

The Autumn Migration

August 1–November 30, 1986

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

Richard A. Forster

The weather for the fall averaged notably cooler than normal throughout the season. August and November were wetter than normal while the middle period was somewhat drier than expected. In Newfoundland, summer ended in mid-September when November weather commenced and by mid-November winter had set in. There were numerous cold fronts, most notably in late August when it was downright cold, but impressive waves of migrants failed to materialize much to the chagrin of most observers. Once again there was widespread concern that bird populations are not what they were formerly, and this observer is beginning to believe there may be some truth to that allegation. Passerine migration varied from average to the "dullest of the dullest." At Appledore Island, Maine, David Holmes reported his highest banding totals ever, but since the net hours were so high they drove the birds/net hour average to the lowest point yet. The shorebird migration was almost universally average or below-average. Pelagic species were also underreported with a few exceptions. The scarcity of sand lance (*Ammodytes* sp.) on Stellwagen Bank, Massachusetts resulted in paltry numbers of pelagics. Even Humpbacked Whales, bread winners of whale watching trips, were scarce and frequently unobserved.

Not all groups were represented on the down side however. The hawk migration through southern portions of the Region was spectacular and, if equalled or surpassed in subsequent years, will be worth seeing. Also, the concentrations of some other diurnal passerine migrants were truly staggering, particularly at Lighthouse Point, Connecticut. Likewise, in a season that spans such a lengthy period during which anything is seemingly possible, this fall season did not disappoint and the usual array of improbable species was recorded. Indeed, it is almost difficult to determine what is improbable. It is the task of the regional editor to sort through these reports, weigh the documentary evidence, and make value judgments on the validity of the reports—rightly or wrongly. No reports are categorically dismissed, but, on occasion, some are downplayed because the necessary definitive evidence of the



occurrence of a given species is not absolutely conclusive. My apologies to all observers whose reports were overlooked and/or do not appear in this account.

LOONS, GREBES — Loon migration through the Region proceeds on a predictable schedule and is seldom commented on unless something out of the ordinary occurs. Common Loons start migrating in the beginning of September and Red-throats follow about one month later. Reports are most prevalent as a result of storms or strong onshore winds when birds are concentrated along the coast or blown inland. This fall the lack of storms brought few loon reports, especially no significant inland reports. The only significant report of migrating Red-throats occurred Nov. 6, at Dennis, Mass., when 395 were observed in only one hour (BN). The same date at Pt. Judith, R.I., only 14 were seen (fide DLE). A convincing report of a Pacific Loon came from Saco, Me. on the unseasonable date of Aug. 16 (G. Lemelin). Another was reported from Napatree Pt., R.I., Nov. 5 (fide DLE). No major movements of Com. Loons were noted in the Region throughout the period.

Numbers of Pied-billed Grebes seem to be recovering somewhat from recent low totals. In Nova Scotia they were said to be "as usual" (fide PP) but in Rhode Island they were "more numerous than usual" during September and October. In Massachusetts 12 were at Lakeville Sept. 20, 18 were there Nov. 1, and during October they were well reported. Horned Grebes likewise continue in depressed numbers and were generally not commented on except in Nova Scotia where they were termed "rather scarce" (fide PP). A Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage appeared inland and early at Clinton, Mass., Aug. 14 (fide RHS). At Mount Desert Narrows, Me., 110 Red-neckeds were noted Aug. 31 (KJ). This was apparently a routine occurrence where they appear early and undergo molt before moving on. Elsewhere in the Region they were fairly well reported and at P.E.I., where they are considered rare, there were 21 at Rustico Bay Nov. 8 (BD). The W. Grebe returned to Reid S.P., Me. during November for its 10th consecutive winter there (fide WT).

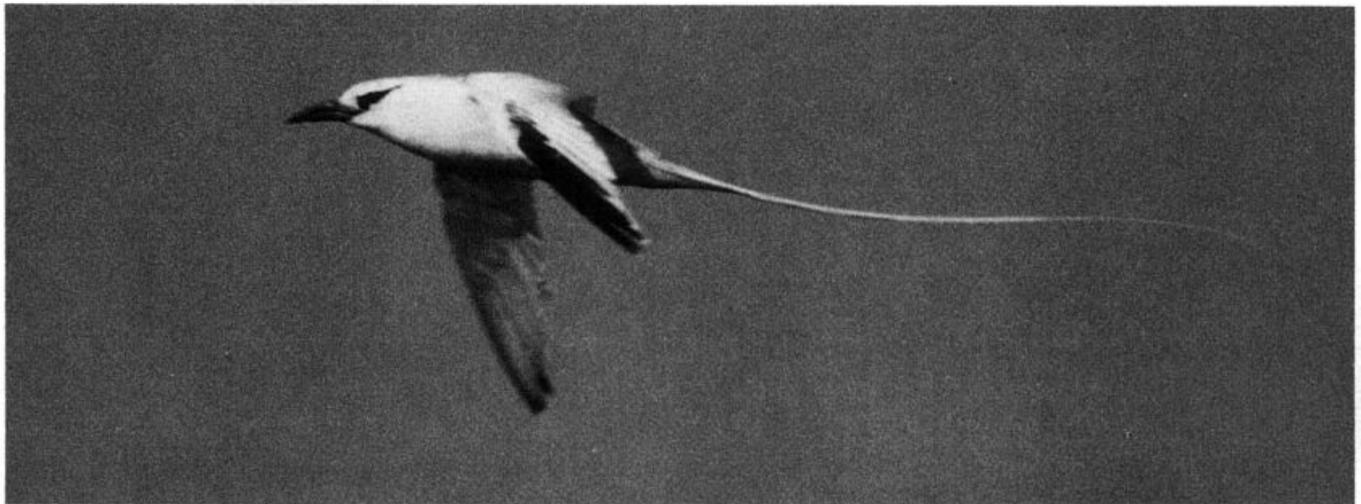
TUBENOSES — As mentioned previously, this was a very poor year for this group. Most unexpected, however, was a **Black-browed Albatross** well observed from the Cabot Strait ferry July 21 (CG). Considering their scarcity, six N. Fulmars at Rockport, Mass., Sept. 27 (RSH) were surprising. The only other reports were of singles at Stellwagen Bank, Mass., Oct. 26 (fide RHS) and Eastham, Mass., Nov. 19 (WRP). The appearance of Cory's Shearwater in our area is always unpredictable, and dependent on warm waters in the s. portion of the Region. Hence, the cool weather may have been responsible for the low numbers. Far offshore six were noted at Hydrographer Canyon, Mass., Sept. 5 (BH) and several were still present at Georges Bank, N.S., in early October (fide RGG). At the local stronghold at Cox's Ledge, R.I., the maximum count was of only ten Sept. 4 (fide DLE). In view of their scarcity, three at Eastham, Mass., during a storm Aug. 28 (WRP, RAF) were most unusual. Greater Shearwaters were best reported from the Bluenose ferry with 400 Aug. 20 (fide WT) and 527 Aug. 31 (CDD). On Sept. 4, 200 were observed at Cox's Ledge, R.I. (fide DLE) and 100+ at Hydrographer Canyon, Mass. (BH).

4 (BH). Typical counts of Wilson's Storm-Petrel were "thousands" at Mount Desert Rock, Me., Aug. 28 (fide WT), 1000+ at Hydrographer Canyon, Mass., Sept. 4 (BH) and a like number in Cape Cod Bay, Mass., Aug. 23 (fide RHS). Most, however, had departed by mid-September. Although an abundant breeder in the Region, Leach's Storm-Petrel is seldom reported in appreciable numbers. Rather typical counts were 31 on a Bluenose crossing Aug. 31 (CDD) and 20 at Hydrographer Canyon, Mass., Sept. 4 (BH), but 15 observed during a storm at Cable Head, P.E.I., Sept. 27 (BD) were considered unusual. A single **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** at Hydrographer Canyon, Mass., Sept. 4 (BH) was expected.

PELECANIFORMES — Northern Gannets are a feature along the coast at this season, especially in October and November during onshore winds or storms. Representative high totals were 5000 in one hour at Cable Head, P.E.I., Sept. 27 (BD), 1200 in one hour at Dennis, Mass., Nov. 6 (BN) and 10,000+ in 2 hours at Eastham, Mass., Nov. 19 (WRP) when at times they were passing at the rate of 475/minute.

S.A.

The event of the season was the presence of tropicbirds. A sub-ad. **White-tailed Tropicbird** was seen and photographed at Hydrographer Canyon, Mass., Sept. 4, where an immature thought to be this species was seen 2 years ago. More exciting, however, was an ad. **Red-billed Tropicbird** which made 2 brief appearances at Mount Desert Rock, Me., Aug. 31 (D. James, fide HC). Even more amazing was the appearance of what was likely the same individual discovered at Gay Head, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Sept. 15 (J. Rosenwald, m. ob.). This individual made several brief visits to the clay cliffs daily to the delight of many observers who flocked to see the bird even in this remote location. It was present at least until early November but its precise departure date is unknown since by that time it had become routine and local observers had become bored with making daily observations.

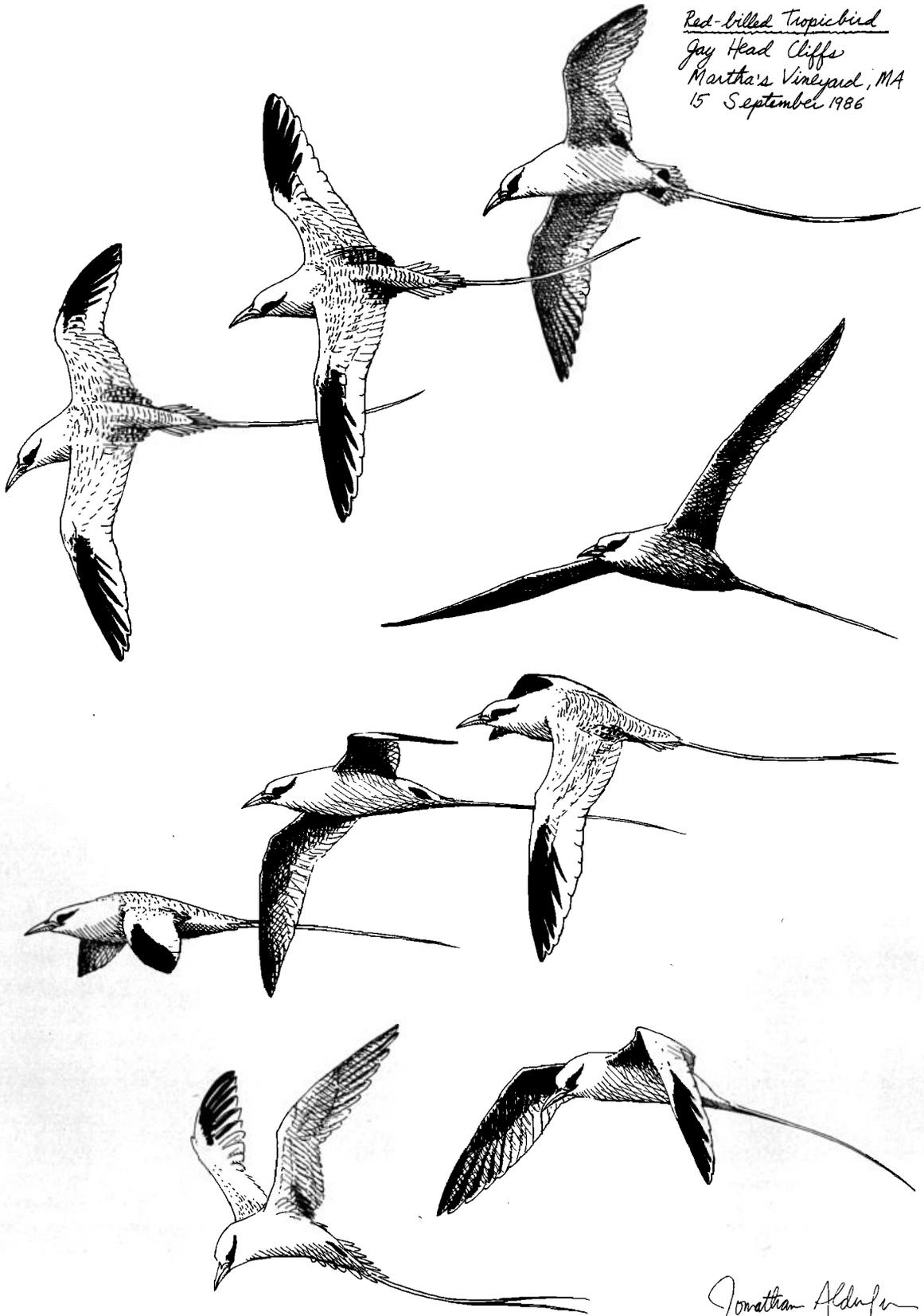


Red-billed Tropicbird at Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Oct. 21, 1986. Photo/Alan Brady.

Six laggard Greaters were at Eastham, Mass., Nov. 22 (BN). The best count for Sooty Shearwater was of nine on a Bluenose crossing Aug. 13 (fide WT). Otherwise counts there and elsewhere averaged only one to three on numerous occasions. The best tally for Manx Shearwater was 15 at Eastham, Mass., Aug. 28 (WRP, RAF). Otherwise they were routinely seen in low numbers in offshore waters, including the Bluenose, through September. The only Audubon's Shearwaters were three at the now traditional Hydrographer Canyon, Mass., locality Sept.

Both species of cormorants continue their population increase annually. As a consequence they are frequently observed but seldom commented upon. Large flocks of Double-cresteds are noted migrating beginning in early September. Included in these flocks are small numbers of Great Cormorants which move in unobtrusively and accumulate in favored wintering areas. More and more Double-cresteds are lingering into winter and Great Cormorants sometimes remain in summer. Inland reports, while still noteworthy, are becoming routine.

Red-billed Tropicbird
Gay Head Cliffs
Martha's Vineyard, MA
15 September 1986



Jonathan Alderman

HERON AND ALLIES — Most members of this group offer no surprises and carry over from the breeding season while concentrating in late summer roosts in greatly increased numbers. American Bitterns continue to be reported in reduced numbers. Only seven were reported from Connecticut during the period (DV) and other areas reported equally discouraging totals. Least Bitterns were reported only from Massachusetts where a family group of five was present at Plum I. through much of August and a single individual was noted at Concord Aug 3 where it may still breed. Great Blue Heron breeding is very successful and good numbers were widespread throughout the Region during the period. Excellent numbers of Great Egrets were reported in Massachusetts. Forty-seven were noted in S Dartmouth Aug. 25 (*vide* RSH) and 46 were at Plum I., Sept 27 (RSH). Late summer numbers were high in Rhode Island and many continued into October with a few remaining in November (*vide* DLE). Farther n. two were reported from Nova Scotia in late August (*vide* IAM). The Snowy Egret is perhaps the most familiar heron in the Region, present in most coastal marshes from Maine southward. A summer roost at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 27 contained 750 birds (RSH). Farther n. an individual was seen at Norris Pt., Nfld., Aug. 8–11 (RB) and late individuals were at Sable I., N.S., Nov. 2 (ELM, *vide* IAM) and at Eel Brook, N.S., Nov. 3–18 (PRD, *vide* IAM). Little Blue Herons were sparsely reported from northeast coastal areas but four in Nova Scotia was a good showing including a late bird at Canning Oct. 19–20 (*vide* IAM). Tricolored Herons have become very scarce in the Region. In Maine, one was at Kennebunkport Aug. 14 with two at Scarborough Aug. 31 (*vide* WT) Two were present at Monomoy I., Mass., during the latter part of August (BN) and one was noted at Milford, Conn., in late August and early September (DV). In the Ipswich-Essex area, Mass., the best post-breeding assemblage of Cattle Egrets was of 49 birds Aug. 31 (JB). Otherwise there were few reports with one at Scarborough Marsh, Me., Aug. 30, one at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., Sept. 1 (*vide* DV) and two late individuals at Falmouth, Mass., Nov. 23 (ML). Black-crowned Night-Herons were present in usual numbers and most departed in October. The usual few Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were in favored areas in s. New England. More unusual were one at Dartmouth, N S, Sept. 7 (*vide* IAM), one at Grand Manan I., N.B., in August (*vide* WT) and an adult at Bass Harbor, Me., Sept. 27 (JeW). Glossy Ibises depart from our area soon after nesting and the only sizable count was of 20 at Plum I., Mass., Aug. 17 (*vide* RHS) None was reported after September.

WATERFOWL — Waterfowl is a feature migrating through the Region, especially during the latter one-half of the reporting period, but elicit little comment except when major concentrations occur. A Fulvous Whistling-Duck was present off-and-on at Nantucket I., Mass., Oct. 9–Nov. 7 (*vide* RHS). Tundra Swans were scarce save a group of 21 over Branford, Conn., Oct 19 (NP, *vide* DV). Otherwise the only other reports were two at Middleboro, Mass., Nov. 16+ (WRP) and one at E. Haven, Conn., Nov. 29 (*vide* DV). After breeding, Mute Swans congregate in flocks on coastal ponds. An indication of how well-established they have become were groups of 400 at Briggs Marsh, R.I., Aug. 17 (DLE) and 280 in Little Compton, R.I., Oct. 4 (DLE). Greater White-fronted Geese continue to be reported in the Region. One was shot at Cole Harbour, N.S., Nov. 20 (PP), one was present at Storrs, Conn., Nov. 12–27 (m.ob.) and one appeared briefly in W. Newbury, Mass., in mid-October (*vide* RAF). The Snow Goose passage through s. portions of the Region was early and impressive. There was a major movement beginning the last few days of September and the first week of October. At Lighthouse Pt., Conn., 2287 were migrating Sept. 28–Nov. 5 with the peak occurring Oct. 5–10, while in w. Massachusetts 3427 were observed migrating during the season (*vide* SK).

Prince Edward Island is a major staging area for Canada Geese. Approximately 25,000–30,000 birds appeared this fall

with maximum counts of 5500 at Orwell Bay W M A, Oct 4, 3000 at Pownall Bay Nov. 17, and 2500 at Tracadie Bay Nov 23 (*vide* BD).

An excellent post-breeding concentration of 318 Wood Ducks was at Norfolk, Mass., Aug. 31 (*vide* RHS). Green-winged Teal were widely noted throughout the period but no major concentrations were reported. Good numbers of N. Pintail were reported from P.E.I., where 300 were observed at Pt. Prim Oct 4 (BD). Rather sizable numbers of Blue-winged Teal were noted in the Maritimes early in the period with 165 at Prince Edward Island N.P., Aug. 27 (BD) and a “good year” in Nova Scotia. They were equally prevalent s. of there but most had departed by early October. Northern Shovelers were normal this fall. Best counts were 12 at Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary (hereafter, A.P.B.S.), N.S., Nov. 4 (*vide* PP) and 60 at Monomoy I., Mass., Oct. 1 (BN). Gadwall continue to increase in the Region with 3 broods noted at P.E.I., in late August (BD) and two seen at A.P.B.S., N.S., Nov. 4–8 (*vide* PP). One hundred Gadwall were at Monomoy I., Mass., Oct. 19 (BN). About 10 Eur. Wigeon were observed during the period, the earliest appearing at Plum I., Mass., Aug. 21 (*vide* RHS). Noteworthy were a female at St John’s, Nfld., Oct. 6–Nov. 9 (RB), two shot in mid-October at Colinet, Nfld. (*vide* BMT) and a pair at St. Pierre and Miquelon (hereafter, S.P.M.) Sept. 26–Nov. 2 (RE). Several reports of 100+ Am. Wigeon were reported from Nova Scotia southward but no noteworthy counts were reported. In Connecticut they were said to be late and in low numbers (*vide* DV).

Canvasback were either overlooked or absent. Best totals were from urban Cambridge, Mass., where 625 were seen Nov 17 (*vide* RHS) and Nov. 15 when 550 were observed at E. Providence Res., R.I. (DLE). Rather low numbers of Redheads were noted in s. portions of the Region indicative of the late season. Ring-necked Ducks continued recent high totals. Peak numbers were recorded at Lakeville, Mass., Oct. 18 (WRP) when 1100 were noted and 800+ were at E. Winthrop, Me., Oct. 19 (JeW). Newfoundland’s 2nd Tufted Duck was an imm. male shot at Colinet Nov. 3 (BMT). Lesser Scaup tend to be masked by the much more numerous Greater Scaup. One was reported from Parson’s Pond, Nfld., Sept. 20 (BM) where they are now annual and 15 were at Souris, P.E.I., Nov. 2 (BD). Typical high counts were of 100 at E. Providence Res., R.I., Oct. 30 (DLE) and 375 at Lakeville, Mass., Nov. 1 (WRP). Common Eider is a common breeding species from Maine northward and this species is sometimes found in large wintering flocks offshore when migrants aggregate. An estimated 50,000–75,000 at S. Monomoy I., Mass., Nov. 28 (WRP, BN) was one of the largest such concentrations in recent years. King Eider was very sparsely reported. Two were seen at Sachuest Pt., R.I., Nov. 13 (JB) and three were at Pt. Judith, R.I., Nov. 21 (*vide* DLE). Elsewhere only occasional singles were seen.

An early Harlequin Duck was observed at Rockport, Mass., Sept. 27 (RSH) and by Oct. 28, seven had arrived at Sachuest Pt., R.I., where 19 were present Nov. 28 (*vide* DLE). A male at Milford Pt., Conn., Nov. 12–14 (*vide* DV) was unusual. Oldsquaw, although largely unreported, are common during this season as are scoters. Average migratory counts were of 450 Black Scoters in 1.5 hours at Manomet, Mass., Oct. 11 and 1650 Surf Scoters during the same period the same day (WRP). Only a few Com. Goldeneyes were reported during the period. Barrow’s Goldeneyes began arriving in P.E.I. at the end of the period with six at Oyster Bay Bridge Nov. 16 and 18 at West River Nov. 30 (BD). Singles were noted in southern areas by the end of the period. Both Hooded and Com. mergansers were well reported from lakes and reservoirs in October and November. At Souris, P.E.I., 1200+ Commons were reported Nov 2 (BD). The large numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers present at Cape Cod, Mass., in previous falls failed to materialize. The best count was of 2200 at Monomoy I., Nov. 22–23 (BN). It was another excellent fall for Ruddy Ducks in s. New England with a well defined peak in late October. The highest count was of 330 at Monomoy I., Mass., Oct. 25 (BN).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Usually this group is given rather little attention as a number of other journals report in depth on the fall migration. However, this year's events were so impressive as to warrant more than a cursory overview. The Black Vulture is extending its range just to the s. of the Region and reports in our area reflect this increase. Two Black Vultures were seen near Charlottetown, P.E.I., Oct. 4 (BD), one was in Essex, Mass., Aug. 1 (*vide* RHS) and one was at Branford, Conn., Oct. 19 (NP, *vide* DV). Turkey Vultures continue to be very well reported through October as far n. as Nova Scotia. A winter roost was discovered in Voluntown, Conn., near the Rhode Island border where 30 were observed Nov. 29 (*vide* DLE). Ospreys are recovering very well from lows of only 2 decades ago. At Lighthouse Pt., Conn., 1490 were recorded in September and October with peaks of 159 Sept. 27 and 150 Oct. 1 (NC). The Bald Eagle is likely to be found almost anywhere in the Region at any time as a result of increased productivity of the wild population and local hacking programs. Fall totals were 13 at Lighthouse Pt., Conn. (NC) and 23 at Quaker Ridge, Conn. (ESJ). The season total for N. Harrier at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., was 989 (*vide* DV). Peak days were Sept. 16 with 108 birds and Sept. 27 with 127 (*vide* NC). Harriers were well reported elsewhere in the Region but nowhere near the order of magnitude as at Lighthouse Pt. Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers were impressive. At Harpswell, Me., 3506 were observed during the season (GNA) and 11,943 were tallied at Lighthouse Pt., Conn. with daily totals exceeding 1000 Sept. 16, Oct. 4 & 5 (*vide* NC). A respectable 450+ Sharp-shinneds were at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 27 (*vide* IAM). Lighthouse Pt. also cornered the market on Cooper's Hawk. The season total of 476 included 62 on Sept. 27, 59 on Oct. 1 and 86 on Oct. 5 (*vide* NC). Ten Cooper's observed at Harpswell, Me., Oct. 25 represented almost one-half the seasonal total (GNA). Northern Goshawks enjoyed a good fall on Newfoundland's Avalon Pen. (BMT) and five were present at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 11-12 (*vide* IAM). Elsewhere reports were rather scanty although the season total at Lighthouse Pt. was 24 (*vide* DV).

The spectacle of the fall was the Broad-winged Hawk flight at Quaker Ridge, Conn. On Sept. 14, 30,535 Broad-wingeds were observed with an amazing 17,301 passing in one hour between 3 and 4 PM (ESJ). Counts from other areas paled by comparison, with a total of only 10,105 reported from all of w. Massachusetts. In a normal year 4000+ at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., Sept. 16, 7200+ at Fairfield, Conn., the same day (*vide* NC) and 2500 at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 27 (*vide* IAM) would have been respectable totals. An imm. Broad-winged at Prince Edward Island N.P., Nov. 8, provided only the 2nd provincial record (BD). The only Swainson's Hawk report for the season was one at Branford, Conn., Sept. 12 (NP, *vide* DV). An imm. Red-tailed Hawk at St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 11 (BMT) furnished only the 5th provincial record. Reports of Rough-legged Hawks began filtering in beginning in mid-October but by the end of the period reports were sparse indicating a below-average winter for the species. Totals of migrating Golden Eagles, most reported after mid-October, were of six at Quaker Ridge, Conn. (ESJ), five at Lighthouse Pt., Conn. (*vide* DV) and three at Hancock, Mass. (*vide* SK).

American Kestrels totalled 4140 at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., in September and October with a peak Sept. 25-27 (*vide* DV). A good flight occurred at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 27 when 160+ were seen (*vide* IAM). The best Merlin flight in memory occurred this fall. Fifty were noted at Block I., R.I., Sept. 19-20 (*vide* DLE). At Harpswell, Me., the season total of 218 included 76 on Sept. 25 (GNA), and at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., the season total was 442 with a peak during the first week of October (*vide* DV). Peregrine Falcons also staged a banner flight with a pronounced peak in early October. As many as 30 were found on Block I., R.I., Oct. 4-8 (*vide* DLE). About 25 Peregrines were at Nantucket I., Mass. in early October (*vide* RHS) and a like number were present on Cape Cod during the same period. Regionwide the total number of Peregrines probably totalled 200 or more but only a handful of these were reported from

Maritime Canada. The early evidence indicates Gyrfalcon will be scarce this winter. One at St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 11 (BMT) could be considered normal, but one at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., Nov. 21 (m.ob.) must have caused much excitement. Two probable Gyrfalcons were seen in Massachusetts during October.

S.A.

An imm. falcon was observed perched and in flight at Morris I., Chatham, Mass., on the afternoon of Sept. 21 (WB, CAG). In all aspects the bird fit the description for Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) and even the voice, heard briefly, was consistent with that species. It was located again during the ensuing week on nearby S. Monomoy I. It was observed perched at some distance by a small contingent of skilled observers, some familiar with the species in life, on the morning of Sept. 27, and all agreed it most closely resembled a Hobby. It took flight and quickly disappeared, not to be seen again.

GROUSE THROUGH CRANES — The Gray Partridge has a small established population in the Region, mostly in Nova Scotia where six were seen at Port Williams Nov. 7 and 12 in Wolfville Nov. 15 (*vide* IAM). Also in Nova Scotia Spruce Grouse were reported in better than normal numbers (*vide* IAM). A rare **Black Rail** was seen briefly at Hammonasset S.P., Conn., Oct. 6 (Clay Taylor, *vide* DV). Rails continue to be sparsely reported with no significant sightings of Sora or Virginia Rail. The only reports of Clapper Rails were one each from coastal Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The 2nd provincial record of Com. Moorhen on P.E.I. was provided by two immatures observed at East Point Sept. 28 (BD). Several migrant moorhens were noted in Rhode Island, the last at Echo Lake Nov. 30 (*vide* DLE) being quite late. American Coots began appearing in mid-October and as the season progressed numbers gradually built up but still fell short of counts 2 decades ago. Hundreds were reported in the Newport, R.I. vicinity Nov. 12-14 (JB). Sandhill Cranes were well reported. Two at St. John's, Nfld., Sept. 22 (D. Phalen, *vide* BMT) were possibly the same as two seen nearby in early August. One at Elderbank Marsh, N.S., was present from June to Aug. 6 (*vide* IAM). Three flyovers were seen at Branford, Conn., Sept. 7 (NP, *vide* DV) and one was seen at Eastham, Mass., Oct. 11 (CAG, *vide* WB).

SHOREBIRDS — By all accounts the shorebird flight was poor with generally low numbers of most species. Black-bellied Plovers were present in varying numbers throughout the period, the peak recorded in late August and early September. Lesser Golden-Plovers were well reported in s. portions of the Region in late August and early September. Fifty-two were present at Richmond turf farm, R.I., Aug. 30 (*vide* DLE), 100+ were noted on Nantucket I., Aug. 27 (SAP) and a like number were present on Martha's Vineyard, Mass., in early September (VL). The flight of immatures in October was most pronounced, but not great, in the Maritimes and late individuals were seen into mid or late November in many areas. Semipalmated Plovers noticeably peaked in the latter one-half of August with the best total of 920 at Plum I., Mass., Aug. 16 (RSH). A count of 100 at S.P.M., Oct. 15 (RE) was high for such a late date. Piping Plovers withdraw from breeding areas early in the period and are mostly gone by early September. Perhaps the most noteworthy count was of five at Kennebunkport, Me., Aug. 14 (JeW). American Oystercatchers were unreported away from established s. New England breeding areas. Post-breeding aggregations included 67+ at Monomoy I., Mass., in August (BN) and 22 at Napatree Pt., R.I., Sept. 8 (*vide* DLE). Yellowlegs were generally unremarked upon with Lessers peaking in early August and Greater in early October. Solitary Sandpipers were widespread through the Region from July through September

with no appreciable concentrations Forty Upland Sandpipers at the Deblois, Me. blueberry barrens was a post-breeding buildup but 11 at the Richmond turf farm, Rhode Island, Aug. 12, and 13 there a week later (*fide* DLE) were migrants during the normal migration period. In Nova Scotia the Whimbrel migration peaked at Cape Breton in mid-August and 200 were at W. Miquelon Aug. 2 (AD). Over 400 were observed flying to an evening roost at Monomoy I., Mass., Aug. 5 (*fide* WB). The usual few Whimbrels were reported throughout the Region through late October. Hudsonian Godwits did not distinguish themselves, the best count being of only 100 at Monomoy I., Mass., Aug. 10 (BN) and at Biddeford, Me., 19 were observed Aug. 15 (JW). The usual singles and small flocks of juveniles were reported in October with four at 3 locations in Connecticut into early November (DV) being somewhat unusual.

Fewer than normal Marbled Godwits visited the Region. During August and September one was in Maine, two in Rhode Island (*fide* DLE), three in Connecticut (*fide* DV), and two in Massachusetts. Laggards were seen at Ninigret, R.I., Oct. 16 (*fide* DLE) and Monomoy I., Mass., Nov. 15 (BN). Red Knots peaked at 1200 at Scituate, Mass., Aug. 16 (*fide* GWG) and 400 were at Monomoy I., Aug. 10 and 100 were there Nov. 1 (BN). Otherwise, 157 at S.P.M., Sept. 22 (AD) was the only noteworthy report. Twelve hundred Sanderlings were at Monomoy I., Mass., from mid-August to mid-September and 1000 were there Oct. 10 (BN). There was a noticeable movement of Semipalmated Sandpipers in both Connecticut and Massachusetts in mid-August and they were present "in thousands (as usual)" in Nova Scotia from August to mid-September. A notably late Semipalmated was at Cape Race, Nfld., Nov. 12 (BMT). It was a poor season for W. Sandpipers with fewer than 20 reported. Nova Scotia had two, Rhode Island five, with the highest count of eight plus at Eastham, Mass., Sept. 18 (BN). A fairly bright but fading **Little Stint** was discovered at Duxbury, Mass., Aug. 6 (M Kasprzyk) and identifiably photographed. It was last seen Aug. 14 but seen by only a few observers owing to the remote location. Judging from the lack of comment the Least Sandpiper migration could best be characterized as routine.

S.A.

Not all shorebirds were poorly represented. White-rumped Sandpipers elicited comments from most of the Region. The first indication that something unusual was happening came from Plum I., Mass., in early September when 600–800 were estimated on various dates. More routine were 200 at Grand Barchois, S.P.M., Aug. 17 (RE) where they remained fairly common to late September and 100+ at Halifax, N.S., Sept. 6 (FS). Elsewhere they were reasonably scarce. They again flooded into the Maritimes beginning in late October. In Newfoundland "an exceptionally major movement" (BMT) occurred Oct. 25–26 when dozens of flocks numbering 20–30 birds were flying around St. John's but had no place to land. At Gros Morne N.P. (hereafter, GMNP) flocks of from five to 40 White-rumpeds were "everywhere" (BM) Oct. 28–31 but total numbers were beyond estimating. At S.P.M., there was another wave Oct. 24 to Nov. 4 (RE) and at P.E.I. 270 were found Oct. 19 and 320 were present Nov. 8 (BD). In Nova Scotia 180 were present at Cherry Hill in early November (FS) and lower numbers were reported elsewhere. Not surprisingly White-rumpeds were still being seen as November drew to a close.

It was a fairly average fall for Baird's Sandpiper with reports totalling more than 30 individuals. Four were at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 3 (*fide* FS), eight were at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 14 (*fide* GWG) and five were at Monomoy I., Mass., Sept. 27 (*fide* GWG). The Pectoral Sandpiper flight consisted mainly of immatures in October with 120+ at Sheffield Mills, N.S., Oct. 11–14 (*fide* FS), seven at E. Winthrop, Me., Oct. 18–19 (JW) and 100 at Monomoy I., Mass., Oct. 12 (BN). Purple Sandpipers began to

filter into rocky coastlines in the Region in late October Dunlin, our latest migrating shorebird, reaches peak numbers after mid-October with possibly 10,000 present at 4 Massachusetts locations Oct. 21–Nov. 1 (*fide* GWG). Only two Curlew Sandpipers were observed in the Region—one at Cherry Hill Aug. 30 (SfJ, *fide* FS) and a molting adult at Quicksand Pond., R.I., Aug. 23–28 (*fide* DLE) which furnished only the 4th state record. For the 2nd consecutive year a Stilt Sandpiper graced Newfoundland, this one at Cape Freels Aug. 15 (RB). Only six Stilts were reported from Nova Scotia in August and September. The best counts were of 25 at Ninigret Pond., R.I., Aug. 3 (*fide* DLE) and 34 at Plum I., Mass., Aug. 16 (RAF) while a notably late individual was at Rockport, Mass., Nov. 5 (*fide* GWG).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers put in the poorest showing in recent memory. Only 12 were reported including one at Grand Manan I., N.B., Sept. 27 (CDD), two at the Richmond turf farm, R.I., Aug. 28 (*fide* DLE), two at Guilford, Conn., Aug. 31 (*fide* DV) and four at Monomoy I., Mass., Sept. 27 (*fide* GWG). A Ruff was observed at Guilford, Conn., Aug. 22 (*fide* DV) and two rather late individuals were noted in Nova Scotia, one at Cherry Hill Oct. 5 and at Hartlen's Pt., Nov. 5 (*fide* FS). The Short-billed Dowitcher is an early migrant in the Region, reaching peak numbers mid-July–early August but a notably late individual was at Stratford, Conn., Nov. 1–3 (DV). The Long-billed Dowitcher is regular only at Plum I., Mass., where typical totals were 82 on Aug. 16, 85 on Sept. 4 and 75 on Oct. 21 (*fide* GWG). Otherwise they are scarce virtually everywhere in the Region with most occurrences late in the season. Typical, and the first good provincial record, was one at Prince Edward Island N.P., Oct. 25–Nov. 2 (BD) and one at Scarborough, Me., Nov. 1 (JW). Over 100 Com. Snipe in Monmouth and E. Winthrop, Me., Oct. 18–19 (JW) was a good fall count.

Wilson's Phalarope seems to be declining as a migrant in the Region with fewer than ten seen this year with one each in Rhode Island and Connecticut in August and two at Scarborough, Me., Aug. 26 (Paul Lehman). Red-necked Phalaropes were observed in "disturbingly low numbers" (CDD) at Grand Manan Basin, a major staging area. The best count was of 2000 at Mount Desert I., Me., Sept. 1 (*fide* WT). The Red Phalarope seemed to be holding its own with 1364 seen from the Bluenose ferry Aug. 31 (CDD) and "thousands" off Brier I., N.S., Aug. 30–31 where 200 were still present Oct. 11–12 (*fide* FS). Off-shore pelagic trips reported very small numbers of either species throughout the period.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Small numbers of jaegers were reported by intrepid offshore observers through October. At L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., a NE gale Sept. 3 produced two Pomarine, 40 Parasitic and 12 Long-tailed jaegers where the latter species is to be expected at that time of year (BMT). Otherwise, only a handful of Pomarines and Parasitics were noted on Bluenose crossings and other pelagic ventures. Surprising in light of their scarcity offshore were land-based sightings during storms at Eastham, Mass., of nine Pomarines Aug. 28 (WRP, RAF) and ten there Nov. 19 (WRP).

Perhaps the most perplexing problem in the Region, both in terms of identification and temporal distribution, is the occurrence of skuas. South Polar Skua was reported from the Nova Scotia side of a Bluenose crossing Aug. 17 (IAM, *fide* RGBB), at Cox's Ledge, R.I., Aug. 23 and again somewhat farther s., Sept. 4 (*fide* DLE) and at Hydrographer Canyon, Mass., Sept. 4 (BH). At least four unidentified skuas were seen including one from land during a poorly defined storm at Eastham, Mass., Aug. 28 (WRP, RAF).

Reflecting their increasing breeding and dispersal from more southerly breeding areas, Laughing Gulls were present in southern areas until at least mid-October but one in Newfoundland, where it is increasing as a vagrant, Aug. 23 (BMT) was noteworthy. The Region's first inland record for **Franklin's Gull** was furnished by a bird at Amherst, Mass., Sept. 15–22 (C. Withgott, *fide* SK) and what was probably the same bird

was seen at Longmeadow, Mass., Sept. 22 (*vide* SK). A Franklin's Gull was at GMNP, Nfld., Aug. 9–10 (RB, BM) and an adult was off Plum I., Mass., Aug. 16 (RSH). Single Little Gulls, both immatures, were seen at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Aug. 31 & Sept. 5 (BMt) and two were at Campobello I., Oct. 5 (*vide* WT). South of there they were very scarce. A small flock of Com. Black-headed Gulls had returned to Glace Bay, N.S. by Sept. 29 (*vide* RGG) and the high November count at St. John's, Nfld., was a rather low 44 on Nov. 13 (BMt). Four Black-headed was a good count at Rockland, Me., Nov. 30 (KJ) but only scattered individuals could be found elsewhere. Ten thousand Bonaparte's Gulls were at Head Harbour Passage, N.B., by Aug. 6 but were less numerous than usual during the season (*vide* WT). Farther south they were well reported in normal numbers through November. An ad. Mew Gull was early at St. John's, Nfld., Aug. 8 (BMt) and another was seen there Oct. 10–Nov. 16 (m.ob.).

Reflecting their widespread abundance, especially in fall, Ring-billed Gulls were virtually unmentioned upon. Gulls are a standard feature of coastal areas in late fall. However, a late November concentration of gulls at the Parson's Pond, Nfld. fish processing plant contained an astounding 5000 Iceland, 3000 Great Black-backed, 2000 Herring and 100 Glaucous gulls (BM). Farther s. both Iceland and Glaucous gulls in limited numbers do not appear routinely until winter weather has set in. A possible second-winter Thayer's Gull was seen at Campobello I., N.B., Nov. 23 (CDD). Scattered Lesser Black-backed Gulls are now the norm but two at Block I., R.I., Oct. 6–8 and one at Fresh Pond, R.I., Nov. 6–9 (*vide* DLE) were among the few state records. Black-legged Kittiwakes, very common offshore on the fishing banks, were poorly reported inshore owing to a lack of severe storms. Perhaps most unusual were four at Pt. Judith, R.I., Nov. 6 and a like number there Nov. 21 (*vide* DLE). A well described ad. **Ross' Gull** was seen from a fishing boat about 2 miles off L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., Sept. 22 (L. Millman). Sabine's Gulls were poorly reported offshore probably because whales and other pelagics were scarce—lack of food. The only reports were of an adult at Mount Desert Rock, Me., Sept. 8 (B. Agler, *vide* KJ) and one at Stellwagen Bank, Mass., Sept. 5 (BH). An early Ivory Gull was observed at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 16–24 (M. Parmenter, *vide* BMt) where it is rare.

The only Gull-billed Tern noted was an adult reported after a storm at Eastham, Mass., Aug. 19 (RSH). As many as 35 Caspian Terns were at P.E.I. late August–early October (BD) representing a post-breeding buildup. South of there singles or small groups were noted passing along the coast with most reports in late September and early October. The typical few late summer Royal Terns were in s. New England with the greatest concentrations in Rhode Island where three were at Ninigret Sept. 15–23 and two to three at Charlestown Sept. 17–29 (*vide* DLE). Unique for the season was a Sandwich Tern at Monomoy I., Mass., Sept. 10–13 (BN). Thousands of Roseate Terns were present as usual on Monomoy I., Mass., in early September (BN) where local breeders tend to concentrate before departing for the wintering grounds. More surprising were 130 at Napatree Pt., R.I., Aug. 5 (*vide* DLE) and 110 at Nantucket I., Mass., Oct. 3 (*vide* GWG). Scattered Com. Terns were reported until late November in s. areas.

Arctic Terns depart on migration quickly after the young fledge and were almost universally unmentioned upon. Forster's Terns were very scarce before mid-September when numbers increased significantly. Sixteen were at Ninigret, R.I., Sept. 25 (*vide* DLE), 12 at Chatham, Mass., Oct. 19 (BN), 23 at Duxbury, Mass., Oct. 27 (DEC) and 20 in Westport, Mass., Nov. 1 (RHS). Least Terns had generally departed from the Region by the beginning of September. An ad. **Sooty Tern** at Petit Manan I. and Matinicus Rock, Me., in late July (M.P. Drennan, C. Treyball) and at Mount Desert Rock, Me., Aug. 12 (HC) was very unusual since no storm brought it there. Black Terns were very sparsely reported. However, after the remnants of hurricane Charles Aug. 19 there were numbers along the Con-

necticut coast with one to six seen per stop (DV), 60 were at Eastham, Mass. (WRP) and 60+ were at Nantucket I., Mass. (SAP). Obviously they are not uncommon in offshore waters at this season. The usual few Black Skimmers appeared in late summer in s. New England but one that remained to Aug. 18 at Grand Manan I., N.B. (*vide* WT) was decidedly unusual.

Alcids were generally scarce in keeping with recent reports except in northern areas. They were "common as usual" in Newfoundland including Dovekies with 1500 observed at St. John's Nov. 17 (BMt). From one to three Com. Murres were in the Grand Manan Basin, N.B., in late September (CDD). In the same area Razorbills were slightly more numerous and Atlantic Puffins even more so with 26 observed Sept. 20 and 56 present Oct. 3 (CDD). Twelve puffins were seen at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 11 (*vide* RGG). On Nov. 22, 40 Razorbills and 700 unidentified large alcids, most likely Razorbills, were seen at Eastham, Mass. (BN). Black Guillemots are widely scattered in small numbers along rocky sections of the n. coast but 36 at Acadia N.P., Me., Oct. 3 (JB) was a better-than-average count.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The only White-winged Dove reported in the Region was at a Chatham, Mass. feeder Aug. 8–10 (*vide* BN). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was noted at Cape Spear, Nfld., Sept. 12 (BMt), two were at Seal I., N.S., Oct. 16 and one was in Nova Scotia Oct. 29 (*vide* IAM). Very few Black-billed Cuckoos were reported. A migrant Com. Barn-Owl was noted at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., Nov. 20 (*vide* DV).

Perhaps the most excitement of the fall was engendered by the Snowy Owl flight which did not begin until November at St. John's, Nfld., where they are rarely seen, six appeared Nov. 28–30 and were termed possible precursors of a "good flight" (BMt). At S.P.M., one appeared Nov. 17 and five were seen Nov. 26–28 (RE). A similar pattern occurred in Nova Scotia where four were seen beginning Nov. 16. Farther s. one first appeared at Napatree, R.I., Nov. 12, three more were found Nov. 18–29 (*vide* DLE) and two were at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., Nov. 20 (*vide* DV). However, most of the action was in Massachusetts. The first Snowy appeared in the Plum I., Salisbury, Mass. area Nov. 8 and a peak count of 11 was recorded Nov. 23 (P. Roberts, *vide* RHS). In Boston at Logan Airport they were present throughout most of the month with a maximum single day count of 18 recorded in late November (Norman Smith, *vide* RHS). Scattered individuals were reported in other coastal locations, mostly after mid month. It could be an interesting winter for Snowy Owl. Stay tuned for further developments.

A **Burrowing Owl** that was first discovered at Katama, Martha's Vineyard, July 17 (P. Vickery) was still present until at least early October and some fortunate observers were able to record it and the tropicbird on the same visit. Long-eared Owls are uncommon fall migrants with numbers varying widely from year-to-year. This year three were found at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 11–13 (*vide* IAM) and four were at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., Nov. 21. Other reports indicated it would be a poor winter for the species. Likewise Short-eared owl reports were low except for nine at a roost on Monomoy I., Mass., Sept. 28 (BN) and six on Nantucket I., Mass., Sept. 18 (*vide* GWG), both breeding locales. In Connecticut small numbers, one to three individuals, were noted at several locations Oct. 15–20 (*vide* DV). The N Saw-whet Owl is also a migrant in the Region but again reports were few except for 20+ at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 12–13 (*vide* IAM).

The Com. Nighthawk migration is visible and consistent from year-to-year. A coordinated watch in Massachusetts recorded 23,770 Aug. 20–Sept. 7 with nearly 16,000 observed Aug. 31–Sept. 2. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were sparsely reported but at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., where a daily watch of migrants was conducted, 158 hummingbirds were recorded in late August and September with the peak occurring Sept. 5–13 and the species last noted Oct. 16 (*vide* DV). An imm. *Selasphorus*, almost certainly a Rufous, was present Aug. 27–29 at S. Wellfleet, Mass. (D. Reynolds). This represents only the 5th record for the species in the Region.

One of the highlights of the season was a **Lewis' Woodpecker**

discovered at Cow Head, Nfld., Aug. 14 where it remained until at least Sept. 11 (Dave Fiddler, m.ob.). This is only the 4th record for the Region. Few Red-headed Woodpeckers were noted. Three were reported from Nova Scotia in October (*vide IAM*) and five were seen at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., Sept. 25–Oct. 31 (*vide DV*). Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to gradually become established in limited numbers in s. portions of the Region. One was at Halifax, N.S., Nov. 5–30 (*vide IAM*) and one at Cambridge Narrows, N.B., Nov. 2–6 (David Christie, *vide BD*) represented a first provincial record. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have a narrow migration window in late September to early October and often seem to pass through virtually unnoticed. Best count was of 15 at Block I., R.I., Oct. 4–5 (*vide DLE*) with six at Plum I., Mass., Sept. 28 (*vide GWG*). Northern Flickers are commonly encountered in numbers along coastal beaches in fall but 500+ at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 27 (*vide IAM*) was much better than an average high count.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — Last season Olive-sided Flycatchers staged a good flight but this year was poor. The only reports of more than single individuals were three banded at Appledore I., Me., Sept. 4 (DWH) and three at Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Sept. 9 (VL). *Empidonax* flycatchers are largely ignored during fall unless they can be identified as Yellow-bellied. At Bon Portage, N.S., Aug. 16–22 there were five Yellow-bellieds, eight Leasts, and 43 Alders. A second wave on Sept. 1 had 10 Alders and an amazing 300+ Least Flycatchers (*vide JSC*). Banding totals for Appledore I., Me., Aug. 19–Sept. 14 included 37 "Trail's," 62 Leasts and 72 Yellow-bellied flycatchers with a maximum of 22 Yellow-bellieds banded Sept. 4 (DWH).

The W. Kingbird is a rare but regular fall migrant in the Region but the timing of the appearances defies comprehension. Early arrivals occurred at Appledore I., Me., Aug. 20–21 (DWH) and Nantucket I., Mass., Aug. 27 (SAP). The monthly regional totals were six in September, 20 in October and six in November with a peak count of three at Martha's Vineyard, Mass., Oct. 3 (P. Vickery). In some years they are prevalent in September, almost totally lacking in October only to reappear again in November. The typical fall migration of E. Kingbirds failed to materialize. The best day at Digby, N.S., was Sept. 1 (*vide JSC*) and only 34 were tallied at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., Aug. 19–Sept. 9 (*vide DV*).

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is, at best, a rare fall migrant. This year one appeared at Campobello I., N.B., Oct. 12 (CDD), Eastport, Me., Oct. 21 and a remarkable two at Old Town, Me., Nov. 6 where one remained until at least Nov. 10 (*vide WT*). Yet another Scissor-tailed turned up on Nantucket I., Mass., Nov. 9 (*vide EA*) where it remained to the end of the period and was subsisting (in part) on winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*).

The Region's small population of Purple Martins apparently pulled out on time in late August and no late individuals were seen. In Nova Scotia, Tree Swallows had a poor breeding season resulting in an early departure (*vide JSC*) and in Rhode Island the flight was greatly reduced (*vide DLE*). Few N. Rough-winged Swallows lingered beyond mid-August and the only late individual was one at Napatree Pt., R.I., Sept. 27 (DLE). Cliff Swallows depart in August and become lost in the hordes of Tree Swallows. Fairly typical counts were ten at Napatree Pt., R.I., Aug. 12 (*vide DLE*), eight in Halifax, Mass., Aug. 30 and 50 in Norfolk, Mass., the same day (*vide LET*). Late reports included a Cliff Swallow at Cape Tormentine, N.B., Oct. 14 (BD), four were at Cape Race, Nfld., Oct. 11 (BMT) and one was seen during snow squalls at St. John's Oct. 31 (BMT). Barn Swallows also depart early and are seldom seen in October but almost invariably reverse migration occurs in early November and did again this year from Connecticut to Maine totalling about ten individuals. Four were noted at Portland, Me., Nov. (*vide WT*) and a very tardy individual was headed N (!) at Plum I., Mass., Nov. 29 (WRP).

CORVIDS THROUGH WRENS — Gray Jays were said to become more visible in fall in Nova Scotia with six reports in

October and five in November (*vide JSC*). There was a good but not spectacular coastal flight of Blue Jays in Rhode Island and Connecticut. On Sept. 27, 800 were at Sakonnet Pt., and 400 at Watch Hill, R.I. (*vide DLE*). At Lighthouse Pt., Conn., 27,239 were observed migrating Sept. 13–Oct. 30 with the peak occurring Sept. 20–Oct. 7 (*vide DV*). Common Ravens have now become firmly established in w. Massachusetts with 65 birds reported from 23 locations (*vide SK*) although some may have been duplicate reports.

The **Eurasian Jackdaw** continued on Nantucket I., Mass., through November (*vide LET*). Black-capped Chickadees were migrating at Brier I., N.S., Oct. 11–12 when 250 were noted, and at East Pt., P.E.I., Sept. 28 chickadees were very prevalent with every 10th bird a Boreal Chickadee (BD). Beginning in late October in Newfoundland flocks of 10–20+ Boreal Chickadees were flying across roads and landing in deciduous trees (BMT). At Pubnico Pt., N.S., Sept. 28, 30 Boreal Chickadees were moving, and again in late October small numbers were found in 2 locations (*vide JSC*). In areas s. of the breeding range Boreals were particularly scarce with singles seen only in Connecticut at Branford Oct. 19 and Groton Oct. 28 (*vide DV*). In Newfoundland Red-breasted Nuthatches were in normal or slightly above-normal numbers. However, s. of there a major movement was noted but was restricted almost entirely to the coast. At Bon Portage, N.S., 220+ were observed Aug. 16–22 and at Brier I., they were "all over the place" Aug. 31–Sept. 3. At Appledore I., Me., 97 were banded with 30% of these Aug. 31–Sept. 4 (DWH). At Block I., R.I., 325 Red-breasted Nuthatches were found Oct. 4–5 (*vide DLE*). There were more than 40 White-breasted Nuthatches in Nova Scotia during the fall where it is considered a rare bird (*vide JSC*). As a result of mild winters the Carolina Wren population has been building up in s. New England. A **Bewick's Wren**, well seen and described, was an extremely rare find at Chatham, Mass., Sept. 14 (WB, CAG). Winter Wrens must have slipped through almost unnoticed and none was reported from n. areas. A rare migrant Sedge Wren was seen at Block I., R.I., Sept. 19 (TK) for the only report.

KINGLETS THROUGH SHRIKES — Golden-crowned Kinglets enjoyed a good fall flight which commenced in late September and 60 were observed at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 28 (*vide JSC*). In Maine they were considered common to abundant during the fall (*vide WT*) and at Block I., R.I., 200+ were found Oct. 4–5 (*vide DLE*). Unlike the Red-breasted Nuthatch flight, kinglets were found inland as well as along the coast but numbers there were considerably fewer. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were also prevalent during the same period but on a considerably lower order of magnitude.

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers occurred in normal numbers in s. areas but in n. areas where they do not breed they continued to appear at late dates. A gnatcatcher appeared at Cape Spear, Nfld., Sept. 14–Oct. 4 (BMT, CB), the 2nd record for P.E.I. occurred at Souris Nov. 2 (BD) and three were present in Nova Scotia Nov. 3–16 (*vide JSC*). At least five N. Wheatears graced the Region at Cape Spear, Nfld., Oct. 11–14 (RB, BMT), at Portland, Me., Sept. 8 (*vide WT*), at Westport, Conn., Sept. 29–30 (*vide DV*), and at Plymouth and Wellfleet, Mass., Sept. 20 (*vide LET*).

Eastern Bluebirds received few comments. A ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** was discovered at Miquelon Nov. 4 (AD, *vide RE*) where it remained for 2 or 3 days. This was only the 2nd regional sighting. Thrushes continue to occur in alarmingly low numbers. Banding totals for Appledore I., Me., Aug. 19–Sept. 14 were 16 Veeries, eight Swainson's and two Gray-cheeked thrushes. At S.P.M. Gray-cheekeds were reported as more conspicuous than usual Sept. 2–14 (RE) but otherwise thrushes were unreported. However, Am. Robins were well reported. A heavy movement was noted at P.E.I., Oct. 25–26 (BD) and on the latter date 1000 were observed at Petit Manan, N.B. (CDD). An excellent migration occurred in Maine (*vide WT*) and at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., the season total was 5859 with peak occurring Oct. 16–20 (*vide DV*). Fewer Brown Thrashers

seem to be reported each year. In Nova Scotia they continue scarce with "none in the usually certain spots" (*vide* JSC).

The first Water Pipits were rather early with eight seen at Brier I., N.S., Aug. 29 (*vide* JSC). Then came a consistent regionwide pattern of arrival the latter part of September with a peak occurring in the latter one-half of October with several counts totalling 100+ individuals. Two Bohemian Waxwings seen at Port Saunders, Nfld., Aug. 1 (J. Zickefoose, *vide* BM) suggested breeding but the Region's first nesting occurred at Mount Denson, N.S., when a nest with three young was found July 20 (*vide* JSC). Six Bohemians appeared at Grand-Anse, N.B., Oct. 17 (Michel Gosselin) and in s.w. sections of the province appeared in flocks of 50-100 in late October (*vide* BD). The first large flock of Bohemians, 130 birds, appeared at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 23 (BMT) and in Nova Scotia 55 were at Glace Bay Nov. 4, 50 in Pictou County Nov. 9 and 30 at Wolfville Nov. 12 (*vide* JSC). The first Bohemians of the season were at E. Machias, Me., Nov. 16 (*vide* WT). It appears another good winter for the species is in the offing. Cedar Waxwings were unusually numerous in all of e. Maine where 50+ were noted daily during August (CDD). At Lighthouse Pt., Conn., 2691 Cedar Waxwings were recorded migrating during the season with peaks Sept. 13-15 and again Nov. 10 (*vide* DV).

A few N. Shrikes filtered into n. parts of the Region in October and by the end of November fair numbers had appeared extending to s. New England where they are decidedly less common. There were five reports of the now rare Loggerhead Shrike. In Connecticut one was at Hammonasset S.P. in mid-August and another at Branford Oct. 3 (*vide* DV). One was at Ninigret, R.I., Oct. 23 (*vide* DLE) and the two Massachusetts reports were at Marshfield Sept. 2 (*vide* LET) and Chatham Sept. 17 (WB).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A count of nine White-eyed Vireos at Prudence I., R.I., Aug. 30 was most likely a post-breeding concentration. Solitary Vireos passed through in unimpressive numbers in late September and early October with notably late individuals occurring at St. John's, Nfld., Oct. 28-Nov. 5 (D. Barton, *vide* BMT) and Seal I., N.S., Nov. 10 (*vide* DAC). The Yellow-throated Vireo is a scarce migrant and is reported in very small numbers. One observed at Appledore I., Me., Sept. 2 (DWH) was only slightly unusual. Six Warbling Vireos were banded at Appledore I., Me. (DWH) and the only Nova Scotia sighting was of one at Brier I., Sept. 28 (*vide* DAC). Philadelphia Vireos were seen in good numbers but are more likely to be sought out and reported than others. Four were seen in Nova Scotia Aug. 21-Sept. 15 (*vide* DAC) and 41 were banded at Appledore I., Me., Sept. 1-14 (DWH). The Massachusetts total for August and September was 34 including six at Marblehead Sept. 4 (*vide* LET) and a like number at Plum I., Sept. 24 (RHS). The Red-eyed Vireo is easily the most common migrant of this group as is amply illustrated by a total of 143 banded at Appledore I., Me. (DWH). Very late individuals occurred at Cape Spear, Nfld., Nov. 9 (RB) where it had been present since Oct. 11 and at Halifax, N.S., Nov. 20 (*vide* DAC).

It is exceedingly difficult to piece together the warbler migration from the bits and pieces reported. Most observers felt there were few, if any, good waves yet some fortunate observers fared quite well. If no major waves occur then reports generally are lacking but any late appearance will be reported. Hence the preponderance of late occurrences in this report. Good numbers of resident warblers were noted moving at Gros Morne N.P., Nfld., for 2 days beginning Aug. 31 (BM). Blue-winged Warblers observed at Cape Spear Sept. 15 and St. John's, Nfld., Sept. 24 (BMT) provided the 3rd and 4th provincial records. Five seen in Nova Scotia Aug. 17-31 was average and 11 were banded at Appledore I., Me. (DWH). Golden-winged Warblers have become very scarce in the Region as is reflected in the reports. At Appledore I., Me., one was seen Aug. 27 and another banded Sept. 7 (DWH) and in Massachusetts one was banded at Manomet Aug. 20 (M.B.O.) and one seen in Peabody Sept. 19 (RSH).

Southern warblers were few. Prothonotary Warblers were noted only at Monhegan I., Me., Sept. 15 (*vide* WT) and Chatham, Mass., Aug. 21 (*vide* WB). On Aug. 29 both Kentucky and Worm-eating warblers were banded at Appledore I., Me. (DWH). Two Kentucky Warblers were reported from Massachusetts, one each in August and September. Nine Hooded Warblers were seen in Rhode Island in August and September and the only other report was of one at Chatham, Mass., Sept. 6 (WB). Cerulean Warblers were noted in Massachusetts on Nantucket I., Sept. 5 and Martha's Vineyard Sept. 9 and one was seen at Block I., R.I., Sept. 19 (TK). Yellow-throated Warblers were found at Nantucket I., Mass., Aug. 22 (SAP), in Chatham, Mass., Sept. 8 (WB) and remarkably another late individual was discovered at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 17-19 (J. Maunders, *vide* BMT). Of the 7 provincial records for Yellow-throated Warbler, six have been in November and/or December.

Other late warblers found in St. John's, Nfld., included a Yellow Nov. 3-18, Prairie Nov. 17-19, two Black-and-whites, and a Yellow-breasted Chat Nov. 18-23 (*vide* BMT). Late warblers at Portland, Me., were a N. Parula Nov. 9, a Nashville Nov. 9-15, and a Tennessee Nov. 9 & 13 (Richard Eakin). Two of the commonest migrant warblers were in low numbers. Yellow-rumped Warblers were "scarce" in Nova Scotia, the best count being of 25 at Seal I., Oct. 16 (*vide* DAC) and at Lighthouse Pt., Conn., they were in "pitiful numbers" with only 29 recorded Oct. 10-Nov. 29 (*vide* DV). Other observers made similar comments. Nobody commented specifically on the low numbers of Blackpoll Warblers but they were not obvious in roaming flocks as usual.

Not all species were represented on the low side. Some of the earlier migrating warblers put in solid appearances. Banding totals at Appledore I., Me., Aug. 19-Sept. 14 were 195 Am Redstarts, 140 N. Waterthrushes and 111 Cape May Warblers of which 61 were banded Aug. 20-23 (DWH). An extraordinary 110 Magnolia Warblers were seen at Chatham, Mass., Sept. 17 (WB) the same day good numbers were banded at Manomet and on Nantucket I. Both Orange-crowned Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats were reported in average numbers with reports on chats most prevalent in September and Orange-crowns in October. The usual few Connecticut Warblers were reported and three (two banded) were at Appledore I., Me., Sept. 7-10 (DWH). In Connecticut they were "more common than usual" in late September-early October (*vide* DV).

TANAGERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — The only significant report of a Scarlet Tanager was of a late individual rather far n. at S.P.M., Oct. 5 (RE). Fifty-three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at Chatham, Mass., Sept. 17 (WB) was well above expected totals. Blue Grosbeaks were very scarce with only 7 reports, the most unusual at Pubnico Pt., N.S., Oct. 24 (*vide* DAC). Two late Indigo Buntings were at St. John's, Nfld., Nov. 1 and then again Nov. 8-12 (BMT) and at Hartlen's Pt., N.S., Nov. 11 (*vide* DAC). About 35 Dickcissels were reported in the Region spanning August to November with about one-half the reports in October. October 1-7 five were flyovers in Guilford, Conn. (*vide* DV) and three were at Lighthouse Pt., Oct. 22 (*vide* DV).

American Tree Sparrows began filtering into the Region on time in late October. Reports of Clay-colored Sparrow were down. With one exception all were from coastal localities and most were seen in October. A Field Sparrow at St. Peter's Harbor, P.E.I., Nov. 2 (BD) furnished only the first fall record for the province. Also in P.E.I., Vesper Sparrow is still a common breeder, and, in late August flocks of 10-40 could be found in suitable fields. However, s. of there the species is still unusual, but not necessarily unexpected, find during migration. Lark Sparrow remains a rare migrant in the Region with a preponderance of records in late August-early September. This fall more than one-half the reports were from Nova Scotia where three were found at Lower West Pubnico Aug. 31 and two at Seal I., Sept. 2 (*vide* DAC). Sightings of Lark Bunting are

always pleasant surprises in the Region. This year there were 3 reports, all in Massachusetts, at Monomoy I., Aug. 23 (BN), at Martha's Vineyard Sept. 14, and in Rockport Sept. 18 (*vide* LET). The only Henslow's Sparrow reported in the Region was one at Bolton, Mass., Oct. 3 (ML, *vide* LET). Similarly there was only one Le Conte's Sparrow, that at Newburyport, Mass., Sept. 27 (RSH).

Seaside Sparrow is a very uncommon breeding resident in coastal marshes. An optimal high tide at Plum I., Mass., the n. limit of the species' range, produced a surprising 17 Seaside Sparrows Sept. 27 (RSH). Fox Sparrows were common in both Newfoundland and S.P.M. in early September but scarce thereafter. Farther s. migration peaked in mid-November but was below average. Lincoln's Sparrows were reportedly fairly numerous in early September in several locations but were fewer than normal during the main migration period mid-September–mid-October. The White-crowned Sparrow migration in the Region is either feast or famine, and this was a famine year. First arrivals appeared on schedule at several locations in very late September but the highest count was of only five at Block I., R.I., Oct. 4–5 (*vide* DLE). An ad. Harris' Sparrow visited a feeder on Nantucket I., Mass., Nov. 12–21 (EA).

Once again Lapland Longspur reports were few. Only 40 were reported from Nova Scotia during the season (*vide* DAC) and they were present throughout November at Monomoy I., Mass., where the highest count was 10+ on Nov. 11 & 22 (BN). Snow Buntings were well reported during the late fall with many reports of flocks numbering in the hundreds. First arrivals generally appeared in mid-October and the best count was of 1000–1500 at S.P.M., Nov. 3 (AD). In Connecticut they were commoner than normal. Migrant Bobolinks passing Lighthouse Pt., Conn., during the season totalled 9812 with the peak occurring Sept. 1 (*vide* DV). A more modest 300 were at Ipswich, Mass., Aug. 30 (RAF). Yellow-headed Blackbirds are rare but regular migrants in the Region with a preponderance of records in a short period spanning late August and early September. Of approximately ten reports this season, one-half were found in October, the most unusual being a female at S.P.M., Oct. 1 (AD, RE). Following close on the heels of last fall's first regional record, a **Boat-tailed Grackle** was at Stratford, Conn., Nov. 20–23 (*vide* DV). Thirty N. Orioles at Bon Portage, N.S., Aug. 30 (*vide* DAC) was an average count during peak migration period and one at S.P.M., Oct. 3 (RE) was rather late and far afield. An Orchard Oriole at Bon Portage, N.S., Sept. 1 (*vide* DAC) was surprising and unique for the Region as most of the breeding residents depart in July.

WINTER FINCHES — This group probably shows the greatest variation in regional distribution of any which is consistent with its notorious erratic wanderings. Pine Grosbeaks

were present in Newfoundland in fair numbers (BMt) and at S.P.M. were regularly seen in small numbers during September (*vide* RE). Small numbers began appearing at P.E.I. in early November but no flight was evident (BD) and many small groups were reported in Nova Scotia from Yarmouth to Cape Breton in October and November (*vide* DAC). Purple Finches appeared to be in n. sections in normal numbers. At Brier I., N.S., Oct. 11–13, 100 Purple Finches were observed (*vide* DAC) and 41 were at Peabody, Mass., Sept. 26 (RSH). Red Crossbills were present only in Newfoundland where they were in fair numbers (*vide* BMt). Small scattered flocks of White-winged Crossbills were present from Newfoundland to Nova Scotia but s. of there were seen only in Connecticut where 20 were observed at Lighthouse Pt., Nov. 21 (*vide* DV). Likewise, small scattered flocks of Com. Redpolls were noted in the Maritime Provinces late October through November and began appearing in Maine by mid-November (*vide* WT). Then a large group of 700 invaded Cutler, Maine, Nov. 28 (CDD).

Numbers of Pine Siskins were observed moving overhead beginning in October from Nova Scotia southward. At Brier I., N.S., there were 400 Oct. 11–13 (*vide* DAC) and in Connecticut there were large numbers for a short period (*vide* DV) At Lighthouse Pt., 2932 were recorded, the first appearing Oct 11 with a peak Oct. 25. Most of these must have moved on through as very few were observed in November. An exceptionally good Am. Goldfinch flight occurred at a few locations. One thousand were present at Brier I., N.S., Sept. 27–29 (*vide* DAC) and at Grand Manan, N.B., 250 were seen Sept. 26 & 27 (CDD). At Lighthouse Pt., Conn., 11,000+ Am. Goldfinches were recorded mid-August–November with a peak Oct. 1 (*vide* DV). Evening Grosbeaks were present but no area had a great abundance. In Maine they began arriving in greater numbers after mid-October (*vide* WT) but s. of there they appeared only in scattered small flocks overhead through November.

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QUEBEC REGION

Richard Yank, Yves Aubry, and Michel Gosselin

Following a cool and wet summer, rainfall continued above average across the province in August and September, accompanied by below-normal temperatures in most areas. Cold weather persisted during October although precipitation levels moderated somewhat. November was even colder, with temperatures ranging from 2°C below normal in the south to 6°C below normal in the north. Again this fall, high water levels in the Upper St. Lawrence greatly reduced available shorebird habitat in western Quebec.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Seldom observed in overland migration, 27 Red-throated Loons paused on L. Osisko, Témiscamingue Co., Nov. 2 (JL). A Sooty Shearwater, rare in the St. Lawrence Estuary, was seen from the Trois-Pistoles ferry Aug. 31 (JPO). Manx Shearwaters have entered the Estuary in unprecedented numbers during the last 2 years, this fall, 4 sightings of one to two birds were made from the Trois-Pistoles and Matane ferry crossings about Aug. 25–Sept 3 (CGo, KB, TF, JPO, MGo, ML). Also unusual were single Wilson's Storm-Petrels reported off Trois-Pistoles Sept. 14 (YA,



ND) and Pointe-au-Père Oct. 24 (GG, DR). Immature Great Cormorants were out-of-range at the latter location Sept. 6 (YG), off the Matane ferry Oct. 12 (IJ, MGa) and at Saint-Romuald-d'Etchemin Nov. 13–28 (AGu et al.). Southern waders were scarce and limited to a Great Egret at Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pérade Sept. 5 & 6 (CL) and a Glossy Ibis on I. aux Fermiers Aug. 8 (FB, GD).

This spring's record-high Canadian Wildlife Service census of 300,000+ Greater Snow Geese was followed by the lowest reproductive success rate since 1974, judging by the lack of juveniles (<3%) in southbound flocks this fall (AR).

S.A.

The presence of a blue Ross' Goose at Cap Tourmente Oct. 20–23 (TW, SLe) was certainly one of the outstanding events of the season. First described in 1979, this exceedingly rare morph of the Ross' Goose has never before been recorded in the East. Ross' Geese have been known to exhibit dark and light morphs in the downy plumage, but it is apparently not until recently that dimorphism has gained access to the adult plumage, possibly triggered by the backcrossing of Ross' Geese with hybrid Blue × Ross' Geese. The emergence of dark birds among populations of Ross' and Greater Snow geese, along with their increase among Lesser Snow Geese, deserves to be monitored closely (taking great care to distinguish them from hybrids, see *Auk* 96:544–550). The predominantly white coloration of the North American Chen geese may well have been an adaptation mainly suited to their environment during the last glacial period, and they may now be slowly reverting back to a darker plumage.

A Wood Duck was present at Sept-Iles Oct. 27 (SLv); this species has been found with increased frequency along the North Shore in recent years. Two Green-winged Teal at Inukjuak Sept. 5 (GB) were n. of their breeding range, and worthy of mention were an Eur. Wigeon at Cacouna Sept. 17 (GG, JPO) and lone Redheads at Bergeronnes Aug. 31–Sept. 1 (AB) and Pabos Sept. 13 (PPo).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Turkey Vulture wandered to Blanc-Sablon Aug. 3 (WW), providing the Region's most northerly record, while a roost discovered at L. Memphremagog harbored a maximum of 56 birds Sept. 19 (fide PL). Montreal hawkwatchers (MM, BB) tallied 98 Ospreys, 612 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 79 Rough-legged Hawks—record-high totals after 11 years of observation. Three Gyrfalcons reached s. Quebec in November: at La Baie (GSa, CC), Saint-Charles-de-Bellechasse (RL), and Saint-Romuald-d'Etchemin

(AGu et al.). A Gray Partridge at Sillery Nov. 30 (JPO, ML) added to recent sightings from the Quebec City area. An imm. **Purple Gallinule** found dead at Bonaventure Oct. 20 [*N.M.N.S.] provided Quebec's 7th record. Migrating Sandhill Cranes were spotted at Baie-d'Urfé Aug. 26 (MM) and Philipsburg Sept. 27 (MA et al.); unprecedented numbers were encountered in Abitibi County, with 22 at Val-Senneville for about one week in mid-September (fide SG) and scattered reports of one to three individuals from 5 other sites in the area Aug. 15–Oct. 5.

A Willet strayed to Godbout Oct. 21 (TW) and an impressive flock of 300–400 southbound Whimbrels passed over the w. tip of Montreal I., Sept. 2 (MM). Hudsonian Godwits also made a good showing with a total of 27 birds found w. of Trois-Pistoles, and a Marbled Godwit reached Saint-Germain-de-Kamouraska Aug. 23 (JPO, ML). A juv. Western Sandpiper was studied at Montmagny Sept. 6 (MGo, ND, RY, EK), while a very late Baird's Sandpiper lingered at Pointe-au-Père Nov. 1 (GG, DR). A moulting ad. **Curlew Sandpiper**, only the Region's 3rd, was an exciting find at Sainte-Anne-de-Portneuf Aug. 9 (GC, AP, SM, RGi); it is therefore worth mentioning a possible winter-plumaged bird at the same location Oct. 14 (MGa, RGo) and two more encountered at New Richmond Oct. 22 (TW)—both reports submitted by careful observers unable to study the birds in complete detail. A ♂ Ruff was described at Grosse-Ile Aug. 20–21 (PPe) and Pt. Betsiamites produced a female Oct. 13 (IJ, MGa, RGo). An imm. Long-billed Dowitcher was noted at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 29 (YG et al.) and again Oct. 11–12 (MGa, IJ, RGo)—like the W. Sandpiper, this is a rare but regular migrant in the area.

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The only jaeger detected in the Upper St. Lawrence R. was an ad. Parasitic on L. Saint-Pierre Sept. 20 (DJa). The Long-tailed Jaeger, our rarest jaeger, occurs each fall in the St. Lawrence Estuary, where 4 sightings of one to two birds were made Aug. 8–Sept. 14. Rarer larids included a Laughing Gull at Cacouna Sept. 14 (JPO, ML) and a Franklin's Gull at Hull Sept. 4 (DD). Notable were a 2nd-year Little Gull at Blanc-Sablon Aug. 15 (BM, DF, JE) and two at Pabos Aug. 30 (PPo)—there exist relatively few records of this species in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. No longer unexpected were single Com. Black-headed Gulls at Trois-Pistoles Aug. 15 (JPO), Barachois Aug. 24 (PPo), and Rimouski Sept. 1 (GG, DR). Our first records of Thayer's Gull from e. of the Saguenay R. were apparently provided by an adult at Hauterive Nov. 18 (GC) and a first-winter bird at Rimouski Nov. 26 (GG, DR). Four Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found this season: adults returned to Boischatel (fide CV) and Kirkland (MM, m.ob.), where they were present last fall, another adult turned up at Saint-Gédéon (MSa, CGi), and a 3rd-year immature was at Montmagny (JH, CV). Sabine's Gulls can also be found each fall in the Estuary, and four birds (two adults, two immatures) were seen there Sept. 7–Oct. 12.

A Caspian Tern at Cacouna Aug. 3 (JPO) and two at Rimouski Aug. 21 (GG) were locally rare, while an Arctic Tern, not often seen in fall migration, was at Saint-Nicolas Aug. 30 (LM). A Forster's Tern seen from the Trois-Pistoles ferry Sept. 14 (JPO, ML) and an imm. Black Tern at L'Isle-Verte Aug. 30 (JPO, MGo) were both exceptional finds for the Lower St. Lawrence. A Razorbill present at Saint-Vallier Sept. 28 (LM) and an imm. Black Guillemot at Quebec City Aug. 2 (CV, AGo) were both farther w. than usual on the St. Lawrence.

An early Snowy Owl at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 1 (YG) presaged a better-than-average late fall movement into s. Quebec, and N. Hawk-Owls appeared at Falardeau Nov. 20 (GSa) and Cap Tourmente Nov. 25–28 (LM et al.). Three Short-eared Owls at Inukjuak Sept. 22 (GB) were n. of their usual range, and only one Boreal Owl showed up, at Charlesbourg Nov. 24 (JG). A late Whip-poor-will was still calling near Péribonka in late September (fide MSi). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found at Hudson Oct. 26–Nov. 5 (♂—PB, m.ob.), Chicoutimi Nov. 21+ (♀—RI et al.), and Buckingham Nov. 29 (MD); while this species

was recorded only 12 times in the province prior to 1985, the past 2 years have produced 6 records. A ♂ Three-toed Woodpecker observed at Pointe de l'Est Oct. 14 (MGo, EK) represented one of the few records for this species in the Madeleine Is.

SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES — Rare in November, a Barn Swallow was still at Cacouna Nov. 9 (JPO). Gray Jays were widely reported outside their boreal forest haunts. The most unusual sighting was of one on Brion I., Oct. 15 (PF), as the species is a rare winter visitor in the Madeleine Is. A Tufted Titmouse delighted observers at Philipsburg Sept. 27 (GMO *et al*) and the Carolina Wren made its best showing in recent years with singles at Philipsburg (RPr), Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville (*fide* ND), Boucherville (FB), I. des Soeurs (GD), Pierrefonds (YP, m.ob.), and Lac-Beauport (RB) during the period. A flock of 26 E. Bluebirds at Neuville Sept. 28 (PO, GMe) followed another successful year for this species in the n. part of its range, and a N. Mockingbird was noteworthy at Godbout Oct. 21 (TW). For the 2nd consecutive year, Bohemian Waxwings were common in many areas, including 360 at Chicoutimi Nov. 13 (MSa) and 450 at Rimouski Nov. 15 (GG, DR). A Golden-winged Warbler at Boischatel Oct. 10 (CS) was our latest ever, a Pine Warbler at a Chandler feeder Nov. 15–23 (HB) represented only the 2nd record from the Gaspé Pen., and an Am. Redstart was quite late at Senneville Nov. 2 (RC).

The province's 6th and 7th **Western Tanagers**, the first since 1973, were ♀-plumaged birds at Westmount Aug. 31 (GSe) and Cap Tourmente Oct. 3 (JPO, RB). Northern Cardinals, still rare in the Quebec City area, included a female at Charlesbourg Nov. 11–21 (RL) and a male at Beaupré Nov. 17–20 (SLb). A Dickcissel was identified by its distinctive call as it flew over Pt aux Outardes Oct. 13 (RGo, IJ, MGa) and another (possibly the same?) stopped at nearby Hauterive Oct. 13–18 (JB). Extralimital sparrows included a Rufous-sided Towhee at Baie-Comeau Nov. 6–30 (LG, GC), a Clay-colored at Cap Tourmente Oct. 7 (FG, JPO), and single Field Sparrows at Rimouski Nov. 5 (GG) and Baie-Comeau Nov. 16–18 (GC). Two ad. Lark Sparrows at Sainte-Sophie-de-Mégantic Aug. 11 (DJu) brought to 12 the number of Quebec sightings. Two recently-fledged young accompanied a pair of House Finches at Rivière-du-Loup Aug. 15 (YT), suggesting local breeding. A ♂ Eur. Goldfinch visited a feeder in Saint-Léonard, Montreal I., Aug. 23 (JGM).

Evening Grosbeaks invaded s Quebec in August, earlier than normal, but most had moved on by the latter one-half of the season.

S.A.

Another chapter in the saga of the Eurasian Jackdaw came to light when RE found a story written by the chief engineer of a French freighter, in a magazine published in France (*Ça m'intéresse* 61:37, 1986). The engineer relates that in October 1984, when sailing from Dunkerque to Port-Cartier, his ship was invaded by hundreds of jackdaws, lost at sea off southern England. The birds stayed with the boat and accepted food handed out by the crew. Off Newfoundland, they were decimated by cold winds and storms. Some of them took refuge inside the ship and, upon reaching Port-Cartier, the remaining 30–50 jackdaws left. A year later, dead bodies of jackdaws were still being found in hidden corners of the ship. The timing of this incident suggests that the jackdaws reported from Port-Cartier in November 1984 (see AB 39:149) were survivors of this crossing.

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

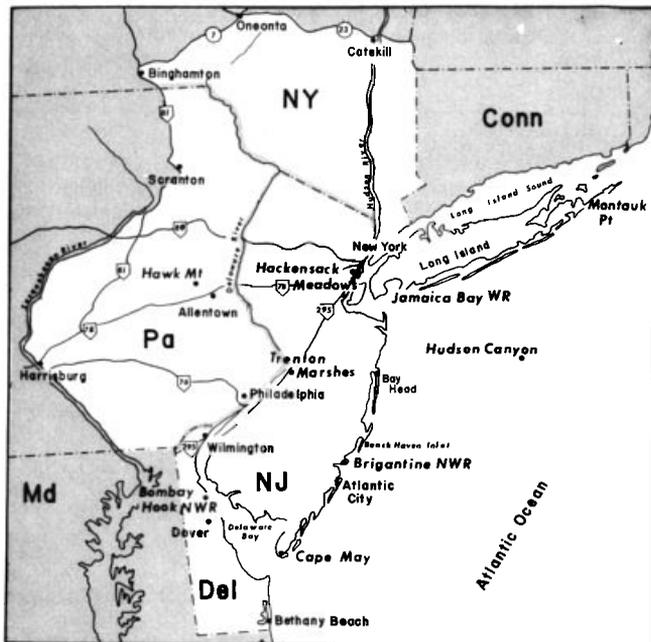
**Robert O. Paxton, William J. Boyle, Jr.,
and David A. Cutler**

Migration started off with a bang. Precocious cold fronts brought down a lot of passerine migrants in August. Blicharz found eighteen species of warblers in the Princeton Woods between August 24 and the end of the month, and Crossley and Dowdell found over 23 species of warblers, including early Blackpolls and Cape Mays, at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, August 25. Maurer was at Cape May at midday August 28 when a cold front came through, stopping the morning's southeast winds and rain. "Shore birds began to drop into South Cape May Meadows, stayed for five minutes or less, and then flew off." He saw about 200 waders of 21 species in the Meadows that afternoon. In the next morning's northwest winds, 150 Northern Orioles were at Higbee's Beach, and 2300 Eastern Kingbirds

and 3000 Bobolinks, among many other diurnal migrants, passed the hawk watch at Cape May Point (FN).

Hurricane Charley passed up the coast on August 18, but this weak storm veered out to sea after brushing the Virginia coast. The main effects were Cory's Shearwaters, Wilson's Storm-Petrels, and terns on shore, and an errant Franklin's Gull.

Following these tempestuous beginnings, September and October brought calmer weather and, some thought, dull birding. Even so, there were notable dawn rushes at Higbee's Beach on September 7 (5000–6000 passerines between 6:30 and 9 a.m., including 27 species of warblers, JDo), September 9 (20 species of warblers), and October 16. November brought record cold. Following a strong cold front on November 10, thousands of American Goldfinches and House Finches, hundreds of Pine Siskins, and a couple of Redpolls were moving north along the beach north of Cape



May into a northwest wind (RDB). At dawn on November 14 the thermometer fell to record lows of 21 in Newark and 15 in Atlantic City.

ABBREVIATIONS — Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, Del.; Brig = Brigantine Unit, Edward B. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic Co., N.J.; Green Lane = Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery Co., Pa.; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City; L.I. = Long Island, N.Y.; Tincum = Tincum Nat'l Recreation Center, Philadelphia. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Single Red-throated Loons, far rarer inland than Com. Loons, were at Muddy Run, Drumore, Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 30 (RMS), over the Baer Rocks, Lehigh, Pa., hawk watch Nov. 20 (KKr), and at Cedar Grove Res., Essex, N.J., Nov. 28 (D. Oster). Along the coast 14,620 loons, 90% of them Red-throated, passed Avalon, Cape May, N.J., in 50 hours of coast-watching in late October and early November (DWa). Outstanding was a Pacific Loon discovered Aug. 4 at Tuckerton, Ocean, N.J. (M. Gochfeld, m.ob.). Apparently unable to fly, perhaps because of molt, it was seen by many observers over 3 weeks.

In addition to the usual half-dozen Red-necked Grebes on the coast, one was weather-grounded at Maiden Creek, L. Ontelaunee, Berks, Pa., Nov. 2 (BSt). Three Eared Grebes were found: J.B.W.R., through September (JR, K & SF, MC, FF), Brig Sept. 1 (WJB, REM), and near Barnegat Light, Ocean, N.J., Nov. 4 (AG).

Cory's Shearwaters and Wilson's Storm-Petrels were onshore on Long Island after Hurricane Charley, Aug. 18 (AJL, P. Buckley), and one Wilson's Storm-Petrel was flying up the Hudson R. at Piermont Pier, Rockland, N.Y., that day (†PDe), for the first river record since 1933 (R. Deed).

An imm. N. Gannet injured at a small pond near Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Oct. 27 (m.ob., ph. J. Key) furnished the 2nd Dutchess record, and recalled a similar inland grounding in New Jersey last fall. Ward counted 11,000 southbound past Avalon, N.J., in 37 hours in late October and November. An Am. White Pelican was around Cape May Sept. 23–Oct. 6 (CS, D. Sibley). The last summering Brown Pelicans were seen there in mid-August. An "explosion" (DH) of inland records of Dou-

ble-crested Cormorants brought 11 to York-Lancaster, Pa. (DH), one to Green Lane Sept. 6–Oct. 4 (GLF), and 38 over Allentown Sept. 20 (F. Brock). Ward counted 4130 passing Avalon in an hour and a half Oct. 8.

Low water at several prime coastal spots favored prodigious assemblages of herons. The most notable counts were of 175+ Great Blue Herons at Tincum Sept. 13 (JCM), and 800 Great Egrets with 2000 Snowy Egrets at Brig Sept. 3 (PL). The 15th annual count at Rookery Island, Washington Boro, Lancaster, Pa., found nine species of herons Aug. 6, led by 4598 Cattle Egrets, and including one Tricolored Heron and, once again, an imm. White Ibis (RMS). The Region's only other White Ibis reported was a much rarer adult at Brig Sept. 3 (IB, H. Wallum). A White-faced Ibis was diagnostically photographed at Brig Aug. 2–3 (ph. S. LaFrance, B & NM), for the 6th Regional occurrence since the first was found there in 1977.

WATERFOWL — Five Greater White-fronted Geese were reported, up to two in Dutchess, N.Y. (P. & T. Haight, M. Yegella, D. Fleury), one at Mecox Bay, L.I., Nov. 2 (K & SF, MC), and two with about one thousand Canadas at Strawbridge L., Moorestown, N.J., Nov. 17–18 (JGo, BMo). All were believed to be of the Greenland race. The fall build-up of Snow Geese at Bombay Hook reached a record 72,000, about 20,000 more than usual, by plane count Oct. 22 (fide APE). There were very few young among them, suggesting a poor breeding year in the arctic (DAC). One or two Ross' Geese, a species probably overlooked in this Region before eastern records began to accumulate, were studied among the Snows at Brig Oct. 5–11 (MG, REM, B & NM), as well as one at Bombay Hook Nov. 4–8 (B. Sehl, †A. & J. White). A Brant was unusual far inland at Strawbridge L., Moorestown, N.J., Nov. 17 (JGo). But since Brant are regularly observed from inland hawk watches, it is odd that more are not grounded inland. Peak ridge counts of Brant this fall came on Oct. 30, when 2000 passed over Raccoon Ridge, Warren, N.J. (FPW), and 220 over Baer Rocks, Lehigh, Pa. (KKr). Two Barnacle Geese, of unknown provenance, arrived at Brig with an influx of Snow Geese Oct. 3 and were observed by many thereafter (REM, B & NM, RG).

Seven Eur. Wigeon on Long Island and two, possibly three, at Cape May were about par. Common Eiders reached a healthy 60 at Montauk Pt., Nov. 29 (MC, K & SF), five at Avalon Nov. 15 (DWa), and seven at N. Cape May Nov. 23–30 (KB, AB, KS). In addition to six King Eiders at Montauk and one at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., Nov. 29 (MC, K & SF), singles were as far south as Stone Harbor Nov. 1 (B & NM) and Cape May Nov. 29–30 (KB). In addition to the usual few Harlequin Ducks on e. Long Island, four reached coastal New Jersey (fide PBa). Dry weather in October produced few interior groundings of diving ducks. The best inland count of Oldsquaws was of 30 at Culver's L., Sussex, N.J. (F. Tetlow), while 100 at Chelsea, Dutchess, N.Y. (EP, M. VanWagner, F. Germond), was a notable Hudson R. count. The best Black Scoter count was of 17 at Harvey's Lake, Luzerne, Pa., Oct. 24 (WR). Two White-winged Scoters at Blue Marsh L., Bucks, Pa., Oct. 26 (BSt) furnished the only inland report. Rarest inland, as usual, was one Surf Scoter at Cedar Grove Res., Essex, N.J., Nov. 28 (D. Oster).

RAPTORS — A Black Vulture at Nysox, Bradford, Sept. 28 furnished the first record known to us from the n. tier counties of Pennsylvania (WR). Two around Mt. Peter, s. Orange, N.Y., in September were not migrants (AM, JC).

It was a "great year" at Hawk Mt., Pa. (LG), and good at most hawk watches. Osprey counts reached all-time record levels at almost every site. Hawk Mt.'s 798 was the most in 52 years (LG), and Upper Montclair's 839 and Cape May's 3438 were also records (FN). One Osprey came aboard a fishing boat 50 mi off Cape May Oct. 27 (fide PS). A single Mississippi Kite turned up at Cape May Aug. 30 (RC), as in most falls since 1980. Bald Eagles had a very encouraging fall migration. It is impossible to summarize the widespread single observations, but 51 at Hawk Mt. were the most since 1956 (LG), and 18 at Montclair and 55 at Cape May hawk watches were also records.

Nineteen passed through lower Westchester, N Y , from late August through September (*vide* TWB). Northern Harriers were not quite up to recent high levels. Fifteen that passed high over the Cape May Point hawk watch at dawn following a cold front Oct. 16 may have been migrating at night (FN). The long *Accipiter* climb may be levelling off. Cape May's 28,980 Sharp-shinned Hawks were the fewest in 10 years, but the ridges did better. Hawk Mt.'s 9239 Sharp-shinned Hawks were above the 10-year average (LG) and Mt. Peter's 2440 set a record (AM, JC).

After dribbling through for several falls, Broad-winged Hawks formed a memorable concentration unusually early and close to the coast. On Sept. 14, 30,535 over the Greenwich, Ct , Audubon Center passed into adjacent Westchester, N.Y., followed by an echo 13,057 at Butler Sanctuary the next day (TWB). The same 2 days brought 17,000 and 13,000 over Upper Montclair, and thousands over the Princeton Woods (*vide* IB, RJB). The main inland passage of Broad-winged Hawks came later, on Sept. 20 (e.g., 3194 at Hawk Mt., 2000+ at Bake Oven Knob, and 2380 at Baer Rocks, Lehigh, Pa.). Remarkably late flights brought 1700 over Baer Rocks Sept. 29 (KKr) and 1500 over Raccoon Ridge Sept. 30 (FPW). The coastal passage was even more protracted. An early 54 passed Cape May Aug. 25 (CS, DWi), and an extraordinary 2986 there Oct. 2 helped make up an astounding 12,000-hawk day at the Point (FN). Five Swainson's Hawks passed Cape May (Sept. 9, 13, 16, & 22, and Oct 20, FN), and one was at Bake Oven Knob Sept. 11 (R. Bardman). Red-tailed Hawks also did better on the coast than inland, with a record 3375 at Cape May but a mediocre 3269 at Hawk Mountain. Rough-legged Hawks were mostly low, except for a healthy 10 at Baer Rocks (KKr).

Golden Eagles put on a good show over the inland ridges when cold weather came in November. Although Hawk Mt.'s total of 44 broke no records, record daily highs of five passed on Nov. 10 & 19. Upper Montclair had a record five, and Orange, N Y , a record seven (*vide* JPT). The coast did well too, 16 at Cape May tying the record. Good finds away from the hawk watches included one at Berwick, Pa., Nov. 6 (D. Gross) and one feeding on a deer carcass at Fishkill, Dutchess, N.Y., Nov. 21-26 (*vide* EP).

American Kestrels seem to be pulling out of their slump. Coastal counts were generally above the lows of recent years (e.g., 12,415 at Cape May), but 455 at Hawk Mt., while a slight improvement, was still below the 10-year average (LG). Merlins continue to increase. Coastally, Fire Island's total climbed to a new record for the 2nd year in a row, with 1087 (DP), and Cape May's 2449 came in just under last year's record. Few Merlins use the ridges, but Hawk Mt.'s 78 set a 52-year record (LG), and Upper Montclair's 23 was also the most ever there. One Merlin was found 35 mi off the Delaware coast Sept. 21 (APE). Cape May's 615 Peregrine Falcons were well above any figure since the new hawk watch was established in 1975, with a historic peak of 140 on the big day of Oct. 2 (FN). Several Greenland-banded birds were retrapped there. At Hawk Mt., 24 Peregrines were more than the 10-year average, and 17 set a record at Mt. Peter. At J.B.W.R. on Sept. 30, an ad. ♀ Peregrine killed and ate an imm. ♂ Sharp-shinned Hawk that had rashly stooped at her (TL). A gray-phase Gyrfalcon tangled with a perceptibly smaller Red-tailed Hawk over the Cape May hawk watch Oct. 31 (†FN), and another was reported from Fire Island, L I , Sept. 29 (J. Holman).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Yellow Rail was picked up injured and taken to a rehabilitation center on L.I., Sept. 24 (*vide* TWB). A Black Rail came into view under the Cape May hawk watch Sept. 15 (FN). A color-banded Sandhill Crane was around Cape May much of the fall (CS, KB, m.ob.) and another on a farm near Woodstown, Salem, N.J., since June 10 was still present in late September (*vide* JKM). A 3rd appeared briefly on the Susquehanna R. at Harrisburg Oct. 19 (G. Wertz, m.ob.).

Massive shorebird concentrations of 5000-6000 built up in August at Bombay Hook, where both Raymond and Shearneck Pools were drained, and other locations with low water levels such as Tinicum, Green Lane, and Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, N.J., had excellent shorebirding. These local hotspots might give a deceptive impression, however, for Morris' careful aging of shorebirds at J.B.W.R. showed late arrivals and low proportions of juveniles, suggesting a poor nesting season in the arctic (AM). Lesser Golden-Plovers were patchily abundant, low in Delaware and in the Hudson Valley, but up to 152 near Sharpstown, Salem, N.J., Sept. 11 (E. Manners) and 200 on a sod farm near Allentown, Monmouth, N.J., Sept. 6 (L. Larson). All else paled beside a flock that built to 1500 by Sept. 3 on a sod farm newly transformed from potato fields at Cutchogue, L.I. (PBe, A. Dove, P. Gillen). A remarkably late Wilson's Plover was described from Brig Oct. 14 (†P. Hoppin). Local beach-breeding plovers usually leave early, and the 42 Piping Plovers gathered at Corson's Inlet, N.J., Aug. 14 (REM) could have represented one-tenth of the n.e. breeding population.

Black-necked Stilts built to 20 in Delaware by Aug. 9 (BMo), and post-breeding Am. Avocets at Bombay Hook and Little Creek reached an exceptional 300 (CS, ROP). Up to three avocets at Brig through the fall (REM, B & NM) marked their northern limit this time. A count of 850 Greater Yellowlegs at Brig Nov. 5 (REM) was worth recording. A Willet on the Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Aug. 3 (EW, TG) provided only the 2nd Lancaster, Pa., record; it may have been a western migrant. Upland Sandpiper concentrations were not very encouraging. Except for 35 at Cutchogue, L.I., Aug. 24 (PBe) and 32 at St. Charles cemetery, near Farmingdale, L.I., Aug. 5 (AJL), the best counts known to us were of a poor 13 at the Columbus sod farm, Burlington, N.J., Aug. 23 (J. LaVia), and 12 at the Philadelphia airport Aug. 19 (JCM). Since Whimbrels are rarely grounded inland, 30 passing east across Scott's Mt., Warren, N.J., Sept. 7 (GH, J. Ebner) made a fine sight.

It was a very good godwit season. An estimated 24 Hudsonians passed through Tinicum during the season, with a maximum of seven Oct. 20 (JCM); the largest assemblages were of 12 on the Line Islands, L.I., Aug. 24 (AJL), and an astonishing 22 at Bombay Hook Sept. 23 (KKa). Exceptional inland were three at Green Lane (GLF, GAF, m.ob., ph.) and one at Spruce Run (JDeM). A great concentration of shorebirds at Zach's Bay, Jones Beach S.P., L.I., in early November, mostly Dunlins and Black-bellied Plovers, included at least four Hudsonian and nine Marbled godwits. Inland, two Marbled Godwits were at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster, Pa., Aug. 17 (SS), and Westchester, N.Y.'s first remained at Rye Aug. 26-Sept. 13 (TWB, m.ob.). Among the rarer shorebirds inland were a Ruddy Turnstone at L. Marburg, York, Pa., Sept. 27-28, only the 2nd there in 8 years (DH), two Red Knots at Tinicum Aug. 31 (JCM) and one at Green Lane Oct. 31 (RG), and rather widespread Sanderlings, including five at Leaser L., Sept. 5, for the 2nd Lehigh, Pa., record (BLM), two at Green Lane Oct. 28 (RG), two at Tinicum Sept. 1-2 (BSt, B & NM), and one at Pittston, Luzerne, Pa., Aug. 29 (WR).

A juv. **Little Stint** at south Cape May Meadows August 28 was impeccably described (†REM, DWi, R. Dorrance). Conditions were favorable for White-rumped Sandpipers; the best coastal count was of 80 at Cape May Sept. 4 (PL), and the best inland an amazing 64 Sept. 9 at Spruce Run (E. Patten). It was also a good fall for Baird's Sandpipers. In addition to widespread singles and reports of two or three from Brig (B & NM, REM), Green Lane (GLF, GAF), Tinicum (JCM), Spruce Run (GH), and Long Arm Res., York (DH), four were at L. Marburg, York, Sept. 28 (DH) and a remarkable nine were at Sagaponack Pond, L.I., Sept. 20-21 (HMcG, R. Kelly). Exceptionally 90+ Dunlins were inland at Green Lane Nov. 9 (GLF), and one was at Pittston, Luzerne, Pa., Sept. 19 (WR).

Curlew Sandpipers were the lowest in years, with only a couple of reports. Stilt Sandpipers were in good numbers. The best coastal counts were of 120 at south Cape May Meadows Sept. 4 (RC) and 100 at Bombay Hook Aug. 4 (CS), and the best



Juvenile Ruff at Tinicum refuge, Philadelphia, Pa., October 1986. Photo/Franklin C. Haas.

inland count a record 17 at Long Arm Res., York, Pa., Aug. 21 (DH). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were all but nonexistent. Ruffs were low as well, the only multiple count being of two at Bombay Hook Oct. 11 (PH). The status of Long-billed Dowitchers needs careful study in our Region, with particular care given to possible confusion with *hendersoni* Short-billed Dowitchers. This fall, they seem to have been unusually numerous at Bombay Hook, with counts of over a hundred Sept. 6 (all adults, PL) and Sept. 28 (MVB, GKH). Two immatures were carefully studied at Green Lane Sept. 28–30 and Oct. 19–20 (GAF, GLF, m.ob.).

A remarkable 50 Wilson's Phalaropes were at Dutch Neck Road, Delaware City, Del., Aug. 23 (PH). But they were not particularly numerous in the usual coastal lagoons, and inland records were limited to singles at Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster-Lebanon, Pa., Aug. 17 (SS), Green Lane Aug. 14 (GLF), and Swan L., Sullivan, N.Y., Oct. 11 (Sullivan Co. Audubon Soc.), and one or two at Tinicum Aug. 29–Sept. 7 (JCM, B & NM). Red-necked Phalaropes were rather widespread. One was inland at Tinicum Oct. 6 (BSt), and in addition to several singles on the coast, multiple counts included three at Brig Aug. 24 (DF) and at J.B.W.R., and two at Bombay Hook Sept. 26 (KKa). The only Red Phalarope was one at Green Lane Oct. 19–20 (GAF, GLF, B & NM, RG,ph. BLM).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS — A few Pomarine Jaegers were identified from shore: singles at Jones Inlet, L.I., Nov. 9 (†MC, KF) and Cape May Oct. 9 (CS), and two at Cape May Nov. 4 (JDo). Parasitic Jaegers were much in evidence from Long Island and the Jersey shore. The biggest counts were of eight at Island Beach Nov. 8 (RK) and 15 at Cape May Oct. 26 (fide PS). A remarkable juv. Long-tailed Jaeger, injured by a car in a McDonald's parking lot at Ocean City, Cape May, N.J., Sept. 8 (J. Baker), was released Oct. 15 after care at the Surf City Rehabilitation Center (B. Jones).

It was an excellent season for the rarer gulls. In addition to the ad. **Franklin's Gull** in breeding plumage at Great Gull I., off e. Long Island, Aug. 18, related in some way to Hurricane Charley (JDiC, H. Hays), a 2nd-winter Franklin's Gull was carefully described at Montauk Pt., Oct. 25 (†M. & P. O'Brien), and a first-winter bird was at Shinnecock Nov. 29–Dec. 1 (JDiC, m.ob.). There had been about 11 previous Long Island records. About seven Little Gulls and about five Com. Black-headed Gulls, all in coastal Long Island or New Jersey, and all but one in November, were normal. An ad. California Gull was reported Aug. 15 at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I. (N. Wagerich). About six Lesser

Black-backed Gulls on Long Island and about seven in coastal New Jersey were normal; inland, one returned for its 3rd winter at Bergey's Pond, Hatfield, Montgomery, Pa. (m.ob., fide BLM). Rarest of all, **Sabine's Gull** made its first multiple records in this Region. An immature was at Great Kills Harbor, Staten I., Sept. 12–18 (R. Clermont, m.ob., ph. P. Post), and reports were received from Montauk Aug. 7 and Shinnecock Oct. 21 which we could not assess. A 2nd-winter Sabine's Gull was at the Lewes, Del., ferry slip Oct. 26 (BW) and an adult was at Cape May Pt., Nov. 12 (J. Donahue, FN, KB, PD).

A single Caspian Tern at Mountain L., Warren, N.J., Aug. 18 (GH) may have been grounded by Hurricane Charley, and another was at Spruce Run Aug. 28 (JDeM). The best coastal count was of 32 at Brig Aug. 27 (REM). The first Lehigh, Pa., Com. Tern was at Leaser L., Sept. 5 (S. Smith). Two ad. Arctic Terns were ashore at Cape May Aug. 18 in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley (JDo, REM). A surprising Bridled Tern was reported off Montauk Aug. 23 (fide TWB). It was the best fall migration in many years for Black Terns. Over 50 were reported from coastal New Jersey, 17 at Cape May alone (PBa). Elsewhere the best count was of 12 at Mecox Bay, L.I., Aug. 18 (fide TWB), the effect of Hurricane Charley on this highly pelagic migrant.

Alcids were thin, with only one Dovekie report (Cape May, Nov. 1, DWa), one murre (sp.) off Avalon Nov. 23 (DWa), and four Razorbills, two on the New Jersey coast (KKa, DWa) and two on Long Island, all at the end of November.

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS —

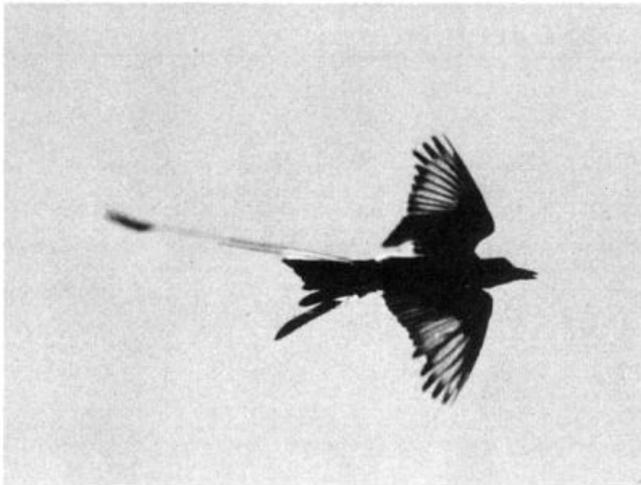
S.A.

Cape May banders captured 104 owls this fall: 15 Com. Barn, three E. Screech, two Great Horned, one Barred, five Long-eared (low), and 78 N. Saw-whet (K. Duffy). Two of the Com. Barn-Owls had been banded as chicks in June 1986, one by Hannah Richard at J.B.W.R., and one by Len Soucy at W. Somerville, N.J. Not all the barn-owls were dispersing juveniles, however; at least one adult was banded, and it is clear that they do migrate. One, perhaps a wind-borne migrant, came in off the ocean at Cape May at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 17 (FN). A Long-eared Owl did the same at 7:15 a.m. on Oct. 16 (FN).

A few Snowy Owls arrived late in the season, harbingers of more to come. The earliest was at Piermont Pier, Rockland, N.Y., Oct. 16–18 (PDe, m.ob.), followed by another Nov. 7 on a Bronx rooftop (G. Anger), and three more on Long Island and in s.e. New York (JR et al.). The most southerly was near Burlington, N.J., Nov. 9–11 (J. Baillet).

A prodigious 35 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds passed the Cape May hawk watch Aug. 31 (FN) and 28 were counted at Hawk Mt., Sept. 6, but the season's total at Hawk Mt. was only 81, well below that of last year (LG). Few Red-headed Woodpeckers passed through, the season's total at Hawk Mt. reaching only 16 (LG), the 2nd-lowest in the past decade.

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS — Yellow-bellied Flycatchers reached their peak in the 2nd week of September [e.g., five Sept. 13–14 at Cape May, REM, and seven banded Sept. 14 at Hopewell, Mercer, N. J., P. Rodewald, H. Suthers). A pale *Myiarchus* flycatcher at Battery Park, N.Y.C., Nov. 10 suggested Ash-throated, but it flew before all determining marks could be noted (†SW). A Say's Phoebe was carefully described at West End, Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Oct. 4 (A. Bendinger). No W. Kingbirds turned up inland, although nine on Long Island, 14 at the Cape May hawk watch, and six elsewhere in coastal New Jersey seemed about normal. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher lingered near Bake Oven Knob from Aug. 10 to



A slightly frayed Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Bake Oven Knob, Lehigh Co., Pa., Aug. 13, 1986. Photo/Rick Wiltraut.

Sept. 12 (K. Grim, ph. RW, m.ob.), for the first Lehigh record and about the 8th for Pennsylvania. At one point, apparently inebriated on fermenting choke cherries, it allowed itself to be picked up. "After this incident it appeared to go on the wagon" (BLM). Another was at Fort Tilden, N.Y.C., Oct. 5-9 (m.ob., fide TWB).

Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a good flight, which was surprising, since local nesting had been low. Golden-crowned Kinglets were everywhere. Particularly remarkable were 75 foraging intently on the parkway median lawn at Robert Moses S.P., L.I., Oct. 19 (ROP, J. Gerhart, V. Emanuel, AF). Northern Wheatear, nearly annual now, turned up in 2 places: Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Sept. 28 (MC, K & SF, TWB, m.ob.) and Milton Harbor, Westchester, N.Y., Oct. 17 (ph. AF). There were also two probably different Varied Thrushes, a male at Sag Harbor, L.I., Sept. 20 (J. Leo) and a dull-plumaged male at Battery Park, N.Y.C., Oct. 30 (SW, F. Baumgarten, †TL, JDiC).

A very few N. Shrikes reached the northern and western edge of this Region late in the season, at Beltzville L., Carbon, Pa., Nov. 2-3 (RW, ph. G. Yoder), near Ephrata, Lancaster, Pa., Nov. 30 (EW, TG), and at Bedford, Westchester, N.Y., after Nov. 10. At least two Loggerhead Shrikes were around Cape May Aug. 29-Sept. 12 (FN, C. & M. Richberg), but elsewhere we had only one report from Caumsett S.P., L.I., Sept. 17 (Lyman Langdon Audubon Soc.), and one from Sandy Hook, Monmouth, N.J., Sept. 20 (DF).

Philadelphia Vireos were in good numbers, with at least six in the Princeton Ave. Woods, Mercer, N.J., Sept. 6-18 (RJB, m.ob.) and a peak count of eight at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Sept. 7 (DWa). Possibly as many as six Golden-winged Warblers, rare on the coast, passed through Cape May Aug. 22-Sept. 13 (JDo, DWa, REM, PL). "Brewster's Warblers" were reported from Cape May Aug. 30 (JDo), Prospect Park, N.Y.C. (fide TWB), and White Clay Creek, Del., Sept. 7 (D. Miller). A "Lawrence's Warbler" was at Cape May Aug. 23-25 (JDD, REM), and another reported from Sand's Point, L.I., Sept. 10 (G. Quinn). Connecticut Warblers also seemed more evident than usual in coastal New Jersey, and 11 were found in Mercer, N.J., Aug. 31-Oct. 2 (RJB).

GROSBEAKS, ICTERIDS, FINCHES — An imm. ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak was at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Sept. 5 (ph. KS), and another imm. male or female was at the Lincoln Park gravel pits, Morris, N.J., Sept. 7 (DF). We had the usual scattered Dickcissel reports, mostly from the coast (†TL, FF), but the best measure of this bird's coastal passage is probably careful listening to calls overhead at a coastal hawk watch. Cape May tallied about 25 between Aug. 25 and Nov. 10, with

a peak of 12 Oct. 16 (FN, JDo). Five Clay-colored Sparrow reports were a bit below normal, and sparrows seemed generally scarce. An oregonus Dark-eyed Junco was at Peconic, L.I., Nov. 12 (P. Stoutenburgh). Snow Buntings were widespread, with good inland reports including 28 over Hook Mt. hawk watch, Rockland, N.Y., Oct. 21 (P. French) and 13 at Green Lane Oct. 24 (B & NM). At least one ad. ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was around Cape May all fall (PDU, JDo, PS, FN), but we had no other reports.

Aside from sporadic masses of Pine Siskins and a few Evening Grosbeaks, it was not a major "winter finch" fall. We heard of only a handful of scattered Red Crossbills. A lone White-winged Crossbill was reported at Morris Plains, N.J., Nov. 15 (DF). Common Redpolls were almost non-existent; aside from the two mentioned in the opening paragraphs, we knew of only six at Pound Ridge, Westchester, N.Y., Nov. 23. Siskins were sporadically abundant both on the coast and inland. Fire Island hawk watch counted 1650 Oct. 18-19 (DP), and 150 were around Dallas, Luzerne, Pa., through November (E. Johnson).

EXOTICS — Escaped waterfowl and parrots swell this rubric steadily. Four Egyptian Geese were at Haven L., Milford, Del., through September and October (WJW). A Ruddy Shelduck was at J.B.W.R. through October, and a Red-crested Pochard hung around the Bergen, N.J., lakes. A Rose-ringed Parakeet was at Hawk Mt., Sept. 28 (LG), and a Monk Parakeet was at Titusville School, Dutchess, N.Y., all fall (C. Vincent). An Aratinga parakeet, still unidentified, was seen almost daily at Cape May Point. A Ringed Turtle-Dove was reported near Elmer, Salem, N.J. (JH). One should keep an eye out now for the closely similar Eurasian Collared-Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), which has colonized W. Europe in the last 2 decades and has now been confirmed in Florida.

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Henry T. Armistead

Reporting was excellent this fall, perhaps the best ever with regard to repeated visits, often weekly, to key areas such as Hart-Miller Islands, Blackwater and Chincoteague refuges, Liberty Reservoir, Hunting Creek, and the Susquehanna River. This combined with intensive banding at Kiptopeke, Damsite, and Adventure, plus various activities by raptor watchers, provided a wealth of records. Shorebird and waterfowl coverage was superior. So was passerine coverage, but with disappointing results.

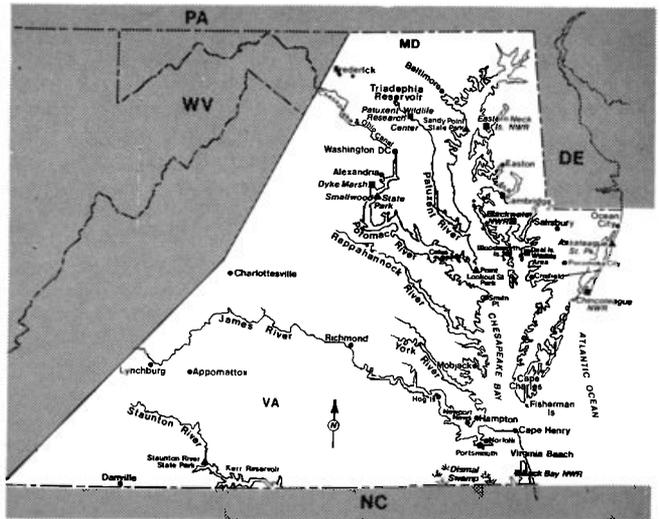
The severe drought continued until November. It was a mild fall with few strong fronts.

Deviation from normal of temperature: August -2.3°F , September $+0.2^{\circ}$, October $+2.8^{\circ}$, November $+0.6^{\circ}$; of precipitation: August $+0.5$ inches, September -2.3 inches, October -1.3 inches, November $+0.4$ inches.

ABBREVIATIONS — Adventure = Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, Md.; Assat. = Assateague I. (Md. section unless specified otherwise); Balt. = Baltimore, Md.; the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; Black. = Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Md.; C.B.B.T. = Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, Va.; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Craney = Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, Va.; Damsite = banding station at Tolchester Beach, Md.; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; Hart = Hart and Miller Islands in the Bay e. of Baltimore; Hunting Creek = Hunting Creek, Va., on the Potomac R., scene in past few years of rapid spread of the exotic aquatic plant *Hydrilla*; Kipt. = Kiptopeke, Va., collective term to include Cape Charles, Wise Point, Townsend, and the Kiptopeke banding station; Susq. = lower Susquehanna R. at Conowingo Dam, Md. Date in *italics* indicates bonded bird(s). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH FLAMINGO — At Swan Pt., Kent, Md., 350 Com. Loons were seen Nov. 4 (JG), the only notable loon count of the fall. Pied-billed Grebes made a strong showing with 79 at Lock Raven Res., n. of Balt., Oct. 22 (EB), 58 at Swift Creek Res., n. of Richmond, Nov. 12 (LR), 47 at Hunting Creek in the mat of exotic water plant *Hydrilla* Nov. 16 (JMA), and 36 at Chinc., Oct. 2-3 (CPW), the best totals at stronghold Deal Island W.M.A., Md., being of only 40 Oct. 13 (RFR) and 37 Aug. 14 (HTA). Single Red-necked Grebes were at Piney Run P., Carroll, Md., Nov. 6 (MW), Loch Raven (HK, BB) and Chinc., Nov. 30 (GR, GA, HTA, HN) and four were at Downs P., Anne Arundel, Md., Nov. 29 (MR). Ocean City pelagic trips were weathered out Sept. 13 and Oct. 4 and the resulting hegira produced fine land birding on Assat. and hawk counting at Kipt., respectively (q.v.). A trip was made up to 80 mi off Virginia Beach Aug. 16 which reported 500 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, 66 Cory's, one Greater, six Audubon's, and one Manx shearwater (DFA, MRB, BT, BP, PMc, GP). On the heels of Hurricane Charlie, Schwab found seven Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Back Bay N.W.R., Aug. 18 in the bay. At Chinc., one to two Am. White Pelicans were seen Sept. 25-Nov. 30 (m.ob., ph.), and singles (same birds?) were noted s. of there at Wallops I., Oct. 4-5 (JB), Metomkin I., Sept. 13 (MA), and Cedar I., Sept. 16 (AC et al.). Brown Pelicans were legion in s. Virginia again with up to 200 at Chinc., Aug. 23 (JB), 74 at Cape Henry Aug. 2 (GTH), 90 at Kipt., Aug. 31 (HTA), and a Regional record count of 600 on Fisherman I., Aug. 31 (BP, DFA, HTA, GA); 45 at Cape Henry Nov. 11 (GTH) provided one of the few November reports this year. The only Maryland records were from Assat. I.: one Aug. 23 (MO, LD) and two Sept. 5 (EB, PL et al.). As usual there were no reports away from the ocean or the mouth of the Bay.

Great Cormorant continues to increase slightly, the most notable records being of up to five immatures at the head of the Bay at Hart Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 (RFR, HK, BD et al.) with others present Aug. 10-Oct. 19. Single imm. birds were in D.C.,



Oct. 15 and Nov. 10 (DC), along the Potomac in Fairfax, Va., September to November (DFA, EMW, RAA), and up the James R. at Hog I., Surry, Va., Oct. 1 (BP). Eleven were at Lower Machodoc Creek, Westmoreland, Va., Nov. 9 (JEI) and five were at Ocean City Oct. 18 (PO). Double-crested Cormorant also was in excellent numbers again with a record 60 in D.C., Oct. 3 (DC), 1190 as early as Sept. 2 at Kipt. (HTA), 4455 at Chinc., Oct. 23-24 (CPW), 2500 at Assat. I., Oct. 5 (EB et al.), and a late individual Nov. 30 at Loch Raven (HK) in Maryland's Piedmont. A successful nest, Maryland's first, was found on a lake inland in Montgomery (*vide* RFR, details to appear in *Maryland Bird-life*) this past summer. A very late and unsuccessful nest was found at Hunting Creek Aug. 26, an adult was on it Sept. 5 when another flew in with a long stick, but it was abandoned on later dates (JMA). Two Anhingas were at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, Aug. 2 (JS, DFA).

Herons, mainly owing to impoundments that were either too dry or too high, formed no big concentrations. At Susq. in n. Maryland, a Cattle Egret Nov. 11 was late (EB), and 550 were at Kipt., Sept. 2 (HTA). Also late was a Green-backed Heron at Chinc., Nov. 30 (HN, GR et al.). Unique was an imm. White Ibis at Fisherman I., Sept. 6 (DFA) and a Glossy Ibis at Elkton Aug. 14 & 17 was unusual for Cecil, Md. (EB). A flamingo (sp.) turned up again at Craney, Va., Sept. 14-23 (GTH, TRW et al.).

WATERFOWL — A massive influx of Tundra Swans took place in Maryland Nov. 12 when between 1:00 and 2:30 p.m., 1150 passed over Laurel (HLW) and 1100 over tum Suden Sanctuary, Harford (EB), with 1000 over Howard (MC), while Gruber saw many thousands at Eastern Neck N.W.R. Seldom is such a big flight of a species witnessed on so broad a front, all the more remarkable because it happened at mid-week. Mute Swans continue to thrive in the mid-Bay Eastern Shore counties with big groups of 130 at Eastern Neck N.W.R., Sept. 21 (RFR, SR) and 138 at Hooper's I., Md., Aug. 14 (HTA). Greater White-fronted Geese were widely reported including an adult at Remington Farms, Kent, Sept. 21 (record early date; RFR, SR), Oct. 19 into November in Gaithersburg (EMW, WS, PO, LDB) and Oct. 5 at Black. (SR) in Maryland, as well as at least 5 localities s. of Richmond (DB, BM), plus two adults in Louisa Nov. 16 (JBB, ph.) and one at Nokesville Nov. 11 (RAA) in Virginia, a fine showing for this Region. All birds, where specified, were thought to be of the Greenland race. An ad. Barnacle Goose of unknown origin was at Fruitland, Md., Oct. 13 (RFR et al.).

Much of this fall's waterfowl watching was in the *Hydrilla* beds at Hunting Creek s. of D.C., which provided D.C. area

birders with excellent duck and shorebird activity. High duck counts there included 200 Blue-winged Teal Sept. 27, 300 Am. Wigeon Oct. 14, 150 N. Shovelers Oct. 23, 600 N. Pintails and 3000 Ruddy Ducks Nov. 16, and 1000 Canvasbacks Nov. 22 (JMA); an albino Canvasback was there Nov. 30 (SH). At Sunken Meadows, Surry, Va., 250 Gadwalls Nov. 30 were an excellent count (PB). A ♀ Com. Eider was at Wallops I., Aug. 18 & 30 (CRV), and up to nine King Eiders were at Sandy Point S P., Md., Nov. 22–24 (LD, HLW, WK, KG, PO), an unprecedented number for the Bay. A female at Chinc., Oct. 16 was new and overdue for the refuge list (CPW), and an ad. male was at Kipt. and Fisherman I., Sept. 20 through October (CRB, HG, HTA, BW *et al.*). Up to 12 Harlequin Ducks were reported from C.B.B.T., Nov. 12 (JS, VK *et al.*), and an ad. male was at Crisfield, Md., Nov. 29 (JB). A Surf Scoter Nov. 5 provided the 3rd record for D.C., and five White-winged Scoters were also seen there then (DC).

Interesting duck counts elsewhere included 240 Wood Ducks at Mason Neck N.W.R., Va. Oct. 28 (DAD), 800 Am. Black Ducks inland at Loch Raven in company with 410 Mallards Nov. 17 (SS), and 2500 Ruddy Ducks at Brandon Shores, Anne Arundel, Md., Nov. 22 (RFR). The amazing impounded area at Hart was a magnet for ducks, attracting 13 species during August, and with these maxima: 150 Blue-winged Teal Sept. 28, 175 N. Shovelers Oct. 11, 400 N. Pintails Oct. 19, 3000 Ruddy Ducks Nov. 2, 600 Green-winged Teal Nov. 9, and 175 N. Shovelers plus 22,000 scaup (sp.) Nov. 16 (EB, RFR, HK, BD *et al.*).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — A tremendous raptor passage occurred Oct. 3–4, especially of Ospreys and Peregrine Falcons in record numbers. On Assat. I., Md.-Va., on Oct. 4, Ward *et al.* saw 117 Peregrines, capturing 22, surpassing their total of 71 Oct. 3, when 19 were banded. At Kipt. on Oct. 3, 89 Peregrines, 321 Ospreys (both new Virginia high counts), 61 N. Harriers, 1096 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 75 Merlins were counted (DM, DSI, HTA, CWH *et al.*). The next day 179 Ospreys and 40 Peregrines were counted nearby (HLW, LD, WK *et al.*) while one mi south another observer independently (and gratifyingly) also counted 40 Peregrines (RC). Meanwhile on the upper Bay at Rock Hall, Kent, Md., Gruber estimated 4594 Broad-winged Hawks Oct. 3. October 3 & 4 were hot days with temperatures in the 90s and moderate SW winds in the s part of the Region! At Kipt. (Wise Pt.), Cashwell banded 879 raptors including 324 Merlins with 5 days when 20 or more Merlins were tagged, including 29 on Sept. 22. Counting Merlins captured by others nearby, at least 393 were banded this fall, close to the 431 counted by the hawk watchers at Kipt., indicating how many must be missed by counters positioned in one small spot. In a similar vein, one group saw 1729 raptors at Kipt., Oct. 4 (HLW, LD, WK *et al.*) while counters located just 3 mi n.w. of them saw but 695, perhaps indicative of the difference between the seaside (first group) and bayside (latter group), a situation that might be reversed on the next day by a change in the wind. This writer believes that because Kipt. has large areas of bay, marsh, and islands both to the south (Fisherman I.) and east (Smith and Mockhorn Is.), raptors, although highly concentrated, do not mass in quite such numbers as at less-spread-out Cape May, although just as many birds probably do pass through this area but are more widely dispersed. The Kipt. hawk watch recorded 15,104 raptors in 382 hours on 57 days Aug. 25–Nov. 14, amounting to a rather poor rate of 39.5 birds per hour (cf. 58 in 1985, 72 in 1983, 96 in 1982; BW, DSI, DRM, MA *et al.*). Very early there were a Sharp-shinned Hawk Aug. 26 (MA), a Merlin Aug. 31 (BW), and a N. Goshawk Oct. 2 (DSi). Notable counts were of 483 Am. Kestrels Oct. 2, 149 Ospreys and 997 Sharp-shinned Hawks Oct. 5, and 2233 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 35 Cooper's Hawks, 72 Merlins, and a N. Goshawk Oct. 11 (best day with 2893 raptors). Single Golden Eagles were seen Nov. 1 & 14. Nearby at Fisherman I., a Rough-legged Hawk was captured Oct. 20, not only early but also far south, by a man nearing 80 who banded 219 other raptors here including 36 Cooper's and 29 Red-tailed hawks (PSB).

Rounding out the coastal raptor highlights, for the 17th straight year Peregrines were banded on Assateague Sept. 19–Oct. 24 with 856 seen and 231 banded (surpassing previous highs by 176 and 80 respectively!), or a better than one out of every four birds seen captured ratio. Best days for sightings were Oct. 1 (51), Oct. 2 (81), Oct. 3 (71), Oct. 4 (117), Oct. 5 (41), and Oct. 9 (53), and 32 as late as Oct. 14. From Sept. 26 to Oct. 6, 20 or more birds were seen each day, for 25 straight days (Sept. 21–Oct. 15) 10 or more were seen each day, and from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, 10 or more were banded each day (FPW, WSS, MAY). Eighteen previously-banded birds were recaptured, including one from Greenland. Only a very small percentage of these Peregrines represent birds from restocking programs.

Several late Ospreys were seen, such as singles at West Ocean City Nov. 27–28 (MD, LD, MO), Susq., Nov. 26 (EB), Charlottesville, Va., Nov. 27 (MDP), and a largely albino bird catching fish at Richmond Nov. 16–26 (PD, m.ob.). Up to 28 Bald Eagles were at Mason Neck in November, 17 of them previously banded, including one from Tupper L., N.Y. (DAD), and as many as 20 were in sight at once along the Susq., Nov. 20 (RMS). Wolfe saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk catch a Mourning Dove at Virginia Beach Oct. 24. An ad. N. Goshawk was seen s. of Frederick, Md., Nov. 22 (PO). Several flights of Broad-winged Hawks were noted Sept. 14 in Maryland in Kent (DC) and Howard (JS), and Reese saw 3000 at Tilghman I., Talbot, that day. An imm. Golden Eagle was seen by multitudes at Black., Nov. 27–30 (ph.). Fifty Soras were at Jug Bay on the Patuxent R., Md., Sept. 13 (JB). Good Am. Coot totals were 2100 at Hunting Creek Nov. 16 (JMA), 210 in D.C., Nov. 23 (DC), and 350 at Swift Creek Res. (LR) and 501 at Loch Raven Res., both Nov. 12 (SS). A genuine rarity was an ad. Sandhill Crane near Cheriton, Va., Nov. 19 (HG).

SHOREBIRDS — Waders were best away from the coast for a change, one of the highlights being the high profile of Baird's Sandpiper best described by Ringler: "Normally rare in fall but this year merely uncommon." Let's start with Liberty Res., a big lake on the Carroll-Balt., Md., border. Here 18 visits were made July 6–Nov. 15. Low water levels attracted 15 shorebird species, such as 22 Solitary Sandpipers Aug. 2, 78 Pectoral Sandpipers Aug. 9, from two to five Baird's Sandpipers on 6 dates Aug. 30–Sept. 28 (five on Sept. 20), 53 Lesser Yellowlegs and a White-rumped Sandpiper Sept. 13, 14 Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 28, and 114 Killdeer Oct. 25 (RFR *et al.*), not bad for a Piedmont lakebed.

The celebrated Hydrilla beds on the Potomac at Hunting Creek were censused at least 19 days July 6–Nov. 6 (JMA, DFA *et al.*) with these results: 70 Least and 60 Western sandpipers Sept. 1; 65 Greater Yellowlegs Sept. 6; 150 Pectoral Sandpipers Sept. 9; 80 Lesser Yellowlegs Sept. 14; 55 Lesser Golden-Plovers Sept. 27; four Hudsonian Godwits Sept. 21–Oct. 5; one to two Willets Sept. 6–27; one to nine Red Knots Sept. 6–Oct. 5; one to two Baird's Sandpipers Sept. 21–Oct. 14; single Curlew Sandpipers Sept. 21 and Oct. 23; one to four Buff-breasted Sandpipers Sept. 14–27; a Wilson's Phalarope Sept. 1–27; and an Am. Avocet Sept. 27–Oct. 14.

Back up the Bay at Hart, e. of Balt., 19 visits were made to this island July 5–Nov. 16, recording 30 species of shorebirds (RFR, EB, HK, BD *et al.*): a Marbled Godwit Aug. 3–Sept. 21, one to four Willets Aug. 10–Sept. 28; one to five Red Knots on 8 dates Aug. 10–Oct. 19 (five Sept. 7); 25 Ruddy Turnstones Oct. 19; one to three Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 17–Oct. 11 (three Sept. 14); 250 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 24; one to 30 White-rumped Sandpipers on 9 dates Aug. 31–Nov. 16 (two, 30 Sept. 7); three Red-necked Phalaropes Aug. 31, one Sept. 7, one to four Hudsonian Godwits on 3 dates Sept. 7–Oct. 19 (four Sept. 7); a Whimbrel Sept. 14; Baird's Sandpipers on 8 consecutive visits Sept. 14–Nov. 9, with seven Oct. 5, five Oct. 19, and four Sept. 21; 85 Sanderlings Oct. 11; and a Semipalmated Plover and 325 Dunlins Nov. 2.

Down at Black. Headquarters Pond, normally a pedestrian collection of Mallards and Canada Geese, at least 14 counts of

waders were conducted Aug 14–Nov 15 (LD, MO, HTA, PP *et al.*). This pond was drained to kill carp, with these results among the 24 shorebird species found there: 600 Semipalmated and 150 Least sandpipers Aug. 15; 48 Semipalmated Plovers, 22 Stilt Sandpipers, and 122 Short-billed Dowitchers Aug. 17; six Hudsonian Godwits Sept. 5 (PL, EB); six Lesser Golden-Plovers, one Marbled Godwit (new to refuge), and 85 Long-billed Dowitchers Sept. 6; 68 Lesser Yellowlegs and 37 White-rumped Sandpipers Sept. 13; 75 Pectoral Sandpipers Oct. 3; one to two Baird's Sandpipers Sept. 27–Oct. 28 (RFR, SR, LD, JO, PO, DC *et al.*; new to *Dorchester*); two late Stilt Sandpipers Nov. 9; a Ruff Sept. 27–Oct. 1 (LDB, CPW, LD); a Red-necked Phalarope Aug. 31–Sept. 1 (PP, LD, CB); and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sept. 24 (CPW; new to refuge). Such quality shorebirding is unprecedented for this county.

For most of the fall the normally superb impoundments at Chinc. were either bone dry (first one-half of August) or held too much water (mid-August until October), and Wilds found Semipalmated Plover, Least and Western sandpipers, and grasspipers to be in especially poor numbers. Her numbers of waders from July through October were 61%, 46%, 45%, and 62% of the pre-1986 mean. Highlights of her 12 two-day surveys Aug. 7–Oct. 24 include: Piping Plover 15, Whimbrel 47, Lesser Yellowlegs 63, Least Sandpiper 86, Short-billed Dowitcher 158, and Stilt Sandpiper 36, Aug. 7–8; Semipalmated Plover 411, Ruddy Turnstone 253, Pectoral Sandpiper 80, and Semipalmated Sandpiper 856, Aug. 14–15; Sanderling 1767 and Wilson's Plover one, Aug. 21–22; five Marbled Godwits Sept. 11–12; Red Knot 283 and Baird's Sandpiper three, Sept. 25–26; Lesser Golden-Plover five, Oct. 2–3; Greater Yellowlegs 247 and White-rumped Sandpiper nine, Oct. 9–10; Black-bellied Plover 184, Long-billed Dowitcher 82, and Ruff one, Oct. 16–17; and W. Sandpiper 159 and Dunlin 2540, Oct. 23–24. Single Wilson's Phalaropes were seen Aug. 7–8 and Oct. 16–17, eight Hudsonian Godwits were present Aug. 14–15 and Oct. 23–24, and 10 Am. Avocets and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper were there Sept. 25–Oct. 3. The number of birds on the Fishing Pt. beach areas was also depressed.

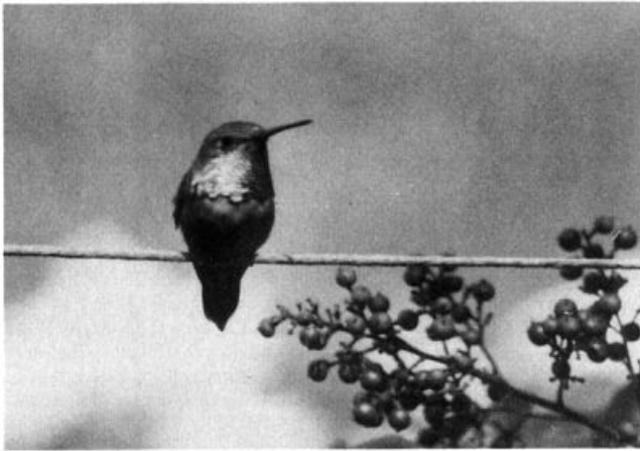
Lesser Golden-Plovers lingered until Nov. 1–4 at Hunting Creek (EMW, DFA). The mudflats at Thoms Creek e. of Mockhorn I., Va., produced 52 Marbled Godwits and 360 Black-bellied Plovers Aug. 31 (BP, HTA, DFA, GA *et al.*), and 29 Marbled Godwits, 175 Willets, and 285 Am. Oystercatchers Oct. 5 (HTA, GA *et al.*). At Craney, Am. Avocets were in low supply, with a peak of just 30 Oct. 3 (MRB, BP). More unusual were two at Ocean City Aug. 18 (CES) and one at Jug Bay Oct. 30 (DMd). A Peregrine dove on the Craney avocets Oct. 16 (TRW), and one chased a late Spotted Sandpiper Nov. 20 at Locustville, Va. (GR). The top Upland Sandpiper report was of only nine seen in *Talbot*, Md., s. of *Queene Anne* Aug. 15–16 (MO). Hudsonian Godwits had a good fall here with one at Ocean City Oct. 12 (RFR), two near *Tanyard*, Md. (first for *Caroline*) Oct. 22–Nov. 4 (EE, JGR *et al.*), and five at *Tower Gardens*, Kent I., Md., Sept. 5–21, two of these lingering until Nov. 2 (SR *et al.*). Four late Least Sandpipers were still at *Hog I.*, Nov. 30 (PB). Other Baird's Sandpipers were at Ocean City Oct. 12 & 21 (RFR, LDB), two at Craney Oct. 3 (MRB, BP), two at Back Bay Aug. 30 (DFA), one e. of Balt., Aug. 30–31 (MR *et al.*), and one to two at *Summit Hall Turf Farm*, *Montgomery*, Md. (LD, PO). Rare on the Bay, a Purple Sandpiper was at *Sandy Pt.*, Oct. 31 (HW). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was seen near *Pt. Lookout*, Md., Sept. 19–20 (LD, JO). Single Ruffs were near Chinc., Sept. 14 (SE), and at *Stumpy L.*, Aug. 2 (DFA). In Virginia a Red-necked Phalarope was at *False Cape S.P.*, Aug. 16 (GTH), two were at Craney Aug. 15 (DFA), and one plus five Wilson's Phalaropes were there Sept. 18 (BP).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — A Parasitic Jaeger was seen at sea off Virginia Beach Aug. 16 (MRB, BP *et al.*), one was at Chinc., Sept. 9 (MRB), and two plus a Pomarine Jaeger were at Back Bay Oct. 11 (DFA). Unusual for the Virginia Piedmont were 60 Laughing Gulls hawking bugs at *Nokesville*

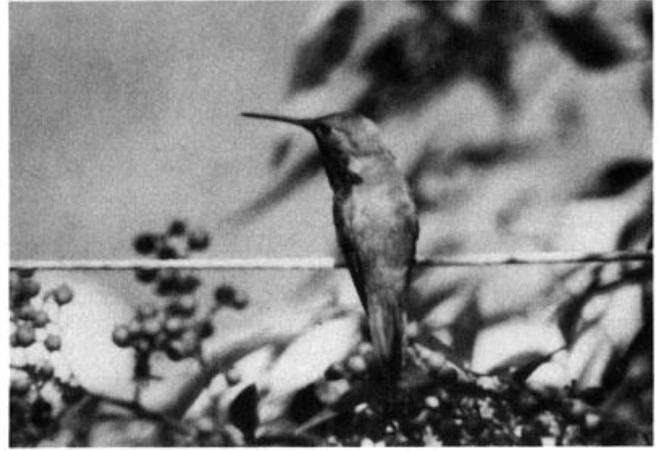
Sept 7 (KHB). Less unusual but en masse were 5000 Laughing Gulls plus 1000 Com. Terns at Ocean City Sept. 5 (EB, PL) Single Franklin's Gulls were at *Potomac Beach*, *Westmoreland*, Va., Aug. 19 (MRB), on the *Susq.*, Sept. 20–27 (EB, LD, RFR) and at *Hunting Creek* Sept. 27–30 (BH, JMA, EMW, RAA), winter-plumaged adults in each case. New for *Fairfax* was an imm Little Gull at *Hunting Creek* Sept. 21–27 (HE, JMA, DFA, RAA) The only Iceland Gull was an immature at C.B.B.T., Nov 30 (CZ *et al.*), where a record eight Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen Nov. 6 (HEL, RD; *all ph.*). The Ft. McHenry, Balt., Lesser Black-backed, a distinctive individual, was seen Nov 4 for the 9th straight winter (RFR *et al.*), three were at *Susq.*, Nov. 11 (EB), two were at *Hart* Nov. 2 (RFR, EB *et al.*), two were at *Ocean City* Oct. 4 (EB), two were at *Chinc.*, Oct. 9–10 (CPW), one was in D.C. for the 7th year (DC), and one was in the middle of the *Choptank R.*, Md., 3 mi from land, Oct 12 (CS, HTA, GA).

Caspian Terns lingered into the 2nd week of November in numbers higher than usual (v.o.). Best counts earlier were of 125 at *Havre de Grace*, Md. (plus 420 Forster's Terns) Sept 28 (EB), 76 in D.C., Sept. 16 (DC), 168 at *Chinc.*, Sept. 18–19 (CPW), 150 at *Hunting Creek* Sept. 27 (DFA), and a whopping 350 at *Hart* Sept. 21 (EB, PP, BD *et al.*). Far up the Bay, eight Royal Terns at *Hart* Sept. 7 and one there Nov. 16 were noteworthy (EB, BD, RFR), and one even headed up into fresh water on the *Susq.*, Sept. 30 (EB). Royals dallied into late November at *Sandy Pt.* (HLW *et al.*) and *Deal I.* (DC), and three were still at *Ocean City* Nov. 28 (MO *et al.*). Davidson found the only Maryland Sandwich Tern reported, a bird on n. *Assat. I.*, Aug 23. On Aug. 17 two Roseate Terns were reported from *Back Bay* (MRB, BP) and one from C.B.B.T. (DFA), plus one at *Back Bay* Aug. 30 (DFA). By local standards, 105 Forster's Terns Nov. 15 (SD, GA, PRS, HTA) and two Royal Terns Aug 27 (MO, GG) were remarkable at semi-inland *Black*. Off *Virginia Beach*, a minimum of one Sooty and 35 Bridled Terns were reported Aug. 16 (MRB, DFA *et al.*) and a Bridled was at *Ocean City* Aug. 18 (CES), the day before and after Hurricane *Charlie* respectively. Far more Black Terns than normal were seen, especially in August, in small numbers and at many localities, such as nine at *Triadelphia Res.*, *Howard*, Md., Aug. 2 (HM), and *Truitt* saw 104 in the *Metomkin* and *Assawoman Is.* area Aug. 21. A latish one was at *Susq.*, Sept. 28 (EB). Up to 2000 Black Skimmers were at *Cape Henry* during September (RLA) and 700 were nearby at *Lynnhaven Inlet* Oct. 5 (BP, MRB)

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — An extremely late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at *Swift Creek Res.*, Nov. 1 (PB) Single Snowy Owls were seen at *Alexandria*, Va., Nov. 14 (BRu *et al.*, *fide* EMW) and on *Assat. I.*, Nov. 29 (TB, *fide* RFR) A Long-eared Owl was at *Arlington* Oct. 19 (RAA, SE) and one was in *Loudoun*, Va., Nov. 28 (DFA). Short-eared Owls were widely reported but in modest numbers, the earliest a bird flying N over the Bay at *Fisherman I.*, Oct. 11 (m.ob.). The same may be said for N. Saw-whet Owls, with the first birds at *Damsite* Oct. 20 (JG) and *Adventure* Oct. 23 (MD). The biggest Com. Nighthawk flight seen was of 205 over *Arlington* Aug. 22 (RAA). Chuck-will's-widow is one of those mysterious species which, like *Orchard Oriole*, is seldom encountered after late July. But this fall singles were seen at *Damsite* Sept. 5 (JG), *Assat. I.*, Sept. 14 (EB, SRD *et al.*), and *Kipt.*, Sept. 27 (CWH) In D.C., 2000 Chimney Swifts massed at a roost Sept. 24 (DC) Sixty Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured at *Damsite* (JG) and *Reese* also found them to have increased this year Avian star of the season was a spectacular ad. ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird**, pugnacious and dependable at a feeder near *Melfa* in the center of the *Virginia Eastern Shore* Aug. 4 to about September 9 (J & RB, SK, m.ob., ph.). The vast majority of eastern records are during the late fall and early winter and in Florida, making this fellow a very early one (*cf. AB March 1979*, pp. 130–132). Nine Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were found at 2 sites in *Sussex*, Va., Nov. 25 (BP).



Adult male Rufous Hummingbird at Melfa, Va., Aug. 22, 1986.



Photos/Sabra Kimball.



An Empidonax flycatcher (probably an Alder Flycatcher) at Assateague Island, Md., Sept. 14, 1986. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen at 9 localities Aug. 25–Oct. 1 (v.o.), all w. of the Bay. September 7 was a peak Empidonax day with season high totals of 15 "Trail's," seven Acadians, and seven Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Kipt. (WPS), and seven Yellow-bellieds at Damsite (JG). Least Flycatchers seemed to be in a slump with none all year at Kipt., only two at Damsite, and but five at Adventure (WPS, JG, MD). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was reported at Chinc., Sept. 13 (DFA). Western Kingbirds were at 3 sites in early September in s. Virginia (RLA, DFA, MA, YL et al.), two were w. of Princess Anne, Md., Oct. 13 (RFR et al.), and one was at Kipt., Nov. 28 (CZ et al.). At Hampstead, Carroll, Md., 45 Cliff Swallows were seen Sept. 4 (MW). There was somewhat of a rash of late Barn Swallow sightings, with singles at Hart Nov. 2 (RFR, EMW et al.), Gloucester, Va., Nov. 6 (TK), and Hog I., Nov. 23 (PB). Some 1500 Barn Swallows plus 1000 Bank Swallows were at Susq., Aug. 14 (EB). The Blue Jay prize goes to Gruber, who had 470 at Rock Hall Oct. 2 and 4324 there the next day. The Fish Crow prize was awarded Sept. 1 when there were 844 at Kipt. (HTA). There was but a fair flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches with a very early one at Mt. Vernon, Va., Aug. 18–20 (JMA). August 23 was a strange date for a Brown Creeper in Carroll, Md., probably a breeding bird (EB). Sedge Wrens were found only at Elliott I. (two, HTA), Cold Saturday, Carroll, Md. (one, MW), these Aug. 14, and one was at Irish Grove Sanctuary, Somerset, Md., Nov. 1 (SR et al.).

October 7 & 16 were good flight days for both kinglets. There were several early reports of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, such as singles at Ft. Hunt, Fairfax, Va., Aug. 11 (DP) and Tilghman I., Sept. 7 (JGR et al.). A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was at

Susq. (Harford side) Nov. 20 (RMS). At Adventure the lowest number of Swainson's Thrushes since 1974 was caught (253) with a late one Oct. 31 and a very early Hermit Thrush Aug. 30 (MD). A total of 3890 Am. Robins passed over Kipt., Oct. 25 (BR, HTA, BW). Two Loggerhead Shrikes were at Orange, Va., Nov. 7 (MRB) and two were in Frederick, Md., Nov. 29 (RAA).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES — Most found the passerine flight very poor. There was a lack of strong fronts, but tolerable flights took place Aug. 24, Sept. 6–7 & 14, and Oct. 6–7 & 12. At Tilghman I., Sept. 7, birds passed through "like water going over a falls" with 25 warbler species including 15 Blackburnians, 30 Chestnut-sideds, and 30 Tennessees (JGR et al.). Twenty-one warbler species were seen on Assat. I., Sept. 14 (EB et al.). Hot Oct. 3 was the best banding day at Kipt., with most birds (391) and most species (37; WPS, FRS) This station had a very poor year for Tennessee, N. Parula, Bay-breasted, and Prairie warblers, N. Waterthrushes, and Ovenbirds, but caught only their second Cerulean Warbler Oct. 7 (WPS). Still they banded 3503 birds of 88 species Aug. 30–Oct. 18 in 8019 net hours including 31 warbler species. Damsite banded 1686 birds of 84 species on 25 days Aug. 1–Nov. 2 in 11,085 net hours (JG et al.). Adventure banded 2645 birds of 88 species on 75 days Aug. 15–Oct. 31 (MD et al.). "Lawrence's Warblers" were seen at Triadelphia Res., Sept. 6 (RFR) and in Richmond Aug. 20 (PB). On Sept. 7, 31 Tennessee and 12 Canada warblers were banded at Damsite, and 63 Cape Mays were there Sept. 14 (JG) with 30 the same day on Assat. (JO). A Connecticut Warbler at Finksburg Sept. 28 was a first for little-birded Carroll, Md. (RFR). Of the scarcer species there were reports of but seven Philadelphia Vireos and six Golden-winged, eight Orange-crowned, and 18 Mourning warblers.

At Tilghman 30 Scarlet Tanagers and 25 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen Sept. 7 (JGR et al.) and a Summer Tanager near Balt., Sept. 24 was unusual (BMR). Dickcissels were at Hunting Creek Sept. 9 (DFA), Assat., Oct. 4 (EB), Balt., Oct. 7 (BMR), and in Hampton, Va., Oct. 30 (WPS). Clay-colored Sparrows were seen at Assat., Sept. 14 (two; JO, MO, ph.) and also Oct. 4–5 (EB), on the C.B.B.T., Oct. 5 (MRB, BP), and at Back Bay Oct. 11 (DFA). Lark Sparrows were at Chuckatuck, Suffolk, Va., Aug. 14 (TRW), Back Bay Aug. 15 & 30 (DFA), and Assat., Sept. 13–14 (ph.) and Oct. 4 (MO, DC, SRD, EB et al.). A count of 35 Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Elliott I., Md., Aug. 17 was excellent (LD, MO). The most notable Lincoln's Sparrow records were of four in Rockville Oct. 11, three there Oct. 13 (MO), and a late one at Chinc., Nov. 30 (DC, ph.). A singing Swamp Sparrow was seen 5 mi e. of Easton, Md., Aug. 17 (JGR), probably part of a very small and isolated breeding population. Odd was a White-throated Sparrow at Wheaton, Md., Aug. 15 (GM). Eight Lapland Longspurs were at Craney Nov. 26 (BP) and one was at Deal I., Oct. 28 (PO). Snow Buntings were widely reported and on the early side, with 3 early records in Maryland Oct. 19: two on Assat. (EB, HLW), one at Hart (RFR; 200 there

246+ off Oregon Inlet Nov. 9 (DL). Leach's Storm-Petrels were difficult to find off Oregon Inlet this fall, being encountered only Aug. 15 and Nov. 9 (DL). Outstanding Band-rumped Storm-Petrel counts in that state were of 70+ off Oregon Inlet Aug. 15 (DL, BO, WI), 35 off that inlet Sept. 2 (BB *et al.*), and 16 off Hatteras Inlet Aug. 28 (RA, PD).

The two White-tailed Tropicbird sightings were both off Oregon Inlet, one Aug. 15 (DL) and the other Sept. 2 (BB *et al.*). Probably only the 3rd Masked Booby seen from the North Carolina shore was a subadult at Cape Hatteras point Sept. 1 (HL, ML, BB, BBa). Five Am. White Pelicans at Bogue Inlet, N.C., Oct. 29 (HHa) furnished the only report for that species. Not unexpectedly, Great Cormorants were noted at 3 sites along the coast in late November, with three at Murrells Inlet, S.C. (RC), the best count. Inland sightings of Double-crested Cormorants continue to multiply and have become too commonplace to list in detail, although 16 at Greensboro, N.C., Sept. 24 (HH) made a good count for that area.

WADERS, WATERFOWL — Fussell observed a Great Egret with yellowish legs at Stacy, N.C., Sept. 7; how unusual are yellow-legged Greets? That bird was definitely not a white-phase Great Blue Heron, but there were two birds of this form ("Great White Herons") reported in Georgia: at Jekyll I., Sept. 28 and Oct. 20 (PR *et al.*), and at Tybee I., Nov. 16 (DS). A Reddish Egret at Lockwoods Folly Inlet, N.C., Aug. 4 (FI, MB) provided one of fewer than 10 records for that state. Inland dispersal of waders was about normal, with few notably high totals. Probably the best inland records were of five Wood Storks over the Congaree R., S.C., at US 601 Aug. 3 (RC), and 80–96 post-breeding storks in early fall at ponds managed for them at the Silver Bluff Audubon Sanctuary, S.C. (DCo *et al.*). A flamingo (*sp.?*) was present Oct. 25–Nov. 29 in tidal areas of n.e. Pamlico County, N.C. (PJC *et al.*).

Strangely, the only Fulvous Whistling-Ducks reported were in North Carolina: one in late October at Cape Hatteras lighthouse (EB) and four at Carolina Beach Oct. 22–Nov. 2 (KK). Eleven Greater White-fronted Geese were at a semi-regular wintering site at Santee N.W.R., S.C., Nov. 27–29 (RC, CE, M & PF); and a few blue phase Snow Geese were found near Townville (JDB) and Edisto Beach (DS) in South Carolina and near Dublin (TKP) and L. Lanier (JP) in Georgia. An ad. Ross' Goose Oct. 18 at Pea I., N.C. (AB, RD, JF), was by far the earliest ever for that state. The other 2 states in the Region are still without a record of this goose. Single Eur. Wigeons were found at Bodie I., N.C. (HL, RD) and neighboring Pea I. (AB, RD, JF); and about 50 mi farther south, a Redhead was at Cape Hatteras pond Aug. 22 (HL, RD). Noteworthy duck totals included 40 Green-winged Teal and 1100+ Ring-necked Ducks on Peachtree City L., Ga., Nov. 27 (PB), and 5000 Am. Wigeons most of November at Bodie-Pea Is. (HL). In addition to the Redhead, other early waterfowl were a Ring-necked Duck Aug. 6 at Falls L., N.C. (RD), three Ring-neckeds all month in Monroe County, Ga. (TJ), a Lesser Scaup Sept. 16 at Augusta, Ga (AW, VW), and three Com. Mergansers Nov. 11 near Vass, N.C. (DT). The eight Surf Scoters at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Ga., Oct. 26 (PR, NK) might have been an inland Regional high; other Surfs (singles) were inland Nov. 10 at Crowders Mountain S.P., N.C. (PH, HW) and Oct. 26–Nov. 6 at Roanoke Rapids L., N.C. (FE). At the latter lake, Enders also had two White-winged Scoters Oct. 29, and another appeared near Griffin, Ga., Nov. 29 (PB, HG).

KITES THROUGH CRANES — Causing quite a stir in the foothills of North Carolina were two Am. Swallow-tailed Kites in w. McDowell and e. Buncombe counties, early August to Sept. 3 (DS1, LM, m.ob., ph. RR). This hawk is reported from the upper Piedmont only once every 5 to 10 years. Late kites were an Am. Swallow-tailed Oct. 3 at the I-20 crossing of Wateree R., S.C. (RC, CE), and an ad. Mississippi Nov. 9 near Elizabethtown, N.C. (PJC). Bald Eagle sightings at inland locales, particularly in North Carolina, continue to increase. When are



American Swallow-tailed Kite in McDowell County, N.C., August 1986. Photo/Robert Ruiz.

our nesting populations going to increase? No major raptor flights were reported from the foothills, but there were a few moderate flights along the coast in October. A Broad-winged Hawk on the coast at Avon, N.C., Oct. 5 (HL, RD) was unusual. Peregrine Falcons continue their upsurge in numbers as fall migrants along the coast, and 20+ were seen daily Oct. 3–5 on the North Carolina Outer Banks (C.B.C.). Five Peregrines were seen on the beach at one time at Bald Head I., N.C., Sept. 26 (DC, ML), yet the only inland sightings were from that state—near Raleigh Oct. 12 (HL) and Jordan L., Oct. 28 (RD). Merlins were encountered inland at 4 locales, all in North Carolina, and Massey had a good tally of 27 at Ft. Fisher, N.C., Oct. 24. An imm. Golden Eagle flew over Jordan L., Oct. 28 (RD) to provide the only report of the season.

At a well-known breeding location for the Black Rail, Fussell saw a Black being chased in flight by a Virginia Rail at North R., Carteret Co., N.C., Sept. 9. Two or three Black Rails were flushed during a mowing of fields near L. Juliette in c. Georgia in September (FG, *vide* TJ), and singles were tower kill victims near the South Carolina coast at Awendaw Oct. 7 & 10 (SG, CB). At least 60 Soras were heard calling from a pond edge at Savannah N.W.R., S.C., Nov. 16 (DS) for an excellent Regional count. A few Sandhill Cranes were detected e. of their narrow migration route: singles at Augusta Oct. 22–Nov. 30+ (FD, AW, DS) and near Townville, S.C., Nov. 9 (JDB *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — The year-long drought left many reservoirs several feet below normal in the first one-half of August, before heavy rains filled them by the end of the month. Jordan Lake in c. North Carolina had the best flurry of notable shorebird records, owing to Davis' and LeGrand's frequent visits. Their highlights at that lake were peaks of seven Black-bellied Plovers Aug. 11, five Lesser Golden-Plovers Oct. 28, 85 Semipalmated Plovers Aug. 11, 38 Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 11–13, single Red Knots Aug. 11 and Oct. 21–24, 10 Sanderlings Aug. 13, two White-rumped Sandpipers Oct. 24, 440 Pectoral Sandpipers Aug. 11, 31 Dunlins Nov. 7, 60 Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 11, 35 Short-billed Dowitchers Aug. 11, and two Long-billed Dowitchers Oct. 21.

Lesser Golden-Plovers were widespread, although in very small numbers; there were reports from 10 locales, all of five birds or fewer except for 13 near Duluth, Ga., Sept. 1 (HG). The best Upland Sandpiper count was of 11 at the New Hanover County, N.C., airport Aug. 7 (KK); and singles were observed inland at Jordan L., Aug. 11 (RD), c. Halifax County, N.C., Aug. 12 (FE), and Six Mile, S.C., Oct. 10 (DM). Very rare inland was a Whimbrel found dead on a road near Greensboro, N.C., Sept. 5 (HH). It was encouraging that Long-billed Curlews were noted at 5 coastal sites—Portsmouth I. (JF) and Wrightsville Beach

(GM) in North Carolina, Hunting Island S.P. (DaB, KP, DS) in South Carolina, and Little St. Simons I. (D & JD) and St. Simons I. (PM, TM) in Georgia. Just the 2nd inland record of **Hudsonian Godwit** for North Carolina occurred when four appeared at a quarry in New Bern Nov. 1–9 (BH, RB). Also notable were three Hudsonians at a spoil pond in South Carolina (near Savannah, Ga.) Aug. 30 (DS) for about the 6th state record, and one at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., Sept. 1 (JS, AS, DP). A **Marbled Godwit** near Macon Aug. 10 provided the 3rd inland record for Georgia (TI).

Besides the remarkable numbers at Jordan L., seven Ruddy Turnstones were near Cartersville, Ga., Sept. 1 (K & DJ) and three were near Macon, Ga., Aug. 30 (TI). Sanderlings appeared inland at 5 locations, but White-rumped Sandpipers were noted away from the coast only at Jordan L. and at New Bern, Oct. 12 (BH). All Baird's Sandpipers were along the North Carolina coast—at Bodie I., Oct. 5 (HL, DC, RD, ML), Pea I., Aug. 15 (JF, RW) and Oct. 11 (JF), Cape Hatteras point Oct. 4–11 (DC, ML, CM), and Bogue Inlet Oct. 24 (JOP, EP). Perhaps a record inland count of Dunlin for North Carolina was of 80+ at Jordan L. in late November (BW, MW). The only Curlew Sandpiper for the season was a holdover from summer, as the individual at Portsmouth I., N.C., in July was seen again Aug. 8 (JF, JW). Notable inland counts of Stilt Sandpipers for Georgia were of 46 near Macon Aug. 3 (TI) and seven at Clayton County Sept. 1 (PB, TMi).

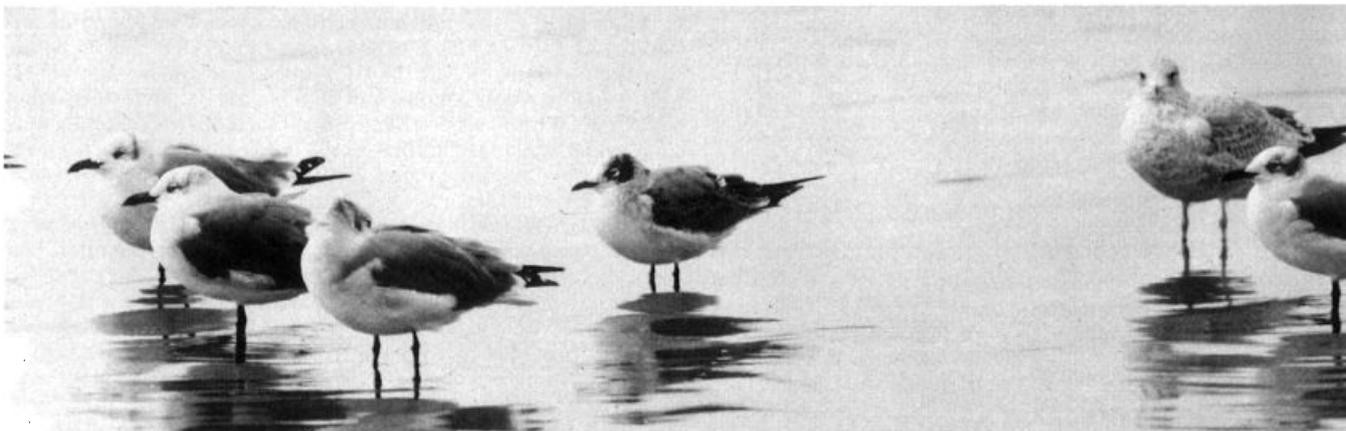
Where have all the Buff-breasted Sandpipers gone? They have almost disappeared as migrants here for the last several years. Is there a continent-wide decline in numbers, or is the absence of inland mudflats in September (when 95% pass through) causing the birds to fly over without stopping? The 3 reports were of single birds—Aug. 31 near Brunswick, Ga. (JR), Sept. 28 in n.e. Laurens County, Ga. (TKP), and Oct. 4–5 at Cape Hatteras point (DC, ML, CM, m.ob.). A **Ruff** on Nov. 2 near the mouth of the Santee R., S.C. (RC), provided about the 5th record for that state. Only a handful of Wilson's Phalaropes were reported, all from the North Carolina coast at expected sites. A Red-necked Phalarope was a good inland find at Goldsboro, N.C., Sept. 23–24 (ED), and the best offshore total was of 83 off Oregon Inlet Aug. 23 (DC party).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — As usual, small numbers of Pomarine Jaegers were observed on North Carolina pelagic trips, but most surprising were immatures that mingled with gulls at the tidal pond at Cape Hatteras point Aug. 31 (HL, ML) and Oct. 4–18 (HL, RD, JF, m.ob.). The Parasitic Jaeger, hard to find on Atlantic pelagic trips, was reported only from shore: three from Cape Hatteras Oct. 17 (AB, RD) along with four Pomarines. Lee collected a Long-tailed Jaeger Nov. 9 off Oregon Inlet, but no one encountered any others, nor were any skuas seen. Inland Laughing Gulls were reported from Jordan (RD, HL) and Roanoke Rapids lakes (ML) and at Sweetwater Creek S.P., Ga. (PR), but the rarest gull was a first-winter **Franklin's Gull**, just the 2nd for the North Carolina coast and 4th overall

for the state, at a pond at Pea I., Oct. 26 and Nov. 8 (JF, ph.). Probably the earliest-ever Iceland Gull for that state was an Oct. 15 bird at Bogue Inlet (HHa), and a Glaucous Gull at Topsail I., N.C., Oct. 22 (GW) was likewise very early. Even more remarkably early was an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake Aug. 29 at Hunting Island S.P., S.C. (DS). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported 10+ times in North Carolina (eight by Fussell) and twice in Georgia, all in tidewater areas.

The usual small numbers of Caspian and Forster's terns occurred at many inland sites, but the Com. Tern was detected inland just once. Such sightings of Com. Tern continue to decline, and I suspect that the breeding population on the Great Plains and Great Lakes is faring poorly. Perhaps the 2nd U.S. record for the **Cayenne Tern** race of Sandwich Tern was made when LeGrand and Lynch observed one at Cape Hatteras point Sept. 1. Ironically, the first record was at this identical site, but during the nesting season—May 30, 1983 (Buckley and Buckley, *Auk* 101:396–398). An ad. Arctic Tern at Cape Hatteras point Aug. 30 (WI, BO, PWS) may have been just the 2nd seen ashore in North Carolina, and another was reported offshore of this point Sept. 1 (RA, PD). Three Bridled Terns were late off Oregon Inlet Nov. 9 (DL), but the only Sooty Tern report was Aug. 12 at that hotspot for terns—Cape Hatteras point (BL). This was the best season for Black Terns inland in a handful of years. They were noted at 9+ lakes or ponds, the highest totals being of 22 at Jordan L., Aug. 11 (RD) and 20+ at Goldsboro, N.C., Aug. 12 (ED).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Probably the first North Carolina report of **White-winged Dove** in over 15 years was of one seen briefly at Pea I., Oct. 6 (RD, DC). Black-billed Cuckoos continue to be very elusive in the Southeast, with 3 of the 4 reports being coastal. Of interest was one banded at Jekyll I., Ga., Oct. 6 (TM). Undoubtedly the bird generating the most excitement was the **Snowy Owl** seen daily Nov. 18–26 in n.e. Richland County, S.C. (LG, RC, CM, m.ob.). Although there were a handful of previous state records, this tame individual was likely seen by more birders than any other Snowy in the Region. It was so confiding that it chased and caught live mice released for it; unfortunately, it was too tame, because a concerned citizen captured it by hand and turned it over to the Riverbanks Zoo in Columbia, which sent the owl to the Raptor Rehabilitation Center in Minnesota. As might be expected, many birders were upset about this turn of events, particularly those wishing to see the owl who hadn't already seen it. Short-eared Owls were encountered thrice inland, where quite scarce—one Oct. 24 migrating high over Jordan L. (RD, HL), another at the Gainesville, Ga., airport Nov. 15 (JP), and another found injured near Badin, N.C., Nov. 27 (fide DB). Atlanta birders noted thousands of Com. Nighthawks migrating overhead Sept. 5 (fide TM), and an injured Chuck-will's-widow was found near Townville on the late date of Oct. 11 (PLW et al.). The 3rd good Georgia record of **Rufous Hummingbird** was provided by an imm. male (rusty back) at



First-winter Franklin's Gull at Pea Island N.W.R., N.C., autumn 1986. Fourth record for North Carolina. Photo/John Fussell.

Fitzgerald Sept 18–19 (FP) Records of this species in the Southeast have multiplied in this decade, partly in response to more hummingbird feeders in operation in fall and winter.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — Olive-sided Flycatchers were found at 2 places near Kelly, N.C., Aug. 26 (DL), and also near Duluth, Ga., Sept. 6 (HG, PB); whereas the almost equally rare Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported only Aug. 29 at Wilmington, N.C. (KK), and Sept. 8 near Atlanta (PR). Sibley encountered both Willow and Least flycatchers at Millen, Ga., during the season. The 2nd **Vermilion Flycatcher** for North Carolina was a 2nd-year male Oct. 4 at Pea I. (RH et al., ph RD); the other record for the state was also along the coast of Dare County in early October, 14 years ago. Flocks of 200+ Bank Swallows were reported at Falls L. (HL) and Macon (TI) Aug. 30, and near Atlanta Aug. 31 (PR), clearly indicating the peak flight period in 1986; but very late Banks were one at Augusta Oct. 25 (AW, VW et al.) and three at New Bern, N.C., Nov. 3 (RB). An excellent Barn Swallow tally was of 30,000+ migrating S at Cherry Grove Beach, S.C., Aug. 10–11 (ML). An Indian House Crow (*Corvus splendens*) was again reported from the Charleston area, this time Oct. 29–Nov. 2 in Mount Pleasant, in an urban area (WP). One must suspect that the crow arrived on a ship. A few Fish Crows were found all season at a landfill near Atlanta (PR), where moderate numbers were present in summer. A recently-drained pond near Aiken, S.C., had as many as eight Sedge Wrens Nov. 9 (DS), and at nearby Augusta a good total of five Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was present Nov. 27 (AW, VW). Also late was a White-eyed Vireo at York, S.C., banded Oct. 27 and recaptured Nov. 23 & 29 (BHi). There were 4 Philadelphia Vireo reports from the Atlanta area Sept. 14–Oct. 5 (fide TM), and four from elsewhere, all in North Carolina Sept. 1–Oct. 5 (WI, RD, PH, HL).

WARBLERS — Sibley's very thorough coverage in the Aiken area turned up numerous records for many warblers considered quite scarce near the Fall Line. He had 11 Blue-winged Warblers in the Aiken and Millen, Ga., area Aug. 17–Sept. 18, plus seven records of Golden-winged Warblers Aug. 19–Sept. 15 in the same vicinity. He had a Lawrence's Warbler at Savannah N.W.R., S.C., Aug. 17, and a Brewster's Warbler was noted Aug. 30 near Atlanta (PB). The few reports of Nashville Warblers were much lower than normal, and the same could be said for the majority of warbler species. A Nashville Warbler collected at Sullivans I., S.C., Nov. 3 (PSC) was the 2nd fall coastal specimen for the state, and a Chestnut-sided Warbler was quite early Aug. 3 n. of Atlanta (TM). The first good sight record of **Kirtland's Warbler** for North Carolina since the 1940s was a very belated report of one seen Aug. 29, 1982 about 10 mi n. of Statesville (ZW; Chat, in press). Another **Kirtland's Warbler** was reported this fall Sept. 17 at Simpsonville, S.C. (PLW); there are at least 6 previous records for that state, although none in over 10 years. Despite the lackluster season for warblers, the elusive Cerulean was reported 18 times—12 from the Atlanta area Aug. 3–Sept. 6 (fide TM); in South Carolina Aug. 26 near Jackson (DS), Sept. 5 & 11 at Aiken (DS), and Aug. 9 in Orangeburg County (RC); and in North Carolina Aug. 29 at Falls L. (RD) and Aug. 30 at Carolina Beach S.P. (two birds—GM). There were no sightings of Mourning Warblers, and the two Connecticut Warblers were coastal, as expected—at Wilmington Sept. 4 (KK) and Pea I., Oct. 5 (HL, ML, DC, RD). The first coastal specimen of Wilson's Warbler for South Carolina was one taken Oct. 14 at Sullivans I. (PSC).

TANAGERS THROUGH CARDUELINES — A Scarlet Tanager near Roswell, Ga., Nov. 2 (PM, TM) provided the first state record for that month. Only two reports of Dickcissels (disappointingly few) were received; birds were detected overhead at Pea I., Oct. 4 (RD) and banded at Jekyll I., Oct. 16 (TM). A late nesting of Bachman's Sparrow was documented by the finding of a nest with an egg and a nestling Aug. 17 at Ft. Bragg, N.C. (JHC). Lark Sparrows were reported from Salvo, N.C. (JF, RW), Aiken (DS), and Onslow I., Ga. (RC). Among the truly

elusive sparrows were good finds of Henslow's Oct. 17 near L. Phelps, N.C. (AB, RD), and Oct. 16 at Jekyll I. (banded by TM), and a Le Conte's Sparrow at a drained lake bed at Aiken Oct. 28 (DS). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow seen at Jordan L., Oct. 12 (JOP, EP) was also an excellent find and perhaps was a migrant from the interior of the continent, but tower-killed Seaside Sparrows Oct. 8 (WP) & 12 (SG) at Awendaw, S.C., were obviously from farther n. along the Atlantic seaboard. Four reports of Lincoln's Sparrow were about average, with a good count of three near L. Phelps Oct. 17 (AB, RD). The only report of Lapland Longspur was from mudflats at L. Lanier, Ga., Nov. 19–20 (JP); whereas the very erratic (from winter to winter) Snow Bunting was encountered 3 times, all along the North Carolina coast.

A tally of 5000 Bobolinks was impressive Sept. 6 at Mount Pleasant, S.C. (PN, CW). Yellow-headed Blackbirds make a regular appearance along the coast each fall, and this season all reports fit the pattern: singles at Sullivans I., Sept. 5–6 (WP), at Ocracoke I., N.C., Oct. 4 (DC, ML), and Pea I., Oct. 4–5 (RD et al.). In the 1970s there were very distinct "off years" and major irruption years for cardueline finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches in the Region. Such distinctions have been blurred in this decade, and Fall 1986 continued this trend; the flight of such birds was "moderate". Red-breasted Nuthatches were very scarce and Evening Grosbeaks were uncommon; however, Pine Siskins and Purple Finches were fairly common in some places by early November. American Goldfinches were very numerous, as were House Finches. Again this fall, Red Crossbills stayed in the Far North and in the mountains.

OBSERVERS — Robert Ake, Mason Baldwin, Elizabeth Ball, Benton Basham (BBa), J.D. Batson, Carroll Belser, Rich Boyd, Patrick Brisse, Bill Brokaw, David Brown (DaB), Dick Brown, Allen Bryan, Carolina Bird Club, Derb Carter, J.H. Carter III, Robin Carter, P.S. Coleman, Dan Connelly (DCo), P.J. Crutchfield, Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Fielding Dillard, Paul DuMont, Don & Joyce Duncan, Caroline Eastman, Frank Enders, Mitch & Phyllis Feller, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Sidney Gauthreaux, Lex Glover, Fred Granitz, Henry Haberyan (HHa), Robert Hader, Paul Hart, Herb Hendrickson, Bill Hilton Jr. (BHi), Bob Holmes, Fran Irvin, Wayne Irvin, Ty Ivey, Kathy & Dan Jacobson, Terry Johnson, Nell Kirkland, Kitty Kosh, Dave Lee, Harry LeGrand, Bob Lewis, Merrill Lynch, Robert Manns, Laura Mansberg, Chris Marsh, Greg Massey, Douglas McNair, Terry Miller (TMi), Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Perry Nugent, Bob Odear, John Paget, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Parrish, T.K. Patterson, David Pearson, Will Post, Kristin Poulsen, Elizabeth Pullman, J.O. Pullman, Paul Raney, John Robinson, Robert Ruiz, Jay Sheppard, Dave Sibley, Don Slye (DS1), Arnold Small, P.W. Smith, Dick Thomas, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Heathy Walker, Charlie Walters, Anne Waters, Vernon Waters, Zora Weisbecker, Gail Whitehurst, Ray Winstead, P.L. Worthington, John Wright.—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.**



(SH, WG, ph. and † to F.O.S.R.C.). The only Oldsquaw was a female at Merritt Island N.W.R., Nov. 16+ (DK, LA, m.ob.). Last fall, Black Scoters invaded the state and over 1000 flew past the Lake Worth Pier in November. However, only 47 were tallied from the pier this year, despite good coverage (HPL). Few were seen elsewhere. The only Surf Scoters outside the Tall. Div. were several at Ft. De Soto P., Oct. 2-3 (LH, LA, DG), and a White-winged Scoter was very unusual at McKay Bay, Tampa, Nov. 15 (RH, m.ob.). Buffleheads appeared again in good numbers and three at Clear Springs Mine Nov. 26 (B & LC, m.ob.) were considered rare there. St. Marks Light had a high count of 88 Hooded Mergansers Nov. 23 (DCB) and excellent numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers were recorded at the Lake Worth Pier the last 2 weeks of November (HPL, GH).

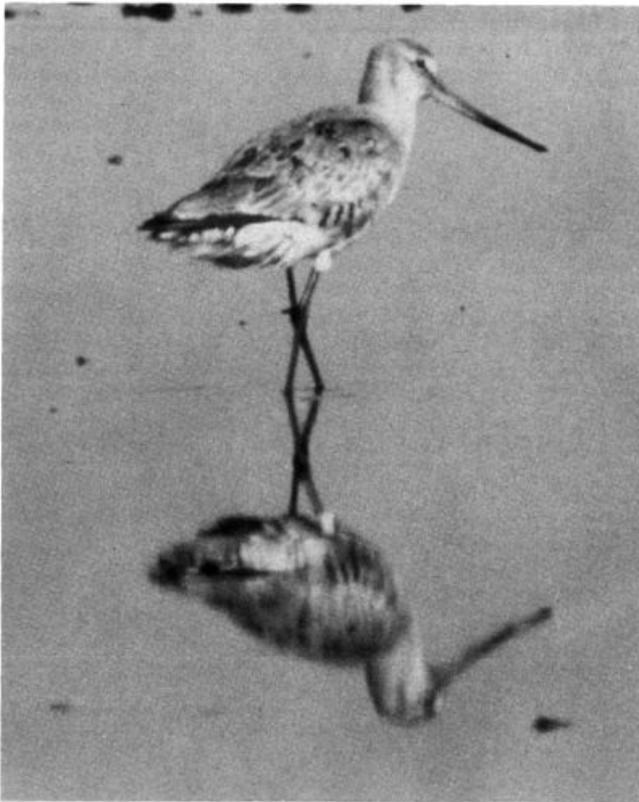
RAPTORS — The best time and place to observe the Turkey Vulture migration is November in the Keys, and this year was no exception. Big Pine Key had 123 heading NE Nov. 13 (MB), 50 first headed W, then abruptly turned and moved E over Key West Nov. 18 (JO), and 500+ in 2 large kettles moved slowly down the Keys at mi marker 99 on Nov. 23 (KS). Sixty headed S over s. Jacksonville Nov. 26 (JPC). Submitted too late for the summer report was a count of 67 Am. Swallow-tailed Kites migrating S in n.w. Broward July 28 (ER, JB), the largest concentration ever in that county (fide HPL). Late-nesting ones were still feeding young at Plantation Key Aug. 1 (KS, JCO). Lone ad. Black-shouldered Kites near Lower Myakka L., Aug. 6-8 (RD, DJ) and Loxahatchee N.W.R., Nov. 22 (PF, MH) possibly had dispersed from the recently-discovered breeding site in n.w. Broward (see Spring Report). Encouraging was a noticeable increase in the Snail Kite population. The 560 tallied were mostly at L. Okeechobee and Conservation Areas 3A and 2B, the latter with one roost of 169 birds (JAR). One at L. Pierce, Polk, Nov. 27 (TP) was outside the usual range. Thirty Mississippi Kites circling over s.w. Gainesville in mid-August (JCB) made a very high number for the peninsula, although that locality is at the s. breeding limit for the species.

Because there were no significant fronts, the hawk migration was rather unexciting. A N. Harrier was early at mi marker 18 in the Keys Sept. 13 (JO). Large numbers of Accipiters usually move through the Keys, but only two Sharp-shinneds and two Cooper's were recorded the entire period. The only large hawk movements were at Naples Oct. 19 (J & PW, HC), where 107 Sharp-shinneds heading N were recorded in 2 hours, and between Johnson and Horseshoe keys Oct. 14 (TW), where 135 Broad-wingeds headed up the Keys. Short-tailed Hawks outside their usual range were at the w. Delray S.T.P., Sept. 21 (PWS) and at Naples Oct. 29 (dark phase—PW). One of the more reliable locations to look for Short-taileds in late fall is in the Keys, especially at Big Pine Key where two appeared Oct. 27+ (dark and light phases—TW, MB). A dark-phase bird moved N for 11 mi to Grassy Key Nov. 14 (HND). The only Swainson's Hawks reported, both dark-phase, were at Big Pine Key Oct. 23-Nov. 27 (TW, MB) and Lignum Vitae Key Nov. 14 (JP). Two Crested Caracaras about 30 mi s.w. of Clewiston Nov. 27 (WG) were outside their usual range. Totals of 12 Merlins and 29 Peregrine Falcons were up from the past few years. A Merlin at Casey Key Oct. 29 (A & SS) was the first ever banded there and two Peregrines were early at Key West Sept. 14 (JO).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — There has been only one confirmed nesting of Virginia Rail in the state. However, too early to be assumed migrants were one near St. Marks Light Aug. 6 (RC) and another that had been recently killed by a predator near Alachua Sink, Paynes Prairie, Aug. 22 (BPM, CNP, * to FSM). Rare for the Keys (because of the shortage of fresh-water habitat) were two Purple Gallinules Sept. 7 and a Sora Nov. 16, both at the Key West Golf Course (JO). An Am. Coot at Ft. Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, Nov. 17 (SN) was one of few ever recorded there. Although migratory Sandhill Cranes winter in large numbers in the peninsula, they are rare in the panhandle. So 125 cranes at the Panacea Unit, St. Marks N.W.R., Nov. 7 (AD) were probably the most ever for the Tall.

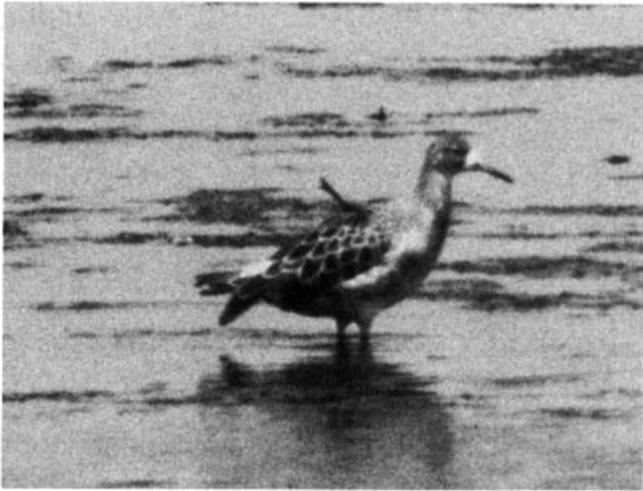
Div. (fide HMS). Four others were at East Point Nov. 13 (JEC) and 17 flew over Wakulla Springs Nov. 14 (DCB).

High counts of 11 Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Zellwood Sept. 1 (LA, m.ob.) and Duda/Bella Glade Sept. 7 (BH, EF). Rare in the Tall. Div. were singles at the Tallahassee S.T.P., Oct. 8 (TM) and at the s.e. Tallahassee sprayfield Nov. 19 (HMS), the latter accompanied by a high count of 75 Killdeer. Clear Springs Mine had the largest concentrations of Black-necked Stilts, 190 Oct. 13 (PF), and Am. Avocets, 141 Sept. 28 (CG). Rare in the Keys, an avocet was at Geiger Key Nov. 1 (J & JF) and five visited the Key West Dump Nov. 16 (JO). Unusual at Fort Jefferson were lone Greater Yellowlegs Aug. 20 and Sept. 1, Lesser Yellowlegs Aug. 2-9 & 20, and a Whimbrel Oct. 31 (DOL). Another Whimbrel was a Keys rarity at Cudjoe Key Nov. 19 (PB, HND). In the fall, Upland Sandpipers are uncommon but regular in the agricultural fields in the e. part of the Region, but are rare farther west. Noteworthy were four at the s.e. Tallahassee sprayfield Aug. 14 (HMS) and singles at Clear Springs Mine Aug. 23 (2nd Polk record—CG, m.ob.) and Ft. De Soto P., Sept. 13 (L & BA). One of the most surprising events of the season was the "invasion" of Hudsonian Godwits at Zellwood. Three Aug. 31 had increased their ranks to 32 by Sept. 3 and some remained through the following weekend (KD, TR, m.ob., † and ph. to F.O.S.R.C.). Three at Duda/Belle Glade Sept. 7 (BH, EF) and one at Clear Springs Mine Nov. 1 (H & WD, PF) could have come from Zellwood.



Hudsonian Godwit at Zellwood, Fla., Sept. 6, 1986. Florida recorded exceptional numbers of this species during the 1986 fall migration. Photo/George Goodroh.

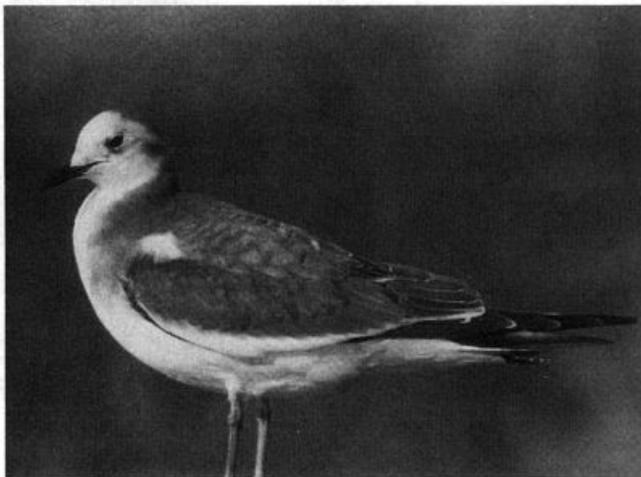
Rare inland in the Tall. Div., a Ruddy Turnstone and three Sanderlings visited the Tallahassee S.T.P., Aug. 13 and another Sanderling was at the s.e. Tallahassee sprayfield Aug. 14 (HMS). Three Red Knots were s.e. coast rarities at S. Hutchinson I., Ft. Pierce, Oct. 17 (JMB). White-rumped Sandpipers, normally very rare in fall, were widespread. Zellwood had two Aug. 31-Sept. 1 (KD, m.ob.), n. Jacksonville one Sept. 3 (RHC), Duda/Belle Glade 15 Sept. 7 (EF, BH), and Clear Springs Mine "sev-



Ruff at Zellwood, Fla., Aug. 16, 1986. Photo/George Goodroh.

eral" Oct. 5-19 (PT, m.ob.). A well-documented Baird's Sandpiper at Homeland Mine, Polk, Nov. 8-9 (PF, RP, BN, m.ob., † to F.O.S.R.C.) was remarkably late. Although the species was recently removed from the Records Committee's review list, the extremely late date warrants the Committee's close scrutiny. A Purple Sandpiper at Port Everglades Nov. 27 (BH, MG) was well s. of its usual range. Submitted too late for the Summer Report were records of Ruffs at Duda/Belle Glade, two July 18 (BH, A & MG) and one July 25 (BH, PWS). Zellwood had one Aug. 16 (JMF, LH, m.ob.), as did the Lakeland S.T.P., Oct. 25+ (SB, PF, m.ob.). An Am. Woodcock at the Wakulla R., Aug. 9 (JE) was early and furnished one of few August records (fide HMS). Two Wilson's Phalaropes at the Tallahassee S.T.P., Aug. 13 (HMS) were Tall. Div. rarities, and 18 at Clear Springs Mine Nov. 8 (PF) represented a high count so late.

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — During a 3-hr. watch, 202 jaegers heading S flew offshore of Playlinda Beach, Merritt Island N.W.R., Nov. 29 (JD). The only Franklin's Gull reported fed at the St. Lucie landfill, Ft. Pierce, Nov. 30 (H & WD). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at n. Longboat Key Oct. 23 (M & RS), an adult and a 3rd-winter bird were at Redington Beach Nov. 1+ (LA, EF, m.ob.), and four adults and two



Sabine's Gull at the Lake Worth Pier, Fla., Nov. 21, 1986. This bird is largely in worn juvenal plumage but may be beginning its transition to first-winter plumage, rarely seen in North America. Photo/H.P. Langridge.

3rd-winter birds were at the Pompano Beach landfill Nov. 16+ (EF, WG, BH). One on the beach at Delray Nov. 30 (BH) was only the 2nd for Palm Beach. Rare away from the east coast, where they are common, were an "imm." Great Black-backed Gull at Ft. Jefferson Sept. 29 (DOL) and an adult at John's Pass, Pinellas, Nov. 1 (LA, EF). The only Black-legged Kittiwake was 5 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral Nov. 22 (DD, DK). The outstanding gull of the season was a juv./first-winter Sabine's Gull at the Lake Worth Pier Nov. 13-28 (HPL, m.ob., † and ph. to F.O.S.R.C.). It spent most of its time on top of the pier's shelter, but would fly down and beg from fishermen attempting to bait their lines. Unusual so far offshore was a Gull-billed Tern 23 mi e. of Cape Canaveral Aug. 17 (LA, LH, m.ob.). Sandwich Terns netted along the s.w. coast during September were very light and appeared unhealthy, and there was a "drastic" reduction in numbers from previous years. However, Royals appeared very healthy (THB). At the Lake Worth Pier, 38 Sandwich Terns Nov. 29 (HPL, GH) and 45 Black Skimmers Nov. 10 (HPL, TT) were considered high counts for the s.e. coast. An excellent count anywhere in the state, 409 Black Terns were at Clear Springs Mine Sept. 1 (PF). A Black Skimmer at Fort Jefferson Nov. 17 (SN) provided one of few fall records there.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Homing pigeons frequently land at Ft. Jefferson (fide WR), but an "all white" Rock Dove there Sept. 2 (DOL) must have escaped from a vessel in the vicinity. Now that many Florida birders consider "Caribbean" Coot records invalid, the new game is finding Eurasian Collared-Doves outside the major colonies at Homestead and Islamorada. What would have been passed off as "just" a Ringed Turtle-Dove is now carefully checked for voice and color of primaries. Widely scattered reports of Collared-Doves came from Delray Beach, Wellington, and Palm Beach (fide HPL). Summerland Key had one Oct. 2 (MB), the first known s. of Islamorada. An adult with two fledglings was at Simmons P., Ruskin, Nov. 2 (LA, EF), and others were discovered in Pinellas, where the major Ringed Turtle-Dove population is (DG). A White-winged Dove at Zellwood Aug. 27 (TS) was probably a dispersed resident, but others at Ft. Jefferson Oct. 19 and Nov. 4 (DOL, JL, S & WS) and Key West Nov. 16 (JO) were most likely w. strays.

The only Black-billed Cuckoo reported was at Birch P., Broward, Sept. 14 (WG, FJ), and two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were late at Delray Beach Nov. 3 (PWS) and Lake Worth Nov. 4 (HPL). Good news about Mangrove Cuckoos in the Tampa Bay area was that one found at Camp Key Aug. 27 (RTP et al.) was about one-half mi n. of a previously-unreported one discovered July 29 (AB). These were the first reports of this species in many years from the e. shore of Tampa Bay (fide RTP). Another at Bill Baggs S.P., Key Biscayne, Sept. 6 (EF, FJ, WG) was just n. of the usual range along the Atlantic Coast. A Smooth-billed Ani was one of few ever at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Oct. 4-12 (staff). Another was the first ever at Ft. De Soto P., Nov. 24-30 (LA, DJD, AM) and the first in Pinellas since the Toytown Landfill colony disappeared several years ago. An errant Groove-billed Ani wandered to Tall Timbers Research Station Oct. 8 (BM, TD).

A Burrowing Owl at Ft. Jefferson Sept. 21-Oct. 24 (DOL) was one of few ever there. Another was a rarity in the Tall. Div. at St. George I., Oct. 21-22 (JEC, HH). Hard to find Short-eared Owls were at Paynes Prairie Oct. 4 (early—JM), St. Marks Light Nov. 21 (TM), and the St. Johns R. at the Orange/Brevard line Nov. 22 (CJG). A Chuck-will's-widow lingered at Ft. Jefferson Aug. 27-Oct. 27 (DOL). One of the earliest Whip-poor-wills ever was at the Wakulla R., Aug. 19 (JE). Another was early at Gainesville Sept. 16 (JHH) and one at Delray Beach Sept. 22 (PWS) provided only the 2nd September record for Palm Beach (fide HPL).

At a feeder in Tallahassee, an imm. ♂ *Selasphorus* hummingbird Oct. 22+ was joined by a ♀ or imm. ♂ *Archilochus* hummingbird Oct. 29-Nov. 25 (DY, m.ob.).

Late in November 1985 at Plantation Key, a hummingbird was discovered and initially identified as an "imm. ♂ Bahama Woodstar" because it appeared to have a deeply forked tail and, in certain light, a rather brassy gorget. Many came from throughout North America to see the bird, which spent the entire winter at that location. Although most agreed with the identification, several observers with whom we spoke were not convinced that the bird was anything more than a feather-worn Ruby-throated. Because of the controversy, we felt it best not to publish the sighting until any doubt was eliminated. After seeing the bird in February, we were positive that the bird was a Ruby-throated. Some felt that those who doubted the identification as a woodstar had perhaps seen a different bird (see Winter 1985 report). However, photos taken in early December, January, and February (ours) prove that all are of the same bird and are indeed of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Because none of the popular field guides stress the characteristics that could have prevented this misidentification, most observers were fooled by features that are not truly diagnostic. An article on separating the two species will be forthcoming in the near future.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH MYNAS — Twelve mi s.e. of Ft. Pierce in St. Lucie, a newly-accessible area of pinewoods being developed as a residential community had two Red-cockaded Woodpeckers Sept. 26–Oct. 2 (JMB), the first found in the county since 1979 (fide H & WD). Unfortunately, the development of the area will most likely cause the demise of the colony. A rare Olive-sided Flycatcher visited the Wakulla R., Sept. 27 (JE), but the most outstanding bird of the season was the first state record of **Western Wood-Pewee** at St. Marks Light Oct. 26–28 (NW, JEC et al., ph., recording and † to F O.S.R.C.). At Saddle Creek P., Polk, there were as many as nine *Empidonax* flycatchers per day for several weeks in September (fide CG). A calling Willow Flycatcher was at Spanish River P., Boca Raton, Sept. 28 (BH, PWS), only the 2nd ever for *Palm Beach* (fide HPL). Two Least were at Ft. De Soto P., Sept. 13–14 (L & BA, LH et al.) and three had arrived on their wintering grounds at Ft. Lauderdale by Oct. 25 (WG, EF, FJ). Another exciting discovery was a calling **Couch's Kingbird** near St. Marks Light Sept. 26–27 (JEC et al., ph. and † to F O.S.R.C.). Although there have been several others of the Tropical/Couch's complex, this was only the 2nd Couch's confirmed by call. The only large concentrations of E. Kingbirds were of 250 near St. Marks Light Aug. 21 (CSG), 290 headed S at s Jacksonville Aug. 26 (JPC), and 130 roosting in tree tops at Key West Sept. 5 (JO). Rare well inland was a Gray Kingbird at Duda/Belle Glade Sept. 13 (EF, WG).

Thousands of Purple Martins congregated over Disney World Aug. 9 & 19 (WF), and 1100 were put down by showers at Stock I., the Keys, Sept. 7 (JO). In 3 minutes, 600 Barn Swallows flew SW past Plantation Key Nov. 28, a very late date for that many. Thirty years ago, there were no Am. Crows in *Collier*. However, over the past few years, small groups of 10 to 20 were observed flying overhead, but none was found roosting in the county. This fall some started roosting at the Rookery Bay Sanctuary and there were 300–400 there by season's end (THB). Tallahassee had an early Brown Creeper Oct. 18 (TM). More House Wrens than usual were banded at Casey Key and a Marsh Wren Oct. 21 was only the 2nd ever banded there (A & SS). By the end of the period, Golden-crowned Kinglets were easier to find than usual in the Tall. Div. (the only place they are found with regularity), and Ruby-crowneds were unusually abundant (LH, LA, m.ob.). A Gray-cheeked Thrush lingered late near Tallahassee Oct. 31 (TM). Ft. Pierce had an unusually good migration of Gray Catbirds, including 50 at Ft. Pierce Inlet S.R.A., Oct. 14 (JMB, H & WD). Many more than usual

were still there by winter (fide H & WD). The award for best performance of the season went to a N. Mockingbird that rendered a "perfect imitation" of an Antillean Nighthawk's call at Key West Sept. 20 (JO). Sixteen Com. Mynas at a Tequesta shopping center near Jupiter Nov. 30 (JC, SG) were the first large numbers of the species reported outside the Miami area.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Rare in fall at the Dry Tortugas, three White-eyed Vireos stopped at Ft. Jefferson between Sept. 22 and Nov. 4 (DOL, S & WS). Honeymoon I. had a high count of 37 Sept. 28 (LA, AM, MW). Outside the Tampa Bay/Lakeland area, Philadelphia Vireos are rare in fall, so one at s Jacksonville Oct. 15 (JPC) was noteworthy. Rare on the e. coast, Blue-winged Warblers were at s Jacksonville Sept. 2 (JPC) and Ft. Pierce Inlet S.R.A., Sept. 9 (JMB). Dunedin Hammock P. had the only "Brewster's" hybrid Sept. 19 (LA et al.). Rare fall migrants at Ft. Jefferson were a ♂ Golden-winged Sept. 1, a Tennessee and Bay-breasted Nov. 5, and an Orange-crowned Nov. 4–5 (DOL, S & WS). Rare anytime, Nashville Warblers were at Casey Key Sept. 12 (A & SS), Birch P., Sept. 28 (WG), and Ft. De Soto P., Oct. 1 (MW). Late were a Prairie Warbler near St. Marks Light Nov. 21 (TM) and two Blackpolls at Birch P., Nov. 1 (WG, FJ). Rare along the e. coast and Keys, Cerulean Warblers stopped at Plantation Key Aug. 6 (JCO), n. Jacksonville Aug. 10 (RHC), and Colohatchee P., Ft. Lauderdale, Aug. 20 (WG, FJ). Gainesville had a tardy Prothonotary Oct. 12 (LL, BPM), and Big Pine Key had a late or wintering Worm-eating Nov. 29 (JK, MB). Rare peninsular migrants, Swainson's Warblers visited Birch P., Aug. 31 (BH, WG, EF), Dunedin Hammock P., Pinellas, Sept. 6 (L & BA) and Ft. De Soto P., Sept. 13 (LA). Kentucky Warblers are rare anytime in the Keys, so one at Lignum Vitae Key Aug. 18 (JP) was an excellent find. A Hooded Warbler at Big Pine Key Nov. 29 (JK, MB) was not only rare there but late statewide. The only Wilson's were at Key West Sept. 11 (JO), and at both Casey Key (banded—A & SS) and Saddle Creek P. (CG, m.ob.) Oct. 4. Six Canada Warblers included the earliest at Ft. De Soto P., Sept. 14 (LA, LH), the latest at Saddle Creek P., Oct. 11 (CG, m.ob.), and one bathing in a saucer at s Jacksonville Sept. 19 (PP). Another peninsular rarity was Ft. Pierce Inlet S.R.A.'s Yellow-breasted Chat Oct. 16 (JMB).

TANAGERS THROUGH ORIOLES — A ♂ Scarlet Tanager was a fall rarity at Ft. Jefferson Nov. 4 (S & WS), and rare anytime in the state was a W. Tanager at the Brevard Museum Nature Center, Cocoa, Oct. 21 (AGr, JJ). Especially early so far s. was a Chipping Sparrow at Hypoluxo I., Sept. 21 (PWS). A rare imm. Clay-colored Sparrow Oct. 6 (DOL) and a Grasshopper Sparrow Nov. 5 (S & WS) were excellent finds at Ft. Jefferson. Although three Lark Sparrows near St. Marks Light Sept. 4–30 (JEC) were unusual, one near Gainesville Sept. 12 (JHH) and another at Hypoluxo I., Sept. 21–27 (PWS) were more surprising. A Lincoln's at Wellington Nov. 2 (HPL) was in an area where others have wintered previously, although the species is considered a rare visitor in the state. A White-crowned Sparrow at Corkscrew Sanctuary Oct. 22 (staff) was rare so far south.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird strayed to St. Marks Light Sept. 18 (JEC), and an Orchard Oriole at Ft. Jefferson Sept. 8 (DOL) was one of few ever noted there in fall. Quite rare on the e. coast, one wandered to Merritt Island N.W.R., Sept. 15 (LE, JJ). Every year, small numbers of wintering "Baltimore" N. Orioles are found—usually lone birds frequenting feeders at scattered locations in the state. Why relatively large numbers find Haines City so attractive is a mystery, but seven had returned to the usual roost there by Oct. 16 (TP). A much rarer ♀ "Bullock's" N. Oriole was quite early at Delray Beach Aug. 10 (BH) and a male and female were alongside U.S. 98 near the Ochlochonee R., Sept. 16 (JEC).

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ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

Songbirds took advantage of ideal night weather during August and September to migrate southwards and most flycatchers, vireos, and warblers moved out early. Groundings by day were infrequent. High water levels along the Great Lakes and tributaries reduced shoreline feeding areas and observers reported low numbers of almost all wader species. Waterfowl (especially puddle ducks), jaegers, and most gulls were in low numbers. Poor seed and berry crops, compounded by a wet season over much of central and northern Ontario, were assumed to have triggered several sedentary species to move southwards for the second successive autumn. Among the irruptives were Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk-Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Black-capped and Boreal chickadees, and Red-breasted Nuthatch, plus several of the finch species inhabiting the boreal forests. The Blue Jay flight along the lower Great Lakes was one of the best on record. From the arctic regions came the Snowy Owl and redpoll into the south. Raptor migration along the north shores of the Great Lakes was spectacular, and record numbers were tallied for Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, and Golden Eagle. Rarities always add to the excitement; this season, they included Northern Gannet, Mew Gull, Burrowing Owl, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (new to Canada), Say's Phoebe, Townsend's Solitaire, and Yellow-throated Warbler, among others.

ABBREVIATIONS — P.E. Pt. = Prince Edward Point; Pelee = Pt. Pelee National Park & vicinity; Algonquin, Holiday Beach, Presqu'île, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* denote counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Red-throated Loons totalled 52+ in the south, an above-average number, but Ottawa and Sarnia were without the large numbers seen in the previous 2 autumns. One was downed on the Picton fairgrounds wearing a plastic beer can carrier around its neck. The bird was disentangled and released successfully (RTS, KC). A heavy flight of Commons was noted in the south, and the largest concentrations were of 375 at P.E. Pt., Nov. 8 (K.F.N.), 273 off the Cranberry marsh Oct. 12 (GC), 177 at Kingston Nov. 2 (K.F.N.), 150 at Westport Nov. 29 (SP), and 97 at Pelee Nov. 7, a record high there (AW *et al.*). Pied-billed Grebes, usually scarce in autumn, numbered 55 at Stoney Pt., Aug. 31 (KAM), and up to 50 per day at Long Pt., Sept. 13–23 (L.P.B.O.). Horned Grebes were confined to the lower Great Lakes, led by 340 at Pelee Nov. 7 (AW *et al.*), 164 at Kingston Nov. 2, 100 at P.E. Pt., Nov. 8



(K.F.N.), and 72 at Long Pt., Oct. 18 (L.P.B.O.), where they were late arriving. The 153+ Red-necked Grebes were the most since autumn 1977. The largest group was of 66 at Burlington Nov. 2 (KAM *et al.*) and the one at Pelee Oct. 13 was a local rarity (MPW *et al.*). By contrast, the only Eared Grebe was at Strathroy Aug. 14 and Sept. 21 (DEW *et al.*), bringing the provincial total to only two for the year, the lowest since 1978. The imm. **Northern Gannet** at the Cornwall dam Nov. 22–30 (ph. ET, KWT *et al.*) was Ontario's first since 1983. Single Am White Pelicans strayed E to Camden L., Aug. 31–Sept. 14 (ph. JC *et al.*) and Wellington Sept. 26–29 (RTS). Singles were at Long Pt., Sept. 27–30 (TW *et al.*) and Hawk Cliff Oct. 1 (KF *et al.*).

Numbers of Double-crested Cormorants increased again with 1500 at Presqu'île Aug. 24–Sept. 13 (J & JT), 1500 at P.E. Pt., Sept. 7 where 500 were still present Nov. 2 (K.F.N.), and 875 at Pelee Sept. 16 (GTH *et al.*). Single late Great Blue Herons tarried at Thunder Bay to Nov. 24 (LJ) and Moosonee Nov. 27 (WT). Only 15 Great Egrets were reported away from the traditional s.w., of which two lingered in the Bruce peninsula to Sept. 30 (JWJ, TRM) and one was e. to near Napanee Aug. 28 (NW). The adult and three juv. Snowy Egrets raised at Hamilton

this summer were joined Aug 11 by another in first-summer plumage (RC, KAM). One of the juveniles remained until Oct. 5 (CB *et al.*). One Little Blue Heron is a typical autumn number for the province, and this season's was an immature at Sudbury Aug 1, the area's first (JCN, MAC). Cattle Egret numbers rebounded only slightly, to 15, of which the single and then two at Matachewan Oct. 27-28 were way n. of range (LT). Up to two imm. Green-backed Herons were in Thunder Bay Aug. 30-Sept. 5 (NGE, AH), where they are rare. The juv. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Pelee Oct. 4 (GTH) provided Ontario's first autumn record since 1964. The only Glossy Ibis reported was a single at Waterloo Oct. 17-19 (R. & K. Little *et al.*). The ibis (sp.) there Oct. 15 was probably the same bird (JP *et al.*).

SWANS, GEESE DUCKS—The summering Greater White-fronted Goose at Thunder Bay stayed until Sept. 27 (AW *et al.*). Other singles, bringing the year's total to 15, were at Port Perry Aug. 4 (JLC, CP), Richmond Hill Sept. 27 (RT), Holiday Beach Oct. 4 (*fide AC*), and Komoka Nov. 2 (RP, PR). A late N. Pintail was near Sudbury Nov. 10 (JCN) and late Blue-winged Teal were off Wolfe I., Nov. 2 (JPr, MA) and at Lakefield Nov. 11 (DCS). A ♂ hybrid Blue-winged Teal × N. Shoveler was in Hamilton Bay Nov. 15-30 (WL, KAM). Two ♂ Eur. Wigeon in Toronto's Humber Bay Sept. 27 (MKM) and a male at Kingston Oct. 17 (RDW) raised the year's total to five, which is the annual average since 1980. The 11 King Eiders in the s. were about average numbers. One in ♀ plumage at Presqu'île Aug 7-8 was extremely early (ph. VM *et al.*). The others occurred Oct. 4-Nov. 30 and included five more at Presqu'île, two of which were shot (*fide RDM*), two at Niagara Falls (GBE), and singles at Ottawa (BMD), Humber Bay (CEG, JG), and Kingston (MJE). The four Harlequin Ducks were well below the average of nine for autumn since 1979. Two were along Toronto's waterfront Oct. 19 (WHN) and the others were at Pelee Nov. 7 for the park's 4th ever (AW) and in Sarnia Nov. 28 (DFR). Five ♂ Barrow's Goldeneyes were in Ottawa Oct. 26-28 (TH, BMD *et al.*) and furnished the only reports.

Noteworthy concentrations in a generally poor movement of waterfowl included 400 Am. Wigeon at Kingston Oct. 16 (RDW), 5000 Canvasbacks during November and 10,000 Oldsquaws Nov. 7 at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.), 2500 Redheads at Rice L., Oct. 25 (WS), and 2000 Ring-necked Ducks Oct. 14 and 1800 Black Scoters Oct. 30 at Ottawa (BMD). Others were of 64 Hooded Mergansers at Rondeau Nov. 22 (KJB), 10,000 Com. Mergansers at Cornwall Nov. 29 (BMD), and 17,000 Red-breasted at Pelee Oct. 24 (AW). The Ruddy Duck flight was noted mainly along L. Erie with peaks of 500 at Long Pt., Oct. 18 (L.P.B.O.) and 400 at Blenheim Oct. 21 (JW).

HAWKS—The 14,000 Turkey Vultures tallied along the lower Great Lakes made the highest numbers ever, led by record totals at Holiday Beach and Hawk Cliff (see Table 1). The species' fortunes as a breeder in Ontario have improved steadily since the 1960s. The 295 Ospreys in the s. were a big increase, of which 90 were away from Hawk Cliff and Holiday Beach. Late singles were at Pelee Nov. 2 (AW), Stratford Nov. 5 (MPD), and P.E. Pt., Nov. 6 (PF). Record high totals of Bald Eagles were noted at Holiday Beach and Hawk Cliff, and the 51+ in the s. away from these lookouts represented an increase, which is good news. The N. Harrier flight was strong in addition to having started early in the season, as 19 passed Pelee Aug. 18 (AW, GTH) and 17 flew over Holiday Beach Aug. 20 (*fide AC*). Early Sharp-shinned Hawks included 75 immatures through P.E. Pt., Aug. 24 (K.F.N.) and 41 over Hawk Cliff Aug. 31 (DEF). Cooper's were counted in record numbers at the 2 stations listed in Table 1, and the 85 at P.E. Pt., Oct. 5 also set a record high (K.F.N.). An ad. male trapped at Hawk Cliff Oct. 6 (SF) had been banded there as a hatching-year bird Oct. 8, 1974 (DEF). The 105 N. Goshawks in the south represented non-invasion numbers. The big day for Broad-winged Hawks was Sept. 16, when 38,000 passed Holiday Beach (EC, A. Weir), 6200 went over Toronto's High Park (RY), and 4125 passed Hawk Cliff (DEF). The 5700 at Pelee Oct. 2 were large numbers for the

late date (AW). Peak counts of Red-tailed Hawks were 917 at Holiday Beach Oct. 30 (*fide AC*) and 500 at P.E. Pt., Nov. 2 (K.F.N.). One netted and banded at Hawk Cliff Oct. 6 was a dark-phase bird of the western race (SF).

S.A.

The 80 Golden Eagles set a record high, 77 of which were in the south. Since 1977, an average of 35 per autumn has been tallied in the s., and their numbers have increased gradually since 1983. Half of this autumn's total was counted in a 7-day period led by 11 at Holiday Beach Oct. 30 (*fide AC*) followed by one near Stratford Oct. 31 for that area's first (MPD). The blitz continued with singles at Warton Nov. 1 (GMB, DFi) and P.E. Pt., Nov. 2 (K.F.N.), five, six, and six at Pelee, Rondeau, and Hawk Cliff (MPW *et al.*, PAW *et al.*, DEF) respectively, seven more at Holiday Beach Nov. 4 (*fide AC*), and one at Ottawa the following day (BMD). Two Golden Eagles were caught in a mink trap at Sault Ste. Marie during November and sent to Guelph for treatment of their injuries (JCN). How many of this season's impressive number nested within Ontario's vast hinterland will never be known. Hopefully a recovery of the species is underway.

Merlins were well distributed and their numbers continue to rise. Excluding the higher-than-normal numbers at Pelee, 263 were noted in the s. and another 38 were seen in the north. The 181 Peregrine Falcons in the s. were below last year's record 220. The difference is more than accounted for by many fewer at Long Point. One hatching-year bird was hit by a car in Ottawa Sept. 28 and rehabilitated at the Avian Care & Research Foundation, Verona, but, unfortunately, the falcon is unreleasable (KC). Single gray-phase Gyrfalcons were at Moose R., Sept. 27 (SM, AMM) and near Thunder Bay Oct. 14 (MZ). In the s., another gray bird was at Long Pt., Sept. 24 followed there by a brown-phase Gyrfalcon Nov. 2 (L.P.B.O.). Only 3 previous records were known for Long Point.

Table 1. Hawk totals at two Ontario stations, Autumn 1986, compared with the annual average from 1982-85 inclusive

Species	Holiday Beach P.P.		Hawk Cliff	
	1986 ¹	1982-85 avg.	1986 ²	1982-85 avg.
Turkey Vulture	10239	5347	3385	1808
Osprey	99	63	106	60
Bald Eagle	41	13	20	5
Northern Harrier	978	640	901	574
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16135	12329	9422	6974
Cooper's Hawk	761	532	882	384
Northern Goshawk	37	41	27	30
Red-shouldered Hawk	777	994	105	94
Broad-winged Hawk	43251	54556	7387	1004
Red-tailed Hawk	6762	5625	1636	2616
Rough-legged Hawk	160	91	6	9
Golden Eagle	36	16	11	5
American Kestrel	4442	2591	2470	1543
Merlin	32	20	38	15
Peregrine Falcon	22	16	12	15
unidentified	363	335	2034 ³	573
Totals	84135	83209	28442	15709

¹ (RLBe *et al.* Aug. 20-Nov. 30, 96 days)

² (DEF *et al.* Aug. 22-Nov. 30, 71 days)

³ (includes 6 eagles (sp.))

GROUSE THROUGH PHALAROPES — The 24 Spruce Grouse sightings exceeded the total of all reported since the late 1970s and probably reflect a high point in their population cycle. The only Sharp-tailed Grouse noted was on Great Cloche I, Oct. 18 (JCN). The high number of King Rails seen were likely a result of high levels along the lower lakes. Eight and one were at Pelee Aug. 2 and Sept. 21 (CML, RM), and others were seen on Walpole I., Aug. 16 and Sept. 19 (SAC *et al.*). Away from the n.w., Sandhill Cranes were distributed thinly. Five over Russell Aug. 31 were well e. of usual range (BL) and the two over Kleinburg and Toronto Oct. 6 (AR, RY) may have been the same birds. Singles were at Pelee Sept. 6–7 and Nov. 10 (MW) *et al.*, JB *et al.*.

Noteworthy peaks in a lacklustre migration of littorals included 150 Semipalmated Plovers at Ingleside Sept. 21 (BMD), 315 Killdeer and 55 Greater Yellowlegs at Pelee Oct. 4 (AW), and 64 Com. Snipe at Maple in mid-September (DN *et al.*). Among late lingering waders were Black-bellied Plover Nov. 12 (RS) and Semipalmated Sandpiper and Dunlin Nov. 11 (TB *et al.*), all in the Peterborough area, Semipalmated Plover at Rondeau Nov. 16 (PAW), Spotted Sandpiper at Pelee Nov. 16 (AW), and Ruddy Turnstone at Winona Nov. 15 (WL, KAM). Others were Semipalmated Sandpipers at Sudbury Nov. 2 (JCN), Port Rowan Nov. 7 (L.P.B.O.) and Munster Nov. 8 (BMD), Least Sandpiper at Harrow Nov. 8 (AW), and Pectoral Sandpiper at Lakefield Nov. 11 (TB).

The two Am. Avocets at Long Pt., Sept. 24 (DB *et al.*) were average fall numbers. However, the four Willets were only half the usual number, made up by two at Sarnia Aug. 7 (SAC) and singles at Long Pt., Aug. 10 (DB) and Thunder Bay Sept. 22–28 (AH *et al.*). Hudsonian Godwits totalled 296+, thereby setting a record ahead of their big invasions in 1985 and 1975. However, this season's total was distorted by no fewer than 260 suddenly grounded at Ottawa Aug. 21 (BMD, JRH *et al.*). The only Marbled Godwit was at Tilbury Sept. 11 (AW). The 21 Western Sandpipers represented a good flight, led by six at Sarnia Sept. 3–8 (AHR *et al.*). A late bird was near Hamilton Nov. 24–28 (BMD). White-rumped Sandpipers numbered 124 in the n. and 236 in the s., which are high totals. The peak count was of 61 at Ottawa Sept. 7 (BMD), and late singles were at Long Pt., Nov. 29 (L.P.B.O.) and Rondeau Dec. 1 (PAW *et al.*). Among the 73+ Baird's in the s., Aug. 5–Nov. 8, was a juvenile in Algonquin Sept. 12 (ph. RDS) for the park's first record. In the n., two were noteworthy at Moosonee Sept. 7 (SM, AMM) and another at nearby Moose R., Oct. 17 (DA). Only 10 Purple Sandpipers were noted, of which six spent November at Niagara Falls (*vide* RFA, MPW). The one at Presqu'île Oct. 5 (HKM, RDM) was a month early and arrived at the same time as eiders. Another appeared at Winona Oct. 19 (WL, KAM), after which two were in Ottawa Nov. 13 (BMD). Only 25 Stilt Sandpipers were in the s., Aug. 3–Oct. 3, a sharp drop from normal numbers. Buff-breasted were also in lower numbers, at 28 sightings. At Pelee, where 30+ are normal each autumn, only three were noted (GTH *et al.*). Easternmost sightings were at Presqu'île Sept. 6–9 (J & JT *et al.*), Kingston Sept. 18 (FA, WC), and Ottawa Sept. 21 (RAB *et al.*). The only Ruff reported was a male at Kingston Sept. 22 (JHE, PG). Long-billed Dowitchers numbered 18 at Tilbury Aug. 28 (RC, GDB), which increased to 22 by Aug. 31 (AW *et al.*). A single and two were at Holiday Beach Sept. 3 (*vide* AC) and Long Pt., Sept. 5 (RC) respectively, followed by a late bird at Harrow Nov. 8 (AW). The Red-necked Phalarope flight was strong at 73 sightings Aug. 18–Sept. 20, of which 63 were in the s., too many to list. The Red Phalarope movement was also strong at 26 sightings. The 23 in the south occurred within the periods Sept. 3–8 at Ottawa and Blenheim, Oct. 4–19 at Ottawa, Cornwall, Townsend, and Pelee, and Nov. 4–10 at Bright's Grove, Long Pt., and Winona. One was still at East Pt., James Bay, Nov. 4 (RDM).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — Single Pomarine Jaegers were found at Ottawa Oct. 6 & 30 (BMD) and two were moving

in a storm at Erieau Nov. 15 (KJB). The 19 Parasitics were the fewest since 1980, 12 of these occurred at Hamilton during September and October (KAM). Following last autumn's record incursion, Laughing Gulls returned to their normal numbers at three. An immature was in the Cranberry marsh Aug. 10 (MJB), while one first-winter and one 2nd-summer plumaged birds visited Long Pt., Aug. 12 and Sept. 9 respectively (L.P.B.O.). The 16 Franklin's Gulls were slightly more than their post-1976 average of 14, and were found at Sarnia, Pelee, Fort Erie, St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, and Cornwall, Aug. 10–Nov. 16. Little Gull numbers were down sharply at their traditional sites along L. Erie, but were increased along L. Ontario led by 15+ at Oshawa Aug. 1–Sept. 21 (MJB). Six were e. to the Kingston area Sept. 27–Nov. 2 (K.F.N.) and at least five visited the Cornwall dam Sept. 14–Nov. 8 (BMD *et al.*). One ad. Com. Black-headed Gull remained at Long Pt., Aug. 25–Sept. 13 (L.P.B.O.) and another was at Queenston Nov. 1–22 (RFA, HGC). The species' annual fall average is three, based on post-1976 data. The peak number of Bonaparte's at Niagara Falls was estimated at 100,000 birds Nov. 15 (BMD *et al.*).

An imm. **Mew Gull** was photographed at Grand Bend Aug. 27 (AJ, MS) followed by an adult at the Cornwall dam Oct. 4–5 (ILJ, MG *et al.*). Fewer than 10 acceptable records are known for this species in Ontario. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to make inroads. The 25 this fall tied the record set in 1984, and were well above the seasonal average of nine since 1976. Three at Ottawa Oct. 25–Nov. 30, one in Belwood, Wellington, Sept. 8 (MDG), and another at Guelph Lake to Nov. 15 (VM *et al.*) were the only birds away from the lower Great Lakes. At Pelee, eight different adults were present Sept. 30–Nov. 28 with a high of four Oct. 25 (AW, KAM *et al.*). Only eight Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported, the fewest since 1978. Two each were at Hamilton Oct. 26 (JGa *et al.*) and Niagara Falls Nov. 15–29 (*vide* RFA). Singles appeared at Cornwall Oct. 4–Nov. 29 (BMD *et al.*), Pelee Nov. 8 (GTH), Erieau Nov. 15 (KJB), and Sarnia Nov. 28 (DFR). The four Sabine's Gulls, all immatures, compared with this species' post-1976 autumn average of three. Two were at Hamilton Beach Sept. 16 (RC), before another showed up at the Cornwall dam Sept. 21–Oct. 5 (BMD, RJ *et al.*). A single bird ranged between Niagara Falls and Queenston Oct. 13–Nov. 8 (GEW, RFA *et al.*).

Peak concentrations of Com. Terns were of 10,000 at Long Pt., Aug. 27 (L.P.B.O.) and 4000 and 3000 flying past Pelee's tip Oct. 1 & 9, respectively (AW). The only Arctic Tern report was from the Cornwall dam Oct. 5 (RAB *et al.*). Forster's Terns were in greatly reduced numbers along L. Erie, although one at Turkey Pt. to Nov. 7 was the latest by a month (TW, LW). Only three were e. of Niagara: a single at Cranberry marsh Aug. 10 (MJB) plus two late birds in Hamilton Bay Nov. 9 (RC, WSm). The imm. Black Tern in Sudbury Sept. 1 was also late (JCN).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS — An active Mourning Dove nest at Presqu'île containing an egg and one young Sept. 13 was late (WE). The Snowy Owl flight was widespread, with 67+ sightings representing the strongest irruption in several years. The earliest migrants in the s. arrived at St. Thomas Oct. 10 (DEF) and Kingston Oct. 11 (*vide* LSF). Five N. Hawk-Owls s. of their breeding range were also invasion numbers. These were at the Cranberry marsh Nov. 21–23 (JH *et al.*), Orillia Nov. 22 (*vide* RLB, WEZ), near Minden Nov. 27 (MT), near Sudbury Nov. 28 (CJW), and Tayside, Stormont, Nov. 28–29 (GTH *et al.*). A **Burrowing Owl** at Thunder Bay Oct. 4 (NGE *et al.*) was a first for the area and the 6th or 7th for Ontario. Irrupting Great Gray Owls numbered two in the Sudbury area Nov. 15 & 30 (GW, RE), and one each in St. Lawrence Islands N.P. near Gananoque Nov. 18 (GK) and Georgian Bay Islands N.P., Nov. 24 (GEG). The main flight of Saw-whet Owls passed P.E. Pt., Oct. 7–21, where 421 were banded, highlighted by a one-night record of 181 banded Oct. 18–19 (K.F.N.). Their main passage at Long Pt. occurred Oct. 15–25, with 126 banded (L.P.B.O.). The eight admitted to the Ontario Research & Re-

habilitation Foundation, Vineland, Oct. 13–26, sustained injuries associated with migration (KMCK). Peak numbers of migrating Com. Nighthawks were 200 and 300 at Lively Aug. 7 & 9 respectively (JGL), where they approached from the w. and departed towards the s.e., and 260 over Toronto Sept. 1 (GC, RH). Of the 1155 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds tallied past the Holiday Beach hawk lookout, an impressive 304 occurred Sept. 13 (*fide* AC). A record late Ruby-throated for the Pelee area was at Leamington Oct. 30 (P & JW). Red-bellied Woodpeckers reported out of range included three at Peterborough Nov. 11–30 (*fide* DCS), two on Wolfe I., Nov. 2–30 (K.F.N.), and one at P.E. Pt., Nov. 2 & 15 (K.F.N.). Only two Three-toeds were s. of range, at Ottawa Nov. 15 (*fide* BMD) and Manitoulin I., Nov. 17 (RRT). For the 2nd successive autumn, Black-backed Woodpeckers irrupted. The nine at Thunder Bay Aug. 26–Nov. 9 were considered a good flight (NGE). The 15 in the s. were moderate numbers, and birds reached Ottawa, Kingston, Peterborough, Presqu'île, Muskoka, and Manitoulin Island.

One Acadian Flycatcher was banded at Long Pt., Aug. 19 (BC, SAM), where the last Alder was netted Sept. 24 (L.P.B.O.). A late *Empidonax*, thought to be Alder, was still in Moosonee Sept. 19 (AW *et al.*). The **Say's Phoebe** at Long Pt., Sept. 21 (JCu, KT) occurred 3 days earlier than the one seen there in 1985. This year's bird was Ontario's 7th ever and 5th in autumn. A stray Great Crested Flycatcher near Thunder Bay Oct. 25 was late (NGE, AH). The **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher** at Presqu'île Sept. 28–Oct. 1 was Canada's first (ph. TFMB, MG, TP) and was seen by many. This species reaches the n. edge of its breeding range in s.e. Arizona and migrates S through Central America to winter in Peru and Bolivia. Single W. Kingbirds were in Algonquin Aug. 13 (PDM), the area's first, Pelee Sept. 11 (KAM *et al.*), and Heathcote, Grey, Sept. 10 (MW). Three during autumn were average numbers for this flycatcher. Late E. Kingbirds were at Moose Factory and Moosonee Sept. 18–21 (MW *et al.*), near Thunder Bay Sept. 26 (MW *et al.*), and on Manitoulin I., Sept. 27 (CTB). Peak counts of swallows included 2420 Purple Martins and 121,000 Tree Swallows in Kingston's Great Catarqui marshes Aug. 10 (K.F.N.) and 90,000 Bank Swallows passing Long Pt., Aug. 7–12 (L.P.B.O.). Late single N. Rough-wingeds were at Niagara Falls Nov. 8 (RWB) and London Nov. 19 (GM). Late Barn Swallows were in Moosonee to Sept. 21 (MW *et al.*), Kingston Oct. 31 (VPM), Toronto's Humber Bay Nov. 9 (VH), and Holiday Beach Nov. 11 (*fide* AC).

JAYS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS — A major movement of Gray Jays occurred all along the n. shore of L. Superior, beginning Sept. 21, with up to 100 per day counted (NGE). Their irruption was noted at Sudbury Oct. 11–Nov. 30 (JCN), Manitoulin I., Oct. 18 (JCN), and Minden during all of fall (RJP), it reached Kingston Nov. 22, when one was found (RDW). The Blue Jay flight along the lower lakes was extraordinarily heavy. A huge flight passed Hawk Cliff from Sept. 19 (DEF) and Holiday Beach from Sept. 17 (*fide* AC). Over 323,000 passed Holiday Beach with one-day highs of 49,280, 41,960, and 25,100 on Sept. 24, 27, & 28 respectively (*fide* AC). The only Black-billed Magpie reported was at Atikokan Nov. 26 (*fide* SFP). Black-capped Chickadees irrupted S beginning in mid-September through P.E. Pt., where 200 per day were noted until Nov. 2 (K.F.N.), and by early November they reached Pelee, where 400 passed Nov. 3 (GTH *et al.*). Some Boreals accompanied this incursion, but their 36+ reports in the s. were fewer than in previous irruptions of 1972, 1975, and 1981. Long Pt. was the center of abundance with 15 found Nov. 23 and five banded (L.P.B.O.). Singles reached P.E. Pt., Nov. 2 (RDW *et al.*), Garden I. near Wolfe I., Nov. 8 (DVW), Niagara Falls Nov. 22 (MPW), and Pelee Nov. 10 (GTH). In the n., a major movement of Boreals was noted at Thunder Bay from Sept. 18 (NGE). The Tufted Titmouse was scarce again after last autumn's rebound. The only reports were of singles at Pelee Nov. 6 (GTH), Wardsville, Middlesex, Nov. 20 (NH), and up to three at an Oakville feeder from Sept. 15 (DG). The Red-breasted Nuthatch flight

was only moderately heavy along the lower lakes, although what began at P.E. Pt. as a strong movement up to 100 per day in early September petered out quickly. The 25 Carolina Wrens represented their best showing since the 32 in fall 1974. The only birds away from their more usual haunts in the s.w. were singles at Presqu'île Sept. 14 (DFB), Kingston Oct. 25 (RDW), and Demorestville, Prince Edward, Nov. 27–Dec. 5 (RTS). A late Sedge Wren was on Garden I., Nov. 10 (DVW). Peaks in a heavy migration of kinglets were of 6000 Golden-crowneds and 4000 Ruby-crowneds at P.E. Pt., Oct. 5 (K.F.N.). Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers tarried at Cranberry marsh Oct. 18 (LR), Long Pt., Oct. 20 (L.P.B.O.), and Pelee to Nov. 30 (GTH *et al.*).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS — The first autumn Townsend's Solitaires since 1983 were singles at Pelee Nov. 6, the area's 3rd ever (SW, KW *et al.*), and at Clarkson's Rattray marsh Nov. 16–30 (AG *et al.*). Late thrushes were a Veery at Peterborough Oct. 10 (JF) and a Wood Thrush at Dundas Oct. 19 (BW). Peak numbers reported for thrushes were 60 Gray-cheekeds at Long Pt., Sept. 13 (L.P.B.O.) and 3200 Swainson's at Pelee Sept. 5 (AW). One ♀ Varied Thrush appeared in Ottawa Nov. 2 (MG, ILJ *et al.*) and another settled in Sudbury Nov. 24–30 for the area's 2nd ever (ph. P & HB). The Gray Catbird at Thunder Bay to Nov. 23 (JO) furnished the latest of 3 reports during November. Well n. of range was the N. Mockingbird at Moosonee Sept. 21 (KJR *et al.*). Low numbers of Bohemian Waxwings reached Ottawa by mid-October (BMD) and the only other report s. of Sudbury was of two birds at Port Rowan Nov. 7 (MKM). Only three Loggerhead Shrikes were noted, at Smithfield near Presqu'île Aug. 13 (RDM), Long Pt., Aug. 28 (L.P.B.O.), and near Woodstock Sept. 5 (RDM). Two White-eyed Vireos in the s.w. were expected numbers for autumn. One was at Holiday Beach Sept. 14 (*fide* AC), the other at Pelee Oct. 30 (TP, MPW). However, a **White-eyed Vireo** at Marathon Oct. 13 (AW) was unexpected and way n. of range, providing the first record for n. Ontario. Record early and late Solitary Vireos were recorded at Pelee Aug. 19 and Nov. 16 respectively (JL, GTH).

The latest of 12 Blue-winged Warbler reports was in Toronto's Mount Pleasant Cemetery Oct. 4 (HCK). Rare for autumn in Algonquin were a Golden-winged Warbler Sept. 1 (DJM) and a Connecticut Warbler Aug. 24 (JS, RGT), the latter providing the park's 3rd ever. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Ottawa Nov. 10–Dec. 1 (ph. DFO, BMD *et al.*) was the first in autumn since 1983 and was of the subspecies *albiflora*. Only one Prothonotary was noted at Long Pt., Aug. 17, where numbers were way down (L.P.B.O.), and the only other sighting was of a single at Pelee Aug. 20 (WLP). Pelee's 5th fall Worm-eating Warbler was seen Aug. 22 (J. Burns). The 3 reports of Hoodeds were from P.E. Pt., Aug. 24 (JHE, RDW), and Eagle and Pelee Sept. 5 (JR, LG). Three Yellow-breasted Chats were banded at Long Pt., Aug. 14–Sept. 29 (L.P.B.O.), and another was e. to Presqu'île Sept. 16 (HS). The number of late warbler reports was normal and included a Nashville at Long Pt. to Nov. 9 (L.P.B.O.). A N. Parula near Peterborough Oct. 20 (RB) was the latest ever there by 22 days, but another was in Scarborough to Nov. 7 (EJ). One Yellow Warbler at Sudbury Oct. 4 was the area's first ever for October (GMC) and one lingered in Claremont to Oct. 21 (EP). Other late warblers were a Chestnut-sided at Red Rock Oct. 18 (AW, NGE), a Cape May Nov. 1 (S & JH), Pine Nov. 17 (S & AH), and Cerulean Oct. 5 (MTh *et al.*), all three at Pelee, a Blackpoll at Sudbury Oct. 13 (JGL), and a N. Waterthrush at Ottawa Nov. 30 (CG).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Autumn Summer Tanagers are extremely rare in the province, so the 2 sightings this fall were noteworthy. One female was at Fanshaw Oct. 5 (DAM) and a male was n.e. of range at Petawawa Nov. 2–12 (ph. VW, JMB *et al.*), both late dates as well. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager at Moose Factory Sept. 19 was well n. (MW *et al.*). Late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were a female at Virginiatown to Nov. 2 (PWR) and a male at a Thunder Bay feeder (BA *et al.*). Last of



Lark Sparrow (still showing traces of juvenal plumage) at Moose Factory, James Bay, Ont., Sept. 18–19, 1986. Photo/Alan Worthington.

several Indigo Bunting reports were singles at Terrace Bay Oct. 16 (AW et al.), Pelee Oct. 17 (fide AW), and Long Pt., Oct. 28 (L.P.B.O.). A Dickcissel at Holiday Beach Sept. 24 (fide AC) plus another at Long Pt., Oct. 17 (DB) equaled average numbers in recent autumns. A Field Sparrow at Moosonee Sept. 20–21 (WL et al.) was the area's 2nd ever, and a Lark Sparrow at nearby Moose Factory Sept. 18–19 (ph. MW] et al.) provided a 4th local record. A record late date was set by a Savannah at Sudbury Nov. 3–10 (JCN). An ad. Henslow's Sparrow was feeding two young Aug. 23 on Walpole I., where they remained until Sept. 19 (SAC, YPT), and singles were at Pelee Oct. 18, 24, & 30 (S & AH et al.). Nine Sharp-tailed Sparrows away from their breeding areas were noted at New Liskeard Sept. 18 (SM, SL), Pelee Sept. 25 (JK et al.), near Barrie Sept. 28 (T. Pirk), and in the Dundas marsh where six were found Oct. 5 (JOL, R. Snider). The only report in the s. of Harris' Sparrow was of an immature at Rondeau Nov. 1 (PAW, KJB).

Two late Bobolinks, a typical number for autumn, were at Long Pt., Oct. 2 (L.P.B.O.) and Smithville Oct. 20 (BJ, JO). Blackbird numbers were low everywhere and their departure was earlier than usual. The 30,000 Red-wingeds and 10,000 Com. Grackles at Long Pt., Sept. 8 and Oct. 23 respectively (L.P.B.O.) were the largest flocks by far. Typical fall numbers of Orchard Orioles do not exceed two. This fall's flurry of sightings was led by 14 at Pelee Aug. 14, where two were present Aug. 27 (AW), one banded at Long Pt., Aug. 5 (SAM), and one on Walpole I., Sept. 19 (SAC). The imm. Orchard Oriole at Terrace Bay Sept. 25 (WL et al.) was the first for n. Ontario. Late N. Orioles were near Peterborough Sept. 17 (DCS) and at Pelee Sept. 24 (JK et al.). Pine Grosbeaks irrupted in numbers for the 2nd successive autumn, and six reached Long Pt., Oct. 23, earliest ever (L.P.B.O.), and Whitby Oct. 25 (fide MJB). Once again the moderate Purple Finch exodus paralleled that of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, leaving some behind to over-winter on their breeding grounds. House Finches were seen migrating at P.E. Pt. in small numbers Aug. 30–Nov. 2 (K.F.N.) and at Sarnia, where 70 were counted Nov. 22 (DFR). Low numbers of Red Crossbills penetrated the s., as 20 reached Long Pt., Nov. 14, followed by 26 others there (L.P.B.O.), and 12 in the Kingston area Nov. 30 (K.F.N.). No reports of White-wingeds were received from areas s. of Manitoulin I., where a migration was detected Nov. 17–21 and 100 birds were present on each day Nov. 18 & 19 (fide JCN). Common Redpolls poured S,

reaching Marathon Oct. 13 (AW), Sudbury Oct. 24 (JCN), Ottawa and Toronto in late October (BMD, GMB), and Long Pt., Nov. 24 (L.P.B.O.). The moderate emigration of Pine Siskins was strongest in e. Ontario, where 600 passed P.E. Pt., Oct. 19 (K.F.N.) and reached Long Pt., where the peak was of 175 birds Oct. 14 (L.P.B.O.), Kent, and Pelee. Peak daily counts of Am. Goldfinch past shoreline lookouts were of 4044 at Holiday Beach Sept. 24 (fide AC) and 2000 at P.E. Pt., Sept. 21 (K.F.N.). The movement of Evening Grosbeaks was modest nearly everywhere in the south.

CORRIGENDA — AB 40:275 column 2, line 50, for Little Gull replace Whitby by Wheatley; AB 40:463 column 1, line 10, for pelican change NG to D. Graham; 466 column 1, line 35, for Kentucky Warbler change Apr. 17–May 24 to Apr. 27–May 24; 466 column 1, line 3 from bottom, delete for Lark Sparrow “and Pelee May 22 (GM).”

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Douglas P. Kibbe

Each season brings another shower of excuses, e.g., fishermen scared waterbirds away, high water flooded all the shorebird habitat—usually followed by an unbelievable array of rarities in bewildering numbers. The exceptionally wet August this year produced yet a new excuse, “green growing lawns necessitated constant mowing which in turn reduced time available for birding.” Nonetheless, backyards yielded some remarkable finds, including two Regional firsts.

A lakewatch and hawkwatches at Braddock Bay and Derby Hill yielded some exceptional tallies of waterbirds, shorebirds, and birds of prey. Evidence of Lake Ontario crossings by at least six species of raptors was observed. The bulk of the landbird migration slipped by in September and October under cool, rainy skies. The only tower monitored for weather-associated mortality yielded some interesting species, and it is regrettable more structures throughout the Region are not under study.

November brought more cold weather and significant snowfall to much of the Region. Half-hardies, already stressed by cool weather and modest natural food supplies (probably a consequence of late spring frosts), became even scarcer. Considering what followed, all were well advised to head much farther south.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS— Exceptional tallies of both Common and Red-throated loons were made at Hamlin Beach (WS et al.). Commons peaked at 3000 Nov. 1, nearly a month ahead of the Red-throateds, which broke one thousand on Nov. 28. Although both were record counts, caution is suggested in interpreting population trends. Counts based on migration numbers are subject to a myriad of factors which may negate apparent trends (witness the variability in annual hawkwatch totals), and loon counts are so difficult to make (and so seldom made) that even record numbers may reflect anything but population increases. Regardless of their significance, the numbers are impressive, and future monitoring is highly desirable. Grebes were much less abundant; 120 Horned Grebes furnished the best count on L. Ontario (CC, NB), while fewer than 2 dozen Pied-billeded at Montezuma N.W.R. topped all other areas. An **Eared Grebe**, very rare in the Region, was found at Oswego, N.Y., in late November (FS).

A fall count of 267 Double-crested Cormorants at Sandy Pond was the best of several tallies which would have raised eyebrows a few years ago, before Regional breeding populations exploded. Great Cormorants were reported from Rochester (fide RS), Island Pond (WE, NM), and Herricks Cove (WN), indicating some observers are not casually passing all cormorants off as Double-crested. An American Bittern at Montezuma N.W.R. (fide C.B.C.) Nov. 2 was somewhat late. A canoe trip on Cranberry Pond Aug. 2 yielded a “Cory’s” (dark-phase) Least Bittern (BK). Since most reports of the species are of birds heard rather than seen, the status of this “rare” color morph anywhere in this country is a mystery; few regional texts even acknowledge its occurrence.

An exceptional concentration of Great Blue Herons was observed in the vicinity of Upper and Lower Lakes W.M.A. Some 200 were tallied as they headed W in groups of up to one dozen (LW, fide LC). No influx of southern herons occurred although single ibises (presumably Glossy) were recorded at Middlesex, Vt. (MM), and over Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary (fide C.B.C.), and there was an intriguing report of 75 white egrets at a beaver pond in the St. Regis Indian Reservation in August (fide JP). Solitary Snowy Egrets were spotted at the South Slang in Ad-



dison, Vt. (J & MD), and Oneonta (fide JL) and Perinton, N.Y. (JT et al.). Peak count (14+) of Great Egrets occurred at Montezuma N.W.R. (C.B.C.). Vermonters hosted up to five at Dead Creek W.M.A.

SWANS THROUGH EAGLES— Mute Swans normally give little evidence of northward post-breeding wandering, but the occurrence of one to two birds on the Connecticut R. near Rockingham suggests this may occur. Of course there is always a possibility the birds were local releases. As usual the Tundra Swan flight was strongest in w. New York, as evidenced by the top tally of 400 at Mayville. Overall the waterfowl flight this fall drew few accolades. Some of the better counts reported included 30,000 Canada Geese in the Champlain Valley (JW), 2016 Wood Ducks on Toad Harbor Sept. 28 (FS), 150 Green-winged Teal at Swanton, Vt. (RL), 300 N. Pintail on L. Ontario w. of Rochester Sept. 27 (RS et al.), 11,250 Ring-necked Ducks at Missisquoi N.W.R. in October (JG), 3500 Greater Scaup off Durand Nov. 15 (RO, RS), 8000 Canvasbacks in Missisquoi Bay on L. Champlain (JG), 476 Hooded Mergansers at Sodus Bay Nov. 15 (DT), and a half-hour count of 2075 Red-breasted Mergansers past Hamlin Nov. 14 (CC, NB). The preponderance of high counts from c. New York highlights both the importance of this portion of our Region to migrant waterfowl and the regularity with which that area’s observers make comprehensive counts. In addition to the normal smattering of King Eiders, three Harlequin Ducks buzzed Dunkirk Harbor and another was found at Nine Mile Point (FS). There were two exceptional waterfowl reports: three **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** (two shot) at Oak Orchard/Iroquois W.M.A. (fide RS), and a Com. Eider on Maidstone L., July 7 through Aug. 25 (KW et al.). If correct, the latter sighting is all the more remarkable by virtue of its timing, although there is another Vermont sighting in July.

While fall hawk watches in this Region are not manned with the vigor that typifies spring watches, considerable monitoring of raptor movements does occur. Braddock Bay, famous as a spring concentration point, received extensive coverage in August, and various peaks in Vermont were manned sporadically. Observers along L. Ontario recorded Merlin, N. Harrier, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon crossing the lake. All 2075 raptors (including 1782 Red-tailed Hawks and 273 Broad-winged Hawks) recorded at Braddock Bay in August were judged immatures. Clearly these species are not migrating in family groups. Top Vermont tallies included 243 Broad-wingeds Sept. 13 over Mt. Philo, 254 Red-taileds Sept. 17 & 18 at Fuller Mt., two Golden Eagles at Manchester (TH) and another at Benson (PT), and 17 Ospreys Sept. 21 in 4 hours (J & MD). The latter species was noted through Sept. 10 at the South Slang nesting area although no young were seen. The 16 young Bald Eagles released at Alcove Res. this summer swelled the total number hacked over the past 11 years to 166. Watch for breeding at Montezuma N.W.R. next spring following courtship activity there this fall!

PHEASANT THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Ring-necked Pheasant numbers have declined dramatically over the past decade. The decline has apparently spurred New York State's interest in reviving the nearly-defunct, antiquated, and hopelessly cost-inefficient system of put and take game farming. How, for example, one justifies release of over 1000 Ring-necked Pheasants (at \$7 per bird) for hunters in areas where there are no established populations (and presumably no pheasant hunters) is somewhat obscure. All Gray Partridges were seen in the n. end of the Champlain Valley at Missisquoi N.W.R. and on Grand Isle. Spruce Grouse were unreported. Northern Bobwhites, apparently as a result of releases by local sportsmen, showed up at several locations. Even a Chukar was found in W. Newburg, Vt.

The shorebird flight was abysmal in the eyes of many veteran observers. Weather, absence of habitat, and reproductive failure were among the reasons postulated for apparent scarcities. On the other hand, no one explained the record flight (212) of Whimbrels that cruised by Derby Hill (GS), or the two Willets and 200 Lesser Yellowlegs at Montezuma N.W.R. Vermont was graced with two Willets, one at St. Albans Sept. 14 (JC) and another at Alburg Oct. 26 (RL). Up to 17 Stilt Sandpipers were at Montezuma (WL, MAS) plus eight Baird's Sandpipers (CC, NB) and at least one Hudsonian Godwit in September. All the phalaropes were reported in better-than-usual numbers, thanks in large part to the Braddock Bay lakewatch. Red Phalaropes were particularly well reported, even in Vermont. Better coverage of L. Champlain has clarified the status of Purple Sandpipers in Vermont. At least three were found this fall, two at the mouth of the Winsoski Nov. 2 (JM) and one on Rock I. in St. Albans Bay Oct. 26 (RL).

LARIDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — The jaeger flight was unspectacular this fall. Only a handful of Parasitics and one Pomarine were identified, all on L. Ontario, the last Parasitic Nov. 16. The near-absence of Pomarines and general scarcity of Parasitics was unexpected given recent trends in occurrence and observer coverage. Gulls were more cooperative, nearly all the usual rarities appearing on L. Erie, L. Ontario, or the Niagara River. Rochester hosted an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull on Long Pond (KG) and an imm. Tayer's Gull on Irondequoit Bay (FN) in August, but failed to produce more than a modest showing of Little Gulls prior to the season's close. The Niagara frontier was more fortunate with up to one-half dozen Little Gulls, two Franklin's, a Com. Black-headed Gull, a Black-legged Kittiwake, and a **Sabine's Gull** by November (B.O.S.). Vermonters finally spotted the previously predicted flight of Little Gulls. From two to eight were found on L. Champlain between Oct. 5 and Nov. 7 (RL, WE *et al.*).

The tern flight was generally poor. Forster's put in the worst showing with a high count of six. Two young Com. Nighthawks were banded in the "nest" on the rather late date of Aug. 6 in Vestal (LB).

A strong flight of Snowy Owls heightened hopes that a major influx of other northern raptors would develop. One Short-eared Owl was noted migrating across L. Ontario. Other owls were even more poorly reported than usual. A late September report of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher brought up the question of whether various western species were considered and eliminated when the identification was made. The presence in New York of single **Western Kingbirds** at Dryden Aug. 6 (DE, *fide* C.B.C.) and Greece Sept. 12 (KG), and of a **Say's Phoebe** at Savoy Pond Oct. 23 (FS), highlighted the potential for western vagrants to appear in our Region (presumably enroute to Atlantic coast areas where their occurrence as late-season stragglers is well documented). Lacking good natural fall landbird migration traps, Regional observers stand little chance of finding most of the rarities that pass through.

SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES — While the bulk of the swallows pass through before the season officially starts—e.g., 15,000 Bank Swallows tallied along the L. Ontario shore

July 12—at least two N Rough-wingeds lingered at Niagara Falls into November. The last sighting there was Nov. 8 (B.O.S.). Fish Crows continue at Ithaca. There have been no assessments regarding the dynamics of this isolated population, although more than 12 years have passed since its initial discovery. Common Ravens continue to be sighted in Allegany County and one was found at Webster Sept. 9 (SS). Whether the Appalachian population is the source of all sightings in w. New York is unknown but it, like the Adirondack and Green Mountain populations, certainly appears to be thriving. A very good description was received of the Region's first **Steller's Jay** at a Topsham, Vt., feeder Oct. 20 (EM), and New Yorkers got their first **Rock Wren** when it appeared in a Fredonia backyard Nov. 29 & 30 (TM, m.ob.). The latter species is surprisingly rare in e. North America considering its breeding range and its frequent occurrence on migration in plains areas well removed from suitable breeding habitat. Inobtrusive when not breeding, doubtless most stragglers elude discovery. The same can be said for Sedge and Marsh wrens, whose post-breeding behavior is poorly known. Consequently, the Oct. 16 sighting of a Sedge Wren at Burgeson Nature Sanctuary and the Nov. 29 Marsh Wren at Tonawanda W.M.A. (B.O.S.) were not unexpected, although there are few comparable records. A very late Swainson's Thrush was found in Ithaca Nov. 13 (MS, *fide* C.B.C.). The top Eastern Bluebird tally, 45, came from Amity Lake (VP), where some 121 young were fledged this summer. Waxwings were scarce, as were many fruits and berries following this spring's late frosts.

S.A.

About the only way an observer is likely to encounter a White-eyed Vireo after the breeding season is if it is caught in a mist-net. Banders at Braddock Bay were so blessed, netting one on the record late date of Oct. 29 (EB, WS). Banding stations and tower kills contribute such a disproportionate portion of the skulking, hard-to-identify rarities (e.g., Orange-crowned and Connecticut warblers, and Lincoln's Sparrow) that one must conclude that field observations of relative abundance are severely biased towards conspicuous species.

The Colden Tower yielded four Philadelphia Vireos Oct. 2, late for so many, and one was banded Oct. 9 at V.I.N.S. A very late Hooded Warbler was identified at Tift Farm Nature Preserve Oct. 5. A Prothonotary Warbler Sept. 6 in the Cayuga Lake basin (*fide* C.B.C.) furnished a rare fall sighting. Unusual in Vermont at any season, a Cerulean Warbler at Winhall Sept. 3 (WN) was exceptionally late. A Connecticut Warbler there Sept. 15 (WN) apparently provided the only record from Vermont this fall. Fewer warblers than usual were tardy this fall, a Blackburnian Nov. 9 on Goat I. near Niagara Falls (*fide* B.O.S.) being a noteworthy exception.

At least two **Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were discovered at Hogan Pt. near Rochester in late September and early October (MD *et al.*). How many might be mist-netted in similar habitats in w. New York is anyone's guess. Concentrations of Bobolinks often go unreported in fall. Exceptional tallies were of 300 at Dead Creek W.M.A., Aug. 25 (J & MD) and 1500 near Ithaca Aug. 7 (PM). Montezuma N.W.R. hosted a quarter of a million blackbirds Nov. 2 (WL, MAS), while 1300 Brown-headed Cowbirds inundated one Hamlin lawn Nov. 13 (FD). A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird was discovered in Hamlin (RO). Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and both crossbills were widely scattered, raising hopes of another finch invasion. Meanwhile, House Finches dominated most feeders. At Middleburg, Vt., a pair that fledged a brood in early August was observed gathering nest material the following month. Small wonder we're being overrun!

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It was a pleasant season, as far as the weather goes, but the birding was not especially spectacular. As the following account shows there were about the usual numbers of rare birds, but the normal birds of the Region staged only a fairly average flight.

At the Pittsburgh weather station, August and November were cooler than normal but September and October were warmer. August through October were much drier than usual, but November had heavy rainfall with an excess of almost 4 inches. Other localities had similar weather except that the long-standing drought in eastern Tennessee was broken in September. There were few hard frosts and only the extreme north had had any snow by the end of the period.

The prolonged drought in the south had dried up most of the ponds and marshes, but at the other end of the scale Lake Erie had its highest water levels in recent years, adversely affecting both waterfowl and shorebirds.

As in every fall season, many of the data came from the banding operations, particularly the two big operations, Powdermill Nature Reserve and Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, that have become a regular feature of the season. Other stations operated at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, and at Austin Springs and Norris, Tennessee. The season at Powdermill was an average one with 7216 bandings, while the Allegheny Front had a very good year with 8778 birds banded. Other numbers were 741 at Presque Isle, 618 (second best) at Austin Springs, and 511 at Norris.

The migration got underway rather early, with good warbler flights in mid-August, and a number of species arrived at early dates. At the other end the mild weather produced some late dates for many species. There were no pronounced frontal systems and hence no pronounced waves of birds, although a great influx of waterfowl was noted in eastern Tennessee in early November. The peak day of bandings at Allegheny Front Migration Observatory was September 26, with 670 birds handled.

Hawk watching continues to be a major fall activity in the Region, and hawk observers see many other species. For example, on one day at Rockfish Gap in Virginia, besides the raptors, 27 Snow Geese, 2000 Cedar Waxwings, and 18,000 American Robins were tallied (fide RS).

ABBREVIATIONS — A.F.M.O. = Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant/Tucker counties, W. Va.; B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., Pa.; Ch.N.F. = Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest, Ga.; E.B.F.H. = Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, Tenn.; G.S.M.N.P. = Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., Pa.; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., Pa. Place names in italics are counties.



LOONS THROUGH IBISES — The only reports of Red-throated Loons came from P.I.S.P., Nov. 9 (BS) & 11 (JM). The Com. Loon flight was excellent with numerous sightings coming from all over the Region. The more interesting included an unusually early report Aug. 16 at Asheville, N.C. (RY), a count of 28 flying past the Tuscarora Mt., Pa., hawk watching station on Nov. 30 (CG), large flocks in Rowan, Ky., in mid-November (BA, RMo), up to 100 at Allegheny Res., Warren, Pa. (JH), and 400+ at Watauga L., Tenn., Nov. 12 (RK). Horned Grebes were more common than in recent years, and a total of 75 was seen at Cave Run L., Rowan, Ky., Nov. 29 (BA). The only report of Red-necked Grebe came from P.I.S.P. where at least four were present Nov. 8-16 (JM).

The Double-crested Cormorant boom continued with reports of good numbers throughout the Region. At P.I.S.P., numbers continued to increase (JM), and 170 were seen Nov. 12 on Watauga L., Tenn. (RK).

Bitterns are rarely reported in this Region so records of Am. Bitterns from Titusville, Pa., Aug. 2 (RFL), Fishersville, Va., Sept. 28 (SR), Murray, Ga., Sept. 17 (HD), Carter L., Ga., Nov. 10 (JD), Union, Tenn., Oct. 24-26 (fide CN), Tellico L., Tenn., Nov. 16 (CN), and P.I.S.P., Oct. 14 (DF) & 18 (LS) were of interest. Least Bitterns were seen at P.I.S.P., Aug. 7-Sept. 7 (JM), at Hendersonville, N.C., Aug. 19-24 (DM), and at Fishersville, Va., Sept. 28 (SR). Great Egrets were widely reported and were in about normal numbers for the fall. The only reports of Snowy Egrets came from Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 6 (RK) and State College, Pa., Oct. 25, for the latest local record (HH). Little Blue Herons were seen in Erie, Pa., Sept. 9 (RSt), E.B.F.H., Tenn., through Aug. 6 (CN, LF), and Douglas L., Tenn., Aug. 3 and

Sept 6 (JK) A Cattle Egret was seen at Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept. 13 (RK) and several were present at Stuart's Draft, Va., Aug. 13–Nov. 10 (YL, RS).

An ad. White Ibis was at Pittsburgh Aug. 12 for the 2nd w. Pennsylvania record (LC), and one was seen at Salem, Va., Nov. 26 (PSP). Glossy Ibises were present at P.I.S.P., Oct. 4, providing the 2nd fall record there (JM, DF), and at Roanoke, Va., Nov. 3–5 (MD).

WATERFOWL — Few reporters commented on the overall status of waterfowl. It would appear that the flight was generally poor, but that some unusual counts were made locally. In the Elizabethton, Tenn., area a cold snap produced an unprecedented influx of waterfowl Nov. 11–14 and local observers recorded 20 species, most in good numbers. On Nov. 12 the Tussey Mt., Pa., hawkwatch station counted 1000 Tundra Swans and 1600 Snow Geese flying past (TD).

The outstanding record was of a group of three **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** at Fishersville, Va., Oct. 25 (SR). Tundra Swans were widely reported, even as far s. as Boone L., Tenn. Nov. 12, but the only great concentration reported was near Johnstown, Pa., where "several thousand" occurred in early November (TD). Mute Swans were seen in Warren, Pa., Sept. 1 (WH) and Botetourt, Va., Oct. 30–Nov. 2 (BK, BH, MD). A Greater White-fronted Goose was seen at Mosquito Lake S.P., O., Oct. 19–Nov. 30 (ph. CB). Unusually early were Snow Geese at B.E.S.P., Sept. 20–28 (CH, HH). Twenty-seven were seen in one day from the hawkwatch at Rockfish Gap on the Blue Ridge (fide RS). Other reports came from Pymatuning L., Pa., Oct. 27 (RFL, ML), Cave Run L., Ky., Nov. 29 (BA), and Carter L., Ga., Nov. 16 (fide HD). The Canada Goose population at Pymatuning L. increased up to 12,000 on Nov. 12 (RFL). Elsewhere the numbers were good although it becomes more and more difficult to separate wild populations from the semi-domesticated ones.

Some noteworthy numbers for this Region were: 40 N. Shovelers in Westmoreland, Pa., Oct. 5 (E & MWa); 40 ♂ Canvasbacks at Somerset L., Pa., and 2000 Com. Goldeneyes at Pymatuning L., Nov. 22 (ML, RFL). The only reports of Surf Scoters came from P.I.S.P., where up to five were seen from Oct. 18 to Nov. 30 (JM, LS) and from B.E.S.P., Nov. 5 (CS). The usually rare Black Scoter was reported from 5 locations: P.I.S.P., Nov. 11–30 (JM), Pymatuning L., Nov. 30 (RFL), Bakersville, Pa. (picked up on the highway moribund), Nov. 8 (fide RCL, RM), East Liverpool, O., Nov. 3–5 (DSt, NL), and Boone L., Tenn., Nov. 11 (RK), the latter furnishing the first e. Tennessee record. The White-winged Scoter, usually the most common of the three, was found at P.I.S.P., Oct. 18 to end (JM), Latrobe, Pa., Nov. 10 (GR), L. Arthur, Pa., Nov. 6 (MG, BSt), Fishersville, Va., Oct. 30–Nov. 5 (SR), and Boone L., Tenn., Nov. 14 (RK).

RAPTORS — Organized hawk watching was carried out at 7 stations that reported (several other known stations submitted no report), and the results were mixed. Hanging Rock, W. Va., had its 2nd-best year with 5629 birds (GH); East River Mt., W. Va., had the best numbers since 1974 of Ospreys, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Am. Kestrels (JP); and Rockfish Gap listed 34,191 birds (YL).

Ospreys were reported in unusually good numbers, and not all of these were from the lookouts. A count of 36 Sept. 30 at Tuscarora Mt., Pa., was noteworthy (CG). An Am. Swallow-tailed Kite was seen near Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 19–28 (m.ob.), and two were present in McDowell, N.C., Aug. 1–Sept. 3 (RR). There were reports of 49 Bald Eagles from 19 locations throughout the Region with a season's count of 11 at Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG). At Rockfish Gap, Va., on the Blue Ridge, 159 N. Harriers were recorded (YL). The Sharp-shinned Hawk flight was generally good with 218 at Hanging Rock, W. Va. (GH), 268 at Bald Eagle Mt., Pa. (JPe), and 3644 at Rockfish Gap, 509 of these Oct. 4 (YL). While 3 records of N. Goshawk came from the lookout on Bald Eagle Mt. (JPe), all other reports were from the lowlands: Colyer L., Pa., Aug. 7 (ES), Allegheny, Pa., Aug. 31 (PH), Henderson, N. C., Sept. 8 (JY), P.I.S.P., Sept. 21 (JM)

and Nov. 26 (RSt), and Tiona, Pa., Nov. 3 (DW). The two August reports were very early, and suggested nestings in those areas. The Broad-winged Hawk flight had mixed results, being poor at Tussey Mt., Pa. (TD) and Allegheny Front, W. Va. (NL), but excellent at Hanging Rock, W. Va., with 5991 birds (GH), and at Rockfish Gap with 27,783 for the season, 11,783 of these Sept. 16 (YL). Rough-legged Hawks were more common than usual and were seen as far south as Pendleton, W. Va. (R.B.C.), and Highland, Va. (LT).

S.A.

What has happened to the Golden Eagle, and from where are they coming? Not too many years ago it was notable to see one in this Region. But we have had a steady increase for several years, and this year a total of well over 100 birds from 15 locations was reported. These locations, which extended from Bald Eagle Mt., Pa., to Roan Mt. and G.S.M.N.P., Tenn., and the highlands of North Carolina, included all the organized hawk watches and several other places as well. High counts for the season were 50 at Bald Eagle Mt. (JPe), 30 at Tussey Mt., Pa. (TD), and 25 at Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG). On Nov. 13, Bald Eagle Mt. counted 18 and Tussey Mt. counted 11. One was caught in a bobcat trap in Greenbrier, W. Va., Nov. 3, banded and released (JCr).

Nineteen Merlins were reported from 9 different locations, including eight for the season at Rockfish Gap, Va. (YL). The Peregrine Falcon was also in unusually good numbers with 29 birds reported from 14 locations. At Tuscarora Mt., Pa., 10 were seen for the season with six on Sept. 30 (CG). A Peregrine that had been banded at Sondre Stromfjord, West Greenland, on July 29 was picked up injured near Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 24 (W.V.D.N.R.).

CRANES AND SHOREBIRDS — A Sandhill Crane was present remarkably early near Front Royal, Va., Aug. 27–Sept. 3 (RSi), and two were seen at Troutville, Va., Oct. 21 (BK). More expected were the 200 at the Ch.N.F., Ga., Nov. 4, and the four at Dalton, Ga., Nov. 19 (HD).

The contrasting conditions of high water levels in L. Erie and dried-up ponds in the Shenandoah Valley and e. Tennessee were not conducive to good shorebirding. However, at State College, Pa., a lake partially drained for maintenance produced some good results. American Avocets were at Kingston, Tenn., Aug. 11 (v.o.), and Douglas L., Tenn., Nov. 1 (JK). Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported from P.I.S.P., up to 11, Sept. 20–Oct. 4 (JM), Salem, O., Aug. 20 (WB), and Lyndhurst, Va., Sept. 27 (MH). Black-bellied Plovers were at Austin Springs, Tenn., Aug. 8 (RK), B.E.S.P., Aug. 22 (MW), Colyer L., Pa., Sept. 5 (DP) & 27 (M & PLo), and Guilford L., O., Nov. 3 (WB). Oddly, neither plover appeared at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL). A Piping Plover was at E.B.F.H., Aug. 25 (LF).

Willetts were seen at P.I.S.P., Aug. 17–19 (SS, JHS) and Roans Creek, Tenn., Aug. 8 (RK). As many as five Whimbrels were at P.I.S.P., Aug. 2–Sept. 7 (m.ob.), and this area also produced records of Hudsonian Godwit on Oct. 4 & 18 (JM, DF). A Hudsonian Godwit was also seen in the Pymatuning area Nov. 2 (MV). Several Ruddy Turnstones were at Roanoke, Va., Sept. 3–6 (MD), Kingston Steam Plant, Tenn., Aug. 9 (FB), and E.B.F.H., Aug. 10 (B & JC). Sanderlings at B.E.S.P., Aug. 25 (MW), State College, Pa., Sept. 20 (JPe), and Stuart's Draft, Va., Aug. 20 (YL) were unusual. Baird's, Western, and White-rumped sandpipers were more common than usual. A Purple Sandpiper was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 8 (BS, F & BH). Stilt Sandpipers were at P.I.S.P., Aug. 24 (JS) and Sept. 11 (JM); Colyer L., Pa., Sept. 6–21 for the 3rd local record (JPe); Jonesboro, Tenn., Aug. 7 (RK), and Kingston Steam Plant, Tenn., Aug. 23 (AH et al.). The Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported from P.I.S.P., Sept. 6 (F & BH). Presque Isle also produced a Wilson's Phalarope Aug. 29



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper at North Branch, Allegany Co., Md., Sept. 12, 1986. The very long-winged profile is evident in this view. Photo/R.F. Ringler.

& 30 (JM) and the only records for Red Phalaropes, Sept. 7, about a month early (KA) and Oct. 20 (SS). A Wilson's Phalarope was also at Lyndhurst, Va., Aug. 2 (SR). Red-necked Phalaropes were reported from Yellow Creek S.P., Pa., Aug. 28 (MHi), Shenango Res., Pa., Sept. 6 (T & NM), Latrobe Res., Pa., Oct. 19 (TV, M & EWA), Pymatuning L., Nov. 23 (SF), and Douglas L., Tenn., Sept. 6 (JK).

GULLS AND TERNS — Laughing Gulls were seen at B.E.S.P., Sept. 13 (MW), Botetourt, Va., Nov. 2 (MD), and Mosquito Lake S.P., O., Nov. 16 (CB). Three Little Gulls were seen at P.I.S.P. (JM et al.). Bonaparte's Gulls were reported from Phillipsburg, Pa., Aug. 4 (MW), Lock Haven, Pa., Sept. 29 (PS), Rowan, Ky., no date given (BA), and Pymatuning L., Pa., 150 on Oct. 27 (RFL). The Ring-billed Gull population at Pymatuning was estimated at 15,000 on Nov. 22 (RFL). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at P.I.S.P., Sept. 27 (J & BB) and one in winter plumage Oct. 2 & 4 could have been the same bird (JM). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 30 (SS et al.).

Caspian Terns were reported from Colyer L., Pa., Sept. 5 (JPe) and L. Arthur, Pa., Sept. 12 (MHi). Forster's Terns are being reported more often than Com. Terns, and while this may be the "Rarity Syndrome" it would appear that they are increasing in our Region. At P.I.S.P., 20 Forster's were observed, and this was only slightly fewer than the number of Com. Terns (JM). There were 5 reports of Forster's Terns from 3 areas near Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), and they were reported from Fort Loudon, Pa. (CG), Parrott, Va., Sept. 1 (CK), Hendersonville, N.C., Aug. 19 (DM), and Asheville, N.C., Nov. 17 (RY). There was a late report of a Least Tern at P.I.S.P., May 28 (DF), and one was seen in Floyd, Ky., Sept. 13 (FB).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — A **Common Ground-Dove** was seen at P.I.S.P., Oct. 19, for the first w. Pennsylvania record (SS). Both species of cuckoo were uncommon. The only reports of Com. Barn-Owls came from Clarks-ville, Pa., where one was heard calling in the daytime Oct. 23 (RB), and from Jefferson, W. Va., where juveniles were seen on the rather late date of Oct. 18 (GC). A Snowy Owl was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 10 (B & FH). One or two Short-eared Owls were at P.I.S.P., Oct. 25–Nov. 7 (JM et al.). A large concentration of Short-eared Owls was found in the extensive grasslands of the recovered strip-mine areas of Clarion, Pa., from about Oct. 15 to the end of the period. An estimate made on Nov. 2 was that 75–100 were present (WF). Northern Saw-whet Owls were on Tussey Mt., Pa., where they had been reported earlier, on Aug. 7 and Oct. 7 (JPe).

There were no reports of great concentrations of Com. Nighthawks, although the species was widely reported. There were several reports of Chimney Swifts still present in early October. The 169 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds banded at P.N.R. was 159% above average (RM, RCL). At A.F.M.O., 178 hummingbirds were netted and released unbanded, and on September 6, no fewer than 223 hummingbirds were observed to fly by the station (GAH). A ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** (ph.) was at a feeder in Henderson, N.C., from Nov. 3 to the end of the period (RR).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WRENS — During the banding season 13 Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen flying by A.F.M.O., including five at the hawkwatch station Sept. 26 (GAH). Other reports came from Mountour, Pa. (SSt), Highland, Va. (LT), Vienna, W. Va. (LR), East River Mt., W. Va. (JP), Fairview, N.C. (RY), and 2 locations near Knoxville (fide CN). Hairy Woodpeckers were thought to be in low numbers at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), but at Morgantown, W. Va., they seem to have made a slight recovery (GAH).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen in Centre, Pa., Aug. 21 (TS, RH), P.I.S.P., Aug. 21 and Sept. 16 (JM), Murray, Ga., Aug. 28 (HD), and Fort Loudon, Pa., Sept. 5 (CG), but for the first time in 7 years none was banded at P.N.R. (RCL, RM). At P.N.R., E. Wood-Pewees and Acadian, Yellow-bellied, and Traill's flycatchers were banded in slightly above-average numbers but the Least Flycatcher was below average (RM, RCL). For only the 2nd time in 10 years no Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH), and there was only one sighted in the State College, Pa., area. A **Western Kingbird** was at Colyer L., Pa., Sept. 5 (DP, AS).

A Bank Swallow at Colyer L., Pa., Sept. 18 (JPe) and a Cliff Swallow at B.E.S.P., Sept. 13 (CH) were somewhat late, but one or possibly two Barn Swallows sighted at P.I.S.P., Nov. 2 & 9 were very late (Rko). A group of 200 imm. Purple Martins at P.I.S.P., Sept. 8 was good news (F & BH), and a very good nesting season was reported from Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE).

There were several lowland sightings of Com. Ravens in the Elizabethton, Tenn., area (GE), and ravens occurred near Brasstown Bald, Ga., Aug. 10 (MO). There were several records at Lock Haven, Pa. (CH), several reports from Warren, Pa. (WH, TG), and one at Spruce Creek, Pa., Oct. 14 (SG). A large flock of about 100 Fish Crows was seen near State College, Pa., Nov. 30 (HH).

There was no evidence of any major S flight of Black-capped Chickadees, and the flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was only moderate. At Pittsburgh, the flight of Brown Creepers was the best in a decade (PH). The Carolina Wren apparently had a good nesting season and was in good numbers going into the winter with some reports even from Erie, Pa. (JM). Sedge Wrens were reported from Botetourt, Va., Sept. 23 (YL), Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept. 14 & 15 and Oct. 9 (RK), and Kingsport, Tenn., on the late date of Nov. 1 (RP). Marsh Wrens were reported from the State College, Pa., area Oct. 1 (ES) & 10 (CS), Fort Necessity, Pa. (RSt, DK), Austin Springs, Tenn., Oct. 7 (RK), Kingsport, Tenn., Oct. 30 and Nov. 1 (RP), Knox, Tenn., Oct. 11 (BS), and Tellico L., Tenn., Nov. 2 (CN et al.).

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS — Both kinglet species staged very good fall flights. At P.N.R., the Golden-crowned was handled in numbers 105% above normal and the Ruby-crowned 68% above normal (RCL, RM), and at A.F.M.O., both species were handled in record numbers. There were several early September records for the Golden-crowned. Rather than early migrants these may indeed have represented new breeding areas for this expanding species, and I suggest a followup at these locations next summer.

If the kinglets are booming, the Catharus thrushes seem to be in trouble. At P.N.R., the Hermit Thrush was in average numbers, but the Veery and the Gray-cheeked were in below-average numbers and the Swainson's Thrush was in the poorest numbers ever, with only 86 banded (RM, RCL). At A.F.M.O., results were similar, with Swainson's Thrush in better numbers

than in 1984 and 1985 but still 15% below average (GAH). The reports from field birders also noted low numbers of Swainson's Thrushes, although a massive night flight was observed at Cumberland, Md., Sept. 13, with none seen the next day (RRi). More cheerful news was the report of 161 E. Bluebirds fledged from 36 boxes in Augusta, Va. (RS).

A N. Mockingbird at Girard, Erie, Pa., Oct. 19 was noteworthy as being well north of its usual range (JBx). There were some large concentrations of Cedar Waxwings at some places, as for example the 2000 that flew past the Rockfish Gap, Va., hawk-watch on one day (*vide* RS). There were 3 reports of N. Shrikes: Butler, Pa., Nov. 16 (PH), Erie N.W.R., Pa., Nov. 12 (DS), and P.I.S.P., Nov. 26 (JM). The reports of Loggerhead Shrikes were concentrated as usual in the Great Valley from Augusta and Rockingham, Va., where a population of 15 was estimated (KF), to Elizabethton, Tenn. Outside of this area reports came from Murray, Ga. (HD), and L. Arthur, Pa. (MG).

Philadelphia Vireos were reported more commonly than usual, and Solitary Vireos were unusually common. A novelty was the sight of wave after wave of Solitary Vireos crossing the mountain at Craggy Garden, N.C., Sept. 21 (RY).

There were the usual mixed reports on the warbler flight. Most field birders reported an average to slightly better-than-average flight. The banding station at Norris, Tenn., had a poor flight (CN), P.N.R. had an average flight (RCL), and A.F.M.O. had an above-average flight (GAH). At P.N.R., 11 species were handled in above-average numbers, four in average numbers, and seven in below-average numbers, while at A.F.M.O. 13 species were above average, five average, and only one below. Only five species, Nashville, Black-throated Green, Blackpoll, Am. Redstart, and Wilson's, were above average at both P.N.R. and A.F.M.O. The reports of field birders from various areas showed similar contradictions, but all stations agreed that Wilson's Warbler was in above-normal numbers. The Orange-crowned Warbler was reported from more places than usual. A Yellow-rumped Warbler was at Linville Falls, N.C., Aug. 12 (DM). While not thought to be a breeding bird there, the early date suggests breeding not too far away. A Yellow-throated Warbler at B.E.S.P., Sept. 20 provided the first local fall record (HH, CS). Pine Warblers are seldom reported in the fall but there were numerous reports this year.

CARDINALINES THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — At Pittsburgh, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in extremely low numbers (PH), while at P.N.R., the bandings were 18% below average (RM, RCL), but at A.F.M.O., bandings were 35% above average. A Black-headed Grosbeak killed itself on a window in late September near Milepost 176 on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Va. (HS).

A Lark Sparrow was at Daleville, Va., Oct. 12 & 13 (JV *et al.*). Henslow's Sparrows were reported from Lycoming, Pa., Aug. 10 (SSt), Daleville, Va., Oct. 11 (MD, BK) and Lyndhurst, Va., Nov. 8, for a new county record (SR). There were 2 records of Le Conte's Sparrows, Stuart's Draft, Va., Sept. 11 (SR), and Rockingham, Va., Oct. 11 (R.B.C.). There was an excellent flight of Fox Sparrows at Pittsburgh (PH), and at P.N.R., bandings were up 84% (RCL, RM), but at Morgantown this species and, very strangely, Song Sparrows were almost absent (GAH). The flight of White-throated Sparrows was generally on the poor side. A Harris' Sparrow was found near Rome, Ga., Nov. 21 (JG). The only reports of Lapland Longspurs came from P.I.S.P., from Sept. 20 (early) to Nov. 16 (JM *et al.*), and Pyramating, Pa., Nov. 13 (ML). Snow Buntings were reported from n. and c. Pennsylvania and n.e. Ohio, where they are usually found, but four flying past the Tuscarora Mt. hawk-watch Oct. 16 (CG) and others near Canaan Valley, W. Va., Nov. 1 (R.B.C.) and Shenandoah Mt., Va., Nov. 2 (R.B.C.) were well south of the normal range. Concentrations of 350 Bobolinks in Butler, Pa., Aug. 31 (GW) and 100+ near Kingsport, Tenn., Sept. 18 (RP) were noteworthy.

The Red Crossbill population in the southern mountains seems to be booming. A nest was found at Highlands, N.C., in late July, and young birds were seen in September (DM) and other birds were in the general locality. A family group was seen on Roan Mt., Tenn., July 12 (T.O.S.). Fall reports also came from Ch.N.F., Nov. 13 & 18 (HD), the Blue Ridge near Dalton, Ga., Nov. 13 (JJ), and Unaka Mt., Tenn., Oct. 24 (RP) as well as the usual locations on Shenandoah Mt., Va. It is probable that all these records refer to the s. Appalachian population, and that the only record of northern (or western) birds came from Bald Eagle Mt., Nov. 28 (JPe). Reports of Com. Redpolls came from 2 widely separated locations: P.I.S.P., Nov. 26 (JM) & 27 (SS), and Pipestem S.P., W. Va., Oct. 26 (JP).

Pine Siskins were staging a moderately heavy flight with good numbers at many places starting in mid-October. Evening Grosbeaks were in small numbers but by the end of November small flocks had appeared at most places. It did not seem to be a major invasion. Most unusual was the Evening Grosbeak at Warren, Pa., Aug. 26 and Sept. 15 (DD).

EXOTICS — An apparently ill flamingo (sp.?) was seen at Rockingham, Va., Oct. 10 & 11 (R.B.C.). A swan-goose mated with a Canada Goose and raised a brood at Guilford L., O (WB). A Yellow-headed Parrot was seen at State College, Pa., Nov. 12 (MW).

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Daryl D. Tessen

August had alternating periods of warm and cool weather, with average precipitation. The exception was Milwaukee, which received 7 inches in several hours, causing localized flooding. September was unbelievably wet Regionwide. Repeated rainfalls of up to 13 inches within 24 hour periods were recorded. Flooding occurred in various parts of the Region. October entered warm but quickly changed to cooler, drier conditions. The exception was Michigan, where excessive rainfall continued. The first two-thirds of November was record cold. Several cold/Arctic fronts moved through the Region, producing temperatures around zero, strong winds, and wind chills of -10° to -40° (!), unheard of for this time of the season. Snowfall was above average during this period with one particularly strong storm passing through Wisconsin. The last one-third of the month saw a return to normal, even above-normal temperatures, and drier conditions.

The fall migration was very early. Passerine movement was already occurring in late July. During August the intensity increased and continued unabated into September. It was difficult to analyze the migration during September, as weather conditions were so poor, but comments from observers indicated a continuation of the rapid exodus southward. The extreme cold of early November induced the majority of remaining birds to migrate, so by late November birding was discouragingly quiet.

The passerine movement, like last fall, was good. Hawk and shorebird migrations were unusually poor. Finches again proved variable with the key being that the few species that were quite plentiful did not linger in decent numbers, suggesting yet another in a series of finchless winters.

Rarities were disappointingly few with most proving uncooperative. Highlights included Mississippi Kite, Clark's Nutcracker, Rock Wren, and McCown's Longspur for Minnesota, Black-necked Stilt, Mew Gull, and Curve-billed Thrasher for Wisconsin, and Ross' Goose and Least Tern for Michigan.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Few Red-throated Loons were found this fall. A Pacific Loon was in St. Paul Oct. 10–22 (m.ob.). Minnesota has had about 12 previous records. Late grebes included a Horned at Madison into December (PA) and a Red-necked Nov. 17 in Ozaukee (SS), both Wisconsin. In Michigan single Eared Grebes were seen Oct. 13–19 at Dow Ponds (RW, TW, GK), Oct. 19–21 at Coopersville Ponds (JM, BB, SM, JG) and Oct. 25 at Baw Beese L. (JR). One was in Milwaukee at the Coast Guard Impoundment between Sept. 18–Oct. 19 (m.ob.). The summering W. Grebe at Horicon N.W.R. remained into August (SS *et al.*). There was a surprising number of Am. White Pelican sightings in Wisconsin and Michigan. Three were at Horicon N.W.R. late August to early September (DT, JB *et al.*), five were at LaCrosse Aug. 28 (FL), two were flying with migrating hawks along the Mississippi R. in Grant Sept. 27 (ST), one was in Milwaukee Oct. 8–10 (BC, JF *et al.*), and eight were in Superior Oct. 11 (RI). For Michigan single birds were at the Muskegon Wastewater System Aug. 24 (Dje, MH) and in Midland Aug. 23–24 (TW, CF, GK).

A Great Egret found dead in Duluth during early September was north of its normal range (*vide* KE). Snowy and Cattle egrets were found in Taylor, Wis., during mid-August (TR). Cattle Egrets were also at Green Bay and Madison during August. In Michigan birds were found in Bay Aug. 19 (CF, TW) and in Marquette Nov. 5 (RS). The Tricolored Heron that sum-



mered at Agassiz N.W.R. remained until late August. Late was a Green-backed Heron Nov. 1 in Dane, Wis. (JS). Single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen in Milwaukee during September and early October (m.ob.). A Plegadis ibis was found at Goose Pond, Columbia, Wis., during late September and early October (m.ob.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES — Tundra Swan peaks included 10,000+ at Weaver and Winona, Minn., 3000 at LaCrosse, and 2500 at Shiawassee N.W.R. Ross' Geese were found in Michigan with two Oct. 5 at the Kellogg Bird Sanctuary (JJ) and two Oct. 25 at Allegan State Game Area (JK). Canada Geese arrived earlier than normal with major movements noted especially during early October. Peak numbers were similar to last year. A ♂ Eurasian Wigeon spent Oct. 4–early November at Wood L. in the Twin Cities (m.ob.). An eider (sp.) was observed Nov. 1 in Bay, Mich. (RW). Two Harlequin Ducks were found in Minnesota. One was at Grand Marais Oct. 18–Nov. 2 (m.ob.). The other was at the unusual site of Austin, in a creek near the Iowa border, Nov. 17 into December (m.ob.). The Brassers had one in the Sheboygan (Wis.) harbor Nov. 8–9. Very early was an Oldsquaw Aug. 16 at Grand Marais, Mich. (JG). Inland sightings included Freeborn, Minn., and Chippewa, Wis. Early scoter sightings included White-winged Aug. 16 at Grand Marais, Mich. (JG), and 27 Blacks Aug. 27 in Ozaukee, Wis. (BC). The main scoter migration was slightly late and at best average.

Minnesota had its 3rd and 4th Mississippi Kite records with an Aug. 19 sighting in Fillmore (AP) and one Sept. 23 in Duluth (LE). Unusually late were 3 Osprey sightings in Wisconsin Nov. 4 in Taylor (TR) and Nov. 9 at Cedar Grove (DB) and Ozaukee (JB). North of normal range were Red-shouldered Hawks in Itasca Sept. 18 (TL) and Duluth Oct. 20 and Nov. 10 (KE, M & DE). Very late was a Broad-winged Hawk Nov. 6 in Taylor, Wis. (TR), with one found Nov. 23 in Shawano, Wis. (*vide* MP) dying 2 days later. Hawk Ridge tallied 16,500 Broad-wingeds Sept. 18 (*vide* KE). A Swainson's Hawk was noted Sept. 12 at the Cedar Grove hawk station (DB). Early Rough-legged Hawk sightings included Sept. 2 in Bayfield (AR), Sept. 18 in Taylor (TR) and Sept. 19 in Door (R & CL), all Wisconsin. This fall's flight of Rough-leggeds in Wisconsin and Minnesota was very good. Golden Eagle sightings in Wisconsin included Oct. 3 and Nov. 12 at Cedar Grove (DB), a dead bird (shot) Nov. 6 in Shawano (*vide* MP), and two Nov. 11 in Ashland (SS). The Merlin flight in Wisconsin and Minnesota was excellent, coming earlier than usual. Likewise the Peregrine Falcon flight in all 3 states was again very good. A Prairie Falcon returned for the 5th consecutive year to Rothsay Wildlife Area, Minn. It was first noted Oct. 16 (TT). The hawk flight this fall in both Minnesota and Wisconsin was poor. For example, Hawk Ridge

tallied only 35,000+ for the season, one of their poorest ever. The main negative factor was the poor weather that prevailed especially during September.

Ring-necked Pheasant numbers showed a decline in Minnesota and Wisconsin. A Yellow Rail was seen Sept. 23 at Fish Pt., Mich. (JZ). A King Rail was at Nayanquing Pt., Mich., Aug. 19 (TW). Late was a Sandhill Crane Nov. 26 in Dane, Wis. (JS).

SHOREBIRDS — An Oct. 19 Semipalmated Plover at Duluth (KE) was late. Killdeer concentrations included 350 Aug. 27 in Marathon (K & JL) and 380+ Nov. 9 in Ozaukee (BC), both Wisconsin. Wisconsin had one of its few records for the **Black-necked Stilt** when two were discovered at Horicon N.W.R. in mid-August. The birds were seen intermittently into early September (ph. Horicon staff, SS, DT). Late Greater Yellowlegs included Nov. 7 in Eau Claire (JP) and Burnett (JS), Wis. Willets observed at Manitowoc, Wis., included seven Aug. 6 (CS) and one Aug. 22 (DT). In Michigan one was at Nayanquing Pt., Aug. 19 (TW). Also at Manitowoc was a Whimbrel Aug. 4 (CS). Single Whimbrels stayed at 2 Duluth sites Sept. 4–27 and Sept. 9–23 (m.ob.). A Hudsonian Godwit was at Beaver Bay, Minn., Sept. 10 (SW, MS) and Pt. Mouille, Mich., Aug. 22 (JR). Two flocks of Marbled Godwits were seen in Minnesota, the latter group being especially impressive. On Aug. 22, M. Hendrickson recorded 25 at Duluth, but on Aug. 12, J. Peterson and Shedd had 150 in Dakota. One was observed in Michigan in Midland Sept. 3 (RW, TW, CF).

Red Knots were recorded at several Wisconsin sites, including three inland. A single W. Sandpiper was at Erie Marsh Aug. 22 (JR) with six at Muskegon S.P., Aug. 23 (DP, JPi). Two were noted at Manitowoc Aug. 5 (SS). Several White-rumped Sandpipers were recorded in Wisconsin and Michigan, but Minnesota had its best fall flight ever, including a record late date of Nov. 5 at Duluth (DK). A **Purple Sandpiper** was observed with Dunlins at Superior Oct. 15 (RJ). Buff-breasted Sandpiper sightings for Michigan included two Aug. 3 in Clinton (JR), three Sept. 6 at Muskegon (JPo, EH), and one Sept. 25 in Van Buren (RA). For Wisconsin, 11 were seen Aug. 12 in Shawano (DT) and one Aug. 28 at LaCrosse (FL). Late was one at Duluth Oct. 1 (DK). The Oct. 9 Short-billed Dowitcher at Duluth represented a record departure date (m.ob.). Red-necked Phalaropes were seen in all 3 states. Single **Red Phalaropes** were found in Michigan at Fort Sheridan Oct. 6 (JG, JM) and Muskegon Oct. 18 (JPo, EH, GW).

LARIDS — An imm. jaeger (possibly Pomarine) was seen at Grand Marais, Mich., Aug. 16 (JG, CG). An ad. jaeger (possibly Pomarine) was observed in Ozaukee, Wis., Sept. 10 (BC), and an ad. Parasitic was at Superior Sept. 20 (RJ). Duluth had Parasitics intermittently between Aug. 2 and Sept. 26, with a maximum of four Sept. 11 (m.ob.). There were at least 7 Franklin's Gull sightings in Wisconsin with 2 in Michigan. However, Minnesota recorded a major movement in the s.c. part Oct. 1–2 in Faribault 10,000 were noted Oct. 1, with thousands in Waseca Oct. 2 (RJa). As usual Little Gulls were recorded along the Wisconsin side of L. Michigan during the fall. At Manitowoc a maximum of 11 was noted in early August, with the last sighting in late August (m.ob.). One was found at Kewaunee Sept. 8 (SS). Milwaukee had its usual buildup along the lake-front (mainly the Coast Guard Impoundment) between September and November with a maximum of 12 (m.ob.).

Last spring Wisconsin recorded its first **Mew Gulls** with two in Milwaukee for several days. Surprisingly, another was found this fall for the state's 2nd record. It was discovered by Baughman at Manitowoc Oct. 30 and was seen later that day by Sontag. Unfortunately it could not be located on ensuing days. Single Thayer's Gulls were found at St. Joseph Oct. 5 & 12 and Nov. 15–16 (JG, JM, JK) and Muskegon Oct. 24 (JPo, GV). An early Glaucous Gull was at Manitowoc Sept. 13 (CS) with additional sightings in Crawford Oct. 5 (EM) and at Superior Oct. 28, with four there Nov. 22+ (RJ). Besides the usual Monroe, Mich., sightings, Great Black-backed Gulls were found at Nayanquing Pt., Aug. 23 (RW), Muskegon Oct. 24 (JPo, GV), two

at Tawas Point S P, Nov. 8 (RP, MP), and one in Bay Nov. 22–29 (JSw). A Black-legged Kittiwake was at Port Huron Nov. 27 (JG). Michigan had its 3rd **Least Tern** record when an immature was observed Aug. 17–21 at the Erie Gun Club (EK, JK et al.).

CUCKOOS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — For the first time in several years Snowy Owls appeared in excellent numbers Regionwide. Indications were for a good winter population. A N. Hawk-Owl Oct. 24 in Roseau, Minn., was early (RG, RJa). Minnesota had a total of 6 Great Gray Owl reports from Aitkin and St. Louis. In Michigan one was near St. Helen Nov. 17 (SSm). Very few Long-eared Owls were reported in Michigan and Wisconsin. A few Short-eared Owls were also in Michigan, but Wisconsin had more sightings than in the past several years. The unmated ♂ Boreal Owl continued calling until Aug. 7 in Lake, Minn. (SW, MS). One was banded at Duluth Oct. 29 (DE) and another was found roosting there Nov. 18 (JN). There were several impressive (!) Com. Nighthawk flights this fall. Camburn counted 16,494 flying over his Duluth yard Aug. 16. In Wisconsin "thousands upon thousands" were tallied Sept. 4 in Ozaukee by Cowart. Leshner had "thousands" at LaCrosse Sept. 26. Late was an Oct. 2 Whipp-poor-will near Moorhead, Minn. (L & CF). A ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** came to a feeder near Zumbro Falls, Minn., Sept. 16–23 (ph. m.ob.).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS — Northern observations of the Red-bellied Woodpecker included Sept. 13 in Duluth (PE) and Nov. 17 at Leech L., Minn. (TK). Black-backed Woodpeckers were sighted in more normal numbers in the n. one-third of the Region after the record invasion of last fall and winter. Late was an Olive-sided Flycatcher Oct. 5 in Dakota, Minn. (TT). A W. Kingbird was in Duluth Sept. 1 (TS), and one at Grand Marais Nov. 2–3 (KE, K & MH et al.) represented Minnesota's latest record. Gray Jays staged a record invasion in Minnesota this autumn, especially at Duluth. Between mid-September and late October, 470 were counted migrating through Duluth (m.ob.). The invasion was noted as far south as Chisago, Isanti, Washington, Anoka, and Hennepin. Unexpected was the **Clark's Nutcracker** that appeared in Austin, Minn., Sept. 13 (DS). South of its range was a Com Raven Sept. 19 at Cedar Grove, Wis. (DB). The Boreal Chickadee likewise staged a major invasion into Minnesota with impressive numbers noted. It was seen as far south as St. Paul and Lake City. One in Shawano, Wis., Oct. 27 was far s. of its normal range (MP).

A **Rock Wren** was found by Camburn Oct. 17 in Duluth. It was seen and photographed by many other birders later that day. A Carolina Wren was seen Nov. 17 in Calhoun, Mich. (MI, RT). Golden-crowned Kinglet numbers were up in Minnesota, but average elsewhere. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Sept. 4 at Duluth (KE) was n. of its normal range. Late thrush sightings for Minnesota included a Veery Oct. 19 in Hennepin (OJ) and a Wood Thrush Oct. 19 in Freeborn (NH). Four Varied Thrushes were seen in Minnesota including a very early one Oct. 6 at Grand Marais (K & MH). Wisconsin had one Nov. 23+ at Park Falls (fide MHa). Wisconsin had only its 2nd **Curve-billed Thrasher** record when an immature appeared at the Hindrickson feeder in Clark Nov. 26. However it was not confirmed until mid-December when it commenced appearing regularly at the feeder. Record-early dates for Bohemian Waxwing were established for Wisconsin—Sept. 19 in Ashland (DV) and Minnesota—Sept. 30 at Duluth (KE, DM). After the record N. Shrike invasion last fall and winter it was surprising to note the good numbers in Wisconsin and Michigan this autumn.

Three White-eyed Vireos were in Hillsdale, Mich., Sept. 6 (JR). A late Philadelphia Vireo was in Duluth Oct. 14 (KE). Above-normal numbers of Cape May Warblers migrated through Wisconsin and Minnesota. One of the Yellow-throated Warblers in s. Wisconsin this summer was still present Aug. 2 in Rock (DT). The Bay-breasted Warbler found in Duluth Oct. 25 (m.ob.) represented a record departure date. Almost



Rock Wren at Duluth, Minn., Oct. 17, 1986. Photo/Kim Eckert.

as late was the Blackpoll Warbler Oct. 24 in Grand Marais (KE *et al.*). Very late was a N. Waterthrush Nov. 1 in Ozaukee, Wis. (DT). Single Kentucky Warblers were in East Grand Rapids Sept. 19 (JW) and at Kalamazoo Nature Center Sept. 27 (JG). Hooded Warblers were in Milwaukee Aug. 29 (WW) and Sept. 23 (BF). In Michigan they were found at Kalamazoo Nature Center Sept. 7 (JM) and at Bloomfield Hills Sept. 18 (JK).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Dane, Wis., Nov. 16 (PA) was late. Dickcissels were found in Rock (DT) and Fond du Lac (JB), Wis., and in Duluth Sept. 29 (JGr) and Oct. 21–23 (KE). The latter set a record departure date. Unusually far north were a Field Sparrow in Grand Marais Oct. 24 (K & MH) and a Lark Sparrow in Duluth Sept. 1 (TS). Unusual were single Lark Buntings in Grand Marais Oct. 19 (K & MH) and Duluth Oct. 28–29 (JN). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was in Manitowoc Oct. 1 (HK). The Harris' Sparrow migration was unusually poor in Wisconsin, even in the w. one-half of the state. However, one came to an Ashland feeder for 2 months, last seen Nov. 29 (DV). A **McCown's Longspur** discovered by Egeland and Janssen in Duluth Oct. 19 represented only the 2nd record for this century. It was seen and photographed by many the following day—last seen at sunset being chased by a N. Shrike towards Wisconsin. Early was a Lapland Longspur at Horicon N.W.R., Sept. 14

(JF). Snow Buntings appeared with surprising regularity by mid-October in Wisconsin. Impressive flocks included 2000 Nov. 14 near Muskegon, Mich. (JPo) and 4000 Nov. 17 in Lafayette, Wis. (RH). An Orchard Oriole was in Milwaukee Sept. 20 (DH).

The finch picture proved mixed again this year. A few species moved through the Region in excellent numbers, but in most cases few lingered. Other species were almost nonexistent this fall. Again it looked like a poor finch winter was developing. Pine Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills were unusually scarce Regionwide. Average numbers or slightly below were noted for Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak. Common Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Am. Goldfinches were observed in above-average numbers, especially adjacent to the Great Lakes. Hundreds to thousands were noted for all three species, but only the goldfinch seemed to remain in adequate numbers. In mid-November small flocks of both crossbill species were seen migrating along L. Michigan on the Wisconsin side. The House Finch continues to increase in Michigan and now in Wisconsin. In the latter state, birds came all fall to several Milwaukee and Racine feeders.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

If one uses the number of rarities as the measure of a migration, then it was an eventful fall. A surprising number and variety of casual and accidental species appeared in all states. These strays came from many different areas of the country and there was no apparent explanation for their appearance in this Region. However, if movements of the regular migrants are used to measure a season, it was not a spectacular fall. The passerine migration was particularly disappointing. Migrants were quite evident during late August but were reduced to a trickle in September. The most pronounced flight occurred October 3–6, but few migrants were noted during later weeks. Non-passerines were better represented but their concentrations tended to be very local.



Weather across the Region can be summarized in three words, wet and warm. Above-normal precipitation was generally recorded during all months and approached or exceeded record levels during September and October in many areas. Temperatures were also generally above normal in most states. The only unusually cold weather occurred during mid-November, but temperatures quickly rebounded. Unlike previous years, winter weather had yet to make an appearance in most areas by the end of November.

ABBREVIATIONS — Spfld. = Springfield, Ill.; O.W.R. = Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O.; M.M.W.A. = Magee Marsh Wildlife Management Area, O.; S.C.R. = Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Mo.; Say. Res. = Saylorville Reservoir, Ia. *Italicized* place names are counties.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA — Red-throated Loons returned to normal after last year's influx with one or two at a total of 5 locations in Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana Nov. 8–22. More Pacific Loons were reported, possibly a result of increased observer awareness of a species that may prove to be a rare but regular fall migrant through the n. states. Acceptably documented records consisted of single immatures at Horseshoe L., Ill., Oct. 29–Nov. 8 (BR, †RG, m.ob.) and Say. Res., Nov. 22–30 (†RM *et al.*, m.ob.), a 2nd-winter Pacific at Lorain Nov. 22–30 for Ohio's 2nd record (†J, †MG, m.ob.), and an adult at Alton, Ill., Nov. 18–20 (†CP, †PS, m.ob.). Movements of Com. Loons were associated with November cold fronts, producing local concentrations of 327 at Say. Res., Nov. 1 (SD), 220 at Monroe Res., Ind., Nov. 2 (MMa), 550 at Port of Indiana, Ind., Nov. 11 (KM), 236 at Cleveland Nov. 19 (TL), 162–240 at 3 Indiana lakes Nov. 27–29, and 357 in Delaware, O., Dec. 1 (CJ).

Pied-billed Grebes were reduced from last year with maxima of 286 at Say. Res., Ia., Sept. 29 (SD) and 28–103 in the other states. The earliest Horned Grebe returned to Iowa Aug. 25. Numbers improved somewhat with maxima of 200 at Louisville Nov. 3 (BP), 125 along L. Erie, and 37–90 elsewhere. An exceptional number of Red-necked Grebes consisted of 5 Iowa, 2 Ohio, and 2 Illinois reports, Sept. 29–Nov. 24. They are casual migrants in Kentucky, where singles were discovered at Jackson Oct. 16 (†A & TR) and Barkley L., Nov. 29 (†BP *et al.*). Few Eared Grebes were detected in the w. states, while as many as three at 4 locations in Illinois and two in Ohio constituted normal numbers for recent years. Seven reports of W. Grebes from the w. states included an early migrant at Say. Res., Sept. 13 (SD). They have recently become regular fall migrants in Illinois where one or two were acceptably described at 4 locations Oct. 19–Nov. 19.

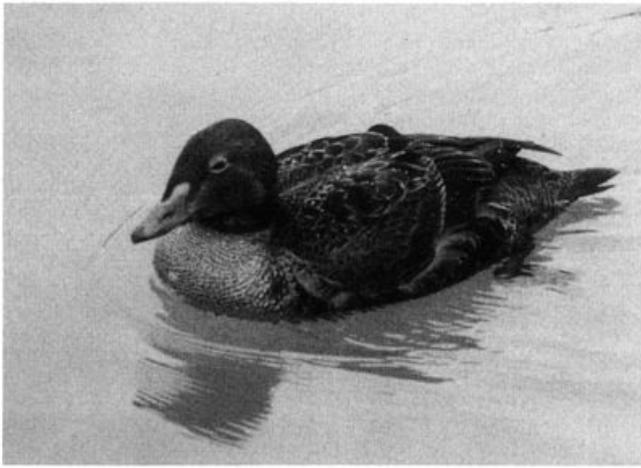
An immature N. Gannet at Lorain Nov. 23–27 (†TL, m.ob.) provided Ohio's first record since 1983. A flock of 4400 Am. White Pelicans at Say. Res., Sept. 21 (SD) was rather large for Iowa. They also appeared in good numbers farther east. Six Illinois reports included flocks of 65 at Mark Twain N.W.R., Oct. 14 (GB) and 22 at Navoo Oct. 15 (RCr). Casual or rare migrants in other e. states, singles were discovered in Kentucky at Taylorsville L., Aug. 8–13 (CR, BP *et al.*), Cornith L. in late October (RMo), and Louisville Nov. 10 (JC), while one appeared at Monroe Res., Ind., Oct. 3 (LS, DW), and Ohio reports consisted of one or two at Hoover Res., Sept. 5–8 and Oct. 14–Nov. 8 (CJ, TT, m.ob.) and one at L. Cowan Oct. 29–Nov. 1 (*vide* LG). Double-crested Cormorants were noted in unprecedented numbers. Iowa reports included an impressive 2305 at Say. Res., Oct. 14 (SD) and 600–900 at 3 other lakes, while an estimated 1000+ roosted at O.W.R. in September. An Oct. 4 movement along L. Michigan totalled 367 at Wilmette, Ill. (JL) and 115 at Miller Beach, Ind. (KB *et al.*), and flocks of 450 at Carlyle L., Nov. 8 (MC) and 354 in Carroll Aug. 21 (SB) were large for inland Illinois. Most unexpected was an ad. **Olivaceous Cormorant** observed in the Joliet, Ill., area Aug. 22–Oct. 5 (†JMi, m.ob.). It provided the 2nd state record, the first being a specimen collected in 1878. Anhingas are becoming regular visitors to s.e.

Missouri as evidenced by one or two near Caruthersville through Aug. 28 (†L, CP *et al.*).

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILL — Increased reports of both bitterns were encouraging with a maximum of five Americans at 17 locations and 16 sightings of Least including late birds in Buchanan, Mo., Nov. 11 (LGA) and Coles, Ill., Nov. 1 (BH). Normal numbers of Great Blue Herons included concentrations of 92–221 in most states. Great Egrets were widespread only in Illinois, with maxima of 200–300 at 4 locations, while 134 at Runnels W.M.A., Aug. 30 (JSi) made a large number for Iowa. Good numbers of Snowy Egrets consisted of 11 reports from all states except Indiana with flocks of 44 at Horseshoe L., Ill., Aug. 27 (RG) and 11 in Fremont, Ia., Aug. 2 (RM, SD). Except in s.e. Missouri, Little Blue Herons were relatively scarce along the Mississippi R. Elsewhere, they appeared at 15 scattered locations in all states with maxima of 31 at Havana, Ill., Aug. 17 (RCh) and 20 in s.w. Iowa and n.w. Missouri. The Tricolored Heron was noted at L. Calumet, Ill., through Aug. 30. Except near their s.e. Missouri nesting colonies, Cattle Egrets were rather scarce for the 2nd consecutive fall. Largest concentrations were of 200 at S.C.R., Aug. 23 (L), plus 112 in w. Kentucky, 71 in s.w. Iowa, 48 along w. Lake Erie, and 46–47 in Illinois. The expected stragglers during November were last noted in s. Illinois Nov. 23. Green-backed Herons were greatly reduced in most areas. Only Illinois supported scattered small flocks with a maximum of 30 at L. Calumet Aug. 30 (RP). Black-crowned Night-Herons were scarce, even in areas where they normally congregate; the largest concentration was of 116 in n. Illinois. The 17 reports of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were normal for fall and included 15 in Fremont, Ia., Aug. 1 (JF). Unidentified *Plegadis* ibises were detected in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. By far, the most surprising wader was an imm. **Roseate Spoonbill** discovered at Defiance Sept. 24 (†RE, †DD), establishing the first record for Ohio.

WATERFOWL — An early Tundra Swan at Sandusky, O., Sept. 14 (RH) may have summered locally since the first migrants did not return until early November. There were strong movements along L. Erie Nov. 2 & 11, particularly the latter date, when thousands migrated along the entire lakefront and throughout n.e. Ohio while 113 appeared on c. Ohio lakes. This movement was not evident elsewhere along the traditional migration corridor, as the largest concentrations totalled 150 in n.e. Iowa Nov. 15 and 80 in n. Illinois Nov. 5. The few extralimital reports included three at Truman Res., Mo., Nov. 23 (WL), two at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Nov. 30 (BP *et al.*), and one at Horseshoe L., Ill., Nov. 6 (PS *et al.*). Few Greater White-fronted Geese were reported in the w. states and there was only one Illinois sighting. They are casual fall migrants farther east, where nine wandered to Monroe Res., Ind., Oct. 5 (DW *et al.*) and three to Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Nov. 30. In the w. states where they are expected, Ross' Geese peaked with 11 at DeSoto N.W.R., Ia., Nov. 11 (RM). They are becoming annual migrants through Illinois where one was studied at Spfld., Nov. 23–Dec. 9 (†H, m.ob.). In Kentucky, a **Ross' Goose** was discovered among the large flock of Snow Geese at Ballard W.M.A., Nov. 30 (†BP *et al.*), providing a first record for the state. The species may prove to be regular at that location as well. Last year's Brant flight was not repeated, as the only report was of a flock of 18 along L. Erie Nov. 4.

The puddle duck migration was lackluster at best, the only notable concentration being of 3500 Green-winged Teal at O.W.R., Oct. 5. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon was widely observed in Cook, Oct. 12–31 (PW, m.ob.), providing one of few fall records for Illinois. Diving ducks were better represented although they were also thought to be in low numbers in many areas. The expected concentrations at Keokuk, Ia., totalled 10,000 Canvasbacks and 15,000 Lesser Scaup Nov. 2 (RC). **King Eiders** were noted for the 2nd consecutive fall in Iowa where two were shot out of a flock of four at Clear L., Nov. 17 (JH, * to ISU). The only Great Lakes report was of one at Chicago Nov.



Immature male King Eider near Montrose Beach, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 29, 1986. Photo/Joe Milosevich.

24–30 (†m.ob.). Normal numbers of Harlequin Ducks consisted of singles at one L. Michigan and 2 L. Erie locations Nov. 4–23. Oldsquaws were less numerous than last year with a maximum of 90 along L. Michigan and 12 inland reports from the n. states. Scoters were reduced from last year although their numbers were still impressive when compared with reports from 10 years ago. Black Scoters peaked with 55 on L. Erie and 13–14 on L. Michigan. Six inland reports from the n. states included 3 Iowa sightings with a maximum of six at Diamond L., Oct. 31 (DK). Surf Scoter was the most numerous scoter this fall with 65 on L. Michigan at Wilmette, Ill., Oct. 18 (JL) and a maximum of eight at 23 inland locations in all states except Missouri. White-winged Scoters were reported from 15 inland sites, and 20 on L. Michigan constituted the largest Great Lakes flock. A Com. Goldeneye at L. Lemon, Ind., Oct. 10 (LS) was early, while three Com. Mergansers at Barkley L., Ky., Sept. 1 (BP) had probably summered locally.

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — It was an exceptional year for migrating hawks, with substantial movements across a broad corridor extending from c. Iowa to n.w. Indiana and south through Illinois and Missouri. The only extralimital Black Vulture wandered N to Delaware, O., Oct. 23 (KA) while flocks of seven at 2 roosts in Taney were indicative of their abundance in s.w. Missouri (PMA). Ospreys staged their best movement in many years with peaks of six to 15 in all states. As their numbers increase, Ospreys are lingering later each fall; singles remained through Nov. 20–25 in Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana. Two extralimital Mississippi Kites wandered to n.w. Missouri at St. Joseph Sept. 21 (L). Bald Eagles continued their steady improvement. Seven at O.W.R. in October made a large number for Ohio, and the expected larger concentrations were noted farther west. The Sharp-shinned Hawk migration through Iowa peaked Sept. 21 with 128 in Polk (SD) and 108 in Marshall (M & BPr), while the largest Illinois movement totalled 311 Sept. 28 and 168 Oct. 5 in DuPage (HC et al.) plus 177 at Carlyle L., Oct. 4 (RG et al.). Inland movements of such magnitude are unexpected in this Region. Good numbers of Cooper's Hawks were reported and included movements of 37 in Polk, Ia., Sept. 21 (SD) and 20 at Mississippi Palisades S.P., Ill., Sept. 27 (P). An early N. Goshawk at the latter location Sept. 27 presaged a very small movement with only 9 reports from Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio.

The Broad-winged Hawk flights conveniently coincided with weekends. The largest movements totalled 923 in Marshall, Ia., Sept. 21 (M & BPr), 2800 at Mississippi Palisades S.P., Ill., Sept. 27 (P), 1800 in Henderson, Ill. (MB) and 1500 in Ames, Ia., Sept. 28 (SD), and 2178 at Carlyle L., Ill. (RG et al.) and 2000 at Spfld., Oct. 4 (H). In Indiana, reports of 200–220 at Dunes S.P., Sept. 17 & 20 (PW, JKe) and 173 at Eagle Creek

Res., Sept. 20 (CK, TK) were unexpected for fall. An exceptionally late ad. Broad-winged was thoroughly studied at Spfld., Nov. 28–30 (†H). As expected, small numbers of Swainson's Hawks filtered through the w. states with a maximum of 30 in Woodbury, Ia., Sept. 27 (DT). The only sighting farther e was of an immature at Spfld., Sept. 25 (†H). The largest Red-tailed Hawk flights were composed of 78–97 in Iowa and Illinois. An early Rough-legged Hawk returned to Iowa Sept. 28, but only small numbers were scattered throughout the Region by late November. The 7 Golden Eagle sightings in Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri made a normal number for fall. Both Merlins and Peregrine Falcons were widely reported in numbers that surpassed last year's totals. However, Peregrine sightings are augmented by captive birds being released in several localities. Unlike last year, there were no exceptional flights of either species, and the largest movements consisted of five Merlins at Wilmette, Ill., Oct. 5 (JL) and seven Peregrines at Mississippi Palisades, S.P., Ill., Sept. 27 (P). A dark-phase Gyrfalcon was studied at Miller Beach, Ind., on the exceptionally early date of Sept. 16 (†KB), providing the first documented record for the state. While this early date raises questions on the falcon's possible origins, in all likelihood these questions will never be conclusively answered. In any event, the bird behaved normally as it chased gulls along the lakefront.

The rail migration was unremarkable. Single Kings were discovered in Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois. Soras peaked with 60 at Sauerheber W.M.A., Sept. 7 (BP), an impressive number for Kentucky, and a late migrant remained at Perry, Ia., Nov. 17 (RM). Normal numbers of Com. Moorhens included a maximum of 31 in n. Illinois plus lingering birds through Oct. 29 in Kentucky. Unlike ducks, Am. Coots remained plentiful as evidenced by 25,000 at S.C.R., Oct. 19 (L). The Sandhill Crane migration across n. Illinois peaked Oct. 5 with flocks of 109–165. Migrants from Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., Ind., passed over Kentucky and Indiana during November, with a peak of 4596 near Monroe Res., Ind., Nov. 2 (LS). Two reports from s.w. Ohio included a maximum of 75 at L. Cowan Nov. 14–18 (LG), and extralimital singles appeared at Say. Res., Nov. 22 (B & LPa et al.) and Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Nov. 30 (BP et al.).

SHOREBIRDS — The excessive rainfall flooded many traditional shorebird areas although local concentrations developed in most states. The flight was respectable but generally lacked large concentrations. A botulism outbreak at Cleveland unfortunately decimated shorebirds migrating along the lakefront. Black-bellied Plovers were unusually scarce and Lesser Golden-Plovers were reduced from last year with a maximum of 188 in Iowa. The latter species lingered through Nov. 16 in Iowa, Ia. (LH) and Nov. 22 at Mermet Lake W.M.A., Ill. (DR, TF). It was a poor year for migrant Piping Plovers with a total of only 4 reports from Ohio and Illinois plus one at Kentucky L., Ky., Oct. 4 (m.ob.) where they are very rare migrants. American Avocets were represented by 17 reports from all states except Missouri, constituting a fairly good fall flight. The largest flocks appeared in Iowa with 22 at Say. Res., Aug. 12 (SD) and 13 at the IPL ponds Sept. 23 (B & LPa). One lingered at Navoo, Ill., through Nov. 9 (RC). A Greater Yellowlegs in DeKalb, Mo., Nov. 23 (LGA) was late, as was a Solitary Sandpiper at Spfld., Oct. 27 (H). Willets were rather scarce with only 11 reports from all states except Kentucky including maxima of 12 in Iowa and six along L. Erie. The latest Spotted Sandpiper remained at Mississippi R. Dam 18, Ia.-Ill., through Nov. 2 (m.ob.). A normal Whimbrel flight along the Great Lakes comprised 7 sightings from Ohio and Illinois, with maxima of 15 at O.W.R., Aug. 4 and three on L. Michigan. They are accidental inland, where one was reported from Rend L., Ill., Sept. 21 (†TF). It was a poor year for Hudsonian Godwits with only 4 Great Lakes sightings and a maximum of eight at O.W.R. The only inland Hudsonian was discovered at Woodburn, Ind., Sept. 7–8 (Haw). Marbled Godwits were also scarce with a maximum of four along L. Erie and one at Rend L., Ill., Aug. 2 (†TF). A late Ruddy Turnstone lingered at Lorain, O., Nov. 27 (m.ob.).

Normal numbers of Red Knots migrated along the Great Lakes with a maximum of nine on L. Erie. Sightings from 9 inland sites were more than normal; singles on 3 dates at Louisville Aug. 24–Sept. 10 (BP), three at Say. Res., Aug. 5–6 (†SD, †TM), and one at Rend L., Ill., Aug. 20 (†TF *et al.*) were at locations where they are casual migrants at best. Sanderlings were numerous only in Iowa with a maximum of 49 at Big Creek L., Sept. 11 (SD) and a late bird at Cone Marsh Nov. 10 (TD). Good numbers of W. Sandpipers were represented by 75+ at O.W.R., Sept. 21 (J *et al.*) and 30 in Carlisle, Ky., Aug. 31 (BP). A flock of 750+ Least Sandpipers in Fulton Oct. 4 (BP) constituted a large number for Kentucky, and one remained through Nov. 27 in s. Illinois. White-rumped Sandpipers peaked with 13 along L. Erie, and a late bird was discovered in Monroe, Ind., Nov. 10 (DW). It was a good year for Baird's Sandpipers with maxima of 61 in Polk, Ia., Sept. 9 (SD) and seven to 16 in the other states. A few lingered into early November with the latest at C.J. Brown Res., O., Nov. 13 (DO, KA). Pectoral Sandpipers peaked with 2000 at Rice Lake W.M.A., Ill., Aug. 28 (TP). Purple Sandpipers were scarce along the Great Lakes with singles in Ohio and Indiana Nov. 11–16. The most unusual shorebird of the season was an ad. **Curlew Sandpiper** widely observed at L. Calumet, Ill., Aug. 24–31 (†JP, m.ob.). Stilt Sandpipers accumulated in local concentrations such as 100 at Horseshoe L., Ill., Aug. 15 (PS) and 80 along w. Lake Erie. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were universally scarce. Ruffs appeared in the Chicago area with two males at L. Calumet, July 26–Aug. 25 (†m.ob.) and a female at Gary, Ind., Aug. 9–10 (†KB, m.ob.). Short-billed Dowitchers at Lake St. Marys, O., Oct. 12 (JM, DO) and Chicago Oct. 24 (JL) were late. Long-billed Dowitchers peaked with 250+ at O.W.R., Oct. 5 but were scarce elsewhere. It was a poor fall for Wilson's Phalaropes with few reports and no more than five at any location. In contrast, Red-necked Phalaropes were widely scattered in all states except Kentucky including flocks of 30 at Big Creek L., Ia., Sept. 1 (SD), 22 at O.W.R., Sept. 28 (J *et al.*), and 13 at Rice Lake W.M.A., Ill., Sept. 3 (TP). Only one Red Phalarope was reported along L. Erie where they are regular migrants. Elsewhere, one appeared at Port of Indiana, Ind., Oct. 16–18 (CFi, m.ob.), and inland singles were detected at Hoover Res., O., Sept. 19 (†, MG), Thomas Hill Res., Mo., Sept. 21 (†RB), C.J. Brown Res., O., Oct. 20 (†KA *et al.*), and Lake of Ozarks S.P., Mo., Oct. 26 (WL).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — It was another good fall for jaegers with most confined to the Great Lakes: Parasitics were most noticeable on L. Michigan with three at Hammond, Ind., Oct. 4 (†KB *et al.*) and a remarkable nine at Wilmette, Ill., Oct. 25 (JL). Only one Parasitic was adequately described from L. Erie and an immature was closely studied and photographed at Monroe, Res., Ind., Sept. 5–9 (†LS, DW). There were 7 other reports of unidentified jaegers on the Great Lakes and one in n. Illinois.

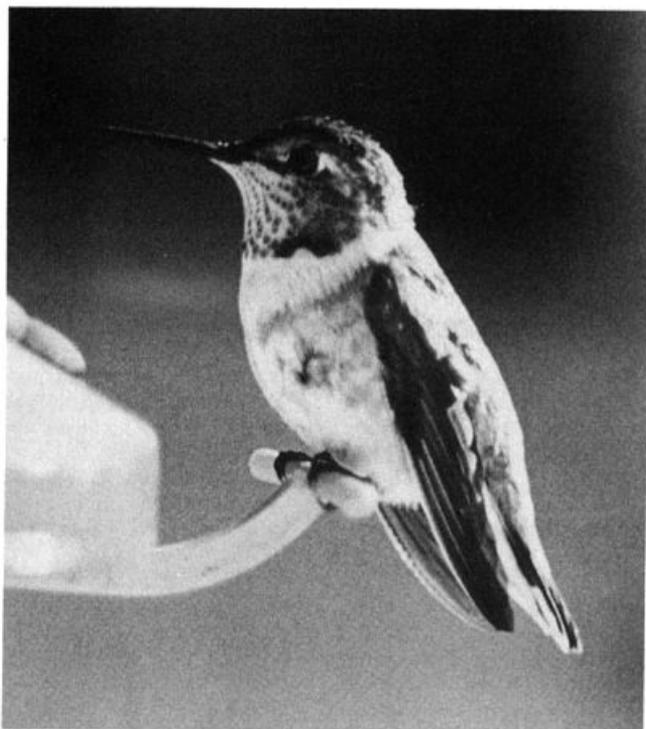
Laughing Gulls staged another good movement but not in the large numbers of last year. Only single birds were encountered at 3 Great Lakes locations. Inland reports consisted of one in Ohio, a total of four at Kentucky L. and Barkley L., Ky., Oct. 25 (BP), and sightings at 7 Illinois locations with a maximum of five at Clinton L., Aug. 30 (†RCh) and a late bird at Alton Nov. 16 (RA). Early Franklin's Gulls returned to Spfld., Aug. 2 (H) and Kentucky L., Ky., Aug. 9 (MM, JEr). Small numbers were widely reported in all states but large concentrations appeared only in Iowa with 37,840 at Say. Res., Oct. 9 (SD) and 1500 at 2 other lakes. Little Gulls were rather scarce on L. Erie with only scattered singles reported. More noteworthy on L. Michigan were different birds at Michigan City, Ind., Oct. 23 (†KB, LHi) & 24 (†CFi), and one at Chicago Nov. 26 (†JMi). The only Com. Black-headed Gull observed was at Cleveland Nov. 14+ (WK, m.ob.). A total of 539 Bonaparte's Gulls at Say. Res., Oct. 17 made a large number for Iowa. For comparison, Bonaparte's along the Cleveland-Lorain lakefront in November probably exceeded 100,000 and were joined by 200,000+ Ring-

billeds. The earliest Thayer's Gulls returned to Chicago Nov. 9 (JL) and Alton, Ill., Nov. 13 (CP), with reports elsewhere on the Great Lakes and south to Spfld. by the end of the month. One at Say. Res., Nov. 23–26+ (†SD, †m.ob.) provided a 2nd acceptably documented record for Iowa. Iceland Gulls at East-lake, O., Nov. 11 (D & JHo, RHn) and Chicago Nov. 16 (JL) were early for a species seldom observed before December. The expanding Lesser Black-backed Gull appeared at 3 inland locations where still accidental, with singles at Keokuk, Ia.-Ill., Oct. 20–21 (†RC), L. Gibson, Ind., Nov. 2 (†DJ *et al.*) and Say Res., Nov. 29 (†SD, †BW). There was also one report from L. Michigan and as many as three at scattered sites along L. Erie. Accidental inland, a Great Black-backed Gull was discovered at Joliet, Ill., Nov. 19 (†JMi), and one at Say. Res., Nov. 30 (†SD, †PM) provided the 3rd Iowa record. Black-legged Kittiwakes were scarce with only 2 reports from L. Erie including an adult at Cleveland Nov. 15 (J *et al.*). An extraordinary seven imm Sabine's Gulls graced Carlyle L., Ill., Sept. 23–28 (LHa, BR, m.ob.), providing an unprecedented inland concentration for this Region. One also appeared at Say. Res., Oct. 5 (†SD) for Iowa's 6th record.

Numbers of most terns continued their long-term decline, especially along L. Erie where few were noted w. of O.W.R. Caspians peaked with 321 at Say. Res., Sept. 13 (SD) and 175 at O.W.R., Aug. 28 (ET), and lingered through Oct. 31 in Indiana. Largest concentrations of Com. Terns totalled 1000+ along w. Lake Erie and 260 on L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana. A total of 78 Forster's Terns at Kentucky L., Oct. 5 made a large number for Kentucky (BP) and a maximum of 130 was reported along w. Lake Erie. A late Forster's remained at Barkley L., Ky., Nov. 29 (BP). A remarkable 36 Least Terns congregated at Stockton L., Mo., Sept. 5 (RMa *et al.*) while flocks of 10–12 in w. Kentucky and eight in w. Iowa were more representative of recent years. Extralimital Leasts wandered to all states except Ohio including adults with two dependent young at L. Gibson, Ind., Aug. 22 (AB) and singles E to Louisville Sept. 2 (BP *et al.*) and Green River L., Ky., Sept. 14 (DS, FS). It was a poor year for Black Terns with maxima of 160 at Cleveland Aug. 12 (TL) and 20–63 in the other states.

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Low numbers of both cuckoos continued throughout the fall, and the customary stragglers remained into late October. Small numbers of Greater Roadrunners persist in s.w. Missouri with several reports in Taney this fall. Two Com. Barn-Owls were discovered Sept. 12 in Dallas, Ia. (RM) where they are rare summer residents. Small numbers were also reported from Missouri and Kentucky. The earliest Snowy Owl returned to Cleveland Nov. 3, but they generally appeared in the n. states during the last week of November with a more substantial movement during early December. A maximum of three at 7 locations in the n. states was indicative of a modest flight at best. They are casual visitors to Missouri, where there were 3 reports s. to the St. Louis area by early December. Three Burrowing Owls in Sac, Ia., Aug. 15 may have indicated a successful nesting attempt in the area (*vide* JD). The other migrant owls were noted in normal numbers with 5 Long-eared sightings in the n. states, 13 Short-eared reports in all states except Missouri, and single N. Saw-whets in each state. The latter species is rarely reported in Kentucky, where an injured bird was found in Nelson Nov. 11 (JA). The Com. Nighthawk migration was normal with a maximum of 1200 in Chicago Sept. 4 (JL) and flocks of 500+ in many other locations. Late migrants included one at Spfld., Oct. 26 (H) and eight at Keokuk, Ia., Oct. 24 where one remained through Oct. 29 (†RC). A Chuck-will's-widow in Calloway Sept. 9 provided an unusual fall record for Kentucky (MM).

Late Chimney Swifts were noted through Oct. 26 in Warren, Ia. (SD) and Oct. 28 in Buchanan, Mo. (L). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds received mixed reports although 38 accumulated at Middlefork W.M.A., Ill., Sept. 6 (SB). They remained through Oct. 13–15 in several states. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds attracted more attention. Single immatures at Eldon, Mo., Nov



Selasphorus hummingbird (Rufous or Allen's) at Eldon, Mo., Nov. 14, 1986. The throat pattern indicates an immature male, but the bird cannot be identified to species. Photo/Jim Rathert.

14+ and Salisbury, Mo., Nov. 15–30 (†JW) were thought to be Rufous although their tail patterns were not described in adequate detail to eliminate all similar species. It is not necessarily safe to assume these hummers are Rufous. A *Selasphorus* hummingbird at a Virden, Ill., feeder since late August was identified as an imm. **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** Nov. 22–24 on the basis of its tail pattern, which included entirely green central rectrices and largely black outer rectrices with rufous bases and extensive white tips (†H, m.ob.). It provided the first Regional record for this species. Migrant woodpeckers elicited few comments. Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers near Bellevue, Ia., Aug. 22 (P) were probably summer residents. They were scarce in many areas with a maximum of 30 along L. Erie Oct. 4. There were few substantial movements of N. Flickers except for 110 along w. Lake Erie Oct. 5.

The flycatcher migration was unremarkable with no large movements reported. Noteworthy late records included Olive-sided Flycatchers in Dallas, Ia., Oct. 5 (RM) and Buchanan, Mo., Oct. 1 (L), an Acadian at Headlands S.P., O., Oct. 5 (J, JM), and Great Crested in Vermilion, Ill., Oct. 7 (SB). Normal numbers of W. Kingbirds passed through the w. states while extralimital singles appeared at L. Rockwell, O., Sept. 6 (LR), Hoover Res., O., Sept. 14 (MG, †J) and Fairmount, Ill., Sept. 15 (JS). Largest movements of E. Kingbirds totalled only 24–27. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Jasper, Mo., Nov. 20 was also late (JDo).

The swallow migration was typical for fall with local concentrations in most states. Purple Martins were rather scarce with the only reported roost of 8000 at S. Bass Is., O., Aug. 23 (KA). They remained through Oct. 12–15 at several Illinois sites. Tree Swallows were numerous with a maximum of 12,000 in Henderson, Ill., Oct. 4 (MB) and flocks of 1000–6500 in most other states. Northern Rough-winged peaked with 2500 in Buchanan, Mo., Oct. 1 (L) and 2000 at Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Sept. 28 (SR et al.). The largest concentration of Bank Swallows totalled 3800 in Hancock, Ill., Aug. 9 (RC) while a maximum of 2500 congregated along w. Lake Erie. A flock of 1000 Cliff Swallows in Vermilion Sept. 10 was large for Illinois, while a similar number was estimated at Hendrickson Marsh, Ia.,

Sept. 14 (HZ). The only concentration of Barn Swallows totalled 1400 at S. Bass Is., O., Aug. 18 (KA). They lingered into November at 4 locations with the latest Nov. 11–12 at E. St. Louis, Ill. (†RG) and Nov. 10 in Iowa, Ia. (LH).

CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — The largest roosts of Am. Crows totalled 12,000 at Keokuk, Ia., Nov. 17 (RC) and 10,000 at Harvey L., Ind., Nov. 16 (CK). Fish Crows were restricted to their normal Mississippi R. range with a maximum of 45 in Monroe, Ill., Sept. 27 (RG). There was no noticeable S movement of Black-capped Chickadees this fall. Red-breasted Nuthatches were generally scarce except for local concentrations of 15–19 in Illinois. Scattered Brown Creepers during late August and early September were probably summer residents. Migrants were scarce in many areas. Three reports of Rock Wrens were unexpected. There are few recent records from Iowa, where singles were noted at Cedar Rapids Oct. 30 (†D & HF) and Say. Res., Nov. 22–30 (†B & LPa, m.ob.). They are accidental in Illinois, where one appeared at Fulton Sept. 28 (†RPe). Small numbers of Bewick's Wrens were reported from Kentucky, Missouri, and s. Illinois while one was discovered Sept. 1 in Lee, Ia., where they are casual visitors (†RC). A singing Winter Wren in Des Moines, Ia., Aug. 28 (P) was probably a summer resident. Migrants were not particularly plentiful with a maximum of 25 along L. Erie. Small numbers of Sedge Wrens were scattered across all states including possible territorial birds at Reelfoot W.M.A., Ky., Sept. 1+ (BP).

Kinglets staged an excellent migration along L. Erie but only local concentrations developed elsewhere. Golden-crowneds peaked with an estimated 2500 on S. Bass Is., O., Oct. 5 (KA) and 130 in Polk, Ia., Oct. 3 (SD). An early Ruby-crowned returned to Allamakee, Ia., Aug. 6 (MD) and the Oct. 5 flight along L. Erie produced concentrations of 1400 on S. Bass Is. and 400 at O.W.R. The thrush migration was unimpressive. A Townsend's Solitaire was discovered near Ledges S.P., Ia., Oct. 29 (†SD) where they are casual migrants. *Catharus* thrushes were scarce on the ground although substantial numbers of night migrants passed overhead. The only Varied Thrush reported was at St. Joseph, Ill., Dec. 5 (PB, †EC). Mimids elicited few comments except for the customary late migrants and 60 Gray Catbirds at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Ia., Sept. 27 (Jsa et al.). Bohemian Waxwings are rare migrants in w. and c. Iowa, where one or two appeared at 4 locations Nov. 15+; none was recorded elsewhere. Flocks of Cedar Waxwings were widespread through October but numbers were greatly diminished in November. The earliest N. Shrike returned to Chicago Oct. 12 (JL). A good flight developed in Iowa with 12 reports s. to Mills, but only 2 sightings in Indiana and 3 in Illinois represented normal numbers for fall. Few Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from n. areas.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Both groups returned early and were widespread in s. areas by late August. The September movements tended to be local and unremarkable with the most pronounced Regionwide flight occurring Oct. 3–5. This flight produced an abrupt end to their migration except for scattered stragglers that lingered into November. The only exceptionally late vireo was a Solitary in Burlington, Ia., Nov. 2 (†C & JaF). Noteworthy concentrations were reported only from Iowa with 26 Solitaires at Ames Aug. 30 (SD) and 75 Red-eyes at George Wyth S.P., Sept. 7 (RC, Jsa).

Single Blue-winged and Golden-winged warblers at Louisville Oct. 10 were both late (DN). Three "Brewster's" and two "Lawrence's" hybrids were reported this fall. Tennessee Warblers peaked with 80 at Warsaw, Ill., Aug. 27 (RC) and 50–65 at other sites in Illinois and Iowa. Nashville Warblers lingered into November in Indiana and Kentucky with the latest at Berea, Ky., Nov. 17 (†A & TR). A **Virginia's Warbler** at S.C.R., Aug. 30 (†WL) was completely unexpected, providing the first record for Missouri. Rarely observed after early September, a Yellow Warbler at Cleveland Oct. 4 (LR) was late. An early Chestnut-sided Warbler returned to Charleston, Ill., Aug. 11

(BH) and 72 at Ledges S P, Ia, Aug 23 made a large concentration for fall (SD). Cape May Warblers staged an excellent flight as evidenced by 135 at S. Bass Is., O., Sept. 5 (KA) and 31 in the Dunes area of n.w. Indiana Aug. 28 (KB *et al.*). They are normally rare in Iowa, where there were 10 reports, including an incredible 11 at Ames Aug. 27 (PM). One was also noted in n.w. Missouri. Unusual numbers of Black-throated Blue Warblers appeared in the w. states with at least 12 in e. and c. Iowa and four reported from Missouri. A Yellow-rumped Warbler at M.M.W.A., Aug. 31 (ET) was early but their numbers were unimpressive with a maximum of 200 in s. Illinois. In keeping with the other w. strays this fall, Kentucky's first **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was discovered at a Lexington cemetery Nov. 28+ (†BA, m.ob.). A Yellow-throated Warbler at O.W.R., Sept. 13 (J, MG) provided one of few fall records for n.w. Ohio, while another was equally unusual in n.e. Indiana at Fox Is., Aug. 12 (Haw). A very late Yellow-throated was noted at Berea, Ky., Nov. 10–11 (†A & TR). Two Prairie Warblers were detected Aug. 12–15 in s.e. Iowa in Lee (RC), where they may be summer residents. One in Andrew Aug. 18 (LGa) was unusual for n.w. Missouri. Palm Warblers peaked with 75+ in the Chicago area Sept. 27. The earliest Bay-breasted Warbler returned to Cleveland Aug. 4 (DC) while one at Radcliff, Ky., Nov. 15 was late (RHe). Good numbers of Blackpoll Warblers also appeared along the Great Lakes. A Cerulean Warbler at Ames Sept. 26 (PM) provided one of few fall records for Iowa.

Other late warblers included a Black-and-white at Kaskaskia W.M.A., Ill., Oct. 31 (YM) and an Am. Redstart at Berea, Ky., Oct. 27 (A & TR). A Worm-eating Warbler at Chicago Sept. 14 provided that area's first fall record since 1969 (WM). Ovenbirds were numerous only as casualties at a Spfld. tower during early October. One at Chicago Nov. 5 was late (JL). A tardy Hooded Warbler was noted at L. Rockwell, O., Oct. 11 (LR) while an exceptionally late Wilson's Warbler was discovered at Kentucky L., Ky., Nov. 30 (†JR). To complete this fall's assortment of w. strays, a **Painted Redstart** appeared at Nevada, Mo., Oct. 19 (SW), providing a first record for the state.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Tanagers elicited few comments except for a Summer Tanager at Dunes S.P., Sept. 17, providing the first fall record for n.w. Indiana (FK, HM). The grosbeak migration was unremarkable with Rose-breasted remaining through Oct. 18 in Ohio and Blue Grosbeaks through Sept. 21 in Kentucky. An Indigo Bunting at Mermet Lake W.M.A., Ill., Nov. 22 (†DR, TF) was late.

The sparrow migration was one of the poorest in recent years. Except for a local flight at Cleveland Oct. 4, substantial movements were unreported and numbers were unusually low in most areas. An early Am. Tree Sparrow returned to O.W.R., Oct. 5. A total of 120 Chipping Sparrows at Big River S.F., Ill., Sept. 15 was a large number for fall (MB). Clay-colored Sparrows are rare but regular migrants through Illinois, where there were 3 reports Sept. 23–Oct. 14; one at Carlyle L., Oct. 14 (†LHa) was noteworthy for s. Illinois. A Clay-colored Sparrow was also banded at Cleveland Oct. 4, providing one of few fall records for Ohio (DC, JT). A Lark Sparrow at S. Bass Is., Aug. 27 constituted an unusual fall record for Ohio (KA) and two late migrants were noted at Coralville Res., Ia., Oct. 5 (T). The only migrant Henslow's Sparrow detected was in Illinois Oct. 11. Le Conte's Sparrows may prove to be rare but regular migrants along L. Erie, where one was detected at Cleveland Oct. 1–3 (†TL *et al.*). Normal numbers appeared farther w. including a late migrant at Cone Marsh, Ia., Nov. 15 (JSa). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were detected at 8 locations, a normal number for fall. Two at Sauerheber W.M.A., Oct. 12 provided one of few records for Kentucky (BP *et al.*), while as many as four at Horseshoe L., Ill., Oct. 11–18 (†RBo, m.ob.) were noteworthy for the St. Louis area. Fox Sparrows peaked with 32–42 at scattered sites in Indiana and Illinois. Lincoln's Sparrows were scarce except for a remarkable 100+ at Cleveland Oct. 4 (m.ob.). The 200 Swamp Sparrows at Sauerheber W.M.A., Oct. 12 con-

stituted a noteworthy total for Kentucky (BP *et al.*) An early White-throated Sparrow returned to Ames, Ia., Sept. 4 (PM) but numbers were low with only scattered reports of 100–292 Few Harris' Sparrows wandered E with only single sightings in c. Illinois and n.w. Indiana. Accidental anywhere in the Region, a **McCown's Longspur** was flushed from Taberville Prairie, Mo., Nov. 15 (†WL). Lapland Longspurs returned to Cleveland Sept. 25 but were numerous only in Illinois and Iowa, with maxima of 1250 in Polk, Ia., Oct. 30 (SD) and 1210 in Vermilion, Ill., Nov. 14 (SB). Smith's Longspurs were reported only from one Illinois location. An early Snow Bunting at Hinckley, O., Oct. 8 (RH) was followed by a good movement across n. Ohio, n. Indiana, and Iowa, including flocks of 100–350.

Few Bobolinks were reported, and this once-common migrant appears to be declining. The largest concentration was of 100 in Iowa. Extralimital Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared at 3 c. and s. Illinois sites, with a maximum of six at Spfld., Oct. 3 (H), and one was noted at Cleveland Sept. 28 (RH). Normal numbers in the w. states included a late migrant in Iowa through Nov. 19. Brewer's Blackbirds were scattered across all states except Kentucky with a maximum of 12 in c. Illinois. The expanding Great-tailed Grackle peaked with 114 at S.C.R., Aug. 11 (LGa) and 30 in Fremont, Ia., through Oct. 2 (m.ob.). Late Orchard Orioles were noted at L. Manawa, Ia., Oct. 19 (†TB, B & LPa) and Shelby, Ill., Sept. 20 (KF).

The winter finch movement was less than impressive this year. The only Pine Grosbeak was found dead in Chicago in October (WM). A Purple Finch at Ames, Ia., Aug. 26 was thought to be an early migrant. Generally small numbers were detected in most states. House Finches have become common in Illinois with flocks of 25+ noted in Spfld. and Evanston. They are becoming regular in Iowa, with 2 reports in the Davenport area and 3 sightings near Ames this fall. Missouri singles appeared at Mountain View Nov. 25 (JE) and Springfield Nov. 15–19 (†CT), as this species marches towards its inevitable rendezvous with native w. populations. A Red Crossbill at Ames, Ia., Sept. 1 (EM) was followed by a small movement with one sighting in Missouri, 5 in Illinois, and 8 in Iowa. Largest flocks totaled 37–40 as they wandered S to Buchanan, Mo. (L) and Spfld. (H) and E to Urbana, Ill. (RCh). The only White-winged Crossbill appeared in Illinois. A modest movement of Com Redpolls was most apparent in n.e. Ohio, where they were first noted at Cleveland Oct. 22 (TL). The largest flocks consisted of 15–20 and they were noted only at widely scattered localities in the other n. states. Pine Siskins were the only widely reported finches. They returned to most states by mid-October although the largest numbers did not arrive until late November. Most reports were of 30 or fewer with a few flocks of 40–60. Evening Grosbeaks were universally scarce with scattered singles in all states except Missouri plus flocks of 12–35 in Ohio and Indiana.

CORRIGENDUM — The early Bay-breasted Warbler at Spfld this spring was actually observed Apr. 30, not Apr. 3 (AB 40:480)

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Robert D. Purrington

As seems almost inevitable after a season like the autumn of 1985, the weather this fall was largely uneventful, with no tropical weather at all (what a change from the year of hurricanes *Danny*, *Elena*, and *Juan*), near drought conditions that prevailed until October, and finally two wet months that erased most of the moisture deficit for the Region but grounded only modest numbers of transients. In Alabama and Louisiana, for example, rainfall deficits of up to 20 inches that carried into the early fall were balanced by excesses of 10 inches or more in October and November.

On the whole, most observers found birding slow until the first week in October, when a frontal passage triggered a large movement of nocturnal migrants, resulting in (among other things) a tower kill amounting to 625 birds at Little Rock on the night of October 4–5. This front also brought with it the first significant influx of western vagrants. In southeastern Louisiana, easily the largest concentrations of the fall resulted from the cool front of August 28–29. The “fallout” experienced by the Smalleys at Grand Isle, Louisiana, on August 29 was almost unprecedented for so early a date.

Typifying a rather mixed and undistinguished season, the extent of western vagrancy was also equivocal. While there were many records of Groove-billed Anis, Western Kingbirds, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, western hummingbirds put on a very poor show. Similarly, while there was a sizable influx of Golden-crowned Kinglets into the Region, there were few Red-breasted Nuthatches, and most boreal finches were absent or nearly so.

ABBREVIATIONS — L.O.S. = Louisiana Ornithological Society; M.O.S. = Mississippi Ornithological Society; T.O.S. = Tennessee Ornithological Society; LSUMZ = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology; B.R.C. = Bird Records Committee. Italicized place names are parishes (in Louisiana) or counties.

LOONS THROUGH STORK — While Com. Loons were early in Coahoma, Miss., Oct. 8 (MD, GK) and in Baton Rouge, La., Oct. 18 (MS), the 61 in Henry, Tenn., Nov. 8 (JCR) and 150 along coastal Harrison, Miss., Nov. 26 (JT, CD) represented good numbers. Three in inland Lawrence, Ala., July 27 (NP) were unusual, but not unprecedented. Records from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana indicated that Horned Grebes had moved south in good numbers, and the few records of Eared Grebes also suggested increased numbers. One of the more interesting records of this species was of one in St. Tammany, La., Nov. 15 (MM, DM), for the 8th s.e. Louisiana record. Without dispute the bird of the season, subject to further scrutiny of the excellent details provided, was a **Northern Fulmar** seen at Romar Beach near Gulf Shores, Ala., Nov. 9 (JRC, AC)!



This writer was provided with a detailed description of the bird, which was as close as 80 yards from the observers, who have recently moved to the U.S. from England. At least one of the observers (JRC) has lived near breeding fulmar colonies in South Wales (fide TAD). The description is clearly of a large, light-colored tubenose, bull-headed, with flap-and-glide flight pattern, and with primaries showing light at the base—evidently a “double-light” N. Fulmar. While there are no previous records for the Gulf of Mexico, there have been several confirmed sightings from the coastline of the Carolinas (especially Oregon Inlet) since 1973. Two large shearwaters with light underparts seen from shore at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Nov. 22 (RLB, RWB), were thought to be Cory’s; no sign of white on the tail or nape were seen. If accepted, this would be the 4th record for the state.

A number of records of migrating Am. White Pelicans were submitted from inland portions of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee, where their occurrence is unusual, mostly during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of October. Immature Brown Pelicans were seen Aug. 2 & 9 in Cameron, s.w. Louisiana (SWC, DLD), where they had been absent for 2 decades, and an encouraging concentration of 20 was seen in Jackson, Miss., Nov. 2 (JT, MD, TLS, CD). Notable sightings of Double-crested Cormorants included two, one an immature, in Lafayette, Miss., Aug. 11–12 (MD, GK), an early individual in Washington, Ark., Aug. 24 (MML), and a maximum of 329 in Humphreys, Tenn., Oct. 19 (MHI, AHH). The first record of an Olivaceous Cormorant in s.e. Louisiana in nearly 30 years was of one carefully studied at Grand Isle Aug. 9 (DM, RDP). An Anhinga in Grenada, Miss., Sept. 27 (GK, MD) provided a first area record.

Records of Great Egrets between Oct 19 and Nov 8 from n Mississippi and w. Tennessee, totalling over 350 individuals, represented large numbers and late dates for those areas (MHI, MD, GK, LCC, BBC, TLS). A Snowy Egret in Sumner, Tenn., July 26–Aug. 23 (DTC, JPC, m.ob.) provided the first county record, and one in Stewart Aug. 17 & 23 (JCR) furnished another unusual Middle Tennessee record. Inland records of the normally coastal Tricolored Heron included sightings in Madison, E. Baton Rouge, and Pointe Coupee, La. (HM, DWG, SWC, DLD, JK). Cattle Egrets, which retreat toward the coast in winter, were late in Washington, Ark. (KS, JN), Stewart, Tenn. (JCR), and Lauderdale, Ala. (DS) between Nov. 8 & 11. Records of Black-crowned Night-Herons Sept. 28 in Benton, Ark. (KS, BS, NB, MMI) and from late August into November in Grenada and Lafayette, Miss., were unusual, as were records of White Ibis from inland Louisiana and Mississippi during the same period. A Glossy Ibis was seen in Adair, Okla., just across the border from Benton, Ark., Aug. 26 (MMI); there are no previous records for n.w. Arkansas. Single Plegadis ibises in Okaloosa and Santa Rosa, Fla., on 3 occasions between Sept. 15 and Oct. 20 (DW, BG, RT, PBA, RAD) were unusual as well. There were more reports than usual of Wood Storks, highlighted by 500 in Madison, La., Aug. 19 (GTL, MB, JW) and 100 there Aug. 30 (HM). There were 8 other records through Oct. 11 in Noxubee and Grenada, Miss., Perry, Ala., and Rapides and E. Baton Rouge, La., involving 87 birds.

WATERFOWL — Two sightings of presumed Tundra Swans were reported: an immature Nov. 13 in Natchitoches, La. (LT) and an adult at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Nov. 16 (TJW, DMM). A Mute Swan, origin unknown, was seen at L. Fayetteville, Ark., Nov. 23 (MMI). Up to seven Greater White-fronted Geese were seen at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., Oct. 6 & 7 (DW, HK); they are considered accidental in the Florida section. The 2 reports of **Ross' Goose** included a first record for Tennessee at Cross Creeks N.W.R. on Nov. 20 (JCR), and another at Holla Bend N.W.R., Ark., Nov. 23 (CM, WM). Both were well described. A Green-winged Teal in Maury, Tenn., Aug. 9 (SJS, JCR, DTC, JPC, BHS) was very early, as was an eclipse ♂ N. Shoveler in Cameron, La., Aug. 10 (SWC, DLD). Three nearly-flightless Gadwalls in eclipse plumage at Cameron the same day (SWC, DLD) were probably summering, while three in Jefferson, Ala., Aug. 29 (TAI) were thought to be migrants. Also very early was a Canvasback in Cameron Sept. 28 (MS). Although Toups thought that numbers were up in coastal Mississippi, there were no records for s.e. Louisiana. It is gratifying to hear of a count of 20 Redheads on Bobb Kidd L. in Washington, Ark., Nov. 18 (MMI).

Two inland records of Greater Scaup were considered noteworthy: an immature Nov. 14–19 in Oktibbeha, Miss. (MFH, TLS, DJ), and a female in Colbert, Ala., from Nov. 26 on (DJS, TH). At least 100 were counted in Hancock, Miss., Nov. 28, following heavy rains and N winds (JT), outnumbering the Lesser Scaup present. A Nov. 15 record of Oldsquaw from L. Pontchartrain (CB) foreshadowed a better-than-average showing for this species, one present in Okaloosa, Fla., Nov. 3–19 (BW, RWB, RLB, RSB, RAD, AF, DF, GF) was earliest ever by 19 days, and a male at L. Millwood, Ark., Nov. 27 (CM) provided the first record for that well-birded locale. There were two records of Black Scoters, Nov. 11–12 on Franklin Res., Tenn. (SJS, CKC, JRP, CP), the 5th Nashville area record, and up to 15 at Gulfport, Miss., Nov. 17–28 (DK, JT, m.ob.). There were at least 11 records of 27 Surf Scoters but only two of White-winged Scoters, the least common of the 3 species in the Region. One was in Sumner, Tenn., Oct. 25–26 (CKC, m.ob.), and another was in Harrison, Miss., Nov. 17–20 (NA, JT). While a Ruddy Duck in Jackson, Miss., Aug. 29 (JT, CD) was presumed to have summered, counts of 74 in Washington, Ark. (MMI) and 200 in coastal Jackson, Miss. (JT, CD), both Nov. 18, were high for those areas.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Again this fall, much of the systematic information on migrating raptors came from

the hawkwatches conducted by Chuck Feerick, Paul McKenzie, and others in Louisiana. These data include a total of 651 migrating Black Vultures in E. Baton Rouge in the period Sept. 27–Oct. 5 (CF). A roost of 450 Black Vultures in Sumner, Tenn., Nov. 1 (DTC, JPC) was the largest flock reported from middle Tennessee in years. At least 21 reports of Ospreys were received, involving 41 individuals; most of the reports were from Louisiana and Mississippi. Black-shouldered Kites continue to be reported from s.w. Louisiana, where one was seen Oct. 18 in Cameron (DLD, SWC), and from s.w. Mississippi, where two were recorded Oct. 23 and Nov. 15 (DK, JT). The latter records were from the Hancock locale, where the species has nested, and were the first records since December 1985. While Feerick and McKenzie counted 354 migrating Mississippi Kites at Baton Rouge in August and September, other migrating flocks included three in w. Arkansas at Clear Creek Park Aug. 11 (KM), 25 in Warren, Miss., Aug. 23 (GTL, MB), and 20 on Aug. 30 at Little Rock (TF). A juvenile in St. Tammany, La., Sept. 27 (AS, GS, JSe) was very late. Sightings of 26 Bald Eagles were reported (15 adults, 11 immatures), including five in coastal Mississippi. Northern Harriers were very early in Sumner, Tenn., Aug. 15 (CKC), earliest for the Nashville area, the Atchafalaya Basin, La., Aug. 23 (KC), and Warren, Miss., Aug. 30 (GTL). Although numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks were slightly disappointing, there were 12 reports from middle Tennessee (*vide* SJS) and 14 from coastal Mississippi (*vide* JT). Louisiana records were dominated by the hawk watch results of Feerick and McKenzie, who had 161 at Baton Rouge during September and October, and a total of 611 in Cameron Oct. 15 & 16.

Ruffed Grouse in Putnam and Coffee, Tenn., on the Highland Rim Nov. 3 & 19 (RWS, WY, GY), were unusual in being off the adjacent Cumberland Plateau. There were 2 records of migrating Yellow Rails: Sept. 13 near Pangburn, Ark. (TB, HP, MP), and Sept. 27 in Davidson, Tenn. (CW). A very early Virginia Rail was seen at Jackson City, Miss., Sept. 4 (JS), and an early Sora was in Williamson, Tenn., Aug. 4 (JCR, SJS). While numbers in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi continue to be low, single birds Oct. 30 & 31 at Sardis Waterfowl Ref., Lafayette, Miss. (VT) represented the first fall records there. The first record ever of Com. Moorhen for the Grenada, Miss., area was a breeding record: one adult and two immatures Aug. 23 (GK, SK) and two immatures Sept. 27 (MD, GK). Sandhill Cranes made an excellent showing in Middle Tennessee, with a total of over 2300 counted between Oct. 16 and the end of the period (some duplication is possible). Best days were Nov. 3 & 4 in Pickett (RH, DH, MZ), where over 750 were noted, and Nov. 10 there and in Putnam (RWS), totalling some 600 individuals. Two were seen Oct. 15 in Baldwin, Ala., where a few winter each year (AM, ADM). A single bird in Hancock, Miss., Sept. 21 (JP) was early and unusual if not part of the Jackson breeding population.

SHOREBIRDS — There were 5 records of Lesser Golden-Plover at Cross Creek N.W.R., Tenn., between July 22 and Nov. 6 (JCR); of interest as well were sightings in Baldwin, Ala., Sept. 5 & 7 (PB), St. Charles, La., Sept. 17 (RJS), and Nov. 7 & 9 at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. (RWB, RLB, *et al.*). One at Ft. Morgan Nov. 30 (RAD) was latest ever for Alabama except for an anomalous Dec. 18, 1976, occurrence.

S.A.

A juv. **Mongolian Plover** molting to first basic plumage was collected on Rutherford Beach, Cameron, La., Oct. 18 (SWC, DLD, GR) for the 2nd state record. The bird was very similar to a Wilson's Plover, differing in more upright posture, shorter bill, olive-gray vs. grayish-flesh legs, dark nape, more developed superciliary stripe, buffy wash to underparts, and different call. Readers may recall that the first record of this species for the lower 48 states came in 1975 when one was photographed at Grand Isle, La. (AB 31:140).

Records of 32 Snowy Plovers included 12 at Rutherford Beach, Cameron, Oct. 12, and 10 there Nov. 1 (DLD, SWC), one at Gulfport Aug. 22 (MFH, m.ob.) was unusual. The endangered status of the Piping Plover has generated more nearly complete reporting of Regional sightings; this fall there were over 15 reports of at least 50 individuals, mostly from coastal s.w. Louisiana where the high count was of seven Nov. 1 in Cameron (DLD, SWC). One in Sumner, Tenn., Aug. 16 (CKC) was the only report of the season from middle Tennessee, and Touns thought numbers were down slightly in coastal Mississippi. Black-necked Stilts were unusual inland in Pointe Coupee, La., Aug. 13 and Sept. 15 (DWG), and in Warren, Miss., Sept. 23 (GTL), and there were a number of inland records of Am. Avocet in Adair, Okla., Middle Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana between Aug. 19 and Oct. 16. While four Solitary Sandpipers in Cameron, La., Aug. 1 & 2 (DLD, SWC, DM) were very early, single birds in Cameron Nov. 2 (SWC, DLD) and in Washington, Ark., Nov. 23 (JN) were late. There were several inland records of Willets from central Louisiana and Mississippi, mostly during Aug. 17–20. The Whimbrel is an uncommon fall migrant through the Region, becoming less common as one moves W. The 10 records received this fall, all from Cameron in s.w. Louisiana, were thus of interest. A Long-billed Curlew at the Mobile Causeway Aug. 24–Sept. 1 (RAD, GDJ, CDC) provided the 4th August record for Alabama. A Marbled Godwit in Lonoke Sept. 13 & 14 (HH, EH, HP, MP) was unusual for Arkansas, and one Oct. 10 in Pointe Coupee, La. (DWG), was unexpected at that inland locality. Also unusual inland were eight Ruddy Turnstones at the Bonnet Carre Spillway, La., Aug. 9–16 (MW, RJS, MA), and several in Grenada and Lafayette, Miss., Oct. 13 and Nov. 13 & 22 (GK, MD).

A Sanderling at Sardis L., Lafayette, Miss., Nov. 14 (MD, GK) provided only the 2nd record there in over 20 years. Semipalmated Sandpipers were recorded in coastal s.w. Louisiana through Nov. 2 (SWC, DLD*); there are few records for the state after early November. There were 2 records of White-rumped Sandpipers, Aug. 10 in Cameron (DLD, SWC*) and Sept. 1 in Mobile, Ala. (GDJ, CDC). A concentration of 35 Baird's Sandpipers in Lonoke, Ark., Oct. 4 (HP, MP) was notable, as were up to 23 in Oktibbeha, Miss., Sept. 27–Oct. 11 (TLS, MFH, m.ob.); one or two at the latter locality Nov. 8 were late, as was one in Cameron Oct. 26 (SWC, DLD, VR). Also very late was a Pectoral Sandpiper in Stewart, Tenn., Nov. 26 (JCR). Three early August records of six Dunlin from Cameron, La., included four birds in alternate plumage presumed to have summered. There are few August records for the state. While two Stilt Sandpipers in Hancock, Miss., Nov. 6 (JT, GM, JS) were late, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Stewart Aug. 2 (MHI, m.ob.) furnished one of the earliest records for Tennessee. The 2nd substantiated record of a Ruff for Arkansas was obtained Sept. 14 when one was photographed in Lonoke (HP, MP). Red-necked Phalaropes were noted Sept. 27 (three) in Benton, Ark. (NB), the next day (two) in Davidson, Tenn. (ACN), Oct. 17 (one) in Lonoke, Ark. (MP), and Nov. 1 (one) in Cameron, La. (VR*). Red Phalaropes were recorded in Perry, Ala., Sept. 13 (HHK, BG), this the earliest record ever for Alabama's coastal plain, and Oct. 26 in Sumner, Tenn. (CGD, m.ob.).

GULLS AND TERNS — Records of Franklin's Gulls spanned the period Oct. 5–Nov. 24. Of special interest were sightings at Dauphin I., Oct. 15 (RAD, SD, AF, DF) and Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., Nov. 11 (RAD, LD, SD, HC). An inland Alabama record, Nov. 22 & 24 in Lauderdale (TH, DJS), was also notable, being the first November record for Alabama's Tennessee Valley. High counts of migrating Franklin's included 550 over Cameron, La., Oct. 26 (KVR, GR, PM), and 456 Oct. 30 and 700–800 Nov. 1 at L. Millwood, Ark. (CM). Over 100 were counted on Cameron's beaches Nov. 1 & 2 (DLD, SWC). A Little Gull at L. Millwood Oct. 15 (CM, DRH) provided the 2nd record for Arkansas (and the lake). Records of a total of nine Ring-billed Gulls on Sardis L., Miss., Aug. 19–30 (MD) were the first August records for that locality. Single California

Gulls on Rutherford Beach, Cameron, Sept. 27 & 28–29 (SWC, DLD, CEQ) represented the 7th and 8th records for Louisiana, all in the last 2 years. The birds were in adult winter and 2nd-winter plumage, respectively. An imm. Herring Gull on Sardis L., Miss., Aug. 19–30 (MD) was earliest ever there by 11 weeks, and an adult in Jefferson, Ala., Oct. 4 (TAI, BM) was the 2nd-earliest for the Birmingham area. While there are always stragglers on the coastal beaches throughout the summer, work this fall showed that they trickle into coastal s.w. Louisiana throughout August. Lesser Black-backed Gulls again appeared on Cameron, La., beaches in late September and were gone by November. The records, all of adults, were: one Sept. 25 (PMcK, CF), three Sept. 27–29 (DLD, SWC, CEQ), two Oct. 12 (SWC, DLD), two Oct. 18–19 (SWC, DLD, GR), and one Oct. 26 (KVR, GR, RM). The total number of individuals involved was thought to be five or six. Alabama's 3rd record of the species was of one in Marshall Nov. 7 (AM, ADM), and an adult on the Gulfport-Biloxi beach from Nov. 17 on (JT, DK—ph. JT) was thought to be the same individual that had wintered the previous 3 years. A Great Black-backed Gull at Dauphin I., Oct. 3 (PK, ER, BR, JR) was the earliest ever for Alabama by one month. Observers in other parts of the Region, especially along the coast, may be perturbed to learn that Sabine's Gull, represented this fall by the sighting of a juvenile on Oct. 10 (CM), is no longer regarded as unusual at Arkansas' L. Millwood!

Inland middle Tennessee sightings of single Com. Terns at Cross Creeks N.W.R., July 13 (JCR) and at Percy Priest L., Aug. 8 (TJS, DMM) were quite unusual, and while these reports are seconded by Stedman, observers are reminded of the identification problems, especially that posed by imm. Forster's Terns. Numbers of Com. Terns along Cameron beaches declined from over 100 Aug. 1–2 (DLD, SWC, DM) to only a few in September. Dittmann and Cardiff concluded that migrants began to arrive in late August and early September, and 60 seen in Hancock, Miss., Aug. 25 (JT, DK) were also thought to be migrants. Two Least Terns in Lauderdale, Ala., Aug. 17 (NP) were worth noting, while four in Lonoke Oct. 4 (HP, MP) were latest ever for Arkansas by nearly 2 weeks. An imm. Sooty Tern at Rutherford Beach, Cameron, Sept. 30 (DLD, SWC) provided one of the few Louisiana records away from the Curlew I. breeding colony. Black Terns were late in Cameron Nov. 1 (SWC) and in Jackson, Miss., Nov. 30 (TLS, MFH).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Records of White-winged Doves suggested a good movement into the coastal part of the Region. The earliest record of all was the easternmost, Oct. 13 in Escambia, Fla. (RAD), where the species is rarely encountered. There were several records from Ft. Morgan, Ala., coastal Mississippi, and Grand Isle and Cameron, La. An Inca Dove was seen in Cameron Oct. 26 (NN, RDP, MM, DM). Although individual records of Com. Ground-Dove do not merit recounting, the situation may soon change for this apparently-declining species. There was an early sighting at Cameron, La., Aug. 30 (KVR) and a report of 5 observations involving seven birds in Hancock, Miss., Oct. 6–Nov. 26 (JT). One Oct. 4 in Williamson, Tenn. (SJS), provided the first definitive Nashville area record. Late for n.w. Arkansas was an imm. Black-billed Cuckoo in Benton Oct. 19 (MML). Indications of declining numbers of Greater Roadrunners at the edge of their range in Arkansas and Louisiana has stimulated more careful reporting of their occurrence. This fall there were 2 reports from each state, from Caddo and Ouachita, La. (HHJ, SK, CMD), and Franklin and Madison, Ark. (DJ, NB). There were 16 reports of Groove-billed Anis from n.w. Florida to s.w. Louisiana, all in coastal or near-coastal locations. Most interesting was an unprecedentedly early record in Harrison, Miss., Sept. 8 (HS) and up to three at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Oct. 7–26 (RAD, PB, LGA, AME, CDC). Numbers in s.w. Louisiana were thought to be up, but there were few records for the s.e. part of the state. A Burrowing Owl recovered as a roadkill at L. Millwood, Ark., Oct. 16 (DRH*) furnished the first local record. There were 3 reports of Long-eared Owl: one heard at Vicks-

burg Sept 4 (GTL), one seen at Holla Bend N W R , Ark , Nov 23 (CM, WM), and perhaps as many as six in a roost near Oxford, Miss., Nov. 22 & 23 (JM, GK, SK, MD). A Short-eared Owl at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Nov. 16 (JCR) provided the first fall record for middle Tennessee in some years. Late Com. Night-hawks were seen near Decatur, Ala., Nov. 7 (AM, ADM) and in Davidson, Tenn., Nov. 28 (PBH). Three reports of Whip-poor-wills from Cameron, La., are mentioned here because of the suggestion that the frequency of sightings in fall is decreasing. The sightings were Aug. 15 (MJM), Sept. 15 (SWC, DLD), and Sept. 28 (MS). While western hummingbirds were rather scarce, especially in Louisiana whence most records originate, the season was not without its interesting records of hummingbirds. McKenzie reported a peak number of 250-300 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in the vicinity of his Baton Rouge, La., residence Aug. 30. Black-chinned records included an imm. male at the end of the period in Reserve, La. (RJS), where the species is regular in winter, and a report from Ft. Walton Beach, Fla., Nov. 12 (DW), which would provide the 4th record for n.w. Florida if accepted. Again capturing the headlines was a ♀ **Calliope Hummingbird** at Stein's feeders in Reserve Nov. 12-18 (RJS, KVR, NLN), the 3rd record there in 4 years! The bird was banded by Newfield, who preserved a tail feather (to LSUMZ). Records of Rufous Hummingbirds included an ad. male at Hattiesburg, Miss., Aug. 30-Sept. 4 (TG, LG), another ad. male at Florence, Ala., Aug. 29-Sept. 3 (PK, DK, NP, m.ob.), and an ad. female in Baton Rouge Aug. 29 to the end of the period (PMcK) which had arrived Nov. 30, 1984, was banded 3 days later, departed March 1985, returned the following Oct. 2, left again in April, to return this fall! Encouraging was a count of 122 Red-headed Woodpeckers in Shelby Forest S.P., Tenn., Oct. 26 (T.O.S.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — There was some evidence from reports submitted that it was a better-than-average season for Olive-sided Flycatchers; among the records, which spanned the period Aug. 12-Sept. 27, was a report of six in Cameron, La., Aug. 30 (KVR, MS). A wood-pewee collected Sept. 29 in Cameron (RJS, MW*) was identified by Cardiff as being a W. Wood-Pewee. One E. Wood-Pewee in Benton, Ark., Oct. 16 (MMI) and two at Cameron Nov. 1 (SWC, DLD) were late migrants. There were 22 records of specifically-identified *Empidonax* flycatchers submitted, including all the eastern species. Of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers there were 7 reports spanning the period Aug. 2 to Oct. 7. The former record, of one in Cameron (SWC, DM, DLD*), was the earliest ever for Louisiana. The other records included one calling in Ozark N.F., Ark., Aug. 31 (MMI), a well-described but silent bird in Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 22 (LGa), for the 3rd record for the Alabama coastal plain, singing birds at Hattiesburg, Miss., Oct. 1 & 3 (TG, LG), and single calling individuals Oct. 6 & 7 in Lafitte N.P. (DM). Finally, one was retrieved as a tower kill at Nashville's WSM-TV Oct. 6 (KAG). Although "Traill's"-type Flycatchers were reported between Aug. 1 and Oct. 12, the only bird that could be confidently identified to species was a Willow Flycatcher singing in Benton, Ark., Aug. 2 (MMI). Least Flycatchers were reported from Cameron, La., between Aug. 1 and Oct. 24, with a maximum of eight Aug. 1-2 (SWC, DLD, DM).

Of 5 records of Vermilion Flycatchers, 3 were dated Oct. 25: Ft. Morgan, Ala. (LGa, AMe), and Johnson's Bayou (GR, KVR, PM) and Gum Cove (VR, DLD, SWC) in Cameron, La. Another was in Cameron Oct. 26 (MM, DM, NN, RDP), and there was one in Jackson, Miss., Nov. 18 (JT, CD). Records of western *Myiarchus* included an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Baldwin, Ala., Oct. 17, two at Cameron Nov. 1 (BZ, VR*), and one at Ft. Pickens, Fla., Nov. 15 (RWB). A Great Crested Flycatcher in Shelby, Ala., Oct. 11 (GA, HHK) was the latest for the state except for 2 very old coastal records. An apparent Brown-crested Flycatcher was seen at Grand Isle, La., on the remarkably early date of Aug. 24 (NN, RDP); for s.e. Louisiana, there is no previous record before late November. The record

will be acted upon by the L O S Bird Records Committee One should add that the identification problems are far from trivial, whether one is distinguishing Brown-crested from Great Crested or from Ash-throated. Twelve reports of W. Kingbirds involving over 20 birds were received, indicating a good movement along the coast. These included early records in Cameron, La., Aug. 21 (DLD, SWC), and at Lafitte N.P., La., Aug. 26 (DM). A Gray Kingbird in Jackson, Miss., Sept. 6 (JT, CD) was unusual; most Mississippi records come from the barrier islands. At least 18 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were seen away from s.w. Louisiana, where numbers are often sizeable, between Sept. 14 and Nov. 2. Interesting records included one Sept. 14 at Memphis (RP), another in Baton Rouge, La., Sept. 28 (KVR), single birds in Warren, Miss., and nearby Madison, La., Oct. 6 & 8, respectively (GTL), an adult at Ft. Morgan Oct 26-27 (LGa, FS, CDC), and a very late individual for n.w. Arkansas Nov. 2 (NB). At the L.O.S. fall meeting, every party counted 100 or more Scissor-taileds.

Three Horned Larks near Shreveport Oct. 19 (HHJ, SK) may have been the first recorded in Louisiana in October. Late and possibly latest ever for Alabama was a ♀ Purple Martin at Ft Morgan Nov. 17 (GDJ, DGJ), and late as well for middle Tennessee was a Tree Swallow at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Nov. 26 (JCR). Tree Swallows were thought to be present in reduced numbers in w. Tennessee (BBC, LCC). A continuous migratory movement of N. Rough-winged Swallows in Cameron, La., Oct 15 (KVR) was estimated to involve some 25,000 birds; five in Jackson, Miss., Nov. 29 (MFH) were very late, although birds winter occasionally. Unusually large for what is basically an uncommon migrant was a count of 800+ Cliff Swallows over Cameron, La., Aug. 30 (KVR, MS). Late reports of Barn Swallows came from Rutherford, Tenn., Nov. 16 (MHI) and Hancock, Miss., Nov. 28 (TLS, MH, JT).

CROWS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Are Am. Crows nocturnal migrants? No, one might say. . . . Yet James observed a flock of 14 flying S after dark (18:30 CST) and calling together on Nov. 5, low enough to be detected in the glow of streetlights on a night of very low ceiling. The first record of Carolina Chickadee for Grand Isle, La., a barrier island separated from forests to the north by more than 20 mi of coastal marsh, was obtained when one was seen there Aug. 9 (RDP, DM, MM) Although Stedman thought Red-breasted Nuthatches in middle Tennessee more numerous than in a normal year (but well below the invasion of 1985), there was only one other report submitted to this writer, that of one Oct. 19 in Madison, Miss (JT, MD, M.O.S.). Of the Blue-listed Bewick's Wren there were 5 reports: Aug. 5 in Sebastian, Ark. (KM), Oct. 9 in Newton, Miss. (JMM), Oct. 20 in Gulf Breeze, Fla. (RWB), Oct. 26 in Cameron, La. (NN, RDP, DM, MM), and Nov. 1-15 in Greenville, Ala. (CK). Golden-crowned Kinglets made a big showing, arriving in numbers on the Louisiana coast by the last week in October.

It was generally conceded to have been a very poor fall for migrant thrushes; Muth, for example, saw no *Catharus* thrushes and one Wood Thrush during the migration season at Lafitte N.P., birding nearly every day. The author saw neither Veery nor Gray-cheeked Thrush all fall. On the other hand, a Veery was early at Nashville Aug. 31 (KAG), single Swainson's Thrushes were considered unusual in Washington, Ark., Sept 17 (MMI, BS), and one was mildly late in Cameron, La., Oct 26 (DLD, SWC). While a Hermit Thrush in Washington, Ark , Oct. 7 (MMI) was said to be earliest for the state by one day, the species routinely reaches the Louisiana coast by about the end of the first week in October. A **Sage Thrasher** photographed at Ft. Morgan Oct. 14 & 15 (SD, m.ob., ph. AM) provided the 3rd record for Alabama. A flock of 10 Cedar Waxwings in Benton, Ark., Aug. 16 (MMI) was unusual for such an early date.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A White-eyed Vireo in Benton Nov. 22 (MMI) was late for n.w. Arkansas. There were 3 records

of Bell's Vireo, including 2 from n w Florida, where there had been only 4 previous records. One was in Cameron, La., Sept. 15 (SWC, DLD, JH) and the Florida records were Sept. 21 at Ft. Pickens (RAD) and Sept. 27 at Gulf Breeze (LD, SD, RLB, RWB, RAD). Quite early was a Solitary Vireo in Washington, Ark., Sept. 6 (MMI), while a Yellow-throated Vireo there Oct. 7 (MMI) was late for n.w. Arkansas. Reports of Warbling Vireos included a very early one in Cameron, La., Aug. 30 (DM, SWC, DLD). On the biggest day of the fall at Grand Isle, La., Aug. 29—a rather early date for such a fallout—over 100 Red-eyed Vireos were among some 500+ transients counted in 3½ hours. While a Blue-winged Warbler at Lafitte N.P., La., Oct. 28 (DM) was nearly a month later than the expected departure date for the species, Golden-winged Warblers were somewhat late at Grand Isle, La., Oct. 12 (AS, GS) and at Lafitte N.P., Oct. 14 (DM). On the other hand, one at Gulf Breeze, Fla., Aug. 4 (RAD, LD, SD) was the earliest ever there. A classic "Brewster's" Warbler in Montgomery, Tenn., Sept. 9 (AHH) was the only report of this hybrid complex. The earliest fall record for s.e. Louisiana of Tennessee Warbler was established Aug. 29 at Grand Isle (AS, GS), when 20 were seen! Also early was one in Adair, Okla., just across the Arkansas line Sept. 2 (MMI), and an Orange-crowned Warbler in Cameron Sept. 28 (MS) was probably the earliest ever for Louisiana. Among a number of records of Nashville Warbler in s.w. Louisiana, where it is not unusual in migration, was a probable earliest-ever record Aug. 22 (SWC). Records in Hancock, Miss., Sept. 24 and Oct. 20 (JT, DK) were noteworthy.

A Yellow Warbler in Cameron Oct. 26 (GR) was some 2 weeks late. Nine records of Chestnut-sided Warbler in n.w. Arkansas between the early date of Aug. 28 and Oct. 7 (MMI) added to the limited knowledge of the movement of the species through that area in fall. Very early was an imm. ♀ Magnolia Warbler at Cameron, La., Aug. 29 (SWC, DLD, DM); peak numbers in coastal Mississippi were 100+ Oct. 7 in Hancock (JT, DK, GM). In spite of several records last fall, the Cape May Warbler continues to be an unexpected bird in fall over much of the Region, especially to the west. This fall the lone record was of one in Cameron Sept. 28 (MS*). There were at least 5 records of Black-throated Blue Warblers from s.w. Louisiana between Sept. 30 and Oct. 25, and one from coastal Mississippi Oct. 6. An Oct. 4 sighting in Washington (MMI) provided the first record for n w Arkansas. There were 2 reports of "Audubon's" (Yellow-rumped) Warblers from Cameron, Sept. 30 (RJS, MW) and Oct. 25 (KVR, GR, PM, m.ob.). While three Black-throated Green Warblers in Lafitte N.P. on Nov. 11 (DM) were late, 25 at Grand Isle under "fallout" conditions Aug. 29 (GS, AS) were early and a high number for any date. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Fontainebleau S.P., La., Nov. 30 (JK) was probably wintering. At least 300 Palm Warblers seen in Hancock Oct. 22 (CC, HC, JS) far exceeded previous high numbers for coastal Mississippi. Earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana by nearly 3 weeks was a Bay-breasted Warbler at Grand Isle, La., Sept. 2 (RDP, NN). Quite unusual was an imm. ♀ Blackpoll Warbler in Cameron, La., Sept. 15 (SWC, DLD, JH*), for one of the few fall records for the state.

Eighteen Cerulean Warblers at Grand Isle Aug. 29 (AS, GS) following a frontal passage represented a s.e. Louisiana all-time high count; other high totals on that date included 30 Black-and-white Warblers, 20 Am. Redstarts, 150 Prothonotary Warblers, 40 Worm-eating Warblers, 25 Ovenbirds, and 18 N. Waterthrushes. Fifty redstarts in Hancock, Miss., Oct. 7 (JT, GM, CD) were also notable. A N. Waterthrush at Ft. Morgan Nov. 26 (CDC) was the latest for Alabama, except for wintering records (and we all know the problem of making that distinction), and one was present into the winter period at Lafitte N.P., La. (DM). Without precedent in s.e. Louisiana in the fall were the 80 Kentucky Warblers at Grand Isle Aug. 29 (AS, GS). An ad. ♂ Mourning Warbler was locally early in Washington, Ark., Aug. 24 (MMI) and a female in Birmingham Sept. 3 (TAI) tied the earliest date for Alabama. A very early Canada Warbler was in Cameron, La., Aug. 9 (SWC, DLD), and 5 records during

the period in n w Arkansas and neighboring Adair, Okla. (MMI) were considered notable by Neal.

TANAGERS THROUGH TRUE FINCHES — A ♀ Summer Tanager in Plaquemines, La., July 26 (DLD) was a month early if a migrant, but the species is not known to occur within 50 mi of this locale during the breeding season. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager in Madison, Ark., Sept. 24 (JN) was late for the n. part of that state. While early dates for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were set by one in Washington, Ark., Sept. 6 (MMI), Sept. 12 in Cameron, La. (MS), and Sept. 15 at Starkville, Miss. (JA, BJ), a Blue Grosbeak at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Nov. 16 (RAD) was late, as was an Indigo Bunting in Washington, Ark., Oct. 25 (MMI). There were but 4 reports of Clay-colored Sparrows: Oct. 8 in Reserve (RJS), Oct. 15 at New Orleans (RDP) and in Cameron (DLD, SWC—two), and Nov. 6 in Hancock, Miss. (JT, GM, JS—two). Single Sharp-tailed Sparrows found by Robinson at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Stewart, Tenn., Nov. 8 and in Henry, Tenn., the next day were unusual. There were early records of Swamp Sparrow, Sept. 7 in Warren, Miss. (GTL), White-throated Sparrow, Oct. 12 in Harrison, Miss. (JS), and Dark-eyed Junco, Oct. 22 in Harrison, Miss. (JT, CD), the latter being the earliest ever by 9 days and the only report to the end of the season. Lapland Longspurs were seen in the Memphis area Nov. 9 (JCR) and had reached the Alabama coast by Nov. 26 when one was seen at Ft. Morgan (CDC); two were also seen in Mobile Dec 2 (TAI, CKr).

Reports of Bobolinks were Aug. 29 and Sept. 2 near Grand Isle, La. (AS, GW, NN, RDP), Benton, Ark., Sept. 1 (MMI), and Ship I., Miss., on Oct. 22 (JT, CD); Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in Benton Sept. 28 (NB, KS, BS, MMI et al.) and Oct 5 (DJ, JF, LO), and at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Oct. 15–22 (RAD, PB). The sighting of Brewer's Blackbird in Lawrence in Middle Tennessee for the 3rd fall in a row was of interest; the species is a rare winter resident in the area. A flock of Great-tailed Grackles in Benton Oct. 5 (DJ, JF) represented the northernmost record for Arkansas. Bronzed Cowbirds are now well-established as breeding birds in New Orleans and Reserve, La. (well-birded areas; no doubt the species is somewhat more widespread). This fall that was indicated by the 3rd breeding record for the latter location, established by the observation of a fledgling being fed by Orchard Orioles Aug. 1–18 (RJS). Furthermore, 3 records from Cameron Oct. 13–Nov. 2 (SWC, DLD, FB, GB) documented growing numbers in s.w. Louisiana. Only one record of Purple Finch was received and indications were that numbers would be low. Information submitted on House Finch consisted of a male at Oxford, Miss., since May 4 that was joined by a female around Aug. 6, both present until Aug. 29 (MD, SD), a female in coastal Hancock, Miss., Oct. 23 (JT), and a not particularly surprising seven in Marshall, Ala., Nov. 29 (GDJ, HHK, BG). A Lesser Goldfinch reported from Benton, Ark., Nov. 25 (AE) was said to have been visiting the same feeder since the summer of 1983. A breeding-plumaged ♂ Am Goldfinch in W. Carroll, La., on the remarkable date of Sept 7 (CMD, ph. to LSUMZ) suggested breeding nearby; there is one nesting record for Louisiana. According to Stedman, there were reports of a few small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks in middle Tennessee, none documented; there was no other hint of a movement that might bring birds farther south.

CORRIGENDUM — The report of a "Red-backed Sandpiper" (=Dunlin) at Cape San Blas, Fla., June 26, 1954 (AFN 8:350) should be deleted. According to the observer (Henry M. Stevenson), the report resulted from an error in transcription.

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PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Wayne C. Harris

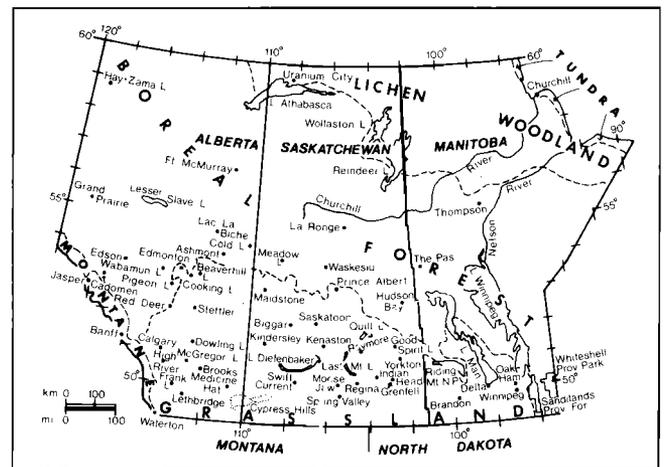
The fall weather in 1986 was almost a duplicate of that of 1985. August was generally warm and dry, followed by six weeks of cool wet weather and then our traditional "Indian Summer," a two-week mild dry spell. Snow arrived over much of the Region at the end of October and the weather became progressively colder through November with temperatures reaching the -30°C to -40°C range by month's end. The pattern just described is typical of this area, although the lengths can vary: a warm dry end to summer, a cool wet beginning to fall, then a warm dry interlude before winter!

How did this affect bird migrations? It meant a rather orderly southward movement of passerines with few really large waves, and a rather large movement of larger birds, primarily waterfowl and raptors, just before the onset of cold weather. The cold November meant few later lingering species remained or survived.

ABBREVIATIONS — N.L.M.L. = north end of Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Most Com. Loons were gone by late October, the largest counts occurring in early October with 22 on L. Diefenbaker Oct. 7 and 17 at N.L.M.L., Oct. 10; the last dates were Nov. 2 at Cold Lake, Alta., Nov. 3 at N.L.M.L., and Nov. 8 at Blackstrap L., s. of Saskatoon (PM, RK, WCH, JBG). Pacific Loons were reported in their normal low numbers with two at Calgary Nov. 4, two separate individuals in the Regina area, and one Nov. 3 at N.L.M.L. (DC, AS, CA, TR, BK, WCH). Rarities in the south were a Red-throated Loon at Regina Beach, Sask., Oct. 25–27 (BL, TR, m.ob.), and another at Calgary Oct. 11 (JBS). An Eared Grebe at Lethbridge Nov. 8 was unusually late (MOS).

At L. Diefenbaker, counts of Am. White Pelican were of 200 Aug. 3 and 740 Aug. 27, both excellent counts for a non-breeding area (SOJ, MAG). Also at L. Diefenbaker Aug. 27 were 44 Great Blue Herons (MAG). Only Manitoba reported Great Egrets with 7 sightings from 5 locations Aug. 11 to Oct. 5 (*vide* RFK). The highest count of Black-crowned Night-Herons was of 59 Sept. 10 at Crane L. (MAG). The ibises reported during the summer remained and numbers increased. Michael Gollop, who made regular checks of both Chaplin and Crane lakes, found four ibises (sp.) at Chaplin and three at Crane Aug. 8. On Aug. 25 there were nine ibises at Chaplin and three at Crane; and on Sept. 20 there were two Glossy, five White-faced, and two unidentified ibises at Crane Lake.



WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — The majority of waterfowl moved S at the end of October with the advent of winter-like conditions. Wood Ducks are regular only in Manitoba and s e Saskatchewan and rare elsewhere in the Region. Consequently, three Aug. 29 at Calgary were noteworthy, as was one at Blackstrap L., s. of Saskatoon, Sept. 1–7 (JP, SA, MAG). Peak numbers of Blue-winged Teal were reported Aug. 8 at Chaplin L., where 2400 were seen, and Green-winged Teal peaked Aug 25 with 2005 at Crane L. (MAG). American Black Ducks were seen in unprecedented numbers with 117 Aug. 22 at Oak Lake, Man., and 30 Oct. 21 at Churchill (RFK, GG, BC). Of interest were seven Black x Mallard hybrids at Whitewater L., Man (CC). Also seen in impressive numbers were Ring-necked Ducks with 390 in the Spiritwood, Sask., area Aug. 9, and 110 in the same area Aug. 26. Also on Oct. 5 there were 85 on Thackray L., Sask. (MAG). The 3500 Com. Goldeneyes Nov 15 probably made the largest concentration of this species ever reported in Saskatchewan (BL). Now for the rarer ducks—all are divers. Greater Scaup were again seen at the s. end of Last Mountain L., with four seen both Oct. 18 and Nov. 4 (RK, CA). There were also four at Calgary Oct. 26 (RS, MH, SA). Single Harlequin Ducks were seen at Cold Lake, Alta., Oct. 30, Patricia Beach, Man., Oct. 26, and Grand Beach, Man., Nov. 1 (PM, RP, BB). Black Scoters, rare inland, were seen at Regina Beach Oct 29, Cold Lake Nov. 2, and St. Ambrose, Man., Oct. 15 (CA, PM, RK, RFK, RT). A large number of Hooded Mergansers was reported at the s. end of Last Mountain L., with 109 Oct 31

furnishing the highest count and the greatest number ever seen in Saskatchewan (BL).

On Sept. 28, Guy Wapple witnessed a spectacular S movement of Swainson's Hawks. As he approached Weyburn, Sask., he stopped to check a few buteos, and was amazed to find numerous Swainson's Hawks. Within 10 minutes 425 had passed by, along with 40 Red-tailed Hawks and 50 unidentified buteos. Such a count is totally unexpected at this latitude, and is reminiscent of Central America rather than Saskatchewan. Other good Swainson's counts included 50 at Tribune, Sask., Sept. 23 and a flock of 60 presumed failed/non-breeders near Bromhead, Sask., during August (RM, CB). A late Swainson's Hawk was seen near Dilke Oct. 11 and another was near Melfort Nov. 3 (MB, FM). Larger concentrations than normal of Red-tailed Hawks were also reported; there were 100 in the Qu'appelle Valley n. of Regina Sept. 7, and 50 roosted overnight in one farm shelterbelt near Bromhead (TR, CB). A rare **Red-shouldered Hawk** was seen at Oak Hammock, Man., Aug. 22-23 (GG, RFK, RT). The Rough-legged Hawk migration was the best in several years and good numbers were still present at period's end. A total of 34 Peregrine Falcon sightings was reported, somewhat more than usual, compared to only 18 Prairie Falcon sightings (*vide* WCH).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — An exceptionally good count of 100 Black-bellied Plovers was at Moose Jaw Aug. 14 (PRK). More Lesser Golden-Plovers than usual appeared in Alberta, with peak numbers of 20 at Edmonton Sept. 14 and 18 at Calgary Oct. 12 (PM, RK, JBS). Some exceptionally good counts of Am. Avocet were received, the best being of 350 at Calgary Aug. 3 and 200 at Chaplin L., Aug. 12 (JBS, MAG). Small numbers (up to 18) of Hudsonian Godwits were reported at Churchill up to Aug. 18 (BC), while in the south there were 29 at Clearwater, Man., Aug. 12 and 250 at Chaplin L., Aug. 8, at Saskatoon they were present until Sept. 1 with the largest number being 437 Aug. 10 (CC, MAG). There were two Ruddy Turnstones at Churchill Oct. 9, yet the latest report in the south was Aug. 3 at Calgary (BC, JBS)! Red Knots are rarely reported in fall; this fall the only report was of one at Meadow Lake P.P., Sask., Sept. 3 (RDW, GJW). There were 3 sightings totalling four individuals of W. Sandpipers at Calgary (*vide* DC), while in Winnipeg there were four singles reported Sept. 7-Oct. 15 (*vide* RFK). The Region's first **Rufous-necked Stint** was an adult at Calgary, Alta., Aug. 6 (RS). A flock of 3000 White-rumped Sandpipers at Churchill Oct. 9 was a large number for such a late date (BC). Saskatchewan's first **Purple Sandpiper** was a single bird with two Sanderlings on the icy edge of Last Mountain L., n.w. of Govan, Nov. 3 (WCH). A very late Am. Woodcock was at Winnipeg Oct. 31 (RFK).

The only jaegers reported this fall were Parasitics with singles at Winnipeg Sept. 13, Saskatoon Sept. 14, and L. Diefenbaker Sept. 20 (RWK, RFK, PT, JAW, SOJ). A very late Franklin's Gull was found at Tisdale Nov. 3 (FM) and a Bonaparte's Gull at Wabamum L., Alta., Nov. 10 was equally late (PM, RK). There were 3 reports of single Little Gulls: at Grand Rapids, Man., Sept. 23 and Oct. 15, and at Beaverhill L., Alta., Oct. 14 (JC, DH, RK, PM). A California Gull at Cold L., Nov. 20 was very late (PM, RK). Increasing numbers of Thayer's Gulls are reported each fall. This year there was a single at Cold L., Oct. 27-Nov. 21, up to five at Regina Beach Oct. 5-Nov. 11, and one at Patricia Beach Nov. 1 (RK, PM, CA, BL, RP). A Great Black-backed Gull was found at Edmonton Oct. 26 (PM, RK, ph). There were at least three Sabine's Gulls at Blackstrap L., Sept. 7, and singles were at Grand Beach Sept. 9 & 23 and Calgary Sept. 19-20 (SJS, MDG, MS, JC, RS, AS). A single Com. Tern at Lac des Arcs, Alta., Oct. 11 was exceptionally late (JBS), and an Arctic Tern at Delta Sept. 13 provided a rare inland record of this species (CC).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WRENS — A Black-billed Cuckoo at Grande Prairie Oct. 9 was a month later than they are normally found in this area (KRL). Snowy Owls were conspicuously absent; in fact, there were not even 20 reports for the

entire Region, and some observers would normally see that many in November by themselves. There were some exceptionally late dates for Com. Nighthawks with singles seen Sept 27 in the Qu'appelle Valley n. of Regina, Sept. 29 at Winnipeg, and Oct. 1 at Raymore (BL, RFK, WCH). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen at Weyburn Aug. 11 (NP). A Least Flycatcher at Otter Falls, Man., Oct. 18 was exceptionally late (RFK), as was a Great Crested Flycatcher at Raymore Oct. 2 (WCH, SML). A rarity was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Calgary Aug. 22 (HH, DE).

The S movement of Com. Ravens onto the plains has over the past 10 years become a regular occurrence. There were up to 10 daily at Good Spirit L. (WJA), at Sheho the highest count was of four Oct. 19 (WN), and on Nov. 15, 20 were seen between Wynyard and Yorkton (DGH). Farther s. there were two at Round Lake, nine at Regina, five at Spy Hill, one at Raymore, one at N.L.M.L., one at Hanley, and 16 sightings in the Saskatoon area (DF, DGN, FWL, SJS, WCH, MDG). Medicine Hat's first Mountain Chickadee records were of two seen Oct 27 & 31 (MOS). There was also an increase in White-breasted Nuthatch numbers at Medicine Hat, with 30+ sightings compared to the normal one (RG)! A late Marsh Wren was seen at Edmonton Oct. 14 (RK, PM).

BLUEBIRDS THROUGH WARBLERS — In s.e. Saskatchewan and s.w. Manitoba, E. Bluebirds were more common than usual with five at Carlyle, Sask., Sept. 20-23, one at Oxbow, Sask., Oct. 13, and 36 sightings at Stonewall, Man., Sept. 8-Oct. 11 (DS, JHP, KG). Farther west, where they are rare at best, a pair was seen in Cypress Hills P.P., Sask., Aug. 30, and one was at Benyon near Calgary Oct. 26 (RDW, RS, MH, SA). American Robins were much more common than normal at Carlyle, Medicine Hat, Oxbow, Dilke, Melfort, and Sundre, Alta. (DS, RG, JHP, MB, FM, FH). They were also more common at Raymore, where numbers approached those considered normal in the 1960s. There were up to 450/day seen in September and early October. These numbers and the associated good counts of N. Flickers and Merlins were reminiscent of days before the population decreases associated with the DDT era. It has taken 20 years, but slowly some species are returning to some resemblance of former numbers (WCH). Varied Thrushes were seen at Kleefeld, Man., the first week of October, Churchill Oct. 5, Winnipeg Oct. 29, and Saskatoon Sept. 26 (RD, BT, KC).

Late Loggerhead Shrikes were seen at Bohram, Sask., Sept 13 and Wolseley Sept. 21 (FHB, JDH). There were more N. Parulas than normal reported in s. Manitoba, while one at Francis Aug. 31 was unusual (*vide* RFK, GL). A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Calgary Sept. 14 was locally rare, as were two Bay-breasted Warblers Aug. 25 (JM, HP). A very late Cape May Warbler was found at Victoria Beach, Man., Nov. 1 (*vide* RFK). A Black-throated Blue Warbler Oct. 2, and 5 sightings of Pine Warblers Aug. 29-Sept. 26, at Francis were unusual (GL). Manitoba's 8th Hooded Warbler record was of a female at Winnipeg Aug. 17 (RFK).

OTHER PASSERINES — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Calgary Oct. 31-Nov. 1 was exceptionally late (JBS). A late Chipping Sparrow was at Oxbow Nov. 28 (JHP) and a late Baird's Sparrow was at Weyburn Oct. 12 (NP). A Field Sparrow was found at Saskatoon Aug. 14 (HL).

On Oct. 27, Joyce Araka watched a flock of approximately 100 Snow Buntings over the open water of Good Spirit Lake. There was an offshore wind creating a slightly wavy surface, and the birds were very low over the water, apparently feeding on insect life and behaving very much like swallows. They dipped down to the surface repeatedly and one actually dipped into the water momentarily and resumed flight. The flock worked farther on, staying about 150 m from shore and gradually moving east.

Both species of crossbills were very scarce for the 2nd year in a row. In fact, all winter finches had failed to show up in any numbers by the end of November.

S.A.

Competing for the bird of the fall (with Rufous-necked Stint) was a **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** that showed up at the feeder of Jim and Helen Owen near St. Francois Xavier, just w. of Winnipeg, Nov. 2 and remained until the end of the period. It was seen and photographed by numerous observers. The first impulse would be to pass this off as an escaped cage bird, but details suggest otherwise. The bird appeared during the first major winter weather system (associated with snow and strong S winds) of the fall. It survived a major blizzard and temperatures in the -25°C range without showing ill effects, indicating that it was quite hardy. The bird was not unusually tame, nor did it show any physical signs of having been in captivity. Its plumage was in perfect condition and so were the legs and feet. It is not a common cagebird and checks of possible local sources turned out negative. The origin of the bird has been the subject of some debate. It appears to belong to the western European race, the same as the St. Louis, Mo., birds. None of the observers was familiar enough with Asiatic races to rule these out, but it apparently was not of the Japanese race. A sighting last winter in Vancouver was believed to have been man- or ship-assisted, so ours may well be the first "natural" ("wild") occurrence in Canada.



Eurasian Tree Sparrow at St. Francois Xavier, Manitoba, Nov. 4, 1986. Photo/R. G. Tester.

OBSERVERS (local compilers in italics, provincial compilers in boldface) — C. Adam, G.D. Adams, S. Alexander, *W. & J. Anaka* (WJA), R. Andrews, B. Ball, P.L. Beckie, M. Belcher, C. Bjorklund, D.W. Black, F.H. Brazier, F. Bogdan, B. Chartier, N. Cleveland, D. Collister, H. Copland, C. Cuthbert, R. Dixon, D. Fast, D. Francis, K. Gardner, R. Gardner, M.D. Gilliland, J.B. Gollop, M.A. Gollop, G. Grief, M. Hagel, W.C. Harris, F. Haug, D. Hayward, H. Hicklands, D.G. Hjertaas, G. Holland, B.W. Johns, S.O. Jordheim,

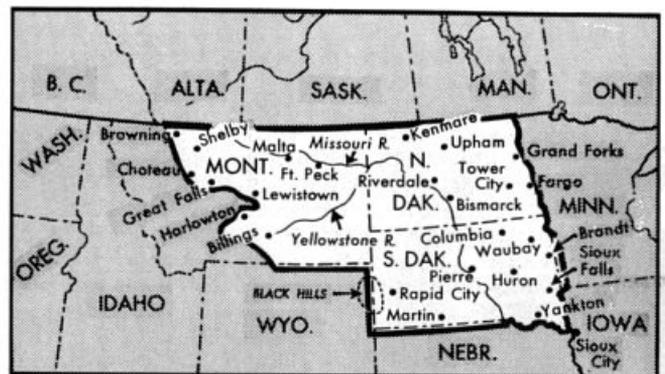
E.W. Kern, R. Klauke, R.W. Knapton, L. Knight, R.F. Koes, B. Kreba, F.W. Lahrman, H. Lane, G. Leibelt, K.R. Lumbis, B. Luterbach, E. Mah-Lim, F. Markland, P. Marklevitz, R. McKague, J. Moore, R. Nero, W. Niven, M. O'Shea, R. Parsons, J.H. Paton, S. Pavka, H. Pinel, J. Podlubny, N. Postey, J. Riddell, T. Riffel, B. Rippen, B. Robinson, J.F. Roy, M. Siepman, S.J. Shadick, D. Silcox, A. Slater, J.B. Steeves, D. Stiles, R. Storms, B. Taylor, P. Taylor, R. Tkachuk, J. Triffo, S. & G. Wait (SGW), R. Wang, G.J. Wapple, R.D. Wapple, J.A. Wedgwood, D. Weedon, D. Weidl.—WAYNE C. HARRIS, Box 414, Raymore, Sask. SOA 3J0.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

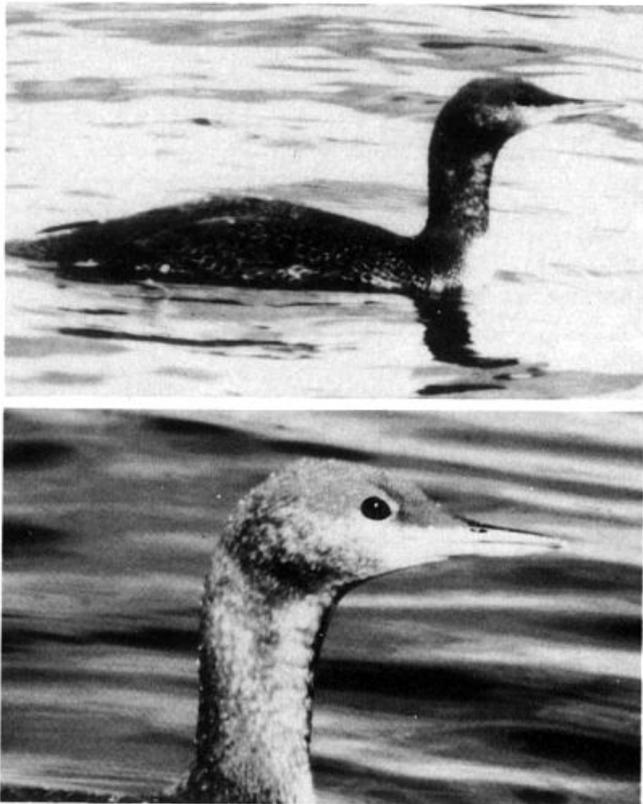
David O. Lambeth

This fall season was even more varied than usual. The wetness of August continued into September, setting record rainfall totals in some communities. The remnants of hurricane Paine off the Mexican coast produced the lowest-ever barometric reading in Bismarck September 25, winds up to 90 mph in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and torrential rains in Montana resulting in record inflows into Fort Peck Reservoir and the first flood in fall ever recorded on the Milk River. October was very dry, the driest ever at Fargo. Then, a major blizzard November 7-9 dumped heavy snows (up to 25 inches) over much of the Region, except for the eastern Dakotas where mostly rain fell. After the storm, temperatures plummeted to near-record lows (-5°F range at Fargo), and widespread freezeup occurred. Several hundred thousand waterfowl, which had been induced to linger by October's protracted Indian Summer, apparently rode out the brunt of the snow before moving on. Amazingly, no major losses were reported!

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Montana's 7th reported **Red-throated Loon**, and the first documented by photo, was at Fort Peck Oct. 9-18 (CC, LM). One was also seen Oct. 19 at Gascoyne Res., N.D. (fD & CG); this species is considered



accidental in North Dakota. Gascoyne Reservoir lies in the unglaciated and well-drained area of the Dakotas west and south of the Missouri River. In this area, the few permanent bodies of water that are present may serve as efficient traps for migrating, water-associated species—the numerous unusual records now being turned in by the Griffiths support this premise. American White Pelicans at New Town, N.D., and Fort Peck, Mont., both Nov. 16, were extraordinarily late. The same could be said of Great Egrets at Tewaukon Ref., N.D. (Dave Potter), and in Kingsbury, S.D. (LW), both on Oct. 25. A Snowy Egret in Kingsbury, S.D., Oct. 25 (LW) was the latest



Red-throated Loon at Fort Peck, Mont., October 1986. The dark forehead, pale bill, and elongated white feather-edgings on the upperparts indicate a juvenile; this bird is unusually dusky on the face and neck. Photos/Charles Carlson.

ever. Single **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were found in Faulk, S.D., Aug. 12 (BKH), Brown, S.D., Sept. 13 (DT), and Long Lake Ref., N.D., Oct. 7 (JM). Twenty-five **White-faced Ibises** in Day, S.D., Nov. 9 were the latest ever (JK).

WATERFOWL — Very early **Greater White-fronted Geese** were in Yankton, S.D., Aug. 28 (KK), and Salyer Ref., N.D., Sept. 7 (JP). Twelve **Ross' Geese** were at Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., Nov. 1 (JS). Peak estimates of 12,000 **Green-winged Teal**, 75,000 **Mallards**, 25,000 **N. Pintail**, 20,000 **Blue-winged Teal**, and 20,000 **Am. Wigeon** at Salyer Ref. were attributed to the drawdown and reflooding of a 5000-acre unit (fide WW). The respective peak counts of 1500, 2000, and 1500 **Canvasbacks** reported for the Arrowwood, Upper Souris, and Salyer refuges in North Dakota would normally be considered to be noteworthy counts. However, H.A. Kantrud recently reported in *The Prairie Naturalist* 18(4):247-253, 1986 that more than 27,000 **Canvasbacks**, about 8% of the North American population, staged on Western Stump L., N.D., during October 1985. The attractiveness of this 2400-acre saline lake to **Canvasbacks** is attributed to its shallowness and extensive growth of sago pondweed.

Northern Shovelers and **Ruddy Ducks** staged on the Minot and Grand Forks lagoons in numbers of approximately 5000 of each species at each location. One **Oldsquaw** was reported for Yankton, S.D., Nov. 11 (WH), and a ♂ **Oldsquaw** was at the Yellowtail Dam Afterbay Nov. 20 (CC). An ad. ♂ **Surf Scoter** was on the Missouri R. at Fort Peck Oct. 12 (LM). Single **Black Scoters** were at the Minot lagoons Oct. 4 and Upper Souris N.W.R., Nov. 2 (GB). At least 18 **White-winged Scoters** were found in c. North Dakota Oct. 10–Nov. 27 (GB, RM). Reports of **Red-breasted Merganser**, which are infrequent in fall, included: four at Snake Creek Oct. 26 and eight at Upper Souris Nov. 2 in North Dakota (GB, RM), and two each at 2 different reservoirs in Perkins, S.D., Nov. 2 (D & CG).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Thirteen **Ospreys** were reported for w. North Dakota during the period. **Bald Eagles** were again reported in impressive numbers, the highest being 25 adults and three immatures Nov. 27 in the first 3 mi downstream from Garrison Dam (GB). **Northern Goshawks** appeared in low numbers. Approximately 1000 **Swainson's Hawks** passed over Medicine Lake N.W.R., Mont., Sept. 29 (SM), and 300 were seen at Sawyer, N.D., Sept. 26 (RM). A banded **Peregrine Falcon** consuming a **Baird's Sandpiper** at Grand Forks Sept. 14 allowed an approach close enough to read a band number (DL). The bird had been released in Minneapolis during the summer (fide Bob Anderson). Three large falcons—one adult and one imm. **Peregrine**, and a **Prairie**—were hunting over the same cell at the Fargo lagoons Oct. 3 (BKH, DL). **Peregrines** were seen in Montana near Medicine L., Sept. 18 (SM), and Grassrange Nov. 15 (LM). A white-phase **Gyrfalcon** was eating its prey in a ditch in Butte, S.D., Oct. 4 (EM), and gray-phase birds were seen Nov. 11 in Perkins, S.D. (D & CG), and Nov. 16 in Dunn, N.D. (GB, RM).

Three **Whooping Cranes** in Brule, S.D., Nov. 3 were very late (MM). A **Yellow Rail** was "ticking" during the afternoon of Aug. 3 in a wet meadow e. of Dunseith, N.D. (DK). Drawn-down lagoon cells at Fargo drew peak numbers of 250 **Black-bellied Plovers** and 1000 **Lesser Golden-Plovers** in mid-October, and 200 **Baird's** and 3000 **Pectoral sandpipers** in late September (GN, MAB). A **Piping Plover** in Butte, S.D., Aug. 16 provided only about the 3rd record w. of the Missouri R. in that state (JB). In Montana, Bowdoin and Medicine Lake refuges, respectively, had more than 200 and 100 **Long-billed Curlews** in August (CC, SM). Single **Red Knots** were recorded Sept. 1 on Devils L., N.D. (DK), Sept. 5 in Deuel, S.D. (BKH), and Sept. 7 at Stewart Lake N.W.R. in w. North Dakota (D & CG). A **Hudsonian Godwit** was present at the Fargo lagoons Sept. 24 and Oct. 16 (MAB); this species has been recorded in fall in e. North Dakota in 8 of the last 9 years. The total of seven **Am. Woodcocks** reported for the eastern part of the Region included the latest ever date of Nov. 5 in Burleigh, N.D. (MR).

JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS — Single **jaegers** were seen Sept. 10 at Fargo (MAB) and Nov. 5 near Billings, Mont. (Bill Roney). An imm. **Thayer's Gull** was at the Grand Forks lagoons/landfill Oct. 24–Nov. 1 (ph. DL). Adult **California**, **Thayer's**, and **Glaucous gulls** (at least one of each) were at Garrison Dam Nov. 16, along with a few imm. **Thayer's** and **Glaucous** (DL). But the best gull of the season was an ad. **Black-legged Kittiwake**, also at Garrison Dam, N.D., found Nov. 29 (†D & CG) and photographed Dec. 7 (GB). An imm. **Sabine's Gull** was at the Grand Forks lagoons Sept. 24 (DL), while two adults were found Sept. 20 at Bowman-Haley Res., N.D. (†D & CG). **Caspian Terns** were found in South Dakota Sept. 1 & 10 in Roberts (BKH), Sept. 19 at Sand Lake N.W.R. (DT), and Sept. 26 in Brookings (SVS). Latest dates for **Common** and **Forster's terns** in North Dakota were recorded Oct. 19 and Oct. 9, respectively (D & CG). Adult **Forster's** with four young found in Butte, S.D., Aug. 16 (JB) provided the first South Dakota nesting record w. of the Missouri R., outside of LaCreek N.W.R. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Marmath, N.D., Aug. 23 was carrying food (D & CG); there are only one or two nesting records for the state. This species was observed 3 times in South Dakota, with two on the late dates of Sept. 27 in Sanborn (RR) and Sept. 28 in Day (DS). Only 8 reports of **Snowy Owl** were received, with one each in South Dakota and Montana. There were 7 observations of **Long-eared Owls**, and the only **Short-eareds** reported were from North Dakota with nearly one-half of these, three, being road kills (D & CG). Tallman banded seven **N. Saw-whet Owls** in Brown, S.D., Oct. 11–Nov. 10; five were young of the year.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH CHICKADEES — Much was reported on hummingbirds this year. Berkey indicated there were far more sightings (about 20) of **Ruby-throats** in w. North Dakota than in any of the last 10 years. One in Bismarck Oct. 3 was very late. In Montana, where other species

become increasingly likely, three Ruby-throateds were in Malta Aug. 26–Sept. 2, and one of these was a male (TP). A ♀ Ruby-throated was on the nest in Roberts, S.D., Aug. 13, and a fledgling was seen the 26th (BKH). An ad. ♂ Rufous appeared at a feeder in Rapid City Aug. 17 (NW).

Four young Lewis' Woodpeckers were found in Custer, S.D., Aug. 26 (MP). An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker in Grand Forks Nov. 10 was very late (DL). The Red-bellied Woodpecker at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., Oct. 8 (JK) was a first for the refuge, and two were found in Richland, N.D., Sept. 20 (DL). A Pileated Woodpecker was in Grant, S.D., Oct. 21 (GP); this species is now considered rare in that state. Perhaps as many eight Pileateds were in Fargo (fide MAB), and the species can be found with regularity on all tributaries of the Red R. in e. North Dakota. At least 10 W. Wood-Pewees were seen in the area of Marmath, N.D., Aug. 10 (D & CG). A Dusky Flycatcher was reported to be in Lawrence, S.D., Aug. 17 (JB). The latest-ever Say's Phoebe for South Dakota was at Sand Lake N.W.R., Oct. 24 (DT). A Vermilion Flycatcher Sept. 27, also at Sand Lake, provided the 2nd record for South Dakota (GP, PC).



Clark's Nutcracker at New Town, N.D., Nov. 15, 1986. Photo/Dave Lambeth.

Gray Jays were in Pembina (Laura Mitchell) and Grand Forks, N.D., in early November. One at Sand Lake Sept. 27 furnished the 2nd record e. of the Missouri R. in South Dakota (GP, PC). An irruption of Clark's Nutcrackers into the Black Hills began by mid-September (MM). Peterson found 10 at Custer S.P., Nov. 23, and he reported that nutcrackers were so easy to find that he believed hundreds were present in the s. Black Hills. One was present as far east as New Town, N.D., Nov. 3–21 (BH, ph. DL). Unfortunately, the pine forests of the North Dakota badlands, where nutcrackers have occurred in the past, were not checked. Common Ravens were seen near Minot (GB, RM) and in the Turtle Mts. (DK) in the mid-October to early November period now expected for their arrival. One was also seen near Carrington, N.D., Nov. 21 (JF). A flock of 48 Black-billed Magpies in Grand Forks, N.D., Oct. 3 furnished a surprising number that far east. A Mountain Chickadee in Fort Peck, Mont., Nov. 5 provided the easternmost record for the state (CC).

KINGLETS THROUGH WARBLERS — Ruby-crowned Kinglets in Fargo Aug. 15 (GN) and Minot Aug. 16 (GB) were very early, while those in Fargo Oct. 24 (GN) and Moody, S.D., Oct. 26 (LW) were very late. Five flocks of Mountain Bluebirds totalled 300 in the Black Hills Sept. 20 (RP). A Townsend's Solitaire in Brown, S.D., Sept. 22 was very early (Nancy Ernst), and four were in Day Nov. 27 (DS, MS), a surprising number considering the easterly location. A Wood Thrush at Fargo Aug. 26 was a very rare observation for fall (TD). Varied Thrushes were in Day, S.D., Nov. 16–27 (DS), Bowdoin, Mont., Oct. 11 (KS), and Grand Forks Nov. 10–20 (DL). A N. Mockingbird was in Hand, S.D., Aug. 14 (George Palmer). Eleven



Varied Thrush at Grand Forks, N.D., Nov. 11, 1986. Photo/Dave Lambeth.

Sprague's Pipits were singing over wet meadows e. of Dunseith, N.D., Aug. 3 (DK), and one observed at Gascoyne Res., N.D., Sept. 17 (D & CG) may have furnished the latest date for the state. A Bohemian Waxwing at Fargo Oct. 2 was early (W & EM). Exceptionally late reports of Loggerhead Shrike included Oct. 26 in Fargo (JW), Oct. 30 in Hettinger, N.D. (D & CG), and Nov. 9 in Brown, S.D. (GP). The earliest N. Shrikes arrived in mid-October, as usual. The migration of vireos was exceptionally late. Solitary, Yellow-throated, Warbling, Philadelphia, and Red-eyed vireos were seen Sept. 15 at Grand Forks, and all of these except Philadelphia were seen again the 18th (GL). A Warbling Vireo in Brown, S.D., Oct. 1 was very late (GP).

Night-time August showers produced the grounding conditions that made this an excellent season for observing warblers. On the northern plains, towns are widely spaced and it seems probable that city lights may attract night migrants, thereby concentrating warblers in towns on nights that are foggy and/or rainy. The excellent grounding conditions may largely account for 11 arrival dates for warblers in eastern North Dakota and 9 in South Dakota as early as, or earlier than, those previously recorded.

North Dakota's first Yellow-throated Warbler was found in Grand Forks Aug. 9 (DL, SL) and photographed on the 10th (GL). A Golden-winged Warbler was seen on the earliest-ever date of Sept. 1 in Brown, S.D. (DT). Northern Parulas were in Fargo Aug. 6 (MAB) & 15 (GN), and at Arrowwood N.W.R., Sept. 17 (PVN). A Yellow Warbler in Minot Oct. 4 was exceptionally late. The Cape May Warbler has been considered to be occasional in fall in North Dakota, but the recent increased interest in fall warblers has produced far more records than expected. Twelve were reported, including the earliest one Aug. 16 at Fargo (LF), three ad. males and an immature in the same bush at Minot Sept. 13 (GB), and two latest-ever near New Town Oct. 19 (BH). One found Aug. 19 in Roberts, S.D., was the earliest ever there (BKH). Black-throated Blue Warblers were present Aug. 17 in Fargo (TD), Sept. 2 in Minnehaha, S.D. (AH), and Sept. 14 in Gregory, S.D. (GS). South Dakota's 4th Black-throated Gray Warbler appeared in Brown Sept. 1 (GP, DT). At least eight Connecticut Warblers were in a short stretch of a dry coulee in Grand Forks Aug. 20 (GL), and a MacGillivray's Warbler was sighted in Lawrence, S.D., Aug. 24 (JB). A Wilson's Warbler banded in Brown, S.D., Oct. 25 was very late (DT).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A Summer Tanager was viewed at close range in Deuel, S.D., Sept. 7 (BKH). Records in North Dakota for the departure of several grassland species are sparse, but the following seemed particularly late:

Lark Bunting Oct. 11 in Dunn (JM), and Baird's Sparrow Sept. 23 and Grasshopper Sparrow Sept. 14, both at Hettinger (D & CG). A late Le Conte's Sparrow was in Sanborn, S.D., Oct. 27 (RR). Harris' Sparrows were still appearing at feeders in Fargo and Hettinger, N.D., and Bowdoin N.W.R., Mont., the last week of November. A Smith's Longspur was seen and heard in Deuel, S.D., Nov. 5, the latest date ever (BKH). Rosy Finches appear to be in the badlands of either of the Dakotas any fall that observers are there to see them; 200 were present in Billings, N.D., Nov. 7 (RM), and they were also seen in South Dakota Nov. 6-7 (NW, MG). A House Finch appeared sporadically at my feeder in Grand Forks Aug. 16-Sept. 14. The only report of Pine Grosbeak was of one at Fargo Nov. 7 (TD). Red Crossbills moved into the Dakotas beginning in mid-October, but most of these moved on before the end of the period. A Com. Redpoll at Waubay N.W.R., S.D., Oct. 12 was the earliest ever for the state (RB). They were widespread in moderate numbers by the end of the period. Three Hoary Redpolls were with 20 Com. Redpolls near Malta, Mont., Nov. 28 (DP). The first Evening Grosbeaks in North Dakota were found Oct. 10-12 at Fargo,

Hope, and Denbigh, but one in Codrington, S.D., was the earliest ever for e. South Dakota (JG).

AREA EDITORS (in boldface) **and CITED OBSERVERS.** MONTANA—**Chuck Carlson**, Larry Malone, Steve Martin, Dwain Prellwitz, Thora Prellwitz, Jim Stutzman, Karen Stutzman. NORTH DAKOTA—**Gordon Berkey**, **Mary Alice Bergan**, Tom Dahlen, Larry Falk, John Foster, Dave & Carolyn Griffith, Bernice Houser, Donald Kubischta, **David Lambeth**, Greg Lambeth, Sharon Lambeth, Jens Munthe, Ron Martin, William & Elaine Malaski, Gary Nielsen, Jay Peterson, Marynell Redman, Paul Van Ningen, William West, Jim Withnell. SOUTH DAKOTA—Jocelyn Baker, Ralph Bryant, Peter Carrels, John Gilman, Marjorie Glass, Willis Hall, August Hoefer, **Bruce K. Harris**, John Koerner, Karen Kronner, Ernest Miller, Michael Melius, George Prisbe, Marjorie Parker, Richard Peterson, Robert Rogers, Dennis Skadsen, **Mark Skadsen**, Galen Steffen, Dan Tallman, Steve Van Sickle, Lois Wells, Nat Whitney.—**DAVID O. LAMBETH**, 1909 20th Ave S., Grand Forks, ND 58201.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Frances Williams

In western Texas, where 14 inches of rain a year is normal, 30 inches fell June through November. Draws that had been dry since the glacial age became flowing rivers. Playas filled. There was a fantastic growth of grasses and weeds. Abundant food and water resulted in a large population of the usual species and a few new records.

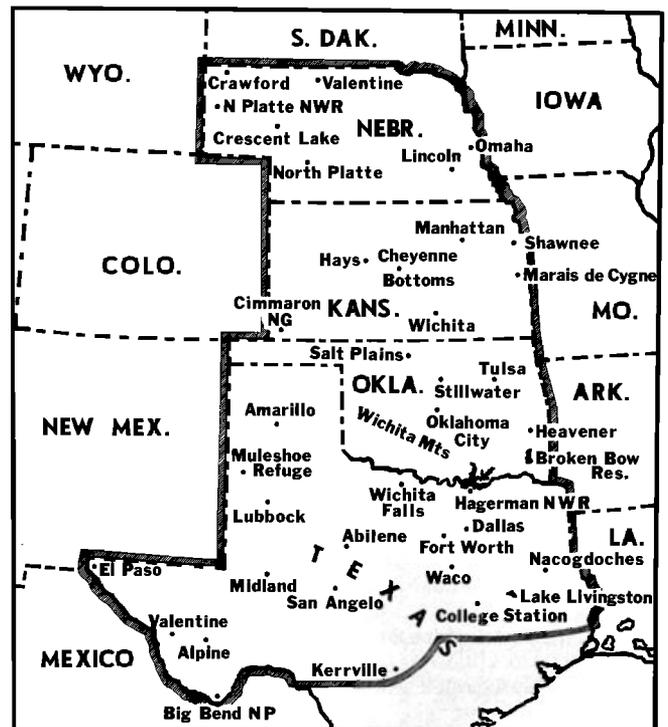
In northeastern Oklahoma, September brought 30 inches of rain building up to the great "500 year" flood of October 4 when the gates of Hulah, Copan, and Keystone Dams were opened to accommodate the great influx of water. The usual mudflats and shorelines were under water, but fields and pastures were great for shorebirds when birders could get to them. Melinda Droege in Bartlesville wrote, "We'll never know how much we missed because of flooded roads and washed-out bridges."

A cold front on October 4 unloosed a flood of migrants that moved through north Texas on the days immediately following. Observers in Fort Worth saw 250 warblers of eight species in an hour October 5. At the Plano Outdoor Learning Center, 90 birds of 16 species were banded October 7, and at the Heard Natural History Museum in McKinney, 140 birds were banded October 8.

Especially noteworthy was the northward dispersal of White Ibises, Roseate Spoonbills, and Wood Storks. The "yard bird" of the season was at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, where Jeri McMahon looked out her kitchen window and saw a Common Loon.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.B.N.P. = Big Bend Nat'l Park, Texas; G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountain Nat'l Park, Texas; Buffalo L. = Buffalo Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Randall County, Texas; Hagerman = Hagerman Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Grayson County, Texas. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH STORK — A Pacific Loon in Lancaster, Neb., Nov. 15-16 provided only the 3rd record there (BJR, m.ob.). This species visited 2 Kansas localities: Trego Nov. 8-14 (SS), and Lyon Nov. 27 (JSc). Common Loons were present at many places where their status is "rare vagrant." A Horned Grebe in Brazos, Tex., Nov. 22, was the first there in 12 years (PVD), and one at Midland Nov. 27-30 provided only the 6th



record in 40 years (RMS, m.ob.). **Red-necked Grebes** appeared in Lancaster, Neb., Oct. 25-26 (D & MG, m.ob.), Osage, Kans., Sept. 28 (MM), and Tulsa Sept. 14 (E & KH). Western Grebes were observed e. to Douglas and Osage, Kans., and Osage, Okla. Clark's Grebe was reported at Trego Oct. 18 (SS) and El Paso Nov. 26 (BZ, SW). At least 10,000 Am. White Pelicans passed through Hagerman Oct. 9 and nearly as many rested on L. Keystone, Osage, Okla., Sept. 20. Hordes of Double-crested Cormorants moved into n.e. Oklahoma as the flood waters receded, with flocks comprising 1000 birds in Washington Oct. 4-8 and 4000 in Tulsa Oct. 19. Olivaceous Cormorants were reported at Douglas, Kans., Sept. 15 (BF, KHO), and at 4 Texas localities in September and October.

Least Bitterns were noted in Keith, Neb., Aug 30 (RCR) and Omaha Oct. 2 (KG). Great Egrets were abundant and widespread and remained until Nov. 30 at several localities. Noteworthy numbers included 11 in Harlan, Neb., Sept. 1 (RCR) and six at El Paso Oct. 24 (BZ, JD). Snowy Egrets remained until late November at several sites. A single Snowy found a small pool of water in the desert of Hudspeth, Tex., Sept. 28 (OVO). Two Little Blue Herons visited Randall, Tex., Oct. 19, and two remained until Nov. 20 in Tarrant, Tex. Tricolored Herons were found in Texas in Tarrant Sept. 26, Comal Oct. 30, and B.B.N.P., Aug. 10. About 500 Cattle Egrets spent October near Lubbock, Tex. A single Cattle Egret in Cimarron, Okla., Aug. 16 may have furnished a first county record (JAG). When temperatures in Omaha fell below zero Nov. 11, a Black-crowned Night-Heron was rescued and cared for until temperatures moderated. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron visited Black Gap W.M.A., Brewster, Tex., Aug. 8 (BMcK). Immature White Ibises, wandering widely in Texas Aug. 12–Oct. 5, were recorded in Panola, Midland, Tarrant, Van Zandt, and Kerr. There were unusual sightings of White-faced Ibises at Keith, Neb., Aug. 9 (RCR, DJR), and Muskogee, Okla., Nov. 20 (VJ). Roseate Spoonbills were found in Kansas in Osage Aug. 30 and Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Sept. 6. In Texas, spoonbills visited Van Zandt Aug. 10, Washington Oct. 18, and Fannin Sept. 29. Wood Storks were seen in Texas in Van Zandt Sept. 8 & 28 (RK), Fannin Sept. 28 (LB), and Henderson Sept. 1 (MMA).

WATERFOWL — Fifteen Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks appeared in Uvalde, Tex., Sept. 17 (E & KM). Tundra Swans graced the Texas hill country at Kerrville Nov. 26 and Fredricksburg Nov. 16–19. Two Tundra Swans were seen at Muskogee Nov. 30 (JMCM). A Trumpeter Swan visited Cherry, Neb., Aug. 23 (B & MPr). A Snow Goose in Osage, Okla., Sept. 5 was very early (MH). Ross' Geese arrived at Washington, Neb., Nov. 15, Sequoia N.W.R., Okla., Nov. 15, Hagerman Nov. 20, and El Paso Nov. 11. Very early Green-winged Teal were discovered in Oklahoma, Okla., Aug. 21 (JAG) and Brewster, Tex., Aug. 19 (RP). American Black Ducks were seen at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., Sept. 6–7 (SS, TC), Platte, Neb., Oct. 10 (BJR), and Douglas, Neb., Nov. 11 (BJR). Mottled Ducks were found in Van Zandt Aug. 6 (RK). Cinnamon Teal were noted in Pierce, Neb., Nov. 5–7 (MB). Oldsquaws were encountered in Pierce Nov. 4 (MB), Trego Nov. 16 (TS), Rooks, Kans., Nov. 22 (SS), Oklahoma City Nov. 13 (MO), and Randall, Tex., Nov. 19 (DM, KS). Surf Scoters were found in Washington, Neb., Nov. 9 (MB), Omaha Nov. 10 (BJR), and Oklahoma City Nov. 5 (JGN). White-winged Scoters visited Trego Nov. 8–28 and Wichita, Kans., in late November. Hooded Mergansers were recorded at Tulsa Nov. 9–20 and at 5 Texas sites in late November.

RAPTORS — Observers at Nacogdoches, Tex., tallied 93 migrating Black Vultures Oct. 4. More than 100 Black Vultures roosted on the Guadalupe R., Kerr, Tex., Nov. 19 (JM). The peak date of Turkey Vulture migration at Nacogdoches was Oct. 4, when 242 were counted (D & MW). Ospreys were reported at 20 localities. As the flood waters retreated at Midland, dozens of fish were left stranded in roadside ditches, and seven Ospreys came to partake at the same time. Eight were counted at Oklahoma City in October. A late Osprey at Tulsa Nov. 29 was observed carrying a rodent. Kettles of migrating Mississippi Kites comprised 79 birds at Amarillo Aug. 31, 70 at Wichita, Tex., Sept. 2, 60 at Oklahoma City Sept. 6, and 47 in Hardin, Tex., Sept. 17. A nestling Mississippi Kite was found in Tarrant Aug. 12, providing a first breeding record there. Unusual Mississippi Kite sightings included three in n.e. Nebraska Sept. 26–28 (m.ob.), one in B.B.N.P., Sept. 24 (BMcK), and a very late one in Randall Oct. 5 (PA). In Van Zandt the peak of Accipiter migration was Oct. 5, when 42 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 10 Cooper's Hawks were counted (RK). In w. Kansas during the season, Seltman counted 50 Cooper's and fewer than 20 Sharpies. He wrote, "I think one reason that Sharpies are considered more common is because they are the Accipiter most likely to be seen in cities where most birders live. But here in

the wide-open spaces where I live Cooper's are more abundant." One N. Goshawk was sighted in G.M.N.P. three times, but whether it was one individual or three is unknown. An ad. ♀ Harris' Hawk was observed in Comanche, Okla., where the species is accidental, Nov. 15 (JB). Broad-winged Hawk flights included 5114 birds at Nacogdoches Sept. 27, 400 at Hiawatha, Kans., Sept. 30, and "thousands" in Henderson, Tex., Oct. 8. Peak Swainson's Hawk migration occurred the first week of October, with flights comprising 200 or more birds in the Texas Panhandle Oct. 4, and McClain, Okla., and Tarrant Oct. 5. At Lubbock, 150 Swainson's remained until Oct. 11. Ferruginous Hawks were rather far east in Garfield, Neb., Nov. 21 (WJM) and Tulsa Oct. 26–Nov. 30 (m.ob.). Golden Eagles unusually far east included one at Omaha Nov. 12 and one in Washington, Okla., Nov. 15.

Merlins were reported at 21 localities, often with 2 or more sightings. Prairie Falcons were seen e. to Boone, Neb., Tulsa, and Ft. Worth. Very early Peregrine Falcons arrived at Midland Aug. 15 and Waco Aug. 24. In Tarrant Oct. 5, three imm. Peregrines played havoc with the local population of herons and egrets. Three Peregrines at once is a stellar occurrence, and even three in a season, as at Nacogdoches Sept. 27 & 29 and Oct. 1, is a red-letter event. At least 19 Peregrines were seen in the Region.

PARTRIDGES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Coveys of Gray Partridges were found in Wayne, Neb., Aug. 15, and Pierce, Neb., Nov. 7. Along the road from Kerrville to the Kerr W.M.A., Tex., on Nov. 30, 222 Wild Turkeys were counted. The reintroduced Montezuma Quail in G.M.N.P. produced at least one covey of juveniles this year. Tiny N. Bobwhite chucks were seen on the late date of Aug. 31 in Washington, Okla. Gambel's Quail are making a comeback in B.B.N.P., as a small covey was observed Aug. 17. Six King Rails were counted in Midland Sept. 28 (JCH). A Virginia Rail in Brazos, Tex., Oct. 7 represented the first fall record at that locality since 1971 (KA), and one in Uvalde, Tex., Sept. 17 was also noteworthy (E & KM). A Sora in Garden, Neb., Nov. 22 was very late (RCR, DJR). In the Texas Panhandle, Com. Moorhens were found in Donley Oct. 12, providing more evidence of their recent expansion. This species was also seen in Tarrant Sept. 27–Oct. 12 and Uvalde Sept. 17–18. The highlight of the year in s w Oklahoma was provided by a **Whooping Crane** family (two adults, one immature) that rested in a wheat field in Comanche Nov. 10 (JMM *et al.*).

There was a conspicuous movement of Black-bellied Plovers throughout the Region Aug. 12–17. Lesser Golden-Plovers, always scarce in fall, were seen at Bartlesville Oct. 18–19, Hagerman Oct. 2 & 9, and El Paso Sept. 16 and Oct. 8. One at Topeka Nov. 15 had a broken leg. The only Snowy Plovers reported were two very late ones at Midland Nov. 29 (RMS, m.ob.). The only Mountain Plovers seen were in Cimarron, Okla., Oct. 5 (JSS). In early October, Am. Avocets found the rain-filled "salt flats" of Culberson, Tex. (BW). Willets were seen in Washington, Okla., July 11 (DV), and El Paso and Rains, Tex., Aug. 14–17. An Upland Sandpiper in Washington, Tex., Oct. 4 was late (KA, DC). A Whimbrel provided a first record at L. Somerville, Washington, Tex., Aug. 17 (DC, RB). Long-billed Curlews, usually scarce in the Texas "hill country," were encountered at Ingram Aug. 10–11 and Comfort Nov. 15 (TG). Marbled Godwits were common in the Texas Panhandle through Aug. 16 (KS). Two were found at Omaha Sept. 4–6 (BJR, MB) and one was at Nowata, Okla., Sept. 13 (DV, MG). A single Ruddy Turnstone remained at Omaha Sept. 4–Oct. 30, one was in Kerr Nov. 8, one was shot by a vandal at El Paso Oct. 7, and two visited Tarrant Sept. 20–25.

Red Knots, among the rarest shorebirds in the Region, were found in Platte, Neb., Sept. 4–5 (BJR, BP), Cheyenne Bottoms Sept. 6 (SS), and Nowata, where one provided a first county record, Aug. 7 (MD, DV). Very late Sanderlings visited Coffey, Kans., Nov. 15 (BF, MM) and Tulsa Nov. 16 (JWA). Late Pectoral Sandpipers were observed at Midland Nov. 29 (BE, GW) and Tarrant Nov. 21 (RDC, AY). Dunlins were reported at 6 local-



Red Phalarope at Lake Babcock, Platte Co., Neb., Oct. 13, 1986. Photo/B.J. Rose.

ities in October and November. Buff-breasted Sandpipers provided first records in Kimble, Tex., Aug. 28 (N & DJ) and Rush, Kans., Sept. 10 (SS). Fourteen Buff-breasted Sandpipers were counted at Cheyenne Bottoms Sept. 4, 17 were seen at Tulsa Sept. 28, and 11 rested in Platte Sept. 4-13. Well described Short-billed Dowitchers were reported at El Paso Aug. 22 and Oct. 6 (BZ) and Tarrant Aug. 9-10 (LH). American Woodcocks were discovered in Washington, Okla., Nov. 8-13, Van Zandt and Hunt, Tex., Nov. 19, Kerrville Nov. 26, and Bastrop, Tex., Nov. 15. Red-necked Phalaropes were present at El Paso Aug. 26-Oct. 13, with a high count of 25. Four were found in Platte Sept. 4-6, 15 at Muleshoe N.W.R., Sept. 20, and one at Midland Sept. 27. A Red Phalarope in Platte Oct. 10-13 evidently provided only the 2nd documented Nebraska record (BJR, BP).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — Three Parasitic Jaegers dined on Barn Swallows at Oklahoma City Sept. 6-7 (JGN, JAG, JSS). A 4th Parasitic Jaeger appeared at the same location Oct. 17 (JGN). First-year Laughing Gulls visited Cheyenne Bottoms Aug. 19 and Sept. 4 (m.ob.). At L. Somerville, Laughing Gulls Nov. 8, 15, & 23 provided the only records for that month (KA et al.). About 3000 Franklin's Gulls swarmed at L. Tawakoni, Rains, Tex., Nov. 9 (RK), while a single bird visited El Paso, where the species is rare in fall, Oct. 24 (BZ, JD). Two ad. California Gulls were found at L. McConaughy, Keith, Aug. 9 (RCR, DJR) and one was photographed there Aug. 14 (MB). Thayer's Gulls were reported in Jefferson, Kans., Oct. 8 (TC), and Douglas, Kans., Nov. 16 (MC, LM). A Black-legged Kittiwake at Oklahoma City Nov. 8-30+ was the first there since 1968 (MO, JGN). Each state in the Region boasted a Sabine's Gull: Sheridan, Neb., Oct. 9 (RCR, DJR), Osage, Kans., Sept. 21 (MCo, BF, MM), Tulsa Oct. 14-15 (JL, PSe, m.ob.), and Tarrant, Tex., Oct. 18-20 (LH, CBH, m.ob.).

A congregation of 44 Caspian Terns at Oklahoma City Sept. 7 constituted an unusual number anywhere on the Plains. Common Terns were well documented at Dallas Sept. 6, El Paso Sept. 24, Tulsa Oct. 3, and Rogers, Okla., Sept. 14. Least Tern chicks still unable to fly were found at Tulsa Aug. 19 and Muskogee Aug. 13. Only 5 localities reported Black Terns and the only flock of any size comprised 60 birds in Washington, Okla., Aug. 8. A Black Skimmer paid a brief visit to a flood-formed lake at Midland, Tex., Aug. 26 (D & JM).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — An Inca Dove was unusually far north in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Tex., Oct. 28 (KS). A Com. Ground-Dove was discovered in Brazos Oct. 11 (RP). The only Black-billed Cuckoos reported were at DeSoto N.W.R., Neb., Aug. 6 (BP, TB), Omaha Oct. 8 (TB), and Crowley, Tex., Oct. 7 (MR). Very late Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found at Norman, Okla., Oct. 19, Tulsa Nov. 1, Sherman, Tex., Nov.

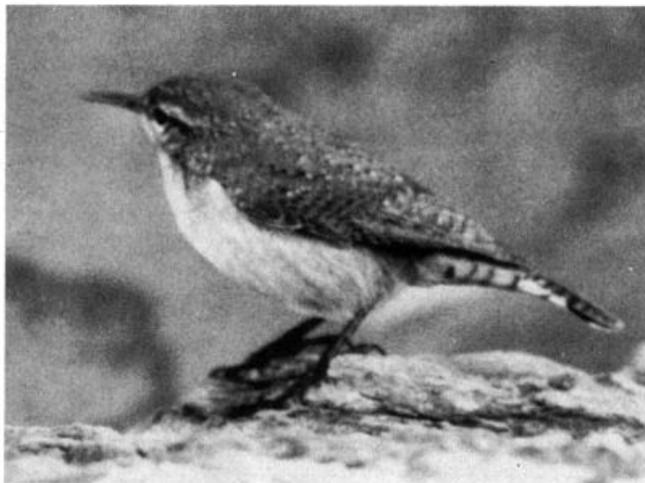
21, and Midland Oct. 31. Groove-billed Anis were seen in Hudspeth, Tex., Oct. 7 (BZ) and Kimble, Tex., Oct. 5 (N & DJ). In s.w. Oklahoma, 3 pairs of Com. Barn-Owls raised 2nd broods of young in October after having fledged their first young in May (PWW). In B.B.N.P., a N. Pygmy-Owl was found on the early date of July 29 (EH). A Burrowing Owl that stopped at Rooney's Bar in Omaha was taken to the Raptor Recovery Center. Four Com. Poorwills were discovered in the Oklahoma City area in early October. Newell asked, "From where do they come?" An estimated 8000 Chimney Swifts assembled at Tulsa Sept. 28.

A Magnificent Hummingbird was discovered in B.B.N.P., Aug. 19 & 23 (GL et al.). A Lucifer Hummingbird at Black Gap W.M.A., Aug. 8 had not wandered far (BMck) but one at Midland Sept. 3-5 was about 200 mi n. of any previous sighting (ME, RMS). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in B.B.N.P., Aug. 14-22 provided a rare record, but disappointed visitors who were searching for rare western hummers. At least four Anna's Hummingbirds visited feeders at El Paso mid-October through November. Calliope Hummingbirds brightened Midland July 28, Lubbock Aug. 20-Sept. 1, El Paso area Aug. 22-Sept. 9, and B.B.N.P., Aug. 4-5. Adult ♂ Rufous Hummingbirds delighted observers at Wichita Aug. 9-10 and Tulsa Aug. 2. There were many late lingering Rufous Hummingbirds, which is not unexpected. More unusual were birds identified as late Broad-tailed Hummingbirds at G.M.N.P., Nov. 23 and Ft. Davis, Tex., Nov. 29.

Green Kingfishers fished in small ponds near the Rio Grande in B.B.N.P., Aug. 6 (female) and Sept. 5 (male). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were west of their usual range in Keith (RCR) Sept. 27 and Kendall, Tex., Oct. 28 (JM). Red-naped Sapsuckers were found in Morton, Kans., Sept. 27 (TC) and Hueco Tanks S.P., Tex., Sept. 27 (BZ, GL). Williamson's Sapsuckers visited Buffalo L., Oct. 15, El Paso Sept. 17, and G.M.N.P., Oct. 20. A Pileated Woodpecker provided a possible first record in Kerr Nov. 30 (TG).

Most Empidonax flycatchers went unidentified, as only a few were so typical of their species that their identity could be discerned by a careful observer. Some of the more noteworthy empids recorded were Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Washington, Tex., Sept. 13 (EB), Acadian Flycatcher at Tulsa Aug. 9 (TLM), Alder Flycatcher in Washington, Tex., Sept. 30 (DC, NB), about 25 Willow Flycatchers at Oklahoma City Sept. 6 (JAG), Willow Flycatcher at Elk City, Okla., Oct. 3 (IB), Hammond's Flycatcher in Morton Sept. 21 (SS), Dusky Flycatcher in Morton Sept. 27 (SS, TC), and Gray Flycatchers in B.B.N.P., Sept. 2 (BMck) and El Paso Sept. 4 (BZ). Black Phoebes were n.e. of their usual haunts at Midland Sept. 28-30 (RMS, m.ob.) and Bandera, Tex., Oct. 30-Nov. 3 (JM, MBo). Three Great Crested Flycatchers visited Midland, where even one is unusual, Aug. 28, Sept. 28, and Oct. 2, and singles reached the w. edge of the state at Hudspeth Sept. 3 and El Paso Sept. 15. A Brown-crested Flycatcher was observed in B.B.N.P., Oct. 9 (AB). A Thick-billed Kingbird remained in B.B.N.P., Aug. 6-Sept. 2 (JA, m.ob.). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are rare in the trans-Pecos area of Texas, so one in B.B.N.P., Oct. 8 was noteworthy (BMck, AB). Great flocks of Scissor-taileds staging before migration used to be commonplace, but the only one reported was a roost comprising 400 birds at Norman in late September (JAG).

MARTINS THROUGH SHRIKES — During the week of Aug. 17, about 20,000 Purple Martins descended on a Wichita apartment complex. Health department employees, "thinking" they were starlings, shot scores before Wichita Audubon Society members intervened (DSK). During the same week, 1200 martins gathered in Omaha and 600 flew over Comanche, Okla. A lone ♀ Purple Martin appeared in B.B.N.P., where there are few records, Aug. 26 (AB, CS). A Violet-green Swallow darted over Garden, Neb., Aug. 29 (RCR). Flocks of Bank Swallows comprising more than 200 birds passed through the Amarillo area Aug. 3-17. Four very late N. Rough-winged Swallows



Rock Wren at the spillway at Lake Tawakoni, Rains Co., Texas, in November 1986. Photo/George Harmon.

were noted at El Paso Nov. 11. Clark's Nutcrackers were discovered in Sioux and Dawes, Neb., Aug. 22 & 26 (M & BPr, GWO). Migrating flocks of Blue Jays passed over Washington, Okla., Oct. 3 and Van Zandt Oct. 5. A Black-billed Magpie in Riley, Kans., Nov. 28 was farther e. than usual. At Midland, a Com. Raven provided a not unexpected first record Nov. 28 (GW, BE). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce, as only 5 reports were received. A White-breasted Nuthatch was found in Beckham, Okla., Oct. 26 (IB). A Rock Wren was observed in Madison, Neb., Oct. 7 (JDu). Winter Wrens were discovered at 6 localities, all after mid-October. About 14 Sedge Wrens gathered in a bluestem pasture in Washington, Okla., Aug. 11-25 (DV, m.ob.). There was a widespread incursion of Golden-crowned Kinglets beginning in mid-October and by Nov. 30 a few had reached B.B.N.P.

It was not a bluebird year, as all three species were in low numbers in very scattered locations. In w. Texas, Townsend's Solitaires arrived early and in good numbers. In Midland, where usually one solitaire per season is exciting, 10 could be found in 2 hours of birding. In w. Kansas, seven solitaires were encountered at Cedar Bluff Res., Nov. 28. Except for Am. Robins and Townsend's Solitaires, thrushes were scarce throughout. The few reported included a Veery in Dodge, Neb., Aug. 21 (BJR), a Gray-cheeked Thrush in Omaha Oct. 10 (TB), and Wood Thrushes in Kendall, Tex., Oct. 25 (E & SW) and Tarrant Oct. 26 (HE). A Gray Catbird lingered at Hagerman until Nov. 20 (KH) and one was seen in Kerr, where it is an uncommon migrant, Oct. 16 (E & KM). In Morton, 18 Sage Thrashers were counted Sept. 27, and 20 were found at Hueco Tanks S.P. the same day. One in Kendall Oct. 25 was rather far east (E & SW). In Rush and Pawnee, Kans., 40 Sprague's Pipits were tallied over several days in early October (SS) and three were discovered in Tulsa Oct. 15 (JWA). The only Bohemian Waxwings were two in Keith Nov. 23 (RCR, DJR). A Phainopepla provided a first record in Oldham, Tex., Aug. 26 (RSc). Northern Shrikes were numerous in Boone, Dakota, Garfield, Holt, and Stanton, Neb.

VIREOS THROUGH TANAGERS — A late White-eyed Vireo was at Midland Nov. 11 (D & JM). Black-capped Vireos were encountered in Canadian, Okla., Aug. 31, Comanche Sept. 20, and B.B.N.P., Aug. 19 & 30. A late Solitary Vireo was at Buffalo L., Nov. 9. A Yellow-throated Vireo lingered in Brazos until Nov. 22, and one visited Hunt, Tex., where it is uncommon, Aug. 5. The seldom-reported Philadelphia Vireo was discovered in G.M.N.P., Sept. 18 (CB, WS) and Wagoner, Okla., Sept. 6 (JMcM).

Golden-winged Warblers brightened Tulsa Sept. 7, Lancaster, Neb., Aug. 22, and Tarrant Oct. 5. Tennessee Warblers were observed in Tarrant Oct. 11 and Buffalo L., Aug. 27. Haynie

wrote that Nashville Warblers were "a dime a ton" in Tarrant the week following the Oct. 4 cold front, and this was also true in B.B.N.P., where at least 100 Nashvilles swarmed Oct. 10 (AB). Northern Parulas were seen at Omaha Sept. 7, Otoe, Neb., Sept. 18, Tarrant Sept. 13, and Van Zandt Oct. 5. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was found in Keith Aug. 30. A Magnolia Warbler graced Rush, Kans., Oct. 3. Far out of range were Black-throated Blue Warblers in Morton Sept. 21 (SS) and Buffalo L., Oct. 19 (KS). At least 100 Townsend's Warblers flitted about B.B.N.P., Oct. 24. A Hermit Warbler was observed in B.B.N.P., Aug. 20 (RP). A birder perched on the roof of his flooded house in Bartlesville Oct. 4 found it easy to see a Black-throated Green Warbler in a nearby tree (BPo). Of seven Blackburnian Warblers in Texas, the most out of range was one in B.B.N.P., Sept. 10. Pine Warblers were unusually common in n.e. Nebraska, and one in Wayne, Neb., Nov. 7 was late. A Pine Warbler in Uvalde, Tex., Nov. 30 was rather far west. A Prairie Warbler provided a first county record in Kimble, Tex., Aug. 17 (N & DJ) and one in Bell, Tex., Sept. 9 was also exceptional (ML). A Palm Warbler visited Lubbock Oct. 23. A Bay-breasted Warbler was seen in Brazos Nov. 12. The Bartlesville flood victim birding from his roof also glimpsed an Am. Redstart. Three October sightings in Bartlesville of this normally early fall migrant were unusual.

Prothonotary Warblers brightened Bell Sept. 14 and Kimble Aug. 30. A Worm-eating Warbler was discovered in Huntsville S.P., Tex., Oct. 18, and a Swainson's Warbler was in Bell Sept. 21. At College Station a N. Waterthrush found dead Sept. 12 provided the first fall record since 1975. A Louisiana Waterthrush in B.B.N.P., Aug. 7 was well described (PS). A Kentucky Warbler in Kimble Oct. 7 represented a new county record (N & DJ). Hooded Warblers were found at Tulsa Sept. 1, Buffalo L., Sept. 1, and Bell Oct. 5-8. A very confused Wilson's Warbler found its way to the baggage claim area of the Dallas-Fort Worth airport. He was caught and ejected because after all, he didn't have a ticket! A Canada Warbler graced Tulsa Aug. 12. A Scarlet Tanager provided a first fall record at College Station Oct. 1 (GD). At least ten W. Tanagers brightened Morton Sept. 20.

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES — In Texas, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at Hagerman Oct. 8, Van Zandt Sept. 29, and Uvalde Sept. 18. Late-lingering finches included a Blue Grosbeak banded in Collin, Tex., Nov. 1 (AV), an Indigo Bunting at Waco Oct. 27 (JO), and a Painted Bunting in Kerr Nov. 17 (TG). Dickcissels were west of their usual haunts at El Paso Aug. 25 and Sept. 27 and B.B.N.P., Sept. 2. A Field Sparrow at Hueco Tanks S.P., Nov. 28 represented the first area record in almost a decade (JD, JSp). A Henslow's Sparrow in Washington, Okla., provided a 2nd county record (DV), and one in Brazos Nov. 22 represented only the 2nd record for that month (PVD). Le Conte's Sparrows were unusually common: seven in Douglas, Neb., Oct. 5, one in Pierce, Neb., Oct. 18, 11 at Hagerman Oct. 19, eight in Rains, Tex., Nov. 30, and one in Tarrant Oct. 26. Four Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Hagerman Oct. 19 were the first at that location since 1979 (KH, LL). Sharp-taileds were also discovered in Pierce Oct. 18 (MB) and Rogers, Okla., Sept. 14 (JWA, JCho). A Golden-crowned Sparrow that remained in Kimble, Tex., Oct. 25-Nov. 30 provided a first county record (N & DJ, m.ob.). McCown's Longspurs were abundant in Denton, Tex., Nov. 23. About 1000 Lapland Longspurs swirled in Platte, Neb., Nov. 12. Smith's Longspurs were observed in Osage, Okla., Nov. 23 and Tulsa Nov. 16-18. In El Paso and Hudspeth, Chestnut-collared Longspurs were unusually common Oct. 15-Nov. 30. Four Snow Buntings arrived in Platte Nov. 4.

Unusual October sightings of Yellow-headed Blackbirds occurred in Washington, Osage, and Tulsa, Okla., and Panola, Tex. Rusty Blackbirds were unusually far w. in Garden, Neb., Nov. 22 and Buffalo L., Nov. 27. Great-tailed Grackles have unfortunately reached G.M.N.P. A late Orchard Oriole was in Nacogdoches, Tex., Oct. 5 (DW) and a late N. Oriole was still present in Cass, Neb., Nov. 30 (GWO). The only Cassin's Finch

reported was at El Paso Nov. 12–14. Red Crossbills were observed in Nebraska at Nemaha Aug. 22, Sarpy Oct. 19, Cedar Oct. 27, and Knox Nov. 7, and at Hays, Kans., Nov. 1. The Red Crossbills that summered in G.M.N.P., were still present Aug. 30. Pine Siskins were present in small numbers at scattered localities. Very early Evening Grosbeaks arrived in Dawes, Neb., Aug. 22 (RCR). One appeared at Muskogee on the more usual date of Nov. 26 (JMcM).

EXOTICS — An African Crowned Crane at a Tarrant water treatment plant Oct. 12 was a refugee from the nearby International Wildlife Park. Four Ringed Turtle-Doves spent late summer in Wichita. Monk Parakeets were nest-building in downtown Dallas in October (JP). Two Monk Parakeets survived at Midland for more than a year. A Rose-ringed Parakeet was found in Grady, Okla., Aug. 31 (JAG).

CORRIGENDA — AB 40:491: A Com. Loon and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reported in Rains, Tex., should have been in Van Zandt, Tex. AB 40:494: The Red Crossbill was at Tulsa, not Bartlesville.

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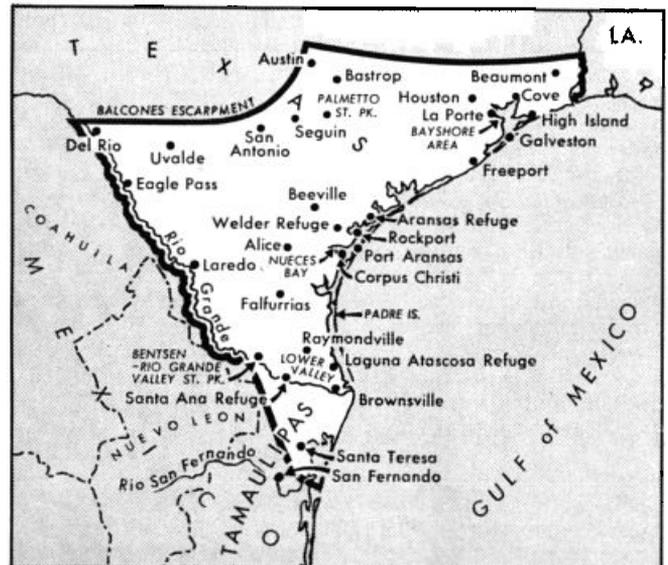
SOUTH TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

Although it may be a misleading concept in Texas, weather patterns were described as nearly “normal” by several observers. A number of early and uncommon migrants were noted in Austin after a long string of 100°F days broke on August 4–5. There was a notable absence of inclement weather in August and September, which seemingly resulted in a rather late migration (i.e., observations of migrant concentrations), although a fairly good fallout of passerines was noted on the Upper Texas Coast with a windshift August 29. The first strong front brought some rain October 5–9 along with some good fallouts Regionwide. Rainfall was generally above normal during the latter one-half of the season, but was not enough to fill ponds and lakes at Laguna Atascosa, Kingsville, and Falfurrias, for example, which had dried up during the hot summer. Many of our wintering migrants arrived with the first solid Arctic air mass that came in November 11–13.

In the absence of any tropical storm activity, the remarkable movement of coastal wading birds to inland locations was puzzling. Reasons for such an influx might be sought in an examination of our coastal and estuarine productivity, but we lack sufficient information for a detailed analysis. As we speculated in this column some years ago regarding a widespread influx of western species, contrasting conditions of high productivity or drastic ecological failures might precipitate major movements such as these. Happily, we have some indications at least from the central coast that the former condition might have been at work this season.

Finally, it was evident that San Antonio’s Mitchell Lake was itself an ecologically productive haven for not only the coastal visitors but also the tremendous numbers and diversity of migrant shorebirds. In fact, the Regionwide scattering of several uncommon and rare fall shorebirds



such as Hudsonian Godwit, Baird’s and White-rumped sandpipers, Red-necked Phalarope, and late Lesser Golden-Plovers suggested perhaps a phenomenon of larger-than-Regional scope.

ABBREVIATIONS — Aransas = Aransas Nat’l Wildlife Ref.; Bentsen = Bentsen Rio Grande State Park; Laguna Atascosa = Laguna Atascosa Nat’l Wildlife Ref.; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; Santa Ana = Santa Ana Nat’l Wildlife Ref.; T.P.R.F. = Texas Photo Record File (Texas A & M University); U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast. Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL — A Com. Loon showed up at Rockport on the early date of Sept. 24 (CC). Least Grebes,

which had been sparse in the L.R.G.V. during the summer, returned to Santa Ana and began nesting in late August (JJ). Five Least Grebes were found on a small pond near San Antonio Sept. 14 (MH, WS), a larger number than usual for the area. On Oct. 4 an ad. pair and four small young were photographed at this same pond; the family group remained until at least Nov. 15, apparently the first successful Bexar nesting in 28 years. One Masked Booby was seen off Port Aransas Sept. 6 (CB *et al.*). San Antonio's Mitchell L. hosted a remarkable concentration of long-legged waders during the period. A peak of 2000+ birds was reached during October, composed of about 60% Cattle Egrets, 20% Great Egrets, and 20% Snowy Egrets, plus small numbers of other herons and egrets (MH, WS *et al.*). Reddish Egrets were again quite conspicuous inland this season. Lake Alice hosted four Reddish Egrets Sept. 28 (RA *et al.*), and from two to four birds (including one white-phase) were at Mitchell L., July 29–Oct. 22 (m.ob.). Small numbers of White Ibises were in the Austin and San Antonio area Aug. 5–Oct. 11. This is another species not usually expected that far inland. A Roseate Spoonbill visited an Austin sewage pond Aug. 27–Sept. 27 (m.ob.) for a rare area record, and from one to five spoonbills were at San Antonio Sept. 13–Nov. 2.

WATERFOWL — Fulvous Whistling-Ducks seemed in low numbers Regionwide, especially on the c. coast where C. Clark found them nearly absent at Rockport. In contrast, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to be present in high numbers in many areas. The most notable concentration was again at Warren L., near Houston, where from 1000 to 2000 Black-bellieds were present during September (BH, JM, TE *et al.*). Strangely, the species was at times difficult to find in the L.R.G.V. late in the period while birds were still present in good numbers at locations such as San Antonio, Austin, and Houston. A Tundra Swan showed up at Aransas Nov. 18 (TS) for a very rare record. A Ross' Goose at Alice Sept. 13 was very early, and provided a first Jim Wells record (RA). C. Clark carefully counted 38 Ross' in a Snow Goose flock in Victoria Nov. 9, probably the largest concentration ever reported in this Region.

Muscovy Ducks continued to add a tropical flair to the Region this season. There were several reports of a lone imm. Muscovy skulking in tall vegetation below Falcon Dam from Sept. 14 into mid-October (CB, JA *et al.*). Then, during the first week of November there were reports of three Muscovies seen at several locations between Falcon and Salineño (L. & RG, SR *et al.*). Finally, six Muscovies (3 ad., 3 imm.) were flushed from a secluded spot near Salineño Nov. 22 (B & JR *et al.*) and were seen regularly for several days. The editors regard these particular individuals as wild vagrants and not barnyard birds.

Three Wood Ducks at Riviera Nov. 17 (SB) were unusual, and another 18 were counted at Welder Ref., Nov. 26 (CC). Wood Ducks are rare in the s. portions of this Region. A Greater Scaup (perhaps the summering bird mentioned last season) again showed up at Mitchell L., Aug. 16 (C & MH), and remained into October when it was joined by a second bird. Four Greaters were at Mitchell L., Nov. 30. An Oldsquaw was found at Austin Nov. 13 (EK, GL) and remained through the period. There were several reports of Surf Scoters at inland locations, including Austin and Sinton, Oct. 25–Nov. 17. A Com. Merganser in Harris Nov. 17 (fGC) provided the first U.T.C. record since 1972. A Masked Duck was reported at Houston Aug. 4 (BG *et al.*) and another visited Santa Ana Oct. 22 (JJ).

RAPTORS — What certainly must have been one of the most spectacular migrations of Am. Swallow-tailed Kites in Texas in the past 50 years occurred Aug. 17, when 20 kites were seen s.w. of Beaumont (fph., JDon, *vide* WG). Single Swallow-taileds were also noted at Falfurrias Aug. 28 (AO) and near Columbus Sept. 8 (*vide* JM). The Mississippi Kite migration was virtually missed this season with 150 at San Marcos Aug. 29 (DHen) the only large concentration reported. Mississippi at Bentsen Oct. 10, one at Rancho Santa Margarita Oct. 13 (JA),

and one at La Joya Nov. 4 (GD) were late. An ad. Bald Eagle at Los Fresnos Oct. 29 (*vide* SRI) was unusual. The Broad-winged Hawk migration was extremely late in the L.R.G.V. and Corpus Christi areas (GD, TA *et al.*). There were no large numbers reported on the U.T.C. in September or October. The first substantial numbers of Broad-winged did not show up in the L.R.G.V. until Oct. 6, and 10,000+ Broad-winged at Santa Ana Oct. 14 was the only sizable (>1000) report.

Two White-tailed Hawks near Seguin Sept. 24 (MH) and another in Karnes Oct. 30 (WS) were farther inland than is typical for the species. A single Zone-tailed Hawk was seen on several occasions in late November in the Falcon and Salineño area. An early Ferruginous Hawk was at Palmetto S.P., Aug. 17 (PH). Two Ferruginous Hawks (including one dark-phase) were carefully described at Attwater Prairie Chicken N.W.R., Nov. 29 (JM). A Rough-legged Hawk near High I., Nov. 15 (WG) provided a rare U.T.C. record, as did a Golden Eagle on the same date near Anahuac N.W.R. (BB, GS). Crested Caracaras seem to be experiencing a moderate increase in numbers in the Region (JA, GL, m.ob.). A flock of nine caracaras just e of Austin Nov. 9 (BF) was a sizable number for that area. Aplomado Falcon reports at Laguna Atascosa most likely pertained to the four young falcons released there last summer. There were sightings at various locations on the refuge Aug. 5 & 14, Sept. 17, Oct. 6 & 25, and Nov. 10 & 14 (*vide* SL, SRI). Peregrine Falcons were widely reported Regionwide throughout the period, including individuals that spent several days in urban locations such as Austin, McAllen, and Corpus Christi.

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMER — On a night in early October, Gallucci attended a high school football game near Houston. During the game a migrant Virginia Rail landed in the crowd. People screamed, and the rail flew across the stadium to another location and again landed in the crowd with the same reaction on the part of the spectators, causing the bird to again change locations and yet again land on top of some frightened fan. Tiring of this sport the bird flew down onto the playing field where it soon discovered 22 players trying to trample it. By now the rail had surely decided that this was no place to spend the night and it flew off into the darkness, to the relief of all concerned. A calling Sora at Santa Ana Aug. 6 (JJ) was very early. Fourteen Purple Gallinules at Welder Ref., Sept. 4 (CC) was a notable number.

S.A.

For the first time since early in the century the Whooping Crane population passed 100 in Texas! Stehn reports that the first bird, a subadult, arrived Oct. 19, with a 2nd bird arriving Oct. 25. The first family group arrived on or before Nov. 2. The 28 cranes counted Nov. 10 indicated the whooper migration was the 2nd slowest on record. Over the past 26 years, an average of 81.8% of the cranes have reached the wintering grounds by Nov. 10; this fall only 25% had arrived by that date. The majority of the cranes arrived with the first substantial cold front to reach s. Texas on Nov. 11–13. A total of 60 cranes arrived between the census flights of Nov. 10 and Nov. 18. Twenty young cranes hatched in 1986 arrived safely at Aransas, an all-time record production. The final wintering population of 105 is a milestone in the continuing fight to save this species.

A Lesser Golden-Plover at Austin Nov. 13–22 (EK, GL) and another at San Antonio Nov. 15–18 (WS, MH) recall last year's unusually late golden-plover on the U.T.C. Photos of the San Antonio bird appear to pertain to the race *dominica*, the expected race in this Region; however, observers should be alert to the possibility of a wandering bird of the race *fulva*, especially since some authorities consider it to be a separate species. A flock of 27 Wilson's Plovers on Mustang I., Aug. 25 (CC) was

a notable concentration. Impressive concentrations of Piping Plovers included 59 at Bolivar Flats Aug. 4 (DW), 51 on Mustang I., Aug. 25 (CC), and 25 on Mustang I., Oct. 5 (TA, SB et al.). A Piping Plover at Mitchell L., Aug. 16–26 (TH, ph. MH) furnished a rare record. A pair of N. Jacanas raised a brood at Welder Ref. (GB, fide CC), and one of the adults and one immature were still present Nov. 26.

A Hudsonian Godwit at Anahuac N.W.R., Sept. 27 (MA) and another (or the same?) in Chambers Oct. 26 (DM) established the first U.T.C. records for September and October. A Red Knot visited Austin Sept. 21 (CA). Semipalmated Sandpipers were almost absent on the c. coast (CC), but were seen regularly in Austin and San Antonio. One of the most intriguing reports was that of a possible Temminck's Stint at Mitchell L., Sept. 14 (†MH, WS). The white outer tail feathers were seen and the distinctive call heard as the bird flew, but unfortunately the bird could not be relocated despite extensive searching. A pair of White-rumped Sandpipers at Mitchell L., Aug. 23 (SHaw et al.) provided a very rare fall record. A Baird's Sandpiper Oct. 5 at Galveston (JB) furnished only the 2nd U.T.C. October record, and three Baird's Oct. 12 at Rockport (CC) were rare. One Baird's Sandpiper and two Stilt Sandpipers at Austin Nov. 21 (JA, BW, GL) provided late records for the area.

The Ruff at San Antonio reported in the summer remained through the period and was regularly seen by many (ph. to T.P.R.F.). A late Wilson's Phalarope was at Galveston Nov. 15 (BB, GS). This Region usually has one to three Red-necked Phalaropes each fall, usually at inland locations. This year Red-neckeds showed up in much higher numbers than usual and at widely scattered locations. One to three Red-neckeds were at San Antonio Sept. 14–Oct. 4 (MH, WS et al.), and another was found at San Luis Pass Sept. 20 (T & VE) for the 6th U.T.C. record. Up to five Red-neckeds were present at High I., Oct. 5–7 (MA et al.), one was at Port Mansfield Oct. 6, and four were at McAllen Oct. 8 (JA). There were also several late September reports from the Austin area, where the species is more expected.



The Ruff that was present the entire season at San Antonio, Texas, photographed Sept. 13, 1986. Photo/Mitch Heindel.

A bird identified as a possible first-winter Thayer's Gull was at San Luis Pass in Galveston Nov. 8–9 (†JM, TE, GL). (Photos of the bird are currently being circulated.) This species is rare, but probably regular, in the state. The ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull returned for its 4th winter in a row to Mustang I., Nov. 17+. Several observers remarked on an abundance of Gull-billed Terns on the U.T.C. Concentrations of up to 35 were noted at several locations. Three Sooty Terns, a species that can be difficult to find from land, were seen Sept. 14 near S. Padre I. (SB). Up to three Black Skimmers were inland at San Antonio's Mitchell L., Aug. 12+, with one immature still present until at least Oct. 8 (MH et al., ph. to T.P.R.F.).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The most exciting find of the season had to be the pair of **Ruddy Ground-Doves** discovered Nov. 14 at Anzalduas Park in Hidalgo (†JD). The male remained in the area with a small flock of Inca Doves and was seen by about 50 observers Nov. 17–21, but then disappeared (ph. to T.P.R.F., GW, GL). Small flocks of six to 10 Green Parakeets were seen sporadically around McAllen during October (SWe et al.). By mid-November a flock of 25–30 birds was reported by m.ob. in McAllen with isolated reports of a few Green Parakeets in Brownsville and other areas. The Red-crowned Parrots were seen regularly in moderate flocks at the usual locations beginning in late September. By late in the period, however, the Red-crowneds in Brownsville were becoming harder to find, while they were seen more often at Harlingen and McAllen.

Black-billed Cuckoos in San Antonio Sept. 19 and Oct. 7 (MH) provided rare fall records, and Yellow-billed in Wimberley and Austin Nov. 2–5 (BA, GL) were very late. Post-nesting Groove-billed Anis wandered N and E to San Antonio and Galveston during September and October. A Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was reported at Santa Ana Oct. 10 (fide JJ), and the pair below Falcon Dam was occasionally seen despite additional clearing of the riverside vegetation in the area (JA et al.). A migrant flock of 200+ Lesser Nighthawks near Pettus Sept. 5 (CB, WS, MH) was a notable concentration. A Com. Pauraque wandered N to Bastrop just e. of Austin and was seen regularly Aug. 17–Sept. 1 (BF et al.), for the first Austin-area record since 1975. Arvin found 21 Chuck-will's-widows at a single Brownsville location Oct. 7. Sekula reported an amazing 3500 Chimney Swifts in migration over San Antonio Oct. 3; flocks of this size are seldom observed.

There was a remarkable variety of hummingbird species in the Region during the period, including several exceptional rarities. In addition to the species diversity, the sheer number of individuals of our more common species was just as amazing. McCracken summed up the reports well when she wrote, "there were swarms of hummers simply all over south Texas." Unfortunately, no accurate count or census of migrants was conducted, but from all reports the numbers must have been exceptional. Among seven species of hummers at O'Neil's feeders in Falfurrias, the most unusual was a ♀ **Lucifer Hummingbird** that stayed for 2 hours Oct. 10. Also present there were a ♀ Calliope, ♂ Broad-tailed, and ♂ Rufous Oct. 8. An Anna's Hummingbird was identified in San Antonio Sept. 24 (MH) and single Broad-tailed turned up Aug. 29 at Santa Ana and Sept. 7 at Aransas. A bird showing the plumage of an ad. ♂ Allen's Hummingbird was at a Columbus feeder Aug. 13–Sept. 14 (JD), the same feeder where the Broad-billed was in November 1984. The bird eluded attempts to net it for species verification. A Pileated Woodpecker was found Nov. 20 at Utley, just e. of Austin (BF). Perhaps this species will gradually extend its range upriver to Austin once again, as it did earlier this century.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS — A calling W. Flycatcher was described well at San Antonio Aug. 29 (C & MH), and also studied the next day (D & SH). This species is not known to occur in this Region, but fall birds should be watched for. Two W. Flycatchers were also reported at Alice Sept. 28 (RA) and another at San Antonio Sept. 8 (CB); quite a flurry of reports for a species not observed in those areas before. Wandering Ash-throated Flycatchers were at High I., Nov. 1 (M & RB) and in Harris Nov. 30 (TE, JM). A Great Kiskadee was in n.e. Live Oak Aug. 2 (SHaw), a little n. of their regular range. A carefully-described kingbird in Brazoria Oct. 6 was identified as a Couch's (T & VE), eliminating Tropical on the basis of call notes heard. This is the first such identification by call in this area since the species were split. Forty-six Couch's in Falfurrias Sept. 14 (AO) was an unusual concentration. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were certainly on the move Oct. 20 when 3000 to 5000 were estimated in the area around Falfurrias (AO, N & PP, SB).

The large Purple Martin roost near Corpus Christi was not used this year, but a spot in Austin hosted 15,000 martins during the first 2 weeks of August (BF, GL, VE *et al.*). Single Brown Jays were seen at Santa Ana Aug. 20 & 29 (JI), for the first refuge records, and another was heard there Oct. 29. This was the first time, to our knowledge, that the species has been recorded this far downriver. A Sedge Wren at Anahuac N.W.R., Aug. 23 (MA) was early. Eastern Bluebirds were more common than usual in the L.R.G.V. during November (m.ob.). A Veery at San Antonio Oct. 4 (WS) provided a rare fall record, as did a Gray-cheeked Thrush there Oct. 20 (CB, WS). A Long-billed Thrasher was netted and photographed in the hand at Driftwood Nov. 2 (DC, GL) for the 2nd Austin-area record, and the northernmost c. Texas record ever (ph. to T.P.R.F.).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A Bell's Vireo at High I., Oct. 10 (DM) was a rare find. There were unusually large numbers of reports of Philadelphia Vireos in the c. Texas area this fall, including three in the Austin area Sept. 5–Oct. 8 (GL, BA), and four in San Antonio Sept. 8–Oct. 3 (CB, WS, MH). Several "Yellow-green" Vireos were reported at Santa Ana during the period, including a bird seen Nov. 5. This race of the Red-eyed Vireo (which may be re-split into a distinct species) winters in South America and is not expected in Texas after September (*vide* JA). The editors would like to see written documentation of any report of this race, but especially any reported after September. A Golden-winged Warbler Oct. 14 at Rockport (CC) provided a rare fall record, and a Nashville Warbler Sept. 6 at Houston (M & RB) set a new early fall date for the U.T.C. Tropical Parulas were scarce in the L.R.G.V. this season. A Cape May Warbler Sept. 6 on Galveston I. (TE) set a new early record for this very rare fall migrant. Cape Mays were also seen Oct. 18 & 19 at Galveston (BH, MA).

A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Aransas Aug. 8 (BJ, *vide* CC) set a new early record for that area, as did a Black-throated Green at Rockport Sept. 8 (CC). Single Black-throated Greens in Austin Nov. 22 and Bastrop Nov. 23 (JA, DHer) were quite late. Prairie Warblers clearly were more in evidence this fall, with 11 reports received from the U.T.C. during the period. A Prairie was in Austin Aug. 5 (GL), for a very rare record, and Prairie Warblers were also seen at San Antonio Sept. 11 and Oct. 5 for the 3rd and 4th fall records for that area (MH). A Palm Warbler in *Jim Wells* Nov. 20 (KA) and another on S. Padre I., Oct. 8 (JA) were at unusual locations. Single Blackpoll Warblers, rare in fall, were reported Oct. 7 at San Antonio (MH) and Nov. 16 at Galveston (DM). A Cerulean Warbler at San Antonio Sept. 12 (MH) provided the area's first fall record. Small numbers of migrant Louisiana Waterthrushes showed up over much of the Region Aug. 5–16. Late MacGillivray's Warblers were at Bentsen Nov. 3 (ML) and Del Rio Nov. 27–

29 (VH) A bird fitting the description of ♀ Gray-crowned Yellowthroat was seen briefly by a single observer at Bentsen Nov. 2 (SR). We occasionally receive reports of this species in the L.R.G.V., but so far none of the reported birds has remained long enough to be photographed or seen by other observers

GROSBEAKS THROUGH ORIOLES — A migrant flock of 20+ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Brownsville Oct. 7 (JA) was noteworthy for that area. A Black-headed Grosbeak netted at Driftwood Nov. 2 (DC) provided a first documented Hays record (DaC, ph. to T.P.R.F.). Two Cassin's Sparrows Sept. 28 at Victoria (PR) were e. of their normal range, and a Swamp Sparrow banded at Driftwood Oct. 18 (DC) was early for the Austin area. Sorting through a flock of 1500 Lapland Longspurs in Harris Nov. 30, Morgan and Eubanks found 25 McCown's, an extremely rare bird on the U.T.C. Two Bobolinks at Wimberley Sept. 12 (†BA) provided the Austin area's first fall record. Single Bobolinks were also at Galveston Sept. 13 (†RM, JB) and s. of Falfurrias Sept. 25 (AO, SB, PP). Altamira Orioles that wandered n. of their usual range during the period were one at Kingsville Sept. 2 (†H & HS) and another n. of Alice Sept. 14 (†CB).

ADDENDUM — The Broad-billed Hummingbird at Santa Ana in the winter 1985–1986 was last seen Feb. 12 (D & JH).

CORRIGENDUM — Delete the record of four Upland Sandpipers reported Feb. 2, 1986.

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

C. McEwen and W. G. Johnston

The period from August through October was generally mild. At Fort Nelson, a cool spot of windy weather in late August set some birds on their southward move. Three main low-pressure systems (August 24, September 16–17, and October 2) at Fort St. John caused fallouts of migrants. Winter came to the southern Yukon and northern British Columbia in November, with temperatures rarely rising above -10°C and often falling to -30° .

Geographic coverage for the season was from the usually-covered areas of Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, and Whitehorse, with further observations from the Yukon Territory's

Beaufort Sea coast (Herschel Island) as well as the Coppermine area of the central Arctic coast.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.S.J. = Fort St. John, B.C.; Y.T. = Yukon Territory.

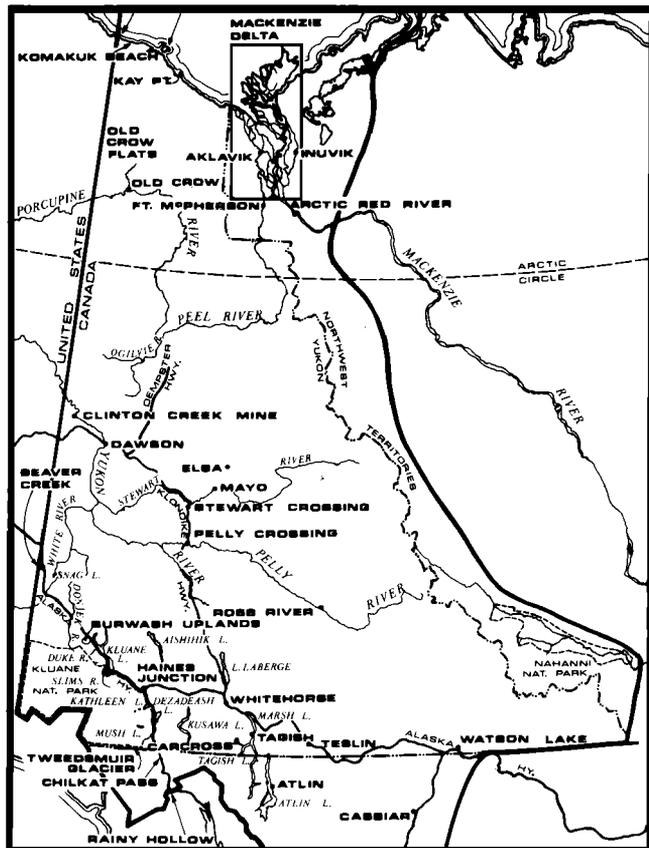
LOONS THROUGH FALCONS — Three of the four loon species known from Herschel Island were recorded in 1986: there was breeding evidence only for Red-throated Loon (2 known nests failed), while Yellow-billed and Pacific loons frequented the island's coastline (DT). An ad. Yellow-billed Loon seen Aug. 30 at Summit L. (JB) provided the 5th autumn record for interior British Columbia, and an ad. Red-throated Loon at Charlie L., Aug. 21 (MF, CS) furnished the 8th record for

the Peace R., B.C., area Charlie L. also hosted 162 Pacific Loons Sept. 16 (CS). Single Horned Grebes in winter plumage were noted at Swan L., Y.T., Sept. 14 and Oct. 5 (HG). Pied-billed Grebes made their usual early departure from F.S.J., with the last bird noted Sept. 6 (CS). The sighting of an imm. Double-crested Cormorant at Hudson Hope Aug. 18 represented the 3rd record for the Peace R. area (MF).

Four swans (sp.) were noted at the F.S.J. sewage lagoons Aug. 21 (MF). Tundra Swan migration through F.S.J. was noted Oct. 8–24, with a peak of 141 on Cecil L. (CS). Tundra Swan is an uncommon breeder on Herschel I., where a family group was seen Aug. 3 (DT). A family of Trumpeter Swans on Mud Lake Rd., Y.T., July 22 (CH, fide HG) was of interest, as no nest site is known locally. Small flocks of Trumpeter Swans (four to six birds) flew over wetlands along Tagish Rd., southern Y.T., Oct. 18 (GJ, SM). A Brant at the n. lagoons, F.S.J., Sept. 16 (CS) was a first for n.e. British Columbia. The first wave of Snow Goose migration westward along Yukon's n. coast was noted at Phillips Bay Aug. 24 (JH). During the first week of September, large flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese were noted flying E at Phillips Bay, where as many as 3180 passed in one hour (JH). The prolonged mild fall temperatures influenced migration of ducks, with Gadwalls, Blue-winged Teal, Redheads, and Ruddy Ducks lingering to late October at F.S.J. (CS). Unique was a ♂ Greater Scaup at F.S.J., Sept. 16 (CS). A ♀ Harlequin Duck at Charlie L., Nov. 7 was rare for the F.S.J. area (CS). A very rare sighting from the previous reporting period was of a Steller's Eider that remained near ponds at Herschel I., June 30–July 7 (DT).

A relatively late sighting of Bald Eagle for the s. Yukon was made Nov. 30 on Hot Springs Rd. near Whitehorse (ME, fide DM), and two were noted Nov. 2 at Kluane L., s.w. Yukon (DM). Two Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen Aug. 24 at Swan L., Y.T. (HG, TM). Migration of Sharp-shinneds was well-marked at F.S.J.: Aug. 14 to Sept. 30, with 2 late dates in October (CS). At Fort Nelson, the span of the migration was briefer: Sept. 4–Oct. 24 (JB). A rare sighting of an imm. Cooper's Hawk was made Nov. 24 at F.S.J. (CS, MF, JB, JJ). Northern Goshawk numbers were still considered down in the F.S.J. area relative to the early 1980s (CS). Broad-winged Hawks were noted only in the F.S.J. area, where singles were seen July 15 (RC), Aug. 9 (CS), and Aug. 20 (MF, CS), and a family group was seen Aug. 13 (MF, CS). Rough-legged Hawks are abundant breeders on Herschel I., where the 24 located nests represented a breeding density of one pair per 4.16 square km (DT). Rough-leggeds were conspicuous near Coppermine in fall after the vegetation had died back, making lemmings more visible. A late straggler at Fort Nelson was a Merlin noted Oct. 29 (JB).

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS — Ruffed and Spruce grouse populations were high in the Fort Nelson area (JB) and the Yukon (DM). A group of 25 Spruce Grouse was noted Sept. 18 on Cultus Cr., s. Yukon (GJ). Peak Sandhill Crane migration at Fort Nelson was Sept. 6–17, with Aug. 29–Oct. 16 being the entire span of migration (JB). Flocks of 60+ cranes were noted Sept. 10 at Dragon L. on the N. Canol Rd. and at Carmacks (GJ, CM). Single Black-bellied Plovers were sighted at Herschel Island in early September (DT), five were at Nisutlin Bay, Y.T., Oct. 5 (DM, GJ, SM), and one was at Fort Nelson Oct. 9 (JB). An unusual flock of 13 Upland Sandpipers staged for a day (Aug. 17) at the Fort Nelson airport; other sightings were of one Aug. 4 and four Sept. 8 (JB). Well off its understood fall migration route, one Hudsonian Godwit was seen Sept. 11 at F.S.J. (CS). Single Ruddy Turnstones, casual fall migrants through the F.S.J. area, were sighted Aug. 22 at Charlie L. and Sept. 9 at Boundary L. (CS). Sanderlings are uncommon visitors to Herschel I., where noted in late July and early September (DT). Groups of two to six White-rumped Sandpipers were seen in June and August on Herschel I., where the species is considered a rare migrant (DT). One Pectoral Sandpiper was noted at Swan L., Y.T., Aug. 24 (HG). Despite the rarity of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in this Region, there were several



sightings. In the F.S.J. area, two juveniles were at Boundary L., Sept. 9, and two more were heard calling and seen at the n. lagoon Sept. 22 (CS); one bird was also seen at Nisutlin Bay, Y.T. (GJ, CM). Another scarce transient through interior British Columbia was a Dunlin seen Oct. 8–16 at F.S.J. (CS). A Stilt Sandpiper at Swan L., Y.T., Aug. 24 (HG) furnished an uncommon sighting. The largest concentration of Stilt Sandpipers at F.S.J. was of 92 birds Sept. 5 (CS). A rare sighting of a juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper was made at the n. lagoons, F.S.J., Sept. 14 (CS, ph.). There are very few records of Ruff for British Columbia; one juvenile was at F.S.J., Oct. 2 (CS). Long-billed Dowitchers are uncommon migrants and rare summer visitors to Herschel I., where groups of five to 20 were noted the first 2 weeks of September (DT).

An ad. Parasitic Jaeger was sighted at Charlie L., F.S.J., Aug. 24 (MF, CS, JB, JJ). No Long-tailed Jaegers were seen in an area of the Ogilvie Mts. off the Dempster Hwy, Y.T., where they are usually common in July and August (CM). Herring and Thayer's gulls, uncommon visitors to Herschel I., were sighted in the 1986 season (DT). Rare sightings of Glaucous Gulls were reported from n. British Columbia and s. Yukon: one near F.S.J., Oct. 2 (CS), one at Nisutlin Bay Oct. 5 (DM, GJ, SM), and 25 Oct. 21 also at Nisutlin Bay (DM). Two unusual sightings of Sabine's Gulls came from F.S.J.: an adult Aug. 6, a juvenile Sept. 19 (CS). Uncommon for the Peace R. area was a bird identified as an Arctic Tern (winter plumage) Aug. 18, 23, & 24 (CS, MF). A late sighting of a Black Tern at F.S.J. was Sept. 16; they usually pass through the area in late August (CS).

OWLS THROUGH REDPOLLS — A pair of Snowy Owls was seen Oct. 16 e. of Fort Nelson (JB). As very rare visitors to Herschel Island, N. Hawk-Owls were sighted on 2 occasions in September (DT). Late observations included a Hairy Woodpecker Nov. 1 at Whitehorse (HG) and a Horned Lark at Fort Nelson Oct. 28 (JB). North of their understood range, two N. Rough-winged Swallows were well viewed Aug. 18 near the

Peace R. (MF, CS); however, they have been recorded breeding farther n. on Swift R., B.C., near the Yukon border (GJ, CM). A rare sighting of a Brown Creeper was made at Taylor Aug. 22 (MF, CS). A very rare visitant to the Yukon, a Clark's Nutcracker was reported from Teslin on 2 separate occasions: Oct. 15 (PD) and Oct. 12 (JM).

Four American Dippers were noted at Whitehorse Nov. 30 (HG). A group of 200+ Bohemian Waxwings was at Kluane L., Y.T., Nov. 2 (DM). An ad. Philadelphia Vireo was noted Sept. 3 at Fort Nelson, and a Solitary Vireo was heard there Sept. 4 (JB). The last large wood warbler wave through Fort Nelson (90 Yellow-rumped, two Palm Warblers) was noted Sept. 16 (JB). A ♂ Connecticut Warbler was noted n. of F.S.J., Aug. 17 (MF, CS). Only two or three White-crowned Sparrows were seen daily during the relatively brief migration period of Sept. 9-15 at Fort Nelson (JB). Le Conte's Sparrows are rare local summer residents in n.e. British Columbia: two were seen Aug. 13 and one Aug. 26 near Boundary L. (CS). Rare as a migrant to the F.S.J. area, an imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow was noted Oct. 3 (CS). Harris' Sparrow is becoming an uncommon but regular fall migrant through F.S.J., with this year's movement Sept. 12-Oct. 16 (CS). Dark-eyed Juncos were noted in n. Yukon at Herschel I. in September (DT) and the north coastal plain Sept. 13 & 14 (JH). Lapland Longspur migration through Fort Nelson peaked Sept. 6-10 with an average of 80 birds/flock

(JB). Likely influenced by the severe cold of November, Snow Buntings in small flocks (<10) were not seen beyond Oct. 29 in the Fort Nelson area, where present until late November the previous year (JB). One Snow Bunting was observed on the Alaska Hwy near Teslin late in the season, Nov. 18 (GJ). The 2nd record of Rosy Finch for the Peace R. area was made Nov. 22 at a local feeder (CS). Pine Grosbeaks were first noted Oct. 17 in F.S.J. (CS) and Oct. 15 in Fort Nelson (JB), and commonly seen in small flocks in the Whitehorse area throughout the fall (GJ). Few White-winged Crossbills and Red Crossbills were noted during the fall, their numbers having declined dramatically over the last 2 years. Large flocks of Com. Redpolls (50 to 150) were noted along roads in the Watson Lake area Nov. 18-21 (GJ), and a local movement of redpolls was noted Oct. 21 near F.S.J., with groups of 20-40 birds, totalling 500+, noted flying W throughout the morning (CS).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

Autumn in the Region continued the "on again off again" weather pattern of the summer. August was, almost without exception, unusually hot and dry. Most of the reporting localities had less than 0.25 inches of rain, some of them had none at all. September turned cool and wet after the first week. October temperatures were about normal but precipitation was again low, with the majority of localities receiving less than 0.5 inches, resulting in a very pleasant month. November conditions were about normal except for an unseasonable cold snap the second week, temporarily freezing some waters. Relatively little snow fell and it was mostly gone at the end of the period.

The erratic weather did not appear to change the migration pattern, except as noted in the species accounts. Winter berry supply appeared sparse, at least in the Libby and Missoula, Montana, areas and at Spokane, Washington. Buteo numbers were impressive in some areas and the shorebird migration showed high numbers and diversity. A scarcity of "northern" finches seemed evident, although Evening Grosbeaks showed good numbers in a few localities.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A Red-throated Loon on Pend Oreille L., at Sunnyside, Ida., Nov. 2 was the latilong's first; nearby was a Pacific Loon, vagrant in that latilong (PRS). A Yellow-billed Loon was photographed in the Pack R. Flats near Sunnyside Nov. 15 for the latilong's first fall record and its 2nd ever (PRS). Single Pacific Loons were sighted on Clear L., up the Tieton R., w. of Yakima, Wash., Oct. 26 (AS, SS); at the Yakima R. mouth, Richland, Wash., Nov. 16 (REW); and at Hat Rock S.P., e. of Umatilla, Ore. (TG, REW). In Idaho, four appeared at Massacre Rocks S.P., Power Co., Nov. 7, at least three were near Springfield (CHT), and another was sighted on American Falls Res., Nov. 13 (BJa).

At least 30 Red-necked Grebes frequented Hayden L., Koo-



tenai Co., Ida., Oct. 4 (JFG), and a vagrant was on the Snake R. at Clarkston, Wash., Oct. 18 (IP, JP). Two sightings of this species were made at Richland, where it is very uncommon (TG, REW). Some 1500-2000 Eared Grebes spent September-November on Soap L., Grant Co., Wash. (RF). Moses Lake, Wash., had about 80 grebes identified as Clark's through October (RF), and the species was noted at Wallula, Wash., Oct.



From an earlier season: Yellow-billed Loon on Pend Oreille Lake, Idaho, March 1986. Photo/Paul Sieracki.

4 (DH, JJ, SM). Clark's were sighted at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore., Sept. 13 (TC), and one was with W. Grebes at Hood River, Ore., Oct. 12 (DAA, DL, VT).

Sightings of Am. White Pelicans were sparse. Eastern Washington reported a few; the largest numbers were 20 on the North Potholes, Grant Co., and 18 on the Columbia near Brewster. A stray Double-crested Cormorant showed up at Messiter, n. of Blue River, B.C., Oct. 26 (CR).

Great Egrets numbered 50+ in the North Potholes Oct. 9 (RP, JT). Nesting pairs numbered 10 to 12 there this year (RF). A flock of 54 Snowy Egrets on the Snake R. below Minidoka N.W.R., Rupert, Ida., indicated good nesting success in that area (CHT). A Snowy Egret along the Coeur d' Alene R., Kootenai Co., was n. Idaho's first (JN). Cattle Egret sightings continued to increase, with birds in the Shuswap and Vernon, B.C., areas (PR, SR); at Clarkston (MK *et al.*), near Mazama (WM, BS), Rock Island (BJ, CV), Richland (REW), and Walla Walla, Wash. (CS, JJ, SM), and near Umapine, Ore. (DH, JJ, SM). A disabled one picked up near Eureka, Mont., made a latilong first (*Montana State Univ.—WW). A flock of 60 was near Springfield, Ida., Aug. 11; they nested at the e. end of American Falls Res. and have been increasing slowly for several years in that area (CHT). Single Green-backed Herons appeared at L. Wenatchee, Wash., Aug. 29 (BJ); at College Place, Wash., Sept. 6 (SM, DH, JJ, JTo); near Yakima Aug. 25 (BB); and at Fields, Ore., Sept. 18 (CM). Rare sightings were of an adult and two imm. Black-crowned Night-Herons at Lewiston, Ida. (WH, C.B.).

WATERFOWL — The early November cold snap was believed responsible for the grounding of 1300 Tundra Swans—around 500 is normal—at Metcalf N.W.R., Stevensville, Mont. Three Trumpeter Swans stopped at the Albion, Wash., sewage pond Nov. 19 (JP, IP, CVV). A few Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from s. interior British Columbia, e. Washington, and Idaho. About 12 Ross' Geese again appeared at Metcalf N.W.R. (*fide* CP) and two were with Snow Geese at the entrance to American Falls Res. (CHT). Canada Goose numbers at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., peaked at nearly 3000 in late October.

The early November freezeup drove out the 22,000 Mallards at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., but milder temperatures and rain created open water, causing a return of 28,500, the highest count since 1978. Freezeup Nov. 29–30 then forced most waterfowl out again.

The November storm brought a peak of 20,000 ducks to Metcalf N.W.R. Peak numbers for some of the waterfowl on n. Idaho's lakes were: Canada Goose 3474, Wood Duck 620, Mallard 10,205, Am. Wigeon 9675, Canvasback 900, Redhead 16,500, and Lesser Scaup 12,300 (I.F.G.). More than 60 Wood Ducks fed under Russian olive trees along Winchester Waste-

way, w. of Moses Lake, Wash. (JT). Impressive were the 75 found at Hayden L., Kootenai Co., Ida., Sept. 22 (JFG). A pair of Am. Black Ducks was identified near REXBURG, Ida., Nov. 9 & 16 (DHu). A rare visitor to Hood River Co., Ore., was a ♂ N. Pintail at Cascade Locks Nov. 11 (DAA). Turnbull N.W.R. counted 1240 Gadwalls Sept. 19. The only Eur. Wigeons reported were single birds at Odell, Ore. (DAA), on Patterson L., Okanogan Co., Wash. (LHo, WM), and at Walla Walla (SM). A notable concentration of 5000 Canvasbacks, accompanied by several thousand other ducks, was on the Wanapum Dam pool of the Columbia River near Vantage, Wash., Nov. 14 (RF). A wounded Greater Scaup found at American Falls Res., Nov. 2 (KS, CHT) and one on nearby Springfield Ponds Nov. 18 (KS, JTi) furnished the only reports.

Two Harlequin Ducks were spotted at Fontaine Flats along Highway 410 n.w. of Yakima Aug. 18 (BR) and a female was on the Salmon R. near Shoup, Ida., Nov. 8 (BJ). Springfield Ponds hosted another ♀ Harlequin Nov. 15–23 (CW, CHT, m.ob.) and up to four Oldsquaw Nov. 14–27 (EC, WHS, CHT). Two to three Oldsquaw appeared below Dry Falls Dam near Coulee City, Wash., in early November (WHa, S.A.S., JA) and one was at Bend, Ore., Nov. 19–27 (TC, CM). A sewage pond at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab, Arco, Ida., attracted an imm. Surf Scoter Oct. 24 (EC, TR, BV) and seven were on Lenore L., Grant Co., Wash., Oct. 19 (JA). The Springfield Ponds had one Oct. 25 (CHT *et al.*) as did Hayden L., Kootenai Co., Ida. (JFG), and Clear L., w. of Yakima, Oct. 26 (AS, SS). A few White-winged Scoters appeared in w. Montana, s. Idaho, and e. Washington. Hooded Merganser numbers reached 195 at Turnbull Oct. 31 (JB). Three reports of single Red-breasted Mergansers came from the Walla Walla–Kennewick–Richland, Wash., area (TG, REW). Ruddy Ducks numbered 3000–5000 on Soap L. and Lenore L., Grant Co., Wash., October to early November (RF).

VULTURES THROUGH CRANES — The Frenchtown Valley w. of Missoula had a movement of 40 Turkey Vultures Sept. 12 (DHo). A very late Osprey was at Vantage, Wash., Nov. 24 (REW). Lincoln County, Mont., had Bald Eagle sightings believed to represent 73 individuals, as early as Aug. 16 but mostly in November (DHe). Northern Harrier and Swainson's, Red-tailed, and Rough-legged hawk numbers in the Walla Walla area were "tremendous," with total daily counts of over 200. An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk at Paisley, Ore., Sept. 25 was possibly the first for Lake County (ME, EE). Falcon sightings, some probably duplicates, were: Merlin 10, Peregrine six, Gyrfalcon two, and Prairie 17, plus "several" and "common".

Gallinaceous birds had a good year in the Kamloops, B.C., area but were down in numbers around Walla Walla. Ring-necked Pheasants were scarce in the Flathead Valley, n.w. Montana, supposedly resulting from an increased raccoon population and reduced cover from the clearing of rights-of-way (JR). Fifteen Wild Turkeys with young were sighted at Wenas Cr., n.e. of Yakima (EH).

By far the largest group of migrating Sandhill Cranes seen on the ground was of 600 in Douglas County, Wash., Sept. 25 (RF). Eight Sandhill Cranes fed in an oat field near Windermere, B.C., Sept. 21 (LH), and two adults were seen in a field near Metcalf Sept. 17 (C & SC)—a pair had raised one chick there this summer (CH). A single bird was at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wallula, Wash., Sept. 13 (B.M.A.S.), and 27 were sighted there Sept. 28 (JFG). One at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., made a rare sighting (LDN). At a ranch near Libby, Mont., one fed with domestic turkeys for a week in October (DHe). All Sandhill and Whooping cranes had departed Grays Lake N.W.R., Ida., by Oct. 10. Foster parent Sandhills there fledged only two Whooper chicks this year from 15 eggs. Predators were believed to have caused the losses. Nine older Whoopers summered there, but migrants stopping in Colorado numbered at least 24 by October's end (EB).

SHOREBIRDS — Black-bellied Plovers were moving through the Region between Aug. 14 and Oct. 26. The greatest numbers

sighted were 52 at Springfield Oct 26 (CHT) and 75 at the Walla Walla R. delta Oct. 19 (DG, AS). Six Black-bellied Plovers and one Lesser Golden-Plover stopped at the Missoula, Mont., pulp mill Sept. 12 (DHo). One or two Lesser Golden-Plovers appeared Aug. 31–Oct. 11 at the Walla Walla delta (BB, DG, TG, AS, SS, REW). Near Springfield they appeared Sept. 7–Nov. 2 with 15 on the latter date (CHT). Other November records were of one at Kamloops, B.C., Nov. 2 (SRo) and one near College Place Nov. 14 (KK). Kootenai N.W.R. had a peak of 15 Semipalmated Plovers Sept. 15 (RDC). A few were observed at Springfield, Clarkston, the Walla Walla delta, and Kamloops.

A few Marbled Godwits were sighted at the Walla Walla delta (TG, REW); at Spangle, Wash. (CVV); at Hart Mt. Nat'l Antelope Ref., Harney Co., Ore. (WHP); and at Adel, Ore. (SSU, EE, ME, D & CM). Five at Kootenai N.W.R., Sept. 15 added the species to the refuge list (RDC). A Ruddy Turnstone at Kamloops Sept. 2–6 was the first ever there and the 2nd for the latilong (RH, EM, RR). One of this species, very rare in the Helena, Mont., area, was seen at L. Helena Sept. 6 (DLc, GH). One appeared at the Walla Walla delta Sept. 7 (REW) and two were there Sept. 13 (TG). A breeding-plumaged Red Knot was at Springfield July 31 and two were there about Aug. 2 (DT). A few Sanderlings were sighted at the Walla Walla delta (BB, AS), Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. (JA), Malheur N.W.R. (MA, EE, ME, D & CM), and Missoula (DHo). Up to 18 stopped at the Springfield Ponds (CHT). Four Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported at Fortine, Mont., Aug. 20 (WW) and one was at Kamloops Sept. 5 (RR). Hood River had a Least Sandpiper Oct. 25; the species is rare in the county (DAA).

Missoula had 165 Baird's Sandpipers Sept. 12 (DHo) and the species was locally abundant in Washington's Columbia Basin, with the highest number, 60, at the Walla Walla delta (REW). Two were discovered in an alpine meadow at Jasper N.P., Alta., Aug. 1 (RCB) and one fed with a Lesser Yellowlegs on Kootenay R Flats, Kootenay N.P., B.C., where it is very rare, Aug. 8 (LH). A few Baird's were noted at Spangle, Wash. (C.B.) and Turnbull, and one was seen at Malheur (MA). Seven Pectoral Sandpipers along the Pend Oreille R., Bonner Co., Ida., were noteworthy (BM). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at the Yakima R. delta Oct. 12 was Woodley's 2nd there in 20 years.

A very few Stilt Sandpipers were reported for Kamloops (RR), the Walla Walla delta (DG, AS, TG, REW), the Yakima delta (REW), Reardan, Wash. (JA), Spangle (C.B.), Kootenai N.W.R. (RDC), and Springfield (CHT). Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Riske Creek, B.C., Sept. 12 (PR) and at Kamloops Sept. 14 (RH) were decided rarities. Single Short-billed Dowitchers were identified at Missoula (DHo), Reardan (JA), and the Walla Walla delta (DG, AS), and a few were noted at Springfield (DT, CHT) and Bend (TC). Some 400–500 Red-necked Phalaropes were on Soap L., late August to early September (RF). A notable find was of two Red Phalaropes at the Walla Walla delta Sept. 13–14 (TG, REW).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — An imm. Parasitic Jaeger was found at Wallowa L., Wallowa Co., Ore., Sept. 15 (JBU). Single Franklin's Gulls appeared at the Walla Walla delta and on the Columbia R. to the north, and at Spokane, Wash. Kootenai N.W.R. had two, as well as two Bonaparte's. A very few Bonaparte's were sighted in e. Oregon and Washington. Metcalf had one (C & SC). Up to seven Mew Gulls appeared at Hood River in November; they are regular fall migrants there (DAA). The only others were single birds at Vernon, B.C., Nov. 27 (PR), and at Tumalo Res., providing a first record for Deschutes Co., Ore. (TC). About 180 Ring-billed Gulls lingered at Libby Dam. Herring Gulls appear to be regular fall migrants at Hood River (DAA). One showed up near Asotin, Wash., Oct. 25 (C.B.) and many imm. Herring Gulls at Springfield were accompanied by an imm. Thayer's (CHT). Vernon had two Thayer's Oct. 11+ (PR). The Pack R. Flats had an imm. Thayer's and an imm. Glaucous Nov. 23, along with a large increase in Herring Gulls (PRS).

A W. Gull, apparently the same one that has returned for several years at American Falls Dam, was back at its usual

place on tire floats (CHT). Single Glaucous-winged Gulls were seen at Ice Harbor Dam on the Snake R. e. of Pasco and at Richland. Up to ten Glaucous-wingeds were seen along the Columbia R. in Hood River County (DAA). A lone Sabine's Gull frequented Banks L. in September (S.A.S., JA) and an imm. Sabine's was identified at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Beaverhead Co., Mont., Sept. 10 (MCN) for the first in that area.

A Caspian Tern at Kamloops Sept. 12 was unusual (SRo). Kootenai N.W.R. had 25 Com. Terns Sept. 4 (RDC) and three at the Walla Walla R. delta were noteworthy (AS). An ad. Arctic Tern at American Falls was s. Idaho's first (CHT, KM).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS — At least 15 Com. Barn-Owls were found at Ice Harbor Dam Nov. 8. A Flammulated Owl, rare at Malheur N.W.R., was sighted there Sept. 27 (TC, O.F.O.). One at Turnbull N.W.R. added the species to the refuge list (RW). The only Snowy Owls reported were single birds near Moses Lake and at Rathdrum and Moscow, Ida. A rare sighting was of a N. Hawk-Owl at the latter place Nov. 30 (EJL). A Burrowing Owl at Kamloops made a very rare sighting, for the species has been virtually extirpated there (DJ). Noteworthy Barred Owl sightings were of single birds near Elk City, Ida (KC, KH), near Asotin (C.B.), and along Mill Cr., e. of Walla Walla (RL, CPf, m.ob.). A few Great Gray Owl sightings were obtained in n. and e. Idaho and at Rock Cr. near Ovando, Mont. The species nested in the Sunriver, Ore., area, the farthest north in the Oregon Cascades they have been found (TC). A Long-eared Owl was found in the Sunriver area, where the species is very rare (TC). A Boreal Owl at Fish Cr., Mineral Co., Mont., Nov. 1 was notable (TRY). A N. Saw-whet Owl was sighted, appropriately, on Hallowe'en at Market Lake Wildlife Management Area, Roberts, Ida., for apparently the first record there (SRc). Rare was a sighting of one at Malheur N.W.R. (TC).

Vaux's Swifts roosted in numbers in excess of 3000 in the chimney on Whitman College campus, Walla Walla (SM). An Anna's Hummingbird was at Vernon throughout the fall period (FP, JQ). Four imm. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds visited Klamath Falls, Ore., feeders Sept. 1 (B & CY).

At least one dozen Lewis' Woodpeckers were at Summer L., Lake Co., Ore., and another dozen were at Malheur N.W.R., Sept. 25–28 (EE, ME, D & CM). Tranquille, B.C., had 22 Aug 26 (CR), and about 15 were sighted n. of Brewster (*vide* RF). Ten were seen in Manashtash Canyon w. of Ellensburg, Wash., Aug. 23, and 10 along the American R., Yakima Co., Wash., Sept. 7 (EH). Niarada, Mont., had four Aug. 20 (EH). Very few were reported elsewhere. A few Williamson's Sapsuckers were reported. Single White-headed Woodpeckers were sighted in 3 localities. A Pileated Woodpecker s. of Helena Sept. 1 was noteworthy, as the species is very rare e. of the Continental Divide in that area (LMc).

An imm. Least Flycatcher was identified in the hand at Hart Mt., Sept. 21 (WHP). A Black Phoebe was at Market Lake for Idaho's 2nd record (SFR). A very late Say's Phoebe appeared s. of The Dalles, Ore., Nov. 28 (BW). September 27 was a very late date for a flock of over 50 Violet-green Swallows over the Spokane R. at Spokane (JA).

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS — One or two Blue Jays appeared in the Vernon vicinity in early November (PR), and one was at Nakusp, B.C., Oct. 14–16 (GD). Single birds showed up in Idaho at Idaho Falls Oct. 26 (C & ES) and near Pocatello Oct. 18 (CHT, m.ob.). One or two visited feeders at Stevensville, Mont., all fall (BD, CP), and one frequented a feeder at Eastport, Ida., in late October (JM). Remarkable was the sighting of a Scrub Jay at Twisp, Wash., Sept. 8, the first for the latilong and for n. Washington (DJo).

Chestnut-backed Chickadees were showing up in unusual numbers in the lowlands in every state and province of the Region. Particularly notable were groups of up to five at feeders in Bend (TC). One in the Ketchum–Sun Valley, Ida., vicinity provided a rare treat for birdwatchers (WHS). At least 25 Bush-tits were observed at Hood River Oct. 4 (DAA). Bewick's Wren

appears to be well established in the Asotin vicinity. Single N Mockingbirds visited Malheur Sept. 13 (TC) and Hart Mt., Aug. 22–29 (WHP). One was seen near Minidoka N.W.R., Sept. 1 (WHS), and another was at Stevenville in late October (CP).

The earliest sighting of Bohemian Waxwings was in the Selkirk Mts., Boundary Co., Ida., Oct. 15 (PRS). The largest number reported was 3000 at Vernon Nov. 22 (PR). A very late Orange-crowned Warbler was at Nakusp Nov. 16 (GD). An imm. Magnolia Warbler at Sullivan L., Pend Oreille Co., Sept. 13 was apparently e. Washington's first (CVV, m.ob.). One visited American Falls Sept. 14 (CHT). A ♂ Cape May Warbler in Colorado Gulch w. of Helena Sept. 13 was Montana's 4th and the latlong's first (G & NN). Another Cape May at Malheur Sept. 13–18 was Oregon's 6th (KT, TW). Malheur also had Oregon's first **Blackburnian Warbler** Sept. 15–18 (CDL, CM, DPa) and a Blackpoll Warbler was there Sept. 27 (TC). A **Blackpoll Warbler** at the Davenport, Wash., cemetery Sept. 20 was apparently the state's 2nd (JA). A Black-and-white Warbler was observed on Asotin Cr., w. of Asotin, Oct. 25 (JP, DP). An imm. N. Waterthrush was mistnetted at Hart Mt., Sept. 3 (WHP).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES — A College Place feeder enticed an imm. Black-headed Grosbeak to stay into late November, remarkably late (SM). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks near Pocatello Aug. 1 was suspected of having nested nearby (CHT). Sighting of a Lark Sparrow along the Lincton Mt. road near Milton-Freewater, Ore., Aug. 31 was unusual (DH, SM). A well-described Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Sullivan L., Pend Oreille Co., Wash., Sept. 14 provided the state's first sighting (WH, MK, JP, DP, CVV). A Swamp Sparrow, no details supplied, was also reported at Sullivan L., Sept. 14 (MK et al.). A White-throated Sparrow, Crook County's first, was seen in Prineville, Ore., Sept. 26 (CSt). Golden-crowned Sparrow was described for the Hart Mt. area as an "occasional spring migrant, common fall migrant, and to this date, unrecorded as a winter resident" (WHP). A sprinkling of Harris' Sparrows appeared, the first Oct. 10 at Missoula (PLW), the others in November. Twelve to 15 Lapland Longspurs [seemingly early for such numbers] dropped in on the summit of Mt. Spokane, Spokane Co., Wash., Sept. 7 (LT). Eastern Washington had the lion's share of Snow Bunting sightings with over 400 between Reardan and Davenport Nov. 16 (JA). This species also appeared at Frenchtown near Missoula, where it is not common (PLW). The only Bobolink reported was one at Kamloops Sept. 4 (SRo). A late Yellow-headed Blackbird was sighted near Wapato, Wash., Nov. 27 (BB, AS). Vernon had a Rusty Blackbird Oct. 11 (PR), and 2 sightings came from the vicinity of Glacier N.P., Mont. (fide JR). A few Brewer's Blackbirds lingered in the Eureka vicinity as late as Nov. 29 (DHe). A Com. Grackle visited a Pocatello feeder in late November (EF).

The earliest appearance of Rosy Finches was at Smith Cr., Boundary Co., Ida., Oct. 20 (PRS). A few small groups were reported elsewhere. A few Pine Grosbeaks appeared, with the southernmost sighting between Anatone and Fields Springs S.P., Nov. 22 (JP, DP, CVV). Purple Finches were reported at Libby (DHe); Hell's Canyon N.R.A., s.e. of Imnaha, Ore. (JB), Toppenish N.W.R., Yakima Co., Wash. (CD, DG, AS); and in the Klamath Basin area, Ore. (SJ). Few Red Crossbills were reported, the largest number being 67 at Crystal L. in the Snowy Mts. of c. Montana (LM). Common Redpolls had appeared only at Fortine (WW) and at Tungsten Mt., Boundary Co., Ida. (PRS), by the end of the period.

CORRIGENDUM — AB 40:501. The Cape May Warbler was photographed by Tom Crabtree.

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery

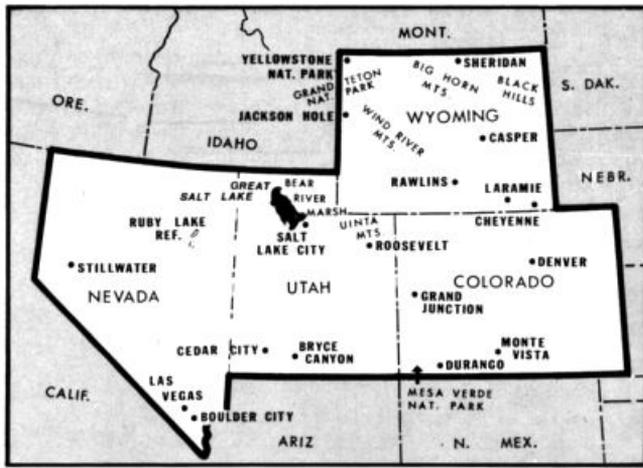
A better-than-average fall migration produced many notable finds, including the first state record of Black-shouldered Kite in Utah.

The Region reported 374 species, against a peak of 376 last year and an average of 361. As usual, Colorado had the top count, 329 (average 317), followed by 265 in Wyoming (254), and 244 in both Utah and Nevada. For the year, the Region recorded 408 species (Colorado 372, Wyoming 311, Utah 295, and Nevada 287).

Several locations (notably Boulder County, Colorado,

Denver, and Yellowstone National Park) report gross numbers of birds sighted during the season, so that the same birds seen two weeks in a row are counted both times; see, e.g., Western Grebes in Boulder County.

LOONS TO IBISES — The [incredible] flock of 13 Red-throated Loons reported at Keyhole Res. near Sundance, Wyo., Nov. 4 exceeded the highest season's total ever reported from the Region (†JA). Other reporters found single Red-throateds Oct. 24–26 at Sheridan (†HD, MC) and Nov. 3–9 at Denver (†D.F.O.). Pacific Loons showed strongly, with 12 individuals seen in Yellowstone N.P., Sept. 24–Oct. 21 (S & LF), single birds at Rock Springs, Sheridan, and Sundance, Wyo. (MA,



†HD, †JA), and eight in Colorado at Delta, Pueblo, and Denver. Half of the 228 Com. Loons reported occurred in Yellowstone, one stopped at Kirch W.M.A., Lund, Nev., three at the Great Salt Lake, and the rest in Colorado and Wyoming. Among the 50 Common, Pacific, and Red-throated loons at Sundance that Nov. 4, two birds were identified as Yellow-billed, based on color of the culmen and other marks (†JA); if accepted, this would mark Wyoming's 2nd observation of this tough-to-identify species out of place in the Mountain West.

Denver's Pied-billed Grebes more than doubled over last fall, with 129 seen on 13 of 20 field trips (D.F.O.). Two observers reported large flocks of Horned Grebes in heavily-observed locations where others reported few: 411 Oct. 6 and 500 Nov. 1 at Great Salt Lake (BW), and 500 in Longmont and Ft. Collins, Colo., Nov. 4 (JC). Two Red-necked Grebes stopped at Sundance Aug. 18 (JA), three at Yellowstone Sept. 29 (AS), and one each at Jackson Res. near Ft. Morgan, Colo., Oct. 27 (HH) and at Denver Nov. 26 (JR). Eared Grebe stopovers declined—Kirch reported them down by 50–90% from last year; the peak there reached 68 Oct. 13–27 (CS). The Great Salt Lake's count has declined drastically with that lake's high water problems; peaks reported were of only 50. Boulder County, Colo., tallied 12,289 large grebes; of those identified to species, 1972 were Westerns and 110 Clark's—a ratio of 5.6% Clark's. Observers at Las Vegas, Yellowstone, Sheridan, Pueblo, and Denver also reported Clark's Grebes. At Pueblo Nov. 30, a bird of the year appeared to be a hybrid: it had an orange bill but black surrounding the eye (BM).

American White Pelicans achieved record production at Anaho Island N.W.R., Nev., with 7500 young produced, and for the first time since the 1930s they nested at Pelican Island, Stillwater N.W.R., Nev., producing 350 young (ST, LN). At Stillwater, 20,000–30,000 spent the fall. Near Bear River N.W.R., 2100 pelicans presented the largest other concentration in the Region (JN). Groups of pelicans scattered over n.e. Colorado; e.g., Boulder County reported 290 in August and 225 in September. Sundance reported thousands of Double-crested Cormorants at the migration peak (JA). The Region reported 16 Am. Bitterns. Lahontan Valley, Nev., had 550 Great Blue Heron, 185 Great Egret, and 250 Snowy Egret nests (ST, LN). The Region reported 20 migrant Great Egrets: six in Nevada, three in Utah, four in Wyoming, and seven in Colorado. With 1500 nests, Stillwater's White-faced Ibises declined slightly (ST, LN). Migrant ibis flocks peaked at 500 at Fish Springs N.W.R. and 183 at Bear River.

WATERFOWL — Stillwater hosted the most waterfowl—300,000 ducks Sept. 16–Oct. 16, and 400,000 Nov. 18, with peak species including 210,000 N. Shovelers, 80,000 Green-winged Teal, and 63,000 Ruddy Ducks (ST, LN). Fish Springs had 19,870 ducks at its peak, topped by 6100 Green-winged Teal, 4700 N. Pintails, and 3400 Am. Wigeons (CRD). Kirch's

peak came Sept. 22 with 10,610, including 1950 wigeon and 1740 Gadwalls (CS). Stillwater had 17,000 Tundra Swans Nov. 18 (ST, LN), but the Salt Lake valley continued to miss them (top counts of 221 in the U.D.W.R. count Oct. 16–31, 200 Nov. 15–30). Yellowstone's collective count topped 735 Oct. 19–Nov. 18 (TM). Kirch had 214 Nov. 10, 5 times last year's peak. To the east, the 75 at Casper Nov. 17, six at Lander and nine at Green R., Wyo., 43 along the Colorado Front Range, and five at Salida, Colo., Nov. 9–10 (RE) exceeded the usual count. A Trumpeter Swan, probably from South Dakota, visited Sundance Nov. 5 (†JA). Colorado reported 19 Greater White-fronted Geese Oct. 26–Nov. 23. On the stormy weekend of Oct. 11–12, Cheyenne, Wyo., observers counted overhead flocks of 2500–3500 Snow Geese (perhaps twice as many actually passed over—H.P.A.S.). To the south, Colorado observers saw nowhere near as many, with peaks of 150 in Boulder County and 430 at Julesburg, both in November. Regional observers found one Ross' Goose at St. George, Utah, Nov. 5+ (SH), one at Casper Nov. 29 (JH), and 21 in Colorado. Wood Ducks expand in the Region; one to two appeared at Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., Aug. 18 and Sept. 30 (SB), Jackson, Wyo., Sept. 19 (KDu), and Yellowstone Park, Wyo., Aug. 30 (TM), and over 20 visited Grand Jct., Colo. (CD, RL). A Eur. Wigeon stopped at Casper Nov. 23–27 (†H, FL). Canvasbacks peaked at 24,000 at Stillwater Oct. 16 (ST, LN). Colorado reported 10 Greater Scaups Oct. 12–Nov. 21. The Oldsquaw count, one at Kirch, three at Casper, one at Grand Jct., and one at Ft. Morgan, Colo., dropped from 13 and 10 the last 2 years. The count of 14 Surf and 20 White-winged scoters reflected the usual number and proportion of those two species. Most unusual was a White-winged at Reno Nov. 14+, joined by a 2nd Dec. 13 (H), ph.). Delta, Colo., had a high count of 57 Red-breasted Mergansers Nov. 3 (MJ).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — A massive bubonic plaque epidemic killed all the prairie dogs in a 25-square-mile area of Boulder County; hawk numbers dropped drastically. Monthly transects showed these average daily totals (compared with the 2 previous years): N. Harrier, 0.4 (2, 2); Red-tailed Hawk 3.2 (5.3, 9.2); Ferruginous 0.5 (2.3, 4.4); Rough-legged 0.5 (0.5, 0.2) (SJ). Yellowstone's Ospreys fledged 42 young; 21 of 40 nests succeeded. The Region reported 54 migrants. Shirley discovered Utah's first **Black-shouldered Kite** Nov. 6. Over a dozen Utahans observed it Nov. 6–14 (†MW, CKn). Bald Eagles made 9 nest attempts in Colorado, up from 3 nesting pairs 2 years ago; this year they fledged four young (C.D.W.). At Kirch, Accipiters staged their strongest migration in at least 5 years, with three to five daily seen at refuge headquarters. Nevadans continued to find Red-shouldered Hawks, with single birds at Las Vegas, Mt. Charleston, and Ruby Lake, plus an adult and immature at Kirch Aug. 12–Oct. 13; on Sept. 28 Stevenson found the adult dead in the grasp of a Great Horned Owl, also dead, amidst evidence of a classic struggle. At Promontory, Utah, U.F.O. found a Broad-winged Hawk Sept. 14. A C.D.W. survey found 21 Peregrine Falcon aeries in Colorado (DP). Observers reported two single Gyrfalcons, at Sheridan Sept. 16–22 (HD) and Windsor, Colo., Oct. 12 (†DHi).

A Sora could show up for your yard list: Kesselheim found one dead in an Evanston, Wyo., alley Sept. 3! The usual strong migration of Am. Coots included 23,000 at Ruby Lake Aug. 15 (SB), 4850 at Fish Springs Sept. 16 (CRD), 8470 at Kirch Oct. 27 (CS), and 5293 through the fall at Denver (D.F.O.).

At least four Am. White Pelicans and possibly one Whooping Crane flew with the Denver flocks of Sandhills. One Whooping Crane arrived at Barr L., n. of Denver, Oct. 14; by its band number a Grays Lake bird, it had stopped in the same vicinity last year (BR). Later, Oct. 24–30, on the e. line of the Region, thousands of Sandhills flew over Sundance, 75–100 over Ft. Morgan, and 1000 over Baca County, Colo. These probably came from Canada. The San Luis Valley hosted 22 different Whooping Cranes during the migration, including only one juvenile (EM). Singles stopped at Yellowstone Aug. 29–Sept. 10 (TMi) and Farson, Wyo., in September (FL).

S.A.

Sandhill Cranes staged a spectacle along the Front Range Oct. 11–12. A stormy weekend that brought light snow and low clouds forced them down to 500–1000 ft above the ground, probably well below the elevation at which they usually migrate; over 100 birdwatchers, telephoning back and forth, followed their progress. At Cheyenne, observers out to look for the Snow Geese found 400–500 cranes instead. In the Denver/Boulder area an estimated 20,000–30,000 cranes flew over during the 2-day weekend. The cranes veered away as they approached the foothills whose tops the clouds covered. However, to the south they ventured into the foothills, since 5000+ flew over Wetmore, Colo. The SW orientation of some of the flocks suggested that their course aimed toward the San Luis Valley, which had 15,000 at its peak Oct. 15. Most of the cranes there come from Idaho, so that if the Front Range migrants came from there, they traveled a circular course. Other flocks of 500–1000 passed to the east, over Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Ft. Morgan, and Holyoke, 140 mi e. of the foothills. Farmers reported hundreds e. of Pueblo (nightly from late September to mid-October).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Seven Lesser Golden-Plovers occurred at Provo, Salt Lake City, and Logan (MW, CKn, RKA), Casper (JH, FL), Delta, Colo. (MJ), and Windsor, Colo. (JC), Sept. 4–Nov. 8. Fish Springs reported a peak of 80 Snowy Plovers Sept. 16 (CRD), 25 scurried along the Great Salt L., Sept. 6 (CKn), and Carson L., near Fallon, Nev., had 15 Oct. 10 (ST, LN). The Piping Plover near Denver Aug. 11–12 provided a 1st Lat record (†KL). The Lahontan Valley near Fallon had 5000 breeding Black-necked Stilts (ST, LN); largest migrant flocks were of 300 at Fish Springs Aug. 8, and 150 at Bear R. and Great Salt L., Aug. 18 and Sept. 6. At Carson L., 1000 Am. Avocets still remained Nov. 26, yet only one still even stayed into November, until Nov. 4, and it had a bad leg (ST, LN). The Lahontan Valley refuge complex saw impressive shorebird totals: 20,000 peeps Oct. 10, 90% Westerns, the rest Baird's, Pectoral, Least, and Dunlins; 50,000 Long-billed Dowitchers in September (but Bear R. had a peak of only 800—CKn); and 10,000 Red-necked Phalaropes Aug. 6 (ST, LN). Among the otherwise reduced counts of shorebirds, observers reported the following top counts: 188 Lesser Yellowlegs Aug. 17 in Boulder County (PY), 105 Marbled Godwits at Bear R., Aug. 18 (HK), 1036 Long-billed Dowitchers at Promontory Sept. 13–14, and 100+ Com. Snipe there Sept. 23–24 (RR).

Late shorebirds included a Solitary Sandpiper to Nov. 27 and a Spotted until Nov. 21 at Grand Jct. (CD, RL), and a Long-billed Curlew with a bad leg to Nov. 26 at Carson L. (ST, LN). A Whimbrel stopped at a Weld County, Colo., lake Oct. 12 (DHi). Two Ruddy Turnstones turned up: at Casper Sept. 14–15 (JH, FL) and Longmont, Colo., Sept. 28–29 (DN, BP). Las Vegas saw two Red Knots Sept. 26 (MCR), and five visited e. Colorado Sept. 7–28. At Logan, "the usual 2–4+ Semipalmated Sandpipers were present in flocks of Westerns in a ratio of 1:25" (MT), and one Semipalmated mixed with peeps at Great Salt L., Sept. 6 (CKn). Semipalmateds occur regularly in e. Colorado and e. Wyoming, and Tove reports that his observations indicate that more occur in the Salt Lake Valley than conventional wisdom dictates. What would happen with a day-long scoping of the Carson Lake peeps? Further studies in the Great Basin may bear out Tove's theory that data from coastal California does not apply to the Mountain West.

Wyoming reported 2 sets of Buff-breasted Sandpipers: four Aug. 30 at Casper (JH) and one Sept. 6–7 at Farson (1st Lat, †FL, MA). A flock of 30 Short-billed Dowitchers was reported at Pueblo Aug. 10 (†DDBr); singles were reported at Las Vegas Sept. 26–27 (R.R.A.S.), Milford, Utah, Sept. 6 (1st Lat, MW), Rock Springs, Wyo., Oct. 25 (1st Lat, †FL), and Boulder Aug. 31 (†PY). Wilson's Phalaropes declined at Las Vegas and Kirch

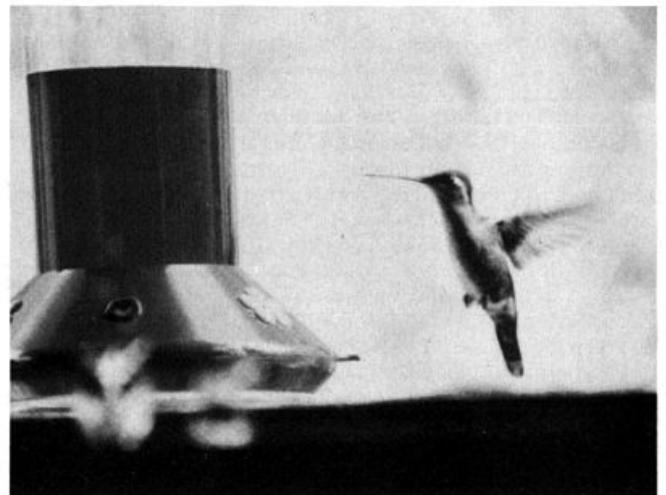
(a drop of 90–95%, with a peak of 22 Aug. 25—CS). A Red Phalarope Oct. 3–4 conveniently posed near three Red-neckeds to provide a direct comparison, and the first record from Logan (1st Lat, †KFA, MT).

The Region had only four jaegers: one well-observed Parasitic with long tail streamers at Carson City Sept. 14 (†JW, ph.), two Parasitics near Ft. Morgan, Colo., Oct. 27 (HH), and a jaeger (sp.) there Oct. 2 (JC). The flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls have diminished in e. Colorado from peaks of a few years ago, although D.F.O. reported 100 Nov. 17 in n.e. Colorado. Besides that flock, reports totalled only 23 in Colorado, three in Wyoming, and one at Logan, Utah. California Gulls had 3000 nests at Anaho Island N.W.R. and 1700 nests at Stillwater (ST, LN). Thirteen Sabine's Gulls (an average count for the Region) occurred at Logan and Bear L., Utah, Rock Springs, Yellowstone, and Sundance, Wyo., four at Pueblo Oct. 12 (DS, DJ), and singles at Longmont, Greeley, and Ordway, Colo. Stillwater hosted 475 nests of Caspian Terns (ST, LN). The tally of 55 Com. Terns included two at Las Vegas, 22 at Great Salt L. on 3 dates, seven at Rock Springs Aug. 16 (†FL, ph.), three Sept. 17 at Yellowstone (AS), and 21 in Colorado including three at Pueblo (†DS) and five at Delta on 3 dates (MJ).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS — Inca Doves appeared in s. Utah for the state's 3rd and 4th records: three stayed Aug. 21–Sept. 19 at St. George (†MW, ph.), and one appeared at Zion N.P., feeding with White-crowned Sparrows (†KW). The mystery of screech-owl ranges attains a semblance of a pattern: Easterns inhabit the Denver area, while Westerns range into n.e. Wyoming at Sundance. A Boreal Owl traveled on an automobile bumper from Yellowstone to Jackson Sept. 14 (JZ, *W.F. & G.).

S.A.

Extremely rare in Nevada, a **Magnificent Hummingbird** showed up at a feeder at Jarbidge, on the Idaho line. It stayed for only 3 days, June 12–14, but long enough for good photographs to document the occurrence (†E & GB). Although ranges of both the Blue-throated and Magnificent hummingbirds ostensibly extend no farther n. than c. Arizona, Colorado has records throughout the state n. almost to Wyoming; it has confirmed nesting records for Magnificent, but only suspected nesting Blue-throateds. A plethora of hummingbird feeders throughout the Colorado Rockies has produced these records. Probably a concerted census of hummingbird feeders in other western states would turn up a lot of these (and perhaps other) southwestern hummers.



Female Magnificent Hummingbird at Jarbidge, Nev., June 14, 1986. Possibly the second record for Nevada. Photo/Garland and Ethlyn Barneby.

A ♀ Broad-tailed Hummingbird banded at Gothic, Colo., on July 21, 1976, flew into a mist net in Gothic in August—10 years later. Bander Calder, who has studied the correlation of bird longevity with body weight, said, "When size is taken into account, 11 years for the hummingbird is equivalent to 39 years for a Canada Goose. The oldest known Canada Goose lived only 24 years." The 35 Lewis' Woodpeckers Aug. 2 at Ouray N.W.R. in n.e. Utah exceeded the total reported from Utah for the past year and a half; apparently they live in various isolated pockets over the state. Two Acorn Woodpeckers were in Coral Pink Sand Dunes park near Kanab, Utah, Oct. 8, in the same place as last year's birds; this provided Utah's 5th record (†SH).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS — Flycatchers stayed into October in Grand Jct. (W. Wood-Pewee and Gray Flycatcher, and Say's Phoebe to Nov. 2), Ft. Morgan (Least Flycatcher, E. Phoebe, and Cassin's Kingbird), Boulder (Cassin's Kingbird), and Davis County, Utah (E. Kingbird). An imm. ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher arrived at Provo, Utah, after 3–4 days of bad storms and stayed Oct. 14–17 (†MW, ph.; 1st Lat). Las Vegas had its first Brown-crested Flycatcher in 2 years Aug. 8 (MCR), and an E. Kingbird Aug. 31, the 7th year in 17 it has appeared at the same time (VM, KW). An Ash-throated Flycatcher strayed to Casper Aug. 28 (JH) and a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher to Denver Aug. 2 (HS). Tree Swallows stayed until Nov. 9 at Grand Jct. (CD) and Nov. 9–10 at Delta (†MJ), and a Barn Swallow to Nov. 2 at Grand Jct. (CD). A Blue Jay was found at Salt Lake City Nov. 22 (MW). A few mountain jays moved out to the valleys and plains: Steller's to Ogden, Ft. Morgan, and Ft. Collins, and Clark's Nutcrackers to Fish Springs, Sundance, and Ft. Collins. Large flocks of Am. Crows included 4000 at Sheridan Oct. 7, 2000 at Grand Jct., Oct. 12, and 1200 at Salida Oct. 15. Florence, Colo., saw a horde of 555 Com. Ravens Oct. 31 (NP). A number of mountain species seem to have started to recover from declines. These include some finches, Mountain Chickadees (4.0/hr on the Indian Peaks fall count, cf. 3.37/hr last year), and Red-breasted Nuthatches (50 seen Sept. 1 in the mountains w. of Sheridan, and 100–150 there in 3 days—MR). Red-breasted Nuthatch reports came in from Ogden, Utah, 4 Wyoming locations, and 8 Colorado sites, half of them on the plains.

Many observers saw Golden-crowned Kinglets, including one at Kirch Sept. 15 (CS), and others down from the mountains [or, more likely, from more northerly populations] at Ogden, Salt Lake City, Denver, Durango, Colorado Springs, and Ft. Collins. Ruby-crowned Kinglets moved through in modest numbers; on Aug. 24 a large flock, estimated at 150, staged on the n. slope of the Uinta Mts., n.e. Utah, with 500 other birds including juncos, sparrows, and finches (BW). The Colorado Front Range attracted a typical roll call of E. Bluebirds: two in the foothills at Evergreen Oct. 6 (WWB) and others at Virginia Dale, Colo., on the Colorado/Wyoming line Sept. 18 (HD), Pueblo Nov. 2–12 (DS), and Boulder Nov. 9 (four—WHK). Brockner theorized that these fall birds come from the north—e.g., nesting birds from Alberta; Silverman thinks they often come up the S. Platte and Arkansas rivers after nesting to the east in Kansas and Nebraska. Las Vegas enjoyed an unusual influx of Townsend's Solitaires, with 20–30 feeding on Russian Olives with robins and waxwings Sept. 30–Oct. 19 (VM). Otherwise they moved into their usual winter range, plus three to four far out on the plains at Holyoke, Colo., Oct. 4+ (CH). A surprising collection of Brown Thrashers strayed W to the mountains of Boulder County Oct. 14+ (DH, DB), Jackson (two Aug. 12—HSa) and Seedskaadee N.W.R., Wyo. (one Sept. 17—FL), and Kirch (Oct. 7–15—CS) and Las Vegas (Nov. 9–11—J & MCR). A Curve-billed Thrasher made a first appearance in Penrose Oct. 1 (RW). Four Sprague's Pipits were reported from Casper Sept. 6 (†JH, OKS) and one from Yellowstone Oct. 12 (TM). Bohemian Waxwings appeared early and abundantly. The earliest report of 175 Sept. 28 in Morgan County, Utah (BW), was followed by November flocks of 10–1000 all over

Wyoming and n. Colorado. A Philadelphia Vireo was at Boulder Oct. 2 (WHK). A Red-eyed Vireo stopped at Eagle, Colo., Aug. 26 (†JM).

WARBLERS, TANAGERS — Generally, warblers seemed less common than in most falls. Orange-crowns made a good showing in Grand Jct. and Boulder (84 and 39 total), and the 15 for Denver matched last year's D.F.O. field trips count. Nashville Warbler records continued to indicate a modest migration through Utah with one at Ogden, one at Milford, and six at Promontory. Two visited Sundance Sept. 24 (†JA). A late Lucy's stopped at Las Vegas Nov. 8 (VM). Three N. Parulas appeared in the Front Range—two at Denver Sept. 13 & 19–24 (DN, RS), and one at Ft. Collins Oct. 3 (†DH). Two Black-throated Blues stopped at Stillwater Oct. 7 (ST, LN, ph.), single females were at Las Vegas Oct. 17 and Nov. 19 (VM, CT), and others were at Pine Bluffs, Wyo., Sept. 13 (†PO), Masters, Colo., Sept. 21 (DBr), and Denver Oct. 5 (RS). Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers seemed good; Yellowstone tallied 765, the last Oct. 18, Boulder counted 599, and Grand Junction 115. Evanston reported a striking migration; 145 were estimated Sept. 13, and Sept. 17–20 "every tree in town was twitching with them" (BW, CK). Unusual numbers of Townsend's appeared at Green R., Wyo., with 20 at the peak in early September; otherwise normal numbers appeared throughout the Region. A Black-throated Green Warbler showed up late—Nov. 16+—at Lyons, Colo. (BP, DL, ph.). A Blackburnian spent Oct. 23–Nov. 2 at Boulder (A & GB). A ♀ Pine Warbler was reported [suspiciously early] at Masters, Colo., Sept. 7 (†DBr), a Palm Warbler at Denver Nov. 8 (RLe), a Bay-breasted at Denver Sept. 20 (DN). The **Prothonotary Warbler** at Green R., Sept. 2 gave Wyoming its 4th record (†MA). An Ovenbird was at Las Vegas Sept. 21 (MCR) and a N. Waterthrush was there Aug. 31 (KW, VM). The N. Waterthrush at Milford, Utah, Sept. 6 provided a 1st Lat (MW), another was at Beaver Dam Wash in the s.w. corner of Utah Sept. 13 (SH). An ad. ♀ Hooded Warbler stopped at Denver Sept. 19 (†RS). An elusive Summer Tanager showed off to the observers who managed to find it in September at Denver (D.F.O.), and a Scarlet Tanager was in Weld County, Colo., Oct. 2 (†JC)

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES — A Field Sparrow was found at Denver Oct. 4 (DL). Sheridan counted 520 Vesper Sparrows Aug. 27, a good total (HD). Eagle attracted a Black-throated Sparrow Sept. 29 (1st Lat—†JM). Of two Fox Sparrows at Colorado Springs Oct. 18, one appeared to be of one of the redder eastern forms (†BM). Other Fox Sparrows appeared in Green R., Aug. 16 (FL) and Cody, Wyo., Nov. 18+ (JGa). Cheyenne reported three Swamp Sparrows Sept. 12 (†AK—1st Lat). The 15 White-throated Sparrows (from all 4 states) seemed a typical number for this Regional straggler. Boulder had Golden-crowned Sparrows Sept. 28 and Nov. 6+ (B.A.S., †PY). Although the Sept. 13 fall count in the Indian Peaks area w. of Boulder recorded a drop in White-crowns (.48/hr cf. 1.42/hr last year), Weld County on the plains e. of there had thousands Oct. 2 (JC). Harris' Sparrows were widely reported: four from Utah, 45 from Wyoming including 25 at Sundance, and 22 in Colorado. At Ogden, Killpack banded 383 Dark-eyed Juncos, twice as many as last year, but D.F.O. recorded only 89 on its Denver-area field trips, down from 200 in 1985. The discrepancies in relative abundance of White-crowned Sparrows and juncos illustrate the difficulty of drawing conclusions on bird populations without consistent study formats, and ones which cover big chunks of geography.

A roadside survey at Sheridan turned up 203 W. Meadowlarks Sept. 12, twice the prior peak; they have started to recover from a 4-year decline (HD). Rusty Blackbirds showed up in Las Vegas Nov. 9–11 (J & MCR, VM) and Pueblo Nov. 23 (A.V.A.S.). Large blackbird flocks included 10,000 mixed grackles, starlings, and Red-winged at Sheridan Aug. 21, and 7000 Brewer's at Greeley Sept. 10 (JC). Common Grackles have become well-established in e. Utah, with 85 counted at Vernal Aug. 1 (CKn). A N. (Bullock's) Oriole showed an inclination

to winter at a Sheridan feeder, after showing up Nov. 1 (HD). Purple Finches were at Evanston, Pueblo, and Denver (†CK, †DS et al., †BR). Yellowstone reported a healthy population of Cassin's Finches, with 642 recorded on 43 days to Oct. 2 (JZ), but the Indian Peaks count tallied only three (DH, DB). House Finches in Ogden, Colorado Springs, and Denver have become severely afflicted with avian pox; apparently those that attend crowded backyard feeders spread the viral disease. Red Crossbills have returned to Wyoming and Colorado: Yellowstone tallied 783 on 87 different days, Sheridan had 25 in August, Boulder County had 85 through the fall, and several other mountain observers saw them. Among the Reds were two White-winged at Minturn, Colo., Aug. 10 (†BR) and seven at Cody, Wyo., Aug. 22 (SA).

CORRIGENDA — Maynard responded to my speculation about nesting Vermilion Flycatchers in n.e. Colorado (AB 40:504); he suggests that extralimital reports in other states indicate this species overshoots frequently and does not infer nesting. Correct 2 credits in the Spring report: Kesselheim saw the Rosy Finches at Evanston (AB 40:506). I omitted Casper reporter Jim Herold from the list of Spring season contributors (40:506).

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

David Stejskal, Janet Witzeman

Some outlying parts of Arizona are covered more thoroughly than others at different seasons, depending upon whether those areas receive visits from birders or if there is a census being conducted there. This fall there were few records from the Lower Colorado River, as the census team has completed its work there; however, the continuing census on the upper San Pedro River is increasing our knowledge of that area. Some important records were also found during a number of birding trips to the northeastern part of the state.

Throughout the report are records of small numbers of normally higher-elevation species scattered through the lowlands, but nothing seemed to materialize into an invasion for any one of them.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.T.A. = Boyce Thompson Arboretum; L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; P.R.D. = Painted Rock Dam; S.P.R. = San Pedro River.

LOONS THROUGH STORK — Pacific Loon, always noteworthy away from the L.C.R., was reported from Prescott Nov. 2 (CT) and from Tucson Nov. 9–10 (DT, JD, WD et al.). Common Loons in s. Arizona included one at Parker Canyon L., Nov. 4 (AH), one at Ruthrauff pond in Tucson Nov. 5 (EB), and another at Tucson Nov. 9–10 (DT, JD, WD et al.). Very unusual was the report of a Least Grebe at the Snyder Hill sewage ponds, w. of Tucson Sept. 3 (†RT). There have been very few good records for this species in the state since 1978. Horned Grebes away from the L.C.R. included one at Prescott Oct. 9, two at Clarkdale Oct. 28, and up to three at Prescott during November (H & AG, CT, SGa); one was at Tucson Oct. 31 (MC, DT).



As usual, a few imm. Brown Pelicans entered the state from the Gulf of California during late summer and early fall, including one along I-10 w. of Benson Aug. 22 (M & KL), one at Pena Blanca L., Aug. 27 (BH), and another at the Hyannis Cattle Co. pond near McNeal Aug. 31 (B. Smith). A Double-crested Cormorant at Ortega L., Nov. 8 would seem to be very late for this species in n.e. Arizona (GM, TH). Two Olivaceous Cormorants, rare wanderers from n. Mexico, were reported for the period: an adult at Guevavi Ranch, Nogales Aug. 31 (BH) and another adult at Patagonia L., Sept. 13–22 (†S. Benn, B. Brodie et al.).

More reports of Am. Bittern were received this fall, with the most unusual being one at Sells Nov. 19 (GM); one at Prescott Nov. 28–30 provided one of very few records for Yavapai County (A. Greene et al.). Records of Cattle Egret from s.e.

Arizona and the n one-half of the state continue to accumulate, the most noteworthy being 30 at Many Farms L., Sept. 28 (DSj, CB, JS) and one in Guadalupe Canyon Nov. 1 (R. Turner). The former record represents the largest number ever found in n.e. Arizona. The **White Ibis** first reported in June 1986 from Picacho Res. was rediscovered there Sept. 12–14 (PB *et al.*). Four Wood Storks were reported from a stock tank on the Cabeza Prieta N.W.R., Aug. 26 (*fide* JBa), representing one of a handful of records for this species away from the L.C.R. and P.R.D.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — Unprecedented numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese were reported this fall, including 60+ at McNeal Sept. 22, and 76 at the Buenos Aires N.W.R., Sept. 27 (W. Schiflet) with five remaining until Oct. 12 (J & AP). Another small flock of six birds was seen at Picacho Res., Nov. 2 (JBo). Ross' Goose is a regular fall and winter visitor to s.e. Arizona, so two to four individuals at McNeal Nov. 13–28 (AM) were not unexpected. As last year, an Oldsquaw was found again at Parker Dam Nov. 22 (CH *et al.*). A ♂ Surf Scoter was found at the Chandler sewage ponds Nov. 16–17 (C. Clarke *et al.*) and a 2nd ♂ Surf Scoter was at the nearby Gila Farms pond Nov. 17 (PB, RBr); a 3rd ♂ Surf Scoter was at Parker Dam Nov. 22 (CH *et al.*). A Hooded Merganser found e. of Vernon, Apache Co., Nov. 10 furnished one of only a handful of records for n.e. Arizona (TH, GM). Red-breasted Merganser is also quite rare in n.e. Arizona, so three at Ortega L., Nov. 8 were noteworthy (GM, TH).

A flock of 190+ Black Vultures at Sells Nov. 19 was the largest flock ever encountered in Arizona (GM, WD, EB). A Gray Hawk in California Gulch, Atascosa Mts., Aug. 1 was unusual (JBa *et al.*). A Red-shouldered Hawk reported near Kansas Settlement Nov. 3 provided one of only a few records for s.e. Arizona (AH); another individual found at Prescott Nov. 15 represented the first record for Yavapai County (CT *et al.*). There are very few records for Zone-tailed Hawk for n.e. Arizona, so an adult at Keams Canyon Oct. 12 was very unusual (JS). A Ferruginous Hawk Oct. 9 at McNeal was about 2 weeks early (AM). Two Crested Caracaras near Toltec on I-10, Oct. 18 (Jim Burns) added to the growing number of records for the species outside the Tohono Oodham (formerly Papago) Indian Reservation.

RAILS THROUGH TERNS — Clapper Rails were again recorded from Picacho Res.; one was seen there Oct. 8 (C. Green, AM) and another one was heard Nov. 8 (GM, D. Lee). This species has been recorded sporadically in this area since about 1975. Perplexing was the report of an apparent Caribbean Coot near Nogales Oct. 4 (JS, BS *et al.*). Can individual variation in Am. Coots explain away this record?

A late Black-bellied Plover was found at the Snyder Hill sewage ponds Nov. 11 (J & AP *et al.*). This fall's report of a Lesser Golden-Plover came from Tucson Oct. 13 (†JP, C. Johnson, JS). The only Snowy Plover reported away from Willcox was an imm. bird at the Chandler sewage ponds Oct. 23 (SGa). Mountain Plover was again found near Elfrida this fall with a flock of 30, Nov. 7 (AM). The Elfrida area is now the only reliable locality known for this species in the state. More Lesser Yellowlegs than usual were reported this fall, including 46 at Willcox Aug. 11 (GM), 120+ at the El Mirage pond s.w. of Phoenix during the last week of August (DSj), and 50 at Bisbee Sept. 6 (AM, TD). The only Sanderlings reported were just s. of Phoenix, with one at the Gilbert sewage ponds Sept. 13–16 (DSj, SGa), one at the Gila Farms pond Oct. 17 (PB, RBr), and another, or the same, at the Chandler sewage ponds Oct. 23 (SGa). From one to three Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported from Willcox Aug. 9–15 (J & AP, †PL, †TC *et al.*); another juvenile was found at Gilbert Aug. 10 (RN, RF), and still another was at El Mirage Aug. 27 (DSj, CH). From one to two Dunlins at Willcox Aug. 11–14 (†PL, B. Zimmer *et al.*) and another at Gilbert Aug. 17 (PB) were more than a month early. Another Dunlin at Sierra Vista Nov. 6 was notable (AM, TD). The only Short-billed Dowitchers reported were two at El Mirage Aug. 27 (DSj, CH) and another one there Sept 13 (RW *et al.*). Sur-

prising were four Red Phalaropes at Willcox Aug 21 (†M & KL); the species is usually seen singly or in pairs in Arizona

A first-year Herring Gull was found in the Bill Williams arm of L. Havasu Nov. 28 (PL, SF). An ad. Sabine's Gull, a very sparse fall migrant through the state, was found at Douglas Sept. 15 (†RT, R. Crabtree, F. Mallard). Two Caspian Terns at Tucson Oct. 2 provided the first record for that area (GM, EB), another in the Bill Williams arm of L. Havasu Nov. 28 was late for that locality (PL, SF). A late Forster's Tern was also in the same area Nov. 22–28 (CH, PL, SF).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — White-winged Dove usually exits the state by the first week of September, so six individuals at B.T.A., Nov. 2 and one there Nov. 11 were very late for that locality (SGa). A very late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was heard on the Salt R., s.w. Phoenix, Oct. 11 (DSj, CB, RN). An injured Flammulated Owl found in Phoenix Oct. 12 was a real surprise and furnished the 3rd record for the Phoenix area in October (K. Ingram).

Extremely fortunate was the discovery of an apparent Black Swift in a huge flock of White-throated Swifts over Ganado L., Sept. 28 (DSj, JS); there are still no confirmed records for the state. Vaux's Swift is quite rare e. of the Huachuca Mts., so one s. of St. David Sept. 11 (DK) and another near Hereford Sept. 14 (TC) were noteworthy.

An imm. ♀ Broad-billed Hummingbird at a Portal feeder Sept 14 was in an area where it is considered rare (WR). Two White-eared Hummingbirds were found again along S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon, Chiricahua Mts., Aug. 3 (CD), another ad. male was found at Rustler Park, Chiricahuas, Aug. 21 (†M & KL), and possibly one or two different birds were found along S Fork Sept. 14 (WR, R. Dorrance). The only Berylline Hummingbird reported was one at the Southwest Research Station, Portal, Aug. 5 (T. Mack). A ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird was seen off and on at a Portal feeder Aug. 8–20 (S & WS) and one to three ♂ Lucifer Hummingbirds were also there Aug. 29 through the first week in October (m.ob.). Unusual were one to four Calliope Hummingbirds at a feeder on the upper S.P.R. near Sierra Vista Aug. 23–Sept. 25 (DK); Calliope Hummingbirds are usually found at higher elevations during the fall.

A ♀ Green Kingfisher was seen at Kino Springs, Nogales, Aug. 5 (BF). This species has been seen at this locality sporadically for the last 2 to 3 years. Intriguing were the numerous reports of Green Kingfisher on the upper S.P.R. in November, at least three individuals were recorded: an imm. male Nov 12–14 (†DK, L. Lay), an ad. female Nov. 29 (DK *et al.*), and an ad. male Nov. 30 (CH, DK, TC). The area where these birds were found was previously closed to the public.

Lowland reports of Lewis' Woodpeckers were of one in Tucson Sept. 9 (SM), one in Sabino Canyon Sept. 27 (*fide* JBa), and one in the Hassayampa R. valley s. of Prescott Oct. 20 (CT), four were at Molino Basin, Santa Catalina Mts., Nov. 2+ (J & AP, m.ob.). The only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports came from the upper S.P.R.: an immature Nov. 2 (†DK) and another near there Nov. 28 (DK). A Red-breasted Sapsucker, a sparse winter visitor, was found in Prescott Nov. 27 (BT). The only lowland Williamson's Sapsucker reported was in Tucson Nov 16 (SM).

Reports of **Least Flycatcher** increased this fall with a total of three reported. One was found near Eagar Aug. 31 (DSj *et al.*), another was observed at B.T.A., Oct. 27 (†CT), and the third was found on the upper S.P.R., Nov. 30 (†CH, DK, TC). A very early Hammond's Flycatcher was reported just s. of St David July 28 (DK, TC). Encouraging was an additional report of one to two Buff-breasted Flycatchers above Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., Aug. 17 (†D. Holway). Reports from this range have been increasing during the past one to 2 years. An E Phoebe on the upper S.P.R., Sept. 6 (DK) and another at Picacho Res., Nov. 1 (GM, DL) were the only ones reported. A late W Kingbird was reported from Arivaca Nov. 16 (CG); any kingbird in November requires written details. Two E. Kingbirds were reported for the period, one at Ft. Huachuca Aug. 6 (BF) and another at Many Farms L., Sept. 28 (JS). While the Many Farms

bird is somewhat expected, there are still very few records for the Arizona.

JAYS THROUGH SHRIKES — The only report of Pinyon Jay away from n. Arizona was of a flock of about 100 near Rye Sept 13 (J. & W. Spencer). There were two lowland reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch—one was at Tonapah, w. of Phoenix, Oct 23 (M. Jakle) and the other was at Green Valley Nov. 3 (D. Garver). Really surprising was the discovery of a dead Pygmy Nuthatch in n.w. Phoenix Oct. 23 (TC). Lowland records for this species are almost nonexistent. Equally unusual was an Am. Dipper at B.T.A. from Nov. 8 at least through the end of the period (CT, RF). This is the first record for this area and one of few records for the lowlands.

Golden-crowned Kinglets were scarce in the lowlands this fall with the only reports being of one on the upper S.P.R., Nov 2 (DK) and five at B.T.A., Oct. 29–Nov. 11 (CT *et al.*). A Black-tailed Gnatcatcher along Silver Creek, Chiricahua Mts., Aug 14 was in a new locality (RT). An imm. Townsend's Solitaire along S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon, Aug. 3 could have indicated breeding in the Chiricahuas (CD). A scarce lowland report of this species was of a single bird in Ahwatukee, s. of Phoenix, Oct. 3–7 (PB). Two individual Aztec Thrushes were reported: one ad. male photographed along S. Fork, Cave Cr. Canyon, Aug. 11 was the first for the Chiricahuas (ph. B. Tintle), and another ad. male in Madera Canyon Aug. 13–17 (fj. Cooper, ph. R. Behrstock *et al.*) was the 5th for that area. All but two of the previous records have been in this time period—between late July and early September.

Amazing, if accurate, was the report of an ad. N. Shrike at Nogales Oct. 4 (fjS, BS). The date and the locality make this record difficult to believe.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A pleasant surprise was a singing ♂ **White-eyed Vireo** at B.T.A., Sept. 6 (RF, fRN *et al.*); this bird obliged Arizona birders by remaining in the area until Sept. 22 (CT). This was about the 5th state record. Also at B.T.A. was a **Gray Vireo** Sept. 27, which was a local first record and also a bit late (RF). A late **Warbling Vireo** was also there Nov. 2 (SGa). Three **Red-eyed Vireos** reported for the period included one at Madera Canyon Aug. 19 (M & KL), another at Sanders Aug 31 (RF *et al.*), and a 3rd at Ganado Oct. 11 (JS).

A **Tennessee Warbler** was found in Sabino Canyon Sept. 19 (WR), another was on the upper S.P.R., Sept. 24–25 (fDK), a 3rd was e. of Tucson Nov. 9 (JBo), and a 4th was near Nogales Nov 20 (KK, LHK). The only **Chestnut-sided Warbler** reported was one at Ahwatukee Sept. 26–28 (PB *et al.*). An ad. ♂ **Magnolia Warbler** was a nice surprise on the Verde R., e. of Phoenix, Oct 9 (fTG, R. Mesta). An almost unbelievable four (one male and three female) **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were observed at St Johns Oct. 5 (B. Heap). All previous records have been of single birds. Two **Black-throated Green Warblers** showed up in the Prescott area, one Sept. 8 (CT) and a male s. of Prescott Sept 20 (BT). A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, a very sparse migrant in the state, was found in Madera Canyon Aug. 3 (fRT, C. Robbins *et al.*); another individual was found n. of Cordes Jct., Prescott Nat'l Forest Aug. 17 (fjBu). A very probable ad. **Pine Warbler** was observed on the unusual date of Aug. 11 in Bisbee (fDD); if accepted, it would provide the first record for this species in the state.

Again, as last fall, a few reports of **Louisiana Waterthrush** were received for early August. One was found at Patagonia Aug 2 (fW. Weber, W. Neilly, D. Maynard *et al.*); and another one was found in Madera Canyon Aug. 20 (R. Helton). These were the 3rd and 4th records this year between mid-July and mid-August. A real surprise was the imm. **Mourning Warbler** found at Becker L., Springerville, Aug. 31 (fDSj *et al.*); this was the 2nd year in a row that this species has been found in Apache County. Three **Hooded Warblers** were found during the period: the individual in Bisbee (since June) remained to Aug 6 (DD), a female was found in Eagar Sept. 27 (DSj, JS), and another one was found in Molino Basin, Santa Catalina Mts, Nov. 1–6 (J & AP *et al.*).

Five **Black-and-white Warblers**, 10 **Am Redstarts**, and nine **N. Waterthrushes** were reported, all more than usual.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A late Summer Tanager was found in a yard in Tempe Nov. 6 (CH). Only one **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was reported for the entire period—a male on the upper S.P.R., Oct. 20 (fDK). A **Rose-breasted** × **Black-headed Grosbeak** hybrid was at a Portal feeder during the first week of October (S & WS). Certainly out of place was the ♂ **Varied Bunting** at Becker L., Aug. 30–31 (RF *et al.*); this was the first record of this species n. of the Mogollon Rim. Two ♂ **Painted Buntings** were found at the Buenos Aires N.W.R., Sept. 20–23 (MAC, m.ob.). Once again **Dickcissels** were found during mid-September in n.e. Arizona: one at Becker L., Sept 20 and two at Concho L., Sept. 21 (RN, RF).

A ♂ **Black-chinned Sparrow** at Hart Tank in the Sierra Pinta, Cabeza Prieta N.W.R., Sept. 1 was certainly unexpected (J. Dunning, S. Vetault). A nice yard bird was a **Five-striped Sparrow** in Sasabe, w. of Nogales, Aug. 31 (MAC). It is interesting to note that **Five-striped Sparrow** can wander from its usual haunts from time to time. The only **Fox Sparrows** reported were singles e. of Tucson Nov. 20 (*vide* JBa) and at Patagonia in late November (KK, m.ob.). A **Swamp Sparrow** at the Snyder Hill sewage ponds Nov. 11 (JBo) and another near St. David Nov. 13 (DK) were the only ones reported. Two **White-throated Sparrows** in Ash Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Nov. 1 (J. & B. Epler) and another bird at a Portal feeder Nov. 15–19 (S & WS) were the only ones found. A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was observed along the Santa Cruz R., s. of Green Valley, Oct. 4 (JS, BS). An ad. **Harris' Sparrow** was photographed at Ganado L., Nov. 11 (ph. D. Cleary) and another imm. bird was seen at B.T.A., Nov 11–28 (CT). Unusual were nine **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** near Sells Nov. 19 (GM); it is out of character for the species to be in this area.

A nice surprise while looking for one of the **Green Kingfishers** on the upper S.P.R., was the discovery of an ad. **Rusty Blackbird** Nov. 30 (fCH, DK *et al.*); **Rusty Blackbird** is a very sparse winter visitor to the state. A flock of 18 **Great-tailed Grackles** at Nelson Res., Apache Co., Nov. 9 was considered quite late for n.e. Arizona (GM, TH). An **Orchard Oriole** was found in a Tucson yard Sept. 14 (RBr).

Entirely unexpected was a **Pine Grosbeak** near Strawberry, n.w. of Payson, Aug. 19 (B. Burch); this area is not near any known breeding locality in the state. Interesting was the recapture of a banded **Purple Finch** in Bear Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts., Nov. 11 (B. Dunning); the bird was thought to have been banded in the same area in 1985. The only lowland **Cassin's Finch** report was of a male at Sunflower, n. of Phoenix, Oct. 8 (H. Longstreth). Since this was not an invasion year, it was surprising to learn of a small flock of **Lawrence's Goldfinches** (up to 16) at B.T.A., Oct. 27+ (CT); this was the only report for the state. An **Evening Grosbeak** was at Portal Sept 2 (TM) and a flock of 20 was found at Canoa Ranch Sept. 6 (TM). Two more individuals were found in Elk Canyon, Baboquivari Mts., Oct. 25 (CG). **Evening Grosbeaks** were also passing through in ones and twos at B.T.A. during October and November (CT).

ADDENDUM — An imm. ♂ **Philadelphia Vireo** was found (a roadkill) Oct. 5, 1985 in n.w. Tucson (* to Univ. of Ariz.).

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New Mexico

John P. Hubbard

ABBREVIATIONS — S.G.R. = State Game Refuge; T or C = Truth or Consequences. Place names in italics are counties.

GREBES THROUGH WATERFOWL — Six Horned Grebes were in the Rio Grande and Pecos valleys Oct. 19–Nov. 23 (PS *et al.*). Very rare in the state, an imm. probable **Red-necked Grebe** was at Sandia Park Nov. 12 (PS). Adult *Aechmophorus* grebes with young included Westerns at Maxwell N.W.R., Aug. 6 (PS), Clark's at Elephant Butte L., Aug. 22 (TM), and both at Caballo L., Sept. 28 (KZ *et al.*). Other Clark's Grebes were four at Stubblefield L., Colfax, Aug. 6 (PS) and one at Fenton L., Jemez Mts., Nov. 3 (TH).

S.A.

Now that two species of *Aechmophorus* grebes are recognized, observers should redouble their efforts to make reliable identifications of them. Birds should be identified as Clark's Grebes only when the eye is completely surrounded by white and the bill is orangish in color (the plumage of downy young is whitish). Western Grebes have the black cap extending to or through the eye, plus the bill color is greenish (the downies are grayish). If one is uncertain as to the identities of birds, call them "western" grebes or *Aechmophorus* sp. Also, these grebes are often paired, so check carefully to determine the identities of birds that seem to be so associated.

Some 150–180 Am. White Pelicans flew over the Manzano Mts., Sept. 30 (JLD *et al.*); peripheral reports included Cochiti L., Aug. 24 (L. Sager), Zuni Oct. 5 (DC), Sumner L., Oct. 6 (DM), near Tularosa Nov. 5 (J. Hutto), and Black R., Eddy, Oct. 20–24 (CP). Northerly was an Olivaceous Cormorant at La Joya S.G.R., Sept. 25 (WH).

Notable concentrations of waterbirds at Vado Bosque, s. Dona Ana, Aug. 30–Sept. 5 included 400–1000 Snowy Egrets, 2000–3086 Cattle Egrets, and 1809–2000 White-faced Ibises (JD *et al.*). Also there were up to four Little Blue Herons, two **Tricolored Herons**, and four **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**. Single Great Egrets were at Morgan L., San Juan (HL, AN), Cochiti L. (WH), and Zuni (JT) Aug. 11–Sept. 18, while four to five Little Blue Herons were at Elephant Butte L., Aug. 22 (TM). Other Cattle Egrets included 55 at Clovis Aug. 13 (WH) and 10 at Black R., Oct. 20–24 (CP), plus singles at the Nutria Lake, McKinley (DC), Sumner L. (LG), and Mangas Springs, Grant (RF), Oct. 26–Nov. 22. Northerly was a Green-backed Heron at Watrous Oct. 24 (WH). One to two Snow Geese were near Mangas Springs Nov. 8–9 (RF, SOW), while summer stragglers at Bitter Lake N.W.R. were two Snows Aug. 10 (D & JH) and a Ross' Aug. 17 (RT). The autumn peak of Snow Geese in the middle Rio Grande Valley was of 30,000, much lower than expected (*fide* DM). Two White-winged Scoters were at Clayton L., Nov. 14 & 27 (WC *et al.*).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A count of raptors in the Manzano Mts., Aug. 23–Oct. 31, yielded 4019 birds of 16 species (JLD *et al.*). Highs included 1303 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 992 Cooper's Hawks, 124 Golden Eagles, and 755 Am Kestrels. Others included 12 Ospreys, 20 N. Goshawks, and 16 Merlins, plus single Broad-winged Hawks Oct. 1 & 7, and a Zone-tailed Sept. 30. Single Turkey Vultures at Percha Dam Nov. 13 (JH) and T or C Nov. 23 (KZ) were late. Late Ospreys were one to two at Clayton L., Oct. 31 (WC *et al.*), Cochiti L., Nov. 15 (RO, CR), near Cliff Nov. 20 (SOW), and Sumner L., Nov. 22 (LG). At least two Black-shouldered Kites were in the Rodeo area Aug. 1–5 and Oct. 1–7 (SS *et al.*). Two Mississippi Kites harassed an imm. Com. Black-Hawk near Escondido, Socorro, Aug. 24 (TM). A N. Goshawk was in the s. Guadalupe Mts., Oct. 18 (SW *et al.*). A possible subadult White-tailed Hawk was seen near Gila Aug. 19 (GP); there is one previous credible state record. South of the normal range was a White-tailed Ptarmigan on Santa Fe Baldy Aug. 9 (E. Johnson). Montezuma Quail along the New Mexico border in Eddy Oct. 18 (PS) were no doubt from a recent introduction in adjacent Texas (*fide* M. Fletcher).

Up to 29 Whooping Cranes from the Idaho flock were expected in New Mexico in the period, only two of which were 1986 young (R. Drewien). The earliest was one at Bernardo Oct. 23 (*fide* RT). Two Lesser Golden-Plovers were at a turf farm near Los Lunas Oct. 4, along with 33 Mountain Plovers (WH). Up to 312 of the latter species were near Moriarty Aug. 10–19 and Sept. 21 (D & JH *et al.*). West of the usual range were two Snowy Plovers at Zuni Aug. 11 (JT). Late were eight Greater Yellowlegs at Cochiti L., Nov. 15 (RO, CR), while highs for Lessers were of 48 near Clayton (WC), 78 at Zuni, and 30 at Bluewater L., McKinley (JT), Aug. 10–Sept. 15. Up to 45 Upland Sandpipers were in the Clovis area Aug. 13–21 (WH), small numbers were s. of Clayton (D. Dallas, N. Gray), near Carlsbad (SW), and in s. Dona Ana (BZ), Aug. 16–Sept. 9. Late were 65 Long-billed Curlews s.w. of Hatch Nov. 9 (WE, WH), and a high count was of 77 near Tularosa Sept. 20 (J & NH). Single **Ruddy Turnstones** were at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Aug. 14 (K. Wood *et al.*) and Hollomon L., Otero, Sept. 28 and earlier (E. Wootten *et al.*; ph. BZ). Other notable shorebirds were a Red Knot and a Dunlin at Holloman Sept. 28 and Oct. 1 (BZ *et al.*), five Sanderlings at Maxwell N.W.R., Aug. 6 (PS), and a Sanderling and a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Bluewater L., Aug. 14–15 (JT). Pectoral Sandpipers were rather frequent, including one to two at Cochiti L., Oct. 14 (WH), Bosque N.W.R., Sept. 18 (PS, RT), and near Arrey, Sierra, Sept. 11 (JD, BZ) Stilt Sandpipers were numerous, including 60 near Clovis Aug. 19 (WH) and up to six at Maxwell N.W.R. (PS), near Clayton (WC), Bernalillo (WH), and near Alamogordo (D & JH *et al.*), Aug. 6–Sept. 16. A first for New Mexico, an apparent imm ♂ **Ruff** was at Bosque N.W.R., Sept. 18 (PS, RT). Red-necked Phalarope highs were of 50–60 at Holloman L., Sept. 28 and Oct. 1 (BZ *et al.*), and Laguna Grande, Eddy, Oct. 18 (PS).

GULLS THROUGH TROGONS — An imm. **Laughing Gull** was at Cochiti Dam Oct. 31 and Nov. 11 (PS). Late were eight Franklin's Gulls at Maxwell N.W.R., Oct. 24 (BD, WH) and one at Cochiti L., Oct. 31 (PS), plus up to four Californias at Cochiti L. (WH), Sumner L. (WE, WH), and Caballo L. (KZ), Nov. 10–23. Thirty-five Bonaparte's Gulls were at Sumner L., Nov. 15 (WE, WH). A **Caspian Tern** was at Clayton L., Aug. 22 (WC, AK), plus one-two Commons at Morgan L., Sept. 3 (HL, AN) and La Joya S.G.R., Sept. 14 (BD, WH). Late Forster's Terns included one at Caballo L., Nov. 11–13 (JH) and five at Bosque N.W.R., Nov. 15 (*fide* RJ). Eleven Least Terns were at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Aug. 17 (RT). White-winged Dove highs were of 38 at Socorro Nov. 13 (JS) and 41 at Carlsbad Oct. 11 (SW), vs up to four in the Alamogordo area (RJ *et al.*). Out-of-range was one in Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandia Mts., Aug. 28 (LG), while very late was one at San Simon Cienega Nov. 6 (WE, WH). One to two Inca Doves at Zuni Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 (DC) were stragglers. Highs were of up to four at Socorro (JS), near Tularosa

(J & NH), and Alamogordo (RJ *et al.*). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was near Gila Aug. 19 (GP), while late Yellow-billed were at Albuquerque Sept. 27 (WH *et al.*) and Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy, Sept. 28 (CR).

Extremely late were four calling **Elf Owls** at San Simon Cienega Nov. 3–7 (CGS *et al.*). Also late were single nighthawks at La Joya Oct. 11 (S. Hoffman); Carlsbad (SW), Alamogordo (GS, J. Talley), and High Rolls, Otero (GS) Oct. 16–17; and Percha Dam Nov. 5 (PS). The last Com. Poorwill at Albuquerque was on Oct. 25 (G. Cohn) and at Pleasanton, Catron, Nov. 10 (SOW). A Whip-poor-will was at Durling's Farm, s. *Dona Ana*, Sept. 25 (BZ). A pair each of Blue-throated and Magnificent hummingbirds were at Roberts L., Grant, Aug. 24 (RF); one to two Magnificents were also at Pleasanton Sept. 21 (SOW), T or C Aug. 31 (DM), and Cloudcroft Aug. 24 and Sept. 2 (N. Dobbins). Up to nine Lucifer Hummingbirds were in Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., Aug. 8 (PL), with the latest ones Oct. 5 (R. Scholes). The only Anna's Hummingbird was an ad. male at Los Alamos Sept. 8–Oct. 5 (C. & T. Jervis *et al.*). Late were single Broad-tailed and Rufous hummingbirds in Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts., Oct. 19, along with some 10 unidentified hummers (HS). A ♂ Broad-tailed was at Clovis Aug. 18 (WH). A probable **Elegant Trogon** was in Spring Canyon, Burro Mts., Grant, Sept. 5 (A. Ford).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH CORVIDS — Young Lewis' Woodpeckers were still being fed at Clayton L., Aug. 7 (WC) and San Ildefonso Pueblo Aug. 13 (DH). The species moved S later in the season, with up to 14 over the Manzano Mts., Sept. 20 and earlier (JLD *et al.*). Eight to ten were in the Silver City area Nov. 27–30 (RF *et al.*) and Percha Dam Sept. 28 (GL, BZ). One or two Gila Woodpeckers were at San Simon Cienega Nov. 6 (CGS *et al.*). Early was a Red-naped Sapsucker at Madrone Ponds, Valencia, Aug. 26 (PS, RT), while southerly were one to two Downy Woodpeckers at Ft. Sumner Nov. 15, Percha Dam Nov. 5 (WE, WH), and Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 28 (CR). Late were one to two Dusky-Hammond's Flycatchers at Percha Dam Nov. 5, San Simon Cienega Nov. 6 (WH), and near Silver City Nov. 23 (RF, M. Zimmerman); early was one in Post Office Canyon Aug. 8 (PL). Two Gray Flycatchers were singing near Taos Aug. 13 (DH), while an early migrant was in Post Office Canyon Aug. 8 (PL). An E. Kingbird was at Durling's Farm Sept. 18 (BZ). North of the usual range were single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at Clayton Aug. 24 (M. Mayfield) and n.w. of Roswell Aug. 31 (BO). Up to 15 were in the Carlsbad area, with the latest Oct. 21 (M. Medraño, SW).

The last Cave Swallows were at Carlsbad Caverns N. P., Oct. 15 (SW), while late Barn Swallows were one to two at Mangas Springs Nov. 8 (RF) and Caballo Dam Nov. 13 (JH). Blue Jays were feeding fledglings at Roswell Aug. 31 (BO), and a juvenile was banded at Carlsbad (SW). The species also staged a moderate influx W to the middle Rio Grande Valley area. The earliest report was of four in the Costilla, Taos, area Sept. 14 (CR), followed by up to five birds at Tucumcari L., Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (CGS), San Ildefonso Pueblo Oct. 13 (E. Espinoza), Albuquerque Sept. 15–17 (M. L. Arthur), and Bosque N.W.R. (J. Taylor). Juvenile Pinyon Jays were heard in Santa Fe Aug. 23 & 26 (JH). A Clark's Nutcracker was feeding a fledgling on Sandia Peak on the late date of Aug. 3 (WH). A few Black-billed Magpies moved into the middle Rio Grande Valley area, including to San Felipe Pueblo, Albuquerque, and Cedar Crest, Sept. 11–Nov. 13 (v.o.). Highs for Am. Crows included 75 on Sierra Grande, Union, Sept. 19–20 (CGS *et al.*), 30 at Mangas Springs Nov. 22–23 (RF), and 15+ at Percha Dam Nov. 11 (JH). Very high for the Belen area were 89 Chihuahuan Ravens Sept. 25 (WH); at least five were with Com. Ravens near Silver City Oct. 10 (JH).

CHICKADEES THROUGH WARBLERS — An apparent Black-capped x Mountain Chickadee was at Madrone Ponds Sept. 11 (WH). Eight Mountain Chickadees were on Sierra Grande Sept. 20 (CGS) and at Bosque N.W.R., Oct. 2 (RT *et al.*). A Bridled Titmouse at San Simon Cienega Nov. 16 (WE, WH)

was unusual, another was at Percha Dam Sept. 28 (GL, BZ) A "black-eared" bird was among 15+ Bushtits at Santa Fe Sept. 13 (JH). Also notable were flocks of Bushtits at 10,000 ft in the Sandia Mts. (WH), at San Simon Cienega (CGS), and at Holloman L. (BZ *et al.*), Nov. 1–7. A Rock Wren seemed out-of-place among hay bales at Clovis Aug. 18–19 (WH), as did a Canyon Wren in farmlands near Loving Aug. 30 (SW). The only Winter Wren was in Hondo Canyon in the Sandias Oct. 24–26 (HS, R. Rasmussen). An Am. Dipper was in that range in Waterfall Canyon Oct. 5 (HS *et al.*). Golden-crowned Knights staged a notable influx into montane areas throughout the state, plus in small numbers to such lowland areas as Kirtland Oct. 11–13 (CGS), Albuquerque Nov. 19 (WH), and Holloman L., Oct. 1 (JD, BZ). Peripheral montane reports included three to five on Sierra Grande Sept. 20 (CGS) and in the Peloncillo Mts., Nov. 18 (WE *et al.*). Late was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Embudito Canyon Nov. 7 (HS), while a possible Black-tailed was in the Florida Mts., Luna, on the same date (PS). The only E Bluebirds w. of the Pecos Valley were a few near Mesilla Nov. 8 (PS) & 22 (KZ *et al.*). Western and Mountain bluebirds staged a minor influx into the south, from the s. Guadalupe Mts. w to the Arizona border—including at San Simon Cienega, s. *Dona Ana*, and the Peloncillo Mts. (v.o.). Overdue in the state—although unexpected so far north—a **Rufous-backed Robin** was near Socorro Oct. 23–25 (PB *et al.*, ph.).

Westerly Brown Thrashers were singles near Cedar Crest Oct. 1 (D. Carlson) and Socorro Oct. 26 (PB). The only Bohemian Waxwings were two near Santa Fe Nov. 11 (CR). Easterly Phainopeplas were one to three at Three Rivers, Otero, Oct. 18 and near Alamogordo Nov. 22 (JM). A late *cassini* Solitary Vireo was at Percha Dam Nov. 5. (WE, WH). Single Red-eyed Vireos were at Madrone Ponds Aug. 26 (PS, RT) and Hobbs Aug. 27 (C. Levine). Late Orange-crowned Warblers were singles at San Simon Cienega Nov. 6 (WE, WH) and Percha Dam Nov. 13 (JH). Rarer warblers included a Black-throated Blue at Albuquerque Nov. 5 (J. D. Ligon *et al.*) and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** there Nov. 3 (WH), plus a probable **Blackpoll Warbler** at Fenton L., Sept. 3 (TH). Townsend's Warblers ranged from an early one in Post Office Canyon Aug. 8 (PL) to the latest at Corrales Oct. 26 (RT *et al.*). A ♂ Olive Warbler was in Emory Pass, Black Range, Sept. 28 (GL, BZ).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Lazuli Buntings were unusually numerous in s. *Dona Ana*, beginning in early August (BZ); easterly was one near Clovis Aug. 17–19 (WH). Westerly Painted Buntings were singles at Percha Dam Sept. 11 (JD, BZ) and Durling's Farm Aug. 18 and Sept. 8 (BZ). Two Dickcissels were singing near Clovis Aug. 16–17 (WH). Eight were s. of Alamogordo Sept. 27 (JM), vs. the only *Dona Ana* record being of one Aug. 29 (JD, BZ). The first Green-tailed Towhee at Santa Fe was a grown juvenile Aug. 16!; late was a bird at Monticello in the Sandia Mts., Nov. 30 (HS). Six Abert's Towhees were at San Simon Cienega Nov. 3–7 (GS). Cassin's Sparrows were still numerous and skylarking in the Carlsbad area Aug. 7–9 (D & JH). Clay-colored Sparrow numbers were down in s. *Dona Ana*, with the latest at Owen's Farm Oct. 28 (JD, BZ). Several Black-chinned Sparrows were n.e. of Corona in early August (SS). Two late Lark Sparrows were at Owen's Farm Oct. 28–Nov. 4 (JD, BZ), while one at Fenton L., Aug. 2 (TH) was high. A singing Grasshopper Sparrow was at Las Vegas N.W.R., Aug. 5 (PS), while 15 (plus several immatures) were near Clovis Aug. 15–20 (WH) and up to three were s. of Carlsbad Aug. 7 & 9 (D & JH). An eastern-type Fox Sparrow and a Lincoln's Sparrow were near Ft. Sumner Nov. 15 (WE, WH). A White-winged (Dark-eyed) Junco was at Fenton L., Oct. 31 (TH). A well-described **Smith's Longspur** was at a turf farm in s. *Dona Ana* Nov. 11 (JD, BZ), for perhaps the most reliable state report to date. Also there Nov. 10–30 were a **Lapland Longspur** and up to 100 McCown's and 30 Chestnut-collared longspurs (BZ *et al.*). Two McCown's were near Los Lunas Oct. 29, and a single Chestnut-collared was at Cochiti L., Oct. 14 (WH).

Five E. Meadowlarks were at Ft. Sumner Nov. 15 (WE), while only W. Meadowlarks were heard at Clovis Aug. 13–21 (WH)

Early were 15 Brewer's Blackbirds near Alamogordo Aug. 12 (JM). Peripheral Great-tailed Grackles included two to three at Pojoaque (JH) and Bluewater L. (JT), plus 15 at Clovis Aug. 13-21 (WH); late birds were at La Cienaga, Santa Fe, Nov. 15 (RO, CR) and Silver City Nov. 14 (RF). Late Com. Grackles were at Clayton Sept. 3 (WC), Española Sept. 13 (PI et al.), Wagon Mound Sept. 20 (CGS), Santa Fe Sept. 29 (PI), Tucumcari L., Oct. 1 (CGS), and Albuquerque Oct. 7 (WH); about 500 were n. of San Antonio Nov. 2 (CGS). Also late were 25 Brown-headed Cowbirds at Kirtland Oct. 11-13 (CGS). A ♀ Orchard Oriole was at Percha Dam Sept. 28 (GL, BZ). Rosy Finches on Sandia Crest Nov. 27 included birds apparently of the Hepburn's race (GP). The state's first reported nest of **Red Crossbill** was on the Zuni Reservation, where adults were feeding nestlings Aug. 15 (JT). Peripheral records of the species included 16 on Sierra Grande Sept. 20 (CGS), three at Santa Fe Nov. 16 (JH), and one in Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., Nov. 8 (WH, CGS). Up to six Am. Goldfinches were at Zuni Aug. 10-15, including a female with a brood patch (JT). Small to moderate numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were in and/or near the San Juan, Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, Sandia, and Sacramento mountains and in the Black Range, with lower elevational occur-

rences at Chama, Abiquiu, Española, Santa Fe, Cochiti L., and Albuquerque (v.o.); other reports included up to 10 at Clayton Oct. 11 (WC), Socorro Nov. 18 (PB), and Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 15 (fide SW).

CORRIGENDA — The Am. Dipper reported near Alamogordo May 4-5, 1986 (AB 40:511, 1986) was actually in the Sacramento Mts. between Sunspot and Timberon on May 4. The Purple and Cassin's finches reported at Pleasanton May 15-16, 1986 (ibid) were actually present Apr. 15-16, 1986.

OBSERVERS — Pat Basham, David Cleary, Wes Cook, James Daly (JLD), Bonnie D'Angelo, Jeff Donaldson, William Eley, Ralph Fisher, Jr., Larry Gorbet, Dick & Jean Hoffman, William Howe, John Hubbard, Tyler Huning, David Hunter, Joe & Nancy Hutto, Pat Insley, Robert Jenness, Adolf Krehbiel, Greg Lasley, Paul Lehman, Don MacCarter, John McNelly, Doris Miller, Tim Mitchusson, Robert Olcott, Bruce Ostyn, Charles Painter, Gary Parker, Chris Rustay, Greg Schmitt (CGS), Hart Schwarz, Scott Seltman, John Shipman, Gerri Smith, Paul Steel, Ross Teuber, John Trochet, Steve West, Sartor Williams III (SOW), Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer. — **JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

ALASKA REGION

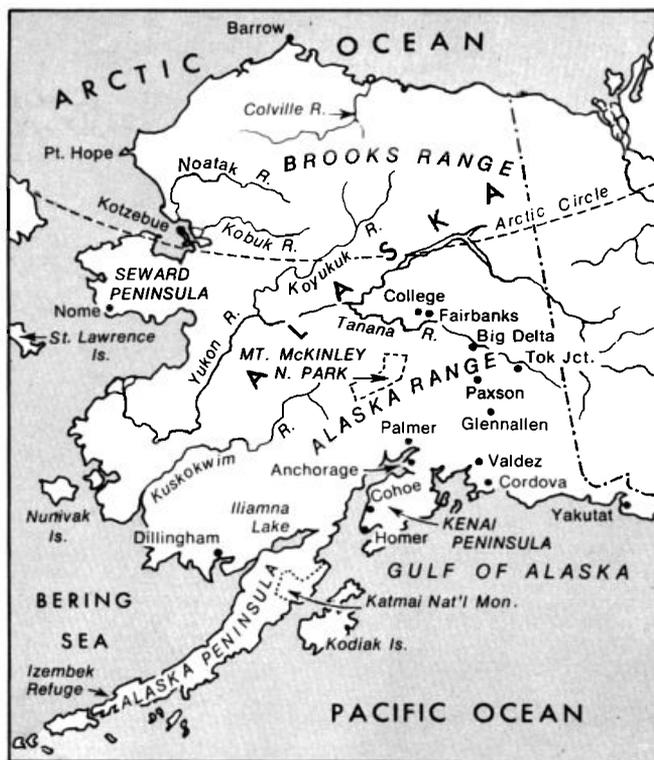
D. D. Gibson, T. G. Tobish, and M. E. Isleib

Autumn 1986 was mild from coast to coast and, mostly, from beginning to end. Intensive mid- and late-autumn field work on Alaska's Pacific coast produced numerous late records as well as a new bird for the state.

GREBES TO SHEARWATERS — At least five Pied-billed Grebes on ponds at Annette I., SE Alaska, Sept. 11-16 (MEI, RLS, TGT) provided a new high count for the State. Other, single, Pied-billed Grebes were present during October at Juneau and Sitka (MEI, MWS, RHA). Western Grebes observed in the e. Aleutians—one at Akun Bay, Akun I., Sept. 21 (†DRH) and one in Beaver Inlet, Unalaska I., Sept. 30 (MSWB, fide DRH)—were most unusual. There is a prior (winter) Aleutian record, but this species' occurrence anywhere west of SE, where it winters annually, is erratic and not at all well understood.

A Pink-footed Shearwater seen one mile off e. Kodiak I., between Cape Chiniak and Sequel Pt., Sept. 11 (JBA) provided the observer's 3rd record in 4 years in that area at that season (see AB 39:90). In the Oct. 10 wake of a storm, three **Buller's Shearwaters** and four Laysan Albatrosses were the highlights of a trip along e. Kodiak I. from Ugak I. to the town of Kodiak, a trip that included 1000+ N. Fulmars, one Mottled Petrel, hundreds of Sooty Shearwaters, and hundreds of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels (JBA).

GEESE TO COOTS — A census at Izembek N.W.R., Alaska Peninsula, Oct. 20 produced the following mid-autumn data of interest (CPD): Emperor Geese numbered 5227—1670 were immatures, 3% more than the 20-yr average proportion of this age class; Brant numbered 98,718—15% immatures was 7% below the 24-yr average proportion of the age class; and Canada Geese [*B. c. parvipes* of Palmer 1976, *Handbook of N. Am. Birds*, Vol. 2, which includes *taverneri* Delacour] numbered 40,664, a total nearly 20% below normal. An estimate of 700-800 Canadas [*B. c. occidentalis*] at Middleton I., Nov. 5-12 (MEI) suggests that this Gulf of Alaska island may be an important late-autumn staging area for this Prince William Sound subspecies. A Barnacle Goose with Canadas [*B. c. minima*] at Ugashik Bay, Alaska Peninsula, Oct. 12-13 (BD, US, fide REG) was



our 2nd report in 18 months (see AB 39:338). Two ♀-plumaged Garganeys were recorded at Shemya I., w. Aleutians, Sept. 3 (DWS).

Two Am. Coots at Annette I. Sept. 14-16 (MEI, RLS, TGT), were record-early fall arrivals. There were numerous reports from SE after mid-October, maximum a flock of 12 at Blind Slough, Mitkof I., Nov. 7 (PW). One coot among pintails at Ugashik Bay Oct. 13 (BD, US, BR, fide REG) was out of place anywhere in SW Alaska.

SHOREBIRDS — A Semipalmated Plover at Anchorage Oct 2 was latest-ever there (TGT), as was a Killdeer there Nov. 11 (TGT). An ad. Mongolian Plover at Savoonga, St. Lawrence I., Aug. 13 (RRV), an adult at St. Paul I., Pribilofs, Aug. 21–23 (IJ, GVB), and a juvenile at St. Paul Sept. 2 (IJ, DED) were of interest because this species is not reported annually at this season, probably the result of few observers. Two Eur. Dotterels observed at Shemya Sept. 5 (†DWS) furnished the seasonally-earliest of the 4 Aleutian records, all of them in September.

Two Com. Greenshanks reported at St. George I., Pribilofs, Aug. 15 (C), *fide* GVB provided the earliest of the only 5 autumn records in the Region (*cf.* AB 40:156). At least three Wood Sandpipers were seen at St. Paul Aug. 15–30 (IJ, GVB, HD); the species is rare in autumn, although uncommon to fairly common in spring. Single Upland Sandpipers at Gustavus Sept. 12 (RJG) and at Annette I., Sept. 17 (MEI, RLS, TGT) added to few SE records. Fifty-one Marbled Godwits among 200 Bar-taileds at Cinder Lagoon, Alaska Pen., Oct. 3, and eight Marbleds in flight SW with three Bar-taileds at Hook Lagoon Oct. 15 (REG, SV) were most interesting; one bird at Ugashik Bay a year ago had furnished the only prior October record (AB 40:156). One Semipalmated Sandpiper (“an adult in arrested molt”) observed at Cinder Lagoon Oct. 3 (REG, SV) was by weeks the latest Alaska record. A juv. Temminck’s Stint and up to two juv. Curlew Sandpipers at St. Paul Aug. 15–21 (†IJ, CB, GVB) numbered among very few autumn records of either species in this Region. One Rock Sandpiper at Anchorage Oct. 26 was a local first (TGT). Juvenile Stilt Sandpipers were seen at Fairbanks (up to six, Aug. 27–28, PDM, BEL), Juneau (up to three, Aug. 25 & 28, RJG), and Kodiak (one, Aug. 21–23, RAM; two Sept. 7–8, RAM, JBA); one at Kodiak Sept. 18 (RAM) provided a new departure record for Alaska. One Broad-billed Sandpiper observed closely at Shemya Sept. 3 (†DWS, ph.) provided Alaska’s 3rd record, all of them between Aug. 19 (1977) and Sept. 6 (1978). Buff-breasted Sandpipers, all juveniles, were recorded at St. Paul (two Aug. 24, GVB; one Aug. 29 and Sept. 1, GVB, DED) and at Annette I. (one Sept. 14; MEI, RLS, TGT).

GULLS, ALCIDS — Single Franklin’s Gulls at Ketchikan (first-winter, Sept. 10–20; MEI, TGT, RLS ph.) and Petersburg (ad. winter, Sept. 27–Nov. 30+, †PW) provided the 8th and 9th Regional records—four of them this year—and the first ones in autumn. Well-known in the Aleutians and Bering Sea in springtime, Com. Black-headed Gull is reported only infrequently in autumn. An adult at St. Matthew Aug. 5–22 (BEL, PDM, BAC, ECM) was noteworthy, as was Anchorage’s 2nd record of the species, an adult Sept. 14–23 (TGT, †GJT, DWS ph., *et al.*). Careful perusal of Anchorage’s gulls also produced a rare Ring-billed (adult, Sept. 20–21; DWS ph., JMA, *et al.*) and the first California Gull found there in 2 years (2nd-winter, end October through at least Nov. 10; DWS ph., *et al.*). Some 30 California Gulls at Ketchikan Sept. 9–10 and 20 there Sept. 18–20 (MEI, RLS, TGT) were good counts of the species in this Region. Two Dovekies observed in the North Pacific, south of Unimak I. at 53°37’N 164°12’W, on Sept. 29 (DMT) furnished the 3rd Regional record s. of the Pribilofs.

OWLS TO MIMIC THRUSHES — A Long-eared Owl seen repeatedly in riparian willows on Farm I., Stikine R. mouth, Oct. 10–11 (†REW) provided Alaska’s 3rd record since 1909, all of them on the Southeastern mainland. Eight Black Swifts over Annette I., Sept. 18 (MEI) were record-late. An Aug. 10 Western Kingbird at Juneau (RJG) was Alaska’s 6th, and 2nd in 1986. A Tree Swallow seen at Operl I., Izembek N.W.R., Oct. 28 (EJT *et al.*, *fide* CPD) was nearly the latest ever in Alaska. There is one November record. A juv. Violet-green Swallow observed at St. Paul Aug. 27 (IJ, GVB) provided the 3rd Pribilof record and only the 6th one anywhere in Alaska west of the mainland. One Bank Swallow at Shemya Sept. 4 (DWS) furnished the 3rd autumn record in the w. Aleutians.

A Clark’s Nutcracker in the alpine zone of Douglas I., Sept. 26 (MZ) established the first SE report since fall 1984; another

near Fairbanks, however, at Mile 10 5 Chena Hot Springs Road, Oct. 20 (JD *et al.*, *) was the first certain Interior record since 1963 (*contra* AFN 21:67). Following the discovery of a roost of some 70 Am. Crows at Hyder in June (see Summer), only four crows were seen there Aug. 11 (GFW), and not one was seen Aug. 29 (RSH). Puzzling.

Probably establishing the northernmost record of the species, a Northern Mockingbird at Fairbanks Oct. 2 (JLS, DDG, RHD) was quite extraordinary. The 3rd Alaska record (see AB 37 214, 38:1053), this bird (*) was a worn adult caught up in the leading edge of a cold front advancing from the NW. (There is no physical evidence [*e.g.*, long claws] to suggest that the bird was an escape [*cf.*, Phillips 1986, *The known birds of North and Middle America, Part I.*])

WOOD WARBLERS TO BLACKBIRDS — Late wood warblers included two Yellow-rumped (one “Myrtle” and one “Audubon’s”) in Juneau Nov. 15 (MEI) and two Townsend’s there Oct. 5 (MEI, KEG). An imm. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak observed closely at Annette I., Sept. 15 (†MEI, †RLS) added a species to the Alaska List. A meadowlark observed on the Mendenhall wetlands, Juneau, Nov. 13 (JGK, MLK) provided Alaska’s 6th record of a *Sturnella*. Of these 6, the 2 specimen-substantiated records are of Western Meadowlark. A lone ♂ Brewer’s Blackbird present about Swan L., Sitka, Nov. 19+ (MWS, MEI ph.) furnished Alaska’s 3rd confirmed record of the species. There were many more reports of Brown-headed Cowbird this fall than in any prior autumn, all but one of them from SE: three at Hyder Aug. 11 (GFW), one at Juneau Aug. 27 (RJG), one at Petersburg Aug. 29 (PP, *fide* WAL), “several” at Wrangell “in August” (HS), two in Ketchikan Sept. 10 (MEI, RLS, TGT), and one at Metlakatla Sept. 14 & 17 (MEI, RLS, TGT). This situation might reflect better and more timely communication among observers than an increase in cowbird numbers. All for which age was mentioned were young-of-the-year. An immature seen at Trapper Creek, n. of Anchorage, Aug. 23 (DKP ph.) provided the only report from west of SE Alaska.

FINCHES — A Brambling first seen at a Juneau feeder with a flock of juncos Oct. 23 disappeared with that flock Oct. 28 (RJG, RHA). There were no other reports of the species this season. Small flocks of each (and often both) crossbill species were widespread and regularly observed in Southeastern Alaska during the autumn (MEI, RJG, WAL, SEQ *et al.*), but these itinerant birds had poor reviews elsewhere in the Region. Beyond SE, Red Crossbills were recorded only at peripheral Kodiak I. (flock of 11 on Nov. 12, JBA), where crossbills of any description were scarce (RAM, JBA), and at St. Matthew I., Bering Sea, where a female was observed Aug. 5 (BAC, BEL, ECM).

White-winged Crossbills were essentially absent from the Anchorage area (TGT), and few were seen on the neighboring Kenai Peninsula (MAM, TGT). Reports from Galena (TOO) and the Fairbanks area (DDG) suggested that they were more or less absent in the Interior too. That this species was on the move in November, however, seemed a reasonable inference to draw from several extralimital records: small flocks seen at Middleton I., Gulf of Alaska, Nov. 5–12 (MEI—maximum a flock of five, on 6th); a tired immature observed at Adak I., Nov. 10 (CFZ *et al.*), providing the 2nd Aleutian record of the species; and a small flock at tree limit in n.w. Alaska—at Sanningaruq, at the Noatak R. mouth—Nov. 11 (RU, *fide* TJD).

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Bill Harrington-Tweit

The season began warm, dry, and clear, with nearly continuous light winds from the north through August to mid-September enabling migratory passerines to depart early. Another dry, clear two weeks with continuous northerly winds in early October moved out most of the remaining migrants. In the interim between these two favorable air flows, extraordinary concentrations of passerine migrants were noted September 26–30 in Discovery Park, on the shores of Puget Sound in Seattle. After October 25 heavy rain, one to two inches above normally high levels for fall, hindered field effort, and presumably migration.

There was a notable irruption of Clark's Nutcrackers and Mountain Chickadees probably related to cone crop failure in the Cascades, and with Northern Pygmy-Owls possibly being affected as well.

Two exciting northern visitors, Slaty-backed Gull and Steller's Eider, generated much travel time by eager observers. The eider was accessible and cooperative and was seen by multitudes, the gull was not. Record numbers of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Ruffs shared the same general direction of origin.

Most vagrants this season originated to the east of the Region—Clark's Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Piping Plover, American Avocet, Hudsonian Godwit, Forster's Tern, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Waterthrush, Clay-colored Sparrow, Lark Bunting, and record numbers of Bank Swallows and Harris' Sparrows. Their presence here was at least correlated with the westerly airflow from the generally stationary high pressure zone present for about two months just east of us.

ABBREVIATIONS — V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Major southward movement of Red-throated and Pacific loons was noted Sept. 19 on the Oregon coast (TC, HN) and in the Vancouver, B.C., area (JI). Subsequent high counts were of about 1000 Red-throateds at Reifel I., B.C., Oct. 7 (JI) and 2000+ off Ocean Shores, Wash., Oct. 18 (DP, JEr). The usual few Yellow-billed Loons were found, all Nov. 11–22: singles off Orcas I., San Juan Co., Wash. (John Wingfield), on Beaver Harbour, V.I. (MF, WW, Hue & JoAnne MacKenzie), and on Burrard Inlet, Vancouver, B.C. (fide DK). The 25 Eared Grebes found on Cordova Bay, V.I., Nov. 30 (Vic Goodwill) made a large concentration. High counts elsewhere were of only two per locality, and only two were seen all season in the Vancouver, B.C., area (MP, FW, Allen Poynter). An adult and two half-grown young Western Grebes found Aug. 29+ in a brackish marsh off Reifel I., s.w. B.C., indicated probable nesting in that area (JI). All other known nesting localities in British Columbia are on the s. edge of the interior of the province. Single Clark's Grebes were noted Oct. 13–26 in Victoria, V.I. (†B & MMc et al.) for the first confirmed record for the province, and Oct. 30 at Tillamook, Ore. (†BO).

We received reports of 14 offshore trips this fall, Aug. 16 to Nov. 8, with 6 out of Westport, Wash., to Grays Canyon (TW),



5 from Ucluelet, V.I. (MF), 2 out of Newport, Ore. (HN, SH), and one each from Garibaldi and Manzanita, both Tillamook Co., Ore. (TC). Black-footed Albatross numbers were slightly lower than usual, with the high count of 80 seen off Westport Sept. 13. Northern Fulmars continued last summer's trend of higher than usual numbers, especially off V.I. The high counts were of about 1000 out of Ucluelet Aug. 31, 428 off Westport Sept. 14, and 50+ out of Newport Sept. 17, and a surprising 200+ were seen from the north jetty of the Siuslaw R., Nov. 16 (SH). The 407 Pink-footed Shearwaters off Westport Aug. 23 and 45 off Garibaldi Sept. 7 represented usual numbers for these areas, but only one to three found on 4 trips out of Ucluelet was unusually low. Hordes of Sooties, a few dozen Buller's, 3 scattered sightings of Short-tailed, and 4 of Flesh-footeds were usual numbers for these shearwaters. The 450 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels seen over Grays Canyon Sept. 13 provided the 2nd-highest fall count there in 18 years (TW). Elsewhere, 120 were counted out of Ucluelet Sept. 28, and all other reports were of fewer than 27 birds. A Leach's Storm-Petrel seen Sept. 14 off Westport was later than normal. Two onshore sightings of this species were most surprising: one Oct. 13 over Cowichan Bay, V.I. (†Colin Butt, †Dave Aldcroft) and one in heavy fog Nov. 2 at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (†Fred Bird).

Brown Pelicans moved N this season in their now-usual large numbers. Apparently none reached British Columbia, but 500 were counted along the n. shore of Willapa Bay, Wash., Sept.

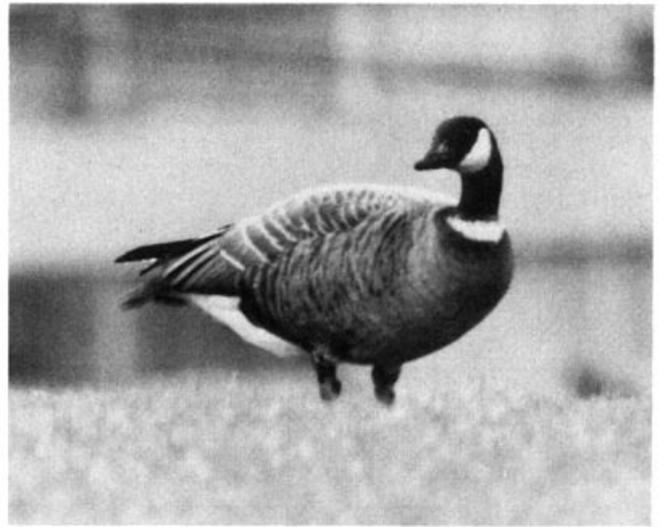
20 (CC), with 10+ still there Oct. 27–31 (PM, WW). Late reports were of 25+ at Ocean Shores, Wash., Nov. 12 (B & GR), and two at Florence, Ore., Nov. 16 (SH). Northward movement of Brandt's Cormorants was marked by the passage of 200/hr off Cannon Beach, Ore., Aug. 31 (DF), 1000 at the n. jetty of the Columbia R., Sept. 20 (CC), 1500 off San Juan I., Wash., Sept. 21 (ML), and 3000+ at Cattle Pt., Oak Bay, V.I., Oct. 3 (B. Gates, fide MMC).

Great Egrets also moved northward, earlier and in greater numbers than usual. Forty-four were at Gardiner, Douglas Co., Ore., Aug. 1 (fide M. Sawyer). One reached a regular wintering area at the mouth of the Palix R., on Willapa Bay, Wash., by Aug. 8 (Evelyn Peaslee), and one was north to Dungeness, Wash., Aug. 12 (TW). Thereafter reports of one to three came from 7 Washington localities, of one to six at 9 Oregon localities, plus 12 on Sauvie I., Ore., Sept. 22 (fide HN), 40 at the mouth of the Siuslaw R., Ore., Aug. 31–Oct. 2 (DF, SH), and 14 at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Nov. 14 (BO). A **Snowy Egret** graced Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash., Nov. 1–8 (†TB, m.ob.) for the 4th record from w. Washington. Another was seen Nov. 19 on the Koksilah R. estuary, near Duncan, for the 2nd record from V.I. (†Barbara & Roy Begg). Following last year's absence of Cattle Egrets, this year one or more were in Delta, B.C., Oct. 10–Nov. 9 (Allan Schutz, GA, JJ), 25 were counted Oct. 30+ at 4 Oregon localities (Florence, Siletz Bay, Sauvie I., and Clatskanie), and at least two were in Pacific and Wahkiakum counties in s.w. Washington in late November (fide Irene Bachhuber). The first Black-crowned Night-Herons arrived Aug. 23 at their Skagit flats, Wash., winter roost site (Tom Madsen, fide Idie Ulsh). One arrived at the roost site on Reifel I., B.C., Sept. 16, and four there Nov. 22+ was the highest count yet for that roost (JJ). An imm. *Plegadis ibis*, presumably a **White-faced Ibis**, was present Nov. 2+ at Beaver Harbour, near Port Hardy, at the n.w. end of V.I. (†WW, ph. MF, m.ob.), for only the 6th or 7th record for British Columbia.

SWANS THROUGH FALCONS — The first six Tundra Swans of the season flew on S over Ocean Shores, Wash., Oct. 18 (DP, JEr). Arrival was otherwise in early November. Trumpeter Swan arrival was marked by seven birds at Reifel I., Delta, B.C., Oct. 30 (JJ) and the high count of 100 was there Nov. 29 (JJ). Single ad. Trumpeters were south to Tillamook, Ore., Nov. 12 (HN) and Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, Ore., Nov. 14 (ph. BO). The Vancouver Island Mute Swan population continues healthy with counts of 50–60 on Cowichan Bay in mid-August (Jerry & Gladys Anderson; WW).

The first Greater White-fronted Geese noted were 16 over Naselle, Pacific Co., Wash. (Alan Richards) and six on Sauvie I., Ore. (Jim Johnson), both Aug. 25. Widespread arrival was as usual in early September, with 70 near Salem Sept. 13 the high count (BB). Near-daily counts of Snow Geese at Reifel I. in the Fraser R. delta of s.w. British Columbia showed 1000 present Oct. 8, 4000 Oct. 12, 12,000 Oct. 17, and the season's high of 15,000 there Oct. 25 (JJ). A first-year Emperor Goose, still a scarce visitor here, was present on Post Office L., n. of Vancouver, Wash., Oct. 27–Nov. 10 (Larry Price; WC) and at nearby Ridgefield N.W.R., Nov. 26 (SS). Another was seen Nov. 23+ at Ankeny N.W.R. near Salem, Ore., (Joe Silvera, †JA). Escaped and now free-flying Barnacle Geese reappeared at Star L., Kent, Wash., in mid-October and at Ankeny N.W.R., Nov. 8 (JA, fide BB). Among the numerous Canada Geese noted this fall were seven "Dusky" Canadas (*occidentalis*) with red neck bands Nov. 16 & 24 on southern V.I. (Alan MacLeod; Brent Diakow), and an "Aleutian" Canada Goose (*leucopareia*) Oct. 22+ in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C. (†BK, ph.). A neck-banded "Cackling" Canada (*minima*) seen Nov. 1 at Yaquina Bay, Ore. (DL) had been banded as an adult on the Yukon R. delta in 1985 and spent last winter at Finley N.W.R., Ore.

Single Am. Black Ducks were found at 3 Victoria locations (J & RSa), and in Beach Grove, Delta, B.C. (BK), in addition to the 12+ regularly found at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (m.ob.). Two imm. ♂ Tufted Ducks were found Oct. 18–Nov. 2



Canada Goose, apparently of the Aleutian race, at Vancouver, B.C., Oct. 26, 1986. Photo/Paul Yorke.

on Green L., Seattle (†EH, BS) and one remained into early December. A ♀ Tufted Duck noted Nov. 9+ at Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C., was believed on the basis of plumage irregularities to be the same female present there last winter (†BK et al.). Both these localities have become regular wintering sites for Tufted Ducks in the last few years. A ♀ King Eider seen closely Oct. 29 off the w. side of Lopez I., San Juan Co., Wash., provided about the 12th state record (†ML). A ♂ **Steller's Eider** was seen Oct. 18 at Pt. Wilson, Port Townsend, Wash., in company with a small group of Harlequin Ducks (Alex & Charlene Ferkovich, ph.). The bird was independently rediscovered Nov. 2 (Hank Vail) and was seen almost daily thereafter for the first record for the state (m.ob., ph. Don Johnson). Migratory gatherings of Barrow's Goldeneyes were of 82 noted Oct. 6 on the sewage ponds at Diamond L., e. Lane Co., Ore. (DF) and 1230 on Capitol L., Olympia, Wash., Nov. 27 (Glen & Wanda Hoge). Numbers gradually decreased at both sites over the next few weeks.

The Turkey Vulture migration was again thoroughly monitored on southern V.I. (fide MMC) and in Ashland, Ore. (MMo). Total counts were 1260+ on V.I. and 841 in Ashland. Interestingly, the time of peak movement on southern V.I. was Sept. 21–26, with 200–335 per day, and Sept. 19–28 in Ashland, 400+ mi to the south. These birds must follow the river valleys westward (which would account for the relatively large numbers for this far north), gather at the coast, and move south in late September. There were 28 Black-shouldered Kites reported this season from 8 Oregon locations and 10 from 4 Washington sites, which is now about normal. Concentrations included 11 adults in the Ashland area (MMo) and seven near the Raymond,



Male Steller's Eider (with two Harlequin Ducks) at Port Townsend, Wash., Oct. 18, 1986. First record for Washington. Photo/Alex Ferkovich, Jr.

Pacific Co., Wash., airport (WW, m ob.) The only immature noted was at Ocean Shores, Wash., Oct. 21 (Mike Carmody). Our rough Accipiter index showed 100 Sharp-shinned reports, 98 Cooper's, and 16 N. Goshawks, for normal numbers. A similar tally for falcons totalled 85 Peregrines (including 14 imm.) and 87 Merlins, likewise normal numbers for the last few years.

SHOREBIRDS — Forty Lesser Golden-Plovers at Ocean Shores, Wash., Aug. 15 (TW) and 50 there Sept. 10 (DH) were the high counts. Separation of the forms *dominica* and *fulva* has received more attention each fall, but is still not enough to sort out the migration patterns. Only 19 plovers were specifically reported as *fulva*, and 30 as *dominica*, and for only half of all these was age reported. Examination of available specimens from the Pacific Northwest indicates that juveniles of both forms are present here, but that almost all adults taken in the fall have been *fulva* (DP). Two Snowy Plovers were north to Dungeness Spit, Wash., July 31, near where six had been seen July 6, but no evidence of breeding was noted (Roger Hoffman). The 250 Semipalmated Plovers seen Aug. 10 along Boundary Bay (BK) furnished a high count for s.w. British Columbia. About 400 Semipalmateds were found Aug. 6 at Tillamook, Ore. (HN) and Aug. 22 near Waldport, Lincoln Co., Ore. (R. Lowe, *vide* HN). On Sept. 8 a **Piping Plover** was noted among the Semipalmateds at Manzanita, Tillamook Co., Ore. (†TC), for the first record for Oregon and the Region. The same bird had apparently been seen there on Sept. 6 by another observer, but not positively identified.

Single Am. Avocets, rare migrants here, were found Sept. 5–Dec. 4 at Iona I. (†MF, m.ob.) and Sept. 6–12 at Jericho Park (†BK, m.ob.). From Sept. 14 to Oct. 4, two were present at Iona I (Mark Gawns, Bill Crins, m.ob.). Two Am. Avocets were also found Sept. 27 on the Nisqually N.W.R. (Marty Hanson) and Aug. 13 on Plat I Res., Douglas Co., Ore. (DI, *vide* SH). The Willet noted Oct. 2–3 at Cattle Pt., Oak Bay (KT, J & RSa), furnished only the 12th record for V.I. Twenty-two Solitary Sandpipers reported were slightly more than usual. An interesting sighting of a Wandering Tattler occurred Aug. 23 about 12 mi up the Hama Hama R. on the s.e. slope of the Olympic Mts., Mason Co., Wash. (Bill Reichert). Two Wandering Tattlers at Ocean Shores Oct. 18 (DP, JEr) and one still there Nov. 12 (B & GR) were very late.

A **Hudsonian Godwit** spotted Sept. 29 with a Marbled Godwit at Grice Bay, Pacific Rim P.P., provided only the 5th record for V.I. (DK). Another Hudsonian was seen Oct. 4–5 at the end of 112th St. on Boundary Bay (†BK, †MF, MB). Bar-tailed Godwits were noted Aug. 8 on Boundary Bay (†MF, GD), for the 4th Vancouver, B.C., record, and Oct. 11 in Tacoma (†TB) for the first Washington record away from the outer coast. Single Marbled Godwits Aug. 27 at Blackie Spit (†David Martin) and Sept. 4–6 at Beach Grove (LK, JI) provided the only reports this season of this scarce migrant in the Vancouver, B.C., area. Elsewhere, 44 were seen on Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Aug. 31 (B & GR, JG) and 70–100 were at nearby Tokeland Oct. 27 to late November (PM; Paul Meehan-Martin, *vide* CC).

Despite the high numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers recorded at Iona I. last July, only a few remained into August. A total of 36 Semipalmateds was reported, with seven of these on Oregon's outer coast, four in the Willamette Valley and on Sauvie I., six around Puget Sound, and none on the Washington outer coast. Three at Reifel I., B.C., Sept. 20 (JI) were the latest. Baird's Sandpipers were widely reported. Fifty at Sauvie I., Ore., Sept. 14 (RSm, *vide* HN) was the high count, and one at Ocean Shores Oct. 18–19 (DP, JEr, B & GR) and three near Waldport, Ore., Oct. 19 (DL, VT) were later than usual. More Sharp-tailed Sandpipers than ever were reported. All were found Sept. 5–Oct. 9, almost all were in the Vancouver, B.C., area, and 14 noted Oct. 4 on Reifel I. provided the high count (MF *et al.*). Single Curlew Sandpipers were found Sept. 15 on Manzanita Beach, Tillamook Co., Ore. (WC, photo) and Sept. 23 at the S.J.C.R. (†HN, JEv), for about the 7th and 8th records for Oregon.

Fourteen Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted, Aug. 22–Sept. 30. This count is back down to the long-term average, following last year's record 66+. At least 21 Ruffs were counted, a new Regional record. Three were at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 6–23, four were in Washington, and the remainder is a conservative estimate of numerous sightings in the Vancouver, B.C., area, mostly by JI at Reifel I. The 400 Long-billed Dowitchers on Sauvie I., Sept. 9 (HN) and 600 on Reifel I., Oct. 4 (MF, WW *et al.*) were high counts. The usual few Red Phalaropes were found with Red-necked Phalaropes on the pelagic trips, and a small crash in late November yielded counts of 150–200 at the Siuslaw R. mouth (SH) and at Coos Bay, Ore. (Craig Muller, *vide* HN).

JAEGERS THROUGH AUKLETS — On an exceptionally clear and calm Aug. 23 an all-time high count of 190 Pomarine Jaegers was noted northwest out of Westport (TW). Trips over the same route the weeks before and after found only 20–35, also slightly above average tallies. Parasitic Jaegers were widely scattered as usual at shoreline locations. Eleven at Leadbetter Pt., Wash., Aug. 31 (B & GR) and seven at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Sept. 22 (Alfred Lau, BK) were the high counts, and one still at West Pt., Seattle, Nov. 8 (DB) furnished the last sighting. Forty-seven Long-tailed Jaegers, a normal number, were recorded in 5 trips out of Westport, and four were seen Sept. 13 out of Newport, Ore. (J. Carlson, *vide* HN). Twenty S. Polar Skuas, an above-average number, were seen on 6 Westport trips, and singles were found out of Garibaldi, Ore., Sept. 7 (TC) and Ucluelet, V.I., Sept. 27 (MF, DK *et al.*).

Fewer than usual Franklin's Gulls were recorded this fall. About 54 birds, all immatures as usual, were represented, with high counts of 14 at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds (EH) and four at Spanish Banks, Vancouver, B.C. (BK). Five sightings in Oregon included one Sept. 17 at the Monmouth sewage ponds (†RG). Single Little Gulls appeared as usual with Bonaparte's Gulls at 8 locations from Nanaimo, V.I. (DK), south to Everett, Wash., Aug. 13–Oct. 27. Each of these sites is within a short flight for the wandering flocks of Bonaparte's, and the only date on which Little Gulls were seen at 2 locations was Oct. 18, when singles were at Everett (DB) and at Ogden Pt., Victoria (MMc *et al.*). However, on Oct. 6 two Little Gulls were seen simultaneously at the Everett ponds (PM) and three were there together Oct. 11 (EH). High counts of Bonaparte's Gulls were of 6000 at Everett Sept. 25 (BS) and 4500 on Boundary Bay, B.C., Oct. 12 (BK). An adult **Common Black-headed Gull** was seen at Dungeness, Wash., Aug. 27 (†Joe Van Os *et al.*), and probably also Oct. 18 (†Stan Smith), for only the 2nd sighting for Washington. The high count of Heermann's Gulls was of 3000+ on the n. shore of Willapa Bay, Wash., Sept. 2 (JB).

An ad. **Slaty-backed Gull** present only Nov. 11–12 near Port Hardy, northern V.I., provided only the 2nd documented record for British Columbia (†MF, ph., †WW, †GA). Force's detailed description included discussion of the slate-gray mantle, black wingtips separated from the mantle on primaries 7 & 8 by white spots, pinkish legs, a magenta orbital ring (at 20m), and a brown-flecked iris appearing dark at a distance but with the pupil clearly visible. In addition to the usual counts of 30–70 Sabine's Gulls on pelagic trips off British Columbia and Washington, single immatures were found Sept. 20–21 on the sewage ponds at Monmouth, Polk Co., Ore. (Lowell Spring, ph. RG, BB) and Sept. 29 on the ponds at Forest Grove, Washington Co., Ore. (Leila Weiland, Pat Muller, *vide* HN).

Flocks of 400 Com. Terns at Port Angeles, Wash., Oct. 12 (PM *et al.*) and of 200 at Ogden Pt., Victoria, Oct. 18 (B & MMc *et al.*) were later than usual. Twenty-eight Arctic Terns off Westport Aug. 30 (TW) provided the high count. Singles were seen onshore at Spanish Bank, Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 31–Sept. 7 (†BK) and on the Forest Grove, Ore., sewage ponds Sept. 29 (†HN, JEv). Single **Forster's Terns** were found Oct. 13–18 at Ogden Pt., Victoria (†KT, ph. TZ, m.ob.) for the first record for V.I., and Nov. 9 at the Everett ponds (†Ian Paulsen, Jeff Palmer *et al.*) for the 6th record for w. Washington. Three Black Terns,



Forster's Tern at Victoria, B.C., Oct. 13, 1986. First record for Vancouver Island. Photo/Tim Zurowski.

a scarce but regular migrant, were at Baskett Slough N.W.R., near Salem, Ore., Sept. 12 (†Stephen Dowland, BB) and four were found in w. Washington Sept. 12–27.

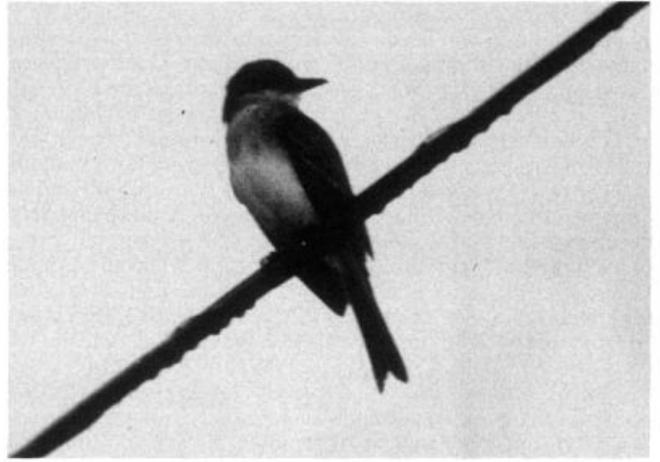
Four **Parakeet Auklets** were briefly observed Sept. 7 about 20 mi out of Garibaldi, Ore. (†TC, †JG), for one of very few recent records from anywhere in the Region. An average of 36 Cassin's Auklets found on each of 9 pelagic trips out of Ucluelet, V.I., and Westport, Wash., during August and September was still low compared to pre-El Niño totals.

OWLS THROUGH SHRIKES — The only Snowy Owls reported were in Delta, B.C., where two seen Nov. 10 (Roy Phillips) were the first. Single N. Hawk-Owls were found in Garibaldi P.P., Aug. 16 at Helm Creek (†John Tabak) and Sept. 20 at Black Tusk (Peter Ballin et al.). These sites are interestingly close and similar to a recent breeding location in Manning P.P. Reports of 33 N. Pygmy-Owls were many more than usual, but no apparent pattern or lowland movement was detected. A Burrowing Owl was found Sept. 15 at the unusual altitude of 6700' on Mt. Hood (Christopher Raithe). There were several reports of Spotted Owls, including an immature found Aug. 15 in the Hoh R. rain forest, Wash. (EH et al.).

A late Com. Nighthawk was found roosting in a backyard in W. Seattle, Wash., Sept. 28–Oct. 3 (Greg Parks, ph.). Sixteen Black Swifts over Plat I Res., near Roseburg, Sept. 19 (DF, DI) were the only ones reported from Oregon, and 30 at Prospect L., Saanich, V.I., Sept. 28 (GC) were the latest. Four large migratory roosts of Vaux's Swifts were noted in Oregon: about 1000 in a chimney in Salem Aug. 28 (Christy Galen, fide BB), 1000–2000 in Waldo Hall, O.S.U. campus, Corvallis, Sept. 14–30 (Angie Cromack et al., fide ME), 1500 in Stayton, Marion Co., Sept. 18 (B. Haight, fide HN), and 5000–7000 in an Armory incinerator chimney in Roseburg Sept. 18–21 (DF, DI).

A ♂ **Black-chinned Hummingbird**, very rare w. of the Cascades, was seen Aug. 1–7 near Lebanon, Ore. (Bill Thackaberry, †M & EE). A young ♂ **Calliope Hummingbird** was netted and examined in hand Aug. 1 at Schrieber's Meadow, Mt. Baker, Wash. (Sara Hiebert) and another Calliope was seen Aug. 2 in Mt. Rainier N.P. (CC), for the only reports of this primarily eastside species.

The last flycatcher sightings were: Olive-sided, Sept. 20 on San Juan I., Wash. (ML); W. Wood-Pewee, Sept. 24 in Eugene (SH); Willow, Sept. 22 in Saanich (GC), and Oct. 2 at Heceta Head, Lane Co., Ore. (SH); Hammond's, Sept. 26–30 at Seattle (SA, DB), and Sept. 30 at Vancouver, B.C. (DK); and Western, Sept. 27 at Seattle (SA), Sept. 28 at Metchosin, V.I. (AM, RSA), and Oct. 1 at Portland (DI). A probable Dusky Flycatcher carefully described Sept. 26–27 in Seattle was the latest ever of few w. Washington records (†SA). Single Say's Phoebes strayed west to the Montlake fill, Seattle, Sept. 18 (†DB) and Delta, B.C., Sept. 24 (WW). A Tropical Kingbird was observed Oct.



Tropical Kingbird at Nehalem Meadows, Ore., Nov. 11, 1986. Photo/Robert O'Brien.

19 at Yaquina Bay, Ore. (RSm, fide HN). Two were found Nov. 4–11 farther north at the Nehalem sewage ponds (†HN, JEv, ph. BO, m.ob.) and one stayed there through Nov. 15. Another Tropical Kingbird was noted Nov. 16 in Tokeland, Pacific Co., Wash. (†EH, Bob Morse) for the 6th record for Washington, all in late fall.

Sightings of 97 Bank Swallows at 9 locations in the Vancouver, B.C., area Aug. 5–Sept. 23 (DS, FW et al.) were many more than usual. Five were seen on V.I. and one was in Westport, Wash., Aug. 22 (TW, DP). Evidence of fall movement of Steller's Jays was provided by a flock of 45 that flew across Saanich Inlet, V.I., Sept. 5 (Glen Smith, Ron Jakimchuk) and a count of 85 moving south along the Seattle shoreline Sept. 7 (RT). Nineteen Clark's Nutcrackers were reported from sites clearly outside breeding areas, for the largest movement noted since October 1979. Eleven of these birds were found Oct. 10–27, from Skidegate, Queen Charlotte I., Gabriola I., Saltspring I., Richmond, and Victoria to Cape Flattery, Leadbetter Pt., and Toledo, Oregon. Five others were seen Sept. 19+ on Mary's Peak in the Oregon Coast Range w. of Corvallis, where they do not nest (David Marshall, m.ob.). Likewise, the 68+ Mountain Chickadees at lowland sites during October–November constituted a major invasion. High counts were of 25 in Discovery Park, Seattle, Nov. 8 (DH) and 11 on Reifel I., B.C., Oct. 11 (JL, Leona Haggert). Conifer cone crop reports for Washington indicated very little production during 1986, following the bumper harvest of 1985 (CC).

Two Bohemian Waxwings were found Oct. 11 at 5200' in the Washington Cascades at Chiwaukum L., 10 mi e. of Stevens Pass, Chelan Co. (Mark Breuninger). This is south of the generally suspected breeding areas. The first N. Shrikes arrived on schedule Oct. 4 in Vancouver, B.C. (MF, GD), Oct. 6 in Seattle (DB), and Oct. 13 at Tillamook, Ore. (B. Shelmerdine, fide HN). A **Loggerhead Shrike** was seen Nov. 27 at Long Beach, Pacific Co., for about the 10th record for w. Washington, and the first ever in the fall (†BO).

VIREOS THROUGH GROSBEAKS — A Solitary Vireo found Oct. 12 at Cape Blanco, Ore. (Paul Sullivan), was the latest of only two seen in October. The last Red-eyed Vireos reported were two on Reifel I., B.C., Aug. 30 (JJ) and one in Goldstream P.P., V.I., Sept. 2 (Dave Fraser). A ♂ Nashville Warbler seen Nov. 19 along the S. Umpqua R. near Canyonville, Ore., was late and possibly wintering (Merle & Anne Archie). The last Yellow Warblers were seen Sept. 26 in Seattle (SA), Sept. 30 in Vancouver, B.C. (GA, DK), and Oct. 2 at Heceta Head, Lane Co., Ore. (SH). A very well-described **Pine Warbler** was seen Oct. 23 just south of Harbor, s. Curry Co., Ore. (†Alan Barron). Roughly summarizing the description, the bird had brownish upperparts with faint olive on the head and back,

whitish tailspots, black tarsi, two prominent wingbars, a pale eyebrow line, a small pale neck patch, and ashy-white underparts with no streaking. Seventeen Palm Warblers were noted, slightly more than usual. One at Amphitrite Pt., near Ucluelet, V.I., Sept. 27 (MB) was unusually far north. One other was on southern V.I., three were on the Washington coast, and 10 on the Oregon coast. In addition, singles were found inland at 5500' near Packwood, Lewis Co., Wash., Oct. 1 (†GR) and in Eugene, Ore., Nov. 1 (Paul Sherrell, Dennis Arendt, *vide* SH). Seven sightings of N. Waterthrushes repeated last fall's unprecedented movement. Singles Aug. 18 at Alaksen N.W.A., Delta (DS, FW) and Reifel I. (JI, FW) were the first. Two were seen Aug. 21–23 in Jericho Park, Vancouver, B.C. (†DS, MP) and one was (still?) there Sept. 21 (FW, Wayne Diakow). Singles Aug. 26–27 in Bellingham, Wash. (TW) and Sept. 8 in Seattle (†RT) provided the 10th & 11th records for w. Washington; all but one have been in fall and early winter.

A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was noted Nov. 9 at Comber's Beach, Pacific Rim P.P. (LK, Mark Wynja, †MF *et al.*) for the 2nd record for V.I. A female or imm. **Lark Bunting** was seen closely on Tatoosh I., at the n.w. tip of Clallam Co., Wash., Sept. 17–18 (†Tim Wootton, Bob Paine, Ladd Johnson) for the 5th state and 2nd fall record. The previous fall record was also at Cape Flattery Sept. 2, 1973 (AB 28:97). Another female or imm. Lark Bunting was found Sept. 28–30 in Jericho Park, Vancouver, B.C. (Bruce MacDonald, †WW, †Dick Cannings, †MF, *m.ob.*) for the 3rd Vancouver area record. A Grasshopper Sparrow, rare w. of the Cascades, was seen Sept. 19 at Plat I Res., near Roseburg, Ore. (DF, DI).

A Fox Sparrow at the Montlake fill, Seattle, Aug. 31 (KB) was an early arrival in the Puget Sound lowlands. Only two Swamp Sparrows, still rare winter visitors here, were found, and both were immatures. One was at Florence, Ore., Oct. 19 (†SH, Alan Contreras) and the other was near Smith Cr., w. of Raymond, Pacific Co., Wash., Oct. 31 (†WW) for only the 11th record for the state. Twenty-four White-throated Sparrows were seen, a normal number, in as many locations and spread throughout the reporting areas of the Region. Eighteen Harris'

Sparrows were more than twice as many in previous years. Two were in Oregon, three in Washington, three on V.I., and a conservatively estimated 10 individuals in the Vancouver, B.C., area. The peak of the Lapland Longspur migration was marked Sept. 21 by flocks of 30 at Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash. (KB), and 40+ on Grand Meadow, Indian Heaven Wilderness, Skamania Co., Wash. (SS).

A **Common Grackle** sighted Sept. 27–30 in C. Saanich provided the first record for southern V.I. (KT, Charles Harper, *ph. TZ, m.ob.*). Small groups of up to 30 Red Crossbills were noted on the Oregon coast and in the lowland areas of w. Washington, V.I., and s.w. mainland British Columbia. Pairs were gathering nest material and singing Aug. 30 and Sept. 3 at the S.J.C.R. and Tillamook, Ore. (DL, David Hoffman) and feeding broods Oct. 18 in the Washington San Juan Is. (ML). Both Red Crossbills and Pine Siskins were absent from the s. Cascades of Washington this fall (CC). Five Com. Redpolls seen Nov. 4 on Reifel I., B.C. (JI), furnished the only report of this irregular winter visitor. Larger numbers than usual of Evening Grosbeaks were noted this fall in the lowlands of w. Oregon (*vide* HN), particularly in the Medford-Ashland area during September (MMo).

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MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

**Stephen F. Bailey, Timothy D. Manolis,
Alan D. Barron, and Richard A. Erickson**

The first one-half of the period was dominated by coastal fog, which depressed the counts of migrating raptors at Pt. Diablo. October and November were dry.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory continues to provide extremely valuable reports from Palomarin and especially Southeast Farallon Island, without which our seasonal summaries would be quite incomplete. The authors thank Kurt F. Campbell for extensive data handling and editorial contributions.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.V. = Central Valley; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area; *ph.* = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized* names refer to counties. All of the many records from Palomarin and S.E. Farallon I. (hereafter F.I.) should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (hereafter P.R.B.O.). References to the *Gull* refer to Golden Gate Audubon Society's publication, whose observations column is currently written by Helen A. Green. Most such birds were originally reported to Joseph Morlan.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS — Migrant loons were detected early, with three Commons passing Pt. Pinos, Monterey, Sept. 6, and two Red-throateds, six Pacifics, and three Commons migrating at Santa Cruz Sept. 10 (all DLSu). The flight was very intense at Santa Cruz Nov. 26, as 800 Red-throateds and 5100 Pacifics passed in one hour (DLSu). Again an early Pacific Loon visited L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Aug. 19–31 (RE), and another at Bridgeport Res., Mono, Oct. 31 (DS, SJ) was also far inland. Crescent City Harbor attracted *Del Norte's* first Yellow-billed Loon Oct. 28–30 (L. Jonsson, †ADB, †GSL, †LPL *et al.*). Sixty Horned Grebes in Lake Oct. 24 (JRW) was a large inland concentration. As in 1983, Eared Grebes nested at Moffett Field, Santa Clara, producing at least 15 young (*m.ob.*). Both Western and Clark's grebes were "still widespread and abundant in the Great Basin/Modoc Plateau region" Oct. 31–Nov. 4, with "many adults still feeding ½ to ¾ adult-sized young" (SJ, DS). Repeated surveys of S.F. Bay in Marin, Alameda, and Contra Costa found 8.2% Clark's Grebes among *Aechmophorus* identified this fall (DDK).

Unseasonal single Black-footed Albatross sightings were offshore Monterey Oct. 11 to Nov. 6 (SFB, DLSh). One Laysan Albatross was off Monterey Nov. 30 (PhR). Up to 25 N. Fulmars per day were offshore from Monterey to Humboldt August to

October before numbers jumped to 100 beyond Cordell Bank Nov. 1 (SFB) and 130 offshore Monterey Nov. 6 (DLSh). Flesh-footed Shearwaters produced an unprecedented number of sightings. One was offshore Humboldt Bay Sept. 14 (NEC), one to three were offshore Monterey on 9 boat trips Sept. 20 to Nov. 21 (GMcC, DLSh, m.ob.), and one to four were at and beyond Cordell Bank Oct. 19 to Nov. 2 (KFC, SFB, m.ob.). A light-morph **Wedge-tailed Shearwater** (*Puffinus pacificus*) following a boat 5 mi. w. of Pt. Pinos Aug. 31 established the first record north of Mexico (ph. RS et al.). This tropical bird would have been less surprising had it occurred during an "El Niño" year. Buller's Shearwaters were exceptionally abundant, exemplified by the peak 2000 offshore Monterey Oct. 2 (PJM, DLSh). Unprecedented numbers could be seen from shore around Monterey Bay, including 200 in 30 minutes passing Pt. Pinos Sept. 21 (DR, GMcC). At Cordell Bank, 670 on Nov. 2 (DLSh) marked the highest count. The last Buller's was seen Nov. 21 offshore Monterey (DLSh). Short-tailed Shearwaters appeared mostly as singles beginning in mid-September, but 30 were estimated offshore Monterey Oct. 23 and 44 were counted there Nov. 6 (both DLSh). Small numbers of Black-vented Shearwaters appeared from Monterey to San Mateo beginning Sept. 12 (DLSh, DLSu et al.).

One Wilson's Storm-Petrel was in Monterey Bay, Monterey & Santa Cruz Aug. 31–Oct. 26 (RS, DLSh, †RAE), with two seen there Oct. 12 (†JML, †DLSu). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel was a surprise in the Monterey Bay storm-petrel flock Sept. 25 & 27 (DLSh), and one was by itself there Oct. 12 (DLSu). Single Fork-tailed in the Cordell Bank/F.I. area Oct. 12 to Nov. 2 (DLSh, T. Johnson) were topped by 16 seen passing Pt. Pinos during high winds Nov. 7 (DR). Two Least Storm-Petrels were detected in the Monterey Bay storm-petrel flock Oct. 5–12 (RS, DLSh, T. H. Koundakjian).

An imm. Brown Pelican on L. Kaweah Sept. 30 to Oct. 9 represented the first record for Tulare (ph. LLN). Brown Pelican flocks in Santa Cruz averaged 75–79% immatures (DLSu), presumably reflecting consecutive years of good reproduction south of the Region. Maximum Brown Pelican counts on Ano Nuevo I., San Mateo, were 3000 Oct. 30 and 2400 Nov. 29 (GJS).

HERONS THROUGH DUCKS — A good inland concentrations of 212 Great Egrets was at Patterson sewage ponds, Stanislaus, Nov. 15 (HMR). Four Little Blue Heron records were all from Santa Clara, including an unseasonal bird Nov. 26 in



Mountain View (M. Moyer) as well as a calico bird at Palo Alto Baylands Sept. 17 to end of period (TAC, fide PMB). An imm. Green-backed Heron was at 7000 ft elevation at June L., Mono Oct. 30 (S, DS). White-faced Ibis were reported in average numbers at the Region's breeding areas but a single immature in the Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt, Sept. 27 (†F)B furnished the only coastal report.

An early Tundra Swan was at L. Almanor, Plumas, Aug. 17 (PDG). A Greater White-fronted Goose at F.I., Sept. 25 provided a 2nd island record. Snow Geese are uncommon on the coast, and continue to be outnumbered by Ross' Geese there in fall, but 10 Snows, mostly singles, were reported from Monterey to Del Norte. Sixteen Ross' Geese found coastally included 11 birds 5 mi n.w. of Tomales Pt., Marin, Nov. 1 (SFB, m.ob.). A



Establishing the first record north of Mexico, this light-morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater was observed five miles west of Point Pinos, California, on August 31, 1986. Photo/Rich Stallcup.

dark morph Ross' Goose was well described at Gray Lodge W.M.A., Sutter, Nov. 23 (†DDK). The only Emperor Goose recorded was an immature at Tule Lake N.W.R., Oct. 19 to early November (†MR, m.ob.). This species is almost annual in the Klamath Basin. An ad. Barnacle Goose near Colusa Nov. 22 through the period (DES) was "probably the same bird I saw with Cacklers in s.w. Alaska in October" (BED) and may well be the same individual tracked through at least Oregon and California from November 1984 to April 1985 (AB 39:345). The bird is likely an escapee, but the record is currently in circulation through the C.B.R.C.

A Gadwall at F.I., Aug. 17-21 furnished the 3rd island record, the first since 1969. All but 2 of about 20 Eur. Wigeon reports were coastal. A ♂ Ring-necked x Tufted Duck at Stockton sewage ponds, San Joaquin, Nov. 12 (†DGY) was an interesting find. A ♀ Tufted Duck was at the Smith R. mouth, Nov. 16 (†ADB, †GSL *et al.*) for a first Del Norte record. A ♀ King Eider at Crescent City Harbor, Nov. 21 through the period (BMU, †ADB, †GSL, †LPL, ph. JAR, m.ob.) was Del Norte's 2nd. A total of up to 15 Harlequin Ducks was reported coastally south to Monterey, while at the more regular Pt. Saint George, Del Norte, locality, a state high of 33 was seen Oct. 26 (ADB). At least six Oldsquaws were reported coastally, which is about average. A White-winged Scoter at the Lodi sewage ponds Nov. 16 (TR) furnished "a first San Joaquin record" (DGY). A Barrow's Goldeneye at Paicines Res., San Benito, Oct. 10 (†KVV) was a first for that county. Forty Hooded Mergansers were at L. Earl, Del Norte, Nov. 15 (GSL, RLeV, PFS, LD), while a single Hooded was at the Tracy sewage ponds, San Joaquin, Nov. 28 & 29 (TR, DGY) for a rare C.V. floor record. An interesting description of a ♂ Hooded Merganser hybrid at L. Merritt, Alameda, Nov. 28 (ALE, GFB, L.A. Rhodes) suggested a Com. Goldeneye was the other parent. This combination has been reported in the literature.

RAPTORS — Despite prevalent fog, increased coverage of the raptor migration at Pt. Diablo, Marin, recorded new high counts of six species (Table 1). Single Bald Eagles were early at Camanche Res., San Joaquin, Aug. 16 (DGY) and at Sequoia L., Fresno, Sept. 14 (RHG). Three Red-shouldered Hawks were n to Siskiyou Sept. 9 to Nov. 5 (RE, MR), while singles were

e to Mono L., Oct. 29 and Janesville, Lassen, Nov. 1-27 (both DS, SJ). The 26 Broad-winged Hawks that passed Pt. Diablo did so Sept. 24 to Oct. 20 (CLF, m.ob.). Other Broad-winged Hawks visited Santa Cruz Sept. 29 (DLSu) and Palo Alto Oct. 31 (†DLSu), the latter a first for Santa Clara. A flock of 25 Swainson's Hawks in San Joaquin Aug. 10 was a welcome sight (PLN, P. Gottschling). Eight Ferruginous Hawks Oct. 4 to Nov. 11 made a high total for Humboldt, where they are rare (JCS *et al.*). The flight of Rough-legged Hawks into central California was light, but one was early for the coast Oct. 19 at Half Moon Bay, San Mateo (GJS). On F.I., Merlins tied last year's record total of 11, while the 51 that passed Pt. Diablo were astounding considering the species' former rarity at this lookout. The period's first Merlin landed at Oakland Airport, Alameda, Sept. 3 (LRF, *fide* HAG).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — An imm. **Purple Gallinule** braved passing joggers, dogs, and hordes of gawking birders at L. Elizabeth in Fremont's Central Park, Alameda, Oct. 17-27 (†AlH, †m.ob.). Although this species is a well-known wanderer, the nearest previous records come from Utah, s Nevada, Arizona, and San Diego (an immature in October 1961—California's only other record).

The races of Lesser Golden-Plover were again reported in about equal numbers from the interior: *dominica* at L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Sept. 11-17 (RE, MR); returning ad. *fulva* at Lodi sewage ponds Oct. 11+ and a *dominica* there Oct. 11-Nov. 16 (both JML, DGY); up to five of each race at the Modesto sewage ponds after Aug. 17 (ERC, HMR); and a bird of unknown race in the Tulare L. basin, Kings, Oct. 24 (RHG, GWG). Approximately 100 birds reported along the coast were about equally divided between *dominica*, *fulva*, and unknown. Some birds appear to have been reported differently by different observers, especially later in the season when molting *fulva* may not appear quite as bright as observers had come to expect from fresh juveniles. Coastal Mountain Plovers were at the Salinas R. mouth Oct. 3 (PJM) and Pt. Reyes Nov. 11 (*fide* HAG). National attention centered around a juv. **Eurasian Dotterel** at Pt. Reyes Sept. 6-9 (†DAH, †DDK, ph. †m.ob.). Two early September records from Washington and one at F.I., Sept. 12-20, 1974, were the only previous North American records outside of Alaska.

Santa Clara's 2nd Black Oystercatcher was at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin Aug. 20 (DLSu). A Lesser Yellowlegs at Mt. Meadow Res., Lassen, Aug. 25 (DCR) provided one of few reports from the mountains of the Region. Twelve Solitary Sandpipers along the coast was a good showing. The most significant of eight additional inland birds were one at Big L., Shasta, Sept. 14 (RE), and the first Stanislaus records, both at the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 10 and Oct. 5 (ph. ERC, HMR). Another county first was the Wandering Tattler at the Modesto ponds Sept. 7-22 (ph. †ERC, †HMR).

Significant Red Knot reports were of two adults at the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 12 with another there Aug. 15 (Stanislaus's first—ph. ERC, HMR), a juvenile at Mono L., Aug. 29-30 (DS, GMcC), and a record high Monterey count of 80 juveniles at the Salinas R. mouth Sept. 6 (DR). Approximately 40 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, all juveniles and nearly all along the coast. Inland birds were one at Mono L., Aug. 29-31 (DS, HAG), up to three at the Woodland Sugar Ponds, Yolo, Aug. 8-12 (†MJL, JML), two at the Lodi sewage ponds in the period Aug. 7-21 (DGY), and one at the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 6 (ph. †ERC). One at Martinez Oct. 2 (RJR) was Contra Costa's first, and eight at the Salinas R. mouth Aug. 13 (†DLSu) furnished the high count. A Pectoral Sandpiper in Fremont Dec. 1 (†AlH) was very late. Five Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were found: Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 11-14 (BHG, †m.ob.); Moss Landing Sept. 21-27 (†GMcC, ph. DR, m.ob.), Sunnyvale sewage ponds Sept. 30 (†PLN); and up to two at Limantour Estero, Marin, Oct. 3-5 (ALE *et al.*). The summering Dunlin remained in Arcata to Aug. 31 (FJB). Only one Stilt Sandpiper was found, a juvenile at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin,

Table 1. Five year comparison of fall migration raptor counts at Pt. Diablo

(Carter L. Faust, m.ob.)
(— = not recorded or not reported)

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
count days	50	65	94	99	120
count hours	225	285	400	403	536
Turkey Vulture	—	590	900	303	385
Osprey	15	16	45	51	66
Black-shouldered Kite	1	9	51	28	15
Bald Eagle	2	0	0	2	0
Northern Harrier	—	137	273	171	158
Sharp-shinned Hawk	—	883	3245	2890	1879
Cooper's Hawk	—	781	2477	2298	1068
Northern Goshawk	1	2	1	2	2
Accipiter sp.	—	—	—	589	459
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	67	110	104	122
Broad-winged Hawk	16	26	9	45	26
Swainson's Hawk	1	0	0	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	—	1004	2500	2683	3263
Ferruginous Hawk	2	6	7	10	13
Rough-legged Hawk	12	1	17	14	6
Golden Eagle	3	7	13	11	18
American Kestrel	—	282	336	244	291
Merlin	5	3	11	16	51
Peregrine Falcon	4	4	18	13	10
Prairie Falcon	1	4	6	4	3
total (incl. unident.)	—	4150	10823	9516	8063



Two more views of the Eurasian Dotterel on Point Reyes, Sept. 6–9, 1986. Note the small head and bill, prominent pale supercilium,

Sept. 24–27 (†DDK, RS et al.). The season's four Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at L. Talawa, Del Norte, Aug. 17 (JAR, ADB), the Salinas sewage ponds Aug. 28–Sept. 2 (two—†PJM, †m.ob.), and Asilomar Beach, Monterey, Sept. 6–8 (SHa, †DR et al.). It was the best fall on record for Ruffs, with at least 13 found along the coast Aug. 30–Nov. 11 (†m.ob.). There were six in Humboldt, one to two in Marin, one in Santa Cruz, and five in Monterey. At Mono L., 30+ juv. Short-billed Dowitchers Aug. 29 were apparently not unexpected as "in fall this species is as common (perhaps more common) as the Long-billed Dowitcher" there (DS). Impressive high counts of Red Phalaropes at Cordell Bank, Marin, were of 6000 Oct. 12 and 5650 Nov. 2 (DLSH, RS).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Long-tailed Jaegers were found on 8 trips well offshore Monterey Aug. 31 to Oct. 5 (DLSH, m.ob.), with a high of 12 Sept. 12 (DR et al.). Meanwhile, two were at Cordell Bank Sept. 14 (DLSH) and three were offshore Humboldt Bay Sept. 20 (SWH et al.). South Polar Skuas produced an excellent flight. Offshore Monterey, this species appeared on 15 trips Aug. 17–Oct. 18, with a high of six Sept. 7 (DLSH, m.ob.). Five Cordell Bank trips Sept. 14–Nov. 1 included the peak of nine Oct. 17 (KFC, fide HAG). Singles were near F.I., Sept. 14 and Oct. 26 (T. Johnson, fide HAG), and two were offshore Humboldt Bay Sept. 20 (SWH).

Five Franklin's Gulls were all immatures at sewage ponds: Salinas Aug. 18–28 (BGM et al.), Hollister Oct. 10 (first for San Benito—†KVV, BHG), Modesto Oct. 26–Nov. 11 (first for Stanislaus—ph. ERC, HMR), and Stockton Oct. 28–Nov. 19 plus another Nov. 7 (both DGY). Our Little Gulls were also all at sewage ponds, beginning with a bird molting from first-summer to 2nd-winter plumage at Arcata, July 31 to Sept. 14 (PFS, †RAE, †LPL, m.ob.). The returning ad. Little Gull at Stockton Oct. 14+ was expected, but a 2nd adult there Nov. 5+ (KGH fide Gull; DGY) provided the first multiple sighting during fall. An adult at Lodi Nov. 16–28 (DGY, †MJL) was considered one of the same birds, as only one was at Stockton between those dates. The adult Com. Black-headed Gull that spent 8 consecutive winters at the Stockton sewage ponds failed to return this fall; "It will be missed." (DGY). Regular surveys of Heermann's Gulls in Santa Cruz found the percentage of immatures to decrease steadily from 17% on Aug. 7 to 0.8% on Oct. 4 (DLSu). A Thayer's Gull molting from 2nd-summer to 3rd-winter plumage at Bolinas Aug. 5–11 (SNGH, SWW) was a rare summer find. Modesto sewage ponds added two more gulls to the Stanislaus list. One Thayer's and two Glaucous-winged gulls were identified Nov. 9 (ph. †ERC), and by Nov. 30 the numbers were reversed (ERC, †HMR, DGY, RAE). The period's only Glaucous Gull was an immature at American R., Sacramento, Nov. 29 (MJL). Counts of one to five Black-legged Kit-



and a narrow pale band across the chest. Photos/Rick Hallowell.

tiwakes were obtained Nov. 1+ over the length of the Region and included at least three adults. Sabine's Gulls were seen on most pelagic trips Aug. 2 to Nov. 1, with a peak of 430 over Bodega Canyon, Sonoma, Oct. 12 (RS, DLSH). Two strayed inland to sewage ponds, an adult at Davis Sept. 12 (fide Gull) and a juvenile at Stockton Sept. 19 (DGY). Very late Sabine's Gulls were a juvenile at Pt. Pinos Nov. 9–10 (L. Jonsson), and adults at Monterey Nov. 10 and Pacific Grove Nov. 21 (both BW).

A juv. Com. Tern brought yet another first Stanislaus record to Modesto sewage ponds Sept. 22–23 (ph. ERC, HMR). Of 700 Arctic Terns offshore Sonoma & Marin Sept. 14, 500 were in one flock only 2 mi s.w. of Bodega Head (DLSH). The levees e. of Crittenden Marsh, Mountain View, hosted the only known major post-breeding concentration of Least Terns, at least Aug. 20–Sept. 7 (m.ob.). The only coastal migrant that was seen foraged at Santa Cruz Sept. 3 (DLSu). Three or four coastward Black Terns included one of the latest Regional records, Oct. 30 at Scott Cr. mouth, Santa Cruz (GJS, RAE). The pair of ad. Black Skimmers was last seen, with one immature, on Oct. 12 at the Tulare L. basin, Kings (RHG, GWG).

A starving juv. Com. Murre arrived at the mouth of Artesian Slough, Santa Clara, Aug. 24 (K. Hobson). Pigeon Guillemots produced no young this year in Santa Cruz (DLSu), like the failure at F.I. but unlike the success in Monterey. A pair of ad. Xantus' Murrelets guarding a fledgling 4 mi w. of Pt. Joe, Monterey, Aug. 8 (DLSH, †DLSu) provided strong evidence of the Regional nesting hypothesized last season. Many Xantus'/Craveri's murrelets went unidentified, but up to four Xantus' and 10 Craveri's were listed in Monterey waters Aug. 9 to Sept. 27 (DLSH, m.ob.). At Cordell Bank, four Xantus' Sept. 14 (DLSH) preceded eight Xantus' and Marin's first Craveri's Oct. 12 (RS, DLSH). Far north were four Xantus' Murrelets offshore Humboldt Bay Sept. 20 (SWH et al.). Finally, one Xantus' and two Craveri's flew past Pt. Pinos during high winds Nov. 7 (†DR). An Ancient Murrelet in breeding plumage s.w. of Bodega Head Sept. 14 was early (JLD, DLSH). Santa Clara's "bird of the year" was a Cassin's Auklet on Shoreline L., Sept. 9 (†DLSu, †PLN, †DCu). Unexpectedly, Tufted Puffins were widely scattered from Humboldt to Monterey.

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Unprecedented in one fall were two Black-billed Cuckoos, the Region's 6th (and first inland) at Mono Co. Park Aug. 29 (†DS), and another at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey, Oct. 2–4 (†DGe, †DR, †MJL et al.). A Barred Owl roosting in trees at Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 28–Dec. 6, furnished a Regional first away from the n. coastal ranges, indicating a possible new direction for the species' expansion into California (Lynn McCullough, ph. RE, m.ob.).

A Com. Nighthawk at Santa Cruz Oct. 14 (†DLSu) set one of the latest records for the Region. A Com. Poorwill found dying at Gasquet Sept. 21 (MM, fide ADB; *Humboldt State Univ.) provided Del Norte's 3rd record. Most astounding was California's first **Chuck-will's-widow**, found "disabled" in a Half Moon Bay, San Mateo, road Oct. 16. Efforts to recuperate the sick bird, a female, failed Oct. 20. There appear to be no previous reports w. of central Texas (W. Levett, fide SFB, *C.A.S.).

An amazing report of two **Broad-billed Hummingbirds** at a Santa Cruz feeder Aug. 18 (†DLSu) was but the tip of the iceberg in a rather bizarre tale. A female, unreported to us, was first noticed Oct. 5–Nov. 8, 1985, returning June 15–August 1986 (I. Britton). Another bird had been suspected, but was only identified (judged an imm. male, †DLSu) Aug. 18. This report raises some questions as to the origins of these birds that C.B.R.C. review will have to try to sort out. Then, a 3rd Broad-billed Hummingbird was found, an ad. male briefly noted at Ano Nuevo S.P., Oct. 19 (†MCM). Following close on last fall's island first, an imm. ♀ **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** visited F.I., Sept. 12 (†PP) for a 3rd state and Regional record. Two tail feathers (*C.A.S.) and "double-checked" measurements were taken. Another 2nd F.I. record was provided by a Black-chinned Hummingbird Sept. 2–4. Notable among the late-lingering hummingbirds reported were a ♂ *Selasphorus* in Stockton Nov. 24 to the end of the period (DGY et al.) and F.I.'s 6th Calliope Hummingbird Oct. 5–9.

Lewis' Woodpeckers were widely reported. A total of 200+ flew past Pt. Diablo September to November (CLF), and reports of one to two were scattered along the coast from Humboldt to San Mateo. Single Red-naped Sapsuckers at Jasper Ridge, Santa Clara, Oct. 5 (fide Gull) and Mines Rd., Alameda, Nov. 2–22 (JMD, fide †ALE) were apparently returning winterers from last year.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS — A 3rd F.I. and state report of **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was of a bird mist-netted and watched Sept. 3–5 (†PP, details to C.B.R.C.). Reports of seven Least Flycatchers (four from Pt. Reyes, three from F.I.) Sept. 12–Oct. 23, followed the recent pattern. Eight Hammond's Flycatchers noted Sept. 18–Oct. 28 were regarded as "considerably above average" for F.I. (fide PH); four additional reports west of the Sierras (three coastal, one from the C.V.) were about twice the recent average. Nesting of W. Flycatcher in San Joaquin has never been confirmed, but was suggested by a pair feeding a fledged cowbird at Comanche Res., Aug. 16 (DGY).

The only E. Phoebe reports were the F.I. 6th and 7th, Oct. 19 and Nov. 20. Of 13–14 coastal Tropical Kingbird reports Sept. 28–Nov. 20, one in Richmond, Contra Costa, Nov. 11–20 (T. Koundakjian, fide Gull) would be a county first if documented. Unusual along the coast, a Cassin's Kingbird was near Butano S.P., Nov. 18–21 (fide Gull). Four E. Kingbirds, at Zmudowski State Beach, Monterey, Aug. 15–18 (†MDa, †DLSu, ph. RFT), Mono Co. Park Aug. 30 (†GMcC, †MJL), Laguna Cr. marsh, Santa Cruz, Sept. 2 (DGe), and Pt. Reyes Sept. 7 (†JML et al.), were a bit above the recent average.

Clark's Nutcrackers moved W in numbers unrivaled since 1972–1973. At least six were seen at various spots between 5000–6000 ft elevation in the Sierra N.F., Fresno, Sept. 2 to mid-September (JCL), described as "widespread early downslope movement." A 6th Butte record came from Summit L., Sept. 11 (JHS), and by October birds had reached the coast, with 5 reports from Marin Oct. 4–Nov. 3. The incursion extended as far west as F.I., with a 4th island record logged Oct. 8–12, and one was south to Jack's Peak, Monterey, from before Nov. 1 to the end of the period (J. Taylor, †DR). Common Ravens continued to increase in San Mateo as evidenced by a flock of 117+ along Upper Pescadero Rd., Oct. 31 (DLSu).

A good flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was noted along the central coast (135+ reported from Marin to Monterey) and in the C.V. (33+ from Butte to Stanislaus). The F.I. had one as early as Aug. 4, but first arrival dates at most other locations



Sedge Wren at Fort Funston, San Francisco, Cal., Oct. 24, 1986. Photo/Stephen F. Bailey.

fell in the period Aug. 22–29. Brown Creepers joined the downslope movement. Twenty-two between Oct. 4 and Nov. 1 were "significantly above average" for F.I. (fide PH), at least three were found in Sacramento Oct. 11–Nov. 27 (TDM et al.), and it was "a better than normal fall for them" in San Joaquin (DGY).

The 3rd state and Regional record of **Sedge Wren** was furnished by a bird found skulking in ice plants and bush lupines at Ft. Funston, San Francisco Oct. 23–24 (†DDK, ph. †SFB, †JLD, †DAH, †JM et al.).

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS — Unlike other montane species on the move this fall, Golden-crowned Kinglets drew comment only from the C.V., where in "good numbers" in San Joaquin (DGY) and frequently encountered in Sacramento and Yolo (TDM). Mountain Bluebirds also made down-mountain news. Impressive were 184 in Del Puerto Canyon, Stanislaus, Nov. 15 (HMR, SLR) and 50–70 near Patterson Pass, Alameda Nov. 15–22 (fide Gull). Seven birds found coastally included an "above average" four on F.I., Oct. 12–Nov. 15, three on the latter date, and one on Cape Mendocino, Humboldt, Nov. 1 (SDF). Two Townsend's Solitaires were at F.I., Oct. 4, but no other extralimnals were reported. A 9th F.I. Gray-cheeked Thrush was observed briefly Sept. 26 (†PP, †SNGH). This was the Region's first since 1979, but at a spot where 7 of 9 prior fall records have been logged, Sept. 12–Oct. 10. A Sage Thrasher at Crescent City Nov. 1 (MR, ADB et al.) was late that far north along the coast.

Motacillids made quite a splash coastally. A **Yellow Wagtail** was reported at Crescent City Sept. 12 (†ADB, details to C.B.R.C.) for Del Norte's first and the Region's 5th, all on the outer coast Sept. 12–19. **Red-throated Pipits** were more widely reported than ever in one fall. The F.I. had its 3rd Sept. 24–27 (†PP), one to two were on Pt. Reyes Oct. 6–11 (†DDK, †RAE, †DAH, m.ob.), and Monterey's 2nd was at Moss Landing Oct. 13–18 (JMD, †DR et al.). The 2nd F.I. and Regional **Sprague's Pipit** was a surprise birthday gift for the finder Oct. 10–11 (†KH). The bird was "photographed, sketched, and enjoyed from as close as 6 ft."

A Bohemian Waxwing was reported from El Granada, San Mateo, Oct. 22 (fide Gull). Solitary Vireos reported as eastern types were on Pt. Reyes Sept. 12–13 (†JML, MJL, †PEL) and Oct. 5 (DLSu), and at the Little Sur R. mouth, Monterey, Oct. 11 (†DR). Individuals reported as plumbeus types were at Inverness Sept. 25 (RS) and near Nicasio Nov. 13 (JSL), both Marin. Apparently wintering cassini types were at Olema, Marin, Nov. 21 (RS) and near Lodi Nov. 11–30+ (DGY et al.). Four Philadelphia Vireos were reported, as follows: one at Fairhaven, Humboldt, Sept. 13–14 (JCB, †GSL, †LPL); two mist-netted at F.I., Sept. 12–15 (†PP) and Sept. 19–22 (†PP, *C.A.S.); and one

on Pt Reyes Sept 27 (†ALE et al.) Seven Red-eyed Vireos along the coast Aug. 31–Sept. 23 were a bit above the recent fall average. A Monterey first “**Yellow-green Vireo**” at the Little Sur R. mouth Oct. 3 (†JML, †EDG) was only the 5th or 6th for the Region, all since 1978 in the period Oct. 3–30, but there have been single annual occurrences since 1984.

WOOD WARBLERS — Migration seemed early or on time for most species, including the “eastern” ones, of which inland observers found more than their usual share. A modest 14–17 Tennessee Warblers Sept. 7–Nov. 10 were mostly early, only two being found after Sept. 28, which is usually around the median date for fall records. Single Virginia’s Warblers were at the Carmel R. mouth, Monterey Sept. 21–22 (†GMcC, †JML, †DR et al.) and on F.I., Nov. 2. Among three N. Parulas Aug. 28–Sept. 14 was Sacramento’s 2nd, Aug. 28–Sept. 6 (†JML, †TDM, JTr).

Of 13–14 coastal Chestnut-sided Warblers, a sparse turnout Sept. 3–Oct. 17, all but three were in September. Magnolia Warblers were also early, with half of 17–18 birds, Aug. 28–Oct. 28, reported by Sept. 7, prior to all “first fall arrival” dates since 1980. One inland at Modesto Sept. 13 (†HMR, ph. ERC) was Stanislaus’ 2nd. For the 3rd fall in a row there was only one Cape May Warbler, at F.I., Oct. 11. Eight Black-throated Blue Warblers coastally Sept. 21–Nov. 9 was a typical showing. Black-throated Gray Warblers were quite numerous in the C.V., Aug. 15 through the end of the period. Sacramento observers reported 20+ (TDM et al.), and a peak of 18 was noted in Stanislaus Sept. 14 (HMR). At least 10 lingering to the end of the period Regionwide were noteworthy. Eight Townsend’s Warbler reports in Sacramento Aug. 18–Oct. 9 (TDM et al.) were above average, but nine Nov. 23 and at least six through the end of November in Stanislaus were remarkable (HMR). All Blackburnian Warbler reports came from Inverness, with two to three Sept. 27–Oct. 10 (RS), and F.I., with three Sept. 4–Oct. 10, save one from Fairhaven Oct. 22 (JCS). Exciting but brief views were had of F.I.’s 5th Yellow-throated Warbler Oct. 21 (†SNGH). Eight to ten coastal Prairie Warblers Sept. 3–Oct. 25 included Sonoma’s 2nd at Bodega Bay on the latter date (RS, m.ob.). An estimated 96+ Palm Warblers along the coast Sept. 3 through the period’s end was the best turnout since 1983. A Bay-breasted Warbler was reported at Rodeo Lagoon, Marin, Sept. 28 (RS et al.). About 60 Blackpoll Warblers on the coast Sept. 4–Oct. 23 was a moderate total.

Of 14–16 coastal Black-and-white Warblers Aug. 11–Nov. 10, one on the former date set an early fall arrival record for F.I. A sparse 23+ Am. Redstarts Aug. 20–Oct. 23 included only one inland, at Sacramento Sept. 3–4 (BWb, †TDM). Three Prothonotary Warblers, at McKinleyville, Humboldt, Sept. 11–14 (J Houck, †LPL, m.ob.), Pacific Grove Sept. 13–20 (D. Thomas, †DR, m.ob.), and Pt. Reyes Sept. 18–21 (ScC, RS, m.ob.), made a good showing. Observers tallied seven to eight coastal Ovenbirds Sept. 7–Oct. 12. The 15–16 N. Waterthrushes found included two earliest-ever fall arrivals on F.I., Aug. 12 & 14, a 3rd Butte record near Chico Aug. 28–29 (JHS), and one found dead at Davis Sept. 12 (ECB). Not surprisingly, the only Connecticut Warblers were two netted at F.I., Sept. 12 (one *C.A.S.). Six Mourning Warblers made the Region’s best fall total ever. Predictably, five were at F.I., Sept. 3, 10, & 12 (two birds), and Oct. 20 (†PPP), and one was at the Carmel R. mouth Nov. 4 (†DR). A Hooded Warbler was at Carmel Sept. 18 (RS, m.ob.). Four Canada Warblers Aug. 23–Oct. 5 was an average number, but one in Sacramento was Sacramento’s first, Aug. 23–Sept. 8 (GEw, †JML, †MJL, †TDM, m.ob.). As rarely seen in fall on the coast and the C.V. floor as are many “eastern” warblers, single Yellow-breasted Chats at Sacramento Aug. 30 (L. Brown) and Sept. 9 (TDM), near Lodi Sept. 1 (DGY), at Muir Beach, Marin, Aug. 24 (fide Gull), and on Pt. Reyes Sept. 8–12 (DLSu et al.) were worth noting. A single chat in the Yuba foothills Aug. 29 (PBS) and the “last of the season” at Summit City, Shasta, Sept. 10 (BVdM) were within the species’ breeding range.

TANAGERS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — Male Summer Tanagers were reported at Carmel Sept. 13 (JB, PhR, R. Doudiet) and Capitola, Santa Cruz, Sept. 23 (†DLSu). Of one dozen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Aug. 19–Oct. 26, only one was inland, near Lodi Sept. 25 (†DGY). Two Blue Grosbeaks were reported coastally, on Pt. Reyes Sept. 7–8 (fide Gull; JM, RAE, m.ob.) and F.I., Sept. 10. An “above average” nine Indigo Buntings were tallied at F.I., Aug. 13–Nov. 2, but there were only 3–4 other coastal reports. The 5th F.I. **Painted Bunting** was netted Sept. 23 (†PP). A Dickcissel at Moss Beach Aug. 16 (†PJM), San Mateo’s 2nd and the earliest ever in fall, was followed by one at F.I., Aug. 28. A Green-tailed Towhee at Salinas Nov. 4–Dec 1 (BHG) was late. A Cassin’s Sparrow, F.I.’s 10th, was reported Sept. 22. Reports of single Am. Tree Sparrows came from Pt Reyes Sept. 7–11 (remarkably early—JML et al.) and Oct. 5 (DLSu, fide Gull), as well as F.I., Oct. 28, and Albany Nov. 9 (Alameda’s first—†DDK). A Chipping Sparrow at Janesville, Lassen, Nov. 1 (SJ, DS) was very tardy and far north. Clay-colored Sparrow reports numbered 18, all coastal Aug. 24–Nov. 1. The only Black-throated Sparrow reported, San Joaquin’s first, was at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Nov. 16–28 (S Schaeffer, †DGY, MJL). A well-described juv. **Le Conte’s Sparrow** netted Sept. 11–12 (†PP), and another banded Oct. 11 (details not yet seen), furnished the 2nd and 3rd F.I. records, pending C.B.R.C. review. There are but a handful of records for the Region. Single Sharp-tailed Sparrows were noted at Palo Alto Baylands, Santa Clara, Nov. 4–30 (†SEF, †JM), Bolinas Lagoon Nov. 28 (†BDP), and overwintering at Arcata Oct. 22+ (Humboldt’s first—fide RLeV). A good-sized, early influx of Fox Sparrows was commented on by a number of observers (DLSu, BVdM, BY, DGY, TDM). Also noted in good numbers were 19+ Swamp Sparrows Oct. 4–Nov. 23, all coastal but one at Mono L., Oct. 29 (SJ, fide DS), and 62+ White-throated Sparrows, all but a few on the coast. Five coastal Harris’ Sparrows Nov. 2–26 was also slightly above average. Five possible “Pink-sided” Dark-eyed Juncoes were reported Sept. 21–Nov. 30. Although some of these reports seem quite reasonable, caution is called for until the complexities of junco identification can be more thoroughly unraveled. A “Gray-headed Junco” was on Pt Reyes Oct. 20 (†DAH, DDK).

Longspurs attracted a bit of attention this fall, most notably Alameda’s first (and the Region’s coastal 2nd) McCown’s Longspur at Hayward Oct. 17–24 (JSL, †RAE, †JM, †GMcC, m.ob.) Twelve+ Chestnut-collared Longspurs Oct. 5–Oct. 28, including a “very unusual” six on F.I., three at Hayward Oct. 14–17 (RJR, RAE, JSL) for Alameda’s 2nd record, and one over the Cordell Bank Oct. 12 (fide DLSh), were interesting, as well. A Snow Bunting visited F.I., Nov. 10 (†PP).

Bobolinks had an exceptional fall, with 30+ reports Aug 10–Oct. 23. One of these was Alameda’s first, at Fremont Oct 18–19 (B. Chilson, EHa, m.ob.). Two Rusty Blackbirds were encountered, Mendocino’s first at the Garcia R. mouth Oct. 13 (†K. Wilson, DT), and one on F.I., Oct. 28. An Orchard Oriole on F.I., Aug. 14–15 provided the Region’s earliest fall record, with 3 more reports coming from Pt. Reyes Sept. 21–Nov. 1

Purple Finches were in “above average numbers” in Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Francisco, and on F.I., but not commented on elsewhere. Two ♂ Cassin’s Finches at Jack’s Peak Nov. 23 (†DR) were considered Monterey’s “first acceptable records.” There were scattered reports of Red Crossbills to the coast. One to two Lawrence’s Goldfinches at Crescent City Sept. 9 (ADB) were the farthest northwest the species has been recorded (no Oregon records). Evening Grosbeaks made news throughout the Region, but reviews were mixed. “Huge numbers” were noted throughout Siskiyou in late September (MR, RE et al.), staying through the period’s end, and “100 per day” through September were at Westhaven, Humboldt (GSL). September 27 saw the first of a season total 100+ pass Pt. Diablo (CLF), and Sept. 26 was the first date for one near Lodi (DGY). But 170+ for the season in Santa Cruz was considered “not exceptional” (DLSu), and numbers in San Joaquin “sputtered out, as none was seen in November” (DGY). None was reported

from Stanislaus (HMR), but 10–60 were “seen daily” in the Madera foothills to the south, Nov. 25+ (JCL)! Then again, Evening Grosbeaks (and birds in general) wouldn’t be as enjoyable if they were too predictable, would they?

ADDENDA — Editorial trimming of the belated Autumn 1985 season report (AB 40:329–333) unfortunately removed all mention of the 2nd-largest irruption of Black-vented Shearwaters in recent Regional history. The **Heermann’s Gull** at Stockton and the **Thick-billed Murre** should have been boldfaced. A **Black-billed Cuckoo** at F.I., Oct. 18, 1985 (†PP—P.R.B.O.), was the island’s first and the Region’s 5th.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

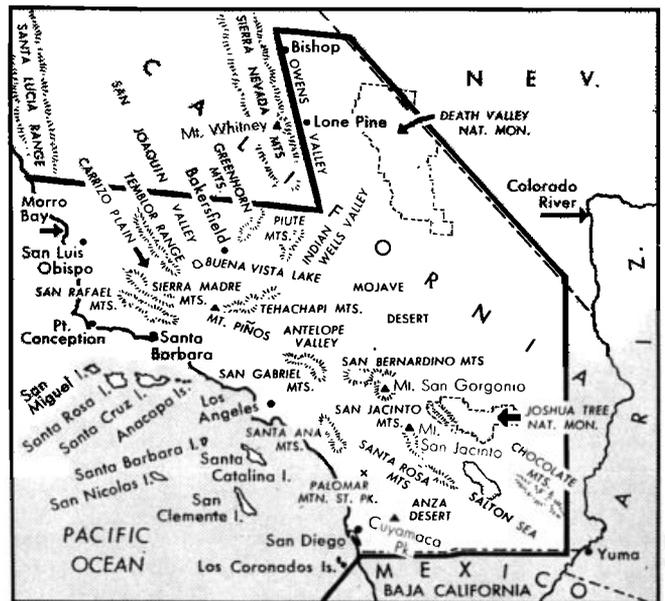
Guy McCaskie

There were no unusual weather conditions in southern California this fall, the period being drier than normal, and lacking Santa Ana conditions. Numbers of migrant landbirds found along the coast and at inland “migrant traps” were about average and contained enough “vagants” to maintain most birders’ enthusiasm and interest.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo Co.; L.A.C.N.H.M. = Los Angeles County Natural History Museum; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.; S.B.C.M. = San Bernardino County Museum; S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.; S.D.N.H.M. = San Diego Natural History Museum; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County. 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 with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Don Roberson, 282 Grove Acre, Pacific Grove, CA 93950) for all rarities listed in this report, and records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS THROUGH STORK — A Pacific Loon on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Nov. 19 (CMcG) was the only one found inland. Five Com. Loons on L. Palmdale in the Antelope Valley, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 28 (KLG) were early fall migrants, and 16 on L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 12 (PEL) was a large number for an inland locality. Eleven Horned Grebes were forced down onto Weist L. near the S.E.S.S., Nov. 17 (RHj) by stormy weather, and 35 on L. Perris Nov. 9 was a high count for an inland locality.

A N. Fulmar off Morro Bay Aug. 5 (MC) had undoubtedly summered locally. Two Flesh-footed Shearwaters, rare in s. California waters, were found off Morro Bay Aug. 13 (MC). A Buller’s Shearwater off San Diego Sept. 6 (JO) was in an area where few are found, but one off Ventura Nov. 9 (JSR) and 43 off Morro Bay Sept. 28 (TME) were in waters where the species regularly occurs. A Short-tailed Shearwater off Ventura Nov.



9 (JSR) was the only one identified. A **Black Storm-Petrel** at N.E.S.S., Sept. 28 (JO'B) was the first ever to be found inland in California. Twelve Least Storm-Petrels off San Diego (some off n. Baja California) Sept. 7 (JLD) were the only ones reported, and based on the amount of time birders spent offshore it was clear that very few, if any, were present n. of San Diego.

A flock of 200 Am. White Pelicans over Dana Pt., Nov. 2 (LRH) was a large number for along the coast, but at the time of the year large numbers are moving S across the eastern part of the Region. Brown Pelican numbers remained higher than normal throughout the period on the Salton Sea, with more

than 50 still present at the end of November (GMcC); large numbers were along the coast during most of the fall, with some impressive concentrations reported, such as the 2500 on the Marina del Rey breakwater Oct. 19 (KLG). The ad. Oliveaceous Cormorant at N.E.S.S. during the summer was last seen Aug. 24 (RH*i*). The only Magnificent Frigatebird was an immature at S.E.S.S., Aug. 20 (RH*i*).

An imm. Little Blue Heron in Goleta Aug. 17–Sept. 16 (BA) and another at Bolsa Chica Aug. 17–Sept. 13 (JS) were the only ones found away from s. San Diego Bay, where up to three adults and one immature were present throughout the period. The only Tricolored Heron to be found was a wintering adult in Imperial Beach Nov. 6+ (D & MH). Four Reddish Egrets appeared in the San Diego area with an immature at the mouth of the Tijuana R., Sept. 4+ (CGE) joined by an adult Nov. 8 (GMcC), another adult, the bird known to have spent the past 4 winters on s. San Diego Bay, back Oct. 13+ (NBB), and an immature in Del Mar Nov. 16+ (JO'B), being more than normally expected. The ad. Wood Stork found in the Prado Basin, Riverside Co., in July was present through Aug. 25 (LRH).

WATERFOWL — A flock of 38 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks near Brawley Oct. 12 (RH*i*) was a large number for this day and age. Five Tundra Swans on Morro Bay Nov. 24 (RC), another there Nov. 30 (GPS), and four on L. Cachuma Nov. 22+ (GT) were the only ones reported, and indicate the normal time of arrival of wintering birds in s. California. A flock of 45 Greater White-fronted Geese flying S over Pt. Loma Sept. 29 (REW) was a little early and a large number for along the coast. The “Cackling” Canada Goose is a rare late fall and early winter visitant to s. California, hence three with 125 Canada Geese at Castaic Dam, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 28–29 (JLD), two with 1000 Canada Geese over Encino Nov. 29 (JLD), and seven with 80 Canada Geese in Huntington Beach Nov. 8 (RAH) were all of interest. Two of the endangered “Aleutian” Canada Geese were also with the 125 Canada Geese at Castaic Dam Nov. 28–29 (JLD). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon on Morro Bay Oct. 25–26 (VP) was the earliest to be found this fall, and at least 12 were known to be present in the Region by the end of the period. A ♂ Tufted Duck on Quail L., Los Angeles Co., Nov. 25+ (AS) is believed to be the same bird seen here off and on during the past 8 winters. A Greater Scaup in San Simeon, San Luis Obispo Co., Sept. 12 (TME) had undoubtedly summered locally, one in Santa Barbara Sept. 27–Oct. 8 (PEL) was an exceptionally early fall migrant, and one at F.C.R., Nov. 15–19 (DRW) was at an unusual locality. A ♂ Harlequin Duck at Bolsa Chica Oct. 25+ (CH) was undoubtedly the same bird seen here off and on since December 1984. Up to two Black Scoters, quite rare in recent years, were on Morro Bay Nov. 27+ (GPS) and another was at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Nov. 22 (LB); these were the only ones found. An imm. Surf Scoter at N.E.S.S., Nov. 22 (EAC), another in El Centro Nov. 15 (RH*i*), and five males on nearby Weist L., Nov. 17 (RH*i*), along with a White-winged Scoter on L. Perris Nov. 19 (CMcG), were the only scoters found inland.

RAPTORS — An imm. Mississippi Kite at Oasis Aug. 30 (GMcC) was only the 4th fall migrant ever to be found in California. An imm. Bald Eagle over the Plano Trabuco, Orange Co., Nov. 29 (CMA) was evidently a migrant moving S close to the coast and was in an area where now considered exceedingly rare. An imm. N. Goshawk in Tecopa Oct. 13 (JT) was in the n.e. corner of the Region where small numbers probably occur each fall and winter. Red-shouldered Hawks are now found annually as post-breeding wanderers at such localities as Deep Springs and F.C.R. in extreme e. Inyo County, and are starting to be found with regularity in the Imperial Valley in s.e. California, with an adult in Brawley Aug. 26+ (RH*i*), suggesting this species may be expanding its California range eastward. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk over Pt. Loma Sept. 28 (JO'B) was the only one found this fall. A flock of 28 Swainson's Hawks near Bakersfield Sept. 5 (MOC) and six over Redlands Sept. 12 (RMcK) indicate small numbers still pass through this Region during migration, although this is a drastic reduc-

tion in numbers from those encountered 25 years ago; an adult near Pauma Valley, San Diego Co., Nov. 1 (CGE) was not only late, but also along the coastal slope where now considered casual at best. Zone-tailed Hawks were present around the nest site on Hot Springs Mt., San Diego Co., through Aug. 10 (DK), one seen over Vista Sept. 13–25 (CW) was apparently the same bird which has wintered in this area for the past 4 years, and another at the Plano Trabuco Nov. 28+ (JLD) was undoubtedly the same bird present here last winter. A Rough-legged Hawk near S.E.S.S., Nov. 8 (RH*i*) was far to the south and the only one reported. An ad. Golden Eagle near Brawley Sept. 30–Nov. 4 (RH*i*) was one of a very few ever to be found in the Imperial Valley.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — A Sandhill Crane at the Goose L. Ponds near Wasco, Kern Co., Sept. 14 (RH*a*) was exceptionally early, and 300 were there Oct. 19+ (MOC); 11 near Needles Nov. 12 (TM) were the only others reported away from known wintering localities. With the potential splitting of the Lesser Golden-Plover into two species, more observers are attempting to identify these birds to “race”, the gray birds being called *dominica* and the yellow birds *fulva*; however, we still have much to learn about the variation in the plumage coloration of these two “races”, and the characters we can rely on to separate them. At least 18 birds considered *dominica* were found along the coast between Sept. 26 and Nov. 28, along with one near Rosamond, Kern Co., Aug. 29 (JLD) and six at S.E.S.S., Oct. 26 (REW) being inland. In addition, 35 birds (including a flock of 22 near Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co.) felt to be *fulva*, the only form known to winter in California, were at various points along the coast after Sept. 12. Fifty Snowy Plovers at Harper Dry Lake, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 2 (EAC) was a large concentration for an inland locality. A Solitary Sandpiper near Oxnard Oct. 21 (JSR) was late, and another in Tapia Park near Malibu Nov. 20–27 (KLG) was exceptionally late. A Red Knot on the Kern N.W.R., Kern Co., Sept. 14 (MOC) and another near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 4 (J & ES) were the only two found inland away from the Salton Sea. Likewise, a Sanderling near Lancaster Aug. 8 (NBB), four more there Oct. 5 (KLG), and another on nearby L. Palmdale the same day (KLG) were also the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. As is now expected there was a movement of juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers through the Region in August and early September with 20± reported between Aug. 4 and Sept. 7; one well-studied near Santa Maria Oct. 30 (PEL) was exceptionally late, the previous latest record being of one in the same area Oct. 19, 1980 (AB 35:226). A Pectoral Sandpiper in Goleta Nov. 9–11 (CDB) was the latest this fall. A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, a casual straggler to s. California, was on Upper Newport Bay Oct. 13–14 (DD, ph. AS). A Rock Sandpiper at Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., Oct. 31+ (CMA) was un-



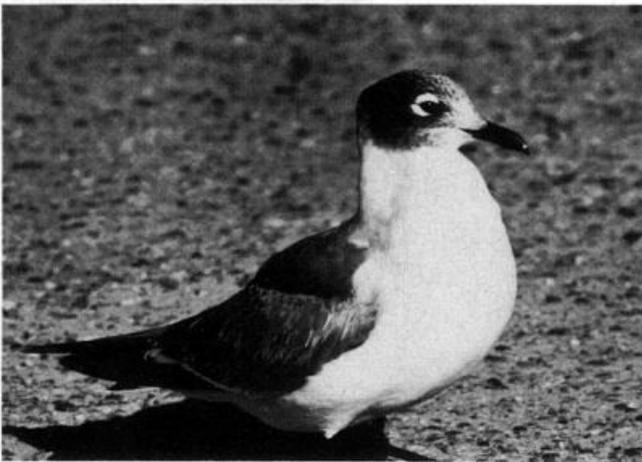
Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Upper Newport Bay, Cal., Oct. 14, 1986. Photo/Arnold Small.



Albino dowitcher (probably Long-billed) with a flock of Long-billed Dowitchers near Chino, San Bernardino Co., Cal., Sept. 22, 1986. Photo/Henry Childs.

doubtedly the same bird that was present here last winter. A Stilt Sandpiper in San Luis Obispo Oct. 7 (ph. GPS), up to six at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Oct. 12–Nov. 16 (JSR), and another in Long Beach Aug. 31–Sept. 6 (BN) were all along the coast where considered very rare to casual. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, very rare in California, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 11 (RM). Ruffs were more numerous than usual with as many as seven near Santa Maria between Aug. 31 and Oct. 17 (DRW, CDB) including four together Oct. 6 (KJZ), one in Anaheim Sept. 5–12 (DRW), one on Batiquitos Lagoon, San Diego Co., Sept. 4–13 (REW), another near Imperial Beach Sept. 13 (GMcC), and the returning male on San Diego Bay Aug. 17+ (JO'B) all being along the coast, and single birds near Norco, San Bernardino Co., Aug. 22 (LRH), at S.E.S.S., Aug. 3 (JO), and in El Centro Nov. 4+ (RH*i*) being inland. A Com. Snipe near Santa Maria Aug. 2 (GPS) was an early migrant.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Up to six Parasitic Jaegers a day were to be seen on the Salton Sea between Sept. 16 and Oct. 27, but the species went unreported anywhere else inland. Three S. Polar Skuas 20 mi off Morro Bay Sept. 28 (JLD) were in an area where probably regular at this time of the year. A Laughing Gull in El Centro Nov. 15–26 (RH*i*) was quite late. Seven Franklin's Gulls, all first-year birds, along the coast between Santa Maria and Anaheim between Sept. 23 and Nov. 23, along with one more near Lancaster Oct. 4–15 (JKA, ph. SVW), was about average for this time of year. One to two



First-winter Franklin's Gull at Santa Barbara, Cal., Oct. 13, 1986. Photo/Paul Lehman.

Heermann's Gulls, casual inland, were at N.E.S.S., Aug. 3–9 (MAP), another was there Sept. 28 (GMcC), and a 4th was at S.E.S.S., Aug. 23–25 (JO'B). A juv. Mew Gull on Pt. Loma Aug. 30 (REW) was remarkably early. A Herring Gull near Santa Maria Sept. 23 (JLD) was the earliest this fall. Unexpected was an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull, only the 3rd ever to be found in California, at N.E.S.S., Sept. 14–Oct. 5 (ph. RH*i*), and what was felt to be the same bird at S.E.S.S., Oct. 25 (RH*i*). Western Gulls continue to be found on the Salton Sea, where up until recently considered accidental, with a juvenile photographed at Salton City Aug. 15 (DH), an adult there Sept. 16 (REW), and a first-year bird there Sept. 28–Oct. 3 (GMcC). One or two Glaucous-winged Gulls, rare far inland, were at S.E.S.S., Nov. 2+ (RH*i*). The Glaucous Gull that spent the summer at N.E.S.S. was still present Nov. 8 (CMA). Three ad. Sabine's Gulls were found inland, where considered casual, with one on the Goose L. Ponds near Wasco Sept. 14 (RH*a*), another near Lancaster Sept. 21–28 (JLD), and the 3rd on Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts., Aug. 21 (BSK); one off Montana de Oro S.P., Nov. 28 (JSR) was exceptionally late. An Arctic Tern in San Luis Obispo Aug. 13 (ph. GPS) was slightly oiled and another near Santa Maria Sept. 23 (PEL) had a slightly injured wing; a full adult at N.E.S.S., Oct. 3 (REW) provided the first true inland occurrence in s. California in fall. A Black Tern at S.E.S.S., Nov. 2 (GMcC) and another at Dana Pt., Nov. 25 (LRH) were both late. A Black Skimmer in Carpinteria Oct. 12 (JC) was the only one found north of the S.C.R.E.; this species is now



Ancient Murrelet on Newport Bay, Cal., Nov. 12, 1986. Photo/James Gallagher.

found regularly along the coast at suitable locations north to S C R.E., being common around San Diego and Bolsa Chica.

A Pigeon Guillemot in Carpinteria Nov. 5 (PEL) was a little to the south of the species' normal range on the coast, and somewhat late for along the immediate coast, this species evidently moving far out to sea or northward in winter. Two Marbled Murrelets off San Simeon Sept. 13-14 (CMA) and another off nearby Cayucos Nov. 12 (TME) were at the s. limit of the species' range. An Ancient Murrelet in Newport Harbor Nov. 10-12 (DRW, ph. JRG), another at the nearby Newport Pier Nov. 10-23 (CMcG), and a third on San Diego Bay Nov. 26 (D & MH) were all far to the south of the species' normal range.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A White-winged Dove in San Simeon Oct. 12 (GPS) was the northernmost of the 15± found along the coast. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, now casual to accidental on the coast, was in Carpinteria Sept. 18-25 (PEL). A **Groove-billed Ani** near Seeley, Imperial Co., Oct. 25 (PU) was the 3rd ever to be found in California. A recently-dead Flammulated Owl found on a road through the Granite Mts., San Bernardino Co., Oct. 10 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.) was undoubtedly a migrant, since the location is far from suitable breeding habitat. A Great Horned Owl at Finney L. near S E S S., Aug. 10 (JLD) was felt to be a migrant, because the species is believed extirpated as a nesting bird in the Imperial Valley. Every year a few Com. Poorwills are found away from areas of normal occurrence during October, suggesting October is the peak period for migration, and this year was no exception with 10 reported between Oct. 8 & 25 including one on a shopping center parking lot in W. Los Angeles Oct. 9 (BP), one on the Santa Monica Pier Oct. 23 (KLG), and another in the Brawley Cemetery Oct. 17-19 (PEL). Two Black Swifts over the Prado Basin Aug. 14 (LRH) were the only ones reported. A ♀ Broad-billed Hummingbird, a rare to casual straggler to California, was in Oceanside Sept. 23-24 (TK). A minor influx of Lewis' Woodpeckers moved into s. California as indicated by such concentrations as 15 moving through Oak Springs Valley along the n.e. edge of the San Gabriel Mts., San Bernardino Co., Sept. 29 (WDW), and 15 on W. Big Pine Mt., Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 13 (JS), along with such reports as five in Goleta Sept. 26 (AB), two at Iron Mt. Pump Station in e. San Bernardino Co., Oct. 4 (EAC), and two in Tapia Park near Malibu Oct. 27 (AS).

S.A.

With the splitting of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Red-naped Sapsucker, there is increased interest in identifying and reporting birds out of range. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are believed to be casual stragglers to California at best, yet five were reported, including adult males near Oxnard Oct. 3 (JSR) and at Morongo Valley Oct. 4 (CMcG), and an immature at F.C.R., Oct. 9 (JLD). However, there are hybrids, and every sapsucker lacking red on the nape may not necessarily be a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. I feel we are going to have to learn exactly what plumage characters are diagnostic before we can report Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers with certainty, and determine their true status in California.

A Red-naped Sapsucker near San Marcos Pass behind Santa Barbara Nov. 5 (SB) and another in Montana de Oro S.P., Oct. 10+ (KJZ) were both a little to the n.w. of the species' normal range in s. California. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker at the Schulman Grove in the White Mts., Aug. 7 (JLD) was in an area where breeding is unrecorded, and was therefore considered an early migrant; a female in Kelso, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 5 (EAC, *S.B.C.M.), another female near Victorville, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 12 (RMcK, *L.A.C.N.H.M.), and a male on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 31-Nov. 8 (AS) were all at most unusual localities. A Downy Woodpecker at Mojave Oct. 10 (JLD) was far out into the desert, but

not as unexpected as the ♀ White-headed Woodpecker at the same location on the same date (JLD).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — A Greater Pewee in San Diego Nov. 23+ (EC) was undoubtedly the same bird present at this very location all of last winter. A W. Wood-Pewee in Oceano Oct. 18 (BS) was late, and another wood-pewee in nearby Los Osos Oct. 21 (CMA) was possibly an E Wood-Pewee based on call. A Willow Flycatcher in Huntington Beach Nov. 12-16 (LRH) was exceptionally late. Four Least Flycatchers were found along the coast with single birds in Carpinteria Oct. 16 (JLD), Anaheim Sept. 16-18 (DRW), on Pt Loma Sept. 27-28 (REW), and in Coronado Oct. 10 (EC) for an average number for fall. Three E. Phoebes, a very rare to casual straggler to California, were reported with one inland in Brawley Oct. 12-14 (RHi), and single birds along the coast at Malibu Oct. 12-Nov. 1 (RS) and Long Beach Oct. 25 (BED). Up to three Vermilion Flycatchers near Imperial Beach Sept. 22+ (DPo) were the only ones found along the coast. Tropical Kingbirds were exceptionally scarce with an exceptionally early bird in Goleta Sept. 5 (HR) followed by another there Oct. 26+ (CDB), one in Santa Barbara Nov. 11-28 (JH), and a 4th at Pt. Mugu Oct. 12 (JSR) being the only ones found. A **Thick-billed Kingbird** near Tustin Nov. 9+ (LRH) was undoubtedly the same bird that had spent the past 4 winters at this location. Six E Kingbirds were found along the coast with one at Arroyo de la Cruz, San Luis Obispo Co., Aug. 24 (K & JH), another in Gaviota, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 1 (CDB), single birds in Goleta Sept. 6-13 (MH) and Sept. 16 (RoH), another in Huntington Beach Sept. 10 (JLD), and the 6th at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., Sept. 28-Oct. 1 (CGE). An ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, near Imperial Beach Aug. 17-Oct. 19 (GMcC) arrived in worn summer plumage, molted into fresh winter plumage, and moved on.

More than the average number of Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in the coastal lowlands and s.e. deserts, indicating a movement of these birds into the Region, with individuals at Morro Bay Aug. 18 (JMcD) and Harper Dry Lake Sept. 3 (EAC) being the earliest. Only a few were still present at the end of the period. Brown Creepers also appeared in the coastal lowlands and s.e. deserts during late October and early November. One of six present around Brawley Nov. 14-19 (RHi) was collected Nov. 19 (PU *S.D.N.H.M.) and found to be *americana*, a race not normally found west of Texas in winter, and previously unrecorded in California. A Cactus Wren at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Oct. 26 (RM) was north of the species' normal range. A slight movement of Winter Wrens brought individuals to the coastal lowlands and desert oases, with one in La Jolla Nov. 18-19 (JM) and another in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., Oct. 18 (DCH) being the southernmost. Golden-crowned Kinglets were also on the move during October and November, getting as far south as the Mexican border along the coast. One at Mojave Sept. 21 (JLD) was a little early for such a locality, and two in Blythe Nov. 9 (AME) along with three to four in Brawley Nov. 1-25 (RHi) were far to the south-east.

Forty-five Mountain Bluebirds on Santa Rosa I., Nov. 11-14 (PWC) and 30 on the Plano Trabuco Nov. 10 (BED) were high numbers for the coast. Four Townsend's Solitaires found around San Diego between Oct. 9 & 22 (EC, REW) were unusual for the immediate coast. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** seen on Pt Loma Oct. 1 (REW) was the first ever to be reported in s. California, but disappeared before other interested birders arrived on the scene. A Wood Thrush, casual to accidental in California, was at F.C.R., Nov. 15 (BED, ph. DRW), and was the first to be found inland in California. A scattering of Varied Thrushes brought individuals south to Kelso Oct. 12 (CMcG) and Pt. Loma Nov. 2-6 (B & MMcl).

THRASHERS THROUGH VIREOS — A Gray Catbird, a casual straggler to California, was photographed in Tecopa Oct. 3-8 (JT) and another was present on Pt. Loma Oct. 16-23 (REW). A Brown Thrasher in Morongo Valley Nov. 27 (SP) and another

on Pt. Loma Sept. 21 (JRM) were the only ones found this fall. Red-throated Pipits were again found along the coast with the first near Santa Maria Oct. 5–6 (PEL), one in Goleta Oct. 14–15 (TEW), another rather late bird there Nov. 4–15 (PEL), and up to three near Imperial Beach Oct. 14–Nov. 2 (RM). Up to five Sprague's Pipits were found in alfalfa fields just n. of Needles Nov. 2+ (EAC) and another was seen at Brawley Nov. 29 (GMcC); this species is proving to occur regularly in California in small numbers during fall and winter.

A Bell's Vireo in Brawley Nov. 10+ (RM) was apparently wintering at that locality. A Gray Vireo at Harper Dry Lake Sept. 3 (AM) was one of a very few ever to be found away from known breeding localities. A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual straggler to California, was in Huntington Beach Oct. 23–Nov. 1 (DRW). A Philadelphia Vireo in Carpinteria Oct. 1 (TEW) was the long-awaited first for Santa Barbara County. A Red-eyed Vireo at Morro Bay Sept. 21 (GPS) was the only one reported; this species is certainly scarcer in s. California today than it was 20 years ago.

WOOD WARBLERS — This was a better-than-average fall for seeing numbers and variety of wood warblers in s. California, with all the regularly-occurring species being relatively numerous, and a total of 39 species being recorded. Twenty-two Tennessee Warblers along the coast between Sept. 1 and the end of the period was about average, as was 12 Virginia's Warblers in the same area between Aug. 27 and Oct. 5. A Lucy's Warbler in Del Mar Oct. 4 (EM) was the only one found. The summering N. Parula in Santa Barbara remained through Sept. 27 (CDB); single fall vagrants were at Refugio State Beach Oct. 1 (PEL), in Santa Barbara Sept. 17–29 (PEL), near Oxnard Sept. 11 (JSR), in Irvine Oct. 22 (DRW), near Imperial Beach Oct. 15–23 (GMcC), and inland near Blythe Nov. 28–29 (PEL) and at Brock Ranch, Imperial Co., Nov. 28 (RMcK), and an exceptionally long-staying bird was in Oceano Aug. 3+ (BS). Seven Chestnut-sided Warblers were found along the coast between Sept. 7 and Oct. 25 and an 8th was inland at Brock Ranch Nov. 30 (RMcK); one in Brawley Nov. 9+ (CMA) was undoubtedly the same bird found wintering here a year ago. Single Magnolia Warblers were at Oceano Sept. 5–6 (TME), in Santa Barbara Sept. 21–29 (PEL), in Huntington Beach Sept. 9–10 (LRH), on Pt. Loma Sept. 5 & 28 (REW) and Oct. 12 (BED), and inland at Seeley Oct. 25 (RH). A ♂ Cape May Warbler, a species that has become remarkably scarce in California during the past 5 years, was in Tapia Park near Malibu Oct. 26 (CB). Three Black-throated Blue Warblers were found with a male near Tecopa Oct. 18 (DG), a female in Yucca Valley Oct. 7 (CMcG), and another female in Huntington Beach Oct. 15–31 (BED). Seven Black-throated Green Warblers were more than expected with one in Los Osos Oct. 10–Nov. 1 (TME) and six around San Diego between Sept. 22 and Oct. 25.

Seven Blackburnian Warblers were found with single birds in Oceano Oct. 5–12 (CMA), in Santa Barbara Oct. 6 (JLD), near Oxnard Sept. 28–Oct. 1 (TEW), in Tapia Park Nov. 15–23 (NBB), on Pt. Loma Sept. 6 (REW), and near Imperial Beach Oct. 12 (REW) and Oct. 15–23 (FB). A Yellow-throated Warbler, one of the rarer vagrants to reach California, was in Montana de Oro S.P., Sept. 7–8 (TME) and another was at Torrey Pines S.P. near San Diego Oct. 8–9 (JO'B). It was certainly an exceptional fall for Pine Warblers with a female in Montana de Oro S.P., Oct. 26–27 (TME), a male at Gaviota Oct. 30 (PEL), a female there Nov. 1 (TEW), a male near Imperial Beach Oct. 15 (GMcC), and a male and female together there Nov. 8 (EC), to give us an unprecedented six individuals. Six Prairie Warblers were found with single birds in Morro Bay S.P., Sept. 3 (TME) & 10 (GPS), one at Montana de Oro S.P., Sept. 5–9 (GPS), another in Oceano Oct. 13 (SF), and one on Pt. Loma Sept. 2–5 (REW) being along the coast, and the 6th being inland at L. Palmdale Sept. 28 (KLG). Twenty-seven Palm Warblers were found along the coast after Sept. 26, and three more were seen inland, where much rarer, with one at Panamint Springs, Inyo Co., Oct. 26 (GMcC), another at S.E.S.S., Oct. 11 (RH), and the 3rd in Brawley Oct. 22 (RH). A Bay-breasted Warbler in Oceano Oct. 17–

18 (WC) was the only one found. Blackpoll Warblers were also quite numerous with 35± along the coast between Sept. 9 and Oct. 25, and three more inland, with very early birds at Deep Springs, Inyo Co., Aug. 30 (GMcC) and California City, Kern Co., Sept. 1 (JWi), and the third also in California City Sept. 21 (NBB). A Cerulean Warbler on Pt. Loma Sept. 13 (REW) was only the 8th ever to be found in s. California.

Single Prothonotary Warblers, casual vagrants to California, were at Oceano Oct. 17–22 (KJZ), in Long Beach Oct. 16–25 (BED), on Pt. Loma Sept. 20–21 (REW), and near Imperial Beach Oct. 22 (JWa). The only Ovenbirds reported were a dead bird near Santa Maria Sept. 29 (MB), single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 12–14 (DPa) & 26 (MAP), and a 4th inland at F.C.R., Oct. 26 (GMcC). A ♀ Kentucky Warbler in La Crescenta, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 11–Oct. 18 (CMu) was the 23rd to be found in s. California. Two Mourning Warblers were reported with one at Montana de Oro S.P., Sept. 7 (JMcD) and the other near Oxnard Sept. 27 (AS), there now being 23 records for this species in s. California. A ♀ Hooded Warbler, rarer in fall than in spring, was in Del Mar Oct. 11–13 (RM). A Canada Warbler, another of the rarer vagrants to reach California, was in Montana de Oro S.P., Sept. 14–17 (GPS), another was in Oceano Sept. 5 (CDB), a 3rd was at Gaviota Oct. 17–20 (EAC), a 4th was accompanying the Hooded Warbler in Del Mar Oct. 10–13 (EM), and a 5th was in nearby La Jolla Oct. 23 (JO'B). A Painted Redstart, always a colorful find, was at Torrey Pines S.P., Oct. 6 (SW), single birds were on Pt. Loma Sept. 1 (FD) and Sept. 29–30 (CGE), and a 4th was inland at Morongo Valley Oct. 7–9 (SVW).

TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — A ♀ Hepatic Tanager in Irvine Nov. 17+ (DRW) was undoubtedly the same bird found at this location during the past 2 winters. Fifteen or so Summer Tanagers along the coast was about average, one in California City Nov. 16 (ph. JWi), a female in Brawley Nov. 10 (GMcC), and a male there Nov. 14 (RH) furnished interesting records from inland. A Scarlet Tanager, very rare in s. California, was on the Palos Verdes Peninsula Oct. 30–Nov. 1 (BED), another was in Del Mar Oct. 11 (JO'B), one was on Pt. Loma Oct. 19 (REW), and a 4th was inland at Thousand Palms Oasis Oct. 3 (JLD). Twenty-five or so Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported from along the coast, but one at F.C.R., Oct. 9 (JLD) was the only one found inland. Indigo Buntings were scarcer than usual with only eight reported. A Painted Bunting, casual to accidental in California, was at Gaviota Sept. 1 (CDB) and a second was found on San Clemente I., Sept. 9 (LS). Four Dickcissels, rarer today than 20 years ago, were found, with single birds in Goleta Sept. 26–27 (PEL), Oct. 1–3 (JLD), and Oct. 15 (JLD), and the 4th on Pt. Loma Oct. 4–7 (FD).

The only Am. Tree Sparrow found this fall was one Nov. 15 at F.C.R. (BED), an area where small numbers undoubtedly occur regularly. Ten Clay-colored Sparrows along the coast between Oct. 4 and Nov. 8 was about average, but one at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Aug. 31 (GMcC) was exceptionally early, and another at nearby Mesquite Springs Oct. 26 (JO'B) was the only other one found inland. A Black-throated Sparrow in Carpinteria Sept. 10 (PEL) and another near Malibu Oct. 27 (MCL) were along the coast where considered casual, and one at Finney L. near S.E.S.S., Aug. 10 (JLD) was in an area where very few have been found. The only Lark Buntings reported were one near Blythe Nov. 29 (PEL) and another on San Clemente I., Sept. 9 (ph. LS). Single Grasshopper Sparrows in Goleta Sept. 14 (HR) and Oct. 24 (PEL), a 3rd on Pt. Loma Oct. 30–31 (REW), and a 4th near Blythe Nov. 29 (PEL) were away from known nesting localities. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow, very rare in California, was at Morro Bay S.P., Nov. 2 (LT). Only seven Swamp Sparrows were reported, all in November. Up to seven Harris' Sparrows were present at F.C.R., Oct. 9–Nov. 29, but one near Lancaster Nov. 14 (NBB) was the only one found away from Furnace Creek Ranch. A McCown's Longspur on the Plano Trabuco Nov. 28+ (JLD) was the first to be found in Orange County. The only Lapland Longspurs found this fall



Summer Tanager at California City, Cal., Nov. 16, 1986. Note that this fresh-plumaged bird, seen from this angle, shows a faint suggestion of wing-bars. Photo/John Wilson.

were single birds near Santa Maria Nov. 2 (PEL) and in Goleta Nov. 4-5 (PEL), two near Oxnard Nov. 2-16 (JSR), and up to two on the Plano Trabuco Nov. 28+ (JLD) along the coast, and single birds inland at F.C.R., Nov. 19 (JLD) and near S.E.S.S., Nov. 20 (RH*i*). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were relatively scarce with one near Oxnard Nov. 2-16 (JSR), up to eight on the Plano Trabuco Nov. 10+ (BED), one near Needles Nov. 16 (BED), and two in Baker Oct. 12 (EAC) being the only ones reported.

BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES — Thirty Bobolinks along the coast between Aug. 28 and Oct. 27 were far fewer than expected. A ♀ Rusty Blackbird in California City Nov. 15-19 (MOC, ph. JW) was the only one found. Six different Great-tailed Grackles were found along the coast, indicating this species is still expanding its range, and one near Lancaster Nov. 11 (CY) was the first to be found in that area. Up to five Bronzed Cowbirds in Brawley Aug. 1-25 (RH*i*) supported the idea that this species is a regular summer visitor to the Imperial Valley. Single Orchard Orioles, rare but regular stragglers to California, were in Goleta Sept. 13 & 29-30 (CDB), one was in Irvine Nov. 22 (RAH), another was on Pt. Loma Sept. 30 (REW), and a male was found inland in Baker Oct. 12 (CMcG).

The presence of up to 15 Purple Finches in Brawley Aug. 28+ (RH*i*) suggested small numbers moved into the lowlands of s.e. California. Single Cassin's Finches in California City Oct. 10 (RAE), near Seeley Nov. 9 (CMA), and in Brawley Nov. 10-14 (RH*i*) were probably associated with the movement of Purple Finches, and 17 on Figueroa Mt. near Santa Barbara Nov. 9 (PEL) was a large number for that locality. Two Red Crossbills on Figueroa Mt., Nov. 9 (PEL) were the only ones reported. Evening Grosbeaks moved into the s. California mountains in large numbers as indicated by such reports as 120 on Piute Mt., Kern Co., Nov. 22 (AS), 450+ on Mt. Pinos Nov. 19 (JLD), 30 at Big Bear in the San Bernardino Mts., Nov. 23 (DRW), and 25± on Figueroa Mt., Nov. 9-15 (PEL); however, the first to arrive were single birds on the high desert at Baker, Kelso, and L. Palmdale, all on Oct. 5 (EAC, KLG), with up to five found at similar localities through November to as far south as Whitewater Canyon (one Nov. 23—DCH); single birds near Malibu Oct. 12 (KLG) and Nov. 16 (KLG), one in San Pedro Oct. 15 (KLG), and another on Pt. Loma Nov. 13 (REW) were the only ones found along the coast.

ADDENDA — An ad. N. Goshawk in an area of open chaparral at 4500 ft near Madulce Peak, Santa Barbara Co., Feb. 1, 1985 (JS) was far from the nearest known nesting locality. A singing ♂ Red-

eyed Vireo near Palo Verde, Imperial Co., June 21, 1986 (Steve Laymore) was a late spring vagrant at an unexpected locality. A Lapland Longspur near Madulce Peak Mar. 14, 1985 (JS) was at a most unusual locality.

CORRIGENDA — The 27 Pomarine Jaegers at the N.E.S.S. last spring (AB 40:524) were seen May 4, not Apr. 5. Photographs of the "Hooded Warbler" in California City May 24 (AB 40:525) clearly show the bird to be a Wilson's Warbler, thus casting doubt on the correct identity of the May 11th bird; hence, both sightings must be deleted.

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Robert L. Pyle

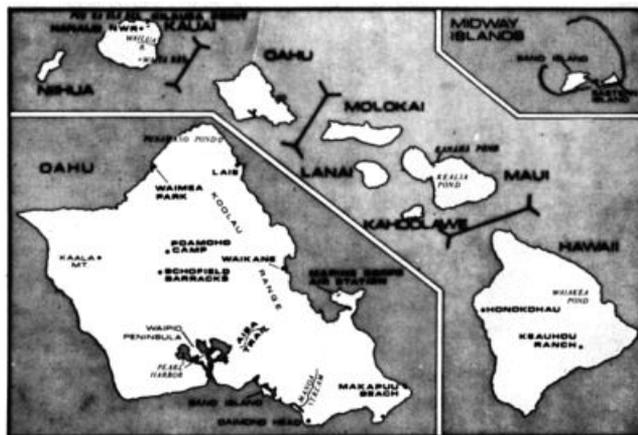
Seasonal rainfall was generally slightly above average across the state, bringing a little reduction in the calendar year deficits generated last winter and early spring. Slackening of trade winds brought warm, muggy weather, especially during late August and early September when record high temperatures were equalled or surpassed on several dates. Honolulu's all-time record high temperature of 94 degrees set three years ago was equalled twice during the first week of September.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S. = French Frigate Shoals; H. = Hawaii I.; K. = Kauai I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = Oahu I.; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on Oahu; K.M.C.A.S. = Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station on Oahu; H.R.B.P. = Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photograph File.

PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS — A (Hawaiian) Dark-rumped Petrel (*Endangered*) picked up in Lanai City, Lanai, Nov. 8 was released a week later in apparently healthy condition (*vide* TP). Dark-rumped are thought to nest on Lanai in small numbers, and occasionally in fall in past years immatures have been found grounded in or near Lanai City, the only night-lighted area on this small island. Seven downed Dark-rumped were turned in this fall to the shearwater aid stations on Kauai (TT). Their nesting area on this island has not yet been discovered. A strange procellarid turned in to the aid station at Lihue, K., Nov. 25 was identified (TT) as a **Solander's Petrel**, for the first documented record of this species for Hawaii. It had been picked up alive near Kipu Kai in s. central Kauai and turned in by the Manager of Kipu Kai Ranch. The bird was banded, transported to Sea Life Park, O., and later released in apparent good health Dec. 15 (TP). Photographs and extensive measurements were taken, and its identification as a Solander's Petrel rather than a dark Herald or Kermadec Petrel was concurred in by TP, PP, & RLP. The preliminary count of just over 1000 Newell's Shearwaters (*Threatened*) turned in to the aid stations on Kauai and released alive this fall was down significantly from recent years despite the dark moon occurring close to the time of peak fledging this year (TT). Young birds leaving nesting grounds in the mountains to fly to sea are more apt to be confused by coastal lights and grounded during the dark nights of new moon. The low count may indicate a poor productive year, or perhaps more young fledging earlier or later than the usual peak time in late October-early November.

Procellarids reported from a research vessel off Kailua-Kona, H., Aug. 16 included one Bulwer's Petrel, one Christmas Shearwater, and two Newell's Shearwaters, among 30+ Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (RD). One **Flesh-footed Shearwater** was sighted 10 mi off Kailua-Kona Oct. 12 and several other times during the fall (RD). Hawaii's first record of this species was recorded in the same area 6 months earlier. An injured Leach's Storm-Petrel died soon after being found in an open hanger on Sand I., Midway Atoll, Nov. 28 (KM*).

TROPICBIRDS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Two White-tailed Tropicbirds in Kaupo Gap on Haleakala Mt., Sept. 3 (PC) provided an unusual report of this species on Maui. A single Red-tailed Tropicbird was reported again at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Sept. 6 (PD, RD, RLP). A juv. Masked Booby has been reported roosting at South Pt., the southernmost point on Hawaii I., since early October (*vide* RD), and one of this species was seen from a research vessel 10 mi off Kailua-Kona, H., Oct. 12 (RD). Masked Boobies are very, very rarely reported anywhere in the main Hawaiian Islands s. of Oahu. Seven Great Frigatebirds near the Sheraton Hotel at the w. end of Molokai Sept. 16 (EE), and one at Kahului Harbor, M., Oct. 2



(PC) were in rarely-reported localities for this species. Another sighting of a Lesser Frigatebird at Tern I., F.F.S., this time an immature, was recorded Aug. 5 (JS).

The Great Blue Heron seen sporadically at Kakahaia N.W.R., Molokai, since last winter was still there Oct. 9 (DW, SB). A flock of 180 Cattle Egrets flying over Kalae, Molokai, in August (CS) was a very high count for that island. Cattle Egrets also were reported to be widespread on the Kula slopes of Haleakala Mt. in c. Maui this fall (PC), and at least 700 were counted coming to roost at Kanaha Pond Sept. 30 (RLP).

The little population of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., is still flourishing; six adults and three ducklings were seen there Sept. 26 (DP, RLP). The lone individual resident at Kakahaia N.W.R., Molokai, was still there in October and November (DW, SB). A Brant returned in November to winter again this year at Aimakapa Pond, H. (RD). Single Brant were also recorded in the ocean just offshore of Makaha, O., Nov. 27 (DC) and at Tern I., F.F.S., Dec. 5. The latter bird was found dead 2 days later (RV*). The small Canada Goose overwintering at Amoriant Aquafarm, O., remained through the fall (BE, DA et al.), but had not been joined by other migrant Canadas before November's end.

S.A.

Five banded Hawaiian Geese (Nene—*Endangered*) from a captive flock at Kipu Kai, Kauai turned up 11 km distant at Ahukini Landing Nov. 3 (TT). After a newspaper story solicited observations from the public, sightings of free-flying Nene were reported from 5 other localities in s.e. Kauai. Nene, the noble state bird of Hawaii and long an *Endangered Species*, has been known historically only on Hawaii I., although fossil remains have been found on Kauai and several other islands.

Six Hawaiian Ducks (Koloa—*Endangered*) were on the pond near Lihue Airport, K., Oct. 7 (DP, RLP). Single Koloa found at Kanaha Pond, M., Nov. 9 (RD) & 28 (PP) and at Pa'akai Pond, K.M.C.A.S., Dec. 1 (PP) furnished unusual locality records. Wintering N. Pintails and N. Shovelers seemed late in arriving this year, although numbers of shovelers had built up to 100 at Aimakapa Pond, H., Nov. 22 (PP) and to 250 at Kanaha Pond, M., Nov. 28 (PP). Two Garganeys were reported at Kanaha Pond, M., Nov. 10 (RD), and one male and two ♀ Blue-winged Teal were at Aimakapa through late summer and fall (RD). Also at Aimakapa, one ♀ Ring-necked Duck, one ♀ **Greater Scaup** and three ♂ Lesser Scaup were seen from Oct. 25 onward (RD, PP). Four Ring-necked Ducks were seen at Kahuku, O., Sept. 23 (PD).

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Hawaiian Hawk ('Io—Endangered) was sighted Nov. 15 near Pu'u Mali, at 7000–8000 ft, high on the n. slope of Mauna Kea, H. (TP). An Osprey temporarily resident on Kauai was seen at Menehune Fishpond several times from July 14 through Nov. 3 (SB, TP) and also at nearby Kipu Kai Oct. 9 (fide TT) and near Poipu Nov. 12 (SD). The Osprey on Oahu was sighted at Punamano Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Aug. 25 (BE).

Seven Erckel's Francolins were found near the end of Waianae Valley Rd., O., Aug. 19 (KF). Gamebirds in the Pu'u Mali area at 7000–8000 ft on Mauna Kea, H., Nov. 15 included 2 coveys of Chukars, one Japanese Quail, and two Kalij Pheasants, along with abundant Erckel's Francolins and California Quail (TP). At least 15 Wild Turkeys were found Sept. 18 in scrubland near the Sheraton Golf Course on w. Molokai (EE), and 10+ adults including one with 13 half-grown chicks were seen in several places along w. Saddle Rd., H., Oct. 4 (DP, RLP).

More Black-bellied Plovers were reported this fall than in recent years, including two at Waipio, O., Sept. 6 (PD), one at Kanaha Pond and two at Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 28 (PP), and one at Tern I., F.F.S., from Nov. 21 onward (RV). Two rare species seldom recorded in Hawaii were a **Greater Yellowlegs** at Waipio with Lessers for close comparison Sept. 14–Oct. 11 (PD, MO, DP et al.), and a palearctic **Whimbrel** with prominent white lower back at Kealia Pond, M., Oct. 1–2 (DP, RLP). The first **Bristle-thighed Curlew** of the season was seen well Aug. 11 flying down Vineyard Blvd. in downtown Honolulu as the observer was waiting at a traffic light (AE). Bristle-thigheds at the traditional fall stopover spot near Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., built up to at least five in September (DW, PD), with one remaining through season's end.

Outstanding shorebird of the season was a **Rufous-necked Stint** studied and photographed well (H.R.B.P. 498–500) at Aimakapa Pond, H., Aug. 18–31 (JL, RD, PD, RLP). Rufous on



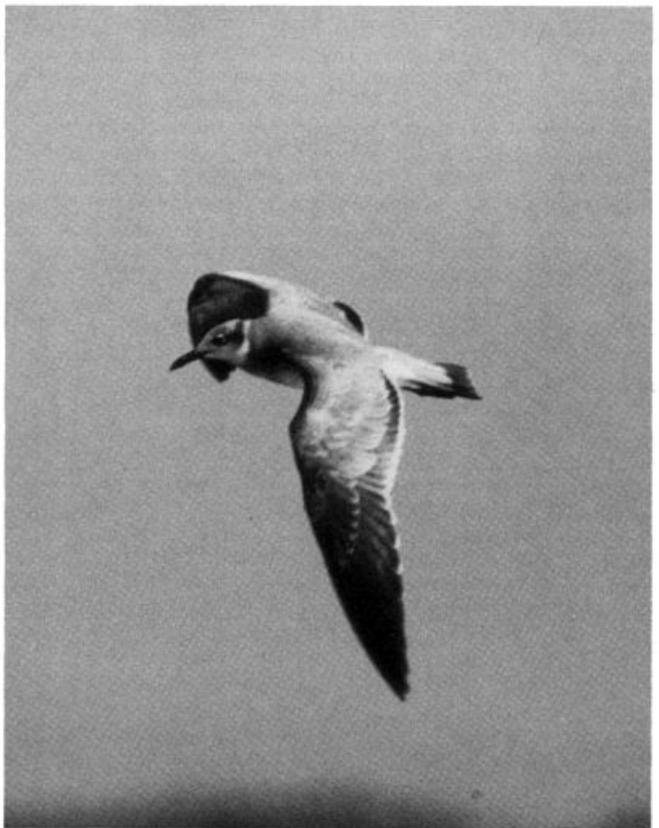
Rufous-necked Stint (an adult in fading alternate plumage) near Aimakapa Pond, Hawaii I., Aug. 20, 1986. Photo/Reginald David.

the chest, prominent when the bird was first seen, had largely faded away by the end of August. Details of description and identification are in preparation for publication. Also, a **Curlew Sandpiper** studied well at Amoriant Aquafarm, O., Sept. 6 (PD, RD, RLP) and later by others remained until at least Sept. 23 (PD). Finally, a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was a highlight of an Audubon field trip to Waipio Sept. 14 (PD, RLP et al.). All three are species recorded fewer than 5 times previously in the state.

Other casual shorebird species recorded this season included a Least Sandpiper at Waipio Sept. 6–28 (m.ob.) and a Western Sandpiper at Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 9 (RD) & 30 (PP). Another Western remained at Tern I., F.F.S., Sept. 6 through Nov. 13 and a Semipalmated Sandpiper was also reported there Oct. 9–16 (LM, RV, JS). Single Pectoral and Sharp-tailed sandpipers were at Tern I., Aug. 14–22 (NN, RV, LM), but elsewhere in the state reports of these two species this fall were fewer than usual. An estimated 200 Sanderlings at Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 9 (RD) was a very high count.

Five Ruffs at Waipio Sept. 6–14 (PD, RD, RLP) were not seen thereafter, although individuals have frequently wintered there in recent years. A juv. Short-billed Dowitcher, rare in Hawaii, was first seen at Waipio Aug. 28 and last identified Oct. 3 (PD). Dowitchers (probably mostly Long-billed) increased at Waipio thereafter to high counts of 17 Nov. 9 (RLP) and 19 Nov. 21 (PD). A dowitcher was reported at Tern I., F.F.S., Sept. 24 (LM), and four Long-billeds were at Kanaha Pond, M., Nov. 11 (RD).

GULLS AND TERNS — Laughing Gulls are becoming quite regular now as visiting individuals to Hawaii in fall and winter. Single birds were reported this season at Tern I., Aug. 4–15 (RV), Keahole Pt., H., Nov. 13 (CT, RD ph.) and Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 30 (PP). Two Ring-billed Gulls were at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Nov. 6 (PD), with one seen occasionally thereafter, and three were at Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 30 (PP).



First-winter Laughing Gull at Keahole Point, Hawaii I., Nov. 13, 1986. Photo/Reginald David.

S.A.

Status of Least Tern and/or Little Tern in Hawaii is becoming more and more of an enigma. Numerous sightings of small terns over the years have generally been reported as Least Terns without carefully distinguishing between the two forms, which now are regarded as separate species. The only Hawaii specimen now extant, taken at F.F.S., has been identified as the old world Little Tern (Roger Clapp, U.S. Nat'l Mus.).

Following last season's report of two small terns at Pearl & Hermes Reef (170 km e.s.e. of Midway) in early June, two adults with a subadult and an immature were sighted there on several visits between Aug. 12 & 23 (SC). Two adults with an immature had also been found at Pearl & Hermes a year earlier, in the summer of 1985 (AB 39:964). Breeding by one or the other of these species at Pearl & Hermes has been speculated, but would be far outside the traditional breeding range of either species.

One or two recent reports of small terns on Oahu have been tentatively identified as Least Tern by call (SB, DP). If Least Terns do occur in Hawaii, the nearest and most likely source population would be the form *browni* of the North American west coast. Since *browni* is classified as Endangered, further collecting to establish which species is here is beset by legal hurdles.

On Oahu, meanwhile, following the odd early-summer report of a Least/Little Tern at Waiawa Unit, P.H.N.W.R., reported last season, one was seen there regularly from Sept. 24 through Nov. 13 (SB, PD, RLP). Possibly the same bird was reported at nearby Waipio Sept. 19 (MO, EE).

PARROTS THROUGH CANARIES — Free-flying parrots and parakeets, long a feature of Hawaii's birdlife, are being reported now more often and in larger numbers around Honolulu. One flock of 22 *Amazona* parrots, primarily Red-crowned but possibly including individuals of other species as well, was sighted at the Diamond Head end of Kapiolani Park Oct. 12 (TP). A (not necessarily Hawaiian) Short-eared Owl has been resident at Tern. I., F.F.S., since Aug. 6, feeding on turnstones, golden-plovers, and Wedge-tailed Shearwater chicks (RV). These owls turning up from time to time in the western portion of the Hawaiian chain might well be coming from n.e. Asia rather than from the main Hawaiian Islands. An (almost certainly Hawaiian) Short-eared Owl (*Pueo*) has been seen several times in late summer at Ki'i Unit, J.C.N.W.R., indicating that the species is still hanging on tenuously in n. Oahu. It is also still recorded occasionally at Waipio. Two Gray Swiftlets, a species resident and nesting on Oahu since the early 1960s, were seen Oct. 31 near the lower end of Halawa Ridge Trail, O. (DW). Continuing on to the known nesting cave at the head of Halawa Valley, the observers found remains of older swiftlet nests, but no active or recent nests at this season.

A Melodious Laughing-thrush and several Red-billed Leiothrix were heard singing along Wiliwilinui Ridge Trail in s.e. Oahu Sept. 1 (TP). Both are hard to find now on this island. Red-whiskered Bulbuls are still expanding their range on Oahu. Four were seen on Aiea Loop Trail Nov. 23 (RLP), while several at Ho'omaluhia Park in Kaneohe in late November were the first reported across the Koolau Mts. in Windward Oahu. Two Red-crested Cardinals Aug. 30 at Kapalua Beach in extreme n.w. Maui (DA) and three at Kanaha Pond in n. central Maui Nov. 28 (PP) were notable for that island, where the species is still scarce. Yellow-faced Grassquits were reported this season at 2 interesting locations on Oahu: two in a grassy area on Aiea Ridge Trail Aug. 24 (BE) and a total of six (including one in ♂ plumage) at 4 widely-scattered spots on upper Poamoho Trail Sept. 15 (TP). A fine ♂ Saffron Finch, unreported on Oahu in several years, was sighted at Salt Lake

Golf Course in w. Honolulu Oct. 16 (MO). Many Yellow-fronted Canaries were heard and seen on Na Laau Trail Sept. 1 (KF).

HAWAIIAN HONEYCREEPERS, ESTRILDIDS — The population of Laysan Finches (*Endangered*) is still healthy on several islands at Pearl & Hermes Reef (SC), where they were introduced in 1967 from Laysan I. 'Amakihi are being reported more frequently at lower elevations in Honolulu. One was found Sept. 29 on Tantalus Drive (DP, RLP), where they have been known previously. Also, they were reported several times this fall in the Pacific Heights area of Honolulu, including down to 120 ft elevation near Punchbowl Cemetery, where they have not been known before (JL). An ad. Kauai Creeper, difficult to find in the Koke'e area, was sighted Aug. 3 on Pihea Trail (TP). On Hawaii I., the three rarest endemic forest birds, 'Akiapola'au, Hawaii Creeper, and 'Akepa (all *Endangered*), were all found this summer and fall on several visits to a choice forest habitat in the Kulani area (m.ob.).

Orange-cheeked Waxbills still hang on along the Na Laau Trail, O., where four were found Sept. 1 (KF). Groups of Red-cheeked Cordonbleu and Lavender Waxbills were seen several times during October and November at the traditional spot near Pu'uanaulu, H. (DP, PP). Two Lavenders were reported near Honaunau, H., Aug. 11 (DP), and two were on Na Laau Trail, O., Sept. 1 (KF). This species is reported to be increasing around Kailua-Kona, H. (RD). Warbling Silverbills seem to be establishing themselves now on Oahu, where five were observed feeding in Diamond Head crater Nov. 22 (DM). Two Java Sparrows near Lihue, K., Aug. 29 (TP) and two at a bird feeder in Kihel, M., Sept. 21 (MS) documented incipient establishment of that species on those islands.

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Robert L. Norton

Precipitation during the fall as measured at St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, was 13% below normal for August, -85% for September, and -22% for October, but November was 63% above normal so that the precipitation for the entire period was only 18% below normal. Cuba claimed to have its worst drought in 27 years (*Daily News*, Dec. 8, 1986) and reported that the drought condition has been a problem since 1981, with considerable losses to agriculture. The Cuban Institute of Hydro-economy reported that rainfall there was 80% below normal in 1981, 91% in 1982, 73% in 1983, 75% in 1984, 78% in 1985, and finally 68% below normal in 1986.

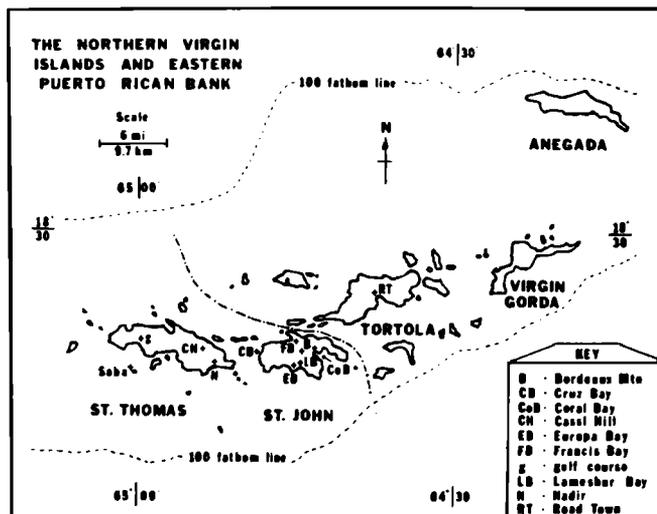
The proposed timber harvest of 20% of El Yunque rain forest in eastern Puerto Rico threatens the last vestige of tropical rain forest in the United States. The Luquillo Mountains' Caribbean National Forest, managed by the U.S. Forest Service (see Wiley and Bauer 1985, *American Birds* 39 12-18), is home to the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot and several other rare or endemic forms. The Forest Service wishes to use the harvest as a model for management plans in other tropical countries. With only 27,000 acres left, the Caribbean National Forest can ill afford to have 20% of its forest open to experimentation and the risk of extinction of a national symbol. (This issue's ICBP column is devoted to the Puerto Rican Parrot. See page 28.)

ABBREVIATIONS — G.B. = Grand Bahama Island; P.R. = Puerto Rico.

GREBES THROUGH TERNS — A Least Grebe was seen Nov. 29 at West End, G.B., while 10 Pied-billed Grebes were noted in the same area (PWS, SD). Nineteen Double-crested Cormorants made a rare occurrence on Eleuthera Nov. 24 (RG). Also noted Nov. 29 at West End, G.B., was one Least Bittern (PWS, SD). White and dark phase Reddish Egrets numbered four each at Providenciales Nov. 15 (BA). Counts of White-cheeked Pintails at St. Croix were of 64 Aug. 14, 51 Sept. 13, 58 Oct. 3, and 74 Nov. 23 (FS). Providenciales had 24 (including juveniles) Sept. 26 (BA), and 10+ were on G.B., Nov. 29 (PWS, SD). The continued, albeit sporadic, sightings of Cinnamon Teal on St. Croix, seen Nov. 7 this season (FS), suggest that the species might be encountered elsewhere in the Region. A single N. Shoveler was seen on St. Croix Oct. 12–Nov. 22 (FS). Another was on G.B., for a rare occurrence in the Bahamas, and the same location yielded five Ring-necked Ducks and a ♀ Hooded Merganser Nov. 29 (PWS, SD).

At St. Croix, single Merlins were seen Oct. 24 and Nov. 21, and single Peregrine Falcons were seen Oct. 24 and Nov. 22 (FS). Two N. Harriers were seen Nov. 29 near West End, G.B. (PWS, SD). A Purple Gallinule seen Sept. 11 at St. Croix (RW, FS) was probably a vagrant from P.R. One Caribbean Coot was carefully noted among Am. Coots at West End, G.B., Nov. 29 (PWS, SD). A single Am. Coot was noted at St. Croix Aug. 1 and Sept. 12 (FS).

Six Lesser Golden-Plovers were observed at St. Croix Sept. 8 (FS). An intriguing count of nine Piping Plovers at Eleuthera Nov. 24 (RG) provided one of the few major records of winter occurrence in the Region. A Solitary Sandpiper was seen Aug. 10 and as late as Oct. 1 at St. Croix (FS). A single Upland Sandpiper seen at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R., Sept. 7 (TB) apparently provided the first record for the s.w. corner of that island. One of the most important shorebird spots on St. Croix has been the industrial settlement lagoon system (carved out of the



Krause Lagoon). According to Sladen this is now largely inoperative, which may be partly responsible for the reduced numbers of some migrant species. Only two Red Knots were seen there Aug. 1 (FS). Other shorebird counts for St. Croix included 90 W. Sandpipers Oct. 2, 12 White-rumped Sandpipers Sept. 7, three Pectoral Sandpipers Aug. 14 and 12 Oct. 12, and one Wilson's Phalarope Oct. 6 (FS). Table 1 offers high counts of migrant shorebirds at 3 locations in the e. Caribbean.

Table 1. Highest count and date of shorebirds observed in the eastern Caribbean

Species	Eleuthera (RG)	Providenciales (BA)	St. Croix (FS)
Black-bellied Plover	6 (11/20)	8 (9/29)	56 (9/21)
Wilson's Plover	12 (11/20)	2 (9/18)	65 (8/17)
Semipalmated Plover	10 (11/20)	—	36 (8/26)
Greater Yellowlegs	—	4 (11/15)	21 (9/21)
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 (11/20)	12 (11/15)	59 (8/14)
Ruddy Turnstone	22 (11/20)	present	80 (9/26)
Sanderling	9 (11/20)	2 (9/26)	15 (8/14)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	—	75 (11/22)	460 (9/13)
Least Sandpiper	19 (11/20)	1 (10/18)	112 (9/13)
Stilt Sandpiper	—	1 (9/26)	100 (9/17)
Short-billed Dowitcher	42 (11/20)	75 (11/15)	200 (9/17)

Two Ring-billed Gulls were seen Nov. 30 at St. Croix (FS). At Providenciales, two Gull-billed Terns were noted Sept. 26 (BA). Eight Least Terns were noted on migration at St. Croix Oct. 5, and two Com. Terns were noted there Oct. 7–12 (FS). The Region's most outstanding record of the year again came from St. Croix, where a **White-winged Tern** was seen and photographed (FS, RW), providing only the 3rd record for the West Indies. The previous sightings occurred at Great Inagua and Barbados.

DOVES THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — On Aug. 14, 39 White-crowned Pigeons were noted at St. Croix (FS), where the species is apparently coming back from overhunting (Norton and Seaman 1985). One of the newest additions to the exotic fauna of the West Indies is Eur. Collared-Dove. It is now locally common in Freeport, G.B., where 50 were seen Nov. 29 (PWS, SD). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen from mid-to

late November at Providenciales (BA). Ten Antillean Night-hawks were noted on migration at St. Croix Aug. 4 (FS). A bird identified as an E. Wood-Pewee at St. Croix Oct. 9 (FS, RW) would, if confirmed, provide the first record for the Virgin Islands and the southernmost for the West Indies.

Sladen noted a Tree Swallow at St. Croix Aug. 15 (earliest date for the Region), another Oct. 25, and 15 Nov. 23 (perhaps the highest count for the Virgin Islands). Six N. Rough-winged Swallows were noted at Providenciales Nov. 14 (BA), two were at St. Croix Nov. 25 (FS), and one carefully studied Nov. 30 on G.B. (PWS, SD) represented the latest fall date for the Bahamas. At St. Croix, Cliff Swallows numbered 24 Oct. 25 and 20 Nov. 27 (FS). The single Cuban Crow on Providenciales was recorded again Sept. 25–Nov. 23 (BA). European Starlings have been making it big in Freeport, G.B., as evidenced by 100 noted there Nov. 28 (PWS, SD). Sladen also reported that two starlings remained at St. Croix Aug. 29–Oct. 24, and then one was seen Nov. 4.

A White-eyed Vireo was noted Nov. 22 at Providenciales (BA), and single White-eyed and Yellow-throated vireos were seen Nov. 30 on G.B. (PWS, SD). The first Yellow-throated Vireo for St. Croix was seen Nov. 27 (FS, RW), providing evidence

of wintering in the Virgin Islands, in addition to records from the n. islands. A Blue-winged Warbler was noted on St. Croix Oct. 18, and two were seen there Nov. 15 (RW, FS). Another Blue-winged was at Providenciales Oct. 21, while a Golden-winged Warbler seen there Oct. 17 furnished a first record for Providenciales (BA). A Tennessee Warbler was noted at Providenciales Oct. 20–Nov. 4 (BA), and another was on G.B., Nov. 29 (PWS, SD). The local races of Yellow-throated Warbler and Olive-capped Warbler were seen only sparingly Nov. 29 on G.B. Pine Warbler, another locally-breeding parulid of the Bahamas, was sparsely reported in the pinelands of Lucaya, G.B. (PWS, SD). Two Louisiana Waterthrushes noted Oct. 19–20 furnished the first record for Providenciales (BA). One to two Connecticut Warblers were seen at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R., Sept. 22–Oct. 29 (PH, CS, TB). An imm. Scarlet Tanager was noted Sept. 13 at St. Croix (FS).

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Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus*). Illustration/James Coe.