Martin roosts comprised 10,000 at Louisville Aug. 3 (DN) and Waukegan, Ill., Aug. 10-22 (JN) plus 2000 at single sites in Missouri and Indiana.

**CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Late Fish Crows included 14 at Columbus Ferry, Ky., Sept. 25 (DC, RMo) and five at Granite City, Ill., Sept. 30 (RG, SR). Black-capped Chickadee exhibited no S movement this fall and Red-breasted Nuthatch was scarce. Except for early migrants at *Vermilion*, Ill., Aug. 17 (JSm) and Oxford, O., Aug. 21 (TP), most reports consisted of 1-4 during late September and October. House Wrens lingered into November in Illinois and Kentucky while Winter Wrens appeared in improved numbers at many localities. Not normally considered a migratory species, two Carolina Wrens were observed in migration along L. Michigan Oct. 1 (JL). Improved numbers at several areas included the first n.w. Missouri observations in 4 years. Short-billed Marsh Wrens were widely encountered in all states with the latest of 5 November reports at C.O.N.W.R., Nov. 22 (JR). While traditionally an erratic nester, recently-fledged Short-billeds at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Oct. 2 were late (BR *et al.*).

The only Varied Thrush was noted at Crystal L., Ill., Nov. 21-23 (DF *et al.*). Although large numbers of night migrant thrushes were heard through mid-October, most thrushes were scarce and locally distributed on the ground. Chicago maxima of 60 Hermits and 48 Swainson's were exemplary. Late reports included a Wood Thrush in *Ottawa*, O., Oct. 22 (JP) and Swainson's at Chicago Oct. 29 (†PC, HR). Eastern Bluebirds continued to improve in most areas. Both kinglets staged excellent migrations. An early Golden-crowned returned to Franklin, Ind., Sept. 3 (BG); they were widespread during October with 120 at Chicago Oct. 2 (JL). Ruby-crowned were equally numerous with an early migrant at Dayton, O., Sept. 5 (B & CB) and 500+ at Ames, Ia., Sept. 15-Oct. 27 (PM). Water Pipits were widespread in low numbers, the largest flock was only 110. A Sprague's Pipit was observed at Spfld., Oct. 30 (†H). Cedar Waxwings were numerous in most areas from late August through early November. Early N. Shrikes returned to I.B.S.P., Oct. 28 (JN) and Beverly Shores, Ind., Oct. 30 (KB). Five additional shrikes were reported from Iowa, Illinois and Indiana during November. Few Loggerhead Shrikes were noted away from traditional areas with only 5 sightings from Ohio and 2 from n. and c. Illinois during the period.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A strong cold front during late August triggered an early start to the warbler migration. However, the mild autumn induced many species to linger later than normal. Many local "waves" produced a number of noteworthy concentrations. A late White-eyed Vireo was reported from Cleveland Nov. 17 (†M). Small numbers of Bell's Vireos were noted including three in Ohio Aug. 9-Sept. 21 (†m.ob.). Lingering Solitary Vireos remained at Dayton Nov. 3 (CM) while two at Ames, Ia., Oct. 27 included one of the w. race *plumbeus* (†PM). A Red-eyed Vireo lingered through Oct. 30 at Kelly's I., O. (JP, J) as did a Black-and-white Warbler at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ia. (JSa). Few Golden-winged Warblers were observed although one remained at Louisville Oct. 8 (BPB). Single Brewster's hybrids were discovered at Indianapolis Aug. 6 (*vide* BG) and George Wyth S.P., Ia., Sept. 11 (FM, RM). Tennessee Warblers were numerous with 206 banded at Tinley P., Ill., Aug. 30-Sept. 11 (KBa) and late migrants at Louisville (BPB) and Evanston, Ill., Oct. 30 (DJo). An early Orange-crowned Warbler returned to Chicago Aug. 28 (PC, HR). More than normal were reported with the latest Nov. 23 at Spfld. (H). Nashville Warblers were also numerous with 328 at Ames Sept. 5-Oct. 13 (PM) and many late migrants including one at Monmouth, Ill., Nov. 10 (LM).

Cape May Warblers were rather scarce although there were 2 Iowa sightings Sept. 26-Oct. 3. Black-throated Blue Warblers "invaded" Iowa with 8 observations Aug. 31-Oct. 2 including the state's first specimens recovered at the Alleman TV tower Sept. 14 (JD, JS). They were also reported from 2 Missouri locations including two specimens from the St. Louis area Oct. 6 (*vide* RK). Remarkably late Black-throated Green Warblers lingered through Nov. 21 at Indianapolis (*vide* CK) and Riverdale, Ill. (WM). Several Yellow-throated Warblers wandered N of their normal range with one photographed at Seymour, Ia., Sept. 11 (C & DS), and one late at a Franklin, Ind., feeder Nov. 27 (†BG). A Pine Warbler was late at Urbana, Ill., Dec. 5 (RCh). An early Palm Warbler returned to Louisville Aug. 29 (S); Chicago maxima included 380 on Oct. 1 (JL) and 220 on Sept. 24 (IV). Other late warblers included an Ovenbird at Chicago Nov. 6 (HR) and a Kentucky at Columbus, O., Oct. 10 (TT). Few Connecticut Warblers were reported while Mourning were widespread with 18 banded at Chicago Aug. 17-Sept. 6 (SP). A late Canada Warbler was noted at Spfld., Oct. 15 (H).

**BLACKBIRDS THROUGH CROSSBILLS** — Single W Meadowlarks in Indiana at Porter Aug. 24 (SJ) and Knox Nov. 7 (DJ) were noteworthy as were extralimital Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Dayton Aug. 12 (*vide* CM), Spfld., Aug. 16 (H), Huron, O., Sept. 19 (CH) and Merom power plant Oct. 24 (DJ). An extralimital Brewer's Blackbird wandered E to Louisville Oct. 25 (BPB). Missouri flocks of 1000 at Duck Creek W.M.A., Oct. 23 (WR *et al.*) and 200 at Taberville Prairie Nov. 16 (L *et al.*) were noteworthy. A **Western Tanager** was studied at East Harbor S.P., O., Nov. 20 providing one of few records for Ohio (†JP). Summer Tanagers wandered N with three at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ia., Sept. 18 (JSa) and one at Davenport, Ia., Oct. 7 (P) while a late bird remained at Spfld., until Oct. 21 (H).

A Black-headed Grosbeak briefly visited a feeder near Elkhart, Ia., Nov. 23 (†DM). Blue Grosbeaks lingered through Oct. 3 near Amazonia, Mo. (L) and Sept. 27 at Eubank, KY. (JE) while Indigo Buntings at Elizabethtown, Ky., Nov. 22 (*vide* BM) and L. Carlyle, Ill., Nov. 21 (BR) were quite late. A ♂ Painted Bunting lacking details, was reported n.e. of its normal Missouri range at Hannibal Aug. 5 (†AA1). A late Dickcissel was reported from Macomb, Ill., Dec. 11 (EFr). After 2 years with good finch movements, this fall's flight was virtually nonexistent. Evening Grosbeaks appeared at only single locations in Ohio and Indiana. Purple Finches were scarce in many areas; "fair" numbers were noted in Ohio and Indiana during October where the largest flocks consisted of 25 or fewer. House Finch continued to expand with birds appearing in w. Kentucky at Murray Sept. 20-26 (CP) while Illinois reports included 1-3 at 2 Chicago area sites Aug. 29-Sept. 5 (JL, SP) and one at Spfld. (H) Pine Siskins were also scarce; 1-13 were reported from 12 sites in all states except Illinois, mostly during November. The only crossbill reports came from Illinois and Ohio where 1-3 Reds were discovered at single locations Oct. 14-Nov. 10.

**SPARROWS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING** — Sparrows generally appeared in normal-to-good numbers in most areas. The only noteworthy Savannah Sparrow report was of 65 at Doolittle Prairie, Ia., Oct. 30 (JS). Le Conte's Sparrows were well reported with 1-14 at

5 Iowa locations, 1-8 at 10 Illinois sites, 3 Missouri reports and 2 observations from s.w. Indiana including 19 at Merom power plant Oct. 17 (DJ). The fall migration of Henslow's Sparrows is poorly understood. Three reports from Ohio and Indiana Oct. 3-24 and one at Horseshoe L., Ill., Nov. 1-2 (RG) may be indicative of its movement through the n. states. One or two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were discovered at 8 locations in Ohio, Missouri, Indiana and Illinois Sept. 19-Oct. 24. Early Tree Sparrows returned to Chicago Oct. 1 (JL). Chipping Sparrows were common in many areas; latest at Spfld., Nov. 19 (H). Clay-colored and Harris' sparrows wandered E to Illinois with single Clay-colored on 5 dates Sept. 9-Oct. 10 and Harris' at 2 locations during November. White-crowned Sparrows were scarce while a strong White-throated Sparrow movement included a number of reports of 150-250 birds. Fox Sparrows appeared in better numbers with a maximum of 39 at Chicago Oct. 21 (HR, PC). Lincoln's Sparrows were observed in fair numbers, the largest reported concentration was 28 at Kansas City (KH), and lingered through Nov. 30 near St. Joseph, Mo. (L). Lapland Longspurs returned to I.B.S.P., Sept. 26 (AA) and the other states during October. Flocks of 100-200 were scattered across most states while the largest groups contained 400-1000 at Lawrenceville, Ill., Nov. 3-30 (LH) and 700 at Bismark, Ill., Nov. 14 (SB) and in *Andrew, Mo.*, during November (L). Normally unreported during autumn, Smith's Longspurs were discovered at 3 Missouri locations with 30 in *Vernon* and six at *Taberville Prairie* Nov. 16 (L *et al.*) and one in *St. Charles* Nov. 13 (SD *et al.*). One in *Knox* Nov. 7 was unusual in Indiana (DJ). Snow Buntings returned to L. Erie Oct. 5 although they were first noted in other n. areas after Oct. 15; no large concentrations were reported.

**UNCORROBORATED REPORTS** — The following sightings were not satisfactorily documented but may be valid: Glossy Ibis at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo., Aug. 23, White Ibis near Columbia, Mo., during August and House Finch at Osage Beach, Mo., Oct. 16.

**CORRIGENDUM** — The report of a Laughing Gull at Michigan City, Ind., Sept. 17, 1977 (AB 32: 213) should be deleted.

## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Robert D. Purrington

It was a fall without important weather features, and again there was essentially no tropical weather on the coast (tropical storm *Chris* did affect north Louisiana and Arkansas after making landfall near the Louisiana-Texas border). After an extremely wet July, the early fall was dry and the later fall rather wet. November was mild and even December was to bring little frigid air to the Region. While shorebirding was excellent in August and September—highlighted by a Ruff in Mississippi and records of the three species of phalaropes, passerine birding was generally unimpressive throughout the fall. Exceptions included a heavy migration August 30, noted principally in northwestern Florida, a large-scale raptor movement September 24-25 over much of the Region, heavy "fall-outs" following fronts of October 12 and 16, and an invasion of Brown Creepers and Golden-crowned Kinglets in southwestern Louisiana October 22-24 following the fronts of October 21 and 22. These fronts brought the first large-scale influx of wintering species and the associated westerly and south-westerly air flow was apparently responsible for a number of records of western vagrants.

There were at least six separate records of White-tailed Kites totalling a minimum of eight individuals; the species is showing clear signs of the predicted expansion into the Region, following Louisiana records in 1976, 1977, and 1979. Peregrine Falcons were seen in the best numbers in many years, especially in Louisiana.

As usual, western vagrants caused excitement in many coastal areas, yet on balance the season was at best normal, with most records being of Groove-billed Anis, Western Kingbirds, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Mentioned below, however, are Williamson's Sapsucker, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Wood Pewee, and

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Black-throated Gray Warblers from Louisiana, Swainson's Hawks in northwestern Florida and Louisiana.

Purple Finches appeared in numbers early with American Goldfinches, but their numbers declined rapidly.

In the text following, place names in *italics* are counties or parishes.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Red-throated Loons

now occur almost annually in Alabama, one at Alabama Pt., *Baldwin* Nov. 20 (DC, DD, OF) was early. Very early at Hattiesburg, Miss., was an Eared Grebe Aug. 29 (LG, TG); many were present all fall. A count of 1665 White Pelicans in Alabama's Tensaw delta Nov. 7 (MB) was impressive, while at Grand Isle, La., numbers declined rapidly from a count of 2000 in late June, so that by Aug. 1 there were only three seen. Double-crested Cormorants were reported in unusually large numbers in October and November from a variety of inland localities, including 60 at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss. and 150 at *Benton*, Ark. Numbers along the coast were about normal, or perhaps down slightly. A single Anhinga at Pine Bluff, Ark., Nov. 6 was well n. of its usual range and only the 2nd record in 10 years. There were several late fall records on the Mississippi gulf coast (JT). Latest ever for s.e. Louisiana in fall was a Magnificent Frigatebird soaring with Turkey Vultures at Venice Nov. 21 (MM, RDP).

**HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILLS**—The only "Great White" Heron reported was at Dauphin I., Sept. 22 (GJ, CB, PB). Cattle Egrets continue to expand their range in Arkansas as evidenced by up to 220 in *Washington* Aug. 6-Sept. 23 (JN, TH *et al.*); 2056 were counted at Eufala N.W.R., Ala., Oct. 2 (MB). The dispersal of Reddish Egrets along the Gulf Coast led to frequent records in *Harrison*, Miss., August to October, while a high count of eight was reached at Dauphin I., Sept. 4 (MB). Two at New Orleans Aug. 6-Oct. 10 (DM, RDP) established only the third record for this inland location. A Louisiana Heron well inland near Plaquemines, La., Nov. 14 (RM) was unexpected, especially so late. Although Toups thought Yellow-crowned Night Herons were at below-normal numbers in *Jackson*, Miss., the 30 at Noxubee N.W.R., during September (SCS) was a high count. There were never more than two Wood Storks at Noxubee during the fall, and three over *Jackson* Oct. 11 were Toups' first for that area of Mississippi. The only report from Arkansas was of 38 in *Howard* Sept. 19 (CM). Two imm. White Ibises in *Lonoke*, Ark., Sept. 15 (RC) were unusually far inland, and 45, all immatures Sept. 1 at Noxubee N.W.R., represented a high number for n. Mississippi. There were 4 inland records of Roseate Spoonbills from Louisiana, including six at Monroe Sept. 13-14 (DK), presumably a result of tropical storm *Chris* which passed over Monroe on the 12th. One at Indigo I. Research Sta., near Plaquemines Sept. 18 (RM) as well as two Sept. 25-Oct. 1 at the Bonnet Carre Spillway (MAy, RS, MW), may have had a similar origin. Another was at Baton Rouge Oct. 9 (E & EB, GS).

**WATERFOWL**—Fifteen Canada Geese were seen as early as Aug. 17 at Fayetteville, Ark., and 750 were at Eufala N.W.R., Nov. 13 (MB). At least 13 were at Delta N.W.R., which now only gets very few, in early November (SH, *vide* RDP). As of the end of the period, Wheeler Ref., had 19,500 Canada Geese and 1000± Snows. Ducks were estimated at 26,000. A flock of 27 White-fronted Geese Oct. 16 at St. Joe S.P. (SS) was probably a Florida maximum. Thirty Snow Geese (blue-morph) over *Hancock*, Miss., Oct. 2 (JT) were the earliest ever there; several were seen the next day at Grand Isle, La. (RDP, MM). The first record for Arkansas of the **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** was established when five immatures were seen at L. Millwood, *Hempstead* Sept. 3 (CM). Two Ruddy Shelducks, likely escapes [one of the most widespread aviary species—Ed.] but showing no signs of having been captive were seen at Wheeler N.W.R., Ala., Nov. 27 (BG, GJ, HK, JF, MS, m.ob.). Early arriving ducks included (all in *Mobile*, Ala., unless otherwise specified) Gadwall, Oct. 6 (GJ, TI, JI, MN) & Oct. 13 in *Hancock*, Miss. (JT, m.ob.), Pintail Sept. 7 (GJ), Green-winged Teal at Mobile Aug. 30 (MB) and at Wheeler Ref., Sept. 3 (GJ, HK, DC), Am. Wigeon Oct. 6 (GJ, TI, JI, MN), N. Shoveler Aug. 31 (MB), Ring-necked Duck in *Baldwin*, Ala., Aug. 31 (MB), and at Mobile Sept. 14 (GJ), and Lesser Scaup Sept. 7 (GJ). Migration estimates of 2000-5000 Blue-winged Teal at Blakely I., *Mobile* Aug. 30-Sept. 6 (GJ, DGJ, MB) established a state high for this species. There was one s.w. Louisiana record of Cinnamon Teal Oct. 23 in *Cameron*, La. (MM, DM, NN). Of White-winged Scoters there was a single report Nov. 24 at New Orleans (MM), there were 3 records of Surf Scoters from New Orleans and *Baldwin*, Ala., Nov. 6-26, and one record of Black Scoter was received, at Wheeler Ref., Nov. 27 (MB, CBr, m.ob.), the third and earliest record for the Tennessee valley. A ♀ Com. Merganser near the coast at Hattiesburg, Miss., Nov. 13 (TG, LG, PC, JCo) was unusual, as were five Red-breasted Mergansers inland in *Washington*, Ark., Nov. 28 (JN *et al.*). There were only 3± previous records for the Arkansas Ozarks.

**DIURNAL RAPTORS**—**White-tailed Kites** were reported from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama Oct. 15-Nov. 30. There were at least 3 sightings in Louisiana, all of pairs of birds: Oct. 15-17 in *Point Coupee*, (NS), near Vidalia Nov. 21 (EG), and near Homewood, *Calcasieu* Nov. 20 (JW). There were 4 previous records for Louisiana. Two or three individuals were seen by many observers in *Hancock*, Miss., Oct. 27-Nov. 30 (JT, EJ *et al.*), for the first Mississippi record. Finally, a bird was seen by many observers at Ft. Morgan Nov. 20 (VBF, m.ob.) the 3rd Alabama record. Reports of Accipiters were clearly not representative, so that no conclusions are possible about population trends. Nonetheless, counts of 175 Sharp-shinned and 40 Cooper's hawks at Ft. Morgan Oct. 14 (DC) were of interest. A ♀ Cooper's Hawk at Logtown, *Hancock*, Miss., Aug. 28 (JT) likely was a bird that bred nearby. Toups summarized 39 observations of Red-tailed Hawks and judged numbers to be down slightly. The frontal incursion of Sept. 22-23 produced the season's heaviest movements of Broad-winged Hawks: 258 in *Chicot*, Ark., the 24th (NH), and 1460 seen a day later over Louisville, Miss. (SCS) in about 2 hours. Cooley counted 400 passing over Ft. Morgan Oct. 14 and 128 were seen over nearby St. Joe S.P., Oct. 17 (SS, BHS). Cooley had a Swainson's Hawk at Ft. Morgan Oct. 14 and one was at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Nov. 5 (RS). Extremely early was a Rough-legged Hawk seen from the state capitol building in Baton Rouge Oct. 8 (VY, PM). Two were seen in *Tangipahoa*, La., on 3 occasions during late October (IW, HW). Two Golden Eagles were reported, both immatures: Oct. 10 at Gulf Shores, Ala. (J & LGo), and one in *Benton*, Ark., Oct. 14 (JN, BSa, MG). At least 7 reports of Bald Eagles were received, including activities at the White Kitchen, La., nest and a new site in *Harrison*, Miss. The reports were of ten individuals (4 ad., 6 imm.). There were reports of at least 60 Ospreys, including a high of 22 at L. Millwood, Ark. (CM *et al.*) during the period. One Aug. 17 there represented the first August record Peregrine Falcons had a banner season, especially in Louisiana where at least 23 of the 45± records originated. These sightings included the return of the bird that wintered in the New Orleans central business district last year (*vide* MBR). Maximum number reported was seven at Ft. Morgan Oct. 14 (DC), after a frontal passage. A party at Grand Isle, La., Oct. 16-17 had the unpleasant experience of seeing one of two Peregrines they were watching shot by dove hunters (SW)! Merlins also attracted attention, resulting in at least 13 reports Sept. 14-Nov. 30. Most records were of single birds with the dramatic exception of those of Cooley at Ft. Morgan Oct. 14. On that date he estimated that Merlins were flying past his observing site at the rate of 150/hour, in groups of 5 and 6, over a period of 4 hours! Such a number of Merlins, which according to Cooley totaled 1500 Oct. 14 alone, sounds quite incredible! The high count of Am. Kestrels was Oct. 16 at St. Joe S.P., where the Bay County Aud. Soc tallied 202 (SS, BHS, m.ob.).

**RAILS THROUGH TERNS**—Especially cooperative was a Black Rail at Alabama Pt., Ala., which was seen Sept. 27 (OF) and on the succeeding 3 days by 3 observers. It was surmised that the approaching spring tides of the first week in October began to flood its tidal pool, inducing it to depart. A count of 50+ Com. Gallinules Nov. 9 in *Hancock*, Miss., was a local maximum, while one inland at Cross L., near Shreveport, La., Nov. 13 (CNM, JM) was unusual. A Yellow Rail, presumably migrating, was flushed at New Orleans' Lakefront Airport Nov. 8 (TB). Because Am. Oystercatchers are found almost exclusively on shell-rimmed islands off the coast, two on the mainland in *Jackson*, Miss., Oct. 24 (JT) were noteworthy. Numbers of Semipalmated Plovers peaked at 75+ along the *Hancock*, Miss. beachfront Aug. 28 (JT). Piping Plovers were unusual at New Orleans Aug. 6 (DM), the second local record, Aug. 17 in *Lonoke*, Ark. (RC, FM, VF, MM), and in *Washington*, Ark., Sept. 16-17 (TH, JN). Forty at Dauphin I., the 18th (MB) represented good numbers.

Rare in fall—there were 8 previous s.e. Louisiana records for that season—and latest ever, was a Whimbrel at Grand Isle Oct. 3 (RDP, MM, DM). Totals of 900 Greater and 3100 Lesser yellowlegs at Blakely I., *Mobile* Aug. 31 (MB) each established Alabama fall maxima. Brown estimated Pectoral Sandpiper numbers during the first week of September at Blakely I., at 5000! Two at Eufala N.W.R., Nov. 13 (MB) were quite late. Scattered Baird's Sandpipers were noted in late August at L. Millwood and at Dauphin I., and into mid-September in *Jackson*, Miss. One at Ft. Morgan Nov. 20-21 (OF, MB, DC, DGH, DD) was latest ever for the coastal region of Alabama. Also late was a Stilt Sandpiper in *Cameron*, La., Nov. 28 (SC, TD)

Fall peaks of 5000 Semipalmated Sandpipers in *Mobile, Ala.*, Aug. 30-Sept. 21 (MB) and 1000+ Aug. 7 at the Pascagoula R. marsh, Miss. (JT) were recorded; 2000 W. Sandpipers were counted at the former locality during the first week in September (MB). A Marbled Godwit in *Lonoke, Ark.*, Aug. 14 (RC, JC, KJ) was unusual, but quite remarkable for fall were 2 records of Hudsonian Godwits: 1-5 at Blakely I., *Mobile, Ala.*, Sept. 9-20 (GJ, VBF, MB *et al.*), and one in *Cameron, La.*, Sept. 25 (TD, TS, GR, MA). A Ruff, described in exhaustive detail, was at the Pascagoula R. marsh Aug. 1 (JT, CR), the first occurrence in Mississippi. A Black-necked Stilt at Pensacola Aug. 18-Oct. 8 (RD), provided only the second fall record for the Florida section. American Avocets were found inland at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Sept. 25 & Oct. 11 (MAy, RS, MW), and at New Orleans Oct. 31 (RDP). Red Phalaropes were reported from *Mobile* Sept. 20-21 (MB), the 2nd non-pelagic gulf coast record for Alabama in Oak Mountain S.P., *Shelby* Sept. 26 (AM, HHW, TI, m.ob., ph.), for the fifth inland record for the state, and in *Lonoke, Ark.*, Nov. 7 (HP, MP), for the eighth Arkansas record. Wilson's Phalaropes were present in good numbers along the coast from late August to mid-September. Northern Phalaropes were seen in *Mobile* where there were two Aug. 31-Sept. 21 (MB, GJ, VBF), at Pensacola Sept. 8 (OF, BM, ph.), and near Grand Isle, La., Sept. 12 & 18 (MM, NN, NLN).



Juv., dark-phase Parasitic Jaeger, L. Millwood, Ark., Sept. 12, 1982. Photo/C. Mills.

Lake Millwood had 2 records of Parasitic Jaegers, the first and second for Arkansas. The first was one photographed Sept. 12 (CM, HP, MP), the identification confirmed by J. Jehl, the second was Oct. 13-17 (CM, HP, MP, CNM). There was also one at Gulfport, Miss., Sept. 5 (SCS, JJ). Two Great Black-backed Gulls were found in the Destin area, a first-winter bird Oct. 18 (RD) and an adult Oct. 28 (RD) which was seen as late as Nov. 27. The second Louisiana record of the Lesser Black-backed Gull was furnished by a careful sight record of an adult at *Cameron* Oct. 23 (VR, SC, GR, MM, DM, NN). Although the iris color was not seen (nor the orbital ring), the bird was yellow-legged, smaller than nearby Herring Gulls, with smaller, shorter, bill, and had a streaked nape. The latter features eliminated the Yellow-footed Gull as a possibility. A Laughing Gull at *Monroe* Sept. 13 (DK) was evidently a result of the passage of tropical storm *Chris*. One photographed at L. Millwood Oct. 13 (CM, MP) furnished the first documented record for Arkansas. The species is rarely seen far from the coast. Franklin's Gulls, which migrate through Arkansas toward Texas and their wintering grounds in South America, were thought scarce in the L. Millwood area of Arkansas, where they are regular migrants, but were seen more frequently than usual along the coast from s.e. Louisiana to Alabama. Single birds were seen at *New Orleans* Oct. 8, 10, & 21 (MM, DM), at *Alabama Pt.*, Nov. 6 (MB), the fourth fall migration record for Alabama, and at *Hattiesburg, Miss.*, Nov. 28 (TG, LG). A Bonaparte's Gull in *Mobile* Aug. 31 (MB) was the earliest ever for Alabama by about a month. The sixth record of Sabine's Gull, all since 1977, indicates that it is a rare but regular straggler to L. Millwood. This time a juv. bird was present Sept. 26-Oct. 3 (CM, RC, JC, DB, LB). In *Washington, Ark.*, a group of 56 Caspian Terns Sept. 16 (JN, TH) was significant.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — While a Ground Dove in *Birmingham* Oct. 10 (HHW, BS) was unusual for Alabama's mountain region, an Inca Dove at *Little Rock* Oct. 13 (WS *et al.*)

represented the third record for Arkansas. A very late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in *E. Baton Rouge, La.*, Nov. 22 (PN). All of the records of Groove-billed Anis submitted were from coastal areas, e. to Ft. Morgan, Ala., with one exception, a single bird near *Plaquemines* Sept. 24 (RM). At least one of the Long-eared Owls that wintered near *Hackberry, La.*, last year returned to the same oak grove where it was seen Nov. 28 (TS). The only report of Short-eared Owls was of two in *Baldwin, Ala.*, Nov. 6 (MB, DC). A Chuck-will's-widow in *New Orleans* Aug. 7 (MM, DM) marked the earliest date in fall for s.e. Louisiana of a migrating bird. *Newfield* reported a spectacular migration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds during late August and September, that ended by Oct. 28. Rufous Hummingbirds were late and with the mild weather, were not coming to feeders. *Newfield's* first record of a Black-chinned Hummingbird for this fall was Oct. 17 and there were other s.e. Louisiana records including one in *Reserve* Nov. 9-18 (MW). What was surely the first record of *Williamson's Sapsucker* in the e. United States was obtained when a male was collected on "Hackberry Ridge" near *Johnson's Bayou, Cameron, Nov. 14* (VR, SC, TS, TD, MA).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — Major movements of E. Kingbirds were observed in late August in Arkansas's *Benton* and *Washington* and at *Dauphin I.*, Sept. 4 (MB) where 455 were counted. Reports of W. Kingbirds Aug. 25-Nov. 2 were highlighted by ten in *Baton Rouge* Sept. 27 (LN). The individual near *Plaquemines, La.*, Aug. 25 (RM) was quite early. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were seen in modest numbers mid-October through early November e. to Ft. Morgan. The only reports of vagrant *Myiarchus* flycatchers were of two Ash-throated Flycatchers near *Johnson's Bayou, Cameron* Nov. 14 (VR, SC, TS). A Say's Phoebe, the seventh for Louisiana, was found at *Baton Rouge* Oct. 9 (E & EB, GS). Since it is hard to find substantiated records of identifiable migrating *Empidonax* flycatchers in fall, it is worth noting that a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was window-killed in *Harpersville, Shelby, Ala.* (TJ, identified by TI). A Least Flycatcher, identified by song, was at *Eufala Ref.*, Aug. 7 (MB), and one was collected near *Johnson's Bayou* Nov. 14 (TS). Early by 3 weeks was a W. Wood Pewee collected in *Cameron* Sept. 12 (SC; \*L.S.U.M.Z., identified by AP). There were about 6 previous records for the state. The only reports of Vermilion Flycatchers submitted were from s. Louisiana: Oct. 22 at *Sabine N.W.R.* (MM, NN, DM) & Nov. 7 at *Pilottown, Plaquemines* (JW). Two Tree Swallows near *Fayetteville, Ark.*, Nov. 14 (TH, JN) were late for that area, and a high count of 85 Cliff Swallows was obtained at *Dauphin I.*, Aug. 27 (MB).

CROWS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Up to 24 Fish Crows were seen and heard at L. Sequoyah, *Washington, Ark.*, Aug. 8-Sept. 17 (JN, TH, DJ, BSa), the first record for the w. Arkansas Ozarks. Although Red-breasted Nuthatches were mentioned by few contributors, they reached the Gulf Coast in at least moderate numbers. Early, but not earliest ever, was one at *Pearl R., La.*, Sept. 30 (DH). Brown Creepers invaded coastal s.w. Louisiana on the weekend of the L.O.S. fall meeting at *Cameron* Oct. 22-24, with one party (VR, SC, GR) estimating about 45 individuals, but few were seen in s. Louisiana thereafter. Bewick's Wrens moved into coastal areas where they are usually absent, as at *New Orleans* Oct. 17 (NN), Ft. Morgan, Ala., Oct. 18-Nov. 21 (SG, GJ, DGJ, MB), and in *Cameron, La.*, where separate individuals were found Oct. 22 (GR) & Nov. 28 (SC, TD). There were breeding season records of Short-billed Marsh Wrens in Arkansas from *Prairie* Aug. 20 (WS) and *Washington* the following day (JN). The unimpressive character of the peak period of passerine migration is exemplified by the relative scarcity of migrant thrushes, and although two Hermit Thrushes were slightly early in *Hancock, Miss.*, Oct. 2 (JT), they were few in number on the coast through Nov. 30. A count of 50+ E. Bluebirds in *Hancock, Miss.*, on the same day (JT) was an encouraging concentration. As with Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets surged to the coast in s.w. Louisiana Oct. 22-24, when 30-40 were seen by one party, but in this case there was some indication of their persistence in moderate numbers. Peak movements of Cedar Waxwings at *Starkville, Miss.*, occurred around Nov. 20 (SCS), with 500+ /day seen flying S Nov. 14-27.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A well-documented Bell's Vireo was seen at *Dauphin I.*, Sept. 4 (MB) and another individual, likely this species, was at *Ocean Springs, Miss.*, Nov. 11 (DR). Golden-winged

Warblers were early at Eufala Ref., Aug. 7 (MB) and Wheeler Ref., Aug. 14 (MB); Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrids were seen Sept. 4 & 8 at Dauphin I. (MB, GJ) and at Buccaneer S.P., Miss., Sept. 25 (HWe, LA, JT). L. and T. Gates remarked that Tennessee Warblers, which are usually abundant in migration, were in low numbers all fall. Nashville Warblers were again seen in significant numbers along the coast where, because they are circumgulf migrants, are uncommon. A bird identified as a ♀ Townsend's Warbler was seen in Metairie, La., Oct. 12 (NLN) in a heavy movement of warblers and other passerines. There is one previous record, a specimen, from Louisiana. Cape May Warblers are rare in fall in s.w. Louisiana and pose difficult identification problems at that season. One collected in *Cameron* Oct. 24 (SC) provided the fourth fall record for Louisiana. Black-throated Gray Warblers, which seem to be good "bellweathers" of w. movement, were found in *Cameron* Sept. 12 (TD), Oct. 24 (VR, GR), and on the big "western" day of Remsen *et al.*, Nov. 14. Male Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen Oct. 11 at Bellefontaine Beach, Jackson, Miss. (JT) and at Reserve, La., Oct. 13 (MW), while a female was collected in *Cameron* Oct. 24 (VR). A Cerulean Warbler Oct. 2 at Eufala Ref. (MB) was quite late and the third refuge record. Also late was an Ovenbird at Venice Nov. 21 (RDP, MM, NN). A single Connecticut Warbler was reported Sept. 19 at Wheeler Ref. (CG), the second fall record for the Tennessee Valley, while Mourning Warblers were described from *Pike*, Ark., where they are regular, Sept. 15 & 30 (CMcE), and (an adult) at Triumph, *Plaquemines*, La., Nov. 21 (RDP, MM), the latest ever for the state.

**BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES, SPARROWS** — A Bobolink, unexpected in fall given its fall migration route down the Atlantic coast, was seen at Dauphin I., Sept. 16 (GJ). Of Yellow-headed Blackbirds there were 3 reports: Sept. 3 at Fayetteville (TH), one of a very few records for Arkansas Sept. 18 at Dauphin I. (MB), and Sept. 25 at the Bonnet Carre Spillway (MAy, RS, MW), the first for that area. Bronzed Cowbirds, which breed rather regularly in the New Orleans area but are recorded mostly April-August, may be becoming more common in fall and winter. One was seen Sept. 19 in Metairie (NLN, TD). A ♂ W. Tanager was seen at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Aug. 18 (RD), for the first August record for the Florida section and probably the Region, and another was at Hattiesburg Oct. 9 (TG, LG, m.ob.), while in *Washington*, Ark., on the late date of Sept. 8, a full-grown fledgling Summer Tanager was being fed by an adult (JN).

Also representing a late nesting were very young Cardinals leaving the nest on the same day. A very late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in *Cameron* Nov. 14 (TS, SC, VR), while a ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak at Huntsville Sept. 18 (RR, MRS, m.ob.) equalled the previous early arrival date for Alabama. There were at least 3 other records from

Alabama during the fall. Late Blue Grosbeaks were seen in *Hancock*, Miss., Nov. 14 (JT, JB) and in *Cameron* Nov. 28 (SC). There were several late records of Indigo and Painted buntings in coastal Louisiana to Nov. 30. Unusual for the Mississippi coast was a Dickcissel at an Ocean Springs feeder Oct. 18 & 24 (DR). The only report of Evening Grosbeaks was an early one of six in *Limestone*, Ala., Oct. 18 (DC). Purple Finches were at or near the coast in Louisiana by Nov. 14 (RDP, TS) and in some numbers at New Orleans, but few were seen thereafter. An "Oregon" Junco was among the w. vagrants in *Cameron* Nov. 14 (VR, TS). Several records of at least 12 Clay-colored Sparrows were received, all but one from coastal s.e. Louisiana and s.w. Mississippi. The earliest was Sept. 25 at New Orleans (MM), and there were records of ten Oct. 14-23, including at least five in *Hancock*, Miss., on the latter date (TG, LG, ph.). One in *Cameron* Nov. 14 (SC, TS) was late. Song Sparrows reached the s. part of the Region in good numbers and in some cases were early.

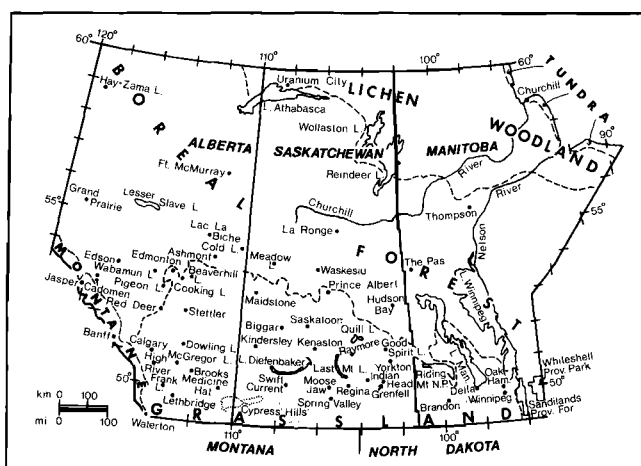
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## PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/Wayne C. Harris

August was sunny but somewhat cooler than normal with extremes dominating the weather. Mid-month had temperatures over 30° C, several severe hailstorms and a few tornadoes while the end of the month had severe frost with temperatures dipping to -7° C. September was warm and sunny with the only exceptions being a couple of unseasonably cold days at mid-month and blizzard-like conditions experienced at month's end. The warm weather continued to late October when temperatures dipped resulting in a general freezing of all but the largest water bodies by the 31st. Cold weather continued into November with the second half of the month experiencing temperatures below -35° C. At month's end snow cover was still spotty in the south with only the north having significant snow cover.

**LOONS, GREBES** — Common Loons congregate in small flocks on n. lakes during migration but the 140 on Kingsmere L., Aug. 3 and 200 on Crean L., Aug. 17 (both in Prince Albert Nat'l P., Sask.) were exceptionally high counts (MS). A single Arctic Loon at Regina Oct. 20-29 and up to four near Regina Beach, Sask., Oct. 23-29 were unusual (BL, TR, CA) as were two Red-throated Loons Oct. 16 and a single Nov. 6 at Calgary (ML, AW, DC). An excellent count for Red-necked Grebes was 200 on Crean L., and 99 on Kingsmere L., Sept. 1 (MS).



**CORMORANTS THROUGH HERONS** — A flock of 800 Double-crested Cormorants at Seven Sisters, Man., was the largest flock in memory for that province (PT). Thirteen Great Egret reports were more than usual for Manitoba and included a record late individual Oct. 28 (CC). The only Cattle Egret report was of an immature near Riceton, Sask., Aug. 30-Sept. 1 (RK, BL). A Green Heron Aug. 14 near Selkirk, another near Winnipeg Aug. 21 and up to four at Sanford

Aug. 21-29 were considered to be an average number of reports for Manitoba (KG, GH, DF). Both Black-crowned Night Heron and Am. Bittern numbers remained low although slowly recovering.

**WATERFOWL** — Several observers in Alberta and Saskatchewan remarked that waterfowl in general were less common this fall than in the past in spite of generally good water conditions (JG, WCH). Possibly the late May snowstorm resulted in initial nest failures and re-nesting produced fewer offspring than in a normal year. A single Whistling Swan Sept. 14 near Webb, Sask., was unexpectedly early (CH). A ♂ Mallard x Pintail was near Saskatoon Oct. 10 (CE). Ninety Wood Ducks at Pinawa, Man., Sept. 19 was the highest number reported (PT). Ring-necked Duck reports were up over past years in w. areas with largest counts being 30 at Banff Sept. 20 and 17 at Regina Oct. 4 (EG, TR). Greater Scaup records are increasing each fall. This year Ghost Res., near Morley, Alta., had one Oct. 28, four Oct. 31 and three Nov. 5 (SJ). The only Barrow's Goldeneye reported away from the foothills was a male at Regina Beach Oct. 24 (BL). Oldsquaws, rare but regular fall migrants on the s. prairies were reported from Liberty, Sask., Nov. 10 (one), nine at Ghost Res., Oct. 28, one at Rivers, Man., Nov. 10, and a record early single at Namaka L., e. of Calgary Sept. 11 (PB, SJ, N. Shortt, JS). Five Harlequin Ducks were seen at Churchill Oct. 3 and in the s., two Nov. 18-21 at Calgary (BC, AS). Fall reports of the arctic nesting scoters increased in frequency and abundance. Eleven Surfs were at Regina Beach Oct. 24 and six there Oct. 25, and a single at the n. end of Last Mountain L., Oct. 28 (BL, CA, BJ); at Ghost Res., there were 21 on Oct. 28, one Oct. 31 and two Nov. 5 (SJ); and in Manitoba five females or immatures Oct. 2-3 at Seven Sisters, six females or immatures Oct. 8 at Fort Whyte, and single birds shot Oct. 8 at Netley Marsh and Oct. 12 at Delta (PT, WPN, CC). Single Black Scoters were at Delta Oct. 6, Regina Oct. 21-23 and Grand Beach, Man., Oct. 30-Nov. 11 (CC, BL, RFK). There were 18 Hooded Mergansers on Buffalo Pound L., n. of Moose Jaw Oct. 24 (PK, RH).

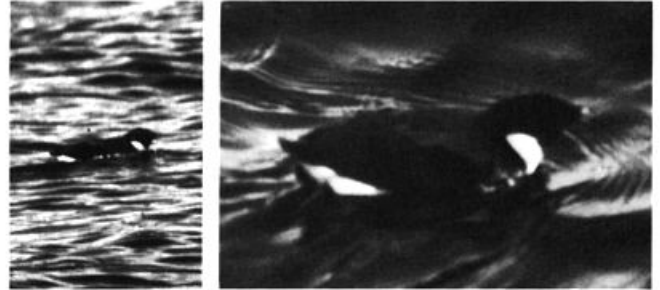
**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — Goshawks have moved S of the forest in numbers for the first time in several years coinciding with low populations of grouse and snowshoe hare. A count of 134 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 11 along the w. side of L. Winnipeg was higher than usual (GG). A Swainson's Hawk Aug. 7 furnished the first record for Churchill (RM). Rough-legged Hawks arrived earlier than usual; one Aug. 15 at Namaka L., being exceptional and there were several September records in Alberta (JS, FH). An Osprey Oct. near White Bear, Sask., was late although not a record (SOJ). There were three Gyrfalcons reported from each of Alberta and Manitoba and five from Saskatchewan, including one unusually early Sept. 5 at Spring Valley (FB). Fifteen Peregrine Falcon reports were received.

**GROUSE, CRANES** — Spruce and Ruffed grouse numbers remain very low across the Region and Sharp-tailed Grouse may be following as numbers are down in s. Manitoba and in several localized situations in Saskatchewan (HC, WCH). Gray Partridge numbers remained relatively stable throughout. At White Bear three white Gray Partridge were seen Nov. 26 (SOJ). Thirty-two reports involving 109 individual Whooping Cranes were received Sept. 10-Oct. 26; government personnel checked 17 of these totalling 54 individuals including some color-banded birds.

**SHOREBIRDS** — The only fall report of Am. Golden Plovers was of 10 on Sept. 29 near Kenaston (PLB). The largest number of Com. Snipe was 28 at Wolseley Aug. 29 (JDH). In general shorebirds were not encountered in large numbers and rarities were few. Alberta's fifth or sixth Ruff was at Namaka L., July 31-Aug. 1 (JS). Single Red Phalaropes were reported from Namaka L., Oct. 30 and Cochrane L., Alta., Oct. 26 (JS, †SJ). Two reports of W. Sandpiper were received from Calgary: one Aug. 21 and two Aug. 28 (AW, JS). Two Black-necked Stilts were found in s.e. Alberta at Pakowki L., Aug. 3 (ML). Of note was a rare fall Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Winnipeg Aug. 21 (DF, GEH, HL) and a late date for Greater Yellowlegs Nov. 7 at Oak Hammock, Man. (GH).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — Normal jaeger numbers were reported with two parasitics at Lac Des Arcs, Alta., Sept. 13 and one Sept. 19 at Eagle L., Alta. (JT, AS). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was found at Namaka L., Sept. 5 (†JS). A belated report of a Long-tailed caught June 24 on L. Winnipeg, approximately 100 km n. of Hecla,

provided s. Manitoba with its first record since 1940. For the first time in recent years there were no reports of white-winged gulls away from the Churchill area. Up to 4000 Franklin's Gulls staged at Webb in August (CH). Three late reports of single Bonaparte's Gulls were received from Alberta: Oct. 31 at Elk Isl. N. P., and Nov. 14 at Wabamun L., and Calgary (TH, GE, BW). The last sighting of the Laughing Gull at Churchill was Aug. 9 (RM, BC). Single Sabine's Gulls were found at Namaka L., Sept. 11-12 (JS, ph.) and Seven Sisters Sept. 19-20 (PT, WPN). A Com. Tern at Churchill Aug. 9 was a rarity (RM) as were single Arctic's at Namaka L., Sept. 11-18 (JS) and Delta Sept. 11 (GH, IW). A Caspian Tern Sept. 27 at Calgary was unexpected (RB). It is a rare event to have alcids reported in this Region, thus a well described Ancient Murrelet Oct. 17-18 on Glenmore Res., near Calgary was very much unexpected and provided the second Alberta record (JS, AW, SJ, ph.).



Ancient Murrelet, Glenmore Res., Alta., Oct. 17-18, 1982. Photos/A. Wiseley.

**DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — The largest count of Mourning Doves was 300 at Douglas P.P., Sask., Sept. 9 (BG, KM). A very late Black-billed Cuckoo Oct. 3 was at Victoria Beach, Man. (RFK). Great Horned Owl populations appear to be decreasing slightly (E & JH) while Short-eareds were very scarce throughout the Region. Pygmy Owls were reported from near Morley Oct. 11 and from the Wildlife Res. of W. Canada near Cochrane, Alta., Nov. 6 (SJ, JP). The only Barred Owl reports were from s.w. Alberta with singles near Morley, Calgary and Byrant Cr. (SJ, IH, AW). Four Great Gray Owls in Alberta and nine in s. Manitoba were somewhat fewer reports than in the past few years. From 12 active Black Swift nests at Banff 10 young fledged and were last seen Sept. 13 (GLH). A single ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was in Calgary Aug. 7 and another was seen there Aug. 18 (RB) while Manitoba had its first since 1979 when a male was found at Brandon Sept. 13 (CC).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — Reports of Com. (Red-shafted) Flickers in Saskatchewan came from Moose Jaw with singles Sept. 18 and Nov. 17 and two Oct. 10 as well as a hybrid flicker Oct. 8 (PK). Three Lewis' Woodpeckers Aug. 24 near Sundre, Alta., were unusual (FH). A small movement of N. Three-toed Woodpeckers s. of the forest in Saskatchewan occurred. Saskatoon had a female Oct. 17-Nov. 3, a female at Good Spirit L., Oct. 19 and a pair at Regina Nov. 13-30 (CE, W & JA, RK). The flycatcher migration was poor, the only rarity being a Scissor-tailed at Moose Jaw Sept. 24 (EK). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were somewhat more common in Alberta—w. Saskatchewan than normal with 5 reports received (PA, CE, MG, PK).

**HORNED LARK THROUGH STARLING** — In the Foam L. - Sheho, Sask. area the breeding population of Cliff Swallows had departed by an early July 27 (WN). Although not unusual, the largest concentration of swallows was near Broadview, Sask., Aug. 24 when 2-3000 were seen (DFr, PK). Black-billed Magpies seem quick to colonize new areas in the boreal forest as indicated by the rapid population increases noted at Fort McMurray where numbers are 4 × greater than those of last year (JG). A Clark's Nutcracker was reported from Sundre Sept. 17 (FH). Boreal Chickadees arrived at Biggar Oct. 22 and remained to the end of the period (GW, RW). Both Black-capped Chickadees and White-breasted Nuthatch numbers were up in Moose Mountain P.P., Sask. (RD). A very late Gray Catbird was seen at Calgary Oct. 18-29 (BW, JT). An unprecedented group of up to eight Varied Thrushes was seen near Webb Sept. 29-Oct. 3 during cold snowy weather (*vide* CH). A rarity for Alberta was three E. Bluebirds at Sundre Sept. 4 (FH). The only Townsend's Solitaires were singles at Edmonton Oct. 2 and Calgary Nov. 23 (JL,

JT). A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Kleefeld Aug. 31, initially located by Dennis Fast and subsequently seen by 2 others provided Manitoba's first confirmed record. Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers generally increased, especially in s. Manitoba (HC, RFK).

**VIREOS THROUGH TANAGERS** — Philadelphia Vireos are not common in the w. half of this Region thus three at Calgary Aug. 22 and singles at Saskatoon Aug. 19, 22, 28 and Moose Jaw Aug. 19 were noteworthy (AW, CE, PO, PK). The warbler migration was one of the poorest in recent years with few observers reporting any large numbers and very few rarities seen. Nashvilles were at Calgary Aug. 12 and Oct. 6 and Saskatoon Aug. 28 (*vide* AW, JBG). A single Cape May was a first for the Grenfell area Sept. 23 (E & JH). A ♂ Black-throated Blue was a rarity at Regina (*vide* RK). A single W. Tanager at Webb Aug. 28 provided the first record for that area (CH).

**FRINGILLIDS** — A Cardinal visited a feeder in Winnipeg Oct. 11-17 (*vide* HC) and a Black-headed Grosbeak was seen at Birds Hill P.P., Man., Aug. 30 (GDG). On Aug. 2 a pair of Lazuli Buntings was found in the Cypress Hills in s.e. Alberta; the male was still singing and the female was carrying food (CH). Winter finches are almost nonexistent this fall, especially Com. Redpoll and Pine Grosbeak and only Evening Grosbeaks were reported from any number of locales

however the numbers were small. American Goldfinches were still present in s. Manitoba at the end of November. Crossbills were common only in s.w. Alberta, elsewhere few were seen. Two White-winged were seen at Churchill Sept. 2 (BC). The sparrow migration matched the warblers—dull! Late sparrow records included Le Conte's Oct. 2 at Wildlife Res. of W. Canada (SJ), a Swamp Nov. 19 at Ghost Res. (JP, SJ) and a Song Nov. 7 at Oak Hammock (GH).

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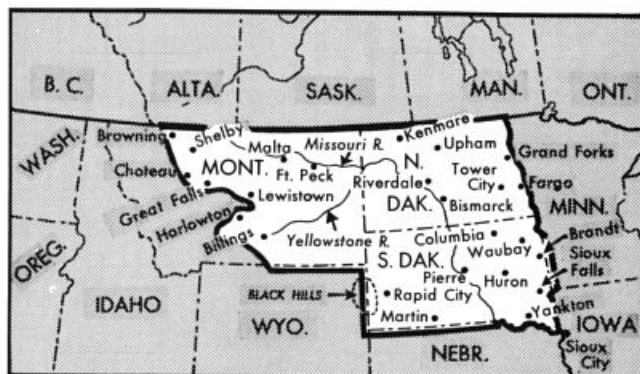
## NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/David O. Lambeth

Weather patterns were variable across the Region and the comments which follow apply most accurately to eastern North Dakota. August and September were dry, but it was one of the wettest Octobers on record at Fargo where seven inches of rain fell. Birders and hunters alike were frustrated by impassable section roads and the wide dispersal of waterfowl over numerous temporary wetlands. A moderately severe frost caused widespread damage over the north part of the Region August 27, yet the first killing frost did not occur until late October. Sunflowers, which require a killing frost and several subsequent days of dry weather before harvesting, were still standing in many fields into December. Although this food bonanza surely induced a few birds to winter, perhaps only American Goldfinches remained northward in much above-average numbers, and it is remarkable that the migratory urge in many Icterids and Fringillids drives them southward even when weather conditions remain mild and food is abundant. Perhaps their timely departure was due in part to a short cold spell in mid-November which seemed to convince weather forecasters that we were headed for a harsh, cold winter—a forecast which has been dead wrong; at least for the period from late November to early January.

In the text following, italicized place names indicate counties.

**LOONS THROUGH BITTERNS** — Peak daily counts of Com. Loons in each state were six on one lake in *Day*, S.D., Oct. 31 (KH), four at Fort Peck, Mont., Oct. 17 (CMC), and five at L. Tewaukon, N.D., Oct. 31 (DP). Red-necked Grebes seemingly pass through unnoticed—the only report was of three in *Grand Forks* and *Walsh*, N.D., Aug. 22-29 (JK). Peak counts of other grebes were eight Horneds near Minot Oct. 31, 500+ Eareds at Miles City, Mont., Sept. 14 (SG), 470 Westerns observed from one vantage point on Devils L., N.D., Oct. 13 (DOL), and 32 Pied-billeds on N. Salt Lake, *Walsh*, N.D., Aug. 29 (JK). The value of Kelly's Slough N.W.R., as a migrant stopover in the broad, intensely agricultural Red River Valley of e. North Dakota was shown by the count of 725 White Pelicans on the refuge's 60-acre lake (GL) and the 125 Great Blue Herons feeding along 1.5 mi of the slough (JK), both counts Aug. 25. A Cattle Egret Oct. 29 in *Day*, S.D., was that state's latest ever (HS, GW). Fifteen Great Egrets at Kelly's Slough Aug. 23 (GL) were the most ever there. The 4 highest daily counts of Black-crowned Night Herons were of only 8-10 birds each. Two **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** were seen along the Big Sioux R., in Sioux Falls, S.D., Aug.



11 (AH). A Least Bittern was found at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D., Sept. 13 (SW). The total number of Am. Bitterns reported was only 16 which is more of an indication of their secretiveness than their relative abundance.

**WATERFOWL** — A record fall count of 19,673 Canada Geese was made on the Yellowstone R., between Billings and Fairview, Mont., Nov. 16-18 (TH). White-fronteds were widely reported, but in low numbers, the most being 100+ at Fort Peck Oct. 9 (CMC). A peak of 157,000 Snow Geese was tabulated on Salyer Ref. and surrounding areas Oct. 13 (GAE, TS), and 100,000 were in extreme n.w. North Dakota in late October. The number at Salyer is particularly astonishing as 500 was considered the most ever in fall 30 years ago (*AFN* 5, 24). At least six Ross' Geese were taken by hunters near Bottineau, N.D. (*vide* DNS) and one was near Miles City, Mont., Nov. 15 (TH, SG). A ♂ Wood Duck at Tewaukon Nov. 23 was very late (DP). The only reports of White-winged Scoters were of 1-5 at Upper Souris Oct. 29-Nov. 7 (GBB, RM). A Surf Scoter was there Oct. 31, and another was very late in *Yankton*, S.D., Nov. 24 (WH). Harris noted that no Com. Mergansers were reported for South Dakota, and fewer than ten were reported for North Dakota. This along with the scarcity of Com. Goldeneyes are the best indications of how rapidly n. ducks passed through this Region when a series of cold, calm nights in early November resulted in rapid freezing of lakes and wetlands.

**HAWKS** — Single Turkey Vultures at Fargo Oct. 10 (CC) and *Deuel*, S.D., Sept. 28 (BH), plus four in *Yankton* Sept. 8 (LAA) were unusual at those locations. It was the best Goshawk flight in a decade as numerous sightings extended into e. South Dakota where Harris observed five Oct. 18-Nov. 6. There were at least 8 sightings in North



Dakota, mostly in the last 3 weeks of October. Four Swainson's Hawks migrating over Battle Mt., Sept. 25 were considered very unusual within the Black Hills of South Dakota (D & RR). A concentration of 34 Ferruginous Hawks, including two dark-phase individuals, was perched within a prairie dog town in *Shannon*, S.D., Aug. 27 (RR). Rough-legged Hawks were notably scarce in the Dakotas, but more numerous in Montana where 25 were seen near Baker Nov. 22 (*vide* SG). Gray-phase Gyrfalcons were seen near Woodworth, N.D., Nov. 13 (CAF), and in *Billings* Nov. 27 (RS). A rash of sightings of Prairie Falcons along the Red R., included three diving at one another at Fargo Oct. 5 (MB, CAS). Another Prairie Falcon left the remains of an Am. Kestrel when flushed in a grain field near Fort Peck Aug. 22 (CMC). American Kestrels rapidly leave much of this Region in July following nesting, and it is of interest that Berkey reported a seasonal total of only 26 at Minot compared with a total of 15 Merlins there. A total of four Peregrines was reported.

**GROUSE THROUGH CRANES** — Some observers felt that numbers of the Gallinaceous species were very low. Another attempt to introduce Chukars into the badlands of North Dakota was made, this time using 134 wild birds trapped in Nevada rather than pen-reared birds. Several South Dakota and Montana observers noted a heavy migration of Sandhill Cranes Oct. 13-15 & 29. Two Whooping Cranes were near Westhope, N.D., Oct. 27 (GAE, TS), and six were reported for the Crosby, N.D., area. One of three observed in *Kidder*, N.D., Oct. 20 had been radio-tagged as a juvenile at Wood Buffalo in 1981. This Whooper was found dead beneath a powerline near Waco, Texas, just 2 days later, and thus two of only three young produced at Wood Buffalo that summer have now met this fate (*vide* CAF).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS** — Late Semipalmated Plovers were at Grand Forks Oct. 3 and Fargo Oct. 6 (CAS). More than 400 Am. Golden and 50 Black-bellied plovers at Fargo Oct. 6 (MB), and 275 Am. Golden in *Yankton*, S.D., Oct. 17, were good numbers for the fall season. Two Am. Woodcock were present at Hartford Beach S.P., S.D., Oct. 20 (DS). Upland Sandpipers heard passing over Grand Forks the nights of Sept. 11 & 13 were 2 weeks beyond the usual last date (JK, DOL). A Willet in *Hamlin*, S.D., Oct. 17 was very late (BH). Among the estimated 25,000 shorebirds in one newly drained cell of the Grand Forks lagoons Aug. 22 were 8000 each Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers, and 14 Red Knots (JK). Another Red Knot was seen in *Ward*, N.D., Aug. 29 (RM, GBB). Dunlin were present at Fargo Oct. 5-Nov. 10 (MB, CAS). A W Sandpiper in summer plumage was at the Minot lagoons Aug. 28 (RM, GBB). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was near Bismarck Aug. 20 (RNR), and two in *Jackson*, S.D., Sept. 18 furnished only the second record w. of the Missouri R., in South Dakota (KG). Single Hudsonian Godwits were at Fargo Oct. 14 (MB), and Minot Oct. 10-24 (RM, GBB). More than 600 Am. Avocets were on Horsehead L., *Kidder* Aug. 22 (DS). An ad. Glaucous Gull was below Garrison Dam, N.D., on the early date of Nov. 14 (GBB). Five Glaucous Gulls were at Fort Peck Nov. 28 (CMC), and a first-year bird was in *Yankton*, S.D., on the same date (WH). Two Black-legged Kittiwakes were photographed in *Yankton* Nov. 24-30 (WH, GM) and a report of two at Garrison Dam Oct. 10 (RQ) was surprisingly early. A *Sabine's Gull* was observed at the Minot lagoons Oct. 7-11 (GBB, RM) and a second was below Garrison Dam Oct. 10-11 (RQ, RM)—the fifth and sixth state records for a species seen only once in North Dakota before the fall of 1980.

**CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — A Black-billed Cuckoo near Bismarck Sept. 4 was occupying a nest with a new hatchling at a time most cuckoos have left. However, one was still present at Minot Sept. 28. Great Horned Owls seemed more numerous and bolder at Grand Forks, and a Snowy Owl Sept. 30 in *Burke*, N.D., was very early (CAF). The only Saw-whet Owl reported was in Grand Forks Oct. 24. Seven Poor-wills were found in the Spring Cr. Coal Area of Montana Sept. 23 (MH), and two in *Jackson*, S.D., in late August were at the e. edge of their range (KG). More than 1000 Com. Nighthawks were in migration at Roundup, Mont., Aug. 28 (CS). A hummingbird at Billings for a number of days was identified as an *Anna's Hummingbird* Nov. 14, and this hardy individual was still coming to a feeder in early December (HC, BF). It was the fifth *Anna's* for Montana and the first e. of the Continental Divide. A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Hope, N.D., Nov. 6-23 was n. of the known nesting range (DLK). The last dates for kingbirds for the Region

were. Eastern recorded near Miles City, Mont., Sept. 12, Western Sept. 18; and Cassin's at the e. edge of its range Sept. 23 (SJG). Sightings of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in North Dakota were Aug. 24 at Bismarck (GE) and Sept. 15 at Hope (DLK). Eastern Wood Pewees often nest into late August in North Dakota, and one was still singing at Turtle River S.P., Sept. 27 (JK). A Bank Swallow at Velva, N.D., Oct. 3 was late and a brood of Barn Swallows fledged at Sawyer, N.D., Sept. 26 (RM). A Purple Martin at Clear L., *Deuel*, S.D., Oct. 25 was the latest ever by 2 weeks (DK).

**JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES** — Flocks of migrant Blue Jays are noted in the Dakotas in September. In Montana, which is w. of their breeding range, single Blue Jays were found by observers at Sidney, Fort Peck, Glendive, and Billings Sept. 22-Oct. 6. This year as in the fall of 1972 which was also a good year for Goshawks, several **Common Ravens** were seen in North Dakota: at Salyer Ref., Nov. 4 (GAE), Upper Souris Nov. 7 (JB), Minot Nov. 25 (GBB), Internat'l Peace Gardens Nov. 27, and two in the N. Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P., Nov. 5 (RF). Up to 200 Piñon Jays were coming to feed and water at one residence in Billings. The numbers of migrating Red-breasted Nuthatches in the e. Dakotas were low, especially in comparison with the previous year. An exceptionally high total of 11 Pygmy Nuthatches was found at Battle Mt., *Fall River*, S.D., Sept. 25 (D & RR). A Winter Wren freshly road-killed at Lewiston, Mont., Nov. 8, provided a first record for L19 (LM). A Long-billed Marsh Wren was late in *Fall River* Nov. 10 (RP) and a Short-billed Oct. 25 in *Yankton* was the latest ever (WH). Two Rock Wrens were at Garrison Dam Oct. 11 (RM). Single **Varied Thrushes** were found in Chester, Mont., Nov. 11-14 (HM), and at Grand Forks Nov. 7 (M. Klevay). A Veery banded in *Brown*, S.D., Sept. 12 was considered late (DAT). Twenty E. Bluebirds were observed in one flock in *Deuel*, S.D., and 15 were counted at the Cross Ranch in North Dakota Sept. 26. A Townsend's Solitaire at Salyer Ref., was early Sept. 19 (RM). Water Pipits are scarce in e. North Dakota in the spring, but daily counts of 50 or more are common in fall. The last observation at Grand Forks was Nov. 8 (SL). Sprague's Pipits are regularly found in late September along the Missouri R., in *Stanley*, S.D. (BH). Very few Bohemian Waxwings had arrived, however flocks of Cedar Waxwings commonly numbering 50-75 were feeding on heavy crops of native and Mountain Ash berries in North Dakota. A total of 13 N. Shrike sightings in South Dakota was indicative of a good flight.

#### S.A.

Between Sept. 11-14, traditional field observations were combined with the latest in technology to give an extraordinary glimpse of the magnitude of migration along the Red River Valley at Grand Forks. For 6 days prior to Sept. 11, migration had been at a standstill as S wind flows dominated the weather. The winds shifted to the NW as a weak front passed on the morning of the 11th. The first indication of a major migratory movement was a kettle of 25 Broad-winged Hawks drifting at dusk into the trees along the Red R. For the hour before dawn on the 12th an incredible chorus of the call notes of migratory songbirds was heard as they passed overhead under a low cloud cover. Investigation of the better birding areas on the 12th revealed that a heavy fallout of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers had occurred. Little migratory activity was detected by ear on the night of the 12th, but heavy migration was again heard at 10:30 p.m., on the 13th. Not known to me until the 13th was the fact that Sidney Gauthreaux of Clemson University had parked his mobile migratory observatory on the Univ. of North Dakota campus and had been monitoring the migration. The observatory uses a combination of radar, a ceilometer, an image intensifier, and a video tape recorder to monitor migrants at various altitudes. Dr. Gauthreaux's preliminary estimates of peak migratory traffic on the nights of Sept. 11 & 13 were on the order of 100,000 birds/hour/mile of migratory front. Since the Red R. flows N in a broad valley about 60 mi wide, perhaps 60 million birds crossed an imaginary E-W line across the valley each of these two nights as they flew S on their migratory journey.

**VIREOS AND WARBLERS** — The season was ideal for late dates within these 2 groups. At Sioux Falls, all 5 species of vireos expected in the e. Dakotas were observed as late as Sept. 12 (AH); a Yellow-throated Vireo setting the latest date ever for South Dakota. Some

remarkably late dates for warblers included a Tennessee banded in *Brown*, S.D., Oct. 11 (DT), a Nashville banded there Oct. 28, a Black-throated Blue in *Beadle*, S.D., Oct. 29 (J & BJ), a Bay-breasted in Grand Forks Oct. 6, a Com. Yellowthroat in Fargo Nov. 11 (GN), a Wilson's at Fort Peck Oct. 30 (CMC), and several Am. Redstarts Oct. 11-13. Golden-winged Warblers were observed in *Minnehaha*, S.D., Aug. 25-Sept. 6, and one daily count of six was surprising for a species so rare in this Region (AH). Two N. Parulas were in *Brookings*, S.D., Sept. 17 (S. van Sickle) and one was seen near Towner, N.D., Sept. 12 (GBB, RM). A ♀-plumaged Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Hope, N.D., Oct. 8-9 (DLK) and an ad. male was an unexpected treat for Audubon field trip participants at Grand Forks Sept. 11 (D. Vought). A total of 22 species of warblers was recorded at Minot, however seasonal totals for some of the more common ones were regarded as low.

**MEADOWLARKS THROUGH LONGSPURS** — A N. Oriole was very late Nov. 5 in *Clay*, S.D. (WL). Two flocks of Brewers Blackbirds in *McHenry*, N.D., totaled 7500 Sept. 19 (GBB). Purple Finches arrived in Grand Forks in July and were present in above average numbers throughout the period. A "huge invasion" was noted in *Brown*, S.D., Sept. 20, and 100+ were banded there in November (DT). In contrast, only four were reported in e. Montana, all in mid-October. Several Cassin's Finches frequented a feeder in Lewiston, Mont., in September (LM), and one was observed in Custer S.P., S.D., Aug. 6 (RR). Several species of "northern finches" were virtually absent as there were no reports of Pine or Evening grosbeaks, only two of Com. Redpolls, one of Red Crossbills, and none of White-wingeds. Pine Siskins, which in recent years, at least, have nested in numbers in towns in North Dakota with mature spruce plantings, disappeared following completion of nesting in June. Where did they go? A very few were being found in the last half of the period. American Goldfinches, which only occasionally winter in North Dakota in numbers, appeared to be prepared to do so this year.

More than 700 Vesper Sparrows were seen along roadsides between Roundup and Broadview, Mont., Aug. 27 (LM). A Chipping Sparrow banded in *Brown*, S.D., Oct. 25 (DT), and a Field Sparrow in *Yankton* on the same date were both considered late. Seasonal totals of 23 Swamp Sparrows and six Fox Sparrows were recorded at Minot Sept. 14-Oct. 11 and Sept. 25-Oct. 11, respectively. A well-marked McCown's Longspur was observed under optimal conditions in s.w. *Fall River*, S.D., on the very late date of Nov. 27 (D. & RR).

**IN MEMORIAM** — For over 40 years, Ann and Robert Gammell contributed enormously to our knowledge of birds of the Northern Great Plains through their field observations, banding studies, and various writings. For nearly 10 years, they wrote the seasonal reports covering the Northern Great Plains for *Aud. Field Notes*. In 1973, they organized and hosted the first convention of the American Birding Association in the tiny town of Kenmare, N.D. Numerous readers of these pages owe their first encounters with prairie species such as Baird's Sparrow and Sprague's Pipit to the Gammells. It is with deep regret that we note here the death of Ann Gammell in Kenmare, N.D., Nov. 9, 1982, at the age of 73.

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## SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

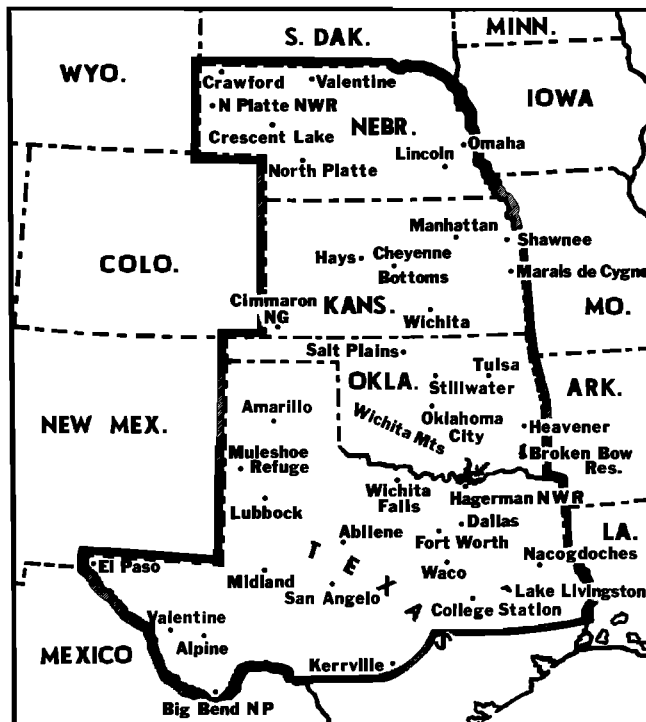
/Frances Williams

There was little uniformity in evaluation of the fall migration, with comments ranging from "dull" to "outstanding". At Oklahoma City, Bartlesville, Oklahoma and northeastern Kansas, shorebirding was exceptional for a few weeks in August and September. At El Paso, the fall was characterized by many first-time vagrants and a full scale montane invasion. In the Lubbock, Texas area, rare birds were the rule rather than the exception. On the night of September 15-16, about 300 birds hit the TV tower at Coweta, Wagoner County, Oklahoma. These included 155 Northern Orioles, 49 Red-eyed Vireos and 84 warblers of 14 species. Jim Norman has been picking up tower kills at Coweta for 7 years, and this represented the most birds ever for a single night.

In the following text, place names in *italics* denote counties.

**LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Nebraska observers found an unusual number of Com. Loons from a very early one in *Keith* Aug. 31 (BJR) to an amazing 23 at Omaha Nov. 20 (BO). Red-necked, Horned, Eared, Western and Pied-billed grebes were all at the Lubbock wastewater ponds Sept. 19 (ML *et al.*). In *Hudspeth*, Tex., 20 W. Grebes were counted Nov. 16 (BZ) and a single bird was seen in *Sarpy*, Neb., Nov. 6 (BP). At least 1200 Double-crested Cormorants congregated in *Coffey*, Kans., Oct. 10 (MS), and 380 flew over Blair, Neb., Oct. 7 (TB, BP). Four Olivaceous Cormorants were discovered in *Morris*, Tex., Sept. 26 (RMC, CME) and one was at Dallas Aug. 14 (RRA).

**HERONS** — A massive N movement of herons and egrets occurred in August and September throughout the Region. A 30-acre playa in s.w. Midland, filled by rain water run-off from city streets, hosted 8 species of *Ardeidae*, including the locally rare Little Blue Heron, Great Egret and Louisiana Heron. Little Blue Herons appeared in *Sedgwick*, Kans., *Washington*, Okla., *Muleshoe* N.W.R., Tex., and *Kerr*, Tex. Large congregations of Cattle Egrets were



reported at more than a dozen localities. A Reddish Egret was reported at L. Balmorhea, *Reeves*, Tex., Oct. 8 (GWh). Louisiana Herons were numerous in *Kerr*, *Kendall* and *Comal*, Tex., and provided a first record at Lubbock (ph. CS). Least Bitterns were discovered at 6 locations. At *Kerr*, an Am. Bittern Oct. 14 provided only a second record (E & KM).

**STORKS THROUGH DUCKS** — Six Wood Storks were present at Dallas Aug. 22 (B & MR), and three flew E along the Red R., *McCurtain*, Okla., Sept. 26 (RMC, CME). At least a dozen sites hosted numerous White-faced Ibises. A White Ibis in *Kerr* Aug. 26 provided a first county record (E & KM). A Roseate Spoonbill visited Dallas Sept. 24-Oct. 2 (MP *et al.*). Whistling Swans graced *Lyon*, Kans., *Lancaster*, Neb., and *Tulsa* in late November. Four Ross' Geese arrived at *Tishomingo* N.W.R., Okla., Nov. 13 and one was seen at *Hagerman* N.W.R., Tex., Nov. 18. At *El Paso*, the bird of the season was a **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**. This much photographed bird was present Aug. 1-Nov. 30+ (AG, m.ob.). Three immatures of this species stopped briefly at the Midland wastewater ponds Sept. 18 (RMS, m.ob.). At *Cheyenne Bottoms* W.M.A., Kans., a Black Duck was carefully identified Sept. 4 (DV). An ad. Wood Duck was followed by seven downy young at *Hagerman* N.W.R., Aug. 2. Three ♀ Wood Ducks were at *El Paso* Nov. 16. A concentration of at least 100 Wood Ducks inhabited a flooded wood near *Cheyenne Bottoms* Aug. 14. Greater Scaup were at *Omaha* Nov. 23 (BJR *et al.*) and *Tulsa* Nov. 7 (EH *et al.*). A flotilla of Lesser Scaup in *Pawnee*, Okla., Oct. 31 was estimated to comprise 5000 birds.



*Black-bellied Whistling Duck, El Paso Co., Tex., August, 1982. Photo/B. Zimmer.*

**VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS** — Many groups of Turkey Vultures flew over *Crosby*, Tex., during September and early October. A flock of 125, including 40% juvenile birds, Sept. 22 was the largest ever counted there (KH). At the nesting locality of White-tailed Kites in s.e. Oklahoma, four birds remained as late as Oct. 3 (*vide* JGN). Other sightings of this species occurred in *Tillman*, Okla., Oct. 21 (RMC) and *Navarro*, Tex., Oct. 1 (RD, TQ) and Nov. 17 (TG, FB). This may be an irruption year for Goshawks. They were seen in *Lyon*, Kans., Nov. 25 (E & JS), *Omaha* Oct. 23, 25, Nov. 17 (JU, m.ob.), *Boone*, Neb., Nov. 5 (WM), and *Barton*, Kans., Oct. 20 (SS), and *Tishomingo* N.W.R., Dec. 5 (KN). In *Dawes*, Neb., one Broad-winged Hawk was observed Sept. 16 and three were seen Sept. 17, the most Rosche had ever seen in the area, spring or autumn. A few Broad-wingeds stopped briefly in *Amarillo* and *Lubbock*. Swainson's Hawks were reported in fair-to-excellent numbers across the Region. Highlights included 1500 over *Kerr* Oct. 18 (JG), 200 at *Big Spring*, Tex., Oct. 7 (SCo), 30 at *Bellevue*, Neb., Sept. 24 (BP) and a group of 18 juveniles with two adults in *Pawnee*, Kans., Sept. 14 (SS). A Harris' Hawk was far e. of its normal range at *Arlington*, Tex., Oct. 10-16 (SS) and one in *Crosby* Sept. 15 was unusual (KH). After several years of scarcity, Harris' Hawks were again conspicuous in trans-Pecos Texas. At least one of the Black Hawks that summered at *Lubbock* remained until Oct. 11 (CS). Golden Eagles were seen e. to *Jefferson*, Kans., Nov. 27 (SS) and *Picher*, Okla., Oct. 25 (PWW). Caracaras were found in *Hamilton*, *Limestone* and *Navarro*, Tex. A dark Gyrfalcon flew over the railroad yards adjacent to downtown *Oklahoma City* Dec. 1 (JAG). Other than the resident population in *Big Bend* N.P., only 21 Peregrine Falcons were reported, but several of those appeared in areas where there had been no sightings in recent years. Merlins appeared at just 5 localities.

**PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH JAÇANAS** — During the past 7 years, Greater Prairie Chickens have greatly increased in numbers in *Noble*, Okla., near *Sooner* L. (JAG). Wild Turkeys have spread into *McLennan*, Tex., apparently from stock released by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., in nearby *Bosque* (JO). Two ad. Whooping Cranes arrived at *Quivira* N.W.R., Kans., Oct. 12, six adults and one young spent the night of Oct. 31 at *Cheyenne Bottoms*, two adults and one radio-tagged young were seen in *Greenwood*, Kans., Nov. 2 and one adult was observed in *Rawlins*, Kans., Nov. 2. Seven stopped at

*Great Salt Plains* N.W.R., Okla., Oct. 31. A report of three Whoopers flying along the *Rio Grande* in *Big Bend* N.P., Oct. 23 was astounding (JEL). A dead Yellow Rail was picked up under the *Coweta* TV tower Sept. 16 (JN) and a live one was seen in *Boone*, Neb., the same day (WM). Several imm. Soras wandered into residential areas of *Waco* in early September. A Black Rail was discovered at *Quivira* N.W.R., Aug. 10 (E & JS). A Purple Gallinule at *Lubbock* Nov. 11 provided a new county record (ML). An imm. *Jaçana* somehow found one of the few marshy areas in vast *Brewster*, Tex., and remained there Oct. 7-11 (SaW, GWh).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Probably the most thoroughly documented bird of the season was a **Wilson's Plover** at *Tulsa* Aug. 15-Oct. 9 (JMcM, m.ob.), providing an unquestionable first state record. Piping Plovers were discovered at *Ft. Worth* Aug. 30, *Cheyenne Bottoms* Sept. 4, and *Rogers*, Okla., Aug. 22 & 29. A group of 30 Mountain Plovers was present in *Morton*, Kans., Aug. 7 (SS) and a single bird was found in *Crosby* Sept. 25 (ML). Usually scarce in the fall, Am. Golden Plovers were widespread and numerous. Ruddy Turnstones were seen at *Oklahoma City* Sept. 13 and *Rogers*, Okla., Aug. 28-Sept. 4. Two Long-billed Curlews at *Irving*, Tex., Sept. 3 were unexpected. Red Knots, Dunlins and Sanderlings are regular, although uncommon, migrants across the plains. Each was reported at 6 or more localities. Short-billed Dowitchers were carefully identified at *Canadian*, Okla., Aug. 28 (JAG), *Lubbock* Sept. 25 (NJ), *Omaha* Aug. 4 (TB, BP), *Sheridan*, Neb., Aug. 13 (RCR). High counts of Buff-breasted Sandpipers included 26 in *Pawnee*, Okla., Sept. 12 (JH) and 16 in *Cleveland*, Okla., Aug. 22 (JAG). Eight Marbled Godwits visited *Rogers* Aug. 22 (D & HG). A Black-necked Stilt in *Wagoner*, Okla., Oct. 16 was unusually far e. (SG). Red Phalaropes were found at *Rogers*, Okla., Oct. 5 (D & HG, m.ob.), *Lubbock* Sept. 19 (NJ, m.ob.) and *Muleshoe* N.W.R., Sept. 18 (CS). Northern Phalaropes were sighted at 7 localities.



*Wilson's Plover, Tulsa Co., Okla., Aug. 25, 1982, first state record. Photo/J.S. Shackford.*

**GULLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — A Glaucous Gull was discovered in *Douglas*, Kans., Nov. 19 (RB). Two Herring Gulls at *El Paso* Nov. 23 were unusual at that desert locality (BZ). At *Lubbock*, a California Gull Nov. 7 provided a new county record (ML, m.ob.). Least Terns were at *Quivera* Aug. 28 & Sept. 17, *Canadian*, Okla., Aug. 22 & Sept. 4, *Sarpy*, Neb., Aug. 3, *Rogers* Aug. 7 & 22, *Reno*, Kans., Sept. 18. A congregation of Black Terns in *Rogers* Aug. 8 comprised 250 individuals. A Ground Dove visited *Crosby* Sept. 30-Oct. 9 (KH, ML). Black-billed Cuckoos were seen at *Omaha* Sept. 25 and *Dallas* Sept. 6. A Roadrunner ran (for a touchdown?) in *Baylor Stadium* at *Waco*, Tex. A Groove-billed Ani at *Nacogdoches* Oct. 22 provided a second county record (DW). A Flammulated Owl was discovered at *Hueco Tanks* S.P., Tex., Oct. 10 (BZ). At *Big Bend* N.P., Aug. 7, Nanney heard two Pygmy Owls calling, but since he could never locate the birds he did not eliminate the possibility he was hearing a birder's tape recording. But on Aug. 12, Lasley photographed a Pygmy Owl at the same location, providing the second documented state record (T.P.R.F. #278). Long-eared Owls were reported only in *Ottawa*, Okla., and Short-eared Owls only at *Tulsa*, *Oklahoma City* and *Cowley*, Kans. A Barred Owl in *Rush*, Kans., Sept. 24 may be the westernmost appearance of this species in the state (SS). At *Dallas*, a Poor-will was found dead Nov. 3, providing the first specimen for the county (MP). Large flights of Com. Night-hawks included 200 in *Washington*, Okla., Sept. 14 & Oct. 2, 80 at *Omaha* Aug. 29 and 50 at *Baldwin* Sept. 29.

**SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Fifteen Chimney Swifts soared over Chadron, Neb., Aug. 5. Rosche stated this probably represented the results of this year's breeding, indicating the increase of this species in n.w. Nebraska. An assembly of 500 Chimney Swifts in a schoolhouse chimney in the Texas Panhandle was surely the largest flock ever reported from that area (RBr). Eight species of hummingbirds could be found in Big Bend N.P., Aug. 6-13, including a carefully identified ad. ♂ Allen's Hummingbird (GL). There were numerous reports of late-lingering hummers, including Rufous Hummingbirds at El Paso and Lubbock Nov. 30, Ruby-throated at Bartlesville Nov. 30, three Anna's at El Paso Nov. 30 and a Broad-tailed at Alpine, Tex., Nov. 5. On the morning of the season's first cold front Sept. 22, thousands of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fed on flowering water hyacinths in L. Livingston, Tex., where Bryan estimated two or three hummers/acre and up to 5000 acres of plants.

**S.A.**

Lasley sent a description of a Calliope Hummingbird bathing at Big Bend N.P.: The tiny ♂ hummer bathed in a trickle of water flowing over a flat rock. He stood in the trickle, rolled his head sideways in the water, throwing water onto his back and wings with quick snaps of the head. The hummer then buzzed its wings vigorously a few seconds, then repeated the process of rolling his head into the water. After about 30 seconds of bathing, the hummer flew to a bare branch over the creek and preened.

**KINGFISHERS THROUGH CORVIDS** — The most astounding report of the season concerned a Ringed Kingfisher that sat on a phone wire behind a ranger's residence in Big Bend N.P., Sept. 23. The observers watched the bird for 5 minutes, then it flew away across the desert toward the Rio Grande some 25 mi away (B & TA). At Midland there had been only 8 sightings of Golden-fronted Woodpeckers in 35 years. This fall at least seven individuals were present. One in Gray, Tex., Nov. 7 represented a first record for this Panhandle locality. A Red-headed Woodpecker at El Paso Oct. 17-19 constituted a second area record (JD, BZ). Acorn Woodpeckers extended their range slightly in the Kerrville, Tex., area (E & KM) and one was found in Dog Canyon, Guadalupe Mountains N.P., where the species has become scarce in recent years (SW). A Lewis' Woodpecker was discovered in Big Bend N.P., Oct. 30 (JDS). A Williamson's Sapsucker arrived at El Paso Oct. 2 and there were several reports of this species in the Davis Mts., during October. A Great Crested Flycatcher was found in Rush, Kans., on the late date Oct. 12 (SS). A Say's Phoebe discovered in Montgomery, Tex., Sept. 17 (LS, AS) was photographed (KB) to document this second e. Texas record. At "Swallow Sinkhole", Glass Mts., Brewster, Tex., 450 Cave Swallows were still flying in and out Oct. 23 (SW). Two Green Jays were still present at Keene, Tex., Sept. 13 (CWE). Scrub Jays invaded El Paso in good numbers in late August. In Stevens, Kans., Oct. 30, a small group of White-necked Ravens were jealously defending a road-killed rabbit from a flock of Com. Crows (SS). A flock of 100 Piñon Jays flew down the Cimarron R., Morton, Kans., Sept. 12 and a single bird was reported in Russell, Kans., in late November. Piñon Jays also invaded the Guadalupe Mts.

**CHICKADEES THROUGH VIREOS** — An invasion of Mountain Chickadees at El Paso began in mid-October. Carolina Chickadees were found in Randall, Tex., Oct. 31 (KS). A Tufted Titmouse in Gray, Tex., Nov. 7 represented the first appearance of the nominate species that far w. (KS). Several "Black-crested" Titmice moved across 40 mi of unsuitable habitat to Midland's urban tree plantings. All 3 species of nuthatches arrived in El Paso in good numbers in mid-October. Only 9 localities recorded Red-breasted Nuthatch. A Pygmy Nuthatch was found in Morton Sept. 12 (SS). Winter Wrens were seen at a few widely separated localities. Rock Wrens strayed to Oklahoma City Oct. 14 and Ft. Worth Oct. 24-Nov. 30. Curve-billed Thrashers were found in Jackson, Okla., Nov. 21 (RMC) and Morton Oct. 30 (SS). A Sage Thrasher briefly visited Rush, Kans., Nov. 6.

A "miserable" migration of thrushes, opined contributors in Omaha and the Texas Panhandle. A Wood Thrush fed on *Viburnum* berries at Chadron Sept. 15 (RCR) and another off-course individual was seen at Oklahoma City Sept. 26-Oct. 10 (ESh). A Veery was banded at Oklahoma City Sept. 5 (ESh) and one in Crosby Oct. 2 provided a first county record (ML). Golden-crowned Kinglets ap-

peared in good numbers throughout the Region. Very early Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at Amarillo Aug. 4 (NE) and Big Bend N.P., Sept. 5 (AB). Sprague's Pipits were found at 7 localities. Vireos have become very scarce in the Region—only 9 contributors made any mention of the family. A White-eyed Vireo at Big Bend N.P., Nov. 26 was late (JA). Bell's Vireos were noted at only 6 localities. Single Philadelphia Vireos at Balmorhea L., Aug. 6 (GWh) and Bellevue, Neb., Aug. 28 (AG) were early, while five of this species in Rogers Sept. 18 constituted an unusual number (JH).

**WARBLERS** — A Black-and-white Warbler lingered at Baldwin until Nov. 29. Both Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers graced Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy, Neb., Aug. 29 (J & SK). A ♂ Blue-winged Warbler was banded at Plano, Tex., Aug. 21 (AV, JK), and one was sighted in Crosby Sept. 4 (ML). Tennessee Warblers strayed W to Dawes, Neb., Sept. 17 (RCR) and Potter, Tex., Oct. 6 (FC). Single Virginia's Warblers appeared at Midland Oct. 3 (JM) and Muleshoe N.W.R., Sept. 19 (KH), while three were at Hueco Tanks Oct. 17 (BZ, JD). Visitors to Big Bend N.P. in early August found Colima Warbler family groups conspicuous. At Hagerman N.W.R., a N. Parula appeared on the late date Nov. 20 (CBH, m.ob.) and one visited Midland Sept. 30 (JM). A Magnolia Warbler in Lancaster, Neb., Oct. 22 was also tardy (MBO). Western sightings of Black-throated Blue Warblers occurred at Big Bend N.P., Nov. 3 and Midland Sept. 30. More than 30 Townsend's Warblers brightened the Franklin Mts., near El Paso Oct. 17 and one remained at Hueco Tanks until Nov. 2. A Golden-cheeked Warbler in Kerr Aug. 5 established a new late date for this summer resident. Two Hermit Warblers delighted Big Bend N.P. visitors Aug. 6-8 (m.ob.) and one was found in the Franklin Mts., Oct. 17 (BZ, JD). A Blackburnian Warbler lingered at Hagerman N.W.R., Nov. 21 (KHa). A Yellow-throated Warbler in Crosby Sept. 4 was w. of its usual range, as were Chestnut-sided Warblers in Comanche, Okla., Oct. 24 (JMcG) and Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., Sept. 19 (KS). Belated Pine Warblers were noted in Randall, Tex., Oct. 31 and Hagerman N.W.R., Nov. 20. A Kentucky Warbler was sighted in Crosby Oct. 2 (ML). At Oklahoma City, two Mourning Warblers were banded Aug. 28 and another Sept. 17, while one was seen at Bartlesville Oct. 21. The Red-faced Warbler was finally documented for Texas when Lasley photographed one in Big Bend N.P., Aug. 10 (T.P.R.F. #277). The bird was seen again Aug. 17 (GW). There are at least 4 previous sight records of Red-faced Warblers in Texas. Canada Warblers are rarely reported in fall, but were seen at 10 localities, dates varying from late August to early October.

**ICTERIDS TO TANAGERS** — A flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds estimated to comprise 20,000 individuals flew N from El Paso Oct. 13 (JDip). A Scott's Oriole at Muleshoe N.W.R., Sept. 19 provided a new refuge record (KH). A N. "Baltimore" Oriole visited a Kerr feeder Sept. 13-27. A W. Tanager was found in Morton Sept. 12 and the species was unusually common in the Lubbock area.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Black-headed Grosbeaks were found e to Millard and Omaha, Neb., Linn and Johnson, Kans. In Morton, a ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak accompanied three fledglings Aug. 10. A Lazuli Bunting visited Crosby Aug. 28 (ML). A Dickcissel at Muleshoe N.W.R., Sept. 19 constituted a new refuge record (KH) and the species was abundant at El Paso. Evening Grosbeaks were seen only at Bartlesville and Omaha. Large numbers of Purple Finches invaded Omaha Oct. 23 but by Nov. 30 few remained and almost none were reported elsewhere. Surprisingly, one appeared at El Paso Oct. 15. Pine Siskins were abundant at El Paso, but virtually absent elsewhere. A Lark Bunting in Kendall, Tex., Oct. 30 was considerably e. of its normal range (SWi).

Baird's Sparrows were reported in Oldham, Tex., Oct. 24 (RR) and Crosby Aug. 8 (ML). Le Conte's Sparrows were banded at Oklahoma City Oct. 19 & 23, and were observed at 7 other localities with a peak of ten at Omaha Oct. 16. Sage Sparrows were common at Hueco Tanks after Oct. 21 and one was found at Midland Nov. 28. At Dallas, one banded 98 Lincoln's Sparrows during September, with a maximum of 28 on one day (AV). Swamp Sparrows were widely reported in the Region and were unusually abundant in the Omaha area. McCown's Longspurs at El Paso Nov. 9 provided a first record there. Several thousand Lapland Longspurs were in Pawnee and Rush, Kans., Nov. 26. Lapland and Smith's longspurs staged a major flight over the prairies n.e. of Tulsa Nov. 20, and a few Chestnut-



American Wigeons and N. Shovelers moved in later and were common by November's end (WC, TE, JM). Single European Wigeons were seen at Austin Oct. 30 (BBa, BL), and in Caldwell Nov. 28 (ES). A Surf Scoter was found at the Austin sewage ponds Oct. 30 (BBa, G & BL). Single Masked Ducks were reported at Santa Ana N.W.R., Nov. 11 & 13 by refuge visitors (*vide* SL).

**HAWKS** — Mississippi Kite migration through w. Houston and Harris in August was good although in small groups (JM). Austin highs were of 100, Aug. 28 and 150+ Sept. 16 (J & BR). At Falfurrias, 2 flights Aug. 29 totalled 500 birds (AO), and 407 in one flight was seen at Hazel Bazemore P., near Corpus Christi Oct. 2. On Sept. 22, 2 days after a Canadian air mass had cleared skies over Texas, Broad-winged Hawk flights took place on a wide front. Along Buffalo Bayou in Houston, Morgan watched 1050± birds leave an overnight roost. He suspected that he had seen only a small portion of the flight as trees obscured the view. That day 620 hawks were seen over Falfurrias (AO) and 3000 came in to roost at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P. (JA).

S.A.

The sixth annual hawk watch, centered on the Nueces R. watershed took place Oct. 2. Broad-winged Hawk numbers were proclaimed the best ever for any organized watch anywhere and comprised most of the 52,771 raptors counted that day. Aside from small flights which left roosts along the river 8-9 a.m., most hawks crossed the Nueces area in 3 waves: 10-11 a.m., 12:30-2:00 p.m., and 3-4 p.m. (KM). Sexton, who coordinated the close-site study, commented that "there had been no fronts, only gusty SE and E winds for a week, but it now appears that migrants can slip by comfortably on E winds in their S passage . . . They flew very high . . . had we not been scanning the skies with binoculars we would have missed nearly all big kettles and streams at my station."

Only 33 Swainson's Hawks were reported on the count, which is surprising in view of the fact that in September, Wilson, about 100 mi n.w. of Corpus Christi, had been "deluged" with Swainson's feeding on locusts which infested coastal bermuda pastures (WS). Perhaps the largest flight of Swainson's Hawks ever identified at Austin was recorded on Oct. 9. From a hilltop lookout, Sexton saw one distant flight of 1300 unidentified Buteos after 9 a.m., a flight of 483 Swainson's 9:50-9:55 a.m., 873 Swainson's 2-3 p.m., and 1266 Swainson's 3-4 p.m. Aside from 46 Am. Kestrels scattered throughout the viewing period, there was just a sprinkling of other raptors. A last large flight of 500+ Swainson's Hawks was seen flying SE over Santa Ana N.W.R., Oct. 16 (RC, CE). Probably the prize bird of the season was an ad. Roadside Hawk, *Buteo magnirostris* discovered at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Oct. 7 (TP) and photographed (JA); it remained through November. This represents the first documented United States record for this tropical species since 1901, when a specimen was collected near Brownsville. What appeared to be an immature bird of this species was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., Oct. 3 (LR).



Roadside Hawk, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Tex., Oct. 23, 1982. Photo/G.F. Wagner.

**CRANES, JACANAS** — Two Whooping Cranes spotted by aerial survey Oct. 16 were the first noted at Aransas N.W.R., this fall. Total count had risen to 14 by 2 days later. By Nov. 1 only 18 cranes had been spotted but numbers jumped to 63 Nov. 4. Peak count was 70 on Dec. 1 (CD). A major movement of Sandhill Cranes was noted at Austin Oct. 17. An imm. Jacana was at Santa Ana N.W.R., Nov. 10-30 (SL, RR *et al.*).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two Mountain Plovers at Austin, Sept. 11 (JS) & 19 (G & BL, BW) were unusual, as was a fall Whimbrel at Rockport Aug. 11 & 27 (CC). An Upland Sandpiper at Austin Oct. 26 (FSW) was unusually late, as were three Baird's Sandpipers at Mitchell L., Bexar Nov. 21 (WS). Long-billed Dowitchers were abundant in fields in w. Harris in October while the less common Short-billed occupied the tidal flats at Bolivar, Galveston. "Peep" sandpipers apparently peaked at inland localities in late September, but were common in favored coastal spots at least from late August through November. In the Bolivar concentrations, W. Sandpipers far outnumbered other "peeps", and Sanderlings were quite abundant (BB, TE, JM *et al.*). Austin's first Ruff ever was discovered Oct. 5 (GL *et al.*); detailed notes and drawings from a 2-hr study were submitted (GL, CS). This species turns up sparingly along the Texas coast but inland occurrences are not expected. Austin has held a near monopoly on N. Phalarope sightings, and indeed one or more of the species appeared in mid-September, but one found at Galveston Sept. 4 (BB, JM) furnished the fourth record for the upper coast. The latter was in a spoils area with 300± Wilson's Phalaropes. It or another individual was seen Oct. 16 & 17 (DD, ER).

**CUCKOOS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — A Mangrove Cuckoo was spotted by an unidentified visitor to Santa Ana N.W.R., Aug. 26 and was seen the following day as it responded to a tape recording (JA, TP). This provided the second record for the delta area. Two Black Swifts were carefully observed at Falfurrias late Aug. 21 (AO); this species is on the Texas hypothetical list. Sightings of the rare Blue-throated Hummingbird highlighted an otherwise uneventful migration. One was at Houston Sept. 9-14 (SW *et al.*), and a male visited O'Neil's yard in Falfurrias Aug. 29-Sept. 4.

**FLYCATCHERS** — A vagrant Tropical Kingbird was seen but not heard near Anahuac N.W.R., Nov. 16 (JM). An Ash-throated Flycatcher near Sabine Pass Oct. 22, was very unusual so far e. (T & VE). A Black Phoebe, probably a Travis first, appeared in e. Austin Nov. 7 (BBa) and remained to December. Peak numbers of *Empidonax* flycatchers were reached in the Austin area in early September with a number of Least and Traill's banded during the month (DC, GL). One of the higher single species counts of the season at High I., was of 25 E. Wood Pewees Aug. 28 (JM); a steady migration was observed at Corpus Christi Aug. 30-31 (KM). Single W. Wood Pewees were identified by voice at Falfurrias Sept. 18 (AO), and at Austin Oct. 28 (FSW).

**NUTHATCHES THROUGH WAXWINGS** — First Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported at Bolivar Oct. 22 (T & VE) and at Austin Oct. 23 (FSW), the vanguard of a modest incursion. Major waves of House Wrens were noted at Austin Oct. 10, and on S. Padre I., Oct. 14. An early Winter Wren was at Houston Oct. 17 (WC). Twenty Short-billed Marsh Wrens at L. Alice Oct. 19 (RA) was most unusual for Jim Wells as was a single Rock Wren occupying a rock-covered dike on the Anzalduas unit of Santa Ana N.W.R., Nov. 29 (G & BL). A Sage Thrasher in Hays Nov. 20 (EK) was the only one reported. A November invasion of Am. Robins was very impressive at some localities. Large numbers began arriving in Falfurrias Nov. 10 (AO) and in Corpus Christi Nov. 13 (KM), then at Aransas N.W.R. (CD) and in the Rio Grande Delta (G & BL) later in the month. Eastern Bluebirds were more common than in years in parts of the Rio Grande Delta (JA). Late in October Golden-crowned Kinglets moved into n. portions of the Region in better numbers than in several years. Cedar Waxwings arrived in good numbers by late November throughout.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Vireos and warblers occurred in good variety but usually in moderate numbers. Twelve Red-eyed Vireos at High I., Aug. 28 (JM *et al.*) was unusual for fall, and one at Austin Oct. 29 (FSW) was late. Reported high counts for tropics-bound warblers on the upper coast were unusually low. The warbler with highest trip counts there was—surprisingly!—the Canada with 30 at

High I., Aug. 28 (JM *et al.*) and Sept. 1 (PV). Meanwhile, in c. and s. areas, the Nashville Warbler occupied its usual dominant role being especially abundant in Austin Oct. 10, and in the Rio Grande Delta during the wave of Oct. 11-14. Yellow Warbler probably was in runner-up position with a good showing at Austin, in *Wilson*, at Rockport and Corpus Christi. A moderate but widespread wave of Yellow-breasted Chats was evident the first week of September. Rare listings present a mixture of e. and w. species, as follows: **Virginia's Warbler** near High I., Sept. 11 (CS) and Anahuac N.W.R., Sept. 24 (BBe, LG), the fourth and fifth record for the upper coast; MacGillivray's Warbler in the L. Alice area Sept. 5 (RA), a first county record; Cape May Warbler at High I., Oct. 9 (JM *et al.*), earliest of 4 fall records for the upper coast; Black-throated Blue Warbler at Johnson Space Center Sept. 19 (BC), in *Bastrop* Sept. 25-26 (MP), and at Galveston Oct. 14 (JH *et al.*); Townsend's Warbler at Rancho Santa Margarita, *Starr*, Sept. 11 (J & BR), on N. Padre I., Oct. 10 (BR, WS), and at Santa Ana N.W.R., Nov. 28 (G & BL); **Hermit Warbler** at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Aug. 20 (TP *et al.*), first documented (ph.) record for the Rio Grande Delta; Prairie Warbler on S. Padre I., Sept. 18 & 22 (JA), second fall record for the Rio Grande Delta; and **Golden-crowned Warbler** (*Basileuterus culicivorus*), a vagrant from Mexico, at Santa Ana N.W.R., Nov. 9-30 (SL, TP *et al.*), for a seventh United States record. Yellow-rumped Warbler, our common wintering warbler, arrived fairly early—at Houston Oct. 15 (SW) and *Travis* Oct. 21 (DO), and subsequently occurred in excellent numbers.

**ORIOLES, TANAGERS** — A Scott's Oriole in n. *Webb* Oct. 17 (RC, CE) probably furnished a county first. The N. Oriole migration was outstanding in some c. localities, particularly at Corpus Christi and Falfurrias late August-Sept. 20. By contrast, highest single-party counts from the upper coast were 15! Two W. Tanagers were found at Bolivar Sept. 11 (BBe *et al.*), and three Scarlet Tanagers, rare in fall, were at Rockport Sept. 17 (CC).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Late waves of Indigo Buntings were noted at High I., Oct. 22 (40—T & VE) and at Freeport Nov. 2 (50—CWE). A Green-tailed Towhee was located on Galveston I., Nov. 13-30 (TE). Two at Falfurrias Nov. 13 (AO) were the first in several years there. The first of a good number of Rufous-sided Towhees was sighted at Austin Oct. 14 (KW). A good influx of Lark Buntings occurred as far e. as Austin, Alice and Falfurrias. Most winter sparrows were reported in good to excellent numbers. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Rockport Nov. 22 (C & HK) was noteworthy. A Black-throated Sparrow wandered into the Rockport area Nov. 6 (C & HK). Chipping Sparrows reached the Rio Grande Delta in good numbers. Lincoln Sparrows appeared early at Austin with one Sept. 25 (RH), and by mid-October were abundant there. Song Sparrows seemed later and less common than usual.

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## NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION / Helmut Grünberg

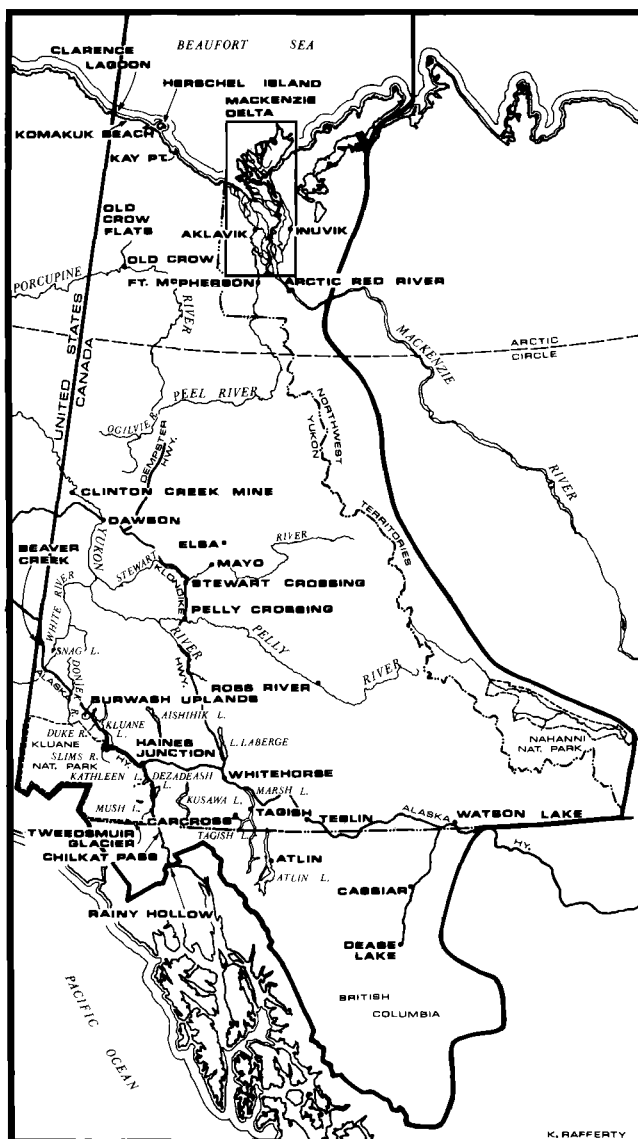
The season started out cool and moist in August. Precipitation was also above average during September and October in most parts of the Region. These two months were relatively warm while November was a few degrees below average and drier than normal.

Contributors to this report observed 183 species. A number of early migrants and other regular species were not reported probably because August contributions were scarce this year.

**LOONS THROUGH FALCONS** — An Arctic Loon, rare in the Fort St. John area, was discovered on Charlie L., Oct. 3 (CS, WW). The first report for the Yukon in many years of a **Pied-billed Grebe** was received when one was spotted on Long L., near Whitehorse Aug. 29 (RC). A W. Grebe appeared at Graham Inlet, n. B.C., Sept. 11 (MBr). This species was noteworthy also in the Fort St. John area where one bird was seen Oct. 23 (GS, CS) and two Oct. 24 (CS) at Charlie L., for the first fall records in the Peace R. area. Two **Northern Fulmars** ventured far W and were observed several km n.e. of Herschel I., Yukon, Arctic Ocean Sept. 3 (MBe). Although this is the first report of fulmars in Yukon waters they may be more common in the open ocean than generally assumed, as they had been previously seen by surveyors in the same general area (*vide* MBe).

One hundred Snow Geese were at Stokes Pt., Yukon coast Sept. 4 (MBe), and interestingly, migration of Snow Geese was observed in the s. Yukon; 7 flocks flew over a slough of the Yukon R., near Marsh L., Sept. 24; 50 were observed there in the water Sept. 30, and a few flocks were noted Oct. 3-5 (ML). Twenty (Black) Brant were reported near McKinley Bay, w. N.W.T., Aug. 29, and 35 were seen at Stokes Pt., Sept. 3 (MBe). A Harlequin Duck with eight young was reported from the Teslin R., Aug. 4 (JL, PW), and one was recorded at the lower Stikine R., B.C., Aug. 2 (TM). The peak of Bufflehead migration in the s. Yukon was established for the time around Oct. 13 when thousands were seen from the air (DM). A ♀ Hooded Merganser with four to five young was noted at the lower Stikine R., in early August (TM), and two ad. males were observed at Charlie L., Oct. 17 (CS).

An amazing six Ospreys were seen at and near a recently built nest at Teslin, Yukon, at the end of August (LG). A Red-tailed Hawk was



seen close to its known n. breeding limit near Inuvik, Aug. 12 (MBe). Peregrine and Gyrfalcon observations were scarce this fall.

**GROUSE THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — Four Blue Grouse were reported from the Haines Rd., Oct. 10-12 (RC, NW *et al.*). A Black-bellied Plover was seen at Stokes Pt., Sept. 4 (MBe). Four individuals appeared at the Fort St. John sewage lagoons Oct. 2 (CS, WW). A Killdeer stayed in Whitehorse as late as Nov. 1 (WH). Here is a late summer report: At Rose L., s. Yukon, a Greater Yellowlegs, whose breeding range in the Yukon is not well known, appeared to be on territory July 28 (RH). A Wandering Tattler was observed at a pond 30 km s. of Whitehorse in early August (LD). The last of the summer's Hudsonian Godwits were seen at the Fort St. John sewage lagoons Aug. 8 (GS). Sanderlings appeared more common than expected at the Yukon n. coast and the coast of w. Northwest Territories, as 20 were seen e. of Tuktoyaktuk Sept. 1, six at Stokes Pt., Sept. 3 and 25 at Stokes Pt., Sept. 4 (MBe). One each was also found this fall in the Fort St. John area Aug. 26-27 and Sept. 19 (CS). Ten W. Sandpipers were seen at Inuvik's sewage pond Aug. 23 (MBe), and one was reported from the Fort St. John sewage lagoons Sept. 12 & 14 (JJ, CS). Near Herschel I., n. Yukon, a few flocks of Red Phalaropes numbering 10-20 birds were seen in the ocean Sept. 5 (MBe).

The second record for the Fort St. John area of a Parasitic Jaeger was obtained when an ad. light-phase bird was observed at the edge of a flock of 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls on Charlie L., Aug. 27 (JJ, CS). Another rarity in the Fort St. John area was an ad. Glaucous Gull Oct. 31 (JJ, CS). At least one imm. Black-legged Kittiwake was seen in the n. MacKenzie Delta, N.W.T., Aug. 31 (MBe).

Two Snowy Owls were observed at Stokes Pt., Sept. 4 (MBe), and

4-6 birds were recorded in the Fort St. John area Nov. 7 & 28 (JJ, CS, WS). A Rufous Hummingbird was noted at the lower Stikine R., B.C., in early August (TM).

**PERCHING BIRDS** — Steller's Jays were seen repeatedly at the lower Stikine R., B.C., in August and September (TM). There was a noticeable increase in Black-billed Magpies over the last few years in the s. Yukon. This species is now well established in many areas. Up to three Mountain Chickadees were observed at a feeder in a suburb of Whitehorse throughout the season (DS), and one was seen at a new location in Whitehorse Oct. 26 (WH).

For the first time, a Mockingbird was seen in Fort Ft. John and the Peace R. area, B.C., Nov. 1 and again Nov. 5, 8, 11-12. This is probably the northernmost record for British Columbia. Amazingly, this bird was observed and photographed at temperatures as low as -18°C (JJ, CS). A N. Shrike was seen near its n. breeding range limit at Inuvik Airport Sept. 1 (MBe). Two ♂ Townsend's Warblers were reported from the Peace R., area, B.C., for the first time Aug. 31 (JJ, CS). The first fall record of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow in the Peace R. area was obtained when one appeared at Charlie L., Sept. 12 (JJ, CS). Dark-eyed Juncos were observed in relatively large numbers and at very late dates well into the winter (m.ob.).

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## NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

Warm, dry weather in August continued well into October in southern interior British Columbia, extreme northern Idaho and northwestern Montana. Then conditions turned cold and wet in most localities. Some areas had early freezeups and snow cover in October. November was in general cold with snow in more northerly localities. No clear pattern of weather effects on migration was evident. Weydemeyer remarked that most departure dates at Fortine were early but that most winter visitors had not arrived. The latter was generally true for the "northern finches". Good food supplies supposedly were keeping them farther north or in the mountains. The waterfowl migration at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., was described as 2-3 weeks late. That area apparently had a relatively warm and dry autumn.

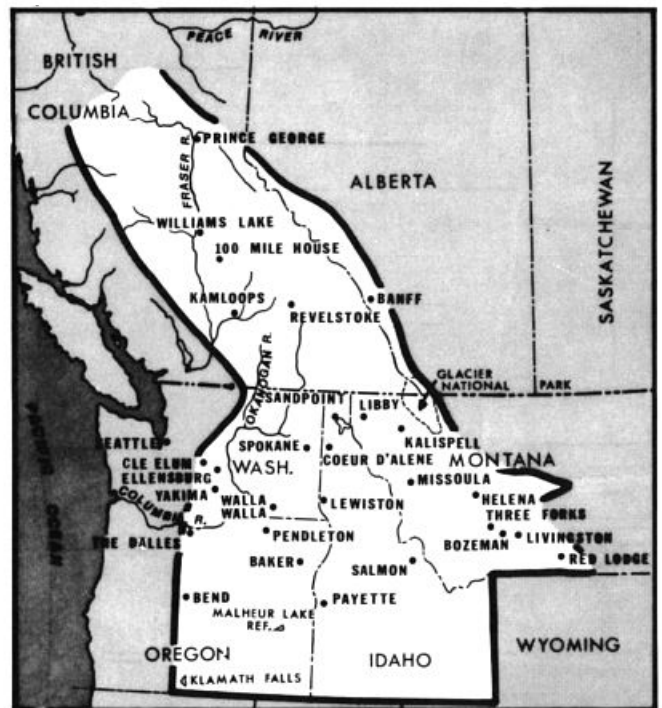
**LOONS AND GREBES** — An Arctic Loon on the Columbia R., n. of Richland, Wash., Aug. 28 was Woodley's first ever for Benton County. A Yellow-billed Loon on Little Shuswap L., Chase, B.C., Oct. 26-28 was a real rarity (RH, MCo, JGr). A Red-necked Grebe on Hatfield L., near Bend, Ore., Oct. 9 was Deschutes County's first (TC). Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., hosted the largest number of Eared Grebes with a peak of 1435, and of W. Grebes, peaking at 1490, both in August.

**PELICANS AND CORMORANTS** — An aerial survey of Potholes Res., Moses L., Wash., Sept. 29 found 252 White Pelicans, that area's highest ever (RF). Carty Res., Boardman, Ore., had 20 (RJK). Only about 25 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants nested successfully at Malheur, fledging their young from tree nests. Lake Helena had 200 for the highest number ever there (GH). One bird was on the Kootenai R., just below Libby Dam Oct. 2-3 (CW). Singles were at Tranquille, B.C., Aug. 14-17 and at Kamloops, B.C., Oct. 14 (RH).

**HERONS THROUGH IBISES** — The Portneuf R., near Pocatello, Ida., had a Green Heron Sept. 9 (DT, CHT, TF). A well-observed Little Blue Heron at Malheur Sept. 8 furnished Oregon's

first record (DF, GF). The only Cattle Egret reports were of single birds near Stevensville, Mont., in October (*vide* CP); near Boise, Ida., Aug. 16 (MRC), and near Pocatello Oct. 7 (ST). Malheur Basin counted a new high of 1935 Great Egrets on an aerial survey. Snowy Egrets there peaked at 175 and Black-crowned Night Herons at 1115. White-faced Ibises reached 2500 there, the highest ever.

**WATERFOWL** — Whistling Swan numbers were very low in n. Idaho and at Metcalf N.W.R., but were good elsewhere. Peak numbers were: Malheur, 9550; Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont., 720; Ennis-Harrison, Mont., 500; Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., 320, and Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., 150. The Trum-





peter Swan population for Centennial Valley and Red Rock Lakes was 220-250. Refuge cygnet production there totalled only four, the poorest ever. Turnbull had 3-5 birds. Unexpected sightings for the species were of one at Hatfield L. (TC), one at Columbia Ref. (JRR) and an adult and two juvenals on Cascade Res., Valley Co., Ida. (MRC).

Top counts for Canada Geese were: Malheur, 10,625; Columbia N.W.R., 10,000; n. Idaho, 8853; Park L., Grant Co., Wash., "several thousand" along with 27 Cackling Geese (JA); Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., 4000; Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., 4000 (high), and Turnbull, 1755. White-fronted Geese built up to 2000 at Malheur and Snow Goose numbers there reached 4025. Ross' Geese peaked at 500 at Malheur, which is on the species' major migration route. A single Ross' Goose again appeared at Lewiston, Ida. (RN).

The November U.S.F. & W.S. aerial waterfowl survey, excluding coot, of the n. Columbia Basin, Wash., showed a total 14% down from the 6-year average but the count over the s. Columbia Basin was up by 83%. Swan and goose totals on the survey were down in both n. and s. but overall totals for ducks, mostly Mallards, were decidedly up. The peak for waterfowl, excluding coot, at Malheur was over 145,000, well above average, with Mallards, Green-winged Teal and Com. Mergansers the major gainers. The n. Idaho Fish and Game aerial survey counted much higher than normal numbers for nearly every waterfowl species, Mallards totaling over 21,000 and Am. Wigeon over 28,000. At Kootenai N.W.R., however, ducks, mostly Mallards, peaked at only 14,000, the lowest in 5 years, and waterfowl numbers at Minidoka were down considerably. Waterfowl at Carty Res., built up to nearly 160,000; Mallard was the dominant species.

In the rarity department a Greater Scaup was sighted on the Pend Oreille R., w. of Sandpoint, Ida. (BM) and Malheur had three (MA). The Helena area had a pair of Bufflehead and a ♀ Hooded Merganser (GH). Hatfield L. had an Oldsquaw (TC); two were on McNary Dam Res., Umatilla Co., Ore. (MC), and two females were on Willow L., Spokane Co. (WH, JA). Four White-winged Scoters appeared at Hatfield L., Nov. 11-20 as did a ♀ Surf Scoter Oct. 23 and an imm. ♂ Surf Scoter Nov. 6-16 for the first county records (TC). Malheur had a ♂ White-winged and a ♂ Surf Scoter Nov. 6 (MA). The Pend Oreille R. had a surprising 15 White-wingeds Nov. 10. A hunter bagged one at Kootenai N.W.R., and one was found dead near Hoodoo Cr., n.w. of Spirit L., Ida. (SGS). Sightings of single Surf Scoters were made at Three Forks, Mont., Oct. 23 and Nov. 2 (DS, RW, JM, VM) and one was at Okanagan Landing, B.C., Aug. 6 (TH). The Lewiston, Ida.—Clarkston, Wash. area had 3 sightings of single birds (RN). Two late flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers passed through Sparwood, B.C., Nov. 3-4 (DFF).

**HAWKS** — A "major" movement of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks was noted at Bend Sept. 6-8 (TC). A Red-shouldered Hawk stayed near Klamath Falls, Ore., Aug. 14-Sept. 19 (SS). A Broad-winged Hawk was migrating with other hawks over Little Camas Res., n.e. of Mountain Home, Ida., Oct. 1 (MRC). The Bald Eagle gathering at lower McDonald Cr., Glacier N.P., Mont., had a high of only 309, the low number attributed to a drastic decline in spawning Kokanee salmon (Hungry Horse News). An average of 23 Bald Eagles/week was observed in the Libby area in November (CW). At Red Rock Lakes the species peaked at ten adults and 15 immatures (TMcE). Fifty active Osprey nests in Lincoln County, Mont., produced 68 fledglings (CW). The Region had an unusual number of Gyrfalcon sightings, five or six. One was a white-phase bird as was the possible sixth sighting.

#### CRANES THROUGH COOT —

##### S.A.

Seven foster chicks fledged at the Whooping Crane project at Grays Lake N.W.R., Wayan, Ida., and by Oct. 15 had migrated with Sandhills and ten surviving whoopers from previous years' egg transplants (ECB).

Sandhills there peaked at 2300. Greater Sandhills reached their peak at Malheur Nov. 7 with over 2500. A few of the subspecies *canadensis* appeared with the larger *tabida* birds at Harrison and Wilsall, Mont. (PDS, RW, JM, TL). The nine summering Sandhills at Ladd Marsh, LeGrande, Ore., raised two young (RR). American Coot at Malheur peaked at 44,750 and Washington's aerial count of the Columbia Basin came up with over 39,000, a definite increase, in

mid-October. North Idaho's aerial survey found over 28,000, an above-average number, and the species peaked at Turnbull at over 30,000.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Up to six Semipalmated Plovers appeared at Reardan, Wash. (JA). Singles were noted at Hatfield L. (TC) and in the Salmon, Ida. area for Roberts' first there. The species also appeared in the Moses Lake area (RF *et al.*). One near Fortune furnished only the fourteenth fall record in 60 years (WW). Richland, Wash., had up to six Am. Golden Plovers (REW) and Pablo N.W.R., Lake Co., Mont., nine (RW). The only other sightings, all of singles, were at Cold Springs N.W.R., Hermiston, Ore. (CC); near Klamath Falls (SS) and s. of Revelstoke, B.C. (JW). Black-bellied Plovers reached an impressive 25 at Cold Springs (SM, SW) and seven were seen at Summer Lake, Ore. (MA). A meager sprinkling of the species appeared in the s. Okanagan, Idaho, Montana and Washington. A **Wandering Tattler** at Wenas Res., s.w. of Ellensburg Sept. 3 & 5 was e. Washington's first ever (EH, DW *et al.*; ZB). A Red Knot near Midland, Ore., Sept. 26 furnished the first fall record for the Klamath Basin (SS). A minutely described **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at Swan L., Vernon Sept. 12 was apparently interior British Columbia's first (MCo, HM, JGr, PMcA) and one photographed w. of Othello Sept. 26 was e. Washington's fourth (EM, JLe). Evidence indicates that Pectoral Sandpipers' fall migration w. of the Continental Divide follows a path through Yoho N.P., and Radium Hot Springs, B.C., down into n. Idaho, turns W through Reardan to the Grand Coulee, Washington, thence S to the Yakima R. delta and on to Malheur N.W.R., then SW to Summer L., and the Klamath Basin. This fall the Yakima delta had a peak of 40 and Cold Springs N.W.R., 16. The birds were noted on about 15 days mid-September-mid-October at Malheur in numbers up to 16 and up to 94 were at Midland in the Klamath Sept. 26. Localities outside this path reported very few or none this fall and in previous years. East of the Divide Harrison L. in Montana had 300, a high number. Two Short-billed Dowitchers were heard at Cold Springs (C & MC) and two at the Yakima delta (REW). At Miller I., Klamath Falls, one-five were present (SS). The only sightings of Stilt Sandpipers were of three at Pablo N.W.R. (RW) and singles s. of Davenport and at Reardan, Wash. (JA) and near Richland, Wash. (Y.A.S.). Dunlins were scarce at the Yakima delta but 30 were sighted near Umatilla (C & MC, NB). One showed up at Harrison, where the species is very rare (PDS, JM) and one was at Boise for one of very few records there (MRC). Sightings of single Semipalmated Sandpipers were obtained at Miller I., for the second Klamath County record (SS); at Prineville, Ore. (TC); at Boise (MRC), and on 2 dates at Reardan (JA). At Fortune it was surprising to have only one sighting of four birds (WW). Malheur had two Marbled Godwits and Summer L., three (R & JK). The species was reported from the Eureka-Fortune, Mont. area for apparently the latilong's first record (CW). One was sighted along the Snake R., s.e. of Mountain Home (KBP) and Pablo N.W.R. had one-two (RW). Sanderlings, rare in the Region, were noted at Pablo (up to 15—RW); at Chewelah, Wash., one Sept. 29 (first latilong record) (JN), and one at Harrison L. (PDS, RW). A **Red Phalarope** at the mouth of the Umatilla R., was n.e. Oregon's first (C & MC, NB).

**JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS** — The only jaeger was a Parasitic at Penticton, B.C., Sept. 30 (HM). Two imm. Glaucous Gulls were at Little Shuswap L., Oct. 27-28 (RH) and a first year Glaucous-winged appeared at Nicola L., near Merritt, B.C., Aug. 6 (MD). Six Herring Gulls were at Cascade Res., a new locality (MRC) and four were at the Boise R. (A & HL). One at L. Helena was highly unusual (WHO). A first year Thayer's Gull was photographed at Bend Nov. 26-28 for the county's first record (TC). An ad. Mew Gull showed up for the third year at Upper Klamath L. (SS) and one was at the Yakima delta for Woodley's fourth record there. The Portneuf R. mouth had 200+ Franklin's Gulls (DT) and one at Cold Springs furnished the first record there (C & MC, NB). Tumalo Res., had 21 Bonaparte's Gulls and Reardan had up to 48, the highest ever. A major storm the night of Sept. 11 was followed by the appearance of a Sabine's Gull, the county's first, at Tumalo Res., along with 14 Forster's, eight Common and one Arctic Tern (TC). Two Caspian Terns, rare at Reardan, overflow there Aug. 11 (JA).

**PIGEONS AND OWLS** — Two Band-tailed Pigeons appeared near Sparwood Aug. 23 for the only report (DFF). Boise had a Black-billed Cuckoo Aug. 14 (MRC). A Barn Owl near Colville, Wash.,

Aug 2 made the latlong's first record (D & JD) and one was at a new locality, Ginkgo S.P., Vantage, Wash., Oct. 3 (DK, B & BN, THR). A road-killed Barn Owl was found near Libby (CW). For the second consecutive year one was roosting in the Davenport cemetery (JA). A Screech Owl, unusual in the Helena area, was hit by a car Oct. 29 (GH). A Flammulated Owl was banded at Pocatello (JJ) and Malheur had one Sept. 26. An injured Barred Owl was picked up near Walla Walla Nov. 21 (SM *et al.*) and one was seen s. of Libby in late October (CW). A new locality for the species was the Creston, B.C. valley, where at least three birds were heard Sept. 14 (DFF, JL, MW). A Great Gray Owl was sighted up Pipe Cr., n. of Libby (CW) and one was at Lumby, B.C. (Oct. 25-Nov. 8 (ML). Single birds were seen at 2 localities near Sikanni Chief R., 150 mi. n. of Ft. St. John, B.C., Aug. 1 (JQ). The only Boreal Owl reported was one in the Bull R. area, Lincoln Co., Mont. (CW). A Saw-whet Owl was sighted on Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash. (WHe *et al.*).

**HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WRENS** — Penticton had a ♂ Anna's Hummingbird Oct. 4 (PH) and one visited a Vernon feeder Nov. 1-4 (JQ). One was reported for s.w. Idaho Oct. 20 (A & HL). One hummer at Clarkston Nov. 1 was likely this species (LL). A "Red-breasted" Sapsucker was photographed at Malheur Sept. 25 for the first record there (JG, OS, RS).

Two Blue Jays visited a Vernon feeder Oct. 31+ (JQ, m.ob.) and one was along the Kootenai R., n. of Libby in late September (CW). One was at Richland Nov. 14-24 (DH, REW). In Idaho one was at Hagerman State Wildlife Ref., Hagerman Nov. 4 (JR) and one frequented feeders at Rupert Oct. 12+ (WHS). A Bewick's Wren was seen and heard near Kamiah, Ida., Oct. 20+ (MMcK).

**THRUSHES THROUGH WAXWINGS** — The bluebird trail along the old highway between Ellensburg and Yakima fledged eight Mountain Chickadees, 156 House Wrens, 72 W. Bluebirds and 54 Mountain Bluebirds (Y.A.S.). A movement of Mountain Bluebirds at Red Rock Lakes numbered 100-200 a day in mid-October (TMcE). Bohemian Waxwings were late, scarce or absent, except at Bozeman, which had flocks totaling 8000 by mid-November, and s.e. British Columbia, where flocks of up to 200-300 appeared at Fernie.

**WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS** — A Black-and-white Warbler visited Rupert Sept. 20 (WHS) and a Black-and-white and a Townsend's were banded at Pocatello (JJ). Creston had four Tennessee Warblers (DFF, JL, MW) and one was at a Yakima feeder Aug. 29 (J & MA). A Tennessee was sighted at Greeny L., e. of Lac la Hache, B.C., Aug. 7 and a Nashville was found there the next day (MD). A Magnolia Warbler was reported on Horse Ridge e. of Bend Sept. 10 (VT). A well-described Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Boise Sept. 25 for apparently the third state record (MRC) and a male was sighted at Malheur Oct. 10 (TMO). A Black-throated Green Warbler studied at length near Harrison Oct. 23 was only Montana's sixth (PDS, RW, JM, VM). An imm. Chestnut-sided Warbler was photographed at Fields, Ore., Sept. 24-25 and a Pine Warbler, apparently e. Oregon's first, was identified there Sept. 24 (JG, OS, RS). A Canada Warbler mist-netted at Malheur Sept. 26 and a Mourning Warbler carefully identified there the same day were apparently the first ever for e. Oregon, perhaps the state (RS, JG, OS). A N. Waterthrush near Malheur Sept. 22 furnished a rare sighting (MA). A warbler movement of mixed species of some 660 birds moved through Red Rock Lakes Oct. 13 (TMcE).

Summer Lake, Ore., had 24 Tricolored Blackbirds Sept. 4 (R & JK). A full-plumaged ♂ Com. Grackle near Haines, Ore., Sept. 20-22 was the state's third (JE, RFe).

**FINCHES** — A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was banded at Malheur Sept. 22. Evening Grosbeaks were almost completely absent from reports. A large, mixed flock of Cassin's and Purple finches, Pine Siskins, Am. Goldfinches and Red Crossbills was observed in the Blue Mts., near Tollgate, Ore., Aug. 17. These species, except Red Crossbills, were scarce or absent at most other reporting localities. A large flock of Pine Siskins did show up at Yakima. Purple Finches were "definitely confirmed" in many high country (4000 ft.+) locations from Canada to the Clark Fork R., in Lincoln County, Mont. No photographs or specimens have been obtained, however (CW). House Finches were reported up Pipe Cr., near Libby (CW). "Huge flocks" of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were found at elevations of 4000 ft and up in Lincoln County, Mont., during November (CW). Black Rosy Finches were sighted at 12,500 ft on Granite Peak w. of

Red Lodge, Mont., Aug. 15 (DS). White-winged Crossbill was one of the most common fringillids in the N. Fork of the Flathead R., w. of Glacier N.P., Mont. (DFi). A flock of 12 was sighted e. of Sparwood for the only other report (DFF).

**SPARROWS** — A nondescript imm. bird near Livingston, Mont., eventually matured enough to be identified as a Sage Sparrow. Photographed many times, it furnished the fourth well-documented state record. The observation site was very close to where Saunders reported the species as abundant in 1909 (AS, EHa, PDS). A Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco was sighted at Mountain Home Nov. 27 (KBP). Sightings in s. Idaho are scant. A very few Harris' Sparrows were reported; the same was true for Golden-crowned Sparrows. Chase, B.C., had six White-throated Sparrows (CH) and one was near Vernon (PMcA). Hillcrest had one (DFF) and 2 sightings were in the Helena area, where the species is very rare (PMcK, GH). One was found in the Bridger Mts., n. of Bozeman (PDS, JM, TL) and at least three stayed at Kamiah Nov. 11+ (W & MMcK). About 20 Lapland Longspurs were at Penticton Oct. 15 (SC) and 20+ were using reclaimed mine dumps at 7000 ft in the Sparwood area Sept. 15-17 (DFF). One at Fortine was a rarity, for the species has been found there in only 10 of the last 60 years (WW). A flock of 100+ Snow Buntings was at the Sparwood mine dumps Sept. 16.

**ADDENDA** — Two adult and two nearly grown imm. Com. Loons were on N. Twin L., Ferry Co., Wash., July 17 for apparently the only state breeding record in recent years (EH). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo picked up dead in Bozeman June 26 provided the latlong's first and Montana's eighteenth (WD, *vide* CVD). A singing Black-throated Green Warbler was identified at close range by an observer familiar with the species, and two others heard at Fish Cr. C.G., Glacier N.P., June 22 for the fifth state record and the first for Montana w. of the Divide (MS).

**CORRIGENDA** — The Black-legged Kittiwake reported from Magic Res., Ida. (AB 36:876) furnished the second state record (see *Condor* 83:272-3). The two gulls reported for Fortine May 19 (AB 36:876) were Bonaparte's, not Glaucous, were three in number, were seen May 6 and made Weydemeyer's second spring record. The Bay-breasted Warbler (AB 30:100) was at Pocatello, not Malheur, for Idaho's first. The Brown Towhee at Klamath Falls (AB 30:100) was apparently e. Oregon's second.

**OBSERVERS CITED** — James Action (JA), John & Muriel Ainsworth (J & MA), Merle Archie (MA), Eugene C. Barney, Nancy Bock, Zee Butler, Steve Cannings, Mark R. Collie, Mary Collins (MCo), Barbara Combs, Craig & Marion Corder (C & MC), Thomas Crabtree, Dennis & Jamie Dahlke, Mark Daly, C.V. Davis, William Davis, Joe Evanich, Darrel & Glenn Faxon, Roger Ferguson (RFe), David Fix (DFi), Tim Fowler, David F. Fraser, Ron Friesz, Jeff Gilligan, James Grant (JGr), Warren Hall, Ed Harper (EHa), Chris Harris, Winnie Hepburn (WHe), Pat Hill, George and Wendy Holton (Who), Dot Honaker, Rick Howie, Eugene Hunn, Terry Hurst, Joe Jeppson, Ronald J. Klein, Dan Knierim, Merlene Koliner, Rick & Jan Krabbe, Mary Langer, Al & Hilda Larson, Louise LaVoie, Joanne Lawrence, John Lester (JLe), Tom Lewis, Jeff Marks, Vicki Marks, Pat & Peter McAllister, Terry McEneaney, William & Marlene McKee, Pat McKinney, Ed Miller, Bob Moate, Huber Moore, Terry Morgan (TMO), Shirley Muse, Ron Neu, Bob & Betty Newman, Jack Nisbet, Colleen Powell, Kerry B. Provance, John Quirk, James R. Rees, Hadley B. Roberts, T.H. Rogers, Ron Rohweder, Jeff Ruprecht, Owen Schmidt, W.H. Shillington, Don & P.D. Skaar, Mike Slater, Richard Smith, Andy Stolzenburg, Shirley G. Sturts, Steve Summers, Dan Taylor, Verta Teal, C.H. & Scott Trost, Ron Weeks, Winton Weydemeyer, Mike Whittaker, Susan Wierenga, Carl Wolf, David Wolf, R.E. Woodley, John Woods, Yakima Audubon Society (Y.A.S.). Larry Napier reported for Kootenai N.W.R. C.D. Littlefield's report for Malheur N.W.R. includes observations by Larry Ditto, Brad Ehlers, David Paullin and Steve Thompson. Colleen Powell reported for Metcalf N.W.R., John Hill for Minidoka N.W.R., and Jack Hagan and Rod Pharness for Turnbull N.W.R. — **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**



## MOUNTAIN WEST

/Hugh E. Kingery

Better than average variety, less than average numbers summarizes fall in the Mountain West. "Without the happy wanderers it would have been dreary indeed." (HD). A mid-September storm punctuated what otherwise was a mild (although in Utah wet) season.

As usual, Utah reported remarkable numbers of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Wyoming found two new state birds, and Utah and Colorado each found one. Expected were the Ross' Goose in Wyoming and the Thayer's Gull in Utah; surprising was Wyoming's White-tailed Kite, and remarkable was the Marbled Murrelet high in the Colorado Rockies.

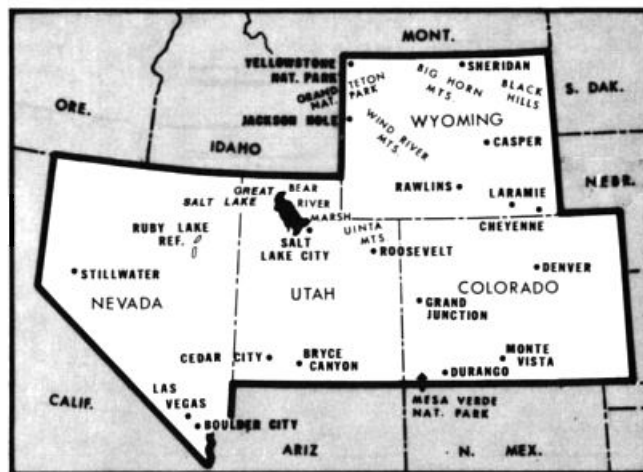
Observers in the Region reported 373 species, the most in 6 years and 21 above average. Wyoming had the best showing, its 299 species 54 higher than the five-year average. Colorado had 321, Utah 260, and Nevada 245. For the year, the Region reported 403 species, slightly below the five-year average.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — L/L/B/L: Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area, Colo.; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park, Colo.; lat: new latilong record; ††: written description on file with state records committee; †: written description on file with Reg. Ed.; #: no written description.

**LOONS, GREBES** — The Region's first Com. Loons appeared in Wyoming at Ocean L., near Riverton Sept. 25 (SF) and Evanston Oct. 3 (CK). Two loons found themselves in trouble and aided by man: one at Eureka, Nev., Oct. 20 was brought to a pond unable to fly—but left 24 hours later (JE). Another Nov. 8 landed on an icy lake at Evergreen, Colo., and "had the whole town concerned. Sylvia Brockner spent a whole day wangling help for the stranded bird. Finally 2 scuba divers broke through the ice and forced the loon to open water. A loud cheer went up from shore." (WB) Utah reported its fourth Arctic Loon at Minersville Nov. 6 (†SH *et al.*). Nevada had one at Las Vegas Nov. 20, and Wyoming had one at Riverton Oct. 23-Nov. 16 (†SF *et al.*). Colorado had its usual complement, 13 reported on the E. Slope Oct. 31 +. Sheridan had 1-2 Red-necked Grebes Oct. 8-24 (HD), Jackson reported one Sept. 30 (#), and Denver had two on Oct. 17 (F & JJ). Eared Grebes began to assemble on Great Salt L., in numbers Aug. 27 (JN), and peaked Oct. 10 at 100,000± (JB), birds dotting the lake as far as the telescope could see. The rest of the Region reported them in mere 100s. Light-phase W. Grebes occurred in Colorado at Denver (22 in August), Antero Res., Pueblo, and Cheraw; also in Overton, Nev., Morgan County, Utah, and Casper, Wyo. Both color phases nest at Ocean L.; Fitton hypothesizes that the more common dark-phase nests earlier. "Wallowing in metal-rich mud," two Pied-billed Grebes spent Oct. 29-31 at Gilman, Colo., in a zinc mine tailing pond which unexpectedly drained (JM).

**PELICANS TO IBISES** — White Pelicans visiting the Front Range lakes in e. Colorado increased; D.F.O. counted 1134 this year vs. 263 last year, and L/L/B/L had 413 vs. 81. In late November, two remained in n.e. Colorado (C.D.W.). They stayed to Oct. 23 at Logan and Oct. 24 at Riverton. At Casper Double-crested Cormorants peaked Aug. 6 at 200, 3 times last year's top count (JH). In n.e. Colorado D.F.O. reported 2800, a high count, Oct. 16, a late date (JRe). A report of a possible Olivaceous Cormorant at Ft. Collins, Colo., Sept. 11, will undergo C.F.O. scrutiny (††KC). Wyoming reported its first fall Green Herons, one at Big Piney Oct. 13 (JR *et al.*) and one at Sheridan Oct. 24 (†HD, MC). Near Denver Green Herons that summer remained until Nov. 7 (F & JJ). The largest flock of Cattle Egrets reported yet in Colorado, 100-150, gathered at Platteville in September (JT). The state tallied 500± birds, about 5 times the previous high fall count. Sheridan's second Cattle Egret, Oct. 24, fed in a pasture where "cattle inspected the egret closely—something they had never seen before" (†HD, MC). Snowy Egrets increased, according to L/L/B/L figures, with 91 reported Aug. 26-Oct. 3 cf. 25 last year. Casper, which had none last year, had up to a dozen, the last Oct. 13. White-faced Ibises lingered to Nov. 13 at Ouray N.W.R., Utah (ML) and late November at Stillwater Ref., Nev. (EL).

**WATERFOWL** — The waterfowl migration began peaking at Jackson L., Wyo., in late August with 5000 Canada Geese and 5000 ducks. High count of Utah ducks came in late September: 421,134,



mainly 146,923 Pintails and 74,641 Green-winged Teal. At Stillwater, Redheads peaked at 16,000-18,000 in early October (up from 1981 and 1980), and Canvasbacks at 26,000 in late October. Ruby Lake N.W.R., had its peak in October, an average population of 8175 including 4500 Canvasbacks. Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., had a consistent 10,000-13,000 ducks all fall, up 25%; extremely wet weather in early fall provided abundant water. The n.e. Colorado reservoirs peaked in late November at 91,650 ducks and 47,362 geese, all Canadas except for 58 Snows (C.D.W.).

Whistling Swans peaked in early November in Utah at 25,556 (U.D.W.R.). Other notable swan counts included 1800 at Stillwater Nov. 30, none at Ruby L., and several flocks of 12-60 in w. Wyoming. Ruby L. advises that only two Trumpeter cygnets fledged there. A Trumpeter took up residence on the N. Platte R., near Glenrock, Wyo., Nov. 20+, a stray from the South Dakota colony (RR). A record number of Snow Geese, peaking at 100 on Oct. 31, passed through Casper. With them Nov. 25 was Wyoming's first Ross' Goose (†SF, OKS *et al.*). Three pairs of Eur. Wigeon reportedly visited Railroad Valley marsh, 80 mi e. of Tonopah, Nev. (†RM to VM) and two were reported in Jackson, Wyo., Oct. 10 (#RW). A family group of goldeneyes Aug. 10 at Walden, Colo., most likely was Barrow's (JAG, ph.); it nested in Colorado in the late 19th Century. First Oldsquaws, Oct. 15, were the most southerly—Minersville, Utah (SH—lat); later they appeared at Great Salt L. (D & NH, RR), Loveland, Colo. (WL, DL, F.C.A.S.), Cheraw (RB), and Antero Res., near Fairplay, Colo. (RB—lat). November 25 saw White-winged Scoters at Denver (F & JJ) and Carson City, Nev. (†WP). Like the first Oldsquaws, the first-reported Surf Scoters appeared at the most southerly sites—a female Oct. 16-26 at Las Vegas in the same location as last winter (J & MC, VM *et al.*) and two at Pueblo, Colo., Oct. 16 (†RB *et al.*). Others stopped at Casper Oct. 23 & Nov. 13 (JH), Minersville Nov. 4 (†SH), and Denver Nov. 7. Black Scoters were at Casper Nov. 6-7 (OKS) and Denver Nov. 7 (D.F.O.).

**HAWKS, EAGLES** — The U.F.O. hawk watch near Brighton, Utah in 37.3 hrs Sept. 6-Oct. 22 tallied 436 hawks (11.7/hr). Tove's 4 trips to the Wellsville Mts., near Logan in September counted 626 hawks in 23.75 hrs (26.3/hr). Peak counts came Sept. 19 at Brighton, with 48/hr and Sept. 23 at the Wellsvilles with 53/hr. Accipiters topped both counts; 35% of the Brighton total and 45% in the Wellsvilles. Brighton saw 145 Buteos while only six flew by the Wellsvilles; October counts there might have raised the Buteo count. A vulture feeding on a road-kill 40 mi n. of Maybell, Colo., Oct. 3 looked like a Black (††JRG, AP). A 3-week saga of a spreading species came from Teton County, Wyo.: Wyoming's first White-tailed Kite, was found Aug. 20, e. of Moose (H & BJ). It moved 20 mi N to Moran, where numerous observers identified it independently Sept. 10-14 (†SF, †DS, AB *et al.*). Goshawk observations increased, especially in Wyoming and Utah. A Red-shouldered Hawk released 1½ years ago continues to frequent the headquarters building at Pahranaagat Ref., Nev. (VM). Three Broad-winged Hawks at Logan Sept. 22 and one Oct. 2 (†MT) doubled Utah's records. Wyoming reported two and Colorado three during the fall. Observers found 2 migrating flocks of Swainson's Hawks: 180 at Limon, Colo., Sept. 4 (BJ) and 75 at Buffalo, Wyo., Sept. 24 (RMo). Rough-legged Hawks

probably arrived in August, with likely reports from Sheridan (†MR), Grand L., Colo., Heber City, Utah, and Bryce Canyon N.P., Utah (#). "Large concentrations of wintering Golden Eagles have been reported for most of the valleys in n.e. Nevada" (PR). By Nov. 13, 28-30 Bald Eagles had gathered at Milton Res., near Platteville, Colo. (JT). Monte Vista Ref., with 40 and Ruby L., with 50-60 in August, both noted increases in Marsh Hawks. Nesting Ospreys increased in n.e. Utah from 5-6 pairs for the past 6 years to 8 pairs this year (REW). Sheridan reported one or two Gyrfalcons Nov. 12 (HD, PW). Peregrine Falcon reports increased noticeably—22 observed in 16 different places in the 4 states.

**GROUSE TO GALLINULES** — All 5 reporters in n.e. Nevada commented that Sage Grouse, Chukars, and Gray Partridge populations have dropped to low levels because of heavy mortality last winter. Yet Sheridan's Gray Partridges are recovering from decimation several winters ago. On their way S, Whooping Cranes visited some new locations; two stopped at Ouray N.W.R., Oct. 5-9 (ML) and one at Logan Nov. 9 (WB). Wyoming opened a hunting season on Sandhills; hunt rules dictate a halt if any Whooping Cranes are consorting with Sandhills. A Whooping Crane found at Border Jct., Sept. 1-14 did stop the hunt in that vicinity (SF). Monte Vista, the principal stopping place for Whoopers on their way to their wintering grounds, reported the first arrival Oct. 3 (Sept. 17 last year); of the 10 adults and 7 immatures in the w. population, 15 appeared in the San Luis Valley (JK). A late September aerial survey showed 1500-1600 Sandhills on the fall staging grounds in Ruby Valley (PR). Strays included two flying over Eureka Aug. 8, the first seen there (JE) and three at Las Vegas Oct. 21 (MK). Logan had 2 flocks of 100 in mid-October and at Ouray Ref., they peaked at 1200-1500 Oct. 6. Boulder reported 2-3 Com. Gallinules Oct. 3-12 (#MG, FH).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Yants Puddle in Casper hosted all but 5 of the shorebird species seen in the Region, including 5 notable rarities. The oil refinery wastewater pond has proved a boon to Wyoming bird-watchers. Numbers were modest: the peak came Aug. 29 with 355 migrants, 199 of them N. Phalaropes (FB). High water levels discouraged shorebird stops through much of Wyoming and Colorado.

Yants had a Piping Plover Sept. 14-15 (†FB, †JH). Snowy Plovers were found at Wamsutter, Wyo., July 18 (†SF, †FB), Logan Sept. 4 (MT), and Las Vegas and e. Colorado in early August. Single Am. Golden Plovers stopped at Yants Puddle Sept. 19 & 27 (†FB, JH). Yants had three Red Knots Aug. 3, one Sept. 14-15, three Sept. 19, and one Sept. 27-30 (†JH, †FB); Ocean L. had one Aug. 24 (†SF) and Logan reported two Oct. 26-27 (†MT). Colorado failed to report any Pectoral Sandpipers last spring and this fall had only 16 observations, from Denver and Loveland. A trio of White-rumped Sandpipers stopped at Antero Res., Aug. 22 (†RB—lat). The eight Dunlins at Sheridan Oct. 14 was a high count (MC). Yants Puddle produced Wyoming's second record for **Short-billed Dowitcher** with three Sept. 21 (†FB), and its second in 10 years for **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** with three Sept. 15 (†JH, OKS). In August at Alamosa N.W.R., Colo., 300 Am. Avocets engaged in mass foraging, almost like pelicans herding fish (JK). At Great Salt L., N. Phalaropes peaked at 142,000, apparently in August (U.D.W.R.).

November shorebirds, normal at Las Vegas but rare elsewhere in the Region, included the following: four Am. Golden Plovers at Great Salt L., Nov. 10 (RR), four Black-bellied Plovers at Antelope I., Nov. 13 (MT, ES), Spotted Sandpiper Nov. 18 at Delta, Colo. (MJ), two Willets at Antelope I., Nov. 13 (ES), three Baird's Nov. 7 at Pueblo and two Nov. 26 at Ordway, Colo. (†RB), one Least at Pueblo Nov. 27 (RB), Dunlins at Casper Nov. 7 and Buffalo Nov. 13 (JH), 1-2 Pectorals at Denver Nov. 13-21 (JRe, TM), four Sanderlings Nov. 21 at Great Salt L. (JB), and one Am. Avocet at Delta Nov. 17 (MJ).

**GULLS, TERNS** — Two **Thayer's Gulls** at Farmington provided Utah with its first state record, at last. The two first-winter birds Nov. 13 flew to within 100 ft and permitted flight-only observation. The observers' field notes picked out each relevant field mark (†MT, ES). Denver reported 12 Thayer's Gulls and Las Vegas, three. A **Mew Gull** reported Mar. 22 at Denver without details now has substantiation with a clear picture—for Colorado's second record—from the same lake as the first one (BJR, ph. to C.F.O.). Numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls dropped, although August reports from Randlett, Utah, and Walden, Longmont, and Antero Res., Colo. falsely signaled an early, large influx. An impressive flight of Sabine's Gulls started Sept. 8 in

Casper; eventually Wyoming reported at least six, the others at Sheridan, Riverton, and Fontanelle (SF, FB, HD, JR). Colorado's first ones appeared Oct. 2 at Denver and Lamar (as far E as they strayed), followed by five others at Pueblo, Boulder, and Longmont (m.ob.). A tern Sept. 19 at Antero Res., had all the field marks of an Arctic, the identification aided by comparison with Forster's, Common, and Blacks. A Caspian Tern strayed S to Longmont Sept. 22 (†BH).

**ALCIDS** — Astounding! Standing on McClain Flats Rd., 5 mi from Aspen, Colo.: a **Marbled Murrelet**. Caught and released on a nature center lake, the bird, a first-year immature of the Asian race, died after 24 hours (TC, DD, \*D.M.N.H.). Obviously, the first Colorado and first Regional record.

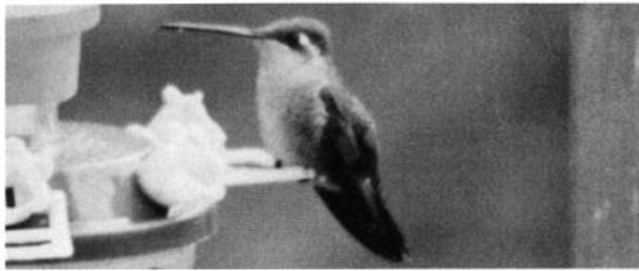


*Marbled Murrelet, Hallam Lake, Aspen, Colo., Sept., 1982. Photo/T. Cardamone.*

**DOVES TO SWIFTS** — Inca Doves returned to their Las Vegas trailer park Sept. 23. Colorado observers have started separating e. and w. Screech Owls—birds they see (and hear) infrequently. Generally the e. race/species occurs on the plains, the w. one in the mountains. A fallout of **Flammulated Owls** resulted in records from all 4 states, and specimens from 3. Five birds found dead or ailing Sept. 23-Nov. 10 may have been late migrants having trouble finding adequate food. The records include three from Elko, Nev. (JGa, \*N.D.W.), two Oct. 5 at desert-like Antelope I. (JF, *vide* JN), one at Jackson Oct. 8 (PK, EBo, \*to RB), one at Durango Sept. 16 (EF), and one at Penrose Nov. 10 (J & RW, \*A.V.N.C.). Burrowing Owls, we think, leave the Region in winter, although rarely we see one sunbathing on a warm winter day. The birds Nov. 6 at Denver and Nov. 26 at Cheraw (DG, RB) raise intriguing questions about wintering birds. On Sept. 21 a tape recorded an 8-note owl call at Jackson (EBo, JHa) about which a Cape May Observatory expert commented, "The distinctiveness of the call left no doubt at all that it was a **Barred Owl**." (KDu, *vide* RW). Also heard Nov. 5 (JL), it could constitute the second Wyoming record. Complacently perched 15 ft high along a Boulder Mt. P. trail Nov. 7-8, Colorado's fourth Spotted Owl in 10 years peered back at the 100 bird watchers who came to peer at him (WB *et al.*). Late Poor-wills included one at Ft. Morgan, Colo., Oct. 6 (JCR), one at Casper Oct. 10 (JH), and one at Las Vegas Nov. 24 (CR, MK). Late Com. Nighthawks were at Big Piney Oct. 2, at Logan and Ft. Morgan Oct. 11. Intensive field work at Ouzel Falls, R.M.N.P., produced at total of 3 Black Swift nests. Although 2 nests may have failed, 13 swifts swirled around the falls Aug. 15 (MF). One nest was found at Diamond L., about 15 mi s. (MF).

**HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS** — Hummingbirds at feeders dropped in numbers this summer and fall. Most hummers left early, even though last dates were later than last year's (to Oct. 1 in Boulder and in Jarbidge, Nev.). Almost unanimously, reporters commented on the scarcity of Rufous Hummingbirds. An aggressive "large dark hummingbird"—perhaps Rivoli's, spent Aug. 15-29 n. of Glenwood Springs, Colo. (*vide* RP). A shy ♀ Blue-throated kept using a feeder in the foothills w. of Golden, Colo., late July-Sept. 22, providing the most northerly record for this species of which we know (GE, ph.). Above timberline on Mt. Alice in R.M.N.P., Oct. 15, a Hairy Woodpecker crossed the Continental Divide at least one mi from the nearest tree (MF). In a year-old forest burn in Grand Teton

N.P., 10 ad. N. Three-toed Woodpeckers were feeding at least three fledged young plus others in a nest cavity Aug. 7-10 (SF). The same or a similar burn Oct. 11 had a Black-backed Three-toed (SW).



Female Blue-throated Hummingbird, Golden, Colo., late July-Sept. 22, 1982. Photo/D. Gruchy.

**FLYCATCHERS TO WRENS** — Detailed notes of plumage, viewed through a scope, accompany the report of a **Tropical Kingbird** at Las Vegas Nov. 7 (†VM, J & MC) for Nevada's second record. Laramie's persistent reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers this season came with photograph. This fall's bird, Wyoming's third reported and first documented, 3 mi from the one last spring, stayed Aug. 23-Sept. 12; a local rancher says they have been there for the past few years (†KHe, DM). An Olivaceous Flycatcher was reported from Overton, Nev., Aug. 1 (VM, J & MC). At Ouray N.W.R., in n.e. Utah, a Vermilion Flycatcher stayed a month—probably an imm. male achieving ad. plumage—"noticeably more brilliant Nov. 7 than Oct. 4" (†ML). No one reported large numbers of swallows, the peaks being 500 Violet-greens at Ridgway, Colo., Sept. 3 and 350 at Zion Sept. 13, and 350 Cliffs at Jefferson, Colo., Aug. 7. Cliffs still occupied 2 nests at Eagle, Colo., Aug. 14 (JM), and Jackson had a late brood of Barns Aug. 25 (BG). A Com. Raven raised by a Eureka rancher returned after an absence of more than 10 years (JE). At Payson, Utah in November, 3000 Com. Crows fed on the ground, an impressive number in our Region (BHu). Piñon Jays spread widely through the area although their numbers began to drop in November. A few Mountain Chickadees dropped to valleys and plains, as did numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creepers. Pygmy Nuthatches roamed away from their ponderosa pines. Throughout the fall in Grand County, Colo., they flocked through lodgepole pine woods, from Winter Park to Gore Pass. Boulder had more than ever at feeders, and one even cruised through an urban Denver yard Aug. 3. Late House Wrens included mid-October dates in Evergreen, Pueblo, Jarbidge, and Reno.

**THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS** — A Varied Thrush stayed at Fish Springs N.W.R., Nov. 1-9 (JGo). At Buffalo Sept. 14 3-4 E. Bluebirds huddled in a snowstorm (DK), and a flock in Black Forest, Colo., Oct. 9 had 25 Easterns and 15 Westerns (RB). The random nature of our reports thwarts an analysis of bluebird trends: Westerns scarce in Colorado, numerous in Zion, only one station reporting them in Wyoming; Mountains migrating in flocks of 25-100 throughout the Region (and a flock of 200 at Cody, Wyo.), but posting early departures as well, with few seen after September. Townsend's Solitaires typically drift downslope to the pine and juniper-clad foothills in November but the Wellsville hawk watch noted 10-25 migrating Sept. 23 (MT). Ridgway, Colo., posted 57 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on its Fall Count Sept. 11-12. Casper's 30 Ruby-crowned Kinglets represented a 50% increase in observations; L/L/B/L's 28 was a 50% decrease. Only a few Bohemian Waxwings moved into the Region: 100-150 in Cody in November, one report of eight Oct. 30 from Sheridan, plus one at Laramie, Wyo., in late November. Small flocks of Cedar Waxwings roamed the Region throughout the fall, although in lower numbers than last year. Zion had a very late Phainopepla Nov. 23 (JG). Zion drew the prize for the largest number of Starlings: 5600 streaming by Nov. 27 and another 1500 the next day. Casper had a Philadelphia Vireo Sept. 19 (†LR), and Denver reported two Sept. 19 (#).

**WARBLERS** — Observers generally reported many fewer warblers. For the 6 commonest species, L/L/B/L reported 219 individuals this year, 585 last year. Fort Collins' Fall Count had only 29 altogether. Fall counts tallied little variety (Denver had the most with 10 species) and not many individuals (185 at Ft. Collins, 184 at Denver). The only notable fall count statistic came from Denver,

where all 109 Yellow-rumped were seen in the foothills—none on the plains.

Colorado sees more warblers than the other states, and all reports below are in Colorado unless otherwise noted. Two Prothonotaries, the first in the Region in 3 years, stopped at Lyons Sept. 17 (#MGR) Colo. Springs, Nov. 6 (†BM), also there a Golden-winged Oct. 15 (RB, EW) and a Blue-winged Nov. 8-12 (†RB). Top count of Orange-crowns came from Fountain: 34 on Sept. 26. Nashvilles, fewer than usual, included ones at Elko, Nev., Aug. 5 & 16 and Sept. 7 (PR) and a late one near Big Piney Wyo., Oct. 16 (JR). Casper, Wyo., had a N. Parula Aug. 31 (†LR). Longmont and Ft. Morgan reported Magnolias Sept. 20 & 25 (JA, JCR). Yellow-rumped flocked in the mountains into October; they did not arrive on the plains until late September. After a solid week of clouds, snow, and rain, Oct. 1-2 Evanston, Wyo., hosted a dense flock of 50-70 in 2 residential blocks, unusual in any Mountain West town (CK). Logan, Utah, reported another unusual flock of 25-50 Townsend's in 30 min Sept. 23, "migrating" upslope in a Wellsville aspen grove (MT). Of three Black-throated Greens, one in Glenwood Springs Oct. 25 was the latest—and furnished a new latilong record (†MS). Berthoud had the only Chestnut-sided Oct. 11 (CC). Two Palms were at Lyons Oct. 21 (HL), one at Penrose Nov. 7 (J & RW), and one at Boulder Nov. 8 (BK). Northern Waterthrushes were at Muddy Gap, Wyo., Sept. 6 (D & JW—lat) and Enoch, Utah Sept. 25 (†SH). Hooded Warblers visited Farson, Wyo., Aug. 14 (†TMa—lat), Wyoming's fourth and, extremely late, Denver Nov. 16-24 (JCo, ph.). Nevada had its fourth Canada Oct. 3 at Boulder City (†MK) and Denver reported one Oct. 2 (#DN).

**ORIOLES, TANAGERS** — A Yellow-headed Blackbird Sept. 18 in R.M.N.P., perched in timberline scrub, far out of habitat (LDB). Zion reported its fifth Hooded Oriole, Aug. 6-9 (JG). The summer report noted a Summer Tanager at Jackson May 9-11; a tardier report arrived of a splotchy male downed May 11-12 by the same storm 50 mi s.e. at Big Piney (ED, *vide* JR).

**FINCHES** — At Lander, Wyo., Aug. 19-25 a ♂ **Blue Grosbeak** sang while a female fed two fledged, dependent young, for Wyoming's second breeding record (SF—lat). Rosy finches stayed in the high country, with few flocks reported. The only Com. Redpolls came to Eldora, Colo., Oct. 8 (GS). Few Pine Siskins appeared. Only at Pueblo did they descend in numbers—the first Aug. 2 and by November thousands, with flocks of 30-100 at each sunflower patch (VT). Carson City reported good numbers of Lesser Goldfinches Sept. 30+, with several flocks of 20. Red Crossbills have almost entirely disappeared; Wyoming reported a total of about 60 and Colorado fewer than 100.

**SPARROWS** — Sparrows, like warblers, seemed in short supply, and left early. However Sheridan did record 105 Savannahs Sept. 3 and 78 Sept. 16 (HD). Juncos repeated the paradox of abundance reports: few at Jarbidge, Glenwood Springs, and Eagle, twice the usual number at Boulder, 1000 in the road from Grand L. to Granby, Colo., Oct. 11. Pueblo had large numbers of Tree Sparrows: 125 banded in 3 hrs and 1500 around Pueblo Res. (VT), yet Utah reported none. Evergreen, where a Cassin's Sparrow once wintered, reported a Clay-colored Sparrow Oct. 30-Nov. 30 (RO, WB). Rigli found his first Ft. Morgan Field Sparrow, a second latilong record, Sept. 25, and Herold's at Casper Nov. 19 provided a seventh state record. A Fox Sparrow which arrived at Casper Oct. 20 stayed 7 days (†JH). A Swamp Sparrow was at Ocean L., Wyo., Oct. 23 (†SF). A few Snow Buntings filtered into the Region, the first a group of seven at Big Piney (ED) and others at Logan Nov. 6-7 (KA) and Antelope I., Nov. 13 (MW).

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## SOUTHWEST REGION

### ARIZONA

/Janet Witzeman

A rather lackluster fall was brightened by a family group of Golden-winged Warblers, the first Blue-winged Warbler since 1952 and Eared Trogons that continued to tantalize.

Although there were a few nuthatches and chickadees and several Golden-crowned Kinglets found in the lowlands, no major movement of montane and/or northern species materialized.

In the following report, the names of Elfrida, McNeal and Bisbee/Douglas sewage ponds appear frequently. These areas south of Willcox in southeast Arizona that have received increased coverage during the past year, and any records from that previously little covered area help to plug up the holes in our knowledge of the state's avifauna.

**LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS** — Loons recorded away from the Lower Colorado R. (hereafter, L.C.R.) were two Com. Loons at Upper L. Mary Nov. 3 (J. Shipley), and an Arctic Loon at Prescott Oct. 19, which provided only the second recent record for that area (CT). A total of one Arctic and five Commons was recorded on the L.C.R., during the period (CH *et al.*). Horned Grebes were found in two areas: one at Phoenix Oct. 2-12 (DSj) and one at Nogales Nov. 19 (JBo). A W. Grebe at Becker L., on the late date of Nov. 26 was of the dark phase (DDa, JBe), the only form recorded so far in the northeast.

White Pelicans continued to be numerous and widespread. Several scattered flocks were on L. Havasu during August and early September and 300+ were counted on Cibola N.W.R., Oct. 2 (DL *et al.*). Five were observed at Prescott Oct. 15 with one remaining until Nov. 11 (H & AG, CT), four at Tucson Nov. 25-30 (JD *et al.*) and additional individuals were at Alamo L., Aug. 17-18 (P. Glinski, TS), Phoenix October-December (TG *et al.*) and w. of McNeal Oct. 6-12 and Nov. 10 (AM). As usual, Brown Pelicans wandered N late July to mid-September: individuals were recorded at Tonapah, w. of Phoenix (DK), Picacho Res. (DSj), San Carlos Res. (B. Thomas) and St. David (T. Heatley), as well as five to six at Painted Rock Dam (hereafter, P.R.D.) (PB *et al.*). The Picacho Res. bird was an adult; one of the very few ever recorded inland in the southwest.

A Double-crested Cormorant, a scarce transient in the northeast, was at Becker L., Nov. 26 (DDa, JBe). Olivaceous Cormorants at Patagonia L. increased from seven in mid-September to at least 15 in mid-November (PN, DDe *et al.*). One of the bizarre records of the fall was of the discovery of an imm. frigatebird perched in a eucalyptus tree in a Tucson yard at night, on the late date of Oct. 7 (GG, PN, m.ob.). All of the previous records have occurred from late June to mid-September.

**HERONS, IBISES** — The third and fourth Louisiana Herons of the year was recorded at San Simon Cienega, e. of Portal, Sept. 13 (R.T. Scholes, F.P. Smith) and Gillespie Dam, w. of Phoenix Oct. 31+ (CB *et al.*). The individual recorded at Tucson in June remained until Aug. 22 (DSj, SG *et al.*). Records of Cattle Egrets in the southeast (where formerly rare) continued to multiply. From one to



six were seen n. of Elfrida Sept. 24-Nov. 22, four were w. of McNeal Oct. 2 (AM) and one was at Willcox Oct. 9 (S. King). More unusual was one at Prescott Oct. 31 (CT). Four at Tucson Sept. 26 (B. Pollock) and four at Phoenix Nov. 13 (RBr) were the only other ones reported during the fall. Individual Great Egrets, uncommon in the southeast, were present n. of Elfrida Sept. 24-Oct. 6 and w. of McNeal Oct. 8 (AM).

White-face Ibises were found in good numbers w. of McNeal through September with a high of 90 Sept. 28 (AM). A late individual was at Benson Nov. 27-28 (PN, JBo). Surprising were two probable White Ibises seen flying N of Ehrenberg, L.C.R., Oct. 7 (†LL). There were only 4 previous state records.

**WATERFOWL** — In addition to the White-fronted Geese on the L.C.R.—15 on L. Havasu Sept. 22 (GM) and 11 at Cibola N.W.R., Sept. 24 (DK, LL)—two were at Tucson Oct. 20 into December (JD, GG *et al.*), one w. of Phoenix Sept. 23-30 (J. Burton), and more unusual were one to five during October and November near McNeal (AM, TD, DDa). Snow Geese were more widespread and numerous than usual away from the L.C.R., in November; notable were up to 20 at McNeal (AM, PN) three at Bisbee/Douglas sewage ponds (AM), up to three at Tucson (PN, GG, WD) and individuals at Sierra Vista, Willcox, Nogales, Phoenix; and a blue morph at Kayenta Nov. 29 (C. LaRue). Two Ross' Geese were at Poston and a high of 20 were with the 500 Snow Geese at Topock, L.C.R., in November (CH), plus individuals were near McNeal (ph. AM), Sierra Vista, Willcox (PN) and Tucson (WD, GG).

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were found nesting in 2 areas—at the Benson sewage ponds for the first time—a pair with nine young were observed Sept. 14 (BB, DDe), and at the Nogales sewage pond, a pair with 13 young during October (JBo *et al.*). In addition 14 were at Marana, n. of Tucson Aug. 22 (S. Suter) and up to seven at Tucson during August (JBo, SG). A ♀ Greater Scaup, an uncommon migrant, especially away from the L.C.R., was observed at Tucson Nov. 21

(KK). A small invasion of scoters occurred in s. Arizona. Two **White-winged Scoters** were found at Tucson Nov. 14 (DSz *et al.*), at Patagonia L., Nov. 24 (R. Eastman) and at Nogales Nov. 26 (D. Garver, R. Olson). These possibly involved the same two individuals. These were only  $12 \pm$  previous recent records. Two individual Surf Scoters were at Nogales Nov. 16 (BH) and Benson Nov. 27 (PN). Additionally, a Surf Scoter was seen in n. Arizona on L. Mead Oct. 19 and another, or the same, in nearby Hualapai Canyon Oct. 20 (VM). A Hooded Merganser on a lake w. of Springerville, Nov. 28 (DDa, JBe) was of interest as there are only a few records for the northeast.

**RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS** — Records of White-tailed Kites continued to increase. One was observed along the San Pedro R., just n. of the Mexican border Aug. 4 (MJ, M. Piersons) and one photographed near McNeal Sept. 12 remained through October (TD, AM, DDa, L. Moody). A wandering individual Mississippi Kite was recorded at Marana Aug. 6 (B. Whitney). An imm. Goshawk near McNeal Oct. 12 (AM) was well away from areas of residence in the mountains. A Black Hawk in the Bill Williams Delta (hereafter, B.W. Delta) Sept. 8 & 16 was probably the same individual that summered there (CH, JJ). An imm. Caracara, observed in the mesquite grassland s.w. of McNeal Nov. 6 (†AM), was far e. of its breeding range.

Sandhill Cranes spread to 2 new areas: 135+ were in the Picacho Res./Eloy area in September and 250+ were at Gillespie Dam Nov. 28 (DT). A Black Rail was heard in the B.W. Delta Sept. 8, 16 and Oct. 5 (†DK, D. Kohlmoos). This represented the second record at this area n. of the known breeding areas on the L.C.R. A Com. Gallinule at Granite Cr., in Prescott Oct. 28 into winter was unusual at this elevation and habitat (CT).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Two Mountain Plovers n. of Elfrida Nov. 3 (AM) added to the recent records of this species in the southeast. An Am. Golden Plover at Phoenix Oct. 11-24 (ph. RW *et al.*) furnished only the third record since 1976. Before that one or more had occurred annually since at least 1969. The only Black-bellied Plovers of the fall were two at Tucson Oct. 2 (BB, WD) and one w. of McNeal Oct. 27 (AM). Individual Snowy Plovers were at the Bisbee/Douglas sewage ponds Sept. 13 (AM), w. of Phoenix Sept. 5 (RBr, RF) and three at Tucson Sept. 1 (FH). One of the rarer shorebirds to pass through or over the state, the Red Knot, was recorded in two areas: one w. of Phoenix Sept. 7-18 (PB *et al.*) and one at Nogales Sept. 17 (BH, RBA).



American Golden Plover, Phoenix, Ariz., Oct. 11, 1982. Photo/R. Witzeman.

Individual Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported at Tucson Aug. 28-29 (DSj *et al.*), from two areas in Phoenix Aug. 20 (†RN, VJ) & 25 (DSj) and one to three w. of Phoenix Sept. 15-18 (DSj *et al.*). Dunlin are more uncommon in the southeast than in the west, so of interest was one at Tucson Oct. 18-21 (KK *et al.*) and two w. of McNeal Nov. 14 (AM). Higher-than-usual numbers of Long-billed Curlews were counted w. of McNeal—31 on Aug. 30, 24 in late October and again Nov. 14 (AM). The only Marbled Godwits of the period were singles w. of Phoenix Sept. 18 (JW, DSj) and at Tucson Oct. 19 (EB). Sanderlings were more common than usual: w. of Phoenix were four Sept. 8 (CB), one Sept. 24 (RW) and two Oct. 12 (PB); in Tucson there were two Oct. 2-3 (KK, SG) and one Nov. 20 (WD); and one was at Nogales Oct. 8 (JBo, BK).

A high of five Red Phalaropes was reported—two at Posey Wells, n. of Bowie Sept. 24 (JBo, DDe, DSj), one near McNeal Nov. 11-13 (AM, PN), one at Tucson Nov. 11 (JS, WD) and one at Parker Nov. 8 (†RH, ph. DK).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ANIS** — An imm. jaeger (sp.) was observed on Lower L. Mary, s. of Flagstaff Sept. 12-16 (†JC, TM). The only previous record of a jaeger for n. Arizona was of a Pomarine near Flagstaff in fall 1927. Records of Herring Gulls are sparse, especially away from the L.C.R. An adult and immature were observed with Ring-billed Gulls at Prescott Nov. 4 (CT) and one was seen at Becker L., near Springerville Nov. 26 (DDa, JBe). A first-year California Gull (uncommon away from the L.C.R.) was at Tucson Oct. 19 (SG).

A flurry of Heermann's Gulls occurred briefly at 4 locations during storms in mid-November: on the 9th, two were at Tucson (KK *et al.*) and one was at B.W. Delta (†DK, CH); on the 16th five were at Tucson (TG, MC) and two were in Tempe, e. of Phoenix (RBr *et al.*) and on the 20th one was at Nogales (JS). We have come to expect Sabine's Gulls in the fall, but unexpected was the *ad.* Sabine's Gull at Phoenix on the early date of Aug. 17-22 (TG, MJ *et al.*). Adults are uncommon inland. Single imm. Sabine's were at Tucson Sept. 25-26 (WD *et al.*) and Cibola N.W.R., Sept. 26 (†RH, DK). An early Franklin's Gull was also in Phoenix Aug. 17-18 (MC *et al.*).

Common Terns, uncommon away from the L.C.R., were at Tucson, one to three Sept. 14-18 (SG, KK *et al.*) and at P.R.D., one Sept. 12 (RF). Most unusual were the two Caspian Terns far e., near McNeal Sept. 24 (AM).

An Inca Dove at Portal Oct. 25-November was only the second one ever noted there (S & WS). A Groove-billed Ani, photographed Oct. 21 at Rim Rock, s.w. of Montezuma Well (D. Smith), was the first for Yavapai County and only the third for n. Arizona.

**HUMMINGBIRDS** — The ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird at Portal in July remained through most of August; a pair was there in early September and the ♀ Lucifer remained until Oct. 21 (S & WS). One or two ♂ White-eared Hummingbirds were at Portal to early October and two males were present there Oct. 9-13 (S & WS, PN). Calliope Hummingbirds continued to be more common than usual. Single males were observed in Ramsey Canyon Sept. 25 (JE), at Portal all of August (S & WS) and a female at Portal Sept. 25-Oct. 10 (SS, DDe, DSj).

In Madera Canyon, where Violet-crowned Hummingbird is relatively uncommon, one remained until Nov. 17 (SG). Costa's Hummingbirds are usually scarce in fall in the Phoenix and Tucson regions, however, at least one pair plus another male were visiting yards in the Phoenix area October into December (JW, PB), at least two were seen several times Oct. 10-Nov. 25 along the Santa Cruz R., Tucson (KK, DDe, FH *et al.*) and one was still coming to a feeder in Green Valley Nov. 17 (GP). A ♂ Costa's at Portal Sept. 21 (RM) represented one of the few records for that area. Broad-billed Hummingbirds wandered to areas where they are not usually found. Two were seen in Globe Aug. 13 (BJ) and one in the Swisshelm Mts., e. of McNeal Nov. 5 (AM, S. Treiber). At least 20 Anna's Hummingbirds at feeders at 7000 ft in the Santa Catalina Mts., Sept. 14-15, was a large number for that elevation. A Rivoli's Hummingbird was n. of its usual range in the Pinal Mts., Aug. 8 (BJ). One of the Plain-capped Starthroats that was in Madera Canyon during the summer remained until Sept. 6 (R. Newcomer).

**TROGONS THROUGH CORVIDS** — Unreported since 1979, Eared Trogons were again sighted in Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. Individual males were spotted for a brief time Aug. 22 (†J. VanOs, WS) and Oct. 1 (JBo), then faded back into the wilds of that rugged border range. This year's census of Coppery-tailed Trogons produced a total of 77 individuals—12 fewer than last year but about the same as the previous 2 years (R. Taylor *et al.*).

A ♂ and imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the e. race *S. v. varius* were observed in a Phoenix yard Oct. 12 (RBr). Another of this race was reported at Parker Nov. 27-Dec. 4 (CH). There was no major movement of Lewis' Woodpecker this fall, but one in Tex Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Oct. 18 was in an odd location (TD).

A Thick-billed Kingbird, far w. at Cibola N.W.R., Sept. 9 (†JJ), was one of only a few records for the L.C.R. A late Cassin's Kingbird was out of its normal habitat near McNeal Nov. 6 (AM). This fall's Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was recorded s. of Parker on the late date of Nov. 18 (†RH, LL), more than a month later than previous fall records. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher strayed into Bisbee Aug. 8 (DDa). Buff-breasted Flycatchers were found in areas where they have only recently returned: two were near Portal Sept. 13 (RM) and one among mixed pines on Mt. Lemmon in the Catalinas Sept. 26 (B. Zoelich). Two Willow Flycatchers, found at the Research Ranch, Elgin Aug. 18, were suspected of nesting (DDa, AM, RBA).

Two late Barn Swallows and three late Tree Swallows were near McNeal Nov. 11 (AM), and a late Barn Swallow was at Parker Nov. 27 (CH). The only lowland Scrub Jay reported was one at Topock, L.C.R., Nov. 28 (CH). Numbers of Com. Crows at Cibola N.W.R., were back up again: 1000+ were counted Nov. 5; 400 were at Topock Nov. 28 and one was at Parker Nov. 8 (DK, CH *et al.*). Two at Tucson Nov. 11 (DSz) were among the very few for that area.

**CHICKADEES THROUGH SHRIKES** — Lowland reports of Mountain Chickadee came from Tucson; three were seen during the period (KK *et al.*). One to five Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Boyce Thompson Arboretum during the period (HL, DSj) and one in Phoenix Nov. 1 (DSj). At least two lowland Brown Creepers were in Tucson Oct. 29-December (JBo) and three were at Parker Nov. 27 (CH).

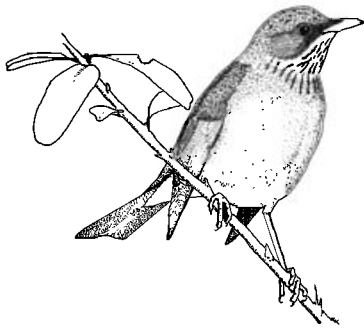
Reports of Winter Wrens were widespread; an early one was near Portal Sept. 19 (RM) and other individuals during October and November were at S. Fork near Springerville (DDa, JBe), s.w. Phoenix (DSj), two n.w. of Phoenix (RF, PB), two at Prescott (RF) and two at Beaver Dam Wash near Littlefield (JC). Long-billed Marsh Wrens were so plentiful (100+) at Beaver Dam Wash Nov. 27 that they were foraging in the bark of cottonwood trees (JC).



*Brown Thrasher, Hereford, Ariz., Nov. 13, 1982. Photo/T. Deecken.*

A Brown Thrasher at Hereford Nov. 13-December (AM, ph. TD, DDa) was the only one reported this fall. Rufous-backed Robins, rare winter strays from Mexico, appeared for the first fall in 4 years. One was at Tucson Nov. 6-12 (CT *et al.*) and from one to two were at Parker Nov. 15-December (†CH, DK *et al.*).

One of the ♂ Black-capped Gnatcatchers was still in Chino Canyon Sept. 4 (DSz). Six Black-tailed Gnatcatchers in the Swisshelm Mts., Nov. 5 (AM) were of interest as the species is uncommon and local in the southeast. A N. Shrike at Becker L., on the remarkably early date of Oct. 9 (DSj, AG, RF) was the only one reported.



*RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN — KEVIN KAUFMAN 1983*

*Rufous-backed Robin. Drawing/K. Kaufman.*

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Individual Red-eyed Vireos were at Portal Aug. 20 (J & G Maender), Picacho Res., Aug. 28 (MJ *et al.*), Tucson Sept. 23 (KK), and farther n. at Prescott three singles Sept. 4, 6, 12 (RF, RBr, RN).

The variety and number of "eastern" warblers was not as great as usual; however, the appearance of two of the rarest species on the state's list made up for that. An ad. ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** was found at Eager, n.e. Arizona, Oct. 9 (†DSj, AG). The only previous record for the state occurred 30 years ago at B.W. Delta. Even more surprising were the *four* (1 ♀ and 3 ♂) **Golden-winged Warblers** that frequented a bird bath and bushes in a yard at Prescott Aug. 28-Sept. 18 (†VM, ph. E. Miller *et al.*). There were 4 previous state records, all of individuals. The thought that they may have been the result of nearby breeding was an amazing one, but more plausible than that they would have migrated as a group.

A **Yellow-throated Warbler** at Ehrenberg Sept. 5 (†CH, ph. DK *et al.*) was only the tenth for the state but the *third* for the year. A **Magnolia Warbler** was found at Tucson Nov. 7-8 (SG *et al.*) and a ♀ **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Tucson Nov. 9-15 (KK *et al.*).

There were two **Black-throated Blue Warblers**: a male at Bisbee Oct. 3 (DDa) and a female at Douglas Oct. 9-11 (†AM, DDa). Two individual **Ovenbirds** were at Richville, n.e. Ariz., Oct. 10 (RF, DSj, AG) and at Phoenix Oct. 30-December (DSj). The only **Chestnut-sided Warbler** was at Patagonia Oct. 16 (T. Rehm).

Individual **Tennessee Warblers** were found s. of Phoenix Sept. 7 (PB) and at Tucson Oct. 28 and Nov. 7 (JBo). There were three **Black-and-white Warblers**, seven N. **Waterthrushes** and eight **Am. Redstarts** reported during the fall.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — A **Bobolink**, uncommon in the southeast, was found n. of Tombstone Sept. 12 (AM, DDa). A **Scarlet Tanager** was found at Portal Oct. 23 (†RM, WS). There are only 11 previous state records. **Late Summer Tanagers** were at Tucson Nov. 14-December (JBo), at Phoenix Nov. 14 (DSj) and at B.W. Delta Nov. 29 (†RH).

**FRINGILLIDS** — **Painted Buntings**, uncommon visitors, were found in 2 areas; a pair at Portal Aug. 11 (RM) and a male at Kino Springs Oct. 17 (PB). **Dickcissels** appeared to be more numerous than usual. At least one on the L.C.R., at Cibola N.W.R., Sept. 22 (†CH) and n. of Ehrenberg Sept. 25 (LL) were among only a few recorded in w. Arizona. An imm. **Dickcissel** was at a Green Valley feeder Sept. 22-25 (GP), one at Portal Oct. 7 (SS) and two immatures at Amado Oct. 8-10 (JBo, BK). There were at least 7 reports of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** from the southeast. The only **Lawrence's Goldfinches** reported were two at Tucson Nov. 13 (JS).

Individual **Clay-colored Sparrows** were observed at Cibola N.W.R., Aug. 28 (†DK) and s. of Cibola Sept. 12 (RH). There was only one previous record for the L.C.R. Another was reported from the southeast near Double Adobe Oct. 12 (AM). Exceptionally large numbers of **Cassin's Sparrows** remained in parts of the southeast through the fall. The species is quite variable in numbers in fall and winter in the state. **Swamp Sparrows** were found in a new area: one n.w. of Elfrida Oct. 23 and two n. of Elfrida Nov. 8 (AM). The only **Harris' Sparrow** was at Portal Nov. 2-3 (ph. S & WS, RM).

A **Lapland Longspur**, an uncommon winter visitor, was heard n. of Ehrenberg Nov. 23 (CH, LL, DK). A single **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was found at Prescott, n.w. of the usual range in the state, Oct. 14 & Nov. 11 (CT).

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## NEW MEXICO

/John P. Hubbard

**GREBES THROUGH CORMORANTS** — Eight adults and 13 nests of Eared Grebes were present at Black L., Colfax Co., Aug. 9 (RB), for the first proof of nesting there. At Zuni, young of this species were hatching Aug. 5, with the process mostly completed Aug. 14 (TR). Two Olivaceous Cormorants were present Aug. 1-21 at Holloman L., Otero Co. (RH *et al.*), where one was recorded in July for the first record in the Tularosa Basin. Numbers built to 100 on Nov. 20 at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (hereafter, Bosque Ref.) (D & SH), as further evidence of the species continued expansion in numbers and range in the state.

**HERONS** — Cattle Egrets staged a moderate influx in the lower Pecos Valley and w. to the Rio Grande Valley, where reported n. to Bosque Ref. (v.ob.); out-of-range was a bird at Bluewater L., Sept. 15 (AM). Somewhat unusual was an ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron in the Anapra area of Doña Ana County Aug. 17-Sept. 26 (KZ).

**WATERFOWL** — The Mute Swan reported at Bitter Lake N.W.R., earlier this year appears to be a member of a free-flying pair from the city park in Roswell; a bird was again at the refuge Sept. 6 (RT). A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, present since May and through the period near Anthony on the New Mexico-Texas line, was photographed Aug. 24 (KZ). While the photo is from adjacent Texas, the same individual also occurred in New Mexico (KZ *et al.*), and thus this documentation will serve as the first verification of the species in the latter state. This duck appeared wild when first seen, although it has become rather tame and feeds with domestic waterfowl. Broods of Gadwalls, Pintails, Red-heads, Lesser Scaup, and Ruddy Ducks were seen at Black L., Aug. 9 (RB), emphasizing the attractiveness of the area as waterfowl habitat. Young Ruddies were at L. Roberts, Grant Co., in early August while an apparent Blue-winged Teal nest was found there Aug. 8 and a brood Sept. 5 (RF). Wood Duck numbers were up in the Rio Grande Valley in the autumn, and two birds were also seen in the Tularosa Basin Oct. 23 & 28 (RH).



*Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Anthony, Tex., Aug. 24, 1982. Photo/ K. J. Zimmer.*

**RAPTORS** — Extremely rare in New Mexico, and not verified since 1859, an ad. Swallow-tailed Kite graced the cottonwood groves and farmlands near Socorro Aug. 29-Sept. 7 (PB *et al.*, ph. v.ob.). Up to five Mississippi Kites were in the Los Lunas-Belen stretch of the middle Rio Grande Valley (hereafter, M.R.G.V.) Aug. 3-4, and one lingered until the very late date of Oct. 6 (JS *et al.*); two birds were near Anapra Aug. 24 (BZ, KZ). A begging juv. Sharp-shinned Hawk in the Pinos Altos Mts., Aug. 15 (RF) was in an area where there are few breeding records of the species. Single vagrant Harris' Hawks were present near Portales in the autumn (L. Broemel) and Bernardo Oct. 15 (JS). A notable movement of Ospreys materialized during the period, with 20+ birds reported in September and October (v.ob.); late was a bird at Truth or Consequences (hereafter, T or C) Nov. 30 (DM). Merlins were also somewhat more frequently reported than usual, including one in open farmland-grassland near Portales Oct. 22 (JH).



*Swallow-tailed Kite, Socorro, N.M., Sept. 5, 1982. Photo/D. Huntington.*

**GALLIFORMS THROUGH CRANES** — A Blue Grouse on Mt. Taylor Aug. 4 (AM) represents one of the few recent reports there. Transplanted White-tailed Ptarmigans continue to be seen in the Pecos Wilderness, including at least one brood there in August (*vide* E. Espinoza). Additional records of the species in a poorly known area include seven or more at El Vintrero, Taos Co., Aug. 14-15 (R. Peterson, E. Rasmussen). Sandhill Cranes in areas where rarely reported included five near City of Rocks S.P., Grant Co., Oct. 21 (DM) and 13 over the Guadalupe Mts., Oct. 27 (RH). Up to six young and 11 older Whooping Cranes were expected in New Mexico this autumn from Idaho, but not all had been accounted for by the end of the period (U.S. F. & W. S.). The earliest report was of "Ida" at Bosque Ref., Oct. 11 (*vide* RT), while flying migrants were seen over the Los Alamos-Espanola area as follows: two Nov. 12 (M. Cash), one Nov. 14, and two Nov. 15 (K. Hainebach).

**RAILS THROUGH PLOVERS** — An accidental dumping of sour mash from an alcohol plant in July proved attractive to various birds at Bitter Lake N.W.R., including 1-2 Yellow Rails Sept. 9-20 (K. Wood *et al.*); this species has only been verified in New Mexico once, that 40 years ago at the same refuge! A Snowy Plover near Clayton Aug. 19 (AK *et al.*) was a rarity for the area, as was an Am. Golden at Holloman L. Oct. 6 (RH).

**SANDPIPERS** — Quite rare in the state is the Ruddy Turnstone, with only about 4 previous records; another, an immature, was photographed at Holloman L., Sept. 28 (ph. RH). The autumn migration of Upland Sandpipers extended farther w. than normal, with 58 birds reported Aug. 19-Sept. 22 in the Tularosa Basin (RH) and in lower Rio Grande Valley (KZ *et al.*). Autumn Semipalmated Sandpipers continued to be reported by careful observers, *e.g.*, in the Tularosa Basin Aug. 19-Oct. 6 (RH *et al.*); however, substantiation is still largely lacking for such occurrences and details/photographs often lack definitiveness. Reports of several relatively rare "peeps" included single Red Knots at Bluewater L., Sept. 15 (AM) and Holloman L., Oct. 9 (KZ), and a Stilt Sandpiper at Zuni Sept. 6 (JT)—along with several records of the latter Aug. 14-Oct. 2 in the Tularosa Basin and the Rio Grande Valley (v.ob.). Northern Phalaropes were rather numerous in the Tularosa Basin late August-Oct. 6 (RH), but the only other report was of five birds at Zuni Sept. 6 (JT).

**GULLS AND TERNS** — An imm. Sabine's Gull was at Holloman L., Sept. 28-Oct. 1 (ph. RH *et al.*), for the only report, along with up to five Com. Terns on the first date (ph. RH). An even rarer gull, an ad. Black-legged Kittiwake, was reported at L. McMillan Nov. 20 (SW). This locality also yielded a report of two Caspian Terns, also very rare in New Mexico Sept. 18 (B. Hayworth, B. Swayze, *vide* SW), while another was recorded near Anapra Nov. 5 (BZ).

**OWLS THROUGH PARROTS** — A near-albino Great Horned Owl was seen at Zuni Oct. 18 (JT); a less careful observer might have thought the bird was some other species. North of the usual range was a calling Whip-poor-will at Red Cloud Campground, in the Gallinas Mts., Lincoln Co., Aug. 1 (SW). A late nighthawk n. of Santa Fe Oct. 7 was thought to be a Lesser (A. Forbes-Watson, R. Cardillo), unlikely and as difficult to ascertain as this may be. An escaped Nanday Conure was present at Loving Aug. 17-Sept. 29 (SW).

**SWIFTS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS** — A Black Swift at Maxwell Lake N.W.R., Sept. 18 (D & SH) was unusual for that

area An Anna's Hummingbird at Cloudcroft Aug. 2 (SW) may have been a first for the Sacramento Mts., while Calliopes were more frequently reported than usual—including a few in the s. lowlands. Most impressive were the nearly 70 recorded in the M.R.G.V., Aug. 3-Sept. 10, including at least 41—of which 10 were ad. males—near Albuquerque Aug. 17 (JS *et al.*). A ♂ Blue-throated at Pleasanton, Catron Co., Aug. 23 (M. Sumner) represented a rare straggler.

**WOODPECKERS** — An Acorn Woodpecker near Orogrande Oct. 25 (RH) was an oddity for the desert region of Otero County; another was seen Sept. 18 in the Guadalupe Mts., where the species is now reportedly rare (SW). Southward dispersing Lewis' included a single bird at Socorro Oct. 24 & 26 (PB) and two near Mesilla Nov. 6 (L. Hartshorne *et al.*). More than the usual number of Hairies was found in the central M.R.G.V., Aug. 3-Nov. 23, with eight in the period—including a fledgling near Albuquerque Aug. 18 (JS *et al.*). Work in 1981 and earlier in 1982 suggested that this species is, or has become, quite rare in the area. In Santa Fe, five wandering Hairies were seen Aug. 7-Oct. 18 (JH), which signals a local influx that may have carried over to the M.R.G.V.

**SWALLOWS** — Cave Swallows persisted at Carlsbad Caverns N.P., until Nov. 2, with peak numbers in autumn of up to 2000 birds; almost 500 were banded, including 10 birds that showed some characteristics of Barn Swallows (SW). While hybridization between these species have been recorded in w. Texas, this seems to be the first suggestion of it in New Mexico.

**CORVIDS** — Influxes into areas of other-than-regular-occurrence were evident in several members of this family, including 4 species of jays and the Com. Crow. The latter species surged down the Rio Grande Valley to s. Doña Ana County where hundreds were present in November (KZ *et al.*). One near Ft. Sumner Oct. 20 (JH) was definitely s.e. of the usual range. Blue Jays staged a minor influx in e. New Mexico, with westerly stragglers in the Santa Fe area Oct. 9-10 (P. Schaafsma) and in November (M. Lang) and near Mesilla Nov. 7 (BZ *et al.*). A few Steller's moved into the lowlands, including eight recorded in the M.R.G.V. (JS *et al.*) and one s.e. of Piñon Sept. 8 (RH). On Oct. 2-3, four were also on Sierra Grande (D. & G. Schmitt), where the species is not known to breed or reside. Scrub Jays staged a more noticeable lowland invasion, although not in large numbers; reports came especially from the Rio Grande Valley—including s. to T or C (DM). From mid-August to mid-September Piñon Jays showed up in the Rio Grande Valley s. to Los Lunas (JS *et al.*), plus one at Socorro Sept. 5 (D & SH). At the same time, flocks were also noticeable in and near the s. uplands, including the Silver City area (D & MZ), the vicinity of Piñon (RH), and the Guadalupe Mts. (SW).

**CHICKADEES THROUGH NUTHATCHES** — Beginning in late September Mountain Chickadees showed a moderate southward/lowland influx, including small numbers to such peripheral localities as Ft. Sumner (JH), City of Rocks S.P. (DM), and Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy Co. (SW). A Black-capped Chickadee was reported at Percha Dam S.P., Oct. 2 (D & SH), but it was not well-documented; if correct, this record would be the southernmost for the state. A Mexican Chickadee was present at Post Office Canyon, near Rodeo Oct. 25 (RS); this was only the second record for the Peloncillo Mts., which lie between the 2 regular montane areas of occurrence of the species in the United States, *i.e.*, the Animas Mts. of New Mexico and the Chiricahuas of Arizona. On Nov. 13, two Bridled Titmice were at Percha Dam S.P. (BZ, KZ), where infrequent and apparent drifters from the Black Range to the w. Bushtits were more frequent in the M.R.G.V. than usual, with 11 flocks counted in November vs the average of 2 flocks/month (JS *et al.*). White-breasted Nuthatch numbers showed an increase in parts of the Rio Grande Valley (JS, KZ *et al.*). Red-breasted showed a moderate influx into lowland/southern areas, and Pygmies showed a rare parallelism in the Rio Grande Valley—including singles at Socorro Oct. 3 (PB) and s. of Las Cruces Aug. 31 (BZ), plus an unprecedented 27 or more in the M.R.G.V. (JS *et al.*)! The latter were in the area between Jemez Res. and Belen Aug. 12-Oct. 13, including 14 in the Los Lunas area Aug. 23.

**DIPPER THROUGH MIMIDS** — Dipper migration is not well-understood in the Region, but it does occur; a rare lowland occurrence was of one reported below Caballo Dam Nov. 6 (G. & K. Glazener, *vide* KZ). Late were single Gray Catbirds near Los Lunas Nov. 19 & 21 (KM *et al.*) and near Anthony Nov. 19 (KZ *et al.*). More than the usual number of Brown Thrashers reached W to the Rio Grande Valley area, with at least seven birds between Santa Fe (JH *et al.*) and Anapra (KZ *et al.*) in October and later.

**THRUSHES THROUGH KINGLETS** — Very rare in New Mexico, a **Wood Thrush** was reported at Clayton Oct. 18, for the first autumn record there; there are 3 previous spring records there (AK). An E. Bluebird at Cottonwood Gulch Sept. 10 was far w. of the usual range, but it represents the third record there and for the Zuni Mountains (DM); also noteworthy was one at Santa Fe Oct. 31 (JH) and seven at Cochiti Oct. 5 (JS). Black-tailed Gnatcatchers were fairly common, at least early in the period, in the Cornudas Mts., Otero Co., including six Aug. 4 (RH). Golden-crowned Kinglets scattered to a few lowland localities in the period, including small numbers in the M.R.G.V. (JS *et al.*) and the Tularosa Basin (RH), plus one near Anapra Nov. 14 (BZ).

**VIREOS** — A Gray Vireo at Cottonwood Gulch Sept. 15 was the first reported there (AM), although there are a few records in the general region. Very late were two Solitaries at Percha Dam S.P., Nov. 13 (BZ, KZ). Well-documented reports of Philadelphia Vireos, rare in the state but most frequent in autumn, were singles at Aguirre Spring, Organ Mts., Sept. 18 and in the Anapra area on the same date and Aug. 27 (BZ); another bird was reported at Silver City Sept. 19 (D & MZ).

**WARBLERS** — Notable "eastern" vagrants included two Prothonotaries in the Anapra area Sept. 18-19 (BZ, KZ) and another in Post Office Canyon Sept. 15 (RS), a Worm-eating in Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandia Mts., Oct. 3 (G. Parker, *vide* HS), a Magnolia near Belen Oct. 18 (JS), single Black-throated Greens near Los Lunas Nov. 16-17 (J. Duff, V. Hink) and Bosque Ref., Nov. 13 (T. Corman *et al.*), a Chestnut-sided in Albuquerque Sept. 5 (CH), a Blackpoll at Percha Dam Sept. 21 (BZ, KZ), and a Kentucky near Anapra Sept. 19 (BZ). More regular species in this group included reports of the Black-and-white, Tennessee, Black-throated Blue, Ovenbird, N. Waterthrush and Am. Redstart. The "eastern/western" Nashville was represented by at least 8 records, from the Rio Grande Valley w. (v.ob.). Notable occurrences of w. species included moderate numbers of Townsend's in the Zuni Mts., M.R.G.V., and Tularosa Basin (RH), plus a Hermit in the Anapra area Oct. 16 (BZ, DJ).

**ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — The only Bobolink reported was at Bernardo Oct. 15 (JS *et al.*), while unusual was a ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole at Silver City Aug. 28 (D & MZ). A ♂ Great-tailed Grackle at L. Roberts Aug. 8 & Sept. 5 (RF) was somewhat out of the usual range, as were three Com. Grackles s. of T or C, Oct. 2-3 (D & SH). A ♀ Scarlet Tanager near Sena, San Miguel Co., Oct. 9 (JH *et al.*) was unusual, while a ♂ Hepatic report at Sandia Knolls Nov. 9 (R. Luhrs) was quite late.

**FRINGILLIDS** — Cardinals are quite rare in the Rio Grande Valley, so notable was one reported at Bernalillo Oct. 14 (KM, JS), plus one or more s. of Las Cruces Aug. 21-Nov. 29 (SW *et al.*). A ♂ Varied Bunting reported in the Anapra area Sept. 20 was out-of-range, while a ♀ Painted Bunting there the same day (KZ) represented one of the few recent reports for the area. A ♀ Painted in Post Office Canyon Sept. 15 (RS) was also noteworthy. Dickcissels reached w. of the usual autumn range in the state, with several in the Tularosa Basin (RH) and others in the Rio Grande Valley from Corrales to the Las Cruces area (JS, KZ *et al.*). Evening Grosbeaks were evident in and near several montane areas, including the Sandia Mts. (HS *et al.*) and the Sacramento Mts. In the latter area, several of these birds were present at Cloudcroft Aug. 2, and young being fed by adults were said to be present (*vide* SW). Stragglers were noted in the M.R.G.V., including most notably 12 birds at Belen Aug. 10 (JS *et al.*); single birds were seen in the Zuni Mts., Aug. 14 (AM) and Pinos Altos Mts., Aug. 15 (RF).

A Pine Grosbeak at the headquarters of Banelier N.M., Aug. 21 (R. Tweit) was somewhat low, especially for the season. Pine Siskins dispersed rather widely into the lowlands beginning in October, while

Am. Goldfinches were also rather widespread but in lesser numbers than siskins during the period (v.ob.). A begging juv. Lesser Goldfinch was at Cottonwood Gulch Oct. 2, but no adults were seen (AM). On Nov. 11, ten Red Crossbills were seen in the Peloncillo Mts. (DJ, BZ), where rare and irregular. A Le Conte's Sparrow was reported on Nov. 6-7 at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (CH), where perhaps regular but easily overlooked. More than the usual number of Clay-colored Sparrows was reported in the Rio Grande area, from the Albuquerque area (JS *et al.*) s. to the Las Cruces area (KZ *et al.*), as well as in the Tularosa Basin (RH). A Field Sparrow near Portales Oct. 22 (JH) was the only one reported, while one or two Golden-

crowns in Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandia Mts., Nov. 9 & 28-29 (HS *et al.*) were also notable.

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## ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

Early fall 1982 was characteristically mild—August and September were wet and cool. Colder temperatures and heavy snowfall in early October abruptly ushered in winter, however. At Fairbanks, 9.3 inches of snowfall Oct. 18-19 was the "heaviest snowfall in years" (Fairbanks *Daily News-Miner*), and 21 inches of snow at Anchorage by mid-October was more than in any previous October on record. By the end of November over 40 inches of snow was on the ground in the Fairbanks area, over 50 inches in Anchorage.

In spite of heavy snowfall, many common passerines (*e.g.*, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Wilson's Warbler, Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco) were late, some of them in numbers. Gulf of Alaska migration surveys continued at isolated Middleton Island, producing a number of interesting records and helping to build a data file on timing and abundance of trans-Gulf migrants.

**STORM-PETRELS, HERONS** — Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels occur inshore and onshore along the Alaska Pacific coast each autumn (*e.g.*, on the Kenai Pen. this fall, 10+ at Homer Spit Sept. 18 [RLS], one at Kasilof and 8-10 birds on the Kenai R., Sept. 19 [MM], and one bird on Tustumena I., in mid-September [GP, *vide* MM]), but this season a few birds were found *far inland*. One was seen on the *Susitna R.*, near Curry (125 air-line km from saltwater) Sept. 16 (PH), and at least three birds were seen on the *Koyukuk R.*, 24 km upriver from Koyukuk Village (and 155 air-line km from saltwater), Sept. 22-23 (TO). If these birds followed these rivers upstream from their mouths, rather than flew overland, then the distances they traveled from saltwater were about 190 and 700 km, respectively.

Great Blue Herons were rare visitors at Kodiak Nov. 3 (SS, *vide* RM) and Nov. 19 (two birds, SH, *vide* RM) and at Middleton I. (at least one Sept. 9-Oct. 3, and Nov. 20—m.ob.).

**WATERFOWL, HAWKS** — An ad. Snow Goose that spent Nov. 1-16 with swans at Cordova (m.ob., *vide* MI) was very late. A juv. *Garganey* observed well at *Middleton I.*, Sept. 29 (†DDG) was judged to be a male by its immaculate gray forewings. There is no prior Alaska record of this species on the Pacific coast e. of the Aleutians. Interesting records of Steller's Eiders included up to three ♀-plumaged birds together at L. Hood, Anchorage, Oct. 16-20 (DS *et al.*) and up to six ♀-plumaged birds at *Middleton I.*, Nov. 6 & 20 (DS *et al.*). There is only one prior upper Cook Inlet record; the species does not normally occur e. of the lower Cook Inlet-Kodiak area. An Osprey observed at Juneau Oct. 22 (RW) was one of the latest on record in Alaska.

**SANDPIPERS** — A juv. Greater Yellowlegs at Fairbanks Aug. 25 (DDG & BL) was a first autumn record in C. Alaska n. of the Alaska Range. The first record of a *Gray-tailed Tattler* on the Alaska Pacific coast e. of the Aleutians was one juv. bird at *Middleton I.*, Sept. 24 with juv. *Wandering Tattlers* (TT, JJ, DDG). First in fall in the c. Aleutians, a Com. Sandpiper observed at Adak I., Sept. 6 (CZ & MZ) was on schedule, but e. of the normal range. A Terek Sandpiper studied at *Anchorage* Aug. 14 (†RLS) represented the *third* local record and one of very few ever in the Region in fall (which situation may be a reflection of how little fieldwork has been conducted on the



Bering coast in fall). Upland Sandpiper is a rare migrant in SC Alaska spring or fall; one bird seen and heard at *Middleton I.*, Sept. 23 (TT, JJ, DDG) furnished the first Gulf of Alaska record and the latest ever in the State by 2 weeks. The latest Hudsonian Godwits at Anchorage were two Sept. 2 (DS), on time; one Hudsonian Godwit at *Klawock*, Prince of Wales I., Oct. 13 (†TK) provided the latest Regional record by 3 weeks and only the second fall record in SE. Unusual or late Bar-tailed Godwits included one at *Wrangell* Sept. 15 (VG, ph.), one of very few SE records, and one at Adak Oct. 23-Nov. 20 (CZ). A very few W. Sandpipers seen at Fairbanks Aug. 3-12 (DDG), added to a few previous records, suggest that this species may be regular in C Alaska in early autumn. The third Kodiak archipelago record of Buff-breasted Sandpiper was of two birds at Kalsin Bay Sept. 8 (RM, LS, DC); at least one juv. Buff-breasted was observed at *Middleton* Sept. 1-28 (m.ob.). One juv. Ruff seen at *Middleton* Sept. 23 (TT, JJ, DDG) added to very few previous SC records, all in autumn.

**JAEGERS AND GULLS** — A *South Polar Skua* was observed 16 km off Dangerous Cape, Kodiak I., during a Sept. 20 storm (†JA), the first Regional report of this species in several years. In SC Alaska, Slaty-backed Gulls were reported at sea off Kodiak Oct. 1 (JA) and at Anchorage Oct. 6-19 (two birds—† and ph. DS, TT, RLS); up to six juv. California Gulls were identified at the Anchorage municipal dump Sept. 11-Oct. 17 (DS, RLS *et al.*—† and ph.), and one was reported at Womens Bay, Kodiak, Nov. 26 (†RM & JA). To my knowledge there is no specimen record of the latter w. of southern SE

and no specimen of the former e of the tip of the Alaska Peninsula. An ad. Red-legged Kittiwake was seen about 8 km off Dangerous Cape, Kodiak, Sept. 18-19, and another was seen in the same general area Sept. 22 (JA).

**ALCIDS** — A Black Guillemot hit by a truck as it flew from a roadside snowbank on the Glenn Hwy., just s. of Tok, Dec. 4 (\*RS) recalls the only other C Alaska record, 7 years ago in the Alaska Range (see AB 30: 111, 1976). The Tok bird was about 800 air-line km inland from the nearest point in its normal range.

**OWLS, KINGFISHERS, HUMMINGBIRDS** — If Pygmy Owl is more than a winter visitant (all-but-annual) in SE, as has been suggested by some observers but not proved, its status in Alaska is not clear. This fall, one bird was reported at Auke Bay, Juneau, Sept. 5 (RW)-early, and two single birds were seen at Craig, Prince of Wales I., in the third week of November (TK). A Belted Kingfisher seen at Atka I., c. Aleutians, Sept. 12-14 (MS, *vide* CZ) is the westernmost record ever in the Region. This species is a very rare fall and winter visitant in the e. Aleutians from its mainland breeding range. A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird at the year's last flowers in Wrangell Oct. 26 (VG) was the only report of the species this season. Unidentified hummingbirds, probably Rufous, were seen at Valdez Sept. 2 & 8 (GT), at Middleton I., Sept. 16 (DDG), and in the town of Kodiak Oct. 12 (PHo, *vide* RM).

**TYRANT FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, NUTHATCHES** — Lone Alder Flycatchers at Middleton I., Sept. 11 & 16 (TT & DDG *et al.*) were among the latest records of this genus in Alaska. They are exceeded only by an unidentified *Empidonax* at Middleton Sept. 19, 1981. At least two Say's Phoebes at Middleton Sept. 2-9 (PM & DT *et al.*) were most unusual migrants in the Gulf, and one bird at Anchorage Sept. 20 (RR) was both a rare migrant at that location and quite late. Normally gone entirely from Alaska after mid-August, Bank Swallow is the earliest-departing fall migrant passerine species in the State. Thus, although not record-late, single birds on the Koyukuk R., Sept. 22 (TO)—the latest ever in C Alaska—and at Juneau Sept. 23 (RW) are of interest. Red-breasted Nuthatches were fairly common this fall at Kodiak (JA), but nowhere else were they so described. Two singles at Anchorage feeders (TT) were the only report from there; none was reported from the Kenai Pen. or from SE.

**KINGLETS AND THRUSHES, MIMIC THRUSHES** — Golden-crowned Kinglet was "relatively scarce this fall [at Kodiak I.], after numbers decreased drastically last winter" (RM). This species was not recorded at all this fall at Middleton, where it was seen daily during fall surveys in 1980 and 1981. Ruby-crowned Kinglet is a very rare bird at Kodiak, so singles there Oct. 25 (RM), Oct. 30 (JA), Nov. 14 (RM & MW), and Dec. 1 (JA) are of interest. This species is an annual fall migrant in small numbers at Middleton. A Mountain Bluebird was seen at McCarthy Oct. 9 (PO & DO), and at least one bird was reported at Eagle R., Anchorage area, in November (TR). There are very few autumn records of this bird in Alaska w. of SE. Simultaneously remarkable at 2 taxonomic levels, a Dusky Thrush observed at Adak Oct. 22 (†CZ & MZ) not only marked Alaska's first autumn record of this species, but was clearly, based on the description and on colored-pencil drawings, Alaska's first reported *T. n. naumanni* ("Naumann's Thrush"). All prior reports have been of prominently different-looking *T. n. eunomus*. A Mockingbird observed at intervals Sept. 8-16 in dense salmonberry thickets at Middleton I., (†TT, †JH, †LO, GH *et al.*) provided Alaska's first substantiated record of this species.

**ACCENTORS, WAGTAILS AND PIPITS** — Perhaps the most astounding record of the season was of a Siberian Accentor that visited a seed feeder at Hope, Kenai Pen. for an hour Nov. 4 (JM—†, ph.). The bird was "trying to reach dead bugs trapped behind molding." This fifth Alaska record is only the second for the North American mainland (the other was at the opposite end of Alaska, at Point Barrow, in 1951). A juv. Yellow Wagtail seen at Middleton Sept. 9 (TT *et al.*) added to very few SC records of this species, a common breeder in W Alaska. First recorded at Middleton in fall 1981 (AB 36:208), Red-throated Pipits were observed there in September 1982 as well—single birds on 13th, 24th, 26th, and 27th (m.ob.). There are no records of this species at any other Alaska location e. and s. of its limited North American breeding range.

**VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS** — A Philadelphia Vireo studied briefly but closely in willow thickets at Middleton I., Sept. 14 (†TT) became Alaska's second record, both in 1982 (see Summer). A Red-eyed Vireo at Middleton Sept. 4 & 6 (PM & DT) was most interesting, this species, rare and local in summer on the SE mainland, has been recorded at this isolated Gulf of Alaska island twice before (see AB 36:208). A Kentucky Warbler closely observed about DEW Line Site buildings at Beaufort Lagoon Sept. 19 (†SJ & †DH) was a first. Four other wood warblers—Magnolia, Black-and-white, Ovenbird, and Canada—have been new to Alaska as a result of autumn records on the Arctic Ocean coast, but they all breed in w. Canada!

**SPARROWS, FINCHES** — In C Alaska, Dark-eyed Juncos were very numerous this season, and numbers remained high much later than normal (e.g., 60 birds at Harding L., Oct. 6 and nine there Oct 24 [BK]; "many" at Delta Junction Nov. 4 [DH, JH]). A Lincoln's Sparrow at Fairbanks Oct. 17 (PM & DT) was late; two late fall birds were seen at Kodiak—singles on Oct. 25 & Nov. 2 (RM). One juv Harris' Sparrow first noted at Auke Bay, Juneau, banding traps Nov 27 (RW) was the only record this fall. A juv. ♂ Purple Finch observed at Middleton I., Oct. 4 (\*DDG) provided the first unequivocal record of this species in Alaska. The few previous reports have all come from SE (see AB 36:322). A pair of Red Crossbills "feeding a begging young" Oct. 21 at Kodiak (JA) and two birds heard at Seward Nov 20 (RLS) were the only ones reported. White-winged Crossbills were "still present" at Kasilof this fall (MM), but were absent at Kodiak (RM), and at Anchorage (TT), and at Craig (TK); other observers did not mention the species at all. Redpolls were characteristically widespread in small numbers, described as plentiful only at Kasilof (MM) Pine Siskins were recorded at Juneau (RW), and "one flock" only was recorded at Craig (TK). A few were seen at Middleton in September. Elsewhere there was no comment.

**CORRIGENDUM** — The Homer Caspian Terns (see Summer 1982) were seen July 10, not July 19.

**CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS (SUB-REGIONAL EDITOR IN BOLDFACE), ABBREVIATIONS**—J. Allen, D. Croll, V. Gile, G. Hall, S. Halverson, J. Hawkings, D. Herter, P. Hessing, P. Holmes (PHo), M. Isleib, S. Johnson, J. Jolis, B. Kessel, T. Kogut, B. Lawhead, R. MacIntosh, P. Martin, M. Miller, J. Morgan, L. Oakley, D. Oldow, P. Oldow, T. Osborne, G. Pollard, R. Rodriguez, T. Rothe, R. L. Scher, M. Snigaroff, D. Sonneborn, L. Spear, R. Stephenson, S. Studebaker, G. Tans, T. Tobish, D. Troy, M. Weeks, R. Williams, C. Zeillemaker, M. Zeillemaker; †details on file U.A.M., ph. photo on file U.A.M., \*specimen at U.A.M., C Central Alaska, SC Southcoastal Alaska, SE Southeastern Alaska, W Western Alaska.—D. D. GIBSON, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

Weather departed little from the norm, with only November a degree or two colder Regionwide. Weather-related migratory patterns were difficult to discern, with the exception of the pelagics driven inland by strong frontal systems, such as brought a Red Phalarope invasion to Vancouver, B.C., during late October.

**LOONS THROUGH EGRETS** — A Yellow-billed Loon Sept 11 on Cortes I., e. of Campbell R., V.I. (MS), was very early. Others were at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Oct. 8+ (†BK, †MF), and at Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 11+ (†MD, †DA). Black-footed Albatross numbers on pelagic trips off Westport, Wash., peaked at 179 Aug. 28, then declined to two Nov. 13 (TW), as is normal. A Laysan Albatross was seen off Westport Sept. 2 (TW) for the only report on 11 Washington offshore trips this year. Another was seen 12 mi off Coos Bay, Oreg., Sept. 12 (D. Varoujean). Northern Fulmar numbers built sharply in early October to 511 off Westport Oct. 10 (TW). Storms drove 200 inshore at Yaquina Head, Oreg., Oct. 17 (DI, M. Hunter). The counts of Pink-footed Shearwaters peaked at 1560 off Westport Sept 12



(BHT), for the highest trip total ever recorded in the Region. All had vanished by Nov. 13 (TW). Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters joined feeding concentrations over Grays Canyon on only 4 dates Aug. 14-Sept. 18 (TW, DP, BHT, ESH). New Zealand (Buller's) Shearwaters were virtually absent this fall within the continental shelf until Oct. 10 when 14 were counted off Westport (BHT). Six were seen on the late date of Nov. 13 (TW). Sooty Shearwater numbers peaked in the 100,000+ range Sept. 5-19 off Oregon and Washington, declining sharply to 331 off Westport Oct. 10, and to 100 there Nov. 13 (TW). Short-tailed Shearwaters were present for most Washington pelagic excursions in well above average numbers Aug. 28-Nov. 13. Precise counts were impossible to determine due to the difficulty of identifying more than a fraction of the dark shearwaters seen. A single Leach's Storm-Petrel, rarely noted in fall, was driven ashore Oct. 22 at the N.J.C.R. (RW).

Brown Pelicans staged an unprecedented invasion. The 2000 at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., Aug. 22 was 5x normal numbers (HN). The 40 immatures at Grays Harbor Sept. 7 (ESH *et al.*) may have been the largest concentration that far n. in 50 years. An immature at Dungeness, Wash., Sept. 9 (ESH, DW *et al.*), the late stragglers at Port Angeles, Wash., Nov. 28 (D. Lewis), at Oak Bay, V.I., Nov. 30 (Mr. & Mrs. H. Foster, †D. Ross), and on the Nisqually Delta in s. Puget Sound in late November (*vide* T. Bock) reached the limit of the species' historic range.

Four White Pelicans visited w. of the Cascades, between Vancouver, Wash., and Vancouver, B.C. The British Columbia bird stayed at Crescent Beach Oct. 15-Nov. 11 (H. Satterfield, m.ob.) for the first near there in a decade. All 7 Cattle Egret reports were from the straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca. The earliest was the farthest n.e., near Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 4 (BK). The latest 2 were the farthest s.w., on Clallam Bay, w. of Port Angeles, Wash., Nov. 25-28 (MC). Could these birds be stragglers from the e. *via* the Fraser R. corridor? See also *Am. Birds* 35:216, 1981.

**SWANS THROUGH CRANES** — A single ad. Bewick's Swan Nov. 21 at Saanich, V.I., was in the company of one Whistling Swan and an apparent intermediate, judging by bill markings (†RP). White-fronted Geese passed through Sept. 9 (when 50 were over Dungeness, Wash.—ESH, DW *et al.*)-Oct 8, when a local high count of 29 was reported at Serpentine Fen, s. of Vancouver, B.C. (B. Leach). Eurasian Green-winged Teal were noted Nov. 8+ at Vancouver, B.C. (J. Vanderlinde, m.ob.) and Nov. 21 at Hoquiam, Wash. (M. Egger). A survey Nov. 24 in the Victoria, V.I., area found 21 Eur. Wigeon (M. Edgell, m.ob.). Redheads were scarce as usual. Six at the

S.J.C.R., Aug. 21 (HN) was the high count. An imm. ♂ Tufted Duck was at Green L., Seattle, Nov. 20 (†ESH, m.ob.) for one of few records for Washington. A young ♂ King Eider at Iona I., B.C., Aug. 7-Oct. 9 (†BK, †DK, †WW, †DA, m.ob., ph. MD), if not an escapee, was an astounding late summer record, and was the fourth ever recorded in the Vancouver area (*vide* DK).

A Turkey Vulture Aug. 9 at Sayward, 50 mi n.w. of Campbell R., V.I., was at the limit of the species' summer range. This year's S migration at Victoria, V.I., was about 50% of normal. The peak count of only 175 was on Sept. 23 (*vide* VG). On Sept. 26 D. McRae counted 112 passing Edmonds, Wash. This was an unusual concentration for Puget Sound's e. shore. Thirty White-tailed Kites in Oregon was down slightly from last year's record fall total. However, one was n. to Arlington, Wash., Oct. 6 (S. van Neil) to continue the species' N progress. It is difficult to convert *Accipiter* reports into reliable indices of abundance. However, the ten Goshawks reported was sharply down from last year's 25. Six of these were in the Vancouver, B.C., vicinity (*vide* DK). The totals of 97 Sharp-shinned and 70 Cooper's hawks were normal. No regional or temporal patterns were evident. Two reports of Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks were received. One Sept. 4 n. of Sooke, V.I. (KT, RH) was very early. A dark-phase bird was on a more usual date of Nov. 28 at Auburn, Wash. (ESH). Red-shouldered Hawks continue to push N. There were reports this season of at least eight individuals in Oregon; from Curry (2), Coos (1), Douglas (3), Lane (1), and Benton (1) cos.

Three Prairie Falcons were reported n. of Oregon; one n. to Duncan, V.I., Aug. 20 (J. Comer), one a Cascade Crest migrant near Rainy Pass, Wash., Oct. 4 (J. O'Connell), and one near Bayview, Wash., Nov. 19 (D. McNeely). There were one dark and two gray Gyrfalcons on the Saanich Pen., V.I., Oct. 17+ (A. MacLeod, m.ob., *vide* VG), and single gray-phase birds about the Fraser R. delta Sept. 25+ (DP *et al.*, BK), and in Skagit County, Wash., Nov. 14-17 (DB, B. Hamblin). Peregrine and Merlin reports held steady with 74 sightings representing at least 30 Peregrines, and 90 sightings of at least 50 Merlins.

A Spruce Grouse family was noted Aug. 19 in Manning P.P., B.C. (MD). Six White-tailed Ptarmigans were on Mt. Albert Edward, w. of Courtenay, V.I. (KT, RH). About 700 Sandhill Cranes were at Sauvie I., near Portland Sept. 16-mid October (HN). Elsewhere, a flock of 40 was seen flying S near Santiam Pass, Oreg., Sept. 25 (E & EE), and flocks of 10-15 were reported Sept. 16 over Grays River, Wahkiakum Co., Wash. (E. & C. Maxwell, *vide* AR), and Oct. 27 over Dungeness, Wash. (SS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — American Golden Plovers repeated last year's poor showing. The maximal counts were of only 40 at Ocean Shores Aug. 26 and Sept. 17 (ESH, DW *et al.*). One at Sidney I., near Victoria, V.I., Nov. 1 was late (RH). Single Long-billed Curlews were noted n. to Boundary Bay, B.C., Aug. 14 (DA, MP) and Victoria, V.I., Aug. 27-Sept. 3 (P. Dawson, J. Tatum, m.ob.). A flock of 40 at the traditional gathering point near Tokeland, Wash., Sept. 13 (WW) was the only concentration reported. Whimbrels continued relatively scarce, with local maxima on early dates; 44 at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Aug. 4 (HN), and 200 at Ocean Shores Aug. 6 (DP). Single Willets straggled N to Sequim Bay, Wash., Oct. 7 (SS), to nearby Port Angeles Oct. 11+ (MC), and to Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 28-Oct. 12 (JI, †WW, m.ob.), the last furnished the tenth record for the area. There were only two Solitary Sandpipers reported in Oregon, two in Washington, and one at Victoria, V.I., all Aug. 9-26. In contrast, Vancouver observers reported a dozen sightings (max. two birds) Aug. 7-Sept. 10 (*vide* DK). Flocks of Red Knots numbering 26 at Tillamook, Oreg., Aug. 29 (J. Evanich *et al.*) and 100 at Ocean Shores Sept. 7 (ESH, DW *et al.*) were substantial for this species here in fall.

Some 50 Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted in s.w. British Columbia and coastal Oregon. Their virtual absence in coastal Washington was again well documented. Western Sandpiper flocks of 20,000 were found at Iona I., Sept. 6 (MD, H. & W. Hesse), of 10,000 at Bowerman Basin, Hoquiam, Wash., Aug. 6-26 (DP), and of 5000 at Tillamook, Oreg., Aug. 21 (HN). Fifty Baird's Sandpipers at Iona I., Aug. 13 (BK) was an unusual concentration. Sixteen Baird's were seen at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 13 (HN *et al.*), 10 at Kent, Wash., Sept. 16 (ESH), and 15 at Ocean Shores, Wash., Sept. 17 (ESH, DW *et al.*). Pectoral Sandpipers were also unusually common. The maxima were 500 about Tillamook and Nehalem, Oreg., Sept. 19 (DI), 150 at Ocean Shores Sept. 25 (K. Brown), and 240 at Iona I., Sept. 25-26 (DP). Single late stragglers were noted Nov. 23 at Iona I. (GT) and Nov. 26



Laysan Albatross and Pink-footed Shearwater, 45 mi. off Westport, Wash., Sept. 2, 1982. Photo/A. Brady.

near Duvall, Wash. (ESH). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were in normal numbers, with about 25 reported Aug. 29-Oct. 17. Short-billed Dowitcher numbers peaked in late July with 815 still around Grays Harbor, Wash., Aug. 6 (DP). Long-billed Dowitcher numbers peaked 2 months later when 220 juveniles were at Iona I. and Boundary Bay, B.C., Sept. 25-26 (DP) and 420 were at Sauvie I., Oreg., Oct. 2 (HN, V. Teale). Stilt Sandpipers staged a record movement. There were about 11 reported in Oregon, six in Washington, and three on V.I., Aug. 21-Sept. 27. In the Vancouver, B.C., area there were 32 sightings, with a record high of 12 birds at Iona I., Aug. 21 (G. Knezevich). Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports were up from last year's count with 15 found Aug. 29-Sept. 24.

Eighty Marbled Godwits were at their traditional site at Tokeland, on Willapa Bay, Wash., Sept. 13 (WW). Only three were noted n. of Ocean Shores; one at Dungeness July 31-Aug. 6 (DS) and singles near Victoria, V.I., Aug. 20 (MS) and Oct. 19 (JM). Eight Ruff's Aug. 17-Sept. 20 was fewer than last year, breaking a string of 6 years of steadily increasing numbers. Reports came from the Vancouver, B.C., areas (2—†BK, †JW), Aberdeen (2—†ESH, B. Morse) and Leadbetter Pt. (1—RW), Wash., and the S.J.C.R. (one, *vide* HN) and Nehalem meadows (3—KK, JT), Oregon. An Am. Avocet Sept. 15 at Siletz Bay, Lincoln Co., Oreg. (P. Pickering) was displaced from the interior. Hundreds of Red Phalaropes were along the Leadbetter Pen., Wash., Oct. 28-Nov. 5 (RW), 50 were blown inland Oct. 30 to Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Oreg. (J. & R. Krabbe), and 5000 flew past Clover Pt., Victoria, V.I., Nov. 11 (RS). Following only 2 previous records ever, there were 17 sightings of Red Phalaropes in the Vancouver, B.C., and Pt. Roberts, Wash., area Oct. 5-Nov. 7, involving possibly 16 birds, with a high count of six at Boundary Bay Oct. 30-Nov. 3 (N. Russel, DJ).

The season also had its more extraordinary strays. These included a **Bristle-thighed Curlew** found Sept. 1 at Tofino, V.I. (†R. Fryer, ph.), for the second record for British Columbia. The photograph shows the almost unmarked flanks and coarse back splotching which distinguish juv. Bristle-thighed Curlews from similarly plumaged Whimbrels (*vide* DP). A **Spotted Redshank**, the fourth for the Vancouver, B.C., area, and the fifth for the Region, was seen Oct. 9-17 at Serpentine Fen, Surrey, B.C. (†BM, †m.ob.). Oregon observers found at least two more ad. **Rufous-necked Stints** Aug. 19-28 at Tillamook Bay, the site of the first state records this summer (†HN, m.ob., ph. HN, JG). A gratifyingly cooperative juv. **Temminck's Stint** was photographed at point blank range at Reifel I., Ladner, B.C., Sept. 1-4 (B. Scott, DA, JI, ph. DP, E. Sian), for the first conclusive

record s. of Alaska. A photo has been published in *Discovery* 11:167 1982. Comparison with skins at the Univ. of Wash. Museum indicates the value of the long central tail feathers as a Temminck's Stint field mark (*vide* DP). A juv. **Curlew Sandpiper** Sept. 16 at the S.J.C.R. (†HN) provided the sixth Regional record. An ad. **Bar-tailed Godwit** (*L. l. baueri*) commuted between Bottle Beach, near Westport, and Tokeland, Wash., Aug. 14-28 (†BHT, †B. Pendleton, †ESH, ph. D Crumm) for the 12th record for Washington. An **Hudsonian Godwit** visited Iona I., B.C., Aug. 28-30 (†RC *et al.*) for Vancouver's 12th report.



Bristle-thighed Curlew, Cox Beach, Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 1, 1982 Photo/R. Fryer.

**JAEGERS THROUGH PUFFINS** — The 18 Pomarine Jaegers off Westport Sept. 2 (TW) was the high count. Three documented reports inshore Oct. 8-21 at Pt. Roberts, Wash. (†BK, †MP, MF) may reflect a regular passage at this prominence. Four were off Westport Nov. 13 on the last pelagic trip of the year (TW). Long-tailed Jaegers numbered 11-16 on 4 August trips off Westport, a fair showing. On Sept. 2 an ad. Long-tailed flew over Esquimalt Lagoon near Victoria, V.I. (J & RS), for our sole inshore report. The last was one off Brookings Oreg., Sept. 18 (BC). Ten skuas on 6 of 15 offshore trips was a bit below par. Three more were seen Sept. 1, 7, & 19 from shore near the Columbia R. mouth (RW; DAN).

Four Glaucous Gulls were noted: two at Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 2 & 20 (MP, L. Koch), the latter an adult, and two immatures Nov. 21 + near Victoria, V.I. (RH, VG *et al.*). Of the 50 Franklin's Gulls found Aug. 6-Nov. 14, some 31 were in the Vancouver, B.C., area (*vide*

DK). Four strayed to the outer coast of Washington and Oregon, where they are rare (ph. OS). A first-summer **Laughing Gull** Aug. 14 off the Westport, Wash., jetty was the first physically documented for the state and the Region (BHT, ph. TW). Little Gulls continue to be rare but regular among large flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls. An imm. Little Gull Aug. 29 at Victoria, V.I. (†KT), was one of very few of that age reported for the Region. Two adults stopped by the Everett sewage ponds, a traditional site, Sept. 26 (B & PE), and another frequented West Pt., and Green L., in Seattle Sept. 26+ (ESH, †DB, m.ob.). Sixty-three **Black-legged Kittiwakes** off Westport Sept. 12 (BHT), 500 at the N.J.C.R., Sept. 13 (WW), and 250 at Campbell R., V.I., Oct. 31 (B. Phipps, *vide* H. Telosky), were unusual concentrations. Sabine's Gulls also raised eyebrows with 500 on La Perouse Bank offshore s. V.I., Sept. 5 (MS, D. Stirling). Six Sabine's Gulls at Oregon's Seal Rocks Oct. 23 and singles Oct. 17-29 at Pt. Roberts, Wash. (†MP, †DK *et al.*), Sept. 21 s. of Whidbey I., Wash. (C. Flaherty), and Sept. 20 at Hood R., Oreg. (DF), were off the usual pelagic migration route.

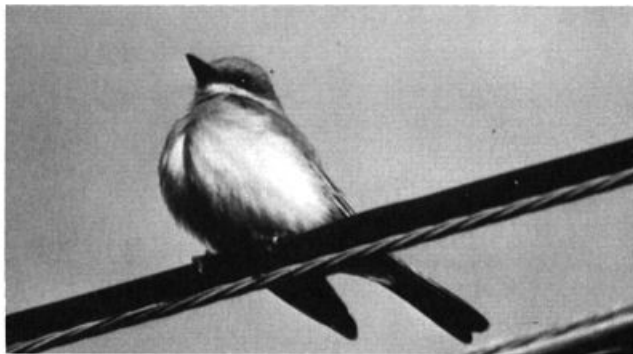
Arctic Terns were scarce with a grand total of 26 seen on 7 trips to the continental shelf off Westport, Wash., Aug. 27-Sept. 12. A small flock of 14 Com. Terns observed Sept. 11 at Agate L., near Medford, Oreg. (†MM *et al.*), furnished the first record for Jackson County. A single Black Tern was reported Sept. 19 in the Rogue R. valley of s. Oregon (MM). Two hundred Ancient Murrelets were seen at Sechelt, n.w. of Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 6 (DA), 300 flew past Clover Pt., Victoria Nov. 11 (RS), and 50 were seen the same day at Pt. Roberts, Wash. (MP *et al.*). Two Tufted Puffins off Westport Nov. 13 furnished late records (TW).

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — A **White-winged Dove** at Victoria, V.I., Nov. 18 (†A. Ford) was, if not an escapee, only the second reported for British Columbia. A belated report of another **White-winged Dove** July 19 at Ocean Shores, Wash. (R. Carlson, F. Bailey *et al.*) provided likewise the second record for Washington. Both sightings fit the vagrant pattern of all other West Coast records (Roberson, *Rare Birds of the West Coast*, p. 221). A Flammulated Owl chick brought to a Grant's Pass, Oreg., rehabilitation center this August (D. Siddon, *vide* EE) furnished the first evidence of nesting in the Region by this species. It is not rare in the California coastal ranges immediately to the s. Snowy Owls were again scarce this fall, with just three reported by late November. All were in s.w. British Columbia (*vide* DK). Short-eared Owls were in very low numbers. Only ten were reported, Oct. 17+, for the entire Region.

Swifts departed early. The last Black Swift seen was over Gaston, Oreg., Sept. 20 (JG), and the last Vaux's over Ashland, Oreg., Oct. 4 (MM). The last Rufous Hummingbirds were noted Sept. 13, at both Victoria, V.I. (M & VG), and Ashland, Oreg. (MM). A Calliope Hummingbird Aug. 18 near Enumclaw, King Co., Wash., provided a county first record (RSt *et al.*). Lewis' Woodpeckers were in "good numbers" this season in the Rogue R. Valley of s. Oregon (O. Swisher). Elsewhere three returned Sept. 14+ to Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis, Oreg. (*vide* EE), and one strayed to Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 30 (MP). A ♂ Williamson's Sapsucker Sept. 21 on Hurricane Ridge, Olympic N.P., furnished the first record for the Olympic peninsula (†KK, JT).

**KINGBIRDS TO KINGLETS** — Single E. Kingbirds strayed to Everett, Wash., Aug. 21 (J. & J. Thayer) and to Portland, Oreg., Aug. 23 (R. Hanson). They departed their Pitt Meadows breeding outpost e. of Vancouver, B.C., by Sept. 6 (WW). A single W. Kingbird was noted Sept. 21 at Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (SA, FS). **Tropical Kingbirds** came N for the fourth year out of the last 5. One was at Newport, Oreg., Nov. 3-15 (†BC, †DI, †C. Roberts, m.ob., ph. OS), and another was at Colwood, w. of Victoria, V.I., Nov. 14-23 (P. Becker, †RS, †WW, m.ob., ph. MD). Vocalizations were noted in each case. Two Ash-throated Flycatchers strayed to the Vancouver, B.C., area Sept. 12 (†C. Butt, †DJ, E. Keranen), and one to Astoria, Oreg., in mid-November. (DAn). A Hammond's Flycatcher calling Oct. 3 at Cranberry L., Whidbey I., Wash. (SA), and a W. Wood Pewee Sept. 20 on Leadbetter Pt. (SA, FS) were both the latest ever for w. Washington. A Gray Flycatcher Aug. 22 at Fort Casey S.P., Whidbey I., was the first for w. Washington (†RSt *et al.*).

Cliff Swallows lingered past early September only near Vancouver, B.C., where ten were reported Oct. 31 at Iona and Sea Is. (BK), and five at Reifel I., Nov. 7 (GT). Adult Purple Martins attending young in the nest Sept. 12 at Dugallia Bay, Whidbey I., Wash., were both at a new nesting locality and on a late date for young (ESH, DW *et al.*). A



**Tropical Kingbird, Metchosin area, Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 20, 1982.**  
Photo/M. Daly.

**Black-billed Magpie** strayed to Saltspring I., n.e. of Sidney, V.I., Sept. 25-28 (†DFr). Clark's Nutcrackers at Tweedsmuir P.P., in w. British Columbia Aug. 12-14 were at the n.w. limit of their range (MD).

Three **Black-capped Chickadees** at Mesachie L., near L. Cowichan Sept. 26 (DFr) and four in Saanich Oct. 8 & 12 provided the first records of this species from V.I. (J. & E. Kenwood, †JM). A Boreal Chickadee along the Ptarmigan Ridge Trail on Mt. Baker, Wash., Aug. 15 was w. of its normal N. Cascades range (DK, RC *et al.*). A Mockingbird appeared w. of Silvana, Snohomish Co., Wash., Nov. 20 (†F. Bird), and another was found in Phoenix, Oreg., in early November (*vide* MM). Groups of up to eight W. Bluebirds were noted only about Victoria, V.I., at Saddle Mountain S.P., Clatsop Co., Oreg., and in their Rogue R. Valley haunts. A single ♂ Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen Aug. 1 in Metchosin, V.I. (L. Roberts), well s. of the species' known breeding range in the c. V.I. mountains. Ruby-crowneds returned Sept. 12+ to most locations.

**PITTS THROUGH WARBLERS** — Peak counts for the Water Pipit passage were 200 about Victoria Sept. 15 (J & RS, N. Lovett), 250 at Ocean Shores Sept. 17 (ESH, DW *et al.*), and 1000 on Government I., near Portland, Oreg., Oct. 4 (M. Houck). Latest reports of vireos for this season include a Red-eyed Sept. 14 near Vancouver, B.C. (JW), a Warbling Oct. 1 at Tillamook, Oreg. (DF, DI), and a Solitary Sept. 23 at Leadbetter Pt. (SA).

A Black-and-white Warbler at Burnaby L., e. of Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 11-16 provided the sixth local record (†DA, †S. Howell, †DJ). Another Black-and-white turned up in Salem, Oreg., Nov. 20+ (H. Shire, †BC, m.ob.). Four Tennessee Warblers were found; singles Sept. 11 on San Juan I., Wash. (†DW, †ESH *et al.*), Sept. 14 at Glide, Douglas Co., Oreg. (N. Barrett, R. Maertz, *vide* M. Sawyer), Sept. 30 at Vancouver, B.C. (†BM), the fifth for that area, and Oct. 7 at the N.J.C.R. (†RW). The Washington sightings were the sixth and seventh for that state. A ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** Oct. 10-15 at Cape Meares S.P., Tillamook Co., Oreg., furnished only the second record for w. Oregon (†RSm, G & L. Beaudine). A **Black-throated Green Warbler** (Sept. 12 in Seattle provided the second single person sight record for Washington (†SA). A **Blackburnian Warbler** near Port Orford, Oreg., Sept. 4 was the first for w. Oregon (†RSm). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** Sept. 30 at Ashland, Oreg., provided the second fall record for the Region (†D. Stotz). Seven Palm Warblers, a near normal number, were noted Sept. 19+ along the coast from the N.J.C.R. southward. A N. Waterthrush Aug. 12 at Stuie, Tweedsmuir P.P., B.C., was at the w. extremity of its breeding range at this latitude (MD), as were the two Am. Redstarts found there Aug. 13 (MD). Another Am. Redstart Sept. 21 at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., was a vagrant (SA, FS).

**BOBOLINKS THROUGH LONGSPURS** — A ♂ Bobolink appeared Aug. 15 at Seattle's Montlake fill (M. Robertson) for only the eighth record for w. Washington. Another fall-plumaged ♂ Bobolink was seen Oct. 20 in C. Saanich, V.I. (†RP). A N. Oriole Sept. 2-3 at Ocean P., Pacific Co., Wash. (RW), was an unusual coastal sighting for this species. A ♂ Dickcissel photographed Sept. 26 at a feeder in Saanich, V.I. (T. Zurowski) provided the second record for Vancouver I., and the fourth for British Columbia. Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Red Crossbills were all widely noted as scarce this fall. Red Crossbills, however, were feeding young Sept. 12 at Deception Pass, Skagit Co., Wash. (ESH, DW *et*

al.) and Sept. 18-28 on Vashon I., King Co., Wash. (PWM). A large flock of Lesser Goldfinches Oct. 9 at Brookings, Oreg., was an unusual report (DI).



Clay-colored Sparrow, N. Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 21, 1982. Photo M. Daly.

A Le Conte's Sparrow seen briefly but clearly Nov. 15 at the Willapa N.W.R., Wash. (†RW), furnished the first record for the Region and the second for the state. A Lark Sparrow at Leadbetter Pt., Sept. 23 (RW) furnished the 11th fall record for w. Washington, all but 3 of which have been during September. A Sage Sparrow Sept. 29 near Skamokawa, Wash. (†AR, A. Musche) provided the first fall record for w. Washington. An imm. Clay-colored Sparrow was sighted Aug. 21 in N. Vancouver, B.C. (†MD ph., †WW, †BK), for the first coastal record in the Province. Details and a photo were published (MD) in *Discovery* 11:132-133, 1982. Another Clay-colored Sparrow was seen Oct. 6 & 30 at Tofino, V.I. (A. Dorst, ph. to B.C. Prov. Mus.). Seven Harris' Sparrows Oct. 30+ were distributed from near Victoria s. to Roseburg, Oreg. The 22 White-throated Sparrows

reported included 12 at 8 locations near Victoria, B.C., alone (*vide* VG). Golden-crowned Sparrows arrived at Victoria Sept. 4 (RS) and on San Juan I., Wash., Sept. 5 (ESH, DW *et al.*). An imm. Swamp Sparrow found Sept. 20 near Rockport, Skagit Co., Wash. (†E. Ratoosh, F. Krause, J. Shiflett) furnished the seventh record for the state. A Smith's Longspur recorded Oct. 11, 1981, at Pitt Meadows, B.C. (†BK), has been reviewed and accepted by the Vancouver Bird Records Committee (*vide* WW).

**CORRIGENDUM**—The Rough-legged Hawk found Oct. 3, 1981, at Sea I., B.C., was seen by Werner & Hilde Hesse (*Am. Birds* 36:209).

**INITIALED OBSERVERS AND ABBREVIATIONS**, with Sub-regional Editors in boldface.—David Aldcroft, Dave Anderson (DAn), Scott Atkinson, David Beaudette, Richard Cannings, Mike Carmody, Barbara Combs, Mark Daly, Elsie & Elzy Eltzroth, David Fix, Mike Force, David Fraser (DFr), Jeff Gilligan, Margaret & Vic Goodwill, Bill Harrington-Tweit, Robert Hay, John Ireland, David Irons, Dale Jenson, Brian Kautesk, Ken Knittle, Doug Kragh, Bruce Macdonald, Jo MacGregor, Marjorie Moore, Harry Nehls, Dennis Paulson, Michael Price, Roy Prior, Alan Richards, Joy & Ron Satterfield (J & RS), Owen Schmidt, Fred Sharpe, Michael & Teresa Shepard, Dory & Stan Smith, Richard Smith (RSm), Richard Stallcup (RSt), Jim Tucker, Keith Taylor, Glen Thomson, Terry Wahl, Wayne Weber, Ralph Widrig, Jack Williams, David Wolf. (†) = written description on file; N.J.C.R. = North jetty of the Columbia R., Wash.; S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg.; 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 /Ron LeValley and Don Roberson

This fall's weather was almost a repeat of last year's as two small storms passed through the Region in September and October while November was downright wet. The northern Coast Range Mountains experienced a phenomenal wild berry and acorn crop, "the best since the evolution of Pacific Madrone and Evergreen Huckleberry" (RLeV).

Ocean surface temperatures reached their annual maximum in September with 14°C in the north and 15° in the southern part of the Region, slightly cooler than average. After that temperatures varied as passing storm systems brought slightly warmer waters at their leading edge and slightly cooler waters afterwards. By the end of the period the surface temperatures had cooled only slightly, remaining around 14-15°, or about 1° above average. These variable surface water temperatures possibly play a role in the variability of bird species and numbers on our popular pelagic trips. This was particularly evident because of the excellent reporting coverage from Monterey Bay trips this fall.

Landbird migration was termed "dull" by many observers, with long stretches of clear skies in September and October producing very few migrant waves and fewer vagrants than usual (see warbler summary). Equally noticeable, and in high contrast to last fall, was the virtual absence of montane species in the lowlands; Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Varied Thrushes, and even American Robins were noted in only tiny numbers, due at least in part, to large numbers in the berry-rich interior.

**Early Dates:** Gadwall Aug. 14 Cader Lane Ponds, Petaluma; Sharp-shinned Hawk Aug. 2 Terwer Valley, Del Norte Co.; Cooper's Hawk Aug. 18 Palomarin; Rough-legged Hawk Oct. 25 Lower Klamath N.W.R.; Merlin Sept. 16 Arcata Bottoms; Herring Gull Nov. 2 Central Valley; Thayer's Gull Oct. 24 Crescent City Harbor; Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker Oct. 1 Carmel R. Mouth, Monterey Co.; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Aug. 29 P.R.N.S.; Cedar Waxwing Sept. 26 Walnut Creek, Contra Costa Co.; Rufous-sided



Towhee Oct. 5 Lake Talawa, Del Norte Co.; Lincoln's Sparrow Sept. 11 Palomarin.

**Late Dates:** Swainson's Hawk Sept. 23 Pt. Diablo, Marin Co.; Least Tern Oct. 16 Alameda South Shore; Elegant Tern Nov. 18 Monterey Bay; Caspian Tern Nov. 3 Half Moon Bay; Common Nighthawk Sept. 19 Hoopa, Humboldt Co.; Rufous Hummingbird Sept. 13 Palomarin; Allen's Hummingbird Aug. 13 Palomarin; Hermit Thrush (on breeding area) Sept. 27 Macdoel, Siskiyou Co.; Yellow Warbler Nov. 6 Coyote Hills, Alameda Co.; Wilson's Warbler Oct.



20 Halfmoon Bay, San Mateo Co., Hooded Oriole (on breeding area) Sept. 4 Alamo, Contra Costa Co.; Lazuli Bunting Oct. 2 Dry Creek, Fresno Co.; Greek-tailed Towhee (in breeding area) Oct. 3 Little Grayback, Del Norte Co.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = s.e. Farallon Island; N.P. = Nat'l Park; N.F. = Nat'l Forest; P.R.N.S. = Point Reyes Nat'l Seashore; P.R.B.O. = Point Reyes Bird Observatory; † = description on file; ph. = photo on file. All observation at Palomarin (near Bolinas) and F.I. should be credited to P.R.B.O.

LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSES — A breeding-plumaged Yellow-billed Loon was in Humboldt Bay at King Salmon Aug. 26-Oct. 3 for the first September record and only the third regional breeding plumage sighting (†RLv, LD, SJ). A Red-necked Grebe at Shadow Cliffs Regional P., Alameda Co., Oct. 22 was unusual for its occurrence away from the immediate coast (AE). Five hundred Eared Grebes at the S. Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co., Aug. 2, was a notable concentration as were 800 W. Grebes there the same day (K & RH). Western Grebes were still on nest mounds at L. Almanor, Plumas Co., as late as Sept. 23 and young were still begging from adults Nov. 10 (DAA). A juv.-plumaged Pied-billed Grebe on the forest floor at the Blodgett Forest Research Station, El Dorado Co., Oct. 1 was at least 5 mi from the nearest water (SAL).

Black-footed Albatrosses were scarcer than normal offshore this season with a maximum of 10 seen off Humboldt County Oct. 3 (SJ). A Laysan Albatross was seen off Eureka Oct. 3 (SJ) and another was near the Ascension Submarine Canyon off Monterey Co., Nov. 8 (*vide* †BL) both in localities where they are expected in small numbers. Northern Fulmars began arriving during October in average numbers for this sporadic species with 70 on Monterey Bay Oct. 16 (SFB), 75 there Nov. 7 (AB) and 75 near the Cordelle Banks Nov. 14 (BDP) being the largest numbers reported. A well-described and photographed **Streaked Shearwater** was 1.5 mi w. of Moss Landing, Monterey Bay Sept. 26 (†AB, †JM *et al.*) for only the fourth United States record, all from Monterey Bay! Pink-footed Shearwaters made an impressive showing on Monterey Bay this fall with maxima of 10-20,000 Sept. 18 (DE, TC, DLS) & 22 (DR, SFB). Along with those good numbers were 5-7 Flesh-footed Shearwaters Sept. 22 (DR, BBT, RW *et al.*) and singles Sept. 21 (RS) and Oct. 3 (AB, DR, JLu *et al.*). New Zealand (Buller's) Shearwaters made one of their finest showings ever in Monterey Bay with the first ones appearing Aug. 28 (AB, DE) and a maximum of 2-3,000 Sept. 22 (DR, RW, SFB, BBT) the largest number ever seen in our Region. Sooty Shearwater numbers in contrast were considered lower than normal in Monterey Bay for most of the season probably correlated with the fact that the commercial squid harvest was about 50% that of last year (AB). Short-tailed Shearwaters were found in numbers of 1-4 on Monterey Bay boat trips during October and November (AB, RS, JLu, JML) while Manx Shearwaters reached a peak of 40± there Nov. 14 (AB, JLu, RS, TB). The first Manx Shearwater report was Oct. 10 in Monterey Bay (HLC) which seems to be a normal arrival date for this s. species.

The fall storm-petrel flock in Monterey Bay provided its normal amount of variety and excitement to pelagic trips there. The earliest trip to find storm-petrels was Aug. 4 when two Black Storm-Petrels were present (JD). By Aug. 28 there were 25 Ashy Storm-Petrels along with two Blacks (DE). The maximum numbers of Ashys were found Sept. 21—6000 (RS) and Oct. 3—4800 (DR) while Blacks reached their peak earlier with 2500 Sept. 8 (PJM) and 3000 estimated Sept. 17 (JD). Among the Ashys was an albino thought to be the same individual present in the flock for the past 2 years (DR)! Also present in the flocks Oct. 16 (MC), Nov. 7 (DE, DLS) & 14 (RS, JLu, DLS) were single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels. Small numbers of Least Storm-Petrels put in appearances beginning Sept. 18 when three were present (TC, DLS). The maximum reported were 5-7 Sept. 26 (AB, DLS), Oct. 9 (RW), 10 (HLC) & 17 (JM) and the last individuals were noted on the late date of Nov. 14 when more than two were present (RS, JLu). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were noted in what is now considered normal numbers of 1-3 beginning Aug. 26 and lingering until Nov. 14 (m.ob.). The Nov. 14 trip not only had all of the storm-petrel species recorded during the fall but established the latest Regional records for both Wilson's and Least storm-petrels!

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH IBISES — An ad. **Red-billed Tropicbird** in Monterey Bay Oct. 10 (†RS) provided only the fifth Regional sighting. The only large concentration of White Pelicans was along

Hwy 37 w. of Vallejo where 2000 were noted Aug. 30 (B & HK) Elsewhere in San Francisco Bay they were considered present in lower-than-usual numbers (HLC, WB). Two Brown Pelicans at Mare I. Strait, Solano Co., Sept. 6 were unusual so far away from the mouth of San Francisco Bay (JLo). For the second consecutive fall Brown Pelicans were remaining later than usual in the n. part of the Region as 33 were still at Stone Lagoon, Humboldt Co., Nov. 30 (GJS). A single Double-crested Cormorant at Green L., at 9000 ft elevation in Mono County Aug. 26 was notable (*vide* DAG).

Noteworthy concentrations of Great Egrets were 120 at L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Nov. 26 (RAE, PU, KHb), where their numbers continue to increase at the n. edge of their coastal range, and 250 at the Mountain View Salt Ponds, Santa Clara Co. (WB). Two ad. Little Blue Herons have become old news along the w. side of s. San Francisco Bay. Little Blue Herons began frequenting this area in the early 1970s, mostly in the spring, but during the last 5 years at least two adults have been continuously resident. Eighteen Snowy Egrets at L. Earl, Del Norte Co., were at the n. edge of their range along the coast (RAE, GSL, GJS). A Least Bittern, always a rare find in the Region, was at the Palo Alto Baylands Nov. 18 & 20 (FBe, JRI) White-faced Ibises visiting the Palo Alto Baylands and nearby areas established only the third Santa Clara County record. Four made the first appearance Sept. 10 and the flock grew to 15 when they were last seen Sept. 27 (WB *et al.*). Another White-faced Ibis was near Salinas, Monterey Co., Oct. 24 (KVV, KC).

WATERFOWL — Waterfowl in general were considered to be down in numbers throughout our Region, likely due to poor breeding success on the summering grounds rather than conditions in our Region. One to three Fulvous Whistling Ducks frequented Sacramento N.W.R., throughout November (*vide* BED). This species continues to be a rare visitor in our Region. An Emperor Goose shot by a hunter at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 20 (*vide* SJ) was somewhat early and marks the third consecutive fall that the species has occurred there. The only Snow Geese found on the coast this fall were two at L. Earl, Del Norte Co., Oct. 16 and Nov. 26 (RAE). A Brant at Bodega Bay Aug. 1-Sept. 18 (JRI, FBe, CH) was probably a summering bird. The first Eur. Wigeon of this fall were two Oct. 3 at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin (*vide* WB). A large and early gathering of Mallards were the 8000+ at Mt. Meadow, Lassen Co., Oct. 10 (HG). They were accompanied by 10,000+ Pintails (HG).

A pair of Canvasbacks with downy young at the S. Wilbur Flood Area, Kings Co., Aug. 2 may have been the southernmost breeding ever (K & RH). The only Tufted Duck reported was an eclipse male at Abbott's Lagoon, Pt. Reyes Nov. 7 (RS). A ♀ Oldsquaw at L. Almanor, Plumas, Co., Nov. 10 (DAA) provided one of the few records from the mountainous areas of our Region. Elsewhere the only report was of one at the Klamath R. Estuary, Del Norte Co., Nov. 21 (RAE). Six Barrow's Goldeneye at Foster City, San Mateo Co., were amazingly early (DM); normally they arrive on the coast near mid-October.

VULTURES THROUGH RAILS — A White-tailed Kite at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Nov. 29-Dec. 10 (SJ) was in an area from which there are still few records. An active Bald Eagle nest near Butte Valley, Siskiyou Co., Aug. 16 (SJ) was encouraging. Later in the fall the normal (but phenomenal) winter numbers of this species gathered at Lower Klamath N.W.R., where 300 were estimated Nov. 26 (RLv, LD). This may be the largest wintering Bald Eagle area outside of Alaska. All 3 accipiters were reported in average numbers this fall. Migrant Red-shouldered Hawks on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 23 and Oct. 9 (JE) and at Pt. Diablo in the Marin Headlands Sept. 29-30 (BBa, JE) continue to raise the question of where our migrants come from as this species is mostly resident along the n. coast.

The big raptor news of the fall was undoubtedly the late and large invasion of Broad-winged Hawks. At least 16 passed Pt. Diablo, Marin Co., Sept. 25-Nov. 21 with the peak number of three Oct. 3 (CF) essentially equal to peak timing suggested by Binford (1979 *Western Birds* 10:1-16). Eight of the Pt. Diablo records, however, came in November; prior to this fall only one November record existed at that popular hawk-watching site. But the real push came Nov. 20 when a minimum of 17 were migrating over Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., mostly in kettles of 4-6 individuals (†DR). Not only was this remarkably late but it marked the first time that kettles of Broad-wingeds have been seen in the West! One of the preceding group was of the very rare dark phase. Some of these apparently

lingered in the area as one immature was present Nov. 19-23 just s. of Monterey (AB). Five were seen in the Pt. Reyes area with one remaining through Nov. 26 in Inverness P. (RS). At least one immature was near Half Moon Bay, San Mateo Co., Nov. 20-28 (JM, PJM, AE) and even another was near the Cliff House in San Francisco Nov. 13 (JM).

A well-described "Harlan's" Hawk was near Buntingville, Lassen Co., Nov. 20 (†T & AM). An exceptionally early Ferruginous Hawk was photographed 8 mi e. of Blue Lake, Humboldt Co., Aug. 22 (KR). All 4 species of our normally occurring falcons were well reported with Merlin numbers being somewhat higher than normal.

A calling Clapper Rail at the s. end of Tomales Bay Sept. 12 (JE) had probably wandered there from elsewhere as the last report on file from that locality was in 1962!

**SHOREBIRDS** — A newly plowed field on Pt. Reyes contained 310 Killdeer Oct. 16 (RS). Normally concentrations such as that do not occur until after the first large winter storms, but then we probably know less about the migrations of common birds present in our Region all year than other groups of birds. Many "resident" species are made up of migratory populations and careful attention to such seasonal gatherings and other migratory clues can provide valuable data. American Golden Plovers were relatively scarce this fall, the largest gatherings were of ten on Pt. Reyes Sept. 9 (DS) and 10-12 in the Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt Co., Sept. 18-19 (RAE, KR). The only *fulva* reported was a juvenile at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co., Sept. 1 (DR).

Vigo St. Marsh in Eureka, Humboldt Co., has been dry throughout the drought years but remained wet all of last year. As a consequence good concentrations of shorebirds gathered there, illustrating the adaptability of the migrational patterns of birds depending on annually varying habitats. Up to 50 Lesser Yellowlegs were present there Sept. 18-20 (KR, RLeV). Four Solitary Sandpipers in the Arcata Bottoms Aug. 21 (KR) was a large group for the fall. This shorebird is much more common as a spring migrant here. Elsewhere only three other individuals were reported, Honey L. Wildlife Area, Lassen Co., Aug. 15 (BS), Hunter Cr., Del Norte Co., Sept. 17 (RAE), and Jepson Prairie Preserve, Solano Co., Sept. 22 (JLo). Red Phalaropes were abundant everywhere along the coast throughout November. The only inland sightings included one at Mono L., Oct. 21 (JRJ), constituting the third lake record, and 8-12 at the Stockton Sewage Ponds, San Joaquin Co., Oct. 24-Nov. 9 (DY, RS, AE, B & CY). Single Sanderlings appeared inland at Tulelake N.W.R., Oct. 3 (SS, RE, MRo), at the Woodland Sugar Ponds Sept. 11 (EH) and at the Lodi Sewage Ponds Sept. 18 (DY) while four were at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Sept. 18 (DY). Only a few Semipalmated Sandpipers were found this fall, most notably one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Aug. 21 (†SS), singles at the Lodi Sewage Ponds Aug. 26 (KHb) and Sept. 19-25 (†DY) and four at Moss Landing Aug. 21 (†DR). Identification of this species is difficult so *all* reports should be accompanied by descriptions! Normal numbers of Baird's Sandpipers passed through on schedule but one thought to be an adult (but undescribed) at Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co., Oct. 28 (PJM) was remarkably late.

A record-breaking Pectoral Sandpiper invasion was documented in great detail as nearly 100 reports were received. The first sighting was Aug. 14 in Marin County (JE) while peak numbers occurred Sept. 20-Oct. 20 and the last was Nov. 21 in Bodega Harbor, Sonoma Co. (CH). Remarkable numbers included 100 at Vigo St. Marsh Sept. 20-Oct. 3 (RLeV, KR) and 105 at Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Co. (Oct. 3 (DR). Coinciding with the healthy Pectoral migration was a minimum



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Mountain View Forebay, Santa Clara Co., Nov. 7, 1982. Photo/P. LaTourrette.

of eight Sharp-tailed Sandpipers spanning Sept. 11-Nov. 12. Singles were at Elkhorn Slough Sept. 11-15 (KVV, KC) and Oct. 4-10 (†DR, RS, †BBt, †HLC), Stone Lagoon, Humboldt Co., Sept. 26 (GJS), Pt. Reyes Oct. 23 (TC, BY, AE), Pescadero Cr. Mouth, San Mateo Co., Oct. 28 (†PJM), Mountain View Forebay, Santa Clara Co., Nov. 6-8 (WB, TC ph., AE, †JM), and at L. Earl, Del Norte Co., Oct. 15, 28 and Nov. 12 (RAE, GSL *et al.*). Three at L. Earl Oct. 16 was the only sighting of multiple birds (RAE). Single Stilt Sandpipers were reported from L. Earl Aug. 26 (GSL, RAE, MRo, RE), Pt. Reyes Sept. 28 (SFB, JR) and Oct. 12 (BY) and Mountain View Forebay, Santa Clara Co., Nov. 7-8 (KHb, JM, AE). Five Buff-breasted Sandpipers in the Arcata Bottoms Sept. 15-25 (S. Harris, RLeV, RAE, KR ph.) and one near Petaluma Sept. 2-8 (LCB, BDP, BBt, RL ph.) were the only ones detected this fall. In marked contrast to the past few years only one Ruff was discovered, that a juvenile at the Salinas R. Mouth, Monterey Co., Sept. 19 (KVV, KC).

**JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS** — An imm. Parasitic Jaeger frequented the Stockton Sewage Ponds Sept. 15-26 (DY, JML). Two-four Long-tailed Jaegers found on Monterey Bay Sept. 14-22 (m.ob.) were more than normal. Absolutely unprecedented were 35-40 S. Polar Skuas in Monterey Bay Sept. 22 (DR, SFB *et al.*). Our previous high count for a one-day trip was nine in 1970! Smaller numbers were reported on 5 other dates Sept. 6-Oct. 3 (m.ob.).

An ad. Black-headed Gull returned to the Stockton Sewage Ponds for the fifth consecutive year Oct. 18 with the first wave of Bonaparte's Gulls (DY *et al.*). About 11 individual Franklin's Gulls were found in coastal localities as is normal, but none were found inland. Not to be outdone by the Black-headed Gull, the Stockton Sewage Ponds Little Gull also returned for its fifth year Oct. 18 (DY *et al.*). Another ad. Little Gull was at the Arcata Oxidation Pond Nov. 11-13 (RLeV, LD, KR ph.). Inland Sabine's Gulls are always surprising, three (1 ad., 2 imm.) were at Mono L., Sept. 21 (JRJ, *fide* DAG), one was at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Sept. 24 (DY, JML) and another was at Benton's Crossing on the Owen's R., Mono Co., Sept. 26 (J & ES ph.). These records coincide well with this species' passage offshore in our Region and with its occurrence in Arizona.

A Royal Tern well-described from Elkhorn Slough Aug. 16 (†DR) provided one of our very few documented records in the past 50 years. Prior to that, this species apparently occurred in our Region annually. Elegant Terns were considered present in moderate numbers this fall but up to 120+ around Humboldt Bay Aug. 26-Sept. 19 (RLeV, KR) were farther n. than usual. Up to two plus were at the Klamath R. Estuary Sept. 24-29 (RAE, GSL) for their n. limit this year. Four visited the Farallon Is., Sept. 11 (P.R.B.O., PH), establishing only the second island record for this predominantly coastal species.

The relative occurrence of the 3 forms of *Endomychura* murrelets in our Region is still unclear. Monterey Bay boat trips found Craveri's Murrelets in large numbers when 20+ were counted Sept. 17 (JD) and 32 were present Sept. 18 (TC, DE). Xantus' Murrelets were distinguished in Monterey Bay Oct. 3 when two *hypoleuca* and two *scrippsi* were found (JML, DR, JLu, KHb, PU, AB). Three Xantus' were present Oct. 9 (TC) and one found Oct. 16 was thought to be a Craveri's (DE). Amazingly, no boat trip had both species in one day! It is thought that this remarkable situation exists because of the day-to-day variation in surface water temperatures (and the location of water masses that they indicate) even in such a confined area as Monterey Bay. Tufted Puffins were still lingering at their Castle Rock, Del Norte Co., breeding location Aug. 27 when three were present (RAE). An early winter-plumaged Tufted Puffin was in Monterey Bay Aug. 21 (TC, DLS). Other sightings were of singles in Monterey Bay Oct. 9 (DR, BBt) and near Cordelle Banks Nov. 14 (BDP).

**PIGEONS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS** — Three White-winged Doves, strictly fall/winter vagrants, appeared at P.R.N.S., Sept. 19 (JML, BY) and Oct. 30-Nov. 5 (RS) and on Pt. Pinos Oct. 29-30 (JMa, JML). A Roadrunner along Hwy. 20 in Yuba County Sept. 7 (BBa) was in an area where they are rarely reported.

A Screech Owl at 6334 ft. at Well's Cabin, Mendocino N.F., Sept. 27 (A. Jayko, *fide* CB) may have established an elevational record for the Coast Range. Another high owl was a Pygmy at 7050 ft. near Perego Meadows, Yosemite N.P., Nov. 26 (BKe). An ongoing U.S.F.S. & W. survey of Spotted Owls in Lassen N.F., reported 65 pairs, which was twice the predicted estimate (DAA). Among these were 16 in e. Shasta County and nine in Lassen County, areas with

but 1-2 previous records, thus extending the known range 40 mi n of published accounts (Gould, G., 1977, *Western Birds* 8:131-146). Another new area for Spotted Owl was discovered Oct. 17 at Nicasio Res., Marin Co. (BDP). The famed Crescent City **Barred Owl** continued to be found through Sept. 21 (GSL), but more fascinating was another discovered in August and present through the end of the period at Salyer, Trinity Co. (CSi, MSt, KVR). This same bird was heard in summer 1981 and would have constituted the first state record.

Long-eared Owl, poorly understood, was reported from the C.V., at Stockton Sept. 27 (*vide* DY) and San Joaquin Experimental Range, Madera Co., Nov. 19 (KH). One at 8200 ft, at Sardine Meadows, Stanislaus N.F., Alpine Co., Aug. 13 (JLo) may have been an altitudinal record; others continue to be found in high mountain meadows in Yosemite N.P. (BKe), which updates the account in Gaines (1977) *Birds of the Yosemite Sierra*. Short-eared Owls continue to cause concern, with none found all fall in n.w. California (RAE) and only four reported from the n.w. coast. A Poor-will in the Sutter Buttes Oct. 30 (WA) was at one of the few C.V. localities.

**SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Vaux's Swift migration spanned Aug. 4-Oct. 13, with peaks noted Sept. 17-18 at Willow Cr., Humboldt Co. (KVR) and King City, Monterey Co. (RR) and Sept. 25 at Bolinas Lagoon when 3000+ were estimated (P.R.B.O.). A  $\emptyset$  Black-chinned Hummingbird strayed to Stinson Beach Sept. 22-30, where the call notes identified it (RS, JE), but another  $\emptyset$  Black-chinned/Costa's at Stone Lagoon, Humboldt Co., Sept. 26 (GJS) remained unidentified. Out-of-range Costa's Hummingbirds were on F.I., Aug. 13 and far n. at Killgore Hills, Siskiyou Co., Aug. 13-26 (RE, MRo).

An imm.  $\delta$  Broad-tailed Hummingbird along Pine Cr., Inyo Co., Aug. 6 (HG) may have been a migrant, but might indicate another breeding area e. of the Sierra crest. A  $\emptyset$  Calliope Hummingbird in P.R.N.S., Sept. 23-Oct. 6 (BY) was one of very few found on the coast in fall.

Vagrant Lewis' Woodpeckers appeared at Sunol, Alameda Co., Sept. 18 (AE), Moss Landing, Monterey Co., Oct. 9 (RS), and Rank I, in the San Joaquin R., C.V., Nov. 2 (KH). Two Acorn Woodpeckers strayed to Palomarin Sept. 10. A *nuchalis* Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Friant Dam, Fresno Co., Nov. 8 (KH) was of interest; they are rare away from breeding area in n.e. portions of the Region. Nuttall's Woodpecker tends to be quite resident; birds a few miles out-of-range were at Pt. Sur Sept. 30 (DR) and Berkeley Oct. 26 (SAL).

**FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS** — Fifteen Tropical Kingbirds on the coast from Pt. Sur to Pt. St. George (m.ob.) represented a typical fall for this species. Wisely, some observers are now taking the time to describe calls and bill shape to eliminate the remote possibility of a vagrant Couch's Kingbird. Single E. Phoebes were at Big Sur R. mouth Nov. 14 (DR) and Monterey Nov. 23+ (DR), the latter bird returning for its third winter. Willow Flycatcher, essentially extirpated as a breeding species, migrated through the Region Aug. 18-Oct. 13. Twenty-two of 30 reports were coastal with a decided peak the last week of August One at L. Shastina Sept. 30 (RE) was late at that latitude. Vagrant Least Flycatchers were on F.I., Sept. 14 & Oct. 11 and at P.R.N.S., Oct. 1 ( $\dagger$ RS *et al.*). Four coastal Hammond's, but no Dusky, flycatchers were identified: both species are scarce fall migrants along the coast. Gray Flycatcher migration is poorly documented; none were found on the coast but 3 inland records are of interest: Aug. 12 near Grenada, Siskiyou Co. (RE—1st fall record for Shasta V. although common in spring), Sept. 25 at Pinecrest, Tuolumne Co. (JH), and Sept. 27 at Hodgdon Meadow, Yosemite N.P. (BKe).

The famed **Eurasian Skylark** returned for a fifth consecutive winter on Pt. Reyes Oct. 31+ (JM, RS, m.ob.). Horned Lark records of interest were of four at Peregoy Meadow, Yosemite N.P., Sept. 29 (BKe), Gold Bluff Beach, Humboldt Co., Oct. 1 (GJS), and four at Pt. St. George Nov. 24-25 (GSL, RAE).

A locally large concentration of 200 Violet-green Swallows was at Willow Cr., Humboldt Co., Sept. 14 (KVR) and 20 still there Oct. 26 were late. A lone Tree Swallow Dec. 7-10 at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (*vide* SJ) was very late for n.e. California. Also late were Barn Swallows Nov. 1 at Lower Klamath N.W.R. (SJ), Nov. 3 near Grenada (RE), and Nov. 29-30 near Ft. Dick, Del Norte Co. (RT, *vide* RAE).

**CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES** — Wandering Clark's Nutcrackers in Del Norte County mountains were three at Harrington L., Sept. 4-6 (GSL) and up to five s. of Red Mt., Oct. 9 (RAE). Post-breeding dispersal accounts included a White-breasted Nuthatch at Harrington Mt., Del Norte Co., Sept. 6 (GSL), but Pygmy Nuthatches may be colonizing an area in the Oakland hills where they wintered: two were there Aug. 5 (MGr). Another was at far out Pt. Reyes Oct. 31 (RS). Seven Brown Creepers on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 31 (RS) was the highest ever count there, while ten Golden-crowned Kinglets there was the only movement noted all fall, contrasting sharply with last fall's invasion. Late Swainson's Thrushes were studied on Pt. Reyes (RS) and netted at Palomarin Oct. 31.

**MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS** — The Region's tenth Gray Catbird was on F.I., Oct. 15. A Brown Thrasher was photographed on Pt. Reyes Oct. 17 (G. Neil, BY, JML). Two vagrant Sage Thrashers visited outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 10 (JML, EH, SAL) and another was there Oct. 23 (BDP).

Once again an experienced observer (J. Dunn) picked out a Yellow Wagtail by call, but was only able to see an appropriately-shaped bird in flight with "a yellowish cast to the underparts" and white outer tail feathers. This brief sighting ( $\dagger$ JD, RLB), at Pt. Pinos Sept. 19, parallels 2 previous regional reports (as yet unaccepted by the California Records Committee) of equally briefly seen birds on the very similar dates of Sept. 16, 1978 and Sept. 17, 1979. Observers in future Septembers should carefully distinguish this bird from the apparently equally-likely Gray Wagtail, whose existence clouds the acceptance of these reports.

A well-described **Red-throated Pipit** at Gold Bluff Beach Oct. 10 ( $\dagger$ GJS) brings our regional records to ten. Out-of-place Phainopeplas were at Mono L., Oct. 15 and Lee Vining Canyon, Mono Co., Nov. 7 (*vide* DAG). Northern Shrikes, always of interest on the n. coast, were near L. Talawa, Del Norte Co., Oct. 31 (P. Springer) and Nov. 26 (KHb, PU). A *plumbeus* Solitary Vireo at Little Sur R. mouth Oct. 11 ( $\dagger$ DR) was the fifth for the Region of this race, but the third from Monterey County; more typical *cassinii* at Bodega Bay (CY) and Mad R. mouth (RLeV), both Nov. 20, were late. Red-eyed Vireos landed on F.I., Sept. 13 & Oct. 19; the latter bird was reported (without details) as a "Yellow-green Vireo", which would be but the third regional record. The lone Philadelphia Vireo on Pt. Reyes Oct. 31 ( $\dagger$ RS, AE *et al.*) represents the worst showing for this vagrant since 1975.

**WARBLERS** — Observers agreed this was a poor fall for vagrant warblers, with numbers well below average for most species. Reports from F.I. illustrate this pattern well, with only minor waves Sept. 22-24 and Oct. 14-15. Presumably this dearth is partially attributable to a season of clear skies, encouraging migrants (and vagrants) to overfly the entire Region.

Another potential difficulty in comparing annual data came forcefully to this editor's attention when dealing with counts of commoner species. Although having access to the same data on Pt. Reyes Palm Warblers, for example, I counted 25 birds while another local compilation published 40. The Farallon log is another example. How many Palm Warblers were present these 3 days: Oct. 13 (3), Oct. 14 (3), Oct. 15 (2)? The observers might know (having carefully evaluated each individual bird), but the editor has no information besides the simple daily log count. Knowing from personal experience that many fall vagrants tend to linger locally for 2-3 days, it seems likely this log contains records of 3 birds, each staying the first 2 days and 2 remaining a third day. Yet the totals of this very item were reported to me as eight Palm Warblers. One wonders how past editors handled similar cases and to what degree differing theories of editing affect the comparison of totals from year-to-year.

Twelve Black-and-white Warblers Sept. 18-Nov. 26 was about half the fall average; all but singles in San Jose Oct. 31 & Nov. 20 (Wba) were on the outer coast. Dazzling many observers were Prothonotary Warblers at Samoa, Humboldt Co., Sept. 18-19 (second county record—SH,  $\dagger$ RAE) and on Pt. Reyes Nov. 24 (OA, RS, JE). A Worm-eating Warbler was found in a Sausalito yard Oct. 9 ( $\dagger$ M & R Mayer) while another was banded at Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt Co., Dec. 3-7 (CJR, LD *et al.*). Half the average Tennessee Warblers appeared—only 16 (and but one on F.I.) Aug. 30-Nov. 29 including non-coastal birds at Salyer, Trinity Co., Sept. 22 (J. Brack, *vide* KVR), Salinas Oct. 3-6 (BG), and Lee Vining Oct. 27 (DAG). Nashville Warblers on the outer coast were well reported—nearly 30

birds Aug. 21-Nov. 12 illustrate that its status is comparable to Tennessee Warbler and much rarer than such "eastern" vagrants as Blackpoll or Palm Warbler. Virginia's Warblers made one of the best showings ever: Aug. 24 at Creighton Ranch, Tulare Co. (first for C.V.—†KH), Sept. 14 on F.I., Oct. 9 at Big Sur R. mouth (JS), Oct. 11 at Little Sur R. mouth (†DR), and Oct. 30-Nov. 4 at Pt. Pinos (RLB). Lucy's Warblers near Salinas Oct. 9 (BG) and on F.I., Nov. 17 brought the regional total to 19. The summering N. Parula at Salinas was last seen Sept. 26 (BG); two migrants on Pt. Reyes Sept. 30-Oct. 6 (JM, RS) illustrated how scarce it is along the coast in fall. Ten Magnolia Warblers Sept. 19-Oct. 27 from Pt. Pinos to Bodega Bay (four on F.I.) was nearly an average number. Vagrant Cape May Warblers reached a low of three (two on F.I., 1 on Pt. Reyes Sept. 16-Oct. 10), perhaps illustrative of cyclical populations in Canada. As yet no one has used comparative numbers of vagrants to measure population strength, but this technique may yet show potential.

Seven coastal Black-throated Blue Warblers from Seaside, Monterey Co., to Fairhaven, Humboldt Co., Sept. 15-Oct. 29 were fewer than the average of 10/fall. A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Ft. Funston, San Francisco Aug. 17 (DM) was very early, as was a Townsend's Warbler Aug. 20 at Manzanita L., Lassen N.P. (DM). A single Black-throated Green Warbler was on F.I., Oct. 22. The only Hermit x Townsend's Warbler hybrid, often confused with the previous species, was identified at Olema Nov. 4 (†RS). A Hermit Warbler Aug. 17 in San Francisco (DM) was the first of the fall. Two Blackburnian Warblers in Lincoln P., San Francisco Oct. 15 & 26 (AH, *vide Gull*) were the only reports, well down from an average of ten. Only Chestnut-sided Warbler, with 19 reports from Carmel R. mouth to coastal Humboldt County Sept. 10-Oct. 14, was found in average numbers this fall; the latter bird (Carmel R. mouth) lingered to Nov. 11 (DR). The two Bay-breasted Warblers were singles on Pt. Reyes Oct. 10 (JML) and Nov. 5 (JM). Thirty-eight Blackpoll Warblers (only eight on F.I.), all on the outer coast, were well below the fall average of nearly 70.

The only Prairie Warblers were on F.I., Aug. 20-22, San Francisco Oct. 3 (D. Hartman), and Pacific Grove Oct. 13 into winter (AB). Palm Warblers, with 71 reported Sept. 17-Nov. 13 (all coastal), were present in normal numbers. Not a single Ovenbird appeared! Six N. Waterthrushes on the coast Aug. 25-Oct. 15 was a fair showing; one in the C.V. at Gray Lodge W.M.A., Butte Co., Aug. 30 (BED) was of particular interest. In this slow season, F.I. reports (without details) single Connecticut Warblers Sept. 23 and Oct. 10. A Yellow-breasted Chat, rarely found in migration, was at Big Sur R. mouth Sept. 26 (DR, LCB, JML, BDP). Always delightful were Canada Warblers on F.I., Sept. 22 and Pt. Reyes Oct. 22-26 (BRI, †KHb, BDP *et al.*). Seventeen coastal Am. Redstarts were found from Carmel R. mouth to Mad R. mouth Aug. 30-Oct. 15, well below average.

**ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS** — Among eight Bobolinks was one inland at Mono L., Sept. 30 (DAG). Vagrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds were on F.I., Aug. 13, two on Pt. Pinos Sept. 13 (SHn), Moss Landing Sept. 17 (JD), Ft. Dick, Del Norte Co., Nov. 7-14 (RT), and n. of Ft. Dick Nov. 13 (RAE). A careful estimate of 9600 Tricolored Blackbirds on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 6 (RS) was a high count there; out-of-range were singles at Pt. Sur Oct. 11 (DR) and Palomarin Nov. 26.

Orchard Orioles, always rare here, were on F.I., Sept. 22 and in an Alamo, Contra Costa Co., garden Sept. 26 (†JRI). A Hooded Oriole Nov. 10 in Fresno (KH) was quite late. Northern "Baltimore" Orioles were found on F.I., Sept. 23-24, n. of Mono L., Sept. 30 (DAG), and on Pt. Reyes Oct. 15 (BY). A Rusty Blackbird was well-described from San Gregorio SB, San Mateo Co., Oct. 24-Nov. 3 (†C. Swarth, PJM). The two San Francisco Great-tailed Grackles were still present Oct. 13 (*vide Gull*). Single Summer Tanagers appeared at Creighton Ranch Aug. 25 (KH) and Pt. Reyes Oct. 2 (JRI, FBe, SW).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Seven Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Aug. 13-Nov. 22 (all coastal) was a poor showing. An ø Blue Grosbeak Sept. 18-19 on Pt. Reyes (BDP, JML, DS *et al.*) was exceptional. The five Indigo Buntings were birds at Waddell Beach, Santa Cruz Co., Aug. 1 (KHb), near Salinas Sept. 26 & Oct. 10 (BG, KVV), and Oct. 15 & 20 on F.I.

An Evening Grosbeak was at Georgetown on the American R., Sept. 6 (BBt), but none was reported from the coast or lowlands. Out-of-place Lawrence's Goldfinch were two at Pt. Pinos Oct. 1 (DR), one along Hwy. 204 in Madera County Oct. 6 (KH), and another at Susanville, Lassen Co., Nov. 5 (†RNJ).

Grasshopper Sparrows of interest were 1-2 at Kilgore Hills Sept. 1-5 (two on last date) and one at Pt. Pinos Sept. 25 (JL). The Sharp-tailed Sparrow which winters at Palo Alto returned by Oct. 11 (SFB), the earliest known arrival date for a wintering bird (by a week); the Bolinas Lagoon wintering bird was first noted Oct. 23 (D. Sierra, *vide Gull*). Six Vesper Sparrows were found along the Humboldt-Del Norte County coasts Aug. 31-Nov. 5 (RAE, GJS, RT); farther s. were singles at Pt. Reyes Sept. 18 (DS) & Nov. 13 (B & CY) and Bolinas Sept. 24 (BY). Vagrant Lark Sparrows were at Gold Bluff Beach Aug. 31 and near Orick, Del Norte Co., Sept. 1 (both GJS).

Tree Sparrows, always a rarity on the coast, were banded at Lanphere Dunes, Humboldt Co., Oct. 19 & Nov. 8 (CJR) and singles were found on Pt. Reyes Oct. 9, 23, & 31 (m.ob.); more typical were birds at Mono L., Nov. 17 & 30 (3) and three in n.e. California Nov. 28 (RLeV, LD). Thirteen Clay-colored Sparrows along the coast Aug. 29-Nov. 26 was about average; one well described at Trimmer Ranger Station, Fresno Co., Oct. 25-26 (†R. Archer) furnished the first record from the Sierra foothills. Three Brewer's Sparrows Sept. 13 at Willow Cr., in inland Humboldt Co. (†KVR) was most unusual; the only coastal vagrant was on Pt. Reyes Oct. 15 (JML).

Coastal Harris' Sparrows were on F.I., Nov. 20 and at Crescent City Nov. 23 into winter (RAE, GSL). Good numbers of White-throated Sparrows appeared, with 23 along the coast Oct. 8-Nov. 13, another inland at Killgore Hills Oct. 12 (RE), and wintering birds arriving at feeders between mid-October and Nov. 16. Apparent wintering Swamp Sparrows first appeared Oct. 20 (Bolinas), Nov. 4 (Tomales Bay), and Nov. 6 (Olema Marsh), while eight coastal vagrants were noted from Carmel R. mouth to Klamath R. mouth Sept. 30-Nov. 22 (m.ob.). Scattered coastal Lapland Longspurs Sept. 20-Nov. 26 peaked at 15 birds at Lake Talawa Oct. 24 (RAE) and 20+ on Pt. Reyes Oct. 29 (JM *et al.*). Among the latter birds were up to three Chestnut-collared Longspurs Oct. 29-Nov. 25 (JM, RS, JHo), another was on Pt. Reyes Oct. 9 (DS) and a calling bird (but not seen) among larks at Tahoe Keys, S. Lake Tahoe Oct. 17 (†JRI) was probably this species. Four coastal Snow Buntings were at Salmon Creek R. mouth, Sonoma Co., Oct. 23 (CH), F.I., Oct. 30, Pt. Reyes Nov. 5 (JM *et al.*), and n. jetty, Humboldt Bay Nov. 10-12 (*vide LD*).

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Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., Oct. 2-10 (EAC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), another near Santa Maria Oct. 6 (PS) and the third at L. Henshaw Oct. 6 (REW).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A Black-bellied Plover at Harper Dry L., Oct. 10 (EAC) was in an area where few have previously been recorded. At least 15 migrant Am. Golden Plovers were found along the coast Aug. 28-Oct. 24, along with one inland near Anaheim Oct. 19 (DRW) and a minimum of 25 wintering birds (21 near Santa Maria) were known to be present by Nov. 30. Most exciting was an ad. **Mongolian Plover** at S.C.R.M., Aug. 7-13 (AST, ph. S.D.N.H.M.); there is only one other record of this Asiatic shorebird for California (*Am. Birds* 35:221, 1981) along with two others found in Oregon (*Am. Birds* 34:192, 1980) along the Pacific coast outside Alaska. Two Black Oystercatchers at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 9 (BLEB), one in Oxnard, Ventura Co., Aug. 29 (JLD), one or two on the Palos Verdes Pen., Los Angeles Co., Aug. 24-Oct. 23 (BED), one in La Jolla, San Diego Co., Oct. 26-Nov. 11 (EB) and two on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., Sept. 12 (LCB) were all away from areas of regular occurrence. Solitary Sandpipers were more numerous than usual with 100± reported including a somewhat late bird in Chino, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 23 (JOI). An imm. Wandering Tattler, exceptionally rare inland, was near Lancaster Sept. 4-6 (JLD) and was the first to be found in the well-worked Antelope Valley. A Ruddy Turnstone on L. Hodges, San Diego Co., Sept. 26 (KW) was the only one found inland away from the Salton Sea; one at S.E.S.S., Nov. 13 (EAC) was unexpectedly late as most fall records from this locality fall between late July and mid-September.



*Mongolian Plover, McGrath Beach, Ventura Co., Calif., Aug. 10, 1982. Photo/K. J. Zimmer.*

A Red Knot near Rosamond, Kern Co., Sept. 6 (KLG), single birds at nearby Lancaster Aug. 7 (BK) & Aug. 28 (ASa) and a fourth near Anaheim Aug. 11 (DRW) were all inland and away from the Salton Sea; on the Salton Sea, where small numbers regularly occur each fall, five at Salton City Nov. 11+ (GMcC) were judged to be wintering. A Sanderling near Lancaster Aug. 16 (JLD), another at Daggett, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 5 (EAC), one on L. Hodges Sept. 18 (REW) and another on L. Henshaw Oct. 4 (RH*i*) were all at unusual localities. As is now expected, small numbers of juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were found among migrant W. Sandpipers in August and September with 16 reported including one high in the mountains on Baldwin L., Aug. 23 (EAC). Baird's Sandpipers appeared more numerous than usual with 360± reported including 55 together near Lancaster Aug. 28 (KLG). Pectoral Sandpipers were also quite numerous with 675± reported including exceptionally late individuals at Pt. Mugu Nov. 21 (LB) and in Goleta Nov. 13-28 (JLD). A Rock Sandpiper near San Simeon Nov. 22+ (TMey) was one of very few ever found in s. California, but was frequenting a stretch of rocky coastline where the species may prove to be regular. Up to three Stilt Sandpipers near Santa Maria Sept. 16-18 (PEL), two near Oxnard Sept. 13 (OA) and another near Imperial Beach Aug. 20 (B & MM*c*i) were all along the coast where the species is considered casual; two near Lancaster Sept. 9 (JLD) were the only others found away from the Salton Sea. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper near Pt. Mugu Sept. 10-15 (TW) was the only one found. Five Ruffs were found with one near Santa Maria Oct. 14-Nov. 4 (PEL) and another in Chula Vista, San Diego Co., Oct. 30-Nov. 2 (EC) being along the coast while one on L. Henshaw Oct. 4-6 (RH*i*), along with single birds in Chino Oct. 13-Nov. 6 (R*c*i, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and Nov. 5-27 (BCa, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) were inland. A major flight of Red Phalaropes in November placed large numbers along the coast (*e.g.*, 5000 off Morro Bay Nov. 14—TME, and 1000 off Pt. Loma Nov. 8—REW); in

addition, numbers were found inland including one in Chino Nov. 9 (JW), 100+ on L. Hodges Nov. 11 (KW), 60 on L. Henshaw Nov. 11 (GMcC) and up to 35 on the Salton Sea Nov. 9+ (GMcC).

**JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS** — Five Parasitic Jaegers on the Salton Sea Sept. 7-26, another on L. Elsinore, Riverside Co., Sept. 17 (DD) and an unidentified jaeger on L. Hodges Sept. 9 (DH*y*) were all inland. Two Long-tailed Jaegers off Santa Rosa I., Aug. 29 (H & OC), two off San Diego Sept. 10 (REW) and eight plus there Sept. 12 (GMcC) were more than normally encountered. Three S. Polar Skuas off Santa Rosa I., Aug. 29 (H & OC), another near San Clemente I., Sept. 19 (GSS) and another off San Diego Sept. 10 (REW) were of interest as few are reported from off s. California in fall. Franklin's Gulls were relatively scarce with only 10 reported. A Heermann's Gull 9 mi inland near Santa Maria Sept. 23 (PEL) and four together on L. Elsinore Nov. 8 (DMM) were exceptional; this species normally remains on the coast and never strays inland. The Mew Gull found summering near Lancaster was last seen Aug. 28 (KLG) and an adult on Morro Bay Aug. 31-Sept. 13 (M*H*r) had undoubtedly summered locally. An early Thayer's Gull was found at N.E.S.S., Oct. 15 (GMcC). Totally unexpected were an ad. W. Gull on the Salton Sea at Salton City Sept. 26 (GMcC) and a third-winter bird there Nov. 11-28 (GMcC) as this species is accidental inland; both birds were judged to be of the dark-mantled race *wymani*.

A second-winter Glaucous-winged Gull at S.E.S.S., Nov. 28+ (JLD) was the only one found inland. A juv. Sabine's Gull at Barstow Sept. 18 (DD), an adult near Lancaster Sept. 9 (SFB), a juvenile near Anaheim Sept. 15 (DRW), and two more juveniles at N.E.S.S., Sept. 25 (DD) were all inland. An ad. Arctic Tern, most unusual on shore, at Morro Bay Aug. 31 (TME, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), another on nearby Oso Flaco L., Oct. 3 (CM) and a third at S.C.R.M., Aug. 28 (PEL) were all oiled. An imm. Sooty Tern seen flying out to sea from the San Diego R. mouth Sept. 27 (REW) was the first to have been found in California; although the species does not normally occur within 1500-2000 mi of California (Pelagic Studies of Seabirds in the Central and Eastern Pacific Ocean, Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology 158, 1974) this bird appeared with an approaching tropical storm that had originated far out in the Pacific. Two Black Skimmers at the Santa Maria R. mouth Aug. 6-14 (ES) and another on Morro Bay Aug. 7 (JR) were much farther n. than the species normally ventures along the coast.

**ALCIDS** — Common Murres remained more numerous and widespread through the fall. Up to four Marbled Murrelets at Pt. Sal, Santa Barbara Co., Aug. 8-21 (TW) were s. of the species' normal range but at a location where it may prove to be regular.

**PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS** — Single Band-tailed Pigeons on Pt. Loma Oct. 8 (REW) & 11 (REW) were away from areas of regular occurrence. A Spotted Dove near Calipatria Nov. 28 (JLD) was only the second ever found in the Imperial Valley and suggests this introduced bird is still expanding its range in s. California. Thirty-five White-winged Doves (22 in San Diego County) found along the coast were more than expected; one near Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., Aug. 29 (NSw) was exceptionally far n. Up to five Ground Doves near Oxnard during September and October (OA) along with one found dead in nearby Saticoy Aug. 24 (GG) indicate that an isolated population exists in this area; two in Goleta Oct. 12 (M*H*e) established the third record for Santa Barbara County. A Spotted Owl in Santa Barbara Oct. 23 (LB) was along the coast and away from any known nesting locality. A Long-eared Owl on Santa Barbara I., Oct. 27-28 (CD) and up to four near Imperial Beach Nov. 17-21 (EC) were believed to be migrants. A Whip-poor-will in Goleta Nov. 2 (DB) was one of very few ever found away from limited suspected breeding localities in the mountains and was the first to occur in Santa Barbara County. Migrant Black Swifts are rarely encountered in fall; hence, one in Irvine Aug. 28 (GSS), ten over Pt. Loma Sept. 19 (CGE), three more there Oct. 9 (FD) and two over Mt. Palomar Oct. 7 (RH*i*) were of interest. A Chimney Swift remained around Burbank, Los Angeles Co., to the late date of Sept. 7 (AFP) and a pair fledged one young from a nest in a chimney in LaCanada, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 1 (BK).

A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird near Irvine Sept. 29-30 (DRW) was the first to be found in Orange County and another male in Santa Barbara Oct. 13-17 (RB) was the fourth for Santa Barbara County. A Black-chinned Hummingbird in Huntington Beach, Orange Co., Oct. 7 (DRW) was late for a fall migrant. A ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird on Pt. Loma Sept. 14 (REW) would appear to be one of three or four

ever to be found on the coast Two Lewis' Woodpeckers near Blythe, Riverside Co., Sept. 23-Oct. 1 (SC) were at an unusual locality and 60+ on Mt. Palomar Oct. 26 (RH) was a significant concentration. Single Acorn Woodpeckers on Pt. Loma Oct. 10 (GMcC) and Nov. 1 (REW) were away from areas of normal occurrence. A ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S.v. varius*), very rare in California, was in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co., Oct. 22-29 (TW); single individuals of the regularly occurring "Red-naped Sapsucker" (*s.v. nuchalis*) in Goleta Oct. 29 (JLD) and Nov. 11-14 (TW) were at the n.w. extreme of this form's range in California. A ♀ Nuttall's Woodpecker in California City, Kern Co., Nov. 27 (JW) was at an unusual locality.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS** — A Coues' Flycatcher, an exceptionally rare vagrant to California, was at Morro Bay Sept. 26 (GPS) and another in Griffith P., Los Angeles Oct. 31+ (KLG) was the same bird known to have spent the past 3 winters at this location. A W Wood Pewee at Zuma Beach, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 16 (KLG) was late. Three migrant Least Flycatchers were reported with one near Pt. Mugu Sept. 14 (DD), another near Imperial Beach Sept. 21 (EC) and the third on Pt. Loma Oct. 6 (REW); one in Carpinteria Nov. 23+ (TW) and another in nearby Goleta Oct. 29+ (TW) appeared to be wintering. An E. Phoebe, a rare fall vagrant to California, was in Carpinteria Nov. 20 (MHe) and another was on Pt. Loma Nov. 4-7 (PEL). Twenty years ago small numbers of Vermilion Flycatchers were found along the coast each fall; however, even with increased coverage one on Pt. Loma Oct. 3 (REW) was the only migrant found, indicating a decline in the population. As usual small numbers of Tropical Kingbirds appeared along the coast as a small portion of the population moves N instead of S in fall, with 25 ± reported Sept. 17-Nov. 30; one at Harper Dry L., Oct. 2 (TMey, \*S.B.C.M.) was one of very few ever found inland in California. The only E. Kingbirds were one inland at F.C.R., Sept. 4 (REW) and five along the coast in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area Aug. 24-Sept. 20. Single Purple Martins, now rarely encountered on migration, were near Cambria Sept. 11 (GPS) and on Pt. Loma Sept. 19 & 28 (REW), and two more were over N E S.S., Sept. 14 (JLD).

**CREEPERS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLAS** — A Brown Creeper on Pt. Fermin Nov. 23 (DRW) and another near Imperial Beach Nov. 5 (EC) were both along the s. coast where considered rare. Single Winter Wrens near Imperial Beach Oct. 4 (EC) & 9 (DPo), and another in San Diego Nov. 20-Dec. 5 (JO) were quite far s. A Dipper on Santa Cruz I., Aug. 29 (PC) was far out of range, being only the second ever recorded on the Channel Is. Two Golden-crowned Kinglets at Brock Ranch in the extreme s.e. corner of the Region Nov. 27 (MHe) were in an area where few have been recorded. A Mountain Bluebird near Pt. Mugu Nov. 6 (LB) was along the coast where rare. Two Townsend's Solitaires, rare along the coast, were on Pt. Loma Oct. 9 (CGE). A Wood Thrush on Pt. Loma Nov. 1-25 (D & NK) was only the sixth ever to be found in California. The only Brown Thrasher found this fall was one on Santa Barbara I., Sept. 29 (CD)

#### S.A.

A White/Black-backed wagtail along the Los Angeles R., in Long Beach Nov. 4+ (JLA) was in first-winter plumage. Now that the Black-backed Wagtail (*Motacilla lugens*) is considered a species distinct from the White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) there is increased incentive to learn ways to separate these similar looking birds. Eleven of these wagtails had been reported s. of Alaska prior to this fall; three of these were definite *lugens*, but none was unquestionably *alba*. At this time we are unable to identify first-winter birds in the field, as the only known differences are in minor shading of wing feather coloring and slight differences in bill shape (J. Morlan, Status and identification of forms of White Wagtail in western North America. *Cont. Birdlife* 2:37-50, 1981).

A Red-throated Pipit was in Goleta Nov. 6 (PEL) and single birds were present near Imperial Beach Oct. 4 (EC), 10-11 (REW), 16-17 (GRH) & Nov. 7 (REW); this species is now found each fall along the coast of s. California. A group of eight Phainopeplas near Lone Pine in the Owens Valley Aug. 4 (T & JH) was a large number for that area.

**VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS** — The White-eyed Vireo that summered in Goleta was last seen there Sept. 14 (PEL). A Bell's

Vireo, a species rarely found away from nesting localities here in s. California, was in Goleta Sept. 9 (PEL) and another was near Oxnard Sept. 17-19 (PEL). A Solitary Vireo in Carpinteria Nov. 21 (TW) and another on Pt. Loma Sept. 26-27 (EAC) were believed to be of the nominate form *solitarius*, a casual straggler to California. Three Philadelphia Vireos, rare stragglers to California, were reported with one in San Pedro Oct. 15-16 (BED), another in Huntington Beach Nov. 26+ (REW) and the third on Pt. Loma Sept. 30 (REW). Five Red-eyed Vireos were found with one at Deep Springs Sept. 8 (DRW) being in an area where small numbers probably occur each September and one in Huntington Beach Nov. 11 (V & WG) being exceptionally late; the other three were of the race *flavoviridis* ("Yellow-green Vireo") with one at Gaviota Oct. 3 (JTO) and two together in Goleta Oct. 11-12 (TW).

A Golden-winged Warbler, one of the rarest vagrants to reach California, was in Santa Barbara Oct. 22-23 (DB, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and another was well seen in Fullerton, Orange Co., Oct. 24 (J & KT). Tennessee Warblers appeared more numerous than usual with 60 ± reported after Sept. 10. Fifteen Virginia's Warblers along the coast Sept. 4-Oct. 30 was about normal but fewer than expected 20 years ago. A Lucy's Warbler near Palm Springs Oct. 1 (BWa) was unexpected and one in Goleta Oct. 24-25 (PEL), another in Huntington Beach Oct. 22 (BED) and five in the San Diego area Aug. 22-Oct. 31 were along the coast where rare. A N. Parula near Blythe Oct. 12-13 (JS), one near Cayucos Oct. 17-19 (TME), another near Santa Maria Oct. 7 (NSC) and a fourth in Goleta Oct. 4 (JS) were the only ones found. Chestnut-sided Warblers were relatively scarce with single birds at F.C.R., Sept. 24 (DD) and at Brock Ranch Oct. 24 (GRH) being inland and six during September and October being along the coast. Of the 14 Magnolia Warblers reported one at Deep Springs Oct. 24 (MOC), another at F.C.R., Sept. 22 (DD) and a third near Westmorland Nov. 28 (KLG) were inland.

Black-throated Blue Warblers were scarcer than normally with one at Whitewater Canyon Nov. 21-Dec. 5 (SM) being inland and seven more during October and November being along the coast. A Black-throated Green Warbler at Deep Springs Nov. 14 (DD) along with five along the coast would appear about normal. Eleven Blackburnian Warblers was an unexpectedly high number, but one at Thurman Flats in the San Bernardino Mts., Nov. 14 (TG, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was not only exceptionally late but was also at a most unusual locality. The only Prairie Warblers to be found this fall were one near Morro Bay Oct. 15 (CM), another near Santa Maria Sept. 16-18 (PEL) and a third near Imperial Beach Oct. 3-4 (REW). About 30 Palm Warblers were fewer than normal but included single birds at Oasis Sept. 23 (DD) and F.C.R., Oct. 30 (BBR) along with two at L. Henshaw Oct. 4 (RH) which were inland. Two Bay-breasted Warblers, with one in Goleta Sept. 4-10 (KB) and the other on Pt. Loma Nov. 5-10 (REW) were fewer than expected. Thirty Blackpoll Warblers were certainly fewer than we have become accustomed to but included one inland at Redlands Sept. 27 (MC, \*S.B.C.M.). Thirty Black-and-white Warblers were about average and included an exceptionally early transient in Goleta Aug. 14-18 (KB). American Redstarts appeared about normal with 75 ± reported. Four Prothonotary Warblers, one of the rarer vagrants to reach California, were reported with one in Baker Oct. 3 (EAC) inland and single birds along the coast in the San Diego area Sept. 14 (SG), Oct. 8 (REW) & 9 (VJ.)

A Worm-eating Warbler, another casual vagrant to California, was in Goleta Sept. 9-17 (PEL), another was in Long Beach Nov. 1-5 (BED) and a third was at another location in Long Beach Nov. 5+ (BED). An Ovenbird inland at Ft. Piute, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 21 (DD) along with one along the coast in Carpinteria Oct. 21 (PEL) and five more in the San Diego area Sept. 23-Nov. 27 were about average. Forty N. Waterthrushes found after Sept. 1 were about normal. A Mourning Warbler was in Goleta Sept. 23 (LB), another was in Carpinteria Sept. 24-Oct. 4 and a third was seen briefly on Pt. Loma Oct. 8 (REW); this species is one of the rarer vagrants to California. A ♂ Hooded Warbler, a particularly rare vagrant in fall, was at Morro Bay Nov. 1 (JMCD). Ten Canada Warblers Sept. 3-Nov. 16 were more than expected, and included one inland near Lancaster Sept. 19 (KLG). A Red-faced Warbler on Pt. Loma Sept. 11-12 (REW) was only the second ever to be found along the coast in fall, and one of fewer than ten recorded in California. A Painted Redstart, another straggler from the mountains of n. Mexico, was in Santa Barbara Nov. 11+ (LRB) and another was seen near Pt. Mugu Oct. 6 (BBE). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Morro Bay Oct. 11 (GPS) was late.

**BOBOLINK THROUGH TANAGERS** — The only concentra-

tions of Bobolinks occurred in Goleta where 65 were found Sept. 8-Oct. 21; one there Nov. 2 (PEL) was late and another at F.C.R., Sept. 22 (DD) was inland. An early Rusty Blackbird in Baker Oct. 17 (JW, ph. S.D.N.M.H.) was the only one found in the e. portion of the Region where small numbers are normally found each fall, but one in San Luis Obispo Oct. 22-Nov. 10 (CM, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was along the coast where considered casual. Great-tailed Grackles continue to push W with two near Chino Oct. 29 (GSS), one in the Goleta area Sept. 8-14 (TW) and another near San Diego Nov. 15-21 (D & NK). Five Orchard Orioles, rare but regular fall vagrants to California, were found in the San Diego area Sept. 17-Oct. 31. A Scott's Oriole, rare along the coast, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 17 (GMcC). As usual, small numbers of Summer Tanagers appeared along the coast with 25 ± reported; collecting indicates all are of the nominate form from the e., and the single birds inland near Oasis Sept. 22 (DD), at Ft. Pute Sept. 21 (DD) and in Valyermo, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 11 (EAC) were also believed to be vagrants of this race. A Scarlet Tanager, a casual vagrant to California, was in Carpinteria Sept. 14 (LB), another was found dead in Malibu Nov. 7 (KLG, \*L.A.C.M.N.H.) and a third was well seen in Huntington Beach Nov. 25 (HLJ).

**GROSBEAKS, BUNTINGS, SPARROWS**—Two Evening Grosbeaks on Mt. Palomar Nov. 17 (RHl) were the only ones reported and were quite far s. Eighteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 27 Indigo Buntings were average numbers for fall. A Painted Bunting on Pt. Loma Sept. 10-15 (RS) was joined by a second individual Sept. 14-15 (REW); these are two of very few recorded in California. Four Dickcissels in the Goleta/Santa Barbara area Sept. 14-Oct. 20, along with two near Imperial Beach Oct. 17-18, were along the coast where most are found. A Tree Sparrow at F.C.R., Nov. 15 (DD) was in an area where small numbers occur each fall, but two on Pt. Loma Oct. 28-31 (REW) and a third there Nov. 6-7 (BCo) were far s. and on the coast where considered casual. Fifteen Clay-colored Sparrows along the coast Sept. 6-Nov. 15 were normal, but one near Lancaster Oct. 2 (KLG) was the only one found inland. Lark Buntings were exceptionally scarce with one inland at Harper Dry L., Oct. 31 (JLD), another near Lakeview, Riverside Co., Nov. 4 (BWA), and single birds along the coast in Goleta Sept. 14 (PEL) & Oct. 5 (EG).

A Grasshopper Sparrow in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino Co., Oct. 10 (EAC), and another at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 12 (BCa), were away from areas of normal occurrence, and one in Santa Barbara Oct. 29 (PEL) was on the coast where casual. Two Swamp Sparrows in the Goleta/Santa Barbara area during November were the only ones reported. A Harris' Sparrow on Pt. Loma Oct. 29-31 (GMcC) was along the coast where rare. A McCown's Longspur near Needles, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 26 (JLD) was the only one found. Lapland Longspurs were scarce with one near Santa Maria Nov. 13 (LB), another in the Cuyama Valley of Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 20 (PEL) and a third near Blythe Nov. 21 (WCH) being the only ones reported. Similarly, Chestnut-collared Longspurs were much scarcer than normal with single birds in Goleta Oct. 17 (PEL), at S.C.R.M., Oct. 9 (H & OC) and near Imperial Beach Oct. 16 (GRH) being the only ones found.

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## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle

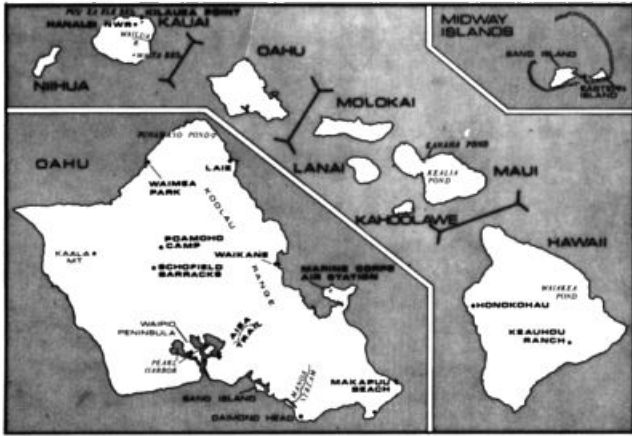
Cloudy and wet weather, more rain than normally expected, continued through the summer and fall, with rainfall at Honolulu Airport well above average in August and October. Then, November 23, came hurricane *Iwa*, its center passing just a few miles off the north coasts of Niihau and Kauai. Parts of Kauai were devastated and Oahu had considerable damage, but the southern islands were largely spared. Damage to the mountain forests of Kauai was particularly severe, although it is interesting to note that exotic trees such as *eucalyptus* and *albizzia* seemed to suffer much more blowdown damage than the native *ohia* trees. It is too early to assess the overall

impact on Kauai's native birds. But this was the kind of traumatic event that might just deal the final *coup de grace* to imperiled species such as 'O'o'a'a, Kauai Nuku-pu'u and Kauai 'Akialoa whose pre-*Iwa* populations were counted in no more than double digits.

**ISLAND ABBREVIATIONS** — F.F.S.: French Frigate Shoals, H.: Hawaii I., K.: Kauai I., L.: Lanai I., M.: Maui I., O.: Oahu I

**ALBATROSSES THROUGH TROPICBIRDS** — The perennial Short-tailed Albatross returned once again to Sand I., Midway, in very late October and remained at least through mid-November (SK). Along the road at and near the visitor center atop Haleakala Mt., in the Nat'l Park, M., at least five (Hawaiian) Dark-rumped Petrels (Endangered) were seen or heard near and shortly after dusk Aug 7





Snow Goose, West Ponds, Waipio Pen., Oahu, Haw., Oct. 9, 1982. Photo/P. Donaldson.

(LB). Four Bulwer Petrel chicks in nesting crevices were found on the Audubon Society trip to Manana I., off Oahu, Aug. 22 (RLP *et al.*). A careful observation of a Newell (Manx) Shearwater from a fishing boat 5 mi. s. of Midway Atoll Oct. 4 (PP) is significant since this bird is rarely reported away from Kauai I., where it breeds. It was watched for one min among Wedge-tailed Shearwaters for close comparison. Six White-tailed and 12 Red-tailed tropicbirds at Kilauea Pt., K., Aug. 3 (LB) was a good but typical count for these species there at this season.

**CATTLE EGRET** — In July, state government biologists (PPa *et al.*) on Hawaii I., began a control program to reduce Cattle Egrets at the Lokoaka Pond roost. The birds had become a significant hazard at nearby Hilo airport by feeding and flying near the runways. Shooting and clap-trap netting reduced the population from 540 to about 175 by September. The survivors then left the Lokoaka roost, but moved back in mid-November and had at least 20 active nests going by month's end. Control efforts are continuing.

At Midway Atoll, one Cattle Egret was first seen Sept. 17 and the population increased to 5 or 6 by mid-October (PP). Only prior record at this far w. outpost was one bird resident for at least a year in 1979-80. A single Cattle Egret on Tern I., F.F.S., during most of October (JA), and one at Hulupoe Beach, L., Oct. 17 (PC) were notable.

**DUCKS THROUGH COOTS** — Migrant Pintails and N. Shovelers arriving for the winter were down drastically in numbers this year. The sugar mill settling ponds at Waipio, O., have been less attractive to waterfowl in recent years. Fewer than half a dozen ducks could be found there irregularly this November, where 100-300 used to overwinter until just a few years ago. In the Kahuku region where most of Oahu's wintering ducks are to be found, numbers were clearly down at Kii Unit in James Campbell N.W.R. Complete censusing is difficult in this region, however, because of the many ephemeral wetlands difficult of access, particularly in a wet fall like this one. Other migrant species reported around the state were a Canada Goose on Hawaii (JA), up to four Am. Wigeon at sites on Oahu and Hawaii, Eur. Wigeon at Midway Oct. 8-21 (PP) and another wigeon (sp?) at Tern I., F.F.S., Oct. 8 (JA). Four Blue-winged Teal were seen in October at Aimakapa Pond, H. (PPa), where last spring seven Blue-winged Teal ducklings hatched to become Hawaii's first verified North American duck breeding record.

A **Peregrine Falcon** came to a National Marine Fisheries research vessel in mid-November 400 mi w. of Kure Atoll (Hawaii's westernmost island), and well into the Eastern Hemisphere. The bird remained through one night and most of the following day. It perched on the mast, was photographed, and was seen to take and eat two White-rumped Storm-Petrels (SK).

The little group of Gray Francolins recently found on Oahu near the Kaimuki end of Na Laau Trail is apparently faring well as a flock of at least three and perhaps as many as 12 was seen there Nov. 2 (PD). A Hawaiian (Com.) Gallinule (Endangered) reported at Opaepula Pond, H., Aug. 8 (SF) was remarkable as this species has not been known on Hawaii I., for at least 50 years. Nests and fledglings of Hawaiian (Am.) Coots (Endangered) were found this fall at Waipio, O. (PD), and at Aimakapa and Opaepula Ponds on Hawaii I. (PPa). A total count of 110 coots at Aimakapa Sept. 25 (PPa) was a good high count.

S.A.

The appearance of vagrant waterbird species in the fall provides most of the spice for birdwatchers in this isolated state which has no regular or even casual influx of migrant landbirds at any season. Of Hawaii's state list of 203 ± naturally-occurring species, 14 are extinct and about 90 (44%!) are classed as visitor-straggler, meaning from one record in all of history to not quite frequent enough to be classed visitor-occasional. The number of vagrants recorded varies greatly year to year, resulting from 3 salient factors: 1) migrants are set on an anomalous course out toward the central Pacific by unknown inducements, perhaps weather, disturbed navigational instincts, or association with regular over-ocean migrants, 2) the Hawaiian chain, like a 1600 mi long mist net, probably "catches" a larger fraction of these vagrant migrants than one might suppose. The islands are tiny dry tops of a continuous underwater mountain chain which may be visible or not visible from bird-flight altitude according to time of day, weather and sea surface conditions, or other factors, 3) of those vagrants that do arrive in Hawaii, only a fraction are observed and reported, depending on number, thoroughness and geographic dispersion of competent observers. This, too, varies significantly year-to-year.

Autumn of 1982 was a good season for reports of vagrant species in Hawaii. Factor 3 was definitely positive, but little can be said about factors 1 and 2. See the following bold-faced listing for this year's roster.

**VAGRANT WATERBIRDS** — Documentary details are on file. Most were observed over several days, some longer.

**August:** **Fulvous Whistling Duck** (two) through the season, Kii Pond, O. (m.ob.).

**September:** **Baird's Sandpiper**, Waipio, O., excellent photo (PD); **Red Knot**, Opaepula, H. (PPa); **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, Kure (two) and Midway (one), (PP); **Black Tern**, Midway (PP).

**October:** **Snow Goose**, Waipio, O. on 9th (PD), found shot on 11th (MO, RLP) specimen not recovered; **Cinnamon Teal**, Kakahaia N.W.R., Molokai (RC); **Greater Scaup**, Waipio, O. (MO, RLP); **Bar-tailed Godwit**, Waipio (PD *et al.*); **Whimbrel**, Midway (PP).

**November:** **Whimbrel**, K.M.C.A.S., O. (VB, RS).



Baird's Sandpiper, Overflow Pond, Sewage Treatment Plant, Waipio Pen., Oahu, Haw., Sept. 14, 1982. Photo/P. Donaldson.

**SHOREBIRDS** — The regular migrants, especially Am. Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling, were a little late in arriving and reached peak fall counts a little lower than usual. But it was a good year for the occasional and less common species. Pectoral Sandpipers came in unprecedented numbers: a high count of 40 at Waipio, O., Oct. 4 (PD) where more than six at once are rarely if ever reported; peak count of 24 on Midway Sept. 24, and six on Kure Sept. 21 (PP). Eleven were still present at Midway Oct. 19, probably indicating at least 50 individuals passed through during the month. Two to six were at Opaepala Pond, H., Sept. 25-Oct. 17 (AT, *fide* PPa), and smaller numbers appeared at other localities on Maui and Oahu. Unusually large numbers of dowitchers (probably Long-billed) were also reported this season: up to 16 at Waipio Oct. 31 (PD *et al.*) and 12 at Kii Pond Nov. 18 (RC). Highest count of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers this year was 12 at Waipio Oct. 31 (MO).

Ten Bristle-thighed Curlews foraging among players on an active fairway at Kahuku Golf Course Sept. 4 (PD, RLP) was an unusually high number for Oahu. The total population at Midway during September and October was estimated at 35 (PP). Among the more common Bristle-thigheds was found the vagrant Whimbrel (see above) with the concolor rump and tail of the North American species. The other Whimbrel at K.M.C.A.S., not with Bristle-thigheds, was positively identified as the Asiatic race by rump and tail pattern (VB, RS). One Bristle-thighed Curlew at isolated Kalaupapa Pen., Molokai I., Sept. 14 (LS) was also notable. Other casual-to-occasional species reported this fall on various islands included Semipalmated and Black-bellied plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least and W. sandpipers, Dunlin, Ruff and Wilson's Phalarope.

**GULLS AND TERNS** — In contrast to shorebirds, vagrant and occasional gull species were conspicuously unreported. Two Laughing Gulls at Waipio Aug. 15-early September and a Ring-billed Gull near Kailua-Kona, H. in November (JAL) were the only gulls this autumn. Least Terns showed up in September and very early October at Kure, Midway (five together), Oahu (Kahuku, and four at Waipio) and Hawaii (PP, RS, MO, PPa).

**PASSERINES** — A bird well-described as an imm. Kama'o (Kauai Thrush) was reported from Pihea Trail near its intersection with Alakai Swamp Trail Sept. 5 (DH). This would be an unusual location much closer to the Kokee area of Kauai for this very rare and endangered species. On Aug. 4 a leisurely 2-hr walk along Pihea trail from the Kokee Rd. trailhead to the Alakai Swamp Trail intersection and return produced counts of Hawaiian endemic species as follows: five Kauai 'Elepaio, 13 Kauai 'Amakihi, seven Anianiau, two Kauai 'Akepa, 119 'Apapane, four 'I'iwi and six more unidentified Drepanidids (LB). Red-billed Leiothrix still being seen along Old Waimanalo Rd., O. (four Aug. 9—TB) show that this introduced species is still holding on despite its drastic decline from abundant to near extirpation on Oahu in recent years. These birds also were seen commonly in guava thickets along the Na Pali coastal trail on Kauai in mid-August (PB).

Ten Java Sparrows Nov. 20 on the golf course at the Kona Surf Hotel, not far from Kailua-Kona, H., where a few were recently discovered, suggest that this species may be established and increasing now on that island. Flocks of 4-12 Orange-cheeked Waxbills are now seen regularly in tall grass thickets in the Honolulu Zoo (PD, PL, DS). A few Red-eared (Black-rumped) Waxbills with them (PL) are the first reported of this species in several years.

And finally, a **Common Redpoll** seen briefly but unmistakably at Sand I., Midway Oct. 12 (PP) represented only the third record of this species in the state (all at Kure and Midway at the extreme w. end of the Hawaiian chain), and one of the very few records of vagrant *landbirds* in Hawaii.

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## WEST INDIES REGION

/Robert L. Norton

Precipitation in the Virgin Islands (hereafter, V.I.) during the period was below average from August to October by 34 to 14%, respectively. November, however, was 97% above average.

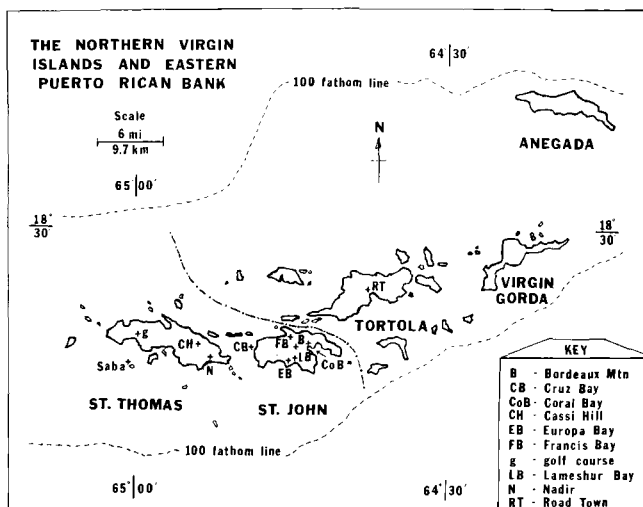
S.A.

ASD reports that drought conditions and the effects of devastating hurricane *David* (Aug. 1979) produced a deteriorated environment for avifauna in the Dominican Republic. Further, ASD reports that few hummingbirds, indeed very few species of birds, are recovering since *David*. For example, Stolid Flycatcher, *Myiarchus stolidus* is now rarely seen since most dead trees with nesting cavities were blown down. If that were not enough, native people were forced for weeks to take many species of birds for food—and probably still do—in order to survive. Haiti surely suffers in the same manner with possibly even greater impact on the avifauna.

Upper-level troughs (lows) in early August and October 15-20 influenced avian fallout and produced some first occurrences in the V.I. At Saba, Neth. Antilles, GS predicts an early winter, cooler than normal, based on faunal indicators.

The first report (BH, PS) from Jamaica (hereafter, J.) is a welcomed addition as is a report from Saba. Without continued support from observers from other islands in the West Indies, this report will merely reflect seasonal records from the Puerto Rican Bank, hardly representative of the Region's unique avifauna.

**ENDEMICIS** — Of 89 species observed Aug. 12-16 in J., 25% were endemics. Only two of the island's 24 endemics (Jamaican Lizard



Cuckoo and Jamaican Owl) were missed, indicating a robust or at least observable endemic avifauna. Four species including Chestnut-sided Cuckoo, Jamaican Becard, Blue Mountain Vireo, and Jamaican Blackbird totalled only seven individuals during the period.

**PETRELS THROUGH RAILS** — Two Black-capped Petrels were noted 600 mi e. of Florida and the Gulf Stream (29°N, 72°W) Nov. 20 (JD) during a cruise from New England to the V.I. During another cruise from the Canary Is., across the tropical Atlantic to Martinique (hereafter, M.), GO recorded daily sightings of pelagics most of which are beyond the purview of this report. However, Nov. 22-25 (14°N,

49°W to 14°N, 56°30'W) nine Cory's Shearwaters and 22 storm-petrel spp. were seen. Nine Red-billed Tropicbirds and a *Sula* sp. were also noted during the crossing at that time.

Five Black-crowned Night Herons were noted at St. Croix (hereafter, St. C.) Nov. 29. An imm. ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** in a flock of Blue-winged was carefully observed for 15 minutes (RN *et al.*) at St. C., Oct. 28. At first it appeared to be a ♂ *A. discors*, but its chestnut breast and tawny buff neck set it apart from the others. The possibility that it was a hybrid should not be ruled out. Other observations of *cyanoptera* from the Greater Antilles and s.e. United States are predominately late in the winter or early spring when nuptial plumage is conspicuous. In the W.I. ♂ *discors* and *crecca* show new plumage by late October and early November. Three Green-winged Teal were noted Nov. 15 at St. Thomas (hereafter, St. T.). Also at St. C., after an upper-level trough moved through the area, a pair of N. Shovelers was seen Oct. 20 (FS). JY had reported a shoveler there Sept. 29 as well.

Peregrine Falcons were noted on Oct. 9 at St. T. and St. C (FS) and again at St. C., Oct. 27. Osprey were seen early in the season at St. C., Aug. 10 and at J., Aug. 12. Merlins seem to be more in attendance in the V.I. this season as they have been observed regularly from September through November. Five Soras apparently were affected by the upper-level trough and were common at flooded pools and swales on St. T., Oct. 20. Rarely seen or heard, three Clapper Rails were noted at Mangrove Lagoon, St. T., Oct. 20 as well. Fourteen Caribbean Coots including five immatures remained at Francis Bay pond, St. John (hereafter, St. J) until Aug. 8 (RN). An Am. Coot was noted at St. C., Oct. 28 (FS).

**SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS** — Among these groups were some notable counts and records of individuals. Usually seen in small scattered groups throughout the V.I. during migration, 19 Semipalmated Plovers Oct. 28 at St. C., and the sighting of a Piping Plover there Sept. 16 (FS) were of local importance. A Snowy Plover at Aneгада (hereafter, A.) Nov. 26 (FS) was important since very few reports are received even from breeding sites such as A. Fifteen Am. Golden Plover showed briefly at St. C., Aug. 31 (FS) and one was on St. T. (RN). Whimbrels are regular visitors to St. C. during migration as evidenced by reports of four Aug. 10, 12 on Oct. 28, two Nov. 29, and one seen flying N over Pillsbury Sound, St. J., Aug. 13. Two Solitary Sandpipers were noted Aug. 13 at St. C. (FS), five Aug. 17 at St. T., and five Sept. 1 at St. T. A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was observed at St. C., Sept. 28 (FS, JY) providing a first record from the V.I.

Sixteen Red Knots were observed Aug. 15 at St. C., seven Aug. 17 at J., and one Nov. 26 at A. (FS). Pectoral Sandpipers which apparently migrate in small groups, appeared Sept. 1 and St. T. in small numbers (14), but a flock of 127 at M.R.G. & T.C. was quite unexpected Oct. 28 which may have been a result of the U-L trough. FS reported a sighting of **Baird's Sandpiper** at St. C., Aug. 27, possibly also weather-related, which, if substantiated, would be the first from the Greater Antilles (Bond, 1979). White-rumped Sandpipers (28) were noted Nov. 29 among a large group of Western and Semipalmated sandpipers which are common at St. C. during migration. Westerns (100+) were noted at A. (FS) Nov. 26. During the crossing of the tropical Atlantic, GO observed 13 Pomarine and five Parasitic jaegers about 360 mi e. of M., Nov. 25 and noted that nearly all were dark-phase or immatures.

Single Ring-billed Gulls were noted at St. C., Sept. 26 (FS), and Nov. 29 (RN), possibly one continuous occurrence, and St. T., Nov. 15. The first **Black-headed Gull**, an immature, from St. C. was seen in the company of the Nov. 29 Ring-billed (RN) at industrialized Krause Lagoon. Straggling Laughing Gulls (2) were noted Oct. 28 & Nov. 15 at St. T. Three Gull-billed Terns were observed at St. C., Aug. 10 (FS, RN). Although no local breeding site has been found recently, these terns are presumably dispersing from some not-too-distant colony. Least Terns which breed at St. C., numbered 69 near Krause Lagoon that day. GO reported seeing 100+ Sooty Terns, some feeding, Nov. 25 about 360 mi e. of M., which may provide additional clues as to their wintering range in the tropics (Robertson, 1969) as well as that of Sandwich Tern, two of which were seen about 700 mi e. of M. Nov. 22.

**PIGEONS THROUGH TANAGERS** — White-crowned Pigeons averaged 23+/day at J. (BH, PS) Aug. 12-17. This is somewhat encouraging evidence of a moderate post-breeding population which may also be encouraging for local hunters. Jamaica has 8 resident

Columbids of which BH & PS observed the 2 endemics; Ring-tailed Pigeon and Crested Quail-Dove, 15 and eight individuals respectively. Three Psitticines of which 2 are endemic (Yellow-billed and Black-billed parrots) and the Olive-throated Parakeet, found only at J. in the W.I., were recorded in Cockpit Country Aug. 15. Seven **Golden Swallows** were reported for the first time since 1986 (*vide* PS) Aug. 15 near Cockpit Country where 20 Jamaican Crows were also noted Aug. 14-15. Barn Swallows, possibly affected by the low pressure system in early August showed at St. C., Aug. 10 and at St. T., Aug. 17. A **Bank Swallow** was recorded from St. J., for the first time Nov. 12 (RN) in the company of Barn and Cliff swallows (2). A Bank Swallow was also seen at St. C., Oct. 28. Cliff Swallows were noted from St. C., Sept. 21-24 with Cave and Bank swallows. ASD says **Cliff Swallows** were at D.R. for the first time Apr. 16. A N. Parula reported from J., Aug. 17, a Yellow-rumped Warbler from St. T., Nov. 15, four Blackpolls from St. T., Oct. 21, two Prairie Warblers Sept. 1, one N. Waterthrush from St. T., and an Am. Redstart at J., Aug. 16 represent first fall dates this season. GS reports that Bobolinks seen at Saba Aug. 10 and possibly earlier were early for the Lesser Antilles. Bond (1979) gives Aug. 13 as most likely arrival date for the Greater Antilles. A Scarlet Tanager was reported from Bordeaux, St. J., Oct. 18 (MR) apparently in conjunction with the U-L trough.

**ADDENDA** — ASD observed a group of **White-throated Swifts** at Santo Domingo, D.R., Apr. 27, 1981 for the first record there. GS says that a Scarlet Tanager was present at Saba May 8. SF reports that the latest (spring) census of the endangered, endemic Yellow-shouldered Blackbird suggested that the population is about 600 in Puerto Rico.

**CORRIGENDA** — First line S.A. AB 36 (5):897 should read "Are all. . .," and p. 898 Col. 2, line 11 a "19-year" should read "19-day."

**HYPOTHETICAL** — FS reported seeing a Bachman's Warbler at West End Salt Pond, St. C., Oct. 21. An observation of less than a minute at close range (15 feet) with and without optics suggested those features of a ♀ *V. bachmanii* as thoroughly described recently by P. Hamel and Gauthreaux (1982, AB:36(3)235-240), according to FS. Details of the encounter were sent to Paul Hamel. The apparent winter range expansions of *Vermivora spp* lately in the Greater Antilles (Gochfeld, 1974) in addition to other "rare" species in the area may be owing to more experienced observers afield. Reports of very rare species, however require thorough descriptive documentation.

**ABBREVIATION** — Mahogany Run Golf & Tennis Club = M.R.G. & T.C.

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