

The Autumn Migration

August 1—November 30, 1983

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Richard A. Forster

In general, the weather in August, September, and October was very warm and dry with few pronounced cold fronts producing landbird waves. The second and fourth weeks of November were mild but otherwise the month was near normal. November was very rainy partly as a result of easterly storms. These storms were responsible for excellent waterbird numbers at coastal vantages, at least in southern New England.

Most observers Regionwide termed the fall migration fair at best. A better perspective of migration is provided by bird observatories and banding stations that allow for yearly comparisons. Although the banding data supports the general consensus of field observers, clearly some species appeared in above average numbers. This was especially true of resident or common species, which tend to be ignored or unreported by most field observers. However, these negatives aside, there were some phenomenal rarities including a new North American record, and observers in Newfoundland were treated to a reverse migration in mid-November that produced no fewer than seven provincial records.

LOONS, GREBES — There were very few reports of this group of birds but those received were noteworthy. Storm-driven Red-throated Loons numbered 125 at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, Mass., Oct. 25 (*vide* RPE) and 225 during a storm at Rockport, Mass., Nov. 5 when 340 Com. Loons were also noted (RSH). The only other remarkable count of Red-throateds was of 87 at Pt. Judith, R.I., Nov. 11 (*vide* DLE). The Pied-billed Grebe, a species which several regional observers expressed concern about in recent years, seems to be on a rebound (or are being better reported). The highest count was of 60 at Amherst Pt. Bird Sanctuary (hereafter, A.P.B.S.) while they were said to be in good numbers throughout the period in Massachusetts and Connecticut. There was not much mention of Red-necked Grebes. They were considered early in Newfoundland Sept. 11 with a high count of 53 at Saint Pierre/Miquelon I., in early November (RE). The reliable W. Grebe was observed at Wells, Me., Nov. 22 (SH).

TUBENOSES THROUGH GANNET — It would seem that the Manx Shearwater was the most prevalent species in offshore waters this season. Numbers of all other species were considerably lower than in previous years. The usual N. Fulmars were present with the 30 seen at Stellwagen Bank, Mass., Sept. 25 being the best count. Cory's Shearwaters were particularly scarce despite warm water temperatures. Only a few were noted on the "Bluenose" ferry crossings and a maximum count of 20 was noted at Cox's Ledge, R.I., Aug. 31 (*vide* DLE). Somewhat surprising in an off-year was a Cory's seen at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, Mass., Nov. 30 (BN). The only appreciable numbers of Greater Shearwaters were 2000 at Seal I., N.S., Sept. 4 (*vide* RBr), and 2400 at Rockport, Mass., Nov. 5 (RSH) during a storm. Perhaps not so surprising, given the amount of attention pelagic birding is receiving now, were reports of **Audubon's Shearwater**. One was seen at Cox's Ledge, R.I., Sept. 4 and three were seen at Hydrographer Canyon, 75 miles s. of Nantucket I., Mass., Aug. 22 (WRP *et al.*). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were concentrated in the lower Bay of Fundy with estimates of up to 100,000 in early August (NF). More typical of maximum counts were 2500 at Stellwagen Bank, Mass., Aug. 1 (RSH). For the 2nd consecutive year **White-faced Storm-Petrels** were observed on a 2-day pelagic trip to Georges Bank, Mass. Two were seen in the vicinity of Hydrographer Canyon Aug. 22 (WRP *et al.*) where it may appear



regularly in August and September. Leach's Storm-Petrels were reported in normal numbers but 30 seen during a storm at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, Mass., Aug. 13 (*vide* BN) was a high number for such an early date. Northern Gannet is a regular feature along the coast in fall, especially during storms. This year, counts of 12,000 were noted in 2 hours at First Encounter Beach Oct. 25 (BN), and 2800 were seen at Pt. Judith, R.I., Nov. 25 (DLE), where such numbers are unusual.

HERONS, IBISES — Least Bitterns are now scarcely reported in the Region, perhaps indicating a local decline. There were only six reported in August and September, all from Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The fall period is one of post-breeding dispersal and concentration at night roosts. This year counts of 39 Great Egrets and 706 Snowy Egrets were made at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 26 (GWG). Noteworthy reports of seven Great Egrets in interior Massachusetts during August (*vide* SK), and two in November in Nova Scotia were exceptional. The Little Blue Heron continued its propensity for lingering late in the season. Three were present in Massachusetts during November, eight were in Nova Scotia, mostly in September, and one was present in Newfoundland at Witless Bay Nov. 13 (MP, *vide* BM). Wandering imm. Cattle Egrets are routine during this season in October and November. One at Trinity Bay, Nfld., Oct. 10 was unusual, while 61 in Ipswich, Mass., Aug. 28 possibly represented a regional high count (*vide* RPE). The maximum number of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons was six in Eastham, Mass., Sept. 2 (RAF), while one at Grand Manan I., N.B., Sept. 2, and two individuals in Newfoundland in August (*vide* BM) were rare. Glossy Ibises, unlike the herons, depart the Region early. No exceptional numbers were reported, but one at Miquelon I., Nfld., Aug. 22-23 was considerably n. of its usual range.

WATERFOWL — This group performs the bulk of its migration during the latter part of this reporting period but reports were scarce and many observers commented on either the scarcity of birds or the lateness of arrival. Two **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** were present at Monomoy I.,

Mass., Aug. 7 (ph, RE) November saw a rash of reports of Tundra Swans. Seven were seen at Yarmouth, N.S., Nov. 20 (*vide IAM*) while possibly as many as 22 were observed at 3 coastal Massachusetts locations Nov. 27. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** graced a Rochester, Mass., cornfield Oct. 31-Nov. 30+. The Snow Goose migration through the Region defies classification. Flocks totalling 2903 birds were noted in interior Massachusetts Oct. 9, 16, 19 & Nov. 13 (*vide SK*). The only other report that coincides with these dates was of 3 flocks totalling 75 birds in Chatham, Mass., Oct. 16 (BN). "Big flights" of Snow Geese were noted in Connecticut about Oct. 9 (*vide DR*). Fifty-one Brant inland at Quabbin Res., Mass., Oct. 20 was an unusually high count (*vide SK*). Canada Goose migration goes largely unmentioned on due to the low-high resident populations. Thus, 20 flocks totalling 1000+ birds in New Hampshire Oct. 9 (TR) were noteworthy. Wood Ducks seldom assemble in appreciable numbers in the Region and 250 in Longmeadow, Mass., Sept. 18 was a good count. An eclipse-plumage **Cinnamon Teal** was carefully observed at Seal I., N.S., Sept. 2-4 (ELM, SIT). The usual scattered Eur. Wigeons were present from Newfoundland to Rhode Island with one at E. Providence, R.I., Sept. 20 perhaps a bit on the early side (*vide DLE*). The only sizable count of Canvasbacks was of 1200 at E. Providence, R.I., Nov. 19 (*vide DLE*) at a now traditional location. An impressive count of Ring-necked Ducks was of 1075 at Lakeville, Mass., Nov. 5 (WRP). The **Tufted Duck** first discovered at Monomoy I., Mass., in May was present throughout the reporting period.

There was very little comment regarding sea ducks but the general consensus was that they arrived late and in lower than normal numbers. However, there are always exceptions. A high of 25,000 Com. Eiders was noted at Plymouth, Mass., Nov. 19 (*vide RPE*). A NE storm at Rockport, Mass., Nov. 5 produced 6000 Oldsquaws, 12,000 Surf Scoters, and 8500 Red-breasted Mergansers (RSH), while 6000+ Red-breasted Mergansers were at Provincetown, Mass., Nov. 20 (BN). Noteworthy were 521 Black Scoters inland at Quabbin Res., Mass., Oct. 15 (*vide SK*). At Sachuest Pt., R.I., ten King Eiders and 12 Harlequin Ducks were observed in late November (*vide DLE*). These represent rather high numbers for a southerly, but now established, location.

VULTURES, DIURNAL RAPTORS — Hawkwatch enthusiasts provide more information than can readily be summarized here. Suffice it to say that Sept. 13-14 were the days that hawkwatchers will long remember. A capsule report follows.

In keeping with its spread just to the s. of this Region there were 2 reports of Black Vultures. One was seen at Mt. Battie, Me., Sept. 8 (JP), while another seen in Vernon, Vt., and in 2 adjacent Massachusetts towns Sept. 8-27, might well have been the same individual (*vide SK*).

The generally low hawkwatching totals can be attributed to frequent SW winds not conducive to migration. However, when winds were favorable a massive migration occurred. On Sept. 13 Broad-winged Hawk totals were 19,912 at Wachusett Mt., Mass., 12,424 at Southwick, Mass., and 5434 at Mt. Tom, Mass. On Sept. 14 in Connecticut, Broad-wingeds staged a less impressive flight, which was probably a spill-over from the Massachusetts flight. Broad-wingeds numbered 6025 at Goshen, Conn., Sept. 14, and 2281 at S. Litchfield, Conn., the same day (*vide NC*). On Sept. 14 in New Hampshire there were 10,992 Broad-wingeds at 4 locations but the reporter indicated there may have been some duplication (*vide KCE*). Somewhat enigmatic considering their scarcity in s. New England in October were 200+ Broad-wingeds at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 6-11 (*vide IAM*). Otherwise hawk count totals were substantially lower at well-manned stations. At Lighthouse Pt., Conn., the seasonal tally was just over 10,000 birds, including 6400 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1900 Am. Kestrels, 488 Ospreys, 18 Peregrine Falcons, 84 Merlins and 333 N. Harriers. About 500 Sharp-shinneds were estimated at Brier I., Nova Scotia, Oct. 8 but hawk watchers in Maine (*vide GA*) and Rhode Island (*vide DLE*) reported meager results. A hawk watch in Hancock, Mass. reported 20 N. Goshawks, most in late October, and four Golden Eagles Oct. 16-Nov. 13 (*vide SK*). Falcon reports were about average for the period with 35 Merlins and eight Peregrines at Monhegan I., Me., Sept. 24 being high counts (RSH). There were 2 Gyrfalcon reports, both of dark-phase individuals, at Port Joli, N.S., Oct. 12 (*vide IAM*), and Plymouth, Mass., Nov. 27. (JB).

RAILS, GALLINULES, CRANES — A possible report of a Black Rail was noted at Milford, Conn., Oct. 3, by a rail hunter (*vide DR*). The few Clapper Rail reports were from coastal s. New England and no King Rails were reported. Reports of other rails were exceedingly sparse. An ad. Purple Gallinule was present in Concord, Mass. Great Meadows, (hereafter, G.M.N.W.R.) where one has appeared for the last 4 years. A Com. Moorhen was unusual at Seal I., N.S., Sept. 1 (*vide IAM*) as was one at Monhegan I., Me., during September (v.o.). Up to 11 moorhens were noted in Longmeadow, Mass., at least to Oct. 11 (*vide SK*). Reflecting a trend in recent autumns, Am. Coot numbers were down, causing negative comments from some Regional observers. Two Sandhill Cranes were found at Middle Musquodoboit, N.S., Oct. 9 (*vide IAM*). The species is now almost annual in Nova Scotia and other sections of the Region.

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird counts were below average during the season but this group always provides interesting reports. No sizable flocks or notable fall-outs of Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported, probably as a result of a lack of coastal storms. A late individual was seen in Portland, Me., Nov. 11 (*vide WT*). The Region's only **Wilson's Plover** was seen at Ninigret Pd., R.I., Aug. 6 (RoC). Most reports for this species are in spring. The first breeding record, and only recent provincial record, of the Piping Plover occurred at Deadman's Bay, Nfld., Aug. 13, when two fledglings were seen (BM). Post-breeding counts of Am. Oystercatchers reflect their strong foothold in the Region. A maximum count of 40 was at Monomoy I., Mass., Aug. 7, and two lingered at Chatham, Mass., to Nov. 6 (BN). Reports of an Am. Avocet in S. Thomaston, Me., Aug. 6-7, Rye, N.H., Aug. 10, and Plum I., Mass., Aug. 10-18 may all have represented the same individual.

Three upland Sandpipers in Nova Scotia Aug. 14-Sept. 3 were unusual while one on the rather late date of Sept. 28, at Burin Pen., Nfld., Sept. 28 (JM, *vide BM*) provided a first provincial record. Regional high counts for both Whimbrel and Hudsonian Godwit were reported from Monomoy I., Mass.; 190 Whimbrels were observed Aug. 2, and 156 Hudsonian Godwits were counted Aug. 6 (BN). A late Whimbrel was at Nauset, Mass., Nov. 27 (BN) and two notably late Hudsonian Godwits were seen at Portland, Me., Nov. 5, and at Seabrook, N.H., Nov. 12 (DWF). A Hudsonian Godwit at inland Longmeadow, Mass., Oct. 1 (TG, *vide SK*) was remarkable. The Marbled Godwit is a rare fall migrant in the s. portion of the Region. Noteworthy reports included two in Maine, one each in August and September and one at Red Head Marsh, N. B., Sept. 17-23. Two late individuals were found at Chatham, Mass., Nov. 19-23 (WB). The best count of Red Knots at the traditional staging area of Third Cliff, Scituate, Mass., was of a rather disappointing 1000 Aug. 14 (*vide RPE*). One hundred observed at Grand Pré, N.S., Nov. 8, was a large number for so late a date. A Sanderling seen at Seabrook, N.H., Aug. 28, had been color-banded in Chile in December 1982 (LH).

The Semipalmated Sandpiper is probably the commonest migrant shorebird in the Region. Nonetheless, 155,000 estimated at Mary's Pt., N.B., Aug. 1-2 is a staggering total. The W. Sandpiper is a scarce but regular migrant to the Region with this year's totals above average. Maximum counts of 11 were seen in Rhode Island (*vide DLE*) and a total of 12 in September in Maine. Seventeen were seen along the New Hampshire coast Sept. 5 (DJA). The regional maximum of 30 was noted at Nauset, Mass., Sept. 10 with ten still present there Nov. 5 (BN).

S.A.

An imm. **Little Stint** was observed and photographed at Hartlen Pt., N.S., Oct. 23-24 (*IAM et al.*). This represented the third Canadian record and sixth for e. North America. Other less well-documented shorebird reports include both **Temminck's Stint** and **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at Monomoy I., Mass., Oct. 23 (WB), and a **Long-toed Stint** at New Haven, Conn., Sept. 11 (PD). The latter was photographed and copies are being distributed to acknowledged shorebird experts but the author is not privy to their decision at this writing.

The most frequently reported shorebird in the Region was the White-rumped Sandpiper. The best counts came from the n. part of the Region where 100 were at Lawrencetown, N.S., Aug. 6 and 300+ at Conrads

Beach, N.S., Aug. 27 (*vide* FS) Continuing a trend (?) were late reports of 16 White-rumpeds at Gander, Nfld., Nov. 13 (*vide* BM) and ten at Machias, Me., Nov. 10, while six at inland Pittsfield, Mass., Nov. 6 (*vide* SK) was unprecedented. Baird's Sandpiper was reported in much lower numbers than usual this fall except at a turf farm in Richmond, R.I., where a maximum of eight Baird's and 27 Buff-breasted sandpipers were observed Aug. 29. Other noteworthy reports were of a Baird's at St. John's, Nfld., Sept. 1 (BM), 12+ at Seal I., N.S., Aug. 23-Sept. 5, and a late individual at Monomoy I., Mass., Nov. 6 (WH). Most unique were two Baird's seen on outer Georges Bank on a pelagic trip Aug. 22 (RRV). There were few comments on Pectoral Sandpipers in the Region, indicating a poor migration, and no Curlew Sandpipers were reported. Stilt Sandpipers were scantily reported with the most unique being one at Crescent, N.S., Nov. 13 (*vide* FS) and five at Grand Manan I., N.B., Aug. 26 (DSC). Other than the previously mentioned Rhode Island location, Buff-breasted Sandpipers totalled 20± individuals with most unusual being three at Lubec, Me., Aug. 28. In keeping with the sparse shorebird flight very few Ruffs were reported. However, one at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 23 was extremely late and furnished one of few provincial records. The lion's share of Long-billed Dowitchers in the Region are seen in Massachusetts. The best count was of 150 at Plum I., Sept. 23 (GWG) and 40 were still there Nov. 1. One at Cherry Hill, N.S., Oct. 1 was out of place. Most common species receive few comments, but 13 Am. Woodcocks at Grand Manan I., N.B., Oct. 3, and seven there Nov. 3 provided insights into the migration of the species through the Region.

Fewer than normal numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes were reported in New England. One in Miquelon I., Nfld., Aug. 23 and another at St. John's, Nfld., Sept. 13-14 (JW) represented fourth and fifth provincial records. Less unusual were two individuals in Nova Scotia and two at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan I., N.B., Aug. 8. Red-necked Phalaropes were sparsely reported in offshore waters. The usual concentration at Passamaquoddy Bay, N.B., was estimated at 300,000 in mid-August but the figure was termed "lower than normal". The only significant numbers of Red Phalaropes were noted at Brier I., N.S., when 2000-3000 were seen Sept. 4 & 8.

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — To continue the monotony, jaegers were also poorly reported. A few Pomarine Jaegers were seen on the "Bluenose" ferry crossing between Maine and Nova Scotia. The only significant count of Pomarines was of eight plus at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, Mass., Nov. 26 after a storm. Five Parasitic Jaegers were seen at Pt. Judith, R.I., Nov. 25, (DLE). These storm-driven birds are seldom seen from land in Rhode Island and the date was very late. The only regional report of the Long-tailed Jaeger was also from Rhode Island, an individual noted at Cox's Ledge Sept. 7 (RBo, *vide* DLE). Single skuas (sp?) were observed from the "Bluenose" ferry Aug. 11 & 22. Well-described Great Skuas were seen at Miquelon, Nfld., Oct. 4 (RE) and at First Encounter Beach Oct. 25 (BN). Summer skua reports are usually of **South Polar Skuas**. One was seen and photographed off Connecticut in Long Island Sound Aug. 19 (*vide* DR) and another was seen off New Hampshire Sept. 17 (DSÅ). Both constituted first state records.

The usual small numbers of Little Gulls were seen with the most unusual being an immature at Deadman's Bay, Nfld., Aug. 13. Common Black-headed Gull numbers peaked at 78 at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 25. The **Mew Gull** made news in the Region this fall. Three separate individuals were seen in Newfoundland Sept. 13-Nov. 6 (ph., BM), and an adult was observed at Provincetown, Mass., Nov. 30 (BN, PG). These individuals are suspected of being the European subspecies *Larus canus canus*. No numbers of Iceland or Glaucous gulls were reported in the Region. The Lesser Black-backed Gull is now reported regularly in the Region. Three were seen in Newfoundland Sept. 20-Nov. 30, and eight were noted in Massachusetts. Traditional wintering birds returned to Connecticut and Nova Scotia. The Black-legged Kittiwake was well represented in NE storms. Exceptional counts were of 3000 at Rockport, Mass., Nov. 16, (RSH), 2000 at Eastham, Mass., Nov. 26 (BN), and a surprising 4400+ at Pt. Judith, R.I., Nov. 25 (DLE). A Black-legged Kittiwake at W. Haven, Conn., Sept. 8 (PD) provided one of the few state records. Six Sabine's Gulls were noted in offshore Massachusetts waters in late August and September and an adult was at Seal I., N.S., Oct. 16 (RBr).

A Gull-billed Tern seen and photographed at Red Head Marsh near St. John's, N.B., Aug. 22-29 (*vide* DSC) and another at North Head, N.B., Aug. 27 provided extralimital records. Three seen in Rhode Island Aug. 19-25 (*vide* DLE) were more than usual. A few Caspian Terns were observed migrating along the coast in late September and early October. Unique for the Region was a Sandwich Tern at Monomoy I., Sept. 4 (WD). An estimated 15,000 Com. and Roseate terns came to an evening roost at Monomoy I., Sept. 3. (BN), and 2500 Roseates were seen there Aug. 3 (RSH). Forster's Tern staged an impressive migration into the s. portion of the area. In Connecticut there was an "abundance of Forster's Terns" with 47 still present Nov. 10 (*vide* DR). The high count in Massachusetts was of 125+ at Eastham Oct. 5 (BN). One inland at Longmeadow, Mass., Aug. 27 (*vide* SK) was decidedly unusual. An imm. Least Tern was seen n. of its breeding range at Seal I., N.S., Sept. 1-7 (IAM *et al.*). An ad. **Bridled Tern** was observed 50 mi s. of Martha's Vineyard Aug. 7, (VL). Black Terns were scarce but one strayed to Newfoundland at Conception Bay Oct. 1 (*vide* BM) and two were in Chatham, Mass., Nov. 6, with one still present Nov. 19 (BN). Modest numbers of post-breeding Black Skimmers visited the s. portion of the Region but two at Seabrook, N.H., Aug. 24, (EWP, *vide* KCE) represented one of the few state records.

ALCIDS — A decade ago ocean storms would have produced Dovekies in surprising numbers but recently they have proved to be very scarce. The only Dovekie reported from Nova Scotia was at Hartlen Pt., Nov. 6; 25 were in Grand Manan channel Nov. 29; and the maximum count from Massachusetts was of 61 at Rockport Nov. 5, where the only Com. Murre was found s. of its normal haunts Nov. 16 (RSH). The Thick-billed Murre was exceedingly scarce but Razorbills picked up late in the period. At Grand Manan channel 125 were seen Nov. 19 (NF), 100 were seen Nov. 26, and 200 on Nov. 30 at First Encounter Beach, Eastham (BN), while 200 unidentified large alcids on the latter date were probably also Razorbills. A wandering imm. Black Guillemot was seen at Plum I., Aug. 23 (RSH), and two Atlantic Puffins were at Rockport Oct. 25 (RSH). In Newfoundland alcids were termed "common as usual at the right time and place" (*vide* RE).

DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS — A **White-winged Dove** was discovered at Monhegan I., Me., Sept. 23 (RSH *et al.*) and was seen through Oct. 10 before being found dead. There was some speculation that this may have been the same individual seen there last fall. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is an uncommon breeding species as far n. as Massachusetts, so the abundance this fall in more northerly sections is of interest but hardly unprecedented (see Griscom, L., 1955 *AFN* 9:7). In Maine it was "quite a fall for Yellow-billed Cuckoo," 24 were reported from New Brunswick in September and October, 43 were observed in Nova Scotia Sept. 3-Oct. 23, and three were seen in Newfoundland in October. An E. Screech-Owl seen and heard in Cutler, Me., to late October, was considerably n. of its usual range. There was no indication of a major movement of Snowy Owls. The Regional total from Nova Scotia to Massachusetts, all in November, was ten, making six in Connecticut Oct. 31-Nov. 10 (*vide* DR) surprising.

S.A.

An anomaly in this year when n. species remained at home was a **Boreal Owl** discovered in downtown Boston by Philip Thayer. Originally thought to be a N. Saw-whet Owl, the individual was seen and photographed Nov. 2 & 8. It was not until January, when photographs were sent to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, that the true identity was realized.

It was an exceptionally good year for Com. Nighthawks migrating through the Connecticut River Valley in w. Massachusetts. In Southwick, Mass., 5169 were observed Aug. 20-Sept. 4 with a peak of 2756 Aug. 28 (SK). A late Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at W. Pubnico, N.S., Nov. 6 (*vide* IAM), and an exceptionally late Chimney Swift was feeding over a manure pile in Bridgewater, Mass., Nov. 5-6 (WRP). The latter individual was intently scrutinized for indications of a different species.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Woodpeckers, being predominantly sedentary species, are infrequently reported. The

Red-headed Woodpecker, a very rare breeder in the Region, was represented by nearly 50 records. Most reports were in the latter half of September and October with peaks of three each occurring at Monhegan I., Sept. 22-24, Sept. 23-24 at Block I., R.I., and again there Oct. 3-5 (v o.). However, seven observed at Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Sept. 11 were mostly resident birds. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is a species with a very restricted migratory period in late September and early October. Only six migrants were reported in Nova Scotia and 25 were seen at Monhegan I., Sept. 22-24 (RSH). Field observers cannot assess *Empidonax* flycatcher migration. Twenty-four migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatchers occurred on Appledore I., Me., Aug. 24-Sept. 9, with peaks of six Aug. 24 & 30 (DWH). A Willow Flycatcher was seen and heard singing well n. of its breeding range at Grand Manan I., N.B., Aug. 7-13, (CEG). At Seal I., N.S., Least Flycatchers totalled 25 on Sept. 5 and 20 on Sept. 8.

— S.A. —

An individual of the genus *Myiodynastes* was seen at Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Nov. 12-13 (WM, VL). The bird was originally thought to be a Streaked Flycatcher because of pale underparts but subsequently the thought of Sulphur-bellied couldn't be ruled out. Photographs will be circulated to experts in tropical bird identification for possible confirmation.

Western Kingbirds, non-breeders in the Region, were well reported this fall. The earliest arrival appeared at Deer I., Me., Aug. 20 (*vide* WT) while nearly 40% of the 40+ reports occurred in November.

Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, possibly the same individual, were noted in Connecticut at Hammonasset S.P., and Lighthouse Pt., on 2 unspecified dates in October (*vide* DR).

SWALLOWS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — An estimated 25,000 Tree Swallow were at Plum I., Sept. 17 (*vide* RPE). Notably late were six N. Rough-winged Swallows in W. Harwich, Mass., Sept. 18 (BN). Also late was a Cliff Swallow at Salisbury, Mass., Oct. 7 (RSH), but one at St. Pierre, Nfld., was astonishing Oct. 24 (*vide* RE). In Connecticut, Blue Jays staged a "large flight along the coast" in October (*vide* DR), and lesser numbers were reported from Massachusetts. Reflecting its rapid increase in Massachusetts, Com. Raven was noted in 7 locations. There was much comment in the Region on the Black-capped Chickadee migration. Migrants were noticeable in New Brunswick from early to mid-September with 100 reported from Red Head Marsh, and "large numbers" were present along the Connecticut coast in October. Manomet Bird Observatory (hereafter, M.B.O.) banding totals of chickadees have been exceeded in only one other year, 1971. The fall banding total was nearly 3000 with a pronounced peak occurring Oct. 31-Nov. 2, when 1007 were banded (TL-E). As is often the case Boreal Chickadees accompanied this movement. In New Hampshire seven were seen s. of their normal range Oct. 16-Nov. 1 (*vide* KCE). Manomet Bird Observatory banded four Boreals Oct. 26-Nov. 3, and one was banded at Rockport, Mass., Nov. 10 (RN). A Boreal Chickadee was particularly noteworthy in E. Orleans, Mass., Nov. 13 (BN), and singles were at E. Haven, Conn., Oct. 6 and Lighthouse Pt., Oct. 30 (*vide* DR). Red-breasted Nuthatches were common in the n. section of the Region with daily averages of 30-40 at Seal I., N.S., Sept. 9-15 but in Massachusetts there were only modest numbers.

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — A Carolina Wren at Fredrickton, N.B., Sept. 25 constituted only the 7th provincial record. Two separate House Wrens were seen at Seal I., Sept. 13 and Oct. 15. In Nova Scotia, Winter Wrens were termed very scarce and were generally unmentioned on in the remainder of the Region. The Region's only reported Sedge Wrens were one each in Connecticut, at Greenwich and New Haven Oct. 2, and one in Newton, Mass., Oct. 5 (OK, *vide* RPE). More than 500 Golden-crowned Kinglets were at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 10 (ELM), and they were termed "early and common" in Connecticut. A scarce Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at Seal I., Sept. 3 (*vide* JSC), and a late individual was at Woods Hole, Mass., Nov. 14 (RAF). Northern Wheatears were seen at Seal I., Oct. 14 (SF), Mt. Agamenticus, Me., Sept. 15 (ReC, *vide* WT) with a possible at Saint John's, N.B., Aug. 16.

— S.A. —

The first North American record for **Stonechat** (*Saxicola torquata*) was observed and photographed at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan I., N.B., Oct. 1 by Cecil Johnston and Jim Wilson. The rump was rusty chestnut, indicative of a Siberian race, *S.t. stejnegeri* or *S.t. maura*.

Newfoundland's first **Townsend's Solitaire** was photographed at St. John's Nov. 24 (BM). Veeries were more noticeable this fall with 32 banded at Appledore I., Me., Aug. 26-Sept. 10 (DWH), and 15 seen at Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Mass., Sept. 9 (RSH). The Gray-cheeked Thrush was better reported than in recent years and this is reflected in banding totals. Four were banded at Appledore I., Sept. 8-10 (DWH), eight were banded at Rockport, Mass., in September (RN), and 17 were banded at Nantucket I., Mass., Sept. 9-28 (EA). Five thousand Am. Robins were at Brier I., Oct. 8 and a "major movement" was noted in Maine Oct. 10-12 (*vide* WT). Twenty-two N. Mockingbirds were seen in Nova Scotia, including five in Cape Breton, at the n. limit of its range. Evidence of a major flight of Bohemian Waxwings was shaping up in late October and November. Early individuals were at Brier I., Oct. 22 (*vide* JSC), Fundy N.P., N.B., Oct. 31 (*vide* BD), and 14 at Dixmont, Me., Oct. 30. Two were seen in Richmond, Mass., Nov. 5 (SK), and at least five were at Provincetown, Mass., Nov. 18 (KS, *vide* BN). As many as 80+ were in Orono, Me., by Nov. 14 (PDV). Northern Shrikes were widely reported in the Region in very small numbers with no indication of a major winter influx. The earliest was at the s. White Mts., N.H., Oct. 14 (TR, *vide* KCE). The Loggerhead Shrike is now a legitimately rare bird in the Region. The only individuals were singles in Massachusetts during September and October and one in Connecticut in late October (*vide* DR).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Surprising in a season of almost universal negative comment were vireo reports, especially from the n. part of the Region. Once again it is apparent that continuous daily banding operations provide the most accurate migration information. In Newfoundland a White-eyed Vireo was present at St. Pierre Nov. 1, (REV), a Red-eyed Vireo was late at St. John's Oct. 30 (*vide* BM), and a Warbling in the same location Oct. 2 & 5 provided only the 3rd provincial record. Six Warbling Vireos were noted at Seal I., in September and a Yellow-throated was noted there Sept. 6 & 9. Comments on Red-eyed Vireos indicated a good flight in New Brunswick (*vide* BD), and 256 were banded Aug. 25-Sept. 10 at Appledore I., Me., with peaks of 32 on Sept. 9 and 31 on Sept. 8 (DWH). Twenty-two Philadelphia Vireos in September in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK) was a good total and 15 were seen at Martha's Vineyard Sept. 11 (*vide* RPE).

— S.A. —

The most significant event of the season was the reverse migration of warblers that occurred at St. John's, Nfld., in mid-November. Strong southerly air flows on Nov. 7 and again Nov. 12-13 apparently were responsible for this occurrence. Bruce Mactavish, one of the benefactors of this largess, described it thusly: "But a more intense coverage of the city this fall has brought to light the fact that St. John's may be a bit of a vagrant trap—an oasis of lush deciduous trees and ornamental hedges and gardens on a barren coast strategically located at the easternmost point of land in North America and on the path of many low-pressure areas that come from the south and west. The birding has been continuously exciting and new this fall. Perhaps the most exciting moment of my birding life was standing in a backyard with four other birders in front of a maple tree containing seven species of warblers, two of which were new for the province—**Townsend's Warbler** and Pine but also a rare Yellow-throated Warbler and an Orange-crowned." With the exception of a ♀ Hooded Warbler (first provincial record) seen Nov. 8-16 most were discovered Nov. 16-30. The amazing list includes two Black-and-whites, an Orange-crowned, a Nashville, three Cape Mays, a Townsend's (first provincial record), two or three Yellow-throateds, two Pines, two Prairies (2nd and 3rd provincial records), a Yellow-breasted Chat, a Hooded, four Wilson's, and a Yellow Warbler Dec. 1.

The Golden-winged Warbler was well reported. Three were banded at Appledore I., Sept. 4-10 (DWH), two were seen in Massachusetts and a late individual was banded at Nantucket I., Oct. 8 (EA). Reports of Orange-crowned Warblers were sparse. The Cape May Warbler was one of the better reported species with 200 at Seal I., Sept. 3 and 281 banded at Nantucket I., in September. Migrant Yellow-rumped Warblers totalled 1000+ at Brier I., Oct. 8. Other than Newfoundland's remarkable Yellow-throated Warblers, one was at Seal I., Sept. 8 (SIT), and two in Massachusetts at Holyoke Aug. 23 (*vide* SK) and Gloucester Aug. 14 (CWL). In New Brunswick eight Pine Warblers were observed this fall with four Nov. 9+ certainly related to the Newfoundland situation. The first provincial records for Cerulean Warbler were seen in Nova Scotia this fall, all at Seal I., Aug. 16, 31 & Sept. 2 (v.o.). August reports of the Prothonotary Warbler were two in Massachusetts, one at Grand Manan I., Aug. 25-29 (*vide* DSC), and one at Seal I., Aug. 18 (*vide* PRD). Very unseasonal was a Prothonotary at Grand Bank, Burin Pen., Nfld., Oct. 15-16 (JW) for a new provincial record. One hundred sixty N. Waterthrushes were banded at Appledore I., Aug. 25-Sept. 11. North of their usual range were Kentucky Warblers at Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Mass., Aug. 19-21 and one banded at Appledore I., Aug. 30 (DWH). Connecticut Warblers seemed to be better reported than usual. An *Oporornis* warbler netted, banded, measured, photographed and released was identified as a MacGillivray's at Nantucket I., Sept. 4 (EA, v.o.). The elusive Yellow-breasted Chat was reported in the usual low numbers.

TANAGERS THROUGH CARDUELINES — A Summer Tanager was observed at Chatham, Mass., Sept. 18 (BN). Late Scarlet Tanagers were at Rockport, Mass., Nov. 8 (DT) and St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 15-21 (JW). Four Blue Grosbeaks, scarce but regular migrants in New England, were noted in Nova Scotia. Six Dickcissels were rather early in Nova Scotia Aug. 1-15 and another 40+ were noted Regionwide during the period. American Tree Sparrows were very scarce with many comments on their absence. In Nova Scotia 3 reports totalled 13 individuals. The Clay-colored Sparrow was reported in below-normal numbers but one at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 15-30 and another there Nov. 25-30 (BM) provided first provincial records. The northernmost Lark Sparrow was at Seal I., Sept. 4-5. At least three singing ♂ Henslow's Sparrows were discovered in Windsor, Mass., Aug. 6 and breeding was later confirmed (DS, *vide* SK). Migrant Henslow's were noted at Plum I., Mass. Nov. 1 (*vide* RPE) and at New Haven, Conn., Oct. 2 (*vide* DR) and another was seen in early November. A well-described **LeConte's Sparrow** was at Plum I., Oct. 21 (RLF). Out-of-range Seaside Sparrows were at Seabrook, N.H., Sept. 5 (DJA, *vide* KCE), Machiasport, Me., in the 3rd week of September and Economy, N.S., Nov. 12-23 (*vide* PRD). The Fox Sparrow flight in Massachusetts during early

November was termed excellent. White-throated Sparrows were very common throughout the Region during migration but White-crowned Sparrows were almost nonexistent with only four seen in Nova Scotia. An ad. **Harris' Sparrow** was seen in Truro, Mass., Sept. 28-29 (RIC, *vide* BN). In excess of 5000 Dark-eyed Juncos were at Brier I., Oct. 10 (ELM).

Some impressive counts of Bobolinks were made this fall; 2500 were migrating in Moncton, N.B., Aug. 23, 1000 were in S. Windsor, Conn., Sept. 1 (*vide* DR) and 3000 were at Trustom Pond N.W.R., Sept. 6 (*vide* DLE). Fifteen Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen Aug. 20-Sept. 24 from Nova Scotia to Rhode Island. Two **Brewer's Blackbirds** at Sakonnet Pt., R.I., Nov. 13 (RBo, *vide* DLE) represented one of the few state records. Undetermined as of this writing was a large grackle, either Boat-tailed or (more probably) Great-tailed, at Annapolis Royal, N.S., Nov. 17-30 (*vide* ELM). Two (possibly four) Orchard Orioles at Seal I., Sept. 1-4 were very late (ELM). The previously mentioned reverse migration brought three or four N. Orioles to St. John's, Nfld., in mid-November and five to Nantucket I., Nov. 19 (EA).

House Finches continue their tenuous presence in Nova Scotia with six present in September. Winter finches were conspicuous by their absence. Small numbers of White-winged Crossbills were present from Newfoundland s. to n. Maine but s. of there the only report was of 15 at New Haven Nov. 26 (*vide* DR). Pine Siskins were said to be quite common in Maine (*vide* WT). To the s. there was a minor incursion from mid-October to early November but these apparently moved on and none replaced them. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce in s. New England until mid-November when flocks began to drift S.

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QUEBEC REGION

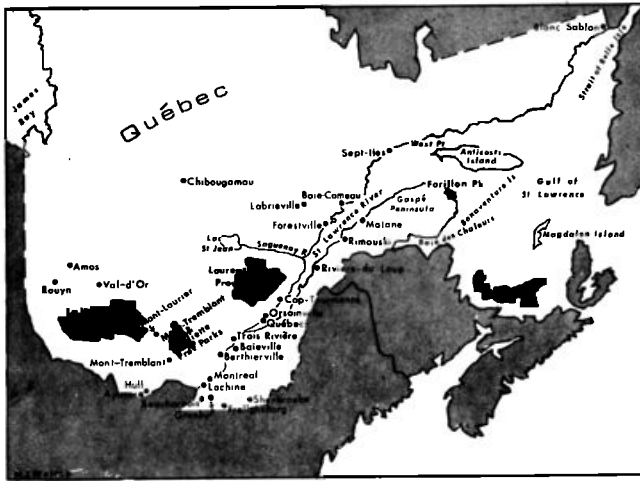
/Yves Aubry and Richard Yank

August was generally dry and cool, except in southwestern Quebec where it was very warm. September and October saw above average precipitation and temperature throughout the province. Precipitation levels were 2-3 times the mean in southern Quebec and the Gaspé Peninsula during November; temperatures were normal in the south, above normal in central Quebec, and below normal in the north.

LOONS THROUGH EGRETS — An ad. **Arctic Loon** at Hauterive Oct. 1 (CD) provided a second record for the St. Lawrence R., while a Sooty Shearwater at Bergeronnes Oct. 15 (CC, RC) was the latest ever. A Leach's Storm-Petrel was on L. Saint-François off Saint-Zotique Oct. 1 (SB), where a storm-petrel sp. (possibly the same bird) was subsequently observed Oct. 9 (*vide* PS); these birds are casual w. of Quebec City. Northern Gannets also moved into the Upper St. Lawrence this fall as singles were reported from Quebec City Sept. 28 (JH) and Beauharnois Dec. 15 (GD), and four immatures were found along the Ottawa R.; these included two grounded birds shot near Quyon Nov. 30 (*vide* BD), and two others on the river at Luskville Dec. 3 (BD). The first local

sighting of a Double-crested Cormorant inland at L. Dumont, Pontiac Co., Sept. 4 (ML) was not unexpected. Great Egrets again frequented marshes along the s. shore of L. Saint-François this summer and fall, with a peak of 14 tallied Aug. 11 (*vide* JS) during an aerial survey of the area; elsewhere, one was observed at Sainte-Clothilde, Arthabaska Co. (CH *et al.*), and one was at Havre-aux-Basques Aug. 29-30 (YA), a first for the Madeleine Is. Single Snowy Egrets turned up at Portneuf (EB, AB) and Cacouna (GS, m.ob.) during the period, while an imm. Little Blue Heron was at Havre-aux-Basques Sept. 2 (YA). The Tricolored Heron present at Rimouski since early July was last seen Sept. 12 (GG). Cattle Egrets were again widely reported, if in slightly lower numbers than last fall; August and September sightings included one at Pike-River (RG), one at Hauterive (VB), and two each at Missisquoi Bay (RG) and La Pocatière (BV, JL), while mid-October saw the species invade the extreme e. part of the province with four at Cap-d'Espoir ca Oct. 12 (LN, *vide* RB; injured bird found Oct. 19) and ten at Grande-Entrée Oct. 19 (DE), another first for the Madeleine Is.

WATERFOWL — Two ad. Snow Geese with three downy, "chicken-size" goslings were at Deception Bay in July (LG); the only other breeding records for the Region originated from Povungnituk, farther s., in 1966-68 (see Palmer R.S., 1976, Handbook of North Am. Birds,



Vol. 2, p. 133) and 1978 (C.W.S. survey, *vide* G. Chapdelaine), both referring to *A. c. caerulescens*. A flock of 1000 Snow Geese at Plaisance Oct. 19 (JS) was notable so far from the species' normal migration path. A record late juv. Ross' Goose was at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 23 (BH). A group of four Mallards at Tasiujak Sept. 17 (RS) provided a 2nd record in as many years for Ungava Bay. The usual fall concentration of diving ducks off Montreal I., apparently peaked during the first week of November as an aerial census Nov. 2 produced 105,000 birds, including 75,000 on L. des Deux Montagnes (*vide* LMS, no stated confidence limits on counts); while scaup predominated, the latter total included an estimated 17,000 Canvasbacks, a high although not unprecedented number. A ♂ Com. Eider, seldom seen away from the Lower St. Lawrence R., was at La Baie Nov. 2 (GS). The Harlequin Duck bred at new localities on the Gaspé Pen.: a female with three flightless young was found on the Madeleine R., Aug. 24 (AD; ducklings also there Aug. 19, 1982) and four ♂ birds were sighted on the Sainte-Anne R., in Gaspésie P.P., Aug. 21 (PD) where a brood had been observed earlier in the season. On the other hand, post-breeding migration could not be ruled out for a group of five Ruddy Ducks in Forillon N.P., Aug. 30 (TS) which included nearly full-grown young; the species is nevertheless a rarity on the Gaspé Pen.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Four Turkey Vultures were noted over Aiguebelle P.P., Aug. 24 (DP), the 2nd Abitibi sighting. Even though within the species' known breeding range, a pair of Bald Eagles attending a nestling on the Mitchinamécus Res., Aug. 4 and 10 (PH, DPa) was noteworthy since few eagle nest records are received. Red-shouldered Hawks nested at Saint-Aubert (GB) on the edge of their range. The only regularly manned fall hawkwatch in the province is at the w. tip of Montreal I.; this year's tally was 2nd only to the exceptional flight of 1981, with totals for the following species exceeding the 1976-82 average by 50% or more: Osprey, N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk and Am. Kestrel (MM, BB). Following the successful nesting of Peregrine Falcons this summer, further good news came from Montreal as in late September a banded female joined a male (also banded) which had been on territory in the downtown area since April (RS); observed behavior indicated pair formation. An ad. Am. Coot with two flightless young at Roquemaure Aug. 21 (RN, NB) extended the breeding range of this species well N into the Abitibi area. The only Sandhill Crane encountered during the fall migration was at Kazabazua Aug. 18 (JT, HF).

An impressive 105 Hudsonian Godwits were at Chandler Aug. 7 (RB); the species also showed up in s.w. Quebec where it is irregular, with one at Oka Sept. 24 (LC) and up to three at Vaudreuil Oct. 8-12 (BB, MM, m.ob.). A lingering Red Knot was located at Pointe-au-Père Nov. 30 (YG), one month later than the previous record departure date. Western Sandpipers were reported for the 3rd consecutive year, with one at Coteau-du-Lac Aug. 15 (GH), another at Sainte-Luce Aug. 26 (YG), and a record late bird at Quebec City Oct. 9-10 (PP); unfortunately, no descriptions were submitted. Buff-breasted Sandpipers made a better-than-average showing this fall with one each at Cacouna Aug. 28

(AC, YM), Quebec City the same day (CV), Rimouski Sept. 2 and Pointe-au-Père Sept. 22 (YG), two at L. Taureau Aug. 27-Sept. 5 (FH), and up to three at Station-du-Coteau Aug. 30-31 (GH, BB, MM). Other notable shorebird reports included a Ruff at Chandler Sept. 4 (RB, PPO), the Gaspé Pen.'s first, another at Katevale Nov. 12 (PB), a new record late date, and a **Long-billed Dowitcher** identified at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 18 (MGw, TH, BG; details on file); this species, like the W. Sandpiper, has been found annually since 1981, due undoubtedly to increased observer awareness.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The presence of all 3 jaeger species was noted at the mouth of the Saguenay R., and in the upper estuary of the St. Lawrence R. during August and September (YA, YH, RM); in addition, an ad. Parasitic Jaeger was at Beauharnois Sept. 17 (RY), accompanied by an immature the next day (BB, MM), and a Long-tailed Jaeger was seen at Quebec City Sept. 28 (JH). A skua was observed from shore at Forillon N.P., Aug. 30 (TS); the description did not allow the determination of species. Noteworthy gull sightings included single Laughing Gulls at Trois-Pistoles Sept. 17 (TH) and Aylmer Oct. 15-16 (RL, m.ob.), a Franklin's Gull off the Trois-Pistoles ferry Sept. 10 (CMr) and at least two in the Montreal area Aug. 14-Sept. 20 (PBa, BB, MM), an ad. Com. Black-headed Gull at Beauharnois Nov. 19 (BB, RY), a first-winter Tayer's Gull at Aylmer Oct. 30 (DSH), up to two ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls also at Aylmer Oct. 15-Nov. 15 (RD, BD) and one at Beauharnois Nov. 20-27 (PBa, BB, MM). A flock of 75+ Black-legged Kittiwakes (about 95% imm.) that passed by the latter site Nov. 12 (BB, MM) was truly unexpected as only one to three/year have been seen there since 1969; one at the same location Sept. 4 (PB) and 15 at Quebec City Sept. 28 (JPO) were early, while an adult at Aylmer Nov. 15 (DD, SBa, CB) made a rare local appearance. Sabine's Gulls were well reported: no fewer than four (one ad., 3 imm.) frequented the mouth of the Saguenay Aug. 24-Sept. 24 (GG, ET, YA, m.ob.) and two immatures visited Beauharnois Sept. 17-18 (PBa, m.ob.). There was a rare inland sighting of three Arctic Terns at the Basketong Res., Aug. 25 (DPa, JM). Several late terns were reported, including up to four Com. Terns at Havre-aux-Maisons Nov. 2-3 (PF, RM) and a Black Tern at Pointe-Lebel Oct. 30 (GC). While only one Dovekie was seen from the Matane ferry this fall, on Oct. 22 (AD), two turned up at Quebec City Oct. 11 (GD). A Razorbill was shot by a "hunter" at Rivière-Beaudette Nov. 15 (*vide* FC).

CUCKOOS THROUGH THRASHERS — This season's movement of Yellow-billed Cuckoos into s.e. Quebec was the most impressive in a decade; 22± reports originated e. of Quebec City (Gaspé Pen., 10; Lower St. Lawrence, 4 on s. shore, 2 on n. shore; Quebec City area, 6) while only four came from s.w. Quebec. The N. Hawk-Owl at Havre-aux-Maisons Oct. 12 (RT, PF, LL) was the first to be sighted in the Madeleine Is., this century. The first Great Gray Owl to arrive in s. Quebec this fall was at L. Bouchette, Montcalm Co., Oct. 18 (PH, JM); by the end of November an invasion of major proportions was indicated, possibly surpassing that of 1978-79 (see AB 33:266), as individuals appeared at a number of locations along the n. shore of the St. Lawrence R.: Pont-Rouge Nov. 13 (GL), Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue Nov. 14 (*vide* PS), Cap-Tourmente Nov. 19 (CS), Gatineau N.P., Nov. 21 (MGu), Berthierville Nov. 22 (DPe), Pointe-Lebel Nov. 23 (*vide* CCo), Sainte-Foy (LM) and Cap-Tourmente Nov. 27 (DB; 3 birds) and Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides Nov. 30 (RQ). Single Boreal Owls also created some excitement at Saint-Marc Nov. 7 (GCo, MP), I. des Soeurs Nov. 18-19 (RG, VM, m.ob.) and Cap-Tourmente Nov. 27 (PO, DL). A Red-headed Woodpecker at Cloutier Oct. 2 (RGu) was possibly a first for Abitibi.

A late Purple Martin was at Rimouski Oct. 12 (YG). A Carolina Wren observed at Aylmer Sept. 23 (TH) was the first there since 1975. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers once again wandered E of their normal, restricted range within the province with one each at Rimouski Sept. 1 (GG) and nearby Pointe-au-Père Sept. 23 (YG). Four migrant N. Wheatcars were encountered along the St. Lawrence R. estuary as follows: Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé Sept. 8 (PF), Sainte-Anne-des-Monts Sept. 10-11 (AD), Rimouski Sept. 25 (JLr) and Pointe-Lebel Oct. 23 (CT). The Brown Thrasher extended its known breeding range E to Rimouski with the belated report of a nest containing a clutch of four eggs June 16 and

two unfledged nestlings last seen June 30 (YG, GP); a singing male at Rollet July 31 (DP) and a late bird visiting a feeder in Arvida Nov. 14 (SD) were also of interest.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Lévis Aug. 28 (PBr). Lingering warblers included a closely studied Blackpoll at I. des Soeurs Nov. 26 (PBa *et al.*) and a record late Connecticut discovered at Aylmer Sept. 23 (TH). A Scarlet Tanager at L. Opatatica, Témiscamingue Co., in late summer (DP) provided yet another Abitibi sighting. A carefully identified Indigo Bunting was at the Tadoussac dump Oct. 23 (YA, RY, PBr), establishing a new record departure date. Also noteworthy was a Rufous-sided Towhee at Murdochville Nov. 26 (MLe). The most surprising birds of the season were **Lark Sparrows** at Baie-Comeau Sept. 25 (GC *et al.*) and Percé Oct. 23 (PPo, DS), the Region's 6th and 7th records and the first since 1973; the latter was in the company of a Field Sparrow, itself an outstanding find. Quebec City had its second ever Grasshopper Sparrow Oct. 9 (ADc). The range of the White-throated Sparrow may extend farther N than previously believed; the species was reported from Deception Bay in July and August (LG) where it was found to breed in 1972 (see Ouellet and Bider, 1973, *Can. Field-Nat.* 87:321). A Com. Grackle at Qujjuarapik July 5 (LG) was also extremely far n. of its presently known range. Small numbers of Houses Finches continued to visit feeders in s. Quebec, including Drummondville (CR), Saint-Cyrille (JCG) and Pierreville (DJ).

ADVENTIVES — A Barnacle Goose at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce Sept. 13 (CM) was possibly one of the birds near Quebec City in June,

while a Ring-necked Pheasant of unknown origin was at Kiamika Aug. 18 (EBr *et al.*).

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

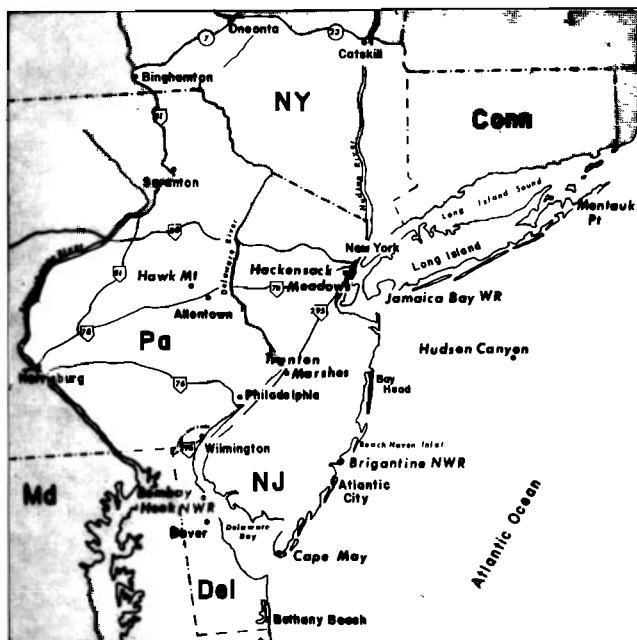
The fall season was warm and varied—wetter than average along the coast but with drought continuing in the interior until late in the season. Low water permitted good heron and shorebird counts in the interior. Early cold fronts were weak or tracked north of this Region, dispersing hawk migration away from the principal observatories, retaining divers and ducks in the north, and making for a dull early passerine season in some areas. The waves that came later were all the more spectacular, especially along the coast. On September 23 it "rained warblers" at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, New Jersey (KB), along with 1000+ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (REM), and there was a considerable wire and window kill around Cape May (PD). Early October produced conspicuous waves of thrushes, vireos, and warblers (FF, CS, DH). Strong easterlies in late October pushed pelagics ashore (*cf.* jaegers, kittiwakes).

Some species (swans, some hawks) moved late, but others (Canada Geese, Broad-winged Hawks) were a bit early, and there were as many early migrants in August (chickadees, kinglets, warblers) as there were late lingerers, reminding us that bird migration cannot simply be read off the thermometer.

Places mentioned frequently are abbreviated as follows: B. Hook: Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig.: Brigantine N.W.R., Atlantic Co., N.J.; H.M.: the Hackensack Marshes, between Kearny and N. Arlington, N.J.; J.B.W.R.: Jamaica Bay W.R., New York City; and Tinicum: Tinicum National Recreation Center, Philadelphia.

GREBES TO WOOD STORKS — Only three Red-necked Grebes were reported, one providing a first locality record at Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., Pa., Oct. 29 (†GLF,GAF). An **Eared Grebe** in breeding plumage in the surf at Jones Beach S.P., Long Island Aug. 4 (ROP) recalled a similar record in Virginia in July 1982.

An **American White Pelican** was observed sporadically in coastal New Jersey for the 2nd fall in a row (AM, CS, AG, m.ob.). What may have been the same bird appeared in Delaware in early December for a first state record (APE, KCL, DAC). Following single-observer records going back to the 1940s, five imm. Great Cormorants that hung around



Salem Harbor, in the Delaware R., off Andalusia, Bucks-Philadelphia cos. (F. Windfelder, R. Smith), were photographed (AB) to authenticate the first Pennsylvania record. They even circled obligingly over the New Jersey bank to be added to the Burlington County list (BMo).

We learned, belatedly, that Double-crested Cormorants bred on Gardiner's I., Long Island (hereafter, L.I.), in Summer 1983, extending their breeding range S of Fisher's I., N.Y., off the Rhode Island coast, their s. outpost in this Region since 1978 (C. Safina, D. Peterson, and M. Scheibel in *Kingbird* 33:4 (Fall 1983), pp. 244-5). Some idea of this species' immense coastal passage is given by a count of 20,000 at the Cape May hawk watch Oct. 11 (L. Metcalf). The largest of many interior reports was of 31 at Green Lane Aug. 21 (GLF, AM), and the usual hundreds gathered in the Delaware R., below Philadelphia.

Low water levels permitted more herons than usual to wander inland. Reid found 6 species in n.e. Pennsylvania, and 7 were at drawn-down Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J. (GH). Noteworthy were a first Luzerne County, Pa., record for the Little Blue Heron at Pittston Sept. 3-23 (WR) and an unprecedented 16 Snowy Egrets on the Susquehanna R., from Berwick to Pittston in late August (WR, DG). A **White Ibis** at Cape May Sept. 29 (RK) was about the third adult for New Jersey.

An imm. **Wood Stork** at Cape May Aug. 15 was joined by another Aug. 30 (ph., S. LaFrance, E. Breden, CS), providing the 4th record there and about the 6th for New Jersey. They remained until at least Sept. 23, although two (the same?) were there Oct. 15 (J. Cadbury, HGA). Oddly, there are more old records from inland New York and Pennsylvania than from New Jersey.



Imm. Wood Stork, Cape May Pt., N.J., Aug. 15, 1983. Photo/A. Brady.

WATERFOWL — The main movement of Tundra Swans was highly concentrated and about 2½ weeks late (RMS). With remarkable convergence, observers reported them Nov. 26 over a broad front extending from Tobay, L.I. (D. Kurtz), where they are rare, w. to Green Lane (GLF) and Beach Haven, on the Susquehanna R. (Kolbachs). Hundreds passed Hawk Mt. and nearby Baer Rocks (SB, KK) and gathered on the New Jersey and Delaware coasts. Two Greater White-fronted Geese of the Greenland race (orange bill) were reported: Great Swamp and adjacent Morris County, N.J., through Oct. 31, probably wild (AK, RK), and in Chester County, Pa., Oct. 4 (HGA), a bird that was not disturbed by passing trucks. A **Ross' Goose** was at Brig., for the 2nd straight fall (J. Williams, L. Larson, ph., S. LaFrance), and was apparently joined by an immature superbly sketched by Barber Nov. 15. They provided the 3rd New Jersey record and the 3rd year in a row for the Region, where this species was unknown before 1971.

Very few sea ducks were downed inland. Black Scoters were, as usual, the most widespread, 22 at Kiamesha L., Sullivan Co., N.Y. (K. Niven), and 17 at Culver's L., Sussex Co., N.J. (FT), being the largest of half a dozen reports (AG, JC, K. Sieminski, C. Bailey). A ♀ White-winged Scoter remained at a small pond near Allentown, Pa., Oct. 29-Nov. 2 (BLM), and a few were at Culver's L., along with the only Surf Scoters reported inland (FT).

RAPTORS — Twenty Black Vultures Nov. 19 near Woodville, Mercer Co., was the largest number ever observed at one New Jersey roost (P. Fahey). Other frontier records included Starlight L., Wayne Co., Pa. (JC), a first for that area, and three in September in Dutchess County, N.Y. (B. Bohler, C. Terhune).

Four Mississippi Kites were at Cape May for the 5th fall in a row, three in August and one, the latest ever, Sept. 25 (CS, PD). Bald Eagle numbers were encouraging along the coast and at inland bodies of water. The Cape May hawk watch total of 27 (all imm.) was the best since the modern count began in 1976, and about ten others were in the vicinity (CS). Twenty at Bake Oven Knob was the best total there in 10 years (SS), and seven passed Scott's Mt., Sept. 14 (GH). A fine concentration of 11 was just below the Conowingo Dam, Lancaster Co., Pa., Nov. 16 (*fide* AH). Some of this improvement may have resulted from hacking

operations. Three of the six released last summer near New Bloomfield, Pa., were still there in late fall (OKS). Most inland ridges, however, had fewer than usual, perhaps only because the birds dispersed in the tranquil weather. Widespread observations of single birds included one adult over Manhattan Nov. 13 (J. Machado), and an immature discovered feeding on a road-killed deer near Dallas, Pa., Nov. 20 (W. Perry), for which the Pennsylvania Game Commission provided a new deer carcass every week or so into December (WR).

Northern Goshawks continued their build-up of the past several years. Records were set at Cape May (45), and at Upper Montclair (10), although Hawk Mt.'s 126 was still well below the numbers seen during the great incursion falls of 1972 and 1973. Other accipiter numbers were below normal except for a record total of 49 Cooper's Hawks at Upper Montclair. These low numbers probably tell us little about real population trends, however, for most hawks seem to have migrated on a broad front, in the absence of winds to concentrate them on the coast or along ridges.

The Red-shouldered Hawk was the only *Buteo* species to turn in high counts, Hawk Mt.'s 450 being exceeded only once in the past decade (503 in 1977) and only 3 times in that observatory's long history. Records were also set at Mt. Peter, N.Y. (93), and at Scott's Mt. (51).

The Broad-winged Hawk flight, usually so spectacular along the Kittatinny-Blue Mt. Ridge, made a very poor showing at all the traditional hawk watches. This might have suggested some catastrophic decline had not a few observers been in the right place to track a massive and rather early "megafly" (GH) across c. New Jersey Sept. 14. Working on a roof at Boonton, Morris Co., P. Karner saw thousands go over in the morning. That afternoon, 18,500 were counted over Scott's Mt., Warren Co. (GH *et al.*), and 10,000 farther s.w. near Easton, Pa. (D. DeReamus, A. Koch). The rest of the flight was dispersed in both space and time, some hawk watches not reaching their peaks until the next cold front on Sept. 23 (*e.g.*, 2601 at Upper Montclair). An imm. light-phase Swainson's Hawk at Cape May Aug. 7 & 17, possibly the same, provided the 2nd August record there and the earliest (CS).

Golden Eagle numbers were encouraging inland, but less so on the coast. In addition to about a dozen scattered individuals, Hawk Mt.'s count of 56 had been exceeded only once in the last decade, and Raccoon Ridge's 16 only once since 1979. Bake Oven Knob had a new high count of 51, and five were in Westchester County, N.Y., during the season (*fide* TWB).

American Kestrels posted their lowest totals of the decade at some hawk watches, and were mostly below last fall's already dismal totals, suggesting that something more than dispersed migration may be at work. It is hard to draw conclusions about Peregrine Falcons in this unfocused migration, but the 72 that passed the Cape May hawk watch Oct. 9 constituted an all-time one-day high there. Continuing a streak of fall and winter Gyrfalcon records, a dark-phase bird was at Cape May Oct. 14 (†H. Axtell), and another (or the same?) was seen at Barnegat Light Nov. 25 (*fide* AH). Another dark-phase bird passed Bearfort Mt., N.J., at close range Oct. 15 carrying a robin (†TV).

The hawk watch data above are credited to S. Benz (Hawk Mt.), A. Bihun (Upper Montclair), G. Hanisek (Scott's Mt.), K. Kranick (Baer Rocks), A. Martin (Mt. Peter), D. Panko (Fire Island), H. Richard (Breezy Pt.), P. Dunne and C. Sutton (Cape May), F. Tetlow (Sunrise Mt.), and F. Wolfarth (Raccoon Ridge).

GALLINULES, SHOREBIRDS — A Purple Gallinule found in a Philadelphia backyard Oct. 22 is now in the Philadelphia Zoo (*fide* AH).

Drought conditions as well as artificial draw-downs made such areas as Brig., Green Lane, Spruce Run, and the upper Lehigh and Susquehanna rivers favorable for shorebird records. Reid found 20 species on the upper Susquehanna, "the best ever." Green Lane hosted 25 species (GLF), with a peak of about 200 birds there Aug. 27, when water levels were the lowest Mirabella had ever seen. Conditions were superb at Brig., after many years of high water; an estimated 100,000 shorebirds of 23-24 species were there in the first days of August (TH, AB). At the other end of the season, R.E. Maurer and C. Danzenbaker came upon a great mass of shorebirds on the n. end of Brigantine I., Nov. 23: 10,000 Dunlins, 1000 Black-bellied Plovers, 250+ W. Sandpipers, 150 Sandpeckers, 140 Am. Oystercatchers, 20 Red Knots, and a Ruddy Turnstone.

At J.B.W.R., where Davis continued his intensive shorebird study

that recorded 35 species between June 23 and early November, 1127 Black-bellied Plovers Sept. 23 was his highest count so far by 50%, although such figures may have more to do with local conditions than with general population trends. The Lesser Golden-Plover flight fell short of recent levels, the largest concentrations being up to 130 at a sod farm near Riverhead, L.I., in late August-early September (PB), 45 at Baiting Hollow, Suffolk Co., L.I., Sept. 4 (GT), and 78 at the Columbus sod farm, Burlington Co., N.J., Oct. 22 (B. Nixdorf). Davis' Aug. 18 count of 1203 Semipalmated Plovers at J.B.W.R., was also about 50% higher than his previous maximum.

The late summer Am. Avocet build-up peaked at 300 at Raymond Pool, B. Hook Oct. 7 (KCL); 25 at Kitt's Hummock Nov. 2-Dec. 5 (APE, D. Niles) mark a new Delaware location. But they hardly budged to the n. Only two reached Brig., Aug. 3 (REM), and J.B.W.R. had none for the first time since 1976 (THD). The healthiest Upland Sandpiper assemblage was a good 57 in alfalfa fields near Intercourse, Lancaster Co., Pa., Aug. 1 (T. Amico), but the best Long Island count was of a meager 27 at Westhampton Airport July 25 (RFM, M. Bollino). The best the Columbus sod farm could do was 25 on Aug. 6-7 (*fide* AH), although another 15 were at Elmer, Salem Co., Aug. 2 (J. Haag). The best Delaware count was of only nine at Dover A.F.B., July 23 (JMA).

A remarkable 55 Hudsonian Godwits were reported from the Delaware Bay ferry Aug. 26 (DW, D. Sibley), but numbers elsewhere were unexceptional (8-9 at J.B.W.R.). Marbled Godwits were in good numbers, the largest gathering being seven at Brig., Oct. 30 (BMo). Individual Ruddy Turnstones were highly unusual inland at Green Lane Oct. 4 (F. Brock), on the Lehigh R., at Bethlehem Sept. 12-20 (m.ob.), and at Spruce Run Aug. 5, the 2nd ever there (GH). In more normal habitat, Davis had his all-time maximum of 235 for J.B.W.R., Aug. 18. A similar peak was of 736 Red Knots there Aug. 9 (THD), and a notable late count was of 640 at Zachs Bay, Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Nov. 24 (PAB). A Sanderling was highly unusual inland on the Lehigh R., at Bethlehem Sept. 19 (*fide* BLM).

— S.A. —

Davis found the substantially later molt of Semipalmated Sandpiper's a further aid in separating them from W. Sandpipers. "Of the small numbers of juv. Semipalmateds present late October-early November, all were heavily worn, but none exhibited obvious body molt. Adult Semipalmateds observed in the first half of September showed considerable body molt, but none were seen in full winter plumage. An ad. Western on Aug. 22 was in full winter plumage, most juveniles exhibited obvious body molt after mid-September, and the lone bird Nov. 8 was in first-winter plumage."

White-rumped Sandpipers were below their high numbers of the early 1980s, like many w. and plains waders. But Baird's Sandpipers were very widely reported. In addition to individuals at most coastal sites (J.B.W.R.; Brig.; Pickering Beach, Del., †FH), there was a large number of multiple inland reports: five at Ashokan Res., Sullivan Co., N.Y., Aug. 31 (RT), up to four at Green Lane Sept. 3-10, the most ever found there (RW, GLF, A & JM), two at Doe Run, Chester Co., Pa., Sept. 1 (L. Lewis, *fide* PH), and two at Pittston Sept. 3, the first Luzerne County record (WR, J. Hoyson).

Brigantine, with two or three Curlew Sandpipers in August (B. Conn, TH, DW, RD, BMo) joined J.B.W.R., with two in late July-early August, as a prime site for this "regular accidental." Stilt Sandpipers were unspectacular, two in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR) and nine at Green Lane Oct. 4 (GLF) being unusual, and 241 at Little Creek W.M.A., Aug. 26 (JMA) being the best coastal report. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were widespread, but only on Long Island did they reach modest 2-digit figures: 20 at a sod farm near Riverhead (PB), 15 at Mecox (m.ob.), and 13 at Baiting Hollow (GT), all at the beginning of September. Not all Ruffs are reported now, but the season's five were about par. All were at usual coastal sites except one Sept. 14 at Green Lane (†GLF, GAF), only about the 4th s.e. Pennsylvania record outside Tinicum. An imm. Long-billed Dowitcher at Green Lane Oct. 2-4 (ph., RW, †GLF), was one of very few authenticated records for s.e. Pennsylvania.

Not all Wilson's Phalaropes are reported now, and there were no concentrations this season, but both Wilson's and Red-necked phala-



Curlew Sandpiper, Brigantine N.W.R., N.J., Aug. 8, 1983. Photo/ A. Brady.

ropes at Green Lane Aug. 21-22 (RW, GLF, A & JM) were noteworthy. Five other Red-necked Phalaropes were all coastal (BMo, REM, CS *et al.*). Far more remarkable were three inland Red Phalaropes: Spruce Run, Aug. 31-Sept. 6 (E. Patten), a first record for Central Park, N.Y.C., Sept. 23 (ph., D. Krauss), and Culver's L., Nov. 19-20 (IHB, FFr, H. Wallum, TV).



Red Phalarope, Central Park, New York, N.Y., Sept. 23, 1983. Photo/ D. Krauss.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS — Many jaegers were observed from onshore, especially during the strong E winds of Oct. 20-24. The best onshore count of Parasitic Jaegers was 17 in 3½ hours at Avalon, Cape May Co., N.J., Oct. 20. About seven of the less-expected Pomarine Jaegers were also reported (DaH, HLeG, RDB), the best count being three at Ocean City, N.J., Oct. 24 (REM).

In a definite change of status, Laughing Gulls were regular on the Schuylkill R., in Philadelphia for the 2nd late summer in a row, and lingered on the Delaware R., there into November (KR). A remarkable inland count was of 75 at Mercer County P., N.J., Oct. 19 (RJB, DR). Five Little Gulls (GT, REM, TH) and three Com. Black-headed Gulls (PB, IHB, RD) were well below the averages of a decade ago. The Lesser Black-backed Gull at Mamaroneck, Westchester Co., N.Y., returned for its 4th winter, one of an average of about nine for the season. The strong easterlies of late October brought two imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes inside Delaware Bay near the Maurice R. mouth, Cumberland Co., N.J., Oct. 21, Kunkle's first in many years of bay experience. Another was even more drastically displaced to Marsh Creek S.P., Chester Co., Pa., Oct. 25 (L. Lewis, B. Cook, *fide* PH), a 2nd s.e. Pennsylvania record.

For the 3rd straight fall, post-breeding Gull-billed Terns, some of them begging young birds, gathered at Whitesbog in the Burlington Co., N.J., pine barrens July 2+. The count reached 30 on Aug. 31 (L.

Little), and the last were seen Sept. 3 (REM). The best of many Caspian Tern reports was an unprecedented 50 at Kitt's Hummock, Del., Sept. 16 (APE, SSp), four remaining until Nov. 2. Post-breeding Royal Terns reached a fair 43 at Mecox, L.I., Oct. 1, plus one at Sagaponack and five at Shinnecock (GSR), and a record state total of 1000+ at Hereford Inlet, Cape May Co., N.J., Oct. 8 (CS). Two were very much out of place over the pine barrens at Tabernacle, Burlington Co., N.J., Aug. 4 (JS). Now almost annual, even without storms, a post-breeding Sandwich Tern was at Shinnecock Sept. 9 (J. Greenlaw). Unusual ashore in New Jersey, a Roseate Tern was at Holgate Sept. 4 (JDo). An Arctic Tern was at Sagaponack Sept. 18 (GSR).

Forster's Terns were exceptionally numerous and late. We suspect that good inland counts like the up to 25+ at Muddy Run, Drumore, Lancaster Co., Pa., Sept. 15-Nov. 3 (RMS) are migrants from the n. Great Plains population. Post-breeding dispersants reached the largest numbers ever seen on Long Island by Oct. 12: 80 at Mecox and 20 at Shinnecock (GSR). An equally extraordinary 75 were in the H.M., Sept. 16 (DaH) and 250 the same day at Kitt's Hummock, Del. (APE, SSp). After a long decline, Black Terns put in a somewhat better appearance; 13 at Nummy's I., Atlantic Co., N.J., Aug. 31 (CS) and 25 at Holgate Sept. 4 (JDo) were the best counts in 10 years (RK).

A wayward Dovekie delivered to the Bronx Zoo Nov. 11 (*fide* D. Kraus) was the only alcid reported.

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS — A **White-winged Dove** passed the Cape May hawk watch going N Sept. 6 (†HLeG, P. Sutton). A small and fleeting Snowy Owl movement brought several to Long Island in early November (*fide* GSR) and two to Pennsylvania: one at Nockamixon S.P., Bucks Co., Oct. 30 (GAF, GLF, A & JM), and another in downtown Allentown from approximately Nov. 8-26, learned of by birders only after it had apparently been pecked to death by crows (*fide* BLM). Northern Saw-whet Owls seem particularly vulnerable to road killing. We learned of no fewer than seven cases this season, all in November (DH, JKM, RDB), and including four along the Pennsylvania Turnpike Nov. 5-6 (DAC).

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird passage at Hawk Mt., our longest-running measure, was a below-average 71 (SB), although 52 from the Butler Sanctuary hawk watch in Westchester Co., N.Y. (*fide* TWB), seemed rather impressive. Red-headed Woodpeckers seemed commoner again this fall, the best counts being up to 27 in Great Swamp, Morris Co., N.J. (RK, AK, FFr), and eight to ten near Bally, Pa. (GLF). They were "way up" at Cape May, with up to eight in a day (RDB), and the new Fire I. hawk watch counted nine, including three Oct. 8 (DPa). But only a mediocre 27 of this erratic species passed Hawk Mt. (SB).

About ten W. Kingbirds along the coast were unremarkable, but one inland at Newtown Square, w. of Philadelphia Nov. 23 (*fide* AH) was noteworthy.

CORVIDS TO SHRIKES — The quiet increase of Fish Crows inland has gone largely undocumented. This time we have reports that they are much commoner in s.e. Pennsylvania (PH, AM), and up to 125 were reported in November from Belmont Lake S.P., L.I. (GSR), and Lawrence Township, N.J. (RJB). Common Ravens are becoming regular in the mountains, where they were accidental a decade ago. We had 12 reports this season, 7 from Bake Oven Knob, Pa. (SS), 3 from Stokes State Forest, Sussex Co., N.J. (L. Soucy), and one each from Raccoon Ridge (FPW) and Mt. Peter (AMA).

Black-capped Chickadees were already on the move in August (R T.W.B.C., NRB, GH), but the irruption developed mostly in e. Pennsylvania (GLF, RMS) with only normal numbers elsewhere. Even this partial irruption brought a few Boreal Chickadees. Singles were at Hawk Mt. (SB), Stokes State Forest, N.J. (C. Sturm), Liberty S.P., Jersey City (DR), and Pleasant Valley, Dutchess Co., N.Y. (MVW), all in October and November, and a remarkable Aug. 4 report from Moriches, L.I. (K. Tuohy), is under study. Red-breasted Nuthatches, whose irruptions generally coincide with those of chickadees, also made a big feint in August (GH, NRB), only to subside later.

Only four elusive Sedge Wrens were reported: Higbee's Beach, Cape May Oct. 4 (RDB) & 28 (REM), Brig., Oct. 2 (P. Guris *et al.*), and Lincoln P., Morris Co., N.J., Oct. 12 (J. Broschart, DR). For the 2nd year in a row, Golden-crowned Kinglets were abundant, Boyajian commenting that this breaks the usual pattern of one big year followed by 2

or 3 low ones, as the figures from his Alpine, N.J., Hudson R. overlook show.

For the 6th fall out of the last 7, a **Northern Wheatear** turned up, this one an immature at Brig., Sept. 15 (B. Tannery, ph., G. Dewaghe). Gray-cheeked Thrushes, which may pass unobserved, were commoner than usual at Long Island banding operations (ROP) and positively abundant at Cape May, where Dunne estimated 25 in the great Sept. 23 wave. This year's **Varied Thrush** was at Rifle Camp P., W. Paterson, N.J., Nov. 26 (P. Both, J. Guthrie).

Five **Bohemian Waxwings**, the first in this Region since 1980, were reported among Cedar Waxwings in Dutchess County, N.Y.; Nov. 18 (MVW, H. Manson, M. Yegella). We learned of only two N. Shrikes Allendale, Bergen Co., N.J., Nov. 18-19 (W. Johnson, H. Bristow), and Smith's Point S.P., L.I., Nov. 27 (RFM). Seven Loggerhead Shrikes was about average (MVB, WJB, JS, RT, GT, RJB, JPT, MK, *et al.*), the Rosedale Park, N.J., bird turning up for the 12th year of the last 17. This species is now on the New York State endangered list.

VIREOS TO TANAGERS — A Warbling Vireo at Willow L., Queens Co., Oct. 22 (†GT) was very late. Philadelphia Vireos were even more numerous than last fall. The best of a number of multiple one-day counts reported to us were eight at Higbee's Beach, Cape May Sept. 10 (WJB), 15+ there Sept. 16 (AC), and five at Hawk Mt., Sept. 26 (SB).

Even though the principal warbler waves were delayed to Sept. 23 (30 species at Cape May—PD) and early October (22 species at Cape May Oct. 9—REM), a number of long-distance migrant species were already on the move in early August. Notable in this category was a Tennessee Warbler Aug. 7 near Allentown, Pa. (BLM). Most southerly-breeding warblers slip away early, so Prothonotary Warblers at Princeton, N.J., Oct. 9 (J. Garcia, H. Summers) and Berwyn, Pa., Oct. 13 (†T D Roberts) were unusual. An extremely late Hooded Warbler was picked up dead at Culver's L., Sussex Co., N.J., Oct. 12 (FT).

In the same category were Summer Tanagers at Tobay, L.I., Sept. 3 (EL) and at Baer Rocks, Pa., Sept. 18 (KK). **Western Tanagers** were at Tobay Oct. 16 (MK) and Cape May Sept. 25 (S. Russell, R. Ogden).

GROSBEAKS, SPARROWS — A count of 25+ Blue Grosbeaks at Higbee's Beach, Cape May Sept. 16 (AC) was a measure of this species' explosion in this area.

Western sparrows were mostly scarce. Three Clay-colored Sparrows Sept. 18-Oct. 16 (EL, A. Dove, G. McChesney) and five Lark Sparrows (AW, EL, WJB, RD, J. Peachey) were all coastal, as usual. Three Henslow's Sparrows were identified: J.B.W.R., Sept. 29 (H. Fischer), Fort Tilden, N.Y., Oct. 15 (M. Sohmer, B. Baker), and Mercer County P., N.J., Sept. 24 (RJB). An "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco returned to a Blairstown, N.J., feeder Nov. 11 for the 3rd straight year (*fide* FPW).

ICTERIDS TO FINCHES — About five Yellow-headed Blackbirds were unexceptional: two or three at Cape May Sept. 10-24 (B. & N. Murphy, REM, HLeG), Jones Beach, L.I., Sept. 18 (AW, S. Schiff), and Surf City, N.J., Sept. 10-14 (B. Jones). A ♀ **Brewer's Blackbird** was carefully described at Eckville, Pa., Oct. 8 (T. Clauser). Although there is now a confirming photo for New Jersey (*N. J. Aud., Suppl Spring 1979, V:1*), this species, probably annual in the s. of our Region, lacks photographic or specimen documentation for Pennsylvania and Delaware.

A minor winter finch flight included a very few Pine Grosbeaks in the Pennsylvania mountains: one at Hawk Mt., Oct. 18 (SB) and nine at Baer Rocks Nov. 4-12 (KK). Oddly, nine White-winged Crossbills at Bake Oven Knob Nov. 12 (GLF) and 54 at nearby Baer Rocks Nov. 4-12 (KK) outnumbered the more usual Red Crossbills. A trickle of Red Crossbills came down the Hudson R. (11 at Alpine during November—NRB), five reached Baer Rocks Nov. 4 (KK), and two reached Cape May Nov. 14 (HLeG). Pine Siskins moved late, in late September, and were numerous only on Long Island. Evening Grosbeaks were widespread after 2 lean years but patchy, only here and there in "truly massive" numbers (Cumberland County, N.J.—RDB).

EXOTICS — Monk Parakeets persist at Lafayette, Sussex Co., N.J., where one to three mingled with a blackbird flock (J. Zamos). An Australian Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*) was in a yard in Philadelphia Sept. 9 (B. Cohen). A Red Bishop (*Euplectes orix*) an African

weaver, was at Piermont, Rockland Co., N. Y., in October (C. Harten). A Brazilian Cardinal was in Mantua, Gloucester Co., N. J., in mid-November (*vide* W. Middleton).

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — A dark-legged *Calidris* with bright reddish secondaries and tertials at Brig., Sept. 10 was identified as a Little Stint (MVB *et al.*). The bird was not found subsequently or photographed, and in the absence of information about age or molt, we leave it under this heading for now. Juvenile Least Sandpipers, brighter-backed than adults, may often show dark legs.

Wayne Peterson described a Solitary Vireo at Cape May Oct. 8 that strongly suggested the western *plumbeus* race, a form never confirmed in this Region (*cf.* J. Bull, *Birds of New York State*, 1974, p. 459).

CORRIGENDA — The Wilson's Phalarope illustrated in AB 37:853 was at Beach Haven, Pa., not New Jersey.

The Louisiana Heron at Wyalusing, Pa., Apr. 2, 1981, in AB 35:805 should be changed to Little Blue Heron.

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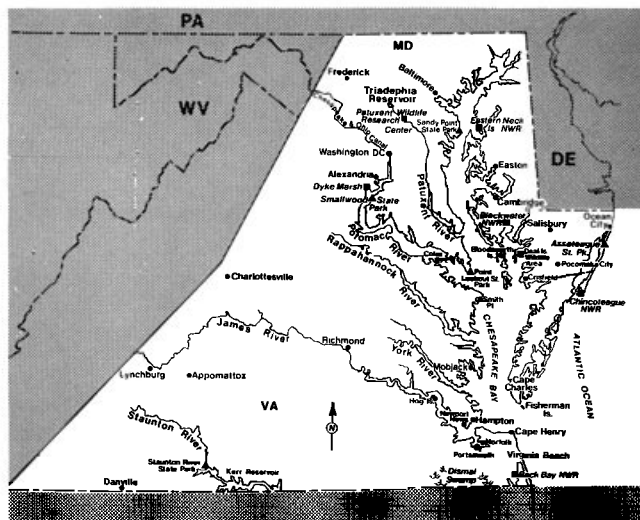
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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Henry T. Armistead

Late summer was extremely dry and hot. Rains returned in late September and the rest of the fall was increasingly seasonably mild and also wet. Waterfowl were late and low. Hawks were well reported and in fair to good numbers as were shorebirds, except in most impounded areas. Gulls and terns were abundant and stayed late. Warblers were well observed, especially at the two major netting sites. Northern irruptive birds were in poor supply as in the past few years.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Always scarce away from the coast, single Red-throated Loons were at Hart., Oct. 16-23 (RFR *et al.*), Swift Creek Res., w. of Richmond Oct. 26 (FRS), D.C., Oct. 27 (DC) and on the Susquehanna R., Nov. 22 (RMS). An Arctic Loon at Ft. Hunt, Va., near D.C., Oct. 27 awaits the verdict of the state rarities committee (JMA, DFA). Massive loon flights included 360 Red-throateds and 1445 Commons on the lower Bay in Mathews County, Va., Nov. 26 (the latter a record state count—JBB), 1125 Commons plus 450 Horned Grebes on Eastern Bay s. of Kent I., Md., Nov. 1 (JGG) and 275 Red-throateds with 70 Commons off Ocean City Nov. 27 (PGD). Season's high of Pied-billed Grebes was but 30 at Swift Creek Res., Nov. 26 (FRS *et al.*). Horned Grebe numbers seem to be up slightly but still way under the norm (v.o.). Hart. had the fanciest grebes such as a Red-necked Oct. 30 (RFR *et al.*) and an **Eared Grebe** scrutinized at 20 ft, Oct. 16 (2nd Maryland fall record—EB, HM, BD *et al.*). Anomalous was a N. Fulmar captured at False Cape S.P., Va., ca. Sept. 30 (ML, *vide* RLA, ph.) on the heels of Tropical Storm *Dean*. Pelagic reporting was minimal. However, 200 Greater and 12 Manx shearwaters were off Ocean City Nov. 5 (HLW *et al.*) and an Audubon's and five Cory's plus 200 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were 21-42 mi out from Wachapreague, Va., Sept. 4 (HTA, GR). An unbelievable 3000 N. Gannets were seen from Ocean City Nov. 27 (PGD). Those seen Mar. 27 in the lower Bay of Maryland (HLW, DMo) did *not* involve duplicates (see AB 37:855). *Mea culpa*. The Region's obligatory Am. White Pelican was at Chinc., for most of November (DFH, CPW *et al.*). Brown Pelicans continued their unprecedented invasion and massed at Fish I., with 260 Sept. 7 (FRS, HTA), 250 Sept. 10 (KB), 461 Sept. 24 and 290 Sept. 26 (CP, HTA). As recently as 1981 the record Virginia count was 25. Other sightings included 108 at Kipt., Aug. 7 (FRS, JWD), 39 at Wallops I.,



Aug. 16 (CRV), 24 at Chinc., Oct. 13-14 (CPW), 22 on Parramore I., Oct. 29 (CSR *et al.*) and 18 at Virginia Beach Sept. 5 (TRW). By period's end they were gone. Some predict they may nest soon on the Virginia Eastern Shore. The only Maryland record was of seven on Assat. I., Aug. 26 (BH, FH). The first Great Cormorant was at Ocean City Oct. 9, seen at 25 ft (RFR, m.ob.). Most interesting was an immature on the Susquehanna R., Oct. 17 (RMS). Fifteen were on Lower Machodoc Cr., Va., Nov. 26 (JEJ, SJ). At Hopewell, Va., 156 Double-crested Cormorants Oct. 2 was a good local count (FRS). As early as Sept. 7, 1850 were at Kipt. (FRS, HTA) and 3200 were at Chinc., Nov. 7-8 (CPW) while 27 at Hunting Cr., Va., Sept. 22 was good for the D.C. area (DFA).

Schutsky counted 211 Great Blue Herons at Susquehanna R., Oct. 31 surpassing his previous high of 117. At Hopewell 106 Great Egrets were seen Sept. 3 (FRS, BR *et al.*) & 19, plus 16 Snowy Egrets at Back R., Oct. 5 was a good count for the Baltimore area (EB). One hundred Snowy Egrets at Tilghman Aug. 21 was excellent for the c. Bay (JKE *et al.*). Cattle Egrets peaked at 560 at Kipt., Sept. 7 (FRS, HTA) and

singles lingered near Charlottesville Nov 8 (KF), Ocean City Nov 27 (PGD), and into December at Locustville, Va. (GR). As usual most of the biggest heron concentrations were at Chinc., where most impoundments became bone dry by summer's end: 224 Glossy Ibises Aug. 4-5; 112 Little Blue Herons and 1055 Snowy Egrets Aug. 11-12; 183 Great Egrets Aug. 25-26 (CPW).

WATERFOWL — The mild fall caused the late arrival of many waterfowl, especially Tundra Swans, Snow Geese, Canada Geese, and diving ducks. Southern outpost Mute Swans were near peak numbers at the s. edges of their range with 47 at Chinc., Aug. 6 (FRS, JWD) and 12 at Hooper's I., Md., Oct. 29 (HTA). Single Greater White-fronted Geese were at D.C., Oct. 21 (DC), Creswell, Harford Co., Md., Nov. 19 (4th straight winter—DK) and Blackwater N.W.R., Nov. 26 (MO). Early geese at Chinc., included one Blue and 13 Snow geese and a Brant Sept. 17 (FRS). Unusual Brant locations were 11 in D.C., Oct. 20 (DC) and 30 at Hart., Oct. 30 (RFR *et al.*). Two Hutchin's race Canada Geese were in the Blackwater area Oct. 29 and one was at Bellevue, Talbot Co., Md., Nov. 13 (HTA, MEA).

Early were two Green-winged Teal at Lilypons, Frederick Co., Md., Aug. 13 (RFR) and six at Blackwater Aug. 21 (EMW) where 300 N. Pintails were already present Sept. 2 (HTA). Good early counts of divers were 300 Canvasbacks, 1500 Greater Scaup, 250 White-winged Scoters, 190 Buffleheads, and 300 Ruddy Ducks at N. Beach, Calvert Co., Md., Nov. 1 (EB). One hundred ten Ring-necked Ducks and 62 Buffleheads were in D.C., at Georgetown Res., Nov. 23 (DC). A Harlequin Duck was seen from C.B.B.T., Nov. 30 (PB, *vide* FRS). A ♀ Black Scoter at Piney Run County P., Md., Nov. 6 was new to the Carroll County list (RFR) and 175 at Hart., Oct. 30 was an unusual count so far up the Bay (EB *et al.*). Notable totals from Tilghman were 400 Surf and 600 White-winged scoters plus 1500 Oldsquaws Oct. 27 (JKE, JGR). Eighty Hooded Mergansers were at Piney Run Nov. 20 (EB) and 90 were at Swift Cr., Nov. 18 (FRS) indicating the importance of Piedmont reservoirs for this species. Odd was a flying Ruddy Duck on the Manokin R., Somerset Co., Md., Aug. 7 (SHD).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — A practically unknown 54-page paper, commissioned by Richard H. Pough, has been rediscovered which describes fall flights, especially of raptors, in the Kipt. area Sept. 22-Nov. 11, 1936 by William J. Rusling entitled "Flight-Cape Charles-1936." It includes detailed analyses of flight direction and weather. Some of his more interesting totals included 272 Com. Loons Nov. 7, 388 Black-crowned Night-Herons Oct. 13, 286 Cooper's Hawks Oct. 2, 81 Merlins Sept. 29, 3155 N. Flickers Sept. 25, 825 E. Bluebirds Nov. 4, and 975 Chipping Sparrows Nov. 4. Few copies of this exist. My copy is poor but legible. I can provide copies of it at cost for \$4.70.

In 1983 at Kipt., 19,846 raptors of 15 species were counted in 35 days Sept. 3-Nov. 19 during a total of only 277 hours for an average of 72 birds/hr vs. 96 in 1982.

Rarities were single N. Goshawks Oct. 13 & Nov. 2 (DS, DMn), Golden Eagles Oct. 29 & 30 (BW). Best counts were of 130 Ospreys Oct. 9, 2437 Sharp-shinned Hawks Oct. 3 plus 2081 on the late date of Oct. 22, and 347 Am. Kestrels Sept. 28 (BW, DS *et al.*). Basically September was slower than normal; October was good. An additional N. Goshawk was nearby Oct. 16 (JMA). Also nearby on Fish. I., 50 Merlins were in sight at *one time* Oct. 10 (HLW, DMo) and 500 hawks banded here and at Wise Pt., by Byrd *et al.*, during the season including 90 Merlins and eight Peregrine Falcons. On Assat. I., Ward *et al.* captured Peregrines for the 14th straight year, banding 116. On Oct. 10, 13 were caught and 22 on Oct. 11, a record for one day for his team; 76 were seen Oct. 11 and 62 Oct. 13. Ward states the usual peak is Oct. 6-9 and that migration was very slow through Oct. 9. Banding was conducted Sept. 17-Oct. 21 with a season total of 631 observations. His studies of natal locality determination by trace element analysis of feathers continue (*Auk* July 1983, p. 560-7). Only 217 Merlins were seen on Assat. (vs. 312, 345 and 365 previous 3 years), his lowest per 100 manhours since 1974. At Back Bay, Va., 21 Peregrines were banded in one day (date?, TN, *vide* MAB). A hawk watch at Chinc. was conducted on 18 days Sept. 19-Oct. 14 (120 hrs total) with 65% of the birds being Sharp-shinned Hawks, 212 Oct. 3 and 135 Oct. 14, indicating that this is not a major or general raptor flyway. On the C.B.B.T., in the middle of the Bay, single migrant Turkey Vultures were seen Sept. 10 (TF) &

Sept 9 (with a Red-tailed Hawk—HTA, MEA) and 100+ were seen here crossing the Bay Nov. 8 (KD). It is odd to see such soaring species crossing this 18 mi stretch of water. Highs of both vultures were submitted from Susquehanna R., where there were 122 Turkey's Aug. 30 and 90 Blacks Oct. 17 (RMS). Sixty Black Vultures were at Lilypons Sept 18 (DHW). Ospreys stayed later than usual with two at Swift Creek Res., Nov. 26 (FRS) and one at Great Falls, Va., Nov. 25 (PV). The roost near Hopewell held six adult and 21 imm. Bald Eagles Aug 13 (FRS) and 15 were seen in the Blackwater Ref. area Oct. 29 in company with an early Rough-legged and 73 Sharp-shinned hawks and another early Rough-legged was at Bellevue Oct. 22 (HTA). At Covey's Landing, Caroline Co., Md., a Bald Eagle was seen constructing a new nest Nov. 22 (EE). On the Susquehanna R., Balds built up from seven in August to 15 in November (RMS). At Tilghman a hawk flight Oct 22 consisted of 71 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 12 N. Harriers, a Rough-legged Hawk, and 15 Am. Kestrels (JKE *et al.*). The Kipt. banding station, primarily a warbler mist-netting operation, banded 108 Sharp-shinned Sept. 5-Oct. 16 with 43 caught Oct. 5 and an early one was there Sept 5 (PS). Northern Goshawks were reported rather widely for this Region with singles at Ft. Smallwood P., Anne Arundel Co., Md., Oct 21 (HLW), Nokesville, Va., Oct. 31 (KB), in D.C., Nov. 11 (DC) and at Sterling, Va., Tufts saw an immature Nov. 20-December. At Kipt., as many as seven late Broad-winged Hawks were seen Oct. 22 (BW) but no reports were received of big flights anywhere. An ad. Golden Eagle in D.C., Nov. 2 was most unusual (DC); an immature at Queenstown, Queen Annes Co., Md., Nov. 9 was less surprising (JGG).

Representative high counts were of 10 Wild Turkey's at Lilypons, Md., Aug. 7 (DHW) and 40 Clapper Rails e. of Mockhorn I., Va., Sept 24 (CP, HTA). There was a good passage of Soras through the rice marshes on tributaries w. of the Bay, long a classic setting for rail hunters. On Oct. 4, 29 were counted along the Mattaponi R., Va. (BP) and the same observer encountered 2 hunters who had shot 49 in one day along Mount Landing Cr., near Tappahannock, Va. Portlock also had 24 at Presquile N.W.R., Va., Oct. 13. Gregoire also commented on a better than average flight and one was seen at a small pond near Shawsville, Harford Co., Md., Sept. 5 (DK). Other typical counts were of nine Virginia Rails at Elliott I., Md., Oct. 29 (HTA) and 456 Am. Coots at Swift Creek Res., Nov. 18 (FRS)—the highest totals on hand. Unique was a Sandhill Crane near Cecilton in s.e. Cecil Co., Md., Nov 20-December (JO, ph.) for about the 7th state record.

SHOREBIRDS — Wilds continues her thorough surveys of shorebirds at Chinc., and this fall did 14 two-day censuses between Aug 4 & Nov. 8. This year most of the impoundments dried up in mid-August precipitating a "terrible fall on the refuge for shorebirds with legs shorter than an avocet and longer than a turnstone." Most areas stayed dry until late September. Her peak counts were: Aug. 4-5, Hudsonian Godwit 17; Stilt Sandpiper 141, Short-billed Dowitcher 445; Aug 11-12, Semipalmated Plover 1175, Greater Yellowlegs 374, Lesser Yellowlegs 614, Whimbrel 62, Semipalmated Sandpiper 632, Long-billed Dowitcher 34; Aug. 18-19, Ruddy Turnstone 286; Aug. 25-26, Spotted Sandpiper 24; Sept. 1-2, Least Sandpiper 408; Sept. 8-9, W. Sandpiper 926; Sept. 22-23, Lesser Golden-Plover 21, Piping Plover 25, Red Knot 481, Baird's Sandpiper four, Pectoral Sandpiper 83, Buff-breasted Sandpiper 42; Oct. 13-14, Am. Avocet 18; Oct. 20-21, Sanderling 2612, White-rumped Sandpiper 38, Dunlin 4431. Ringler, Blom *et al.* staged the most complete coverage ever for anywhere else in the Region, completing 18 censuses of Hart., e. of Baltimore July 31-Nov 26 at weekly intervals. Until a few years ago this area was never covered and the entire upper Bay was considered a shorebird desert. Of most interest were: Black-bellied Plover (16-18) (means seen 16 of 18 days), 26 on Oct. 9, one Nov. 26; Semipalmated Plover (15-18) 20 on Aug 21-Sept. 11, two Nov. 5; Piping Plover one Aug. 28 (2nd Baltimore County record); Am. Avocet one July 31, one Sept. 5, two Sept. 11 (3rd-5th county records); (western) Willet, one-three July 31-Aug. 28; Marbled Godwit one-three, July 31-Sept. 5 (ph.); Ruddy Turnstone (11-18) seven Sept. 5; Red Knot two Aug. 21, one Aug. 28; Sanderling (16-18) 25 on Sept. 18-Oct. 16, five Nov. 12; W. Sandpiper, commonest peep, 100 on Aug. 28; Baird's Sandpiper (6-18) 11 on Aug. 21, five Aug. 28, four Sept. 5-11 (ph.); Purple Sandpiper one Nov. 12 & 19 (different birds, first county records); Buff-breasted Sandpiper two Aug. 21, three Sept 11 (3rd & 4th county records). The Baird's total is one of the highest



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hart-Miller Is. Dike, Baltimore Co., Md., Aug. 21, 1983. Photo/R. Ringler.

ever on the East Coast and the adult seen July 31 one of the few ever in the East (EB). At nearby Back R., a Baird's was present Sept. 13 as were 61 Lesser Yellowlegs, 11 Stilt Sandpipers and a Red-necked Phalarope (first Baltimore County record—EB). Regional fall maxima elsewhere included: Black-bellied Plover, 800 at Ship Shoal I., Va., Sept. 25 (CP, HTA); Am. Oystercatcher, 650 at Great Machipongo Inlet, Va., Oct. 16 (BP, DB); Black-necked Stilt, six at Deal Island W.M.A., Md., Aug. 13 (new state high count—WS); Willet, 189 at Mockhorn I., Sept. 26 (CP, HTA); Upland Sandpiper, 12 at Richmond Aug. 3 (DP) and 12 in Frederick County, Md., Aug. 21 (JOI); Marbled Godwit, 86 on Mockhorn I., Sept. 5-26 (HTA, PS, MEA, CP, GLA); Pectoral Sandpiper, 135 Aug. 26, Curlew Sandpiper, one Sept. 14-15, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, one Sept. 14-24 (first for Virginia, if accepted by rarities committee), Ruff, three singles, various dates Aug. 13-Sept. 17, these all at Hunting Cr. (DFA, JMA *et al.*); Wilson's Phalarope, eight at Chinc., Sept. 10 (TF). The warm fall induced shorebirds to linger, especially Solitary, Spotted and White-rumped sandpipers; (three of latter at Piney Run Nov. 20, latest ever in Md.—v.o., EB). Two aseasonal Purple Sandpipers were at C.B.B.T., Aug. 26 (CPW).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — Off Ocean City three Pomarine Jaegers and 20 Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen Nov. 5 (HLW *et al.*). A Parasitic Jaeger was at Parramore I., Oct. 29 (CSR *et al.*). Due to mild weather Laughing Gulls, Forster's, Royal and Caspian terns lingered later than usual, such as 1500 Laughing Gulls at Back R., Nov. 26 (all but 3 were ad.—EB, RFR), 520 Forster's and 100 Royals at Hooper's I., Oct. 29 (HTA), 75 Royals in St. Mary's County, Md., Nov. 14 (EMW), a Caspian at Hopewell Nov. 6 & 20 (BR, FRS *et al.*), 104 Royals in Calvert County, Md., Nov. 1 (EB), 150 Forster's at Tarr I., Talbot Co., Md., Nov. 13 (JKE). Franklin's Gull singles were at Back R., Sept. 17 (EB) and Nov. 26-December (latest Maryland record—RFR, EB, BD, ph.) as well as D.C., Sept. 30 (2nd D.C. record—DC, AF). At Hart., one-two Little Gulls were seen July 31-Sept. 11, an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake Oct. 23 (3rd Maryland record away from coast), 475 Caspian Terns Sept. 5 (record Maryland count), six Royal Terns Sept. 18 (high Baltimore County count) and 680 Forster's Terns Aug. 21 (RFR, EB *et al.*). Unique was a **California Gull** report from Hunting Cr., Nov. 2 (JMA). The lone white-winged gull was a Glaucous at Back R., Nov. 26 (EB). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at 12 localities with three at Back R., in November (EB). Outstanding maxima from Susquehanna R., were 1700 Great Black-backed Gulls Nov. 27 (a record Md. count—EB) and 262 Caspian Terns Aug. 30 (RMS). Two suspected Great Black-backed x Herring Gull hybrids were studied at Back R., Oct. 16 (EB, RFR, ph.) and D.C., Nov. 24 (DFA). Rarities were a **Sabine's Gull** at Chinc., Sept. 1 (4th Virginia record—CPW), a Roseate Tern at C.B.B.T., Aug. 19 (EMW, MR), and single Sandwich Terns at Pt. Lookout Aug. 31 (EMW) and Bozman, Talbot Co., Sept. 10 (RLK), the 4th & 5th records respectively for the Maryland part of the Bay. At Fish. I., 140 were seen Sept. 8 (HTA) and an extremely late one was at Chinc., Oct. 13-14 (CPW). Peak Chinc. tern tallies were 141 Caspians Sept. 15-16 and 126 Blacks Aug. 11-12

(CPW). Four Royal Terns at Choptank Oct. 22 were new to inland Caroline County, Md. (EE, RFR). Common Terns also lingered late with two at Pt. Lookout Nov. 14 (EMW) and two at Hart., Oct. 30 (EB). The top Black Skimmer count was only 600 at Fish. I., Sept. 7 (FRS, HTA).

PARROTS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Monk Parakeets were seen in Dare, Va., Oct. 5 (DM, MM), at Hart., Aug. 21 (EB) and in Alexandria in September (SMn). Two Yellow-headed Parrots were at Cape Henry Nov. 20 (RLAk, RLA *et al.*). Early was a Black-billed Cuckoo at Kirkham, Md., Aug. 21 (dead on road—PS, JGR) and late was one at Kipt., Oct. 30 (BW) as was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in D.C., Oct. 26 (DC). The smash hit of the season was a **Burrowing Owl** at Scotsville, Albemarle Co., Aug. 10-Oct. 16 (NPL, JMAc, GS, MAc, FRS, m.ob., ph.), the first confirmed Virginia record. A Long-eared Owl was reported from Bozman, Md., Nov. 18 (JKE). All N. Saw-whet Owl records were of singles with birds at Sandy Spring, Md., Nov. 5, 20 & 30 (JSW) and a road-kill at Kipt., Nov. 19 (BW). At Richmond 12 Com. Night-hawks Oct. 12 were late (BR), as were ten Chimney Swifts there Oct. 23 (FRS) and one at Hunting Cr., Oct. 26 (DFA) and groups of 100 or more were still at D.C. (DC), Piscataway Bay, Md. (PN) and Richmond (FRS) almost to mid-October. The top Ruby-throated Hummingbird count was 23 at Kipt., Sept. 17 (BW, BRd). A **Rufous Hummingbird** was found in D.C., 3 blocks from the White House Nov. 29-Dec. 3 (Pbt, DC, BSt, SD, ph.), for about the 6th Regional record.



Rufous Hummingbird, Washington, D.C., Dec. 2, 1983. Photo/B. Swift.

Seven Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen Aug. 21-Sept. 17, three of these at Tilghman (JKE *et al.*) and one at Sandy Spring Sept. 17 (NMc, SM). A W. Wood-Pewee was reported at Ft. Hunt Sept. 22 (DFA, RA) and, although calling, must await rarities committee judgment, especially in view of the "inadvisability of field identification of out-of-range wood-pewees under all but exceptional circumstances" (W. Tanager, Dec., 1983, p. 1-3). At Adventure near Potomac, Md., 16 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded Aug. 16-Sept. 22 (MD *et al.*). Williamson saw an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Dismal Swamp, Va., Oct. 5 (*ca.* 6th state record) and five W. Kingbirds at Chesapeake, Va., Oct. 31 (four there Nov. 1—HCl *et al.*). Two W. Kingbirds were at Kipt., Oct. 22 (BW, FD). Three late E. Kingbird young were still in the nest at Chinc., Aug. 20 (JAO) and 575 were counted at Kipt., Sept. 3 (HTA). Monster Purple Martin roosts were in Salisbury (1332 banded; 30,000 seen mid-August; 6000 still present Sept. 17—CRV, MKK *et al.*) and Hampton, Va., where 50,000 were estimated Sept. 2-3 (TK). A very late N. Rough-winged Swallow was at Lilypons Oct. 30 (GD) and a Bank Swallow at Hunting Cr., Oct. 27 was retarded (DFA). Cliff Swallows were still feeding young in the nest at Liberty Res., near Baltimore Aug. 13 (RFR). At Kipt., Blue Jays peaked at 2345 Oct. 9 (BW). Two Com. Ravens were again seen in a quarry in extreme n.e. Goochland County, Va., w. of Richmond (RD). A strong Black-capped Chickadee invasion took place in Piedmont areas in November starting *ca.* Nov. 5, but petered out by month's end with birds being banded at Ivy, Va. (BD), Sterling (CT), Kent County, Md. (JGG), Bel Air, Md. (first birds

mid-October—EB), and an exceptional bird as far s. as Kipt., Oct. 3 (CWH), this being the first major influx since 1975-76 (RFR). Vanguard Red-breasted Nuthatches came as early as Aug. 21 in Kent County, Md. (JGG) and Tilghman (JKE), yet no major flight developed (v.o.). Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Richmond Nov. 24 (PB) and Arnold, Md., Oct. 27 (WK).

Thrush peaks at the 2 major banding sites were, for Adventure, *Sept. 15*, Gray-cheeked eight, Wood 16, *Sept. 16*, Swainson's 60, *Oct. 21*, Hermit 14; for Kipt., *Sept. 23*, Swainson's 30, *Sept. 24*, Wood 6, *Sept. 25*, Gray-cheeked 13, unmentioned species being indeterminate (MD; CWH, WPS *et al.*). Extreme Swainson's at Adventure were singles *Aug. 21* and *Nov. 26* (MD *et al.*) and 300 were estimated passing overhead at Kipt., before dawn *Sept. 24* (CP, HTA). Various highs included 100 Hermit Thrushes at Tilghman Oct. 16 (JKE *et al.*), 1350 Am. Robins at Hoopers I., Oct. 29 (HTA), Gray Catbird peaks *Sept. 25* at both Adventure (18—MD *et al.*) and Kipt. (42—WPS *et al.*), 210 Water Pipits in Loudoun County, Va., Oct. 22 (KHW, KS), and 800 Cedar Waxwings at Kipt., Nov. 19 (BW, BRd).

WARBLERS — At Adventure 4012 birds of 92 species were banded in 25,548 net hours on 76 days Aug. 15–Oct. 31, the five commonest being Yellow-rumped Warbler 576, Swainson's Thrush 526, White-throated Sparrow 256, Gray Catbird 212 and Ovenbird 166 (MD *et al.*). At Kipt., more of a flyway, operations were curtailed to 29 days Sept. 17–Oct. 16 resulting in 4036 birds of 85 species in 5104 net hours (CWH, WPS *et al.*). Peaks there came on *Sept. 23* for many warblers including 25 Bay-breasteds, 185 Com. Yellowthroats and 105 Am. Redstarts. On *Sept. 24* there were six Philadelphia Vireos, on *Oct. 6* four Connecticut Warblers. Adventure highlights were a Brewster's Warbler hybrid *Aug. 15*, peaks of Tennessee and Black-and-white warblers, Am. Redstarts, Ovenbirds, and N. Waterthrushes all *Sept. 14*, a late Ovenbird Oct. 30, and 17 Connecticut Warblers *Sept. 8–Oct. 6*. Late warblers were a Golden-winged at Chinc., Oct. 7 (RAF *et al.*), a Tennessee at Charlottesville Oct. 24 (CES), a Yellow in D.C., Oct. 27 & Nov. 14 (DC), a Yellow-throated at Ft. Hunt Nov. 27 (JMA), and a Hooded in Alexandria Nov. 19 (DC, BST). The microdistribution of some migrants is indicated by the presence of a record state count of 110 Cape May Warblers on treeless Wreck I., Va., *Sept. 25* (CP, HTA) plus 13 other warbler species, yet Kipt. banded only 41 all fall and Adventure none. At Violet's Lock, Md., 20 Black-throated Green Warblers was an excellent count *Sept. 24* (PN). Several commented on the big fall flight of Bay-breasted Warblers (RFR, JSW, HTA). At Kipt., the 5 highest banding totals were Yellow-rumped Warbler 965, Com. Yellowthroat 548, Am. Redstart 415, Gray Catbird 231 and House Wren 138 (CWH, WPS *et al.*).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH CARDUELINES — Tilghman is one of the major flyways in the c. Bay area of Maryland as evidenced by estimates of 100 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks *Sept. 23* and 1000 N. Orioles *Sept. 8* (JKE, JGR *et al.*). Late was a Blue Grosbeak in Loudoun County, Va., Oct. 20 (KHW, DnP). Fancy sparrows seen were single Clay-colored at Chinc., *Sept. 24* & *Oct. 27* (BC; CPW), another near St. Michaels, Md., Nov. 6 (JKE), and one at Kipt., *Oct. 2* (CWH). Two Lark Sparrows were at Chinc. (FRS, PB, BS) plus two more at Kipt. (BW, BRd) all *Sept. 17*, one at Dyke, Va., Oct. 10 (JMA) and the 3rd D.C., one *Sept. 26–Oct. 2* (DC *et al.*, ph.), a Henslow's at Kipt., *Oct. 8* (WPS), and a Le Conte's Sparrow at Hopewell *Sept. 25* (FRS), for about the 11th Virginia record. All Lincoln's Sparrow reports fell between *Sept. 28* & *Oct. 22* (v.o.). A fine count of White-crowned Sparrows was the 150 at Lilypons Nov. 26 (GD). Most peculiar was a Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco at Hopewell *Aug. 14* (FRS). A Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco was reported at Ft. Hunt Oct. 9 (JMA), still another rarities committee charge. Someone forgot to tell the Snow Buntings it was a mild fall because they were seen at 4 sites in late October including six at Hart. (RFR *et al.*) and one at Claiborne, Md. (JKE *et al.*) Oct. 23 and one was at L. Anna, Va., Oct. 30 (JBB, JF).

The high Bobolink total was of only 600 at Kipt., *Sept. 10* (HTA). Single ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbirds were captured in Norfolk in addition to a Wood Duck and a cat *Sept. 15* & *18* (MAB) and another was at Manassas, Va., *Aug. 16* (DcT). An extremely late Orchard Oriole was at a feeder in Mt. Vernon, Va., Nov. 25–26 (JB, *fide* JMA). Reports of N. (Bullock's) Orioles included singles at Dyke *Aug. 30* (TM, *fide*

CPW) and Sterling Nov. 5 (CT). The House Finch plague continues with reports of a group of 500 n. of Salisbury, Md., Nov. 6 (SHD) and 300 at Tilghman Nov. 20 (JGR, JKE), these in areas where they are usually not abundant. The only sighting of Red Crossbill was of a male at Black Marsh e. of Baltimore Oct. 1 (EB), a most enigmatic species. Pine Siskins staged a modest flight (CE, RFR, FRS) but Am. Goldfinches managed a stronger one with 250 in s. Dorchester County, Md., Oct. 29 (HTA). Evening Grosbeaks were also in modest numbers with first reports on Oct. 30 at Sterling (CT), Bel Air (EB) and Kipt. (BW) with the maximum number from the unlikely locality of Cape Henry where 150 were seen Nov. 20 (RLA, RLak *et al.*).

ABBREVIATIONS: Assat. I., Assateague I., Md./Va.; Back R., Back R. Sewage Treatment Plant, near Baltimore; the Bay, Chesapeake Bay; C.B.B.T., Chesapeake Bay Bridge/Tunnel, Va.; Chinc., Chincoteague N.W.R.; D.C., Washington, D.C.; Fish. I., Fisherman Island N.W.R.; Hart., Hart & Miller Islands e. of Baltimore, Md.; Kipt., Kiptopeke, Va. & Cape Charles area; Susquehanna R., Susquehanna R. near Conowingo Dam, Md.; Tilghman, Tilghman I., Talbot Co., Md.; italicized date indicates birds were banded.

OBSERVERS — D.F. Abbott, J.M. Abbott, Robert Abbott, J.M. Ackerman (JMAc), Madeline Ackerman (MAc), I.W. Ailes, R.L. Ake (RLAk), R.A. Anderson, R.L. Anderson, Mary Arginteanu, G.L. Armistead, M.E. Armistead, M.V. Barnhill, Ken Bass, Don Baugh, J.B. Bazuin, Joe Beau, Paul Bedell, Eirik Blom, L.D. Bonham, Paul Burnett (PBt), M.A. Byrd, L.B. Chamberlaine, Barry Cooper, Dave Cymrot (DcT), Dave Czaplak, George Daniels, Richard Daub, Bruce Davenport (BDt), Fenton Day, J.W. Dillard, Bob Dixon, Kathie Dixon, Margaret Donald, Susan Drake, P.G. DuMont, S.H. Dyke, J.K. Effinger, Ethel Engle, Kathleen Finnegan, Tad Finnell, A.J. Fletcher, R.B. Fletcher, R.A. Forster, John Frary, Anthony Futcher, Inez Glime, J.A. Gregoire, J.C. Gruber, C.W. Hacker, Warren Harrington, Bill Hayes, Floyd Hayes, Marvin Hewitt, D.F. Holland, David Holmes, H.C. Irving, J.E. Johnson, Sylvia Johnson, Leigh Jones, Teta Kain, Hank Kaestner, Dennis Kirkwood, R.L. Kleen, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Wayne Klockner, Alicia Knotts, Yulee Larner, Mark Lassiter, N.P. Lewis, Nancy MacClintock, Stuart MacClintock, Sharon Madison, Ted Marchese, S.J. McCandless, Debbie Mignogno (DMo), Dorothy Mitchell, Mike Mitchell, Myriam Moore (MMe), N. Morgan, Dick Morton (DMn), Harvey Mudd, Tom Nicholas, Paul Nistico, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, Joseph Ondek, J.A. Ondrejko, John O'Neill (JOI), Carl Perry, Darrell Peterson, Don Peterson (DnP), Bill Portlock, J.G. Reese, Bruce Reid (BRd), George Reiger, R.F. Ringler, C.S. Robbins, L.G. Robinson, Betsy Roszell, Mike Rowan, Kurt Savoie, R.M. Schutsky, F.R. Scott, Dot Silsby, Bonnie Smith, W.P. Smith, Paul Spitzer, J.L. Stasz, C.E. Stevens, Gebhard Stillfried, Wally Sumner, Byron Swift (BST), Brian Taber, Craig Tufts, Ed Unger, Peter Vankevich, C.R. Vaughn, D.H. Wallace, F.P. Ward, K.H. Weber, J.S. Weske, Steve Westre, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds, Bill Williams, Gary Williamson, E.J. Willoughby, E.M. Wilson, T.R. Wolfe, C.S. Wood.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 28 E. Springfield Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19118.



Juvenal American Robin/Drawing by John H. Gerdes.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

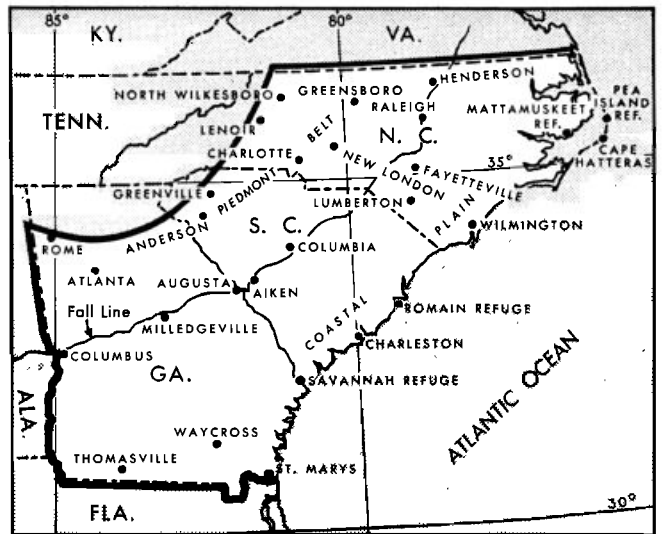
/Harry E. LeGrand Jr.

The drought and heat wave of July continued through mid-September, when several strong cold fronts crossed the Region. October produced mostly northeasterly winds, generally poor conditions for birding. Another series of good cold fronts (with northwesterly winds) from late October to mid-November was followed by a period of above-normal temperatures in late November. Precipitation was nearly normal after mid-September, and many of the coastal and southern portions of the Region avoided subfreezing temperatures.

The consensus on the migration as a whole was that it was about average, ranging from "probably the best one in the past five years" in Atlanta, Georgia, to "disappointing" in other areas. The drought that produced expanses of mudflats on some reservoirs was partly responsible for an exceptional variety of shorebirds inland. The passerine migration was, as expected, slow in getting underway, and there were many more "late" dates than "early" ones; yet the peak flight occurred earlier than usual, following a very strong cold front on September 22-24. Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins pushed south in fairly good numbers this fall, unlike Fall 1982, which was completely devoid of these species. The highlight of the season was the continued success of pelagic trips in discovering species formerly considered casual or accidental along most of the Atlantic coast—boobies, tropicbirds, and certain storm-petrels.

PETRELS THROUGH PELICANS — Haney spent much of the fall off the Georgia coast, continuing to add to that state's meager data base on Procellariiformes. He had 20-30 Black-capped Petrels far off Cumberland I., Oct. 5-8, and abundant Cory's Shearwaters August to late October. He collected a **Manx Shearwater** off St. Catherines I., Aug. 12 for Georgia's first specimen; and he observed others 90 mi. e. of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Sept. 29 and 50 mi. e. of Sapelo I., Ga., Nov. 21. There was a surprising count of 130 Audubon's Shearwaters off St. Simons I., on the late date of Nov. 21, but only three Greater Shearwaters all fall. Pelagic trips off North Carolina in late August and October also produced the usual numbers of shearwaters—plenty of Cory's and Audubon's, a few Greaters, and the scarce-in-fall Sooty off Cape Lookout Aug. 27 (AB, RD) and off Cape Hatteras Aug. 28 (2 birds—RA, DS). At least 5 North Carolina pelagic trips had Black-capped Petrels, with the maximum a routine 30 off Hatteras Oct. 9 (RA party). Despite spending 30 days offshore, Haney had only 12 Wilson's Storm-Petrels all season off Georgia. The only Leach's Storm-Petrels were singles off Hatteras Aug. 27 (RA, DS), in the same area Oct. 9 (RA *et al.*), and 90 mi. e. of Myrtle Beach, S.C., Oct. 12 (CH). **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels** continue to be seen in increasing numbers off our coast. In addition to a handful of unpublished sightings (including specimens) this summer, three were seen off Cape Lookout, N.C., Aug. 20 (WI), singles were noted by Haney off Georgia Aug. 30 & Sept. 4, and an apparent Band-rumped was seen off Hatteras Aug. 28 (RA, DS). Even more exciting than the Band-rumped were **White-faced Storm-Petrels**; one photographed off Hatteras Aug. 28 (RA, DS, DWa) and two seen in that area Oct. 9 (RA *et al.*) provided about the 5th and 6th records for North Carolina and for the Region.

Very rare for the Atlantic coast, yet the 5th for North Carolina, was an imm. **Red-billed Tropicbird** observed off Cape Lookout Aug. 27 (AB, RD); whereas the somewhat more numerous White-tailed Tropicbird was found only off Cape Hatteras—an immature Aug. 28 (DS, DWa, RA). Both North Carolina and Georgia had 3rd state records of the **Masked Booby**: a "near adult" adjacent to the boat off Cape Hatteras Oct. 9 (RA *et al.*) and a sub-adult Aug. 30 off St. Simons I. (CH). Apparently the earliest ever N. Gannets for Georgia were four seen off Tybee I., Oct. 24 (CH), and an excellent count Oct. 23 were 275 at Bogue Banks, N.C. (JF). Five reports of Am. White Pelicans were excellent: singles at Hatteras Inlet Oct. 17-Nov. 30+ (J & JCI *et al.*), at Morehead City Nov. 15 (TN), at Charleston, S.C., Sept. 22 (THu), at Magnolia Gardens n.w. of Charleston Nov. 6 (R & CT), and far inland at Jordan L., Nov. 25 (WI, FI). Mighty early, if correct, were 3 South Carolina reports of undescribed Great Cormorants in September and October; one near Morehead City, N.C., Nov. 27+ (JF, RJH) was more seasonable. Double-crested Cormorants, rare at many inland sites only 5 years ago, continue to occur as migrants on most every lake, with



notable counts of 19 at Peachtree City L., s. of Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 12 (JG, CA); and 40 during the fall at Jordan L. (BW, MW) and 16 at Falls L., Aug. 16 (RJH), both in c. North Carolina. A good tally of 12 Anhingas was made near Dublin, Ga., Sept. 7 (TKP).

WADERS — After the excitement offshore, happenings onshore were overshadowed by comparison. The post-breeding heron roost at Augusta, Ga., peaked in numbers Aug. 19: 56 Great Egrets, 289 Little Blue Herons, six Tricolored Herons, 1894 Cattle Egrets, 39 White Ibises and two Glossy Ibises (AW). Excellent egret counts for inland North Carolina were of 125 Greats at Falls L., e. of Durham, in early August (TH), 135 there Sept. 3 (RJH), and 250 Cattles much of August at Fayetteville (PJC). Georgia has fewer than 10 records of **Reddish Egret**; thus, a rarity was an immature at St. Simons I., Oct. 12-15 (JGro, TM *et al.*). A surprising number of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons was found inland—at Jordan L. (RF, EM, C.H.B.C.) and Halifax County (FE) in North Carolina, in South Carolina near Townville (SG *et al.*), L. Keowee (PBH), and Fort Mill (DW), and in Georgia near Atlanta (PB, TM). Glossy Ibises, always notable inland, were found at Jordan L., in late July and August, with two July 30 (BW *et al.*). Two Wood Storks were over a month late at Myrtle Beach Nov. 26-Dec. 3 (*vide* KB).

WATERFOWL — A noteworthy total of Snow Geese for Atlanta were 12 (nine Blues) found 25 mi. n.e. of the city Nov. 25 (PM, TM); whereas North Carolina's 2nd inland record of **Brant** was of an immature at Jordan L., Nov. 14 (BW, MW, MAF). Early arriving puddle ducks included Green-winged Teal at Ft. Macon S.P., N.C., Aug. 15 (JF) and near Clemson, S.C., Aug. 25 (SW, CW); and a N. Pintail in n. York County, S.C., Oct. 7-15 (DW). Very rare for South Carolina was a ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston Nov. 5-12 (DF *et al.*). Out of season was an imm. ♂ Com. Eider at Hatteras Inlet Aug. 31 (BL) - Sept. 4 (MVB, GM). Jordan L. was home to two sea ducks scarce inland—a ♂ Oldsquaw Nov. 13 (RD) and a ♀ Black Scoter Oct. 30 (AB, RD). Noteworthy for Georgia were five White-winged Scoters at Jekyll I., Nov. 20 (PB, DB), and although Hooded Mergansers breed sporadically in n. North Carolina, one at Jordan L., Aug. 20 (C.H.B.C.) was certainly an early migrant. Extraordinarily early was a ♀ Com. Merganser at Roanoke Rapids L., N.C., Aug. 23-30 (ML, KM), while a record Atlanta count of 51 Red-breasted Mergansers were at Peachtree City L., Nov. 27 (A.A.S.).

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — Quite late for Georgia was a Mississippi Kite at Augusta Oct. 1 (AW), and late and out-of-range was another near Davidson, N.C., Oct. 6 (DW). Bald Eagle reports continue to increase, at least inland; truly remarkable was a count of *nine* at Jordan L., Sept. 3, with three apparently different birds there Sept. 4 (WI *et al.*). On the other hand, coastal reports, except for the breeding area in c. South Carolina, continue in short supply.

Although hawks, of course, do pass through the Region in fall, counts

of migrants are seldom as spectacular as those along the coast to our n. and the ridges to our n. and w. Nonetheless, a few notable counts were made. Along the coast, 538 Sharp-shinned Hawks were tallied Oct. 9 at Pea I., N.C. (CS, JOP, EP), 1000+ Sharp-shinned were noted at Jekyll I., Oct. 8-16 (TM), and Kiawah I., S.C., had an excellent flight Oct. 16, with 174 Sharp-shinned, 22 Cooper's Hawks, and nine Merlins being notable (PN, JH). An outstanding Broad-winged Hawk flight passed through the w. part of the Piedmont Sept. 23-24: 1434 at Pilot Mt., N.C. (P & JCu) and 1100 at L. Lanier, Ga. (FM) on the former date and 214 at Sassafras Mt., S.C. (DM), and 100+ near Atlanta (TM *et al.*) on the latter date. Most Rough-legged Hawks in the Region are poorly described; fortunately, one near Greensboro, N.C., Nov. 20 was amply detailed (PJC). Golden Eagles avoided detection, but Peregrine Falcons did stage a very good coastal flight, highlighted by 50+ at Jekyll I., Oct. 8-16 (TM *et al.*). Peregrines were also found at 4 places in c. North Carolina and on 4 occasions in inland Georgia, whereas there were 9 inland reports for Merlins. Both are better than average representations away from the coast.

An ad. ♂ **Ruffed Grouse** flew into a wall near Roswell, Ga., this fall (no date), becoming Atlanta's first record (*vide* TM). Seldom noted inland nowadays, single King Rails were found near Atlanta Sept. 18 (JC) & Nov. 19 (JP, JC). An imm. Purple Gallinule was rare and late on Oct. 17 at Sunset Beach, N.C. (PJC), a locality where breeding is possible but has not yet been reported. Inland migrating Com. Moorhens were at Clayton County, Ga., Sept. 7 (PB), near Chapel Hill, N.C., Sept. 9-10 (BW, MW), and near Raleigh Oct. 30-Nov. 4 (DT, JM). Somewhat to the e. of their migration route were five Sandhill Cranes near Townville, S.C., Nov. 13 (CW); whereas the crane flight over Atlanta, usually a November phenomenon, occurred mostly in December this year (*vide* TM).

SHOREBIRDS — Black-bellied Plovers were detected at a number of places in c. North Carolina, with the best count being of five at Falls L., Oct. 24 (RJH). Lesser Golden-Plovers were widely reported also, highlighted by a possible North Carolina record 40 at Davis Sept. 18 (JF, WI); other respectable totals were of ten at Falls L., Aug. 22 (JMcC), a peak of six at Gainesville, Ga., Sept. 21-Oct. 5 (JP), and a peak of five at Dublin Sept. 11-17 (TKP). Very rare inland, a Piping Plover at Pineville, N.C., Aug. 13-17 (PH, DW) provided Charlotte's first record; and just as notable away from the coast was an Am. Avocet at a farm pond (diving to escape a Peregrine Falcon!) in c. Halifax County, N.C., Oct. 16 (FE). A first record for the Dublin area was provided by a Willet Aug. 27 (TKP), and an Upland Sandpiper in s.w. Halifax County, Sept. 21-22 (ML, KM) was likewise a good find. Even rarer was a Whimbrel at Jordan L., Sept. 5 (RD), and likely a different bird was there Oct. 1-9 (AT, TS, WI, FI). Fussell had one of the few Regional records of the Eurasian race at Ft. Macon S.P., Oct. 17. Long-billed Curlews were found at 2 of their favorite hangouts—four at Portsmouth I., N.C., Oct. 8 (FP) and three at Little St. Simons I., Ga., Oct. 28 and two the following day (HG, LG). Georgia's second positive **Hudsonian Godwit**—2 other sight reports did not rule out Black-tailed Godwit—was of one at St. Simons I., Oct. 15 (TM, PM, HG, PB); another at Ft. Macon S.P., Aug. 28 (JF, RD) was the first in Carteret County since 1971. A first inland record for North Carolina, and just the 2nd such record for the Region, was a **Marbled Godwit** Aug. 25-Sept. 10 (BW *et al.*) at this season's premier hotspot, Jordan L. Notable coastal totals for Marbleds were 60 on Oct. 30 at Little St. Simons I. (LG, HG), 140 at Hatteras Inlet Nov. 25 (CW), and 230 there Nov. 11 (C & PSu).

As many as three Ruddy Turnstones visited Jordan L., Sept. 3-11 (AB, RD, BW, MW), and another turned up inland at Cartersville, Ga., Sept. 11 (PB *et al.*). Notable inland total of Sanderlings, all for North Carolina, were five each at L. Norman Sept. 15 (PH) and Winston-Salem Sept. 18 (BP, CF), 25 at Jordan L., Sept. 3 (AB, RD), and a stunning 50+ there Sept. 20 (BW *et al.*). Rarely seen inland in fall, a White-rumped Sandpiper was photographed near Charlotte Oct. 18-19 (CWA, HW, DW), and two were observed Sept. 11 at Beaverdam Res., n. of Raleigh (RD). Always exciting, Baird's Sandpipers were reported at Davis, N.C., Sept. 4 (JF, HH, TLQ), at Jordan L., Sept. 3-10 (AB, RD), and Clayton County, Ga., Oct. 8-9 (PB, HG). Very good totals of other shorebirds included 75+ Pectoral Sandpipers at Winston-Salem Aug. 10 (BP, RS), 77 Purple Sandpipers on a beach at Sullivan's I.,

S C, Nov. 7 (WP), 50 early Dunlins at Jordan L., Sept. 20 (BW, MW) and 55 Short-billed Dowitchers at Jordan L., Sept. 3-5 (AB, RD). Stilt Sandpipers, formerly quite rare inland, appeared at 8 such sites, the better counts were of 23 at Jordan L., Sept. 10 (AB, RD), 11 near Burlington, N.C., Sept. 4 (AB), and six each near Roanoke Rapids Sept. 25 (ML) and Clemson Sept. 2 (DM). Buff-breasted Sandpipers also seem to have increased over the Region during the past 10 years, with 3 coastal reports and 5 inland ones—in North Carolina at Jordan L. (WI, FI) and Charlotte (DW, JW), in South Carolina near Clemson (SG *et al.*), and in Georgia near Dublin (TKP) and Gainesville (JP). Still a great find, a Ruff was noted at Davis Aug. 28 (RD); whereas very rare inland Long-billed Dowitchers were at Jordan L., Aug. 27 (JMcC), at Beaverdam Res., Sept. 11 (RD), and near Atlanta Oct. 21-23 (RM *et al.*). Lucky indeed were the birders who found both a Wilson's Phalarope and a Red-necked Phalarope at Jordan L., Sept. 18 (MS, AT). Other notable phalarope records were: Wilson's—one at nearby Falls L., Sept. 20 (RJH) and ten at Ft. Macon S.P., Sept. 3 (JF, TLQ); Red-necked—one far inland on the Chattooga R., Ga., Sept. 4 (MM) and a peak pelagic count of 78 off Hatteras Aug. 27 (RA); and Red—four swimming on "semi-inland" L. Mattamuskeet, N.C., Sept. 21 (AB).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — None of the pelagic trips turned up a skua or Long-tailed Jaeger, but Pomarine Jaegers were widely recorded, with notable counts off Hatteras of 11 on Aug. 28 (RA) and 15 on Oct. 9 (RA). Fussell had 22 jaegers, most or all Parasitics, from shore at Atlantic Beach, N.C., Oct. 23. A few Laughing Gulls, as expected, appeared inland: one at Jordan L., Oct. 1 (AC *et al.*), two near Atlanta Oct. 23 (TM *et al.*), and two at Santee N.W.R., S.C., Nov. 25 (PN *et al.*). North Carolina got its long overdue second **Franklin's Gull**—a first-year bird at Cape Hatteras Pt., Oct. 8 (WCH, WK *et al.*). Georgia again had early fall Lesser Black-backed Gulls, with one or two (possibly three) at Jekyll I., Sept. 3-Oct. 16 (TM *et al.*). Another at Ocracoke, N.C., was more seasonable Nov. 25 (CW). Inadvertently omitted from the spring report was a Glaucous Gull photographed at Isle of Palms, S.C., Mar. 26 (FGS, GMcC, LG). The only Black-legged Kittiwakes of the season were singles off Cape Lookout Oct. 28 & Nov. 13 (WI) and another 20 mi off Charleston Nov. 13 (DF) that was surprisingly just the second ever for South Carolina. The best Caspian Tern counts inland were of seven at Roanoke Rapids L., Sept. 30 (ML, KM) and five at Jordan L., both Aug. 29 & Sept. 22 (BW, MW). Among the noteworthy tern totals were 750 Commons Oct. 11 at Beaufort, N.C. (JF), 35+ Forster's at Jordan L., Sept. 14 (AT), and 900 Least at Sunset Beach Aug. 28 (PJC). Bridled Terns were seen on nearly every pelagic trip in August and September. They were especially numerous in Georgia waters, where 50+ were off Jekyll I., Sept. 4 (TM *et al.*); and Haney had 50+ on many days in these 2 months, with one as late as Nov. 22. Two more Bridleds at Cape Lookout Aug. 5 (BrP, JF, HH) were North Carolina's first non-storm birds seen from shore. Sooty Terns were reported in small numbers, as expected in a fall with no major tropical storms: singles off Hatteras Aug. 27 & 28 (RA, DS), two Aug. 11 off St. Catherine's I., Ga. (CH), and two onshore at Waits I., S.C., July 12 (DWO). Other pelagic goodies were an Arctic Tern off Cape Lookout Aug. 27 (RD) and a **Brown Noddy** Oct. 11 off Charleston (CH), apparently the first noddy in the Region since Hurricane *David* in 1979 and the latest ever in fall, as well.

CUCKOOS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Sad to say, there was just one report of Black-billed Cuckoo, at Beaverdam Res., Sept. 25 (RD). Short-eared Owls are not known to breed in the Region; so one seen in late afternoon near Wachese, N.C., July 9 (DW, JW) was most unusual and much too early for a fall migrant. A N. Saw-whet Owl, injured by a car, was found in Union County, S.C., Nov. 9; it was turned in to a raptor rehabilitation center near Charlotte (*vide* DW). Several thousand Com. Nighthawks was an excellent flight near Atlanta Sept. 3 (D & PMcC), and very late were birds in North Carolina in New Bern Nov. 1 (BH) and Fayetteville Nov. 6 (PJC). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird lingered at a feeder at far-inland Gainesville until Nov. 23 (JP). What appear to be South Carolina's 4th and 5th records of **Rufous Hummingbirds** were individuals near Pendleton in late fall (*vide* JS) and in Sumter Nov. 13-30+ (KMal, ED, SC). The first bird was not described, but the Sumter bird, an imm. male with some rusty-red feathers on the back, was thoroughly detailed. The scarce Olive-sided

Flycatcher was encountered on 3 occasions near Chapel Hill Sept 9 (BW, MW) and near Atlanta Sept. 3 (D & PMcC) & 25-29 (PM, TM *et al.*) Just as elusive, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were also found only 3 times, all in South Carolina: Kershaw County Sept. 11 (CW), York County Sept. 18 (DW), and a bird collected at Sullivans I., Oct. 8 (WP). All five W. Kingbirds were again found only coastally, and surprisingly, the four from North Carolina were in November—Coinjock (WM), Buxton (WM), Ocracoke (C & PSu), and e. Brunswick County (JHC).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — An estimate of 250,000 Tree Swallows at Huntington Beach S.P., S.C., Oct. 9 (PN *et al.*) staggers the mind. Seldom seen inland after October were three Trees at Jordan L., Nov. 13 (JOP, EP) and another near Atlanta Nov. 15 (D & PMcC). Also late were four N. Rough-winged Swallows at Roanoke Rapids L., Sept. 30 (ML) and a Bank Swallow near Vass, N.C., Oct. 1 (TH *et al.*). The endangered Bewick's Wren was found only once—a typical situation in the 1980s—at Pendergrass, Ga., Nov. 24-26 (JP *et al.*). Golden-crowned Kinglets were in much greater numbers than usual, especially in Georgia and South Carolina (*e.g.*, 200 near Charleston Nov. 6—PN party). August 27 was early for a Ruby-crowned Kinglet near Atlanta (PB), whereas late were a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Jordan L., Nov. 25 (CL), a Wood Thrush on Bogue Banks, N.C., Nov. 6 (RE), and a White-eyed Vireo at Conyers, Ga., Nov. 5 (FMI). The very rare-in-fall Warbling Vireo was carefully detailed from Atlanta Oct. 6 (PB). Fall 1983 will be remembered for the Philadelphia Vireo; most birders who were afield regularly looking for passerine migrants saw at least one, as there were about 24 reports! Highlights were six seen by Davis Sept. 11-Oct. 8 in the Raleigh and Chapel Hill areas, 6 sightings in the Atlanta area Sept. 3-Oct. 2 (TM *et al.*), three at Bodie I., N.C., Sept. 23-25 (HW, CWa, AB), and singles on 3 dates Sept. 15-25 in Halifax County (ML).

WARBLERS — The warbler migration was about average this season, with an excellent flight noted Sept. 22-24. Although uncommon, Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers were widely reported, the better sightings being an early Golden-winged at Alpharetta, Ga., Aug. 14 (JB) and a rare coastal Golden-winged at Emerald I., N.C., with a Blue-winged Sept. 24 (JF, RJH). A hybrid warbler at Augusta (no date—VW) was apparently an unusually-plumaged Lawrence's Warbler. The best of the many Nashville Warbler sightings involved late birds—one until Nov. 8 at Charlotte (HW), one near Atlanta Nov. 6 (JP), and two in that area Nov. 9 (PR). Other late warblers included a Magnolia Nov. 3 in Jackson County, Ga. (JP); a Cape May at Jordan L., Nov. 25 (CL); a Yellow-throated at L. Mattamuskeet, N.C., Nov. 30 (AB); and a Prairie near Raleigh Nov. 20 (JM). Seven Bay-breasted Warblers Sept. 23 (AB) was good in the tidewater zone at L. Mattamuskeet. Why are Cerulean Warblers so regular in fall at Atlanta (15 reports Aug. 9-Sept. 22—*fide* TM) and so rare everywhere else? In my 8 years at Clemson, I saw only one in autumn, and other Regional birders also are doing well to see one in fall every 5-10 years. The only other Ceruleans this season were males near Fort Mill, S.C., Aug. 8 (DW) and Augusta Aug. 28 (AW). A Black-and-white Warbler was tardy near Gainesville Nov. 23-30 (JP), and the infrequently seen Swainson's Warbler was a good find near Fayetteville Aug. 30 (PJC). Rarely reported in fall from the coast were a Kentucky Warbler at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., Sept. 23 (RE) and a Canada Warbler near Charleston Sept. 23 (TR). The Mourning Warbler proved too elusive for birders this season, but a few of the nearly as secretive Connecticut Warblers were encountered—one at Pea I., Sept. 25 (HW, CWa), another at Bat Cave, N.C., Sept. 27 (RW), and two near Atlanta Oct. 16 (JSt, EH). A Wilson's Warbler, rare near the coast, was at Moore's Landing n.e. of Charleston Sept. 22 (TR).

TANAGERS THROUGH CARDUELINES — A Summer Tanager at Rock Hill, S.C., was 3 weeks late Nov. 7 (J & ACon). Western Tanagers appeared at their favorite habitat: coastal plain feeders, at Fayetteville Sept. 12 (RC) and at Sumter late November-December (KMal, SC). Extremely rare for the Piedmont was a \emptyset **Black-headed Grosbeak**,

not at a feeder, at Winston-Salem Nov. 1 (CF). Dickcissels turned up only along the coast, at Jekyll I., Oct. 8 (DaF) and Pea I., Oct. 15 (JOP, EP); and the always noteworthy Clay-colored Sparrow was found at Atlanta Sept. 12-18 (PB *et al.*) and Ft. Macon S.P., Oct. 12 (CM). Lark Sparrows continued to be reported in a fraction of their former numbers as a coastal migrant; only four were reported, all from the coast Aug. 26-Sept. 23. Good finds were Henslow's Sparrows Oct. 15 in n. York County, S.C. (DW, M.A.S.), and in the Atlanta area Oct. 26 (PB) & Oct. 30-Nov. 2 (A.A.S.); as was an inland Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Jordan L., Oct. 17 (AT, TS). A Lincoln's Sparrow at Sullivans I., Nov. 4 (WP) was notable for the coast, but only 2 reports for the Piedmont, where the species is not all that rare, was a disappointment. Perhaps oversummering was an ad. White-throated Sparrow along the Roanoke R., Northampton Co., N.C., on the absurd date of Aug. 13 (ML, HL). Often missed in fall, Lapland Longspurs were noted in n. York County Oct. 9 (DW, AWi), Pea I., Oct. 14 (JOP, EP), and up to five at the Gainesville airport Nov. 16-30 (JP *et al.*); whereas just 2 Snow Bunting reports, both in November in Carteret County, N.C. (SP, RJH), suggested another off winter for the species.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found inland near Desser, Ga., Nov. 13 (BPu) and near the coast at Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., Sept. 22-23 (KK), L. Mattamuskeet Sept. 24 (AB), and Jekyll I., Oct. 8 (SG *et al.*) Casual away from s. Georgia was an imm. σ **Northern (Bullock's) Oriole** at Augusta Aug. 11 (AW, VW). Winter finches staged a moderate although certainly better than average flight into the Region. Good counts of House Finches for n. South Carolina were 125 in one field at Catawba Nov. 27-28 (J & ACon) and 126 banded at nearby York Oct. 30-Nov. 27 (BHi). The only crossbill reports were of Reds in the North Carolina mountains (DM), but Pine Siskins were fairly common over much of the Region, with first arrivals in mid-October. Following on the heels of the siskins, by a week or two, were Evening Grosbeaks, nowhere really common by the end of November, but certainly present in fair numbers and obviously signaling a "finch winter" in the months ahead.

OBSERVERS — Robert Ake, Carol Anderson, Atlanta Audubon Society, M.V. Barnhill III, Kate Brethwaite, Donna Brisse, Patrick Brisse, Jerry Brunner, Allen Bryan, J.H. Carter III, Jack Carusos, Chapel Hill Bird Club, Ruth Chesnut, Jo & Joel Clark (J & JCl), Steve Compton, June & Albert Conway (J & ACon), Anson Cooke, P J Crutchfield, Pat & Jim Culbertson (P & JCu), Evelyn Dabbs, Ricky Davis, Ross Earnest, Frank Enders, Ruth Fink, Dan Forster (DaF), Dennis Forsythe, M.A. Foster, Charles Frost, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Liz Garrett, Sidney Gauthreaux, Lex Glover (LGI), Joe Greenberg, John Groover (JGro), Henry Haberyan, R.J. Hader, P.B. Hamel, Chris Haney, Paul Hart, Julia Hill, Bill Hilton (BHi), Bob Holmes, Tom Howard, W.C. Hunter, Eileen Hutcheson, Tom Hutcheson (THu), Fran Irvin, Wayne Irvin, Kathy Kirkman, Wayne Klockner, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis, Merrill Lynch, Charlie Lyon, Kathleen Mallard (KMal), Robert Manns, Chris Marsh, Greg Massey, Karen Masson, Frank McCamey, Mike McCandless, Dennie & Pam McClure (D & PMcC), Jim McConnell (JMcC), George McCoy (GMcC), Eva McKenna, Douglas McNair, Mecklenburg Audubon Society, Francis Michael (FMI), Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Jim Mulholland, William Murphy, Thomas Newport, Perry Nugent, Barbara Page, John Paget, Brainard Palmer-Ball (BrP), T.K. Patterson, Fred Patton, Will Post, Skip Prange, Billy Pulliam (BPu), Elizabeth Pullman, J.O. Pullman, T L Quay, Paul Raney, Tom Reeves, Mike Schultz, Tony Shrimpton, Jay Shuler, Dave Sibley, F.G. Smith, Ramona Snavelly, Cal Snyder, Jay Stolar (JSt), Clay & Pat Sutton (C & PSu), Don Tarbet, Reed & Connie Taylor, Andy Towle, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Steve Wagner, Clare Walker (CWa), Heathy Walker, Dave Ward (DWa), Ron Warner, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Claudia Wilds (CWi), Ali Winnich (AWi), Dwight Woods (DWo), Charlie Wooten, David Wright, Jill Wright.—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27609.**

FLORIDA REGION

/Lyn S. and Brooks H. Atherton

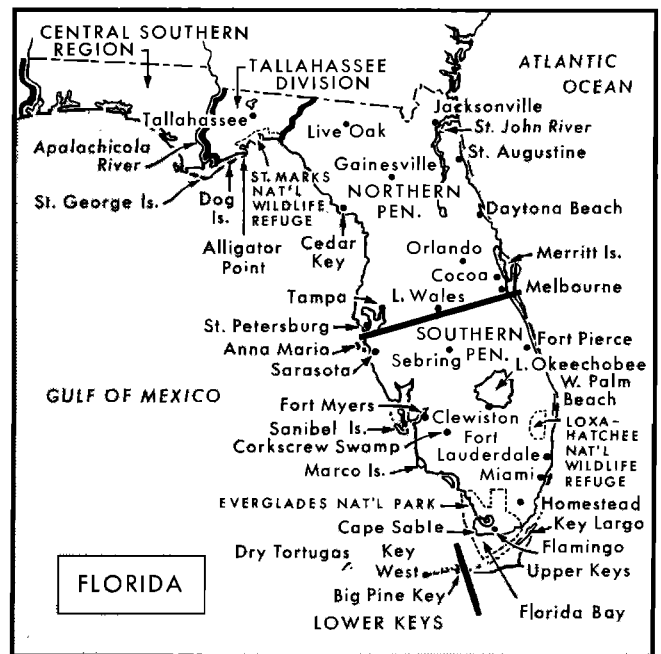
Florida did not escape the effects of the world's largest weather disturbance of recent history. *El Niño* was credited with producing one of the mildest tropical weather seasons recorded in the Atlantic Ocean. Balm trade winds caressed Florida throughout August and most of September. A low-pressure trough, composed of three separate upper-atmosphere lows lying on a line from southern Georgia northeast to off the Carolinas, spawned the season's first cold front, which stumbled into northern Florida September 14, and then stalled out across the central peninsula two days later. An unusual pattern of moderate to strong upper-level winds from the northeast was associated with the sighting of numbers of Atlantic migrants (notably Lesser Golden-Plover and Cape May Warbler) in western Florida. Just one week later a powerful storm over Hudson Bay set up another strong north to northeast circulation along the eastern seaboard, bringing more Atlantic migrants farther west than usual. A third front, powered by an intense low-pressure cell located over Hudson Bay, set up very strong northerly winds sweeping from central Canada to the Florida panhandle. The result was observed as a spectacular passerine fallout at St. George Island September 22.

On the weekend of October 14-16, Florida birders attending the Jacksonville Florida Ornithological Society meeting witnessed another major weather disturbance. On October 12-13, a strong upper-atmosphere low over the Canadian border established strong southerly winds over the eastern third of the country in advance of a fast moving cold front. With the passage of the front October 14-15 the winds shifted to an equally strong northwest pattern sweeping south from the Dakotas to Florida. Sandwiched between these two opposing wind patterns were sloppy weather and some of the best birding of the season. The last major cold front of the season occurred November 10-12, followed by moderately strong westerly to northwesterly winds.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — Because by season's end the weather farther n. was still relatively mild and Com. Loons were just arriving, we were unable to determine the effect of last spring's massive kill (see *AB* 37:861) on this winter's population. An Eared Grebe at Okecheelee P., near West Palm Beach Oct. 8 (CK *et al.*) was rare and early; however, three at Clear Springs Mine, Polk Co., Nov. 30 (CG, RG) were not surprising since the species is "becoming regular" in winter there (*vide* CG). "Large numbers" of Cory's and Greater shearwaters were moving just offshore of Brevard County Oct. 25 (JJ), and 65 Cory's, one Greater, and one Audubon's were 45 mi e. and n. of Ponce Inlet Oct. 29 (TR, CT). Six Audubon's Shearwaters heading S 10 mi offshore of Palm Beach Nov. 5 (HL, WM) were late. An imm. White-tailed Tropicbird found ill on the beach at Jupiter I., Sept. 19 (*vide* H & WD) was taken to the Martin County Audubon Wildlife Hospital, where it died 2 days later (* to T.T.R.S.). Two Masked Boobies were offshore of Pinellas County Sept. 17 (JM, CBB *et al.*) and, during strong SE winds, an adult was observed from the Lake Worth Pier Nov. 20 (PWS, TT). Sebastian Inlet hosted a Brown Booby Oct. 18 (DD), and 60 N. Gannets was an unusually high total near Molasses Reef, Monroe Co., Nov. 25 (GY *et al.*).

Twelve Am. White Pelicans heading S at Naples Aug. 19 (TB) were early migrants, although some nonbreeders summer in the state. Unusual in Leon County were three Anhingas at Tallahassee S.T.P., Aug. 23 (rare in summer), and a very large concentration of 68 Anhingas at L. Lafayette Oct. 23 (GM). Several hundred Magnificent Frigatebirds frequenting the "Marco Roost" area, Collier Co., throughout fall (when usually only 12 ± appear once or twice—*vide* TB), could have been a result of the mild weather. More than usual also lingered as far n. as Ft. De Soto P., Pinellas Co., through November (LA), and at Ft. Pierce Inlet Oct. 17 (8—JB).

WADERS, GEESE AND DUCKS — An Am. Bittern at E.N.P., Aug. 19 (BZ; ph. to T.T.R.S.) was very early and a Least Bittern at the "upper St. Marks R.," Leon Co., Oct. 6 (TM) was late. Two Glossy Ibises at L. Miccosukee Oct. 23 (GM) provided rare occurrences for Leon County. A ♀ Fulvous Whistling-Duck with downy young at Zellwood Aug. 21 (BM, A.A.S.) was n. of the species' usual breeding range. Twenty-eight Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks had returned by Nov. 7 (BS, PE) to last year's location e. of Sarasota (see *AB* 37:171). A



Greater White-fronted Goose, rare although sightings are increasing, accompanied Snow Geese near St. Marks Light Nov. 5-10 (TE, JEC *et al.*). Snow Geese, normally rare s. of Gainesville, visited Merritt Island N.W.R., Nov. 12 (3—DS), Clear Springs Mine Nov. 13 (14—BC, DAC, LG), and L. Morton in Lakeland Nov. 30 (one—JL, TP, CG). Canada Geese, rare migrants even in the Tall. Div., were early at Merritt Island N.W.R., Nov. 4 (DS).

Numbers and species of ducks were still very low by winter at E.N.P. (*vide* OB); however, at other locations there were some unusually early arrivals including a Blue-winged Teal at Sugarloaf Key Aug. 18 (TI, JI) and a Redhead at Zellwood Sept. 23 (CT). A Mottled Duck, rare in the Tall. Div., was near St. Marks Light Aug. 11 (JEC) and unusual in the Keys was a ♀ N. Pintail at Key West Nov. 27 (GY, FH). At the Banana R., NASA Compound, Merritt I., a ♂ **Harlequin Duck**, first observed during summer (no date given) in eclipse plumage, was in its spectacular breeding plumage by mid-October (DB, LR, m.ob.; † and ph. to F.O.S.R.C.). Although many looked for scoters, the only one reported was a Surf Scoter at Marco I., Nov. 27+ (rare there—TB, VB). Clear Springs Mine had 200 Hooded Mergansers Nov. 30 (very high count—CG, RG) and large numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers were reported at several coastal locations.

RAPTORS — Late Am. Swallow-tailed Kites at Key West Aug. 29 (heading S—KW) and at Gainesville Sept. 3 (RR) furnished rare occurrences at those locations. Another at E.N.P., Nov. 2 (BP, AB) was very late. Snail Kites n. of the usual range were at State Road 60, St. John's R., Sept. 14, the Savannas Recreation Area, Ft. Pierce, Oct. 4 (2—H & WD), and at State Road 50, St. John's R., Nov. 28 (KD). An imm. Bald Eagle at Port Everglades Aug. 24 (WG, ER) was only the 2nd sighting in 10 years in e. Broward County, and seven eagles during October in Leon County (GM, TM) was a significant increase there. Early N. Harriers visited s. Brevard County Sept. 3 (county's earliest by 2 weeks—DD) and Homestead Sept. 4 (BN). Better than usual *Accipiter* movements were noted along the pen. coasts with "reverse" migrations at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 20 (HL, C & FC), Duck Key Nov. 1 and Long Key Nov. 3 (HND). The maximum count of Broad-winged Hawks was 100 at Key West Oct. 30 (FH). Short-tailed Hawks were fewer than usual at E.N.P., where they winter (*vide* OB); however, at least four appeared in the Lower Keys Oct. 8+ (MB, HND, LK). Outside the species' usual range was one at Rock Springs Run S.P., Orange Co., Nov. 12 (GB, JD) and another at Lake Worth Nov. 14 (TT). A very early Swainson's Hawk was at E.N.P., Sept. 4 (CM) and three were in the Lower Keys during November (HND, MB, PB). From locations throughout (mostly coastal), a total of at least 17 Merlins and 60 Peregrine Falcons was observed from mid-September through November.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Yellow Rail struck the WCTV tower n. of Tallahassee Oct. 7 (*fide* RC, * to T.T.R.S.) and a Sora was very early near St. Marks Light Aug. 11 (JEC, BZ). Twenty-seven shorebird species that visited a temporary impoundment at Port Everglades included 11 Am. Avocets Oct. 27–Nov. 9 (rare in county—m ob.), a hatching-year White-rumped Sandpiper Nov. 18–22 (state rarity in fall—WG *et al.*) and the county's first record of Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sept. 14 (2—WG). Lesser Golden-Plovers, usually rare, were more numerous than usual. Among those were: earliest—four at the Leon County S.T.P., Sept. 15 (HMS), latest—one at Tallahassee S.T.P., Nov. 19–25 (GM, m.ob.), and maximum count—eight at Zellwood's sod farm Sept. 18 (LA, BA). Ohio Key's 200 Semipalmated Plovers Nov. 26 (GY *et al.*) and Ft. George Inlet's 37 Am. Oystercatchers Nov. 27 (Duval County—MD) were high numbers for those locations. A Black-necked Stilt near St. Marks Light Aug. 11 (JEC, BZ) constituted a fall rarity for the Tall. Div., and one was a late migrant at Duda Farms-Belle Glade Nov. 13 (PWS, PO). The Am. Avocet, rare in Duval County and the Tall. Div., was at Blount I., Aug. 6 (4—PP), near St. Marks Light Sept. 3 (4—TE, SJ) and Hickory Mound Impoundment, Taylor Co., Sept. 23 (one—JEC).

Rare in Palm Beach County, three Whimbrels at Highland Beach Sept. 23 (C & FC) were particularly significant in light of the species' aversion to crowded beaches. A Whimbrel at Deer Key Nov. 23 (AS) was rare that far s. The outstanding shorebird of the season was a **Hudsonian Godwit** at Zellwood Sept. 16–18 (CT, TR, m.ob.; † to F O S.R.C.), in the same field where one appeared during Fall 1980 (AB 35:172–76). Fifty Red Knots at Ohio Key Nov. 28 (GY *et al.*) was a high number for the Keys. Sanderlings, usually rare in Leon County, made stops at Tallahassee S.T.P., Aug. 30 (HMS, JEC), Leon County S.T.P., Sept. 15 (HMS) and a pond near Tallahassee Oct. 22 (2—GM). The Tall. Div.'s first fall sighting of the White-rumped Sandpiper occurred at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (JMS). Visiting Stilt Sandpipers at Tallahassee S.T.P., established 2 Tall. Div. records, highest count was of 40 Oct. 9, and latest was Nov. 5 (GM). One at Gainesville Oct. 13 (BM, RR) was Alachua County's first ever. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were unusual at the following locations: Tallahassee S.T.P., Aug. 21 (JEC), Ft. De Soto Aug. 31 (MS, BS) and Sept. 14–16 (LA, CJD, m.ob.), and Port Canaveral Oct. 1 (6th county record—BA *et al.*). A Wilson's Phalarope, rare in the Tall. Div., was an unexpected migrant at the Leon County S.T.P., Sept. 15 (HMS).

GULLS AND TERNS — The permanent closing last spring of the Toytown Landfill in Pinellas County—birders, take note—greatly reduced the number of rare gulls usually found in that area; however, routine visits to other facilities frequented by gulls proved rewarding. Unusual in Leon County was a Laughing Gull that intermittently visited Tallahassee S.T.P., Aug. 13 + (GM). An ad. Franklin's Gull Sept. 19 and a first-basic-plumaged individual Nov. 14 fed at the Hillsborough Heights Landfill, Hillsborough Co. (SP). Amazingly, the St. Lucie County and the Indian River County landfills each had at least four in the latter plumage Nov. 29+ (H & WD *et al.*). A Bonaparte's Gull was early at Tallahassee S.T.P., Nov. 5 (GM) and an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull fed at a small landfill in Pinellas County Nov. 27+ (GW). An ad. **Sabine's Gull** 12 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Aug. 31 (RB; † to F O S.R.C.) was, by far, the rarest gull of the season.

A good Gulf Coast migration of Com. Terns was indicated by 400 at Longboat Key Oct. 3 (BS, MS), and, during severe weather preceding a cold front, by 250 resting on the beach at Ft. De Soto Oct. 13 (LA). Three birds tagged as adults in Toronto during 1981–82 fed about the Ft. De Soto fishing pier Oct. 22–Nov. 11 (FL, LA). Approximately 100 Forster's Terns at L. Talquin Oct. 15 (GM) was Leon County's highest count ever, and Least Terns at Tallahassee S.T.P., Sept. 11 (2—GM) and Leon County S.T.P., Sept. 15 (one—HMS) were the county's latest ever.

DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS — In late August, a colony of White-crowned Pigeons (100 ± pairs) at Arsenicker Key, s. Biscayne Bay (RH), was unusual since most nest in Florida Bay (*fide* OB). One at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 7—and possibly the same, Oct. 30—was well n. of its usual range (HL, PWS). Two White-winged Doves at S.G.I., Oct. 16+ (SC, JEC) were probably w. strays, but the origin of 30± at a Key West feeder Nov. 29+ (FH, PM) was unknown.

A total of six Black-billed Cuckoos included the earliest, at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (2—JEC), and the latest, Oct. 7, at S.G.I. (CW) and Ft. De Soto (LA). A tardy Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Ft. De Soto Nov. 13 (J & LH, LA) was the latest of three there in November. "Numerous sightings" of Mangrove Cuckoos at Cape Florida from September through November (*fide* OB) were probably wanderers from nearby breeding grounds since the species is rare n. of Biscayne Bay. On Nov. 11 (JV), a Groove-billed Ani appeared at Anhinga Trail, E.N.P., where up to two, associating with Smooth-billeds, have been observed intermittently since Spring 1982. As before, none was reported in summer.

Three hatching-year Burrowing Owls remained at a Marco I. burrow first observed in July. However, no trace was found of the adults originally there. As far as known, this was the island's first record of the species, and the southernmost for the Gulf Coast (TB). An injured Lesser Nighthawk died soon after being found in Miami Oct. 10 (MC, * to E.N.P.). Common Nighthawks moved through in good numbers, notably, e. of Sarasota Sept. 14 (317—D & GM), but were late at the following locations: near Lake Placid Oct. 6 (7 "several weeks" late—FL), Tallahassee Oct. 15 (one flying N—GM), Florida City Nov. 7 (calling—PO), and Delray Beach Nov. 28 (PWS). Sarasota had an unusually high count of 56 Chimney Swifts Oct. 16 (D & GM). But, more astonishing, on the s.e. coast where Chimney Swifts are rare except as migrants in small groups, an unprecedented 775 were tallied in 2 hours at Hypoluxo I., Oct. 25 (HL *et al.*). Three others were late at Tallahassee Nov. 9 (JMS).

FLYCATCHERS — An E. Wood-Pewee was an uncommon and early migrant at Key West Aug. 19 (TI, JI); however, others were quite late farther n.; S.G.I., Nov. 9 (calling—HMS; * to T.T.R.S.), Ft. De Soto Nov. 11 (LA), and Casey Key, Sarasota Co., Nov. 12 (A & SS). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at Casey Key Sept. 15 (A & SS) and an Acadian Flycatcher was late at Tallahassee Oct. 22 (HMS). Hatching-year ♂ Alder Flycatchers were banded at Casey Key Sept. 9, 17, 19 & 25 (A & SS). Two "Traill's" Flycatchers were identified at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (JMS, SC, JEC) and another was banded at Casey Key Oct. 8 (A & SS). On both Sept. 22 (JMS) and Oct. 14 (SC, JMS, JEC), three Least Flycatchers were at S.G.I., and one, calling, was late at Payne's Prairie S.P., Alachua Co., Nov. 30 (CH). Five calling at Wellington, Palm Beach Co., Nov. 6 (HL, PWS, GH) were presumed wintering. A very early E. Phoebe was banded at Casey Key Sept. 2 (A & SS). A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher at Flamingo Campground, E.N.P., Nov. 3+ (m.ob.) delighted Florida Aud. Soc. members, and a female appeared near St. Marks Light Nov. 5 (TE *et al.*).

Although a few W. Kingbirds are found each fall along the coasts, inland sightings in the N. Pen. are rare; thus, one at Duda Farms, Lake Co., Sept. 23 (early—CT) was the most significant of seven reported. Large numbers of E. Kingbirds moved along the Gulf Coast with high counts of 250 at Ft. De Soto Sept. 14 (LA) and 150 at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (JMS, SC). However, inland at Lake Placid, Lohrer reported that his only observation was of 145 in 2 flocks Sept. 1, although the species is normally very common there during late August through early September. At least 500 gathered at a site near St. Marks Light Sept. 9–11 (TE, SJ) and since large numbers have frequented this area in past years, it was suspected of being an annual roost (*fide* HMS). Gray Kingbirds were late at Alligator Pt., Oct. 5 (CW) and Ft. Pierce Inlet State Recreation Area Oct. 17 (JB). Quite interesting were 11 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers feeding on bees at a Key West beehive Nov. 22 (GY *et al.*).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAXWINGS — For about 8 years, a downtown Naples parking lot has been a "staging ground" for Purple Martins heading S. This year, the martins first appeared in mid-August, peaked at about 3500 by Sept. 3, and dwindled to none by Oct. 5 (TB, VB). Excellent details accompanied the report of several **Bahama Swallows** in the Lower Keys, one at Stock I., Aug. 16 and two at Key West Aug. 19 (TI, JI; † to F.O.S.R.C.). Thirty N. Rough-winged Swallows n. of Marco I., Nov. 13 (TB, MW) provided the "first good report for the area" (*fide* TB), and one was late at Tallahassee S.T.P., Nov. 25 (GM). Bank Swallows were noted in highest numbers ever at Zellwood (CT, m.ob.) and were unusually common at Ft. De Soto (LA). A Cliff Swallow, an uncommon migrant in the Keys, was early at Key West Aug. 17 (TI, JI); one at Ft. De Soto Oct. 31 (LA) was late, as was an inland Barn Swallow at Tallahassee S.T.P., Nov. 5 (GM).

Since the 2 crow species do not normally intermingle, it was ironic that at Virginia Key, where Fish Crows abound, an Am. Crow was calling Oct. 1 (BN) and at Royal Palm Hammock, E.N.P., where Am. Crows are common, a Fish Crow was vocalizing Oct. 7 (CM). A Red-breasted Nuthatch was early at Alligator Pt., Oct. 3 (CW), but four Carolina Wrens at West Palm Beach didn't fledge until Oct. 11 (HL *et al.*). An early arrival in Orange County was a Sedge Wren at Rock Springs S.P., Oct. 8 (GB). By late October, Golden-crowned Kinglets were less rare than usual in the n. portion of the Region and Ruby-crowned Kinglets seemed rather abundant, even farther s.

The thrush migration was excellent, both in Palm Beach County where sightings occurred daily from late September to mid-October (*vide* HL), and at S.G.I., where the following high totals resulted from frontal activity: 40 Veeries Sept. 22 (JEC), and 23 Gray-cheeked, 190 Swainson's and 21 Wood thrushes Oct. 14 (JEC, JMS). A Veery at Lake Worth Oct. 25 (TT) missed by one day tying that area's latest record ever. American Robins arrived early in many locations and, by winter, could be found in most areas. A Gray Catbird at Sugarloaf Key Aug. 17 (TI, JI) was possibly the earliest ever in the Lower Keys, and high numbers were at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (100—JEC) and Oct. 14 (90—JMS, JEC). At Port Everglades, where the Water Pipit is rarely encountered, one Nov. 2 was joined by another Nov. 12 (WG *et al.*). Since the species is not expected in Pinellas County until at least late November, a *juv.* Cedar Waxwing at Ft. De Soto Oct. 5 (LA) was rather surprising.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A well-described Warbling Vireo at Hypoluxo I., Sept. 30 (HL, GH, ME) provided that area's 3rd fall sighting. Interestingly, migrating Red-eyed Vireos at Hypoluxo I., were described as "unusually plentiful" (HL), but this year's WCTV tower-kill data indicated that Red-eyeds represented only 4.2% of total species killed, *cf.* 17.5% for the first 25 years (*vide* RC).

In most locations, particularly along the coasts where frontal activity usually has a greater effect, the warbler migration was also excellent. Blue-winged Warblers, usually rare along the e. coast, appeared at the following locations: n. Clay County Aug. 21 (HC), Jacksonville Aug. 29 (PP) and Sept. 6 (JPC), and Ft. Pierce Sept. 25 (H & WD). They were "pretty common" at Gainesville (*vide* BM) as well as in Pinellas County (m.ob.). Gainesville's unusually high total of nine Golden-winged Warblers (m.ob.) was pleasantly surprising and, since they are rarely encountered along the e. coast and Keys, singles at Jacksonville Sept. 26 (♂—PP) and Sugarloaf Key Oct. 16 (MB) were noteworthy. Lettuce Lake P., Hillsborough Co., recorded the only Brewster's hybrids, one Sept. 14 and another, differently plumaged, Sept. 19 (WH). Tennessee Warblers were not only common along the Gulf Coast, but some remained as late as mid-November. High counts were of 32 at S.G.I., Oct. 14 (JMS, JEC) and 20 at Ft. De Soto Nov. 11, where the last remained until Nov. 15 (LA). One banded at Casey Key Nov. 17 (A & SS) was the latest mentioned. An Orange-crowned Warbler at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (JEC) was the Tall. Div.'s earliest ever. Nashville Warblers, always noteworthy, visited Ft. De Soto Sept. 23 (LA), Cape Florida Sept. 26 (BN), Hypoluxo I., Oct. 8 (HL, BH) and Ft. Lauderdale Oct. 15 (WG, BH). The best and most surprising bird of the year was a **Lucy's Warbler** at S.G.I., Sept. 22 for the first state record (JEC; † to F.O.S.R.C.).

Unusually high numbers of Chestnut-sided Warblers were 22 at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (JMS, SC), five at Ft. Pierce Oct. 8 (H & WD, JB) and seven in n. Pinellas County Oct. 15 (KT *et al.*). One at Hypoluxo I., Sept. 30 (HL, GH, ME) was rare there. Considering the species' usually very active behavior, 75 Magnolia Warblers near Tallahassee Oct. 14 (TM) must have been rather entertaining, but difficult to count—unlike a late, tired-looking one at Ft. De Soto Nov. 8 (LA). Sightings of Cape May Warblers have increased along the Gulf Coast during the past few years. However, 14 in Pinellas County (m.ob.) including a late one at Ft. De Soto Oct. 27 (LA), were unusual, as was a lone bird at S.G.I., Oct. 14 (JMS). Although there have been a number of previous sightings, an alternate-plumaged ad. ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** at Ft. De Soto Sept. 14-15 (LA, BA, m.ob.; † and ph. to F.O.S.R.C.) provided the first undisputable evidence of the species' occurrence in the state. It should be noted that, contrary to Roberson (*Rare Birds Of The West Coast*, p. 382), a pale yellow wash extended down from the rump and across the vent. Twenty Black-throated Green Warblers near Tallahassee Oct. 14 (TM) was an exceptionally high total. A Blackburnian



Townsend's Warbler, Ft. De Soto P., Pinellas Co., Fla., Sept. 14-15, 1983. Photo/B. Atherton. See *Changing Seasons*, p. 173.

Warbler was very early at Sugarloaf Key Aug. 17 (TI, JI) and another was late at Ft. De Soto Nov. 5 (LA). A Pine Warbler, a rare migrant at Cape Florida, visited there Oct. 15, and one of Florida's earliest-ever Palm Warblers was there Aug. 21 (BN *et al.*). Twenty-seven Prairie Warblers at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (JMS, SC) and 50 ± Bay-breasted Warblers near Tallahassee Oct. 14 (TM)—both very high totals—were results of passing cold fronts. The latter species, more common than usual at many locations, was late at Saddle Creek P., Nov. 5 (PF) and at Ft. De Soto Nov. 12, where a high of nine was recorded Nov. 9 (LA). A Blackpoll Warbler at Saddle Creek P., Oct. 15 (CG, PF) was rare away from the e. coast, and a Cerulean Warbler at Sugarloaf Key Aug. 17 (BZ) was exceptional for the Keys.

Saddle Creek P. had 33 Am. Redstarts, many more than usual, and a late Prothonotary Warbler Oct. 15 (PF, m.ob.). A total of seven Swainson's Warblers at 4 widespread locations, doubled the usual number and typified this season's exciting migration. The earliest, Sept. 16, and the latest, Sept. 25, were both at Ft. De Soto (LA). Late waterthrushes were: at S.G.I., a Northern Nov. 9 (HMS) and a Louisiana Oct. 14 (JMS), and one of the latter at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Oct. 8 (HL). A late Kentucky Warbler at Tallahassee Oct. 15 (JMS) was a WFSU tower casualty. A Connecticut Warbler, rare in fall, stopped at Elliot Key, Biscayne N.P., Oct. 13 (RS). A hatching-year ♀ Mourning Warbler, a rare and elusive migrant, made a brief appearance at Ft. De Soto Sept. 26 (LA) and another, late, struck the WCTV tower n. of Tallahassee Oct. 15 (RC; * to T.T.R.S.). Hooded Warblers are usually much less common in fall than in spring, even after cold fronts; therefore, 16 at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (JMS, SC) was a significant number. A few remained much later than usual farther s., with singles recorded at S.C.P., Oct. 21 (PF) and Ft. De Soto Oct. 21-25 (LA). The latest, at the latter location, were a male and female Nov. 9 (the ♂ remaining through Nov. 12—LA). There were five Wilson's Warblers, the earliest at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (JMS, SC) and the latest a male at Jacksonville Nov. 9-19 (JPC). The ten Canada Warblers included the earliest, a "building-kill" at Lake Buena Vista, Orange Co., Aug. 31 (HK; * to F.A.S.), one banded at Casey Key Sept. 29 (A & SS), and the latest, near Bartow Oct. 16 (TP).

TANAGERS THROUGH ICTERIDS — A ♂ Stripe-headed Tanager at Cape Florida Oct. 17 (BN *et al.*) was in the same area visited by one last spring (AB 37: 860-63); but, as before, attempts to relocate it were unsuccessful. The effect of the major cold front that moved through in mid-October was exemplified by the 110 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at S.G.I., Oct. 14 (JMS) and at least 25 at one Jacksonville location Oct.

16 (JPC). Two Blue Grosbeaks (one * to T.T.R.S.) and six Indigo Buntings were late at S.G.I., Nov. 9 (HMS); however, an Indigo at Casey Key Sept. 24 (A & SS) was about 2 weeks early. A Painted Bunting arrived early at Orlando Sept. 5 (HK) and others, usually rare in the Tall. Div., were at S.G.I., Oct. 14 (JMS) and Nov. 9 (latest Tall. Div.—HMS; * to T.T.R.S.) and Hickory Mound Oct. 16 (DBr). Lone Dickcissel appeared early at Hypoluxo I., Sept. 23 (CK, DC) and at a Miami feeder Oct. 5 (MC).

A late-nesting Rufous-sided Towhee was flushed from a nest containing two warm eggs at Archbold Biological Station, Lake Placid, Sept. 2 (CEW). Rare in the Keys were a Chipping Sparrow at Sugarloaf Key Nov. 13-15 (MB, HND); two Clay-colored Sparrows at Lignumvitae Key Nov. 8 (MB, JP *et al.*) and a Grasshopper Sparrow at Key West Nov. 10 (PO, FH). Other Clay-colored, notable anywhere, were at S.G.I., Oct. 14 (JMS), Casey Key Oct. 22 (banded—A & SS), and Flamingo, E.N.P., Nov. 12-19 (m.ob.). Lark Sparrows, rare migrants that sometimes winter, were early at Royal Palm Hammock, E.N.P., Sept. 16 (CM), late or wintering at S.G.I. Nov. 9 (HMS) and w. of Lake Worth Nov. 12 (imm.—HL). The elusive Henslow's Sparrow was early at Lake Kenopha, Alachua Co., Oct. 25 (BM). Added to the very few inland records of Sharp-tailed Sparrow were two that struck the WFSU tower (JMS) and one downed by the WCTV tower (RC; * to T.T.R.S.), all Oct. 15. An early Swamp Sparrow Oct. 7 (RC; * to T.T.R.S.) was also a casualty at the latter locality. Despite the unusually warm weather and the species' rarely being found s. of the Tall. Div., lone Dark-eyed Juncos were e. of Sarasota Nov. 10 (D & GM), at Ft. De Soto Nov. 12-13 (LA, BA, J & LH), and Lignumvitae Key Nov. 12 (JP *et al.*). A rare Lapland Longspur near Mahogany Hammock, E.N.P., Nov. 24-27 (m.ob.; CM, ph. to E.N.P.), provided a "first" for the park and the state's southernmost ever.

Two more additions to the Tallahassee S.T.P.'s "noteworthy-sightings" list were a late Bobolink Oct. 22 (JEC, GM) and a Yellow-headed Blackbird Nov. 5 (GM). Six other Yellow-headed were noted at various locations throughout, with the earliest at Ft. De Soto Sept. 14 (LA, CJD, m.ob.) and the latest, e. of Sarasota Nov. 26 (D & GM). By Nov. 27 (GW), seven Brewer's Blackbirds and a Bronzed Cowbird had arrived at a horse stable in Pinellas County where both wintered previously. Five thousand Brown-headed Cowbirds, a high number anywhere, invaded Tallahassee S.T.P., Nov. 5 (GM). Adding a bit of color to a very busy and exciting season were two early ♀ N. Orioles at Jackson-

ville Aug. 14 (JPC), 14 gathered Sept. 16 (TP) at a Haines City roost used last year, and a rare "Bullock's" and nine "Baltimores" at S.G.I., Sept. 22 (JEC).

ABBREVIATIONS — E.N.P.: Everglades Nat'l Park; F.O.S.R.C.: Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; S.G.I.: St. George Island; S.T.P.: Sewage Treatment Plant; Tall. Div.: Tallahassee Division; T.T.R.S.: Tall Timbers Research Station; date with a "+": recorded beyond end of period. Unless noted otherwise, any "Key" refers to one of the Florida Keys, Monroe County.

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ONTARIO REGION

/Ron D. Weir

Most of Ontario enjoyed a warm autumn well into October with only a few strong cold fronts that grounded migrants. Heavy night flights were detected September 6-7, 7-8, 11-12, and 21-22 (*e.g.*, 3500/hour at Kingston). The hawks moved September 13 through 15, 23 through 25, October 9 and 10, 15, 19 and 26, and owls October 16 through 19 and 29 and 30; both groups one to two weeks later than usual. An extraordinary number of migrants lingered to provide late dates. Purple Sandpipers, Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Black-legged Kittiwakes were found in record numbers while Northern Gannets rivalled their 1950 incursion. Northern Goshawks (again) and chickadees irrupted. Among the rarities were Groove-billed Ani, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Lark Bunting and Ontario's first Brambling. As the season closed, Great Gray Owls appeared poised to invade southeastern Ontario. Italicized place names are counties.

LOONS THROUGH GANNET — An early Red-throated Loon at Sarnia Aug. 20 (DFR) presaged a heavy flight led by the 59 there and 25 elsewhere in the s. Only one of the two that landed on a lawn near Kirkland L., Nov. 24 survived (PWR). Single Arctic Loons reported s. of Hudson and James bays were at Kettle Pt., Nov. 6 (AHR) and Hamilton Nov. 7 (AGC) and their documentation has yet to be considered by the provincial records committee. Peak Com. Loon numbers



were 169 at Kettle Pt., Oct. 9 (AHR) and at Hamilton Nov. 5 (RR). Horned Grebes were more numerous along L. Ontario than for many years. There were 200 at Stoney Cr., Oct. 30 (KMcl) and early arrivals on L. Erie included singles at Long Pt., Aug. 12 (L.P.B.O.) and Rondeau Aug. 23 (PT). Red-neckeds provided high counts of 48 at Burlington Oct. 10 (IR) and 25 at Ottawa Oct. 27 (SG) in an otherwise poor flight. The 1983 total for Eared Grebes was raised to 12, surpassing the previous records of nine in 1973 and 1981. Singles were at Winona Aug. 20-30 (KMcl *et al.*), Toronto's e. headland Sept. 15-November (*vide* BDP), Mountsberg Sept. 15 (ADB), e. tip of Long Pt., Oct. 30 (L.P.B.O.), P.E. Pt., Nov. 6 (K.F.N.) and Sarnia Nov. 13-Dec. 4 (DFR).

S.A.

Northern Gannets appeared in numbers unsurpassed in more than 30 years. Two in first-winter plumage were seen at Hamilton Oct. 29-Nov. 20 (KMcl *et al.*), the first since 1971. At Ottawa, one and two immatures were seen flying Nov. 29 & Dec. 3 (JH, BL, BMD) and two other immatures were shot Nov. 30 after being grounded and mistaken for geese standing in a field (BMD). Presumably these birds were funneled along the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers by abnormal weather conditions. The last invasion on this scale occurred in autumn and winter 1949-50 when immatures also predominated.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — Two Am. White Pelicans appeared at P.P.P., Aug. 28 (J & JT) and a single at Port Dover lingered Nov. 18-27 (TW *et al.*). Impressive numbers of Double-crested Cormorants were reported along the lower Great Lakes. Leading the totals were 1000 on Big Chicken I., in w. L. Erie Nov. 9 (DVW, JSt), 850 along Amherst I., Sept. 4 (K.F.N.), 300 each at P.P.P., Sept. 15 (AGC *et al.*) and P.E. Pt., Oct. 1 (PM, O.F.O.), where one was still present Nov. 26 (JHE, RDW). The latest report was from Erieau Nov. 27 (KB). The only Least Bittern reports were of singles at Long Pt., Aug. 22 and Pickering's Corner Marsh Sept. 24 (L.P.B.O., PL). At least 17 Great Egrets were seen at Ingersoll, Cranberry Marsh, Port Elgin, Wildwood (8+), Long Pt., Conestoga Dam and Dundas Marsh Aug. 2-Oct. 9. In sharp contrast to last spring, only one Snowy Egret was found, a juvenile at Hamilton Aug. 25-Sept. 4 (GP *et al.*). Ontario's second Little Blue Heron for 1983 was an immature photographed at Ottawa Aug. 14 (RBr). Single Cattle Egrets were seen at Port Robinson Aug. 2 (RWK, JC) and Erieau Oct. 28 (KB). Single imm. Black-crowned or Yellow-crowned night-herons were at Sudbury Aug. 28 (JCN), P.P.P., Sept. 10 swimming in L. Ontario (AGC *et al.*), and at Whitby Oct. 29 (CEG, JEG).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — The **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** shot by a hunter near Smiths Fall Oct. 22 (T. Curtiss) is now in the Nat'l Mus. of Canada. There are about 12 acceptable records for Ontario. Arrival of 650+ Tundra Swans was reported at Sarnia Nov. 25-27 (DFR) along with a few hundred each day moving E over Hawk Cliff Nov. 25-26 (DEF). The 65 Snow Geese at North Pt., were early migrants (CR) and their numbers rose to thousands at Moosonee Sept. 23-27 (KFA, O.F.O.). The main flight of Canadas occurred along a wide front from Atikokan to the Ottawa Valley Oct. 1-7 in a major waterfowl movement that resulted in 375 Wood Ducks at Ottawa Oct. 2 (BMD), 400+ Gadwalls at Ingleside Oct. 1 (BMD) and scoters in the s. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon remained at Niagara Falls Nov. 15-Dec. 2 (*vide* RWK). Numbers of Ring-necked Ducks were up in the Bruce Pen. (JWJ); 475 and 580 were at Ottawa Oct. 29 & Nov. 5 (BMD), and 350 in Kingston Nov. 11 (K.F.N.). A late Lesser Scaup was with five downy young at Ottawa Aug. 27 (BMD, BM). Sarnia was the centre for King Eiders where five and 13 appeared Nov. 11 & 12 (DFR). Elsewhere single females were at Ottawa Oct. 29-30 (BMD *et al.*), P.E. Pt., Nov. 6 (K.F.N.), Hamilton Oct. 30-Nov. 12 where an imm. male was found Nov. 20 (HGC *et al.*), Kettle Pt., Nov. 13 (AHR) and Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 13-Dec. 2 (*vide* RWK). A Harlequin Duck, accidental on the n. coast, was at the Sutton R. mouth Sept. 26 (POS). In the s. singles were along Toronto's waterfront, Hamilton, Port Hope, Kettle Pt., Oct. 28-Nov. 20 and three were at Cobourg Nov. 13 (ERM). Observers in Moosonee noted a heavy overnight exodus of Oldsquaws Nov. 3-4 that tied in nicely with peak numbers 3 days later at Long Pt., and P.E. Pt. A ♂ and ♀ Barrow's Goldeneye were at Ottawa Oct. 26 & Nov. 11 (BMD) and a male stayed

at Niagara Falls Nov. 15-Dec. 2 (*vide* RWK). Notable concentrations included 156 N. Shovelers and 250 Am. Wigeons at Ottawa Oct. 16 (BMD), 88 Gadwalls at Pelee Nov. 25 (JBa) and 148 Ruddy Ducks at Blenheim Oct. 29 (KB).

RAPTORS — A Turkey Vulture in A.P.P., Oct. 22 provided their first fall record (DSt) and 200 appeared at Kimberley, Grey Aug. 27 (EB). Late Ospreys were at Paris Nov. 9 (N & HW) and Manotick Nov. 11 (BMD). Bald Eagle reports totalled 59. The car-killed immature at Bracebridge Sept. 26 was apparently banded during the previous week at L. Placid, N.Y. (*vide* RLB). Peak numbers of Cooper's Hawks were 40 and 43 at P.E. Pt., and Hawk Cliff Oct. 15 & 16, respectively (PM, DEF), at which time their numbers equalled or exceeded those of Sharp-shinned. An echo flight of N. Goshawks was detected along the lower Great Lakes. Some 51 passed Hawk Cliff (*cf.* 23 in 1982) with 17 there Nov. 5 and 12 Oct. 29 (DEF), the same day nine passed P.E. Pt. (K.F.N.). Red-shoulders numbered 100 each at P.E. Pt., Oct. 15 (PM) and Long Pt., Oct. 26 (L.P.B.O.). An imm. Broad-winged was n. of North Pt., Aug. 24 (CR) and one was still in Georgian Bay Islands N.P., Nov. 22 (BH). One Swainson's was reported at Hawk Cliff Oct. 29 (TNH, RKH). Totals of 26 Golden Eagles, 83+ Merlins and 75 Peregrine Falcons were reported. The imm. Peregrine captured in a Pembroke church Oct. 4 died as a result of pellet wounds (*vide* JBo). Single Gyrfalcons were seen at Sparrow L., Muskoka Nov. 5: a gray bird hunting scaup (RLB *et al.*) and at North Keppel, Grey-Bruce Nov. 5, and a dark immature caught taking domestic ducks, but released (WL, JWJ).

Table 1. Hawk totals at two stations, Autumn 1983

<i>Species</i>	<i>Holiday Beach P.P.¹</i>	<i>Hawk Cliff²</i>
Turkey Vulture	5635	1106
Osprey	48	46
Bald Eagle	13	3
N. Harrier	420	380
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11,922	7815
Cooper's Hawk	453	317
N. Goshawk	32	51
Red-shouldered Hawk	840	74
Broad-winged Hawk	35,800	3532
Swainson's Hawk	—	1
Red-tailed Hawk	5006	2645
Rough-legged Hawk	122	12
Golden Eagle	12	3
Am. Kestrel	2112	1733
Merlin	32	9
Peregrine Falcon	20	12
unidentified	266	293
Totals	62,733	18,032

¹(RL Benoit *et al.*) Aug. 27-Dec. 5: 79 days

²(DEF *et al.*) Aug. 29-Nov. 26: 67 days

GROUSE THROUGH PHALAROPES — Ruffed Grouse were judged to be at a low point in their cycle and only in Quetico P.P., where they reported in high numbers (SFP). The only Yellow Rail noted was at the tip of Long Pt., Oct. 12 (L.P.B.O.). An Am. Coot, rare on the n. coast, was at the Moose R. mouth Sept. 13 (RWA). The Lesser Golden-Plover flight was strongest in early October with 400 near Luther marsh Oct. 9 (S.P.F.N.), 150 near Sudbury Oct. 14 (JCN) and 80 at Oshawa's second marsh (MJB). Two Piping Plovers were at Lake of the Woods Aug. 4-8 (DHE) and the immature at Ottawa Sept. 7 provided only their 5th record (BMD, PD). An Am. Avocet spent Sept. 7-19 visiting various marshes in the Oshawa area (E. & B. Pegg *et al.*) and three were at the Kingsville lagoon Sept. 16-17 (MPW). A Willet was reported well n. at Winisk Aug. 22 (LF), a place few observers ever visit. The seven Willets found in the s. consisted of two at North Keppel Aug. 10 (DFI) and singles at Kettle Pt., Aug. 11 (AHR), Niagara Falls Aug. 19-29 (*vide* RFA), Erieau Sept. 5 (TW), Rondeau Sept. 11 (TW), and Hamilton Oct. 2 (JBM). The Upland Sandpipers at Long Pt., Aug. 16 and Sept. 1 were unusual there (L.P.B.O.), and the Whimbrel flight was

poor as fewer than ten birds were reported Hudsonian Godwits totalled 45 in the s., of which 20 were at Russell Oct. 5 (BMD). Up to 150 were staging for migration at Winisk Aug. 15-23 (LF). Two Marbled Godwits were sighted, one at Amherst I., Aug. 4, which wandered into a duck banding trap (MM), and at Dundas Marsh Sept. 12-22 (RFi *et al.*). The 70 Red Knots at Ottawa Aug. 17 was the largest group reported (BMD, RBr). Five W. Sandpiper sightings were documented. Two were at Kingston Aug. 14-Oct. 2 (K.F.N.), two at Hamilton Aug. 27 & Sept. 3 (BWD, KMCL) and one at the Essex lagoon Sept. 8 (JEF). White-rumped Sandpiper reports numbered 105+ led by 42 at Ottawa Sept. 21 (BMD), while Baird's totalled 113+.

A record flight of Purple Sandpipers was reported, with 57+ birds along the lower Great Lakes, well over previous record years 1965 and 1969. The main group appeared after Oct. 30, but one at Oshawa Sept. 14 was early (Jsa *et al.*, ph.). The largest group numbered 13 on Amherst I. (K.F.N.). The 216 Stilt Sandpipers provided an unusually high count. There were 30 at the Warton lagoons Aug. 30 (MP), and the 47 reports from Kingston in late August were unprecedented (K.F.N.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were also unusually numerous, with 52 away from the extreme s.w. Two were at Winisk Aug. 17 (LF), and the two at Warton Aug. 27-29 (JWJ) were the first for *Grey-Bruce*. Birds were found as far e. as Russell and Kingston. Single Ruffs were at Havelock Aug. 1-4 (AGC *et al.*) and Kingston Sept. 21 (RDW). Eleven Long-billed Dowitchers were found Aug. 17-Oct. 4 at Oshawa, Kingston, Dundas Marsh, Winchester, Russell and Ottawa. The Am. Woodcock seen at Moosonee in the period was rare there (JJD). Red-necked Phalaropes numbered 17 without any concentrations. Eleven Red Phalaropes were seen Sept. 17-Nov. 30 at Russell, Kingsville, Strathroy, Long Pt., Erieau, Sarnia, Niagara, Hamilton and Toronto I. Highlights of numerous late wader reports were of single Black-bellied Plovers at Moosonee Nov. 10 (KFA) and Dundas Marsh Nov. 27 (KMCL), Semipalmated Plover on Amherst I., Nov. 15 (RDM, DMo), and Ruddy Turnstone Nov. 6 (RC *et al.*), Least Sandpiper Nov. 27 (KMCL) and Wilson's Phalarope Oct. 7 (DG), all three in the Dundas Marsh, Semipalmated Sandpiper at Burlington Nov. 6 (DG), White-rumped at Ottawa Nov. 24 (BMD), and Baird's at Oshawa Nov. 10 (MW).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — An ad. light-phase Pomarine Jaeger was on the James Bay coast at North Pt., Aug. 24 (MF, CR) and 2 other sightings involved one at Hamilton Nov. 1 (HGC) and five at Sarnia Nov. 11 (DFR). The 53 Parasitics were seen in the s. Sept. 16-Nov. 12 with 20+ at Hamilton and 12 at Sarnia (*vide* KMCL, DFR). Details did not accompany reports of single Laughing Gulls at Oshawa Sept. 24 (DJM, LR) and Rattray marsh Oct. 4 (WCM), but the one at Moosonee to Sept. 27 was photographed (A. Wormington). Four of the eight records of Laughing Gulls occurred away from Niagara at Ottawa Sept. 20 & Nov. 8 (BMD), Pickering Sept. 25 (J & JT) and Oshawa Nov. 9-10 (DJM, MJB). Numbers of Little Gulls were lower, with 18 reports from L. Ontario and only 3 from L. Erie. One was still at the Sutton R. mouth Aug. 8-9 (GM) where found June 1983. Four Com. Black-headed were seen away from Niagara, where at least one was also present. Singles appeared at Rock Point P.P., Aug. 1-2 (*vide* RFA), Long Pt., Aug. 30 (L.P.B.O.), P.E. Pt., Nov. 6 (BM, RDW *et al.*) and Sarnia Nov. 12 (DFR, SR). The Sarnia area's ten Thayer's led in the overall total of 22 (DFR), followed by Ottawa's six (*vide* BMD) with four at Niagara Falls (HGC, RWK) and singles near Kingston Oct. 25 (RDM) and Erieau Nov. 6 (PAW). Eleven were first-year birds.

S.A.

The status of the Lesser Black-backed Gull continues to change. Four is the average number of autumn sightings in Ontario, with a maximum of eight in 1980, so the 24 this fall were astounding. Ottawa's Nepean dump hosted at least 11 different birds, all of which were thought to be the British race *L. f. graellsii*, and eight of which were adults. Aside from the one that continued to remain at the Sauble R. mouth, the birds appeared from Sept. 5 throughout the s. at Pelee-Wheatley, Erieau-Blenheim, Long Pt., Niagara Falls, Burlington, Hamilton, and P.E. Pt. These high numbers suggest that breeding may be or soon will be occurring somewhere in e. Canada. These events are exceptional given that Ontario's first record occurred in November 1971.

Whitby's summering Iceland Gull was present to Aug. 21 (JMS *et al.*), and in late October unusually large numbers arrived in Ottawa, of which 15 were ad. *kumlieni* (BMD).

Hybrid Glaucous × Herring Gulls were at the Nepean dump Nov. 15, 22 & 25 and an adult and two first-year birds were involved (RMP, BMD). Such ad. hybrids are extremely rare. A Great Black-backed was well n. of its range at the Sutton R. mouth Aug. 24 (GM).

S.A.

The 118 records of the Black-legged Kittiwake upstaged last autumn's impressive numbers. Very early birds appeared at the Dundas Marsh and Rock Point P.P., Sept. 4 (KMCL, RFA) and P.E. Pt., Sept. 25 (RKE, KFE). Once again birds were blown inshore at Hamilton by E winds where 57 were counted in 2½ hrs Nov. 5 (IJ, RR, DAS). Sarnia's 41 leaving L. Huron to move down the St. Clair R., were less concentrated and moved Oct. 25-Nov. 16; 39 of these were immatures (DFR, AHR). Three immatures at Ottawa Nov. 12 provided only the 5th occurrence there (RAF *et al.*). Presumably these birds were funnelled along the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers.

Two imm. Sabine's Gulls were nicely described at the Dundas Marsh Sept. 22 (KMCL) and Sarnia Nov. 11 (DFR). The largest concentrations of Com. Terns reported were of 537 at Long Pt., Sept. 16 (L.P.B.O.) and 525 on Amherst I., Oct. 2 (K.F.N.). Several in each group wore wing tags affixed by banders at Toronto's e. Headland. Seven Arctics were seen at close range roosting with Com. Terns on the beach at North Pt., Aug. 20 (MF, CR). In the s. the 2 sightings at Oshawa Aug. 19 (JMS, PH *et al.*) and 5 in Ottawa Sept. 20 (THi) were received without details. The 45 Forster's reports from L. Ontario were a surprise. Up to eight per flock were in the Oshawa-Whitby area Aug. 19-Oct. 7 (MJB), and the 22 at Kingston Sept. 1-Oct. 20 were unprecedented there (K.F.N.). A single at the Guelph Dam Aug. 28 (MDC) was the 2nd ever for the Region. Several late records included a Bonaparte's Gull at Ottawa Nov. 27 (WC), a Ring-billed at Kenora Nov. 23 (SRM), and single Caspian Terns at Hamilton and Long Pt., Oct. 17 (DP, L.P.B.O.). A Com. Tern was reported at Big Chicken I., Nov. 8 (DVW, JSt) and a Black Tern at Ottawa Sept. 27 (BMD).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Late records involved the Mourning Dove at Whitney Nov. 29, Black-billed Cuckoo at Oxtongue L., *Haliburton* (RGT) and Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Kingston Nov. 12 (GV, MV). A **Groove-billed Ani** appeared at a Thunder Bay feeder Nov. 4-5 only to succumb from unknown causes (MJM). The specimen, the 2nd for Ontario, is now in the Lakehead University collection where examination suggested a probable wild bird (JPR). Three N. Hawk-Owls in Sudbury Nov. 18-27 provided a record number, but were overshadowed by at least eight different Great Grays there Oct. 31-Nov. 26 (JCN). Indications are that a Great Gray invasion is underway. Extraordinary numbers were seen within the breeding range: 15 at Rainy R., several at Atikokan and three at Thunder Bay in November. Birds had reached the L. Superior shore in early November, with 14 at Sault Ste. Marie, three of which were killed on Highway 17 (TDM). By the end of the period, they pushed E and SE with five at Kirkland L., eight at Sudbury, and singles at Rutherglen and A.P.P. One Boreal Owl appeared on Amherst I., Nov. 27 (JHE, PM). Northern Saw-whet Owl bandings numbered 79 at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.) and 410 at P.E. Pt. (K.F.N.). Reports of heavy migration of Com. Nighthawks included 2000+ e. of Sault Ste. Marie Aug. 18 (BAW), 700 and 400 over Sudbury Aug. 12 & 18 (JGL), 500 at Sarnia Sept. 4-5 (DFR), and a late bird at Dundas Marsh Nov. 9 (PP). An imm. ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was thought to have been at a feeder in Sapawe, *Rainy R.*, Sept. 14-17 (NB, ph.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Single imm. Red-headed Woodpeckers were n.e. to A.P.P., Sept. 30, their first since 1973 (RGT), Deep R. in early October, and Dorset, *Muskoka* Oct. 28 (RPI). A Red-bellied wandered well N to the Moose R. mouth Oct. 15 where very rare (KFA). Both species of three-toed woodpeckers were scarce. Out-of-range flycatchers were a Great Crested near Moosonee Oct. 14 (KFA), single W. Kingbirds at East Pt., along the s.e. corner of James Bay Aug. 27 (RJS) and Long Pt., Aug. 30 (DSh, KL), and an E

Kingbird at Moosonee some time between Sept. 23-27 (KFA, O.F.O.). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher tarried near St. Thomas Sept. 16-Oct. 8 (WRJ, MSS, ph.) raising the 1983 total to four. Purple Martins numbered 500 and 300 at Ottawa Aug. 28 & Sept. 10 (BMD), and 500 at Long Pt., Aug. 30 (L.P.B.O.). The largest reported flocks of Tree Swallows were of 20,000 near Sarnia Sept. 25, 10,000 at Bright's Grove Sept. 22 (AHR), and 7000 at Kingston Sept. 21 (RDM). Young Barn Swallows were still being fed in their nest at A.P.P., Sept. 2 (RGT).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS — South of their breeding range came single Gray Jays to P.E. Pt., Oct. 12 (EK), Port Severn Oct. 16 (RLB), Kingston Nov. 23 (HM), and Kaladar Nov. 29 (GV). The Blue Jay was still at North Pt., Aug. 18 (CR). Nine migrant Com. Ravens were seen Oct. 10-Nov. 6 along the Niagara escarpment, Toronto, Ipperwash, and P.E. Pt. Black-capped Chickadees irrupted through areas from Ottawa, Cornwall, and along the lakeshore from Kingston to Pelee Sept. 15-Nov. 15. The numbers appeared lower than the big invasion of 1975, but greater than those of 1981. Boreals numbered 22 in the s., fewer than the irruptions of 1975 and 1981. Their main movement was seen in e. Ontario, but one reached Pelee Nov. 19 (DFR, AHR *et al.*). Although there was a mass exodus of Red-breasted Nuthatches from A.P.P. (RGT), their flight was judged moderate at lakeshore observatories. White-breasted moved in large numbers through Kingston, P.E. Pt., and the far s.w., where at Long Pt., they were more numerous than Red-breasted (L.P.B.O.). Thirteen Carolina Wrens were noted of which six were in the extreme s.w., five in the Toronto-Oshawa area, and singles e. to P.P.P., Aug. 29 (RDM) and Kingston Nov. 6 (K.F.N.). Late wrens included a House at Long Pt., Oct. 29 (L.P.B.O.), and Sedge at North Bay Sept. 25 (EL).

THRUSHES TO VIREOS — The **Mountain Bluebird** at Ipperwash Oct. 30 (DFR *et al.*, ph.) was Ontario's ninth ever. Single **Townsend's Solitaires** at Fonthill Nov. 6 (RWK, LK) and Cobourg Nov. 13-15 (BG *et al.*) also provided outstanding records. A Varied Thrush appeared at a feeder in Orangeville Nov. 14 (WMac) and another at a feeder in Tobermory Nov. 19-26 (*vide* JWJ). Wanderers to James Bay included the N. Mockingbird at East Pt., Aug. 25 (RJS) and Brown Thrasher at Moosonee Sept. 23-27 (KFA, O.F.O.). The 152 sightings of Bohemian Waxwings s. of Sudbury heralded a significant incursion into s. Ontario. Three at Ottawa Oct. 2 were very early (BMD). The only Loggerhead Shrikes reported were three at Ottawa, the latest Sept. 24 (BMD), and two at Pelee the same day (DFR). A White-eyed Vireo was singing in Rondeau Sept. 11 (KB). Another in Peterborough Sept. 25 (TB) provided their first autumn record. Late lingerers included a Gray-checked Thrush Nov. 7 (PAW) and Swainson's Nov. 12 (KB, PAW), both at Rondeau, Yellow-throated Vireo at Cranberry Marsh to Oct. 27 (MJB), Philadelphia in A.P.P., Sept. 27 (RGT) and Red-eyed at Erieau Nov. 6 (KB).

WARBLERS — Once again the warbler accounts were laden with late dates, the extremes of which were Golden-winged in A.P.P., Oct. 2 (L & JW), Cape May at Kingston Nov. 27 (JDR), Bay-breasted at Hamilton Nov. 6 (RC *et al.*), Cerulean at Bronte Oct. 27 (MJ) and Am. Redstart at Peterborough Nov. 6 (IS). The fall migration index at L.P.B.O., showed a drop over 1982 for Tennessee (44/80), Magnolia (86/98), and Bay-breasted (53/98), but the highest index in 9 years for Blackpoll at 150 and highest ever for N. Waterthrush at 221. One Black-throated Green Warbler appeared in Moosonee Sept. 23-27 (KFA, O.F.O.). *Muskoka-Perry Sound's* first ever **Yellow-throated Warbler** visited a feeder in Rosseau Nov. 1-14 (*vide* RGT, ph.). Three Prothonotary Warblers provided a high count for autumn. At Long Pt., a hatching-year female and after hatching-year male were present Aug. 15 & 29 (L.P.B.O.) and in Manotick, one stayed Oct. 19-23 for Ottawa's 3rd area record (RHo *et al.*, ph.). Despite the strong showing last spring by the Yellow-breasted Chat, only one was found at Long Pt., Sept. 22 (L.P.B.O.) and another banded in Ottawa Sept. 29 (*vide* BMD, ph.) provided their first autumn record.

TANAGERS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING — An imm. W. Tanager was reported at Pelee Nov. 13-22 (R.H. Westmore, LF *et al.*). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at Moosonee between Sept. 23-27



Western Tanager, Pt. Pelee, Ont., Nov. 18, 1983. Photo/A. Rider.

(KFA, O.F.O.), a rarity along James Bay. A Blue Grosbeak visited a Port Hope feeder Oct. 5 (N & CW). There were seven Clay-colored Sparrows reported in the s., Sept. 11-Oct. 15, and one at North Pt., Aug. 21 provided the area's 2nd record (CR). A **Lark Bunting**, last recorded in 1974, was photographed at P.P.P., Aug. 31-Sept. 1 (LW *et al.*) making the 14th record for the province since 1941. One Le Conte's Sparrow was at Deep R., Sept. 27 (WW) and five Sharp-taileds were reported Sept. 19-Oct. 10 at Long Pt., Ottawa, Oshawa and Dundas. Fox Sparrows were unusually common in many areas, and one on Manitoulin I., Sept. 24 was an earliest ever arrival (JCN). The Lincoln's Sparrow peak at Long Pt., occurred Sept. 28 with 30 (L.P.B.O.) and at Kettle Pt., Oct. 2 with 35 (AHR). A possible Golden-crowned Sparrow was on Toronto I., Nov. 9 (RW, RY) and its documentation awaits review by the provincial records committee.

BOBOLINK THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK — Over 1000 Bobolinks were in Rondeau Aug. 31 (PT). A meadowlark (sp.) was in Moosonee Nov. 13-15 (SA, KFA), where both species are accidental. One ♀ N. Oriole was still at a Deep R. feeder Nov. 10 (WW). Ontario's first **Brambling** turned up at a feeder in Atikokan Oct. 23-26 (DHE, ph.). Pine Grosbeaks pushed into e. Ontario Oct. 15 where they remained numerous to the end of the period. The Purple Finch migration was moderate, but crossbills were scarce. The only Reds were six at Thunder Bay Nov. 1 (EIM) and 25 at P.E. Pt., Nov. 6 (K.F.N.). White-winged were in Moosonee, but in lower numbers than in 1982 (KFA), one was at P.E. Pt., Oct. 29 (JHE, RDW), and five were at Thunder Bay Nov. 1 (EIM). The redpoll flight s. of Sudbury was weak as only a few reached A.P.P., Ottawa and Kingston after Oct. 24. A heavy flight of Pine Siskins went through Oct. 9-Nov. 6, and by late November only in *Grey* were they reported in good numbers (JWJ). Evening Grosbeaks moved S in 2 periods consisting of a weak flight in late August and heavy migration Oct. 9-Nov. 15. Some 2800 went over P.E. Pt., Nov. 6 (K.F.N.).

ABBREVIATIONS — P.E. Pt., Prince Edward Point; Pelee, Pt. Pelee N.P.; Algonquin (A.P.P.), Presqu'île (P.P.P.) and Rondeau are Provincial Parks.

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

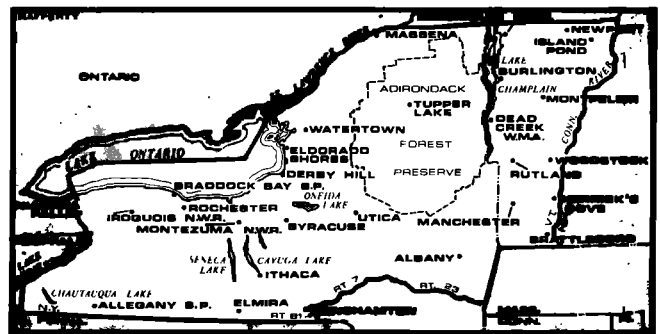
/Douglas P. Kibbe and Cheryl M. Boise

July ended cool but August seemed more like the middle of summer, cool temperatures mid-month and local frosts in mid-September being the only indication that another fall was upon us. We were scarcely prepared, however, for the onslaught of rarities that appeared in all corners of the Region. More than 35 species that have received special attention in this Regional report over the past decade were recorded, requiring a rigorous re-evaluation of our rationale for boldfacing species.

The migration was generally termed good, from the point of view of the observers at least, with notable local peaks at diverse locations September 4-6, 12, 20 and 26, and October 9 and 17-19. Neither raptors nor winter finches gave evidence of impending invasions. Cone crops were unimpressive although other wild foods were locally plentiful. We are happy to report that the strong migration was not reflected in Regional tower-kills. Weather-induced fallout however, was noteworthy.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Red-throated Loons peaked late in the season, a tally of 150 near Rochester Nov. 27 (WS) being the best count. A strong flight of Com. Loons throughout the Region was reflected in counts of 66 at Grand I., Oct. 18 & 29 (RL) and 717 moving SW on L. Erie off Barcelona in less than 3 hours Oct. 23 (DG *et al.*). Three Horned Grebes at Rochester Aug. 25 (R.B.A.) were early as was a Red-necked Grebe at Buffalo Aug. 28 (B.O.S.). An Eared Grebe at Hamlin Beach S.P., Oct. 6 (WS) was notable, but more surprising was the Region's second-ever **Western Grebe** on Cayuga L., at Long Point S.P., Nov. 9 (BM, RF). Possibly two (or three) N. Gannets were noted; immatures were seen Oct. 27 & 28 at Hamlin Beach (CC *et al.*) and Nov. 17 at Derby Hill (DC, JH). Presumably entering the Great Lakes via the St. Lawrence, these birds are probably doomed since they are unlikely to venture S over land as do the many jaegers which appear annually. Several strong flights of Double-crested Cormorants were noted on the Great Lakes in the first one-half of October but it was unclear whether these represented departures from the growing colony on Gull I., in e. L. Ontario or arrivals from farther w. or n. Least Bitterns, seldom reported in the fall, were found at West Rutland and Colchester, Vt. (WN), the latter Sept. 4, a record late date for that state. Widely scattered reports of Great Egrets included up to seven at Montezuma, N.W.R., and 2 sightings on L. Champlain. A single stray Snowy Egret Aug. 13-27 at Eldorado Beach (GS) and a Tricolored Heron spotted Aug. 15 (GC, RH) on Chimney Pt., Addison Co., which subsequently flew across L. Champlain into New York, round out the list of regularly occurring long-legged waders this fall. The belated report of a successful breeding colony of Cattle Egrets on Little Galloo I., in e. L. Ontario (CW) is welcome but there was still only one sighting for the Region this fall, a pair in the L. Champlain valley (J & MCD). A Green-backed Heron near Rochester Nov. 1 (R.B.A.) was exceptionally hardy.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS — Tundra Swans whistled through the Region in late November with 2350 at Mayville (LBu, FR) being the best of several good counts. A flock of 11 over Northfield, Vt., Oct. 6 (WHB *et al.*) was surprisingly early and well e. of their usual flight path. Brant also put in an excellent showing with 2800 at Hamlin Beach S.P., Nov. 3 and 8000 there the following day (WS). This



location, one of the best in the Region for viewing fall waterbirds, also yielded 4000+ Oldsquaws Oct. 29, plus 500 Black and 260 Surf scoters Oct. 17. Black Scoters were found throughout the Region in greater than usual numbers, with 55 on Chenango L., in c. New York Oct. 16 (RD) being the highest count away from the Great Lakes. Chautauqua L. again hosted an armada of Hooded Mergansers, 940 Nov. 28 (DG, DD) and Missisquoi N.W.R., set a Regional high, with 7600+ Ring-necked Ducks Oct. 31. For sheer spectacle, however, imagine the 10,000+ Com. Mergansers that gathered nightly at Robert Moses Power Dam near Massena in November (JVR). Rarities included a Com. Eider Nov. 16 at Dunkirk Harbor (BC, *fide* B.O.S.), five King Eiders at Derby Hill Nov. 12 and scattered singles thereafter, and four Harlequin Ducks at Braddock Bay in November (MD *et al.*). Also rare but possibly escapees were Mute Swans at Dunkirk, Rochester, and at Perch River Wildlife Management Area (breeding locally at the last locality), a Barnacle Goose at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Eur. Wigeon at Niagara Falls and Ruddy Shelduck in Oneida County.

A Turkey Vulture at Hamlin Nov. 25 (WS) was late but as the species has grown more abundant it has also proved more likely to linger into winter. Tardy hawks at Winhall, Vt., included a Red-shouldered Nov. 11 and a Broad-winged Nov. 8 (WN), the latter exceptionally late. Both a Bald Eagle and a Peregrine Falcon were found shot in New York. About a dozen of each species was reported, while Merlins were less in evidence than usual with only about a half-dozen sightings. A single Golden Eagle at Pompey Oct. 11 (FLF) and a Gyrfalcon at Webster Nov. 9 (JC) round out the rarities.

SHOREBIRDS AND GULLS — The Piping Plover, now only a rare migrant in the Region, was seen once, on Oneida L., Sept. 3-4 (KS). An Am. Avocet graced Eldorado Shores on July 21 (GS), we belatedly learned. The best shorebirding was, as usual, on the Ontario lake plains and at Montezuma N.W.R., where draining attracted large concentrations as evidenced by the flock of 450 Lesser Yellowlegs present Aug. 30 (KG). At least three Willets stopped over in c. New York Aug. 14-Sept. 11 and at least four Whimbrels were noted there Aug. 1-Oct. 9. Hudsonian Godwits were scarce, five near Rochester providing the best count. Purple Sandpipers staged one of their best showings to date with 25+ recorded, including two at Blodgetts Beach and another on Charlotte Beach (SA) on L. Champlain. At least nine Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted from 4 locations and a **Ruff** was spotted at Onondaga L., in early September. With the exception of 125 Short-billeds noted at Montezuma N.W.R., Aug. 30, the dowitcher flight was mediocre.

American Woodcock are noted for staging large fall flights on the East Coast. Sixty at Theresa Sept. 13 (ALF, *vide* LC) were the first indication in many years that this phenomenon still occurs here. Although widely reported in small numbers in w. and c. New York, all three phalaropes escaped detection in the e. half of the Region. Moderating temperatures lulled at least 13 species of shorebirds into lingering into November in the Rochester area.

Jaegers continue to present identification problems for Regional observers. Parasitic Jaegers constituted nearly all birds reported from the e. end of L. Ontario, while nearly 50% of the sightings near Rochester were called Pomarines. The earliest sightings were of lone Parasitics Aug. 27, but the majority of the flight came in October when up to a dozen birds/day could be seen at favored vantage points. Little Gull numbers were unimpressive compared with recent years, and only one Franklin's Gull was noted, at Rochester in September. An ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** was found at Niagara Falls and both an adult and immature appeared at Hamlin Beach S.P. The summering 2nd-year Iceland Gull seen at Dunkirk was replaced by an equally surprising adult in mid-August (AS). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was present at L. Erie S.P., Oct. 7 (W & SB *et al.*) and Niagara Falls Nov. 13 (RA *et al.*). Black-legged Kittiwakes were present in numbers (max. 16/day) on L. Ontario after Oct. 27. A report of two on the Connecticut R., Nov. 5 (DW) will give Vermont's records committee cause for deliberation. The imm. **Sabine's Gull** at Hamlin Beach S.P., Sept. 11 (MD *et al.*) was exceptionally early as well as rare. The previously reported Royal Tern at Braddock Bay lingered only until Aug. 2. Common Terns, well reported, lingered into early November at Buffalo and Hamlin Beach S.P. Several areas also reported higher than usual Forster's Tern tallies with 21 at Sandy Pond (MR) leading all comers. Black Terns were last sighted Oct. 16 (RAS), slightly late.

ALCIDS THROUGH NUTHATCHES — A tiny alcid, presumably a Dovekie, flew past Charlotte Beach on L. Ontario Sept. 22. Exceptionally tardy was the Yellow-billed Cuckoo car-killed Nov. 2 at Lysander (RS). Snowy Owls were scarce and nocturnal n. visitors were unremarkable to nonexistent. Whip-poor-wills are too seldom reported in fall to say whether an Oct. 9 sighting in c. New York is really late. Several commented on the mass movement of Com. Nighthawks in the s. Connecticut R. valley Aug. 25-27. From Vermont, where Red-headed Woodpeckers are at best rare breeders, came at least a half-dozen fall reports. Perhaps recent harsh winters have made E. Phoebes cautious? In any event, only one was reported after mid-November. Although regular on the East Coast, **Western Kingbirds** are rarely seen *en route*, at least in c. New York, making the Oct. 16 appearance of one near South Otselic (DM, JGL) particularly exciting. A Tree Swallow at Durand Eastman P., Nov. 25 (WL) and a N. Rough-winged at Derby Hill Oct. 15 (JL) were relatively late. A good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches occupied boreal areas.

WRENS THROUGH VIREOS — Not surprisingly considering the dearth of summer reports, only a single Sedge Wren was noted. A fog bank over n. Pompey Township Oct. 9 caused a record fallout of migrants including 750 Golden-crowned Kinglets (DC). Vermont's second **Northern Wheatear** was photographed as it lingered at Cornwall Sept. 13-17 (B & JP *et al.*). Late departures seemed the rule among the thrushes with a Gray-cheeked at Pomfret, N.Y., Oct. 20 (B.O.S.),

Swanson's near Ithaca Nov. 6 (*vide* C B C) and Wood at Jamestown Oct. 18 (E & DA). By November a few Bohemians were accompanying the hordes of Cedar Waxwings present in c. New York. Few N. Shrikes appeared. The only Loggerhead Shrike sighted were exceptionally tardy, Oct. 30 and Nov. 6, both dates more typical of the N. Shrike. A White-eyed Vireo spotted Sept. 12 on Mt. Philo (J & MCD) was a rare find, particularly for Vermont.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — Fewer than a dozen Orange-crowned Warblers were identified, two of them in Vermont. More unusual, particularly in fall, was the Yellow-throated Warbler at Forest Lawn Nov. 13-15 (CC *et al.*), Kentucky Warbler at Sandy Pond Sept. 8 (JH) and the half-dozen Connecticut Warblers, one of them in Vermont. A Hooded Warbler in Shaftsbury, Vt., was also notable if correct. Unprecedented for New York and the Region was a possible imm. **MacGillivray's Warbler** reportedly banded at Fredonia Oct. 29 (MJ, *vide* L.E.B.C.). Although fall was relatively mild only 6 species of warblers lingered into November. Only the aforementioned Yellow-throated Warbler, Cape Mays at Sodus and Fredonia Nov. 20, and a Wilson's at Durand Eastman P., Nov. 22 were particularly unexpected.

The fallout of migrants at Pompey Oct. 9 included a record total of 65 Rufous-sided Towhees and 575 White-throated Sparrows (DC) also present farther n. on the L. Ontario shore that date were 250 Dark-eyed Juncos. Many localities reported late sparrows. Although a Grasshopper Sparrow at Buffalo Oct. 25 was later than usually reported, the date is probably well within the species' typical departure period. A possible Lark Sparrow at Rochester Aug. 27 escaped confirmation but a Sharp-tailed Sparrow Oct. 23 at Eastport (TB *et al.*) remained another day for further examination. The Sharp-tailed is probably far more regular than sight records indicate. A tower-killed specimen found the day after the Westport bird departed hints of a general flight across New York that week. Several N. Orioles occurred past local departure dates, the latest Nov. 25 in the Rochester area. Whether these individuals represent lingering half-hardies or lost strays from some other region, however, is a question warranting investigation. Winter finches were barely reported. Crossbills were particularly scarce and redpolls absent.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

It was generally a mild and pleasant fall season, and at most places the birding was just as pleasant. The migration could well be termed a better than average one, if not a great one.

August and early September were warmer than usual at most places and in the east were much drier than normal. The western part of the Region had more normal rainfall. In late September, and in particular after the passing of Hurricane *Dean* the weather changed. It was warmer than usual but for the rest of the period rainfall was above normal. There

were few frosts and the first killing frost was later than normal at most places. Late November was cold with snow at one or two places, but even by the end of the period no real winter had set in.

The passerine migration was generally very good, although some places, as usual, did not see much of it. The mild late season produced a tremendous rash of late dates for warblers and other small birds. The waterfowl migration was very poor, and in the south few had arrived by the end of the period. The hawk migration was not very spectacular, and while there were lots of unusual shorebirds reported the total flight was probably poorer than normal, partly owing to the lack of water in many places.

By November there were signs of a modest incursion of northern



species, but only two species were really involved in this.

As usual in the fall many of the data came from the two big banding stations, Powdermill Nature Reserve, near Ligonier, Pa. (hereafter, P.N.R.), where 9269 birds (second highest total) with 54 out of 76 species in above-average numbers (RCL) and the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory (hereafter, A.F.M.O.) on the *Grant-Tucker* line in northern West Virginia where 9366 birds (a record high) were banded (GAH). Two smaller banding operations also contributed data: Norris, Tennessee, where 949 birds of 70 species were banded (CN) and Presque Isle State Park, Pa., where 598 birds were banded (*vide* JM). At P.N.R., the peak day was October 18 when 453 birds were handled (RCL) and at A.F.M.O., the peak day was October 4 with 666 birds.

Unlike last year the supply of natural food seems to have been very good at most places, although there was no cone crop in the high mountains of eastern Tennessee.

In the following account place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS, GREBES AND CORMORANTS — There was an unusually large number of reports of Red-throated Loons: Pittsburgh Oct. 23 (RT); L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 30 (DF) & Nov. 6 (PH); *Indiana*, Pa., Nov. 13-14 (M & RH); State College area, Pa., Presque Isle S.P. (hereafter, P.I.S.P.) Nov. 27 (SS) & Nov. 30 (JM); Chickamauga Dam, Tenn., Nov. 7-8 (K & LD), & Nov. 14-16 (LD & RS); and L. Conasauga, Ga., Oct. 27 (HD). Common Loons were more common and widespread than in recent years with counts of hundreds at P.I.S.P., in mid-November (JM) and 200 at Seneca L., O., Nov. 18 (ME). At the Tuscarora Mt., Pa., hawk lookout 26 were seen Oct. 26 (CG) and 54 were counted in a 2-hr period Nov. 13 (CB). Horned Grebes were abundant at P.I.S.P. (JM) but elsewhere were scarce or absent. An Eared Grebe was at the Kingston Steam Plant (hereafter, K.S.P.) Tenn., Oct. 23-Nov. 1 (m.ob.). A Red-necked Grebe was found in *Rockingham*, Va., Oct. 31 (R.B.C.). Double-crested Cormorants were reported in unusual numbers from all parts of the Region.

HERONS, IBISES AND STORK — Least Bitterns were found at P.I.S.P., Aug. 23 (SS), McClintic Wildlife Area, *Mason*, W. Va., Aug. 30 (TI), and a late one at L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 2 (DF). Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets were more common than usual in the fall, and reports of the egret came from throughout the Region in August. The only reports of Snowy Egrets came from e. Tennessee, Hiwassee R. Area Aug. 28-Sept. 3 (*vide* DJ) and *Bradley* Sept. 11 (LD & RS). Little Blue Herons were reported from Austin Springs, Tenn., Aug. 1 (RK), Hiwassee R. Area, Tenn., Sept. 3 (JS), *Meigs*, Tenn., Sept. 2 (*vide* RS), Ooltewah, Tenn., Sept. 12 (LD), *Botetourt*, Va., Aug. 6-Sept. 13 (NM, MP, HT), Clinch Valley, Va., Aug. 7 (RP), and *Rowan*, Ky., through August (FB). Cattle Egrets were reported from *Meigs*, Tenn., Aug. 27 (RS), Ooltewah, Tenn., Sept. 12 (LD), Hiwassee R. Area, Tenn., Aug. 3 (JS), Nickajack L., Tenn., Oct. 5 (D & PC), *Roanoke*, Va., Sept. 14

(BK *et al.*); and *Rockingham*, Va., Oct. 17 (R.B.C.).

Two imm. **White Ibises** were seen in *Botetourt*, Va., Aug. 6-8 (BK *et al.*). Somewhat more remarkable were Glossy Ibises at State College, Pa., July 27 (PA), and *Cumberland*, Pa., Aug. 9-11 (JE), and an unidentified *Plegadis ibis* in *Lawrence*, Pa., Aug. 7-13 (DF *et al.*). A **Wood Stork** was at Knoxville Sept. 10-Oct. 7 (m.ob.), providing the 3rd record for Tennessee (CN).

WATERFOWL — The Tundra Swan did not deviate from its normal migration route and only one report, Deep Creek L., Md., Nov. 13 (RR), came from outside n. Pennsylvania. Sizable flocks were seen over Warren, Pa., in November (WH), there was a major flight at Erie Nov. 24 (JM), and 1100 were seen at Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 26 (RFL, ML). A Snow Goose at L. Arthur, Pa., Sept. 20 (MG) was unusually early. This species was also reported from Pymatuning L., Oct. 29 & Nov. 5 (RFL) and from Elizabethton, Tenn., Nov. 16 (GE). The extensive introductions of Canada Geese in some parts of this Region make it difficult to assess the timing and the extent of the migration, but flocks of several hundred over the Warren, Pa., area in late November (*vide* WH) indicated migration. At Pymatuning L., the goose population was 5000 ± Sept. 26 and peaked at 8000 on Nov. 26, about the same as in most recent years (RFL, ML). Brant were reported from P.I.S.P., three Nov. 6 and one Nov. 8 & 11 (JM).

The duck migration was on the low side and some areas reported seeing very few. There were, however, some interesting exceptions. The Gadwall is not normally very common in this Region but this year there was a large number of reports, usually of large flocks. Two were seen at Pymatuning L., Pa., Aug. 18 (RFL). Most unusual was a flock of 100+ at Lewisburg, W. Va., on the early date of Sept. 22 (DW), and a few near there Sept. 18 (CH). Ruddy Ducks were reported on some very early dates, Aug. 7 at L. Arthur, Pa. (DF), K.S.P., Tenn., Aug. 27 & 28 (C.T.O.S., DJ).

The exceptions to the rather dull flight were the 3 scoter species which were unusually numerous and widespread. The Black Scoter is normally the rarest of the 3 in the Region but at P.I.S.P., Nov. 6 a flock of 475 scoters of which 180 were definitely Blacks and the others probably this species was seen (SS & JM). Other records came from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Nov. 5 & 6 (TS & MK), Colyer L., Pa., Nov. 6 (JMc), Lock Haven, Pa., Nov. 5-6 (PS), *Garrett*, Md., Nov. 12 (RR), and Chickamauga L., Tenn., Nov. 26-27 (DJ, JS). Surf Scoters were reported at Colyer L., Pa., Oct. 27-Nov. 5 (KJ *et al.*), Stone Valley, Pa. (DM), Nickajack Dam, Tenn., Nov. 12 (MB), Chickamauga L., Tenn., Nov. 28 (RS & KD). The White-winged Scoter is normally the common species but was reported only from the State College, Pa., area (no date given—JMc), and from Chickamauga L., Tenn., Dec. 3 (RS).

The two most unusual records were of a Eur. Wigeon in *Meigs*, Tenn., Oct. 22, the 2nd state record (RS) and three King Eiders at P.I.S.P., Nov. 13 (JM, SS, JB).

RAPTORS — The results from the principal hawk watching stations are summarized in Table 1. Most reporters felt that this was a poor year compared with other years. Some other counts reported were of 1144 Broad-winged from 3 locations in e. Tennessee Sept. 23 (*vide* CN), and 1400 near Charleston, W. Va., Sept. 15 (*vide* NG). Several of the stations remained in operation through October and into November and these were rewarded by some unprecedented counts of Red-tailed Hawks. At Tuscarora Summit, Pa., 446 were counted Sept. 21 (CB) and at Rockfish Gap, Va., 1484 were counted during the season with 284 on one day (DP, YL).

The good news on raptors is that the number of reports of both eagle species, the N. Goshawk, and the Peregrine Falcon are too numerous to be listed in detail. The Bald Eagles in *Crawford*, Pa., raised five young (including one transplant), one more than last year (RFL). Bald Eagles were reported from 20 locations, 21 at the hawk watching stations and 13 at other locations. Forty-one N. Goshawks were tallied, eight away from the stations. There were a few scattered records of Rough-legged Hawks, with s. records coming from Rockfish Gap, Va., and Mendota Tower, Va. (DP), and 2 records in *Rockingham*, Va. (R.B.C.). Forty-four Golden Eagles were reported from 12 locations from State College, Pa., to n. Georgia. Nineteen were seen at the Tuscarora Summit station (CB). Ten of these were seen at places other than the ridge-top hawk watching stations. A Golden Eagle was "hacked" near State College

(*vide* KJ) Merlins were reported much more frequently than usual and an early one was seen at Jersey Shore, Pa., Aug. 24 (PS). Peregrine Falcons were not so numerous but the figures were still much better than in any recent year. Twenty-two birds were reported from 6 locations, eight at places other than the hawk watching stations.

Table 1. Hawk Migration Appalachian Region, Fall 1983

	<i>Days obs.</i>	<i>Sh-sh'¹</i>	<i>Br-wg²</i>	<i>Br-wg High</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuscarora					
Summit, PA (CG, CB)	*	1382	1526	*	4613
Washington Mon. S.P., MD (TD)	*	1211	2030	628 (9/15)	4796
Bear Rocks, WV (<i>vide</i> DP)	14	8	1372	1049 (9/15)	1421
East River Mt., WV (JP)	17	43	2437	1272 (9/15)	2506
Peters Mt., WV (GH)	15	61	2444	648 (9/16)	2601
Rockfish Gap, VA (<i>vide</i> DP)	69	1194	14,609	10,611 (9/15)	17,491
Harvey's Knob, VA (<i>vide</i> DP)	56	628	8131	3642 (9/15)	9992
Mendota Fire Tower, VA (<i>vide</i> DP)	14	42	7419	*	7228
Look Rock Chilowee Mt., TN (<i>vide</i> LF)	14	16	2063	1566 (9/24)	2602
Signal Point, TN (<i>vide</i> LF)	9	29	1351	700 (9/24)	1419
Laurel Grove Fire Tower, TN (<i>vide</i> LF)	8	8	888	*	974
Thorn Hill (Clinch Mt.), TN (<i>vide</i> LF)	6	6	2998	2464 (9/22)	3317
Mt. Roosevelt Fire Tower, TN (<i>vide</i> LF)	4	0	321	*	338

1. Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2. Broad-winged Hawk, *Data not submitted.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS THROUGH CRANES — The Ring-necked Pheasant, never a common bird in most of this Region, continues to decline in numbers. Both the Ruffed Grouse and Wild Turkey are in low numbers. The N. Bobwhite remains scarce in the n.

A King Rail captured in downtown Chattanooga Sept. 2 died after being kept at a nature center for 3 weeks (*vide* RS). Oddly there was only one sighting of Am. Coots in the Crawford, Pa. area (RFL) but elsewhere numbers were normal, with a high count of 2700 at Nickajack Dam, Tenn., Nov. 11 (RS). There are now two coots that appear to be the problematic Caribbean species present in the Chattanooga area (*vide* DJ). Downy young coots were seen at Chickamauga L., Tenn., as late as Sept. 1 (JS).

Sandhill Cranes were reported from Austin Springs, Tenn., one Nov. 23+ (RK), the 2nd record in 40 years, Whitfield, Ga., Nov. 7 and 75 over the Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., Nov. 29 (HD). At Knoxville a total of 452 had been counted Nov. 12-Dec. 1 with the biggest flights Nov. 22-26 (WJ). A small flock was reported at the Mendota Tower hawk lookout Nov. 14 (*vide* RP).

SHOREBIRDS — The two shorebird "hotspots," P.I.S.P. and K.S.P., both had very good years. At P.I.S.P., August was rather poor but with a shift in winds to the n. in late August the birds began to arrive. A shorebird banding station there had its best season, and Aug. 28, 51 birds of 9 species were banded (*vide* JM). Besides these places many other localities turned up shorebirds and an unusual number of rarities was reported. Even such usually noteworthy species (for this inland

Region) as Lesser Golden-Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, and Stilt Sandpiper were reported in such numbers at so many places that space does not permit the detailing of these records. Ruddy Turnstones were reported from P.I.S.P., August-Oct. 9 (m ob), Cheshire, O., Aug. 30 (4th local record) & Oct. 19 (TI), Rowan, Ky (first local record—FB), Roan's Cr., Tenn., Sept. 8-14 (RK), Douglas L., Tenn., Sept. 2 (AK), and several reports from K.S.P. (*vide* DJ, CN) Red Knots were reported from K.S.P., Aug. 29 (K & LD) & Sept. 2 (RS), Douglas L., Tenn., Sept. 18 (AK), and P.I.S.P., Aug. 21-Sept. 21 (SS). Sanderlings were found at K.S.P., Aug. 24 (DJ)-Oct. 8 (*vide* CN), at Pymatuning L., Pa., Sept. 7 (RFL), P.I.S.P., Sept. 3 (RFL, ML), and at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., Aug. 12 (HH) & Sept. 25 (CHa) and Roanoke, Va., Sept. 14-21 (MP *et al.*). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found at K.S.P., Aug. 27-Sept. 18 (*vide* CN), at Douglas L., Tenn., Aug. 28 (AK) and 2 locations near Roanoke Aug. 27-30 & Sept. 14-15 (MP).

The more unusual species were: Piping Plover, K.S.P., Aug. 13-15 (AH, K & LD) and P.I.S.P., Oct. 4 & 8 (JM, KA); Am. Avocet, K.S.P., Sept. 6 (JT); Willet, P.I.S.P., July 23 (MK & TS) & Sept. 3 (RFL); Watauga L., Tenn., Sept. 8-14 (RK); and Hiwassee R. Area, Tenn., Aug. 27 (DJ & JS); Whimbrel, P.I.S.P., Aug. 28-Oct. 15 (very late) (SS) and Roanoke Sept. 14 (first local record—TF); **Hudsonian Godwit**, P.I.S.P., Oct. 8 (SS) and Hiwassee R. Area, Tenn., Nov. 12 (2nd fall record—PR); Purple Sandpiper, P.I.S.P., Nov. 5, 6, 17 (T & NMc) (SS, JM); Long-billed Dowitcher, Pymatuning L., Pa., Sept. 7 (RFL), P.I.S.P., Oct. 16 (SS & JM), and Roanoke (first county record), Oct. 13-17 (MP *et al.*); Wilson's Phalarope, Hiwassee R. Area, Tenn., Aug. 18-20 (DJ, JS), P.I.S.P., Aug. 21-23 (SS, JM), K.S.P., Aug. 28 (DJ); Roan's Cr., Tenn., Sept. 9 (RK), Rowan, Ky., Sept. 21 (FB), and Huntington, W.Va., Sept. 17 (TI); **Red-necked Phalarope**, Guilford L., O., Sept. 17 & 18 (EP, DFo); **Red Phalarope**, nine at Point S P, Pittsburgh Nov. 21 (JKe, DF).

GULLS AND TERNs — There was an unusual number of reports of Laughing Gulls, Bald Eagle S.P., Aug. 12-20 (HH, MW, CHa, PS), P.I.S.P., Oct. 10 (2nd fall record—JM), K.S.P., Aug. 24 (DJ *et al.*), and Chickamauga L., Tenn., Oct. 29 (JS). Unreported for the summer season was a Franklin's Gull at Bald Eagle S.P., July 23 (MK). A Little Gull was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 5 (BG). At Pymatuning L., Pa., 2000 Bonaparte's Gulls were present Nov. 12 (RFL). The only report of a Great Black-backed Gull was from Bald Eagle S.P., Nov. 26-27 (PS) Perhaps the most unusual gull was a Black-legged Kittiwake at P.I.S.P., Nov. 6 (SS, JM, JB).

Caspian and Black terns were more widely reported than usual with a count of 25 Caspians at P.I.S.P., Aug. 12 (DS). Forster's Terns were at P.I.S.P., Aug. 6-Nov. 8 (a record late date—SS). Other reports came from Roanoke, Va., Oct. 5 (BH) and near Whitethorne, Va., Oct. 14 (ES). The best tern was the Least Tern reported from Rowan, Ky., Sept. 7 & 12 (FB), from Douglas L., Tenn., Sept. 13 (AK) and from Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 17 (2nd fall record—RK). At P.I.S.P., Aug. 13 a short-legged tern with an all-red bill was seen and photographed, this was probably an Arctic Tern, but as it was never seen in flight, identification could not be confirmed (JB).

DOVES, CUCKOOS AND OWLS — The Mourning Dove populations through the area remained high but are somewhat lower than last year. Both species of cuckoo were very scarce in late summer, despite a heavy outbreak of fall webworms in s.w. Pennsylvania, n. West Virginia, and e. Ohio.

There was only one report of Com. Barn-Owl, Lyndhurst, Va., Aug. 24, a well-known nesting site (JH). Short-eared Owls were reported from P.I.S.P., Oct. 23 (SS), Botetourt, Va., Oct. 29 (MM), and in Wise, Va., Oct. 31 (RP). An early N. Saw-whet Owl with some juv feathers banded at P.N.R., Sept. 25 may have been raised locally (RCL).

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The flight of Com. Nighthawks was about normal in numbers. Nighthawks were still present in places in early October with the latest date Oct. 19 at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE). A Chuck-will's-widow was heard Aug. 29 at Stuart's Draft, Va. (AM). At P.N.R., the banding of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was down slightly from the average (RCL) and the

number logged at A F M O , was lower than last year (GAH)

At A.F.M.O., a total of 35 Red-headed Woodpeckers was seen flying along the mountain past the station during the 8 weeks of operation (GAH). Several of the hawk watching stations also reported this species flying past, and there were numerous reports from throughout the Region, the most favorable fall season for some years. On the other hand the Red-bellied Woodpecker is not doing well at the n. edge of its range. It was in unusually low numbers in the Pittsburgh region (PH) and has disappeared from *Crawford* in the n.w. corner of Pennsylvania. However, one was seen at Tidioute, throughout the period (AE) and two at Irvine Oct. 13 (NT), both locations in extreme n. Pennsylvania. One was seen near Jennerstown, *Somerset*, Pa., the first record in 15 years (RM).

FLYCATCHERS, RAVENS AND CHICKADEES — There were 3 unusual flycatcher records: A **Western Flycatcher** was found at Elizabethton, Tenn., Sept. 20 (HL), the first sighting there since 1947; a W. Kingbird was seen in *Allegheny*, Pa., Aug. 13, the second local record (DF), and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in *Meigs*, Tenn., Oct. 1-2, the first s e Tennessee record (KH, PHa). Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from P.I.S.P., Sept. 9 & 11 (JM, SS) & Sept. 24 (DF), and a very late one in *Washington*, Pa., Oct. 16 (AB); four were banded at P.N.R., Aug 24-Sept. 13 (RCL). An E. Wood-Pewee was feeding young at Cooper's Rock S.F., W.Va., Sept. 14 (GB). The bandings of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at P.N.R., were up 27% over average (RCL), but they were low at A.F.M.O. (GAH) and missing completely at P.I.S.P. (JM)

A Com. Raven was seen at Beech Fork S.P., W.Va., Oct. 1 (H B C.). This is well removed from the normal range in the state but the bird may have come from the recently established population in s.e. Kentucky. There were several low-elevation records at Elizabethton, Tenn (GE).

A major feature of the fall season was the massive invasion of Black-capped Chickadees from the n. The influx was noticeable in late September and continued well into early November. At P.N.R., 490 were banded (RCL), and at Morgantown 55 were banded (GAH). In *Rockingham*, Va., there were some 80 reports with 45 bandings (R.B.C.). A few were seen as far s. as Roanoke, Lewisburg, W.Va., and Blacksburg, Va

NUTHATCHES AND WRENS — There was little agreement from the various parts of the Region about the status of the Red-breasted Nuthatch. The S movement was certainly better than last year, but did not compare with 1981. Most places reported a few coming to feeders, but at Knoxville they were common (CN). They were in low numbers on the Roan Mt., Tenn. breeding grounds (GE) and also low at A.F.M.O., which is also located on the breeding grounds. A Brown-headed Nuthatch was at Dalton, Ga., Oct. 31 (HD).

Carolina Wrens continued their slow comeback. There were 2 records in *Warren*, Pa. (WH, JK), and one was banded at P.I.S.P. (*vide* JM). The only report of Bewick's Wren came from Culloden, W.Va., Nov. 17 (TI). Winter Wrens had been abundant in the breeding range in summer, and the fall migration was heavy. At P.N.R., 27 were banded (221% above average—RCL) and 18 were banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH). Most observers also reported them in unusual numbers. Marsh Wrens were more commonly reported than usual, while Sedge Wrens were reported from L. Arthur, Pa., Aug. 14 (DF), Ooltewah, Tenn., Aug. 2-21 (K & LD), Knoxville Aug. 19-31 (*vide* CN), and Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 11-16 (RK).

KINGLETS, THRUSHES AND MIMIDS — The S flight of both kinglet species was very good at most places, and a remarkably early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen in *Dawson*, Ga., Aug. 27 (PB).

Most places found the spotted thrushes to be in excellent numbers. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were above normal at P.N.R., but below at A F M O. This species was somewhat more commonly reported than normal. There were some exceptions; in *Wise*, Va. (RP) and Ona, W Va. (LW) the migration was termed poor. At A.F.M.O., and P N R., as well as the P.I.S.P. banding station, there were excellent flights of Swainson's Thrushes but numbers were not as great as in 1982 On Sept. 15 a movement of at least 1100 thrushes, mostly Swainson's, in a 70-min period was seen at Monroeville, Pa. (DD). The 23 Hermit Thrushes banded at A.F.M.O. was a new high, and at P.N.R.,

the bandings were 63% above average. Noteworthy were the bob-tailed young Hermit Thrushes noted near Sheffield, Pa., on the very late date of Oct. 24 (NS).

Northern Mockingbirds are still increasing in numbers at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), and reports came from Sheffield, Pa., Oct. 20 (NS) and Warren, Pa., Nov. 2 (TG).

PIPITS, SHRIKES AND VIREOS — Water Pipits were reported from 10 locations from P.I.S.P., in the n. to several locations in e Tennessee. The only report of N. Shrike came from P.I.S.P., in November (DSm). The Loggerhead Shrike situation looked a little better than in the recent past but the following are all of the reports of this species Prichard, W.Va., Oct. 1 & 8 (TI); Waynesboro, Va., Oct. 22 (RSn), *Murray*, Ga., Oct. 31 (DCr); Elizabethton, Tenn., three to six birds seen regularly (GE), and nine birds in the Harrisonburg, Va., area (R.B.C.) None was reported at Blacksburg, Va., which usually has some (JM)

There were several reports of Warbling Vireos, a bird often not recorded in the fall season, including the first banding of this species at A.F.M.O. The field birders reported many more Philadelphia Vireos than usual with reports from 12 locations, but bandings at both P.N.R. (RCL), and A.F.M.O. (GAH), were just about average. Red-eyed Vireos were thought to be in low numbers in the Pittsburgh area (PH) and bandings at P.N.R., were 16% above average (RCL), but at A.F.M.O., captures were about 40% above the average (GAH).

WARBLERS — The warbler flight was generally pretty good. The flight began in late August with a peak at A.F.M.O., Aug. 22. A major influx was noted Sept. 12 at A.F.M.O. (CBa). Most places had heavy movement in the last week of September and at A.F.M.O., the highest number of bandings in one day was Oct. 4 (GAH). A flock of 230 ± birds of 18+ species was seen at Blacksburg, Va., Oct. 2 (CK). At Knoxville the September flight was poor, but several good waves came through in October (CN). The mild early fall produced a large series of late dates.

At P.N.R., 22 species were banded in above-average numbers, while 2 were in average numbers and 7 below average (RCL). At A.F.M.O., 14 species were above average, 4 were in average numbers, and only one was below average (GAH). In the Pittsburgh area birders felt that 8 species were in above average numbers and 6 below. Tennessee, Nashville, and especially Magnolia warblers were generally quite common everywhere. At A.F.M.O., 266 Tennessee Warblers were banded Oct 4. Other species produced a more mixed report, but most areas reported Yellow-rumped Warblers in below-normal numbers. The 173 Blackburnian Warblers banded Aug. 22 at A.F.M.O., may indeed be a "world's record" for one day (GAH). The 2 most unusual species for this Region, the Orange-crowned and the Connecticut, were more common than usual.

GROSBEAKS AND EMBERIZINES — There was a total of 31 records of Blue Grosbeak from the Harrisonburg, Va., area, and a Dickcissel was seen there Aug. 3 (R.B.C.).

American Tree Sparrows remain very scarce in this Region. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from L. Arthur, Pa., Oct. 2 (DF) and from *Rockingham*, Va., Oct. 9 (R.B.C.). Six Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen at Guilford L., O., Sept. 25 (CBa). A White-throated Sparrow was seen at Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., on 2 occasions in August (HH, TS). This suggests local breeding. The migration of White-throated Sparrows through Morgantown was extremely heavy and record numbers of these remained at the end of the season (GAH). Other places had similar flights. A Harris' Sparrow was seen at State College, Pa., Nov. 27 (*vide* AF). At P.N.R. (RCL), and Morgantown (GAH) the flight of Fox Sparrows was also heavy. The only report of Lapland Longspurs came from P.I.S.P., early October-Nov. 30+ (JM *et al*) Snow Buntings were reported from P.I.S.P., late October-Nov. 30+ (*vide* JM), from Lock Haven, Pa., Oct. 30 (PP), from Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., in November (*vide* KJ), and most unusually in *Botetourt*, Va., Nov 8-13 (BK, BH, MD).

FINCHES — The only report of a Pine Grosbeak was from *Indiana*, Pa. (*vide* MH). The flight of Purple Finches was good at some places but it was missing at others. The only reports of Red Crossbills came from that mountain area near Harrisonburg, Va., where they are more or less

permanent residents (R B C) and from the Chattahoochee N F , Ga (HD). Common Redpolls were reported from the Washington Monument S.P., Md., hawk watching station Oct. 16 (TD) and from Union City, Pa., Oct. 26 (JM). Pine Siskins staged a small flight, and a few were to be seen in almost every part of the Region Nov. 1+. Evening Grosbeaks arrived in the Region in late October and by the end of the period they were present throughout. Numbers coming to feeders were not large at this time, but reports from the higher elevations in West Virginia indicated that they were abundant in the mountains. Most remarkable was a record from Cherry Grove, Pa., Aug. 20 (*fide* WH).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

/Daryl D. Tessen

Meteorologically this fall mirrored the just-concluded summer season. The record heat, 90-100+ °F, and humidity, 65-90%, persisted until mid-September. During this period temperature records were broken throughout the Region, being too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say, for many observers it was too hot to bird. Moisture was lacking during most of this time, producing severely dry, almost drought-like conditions. Fortunately late August brought a change that continued through September. Unfortunately rainfall became excessive in many areas, producing occasional localized flooding. The few cold fronts of September barely lowered temperatures into the normal range.

October proved to be a month of contrast. Cooler, wet weather alternated with warm, dry periods. The first half of November saw pleasant, Indian-summer weather, abruptly coming to a conclusion during the third week. Michigan's Upper Peninsula, northwestern Wisconsin, and especially Minnesota were particularly hard hit. Record snowfall fell in most of this area. For example, Duluth was staggered by a succession of snowstorms including 20 inches November 22 to 24, 16.5 inches on November 23 and 10 inches on November 28. Slightly lesser amounts fell south to the Twin Cities and east into northern Wisconsin. The remainder of the Region saw a more normal arrival of winter.

Ornithologically the season was a repetition of summer, dull, dull and dull! Last fall many observers wondered how there could be a more lackluster migration. This autumn we found out. Again this year there were few big migratory waves. These were centered around late September-early October, unusually late for the Region. On a more positive note there were numerous late nestings. Also there was an exceptional number of late sightings, many of which provided records. This tardiness elicited numerous comments, indicating the main exodus for a significant number of species occurring two or three weeks later than normal. Besides the small numbers observed migrating through the Region, there were few rarities sighted. In keeping with the down theme of the season many of these did not linger, and in several instances were either found dead (Chuck-will's-widow, Fork-tailed Flycatcher) or dying. The major exception to this pattern was in the Upper Peninsula. Here outstanding numbers of warblers, thrushes, sparrows and some winter finches were found. Particularly interesting were the "hundreds" of Harris' Sparrows observed. Not to be outdone were the rarities also found, including a Painted Redstart and the Fork-tailed Flycatcher. Other sightings of special interest were the White Ibis, King Eider, Groove-billed Ani, and Mountain Bluebird in Michigan, Barrow's Goldeneye, Sabine's Gull, and Groove-billed Ani in Minnesota, and Chuck-will's-widow, Pomarine Jaeger, Black-throated Sparrow,



and Smith's Longspur in Wisconsin.

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

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — There were only 2 Red-throated Loon sightings. One was in *Ozaukee*, Wis., Oct. 15 (DT), while the other was in St. Joseph, Mich., Oct. 29 (RS, WB). An **Arctic Loon** was seen by LaFond Oct. 16 at Leech L., Minn. A die-off of several hundred Com. Loons was discovered Nov. 4 at Nauistique, Mich. (CT). Besides the other Wisconsin nesting sites Red-necked Grebes were also found in *Chippewa*. Birds lingered well into December in the state. Michigan had sightings from 3 counties. Eared Grebes were found at 3 Michigan locales, including Sept. 3 at Caledonia (SM), Sept. 12 at Fremont (ES), and four Oct. 15 at Muskegon (DP, BB). One was found at Bayfield, Wis., Oct. 19 (SSw). A single W. Grebe was at West Twin L., *St Croix*, Wis., Sept. 9 with three present Sept. 21 (JE). Minnesota had a good peak of 110 at L. Benton, *Lincoln* Aug. 14 (KE) with a very late one in Bemidji Nov. 29 (JP). Single Am. White Pelicans were seen in Michigan at Copper Harbor Sept. 25-26 (MM) and near Port Huron Sept. 27-28 (HD, DMi). Significant concentrations of Double-crested Cormorants occurred at Green Bay (thousands) and La Crosse (1000 on Oct. 15—FL). An individual lingered into December in *Berrien*, Mich (LL). Snowy Egrets remained into September at Horicon N.W.R., and Green Bay. Single birds were seen at 2 Michigan sites in early September. Late Cattle Egrets included sightings Nov. 5 at Horicon N W R (DT), and two Nov. 20 in *Delta*, Mich. (CT, BT). The only Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found in Wisconsin with one in Milwaukee Sept. 1 (BC) and at Manitowoc Oct. 2-21 (CS). Only Michigan's 3rd record for the **White Ibis** was established this fall with an adult at

Shiawassee N.W.R., Sept. 26 (CF, BG). A *Plegadis ibis* was observed along the Mississippi R., in Winona, Minn., Oct. 3-4 (RL).



Barnacle Goose, Allegan S.G.A., Mich., Oct. 22, 1983. Photo/T. Smythe.

WATERFOWL — Early were Tundra Swans Sept. 28 at Horicon N.W.R. (BC) and Sept. 29 in Langlade (BP), both in Wisconsin. The major exodus occurred Regionwide Nov. 24-26. For example O. Johnson saw 6000 migrating in one hr in the Twin Cities area Nov. 25. Unusual for this season was a count of 58 Greater White-fronted Geese Oct. 23 in Cottonwood, Minn. (DWe). It was also found at Wisconsin's Crex Meadows W.A., Oct. 30 (JHo). Surprising was the maximum of ten Brant found on the St. Clair R., at Port Huron during November (PY). A Barnacle Goose (escaped?) was seen at the Allegan State Game Area between late October-Nov. 6 (TS *et al.*). This was Michigan's 7th record. Peak Canada Goose numbers included 63,000, Oct. 25 at Lac Qui Parle W.A., Minn., and 83,000, Nov. 16 at Horicon N.W.R., Wis. Two Eurasian Wigeons were at Muskegon Oct. 12 (JW). There was an impressive concentration of several duck species along the Mississippi R., in Houston, Minn., Nov. 1 (RJ). They included 100,000 Canvasbacks, 250,000 Ring-neckeds and 200,000 Lesser Scaup. The rare King Eider was found Nov. 11 by Young on the St. Claire R., and another was shot Nov. 13 on the Detroit R. (SS), both Michigan. Harlequin Ducks were observed in Michigan and Minnesota. In the former, one was photographed at Holland S.P., Oct. 14-15 (JW), with another at Muskegon S.P., Nov. 27 (LF). In the latter state there were 3 reports from L. Superior Oct. 19-Nov. 7. The Oldsquaw observed at Austin Nov. 6-19 was most unusual for s. Minnesota. The scoter migration Regionwide was later and poorer than normal. Maximum numbers included 11 Blacks, 16 Surfs and 140 White-wingeds, all in Wisconsin. Unusual was the Black found Nov. 5 at Split Rock Creek S.P., Minn. (KL). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was seen Nov. 29-30 in Minneapolis (m.ob.).



Harlequin Duck, Holland S.P., Ottawa Co., Mich., Oct. 15, 1983. Photo/J. Miller.

RAPTORS — Late were nine Turkey Vultures Nov. 26 in Dodge, Wis. (JH). Both Minnesota and Wisconsin noted a fine movement of Ospreys. Again this fall substantial numbers of N. Goshawks moved through the Region. This was despite the less than favorable weather

conditions that prevailed this autumn. The peak Broad-winged flight occurred Sept. 20-23 in Minnesota and Wisconsin, while Michigan's peak was about a half-week later. In all 3 states numbers were not impressive. An ad. Ferruginous Hawk was observed by LaFond Nov. 5 at Split Rock Creek S.P. Single Golden Eagles were observed by Epstein Oct. 25 & Nov. 10 near Norwalk, Wis. Again this autumn all 3 states reported an impressive Peregrine Falcon migration. An injured Gyrfalcon was brought to the Sarett Nature Center, Berrien, Mich. Minnesota had no fewer than 3 sightings of Prairie Falcon. They included Otter Tail Sept. 11 (S & DM), Pipestone Oct. 1 (RJ), and Wilkin Nov. 6 (S & DM). Minnesota's Hawk Ridge tallied 54,254 hawks during the season. Among the more interesting sightings were record high counts of 1446 Turkey Vultures, 224 Ospreys, 384 Bald Eagles, 29 Golden Eagles, and 57 Merlins. Other interesting figures included 274 N. Harriers (record low), 9439 Sharp-shinned, 1999 N. Goshawks, 35,932 Broad-wingeds, two Swainson's, one Red-shouldered, and 28 Peregrine Falcons, (2nd highest).

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES — Spruce Grouse were sighted in 3 Michigan and 2 Wisconsin counties. A Yellow Rail was found in a Whitefish Bay, Wis., yard Oct. 19; it died the following day (*vide* JF). Ten King Rails were tallied at Horicon N.W.R., Sept. 1. Peak numbers of Sandhill Cranes included 600 at Crex Meadows W.A., Wis., Oct. 22 (JHo) and 1000-1200 at Haehnle Sanctuary, Mich., Oct. 14 & Nov. 4 (LW). Very late was an individual in Green Lake, Wis., Nov. 29 (TSC).

SHOREBIRDS — Late were Black-bellied Plovers at Manitowoc Nov. 12 (CS) and Ashland Nov. 14 (DV), and a Lesser Golden-Plover in Ozaukee, Nov. 13 (DT), all Wisconsin. The only sighting of Piping Plover during the fall was one at St. Joseph Aug. 20 (WB). Single Am. Avocets were seen at Horicon N.W.R., Aug. 11 (DT) and at Milwaukee Sept. 10-Oct. 8 (DG, WM, BC *et al.*). Several late Greater and Lesser yellowlegs were sighted in Wisconsin with the latest being a Greater Nov. 21 in Marinette (HL). A few Willets were seen intermittently Aug. 3-8 at Kewaunee, Wis. (EE). One was found in Marquette, Mich., Aug. 26 (JS). A record departure date of Nov. 17 for the Spotted Sandpiper was recorded in Juneau, Wis. (ST *et al.*). Very late was an Upland Sandpiper Sept. 30 in Hennepin, Minn. (VL). Whimbrels were seen intermittently Aug. 29-Oct. 15 at Manitowoc, with a maximum of four Sept. 18-20 (CS, WM). The Oct. 15 date represented a Wisconsin record departure. Hudsonian Godwits were seen in Wisconsin including two Aug. 27 at LaCrosse (FL) and a very late individual that daily accompanied a flock of dowitchers at dusk into the Manitowoc impoundment Oct. 11-24 (CS). In Michigan one was in Livingston, Sept. 7-8 (DM, LL, BW) and two in Monroe, Sept. 17 (JR). Lone Marbled Godwits were seen Aug. 11 at the Bong W.A. (JF, MB, WW, JB) and Aug. 16 at Kewaunee (EE), both Wisconsin. Michigan had a total of four Red Knots during the period while Wisconsin had approximately ten birds. In Michigan's Ontonagon 500+ Semipalmated Sandpipers were counted Aug. 16 (JM, MF). Both Wisconsin and Michigan recorded 15 W. Sandpipers this fall. Likewise White-rumped Sandpipers were recorded from both states during the first half of the period. Very late were two Pectoral Sandpipers Nov. 25 in Milwaukee (DG). A Purple Sandpiper was seen Nov. 9 at the Fremont Sewage Ponds, Mich. (ES). Ruddy Turnstones and Dunlins lingered into December in Milwaukee. A site in Ontonagon, Mich., had impressive numbers of shorebirds, including 200 ± Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 16-20, and a period total of 55 Buff-breasted Sandpipers (JM, MF). Fifteen additional Buff-breasteds were seen elsewhere in the state while Wisconsin recorded 30 ± for the season. The Long-billed Dowitcher Nov. 11 in LeSueur, Minn., represented a record departure sighting (RJ). There was a peak of 500+ Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 13 in Polk, Minn. (KC). Late was one Oct. 30 at Madison, Wis. (ST). Small numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were seen this fall as evidenced by ten in Michigan and several in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. A Red Phalarope was seen Oct. 15 at Muskegon S.P. (BB, DP) and Muskegon Wastewater System Oct. 27-Nov. 9 (GW *et al.*).

LARIDS — Wisconsin's 4th Pomarine Jaeger record occurred when a sick bird was found along a road near Mishicot (*vide* CS). Unfortunately it died that evening. Four were seen during early November at Port Huron, Mich. (PY). Also in Michigan Parasitic Jaegers were observed

Oct. 29 at St. Joseph (WB) with three Nov. 3 and eight Nov. 11 at Port Huron (PY). In Minnesota Parasitics were seen at Duluth Sept. 17 (JB *et al.*) & Oct. 15 (PE). Unidentified individuals were also seen in Minnesota including one Sept. 4 at Grand Marais (HT), five at Duluth Sept. 16-17 and one Oct. 15-19 (m.ob.).

A few Franklin's Gulls were seen in Wisconsin and Michigan during August and September. Single Little Gulls were seen in Michigan Aug. 20 & Sept. 4 at St. Joseph (RS, WB, BS), Oct. 31 at Metrobeach (AR, DL) and Nov. 3 at Port Huron (PY). The usual concentration occurred along the Wisconsin shoreline of L. Michigan with several birds at Manitowoc until late September (CS) and a maximum of seven during the period at Milwaukee (m.ob.). Thayer's Gulls were found at Duluth beginning Nov. 4, with a maximum of four (KE). One was seen at the Muskegon W.S., Nov. 19 (PC). Remarkably early was an Iceland Gull at St. Joseph Sept. 17 (RS, WB). A Glaucous Gull was seen Nov. 25 in Marquette, Mich. (NI). Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were found at Stoney Pt., Sept. 11-17 (KC, MH *et al.*) and in Carlton, Nov. 20 (JP, AM), both Minnesota. In Michigan one was observed Oct. 15 at the Muskegon S.P. (BB, DP) but remarkable were the 12 tallied during November at Port Huron (PY). The **Sabine's Gull** seen by Janssen Oct. 2 at L. Benton represented the 7th Minnesota record.

Peak numbers of Caspian Terns included 217 Aug. 15 at Kewaunee, Wis. (EE) and 110, Oct. 2 in Dakota, Minn. (MWr). One at St. Joseph Oct. 25 was late (RS). Late Com. Terns included Oct. 22 in Aitkin, Minn. (OJ) and Oct. 25 on L. Wisconsin (DC). Also late was a Forster's Tern in Milwaukee Oct. 26 (DG).

CUCKOOS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Both the Black-billed and Yellow-billed cuckoos lingered until mid-October in all 3 states. **Groove-billed Anis** appeared again this fall. Minnesota had its 7th and 8th records with sightings in Cook, Oct. 5 (K & MH) and Brown, Nov. 4-12 (m.ob.). Michigan also had its 8th record when one was observed at the Sarett Nature Center, Berrien, Oct. 27 (RS, WB). Wisconsin had two sightings of Com. Barn-Owl, unusual for this infrequently seen species. Two nestlings were discovered in a silo Aug. 16 in Green (MMo). They were still present in early September. The 2nd sighting was unusually far n. in Clark, where one was found roosting on a farm near Chili during late November. It was confirmed Dec. 1 when Follen banded and photographed it. During the ensuing week it commenced ranging between 4 adjacent farms. Great Horned Owl numbers were up in Minnesota, a parallel to N. Goshawk invasions that birders there have been noting. For example Evans banded 41 at Hawk Ridge this season. In contrast there were very few Snowy Owl sightings Regionwide, even fewer than last autumn. Two **Northern Hawk-Owls** were seen in Minnesota, with one in Duluth Nov. 11 (JG) and the other in Aitkin, Nov. 17 (JG). The Barred Owl seen Sept. 17 in Nobles (AD) was the first recent record from s.w. Minnesota. The *nine* Great Gray Owls found in n. Minnesota this fall were harbingers of a pending *winter invasion* into the state. Michigan had more Short-eared Owl sightings than in recent years but a similar situation was not found in the other 2 states, especially Wisconsin where they have been unusually scarce.

Thousands of Com. Nighthawks were observed migrating along L. Superior at Silver Bay Aug. 25 (SW, MS). Two days later in Wisconsin 1500 were seen passing over Richland (MG) and 3300 over Norwalk (EE). A dead **Chuck-will's-widow** was found along Hwy 60 in s. Richland Sept. 7 (BGr). This is only about the 4th Wisconsin record. The Whip-poor-will observed Oct. 3 in Hennepin (SC) represented a record Minnesota departure. Unbelievable was the sighting of two **White-throated Swifts** in Michigan's Keweenaw Oct. 31 (MM). If accepted it would represent the 3rd record. Late was a Chimney Swift in Hennepin Oct. 18 (m.ob.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH STARLING — Again this fall an unusual number of Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed in n.e. Minnesota, *i.e.*, 20+ at Duluth. There was the usual complement of Black-backed Woodpeckers in the n. part of the Region. The species remains fairly easy to locate in the appropriate habitat, although not quite as abundant as in previous autumns. Very late was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Oct. 1 in Lyon, Minn. (HK). Unusually far n. was an Acadian Flycatcher banded Aug. 27 in Anoka, Minn. (RK). Late were Great Crested Flycatchers Oct. 11 in Genesee, Mich. (CH) and Oct. 16

at Bemidji (JPAl). Maercklein watched a W. Kingbird Sept. 4 on one of Wisconsin's Apostle Is. In Michigan one was in Houghton Sept. 10-11 (AW, DW, MW). Extremely late for the Upper Peninsula was an E. Kingbird Oct. 16 in Alger (NI). Michigan's first **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** record was unfortunately of a bird killed by a car Oct. 20 at Rumely, Alger (JJ). The specimen is now at Michigan State University. Observed on record late dates were N. Rough-winged Swallows Oct. 16 in Dakota (MW) & Oct. 17 in Hennepin (SC), Minn. Other record departures included an Oct. 27 Bank Swallow seen in company with Barn Swallows on Crystal L., Dane, Wis. (DC) and a Nov. 12 Barn Swallow in Scott, Minn. (PE). Paling the previous sighting was a Barn Swallow that lingered into December at a Michigan wastewater plant in Berrien (WB, RS, DFo).

The 25 Black-billed Magpies seen Aug. 6 in Lake of the Woods, Minn. (KE) was an unusual concentration for late summer. South of their normal range were Com. Ravens Oct. 16 & 25 in Ozaukee, Wis. (BC), & Oct. 21 at Muskegon S.P. (JPon *et al.*). The Tufted Titmouse found at White Pine Oct. 31 was only the 2nd Upper Peninsula record (MF). Locally good numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported in all 3 states but there was no Regionwide uniformity to represent an invasion year. For a change this fall Carolina Wrens were found in all 3 states. One came to a Milwaukee feeder during late August and September (*vide* MD). For Michigan it was seen Sept. 9 in Kalamazoo (CFo) & Sept. 25 at Muskegon S.P. (BB). In Minnesota birds appeared at 2 feeders during November, one at Brainerd and the other in Itasca

The Detroit area had an unusually good Golden-crowned Kinglet migration with flocks of 100+ reported (AK). Late was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Sept. 29 in Houston, Minn. (E & MF). The ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** observed by Ilnick and Tichelaar Nov. 6 in Alger represented Michigan's first accepted state record. Townsend's Solitaires were found in all 3 states. In Minnesota, where the species is more "regularly" seen one was at Hawk Ridge Oct. 6 (TL). One originally observed Oct. 9 in Houghton, Minn., by Weaver was found dead Oct. 16 At Wisconsin's Devil's Lake S.P., Lange found one or two feeding on mountain ash berries Nov. 21, seen intermittently into December. The Gray-cheeked Thrush observed Oct. 31 at Ashland was late (DV). A Varied Thrush was observed Nov. 3 in Keweenaw, Mich. (MM). One came to an Ashland feeder Nov. 14-25 (DV *et al.*). A tardy Gray Catbird came to a Duluth feeder until Nov. 28 (MN). There were 2 sightings of N. Mockingbird in Michigan, the only fall reports. There were a few Bohemian Waxwing sightings commencing in late October with all from the n. one-third of the Region. There were only 5 reports of Loggerhead Shrikes, 3 from Minnesota and 2 from Wisconsin. This is in direct contrast to the excellent numbers found during the past spring and summer.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — In Michigan White-eyed Vireos were observed at Lost Nation S.G.A. with four Sept. 10 and one Sept. 27 (JR). The Solitary Vireos seen Oct. 29 in Hennepin (OJ) and Nov. 1 in Washington (WL) represented record departure dates for Minnesota. Very late were N. Parulas Oct. 11 in Cook (K & MH) and Oct. 14 in Hennepin (SC), also Minnesota. A Magnolia Warbler Oct. 28 at Troy, Mich. was late (PY). A Cape May Warbler was still present at the period's conclusion in Fenton, Mich. (CH, GH). A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler that came to a feeder until Nov. 30 in Washington exceeded the Minnesota departure date by a month (m.ob.). Thousands of Yellow-rumped Warblers were observed on several different days migrating at Hawk Ridge and the Keweenaw Pen. Very late was a Blackburnian Warbler seen at Duluth Oct. 13 (KE). Record late was the Pine Warbler found in Cook, Minn., Oct. 31 (K & MH). Volkert carefully studied a Prairie Warbler Sept. 6 in Fond du Lac, Wis. Another record departure date for Minnesota was the Bay-breasted Warbler seen Oct. 25 in Dodge (RJ). Late were a Blackpoll Warbler in Milwaukee Oct. 15 (DT) and a N. Waterthrush at Metrobeach Oct. 28 (PY). Tardy Wilson's Warblers were seen Oct. 1 in Grant (SR) and Oct. 4 in Winnebago (CSc), Wis., and Oct. 15 in Washington (DS), Minn. Truly remarkable was the discovery of a ♂ **Painted Redstart** at Gladstone Nov. 12-13 (CT, BD, JMa). It was photographed and represents Michigan's first record. A Yellow-breasted Chat was discovered at the Manitowoc impoundment Sept. 13 (CS). However the one seen at Grand Marais Sept. 23 (K & MH) was doubly significant. Not only does it

represent a record departure date but also it was the first record beyond Duluth.

TANAGERS THROUGH GROSBEAKS — Minnesota had several late sightings, including a Scarlet Tanager Oct. 18 in *Hennepin* (EST), a Blue Grosbeak Oct. 2 in *Rock* (RJ), an Indigo Bunting Oct. 25 at a Duluth feeder (KE), and a Clay-colored Sparrow Oct. 22 in *Mille Lacs* (DB). Wisconsin recorded its sixth **Black-throated Sparrow** with an individual briefly seen at the Mosquito Hill Nature Center, *Outagamie*, Oct. 14 (LP). Curiously, this is only a few miles from a feeder where one spent most of last winter. A Lark Bunting was seen by Carlson Sept. 6 in Duluth. Unusual was a Grasshopper Sparrow seen at Grand Marais Oct. 3 (K & MH). Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula had an exceptional migration of Harris' Sparrows. However, this did not involve the remainder of the Region. The Gray-headed form of the Dark-eyed Junco commenced coming to a Hyland Lake P. Reserve feeder Nov. 16 (m.ob.). This represented Minnesota's 5th record. Early was a Lapland Longspur found Sept. 16 in *Dunn*, Wis. (JPo). Several **Smith's Longspurs** were studied along a roadside just w. of Weyauwega, Wis., Oct. 22 (DT). The only sizable Snow Bunting flock was of 1500 noted Nov. 25 near Muskegon (JPon).

Small to modest numbers of Pine Grosbeaks were found in n. Minnesota and Michigan, with only a very few in n. Wisconsin. Good numbers of Purple Finches were found in the Region. A ♀ **House Finch** came to Weber's feeder Oct. 17 & Nov. 7-17 in *Vernon*, a species almost never seen in Wisconsin but still awaited. In Michigan there were very rare sightings as it continues to increase. Both crossbills were *very rare* Regionwide. Minnesota had modest Com. Redpoll numbers, commencing in mid-October, with almost all sightings in the n. one-third of the state. In contrast Wisconsin and Michigan had *very few* sightings. The Pine Siskin migration was at best irregular; some n. areas had good numbers, while others had almost none. Good numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were found in all 3 states, with considerably fewer filtering

into the s. portion of each state. The one exception was s.w. Michigan where 1000+ were observed migrating along L. Michigan Oct. 30 (WB).

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION /Bruce G. Peterjohn

This summer's very hot and dry weather continued through the first ten days of September. While more moderate temperatures prevailed during the remainder of the month, rainfall was still generally below normal. The drought ended in October with temperatures remaining slightly above normal. Similar mild and wet weather prevailed throughout November with only portions of Iowa experiencing winter weather during the last week of the month.

For the most part, it was a fairly typical and rather dull fall migration. As expected, the generally mild weather induced many species to linger beyond normal departure dates. Otherwise, the favorable conditions for migration and absence of strong frontal systems until November did not produce sizable Regionwide flights although overall numbers of most birds were near normal. Northern invaders were more evident than last year with moderate movements of Northern Groshawks, Red-breasted Nuthatches and several winter finches. Noteworthy among the few rarities were a Northern Gannet in central Illinois, Band-tailed Pigeon in Missouri, Groove-billed Ani and a *Selasphorus* hummingbird in Indiana, and Western Wood-Pewee at Chicago.

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

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA — A total of 6 reports of Red-throated Loon Oct. 9-Dec. 3 was normal for recent autumns; they appeared at 5 inland Illinois locations where the species is casually reported and one site in Ohio. Missouri's 3rd Arctic Loon record was provided by three at Thomas Hill Res., Nov. 14-17 (†PS *et al.*). Numbers of Com. Loons were down from last year. Largest concentrations were of 60 or fewer in most areas except along L. Erie where a peak of 281 at Cleveland Nov. 12 included a "kettle" of 60 circling like hawks



and gradually moving S (D & JH, RH). Pied-billed Grebes improved slightly with maxima of 50-150 in most states and 450 at Merom power plant, Ind., Oct. 16 (DJ). Despite a generally late migration, an early Horned Grebe returned to Euclid, O., Aug. 30 (TL). Fall migrants were greatly reduced from last year with peaks of 70 or fewer in all states. A normal number of Red-necked Grebes included 3 sightings in Ohio and one in Illinois Nov. 4-Dec. 1. Eared Grebes were scarce in the w. states with only one report from Iowa. They have become regular fall migrants in Illinois and Ohio where as many as four were reported from 7 and 3 locations, respectively, Sept. 3-Dec. 4.

A flock of nine W. Grebes at Coralville Res., Ia., Oct. 16 may have been the largest ever reported in this Region (T *et al.*). Singles appeared at one Missouri and 2 Illinois locations including a well-described light-phase bird at Horseshoe L., Ill., Nov. 24-Dec. 2 (AS, †RG *et al.*) Illinois' first **Northern Gannet** record was provided by an immature at Pekin Nov. 19-20 (†TP, †m.ob.). Another was briefly viewed along L. Erie at Vermilion Nov. 17 (†JP). Normal Am. White Pelican concentra-

tions of 800 to several thousand occurred in Iowa and Missouri while migrants wandered E to 2 w. Illinois locations. The continued recovery of Double-crested Cormorants is truly remarkable. Concentrations of 50-300 were widely reported in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri but were dwarfed by counts of 1800 at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo., Nov. 3 (JW) and 1100 at East Harbor S.P., O., Nov. 7 (JP). For comparison, the largest reported concentration in the fall of 1980 was only 190. Four Anhingas near Caruthersville, Mo., Aug. 25 might have summered (†JW).

HERONS AND IBISES — Both bitterns remained scarce with 14 reports of Americans including a late bird in *Jasper*, Ill., Nov. 26 (RE) and only 5 sightings of Least. Maximum concentrations of 100-150 Great Blue Herons and 160-230 Great Egrets were normal for recent autumns. Three Great Egrets lingered at Crab Orchard N.W.R., Ill., Nov. 30+ (JR). Snowy Egrets continued a gradual increase with maxima of 20 at Horseshoe L., Ill., and seven in the w. L. Erie marshes plus 4 reports away from these breeding areas. A total of 23 Little Blue Heron reports was comparable to last year, including groups of 110 at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., in early September (HW, m.ob.) and 100 at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Aug. 29 (BP *et al.*). Cattle Egrets were noted in normal numbers after last year's influx; largest flocks were composed of 36-75 at 3 locations while one remained at O.W.R., into early December. The status of Green-backed Herons has not improved. As usual, small numbers lingered through late October plus one at L. Jacomo, Mo., Nov. 6 (C & KH). Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported in normal numbers with maxima of 75-120 and a late individual in *LaSalle*, Ill., Nov. 29 (JHm). Small numbers of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported from 14 locations through Oct. 9. An ad. White Ibis at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Aug. 29-Sept. 3 was a surprise (†BP *et al.*). Most of our late summer records are of immatures. A White-faced Ibis was identified by its bright crimson iris at Centerville, Ill., Sept. 10-22 (†RG, †PS). Unidentified *Plegadis* ibises were found at 4 locations in Iowa, Missouri and Illinois Oct. 22+.

WATERFOWL — The Tundra Swan flight largely bypassed the Region. At traditional staging areas, largest concentrations were of 165 at New Albin, Ia., and only 20 in the w. L. Erie marshes. Away from these areas, they were found at 9 locations including 17 at Talley Bend, Truman Res., Mo., Nov. 13 (JW) and 25 in *Clay*, Ia., Nov. 24 (*fide* RHa). Geese were generally reported in relatively small numbers. Greater White-fronted Geese wandered E to 4 Illinois sites. Early Snow Geese returned to Lexington, Ky., Sept. 10 (MF) and Chicago Sept. 11 (PC, HR), while the largest flocks in w. Iowa and Missouri harbored the expected small numbers of Ross' Geese. Along the Great Lakes where they are regular, Brant appeared at 3 L. Erie locations Nov. 12-13 with a maximum of ten at Vermilion (LR), while the single L. Michigan sighting was one in *Lake*, Ill., Nov. 5 (†JL). Quite unexpected was a "Black" Brant shot by a hunter in s.w. Iowa near Riverton W.M.A., Nov. 18 (*, *fide* RP).

As happened last year, the waterfowl migration was rather late with many species moving through the Region well into December. Puddle ducks were particularly numerous in the w. L. Erie marshes but appeared in normal numbers elsewhere. Large concentrations included 35,000 Mallards in the L. Erie marshes during November (*fide* ET), 2500 N. Pintails at Nauvoo, Ill., Nov. 20 (AD), and 4000 Blue-winged Teal at Merom power plant, Ind., Sept. 25 (DJ). The only Cinnamon Teal report was of two at Schell-Osage W.M.A., Mo., Aug. 13 (JSo *et al.*)

Diving duck numbers were disappointing, perhaps as a result of the delayed migration. Exceptional concentrations were only found at Nauvoo, Ill., Nov. 20 where 15,000 Canvasbacks and 40,000 Lesser Scaup were present (AD). A small flight of eiders developed along the Great Lakes Nov. 11-12. Although they were viewed briefly, all were identified as Kings with six at Michigan City, Ind. (†TC, †KB), one at Vermilion, O. (†LR), and seven at Huron, O. (†JP, †EP). Only one Harlequin Duck was observed along the Great Lakes this autumn. Oldsquaws continued to decline with a Great Lakes maximum of 15 at Chicago plus 5 inland sightings Nov. 4-28 including four in s.w. Missouri at Springfield Nov. 21 (†NF). Scoters were generally scarce along L. Michigan while dark-winged species were more numerous than usual along L. Erie. Maximum numbers of Black Scoters were 60 at Vermil-

ion, O., Nov. 12 (LR), while the most noteworthy of 6 inland reports were one in *Jasper*, Ia., Nov. 11 (†T *et al.*) and one to four at Louisville Surf Scoters peaked with 12 at Vermilion, O., Nov. 12 and 6 inland reports included three at Amana L., Ia., Oct. 22 (*fide* CB) and five at Spfld., Oct. 27 (H). Surprisingly, White-winged was the least numerous scoter with a Great Lakes maximum of five and 9 inland reports including six shot at Horseshoe L., Ill., during the period (WN). Early Buffleheads returned to Chicago and Cleveland Aug. 21.

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — Hawks filtered through the Region in small numbers with few remarkable concentrations. As many as five Black Vultures at Pickerington, O., through Oct. 25 were n of their normal range (J, CG). Turkey Vultures were particularly numerous, with many reports of 50-200 and 263 in *Davis*, Ia., Sept. 12 (T & DB). Many remained well into November, even in n. areas. Ospreys continued to improve in all states with a maximum of 12 reported Aug 6-Nov. 4. The only extralimital Mississippi Kite appeared in n.w. Missouri at St. Joseph Aug. 28 (†L). In the w. states, concentrations of Bald Eagles were beginning to develop during late November. A few eagles were scattered across the e. states where numbers of migrants have not appreciably increased. Only small numbers of N. Harriers were observed in each state. Improved numbers of Cooper's Hawks were noted in Ohio and Illinois where the largest concentration was 11. The return flight of N. Goshawks was fairly strong. Migrants were noted beginning Oct. 2 from one Indiana, 2 Ohio and Missouri, 9 Iowa, and 12 Illinois locations with a maximum of six at I.B.S.P., Nov. 25 (SH, JN). They had wandered S to s. Indiana and c. Missouri by late November. Fewer Broad-winged Hawks were observed than last year. Except for 600 in *Fremont*, Ia., Oct. 2 (*fide* RP), the main movement occurred Sept. 15-24 with maxima of 100-440 in Ohio, Indiana and Missouri plus 1150 at Spfld., Sept. 17 (H) and 1000+ at Carlyle L., Ill., Sept. 22 (BR). Migrant Swainson's Hawks were reported from 6 Missouri and 5 Iowa locations including a remarkable 53 in *Pocahontas*, Ia., Oct. 2 (RHa). A casual migrant through the w. states, a Ferruginous Hawk was described from *Page*, Ia., Oct. 26 (†JB, *fide* RP). Rough-legged Hawks were more widely reported, beginning with a very early bird in *Fulton*, Ill., Aug. 31 (DB). A Golden Eagle near Pickerington, O., Oct. 25 was locally unusual (†CG) while one or two at one Iowa and 3 Illinois locations after Oct. 22 were expected. Fewer Merlins were noted, with reports from 15 locations Sept. 10-Oct. 18 and a maximum of six at I.B.S.P., Oct. 14 (DJo). A total of 30 Peregrine Falcon reports was encouraging with a strong movement along L. Michigan Oct. 8 bringing ten to Miller Beach, Ind. (†KB *et al.*) and six to Chicago (†JL). A dark-phase Gyrfalcon at Lorain, O., Oct. 22 was early (†LR, †JP). Prairie Falcons were noted at single locations in w. Iowa and Missouri where they are regular in small numbers; in Illinois, they returned to the traditional *Lawrence* wintering site and a migrant was observed at Spfld., Oct. 11 (†H).

Rails were more widely reported than last year. The only Yellow Rail was a casualty at a Spfld. tower Oct. 4 (*H). King Rails were found at 3 Great Lakes locations with a late bird at Lorain, O., Nov. 22 (JP). Soras were abundant in the w. L. Erie marshes as exemplified by 184 at M.M.W.A., Oct. 4 (JP) and 64 at Cedar Point N.W.R., Sept. 7 (ET *et al.*). Scattered reports elsewhere included 50 in *Story*, Ia., Oct. 1 (SD) and a late migrant at S.C.R., Nov. 6 (L). A total of 37 Com. Moorhens at Chicago Aug. 14 was noteworthy for this normally uncommon species (JL). Few migrant Sandhill Cranes were reported from n. Illinois Migration over Kentucky and s.w. Ohio began Nov. 4 and peaked Nov 22-26 when as many as 175 were noted in 8 flocks over Kentucky (m.ob.) and 200 flew over Cincinnati (BM).

SHOREBIRDS — The overall migration was comparable to previous years although many lingered beyond normal departure dates. As usual, local habitat conditions varied considerably from state to state. Black-bellied Plovers and Lesser Golden-Plovers were locally numerous with several reports of 70-100+; small numbers of both species lingered well into November at a number of locations. A Semipalmated Plover at Huron, O., Nov. 12 was late (m.ob.). Piping Plovers remained scarce with single birds appearing at a total of 5 locations in Iowa, Ohio and Illinois Aug. 3-Sept. 12. As many as five Am. Avocets at 14 locations in all states except Iowa Aug. 7-Nov. 11 made up a typical fall flight for this Region. Greater Yellowlegs were generally scarce while groups of

125-380 Lesser Yellowlegs were reported from most states. Both species lingered well into November while Solitary Sandpipers were widely noted Oct. 8+. Willets were also widespread with as many as ten appearing at a total of 15 sites from all states. Most noteworthy were two at Louisville Sept. 2 and one at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Sept. 3 (DN) plus one to four late birds at L. Vermilion, Ill., Oct. 20-24 (MC). A number of Spotted Sandpipers remained Oct. 19-25+. Typically small numbers of Upland Sandpipers were reported from all states except Kentucky Sept. 29+; the only large concentration was of 48 in *Lucas*, O., Aug. 12 (JP). As expected, Whimbrels were restricted to the Great Lakes with as many as four at 5 L. Erie and 4 L. Michigan locations Aug. 4-Sept. 25. Hudsonian Godwits were numerous along L. Erie with 36 at O.W.R., Oct. 9 (DT) where 12 remained Nov. 8+. The only other report was of four at L. Chautauqua, Ill., Oct. 10 (LA). One or two Marbled Godwits were scattered across 6 L. Erie locations Nov. 6+. They also appeared at Chicago plus inland singles at one Ohio and 3 Illinois sites. A late Ruddy Turnstone remained at Miller Beach, Ind., Nov. 19 (KB, SJ). As many as 11 Red Knots widely scattered along the Great Lakes Oct. 29 constituted a good fall flight; the only inland sighting was in Illinois. Sanderlings were rather numerous, even at inland reservoirs, and remained Dec. 4+ at O.W.R. A thoroughly studied Semipalmated Sandpiper at Fairport, Ia., Oct. 21 was quite late (†JR). Flocks of 52-55 W. Sandpipers in s.w. Indiana and c. Ohio plus 100 in *Fulton*, Ky., Sept. 5 (BP) may represent typical fall concentrations in ideal habitat. Least Sandpipers lingered through November in all states except Iowa and Missouri. Baird's Sandpipers peaked at 19 in *Fremont*, Ia., Aug. 13 (MN) while a late bird was described from *Pulaski*, Ky., Nov. 4 (†JE). A maximum of 1000+ Pectoral Sandpipers was reported from L. Chautauqua, Ill., Aug. 6 (TW), while the latest was noted at Kentucky L., Ky., Nov. 26 (CP *et al.*). Small numbers of Purple Sandpipers are regularly observed along L. Erie where one or two were discovered at 3 locations Nov. 6-9. Dunlins were universally scarce while Stilt Sandpipers were unusually abundant. Inland flocks of 175 in *Fulton*, Ky., Sept. 24 (BP, DN) and 150 at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O., Sept. 17 (JM) were unprecedented while concentrations of 30-82 were widely reported. Many lingered into late October or early November. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were also much more numerous than normal Oct. 12+ including an incredible 44 in *Will*, Ill., Aug. 30 (JMi, DW). It was a good fall for Long-billed Dowitchers with many reports Nov. 10+. Largest concentrations were 370 at Metzger Marsh W.M.A., O., Oct. 12 (JP) and 93 at L. Chautauqua Oct. 9 (TP). Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce along the Great Lakes but widely reported inland where 18 at L. Chautauqua Sept. 11 provided a noteworthy fall concentration (DW). Red-necked Phalaropes were also more numerous inland where a remarkable 14 were found at L. Chautauqua Aug. 27 (TP). Along L. Erie where they are regular, one or two Red Phalaropes appeared 4 times Sept. 24-Nov. 27 while the only inland report was of one at Horseshoe L., Ill., Oct. 11 (†SR, BR *et al.*).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — The only acceptably identified jaeger was a Pomarine at Spfld., Sept. 7-12 (†H). Unidentified jaegers were observed on 6 occasions along the Great Lakes during October and November. One or two Laughing Gulls were reported at 2 Great Lakes locations Oct. 22+ while inland birds were noted at Louisville Oct. 14-21 (†LRa, BP) and L. Chautauqua Aug. 26-27 & Nov. 6 (TP *et al.*). Most noteworthy of scattered Franklin's Gull sightings in e. areas were concentrations of 80 at Spfld., Nov. 10 (H) and five at Louisville Nov. 11-13 (LRa *et al.*). Little Gulls were scarce along L. Erie where there were only 4 reports while one to three were noted at 2 Chicago area locations Nov. 11-27 (m.ob.). Single Com. Black-headed Gulls were documented from 2 L. Erie sites Nov. 12-28 where the species is apparently annually observed (†TL, †JP).

Migration of the common gulls was not at all typical, especially along L. Erie where the normal large concentrations never materialized. Bonaparte's Gulls appeared in unusually low numbers along L. Erie although normal concentrations were found inland and along L. Michigan. The majority of Ring-billed Gulls apparently departed from the Great Lakes to inland reservoirs and rivers where greater than normal numbers were widely reported. Only Herring Gulls were observed in normal numbers on the Great Lakes.

An ad. **California Gull** was thoroughly studied at Michigan City Nov. 10, providing a 2nd record for Indiana (†Haw *et al.*). Thayer's

Gulls were reported from 4 L. Erie and 2 L. Michigan locations, mostly during November. The only inland report was of two at Alton, Ill.-Mo., Nov. 28 (†RG). Iceland Gulls were only observed at one L. Michigan site while a well-described first-year bird was studied at Alton, Ill., Nov. 28 (†RG). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was discovered at Decatur, Ill., Nov. 24-30+ (RS, †JMi, m.ob.) while single birds appeared at 3 L. Erie sites after Oct. 13. As many as five Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported from one L. Erie and 2 L. Michigan sites during November while the only inland sighting was unexpected in s.w. Missouri at L. Stockton Nov. 19 (†JD *et al.*). An imm. Sabine's Gull was photographed at Saylorville Res., Ia., Nov. 10-20, providing the 5th record for the state (†EIA, † m.ob.). None was observed along the Great Lakes.

Caspian Terns were fairly numerous with a maximum of 450 at Huron, O., Aug. 28 (J). Four at Rathbun Res., Ia., Nov. 7 were late (MH). *Sterna* terns were scarce along L. Michigan while maximum concentrations of 1100 Commons and 400 Forster's were reported from L. Erie. It was a good fall for Least Terns with a total of 9 reports from all states including remarkable flocks of 24 at Springfield, Mo., Sept. 7 (†CBo, RMa) and 20 at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Aug. 29 (BP *et al.*). Peak numbers of Black Terns occurred during September which is later than normal including 350 along L. Erie and at L. Chautauqua. The latest report was of one at Chicago Oct. 27 (HR).



Groove-billed Ani, Upland, Ind., Oct. 30, 1983. Photo/K. Brock.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A **Band-tailed Pigeon** photographed at Marshall, Mo., Nov. 27-Dec. 10+ provided the first record for Missouri (HH, ph., m.ob.). Cuckoos were generally scarce although the mild weather caused some to linger well into October and through Nov. 6 in *Kankakee*, Ill. (RC). This year's **Groove-billed Ani** was photographed at Taylor Univ., Oct. 16-Nov. 1, providing Indiana's first record (†MBr, m.ob., ph.). Reflecting increased interest in this declining species, Com. Barn-Owls were reported from a total of 7 locations in all states except Ohio. Most noteworthy were singles near Booneville, Ia., Nov. 25 (EuA *et al.*) and in n.e. Missouri in *Scotland*, Aug. 19 (SL). Snowy Owls were more numerous than last year with a total of 10 reports from all states except Kentucky. They had wandered S to Dayton, O. (D & PK), Winchester, Ind. (*vide* LC) and *St. Charles*, Mo. (MBa) by the end of November. The other migrant owls appeared in similar numbers as last year with one or two Long-eareds at 7 locations including one at New Hope, Ky., Nov. 19 (*vide* AC), one or two Short-eareds at 14 sites and one or two N. Saw-whets at 6 locations. Groups of 100-500 Com. Nighthawks were widely reported through mid-September and stragglers remained Oct. 25+ at several s. areas. Whip-poor-wills also remained fairly late with a number of reports Oct. 9+. Chimney Swift populations appeared to be healthy with many reports of 300-1200. They remained later than normal with departure dates during the last half of October in all states and Nov. 3 at Loraine, O. (JP). After several years of scarcity, numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds rebounded with maxima of 12-23 in all states during September; most departed during the first week of October. This year, I received 3 reports of very late hummingbirds, two of which were casually dismissed as Ruby-throateds. Observers should be aware that November hummingbirds could potentially be any of several species and these

birds should be critically identified. In all likelihood, these late hummers may be w. strays as was the imm. ♀ *Selasphorus* hummingbird visiting a Jeffersonville, Ind. feeder Dec. 10+ (m.ob., ph., BP). This bird's specific identity remains to be conclusively established. A poor mast crop was responsible for the departure of Red-headed Woodpeckers from Missouri where large numbers of migrants were noted through Oct. 5. Other woodpeckers elicited few comments except for 495 N. Flickers migrating past St. Louis Oct. 5 (MP).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — Flycatchers were generally scarce, perhaps reflecting the affects of the adverse weather during May. A **Western Wood-Pewee** was identified by its voice at Chicago Sept. 30 (†JL). Late E. Wood-Pewees remained Oct. 25+ at Spfld. (H) & Oct. 23 in *Scott, Ia.* (†J, P *et al.*) while additional late wood-pewee sightings lacked sufficient details for specific identifications. *Empidonax* flycatchers were unusually uncommon in most areas although a few lingered later than normal into early October. Alder Flycatcher reports consisted of singles at Sweet Marsh, Ia., Aug. 5 (RM), *Madison, Ill.*, Sept. 2 (PS *et al.*) and *Johnson, Ia.*, Sept. 8 (TS). Western Kingbirds were only reported from n.w. Missouri where as many as seven were present. Good numbers of E. Kingbirds appeared in Missouri and Ohio with several reports of 50-60 and a remarkable total of 300 in *Jackson, Mo.*, Sept. 11 (C & KH, MM). One at Crane Creek S.P., O., Oct. 16 was rather late (JP). In s.w. Missouri, migrant Scissor-tailed Flycatchers peaked at 100 on Oct. 4 while two remained at Neosho Oct. 30+ (BC).

No large concentrations of Purple Martins were reported. Otherwise, swallows were observed in numbers comparable to those of the past few years. Tree Swallows peaked with 5000 at Merom power plant, Ind., Oct. 23 (DJ) and remained through Nov. 19 at Union County W.M.A., Ill (JR). As customary, N. Rough-wingeds concentrated in n.w. Missouri with 3000 in *Buchanan, Sept. 23 (L)*. The latest of many lingering birds was at Vermilion, O., Nov. 2 (JP). Other noteworthy concentrations were of 4000 Bank Swallows at Merom power plant, Ind., Aug. 14 and 1500 Barn Swallows in *Buchanan, Mo.*, Sept. 23. The latter species lingered into November at 5 locations, the latest at Pekin, Ill., Nov. 20 (LA).

CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — A total of 54 Fish Crows in *Madison, Ill.*, Sept. 2 provided an unusual fall concentration (RG *et al.*). Black-capped Chickadees staged a moderate invasion into c. and n. Ohio during November as indicated by 100 along the Cleveland lake-front Nov. 2 (TL). Similar movements were not reported elsewhere. Moderate numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared in most areas; daily maxima were generally ten or fewer. They returned to most n. areas during late August and Regionwide by mid-September. An early migrant was noted in *Wayne, Ind.*, Aug. 17 (JC). Small numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches were observed in migration along L. Erie during October. Brown Creepers were scarce in many areas.

The recovery of Carolina Wren populations was most evident in n. areas where the species has been absent for 4-5 years. At least nine were found in Iowa this fall. In contrast, Bewick's Wrens have almost disappeared from the Region as the only sighting was in *Waterloo, Ia.*, Aug. 10 (RM). All observations of this species should be reported. A House Wren in n.w. Indiana at Cowles Bog Nov. 26 was quite late (KB). Numbers of Winter Wrens were comparable to the past few years. In Kentucky, summering Sedge Wrens were locally unusual in *Green, Powell and Calloway (BMo, BP)* as were fledglings in *LaRue, Aug. 21 (DN)*. Migrants were noted in all states through Oct. 29 with peaks of 15-19 in Indiana and Illinois. A total of 32 Marsh Wrens in *Sullivan, Ind.*, Oct. 9 was rather high (DJ) while a late bird was noted at Cowles Bog, Ind., Nov. 26.

Excellent numbers of kinglets migrated through most areas with many reports of 20-60/day. Largest concentrations were of 135 Golden-crowneds at Chicago Oct. 9 (JL) and 100 Ruby-crowneds at Fairfield, Ia., Oct. 11 (DP). The *Catharus* thrush migration exhibited no discernible Regionwide pattern except for a few sizable concentrations on the ground. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were nearly as numerous as Swainson's in *Ottawa, O.*, during September and a late Gray-cheeked was banded there Nov. 10 (JP). An early Swainson's Thrush returned to Beverly Shores, Ind., Aug. 19 (KB, SJ) while a late migrant was banded in *Ottawa, O.*, Oct. 31. Hermit Thrushes were numerous in Ohio and

Illinois as indicated by a maximum of 125 at Chicago Oct. 9 (JL). A late Wood Thrush was banded in Blue Island, Ill., Oct. 28 (KBa). Since most Varied Thrushes reported in this Region are winter visitors, a migrant in *Sioux, Ia.*, Oct. 30 was unexpected (*vide* DH).

Water Pipits were widespread but maximum concentrations were generally of 100 or fewer. Cedar Waxwings were abundant in most areas during late October and November, including "several thousand" along the Little Miami R., in s.w. Ohio Oct. 23 (*vide* W). As many as three N. Shrikes at 6 locations in the n. states during November represented a typical fall movement. Loggerhead Shrikes are doing well in Missouri but only ten were reported from the other states.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — The unusually warm weather produced a protracted migration with few migrants observed before early September and many birds lingering later than normal in October. Frontal systems produced few noteworthy concentrations; most species seemed to filter through in small flocks. Small numbers of Bell's Vireos were observed in Iowa, Illinois and Indiana through Sept. 12. November vireos were restricted to *Ottawa, O.*, with two Philadelphias Nov. 9-10 and a Red-eyed Nov. 9 (JP).

Golden-winged Warblers were observed at 12 locations including 3 reports Oct. 1-2. One Brewer's hybrid and one Lawrence's hybrid were reported this fall. The latest of 4 November Tennessee Warbler reports was at Fayette, Mo., Nov. 11 (CR). An early Orange-crowned Warbler was noted at Chicago Sept. 6 (PC) while normal numbers were observed through Nov. 25 at Urbana, Ill. (BCh) and Chicago (JL). Other late warblers included a Nashville at Chicago Nov. 25 (DW), a N. Parula at Duck Creek W.M.A., Mo., Oct. 22 (SDi) and Yellow at Eubank, Ky., Nov. 13 (†JE). An early Magnolia Warbler returned to Eubank, Ky., Aug. 21. Cape May Warblers were unreported from Iowa but were fairly numerous elsewhere including one lingering at Martinsville, Ind., through Nov. 25 (*vide* CK). Black-throated Blue Warblers at one Missouri, 3 Iowa, and 3 Kentucky locations represented typical fall reports from states where this species is uncommonly observed. A remarkable tally of 5000 Yellow-rumped Warblers invaded Chicago Oct. 9 (RB), where an early migrant was noted Aug. 24 (PC). The mild fall weather was responsible for late warbler records such as Black-throated Green at Mendota, Ill., Oct. 31 (JHm), Pine at Carbondale, Ill., Nov. 19 (JR), Bay-breasted at Burlington, Ky., Oct. 25 (LM), Blackpoll at Chicago Nov. 4 (RB), Am. Redstart in *Scott, Ia.*, Oct. 23 (JR, P *et al.*), Worm-eating Warbler at Louisville Oct. 9 (BSH) and three Ovenbirds in November with the latest at Columbus, O., Nov. 16 (BS). A Louisiana Waterthrush was unexpected at Chicago Sept. 10 (†HR). Small numbers of Connecticut Warblers were reported from 6 Illinois locations. Scattered reports elsewhere included five banded in *Ottawa, O.*, Sept. 25 (JP). An early Mourning Warbler returned to Bettendorf, Ia., Aug. 9 (P) while small numbers in other states included a maximum of six at Chicago. Single Connecticut, Mourning and Hooded warblers at Chicago Oct. 14 were late (RB) as was a Yellow-breasted Chat there Sept. 30 (JL).

TANAGERS THROUGH EMBERIZINES — Tanagers were generally scarce with only one Summer Tanager reported n. of its normal range. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were also scarce; the largest concentration was of 27. Four Black-headed Grosbeak reports were more than normal with at least two at Ft. Ancient, O., Oct. 5 (†RN) and singles in *Cherokee, Ia.*, Sept. 30 (†MB) and *Busch W.M.A., Mo.*, Sept. 11 (†SR) & Oct. 6 (†CPa). Additional late records were provided by an Indigo Bunting at Horseshoe Lake W.M.A., Ill., Nov. 12 (†JR) and a Dickcissel in *Pocahontas, Ia.*, Nov. 26 (*vide* RHa).

Sparrows passed through the Region in fairly good numbers with peak concentrations comparable to those of last year. Their migration was also late with many species still moving S in late November. Clay-colored Sparrows wandered E to Illinois where 4 reports Oct. 5-12 were normal. A Lark Bunting in e. Missouri at *St. Charles, Sept. 5* was unusual (†CS, m.ob.). Grasshopper Sparrows remained into November at 2 locations, the latest was in *Knox, Ind.*, Nov. 13 (DJ). A summering Henslow's Sparrow in *Green, Ky.*, Aug. 6 was locally unusual (BMo) while fall migrants were noted at 3 locations during September and October. As many as 13 Le Conte's Sparrows were reported from traditional locations E to s.w. Indiana although they were thought to be scarce in Illinois. The 8 reports of one to four Sharp-tailed Sparrows in

Ohio, Indiana and Illinois Sept. 17-Oct. 29 constituted a typical fall migration. A Fox Sparrow at Chicago Sept. 5 was early (HR). White-throated Sparrows were particularly numerous in Illinois and along L. Erie where 125-200+/day were frequently encountered. A concentration of 275 Harris' Sparrows in *Cherokee* Oct. 13 was exceptional for w. Iowa (MB). They appeared e. to Monmouth, Ill., Oct. 8-29 (LMc, MBm). Lapland Longspurs returned to n. Ohio Sept. 24. They were quite numerous in Iowa, Illinois and Missouri during October and November with many reports of 200-800 and a maximum of 2000 in *Story*, Ia., Oct. 29 (PM). The only Smith's Longspurs were found in *Knox*, Ind., where eight-15 were present Nov. 13-20 (DJ). Snow Buntings returned to the n. states during late October with as many as 400 reported along L. Erie.

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES — Normal numbers of migrant Boblinks were noted through Oct. 23. Extralimital Yellow-headed Blackbirds included two to four at Cleveland Sept. 19-24 (M) plus singles at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Sept. 5 (†AB, †BP), Atterbury W.M.A., Ind., through Oct. 7 (BG), and in *Parke*, Ind., Nov. 5 (ABr). A concentration of 120 Brewer's Blackbirds was noteworthy at Saylorville Res., Ia., Nov. 20 (SD *et al.*). Groups of four-20 were found at a total of 7 sites in Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio, a greater number of fall reports than normal. Great-tailed Grackles remained in s.w. Iowa Aug. 13+ and n.w. Missouri Oct. 22+.

After last year's scarcity, winter finches returned to the Region although the flight was not overly impressive. Purple Finches were widespread in October but declined noticeably during November. The largest reported concentrations were of 35 or fewer. House Finches continued to expand and are unusual only in the w. states where there were 6 reports from Illinois and a maximum of seven at St. Louis Aug. 3 (BR). Single Red Crossbills were noted at one location in Ohio and one in Illinois during November while a flock of 30 was noted in *Wayne*, Ind., Oct. 31 (JC). The only White-winged Crossbill appeared in Vermilion, Ill., Nov. 18 (JS) while Com. Redpolls were found at one n. Illinois and 2 n. Ohio locations Oct. 31-Nov. 17. Pine Siskins generally arrived in n. areas during early October and elsewhere by the end of the month. The flight was moderate at best with 40-50 comprising the largest flocks and most reports of ten or fewer. American Goldfinches were fairly numerous, especially in c. Illinois. The Evening Grosbeak movement was

similar to that of the siskins with scattered birds in n. areas during early October and a stronger Regionwide flight during late October and November. Maximum concentrations were generally of 20-40 except in Kentucky where as many as 100 were reported.

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.; I.B.S.P., Illinois Beach S.P., Ill.; Spfld., Springfield, Ill.

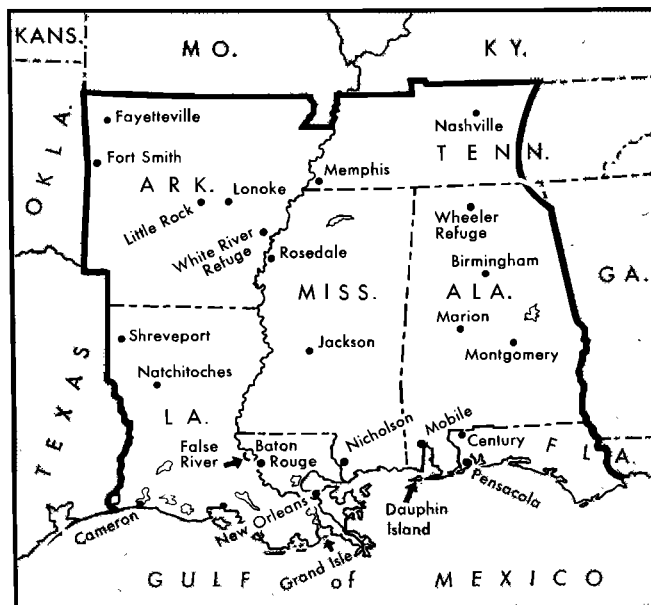
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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Robert D. Purrington

It was a warm fall, wet in parts of the Region, dry in others, which brought to a close (nearly) a warm and wet year for most of the Region. New Orleans and Mobile both had 15 inches above normal rainfall by the end of the period and on the order of 150 degree-days above normal. In the Tennessee Valley, July and August rainfall was the lowest in 58 years. Hurricane *Alicia* made a feint at the Louisiana Gulf Coast before battering Galveston and Houston, Texas, but the impact on even the coastal parts of the Region was minimal (although see the record of a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher for Alabama). The mild fall encouraged an unusual number of migrating passerines to linger past normal departure dates, many of which were no doubt killed by late December's severe weather.

Of approximately 15 frontal passages after mid-August, those of September 13 and 21, October 5, 9, 13, and 22, and November 10, 14, and 24 were the most important as measured by reports of numbers of individuals and species, or of interesting vagrants. Most of these fronts occurred late in the week, offering good weekend birding opportunities. On the other hand, many of the fronts simply reinforced a high-pressure area that dominated much of the fall and which brought light winds and clear skies, and did not bring about significant changes in the weather. Imhof commented at length on the westward movement of large numbers of migrating waterbirds along the coast off Fort Morgan and Gulf Shores, Alabama. Especially interesting were his descriptions of 10,000+ ducks flying west November 12 at Fort Morgan and an impressive array of loons, cormorants, mergansers, etc. moving westward November 25. He speculated that many of the birds may have been



displaced to the east of their destinations by the westerly and northwesterly winds accompanying a frontal passage.

It was not a spectacular fall for western vagrants (with the caveat that at this writing, mid-January, I am aware of some very spectacular

December records), and no frontal passage seemed more effective than any other in this regard. Because of the mild fall, many wintering species were late and numbers built up slowly, or were simply rare throughout the fall (factors other than the mild fall may have been operating as well). Especially noted as late and in low numbers as of the end of the period were Ring-billed and Herring gulls at New Orleans and robins and Yellow-rumped Warblers everywhere. There was little evidence of a boreal influx; Red-breasted Nuthatches were not reported at all, there were few siskins and Evening Grosbeaks, and Purple Finches appeared in only very modest numbers.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — The earliest record for the Alabama coast of Red-throated Loon was of one carefully watched flying parallel to the shore at Ft. Morgan Nov. 15 (TAI); one was also seen at Woods Res., Franklin Co., Tenn., Nov. 13 (DRJ, CGD). A Com. Loon at Alabama Pt., Baldwin Co., Ala., Aug. 6 possibly summered there, while on the Mississippi coast the first was seen Oct. 16 and the peak number was 70+ at Gulfport Nov. 29 (JT, CE, CaE). Seventy-five were on Wood's Res., Nov. 13 (DRJ, CGD). Horned Grebe numbers were low along the Mississippi coast, and on L. Pontchartrain none had been seen by the end of the period. An ad. Brown Booby was seen just off Orange Beach, Ala., Aug. 5 (RSD) and an imm. N. Gannet, evidently sick, was found on the beach in Escambia County Aug. 14 (MF, OF), for the 3rd August record for n.w. Florida. When placed in the water it swam off to an uncertain future. A N. Gannet had been picked up dead on the beach July 25 as well. Double-crested Cormorants reached the Gulf Coast near New Orleans by Sept. 21 (MM, DM), and were in Jackson County, Miss., the following day (JT, MB), following a frontal passage. High counts included 274 in Benton County, Ark., Oct. 9 (BS, MMI, JN, TH), 174 in Washington County Nov. 13 (JN, MMI), and 1000+ at Mud L., Shelby and DeSoto cos., Tenn., Oct. 30-Nov. 26 (BBC, CC). Records from extreme n.w. Alabama during November (GP) were encouraging. Although Magnificent Frigatebirds are rarely seen in coastal s.w. Louisiana, five were in Cameron Par., Sept. 18 (DP, LM, KB); some were lingering on the Mississippi coast as late as Nov. 29 (JLS).

BITTERNS THROUGH STORKS — American Bitterns in Baldwin County, Ala., and in Escambia County, Fla., Aug. 6 (OF, AZ, TZ) established the first August record for n.w. Florida and the earliest coastal record for Alabama (summering?). One in Benton County, Ark., Oct. 9 (BS) provided the first record for the w. Arkansas Ozarks in 10+ years, while a Least Bittern there on the same date was the first in nearly 30 years. This area lacks any permanent natural marsh. Another at Gulf Shores Nov. 30 (TAI) was the latest ever for Alabama (except for winter records). Post-breeding dispersal of Reddish Egrets onto the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the coast of Louisiana at Grand I., produced fewer fall records than usual. A Glossy Ibis collected in Cameron Par., Oct. 16 (*to L.S.U.M.Z.—TSS, GR, VR) confirmed the species' irregular occurrence there; there are no documented records for Texas. Two *Plegadis* ibises in Washington County Oct. 7 (JN, RS, TH) represented only the 2nd record for Arkansas. Roseate Spoonbills dispersed widely after nesting and were recorded near Shreveport, La., July 24 (PMD) & Sept. 17-Oct. 9, the first area record, in c. Louisiana Aug. 21 & Sept. 9 (DWG), near Grand I., Sept. 11 (NN, RDP, DM). A concentration of 45 in Terrebonne Par., Oct. 10-11 (CN) was unusual this far e. Wood Storks were seen at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn., July 26 (FR) & Sept. 1 (FR); there were 34 at L. Millwood Sept. 11 (HP, MP).

WATERFOWL — Three Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were seen in Mobile County, Ala., Sept. 3 (CLK, FW, AZ, TZ); a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck killed by a hunter in St. Charles Par., Nov. 28 was of uncertain origin. Six Am. Black Ducks in a brackish pond on the edge of L. Pontchartrain Nov. 20 (DM) furnished the first definite records for s.e. Louisiana in several years, except for hunter's kills. A Mottled Duck reported from Escambia County, Fla., Aug. 5 (RD) furnished only the 2nd sighting for n.w. Florida. The first record of Cinnamon Teal in s.e. Louisiana (except, again, for reports from hunters) was of a male at Grand I., Oct. 13 (MM, JW, DM). An early N. Shoveler was at Blakely I., Ala., Aug. 26 (GDJ); in general there were few early records of waterfowl. The small numbers of Canvasbacks seen in s.e. Louisiana and on the Mississippi coast were not encouraging, after the scarcity of

the last few years. A Lesser Scaup on L. Pontchartrain near New Orleans Sept. 14 (RDP) was earliest ever if a healthy bird, while a flock of 215 at L. Fayetteville Nov. 23 (JN, LA) was large for the w. Ozarks. Unexpected in that area were an imm. Surf Scoter Nov. 19-26 at Budd Kidd L., Washington Co. (JN, TH, DJ, m.ob), the 5th Arkansas record, and 14 Red-breasted Mergansers at L. Fayetteville, Washington Co., Nov. 2 (JN, LA).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — At least 31 reports of Ospreys were submitted, all but one from coastal Louisiana and Mississippi; there were probably other records not submitted. An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite seen n. of Memphis Sept. 19 (JRW) provided the 2nd Shelby County record in 55 years. Black-shouldered Kites remained in the vicinity of their nest sites to the end of the period in s.w. Mississippi (JT) and into at least early September at the nearby St. Tammany Parish location (JH, JFH). Reports of Bald Eagles from Louisiana and coastal Mississippi totalled six or seven birds (4-5 imm., 2 ad.). A heretofore unknown nest site was being occupied by the end of the period downriver from New Orleans (FB). Finally, an adult was seen on Horseshoe L., Crittenden Co., Ark., Oct. 28 (PS). Records from middle Tennessee included a nesting at Cross Creeks N.W.R. (*vide* VCG), the first in Tennessee in 22 years, as well as two in Lawrence County Sept. 14-23 (DJS). Few reports of Cooper's Hawks were submitted, and Sharp-shinned Hawks were clearly below numbers of recent years, the highest count being of ten Oct. 25 in Hancock County, Miss. (JT). Hawk watches Sept. 25 and Oct. 1 on the shore of L. Pontchartrain yielded six and seven, respectively (JW). There were 4 records of Swainson's Hawks: two Sept. 17 in Washington County, Ark. (JN), two the next day in Benton County (BS, MMI), one in s.w. Louisiana Oct. 15 (JW), and another Nov. 16 at Ft. Morgan (AM, AIM). There are now 13 records for Alabama. Of 20 Red-tailed Hawks counted by Neal during 120 mi of driving in n.w. Arkansas Nov. 12, four were dark-phase "Harlans." Rough-legged Hawks were reported from Lauderdale County, Tenn., Nov. 2 (SF), Crittenden County, Ark., Nov. 13 (BBC, LCC), and Maury County, Tenn., Nov. 20 (BF). American Kestrels were especially common between New Orleans and Venice Oct. 30 (RDP, NN), ahead of a front. There were reports of at least 16 Merlins, including one in Washington County, Ark., Sept. 23 (JN) and five at Grand I., Oct. 9 (JW, GD) in the wake of a cold front. Earliest report was Sept. 25 in St. Tammany Parish (DM). There were reports of 18 Peregrine Falcons from Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana, including three Oct. 30 between New Orleans and Venice (RDP, NN).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A King Rail seen in Center-ton, Ark., Oct. 10 (LA, TH, BK) was the first ever in the w. Arkansas Ozarks; eight Soras there the previous day were also unusual. In coastal Louisiana and Mississippi they continued to be very scarce. Latest ever for n. Alabama was a Com. Moorhen Nov. 1 at Birmingham (TAI, FD'A). Six Sandhill Cranes were watched flying along the beach at Ft. Morgan Nov. 12 (RD, VF, MF *et al.*); 82 were seen in Pickett County, Tenn., Oct. 26 (RCH). A few Lesser Golden-Plovers, which are rare in the Region in fall migration, were reported from coastal areas in October and November, while a Piping Plover Aug. 14 (DM) established the 3rd record for New Orleans. American Oystercatchers seen Oct. 1 & Nov. 26 in St. Bernard Par. (PN) represented, respectively, the first October record, and the latest ever for Louisiana. An early Lesser Yellowlegs was at Mussel Shoals City, Ala., July 5 (GP), while 20 Willets at New Orleans Aug. 14 (DM) set an all-time high count for the city. There were 3 records of Whimbrels from Grand I., Aug. 14-Oct. 9; the species is rare at best in fall migration. One in Escambia County, Fla., Oct. 23 (TM, WV) provided the first October record for n.w. Florida. That Long-billed Curlews seem to be wintering in small numbers in coastal Alabama is suggested by records Sept. 3 & Nov. 19 and 22 in Mobile and Baldwin cos. A Hudsonian Godwit, only the 3rd for s.e. Louisiana in fall, was at the Bonnet Carre Spillway Oct. 1-9 (MW, MA, RJS, AS *et al.*). A Ruddy Turnstone in Benton County, Ark., Oct. 9-18 (DJ, BS, JN, TH) constituted the 2nd occurrence for the w. Arkansas Ozarks, and a Red Knot in Washington County Sept. 1-10 (TH, DJ, JN *et al.*) provided the first occurrence for the Ozarks. There were 3 records of the White-rumped Sandpiper, another fall rarity over most of the Region Aug. 27 at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Tenn. (MGW *et al.*), Sept. 3 in Mobile County, Ala. (CLK, FW, AZ, TZ) and Sept. 17 in Jackson

County, Miss. (JT, MC, JD, CR). Four Stilt Sandpipers were very late in Cameron Par., Nov. 26 (VR, DH, PMcK, LH). Buff-breasted Sandpipers peaked at Cape San Blas, Colbert Co., Ala., and at New Orleans in early September, with a maximum of 80 at the latter locality Sept. 1 (NN). There were many reports Aug. 28-30 from middle Tennessee. An Am. Woodcock was seen at Laplace, La., July 24 (MyF, MgF); there are few local records indicative of nesting. Single Red-necked Phalaropes were recorded in Lonoke County, Ark., Aug. 9 (HP, MP, FF) and in Mobile County, Ala., Sept. 3 (CLK, FW, AZ, TZ).



Ad. light-phase Pomarine Jaeger, Lake Millwood, Ark., Aug. 21-Oct. 8, 1983.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — An ad. Pomarine Jaeger, first seen Aug. 21, spent 6 weeks on L. Millwood, Ark. (CMi, HP, MP *et al.*). Two Laughing Gulls there Aug. 21 (CMi, MP) were sufficiently unusual there to suggest some relationship with Hurricane *Alicia*. Contrasting with this record is that of 20,000 at East Jetty Beach, Cameron Par., Sept. 4 (VR, GR, BT, CC). While the circum-Gulf migrating Franklin's Gull is regular in fall through Arkansas, as indicated by 210+ in Benton County Oct. 9 (BS, MMI, MG), they were seen this fall with unusual frequency along the c. Gulf Coast where they are rarely encountered: Nov. 10 & 12 in coastal Mississippi (JT, MB) and Nov. 13 at Fourchon Beach near Grand I., La. (RDP, NN, DM). An immature at Gulf Shores Dec. 1-9 (TAI *et al.*) furnished only the 6th coastal record for Alabama and on an extraordinary date. The 2nd record for Mississippi of the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was established by an adult seen at Gulfport Nov. 12-30+ (JT, m.ob., ph.). This bird was thought not to be the same individual seen in March 1983 (AB 37:880). And then there is the case of famous "old one-leg," the dark-backed gull which has been present for 7 years on the Alabama-Florida coast. One has often wondered whether the bird belonged to either of the species to which it has been attributed, *i.e.*, Lesser Black-backed or Western. The pink legs, clear nape, shape of gonydeal spot, and perhaps bill size and shape have suggested the latter, while the size and other features (including its "gestalt") have favored *L. fuscus*. According to Imhof, a "committee" has declared that the bird is a hybrid, possibly Lesser x Great Black-backed, although Herring x Great Black-backed would seem a possibility. In any case, the state of Alabama was thereby left without *either* species on its list (although rumor has it that the situation may have been partially remedied in December), assuming that the present view prevails. Immature Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen Nov. 10 in Jackson County, Miss. (JT, MB) & Nov. 18 at Gulf Shores (AM), for the 4th record for Alabama. A Roseate Tern, the 7th for Alabama and the latest ever by 10 weeks, was seen at Gulf Shores in a steady rain Nov. 24 (TAI). A concentration of Black Terns numbering at least 1300 individuals was seen near Grand I., Aug. 14 (MM, RDP, NN).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Latest ever for Louisiana was a Black-billed Cuckoo collected in Cameron Par., Oct. 29 (*to L.S.U.M.Z.—VR). More than one observer thought that Yellow-billed Cuckoos were down in numbers during migration. One at Wood's Res., Franklin Co., Tenn., Nov. 18 (KHD) was very late. Groove-billed Anis were present in s.w. Louisiana in typical numbers, and one at Pensacola Beach Sept. 30 (PT, BT) furnished the first record for the month of September. Very late, on the other hand, was a Com. Night-

hawk at Gulf Breeze Nov. 22 (RD, RSD). By the end of the period there had been 3 reports of Buff-bellied Hummingbirds from s. Louisiana: Nov. 19 in Harahan (MWA) and Franklin (GDE), & Nov. 26 at Reserve (RJS, NLN). The heaviest movement of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, according to Newfield, was in the last 10 days of September; all were juveniles and thinner than usual for fall migrants. Newfield banded a total of 56 at her Metairie station during the late summer and fall. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were scarce, and although they arrived as usual in late October, Newfield banded only two and they were absent from several other feeders which usually have them. Incredibly, a **Calliope Hummingbird** appeared Nov. 25 at the same Reserve, La. feeders at which one was collected last December (RJS, NLN, m.ob.). The bird represented the 2nd Louisiana record, remained for 3 days, was banded and netted by Newfield, and tail and gorget feathers were secured. Yet another Calliope appeared in Baton Rouge Nov. 25 but was not confirmed until Dec. 21. Although *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were unprecedentedly early in Metairie Aug. 2 (NLN) and at Baton Rouge the day after (SH, KH), the early promise was not borne out and numbers were not high during the fall. A *Selasphorus* in Murfreesboro Sept. 6 (LAE, m.ob.), identified as a Rufous, would provide the first Tennessee record (ph.).

Migratory movements of Red-headed Woodpeckers noted Sept. 17-Oct. 7 in the w. Arkansas Ozarks involved as many as 40 high-flying birds on a given day (JN).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS — A wood-pewee, presumed to be an Eastern, was unprecedentedly late in Jackson County, Miss., Nov. 10 (JT, MB). Also very late was an *Empidonax* flycatcher at Logtown, Miss., Nov. 25 (JD, JT). A heavy migratory movement of *Empidonax* flycatchers Sept. 17 in Cameron Par., included an estimated 30 Least Flycatchers, at least six "Trail's," one Alder, and four Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (VR, GR, TSS). Incomplete reports of two Say's Phoebes in s.w. Louisiana were received, Oct. 13+ at Lacassine N.W.R. (BA, LF, CMo) & Oct. 21 at Pecan I., Vermillion Par. (DA, BA, SL). The only Vermillion Flycatcher reported was a male at Marion, Ala., Nov. 18 (LNT), for the 7th inland record. Perhaps the bird of the season was a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** netted, banded, and photographed at Dauphin I. Sept. 6 (SH *et al.*), present for 3 days. The excellent color photographs of the bird in the hand rule out the other *Myiodynastes* flycatchers. This first record for Alabama supplements the earlier single records from Mississippi and Louisiana. Western Kingbirds were reported in s. Louisiana and Mississippi Oct. 23-Nov. 27, with a high of four near Port Sulphur, La., Oct. 30 (RDP, NN). The largest flocks of migrating E. Kingbirds reported were of 100 and 300 Sept. 1 & 5 in Washington County, Ark. (JN, TH). Records of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers included a nesting at Murfreesboro, Tenn., provided by two juveniles with an adult Aug. 11-26 (MLB, m.ob.) and one in inland Tunica County, Miss., Oct. 23 (BP, RP).

The peak swallow migration at New Orleans may have been Sept. 9, when at least 2000, mostly Barns, were seen (NN). At Gulf Breeze, Fla., 3000-5000 were counted Sept. 14 (RD, LD, RSD) as a front passed. Purple Martins at Gulf Shores, Ala., Nov. 17 & 18 (AM, AIM, TAI) were late, as were N. Rough-winged Swallows at Ft. Morgan Nov. 28 (TAI). Also lingering were Barn Swallows in Washington County, Ark., Nov. 13 (KS) and Baton Rouge, La., Nov. 30 (MS). It may be ventured that these records were a result of November's mild weather.

Earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana was a Swainson's Thrush at Grand I., Sept. 11 (NN, DM); late, however was one in Cameron Par., Nov. 26 (LH, VR). Also late were Wood Thrushes banded at Ft. Morgan Nov. 11 & 12 (TAI, JMI). Peak numbers of Gray Catbirds on the Mississippi coast were 200+ in Jackson County Sept. 22 following a frontal passage (JT, MB). A late Gray Catbird was at Memphis Nov. 28 (BBC). A Cedar Waxwing at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Sept. 15 (RD) was the earliest ever by 28 days.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Bell's Vireos, expected only in the n.w. part of the Region, were found in Jackson County, Miss., Sept. 22 & 26 (JT, MB). A carefully described Warbling Vireo seen in Escambia County, Fla., Oct. 26 (RD) furnished the 6th occurrence for n.w. Florida. A late Philadelphia Vireo was sighted in Cameron Parish Nov. 13 (TP, VR). There were also late records of Tennessee Warblers, including 15 in Cameron Parish and six at Grand I., Nov. 13. Even later

was one at Dauphin I., Nov. 20 (GDJ). Numbers were perhaps below normal for this ordinarily ubiquitous migrant. A "Brewster's"-type hybrid was seen in Hancock County, Miss., Sept. 20 (JT). Among the records of warblers lingering beyond normal departure dates, presumably because of the mild fall, were five N. Parulas in Cameron Parish Nov. 13 (TP, VR, AC), a Yellow Warbler in Hancock County, Miss., Nov. 25 (JT, JD), Magnolia Warblers in coastal Cameron and Jefferson Parishes Nov. 13, and four Black-throated Green Warblers on the latter date at Grand I. There were 4 records of Black-throated Blue Warblers, all coastal: Sept. 15 in New Orleans (NN), Sept. 17 in Cameron Parish (DS), Sept. 27 at Dauphin I. (GDJ), and Oct. 1 at Ft. Pike, La. (NN, SN, MM, DM). While a ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler in Cameron Parish Nov. 25 (DM) was extremely late, a Connecticut Warbler reported from the new Tensas N.W.R., Madison Par., Sept. 16 (DP, RH) provided only the 3rd fall record for Louisiana. Mourning Warblers were more common than usual along the coast, as evidenced by records Sept. 4 & 9 in s.e. Louisiana (NN, DM), five in Cameron Parish where they are less unexpected, Sept. 17 (DM *et al.*), and one the same day at Gulf Breeze (RD). A peak of 150+ Com. Yellowthroats was noted Sept. 22 (frontal passage) in Jackson County, Miss. Late at Baton Rouge Nov. 24 (VR) was a ♀ Hooded Warbler. A total of eight Canada Warblers in New Orleans Sept. 9 (NN) was unusually high and one Sept. 18 in Benton County, Ark., was unexpected in this w. Arkansas Ozarks locality.

TANAGERS THROUGH FRINGILLIDAE — Latest ever for s.e. Louisiana was a Scarlet Tanager at Grand I., Nov. 13 (DM), and ♂ W. Tanagers were seen Sept. 8 in Harrison County, Miss. (MMo, *vide* JT) & Oct. 22 in coastal Alabama (JD, DK). Late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in Cameron Parish Nov. 13 (AC) and in Birmingham Nov. 26 (RRR, LGS). Black-headed Grosbeaks were recorded as follows: Oct. 1 in Pulaski County, Ark. (HP, MP), Oct. 15 in Cameron Parish (VR), Oct. 25 in Metairie, La. (NLN), and Nov. 13 at Grand I. (RDP, NN, DM). Additional late records from the mild fall included Blue Grosbeak in Cameron Parish, Nov. 25 (DM). Indigo Bunting there the following day (PMcK, VR), and a ♀ Painted Bunting at Dauphin I., Nov. 16 (GDJ). A Dickcissel was late at Colbert City, Ala., Nov. 12 (GP, GeP) and another, apparently overwintering with House Sparrows at Ft. Morgan, was seen as late as Nov. 28 (TAI). A carefully described **Green-tailed Towhee** at Pearlinton, Hancock Co., Miss., Oct. 20 (JT, DK, MB) provided the 2nd Mississippi record. Clay-colored Sparrows continue to be found along the coast in the fall, mostly during late September through mid-October. This fall there were 9 records of 17 individuals from Cameron to Dauphin I., Sept. 24-Oct. 16, plus a late individual in Hancock County, Miss., Nov. 22 (JT, GM). Seven at New Orleans Oct. 7 (DM) was an unusual concentration. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found in Shelby County, Tenn., Sept. 22 (RC), while two seen Oct. 9 & 10 in Benton County, Ark. (BS, MMI, DJ, TH, BK) constituted the first records for the w. Arkansas Ozarks. A Song Sparrow in Lauderdale County, Ala., July 23 (GP) suggested continued expansion of breeding in that area. Among the small numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos that had reached the s. part of the Region by the end of the period was an "Oregon" Junco in St. Tammany Par., Nov. 12 (JH).

PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

/Wayne C. Harris

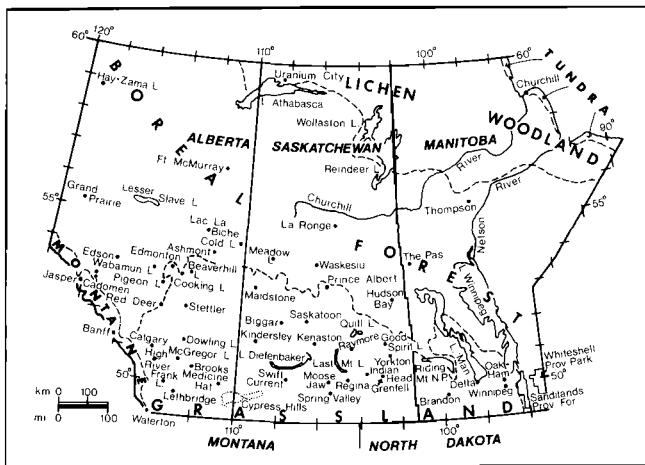
The impact of weather on the bird life was less dramatic than in some falls. August was extremely hot and dry but the only impact noted was at Sheho, Saskatchewan, where late fledging Cliff Swallows apparently succumbed to the heat in their nests (WNI). The remarkably stable weather resulted in a slow, steady migration with very few waves. August's hot dry weather continued through mid-September with similar migration patterns. Wetter and cooler weather prevailed during late September, resulting in noticeable waves of thrushes and sparrows, particularly during the month-end snow falls in southern areas. October and early November were mild and dry. After mid-November temperatures cooled and by the end of month had reached -30°C , resulting in general freeze-up of all but the largest bodies of water by period end.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported at 6 coastal locations from Santa Rosa I., Fla. to Cameron Parish, Aug. 30 (New Orleans; the first August record—NN)—Oct. 14. A ♀ Great-tailed Grackle at Shreveport, La., Nov. 20–28 (HCH, HHJ) provided the 2nd occurrence for that n.w. Louisiana locale and the first in 26 years. The species is common in s.w. Louisiana. Although Bronzed Cowbirds can be found at any season in the vicinity of New Orleans and are especially common in spring and summer, they are rarely seen elsewhere in Louisiana or in the Region. This fall one was seen at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Oct. 23 (RD), the first report for n.w. Florida. A single flock of 10,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds near the L.S.U. campus on the same date was impressive. Pine Siskins reached the coast in Cameron Parish by Nov. 25 (DM), but overall there was only the slightest hint of even a modest irruption. Very early Am. Goldfinches were seen in Mobile County, Ala., Sept. 3 (CLK, FW, AZ, TZ) and an early flock was encountered in Benton County, Ark., Sept. 18 (JN). What evidence there was of an influx of Evening Grosbeaks came from middle Tennessee, with five being seen in Putnam County Nov. 13 (RWS) and "many" present in that part of the Region from late November on (SS).

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This warm weather, late fall freeze-up and lack of major storms resulted in numerous record late departures, of which only the most noteworthy can be mentioned here.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Arctic Loons were reported from s. Saskatchewan for the 2nd consecutive year with singles at Blackstrap L., s. of Saskatoon Sept. 25 & Nov. 9, Quill Lakes Nov. 12 and at Regina Beach Oct. 29–Nov. 4 (CJE, JBG, WCH, CA). Concentrations of Am. White Pelicans occurred on the Fishing Lakes near Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask., with 1300+ present Aug. 17 and 400+ still present Sept. 6 (TR, FHB). An outstanding number of late herons was present at Last Mountain Lake Wildlife Management Unit (hereafter, Last Mountain L.W.M.U.) e. of Simpson, Sask., Nov. 12 when three Am. Bitterns, two Great Blue Herons, and seven Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen (WCH). A single Great Blue Heron was also seen near Sundre, Alta., Nov. 18 (FH).



WATERFOWL — Though not comparable to the concentrations on Goose L., s.w. of Saskatoon in the 1970s, the 5450 Whistling Swans on Reed L., near Morse, Sask., and 4140 on Luck L. near Lucky L., Sask., both Oct. 27 were impressive as was a flight involving 2000 + Nov. 22 near Spring Valley (PB, FB). Snow Geese continue their E shift in fall staging areas from c. Alberta, w.c. Saskatchewan to s.e. Saskatchewan. There were 5000 at Good Spirit L., Oct. 3-6, 40,000 e. of Moose Jaw Oct. 17 and 30,000 Oct. 26 s. of Regina (W & JA, BL, RK). In addition there were "thousands" in both the Moose Jaw and Wolsley areas in October and November (EWK, JDH). The presence of **(Black) Brant** is exceptionally rare. A single bird at Buck L., s. of Regina Oct. 28-Nov. 26 was only the 2nd Saskatchewan record in the past 10 years, while one at Pierson Oct. 21-22 was Manitoba's 3rd record during the same period (FWL, RDW). Exceptionally late Blue-winged Teal were seen at Last Mountain L.W.M.U., Nov. 1 and at Broderick, Sask., Nov. 20 (KDeS, CJE). A ♂ Cinnamon Teal was seen at Last Mountain L.W.M.U., Nov. 1 (KDeS). Oldsquaws were more widespread than usual with 6 Saskatchewan, 2 Alberta and one Manitoba reports. All were on the usual November dates except Oct. 13 at Greenwater P. P., Sask., Oct. 16 at Namaka L., e. of Calgary and Oct. 23 at Calgary (WCH, JS, DCo). An inland **King Eider** (first Regional record 1894, Calgary; second 1962, Delta) was found at Blackstrap L., Oct. 26 and remained until Nov. 18 (ARS, m.ob.). The bird, an imm. male, was photographed and provided the first record for Saskatchewan. There were 3 Harlequin Duck reports, one from each province, all involving ♂; Turner Valley, Alta., Aug. 14, Blackstrap L., Sept. 17 and Grand Beach, Man., Nov. 5-6 (RWS, CJE, ARS, GDG). There was only one Black Scoter report this fall, from Blackstrap L., Nov. 4 (ARS). The normal small number of Surf Scoters was reported except for Regina-Regina Beach area where 31 + sightings Oct. 6-31 was more than usual (*vide* CA). Barrow's Goldeneyes were reported from s. Saskatchewan, for the 2nd consecutive year. At Kindersley a male Aug. 28 was photographed and banded providing the first documented record for the province (E. Martin, U.S.F. & W.S.). At Blackstrap L., a male present Oct. 10-Nov. 18 and accompanied by two females was also photographed (ARS, SJS, CJE). Regina Beach also hosted a male Oct. 28-30, the 2nd consecutive year for this location (BL, RK). The first **Smew** for the Region was a well described male seen by K. and J. Wiggers at Churchill Nov. 7 (*vide* BC). Hooded Mergansers were present in larger numbers than usual. Several were seen at Wabamun L., Oct. 10 (GRAE). In Saskatchewan 9 localities had sightings including high counts of 26 at Buffalo Pound L., n. of Moose Jaw Oct. 5; 64 at Regina Beach Nov. 6 and 11 at Good Spirit L., Nov. 18 (PB, CA, W & JA). In s. Manitoba the best counts were of 20 at Seven Sisters Aug. 27, 22 at Oak Hammock Oct. 30, and 12 at Seven Sisters Nov. 20 (PT, RFK).

RAPTORS — Northern Goshawks were reported s. of the forest for the 2nd consecutive year, although numbers were slightly lower than last year. A Red-shouldered Hawk, a rarity in Manitoba, was seen near Shilo Aug. 7 (*vide* RFK). An excellent count of Swainson's Hawks was of 106 near Yellow Grass, Sask., Sept. 21 (ARS). Gyrfalcon numbers were normal with 7 Saskatchewan sightings and 3 each in Alberta and Manitoba (WCH, KRL, HWRC).

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — One of the highlights of the fall was the late migration of Sandhill Cranes. There were still 1500 at Indian Head Nov. 19 and an amazing 1000 in Prince Albert N. P., Nov. 28 (PB, MS). At one of the major staging areas in the Last Mountain L.W.M.U.-Quill Lakes area there were still 50,000 + Nov. 1, 25,000 Nov. 12, and 4000 Nov. 28 (WCH). These numbers and dates are exceptional considering that most cranes have departed by the end of October with only stragglers remaining in early November. Late dates for shorebirds prevailed throughout reports. The most exceptional included two Black-bellied Plovers at Last Mountain L.W.M.U., Nov. 16, a Killdeer at Edmonton Nov. 20, 11 Stilt Sandpipers at St. Ambrose, Man., Oct. 10 and 30 Sanderlings at Raymore Nov. 30 (WCH, JP, RFK). An excellent count of Am. Avocets was of 207 at Porter L., e. of Saskatoon Aug. 11 (ARS). The only Red Knot was one at Beaverhill L., Oct. 5, an unusually late date (DD). There were more reports of W. Sandpiper than usual, all from the Calgary area. There were seven Aug. 13, ten Aug. 14, one Aug. 15, three Aug. 20, and two Aug. 27 (JS, RWS, DE, DCo). Buff-breasted Sandpipers are rare inland during the fall, but this year there was one at Calgary Aug. 14, seven at Buck L., Aug. 29 and 70 at Oak Hammock Aug. 20 (DCo, RK, JT, RFK, MGS). For the 2nd consecutive year Namaka L. hosted Ruffs, this year two males (JS). At Ft. McMurray, Alta., there were 23 Upland Sandpiper sightings in August, considerably more than expected for e. boreal Alberta (JG). A single godwit, possibly fitting the description of a Bartailed Godwit, was watched at Porter L., July 28 (P. Allen). The largest flock of Red-necked Phalaropes was of 400 at Brandon Aug. 8 (CWC). A single Red Phalarope was found at Eagle L., n. of Calgary Sept. 10 (JS).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The only jaeger reports received were of Parasitics and with the exception of one Oct. 30 at Last Mountain L.W.M.U., all were from the Edmonton-Beaverhill L. area where singles were seen on 4 dates Sept. 10-Oct. 15 (TS, DD). Northern gulls rarely seen in the s. portion of the Region included a Mew Gull Oct. 28 at Regina Beach (TR); single Thayer's at Lockport, Man., Oct. 23-30, Grand Beach Nov. 5, and Regina Beach Nov. 11 (PT, RFK, BL); an Iceland at Spruce Grove, Alta., Nov. 12 (GRAE); and a Glaucous at Regina Beach Sept. 5-17 (JT, RK). A rare wanderer from the w. coast was the imm. Glaucous-winged Gull at Namaka L., Aug. 6-21 (JS, MS, R. Barclay). A single **Ivory Gull** was at Churchill Nov. 21-24 (*vide* BC). A Com. Tern at Good Spirit L., Oct. 11 was exceptionally late for a species normally gone by early September (W & JA). Late dates were also reported for Caspian Terns at Lockport with two on both Oct. 2 & 5 (GDG, MGS), and there was a Black Tern at Oak Hammock Oct. 1 (IAW). For the 2nd consecutive year an **Ancient Murrelet** was reported in Alberta at Beaverhill L. (DD). This was the 3rd provincial record.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A N. Pygmy-Owl was near Calgary Nov. 13-20 (CHU, RWS). The S Movement of Snowy Owls was later than usual with only 2 localities having October dates, Morse Oct. 5 and Regina Oct. 29. The November dates were scattered, and numbers were below normal, indicating that this may be a low year for Snowies. There were Barred Owl reports from Grand Prairie and Calgary, s. Alta., where this species is rare (KRL, DCo). A very late Com. Nighthawk migration was reported in s. Manitoba where 146 were seen at Winnipeg Sept. 25 (RFK, GDG, GEH), almost a month later than one would normally expect to find these numbers. Chimney Swifts were present in Winnipeg daily to Sept. 27 with the last one seen Oct. 4, a record late date (GEH, RFK). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird caught in Edmonton Nov. 29 was without question a new record (GRAE). A Rufous Hummingbird at Winnipeg Aug. 15-21 was the 6th s. Manitoba record (WNe, RFK). A Red-breasted Sapsucker was at Waterton Aug. 2 (DE). The only Black-backed Woodpeckers s. of the boreal forest were singles in Saskatoon Oct. 27 & Nov. 27 (ARS, MDG). Pileated Woodpeckers appear to have taken up permanent residence in Moose Mountain P. P. (RD).

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES — A group of 17 N. Rough-winged Swallows at Delta was truly exceptional considering that a single anywhere in s. Manitoba would be considered a rarity (GEH). A single N. Rough-winged Swallow Nov. 5 at Gardiner Dam, Sask., was more than a month later than any previous record (SJS, CJE). A single

Steller's Jay Oct. 10-21 and another Oct. 15-Nov. 30 represented only the 3rd and 4th records for the Calgary area (*vide* DCo). Common Ravens appear to have moved S of the forest in numbers this year with several sightings s. of their normal fall-winter range. There were singles at Regina Beach Nov. 11 (RK, JT), Raymore Oct. 5-Nov. 30 (WCH, SML), White Bear Oct. 3 (SOJ), Blackstrap L., Oct. 15 (SJS) and Saskatchewan Landing P.P., Nov. 12 (SJS, CJE). Two were seen at Wolseley, Sask., in November (JDH) and at Pierson, Man., Nov. 26 (RW). At Edmonton where a few are normally seen, they were more common than usual (DCu). Both Black-capped and Boreal chickadees were more common s. of the boreal forest. This combined with the S movement of ravens may indicate a general lack of food in the forest and other species may move S as winter progresses. A single House Wren at Kenaston Oct. 2 was very late (PLB). The usual scattering of Townsend's Solitaires e. of the foothills were present. Singles were seen at Regina Nov. 11-28 (and another found dead Oct. 26), Kindersley Sept. 11, Moose Jaw Nov. 6, Swift Current Nov. 16 and St. Ambrose, Man., Nov. 6 (JT, JMH, V & RA, CHa, GEH). Varied Thrushes were seen at Biggar Oct. 1-3 (RDW, GJW) and Regina Oct. 18-22 (CA, BL, TR). Six scattered Manitoba localities reported Varied Thrushes compared to none last year (*vide* RFK, HWRC).

WARBLERS — Warbler migrations were far from spectacular. There was an absence of large waves, virtually no rarities and a surprising lack of very late dates. Exceptions of course did occur, mostly in s. Manitoba where a prolonged heavy warbler migration occurred Aug. 29-Sept. 13. Rarities included N. Parula at Emma L., Sask., Sept. 5 and Birds Hill P.P. Sept. 4-5 (CJE, GDG); Black-throated Blue Sept. 12 at Moose Jaw (M & GZ); single Pines at Brandon Aug. 27 and one at Regina Nov. 11, an exceptionally late date (BR, BL). A Nashville Oct. 24 at Winnipeg was a record late date (RFK).

CARDINAL THROUGH ROSY FINCH — Single N. Cardinals were reported from St. Adolphe, Man., Nov. 9-12 (♂) and St. Norbert, Man., Nov. 27 (♀) continuing the fall reports of this species in the past few years (*vide* RFK, HWRC). An unusually late imm. Rose-breasted Grosbeak frequented feeders at Pinawa, Man., Oct. 30-Nov. 7 (PT).

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/David O. Lambeth

August began with temperatures soaring well above 100° F, to make it the hottest period in 50 years in several locales. The season then progressed normally until November when temperatures in the north were again above normal, and the cold snap that generally drives out most of the lingering cranes, swans, and waterfowl did not occur until November 18-20. In South Dakota, November was extremely wet owing in part to storms that dumped up to 19 inches of snow. The entire season was marked by numerous late records, especially in November. In South Dakota, 20 species were designated as very late, and 24 as latest ever (BKH).

A concern to editors of this Region is the lack of coverage of sparsely populated areas within the Northern Great Plains, many of which contain prime habitats for several Blue-listed species. In all too many seasons, we do not receive reports for several of the Blue-listed species, although some are fairly common within their favored habitats. It was therefore particularly pleasing to receive quantitative information about birds associated with prairie-dog towns in Montana, and also late November observations from the badlands of North Dakota which, apart from the nesting season, are poorly known ornithologically. Additional surveys of this kind will be most welcome.

Italicized place names in this report are counties.

LOONS THROUGH NIGHT-HERONS — Six sightings of Com. Loons in e. North Dakota were all in the 3rd week of October. More than 200 Pied-billed Grebes were seen in *Ward* and *McHenry*, N.D., Sept. 4 (GBB). Very late grebes included two Horned and a Western seen Nov. 20, and an Eared Nov. 24, all in *Ward*, N.D. (GBB). The only Red-

S.A.

A **Brambling** was added to the Manitoba and Region list when a male was found in East St. Paul, Man., Oct. 22 (MGS). It was subsequently seen and photographed by most birders in the Winnipeg area. It frequented a leafy lawn in company of House Sparrows, Fox and White-throated sparrows and several other species. It foraged for seeds placed out to attract migrant sparrows and was last seen Oct. 24. Amazingly during this same time period another Brambling was seen at Atikokan, Ont., e. of the Prairie Provinces Region. Is it possible that these birds were pushed out of Siberia by unusually cold conditions that prevailed there in October?

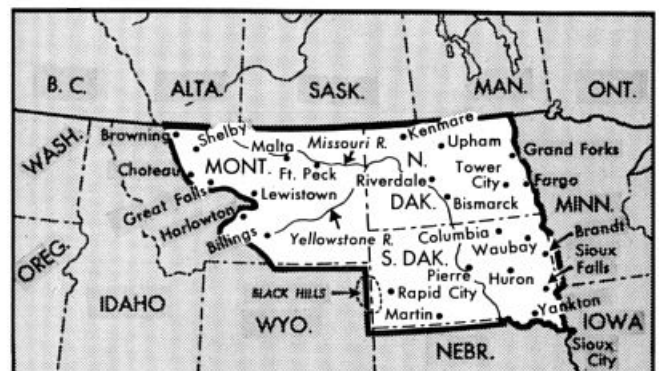
Good numbers of (Gray-crowned) Rosy Finches appeared in s.w. Saskatchewan after a virtual absence the last 2 years.

CORRIGENDA — In the September-October issue (*AB* 37: 884) Manitoba's first House Finch was credited to KDG (K.D. Gardner). The correct initials should be KAG (K.A. Gardiner).

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necked Grebe reported in migration was at Fargo Sept. 20 (MB). A total of 28 Am. Bitterns in the Dakotas included one found dead in a trap in *Turner*, S.D., Nov. 17 (LA).

A Least Bittern was seen Aug. 26 at *Waubay* N.W.R., S.D. (MR). Great Egrets, recently discovered nesting in South Dakota, continue to appear in numbers in North Dakota in early fall. Forty-six were counted in one roost at *Tewaukon* N.W.R., Aug. 27 (DP), and five occurred much farther n. at *Upper Souris* N.W.R., Aug. 14. Three counts of Cattle Egrets totaled 91 in e. South Dakota, yet none was reported for North Dakota where sightings are still very infrequent. An imm. night-heron at *Upper Souris* Aug. 28 was identified as a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** after careful comparison with a nearby imm. Black-crowned (GBB).



WATERFOWL — Greater White-fronted Geese were reported mainly from North Dakota Sept. 22-Oct. 22 where the 4 highest counts were 30+ each. The total of 58,000 Snow Geese at Tewaukon Nov. 6 was a record high there (DP). Two **Ross' Geese** were seen Nov. 6 with Snows at Ft. Peck, Mont. (CC). Three Wood Ducks found on the w. end of C M Russell N.W.R., Mont., Oct. 12 (LM), and an Am. Black Duck in *Divide*, N.D. (M. Nygaard), were all farther w. than usual. Twenty-five Am. Black Ducks were at Tewaukon Oct. 31 (CS). Gadwalls, Redheads, and Ring-neckeds all remained Nov. 30+ in *Yankton*, S.D., setting latest ever records there (WH). Three Oldsquaws were reported in North Dakota Oct. 28-Nov. 5. A **Black Scoter** was easily observed Oct. 30-Nov. 20 as it preferentially foraged at the base of a rock-lined, earthen dam at Upper Souris (RM), and two were observed in mid-November, in *Deuel* and *Yankton*, S.D. (BKH, WH). Two **Surf Scoters** were found Oct. 15 at Upper Souris (RM). A total of only seven White-winged Scoters was reported, although this is the expected scoter in this Region. More than 800 Buffleheads were at Upper Souris Oct. 31 (GBB) The peak count of 5000 Ruddy Ducks in *Deuel*, S.D., Oct. 21 was double the highest count previously recorded there (BKH).

FALCONIFORMES — The reports for this season tend to generate a feeling of optimism about some raptors of concern, especially those that have been strongly impacted by DDT. Yet, one must keep in mind the factor of variability, not only in the levels of individual and collective observer activity, which are difficult to estimate, but also in the migratory behavior of a given species which causes it to be common in a given area in some years and uncommon in others. With these caveats mentioned, we report below the Regional totals for some species. Rosche called this fall the best for hawks in South Dakota in 14 years, and Gniadek noted that Rough-legged and Red-tailed hawks were much more numerous in e. Montana than in the previous year.

Five observations of Turkey Vultures in e. South Dakota, and one in Fargo Nov. 9 (CAS), were unusual for those locations. The Regional total of Bald Eagles was 234, and where reported, roughly a third were immatures. Single adults in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P., N D , Aug. 7 (SS), and at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D., Aug. 28 (DT) were much ahead of the usual migration period. Twenty-two were roosting in one tree near Wibaux, Mont., Nov. 9 (TH). The total number of Cooper's reported was 20. For the 2nd consecutive fall, an outstanding **Northern Goshawk** flight was observed; the first observations were in late October and the number reported was 22. In e. Montana, seasonal totals of 373 Red-tailed Hawks, 35 Ferruginous, and 97 Rough-leggeds were recorded by Gniadek. The 25+ Am. Kestrels resting in the lee of the wind on a hillside near Lewistown, Mont., Aug. 19 was a most unusual observation (LM). Merlin and Peregrine Falcon sightings totaled 36 and 10, respectively. Prairie Falcons are being increasingly reported even at the e. boundaries of the Dakotas where they now appear every fall following the nesting period.

A 2-day survey of the North Dakota badlands s. of Medora turned up 42 hawks of 9 species November 25-26 (GBB, RM, DS), this at a time when migrant raptors are rare in most of the state. The total included three Bald Eagles, five N. Goshawks, 13 Golden Eagles, two Peregrines, and five Prairie Falcons. Four of six Red-tailed Hawks were of the Harlan's subspecies.

CRANES AND SHOREBIRDS — Two **Whooping Cranes** stole the scene Oct. 18 as they flew in front of a television crew filming Sandhills in *Kidder*, N.D. (CF). A total of 29 Whoopers was observed in North Dakota by wildlife personnel Oct. 6-Nov. 8 (*fide* PK).

Unusual sightings of shorebirds included a Red Knot at Fargo Sept. 16-20 (MB), and a White-rumped Sandpiper at Douglas, N.D., Aug. 14 (RM) The latter species is rarely observed after July. Numerous very late observations were made. Four Killdeer in Grand Forks Nov. 13 were a month beyond the usual departure there. A Willet was reported for Fargo Oct. 16 (EW). A Spotted Sandpiper in *Turner*, S.D., Nov. 16 was the latest ever by 3 weeks (LA). A Long-billed Dowitcher in *Brown*, S.D., Oct. 27 (EM), and a freshly killed (utility wire?) Com. Snipe found in a Grand Forks yard Nov. 12 were also late. Four species were last seen Nov. 7 in North Dakota, just prior to freeze-up: a Pectoral Sandpiper at Grand Forks, and Black-bellied Plovers, Baird's Sandpipers, and Dunlins at both Fargo and Grand Forks (DL, CAS, MB).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — An imm jaeger was observed at Hailstone N.W.R., Mont., Oct. 22 (HC, WR). Four Bonaparte's Gulls were in *Meade*, S.D., Oct. 29 for only the 2nd record w. of the Missouri R., in that state (JB). An ad. **Thayer's Gull** furnished the 2nd record for Fort Peck Sept. 29 (CC). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was again seen in *Yankton*, S.D., Nov. 30 (WH).

A Mourning Dove was incubating on the late date of Sept. 15 in *Bon Homme*, S.D. (LA). An **Inca Dove** appeared at a feeding station in Brookings, S.D., during the first half of October (R. Sowell, m.ob) Although the dove did not appear to show cage wear, one wonders about the probability of this individual of a sedentary species making it to South Dakota on its own. Yet, another sedentary species from the s.w., the Groove-billed Ani, occasionally wanders to the n. tier of states. The only report of a N. Saw-whet Owl was of one Oct. 30 in *Stutsman*, N.D (PV).

— S.A. —

In order to obtain data on avian species using Black-tailed Prairie Dog towns, Grensten under the auspices of the Bureau of Land Management systematically surveyed 112 towns within an 8638-acre area 40 mi s. of Malta, Mont. Among the results obtained Aug. 1-Sept. 8 were the following totals for 3 species on the *American Birds* Blue List: 38 Ferruginous Hawks, 172 Mountain Plovers, and 415 Burrowing Owls. Although repeated sightings of a smaller number of Ferruginous Hawks seems probable, the counts of plovers and owls should serve as minimal estimates of their populations. Included in these tallies were 57 imm. plovers and 227 imm. owls.

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Two Com Poorwills were consistently noted in August at the n. limit of their range in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P. (SS). Five White-throated Swifts in *Lawrence* (WH), and a Chimney Swift in *Mimemaha* Oct. 10 (GBI) were the latest ever for South Dakota. A Belted Kingfisher was very late in the North Dakota badlands Nov. 26 (DS). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was in Fargo Nov. 10-30 (B. Corwin). Black-billed Woodpeckers were observed within their range in the Black Hills in *Custer* and *Lawrence*, S.D. (RP, EM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH KINGLETS — A Say's Phoebe at L Ardoch N.W.R., N.D., Sept. 4 was e. of the known breeding range (GL). A **Cassin's Kingbird** was at Wounded Knee in *Shannon*, S.D., Sept. 18 for the 6th year out of 11. This location is perhaps the most consistent one for the state (RCR).

Barn Swallows peaked at an estimated 10,000 in mid-September at the Minot lagoons (RM). Observations of Gray Jay totaled 20 in *Custer*, S.D. (JB). A **Pinyon Jay** was more than 200 mi e. of the Black Hills in *Beadle*, S.D., Sept. 28-29 (J. Johnson). Clark's Nutcrackers were found in *Custer*, S.D., Oct. 16 & Nov. 6 (MP, RP). More than 500 Am Crows were feeding on grasshoppers near Ft. Peck Oct. 1. **Common Ravens** were observed at Minot Oct. 7 & 29 (RM, GBB), and near Roundup, Mont., Sept. 4 (CC).

The most unusual finds of the season were **Boreal Chickadees** in n c North Dakota (RM, GBB). The first was found Oct. 23 at the Minot Country Club where at least four were present at the end of November. Another was found in the International Peace Gardens Nov. 13, and two more in the experimental conifer forest near Denbigh Nov. 28. All sightings were in plantings of mature spruce. There are only 2 previous records for North Dakota.

Most observers commented on a strong Red-breasted Nuthatch flight with daily counts reaching 20-30 in areas where this species is seen only as a migrant. Six Pygmy Nuthatches were seen in *Custer*, S.D., Oct. 30 (RP). Late wrens included Winter Wrens at Grand Forks Nov. 6 and *Yankton*, S.D., Nov. 10, a Sedge Wren at Grand Forks Nov. 2, and a Marsh Wren in *Fall River*, S.D., Nov. 20. Golden-crowned Kinglets were first recorded in 3 widely separated North Dakota locations Sept 28.

THRUSHES THROUGH VIREOS — At least 15 Townsend's Solitaires were present Nov. 25 in the Limber Pines area of the North Dakota badlands (RM). A Gray-cheeked Thrush in Minot Sept. 24 furnished the

first fall observation there in 7 years although the species is fairly common in spring. A Wood Thrush in *Minnehaha*, S.D., Oct. 11 was very late and one of a few fall records (GBI).

Water Pipits which seem particularly partial to the dikes of lagoons were recorded very late Nov. 4, 5, and 6 in Minot, *Deuel*, S.D., and Grand Forks, respectively. A Sprague's Pipit in *Bon Homme*, S.D., Oct. 10 was the latest ever (LA). A strong showing by Bohemian Waxwings began Oct. 5 in Knowlton, Mont. (SG), and by Oct. 20 in Hope, N.D. (DK). Two just-fledged Cedar Waxwings were observed in Minot Sept. 22 (GBB). A Philadelphia Vireo was banded in *Gregory*, S.D., Oct. 6 (GS).

WARBLERS — Late dates were especially common in this group as 15 species were recorded after Oct. 1. Among these was a Tennessee in *Brown*, S.D., Oct. 15 (DT), and a Black-throated Green in *Sanborn*, S.D., Nov. 11 (RGR). **Cape May Warblers** in fall are considered very unusual, but a male was in *Ward*, N.D., Sept. 18 (GBB). A **Black-throated Blue Warbler** in *Fall River*, S.D., Sept. 29 provided the first South Dakota record w. of the Missouri R. (RP). Two in North Dakota were at Fargo Sept. 21 (MB) and Hope Sept. 29-Oct. 3 (DK). Three **MacGillivray's Warblers** at Ft. Peck Sept. 23 furnished the first for latilong 10 (CC).

TANAGERS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK — Four Scarlet Tanagers in e. North Dakota in late September were more than usually seen in fall. An Indigo Bunting banded Oct. 9 in *Gregory*, S.D., was the latest ever (GS). American Tree Sparrows were first seen Oct. 1 in both North Dakota and Montana. Lincoln's Sparrows are seemingly over-

looked by many observers, but 23 were banded in *Jackson*, S.D. (KG). A W. Meadowlark fledged Aug. 7 in *Hyde*, the latest ever recorded for South Dakota (JH). **Rosy Finches** (Gray-crowned race) appeared in the Pine Hills of e. Montana Oct. 23 (SG); Carlson noted that he had received the most reports ever. A flock of 30 was seen in the Ponderosa Pines area of North Dakota badlands Nov. 26 (RM, GBB) and seven were in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt Nov. 6 (SS). The 3rd record for **House Finch** in North Dakota was of one at Minot Sept. 23-Oct. 11 (GBB, RM). A flock of 25 Red Crossbills was present throughout the summer at Ft. Peck where a female and two immatures appeared at a bird bath Aug. 8 (CC). American Goldfinches fledged as late as Sept. 22 at Minot, and Sept. 24 at Tewauckon (DP). After being absent last year, Evening Grosbeaks were first noted at Forth Peck and 4 North Dakota localities during the last week of October.

CORRIGENDUM — Delete the N. Oriole record, *AB* 37 (5), 885.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Frances Williams

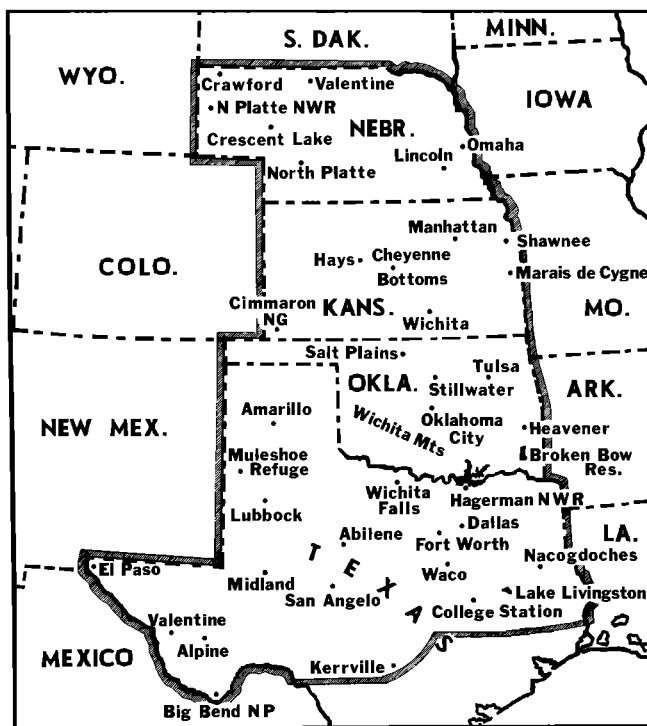
"It was a very slow migration which was over almost as soon as it started" wrote Barry Zimmer from El Paso. "Dull," "uneventful," "pitiful," "not the most exciting" were epithets applied by other contributors. Only at Tulsa, where there was an extraordinary number of shorebirds, was there any enthusiasm for the fall's events.

Weather remained dry and hot until mid-October when drought conditions were relieved by torrential rains and consequent flooding. Cold weather did not set in until the end of November, probably accounting for the number of late records cited. At Bartlesville, Melinda Droege commented, "November birding was unique—we found both longspurs and scissortails."

Italicized place names below indicate counties.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — An unidentified loon at El Paso Nov. 24 was the first loon seen there since 1971. A Horned Grebe was extremely early at Nacogdoches, Tex., Sept. 22 (DW). Western Grebes were found e. to *Lancaster*, Neb., Nov. 25 (JG), *Jefferson*, Kans., Nov. 12 (LM), Tulsa Nov. 14-19 (m.ob.), and *Panolo*, Tex., Nov. 25 (SC). Peak of Am. White Pelican migration occurred Oct. 9, when 20,000 passed over Grapevine L., in the Ft. Worth-Dallas area (KL). A **Brown Pelican** appeared at San Angelo, Tex., Oct. 20 on the heels of Hurricane *Tico* (TM). More than 3000 Double-crested Cormorants rested at L. Oologah, *Rogers* and *Nowata*, Okla., Oct. 9-16. Olivaceous Cormorants were recorded at *Cheyenne Bottoms* W.M.A., Kans., Sept. 10 (SS), Ft. Worth Aug. 14-16 (CH), *Kerr*, Tex., Aug. 4-31 (E & KM), and McNary, Tex., Oct. 28 (BZ).

HERONS — An Am. Bittern in a cat-tail drainage ditch at McNary Oct. 28 represented one of the few records of this species in far w. Texas (BZ). The Least Bitterns that nested at Oklahoma City remained until Sept. 16 (JGN), and one was discovered at Lewisville, Tex., Sept. 19 (ME, DJ). A Great Egret graced *Garden*, Neb., Sept. 16 (RCR). An ad. Little Blue Heron visited *Randall*, Tex., Sept. 4 (EW). A Tricolored Heron traveled to *Cheyenne Bottoms* with the remnant of Hurricane *Alicia* Aug. 20 (DV). Over 50,000 Cattle Egrets congregated near Boynton, Okla., Aug. 23 (JM). Extraordinary numbers of Cattle Egrets invaded trans-Pecos Texas. At Alpine almost 4000 gathered in a pasture



on the edge of town Sept. 14 (JSc), while 95 landed in a corral on a ranch in Ft. Davis and almost stampeded a herd of quarter horses Sept. 29 (PE). At El Paso, 244 were counted Oct. 11. An imm. Green-backed Heron lingered at *Washington*, Okla., to Oct. 26, 3 weeks late (BG). A flock of 12 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Tulsa Sept. 7 provided an unusual number for that area. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron found dead in *Pawnee*, Kans., Sept. 4 provided a 2nd county record (SS).

IBISES THROUGH STORK — Migrating White-faced Ibises become more abundant and widespread in the Region each year and tend to linger into late October and even November. Roseate Spoonbills were

found at 5 n.c. Texas localities July 25-Sept. 10. At Dallas, five Wood Storks were observed Aug. 18, and 19 were present Sept. 5. Four were seen at Waco, Tex., Sept. 15. Although both Roseate Spoonbills and Wood Storks occasionally wander to n. Texas, it seems probable that the large numbers this fall may be related to Hurricane *Alicia*. Certainly, a Wood Stork in *Lincoln*, Okla., Sept. 8 must have had some unusual impetus (EC).

WATERFOWL — A Fulvous Whistling-Duck appeared at Marais des Cygnes W.M.A., Kans., in mid-September (*vide* MC). A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was photographed at Tulsa July 18 (EH, m.ob.). No nearby zoos or waterfowl fanciers knew of a missing whistling-duck. A single Snow Goose rested on a cattle tank in Brewster, Tex., Nov. 26-30 (BM). Ross' Geese visited Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., Nov. 19 (SB) and Lubbock Nov. 23 (CSt). Wood Ducks were more common than usual in w. Texas and were reported in *Potter*, *Briscoe*, *Gray*, Midland and El Paso. A Mottled Duck was discovered in *Hunt*, Tex., Sept. 25 (JNu). A Cinnamon Teal remained in Rogers, Okla., through September (m.ob.). A Greater Scaup was studied at close range in *Sheridan*, Neb., Oct. 30 (RCR). Three Surf Scoters stopped in *Marion*, Kans., Oct. 23 (LM *et al.*). Four White-winged Scoters were at Tulsa Nov. 26. Hooded Mergansers adorned ponds at Omaha Nov. 11, Cheyenne Bottoms Nov. 25, *Potter*, Tex., Nov. 20 and Midland Nov. 30.



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Earl Johnson Res., Tulsa, Okla., July 18, 1983. Photo/E. Hayes.

RAPTORS — Observers in *Sarpy*, Neb., held an informal hawk watch along hills bordering the Missouri R., Sept. 15-Oct. 16. They counted 1196 raptors of 16 species, which may seem insignificant compared to other sites, but borders on the spectacular in e. Nebraska (TB). Ospreys fished at almost every large body of water (and some small ones) in the Region. An Osprey flying up and down the lagoon in Omaha Central Park Mall had nearby office workers rushing to windows to get a better look. Every time the Osprey made a fly-by pigeons boiled up from every roof around (RG). A **Black-shouldered Kite** could be found near Grand I., Neb., Aug. 31-mid-October (GLi) and one was seen in *Clay*, Tex., Oct. 1 (ER). A major influx of Mississippi Kites occurred in Nebraska, with sightings in *Hamilton*, *Polk* and *Sarpy* in early September. At Nacogdoches, Tex., 45 Mississippi Kites were counted Aug. 19 (SL). This species remained into October in *Comanche*, Okla., and Amarillo. Northern Goshawks were encountered in *Douglas*, Neb., *Pawnee*, Kans., and *Cherokee*, Okla. Gray Hawks were observed in *Brewster*, Tex., several times Aug. 9-Oct. 28.

Many migrating groups of Swainson's Hawks, some comprising hundreds of birds, gladdened plains observers: 1000 at Heard, Tex., Oct. 4, 500 near Lubbock for 2 weeks in September, 200 at Omaha Oct. 2, 200 in *Barton*, Kans., Oct. 2. Two Zone-tailed Hawks flew over Davis Mountains S.P., Tex., Oct. 27 (SW). At Bellevue, Neb., an ecology-

minded teacher took her 4th-grade class outside to see a flight of hawks. While the students watched, a Red-tailed Hawk dropped out of the sky and grabbed a ground squirrel, struggled with it momentarily and then carried it away (RG). A Ferruginous Hawk discovered near Nacogdoches Nov. 11 provided a first county record and possibly the first record for the entire Pineywoods region (MW, m.ob.). Merlins were reported at 10 localities, Peregrine Falcons at only 5. A gray-phase Gyrfalcon was photographed Nov. 6 in *Colfax*, Neb. (BJR).

RAILS THROUGH CRANES — A Virginia Rail wandered among the eggplants in an Omaha garden Sept. 20 (A & IW). Virginia Rails skulked in *Comanche*, Okla., Sept. 11 (KM), Big Bend N.P., Sept. 20 (DS, DL) and Black Gap W.M.A., Tex., Oct. 8 (BM). At Tulsa, a Com. Moorhen walked in a flower bed Oct. 13. At Midland, a Com. Moorhen Aug. 14 provided only the 5th record in 35 years, and a Purple Gallinule Aug. 30-Sept. 5 constituted only the 2nd record (m.ob.). A total of 16 Whooping Cranes was sighted in Nebraska in late October, ten visited Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Okla., in early November, and three flew over Lubbock Nov. 13.

SHOREBIRDS — Because of severe drought conditions, lakes in n.e. Oklahoma dropped much below normal levels opening enormous mud flats which attracted shorebirds in great numbers. Many species normally considered rare in that area were seen on every field trip. A Lesser Golden-Plover remained at Oklahoma City until Nov. 8 (JGN). Piping Plovers were noted at Tulsa Aug. 17, 21, Sept. 4, *Nowata*, Okla., Aug. 6, Hagerman N.W.R., Aug. 18, 20. Two Mountain Plovers were in a flooded alfalfa field near Dell City, Tex., Sept. 25 (SW). More than 30 Black-necked Stilts were at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., Aug. 20 (SS), and one in *Hunt*, Tex., Sept. 3 provided a first record (JK). More than 100 Am. Avocets remained at Great Salt Plains Nov. 5. An Upland Sandpiper provided a first record at Guadalupe Mountains N.P., Tex., Sept. 11 (SW). A Long-billed Curlew at Tulsa Aug. 30 constituted only a 2nd record there (JH, JA). A flock of 160 Long-billed Curlews at Ft. Davis Oct. 27 was unusual at that locality (BZ). Three Marbled Godwits were sighted in *Nowata* Aug. 27 (JH). Seven Ruddy Turnstones were at Tulsa Sept. 4. A Red Knot was discovered in *Washington*, Okla., Aug. 21 (ED). As many as 20 Sanderlings could be counted at once at L. Oologah. A Semipalmated Sandpiper was carefully identified at El Paso Sept. 3 (BZ). Dunlins were sighted at 7 localities. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were unusually numerous and appeared at 9 localities. Short-billed Dowitchers were reported at *Linn*, Kans., Oct. 10 (MC), Tulsa, Aug. 29-Sept. 1 (JH), Oklahoma City, Sept. 4 (JAG) and Hagerman Aug. 28 (KH). At Amarillo, an Am. Woodcock came down in an urban garden, providing a first record for the Texas Panhandle (JO, m.ob.). Red-necked Phalaropes visited Cheyenne Bottoms Sept. 6, 17 (DV), *Pawnee*, Okla., Sept. 5 (JH), *Gray*, Tex., Sept. 5 (KS) and Lubbock Sept. 11-Oct. 2 (CSt). Red Phalaropes were reported at Lubbock Sept. 12-21 (ML).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — A Parasitic Jaeger was found at Tulsa Oct. 22 (JH). Hurricane *Alicia* may have been responsible for Laughing Gulls appearing at Quivira N.W.R., and at 4 Oklahoma localities. Nine Franklin's Gulls at Black Gap Oct. 19 provided a first record there. A fast moving cold front Nov. 9 brought unusual numbers of Franklin's Gulls to far e. Texas: 240 in *Panola* (SC) and 360 at Nacogdoches (DW). A California Gull was located in *Rogers*, Okla., Sept. 25 (JH). A **Thayer's Gull** was photographed and carefully studied at Tulsa Oct. 23 (JH, EH *et al.*). A Sabine's Gull visited El Paso Oct. 1-3 (BJ, m.ob.). Caspian, Forster's and Black terns were common in n.e. Oklahoma because of the availability of mud flats. The uncommon Com. Tern was located at 4 localities in Oklahoma. A Forster's Tern provided a new county record in *Morton*, Kans., Sept. 11 (SS). Another hurricane waif was a Black Skimmer at Dallas Aug. 20-21 (MB, HN).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — An Inca Dove reached *Randall*, Tex., Oct. 16 (KS). A Com. Ground-Dove in *Burleson*, Tex., Oct. 17 was the first at that site since 1978 (KO). Black-billed Cuckoos lurked in *Sarpy*, Sept. 25 (KC, RM) and *Washington*, Okla., Sept. 13 (ED, PC). An ani that visited Mohawk P., Tulsa Oct. 5-6 had such a liking for dark, secluded places that it could never be determined whether it had a smooth or grooved bill (BJe *et al.*). A Groove-billed Ani in Big Bend N.P., Oct. 15 was not so retiring (CS). A screech-owl (East-

ern?) sat in a tree beside a downtown Bartlesville, Okla., office building Nov. 18 (BG). No reports of Long-eared Owls were received and only 3 of Short-eared Owls. A Com. Poorwill sat in the middle of a *Pawnee*, Kans., road on the frigid night of Nov. 2 (SS). A late Com. Nighthawk lingered in *Johnson*, Kans., until Oct. 29 (EM). A flock of Com. Nighthawks comprising 120 birds swept across *Washington*, Okla., Sept. 15. Several congregations of Chimney Swifts were noted: 5000 at Tulsa Oct. 23, 200 at Bartlesville Sept. 21. 350 at Cleburne, Tex., Nov. 3. At Bellevue, Neb., a small flock of Chimney Swifts made life miserable for a Sharp-shinned Hawk. The sharpie was trying to cross a schoolyard, but any way it turned the flock of swifts blocked its path. This went on for several minutes before the swifts seemingly tired of their game and let the hawk go on its way (RG). Magnificent Hummingbirds brightened El Paso Oct. 22-24 (m.ob.) and Alpine, Tex., Sept. 6-21 (SBo). Lucifer Hummingbirds remained at Alpine until Sept. 25. In Fontenelle Forest, *Sarpy*, Neb., hundreds of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fed on *Impatiens capensis* in late August and early September. An Anna's Hummingbird fed at a Lubbock feeder Sept. 28-Nov. 3 (RE, m.ob.) and as many as three visited El Paso Oct. 18-31 (FB, m.ob.). Calliope Hummingbirds enjoyed feeders at Alpine until Sept. 11. People who feed hummingbirds in Texas are usually admonished to take the feeders down by Oct. 15 in order not to entice the hummers to linger into winter. To test this bit of folk knowledge, Pansy Espy persuaded all feeder owners in Ft. Davis to remove them Oct. 1. As of Oct. 31, a Rufous Hummingbird was still present.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH CORVIDS — An Acorn Woodpecker at Black Gap Sept. 6 constituted a first, but not unexpected, record (BM). A Pileated Woodpecker at Cleburne, Tex., also provided a new record (CE). A Black Phoebe strayed to Amarillo Sept. 12 (NE, MEm). At Tulsa, an E. Phoebe lingered until Nov. 25, almost a month later than the previous record. A Vermilion Flycatcher wandered to *Rains*, Tex., Nov. 20 (JNu, RK). A Cassin's Kingbird stopped at Lubbock Oct. 3 (CS). About 80 E. Kingbirds rested in Tulsa's Mohawk P., Aug. 20. At Black Gap, an E. Kingbird Sept. 1 provided a first record (BM). An estimated 10,000 Barn Swallows performed aerial maneuvers above the Ft. Worth Nature Center Oct. 10. A Barn Swallow in *Sarpy* Nov. 6 was a month later than the previous state record. A Purple Martin at El Paso Sept. 18 provided only the 3rd area record. During early October, several observers noted a large number of Blue Jays migrating in flocks comprising 40-80 birds.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA — Small numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches were present throughout the Region Oct. 6-Nov. 30. In Texas, White-breasted Nuthatches seem to be increasing and slowly expanding their range. A Rock Wren trilled in *Bosque*, Tex., Nov. 15 (TG). A Carolina Wren at Midland Sept. 22-29 was the first at that locality since 1978. Winter Wrens were seen at 9 localities, and were reported to be common at Omaha and Muskogee, Okla. Golden-crowned Kinglets were abundant and widespread. Mountain Bluebirds arrived in Big Bend N.P., on the early date Sept. 17. A Townsend's Solitaire visited Great Salt Plains Nov. 5 (JH). A Swainson's Thrush in *Meade*, Kans., Nov. 5 was very late (SS). A Hermit Thrush in *Rush*, Kans., Nov. 6 provided a first county record (SS). Hundreds, even thousands, of Am. Robins flew over Nacogdoches Oct. 25-Nov. 20, none stopping in the area (DW). A Varied Thrush found dead in Great Bend, Kans., Oct. 29, constituted the 6th state record (SS). A Gray Catbird at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex. (hereafter, Buffalo L.), Nov. 13 was quite late. Three Curve-billed Thrashers were seen in *Throckmorton*, Tex., Oct. 28 (WP). Sprague's Pipits are reported less frequently than any other regular migrant in the Region. But observers in *Rush*, Kans., *Grady*, Okla., and Tulsa have learned the habits and habitat of the species and report it regularly. Early Cedar Waxwings at Elk City, Okla., Aug. 26 were eating green *Pyracantha* berries (IB). Two Phainopeplas at Buffalo L., Aug. 21 and one in Caprock Canyons S.P., *Briscoe*, Tex., Oct. 14 represented first records for the Texas Panhandle (PA, KS).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — Almost no vireos were reported, and even the normally common Solitary Vireo was scarce. Bell's Vireos were noted in *Comanche*, *Osage* and *Pawnee*, Okla. Philadelphia Vireos were observed at Bellevue, Neb., Sept. 9, 21, *Pawnee*, Kans., Sept. 5, *Stafford*, Kans., Sept. 10, Ft. Worth Oct. 9 and Midland

Sept. 21. The normally rare Blue-winged Warbler was located in Wyandotte, Kans., Sept. 18, Ft. Gibson, Okla., Aug. 29, *Rogers*, Okla., Sept. 24, Tulsa Aug. 20 and Ft. Worth Sept. 13. A Golden-winged Warbler brightened *Linn*, Kans., Sept. 11 (AC, LM). Chestnut-sided Warblers at Omaha Oct. 14 and College Station Oct. 19 were late. Magnolia Warblers were far w. of their usual route at Buffalo L., Sept. 25 (PA, RR), Big Spring, Tex., Oct. 2 (SCo) and El Paso Nov. 6 (BJ, JD). A Black-throated Blue Warbler provided a first record in Wayne, Neb., Oct. 8 (MEr), and one was seen at Ft. Worth Oct. 9 (JWS). A water snake captured a bathing Yellow-rumped Warbler in *Smith*, Tex. (TG). A Townsend's Warbler and two Hermit Warblers graced Big Bend N.P., Aug. 10 (GL). A Black-throated Green Warbler at Buffalo L., Nov. 13 was late. A Pine Warbler provided a first record in *Johnson*, Tex., Nov. 26 (CE) and one was located at Buffalo L., Sept. 25 (RR, KS). Prairie Warblers at Omaha Sept. 22 (TB) and *Collin*, Tex. (AV), constituted first county records. A Palm Warbler was found in *Burleson* Sept. 24 (KO). In *Sarpy*, 15 Blackpolls were seen on the late date Oct. 29 (RG). At El Paso, 21 N. Waterthrushes were counted during the season, more than all previous waterthrush records over the last 8 years (BZ). A Connecticut Warbler was banded at Plano Outdoor Learning Center, Tex., Sept. 17 (AV). A Hooded Warbler was sighted in *Crosby*, Tex., Sept. 16 (ML).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak and an Indigo Bunting in *Garden*, Neb., Sept. 15 constituted first fall records (RCR). Indigo Buntings and ♀ Painted Buntings remained late at many localities. A Green-tailed Towhee was found at Omaha Oct. 4 (MT). Cassin's Sparrows were abundant and singing constantly in *Crockett*, Tex., Aug. 9 and Big Bend N.P., Aug. 12 (GL). At this time, Cassin's Sparrows had disappeared from the Midland area. A Clay-colored Sparrow was found in Grayson, Tex., Sept. 24 (SB) and one in *Burleson* Oct. 5 provided a first fall record (KO). Vesper Sparrows arrived in the Texas Panhandle in good numbers but were extremely scarce at Midland. Lark Buntings were located in *Comanche*, Okla., Sept. 22 and *Jackson*, Okla., Oct. 24 (JDT). Two Baird's Sparrows were found at Buffalo L., Oct. 9 (KS). Le Conte's Sparrows were located in Tulsa, *Osage*, Okla., and Hagerman N.W.R., during October. The locally rare Fox Sparrow was seen in *Rush*, Kans., Nov. 6. Early winter storms to the n. pushed longspurs into the Region much earlier than usual. Large numbers of McCown's Longspurs were in *Randall*, Tex., Nov. 25. Lapland and Smith's longspurs were present in Tulsa and *Osage*, Okla., in flocks of hundreds after Nov. 19, while more than 500 Lapland Longspurs were in *Miami*, Kans., Nov. 20. Thousands of Lapland Longspurs appeared along the *Rush-Pawnee* line in Kansas Nov. 13, but by Nov. 28 even larger numbers appeared. On Nov. 29, Seltman drove 10 mi in *Pawnee* without being out of sight of Lapland Longspurs. "Estimating their numbers would be like trying to count mosquitoes on a Minnesota lake," he wrote. One Lapland Longspur with a flock of McCown's in *Jackson*, Okla., Nov. 25 represented a first fall record for s.w. Oklahoma (JAG). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were seen at Tulsa and Bartlesville where they are rarely found. Snow Buntings arrived in Chadron, Neb., Oct. 27 and *Lancaster*, Neb., in mid-November.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH EVENING GROSBEAK — Rusty Blackbirds fed on dogwood berries in Fontenelle Forest during October and one came to a feeder during a snowstorm. Up to 2000 Great-tailed Grackles polluted the environment in *Rogers*, Okla., through the season. Purple Finches were reported only at Omaha, Lincoln and Tulsa. Red Crossbills arrived at Lincoln in early October. Seltman spoke for everyone in the Region when he wrote, "Dust off the thistle feeders, the siskins are back!" Evening Grosbeaks arrived in Nebraska by Nov. 6 and were visiting feeders across the state by Nov. 30. They arrived in *Johnson*, Kans., Nov. 4.

CORRIGENDA — The Tillman County White-tailed Kite was seen Nov. 21, not Oct. 21 (AB 37:197). The Chestnut-sided Warbler was in Comanche County, Oklahoma, not the city of Comanche (AB 37:198). Likewise, the House Finch was in Comanche County, not the city (AB 37:316).

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Greg W. Lasley

Early August was slightly cooler than normal with moderate rain in most areas. Above normal rainfall throughout the summer in Austin and eastward provided an excellent seed and berry crop by the beginning of the fall period. Some inland areas, however, were drier than normal.

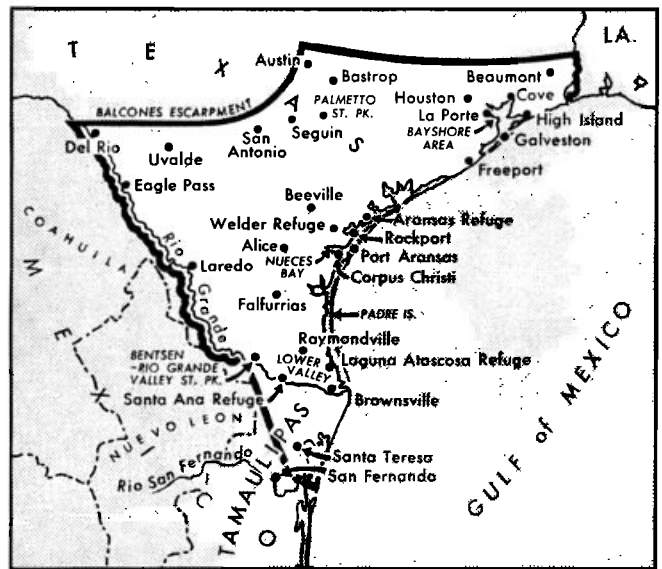
The major weather event of the season was Hurricane *Alicia*, which made landfall on western Galveston Island early August 18. This late-developing hurricane packed winds up to 115 m.p.h. at landfall, causing extensive damage to woodlands over a large area of the Upper Texas Coast (hereafter U.T.C.), and property damage was in the billions of dollars. Because the storm developed over the Gulf of Mexico rather than the Caribbean or the Atlantic, vagrant pelagic species were virtually absent. However, several coastal species were driven well inland. Several Black Skimmers fed in a flooded field over 50 miles inland, along with Laughing Gulls and coastal tern species (R & GC, MA). Behrstock and Morgan surveyed the coast from Anahuac N.W.R., to Galveston August 20. Notable were numbers of dead herons and egrets, apparently storm-killed, at a roosting site near Crystal Beach.

The only other significant weather event was a strong cool front September 20-22. It was the second strongest cool front in 20 years for the month of September, and its effects were felt all the way to the Lower Rio Grande Valley (hereafter, L.R.G.V.). October and November were much warmer than normal.

GANNET THROUGH STORK — A sub-ad. N. Gannet was found dead on the beach at Mustang I., Oct. 24, a rather early date for the location (TA). Over 1500 Am. White Pelicans were counted by participants of the 7th annual hawk watch along the Nueces R., near Corpus Christi Oct. 8 (CS *et al.*). Anhingas moved through the Region in good numbers during October with large concentrations noted on the U.T.C. (GL) and at Alice (RA); 26 over Corpus Christi Nov. 3 (KM) were probably late migrants, but the species winters at various locations on the Texas coast in moderate numbers. Magnificent Frigatebirds appeared in higher than normal numbers just before and after Hurricane *Alicia*. The largest counts were of 17 over w. Galveston Bay Aug. 14 (MA) and 50 at Aransas N.W.R., Aug. 18 (MK, GL). A lone frigatebird at Port Aransas Oct. 6 was rather late (CC). Heron and egret populations appeared normal throughout. There were several reports of Reddish Egrets away from their typical coastal habitats. Individuals were noted at L. Alice Aug. 27 (RA), Falcon L., Nov. 25 (G & BL, JN), and at Sinton (CC). An unusually large roost of 250+ mixed Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned night-herons was found at the mouth of the Rio Grande, at Boca Chica Nov. 27 (G & BL, JN). High numbers of Wood Storks were counted on the hawk watch near Corpus Christi Oct. 8, with several flocks containing 100+ birds (CS *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were scarce while Black-bellieds occurred in unprecedented numbers. Black-bellieds bred in typical numbers at Santa Ana N.W.R., but most had deserted the area by the 3rd week of September (SL). A pair of Black-bellieds with 12 downy young were at an Austin sewage pond Aug. 30 (EK *et al.*); at least three pairs fledged young in the Austin area during August and September.

In addition to the fantastic numbers on the U.T.C., as many as 600



S.A.
Morgan has reported an "explosion" in the population of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on the U.T.C. Although increased numbers of this species have been noted by U.T.C. observers for years, no one was prepared for the population boom seen this fall. "During November numerous reports from many observers showed that the numbers of Black-bellieds in w. Harris County (particularly at Warren L.) varied from several hundred to 2500 individuals! The latter number was obtained by Feltner over a 4-hr period. Feltner estimated that 60-70% of the birds were young of the year, showing a tremendous hatch this season."

birds were present on Eagle L., Colorado Co., during the period (WS, *vide* JM).

A flock of 80 Greater White-fronted Geese over Rockport Oct. 14 was considered early (CC), but by the end of the period c. coast observers were still waiting for geese to arrive (KM). Greater White-fronteds and Snow geese were observed in high numbers in w. Harris County by Nov. 1 (MH); however, low levels of rice production in the Eagle L. area did not provide sufficient food, and the large number of geese that normally winter there had begun moving toward coastal marshlands by the end of the period (WS, *vide* CS). A N. Pintail appeared early in the Rockport area Aug. 27 (CC), occurring later in good numbers throughout. Several Redheads were very early at Rockport Aug. 22 (CC), and numbered in the thousands at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., by Nov. 27 (G & BL, JN). Greater Scaup, typically rare in the Region, made several appearances. At Padre I., a male was studied carefully Nov. 19 (CC), and two females at an Austin sewage pond Nov. 25-30 were seen by many observers (JA *et al.*). Several Oldsquaws were present in Austin during November. The only scoter reported for the season was a White-winged at Anahuac N.W.R., Nov. 25 (MG, PN). A pair of Ruddy Ducks with three recently hatched young were at the Port Aransas

sewage ponds Sept. 17 (TA). Although breeding has been suspected in that area, this was the first confirmation.

RAPTORS — There were no ad. Hook-billed Kites and only one immature observed during the period at Santa Ana N.W.R. (SL). Peak Mississippi Kite movements were noted Aug. 20 (with *Alicia's* landfall) & Aug. 27. On the latter date, 500 were seen at Alice (RA). Bald Eagles were somewhat more widespread than normal, including three or four at various times in Travis County (*vide* CS), and one adult at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Aug. 8 (GD). Sharp-shinned Hawks numbered a record 160 on the hawk watch Oct. 8. One Com. Black-Hawk and at least two Gray Hawks were reported by many observers at Rancho Santa Margarita during November. The major cool front Sept. 20-22 apparently concentrated Broad-winged Hawks into virtually one massive flight (TAm, MAn, RA *et al.*). Ray Little reported over 250,000 Broad-winged over the Nueces R., Sept. 23, and several thousand were reported along the coast and in the L.R.G.V., Sept. 21-25 (RL, TAm *et al.*). The Swainson's Hawk migration was described as "fantastic" in the L.R.G.V. (GD). A White-tailed Hawk just s.e. of Austin Nov. 25 was unprecedented in recent decades (BW, *vide* CS). Ferruginous Hawks were more numerous and widespread throughout the Region than normal. A Golden Eagle near Luling Nov. 12 (EK) was a rare find in that Blackland Prairie area. The Merlin and Peregrine Falcon migrations were generally very good. Fourteen Peregrines were seen on the Oct. 8 hawk watch and about 300 were trapped and banded during the season in the continuing U.S.F. & W.S. studies on Padre I. (KR, *vide* CS).

CHACHALACA THROUGH CRANES — Plain Chachalacas introduced on Welder Wildlife Ref., are apparently surviving; at least two were heard calling Aug. 17 (CC). Virginia Rails have become increasingly common in the Austin area during migration in recent years. At least four were noted at various Austin locations during October (*vide* EK). Five Yellow Rails were flushed by marsh buggy at San Bernard N.W.R., Oct. 22 (JM *et al.*).

Sixty-seven ad. and six juv. Whooping Cranes were present at Aransas N.W.R., by Nov. 21 (TS). One of the adults had spent the summer on the refuge. Stehn also reports that 2 groups of whoopers were tracked by radio telemetry during their migration from Wood Buffalo N.P., to Aransas. Two sub-ad. birds that were banded in 1982 traveled together throughout their journey, leaving Wood Buffalo Sept. 23 and arriving at Aransas Oct. 25. A family group was monitored as it left the breeding grounds Sept. 23 and arrived at Aransas Nov. 10.



Marbled Godwit, Austin, Tex., Oct. 10, 1983. Photo/G. Lasley.

PLOVERS THROUGH PHALAROPES — Lesser Golden-Plovers, uncommon in fall, were reported from several areas. Three were at Austin Oct. 3-15, two were seen in Galveston County Oct. 9 (TBF, LF), and one was on Boliver Pen., Oct. 24 (MH). Numbers of Am. Avocets were somewhat low in the c. coast area (KM), but seemed in good supply elsewhere. Long-billed Curlews arrived at Santa Ana N.W.R., as early as the last week of July (SL). A Marbled Godwit paid a visit to Austin Oct. 10-23 for a first fall area record (JA, GL). Ten Red Knots constituted a new Jim Wells County record Aug. 28; two were still present Sept. 2 (RA). Excellent numbers of "peep" sp. were present at

Austin sewage ponds from early August through early October. Unusually abundant were Western, Least, Baird's, and Pectoral sandpipers. Stilt Sandpipers moved through Austin in good numbers during mid-September (GL), and several individuals lingered on the U.T.C., as late as Nov. 14 (JM, MH). Arvin noted, however, that the species winters in moderate numbers at inland locations in the L.R.G.V. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from numerous locations during August and September. A flock of 200+ near Corpus Christi Sept. 4 (KM) was noteworthy, as was a single individual on the beach at Mustang I., Oct. 10 (TA) considering the late date and the atypical habitat. A Red-necked Phalarope was seen by many at Austin's "Platt's Ponds" Sept. 20. This species is seen in small numbers nearly every fall at this same location, but a Red Phalarope there Oct. 7 (GP) was unexpected.

JAEGERS THROUGH ANIS — Any jaeger species is rare in Texas, but there were numerous reports this fall. Two imm. Pomarines [one light-phase, one dark-phase!—Ed.] were well described at Port Aransas Aug. 30 (CC). Two more Pomarines were at the same location Oct. 31 (BBa, CT). A Parasitic was observed in Galveston just after *Alicia's* passage (TE), and an immature allowed close approach at Boliver Flats Sept. 10 (ph., BBe, TBF). Franklin's Gulls were noted in large numbers in w. Harris County Nov. 10-13 (RT), elsewhere occurring in good numbers as well. Amos observed four individuals on Mustang I., Oct. 22 still in breeding plumage, complete with "a pink blush" evident on the breast. Lesser Black-backed Gulls have occurred more or less regularly in recent fall seasons at several coastal locations, usually s. of Port Isabel. The only reported individual this season, however, was an adult in summer plumage at Mustang I., Sept. 20 (ph.—TA). A Great Black-backed Gull returned for its 4th consecutive season to Kemah (JM). Clark noted that Com. Terns become scarce in the Rockport area and farther s. on the Texas coast by late September, and are usually absent in winter. The species, however, is listed as uncommon on the U.T.C., in fall and winter and is reported there regularly. Clark questions why the species winters on the U.T.C., and farther e., but apparently avoids the c. and lower coast.

The "parrot problem" in the L.R.G.V., is becoming more complex. Flocks of up to 12 Green Parakeets were seen over Brownsville on several occasions during October (DB, *vide* JA). The species occurs in s. Tamaulipas but the status of the Brownsville population is highly questionable. A group of four Red-crowned Parrots feeding on *Anacua* (*Ehretia anacua*) fruit in Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Sept. 16-25 were thought to be wild (JA). Several small flocks of Red-crowneds were in Brownsville from early October through the end of the period. One such flock contained two White-fronted Parrots and at least one Red-lored Parrot. The latter 2 species were probable escapees, but at least some of the Red-crowneds were thought to be wild birds (TP, JA, WG, BB *et al.*).

Most of the breeding population of Groove-billed Anis had deserted Santa Ana N.W.R., by the 3rd week of September (SL), but what are presumed to be post-breeding wanderers were noted as far n. as Galveston County by several observers as late as Oct. 29.

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Common Nighthawks moved through the Austin area in impressive numbers in late August. Several hundred foraged in the bright lights of the state capitol's dome on the night of Aug. 29. As many as six were still being seen there on the very late date of Nov. 15 (GL). There have been several reports of Black Swifts in the Region during August and September in recent years, and this year was no exception. A group of six was reported with a large flock of Chimney Swifts near Corpus Christi Sept. 24 (KM *et al.*). Because documentation is still lacking, the species is considered hypothetical in the state; further information is solicited. Large migrational flights of Chimney Swifts were noted in most areas except the L.R.G.V. Arvin saw a lone Chimney Swift over Brownsville Oct. 12 which was one of the very few fall records in that area. During fall migration the species apparently moves well E and crosses the Gulf to Central America as there are no Mexican records in fall except for a few sight reports from Cozumel I. (*vide* JA). An injured White-throated Swift was picked up in downtown Austin Oct. 11 for a 3rd area record (*vide* EK).

High numbers of Buff-bellied Hummingbirds moved into the U.T.C. area during November. At least 9 substantiated sightings occurred (MA,



Williamson's Sapsucker, Travis Co., Tex., Nov. 21, 1983. Photo/B. Ribble.

JM et al.) A few Rufous Hummingbirds remained at Austin and at several U.T.C. locations through the end of the period. A Green Kingfisher was a rare find at L. Corpus Christi Nov. 15 (CC); the species does not normally range that far e. A ♂ **Williamson's Sapsucker** was discovered at Austin's McKinney Falls S.P., Nov. 11 (EK, KF) and remained through the end of the period. The bird established a foraging pattern in a small area of the park and roosted each night at the same spot.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS — *Empidonax* migration peaked in Austin during the first week of September (DC, GL), and most had moved through the Corpus Christi area by Sept. 19 (KM). A Black Phoebe returned to the same location in Austin for the 2nd consecutive fall Nov. 20 (*fide* EK) and stayed through the end of the month. Another Black Phoebe visited Santa Ana N.W.R., in mid-November (SL).

Many contributors commented on the variety and the impressive numbers of migrating kingbirds and flycatchers. Some species were noted in numbers far above any previously reported. A Brown-crested Flycatcher was well out of range at High I., Sept. 11 (SW). September 11 was also a heavy migrational flight day for both Couch's and E. kingbirds. Albert counted over 250 Couch's and 250 Easterns moving along the shore of L. Alice, while Clark counted in excess of 340 Easterns in 20 min moving W along the n. shore of Nueces Bay. Cassin's Kingbirds typically do not range E of the Trans-Pecos area, but there were a remarkable 3 reports of the species in the Region this period, all with excellent details: one at L. Alice Aug. 27 (RA), one at Matagorda Bay Oct. 5 (HS), and one at San Antonio Oct. 7-10 (TH *et al.*). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers also staged some very dramatic flights. "Swarms" of Scissor-taileds moved through the Corpus Christi area Sept. 4-18 (KM), and several hundred were counted at one Austin location Oct. 6 (JA, G & BL). The most spectacular show of Scissor-taileds, however, was a flock of 1000+ at dusk Oct. 8 near Robstown (G & BL). The birds were shoulder to shoulder on every available phone wire and tree limb in the area. Six late Scissor-taileds remained in Austin Nov. 16 (EK).

Tree Swallow numbers were low in Rockport (CC), but unremarkable elsewhere. Northern Rough-winged Swallows appeared in tremendous numbers at several U.T.C. locations Oct. 23. Several thousand were counted in 15 min at High I., moving S along the beach and coastal grasslands (G & BL), while at the same time, 45 mi s. at Freeport, Sexton counted 6000 during 1½ hrs. Brown Jay populations remain stable at the usual locations. Red-breasted Nuthatches went unreported this season, but both kinglets were in good numbers. A pair of Town-

send's Solitaires wandered E to Hays County Sept. 23 (BH, *fide* EK), and two Veeries banded near Austin in late September provided very rare records (DC, CT). American Robins were moving into the area in substantial numbers by late November (m.ob.); their numbers seemed to increase daily. A Sage Thrasher was seen briefly at Ft. Anahuac P., Oct. 11 (DD).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — A Yellow-throated and a Warbling Vireo were both very early at Corpus Christi Aug. 15 (CC). Warblers, as a rule, appeared in moderate numbers but with interesting variety. A Blue-winged at Rancho Santa Margarita Nov. 20 (SC) was very late, and there were several reports of Golden-wingeds, a very uncommon fall migrant, on the U.T.C. (MA *et al.*). Nashville Warblers were typically abundant in Austin during early October, and 100+ were banded at Driftwood (DC). Two Black-throated Blues showed up at High I., Oct. 22-23 (MA *et al.*), and a female was studied at Aransas N.W.R., Nov. 30 (CC). Three Black-throated Grays were seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., during October (SL); this species is regular in the L.R.G.V., in fall. A Blackpoll provided a new Jim Wells County record when one was found at L. Alice Sept. 11 (RA).

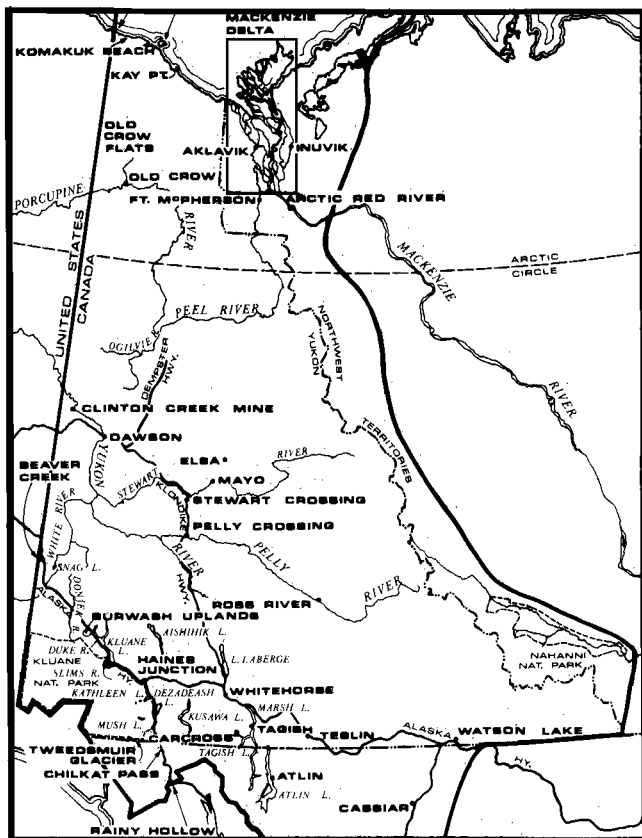
SPARROWS THROUGH SISKIN — Most wintering sparrows were reported in excellent numbers by the end of the period. Grassland species such as Savannah, Grasshopper, and Le Conte's were especially numerous at several locations near Austin. Sharp-tailed Sparrows were more common than usual at Sabine Pass (WG), and a Dark-eyed Junco arrived early at Port Aransas Oct. 14 (TA). A Bobolink was a rare find at L. Alice Aug. 27 (RA). A juv. Bronzed Cowbird was being fed by a Green Jay at Bentsen-Rio Grande S.P., Oct. 16 (JA). This may represent a new late breeding record for that parasitic species. Orchard Orioles were scarce at most locations, but 500 "Baltimores" in Corpus Christi's Blucher P., Sept. 21 (KM) were noteworthy. Pine Siskins began showing up in small numbers at a few areas in the Region. Two at Freeport Oct. 22 (CS) were early, with most reports in the Austin area occurring during November. The Region has not experienced a major siskin invasion since the winter of 1977-78.

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION /Helmut Grünberg

August and September were cool and moist in the Region while October was about normal. Except in the Fort St. John area, precipitation in November was extremely low (one tenth of the long-term average in Whitehorse), setting the stage for a dry winter in many areas.

It has always been difficult to receive bird reports from contributors in the fall season, and this one is no exception. The reason for this probably lies in the fact that the request for bird reports comes in early December, the depth of winter in our area when most birds have left for the south, and in the fact that the long "fall" season covers the end of the almost forgotten summer (August), a short autumn (September, October) and the beginning of winter (November). Only 174 species were reported in the Region this season.



LOONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Two observations of a Red-throated Loon Sept. 18 & Oct. 2 were considered rare in the Fort St. John area (CS). A flock of 22 Arctic Loons near Fort St. John Sept. 24 was most unusual (CS). A Yellow-billed Loon in winter plumage was observed in the company of a Com. Loon near the Yukon R. bridge 25 km s.e. of Whitehorse (HG, TM). A rare Great Blue Heron was reported in Whitehorse in early August (J & PD). Three Trumpeter Swans were observed near Fort St. John Sept. 11 for the area's 2nd fall record (CS).

An Osprey was observed at Tagish, Yukon Oct. 5 (WH). A dark-phase ad. Swainson's Hawk was seen near Fort St. John Sept. 11 (CS). This provided the 2nd confirmed record for the British Columbia section of the Peace R. area. A Peregrine Falcon was observed at Slims R., Kluane N.P., Aug. 21 (RiC). One Gyrfalcon was seen near the Haines Rd., n. B.C., Aug. 26 (RiC), and two were recorded at Kluane N.P., Aug. 30 (CH). A "probable" Cooper's Hawk was noted near Yellowknife Aug. 11 (CH). This species has not been documented in any part of the Region to my knowledge, although one or 2 sight records without detailed descriptions exist.

A W. Sandpiper was noted near Fort St. John Aug. 3 (CS), and one was seen at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse Aug. 21 (HG, CH, TM). Eight Stilt Sandpipers, observed Aug. 21, constituted the highest number ever encountered at Swan L. (HG, CH, TM). During the same field trip, at least six Short-billed Dowitchers were identified. A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen flying S at Kluane L., Sept. 5 (RiC). During a trip on the MacMillan R., c. Yukon, a Glaucous Gull was observed Sept. 23-29 (M & PBea). A Com. Tern was seen in Yellowknife Aug. 10 (CH). A Rufous Hummingbird was seen in Teslin, Yukon Aug. 11 & 17 (LG), and two stayed at Graham Inlet, n. B.C., until Aug. 21 (MBr).

PERCHING BIRDS — A probable E. Phoebe stayed near a cabin and roosted on the window sill for a week at Ortell Mt., e.c. Yukon, in early September (KC, *fide* to M & PBea). A **Steller's Jay** was observed n.e. of its normal range, for the first time in the Peace R. area of British Columbia at a feeder near Fort St. John Sept. 28-late November (CS). Seven Am. Crows were reported in Yellowknife Aug. 11 (CH). Mountain Chickadees were seen throughout the season at a feeder in Whitehorse-Porter Creek (LS); two were observed at Tagish, Yukon Oct. 5

and one Oct 19 (WH) A White-breasted Nuthatch was recorded in the company of five Red-breasteds near Fort St. John for the 2nd Peace R., B.C., record Nov. 20 (CS). A Townsend's Warbler was identified at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse Aug. 21 (CH, TM), and seven Palm Warblers were seen in Yellowknife Aug. 11 (CH). A ♀ Connecticut Warbler with one juvenile was spotted Aug. 2 in an area near Fort St. John where a pair had been observed during the summer (CS) The observation of two imm. **Harris' Sparrows** near Fort St. John Sept 18 was the first one for the Peace R., B.C. area (CS).

ADDENDUM — Several noteworthy observations of rare birds came to my attention after the seasonal reports had been written. A **Black Vulture** appeared in s.w. Yukon in late July 1982; it was observed by a number of people and photographed at the s. end of Kluane L., July 22, 1982 (DL) and at Jarvis R., Kluane Game Sactuary in early August, 1982 (JM). The latter observation and photograph were published in the newsletter of Kluane N.P., *Kluane*, Autumn 1982. This observation constitutes the first record for the Yukon and the Region. A Whimbrel of one of the Eurasian subspecies (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus* or *N. p. phaeopus*) was seen and photographed near Fort St. John June 11, 1983 (CS *et al.*). A **Forster's Tern** was observed at Charlie L., near Fort St. John in early June 1983 (DS, *fide* to CS) for a first Peace R., B C., record and first record for the Region. Three to four apparent Siberian Tits were seen at Bluefish Caves, 70 km s.s.w. of Old Crow, Yukon, in open spruce forest at 600 m elevation July 8, 1983 (Ro & SC)

CONTRIBUTORS — M. & P. Beattie (M & PBea), M. Bentley (MBen), M. Brook (MBr), K. Cameron, Richard, Robert & Syd Cannings (Ri, Ro & SC), R. Carlson (RC), J. & P. Dabbs, L. Geddes, W. Harms, C. Harris, W. Klassen, L. Kubica, J. Lammers, M. Lammers, D. Leverton, T. McIlwain, J. McIntyre, L. Schuler, C. Siddle, D. Sterling, P. Wilson—**H. GRÜNBERG**, Yukon Conservation Society, 201 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada, Y1A 2B6.

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

The Region enjoyed a warm autumn with late freezing of lakes and ponds, inviting lingerers. The western part of the Region was generally dry and the eastern part wet in August through October. The situation reversed after that, with November one of the wettest on record in eastern Oregon and Washington but relatively dry eastward. High water levels at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Oregon, provided roadside habitat where shorebirds were easily observed. Conversely, low water at American Falls Reservoir in southern Idaho provided excellent feeding areas for this group.

LOONS, GREBES — A summer-plumaged Red-throated Loon was photographed on Cascade Res., Valley Co., Ida., Aug. 27 (MRC, m.ob.) and one was observed at Massacre Rocks S.P., Power Co., Ida., Oct. 13 (DMT). Two Arctic Loons at Massacre Rocks Nov. 6+ were eventually shot by hunters (*to Idaho St. Univ.—CHT). One was sighted on Wilson Lake Res., Jerome Co., Ida., Nov. 23 (MRC). Three were at Okanagan Landing, B.C., Nov. 21-30 (PR) and one or two were photographed on Island L., Crowsnest Pass, Alta., Nov. 1-2 (MDO, DFF, MW, CT). Silver L., Spokane Co., Wash., had two Oct. 23 (JA) and one was on L. Lenore, Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 21-22 (DP) A Yellow-billed Loon visited Okanagan Landing Nov. 21-30 (PR, m.ob.).

An ad. Red-necked Grebe feeding an imm. bird at Henrys L., Fremont Co., Ida., confirmed breeding there (CHT). Malheur N W R reported the best nesting success ever for W. Grebes there, with an estimated 8750 young produced. Two ad. and two fully grown imm light-phase ("Clark's") Grebes were observed on Wilson Lake Res., Nov. 23 (MRC) and two were on the Columbia R., in Richland, Wash., Oct. 23 (REW).



PELICANS, CORMORANTS — American White Pelican numbers were down markedly at N. Potholes Res., Moses L., Wash. Three of this species were on Creston Wildlife Centre, s.e. B.C., Nov. 12 (PRS). An aerial survey at Malheur Nov. 7 revealed 1285 Double-crested Cormorants, a much higher count than normal. The species had at least 30 active nests this year at N. Potholes.

HERONS, IBISES — Most colonial nesters at Malheur had a good year, production as follows: Great Blue Heron 940; Great Egret 1530; Snowy Egret 180; Black-crowned Night-Heron 1950 and White-faced Ibis 1020. A Cattle Egret lingered in a Franklin County, Wash., pasture in late November (TT, GS) and singles were sighted in Glacier N.P., B.C., Nov. 1 (ED) and at Revelstoke, B.C., the next day (RB). Two were sighted near Springfield, Ida., Sept. 7 (DMT, CHT) and one was at Big Timber, Mont., Oct. 6 (BE). Klamath County, Ore., had a Green-backed Heron Sept. 18 (SS) and two juveniles were at Tranquille, B.C., Aug. 3. The birds are extremely rare in interior British Columbia (RR).

WATERFOWL — Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont., witnessed the passage of 1500 Tundra Swans, the largest aggregation reported. The sewage pond at Hatfield L., Bend, Ore., had 14 of the birds, which are rarely seen in that area. Trumpeter Swans numbered 39 at Malheur Nov. 28-29 and the three adults and one cygnet at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., remained to the period's end. A lone Trumpeter appeared at La Grande, Ore., Nov. 24-27 (JE, m.ob.). Stratford L., Grant Co., Wash., had at least nine Greater White-fronted and 16 Snow geese plus four blue-phase. A lone Greater White-fronted appeared on Pend Oreille L., n. Ida. (PLH) and Malheur had a blue-phase Snow. Up to 100,000 Canada Geese were counted on Stratford L., and other waters of Grant Co., Wash., in October (JA, RF). Their peak at Turnbull was 3899, over three times last year's, and the Idaho Panhandle aerial survey showed 3527, up slightly (I.F.G.). Malheur's goose peaks were: Canada 4535; Snow 3500; and Ross' 700. Canadas at Columbia and Saddle Mountain N.W.R.s, Othello, Wash., reached 3320 and 1470 respectively and up to 3000 were at Richland.

Because of high water levels duck use at Turnbull was double last year's, with Mallards, N. Pintails and Am. Wigeon accounting for most of the rise. Mallards at Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., peaked at 18,000, Gadwall at 1000, Canvasback at 1800, Bufflehead at 2000, Com. Goldeneye at 1000 and Red-breasted Mergansers at 200. Peak puddle duck numbers at Malheur follow: Green-winged Teal 3860, Mallard 5735, N. Pintail 7105, Cinnamon Teal 12,450, Gadwall 7890, and Am. Wigeon 8275. Numbers were comparable to previous years for

puddle ducks on aerial surveys over the Idaho Panhandle Nov. 11: Mallard 11,552, Am. Wigeon 14,680, and Gadwall 450 (first time on fall count for the last). Canvasback numbers at 2700 on that survey were by far the highest since at least 1972 and Lesser Scaup showed very high numbers at 4800. Redheads numbered 16,860 and Ring-necked Ducks 2500.

For rarities two Eur. Wigeon were at Yakima Nov. 25 (Y.A.S.) and a male was with four σ wigeon on Deep L., s.e. of Northport, Wash., Nov. 15 (VB). A supposed Am. x Eur. Wigeon appeared at Bend Oct. 18 (TC). Two σ Harlequin Ducks were at Trail, B.C., Nov. 7+ and a female was sighted there Nov. 21 (ME). A σ Oldsquaw stayed at Turnbull Nov. 11+ (m.ob.) and one was at Castlegar, B.C., Nov. 27-30 (ME). Surf Scoter sightings were up: at Trail (ME) and Crowsnest Pass (MDO), B.C.; at Wilson L. and Am. Falls Res. (MRC); at Massacre Rocks an imm. female collected for apparently the first Idaho specimen (JMS); at Bear Lake N.W.R., Bear Lake Co., Ida. (GLD); at Bend (TC) and Upper Klamath L., Ore. (SS), and at L. Lenore (JA). A few White-winged Scoters, slightly less unusual, appeared in s. British Columbia, n. Idaho, e. Washington and at Lakeview, Ore. Single Red-breasted Mergansers were identified on the Snake R., at Lewiston, Ida. (WHe *et al.*) and at Richland (REW), and Malheur obtained its first record and s.e. Oregon's second (MA). Up to eight appeared in Elk Valley near Sparwood, B.C. (DFF).

VULTURES THROUGH FALCONS — A very late Turkey Vulture was weathering a snowstorm on a snag near Flathead, B.C., Nov. 10 (GK). One or two nesting Ospreys were seen Aug. 7 on the artificial structure erected for them at Salmon, Ida., but successful fledging was not confirmed. A pair of Bald Eagles at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., created quite a stir when they started a nest in a cottonwood tree. Bald Eagle numbers in the McDonald Cr. area of Glacier N.P., Mont., reached their peak Oct. 26, the earliest date ever, but the peak of 251 was the lowest since 1968 (RMCC). A Red-shouldered Hawk was at Upper Klamath L. for the 3rd county record (SS). Malheur had a Broad-winged Hawk Oct. 2 (JG, DI). An ad. Krider's Red-tailed Hawk appeared several times s. of Pullman, Wash., in October for the state's first record and an ad. and an imm. Harlan's Hawk were sighted near St. John, Wash., Oct. 2 (RS, JWW). A Ferruginous Hawk at Island City, Ore., Aug. 13 was a rare find (JE). The Elk Valley area had 23 Rough-legged Hawk reports—none last fall. An intriguing sighting of five virtually pure white hawks, apparently Buteos, came from the Kananaskis R., in the Seebe, Alta., area (M & AG). Merlin sightings were up. Gyrfalcon reports totalled three and Peregrine Falcon four.

TURKEY THROUGH CRANES — A Wild Turkey was reported on Moscow Mt., Moscow, Ida. (KM). The Idaho Panhandle aerial count found a peak of over 31,000 Am. Coots Oct. 14. Malheur's peak was nearly 28,000 and Turnbull's 18,060. The species was abundant in n.w. Montana. Greater Sandhill Crane numbers reached 2443 in early October at Malheur. Staging Greater Sandhills at Grays Lake Ref., Bonneville Co., Ida., numbered 3150 in late September. Migrating Lesser Sandhills in c. Washington showed in usual numbers, the largest flocks, 500 over Soap L., Sept. 20 and 1000 over the Grand Coulee, Grant Co., Sept. 17.

S.A.

Nineteen Whooping Crane chicks fledged at Grays L., making it the most successful year yet for the foster-parent breeding program there. They migrated with their parent Sandhills Oct. 8-17 and were reported to have joined 13 older Whoopers on the New Mexico wintering grounds (ECB).

SHOREBIRDS — An amazing 125+ Black-bellied Plovers stopped at Am. Falls Res. near Pocatello, Ida., Sept. 25 (JMS, DMT). Hubbard Res., s. of Boise, Ida., had up to 17 (MRC, JL, ST) and Lewiston, Ida., had one (RN, MK). Reardan, Wash., and Rufus, Ore., each had one (JA, RG) and one to three stopped at Malheur. The first sightings of Lesser Golden-Plovers at Malheur since 1967 were obtained in September (MA). In Idaho one appeared at Sandpoint (PRS) and up to 30 stopped at Am. Falls Res. (JMS *et al.*). Nakusp, B.C., had eight (GD). Snowy Plovers remained scarce at Malheur as their habitat continued to be inundated. Semipalmated Plovers were observed at Malheur and

Bend. Single birds were at Little Camas Res., e. of Mountain Home, Ida. (KBP) and along the Snake R., near Bruneau Sand Dunes.

A Hudsonian Godwit was carefully identified at Soap L., Oct. 2 for e. Washington's third record (JA). The only Marbled Godwit reports were of one at Dry Lakes ponds s. of Nampa, Ida. (MRC, ST); one at Richland (WH, REW), and a few at Malheur. Ruddy Turnstones may be more common at Malheur than records indicate, for the species was seen Aug. 15-Sept. 2 with five on the latter date (CDL). One was at Richland for one of very few e. Washington sightings (REW) and Swan L., Vernon, B.C., had one (MC). A Red Knot appeared at Blacks Creek Res., near Boise (MRC) and one was photographed at Dry Lakes (AL). Malheur also had one (A & MA). Up to seven Sanderlings stopped at Blacks Creek Res. (MRC), and Springfield Bottoms at Am. Falls Res., had up to 40 (JMS, DMT, CHT). The birds were passing through Malheur Sept. 13-25. A sprinkling of Semipalmated Sandpipers passed through the Region Aug. 17-Nov. 17. One on the former date at Bend furnished the first county record (TC) and one at Malheur Sept. 25 was noteworthy (SS). A few Dunlins appeared at Hubbard Res. (MRC *et al.*), at Bend (TC, CM) and at Fortine, Mont., for only the 6th year in 62 years of observing (WW). Lower Klamath N.W.R., was visited by eight Short-billed Dowitchers (SS, JC), up to four were at Bend (TC), and the sewage ponds at Joseph, Ore., attracted the species (FC). The Dry Lakes had one (MRC, ST) and Dry L., near Fortine, did likewise (WW). A Red Phalarope dropped in at Bend Aug. 28 for the 2nd county record (TC) and three were with Red-necked Phalaropes at the Walla Walla R. mouth, Wash., Sept. 23 & 27 (FH, BH, DW).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was present at Springfield for about 2 weeks in November and was photographed (CHT, DMT) and one was harassing gulls along the Columbia R., near McNary Dam Sept. 11 (MCo). A Franklin's Gull visited Swan L., Sept. 19 (PR) and one appeared near Klamath Falls Oct. 29 (SS). The species had no nesting success at Malheur because of high water levels. An imm. bird was at Coeur d' Alene, Ida., in early September (WT) and one was sighted at Hubbard Res., Sept. 4 (MRC). By contrast, 2000± were in the Springfield vicinity (DMT). American Falls Res., had 200-300 Bonaparte's Gulls Oct. 23 and the Dry Lakes had one to three in August (G.E.A.S.). A few had arrived at Malheur by mid-August. Seven Bonaparte's remained from a population of 21 that reportedly summered at Lakeview, Ore. (KTS). A Mew Gull was reported at Lewiston Oct. 8 (LL, MK, RS). Herring Gulls appeared in increased numbers at several reservoirs in s. Idaho. Particularly notable were 45+ at Cascade Res. (MRC). A Herring Gull at Sparwood was that locality's first (DFF) and one at Malheur was the second there (TC).

Up to five Thayer's Gulls were carefully identified at American Falls in November (MT, CHT) and one was described at Lucky Peak Res., e. of Boise Oct. 12 (MRC). This species may have been around all along but observers here are just learning how to identify it. A Glaucous-winged Gull appeared in late November at Okanagan Landing, B.C. (MC, AC), and a few were sighted along the Snake and Columbia rivers from Ice Harbor Dam e. of Pasco to Celilo, Wash. Kamloops, B.C., had an imm. Glaucous Gull Nov. 19 (RH). An imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at Clarkston, Wash., Nov. 20 was apparently the second ever there (MK, LL, PS). One or two imm. Sabine's Gulls at the Yakima R. mouth Sept. 9 & 17 were noteworthy (EM, DL, REW).

A single Caspian Tern was at Bend Aug. 15 (CM) and one was sighted at Kootenai N.W.R., Sept. 2 (LDN). Up to nine Com. Terns were counted on Am. Falls Res., near Springfield in November (DMT *et al.*) and one was on the Snake R., at Hagerman Oct. 2 (MRC, DMT, CHT, m.ob.). An imm. Arctic Tern at Bend Sept. 9 provided the 2nd county record (TC).

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A Band-tailed Pigeon was identified in s.w. Gallatin County, Mont., Aug. 24 (GC). The only Flammulated Owl reports for the period were of one found injured near Conconully, Wash. (JJ), one heard near Henrys Fork (DMT), and one banded at Pocatello (JJ). One of the rarely reported N. Hawk-Owl was found in Mt. Revelstoke N.P., B.C. (BB). A pair of Great Gray Owls at Spring Cr., Union Co., Ore., raised two young; a third was apparently killed by a N. Goshawk (JE, HN *et al.*). One was near Wauconda, Wash., in early November (GH) and one with a broken wing was found near Vernon (JGr). A Barred Owl near Sparwood provided the 2nd

record there (DFF). The species was also reported from Lincoln County, Mont.; Helena; Coeur d' Alene; and Spokane. The only N. Saw-whet Owls reported were one flushed at Malheur Sept. 25 (SS, JC, KTS) and one in sagebrush in Moses Coulee, Grant Co., Wash., in October (RF).

Black Swifts were reported only over the Fraser R. near Dunster, B.C., and at Sacajawea Peak, Wallowa Co., Ore. Anna's Hummingbirds were last seen in Bend Oct. 6. An Anna's appeared at a Spokane feeder Aug. 12 and one or two ad. males stayed there during September and October. Then an imm. bird showed up Oct. 29-Nov. 17; the birds left of their own accord in spite of the feeder (JA, WH, RM). Two ♂ and two ♀ Anna's frequented a Vernon feeder October+ (JGr).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Three pairs of Lewis' Woodpeckers were found in a burn near the Fisher-Kootenai R. confluence, Lincoln Co., Mont., for a new locality but their numbers at Eureka, Mont., were very low (D & DH). A Red-breasted Sapsucker was sighted in the mountains n. of Enterprise, Ore., Oct. 27 (MCo). Single Williamson's Sapsuckers were sighted at Fields Spring S.P., Asotin Co., Wash., and at Darland Mt., w. of Yakima. A ♀ White-headed Woodpecker, rare in s. British Columbia, was sighted near Castlegar Nov. 23 (MB). Elsewhere the species was reported only at a few spots in c. Washington; at Grangeville, Ida.; and at Burns, Ore. A "yellow-shafted" N. Flicker was at Malheur Sept. 28 (DI, OS, JG).

An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Turnbull Aug. 5 was only the lat-long's second (AP, MP, THR). A mixed flock of thousands of swallows was over Vanderhoof, B.C., Aug. 13 and a concentration of 1000± Violet-green Swallows was at Ft. Klamath where this is an annual event. Several large flocks of the latter were observed in the Columbia Basin of Washington, the largest 600-700 at Pateros. Barn Swallows were likewise abundant in the Basin where 5000± were over a corn field s. of Potholes Res., Oct. 2; a few Cliff and Bank swallows were with them.

JAYS THROUGH MOCKINGBIRD — Single Blue Jays appeared at Fortine Nov. 1-15 (WW), in Kalispell, Mont. (*vide* EJ). One visited a Bend feeder Oct. 20 for the 2nd county record (CE) and one stopped briefly at Kimberley, B.C., Oct. 22 (MVW). Bend had a real rarity in the form of a Scrub Jay that stayed at a feeder through November (BL). Two White-breasted Nuthatches, rare in s.e. Idaho, were found near Tetonia Aug. 27 (DMT). A Bewick's Wren was identified at Lakeview Oct. 25 (KTS). The birds seem to be extending their range E, for sightings were made as far as Pullman and Albion, Wash., and Kamiah, Ida.

Flocks of up to 60 Mountain Bluebirds moved through Bend and a tremendous flock of 350 was reported at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Monida, Mont. (BW). Brushy ravines dropping into the Grand Coulee yielded 50+ Townsend's Solitaires Sept. 17-18 (S.A.S.). Varied Thrushes were particularly numerous in the vicinity of Wenatchee, Wash., in Lincoln County, Mont., and at Bend. A N. Mockingbird was photographed at Cascade Res., Aug. 27 (MRC, G.E.A.S.) and one appeared near Yakima Oct. 28 (Y.A.S.).

PIPITS THROUGH STARLINGS — About 500 Water Pipits were migrating through the Banks L. area, Grant Co., Wash., Sept. 17-18 and the species was abundant on high-elevation, reclaimed mine spoil and in cultivated fields near Sparwood, with flocks of up to 75 (DFF). Hundreds had gathered in alpine areas of Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore., Sept. 24 (CDL) and the birds were very common in migration at Rupert. Two Bohemian Waxwings on Browne Mt., Spokane Sept. 12 were extremely early (previous earliest date for the area was Oct. 12) suggesting possible breeding in nearby mountains. Bonners Ferry's first sighting was Oct. 30. Flocks of Eur. Starlings totalling a monstrous 20,000 were in the vicinity of Osyoos, B.C., Oct. 19 (SC).

WARBLERS — The Tennessee Warbler was reported for the Dunster and Sparwood areas and one was listed for Lincoln County, Mont. (D & DH). An imm. Black-throated Blue Warbler was identified Sept. 10 at Cottonwood Creek Camp Ground, Boise N.F., e. of Boise (MRC, A & HL). Single Black-throated Gray Warblers were noted at Brooks Memorial S.P., n. of Goldendale, Wash. (Y.A.S.) and at Malheur (MA). The species was migrating through Bend Aug. 25-Nov. 15 (TC, CS). Single Blackpoll Warblers appeared at Fields Sept. 27 and were photographed at Malheur Sept. 28 & Oct. 2 (JG, RSm, DI, B & JK *et al.*) and a Black-

and-white Warbler was at Pocatello Aug. 12 (EF). A ♂ **Hooded Warbler** in full breeding plumage was identified near Pendleton, Ore., Oct. 21-22 (JE, NB, C & MCo, REW) and probably the same bird was photographed Nov. 8 (FH, MD, DW), constituting the first record for e. Oregon.

SPARROWS, BLACKBIRDS — A Clay-colored Sparrow at Fields Sept. 27 apparently provided e. Oregon's 3rd record, and a Le Conte's Sparrow there the same day may have been the state's first (JG, DI, RSm). A ♀-plumaged Lark Bunting at Miller I., near Klamath Falls presumably constituted Oregon's second record (SS). A Le Conte's Sparrow photographed at Swan L., Nov. 15-16 established the Okanagan Valley's first record (PR). A Swamp Sparrow was identified at Boise Sept. 15 (MRC). A very meager sprinkling of White-throated, Golden-crowned and Harris' sparrows was noted. White-crowned numbers appeared high in the w. part of the Region with a high of 1200 Sept. 28 at Sunnyside Game Range, Wash. (PM). A few Lapland Longspurs appeared: at the mine spoils near Sparwood, s. of Boise, and at Fortine. A few Snow Buntings were reported, with the largest numbers at the Sparwood mine spoils, which had flocks of up to 100. Vaseux L., s. of Penticton, B.C., had a Rusty Blackbird, the only report of the species (SC).

FINCHES — Rosy Finches staged a major irruption in the Sparwood area, with flocks of up to 700 birds on the mine spoils; several Hepburn's were among them. Purple Finches were sighted at Dunster (MR), at Chandler S.P., Lake Co., Ore. (SS) and at Burns (A & MA) and Fields (DI). The only Com. Redpolls reported were a flock of 50 at Polson, Mont. (BW).

ADDENDA — Dennis Paulson commented that the photo of a supposed Laughing Gull (AB 37:893) looks to him like a Little Gull. Mark

R. Collie remarked that Herring Gulls at Little Camas Res. (AB 37:893) are probably of regular occurrence as migrants and summer visitors, and that Franklin's Gulls at Dry Lakes (Ada County, not Canyon County) (AB 37:893) are represented by previous records there.

OBSERVERS CITED — James Acton, Anne & Merle Archie, Eugene C. Barney, Nancy Bock, Rick Bonar, Bob Braide, May Burroughs, Vern Byrd, Steve Cannings, Jim Carlson, Audrey Casperson, Mark R. Collie, Mary Collins (MC) Frank Conley, Craig & Marion Corder (C & MCo), Tom Crabtree, Gordon Creel, Eric Dafoe, John Danielson, Gary Davidson, Mike Denny, Gerald L. Deutscher, Bob Elgas, Maurice Ellison, Charles Ernst, Joe Evanich, Edson Fichter, David F. Fraser, Ron Friesz, Roy Gerig, Mae & Ainsley Gibson, Jeff Gilligan (JG), James Grant (JGr), Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Warren Hall (WH), George Halekas, Paul L. Hanna, Bill Hayes, Floyd Hayes, Winnie Hepburn (WHe), Dick & Della Hermsmeyer, Rick Howie, Idaho Fish & Game Dept. (I.F.G.), Dave Irons, Joe Jeppson, Elly Jones, George Kaisner, Barb & John Kempe, Merlene Koliner, R.C. Kuntz II, Dan Landeen, Al & Hilda Larson, Louise LaVoie, Bob LeBlanc, C.D. Littlefield, Jim Lyons, Phil Mattocks, Riley McClelland, Ken McIntyre, Craig Miller, Ed Miller, Rosanne Montague, L. D. Napier, Harry Nehls, Ron Neu, Michael D. O'Shea, Dennis Paulson, Mary Porter, Ambrose Priestley, Kerry B. Provance, Phil Ransom, Mike Rippey, Ralph Ritcey, T. H. Rogers, Rusty Scalf (RS), Owen Schmidt, Gary Scriven, John M. Shipley Jr., Paul R. Sieracki, Richard Smith (RSm), Kevin T. Spencer, Spokane Audubon Society, Christy Steck, Paul Sullivan, Steve Summers, Daniel M. Taylor, Terry Thompson, Ward Tollbom, Michael Tove, C. H. Trost, Clayton Truman, Scott Tuthill, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Mildred V. White, Michael Whittaker, R.E. Woodley, David Wright, Yakima Audubon Society.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

/Hugh E. Kingery

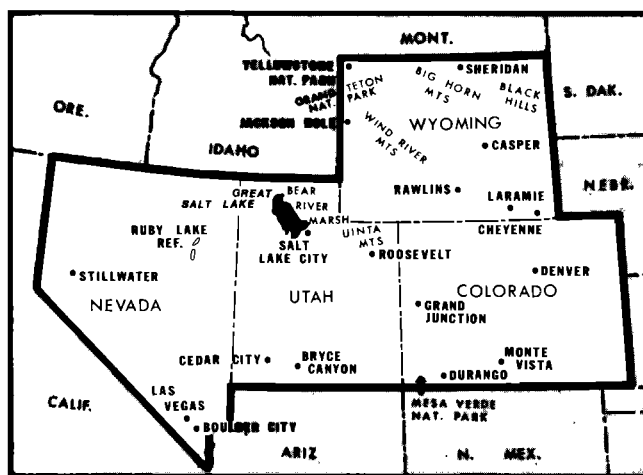
Two new state records—a Brambling in Colorado and a Hooded Warbler in Utah—punctuated a rather uneventful fall migration featuring average variety and numbers. Many migrants arrived early; they and many summering birds left early. Ominously for the coming winter, wintering birds from the North (such as Bohemian Waxwings, Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings, and American Tree Sparrows) and from the mountains (such as solitaires, Rosy Finches, and Cassin's Finches) arrived early and in good numbers. The annual fall influx of coastal species included most that have occurred in the past, in average numbers.

Weather varied across the Region, although generally August brought wetness, September and October mild temperatures, and November severe snowstorms. The storms of November 21-28 left deep snow all across the Region and undoubtedly impacted severely on birdlife.

The summer report mentioned Barn Swallows and Dusky Flycatchers still nesting in Rocky Mountain National Park during the National Audubon convention in August. Others still nesting in September, reported this period, included Eared Grebes at Cody, Wyoming, Western Wood-Pewee at Rocky Mountain National Park, Pygmy Nuthatch in Evergreen, Colorado, and Lesser Goldfinches in Colorado Springs. Latest report: Barn Swallows fledged young September 15 in Fort Morgan, Colorado (JCR).

Regional observers reported an average 362 species, 315 from Colorado, 246 in Wyoming, 235 in Nevada, and 230 in Utah. If we tallied individuals, Utah would top the list owing to the huge numbers of waterfowl and shorebirds which use its superb refuge system.

WATER — The Great Salt Lake has risen 5 ft this year, 7 ft in 2 years. "The summer evaporation barely kept up with new input, and with cooler weather the evaporation slowed down and the lake then started again to rise." (JN). A railroad causeway divides the lake in half like a dam; south of the causeway the refuges that line the east shore have



suffered drastically from flooding. They had good numbers of waterfowl, but no place for shorebirds. The premier refuge, Bear River N.W.R., north of the railroad, has not had as much damage. This fall it drew impressive peak counts of 50,350 Tundra Swans, 172,000 ducks and geese, 107,000 American Coots, 7400 Marbled Godwits, 11,500 Long-billed Dowitchers, and 45,000 California Gulls.

Multi-million dollar reparation schemes abound: the Legislature has approved breaching the railroad causeway so that the lake on each side will level out; another scheme would pump water into another salt flat 25 miles west of the lake; a third would drill a hole in the bottom of the lake.

Lake Mead, south, west, and east of Las Vegas also has risen, first to an all-time high of 1226 ft, now back down to 1213 ft, cf. 1180 ft several years ago. It has inundated all beaches, many small islands, parking areas, and boat ramps, and eliminated resting areas for gulls, terns, herons, etc. Western Grebes find the lake less attractive. This year they peaked at 250 at Las Vegas, and although other small flocks populated

the lake, the total was far below their numbers in 1974-76, they peaked at 100,000 in winter, 1975, and had replaced comparable numbers of Eared Grebes that dotted the lake for some years before that. One theory holds that too little phosphorus, vital in the food chain, enters the lake for two reasons: Glen Canyon Dam, upstream in Utah, has reduced phosphorus-laden sediment in the river (the same sediment responsible for carving the Grand Canyon), and an advanced treatment plant at Las Vegas has removed phosphorus in the wastewater. Algae and plankton have declined, shad cannot find food, and the grebes cannot find enough shad to eat.

We read about how habitat destruction in the tropics limits the survival of North American landbirds; what effects do changing habitats have in the United States?

LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS — Nevada reported its fifth Red-throated Loon, observed through a Questar at 100 ft for 10 min Oct. 29 at Pahranaagat N.W.R. (VM#). Observers reported Arctic Loons in similar numbers as last year—six in Colorado and four in Nevada including one Oct. 24 at Ruby Lake N.W.R. (SBf). Sheridan, Wyo., counted the most Com. Loons, 26 on Nov. 4 (HD). Boulder, Colo., had a Red-necked Grebe Sept. 24-28 (LH, PG). The Great Salt Lake's rising waters prevented access to Antelope I.; hence we have no data on the huge rafts of Eared Grebes that stop over each fall; however Bear River N.W.R., boasted 3000 as its peak Nov. 22, an unusually high number and late date (LW). Other peaks included 1003 Aug. 31 at Sheridan and 300 Nov. 19 at Rock Springs, Wyo. (HD, FL). Most observers who looked for them found dark morphs of the W. Grebe, accompanying light-phase birds. Peak counts of W. Grebes included 5000 at Longmont, Colo., in early October (KC), 4000 at Bear R., Sept. 30 (LW), and 1300 at Denver Oct. 29 (D.F.O.). At Anaho N.W.R., n. of Reno, 4700 pairs of Am. White Pelicans attempted to nest; they fledged 3330 young *cf.* 3600 in 1982. They suffered stress from delayed fish runs and disturbance from boaters (EL). Bear R., reported a peak pelican count of 5000 Sept. 30, and up to 100 stayed into November (LW). In n.e. Colorado pelicans also stayed late, with 12 found Nov. 28 near Ft. Collins (FG). Anaho produced 925 young Double-crested Cormorants, compared to 1100 last year (EL). A letter to the newspaper provided an adequate description of a Magnificent Frigatebird flying over a Las Vegas street Nov. 18 (AS).

HERONS, IBISES — Anaho and Stillwater Refuges respectively reported production of 120 and 200 young Great Blue Herons, *cf.* 200 and 150 last year (EL). Stillwater also produced 200 Great Egrets, 510 Snowies, 550 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and 1050 White-faced Ibises, all up slightly (EL). Utahans reported fair numbers of Snowy Egrets—501 at Fish Springs N.W.R., Aug. 2, 232 at Bear R., Oct. 7, and 102 along the Sevier R., near Scipio—but Coloradans continue to see few, the top count of 40 coming from Greeley Aug. 21. Little Blue Herons appeared Oct. 9 at 2 e. Colorado reservoirs, near Rocky Ford (LH, JW). Cattle Egrets remained in the Region into late fall: 64 at Ordway, Colo., Oct. 13, nine at Provo, Utah Oct. 28, one Nov. 13 at Masters, Colo., and two at Reno Nov. 4-30+. Colorado and Utah saw few White-faced Ibises, but Aug. 26, 1500+ flew over Salt Lake City at sunset (JN), and 610 fed in a shallow oxbow of the Sevier R., near Scipio Sept. 3 (MW).

WATERFOWL — Tundra Swans peaked Nov. 10 at Bear R., at 50,350, down 18% from last year. Outside of Utah, the top count was of 66 at Casper Nov. 12 (JH). A well-described Trumpeter Swan visited Ordway, Colo., Nov. 25 (†RB). Jackson and Sheridan, Wyo., each reported 1000 migrating Snow Geese, and Longmont had 200, all in late November.

Ducks on Utah refuges peaked Sept. 16-30 at 535,413. All fall the totals exceeded last year by 100,000-190,000. As usual, N. Pintails topped the totals (139,402 Aug. 16-31), although not as many as usual. American Wigeons ranked 2nd high—109,316 Sept. 16-30 (U.D.W.R.). Stillwater reported its largest-ever outbreak of botulism, which claimed 50,000 ducks, as well as shorebirds, including 13,200 W. and Least sandpipers and 1750 avocets (EL). The Bear R. count of 9500 N. Shovelers Sept. 15 represented a drop of 62%, yet the 6100 Oct. 29 in n.e. Colorado provided an unusually high count (D.F.O.). Wyoming boasted two Eur. Wigeons: one at Sheridan Sept. 22-24 (†HD

& MC, JS) and one at Casper Oct. 22 (†BS). One of the few ducks to increase at Bear R., Canvasbacks, peaked there at 11,530, Nov. 10, up 43% (LW). Redheads achieved impressive numbers at Jackson with 25,000 on Nov. 9 (BR). Ring-necked Ducks stayed into November, about five at Logan Nov. 12 (KD) and 140 at Denver Nov. 20 (D F O). Bear R. reported as average the 20 Greater Scaup Nov. 10 (LW) Zion N.P. claimed its first Oldsquaw Nov. 20-Dec. 2 (†JG). Casper reported one Sept. 27 (JH) and a hunter bagged a female at Logan Nov. 13 (DV). The Region had ten Surf Scoters: two at Pahranaagat Ref., Nev., Oct. 29 (VM), one at Ruby L., in late November (SBf), two at Sheridan Nov. 12-17 seen by 12 observers (†HD), one at Casper Nov. 20 (JH), and four Oct. 29 in n.e. Colorado (D.F.O.). Minersville, Utah had two different White-winged Scoters Nov. 12 & 16 (MW#, †SH). Casper had one Oct. 23 and three Nov. 12 (JH), and Denver had one Nov. 12-17 (F & JJ). The Region's Com. Goldeneyes arrived late, in mid-November Bear R. had a hefty 60 Hooded Mergansers Nov. 30 (LW).

HAWKS, EAGLES — A late Turkey Vulture cruised S of Denver Nov. 6 (F & JJ). Among 32 Ospreys reported, a pair apparently nested near Aspen, Colo. (VZ). Mississippi Kites wandered 50-100 mi N and W from their nesting grounds to Ft. Morgan, Colo., Aug. 21 and Rye, Colo., Oct. 1 (JRe, DGr). Tove revived the Wellsville Mts. hawk watch (See AB 32:237, 33:199), and counted 1411 raptors on 13 days Aug. 27-Oct. 20. He tallied 614 accipiters, 259 buteos, 315 falcons, with top species counts of 441 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 306 kestrels, and 226 Red-tails. Away from the Wellsvilles, accipiter reports dropped 50-75%, to 94 Sharp-shinned and 61 Cooper's. A Red-shouldered Hawk, captured Aug. 1 alive but ill near Tooele, became Utah's first specimen, confirming 10± sight observations (*vide* ES). The West's only flocking raptor migrant, Swainson's Hawk, displayed well: 300 near Denver Sept. 11, 170 Oct. 8 in Baca County, Colo., 87 near Levan, Utah, Aug. 24, and several flocks of 20-50 for a total count of 899. Jackson reported different Gyrfalcons Oct. 29 & Nov. 16 (AA, BR) and Sheridan had a young ad. female Nov. 3 (PW).

GROUSE, CRANES — Isolated from the rest of the Rocky Mountains, Pikes Peak historically lacked White-tailed Ptarmigans. Apparently stocking has placed some there now, as F.C.A.S. found two Sept. 25. Soras stayed late, to Oct. 29 at Ridgway, Nov. 4 at Fountain, and Nov. 25 at Rocky Ford (all Colorado). Sandhill Cranes moved in flocks of 50-650 in e. Wyoming and Colorado—reports totaled 3149. Good water conditions and reduced predation at Grays L., Ida., brought a record 32 Whooping Cranes to Colorado's San Luis Valley: by age class, 1976, one; 1978, two; 1979, four; 1980, one; 1982, five, 1983, 19.

SHOREBIRDS — The dramatic spring runoff flooded thousands of acres of farmland around Provo, Utah; as waters receded, opportunistic shorebirds came to the exposed mud flats and shallow pools. The flocks of 50-100 dowitchers, killdeer, avocets, stilts, and phalaropes, even 50-75 Caspian Terns and 75-100 Franklin's Gulls, were, however, small by Bear R. standards (MW).

The Region reported 24 Black-bellied Plovers—one each in Nevada and Utah, three in Wyoming, and 19 in Colorado. Casper hosted one or two Lesser Golden-Plovers Oct. 9-22 (JH, FL), Delta, Colo., reported one Oct. 7-9 (†MJ *Lat.*), and Grand Jct. reportedly had one Sept. 21. Although Mountain Plovers had a poor year at Cheyenne, a rare one stopped at Provo Aug. 31 (†MW) and groups of 29, 95, 210, and 45 flocked on the e. Colorado plains at Latest Chance, Pawnee Grassland, Ft. Morgan, and Two Buttes. On Aug. 1 Black-necked Stilts and Am Avocets peaked on their nesting ground at Bear R., at 4400 and 21,000 respectively. One stilt visited Cody, Wyo., Aug. 22 (KS *Lat.*), 285 mi n. of Bear R.; 2 days later migrating stilts peaked at 500 at Cedar City, Utah—260 mi s. of Bear R. (SH). November found one to six Am Avocets still at Cody, Rocky Ford, Longmont, and Salt Lake City. The Region sees fewer than one-tenth as many Greater as Lesser yellowlegs, this year a reported 140 Greater and 1000+ Lessers. The Greater included one Aug. 10 in the middle of a Jackson, Wyo. sageflat and abandoned hayfield (BW). Greater stayed later, with late November birds at Ft. Collins, Colo., Las Vegas, and Salt Lake City, whereas Longmont had the latest Lesser Nov. 12. Willet observations dropped noticeably, with <10 reported. A Ruddy Turnstone visited Denver

Sept. 24 (F & JJ). Denver had one to three Red Knots Sept. 3-13 (D.F.O.) and one stopped at Cedar City Sept. 14 (SH). A White-rumped Sandpiper stopped at Julesburg Aug. 27 (RB) and ten flew into Denver Sept. 25 (JW). Single Stilt Sandpipers visited Silt, Colo., Aug. 13 (VZ Lat.) and Delta, Colo., Oct. 6 (MJ). Barr L. near Denver hosted one or two Buff-breasted Sandpipers Sept. 4-11 (WWB, LH). A Ruff reportedly was at Greeley, Colo., Aug. 21 (JRe #). Away from Bear R., s.e. Colorado produced the high count of Long-billed Dowitchers, 930 Oct. 8-9 (JW). Observers found only modest numbers of Wilson's Phalaropes, but a spectacular 10,000 Red-necked Phalaropes graced Great Salt L., Sept. 24 (MW). They ventured into s. Utah, with 60-67 at Fish Springs Aug. 16-30 (JA) and 80 at Cedar City Sept. 8 (SH). Las Vegas had 115 Oct. 2 (MK). A Red Phalarope swam in Julesburg Res., Aug. 24, a bird in intermediate plumage between summer and winter (†LH Lat.).

JAEGERS, GULLS, AND TERNS — One Pomarine and two Parasitic jaegers were reported without details from Pueblo, Denver, and Casper; Parasitics at Longmont Oct. 15-16 (LH) and Bonny Res., Oct. 15 (†RB, CC) had brief descriptions. In e. Colorado, Franklin's Gulls' seasonal total dropped to half of last year's count, and Bear R.'s peak of 400 Aug. 1 seemed puny. To the production of California Gulls, add 1100 at Anaho I. (EL). They peaked Aug. 1 at Bear R., at 45,000. Winter gulls included an early Herring at Sheridan Aug. 31 (HD), one at Bear R., Sept. 29 (MT), two at Salt Lake City Nov. 28 (ES); Nov. 19-25, two Thayer's at Denver and one at Ordway, Colo. (RB Lat.); and two Glaucous at Masters, Colo., Nov. 13 (†JW, LH). Sabine's Gulls, two each, were at Greeley Aug. 25 (TM) and Denver Sept. 24 (F & JJ). A Caspian Tern stopped at Carson City, Nev., Sept. 9 (BP).



Immature Sabine's Gull, Chatfield S.P., near Denver, Colo., Sept. 24, 1983. Photo/J. Justice.

ANIS TO WOODPECKERS — A Groove-billed Ani at Colorado Springs Sept. 9 provided a 3rd latilong record and 5th state record (RB#). A Flammulated Owl appeared Sept. 4 at Jackson, in the same place as last fall (K & GN). A mist net caught a Boreal Owl Sept. 23 in a new Colorado site, Fraser, 45 mi s. of its Cameron Pass nesting site (TN Lat.). That bird and another from Cameron Pass now wear back-mounted radio transmitters (RAR). Wyoming moved one step closer to a nesting record for the Boreal Owl: an immature, probably newly fledged, posed Aug. 13 for a picture in Paintbrush Canyon, Grand Teton N.P. (JBI). Nicholls also mist-netted five N. Saw-whet Owls at Fraser during his study of transport of dwarf mistletoe by birds; at least one N. Saw-whet had seeds on its plumage.

A Blue-throated Hummingbird called at an Evergreen, Colo. feeder Sept. 11—they now appear annually (†SBr)—and a Magnificent Hummingbird stopped at a feeder in Ridgeway, Colo. (JRG). Utah birders are finding more Lewis' Woodpeckers: this fall with three at Salem and two daily Nov. 20+ in Salt Lake City (MW, HS). A Red-bellied Woodpecker stopped briefly in Colorado Springs Nov. 6 (RB). Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers strayed across the desert to Fish Springs Oct. 13 (JA). Four Colorado locations reported 50% more N. Flickers this fall than last.

FLYCATCHERS TO NUTHATCHES — All birdwatchers in s. Nevada saw, at Las Vegas Oct. 3-21, the first local Scissor-tailed Fly-

catcher since 1971 (VM). The Purple Martin at Las Vegas Aug. 11 provided the first fall record since 1971 (KW). Despite the mild fall, most swallows left early or on schedule by mid-September. A few Barn Swallows always appear in October; this year flocks of 200 thronged reservoirs on cloudy days, Oct. 1 at Denver and Oct. 12 at Delta; late records included single Barns at Evanston, Wyo., Oct. 15 (CK), Longmont Oct. 27 (MA), and Denver Nov. 3 & 7 (WWB, F & JJ).

Gray Jays have recovered from their scarcity around Grand L., Colo., with four to six/day at feeders (DJ), and observations increased at Eldora, Colo. (DB, DH). A Plain Titmouse at Logan Sept. 6 provided a rare record (JK, KG). Red-breasted Nuthatches have begun to build up their numbers again in Colorado and Wyoming, although the only ones reported from Nevada and Utah were one at Las Vegas Sept. 17 and three to six at Ogden in August (perhaps because reporting observers spent no time in their conifer habitat).

WRENS TO THRUSHES — The Canyon Wren Nov. 17 provided Sheridan's 5th record (EM). A late House Wren remained at Denver Nov. 6 (F & JJ), while Winter Wrens had reached St. George, Utah by Oct. 7 (MW), Mesquite, Nev., by Oct. 12, and Boulder City, Nev., by Oct. 20 (MK). Two Marsh Wrens lurked in a 10 ft × 10 ft cat-tail swamp in Baca County, Colo., Oct. 9, isolated by 50 mi of dry farmland and sagebrush flats from any good wren-sized marsh (JW, LH). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nest in the oak brush e. of Ogden; six to eight appeared occasionally to Sept. 15, confirming a N extension of their Utah range (MK). October 1 was their last date at Evanston, 50 mi to the e. (FL). Bonny Dam had its first W. Bluebird Oct. 15 (RB Lat.), 125 mi e. of the ponderosa pine nesting grounds; Mountain and E. bluebirds were there the same day. High September counts of migrating Mountain Bluebirds included: 441 at Ridgway, Colo., on its Sept. 10 "Christmas Count" (A.S.W.C.), 84 on the Denver Fall Count Sept. 10-11 (D.F.O.), and 200 at Cody Sept. 19 (UK). They stayed for late dates at Evanston, Wyo., Nov. 13 (CK), Ridgway, Colo., Nov. 17 (JRG), and Penrose, Colo., Nov. 26 (RW). Townsend's Solitaires dropped down from the mountains early, to Ft. Morgan, Colo., Sept. 16 & Oct. 3 (JCR) and Las Vegas Oct. 3 (MK). Observers reported ten Varied Thrushes: one at Las Vegas Nov. 12 joined by three more by Nov. 25 (CT, J & MC, DW), Ogden Sept. 21 (MKi), Logan Nov. 25 (HSt), and four in Wyoming—at Jackson one July 31 and two Oct. 19 (JF, RH) and at Cheyenne one Oct. 21, found dead Oct. 28 (D & EH, C & JH).

THRASHERS TO SHRIKES — Late Gray Catbirds included one banded at Denver Oct. 17 (MOS), one that stayed in a Cheyenne yard Sept. 1-Oct. 20 (AK), and one that appeared in Laramie Nov. 22+ (DM). The N. Mockingbird Oct. 19 provided Sheridan's 12th record (PK), and the Sage Thrasher at Penrose Nov. 8 was a month late (RW). Brown Thrashers ranged W to Grantsville, Utah (†ES) and Las Vegas Nov. 20, the first in s. Nevada since 1979 (VM, J & MC). They stayed into late November at Cheyenne (H.P.A.S.), Loveland (F.A.C.), and Eldora (DB). Bohemian Waxwings began their winter invasion in Sheridan Oct. 21, and by Nov. 30 had moved S to Cameron Pass, Colo., Provo, and Fish Springs, where five Nov. 22 provided the first record for that Utah desert oasis (JA Lat.). Sheridan was the waxwing capital, with 2000 Bohemians and 500 Cedars in late November. Cedars ranged throughout the Region, dozens ranging into both plains and mountain towns. Northern Shrikes arrived late; Colorado reported only one. One chasing (Black) Rosy Finches at Dubois, Wyo., slammed into a window with fatal results (MB).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Observers found single Bell's Vireos in August at Mesquite, Nev., Santa Clara, Utah, and Baca County, Colo. (MK, MW, MJ). Late vireos included a Hutton's Nov. 9 at Las Vegas (VM), a Warbling at Denver Oct. 8 (HK), and a Red-eyed, banded at Denver Oct. 6 (MOS). Warblers passed through at the usual times, but in lower numbers and less variety than usual. The Region recorded only 23 species—18 in Colorado, 16 in Nevada, 13 in Wyoming and Utah. Rarities included two Tennessees at Sheridan (HD) and one at Cheyenne (AK); 3 observations of two Nashvilles at Logan (KD, ASSt), one at Grand Jct., Colo., Oct. 6 (A.S.W.C.), six in Baca County Oct. 9 (JW), and one Oct. 15 at Bonny (RB); a Magnolia at Casper Sept. 7 (VH, SBr); eight Black-throated Blues—one Nov. 20 at Las Vegas for the 3rd fall record in 7 years (VM), one at Sheridan Sept. 2, and six in e.

Colorado including one Nov 3 at Denver and one Nov 5 at Golden (JBe); a Black-throated Gray at Cheyenne Oct. 15, in the same pinyon pine as one last spring (RF); five Black-throated Greens in e. Colorado, all in October; two Black-and-whites in the Colorado foothills at Bailey Aug. 20 (D.F.O.) and at Eldora Aug. 27 (DB) and one at Logan Nov. 26-27 (M & MC, KA *Lat.*); N. Waterthrushes at Boulder City, Nev., and Las Vegas (VM), including one Nov. 2 on an apartment complex lawn (TW), plus ones in the Colorado mountains at Ridgway Aug. 15 (JRG) and Steamboat Springs Aug. 26 (F & JJ). Utah reported its first **Hooded Warbler**, at Pintura Nov. 5, in a pinyon-juniper woodland with scattered clumps of shrub live oak (†MW), and one visited Boulder, Colo., Nov. 6 (†LH, JW & DWa). A Painted Redstart turned up on Mt. Charleston, w. of Las Vegas Sept. 7-10 in an area where they may breed (VM, MK).

TANAGERS TO SNOW BUNTINGS — A ♀ Summer Tanager was at Pueblo, Colo., Sept. 9 (VT). A pair of N. Cardinals summered in Casper, one was seen Oct. 1, and a male arrived Nov. 8 and stayed (JH). One Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Casper Aug. 9 (JH), a male stopped at Durango, Colo., Sept. 21 (EF), and a sluggish one (which nonetheless chased away jays and blackbirds) stayed at a Ridgway, Colo., feeder from Nov. 9 until killed by a kestrel Dec. 2 (JRG). A Black-headed Grosbeak stayed, with Evening Grosbeaks, at Ridgway until Oct. 27, long after others of its kind had left (JRG). Other Black-headed were seen at Promontory, Utah Oct. 15 (3—JN) and Eldora Oct. 13 (DB, DH). Blue Grosbeaks nested in locust bushes in the Hudson's yard in Cheyenne; the family with three fledglings stayed through Aug. 26 and provided the first latilong and 3rd Wyoming nesting record. During the fall e. Colorado reported nine Field Sparrows; checks of two to three other reported Field Sparrows revealed instead imm. White-crowns, which the field guides do not show adequately for inexperienced bird watchers. Vespers were the most abundant migrating sparrows at Radium, Colo., with 300+ daily to Oct. 15 (DJ). Three Black-throated Sparrows stopped at Ridgway Oct. 2 (JRG). Two summer-plumaged ♂ Lark Buntings were at 8100 ft at Sheridan Aug. 8-9 (MR) and Aug. 11, w. of Eldora a flock of 35 fed on the Rollins Pass tundra at 11,600 ft (DB, DH). Grasshopper Sparrows, common on the e. Colorado plains during the summer, remained to Oct. 16 (m.ob.). Sheridan had a Fox Sparrow Sept. 22 (HD), the Indian Peaks, Colo., Fall Count tallied six Sept. 17, and in late November Lyons and McCoy, Colo. feeders each attracted one (PB, ME). The Region reported 16+ White-throated Sparrows for the season—one at Zion Nov. 24+ (LE), two to four at Sheridan, and 11 in Colorado—and 28 Harris' Sparrows—one at Carson City in November (BP), one at Logan Nov. 10+, three in Wyoming, and 23 in Colorado. Zion also had a Golden-crowned Sparrow Nov. 24+ (LE). Of the 1000+ longspurs flocking in Baca County Oct. 9, the 150 identified proved to be McCown's. Lapland Longspurs spread S to Pahrnagat Nov. 11 (MK) and into the mountains Nov. 20 at Grand L., eating heads of alpine timothy (DJ). The usual Snow Buntings spread across Wyoming, with 28 Nov. 28 at Rock Springs (FL); 15 flew S to McCoy, Colo., Nov. 23+ (ME).

BLACKBIRDS TO REDPOLLS — A W. Meadowlark at Evanston Nov. 13 had stayed late, and one Nov. 24 tried feeding in the middle of the snow-covered highway on the highest switchback on Berthoud Pass, Colo., at 11,300 ft surrounded by a spruce-fir forest (DJ). Lawson described the colonization of Nevada by Great-tailed Grackles. Overton hosted the first major colony n. of Las Vegas. Then they moved NE to Hiko and Pahrnagat and NW to Pahrump on the California border, and from there N to Death Valley and Beatty. This summer they were found in e. Nevada at Panaca and Ruby Valley and in c. Nevada between Tonopah and Austin. They have not spread so far in the rest of the Mountain West, with only a foothold in s.w. Utah and isolated colonies in Colorado, the only consistent locations being Durango and Monte Vista. The W-bound Com. Grackles have consolidated their numbers: 100 at Jackson Sept. 30 (BR), 300-500 in the c. Colorado mountain town of Kremmling Aug. 1-Sept. 30 (DJ), and an established flock of 25 in Delta, Colo. (MJ). Provo reported a late N. Oriole Oct. 30 (MBr). The fall's most remarkable bird, a **Brambling**, came to a Colorado

Springs feeder Oct 20-Nov 4 Sixty-six observers saw it, photographed it, and watched it feed on millet with juncos and House Finches (E & MC *et al.*). A first-year male, it acted wild, and a Regional influx of three others in December buttressed this conclusion. (Nevada had one near Reno in 1978—AB 33:201.) Rosy Finches dropped down early from the high country, with late October sightings in Rock Springs, Dubois, Pinedale, Wyo., and Colorado Springs, Colo., and counts of 600 at Sheridan and Casper in mid-November. Photographs confirm the persistent reports of Purple Finches at feeders in Cody, Wyo.; this fall one to eight occurred at feeders Aug. 30-Oct. 7 (UK *et al.*). Cassin's Finches moved into towns in the mountain valleys beginning in mid-September. Red Crossbills have returned to Colorado and Wyoming—19 observers reported 1000+. Among them at Eldora were four White-winged Sept. 17 (DB, DH). The first real snow at Carson City Nov. 20, brought two Com. Redpolls (BP), and after the November 28 snow, Cheyenne had one Nov. 30 (H.P.A.S.).

EXOTICS — Denver had a craze of exotics: A Monk Parakeet came to a feeder all fall and possibly had survived in the neighborhood for over a year. A Ringed Turtle Dove reportedly nested in s. Denver Red-crested Cardinals nested in one yard, producing two young, one of which disappeared Oct. 10. Individuals were seen Nov. 7-Dec 7 and Nov. 30, each 10 mi away in a different direction from the nesting pair

CORRIGENDA — U.D.W.R. biologist Al Heggen defends the state reports of Peregrines on Utah refuges (AB 37:323). U.D.W.R. has hacked Peregrines at state refuges since 1979; one pair fledged four young in 1983 and they are seen regularly in refuge marshes—an encouraging recovery status report.

ABBREVIATIONS — #: no written description; L/L/B/L: Longmont/Lyons/Berthoud/Loveland area of Colorado; R.M.N.P.: Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park; *Lat.*: first latilong record.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

/Janet Witzeman

Weather continued to have an effect on the habitat and thus the occurrence of birds in the state. The deluge of late September—early October from Tropical Storm *Octave* destroyed valuable riparian vegetation, especially in the Tucson and Prescott areas. Flooding also created high levels in ponds and lakes that covered shorebird habitat in the Flagstaff area.

However, a positive change in habitat has been provided by the new large irrigation storage pond in Chandler, south of Phoenix, that has attracted new and unusual species to south central Arizona.

The season was brightened by interesting visitors from south of the border, including a first record for the United States.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — A Red-throated Loon, rare winter visitor to the Gulf of California, was observed at Guaymas, Mex., Nov. 27 (DSj, N. Krug). An Arctic Loon, an uncommon transient, especially in s.e. Arizona, was found at Tucson Oct. 14 (JS, KK). It appears that Com. Loons may stop over regularly on lakes near Flagstaff—one was at Ashurst L., Nov. 4 (JC, m.ob.) and up to five were on L. Mary and Mormon L., during November (JC, TC). Farther e. and s. were two on L. Pleasant Nov. 30 (TC), one at Chandler Oct. 15 (DSj *et al.*), one at Becker L., Oct. 27 (KR) and one in the s.e. at McNeal Oct. 27 (AM).

Breeding of Pied-billed Grebes in s. Arizona is variable in timing; two partly grown young at Nogales Nov. 5 indicated a rather late nesting record (GM *et al.*). The only Horned Grebes reported during the period were individuals in s.w. Phoenix Nov. 12-13 (DSj *et al.*) and at Arivaca Jct., Nov. 26 (JS). Individual W. Grebes were reported from scattered localities in s.e. and e. Arizona; one near McNeal stayed at least until Nov. 30 (AM).

Four Am. White Pelicans were at Prescott, where they are uncommon, on the late date of Nov. 27 (CT); at least one was in Phoenix during November (DT); and 21 were counted at Painted Rock Dam (hereafter, P.R.D.) Oct. 22 (DSj, RF). A Double-crested Cormorant, rare in n.e. Arizona, was seen at Lyman L., Nov. 19 (GM, BHe). Magnificent Frigatebirds are sparse visitors to s.w. Arizona; one at Sierra Vista Aug. 21 (†J. & B. Epler) was remarkably far e.

An Am. Bittern, rarely encountered in s.e. Arizona, was observed at Elfrida Oct. 22 (AM, TD). Cattle Egrets are becoming more common in s.e. Arizona—up to 12 were recorded at McNeal Aug. 10-Nov. 5 (AM); two were seen in Douglas Nov. 2 (AM) and seven in Huachuca City Nov. 20 (DD). Up to 165 White-faced Ibises at McNeal during September and October was a high total for s.e. Arizona; eight were still present Nov. 5 (AM *et al.*). Another late White-faced Ibis was still at P.R.D., Nov. 6 (DSj, CB, RF).

WATERFOWL — Tundra Swans, formerly uncommon away from the Lower Colorado River (hereafter, L.C.R.), were found in s.e. Arizona for the 3rd consecutive winter; four were at McNeal Nov. 28 (AM) and five at Huachuca City Nov. 20 (RS). Four ♀ and two ♂ Wood Ducks plus two or three broods of immatures, seen Aug. 12 on Peck's L., near Prescott, were suspected of having bred there (CT). The species was recorded again at Winkelman, where uncommon; up to three were present Oct. 11-Nov. 17 (K. Lease). One was in Tucson Nov. 16-23 + (*fide* Cd) and more than usual (6) were in Phoenix during the period (MJ, TC *et al.*). A very late Cinnamon Teal was at Becker L., Springerville Nov. 19 (GM).

A Eur. Wigeon returned to Phoenix in early November for the 5th winter after an absence of one year (M. Carpenter *et al.*). An imm. White-winged Scoter in Prescott Nov. 27-30 (V. Miller, CT) was the first for that area; there have been about 24 individuals recorded in the state.

RAPTORS — Single Ospreys, uncommon in s.e. Arizona, were reported e. of Portal Sept. 23 (WS), at McNeal Oct. 3 (AM) and at San Simon Cienega Oct. 17 (WS, RM). More than usual—up to 14—were recorded around and w. of Phoenix; at least one stayed into December (m.ob.).

Additional evidence of Black-shouldered Kites nesting in the state was provided by up to two adults Sept. 14-Nov. 30 and up to two



immatures Oct. 24-Nov. 30 at Elfrida, s.e. Ariz. (ph., AM). However, the nesting s. of Casa Grande was not successful. The 2 nests with incubating adults discovered during the summer were found to have blown down after a storm in late August; one of these contained egg shells (RG). Only one bird, an adult, was seen there Sept. 31 (TG, MJ *et al.*). Sightings of individual adults in new areas were at Vekol Wash e. of Gila Bend in August (*fide* RG), at the Gila Bend sewage pond Oct. 22 (RF) and near I-10 and Sacaton, Gila R. Indian Reservation Nov. 20 (DSy).

An imm. Broad-winged Hawk was found in a canyon s.e. of Oracle Oct. 3 (D. Ellis); there have been about a dozen previous state records. Up to five Harris' Hawks were reported in extreme s.e. Arizona during the period (DD, TD, AM); two in the Welton area Nov. 30 were thought to be from the re-introduced population on the L.C.R. (*fide* DT). An imm. Zone-tailed Hawk, rare in the w. part of the state, was seen near Tacna Sept. 22 (†JJ, DK); an individual over Tucson Nov. 13 (†L. Comrack) was quite late.

An imm. Crested Caracara strayed N to Chandler Nov. 11 (†D & MSy).

TURKEY THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A flock of eight Wild Turkeys was seen Nov. 16 in Arroyo Cajon Bonito, Sonora, Mex., 5 ± mi s.e. of Guadalupe Canyon (T. Potter, AM, TD). The status of the species in this area is poorly known. Three Montezuma Quail at Nutrioso Aug. 19 (BHe) indicated that the White Mts. population survived the winter of 1978-1979. The populations in parts of s.e. Arizona have built back up to good levels (KK). A Purple Gallinule, the second record of this sparse visitor for the year, was observed at McNeal on the late date of Oct. 2-18 (DD, †AM, TD).

Three uncommon species of shorebirds were recorded: a Red Knot at Willcox Sept. 14-24 (†AM, CB *et al.*), a Red Phalarope at Chandler Oct. 22-23 (DSj, RF), and two Ruddy Turnstones—one at Tucson Sept. 17 (PN) and one at Phoenix Oct. 19 (DSj).

Individual Black-bellied Plovers were at McNeal Oct. 5 & 16 (AM, DD, RBa), at Picacho Res., July 30 (JS), at the Chandler sewage pond Sept. 15 (PB); and eight were counted at P.R.D., Oct. 22 (DSj, RF). In contrast to their status elsewhere in the state, Black-necked Stilts are generally rare in extreme s.e. Arizona. A number of reports from that area this fall included up to six at the Bisbee-Douglas sewage ponds Oct. 2 (AM). A Whimbrel at Prescott Aug. 5-6 (CT) was the first for that area and one of only a few records away from the L.C.R. Four Marbled Godwits were recorded in s.e. Arizona (AM *et al.*); and three s. and w. of Phoenix (RW, PB) included one on the late date of Nov. 6 at P.R.D. (DSj, CB, RF). Up to three Sanderlings were at Willcox Sept. 14-Oct. 2 (AM, m.ob.), and one at Nogales Sept. 24 (DSj *et al.*).

GULLS, TERNS — An ad. Laughing Gull at Nogales Sept. 24 (DSj, JBa, JS, Cd) was the 2nd for that area; there are <10 records for the state. Surprising was the *ad.* Sabine's Gull at Cibola N.W.R., Oct. 6 (†DK, JJ); only a few adults have been found inland. Up to four Herring Gulls, uncommon away from the L.C.R., were found at P.R.D., Oct.

23-Nov 6 (DSj, RF, CB, PB) From one to two Com Terns were found far e. at McNeal Oct. 2-5 (AM, DD, TD).

CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Only 14 Yellow-billed Cuckoos (more common before habitat destruction on the Bill Williams R.) were detected on the L.C.R., during August and early September (DK).

A Ferruginous Owl was found Oct. 15 at Tucson in a different locality from that of the pair there during the past 2 summers (T. Meyer, GM). Two newly fledged Spotted Owls were seen in Sycamore Canyon Aug. 30 (DK, KC). A late Com. Nighthawk was recorded at Prescott Sept. 15 (CT).

Adding to the summer records of the following 2 species of hummingbirds from s. of the border were a Plain-capped Starthroat in Copper Canyon near Coronado N.M., Aug. 20 (RBr, PB); and a Berylline Hummingbird in Garden Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Aug. 6 (J. Arvin). Portal continued to attract Lucifer Hummingbirds: two imm. females were at feeders there Sept. 4-Oct. 7 (S & WS); a female was seen in Guadalupe Canyon Aug. 20 (DD, AM, RBo) and a male in Leslie Canyon near Douglas Aug. 28 (DD). An apparent imm. White-eared Hummingbird was at a feeder in Madera Canyon Aug. 10 (GM). The majority of reports of White-eared Hummingbirds in Madera Canyon actually pertain to \emptyset Broad-billed Hummingbirds which are very common there. Another White-eared Hummingbird was observed in the Chiricahua Mts., Sept. 10 (RM).

Records of Calliope Hummingbirds in s.e. Arizona continued to mount: a male was at Portal feeders Aug. 10 and an imm. male was there during September (S & WS); a female was found dead at Portal Aug. 19 and a male was observed near Rustler P., Chiricahua Mts., Aug. 28 & Sept. 3 (RT). One of the Magnificent Hummingbirds in the Pinal Mts., near Globe, remained at least until Sept. 12 (RH, BJ); and even farther n. and e., one at a feeder in Eagar in early August (F. Fanning, *vide* GM) provided one of only a few records for the White Mts.

Two young Anna's Hummingbirds seen in a nest in Mesa, e. of Phoenix Nov. 16 (V. Murphy, *vide* JW) represented the earliest nesting record of that species in the state. Anna's Hummingbirds were more in evidence than usual in the Globe area throughout the period (RH, J. Spencer, BJ).

KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS — A Green Kingfisher at Ariavaca Aug. 14 (S. & J. Levy) furnished the first report of this rare straggler since 1978.

A Red-breasted Sapsucker, an uncommon visitor, was observed at Pena Blanca L., w. of Nogales Nov. 5 (GM, Cd *et al.*). An early δ Williamson's Sapsucker was seen s. of Rustler P., Aug. 16 (RT). A δ Hairy Woodpecker at Beaver Dam Wash., n.w. Ariz., Oct. 15 was at a lower than usual elevation (JC, LP).

FLYCATCHERS, CROWS — There were two E. Phoebes during the period—one e. of Tucson Nov. 20 (JS) and one at Cibola N.W.R., Nov. 16-22 (\dagger KC, DK, JJ). A Cassin's Kingbird, an uncommon transient on the L.C.R., was at Cibola N.W.R., Aug. 12 & 16 (DK), and three were observed at Ehrenberg Sept. 13-early October (CH, LL, KC, DK). Two very late Cassin's Kingbirds were seen in Bisbee Nov. 22 (AM); and a late first-year W. Kingbird was seen in Avra Valley near Tucson Nov. 14 (CT).

American Crow has recently become a local abundant fall and winter resident on the L.C.R.; by late-October flocks of up to 500+ were counted at Cibola N.W.R. (DK).

CHICKADEES THROUGH THRASHERS — A Mountain Chickadee, only a casual winter visitor on the L.C.R., was at Cibola N.W.R., Oct. 24 and another individual was recorded there Nov. 14 (DK). Red-breasted Nuthatches were found at low elevation localities around Prescott in October (CT); and two were recorded at Tuba City Aug. 24 (JC). Pygmy Nuthatch is not known to be a resident in the Pinal Mts., so those seen the last week of August to Sept. 8 were unusual (RH). Two Winter Wrens, sparse winter residents, were seen at Beaver Dam Wash Oct. 15 (JC, LP) and three were in Oak Cr. Canyon Nov. 16 (JC).

A δ **Aztec Thrush** in Madera Canyon Aug. 30-Sept. 13 (\dagger KC, \dagger DK, ph., JS, m.ob.) was only the 5th for the state but the 3rd record from that area. Records of Gray Catbirds away from their breeding areas contin-

ued to accumulate one was far n and w at Beaver Dam Wash Oct 22 (LP) and one was on the San Pedro R., at Hereford Oct. 28-29 (P Sisk, J. Newman, *vide* RS).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Yellow-throated Vireo was discovered in Madera Canyon Aug. 5 (\dagger L. Thompson); there have been about 16 previous records in the state. A Gray Vireo was netted, banded and photographed Aug. 21 in Catalina Foothills, Tucson (P. Walters), an area where the species is apparently rare.

There were few e. vagrant warblers reported this fall, but representatives of 2 species strayed N from Mexico. A **Crescent-chested Warbler** found in Garden Canyon Sept. 3-15 provided a first for the United States (D. Heathcote *et al.*). Details and photos will be published elsewhere. A **Rufous-capped Warbler**, discovered in Coronado N.M., Aug. 14 (MJ), represented only the 3rd state record.

A **Cape May Warbler** was found at Picacho Res., Oct. 15 (DSj, CB, RF). There have been only 4 previous state records. An ad. δ **Golden-winged Warbler** at Prescott Aug. 14 (CT) added to the mystery of the status of that species—a year ago a female and four young were present for over 2 weeks in early September in another locality in Prescott. There had been records of only four individuals in the state prior to these.

A δ Prothonotary Warbler at Portal Oct. 6 (\dagger S & WS) was about the 16th for the state. An imm. Chestnut-sided Warbler at Boyce Thompson Arboretum Nov. 12 (\dagger DSy) was the only one of that species reported.

A female and four imm. Olive Warblers were seen together in a flock on Mingus Mt., n.e. of Prescott Sept. 15 (CT), adding another locality in the n. part of the species' range. The δ Hooded Warbler that spent the summer at Page Springs s. of Sedona, remained until Sept. 15 (CT). A late and low elevation Painted Redstart was recorded on the Hassayampa R., s. of Prescott Nov. 28 (CT).

There was one Tennessee Warbler, three Black-and-white Warblers, three Am. Redstarts and two N. Waterthrushes reported during the period.

SPARROWS, BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES — A δ **Yellow Grosbeak**, discovered in a remote side canyon of Sycamore Canyon, Atascosa Mts., Aug. 12 (\dagger T. Harvey), represented the 8th state record. An Indigo Bunting, a rare transient on the L.C.R., was observed at Ehrenberg Sept. 26 (\dagger LL). An imm. δ Painted Bunting (an uncommon visitor) was at Portal Aug. 20 (ph., RF, DSj), and a δ Painted Bunting was reported in with the many Lazuli Buntings at Benson Sept. 3 (JBo). Two Dickcissels (one * to U. of A.), sparse transients, were found at Tucson Sept. 14 (RBo). Three individuals of another sparse migrant Clay-colored Sparrow, were recorded—one at Douglas Sept. 13 (AM, RM, S & WS), one at McNeal Sept. 14 (AM) and one (* to U. of A.) at Tucson Sept. 15 & 23 (RBo, GM, WD).

Three Abert's Towhees were seen Oct. 19 in 2 areas near Roosevelt L., e. of Phoenix, where the species has not been recorded previously (BJ). A Swamp Sparrow was seen Nov. 19 at Richville, n.e. Ariz. (GM, BHe) where few records of this species have been recorded. Two Harris' Sparrows were reported—one in Tucson Nov. 13-23 was banded (C Corchran, Cd), and an ad. male at Rio de Flag, s. of Flagstaff Nov. 27-28 (JC). Two McCown's Longspurs, uncommon winter visitors, were found at Becker L., Springerville Oct. 27 (KR).

A Bobolink was observed Aug. 20 in the area near Springerville where the species nested in 1979 (BHe); and an individual at Willcox Sept. 28 (GM, WD) represented one of only a few records of this sparse migrant in s.e. Arizona.

Scattered reports of individual Purple Finches, irregular fall and winter visitors, came during late October and early November from Parker (KR), w. of Gila Bend at Paloma (DSj), s.w. Phoenix (DSj), Canelo Hills Cienega (GM, T. Clark), Santa Catalina Mts. (RBo, WD), w. of Prescott, s. of Prescott (CT); and two on the Hassayampa R. (CT). Red Crossbills in "good numbers" were inhabiting the Chiricahua Mts., Mt. Lemmon, Bill Williams Mt., Flagstaff, Oak Cr. Canyon all fall (RT, CT); and around Prescott where they were paired and singing by the end of the period and suspected of breeding again (CT).

An ad. Lesser Goldfinch, feeding nestlings Oct. 10 in the pine-oak riparian zone near Prescott, was late for that elevation (CT). A few Evening Grosbeaks in the San Francisco Mts., and Bill Williams Mt., in October were the only ones reported during the fall (CT).

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New Mexico

/John P. Hubbard

CORMORANTS THROUGH SPOONBILL — Olivaceous Cormorants persisted through the period in the Rio Grande Valley from Bosque del Apache N.W.R. (hereafter, Bosque N.W.R.) to Caballo Dam, with 60+ in the latter area Nov. 27 (KZ). Cattle Egrets were reported only in the lowermost parts of the Rio Grande (BZ, KZ) and Pecos (SW) valleys, with a maximum of 91 in the former Aug. 24. New Mexico's first specimen of **White Ibis** was an adult found dead at Bosque N.W.R., Oct. 19, the apparent victim of a botulism outbreak there that claimed several thousand waterbirds (*vide* JF). The state's 2nd report and first confirmed record of **Roseate Spoonbill** was an immature at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Sept. 2-5 (K. Wood *et al.*; ph.).

RAPTORS — The only Mississippi Kites reported from the Pecos Valley were one at Roswell Aug. 3 (JH) and two at Los Lunas Aug. 25-Sept. 10 (WH). Twelve days of raptor counting in the Manzano Mts., s.e. of Albuquerque, yielded 865 birds of 14 species Sept. 5-Oct. 22 (S. Hoffman *et al.*). Among the more notable records was a peak of 250 birds, including five N. Goshawks Sept. 25-Oct. 15, 162 Sharp-shinned and one Zone-tailed hawks Oct. 16, and three Merlins Sept. 25-Oct. 22.

TURKEY THROUGH CRANES — The introduced Rio Grande race of Wild Turkey at Bosque N.W.R., continues to increase, with 100+ now present; others from this introduction have spread S to the Elephant Butte L. area (*vide* JF). Sandhill Cranes in areas of infrequent or rare occurrence included the following: two or more in the Zuni Mts., near Thoreau Oct. 15 (D.A. McCallum); 60± over the Sandia Mts., Nov. 13 (HS), and one at Carlsbad Caverns N. P. (hereafter, C.C.N.P.) Oct. 8 (SW). After the fledging of 19 cross-fostered Whooping Cranes in Idaho in Summer 1983, up to 32 birds were expected to migrate to New Mexico in the autumn; as of Nov. 15, all 32 had reached Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., and 19 had moved on to New Mexico (*vide* R. Drewien).

SHOREBIRDS — Thirty-eight or more Black-billed Plovers on the Lordsburg Playa Nov. 1 (RH) was a very high count for New Mexico, especially that late in the autumn. Twelve Semipalmated Plovers were reported in the Rio Grande Valley and at Holloman lakes Aug. 20-Sept. 10 (v.ob.). Impressive concentrations of Mountain Plovers were found at a new locale, a turf farm near Los Lunas; 44 were counted there Sept. 11, 75 on Sept. 15, and 40 on Oct. 8 (WH). Upland Sandpiper numbers were down in the lower Pecos Valley (SW) and in the Rio Grande Valley (BZ *et al.*) compared to Autumn 1982; however, the species has not been regular in the latter area in the past, and any records there are notable. In 1983 these included one near Los Lunas Sept. 10 (WH), plus four in the Las Cruces area Aug. 31 -Sept. 6 (BZ *et al.*). Large numbers of Long-billed Curlews were evident in the period in the Carlsbad area, with a max. of 178 near Loving Oct. 1 (SW). Well-documented reports of Semipalmated Sandpipers included one-two immatures at Holloman L., Aug. 15-25 (KZ *et al.*; photos). Three birds reported at L. McMillan Sept. 7 (SW) were undetailed, as was a White-rumped Sandpiper there Sept. 16 (SW)! Baird's Sandpipers moved through the state in good numbers, including 70+ at Cochiti L., Aug. 20 (JH), 60 in Dona Ana

County Sept. 17 (BZ, KZ), and 45 at L. McMillan Sept. 16 (SW). Only 2 reports of Pectorals were received, two near Los Lunas Oct. 8 (WH) and one in s. Dona Ana County Oct. 13 & 15 (SWi, BZ). Dunlins made a reasonable showing, with 10+ from the lower Pecos Valley to s. Dona Ana County Sept. 14-Oct. 22 (RH *et al.*). Stilt Sandpipers were even more evident, with 120+ counted from the Rio Grande Valley e. Aug. 8-Oct. 1 (v.ob.); most notable were nine at Cochiti L., Aug. 20 (JH) and up to eight or more in Dona Ana County Sept. 5-26 (BZ *et al.*). A possible Short-billed Dowitcher at Holloman L., Sept. 10 (RH) was the only report. Red-necked Phalaropes were present in small numbers from the lower Pecos Valley to s. Dona Ana County Aug. 24-Sept. 24 (BZ *et al.*), while a very rare **Red Phalarope** was at Holloman L., Aug. 6 (KZ *et al.*, ph.) & 24 (BZ).

GULLS THROUGH DOVES — An ad. gull superficially resembling a Mew Gull was at Caballo Dam Nov. 24 & 26; however, it appears that the bird was most likely a California Gull with an unmarked bill (JH). An imm. Thayer's Gull was at Elephant Butte L., Nov. 27 (KZ), and a Com. Tern was reported at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Oct. 1 (RH). Least Terns at the same refuge appeared to have had a productive breeding season, with three plus immatures with five adults there Aug. 3 (JH) and four-seven immatures Oct. 1 (RH).

Two Band-tailed Pigeons were at Aguirre Spring in the Organ Mts., Oct. 29 (KZ *et al.*), somewhat late. White-winged Dove counts included 14 at Truth or Consequences Aug. 2 and one Oct. 14 (D. Miller), and one at Mangas Springs, Grant Co., Sept. 11 (RF); birds were present at Carlsbad at least until October (SW). A Com. Ground-Dove at Durling's Farm, s. Dona Ana Co., Oct. 15 (SWi, BZ) was unusual, as the species is now very rare in the Rio Grande Valley.

NIGHTJARS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A nighthawk in the Organ Mts., Nov. 12 (KZ *et al.*) was unusually late, regardless of species. Lowland occurrences of Whip-poor-wills are infrequent in the state enough to be notable; such records were of single birds at Owen's Farm Aug. 30 (KZ) and Durling's Farm Sept. 4 both in s. Dona Ana County (J. Donaldson, KZ; ph.). Nightjars possibly of this species were also seen at Durling's Farm Oct. 25 (KZ) and at Las Cruces Sept. 1 (RH). Chimney Swifts persisted at Clayton with as many as seven present Sept. 14-19 (A. Krehbiel). Late records of White-throated Swifts included 25+ in the Peloncillo Mts., Nov. 16 & 26, and 10+ in the Tres Hermanas Nov. 29 (RH). A ♂ Magnificent Hummingbird was present in Dark Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., Sept. 11 (SW); this species is very rarely reported in s.e. New Mexico.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — Acorn Woodpeckers are local in areas of seemingly suitable habitat in many parts of New Mexico, including in the Jemez, San Mateo (Mt. Taylor), and Guadalupe mts.; records in these respective areas included one at Los Alamos Aug. 10 & 25 (B. Lewis), four on Mesa Chivato Nov. 15-17 (JH), and two in Dog Canyon Sept. 3 (SW). Also notable on Mesa Chivato was a Downy Woodpecker Nov. 15 (JH), while also worth noting were single Hairies near Bosque, Valencia Co., Oct. 13 and Bernardo Oct. 27 (WH).

A Great Crested Flycatcher was banded at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 18, and another rare-for-the-area species was an E. Kingbird seen there Sept. 10 (SW). Late were three-five Scissor-tailed Flycatchers near Caprock, Chaves Co., Nov. 2 (RH), while the peak for the period was 20 near Carlsbad Oct. 10 (SW).

SWALLOWS THROUGH CORVIDS — Cave Swallows continue to expand in s.e. New Mexico, with 100 with nests found in Cottonwood Cave, Guadalupe Mts., on the Lincoln N. F., Aug. 5 (SW). Seventy plus birds were seen at Black R. Village Aug. 2 (JH), while several birds were present along Hwy 62/180 near the Texas line Oct. 1 (T. Bemis, SW). Of 650 Cave Swallows handled at C.C.N.P., only five showed signs of hybridization (with Barn Swallows); late were four birds there Nov. 8 (SW). Blue Jays are now apparently resident in small numbers at Carlsbad, and Aug. 30 a begging juvenile and two other birds were seen there (SW). Vagrants included singles in Cienega Canyon, Sandia Mts., Oct. 31 (HS) and in Socorro in early October (*vide* J. Shipman). A juv. Pinyon Jay was at Santa Fe Aug. 31 (JH), indicating later than typical breeding by the species there. Three Clark's Nutcrackers were on Mesa

Chivato Nov 16-17 (JH), and five plus were on Willow Mt., in the Mogollon Mts., Aug. 19 (KZ); 200+ Am. Crows had reached Bosque N.W.R., by Oct. 21 (P. Inslay, J. Vance), and there were 100± s. of Las Cruces Nov. 2 (JH). Forty-three Chihuahuan Ravens at Bernardo Sept. 11 (WH) represented a high count for that area.

WRENS THROUGH VIREOS — The only Winter Wren reported was at Mangas Springs Oct. 13-18 (RF), while the only lowland record of Golden-crowned Kinglet was in s. Dona Ana County Oct. 28 (BZ). Mountain Bluebird numbers were high in the Sandia Mts. (HS), while the only lowland incursions reported were of several at Isleta Oct. 16 and five at Bernardo Oct. 27 (WH). A Brown Thrasher at Caprock Oct. 2 (E. Hill) was out-of-habitat, as was a Crissal near Sitting Bull Falls, Guadalupe Mts., Aug. 5 (SW). On Aug. 28 a Bell's Vireo was singing near Mesilla (SW), where now quite rare. Single Hutton's and Philadelphia vireos were reported and sketchily detailed at Percha Dam Oct. 9; (BZ, KZ); both species are rare in the area in question.

WARBLERS — For rarity buffs, at least the passerine record of the season was a sparsely detailed but likely correct report of a **Swainson's Warbler** at Rattlesnake Springs, C.C.N.P., Oct. 8 (SW). This was a first for New Mexico and perhaps the 2nd report for the Southwest Region. Other "rarities" included an imm. Chestnut-sided Warbler near Bosque Oct. 13 (WH), a ♂ Hermit at Durling's Farm Sept. 9 (BZ *et al.*; KZ photos), a ♀ Black-throated Green there Oct. 31 (BZ), and a very late ♂ Hooded Nov. 7 (BZ, KZ; photos). Also notable in s. Dona Ana County were two N. Parulas (photos), a Black-and-white Warbler, and an Ovenbird (photos), (BZ, KZ), while another N. Parula was at Bosque (WH). Several less common species made better than normal appearances, most notably the N. Waterthrush in both distribution and numbers, Nashville Warbler and Am. Redstart in distribution. Among commoner species, an Audubon's (Yellow-rumped) Warbler was early at Santa Fe Aug. 18 (JH), late were one-two Orange-crowns near Mesilla Nov. 23 (KZ) and a Yellow near Mangas Springs Sept. 19 (SM), and unusual in the lowlands was a late Grace's at Percha Dam Oct. 15 (KZ *et al.*) and an early Painted Redstart at Mangas Springs Aug. 31 (RF).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported at Las Cruces Sept. 1 (RH) and Rattlesnake

Springs Oct. 8 (SW). An amazing 45 Indigo Buntings were counted at the latter site Sept. 18, along with 20± Painted Buntings (SW) a vagrant Painted Bunting was at Mangas Springs Aug. 10 (RF), while eight at Durling's Farm Sept. 14 (BZ) was the highest count in Dona Ana County in many years. Dickcissels made a good showing w. to the lower Rio Grande Valley, with at least five in Dona Ana County Aug. 17-Sept. 24 (KZ *et al.*); a straggler reached the Cliff area, where seen Sept. 17 (SM). Clay-colored Sparrows were also in notable evidence in Dona Ana County in September (BZ), and one was at Bernardo Sept. 11 (WH). Two Black-throated Sparrows were seen Oct. 10 near Glenwood (JH), where the species is rare and local. A McCown's Longspur was heard Oct. 8 at Bernardo (WH), which is in an area where the species is very rarely reported.

ICTERIDS THROUGH CARDUELINES — Unusual was a **Bobolink** at Las Cruces Sept. 19 (RH). Two Great-tailed Grackles at Pena Blanca, Santa Fe Co., Aug. 23 (JH) were in an area where not previously reported. A ♂ Pine Grosbeak was reported on Sandia Crest Nov. 6, while even more unusual there was a ♀ **White-winged Crossbill** Oct. 16 (HS). Red Crossbills were numerous in the period in the Sandia Mts (HS), and 150+ were present on Mesa Chivato Nov. 15-17 (JH) Records from elsewhere included one-three at Santa Fe Aug. 7-Sept. 21 (JH) and six in Dark Canyon, Guadalupe Mts., Aug. 6 (SW) Pine Siskins reached several lowland areas with records mainly in October-November at such localities as Bosque N.W.R. (RH), Caprock (RH), Mangas Springs (RF), and San Simon Cienega (JH, RH); early was a bird at Los Lunas Aug. 6 (WH). Two Am. Goldfinches were at Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 2, including a male in breeding plumage (JH) Evening Grosbeaks were fairly common in the Sandia Mts., in the early part of the period, becoming rarer later (HS); three plus were on Mesa Chivato Nov. 16-17 (JH). Lower elevational occurrences included one-four at Santa Fe Aug. 17+ (JH), seven at Albuquerque Oct. 12, and two at Bernardo Oct. 27 (WH).

CONTRIBUTORS — Ralph Fisher, Jerry French, Randy Hill, William Howe, John Hubbard, Scott Mills, Hart Schwarz, Steve West, Scott Wilson (SWi), Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer; v.ob. means "various observers."—**JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

ALASKA REGION

/D. D. Gibson

Pelagic birds that feed in the upper several meters of water suffered in Fall 1983 in the Chukchi Sea, in the Bering Sea, and in the northern North Pacific Ocean. Apparently because of food species' die-offs or displacements, direct results of warmer-than-usual sea surface temperatures, Short-tailed Shearwaters and Black-legged Kittiwakes—the two most numerous and widespread of such birds in the Region—were, at least in part because of their vast numbers, noticeably affected. The situation—numbers of dead birds at sea or on beaches or living birds that acted strangely—was remarked on by many coastal or at-sea observers from the southern Chukchi Sea to the eastern Aleutian Islands and east to Kodiak Island. Whether or not a long-term problem exists remains to be seen.

Undoubtedly all birds that feed in the upper seawater were affected in some way; perhaps the inland occurrences of Ross' Gulls this season (*q.v.*) were yet another species' response to a food problem in the surface seawater. There were no reports of this situation's having affected diving birds. A number of people are studying the phenomenon, and we can expect to learn more as information is made available.

The only fall bird tour ever conducted to Alaska was ATTOUR's Autumn 1983 trip to Attu Island. It produced much valuable information on fall movement through the Near Islands.

GREBES — Western Grebes w. of SE Alaska are unusual. One found alive on the highway n. of Wasilla Nov. 1 (KLi & KR) and another

observed well on saltwater at Valdez Nov. 7 (†GJT & MMT) prompted observers to look for them in the Anchorage-Kenai Pen. area this fall, but no others were reported.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS — A number of Short-tailed Albatrosses were observed in the n. Gulf of Alaska during pelagic work Oct. 4-Nov. 15; details will be presented elsewhere (RAR). It seems clear that this species is annual, if very scarce, in Alaska waters of the North Pacific. A few Mottled Petrels were seen during this work; maximum was five each Nov. 1 & 4, at 59°30'N 143°20'W and at 59°28'N 145°W, respectively (RAR). One Mottled Petrel was seen in Chiniak Bay, Kodiak, Sept. 26 (JBA). Pink-footed Shearwater is seldom reported, so single birds off Cape Greville, Kodiak, July 31 & Aug. 7 (JBA), two off Krasni Pt., Attu I., Sept. 6 (PI); and singles at 58°19'N 148°28'W on Oct. 21 (RAR) and at 59°30'N 143°20'W on Nov. 1 (RAR) were of interest. Comments on Short-tailed Shearwaters (see above) included the following:

"Had them literally eating out of our hands while halibut fishing off of Spruce Cape [Kodiak] 17 Aug. (RAM, JS). During August and September there were numerous Kodiak area reports of aggressive birds and dead birds. Local suspicion of mass starvation later proven to be true by U.S.F.W.S. autopsy" (RAM).

"On Aug. 20 & 21, *hundreds* [JBA's italics] of dead [Short-tailed] shearwaters started showing up in the tide rips in Ugak Bay [Kodiak] There were similar reports from the whole east side of the island. The shearwaters were hanging out at the heads of the bay and following the boat like gulls, behavior very uncharacteristic of them. The surface water temp was much higher than normal and this seemed to affect the



behavior of pelagic birds especially" (JBA).

"A beach survey near Dutch Harbor, Amaknak Island, September 21 revealed 108 [Short-tailed Shearwater] carcasses along 3900 feet of shoreline. About 50 live birds in a greatly weakened condition were 50-100 feet offshore the previous day" (CFZ). At Deering, on the Seward Pen. coast of Kotzebue Sound, up to eight of these birds along the beach Aug. 20-Sept. 10 were unusual, as local Natives were unfamiliar with them; one was found dead (JW).

WATERFOWL — Emperor Geese were early, arriving at Izembek N.W.R., Aug. 26 (CPD), at Kodiak Sept. 8 (JBA), and at Attu (one bird) Sept. 12 (TGT *et al.*). About 150,000 Brant departed Izembek Oct. 21, a day earlier than previously; a 2nd wave, of 20,000± birds, departed Izembek Nov. 2, leaving a wintering population of 3500 at the close of the period (CPD). The first Aleutian report of the species and the first anywhere in the state in several years, a difficult-to-identify, Ø-plumaged **Baikal Teal** was carefully studied with Green-winged Teal at Attu Oct. 14 (†PWS & †GFW); presumably the same bird was seen there Nov. 3-4 (†DWS) as well. The observers eliminated to their satisfaction possible confusion with Ø-plumaged Green-winged Teal and Garganey, both of which were present on the island during this period. A juv. ♂ Garganey seen at Attu Nov. 3 (DWS) was the latest Alaska record. A **Spot-billed Duck** observed with a Mallard at Adak Oct. 24 (†CFZ & MZ) provided only the 3rd documented Alaska record, the 2nd at that location. Nonbreeder and failed-breeder Steller's Eiders began arriving at Izembek in mid-August. The peak of molt was about Sept. 1, and there were 38,835 on Izembek Lagoon Sept. 22. The population built to its peak by Nov. 1, when 90,000-100,000 birds were present (CPD). An ad. ♂ Smew arrived at Buskin L., Kodiak, Nov. 13 (JBA, RAM) and remained, probably the same bird that has wintered in that area the last 2 years.

EAGLES, FALCONS — The single young White-tailed Eagle reared in the Temnac Valley aerie, Attu, in 1983 fledged successfully; it and the adults were seen at intervals in September and October (*i.e.*, as late as observers were present to record them). A ♀-plumaged **Eurasian Kestrel** was seen at Attu Oct. 17 (†PWS & †GFW); there have been at least 5 Alaska records, all in the c. and w. Aleutians since 1978, most in fall.

SHOREBIRDS — A juv. Eur. Dotterel at Attu Sept. 18 (PI) provided the 3rd Aleutian record, the latest in the state by a day. A very wild

Green Sandpiper seen well at Attu Aug. 16-19 (†TGT *et al.*) constituted the first documented fall record and the 6th overall for Alaska. **Three imm.** **Little Stints** were identified with imm. Rufous-necked Stints at Attu Sept. 5-7 (two) & Sept. 7-9 (†TGT *et al.*); one of the first two and the third were photographed (ph. GFW and LP, respectively). This species at this age remains a most difficult identification problem; these birds constitute the 8th Alaska record of this species substantiated by specimen or photograph, all since 1975. Two imm. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers observed at **Kenney L.**, on the Edgerton Hwy, e. of Tonsina Sept. 5 (†FJB) furnished the first inland records in Alaska of this common coastal migrant from Siberia. Undoubtedly related to this event were 80-100 Sharp-taileds at the Kaslof R. mouth Sept. 28 (MAM) and one at Seward Oct. 11 (REM). Not so exciting as inland Sharp-taileds, inland Dunlins (also imm.) were nonetheless of interest: one at Fairbanks Aug. 23 (DDG), one at Kenney L., Sept. 4-5 (FJB), and four at Fairbanks Sept. 10 (DDG & KL). Heretofore, this species has been known inland in Alaska only as a casual spring migrant. An imm. Stilt Sandpiper at Juneau Aug. 4-5 (†CM) was one of few SE records. One immature at Kenney L., Aug. 28 (†FJB) & Aug. 31 (†GJT), two there Sept. 4 and one Sept. 5 (FJB) number among few fall records anywhere in Alaska and would seem to have been headed in the same direction as the Juneau bird.

GULLS, TERNS — California Gulls again occurred at **Anchorage**; a juvenile Aug. 30 (†RLS) was the first one there this fall, and subsequently, through Nov. 11, at least four others were seen (DWS *et al.*, ph.). Ross' Gull is common and annual on the Chukchi Sea coast in fall, but it is neither on the adjacent Beaufort coast, so one bird at Barter I., Aug. 3 [early] (TJD *et al.*) and a flock of 45 birds along the beach at nearby Kaktovik Sept. 22 (TJD & KOD *et al.*, ph.) were of interest. Elsewhere, Ross' Gulls were noted at Deering; at least five were seen Sept. 25-26 and one was seen 0.5 mi inland from Deering Sept. 28 (JW). Ross' Gulls *over 100 km inland* in Alaska, on the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers (*TOO), were unparalleled, however. Five were seen 18 mi up the Koyukuk Sept. 22; two were seen on Nikolai Slough, off the Koyukuk, Sept. 23; ten birds were seen in the vicinity of Three Day Slough Sept. 24; and one was seen at Galena, on the Yukon Sept. 26. Finally, one Ross' Gull was observed at the junction of Nixon Fork and the Takotna R., Sept. 24 (PF & MS)—just n. of McGrath and some 275 km inland. Two **Caspian Terns** at Cordova Aug. 14 (PI, RF) provided the latest seasonal record in the 3-year history of the species in Alaska.

HUMMINGBIRDS TO SWALLOWS — A ♀-plumaged Anna's Hummingbird present at a feeder in **Girdwood**, near Anchorage, mid-August-early December (DWS & RLS *et mult. al.*, ph. JCP) provided the westernmost record of the species and one of very few ever w. of SE Alaska. An ad. ♂ Anna's at a Ketchikan feeder Nov. 27 (GS, *fide* TEK) furnished the only SE report this season. A Say's Phoebe at Anchorage Oct. 2 (DWS & PWS) provided only the 2nd October record in Alaska. Eurasian Skylarks set new records for both coming and going, arriving Attu Sept. 13 and departing Oct. 16 (TGT, GFW); maximum was six birds Sept. 14 (TGT). Alaska's 4th **Common House-Martin** was watched at length as it hawked back and forth below eye level along a beach at St. Matthew I., Aug. 10 (†PDM & †DGR).

OLD WORLD WARBLERS, SHRIKES — A **Dusky Warbler** carefully studied at close range at Attu Sept. 21 (†TGT *et al.*) provided the 5th Alaska record, 3 of them in 1983! Preceded and followed by intense storms was the almost incredible observation of an imm. **Brown Shrike** hunting a fence line at **Anchorage** airport Sept. 28 (†TGT & LJO). Alaska's 3rd record of the species and the first on the mainland, the bird was not seen again.

SPARROWS TO FINCHES — The first Harris' Sparrow of the fall arrived at Auke Bay, Juneau Oct. 6; a 2nd arrived Oct. 10, and both remained to winter (RBW). A Harris' Sparrow at a **Homer** feeder Nov. 25 (DWS *et al.*, ph.) provided only the 4th SC Alaska record. The species is annual only on the mainland of SE Alaska, where very poorly known except at the perennial feeding/banding stations of RBW! A **Little Bunting** was well described at Attu Sept. 22 (PI); the bird was flighty, and it was not seen well enough for identification by the many

other observers who glimpsed it. The 2 previous Alaska records are specimens. Two Rustic Buntings at Attu Sept. 23 (TGT, ATD) provided the only records this season. A ♂ **Brewer's Blackbird** was seen at close range at Craig, Prince of Wales I., Nov. 10 (†TEK). There have been a few other SE reports in the past, but the only unequivocal state record is from Barrow. Fall migrant Bramblings arrived at Attu record-early Sept. 11 (TGT *et al.*), maximum was 20+ Sept. 23, and two were present there at least as late as Oct. 18 (PWS). White-winged Crossbills were present all season in the Fairbanks area (m.ob.), and they were numerous at Juneau in October, but became scarce there by end of November (PI). They were all but absent at Kodiak (RAM) and rare at Kasilof (MAM). No redpolls were recorded at Kodiak, and Pine Siskins were relatively rare (RAM). "Essentially no cardueline finches were present in the Cook Inlet area all fall" (TGT). Neither redpolls nor siskins were

numerous in the Fairbanks area, but both were present (m.ob.).

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

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

At Vancouver, British Columbia, temperatures were near normal August-October with rainfall 85% of normal. November was warm and very wet with rainfall 230% of normal. Exotic shorebirds and vagrant warblers were little noted, but three very rare Siberian songbirds in late fall presaged an unprecedented winter movement.

The topic of most interest was the effect of *El Niño*. As we are privy to but a piece of that global puzzle, cautious interpretation is advised. Nevertheless, *El Niño* seems implicated in extraordinary population shifts of Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls, Elegant and Caspian terns, Common Murres, and Cassin's Auklets.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A winter plumaged Yellow-billed Loon reported last summer was seen again Aug. 24 (†DK, †MD, †C. Siddle *et al.*) & Sept. 20 in Semiahmoo Bay, White Rock, B.C. (GA). Three other sightings were of normal migrants after Oct. 2 at Port Angeles, Wash., Saanich, V.I., and W. Vancouver, B.C.

Pelagic reports represent 11 offshore trips Aug. 17-Oct. 9. However, 7 of these were during the brief "peak season," Aug. 27-Sept. 11. Seven left from Grays Harbor, Wash. (TW, EH), 2 from Oregon ports (JC, DI), and 2 to La Perouse Bank off s.w. V.I. (MS, *fide* VG).

A **Solander's Petrel** (*Pterodroma solandri*) off Westport, Wash., Sept. 11 (†DA, †TW *et al.*) was seen briefly but clearly at a pelagic bird feeding concentration over Grays Canyon. It was a first for Washington of this c. Pacific species and only the 2nd report from the West coast (AB 35:857, 973). Details will be published elsewhere.

Sooty and Short-tailed shearwaters staged a notable invasion of "Inland Sea" waters. "Unprecedented numbers" of Sooties were seen off Victoria, V.I., with hundreds passing Clover Pt., off and on Sept. 26-Nov. 19 (m.ob., *fide* VG). Short-tailed Shearwaters were noted in the Straits of Georgia and Juan de Fuca and on the Washington and Oregon coasts Aug. 23-Nov. 26 (*RW). Two hundred Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels Aug. 20-22 were seen between Port Orford, Oreg., and the California border, a most unusual inshore movement (JC, DF).

One likely consequence of *El Niño* was a Brown Pelican invasion n. of the Columbia R. Peak counts included 1000 off Long Beach, Pacific Co., Wash., Aug. 17 (RW) and 250 in the Grays Harbor channel Oct. 8 (TW), with 600 still at the N.J.C.R., Oct. 22 (RW). Vancouver I. reports included up to five Oct. 15-16 at Victoria (*fide* VG) and 24 in Port Renfrew Aug. 23. Stragglers reached Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 27 (†D. Roberts) and Seattle Nov. 11 (DB, EH *et al.*) where they had not been previously recorded in this century. Brown Pelicans this far n. are usually juveniles, but Washington flocks this fall contained 20-40% adults. Last fall's pelican movement was only slightly less impressive (AB 37:215).

Late fall concentrations of Great Egrets in Oregon continue to build with record high counts this year of 109 at Coos Bay Nov. 4 (J. McDowell, *fide* AMG) and 83 at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene Nov. 11 (DF, BC). Only five birds were seen at 3 locations in Washington, with one n. to Port Susan, near Everett Oct. 1 (D. Kvamme *et al.*). A total of 17 Cattle Egrets was reported Oct. 26+, 12 in Oregon, two in Washing-



ton, and three to British Columbia. An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron at Westham I., near Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 26+ (DK) furnished an unusual local record, while a group of six to seven at Stanwood, Snohomish Co., Wash., Nov. 12+ (J. & S. Van Neil *et al.*) may have wintered.

GEESE THROUGH CRANES — An Emperor Goose was found at Yachats, Lincoln Co., Oreg., Oct. 29+ (R. Robb, JG *et al.*, *fide* DF, HN) and another appeared at Coos Bay, Oreg., Nov. 19 (*fide* AMG). A flock of 27 Brant Sept. 6 in Quick's Bottom, Saanich, V.I., was both extremely early and at an unusual inland location (†DFr *et al.*, *fide* VG). A ♂ Tufted Duck with a possible ♀ companion was photographed Oct. 26-27 near Leadbetter Pt., Wash. (RW, G. Lippert, ph.). This was the 4th year in the last 5 that the species was noted in Washington. A ♀ **King Eider** at Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 24+ (B. Emory *et al.*) furnished the 5th record for that area. Two Oldsquaws Aug. 6 off Cordova Spit, s. V.I. (A. Porcher, *fide* VG) and 12 at Pt. Roberts Sept. 11 (WW) were well ahead of the usual mid-October influx. Single Barrow's Goldeneyes at Sequim Bay, Clallam Co., Wash., Sept. 13 (EH) and at Pt. Roberts Sept. 19 (WW) were down from the mountains at least a month early.

The annual Turkey Vulture parade over Victoria was near normal with 200+ daily Sept. 25-29. November stragglers were noted from

Table 1. Pelagic bird observations: Tubenoses

Species	8-17 Wash.	8-27 Wash.	8-27 Oreg.	9-3 B.C.	9-4 B.C.	9-5 Oreg.	9-6 Wash.	9-9 Wash.	9-11 Wash.	9-17 Wash.	10-9 Wash.	Comments
Black-footed Albatross	116	162	50	3	7	10	98	100	136	30	5	high (TW)
Northern Fulmar	106	74	50	800	800	10	115	100	75	100	152	very high (TW)
Pink-footed Shearwater	85	129	100	100	300	200	264	50	188	50	16	low (TW)
Flesh-footed Shearwater	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	low
Buller's Shearwater	0	12	3	0	0	2	8	10	2	10	71	higher than past few years
Sooty Shearwater	1.8K	36K	175	4K	6K	1.5K	6.8K	1.5K	4.6K	200K	3.2K	
Short-tailed Shearwater	0	12+	0	0	0	1	1	2+	1	0	1	
Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel	71	18	30	120	3	3	12	15	7	25	0	low (TW)
Leach's Storm-Petrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	

near Vancouver, B.C., s. Thirty Black-shouldered Kites in Oregon was exactly as reported last year. A roosting flock at Fern Ridge Res., built to 14 by period's end (BC, DF, SH), while at Ashland in the Rogue R. valley, 11 birds shared a roost Oct. 11 until dispersing in mid-November (MM). For the 7th year in succession kites were noted in Washington, with one at Nisqually N.W.R., near Olympia Oct. 1-22 (S. Thompson *et al.*) and a juvenile Oct. 29 n. to the Samish Flats, Skagit Co. (T. Bock).

Our accipiter tallies remained consistent, with 90 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 84 Cooper's, and 11 N. Goshawks reported, compared to 97, 70, and 10 last year. There are no clear migratory concentrations, although ca. 75% of sightings were for September and October. Cooper's/Sharp-shinned ratios exhibit striking Regional differences. British Columbia observers reported 1.12 Cooper's for every Sharp-shinned (1/31 for the Victoria area), Oregon observers reported 0.95:1, while Washingtonians cited just 0.39:1. Four Red-shouldered Hawks in Oregon this fall was half of last year's record total. Two were noted away from the s. coastal nesting outpost, one Oct. 15 at Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis (J. Krabbe, *vide* EE) and the other in mid-November in nearby n. Lane County (AP, *vide* DF). The only Swainson's Hawk noted was a migrant at 6000 ft on Mt. Rainier, Wash., Aug. 4 (GR *et al.*). A Rough-legged Hawk at Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 28 (H. & W. Hesse) was about a month ahead of schedule. One at Lebanon, Oreg., Sept. 30 was judged 10 days early there (B. Thackaberry, *vide* DF).

Falcons are holding their own, judging by the number of reported sightings. At least four Gyrfalcons compares to an average of 2.6 for the previous 5 years. One Sept. 6 at Vancouver, B.C., was very early (MMG). Sixty-five Peregrine reports was up from the 5-year average of 40, as were Merlin reports, with 74 this fall compared to the average of 65. Five Prairie Falcons reported in Oregon is normal. Two hunting Mt. Rainier's alpine slopes Sept. 7-25 (EH, D. Wechsler, A. Stepniewski) and another high in Garibaldi P.P., n. of Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 22 (B. McGrenere) chose the high road s. Another at Leadbetter Pt., on the s. Washington coast Sept. 26 (RW) was well out of range.

As usual, hundreds of Sandhill Cranes gathered on Sauvie I., Sept. 23-Nov. 20. Three hundred were still present in late November at Camas Swale, Lane Co., Oreg. (AP, *vide* DF), another traditional rest stop. Nine in C. Saanich, V.I., Sept. 11 was the next largest concentration noted (BW, AM, *vide* VG). The Oregon birds may come down the Columbia R., from the interior.

SHOREBIRDS — Lesser Golden-Plovers peaked at 200 at Ocean Shores Sept. 18 (EH *et al.*), an increase over the past 2 years. The last was one Oct. 29 at S.J.C.R. (OS, *vide* HN). A few of the form *fulva*—candidate for full species status (*Auk* 100:607-620)—were identified Sept. 5 & 18 at Ocean Shores (DP, EH) & Sept. 6 at Nehalem Meadows, Oreg. (†DI). Thirteen Blue-listed Snowy Plovers were at Coos Bay Oct. 12 (L. Thornburgh, *vide* AMG), and 30 were at Sutton Beach, Lane Co., Oreg., Dec. 3 (BC, DF, SH). Single Am. Avocets strayed W of the Cascades to Ocean Shores Aug. 28 (B. Reichert) and to Bandon, Oreg., Sept. 4 (M. Robbins, *vide* HN), and four to Coos Bay Aug. 28 (T. Morgan, *vide* HN). Bandon seems a favored site, as avocets appeared there in 1977 and 1978 also.

Eight Solitary Sandpipers Aug. 21-Oct. 1 were fewer than the average for a fall season. Sightings of one-five Willets were widely scattered

along the coasts of Oregon and Washington. One at Port Angeles, Wash., Oct. 3+ (SS *et al.*) may have been the same individual that wintered there last year. Two Upland Sandpipers on V.I. furnished the first fall reports since 1980. One was 15 mi s. of Campbell R., Aug. 20-25 (†R. Catchpole, *vide* H. Telosky) and the other was at Esquimault Lagoon near Victoria Sept. 27 (†B. & M. Meiklejohn, *vide* VG). The only concentration of Long-billed Curlews was the traditional flock of 25-30 on n. Willapa Bay Aug. 19-Sept. 18 (RW, R. Knapp; WW *et al.*). Three single birds strayed to near Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 6 & Oct. 5 & 25 (*vide* DK). A **Hudsonian Godwit** Aug. 14-16 at Reifel Ref., Ladner, B.C. (†BK, DA, P. Yorke—ph.) may then have strayed S to the Samish R. delta, Skagit Co., Wash., where one was noted Aug. 31 (J. van Os), for w. Washington's 5th ever. Hudsonian Godwits have been recorded in the Region each fall since 1974, most often in the Vancouver, B.C., area. A red-breasted ad. **Bar-tailed Godwit** Aug. 9 at the Dungeness R. mouth, Clallam Co., Wash. (†SS), constituted the only report this season. Bar-tailed Godwits have been recorded in 9 of the past 12 fall seasons with most reports from the Washington and Oregon coasts. A single Red Knot Nov. 1 at Victoria was late (RS, *vide* VG).

Semipalmated Sandpiper reports were again concentrated in the Vancouver, B.C., area, with 18 sightings of 25+ individuals, and on the Oregon coast, with 12 sightings of 19+ individuals. Washington observers reported 2 sightings of four individuals, none coastal. Most reports were in August with the latest a single Sept. 25 at Iona I. (BK). The 15,000 W. Sandpipers Aug. 2 at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., had declined to 2500 by Sept. 8 and to 400 by Sept. 17, representative of a very heavy coastal movement (*vide* HN). Baird's Sandpipers peaked at 25 at Delta, B.C., Sept. 6 (MF, T. Plath, MP) with a very late straggler Oct 10 at Ocean Shores (JS). A winter-plumaged adult at the Siuslaw R. mouth, near Florence, Oreg., Sept. 12 was most unusual (DF, SH). One hundred and ten Pectoral Sandpipers at Iona I., Sept. 16 was the season's high count, declining to 30 there Oct. 15, with none thereafter (DA, JI, S. Hosie). One Pectoral lingered until Nov. 14 at the Nehalem ponds, Oreg. (JG, OS, *vide* HN). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers rated below par with maxima of five at Iona I., Sept. 18 (DK, JI, MMG *et al.*) and three at Ocean Shores Oct. 10 (JS). One at Iona I., Nov. 9 (A. Grass) was the only sighting after mid-October. A **Curlew Sandpiper** at Iona I., Sept. 17 (†GA, m.ob.) was British Columbia's sixth. This species has now been recorded 3 fall seasons in a row. Stilt Sandpipers were unusually scarce with five individuals reported Aug. 16-Oct. 8, contrasting with last fall's record 30+ sightings. Nine Buff-breasted Sandpipers Aug. 18-Oct. 1 was below the average of 12 for 1980-1982. The 19 Ruffs Aug. 4-Oct. 13 was an all time Regional high. Four were found together Sept. 12 at the Siuslaw R. mouth, near Florence, Oreg. (†DF, SH, BC). Short-billed Dowitcher numbers declined sharply after mid-September, and the last was reported Oct. 28 at Reifel I., Ladner, B.C. (MP, MF). Numbers of Long-billeds tapered off after late October.

Red-necked and Red phalaropes were in very low numbers offshore. Red Phalaropes were unreported on 5 of 7 pelagic trips out of Grays Harbor (TW, EH). However, November storms brought dozens ashore at Victoria, V.I. (*vide* VG), and from Willapa Bay, Wash., to Lane County, Oreg. (RW, G&GR, DF, HN *et al.*).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers, although in below average numbers offshore, were noted onshore

Table 2. Offshore sightings: Larids, Alcids

Species	8-17 Wash.	8-27 Wash.	8-27 Oreg.	9-3 B.C.	9-4 B.C.	9-6 Wash.	9-9 Wash.	9-11 Wash.	9-17 Wash.	10-3 Wash.	Comments
Pomarine Jaeger	9	8	1	5	9	12	10	9	10	12	low (TW)
Parasitic Jaeger	0	0	—	0	0	4	5	2	0	2	low (TW)
Long-tailed Jaeger	3	0	0	0	0	4	5	7	1	0	low (TW)
jaeger species	2									1	
South Polar Skua	0	2	0	1	0	1	5	5	5	3	all dark-phase (EH)
Black-legged Kittiwake	0	20	—	—	1	230	30	75	50	192	very high (TW)
Sabine's Gull	12	8	2	130	150	4	2	4	10	0	note La Perouse Bank concentrations
Arctic Tern	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	0	low
Common Murre	337	258	few	—	—	210	250	299	200	91	low, no young (TW)
Cassin's Auklet	2	5	10	60	—	11	10	21	30	214	10% of normal before Oct. (TW)
Rhino. Auklet	46	37	10	—	—	47	25	68	20	193	low
Tufted Puffin	2	3	1	5	2	0	1	4	2	4	

with exceptional frequency. Pomarines were sighted at Vancouver, B.C., Pt. Roberts, Ocean Shores, the Columbia R. jetties, and Newport, Oreg. (m.ob.), from early to mid-September. Eight Long-tailed Jaegers were onshore Sept. 2-24, with six of these between Vancouver and Victoria, B.C. (*fide* DK, VG). RW identified six skuas Sept. 15-25 from shore off the N.J.C.R.

Franklin's Gull reports were down with maxima of only three at both Iona I., B.C., and Everett, Wash., in September. Single ad. Little Gulls were reported Sept. 17-18 at Pt. Roberts (F. Kile, †DK *et al.*), Sept. 21 at Iona I. (†BK, †MP), and about Victoria Sept. 22-Nov. 16 (m.ob., *fide* VG). It is possible that only a single bird was involved. An ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** was about Victoria Aug. 20-Sept. 25. This is a privileged location for this very rare visitor to our Region. Bonaparte's Gulls off Victoria were estimated at 15,000-20,000 Oct. 29-Nov. 19 (KT, RS, VG). Heermann's Gulls were more abundant and widespread than usual, presumably reflecting the impact of *El Niño* on their Gulf of California breeding colonies. The 10-20% immatures noted at Westport and in the San Juan Is., was considered an exceptionally high proportion (G. Walker, TW). Hundreds remained in the Washing-



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Nehalem Sewage Lagoon, Tillamook Co., Oreg., Sept. 25, 1983. Photo/O. Schmidt.

ton San Juans Nov. 13 (TW). Single first-year Glaucous Gulls Aug. 18 at Tsawwassen near Ladner, B.C. (†MP) and Sept. 13 at Victoria (MS, *fide* VG) were very early. Five birds Nov. 5+ were normal. Inshore Sabine's Gulls were reported from Vancouver and Victoria, B.C., Pt. Roberts and Seattle, Wash., and Newport and Coos Bay, Oreg., Aug. 24-Oct. 29.

S.A.

Caspian Terns experienced near total nesting failure at their s.w. Washington colonies and most had left the Region by mid-September. But *El Niño's* most dramatic effect was the unprecedented invasion of **Elegant Terns** N from California. Although occasionally numerous as far n. as Humboldt Bay in n. California in post-breeding dispersal (*e.g.*, AB 37:220), none had ever before been recorded in this Region. The drama opened Aug. 4 with a sighting at Coos Bay in s. Oregon (*fide* AMG). August 6 brought the Coos Bay total to 29 (M. Graybill, B. Pitman, *fide* DF) and three to Ocean Shores, Wash. (D. & C. Bruce, G. & W. Hoge). By Aug. 20-22 there were 26 at Cape Blanco, 40 at Yaquina Bay, and 14 at Tillamook Bay in Oregon; 25 at Long Beach and 21 at Ocean Shores in Washington; and seven N to Boundary Bay, near Vancouver, B.C. (R. Stallcup *et al.*; photos, MD, KT) for a Canadian first. The Grays Harbor flock reached 100 Sept. 4, while 200+ frequented the Rogue R. mouth in s. Oregon to Sept. 15. Numbers thereafter declined sharply, with one Nov. 13 at Coos Bay the last reported (AMG). Most were apparently adults, some still showing traces of the pink of breeding plumage.

Forster's Terns strayed N and W of their normal path *en route* to California with an adult noted at Blaine, Wash., and nearby at Crescent Beach, B.C., Aug. 25-Sept. 11 (†WW, †BK). Another was at the N.J.C.R., Sept. 14 (†RW) and three were reported in Oregon Sept. 1-21. Black Terns did likewise with singles noted at Seattle Aug. 23 (DH), Yaquina Bay, Oreg., Sept. 7 (HN), and at Ocean Shores Sept. 17-18 (EP, H. Fray; BK).

El Niño conditions discouraged nesting by Com. Murres and Cassin's Auklets (see Table 2). The large Rhinoceros Auklet colony on Protection I., Wash., was apparently little affected, as somewhat colder waters prevailed in the inner Strait of Juan de Fuca (*Pac. Northwest* 17(9):19-20). Two **Xantus' Murrelets** off Westport, Wash., Sept. 11, after this summer's sighting, were the first since 1979. Ancient Murrelets migrating E past Clover Pt., Victoria, peaked at 7000 Nov. 2 and 13,000 Nov. 19 (RS, *fide* VG). Where they go is a mystery, as the largest number reported elsewhere was 100 at Pt. Roberts Nov. 22 (JI).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS — No Snowy Owls were reported anywhere by period's end, an unprecedented event. Barred Owls were found at 10 locations between Seattle, Victoria, and Vancouver, B.C., as they continued to consolidate their position here. A Long-eared Owl at Sauvie I., Oreg., Aug. 13-Sept. 23 (V. Teale, D. Daly, *fide* HN) was

early. Two were near Vancouver, B.C., Nov. 11-18 (m.ob.), and another was in Saanich, V.I., Nov. 18 (S. Fowler, A. Drabitt, *vide* VG). A **Common Poorwill** found stunned Oct. 11 near Burlington, Skagit Co., Wash. (J. Wiggers, *vide* TW), was brought in for rehabilitation. They are very rare w. of the Cascades in Washington.

The last Black Swifts were 11 over Willapa Bay, Wash., Sept. 18 (WW, MD, MF). Vaux's Swifts were still migrating at Portland, Oreg., on the very late date of Nov. 5 (DI). Single ♂ Calliope Hummingbirds in the Rogue R. valley Aug. 3 & 16 (MM) were near the edge of their breeding range.

Single Lewis' Woodpeckers strayed to C. Saanich, V.I., Oct. 8 (DFr, *vide* VG) and to Corvallis, Oreg., Oct. 28 (B. & N. Hacker, *vide* EE). A Three-toed Woodpecker in Victoria was well described Sept. 19 (†R. MacKenzie-Grieve, W. Bowie, *vide* VG) for the first confirmed record for s. V.I., though they nest farther n. on the island. "Pure" Yellow-shafted N. Flickers arrived as early as Sept. 16 in Seattle (DH) and Sept. 21 in C. Saanich, V.I. (BW, *vide* VG).

The last flycatcher departure dates were: Olive-sided, Sept. 10, Dungeness, Wash. (SS, *vide* DS); W. Wood-Pewee, Oct. 1, Eugene, Oreg. (DF); Willow, Sept. 22, C. Saanich, V.I. (J & RS, *vide* VG); Hammond's, Sept. 29, near Vancouver, Wash. (*vide* WC); and Western, Oct. 6, Saanich, V.I. (J & RS, *vide* VG). Seven Say's Phoebes noted Aug. 13-Oct. 17 from near Vancouver and Victoria, B.C., Westport, Wash., and Capes Meares and Blanco, Oreg., was normal. Three Ash-throated Flycatchers strayed N and W of their breeding range to Portland, Oreg., Aug. 17 (S. Jagers, *vide* HN), Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 29-30 (†DK, †MD *et al.*), and Long Beach, V.I., Sept. 7 (†MS, *vide* VG). The lone **Tropical Kingbird** sighted was at Winchester Bay, near Reedsport, Oreg., Oct. 23 (M. Sawyer, D. Herr, *vide* HN). A W. Kingbird at Metchosin, s. V.I., Oct. 1 (Mr. & Mrs. J. Collins, M&VG) was the farthest n.w. and the latest of the 7 Regional reports. Fifty Purple Martins at Nehalem Meadows, Oreg., Sept. 10-17 (M. Hunter, *vide* HN) was the largest concentration noted and the latest observation. The last of 4 Bank Swallow reports was of one Sept. 5 in C. Saanich, V.I. (KT, *vide* VG).

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS — A **Blue Jay** appeared Nov. 2+ near Issaquah, King Co., Wash. (B. Johnson). Steller's Jays "invaded" the Victoria, V.I., area beginning in mid-August (*vide* VG) and were noted as unusually numerous in Whatcom and Skamania cos., Wash., and about Eugene, Oreg., this fall (*vide* TW, WC, DF). Single Scrub Jays strayed N to Bremerton, Kitsap Co., in early September (*vide* J. Carson) and to Olympia Oct. 2-5 (D. White, T. Shaver, *vide* I. Allen), N of their normal range in s.c. Washington. A Clark's Nutcracker was w. to near Toledo, Oreg., in late October (F. Shrock, *vide* HN) Black-billed Magpies turned up near Ruch, s. Oreg., Sept. 19-Oct. 1 (J. Keller, *vide* MM), at the Nisqually N.W.R., near Olympia, Wash., Oct. 7 (T. Peterson), and at Reifel I., near Ladner, B.C., Oct. 20+ (DK, C. Trefry, L. Haggert). These somewhat unusual corvid sightings are correlated with a substantial Mountain Chickadee movement into the lowlands beginning in late September and remarked upon by observers from Pacific County, Wash., to North Bend, Oreg.

A **Pygmy Nuthatch** Aug. 17 in Saanich, V.I. (†MS, *vide* VG), was one of very few reports w. of the Cascade divide. The gnatcatcher Aug. 1 in Saanich, V.I. (†R. & F. Stoba, *vide* VG), was British Columbia's 3rd record. Though presumably a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, details provided do not allow a positive identification. It could not be found subsequently. Single Mountain Bluebirds at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Sept. 6 (FK) and at Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 11 (JI), and a flock of two-seven at Victoria, V.I., Nov. 12-27 (RS, m.ob., *vide* VG) were displaced migrants. Northern Mockingbirds were almost numerous with 8 reports. The first hint of the outstanding "Siberian invasion" in the offing was the one-day visit of a **Siberian Accentor** Oct. 30 at Indian I., near Port Townsend, Wash. It was found and identified by JS and subsequently seen by M. Egger & DP (ph.), but could not be found subsequently. To our knowledge, this was the first report outside Alaska, where it is known to have occurred but 4 or 5 times. Three Bohemian Waxwings Nov. 20 at Cypress P.P., n. of Vancouver, B.C., was unusual (JI). A Loggerhead Shrike strayed to Sauvie I., Oct. 13 (HN). Northern Shrikes arrived on or shortly after Oct. 1 throughout the Region.

Vagrant warblers were little noted this fall. There were two Tennessee Warblers Sept. 17 in Saanich, V.I. (†RS, *vide* VG); a **Magnolia War-**

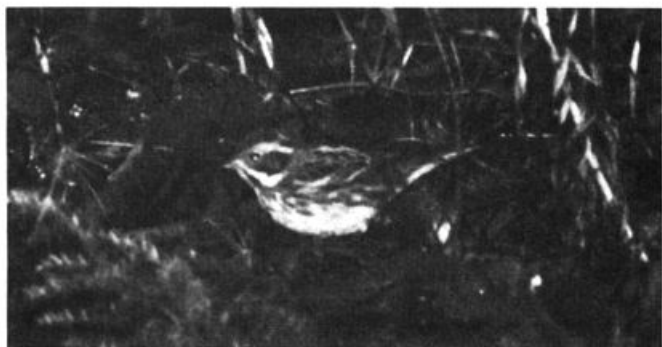


Siberian Accentor, Indian I., Jefferson Co., Wash., Oct. 30, 1983. Photo/D. Paulson.

bler Sept. 22 at the N.J.C.R. (†RW), Washington's 3rd single-person sight record; an Am. Redstart Aug. 6 at Chehalis, Wash. (K. Burden *et al.*); and single N. Waterthrushes Aug. 25 at Vancouver, B.C. (†BM), and Oct. 1 at Ft. Canby S.P., near Ilwaco, Wash. (†EP). Eight Palm Warblers appeared Oct. 5+ on the outer coast from s. V.I., to s. Oregon. One was away from the coast in W. Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 2 (†AP). Nashville Warblers strayed to Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 25 & 30 (MP, MF) and to Saanich near Victoria, V.I., Sept. 10 & Nov. 20-21 (TZ, VG, MS). The last Yellow Warbler reported was Sept. 22 at Metchosin, s. V.I. (M & VG). The last Black-throated Grays were Oct. 9 at Eugene (DF) and Nov. 5 at Wolf Creek (B. Peters), both Oreg. The last Hermit was Oct. 7 near Eugene (L. Hamm, *vide* EE). The last MacGillivray's was Sept. 29 at Alaksen N.W.A., near Vancouver, B.C. (DK). The last Com. Yellowthroat was Oct. 16 at Ashland, s. Oreg. (MM), and the last Wilson's were Sept. 29 at the Alaksen N.W.A. (DK) & Oct. 16 in w. Skamania County, Wash. (*vide* WC).

BUNTINGS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES — Two Lazuli Buntings Oct. 3-8 at Eugene, Oreg., were unusual (DF, SH). A **Dickcissel** at H. Norbistrath's feeder near Forks, Clallam Co., Wash., Nov. 4-16 (DS, M. Carmody; SS, ph.) furnished the first state and 4th Regional record.

The only Am. Tree Sparrows noted were one-three at Delta, B.C., Nov. 25-28 (C. Butt, JI). A Clay-colored Sparrow Nov. 5+ at a North Bend, Oreg., feeder was a Coos County first (B. Griffin, m.ob., *vide* AMG, HN). Stray Lark Sparrows on the coast included singles Sept. 5-10 at Nehalem Meadows, Oreg. (DI, M. Koninendyke), Oct. 4 at the N.J.C.R. (RW), and Nov. 26 at Devil's Elbow S.P., Lane Co., Oreg. (BC, DF). The last two were identified as immatures. A **Lark Bunting** Nov. 4 in N. Vancouver, B.C. (G. Thomson), was only the 2nd Vancouver area record and the 5th for the Region in fall. Single **Swamp Sparrows** were reported Oct. 16 from Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis, Oreg. (A. & D. Martin, *vide* EE), Oct. 30-Nov. 25 from C. Saanich (MS, KT, R. Williams, *vide* VG), & Nov. 7-8 from Saanich, V.I. (TZ, ph., *vide* VG). Twenty-three White-throated Sparrows were reported beginning Sept. 25; 14 in British Columbia, four in Washington, and five in Oregon. Eight Harris' Sparrows were reported Oct. 4+, with six in British Columbia, and one each in Washington and Oregon. A Snow Bunting Oct. 13 at Ocean Shores was on a record early date for the state (DP, PM, J. Erckmann). A **Rustic Bunting**, picked out of a large junco



Rustic Bunting, R. Jordan, Renfrew Land District, B.C., Nov. 28, 1983. Photo/T. Zurowski.

flock at Jordan R., 50 mi w. of Victoria, V.I., Nov. 25 (ME & VG, m.ob.; TZ, ph.), stayed the winter, for the first confirmed sighting s. of Alaska.

Stray Bobolinks were found Sept. 1 & 17 in C. Saanich, V.I. (†C. & T. Burke, AM, *vide* VG) and Oct. 10 at Seattle (DB). Seven Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported Aug. 22-Oct. 12. Rusty Blackbirds were noted Sept. 24 in C. Saanich (KT, *vide* VG), Nov. 11 in Saanich (†JB, *vide* VG), two were at Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 10-15 (F. Walker, P. Cook *et al.*). Rusty Blackbirds are reported most falls, with most records from s. British Columbia.

A **Brambling** Nov. 20 at Billings Pt., near Sooke, V.I., was located by KT and seen by many observers that day (TZ, ph.), but could not be found subsequently. This provided the 3rd British Columbia record and the 6th for the Region. Ten Lesser Goldfinches at Portland, Oreg., Nov. 22 (DI, *vide* HN) were at the n. limit of their normal range, but stray **Lesser Goldfinches** at Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 15-16 (†BK, †H. & J. Mackenzie) and near Sechelt, B.C., Oct. 22-23 (†T. Greenfield, K. Angermeyer) were noteworthy for this largely sedentary bird. This

species is known from but 2 previous Canadian records, both in British Columbia (*vide* DK).

ABBREVIATIONS: N.J.C.R. = North Jetty of the Columbia River, S.J.C.R. = South Jetty of the same, N.W.A. = National Wildlife Area, V.I. = Vancouver I., † = written details submitted.

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Ron LeValley, John Sterling, Richard A. Erickson, and Kenneth V. Rosenberg

More or less typical fall weather was experienced this year. September and October had a few minor fronts and November brought our first "winter" storms. Ocean temperatures remained above average throughout the period but a significant cooling occurred after strong northwest winds in mid-October. Prior to the cooling period, ocean temperatures reached as high as 18°C, 2° above the 20-year average. The overall rate of ocean cooling was fairly normal, so by the end of the period water temperatures had cooled to 14-16°, still slightly above average.

Pelagic birding was particularly interesting owing to the continuation of the *El Niño* event. Unprecedented numbers of some species were conspicuous in inshore waters, providing a rare opportunity for close and prolonged study. However, the list of southern oceanic rarities visiting our Region fell short of some observers' expectations.

On land, shorebirds provided most of the entertainment. However, a major wave of vagrant landbirds occurred on Pt. Reyes September 26 when a remarkable 19 species of wood warblers were discovered (RS, LCB). Montane bird species, such as Golden-crowned Kinglet, that were considered decimated after the cold, wet winter of 1981-1982 had recovered to average or even above average numbers. These birds must be well adapted to such adverse conditions and in the long term may not be as susceptible to short-term fluctuations in the weather as some observers have feared.

It should be noted that very few reports reach the Regional editors with supporting details or descriptions. Therefore only sightings preceded by a † have been reviewed by us.

Last dates: Vaux's Swift Oct. 15 Requa, *Del Norte*; Rufous Hummingbird Sept. 10 Sequoia N.P.; Olive-sided Flycatcher Sept. 18 Bolinas; W. Wood-Pewee Sept. 27 Palo Alto; W. Flycatcher Oct. 14 Putah Creek, *Solano*; Purple Martin Sept. 18 Bolinas; Barn Swallow Nov. 20 Creighton Ranch; House Wren Nov. 18 Palomar; Swainson's Thrush Oct. 16, F.I.; Warbling Vireo Oct. 23 Carmel R., *Monterey*; Yellow Warbler Oct. 7 *Marin*; Black-throated Gray Warbler Nov. 16 Stockton; MacGillivray's Warbler Oct. 28 Tule Lake N.W.R.; Com. Yellowthroat Oct. 20 Crescent City.

First dates: Rock Sandpiper Nov. 11 Bodega Head; Red-breasted Sapsucker Sept. 24 Palomar; Water Pipit Sept. 11 Point St. George, *Del Norte*; Cedar Waxwing Aug. 7 Lee Vining; N. Shrike Oct. 22 L. Talawa, *Del Norte*; Nashville Warbler Aug. 22 Gold Bluff Beach, *Humboldt*; Yellow Warbler Aug. 6, F.I.; "Audubon's" Warbler Aug. 30 Pacific Grove; Black-throated Gray Warbler Aug. 8 Palomar; Townsend's Warbler Aug. 10 Palomar; Hermit Warbler Aug. 13 Palomar; MacGillivray's Warbler Aug. 6 Point St. George; Wilson's Warbler Aug. 13, F.I.



LOONS THROUGH TUBENOSES — An Arctic Loon on Frick L., Nov. 26, the first record for e. *Alameda*, was joined by a Red-throated Loon. 28 (AE, KHi). Normally Frick L., is not deep enough to attract loons. Four thousand Arctic Loons near F.I., were present during a "bloom" of pelagic red crabs Nov. 15, a phenomenon normally occurring only in more s. waters. A Com. Loon at the Thermolito Afterbay, *Butte* Oct. 16 (BED) was the only report from away from coastal areas. Up to 20 Horned Grebes at Mono L., near Sneaker Flat Oct. 16 (JLo) were notable as this species is scarce e. of the Sierran crest. Red-necked Grebes apparently arrived late this fall as ten in Drakes Bay, *Marin* Sept. 28 was the first concentration found despite much earlier searching (JE). A single Red-necked Grebe reported without details from Bitterwater L., *San Benito* in early November would have been an unusual inland sighting (*vide* KH).

Northern Fulmars arrived early with up to eight recorded on Monterey Bay pelagic trips during August (DR, SFB, AB *et al.*). Their numbers increased to 250-300 during October and November when an onshore movement was detected and many were found dead on beaches (AB *et al.*). All 3 of the common fall-occurring shearwater species (Pink-footed, Buller's and Sooty) were found in much below average numbers in Monterey Bay. Off Humboldt Bay, 300 Pink-footed Shearwaters Sept. 22 (RLeV *et al.*) were more like normal numbers. More enigmatic was "the best year ever" (AB) for Short-tailed Shearwaters as this

species is generally associated with cooler waters. The first arrivals were a single bird on Monterey Bay Sept. 18 (JM, JML) and ten offshore from Humboldt Bay Sept. 22 (RLeV *et al.*). On Oct. 3, two were seen *inside* Humboldt Bay (RLeV, LD) and one was seen from shore at Pescadero, *San Mateo* Nov. 11 (BS), illustrating an established tendency for this species to approach close to shore. Up to 35 counted in Monterey Bay, many within easy sight of shore Nov. 11-30 (AB, DR, B & CY, JML *et al.*) and six seen from F.I., Nov. 15 were the respective peak numbers from those localities. Warmer waters were correlated with a notable invasion of Black-vented Shearwaters. Small numbers arrived in Monterey Bay Aug. 14 (AB) and they were present continuously through mid-October with peak numbers reported Oct. 9 when 300 were present (RS). North of there the first *Humboldt* record was of two birds discovered off Humboldt Bay Sept. 2 (JSt, KVR, LD *et al.*) and the 3rd through 5th F.I. records were established Sept. 22, 25 & Oct. 21 respectively.

The Monterey Bay storm-petrel concentrations again caused great excitement this fall. October 15 brought the only confirmed Wilson's Storm-Petrel sighting (SFB *et al.*).

The most notable storm-petrel news may have been the massive invasion of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels along the entire coast. The first sightings were from *Del Norte* Aug. 14 when 12 were seen off Point St. George and five were in Crescent City Harbor (RAE *et al.*). On the same day five were found in Trinidad Harbor, *Humboldt* (RLeV, LD, RAE, JSt) Peak numbers in the n. counties were Aug. 16 when 30 were in Trinidad Harbor (GS) and Aug. 21 when 35 were in Crescent City Harbor (MR). Farther s. there was a large influx onshore Aug. 24 which brought three near F.I., for the 2nd fall record and up to 100 along the Monterey Bay shoreline for one of the most spectacular concentrations in memory (DR, AB, SFB). Most remarkably, this invasion had nothing to do with the strong NW winds that typically characterize this species' occurrences onshore, in fact winds were notably calm during the period of the incursion. Most likely, lack of food in their normal waters farther offshore induced them to search for food closer to shore. On two separate occasions, W. Gulls were seen to capture and eat these storm-petrels while they fed in Trinidad Harbor (PS, KI). Perhaps predation is a factor preventing inshore feeding as a normal event in this species. A Leach's Storm-Petrel seen from shore in a massive feeding frenzy off Montara, *San Mateo* Sept. 10 (BS) was notable as this species is rarely seen in inshore waters. A single **Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel** found 8 km n.w. of Pt. Pinos Oct. 2 (†RS, †JE) and again Oct. 9 (†JML, †MOC) established only the 5th California record for this tropical e. Pacific species. Probably associated with the warmer waters were n. records for Black Storm-Petrel. Two were found off Humboldt Bay Sept. 2 for only the 2nd county record (JSt, KVR, LD) and 25 were present there Sept. 22 (RLeV *et al.*) for what were probably the northernmost occurrences ever. Elsewhere, the first F.I. record was established Aug. 22 followed by five more sightings there through Oct. 5. The Least Storm-Petrel, another warm-water species, was present in unprecedented numbers when boat trips in early October reported 500-1000! in Monterey Bay (m ob.). Normally only one to three are sighted in warm water years but the previous high count for the Region was of 200 Sept. 21, 1981. A Least Storm-Petrel off Pt. Pinos Nov. 21 (DR) established our latest Regional record.

BOOBIES THROUGH IBISES — A sub-ad. **Brown Booby** on F I, Sept. 24-28 (†KH, P.R.B.O.) furnished the first Regional record. One might assume that this occurrence would be *El Niño* related, but no other boobies reached California this fall and this species is well known as a hitchhiker on ships. An imm. Brown Pelican seen at the El Rico Ranch, *Kings* Aug. 5 (RH, DY) provided one of very few inland records for the Region. Presumably the same bird was sighted at the junction of Cross Cr. and the Tule R., *Kings* later in August (*vide* RH). Sightings of an immature at the Hacienda Unit, *Kings* Oct. 9 (GG) and s. of Stratford, *Kings* Oct. 12 (BrS) may have been of a different individual. Lack of food in the warm waters of Monterey Bay drove Brown Pelicans to following fishing boats in above average numbers where many were intentionally mutilated. At least 2 prosecutions, but as yet no convictions, have resulted from those senseless acts (*vide* AB). Single Magnificent Frigatebirds, always unusual this far n. were reported from Fort Bragg, *Mendocino* July 30 (*vide* GL); Palomarin Aug. 1 (*vide* JE) and Montara Aug. 4 (BS).

A Least Bittern at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara* Sept 27 was followed by two the next day (*vide* WB). The s. San Joaquin Valley continues to host good numbers of Cattle Egrets; a peak of 260 was counted at Creighton Ranch Oct. 13 (RH). Farther n., 50 near the Sutter Buttes, *Butte* Nov. 2 (WA) and 60 at Delevan N.W.R., *Colusa* Nov. 10 (BED) were impressive numbers for the Sacramento Valley. White-faced Ibises staged a minor invasion to the coast as follows: one passed Pt. Pinos Sept. 21 (RS); two immatures at L. Talawa, *Del Norte* Sept 24 confirmed the 2nd county record (GL, JR); one was at Moss Landing Oct. 4 (FB); one immature was at Salmon Cr., *Sonoma* Oct. 5 (JE); and singles at Pescadero Oct. 15 (CB) and one mi s. of Half Moon Bay Oct 16 (BS) provided the first *San Mateo* records.

WATERFOWL — The fall movement of Brant generally passes by our Region undetected, so 14,400 calculated to have passed by F.I., during daylight hours Nov. 4 were notable. Peak fall numbers of "Aleutian" Canada Geese occurred Nov. 13-18 when 3800 were counted in *Del Norte* and *Colusa* (PS). Good concentrations of Wood Ducks were reported from the following localities: 45 at Espa Lagoon, Gold Bluffs Beach, *Humboldt* Sept. 15-Nov. 10 (GS), 35 at L. Solano, *Solano* Oct 21 (JML), 39 at the Auburn sewer ponds Oct. 26 (Bba) and 49 at Hanggi Pond, Springville, *Tulare* Nov. 20 (LN). Fourteen Blue-winged Teal in the Smith R. estuary, *Del Norte* Aug. 16 (JH) were possibly lingering individuals of a local breeding population. Two eclipse-plumaged birds at Eureka Aug. 26 (ph., KVR) were the only other sightings from the n coast area. After mid-September, Blue-winged Teal were reported in small numbers from 9 traditional localities in the s. half of the Region. Eurasian Wigeon were reported from 8 traditional locations after mid-October as usual, with 10+ present at Sacramento N.W.R., Nov. 30+ (MR-H) the best concentration.

A ♀ **Steller's Eider**, California's 2nd (AB 37:333), was shot by a duck hunter in s. Humboldt Bay in mid-November (*vide* S. Harris). The bird is now a mounted specimen in a private collection. Two Harlequin Ducks at Andrew Molera S.P., *Monterey* Sept. 17 (JML *et al.*) & Sept 25 (BLaB) were s. of their normal range. A ♀ Oldsquaw at Trinidad Harbor Aug. 22 (RLeV) was likely a lingering summer individual. The only one reported away from the n. coastal counties was a female at Frick L., *Alameda* Nov. 30 (AE, JR). Inland Surf Scoters were at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 28-Nov. 2 (BED) and at L. Shastina, *Siskiyou* Nov 11-13 (RE). A ♀ Com. Goldeneye on L. Shastina Aug. 23-Sept. 18 (RE, MR) and a female at Arcata Sept. 3 (RLeV, KVR) were likely lingering summer birds. Interior sightings of Red-breasted Mergansers are unusual, so single females at the Woodland sewage ponds, *Yolo* Sept. 3 (JML) and at Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 1 (BED) were of interest. Six ♀-type Hooded Mergansers near the Little R. mouth, *Humboldt* Sept. 4 (KVR) could have been the result of local breeding; there are very few confirmed nesting records from the n. coast.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — A Turkey Vulture near Ft Dick, *Del Norte* Nov. 27 (GL) was in an area where they do not normally winter. A roost of 120 Black-shouldered Kites near Livermore, *Alameda* Sept. 2-Oct. 27 (AE) was one of the largest reported recently. Elsewhere their populations seem to be increasing slowly or remaining stable at low numbers. Northern Goshawks were reported from an impressive 14 locations, mostly in the Sierran and Cascade ranges. One along Alder Springs Ridge, *Glen* Nov. 17-18 (JLo) was in the Coast Range at an expected elevation but another report from n. of Rockport, *Mendocino* Sept. 21 (BE) was early for a migrant and at a low elevation for a breeder. Broad-winged Hawks were scarce this fall except Sept. 28 when 10-12 passed over Pt. Diablo, *Marin* in one hour (JE)! The only other reports were of single immatures at Point Reyes Oct. 1 (HG) and Bodega Bay Oct. 4 (BDP) and two immatures at Pt. Diablo Oct. 15 (RS). Ferruginous Hawks were reported in better than average numbers in the interior of the Region but Rough-legged Hawks were present in low "non-invasion" numbers. Peregrine Falcons were again present in encouraging numbers throughout the Region, with more sightings coming from the C. V. than in recent years. While the increasing sightings may be due in part to reintroduction programs, there seems to be a genuine increase in wild populations as well. A **Gyrfalcon** († to C.B.R.C.) was described from Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 31 (†BED) as it stooped on Greater White-fronted and (Cackling) Canada Geese! The first record from California was of a specimen taken near the same location Oct. 23, 1948.

It is always surprising to find rails away from their normal habitats but migrants that show up in odd places can give us information about migration periods. A Virginia Rail was hiding behind a shrub on a front porch in San Ramon, *Contra Costa* Aug. 7 (KHi), while another on F.I., Aug. 27 furnished the 4th island record. Meanwhile a Sora reached F.I., Sept. 7. A Sandhill Crane in a field near the s. end of Tomales Bay Sept. 16-Nov. 22 (JE *et al.*) provided the 3rd *Marin* record. Another unusual coastal record was provided by four adults and one immature at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey*, Nov. 4 (BW). In more normal haunts, 12,000 were at Merced N.W.R., Nov. 7 (RJB) and 3000 were in the Gray Lodge-Butte Sink area during the fall (*vide* BED).

SHOREBIRDS — Lesser Golden-Plovers were found in small numbers at many coastal locations with the largest concentration being 23 in the Arcata Bottoms, *Humboldt* Nov. 3 (JSt). The earliest *dominica* was spotted Aug. 9 at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* (BS) while the first *fulva* was identified Sept. 18 on Pt. Reyes (JW). Although *fulva* regularly winters in the Region, the latest *dominica* were two identified Nov. 25 at Half Moon Bay (BS). Observers who are learning to identify these races have helped to elucidate the relative patterns of the two forms but much more information is needed. Few of our inland records have been identified to race but it appears that most inland records pertain to *dominica*. This year inland birds were reported as follows: four at the Davis sewage ponds Oct. 14 (TBe), 18 there Oct. 16 (BY) and five Oct. 22 (JML); one at the Woodland Trestle Ponds Oct. 21 (JML), one at the Lodi sewage ponds Sept. 8 (JML) and another there Oct. 29 (AE). This last bird was thought to be *fulva*. A Semipalmated Plover at Hammonds L., *Siskiyou* Oct. 29 (RE, MR) was very late for an inland locality. Mountain Plovers found in odd locations were three at Pt. Reyes Oct. 2 (*vide Gull*) 21 there Oct. 9 (KH), one there Oct. 14 (RS) and one on Samoa Beach, *Humboldt* Nov. 22 (JSt).

A Black-necked Stilt at Mad River P., *Humboldt* Oct. 8 (RLeV, LD) and at Eureka Oct. 10 (RLeV) was one of few n. coast records. Seven Solitary Sandpipers were reported this fall, the first at Creighton Ranch Aug. 14 (RH) and the last Sept. 21 at the Auburn sewer ponds (BBa) being the only ones away from the coast. Wandering Tattlers were found inside S. F. Bay at Albany, *Alameda* Aug. 19 (HG) and at Mountain View Forebay, *Santa Clara* Sept. 10 (*vide* WB). Also remarkable was one 0.5 mi upstream from the ocean at Andrew Molera S.P., Sept. 17 (JML). Few Wandering Tattlers are ever found away from rocky ocean shores. An **Upland Sandpiper**, for only the 5th Regional record, was s. of Davenport, *Santa Cruz* Sept. 3-4 (†DSi, †CF, †BLaB, †SA). Peak numbers of Long-billed Curlews were 1200 at the Corcoran Irrigation District ponds, *Kings* Sept. 10 (GG), 720 at Creighton Ranch Sept. 14 (RH), 2500 in the S. Wilbur Flood Area, *Kings* Oct. 15 (*vide* KH) and 500 at Davis Oct. 24 (B & HK), illustrating how common this species can be in the C. V. A **Hudsonian Godwit**, only the 3rd certain Regional record and the first from the interior, was photographed Aug. 30-31 near Merced N.W.R. (†RJB). A Black Turnstone at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Aug. 20 (MR) furnished a first *Siskiyou* record and only the 2nd fall record from the interior. Sanderlings were reported away from the coast at Mono L., Sept. 3 (DP) and in the Hacienda Unit, *Kings* Sept. 17 (GG). A minimum of 27 Semipalmated Sandpipers was detected Aug. 1-Oct. 1. Notable among those were an adult at Lawson's Landing, *Marin* Aug. 1 (JE), another adult at Arcata Aug. 13 (ph., KVR, JSt) and the 2nd *Siskiyou* record at Tule Lake N.W.R., Aug. 20 (MR, RE).

Possibly the most controversial shorebird of the fall was a peep first identified as a Rufous-necked Stint but now generally thought to be a **Little Stint** at the Bolinas sewage ponds Sept. 14-22. The bird was first found by D. Edwards and subsequently seen by many and thoroughly documented (†JM, †JE, †RS *et al.*, ph., A. Ghiorso). Identification as Little Stint is based largely on analysis of descriptions and photographs by Peter Grant and Lars Jonsson, European authorities familiar with both species. If accepted by the C.B.R.C., this would be the first record for w. North America s. of Alaska. Another exciting peep seen for only a short period at the Salinas R. mouth, *Monterey* Aug. 6 was identified as a **Temminck's Stint** (†DR *et al.*). If accepted by the C.B.R.C. this would establish the first record for California and the first in the contiguous United States. This sighting is consistent in pattern with the only documented record s. of Alaska, that from British Columbia (AB 37:347).

Baird's Sandpipers passed through Aug. 5-Oct. 2 in smaller than average numbers, at least in the n. counties. Pectoral Sandpipers were also slightly below average numbers but an adult at Wilder Beach, *Santa Cruz* July 16 (CF), two on the Hacienda Ranch, *Kings* Aug. 14 (MOC), a juvenile near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* Aug. 14 (RAE) and one at Frick L., *Alameda* Aug. 20 (AE) were all early. Two juveniles near Ft. Dick Nov. 15-16 were at the late end of the spectrum (RAE, GL). Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were again well represented with a minimum of six individuals as follows: Moss Landing Sept. 12-27 (BLaB *et al.*), Pescadero Marsh Sept. 21-Oct. 3 (RS *et al.*), Bodega Bay Sept. 22 (DHE), Eureka Sept. 28 (RF, JSt), Pt. Reyes Oct. 7-9 (BR, JR, KHi *et al.*), and Pt. Reyes Oct. 15-18 (JE, AE *et al.*). Five Stilt Sandpipers was a good showing as follows: one in the Arcata Bottoms and Eureka Aug. 20 was thought to be the same bird (ph., KVR, JSt, ph., RLeV, LD), while one at Eureka Aug. 26 was different (ph., KVR); one at the Woodland sugar ponds Sept. 4-5 (T & AM, B & HK), one or two at the Bolinas sewage ponds Sept. 6-15 (DDeS, KH, DHE, JM), and the first *San Mateo* record at Pescadero Marsh Sept. 15-21 (PJM, BS *et al.*). Two Buff-breasted Sandpiper records were received, both from Petaluma, *Sonoma* Aug. 22 (*vide Gull*) & 27 (KHa). Six Ruffs, now considered regular in the Region in fall, were discovered: one banded at Creighton Ranch Aug. 10-14 (RH), one in Fremont, *Alameda* Aug. 19-23 (*vide Gull*) one at the Hacienda Unit, *Kings* Aug. 27 (†RG), a juvenile at Pescadero Marsh, *San Mateo* Sept. 7-16 (†DHE *et al.*), a juv. female at Eureka Sept. 8-19 (RF, RAE *et al.*), and one in the Loletta Bottoms, *Humboldt* Sept. 20-24 (KI *et al.*). Short-billed Dowitchers, uncommon at best inland, were identified as follows; one near Corcoran, *Kings* Aug. 5 (RH), two at Irongate Res., *Siskiyou* Aug. 14 (MR), five at Tule Lake N.W.R., Aug. 20 (MR), nine at Mono L., Sept. 4 with one there the next day (REW), and two at Tule Lake N.W.R., Sept. 11 (SS).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The only inland jaeger identified to species was a Parasitic at Mono L., Sept. 4 (REW) but jaegers thought to be of this species were sighted at Mono L., Sept. 5 (HG) and at Courtright Res., *Fresno* Sept. 10 (JW). In general both Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers were considered present in lower than average numbers along the coast, but Parasitics may have been more conspicuous because of the large number of Elegant Terns. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger off Montara, *San Mateo* Aug. 17 (BS) and four-five off Humboldt Bay Sept. 2 (KVR, LD, JSt) were the only ones reported. At least ten different S. Polar Skuas were reported offshore Aug. 14-Nov. 7.

A minimum of seven Franklin's Gulls passed through Aug. 28-Nov. 22 with three at the Arcata Oxidation Ponds Sept. 22 (JSt) a notable gathering. "It will be news when the rare gulls *don't* return to the Stockton sewage ponds" (SFB, *Gull*); an ad. Little Gull returned Oct. 18 and an ad. Com. Black-headed Gull returned Oct. 11 (DY *et al.*) If these are in fact the same individuals returning annually, as seems likely, this would be their 6th year! An ad. Mew Gull e. of Buntingville, *Lassen* Nov. 5-6 appeared to provide the 2nd county record (†T & AM) Ring-billed Gulls are extremely rare offshore so individuals on F I, Sept. 21, Oct. 14 and Nov. 5 were notable. A first-year Thayer's Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 22 (†SS, RE, MR, BED) furnished a first *Siskiyou* record. An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull, unusual inland, was at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Oct. 22 (†SS). A wandering Sabine's Gull at Lower Klamath N.W.R., established the first *Modoc* record Oct. 1 (†SS) and the first *Siskiyou* record Oct. 3 (SJ).

This summer's invasion of Elegant Terns developed into the most massive on record. They were found in the hundreds at many coastal localities and really made big news n. of our Region. Black Terns are quite rare on the coast so of interest were single immatures at L. Earl, *Del Norte* Sept. 29-30 (GL, JR), Monterey Bay Oct. 2 (RS, JE), Bodega Bay Oct. 14-15 (JL, JW, NTC) and two at Arcata Nov. 2-5 (JSt)

Both Xantus' and Craveri's murrelets were present in greater than average numbers with the latter staging an unprecedented Regional invasion. Both species were present on Monterey Bay Aug. 13-Oct. 16 with high counts of Xantus' being six Aug. 13 (DR). Peak Craveri's numbers were 30-35 on Oct. 2 (RS, JE) with 10-20 being reported from many trips. Of 49 individuals seen Aug. 24 and originally thought to be Xantus', many if not most turned out to be Craveri's after inspection of photographs (SFB) illustrating the caution that is necessary when dealing with these small pelagic birds. Unexpected among these warm water species was a **Parakeet Auklet** washed ashore alive in Humboldt Bay at

Samoa Nov 20 (*vide* S Harris) The bird died after a week of rehabilitation efforts (*to Humboldt State Univ.) and furnished only the 2nd record in California since 1945. Tufted Puffins lingered at F.I. breeding sites until Sept. 30, about 2 weeks later than usual.

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS — Notable movements of Band-tailed Pigeons included 2000 flying S past Moss Landing in a 45 min period Aug. 7 (AB) and 345+ migrating past Pt. Diablo Sept. 24 (SFB) White-winged Doves made their best fall showing yet with seven to 12 individuals accounted for on the immediate coast. One found dead at Mendoza Ranch, Pt. Reyes Oct. 4 (*vide* Gull) may have been responsible for up to five different sightings near there, beginning Aug. 14. At the same location, a flock of four (all imm.) remained Oct. 8-16 (RS, LCB *et al.*). Elsewhere, one or two were in the Pacific Grove area of *Monterey* Aug. 12-15 (S. Harrison, *vide* AB) and one at Pescadero Marsh Aug. 24 established a first *San Mateo* record (†BS, PJM).

A wayward Yellow-billed Cuckoo Sept. 25 was the 6th to land on F.I. Current research on Spotted Owls in n. California is focusing on juvenile dispersal; preliminary results this fall have documented previously unsuspected long-distance movements as well as high mortality (*vide* R. Gutierrez). Meanwhile, at least two of California's newly found **Barred Owls** remain resident near Crescent City and Salyer, *Trinity* (*vide* RAE, KVR) As for this Region's small population of Great Gray Owls, there was no evidence of nesting anywhere in 1983 (JW). Seven Long-eared Owls were reported from *Marin*, *Solano*, and *Siskiyou*. Short-eared Owls continue their near-absence from most coastal and C.V. locations.

An injured Lesser Nighthawk at Seaside, *Monterey* was the only one reported away from the breeding range (AB, *to Pacific Grove Nat. His. Mus) The third F.I. Com. Poorwill arrived Oct. 15 and liked it well enough to remain for at least a month, possibly hibernating. Another at Santa Clara Oct. 25+ was thought to be wintering (CB). A late report of a **Whip-poor-will** heard five times on the evening of *June* 21 at Blue Ridge, *Tulare* would represent the first for this Region (†TAB, RN).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Of the few migrant Black Swifts noted, 15 over Stockton Sept. 25 were the most unusual (DY) A lone **Chimney Swift** was in direct comparison with Vaux's on F I , Sept. 25 (†KH, P.R.B.O.) for only the 2nd Regional fall report. At Prairie Creek S.P., 2000 Vaux's Swifts entering a huge redwood at dusk Sept 27 & 30 must have been an awesome sight (GS).

Four extralimital Costa's Hummingbirds were found including an imm male at F.I., Aug. 14. Others were at Kilgore Hills, *Siskiyou* Aug. 4 (†RE), a male at Del Puerto Canyon, *Stanislaus* Oct. 26 (N. Kerr) and another male throughout the period at Dinuba, *Tulare* (ph., K. Strassberg) Two Calliope Hummingbirds were rare migrants at Mono L., Sept 4 (HG) and an immature was at Pt. Reyes Sept. 7 (RS).

A 3rd F.I. record of Lewis' Woodpecker was of a single bird Sept. 20. A flock of 28 flying past Pt. Diablo was a very rare coastal sight (*vide* Gull) "Red-naped" Sapsuckers visited F.I., Sept. 28, Three Rivers, *Tulare* Nov. 13 (*vide* KH), and S. F., Nov. 12-26 (JM, AE). A ♀ Nuttall's Woodpecker that wandered to Mono L., was "discovered" independently by 3 observers Sept. 9, Oct. 16 & 22 (PJM, JLo, †SFB). At the n.e. edge of their range, three others were found in *Lassen* and *Shasta* in August (T & AM).

FLYCATCHERS — An amazing 22 species occurred in the Region this fall, roughly two-thirds of all the regular occurring North American tyrannids. Heading the list was the singing **Eastern Wood-Pewee** discovered Aug. 18 near Manteca, *San Joaquin* but not pinned down until Sept 7 (†DY). It then obligingly sang to most of the active California birders until Sept. 16 (†JM, †DR, †KHa, †TM). This presumably summering individual was believed by many to be California's only undisputed record.

Equally exciting, but obliging only a few researchers was the **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** that landed on F.I., Sept. 27 and then died Sept. 28, to become California's 2nd record and first specimen (*to Calif. Academy of Sciences). About 40 Willow Flycatchers were reported Aug. 13-Oct 8 migrating through both coastal and inland localities. An unprecedented *nine* Least Flycatchers were banded at F.I., Sept. 17-Oct. 18. Three other individuals were reported (without details) from Pt. Reyes Sept 24-27. Although the status of this species in the Region is not in

question, the diagnostic marks for certain identification are still hotly debated among the experts. As such, it becomes useless to enumerate records on these pages with no documentation other than an observer's reputation to judge them by.

The other F.I. empids included a Hammond's Sept. 26 (rare in fall) and two Grays Sept. 7 & 25. An E. Phoebe was very unusual inland at L. Yosemite, *Merced* Oct. 24 (†RJB).

All four North American *Myiarchus* appeared; the only expected species, Ash-throated, lingered until Nov. 1 in coastal *Humboldt* after 3 other migrant reports there (JSt *et al.*). The Region's 3rd **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** stayed only briefly at Palomarin Nov. 12-14 (†DDeS, RS) Highlighted in almost any other year, a **Great Crested Flycatcher** was banded on F.I., Oct. 2. But not to be outdone by its congeners, a **Brown-crested Flycatcher** stopped on F.I., Sept. 17 to be banded and photographed (†KH, P.R.B.O.) establishing a first Regional, and first coastal California record.

The season's only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was an immature at Pt Reyes Aug. 6 (*vide* Gull). Twenty-eight Tropical Kingbird reports Aug 31-Nov. 28 were the most ever in a season. Although it is not hard to imagine this conspicuous species being "over-counted" as individuals hop up our coast from one birding hot spot to another, there is no doubting the magnitude with which these birds emanate from the subtropics each fall. A Cassin's Kingbird provided a first F.I. record Aug 25; this is actually our rarest kingbird in fall. Only four coastal W Kingbirds were reported. Besides being very late, one at Stone Lagoon, *Humboldt* Oct. 10 (GS) sported a shiny silver band. An even more unseasonal bird at Palo Alto, *Santa Clara* Nov. 12-19 was apparently well studied by an observer familiar with such problems (D. Stovel, *vide* WB), but we have not seen any details. To round out our list, a juv. E Kingbird visited Pt. Reyes Station Sept. 13 (ph., JE).

SKYLARK TO NUTHATCHES — We are running out of superlatives with which to applaud the return of the **Eurasian Skylark** to Pt. Reyes; it was right on schedule Nov. 3 for its 6th year, although it could not be located after Nov. 8 (†DHE *et al.*). Details of this record were recently published (*West. Birds* 14:113-126). This year's array of late-lingering swallows included five Trees at L. Earl, *Del Norte* Nov. 28 (GS), five Violet-greens at Arcata, Nov. 24 & Dec. 10 (KVR), 15 N Rough-wingeds at Palomarin Oct. 14 and a Cliff at Arcata to Nov. 11 (JSt *et al.*). Bank Swallows were last noted at their newly found *Del Norte* colony Aug. 14 (RAE).

There were no large-scale movements of corvids but single individuals caused a few local reactions. Heading the list was a **Blue Jay** seen one day only at a feeder in Willow Creek, *Humboldt* Oct. 6 (R. Genelli) Scattered Scrub Jays appeared on the immediate n. coast where rare, and a Steller's wandered to the isolated cottonwoods at Tule Lake N.W.R. , Oct. 21 (BED). *Butte* attracted its first wayward Pinyon Jay at Mountain House Oct. 16 (BED, †TM). Farallon Island's third ever Clark's Nutcracker checked out the researchers there and flew off towards the mainland Sept. 28. Another far-ranging nutcracker was on the valley floor at Colusa N.W.R., Oct. 31 (BED, TM, MR-H).

A few adventuresome parids also made local news as usual, highlighted by *Del Norte's* first Plain Titmouse at Klamath Oct. 28-Nov. 20 (RAE, GL *et al.*). Lowland Mountain Chickadees visited the immediate n. coast in larger than usual numbers (15+ reports) beginning Oct. 14 (RAE *et al.*) and established first records in *Sutter* and *San Mateo* in late October (PBS, WA, †BS). Red-breasted Nuthatches appeared early and in large numbers in both inland and coastal reporting areas, as well as on F.I., where influxes have been noted in alternate years since 1978 (P.R.B.O.). Stray White-breasted Nuthatches reached the coast in 4 locations from *Humboldt* to S.F., as is normal in fall.

WRENS TO VIREOS — Single Rock Wrens at Creighton Ranch Aug. 13 and Nov. 26 (RH) and Pacific Grove Nov. 12 (AB) were local rarities. A singing Canyon Wren at 12,200 ft at Iridescent L. Basin, *Tulare* July 19-21 (HG, MG) was apparently a Regional elevation record. Winter Wrens at Lost L., *Fresno* Aug. 11 (KH) and Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, near Danville, *Contra Costa* Aug. 24 (KH) were close to the record early date away from breeding grounds: Aug. 6, 1980 at F.I. Single Marsh Wrens arrived at F.I., Sept. 10 & 26; surprisingly there were only 7 previous island records.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported in good numbers away from

breeding areas; high counts included 12 at Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Oct. 19, 20+ at nearby Briones Regional P., Nov. 26 (both KHi), and 25 in Stockton Dec. 1 (DY). Eighty-eight "sightings" of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Palomar during the period was an *exceptional* number.

Rare on the coast was a Mountain Bluebird at F.I., Nov. 26 and single Townsend's Solitaires at Golden Gate P., S.F., Sept. 10 (†HG, DM), Fairhaven Sept. 19 (RF), Martinez Nov. 5 (*fide Gull*), and Gazos Cr. Road, *San Mateo* Nov. 11 (†BS). At Requa, 313 Am. Robins and 88 Varied Thrushes were counted flying S in one hour Oct. 15 and 421 Am. Robins and 131 Varied Thrushes were counted in one-half hour Oct. 16 (RAE). Large numbers of Varied Thrushes were noted flying over L. Oroville *Butte*, also on the early morning of Oct. 16 (BED, T & AM). Elsewhere, the first Varied Thrush was at Pt. Reyes Sept. 25 (KHa) and a major increase was noted in the S.F. Bay Area in November (JE, KHi, RS, P.R.B.O.).

As usual, N. Mockingbirds were found slightly out of range and/or habitat at various points along the coast from S.F. to the Oregon border Aug. 11-Nov. 27. Four vagrant Sage Thrashers were found along the coast: Arcata Sept. 3 (ph., RLeV, KVR); Arcata Bottoms Sept. 18-19 (JSt *et al.*); and F.I. arrivals Sept. 29 & Oct. 5. For the first time since 1972, Brown Thrasher was unrecorded in the fall period.

An imm. **Yellow Wagtail** at Santa Cruz Sept. 4-6 (†DSi, †CF, †BLaB *et al.*) was well seen by many, contrasting with the 4 previous state records (Sept. 17, 1978 Pt. Reyes; Sept. 16, 1979 Bodega Bay; Sept. 7, 1981 Cayucos; Sept. 19, 1982 Pacific Grove) — all rather briefly seen but all now accepted by the C.B.R.C. A late report from Iridescent L. Basin, *Tulare* was of ten Water Pipit nests found and 3-5 more undetected until fledging in summer 1983 (MG, J. Miller).

Mono L. hosted a vagrant Phainopepla Sept. 11 (PJM). Locally rare migrant Loggerhead Shrikes were one mile w. of the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite Nat'l P., *Tuolumne* Aug. 18 (JML) and n. of Orick *Humboldt* Sept. 16 (GS).

Quite unexpected was a *plumbeus* Solitary Vireo in San Jose Oct. 25-Nov. 26 (P. LaTourrette, P. Judges, *fide WB*). Following 2 slow falls, an impressive five Philadelphia Vireos were found: two at Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 with one present the next day (LCB, RS, †AE, BBa *et al.*); F.I., Sept. 26 (†KH, P.R.B.O.); Pt. Reyes Oct. 3 (†BDP); and Golden Gate P., S.F., Oct. 4 (J.M. Spoelman, *fide Gull*). Single Red-eyed Vireos near Fort Dick Aug. 17 (†JH) and at F.I., Sept. 17 were the only ones reported.

WOOD WARBLERS — The vagrant warbler season was mediocre, but certainly up from last year's poor showing. With all that we have learned over the last 20 years it seems incredible that no Chestnut-sided Warblers were found on F.I., and that for the 2nd fall in a row Blackburnian Warbler was unrecorded on Pt. Reyes or F.I. A detailed account of annual variability in migrant numbers at F.I. (both common migrants and vagrants) by DeSante recently appeared in *The Auk* (100:826-852).

On the coast, 32 Tennessee Warblers spanned Sept. 6-Nov. 30. One at Willow Cr., Sept. 22 (JB) and another at Lafayette Nov. 11-25 (LF) were slightly inland. In contrast to the last 2 years, very few Nashville Warblers were reported on the coast. A report of 55+ near The Cedars, *Placer* Aug. 15 (TBe) indicates how common they can be in post breeding/migrant flocks in the mountains. One at Avocado L., *Fresno* Nov. 27 (JSi, KH) was very late and five along the coast in late November were possibly wintering. Interior Virginia's Warblers were at Ackerson Meadow, *Tuolumne* Aug. 6 (JW), Mono L., Sept. 9 (PJM), and Avocado L., Nov. 27 (JSi, †KH) for *Fresno's* first. Coastal birds were at F.I., Oct. 5-7, Pt. Reyes Oct. 6-8 (RS, †KHi *et al.*) and near Ft. Dick Nov. 22-26 (R. Tryon, †GL *et al.*) for *Del Norte's* first. The November birds were nearly 3 weeks later than the previous late date of an obvious migrant for the Region. The only Lucy's Warbler arrived at F.I., Sept. 5, the island's 4th. Three N. Parulas were found: Requa Sept. 17 (RAE); near Crystal Springs Res., *San Mateo* Sept. 21 (*fide Gull*); and Pt. Reyes Sept. 25-29 (JM, KHa *et al.*).

Only six coastal Chestnut-sided Warblers were found: one at Golden Gate P., S.F., Sept. 25 (*fide Gull*) and five at Pt. Reyes Sept. 25-Oct. 8. More significant was *Tulare's* first at Creighton Ranch on the late dates of Nov. 5-12 (KH, †MOC *et al.*). Nine Magnolia Warblers were found along the coast from Fairhaven to S.F., Sept. 3-Oct. 9 with an additional eight arriving on F.I., between the unusually early and late dates of Aug.

22 & Nov. 3. The only two Cape May Warblers were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 17-19 (AE *et al.*) and Sept. 27-30 (BBa, AE *et al.*). Six Black-throated Blue Warblers were found Sept. 29-Nov. 1 from Humboldt Bay to F.I. Black-throated Green Warblers at Battery Wallace, *Marin* Oct. 9. (A. Eisner, *fide Gull*) and F.I., Nov. 3 were the only ones seen. Three Blackburnian Warblers were found at Lincoln P., S.F., Oct. 1-7 and one near Ft. Dick Nov. 18-20 (RAE, GS, GL *et al.*) established both the northernmost and latest record for California. Nine Prairie Warblers on the coast between Humboldt Bay and Moss Beach Sept. 5-Oct. 31 was a good showing. Another at Bolinas Lagoon Dec. 3 (RS) was late. Over 100 Palm Warblers were seen along the coast Sept. 24-Nov. 30; one near Salinas Oct. 14-25 (BG) was slightly inland. A Bay-breasted Warbler was at Lincoln P., S.F., Sept. 25 (A. Hopkins, *fide Gull*). About 62 Blackpoll Warblers were found along the coast Sept. 7-Oct. 14. One was found dead in S.F., on the late date of Nov. 1 (*fide Gull*).

Fifteen Black-and-white Warblers were found along the coast from Ft. Dick to Santa Cruz Sept. 9-Nov. 30. The ad. female found at Pt. Saint George July 30 remained to Sept. 28 (GL) and the ad. ♂ Am. Redstart found at Mad R. mouth, *Humboldt* July 17 remained at least to Aug. 20 (JB, †KVR). An additional 30 redstarts were along the coast Aug. 28-Oct. 27. Inland, one at Mono L., Aug. 22 (*fide JE*) was normal, but two very late birds were highly atypical: Redding Nov. 24 (KVV, KC) and Yreka Nov. 25 (RE, †MR). A Prothonotary Warbler was banded at Lanphere Dunes, w. of Arcata Sept. 21 (JSt).



Ovenbird, Pt. Reyes, Calif., Sept. 14-Oct. 9, 1983. Photo/P. LaTourrette.

Ovenbirds continued to be almost unknown away from F.I., and Pt. Reyes. One was at Moss Beach *San Mateo* Oct. 12 (†BS) while ten were at the two aforementioned sites Sept. 14-Oct. 9. Seven N. Waterthrushes were on the immediate coast from Fairhaven to Half Moon Bay Aug. 28-Oct. 10 with another on S.F. Bay at Alviso banded Sept. 24 (*fide WB*). Five Connecticut Warblers matched the record set in 1974. Three arrived at F.I., Sept. 15, 25 & Oct. 11 and two were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 (LCB, †RS) & Oct. 7 (†RS, †JE, GS). Hooded Warblers were found at Montara Aug. 25 (†BS) and Pt. Reyes Sept. 26-27 (LCB *et al.*), only the 5th record for the outer point. Wilson's Warblers at Ferndale *Humboldt* Nov. 19 (KVR, JSt) and Half Moon Bay (BS) Nov. 30 were the last ones seen. Single Canada Warblers were at Golden Gate P., S.F., Sept. 24 (E. & A. Makishima) and Pt. Reyes Sept. 25 (JM, KHa). Seven Yellow-breasted Chats on the coast Aug. 30-Oct. 15 was well above average.

TANAGERS THROUGH TOWHEES — An ad. ♂ Summer Tanager was seen slightly inland at Spreckles, *Monterey* Aug. 28 (BG). Thirteen coastal Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Aug. 27-Nov. 4 was about average with seven of these from S.F. Blue Grosbeak had an excellent showing with *Del Norte's* second at Requa Sept. 2 (RAE), and singles at Pt. Reyes Sept. 9 (LCB), Pt. Pinos Sept. 20 (RS *et al.*) and Pt. Reyes Oct. 8 (BDP).

Single Indigo Buntings were seen at Pt. Pinos Sept. 28 (BW), Pt. Reyes Oct. 7-8 (RS *et al.*), and very late on F.I., Nov. 29. Exceptional was a Dickcissel Nov. 17-18 at Crescent City for *Del Norte's* first record (GL, RAE *et al.*). A Green-tailed Towhee turned up at Pt. Reyes Sept. 26 (RS, LCB, JM) and three were on F.I., Sept. 7-Nov. 11.

SPARROWS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — American Tree Sparrows invaded the coast in unprecedented numbers with ten on F.I., Oct.

4-27 and ten from Santa Cruz to Klamath Sept. 23-Nov. 6 with another at Walnut Cr., Oct. 8 (†RHu *et al.*) for the first East Bay record. Fifteen Clay-colored Sparrows along the coast Sept. 23-Nov. 27 was average. Brewer's Sparrows were seen at Palomar Aug. 23, Gold Bluff Beach, *Humboldt* Oct. 9 (GS, RAE), Spreckles Oct. 12 (BG) and six on F.I., Aug. 24-Oct. 11 for a typical showing.

A very rare Black-throated Sparrow was on F.I., Sept. 25-Oct. 2. An amazing 18 Lark Buntings were reported with seven on F.I., Sept. 7-Oct. 7, one each at Mono L., Sept. 4 (REW), *Tulare* Sept. 5 (RG), *Del Norte*'s second at Requa Aug. 9 (RF), Orick Sept. 7-8 (GS, RAE, JSt), Arcata Bottoms Oct. 9 (JSt *et al.*), Angel I., S.F. Bay Oct. 9 (*fide Gull*) and three on Pt. Reyes Sept. 3-Oct. 2. This number far exceeds fall 1981's high of 11. An interesting locality for Grasshopper Sparrow was Palomar in Aug. 3.

The Region's 4th **Le Conte's Sparrow** at Neary's Lagoon, Santa Cruz was well described and delighted many observers Oct. 29-30 (†DG, †KH, †KHa *et al.*). Thirty Swamp Sparrows showed up at traditional winter coastal localities, and one at Merced N.W.R., Oct. 31-Nov. 11 (†RJB) was inland. White-throated Sparrows were well reported with 61 on the coast and ten inland Sept. 21+. Five Harris' Sparrows were reported: Palomar Oct. 30, Janesville Nov. 5 (T & AM), Pt. Reyes Nov. 6 (*fide Gull*), Pebble Beach *Monterey* Nov. 24 (DR *et al.*) and Fresno Nov. 30 (KH). Six "Slate-colored" Juncos were found coastally Oct. 6-Nov. 22.

Many Lapland Longspurs were seen at 12 localities with a high of 20+ in the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 29-Nov. 3 (JSt *et al.*). The rarer Chestnut-collared Longspur was at Pt. Reyes Oct. 14-Nov. 5 (RS *et al.*), Arcata Oct. 29 (JSt) and F.I., Nov. 5 & 15. And the exceptionally rare McCown's Longspur was seen on Pt. Reyes Nov. 1-4 (RS *et al.*) for only the 2nd coastal record!

Bobolinks staged an invasion with 35 in *Humboldt* (including 27 in one flock at Arcata Oct. 10—JSt). A lingering individual in an Arcata salt marsh until Nov. 18 was the Region's latest record by 13 days (JSt, KVR *ph. et al.*). The occurrence of the large flock has only one precedent in the Region; 16 in Trinidad, *Humboldt*, Oct. 1, 1970. Eight arrivals on F.I., was also above average; however, only four others appeared elsewhere along the coast Sept. 9-Nov. 3.

Vagrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Klamath Aug. 27 (RAE) and a first for Palomar Oct. 29. It was a good fall for Rusty Blackbird with one each at Klamath Oct. 15-16 (RAE, GS, GL), Orick Oct. 29 (JSt, RF), and Pt. Reyes Nov. 3 (†DHE, J.G. Hall *et al.*). Very few Orchard Orioles were reported with one from F.I., and three on Pt. Reyes Sept. 16-26. A Hooded Oriole Aug. 31 was the F.I.'s 4th, and a late N. "Bullock's" Oriole was at Klamath Nov. 17 (RAE). One Great-tailed

Grackle continues to be seen in San Francisco with a sighting Oct. 28 (*fide Gull*).

ABBREVIATIONS: C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; Creighton Ranch = Creighton Ranch Nature Preserve, *Tulare*; F.I. = S.E. Farallon Island; P.R.B.O. = Point Reyes Bird Observatory; S.F. = San Francisco; † = description on file. All observations at Palomar (near Bolinas) and F.I. should be credited to P.R.B.O. References to the *Gull* refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is written by S.F. Bailey. *Italicized* names refer to counties.

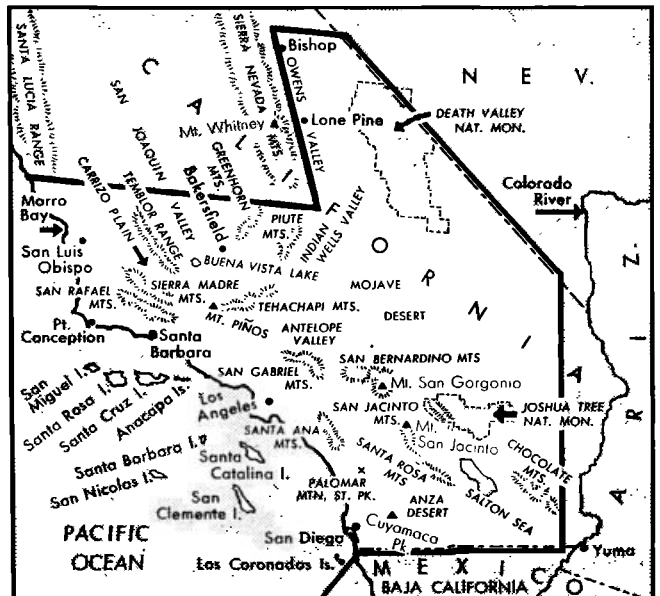
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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Guy McCaskie

The moist warm weather of last summer continued on into the fall eliminating much of the normally occurring coastal fog. Ocean temperatures were 2-3 degrees higher than normal, but apart from the early arrival of Black-vented Shearwaters, pelagic birding was uneventful. An impressive variety of vagrant landbirds, especially wood warblers, was found, but many remained for only short periods of time and were consequently seen by fewer than the normal number of observers ("twitchers" in British lingo).

LOONS, GREBES — Two Arctic Loons on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Oct. 19 (RH) were inland where rarely found. A flock of 14 ad. Com. Loons on L. Henshaw Oct. 1 (RH) were clearly fall migrants, and give us one of the earlier dates for the arrival of fall migrants in s. California; one at F.C.R., Nov. 8 (DDi) was at an unusual locality. A Horned Grebe at F.C.R., Oct. 19 (DDi) and another near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 6 (KLG) were the only ones found inland away from a large body of water, and 15 on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Nov. 25+ (TM) was the largest number reported on a large inland body of water this fall.



ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — The only Black-footed Albatrosses reported were three far off Santa Barbara Oct. 22-23 (REW) and 13 in the same area Nov. 5-6 (JM). Two N. Fulmars at the Cortez Banks off San Diego Sept. 11 (REW) had probably summered locally; wintering birds started to appear in late September, with 20 off San Diego by Oct. 19 (DPo), and remained relatively common into December. Two Flesh-footed Shearwaters, rare in s. California waters, were along the Santa Lucia Escarpment off Santa Barbara Nov. 5-6 (JM). Small numbers of Buller's Shearwaters, rare fall visitors to s. California waters, were present offshore as indicated by up to eight being seen during various boat trips Sept. 25-Nov. 6, with one off San Diego (actually in Mexican waters) Oct. 19 (DPo) being exceptionally far s. for so close to shore. Short-tailed Shearwaters are normally very rare in the Region so one off Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo Co., Sept. 25 (JMcd, ph., S.D.N.H.M.), seven off Santa Barbara Nov. 5-6 (JM), one seen from shore in Goleta, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 24 (PEL), and two off San Diego Oct. 19 (DPo) were unexpected. Black-vented Shearwaters were more numerous than usual with 10,000 off San Diego Oct. 19 (DPo) and 100 as far n. as Morro Bay Sept. 25 (TME). A **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** 5 mi off Long Beach, Los Angeles Co., Aug. 7 (KLG) was only the 5th to be found in s. California waters. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, a casual stray to s. California, was off Ventura Aug. 29 (CD). An Ashy Storm-Petrel off San Diego Sept. 7 (DPo) was unusually far s. for this time of the year. A Black Storm-Petrel off Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., Nov. 24 (REW) was late. Least Storm-Petrels were relatively common as indicated by 150 off Long Beach Aug. 7 (KLG), and remained later than expected as indicated by 20± off Santa Barbara Oct. 22-23 (REW).

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — A Red-billed Tropicbird found recently dead on a beach in Coronado, San Diego Co., Sept. 24 (MR, *S.D.N.H.M.) was the only one reported. An imm. Brown Booby that remained for 2 hrs around a sport fishing boat 3 mi n w. of Santa Barbara I., Oct. 29 (ALH) was only the 2nd ever reported off the coast of s. California. Twenty-six Brown Pelicans were still present on the Salton Sea Oct. 21 (SC) with one remaining at Salton City as late as Nov. 9 (MG). Magnificent Frigatebirds continued to be virtually nonexistent, but one near Pt. Piedras Blancas, San Luis Obispo Co., Sept. 19 (BW) was unusually far n., and one over L. Henshaw Aug. 8 (RH*i*) and another at N.E.S.S., Aug. 27 (RM*c*K) were inland.

HERONS THROUGH STORKS — Two or three Little Blue Herons were present around Imperial Beach, San Diego Co., throughout the period (EC); this species is now evidently resident in this area. An imm. Tricolored Heron on L. Henshaw Oct. 18 (RH*i*) was at a most unusual location, being the first to be found inland away from the Salton Sea and Colorado R. Valley. The ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron remained at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., through Aug. 29 (CGE), but was not been seen thereafter. An imm. Roseate Spoonbill at S.E.S.S., Sept. 4-10 (BBa) was the first to be found in California since 1980. Two Wood Storks near Palo Verde, Imperial Co., Aug. 12 (DK) were along the Colorado R., where rare, and two on L. Hodges, San Diego Co., Oct. 8-9 (KW) were along the coast where now considered casual.

WATERFOWL — Twenty Fulvous Whistling-Ducks on Finney L., near S.E.S.S., Aug. 11 (JLD) was a large number by today's standards. A flock of 25 Tundra Swans in flight over Morro Bay Nov. 25 (EAC) were the only ones reported. Single Ross' Geese in Goleta Nov. 28+ (PEL), in Santa Barbara Nov. 23-28 (NSC), at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Nov. 20 (LB) and on L. Hodges Nov. 20+ (KW) were along the coast where scarce, and single birds at Saratoga Springs, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 11 (BWK) and at nearby F.C.R., Nov. 26 (REW) were in an area where few indeed have been recorded. A flock of 20-30 Wood Ducks on L. Sherwood, Ventura Co., during late November (JLD) was a large concentration for anywhere in s. California. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at San Elijo Lagoon Oct. 2 (JZ) established the earliest arrival date for this rare winter visitor to s. California, and at least 15 more were known to be present in the Region by the end of November. A ♂ Tufted Duck on L. Perris Nov. 25+ (TM) was undoubtedly one of the two found wintering here a year ago. The ♀ King Eider found summering in Ventura remained through Sept. 18 (DB). A ♂ Harlequin Duck seen on San Diego Bay Oct. 5 (AM*c*M) was unusually far s. and is believed to have been

present all summer, and another at Carpinteria Nov. 25+ (J*O*g) is only the 3rd ever found in Santa Barbara County. The only Black Scoter reported was one in Huntington Beach Nov. 27+ (R & MW). An imm Surf Scoter at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., Oct. 20 (SC), four males on L. Henshaw Nov. 14 (RH*i*) and a female at N.E.S.S., Oct. 9 (RM*c*K) were inland. A Com. Merganser on Otay L., San Diego Co., Sept. 26 (DPo) had probably summered locally since wintering birds do not normally arrive in s. California before November.

HAWKS, FALCONS — Two Black-shouldered Kites at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., Oct. 16 (SC) were somewhat e. of the species' normal range. An imm. Bald Eagle at Harbor L., in Long Beach Nov. 2 (RH*o*) was at an unusual locality. A Red-shouldered Hawk in Blythe, Riverside Co., Aug. 21 (BB*r*) and another near there Nov. 22+ (SC*i*) were well to the e. of any area of regular occurrence. The only Broad-winged Hawks found this fall were an immature in the Fremont Valley, Kern Co., Oct. 2 (MH), another at Morongo Valley, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 3 (REW), a 3rd at the summit of Mt. Palomar, San Diego Co., Oct. 31 (RH*i*) and three in the San Diego area Oct. 16-22 (REW, LS*n*). A flock of 34 Swainson's Hawks near Bakersfield, Kern Co., Oct. 22 (MH) was the only group noted this fall; one over Whittier, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 23 (MCL) and another near Imperial Beach Sept. 12 (EC) were along the coast where now extremely rare. A Red-tailed (Harlan's) Hawk, a casual stray to s. California, was near Lancaster Nov. 6+ (KLG) and is believed to be the same bird found wintering here a year ago. A Rough-legged Hawk at L. Henshaw Oct. 12+ (RH*i*) was quite early and relatively far s.

RAILS — A Black Rail heard and seen in Morongo Valley Nov. 11 (BC) was at a most unusual location. A Clapper Rail at Pt. Mugu Nov. 14 (GC) was in an area where the species is feared to have been extirpated as a breeder. A Com. Moorhen found dead at the summit of Mt Palomar Oct. 31 (RH*i*, *S.D.N.H.M.) was unusually high in the mountains.

PLOVERS THROUGH SANDPIPERS — A flock of 85 Black-bellied Plovers at Harper Dry L., Oct. 16 (SC) was an unusually large number for this area of California. Two Lesser Golden-Plovers at Harper Dry L., Oct. 16 (SC), one at S.E.S.S., Sept. 25 (REW), and five at nearby Brawley Nov. 12 (EC) were all inland where considered very rare to casual; along the coast 20+ were found Sept. 1-Nov. 30. Single Solitary Sandpipers near Imperial Beach Oct. 2 (REW) and in San Diego Oct. 5 (CGE) were both somewhat late. A Ruddy Turnstone in Santa Ana, Orange Co., Sept. 22 (DRW), one to two near Lancaster Aug. 6-14 (FH) and one at N.E.S.S., Aug. 27 (REW) were inland where considered rare. Single Sanderlings were near Lancaster Aug. 6 (NBB), Sept. 9 (REW) & Oct. 10 (KLG), and another was on L. Henshaw Oct. 7 (RH*i*); this species is very rare inland away from the Salton Sea. The only Semipalmated Sandpipers found this fall were one on Morro Bay Aug. 27-Sept. 1 (JM*c*D), one to two at S.C.R.E., Aug. 24-30 (JLD), two to three near Imperial Beach Sept. 12-13 (EC) and another there Sept. 24 (REW). A Baird's Sandpiper on L. Henshaw Oct. 18 (RH*i*) was the latest found this fall. A Pectoral Sandpiper on L. Henshaw Nov. 18 (RH*i*, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was exceptionally late. Ten Stilt Sandpipers were found along the coast with one in Goleta Sept. 6 (JLD), four there Sept. 27-Oct. 1 (LB), single birds at S.C.R.E., Sept. 11-12 (PEL) & Sept. 25 (GG), two near Imperial Beach Aug. 7 (GM*c*C) and another there Oct. 16-23 (REW). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a casual visitor to s. California, was near Lancaster Sept. 3-9 (BWK, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). A juv. Ruff, a rare but regular fall straggler to California, was in Goleta Sept. 14-24 (PEL), another was at S.C.R.E., Sept. 19-Oct. 2 (SJM) and a third was near Imperial Beach Sept. 24 (GM*c*C).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — As usual, Parasitic Jaegers appeared on the Salton Sea with five seen Sept. 10-Oct. 24 (BBa, SC), one near Lancaster Sept. 3 (JLD) was one of a very few found inland away from the Salton Sea. A single Long-tailed Jaeger, the rarest jaeger off California, was off Morro Bay Sept. 25 (CM), three were along the Santa Lucia Escarpment off Santa Barbara Oct. 22 (REW), one was in the San Pedro Channel 12 mi off Long Beach Aug. 7 (KLG) and another was near the Cortez Bank off San Diego Sept. 11 (REW). Three S. Polar Skuas along the Santa Lucia Escarpment off Santa Barbara Oct. 22

(REW) were the only ones seen in s. California waters this fall. A young Laughing Gull on L. Henshaw Sept. 30 (RH) was at a most unusual locality being only the 3rd found inland away from the Salton Sea. Franklin's Gulls were unusually scarce with only seven reported, but including a very early juvenile at N.E.S.S., Aug. 10 (JLD). An ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** in Long Beach Sept. 10-Oct. 13 (LRH) had probably summered locally, and was only the 5th to be found in s. California. A juv. Mew Gull at S.C.R.E., Aug. 16 (JLD) was exceptional, this winter visitor to s. California not normally arriving before mid-November. A first-winter W. Gull (a color-banded bird), an accidental straggler to the interior, was at Salton City Oct. 21 (SC), an adult (judged to be *wymani*) was there Oct. 24 (SC) and a third-winter bird (judged to be *occidentalis*) was on L. Perris Nov. 25 (TM). A juv. Sabine's Gull on Big Bear L., in the San Bernardino Mts., Sept. 24 (EAC) was one of a very few found inland away from the Salton Sea and Colorado R. A Com. Tern at California City, Kern Co., Oct. 2-20 (MH) was at an unusual locality. A Least Tern at Pt. Mugu Oct. 1 (AS) was exceptionally late. A Black Skimmer in Santa Ana (15 mi inland) Sept. 27 (DRW) was at an unusual locality, and one in Playa del Rey, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 8 (B & RS) was the only one reported along the coast n. of San Diego County.

AUKS — A Marbled Murrelet off the Santa Maria R. mouth, Santa Barbara Co., Aug. 13 (LB) was a little s. of the species' normal range. Craveri's Murrelets were more numerous than in recent years with eight off Morro Bay Sept. 25 (CM), ten off Long Beach Sept. 11 (REW), one at Dana Pt., Orange Co., Aug. 19-21 (AP) and 12 off San Diego Sept. 10 (GMCC).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon at F.C.R., Oct. 19 (SC) was far from any area of regular occurrence. As usual, small numbers of White-winged Doves wandered to the coast with 35 ± reported, most during September and October, and one at Montana de Oro, San Luis Obispo Co., Sept. 8-17 (JMCD) being the northernmost. An Inca Dove at F.C.R., Oct. 18-23 (DDi, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was unusually far n., but the 2nd to be found at this locality. A Com. Ground-Dove in Goleta Oct. 7-Nov. 18 (PEL) and another in Long Beach July 30 (BED) were both away from areas of regular occurrence. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, accidental along the coast, was in Goleta Sept. 20-26 (PEL). Two migrant Black Swifts over Mt. Palomar Oct. 24 (RH) were a little late. A tight pre-roosting aggregation of 1000 Vaux's Swifts over c. Los Angeles Nov. 2 (KLG) was an unprecedentedly large concentration for this late date, but up to 100 were still present at the end of the period.

A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a casual fall transient to s. California, was in Brentwood, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 6-17 (AK) and another was near Imperial Beach Sept. 9-11 (JLD). Single Black-chinned Hummingbirds in Long Beach Oct. 15 (BED) and near Imperial Beach the same day (EC) were both unusually late, this species normally being gone from California by late September. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker in Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co., Sept. 30 (EAC) was away from the mountains. A ♀ Ladder-backed Woodpecker near Vista, San Diego Co., Nov. 30-Dec. 1 (CSW) was along the coast where considered accidental. A Downy Woodpecker near Imperial Beach Sept. 25 (CGE) was s. of the species' range. A White-headed Woodpecker in the Fremont Valley of Kern Co., Oct. 2 (MH) was far out in the high desert.

FLYCATCHERS — An Olive-sided Flycatcher on Pt. Loma Oct. 10 (REW) was the latest reported this fall. A Greater Pewee in Griffith P., Los Angeles Nov. 10+ (HB) was the same bird present during the past 4 winters. A W. Wood-Pewee near Imperial Beach Oct. 10 (EC) was the latest reported this fall. A Least Flycatcher in Goleta Oct. 29+ (RAH) and another near Oxnard Oct. 4 (JLD) were the only ones reported. An E. Phoebe, a rare but regular fall transient through s. California, was at F.C.R., Nov. 4 (REW) and another was at L. Henshaw Sept. 27 (RH). The only Vermilion Flycatcher found along the coast was a female near Imperial Beach Sept. 16 (EC). A Great Crested Flycatcher on Pt. Loma Sept. 20 (REW) was the 8th to have been found in s. California. Most unusual were a **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** at Harbor L., Long Beach Oct. 8 (DS) and another on Pt. Loma Sept. 16-20 (REW) since there were only 3 previous records in California. Thirteen Tropical Kingbirds along the coast after Sept. 13 was about normal. A **Thick-billed King-**

bird in Peters Canyon near Tustin, Orange Co., Nov. 26+ (DRW) was the same bird present here last winter. An E. Kingbird was inland at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Sept. 3 (JOI); three were found in coastal Santa Barbara and Ventura cos., Sept. 5-11 (PEL, HR) and a rather late bird was at Pt. Mugu Oct. 1 (AS).

TITMICE THROUGH WAGTAILS — Mountain Chickadees appeared in the lowlands, being present in coastal lowlands in slightly higher than average numbers after late September, and appearing at many desert locations during October (e.g., one to three at F.C.R., Oct. 23-Nov. 9). A Verdin at Mesquite Springs at the n. end of Death Valley Oct. 19-23 (DDi, SFB) was n. of the species' normal range. Three Brown Creepers, rare along the coast s. of Los Angeles, were found on Pt. Loma Aug. 13-Nov. 6 (BJ, REW). A Winter Wren in Carpinteria Sept. 4+ (PEL) was early. Golden-crowned Kinglets were present along the coast in larger than average numbers, appearing in early October, and reaching those areas s. of Los Angeles where normally quite rare (e.g., 6 ± on Pt. Loma Oct. 9-11). A Swainson's Thrush on Pt. Loma Nov. 2 (REW) was quite late. A **Rufous-backed Robin** at F.C.R., Nov. 5 (REW, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was only the 5th to have been found in California, and was farther n. than any previous occurrence in the United States. A Gray Catbird, a casual straggler to California, landed on a boat off San Diego Oct. 26 (MWG, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and another was on Pt. Loma Nov. 7+ (GJ). A Bendire's Thrasher, a rare to casual straggler to the coast of s. California, was at S.C.R.E., Aug. 21 (S & DR) and another was on Santa Barbara I., Aug. 30 (CD, ph., S.D.N.H.M.). An imm. White or Black-backed Wagtail at the mouth of Arroyo de la Cruz, San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 9 (TME, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) was the 4th such bird to have been found in s. California, however, without the knowledge of diagnostic characters for separating immatures to species we are forced to deal with each in this manner.

VIREOS — A brightly marked Solitary Vireo on Pt. Loma Sept. 20 (EC) was identified as the nominant form *solitarius* from the East. The gray Solitary Vireo (*V.s. plumbeus*) has increased as a transient/winter visitor to California since first recorded in 1960 (*Condor* 65:534, 1963), now regularly reaching the coast where 15 were found this fall. Four Philadelphia Vireos were found with one near Oxnard Oct. 2-3 (S & DR) being along the coast, and single birds at Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 2 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.), California City, Kern Co., Oct. 22 (MH) and at Morongo Valley Oct. 3 (DRW). Three Red-eyed Vireos were found along the coast with one near Oxnard Oct. 3-4 (OA), another on Pt. Loma Sept. 16-18 (BED) and the third at another location on Pt. Loma Sept. 18 (GMCC); the first two were obvious examples of *V. o. flavoviridis* from the s., a casual fall straggler to California.

WOOD WARBLERS — A **Blue-winged Warbler** well studied at Morongo Valley Oct. 2 (LSa) was only the 7th to have been found in California. The now expected small number of Tennessee Warblers (30 ±), along with equally regular Black-and-white Warblers (35 ±), Am. Redstarts (45 ±) and N. Waterthrushes (35 ±), were reported. Only 10 Virginia's Warblers were found along the coast, but one at Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., Sept. 17-Oct. 9 (PEL) was unusually far n., another inland at Desert Hot Springs, Riverside Co., Oct. 30 (RMCK) was at an interesting locality. Lucy's Warblers were scarce with one at Arroyo Grande Sept. 3-Oct. 6 (CM) and another in Goleta Sept. 4 (PEL) being the only ones reported. A N. Parula, much rarer in fall than spring, was at Arroyo Grande Sept. 30-Oct. 2 (CM), another was on Pt. Loma Sept. 18 (REW) and a third was on San Clemente I., Nov. 2 (TS). Eleven Chestnut-sided Warblers and 12 Magnolia Warblers during late September and October was about average. The only Cape May Warblers, a species on the decline as a vagrant to s. California in recent years, were one at Los Osos, San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 10 (JMCD) and another at Malibu, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 4 (H & PB). A Black-throated Blue Warbler, a remarkably regular fall straggler to California, was at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., Nov. 4 (REW), another was in Carpinteria Oct. 12 (PEL) and two were found on Pt. Loma Oct. 8-18 (REW). A Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler x Townsend's Warbler in Carpinteria Nov. 23-Dec. 3 (TW, *S.B.C.M.) was an unexpected hybrid previously undescribed. A Black-throated Green Warbler in California City Nov. 6 (JW, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) and three in the San Diego area Oct. 3-15 (GMCC, REW) were slightly fewer than

normal. The only Blackburnian Warblers reported were one at Montana de Oro Sept. 17 (PEL) and four in the San Diego area Sept. 24-Oct. 31 (REW, CGE, H & PB). A Grace's Warbler, one of the rarer vagrants to reach the coast of California, was on Pt. Loma Sept. 7 (REW). A **Pine Warbler** on Pt. Loma Oct. 13 (REW) was only the 7th ever to have been found in s. California. A Prairie Warbler at Arroyo Grande Sept. 17 (PEL), one near San Diego Oct. 1 (CGE) and another inland at California City Nov. 6 (MOC, ph., S.D.N.H.M.) were the only ones found. A Palm Warbler at L. Henshaw Oct. 7 (RH*i*) was the only one found inland, but 33 were reported along the coast after Oct. 2. The only Bay-breasted Warblers found this fall were one in Carpinteria Nov. 16 (TW) and another near San Diego Oct. 1 (CGE). A Blackpoll Warbler in Hart P., near Bakersfield Sept. 25 (MOC) was at an unusual locality, but the 40± along the coast during September and October were normal. A Prothonotary Warbler, a decidedly scarce vagrant to California, was at Morro Bay S.P., Oct. 19-20 (GPS), another was in Goleta Oct. 5 (W & KA), a third was at Malibu Lagoon Sept. 18 (KLG) and a fourth was in nearby Santa Monica Canyon Sept. 29 (GF). A Worm-eating Warbler, another scarce vagrant to California, was in Zuma Canyon near Malibu Oct. 15+ (KLG). Four Ovenbirds along the coast Sept. 23-Nov. 6 were fewer than normal. A **Kentucky Warbler** at Montana de Oro Oct. 27 (GPS) and another in Del Mar, San Diego Co., Nov. 14-16 (DDe) were remarkable as there were only 4 previous fall records for s. California. A Connecticut Warbler, a casual straggler to California, was observed walking beneath vegetation along a creek in Carpinteria Sept. 25 (H & PB). A Mourning Warbler, a species now reported annually, was at Pt. Mugu S.P., Sept. 18 (H & PB) and another was on Pt. Loma Sept. 20 (REW). A Hooded Warbler, much scarcer in fall than spring, was near Oxnard Sept. 25 (S & DR) and an exceptionally late individual was at L. Sherwood, Ventura Co., Nov. 28-Dec. 8 (JLD). A Canada Warbler was in Santa Barbara Sept. 12 (PEL) and one to two were near Imperial Beach Sept. 21-23 (EC).

TANAGERS, BUNTINGS — A ♂ Hepatic Tanager, a rare vagrant to the coast, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 26 (REW). Fifteen Summer Tanagers along the coast was normal, but one near Tecopa, Inyo Co., Oct. 28 (REW) was somewhat unusual. A Scarlet Tanager, a very rare straggler to California, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 16-17 (FD) and a second was there Oct. 29 (REW). Twenty-five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and an equal number of Indigo Buntings was about average. A ♀ Painted Bunting in Goleta Aug. 17-26 (LB) and another there Oct. 3 (PEL) were the first to have been found in Santa Barbara County. A Dickcissel near Blythe Aug. 21 (WCH) was the only one found inland, but seven were reported along the coast Sept. 13-Oct. 29.

SPARROWS — Six Am. Tree Sparrows were found in Inyo County, where small numbers regularly occur Oct. 27-Nov. 25, and one in California City Nov. 27 (JW) was just s. of that area, but another on Pt. Loma Nov. 22 (REW) was as far s. as ever recorded. Clay-colored Sparrows were unusually scarce with only four reported. A Black-throated Sparrow, most unusual along the coast, was on Santa Barbara I., Aug. 19 (CD) and another was on Pt. Loma Oct. 9 (REW). The only Lark Bunting reported was one on Santa Barbara I., Aug. 1 (CD). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Oasis, Mono Co., Oct. 19 (DD*i*) was at an unusual locality. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow, a rare straggler to s. California, was at Morro Bay Nov. 19+ (CM). Fifteen Swamp Sparrows Oct. 28+, was about normal. A Harris' Sparrow in Goleta Nov. 6+ (PEL) was the only one found along the coast and five were reported in Inyo County. Two Lapland Longspurs near Imperial Beach Nov. 6 (GM*c*C) and another at L. Henshaw Nov. 14 (RH*i*) were the only ones found, and Chestnut-collared Longspurs were remarkably scarce with six individuals reported.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES — Bobolinks were slightly scarcer than normal with only 55± reported Sept. 7+, but one remaining in Goleta through Nov. 3 (PEL) was late. Single Rusty Blackbirds at F.C.R., Oct. 28 (REW) & Nov. 11 (BWK) were the only ones found in the n.e. part of the Region where small numbers regularly occur each fall, but one near Imperial Beach Oct. 28 (GM*c*C) was along the coast where casual. Great-tailed Grackles continue to be found along the coast with one at Pt. Mugu Nov. 14 (EN) and one to two near Imperial Beach Nov. 17+ (EC). An Orchard Oriole in Goleta Sept. 12 (BB*a*), another in Carpin-

teria Oct. 5 (PEL) and a third in San Diego Nov. 5 (LZ) along with two wintering birds in Goleta Nov. 9+ (LB) was about normal.

FINCHES — Purple Finches appeared along the coast in small numbers during late October and November, and a few found their way out onto the desert during this same period with eight in Caruthers Canyon of the New York Mts., San Bernardino Co., Nov. 10 (SC) and one in Needles, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 11 (SC) being the most noteworthy. A Red Crossbill in California City Nov. 19 (MH) was at a most unusual locality. Pine Siskins were well distributed throughout the Region being relatively common along the coast after early October. An Evening Grosbeak at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley N.M., Oct. 27 (REW) was the only one reported.

CORRIGENDA — The reference to 200 Sandhill Cranes at Harper Dry L., San Bernardino Co., Feb. 12 (*Am. Birds* 37:338, 1983) should be deleted. The wintering White-crowned Sparrow reported as remaining to the late date of May 11 (*Am. Birds* 37:914, 1983) should be changed to a White-throated Sparrow.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.C.R.—Furnace Creek Ranch, Inyo Co., N.E.S.S.—north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.B.C.M.—San Bernardino County Museum; S.D.N.H.M.—San Diego Natural History Museum; S.C.R.E.—Santa Clara River Estuary, Ventura Co., 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. As virtually all rarities found in s. 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.

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle

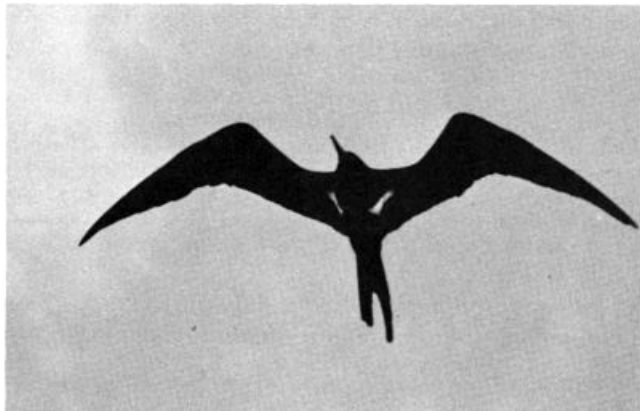
Drought conditions continued through the fall. Honolulu's total rainfall January through November was fewer than 4 inches compared to a normal 20 inches. Precipitation was proportionately greater in the upland forests, but still well below average. Wind patterns over the northwestern Pacific provided favorable periods this fall for palearctic migrants to reach the island chain.

Fall is the season when migrants and accidentals add spice and variety to the otherwise unchanging Hawaiian birdlife. This year the occurrence of visitors from both North America and Asia ranged from moderately good to spectacular.

PROCELLARIIDS — A dark-phase **Northern Fulmar**, occasional straggler to Hawaii, was picked up in weakened condition on Kailua Beach, O., Nov. 18 and turned in to Sea Life Park (IK). It died 2 days later; the specimen will go to U.S. Nat'l Museum (SF). A large number of (Hawaiian) **Dark-rumped Petrels** (Endangered) were heard calling overhead during the evening Aug. 8 near Holua Cabin in Haleakala Crater, M. Thirty grounded **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters** had been turned in to Sea Life Park by the end of November, mostly in the last 2 weeks, which is later than usual. A grounded **Townsend's (Newell's) Shearwater** found near some buildings in Lanai City, L., Oct. 10 was released in good condition the same day (PC). This officially threatened endemic, recently listed by the A.O.U. as a race of **Townsend's Shearwater**, is rarely recorded alive on any island other than Kauai, but see last season's report for a similar occurrence on Maui.

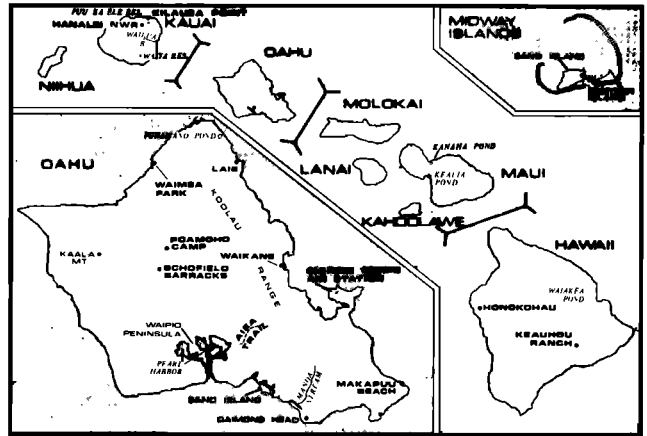
A **Leach's Storm-Petrel** was found injured near Wailuku, M., Oct. 30, one mi from the sea at 50 ft elevation. It died 2 hrs later at the Maui Zoo (CK, *CBK 83-2). Three to four **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels** were picked out by their distinctive calls, often likened to rubbing a wet finger across smooth glass Aug. 8 (PP, PA, JJ). This storm-petrel was formerly considered a race endemic to Hawaii based on several flying juveniles collected nearly one century ago at Kauai. No nest has yet been found in Hawaii, although occasional fledged juveniles have been turned in during the fall shearwater recovery program on Kauai. Calls suspected to be from this species have been reported a few times before on Maui and Hawaii Is.

BOOBIES THROUGH WATERFOWL — Up to four juv. **Brown Boobies** have been frequenting the harbor at Kawaihae, H., this summer and fall (RD, AT). The species is rarely reported s. of Oahu. One ad. ♂ **Lesser Frigatebird** was observed at Kure Atoll Sept. 27-Oct. 13, with excellent photographs obtained (PP, R.B.D.P.F. 253-255). Another seen at Tern I., F.F.S., Sept. 8 (*vide* SF) followed a report of a bird, possibly this species, reportedly seen at Tern I., July 11 (SJ). Three prior records were known for the state, all at Kure.



Lesser Frigatebird, Kure Atoll, n.w. Haw., Sept. 27, 1983. Photo P. Pyle.

Less common species noted through November included a **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** at Hanalei N.W.R., K., Nov. 8 (PD), an ad. **Snow Goose** at Midway Oct. 14-16 (PP), a **Brant** at Aimakapa Pond Nov. 13+ (RD), three **Green-winged Teal** at Kure Sept. 23-Oct. 13 (PP).



Duck numbers on Oahu seemed low at the end of November when most of the wintering N. Pintails and N. Shovelers usually have arrived. At Aimakapa Pond, H., however, 35+ pintails and 100+ shovelers Nov. 26 (RD) were good counts along with two Eur. Wigeon at Sand I., Midway Oct. 8-21 (PP) and two more at Aimakapa Pond Nov 13+ along with a **Canvasback** (RD). Three **Koloa (Hawaiian Duck)** (Endangered) were seen deep in the Alakai wilderness, K., Aug. 12 (PP, PA).

OSPREY THROUGH COOTS — The Osprey, normally only an occasional visitor to Hawaii, appeared in almost an irruption this fall. Individuals were sighted near Kamalo, Molokai I. (DW), in Hilo, H., along the waterfront (MS) and later at Lokoaka Pond (RD), and at Kii Pond, O. (DW), all in late October and November. The Oahu bird moved to Wahiawa Res., and remained through December (DB). At least one more Osprey was reported at Kanaha Pond, M., in late November (JW, MU). A bird seen daily by U.S.F. & W.S. personnel at Tern I., F.F.S., Nov. 4-12 was reported to be an ad. ♂ **Steller's Sea-Eagle** (*vide* BE, SF), for the 2nd state record.

Reports of three **Peregrine Falcons** on Oahu within 3 weeks was unprecedented for this very casual visitor. One in near adult plumage was studied perched and in flight at Kii Pond Oct. 29 (RLP, AA). Another was seen in flight and photographed (R.B.D.P.F. 302) at Waipio, O., Nov. 15 (PD). Most incredibly, a fishing boat captain turned over an imm. male in good condition to state wildlife officials at Honolulu harbor Nov. 21. He reported that it came aboard about 10 days earlier when his vessel was about 1000 mi s. of Hawaii I., somewhere near the Line Is. The bird was kept at Honolulu Zoo for a week and then sent to the Peregrine Fund facility in Santa Cruz, Calif., where it will be held until subspecific determination can be made.

Examination of the crop of a **Wild Turkey** taken at Kahea on the e. coast of Lanai I., Aug. 22 revealed pipipi shells (*Nerita picea*), seaweed, fish scales and other items from the marine littoral zone (PC). This confirms indications from occasional observations and footprints that this species forages regularly on the beaches and tidal rocks of that island. Record counts of 150-158 (Hawaiian) **Am. Coots** (Endangered) at Aimakapa Pond, H., by several observers during August (AT, PS *et al.*) and also 95-100 found at Waipio, O., Sept. 11 (EW *et al.*), attest to the exceptionally good breeding year for this species. A coot at Kure Sept. 20-Oct. 14 (PP) may well have been the same one seen there in February and June.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — The only **Black-bellied Plovers** reported this fall were single birds at Tern I., F.F.S., Oct. 10 (*vide* SF) and Kii Pond Oct. 17 & 22 (PP), fewer than normally expected again this year. The **Semipalmated Plover** at Aimakapa Reef, H., remained through the summer (v.ob.), and was joined by two more in September (AT). (Hawaiian) **Black-necked Stilts** (Endangered) raised 7-10 young successfully at Aimakapa Pond (AT). A **Solitary Sandpiper** observed well at Puna Sugar Mill settling ponds, H., Sept. 14 (AT) provided the first state record for the species. A photograph (R.B.D.P.F. 301) and full descriptive notes were submitted.

A remarkable variety of small *Calidris* sandpipers was observed in Hawaii this fall, owing in part to the presence of skilled observers experienced with palearctic stints. One definite **Semipalmated Sand-**

S.A.

Attu I., in the Aleutians and Kure Atoll in the Hawaiians have much in common. Both are the westernmost of a 1000-mi chain of small islands. Both have an airstrip maintained by a small Coast Guard Loran station crew, and are otherwise uninhabited. Access to either is very difficult for a single birder. It would not be expected that their respective birdlives, one subarctic and the other subtropical, would have much in common. But some palearctic birds found on Kure in the fall of 1983 are reminders that a good selection of species normally associated with Attu also occur on Kure.

An observer (PP) with extensive field experience in Europe, s.e. Asia and Micronesia recorded a spectacular (for Hawaii) list of species on Green I., Kure Atoll during a 3-week visit Sept. 20-Oct. 14 this year. Good to excellent photos of most of these have been deposited in the R.B.D.P.F. Several species of North American or tropical origin are mentioned elsewhere in this report. Some others with Attu affinities are as follows.

A **Garganey** in ♀-plumage injured a wing on an antenna guywire Sept. 30 and died 5 days later (B.P.B.M. #159738). A **Gray-tailed Tattler** seen well Sept. 30 was identified by diagnostic call notes. Separate **Bar-tailed Godwits** were present Sept. 29 & Oct. 10-14, and a first-year **Rufous-necked Stint** was seen Oct. 13-14. A different bird carefully studied Sept. 25-Oct. 11 was either a different Rufous-necked Stint or a Little Stint. A **Red-throated Pipit**, present Sept. 20-22, was carefully observed and described.

Most remarkable of all was the arrival during the night of Sept. 28-29 of 12-15 **Olive Tree-Pipits**. They remained and foraged on the island until Oct. 7 when more than one-half of them apparently departed in one night. Three to five birds were still present when the observer departed Oct. 14. Several individuals were photographed. Not only does this provide the first record of the species in Hawaii, but the occurrence of such a large number of vagrant passerines at one time is unprecedented. Full details of this occurrence, including complete discussion of identification, will be published separately.

These and many other palearctic species occur on Attu I., in spring. But in fall, recent experience suggests that this list for Kure recorded in 3 weeks by one observer on a 0.5 x 2.5 km island compares favorably with what may be found on Attu I., in the same period by 40 observers covering a much larger area.

Other Asiatic and Alaskan species recorded at Kure in past years, mostly in fall and winter, have included Emperor Goose, Eur. Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Eur. Dotterel, Wood Sandpiper, Slaty-backed Gull, Snow Bunting and Com. Redpoll. The holarctic race of Short-eared Owl (not the Hawaiian race) and Asiatic races of Eur. Skylark and Water Pipit have been collected there. White-tailed Eagles have not yet made it to Kure, but a Steller's Sea-Eagle spent more than a month there in 1978, in the company of Black-footed and Laysan albatrosses.

Sand I., in Midway Atoll is the next island e. of Kure, and is analogous to Shemya near Attu. This year, during stopover at Sand I., Oct. 14-16, the same observer found Eur. Wigeon and a probable Com. Ringed Plover. In past years Com. Pochard, Long-toed Stint and Com. Black-headed Gull have been recorded at Midway.

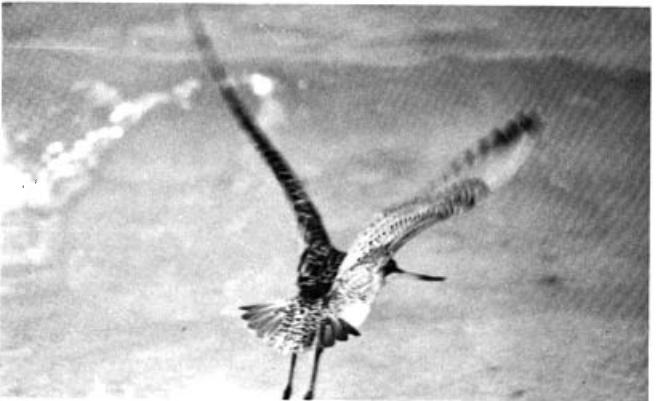
Daily weather charts for the period of this year's visit suggest that circulation patterns favoring movement toward Kure from the n.w. correlated well with occurrences of palearctic species; while arrivals of commoner North American migrants were associated with stronger trade wind flow from the e. Ornithologists have not visited Kure for extended periods, particularly in fall, since the Smithsonian field program of the mid-1960s. With regular observations at Kure, especially in fall and winter, one wonders how much more might be learned about the movements of palearctic species across the Pacific. The Coast Guard may have to abandon Attu, but let us hope that it does not leave Kure. Unfortunately, although ATTOUR in spring could not easily become KUTOUR in fall because Kure is too small and its habitats too fragile to withstand a tour-sized group of visitors.



Garganey, Kure Atoll, n.w. Haw., Sept. 23, 1983. Photo/P. Pyle.



Gray-tailed Tattler, Kure Atoll, n.w. Haw., Sept. 28, 1983. Photo/P. Pyle.



Bar-tailed Godwit, Kure Atoll, n.w. Haw., Oct. 11, 1983. Photo/P. Pyle.



Olive Tree-Pipit, Kure Atoll, n.w. Haw., Sept. 30, 1983. Photo/P. Pyle.

piper (Oahu) and one definite **Rufous-necked Stint** (Kure) furnished first records of these species for the state. Three other individuals on Kure, Oahu and Hawaii were not identified as to species, but at least two probably were palearctic species. Definite *W. Sandpipers* were observed on both Oahu and Kure. Good photos of all individuals are in R B D.P.F., and full details on all of these sightings are in a paper (PP, PD, PA) submitted separately to AB.

Other scarce visitors to Oahu were single **Spotted Sandpipers** at Waipio Sept. 11 (m.ob.), **Sea Life P.**, Sept. 13 (PP) and **Kaneohe** Sept. 26 (TB), and a **Baird's Sandpiper** at Waipio and another at Kii Pond in August-September (v.ob.). Uncommon but regular fall migrants appeared as expected: a high count of 15 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at Kii Pond Oct 9, three **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** were at Kealia Pond, M., in mid-November (JW), but on Oahu only a very few reports of single individuals were received, despite the intensive birding effort this season. At Kure up to five **Sharp-taileds** were present during October and at Sand I., Midway an incredible 21 were counted Oct. 14-16 (PP). One **Ruff** was at Waipio throughout the fall and up to four **Wilson's Phalaropes** were at Kii Pond in August-September. Three species of terns were observed on Oahu: an **Arctic** at Kii Pond Oct. 22 (PP), a **Least Little** and a **Black** at Waipio Oct. 1-16 (PD, PP), the latter remaining until Nov. 6 (RLP)

LANDBIRDS — Thirteen (Hawaiian) **Short-eared Owls** on fenceposts in a 2.5 mi stretch along Saddle Rd., H., one day in mid-August (RD) was an extraordinary concentration. A **Red-vented Bulbul** reported on the grounds of the Sheraton Hotel on w. Molokai I., Aug. 24 (*vide* MM), could not be relocated in subsequent searches. This was only the 2nd report of this species on any island other than Oahu, but w. Molokai would be a natural first stop if the exploding population on Oahu were to

expand to another island

During a visit to the Alakai wilderness area on Kauai Aug. 12-14, PP and PA found five **Puaiohi** (Small Kauai Thrush—Endangered): two adults attending a nest with one chick, one in juv. plumage in the same area, and a bird heard calling in another locality. One **Ou** (Endangered) was heard. In the Hana Forest Reserve on Maui I., up to 20 **Mau Parrotbills** (Endangered) were seen each day Aug. 5-8, including adults feeding young (PP, PA, JJ). Numerous family groups of **Kauai Creepers** were observed. Good numbers of **Akepa** on Kauai were seen (but without young), and about two-thirds of the **Iiwi** seen were molting out of juv. plumage, although total numbers of **Iiwi** were lower than were seen in 1981. These observations are heartening indications that breeding of these species has not been hampered too severely by the effects of Hurricane *Iwa* last November.

Three male and three ♀ **Red Avadavats** observed closely at leisure along Upolo Airport Rd., at the extreme n. tip of Hawaii I., Sept. 12 & 15 (AT, VS) constituted the first record of this species on any island other than Oahu.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S.: French Frigate Shoals, H.: Hawaii I., K.: Kauai I., L.: Lanai I., M.: Maui I., O.: Oahu I., R.B.D.P.F.: Rare Bird Documentary Photo File, maintained by Hawaii Audubon Society

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WEST INDIES REGION

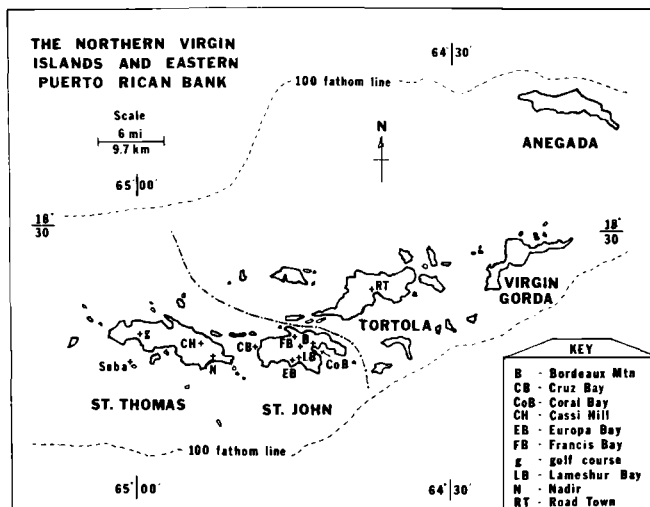
/Robert L. Norton

“Nothing wholly admirable ever happened in this country except the migration of birds.”—Brooks Atkinson. Indeed, birds exposed to the gauntlet of migration whether short or long, remarkable or not, inspire admiration for their deeds and a *raison d'être* for observers in remote places. This report for the first time has contributions from the extremes of the Caribbean archipelago, **Grand Cayman** (hereafter, G.C.) in the west to **Grenada** in the southeast. Several important sightings are reported for the first time from **Guadeloupe** (hereafter, G.). Reports from the latter two islands were received just prior to political upheaval. It is hoped that contact can be restored.

Extensive notes were received from PB at G.C. and **Cayman Brac** (hereafter, C.B.) on the status of migrant and resident species. The number of endemic species and subspecies is remarkable for islands totalling about 90 square miles. They include two picids, a psittacid, a muscicapid (turdid), vireonids, emberizids, a columbid and a fringillid. No report on the status of **Grand Cayman thrush** was offered which portends little hope that this species remains extant on this small developing island. The status of endemics throughout the West Indies should receive special attention whenever possible as they represent the Region's truly threatened fauna.

Precipitation in the **Virgin Islands** (hereafter, V.I.) varied from 83% above normal in August to 62% and 52% below normal for September and October respectively. November, however, was 67% above average yielding a +3% for the period on a 60-year period of record.

BITTERNS THROUGH COOTS — An Am. Bittern was seen well (PB) at G.C., Oct. 10 and a **Least Bittern**, which may have been from Cuba, was also noted at G.C., Aug. 14. Also from G.C., were reports of two **White Ibises** Aug. 28–Sept. 9 (PB, MvL) and five **Glossy Ibises** Oct 10 (PB, MvL), both of which are casual outside the major islands of the Greater Antilles. Five **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** were shot by hunters and examined by EB-E Sept. 25 at Port Luis, G., and another *bicolor* was reported from St. Croix (hereafter, St. C.) Oct. 25 (FS). Benitez-Espinal has traveled and studied widely in the Lesser Antilles and



reports that the species breeds at Barbuda. A **Green-winged Teal** was noted at G.C., Nov. 6 (PB *et al.*) providing an uncommon occurrence in the w. Caribbean. **Northern Shovelers** were recorded from widely dispersed locations; two were at G.C., Oct. 21, 12 were found there Nov. 6 (PB), and one female was at Marie Galante, G., Oct. 2 (EB-E). One ♂ **Ring-necked Duck** appeared at St. John (hereafter, St. J.) Nov. 2 (RLN) and one female was at St. C., Nov. 29 (FS). On Oct. 30 one male and four ♀ **Lesser Scaup** were observed at G.C. (PB) indicating a representative movement of anatids in the Region although unexpected at some locations.

Two **N. Harriers** were noted Oct. 10–Nov. 30 at G.C. (PB) as well as **Peregrine Falcons**, possibly two Oct. 20–Nov. 6 at G.C. A **Peregrine** was also noted at Cruz Bay, St. J. (RLN), Oct. 24; a single at San Juan (AS) Oct. 28; two at St. C. (FS) Oct. 16–Nov. 16; and two at **Cockroach Cay, St. Thomas** (hereafter, St. T.) (RLN) Nov. 8 cruising the booby

colonies. If *peregrinus* is territorial in the West Indies, as I have suggested in previous reports, then as many as six were observed (other data) Oct. 22-28 from these locations and probably three from the V.I., Nov. 8-11. Two Soras were noted at St. C. (FS) Nov. 16. American and Caribbean coots continue to be in cahoots at Hart Bay, St. J. The following table offers field data on the local population status of this troublesome genus. As reported earlier mixed pairs have been observed at St. Martin and St. J., since April 1982. And now mixed pairs have been observed in temperate habitat (Payne and Master 1983. *Wilson Bull.* 95:467-469.) coincidentally in April 1982, illustrating a widespread phenomenon, *i.e.*, throughout the range of *F. americana*.

Table 1. Population status of *Fulica americana* and *Fulica caribaea* at Hart Bay, St. J., U.S.V.I., during the fall of 1983

<i>Fulica</i> species	August 10	September 7	October 25	November 2
<i>americana</i>	3	2	5	6
<i>caribaea</i>	3	1	2	1
pulli	0	2	6	0
Total	6	5	13	7

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS — The highlight of the shorebird migration was the occurrence of a **Eurasian Whimbrel** (*Numenius p. phaeopus*) first seen at St. T., Aug. 8 (RLN) at the Mangrove Lagoon. The word went out to St. C. observers to carefully note all whimbrels having a white rump, as the species is more commonly seen there on migration. FS reported seeing it (or another?) in the company of *N. p. hudsonicus* Aug. 31 & Sept. 5 providing the 2nd Regional record from 2 locations. The first record is from Barbados Sept. 25, 1962 (Bond

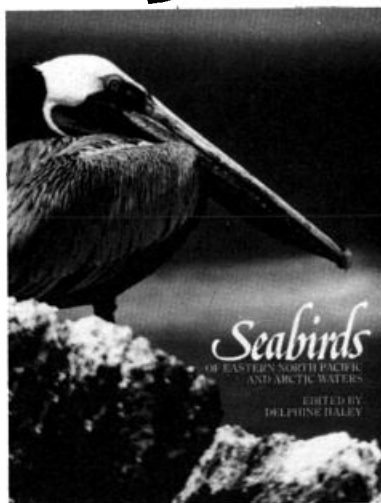
Table 2. Numbers and passage dates of Charadriiformes during fall from the eastern Caribbean, Virgin Islands to Guadeloupe

Species	St. T.	St. J.	St. C.	G. (EB-E)
Lesser Golden-Plover			12 Sept. 17	4 Sept. 25
			46 Oct. 9	14 Oct. 8
			56 Oct. 10	
			65 Oct. 11	
			56 Oct. 21	
Solitary Sandpiper	7 Sept. 6	3 Aug. 10	1 Sept. 1	
		2 Sept. 7	4 Oct. 15	
			1 Nov. 27	
Whimbrel	1 Aug. 8*		2 Aug. 15	
			5 Aug. 31*	
			5 Sept. 5*	
			23 Sept. 25	
			41 Oct. 5	
Red Knot			6 Aug. 14	
			12 Aug. 25	
			28 Sept. 16	
			19 Sept. 17	
			12 Oct. 2	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	24 Aug. 8	5 Aug. 10	506 Sept. 24	15 Sept. 24
	314 Sept. 6	18 Sept. 7		3 Oct. 8
		20 Oct. 22		
Western Sandpiper	100 Sept. 6	5 Oct. 22	437 Sept. 24	
Least Sandpiper	16 Aug. 8	1 Aug. 10	2 Sept. 25	
	176 Sept. 6	8 Aug. 18	24 Sept. 24	
		3 Sept. 7	2 Sept. 25	
White-rumped Sandpiper	2 Sept. 6		12 Sept. 24	
Pectoral Sandpiper	17 Sept. 6		12 Sept. 27	
			2 Nov. 1	
			3 Aug. 25	1 Sept. 25
Stilt Sandpiper	2 Aug. 8	7 Aug. 10	31 Oct. 22	20 Oct. 2
	12 Sept. 6	5 Sept. 7	2 Nov. 7	
		45 Oct. 25	247 Sept. 24	
		465 Sept. 27		
		309 Oct. 19		
		35 Nov. 1		

*Numbers include *Numenius p. phaeopus*.

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1980). Table 2 offers migration statistics for several Charadriiformes for those interested in passage dates and numbers.

From El Moro, San Juan, RP *et al.*, observed two **Pomarine Jaegers** harrying tern spp. Oct. 30. Sladen reported several interesting observations of terns including eight Gull-billeds Aug. 12, a late Roseate Oct. 23, three Commons Oct. 14 and five juveniles Oct. 27. Twelve Com. Terns were seen at Pillsbury Sound, St. J. (RLN) Sept. 16. Least Terns were reported to be nesting at G.C. (PB) and remained until Sept. 10. FS counted 665 Least Terns at St. C., Aug. 30 which included ca. 100 juveniles most of which departed by Sept. 20. PB noted that **Black Terns** passed through G.C., Aug. 27 (2) & Sept. 9 (6).

PIGEONS THROUGH BOBOLINKS — On Oct. 30 at El Yunque, P.R., three Plain Pigeons, one of the most endangered endemics of the Region, were noted by MG, EB-E *et al.* Six Cuban Parrots, an endemic subspecies at G.C. and C.B., were reported to be locally common Nov. 20 (PB). A Com.-Barn Owl was observed at G.C. (PB) roosting in a coconut tree in November providing further evidence of its rare w. Caribbean distribution, though was not determined whether it was the resident *Tyto a. furcata* or a vagrant *T. a. pratincola* of the Gulf states. The same problem exists when seeing a usually silent Common and Antillean nighthawk during migration now that they are separated. The latter breeds locally from G.C., e. to Aneгада. Migrating *gundlachii* are seen briefly and rather early in the fall, August to early September. Barbour (1943) recounts that *gundlachii* disappears from Cuba by late August and that *minor* is regular in October. Wingate (1973) records *minor* at Bermuda from early September until the first week of November. Brudenell-Bruce (1975) similarly states that *gundlachii* has departed breeding stations in the Bahamas by mid-September and that *minor* is seen from then to early November. Thus, *Chordeiles* spp. noted in the Caribbean from August until the first week of September may be regarded as *gundlachii* and thereafter as *minor*. Their distinctive calls easily separate them, but are usually heard only in spring and summer.

Chuck-will's-widows were commonly seen Sept. 10-Nov. 21 at St. J., and noted at St. C. (FS) Oct. 16. A rare occurrence of three Chimney

Swifts at St. J., Nov. 7 (RLN) well e. of their reported passage route provided a most unusual record and perhaps the first e. of Hispaniola. Flocks of swallows often harbor mixed species during migration and offer the careful observer an unexpected opportunity. La Sagra's Flycatcher (formerly Stolid Flycatcher) was noted at G.C., Sept. 4 (PB). Northern Rough-winged Swallows were noted from widely dispersed locations; 10+ August-Nov. 30 at G.C. (PB) and one at St. J., Nov. 11 (RLN). A Cliff Swallow was also seen at St. J., Nov. 11 in a flock of 30+ Barn Swallows. A report of a Red-eyed Vireo from St. C., is acknowledged here although details are expected elsewhere. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was noted by MG, EB-E *et al.*, at Luquillo Forest, P.R., Oct. 31. Two Blackpoll Warblers were seen at St. J., Nov. 1 (RLN). Louisiana Waterthrushes are early visitors to the V.I. in fall as indicated by sightings Aug. 18 at St. J., and at St. T., Sept. 6 (RLN). They appear to precede the common, winter resident N. Waterthrush by one or 2 weeks. A **Kentucky Warbler** at G.C., Nov. 28 (PB) provided a rare occurrence outside the larger islands of the Greater Antilles. Sladen noted a Bobolink at St. C., Sept. 26 and at Grande Terre, G., EB-E reported that four Bobolinks were seen Oct. 20.


ADDENDUM — A carefully observed trio of **American White Pelicans** at St. Martin in late November 1982 (EB-E) deserves notice. PB included observations from previous seasons which bear repeating here: Greater Flamingo at G.C., July 11-16, 1983; Turkey Vulture at C.B., May 25, 1983; and an **American Swallowed-tailed Kite** at G.C., July 25, 1983. A Wilson's Phalarope was at Grenada in fall, 1983 (PH).

CORRIGENDUM — Haitian should read Hispaniolan Parakeets (*Am. Birds* 37:917).

CONTRIBUTORS — Subregional editors in italics, *Edouard Benitez-Espinal, Patricia Bradley, Mike Gochfeld, A. Gomez, Peter Hall, Richard Paul, Fred Sladen, Alexander Sprunt, IV, Mars van Liede*, and other observers.—**ROBERT L. NORTON, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 101 Estate Nazareth, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. 00802.**

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