

The Winter Season

December 1, 1982—February 28, 1983

Abbreviations frequently used in Regional Reports

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

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

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Richard S. Heil

This was the year that winter largely passed us by in the Northeast. December and early January averaged exceptionally mild and bare ground and open water were the rule rather than the exceptions. As a result, waterfowl and gulls lingered in the north and inland in good numbers, while passerines apparently remained widely dispersed throughout the Region, rather than concentrating at feeders or in sheltered thickets. It would be an understatement to say that most boreal irruptives were scarce—many were virtually nonexistent.

Three major storms did pass through. The first two, on January 15-16, and February 6-7, resulted in snow in the north and interior, but precipitated mostly as rain on the southeastern coastal plain. The biggest storm of the winter was a Nor'easter, accompanied by gale force winds, February 11-12, that trekked up the coast dumping up to two feet of snow in some coastal areas of southern New England, and a foot of snow in Nova Scotia.

Two periods of strong S-SW airflow in advance of approaching cold fronts December 1-7, and December 24-25 resulted in a number of reverse migrants being discovered during or immediately following these weather patterns: The first brought Newfoundland its first provincial record for House Wren, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and a Black-and-white Warbler; a Tennessee Warbler in Nova Scotia; a Black-throated Blue Warbler and an American Redstart in Massachusetts; and a Nashville Warbler in Connecticut. The second incursion of mild air was followed closely by observations of Ash-throated Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, and Western Tanager in Massachusetts.

The universal complaint heard throughout most of the Region, however, was of the lack of interesting rarities this winter. Further attesting to a generally low species diversity was a New England CBC total of only 195 species, the poorest since 1976-77.

LOONS, GREBES — Two W. Grebes, both first reported during the fall, wintered, including the now annual individual at Indian Pt., Georgetown, Me., and another at Duxbury, Mass. A Com. Loon and four Red-necked Grebes lingering at Quabbin Res., as late as Jan. 22 (SS) were indicative of the availability of open water this winter. A Horned Grebe off Pt. Wolfe, Fundy N.P., N.B., was termed unusual



for the inner Bay of Fundy. At Plum I., Mass., calm seas allowed for the careful observation of an **Eared Grebe** Jan. 28 (RSH, JS). While a Pied-billed Grebe on the St. Johns, Nfld. CBC, Dec. 26 was surprising, one (same?) there Feb. 10 was totally unexpected and at least a month beyond any other provincial record (PL, BM).

GANNET, CORMORANTS — Unusual numbers of Gannets were apparent along the Maine coast through December, and 15 on 5 New Brunswick CBCs was unprecedented, there being only one prior CBC occurrence there. The increase of Double-crested Cormorant as a breeder in the Region, in conjunction with the mild winter, no doubt contributed to the remarkable New England CBC total of 114, with a high of 58 at the traditional Thames R. site on the New London, Conn. CBC. Two were at Brier I., as late as Jan. 15 (SIT), for one of few Nova Scotia mid-winter records, and at least three survived the entire winter at Newburyport.

HERONS — Not surprisingly, more Great Blue Herons were found inland than usual while the best coastal count this winter was of 50 at Nantucket I., Jan. 1. Lingering herons well beyond normal departure dates included a Green Heron on the S. Kingston, R.I. CBC, Dec. 26; a Little Blue at Marshfield through December; a Cattle Egret observed feeding on worms at Nashawena I., Mass., Dec. 31 (*vide* J. Hatch) and a Great Egret at Pawtucket, R.I., Dec. 30-Jan. 8 (*vide* DLE). Six Snowy Egrets were present in Connecticut and Rhode Island during December, with a single bird holding on at Galilee to Jan. 1 (RAC). Not all herons fared well this winter, however; in New Brunswick a weakened Am. Bittern picked up at Sackville Jan. 20, expired shortly thereafter. If the number of Black-crowned Night Herons attempting to winter in New England is at all relative to the breeding population, then the species is clearly having difficulties. Only 16 individuals were found on the New England CBCs this year, and the records show an almost steady decline over at least the last 8 years (from 188 in 1974-75).

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans this winter included three at Pittsfield, Mass., Nov. 14-Dec. 2 (*vide* SK); a flock of six at Martha's Vineyard Jan. 1; two at Nantucket throughout January; and singles at New Haven Dec. 18, and Ipswich, Mass., Dec. 30-Jan. 5, when found dead (*vide* JS). With much fresh-water open during the greater portion of the winter, many species of waterfowl felt no particular inducement to migrate S, and a number of extralimital winter records occurred. In w Massachusetts, ten Gadwall in December and January was considered highly unusual (*vide* SK). Seventeen Blue-winged Teal on 7 regional CBCs, with two birds as far n. as Glace Bay, N.S., Dec. 29 (CBC), was perhaps a record high. Six Eur. Wigeon at as many separate localities from Nova Scotia to Connecticut was more than usual. Scarce vagrants to Newfoundland, single Am. Wigeon were present at St. Johns Nov. 30-Dec. 7, and on the Cape Race CBC, Dec. 22 (*vide* BM). A Canvasback wintering at Auburn, Me., until at least Dec. 30 was noteworthy (*vide* WCT). In Rhode Island, 19 Harlequin Ducks at Sachuest Pt., Dec. 10 (*vide* DLE) was one more than last year, while at least 20 were present along the Massachusetts coast in December. The traditional wintering locality at the n. end of Isle au Haut, Me., hosted a remarkable 150+ Mar. 6 (PDV). Rare migrants in the interior of New England, a few lingering Oldsquaws and Red-breasted Mergansers were found inland in December. Coastally, the concentration at Oldsquaws at Nantucket was estimated at 81,525 on the CBC, Jan. 1 (easily a North American CBC high); the 33,315 Com. Eider in those same waters was equally as impressive, but was still just a shadow of the *half-million* birds reported by Griscom and others off Chatham during the late 1940s and 1950s.

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Small numbers of wintering Turkey Vultures have become routine in recent years in s.w. Connecticut, but one captured near Sackville, N.B., Dec. 31, and up to *seven* that apparently subsisted on entrails of slaughtered cattle at Cranberry Head, Yarmouth Co., N.S., from mid-December-February (*vide* IAM) were exceptional—but readers will recall that Turkey Vultures have apparently wintered in s. Nova Scotia in past seasons also (see *AB* 34: 253), and are undoubtedly breeding in the Province. In addition, the 59 observed on Connecticut CBCs was a 10-year high, and four birds were noted in Rhode Island up to Jan. 15 (*vide* DLE). Goshawks were down 48% from last year on New England CBCs, but in Newfoundland 15 ± individuals utilized the heavily rat-infested St. Johns dump this winter (PL, BM). An imm. **Red-tailed Hawk** also at the St. Johns dump Jan. 9-Feb. 28, was only a 4th provincial record (BM *et al.*). Cats prey on untold numbers of small landbirds annually, but the ad. Bald Eagle observed carrying away a cat at Oxford, Conn., Dec. 24 (*vide* R. Hudson) struck a revenge for the avian world! Twenty-one Bald Eagles were counted at Quabbin Res., Jan. 8 (*vide* SK), but numbers along coastal Maine were said to be normal. Golden Eagles were well represented: up to three were at the Quabbin Res., Dec. 29-Jan. 15 (*vide* SK); single immatures were noted on the Bath-Phippsburg-Georgetown, Me. CBC, Dec. 18, and on the York County CBC, Dec. 20; an adult resided at Martinique Beach, N.S., Jan. 19-30 (IAM, ELM); and an immature at St. Johns Jan. 19 (PL) was a rare visitor to Newfoundland. Bruce MacTavish felt that the flight of Gyrfalcons in n. Newfoundland was probably bigger than any of the last 7 years, and speculated that the early deep freeze of the Labrador Coast and a high population of Dovekies off St. Anthony may have been responsible. A total of nine

was recorded on the L'Anse-aux-Meadows and St. Anthony CBCs, while Gyrs farther s. included three in New Brunswick, three in Vermont, and a light-phase bird at Milford Pt., Conn., Feb. 23-Mar. 2 (*vide* HFC). In Massachusetts, a Peregrine Falcon at Southwick Jan. 12 (PT) was a good find inland at that season, as was a Merlin at Hatfield Feb. 26 (DS).

SHOREBIRDS — A very late **Semipalmated Plover** at Marblehead, Mass., Jan. 16-18 (JS, RSH) was critically separated from possible *C. hiaticula* by toe-webbing and voice. Three Com. Snipe still present at St. Johns, Nfld., Feb. 19 were expected to survive the remainder of the winter (BM). Of even greater fortitude was a Spotted Sandpiper observed at Congamond, Mass., Dec. 29 (SK), providing a first-winter record for w. Massachusetts. Twenty-three Greater Yellowlegs were recorded on 6 s. New England CBCs, but only two birds lingered into February, at Orleans, Mass. (BN). A Lesser Yellowlegs was identified in direct comparison with several Greater on the Westport, Conn. CBC, Dec. 19 (FM). A Red Knot at Cape Tormentine Dec. 24 was believed to have furnished the latest record for New Brunswick, while a flock of 76 still at Marshfield, Mass., Dec. 26 was more than usual. A very tardy **Least Sandpiper** identified by voice at w. Harwich Dec. 4 (BN) provided only the second December record for Massachusetts. Single, calling Long-billed Dowitchers, not quite the winter rarity it once was, were described on the Mid Cape Cod CBC, Dec. 26 (BN) and on the Stratford-Milford CBC, Jan. 1.

GULLS, TERNS — Two gulls suspected of being Glaucous x Herring hybrids were a first-winter bird at Gloucester, Mass., Dec. 1 (RSH), and a second-winter bird at St. Johns, Nfld., Feb. 15 (PL, BM). Daily estimates of the number of Iceland Gulls in St. Johns Harbour ranged from 500-2200, adults outnumbering immatures, two or three to one and including no definite *glaucoides* individuals (PL, BM)

S.A.

Much confusion still exists concerning the distribution and identification of the Iceland Gull subspecies in the Region; *L. g. glaucoides* of Greenland and *L. g. kumlieni* of Baffin I., and adjacent areas. We here in the Northeast see ad. Iceland Gulls with primaries varying from seemingly white, through all shades of gray (vast majority) to black or nearly so. Because of frequent impressions by many observers that *kumlieni* is the rarer of the 2 forms, it must be re-emphasized that this is definitely not the case; *L. g. kumlieni* is the predominant form in the Northeast. If the nominate form occurs at all it involves a very small percentage of our Iceland Gulls. How often has a comment such as this been made: "I had ten Iceland Gulls and one was a Kumlien's." What this probably translates into is nine immatures and one adult! Separation of immatures in the field has yet to be demonstrated and field identification of ad. *glaucoides* is highly questionable as well. It must be remembered that individuals of *L. g. kumlieni* with light irides and whitish primaries are identical in these respects, to *L. g. glaucoides* [Smith, 1966: *Evol. in some arctic gulls (Larus)*].

W.E. Godfrey (pers. comm.) states that "although such individuals of *kumlieni* apparently are scarce, birds in which there is a mere trace of pigmentation in the wingtips are more frequent. Without closest scrutiny, most of these would appear in the field to have immaculate wing tips and thus be mistaken for the nominate race, *L. g. glaucoides*."

Lesser Black-backed Gulls, now too numerous to delineate individually, totaled 22+ in the Region this winter: Newfoundland (1-2), Nova Scotia (2); Maine (1), Massachusetts (11+), Rhode Island (3), Connecticut (4). The Maine bird, at Cape Neddick in early January was apparently the first photographically documented record for the state—clearly an anomaly in the Region. Two first-winter **Thayer's Gulls** at the Galilee fish pier Jan. 8-Feb. 28 (RAC, DLK *et al.*), were photographically documented, and constituted Rhode Island's first state record. Ring-billed Gulls are probably more abundant than ever before. New highs were achieved on 10 of 15 Connecticut CBCs with 2598 ± counted inland on the Quinnipiac Valley CBC, Dec. 18. Two Ivory Gulls s. of Newfoundland included an adult on the Sydneys, N.S. CBC (*vide* SIT), and a first-winter bird discovered at Portsmouth, N.H., Jan. 15, and later seen across the river at Kittery, Me., Jan. 17 (PDV *et al.*) A **Black Tern**, although not unprecedented, was startlingly late at Chatham, Mass., Dec. 5 (*vide* RPE).

ALCIDS — After several seasons in attenuation, the number of alcids in the Region's inshore waters rebounded well this winter. An abundance of plankton, including arrow-worms and euphausiid krill, as well as huge schools of squid (*fide* WCT), were at least in part responsible for the concentrations of alcids at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, which included 5390 Thick-billed Murres on the Brier I. CBC, Dec. 21, and 1200 on the Grand Manan, N.B. CBC, where 3800 Dovekies were also observed. Farther s. at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, Cape Cod, 2557 large unidentified alcids, 1210 Razorbills, and no Thick-billed Murres were counted on the CBC, Dec. 19. Dovekies flying and feeding off St. Anthony, Nfld., Jan. 1 totaled $15,000 \pm$ in 45 min., where it was speculated that $50,000 \pm$ were feeding along a 15-mi stretch of coast from St. Anthony n. to Cape Bauld (BM, PL *et al.*). Ever more impressive counts of Black Guillemots are recorded in Massachusetts each winter; 25 were notable on the Nantucket CBC, Jan. 1 and a remarkable 48 were at Provincetown Jan. 30 (BN).

OWLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — The n. limit of Screech Owls is still imprecisely known, but along the coast the "have and have not boundary" appears to be around the Merrimac R., where up to 28 have been recorded on the Newburyport CBC, yet the adjacent Coastal New Hampshire CBC, just a few miles n., witnessed its first Screech Owl only this year. A Hawk Owl was present at Cape Tormentine, N.B., Dec. 19-24, and reports were received of another near Renous, N.B., for much of the winter (*fide* SIT). No Great Gray Owls were reported. Single Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Maine were at Bangor and Portland in December and at Blue Hill throughout the period. Following a strong fall flight at least 25 Red-headed Woodpeckers were found this winter. Late, lingering W. Kingbirds from the fall season included singles in early December at Gloucester and Marshfield, Mass. (*fide* RSH), and a third was observed at Hopkinton, R.I., Dec. 3 (*fide* DLE), but an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Magnolia, Mass., Dec. 27 (JS) and a remarkable **Say's Phoebe** at Littleton, Mass., Jan. 2 (JB) were almost certainly reverse migrants that drifted into the Region during the S airflow of Dec. 24-25.

PARIDS — Despite a rather good flight of Black-capped Chickadees throughout New England, Boreal Chickadees—which often accompany such flights—were noteworthy for their absence s. of the spruce zone. For the first time in at least 8 years, none could be found at the Smith Richardson Sanctuary in Westport, Conn. (*fide* HFC), and it went unreported from Massachusetts this winter as well. Continuing the trend, Tufted Titmice were found farther n., in Maine than ever before, while the **Tufted Titmouse** that reached a Fredericton, N.B. feeder in late November and was photographed Dec. 24, provided New Brunswick's first substantiated record (PP *et al.*). Numbers on New England CBCs, however, actually decreased on both an actual and per party-hour basis.



Tufted Titmouse, first substantiated record for N.B., Fredericton, N.B., Dec. 24, 1982. Photo/C.L. Johnston.

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES — The warm spell in early December facilitated the arrival of Newfoundland's first **House Wren** at St. Johns Dec. 6-9 (BM, PL). A regular fall vagrant to Nova Scotia, its first occurrence in Newfoundland was not unexpected. The **Redwing** at St. Johns, previously reported in the fall season, was last seen Dec. 2 (BM *et al.*). About a three-fold increase of wintering Am. Robins in Connecticut this year over last, echoed similar comments throughout. A Varied Thrush was unique at Pittsfield, Mass., Feb. 18+ (*fide* SK). A very late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher flew in an open window at Pittsfield, Mass., Dec. 14, and a gnatcatcher at St. Johns, Nfld., Dec. 1 provided a 4th provincial record (RTB). Bohemian Waxwings apparently failed to reach us this winter. Only a single bird

was reported from the Maritimes and in Maine a few were reportedly present in late December, but none the remainder of the winter. Cedar Waxwings, on the other hand, were much more numerous than usual and the presence of several small flocks in c. Maine was said to be reminiscent of winters 20 years ago when Cedars were fairly common in winter (WCT). Northern Shrikes remained scarce everywhere in the Region.

WARBLERS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — Observations of late warblers in early December during the previously mentioned S airflow Dec. 1-7, was strongly suggestive of reverse migration. Included were sightings of a Black-and-white Warbler at St. Johns, Nfld., Dec. 6 (BM), a Tennessee at Halifax, N.S., Dec. 2 (SC, *fide* PRD), a Nashville at Naugatuck, Conn., Dec. 5 (*fide* HFC); a Black-throated Blue at Middleboro, Mass. (*fide* RPE) and an Am. Redstart at Chatham, Mass., both Dec. 5 (*fide* BN). Multiple Yellow-rumped Warblers far inland in Maine in December and January clearly portrayed the mildness of the season. Probably regular fall vagrants in the Region, single female or imm. male—plumaged N. (Bullock's) Orioles were identified on the Buzzard's Bay CBC, Dec. 18 (RAF) and at Magnolia, Mass., Dec. 30 (RSH). A W. Tanager was apparently unique this winter at Chatham, Mass., Dec. 27-28 (*fide* BN).

FRINGILLIDS — A **Blue Grosbeak** was a surprise on the Monhegan I., Me. CBC, Dec. 27 (PDV) and was one of few regional winter records. Evening Grosbeaks were certainly a major feature of the winter. Large flocks did not arrive until mid-December, but by the CBC period this extraordinary abundance was exemplified by counts of 2134 on the Springfield, Vt. CBC, Jan. 2 and 1739 on the Athol, Mass. CBC, Dec. 18. Purple Finches were scarce in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, but widespread and in greater abundance than they have been for several years in New England. The Region's most notable expansionist, the House Finch, increased on New England CBCs from 1671/1000 party-hours in 1981-82 to 2313/1000 this year. In Nova Scotia a single House Finch appeared on the Halifax West CBC, Dec. 19 (*fide* PRD). Except for Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finches, winter finches were as scarce as in any year in recent memory. Their status in the Region was best portrayed by the CBCs, which in New England recorded only 242 Pine Grosbeaks, 74 Com. Redpolls, 230 Pine Siskins, and 36 White-winged Crossbills. Red Crossbills must have been common somewhere, but in our area they were virtually nonexistent. Excluding Newfoundland where there was no mention of it, four Red Crossbills reported by a single observer in Nova Scotia was the only possible sighting all winter. Generating quite a bit of excitement was a **Henslow's Sparrow** discovered at Brookline, Mass., Dec. 19 and present until Jan. 15 during which time it could be observed at ranges within binocular focus. It provided, as far as I know, a first winter record for the Region (*fide* RPE). Two Seaside Sparrows were still present at Newburyport, Mass., Jan. 2 (RSH), where they are currently of regular occurrence throughout December in mild seasons.



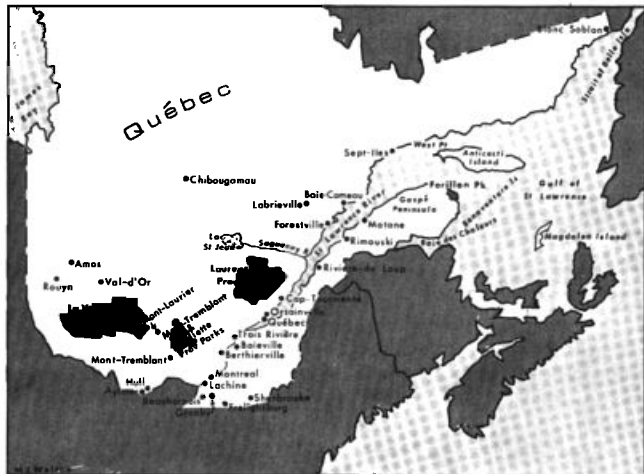
Henslow's Sparrow, Greater Boston CBC, Brookline, Mass., Dec. 19, 1982-Jan. 15, 1983. Photo/D.R. Arvidson.

SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS (boldface italics) **CONTRIBUTORS** (boldface), **OBSERVERS** and other **ABBREVIATIONS**—James Baird, **Roger T. Burrows**, **Shirley Cohrs**, Robert A. Conway, **Harold F. Crandall**, **Phyllis R. Dobson**, **David L. Emerson**, **Ruth P. Emery**, Richard A. Forster, Richard S. Heil, **Seth Kellogg**, Douglas L. Kraus, Paul Linegar, **Bruce Mactavish**, Frank Mantlik, **Ian A. McLaren**, Eric L. Mills, **Blair Nikula**, Peter Peace, Jan Smith, David Stemple, Scott Sumner, **Stuart I. Tingley**, **William C. Townsend**, Peter Trull, **Peter D. Vickery**.—**RICHARD S. HEIL**, 12 Audette St., Peabody, MA 01960.

QUEBEC REGION

/Michel Gosselin and Normand David

Winter temperature was above average in Southern Quebec and below average in Northern Quebec. Precipitation was close to normal but, in southern areas, often consisted of rain instead of snow, as a result of warmer temperatures.



LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A Com. Loon at Bic Feb. 28 (JG) provided an unusual winter record, as did an imm. Great Cormorant at Laprairie Dec. 4 (BB,MM). A Great Blue Heron at Windsor Jan. 29 (MB) established a record late departure date. Winter records of Canada Geese have increased in recent years in the Montreal area; the season's reports included 60 birds at Dundee and seven at Valleyfield Jan. 14 (*vide* JS), one at Saint-Jean until Jan. 28 (SC), two at LaSalle Jan. 22 and one at Saint-Timothée Feb. 6 (PBa). Two Canada Geese were also found at Saint-Michel, Bellechasse Co., Jan. 2 (PBr). Various duck species provided unusual winter occurrences: a ♂ Wood Duck at Sherbrooke Jan. 7 (FS) and a female wintering at Saint-Armand (JS, PBa), two Green-winged Teal at Saint-Jean until Dec. 31 (JS), an Am. Wigeon at Côte Sainte-Catherine P.P., Feb. 14-15 (PBa *et al.*), a Greater Scaup at Quebec City Jan. 3 (PP), a ♀ Oldsquaw near Mont-Laurier Dec. 7-26 and a male Mar. 10 (AM), a White-winged Scoter at Bergeronnes Feb. 9 (AB), a pair of Buffleheads in Arvida Feb. 6 (NB), and a Hooded Merganser overwintering in Hull (DSH).



Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk, East Angus, Que., Feb. 12-17, 1983. Photo/N. David.

RAPTORS — A Turkey Vulture was found in a fox trap at Carleton Dec. 11 (PF) and another was seen at Sherbrooke Feb. 5 (GBe); the latter was our third February occurrence, all since 1980. A relatively mild and snowless winter can explain the presence of Marsh Hawks in the Montreal area: one each at Ile Dupas Jan. 11 (LD), Brossard Jan. 30-Feb. 13 (PBa) and Beauharnois in early February (JB). There were at least ten Sharp-shinned Hawks in the Montreal area during January and February, an unprecedented total; most were preying upon small passerines at feeding stations. One was also seen at Rimouski Feb. 16 (DR). The best find of the season was a Red-tailed Hawk at East-Angus Feb. 12-17 (YB, SD, NV, m.ob.); its peculiar plumage—back and upperwings decidedly blackish, heavily marked breast, white tail with a wide subterminal black band—pointed to the *harlani* race in light-phase. A Red-shouldered Hawk at Saint-Lazare Feb. 6-10 (*vide* PS)

was probably overwintering locally. Winter reports of Merlins have increased in recent years, to the point that we can now consider the species as rare but regular in winter; they were noted this year at Saint-Valérien Dec. 31 (JL), Saint-Joseph, Beauce Co., Jan. 28-29 (YM), Rimouski Jan. 31 (GP), Carleton Feb. 1 (LB), Saint-Raymond Feb. 14 (JCI), and Saint-Irénée Feb. 27 (ADc). The same can be said of the Peregrine Falcon, with sightings in Rimouski Dec. 19 (GG), Thurso Jan. 8 (ML) and Saint-Prime Feb. 19 (GT), in addition to two birds seen intermittently in downtown Montreal (RG). An Am. Kestrel was noted far e. in the St. Lawrence Valley, at Clermont Feb. 27 (ADc).

PARTRIDGES THROUGH GULLS — The Gray Partridge was found at Saint-Gabriel de Brandon, at the n. edge of its range (LM). Noted s. of 50° N latitude each winter since 1977-78, the cyclical irruptions of Willow Ptarmigans have ended; very few birds were seen s. of 54° N this year. Three Killdeer at Stoke Feb. 26 (JJD) were extremely early while a Com. Snipe at Saint-Raymond Feb. 20 (JCI) was probably an overwintering bird. Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen in Aylmer Dec. 4-5 (JD, MG).

S.A.

The many Iceland Gulls present in the St. Lawrence Estuary in winter always show a wide range of plumage variation. One bird for example, seen at Matane Nov. 21 (JH, MG *et al.*), had a mantle slightly darker than that of a Herring Gull; the bird was otherwise typical of the Iceland Gull, with almost pure white primaries. This is just one of the many variations to be encountered among North American Iceland Gulls. In adult plumage, primaries can be pure white to moderately or heavily marked, and eye color can vary from yellow to uniformly dark. Some (including some CBC compilers) are still under the impression that the Kumlien's Gull is "the" rare variety of Iceland Gull, when actually the vast majority of Iceland Gulls in North America are *kumlieni*. Despite the fact that the latest A.O.U. Checklist has kept the Thayer's Gull as a distinct species, there is a growing mass of evidence showing a continuum in the *glaucooides-kumlieni-thayeri* complex (*e.g.*, *Continental Birdlife* 2: 1-10). Although the two ends of this complex are quite distinct, the *kumlieni* group, wintering mainly around the Gulf of St. Lawrence, is the problematical one. Anyone familiar with the wide array of variations in Kumlien's Gull would be hesitant to identify any but the ultra-typical Thayer's Gull as *thayeri*. Although there are several published records of Thayer's Gulls in Quebec, only a few have been properly documented; this winter an adult was reported from Côte Sainte-Catherine P.P., Jan. 8 (BB). A typical first-year bird was present in Aylmer until Jan. 9 (DSH *et al.*) and, more unexpectedly, another was at LaMalbaie Feb. 26 (MG, JH, GS); this not only provided the first report e. of Montreal, but it was also the first mid-winter occurrence (details in *Bull. ornith.*).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES — Impressive counts of 35 and 45 Mourning Doves were made at Ormstown and Pike-River respectively Feb. 14 & 21 (PBa) in addition to 50 birds recorded at Saint-Gabriel de Brandon in February (LM). Hawk Owls were reported from half a dozen localities across S. Quebec. Both Long-eared and Short-eared owls were noted in usual numbers, one of the latter being seen near Percé Jan. 29 (RBi). The Boreal Owls of the season were sighted in Rimouski (GG), Saint-Raymond (AC) and Saint-Joseph de la Rive (SM). Single Belted Kingfishers wintered in Sherbrooke (PBo) and Crabtree (RL); their winter presence seems more and more regular in S. Quebec. The northernmost Red-bellied Woodpecker in Quebec was observed at Saint-Joseph de la Rive Dec. 31-Feb. 20 (HM, m.ob.). A Tufted Titmouse overwintered in Acton-Vale and two were discovered at Saint-Benoît du Lac Feb. 24 (*vide* PBo); the species is thus still present in the E. Townships 4 years after the invasion of 1978-79. Brown Creepers were exceptionally in evidence this season, wintering as far n. as Jonquière (CG) and Rimouski (*vide* PD). The only Carolina Wren of the winter was reported from Senneville Dec. 28-Jan. 23 (ME). Another species with a good showing was the Golden-crowned Kinglet, seen in February at Arvida (JM) and near Percé (12 birds—LL). A very late Swainson's Thrush was present at Gatineau Dec. 12 (RBr). The abundance of Am. Robins was linked to the exceptional

crop of Mountain-Ash berries; noteworthy counts of this bird included:

52	Tadoussac	C.B.C.	(fide GC)
17	St-Joseph de la Rive	Jan. 22	(YA)
193	near Valcartier	Jan. 30	(SLm)
50	Cap-Tourmente	Feb. 5	(ADc)
50	Magog	Feb. 13	(GV)
30	Bergeronnes	Feb. 19	(AB)
100	near Percé	Feb. 20	(LL)
60	St-Raymond	Feb. 27	(JCI)
21	Mont-Louis	winter	(CB)

MOCKINGBIRDS THROUGH WARBLERS — Among the migrants attempting to overwinter was a Mockingbird at Rimouski until Feb. 4 (YG, GG) and a Brown Thrasher at Saint-Nicolas Feb. 1-2 (GPI). Cedar Waxwings were among the conspicuous birds of the winter, two birds at Matagami Dec. 30 (ADc) and 75 at Bergeronnes Feb. 27 (AB) were two of the noteworthy records of the species. Warblers also took advantage of a good season: in addition to the Yellow-rumped Warblers seen in mid-winter in the Montreal and Hull areas, single birds were at Saint-Joseph de la Rive until at least Feb. 19 (GG), Saint-Aubert until Feb. 6 (GB0) and Bic Feb. 20-28 (JG). A Pine Warbler survived in Rimouski until Jan. 11 (GG, GP) and another at LaPocatière until Jan. 18 (CA); both localities are well outside the species' range. Another extremely late occurrence was that of a Palm Warbler, at Rimouski until Dec. 8 (GP, GG).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — A rare mid-winter occurrence of the E. Meadowlark was noted at Luskville Jan. 30 (DSH). Common Grackles wintered in Rimouski (fide PD) and perhaps Sainte-Anne des Monts Jan. 29 (ADs). The only notable sightings of Cardinals were from our Appalachian region: a female at Saint-Georges, Beauce Co., until Jan. 30 (SLs) and another at Frontenac Feb. 14 (AS). Except for a late-winter movement of Evening Grosbeaks, true winter finches, as a rule, remained n. House finches were noted at Georgeville (PL), Longueuil (RD), Philipsburg (GM) and Sherbrooke (PBo). Usually

scarce in winter, the Am. Goldfinch and the Purple Finch were ever-present during the 1982-83 season. The former species was seemingly replacing redpolls, absent this winter; a flock of 150 Am. Goldfinches at the Tadoussac CBC (fide GC) exemplified the phenomenon. A Red Crossbill was even seen 200 km n. of Matagami Dec. 29 (ADc). The wintering of out-of-range Rufous-sided Towhees was again noted, one was present in Rimouski Jan. 20-Feb. 8 (DL) and a male of one of the w. races was at Sainte-Famille Jan. 23 + (MP, m.ob.). The w. form of the Dark-eyed Junco was reported from Rigaud Jan. 1 (GH), while a similar bird wintered in nearby Saint-Lazare (JCI, m.ob.). A Field Sparrow was seen at Saint-Georges de Beauce until mid-February (GL, AL). The White-crowned Sparrow wintered in Hull (DSH) and probably at Bic, where one was seen Feb. 20-28 (JG). Single Song Sparrows were at Sainte-Luce until Feb. 20 (RC) and Bergeronnes until the end of the season (AB).

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS — Y. Aubry, C. Auchu, Y. Bachand, P. Bannon (PBA), J. Barney, B. Barnhurst, G. Beattie (GBE), M. Beattie, R. Bisson (RBI), Y. Blackburn, P. Boily (PBO), A. Bouchard, C. Bouchard, G. Bouchard (GBO), R. Bracken (RBR), N. Breton, P. Brousseau (PBR), L. Bujold, G. Chapdelaine, J. Cibula (JCI), R. Claveau, J. Cloutier (JCI), A. Côté, S. Côté, M. Darveau, S. Deshaies, A. Desrochers (ADc), A. Desrosiers (ADs), B. DiLabio, L. Drainville, J. Dubois, J.J. Dubois, P. Dupal, R. Dupuy, M. Elliott, P. Fallu, R. Galbraith, Y. Gauthier, J. Gardner, G. Gendron, C. Girard, J. Hardy, G. Huot, R. Labine, L. Lagueux, P. Landry, M. Lalancette, D. Larivée, J. Larivée, A. Larocque, G. Larocque, S. Lemieux (SLm), S. Lessard (SLs), Y. Maheu, L. Masse, S. Massicotte, M. McIntosh, H. Mead, J. Meloche, G. Montgomery, A. Morin, P. Perreault, G. Plante (GPI), M. Poulin, G. Proulx (GP), D. Ruest, D. Saint-Hilaire, A. Samson, J. Sauro, F. Shaffer, G. Seutin, P. Smith, G. Trencia, N. Vanasse, G. Volas. — MICHEL GOSSELIN, 370 Metcalfe No. 707, Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 1S9, and NORMAND DAVID, Centre de recherches écologiques de Montréal, 5858 Côte des Neiges, Montreal, Quebec, H3S 1Z1.

HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

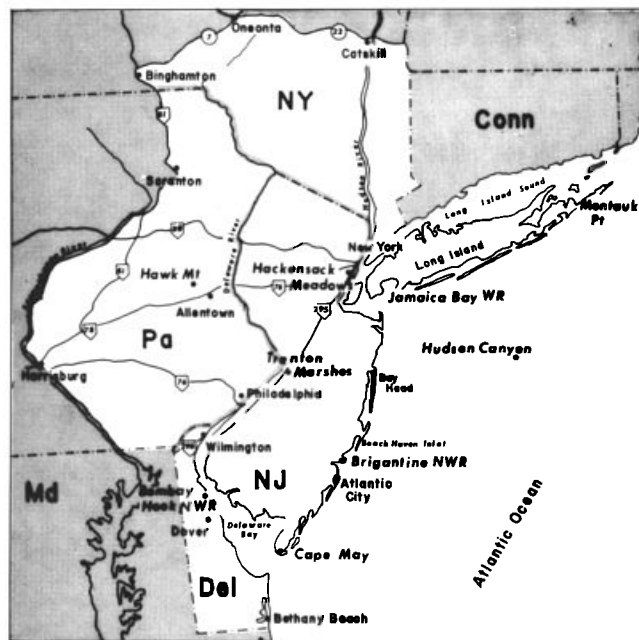
/William J. Boyle, Jr., Robert O. Paxton and David A. Cutler

The extraordinarily mild winter was one of the warmest on record and resulted in a substantial increase in the numbers of half-hardy migrants such as Tree Swallow, Brown Thrasher and Rufous-sided Towhee that chose to remain in the Region. Although the winter mortality is usually high for these birds, many of them survived the season. In spite of the warm weather, most observers commented on the scarcity of passerine birds, made especially obvious by the almost total absence of northern finches. In contrast, coastal birders were impressed by the abundance of waterfowl and even most inland compilers commented on the large numbers of gulls, particularly around landfills, but also in shopping malls, schoolyards and golf courses. Finally, there was a scattering of rarities, just enough to keep up the interest, but not enough to make it an exciting winter season.

December, at almost 8°F above normal, was the warmest since record-keeping began in New York City 113 years ago. The final week of the year produced temperatures in the mid-60s for several days. January and February were not quite so extreme, but were still several degrees warmer than usual. A dry December produced only one significant snowfall, but January and February were portents of a soggy spring to come. The major event was the blizzard of February 11, which dumped up to two feet of snow over most of the Region. In spite of its magnitude, the storm appears to have affected the human inhabitants of the Region more severely than the avian.

Frequently used abbreviations are: Bombay Hook, Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig., Brigantine N.W.R., Atlantic Co., N.J.; J.B.W.R., Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City; Primehook, Primehook N.W.R., Sussex Co., Del.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Loons, though not common, were



much more in evidence along the coast this winter, and a few took advantage of the warm season to winter at such inland locations as Round Valley Res., N.J., and the lower Susquehanna R., Pa. The highlight of the family was an Arctic Loon discovered on the Barnegat Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) and described in convincing detail by Hanisek and B. Marx. There are only a handful of acceptable records for New Jersey. Only three Red-necked Grebes were reported,

one on the Sandy Hook, N.J., CBC, one at Rehoboth, Del., Jan. 1 (GKH, BR), and the last at Cape Henlopen Feb. 22 (KW). Horned Grebes continue to be very scarce except for a few favored locations, and Kane characterizes the population as in "virtual collapse" from former numbers. An outstanding find was an Eared Grebe, identified and nicely sketched at Cape May Jan. 31 by D. Sibley.



White Pelicans, Brigantine N.W.R., N.J., Feb. 5, 1983. Photo/S. Lafrance.

Two White Pelicans appeared at Brig., Dec. 23 and decided to spend the winter, disappearing for only brief spells when the water in the refuge pools froze (JD, m.ob.). Among the increasing numbers of Great Cormorants wintering were up to 20 on the Hudson R., at Caven Cove, Jersey City, N.J. The mild weather encouraged numerous Double-crested Cormorants to winter along the coast. Herons and egrets lingered in unusually large numbers, as best detailed in the many records for regional CBCs. A Great Egret stayed inland at Mercer County P., N.J., until mid-January (RJB *et al.*), while a Snowy Egret was found at Moriches, L.I., Jan. 22 (GSR). Even more unusual, however, were Green Herons at Southampton, L.I., Dec. 18 (GSR) and at Cinnaminson, N.J., Jan. 6 (JT). A Glossy Ibis at Middletown, Del., Dec. 26 provided the first winter record in the state in several years (JR, JGo), but six were reported from New Jersey, including one at Brig., Jan. 8-30 (JD, WJB *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — The U.S.F. & W.S.'s Midwinter Waterfowl Survey for the Atlantic Flyway (hereafter, M.W.S.), conducted Jan. 3-20 in cooperation with the individual state wildlife units, found near normal numbers for the flyway, but above normal counts in New York and New Jersey, as many geese and dabbling ducks took advantage of the open water to stay n. for the winter. Although waterfowl were widely dispersed due to the open conditions, there were some impressive local concentrations: 3000 Whistling Swans feeding in wheat fields w. of Middletown, Del.; 30,000 Black Ducks in the ponds at Brig.; 31,000 scaup on Raritan Bay, N.Y.-N.J.

The Atlantic Coastal population of Brant, about three-quarters of which winter in New York and New Jersey, continues its strong recovery from the lows of the late 1970s. Numbers have nearly tripled since 1978 to 123,500 (see AB 32:327 for an account of earlier trends). For a few weeks in December (including the day of the CBC), Bombay Hook held all 6 species of geese known to occur in the e., including: a wild and wary Barnacle Goose Dec. 14-Jan. 2 (PWS *et al.*); one Ross' Goose, a holdover from the fall season; and three White-fronted Geese, including two adults of the Greenland race (*vide* DAC).

A Eur. Green-winged Teal was at Bargaintown L., Atlantic Co., N.J., Dec. 18 and Jan. 14 (JD); another was at Massapequa, L.I., Jan. 2 (R. Sloss *et al.*), and a third was at J.B.W.R., Feb. 20 (RKe). The M.W.S. turned up five Blue-winged Teal at Brig., for a rare mid-winter record. About five ♂ Eur. Wigeon wintered on Long Island (*vide* THD, GSR), two at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J. (m.ob.), and three were in s. New Jersey in December-early January, but left after their ponds were temporarily frozen. A hybrid Eurasian x American Wigeon was in E. Moriches, L.I., Dec. 30 (GSR).

Except for Greater Scaup, most of the diving ducks were in short supply, although the M.W.S. shows that this was because more of them wintered to the s. of this Region, in spite of the mild weather. Redhead, Canvasback and Com. Goldeneye were unusually scarce. The ♂ Tufted Duck reported in the fall remained at Central Park Res., N.Y.C., to Jan. 29 (m.ob.). The indomitable ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye spent his 14th consecutive winter at Shark River, N.J. (m.ob.); more unusual was a female on the Hudson R., at Cornwall Bay, Orange Co., N.Y. (BSe *et al.*). Up to eight Harlequin Ducks were at the Cape May Coast Guard Jetty December-early January, but disappeared thereafter. One was at Barnegat Light, N.J., Jan. 29 (*vide* AH). A female was at Great

Kills P., Staten I., in December, and five males and two females wintered on Long Island, including four at Montauk (m.ob.). The most unusual was a ♂ Harlequin at Rye, N.Y., Feb. 20, for a first Westchester County record (TWB *et al.*).

Eider reports were rather spotty. Other than the 14 Com. Eiders at Montauk Jan. 15 (GSR), there were two at Cape May off and on in



Tufted Duck, Central Park, N.Y., Dec. 31, 1982. Photo/S. Lafrance.

December and January, a drake at Cape Henlopen Dec. 7 (WWF) and a female at the same location Jan. 15 (WWF, MVB *et al.*). A ♂ King Eider, which showed up at Cape May Pt., in September and proceeded to molt into ad. plumage, lingered into February. Two females were on both the Cape May and Barnegat CBCs, but the only other report was of a male at Montauk Jan. 20 (GSR). Scoters were practically nonexistent; indeed, the M.W.S. found only 1400 in the entire Region, all on eastern Long Island. For the Atlantic Flyway only 17,300 scoters were recorded, compared to an average of 60,000 for the previous 5 years. Ruddy Duck appears to be continuing its long-term decline, from 139,000 in 1979 to only 40,000 this year for the entire flyway. The regional total of 2500 includes 2200 from the traditional Delaware R. wintering area, but this number is down 63% from the 10-year average and is a tiny fraction of the former concentrations. Oil spills in the lower Delaware in the mid 1970s are at least partly responsible for this decline (see AB 36:278). Mergansers, on the other hand, were quite plentiful. Especially impressive was a concentration of ca. 1000 Hoodeds at Brig., Dec. 11 (WJB *et al.*). Most of them (694) remained for the CBC Dec. 19, despite an intervening freeze, but the majority had departed by mid-January.

RAPTORS — Better-than-average numbers of raptors wintered, apparently induced to remain by the mild temperatures and general lack of snow cover. The New Jersey Raptor Association's annual winter census, held Jan. 29, found 3138 birds, almost 50% above the previous high. This was owing in part to improved coverage, but mainly to big increases in the numbers of Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks wintering in the state. Turkey Vultures, which normally partially withdraw from the Region during the coldest part of the winter, were especially conspicuous. Although the 1025 on the N.J.R.A., census were concentrated in the s. counties, over 100 were in Hunterdon and Somerset cos., in the n.-c. part of the state. Inland Pennsylvania held even higher densities, such as 566 on the S. Lancaster County CBC, Dec. 19 and 350+ at a Summeytown, Montgomery Co., roost all winter (A & JM, GAF). A single at W. Nyack, N.Y., Jan. 17-24 furnished a rare mid-winter find (PDe, RFD). Black Vultures continued to increase dramatically. The Conowingo I. roost in the Susquehanna R., Lancaster Co., Pa., held 180 Dec. 8, and the local CBC tallied 341. Thirty were in the Summeytown roost during the winter and a similar number were at a Milton, Del., feedlot Feb. 9 (WWF), an unusually high concentration for the latter state. In New Jersey, where the species was a much-sought-after rarity just 5 years ago, there were at least 50 during January-February. Most of the birds were in Salem and Hunterdon cos., but there were records from 8 of the state's 21 counties.

Accipiters were very much in evidence, especially at feeding stations. Goshawk reports were far above normal, including a number s. of their usual range. Following the record high tally of 43 for the fall at Cape May, one observer had four there and two others up the Delaware Bayshore Dec. 7 (RBa). Singles at the Milton, Del., feedlot, Jan. 25 (WWF) and at Cape Henlopen Feb. 22 (KW), were excellent finds. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were widely reported and seemed to be making a living picking off the sub-average numbers of songbirds at feeders.

Red-tailed Hawks were conspicuous, with 1138 located on the N.J.R.A. census and a record high 122 on the S. Lancaster County

CBC. A N flight at Blue Mountain, Pa., Feb. 27, produced 31 birds in 5 minutes (EW, CH). A half-dozen reports of wintering Broad-winged Hawks were received; one or two might be correct, but the weight of evidence is against them. Although wandering migrants occasionally linger at Cape May into December, this species is extremely rare anywhere n. of South Florida in winter. It was an off year for Rough-legged Hawks, but there were a few local concentrations, such as 16 in the Hackensack Meadows, Bergen-Hudson cos., N.J., and 18 at the Tuckahoe-Corbin City W.M.A., Atlantic-Cape May cos., N.J. (CS), both Jan. 29.

Eagle reports were unexceptional, perhaps owing to the mild season. Sutton estimated that five Golden Eagles (1 ad., 4 imm.) wintered in s. New Jersey (CS); another three (2 ad., 1 imm.) were in Sullivan County, N.Y. (PN, JPT). More noteworthy were an adult in Wilmington, Del., Jan. 4-20 (C. Miller), another (age?) at Milton Dec. 30-Jan. 3 (WWF), and what were possibly the same two birds (1 ad., 1 imm.) at Primehook during the winter (GO). Pennsylvania reports came from Nazareth, Northampton Co., Dec. 19 (L. Mattioli) and the Delaware Water Gap during February (L. Rymon).

Bald Eagle numbers averaged about the same as in recent winters. The National Wildlife Federation Bald Eagle Census Jan. 8-9 turned up eight birds in New Jersey (6 ad., 2 imm.), but Sutton estimated that about 14 (9 ad., 5 imm.) were present in the s. part of the state during the winter (CS). Another Bald Eagle was on the Delaware R., at Cinnaminson, Jan. 15 (JT). Three were in the Bombay Hook area in December and a maximum of three wintered on the lower Susquehanna R., Pa. (RMS). The biggest numbers of Bald Eagles were, as usual, in s. New York. In addition to two on Long Island in early January (M. Scheibel), the peak count for the Hudson R., and Sullivan County Reservoirs was 42 (25 ad., 17 imm.) Feb. 14 (PN). Marsh Hawks were also present in near normal numbers, for example, 211 on the N.J.R.A. Census.

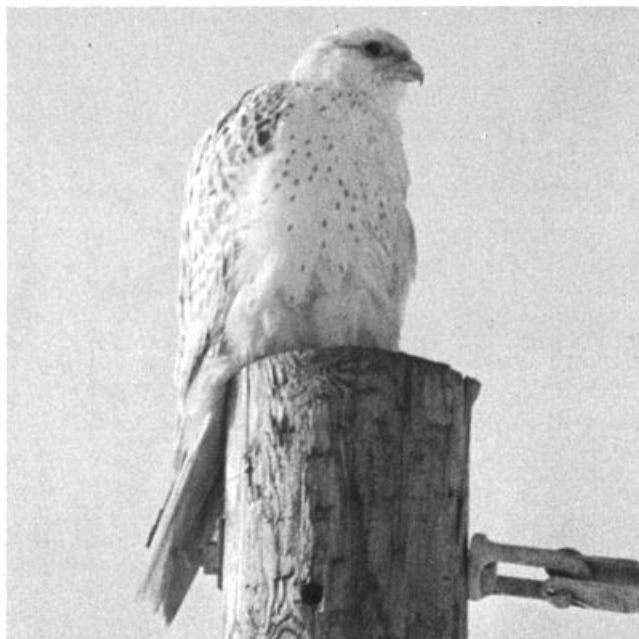
S.A.

One of the most remarkable and tragic stories of the year is the sequel to the saga of the Lancaster County Gyrfalcons of last winter. A year ago we detailed the appearance of first a white and later a gray Gyrfalcon near New Holland, in the Amish farming county of s.e. Pennsylvania. This pair, a male and a female, thrilled hundreds of observers from all over the northeast as they performed dazzling aerial duets and perched together in a local quarry for nearly 3 months. Incredibly, the two birds reappeared at the same quarry Jan. 4 (TA, A & JM), and many birders rushed to the area the following weekend as the word spread.

Although the pair was seen flying together during the week, locking talons in mid-air, observers on Sunday noted that the gray female looked ill and never moved from her perch all day. She became progressively weaker and on the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 13, she died and fell from her perch in the quarry to a ledge below. From there, the body was retrieved by Amico, who descended on ropes to reach it. Mark Robbins of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences drove to Lancaster that same morning to get the specimen and return it to the Academy, where an autopsy revealed that the bird, an ad. female, had died from a bacterial infection in the liver. A nematode parasite had caused a lesion in the duodenum, allowing bacteria to enter the bloodstream and thence the liver, where they proved fatal.

The male disappeared for a time soon after the death of his mate, but later returned and was still present in April. According to the quarry owner, this bird has been wintering in the area for 5 years. We wonder what a search of other s.e. Pennsylvania quarries might turn up in mid-winter. Our thanks to Armas Hill for the details of this story.

The Region's other Gyrfalcons were in New Jersey. A gray bird was discovered at Barnegat Light Jan. 22 (JDo), and was seen sporadically around Barnegat Bay into mid-February. A white Gyrfalcon was found at Linwood Feb. 13 and photographed in stunning detail (CD, MD). The bird was seen again in early April and found roosting on the nearby golf course. Consultation with the groundskeeper revealed that it had



Gyrfalcon, Linwood, N.J., Feb. 13, 1983. Photo/M. Danzenbaker.

been there since November, much to the chagrin of area birders. A third Gyrfalcon, also white, was seen at Stockton, Hunterdon Co., Feb. 13 (OH). Merlin reports were well above normal, with 9 of 14 sightings coming from CBCs. The remaining 5 sightings were all in coastal New Jersey and Delaware in January and February and were all by experienced observers.

SHOREBIRDS — The mild weather produced only a small scattering of holdover shorebirds, but above-average counts of some species that ordinarily winter in small numbers. Among these were a single Am. Oystercatcher at Jones Beach S. P., L.I., to Jan. 8 (m.ob.) and up to 14 wintering at Stone Harbor-Avalon, N.J. (BMo *et al.*). A single at Indian R. Inlet, Del., Feb. 19, may have been a returning migrant (WWF, MVB). A Semipalmated Plover at Jones Beach, also to Jan. 8, provided the only regional report (m.ob., ph. EL). The Spotted Sandpiper at Bear Mt., Palisades Interstate P., N.Y., Jan. 5 (*vide* RFD), furnished the fourth winter record in the past 5 years, but the others were all in December. A Willet at Bombay Hook to at least Feb. 6 was the first to attempt to overwinter since 1976, although there have been a few late December records.

Greater and Lesser yellowlegs and Red Knot were all widely reported in unusually high numbers. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Cape May Dec. 10, was late (CS), but quite extraordinary were two Least Sandpipers which appeared at Octararo Res., Lancaster Co., Pa., in October and lingered at this inland location until Jan. 2 (L. Lewis, *vide* AH). Another Least Sandpiper was at N. Arlington, N.J., Feb. 19 (DO *et al.*). Two or three Long-billed Dowitchers wintered at Lawrence, L.I. (EL, RKe); five were on New Jersey CBCs and at least three stayed for the winter at Turkey Pt., Cumberland Co. (PDu). More unusual was a Short-billed Dowitcher, identified by call, at Cape May Jan. 26 (PDu). A number of W. Sandpipers were in s. New Jersey in December and two were still in Wildwood Crest Jan. 22 (RKA *et al.*).

GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — White-winged gulls were not especially numerous this winter, but were found in all of the regular spots. Continuing recent trends, there was a good proportion of inland reports. Two Glaucous Gulls at New Bloomfield, Pa., Dec. 19 (OKS) were the farthest from the sea. Other reports were of one at Bombay Hook, Jan. 1-Feb. 6 (KCL), for the first refuge record; one at the Salem County, N.J., dump Dec. 19 (RBa); and up to two at the Mt. Holly, N.J., landfill in January and February (K. Tischner, H. Fenimore). Up the Hudson R., there were single Glaucous Gulls at Newburgh Jan. 17 (BSe) and at the Poughkeepsie dump Feb. 28 (RTWBC). Iceland Gulls were more confined to the coast, but inland sightings included one at the Mt. Holly landfill in January (J. LaVia) and another at Florence, N.J., on the Delaware R., Feb. 2 (RJB). One at Culver's L., Sussex

Co., N.J., Dec. 19 (FFr, RM), was with a concentration of gulls from a local dump. The only other inland Iceland Gull was at Newburgh Jan. 17-Feb. 11 (BSe).

Three different reports of **Thayer's Gull** were received this winter, all with lengthy substantiating details from experienced observers. The three gulls, all in New Jersey, were: a subadult, probably third-winter, at the Salem County dump Dec. 19 (RBA); a first-year bird at the N. Arlington, Bergen Co., dump Jan. 30-Feb. 24 (DR, K. Prytherch, C. Mayhood *et al.*); and a first-year bird at Lily L., Cape May Pt., Feb. 19 (JB). Although there have been an increasing number of reliable reports in recent years, we are still lacking a photograph or modern specimen for the Region. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are becoming too numerous to list in detail. There were four in New York and nine in New Jersey. An adult at Bombay Hook Dec. 11 (MVB, SJM) provided a new refuge record, and another at Roosevelt P., Philadelphia Feb. 20 furnished only the second record for the city (H. Armistead). Five Black-headed Gull reports were well below normal and seven of the nine Little Gull sightings were in December.

Late Forster's Terns were at Holgate, Long Beach I., N.J., Dec. 11 (DH) and on the Cape May CBC, but 12 at Indian R. Inlet Jan. 17 were apparently wintering (WWF). Royal Terns also lingered late, with two at Indian R., Dec. 6 (WWF) and a single on the Cape May CBC.

Although there was no invasion, alcid reports were significantly better than usual. Two Razorbills were at Montauk during the winter, three were seen from the Cape May ferry Jan. 10 (PDU) and another was at Cape May Pt., Feb. 5 (*vide* PDU). An oiled Razorbill, picked at Rehoboth Beach, Del., Dec. 25 (WWF), later died at Primehook. Single Thick-billed Murres were at Montauk Dec. 18-19 (TWB *et al.*), at the Cape May Coast Guard Jetty Dec. 5-23 (PDU, DS, m.ob.), and at Sea Girt, N.J., Dec. 13 (J. Padalino, BMe, RJB, RKa).

An emaciated Dovekie was found in a backyard in Bayport, L.I., Dec. 16 and died the next day despite efforts to feed it (E. Austin, *vide* FFi). Another was found dead at Mattituck, L.I., Dec. 17 (*vide* A. Dove). A pelagic trip out of Cape May Dec. 5 found numbers of Dovekies (*ca.* 60—PDU); a single was on the Sandy Hook CBC and another was seen off Harvey Cedars, Long Beach I., Jan. 23 (*vide* AH). A Dovekie was flying S at Rehoboth Beach Jan. 7 (WWF). For the second time in 3 years a **Black Guillemot** was at Montauk, this one Feb. 19 (M. Sohmer, B. Baker).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the Central Suffolk County, L.I., CBC, Dec. 27, provided the latest regional record by far; fortunately, an identifiable color photograph was obtained (D. Schmidt, R. Mohlmann, *vide* GSR). Four Barn Owls at the Baxter State Game Lands, Del., Feb. 19, were at a new locale, which also held four Long-eared Owls (APE, J. Skolnicki). Primehook had a high density of Great Horned Owls, with 16 present during the winter, including a pair that attempted to nest on the ground for the second year in a row. The nest was abandoned after the female was buried in a snowdrift from the February blizzard (GO).

There was a fair flight of Snowy Owls. Eight to ten were on Long Island, mainly in December and early January (*vide* THD), a single was at Piermont Pier, Rockland Co., N.Y., Jan. 8 (M. Boyes, N. & H. Pollock), and another entertained many observers in downtown Poughkeepsie Dec. 16-29 (A. Strain, R. T. W. B. C.). In New Jersey, one was on the Oceanville CBC, Dec. 19, one was at Barnegat Light Jan. 2-mid February (m.ob.), another at Liberty S.P., Feb. 24 into March (M. Blair, m.ob.), and the last at Holgate Feb. 27 (A & JM). A Snowy Owl was at the Dover, Del., Air Force Base in late February (*vide* GO) and one was in Lancaster County, Pa., in January (*vide* AH). Long-eared Owls were in scattered locations in modest numbers, so Heck's total of 29 found in 8 different places represented considerable diligence (OH). His study area is the premier breeding grounds for the species in New Jersey. Short-eared Owl numbers were the best in nearly a decade. Single party counts of 25 and 17 on two New Jersey CBCs (37 total on the Barnegat CBC) were outstanding (RKa *et al.*). Other notable concentrations were 10 at the Galeville Airport, Ulster Co., N.Y. (JPT) and five at Reedy Pt., Del., Feb. 5 (WJW, MR).

There were scattered reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers from most parts of the Region, especially from areas where they nest, such as s. New York, n.w. New Jersey and s.e. Pennsylvania. Four found at Central P., N.Y.C., Dec. 19, stayed for the winter (P. Post). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers wintered in well above normal numbers, and were

found on most CBCs. Despite the mild weather there were only a handful of E. Phoebe records on CBCs, and none thereafter. A W. Kingbird at Turkey Pt., N.J., Dec. 8, was late, but not without precedent (DK, C. Phillips). Also late was an unidentified *Empidonax* at Tobay, L.I., Dec. 7 (P. Bernarth).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS — Large numbers of Tree Swallows were found along the New Jersey coast all winter, and most of them appear to have survived the season. The biggest flock reported was 150 at Brig., Jan. 22 (JD). A Barn Swallow at Cape May Pt., Dec. 7, was a late migrant (DW). Two Com. Ravens at Slide Mt., Ulster Co., Dec. 7 were presumably the local residents (AB, *vide* FM), but two passing by Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N.J., Dec. 9 were clearly migrants (JDo). A Com. Raven along the Susquehanna R., at Berwick, Pa., during the winter was at an unusually low elevation (DG).

Not a single Boreal Chickadee was reported, in contrast to last year's invasion, and Red-breasted Nuthatches were decidedly scarce. In addition to 3 CBC reports, a House Wren was at Palmyra, N.J., Dec. 25-Jan. 7 (T. Bailey). Winter Wren, a vanishing species in this Region, continues to be very uncommon in winter as well as in migration and, except for CBCs, there were fewer than a half-dozen reports. A Long-billed Marsh Wren at 6½ Station Marsh, Orange Co., N.Y., Jan. 9 furnished a first winter record for the county (F. & W. Abbott). The only Short-billed Marsh Wrens were the five on the Rehoboth CBC, Jan. 1. Catbirds and Brown Thrashers took advantage of the mild weather to winter in well above average numbers.



♂ Varied Thrush, Mercer Co., N.J., Dec.-Feb. 28+, 1983. Photo/E. Breden.

A beautifully plumaged ♂ Varied Thrush at a Hamilton Square, Mercer Co., N.J., feeder throughout the period provided the only regional record (G. & T. Bentley, ph. E. Breden). Eastern Bluebirds continued their strong recovery, thanks in part to the many nest box programs. Some high CBC totals were 250 in S. Lancaster County, Pa.; 155 in West Chester, Pa.; and 38 at Great Swamp-Watchung Ridges, N.J. Thirty-eight were also found on an unofficial count at Seaford, Del., Dec. 18 (BF).

Shrikes were very scarce. Only three N. Shrikes were found, all in December, and only one stayed more than 3 days. One was at Allentown, Pa., Dec. 11-13 (CH, BLM, EW), another at Montgomery, Orange Co., N.Y., Dec. 15 (BSe), and the last at Denville, Morris Co., N.J., Dec. 26 to mid-January (G. Mahler, R. Radis *et al.*). Similarly, three Loggerhead Shrikes were reported: one wintered at the Galeville Airport, N.Y., from Dec. 8 (BSe, JPT *et al.*); one was on the Gloucester, N.J., CBC, Jan. 21; and the annual bird was at Rosedale P., Mercer Co., N.J., Dec. 30 into March (JB, m.ob.).

The mild weather produced above-average counts of the expected warblers on the CBCs, but surprisingly few rarities. Yellow-rumped, Pine and Palm warblers and Com. Yellowthroat were all well represented, and there were four Orange-crowned Warblers in the New York City area. Yellow-rumped were especially common all winter. In addition to the rarities reported on the CBCs, there was a Cape May Warbler at a feeder near the Ashokan Res., Ulster Co., N.Y. in early December (AB, *vide* FM).

The premier passerine rarity of the season was the beautiful ad. ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** discovered in the courtyard of a Princeton Univ. building Dec. 17 by 3 graduate students. It was seen by hundreds of observers, both birders and curious passers-by, as it fed in the European birches in the courtyard. After the first week, it left the courtyard for ever longer periods and was last seen Jan. 11 (L. Jacobs,



♂ Black-throated Gray Warbler, Princeton, N.J., Dec. 25, 1982. Photo A. Brady.

K. Kreuger, M. McFarland *et mult. al.*, ph. SLa, A. Brady). There were a half-dozen previous records for New Jersey, all since 1961, but none stayed more than a day. An Ovenbird hit a window in Toms River, N.J., Dec. 15; it recovered and stayed until Jan. 19 (M. Cooper).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — The long-term trend for E. Meadowlark has been a steep decline, and this winter was a poor one for the species. It was missed on many CBCs where formerly regular (*e.g.*, S. Lancaster County where the recent average is 93) and, except for a few local bright spots, was mentioned by numerous observers as absent or scarce. Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds was a normal count; three were in Delaware on the Middletown CBC (two birds) and at Hare's Corner, New Castle Co. (a male), Feb. 14 (PJ). Two ad. males were in New Jersey: one at Hancock's Bridge, Salem Co., Dec. 26 (*vide* APE), and another at Cape May Jan. 22 into February (TH *et al.*).

Thirteen N. Oriole reports were about average, and most of them were in December, as usual. Noteworthy were two birds of the Bullock's race: a male at a Lawrenceville, N.J., feeder in early December (W. LaTourette) and a female at a Dallas, Luzerne Co., Pa., feeder Dec. 27-Jan. 15 (KMG, m.ob., ph.M. Blauer). After an absence of 2 years, a flock of 30-40 Brewer's Blackbirds was relocated near Leipsic, Del., Dec. 26 (JCM, BSt), about 5 mi from the pig farm where they had wintered since 1954. They were seen again Jan. 23 (WJW, BR), but after 30 years of almost annual observations, there is still no specimen or photograph of which we are aware. Continuing a recent trend, W. Tanager was found in New Jersey for the fifth winter in a row. One was at Towaco, Morris Co., Dec. 5 (FFr, TV), and another was at a Cape May Pt. feeder on the day of the CBC (D. Rutherford).

A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at the Bronx Botanical Gardens Dec. 26, was the only one recorded of the season (J. DiCostanzo). Following the pattern of many previous occurrences, a ♂ Painted Bunting visited a feeder in Trappe, Montgomery Co., Pa., Jan. 5-Feb. 10 (Mrs. D. Potteiger, m.ob.). It was not seen after the big snowstorm. Five Dickcissels were about on a par with recent winters. One was at the Millbrook School, Dutchess Co., N.Y., Dec. 15-31 (F. Germond *et al.*) and it and another made the Dutchess County CBC. A Dickcissel at Alpha, Warren Co., N.J., Jan. 2 (JE), was not seen again, but a bird at a Goshen, Cape May Co., feeder stayed a few days, Jan. 10-15 (C & PS). The fifth bird was at Kennett Square, Pa., Jan. 12 (H. Alexander).

It was clearly not a year for winter finches. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce and Purple Finches not especially common. The only Pine Grosbeaks were a single at Monmouth Battlefield, N.J., Dec. 5 (RD), four on the Walnut Valley, N.J., CBC, and a few at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Westchester Co., N.Y., in late December (*vide* T. Carrolan). Small groups of Com. Redpolls were present during the winter in Rockland and Orange cos., N.Y. (RFD, JPT), but the only other report was of two at a Riverton, N.J., feeder Jan. 22 (A. Gagnon). Pine Siskins went almost unreported; however, a bird of considerable interest was a brightly plumaged ♂ Eur. Siskin that appeared at a Bloom-

field, N.J., feeder in mid-February for a 2-week stay (R. Rizzey, m.ob.). It disappeared when a Sharp-shinned Hawk invaded the yard, only to reappear a few miles away at a feeder in Verona in March. Although it showed no signs of feather wear to indicate captive origin, the possibility of an escape is difficult to rule out. While Eur. Siskins are seldom imported by dealers, they can be brought into the country under the pet exclusion rule (*vide* RR).

Red Crossbills were very scarce, with only a couple of small flocks on Long Island in early January (A. Lauro, S. Terrill) and a group of 60 in Livingston, N.J., Jan. 13 (RR). In contrast to last winter's major invasion, the only White-winged Crossbill reports were of 3 different sightings in n.e. Pennsylvania in late December-early January (WR, TB, KMG). As has been the case in recent winters, a Lark Sparrow found its way to an area feeder. This one appeared in Cinnaminson, N.J., on the banks of the Delaware R., Jan. 18 and was still present in March (JT, m.ob.).

An Oregon-type Dark-eyed Junco visited a Blairstown, N.J., feeder for the third year in a row (*vide* FW). Above-average numbers of Chipping Sparrows appeared on CBCs in s. New Jersey and on Long Island. More unusual was one at a Green Lane, Montgomery Co., Pa., feeder Feb. 13-14, supported by excellent details (GLF). A Golden-crowned Sparrow visited a Livingston, N.J., feeder Dec. 25-26 (RR), but a subadult arrived at a Warren County, N.J., feeder in late January and was still present at the end of April (M. & C. Read, FW *et al.*). A Lincoln's Sparrow was at a Fire Island, N.Y. feeder Dec. 19 (M. Cooper). Except for a flock of 300 at Rehoboth Beach, Feb. 12 (MVB *et al.*), Snow Buntings were rather scarce and Lapland Longspurs went almost unreported.

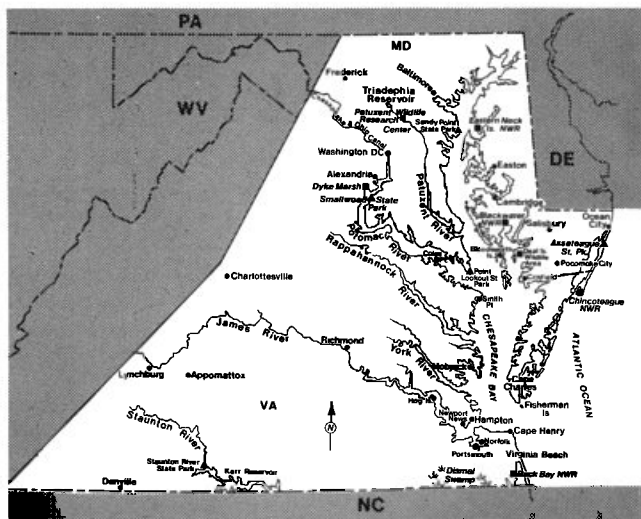
OBSERVERS — (Subregional compilers in boldface): Tom Amico, Terry Baltimore, Robert Barber (RBa), **M.V. Barnhill** (Del.: Box 7603, Newark, DE 19711), **I.H. Black** (n.e. N.J.: 68 Mill St., Belleville, NJ 07109), **R.J. Bltcharz** (n.c. N.J.: 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, NJ 07104), Joe Burgiel, **T.W. Burke** (Westchester Co., N.Y.: 235 Highland Ave., Rye, NY 10580), Chris, Mike and John Danzenbaker, **Thomas H. Davis** (s.e. N.Y., L.I.: 94-46 85th Rd., Woodhaven, NY 10241), Donald Deed, **R.F. Deed** (Rockland Co., N.Y.: 50 Clinton Ave., Nyack, NY 10960), Peter Derven (PDe), Rich Ditch, Jim Dowdell (JDo), **Peter Dunne** (PDu, coastal N.J.: CMBO, Box 3, Cape May Pt., NJ 08212), John Edner, A.P. Ednie, Steve Farbotnick, Bruce Fetz, Fran File (FFi), Ed Fingerhood, Bill Fintel, G.A. Francoise, Frank Frazier (FFr), W.W. Frech, G.L. Freed, John Ginaven (JGi), Jeff Gordon (JGo), Doug Gross, Tom Halliwell, **Greg Hanisek** (n.w. N.J.: R.D. 3, Box 263, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865), Dave Harrison, Otto Heck, G.K. Hess, **Armas Hill** (se Pa.: 232 Orlemann Ave., Oreland, PA 19075), Chris Hogan, Peggy Jahn, Rich Kane (RKa), Rich Kelly (RKe), Don Kunkle, Serge LaFrance (SLa), Emanuel Levine, K.C. Liehr, Sid Lipschutz (SLi), S.J. McCandless, K. McDermott (KMD), Kevin McGuire (KMG), J.K. Merrit (s.w. N.J.: 809 Saratoga Terrace, Turnersville, NJ 08012), Brad Merritt (BMe), J.C. Miller, August and Judy Mirabella, **B.L. Morris** (e. Pa.: 825 Muhlenburg St., Allentown, PA 18104), Brian Moscatello (BMo), Frank Murphy, Roger Muskat, Pete Nye, George O'Shea, Dave Oster, G.S. Raynor, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa.: 556 Charles Ave., Kingston, PA 18704), Mike Risko, Dave Roche, Bob Russell, Joe Russell, Richard Ryan, R.M. Schutsky, Benton Seguin (BSe), Dave Sibley, P.W. Smith, O.K. Stephenson (Harrisburg area: Box 125, New Bloomfield, PA 17068), Bill Stocku (BSt), Clay and Pat Sutton, Joseph Taylor, **J.P. Tramontano** (Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Cos., N.Y.: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), Tim Vogel, Dave Ward, **Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club** (Dutchess Co., N.Y.), W.J. Wayne, Karl Weber, Eric Weiner, George Wenzelburger, Rick Wiltraut, Floyd Wolfarth.—**WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR.**, 15 Indian Rock Rd., Warren, NJ 07060, **ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 560 Riverside Dr., Apt. 12K, New York, NY 10027, and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Henry T. Armistead

This was a very mild winter with temperatures at the six weather stations for which "local climatological data" is published averaging normal by a hefty 6.85°F in December and 1.58° in January. Precipitation was under the norm by 0.3 inches in December and 1.2 inches in January. However, there was more snow in most areas than usual, most melting quickly, including that from the big February 11 storm, mostly rain on the coast, but amounting to 20-30 inches of snow on Piedmont areas. Scott's comments summarize the situation cogently: "The key to the weather picture was not the averages, which are pretty meaningless to the birds, but rather the total lack of extremes . . . there were *no* bitter cold spells at all and almost no appreciable ice . . . Dandelions were blooming in profusion in Hopewell on 1/30." Extreme lows ranged from 9° to 20°, much higher than in some years. As late as January 8 Bazuin saw gulls in Virginia carrying blue crabs not yet in hibernation. Waterfowl numbers were very poor, leading one CBC compiler to have a mock moment of silence for them. Northern finch numbers were just as bad. Winter sparrows, as with ducks, lingered farther north due to mild weather. But woodpeckers, tits, creepers and waxwings were abundant. Except for vireos, the mildness did not produce as many lingerers as most expected it would, but stray western landbirds were well represented.

Abbreviations: Balt., Baltimore; Chinc., Chincoteague N.W.R.; + after personal name, *et al.*



LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Common and Red-throated loons both appeared in record numbers on Cape Charles and Mathews, Va. CBCs and were common elsewhere along the coast, a positive change from the past few winters. But by Feb. 23, 27 oiled loons from Assateague I., had been sent to Tri-State Bird Rescue in Wilmington, Del., probably the result of the sinking of the collier 'Marine Electric' (*cf.* Committee to Preserve Assateague Island *Newsletter*, 14: 2, Mar. 9,



Oiled Common Loon, Rt. 627, E. of Machipongo, Va., Feb. 26, 1983. Photo/H.T. Armistead.

1983). Single Red-necked Grebes were at Pt. Lookout, Md., Jan. 29 (EMW+) and Chinc., Jan. 14 (JKE), always scarce in this Region. Horned Grebe still continues in very low supply (BW, CSR, WPS, RLA, FRS, EJV, v.o.). An Eared Grebe was reported from Chinc., Nov. 28-Dec. 4 (*fide* REW). At sea 62 N. Fulmars, close to a regional record, in company with 1325 Gannets (including 26 subadults and five 1st-year birds) were seen off Ocean City Jan. 30 (RN, m.ob.). White Pelicans continue their metamorphosis from a traditional status as accidental to simply rare but regular. Two were at Chinc., sporadically Nov. 29-Jan. 22 (m.ob.), perhaps the same birds that were at Brigantine in February. One was at Hog I., Surry Co., Va., Nov. 27 (CB, *fide* CPW). The great Brown Pelican invasion of 1982 spilled over into early January with six at Little Creek, Va., Jan. 1 (RLA, TRW). On Dec. 5, 25 immatures were at Fisherman I. (RLA, MAB, HG) but none were seen there after Dec. 14 when there were four (RLA). Silsby saw 22 on the Back Bay, Va. beach Dec. 5.

Great Cormorant continues up but stable with counts such as 15 at Little Creek Jan. 1 (PWS+), 13 on Lower Machodoc Creek, Va., Jan. 25 (S & EJ) and nine nearby at Pt. Lookout Feb. 28 (EMW). Double-crested Cormorant wintered in record numbers in the greater Chesapeake Bay mouth area. Sixty were at Hog I., Surry Co., Va., Jan. 29 (FRS, JWD, BR+). As usual the best heron totals were from Virginia CBCs (*q.v.*) but of note were 113 Great Blue Herons concentrated on the Susquehanna R., below Conowingo Dam in Maryland Feb. 10 (RMS). A late Green Heron was at Richmond Dec. 25 (BR). At Deal Island W.M.A., probably the best Maryland site for winter herons, nine Louisiana Herons and two Glossy Ibises were seen Dec. 4 (DM), a Little Blue Heron Jan. 4 (DM) and three Louisiana Herons, a Glossy Ibis and two Snowy Egrets Jan. 15 (HLW, DM). Three late Cattle Egrets were e. of Salisbury, Md., Dec. 22 (DC). At Chinc., Feb. 27 were three Little Blue Herons, nine Great Egrets, seven Snowy Egrets and four Louisiana Herons (GLA, HTA). A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was at Cape Charles Feb. 6 (RLAk, GMW). Most herons were in low numbers on the Virginia coast, even on the CBCs. Unusual as a Maryland Piedmont record was an Am. Bittern at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Jan. 13 (PWW) flushed from an overgrown field, a species recorded in abysmal numbers on CBCs this season. Yet these meager heron records above belie the fact that this group was actually better reported this winter than is usual.

WATERFOWL — Most waterfowl seem only to become scarcer each winter. But this winter observers were unanimous that they were in even lower numbers, owing mostly to the mild weather farther n. Many CBCs usually rich in waterfowl missed several regular species and the ones they did get were often in near-record low numbers. Sykes noted the first six Mute Swans ever at Cape Charles Dec. 27, possibly wanderers from the Chinc. flock. Single White-fronted Geese were at Creswell, Harford Co., Md., late October-Mar. 6 (D & JK, 4th straight winter), at Blackwater N.W.R., throughout the period (with three probably hybrid young, v.o.), Chinc., Jan. 15-Feb. 20 (m.ob.), one shot s.w. of Chestertown, Md., Jan. 7 (BN, *fide* FLP) and an immature at Vienna, Md., Jan. 30 (KE, *fide* CPW), a better-than-average showing for this species. Waterfowl peaks, such as they were, at Chinc. occurred for most species during the week of Dec. 5-11 including: Snow Goose 23,800, Mallard 1150, Black Duck 3150, Gadwall 1605, Pintail 3955, Green-winged Teal 1185, Am. Wigeon 685, and N. Shoveler 1005 with 1150 Brant Jan. 16-22 and 86 Hooded Mergansers Feb. 13-19 (REW). At Wye Mills, Md., 60 Gadwalls Jan. 30 was an excellent count for the upper Eastern Shore (RFR). At Presquille N.W.R., Va., c. 765 Wood Ducks were present in January low for this prime spot (HCO).

A notable exception to the dearth of waterfowl elsewhere this winter was a huge buildup of diving ducks in Calvert and s. Anne Arundel cos., Md., due to extensive mollusk beds developing from increased salinity caused by the drought of the past 2 years. United States Fish & Wildlife estimates in this area during January include 10,200 scaup sp., and 13,100 Canvasback with statewide totals of 24,400 scaup and 44,400 Canvasbacks, the latter 2 figures up 540% and 66% respectively from those of January 1982 (*fide* RMP). Other sizable Canvasback concentrations were 4200 at Colonial Beach, Va., Dec. 3 (S & EJ) and 3400 at Elliott I., Md., Dec. 31 (EMW). Jetty duck records were a Harlequin Duck at Chesapeake Bay and Bridge Tunnel, Va., Dec. 4-5 (RLA, MAB, HG+), an imm. ♂ Com. Eider there through the period

(m.ob.), eight Com. Eiders at Ocean City Feb. 19 (MVB, JWR +), and four King Eiders there Feb. 28 (HJF). Ruddy Ducks continue to be very scarce on the Potomac R., a former stronghold (JMA), but in Virginia groups of 1-3000 were seen in Gloucester County, the York R., and Williamsburg (JBB, MP, BW). The top Hooded Merganser report was of 140 near Hopewell, Va., Jan. 23 (FRS, JWD, DP). Unusual that late for the Piedmont was a Green-winged Teal at Lilypons, Md., Dec. 26 (DHW). Three undoubtedly escaped Egyptian Geese were at Chinc., through most of the period (m.ob.). Up to 10,000 Snow Geese again wintered in the interior upper Eastern Shore of Maryland n. of Denton (AJF).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — The abundance of Red-shouldered Hawks in the c.-w. shore of Maryland is illustrated by totals of 45 at Jug Bay Jan. 2 and 63 at Bowie Dec. 26 (RMP +), totals impossible to achieve across the Bay on the Delmarva Pen. Rough-legged Hawks still seem to be up and are increasingly reported in the Piedmont and w. side of the Chesapeake. Seven were in s. Dorchester County, Md., Feb. 28 (HJF). On the Susquehanna R, below Conowingo Dam, Schutsky saw an ad. Golden Eagle Feb. 10 & 22 (Cecil Co.) and 14 Bald Eagles were there Jan. 29. Perhaps the most encouraging news this winter concerning Bald Eagles was their occurrence in numbers in places not known to be *major* eagle sites, such as 16 at Ft. Belvoir, Va. CBC, Jan. 2 (JMA, most since 1955), three at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center throughout the period (MKK), six adults and 13 immatures near Hopewell, Va., Jan. 7 (HCO, FRS), 11 at Williamsburg Dec. 19 (BW +), six at Jug Bay Jan. 2 (RMP +) and 13 in Lower Kent County, Md., Dec. 19 (JG, FLP +). At least 8 nests appeared to be occupied on James R. drainage including the first breeding record in Henrico County, Va. (FRS). Early (?) Ospreys included singles at Windy Hill, Talbot Co., Md., Feb. 2 + (DWM) and Hog I., Surry Co., Va., Feb. 21 (GMW). Czaplak believes a few Merlins now winter in cities in the Region taking advantage of nearby blackbird roosts and observed one this winter in Washington, D.C. At Irish Grove Sanctuary e. of Crisfield, Md., a Merlin, a Peregrine Falcon, three Marsh Hawks and two Short-eared Owls were seen Feb. 19, the harriers and owls harassing the Peregrine (JKE +). A King Rail was at Back Bay Jan. 29 (KHW), one of the few post-CBC rail reports. American Coot is another "waterfowl" species also in very low numbers this winter with only 195 at Back Bay Dec. 29 (PWS +), an area which often has 1000s and 34 at Cape Charles Dec. 27, the second lowest in 18 years there.

SHOREBIRDS — As usual waders were little reported outside of the CBC period. American Oystercatchers overwintered at Ocean City, which is not normal, with ten there Jan. 28 (RFR), a record mid-winter count for there. Excellent local counts were 167 at Fisherman I., Dec. 5 (RLA +), 82 on the Little Creek CBC Jan. 1 (PWS +) and 60 at Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., Jan. 28 (KHW, KS). Unusual slightly inland and up the Bay were two Semipalmated and one Piping plovers on the Mathews, Va. CBC Jan. 2 (JBB). A good mid-winter count for Maryland was 250 Black-bellied Plovers in a field w. of Ocean City Jan. 15 (JKE +). Several observers witnessed Am. Woodcock courtship displays as early as Christmas, when Dyke found one at Salisbury displaying on a day when it reached 70°, one more effect of this mild winter. At Back Bay Dec. 29 a count of 280 Com. Snipe was one of the highest on record for Virginia (PWS +). A Greater Yellowlegs wading in water on top of a 6-story building in Arlington, Va., Feb. 3 (HJF) was bizarre. A Lesser Yellowlegs near Hopewell Feb. 27 provided a record early local date (FRS). A Red Knot was at Ocean City Dec. 22 (DC). Always rare on the Chesapeake, a Purple Sandpiper was at Sandy Point S.P., Jan. 2-11 (WK). Least Sandpipers lingered into the winter with one at the Hart-Miller I. impoundment e. of Balt., in company with three Dunlin Jan. 1 (RFR, EB, BS), two at Ocean City Dec. 28-Jan. 27 (WK, HLW) and 22 near Hopewell Dec. 5 (FRS, BR, JWD), one staying until Dec. 18.

Few shorebirds ever get reported on the upper Chesapeake Bay in winter, so, even six Dunlin on Kent I., Md., Feb. 18 are worth noting (JG, *fide* FLP). Marbled Godwits have been known to be regular winter residents on the Virginia Eastern Shore at least since 1966 when a group of 38 was discovered Dec. 30 at Cape Charles (WCR). Last December they made a better-than-average showing with 35 s.e. of Accomac at Wachapreague Dec. 18 (GLA, HTA +), these on a shell beach on the *mainland*, 69 at Cape Charles Dec. 27 (CP, HTA +) and four on the

Chinc. CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* FRS). Only one report was received of the Crane I., Portsmouth, Va. Am. Avocet flock, this of 300 birds Dec. 4 (VK, *fide* CPW). Off Ocean City two Red Phalaropes were seen Jan. 30 (RN, m.ob.).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Perry's ad. Parasitic Jaeger Dec. 27 at Cape Charles was new for that CBC. In the sea off Ocean City Jan. 30 Naveen *et al.* saw four Great Skuas. Maryland birders are focusing increasing scrutiny on winter gulls, haunting county landfills and photographing rarer species. At Liberty Res., n.w. of Balt., Dec. 18 they detected a Glaucous Gull, an Iceland Gull and two ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls (RFR, EB). A new site, Alpha Ridge Sanitary Landfill in landlocked Howard County, Md., yielded two Glaucous Gulls and two Iceland Gulls Jan. 14 (RFR). Other Alpha Ridge highlights include three Iceland Gulls Jan. 15, 40 Great Black-backed Gulls Dec. 24, four Lesser Black-backed Gulls Dec. 20, and an imm. Thayer's Gull Dec. 20 & 24 (ph., all RFR, EB). Another Iceland Gull was at Ocean City Jan. 28 (RFR).



Thayer's Gull, Alpha Ridge Sanitary Landfill, Howard Co., Md., Dec. 20, 1982. Photo/B. Ringler.



Herring, Thayer's, & Iceland gulls, Alpha Ridge Sanitary Landfill, Howard Co., Md., Dec. 24, 1982. Photo/B. Ringler.

S.A.

Great Black-backed Gulls "will eventually rule the world" (PN). If so they took one big step for gullmanity this winter with sightings such as 61 adults in sight at once at Hunting Cr., Va., near Washington, D. C., Jan. 21 (JMA) and 570 massed in fresh water on the Susquehanna R., below Conowingo Dam Jan. 5, one of the highest counts ever made in Maryland. This is history happening in front of our eyes. While we may be getting used to such numbers let's not forget that in the 1958 *Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* (Stewart & Robbins) the maximum count was 26 on the Ocean City CBC, Dec. 17, 1954 or that in the 1979 *Virginia's Birdlife* (Virginia Society of Ornithology Checklist Committee) it is listed as a rare winter visitor in the Piedmont.

At Prince William County, Va., a Piedmont location, an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen Jan. 10-Mar. 9 by Bass, who reported two there the previous winter, first Virginia Piedmont records. Everyone should be on the lookout for this species, especially adults, which are very easy to identify. At any given time, in winter, there are probably more ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls present in this Region than birds in all plumages for any of the following species: any white-winged gull, Little or Black-headed gulls. Certainly more reports are received of them than for these other 4 species. On Feb. 10, 11,000 Ring-billed Gulls were estimated on the lower Susquehanna R. (RMS). An imm. Black-headed Gull was at Chinc., Jan. 7-9 (JHB) and an adult was at Ocean City Dec. 22 (DC). Laughing Gulls lingered later than usual with a whopping 545 seen on the Back Bay CBC Dec. 29 (PWS). At Ocean City 1000 Bonaparte's Gulls were present Dec. 22-23 with as many as five ad. Little Gulls keeping them company (DC, WK). A dead one was at Fisherman I., Dec. 26, the first Virginia specimen (ph., *, RLA). Also at Ocean City was an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake Dec. 23 (DC) while offshore 1940, including 50 juveniles, were estimated Jan. 30 (RN+), a record count for these pelagic trips.

Forster's Terns lingered in unusually high numbers at Ocean City with 200 there Dec. 22 (DC), 150 Jan. 14 (WK) and 20 on Feb. 19 (BF). Royal Terns were seen in small numbers on Virginia CBCs at Cape Charles, Chinc., Little Creek and Back Bay, an excellent showing probably attributable to the very mild fall. Black Skimmers were also found on all these counts except Back Bay, where their presence is unlikely because of the lack of an inlet and tidal marshes. An ad. skimmer was at Ocean City at least until Jan. 30 (RFR), five were there Jan. 14 & 27 (WK) and eight Dec. 22 (DC). Eight were seen at Grandview Beach, Va., Jan. 8 (J & TD) and three at Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., Jan. 28 (KHW, KS). This was about as strong a presence as skimmers ever manifest in winter. Off Ocean City a Razorbill was seen Jan. 29 and the next day was super for Naveen's pelagic birders, who saw six juv. Com. Puffins and 319 Dovekies, not a record for Maryland (759 on a pelagic CBC Dec. 30, 1978) but apparently the second highest.

DOVES THROUGH SHRIKES — An early Mourning Dove nest was under construction Feb. 20 in s.e. Fairfax County, Va., but was later abandoned (LM, JBB). Maryland CBCs often make an exceptional effort at owling. This year notable Great Horned Owl totals were 52 at Jug Bay Jan. 2, 66 in Lower Kent County Dec. 19 and 54 plus 91 Screech Owls at St. Michaels Dec. 19. At Ft. Belvoir, Va. CBC 25 was a new high Jan. 2, excellent for this area so close to Washington. The only Long-eared Owl reports were of up to four at Nokesville, Prince William Co., Va., in company with as many as 11 Short-eared Owls Jan. 17-March (KHB+) and one on Assateague I., Md., Feb. 5-6 (GMW+). It was a good winter for Short-eared Owls with Piedmont records of four n. of Frederick (DHW, date?) and one at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Feb. 22 (PWW). Yet another winter hummingbird has surfaced in the Region, this one a **Rufous Hummingbird** at Williamsburg Jan. 4-28 feeding at Oregon grape holly blossoms (TA, TB, FRS, BW, m.ob., ph.), for the fourth Virginia record. Most wood-



Rufous Hummingbird, Williamsburg, Va., Jan. 10, 1983. Photo/T.E. Armour.

peckers were up. A latish W. Kingbird was at Chinc., Nov. 25-Dec. 5 (S & EJ, BMu, m.ob.). Up to 300 Horned Larks were seen near Keysville, Carroll Co., Md., Feb. 19 (RFR). A very tardy Barn Swallow was at Scottsville, Va., Jan. 2-3 (J & BC, *fide* CES). This was an excellent winter for Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse and White-breasted Nuthatch. Red-breasted Nuthatch was practically absent with most observers reporting none or just 1-3 on as many dates. Brown Creeper was another species present in very good numbers this winter such as 76 on the Washington, D.C. CBC (EMW+). Mockingbirds were in good supply with 523 on the Bowie CBC, a new high total and also best per party hour figure for this very populous and significant

CBC (RMP+). A **Varied Thrush** at a Richmond feeder Feb. 4 was seen briefly but well (JFP), about the fifth Virginia record. What was thought to be a Mountain Bluebird, seen in February at Manassas, Va., on close inspection turned out to be an aberrant E. Bluebird (TA, CDC, v.o.). Excellent CBC counts of E. Bluebirds were made in the more central areas of the Region. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were rather widely reported on CBCs and one was at Dyke, Va., Dec. 4 (RA, *fide* CPW). Golden-crowned Kinglets were in high numbers this winter (v.o.). After a lackluster fall flight Cedar Waxwings came flooding through in December, especially on the Coastal Plain with many CBCs listing over 500. At Catocin, Frederick Co., Md., a Loggerhead and an imm. N. Shrike were reported Jan. 2 (*fide* DHW).

VIREOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — Single White-eyed Vireos were seen at Sparta, Va., Jan. 1 (BP) and Rockville, Md., Jan. 5 & 8 (PJO, JO). See the CBCs for the extraordinary number of Solitary Vireos. Others were at Northwest River P., Chesapeake, Va., Feb. 6 (GMW) and Chinc., Dec. 5 (BMu, *fide* CPW). Just received is a late record of a Swainson's Warbler in Dismal Swamp Sept. 16, 1982 (BM). An Orange-crowned Warbler was banded at Yorktown, Va., Feb. 22 (CH, *fide* M & DM). Smith banded a Nashville Warbler in Newport News Jan. 5 and caught it again 5 weeks later. A ♀ Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Lightfoot, Va., Dec. 13 (BW). Due to the mild winter Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were more common than usual in many areas, especially away from the coast (v.o.). Scott heard Pine Warblers singing "all over Richmond" as early as Feb. 18. An ad. ♂ Wilson's Warbler was in Severna P., Md., Jan. 6-11 (ESM, *fide* CPW). Although many were disappointed that more warm weather species did not turn up on the CBCs, the above records of warblers and vireos represent a better-than-average winter showing for those 2 groups.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Eastern Meadowlarks were in very low numbers with record low numbers on CBCs at Cape Charles (158), Mathews (51), and Bowie (64) and figures such as three at Washington, D.C., 20 at Denton, Md., and 46 at Jug Bay. Some of this may have been due to the mild winter not pushing them S to here but they seem to be in trouble during other seasons as well. These and other field birds are undoubtedly hurt by the huge increase in cropland in actual production from 1972 to 1981 in the United States, which went from c. 330 to 391 million acres (cf. *Scientific American*, Feb. 1983, p. 47). Now that the "soil bank" is coming back, due to huge crop surpluses, maybe these species will get a break. A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Hudson's Corner, Somerset Co., Md., Dec. 16 (JLS) but the highlight of the season was two birds at a Gloucester Pt., Va. feeder, a **Northern (Bullock's) Oriole** Jan. 16-Mar. 7 and a **Western Tanager** Jan. 29-Mar. 20 (BT, BW, CH, m.ob., ph.), the oriole for a third Virginia record. A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at



Western Tanager, Williamsburg, Va., Jan. 29-Mar. 20, 1983. Photo/B. Taber.

Sparta, Va., Dec. 4 (BP). A ♂ Dickcissel was at Lucketts, Loudoun Co., Va., Dec. 25 (KHW). Northern finches were almost completely absent. Most observers either had no Evening Grosbeaks or Pine Siskins or else saw only small numbers on one or two dates. House Finches were even down in many areas, perhaps staying n. due to mild weather, but many had Purple Finches in numbers well above average, some commentators selecting descriptors such as superb, invasion or record, although this was less the case along the coast. No documented reports were received of redpolls or crossbills. A Grasshopper Sparrow on the Warren, Va. CBC Jan. 2 provided a second winter record for Albemarle County (CES). Unique was a Lark Sparrow at Glebe Harbor, Westmoreland Co., Va., Feb. 4-Mar. 18 (S & EJ). A Dark-eyed

(Oregon) Junco was reported from Fair Hill, Cecil, Co., Md., Dec. 18 (MVB, SJM). Most observers found various winter sparrows, especially White-throated, Songs, Fields and juncos to be in very poor numbers, the mild weather apparently keeping them farther n. (cf. CBCs). Lingering Lincoln's Sparrows were at Oxon Hill, Md., Dec. 17 (DC) and Nokesville, Va., Jan. 13 and Feb. 11-13 (KHB, ph.). Four Lapland Longspurs were seen at Keysville, Carroll Co., Md., Feb. 19 (ph., RFR) and up to eight were along New Design Rd., Frederick Co., Md., Feb. 28 (PJO) where 20 Snow Buntings were seen Jan. 9 (PJO, JO). Snow Buntings were recorded on most coastal CBCs, which is not the case every year.

OBSERVERS — J.M. Abbott, R.L. Ake (RLAk), R.L. Anderson, Roger Anderson, G.L. Armistead, Tom Armour, M.V. Barnhill, K.H. Bass, J.B. Bazuin, Thom Blair, C.R. Blem, Eirik Blom, J.H. Buckalew, Cole Burrell, M.A. Byrd, C.D. Cremeans, Joseph & Barbara Croft, David Czaplak, John & Thelma Dalmas, J.W. Dillard, P.G. DuMont, S.H. Dyke, J.K. Effinger, Kathy Elwood, Ethel Engle, H.-J.

Feddern, K.H. Finnegan, Bill Fintel, A.J. Fletcher, R.B. Fletcher, Hans Gabler, E.P. Gallagher, J.A. Gregoire, James Gruber, Charlie Hacker, M.W. Hewitt, Sylvia & Enoch Johnson, Dennis & Jean Kirkwood, Valerie Kitchens, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Wayne Klockner, Yulee Larner, S.J. McCandless, E.T. McKnight, Lisa McQuail, Brooke Meanley, D.W. Meritt, Debbie Mignogno, Mike & Dorothy Mitchell, Myriam Moore, E.S. Morton, Bill Murphy (BMu), Ron Naveen, Bill Nicholson, Paul Nistico, John O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, P.J. O'Brien, H.C. Olson, J.F. Pagels, F.L. Parks, R.M. Patterson, Carl Perry, Darrell Peterson, Bill Portlock, Mary Pulley, George Reiger, R.F. Ringler, C.S. Robbins, Betsy Roszell, J.W. Russell, W.C. Russell, Kurt Savoie, R.M. Schutsky, F.R. Scott, Dot Silsby, W.P. Smith, Bob Stanhope, J.L. Stasz, Nick Stavros, C.E. Stevens, Byron Swift, P.W. Sykes, Brian Taber, D.H. Wallace, K.H. Weber, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams, G.M. Williamson, E.J. Willoughby, E.M. Wilson, R.E. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe, P.W. Woodward.—**HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.**

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

At long last, the Region enjoyed an honest-to-goodness mild winter, the warmest weather at least since 1976. December had very warm spells at the beginning of the month and around Christmas. January had a few cold snaps, but not for long periods, such as a week or more. February was characterized by rain; it was the wettest February on record in some cities, as one low pressure center after another tracked northeastward from the Gulf of Mexico like planes landing at a busy airport. The western Piedmont had a few rather minor snow and ice storms, but most of the Region was not bothered by the form of the precipitation, only by the quantity!

There was a near unanimous verdict on the winter birding—very bland with a scarcity of waterfowl. Rarities, especially northern ones, were difficult to find, certainly in part because of the infrequent cold fronts that might push birds to the Region from farther north or west. There was no winter finch flight, the first time in three years that Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were nearly absent. The mild weather did allow for more "lingering" of late fall migrants that typically disappear by November, but species like Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, and Black-and-white Warbler do not generate the excitement in the South that an eider, a rare grebe, or a rare cardueline finch does. Fortunately, there were no reports of mortality from severe winter weather, and it was obviously an "easy" season for most species. The major avian highlight was the scarcity of waterfowl for the entire period, a direct result of the absurdly warm spells in December. Few birders could recall a winter with such low numbers of this group, especially the bay and sea ducks.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — A total of 17 Com. Loons at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Ga., Dec. 10 (DM, PM) was quite high for the Atlanta area; and a Red-throated Loon was notable inland near Chester, S.C., Dec. 30 (AC).

S.A.

Only the two common grebes were reported this season, but the Horned Grebe has mysteriously been anything but common during the past few winters. They were in very low numbers, both inland and coastally, and perhaps populations are down 75-90% from those of 5+ years ago. Where are they? Are there problems on the breeding grounds, or are they just wandering somewhere else, an unlikely answer? This species needs to be watched carefully throughout its breeding and wintering ranges in upcoming years.

A dead N. Fulmar was found in late fall at Pea I., N.C. (fide BWO; *N.C.S.M.); despite a growing number of records for that state, there



is still none for winter. Dave Lee conducted a Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet, N.C., in late December. Because the totals should appear in the CBC issue (July-August), they will not be mentioned here; however, a new species for the CBCs was observed. A White Pelican again wintered at Charleston, S.C. (DMF *et al.*), and another was observed along the coast of Pamlico County, N.C., in January (DF, RF). The Brown Pelican was again quite common during the season on the North Carolina coast, particularly the Outer Banks, with 952 on the Cape Hatteras CBC Dec. 31 (fide CP). Another Brown was most unusual inland at Hope Mills L., near Fayetteville, N.C., Jan. 14-15 (JK, fide PJC). Far inland Double-crested Cormorants were noted in Georgia at Dublin (TKP), Augusta (AW), and Sweetwater Creek S.P. (DM, PM) and on Jordan Res., N.C. (24 on the Chapel Hill CBC—fide BW).

WADERS — A good find was a Great Blue Heron of the Wurde-mann's form race at Cape I., S.C., Dec. 19 (PN *et al.*). The mild December weather allowed Green Herons to linger far into the month over much of the Region, as it was noted on many North Carolina CBCs. Patterson had a Little Blue Heron and two Cattle Egrets in December and January at Dublin, where the species do not regularly winter; and 11 Cattles on the Morehead City, N.C., CBC (fide JF) was a notable winter count for that state. Unusual inland at this season was an imm. Black-crowned Night Heron near Raleigh, N.C., Feb. 13 (JM), whereas a Wood Stork was rather late on Kiawah I., S.C., Dec. 26 (RC). Up to 50 White Ibises spent the season at Pea I. (AB, FS *et al.*), now the northernmost site of the regular wintering range. In fact, it was the second most common wader on the CBC there Dec. 30 (fide PS)!

WATERFOWL — Had CBCs been held in late November, perhaps waterfowl numbers would have been typical for late December. But the warm weather in December simply pushed the ducks back N, and most CBCs missed species not normally missed. For some mysterious reason large numbers of Whistling Swans were found in dry fields outside the usual range: 105 were near Newport, N.C., Feb. 12 (JF, WI) and 515 were at Caledonia Prison Farm near Tillery, N.C., Feb. 16 (ML, KM). White-fronted Geese were noted only at their 2 most favored spots in the Region—three at Santee N.W.R., S.C., Dec. 23 (JB) and five at Eufaula N.W.R., Ga., much of February (DM, PM). A Ross' Goose spent the winter at its most favored spot e. of the Mississippi—Pea I. (MT, PS *et al.*). The erratic Fulvous Whistling Duck was found twice this season, singles at Hatteras, N.C., Dec. 31-Jan. 1 (HA, RB) and at the Santee R. delta, S.C. (no date—PMA). A pair of Pintails that spent the winter near Aberdeen, N.C., was rather rare (GD, JHC), and 400+ Ring-necked Ducks was a good total Feb. 13 (HL) at the new Falls of the Neuse Res., Wake and Durham Cos., N.C., which was filled by the end of the period. For the first winter in recent memory, no eiders were reported. Scattered Com. Mergansers were found only in North Carolina, but the peak in this dismal duck season was just five—at Jordan Res., Jan. 30 (RD) and on the Bodie-Pea I. CBC Dec. 30 (PS *et al.*).

HAWKS THROUGH GALLINULES — There was a general feeling that Cooper's Hawks, not doing well in recent decades in the e., were somewhat harder to find than normal; and few observers see more than two or three nowadays in a given winter. Very rare for Georgia was an excellently described Rough-legged Hawk in light-phase n. of Atlanta Jan. 9 (TM, HG, PB) and again Feb. 19 (RM, DMA). Two reports of dark-phase individuals in North Carolina lacked convincing details. The only Golden Eagle was sighted at L. Mattamuskeet, N.C., Dec. 29 (MT, KN). The most interesting of the inland Bald Eagle records involved three immatures in one tree at Jordan Res., near Chapel Hill, N.C., Feb. 9 (BW, MW) and at least eight during the season along the Pee Dee and Yadkin R. drainage, N.C. (DB). There were no inland reports of Peregrine Falcons, but 5 sightings (of perhaps four individuals) were made during the season in Carteret County, N.C. (*vide JF*), where it is quite rare in winter. Inland Merlins were detected only near Pendleton, S.C., Dec. 19 (SW) and Fayetteville, N.C., Feb. 21 & 28 (PJC *et al.*). Always a good find, a Yellow Rail was seen at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston, but no date was provided (DW, *vide PN*). Most interesting was the report of 15-25 Black Rails seen during a rice harvest along the N. Santee R., S.C., Nov. 25 (PMA). Were there any Yellow Rails, a species probably more likely in late November in rice marshes than the equally elusive Black Rail? Quite rare inland in winter was a Com. Gallinule near Fayetteville Dec. 5 (H & SC).

SHOREBIRDS — The mild temperatures were kind to shorebirds, and there were more individuals and species remaining later and farther n. in the Region than usual. Single Whimbrels at Cape Lookout, N.C., Dec. 9 (SP) and Brunswick, Ga., Jan. 1 (TM *et al.*) were not too unusual, but a Long-billed Curlew was an excellent find at Ft. Fisher, N.C., Dec. 24 (MB, GM). Several Lesser Yellowlegs got an early jump on the spring migration; normally not seen inland until mid-March, singles were found in Georgia Feb. 21 in Clayton County (PB, JG, CA) and Feb. 26 near Dublin (TKP). Practically unheard of in winter in this Region were two **Solitary Sandpipers** seen on the Dublin CBC Dec. 18 (TKP). The mild weather was almost certainly responsible for a good number of Spotted Sandpipers farther n. than usual. Lingerers in Georgia were near Fairburn, Atlanta, and Augusta, and in North Carolina at Harkers I., and North R., in Carteret County and near Vass. Good totals for the season were 22 Long-billed Dowitchers at Pea I., Feb. 19 (AB) and 1144 W. Sandpipers at Portsmouth I., N.C., Dec. 9 (JF). The most exciting bird of the winter was undoubtedly the **Baird's Sandpiper** studied and described in detail inland near Pendergrass, Ga., Dec. 22-26 (JP *et al.*). Not only did it provide one of the few winter records for the entire East Coast, but Georgia surprisingly had only one or two previous records at any season. A tally of 57 Dunlins at L. Mattamuskeet Dec. 29 (BL) was high away from the coast; most were probably late lingerers.

JAEGERS, GULLS — Several Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers were seen along the North Carolina coast in December, most or all simply

late S migrants. However, most unusual for the dead of winter was a Parasitic at Cape Hatteras Pt., Feb. 6 (JF *et al.*). As is usually the case at this season, gulls were a major feature. Glaucous Gulls were found only in North Carolina; at Sunset Beach Dec. 15 (PJC, JC), at Oregon Inlet Dec. 30 (MT, JF, BA), and at the Newport landfill Feb. 12-26 (JF *et al.*). This was, by far, the biggest year ever for the Iceland Gull in the Region, with one report from South Carolina, at Kiawah I., Feb. 7 (JA), and ten from North Carolina (of perhaps eight individuals). Of the latter state's Icelands, four birds were in Dare County, two in Carteret, one in Hyde, and one away from the coast in Pasquotank (at Elizabeth City Jan. 23—CW); only one was an adult. North Carolina, as usual, had a large handful of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, all within 5 mi of the coast; the peak count was four on the Bodie-Pea I. CBC Dec. 30 (*vide PS*). Rare for South Carolina was an adult in Cape Romain harbor Dec. 19 (PN *et al.*). Excellent counts of Ring-billed Gulls for c. North Carolina were 1000+ at Falls of the Neuse Res., Feb. 19 (BW, MW) and 686 at Jordan Res., on the CBC Jan. 2 (*vide BR*). An albino Ring-billed was carefully studied at Morehead City Dec. 26 & Jan. 30 (WI). Unlike with the noticeably increasing larger gulls, the finding of a Black-headed or Little gull is still a red-letter event. No one reported a Little Gull this season, but Black-headed were observed at Carolina Beach, N.C., Dec. 18-Feb. 28+ (FN, DC *et al.*) and at Hatteras Feb. 6 (HL, JF). Although Black-legged Kittiwakes winter regularly offshore (at least in North Carolina waters), the only report received was of an oiled bird near Salvo, N.C., Jan. 22 (PJC, MWh).

TERNs THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Two Sandwich Terns were late at Atlantic Beach, N.C., Dec. 11 (RJH), as was another at Cape I., S.C., Dec. 19 (PN). Probably because of the unseasonable weather, Black Skimmers wintered farther n. and in greater numbers than usual, as evidenced by 610 on the Morehead City CBC Dec. 19 (JF) and 100 at Cedar I., N.C., Feb. 12 (WI). In many regions, 4 reports of alcids could hardly be called a major flight. But in this Region, in 1982-83, a "major" movement did occur along the North Carolina Outer Banks, at least in December. A Dovekie was picked up (sick or injured) on Shackleford Banks Dec. 19 (MBe), but it died a few days later. Another was found dead (for at least several weeks) at Cape Hatteras Pt., Feb. 6 (JF). A Razorbill was an excellent find at Pea I., Dec. 30 (MT, BA), and rarer still was a Thick-billed Murre observed several miles offshore on the Cape Hatteras CBC Dec. 31 (CP).

Not unexpectedly, five Short-eared Owls were noted in the weedy lakebed of Falls of the Neuse Res., Jan. 6 (HL). Unfortunately, the large numbers of Short-eareds that have wintered at this site (and adjacent Jordan Res. before its filling) will have to relocate now that the lake has reached full pool. Two **Chuck-will's-widows** were seen on the Cape Hatteras CBC Dec. 31 (HL, DCr), both observed sitting on roads in the beams of cars at dusk. There are few, if any, previous winter records for North Carolina. As is now customary, several hummingbirds were noted in winter, of course in immature or female plumage. An imm. ♂ hummer at a feeder in Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., December-Jan. 20 (ID, JF, WI) was almost certainly a Ruby-throated; "some dark (reddish) feathers were coming in on the throat" according to Fussell. Another Ø bird was reported as a Ruby-throated from Charleston Dec. 28 (LC), but no description was provided.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH VIREOS — Red-bellied Woodpeckers were apparently unknown from the Buxton Woods portion of the Outer Banks; thus, five seen on the Cape Hatteras CBC Dec. 31 (PS, HL, HA) were a complete surprise. An *Empidonax* flycatcher was studied carefully at Cape I., S.C., on the McClellanville CBC Dec. 19 (PN, JPq). Although identified as a Least, the details are only suggestive and do not rule out all other species of the genus. Needless to say, any *Empidonax* in winter is an exceptional rarity; very thorough details must be provided. Horned Larks were present in much reduced numbers, presumably a feature of the mild season, as our largest populations are usually found in very cold winters. Purple Martins, which typically arrive in the Region by late February, were at least a week early at many places, highlighted by two males at Augusta Feb. 7 (CB, AW). This was a poor season for Red-breasted Nuthatches: although widespread, they were uncommon at most localities, with few CBCs tallying more than a handful. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was a good find on the Atlanta CBC Dec. 19 (JCa). There was a belated report of possibly territorial Short-billeds—one observed and 10-12 heard sing-

ing in black rush marshes in the Pamlico County, N.C., July 30-31 (PJC). The species is not known to breed in the Region, although there have been scattered reports of birds singing "on territory" in North Carolina. Short-billed birds have bizarre seasonal movements and breeding habits; apparent territorial behavior is not conclusive of nesting, although the site deserves coverage next summer. Lingering Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were tallied on CBCs at L. Mattamuskeet Dec. 29 (MT) and Jordan Res., Jan. 2 (*vide* BR). A White-eyed Vireo at Augusta Feb. 7 (AW) and two at Congaree Swamp N.M., S.C., Jan. 14 (PH, AA) were probably winter residents at the inner edge of their range. They could perhaps winter regularly to Cape Hatteras, where the 2-year-old CBC has had two individuals each time (*vide* CP). Solitary Vireos almost certainly winter regularly to Cape Hatteras. They were also recorded on the CBC for the second year, and the seven there Dec. 31 (HL, JF) could hardly all represent late stragglers.

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS — A few Black-and-white Warblers typically linger n. of the usual range into late December, but there were more than the usual numbers this season. North Carolina had 5 extralimital records, but the latest sighting was only Jan. 12, at Raleigh (JM). Three observed in Congaree Swamp, S.C., Jan. 14-15 (AA *et al.*) were presumably wintering individuals at the inland edge of their range. The Cape Hatteras CBC, which tallied a remarkable 31 Orange-crowned Warblers in 1981, had 52 this year, including 25 by Sykes alone! More than a month late was a N. Parula at Durham, N.C., Dec. 7 (JMCC). Also very late were single Magnolia and Black-throated Green warblers, both at Charleston Nov. 26 (SC). One of the few Regional winter records for **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was one at Buxton on the Cape Hatteras CBC Dec. 31 (PS). In the same mixed-species flock with the Black-throated Blue, Sykes found a Yellow-throated Warbler and a Prairie Warbler. An excellent find was a Wilson's Warbler in January at Santee N.W.R. (*vide* PN). Coincidentally, several Wilson's were seen at this refuge a few winters back.

What was apparently North Carolina's fourth **Northern (Bullock's) Oriole** was a male at a Raleigh feeder in December (*vide* RJH). Although information is sketchy, the state's third Bullock's was at another Raleigh feeder during the previous winter (*vide* RJH). Numbers of wintering N. (Baltimore) Orioles have slipped in recent years, particularly at North Carolina feeders, and CBCs in that state no longer dominate those in other states. Either birders are not feeding orioles as they once did, or the devastatingly cold winters from 1976-77 onward took their toll. Nonetheless, 3 reports for the Atlanta area (*vide* TM) were notable, as the species does not winter regularly there. Very rare in North Carolina were two ♂ Brewer's Blackbirds in a cow pasture with other blackbirds near Chapel Hill Dec. 26 (RJ, J & JP). Surprisingly, there were no other reports of Brewer's. Again this winter there were multiple sightings of W. Tanagers, all in residential yards—two at different places in Fayetteville (M & RC *et al.*) and one at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., early January-Feb. 28+ (KK, JF).

FINCHES — Evening Grosbeaks were very scarce throughout the Region; most CBCs missed them, as did most active birders. Yet, Purple Finches enjoyed a good season, with larger numbers in most areas than during the previous 2 years, which were fairly respectable "finch winters" in the s. House Finches continue to spread, being found in new areas (Hatteras—HA) or especially in record numbers at localities where several years ago they were rare. Notable tallies for the Coastal Plain were 100+ in one yard in Whispering Pines, Moore Co., N.C., Jan. 23 (JHC, DT), 30-40 at an Augusta feeder all winter (CB), 20 at one Fayetteville feeder during the season (*vide* PJC), and eight at Edenton, N.C., Dec. 4 (AB). Hardly anyone would have expected a redpoll to appear this winter, yet a ♂ Com. Redpoll was convincingly described at a Carboro, N.C., feeder Dec. 26 (LF) by a birder familiar with both House and Purple finches. As with the grosbeak, Pine Siskins were difficult to find, although numbers were somewhat higher than those of the former species. Nevertheless, more CBCs missed siskins than reported them. The single Red Crossbill report was of a male at a feeder in Marietta, Ga., Jan. 31 (NI). This is the ninth consecutive winter without a major Red Crossbill flight in the s.e.

North Carolina got its third and fourth winter records, and first inland for the season, of **Le Conte's Sparrow**, both in Wake County. One was at Beaverdam Res., Dec. 4-18 (HL *et al.*) and the second was s. of

Raleigh Feb. 19 (JM *et al.*) Bachman's Sparrows were again found in winter at Ft. Bragg, N.C.; as many as four were located on the w. portion of the base on 9 dates in December and January (JHC). The two Tree Sparrow reports, both in North Carolina, lacked convincing details, an unfortunate but all too commonplace happening in this Region. A Clay-colored Sparrow at Buxton, N.C., Dec. 31 (HL) provided the fourth state winter record, all for the coast. Notable for Pamlico County, N.C., was a January White-crowned Sparrow near Oriental (DF, RF). About par for the season were the three Lincoln's Sparrows singles near Pendergrass, Ga., Dec. 14 (JG, RM), Townville, S.C., Dec. 19 (AA), and at a feeder in Harkers L., N.C., Feb. 26-28+ (SP, JF). Previous Regional winter records have fit no geographical pattern, and adding these 3 localities to a winter dot map for the species only increases the confusion. No Lapland Longspurs were reported, certainly in part because its usual associate, the Horned Lark, was down in numbers. Lastly, it was a poor season also for the Snow Bunting, with a flock of nine near Avon, N.C., Jan. 1 (BL, HL, MT) being the only sighting.

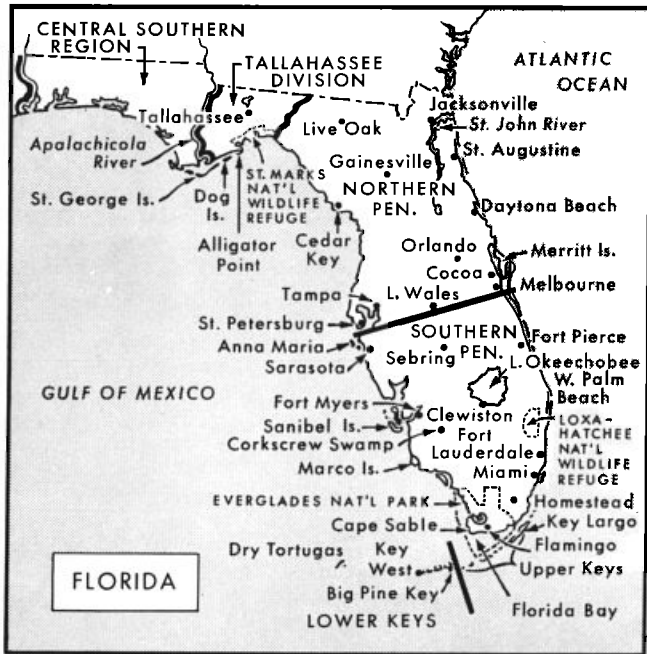
CORRIGENDUM — The spring report of the Baird's Sandpiper at Pea I. (AB 36:841) has been questioned by Wilds. Her experience with "peep" shorebirds in the field and in the hand (with study skins) has led her to believe that the Baird's was actually a White-rumped with dark central rectrices, not at all a rare occurrence based on her survey of museum skins. Thus, there remains no convincing spring sight record for the Region.

OBSERVERS — Jackson Abbott, Bob Anderson, Carole Anderson, Harry Armistead, Alan Avakian, Maurice Barnhill, Jeff Beacham, Rachel Bedard, Clarence Belger, Maureen Benson (MBe), Patrick Brisse, Dick Brown, Allen Bryan, Dana Carter, J.H. Carter III, Jack Carusos (JCa), Louise Cauthen, Howard & Susan Chambers (H & SC), Mosely & Ruth Chestnutt (M & RC), Steve Compton, Albert Conway, Robert Cowgill, Dan Cristol (DCr), Jim Crutchfield, P.J. Crutchfield, Ricky Davis, Irene Doremus, Gay Duncan, Lydia Follett, D.M. Forsythe, Dorothy Foy, Roger Foy, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Joe Greenberg, R.J. Hader, Paul Hamel, Nancy Iha, Wayne Irvin, Ross Jervis, Kathy Kirkman, John Koenen, Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis, Merrill Lynch, Peter Manigault (PMa), Didi Manns (DMa), Robert Manns, Greg Massey, Karen Masson, Dennie McClure, Pam McClure, Jim McConnell (JMCC), Terry Moore, Jim Mulholland, Kelly Nagel, Frances Needham, North Carolina State Museum, Perry Nugent, John Paget, John Paquet (JPq), T.K. Patterson, Carl Perry, Jim & Judy Pick (J & JP), Skip Prange, Barbara Roth, Fred Scott, Paul Sykes, Dick Thomas, Mike Tove, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Steve Wagner, Anne Waters, Morris Whitfield (MWh), Claudia Wilds, Bonnie Woodall (BWo), David Wright.—**HARRY E. LEGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27609.**

FLORIDA REGION /Wayne Hoffman

This season's weather was characterized by two major trends; mild temperatures and rain. December and the first half of January were warm, with frequent daily record high temperatures during the Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) period throughout the area. Late January and February were characterized by a series of mild but very wet cold fronts. By the end of the period stations throughout the Region were reporting monthly rainfall records. This weather had generally salubrious effects on wintering songbirds but spelled disaster for the winter-breeding waders. The Coot Bay CBC reported 20 species of warblers, and several species of warblers and other songbirds wintered in greater than usual numbers, or north of their usual range. These included Black-throated Green, Yellow, Worm-eating, and Wilson's warblers, Northern and Louisiana waterthrushes, orioles, tanagers, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

High water levels south of L. Okeechobee caused virtually complete reproductive failures of the colonially nesting herons, Wood Storks,



ibises, and Roseate Spoonbills in southern Florida this winter. The year's record rainfall might have affected nesting under the best of circumstances, but overmanagement of water flow in the Everglades region seems to have reached the point where water conditions are rarely suitable for breeding. The breeding cycles of these birds are timed to exploit fish and other prey gradually concentrated into the deeper ponds as the marshes recede during the dry season. Current drainage schemes seem to dry out the marshes too quickly in dry years, and to keep them continuously flooded in wetter years. In keeping with Florida Region tradition I will leave the details of the nesting failure to Rich Paul's Nesting Season report.

I tried to obtain observers' estimates of relative numbers for several of the regular wintering songbirds, including Hermit Thrush, Solitary Vireo, and Yellow-throated and Orange-crowned warblers. The results can only be described as "patchy". Solitary Vireos appeared more common than usual around Tampa Bay, but apparently were not common in the Gainesville, Ft. Myers, and Palm Beach areas. In contrast, Orange-crowned Warblers were more common than usual around Ft. Myers, but apparently not elsewhere. I was impressed by the numbers of Hermit Thrushes around Tampa, but I received comments about their scarcity elsewhere. Evidently these birds choose their wintering areas on the basis of environmental factors varying from year to year on smaller scales than I expected.

LOONS AND GREBES — A total of 23 Com. Loons was reported by JJ more than 20 mi off Cape Canaveral on 5 trips in December and January. Loons normally are very rare that far offshore but he noted that the water stayed unusually warm this winter, and retained large populations of baitfish. The abundant baitfish apparently were responsible as well for the numbers of Gannets, jaegers, and kittiwakes wintering in the area (see below). Oddly no shearwaters were reported at all.

A report of seven dead Com. Loons on a 1-mi stretch of Casey Key in early February (*vide* AS) was the first warning of a major die-off occurring just after the end of the period. Single Red-throated Loons were at Alligator Pt., Franklin Co., Dec. 23 (HMS) and at Wards Bank Feb. 6 (HC), but the one inland at L. Jessup, Seminole Co. (TR, CT) was extremely rare. Eared Grebes appear to be increasing in the Region with reports of 12 birds, including four at St. Marks Jan. 14 (*vide* HMS) and five at the Clear Spring phosphate mine, Polk Co. (henceforth, C.S.M.) Feb. 5 (TP).

PELECANIFORMES — Brown Pelicans are rare inland, but an adult appeared at Bivne's Arm, Gainesville Feb. 24-28 (RWR), two of unreported age were at Indiantown, Martin Co., Jan. 6 (PS, BH), and one immature was there Feb. 27 (WH, JD). Gannets made a strong showing along the Atlantic Coast this year. Several observers reported

counts of over 200 at favored spots from Brevard to Palm Beach County, with a maximum of over 1000 off Cape Canaveral Feb. 5 (JJ). Only three Gannets were reported from the Gulf Coast; one each from Key West (*vide* FH), Cape Romano (THB) and Alligator Pt. (HMS). Two Brown Boobies on the Biscayne CBC were unusual, but one reported near Clewiston on L. Okeechobee Jan. 18 (RC) was amazing. Great Cormorants made a good showing on the Atlantic Coast with 5 records, including southerly records at Port Everglades Dec. 12 (JK) and in the Everglades Nat'l Park (henceforth, E.N.P.), at E. Cape Sable Jan. 3. Anhingas returned to Boca Chica in the Keys for the third winter (JL). A ♂ Magnificent Frigatebird Dec. 27 at Manasota (BH) was unusually far n. for that date.

HERONS THROUGH FLAMINGOS — Two red-phase and one white-phase Reddish Egrets were present at Wards Bank in December and January (HC), and one appeared at Cedar Key Jan. 2 (*vide* RWR).

According to HMS, Cattle Egrets are becoming extremely rare in the Tallahassee Div. in winter, even as summer populations are increasing. Evidently this population is becoming strictly migratory, and apparently the area is not attractive to migrants from farther n. Such local adjustments of status for Cattle Egrets may be as important to document as the N expansion of the species' range.

Wood Storks were more evident than usual this winter in the Tampa area, and were quite common near Okeechobee (WH, JD). One even appeared in Leon County Feb. 1 (*vide* HMS). This is not good news, for these birds probably had dispersed from failed nesting attempts in s. Florida.

Several Scarlet Ibis reports were received, as well as Greater Flamingo reports from Florida Bay and the Keys. Unfortunately, so many of these birds are kept in captivity in Florida that we may never be able to recognize true vagrants.

WATERFOWL — A free-flying imm. Mute Swan near Boca Raton surely was an escape, but the Whistling Swan on the St. Johns R., near Christmas Feb. 24-Mar. 1 (MD, m.ob.) was presumed wild. Fulvous Whistling Duck numbers at Loxahatchee N.W.R., peaked at 150 this winter. The flock of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks near Sarasota (see Fall Report) remained through the period. Two Black-bellied Whistling Ducks were shot legally by a hunter at Loxahatchee N.W.R. (*vide* PS). Three imm. Brant were at Flamingo Dec. 16 until February (m.ob.) and a Canada Goose on Big Pine Key Dec. 18 furnished one of very few records for the Keys (FH). Six (Blue) Snow Geese were on the St. Johns R., Volusia Co., Jan. 15 (GB) and a notable count of 35 (28 Blue) was made at Waukulla Beach Feb. 8 (*vide* HMS). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon appeared on Sanibel I., Dec. 17 and remained through the period (L & BA, m.ob.).

A Com. Goldeneye appeared at Port Canaveral Jan. 1 (JJ *et al.*). Black Scoter sightings included a family Dec. 24 in Port Everglades (RP), a female on the Coot Bay CBC, two males and two females at Cape Romano Jan. 24 (THB) and seven on the North Pinellas CBC. Oldsquaws were seen on the Coot Bay CBC and in Old Tampa Bay Feb. 5 (GEW *et al.*). Two Com. Mergansers were reported on CBCs, one at Cocoa Dec. 29 and one at Cedar Key Jan. 2. Red-breasted Merganser numbers were normal or high this winter on the coastal bays, and 17 at C.S.M., Jan. 30 were exceptional for an inland location.

HAWKS AND FALCONS — White-tailed Kites were well represented this winter, with 2 sightings on Paynes Prairie S.P., Dec. 6 (SN) and Feb. 12 (MC, BJB), perhaps involving the same bird, and a report from near Ft. Pierce Dec. 28 (SL, PM). Interestingly, increased numbers of winter sightings preceded recent expansions of this kite's breeding range elsewhere in the country. Everglade Kites were quite evident along the Tamiami Trail December to February, with a maximum count of 70 (*vide* OLB). One Feb. 19 at L. Tohopakakiga, Osceola Co., Feb. 17 (WF, RY) could have remained n. after the drought-caused dispersal of 2 years ago, or more ominously, could portend difficulties caused by this winter's floods. Marge Brown suggested that Short-tailed Hawks are increasing in winter in the Lower Keys, and Swainson's Hawks were reported from Flamingo (m.ob.), the Lower Keys (*vide* FH) and from Brevard County (DS).

A Caracara at Hatbill P., Brevard Co., Feb. 28 (DS, DD) was n. of its usual range. Reports were received of 20 ± Peregrine Falcons

wintering in the Region, primarily along the coasts. Merlins were rare along the coast, but reports of them wintering on the c. ridge (DS) were most interesting.

SHOREBIRDS — Ted Below has been conducting frequent shorebird censuses at Cape Romano. Over 100 Am. Oystercatchers, 500-1000 Red Knots, and 20-30 Marbled Godwits wintered there. American Golden Plovers were reported from Wards Bank Dec. 4 (19—HC) and from Biscayne Bay Jan. 6 (RS).

Lake Jackson, Leon Co., was partially drained by 2 sinkholes last fall. The exposed lake bed provided the best shorebird habitat inland in the Tallahassee Div. in years. A Semipalmated Plover there Jan. 29 represented one of few winter records for the Div., and the 28 Long-billed Dowitchers there Dec. 18 was an exceptional count. Two Long-billed Curlews wintered at Wards Bank and numbers of Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings there were high (HC, JW). A Ruff was described carefully from L. Jessup Jan. 15 (TR). Two Purple Sandpipers at Port Canaveral Jan. 17 (JJ) were the southernmost ones reported. Six White-rumped Sandpipers Dec. 26 at Ft. Pierce (HWK, KD, RR) were very unexpected; normally they winter in Argentina.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — J. Johnson reported 45 identified jaegers from his trips off Cape Canaveral, including 34 Pomarine, 11 Parasitic, and on Jan. 30, one well-described ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** Glaucous Gulls were reported from Wards Bank Dec. 25 and Feb. 9 & 13 (*vide* PCP), and from off Cape Canaveral Jan. 24 (JJ, RAS). An adult (unprecedented in Florida) and a 2nd-winter Iceland Gull were reported from Wards Bank in February, but by the end of the period it was concluded that both records were based on sightings of the same leucistic adult Herring Gull. An ad. **California Gull** at Toytown Dump Feb. 21 was carefully described (SRP, LH); details have been submitted to the Florida Records Committee. This would represent one of very few records of California Gull e. of the Mississippi. Great Black-backed Gulls are rare on the Gulf Coast, but at least 2-3 wintered on Tampa Bay, and one was at Sanibel I., the latter half of February (LA). At least nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls wintered at Toytown Dump (SRP) and others were reported from Port Everglades (two—JK, WG *et al.*), and Wards Bank (HC). S. Patton regularly censused gulls at Toytown Dump and elsewhere in the Tampa Bay area; numbers peaked in late January with 10,000 Herring Gulls, 50,000 Ring-billed Gulls, and 40,000 Laughing Gulls. In contrast, gull numbers were way down in the Marco I. area (THB). Franklin's Gulls followed their usual pattern of primarily fall records, with the last sighting Dec. 21 (SRP, LH). JJ reported 11 Black-legged Kittiwakes on 5 trips off Cape Canaveral in the period.

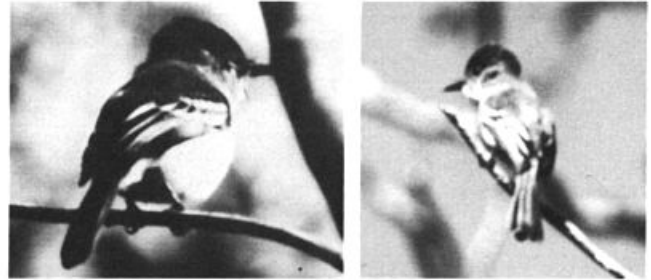
Gull-billed Terns rarely winter in Florida but two spent the period at Palmetto Pt., Lee Co. (L & BA, m.ob.) and a third was seen just e. of Sarasota Jan. 15 (L & BA). Two Black Terns at C.S.M., Feb. 15 were early (TP). The 40 Roseate Terns on the Coot Bay CBC was an impressive count for this declining species. A murre was studied at close range at the s. end of Casey Key (AS) but the characters noted were not adequate to distinguish between Common and Thick-billed. Both species are accidental in the South.

PIGEONS, PARROTS AND CUCKOOS — White-winged Doves on Sanibel I. (LA) and at Key West (FH) suggest an expansion of their range in s. Florida. Ringed Turtle Doves in Key West possibly are becoming established (*vide* FH). The Miami area continues to harbor a diverse parrot fauna. Neotropical species predominate, with Chestnut-fronted and Military macaws, Green-cheeked and Nanday conures, Canary-winged and Monk parakeets, and Red-crowned Amazons. Only Rose-ringed Parakeets are Old World natives (*vide* OLB). Elsewhere, Monk Parakeets appear to be increasing around Tampa, and a pair of Nanday Conures appeared at Cedar Key (JH). Three Groove-billed Anis were present with groups of Smooth-billed Anis in E.N.P.; two at Royal Palm Visitors Center, and one at Eco Pond. A fourth wintered at Payne's Prairie S.P. (*vide* RWR).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Three Rufous Hummingbirds were reported from the Homestead area—a female, an imm. male, and a bird of unknown sex. A ♂ **Black-chinned Hummingbird**, one of very few recorded in Florida, spent the winter in a Tallahassee yard (*vide* HMS; id. confirmed from photos by N. New-

field, Metairie, La.). The newest exotic loose in S. Florida is a Keel-billed Toucan at Costello Hammock (*vide* OLB); why don't people take care of their pets? Yellow-bellied Sapsucker numbers were high this winter.

Myiarchus flycatchers made news in Florida this winter. Wied's Crested Flycatchers were reported from Royal Palm Visitors Center, E.N.P., Jan. 9, and from Alachua Jan. 10 (*vide* RWR). Great Crested Flycatchers wintered as far n. as Highlands County (FL). The bird of the year in Florida was a **La Sagra's Flycatcher** on Elliott Key, Biscayne Bay Dec. 21-Jan. 24 (BR, m.ob., ph.). This furnished the second North American record of this West Indian bird (the other was collected in Alabama in 1963). HL reported 18 Least Flycatchers in the Palm Beach-Ft. Lauderdale area. Is this another result of the mild winter, or is he getting better at finding these secretive birds?



La Sagra's Flycatcher, second North American record, Elliott Key, Fla., Dec. 23, 1982. Photo/G.F. Wagner (l), Jan. 1, 1983. Photo/L.P. Brown (r).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS — A Barn Swallow near Lake Placid Jan. 9 furnished a good record (BK *et al.*). Rough-winged Swallows appeared on both the Coot Bay and Biscayne CBCs. The **Rock Wren** (see Fall Report) remained at St. George Island S.P. through Feb. 10 (*vide* SC). Two Sprague's Pipits were seen on the exposed bed of L. Jackson, Leon Co., Jan. 29 (HMS). Robins arrived early and in exceptional numbers throughout the peninsula.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A Bell's Vireo was reported on the Coot Bay CBC at E. Cape Sable Jan. 3 (BH *et al.*). This species is very rare in Florida. As noted above, an extensive list of warblers wintered in Florida. A **Nashville Warbler** appeared at Merritt Island N.W.R., Dec. 27 (JG). Black-throated Green Warblers were seen at Jacksonville (VM, MD), St. Petersburg (GEW *et al.*) and L. Kissimmee (TP, HF) as well as in their more usual S. Florida wintering areas. An imm. Yellow Warbler at Loxahatchee N.W.R. was exceptional. Worm-eating Warblers wintered at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (*vide* THB) and one Feb. 22 on the Gumbo Limbo trail, E.N.P., may have wintered. Numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers were very high from Naples and Palm Beach County n. Northern Waterthrushes were reported from Highlands County Jan. 9 (GEW *et al.*) and from the E.N.P., while **Louisiana Waterthrushes** appeared on Summerland Key (MB) Jan. 12 and on the St. Petersburg CBC.

ICTERIDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Single ♂ Bronzed Cowbirds were present at Flamingo Dec. 3 and at St. Petersburg Dec. 21. Do mostly males visit Florida, or (more likely) do we just not recognize the females? And will we recognize the first Glossy Cowbirds to reach us from the Caribbean? The flock of Brewer's Blackbirds at the stables n. of St. Petersburg remained through the period. Northern Orioles winter in small numbers throughout the peninsula, but the ten in a tree in Haines City Feb. 6 was an exceptional concentration. A ♂ Orchard Oriole was carefully described from Palm Beach County Jan. 11 (HL). A W. Meadowlark was flushed repeatedly at St. George I. causeway in December and January (HL, TT *et al.*); identification was made by differences in the call note. Western Tanagers were reported at Florida City Jan. 15 (LM) and at a feeder in Alachua for 4 days in mid-January (RDR). Three Summer Tanagers were in the S. Florida area (*vide* OLB) and another three were in Palm Beach County (*vide* HL). A ♂ **Stripe-headed Tanager** fed in a *Ficus* tree on Hypoluxo I., Feb. 22-23 (*vide* HL). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited feeders at Florida City in December and Venice in early February; two were at Royal Palm Visitor Center, E.N.P., Feb. 26. A Dickcissel spent February at a feeder in Brevard County (DD, DS).

Purple Finches were reported in higher-than-usual numbers at Jacksonville (*vide* PCP) and two Pine Siskins visited Orange P. Goldfinches were abundant throughout the peninsula this year but appeared less common than usual in the Tallahassee Div.

In general, sparrow numbers were low. At Jacksonville PCP remarked on the continuation of a "long gradual decline" in numbers of White-throated Sparrows. The only Fox Sparrow reported was at the unlikely location of Alligator Pt. (HMS). Evidence continues to mount that Lincoln's Sparrows winter regularly in the peninsula. One was found at Oviedo Jan. 16 (KD *et al.*) and three were identified Jan. 11-13 in Palm Beach County (*vide* HL).

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS (Area editors in boldface)
— **Lyn & Brooks Atherton**, **Oron L. Bass**, **Ted H. Below**, **B. Joe**

Black, **Greg Bretz**, **Marge Brown**, **Sam Cole**, **Mike Collopy**, **Hal Connor**, **Ruth Cooper**, **Mary Davison**, **Don Devitt**, **Helen & William Dowling**, **Kevin Dowling**, **Jack Dozier**, **Hoke Fitzgerald**, **Dot Freeman**, **Wayne Freeman**, **Chuck Geanangel**, **Wally George**, **Joe Grabowski**, **Frances Hames**, **Lise Hanners**, **Brian Harrington (BHa)**, **John Hintermister**, **Brian Hope**, **Johnnie Johnson**, **Herbert W. Kale**, **Jim King**, **Bobbie Kittleson**, **Sue Langenia**, **Howard Langridge**, **Jack Larcombe**, **Fred Lohrer**, **Larry McDonald**, **Virge Markgraf**, **Pete Marra**, **Steve Nesbit**, **Tom Palmer**, **Steve R. Patton**, **Robert Pittel**, **Peggy C. Powell**, **Robert W. Repenning (RWR)**, **Richard Roberts**, **Bill Robertson**, **Ron D. Robinson**, **Ted Robinson**, **Robert A. Scheibe**, **Dave Smith**, **Annette Stedman**, **Henry M. Stevenson**, **Roger Stone**, **Douglas Stuckey**, **Paul Sykes**, **Tadziu Trotsky**, **Chuck Turner**, **Joe Wilson**, **Glen E. Woolfenden**, **Richard Young**.—**WAYNE HOFFMAN**, **Biology Dept.**, **University of South Florida**, **Tampa, FL 33620**.

ONTARIO REGION

/Ron D. Weir

The exceptional weather over the province belied the fact it was really winter. Across the north, the three month period was the warmest in 50 years. In the south, only the winters of 1931-32 and one in the 1840s were warmer. A bat was seen flying at Gravenhurst January 24 (RLB) and on a 7 km walk in *Peterborough* February 23, birders counted eight insects, surpassing by one the number of bird species (AGC, PH), which is not supposed to happen during mid-winter in Ontario. Heavy cone crops, abundant berries and uncovered weed seeds provided ideal conditions for wintering birds. Some, like waxwings and crossbills, responded while others, especially blackbirds, were inexplicably scarce.

The reports from the 49 sub-regional editors and contributors were dominated by late autumn records and overwinterers. At least 33 of the species reported are either rare or accidental in winter. Waterfowl and gulls remained farther north than usual in response to the freeze that either came late or did not occur. Raptor mortality was not noted by observers and Kay McKeever of O.R.R.F., reported a very quiet three month period for admissions, which contrasts with last winter. An astonishing swallow, perhaps astonished as well, was still present January 2 and an amazing total of nine warbler species occurred in the period. The distribution of winter finches has been traced thanks to the expanded observer coverage in Ontario's vast northland. Evening Grosbeaks pushed in from Quebec in late January and early February with very heavy movement into areas from Moosonee to North Bay to A.P.P. and Ottawa. By the end of the period, their thrust was southwest and they had reached *Peterborough* and *Simcoe* in the south and the Lake Superior shore and Armstrong in the west. Purple Finches were fairly common throughout. Pine Grosbeaks were scarce south of Sudbury, but common in the extreme west from Kenora to Atikokan and they appeared suddenly in February at Moosonee. Redpoll numbers were exiguous everywhere except in Moosonee where in the last five days of February, they appeared by the hundreds. Only in A.P.P., in mid-February were Pine Siskins common. Tufted Duck, Sandhill Crane, Parasitic Jaeger, California and Sabine's gulls, Varied Thrush and Yellow-throated Warbler were but morsels from an interesting season. Read the bill of fare and savour the memories of a winter that never was.

Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) records were omitted unless they were of over-riding significance. Records from Long Point should be credited to Long Point Bird Observatory except as noted otherwise. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

ABBREVIATIONS — A.P.P. (Algonquin Provincial Park), M.I. (Manitoulin I.), O.R.R.F. (Ontario Rehabilitation Research Foundation), Pelee (Point Pelee N.P.), P.P.P. (Presqu'île P.P.), P.E.Pt. (Prince Edward Point), S.L.I. (St. Lawrence Islands N.P.)

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A Com. Loon was still in North



Bay Dec. 29 (GFC), another in Sudbury Jan. 1 (JCN), two on Palmerston L., n. *Frontenac* Jan. 2 (WWB) and the last one at Sarnia Jan. 16 (DFR, JLB). Two Red-throats were at S.L.I., Dec. 4-5 (DAS), singles at P.E.Pt., Dec. 18 (RDW), Kingston Jan. 1 (RBS, NS), Colpoys Bay Jan. 13 (JWJ) and Winona Feb. 5 (RCu). A Red-necked Grebe at Kingston Feb. 23 was their earliest ever (JDS). There were 10 reports of Pied-billed Grebe including one at Cambridge Jan. 2-23 (WW). Late were two Double-crested Cormorants at Pelee I., Dec. 8 (DJM, RDM, MO) and singles at Rock Point P.P., and Port Matland Dec. 31 (BMDu, JFT, RFA). Latest among 22 reports of Great Blue Herons after Jan. 1 were one at Walkerton, *Bruce* in the first week of February, four at Kitchener-Waterloo to Feb. 15 (SRK) and one on the Manitou R., M.I., Feb. 27 (CTB). An imm. Black-crowned Night Heron lingered in Hamilton Dec. 26-Jan. 1 (RRi, GWw *et al.*) and single Am. Bitterns tarried near Thornbury, *Grey* Jan. 15 (HMcC) and Port Rowan Jan. 17 (AG).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — The main concentrations of Whistling Swan were reported from the shores along Turkey Pt. to Long Pt., and from w. *Elgin* (JRM *et al.*) each with 1000 birds. The five on Wolfe I., to Jan. 18 were well e. of their normal range (K.F.N.). A lone Canada Goose was at S. Baymouth, M.I., Feb. 20, a first for winter (J Reckahn). Five Cackling Geese, the small race of the Canada wintering on the West Coast, were with 2000 Canadas at Whitby Jan. 15 (MFB) and had observers wondering about their origin. Single Brant were at Oakville throughout (*vide* KMCL) and Sarnia Dec. 6-Jan. 16 (*vide*

AHK). An imm. White-fronted Goose accompanied Canadas on Wolfe I., Dec. 19 for the area's second record (RDW, GY). Six Snows were reported of which the two at Strathroy were unprecedented (DEW). High numbers of puddle ducks included 150 Gadwall at Toronto Jan. 1 (WCM), 30 Green-winged Teal in Hamilton Bay Jan. 23 (KMCL) and 18 in Oshawa Jan. 10-30 (HK *et al.*). At Manotick, a Pintail stayed for the winter and a ♂ Am. Wigeon was present Jan. 29 for second wintering occurrences (BMDi *et al.*). The Blue-winged Teal at Kitchener was still present at the end of the period (SRK).

The 7000 Redheads and 5000 Canvasbacks near Sombra, St. Clair R., Jan. 29 (DFR) were good counts. The only other concentration of Canvasback was the 4000 at Long Pt., Jan. 3. A smart ♂ **Tufted Duck** at Oakville Jan. 23 to at least Feb. 13 (DGA, m.ob.) was only the second male for the Province. Unusual in winter for A.P.P., was the Com. Goldeneye Jan. 4 (GET). A ♂ and ♀ Barrow's were at Burlington Dec. 1-Feb. 28 (RF *et al.*) and Kettle Pt., Dec. 25-Feb. 6 (ph., AHR) respectively, while another, sex not reported, was at Niagara Falls Dec. 5-Jan. 23 (*vide* RFA). Three Bufflehead were on M.I., Feb. 22 for first February records (JCN). The two Harlequin Ducks at Ipperwash last autumn lingered through December (DFR, AHR), a male appeared at Oakville Dec. 15 and stayed for the entire period (*vide* KMCL) and a female was at Cranberry Marsh Jan. 8 (J & NL). At Humber Bay P., Toronto, two males were seen Dec. 18 and a female was there all winter (*vide* BDP, CEG). A male and female were at Bronte Jan. 17 (GCo) and a female at Winona Feb. 5 (RCu). In the far n at Cape Henrietta Maria, several hundred Com. Eiders were counted Feb. 17, which were 50% ad. males and 50% brown birds (MEG, CJR, WPB). A King Eider was at P.P.P., Dec. 2 (AGC) and the two eiders at Sarnia Dec. 8-11 may also have been this species (DFR). The 14 Ruddy Ducks at Long Pt., Dec. 25 were noteworthy (TSa). In A.P.P., the ♀ Com. Merganser Feb. 12 was unusual and ten Hoodeds Dec. 8 were late (RGT). Seven Red-breasteds in the open strait off the Mississagi Light, M.I., Feb. 22-23 were area firsts for winter (JCN).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Late Turkey Vultures were singles at Cheltenham Dec. 17 (RAG), P.E.Pt., Dec. 18 (HQ, RDW), *Elgin* near s w *Middlesex* Dec. 28 (DMu), but the one at Darlington Feb. 20 was thought to be an early migrant (B & EA). Goshawk numbers remained high after last autumn's irruption. Excluding the CBCs, there were 34 reports distributed across the Province outside Ottawa and A.P.P., where they were present in moderate numbers (BMDi, RGT). The 20 reports, excluding CBCs, of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were above average. Some 41 Red-tailed Hawks were relocated from the Toronto Int'l Airport during the period (KMCL) and an albino was in the Kitchener-Waterloo area Dec. 27 (M & HW). Five Red-shoulders, rare in winter in the s., were noted Dec. 9-Jan. 21 from Hawk Cliff, St. Catharines, Claireville and Milton. Rough-leggeds were widespread in the s. and one was still at the Moosonee Airport Dec. 31 (KFA, JRC).

Six Golden Eagles were reported at Harrow Dec. 2 (imm.—DJM *et al.*), Georgetown Dec. 9 (three!—no details, JM), Petroglyphs P.P., Dec. 22 (imm.—PH), Eganville Jan. 11 (ad.—PP). The 11 ad. and 11 imm. Bald Eagles were up slightly over last winter's record number. A ♀ Marsh Hawk was in Ottawa Jan. 24 (BMDi) and up to 24 wintered on Wolfe I. (K.F.N.). Gyrfalcons numbered only six. One and two wintered in the Sudbury and Ottawa areas respectively (JCN, BMDi); one was picked up in Simcoe Jan. 11 by Ministry of Natural Resources staff and taken to a rehabilitation centre near Guelph (*vide* RHS); singles were at Long Pt., Jan. 16 (AG) and Wolfe I., Feb. 19 (MGA *et al.*). Peregrines also totalled six at Chaffey's Locks Dec. 13 (FP), Wolfe I., Dec. 27 (FA, JCa *et al.*), Rossmore Jan. 5 (RTS), Kitchener-Waterloo Jan. 27 (J. Roberts), Lakefield Feb. 6-21 (AGC *et al.*) and Cobourg Feb. 26 (ERM). The 3 Merlin reports were from Oakville Dec. 3 (GBE), Long Pt., Dec. 19 (TSa) and Kitchener-Waterloo Jan. 16 (K.W.F.N.).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — In A.P.P., Spruce Grouse were very scarce through the period, but Ruffed were in high numbers (RGT). Also in above-normal numbers were Sharp-tailed in the Cochrane, Hearst and Geraldton regions (TA). The apparently healthy Sandhill Crane near N. Gower May 4-Nov. 30 stayed on to winter successfully, eating the regular handouts as it mingled with cattle and horses. (ph., BMDi, m.ob.). It provided Ontario's second known winter rec-



Sandhill Crane, North Gower, Ont., Feb. 20, 1983. Photo/B. Dilabio.

ord. Two Killdeer spent the winter in the Dundas marsh (*vide* KMCL) and another was in Cobourg Jan. 6 (ERM). Returning migrants were at Ft. Erie (RLS) and Bowmanville (PIB) Feb. 20 and then along the lakeshore in many locations from Pelee e. to Kingston. Late Am. Woodcock were in Vaughan township Dec. 5 (GBE, ALD) and Deseronto (J. Percy *et al.*). There were 3 reports of overwintering snipe and the one at Pelee Feb. 21 was thought to be a migrant (RDM). Late yellowlegs included a Greater in the Corner marsh Dec. 1-3 (SEM), one at Grand Bend Dec. 6 with a Lesser, and another Lesser at Pelee Dec. 4 (DJM *et al.*). Eleven Purple Sandpipers were led by four at Niagara Falls Dec. 5 & 13 (RKI, RRi, LW, DVW), two at Pelee Dec. 3 (CNH, MAH) and singles at Amherst I., Dec. 4 (SHa), Rondeau P.P., and Wolfe I., Dec. 19 (PAW, RDW) and P.P.P., Dec. 29 (SEM). Tardy Dunlins were three at S.L.I., Dec. 4 (DAS) and one at P.P.P., Dec. 29-30 (SEM).

JAEGERS, GULLS — A jaeger, tentatively identified as Pomarine, was found dead along Nottawasaga Bay, *Simcoe* Dec. 3 (*vide* CJM). A Pomarine Jaeger was along the St. Clair R., near Sarnia Dec. 16 (DFR), where three late Parasitics were found Jan. 15 (AHR, DFR). Three Parasitics, which were attacked by Herring Gulls in an apparent role reversal, were at Burlington Feb. 11 (RCu) constituting Ontario's first in February. Gulls put on their best winter showing in many years and the 14 species topped the 13 of 1980-81. The largest group of white-wingeds was seen at Ottawa with 70 Glaucous and 65 Iceland Dec. 31 & 30 respectively (BMDi, TH, TP). Both species were in Peterborough to Jan. 2, 3 weeks later than usual (AGC *et al.*). Extreme e. Ontario was the centre for numbers of Great Black-backed led by 218, mostly adults, along the St. Lawrence R., between Gananoque and Brockville Dec. 9 (DAS) and 120 in Ottawa Dec. 31 for a record high (BMDi). Farther w. and inland, the two at Peterborough Dec. 17-18 (AGC, DCS) and six at Barrie Dec. 29-30 (CJM, EAM) were rare for any season and five at the dumps in Waterloo and Guelph Dec. 18-Jan. 9 (SRK) was their largest number ever.

Lesser Black-backed were also in record numbers with seven and possibly nine depending on duplicate counting. Since 1976-77, Ontario has averaged two/winter. Two adults were at the Nepean dump Dec. 8 and another or the same bird at Shirley's Bay Dec. 11 (MGA, TH, BMDi). At Kingston, an adult Dec. 19 was the third ever there (RDW, GY) and an adult spent Christmas dining at the St. Catharines' dump Dec. 21-28 (JCh, RM *et al.*). *Simcoe's* first ever was at Barrie Dec. 29-30 (CJM *et al.*) and at Niagara Falls two and one were present Jan. 2 & 12 respectively (RFA). The S retreat of Herring Gulls was delayed as 2500 were at Barrie Dec. 30 (CJM) and 2200 in Ottawa Dec. 31 (BMDi) and atypically some remained all winter in *Muskoka* (RLB) and at S. Baymouth, M.I. (JCN). Reports of Thayer's numbered 14 of which nine were near Sarnia (DFR) and the rest along the lower Great Lakes. An ad. **California Gull** near the Lambton Generating Station

on the St. Clair R., Dec. 20 (ph. DFR *et al.*) was Ontario's third ever and first in winter. At Niagara-on-the-Lake, a Black-headed Dec. 1 & Jan. 2 (DJM, RDM, AGC) was the Province's ninth in the past 20 winters and the Franklin's Dec. 1 was the eighth in 20. (DJM, RDM). Also there Dec. 1 were 5000 Bonaparte's (DJM, RDM) which numbered 1300 at Sarnia Jan. 13 (DFR). From the Niagara area, L. Erie and the St. Clair R., Dec. 1-Jan. 13 came reports of 28 Little Gulls led by the five at Long Pt., Dec. 19 (TSA). Last autumn's irruption of Black-legged Kittiwake faded rapidly. An adult was near Burlington Dec. 1-3 (DRG, GBe, ALD) and seven at Sarnia Dec. 1-Jan. 16 (DFR). An imm. Sabine's Gull along the Niagara R., Dec. 12-13 (V. Evans, JO, RRI, LW) was Ontario's first ever for the period.

OWLS — An imm. ♀ Great Horned Owl, shot at Maple and taken to O.R.R.F., was of the *subarcticus* race (KMCK), which occurs in w. and n. Ontario. The three Snowies admitted to the centre during the winter, one of which was trapped inside a hydro transformer cage, are releasable. Their flight was moderate with peak numbers up to 25 on Wolfe I. (K.F.N.), 15 in Ottawa (BMDi) and 11 at Paisley, *Bruce* (D. Schaus). One spent the whole period in downtown North Bay (GFC). Five Hawk Owls were in Moosonee all winter (KFA) and the one at Severn Bridge, *Simcoe* Jan. 6-15 (RLB, AJS) was s. of its normal range. Short-eareds were scarce but up to 40 were seen regularly on Wolfe I. (MGa, K.F.N.) and six at Tullamore, *Peel* Jan. 22-Feb. 13 (RLB, AGC). The only Boreal reports were of one killed at Dryden in a trap (LAH) and one at Moosonee Feb. 17 roosting outside the office of the Ministry of Natural Resources (KFA *et al.*).

KINGFISHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — The Belted Kingfisher on M.I., Feb. 26 (CTB) was one of 21+ that wintered. The 12 Com. Flickers seemed a low total for such an easy winter. The 13 Red-bellied Woodpeckers were well below last winter's numbers, but the 30 on the CBCs in London, St. Thomas and w. *Elgin* showed the species' continued success (WRJ). Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were in Port Credit Dec. 26 (JAK), at 4 Toronto locations Dec. 26-Jan. 27 (HK, R. Scovell, A. Grey, Sarnia Feb. 2 (*fide* AHK) and Erie Beach Feb. 12 (RKL). Of the three-toed woodpeckers, only the Black-backed irrupted. Its numbers were high in Ottawa and 10 sightings were s. of their normal range, reaching Kingston, P.P.P., Castleton, Woodbridge, London and Komoka. The only N. Three-toed seen out of range was near Kingston Jan. 9 (FA). London maintained its reputation for late swallows, hosting a hardy Rough-winged at a sewage pond to Jan. 2 (WRJ).

JAYS THROUGH PIPITS — Extralimital Gray Jays included one on Wolfe I., Dec. 16 (D. Paine) and at least two in Guelph Dec. 11-Jan. 4 (*fide* SRK). Kingston's fifth ever Tufted Titmouse was at a feeder Dec. 22-Feb. 14 (KFE *et al.*). The 70 White-breasted Nuthatches on Wolfe I., Dec. 5 (D. Welsh) suggested an irruption. Red-breasteds were present nearly everywhere including areas n. to Moosonee (RDM). They were very common in A.P.P., where 90 Brown Creepers were counted Jan. 1 (RGT). They also wintered in above average numbers n. to Atikokan, M.I., and North Bay. Forty reports of Winter Wren came from the extreme s.w., singles from Long Pt., Toronto, Oshawa and Peterborough. A Carolina Wren was at Niagara-on-the-Lake Jan. 2 (AGC, PB, CV) and Ajax Jan. 21-Feb. 18 (SEM *et al.*). One Gray Catbird lingered at Ipperwash Dec. 18 (*fide* AHK) and another spent the winter at Whitby (MJB, J. Sabine) where a Brown Thrasher was also present (D. Barry).

American Robins wintered in numbers. Up to five stayed at Sault Ste. Marie (TM) and eight were 150 km n. of the city Feb. 22-26 (JCa). Singles were n. to Kenora Jan. 9-Feb. 28 (SMcL), Atikokan Jan. 9 (DHE) and Sudbury Feb. 15 (R. Reid). An imm. ♂ Varied Thrush was at an Oakville feeder Dec. 19-Feb. 28 (DRG, m.ob.) while a female fed on Buckthorn berries at Whitby Jan. 15-Feb. 25 (J. & B. Knudson, m.ob.). Another was reported at a Richmond Hill feeder Jan. 19 (R. Tilt). An E. Bluebird tarried at Rondeau P.P., to Dec. 18 (PAW). The robust Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at the Dundas marsh Dec. 1 (GBe), near Rondeau P.P., Dec. 11 (PAW) and at Pelee Dec. 24 (DFR) were late. Golden-crowned Kinglets were in abnormally high numbers all winter. They were also n. to Kenora, M.I., where 25 were seen Feb. 25 (JCN), Sudbury and A.P.P., where 226 were tallied on their CBC Jan. 1 (RGT). Only three Ruby-crowneds were reported at Whitby Jan. 17

(D Dalke), Aurora Feb. 18 (J Thomson) and Waterloo Feb. 27 (M & HW). Hardy Water Pipits were at Pickering Dec. 1 (RRI *et al.*), Wolfe I., Dec. 12 (EG, FA), Bronte Jan. 15 & Feb. 13 (MJ *et al.*) and but one at Pelee Feb. 20 was thought to be a spring migrant (RDM).

WAXWINGS TO BLACKBIRDS — Bohemian Waxwings were common in the extreme w., where 400 were in Cochenour Jan. 1-2 (TSA, B. Scherkus), 450 in Dryden all winter (LAH) and 100 in Kenora from late December (SMcL). Elsewhere they were scarce. Fewer than 20 were in Sault Ste. Marie Feb. 23, Sudbury Feb. 12-27 and North Bay December and February, but 26 reached Gananoque Feb. 3 (DAS). The 20 Cedars at Atikokan Jan. 9 were their first in winter (DHE). The N. Shrike wintering in Moosonee was an important factor in the House Sparrow numbers falling from 14 to one at a feeder (KFA)! Last autumn's late Loggerhead remained at Oshawa to Dec. 3 (DDC) and the one at Brighton Feb. 28 was early (PHS, RDM).

A latest ever ♂ Blue-winged Warbler at Whitby Dec. 1-2 was nicely described (DVR, HK, MW) and single Orange-crowneds were at St. Thomas Dec. 27 (MA) and Ingersoll Dec. 28 (RWS). Also late was the Cape May at Pelee Dec. 4 (DJM *et al.*). Yellow-rumpeds wintered in numbers throughout the s.w. extending to Peterborough, Kingston and Ottawa. The "invasion" by Yellow-throated Warblers last autumn was augmented by a male at Niagara Falls Dec. 11-18 (HGC, m.ob.) and the Cornwall stray remained to Dec. 11 (L. Harris). The Blackpoll at Pelee Dec. 2 was tardy (DJM *et al.*). Three Pines were reported at Walkerton, *Bruce* Dec. 25 & 27 (P. & R. Cathrae), Toronto Jan. 3 (EK, HK) and Ottawa Dec. 8-Jan. 9 (BMDi). The Ottawa bird was killed in a collision and subsequent post-mortem showed it to be very fat. A Com. Yellowthroat was still in Kent Jan. 2 (DFR). London's first wintering Yellow-headed Blackbird, ad. male, was present Jan. 29-Feb. 28 (GMW *et al.*). A ♀ N. Oriole was at a Carleton Place feeder Dec. 9-11 (ph., *fide* BMDi) and a male visited a Burlington feeder Jan. 3-5 (JR, m.ob.).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH CROSSBILLS — Single imm. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at St. Thomas Dec. 27 (MA *et al.*) and Ottawa Dec. 10-Feb. 28 (ph., *fide* BMDi). Another spent December-January on Toronto's Centre I. (HGC, m.ob.). An Indigo Bunting was at West Lorne, *Elgin* Dec. 28 (JRM *et al.*). The House Finch population at St. Catharines in mid-February was estimated at 250 (RWK), the largest number reported. Red Crossbills remained common in the pines on the e. side of A.P.P., where a nest was found Jan. 30 near Achray, but later destroyed by a red squirrel (RGT, CB). The only other birds noted were eight in Quetico P.P., Dec. 2 (SFP) and one in Petroglyphs P.P., Jan. 17 (AGC). White-wingeds were very common in A.P.P., all winter. Some 750 were seen Feb. 16 and a completed nest found Feb. 18 also near Achray (RGT, CB). The birds were abundant in Moosonee (KFA), common in Cochrane (TA) and in areas just e. of L. Superior P.P., Feb. 22-26 (JCa), but elsewhere scarce.

TOWHEES THROUGH SNOW BUNTING — Overwintering Rufous-sided Towhees were one in Barrie (EAM, CJM), a male and female at a Colpoys Bay feeder (*fide* JWJ). One was in Vaughan township to Feb. 3 (RTu). Highlights of many late sparrow records included a Savannah on Wolfe I., Feb. 19 (MGa *et al.*), Chipping at Westport Dec. 29 (S. Parsons) and Cobourg Feb. 1-28 (R. Lake), Field in the Toronto area Jan. 3-6 & 29 (*fide* BDP), White-throateds all winter at Atikokan (SFP) and North Bay (GFC), Lincoln's at Pelee Dec. 4 (AW *et al.*) and Bronte Jan. 1 (MJ) and Swamp at Sudbury Jan. 11 (CGB). A Dark-eyed Junco wintered at Moosonee, roosting beneath an abandoned shed to escape the shrike there and individuals of the "Oregon" race were at Pelee Dec. 24 (DFR) and Port Hope Feb. 7 (ERM). Single imm. Harris' Sparrows wintered at feeders near Brighton Dec. 18-Feb. 25 and in Harwood Dec. 22-Feb. 25 (*fide* ERM). White-crowneds were in unusually large numbers. Six were at Brighton Jan. 9 (AGC *et al.*), seven at Winona through January and February (RH *et al.*) and singles in Port Hope Feb. 8-10 (BCO) and Barrie Feb. 13 (EAM, CJM). The 150 Lapland Longspurs on Wolfe I., Jan. 22 (PM) was by far the largest group reported. Snow Buntings were judged to be in lower-than-usual numbers, but 1200 were in Kitchener Jan. 8 (SRK).

ADDENDA — Several significant records for 1982 for North Pt., 26

km n.n.e. of Moosonee, were received from Chris Rimmer after the autumn report had been submitted. Collected and now in the Nat'l Museum (Ottawa) were a ♀ **Poor-will** June 4, W. Meadowlark Sept. 29-Oct. 1 and Clay-colored Sparrow Oct. 26. Banded and released were a ♀ **Wheatear** June 4, imm. Yellow-breasted Chat Oct. 4-6, N. (Baltimore) Oriole Sept. 11 and imm. Lark Bunting Sept. 24-29.

CORRIGENDUM — The Swallow-tailed Kite assigned to Long Pt. July 11, 1982 (AB 36:971) should be deleted.

SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS (boldface) CONTRIBUTORS (italic) and CITED OBSERVERS — **K.F. Abraham**, B. & E. Allin, M. Alton, **R.F. Andrie**, **T. Armstrong**, F. Avis, **M.J. Bain**, J.L. Bartell, C.T. Bell, C. Benkman (CB), G. Bennett (GB), *W.W. Bittle*, C.G. Blomme, **R.L. Bowles**, P.J. Bridges, W.P. Brown, P. Burke, D.D. Calvert, *A.G. Carpentier*, *J. Cartwright* (JCa), J. Chardine (JCh), *G.F. Clay*, G. Cody (GCo), J.R. Cree, *H.G. Currie*, R. Curry (Rcu), **M.P. Davis**, **A.L. Dawe**, **B.M. Dilabio** (BMDi), B.M. Duncan (BMDu), K.F. Edwards, D.H. Elder, R. Fleming, *D.E. Fowler*, *R.A. Gairdner*, D. Gardiner (DGa), M.E. Gauthier, M. Gawn (MGa), C.E. Goodwin, E. Gray, A. Griffin, D.R. Gunn, M.A. Hamady, S. Hannah (SHA), T.

Hince, P. Hogenbirk, **L.A. Howe**, **S. Howlett**, R. Hughes, C.N. Hull, *R.D. James*, W.R. Jarmain, M. Jennings, **J.W. Johnson**, **A.H. Kelley**, J.A. Kelley, E. Kerr, H. Kerr, Kingston Field Naturalists, Kitchener-Waterloo Field Naturalists, R. Klips (RKL), **R.W. Knapton**, **S.R. Kozak**, **L. de K. Lawrence**, J. & N. Levay, *S.M. Lodge*, **C.J. MacFayden**, E.A. MacFayden, P. Mackenzie, W.C. Mansell, **T. Marwood**, J. Mason, H. McConnell, **M.J. McCormick**, **E.R. McDonald**, **S.E. McGregor**, *K. McKeever*, J.R. McKishnie, **K. McLaughlin**, *S. McLeod*, *R.D. McRae*, R. Morris, *D.J. Mountjoy*, D. Murray (DMu), **J.C. Nicholson**, M. Oldham, J. Olmstead, B.C. Olson, **B.D. Parker**, **S.F. Peruniak**, F. Phelan, T. Plath, P. Plotz, *W.A. Pratt*, H. Quilliam, C.J. Rich, **P.W. Richter**, R. Rideout (RRi), A.H. Rider, J. Richardson, D.V. Ruch, D.F. Rupert, *T. Sabo* (TSa), **D.C. Sadler**, A.J. Sinclair, P.H. Sinclair, J.D. Smith, **R.H. Smith**, R.W. Snider, R.L. Sommerville, **R.T. Sprague**, N. Stewart, R.B. Stewart, **D.A. Sutherland**, J.F. Thill, G.E. Thorn, **R.G. Tozer**, R. Tuckerman (RTu), C. Vardy, M. & H. Walker, D.E. Walpole, **R.D. Weir**, *D.V. Weseloh*, L. Weseloh, G.M. Whitcroft, G. Whitworth (GWw), M. Wilson, W. Wilson, P.A. Woodliffe, A. Wormington, G. Young.— **RON D. WEIR**, 294 Elmwood Street, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7M 2Y8.

NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION /Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

Ruffed Grouse drumming! Wood and leopard frogs in chorus! Tree Swallows coursing overhead. Signs of Spring? Usually yes; but not even the most optimistic observer would have dared assume so when, this past December, these phenomena occurred. This was the mildest winter recorded in thirty years. Many water bodies, including Lake Erie, were unfrozen, allowing ducks and gulls to stay dispersed. The three or four major snowfalls which occurred melted rapidly leaving much of the Region bare most of the winter. Consequently, concentrations of raptors, Horned Larks, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs were virtually impossible to find. Winter finches, with the exception of Purple Finches and, of course, Evening Grosbeaks, remained north and even the latter were not present in the usual hordes. Despite the balmy weather few insectivorous or frugivorous species lingered beyond usual departure dates or in unusual numbers. There were, however, exceptional numbers of 'half-hardy' Fringillids reported and doubtless many more escaped detection as the weather kept feeder attendance low.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Numbers of loons and grebes seemed down despite, or more likely because of, the abundance of open water. No groundings were noted since the Great Lakes remained open, permitting these species and diving ducks to disperse. Wintering Double-crested Cormorants were widely noted on the Great Lakes and in w. New York, a reflection presumably of both the mild winter and the species' recent increase as a breeder in the Region. An imm. **Great Cormorant** was seen Jan. 9 at Charlotte, N.Y. (MD, CP, *vide* R.B.A.). It has always been surprising that this species is so rarely reported from the Region since it is the wintering cormorant in n. coastal areas. One or two wild (?) Mute Swans overwintered while Whistling Swans, although widely sighted in December, were gone by mid-January. A belated confirmation was received of a report of Vermont's first **White-fronted Goose** shot Oct. 28 at Dead Creek W.M.A., "with a flock of others" (*vide* WC). Upwards of 50,000 Canada Geese took advantage of snowless cornfields and the open water of Cayuga L., throughout the winter. This tally, which would have been considered a reasonable high during the peak of migration a decade ago, is 10 times the winter maximum listed by Bull (1974 *Birds of New York State*). Numerous localities hosted lingering geese including up to three Brant and Snow Geese at a half-dozen sites. The previously reported horde of 180,000 hungry Mallards foraged around Montezuma N.W.R., through December. Half-hardy waterfowl reports were up and an influx from the s. was apparent by February. Marked declines in diving ducks were noted from some localities, hopefully because birds were wintering farther n.



HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Those dedicated enough to be manning the Derby Hill hawk watch on Feb. 20 enjoyed not only springlike weather but record early migrant Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks. A Turkey Vulture glided by the following week and several localities reported Red-shouldered Hawks from mid-February on. Two January reports of the latter might have been believable, given the mild weather, had details been provided. Rough-legged Hawks were, in the words of one contributor, "unimpressively present." Most probably wintered farther n., a concentration of 23 in the vicinity of Cucksville, N.Y. (K & RB) being the only exception to the general dearth. Bald Eagles and Marsh Hawks were widely reported. The latter, present in the best numbers in nearly a decade, were apparently lulled into lingering by the lack of snow cover.

An Osprey plunged into Cayuga L., Jan. 3 in a successful bid to become a member of the local polar bear club. Few of us have been fortunate enough to have cause to ponder the probable size of a **Gyrfalcon's** winter range. Repeated sightings of (presumably) the same bird Dec. 18-Jan. 1 at Dead Creek W.M.A. (WE *et al.*), S. Burlington (MJM *et al.*) and St. Albans, Vt., encompass a distance of some 50 mi. At least one Merlin was present near Rochester through mid-January (*vide* G.O.S.) and another was reported from Cocksackie Flats in late January (*vide* BC). Equally exciting was a Peregrine near Johnstown in mid-February (*vide* BC) and another at Hamlin (RGSS). Only one covey of Gray Partridge, at N. Hero, Vt. (JC), was reported, but Ruffed Grouse put in a fine showing with particularly good numbers in c. and w. New York where overzealous males were noted courting in mid-winter.

A Virginia Rail near Rochester Jan. 22 (MD) was somehow identified as an immature. Killdeer were reported throughout the period with early migrants returning the last week of February. Numerous Com. Snipe lingered, or in a few cases overwintered, best tallies being up to 11 at Irondequoit Bay the second week of December (CC) and five on the Jamestown CBC. A Dunlin was sighted at Charlotte Dec. 4 (MD)

and two were discovered Feb 9 at Niagara Falls, the latter area also hosting the season's only Purple Sandpiper. Red Phalaropes at Charlotte Dec. 1 (KD *et al.*) and Barcelona Dec. 8 (RS) were far less unusual than a Northern present Dec. 31-Jan. 5 on Irondequoit Bay (WCa, m.ob.).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — An imm. **Pomarine Jaeger** surprised everyone by appearing at Irondequoit Bay Jan. 9-10 (BCo, m.ob.). White-winged gulls were well reported especially considering the mildness of the winter. A Kumlien's race Iceland Gull was found near Lewiston (RA *et al.*). An imm. Thayer's Gull was identified at Fulton (FS) and two Thayer's were found at Colonie. Obviously the species should be watched for on L. Champlain and s. along the Hudson R. Lesser Black-backed Gulls virtually inundated w. New York with singles at Oswego Falls, Iroquois N.W.R., and Barcelona and two on the Niagara R. Immature Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Irondequoit Bay (MD, KG) and Dunkirk Harbor (RS *et al.*) in early December. Dunkirk also harbored two Little Gulls throughout the period and up to 15 were present in December at the Van Lare Sewage Plant near Rochester. Since the latter location has hosted several times that number in recent years, we suspect that many escaped detection by remaining dispersed on the Great Lakes.

The previously noted Razorbill off the mouth of the Niagara R., Nov. 27 did, it was subsequently reported, swim across the international boundary to become New York's second inland record. Possibly another was seen at Addison, Vt., on L. Champlain at 200m in flight Jan. 7 (WE). Given the distance involved and problems entailed with in-flight identification the specific identification of this individual bird seems problematical. At Rutland, Vt., Rock Doves commenced nesting in mid-February (CF).

The season's only Barn Owl sighting was made n. of Montezuma, N.Y. (SK) Jan. 1. A chorus of 22 Screech Owls greeted Rochester CBC observers. Elsewhere reports were generally sparse. Snowy Owls were widely reported, perhaps made more visible by the absence of snow. Very few Long-eared Owls were reported and concentrations of Short-eared Owls were noticeably smaller than on high snowfall years. Conversely Saw-whet Owls were especially numerous in New York.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Wintering Com. Flickers were more common than usual, particularly in Vermont. Nations Rd., in Avon again lead all New York areas with a dozen Red-headed Woodpeckers. In Vermont where the species may soon vanish without a concerted management program, a single bird appeared at a feeder near Ludlow in early December (A & JN, m.ob.). Extralimital Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were discovered at Camp Dittmer in Phelps, N.Y. (P & MT) and on the Thousand Islands CBC. A few E. Phoebes survived until the CBC. A Gray Jay at Rensselaer Falls was slightly out of range. Common Raven sightings continue to increase in s.w. New York. Ithaca's landlocked colony of Fish Crows apparently are far (or fool) hardier than their coastal brethren, since eight overwintered. At least half of Vermont's counties now support wintering Tufted Titmice and continued range expansion is predicted. Winter Wrens, recovering from past winter-induced population declines, were found in at least a half-dozen areas.

Despite generally record-breaking warm conditions frugivorous half hardy species (e.g., Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher and Hermit Thrush), while widely reported, were not as abundant as the weather seemed to warrant. American Robin, for example, has been far more plentiful in other, more severe winters. A Veery at Phelps Jan. 16 (P T, *vide* WB) was extraordinary even considering the weather conditions. Eastern Bluebirds were more in evidence in w. New York CBCs although apparently few overwintered. Varied Thrushes graced yards in S Newbury, Johnson, and East Charlotte, Vt., and W. Taghkanic, N.Y. Is it wishful thinking to hope that some day such stragglers will be banded and that annual returnees can be differentiated from newcomers from the West? Ruby-crowned Kinglets, normally very rare even on New York CBCs, popped up at many localities this December, including the Saxtons R. count (RG), the latter Vermont's first documented winter sighting. Bohemian Waxwings were virtually unreported although Cedar Waxwings were locally abundant through early January, at least in w. New York. Northern Shrikes were rare to fairly common depending on one's luck and location. Little by way of a trend could be discerned from the disparate comments received.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — Most of our warblers put little stock in ambient conditions and discreetly departed for warmer latitudes. A Cape May Warbler wintering on suet and seeds at Penn Yan (FO) was interesting but far from unprecedented. "Myrtle" Warblers were widespread but not exceptionally abundant anywhere. A Com. Yellowthroat in a Rutland, Vt. marsh Dec. 31 (CF) qualified as a real rarity in that state. Common Yellowthroat reports were well above normal in the remainder of the Region but concerted searches of cattail marshes in New York in any year would probably turn up far more of these accomplished skulkers (plus rails and Swamp Sparrows) than most observers would ever suspect. Greatest rarities included an **Ovenbird** at Greece through Jan. 15 (A & MM *et al.*), and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Conesus through December (R.B.A.). Numbers of wintering Icterids seemed down to most observers, indicating the importance of factors other than air temperature in influencing overwintering behavior. A N. Oriole at Middlebury Dec. 2 (MN), although unusual for Vermont was only one of several seen through mid-January. Blackbirds returned in numbers the fourth week of February just before a snowstorm struck.

A dearth of winter finches was apparent throughout the season. In many CBCs House Finches took top honors as their burgeoning populations continued to expand. Considered an exciting novelty only a decade ago the species exhibits little in the way of latitudinal limits provided 2 commodities, a feeder and conifers (preferably spruce), are available. Moderate numbers of Purple Finches were also reported although we wonder in light of the above how many were misidentified House Finches. Snowfree conditions induced many Fringillids to linger but also forced few to feeders. Despite this observers managed to unearth numerous notables including at least nine Savannah Sparrows, three Chipping and two Vesper sparrows, several "Oregon" Juncos and, at Coxsackie, 18 Swamp Sparrows. Perhaps the greatest seasonal rarities, however, were the ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak near N. Troy, Feb. 19 (*vide* BC) and the **Lincoln's Sparrow** at Charlotte, Vt., Feb. 4 (GH), the latter for Vermont's first winter record.

CONTRIBUTORS (boldface) and Cited Observers — **Allegany County Bird Club, J. Allen, R. Andrie, H. Axtell, K. & R. Ballard, W. Benning, Buffalo Ornithological Society, L. & D. Burton, J. Cameron, B. Cook, C. Cass, W. Carlson (WCa), Cayuga Bird Club, L. Chamberlaine, B. Colman (BCo), W. Crenshaw, K. Crowell, M. Davids, P. DeBenedictis, K. Doris, T. Dudones, J. & M.I. Dye, W. Ellison, C. Frankiewicz, Genesee Ornithological Society, K. Griffith, R. Griffith, G. Hall, High Peaks Audubon Society, S. Kahl, M. J. Mauer, A. & M. Maybe, D. Messineo, M.F. Metcalf, A. & J. Nelson, M. Nelson, J. Nicholson, W. Norse, Onondaga Audubon Society, F. Orcutt, C. Perrigo, V. Pitzrick, Rochester Birding Association, F. Scheider, R.G. Spahn, R. Sundell, P. & M. Trail, Vermont Institute of Natural Science.**—DOUGLAS P. KIBBE and CHERYL M. BOISE, Box 34, Maryland, NY 12116.

APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

After a year in which there was practically no spring and very little summer it was appropriate that there be no winter either. This winter season was the mildest in many years. At the Pittsburgh weather station the three months showed a temperature excess of well over 500 day-degrees and most other places were similar. It was quite dry also, at Pittsburgh with a deficiency of 2.25 inches of rainfall for January and February. Most areas south of northern Pennsylvania experienced only one major snowfall, February 11-12, which deposited record depths on parts of eastern Virginia and West Virginia. This period also had the only occurrence of extremely cold weather.

Superficially, to individual observers, it seemed like a dull season. The usual "northern finches" did not appear. The mild weather kept birds away from the feeders, and so the average observer found things uninteresting. However, on the Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter,



CBCs) most areas listed numerous species in record numbers. For example, at Pittsburgh 33 species were seen in "notably high" numbers.

The continued mild weather induced many of the species present in December to stay north through the season and the following account is replete with unusual records. But if this were not enough, no season in the 25 years I have been writing these accounts has the Appalachian Region experienced so many rarities. These included a second record for eastern North America, a new state record, and a fantastic winter occurrence of a western bird which should have been in South America. Such things as wintering warblers, vireos and the assortment of gulls on Lake Erie seemed rather tame beside these records.

There was a small influx of northern species but the "invaders" were such unusual species as Gyrfalcons, Snowy Owls, and Northern Shrikes, instead of finches.

Despite the mild weather there were no great signs of an early spring migration except for the rather early departure of many waterfowl, and the arrival on time in late February of several species of blackbird.

In the following text county names are in *italics*.

LOONS, GREBES AND CORMORANTS — Common Loons were numerous in December with high counts of 27 at Chickamauga L., Tenn., Dec. 4 (RS), and 44 at Boone L., Tenn., Dec. 1 (RK) and many of these stayed through the winter at several places. A Red-throated Loon was seen on the Ohio side of Pymatuning L., Dec. 4 (RFL).

A Red-necked Grebe was listed on the Butler, Pa. CBC, Dec. 26 (GW) and an Eared Grebe was at Presque Isle S.P., Pa. (hereafter, P.I.S.P.) (SS). Two White Pelicans were at Pymatuning L., Pa., Dec. 5-8, (*vide* RFL). Double-crested Cormorants were reported from Boone L., Tenn., Dec. 1 (RK), Tellico L., Tenn., Feb. 5 (CN), and P.I.S.P., Dec. 5 (SS).

HERONS AND WATERFOWL — There was an unusual number of Great Blue Herons in this Region in December capped by high counts of 170 at Chattanooga Jan. 1 (RS), 148 at Knoxville Dec. 19 (MD & LF), and 17 at Pittsburgh Dec. 18 (PH). Many of these remained through the winter throughout the Region. A Great Egret remained at Pymatuning L., Pa., through Dec. 19 (RFL). A Green Heron was at Knoxville Dec. 19 (PHA), and another was at Chickamauga L., Tenn., Jan. 4-Feb. 21, (L & KD). Some 16 Black-crowned Night Herons wintered at Knoxville and nine others were at Great Smoky Mountains N.P., Jan. 2 (MD & LF).

There was a remarkable number of records of Whistling Swans during the winter. At P.I.S.P., 184 remained through the season (JM) and up to 12 were on the Tennessee R., near Knoxville Jan. 24-Feb. 21 (GR), 12 were in *Meigs*, Tenn., in January (CC). Other mid-winter records came from Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL), Ligonier, Pa. (RCL) and Lock Haven, Pa. (PS). Rather early migrants were seen at Akeley, Pa., Feb. 24 (DK) and Mosquito L., O., Feb. 27 (CB). In a season of many unusual records one of the two most outstanding was a **Whistling**

(**Bewick's**) Swan at Donegal, Pa., Nov. 7- at least Dec. 30, the second record for e. North America (RCL & RM). A Mute Swan was at Conneaut L., Pa., Jan. 8 (RFL).

Canada Geese were present throughout the Region in variable numbers with 5-6000 wintering at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL), 740 at Chattanooga Jan. 1 (RS) and 538 on the Pittsburgh CBC (PH). Snow Geese were reported from Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL); Ligonier, Pa. (RCL); Mosquito L., O., Feb. 27 (CB); Morehead, Ky., Dec. 30 (FB); Blacksburg, Va., Dec. 18 (JMu), and Hiawasee Recreation Area, Tenn. (hereafter, H.R.A.), (RS), and Melton Hill L., Tenn., Feb. 21 (WJ). A Bar-headed Goose (escape?) was seen at Pymatuning L., Pa., Jan. 8 (RFL).

There were some impressive waterfowl counts on CBCs: 8100 Mallards, 4005 Black Ducks, 2000+ Green-winged Teal, 351 Pintails, and 325 Gadwalls at H.R.A., Tenn. (RS); 800 Mallards in *Somerset*, Pa. (RSa). However, most areas found waterfowl scarce through the season although there was plenty of open water. Most conspicuous by its absence was the Com. Goldeneye, which normally winters in numbers. No doubt it remained in the n. this year (as witness a peak count of 4500 at Pymatuning L., Pa., Dec. 25—RFL). A count of 109 Com. Mergansers at Warren, Pa., Dec. 18 provided a record CBC total there (WH). Oldsquaws were reported only from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Dec. 5 (CH), Lock Haven, Pa., Dec. 9 (PS), Shenandoah L., Va., Dec. 12-14 (R.B.C.), and Morehead, Ky., through December (FB). At P.I.S.P., White-winged Scoters were present through December with a high of 27 on Dec. 5 (SS, JM), one to three Surf Scoters were present to Jan. 16 as were one to two Black Scoters (JM). Six Black Scoters were at L. Arthur, Pa., Dec. 26 (MG & FL), and a Surf Scoter was at *Somerset*, Pa., Dec. 4 (RCL & RM).

RAPTORS — Two high counts of Black Vultures came from *Rockingham*, Va., 44 on CBC (R.B.C.) and 27 at Lewisburg, W. Va., Dec. 22 (CHa). A group of 260 Black and Turkey vultures was observed feeding on a carcass at Athens, Tenn., in late February (RS), and 150 Turkey Vultures were seen migrating past Chattanooga in late February (RS). A Turkey Vulture at Meadville, Pa., Feb. 27 was quite early.

There were 8 reports of Goshawks: *Allegheny*, Pa., Dec. 7 (EW) & Dec. 25 (CNx); Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., Dec. 26 (HH); *Frederick*, Va., all season (RSi); Chattanooga (first local record) Dec. 17 + (RS) and mid-February (LK); Mineral Ridge, O., Jan. 22 (JL) and *Fannin*, Ga., Jan. 23 (JF). Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks seemed to be in good numbers throughout. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen at Erie N.W.R., Pa., Jan. 27 (DS), for the third Pennsylvania winter record. Rough-legged Hawks were reported throughout. In the n. numbers were lower than usual but reports came from as far s. as Roanoke, Va. (BK & BO), e. Tennessee (many reports, *vide* RS), n. Georgia Jan. 30 (TM). There was an unusual number of winter reports of Marsh Hawk.

Bald Eagles were widely reported in the n.: 13 wintered on the Susquehanna R., near Lancaster, Pa. (*vide* KJ); up to four adults and one immature were seen from time to time in the Meadville-Pymatuning area (RFL); the T.V.A. mid-winter survey counted 17 in e. Tennessee (*vide* MD & LF). Other records came from Kinzua L., Pa. (TG), State College, Pa. (MW), Youngstown, O. (CB), *Botetourt*, Va. (MDo, JH), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. (PS) and Morehead, Ky. (FB). A total of five Golden Eagles was seen on the Virginia-West Virginia border near Bluegrass, Va., Feb. 26 (RA). Golden Eagles were seen there earlier and in *Augusta*, Va., Jan. 11 (LT), on Raccoon Mt., near Chattanooga in late January and early February (m.ob.), and on Look-out Plateau, Ga., Jan. 30 (*vide* LM).

American Kestrels were unusually numerous in w. Pennsylvania and n. West Virginia. Merlins were reported from Mosquito L., O., Dec. 19 (*vide* CB), and Knoxville Dec. 19 (BS). The most interesting raptor records of the season were of a gray-phase Gyrfalcon at Cambridge Springs, Pa., from mid-February-28+. This bird was feeding on pheasants at a state game farm (m.ob.). Another Gyrfalcon (brown) was seen at Waterford, Pa., Feb. 2 (SS).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, CRANES AND RAILS — Ruffed Grouse populations were up near Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), but no other area mentioned them. Bobwhite remain scarce in the n., and were down 70% at Chattanooga (RS). At Pittsburgh the 13 pheasants counted on the CBC furnished the second lowest count ever (PH). A Chukar of unknown origin showed up in Princeton, W. Va., in mid-February

(JP).

A Sandhill Crane was seen in *Monroe*, Tenn., Dec. 9 (WJ). Another late date for cranes was Dec. 7 when nine flew over Chattanooga (RS) and early migrants were five in *Meigs*, Tenn., Feb. 12 (CC). A Virginia Rail was at Blacksburg, Va., Dec. 18 (*vide* JMu) and two Com. Gallinules were at Roanoke Dec. 18 (J & TK, BK).

SHOREBIRDS, JAEGERS AND GULLS — An unidentified "peep" sandpiper at P.I.S.P., Jan. 14 (JM) provided the latest winter record for any sandpiper in Pennsylvania outside of the s.e. A Dunlin was also at P.I.S.P., Dec. 18 (JHi), and a Red Phalarope was seen there Jan. 5 (JB). A few Least Sandpipers wintered at Savannah Bay, Tenn., together with 80± Dunlins. Two other wintering shorebirds in that area were a Spotted Sandpiper at Chickamauga L., and a Greater Yellowlegs in *Meigs*, Tenn. (RS). An imm. **Parasitic Jaeger** was at P.I.S.P., Dec. 12-17 (GB, JB) and there were reports of unidentified jaegers (possibly the same bird) there Dec. 24 (RFL) and Jan. 4 (DS).

As usual the L. Erie Shore at P.I.S.P., produced an abundance of gull records. Up to five Glaucous Gulls were there mid-January + (JM); an Iceland Gull was present during the same period (SS, FH); a Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen Feb. 5 (JM, DS); and up to ten Little Gulls were there through the season (JM). The gull record of the year was a first or second-year **Thayer's Gull** seen at Erie Dec. 21 (SS) and at P.I.S.P., Dec. 14-Feb. 27 (JM). At Pymatuning L., Pa., 5000 Ring-billed Gulls and 1500 Bonaparte's Gulls were present in December (RFL). The only reports of Great Black-backed Gulls came from Bald Eagle S.P., in late December and early February (PS). A Laughing Gull was at Chickamauga L., Tenn., Feb. 6 (RS) and a Forster's Tern was there Jan. 31 (L & KD).

DOVES AND OWLS — Mourning Doves were exceptionally numerous and several areas reported record numbers on CBCs. Barn Owls were reported from Boonsboro, Md. (L & TDo), Lyndhurst, Va. (RSn, JHn), *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.), and a nest was found at Millhall, Pa. (DB). The usually unreported Long-eared Owl was at *Indiana*, Pa., in late February (R & MH), and one was found as a road-kill at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Dec. 26 (CH). There were more reports than usual of Short-eared Owls: State College, Pa., in January (KJ), Roanoke Dec. 17-Jan. 3 (NM, BK); *Rockingham*, Va., three through the season (R.B.C.), *Augusta*, Va. up to five (RSn), and Mosquito L., O., Dec. 19 (JL). The Snowy Owl was one "northern species" that did come S this winter with four reports; McKean, Pa., Dec. 16+ (SS, DS, DS1); P.I.S.P., Feb. 12 (RFL); *Allegheny*, Pa., Dec. 22 (DF); and more unusual *Augusta*, Va., Dec. 31-Jan. 16, when found dead (RSn, R.B.C.).

HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS, AND FLYCATCHERS — A hummingbird seen in *Allegheny*, Pa., on the remarkable date of Dec. 2 was probably a Ruby-throated but may have been a stray of one of the w. species (JG). The Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to do well in the n., but Red-headed Woodpeckers remain scarce or absent everywhere. More Com. Flickers remained during the winter than is normal. A Red-cockaded Woodpecker was seen at the Catoosa W.M.A., Tenn., Jan. 10 (CW). Early winter records of E. Phoebes came from *Butler*, Pa., two Dec. 26 (GW); Youngwood, Pa., Dec. 26 (DSm); Knoxville, two on CBC (MD & LB) and another in *Knox* Jan. 8 (PHa); and a record count of 24 at H.R.A., Jan. 1 (RS). Migrants had not arrived by the end of the period.

SWALLOWS, CORVIDS AND TITMICE — Purple Martins arrived in *Knox*, Tenn., Feb. 25 (PP). The Com. Raven continues its population increase in c. Pennsylvania. The Fish Crow is either undergoing a considerable increase in the main river valleys in the e. or observers are suddenly becoming more aware of this species as distinguished from the Com. Crow. There was a small S movement of Black-capped Chickadees but the most interesting chickadee report came from Raccoon Creek S.P., Pa., where the Carolina Chickadee was unusually numerous (NK). This is in an area where both occur and is very nearly at the n. limit of the range of *carolinensis*.

NUTHATCHES, WRENS AND MIMIDS — Small numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were found throughout the Region, but most places found them absent. House Wrens were reported from Elizabethton, Tenn., Dec. 18 (RK) and at Knoxville Dec. 19 (*vide* MD & LF). In

the n., the Carolina Wren population continues to work its way back up, with 78 on the Pittsburgh CBC, the highest in 6 years (PH). Carolina Wrens were found in *Erie* Dec. 18 (SS) and in *Warren*, Pa., Dec. 6 (RR) and Jan. 20 (NG), both areas n. of the usual range. Also n. of the usual range were Mockingbirds at Meander L., O., Dec. 18 (CB) and at Sheffield, Pa., in January (NS). The mild weather produced several records of those perennial "half-hardy" stragglers, the Gray Catbird and the Brown Thrasher. The former was found in *Butler*, Pa., Dec. 26 (GW) and Norris, Tenn., Dec. 4 (CN), while the thrasher was reported from *Butler*, Pa., Dec. 26 (GW), *Allegheny*, Pa., Jan. 28 (RT), *Rockingham*, Va., two birds (R.B.C.), McClintic Wildlife Area, W.Va., Feb. 19 (GBr), and 3-4 at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE).

THRUSHES THROUGH PIPITS — American Robins and E. Bluebirds were unusually abundant all season in the n., and there were more records of wintering Hermit Thrushes in the n. than is usual. Golden-crowned Kinglets were in excellent numbers at most places and more Ruby-crowned Kinglets wintered than is normal. As usual Cedar Waxwings were either totally absent or extremely numerous, with a count of 989 on the *Butler*, Pa. CBC (PH) and 409 on the Waynesboro, Va. CBC (RSn). Single Water Pipits were reported from P.I.S.P., Dec. 5 & Feb. 5 (JM) and three were at Jersey Shore, Pa., Jan. 2 (PS), but at Vonore, Tenn., 125 were seen Dec. 13 (CN), and sizable flocks were reported from 3 areas of *Knox*, Tenn. (PHa).

SHRIKES AND VIREOS — Northern Shrikes were at P.I.S.P., one or two Dec. 17-Feb. 12 (m.ob.); *Crawford*, Pa., Jan. 1 & 9 (RFL), *Lawrence*, Pa., Jan. 9 (JGr & JR), Beech Creek, Pa., Feb. 6 (CH), and Burlington, Pa., Feb. 19 (EW). There has been great concern about the Loggerhead Shrike in this Region so the following reports represent all that came in. One was seen at Mosquito L., O., Feb. 27 (CB) and all other records came from Virginia and e. Tennessee, mostly in the Great Valley. One was seen in *Bath*, Va., Feb. 26 (RA); in *Augusta*, Va., six were found in the CBC and in Waynesboro, eight (RSn); while in nearby *Rockingham* some 25 were listed during the same season; and seven different birds were to be found near Knoxville during the period (*vide* MD & LB). A Solitary Vireo was at State College, Pa., Dec. 2 (TS) and another was seen in *Botetourt*, Va., Dec. 18 (BH & MDo).

WARBLERS, ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS — There was an unusual number of warblers remaining into the winter, and many of them apparently survived. Yellow-rumped Warblers are to be expected in the winter but were exceptionally numerous even in the n. At Chattanooga Palm Warblers have become regular winter species along with the more usual Yellow-rumped and Pine warblers. Palm Warblers were also reported from *Allegheny*, Pa., Dec. 2 (DF) and from State College, Pa., in December (KJ) and again in February (HH). Common Yellowthroats were at H.R.A., Tenn., Jan. 1 (*vide* RS), *Allegheny*, Pa., Dec. 18 (DF), and at State College, Pa., through the season (MW). The more unusual records were of Black-and-white. Blacksburg, Va., Dec. 6 (CK); Orange-crowned, Elizabethton, Tenn., Jan. 27-Feb. 28 (feeding on suet at a feeder—BW), Magnolia, *Allegheny*, Pa., Dec. 4 (DF), and Cape May, Waynesboro, Va., Dec. 19—at least Feb. 12 (RSn), and Ovenbird, Powdermill Nature Reserve Jan. 4-19 (RCL).

The only reports of large blackbird concentrations came from the Chambersburg CBC where 40,000 Com. Grackles were counted (DG) and from the Youngstown, O., area (MS). On Feb. 6 a Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Austintown, O. (MS). Northern Orioles were at Daleville, Va., Dec. 25 (MWO) and at Roanoke Jan. 1-25 (TF).

A **Summer Tanager** at Roanoke Dec. 24-25 (JA, BK) provided a noteworthy record, but its luster was dimmed this year by the record of the season, a **Western Tanager** (probably ad. female) seen and photo-



Western Tanager, Hendersonville, N.C., Jan. 4-5, 1983. Photo/R. Warner.

graphed at Hendersonville, N C , Jan 4-5 (RW) This may well be the first winter record for the United States away from the Southwest.

FRINGILLIDS — It was definitely not a "northern finch" winter. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in small numbers at localities as far s. as c Virginia and e. Tennessee but no one saw very many, and many places had none. Pine Siskins were even fewer in numbers. Common Redpolls were reported only from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. (MW). Only a few Red Crossbills were reported on Shenandoah Mt., Va., where they have been found year 'round recently (LT); three were seen at Watauga L., Tenn., Dec. 10 (SG & MDi), but at Blacksburg, Va., 20± were trapped in late February for a V.P.I. Research project (*vide* JMu). On the other hand Purple Finches were in unusually high numbers at most places and House Finches continue to increase in the most recently colonized localities. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was present all season at a feeder in Collegedale, Tenn. (BHa). A Dickcissel was present at a feeder in Highland, Va., October-Feb. 28+ (R.B.C.).

There was an unusual number of Field, Swamp, and Song sparrows still present in the n. in December, but White-throated Sparrows were not as common as in recent winters, and Tree Sparrows were missing at most places. A Tree Sparrow in *McMin*, Tenn., Jan. 1 (LD *et al.*) was noteworthy. More late stragglers were Savannah Sparrows in *Bradford*, Pa., Dec. 23 (EW) and *Westmoreland*, Pa., Dec. 4 (LC); Grasshopper Sparrow at Chattanooga Dec. 18 (*vide* RS); Chipping Sparrows at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa., through Dec. 12 (RCL) and at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Dec. 5 (CH); and Lincoln's Sparrows in *Allegheny*, Pa., Dec. 18 (DF) and *Meigs*, Tenn., Jan. 1 (RS). "Oregon" Juncos were reported from Berwick, Pa., Dec. 19 (MK); Daleville, Va., Dec. 19 (BK), Powdermill Nature Reserve Jan. 16 (RFL); and Ninevah, Va., Dec. 16-February (RSi). Snow Buntings were found only in n. Pennsylvania and were in low numbers and the only reports of Lapland Longspurs came from Boonsboro, Md., Feb. 11-12 (T & LDo) and

Butler, Pa., Dec 26 (GW)

CONTRIBUTORS — Richard Almy, Robert Anderson, Jim Ayers, Carole Babyak, Jim Baxter, Gert Bollinger (GB), Dan Brauning, George Breiding (GBr), Fred Busroe, Carl Campbell, Linda Christenson, Marcia Davis (MD), Martha Dillenbeck (MDi), Mike Donahue (MDo), Leontine Doyle (LDo), Truman Doyle (TDo), Ken Dubke, Lil Dubke (LD), Glen Eller, Tad Finnel, Linda Fowler, Dave Freeland, Marguerite Geibel, Norris Gluck, Sally Goodin, James Gray (JGr), Nancy Grisez (NG), Ted Grisez, Joe Grom (JG), Davison Grove, Frank Haas, Charles Handley (CHa), Paul Hartigan (PHa), Cecil Hazlett (CH), Harry Henderson, John Heninger, Paul Hess (PH), Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, William Highhouse, Jim Hill (JHi), Joyce Hiner (JHn), Joyce Holt (JH), Bill Humeniuk (BHu), Bill Hunley (BH), Wesley James, Katherine Jones, Lenny Kafka, Mark Kalbach, Cal Keppler, Nick Kerlin, Clyde Kessler, Barry Kinzie, Dennis Kirkpatrick, Rick Knight, Janet Krakauer, Tom Krakauer, Nevada Laitsch, Robert Leberman (RCL), Ronald Leberman (RFL), Fred Lochner, Jim Lucas, Jerry McWilliams (JM), Norwood Middleton, Terry Moore, Robert Mulvihill, John Murray (JMu), Charles Nicholson (CN), Clarence Nixon (CNx), Bill Opengari, Paul Pardue, Jim Phillips, Frank Preston, Greg Reed, Jan Rencheck, Ron Rieder, Rockingham Bird Club (R.B.C.), Ruth Sager (RSa), Norman Samuelson, Terry Schiefer, Paul Schwalbe, Boyd Sharp, Robert Simpson (RSi), Merit Skaggs, Dennis Smeltzer (DSm), Donald Snyder (DS), Ruth Snyder (RSn), Anne Stamm, Dave Steadman (DSt), Jeric Stewart, Randy Stringer (RS), Sam Stull, Leonard Teuber, Robert Tisony, Barbara Walsh, Ron Warner, Evaleen Watko, Craig Watson, David White, Gene Wilhelm, Erika Wilson, Merrill Wood (MW), Mark Woodie (MWO), Ruth Young.—**GEORGE A. HALL, Div. of Forestry, (Mail Address: Depart. of Chemistry), West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506.**

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/David J. Powell

In dramatic contrast to last winter's record low temperatures, high winds and abundant snow, this winter had record warm temperatures and lacked snow. Many lakes, particularly in Michigan and Wisconsin, did not freeze until mid-January and reopened in mid-February. High temperatures of 5-20°F above normal were the rule rather than the exception throughout the Region, with temperatures below 0°F almost unheard of, even in Minnesota. With the exception of a late December winter storm in Minnesota, there were no severe storms in the Region. Much of the precipitation fell as rain not snow in Michigan and Wisconsin, and what snow did fall did not remain long. Minnesota was an exception with an average amount of snow to go with its above average temperatures.

The season mostly was described as dull and boring. Open water provided some spectacular gull and waterfowl counts in Michigan and Wisconsin, but little else. The migration began February 19-20 with thousands of blackbirds and ducks, with lower numbers of robins, bluebirds, Killdeer and meadowlarks into the southern areas of all three states by the end of February.

Outstanding finds this season included Ross' Goose, Northern Waterthrush, Lark Bunting, and Black-throated Sparrow.

In this report place names in italics are counties. The abbreviation W M A. = Wildlife Management Area.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — The only Red-throated Loon seen this winter was Dec. 4 in *Ottawa*, Mich. (BM). An Eared Grebe seen on the Niles, Mich. CBC represented the first winter sighting of this species in Michigan. Double-crested Cormorants lingered into December in all 3 states, with the latest being Dec. 22 at Black Dog L., *Dakota*, Minn. (MW). Two cormorants in *Goodline*, Minn., Feb. 15 (RG, RJ) were hard to explain; they would be highly unusual if they overwintered or extremely early if migrants. Great Blue Herons over-



wintered in 4 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin counties and were observed in January at 2 locations in Minnesota. A Least Bittern discovered in *Monroe*, Wis. (KM) in mid-December was remarkable, as this species normally departs the Region by late August. American Bitterns remained until mid-January at 2 locations in Wisconsin.

WATERFOWL — Mild weather during this winter allowed waterfowl of many species to remain in large numbers. Whistling Swans were seen in good numbers in all 3 states with flocks of 5000 at Weaver Marshes, *Wabasha*, Minn., Dec. 7 (KE, RJ) and 1000+ on the Mississippi R., at Buffalo City, Wis., Jan. 2 being particularly impressive. They overwintered in all 3 states, with a bird in *Aitkin*, Minn. (WN) achieving the distinction of being the first to accomplish this feat in n. Minnesota. Mute Swans continue to do very well in Michigan: "more than ever before" in *Berrien*, Mich. (RS), 83 Jan. 28 in Kalamazoo, Mich., the most ever (DP). They were noted on 27 Michigan CBCs. Canada Geese were seen in large numbers in all 3 states, with 55,150 at

Horicon N.W.R., in early December (H), the maximum reported Michigan reported the most ever on their CBCs with thousands overwintering across the s. part of the state. Returning geese reached the s. part of the Region Feb. 19-20, with thousands pouring into Michigan and Wisconsin Feb. 26-27. A **Brant** located on the Port Huron, Mich. CBC was quite unusual. Snow Geese were present in both Wisconsin and Michigan in good numbers in early December: 165 at the Muskegon Wastewater System (GW) and 350 at Horicon N.W.R. (H). A **Ross' Goose** wintering near Hastings, *Washington*, Minn. (m.ob.) marked only the fifth state record. There seems to be some debate among the birding fraternity in Minnesota as to the origin of this individual, so the possibility of its being an escape cannot be discounted.

Pintail wintered in 2 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin locations. Blue-winged Teal were found on 2 Michigan CBCs; and the first returning bird was found in *Berrien*, Mich., Feb. 21, a new local early date (RS). Northern Shovelers overwintered in *Berrien*, Mich., and Madison, Wis. Overwintering Wood Ducks were found in *Berrien* and *Wayne*, Mich., and Green Bay, Madison, and Milwaukee, Wis. Several thousand Redhead wintered on L. St. Clair near Detroit with 2500-3000 counted Jan. 29 (RLB, RWL). Michigan's Anchor Bay CBC found 7700 Canvasbacks Dec. 18. Harlequin Ducks were found Dec. 4-5 at Bemidji, Minn. (JP, AS) and Dec. 19 in *Wayne*, Mich., on the Monroe CBC. Two Surf Scoters in L. Michigan at St. Joseph, Mich., Feb. 18-19 were quite unusual. More normal was a Surf Scoter Dec. 18 on the Port Huron CBC. The only report of Black Scoter was of one Dec. 15 at Muskegon, Mich. A Hooded Merganser at Two Harbors, Minn., Jan. 21 was quite unusual for n. Minnesota. The Monroe, Mich. CBC recorded 13,995 Com. Mergansers, helping Michigan to reach their highest level in more than 15 years. Throughout the Region the mildness of the weather resulted in more open water than normal and accompanying large waterfowl totals.

HAWKS — Goshawks were seen in much higher than usual numbers all across the Region and Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported in above average numbers in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Rough-legged Hawks were very scarce in both Michigan and Wisconsin this winter. Golden Eagles were reported from 3 Wisconsin and 2 Michigan locations. The large amount of open water this winter is the probable cause of the Bald Eagle being observed in larger than average numbers, with individuals wintering farther n. than usual in Michigan and Minnesota. In Michigan, the state Dept. of Natural Resources conducts a mid-winter eagle survey in mid-January; this winter 122 were found *cf.* last winter's total of 39. Another species staying later than normal was Osprey, with two lingering into mid-December in Michigan. A white-phase Gyrfalcon was seen near Weyamwega, Wis., Dec. 20 (DT). The same individual probably was seen Jan. 13 at Oshkosh (RH). A very dark Gyrfalcon appeared at the Duluth harbor in late January (LE, DE) marking the fourth consecutive winter that this species has been observed there. Of particular interest is that each year different individuals definitely were involved (KE). The Prairie Falcon continues to increase in Minnesota and to be more established as a regular species. Individuals were present Jan. 5-Feb. 2 at Rothsay W.M.A. (SM *et al.*), Feb. 6 in *Cottonwood* (LR) & Feb. 19 in *Rock* (KL). Merlins again were reported in good numbers with six seen in Minnesota and four in Michigan. The Merlin seems to be becoming a rare rather than casual species during the winter.

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — After several bumper years, Ruffed Grouse numbers were down in Michigan this year. At Rothsay W.M.A., Minn., Greater Prairie Chickens started booming in late January, certainly one of the earliest dates ever. The 56 Sharp-tailed Grouse seen in *Chippewa*, Mich., Feb. 26 (DP *et al.*) was one of the largest groups ever for the state. Both Bobwhite and Ring-necked Pheasant populations in Michigan were at much-reduced levels, with both species at about 10% of their population in the mid-1970s. The Gray Partridge numbers were down in Minnesota. All 3 species were adversely affected by the severe weather during the winter. A Sandhill Crane survived the winter at Baker Sanctuary, *Calhoun*, Mich. (MI). Cranes returned early to both Wisconsin Feb. 19 (DG) and Michigan Feb. 23 (GB). Virginia Rails successfully overwintered in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Killdeers returned to the s. portions of the Region in February with the earliest seen Feb. 11 at Beloit, Wis. (TE). A

Purple Sandpiper at Muskegon Feb. 28 (GW) represented one of the few Michigan spring records. Baird's Sandpipers lingered until Dec. 4 in *Berrien* (WB) & Dec. 5 in *Muskegon* (JH); both were very late for Michigan. Sanderlings remained into early December at Milwaukee (JI).

LAIRDS — It was a spectacular winter for gulls in the Region with 11 species reported. Glaucous Gulls were observed in very good numbers throughout with 12 at Duluth and 15 at Sault Ste. Marie being the highest counts. Six Iceland Gulls were reported, one each in Minnesota and Wisconsin and four in Michigan. Two Great Black-backed Gulls at Duluth represented the fifth and sixth records for Minnesota: one Dec. 16-21 (KE) and another Jan. 20-Feb. 12 (m.ob.). Great Black-backed Gulls are much more common in Michigan than in the other 2 states, particularly in *Monroe* where 598 were counted on the Monroe CBC. They are uncommon in L. Michigan so a single bird Dec. 15 and three Feb. 17 at Muskegon (GW) were of special interest. Herring Gulls were seen in very large numbers, particularly on the Great Lakes. Thayer's Gulls were reported from Muskegon, Mich. (BB) and 2 Minnesota locations, with five Dec. 16-31 at Duluth (KE) being the highest count. Ring-billed Gulls were reported in large numbers from both Michigan and Wisconsin. A Laughing Gull at Milwaukee Feb. 17 (JI) was quite unusual. Also surprising was Michigan's first winter record of Franklin's Gull, with one at Muskegon Dec. 18 (GW, ES). Bonaparte's Gulls lingered much later than normal with individuals present until late January in Michigan and all winter in Wisconsin. As might be expected with the Bonaparte's Gulls staying longer than usual, Little Gulls also were present with two Dec. 20 at Port Huron, Mich. (DR) and one all winter at Milwaukee (m.ob.). Also at Port Huron Dec. 20 was a Black-legged Kittiwake (DR). Both these species were observed coming off L. Huron and flying down the St. Clair R., in the early morning. A Forster's Tern found on the Rockwood, Mich. CBC marked the first winter record in 25 years for Michigan.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Following last fall's invasion, Great Horned Owl numbers were up statewide in Minnesota. Snowy Owls presented a mixed picture this winter: Minnesota reported a pretty good winter, Michigan had a relatively poor winter and Wisconsin had a very poor winter. Hawk Owls were reported from one location in Michigan and 4 in Minnesota, all in the n. Also in Minnesota were nine Great Gray Owls, which is about average. Boreal Owls were heard calling on 4 dates Jan. 20-Feb. 27 along the Gunflint Trail, *Cook*, Minn. (K & MH). This was a significant report as it previously was thought that this species never calls in winter, only in spring on nesting territory. Saw-whet Owls started calling near Mazomanie, Wis., mid-late February (KLa). North of its usual winter range was a Red-headed Woodpecker in *Crow Wing*, Minn., Jan. 15-Feb. 5 (RJ, RG). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted in above average numbers in Michigan. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin reported Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers in good numbers with individuals s. of their range in both states. Northern Three-toed Woodpeckers also made a good showing with 6 reports in Minnesota and 2 in Wisconsin.

LARKS THROUGH MIMIDS — Horned Larks were at their lowest level in Michigan in more than 15 years. Gray Jays were seen in good numbers in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (hereafter, U.P.) with reports from 7 counties. Both Com. Crows and Com. Ravens were found in large numbers in Michigan this winter with the ravens generally replacing the crows in the U.P. Black-billed Magpies were reportedly up in numbers in n.w. Minnesota. Boreal Chickadees were very scarce in Michigan with only one report, but were noted as "numbers up" in Minnesota's *Lake* (SW/MS). One at a feeder in Minneapolis Jan. 3-13 (m.ob.) was s. of its normal range. Five reports of Tufted Titmouse in s.e. Minnesota were more than usual. Red-breasted Nuthatches were very common in Wisconsin. Brown Creepers were more common than normal in both Michigan and Minnesota. Winter Wrens were commented on at both extremes in s. Michigan: in the s.e. they remain very scarce with only 2 reports (AK), while in the s.w. they were seen in higher numbers than in recent years (RS, RA). Individuals wintered at Manitowoc (CS) and *Sauk* (KLa) Wis. Carolina Wrens were seen in 6 Michigan counties including *Alpena* (R & SS). The wren in *Alpena* survived sub-zero weather by roosting under the deck at the Smith's and eating spider sacks from under the eaves, and suet and seeds at their

feeder. The bird was even singing during late January and February. The warm weather allowed a Long-billed Marsh Wren to survive until at least Jan. 17 at Metrobeach, *Macomb*, Mich. (RWL, RLB). Members of the family Mimidae were extremely well represented in the Region this winter. Single Mockingbirds were at Duluth Jan. 23-Feb. 28 (m.ob.), the second winter in a row there, and in *Ingham* (JT) and *Oakland* (BB1), Mich. Seven Mockingbirds were in usual locations in *Berrien*, Mich. Gray Catbirds were seen at one Minnesota, one Wisconsin and 2 Michigan sites. It was a fine winter for Brown Thrashers with Minnesota reporting seven; Michigan four; and Wisconsin two.

THRUSHES THROUGH SHRIKES — American Robins were very common in s. Michigan this winter; only the winter of 1980-81 had more. It was an average year for Varied Thrushes with 3 reports from each state. A ♂ Mountain Bluebird was near Grand Marais, Minn., in late December (*vide* K & MH). This species is regular in Minnesota, but normally in the w. and in the spring. The only Townsend's Solitaire of the season was one that remained at Two Harbors, Minn., until Dec. 15 (JC). Golden-crowned Kinglets were present in above average numbers in both Michigan and Wisconsin. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in *Beltrami*, Minn., Dec. 28 (AS) was very late for n. Minnesota. Extremely unusual were two Water Pipits, one on the Milwaukee CBC, Dec. 18 (JI) and one in *Van Buren*, Mich., on the Kalamazoo CBC, Jan. 1 (DP). Bohemian Waxwings were almost nonexistent in Michigan and Wisconsin, but at normal levels in Minnesota with the exception of a flock of 1000 at Duluth Feb. 5 (TL). Cedar Waxwings also were scarce in Wisconsin. In Michigan the N. Shrike was widely distributed over the n. two-thirds of the state in approximately average numbers. Two Loggerhead Shrikes were reported, one on the Grand Rapids, Mich. CBC and one on the Crookston, Minn. CBC. There are very few winter records in Minnesota, and this one in n.w. Minnesota is probably unprecedented.

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — Two Cape May Warblers were present in Minnesota, one Dec. 8 in *Wabasha* (W & DM), and one at Hutchinson Dec. 22-27 (CW). Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers overwintered in one Wisconsin and 6 Michigan counties. A Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler was in *Berrien*, Mich., Jan. 9 (RS). There are very few Michigan records of this race of the Yellow-rumped. Unusual but not unexpected was a Pine Warbler in *Berrien*, Mich., Dec. 4 (RS). Unprecedented, however, were 2 sightings in Wisconsin: an **Ovenbird** appeared at the Blanchard feeder in Eau Claire Nov. 23 and was seen daily feeding until Jan. 14, photographed; a **Northern Waterthrush** was discovered at the Univ. of Wis. Arboretum in Madison Jan. 29 (WH) and subsequently was seen by others in Wisconsin in the winter. Completing an excellent list of warblers for the winter were Com. Yellowthroats in one Minnesota (GS) and 3 Michigan (all on CBCs) locations. The first E. Meadowlark to return to the Region was one at *Berrien*, Mich., Feb. 20 (RS). A W. Meadowlark was present in n. Minnesota's *Marshall* Jan. 21 + (K & SS), where they are very unusual in mid-winter. Northern (Baltimore) Orioles were in Flint, Mich., Dec. 1-8 (NJ) and in Madison, Wis., Dec. 29 (SP). Blackbirds made an excellent showing with Red-winged, Rusty, grackles and cowbirds wintering in above average numbers, with 14 Brown-headed Cowbirds at a feeder in *Blue Earth*, Minn., Jan. 18 (RG) particularly impressive. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen on the Anchor Bay, Mich., CBC and in *Cottonwood*, Minn., Feb. 24 (WHa), where they were considered early migrants. A Brewer's Blackbird on the Bemidji, Minn. CBC was unusual. The spring migration started Feb. 19-20 with small numbers of Red-winged, grackles and cowbirds entering the s. portions of the Region. By Feb. 26-27, thousands along with lesser numbers of Brewer's and Rusty blackbirds had returned to all 3 states with Red-winged Blackbirds the most common and most n.

FINCHES — The Cardinal seems to be continuing its N expansion with birds in *Dickinson* (FK) and *Ontonagon* (JM), Mich. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak is a rare species in the Region in winter, making this season's number of sightings truly exceptional: Michigan had one report; Minnesota had 3; and Wisconsin had 3 including three individuals on the Riveredge CBC. Two of the Wisconsin and one of the Minnesota birds apparently survived the winter. The winter finch invasion never materialized. Only the Purple Finch was seen in above

average numbers, and then only in Michigan and Wisconsin, especially in Michigan where record numbers were recorded on the CBCs. All other species were down in numbers, several drastically. Evening Grosbeaks were down in all the states, although both Michigan and Wisconsin reported good-sized but scattered flocks in the n. one-third of each state. Pine Grosbeaks were practically absent this year with Wisconsin having only one sighting and the other 2 states very few. In Michigan, only ten were found on the CBCs *cf.* 1200 last year. Common Redpolls were even further reduced from last year: Wisconsin had only 5 sightings; Michigan had 40 on the CBCs *cf.* last year's 5900; and Minnesota's comment was "possibly the worst winter ever for this species" (KE). Pine Siskins also were notably reduced all across the Region. Both crossbills were virtually nonexistent with fewer than 10 reports of either species in any of the states. Michigan fared the worst with 2 reports of White-winged Crossbills and none of Red Crossbills. The only flock was of 136 White-winged Crossbills on the Crosby, Minn. CBC. House Finch was one of the few bright spots this winter. The status of this species is now regular and increasing in Michigan. There were reports from 21 different locations in 9 counties with the highest count of 20 at one feeder in Adrian (S & JS). The center of the population seems to be in Southfield, *Oakland*, but there were individuals or pairs in *Berrien*, *Kalamazoo* and *Muskegon* on the w. side of the state. Observers in all 3 states commented on the large numbers of Am. Goldfinch sighted. This generalized opinion was confirmed by the Michigan CBCs where goldfinches were at their highest level in more than 15 years. A Rufous-sided Towhee coming to a feeder in *Houghton*, Mich., Dec. 19-Jan. 2 (AW) was very unusual for the U.P. A **Lark Bunting** at the Sarett Nature Center in *Berrien*, Mich., Jan. 13-19 (CN, DS *et al.*) provided one of the few Michigan records and the first winter record. Five Vesper Sparrows were reported, all on Michigan's CBCs.



Black-throated Sparrow, first record for Michigan, Muskegon, Jan. 28, 1983. Photo/G. Wickstrom.

The outstanding event of the season was the veritable invasion of **Black-throated Sparrows**. Two individuals appeared in Wisconsin in late November and remained well into the winter with the bird at Fifield staying until Jan. 22 (Gralow) and a bird at Hortonville remaining until Feb. 5 (MJ). The Region's third Black-throated Sparrow was an individual at a Muskegon, Mich. feeder Dec. 7-Feb. 28 + (BMo). This was the first appearance of this species in Michigan and it was a very cooperative bird, allowing all the birders who wanted to see or photograph it to do so at their leisure. It is certainly remarkable for three individuals of this species to spend the winter in the w. Great Lakes.

A Tree Sparrow overwintered in *Isabella*, Minn. (SW/MS) and was well n. of its usual range. Chipping Sparrows were found at one Wisconsin and 3 Michigan locations. Minnesota had at least five overwintering White-crowned Sparrows, with two in n. Minnesota. A White-throated Sparrow was late for the U.P., Dec. 23 in *Ontonagon* (JM). Song Sparrow presented a diverse picture in the Region, with Minnesota observers expressing they were up in numbers, while Michigan birders felt that they were down in numbers prior to the beginning of migration in late February. Both Michigan and Wisconsin felt that both Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting numbers were below average this winter.

CONTRIBUTORS — This editor wishes to thank the many individuals who submitted records for this summary. The nature of the summary precludes listing every individual who sends in reports; therefore, only those individuals with cited records are listed below.

Ray Adams, Glenn Belyea, R.L. Benoit, Paul Blanchard, Ben Bla-

zier (BB1), Walter Booth, Bill Bouton, Jeff Buecking, J. Chuck, **Kim Eckert** (Minnesota), Thomas Ellis, L. Erickson, D. Evans, Ray Glas-sel, Dan Goeus, John Hamel, Walter Harder (WHa), William Hilsen-hoff, Ken & Molly Hoffman, Randy Hoffman, Horicon N.W.R. staff (H), John Idzikowski, Mable Isham, Robert Janssen, Nora Jewett, Mary Jurack, Frank Kangas, Alice Kelley, Ken La Fond, Tim Lamey, Ken Lange (KLa), Lee Laylin, R.W. Leasure, Joe McDonnell, Wynn & Don Mahle, Bill Martinus, Kim Mello, Steve & Diane Millard, Bob

Moblo (BMo), Chuck Nelson, Warren Nelson, Jeff Palmer, Jim Pon-shair (JPo), Sam Postupalsky, **David Powell** (Michigan), Dennis Ru-pert, L. Rupp, Alan Schmierer, Dick Shinkle, Ellen Slater, Ron & Sharon Smith (R & SS), Roy Smith (RS), Scott & Joyce Smith (S & JS), Charles Sontag, Keith & Shelley Steva (K & SS), G. Swanson, **Darryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Jim Turner, Arthur Weaver, C. Weseloh, George Wickstrom, Steve Wilson/Mary Shedd, Mark Wright.—**DA-VID J. POWELL**, Research Associate, Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 N. Westnedge Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 39007.

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

/Bruce G. Peterjohn

What a difference one year makes! While last winter was one of the snowiest on record, this winter was one of the mildest. December temperatures averaged 5-10°F above normal and many record highs were set. January and February temperatures were generally 3-7 de-grees above normal. A warming trend developed during the second week of February and continued through the end of the month when the weather seemed more like early May than late winter. Precipitation was excessive during December, producing floods in Iowa and Illinois, but below normal during the other months. Most precipitation fell in the form of rain; measurable snowfalls were short-lived phenomena.

Not surprisingly, the mild weather enticed a number of species to linger past normal departure dates or even overwinter north of their normal ranges. It was fortunate that these birds lingered as there was little else to observe. Except for a Goshawk invasion, most other northern species remained north. Few birds congregated at feeding stations. While the season was generally dull for birders, the mild weather was undoubtedly beneficial for those species significantly af-fected by the previous severe winters. The February warming trend initiated an early start to spring migration with waterfowl, blackbirds and other early migrants moving in large numbers by the end of the month.

In order to avoid unnecessary repetition, only the most exceptional Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) observations were incorporated into this summary. As usual, all extraordinary sight records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†).

ABBREVIATIONS — S.C.R.: Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo.; O.W.R.: Ottawa N.W.R., O.; M.M.W.A.: Magee Marsh W.M.A., O.; Spfld.: Springfield, Ill.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — The mild weather enticed Com. Loons to linger into January at 10 locations and through Feb. 21 at Kennekuk Cove P., Ill. (MC). Single Red-throated Loons were noted at 2 n. Ohio sites through Dec. 16 while solitary Red-necked Grebes appeared at Fellows L., Greene Co., Mo., Jan. 1-17 (†CB *et al.*) and Vermilion, O., Feb. 16 (†JP). Migrant Horned Grebes were widely reported through Jan. 9 with as many as 100 along L. Erie. Smaller numbers wintered as far n. as s.w. Indiana. Eared Grebes remained into early December at 2 locations including one e. to Findlay Res., O., Dec. 4-8 (†JM *et al.*). While White Pelicans occasionally linger into December, one overwintering at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., was unusu-al. The impressive fall Double-crested Cormorant migration continued through December. From 1-5 wintered at L. Gibson, Ind. (DJ), Bark-ley L., Ky. (BP *et al.*), Tazewell County, Ill. (TP, VH) and possibly along the Ohio R., Ky.-Ind. Other noteworthy reports included 1-2 scattered along L. Erie through Feb. 12 and one at Indianapolis Jan. 23 (*vide* CK). Two Gannets graced several L. Erie locations from Lorain to Ottawa Cos., Dec. 7-Jan. 22 and were observed together at Avon L. during January (†TL, †m.ob., ph.).

Overwintering Great Blue Herons were widely reported n. to the Great Lakes. The only documented Green Heron remained at Ft. Wayne, Ind., Jan. 15 (TH, †JH). A second-year Little Blue Heron near Westville, Ind., Dec. 17 was exceptionally late (†CF). At M.M.W.A.,



a Cattle Egret lingered through Dec. 2 and five Great Egrets were present during January with one successfully overwintering (JP). One Great Egret was also reported near Lawrenceburg, Ind., Jan. 30 (MM, JS). Five Black-crowned Night Herons remained at Lorain, O., through Jan. 1 while an Am. Bittern was discovered at M.M.W.A., Jan. 23 (JP).



Imm. Gannet, Avon Lake, O., Jan. 1, 1983. Photo/D. Tamblin.

WATERFOWL — Wintering Whistling Swans included two at S.C.R., and 130 at Cedar Point N.W.R., O., plus January sightings from one Kentucky and 3 Illinois locations. Migrants were widely noted during February including 4 reports from Missouri and 5 from c. and s. Illinois where they are irregularly observed. The mild weather allowed Canada Geese to winter n. of this Region. Peak concentrations in s. Illinois and w. Kentucky were of only 143,000 and 40,000 respec-tively. Along the Great Lakes, single Brant were discovered at Wauke-gan, Ill., Jan. 1 (m.ob.), M.M.W.A., Jan. 22 (†JP) and Michigan City, Ind., Feb. 20-26 (†KB). One at Pony Express W.M.A., Jan. 2-4 provided only the second n.w. Missouri record (†L *et al.*). As many as 200 White-fronted Geese wintered at S.C.R. (L). Other winter reports included 1-2 at 3 Illinois locations, 19 at Reelfoot Lake N.W.R., Ky., Feb. 3 (MBi) and three at O.W.R., Jan. 8 (†JP). Snow Geese wintered in relatively large numbers including 5000-200,000 at S.C.R. Not surprisingly, this flock also included a single Ross' Goose Jan. 7 (L) while another was present at L. Baldwin, Ill., Jan. 22 (BR, m.ob.).

Despite an abundance of open water, many observers commented on the relative scarcity of ducks. Perhaps this scarcity can be attributed to low continental populations widely dispersed over the extensive avail-

able habitats Only Mallards and Black Ducks were fairly numerous as exemplified by concentrations of 567,000 and 11,600 respectively along the Illinois and Mississippi R. valleys Dec. 6 (RC). These valleys also supported 2400 Green-winged Teal and 6000 Am. Wigeon that day A few Blue-winged Teal lingered through the CBC period and one wintered at M.M.W.A. As many as 50 N. Shovelers also wintered at M M W.A. (JP), an unusually large number for n. Ohio as were 19 Wood Ducks at Cleveland Feb. 15 (TL). The only Canvasback concentration was reported from the Illinois and Mississippi R. valleys where 30,000 on Jan. 3 represented a substantial increase over recent years (RC) Inland flocks of Greater Scaup included 20 wintering at Louisville (m.ob.) plus February reports of 16 at Olney, Ill. (LH) and 11 at DeSoto N.W.R., Ia. (TB *et al.*). The Illinois and Mississippi R. valley waterfowl surveys also tallied 33,000 Lesser Scaup Dec. 6, 19,000 Com Goldeneye Jan. 3 and 1445 Bufflehead Dec. 13 (RC). Oldsquaw remained scarce; the Great Lakes maximum was 45 at Chicago while 1-7 appeared at 9 inland locations from all states except Kentucky. Single Harlequin Ducks were found at 3 Great Lakes locations during January. White-winged Scoters were abundant along L. Michigan with 1700 at Wilmette, Ill., Feb. 13 (JL); only scattered singles were reported from L. Erie. Small numbers of Surf and Black scoters were restricted to L. Erie except for two inland Blacks at Merom power plant, Ind., Dec. 5 (DJ) As many as 10,000 Red-breasted Mergansers lingered along L. Erie well into December.

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Vultures were more widely reported as a result of the mild weather. Three Turkey Vultures were noted n. to Vandalia, Ill., Jan. 12 (FK) while the largest roosts totaled 230 Turkeys at Shades S.P., and Turkey Run S.P., Ind., Dec. 18 (AB) and 133 Blacks near Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 19 (*vide* HJ). As expected after last autumn's invasion, wintering Goshawks were widely noted with reports from 5 Missouri, 8 Iowa, 15 Ohio, 21 Indiana and 28 Illinois locations. The s. limits of this flight extended to Marshfield, Mo. (JSo), near Leitchfield, Ky. (*vide* KC) and Louisville (*vide* S). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were regularly reported from most areas. Red-tailed Hawks were plentiful, especially in n. and c. Missouri where cotton rats were exceedingly abundant (*vide* JW). Wintering Red-shouldered Hawks have not changed appreciably although CBC reports indicated a healthy population in s. Illinois. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce in most areas except Missouri where there was an overabundance of prey. A Ferruginous Hawk was well described from Clay County, Mo., Dec. 19 (†KH *et al.*).

Golden Eagles were reported from all states including six on eagle surveys in Kentucky and 12 in Missouri. Numbers of wintering Bald Eagles were reduced from last year, possibly a result of the mild weather and greater availability of open water. Eagle surveys totaled 908 in Missouri, 490 in Illinois, 399 in Iowa and 128 in Kentucky. Marsh Hawks were also fairly scarce except in Missouri. A late Osprey at Mingo N.W.R., Mo., Jan. 7 provided one of few Regional wintering records (†JW). In addition to their traditional Lawrenceville, Ill. airport wintering site, single Prairie Falcons were also discovered in Boone County, Mo., through December (BGo), Jasper County, Ill., Feb. 8 (LH) and one was shot at Rickenbacker Air Force Base, O., Jan. 21 (*vide* J). The latter bird may represent a legitimate vagrant as its plumage exhibited no signs of captivity, its behavior was antagonistic towards humans and its habitat preference was consistent with other Regional winter sightings. Peregrine Falcons were reported from 2 locations in Kentucky and Missouri plus single sites in Ohio and Illinois Except for CBC reports, the only documented Merlin appeared at Louisville Dec. 28 (†JR).

GAMEBIRDS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — This year's mild weather benefited ailing Bobwhite populations in all areas. Small numbers of Gray Partridge remained in Iowa as evidenced by nine in Hardin County Feb. 12 (*vide* BPr). An injured Sandhill Crane was discovered at the Missouri R., Boone Co., Mo., Dec. 15 (JW) while one near Knoxville, Ill., Jan. 28-Feb. 16 probably wintered (†MBA, †LCI). Small numbers of migrants returned to Indiana and Kentucky during the last week of February. Surprising only one rail was reported, a Sora at Ventura Marsh, Ia., Dec. 30 (†BO). Living up to its reputation as an erratic wanderer, a Purple Gallinule was observed at Shanty Hollow L., Warren Co., Ky., Feb. 19 (EM, *vide* HS) while another was recovered from a Mansfield, O. residence Feb. 21 (†MT). The latter bird died the

next day (* to O S U Museum)

American Woodcock lingered quite late with several performing courtship flights at Crane Naval Depot, Ind., during late December (*vide* CK). Spring migrants returned to Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 11 (JW) and L. Erie by Feb. 23. Few Com. Snipe wintered as its population remained low. A late Greater Yellowlegs was noted Dec. 9-10 at Atterbury W.M.A., Ind. (BG). A Purple Sandpiper wintered at Avon Lake, O., while 2-3 were reported from 2 additional L. Erie locations through Jan. 7. A Pectoral Sandpiper at Cone Marsh, Ia., Feb. 19-26 was more likely a very early migrant rather than a wintering bird (†T *et al.*). Late Baird's Sandpipers were well described and photographed in Ohio at Alum Creek Res., Dec. 19-20 (†J *et al.*) and C.J. Brown Res., Jan. 2 (†DO). Other lingering shorebirds included 2-4 Least Sandpipers at C.J. Brown Res., O., through Feb. 13 (†DO, ph.). Dunlin remained into December at 5 locations while very tardy individuals were discovered in Mercer County, Ky., Jan. 26 (JE) and at C.J. Brown Res., through Feb. 13 (†DO). A late W. Sandpiper lingered at Green River L., Ky., through Jan. 30 (†JE) and a Hudsonian Godwit was noted at M.M.W.A., Dec. 3 (JP).

GULLS, TERNS — The mild weather also influenced gull distribution and abundance along L. Erie. During a normal winter, the December concentrations of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls are replaced by Herring Gulls once the lake freezes over. Since the lake did not freeze this year and shoreline ice shelves generally were not extensive, prolonged concentrations of Herring Gulls did not develop. Only the strong N winds of Feb. 8 produced significant numbers of white-winged, Great Black-backed and Herring gulls at Lorain (JP). On other days, Ring-billed Gull was the predominant species. For the first time in recent memory, Bonaparte's Gulls wintered in large numbers with as many as 20,000 regularly observed feeding on the lower Cuyahoga R., in downtown Cleveland during late January (D & JH). Similar trends were noted elsewhere. Ring-billed remained n. of their normal range at a number of locations while Bonaparte's managed to overwinter at several lakes in Kentucky and Illinois.

A Parasitic Jaeger was observed at Lorain, O., Dec. 11 (CH *et al.*) while a Pomarine was documented from the same location the next day (†LRo, EE). Generally only 1-3 Glaucous Gulls were reported from the Great Lakes except for 11 at Lorain Feb. 8. Inland sighting at 6 locations ranged s. to Horsehoe L., Ill. (RK, m.ob.) and Summit L., Ind (*vide* LC). From 1-3 Iceland Gulls were sporadically observed along L. Erie while singles appeared at Chicago Dec. 8 (†JL) and Alton, Mo - Ill., Feb. 9 (†CP, MW). Great Black-backed Gulls peaked along L. Erie Feb. 8 with 640 at Lorain. Elsewhere, 2 were observed at L. Rockwell, O., Dec. 24 (LRo) and singles in Lake County, Ind., Jan. 15 (†KB) and Columbus, O., Jan. 30-31 (CG, †JM *et al.*). As many as four Lesser Black-backed Gulls wintered along L. Erie from Oregon to Cleveland. Along the Great Lakes, Thayer's Gulls were found in normal numbers with 3-4 at Lorain, Chicago and Gary, Ind. As many as nine were reported from Alton, Mo.-Ill., Feb. 4-12 (†m.ob.) while two returned to Kentucky and Barkley Lakes in w. Kentucky Feb. 4 (†BP). Two w. species received the most attention. Ohio's second **California Gull** record was provided by a thoroughly studied adult at Lorain Jan 13 (†JP, †EE *et al.*) and a second-winter **Mew Gull** at Mississippi R Lock 14, Scott Co., Ia., Dec. 19-31 was a first of that species for that state (†T, †m.ob., ph.). An ad. Black-headed Gull was periodically observed along the Cleveland-Lorain lakefront through Feb. 12 (†TL, †D & JH *et al.*).

An ad. Laughing Gull at Kentucky L., Ky., Dec. 30-Jan. 6 may have provided a first winter record for the Region (†BP *et al.*). Small numbers of Little Gulls wintered among the Bonaparte's flocks at Cleveland and an adult appeared at Chicago Dec. 12 (JG). A rare inland record was provided by an immature at Barrington, Ill., Dec. 26-Jan. 2 (†CW, m.ob.). At least one Black-legged Kittiwake frequented the Cleveland-Lorain area through Feb. 8. Single Forster's Terns at Cleveland Jan. 6-8 (†TL, †RH) and Louisville Jan. 27 (†BP, LR) were unprecedented during winter. Common Terns lingered along L. Erie through the CBC period.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Roadrunner near Golden, Barry Co., Mo., Feb. 10 indicated a small population still exists in the s.w. corner of the state (VJ). Barn Owls were discovered at 7 Missouri locations including 2 February nests in Bates County (JW,

JO) Elsewhere, single owls were reported from Chicago (m ob.) and near Xenia, O., Jan. 7 (P & LH). Snowy Owls made another modest showing with 17 reports from the n. states. Two wandered S to Cincinnati (*fide* W) and one to the Richland/Jasper County line, Ill. (LH). A normal number of Long-eared Owl reports consisted of 1-12 birds at 21 locations in all states except Kentucky. Small numbers of Short-eared Owls were scattered across all states. This species was locally common only in Missouri. Saw-whet Owls were discovered at 13 locations in the n. states but only six were banded in the Cincinnati area this winter (RA).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were mostly absent in Iowa and scarce in the other states except Illinois where good numbers were widely reported. A greater number of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers wintered in n. areas as a result of the mild weather; good numbers were reported from s. Illinois and Missouri although few were seen in Kentucky.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS — The Spfld. W. Kingbird remained through Jan. 10 (H). Many E. Phoebes lingered through the CBC period but the only January sighting was in Jefferson County, Mo. (PN). Only small numbers of Horned Larks were reported as the absence of prolonged snow cover did not create the large concentrations of previous winters. The largest Com. Crow roost was composed of 4000 birds at Danville, Ill. (MC). Only 2 additional roosts with 1200-2000 crows were reported. Populations of the resident gleaners remained relatively good. Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce in all states except for local concentrations of 10-47 birds. Brown Creepers were locally numerous during December with moderate numbers at other times. House Wrens lingered n. to Joliet, Ill., during the CBC period; one at Energy, Ill., Feb. 4 may have wintered (†JRo). Numbers of Winter Wrens improved somewhat. However, the outlook for Bewick's Wrens remained bleak as they were only reported from s.w. Missouri and one Illinois location. Carolina Wrens continued to improve, especially in s. areas. One in w. Iowa at Cherokee Jan. 30 would have been at an unusual location even if populations were high (†MB, †DB). Long-billed Marsh Wrens remained into January at 3 locations and wintered at O.W.R., while the only Short-billed Marsh Wren was discovered on a s. Illinois CBC.

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Mockingbirds increased noticeably in s. areas but were only sporadically reported elsewhere. Surprisingly, only three Gray Catbirds were observed this winter. In contrast, many Brown Thrashers wintered in s. areas and scattered birds were observed n. to Chicago. American Robins were numerous in Ohio and locally in Missouri while scattered small numbers were generally found elsewhere. No Varied Thrushes were reported while normal numbers of Hermit Thrushes were generally observed. Along L. Erie where they are quite rare during winter, 26 Hermits were discovered on Kelly's I., Dec. 8 with at least ten remaining through Feb. 17 (JP, DCo). Wintering E. Bluebirds were widely observed in good numbers. Illinois' second **Mountain Bluebird** was discovered at Le-Aqua-Na S.P., Jan. 9 (†H *et al.*). Good numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets wintered in most areas while the normal small numbers of Ruby-crowneds remained n. to Chicago. A few Water Pipits lingered into December and 75 in Pickaway County, O., Jan. 6 were late migrants (JF). Three at Louisville Feb. 8 probably wintered (BP). Only small flocks of Cedar Waxwings were widely scattered across all states. A total of 18 N. Shrike reports was normal but significantly lower than last year's strong movement. One at Atterbury W.M.A., Ind., Dec. 10-Feb. 12 was s. of its normal range (†CK, m.ob.). Loggerhead Shrikes remained unchanged in s. areas and were detected at 7 locations in the n. states.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A unique microenvironment on the Chicago n. shore channel attracts an unprecedented number of lingering warblers during winter. Treated sewage effluent is warm enough to keep the channel open and hatch many insects. Depending on the weather, these insects are present into January or even later but normally disappear with the onset of subzero temperatures. This ample food supply and brushy cover along the banks allows warblers to survive into January but they usually disappear as the insect population dwindles. This year, the Chicago "winter warblerland" played host to the following species (BR, JG, †m.ob.): White-eyed Vireo, two Dec. 13-18; **Prothonotary Warbler**, one male Dec. 18-Jan. 9; Orange-crowned Warbler, one to three Dec. 6-19; Nashville Warbler, one Dec. 13-Jan.

9, Cape May Warbler, one to three Dec 6-Mar 2, Yellow-rumped Warbler, 186, Dec. 18; Yellow-throated Warbler, one Dec. 11-16, Palm Warbler, seven Dec. 18; Com. Yellowthroat, one Dec. 12-Feb 19; Wilson's Warbler, one Dec. 13-18.

Another White-eyed Vireo appeared on an Ohio CBC. An unusual number of wintering Orange-crowned Warblers consisted of singles at Forest Glen, Ill., Jan. 16 (†MR), Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., Jan. 18 (†JRo), Knox County, Ind., Jan. 29 (DJ) and Lawrence County, Ill., Feb. 6 (LH). Small numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers were widely scattered across all states and included a well described Audubon's race at Riverton, Ill., Dec. 31 (†H). A Pine Warbler was unexpected at Independence, Mo., Dec. 18 (†KH *et al.*). Palm Warblers remained at St. Louis through Dec. 26 (TBA), 2 additional Chicago locations through Jan. 22 (AA) and wintered at Danville, Ky. (FL). An Ovenbird at Spfld., Dec. 19-Jan. 1 was remarkable (†H). Wintering Com. Yellowthroats were reported from 7 additional locations and another Wilson's Warbler was discovered on a s. Illinois CBC.

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS — Wintering W. Meadowlarks were reported from Knox County, Ind., and Ottawa County, O., where they had been observed during autumn. Small numbers also wintered at 2 e. Missouri and 3 Illinois sites. The only Yellow-headed Blackbird and N. Oriole appeared on CBCs. A greater number of Brewer's Blackbirds were reported. In the w. states, "hundreds" were present in a blackbird roost at Montrose W.M.A., Mo. (L, KJ) while two were noted n. to Cone Marsh, Ia., Dec. 28-Jan. 2 (T, MN). Other reports included small numbers at 3 Illinois locations plus three at Danville, Ky., Dec. 18 (FL) and in Oldham County, Ky., Feb. 28 (†S, FS). Great-tailed Grackles returned to w. Missouri Feb. 21. They were noted at 4 locations including a congregation of 100 near Adrian Feb. 21 (LG).

Despite the mild weather, few lingering finches were attracted to feeders. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at Spfld., Feb. 24-26 (†H) while an Indigo Bunting wintered at Louisville (†BP). The only Dickcissel was discovered in St. Charles County, Mo., Jan. 2 (†BR). Winter finches were practically nonexistent. A few Evening Grosbeaks were reported from 3 locations in Kentucky and Ohio. Only Purple Finches were widely distributed although they did not arrive in Kentucky until January. Largest flocks appeared in Ohio with 193 at Kelly's I., Dec. 8 (JP, DCo) and 165 in one Cincinnati tree (*fide* W). Groups of 30-100 were reported from the other states. House Finches continued to increase with locally noteworthy concentrations of 100 in Butler County, O., Jan. 7 (FR) and 24 at Ft. Wayne, Ind., during February (*fide* JH). They wandered W to Madisonville, Ky., Spfld. and Missouri where its second record was provided by a male at University City Jan. 16 (†RK). In sharp contrast to last winter's invasion, 1-15 Com. Redpolls were found at a total of 5 locations in Iowa, Ohio and Illinois. A few Pine Siskins were observed in all states, primarily during December. Except for one flock of 24, most observations comprised 1-4 birds. The only Red Crossbill was discovered in Indiana while as many as ten White-winged Crossbills appeared at 2 Ohio locations.

Few observers commented on the relative abundance of sparrows. While Tree Sparrows were generally scarce, no other trends were readily discernible. A greater number of wintering Savannah Sparrows was reported including 29 at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., Jan. 1 (JRo) and 11 at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Jan. 10 (HW). Smaller numbers wintered n. to n. Ohio and c. Illinois. A Grasshopper Sparrow was thoroughly studied in Butler County, O., Feb. 5 (†FR). Normal numbers of Le Conte's Sparrows wintered in s. Illinois n. to Mark Twain N.W.R. Elsewhere, 1-5 were discovered at 2 s.w. Indiana sites (DJ) and in Missouri n. to St. Charles County (RK, BR) and Jefferson City (JW). Only two Vesper Sparrows were reported while the four acceptable Chipping Sparrow records included one banded at M.M.W.A., Dec. 27-Jan. 2 (JP, ph.) and singles at Louisville Dec. 14-22 (†BP), near Carbondale, Ill., Jan. 7 (†DR) and Findley S.P., O., Feb. 12 (†J, JM). The only Harris' Sparrow outside its normal range visited a Midway, Ky. feeder Dec. 19-Feb. 28+ (DC, RM, m.ob.). Fox Sparrows were widely reported n. to the Great Lakes. As many as six Lincoln's Sparrows remained at various s. Illinois sites into December. In addition, wintering birds were reported from c. and n.w. Missouri plus one was well described in Mills County, Ia., Jan. 5 (†BW). The absence of snow cover probably contributed to the relative scarcity of Lapland Longspurs. Flocks of 100-500 were only discovered in Illinois

and Iowa; few were observed elsewhere. Groups of 25-95 in extreme s. Illinois and w. Kentucky were locally noteworthy. Snow Buntings were restricted to the n. states and were quite scarce. The largest reported flock was of only 67 and few were observed after early January.

UNCORROBORATED REPORTS — A thoroughly documented alcid at Michigan City, Ind., Jan. 16 fit the description of a Kittlitz's Murrelet. The bird was observed at fairly close range for 45 minutes by observers who admittedly are not experts on alcid identification. Photos were not taken and the bird could not be subsequently relocated. Since this species is virtually unknown in North America away from coastal Alaskan waters, I could not accept this record without conclusive photos or extensive study in the field by experts. However, the description certainly fascinates even the most skeptical critic.

The following reports may be credible but satisfactory documentation was not provided to this editor: Green Heron wintering at Indianapolis and Black-throated Green Warbler at Grand Detour, Ill., through Jan. 14.

EXOTICS — A final word on Barnacle Geese. This winter, single Barnacle Geese were observed at Durand, Ill., and Sloughs W.M.A., Ky., during January. While both birds were adequately described, their origins must be suspect. During a normal year, I receive 2-4 Barnacle Goose sightings from the Region. Given this regularity of occurrence, I have a difficult time believing this maritime European goose is an annual vagrant in the midwestern United States. A more realistic explanation is that a small number of escaped Barnacle Geese wandering

around the Region are responsible for these sightings.

CONTRIBUTORS — (Sub-regional editor's names in boldface type; contributors are requested to send their reports to these editors.) Major contributors: (H) Dave Bohlen, (J) **Bruce Peterjohn** (Ohio), (K) **Vernon Kleen** (Illinois), (L) Floyd Lahwon, (S) **Anne Stamm** (Kentucky), (T) **Tom Kent** (Iowa), (W) Art Wiseman. Other observers and reporters included: A. Anderson, R. Austing, T. Barker (TBa), M. Baum (MBa), M. Bierly (MBi), D. Bierman, R. Biss, C. Bonner, T. Bray (TB), M. Brewer (MB), K. Brock, A. Bruner, M. Campbell, L. Carter (LC), L. Clague (LCI), K. Clay, D. Corbin (DCo), D. Coskren (DC), R. Crompton, E. Elder, J. Elmore, C. Fields, J. Fry, L. Galloway, C. Gambill, B. Gill (BG), B. Goodge (BGo), J. Greenberg, P. & L. Hall, R. Hannikman, L. Harrison, J. Haw, T. Heemstra, K. Hobbs, C. Hocevar, D. & J. Hoffman, V. Humphreys, K. Jackson, V. Jenkins, D. Jones, H. Jones, **Charles Keller** (Indiana), R. Korotev, F. Kringer, J. Landing, T. LePage, F. Loetscher, J. McCormac, M. Mercer, E. Moore, R. Morris, M. Newlon, P. Noell, B. Ohde, D. Overacker, J. Overton, B. Palmer-Ball (BP), C. Paterson, J. Pogacnik, B. Proescholdt (BPr), T. Pucelik, L. Rauth (LR), F. Renfrow, M. Resch, J. Robertson (JR), D. Robinson, J. Robinson (JRo), L. Rosche (LRo), B. Rudden, H. Shadowen, J. Simpson (JS), J. Sowers (JSO), F. Stamm, M. Tawse, C. Wescott, M. Wiese, B. Wilson, **Jim Wilson** (Missouri), H. Wuestenfeld. In addition, many persons who could not be individually acknowledged submitted notes to the various sub-regional reports.—**BRUCE G. PETERJOHN, 105-K E. Ticonderoga Dr., Westerville, OH 43081.**

CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Brent Ortego

Few Canadian and many Pacific cold fronts reached the Region, and as a result the weather was mild and very wet. The mild weather and the prevalent S and W winds were probably responsible for the preponderance of noteworthy reports being associated with late fall and early migrants (50%), western visitors (20%), and low abundances of northern species (20%). Acceptable reports for late birds included 20 species of warblers, one of Bobolink, four species of grosbeaks and two of buntings. Rare western species observed were Ross' Goose (first for Alabama), White-tailed Kite (continued eastward range expansion resulted in the first Mississippi nest record), Prairie Falcon, Lesser Nighthawks, Vaux's Swift, Allen's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird (first for Louisiana) and Ferruginous Hawks. Two ♂ Ruddy Shelducks captured in Alabama were believed escapes.

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

LOONS THROUGH BITTERNS — An **Arctic Loon** at Pensacola provided the first record for n.w. Florida (KB, MLM, MN). Single Red-throated Loons were reported at 4 locations: at Gulf Shores, Ala., Dec. 12 (CDC) and Jan. 15 (CDC, SDH, TDT), at Biloxi Dec. 14-15 (ph., JT, JSp), at Pensacola Beach Dec. 21 (TP) and at Guntersville, Ala., Dec. 23 (DMB, CAB, AB). A Red-necked Grebe was found for the 4th time on the Sabine CBC. The 2nd positive record for the Arkansas Ozarks of an Eared Grebe was at L. Fayetteville Jan. 6-Feb. 25 (RAD, RB, DB). An **Audubon's Shearwater** was reported on the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana and a *Puffinus* sp., Dec. 28 at Cape San Blas, Fla. (SJS).

Unusual inland were 50 White Pelicans in Iberville Par., all winter (RM). Brown Pelicans are becoming more abundant along the Gulf Coast; 197 and 140 were tallied on the Perdido Bay and Bay County CBCs, respectively, and nine were reported in *Harrison*, Miss. (JSp). The single ad. Masked Boobies reported at Alabama Pt., Dec. 12 (CDC) and Gulf Shores Jan. 15 (CDC, SDH, TDT) were the first and fifth record for that month in Alabama, respectively. The 3000 Gannets feeding on a concentration of fish at Gulf Shores was the highest Alabama count (CDC, SDH, TDT). The 5877 and 702 Double-crested Cormorants reported on Louisiana and Arkansas CBCs, respectively, were the highest ever. Rare were 2-5 Magnificent Frigatebirds off



Biloxi Dec. 4-11 (JT, JSp, EJ) and one on the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana-Mississippi. A Reddish Egret at Alabama Pt., during December furnished the fifth winter record (GD & DGJ, MLM) and a *Plegadis* sp., in *Escambia*, Fla., provided the first winter record (RAD).

An indication of a mild winter was: 31 Green Herons on 7 Louisiana CBCs and one on an Arkansas CBC, nine Yellow-crowned Night Herons on 4 Louisiana CBCs, one on an inland Alabama CBC and one at Pascagoula Jan. 8 (JSp), and five Least Bitterns on 5 Louisiana CBCs and one at Port St. Joe, Fla., Dec. 28 (SJS).

WATERFOWL — A mild winter following a wet fall did not force a large number of waterfowl S. The ones that did arrive found many of their normal haunts covered by too much water. As a result, most respondents reported small, scattered waterfowl populations in their

respective areas, except for the Louisiana coastal marshes

Despite the general low numbers for most species, there were several interesting observations. Two Whistling Swans were reported on the White River N.W.R. CBC in Arkansas. A **Ross' Goose*** at Swan Creek State Management Area Dec. 8 was a first for Alabama (GT, *fide* TZA). This species is also rare in Louisiana; singles were reported on the Johnson Bayou CBC and on Sabine N.W.R., Jan. 15 (SWC, DLD). Uncommon in Louisiana, a Cinnamon Teal was found at the Sabine N.W.R., Feb. 19 (DTK, m.ob.). Suspected escapes were two \emptyset **Ruddy Shelducks** at Wheeler N.W.R. They were first observed Nov. 26 (JF, m.ob.) and were caught and banded Jan. 27 (TAI, JRB, m.ob.) All 3 species of scoters were reported along the coast. Rarer inland, the three White-winged Scoters at L. Pontchartrain Jan. 12 furnished the second area record (NN) and one Black Scoter at Guntersville Dec. 23 provided the fourth Alabama inland record.

KITES THROUGH FALCONS — The White-tailed Kite is continuing to expand its range E In Louisiana, 2-3 were near Esther Nov. 30-Jan. 21 (THz), one near Gueydan Jan. 8 (HDG, JoH), one near Oberlin Feb. 18 (DTK, m.ob.) and 1-2 were in Pointe Coupee Par., Jan. 4-8 (DWG, NN, PN, m.ob.) In *Hancock*, Miss., two were present all winter near Pearlinton (JT, JAJ, m.ob.) and another pair was found nesting (first for Mississippi) near Logtown (JT, GM). A second Louisiana record was provided by 1-2 **Goshawks** in Ouachita Par., Jan. 29 (DTK, m.ob.) and the 9th Alabama record was of one* near Russellville Jan. 4 (LW, *fide* TZA). Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were found in average (3-yr.) densities on Arkansas and Louisiana CBCs. Swainson's Hawks are rare at any season; surprisingly single adults were found at Cameron Par., Dec. 19 (ph.) (MMY, JW, JS) and at *Hancock*, Dec. 25 (J & JH). The most Rough-legged Hawks reported this season were eight at 4 locations in Tennessee and four on the Arkansas CBCs. Single **Ferruginous Hawks** near Hammond, La., Jan. 22 (JT) and in St. Landry Par., Jan. 28-30 (BE) were rare finds.

The results from the annual Nat'l Wildlife Federation eagle watch were not available at the time of this writing; 20+ Bald Eagles were reported at Guntersville, *Benton*, Ark., Jan. 16 (DJ, JN, m.ob.) and Toledo Bend Res., Feb. 4 (BO), and single nests were observed in St. Tammany Par. (one young—JJ, m.ob.) and *Harrison*, Miss. (EJ, JT).

Ospreys were more common than normal; nine were on 3 Louisiana CBCs, two on Horn I., Dec. 22 (JAJ, E & NS), two in *Bay*, Fla., Dec. 30 (B.A.S.), and singles at Natchitoches (CV), St. Martin Par., Dec. 5 (JD, JVR), Iberville Par. (RM), *Jackson*, Miss. (two locals—JT, EJ) and Bellingrath Gardens, Ala., Dec. 19 (GD & DGJ). A rare **Prairie Falcon** was found during the Texarkana CBC. Five Peregrine Falcons were reported on 4 Louisiana and one Arkansas CBCs; singles were also reported in *Baldwin* Dec. 12 (CDC) and *Bay* Dec. 30 (B.A.S.).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — The first winter record of an Am. Oystercatcher at New Orleans Jan. 21 occurred after several days of strong S winds (DC). An unusually large number (30) of Snowy Plovers were found in *Escambia*, Fla., Feb. 19 (PT). A Long-billed Curlew observed near Mobile all winter furnished the third Alabama winter record (CDC, DMB, GD & DGJ). Spotted Sandpipers are common along the coast during winter, but are uncommon to rare inland; three overwintered at El Dorado (L & HHS, YF) and one was at *Benton*, Ark., Dec. 19 (KS, m.ob.). Single Solitary Sandpipers were reported on the Creole CBC and at Reserve Dec. 11 (RJS, MW). The Least Sandpiper was previously considered a rare Tennessee winter bird; this season 84-346 overwintered at Memphis (JRW, m.ob.). The first winter record for Memphis was of 1-7 Dunlins all season (JRW, m.ob.). Two Marbled Godwits at Mobile Feb. 27 provided the sixth Alabama winter record since 1955.

Many rare gulls were located in the Region last year during a cold winter; however, few rarities were located during this winter's relatively mild weather. Only two Glaucous Gulls were noted; one at *Escambia* Dec. 30-Feb. 26 (OF, m.ob.) and one at L. Pontchartrain Jan. 5 (NN). A Great Black-backed Gull was found on the Sabine CBC and the one-legged Lesser Black-backed Gull returned to Pensacola Dec. 3 (RAD). A Franklin's Gull at Alabama Pt., Dec. 12 was the fourth area record (CDC).

A Com. Tern observed at Alabama Pt., Nov. 14 was banded on the lower Great Lakes during 1982 (RAD). Rare (for area) wintering terns were: 1-8 Forster's Terns at Sardis L., Miss., Jan. 5-30 (BBC, LCC,

m ob) and one at Guntersville, Ala., Dec. 22 (CDC), a Least Tern at Gulf Shores Jan. 3 (CDC; second Alabama winter record); and two Black Terns at *Escambia* Jan. 2 (CDC, JA; 1st for January), plus one at the Johnson Bayou CBC.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Many of the species or events reported in this section are uncommon to rare in winter. The number of these species and events at large suggests that the mild weather conditions contributed to their presence and/or occurrence.

A White-winged Dove was at *Jackson*, Miss., Dec. 11 (JT, DR) and at Metairie, La., Feb. 11 (JZ). An ad. Mourning Dove was observed feeding a fledged young Dec. 11 in Metairie (NN, PN). Eleven Groove-billed Anis were found at Gulf Shores Jan. 2 (HME, MWR)-26 (CDC). Burrowing Owls were wintering in higher numbers; seven were found on 5 Louisiana CBCs and singles were found in *Prairie*, Ark., Jan. 8 and *Arkansas*, Ark., Jan. 16 (WMS, MP, m.ob.). A Long-eared Owl returned in November and stayed through Jan. 15 in the same woods where one was found last year in Cameron Par. (SWC, DLD), and Short-eared Owls were late in moving S; in Arkansas six were found in *Prairie* Dec. 5 and one in *Konecky* Jan. 16 (WMS, MP, m.ob.), and in Louisiana singles were near Holly Beach Jan. 15 (SWC, DLD) and at Lacassine N.W.R., Feb. 18 (KO).

Eight Chuck-will's-widows were reported at 4 Louisiana CBCs and singles at 3 Alabama coastal locations Dec. 19-Jan. 9 (HM, TP, LD). A Whip-poor-will was reported on the Sabine CBC and a **Vaux's Swift** was located Dec. 29-30 at Venice for the second s.e. Louisiana record (BC, RJN, NN, PN, m.ob.). A **Lesser Nighthawk** was recorded for the second time in Alabama at Gulf Shores Jan. 2-16 (CDC) and one was also found on the Venice CBC.

South Louisiana hummingbird enthusiasts should again be congratulated for enticing many uncommon to rare birds to winter. At the forefront of this group are Ronald Stein, Melvin Weber and Nancy Newfield. In Reserve they located a **Calliope Hummingbird*** Dec. 6-8 (first for Louisiana), a Ruby-throated Dec. 25, two Black-chinneds (all winter), several Rufous, a probable \emptyset **Allen's Hummingbird** Dec. 6-8 and single Buff-bellied Dec. 6-7 (banded) and Jan. 15-Feb. 28 (banded). Elsewhere in Louisiana a \emptyset Ruby-throated Hummingbird (ph.) was in Baton Rouge Dec. 20 (S & KH), a \emptyset Black-chinned (ph.) was at Pearl R., St. Tammany Par., in late January (S & KH, DH), 1-2 Buff-bellied were at Metairie Dec. 12-Feb. 27 (NN; one banded), at least three at Franklin Jan. 12-22 (NN, M & GD) and one was at Harahan in early December (MWA). In Arkansas an *Archilochus* sp., hummingbird was reported on the El Dorado CBC.

KINGBIRDS THROUGH WARBLERS — An early E. Kingbird was at Shreveport Feb. 15 (BE). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at *Escambia* Jan. 6 furnished the first n.w. Florida January record (RAD, RD, DB). A *Myiarchus* sp., was found in *Stone*, Miss., Dec. 5 (MMO) and Jan. 26 (H & LWe), and on the Marianna CBC. Horned Larks were below average in Louisiana (0.003 as compared to 0.060 birds/party-hour 5-yr. CBC average—hereafter, bpph) and Arkansas (1.03 vs 1.39 bpph). Single Bank Swallows were found at Gulf Shores Dec. 5 (GD & DGJ) and Iberville Par., Jan. 26 (RM).

It was a mild invasion year for Red-breasted Nuthatches; at CBCs in Arkansas and Louisiana they were found at densities of 0.022 bpph. A Sage Thrasher at Johnson Bayou Dec. 4 furnished the sixth record for Louisiana (JD, JVR, GHR). A Sprague's Pipit at Lacombe, La., Feb. 5 was unusual for the locality (J & JH). A White-eyed Vireo at Sardis L., Miss., Dec. 21 provided the first area winter record (HD, CHB, CWB). Two Yellow-throated Vireos on the Pine Prairie CBC and one at Gulf Breeze Dec. 18 (RAD, LD, m.ob.) provided the second area winter records.

The number and variety of warblers reported this season was phenomenal. Of the 20 species reported on Louisiana CBCs, the uncommon to rare winterers were two Nashvilles, a N. Parula, two Magnolias, two Blackburnians, two Black-throated Grays, four Black-throated Greens, a Yellow-throated, a Chestnut-sided, a Bay-breasted, three Prairies, an Ovenbird, three N. Waterthrushes, four Yellow-breasted Chats, 43 Wilson's and two Am. Redstarts. Other uncommon wintering warblers were: single Orange-crowned Warblers at Memphis Dec. 19 (RC) and Jan. 29-Feb. 2 (MtW) and at Guntersville, Ala., Dec. 23 (AB, CAB); a Nashville at Ft. Morgan Dec. 31 (HME, MWR), a N. Parula at Pascagoula Feb. 3 (MMO) a Prairie on the Marianna CBC, a Yellow-breasted Chat at Gulf Breeze (RAD, LD,

m ob.), and single Am Redstarts in Cameron Par., Dec. 4 (JVR, GHR, m.ob.) and at Mandeville, La., Jan. 18 (J & JH).

BOBOLINK THROUGH LONGSPURS — The first winter record of a **Bobolink** in Mississippi occurred at Pascagoula Dec. 11 (JT, DR). Blackbirds moved S in large numbers in early December. A roost at Miller's L., Evangeline Par., comprised at least 2,000,000 Starlings, 15,000,000 Red-winged Blackbirds, 750,000 Com. Grackles, and 20,000,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds (BO, HDG, m.ob.). It would be interesting to study how passerine populations would respond if the 20,000,000 parasitic nesting cowbirds were destroyed.

During normal years, scattered, local breeding populations of Great-tailed Grackles in s.w. Louisiana winter in Cameron and Vermilion Pars. This year at least one of the major populations outside of Cameron and Vermilion Pars. wintered on their breeding grounds. At the Miller's L. colony, at least 200 Great-tailed Grackles overwintered for the first time (BO, HDG). A few grackles that may have been associated with this colony were also observed at Eunice (35 km S) in February (HDG).

Tanagers were more numerous than usual for the season; a Western was reported on the Sabine CBC, a Scarlet on the Venice CBC and single Summers at 2 other Louisiana CBCs. Three Summer Tanagers were reported in n.w. Florida where there have been only 4 previous winter records; one was in *Santa Rosa* Dec. 18 (CLK, GG, CP, m.ob.) and two in *Escambia* Feb. 5-16 (JM, m.ob.).

Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported on the Memphis CBC and in Cameron Par., Dec. 4 (SWC), and Black-headed Grosbeaks at 2 Baton Rouge locations Dec. 27-Feb. 28 (MB) and Jan. 2 (RJN, SA, TSS) and one at Fairhope, Ala., Jan. 10-Feb. 16 (A & MiN). A Blue Grosbeak was on the Venice CBC. Five Indigo Buntings were reported on 3 Louisiana CBCs and three on three Alabama CBCs; singles were found at Franklin, Tenn., Dec. 17 (SJS) and in n.w. Florida on Feb. 5 (A & TZ) & 20 (RAD, m.ob.). Three Painted Buntings were reported on 2 Louisiana CBCs. Single Dickcissels were found at Mobile Jan. 12 (HM), Metairie Feb. 11 (NN, JZ) and Baton Rouge Feb. 12-18 (SWC, DLD). Evening Grosbeaks and Purple Finch numbers on CBCs were lower than the 5-yr. average. The 300 House Finches reported at Huntsville, Ala., Jan. 5 was the highest count for the state (ALM). The sixth Louisiana record of a Green-tailed Towhee was furnished by one found at Baton Rouge (NN, PN, m.ob.). A large number for Henslow's Sparrows were the 17 in St. Tammany Par. (VJR, TSS, DS). Tree

Sparrows were only reported at 2 locations, 75 at *Washington*, Ark., Feb. 6 (TH) and 20 in *Lake*, Tenn., Feb. 4 (MLB, m.ob.). A Harris' Sparrow was found at Baton Rouge Jan. 12-Feb. 25 (DLD, SWC, m.ob.). A Clay-colored Sparrow Dec. 5 in Cameron Par., was a rare find (SWC). Not many longspurs made it S this winter; six Laplands were reported in Arkansas (TH, BK) and 50 in Tennessee (JRW), 50 Smith's were in *Prairie*, Ark. (WMS, m.ob.), and four undifferentiated on the Johnson Bayou CBC.

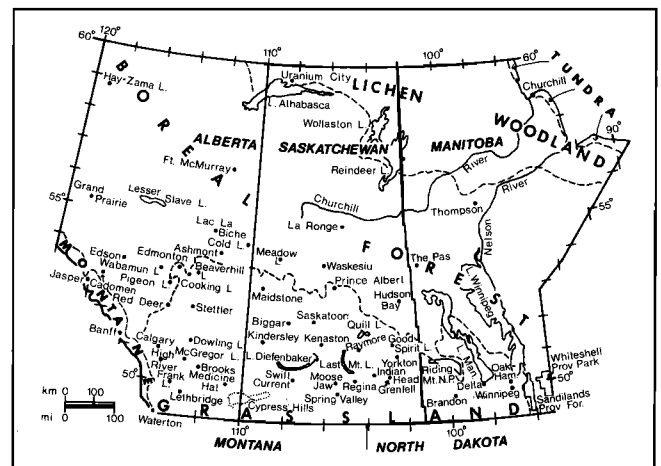
CONTRIBUTORS (Sectional Editors in boldface) — Susan Allen, John Arnold, Thomas Z. Atkeson, J. Russell Bailey, Dick Ballman, Richard Ballman, Alan Baron, Kate Beck, **Michael J. Bierly** (Middle Tennessee), Craig A. Brown, Claude W. Brown, D. Mark Brown, Carolyn H. Bullock, Michelle Buquoi, Steven W. Cardiff, Dan Carroll, Robert Casey, **Ben B. Coffey** (w. Tennessee), Lula C. Coffey, C Dwight Cooley, Bruce Crider, Mary and G. DeSoto (M & GD), Donna L. Dittman, Robert A. Duncan, Lucy Duncan, John Dunn, Howard M Einspahr, Bill Eley, Owen Fang, John Findlay, Yvonne Fitts, Goldwyn Gary, Harland D. Guillory, Tom Haggerty, Sam D. Hamilton, John Hardee (JoH), Tommy Hazleton (THz), Jim and James Holmes (J & JH), Doris Hope, Steve and Kathy Hope (S & KH), **Thomas A. Imhof** (Alabama), Greg D. and Debra G. Jackson (GD & DGJ), **Jerome A. Jackson** (Mississippi), D.T. Kee, **Curtis L. Kingsbury** (n.w. Florida), Bret Kuss, Harriett Martin, R. Martin, Mary Lou Mattys, Ann L. Miller, **Charles Mills** (Arkansas), Gerry Morgan, Mary Morris, James Murrian, David Muth, Mac Myers, Joe Neal, Nancy Newfield, Paul Newfield, **Robert J. Newman** (Louisiana), Martha Nez, Albert and Minnie Nonkes (A & MiN), Brent Ortego, Kelby Ouchley, Max Parker, Ted Parker, Charles Patterson, Robert D. Purrington, J. Van Remsen, Gary H. Rosenberg, Dave Ruple, Michael W. Russell, T.S. Schulemberg, John Sevenair, William M. Shepherd, Luvois and H.H. Shugart (L & HHS), Kim Smith, Bay County Audubon Society (B.A.S.), Ed and Nancy Soloski (E & NS), Jim Spence (JSp), Richard Stauffacher, Steven J. Stedman, Ronald J. Stein, Doug Stotz, Phil Tetlow, Gary Thomas, Thomas D. Thornbill, Judith Toups, Charles Viets, Margaret Waguespack (MWA), Martha Waldron (MtW), Heathie Walker, Melvin Weber, Harriet and Leland Wessel (H & LWe), Jim Whelan, Larry Wilson, Jeff R. Wilson, Jackie Zaney, Ann and Tony Ziccardi (A & TZ). — **BRENT ORTEGO, 606 E. Beauregard St., Ville Platte, LA 70586.**

PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/J. Bernard Gollop

December temperatures were 1 to 3°C above normal in the Prairie Provinces north to 54°N. Precipitation in the same area was below normal, down to 25% of average in central Alberta. January was no colder than December (-10 to -15°C in the south, which was 5-6°C above normal even into the northern half of each province). Precipitation was only 50% of average through much of the south. The first week in February produced some record low temperatures but on the whole the month was 2-5°C warmer than usual in the southern half and just above normal in the north. For the third consecutive month precipitation was below normal, 50% below for most of the Prairies.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS — The only Com. Loon was on L. Diefenbaker at least until Feb. 23 (CE, WH). Two Great Blue Herons were first seen near Banff Feb. 13 and a Whistling Swan was there Dec. 18 (GH, RL, MM). Manitoba hosted a Great Blue Heron at Rivers Feb. 7 (HSv, NS, CC) and a blue-phase Snow Goose through early February in Petersfield (HSm). In the Calgary-Banff stretch of the Bow R., 12 species of ducks occurred during the winter: Mallards, two Gadwall (Jan. 23), one Pintail, six Green-winged Teal, two Am. Wigeon, Com. Goldeneye, eight Barrow's Goldeneye, one Bufflehead, one Harlequin, and one Hooded (Jan. 23), 28 Common (Feb. 15) and one Red-breasted (Dec. 18) mergansers (JT, DE, GH, OD, J & MSt, AW). There were also a ♂ Green-winged Teal Dec. 12 (CE) and six Com.



Mergansers Feb. 8 (CE) at L. Diefenbaker, a ♂ N. Shoveler at Edmonton December through February (PA), three Lesser Scaup at Portage La Prairie, Man. (CC) and a Com. Merganser at Ft. San, Sask., Feb. 19 (CH).

HAWKS THROUGH OWLS — Rare occurrences included a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Calgary through Jan. 15 (JT), Cooper's Hawk at

Edmonton Jan 29 (PA), Red-tailed Hawk at Squaw Rapids, Sask., Dec. 24 (WH), Marsh Hawk at Strathmore, Alta., Feb. 19 (JSt), Peregrine Falcon at Webb, Sask., Dec. 20 (CH), and single Am. Kestrels at Olds and Calgary in February (AW, RS). Goshawks, Golden and Bald eagles and Prairie Falcons were normally distributed in all 3 provinces, while Gyrfalcons, Merlins and 10 reports of Am. Kestrels were up from last year in Manitoba (GG, RKO). A single Killdeer was reported Dec. 19 s. of the Cypress Hills, Sask., (WH, SL) and four on the Bow R., near Calgary Feb. 6 (KJ). Two Glaucous Gulls appeared on the river in Saskatoon Jan. 21-30 (AS, BJ, RJ, m.ob.). Snowy Owls were down in s. Alberta to 1.7/160 km from 2.3 in 1981-82 and 10.0 in 1980-81 (J & MSt). They were also down "considerably" at Churchill (BCh) and elsewhere they occurred in normal low numbers. A Barred Owl at Brandon Jan. 27 (CC) and a Hawk Owl near Saskatoon Dec. 23 (FR) were unusual sightings outside the boreal forest. Great Grey Owls were up in extreme s.e. Manitoba—25 being caught [banded?-Ed.] compared to three last year (RN, HC). Only four Short-eared Owls were reported, once each from Calgary, Sundre, Alta., Spring Valley and White Bear, Sask. (PSh, FH, FB, SJ). A Saw-whet Owl in Regina Dec. 20 was considered a rarity (TR, RKR).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH KINGLETS — An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker wintered successfully in Winnipeg (BCu). Five Saskatchewan areas reported Downy Woodpeckers down—Foam L., Moose Jaw, Raymore, White Bear and Wolsley; 4 of those also noted that Hairies were down (WN, EK, WH, SJ, DHy). Moose Jaw had its first ever N. Three-toed Woodpecker Feb. 11 (PK) and Regina had two through December and January (BL, TR, CA). Newly arrived Horned Larks were noted Feb. 15-23 across the s. Prairies but three were as far n. as Grande Prairie Feb. 18 (KL). Common Ravens were more common in s.e. Manitoba with 2 flocks of 250 each Feb. 19 (PT) and in n. Alberta with 500 ± around Ft. McMurray (JG). Southern Manitoba had more Black-capped and Boreal chickadees than last year (RKO, PT); Boreals were also up at Churchill (BCh). The province hosted such rarities as a Mockingbird at Pointe du Bois through February (SE, PT), single Brown Thrashers at Winnipeg and Sanford (*vide* DHA) and a Townsend's Solitaire at Winnipeg Feb. 2 (RKO) and Brandon Feb. 9-16 (CC). Manitoba also reported more Am. Robins than last year with one-day counts of nine at Winnipeg Dec. 18 (m.ob.), 15 at Reston Jan. 23 (DB) and two at Virden Feb. 22 (CC) and Golden-crowned Kinglets from 5 areas (CC, PSa, MSi).

WAXWINGS THROUGH COWBIRDS — Bohemian Waxwings did not show up in Saskatchewan's cities or towns; most contributors reported none, others usually noted single flocks of <20 on 2 or 3 dates; there were a few more in the country. Good Spirit L. was an exception: with only single flocks in December and January, up to 100 were noted regularly from Feb. 13 on (W & JA). There were more than usual in extreme s.e. Manitoba but almost none elsewhere in the s. of the province (PT, HC). They were also scarce in s. Alberta as far n. as Edmonton (with an influx in February) and Elk I.; there were a few more than last year at Ft. McMurray (FL, PA, TH, JG). Cedar Waxwings may have outnumbered Bohemians in Winnipeg and Saskatoon (HC, PO). Northern Shrikes were uncommon as usual but a Loggerhead was studied and carefully described in Regina Dec. 27 (FS).

The Icterids especially were among those better represented than usual this winter. A W. Meadowlark was found near Raymore Dec. 26 (WH) and Calgary Feb. 20 (JSt). Red-winged Blackbirds were reported from Lumsden, Sask., nine from Feb. 5-19, and Regina with a pair Dec. 18-27 (TR, BL, CA), and singles from Spring Valley Dec. 21 and White Bear, Sask., Jan. 12 (FB, SJ), from 7 locations in Manitoba, including 12 at Altona (AS), and an imm. male from Banff Dec. 20-29 (EB). There were also more Rusty Blackbirds than usual: nine wintered at Rivers, Man. (NS), eight at Brandon (CC) and five at Reston, Man. (DB); there were 11 near Lumsden, Sask., Feb. 5-13 (TR, BL, CA), seven n. of Moose Jaw Jan. 2 (DHj), three at Banff Dec. 29 (EB) and a few singles elsewhere. Brewer's Blackbirds were up also: 2 flocks of three each in Manitoba (MSi, RKO), a single at a Saskatoon feeder to Jan. 17 (RJ) and a flock of 15 males and females near Irricana, Alta., Feb. 26 (JSt). What was probably Alberta's first wintering Brown-headed Cowbird was a male found the last week of January at Ft. McMurray and still surviving Feb. 28+ (BW, JG). Single Com.

Grackles overwintered with the help of a feeder at Ft. San, Sask., (JP) and at 7 localities in Manitoba (HC, RKO).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH BUNTINGS — Evening and Pine grosbeaks were down across the Prairies but up at Ft. McMurray (JG) Purple Finches were more common than last year in s. Manitoba, the largest numbers being 19 at Rock L., 15 ± near Glenboro and 11 in Winnipeg (PS, LL, MSi). A House Finch was a rarity at a Calgary feeder late December-early February (DM). Redpolls were even less common than waxwings across the s. and about equal in numbers to last winter at Ft. McMurray (JG). At Churchill, Pine Grosbeaks and redpolls were up and the cone crop there was better than last year (BCh) As they were 3 winters ago, Am. Goldfinches were exceptionally common in s. Manitoba. Estimates varied from >100 at each of several feeders in Winnipeg to 450 near Brandon Jan. 25 to 500 ± in Balmoral in January and early February (GG, MSi, CC, CT). This population spilled over to s.e. Saskatchewan with up to 30 overwintering at a feeder in Wauchope and two at a feeder in Moose Mountain P.P., Feb. 20 (*vide* DHj, RD). A Rufous-sided Towhee again wintered in s. Manitoba at Sanford (*vide* DHA). Dark-eyed Juncos and White-throated Sparrows survived at least part of the winter, each in a half dozen places with both species as far n. as Ft. McMurray—singles at feeders, the former during the first 2 weeks of January and the latter Feb. 21-26 (JG). A Tree Sparrow at Duncairn Dam, Sask., Feb. 27 was unusual (JR, CH) as well as an imm. Chipping Sparrow successfully wintering at a Pinawa, Man., feeder (RZ, PT) and a Harris' Sparrow as far n. as Prince Albert (TC). Saskatchewan's first documented **Field Sparrow** was photographed near Meyronne Dec. 17 & 19 (DHj). A McCown's Longspur was seen s. of the Cypress Hills, Sask., Dec. 19 and a concentration of Snow Buntings estimated at 34,000 was found at Raymore Dec. 21 (WH).

CONTRIBUTORS — (area editors in boldface). C. Adam, W. and J. Anaka, P. Assman, E. Beaubien, F. Bogdan, D. Braddell, T. Capustan, **B. Chartier** (BCh), **H. Copland**, B. Cunnings (BCu), C. Cuthbert, R. Dixon, O. Droppo, S. Dunwoody, D. Elphinstone, C. Escott, G. Grief, J. Gulley, T. Hammell, C. Harris, W. Harris, D. Hatch (DHA), F. Haug, D. Hayward (DHy), D. Hjertaas (DHj) G. Holroyd, R. Jensen, B. Johns, K. Jones, S. Jordheim, **E. Kern**, P. Kern, **R. Koes** (RKO), **R. Kreba** (RKR), S. Lamont, R. Lang, J. Lange, L. Layman, K. Lumbis, B. Luterbach, D. Matthews, M. McIvor, R. Nero, W. Niven, **P. O'Neil**, J. Perry, J. Ricou, T. Riffel, F. Roy, P. Sawatzky, P. Sherrington, N. Short, M. Siepman (MSi), A. Smith, H. Smith (HSm), **J. and M. Steeves** (J & MSt), R. Storms, H. Sveistrup (HSv), F. Switzer, P. Taylor, C. Thexton, J. Thompson, **A. Wiseley**, B. Wylie, R. Zach.—**BERNARD GOLLOP, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Rd., Saskatoon, Sask. S7N 0X4.**

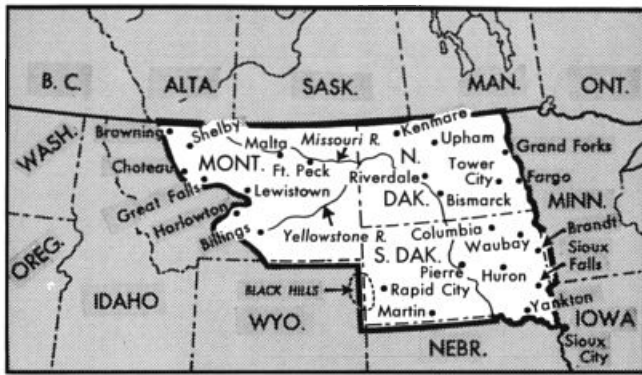
NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Gordon B. Berkey

The season was exceptionally mild and open over the entire Region, with Bismarck having the mildest winter since 1930-31. This continues a pattern of extremes, as three of the past five winters have been unusually mild and two have been very harsh. Birders may find it interesting to review reports of the four previous winters for comparison; it seems that for many species there is no apparent link between winter conditions and abundances. This is particularly true of the northern finches.

Many birders, apparently longing for the northern birds, described the season as dull; if instead one believes that the unexpected is interesting, the winter was far from dull, with several first state wintering records, several over-winterings of marginally hardy species, and a few familiar summer species in much above normal winter numbers. In the text following, place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH GEESE — The first South Dakota **Common Loon** was one in *Davison* Feb. 14 (JDM, RGR). A late W. Grebe was at Garrison Dam, N.D., Dec. 5 (REM). The first winter **White Pelican**



in Montana remained at Miles City after the CBC, but was presumed injured or sick (TCH). A Great Blue Heron at Lewistown, Mont., Dec. 26-31 provided a first winter latilong record (LKM); singles were seen at Yellowtail, Montana, and Yankton, S.D., in January. Two Whistling Swans at Sand Lake N.W.R., Dec. 17 were very late (WAS), while an injured one survived until Dec. 30 at Tewaukon N.W.R. (DGP). Canada Geese wintered in above-normal numbers wherever there was open water; most observers reported an early migration. Five Snow Geese wintered at Sand Lake, and early migrants included 1000 in Turner, S.D. (LJA) and one at Salyer N.W.R. (AA) Feb. 28.

DUCKS — So much was received on ducks that only generalizations and a few highlights can be reviewed here. A total of 19 species was reported. The following 14 over-wintered at one or more locations: Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Am. Wigeon, N. Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Com. and Barrow's goldeneyes, Bufflehead, Oldsquaw, and Red-breasted and Com. mergansers. The Oldsquaw at Garrison Dam was the first North Dakota observation after late December. The Barrow's Goldeneye was a single male at Canyon L., Rapid City, for the fifth consecutive winter. Northern migration was noted in South Dakota as early as Feb. 16, with 11 species singled out as early migrants; earliest ever were the two Green-winged Teal in Yankton Feb. 28, N. Shovelers in Gregory Feb. 27, and six Lesser Scaup in Davison and 12 in Yankton Feb. 25. Late migrants were a White-winged Scoter Dec. 6 at Fort Randall Dam (KHH), a Ruddy Duck Dec. 2 and a Hooded Merganser Dec. 5 in Yankton (WH).

RAPTORS — The good Goshawk numbers of fall held into winter. On Dec. 13 four were seen to cross a trail in one minute in Gregory, and at least seven different birds were in that county in December (GLS, DLL). Goshawks were also reported in 4 other South Dakota cos., and one was seen taking pigeons in Aberdeen Jan. 19 (DAT). There were 2 reports from e. Montana and 10 from North Dakota. There were 13 reports of Sharp-shinned, above normal, and three of Cooper's, near normal. It might be expected that ground-feeding raptors would winter farther n. with so little snow cover, but observations were not uniform. Gniadek had totals of 56 Red-tailed (almost double last winter) and 44 Rough-legged hawks (more than double) in the Miles City area. The only North Dakota sighting of Red-tailed was at Fargo (GEN) Dec. 4 and this was probably a migrant, while South Dakota had winterers in 4 counties with no abundances stated. There were only 6 Rough-legged reports from North Dakota, and they were seen as not common in South Dakota except for Jackson, where they were in numbers (KG). A Ferruginous Hawk near Miles City in mid-February and another w. of Billings (no date) provided 2 of the few winter Montana sightings, while there were 9 in South Dakota.

Hinz noted more "sagebrush" Bald Eagles this winter than ever before and speculates that white jackrabbits against a snowless ground may have provided an easy food supply in e. Montana. Marsh Hawks wintered in slightly greater than normal numbers; three South Dakota counties had early migrants Feb. 27. The only Gyrfalcons were a gray-phase immature in late December and early January and a dark-phase in January at Ft. Peck (CMC). A Prairie Falcon was observed to roost for much of the winter on a tenth floor window ledge in Grand Forks (*vide DOL*). A late report of a Peregrine Falcon found dead in Turner, S.D., indicates that the bird may have died of rib injuries suffered while hunting, as no shot were found (LJA). The Am. Kestrel on the Ft. Peck CBC Dec. 18 furnished the first winter record for n.e. Montana (JCC).

GALLINIDS THROUGH DOVES — Grouse, pheasants and partridge may have been sighted less often this winter because of lack of snow cover. Forty Turkeys have become established at Salyer N.W.R. This species has done well after stocking along the Missouri R. drainage in North Dakota. An undocumented (alas) Sandhill Crane reported from Denbigh, N.D., Jan. 24 would have given us the first regional winter record. At least one Am. Coot was present at Gavin's Pt. Dam for most of the winter. A Glaucous Gull Dec. 4 in Davison was out of the usual Missouri R. corridor, one wintered again at Ft. Peck, and a first-year bird was at Pierre Feb. 12 (BKH). The third North Dakota Thayer's Gull was another first-year bird on the Garrison Dam CBC, Dec. 21 (GBB). There were more Ring-billed Gulls at Pierre and Yankton than usual. Franklin's Gull made its first winter appearances in the Dakotas. Most interesting was the one in *summer adult plumage* through December at Garrison Dam (m.ob.). This may not seem doubly preposterous if we recall that both migration and molting are controlled by hormone balances. A Franklin's was in Yankton Feb. 27 (WH, JEW, ph.); was this an early migrant? A Bonaparte's Gull in Yankton Dec. 1 was the latest ever in South Dakota. Photos were taken of two Black-legged Kittiwakes in Yankton (WH). This species should no longer be considered a surprise along the Missouri R. in late fall and early winter. Mourning Doves wintered in Grand Forks, but a flock of 16 on the Minot CBC had dwindled to two by Jan. 29, when last seen.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Biologist Cliff Youmans has been censusing owls using tapes for the past 4 years in e. Montana during late February and early March. Conventional wisdom is that small owls become silent out of fear when a Great Horned Owl calls, but he has found that all species in the area will announce territories in response to a Great Horned call. He believes that the density of territorial owls is as high as 13/mi² in the thin strips of riverbottom hardwood forest, with as many as eight Great Horneds/mi². A Screech Owl near Miles City Jan. 23 marked a new winter latilong record (SJG). For the second straight year there were no Snowy Owls around Ft. Peck; there were few reports from the w. Dakotas, but in December there were about seven on hunting territories near Grand Forks, and five were reported from Sand L., in e. South Dakota. A Long-eared Owl e. of Miles City was in a new winter latilong Jan. 9; one heard calling Dec. 21 was barely outside the Garrison Dam CBC (REM). Short-eared Owl is another predator that might be expected to winter in good numbers in such open conditions, but there were only 8 reports. A Saw-whet Owl was found dead on the Red R., near Fargo Feb. 1 (CWC).

At least eight Belted Kingfishers wintered in e. Montana and South Dakota. The most surprising winter bird was the fifth Montana Anna's Hummingbird, which arrived at the Billings feeder of Bill & Pam Garvin in early September, and was kept alive until Jan. 23 with the aid of a heated feeder and artificial shelter (HWC). There was some remorse expressed over having enticed such a fragile bird to stay, but would one so lost have found its way S. if left to fend for itself? Common Flickers were more numerous than usual in Montana and North Dakota. Interestingly, at least 13 were believed to winter in Fargo, but none in Grand Forks, only 75 mi to the n. A Pileated Woodpecker was at Grand Forks Dec. 15 (GSL). Red-bellied Woodpeckers made it until Jan. 27 in Hebron (BT) and Feb. 5 in Hope (DLK) in North Dakota, and wintered at Hartford S.P., in South Dakota (DRS). Red-headed Woodpeckers are usually early May arrivals in North Dakota, so the two in Fargo Feb. 18 are likely to have wintered. Meade, S.D., was the scene of ten sightings of Lewis' Woodpecker (EEM), and two were in Lawrence Jan. 2 (NRW). A Northern Three-toed Woodpecker Jan. 9 in Brookings was the first recorded in South Dakota outside of the Black Hills (CAT).

LARKS THROUGH CREEPERS — Many observers reported that Horned Larks were scarce until the normal late February migration. This is somewhat surprising in view of the mild weather and good food supply. Black-billed Magpies were down in Gregory (GLS) but normal in the rest of the Region. Four Clark's Nutcrackers were at Wind Cave N.P., Feb. 11 (RAP). The high Mountain Chickadee count at Lewistown was 17 (LKM). Numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were generally small. A Pygmy Nuthatch was seen in Fall River, S.D., Feb. 6. This was a very good year for Brown Creeper, with several North Dakota observers seeing 1-3/day throughout.

WRENS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Cañon Wrens were singing by Feb. 15 in Fall River. A Long-billed Marsh Wren in Sanborn Jan. 21 was at the same site where one had been in late November (RGR,

JDM) A Mockingbird was in *Jackson* Jan. 8 (KG). Brown Thrashers usually cannot survive a North Dakota winter, but one made it through the period at Fargo (MAS). American Robins were in good numbers in e. Montana and North Dakota, but Harris expressed surprise that there were not more in n. South Dakota. A Varied Thrush fed regularly on crabapples in a Bismarck yard Dec. 4-Jan. 8 (RLQ). The ♂ **Eastern Bluebird** in Fargo Dec. 12-24 was the first recorded in North Dakota in winter (M & DL, †MAB). A Townsend's Solitaire wintered in Grand Forks for a second county record (DOL), and three n.e. of Jordan, Mont., Feb. 15 provided a new winter latilong record (SJG). In several recent years Golden-crowned Kinglets have been present until late December or early January in North Dakota; this winter small numbers persisted throughout at Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot. Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets reported from Malta, Mont., would be a first wintering for e. Montana, but no details were supplied. Bohemian Waxwings were either absent or present in small numbers at most locations; exceptions were up to 750 in Lewistown and 450 in *Lawrence*, S.D. Cedar Waxwings were common in North Dakota, with an average of 50/day in the Minot area.

SHRIKES THROUGH ICTERIDS — Northern Shrikes made the best showing in years, with a season total of 25 around Miles City, and 1-5/day near Minot. An undocumented Loggerhead Shrike was reported in *Davison*, S.D., Dec. 3. Winter populations of Starlings were up in Ft. Peck and Minot. In *Gregory* two Yellow-rumped Warblers were feeding on cedar berries Feb. 4 (GLS). There were two February W. Meadowlarks in North Dakota, but meadowlarks were seen as surprisingly scarce in n. South Dakota. Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were near Oakes, N. D., Dec. 5 (GB). Blackbird numbers were lower than expected in South Dakota, with no large flocks, but the 440 at Upper Souris in North Dakota Feb. 26 was a good number for that area. Rusty Blackbirds were seen in North Dakota several times in flocks in the teens throughout the winter. A Brewer's Blackbird in Fargo Feb. 25 (LLF) and a Brown-headed Cowbird at Coleharbor Jan. 9 were among the more unusual winter blackbirds. Common Grackles survived the winter at Grand Forks but not at Minot.

FINCHES — Good numbers of Cardinals were in e. South Dakota, and at least one spent the winter in Fargo (DLS). During the mild winter 2 years ago, good numbers of "northern" finches came; this winter served as a vivid illustration of the lack of a simple relationship between local weather conditions and winter populations of these erratic visitors. Other than a few at Billings and 15 in *Minnehaha*, S.D. (AH) no observer saw more than one Evening Grosbeak at a time. The only two Pine Grosbeaks were in Grand Forks Dec. 15 (GSL) and on the Garrison Dam CBC; the *only* redpolls were three Commons on the Garrison Dam CBC! The largest number of Red Crossbills was 18 in Lewistown

Jan. 1 The only White-winged Crossbills were five in Minot Feb. 26 (GBB). Pine Siskins were more general than any of the above, but were present in only moderate numbers. Only Purple Finches bucked the trend; an average of 30/outing were seen in the Minot area, and this classic feeder bird was readily found in the country feeding in sunflower fields. The familiar Am. Goldfinch was common in the Dakotas, and eight at Malta, Mont. (LR) furnished the first winter record for e. Montana. Birders from the Dakotas who have become accustomed to wintering goldfinches should read the S.A. in the 1979-80 Prairie Provinces report (*AB* 34:284) to be assured of the plausibility of the lack of previous e. Montana winter records.

SPARROWS — A Rufous-sided Towhee wintered at Fargo (†J & RR). A closely observed Vesper Sparrow in *Deuel*, S.D., Dec. 1 was the latest ever by 25 days (GJS, BKH). Tree Sparrows may remain faithful to their winter range regardless of weather, as they are always difficult to find near Minot in winter, but become common about 50 mi s. Crowned sparrows occur on area CBCs, but mid-winter sightings are infrequent. This year a Harris' was at Bottineau Jan. 30 (DNS), a White-crowned at Waubay N.W.R., was the second South Dakota winterer in the past 10 years, and three White-throateds wintered at a Grand Forks feeder. Several winter Song Sparrows were reported. One might have expected hordes of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings to winter, but, although a few large flocks of each were seen, such was not the case.

IN MEMORIAM — Palmer David Skaar, 60, of Bozeman, Mont., died of a heart attack in Salt Lake City March 30. For 25 years he has tirelessly worked to upgrade knowledge of Montana Birds. His *Montana Bird Distribution* is a model for economy in presentation of ornithological information. The latilong system he espoused has also been adopted in Colorado and Wyoming. His expertise will be sorely missed by regional birders.

OBSERVERS — (Area editors in boldface). MONTANA—**C M. Carlson**, J.C. Carlson, H.W. Carlson, S.J. Gniadek, T.C. Hinz, L.K. Malone, L. Rau and two others. NORTH DAKOTA—A. Aufforth, M.A. Bergan, **G.B. Berkey**, G. Brucker, C.W. Corwin, L.L. Falk, D.L. Kubischta, M. & D. Lamb, D.O. Lambeth, G.S. Lambeth, R.E. Martin, G.E. Nielsen, **D.G. Potter**, R.L. Quanrud, J. & R. Reimers, D.L. Stewart, M.A. Stoy, D.N. Svingen, B. Tiedman and 30 others. SOUTH DAKOTA—L.J. Anderson, K. Graupmann, W. Hall, B.K. Harris, A. Hoeger, K.H. Husmann, J.W. Koerner, D.L. Langkeek, J.D. McLaird, E.E. Miller, R.A. Peterson, R.G. Rogers, D.R. Skadsen, W.A. Schultze, G.J. Stava, G.L. Steffen, C.A. Taylor, D.A. Tallman, J.E. Wilcox, N.R. Whitney and five others.—**GORDON B. BERKEY**, Division of Science, Minot State College, Minot, ND 58701.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS

/Frances Williams

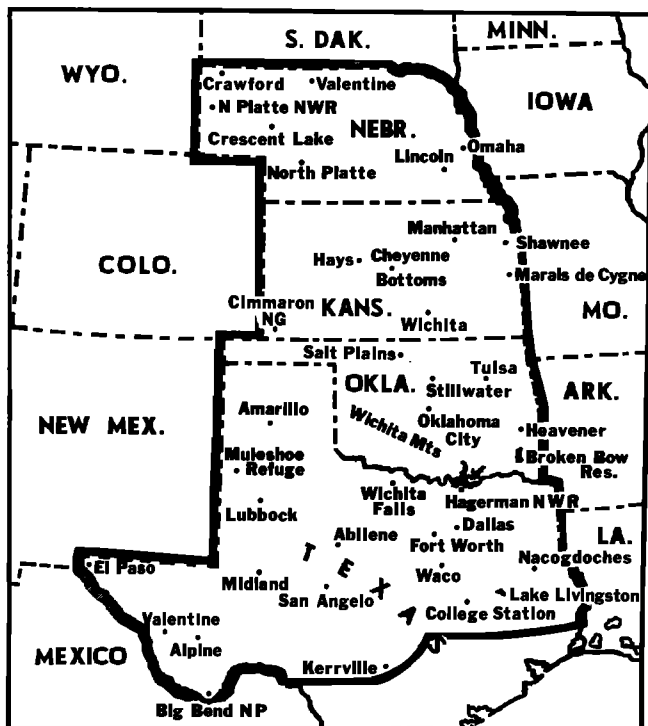
Winter was warm, wet and short. There was no subzero weather and lakes and rivers generally stayed open. Fall migrants and summer residents remained late, and many species wintered well north of their usual range. Most contributors stated that birding was "dull" and birds few. Except for Goshawks, irruptive species were scarce. In the text below, place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Common Loons wintered in good numbers throughout Oklahoma and Texas, with a peak of 21 on Ft. Gibson Res., *Wagoner* and *Cherokee*, Okla., Jan. 23 (JLN). Horned Grebe populations were generally low except at Ft. Gibson Res., where 120 were counted Jan. 16. At Canyon L., *Comal*, Tex., 70 Eared Grebes were sighted Feb. 17, an unusual number for that locality (E & KM). An individual of this species wintered in Sedgwick, Kans. (SK), and 50 remained at Oklahoma City as late as Dec. 12 (JGN). Western Grebes were seen e. to Kerrville Dec. 9-10, Oklahoma City Dec. 5, 18 and *Tarrant*, Tex., Feb. 12.

A Pied-billed Grebe near Omaha Jan. 1 did not appear to be healthy

but did provide a first January record (TB). White Pelicans wintered in *Ottawa*, *Osage* and *Creek*, Okla., and Hagerman N.W.R., Tex. Among several cormorants which had been illegally shot during October and subsequently confiscated by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, was one identified as an **Olivaceous Cormorant** (*Univ. of Nebraska at Lincoln), providing a first state record (*vide* TB). An Olivaceous Cormorant at El Paso Jan. 31 & Feb. 10 provided an unusual winter record (BZ, JD). Cattle Egrets wintered at Keene, Tex. (CE) and El Paso (BZ). Great Egrets remained through the season at Muskogee, Okla. (JMc) and in Texas at San Angelo, Kerrville, El Paso, Dallas and *Stephens*. Three White-faced Ibises provided a surprising winter record at Dallas Jan. 27-Feb. 5 (BV).

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans graced reservoirs in *Wyandotte*, Kans., *Osage*, *Comanche* and *Cleveland*, Okla., *Potter*, *Loving* and *Reeves*, Tex. White-fronted Geese moved N on a wide front in mid-February, with three located as far w. as El Paso Feb. 20 (BZ). Two Snow Geese on the N. Platte R., near Oshkosh, Neb., Jan. 6 were the first winter individuals seen by Rosche in 10 years of Nebraska birding. In *Linn*, Kans., 1500 Snow Geese were present Jan. 30 and thousands poured through *Sarpy*, Neb., Feb. 17-24. Three Ross' Geese remained



of water hosted one or more Bald Eagles, the birds were somewhat less numerous than usual; again it was assumed they wintered n. of the Region. New Bald Eagle nests were found in *Nacogdoches* and *Panola*, Tex., in February (BO). A pair was also building in Sequoia N.W.R., Okla., only the second known nest for Oklahoma (*vide* JLN).

A little drama involving a Bald Eagle was recounted by J.L. Norman of Muskogee: "We were observing waterfowl at Ft. Gibson Res., when a Bald Eagle flew out over the lake and knocked a Snow Goose out of a flight of 20. The goose fell into the water but was able to dive beneath the surface twice when the eagle came down to pick it up. Finally the goose tired and the eagle caught and killed it on the water. We watched as the eagle tried four times to lift the goose from the water but failed and had to go back to perch and rest. Finally the eagle gave up."

Marsh Hawks were reported to be extremely scarce at San Angelo, Kerrville and Keene, Tex. Ospreys fished near Dallas Dec. 14 & 28 and Lubbock Dec. 17. A Gyr Falcon at Oklahoma City was the find of the season. Grzybowski first observed it Dec. 1 from IS 40 in downtown Oklahoma City. Others saw and photographed it in the same area at intervals until Dec. 19. A late report was received of a Gyr Falcon in *Osage*, Okla., Nov. 4 (SSH). This was not the same bird, as one was immature, the other adult. Peregrines hurtled over *Rush*, Kans., Jan. 14, Bartlesville, Okla., Feb. 16-17 and the Davis Mts., Tex., Jan. 28. A Prairie Falcon found good hunting in the Martin Nature Center, Oklahoma City, during December and January and one visited Albion, Neb., Jan. 8 & Feb. 11. Merlins were recorded at 5 localities in Nebraska, 4 in Kansas, 2 in Oklahoma and 6 in Texas.

at Hagerman N.W.R., until early January and ten were counted at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., Jan. 28. The wintering duck population was low in Texas and Oklahoma and higher than usual in Kansas and Nebraska. Northward movement began in February, earlier than normal. In *Douglas*, Neb., two Black Ducks were carefully identified Jan. 1-24 (TB, BJR). Greater Scaup were found in *Lancaster*, Neb., Feb. 20, *Linn*, Kans., Jan. 30 and Lubbock Feb. 28. At Lake O' The Pines, n.e. Tex., as many as 50 Greater Scaup could be seen at once (DW). Oldsquaws were reported in *Keith*, Neb., *Marion*, Kans., *Comanche*, *Tulsa* and *Oklahoma*, Okla. A White-winged Scoter was discovered at *Tulsa* Jan. 30 (E & KH). Hooded Mergansers are now regular in winter in the Region and were reported this season from *Linn*, Kans., to *Big Bend N.P.*, Tex.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH TERNS — Greater Prairie Chickens strolled regularly on a Bartlesville golf course. Seventy Gambel's Quail fed in a cattle pen in *Presidio*, Tex. Virginia Rails wintered at San Angelo and were reported in *Rains*, Tex., Dec. 5, *Tarrant*, Tex., Feb. 5 and *Sedgwick*, Kans., Jan. 29. Common Gallinules were found at Lubbock Feb. 6 and Kerrville Dec. 2. In *Hudspeth*, Tex., 35 Mountain Plovers were counted Dec. 24 (AJR), two were in *Williamson*, Tex., Jan. 23 (CME) and four were in *Crosby*, Tex., Feb. 20 (ML). American Woodcocks lurked in *Franklin*, Kans. (MDS), *Johnson*, Kans. (PD) and *Tulsa* (RJ). An astounding 150 Com. Snipe probed in a sewage pond at Kerrville Dec. 7 (E & KM). Although Long-billed Curlews are unusual in trans-Pecos Texas, 30 were found in *Hudspeth* Dec. 27 (CSe) and up to 150 wintered along the Rio Grande near El Paso (BZ). Spotted Sandpipers lingered in the Dallas area until Dec. 28. A Solitary Sandpiper provided an unusual winter record in *Tarrant* Jan. 30 (CBH). A Wilson's Phalarope remained in *Llano*, Tex., until Dec. 16 (E & KM). A Parasitic Jaeger in *Loving* Tex., Dec. 22 was well described (AJR).



Gyr Falcon, Oklahoma City, Okla., Dec. 8, 1982. Photo J.S. Shackford.

There was some controversy over whether there were one or two Glaucous Gulls in the L. Texoma area. The first bird was discovered Dec. 18 just below the dam (KSt, AV). It was seen at intervals (m.ob.) until Jan. 18 and appeared to be in good health. On Jan. 24, a dead Glaucous Gull was picked up at Hagerman N.W.R. (JWi). The latter bird was badly emaciated and had died of a large tumor. At a n. Tulsa dump, one, and occasionally two, Glaucous Gulls fed Dec. 12-Feb. 5 (JWA, JT, m.ob.). Franklin's Gulls lingered at Dallas through December. Two in *Lancaster*, Neb., Feb. 27 provided a new early record (RG), and two at Oklahoma City Feb. 20 were also very early (JAG). Bonaparte's Gulls are now regular and common winter residents on larger reservoirs in Oklahoma and Texas. Some high counts this winter included 1000 at Ft. Gibson Res., 211 at Buchanan L., *Llano*, Tex., and over 100 at Twin Buttes Res., *Tom Green*, Tex. But one doesn't expect to see a Bonaparte's Gull sitting in a snow bank in the pinyon-juniper woodland of the Davis Mts., Dec. 26! (AJR, PE, CSe). Forster's Terns remained through the season on several Texas reservoirs.

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS — Turkey Vultures arrived in *Chautauqua*, Kans., Feb. 14 (SK). White-tailed Kites were sighted in 6 n.c. Texas counties—soon this species will be too common to report! Goshawks were recorded from 5 localities in Nebraska, 14 in Kansas, 4 in Oklahoma and one far s. in Big Bend N.P. The number of Red-shouldered Hawks was unusually high for the winter season. A nest, 80% complete, was found in *Franklin*, Kans., Mar. 1 (MDS). The number of Rough-legged Hawks was low—perhaps they remained farther n. because of the mild winter. Although nearly all large bodies

DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHERS — Three Ground Doves were found in *Medina*, Tex., Feb. 24 (E & KM). At least 350 White-winged Doves wintered along the Rio Grande at El Paso. Near Dallas, a Roadrunner sat on a nest which appeared to be an old Mockingbird nest Jan. 11-25 (ME). The only Snowy Owl reported was in *Coffey*, Kans., Jan. 20 (DW, SWi). Great Horned Owls were nesting in *Dawes* and *Sheridan*, Neb., by Feb. 19, almost a month earlier than normal (RCR). Long-eared Owls were in all the usual locations, but in smaller numbers than usual. Few Short-eared Owls were found. A Chimney

Swift arrived in Baldwin, Kans., Mar. 1 (AJB). About 40 White-throated Swifts foraged over the Rio Grande in *Presidio* Dec. 30, which was not unexpected. But three in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., in the Texas Panhandle Dec. 19-Jan. 28 were remarkable (KS *et al.*). The Panhandle birds were never seen until noon or later, flying only when the canyon warmed. Black-chinned Hummingbirds arrived in the Davis Mts., Feb. 15. A ♀ Rufous Hummingbird remained at Ft. Davis, Tex., through several snow storms, but the first warm sunny day (Jan. 27) she left (PE). A Belted Kingfisher wintered at Albion, Neb. (WM). A Green Kingfisher was discovered in *Tom Green*, Tex., in late February (*vide* TCM).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH CORVIDS — The population of Golden-fronted Woodpeckers burgeoned on the fringes of their range in both n.c. and s.w. Texas. In *Linn*, Kans., 45 Red-headed Woodpeckers were counted Feb. 26 (LM). A Lewis' Woodpecker wintered in Midland. Two Williamson's Sapsuckers were in the Davis Mts., Jan. 28 (JWW) and one was at Amarillo Dec. 20 (ES). An Ash-throated Flycatcher in El Paso Feb. 17 (BZ) could have been an early spring migrant—or perhaps it was the same bird seen a few miles e. of the city Dec. 21 (SW). A Say's Phoebe was discovered in *Kingfisher*, Okla., Feb. 16 (JSh, WH), and several were reported in Texas on the e. edge of their range. An *Empidonax* sp. was foraging in a snow storm in *Presidio*, Tex., Dec. 31. By the next morning there were 4 inches of snow on the ground and the "empid" was gone (GL). "Tens of thousands" of Horned Larks covered the fields between Crosbyton and Lubbock Jan. 29-Feb. 2. About 150 Horned Larks fed on a snow-covered golf course at Oklahoma City Feb. 4-7 and more than 1000 were estimated n.e. of Tulsa Feb. 5. Tree Swallows arrived at El Paso Feb. 20 and one appeared at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., Feb. 27. A Rough-winged Swallow was sighted in *Real*, Tex., Feb. 10 and two were at El Paso Feb. 20. The earliest Purple Martin was one in Kerrville Jan. 28. Blue Jays were very scarce at Lincoln and Omaha. A Blue Jay in El Paso Dec. 1-Feb. 25 provided a first record there (m.ob.). At least 5000 Com. Crows wintered along the Rio Grande at El Paso. A flock of Piñon Jays comprising 200 to 350 birds roamed the Davis Mts., Dec. 25-Jan. 29 and a Clark's Nutcracker was observed there Jan. 29 (JWW).

CHICKADEES THROUGH THRUSHES — Two Carolina Chickadees in Palo Duro Canyon Oct. 31 and Jan. 15 provided a new record there. At El Paso, Mountain Chickadees were present through the season. A Verdin was carefully identified in *Palo Pinto*, Tex., Dec. 15 (TG). A White-breasted Nuthatch wandered to Lubbock Jan. 1 (CS). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce to absent in the n. and e. portions of the Region but were common at Lubbock and El Paso and one reached Big Bend N.P., in January. Pygmy Nuthatches wintered at El Paso. At Albion, Neb., five Brown Creepers moved in a flock Feb. 11. Winter Wrens appeared in Omaha, *Linn* and *Ellsworth*, Kans., Norman, Okla., Tulsa and Dallas. Many contributors noted that populations of Carolina and Bewick's wrens are increasing. A Long-billed Marsh Wren wintered at Wichita, Kans. (SK), and one in *Garden*, Neb., Jan. 6 provided a first winter record there (RCR). A Brown Thrasher survived the winter in *Pawnee*, Kans. Hermit Thrushes wintered in high numbers throughout the Region. In w. Texas, Mountain Bluebirds were almost entirely absent.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH ICTERIDS — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were unusual for the season at Midland Dec. 10 (JM), Oklahoma City Jan. 14, 16, 24 (JAG), *Tarrant* Feb. 27 (RMC). Golden-crowned Kinglets were fairly numerous throughout the Region. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in *Dawes*, Neb., Jan. 16 (DJR), Feb. 14 & 17 (RCR) provided the first winter records there. Sprague's Pipit performed their distinctive flights in *Wise*, Tex., Jan. 23 (RMC), *Llano*, Tex., Feb. 3 (E & KM), and *McClain*, Okla., Feb. 27 (JAG). A *Phainopepla* was photographed at Alliance, Neb., Jan. 1 (DT, *vide* RG), providing a first state record. The only Bohemian Waxwing sighted was on the Emporia State Univ. campus Feb. 17 (MDS). Northern Shrikes visited *Potter*, Tex., Jan. 8 (KS), *Washington*, Okla., Feb. 15 (DG), Albion, Neb., Feb. 11 (WM) and the Nebraska portion of DeSoto Bend, N.W.R., Feb. 24 (TB *et al.*).

A Black-and-white Warbler lingered in Ft. Worth to Dec. 12 (CBH). Two Pine Warblers were in Arlington, Tex., late January-early Febru-

ary (RM, BL). An Ovenbird visited a Norman, Okla., garden Nov. 30-Dec. 3 (WH). A flock of Rusty Blackbirds comprising about 500 birds invaded *Washington*, Neb., Feb. 24 (TB *et al.*), and 200 or more were in *Tarrant*, Tex., Jan. 26 (JWS, BL). Single birds of this species were found at Lubbock Jan. 25 (PDA) and Midland Dec. 15-20 (JM). At Bartlesville, small flocks of Rusty Blackbirds visited feeders in bad weather. A ♀ N. "Bullock's" Oriole at Tulsa Dec. 4 was both late and considerably e. of its normal range (JH). Great-tailed Grackles, the scourge of the earth, wintered in flocks comprising 50-100 birds in Great Bend, Kans. (SS) and *Linn* (MC *et al.*).

FRINGILLIDS — In *Washington*, Okla., a record 45 Cardinals came to one feeder Jan. 21 during a snowstorm. Unusual numbers of Pyrrhuloxias were reported from scattered localities in the Texas Panhandle. A ♀ Indigo Bunting was carefully identified in *Collin*, Tex., Dec. 29 (AV, EM). Purple Finches were present throughout the Region, but usually in low numbers. However, 724 were banded at Baldwin, Kans. (KK). A ♂ House Finch visited an Omaha feeder Jan. 19-20 (CH) and four (one male, three females) were seen regularly at a feeder in Comanche, Okla., Jan. 3-Feb. 28 (L & EB). There were very few and scattered reports of Pine Siskins. At Baldwin, 925 Am. Goldfinches were banded (KK) but there were no other reports of high numbers of this species. A single Red Crossbill was found in *Pawnee*, Kans., Dec. 15 (SS). A Green-tailed Towhee which wintered in *Coleman*, Tex., provided a first county record (CSe). Another visited Dallas Jan. 28-Feb. 13 (m.ob.) and one was at Tishomingo N.W.R., Okla., Feb. 12 (RMC). In the Guadalupe Mts., Tex., 20-30 Rufous-sided Towhees could be found in every scrub oak thicket (CSe). This species also wintered in the Omaha area in good numbers. Lark Buntings were more common than usual in the Texas Panhandle and small groups were seen as far as *Stephens* and *Tarrant*. In *Coleman* Jan. 1, several thousand Lark Buntings moved in massive tight flocks along snow-bound roads. The w. third of Texas is noted for its high populations of winter sparrows, but the lack of fall rains and the subsequent scarcity of weed and grass seeds resulted in very low populations of all sparrow species. Le Conte's Sparrows were more numerous in n.e. Kansas than usual, and were common in n.c. Texas. Several thousand Tree Sparrows could be seen in a day at Branched Oak L., *Lancaster*, Neb. The species was scarce in n.e. Oklahoma until early February, when a snow storm sent hundreds into the area. Tree Sparrows were scarce in the Texas Panhandle all winter. A Chipping Sparrow that spent Dec. 29-Jan. 31 at a feeder in Omaha provided both the late and early dates for the state (TB *et al.*). A Field Sparrow in *Garden*, Neb., Dec. 18 provided a first winter record there (RCR, DJR). Most Harris' Sparrows disappear from n.w. Nebraska in the average winter, but four were found in *Garden* Jan. 7 (RCR). A Harris' Sparrow in the Davis Mts., Dec. 24 provided a second record there (CSe). White-crowned Sparrows were in low numbers in Nebraska and White-throated Sparrows were scarce everywhere. A Fox Sparrow visited *Comanche*, Okla., where the species is rare, Feb. 28 (JMM).

This was a longspur winter, with all 4 species present in abundance in their usual wintering areas. Only in s.w. Texas were they absent. In *Kiowa* and *Tillman*, Okla., 20,000 longspurs in huge flocks were present Feb. 6. Of eleven birds road-killed from these flocks, all were Lapland Longspurs whereas the only longspur usually seen in the area is the Chestnut-collared (JDT). Lapland Longspurs were abundant in *Pawnee*, Kans., where Seltman discovered that during nights of heavy snowfall he could hear longspurs flying overhead at all hours. The following mornings, he found several dead birds which had apparently collided with trees and buildings. In the heavily wooded e. Texas area, single Lapland Longspurs were sighted Jan. 5 and Feb. 2 (DW, SL).

CORRIGENDA — AB 36:993: The White-tailed Kite in s.e. Oklahoma was discovered July 1 by William A. Carter and Charles L. Fowler. Two adults and the first nest were found July 4 by Carter, John S. Tomer and John Shackford. The "wild" Turkeys reported in Tulsa's River Parks were released birds. At Cheyenne Bottoms there were 2000 Stilt Sandpipers, not Black-necked Stilts. AB 36:948 (Changing Seasons): White-tailed Kites, not Mississippi Kites, nested in Oklahoma for the first time since 1860.

CONTRIBUTORS AND INITIALED OBSERVERS: **Kansas:** Amelia J. Betts, Mel Cooksey, Pat Devine, Katherine Kelly, Steve Kingswood, Lloyd Moore, Marvin D. Schwilling, Scott Seltman, Donald Vannoy, Steve Williams (SWi), Dan Williamson. **Nebraska:** Tan-

ya Bray, Ruth Green, Chris Hoffman, Wayne Mollhoff, Mabel B. Ott, Dorothy J. Rosche, Richard C. Rosche, B.J. Rose, Doug Thomas. **Oklahoma:** J.W. Arterburn, Leonard & Esther Beavers, William A. Carter, Ella Delap, Dottie Goard, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Warren Harden, Elizabeth & Kenneth Hayes, Jim Hoffman, Robert Jennings, Jo Loyd, Jeri McMahon (JM), Janet M. McGee, Louis E. McGee, John G. Newell, J.L. Norman, John Shackford (JSh), Steve Sherrod (SSh), John Tomer, Jack D. Tyler, Paul W. Wilson. **Texas:** James Beach, Anne Bellamy, Lillian Brown, Robin M. Carter, R.D. Cogge-

shall, Grant Critchfield, Paul Davenport (PDA), Jeff Donaldson, Charles Easley, Caroline M. Eastman, M. Engle, Pansy Espy, Tim Gollob, Carl B. Haynie, Thomas Heatley, Greg Lasley, Bill Lawley, Mark Lockwood, Sue Lower, E. Martin, Terry C. Maxwell, Ruth Meador, Joan Merritt, Ernest & Kay Mueller, Brent Ortego, Warren Pulich, Alan J. Ryff, Chuck Sexton (CSe), Ken Seyffert, J.W. Sifford, Ken Steigman (KSt), Estelle Stevens, Cliff Stogner, Allen Valentine, Betty Vernon, Steve West, John W. White, Jim Williams (JWi), David Wolf, Barry Zimmer.—**FRANCES C. WILLIAMS, Rt. 4, 2000 Broken Hills Road East, Midland, Tex. 79701.**

SOUTH TEXAS REGION
/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

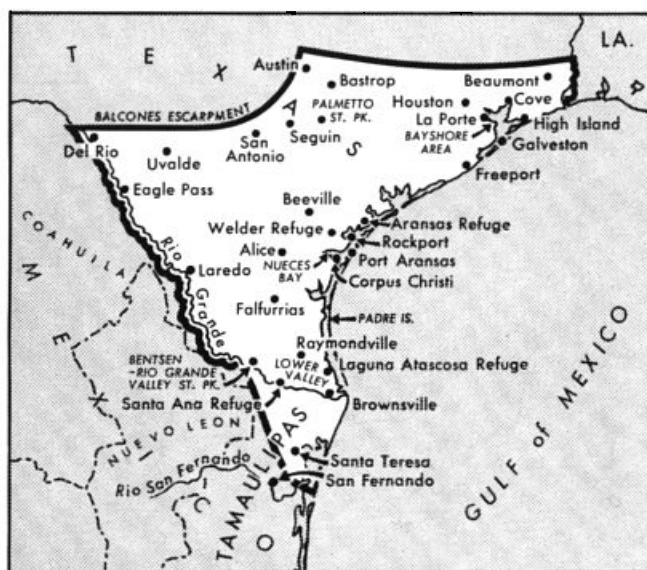
With temperatures near normal, and periodic fluctuations on either side of normalcy moderate and of short duration, the season was graded "mild." Deep South Texas escaped freezing temperatures entirely, with the lowest reading at Santa Ana N.W.R., for example, 35°F in early January. Readings dropped briefly into the middle 20s along the northern fringe of the Region on one occasion, but this was not sufficient to completely kill back the more cold-resistant native and cultivated plants which one can almost always expect to be frozen to the ground during the course of the winter. Moisture deficiency offset the blessings of mild temperatures in some extreme southern and western areas until February.

In most cases, winter bird populations followed the trends indicated by late fall movements. There was a minor shift eastward for some western species, the reason for which is not readily apparent, and a northward lingering of some southern species which was probably related to climatic conditions. Most of the rarer birds were turned up on Christmas Bird Counts and are not mentioned in this report; other than these, Mexican visitors (the word "stray" may no longer be applicable) in the Rio Grande Delta provided the most excitement for touring birders and obligingly remained throughout the season.

GREBES, PELICANS, CORMORANTS — Horned Grebes were less uncommon than usual at Austin's sewage ponds, and a rare occurrence was noted at Braunig L., near San Antonio Jan. 24 (S & DHa). Braunig L. had a very high count of 1000+ Eared Grebes on the above occasion. The Least Grebe, which is showing up more often n. of its usual range, was seen at Austin Jan. 5 (JS), on Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., Dec. 13 (WS), and throughout the winter at San Antonio. A W. Grebe was reported at Falcon Dam Dec. 30 (CSt). Twenty White Pelicans appeared at Braunig L., Jan. 24 (S & DHa), unusual with regard to both species and numbers. Wintering Double-crested Cormorant numbers have increased dramatically inland to Austin and San Antonio, presumably with the increased numbers of large reservoirs.

HERONS — Great Blue Herons were more common than usual in n. areas. The Great Egret, which usually moves S to the coast for winter, could be seen in the Austin area all winter (after very good autumn numbers) and about 450 were at Braunig L., Jan. 8, along with 35+ Black-crowned Night Herons (JS). High heron counts probably can be attributed to the mild winter and increasing water area.

WATERFOWL — Record numbers of Snow Geese wintered in the Eagle L., Colorado Co., area (WS). Along the lower coast, numbers diminished rapidly after November high counts; this shift may be attributable in part to dry conditions, or more likely to the lure of vast grain fields which now cover the Mexican side of the Rio Grande Delta. Ross' Goose is being reported more often as observers learn to sift through flocks of Snow Geese. Two were found e. of Falfurrias (AO), apparently a new locality record, and one was seen at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., in late November and early December (TP). Nine Fulvous Whistling Ducks appeared briefly at Austin sewage ponds Feb. 26 (JS), a rare locality occurrence and a very early date for migrants. The huge Pintail population found at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., in November



dropped to 50,000 (one-third) in December and nose-dived to 5000 by the end of January. Redheads shifted from Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., to the adjacent Laguna Madre with about 100,000 birds in December, and had increased to 125,000 in February (GB). A Surf Scoter was found on the Rio Grande below Falcon Dam Jan. 14 (CM, JM). Ruddy Ducks were more numerous than usual in the Aransas N.W.R. area, with a single-species flock of about 8000 Feb. 17 (TS).

HAWKS — Single Hook-billed Kites were reported at Santa Ana N.W.R., Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., and Rancho Santa Margarita, Starr Co., during the season. An evening flight of White-tailed Kites was reported by several observers at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley, S.P., with as many as 28 birds moving SE 6:00-6:50 C.S.T. (RM et al.). Red-tailed Hawks were reported less common than usual in w. and s. sections. Nine White-tailed Hawks were attracted to mice in a burned-off cane field in Hidalgo County (CE). Gray Hawk records were liberally sprinkled from Falcon L., to Santa Ana N.W.R. The Roadside Hawk at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., was present at least into mid-February. A few Harris' Hawks wandered N to the Austin area where they have been rarely seen in recent years; even more noteworthy were two birds near Eagle L., Jan. 9 (WS). Fewer Marsh Hawks than usual were reported in the w. A Peregrine Falcon took a Red-breasted Merganser at Boca Chica jetty at the mouth of the Rio Grande Feb. 12 (CE). American Kestrels were reported in small numbers along a line from Austin to Falfurrias, Brooks Co.

CRANES THROUGH TERNS — It was a disappointing season at Aransas N.W.R.; 78 Whooping Cranes had been expected but only 67 adults and six young arrived. Two of these young died during the winter (TS). A Yellow Rail was seen at Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., Dec. 21 (WS). For an inland area, Mitchell L., s. of San Antonio, had an interesting collection of wintering shorebirds: Seven Pectoral Sandpipers, five Dunlins, two Stilt Sandpipers, and two Wilson's Phalaropes (RC, S & DHa). Unusual *Laridae* included a Lesser Black-

backed Gull on Padre Island N S , Jan 9 (RHa) and a Com Tern at Port Aransas Jan. 12 (CC).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Reports of the now scarce resident Red-billed Pigeon, fairly common in the Rio Grande Delta 30 years ago, were concentrated near the town of Zapata at the headwaters of Falcon L., where a flock could be seen flying to evening roost; reported high count was 35 on Dec. 29 (CSt). A **White-throated Swift** was carefully observed in San Antonio in late afternoon Dec. 23, as it flew about the buildings of the San Antonio Medical Center (BS). This furnished a first winter sighting for South Texas, the species normally being confined to the Trans-Pecos region of w. Texas. The hummingbird display was disappointing in view of the mild winter. Most interesting was the report of three Anna's Hummingbirds—a male, female, and imm. male—at Helotes, Bexar Co., Dec. 5-9 (RHu *et al.*). A **Pileated Woodpecker** flying upriver at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Feb. 22 (DHe, HW) probably violated Mexican air space; this species has not been recorded for Mexico.

COTINGAS THROUGH JAYS — The two Rose-throated Becards of Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., were present at least into mid-January. A Kiskadee Flycatcher at McCoy, Atascosa Co., Jan. 7 (FC) added a new county to an apparently expanding range. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Feb. 21 (G & BL), and one at Port Aransas Dec. 15 + (CC) were unusual for winter. A Black Phoebe wintered at Austin for the first time. A fair number of Say's Phoebes moved E to winter in the Region. A very few of the seldom seen Beardless Flycatchers were reported in the Rio Grande Delta where they can be expected; one at San Ygnacio in upper Zapata County Jan. 29 (BH), and two Feb. 10 (RM) were not expected. This was not a Blue Jay invasion year, but one was seen in Brownsville Dec. 31 (KN). As many as seven Brown Jays (G & BL) were found at Rancho Santa Margarita, Starr Co.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH KINGLETS — This was not a good nuthatch season; a more unusual sighting was of a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., around the first of the year Dec. 29 (BB, LR) & Jan. 5 (ML). Brown Creepers were below normal in the n. but a few were reported along the lower Rio Grande. A Brown Thrasher, rare in extreme South Texas, was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., Jan. 5 (ML). Six Curve-billed Thrashers were found at Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., Jan. 4, e. of the species normal range (WS). American Robins sustained good to excellent populations in most areas after a good fall influx. Clay-colored Robins continued to be seen in several localities in the Rio Grande Delta. Eastern Bluebirds were more common than usual on the c. and lower coasts. A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher was a rare visitor at Santa Ana N.W.R., Feb. 26 (SL). Golden-crowned Kinglets reached extreme South Texas in small numbers and were in fair supply elsewhere, while Ruby-crowned Kinglets made a very good showing.

PIPITS THROUGH SHRIKES — Sprague's Pipits were fairly common in short-grass areas in Jim Wells County, and three were found in grazed coastal Bermuda grass in Duval County for a county first (RA). Pastureland is replacing brushland in this part of South Texas and one can expect more grassland birds. Cedar Waxwing numbers peaked in February with good counts reported. Loggerhead Shrikes were numer-

ous in the n. but fewer than usual from Corpus Christi s

WARBLERS — One to three Tropical Parulas were reported at Santa Ana N.W.R., throughout the season. A male was found at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Jan. 26 (RM). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Santa Ana N.W.R., Feb. 13 (SL), possibly for a first winter report for the Rio Grande Delta. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers were in good numbers throughout. A N. Waterthrush was found in mangroves on South Padre I., Jan. 11 (JA). A bird identified as a ♂ Ground-chat or Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, [*Chamaethlypis*] *Goethlypis poliocephala*, was seen at San Ygnacio Feb. 27, along with a possible female of the species (DA, CE). This species was once resident in Cameron County at the s. tip of Texas, but apparently disappeared early in this century as agricultural practices altered the bird's favored high-grass habitat. A Golden-crowned Warbler wintered at Santa Ana N.W.R. (SL *et al.*), and one was seen in Brownsville Jan. 28 (BH, HPL, PS)-mid-February at least. This species is very common in n.e. Mexico and could appear more frequently in South Texas as native Mexican habitat is put into cropland.

FRINGILLIDS — An imm. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Falfurrias Jan. 6 (AO) was rare for winter. Purple Finch numbers were very low. Two House Finches on a Brownsville golf course Feb. 3 (RM) were s and e. of their range and were possibly the first reported for Cameron County. Numerous observers found a ♂ White-collared Seedeater at San Ygnacio, recently the seedeater capitol of North America, at least until mid-February. A male was reported Dec. 5 (MMor, *fide* JA) in rushes below the spillway at Falcon Dam; Arvin's sighting of a female there Dec. 18, 1979, suggests this as a possible alternate search-site to San Ygnacio. Pine Siskins were all but absent but Am. Goldfinches were plentiful. A minor influx of Green-tailed Towhees moved into c sections and into the Rio Grande Delta. Lark Buntings were more common than in several years at localities on the e. edge of the range and appeared as far east as Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R. Sparrow populations were at near normal levels with no specific trends apparent. Rufous-crowned Sparrows were found, appropriately, in rocks around Falcon Dam and spillway (RM); they did not formerly occur in this locality, about 150 mi s. of their usual range. Cassin's Sparrows, in song, were found in the San Antonio area (S & DHa) and at Charlotte, Atascosa Co., s. of San Antonio (MMoo), Feb. 24. This species is uncommon this far e. in winter and these birds could possibly have been early migrants.

CONTRIBUTORS AND CITED OBSERVERS — Richard Albert, Dave Arbor, John Arvin, Ronny Bell, James Bohmfalk, Bill Bouton, Gary Burke, Charles Clark, Fred Collins, Richard Cudworth, Charles Easley, Steve & Diane Hanselmann (S & DHa), Richard Harris (RHa), Dick Heller (DHe), Brian Hope, Dave Huffman (DHu), Ron Huffman (RHu), Chuck & Hilde Kaigler, Ed Kutac, Steve Labuda, H.P. Langridge, Greg & Becky Lasley, Mark Lockwood, Clyde Massey, Robert Maurer, Jr., Kay McCracken, John McBride, Jr., Michael Moore (MMoo), Michael Morris (MMor), Kent Nelson, Andy O'Neil, Tom Pincelli, Laurel Roth, Alan Ryff, Andrés Sada, Daniel Schmidt, Chuck Sexton (CSe), Wayne Shifflett, Tom Stehn, Cliff Stoger (CSt), Byron Stone, Jack Sunder, Paul Sykes, Henry West, Robert Whistler — **FRED S. WEBSTER, JR., 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, TX 78731.**

NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

/Helmut Grünberg

Most areas of the Region experienced a relatively mild and dry winter season. Whitehorse had only one major cold spell (temperatures to -40°C) of less than two weeks' duration in January.

Since the north is devoid of most migrant species, this winter report gives an opportunity to summarize the status of all resident species and to leave out none of the 45 species observed in the extended Region from Fort St. John to Inuvik and the Yukon.

DUCKS THROUGH PTARMIGAN — A group of about 15 Mallards spent the entire winter on a pond below Takhini Hot Springs near Whitehorse (hereafter, Whse). The birds were probably fed by local residents (m.ob.) Previous reports of a few individual birds at Kluane R., indicated that this species is a rare overwinterer in the Yukon. Two goldeneyes (at least one of them very likely a Com. Goldeneye) were repeatedly noted in open stretches of the Yukon R., in Whse. (HG, WH), and two goldeneyes were seen 25 km s.e. of Whse in the Yukon R., in December (HG, AH, KM, TP). Eleven Com. Goldeneyes were observed in the Teslin R., at Johnson's Crossing Dec. 29 (D & PD)

Goldeneyes winter regularly in small numbers in the Yukon. One or two Com. Mergansers were seen in open stretches of the Yukon R., in Whse in December (HG, WH). At Tagish, Yukon, 12 were noted Dec. 12 and three Feb. 13 (HM). Up to three were seen 25 km s.e. of Whse in the Yukon R., in December (HG, TP). Common Mergansers winter regularly in small numbers in the Yukon. One individual was also noted at Wann R., Taku Arm, Tagish L., n. B.C., about Dec. 20 (CE, *vide* MBr).

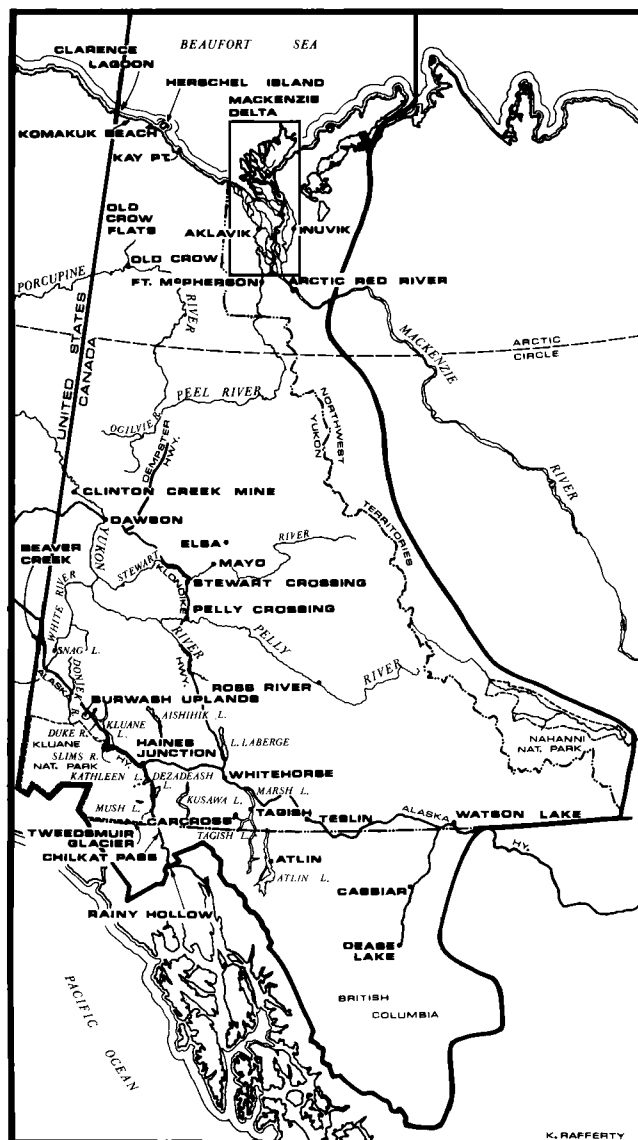
A Goshawk was seen in Whse-MacPherson Dec. 4 & Jan. 3 (RH) and one at Tagish Jan. 7 (HM). This species was also noted at Graham Inlet, n. B.C., in January and February (MBr). Goshawks overwinter every year in the Yukon in small numbers. Goshawks were uncommon but regular in the Fort St. John (hereafter, F.S.J.) area (JJ, CS). Near F.S.J., a Rough-legged Hawk was seen Dec. 24 (JJ) and one Feb. 20 (JJ, CS). A Golden Eagle, rarely overwintering in the Yukon, was reported 10 km s. of Whse in mid-December (BB). Golden Eagles were observed 10 times in the F.S.J. area (KB, JJ, CS). A Bald Eagle was seen near Marsh L., Yukon, Dec. 19 (LB) and one at Nisutlin Bay, Yukon, Feb. 28. This species is seen irregularly in winter in very small numbers in the Yukon. One Bald Eagle wintered near F.S.J., and was observed Jan. 16 and Feb. 12 (CS). A Gyrfalcon was seen at Bates L., s.w. Yukon, on Dec. 4 (BL). Gyrs are regularly observed in the Yukon during the winter. A very unusual observation was that of a ♀ **Merlin**, studied for half an hour by RA, KB, JJ and CS, in the F.S.J. area Feb. 26.

Spruce and Ruffed grouse are common residents in the Yukon, but both species have been present in reduced numbers in recent years. There were an encouraging 6 reports of Spruce Grouse but only one of a Ruffed Grouse (HG) this winter in the Yukon. Both species were seen at Graham Inlet every month (MBr) and not observed in the F.S.J. area (CS). One Ruffed Grouse was noted along the Stewart-Cassiar Hwy., n. B.C. (DS). Sharp-tailed Grouse, numbering one, nine and one individuals, were seen in 3 areas near F.S.J. (CS). This species occurs also in the Yukon, but remained unreported this season. Willow Ptarmigan were seen regularly in the right habitat and Rock Ptarmigan once in the s.w. corner of the Yukon (BL). White-tailed Ptarmigan apparently wintered in areas not easily accessible to birdwatchers and were not reported.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — An unidentified gull was noted at Teslin L., Dec. 26 (D & PD). Any gull observation in winter in the s. Yukon must be considered unusual. Up to 176 Rock Doves were counted in Whse during the winter (DM *et al.*) Resident Rock Doves were also noted in F.S.J. (CS *et al.*). One of the most common owls in the Region, the Great Horned Owl, remained unreported in the Yukon, probably owing to the dramatic drop in snowshoe hare populations about one year ago. Spring records indicated, however, that this owl has not disappeared from the Yukon. One Great Horned Owl was noted at Graham Inlet (MBr) and a few were reported from the F.S.J. area (CS). Up to nine different Snowy Owls/day were seen in the F.S.J. area (CS). On Feb. 5, one of the ad. birds, tamer than the other owls, responded to a mouse-shaped lure cast out over the snowy fields with a fishing pole by swooping down and grabbing the "mouse". Fortunately, the "fisherman" was able to tug the lure from its claws as it flew away. A Hawk Owl was reported near Pelly R., Yukon, Feb. 19 (HM). This was the only Yukon record for this regularly occurring owl. A possible 20 different birds were accounted for in the F.S.J. area (CS). The Great Gray Owl, which is rare in most parts of the Region, was observed once this season as it was seen near F.S.J., Dec. 29 (JJ, *vide* CS). Boreal Owls are regular residents throughout the Region, but only one was heard near F.S.J., Feb. 25 (JJ, CS).

Two Hairy Woodpeckers were observed at a feeder in Whse-Porter Cr., in January and February (DS). Hairy Woodpeckers were also noted at Tagish (B & GM) and reported 4 times from the F.S.J. area. Downy Woodpeckers were recorded twice in the Yukon, both in Tagish (HM, B & GM), and 4 times in the F.S.J. area (JJ, CS). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was the most common woodpecker, as expected, and was recorded in about 10 different areas (m.ob.)

JAYS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Three and four Blue Jays were seen and photographed at a feeder near F.S.J., Dec. 5 & Jan. 29, and one was noted elsewhere in the same area (CS). Gray Jays, Black-billed Magpies, Com. Ravens, Black-capped and Boreal chickadees were



common in the s. Yukon and northern British Columbia. Common Raven was the only species seen during the season in Inuvik, N.W.T (MBe). Four reports received of Mountain Chickadee indicated that this species may not be as rare as previously assumed or is increasing in numbers. Two or more were seen throughout the season at a feeder in Whse-Porter Cr. (DS). One was observed in downtown Whse Jan. 15 (WH) and two were regularly recorded at a feeder in Tagish (B & GM). This species was seen all winter at Wann R., n. B.C. (CE, *vide* MBr).

One or two Dippers were observed at stretches of open water of Klukshu Cr., s.w. Yukon (BL), McIntyre Cr., near Whse (HG), and the Yukon R., in Whse (HG, WH, PM) and 25 km s.e. of Whse (HG, WN, TP) as well as at Wann R., n. B.C. (CE, *vide* MBr). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at Wann R., in early February (CE, *vide* MBr). The unusual sighting of an Am. Robin, supported by details, was reported from Whse Feb. 12 (LK); this constituted the second winter record for the Yukon. A Townsend's Solitaire sighting at Wann R., in December (CE, *vide* MBr) would have been the first positive winter observation for the Region if it could have been substantiated. A few flocks of 8-30 Bohemian Waxwings wintered in the s. Yukon as reported by RC, HG, WH and PM from Whse and by D & PD from Teslin. Five were seen as far n. as Dawson, Yukon, Feb. 21 (MLE). Flocks of 4-61 birds could be found irregularly in F.S.J. (CS).

SHRIKES THROUGH SNOW BUNTING — Although no N Shrikes were reported from the Yukon where they occasionally occur in winter, the number of sightings in the F.S.J. area, 14, appeared remarkably high (CS). On 2 different occasions, a N. Shrike was ob-

served pursuing a Black-capped Chickadee (JJ, CS), and an imm. shrike captured and carried off a House Sparrow from a feeder (JJ). Starlings were not reported from the Yukon, but 1-5 birds were recorded 7 times in the F.S.J. area (JJ, CS).

House Sparrows remained in and around F.S.J., all winter in at least 4 flocks, the largest being of about 100 birds (CS). Evening Grosbeaks were seen in numbers up to 60 in the F.S.J. area (CS). Pine Grosbeaks were seen regularly throughout the Region, usually numbering 1-2 birds (m.ob.) except for a flock of 26 in the F.S.J. area (CS). Some of the redpolls observed in all areas were identified as Com. Redpolls although there is little doubt that some of them may have been Hoarier, especially the ones seen in Dawson, c. Yukon (MLe). Northern migration was observed in the s. Yukon from the middle of February on when flocks of 20-50 birds appeared in the Teslin (D & PD) and Whse areas (HG *et al.*). White-winged Crossbills were very scarce in the Region. One flock of "probables" was reported 5 km w. of Marsh L., Dec. 5

but apparently not seen very well (MLa). Two or three birds were heard in flight in the F.S.J. area Jan. 30 (CS). Dark-eyed Juncos seemed to have wintered in several areas of the s. Yukon. An amazing 3 reports of this rare winter species were received: one bird was seen in all 3 winter months in Whse-Porter Cr. (DS), two were observed near downtown Whse until Dec. 25 (H & WH), and two were observed in Whse-Wolf Cr., Feb. 12 (TM). Snow Buntings were scarce in the Yukon but fairly common in the F.S.J. area.

CONTRIBUTORS — R. Anderson, B. Bennett, L. Benoit, M. Bentley (MBe), K. Best, M. Brook (MBr), R. Carlson, D. & P. Denison, C. Eames, W. Harms, R. Hayes, A. Hodgson, H. & W. Horback, J. Johnston, L. Kubica, J. Lammers, M. Lammers (MLa), M. Ledergerber (MLe), B. Liddle, H. MacKenzie, P. Mantle, K. McKenna, B. & G. McLeod, D. Mossop, T. Munson, W. Nixon, T. Prenday, D. Russell, D. Schuler, C. Siddle, P. Wilson.—**H. GRUNBERG, Yukon Conservation Society, #4-201 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada Y1A 2B2.**

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

It was the winter that never came, in the words of one reporter. What winter there was came mostly in December. After that temperatures were much above normal, with extensive bare ground and open water. Consequently many birds stayed late, wintered farther north or stayed in the mountains, and returned very early. At the same time some species were affected more by food supplies than weather, particularly robins, waxwings, solitaires and the "northern finches." Reporters generally agreed that it was dull bird-watching, with many species not forced to concentrate, because of widespread availability of food.

LOONS AND GREBES — A total of 28 Com. Loons on the Feb. 14 aerial survey from Priest Rapids Dam to Wells Dam on the Columbia R., indicated a high number wintering there. Highly unusual were single Red-throated Loons at Richland, Wash., Feb. 13 (REW) and at Ochoco L., near Prineville, Ore., Nov. 26 (C & FS). Six Red-necked Grebes on West Arm of Kootenay L., B.C., Feb. 22 appeared extreme-

ly early (LVD). A sighting of W. Grebe was made each winter month at Bend, Ore., where the species is rare after November (TC).

PELICANS AND HERONS — Six White Pelicans were on the Hanford Reach of the Columbia R., n. of Richland, Wash., Dec. 19; a few have wintered there for the last few years (GS). Great Blue Herons wintered in better than usual numbers, owing to the mild winter. About 50 Black-crowned Night Herons wintered at College Place, Wash., for the only report (B.M.A.S.).

WATERFOWL — This group, not surprisingly, wintered farther n. and in greater numbers than normally. Whistling Swans stayed in high numbers in s. interior British Columbia; 565 were on S. Thompson R., between Kamloops and Chase and 37 were on Shuswap R., near Enderby Jan. 9. The birds' numbers dwindled from 200 Dec. 10 to 94 on Jan. 7 on Pend Oreille L. and R., in n. Idaho. At Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., they stayed well into December with 500 remaining on Dec. 25. Their N migration was well under way in c. and n.e. Washington by mid-February. Trumpeter Swan numbers varied from 98-214 in the Centennial Valley-Red Rock Lakes area near Lima, Montana. A midwinter count of the species in the Harriman S.P. area, Fremont Co., Ida., yielded 320 (I.F.G.). Three Trumpeters returned to Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., but the only cygnet to fledge there in 1982 was found dead. The species' population remained stable at Malheur with the largest group sighted, 52.

Canada Geese numbered 4670 on Malheur's mid-winter count and an above-normal 26,000 on a 6-county aerial survey in n.e. Washington Jan. 11 (U.S.F. & W.S.). Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., had 22,000 Jan. 1. The n. Idaho count of 4903 Dec. 10 although far below last year's, was still the second highest in recent years (I.F.G.). About 1500 wintered on the S. Thompson and 700 in the Vernon, B.C. area. Twenty that stayed at Libby, Mont., were highly unusual (CW). Ochoco L. had 1000+ Dec. 26. A White-fronted Goose was seen with wintering Canadas at Bonners Ferry, Ida. in February (PSi). Seven Snow Geese were at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., Jan. 10; one was near Odell, Ore., Jan. 15 (DA), and one wintered at L. Helena (GH). The birds arrived in force Feb. 16 in the Malheur-Harney Lakes Basin with 30,000 counted.

Turnbull's 20,000+ Mallards Feb. 3 apparently represented an early migration, as did 3000+ Pintail. The peak of 60,000 Mallards at Columbia N.W.R., Dec. 1 dwindled to 5000 in February. That refuge had up to 500 Gadwall and 50 each of Pintail and N. Shoveler; 100 Canvasback apparently wintered there. A few Gadwall wintered at Malheur. Warm weather in January resulted in the highest waterfowl count ever for the Columbia Basin of c. Washington. Duck numbers at Carty Res., Boardman, Ore., reached nearly 145,000 Jan. 9, much lower than in 1982. Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., had 50% more waterfowl than usual and the Bozeman area had better than average numbers. Over 1600 Gadwall were found, for the first time ever, on the n. Idaho mid-winter survey. Mallard, Am. Wigeon and



Redhead numbers there were well above average and Canvasback at 1500, scaup at 3900 and Com. Merganser at 3145 showed the highest numbers ever. A flock of 200 Green-winged Teal near Kamloops Dec. 12 was unusual (RH). Walla Walla had a (Eur.) Green-winged Teal Dec 7+ along with 50 Green-winged Teal, themselves unusual there (SM). A Eur. Wigeon wintered at Walla Walla (SM) and one was near Odell Dec. 4 (DA). One was at Richland Dec. 12-Jan. 29 (REW) and two were downstream at McNary Dam Jan. 11 (MC). Common Goldeneye were much more numerous than usual at Bend with up to 200 present but Barrow's numbers there reached only 26. Two ♂ Harlequin Ducks were at Trail, B.C., Dec. 10-Feb. 13 (ME). Common Mergansers wintered in much larger numbers at Malheur with up to 213 seen

HAWKS — Goshawk reports were sparse but more than usual were noted around Rexburg, Ida. Red-tailed Hawks were unusually abundant in the n. Okanagan, B.C., and one at Swan River N.W.R., e. of Bigfork, Mont., Jan. 13 apparently provided the first winter record for that area (EJ). A Ferruginous Hawk was sighted near Buchanan, Ore., in February (CDL) and one was at Miller I., Klamath Falls, Ore., Dec. 11 (SS) for the only reports. The mid-winter Bald Eagle survey indicated that the birds were wintering much farther n. this year in Washington's more easterly counties. Amazing were reports of Ospreys in January and February in Yakima County (Y.A.S.) and in the Bigfork vicinity in late February (*vide* EJ). One was reported, also surprisingly, on several dates Jan. 10-Feb. 21 along the Kootenai R., from Troy to Libby Dam in Montana (CW). Eight sightings came in for the rare Gyrfalcon and *two were reported trapped by falconers* in w. Montana. Peregrine Falcon sightings were very few, with one, possibly two, noted. Merlin reports were more numerous than normal.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — An excellent count was obtained for Sharp-tailed Grouse, with 122 seen along 8 mi of creek bottoms from Conconully toward Omak, Wash. (JK). A flock of 30-40 Sage Grouse was found 10 mi w. of Ephrata, Wash. (RF).

CRANES AND RAILS — Both Greater and Lesser sandhill cranes were arriving in the Malheur-Burns area Feb. 16. A Greater wintered at Malheur for the second winter record there. The only records of Virginia Rails were of one at Mabton, Wash., Feb. 3 (PM, H & IS) and 3-4 at Enterprise, Ore., Dec. 19 (PS). The Bozeman area had its second winter record for a Sora (J & BR) and one at Salmon, Ida., Dec. 18 was a rarity (HR). American Coot numbered 12,000 on Pend Oreille L. and R., Jan. 7.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS — Klamath Falls had seven Greater and one Lesser yellowlegs in December and early January (SS) and one was at Asotin, Wash., Feb. 20 (C.B.). A Dunlin was at Kamloops Dec. 3-16 (RH) and seven at the Yakima R. mouth, Richland Jan. 1 did not stay, mild weather notwithstanding (REW).

A Long-tailed Jaeger was reported on Hanford Atomic Energy Res., Richland Dec. 17 (RJ). The only Glaucous Gull for the period was a first-year bird at Richland Dec. 11 (REW). An ad. Herring Gull at Bend Jan. 7 was the county's first (TC) and 19 were at the n. end of Columbia L., s. of Radium Hot Springs, B.C., Nov. 11 (MP). Okanagan L., near Vernon had a Mew Gull Dec. 19-Feb. 12 (RH, m.ob.).

OWLS — The fresh remains of a Barn Owl at Kootenai N.W.R., furnished the latilong's first record. One was a traffic fatality at Swan L., near Vernon Feb. 5 and one was found dead in a field in that vicinity Feb. 20 (PR). The species is rare in interior British Columbia. One near Rexburg, Ida., was a latilong first (DH). Snowy Owls were reported only from e. Washington but numbers were very good, up to eight being seen in the Reardan-Davenport area. A Hawk Owl frequented open spruce forest along the Vermilion R., Kootenay N.P., B.C. (LH). One was seen often at Brouse near Nakusp, B.C., Dec. 5-Jan. 31 (GD) and one was on Silver Star Mt., near Vernon Dec. 30 (SR). South of the border one was identified n.w. of Twisp, Wash., Jan. 6 (GB & SB) and one was sighted near Palmer Jct., Ore., the week of Jan. 20 (*vide* SM).

A Burrowing Owl found in a concrete pipe at the Yakima R. mouth Jan. 15+ likely wintered (HE). One at Bend Feb. 27 was over a month ahead of the average arrival date (TC). A Barred Owl photographed near Moses L., Dec. 3 made the first record for Grant County and the

latilong (BB) Two pairs of Barred Owls were located in the Libby area (CW) and one was noted near Coeur d'Alene, Ida., in January and February (GHa). Single Great Gray Owls appeared at Bozeman, Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., and along Henry's Fork of the Snake R., w. of Rexburg. The Saw-whet Owl was described as quite common along Okanagan L. One was found in Clarkston, Wash. (F & TJ *et al.*) and one was heard near Coeur d'Alene (SS).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird was at a Klamath Falls feeder Jan. 2 after temperatures the previous week as low as -6°F. and a 7-in. snowfall (SS). A "yellow-shafted" Com. Flicker was observed in c. Washington Jan. 16 (RF) and a "red-breasted" Yellow-bellied Sapsucker appeared at Bend Dec. 1 (CM). A White-headed Woodpecker wintered near Sisters, Ore. (TC) and one was sighted at Chinook Pass, Mt. Rainier N.P., Feb. 14 (Y.A.S.). One was seen near LaGrande, Ore., Jan. 22 (R & JK) A Say's Phoebe at Vernon Dec. 19 was "almost phenomenal" (WC) and the first migrant of that species there Feb. 18 was very early (JB) Another late Say's was near Touchet, Wash., Dec. 12 (DL). No large flocks of Horned Larks were reported, the birds remaining scattered because of mild weather and lack of snow. Violet-green Swallows appeared at Trail Feb. 26. Tree Swallows arrived at Malheur Feb. 25 (avg. date Mar. 10), at Ochoco L., Feb. 24 (3 weeks early) and at Bend Feb. 26. A few were at Turnbull Feb. 27 (avg. for Spokane latilong Mar. 13).

JAYS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — Two Blue Jays wintered at a Vernon feeder (JQ) and one appeared Jan. 22 at Castlegar, B.C. (BW) The bird at Rupert, Ida. remained to Feb. 28+ (WHS) and one was near Moscow Mt., e. of Moscow, Ida., Dec. 5-18 (RB). The Blue Jay present during the autumn at Richland was seen again only Dec. 21 (REW & PW). A flock was reported before and after Christmas at Rollins on Flathead L., Mont. (RBa). Up to six Scrub Jays were sighted in the Hood R.-Cascade Locks area, Ore., in December and January (DA).

Boreal Chickadee numbers were believed up in Kootenay N P (LH). Red-breasted Nuthatches seem to show a pattern of decline in s.e. British Columbia, extreme n.w. Montana and n.e. Washington but suggested an upswing in other w. Montana localities. Pygmy Nuthatch numbers in the Spokane area soared while the Red-breasted's numbers plunged.

WRENS AND MOCKINGBIRDS — Bewick's Wren continued its invasion of the Walla Walla area, being seen regularly (B.M.A.S.) The bird at Kamiah, Ida., was seen again Dec. 8 (MM) and three were sighted at Hellgate S.P., s. of Lewiston, Ida., Feb. 26 (RB & MK) A Rock Wren was near Little Goose Dam on the Snake R., Columbia Co., Wash., Dec. 5 (B.M.A.S.) and Vernon had one Jan. 29-Feb. 28 (JG). A Mockingbird was seen frequently Dec. 16-Feb. 15 at Kamloops (RH) and one photographed at L. Windermere s. of Radium Hot Springs Jan. 8-Feb. 27 was the first for the East Kootenay District (LH).

THRUSHES — Most of the 5000 Am. Robins that descended upon Bend in November and feasted on juniper berries left in early February Townsend's Solitaires there had three times last year's numbers. Flocks of 500+ Am. Robins, perhaps from Bend, were in Walla Walla in February. Conversely, robins and solitaires were scarce at Malheur, where the juniper food was in short supply. In Idaho robins wintered in abnormally high numbers at Rexburg, feeding on abundant food in junipers and mountain ash trees, but at Mountain Home and Salmon they were absent until mid- and late January, when large numbers moved in. A high robin population at Bozeman found an excellent mountain ash berry supply. Only moderate numbers wintered at Spokane and Yakima. Extremely few Varied Thrushes were reported A remarkably early Hermit Thrush was at Bend Feb. 16 (JS). Bend had record numbers of Mountain and W. bluebirds. The latter moved on by mid-January but the Mountains remained until mid-February. A few Westerns apparently wintered at Penticton (D & PN). In Washington Tumtum had one Jan. 17 and Peola two Jan. 21. A very early Mountain Bluebird was at Helena Feb. 19 and another was at Cedar Cr., e. of Colville, Wash., Feb. 27. Townsend's Solitaire numbers at Bend were triple last year's.

KINGLETS AND WAXWINGS — Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers appeared high in Kootenay N.P., and in the Spokane area but the species was not mentioned elsewhere. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet wintered at a Rupert feeder (WHS), one was sighted near Rexburg Jan. 29 (DH) and a few were in the Yakima area (Y.A.S.).

Bohemian Waxwings were scarce in e. Washington, where the excellent mountain ash berry crop was virtually untouched. The s. Okanagan also had low numbers, except for Penticton, which had flocks of 1500-2000 mid-January-mid-February. North Idaho had moderate numbers. They put in only a few appearances in s. Idaho, the most notable being 500 at Rexburg Feb. 5 and a large flock at Salmon Feb. 17. Some 400-500 reached LaGrande, Ore. They were abundant in the Columbia R. valley around Radium Hot Springs and were seen often at Trail. Numbers were about normal at Fortine and Bozeman but below normal at Helena. Cedar Waxwings, on the contrary, showed up in better than average numbers; Yakima even had a flock of 200!

SHRIKES THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — Loggerhead Shrikes were more common than the Northern at Malheur, an unusual situation, and two at Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., Dec. 26 were surprising. Many N. Shrikes apparently took advantages of snowless fields for hunting in the Chewelah, Wash. vicinity (SZ) but the birds were very scarce at Klamath Falls and numbers were down at Spokane.

An amazing 54 Yellow-rumped Warblers on the Yakima CBC and 30 there Feb. 14 attested to the mild weather, as did up to 20 in the Clarkston-Asotin, Wash., vicinity (LL, CV, PS, MK) and one at Ft. Boise W.M.A., Ida., Jan. 1 (DT). A Brewer's Blackbird at Fortine Dec. 24 & 27 was a rarity (WW). An apparently authentic report of two ♂ Brown-headed Cowbirds at Twin Lakes n. of Rathdrum, Ida., Feb. 27 was most remarkable (MS).

FINCHES — Evening Grosbeaks made very few appearances and in small numbers nearly everywhere. However flocks were reported at feeders along the Kootenai R., Bonner Co., Ida., and in the Swan R. valley e. of Bigfork. Skiers reported them at 6000 ft in the mountains around the Okanagan Valley. Cassin's Finches were reported only at Red Rock Lakes and in the Swan R. valley. Three House Finches appeared at Libby in late December for the first sighting ever and stayed through the winter (HH). Many were at Stevensville, Mont. (CP). Pine Grosbeaks apparently stayed mostly at higher elevations. A few were in the s. Okanagan but more were seen in ski areas of surrounding mountains. They were found at Big Mountain ski area, Whitefish, Mont., and were common at Red Rock Lakes. The usual large flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches did not materialize. The largest group was a mixed flock with Black Rosy Finches at a feeder near Hailey, Ida. (JRu). Selah, Wash., had a very few Gray-crowned (Y.A.S.) and small numbers were reported near Rogers' Pass at the Continental Divide between Lincoln and Simms, Mont. (LM) for the only other sightings. Common Redpoll appearances were rare. The birds were "extremely scarce" in the s. Okanagan, Spokane's CBC had 17 and Helena's CBC, one. The Swan R. valley had the species for a few days in January. Pine Siskins went unreported in e. Oregon and Washington except for 50+ near Lyle, Wash. Western Montana localities had good numbers; an excellent cone crop at Bozeman was the attraction there. In s. interior British Columbia they were "quite plentiful" at Nakusp and other forest localities but rare elsewhere. Red Crossbills virtually shunned the w. part of the Region, except for Spokane and the Blue Mts. of s.e. Washington and n.e. Oregon, with a good cone crop, but concentrated in large numbers around Helena and Bozeman, with record CBC counts. Red Rock Lakes had them commonly. A few White-winged Crossbills were found in s. British Columbia in spruce-subalpine fir habitat.

SPARROWS — A Rufous-sided Towhee wintered at a Vernon feeder (JB) and one frequented a Walla Walla feeder until late February (B.M.A.S.). One was reported at Yakima Dec. 18 and Feb. 20 (Y.A.S.) for the only other report. At least two Savannah Sparrows were sighted at Umatilla N.W.R., Ore., Jan. 13 (MC) and one was near Klamath Falls Dec. 26 (SS). An early Sage Sparrow was on Rattlesnake Mt., w. of Richland Feb. 13 (REW) and the birds arrived at Malheur Feb. 25. Dark-eyed Juncos hit an all time high on the Bozeman CBC. Tree Sparrows were scarcely reported. The largest numbers were 30-40 in the Winchester Wasteway-Dodson Road area w. of

Moses L., and 25 near Enterprise, Ore. Three were near Klamath Falls, where they are rare, Dec. 26-early January (SS). Richland had three Harris' Sparrows Dec. 14 (HE), Klamath Falls had one sighting (SS) and two wintered at Vernon feeders (*vide* JG). One appeared at Boise (KP) and one wintered at a feeder w. of Bozeman. The only White-throated Sparrows were one in January at Idaho Falls (RL), one n. of Klamath Falls Jan. 12-30 (SS) and two on the Harrison, Ida. CBC. Single Fox Sparrows were found on CBCs at Spokane and Yakima, and lone Lincoln's Sparrows appeared at Umatilla N.W.R., Jan. 13 (MC) and at Mabton, Wash., Feb. 3 (PM, H & IS). Lapland Longspurs were scarce except for 500 near Worden, Ore., Dec. 26 (SS). The only other sightings were of one - two wintering at a feeder near McCammon, Ida. (DT) and one at Fortine Dec. 16, where it was a rarity (WW). Snow Buntings were reported at very few localities. In Idaho a "large flock" was in the Camas Prairie area and a few appeared at Grays L., and Fairfield. In Montana the Helmville-Ovando area had 800 Feb. 12 (L & ST) and Red Rock Lakes noted the species commonly. Kamloops had 200+ Jan. 29.

CORRIGENDA — Penticton is in British Columbia, not Alberta (see AB 33:198). At the National Bison Range Great Horned Owls, not Barred, were nesting. Barred Owls were only suspected of nesting there (AB 36:876).

OBSERVERS CITED — David Anderson, Sig Bakke, (RBA) Rod Barclay, John Baumbrough, (B.M.A.S.) Blue Mountain Aud. Soc., George Brady, Bob Braunwart, (RB) Ruth Bull, (C.B.) Canyon Birders, Marion Corder, Walt Cowan, Tom Crabtree, Gary Davidson, Maurice Ellison, Howard Ennor, Ron Friesz, James Grant, Larry Halverson, (GHa) Gertie Hansen, Hilmer Hansen, (GH) George Holton, Rick Howie, Donell Hunter, (I.F.G.) Idaho Fish & Game Dept., Ray Johnson, Elly Jones, Fred & Todd Joyce, (JK) Jerry King, Merlene Koliner, (R & JK) Rick & Jan Krabbe, Louise LaVoie, Don Lee, Rho Lehse, C.D. Littlefield, Marlene McKee, Larry Malone, Phil Mattocks, Craig Miller, Shirley Muse, Doug & Phyllis Noel, Marian Porter, Colleen Powell, Kerry Provance, John Quirk, Phil Ranson, Hadley Roberts, (JR) Jack and Bob Rumely, Sylvia Runyan, (JRu) Jeff Ruprecht, Hubert & Ingrid Schwabl, Jack Schwartz, Gary Scriven, W H Shillington, (PSi) Paul Sieracki, Marge Smidt, Christie & Fay Steck, (PS) Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Dan Taylor, Larry & Sue Thompson, (U.S.F.W.S.) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Linda Van Damme, Carol VandeVoerde, Bob Wade, Winton Weydemeyer, Carl Wolf, Pat & Robert E. Woodley, (Y.A.S.) Yakima Audubon Society, Steve Zender. Reporters for national wildlife refuges and national parks Columbia, James Rees; Grays Lake, E.C. Barney; Kootenai, Larry Napier; Malheur, C.D. Littlefield; Metcalf, Colleen Powell; Red Rock Lakes, Terry McEneaney; Turnbull, J.H. Hagan; Kootenay N P., Larry Halverson & Marian Porter. Shirley G. Sturts reported for Idaho Fish & Game Dept., and Ron Friesz, Jerry Hickman and Steve Zender for Washington Dept. of Game.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

/Hugh E. Kingery

Observers almost uniformly reported few birds this winter, attributed either to unusually mild or unusually wet weather. In Nevada and southern Utah the coastal storms brought heavy rains and severe and frequent snowstorms. In central and northern Utah, Wyoming, and western Colorado mild weather prevailed. In eastern Colorado a blizzard astonished Denver on Christmas Eve, a storm so localized that 60 miles to the north, in Fort Collins, golfers tried out their clubs on Christmas. The rest of the season saw very little snow or cold in eastern Colorado.

In Penrose, Colorado, Jim Watts painted a southwestern scenic mural on his pumphouse. The tableau consisted of mesas and a juniper tree. Soon he saw Piñon Jays exhibiting strange behavior. He thought



they had gone crazy. They flew up to the mural, crashed into it and fell to the ground. From a different perspective he saw that they were trying to land in his juniper (RB).

Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter, CBC): The report following includes frequencies calculated for several species on a party-hour basis for all CBCs, excluding Nevada (unless otherwise specified). The averages cover counts 1972-1981.

LOONS TO HERONS — Two **Yellow-billed Loons** (Colorado's second record) on consecutive Denver CBCs stayed Dec. 18-20 (D.F.O.). Las Vegas' Red-throated Loon stayed Nov. 11-Dec. 4 (VM). Many Eared Grebes remained at Great Salt L., into December when several thousand died, probably of malnutrition (JN). Two Eareds returned to Loveland by Feb. 27 (†F.A.C.). Peak count of W. Grebes at Las Vegas hit 4000+, Jan. 14 (VM). A handful wintered on a lake warmed by power plant water at Boulder, Colo. (BJ). Logan, Utah reported a White Pelican Dec. 11, possibly injured (KA). At Las Vegas two Green Herons wintered at a fish hatchery; probably small numbers winter there regularly (VM). Wyoming produced its first Cattle Egret specimen in mid-winter! A bird observed Jan. 6 was found dead Jan. 8 (RPa). The Colorado Front Range reported Black-crowned Night Herons all winter, especially along the S. Platte R., in Denver (D.F.O.).

WATERFOWL — The Utah refuges had very low numbers of ducks; in December about half as many as last year. The numbers dropped to 12,127 in early January, and then began to increase in late January when 10,215 N. Shovelers doubled the count. Over 1000 Whistling Swans wintered, mainly at Ogden Bay. By Feb. 28, 46,879 Pintails and 44,072 Green-winged Teal swelled the Utah waterfowl population to 130,552; still fewer than last year. Among Whistling Swans reported, a group of eight at Jackson, Wyo., in early December included two that had journeyed from the Arctic N.W.R., Alas. (BR), and January birds at Berthoud, Boulder, and Pueblo (†F.A.C., D.F.O., RB). Jackson's top count of Trumpeter Swans came Dec. 14 with 55, and Ruby Lake Ref., Nev., reported 25-40 all winter. Singles strayed to Casper Nov. 20-Jan. 2 (RCR) and to Reno Dec. 12 (†JA). More than normal numbers of Canada Geese wintered in n. Colorado: Ft. Collins reported 20,000-30,000 and Longmont's reports increased by 20% (RAR, F.A.C.). Reporters throughout the Region noted them moving N by late February. Most observers reported winter duck numbers far below normal. A hunter at Pueblo Jan. 14 shot a Eur. Wigeon, Colorado's tenth, and preserved it for its first specimen (*vide* RB). Among the handful of wintering Wood Ducks was one at Saratoga, Wyo., for the second year (JD, JH). Greater Scaups occurred in Las Vegas in December, Denver in January, and Boulder in February. Barrow's Goldeneyes did not return to s. Nevada, with the only report being of one Jan. 1 (KW). Each year Mountain West observers find more Hooded Mergansers; this year the reports ranged from Reno and Gardnerville, Nev., through Logan and Dubois to Ft. Collins. Denver reported 46 observations, lower than the 66 last winter (D.F.O.).

HAWKS, EAGLES — Jones conducted a study of a Boulder Coun-

ty, Colo., area where ranchers had poisoned prairie dogs; he sought to determine whether the poisoning had any effect on raptors. Although the prairie dogs form an important food source and although his results showed a significant decline in Marsh Hawks and Am. Kestrels, the effects of the poisoning were uncertain. The entire county raptor population dropped during the same period and so did the population of the other raptor staple, *Microtus*.

Raptors made good showings on CBCs. Although CBCs counted fewer *Accipiters* than last year, the average of 0.06/party hour continued the increase of the last 5 years. Contributors mentioned the usual number of Goshawks, although a few more appeared on the plains near Denver. Reports of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks dropped to 1/3 of last year, despite the favorable CBC reports. On CBCs, Red-tailed Hawks posted a 0.175/party hour, the highest rate in 5 years. The CBC count of 0.164 Rough-legged Hawks, down from a 10-year average of 0.172, supported the observations from n. Utah and L/L/B/L of diminished numbers this year. Nevada CBCs reported 0.165/party hour, the same as last year and consistent with other reports from the state. A Red-shouldered Hawk at Zion Dec. 27 gave Utah its first record in several years; Utah has fewer than 10 records (†MW). The mid-winter survey turned up 276 Golden Eagles in Wyoming, 198 adults and 78 immatures (BO). At Eureka, Nev., power poles electrocuted seven immatures that came in with a fall influx of Goldens; the power company put insulating strips on the culprit poles (DE). Wyoming turned up 506 Balds on the midwinter survey with 356 adults and 149 immatures, which is about average. Colorado found 468 Balds, down about 100 from the 3-year average; the drop occurred mainly in s. Colorado (C.D.W.). The CBC Marsh Hawk tally of 0.175/party hour exceeded the 10-year average of 0.115. The Gyrfalcon at Laramie, Wyo., Jan. 14 posed for photographs although no other observers could find it (CP). A Wyoming observer visited a Utah state refuge and observed two Prairie Falcons; he learned that the refuge manager calls them Peregrines (FL)!

CRANES TO GULLS — The first Whooping Crane reached Colorado's San Luis Valley Feb. 23; 11 had arrived by Mar. 8, along with 10,000+ Sandhills (JK). Lund, Nev., had 1200-1300 Sandhills by Feb. 28 (MR). A late documentation describes the first **Common Gallinule** for Wyoming, seen briefly at Seedskadee N.W.R., May 11 (JA). A handful of odd shorebirds did appear. A Greater Yellowlegs spent Jan. 1-Feb. 23 at Denver (D.F.O.). A tired, listless Lesser Yellowlegs stayed at Grand Jct., Colo., Dec. 6 (†BT). Five Long-billed Dowitchers returned to Las Vegas Feb. 26 (J & MC). Longmont had a Parasitic Jaeger Dec. 5-6 (†RB, †BH *et al.*). A probable Great Black-backed Gull visited Denver Nov. 28-Dec. 12; if documented it will provide the state's third record (†RB *et al.*). Denver also had a healthy count of 100 Herring Gulls Dec. 5 (D.F.O.). The Salt Lake area reported an unusual number of California Gulls wintering, and Denver counted 135, Dec. 1-Jan. 22. Meanwhile Las Vegas again this year had very low numbers—half of the next lowest year and very few first-year birds. Denver reported a Black-legged Kittiwake Dec. 5 (†D.F.O.).

DOVES TO LARKS — January Mourning Doves appeared at Caspar, Denver, Platteville, Colo., and Ogden, Utah. Coloradans mentioned four Pygmy and five Saw-whet owls, and Ogden reported Saw-whets Dec. 20 & 30 (MKi). CBCs counted fewer woodpeckers: 0.65 flickers/party hour (0.71 average), 0.085 Hairies and 0.16 Downies (averages 0.11 and 0.17). Nevada CBCs showed an increase of flickers—0.76 *cf* 0.51 last year. A beetle-killed stand of pines at Grand L., Colo., attracted many Hairy Woodpeckers—10/acre (DJ). At Golden, Colo., a largely albino female fed regularly on a suet feeder, chased by other Hairies (PH). Say's Phoebe returned in January to Penrose and Pueblo, Colo., and Jensen, Utah (DC, LF). The w. part of the Region reported fewer Horned Larks, but it achieved its usual abundance on the e. plains. At Pueblo Jan. 22-29, sunflower and sorghum stubble attracted 10,000+, and they in turn attracted six Prairie Falcons, two Merlins, seven Ferruginous Hawks, and seven Golden Eagles (RB).

JAYS TO THRASHERS — A Blue Jay wintered at Logan, feeding daily at a feeder (†MT, DK). CBCs continue to report a decline in Steller's Jays, a consistent trend for 11 years; this year's 0.56/party hour will drop the 10-year average of 0.90. Two areas reported Steller's Jays away from the mountains: Ogden and L/L/B/L. Counts of Black-billed Magpies on CBCs bounce around; this year's 3.01/party hour is

fewer than the 3.24 average and much fewer than last year's high count of 3.66. Few Clark's Nutcrackers dropped down from their mountain haunts, but at Cody some apparently had begun to nest in February (UK). CBC totals of chickadees hovered around average numbers; 1.15 Black-capped/party hour and 1.11 Mountains, *cf* averages of 1.12 and 1.31. Denver, L/L/B/L, and Ft. Collins reported more Mountain Chickadees than usual on the plains, but the subalpine forests w. of Boulder also had large flocks; trips to the spruce/fir country averaged 90.5/trip (MF). At Rock Springs, Wyo., observations of five Plain Titmice Feb. 12 and 50 Bushtits Feb. 26 suggested likely wintering birds (FL). A Bushtit came to a Ft. Collins suet feeder all winter (F.C.A.S.). Small numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches visited feeders in non-mountain sites throughout Colorado and Wyoming, but fewer than last year Red-breasted Nuthatches did so. A Pygmy Nuthatch strayed from the n. slope of the Uinta Mts., to Logan Feb. 23 (†AG). At Texas Cr., Colo., Dippers had begun nest building Feb. 22 (EW). Single Brown Thrashers wintered at Eldora, Colo., and Sheridan (DH, HD). Penrose, Colo. had an early Sage Thrasher Jan. 30 (RB).

ROBIN TO TANAGERS — Few Am. Robins remained in the Region; the mid-winter reports typically listed 1-2 birds, on 1-2 days. Giving a hint as to where they went, flocks numbering in the thousands wintered in the piñon/juniper in El Paso and Fremont cos., s. of Colorado Springs (RB). At Glenwood Springs, Colo., Feb. 12, 50 opportunistic robins flocked around a hot springs pool (RP). Las Vegas had its first Varied Thrush in 2 years Feb. 10 (NP), and Logan reported one Dec. 21 and Feb. 23 (†KD, †TR). While Ogden had a Hermit Thrush reported Dec. 26 and Feb. 28 (MK), Laramie, Wyo., reported one in mid-January (DM). Many observers saw all 3 species of bluebirds in El Paso County, Colo., during the winter (RB). The E. Bluebird, rarest of the 3 in the Region, also showed up elsewhere in e. Colorado with 20 Jan. 14-16 and two Feb. 19 (D.F.O., DB). D.F.O. reported 123 Mountain Bluebirds in s.e. Colorado Jan. 14-16, but in most of the Region small flocks of 1-8 began arriving only Feb. 21+. The few Bohemian Waxwings appeared almost exclusively in their usual Wyoming locales, most in early December or February. Peak counts came from Cody with 300 Dec. 10-17 (UK) and Evanston Wyo. with 98 Feb. 12, with only 2 non-Wyoming reports: eight Dec. 4 in Ogden (JN) and two Feb. 13 in Ft. Collins (VD). The small flocks of Cedar Waxwings also represented many fewer than last year.

One of the season's oddest records came Dec. 1 when a N. Parula spent 20 seconds in a backyard in Hygiene, Colo., braving (or trying to escape) an inch of snow (†VD). Yellow-rumped Warblers made their usual sporadic appearances, with the most northerly reports coming from Gardnerville and Carson City, Nev., Salt Lake City, Ogden, Logan, and Boulder. Early Yellow-headed Blackbirds arrived at Jackson, Wyo., Feb. 23, four strong (SWi), and at Denver Feb. 27 (WWB). The 100 Brewer's Blackbirds at Laramie Feb. 13 appeared on an early date (DR). Common Grackles drifted briefly into Canon City, Colo., Denver, and Laramie. The W. Tanager at Logan Dec. 4 was quite late (AG, SB).

GROSBEAKS TO BUNTINGS — Observers reported low numbers of winter finches: Evening Grosbeaks (*e.g.*, lowest numbers in years at Evergreen), Cassin's Finches (no more than 1-6 at a time), and Pine Siskins. As an exception, in the Indian Peaks w. of Boulder observers reported increased numbers of all these finches, due at least in part to increased field work (MF, DH). In the n. Front Range Evening Grosbeaks visited feeders, and Cheyenne reported a few wintering. One even strayed out on the plains Feb. 17 to Wheatland, Wyo. (RBr). Observers who ventured into the spruce-fir forests found good numbers of Pine Grosbeaks, like the 80 Feb. 28 w. of Sheridan and high counts in the Indian Peaks (MF, DH). CBCs found fewer House Finches with 1.91/party hour *cf.* a 2.22 average. Observers found fewer flocks of rosy finches, probably because the birds found bare ground on which to feed away from feeders and highways. We had a grand total of 14 Com. Redpolls—12 on Togwotee Pass n.w. of Dubois and one each at Jackson and Golden, Colo. Lesser Goldfinches enjoyed a banner year at Carson City, with 40-50 at feeders in late February (BP). Red Crossbills left most of the Region, although Logan reportedly had some flocks of 200. At Georgetown, Colo., 10-12 White-winged Crossbills churruped on Guanella Pass (F.C.A.S.) and one was on Togwotee Pass

Feb. 27 (SF). Single Green-tailed Towhees lingered into December at Grand Jct., and Durango, Colo., and January observations at Durango and Eagle, Colo., were even more surprising (EF, MFi, JF). A F A C field trip near Loveland confirmed the sporadic reports of Brown Towhees which have originated for several years in n. Colorado, with one seen Jan. 22; a local non-birder says they have seen them there for 2 years (†AM, †DB, †VD). Single Lark Buntings were in Las Vegas Dec. 4 and Gardnerville, Nev., Feb. 27 (VM, B & BC). CBCs found average numbers of juncos—5.5/party hour. Sheridan reports a 3-year decline in Tree Sparrows (HD). CBCs reflect a slight drop in numbers (2.09/party hour, average of 2.29); the erratic fluctuations in CBC Tree Sparrows suggested that factors such as snow cover and food availability may affect their winter distribution. A Clay-colored Sparrow came daily to feeders in Evergreen, Dec. 10-Feb. 4 (#WWB). Late Field Sparrows were at Lyons, Colo., Nov. 6 (†PB) and Boulder Nov. 18-Dec. 21 (#BJ). At Laramie two White-crowned Sparrows wintered, unusual for a Wyoming location (DM), and a Lincoln's Sparrow wintered in Las Vegas (VM).

ABBREVIATIONS—#: no written description; L/L/B/L: Loveland/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area of Colorado.

CONTRIBUTORS (in boldface) AND INITIALED OBSERVERS — **Peggy Abbott** (10), **James Alfonso**, J. Alves (JAI), K. Archibald, **Mary Back** (18), P. Baker, **Ethlyn Barneby**, D. Bolton, **Steve Bouffard**, **W.W. Brockner** (20), **Ruth Browning** (RBr), S. Bump (SBu), **Rich Bunn** (15), **Josh Burns**, **Jean Christensen** (22), Dan Chure, **Bill & Beth Clark**, Colo. Div. of Wildlife, J. & M. Cressman, Denver Field Ornithologists, V. Dionigi, **Keith Dixon** (12), J. Dorn, **Helen Downing** (32), D. Elliott, **Janet Eyre** (3), J. Fedrizzi, Lorraine Ferris, **Mike Figgs**, S. Findholt, M. Fischer (MFi), Foothills Aud. Club, **Elva Fox** (7), Ft. Collins Aud. Soc., **Jerome Gifford** (3), **Drew Grainger**, A. Grenon, **Dave Hallock** (6), L. Hanebury, **Mae Hanesworth** (15), **Paula Hansley**, **Steven Hedges**, **Louise Hering** (14), **James Herold** (8), B. Hyde, **Mark Janos**, **David Jasper** (7), B. Jickling, Steve Jones, **Frank & Jan Justice**, M. Kasprzyk, **Jon Kauffeld**, **Ursula Kepler** (12), **Craig Kesselheim** (7), **Merlin Killpack** (MK1), D. Kotler, Nan Lederer, **Forrest Luke**, A. Means, **John Merchant** (3), **Vince Mowbray** (9), **David Mozurkewich** (9), **John Nelson** (5), **Bob Oakleaf**, **Ruth Parkison**, R. Pallister (RPa), C. Patterson, **Bill Pickslay** (3), N. Poyser, **Marcus Rawlings**, **Bert Raynes** (9), T. Rehor, **J.C. Rigli**, **Joe B. Rodriguez**, **R.C. Rosche**, **John Row** (11), D. Runde, **R.A. Ryder**, **Ella Sorenson**, **Bert Tignor** (14), **Michael Tove** (3), K. Wallace, **Susan Ward**, **Linda Watters**, **Merrill Webb**, S. Wiegand (SWi), Elinor Wills.—**HUGH E. KINGERY, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver, Colo. 80217.**

SOUTHWEST REGION

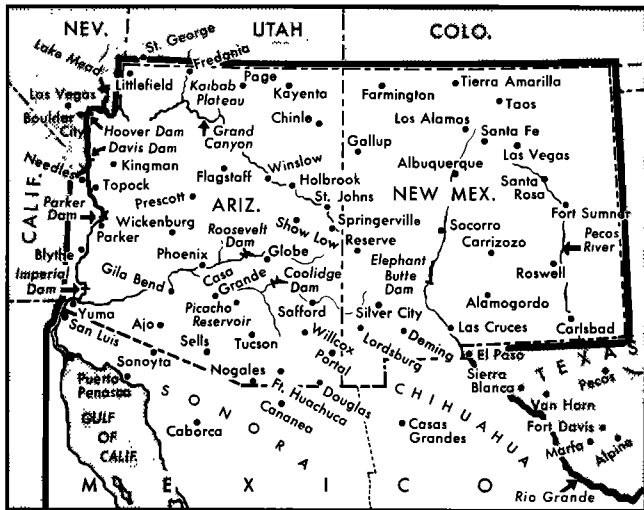
Arizona

/Janet Witzeman

Each winter in Arizona has a character all its own, determined by the special group or groups of birds that decide to move in for the season to take advantage of the current food supply and weather conditions. Some winters bring numbers of Lawrence's Goldfinches, others bring American Robins, Cedar Waxwings and bluebirds, and still others bring invasions of montane species into the lowlands. This winter was characterized by a relative lack of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings and bluebirds, an abundance of sparrows in the southeast, and the first Rufous-backed Robins in any numbers since the winter of 1976-77.

In northern Arizona there were no true winter birds in the area during the season—no Northern Shrikes or longspurs, and even such species as Cassin's Finches were never seen in numbers as in the past.

In the report that follows are references to new or seldom-visited areas—the San Francisco River north of Clifton on the eastern border of Arizona, the ponds at McNeal in southeast Arizona that continue to attract new shorebird and waterfowl records, and Beaver Dam Wash



near Littlefield in extreme northwest Arizona. Because of its low elevation, Beaver Dam Wash was found to attract species that are normally rare or absent in northern Arizona in winter. During a visit to this area February 19-20, the list recorded by John Coons and Debbie Paulson included six Long-billed Marsh Wrens, one Orange-crowned Warbler and a Lincoln's Sparrow.

Finally, each season contributes new surprises. This winter those were provided by a Laughing Gull, a Worm-eating Warbler, Tree Sparrows and Black Rosy Finches!

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A Com. Loon, uncommon away from the Lower Colorado River (hereafter, L.C.R.) was at Patagonia L., Dec. 8 (KK, JW). An Arctic Loon at a golf course pond in Tucson Dec. 4-11 (BB, WD, m.ob.) provided one of very few records for s.e. Arizona. The number of Olivaceous Cormorants at Patagonia L. increased to 21 during the winter—the largest number yet recorded in the state (GM, KK *et al.*). A late imm. Brown Pelican was at the Nogales sewage ponds Dec. 4 (DDe, P. Baicich) and an even later *adult* was at a golf course pond in Phoenix mid-November to at least Dec. 24 (AG, ph. SW). There are very few winter records for the state and even fewer records of adults at any time of year inland in the s.w. Winter records of White Pelicans away from the L.C.R. are uncommon; two were recorded in Tucson Dec. 12 (D. Knepper) and the one in Phoenix (since October) remained through the period (m.ob.).



Brown Pelican, Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 24, 1982. Photo/S. West.

An unusually large flock of 250+ Cattle Egrets was concentrated in a field s. of Parker Feb. 28 (DK, LL). A few White-faced Ibises, uncommon in winter, remained into December on the L.C.R.: six were s. of Cibola N.W.R., Dec. 3 (RH *et al.*) and three at Parker Dec. 21-22 (CH).

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans appeared at scattered locations about the state again, although not in the high numbers of the previous winter. Four were near McNeal and Elfrida Feb. 7-22 (AM), two at Phoenix Jan. 22-Feb. 28 (PB, JS *et al.*), one at Prescott Jan. 3 (CT) 14 at Chino Valley, n. of Prescott, Dec. 13 (R. Smith, *vide* CT), five at Alamo L., Dec. 28 (V. & E. Miller) and one at Cibola N.W.R., January-March (DL).

White-fronted Geese continued to be more numerous and widespread than usual: ten were near McNeal Feb. 9 (AM), two at Tucson Dec. 4-Feb. 28+ (m.ob.), one e. of Phoenix Jan. 9-Mar. 14 (TG, MJ *et al.*), one near Phoenix Jan. 30 (RN, VJ) and up to 14 at Cibola N.W.R., the end of February (DL). Up to 19 Snow Geese remained near McNeal until Feb. 7 (AM, DDa), one at Tucson to Feb. 28+ (DSz *et al.*) and up to 65 at Cibola N.W.R., during the period (JJ *et al.*). Two Ross' Geese were near McNeal until Feb. 7 (DDa, AM), one remained at Tucson through the period (DSz, GG *et al.*), one was e. of Phoenix Dec. 12 into April (ph. MJ *et al.*), and individuals were at Cibola N.W.R., Dec. 12 and Bill Williams Delta (hereafter, B.W. Delta) Dec. 25-26 (CH).

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck at Tucson Feb. 14 into March (B. Hunt, m.ob.) was noteworthy, however, its wild status was uncertain. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon near McNeal Dec. 27-Jan. 24 (AM, m.ob.) was about the tenth for the state. An ad. ♂ Oldsquaw was at Parker Dam Jan. 23 (†CH, RH). The species has been occurring almost annually on the L.C.R. in recent years. Among the Wood Ducks recorded during the period, of interest were the high number (30) on the Verde R., near Clarkdale Feb. 6 (RP, JC, DP, PP) and the individuals e. of the Santa Cruz R., in s. Arizona where the species had not been recorded previously: one in the Swisshelm Mts., e. of McNeal Dec. 16 (TD) and one near Winkelman Dec. 9-20 (K. Lease). Unprecedentedly high numbers of Pintails (4000) and Green-winged Teal (2200) were recorded on Upper and Lower L. Mary in late February (JC, DP); at most their numbers have been only in the hundreds in past winters there.

RAPTORS — A single White-tailed Kite was observed Dec. 25 at Marana, where up to five resided the previous summer (BB). Three lowland records of individual Goshawks came from n. of Ehrenberg Dec. 5 & Feb. 18 (†CH), n.w. Phoenix Dec. 8-20 (SD) and L. Pleasant, n.w. of Phoenix Dec. 29 (TC). An early returning Zone-tailed Hawk was seen over Huachuca Peak Feb. 26 (R. Taylor). Preliminary calculations from the survey of wintering Bald Eagles showed that the population was down by about 24% from the previous January, but about equal to the results for January 1981 (R.L. Todd).

SHOREBIRDS — Between seven and 15 Mountain Plovers were e. of Elfrida Dec. 15-Jan. 15 (AM) and up to four were at Marana Jan. 8-11 (DSz, GM, m.ob.). The status of the species in s.e. Arizona is still poorly understood. Long-billed Curlews, uncommon in winter, were recorded again near McNeal—7-10 were counted there Feb. 11-22 (AM). Dunlin were recorded at 4 areas in s.e. Arizona where the species is uncommon; singles were at the Bisbee-Douglas Airport sewage ponds Dec. 6 (AM), near McNeal Jan. 16 (AM, DDa) and at the Benson sewage pond Jan. 5-11 (DDe, SG); 2-3 were at the Nogales sewage ponds Dec. 6-9 (KK, JW, JBo).

GULLS THROUGH DOVES — A very late ad. Forster's Tern was at the Nogales sewage ponds Dec. 8 (KK, JW, GP) during the same unsettled weather that produced an ad. **Laughing Gull** there Dec. 10 (KK *et al.*). The gull provided possibly the first reliable report for s.e. Arizona and one of only a few records for the state.

White-winged Doves (five) were found far e. at Douglas again Jan. 24 (AM). Once again an Inca Dove (a different individual from the one banded there last year) spent the winter outside its normal range at a Portal feeder (S & WS).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Violet-crowned Hummingbird frequented a Tucson feeder Jan. 18-Feb. 11 (EB); the only previous over-wintering record was also at a feeder in Tucson. Late staying Rufous Hummingbirds were individuals at Portal to Dec. 3 (S & WS), at Tucson Dec. 5 (JBo, DSz) and Green Valley Dec. 9 (GP). A late ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird was observed at Globe Dec. 11 (BJ).

A ♂ Coppery-tailed Trogon in Ramsey Canyon Feb. 20 (R. Vetter)

furnished one of only a few winter records for the state. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. v. varius*) at Parker in late November remained until at least Dec. 22 (GR) and another of this race was at Cibola N.W.R., Dec. 14 (CH, DK).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPERS — Five E. Phoebes recorded during the winter included three individuals (one until Mar. 12) n. and e. of Tucson (DSz, JBo, C. Cochran), one at Cibola N.W.R., Dec. 2 (†DK) and one s. of Wickenburg Feb. 8 (JS). A very late or wintering Coues' Flycatcher was at Harshaw, s.e. of Patagonia Dec. 11 (KK) and another individual was below Stewart Mt. Dam, e. of Phoenix Feb. 23 (SD). The species is uncommon in winter. A W. Flycatcher, rare in winter, was observed at Cibola N.W.R., Jan. 30-Feb. 13 (†DK).

The late Barn Swallow at Parker remained until at least Dec. 22 (CH, GR). The two Com. Crows at Tucson in November remained at least into February (KK *et al.*) and another was near Marana Feb. 12 (GG), s. of the species' usual range.

Two Mexican Chickadees wintered at Portal, a lower than usual elevation (S & WS). Mountain Chickadees continued to be present in the lowlands of s.e. Arizona during the winter: one at Tucson to at least February (KK, m.ob.) and two along the San Francisco R., Feb. 16 (SM). For the second year a Mountain Chickadee was recorded on the Portal CBC (F. Scheider); the species had not been known to occur in the Chiricahuas previously. Bridled Titmice were recorded in 2 unusual lowland areas: one at Marana Dec. 31 (DSz) and four n.e. of Oracle Feb. 17 (GM, D. Lee). A flock of up to 15 Bushtits, uncommon on the L.C.R., were seen n. of Ehrenberg Dec. 5 & Feb. 19 (CH, DK). Lowland Brown Creeper reports came from the L.C.R., where up to five were seen in B.W. Delta during the winter and one at Parker Dec. 4 (CH, DK).

CATBIRD THROUGH PIPITS — Gray Catbirds are extremely rare in s.e. Arizona, and especially so in winter. Surprising therefore, were singles in *three* areas in the southeast: at Portal Dec. 3 (D. Shepherd), at Kino Springs, near Nogales Dec. 9 into April (JBo, m.ob.) and at the San Bernardino Ranch, n. of Douglas Jan. 9-23 (DDa, RBa). Still another Gray Catbird was at a feeder in Prescott from Dec. 12 into April (M. Minkler, *vide* CT). The only previous winter record for the state came from the species' traditional nesting area near Springerville.

Three Brown Thrashers, sparse winter visitors, were recorded: the one at Hereford (since mid-November) remained at least to Jan. 25 (DDe *et al.*), one at Tucson early December—at least Dec. 15 (P. Pray) plus one on the Phoenix CBC (PB). Records of LeConte's Thrasher on the L.C.R., are scarce and its status there is poorly understood; in addition to the one on the Parker CBC, one was seen n. of Ehrenberg Dec. 20 (RH). Five Sage Thrashers were recorded in pinyon-juniper habitat along the San Francisco R., Feb. 17 (SM). The species is probably regular there, but the area is rarely visited in winter.

Except for Guadalupe Canyon where there were numbers of Am. Robins, elsewhere in the state the species was almost absent, and in the s.e. Am. Robins were literally outnumbered by Rufous-backed Robins. Including the November records and the five recorded on CBCs, a high of 11 Rufous-backed Robins strayed N this winter. One frequented a Sun City yard, w. of Phoenix, the last week in December (T. & R. Wolff), one at Cibola N.W.R., Jan. 19 (JJ), one at Patagonia Jan. 17-Feb. 6 (JD, N. Preimesherger), and one at Tucson Feb. 21 (K. Burke); two were recorded on the Nogales CBC, one on the Parker CBC (since mid-November), the one on the Ramsey CBC at Hereford remained at least to Jan. 16 (DDe, JD *et al.*) and the one on the Green Valley CBC was present into February (C. DeWaard).

Except for the area along the San Francisco R., where W. Bluebirds were numerous (SM), Western and Mountain bluebirds were almost lacking in the lowlands.

At least 16 Sprague's Pipits observed n. of Ehrenberg Dec. 4-20 (†CH, DK, RH) was a high number for the L.C.R.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Hutton's Vireo, rare on the L.C.R., was observed near Cibola N.W.R., Dec. 14 (†CH).

A **Worm-eating Warbler** along the Verde R., e. of Phoenix Jan. 19 (†M. Larson) provided the first winter record for the state and about the 21st overall. The Ovenbird in n.e. Phoenix since Oct. 30 remained until Feb. 16 (DSj) and provided the first definite over-wintering record for

that species, although several winter records exist. Another interesting wintering warbler record was provided by an Am. Redstart that remained in Tucson October—at least Jan. 26 (JBo, DSz *et al.*). In addition to the ♂ Am. Redstart on the Yuma CBC, an ad. female was observed n. of Wellton, L.C.R., Dec. 8 (†DK, CH *et al.*).

Other notable winter records were of a Nashville Warbler at Marana Feb. 12 (GM, DDe, D. Lee), a ♂ N. Parula at Whitlow Dam, n. of Florence Jct., Jan. 8-9 (T. Clark) and 16 Myrtle Warblers among the 800 Audubon's Warblers at Beaver Dam Wash Feb. 20 (JC, DP).

Two late N. Waterthrushes were found in n. Arizona: one near Strawberry, Sierra Ancha Mts., Dec. 5 (RN) and one along W. Clear Cr., Dec. 22 (CT). In addition to the three Black-and-white Warblers recorded on CBCs, one was recorded at Cibola N.W.R., Dec. 20 (JJ) and one e. of Tucson Dec. 24 (DDe).

Olive Warblers only occasionally wander down to the Upper Sonoran Zone, so of interest were four ♂ Olive Warblers along the seldom visited San Francisco R., Feb. 16-17 (SM).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — A ♂ Hooded Oriole (originally thought by some to be a Streak-backed Oriole) was visiting a Tucson feeder Dec. 22-Feb. 28 (M. Chalif, KK *et al.*). (See Corrigendum.) A flock of 30-40 Great-tailed Grackles throughout the period in Flagstaff, where this expanding species began wintering only recently, was the largest winter group yet recorded there (JC).

A ♀ Summer Tanager, rare in winter, was seen along the Santa Cruz R., Tucson Jan. 26 (R. Hynes, DDe, B. Koenig).

FRINGILLIDS — For the second winter a ♀ Pyrrhuloxia was at the same far n. locality at Skull Valley, w. of Prescott Dec. 13-Jan. 14 (H & A. Gaither, CT). A sub-ad. Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Beaver Cr., n.e. of Prescott Dec. 22 (CT) probably represented the first winter record for n. Arizona. A very late Indigo Bunting was at the Patagonia Sanctuary Dec. 11 (KK *et al.*); there are no acceptable mid-winter records for the state. Notable were eight Evening Grosbeaks in Guadalupe Canyon Feb. 21 (AM, DDa). Two **Black Rosy Finches** were found along the Kaibab Trail below the S. Rim of the Grand Canyon Jan. 4 (W. Buskirk). There have been only 4 previous state records and only one previous record for the S. Rim—in November and December, 1956.

A ♀ Rufous-sided Towhee, appearing to be of the e. race, was studied in B.W. Delta Feb. 28 (†LL); this form had not been known to occur in Arizona. A Lark Bunting, uncommon in w. Arizona, was seen near Poston Dec. 4 (BA). Southeast Arizona, the winter capital for sparrows, was especially alive this year. This was the best winter on record for Cassin's Sparrow; this highly erratic species was present in exceptional numbers—many were banded near Tucson (RBo). Baird's and Grasshopper sparrows were also present in above-average numbers, and it was a good year for Brewer's and Vesper sparrows as well.

A Gray-headed Junco of the *dorsalis* race was observed in Ramsey Canyon Jan. 16 (JD); this race that breeds in n. and c. Arizona rarely moves this far s. Yellow-eyed Juncos were present at Portal in unprecedented numbers all winter—90+ (SS), and one wandered again to Bisbee where it was recorded Dec. 21 (DDa).

At least two and probably four Tree Sparrows were observed at Chino Valley, n. of Prescott Jan. 15-28 (CT); the species is a rare, seldom encountered winter resident in n.e. Arizona and these individuals were farther s. and w. than usual. Of interest were at least seven McCown's Longspurs in with the Horned Larks in the San Rafael grasslands Jan. 17 (JD), and two there Feb. 12 (S. Suter); the species is an uncommon and irregular winter resident in s.e. Arizona.

CORRIGENDUM — The following records of Streak-backed Oriole at Tucson previously reported in this column should be deleted AB 34:189, AB 35:214, AB 36:205 and AB 36:319. All of these records are now believed to pertain to Hooded Oriole. See the article on identification of these two species in the previous issue (AB 37:140).

CONTRIBUTORS (Area compilers in boldface) — B. Anderson, R. Bailowitz (RBA), B. Barber, P. Beall, E. Bessler, J. Bock (JBo), R. Bradley (RBr), K. Clough, J. Coons (Flagstaff), T. Corman, **D. Danforth** (DDa, Sierra Vista), W. Davis, D. Deifik (DDe), S. Demaree, J. Dunn, R. Ferguson, A. Gast, T. Gatz, **S. Goldwasser** (Tucson), G. Gregg, B. Harrison, R. Haywood, **C. Hunter** (LCR), **B. Jackson**

(Globe), J. Jackson, M. Jakle, V. Jeavons, K. Kaufman (Advisor), B. Krueper, **D. Krueper** (LCR), L. LaClaire, D. Ledford, H. Longstreth, **S. Mills** (Tucson), G. Monson, A. Moorhouse, R. Norton, D. Paulson, P. Pinkston, R. Pinkston, G. Porter, G. Rosenberg, K. Rosenberg, J. Shipley, **S. Spofford** (Portal), W. Spofford, D. Stejskal (DSJ), D. Stotz (DSz), **C. Tomoff** (Prescott), S. West, R. Witzeman.—**JANET WITZEMAN, 4619 E. Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85018.**

New Mexico

/John P. Hubbard

CORMORANTS THROUGH HERONS — Rather high numbers of Olivaceous Cormorants persisted through the period at Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (hereafter, Bosque) with maxima of 25 on Dec. 28 and 34 on Feb. 6 (DH, SH). As many as three Great Egrets were at the refuge Dec. 4-Feb. 26 (WH *et al.*), except for 11 there Dec. 26 (CH *et al.*) Flocks of up to 40 Cattle Egrets in s. Doña Ana County through the period (BZ) were notable, especially in view of the absence of reports elsewhere.

WATERFOWL — An estimated 10,000 Snow Geese near Columbus Feb. 6 (WS) represented a high count for the area. The **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** near Anapra, Doña Ana Co., persisted to Dec. 20, this bird first appeared there in May 1982 (BZ, KZ). Wood Ducks were reported through the period in the Farmington area (AN *et al.*) and the middle to lower Rio Grande Valley (v.ob.), but numbers were not exceptional. A probable **Mallard x Pintail** hybrid at Bosque Dec. 26 (HS *et al.*) was noteworthy. A ♂ **Greater Scaup** at Bosque Jan. 22-Feb. 26 (D. Stahlecker *et al.*; ph., v.ob.) provided one of the few confirmed records for the state.

RAPTORS — Extraordinarily early were two Turkey Vultures reported near Hatch Feb. 6 (WS) and one near Carlsbad Feb. 5 (T. & D. Bemis, *fide* SW). Raptor surveys continued at the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project near Farmington, where Dec. 31 some 183 birds and 7 species were counted, including 93 Ferruginous Hawks (AN). The Jan. 1-16 surveys for Bald Eagles in New Mexico yielded 342 birds in the preliminary count *cf.* 369 in January, 1982 (JH *et al.*).

CRANES THROUGH JAEGER — There were 43 Sandhill Cranes in the Redrock area Dec. 13, where the species has wintered over only the last 6-7 years (A. Ford). The only other Gila Valley population is near Cliff where 292 birds were counted Feb. 18 (SM). The final count on wintering Whooping Cranes in the Rio Grande Valley area was 14 birds (10 ad., 4 imm.), plus another immature that went into Chihuahua (U S F. & W.S.). Nine birds were seen in apparent migration near Las Lunas Feb. 21-27 (K. Burr, *fide* RT). Fifty-one Long-billed Curlews near Portales Jan. 1 (L. Coalson) were notable. Two Dunlins were at Bosque Feb. 6 & 8 (DH *et al.*, ph.); the species is irregular in winter in the state. Another imm. Thayer's Gull was at Elephant Butte L., Jan. 23-24 (BZ *et al.*). Even more unusual was an apparent ad. **Laughing Gull** at Bosque Dec. 9 (WH *et al.*); this species is very rare in New Mexico, especially in winter. An imm. jaeger, identified as a Parasitic, was at Caballo L., Jan. 23 (BZ *et al.*); winter jaegers are rare in the state.

DOVES THROUGH OWLS — Winter records of White-winged Doves continue to accumulate in the Rio Grande and lower Pecos valleys. Up to four birds were at Socorro Jan. 21-Feb. 21 (JS); 1-2 at Truth or Consequences (hereafter, T or C) Jan. 25 and Feb. 14-28 (DM); calling at Percha Dam, Sierra Co., Feb. 24 (DM); and up to 17 in the Carlsbad area Dec. 4-Feb. 24 (SW *et al.*). An Inca Dove was calling Feb. 22 in T or C (DM), and four were near La Luz, Otero Co., Dec. 18 (LM *et al.*); the species is a straggler at both locations. A Pygmy Owl apparently attacked a Com. Flicker at Glenwood Feb. 2 and died as a result (R. Skaggs). At any rate, the two birds fell to the ground from a tree, with the flicker clutched by the owl; after a long struggle, the owl disengaged and later succumbed—perhaps as the result of exhaustion and starvation.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — An imm. ♂

Rufous Hummingbird lingered at Pleasanton, Catron Co., into early December, when it is suspected to have perished in the cold (L. & M. Sumner). Rare in winter, an ad. Red-headed Woodpecker was at Carlsbad Feb. 21 (SW). Even more unusual, and a species still unverified in New Mexico, was a Red-bellied Woodpecker at nearby Rattlesnake Springs Dec. 19 (SW *et al.*), another bird may have been present in Carlsbad that month as well (A. Nymeyer, *fide* SW). Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers thought to have been of the *varius* race were at Zuni Dec. 20 (JT) and near Cliff Feb. 18 (SM). Even rarer, a bird closely resembling the *daggetti* race of **Red-breasted Sapsucker** was in Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandia Mts., Dec. 2 (HS); blackish pigment on the breast suggested the bird was somewhat hybridized with the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*fide* JH). Well s. of the usual winter range was a Downy Woodpecker reported at Carlsbad Feb. 21 (SW); also worth noting were singles near Clayton Dec. 18 (AK *et al.*), Bosque Dec. 9 (WH), and Roswell Dec. 18 (MP *et al.*).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS—Quite unusual was a **Western Kingbird** reported in detail at Alamogordo Dec. 26 (O. G. and R. Wahl). The only winter *Empidonax* reported was a Dusky/Hammond type near Redrock Feb. 21 (SM). Early swallows were a Rough-winged near Mesilla (KZ) and the first Cave Swallows at Carlsbad Caverns N.P. (*fide* SW) Feb. 12; Barn Swallows were in s. Doña Ana County Feb. 27 (BZ). Six Blue Jays at Roswell Dec. 18 (MP *et al.*) and seven or more at Carlsbad Feb. 21 (SW) were notable numbers; the only w. extralimital records were of a bird that wintered at Santa Fe (ph. M. Lang) and two near Alameda Dec. 21 (JD, VH). Little remnant of the lowland-invading Steller's Jays of last autumn remained, the sole reports being of single birds at Socorro Jan. 17 (JS) and Roswell Dec. 18 (MP *et al.*). Common Crows were widely distributed in the Dry Cimarron Valley area, with 80+ counted Feb. 17 (JH); others reached S in the Rio Grande Valley to Las Cruces (BZ *et al.*).

PARIDS THROUGH DIPPER — Unlike corvids, evidence of last autumn's lowland surge of Mountain Chickadees was widely evident into the winter. The southernmost report was of one in the Peloncillo Mts., near Rodeo Dec. 29 (K. Scholes), where a Mexican Chickadee was also present there the same day (RS). Other Mountain Chickadees in lower elevational areas were at Farmington, Albuquerque, Bosque, Roswell, Mangas Springs, Bayard, Redrock, and Carlsbad Caverns N.P. (v.ob.). On Feb. 6 a Bridled Titmouse was at Percha Dam (BZ, KZ), where irregular. Small numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in December at lower elevations, including at Farmington (AN *et al.*), Roswell (MP *et al.*), and Las Cruces (KZ *et al.*). Also notable was a Pygmy Nuthatch at Española Dec. 26 (BL *et al.*). A new locality for the Short-billed Marsh Wren in New Mexico is Bosque, where one was reported Jan. 23 (G. Parker *et al.*, *fide* DH). A Dipper at Folsom Falls Feb. 17 (JH) may have been the first report from Union County, eight in the Bluewater L. area Dec. 18 (AM *et al.*) was high for the Zuni Mts.

MIMIDS THROUGH THRUSHES — The late Gray Catbird at Anthony, s. Doña Ana Co., persisted through the period, until found dead Jan. 15, apparently the victim of a Cooper's Hawk (BZ, KZ). Even more unusual was one near Bosque, Valencia Co., Dec. 3 & 17 (JD, VH). More than the usual number of Brown Thrashers was reported in the 2 areas: four in the lower Rio Grande Valley (BZ, KZ) and nine at Carlsbad Caverns N.P. (SW *et al.*). Also notable were five Sage Thrashers near Bluewater L., Dec. 18 (AM *et al.*) and one at Zuni Dec. 20 (JT). Robin numbers seemed to be down almost everywhere, and bluebirds, especially Mountains, were not as widespread and/or numerous as last year in many areas (v.ob.). Eastern Bluebirds were reported w. of the Pecos Valley only in the Sandia Mts., one Feb. 21 (HS), and three in the vicinity of Bosque Jan. 14-15 (WS, J. Vance).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS — North of the usual winter range was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandia Mts., Dec. 19 (HS); another was reported without details near Clayton Dec. 18 (AK *et al.*). Single gnatcatchers probably of this species were near Belen Dec. 6-7 (JSt) Cedar Waxwings were not numerous in the period, but the species was reported s. to the lower Rio Grande (KZ *et al.*) and lower Pecos (SW *et al.*) valley areas. The only

N. Shrike recorded was an adult near San Miguel, San Miguel Co., Feb. 16 (JH). Two Solitary Vireos were reported without details at Silver City Dec. 18 (RF *et al.*). A Hutton's Vireo was near Saddlerock, Burro Mts., Feb. 20 (SM); while perhaps regular in winter in s.w. New Mexico, the species is rarely reported. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, reported at La Cueva P., Organ Mts., Dec. 18 (KZ), was the first winter record for New Mexico. An Orange-crowned Warbler and two yellowthroats were in the Las Cruces area the same day (KZ *et al.*); both are rare species in winter in New Mexico. Additional yellowthroats were singles near Isleta Dec. 19 (JSt) and Bernardo Dec. 6 (JD).

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — A singing E. Meadowlark well n. of the expected winter range was near Bluewater L., Dec. 18 (J. Egbert). The only Rusty Blackbird report was of a male at Bosque Feb. 21 (JS). Exceptional was a ♂ **Western Tanager** at La Cueva P., Organ Mts., Dec. 18 (ph. KZ), for a first winter record for the state.

FINCHES — A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was reported near Bernardo Dec. 6 (JD, VH). Another exceptional report was that of a **Blue Grosbeak** near Mesilla Dec. 18 (KZ), for the first winter record for the state. North of the usual winter range were single Green-tailed Towhees near Bluewater L., Dec. 18 (AM *et al.*), Zuni Dec. 19-20 (JT), and in the Sandia Mts., Dec. 2-27 & Jan. 11 (HS). Very rarely reported in New Mexico and still unverified, a ♂ eastern-type (unspotted) **Rufous-sided Towhee** was at Rattlesnake Springs Dec. 19 (SW). Notable records from the Sandia Mts., included a single Black-chinned Sparrow Dec. 2, a White-winged (=Dark-eyed) Junco Feb. 10, and a Harris' Sparrow Dec. 2, plus three wintering Golden-crowns and a gray Fox Sparrow (HS *et al.*). Other records of the above race of junco were singles at Santa Fe Dec. 2, Maxwell N.W.R., Feb. 18 (JH), and near Bernalillo Jan. 15 (VH), plus one at Bluewater L., Dec. 18 (AM *et al.*);

the latter is the southwesternmost report for the state. Additional individuals of Golden-crowned Sparrows were at Corrales Feb. 5 (DH, SH) and near Cliff Feb. 2 (SM). White-throated Sparrows were reported in small numbers from Santa Fe and Zuni to Silver City and Bosque in the period (v.ob.). Notable records of Swamp Sparrows were one at Cochiti L., Jan. 27 & Feb. 15 (BL), another at Albuquerque Dec. 30 (DH, SH), 1-2 near Isleta Dec. 13 & 19 (JSt), and two near Bosque Feb. 26 (WH). Lincoln's Sparrows n. of the usual winter range were singles at Cochiti L., Jan. 4 (BL), Zuni Dec. 20 (JT), 1-2 at Albuquerque Dec. 19-31 (DH, SH), three near Bosque Feb. 12 & 27 (WH), and seven at Bluewater L., Dec. 18 (AM *et al.*). Northerly records of longspurs (thought to be Chestnut-collareds) included several in the Maxwell-Farley area Feb. 18 (JH); up to 50 near Albuquerque Jan. 21 & Feb. 2-5 (DH, SH); 1-3 near Belen Jan. 11 (WH); and 30 near Vaughn Dec. 19 (BZ).

CORRIGENDUM — The record of Costa's Hummingbird Apr. 23, 1981 at Antelope Pass (*Am. Birds* 35:851, 1981) should actually be at Granite Gap, about 12 mi to the n.; this locality is also in the Peloncillo Mts., Hidalgo Co., N.M.

INITIALED OBSERVERS — Julie Duff, Ralph Fisher, Valarie Hink, William Howe, John Hubbard, Chuck Hundertmark, Dustin Huntington, Susan Huntington, Adolf Krehbiel, Burton Lewis, Arch McCallum, Doris Miller, Scott Mills, Lawrence Murphy, Alan Nelson, Mary Peckinpaugh, Robert Scholes, Hart Schwarz, John Shipman, John Sterling (JSt), William Stone, Ross Teuber, John Trochet, Steve West, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer; ph. stands for photograph, and v.ob. for various observers.—**JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Sante Fe, NM 87501.**

ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

With only a short period of cold weather in January, almost the entire winter of 1982-1983 was quite mild in Alaska. After much snow in autumn, precipitation during the winter season was normal or less than normal. The season was described by birders as devoid of excitement.

LOONS, GREBES, HERONS — Yellow-billed Loon was more numerous than Com. Loon at Valdez this winter, but the maximum was only four birds Dec. 24 (GJT). A Pied-billed Grebe discovered on the Cordova CBC was not reported after Jan. 20 (MEI). There are very few records of this species in Southcoastal Alaska. Great Blue Heron was recorded at the w. fringe of its normal range, in Prince William Sound with up to two at Valdez Dec. 1-Feb. 22 (GJT), and beyond, at Kodiak where one that had been present since fall was seen as late as Jan. 29 (RAM). It is an irregular winter visitant at the latter location.

WATERFOWL, GULLS — Emperor Geese did not arrive in any numbers at Adak I., central Aleutians, until late December; the population there increased through mid-January, but numbers remained well below winter 1981-1982's level (CFZ). The species was characteristically common at Kodiak this season (JBA). A **Black Duck** seen on the Cordova CBC and not reported after Jan. 20 (MEI) provided the first report in Alaska in years, at any season. Not at all numerous in Alaska in winter, Eur. Wigeon was present at Adak in January and February, up to five birds (CFZ). Not commented on in recent winters, Canvas-back nonetheless continue to winter at Adak in (sometimes very) small numbers (see winter season columns in 1970s, esp. *AB* 27:651, 1973); one bird Jan. 15 and up to two there Feb. 28+ (CFZ) were the only records there this season. A ♀ Ring-necked Duck and a ♀ Lesser Scaup present at Anchorage throughout the season provided the first local overwintering records of these species (TGT). Tufted Duck was recorded again at Cordova, for the fourth consecutive winter (MEI); three of them at Adak Dec. 11 (CFZ) was the maximum reported this season. Seven King Eiders and one ♀ Steller's Eider at Seward Feb. 4 (TGT &



RLS) were of interest; a ♀ Steller's Eider observed at Sitka Dec. 24 (JSH) was unusual. The species does not winter in numbers e. of lower Cook Inlet, and there are few records for Southeastern. A ♂ Smew discovered at Buskin L., Kodiak Jan. 1 (†DWS *et al.*) was still present there with goldeneyes as late as Feb. 22 (JBA). There have been 2

previous Kodiak records of this species

Two hundred fifty Ivory Gulls, 90-95% of them adults, observed at the pack ice edge e. of the Pribilof Is., at 57°15'N 168°00'W, Feb. 21 (RAM) provided a new high count for Alaska.

OWLS, WOODPECKERS — Up to four Great Gray Owls were reported in the Galena area, w. Interior, all winter (TOO), and one bird was seen at Palmer, n. of Anchorage, at intervals in February (*fide* TGT) This species is widespread but not numerous in Alaska. A singing ♂ Boreal Owl at Fairbanks Jan. 12 (BEL) was the first of the season A Com. (Red-sh.) Flicker observed in *Craig* Dec. 10 (TEK) adds to very few Alaska winter records of this species. At least three Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers present in a mature white spruce forest in Anchorage all winter was a real concentration of this rare (in Alaska) species; up to four N. Three-toed Woodpeckers were found/day in the same area.

CREEPERS, KINGLETS, PIPITS — A Brown Creeper that visited a *Fairbanks* suet feeder at least until the first of the year (SH) provided an unprecedented Interior winter record. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Anchorage Dec. 18 (TGT) numbers among very few winter season records of this species anywhere in Alaska. Intensive work may reveal that Water Pipit is annual in winter, at least locally, on the Alaska Pacific coast. At Kodiak I., a bird was recorded at the Buskin R. mouth Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 (DWS), and five were seen in the Chiniak-Narrow Cape area Dec. 30 (RAM). There were no reports from other areas.

STARLING — A flock of 54 Starlings on the observer's front lawn in *Craig* Dec. 12 (TEK) provided a new local high count at any season. In other areas where this species is not resident, one Starling was seen in a flock of 200+ Northwestern Crows at Kalsin Bay, Kodiak Jan. 22 (JBA), and a flock of nine birds was reported at Palmer in the last week of December (JL, *fide* TGT).

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES — At least seven Rusty Blackbirds at Seward Feb. 4 (TGT & RLS) were the only ones reported this season.

It was not a prominently good winter for Pine Grosbeaks in interior Alaska this winter, but the species was present in moderate numbers throughout the season. Elsewhere there were very few—small numbers and at irregular intervals at Kasilof (MAM), uncommon at Valdez (GJT), very few in the Cordova area (MEI), very few at Juneau (RBW). But the species was described as common at Kodiak this season (JBA).

Redpolls were fairly common all winter in interior Alaska; their numbers burgeoned in Fairbanks in February (m.ob.), as they usually do in a 'good' redpoll winter. Average to slightly above average numbers were present in the Anchorage area, 50-125 birds total at feeders in town and 200+ birds at some individual feeders in the outskirts; predictably few Hoarries were identified in Anchorage (TGT). Redpolls were present at Kasilof this season in good numbers (MAM), and they were common at Kodiak—although distinctly less numerous than siskins there (JBA). At Valdez a sighting of eight birds Dec. 24 (GJT) furnished the only record during the season, and none was seen during a one-day visit to Seward Jan. 29 (TGT). But redpolls were common most of the season in the Cordova area, becoming scarce there after mid-February (MEI). In Southeastern, redpolls were reported absent at Juneau (RBW) and were not mentioned at *Craig* (TEK). They were present at Adak I., in December only, maximum a flock of 30 birds on the 12th (CFZ).

Pine Siskins were common at Kodiak this winter (JBA), but the species was virtually absent from Anchorage-area locations where

present most years (TGT) Siskins were not mentioned at Juneau (RBW), and only a few scattered flocks were seen at *Craig* (TEK) North of the normal winter range of the species, a very few Pine Siskins were noted in the Fairbanks area in late November-early December (TP); two birds hit by a car Dec. 7 or 8 (*DM) provided the first in-hand verification of this species n. of the Alaska Range at this season.

The tenth Alaska record of **Eurasian Bullfinch** was of a female recorded in riverside yarrow Dec. 26 & Jan. 15 at Aniak (†DLM & SS, ph.), a Kuskokwim R. village about 150 km from the Bering Sea. Most occurrences have been in spring or in fall; this record was only the third in midwinter (see *AB* 32:389, 1978).

In Southeastern Alaska, neither Red nor White-winged crossbill was recorded in Juneau this winter (RBW), and both crossbills were virtually absent this winter from Prince of Wales I. (TEK). Elsewhere, White-winged was present in the Anchorage area only in small numbers, but it was fairly conspicuous in numerous small flocks at Seward Jan. 29 (TGT). Good numbers of White-winged Crossbills were present in the Kasilof area all winter, in song after late December (MAM), but crossbills were almost nonexistent at Kodiak this season (JBA). A couple of flocks of White-wingeds and a singing male were observed at Healy Feb. 4 (TGT & LJO), but there were no other reports in interior Alaska until late February.

SPARROWS — Although small numbers of several species of sparrows winter regularly near the Pacific coast from Kodiak and the Kenai Pen., e. and s., only a few were reported from those areas this season Newsworthy were the numbers of species and numbers of individuals that wintered far from the coast, in the Interior.

Dark-eyed Juncos have wintered in very small numbers (past maximum six) at a few Fairbanks feeders for some years, but this winter 26 were located at feeders on the CBC, maximum nine at one feeder, many, but not all, survived -50° to -60°F temperatures in mid-January The unusual situation in Fairbanks was apparently isolated; nothing similar was reported anywhere else in the Region.

At different feeders, two Tree Sparrows (SD, DDG), which survived the only really cold weather, in mid-January, provided only the second Interior winter record. One imm. Harris' Sparrow banded at Auke Bay, Juneau Nov. 28 was present in that area with juncos through at least Feb. 8 (RBW). It was the only report this season. An imm. White-crowned Sparrow, for which species there have been fewer than a half dozen local winter records, survived yet another feeder (FH). At *Fairbanks* feeders, an imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow (RHA) and a Fox Sparrow (JK) were unprecedented overwintering birds. Elsewhere in the State, a Lincoln's Sparrow at *Craig* Feb. 13 (TEK) provided the second winter record there. Eight Snow Buntings at Valdez Feb. 17 (GJT) and a flock of 10-12 birds at Galena late December-January (TOO) were the only records.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS (SUB-REGIONAL EDITOR IN BOLDFACE) — J.B. Allen, R.H. Armstrong, S. Dauenhauer, J.S. Hawkings, F. Hering, S. Hills, M.E. Isleib, J. Klingel, T.E. Kogut, J. Laughton, B.E. Lawhead, R.A. MacIntosh, D.L. Marshall, D. Miller, M.A. Miller, L.J. Oakley, T.O. Osborne, T. Pogson, R.L. Scher, D.W. Sonneborn, S. Soule, G.J. Tans, T.G. Tobish, R.B. Williams, C.F. Zeillemaker; ph. photograph on file U.A.M., *specimen at U.A.M.; †details on file U.A.M.—**D.D. GIBSON, University of Alaska Museum, 907 Yukon Drive, Fairbanks, AK 99701.**

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

This winter was even warmer and wetter than usual. January and February in Seattle and Portland were 5°F above the long term averages There was not one 24-hour period of below freezing temperature at the Seattle, Portland, or Medford, Oregon, weather stations. Aver-

age monthly rainfall for these three stations was 1.2 inches greater than usual.

Probably correlated with this weather were the many reports of lingering pelicans, shorebirds, swallows, and warblers, and a near absence of Mountain Chickadees, redpolls, and Gray-crowned Rosy Finches. There were very few Snowy Owls present, and Evening Grosbeaks and Varied Thrushes apparently stayed at higher altitudes. Flocks

of Red Crossbills were found only in an area roughly centered around the Olympic Mountains.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Single Yellow-billed Loons were found Dec. 4-Jan. 3 at Pt. Roberts, Wash. (DPn, BK *et al.*), Dec. 4-Feb. 20 at N. Saanich, V.I. (KT *et al.*), Dec. 5 at Dungeness, Wash. (D & SS), and Dec. 19 near Bremerton, Wash. (CBC). This low number of sightings has become normal for the last several winters. Single Short-tailed Shearwaters were seen Dec. 7 off Clover Pt., Victoria (KT), and Dec. 15 between Port Angeles and Victoria (MC). Others were found dead Dec. 1 near Newport, Oreg. (B. Loefel), and Jan. 23 on Sunset Beach, Oreg. (HN). A Buller's Shearwater was found dead on the beach Jan. 16 at Ocean Shores, Wash., for the first winter record for the state (AV, *Burke Mus., Univ. of Wash.). Another Buller's Shearwater and three N. Fulmars were seen off Coos Bay, Oreg., Dec. 11 (M. Graybill, *vide* AMc).

Following the high numbers of last fall, a few Brown Pelicans stayed in the Region later than usual. An immature was seen on Coos Bay until Jan. 4 (AMc), and another was at Newport Jan. 9 (R. Bayer). Farther n., single immatures were at Grays Harbor, Wash., Dec. 18 (EH *et al.*) and between the Nisqually N.W.R., and Port Orchard, Wash., Dec. 5-23 (J. Klein, R. Webber, S. Hall, m.ob.). An immature found dead near Coos Bay Dec. 19 had been banded May 3, 1982, on W. Anacapa I., Calif. (AMc). A single White Pelican was seen Dec. 11 along the Siuslaw R., at Florence, Oreg. (M. Forrester, M. Markley, ph.).

Two or three Snowy Egrets have wintered annually at Coos Bay for many years. This year at least five, and possibly seven, Snowies spent the season around Pony Slough at Coos Bay (A. Contreras, AMc). A Great Egret wintered again on Capitol L., in Olympia, Wash. (BHT, m.ob.). The only Cattle Egrets reported were single birds at Reifel I., B.C., Dec. 4-5 (BK, DK *et al.*), at Masset, Queen Charlotte I., Dec. 18 (CBC), and throughout the season at Coos Bay (AMc). A group of 19-25 Black-crowned Night Herons wintered at Hoover's Pond, n. of Medford (MjM).

WATERFOWL — Up to 1500 Whistling Swans wintered in the Forest Grove, Oreg., area (JEV, J. Gatchett). More than usual of this species moved into the Willamette Valley this year, with a corresponding decrease to the n. along the Columbia R. (HN). There were also many more Trumpeter Swans reported than usual this winter from w. Oregon. Relatively large groups of 17-20 were at Maple Grove Jan. 15 and Feb. 19 (A & DMA, E & EE), and 14 on Mears L., near Tillamook Jan. 25 (*vide* HN).

Pintails were concentrated in the Bellingham, Washington-Vancouver, B.C. area. There were 11,000+ around Bellingham Jan. 2 (CBC) and 6-7000 on nearby Boundary Bay, B.C., Feb. 2-6 (JI, DK *et al.*). Gadwall were likewise concentrated in Seattle, with 1000+ there Jan. 1 (CBC). There were 10 sightings this season of Eur. Green-winged Teal; from Vancouver and Crescent Beach, B.C., Saanich (2) and N. Saanich, Vancouver I., Seattle (3), and Sauvie I., and Baskett Slough N.W.R., Oreg. This has become the normal number of sightings of this form the last few years. Up to 13 Cinnamon Teal stayed at Forest Grove, Oreg., until at least Dec. 26 (VT *et al.*), and eight, including three males, were still in Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 27 (MMc). Single ♂ Cinnamon Teals were on Esquimalt Lagoon Jan. 2 (†J. MacGregor), for the first winter record for s. Vancouver I., and at Boundary L., B.C., Jan. 16 (W. & H. Hesse). The first apparent spring migrants were found Feb. 7 in Eugene, Oreg. (BC), and Feb. 12 in Renton, Wash. (EH, G. Gerdt).

The subad. ♂ Tufted Duck found Nov. 20 on Green L., in Seattle was seen with an ad. male Dec. 23 (EH *et al.*). These two birds, and probably a third individual (†DB), were seen there through early March (m.ob.). Two Oldsquaw were at Netarts Bay, Oreg., Dec. 12 (VT, HN), and another was 3 mi upstream from the mouth of the Umpqua R., Dec. 18 (D. Rogers, DFi). An ad. ♂ King Eider was found Feb. 13 on Sequim Bay, Wash. († St. Evans, Si. Evans) for about the 12th record for the state. King Eiders have now been found in Washington in 6 out of the last 7 seasons (October-May). Half of the records have been during January-February, and all but 3 have been in the Port Angeles-Pt. Roberts-Bellingham area.

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS — Three Turkey Vultures over Shaw I., San Juan Co., Wash., Feb. 6 were very early (DPn, JER).



The next reports were Feb. 22-25 at N. Saanich, Vancouver I. (H. Bauer), at Dewatto Bay along Hood Canal, Wash. (TB), and over Talent, Oreg. (MjM). A rough count is available of 40± White-tailed Kites wintering this year in w. Oregon. Ten of these were in the Rogue R. valley (MjM), and nine in the Tillamook area (HN). Numbers at the roost amid sapling-dotted grassland around Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, have sharply declined from previous years, perhaps owing to vegetation change in that area (DFi). North of the Columbia R., the Leadbetter Pt. birds were seen Dec. 5 & 19 (RW, DA), a single kite was near Winlock, s. of Chehalis, Dec. 18 (B. Forgey), and two were on the White-tailed Deer N.W.R., near Skamokawa Dec. 13-27 (D. Wallace, †AR, AMu).

Reports of accipiters and small falcons were at normal levels. An ad. **Red-shouldered Hawk** wintered n. to the Oaks Bottom area of Portland, (K. Vanderhout, G. & K. Cooper, m.ob.). An Osprey was seen Jan. 18 on the n. spit at Coos Bay (R. Lawrence, *vide* AMc) for one of few winter records there. Five Gyrfalcons were noted in early December in C. Saanich, and three were there through January and February (M. Lee, KT, m.ob.). One Gyrfalcon wintered in Delta, B.C. (BK *et al.*), and two in the n.w. Washington area (TW). Single sightings were made at Dungeness spit (EH) and Leadbetter Pt. (RW), Wash. This is more than the usual number of reports. Several Prairie Falcons in the Willamette and Rogue R. valleys of Oregon were normal, but one on the Samish flats of Washington Dec. 5 (J. Duemmel) was unusual.

SHOREBIRDS — A **Mountain Plover** was seen Feb. 3 along Drift Cr., just s. of Lincoln City, on the n. Oregon coast (P. Pickering, ph.). The bird was seen again Feb. 21-26 (DPr, BC, E & EE *et al.*) and provided the fifth record for the state. Eleven Snowy Plovers were present on Bayocean spit, Oreg., Feb. 19 (HN). A single Am. Golden Plover lingered until Dec. 11 at Pony Slough, Coos Bay (AMc). Single Ruddy Turnstones were found in Ambleside P., Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 3 & Feb. 2-4 (DK *et al.*), at Penn Cove, Whidbey I., Wash., Jan. 16 (TW), on rocks off Oak Bay, Vancouver I., Feb. 1 (DPr), on Dungeness spit, Wash., Feb. 5 (D & SS), and at Hylebos, Wash., Feb. 26 (M. Cooper, TB). Three Ruddies were on Dungeness spit Feb. 7 (D & SS).

Coos Bay, Oreg., and Willapa Bay, Wash., typically shelter wintering flocks of large shorebirds. This year 22 Willets spent the season at Kentuck Slough, Coos Bay, and a Long-billed Curlew stayed at Pony Slough and on the N. Bend airport until Jan. 8 (AMc *et al.*). At the mouth of the North R., and at nearby Tokeland on Willapa Bay there were 10-35 Willets Dec. 20-Feb. 21 (ME, CC), and 78 Long-billed Curlews Feb. 6 (TB). Eleven Long-billed Curlews were found there



Mountain Plover, Siletz Bay, Drift Creek, Oreg., Feb. 3, 1983. Photo/ P. Pickering.

Feb. 21, with 46 Marbled Godwits and a Whimbrel (CC). Elsewhere one-two Willets and Whimbrels wintered on Ediz Hook, Port Angeles, Wash. (MC, D & SS), two Willets wintered on Yaquina Bay, Oreg. (ES), and five Whimbrels were in Saanich Dec. 13 (KT).

A shorebird census Jan. 15-16 along the ocean beach from Moclips, Wash., to the N. jetty of the Columbia R., excluding only some of the tip of Leadbetter Pt., yielded 49,350 Dunlin, 5372 Sanderlings, 1065 Black-bellied Plovers, 12 Least Sandpipers, and a most unexpected 2494 W. Sandpipers (CC, M. Finger, J. Buchanan). Six Red Knots were still at Grays Harbor, Wash., Dec. 18 (CBC), and a single Red Knot was found Feb. 22 along Drift Cr., s. of Lincoln City, Oreg. (MH, DI, J. Krabbe). There are few winter records for the Region. The last traces of the Red Phalarope movement this fall were single individuals far inland at the Carson, Wash., fish hatchery Dec. 16 (J. Davis, *vide* HN), at Glide, e. of Roseburg, Dec. 20 (KK), and in Medford, Oreg., in late December-early January (MJM *et al.*). Along the coast there was one Red Phalarope at Clover Pt., Victoria, Dec. 17 (KT), four on the Grays Harbor CBC, Dec. 18, and a few found dead on the n. Oregon beaches through Jan. 8 (HN).

JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS — A Pomarine Jaeger was photographed at the S. jetty of the Columbia R., Jan. 8 & 12 (P. Muller, ES) for one of very few winter records. About 14 Glaucous Gulls, a slightly lower number than usual, were reported. There were $40 \pm$ Herring Gulls, 20 Thayer's Gulls, four W. Gulls, and numerous Glaucous-winged x W. Gull hybrids present Jan. 19 among the 2-3000 gulls concentrated this winter along the Willamette R., in Eugene, Oreg. (DFi, S. Heint). An ad. **Franklin's Gull** seen Feb. 12 at Clover Pt., Victoria (†DFr) furnished the first winter record for Vancouver I. An ad. Little Gull was seen off West Pt., Seattle Jan. 10 (B. Doe).

Ten Ancient Murrelets lingered at Boiler Bay, n. of Newport, Oreg., to Feb. 22 (DI). None was seen on a Feb. 6 boat trip through the Washington San Juan Is. (TW). A group of 25 Rhinoceros Auklets, all in breeding plumage, were gathered in Friday Harbor, Wash., Feb. 6 (DPn, JEr). One Rhinoceros Auklet was in Burrard Inlet, Vancouver, B.C., where the species is rare, Jan. 28 (DJ). A very rare Parakeet Auklet was found dead on the beach at Ocean Shores, Wash., Jan. 16, but the specimen was too far gone to be saved (AV, *vide* DPn).

Of the 11 Monk Parakeets counted on the Portland CBC, ten were found together and one was in a flock of blackbirds. Another Monk Parakeet was back at West Pt., in Seattle Jan. 15 (EH, DB).

The high count for Snowy Owls at one locality was only three, along Boundary Bay on several dates through the season (MMc *et al.*). Two Snowies wintered at Ocean Shores, Wash. (B. Morse, E. Ratoosh), and one was on the Skagit flats, Wash., until Feb. 21 (MC *et al.*). The one at Leadbetter Pt., Dec. 5 was the farthest s. (RW). Barred Owls were present throughout the season at established locations in Victoria and Vancouver, B.C. Another Barred Owl was found in Bellingham, Dec. 26-27 (TW, ph. J. Mock), for the first record there. Two Spotted Owls were seen near the town of Rogue River, Oreg., Feb. 13 (*vide* MJM). Single Long-eared Owls, unusual in the Region, were found on

Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., Dec. 5 & 19 (m.ob., ph. E. Gobel), in Discovery P., Seattle, Jan. 1 (N. Kroening, †E. Peaslee *et al.*), at the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash., Jan. 22 (CC *et al.*), and in Scoggins Valley P., near Forest Grove, Oreg., Feb. 19+ (VT, JEv *et al.*).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS — Another high count of Anna's Hummingbirds was set for the Seattle CBC, and numbers appeared to be still increasing in the Vancouver, B.C., area also (*vide* DK). Rufous Hummingbirds arrived on schedule in s.w. Oregon Feb. 12-16 (MH, AMc). Pileated Woodpeckers were more widely reported than usual. A Black Phoebe at Roseburg, Oreg., Jan. 8 (KK) was slightly n. of the species' usual range, as were the five Say's Phoebes found this winter near Glide, e. of Roseburg (KK). More than usual Skylarks were singing at American Camp, San Juan I., Wash., Feb. 4 (DPn, JEr). A drastic decline in the rabbit population inhabiting the same hillsides is believed to be improving the habitat for skylarks.

An early vanguard flock of 16 Tree Swallows and one Violet-green was in Medford Feb. 7 (MJM), and three Tree Swallows were at L. Tennant, near Bellingham, Wash., Feb. 13 (G. Walker, *vide* TW). Widespread arrival of Tree Swallows occurred in w. Oregon Feb. 16-26, and in s. Vancouver I. and Vancouver, B.C., Feb. 26-28. A single Violet-green Swallow was either very late or very early at Swan L., Saanich, Dec. 18-24 & Jan. 16 (M. Elston, C. Trotter, W. & W. Weber). Four Barn Swallows lingered at Minto Island P., Salem, Oreg., until Dec. 13 (D. Marklieb). A Barn Swallow seen near Eugene Feb. 12 (BC) could possibly have been a wintering bird. Scrub Jays were seen e. to the Columbia R. gorge towns of Cascade Locks Dec. 4 and Hood River Jan. 15 (DA). Single Black-billed Magpies were sighted Feb. 11 at Admiral's Cove, Whidbey I. (J. Hopkins, *vide* T. Spencer), and Feb. 22 at New Brighton P., Vancouver, B.C. (AG). Two Black-billed Magpies were seen Jan. 27 along the Skagit R., at Marblemount, Wash. (L. Mills).

Single Wrentits were observed Feb. 3 at Lookout Point Res., in the Cascade foothills 18 mi s.e. of Eugene (DFi), and Feb. 13 in McDonald Forest n.w. of Corvallis, Oreg. (U. & V. Kiigimagi, *vide* E & EE). The Mockingbird at Phoenix, Oreg., stayed through the season (MJM). Three Mountain Bluebirds wintered along Boundary Bay, B.C. (JI, DJ, m.ob.). Single Townsend's Solitaires in W. Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 5 (C. Butt), in Burien, Wash., Jan. 8 (M. Bruce), and in Victoria Jan. 21 (DFr) were the only ones reported. The second record for Washington of the **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was established Feb. 21 & Mar. 15 at Bottle Beach, Ocosta, e. of Westport (†CC, N. Chappell, P. Martin). Previous Washington and British Columbia records have all been in late November.

WARBLERS THROUGH SPARROWS — The **Black-and-white Warbler** found late last fall in Salem, Oreg., survived to at least Jan. 29 (B. Lucas, A & DMA, m.ob.) for the first winter record for the state away from the immediate coast. An Orange-crowned Warbler wintered at Swan L., Saanich (KT *et al.*). There were 7 other scattered sightings of Orange-crowns in the Vancouver, B.C. and Puget sound area this season. A Nashville Warbler was found Dec. 18 at Coos Bay (†DFi). There were 2 sightings of Townsend's Warblers in N. Vancouver, B.C., and three on s. Vancouver I., all during December. Farther s., the species was found in the usual numbers. The only Palm Warbler reported was at Leadbetter Pt., Jan. 3 (RW). Single Com. Yellowthroats were seen Dec. 27 at Reifel I., B.C. (WW), a male Jan. 20 on Sauvie I. (P. Maslen, *vide* HN), and a female Feb. 23 at the Nisqually N.W.R., Wash. (EH, H. Willoughby). The latter provided the first February record for Washington.

An imm. ♂ **Hooded Oriole** appeared Dec. 23+ at a hummingbird feeder in Coos Bay (C. Shaeffer, AMc *et al.*). Amazingly, this bird was joined by a second imm. ♂ Hooded Jan. 22+, and by a female N. "Bullock's" Oriole Feb. 4+ (†DPn, BC, ph. O. Schmidt). This represented the fifth winter record for the Hooded Oriole for Oregon.

Evening Grosbeaks were virtually absent from the lowlands throughout. The only flocks reported were at Manning P.P., in January (MMc *et al.*), and near timberline on Mt. Hood Dec. 12 (M. Smith). Red Crossbills were noted as common and widespread on s. Vancouver I., more common than usual on nearby San Juan I., and at Dungeness, and numerous on Vashon I., near Olympia, and on Mt. St. Helens, Wash. However, the species was very scarce in the Seattle, Bellingham, and



Two imm. ♂ Hooded Orioles, Coos Bay, Oreg., Feb. 19, 1983. Photo/ O.L. Schmidt.

Vancouver, B.C. areas, and in w. Oregon generally. A well-described flock of $50 \pm$ White-winged Crossbills was observed Dec. 13 in the town of Grays River, along the Columbia R., Wash. (†AR, AMu). The only other reports this season were of 4-20 birds farther n. and at much

higher altitude in Manning P.P., B.C., Jan. 21-Feb. 5 (MMc, DK *et al.*). Reports of Pine Siskin abundance generally paralleled those of Red Crossbills.

A **Vesper Sparrow** found Dec. 26 in Kent, Wash. (EH, N. Cone) furnished the first December record for the state. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was sighted Dec. 27 in Delta (D. Wilson *et al.*) for only the third record for s.w. British Columbia. The bird stayed into early March (m.ob., ph. AG). Fourteen Harris' Sparrows were reported, from Medford, to Saanich, and the Serpentine Fen, s. of Vancouver, B.C., including 3 widely separated sightings in w. Washington. Reports of White-throated Sparrows were numerous as usual only from the interior valleys of w. Oregon (DFi, MjM,HN *et al.*). Farther n., there were but 2 sightings in w. Washington, two in the Vancouver, B.C., area, and eight on s. Vancouver I. An ad. **Swamp Sparrow** was found at L. Sammamish S.P., Issaquah, Wash., Jan. 2 (†EH). The bird was seen through Mar. 9 (†ME, PM *et al.*) for the ninth record for the state, and the second for this park. An adult and an imm. Swamp Sparrow were found Feb. 4-5 at Finley N.W.R., s. of Corvallis, Oreg. (MH, †DFi, BC).

CORRIGENDUM — Please delete the report of a Poor-will at Oak Bay, Vancouver I., Sept. 22, 1979 (AB 34:193) at the request of the observer.

INITIALED OBSERVERS and Abbreviations, with Sub-Regional Editors in boldface. David Anderson, Dave Beaudette, Thais Bock, Mike Carmody, Chris Chappell, Barbara Combs, Mark Egger, Elsie & Elzy Eltzroth, Jim Erckmann (JEr), Joe Evanich (JEV), **David Fix** (DFi), David Fraser (DFr), **Vic Goodwill**, Al Grass, **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), Matt Hunter, John Ireland, David Irons, Dale Jensen, Brian Kautesk, Ken Knittle, **Doug Kragh**, Arnie & Debbie Martin (A & DMA), Alan McGie (AMc), Mike McGrenere (MMc), **Marjorie Moore** (MjM), Ann Musche (AMu), **Harry Nehls**, Dick Palmer (DPr), **Dennis Paulson** (DPn), Alan Richards, Ed Seely, Dory & Stan Smith, Keith Taylor, Verta Teale, Ann Vander Geld., **Terry Wahl**, Wayne Weber, Ralph Widrig. (†) = written documentation on file.— **PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR., Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195, and EUGENE S. HUNN, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103.**

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jules Evens and Ron LeValley

Most birdwatchers in our Region anticipated trading in their binoculars for swimming masks and snorkels as the winter season developed into one of the rainiest on record. Birders apparently got outdoors less than usual this season, but even when they did the pervasive comment was "Where are all the birds?" Good weather for ducks they said, and among the water birds even though ducks were scarce they provided our only real excitement with a returning Smew and two species of eiders! The removal of sand from most of our local beaches by numerous ocean storms robbed important habitat of species such as Sanderlings and Snowy Plovers. It will be of great interest to witness the long-term effects of such habitat alteration.

The ocean water temperatures also reflected an unusual winter weatherwise as surface temperatures stayed constant throughout the period rather than cooling slightly as they normally do. By the end of the period the ocean surface temperatures were up to 2°C above the 20-year average along the entire California coast.

With the exception of the northwest counties where the Madrone (*Arbutus*) berry crop was exceptional (KVR, RLeV), irruptive species were scarce. The general consensus was that Band-tailed Pigeon, Varied Thrush, American Robin, Hermit Thrush and Golden-crowned Kinglet were extremely low in number. Usually common montane species and wintering migrants, especially fringillids, were also scarce or very localized. Insectivores were present in moderate numbers, perhaps showing partial recovery after last winter's high mortality. Despite the dearth of usual wintering species, unusual numbers of neotropical migrants, both summer residents and several vagrants, man-

aged to overwinter on the immediate coast (see Warblers and Icterids below).



Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) records are omitted unless they are of over-riding significance.

All records from Palomar and the Farallon Islands (hereafter, F.I.) should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter, P.R.B.O.). A dagger (†) indicates that documentation is on file with the regional editors or with the California Rarities Committee.

LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSES — The only Yellow-billed Loon of the season was reported from Tomales Bay, Marin Co., Dec. 18 (CS). A Red-throated Loon at Avacado L., Fresno Co., Jan. 8-13 (KH, GP+) established a first county record. An Arctic Loon on L. Shastina, Siskiyou Co., Dec. 1 (RE, MRo), a Com. Loon at Staten I., San Joaquin Co., Dec. 19 (*vide* DY) and another at Folsom L., Sacramento Co., Jan. 6 (BED) rounded out the inland reports for the winter. This was a fairly typical number but is in contrast to last year when more than twice as many were found inland in spite of the abundant water in inland reservoirs both years. Twelve Red-necked Grebes on Tomales Bay Dec. 18 (CSw) 40+ at Limantour Dec. 18 (JE+) and nine along the Monterey waterfront Dec. 30 (LCB) were the only concentrations. Elsewhere they were considered scarce this winter. It is becoming clear that the light-phase of the W. Grebe is a fairly rare bird along the coast n. of Sonoma County where only two were reported. One was in the Mad R. Estuary Jan. 19 (RLeV) and one was in Crescent City Harbor Feb. 11 (RAE).

Single Laysan Albatrosses were sighted offshore from Monterey Bay Feb. 5 (†JD) & 19 (KHb, PU). Northern Fulmars were fairly common until mid-December and then became scarce possibly as a result of the warm water. Up to three Short-tailed Shearwaters were found on Monterey Bay Jan. 14-Feb. 28 (CF, JLu, BLAb, RS). Only a few Manx Shearwaters were reported in spite of the warmer waters and their apparent preference for such. The greatest number seen was eight near Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., Feb. 28 (RS).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — Brown Pelicans lingered in the Region later than usual but not in quite the numbers of last year. Double-crested Cormorants were well reported from inland localities this winter with 230 at the Stockton Sewage Ponds, San Joaquin Co., Feb. 5 (DY) the maximum. American Bittern numbers were considered lower around Gray Lodge Wildlife Area due to the management practice of burning dense stands of cattails to provide nesting habitat for ducks (BED). Concern was also expressed for their numbers around Santa Cruz, where one was at Neary's Lagoon Dec. 5 (BLAb). A Least Bittern, always a rare find in n. California, delighted many observers at the Palo Alto Baylands Dec. 29-Feb. 29. Another was heard at Gray Lodge W.A., Dec. 11 (BED). A Great Egret wandered to the Farallon Is., Feb. 4 (P.R.B.O., JS) to establish the first winter record there and to illustrate that even this normally sedentary species can wander some during non-migratory periods. The Great Egret population of the n. Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.) was estimated in the low hundreds. Their present distribution finds them as far as n. Willows, Glenn Co., and Richvale, Butte Co. (BED). Cattle Egrets seem to have reached a somewhat stable population in our Region, the past few years have seen a decline in reports from new areas and few spectacular concentrations. They have gained a substantial foothold in the s. San Joaquin Valley where it is possible to see in excess of 100 in a day but elsewhere they remain scarce and sporadic.

The flock of White-faced Ibises that wintered in Colusa County last year returned by Nov. 11 when 45 were at Colusa N.W.R. (FBr). The last sighting of these birds was Jan. 22 when the flock had grown to 75 birds (FBr). Newly reported information indicates that this flock has been wintering in this area since 1978-79 (BED). A concentration of 300 White-faced Ibises near Gustine, Merced Co., Mar. 1 (RS) and a flock of nine near W. Pittsburg that established the first Contra Costa County record were also good news for this species, whose numbers in our Region have been increasing slowly over the last 5 years.

WATERFOWL — Seventeen thousand Whistling Swans (of 55,000 statewide) were in the Sacramento Valley n. of the Yolo Bypass Jan. 19 (BED). Substantial coastal numbers were found in traditional areas near the Garcia R. Mouth, Mendocino Co., Dec. 31-Jan. 22 where 280 wintered (BDP, CSw) and in the Eel R. Bottoms, Humboldt Co., where 400 were estimated in January (JE) and 300+ were estimated

Feb. 28 (LD). The first coastal record of a swan thought to be of the *bewickii* race was at Bolinas Lagoon, Marin Co., Dec. 12-13 (†DDes, BDP). Forty thousand Ross' Geese at Gray Lodge W.A., during December were almost half of the Canadian estimate of 92,000 for this species (BED). Greater than normal numbers of Ross', Snow and Canada geese were found scattered in almost every coastal county. The endangered Aleutian Canada Goose continues its apparent increase in numbers with an all time high count of 3500 at Gray Lodge W.A., this winter (BED).

Most duck species continued their scarcity through the winter season despite the abundance of suitable habitat seemingly everywhere. An impressive 150 Wood Ducks were counted in a riparian area of Colusa N.W.R., Dec. 30 and Jan. 20 (FBr). The only dabbling ducks reported in good numbers were 150,000 Pintails at Merced N.W.R., Jan. 17 (RB) and 100,000 in flooded rice fields in the Yolo Bypass area all winter (TB).

The winter waterbird surveys in San Francisco and San Pablo Bays counted 12,909 Canvasbacks Jan. 4, about the same number as last year but well below the 40,000 average during the early 1970s (RWL). Likewise 38,109 Scaup and 9865 Scoters were approximately half of the recent average (RWL). Four Tufted Ducks, rare annual visitors to n. California, were found this winter; a female at Foster City, San Mateo Co., Feb. 20-26 (SFB, †RAW, †JM), a male at Mill Valley, Marin Co., Feb. 20 (*vide* Gull) a male at the Napa Sewage Ponds Dec. 26 (*vide* Gull) and an ad. male at Muddy Hollow Pond, Limantour Dec. 18 (JE+). The ad. ♂ *Smew* returned for its second winter to Foster City. It was first sighted Dec. 1 (KHb), when it still showed traces of eclipse plumage. The last sighting this year was Feb. 13 (KHb) whereas last year's apparent departure date was Feb. 18. Hooded Mergansers were well reported; 60 at Tulelake N.W.R., Dec. 5 (RE, MRo) was one of the largest gatherings ever recorded in our Region. Other notable concentrations were 25 on the Bliss Ranch, Del Norte Co., Dec. 11 (PS) and 26 at Foster City Jan. 19 (PJM). Single Red-breasted Mergansers at L. Shastina, Siskiyou Co., Dec. 1 and Jan. 9, and at Tulelake N.W.R., Dec. 5 were notable because most of our inland records are for the fall and spring periods.



Steller's Eider, Crescent City Harbor, Del Norte Co., Feb. 19, 1983. Photo/R. Ekstrom.

Big news was made by the eider ducks this winter. Up to three **King Eiders** were in n. California; an apparent female at Fort Point, San Francisco Dec. 12 (*vide* Gull), an imm. male at Moss Landing Dec. 18 (*vide* Gull) and most cooperatively, a female at the Emeryville Marina, Alameda Co., Dec. 19-Jan. 22 (†JM, †KHb *et al.*). Topping all other reports this season was the imm. ♀ **Steller's Eider** discovered Jan. 16 in the Crescent City Harbor, Del Norte Co. (JR) and rediscovered Feb. 6 (†RAE, †RLeV, m.ob.). This established the first Pacific coast record s. of Vancouver I., Canada. Harlequin Ducks were reported in small numbers from 10 coastal localities s. to Monterey Harbor illustrating their localized status in the Region. Oldsquaws continue to be found in smaller than normal numbers for the second consecutive winter. Only 7 sightings were reported; most notable were three at the Klamath R. Estuary Dec. 18 (RAE, GL).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS — Early migrating Turkey Vultures were spotted near Auburn, Placer Co., Jan. 28 (BBa) and e. of Somes Bar, Siskiyou Co., Feb. 1 (KVR). Six Ospreys were found wintering in n. California, equally divided between inland and coastal localities as is

normal Mixed reports were received concerning the status of White-tailed Kites in the Region, probably indicating local variation in population levels as a result of natural fluctuations in the availability of food. Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks were reported in much lower than normal numbers this winter along the coast with normal or slightly better numbers inland. Their scarcity along the coast may well be tied to this year's paucity of landbirds.

This fall's invasion of Broad-winged Hawks extended into the winter as might be expected from the much later than normal influx. At least 15 individuals were documented during the winter, all between the coastal counties of Marin and Monterey. Red-tailed Hawks were considered to be present in very good numbers, especially in the San Joaquin Valley. The very rare "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk appeared in the Region with singles at Bay Farm I., Alameda Co., Dec. 11 (JM), Lake of the Pines, Nevada Co., Dec. 18 (JML), near Table Mt., Madera Co., Dec. 19 (*vide* KH) and along E. Butte Rd., Sutter Co., Jan. 5 (BED). Since light-phase individuals of this subspecies are unknown, despite illustrations to the contrary in popular field guides, the true identity of birds reported as such is a real enigma. Fair numbers of Ferruginous Hawks wintered in the Region while Rough-legged Hawks were considered to be present in good but not great numbers. Five ad. Rough-legged Hawks along Hwy 395 n. of Mono L., Dec. 30 (DDeS) were impressive as nearly all individuals normally coming to California are immature-plumaged birds. Good fall numbers of Merlins remained into the winter in most areas, only in Del Norte and San Joaquin cos. were numbers considered lower than normal.

Common Gallinules were present in excellent numbers throughout the C.V., and around s. San Francisco Bay. Sandhill Cranes were found in good numbers at traditional sites with 1200 wintering between Gray Lodge, the Butte Sink and Chico (BED), 5000 wintering near Woodbridge Rd., San Joaquin Co. (DY) and 3000 along Sandy Marsh Rd., Merced Co., Mar. 1 (RS).

SHOREBIRDS — American Golden Plovers of the *fulva* race wintered on Pt. Reyes with a maximum of 16 on Jan 30 (DDeS); five also wintered at Lawson's Landing on the e. side of Tomales Bay (JE). Singles were found on F.I., until Dec. 14 (P.R.B.O.) and near Ft. Dick, Del Norte Co., until Jan. 4 (*vide* RAE), while two were at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., Dec. 26 (*vide* PJM). Away from the coast one wintered with a flock of Black-bellied Plovers at the Lodi Sewage Ponds, San Joaquin Co. (DY). Thirty-three Snowy Plovers on the Foster City mudflats were probably forced into San Francisco Bay because of eroded beaches along the outer coasts (PJM). Likewise 69 on Doran Beach, Bodega Bay Dec. 4 was a high number at that protected locality (NTC). Mountain Plovers again wintered in the Panoche Valley where 213 were counted Feb. 26 (KHb, PU). Seven along Sandy Marsh Rd., Merced Co., Mar. 1 (RS) were in an area where much higher numbers were once regular.

A Black Oystercatcher on Castle Rocks, Contra Costa Co., inside San Francisco Bay Dec. 29 (RWL) was at an unusual locality. Perhaps it was another fugitive from the ocean storms. A concentration of 7220 Am. Avocets on a single salt pond near Menlo P., in the S. San Francisco Bay N.W.R., Dec. 1 (RWL) illustrated how abundant this species can be at favored places in our Region. A roost of 47 Lesser Yellowlegs at the Leslie Salt Ponds, Alameda Co., Jan. 2 (TG, KH) was the largest winter gathering on record. One thousand Long-billed Curlews near Liberty Island Rd., Solano Co., Feb. 10 (TB+) was an impressive number for mid-winter. A few Marbled Godwits wintered in the San Joaquin Valley as usual but two e. of Sacramento N.W.R., Dec. 3 (WA) were n. of regular wintering areas. A single Marbled Godwit wintering in Crescent City Harbor (RAE+) was unusual for its northerly coastal presence. Inland Sanderlings are always unusual but 2-3 at the Los Banos Sewage Ponds Feb. 11-14 (†FBr) established the first winter record away from coastal areas. They also penetrated far into the San Francisco Bay area with 12 at the Benicia Marina, Solano Co., Dec. 27 (JLo). After this fall's spectacular **Pectoral Sandpiper** invasion, one would not be too surprised at a single lingering individual at Pt. Pinos, Monterey Co., Dec. 4 (GM) establishing the latest migrant record for n. California. But overshadowing that sighting were three at the Creighton Ranch Preserve, Tulare Co., Dec. 30 (†KH) that apparently wintered! If further sightings can be confirmed then this would establish the first Regional wintering record and one of the few for North America. And Merced County came up with its fourth Ruff for

the year Dec. 23 along Sandy Marsh Rd., that was described as identical to a male found near there last February (RJB). One wonders how many individuals of these unusual shorebirds stop in at the same location year after year. Our second winter record of Wilson's Phalarope was well-described from the Los Banos Sewage Ponds Dec. 11-12 (†FBr). The only other winter record was from February 1980

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Two Parasitic Jaegers off Moss Landing, Monterey Co., Jan. 1 (PJM) and one Pomarine Jaeger off Crescent City Dec. 20 (GSL) were the only jaegers reported this winter, far fewer than normal. Away from the Stockton Sewage Ponds, where the adult was present through Feb. 25, another ad. Little Gull was found at the Salinas R. Mouth, Monterey Co., Jan. 30-Feb. 20 (DR, JD, SFB). Stockton's Black-headed Gull wandered over to the Lodi Sewage Ponds Feb. 11 (DY) for a visit. It was present at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Feb. 28+. Up to 100 Mew Gulls wintered at the Stockton Sewage Ponds while another 100 were at the Lodi Sewage Ponds, both impressive numbers for inland localities (DY). An adult at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Feb. 16 was in an area where this species is very scarce (SS). Inland Glaucous-winged Gulls were discovered at the Davis Dump, Yolo Co., Dec. 25-26 (JML) and at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Feb. 5 (DY). Also at the Davis Dump was a second-winter Glaucous Gull Feb. 6 (JD). Along the coast where this species is more regularly encountered only 8 other sightings were reported, substantially below the annual winter average. Three imm. Caspian Terns wintered at the Creighton Ranch Preserve to establish our first certain winter records away from the coast (KH), although it is possible that a small wintering population has been overlooked there. Thirty Forster's Terns at the Russian R. mouth, Sonoma Co., Dec. 30 (CSw) and 51 at Bodega Harbor Feb. 12 (NTC) were high numbers for winter. Coincidentally six were n. as far as the Arcata Marsh, Humboldt Co., Jan. 6 (*vide* LD) where they are very scarce in the winter.

Probably related to the warm ocean waters and repeated storms, Com. Murres failed to haul out in normal winter numbers on F.I. this winter. Ocean conditions and behavior such as this have led many observers to predict a disastrous seabird breeding season this coming summer.

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS — Band-tailed Pigeons wintered in large numbers in e. Humboldt/s. Siskiyou/w. Trinity cos., with flocks of up to 1000 by early February (KR). Flocks of 75-100 were on the coast in Humboldt County in early December (GSL); elsewhere the species was virtually absent. A White-winged Dove at Bodega Head Dec. 11 (BDP) provided one of few winter records (all coastal), the only other Sonoma County record was also in December. Eight Mourning Doves were at 3 near-coastal Del Norte County locations Dec. 19 (BED, GSL, RT) and six were near Ft. Dick Feb. 13 (RT). One at F.I., Dec. 7-8 furnished the second winter record for the island. Judging from the dearth of reports, microtine dependent owl species are still experiencing a population lull (see AB 36:890). Fifteen Pygmy Owls from 8 expected locations was about average, however one — two in Killgore Hills, Siskiyou Co., Dec. 30 & Jan. 15 (RE, MRo) was unusual; the species is scarce in the Shasta Valley (RE, MRo). The only Spotted Owls were three in Willow Cr. Canyon, Sonoma Co., Dec. 12 (BDP). Two **Barred Owls** are still present: one at Salyer, Trinity Co., heard regularly after mid-January (KVR, JSW) and the one at Redwood N.P., Del Norte Co., was refound Feb. 19+. Fourteen Long-eared Owls were seen at 5 C.V. locations; ten others were on the Marin coast, two at Bolinas Lagoon through Dec. 29 (BS *et al.*) and eight near Drake's Estero, P.R.N.S., Dec. 18. Notable was a roadkill at Stone Lagoon, Humboldt Co., Dec. 12 (GJS, *Humboldt State Univ.) since the species is casual away from Cape Medocino in Humboldt and unrecorded in nearby Del Norte County (*vide* RAE). Short-eared Owl is enigmatic; the scarcity of recent reports may indeed be a reflection of "no volles, no owls", however such a facile explanation should not blind us to the possibility that this species is undergoing a non-cyclical population decline — an opinion that is emerging among some biologists (*vide* G. Gould). The Dec. 30, 1982 Federal Register (Vol 47, No 251) which "identifies vertebrate animal taxa, native to the U.S., being considered for addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" does not include Short-eared Owl. Perhaps it is not too early to seriously evaluate the status of this species. Saw-whets were not widely reported; only eight from "near coastal locations."

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Vaux's Swift was again found at Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo Co., with 14 there on the Año Nuevo CBC Dec. 26 (*vide* PJM). An early ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was at Ripon, San Joaquin Co., Jan. 19 (*vide* DY). Arrival of Allen's Hummingbird was also on the early side at Santa Cruz Jan. 11 (BSc), Alamo Jan. 13 (JR), Inverness Jan. 19 (RS) and Palomarin Jan. 24. Anna's Hummingbirds were in courtship flight by early January in coastal Del Norte County, but failed to winter in Siskiyou County where the first returnee was recorded Feb. 19 at Forks of Salmon (MRo). Exceptional, but not unprecedented, were two wintering Costa's Hummingbirds: an ad. male in El Cerrito, Contra Costa Co., Dec. 27 through the period (*vide* Gull) and a courting male at Pacific Grove Feb. 3 (LCB). Fewer than usual "Yellow-shafted" Flickers and more than usual "hybrids" or introgressives probably reflected the changing discrimination of observers rather than the distribution of the flickers (see *Continental Birdlife* Vol. 1, No. 1:4-15). No one mentioned "Red-shafted" types; were numbers low? A Pileated Woodpecker at Putah Cr., Yolo/Solano Co., Dec. 19 (S. Saunders, R. Palmer) was new for the CBC and the area in general (TB), perhaps a stray from the Vaca-Berryessa Mts. Peripheral habitat around the Sutter Buttes may be decreasing, thus accounting for the decrease in Acorn Woodpeckers there (BED), however numbers within the Buttes themselves remain stable according to CBC data (*vide* BED). Concentrations of Lewis' Woodpecker were as follows: nine at San Antonio Valley, Santa Clara Co., Dec. 21 (WGB), 22 in the e. San Joaquin County foothills Jan. 1 (DY) and 75 at Gardnerville, Nevada (just outside the Region) Jan. 2 (DDeS). None was found on the floor of the C.V. or in the Stony Creek drainage, Glenn Co. where they were concentrated last winter (BED). "Red-breasted" Sapsuckers were scarce, however an imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S.v. varius*) was at Pacific Grove Dec. 31 (†JSt, LCB). The only Williamson's Sapsucker was at L. Almanor (on the CBC) Dec. 27 (HG). Nuttall's Woodpecker moves coastward during the non-breeding season on the central coast, however one on Tomales Pt., P.R.N.S., Dec. 28 (DS) was far out.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Two Tropical Kingbirds were found near the coast: one at Princeton Harbor, San Mateo Co., Dec. 14-20 (B. Sauppe, *vide* PJM) and one at L. Merritt, Oakland Dec. 31-Jan. 14 (R. Young, JM *et al.*). Late migrants may remain as long as a fortnight, but seldom overwinter. Where do they go? Winter records of W. Kingbirds often find their way into these pages and the CBC summaries, but few are substantiated with verifiable details. This season a report from near Dinuba, Tulare Co., Feb. 6 (RG) was received without supporting details. It may be premature to judge, but winter Cassin's Kingbird sightings seem to be increasing; one at Los Banos Res., Dec. 28 was "plunging into the water head first then perching on a 'no swimming' sign" (†KH *et al.*). Ash-throated Flycatcher presents the same problem as W. Kingbird—unsubstantiated records. This season there were two: Coyote Cr., Alviso Dec. 27 one mist-netted, banded and photographed was probably seen again Jan. 19 (LRM), one at Fresno State College Feb. 9 (JS) was "immaculately described" (*vide* KH), but details of neither were seen by the editors. A *Myiarchus sp.* was reported from Palo Alto Feb. 18 (P. Browning, *vide* WGB). Two E. Phoebes were in Monterey: one in El Estero Cemetery Nov. 23-Feb. 19 (DR, LCB, BDP) for the third winter, one in Pacific Grove Dec. 30-Feb. 3 (LCB). One 2 mi e. of Manchester Jan. 2 (†OJK *et al.*) was also coastal, but a first record for Mendocino County. Records are decidedly scarce n. of Sonoma County. Three active observers (KFC, BED, DY) noted an increase of Black Phoebe in the C V this winter. It would be interesting to compare CBC data and determine if this is a long-term trend. A Say's Phoebe on the Klamath R., near Happy Camp Jan. 8 (RE, MRo) may have wintered; first migrants were at Shasta Valley Feb. 2 (RE, MRo) and near Orleans, Humboldt Co., Feb. 23 (KVR). A W. Flycatcher, very rare in winter, was found on the Moss Landing CBC at Elkhorn Slough Jan. 1 (DR *et al.*) and Smith R. mouth Dec. 19 (SWH, *vide* RAE). The Pt. Reyes Eur. Skylark remained at least through Jan. 14 (LCB).

Violet-green Swallows were found in their usual small winter numbers along the coast. C.V. records were of 6-7 at Sacramento N.W.R., Jan. 15 (JW) and one (straggler?) at Creighton Ranch Dec. 3 (KH, CP). Tree Swallows, however, were found wintering in higher than normal concentrations. Significant numbers included 500-600 at Grizzly Is., Solano Co., Dec. 10 (BDP) 200 in W. Pittsburg, Contra Costa Co., Dec. 24-25 (RAE), and 1400+ near Merced Wildlife Ref., Dec. 24 (E

& AM) Arrival of Tree Swallows Feb. 1 was the earliest ever at Palomarin, and ten near Ft. Dick, Del Norte Co., Feb. 6 "may have wintered" (RAE). Rough-winged Swallows investigating nest sites at Crystal Springs Feb. 17 and Woodside Feb. 23 (PJM) were a bit early for San Mateo County and four at Paicines Res., San Benitos Co., in February were fairly early there (KVV, KC). Two winter records of Barn Swallow come from the coast: one at Pescadero Marsh Dec. 26 (*vide* PJM), and two at Elkhorn Slough Jan. 1 (DR *et al.*).

CHICKADEES THROUGH THRASHERS — How common Black-capped Chickadee is on the n. coast in winter is indicated by the following records: 30 at Klamath Dec. 18 (RAE, GSL) and 45 between L. Earl and L. Talawa Dec. 19 (RLeV, LD). Numbers of Bushtit at Palomarin have apparently rebounded from last winter's mortality. The species was again found on the Los Banos CBC (*vide* KFC) after last year's precedent. Brown Creeper numbers at Palomarin have not recovered from last winter's mortality. House Wren is fairly common in the San Joaquin in winter, but unusually scarce in the Sacramento Valley and on the coast. This winter was an exception. Of 30 records, 4 were from Napa/Solano Cos., 3 from the Sacramento Valley, 23 from the immediate coast (16 on the Monterey Pen. CBC!). Most notable of the coastal records was a single bird in coastal dunes w. of Ft. Dick, Del Norte Co., Dec. 19 (GSL *et al.*). Canyon Wren is rarely reported from the n. part of its range, especially in winter, so one in the Skeddaddle Mts., e. of Honey L., Lassen Co., Feb. 20 (R. Harris, *vide* DAA) was of interest. A Sage Thrasher at Redwood Valley Feb. 21 (†P. & S. Baldwin) was only the second record for Mendocino County. The date corresponds to the species migratory timing and suggests that this bird was a transient.

THRUSHES THROUGH WAXWINGS — Except for a few flocks in the San Joaquin Valley (Los Banos and Manteca), Am. Robin was virtually absent from the lowlands. However, in the Willow Cr. area (w. Humboldt/e. Trinity/s. Siskiyou Cos.) "tremendous numbers were at Madrones until mid-February with a high count of 10,000 on Dec. 2" (KVR, RLeV). Both Varied and Hermit thrushes were absent from most areas. Western Bluebird numbers may have been low in the lowlands. A few flocks of Mountain Bluebirds were found at usual C.V. locations. Seventeen males at Los Banos Dec. 28 (KH, BD *et al.*) was the high count for the Region and a new species for the Los Banos CBC. In contrast to last winter's extraordinary invasion, no Townsend's Solitaires were found in the lowlands. Except for a single report from Sutter N.W.R., Dec. 13 (FBR, T. McElroy), Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found only at coastal locations: two wintered successfully at Palomarin, one at Halfmoon Bay Jan. 13-Feb. 24 (PJM), one at San Gregorio Feb. 3 (PJM), one near Ft. Dick Dec. 19-20 (RAE, GJS, BED *et al.*) and one at Loleta Bottoms, Humboldt Co., Feb. 4 (JSt *et al.*). Although numerous in the Douglas Fir forests around Willow Cr., Golden-crowned Kinglet was entirely absent elsewhere. Ruby-crowned Kinglet was poorly reported, whether through lack of numbers or interest. As with other "irruptive frugivores", Cedar Waxwing was very low everywhere except Willow Cr., Humboldt Co., where they wintered in flocks of up to 200 birds (KVR).

PHAINOPEPLA THROUGH VIREOS — Although Phainopepla occurrence is "irregular", there seems to be a tendency for birds to disperse widely in late fall, perhaps explaining the following 2 records one female 3 mi n.e. of Grenada, Siskiyou Co., Dec. 7 (RE), one male near Mariposa in the Sierran foothills Dec. 18 (SSch). Only four N. Shrikes were found: two in Del Norte County (GJS, RAE, SS) and two near Honey L. (DAA). The only Solitary Vireo (*cassini*) was in Inverness, Marin Co., Dec. 14-17 (RS).

WARBLERS — After a lackluster fall migration, Black-and-white Warbler made an impressive winter showing with 16 coastal records, mostly between Monterey and Marin. More northerly records included one in the town of Mendocino (1st county record) Dec. 17-23 (†J Helfer, *vide* OJK), one on the Garcia R., near Ft. Arena Jan. 1 (R. Giebel) and Jan. 26 (GSL), and one at the Smith R., Del Norte Co., Feb. 26 (JML). The **Prothonotary Warbler** reported in the fall from Loleta Bottoms was seen again Feb. 4 (JSt, J. Kelley, D. Krueper) providing the Region with the first winter record. Twelve Tennessee

Warblers between Pacific Grove and Bodega was a high winter tally. Three + of these were confirmed wintering: one + at Pacific Grove Dec. 31-Feb. 27 (JSt, LCB, DR *et al.*) and two + at Carmel Jan. 8-30 (CG, DR *et al.*), most of the others were on CBCs and not relocated. One near Ft. Dick on the n. coast Dec. 19 "may have moved on" (RAE). Orange-crowned Warbler was thought to have wintered in "good numbers", but a review of the CBC totals does not indicate any higher than usual numbers. It was an extraordinary winter for Nashville Warbler. Five to ten are usually found along the coast, and most of these are late fall migrants. This season 34 were reported with at least 15 remaining beyond the discovery date. A Virginia's Warbler at Pacific Grove Dec. 30-Jan. 9 (JSt, LCB, BDP, DR) provided only the Region's second winter report, however neither has been substantiated with a detailed description. **None of our records will stand solely on the observer's reputation (no matter how hot) in 20+ years.** Three Yellow Warblers lingered into December: two at Los Altos Dec. 2 (J. Campbell, *vide* WGB) and one at Seaside, Monterey Co., Dec. 29-30 (R. Branson, *vide* DR). A Cape May Warbler along Rowdy Cr., near Smith R., Dec. 19 (SWH, D. Olson, *vide* RAE) may have been a very late migrant, however there are 2 mid-winter records for the Region. Further evidence of the mid-winter movement by Yellow-rumped Warbler (see AB 36:328) was provided this season with numbers decreasing after the new year in Del Norte County (RAE) and an apparent influx at Palomarin and Gray Lodge (BED) during mid-February. Five "Audubon's" Warblers at Honey L., Feb. 20 were considered "very early migrants" (DAA). The Black-throated Gray Warbler that wintered at Oak Grove Park, n. of Stockton (DY), was the only one of *ten* that was not coastal, in contrast to last winter's high number of interior records. High numbers of Townsend's Warblers were found in Humboldt, Trinity and Siskiyou Cos. (KVR) and on the Monterey Pen. CBC where 486 established a new national record (*vide* DR); numbers were "good" in Del Norte County before the first of the year (RAE); elsewhere, the species was fairly low. Numbers of Hermit Warblers were higher than usual on the Pt. Reyes CBC (8) and the Monterey Pen. CBC (15). Unprecedented wintering in California were *two* **Prairie Warblers** on the immediate coast: one at Pacific Grove Oct. 13-Feb. 5 (A. Baldrige, DR, LCB) and one at Halfmoon Bay, San Mateo Co., Jan. 20-Feb. 18 (†PJM). Palm Warblers winter regularly in small numbers. This year 23 reports was about normal, but 16 of these were during December only and are best considered late migrants. Of 7 records in January and February, 6 were coastal and one was inland at Cotati, Sonoma Co., Dec. 17 & Jan. 7 (LCB). An individual of the "yellow" race (*D.p., hypochrysea*) was in Del Norte County Dec. 19 (RLeV, LD). Of six Wilson's Warblers, very rare in winter, three were coastal December records (one on Pt. Reyes CBC, two on Monterey CBC) and three were wintering records: Halfmoon Bay Dec. 18-Feb. 18 (B. Sauppe), Seaside, Monterey Co., Jan. 27 (BE) and Loleta Bottoms Feb. 4 (JSt *et al.*). An Am. Redstart near Ft. Dick Feb. 13 (RT) provided a first winter record for n.w. California (*vide* RAE).

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — Low numbers of Tricolored Blackbirds were found in the San Joaquin Valley, Los Banos and Creighton Ranch CBCs and the species was not well reported elsewhere. Although low numbers may be explained by the species' somewhat nomadic nature, it has been historically vulnerable to a significant population decline in California (to which it is essentially endemic). I can only agree with KFC, compiler of Los Banos CBC, that this species deserves close scrutiny from Regional observers. Please make an effort to document current breeding colonies and report the size and location to this editor. Fortunately, this species is included in the recent Federal Register (Vol. 47, No. 251) and is being considered for inclusion on the list of endangered and threatened wildlife.

A single Orchard Oriole at Pacific Grove Dec. 30-Jan. 2 (†JSt, LCB, BDP, DR *et al.*) was variously described as a female and a young male by experienced observers, underlining the pitfalls of making such a distinction. Three Hooded Orioles were about normal for winter: two in Fresno Jan. 9 & 29 (*vide* KH) and one at Salinas Feb. 12 (KVV, KC). Six N. (Bullocks) Orioles and two "Baltimores" was also normal. The S.F. Great-tailed Grackle was seen boarding a ship at Fisherman's Wharf Nov. 24 (SCH). Ten W. Tanagers was higher than usual. Unusual locations included Willow Cr., Jan. 23 (J. Brack, KVR), two in the upper Napa Valley through the period (JSt) and one 2 mi e of Manchester, Mendocino Co., Jan. 4 (†OK *et al.*). A Summer Tanager

was present at L. Merritt, Oakland Jan 1-15 (JM, m ob)

FRINGILLIDS — One Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Pacific Grove Dec. 30 (LCB, BDP) was the only *Pheucticus* reported. An Indigo Bunting at Bolinas Lagoon Dec. 9 (RS) was *very late* providing the fourth winter period report ever. Evening Grosbeaks, like other montane species, were virtually unrecorded, which makes 22 at Palomarin Jan. 9 remarkable. The finch situation at Palomarin, in general, mirrors the rest of the Region: "Purple Finch a little low; only one House Finch all winter. Siskins were erratic and down quite a bit after mid-December" (P.R.B.O.). Cassin's Finch, Pine Grosbeak, and Rosy Finch were unreported. Other than being "quite conspicuous, as expected" in Del Norte County (RAE), Red Crossbill was also unreported. Two winter records of Green-tailed Towhee were from the s. San Joaquin, as expected: Lost L., Fresno Dec. 19 (KH *et al.*) and Creighton Ranch Jan. 8 (KH). Six Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found, two at each of the following locations: Bolinas Lagoon (one banded in 1980—BDP, DDeS, BS), one mi s. of Dumbarton Bridge, Alameda Co. (†DSch), Palo Alto Baylands (†JM, m.ob.). Seven Vesper Sparrows in Panoche Valley, San Benito Co., Feb 26 were thought to be *P.g. confinis* based on their gray coloration (PU); either race (*affinis* or *confinis*) is possible in winter and their distribution is not well documented (see Grinnell & Miller, 1944). One Vesper Sparrow was found at Stafford L., Marin Co., Dec. 26 (D. Sierra) and refound Dec. 29 (RS). Juncos were generally low in numbers (DY, P.R.B.O.) so it is not surprising that only eight "Slate-colored" forms were reported. Tree Sparrows are casual out of the Basin, one was at Napa Dec. 26 (†KVV, KC). Coastal Chipping Sparrows included five on Del Monte Golf Course, Monterey Dec. 30 (*vide* DR) and one at Stafford L., Marin Co., Dec. 26 (*vide* DS). Five Clay-colored Sparrows were found on the coast, all in December two in Sebastopol (LCB), three in Del Norte County (RT, GSL, BED *et al.*). Despite low numbers of other *Zonotrichia*, Harris' Sparrow made a strong showing with 10 records. Those remaining sedentary through winter included: singles near Cotati, Sonoma Co. (LCB, BDP, NC), near Granada, for the first overwintering Siskiyou County record (RE), Sutter Buttes (WA *et al.*), Crescent City, Del Norte Co. (GSL) near Smith R., Del Norte Co. (RT, GSL *et al.*), and in Lee Vining, Mono Co. (DDeS, HG *et al.*).

White-crowned Sparrow numbers were quite low, especially "pugentensis" (P.R.B.O., LM) and especially adults (LRM). Numbers of Golden-crowned Sparrows were low at Palomarin but about normal inland (LF, DY). Forty-five White-throated Sparrows (14 on the Monterey Pen.) was an exceptional showing, with numbers concentrated on the c. coast. Fox Sparrow was low except in huckleberry patches of e Humboldt County (RLeV). Ten Swamp Sparrows at 9 locations was a good showing. New sites included Nicasio Res., Marin Co. (RS), Sebastopol (LCB), Goodwin's Pond near Smith R., Del Norte Co (SWH), and Creighton Ranch (†KH), the last furnished one of few San Joaquin Valley records. A flock of 21 Lapland Longspurs at Pt St George Dec. 19-20 moved on (RAE, JAR *et al.*); four were at Redwood Shores on S.F. Bay Feb. 11 and two remained through February (PJM)

EXOTICS — One Nanday Conure in the San Joaquin County foothills Dec. 12 and Jan. 2 had been present for 3 months (DY). Two Monk Parakeets were in Stockton Dec. 19 (DY). Eight Canary-winged Parakeets are still at large in San Francisco, most recently in the vicinity of DuBoce and Guerrero (PU).

CONTRIBUTORS — D.A. Airola, W. Anderson, M. Armour, R J Bacon, S.F. Bailey (SFB), L.R. Ballard, B. Barnes (BBa), B. Basham, T. Beedy, F. Bennet, L.C. Binford (LCB), W.G. Bousman, F. Broerman (FBr), S.R. Burge, K.F. Campbell (KFC), K. Cartier, H L Cogswell, N.T. Conzett, B. Davis, D. DeSante, B.E. Deuel (BED), L. Doerflinger, J. Dunn, A. Edwards, R. Ekstrom, B. Elliott, R.A. Erickson (RAE), J. Evens, C. Faanes, J. Fabbia, L. Farrar, D. Gaines, T. Gates, R. Gerstenberg, G. Geupel, C. Gotlund, H. Green, M. Green, K. Hainebach (KHb), K. Hansen, R. Hansen, S.C. Hansen, S W Harris (SWH), K. Hintska, (KH), J. Hornstein, O.J. Kolkman, B LaBar (BLaB), P. LaTourrette, J.M. Langham, R. LeValley (RLeV), G.S. Lester, J. Lovio (JLo), R.W. Lowe (RWL), J. Luther (JLu), A. Makishima, E. Makishima, M. Mans, G. Makowitz, P.J. Metropoulos, L.R. Mewaldt, J. Morlan, D. Olson, W. Orcutt, B.D. Parmeter, C. Peck, G. Potter, P. Pyle, J. Richmond, M. Rippey (MRi), M. Robbins

(MRo), D. Roberson, J.A. Rooney (JAR), K.V. Rosenberg, R.R. Ryno, G.L. San Miguel (GSM), B. Scharfenstein (BSc), D. Schmoltd (DSch), S. Schubert (SSch), J. Seay, D. Shuford, P. Springer, R. Stallcup, J. Sterling (JSt), B. Stewart, G.J. Strachan, E. Strauss, S. Summers, C. Swarth, J. Swenson (JSw), R. Tryon, P. Unitt, K. Van

Vuren, J. Winter, R.A. Witzeman, D. Yee.—JULES EVENS (land birds), P.O. Box 839, Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956, and RON LeVALLEY, (water birds), 1876 Ocean Dr., McKinleyville, CA 95521.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

The winter season was appreciably wetter than normal, with all areas receiving rainfall totals of more than 150% of normal for this time of the year, and some areas receiving closer to twice the normal rainfall. The rains were accompanied by high winds resulting in much damage; however, temperatures remained mild with no prolonged cold spells.

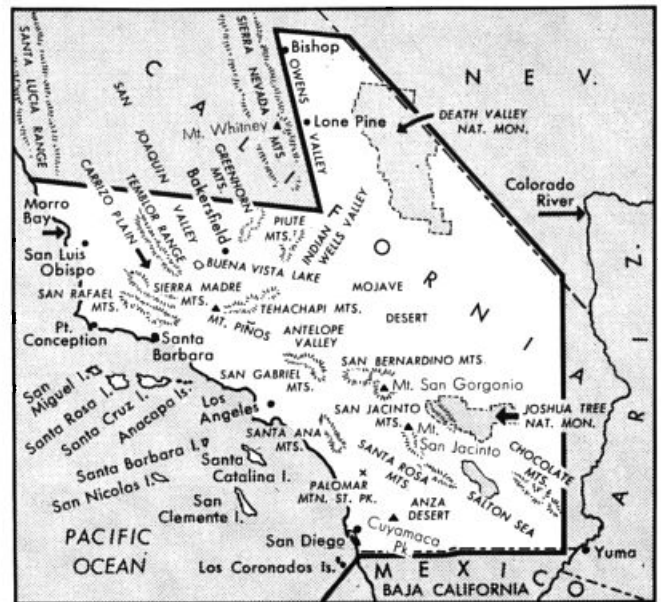
The mild temperatures enabled a number of unexpected birds successfully to winter including some species confined primarily to Mexico: Thick-billed Kingbird (1), Rufous-backed Robin (2), Painted Redstart (3) and Hepatic Tanager (1). How does one correlate the presence of these subtropical birds with the occurrence of four King Eiders in the same general area? Berry-eaters (American Robins and Cedar Waxwings) were almost totally absent, the only American Robins in the southern portion of the Region are believed to be the few birds now resident in some of the cities (e.g., resident populations now established in Presidio and Balboa Parks in San Diego); Cedar Waxwings were unrecorded from many areas. Pine Siskins were exceptionally scarce throughout the lowlands (this species nests south to Monterey County on the coast, and south to Riverside County in the mountains, and is normally relatively common throughout much of southern California in winter), being totally absent from the lowlands of the southern half of the Region. Purple Finches were also not to be found in the coastal lowlands south of Los Angeles.

With the increased interest in searching for rarities we are learning that many of these "lost vagrants" are at least living full lives, returning year after year to winter in the same localities (e.g., two Grace's Warblers around Santa Barbara have now spent four winters in their chosen wintering localities). With such birds as these returning for four and five years (normal life expectancy for small land birds) we can be assured they are also successfully summering at other localities, but we are a long way from knowing where those localities may be, and whether they are within the species' normal breeding range.

ABBREVIATIONS — L.A.C.M. — Los Angeles County Museum; N.E.S.S. — north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.B.M.N.H. — Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History; S.C.R.M. — Santa Clara River mouth, Ventura Co.; S.D.N.H.M. — San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. — south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co. *Birds of Southern California* by Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn (1981) is the standard reference for the status and distribution of the birds in this Region. Since virtually all rarities found in southern California are seen by numerous observers, only the observer initially identifying the bird is included. Documentation is on file for all rarities listed in the report.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANS — Some 15 Com. Loons were found wintering on deep water lakes away from the coast and the Colorado R. valley, including one at S.E.S.S., where virtually unknown in winter Dec. 4 (GMcC). Forty Horned Grebes on L. Perris, Riverside Co., during January and February (GMcC) was a large number for an inland locality. An imm. Brown Pelican at S.E.S.S., Jan. 17 (DS) was best considered an exceptionally late straggler from the late summer influx, but was only the second to have been seen here during January.

HERONS — A Least Bittern, rare along the coast in winter, was in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-12 (HM) and two more were at Santee Lakes near San Diego Dec. 15 (REW). Two ad. Little Blue Herons, a species now regular in limited numbers in s. California, remained on San Diego Bay throughout the period (EC). Up to three Louisiana Herons were present around Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., through the winter (PJ), but the



species went unreported elsewhere. An ad. Reddish Egret, a casual visitor to the coast of s. California, was on San Diego Bay Dec. 18 + (M & DH). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night Heron on San Elijo Lagoon near San Diego Feb. 20 + (TM) may have been the bird first seen here during the fall and early winter of 1981, and again during the summer of 1982, having never left the area. A flock of 450 White-faced Ibises near Seeley, Imperial Co., Jan. 14 (JLD) was a large concentration.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — Nine Whistling Swans at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., in mid-January (RD) were the southernmost of 16 found along the coast. A flock of 53 White-fronted Geese over Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Jan. 27 (JLD) was exceptional; this species is now very rare along the coast with only eight other individuals found there during the period. More than the normal one or two Ross' Geese were found along the coast with seven in San Luis Obispo County, four in Santa Barbara County, two in Ventura County, one in Orange County, and 14 in San Diego County. A Canada Goose at the Santa Maria R. mouth Nov. 26 (LaS) was of the endangered subspecies *leucopareia*, the first to be found in Santa Barbara County. A Green winged Teal of the Eurasian form *crecca* in Goleta Nov. 3-Feb. 24 (PEL) was the same bird present here last winter. A ♂ Blue-winged Teal at S.E.S.S., Jan. 19 (JLD) was one of very few ever found in this area during winter; this is surprising as the species is regular in small numbers along the coast in winter. Eurasian Wigeon were present in expected numbers with at least 12 along the coast, along with up to three on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County and 2-3 around S.E.S.S., throughout the winter. A hybrid Eurasian x American Wigeon was shot at S.E.S.S., Jan. 23 (T. Clotfelter, *vide* GMcC, *S.D.N.H.M.), and up to three similar hybrids were found among a large concentration of Am. Wigeon near San Jacinto, Riverside Co., during January (EC); this concentration also included a minimum of six Eur. Wigeon, and I am confident that these hybrids are the result of individual Eur. Wigeon remaining to breed with Am. Wigeon in North America, and not from captive birds as once suggested as one of several possibilities, including my conclusion, by Arbib (*Am. Birds* 35:799, 1981).

Two ♂ Tufted Ducks on L. Perris Jan. 22-Feb. 21 (AMC) were the first to be found in Riverside County; however, two or three are now found along the coast of California each winter, and with increased



Adult ♂ King Eider, Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., Jan. 8, 1983.
Photol. Oldenettel.

observer activity we can expect even more. A Greater Scaup at Furnace Cr. Ranch in Death Valley Feb. 12 (LLN) was at an unusual location, and flocks of six on L. Cachuma Jan. 29 (JLD), up to 15 on L. Perris Jan. 22-Feb. 12 (REW) and 100+ at S.E.S.S., Jan. 19 (JLD) were significant concentrations from inland localities. The presence of an ad. ♂ King Eider at Imperial Beach/ Coronado, San Diego Co., Dec. 3-Jan. 25 (MBS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), a female at the entrance to Newport Bay, Orange Co., Dec. 26-Jan. 16 (H & OC), another at Huntington Beach, Orange Co., Dec. 18-Jan. 31 (R & MW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and a fourth in San Pedro, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 29-early February (Arthur Howe, *vide* GSS) were unexpected, there being only one previous record of this species in s. California, and no previous record of an ad. male s. of Alaska. The ♂ Harlequin Duck originally found in Carlsbad, San Diego Co., in December 1977 was still present Feb. 28+ (JO). Three Oldsquaws, rare along the coast of s. California, were near San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 13-Feb. 13 (GPS) and another was at Imperial Beach Nov. 29-Jan. 19 (JO). Fourteen Black Scoters, another rarity along the coast of s. California, were found between San Simeon and San Diego Bay for an average winter number. Two Surf Scoters on L. Henshaw Dec. 3 (RH) were inland. A White-winged Scoter at S.E.S.S., Jan. 30 (GMcC) was one of a very few found inland in winter. A ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye near San Simeon Dec. 3-Feb. 5 (PEL, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), and another in San Luis Obispo Dec. 31 (TE), were along the coast where only 5 previous occurrences were known. A ♀ Hooded Merganser at S.E.S.S., Dec. 4 (GMcC) was in an area where few indeed have been recorded.

HAWKS — A Goshawk that hit a window in the San Marcos Pass area near Santa Barbara Dec. 31 (G & JH, *S.B.M.N.H.) was one of very few to be found along the coast of s. California. The Red-shouldered Hawk found near Brawley, Imperial Co., Oct. 24 remained Jan. 20+ (JLD) and another adult was in Brawley Jan. 22 (EAC) for the fourth ever in this area of California. At least four Broad-winged Hawks were found with an immature near San Luis Obispo Dec. 6 (TE), another near Los Alamos, Santa Barbara Co., Dec. 25-Mar. 6 (JR), a third in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 29-Dec. 12 (TW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and another in w. Los Angeles Dec. 30 (JLD); this species is now found wintering along the coast of California each year and is no longer considered casual. Zone-tailed Hawks were found again in San Diego County with at least two adults seen in the Fallbrook/Vista area Dec. 7-Feb. 27 (TS) and another adult on Mt. Palomar Feb. 26-Mar. 7 (RH). A Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk, a race recorded in s. California only once prior to this winter, was well studied near Needles, San Bernardino Co., Dec. 5 (EAC) and a second was near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 18+ (JLD); another bird fitting field guide descriptions of a light-phase Harlan's Hawk was at Thermal, Riverside Co., Dec. 7-14 (GH). A pale Merlin in Carpinteria Feb. 28 (TW) was definitely *richardsonii*, the first to be found in Santa Barbara County and one of a very few on the coast; four dark Merlins in coastal Santa Barbara County during December and January were of the rare black form *suckleyi* from coastal British Columbia.

RAILS, CRANES — A Black Rail was seen at Upper Newport Bay, Orange Co., Dec. 18 (ASm) and another was flushed from underfoot at San Elijo Lagoon Feb. 21 (LuS); reports of this species from along the coast away from Morro Bay are few indeed. Two Clapper Rails at the New Lakes in Whittier Narrows near El Monte Jan. 6 (DB) were in freshwater habitat 20+ mi inland, and the first seen in Los Angeles County in about 20 years. Sandhill Cranes regularly winter in only 3 areas of s. California (Carrizo Plain, Colorado R. valley around Blythe and near Brawley s. of the Salton Sea) so 200 at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., Feb. 12 (EAC) was a surprise.

SHOREBIRDS — At least 30 Am. Golden Plovers of the Asiatic race *fulva* found wintering at 4 different localities on the coast were expected, but one at S.E.S.S., Jan. 30 (GMcC) was likely the same bird seen here last winter, and was one of only two or three ever found inland in winter. A Black Turnstone at S.E.S.S., Feb. 26-27 (H & OC) was unexpected; 7 occurrences on the Salton Sea along with one from the Colorado R. valley (all in spring), were the only previous occurrences from inland localities in s. California. One or two Red Knots at Salton City on the Salton Sea through the period established the second winter occurrence of this species at an inland locality. The Rock Sandpiper found near San Simeon Nov. 22 was still present Feb. 28 (EAC). Up to 35 Stilt Sandpipers were present around S.E.S.S., throughout the period (GMcC); small numbers of these birds are found here each winter suggesting that the Salton Sea is the n. limit of this species' normal winter range. One of the Ruffs present in Chino last November remained through at least Feb. 4 (MDB) to give us our second winter record from an inland location. Red Phalarope numbers dropped significantly during December after November's impressive influx, with virtually all gone by Jan. 1.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — An imm. Parasitic Jaeger at S.E.S.S., Dec. 4 (JO) was best treated as an exceptionally late fall migrant, being one week later than the previous late date for this inland locality. For the second successive year Laughing Gulls wintered at Finney L., near S.E.S.S., with up to six adults present throughout the period; the species was formerly considered casual/accidental here at this time of year. A first-winter Franklin's Gull was present in Goleta Dec. 2—Jan. 5 (TW); one or two are found along the coast most winters although California is clearly far n. of the species' known winter range. At least 15 Tayer's Gulls were present at various points around the Salton Sea during the winter, accompanying the thousands of gulls attracted to massive fish die-offs, this being an exceptional number for this inland location. Up to 20 W. (Yellow-footed) Gulls/day were to be seen on the Salton Sea throughout the period, which was many more than we have been accustomed to in previous winters. A third-winter W. Gull, believed to be of the n. race *occidentalis*, at S.E.S.S., Feb. 27 (GMcC), and a first-winter bird at Salton City Mar. 5-19 (REW), were only the fifth and sixth to be found in the true interior of California. Glaucous-winged Gulls were also more numerous than usual on the Salton Sea with a minimum of ten found during the period. A Glaucous Gull, very rare along the coast of s. California at S.C.R.M., Jan. 23-25 (AB) was remarkable in that it was an adult, only the second ever found in this Region; a first-winter bird at S.E.S.S., Dec. 31 (GMcC) and another at N.E.S.S., Jan. 22 (SS) were inland, where casual. Two Royal Terns near San Simeon Dec. 28 (JLD) were quite far n., this species being virtually unrecorded in c. and n. California in recent years. One or two Com. Terns on San Diego Bay all winter (REW) and two at Bolsa Chica, Orange Co., Jan. 6 (LRH) were birds showing dark lesser wing-coverts, the plumage worn by all of the very few Com. Terns found wintering in California. A Black Tern at S.E.S.S., Nov. 28-Dec. 21 (MH) was either an exceptionally late fall migrant or, more likely, attempting to winter locally.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A White-winged Dove in Santa Barbara Jan. 1 (EB) and another in Oxnard, Ventura Co., early December-mid-February (A & MN) were both along the coast where very rare in winter; up to a half dozen in the area of Yaqui Wells/Agua Caliente Springs in e. San Diego County throughout the period (BW) were in the only area of California regularly supporting a small winter population. The presence of three Gourd Doves in Santa Paula Feb. 23 (SR) gave us another location in Ventura County where

this species occurs. A Lesser Nighthawk near Imperial Beach Jan. 23 (MO) was one of very few ever found along the coast in winter. A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a species now found annually in s. California, was in Santa Barbara Jan. 10-Feb. 15 (HW), another was in Rancho Santa Fe, San Diego Co., Dec. 18-Jan. 15 (LuS) and a third, a bird returning for its fourth winter, was in San Diego Dec. 18-Jan. 5 (PEL). A ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird in San Diego Nov. 20+ (JO) was the individual that has spent the past 3 winters here. Nine Costa's Hummingbirds in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area during the winter was an unusually high number for this far n. in winter. Allen's Hummingbirds have recently established themselves as permanent residents in the Malibu area with up to 15/day reported this winter (KLG) suggesting that the birds are of the resident form *sedentarius* rather than migratory birds of the form *sasin*.

Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers of the e. form *varius*, a rare-to-casual straggler to California, were in Carpinteria Dec. 20 (TW), Goleta Nov. 11-Jan. 2 (PEL) and W. Los Angeles Feb. 20+ (JT, ph. S.D.N.H.M.); a male in Silverado Canyon, Orange Co., Dec. 3+ (DRW) was the same bird present here during the past 2 winters. A Yellow-bellied (Red-breasted) Sapsucker near Tustin, Orange Co., Jan. 8-15 (JW) possessed all the characters of the n.w. race *ruber*, a form recorded fewer than 6 times in s. California. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker in Malibu Dec. 16 (J & LM) was one of very few ever found in the coastal lowlands. A White-headed Woodpecker in Altadena, Los Angeles Co., Dec. 3 (L. Fulmar, *vide* GSS) was well below the normal montane habitat of this species.

FLYCATCHERS — Totally unexpected were an Olive-sided Flycatcher in Peters Canyon near Tustin Dec. 20+ (DRW) and another in Vista, San Diego Co., Jan. 8 (REW) as there are only 2 previous winter records for California. A Coues' Flycatcher in Griffith P., Los Angeles Oct. 31-Feb. 16 (KLG) was the bird known to have spent the past 3 winters at this location. A Least Flycatcher, a species known to have wintered in California on 3 previous occasions, was in Goleta Oct. 29-Mar. 15 (TW) while another was in nearby Carpinteria Nov. 23-Jan. 15 (TW). A Hammond's Flycatcher, probably casual in winter, was in Tapia P., near Malibu Dec. 19-25 (KLG). Only four Gray Flycatchers were reported this winter; this used to be by far the commonest *Empidonax* found wintering in s. California, but has declined drastically in recent years. Seven W. Flycatchers found wintering along the coast between Goleta and San Diego were slightly more than expected. Three E. Phoebes, a rare but regular stray to California, were along the coast with one in Villa Park, Orange Co., Feb. 16 (AFP), another in Mission Viejo, Orange Co., Dec. 12+ (DRW) and a third near Imperial Beach Dec. 10-25 (REW); a fourth was inland at S.E.S.S., Dec. 21-Jan. 6 (REW). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 15-Feb. 7 (GPS) was the same bird present here last winter, and was exceptionally far n. An Ash-throated Flycatcher, casual along the coast in winter, was in Goleta Dec. 15-Jan. 10 (TW), another was near Upper Newport Bay Dec. 26-29 (SJR) and a third was in San Diego Jan. 28-Feb. 5 (TS). A Tropical Kingbird in Los Osos Nov. 15-Jan. 15 (GPS), another in Goleta Nov. 24+ (PEL) and a third in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-Feb. 9 (KA) were all wintering birds along the coast. A **Thick-billed Kingbird** in Peters Canyon near Tustin Dec. 18+ (DRW, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) was only the sixth to have been found in California.



Thick-billed Kingbird, Peters Canyon near Tustin, Orange Co., all winter. Photo J. Oldenettel.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAGTAILS — Small numbers of Violet-green Swallows were present inland around Bakersfield all winter (MOC), and two (possibly spring migrants) were at S.E.S.S., Jan. 22 (EAC). A Rough-winged Swallow, most unusual along the coast in winter, was over O'Neill L., near Oceanside Dec. 28 (BED). A Bank Swallow, exceptionally rare anywhere in California in winter, was at S.E.S.S., Jan. 22 (EAC). A Verdin near Mojave, Kern Co., Dec. 26 (JH) was somewhat n.w. of the species' known range. A single Winter Wren in San Diego Dec. 29 (REW) was quite far s. and along the coast. A **Rufous-backed Robin** found in Newport Beach Jan. 1 (MCM) was joined by a second by Feb. 1 (SJR) with both still present Feb. 28; there were only 2 previous records of this species for California, and it is at best considered a casual straggler anywhere in the United States. The only Brown Thrasher found this winter was one in Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Dec. 19 (EAC). The White/Black-backed Wagtail found along the Los Angeles R., in Long Beach Nov. 4 was present through Jan. 18 (B. Van Meter, *vide* GSS, ph. S.D.N.H.M.).



Rufous-backed Robin, Newport Beach, Orange Co., Feb. 11, 1983. Photo J. Gallagher.

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS — Ten Solitary Vireos were found this winter with six reported as the gray *plumbeus* form from the Great Basin area; this is more than expected in an average winter. A Warbling Vireo, exceedingly rare in winter, was in Goleta Dec. 31 (KB), two remained in Arcadia to at least Jan. 12 (GSS) and a fourth was seen in San Diego Jan. 5 (JML). A Philadelphia Vireo found in Huntington Beach Nov. 26 remained through Jan. 1 (DRW), being only the second ever present in California during winter.

Black-and white Warblers along the coast were about normal, but one in Brawley Jan. 20 (JLD) was inland where few winter records exist. A Worm-eating Warbler in Long Beach Nov. 5-Mar. 7 (BED) was within 3 mi of the location harboring one last winter, but was not believed to be that bird. Sixteen Tennessee Warblers were found along the coast between San Luis Obispo and San Diego; despite statements to the contrary (*i.e.*, Monson and Phillips, *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Arizona*, 1981), small numbers regularly winter along the coast of California. Twenty Nashville Warblers were found during the period to give us an average number for winter. A Virginia's Warbler in Newport Beach throughout the period (SJR) was the same bird present here during the past 3 winters, and another was in Santa Barbara Jan. 2-4 (KLG). A Yellow Warbler near Bakersfield all winter (MOC) was away from the coast and S.E.S.S., where small numbers regularly winter. More than 40 Black-throated Gray Warblers was an unexpected number, and included one at 3000 ft on Santiago Peak, Orange Co., Jan. 21 (DRW) and another on Mt. Palomar (5500 ft) all winter (RH). A Townsend's Warbler in Brawley, Imperial Co., Jan. 30 (JO) was in an area where virtually unrecorded in winter. Two Black-throated Green Warblers were found, with one in Goleta Feb. 11+ (TW) and the other in Huntington Beach Nov. 12-Feb. 4 (SJR), these being only the third and fourth ever known to winter in California. Ten Hermit Warblers along the coast were about normal. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** found freshly dead in Santa Monica, Los Angeles Co., Jan. 7 (C. Bush, *vide* KLG, *L.A.C.M.) was the first for California in winter, increasing the list of wood warblers found in California at this time of year to 35!

The two Grace's Warblers that have spent the past 3 winters in the Santa Barbara area returned for a fourth winter, the Santa Barbara bird

present Oct 11+ (LRB) and the Carpinteria bird present Oct 24+ (LRB), the latter joined by a third bird Jan. 11 (LRB). A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Santa Barbara Feb. 26+ (AW) was the first to be found along the coast in winter, and only the second anywhere in California at this time of the year. Palm Warblers may have been scarcer than normal with only five reported. The only N. Waterthrush reported was one present near Imperial Beach all winter (EC). A MacGillivray's Warbler in San Diego Dec. 29 (REW) was probably wintering locally, but could have been a late migrant. Only 15 Wilson's Warblers were reported, all in riparian habitat along the coast. An Am. Redstart in Los Osos Jan. 15-29 (DS), an ad. male in Goleta Oct. 12-Jan. 31 (PEL), an imm. male in Santa Barbara Jan. 2+ (KA), single females at 2 different locations in Huntington Beach Nov. 10-Jan. 29 (DRW) and Nov. 26-Feb. 24 (DRW), and an ad. male near Oceanside Dec. 17-Feb. 5 (REW) were all along the coast where considered casual in winter. Three Painted Redstarts came as a surprise with one in Santa Barbara Nov. 11+ (LRB, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), another in Oxnard early November-Feb. 20 (A & MN, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) and the third in Malibu Dec. 15-21 (JLD).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Four Tricolored Blackbirds near Cantil in the Fremont Valley, Kern Co., Feb. 12 (MOC) were e. of the species' normal range. A Great-tailed Grackle in Santa Barbara Oct. 14-Jan. 14 (AB), one near San Diego Nov. 15+ (JZ) and another near Imperial Beach Feb. 13 (M & DH) were all on the coast, indicating that this species is continuing its push W. Five Orchard Orioles were found this winter with one in Carpinteria Nov. 4-Jan. 15 (TW), an ad. male in Oxnard mid-November-mid-January (A & MN, ph. S.D.N.H.M.), two (a male returning for its fourth winter and a female for its second winter) in Ventura Nov. 24-Jan. 30 (PEL) and a female in Coronado, San Diego Co., Dec. 10 (REW). A Hooded Oriole, inexplicably rare in winter, was in Santa Barbara Dec. 29-Feb. 1 (TW) and another was seen near Dana Pt., Orange Co., Dec. 21 (W & VG). As usual, small numbers of N. Orioles remained through the winter, most associated with flowering eucalyptus, with 75 ± reported, 13 of these being of the e. race *galbula*; one in Brawley Jan. 30-Feb. 27 (JO) was the only one truly inland. Five Scott's Orioles in the Santa Barbara area during much of the winter (PEL), three near Trabuco Canyon, Orange Co., Dec. 3+ (DRW) and up to three in Vista Jan. 14-21 (JG) were all w. of the coastal mountains, while an ad. male in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., Feb. 23 (DH) was along the w. edge of the desert where small numbers may prove to winter regularly. A ♂ Hepatic Tanager, exceedingly rare in winter, was in Santa Barbara Nov. 11+ (LRB, ph. S.D.N.H.M.). Summer Tanagers appeared to be more numerous than usual with six in Santa Barbara County, two in Los Angeles County, two in Orange County, and ten in San Diego County during the period. As usual small numbers of W. Tanagers wintered along the coast with 70 ± reported; one in Bakersfield all winter (JyW), and two in Brawley Jan. 20 (JLD) were the only ones found inland.

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS — Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks around Santa Barbara and five more in the San Diego area was a good total for the winter. A Black-headed Grosbeak, decidedly rarer than the previous species in winter, was in Los Alamos Jan. 20 (MB) and another was in Santa Barbara Jan. 23-Mar. 1 (CL). An Evening Grosbeak on Mt. Palomar Dec. 1 (RH) was quite far s., and the only one reported this winter. An Indigo Bunting in Goleta Dec. 26-27 (KB) was best considered a very late fall migrant, and a male at a feeder in Santa Barbara Nov. 9-Feb. 24 was the same bird present here last winter; there are fewer than 6 documented winter records of this species in s. California. Six Lark Buntings in the Palo Verde Valley, Riverside Co., Dec. 4 (RMCK), three in the Lanfair Valley Dec. 12 (EAC), one in Lakeview, Riverside Co., Jan. 26-Feb. 21 (ASa) and another near nearby San Jacinto Feb. 4 (BW) were the only ones found this winter.

A **Field Sparrow** in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino Co., Dec. 11 (EAC) was compared directly with accompanying Brewer's Sparrows, and found to be much brighter, with buff on the breast and much chestnut on the upperparts; one present on the Farallon Is., June 17-July 9, 1969 represents the only documented record for California. The only Harris' Sparrows reported were one in Bakersfield Feb. 27 (MOC), another near Lancaster Dec. 18-Mar. 12 (JLD), one in Sun-

land, Riverside Co., Dec. 27-30 (JS) and a fourth in Niland near S.E.S.S., Dec. 21-Jan. 20 (JLD). Swamp Sparrows were exceedingly scarce with one in Santa Barbara Nov. 7-Jan 25 (PEL), another near Oceanside Dec. 26-Feb. 8 (REW) and a third at San Elijo Lagoon Jan.9-Mar. 6 (DKi) being the only ones reported. Four McCown's Longspurs were found near Blythe Dec. 23 (KVR) and up to 12 were near Lakeview Jan. 8-25 (AMC, ph. S.D.N.H.M.) suggesting that we still have much to learn about the winter occurrence of this species. Two Lapland Longspurs on the Plano Trabuco, Orange Co., Dec. 3 (SG) were probably fall migrants, but 1-2 in the Fremont Valley near Randsburgh, Kern Co., Feb. 12-19 (MOC) were clearly wintering. A concentration of up to 50 Chestnut-collared Longspurs was found near Lakeview Dec. 27-Feb. 21 (AMC); similar concentrations have twice before been found in this general area in winter, and the species may eventually prove to winter regularly in the open grasslands of this area.

CONTRIBUTORS — Kevin Aanerud, Larry R. Ballard, Ed Bayly, Allyn Bissell, Milton D. Blatt, Dave Bontrager, Joe Boyd, Karen Bridgers, Mark Brown, **Eugene A. Cardiff** (coordinator for San Bernardino County), **Mark O. Chichester** (coordinator for Kern County), Herb & Olga Clark (H & OC), **Elizabeth Copper** (coordinator for San Diego County), Alan M. Craig, Brian E. Daniels, Ron Dow, Jon L. Dunn, **Tom Edell** (coordinator for San Luis Obispo County), Steve Ganley, **Kimball L. Garrett** (coordinator for Los Angeles County), June Ginger, Wayne and Virginia Gochenour (W & VG), George and Joan Hardie (G & JH), Jeff Harding, Marjorie and Don Hastings (M & DH), David Hatch, Loren R. Hays, Matt Heindel, Roger Higson, Greg Homel, Paul Jorgensen, Dave King (DKi), **David Krueper** (DKr) (coordinator for the Colorado River Valley), Jerry M. Langham, **Paul E. Lehman** (coordinator for Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties), Clint Loomis, Jerry and Laurette Maisel (J & LM), Helen Matelson, **Robert McKernan** (coordinator for Riverside County) (RMCK), Mark C. Miller, Terry Myer, Arvid and Margie Nelson (A & MN), Larry L. Norris, Jerry Oldenettel, Marty Orrell, Arleta F. Patterson, **Sylvia J. Ranney** (coordinator for Orange County), Steve Rose, Ken V. Rosenberg, Jim Royer, Andy Sanders (ASa), Larry Sansone (LaS), Luis Santaella (LuS), Tom Scott, Arnold Small (ASm), Greg P. Smith, Don Sterba, Jim Stevens, Stuart Stokes, Doug Stots, Mary Beth Stowe, G. Shumway Suffel, Jan Tarble, Bill Wagner, Richard E. Webster, Douglas R. Willick, Hazel Wills, John Wilson, Johnny Wilson (JyW), Russell and Marion Wilson (R & MW), Alan Wormington, Tom Wurster, Jim Zimmer. An additional 70 some observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports this season.—**GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego, CA 92112.**

HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle

December rainfall was a bit below normal, but the new year brought real drought conditions as precipitation virtually ceased over most of the state. Rainfall in both January and February set new all-time low records at Honolulu, totaling well under 0.5 inch for the two months compared with the 30-year normal of nearly 7 inches. Damaging fires in southeastern Hawaii Island owing to the dry conditions, together with erupting hot lava from Kilauea Volcano's east rift zone during most of the winter destroyed acres of forest habitat. On Kauai, large areas of trees and debris blown down by hurricane *Iwa* have become tinder dry and now pose a dangerous fire threat to the Alakai forests and adjoining canyons.

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

GREBES THROUGH HERONS — Highlight of the season was the late winter appearance of an **Eared Grebe**, the state's first, at the Lowe Aquafarm near Kahuku, O. First reported in mid-February (EH, *file*

RS), it was studied by numerous observers as it developed into full breeding plumage in late March.

Laysan Albatrosses returned this winter to the nesting sites at Barkling Sands and Kilauea Crater, K., but disturbance and pox again took their toll and no young were successfully fledged. Experimental procedures were begun this year to try to entice the Kilauea Crater birds to move to the U.S.F. & W.S. Wildlife Area at nearby Kilauea Pt., where the disturbance and pox factors can be better controlled (RC).

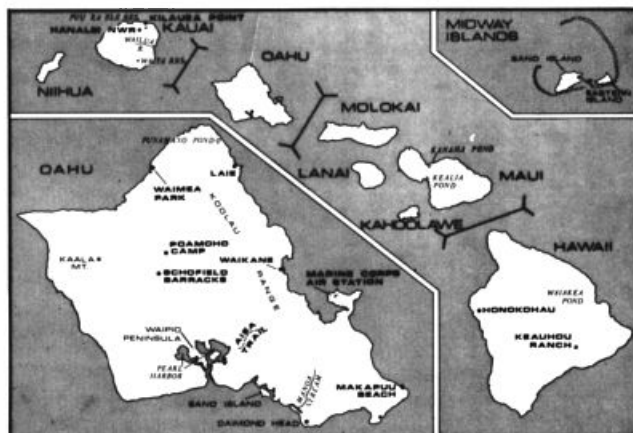
A birders' pelagic trip, the first here since 1979, was arranged Dec. 5 in connection with the Pacific Seabird Group meeting in Honolulu. In 8 hours at sea s. of Honolulu, the group found Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Red-footed and Brown boobies, White-tailed Tropicbird, a Brown Noddy and several White Terns, all of which breed on Oahu and its offshore islets. The group also found several Pomarine Jaegers that winter regularly off Oahu (PD). But the date was probably too late to catch the fall migration of pelagics suspected to pass by the islands.

S.A.

The "exodus of seabirds" from Christmas Island, which received much media publicity, was related to the abnormally high sea surface temperatures over most of the equatorial Pacific, and the copious rainfall at normally dry islands in the area. Rainfall amounts at Christmas I., of 102 inches for 1982 (most of it August-December), and 28 inches in January, 1983, may be compared with the normal annual rainfall of 28 inches (PL). Sooty Terns normally return in the millions to Christmas I., in November-December to nest. This year only a few came, and then departed with apparently no nesting attempted. Later the rains stopped, and February and March were very dry at Christmas I. Then, huge numbers of Sooty Terns returned to Christmas in mid-March (PL), a most uncharacteristic month to begin nesting. (Millions more usually return in June to nest after the December group has departed.) Other species were also affected, including Phoenix Petrels and Wedge-tailed and Christmas shearwaters (PL). Frigatebird nesting apparently was interrupted, but is now proceeding again. The interaction of these massive anomalies of sea temperature and rainfall on seabird nesting cycles can only be surmised at this point. The conditions no doubt affected seabird nesting on other uninhabited islands throughout the tropical e. Pacific.

At Jarvis, a small uninhabited United States N.W.R. island 300 mi s.w. of Christmas I., Sooty Terns were found beginning to nest in July. But return visits in October and March found no Sooty Terns at all—apparently a complete wipeout of late summer and winter nesting. Lesser Frigatebirds were present in good numbers in July, but only a few abandoned young were found in October and no frigatebirds at all in March. Nesting of Brown and Masked boobies was also very much reduced (Jarvis notes by DW).

These anomalies may be having an effect as far n. as Hawaii. Sooty Tern nesting at Wake I. (19°N) was clearly anomalous in late winter (RS), while Sooty nesting at Midway (29°N) was much delayed this spring (BB, *vide* SF). An abnormal statistic which may or may not be related to the widespread anomaly is the report from Sea Life P., O., that only 28 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (mostly juveniles) were picked up on Oahu beaches and turned in to the Park this fall and winter, compared to the more typical count of 82 last year (IK).



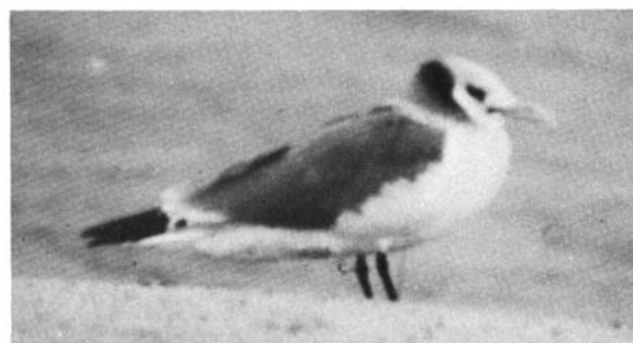
poised to nest again this year?), two Eur. Wigeon at Kualapuu Res., Molokai (TB), five Tufted Ducks in female plumage at Waipio, O. (PD, MO) and Ring-necked Ducks on Molokai show the variety of rare waterfowl present this winter.

As Osprey was seen several times in January and February at Kealia Pond, M., and offshore of both the n. and s. coasts of that island (CK, GY *et al.*). And a **Peregrine Falcon** (Endangered) was seen well along the Chain of Craters Road, H., Jan. 5 & 7 (GY). These two are the only raptor species considered casual visitors in Hawaii, rather than accidental.

Two Gambel Quails collected by state biologists on Kahoolawe I., Feb. 11 (TB, MM) show that this long-established population still thrives on this dry, uninhabited and legally inaccessible island. A count totaling **188** Hawaiian (Com.) Gallinules (Endangered) in 2 recently harvested lotus ponds at Haleiwa, O., Jan. 11 (TB) was a real spectacle. Ninety-four Hawaiian (Am.) Coots (Endangered) at Aimakapa Pond, H., Dec. 11 (PP) was also a good count.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS — After the fall migration passed, shorebirds settled down to the usual winter numbers. Dowitchers, some of which were identified as Long-billed by call, had a banner year. Counts of 22 and 29 at Waipio, 28 and 31 at Lowe Aquafarm, and ten each at Kii Pond and Haleiwa, all on Oahu, were unprecedented high numbers. Other scarce but regular species wintering over this year included Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin and Ruff. A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Tern I., F.F.S., in February (JAN) was a good find. Least Sandpipers were sighted at Kanaha Pond, M. (GY) and Opacula Pond, H. (AT). A Greater Yellowlegs, very rarely recorded in Hawaii, appeared at Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., in mid-February (RS) and remained at least through March (PD).

A respectable number of straggler gulls turned up this winter after a lackluster fall. Glaucous-winged, Laughing, Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's gulls were reported on various islands from Kauai to Hawaii, and show the variety that can be found here where no gull species occurs regularly. Best find of the season was a fine winter-plumaged, ad. **Black-legged Kittiwake**, resident for a week on an artificial lagoon back of a large hotel at Waikiki Beach, O. The week included the



Black-legged Kittiwake at Hilton Hotel Lagoon, Oahu, December 18, 1982. Photo/Peter Donaldson.

Another **Great Blue Heron**, this one in imm. plumage, turned up at Nuupia Pond, O., on the Honolulu CBC Dec. 19 (RW) and was seen by several more observers until at least Feb. 19. The species has been recorded fewer than 5 times previously in the state. The state's first confirmed Green Heron, apparently resident at Lokoaka Pond, H., was sighted there again Nov. 11 (JAL).

WATERFOWL THROUGH COOTS — Pintails and N. Shovelers, the only ducks wintering commonly in the state, remained in relatively low numbers throughout the winter. But a surprising array of casual and accidental species was reported. Sightings at Kealia Pond, M., included Am. and Eur. wigeons, Redhead, Tufted Duck, Garganey, Greater Scaup and Bufflehead. Elsewhere, a Brant at Kanaha Pond, M. (DA, CK), up to six Blue-winged Teal at Aimakapa Pond, H. (AT) (possibly

Honolulu CBC, and the bird furnished only the second known occurrence of a kittiwake in the main (populated) Hawaiian Is. Caspian Terns were here in force this winter, only 3 years after the species first occurred in the state. Two Caspians were at Kealia Pond, M. (m.ob.), one at Paiko Lagoon and at Nuupia Pond, O., a second at Nuupia Pond Jan. 21 (TB), and one at Hapuna Beach, H., Dec. 11 (AT) and seen in January at nearby Waikoloa Hotel golf course (AT, PC). Black Terns are rarely recorded in Hawaii, but the one resident at Aimakapa Pond, H. for over a year was still there in mid-March. Freshly dead remains of six **Parakeet Auklets** and one **Horned Puffin** were found Feb. 6-8 on isolated beaches of Sand and Eastern Is., Midway (MN).

PASSERINES — Two Red-vented Bulbuls were reported coming to a yard above the Keahou district of Kona on Hawaii I., since summer. The identity was confirmed by state wildlife officials in January and February (TB). This is the first reported occurrence of this introduced pest on any island other than Oahu. Collecting of these birds to eliminate possibility of increase has been delayed by objections of the yardowner. Four Red-billed Leiothrix seen and heard at Nuuanu Reservoir #4, O., Jan. 10 (MM) was further indication that this handsome introduced species may be making a comeback on Oahu. A Mockingbird was sighted again at Tern. I., F.F.S. (JAn). The exceedingly rare Kama'o (Kauai Thrush), endemic to Kauai, was reported again in January on Pihea Trail in the Kokee district (BE). This was the second sighting in 4 months in this general area. An ad. Com. Waxbill feeding four young at Waipio Dec. 5 (MO) furnished the first report of breeding or nesting activity by this exotic species only recently recognized as occurring on Oahu.

CONTRIBUTORS — Joel Abramson, Jeff Allen (JAl), David Anderson, John Andre (JAn), Barry Brady, Phil Bruner, Tim Burr, Rick Coleman, Peter Connally, Peter Donaldson, Bruce Eilerts, Stewart Fefer, John Gulley, Ed Hagen, Betty Joao, Ingrid Kang, Cameron

Kepler, Patrick Lawrence (Development Officer, Christmas I.), Marie Morin, Maura Naughton, Mike Ord, Peter Paton, Rob Shallenberger, Dan Snider, Paul Sykes, Avery Taylor, Ron Walker, Dave Woodside, Gus Yaki.—**ROBERT L. PYLE, 741 N. Kalaheo Ave., Kailua, HI 96734.**

WEST INDIES REGION

/Robert L. Norton

Weather conditions during the season were a continuation of the dry fall now approaching critical levels in some areas. Although December's precipitation was about 40% above average (20-year period of record, POR) in western St. Croix (hereafter, St. C.) (JY) and 31% above average for the northern Virgin Islands (hereafter, V.I.), it was not enough to recharge the diminishing water table. Precipitation was well off the average in January and February with amounts of 37% and 68% below average (60-year POR). Similar drought conditions prevail in Hispaniola and Puerto Rico (hereafter, P.R.). Record high temperatures have been reported from P.R. during the last week of February breaking a 19-year mark (*San Juan Star*, March 1, 1983). January and February rainfall totals were the lowest in 17 years on St. C. (*Daily News*, March 4, 1983).

Soil and vegetation regimes have been experiencing stress conditions since last August. Indigenous land fauna and progeny have suffered from an average of 24% below-average water balance during the last 7 months compared to the previous 9 years. Evapotranspiration has exceeded recharge, causing extensive leaf drop and slowed growth

BIRDING TOURS

ANTARCTICA November 15-December 15 (31 days). Featuring Buenos Aires, Montevideo, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, South Orkney Islands, Antarctic Peninsula, and Punta Arenas. Led by George Watson, Keith Shackleton, Alan Gurney, Dennis Puleston, Tom Ritchie, and Jim Snyder. Cruise prices start at \$7,200.

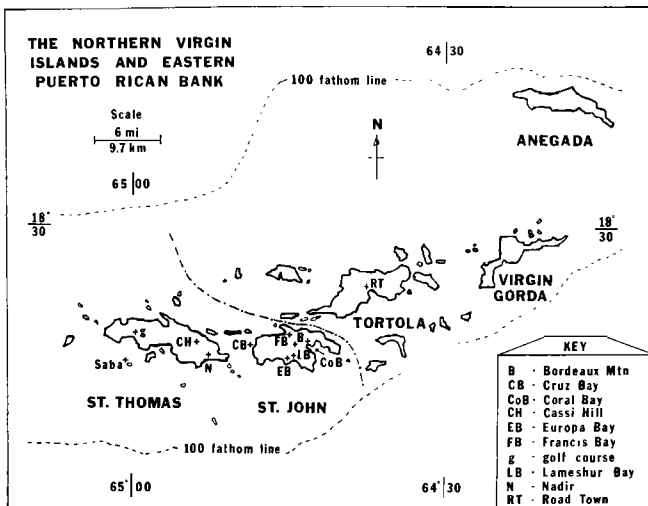
AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND September 15-October 22 (38 days). Featuring Sydney, O'Reilly's (Lamington N.P.), Great Barrier Reef, Atherton Tableland, Mission Beach, Darwin, Arnhem Land, Jim Jim, Ayer's Rock, Alice Springs, Adelaide to Melbourne, Tasmania, 3 islands of New Zealand (Milford Sound, Alps, Rotorua). Led by Peter Alden and many local experts. \$5,500 Land.

BRAZIL/ARGENTINA November 11-December 11 (31 days). Featuring Rio de Janeiro, Itatiaia N.P., Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires, the Pampas, Cordoba Hills, Bariloche, Argentine Andes and lakes, Punta Tombo and Peninsula Valdez, plus Tierra del Fuego. Led by Peter Alden and Donald Maciver. \$4,550 Land.

For descriptive brochure call (800) 243-5657, in Connecticut 226-8531, or write: Lindblad Travel, Inc., P.O. Box 912, Dept. AB, Westport, CT 06881 USA.

LINDBLAD TRAVEL-1983





Insectivorous and frugivorous birds are in direct competition for limited food items.

Weather conditions on the continent and locally have seemingly produced waves of migrants and vagrants increasing island lists and day totals (see Regional CBCs). This year's stressful fall migration, winter period, and spring migration portend low numbers of north temperate breeders whose real status may be considered as tropical American. Most of the Region's winter 'visitors' spend as much as 7-9 months in non-breeding territory. Environmental conditions during this period have much to do with a species survival in view of the fact that a particular species population is lowest at egg production and incubation. Further, much concern has been focused on environmental contamination in the tropics and habitat loss on large and small scales. Observers are encouraged to do May counts with these points in mind

and consider that migrants are actually 'visiting' north temperate habitats to breed. Upon arrival their populations are at their lowest level, probably stressed, and perhaps contaminated.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH FALCONS — Audubon's Shearwaters returned to their nesting sites on or about Feb. 14 at Saba Cay, St. Thomas (hereafter, St. T.). JD reported that in January about 500-800 Magnificent Frigatebirds inhabit the mangrove cays of Barbuda. Nesting Brown Pelicans were observed at Little Tobago I., British V.I., for the first time Dec. 30. Five dark and four white-phase Reddish Egrets were observed at Providenciales, the Caicos (hereafter, C.) Feb. 13 & 20, respectively (BA). White-cheeked Pintails numbered 129 on St. John, U.S.V.I. (hereafter, St. J.) Feb. 28. Three Am. Wigeon were present at St. J., intermittently Dec. 17-Feb. 20 (GW). A ♀ and ♂ N. Shoveler remained at Hart Bay pond, St. J., Feb. 1-28, providing the first record for that island. Female and ♂ Ring-necked Ducks remained for several days Dec. 21+, at St. C., providing a record there.

BA reported that a Peregrine Falcon was seen at Grand Turk (hereafter, G.T.) Dec. 28 and for the first time at C., Jan. 29, possibly inclusive. Peregrines are noted regularly at V.I. during the winter months routinely visiting the booby colonies for prey as was the case Dec. 10 at Cockroach Cay and Frenchcap Cay, St. T., Feb. 4. Peregrines have increased noticeably in the Region recently. For example, SF Reports that no *peregrinus* were recorded 1972-1979 during the Cabo Rojo CBCs. Since 1980 however; two, three in 1981, and three in 1982 were observed there. It would appear the captive breeding and release program is working and/or arctic populations are increasing.

COOTS THROUGH DOVES — American Coots (30) including three chicks were carefully observed at Hart Bay pond, St. J., Feb. 1, 18, & 28 (RLN). This is the first known breeding of the species e. of Hispaniola, if one considers the Caribbean Coot (*F. caribaea*) a distinct species. Bond (20th Suppl., 1976, p. 13, to the Check-List (1956) believes the latter to be a morph of *F. americana*. Killdeer nested at Red

Introducing the EcoSound 1

the affordable parabolic microphone system you need to make crystal-clear recordings of nature's sounds to hear and enjoy birdsong from remarkable distances to find, identify, and study more birds than ever before

An outstanding new aid for birders, EcoSound 1 employs a transparent 18-inch sound reflector, a matched condenser microphone, and powerful amplifiers to pick up sounds and songs at the very threshold of hearing and boost them to the volume you desire in the super-light, comfortable earphones.

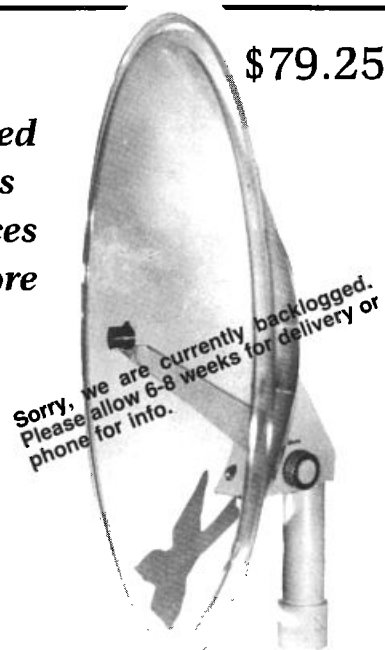
You can tune in the built-in filters to emphasize the particular pitches of a target bird and to effectively eliminate traffic and airplane noise. An automatic volume limiter controls too-loud sounds. EcoSound 1 gives you the sophisticated versatility you need in difficult environmental conditions.

The EcoSound 1 is ruggedly constructed to uncompromising professional instrument standards.

The EcoSound 1 system is easy to use. Its light weight (1¾ lbs.), balance, and completely one-handed operation make it a convenient and effective hand-held field instrument. Tripod-mounted next to a spotting scope, it provides possibly the most intimate observational experience you can have.

The EcoSound 1 is shipped ready to turn on and use. The price of \$79.25 includes earphones, our 48-page bird-call listening and recording handbook, battery, and UPS delivery in 48 states. [California residents please add sales tax.]

battery 9 volt; 10 mA quiescent current
frequency response: 200-20,000 Hz ± 5 dB
high pass and bandpass filters tunable 400-8,000 Hz
dual earphone jacks, recording jack; tripod fitting provided



Order direct, or request our free brochure, from

Ecological Sound Laboratories

**776 University Avenue
Los Altos, CA 94022
(415) 941-6058**

Bay, St. T., Feb. 25 probably in response to the dry substrate within the feeding territory. A pair with downy young found Feb. 10, 1941 (Beatty, 1942) may be the earliest date for the Region. Considered a rare winter resident in the West Indies, Whimbrels (5) were seen at St. C., Dec. 21; (4) Jan. 25; (3) Feb. 28 (JY); at Barbuda (1) Jan. 9 (JD); and at St. T. (1) Jan. 14 & 24. A Caspian Tern was seen at G.T., Dec. 28 (*fide* BA). A Ruddy Quail Dove appeared for the first time at St. J., Dec. 18 (RLN) as a vagrant probably from P.R. Interestingly, another was seen at St. C. (DN) Jan. 10 where a specimen was collected in 1892 (Wetmore, 1927). A Ruddy was collected at St. T., in 1916 (Ridgway, 1916), but has been questioned (Peters, 1931). Vagrancy by West Indian species may be induced by environmental factors. This species appears to be prone to vagrancy as illustrated by reports from s. Florida (Robertson and Given, 1980).

NIGHTJARS THROUGH ORIOLES — More Chuck-will's-widows have been reported this season than in previous years, constituting a mild invasion although none were reported from the s. Bahamas. The Cabo Rojo area reported three for the first time on the CBC in 11 years Dec. 18 (SF) and five were seen on St. J., on the same date (GW). An occasional Chuck has been reported throughout the period on St. J. (RLN) and St. C. (JY, FS). A partial specimen was retrieved Feb. 24 on St. T., providing evidence of widespread occurrence through the e. Greater Antilles. A Stolid Flycatcher was heard at St. J., Dec. 17 (RLN) which may be the extent of its e. range in the Greater Antilles. Single Cliff and Bank swallows were noted at Cruz Bay, St. J., Dec. 14 (RLN) and two Tree Swallows seen a few days later Dec. 18 (*fide* GW) at St. J., a new record, indicate a movement of *Hirundinids* e. of their expected migration route. Of particular interest was a report of 25 well described Caribbean Martins seen Dec. 18 as well at Cabo Rojo, P.R. (SF) providing a rare winter occurrence. BA states that Cuban Crows are resident at Providenciales, C.

Gray Catbirds were reported to be less numerous this season at C.,

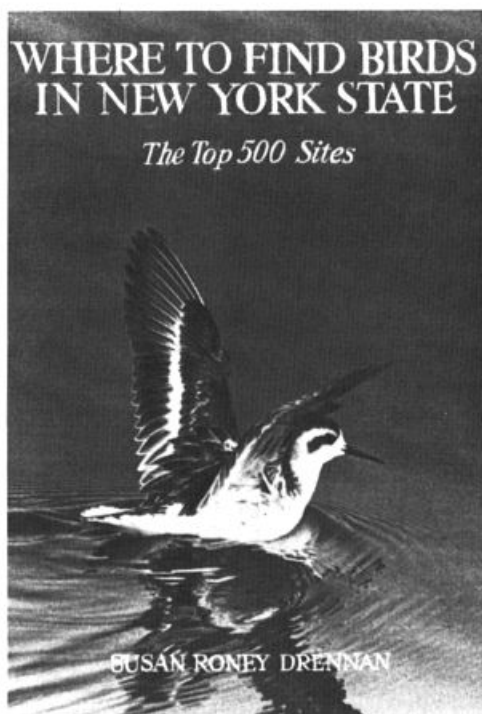
than in past years and seen Jan. 6. Bond (1979) does not list catbird as being a winter resident e. of Cuba. BA also reported that the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is a common resident during the winter. **Yellow-throated Vireos** were seen at C., Jan. 17 and Feb. 12 and at St. J., Dec. 18 (RLN). Similarly, single **Blue-winged Warblers** were noted at C. (BA) Jan. 9 and at St. J., Dec. 18 (RLN). Yellow-rumped Warblers wintered at St. T., this season and were noted Dec. 23-Feb. 24 with a maximum of 12 recorded. Rarely seen in the Greater Antilles, a Black-throated Green Warbler was observed Feb. 27 (GW) at St. J. Also at St. J., another rarely noted *Dendroica* sp., Palm Warbler (2), was seen Dec. 18 indicating an extensive *Parulid* migration e. of expected routes. JD reported a N. Oriole from Antigua Jan. 9 providing a new record for that island. Northern Orioles (2) were also reported from P.R. (*fide* SF) Dec. 18 for the second time in 11 years and again as an annual event at Coral Bay, St. J., Dec. 18 (GW).

EXOTICS — Mallards (25) have been introduced to C. (BA). Caution is advised regarding future records of the species in s. Bahamas and s.e. to the Lesser Antilles. An escaped Mallard was noted at St. C., in November, 1981. BA also reported a Gambel's Quail has been introduced at C. FS heard two Bobwhite at St. C., June 16, 1982, where the species was introduced about 150+ years ago and JY reports that a small group (8) of Spotted Doves remain extant in n.w. St. C.

ADDENDUM — A ♂ **Red-breasted Merganser** was seen at close range (TR) Mar. 9, 1982 at Antigua, providing a new record e. of P.R. and the Lesser Antilles. TR also reported seeing a pair of Monserrat Orioles in late March 1982 which are endemic to that island.

CONTRIBUTORS — Sub-regional editors in boldface; Nelida Agosto, **Beverlea Aldridge**, Jose Colon, Oscar Diaz, John Drury, **Sean Furniss**, David Nellis, Thomas Rivers, Fred Sladen, Gerald Whitman, John Yntema. — **ROBERT L. NORTON, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 101 Estate Nazareth, St. Thomas, USVI 00802.**

"The book is great. . . . Bird watching in New York State should reach a new high. . . . This is the most detailed and sophisticated state directory yet produced."—Roger Tory Peterson



WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN NEW YORK STATE:

The Top 500 Sites

Susan Roney Drennan

Foreword by Roger Tory Peterson

This is the first comprehensive birding site guide for *all* of New York, with information on and directions to more than 500 top birding sites. Each site has a seasonal rating, physiographic description, and list of species likely to be found there. Other sections include sites and habitats for hawks, rare, pelagic, resident, and migratory birds. Includes 106 detailed maps prepared especially for this book. Whether for use in the field or at home, *Where to Find Birds in New York State* will be invaluable for both the serious and amateur birder.

672 pages, 106 maps, bibliography, index

Cloth \$38.00

Paper \$18.95

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Dept. BA
1011 East Water Street
Syracuse, NY 13210

