

The Autumn Migration

August 1—November 30, 1987

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

We regret that at press time, we had not received the Northeastern Maritime Regional Report.

QUEBEC REGION

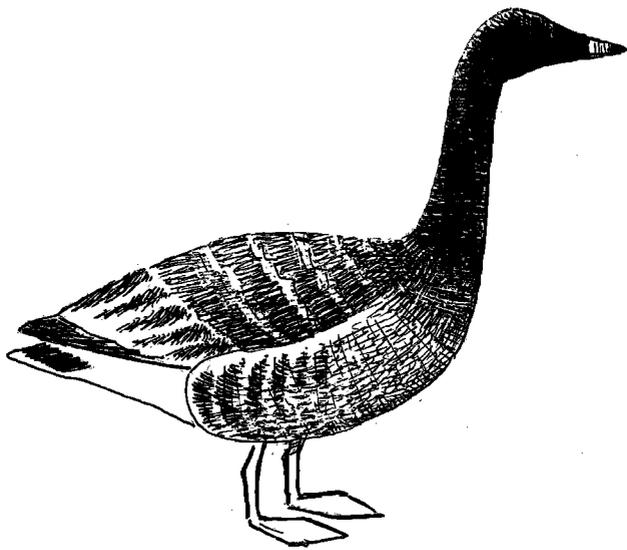
Michel Gosselin, Richard Yank, and Yves Aubry

August weather was generally cool and dry in the south, warm and wet in the north. September was mild throughout the province, but particularly in northern Quebec. It was wetter than normal along most of the St. Lawrence Valley and in the extreme north, and this precipitation pattern extended through to the end of the period. While eastern Quebec continued relatively mild in October, the western one-half of the Region averaged as much as 2°C below normal. Except for central Quebec, November temperatures were below average.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Migrant Red-throated Loons were widely reported in s.w. Quebec; 24 inland at Victoriaville Nov. 9 (AC) constituted the largest concentration. An ad. Pacific Loon, still displaying traces of alternate plumage, was sighted from the Matane ferry Nov. 14 (MLa, JPO). Two N. Fulmars were seen off Matane Oct. 25 (DT, GLm) and one remained there Nov. 14 (JPO, MLa); one spotted from shore at Lévis Nov. 8 (GLm) was exceptionally far west. Both rare and record late was a Sooty Shearwater off Bergeronnes Oct. 25 (AB). The **American White Pelican** first reported at Sept-Iles in the summer was last seen Sept. 20 (BDe), 2 days after the opening of the hunting season. Visiting birders encountered a Tricolored Heron at Paspédiac June 28 (GBa, MNV).



Cattle Egrets staged a minor invasion Oct. 10–28 with a total of 11 birds observed at E. Stanstead (fide CCh), Victoriaville (JP et al.), Quebec City (RLa), Amqui (LP), Anse-à-Valleau (HC), and Havre-Saint-Pierre (GSI, SP). Rimouski hosted the Region's 6th **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, a well-described immature, Sept. 1 (DR, GG). A **Plegadis ibis**, for which there are few fall records, was present at Maple-Grove Sept. 23 (RBo).



Bean Goose at Cap-Tourmente, Quebec, Oct. 14, 1987, from a sketch by Y. Aubry. Drawing/M. Gosselin.

S.A.

Cap-Tourmente was visited Oct. 14–15 by the 2nd **Bean Goose** ever seen in Canada (YA, v.o.); this site also hosted the first, shot by a hunter in 1982 (see AB 37: 159), which proved to be of the European tundra subspecies *rossicus*. This year's bird was an adult of very slim proportions, with a long dark neck and head, and a long dark bill circled by a sharp orange-yellow ring—all characters of the e. taiga subspecies *middendorffii*. A bird seen at the Iowa-Nebraska border in 1985 was also identified as *middendorffii* (AB 39:172, 182). Cap-Tourmente lies in the St. Lawrence Valley, at the junction of salt and fresh water. The entire population of Greater Snow Geese (*C. c. atlantica*) and many vagrant geese stop there in fall. This season, a Greater White-fronted Goose was identified there Oct. 12 as being of the Greenland race *flavirostris* (PP), and a total of five Ross' Geese was seen, including two blue-morph birds Oct. 15–21 (JPO, AC, m.ob.). A goose intermediate between Snow and Ross' was also noted Oct. 18, as was the occasional small Canada Goose, *B. c. hutchinsii* (YA, v.o.).

A ♀ Ruddy Shelduck of unknown origin appeared on L. Boivin, near Granby, Oct. 10–11 (ST), and a record-late Eur. Wigeon was seen at Côte-Sainte-Catherine Nov. 28–29 (DP et al.). In light of recent concern over the status of the Atlantic population of Harlequin Ducks, it is worth documenting the group of 38 at Pt. Sud-Ouest, Anticosti I., Aug. 13 (PBa). Singles also wandered to I. aux Basques Oct. 14 (JPO) and Chicoutimi Oct. 18–19 (RS).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — No longer unexpected, an ad. Turkey Vulture reached Saint-Pascal Sept. 5 (LM). Bald Eagles were regularly noted along the Lower St. Lawrence; 30± individuals were counted on Anticosti I., where 10 confirmed and probable nests were found this year (PS). An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk at Rimouski Aug. 18 (GG, DR) added to the growing number of local sightings. A Sora uncovered at Baie de la Tour Aug. 12 (PBa) was noteworthy, as no nesting records exist yet for Anticosti I. A Sandhill Crane

that stopped near Ladysmith for 2 weeks in August (TB) provided our only fall report from s. Quebec

Single Willets were observed at Pointe-au-Père Aug. 11 (AB, JI et al.) and I. Saint-Ours Sept. 3 (CM, BC). Inland records of Hudsonian Godwits in s.w. Quebec included two at Victoriaville Oct. 21–23 (AC, MGr), one at Aylmer Oct. 22 and Nov 2 (PTo), and two in the Montreal area (DES), while a Marbled Godwit strayed to Pointe-Lebel Aug. 22–23 (GC). Lone juv W Sandpipers paused at Boucherville Aug. 8 (FB) and Quebec City Sept. 11–20 (GLm, CS, CV). Purple Sandpipers were more frequently reported than usual in w. Quebec, with up to 12 at Saint-Fulgence Oct. 12–Nov. 7 (JI et al.), two at Saint-Pierres-Becquets Oct. 30 (DJa), and one on I. Perrot the next day (PM et al.). Following a good fall showing by the species, a Stilt Sandpiper lingered at Boucherville until Oct. 18 (FB) to break the late departure record. The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper seen this fall was on I. aux Fermiers Aug. 30 (GD), and a very late dowitcher at Boucherville until Oct. 29 was identified as a Short-billed (JLu, FB, FH). Exceptional phalarope sightings involved a Wilson's at Saint-Gédéon Aug. 28–Sept. 3 (CG, MS) and inland Red Phalaropes (singles unless noted) at Saint-Gédéon Sept. 10–15 (CG, MS), Bristol Sept. 26–27 (two—TB, JLM), La Baie Oct. 3 (fide CCo), Saint-Fulgence Oct. 4 (GSa, CCo), Saint-Ferdinand Oct. 17 (AC), and Lévis Oct. 29 (GLm).

JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS — Along the Upper St. Lawrence, an ad. Parasitic Jaeger was present at Beaconsfield Aug. 31–Sept. 4 (PTa) and one was at Saint-Antoine-de-Tilly Sept 27 (JLD). Other larids provided few highlights, but noteworthy were an ad. Laughing Gull at Cacouna Aug. 1 (GG), imm Franklin's at Trois-Pistoles Aug. 15 (MLa, JPO) and Victoriaville Oct. 22–28 (AC), an imm. Little Gull at Moisie R., Sept. 11 (YA), a Com. Black-headed Gull inland at Granby Oct. 20 (MGa et al.), and single 3rd-winter and first-winter Thayer's Gulls at Aylmer Nov. 14 (DSH) & 28 (JD), respectively. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull returned to Boischatel (CV), one to three were seen at Montreal (MMc, PM, WG), one was seen at Hull Nov. 16 (JH), and three different birds were identified at Victoriaville Oct. 21–Nov. 14 (AC, GO, Dju). Seldom found on inland lakes, two Great Black-backed Gulls reached L. Osisko, Rouyn, Nov. 11–17 (JLp). A juv. Sabine's Gull graced Beauharnois dam Aug. 29–30 and Sept. 26 (PBa, PP, v.o.). Only one Caspian Tern was sighted, at Boucherville Aug. 19 (FB) A Dovekie was very early off Old-Harry Pt., Madeleine Is., Sept 4 (PV, RPR) and another reached Quebec City Nov. 23 (GBo, CV). An Atlantic Puffin that flew past Rivière-Ouelle Oct 31 (CA) was also farther west than expected.

S.A.

An astonishing number of Yellow-billed Cuckoos reached s. Quebec this season. No fewer than 33 birds were seen across a broad front, from Hull to Bonaventure I., Sept. 18–Oct. 30. The highest concentration occurred in the Quebec City area, where a dozen were observed in mid-October. Such northward fall movements of Yellow-billed Cuckoo have traditionally been attributed to weather fronts, but the periodic nature and large scale of these movements are unique to this species. Recent October peaks of varying intensity have been noted in Quebec in 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1983, and 1985. The fall migration of Yellow-billed Cuckoos involves a movement toward the East Coast followed by an overseas leg to South America. Since its summer distribution is linked to periodic insect outbreaks (e.g., this year's outbreak of 17-year cicadas), the species may reach the East Coast at latitudes or in numbers that vary from year to year. The large-scale vagrancy of the species may thus be linked to a combination of two contrasting behaviors seldom found together in the same species: erratic mass movements in search of food and stereotyped long-distance migration.

An uncorroborated report of a group (family?) of five Com Barn-Owls calling in a N. Hatley farmyard, July 30 (AL), was highly suggestive of local breeding. A former nesting record from Berthierville in 1931 (Auk 64:631) had in fact been based on a November sighting of fully-fledged birds (see *Can. Field-Nat* 93:323-324). There are, however, unpublished unconfirmed reports of the species summering at Lacolle in 1979, 1980, and 1981 (H. Miehe, *vide ND*), and at Ulverton around 1970 (J. Dion, *vide ND*). The recent designation of the Snowy Owl as the official provincial bird was well timed, as the species staged a major incursion into s. Quebec. No fewer than 125 birds arrived in late October and early November; the chronology of sightings suggests a rapid S-W displacement up the St. Lawrence Valley, beginning along the N. Shore, rather than an overland movement. Nine N. Hawk-Owls made an above-average showing, as did four Boreal Owls detected in s. Quebec: at Saint-Nazaire-de-Chicoutimi (MB), Cap-Tourmente (SLa), I. des Soeurs (FH), and Côte-Sainte-Catherine (MMc, BB). Typical, however, were the four Great Gray Owls, at Saint-Ludger-de-Milot in late September (CH), Senneterre Oct. 6 (SLe, *vide PBr*), Cap-Tourmente Oct. 17-26 (MLo *et al.*), and Saint-Jean-de-Matha Nov. 8 (SG, JPG). While invasion years bring numbers of Great Gray Owls from Regions to the west, where the species is more common, such scattered sightings each fall likely represent movements of birds from small resident populations in n w Quebec over comparatively short distances.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES — Vagrant flycatchers included two Great Crested Flycatchers along the N. Shore, at Sault-au-Mouton Oct. 13-16 (AT) and Hauterive Oct. 15 (SM, RLe, RBa), an E. Kingbird at Magpie Sept. 12 (YA), and an ad. **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** described from Côte-Sainte-Catherine Nov. 1 (GLf, *vide GD*). An extralimital imm. Purple Martin was seen at Rimouski Oct. 17 (GG, DR), and a Châteauguay woodlot produced a Tufted Titmouse, still an irregular visitor to the Region, Nov. 1 (PM). White-breasted Nuthatches enlivened I. aux Basques Sept. 5 (*vide JLR*) and a Jonquière feeder Oct. 13 (BDt), adding to the recent spate of sightings n. of their normal range. Carolina Wren numbers were down from last year, with only one at Baie-d'Urfé Nov. 5-8 (*vide MMc*), while a Marsh Wren, not known for its wanderings, furnished only the 2nd N. Shore sighting at Pointe-Label Sept. 26 (GC, SM, AG).

A Yellow-throated Vireo at Senneville Oct. 24 (SB) was record-late by 2 weeks, but the best passerine of the season was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** located on I. aux Basques Oct. 10 (MD *et al.*). Only one previous record exists for the Region, of a bird photographed in Philipsburg Oct. 30-Nov. 14, 1971 (CCh). Quebec's 12th **Prairie Warbler** was an immature found dead at Montreal Sept. 28 (* N.M.N.H.—JJB). A record-late Ovenbird was seen at Charlesbourg Nov. 25 (JMG) and a stray Yellow-breasted Chat was seen intermittently at Rimouski Sept. 21-Oct. 3 (DR, GG).

A pair of N. Cardinals was still feeding fledged young at Hudson on the late date of Oct. 23 (DES), while November

brought several northerly sightings, notable was a male that brightened a Dolbeau feeder Nov. 3-20 (JGd *et al.*), a first for L. Saint-Jean. Lone Indigo Buntings were both locally rare and late at Rimouski Oct. 5 (DR, GG) and Chicoutimi Oct. 20-21 (RS). Displaced emberizines included a Rufous-sided Towhee at Stoneham Oct. 31 (GSL), a male at Saint-Lambert-de-Lévis Nov. 18 (LSM), a female at Saint-Valère (CCr), and a male at Saint-Ferdinand (JR) Nov. 28-29, as well as a **Lark Sparrow** at Pt. Paradis Oct. 4 (AG). A feeder in Bergeronnes attracted an unexpected Sharp-tailed Sparrow Oct. 15 (AB, VB), and the province's 8th **Harris' Sparrow**, an immature, frequented a Rigaud feeder Nov. 3-11 (GH, v.o.). Observers reported single Dark-eyed Juncos of the "Oregon" type at Mt. Saint-Bruno during October (JLu) and Hull Nov. 15 & 27 (JC, RF). A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at Longueuil Sept. 23 (JLc) and out-of-range N. Orioles were encountered at Pointe-aux-Outardes and Hauterive Oct. 3 & 12 (GC), respectively, and at Grande-Rivière Oct. 7 (JCB, NB). The first House Finches to be reported on the Gaspé Pen. were two males at Chandler Aug. 15 (JRL).

EXOTICS — Although unbanded, a Barnacle Goose at Saint-Vallier Aug. 4-14 (JGr) accompanied obviously escaped waterfowl, including two Bar-headed Geese. A Ringed Turtle-Dove remained at Sillery Nov. 2-29 (YH), and single Monk Parakeets were found at Boucherville Aug. 22 (PG) and Beupré Oct. 1-16 (WK).

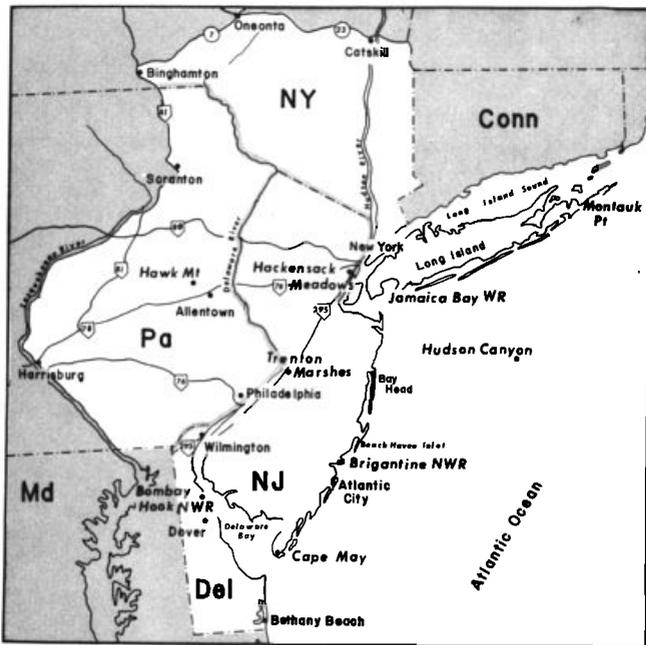
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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

We try in this column to keep sensational rarities from crowding out solid day-by-day work on normal species' trends. This year, as usual, we received rich data from a dozen hawk watches, coastal banding stations at Sandy

Hook and Island Beach, Monmouth County, New Jersey, Arthur Morris' shorebird study at Jamaica Bay, New York City, and Dave Ward's 109-hour seawatch in October-November at Avalon, Cape May County, New Jersey (see loons, gannets, scoters). These steady monitors of single spots establish base line figures that really tell what is going on. This column tries to report their main findings.



This fall, however, we cannot help emphasizing rarities. What else can we do with a season that produced White-faced Storm-Petrel, Long-billed Curlew, Little Stint, Black-tailed Godwit, Vermilion Flycatcher (first record for the entire northeast), Ash-throated Flycatcher, Townsend's Solitaire, Audubon's, Black-throated Gray, and Townsend's warblers, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Le Conte's Sparrow, not to mention a number of other less extraordinary but unusual species?

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.; Conejohela = Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Lancaster Co., Pa.; 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 STORM-PETRELS — An early snowstorm Nov. 11 downed a record five Red-throated Loons at Beltzville L., Carbon, Pa. (RW), another at L. Nockamixon, Bucks, Pa. (AM, B & NM), and seven in n.w. New Jersey (J. Zamos, F. Tetlow), along with several hundred of the more expected Com. Loons. Ward counted 22,700 loons, 90% Red-throated, passing Avalon (DWa). A Pacific Loon was reported off Sandy Hook, N.J., Nov. 7 (KKa, BFe, S. Barnes).

Pied-billed Grebes must have had a good breeding season somewhere, or perhaps more migrants than usual were downed. Eighty at L. Musconetcong, n.w. New Jersey, Nov. 3 was nearly twice the previous high there (B. Hueneman), and 16 at Tincum Nov. 1 (AG) was the largest group there in several decades. Other good counts were of 25 at Bombay Hook Sept. 2 (WJW), and 46 between Wading River and Montauk Pt., L.I., Oct. 17 (JRu). The season's only Eared Grebe was at J.B.W.R. in mid-October (fide TWB).

A pair of 4-day voyages organized by Am. Birds carried about 60 eager observers out of Montauk Sept. 17-20 and Sept. 24-27 (SRD). The first leg was particularly rough and productive, recording 2386 tube-noses of eight species (plus jaegers, gulls, terns, and phalaropes, below). A grand total of 296 marine mammals of six species was counted. The intensity of the birding effort expended in these 8 days means that the lows as well as the highs are significant. Only seven N. Fulmars, all Sept. 26, were further proof of this species' withdrawal from our waters along with foreign fishing fleets. No Black-capped Petrels were found. Greater Shearwaters (225) far outnumbered

Cory's Shearwater (70), as expected at this date. One Sooty Shearwater was late on Sept. 19. Eight Manx Shearwaters were good, but should be considered normal now that they breed off Massachusetts. Six Audubon's Shearwaters, all Sept. 18-19, were good but not a Regional maximum.

Most of the tube-noses were Wilson's Storm-Petrels (2155 overall), as expected. The premier find was one **White-faced Storm-Petrel** Sept. 18 (†MO'B, †G. Lasley, R. Naveen, K. Kaufman, G. McCaskie, E. Blom, A. Small, SRD, m.ob.), between Hudson and Block Canyons, 80 mi. s. of Montauk Pt. and about 100 mi. e. of New Jersey. The bird was found in a warm water patch (73-74 degrees), among a small flock of Wilson's Storm-Petrels. This would seem to be about the 12th Regional record, and the first since 1980. It fits the emerging pattern well; all but 8 of the previous 47 w. North Atlantic records, and all of the specimens, have occurred between Aug. 5 and Oct. 17 (see G.E. Watson et al., "Status and Subspecific Identity of White-faced Storm-Petrels in the Western North Atlantic Ocean," AB 40:401-408). The failure of this potent expedition to find either Leach's or Band-rumped storm-petrel is noteworthy.

GANNETS THROUGH WATERFOWL — More than 2000 N. Gannets passed Avalon on 4 days in November; the total count was 20,470 (DWa). The last Brown Pelicans off New Jersey and Delaware were several Aug. 11 (J. Swertinski, J. Forrest), and five reported off Oak Beach, L.I., Aug. 16 by a non-birder (fide TWB) may indeed have been authentic.

Encouraging numbers of Am. Bitterns were around this fall, and 15 setting out across Delaware Bay from Cape May Pt. at dusk Oct. 4 (JDo) were extraordinary. The Cumberland, N.J., imm. White Ibis reported in our last column was the harbinger of a micro-invasion. There were eventually two adults and four other single immatures, mostly at Brig and Cape May into October (HW, D. Dowdell, JBo, m.ob.), and two immatures were inland in August in Lancaster and York, Pa. (P. Broadwell, RMS, DH).

A group of Greater White-fronted Geese at Bombay Hook, believed to be wild, grew from two Nov. 14 (RMS, S. Santner) to six at the end of November (A. Farnsworth et al.) and seven in early December (NH). One at Squibb Pond, Lawrenceville, Mercer, N.J., in November (C. Fox et al.) was the 3rd there in 5 years (RJB). An unprecedented number of Snow Geese gathered on w. Long Island, reaching 3000 at J.B.W.R. (AMo) and 200 at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., Nov. 7 (J. Clinton). The J.B.W.R. group included one blue morph Nov. 14 (SW), and five were among 3500 Snow Geese at Elmer, Salem, N.J., Nov. 25-27 (JH). Now that a few Ross' Geese are known to winter among the increasing Snow Geese of this Region, close scrutiny reveals ever more. This season's best counts were of three at Bombay Hook Oct. 20 (G. Numme et al.), two at Primehook N.W.R., Del., Dec. 3 (NH), and one at Brig during October.

A Eur. Wigeon was notable at Mannington Marsh, Salem, N.J., Nov. 13 (JH), and more usual coastal sites like J.B.W.R. and Brig had three or four each (SW, J. Danzenbaker et al.). The regular ♂ Tufted Duck was back at the Central Park, N.Y.C., reservoir by Nov. 30 (T. Leukering). It was the best fall for eiders in New Jersey in this decade. Common Eiders built at Cape May from eight on Sept. 26 to about 20 by late November (B & NM, PS), and four were off Indian R. Inlet, Del., Oct. 31 (BFi). King Eiders reached two at Barnegat, N.J., Nov. 23 (NP), three at Cape May (JDo), and two in Delaware (B & SFi).

The only substantial inland Oldsquaw grounding was of a good 24 at Point View Res., Passaic, N.J., with a cold front Nov. 7 (JBr). Exceptionally, Luzerne, Pa., had all three scoters: 31 Blacks at Harvey's L., Nov. 2 (WR), one Surf Scoter at Huntsville, Nov. 29 (BLM, F. & B. Haas), and one White-winged Scoter at Sylvan L., Oct. 30 (W. Evans). Black Scoters are always most numerous inland; 16 others were at L. Marburg, York, Pa., Oct. 31, without any storm (DH). The only other scoters reported inland were two Surf Scoters at Point View Res., N.J., Oct. 10 (JBr). Ward counted 66,700 scoters passing Avalon, 23,000 of them Oct. 23, mostly Black and Surf, less than 3% White-winged Scoters, which tend to winter farther north (DWa).

RAPTORS — Black Vultures are “increasing geometrically” in n. Delaware (APE). The peak there was of 60 s. of Milford Oct 10 (SS *et al.*), and 30 were at Primehook N.W.R., Oct. 29 (J Budey). Nearer the n. limit, up to 30 accumulated at Coventry Farms, near Princeton, N.J., after Oct. 25 (LL), and a roost of 40 formed at Foul Rift, Warren, N.J., Nov. 3 (GH).

We can hardly do justice to the hawk watches. Hawk Mt. had 14 species of hawks and both vultures Oct. 1, the greatest daily variety in this watch’s half-century (LG). Osprey recovery produced new record totals (e.g., 5402 at Cape May, JBo). Although Osprey migration was prolonged as usual, it was particularly spectacular Sept. 21–22 (923 at Cape May, and 218 at Montclair, EG). The only Mississippi Kite reported was quite late at Cape May Sept. 13 (BMa). Bald Eagles had their best season in many years. Hawk Mt.’s 63 (over half immatures) was the best total since 1955 (LG). Among numerous scattered records away from hawk watches, the best was of eight at Dividing Creek, Cumberland, N.J., Sept. 4 (CS). Northern Harriers improved after a disappointing count in 1986. Cape May’s 3080 was a record, Hook Mt.’s 249 was the highest in 6 years, and Hawk Mt.’s 355 was slightly above average (LG).

For the 3rd year, Sharp-shinned Hawks were well below what we came to expect in the boom years, especially along the coast. Cape May’s 16,886 was barely one-third of the peak years of the late 1970s and early 1980s. Hook Mt.’s 2792 was only about one-half the levels of a decade ago (PF). Hawk Mt.’s 6808 was only a little below the average of recent years (LG). Cooper’s Hawks, by contrast, were up: Cape May’s 2950 was a record, and Hook Mt.’s 115 was their 2nd-highest; Hawk Mt.’s 590 was above average.

Mt Peter’s 98 Red-shouldered Hawks, in Orange, N.Y., set a record (*vide* JPT), and Hawk Mt. had an above-average 346. One or two Red-shouldered Hawks came again to suet in Chester, Pa., as they have learned to do since the great freeze of 1977 (DHa). The Broad-winged Hawk flight was dispersed. An early surge came Sept. 14–15, followed, after a rainy spell, by bigger peaks Sept. 20–22, such as 8200 at Bear Mt., Rockland, N.Y. (ET), and 6400 at Scott’s Mt., Warren, N.J., Sept. 22, 5000 of them in one hour (GH). Many migrated away from the mountains, like the 3000 passing over Hatfield, Montgomery, Pa., Sept. 22, in 10 minutes, just ahead of a thunderstorm (GAF). Coastal passage peaked much later with 1400 at Cape May Oct 5. The age and geographical origins of these coastal migrants would be very interesting to know. We know at least that they miss Long Island. Six Swainson’s Hawks were good. Only three passed Cape May, Sept. 22, Oct. 8, and Oct. 22 (JBo), but elsewhere a light-phase adult was at Scott’s Mt., Warren, N.J., Oct. 29 (*vide* GH), an immature was reported without details from Baer Rocks Nov. 7 (KKr), and a light-phase adult was at J.B.W.R., Nov. 1 (D. Guthrie *et al.*).

S.A.

Golden Eagles afforded one of the season’s most unforgettable spectacles. Where do these eagles breed, that followed the ridges of New Jersey and e. Pennsylvania in such numbers this fall? The 98 that passed Hawk Mt. were the most in that watch’s half-century (LG). The major passage was concentrated with 2 cold fronts, Nov. 6–7 and 12–13. In those first 2 days, 18 passed Raccoon Ridge, Warren, N.J. (WJB, B & NM), and seven crossed Orange, N.Y., in 72 hours (JPT). Following the early snowstorm, on Nov. 12, a stupendous 17 were counted at Raccoon Ridge in a blustery NW wind with about 450 other birds of prey of seven species, mostly Red-tailed Hawks (A. Gingert, M. Redmond). This is surely the most Golden Eagles ever seen in one day in this Region. The same day 13 passed Bake Oven Knob (RW), and 14 were at Hawk Mt., Nov. 13 (LG). They also spread widely beyond the ridges, including one that worked the length of Long Island from Shinnecock Inlet Nov. 5 (B. Taylor, DY) to the Bronx Nov. 7 (*vide* TWB), and one in the Susquehanna R. valley at Conowingo Pond, Lancaster, Pa., Nov. 17 (RMS).

American Kestrels reversed a decade’s decline and came down the coast in gratifying numbers. The 16,532 that passed Cape May furnished the best total in 6 years, and Hook Mt.’s 595 the best in five. October 1 was spectacular everywhere, with a record one-day count of 1386 at Fire Island (D. Panko) and 3694 at Cape May. The last decade’s prodigious increase in Merlins continues. Cape May’s 2447 only tied last year’s total, just below the historic peak, but inland Montclair (30, EG) and Hook Mt. (45, PF), where Merlins have been scarce fall migrants, set records. Peregrine Falcons had their best passage since the crash. The 31 counted at Hawk Mt. were the most since 1959 (LG), and Cape May’s 686 set a record there. Some exhilarating single-day totals were of 25 at Fire Island Light Oct. 1 and again Oct. 3, and 116 at Cape May Oct. 7. Inland, 10 over Baer Rocks Oct. 6 had been exceeded on that ridge only by 11 on Oct. 7, 1937, at Hawk Mt. (KKr). The large numbers involved, and the now commonplace retrapping of birds banded in Greenland (see Middle Atlantic Coast Region), show that Peregrine recovery is coming from wild arctic populations as well as from the breeding program.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — Single Sandhill Cranes passed over Cape May Oct. 4, Nov. 6, and Nov. 22 (JBo, C & PS), the latter lingering for the afternoon. This species now occurs somewhere in the Region annually.

According to the daily census begun by Tom Davis at J.B.W.R. and continued by Arthur Morris, the peak of adult shorebird arrivals was about a week early, around Aug. 6, with totals about 50% above average, but later-arriving juveniles were in only fair to good numbers for most species. Morris’ study produces the only systematic information about shorebird numbers by age-groups in this Region, seconded by Holgersen’s steady counting at Bombay Hook. Among an unusual half-dozen inland groundings of Black-bellied Plovers, the biggest were of 24 at the Columbus sod farm, Mercer, N.J., Sept. 5 (R Bell, P. Guris), and 25 at Great Meadows, Warren, N.J., Sept. 20 (D. Briede). The 1159 at J.B.W.R., Sept. 4 were a historic maximum there (AMo). Lesser Golden-Plovers were widespread in good numbers, from late August through the 3rd week in October. The biggest gathering known to us was of 300 near Dutch Neck, Monmouth, N.J., Oct. 20–23, with 300 Killdeer (H. Sommers).

The annual post-breeding assemblage of Am. Avocets in Delaware increased yet again to about 375 birds between Little Creek W.M.A. and Bombay Hook in late August (NH), and a few remained even into December. More avocets explored up the coast than usual, including a remarkable 10 n. to the Hackensack Marshes at Lyndhurst, Bergen, N.J., in October (D Smith, D. Hall). The breeding success of Willets in the north of this Region is reflected in leapfrogging totals at J.B.W.R. from two in 1981, to 46 Aug. 17 (AMo). We learned of only two double-digit Upland Sandpiper concentrations: 30 at the St. Charles cemetery, near Farmingdale, L.I., Aug. 12 (*vide* TWB), and 21 at the Warren sod farm, Orange, N.Y., Aug. 24 (JPT). A fly-over **Long-billed Curlew**, calling, at the Cape May hawk watch Oct. 9 (C & PS, JBo, DWa, J. Askildsen, M. & B Peters) was the first there since 1898, and the first in the Region since 1975.

A **Black-tailed Godwit** was carefully described from Woodland Beach, Del., Oct. 19 (†WJW, E & SS), but could not be relocated. This was Delaware’s first sight record, and the Region’s 3rd. Hudsonian Godwits reached a first peak of eight (presumably adults) at Bombay Hook Aug. 8, and a 2nd (presumably immatures) of 13 on Oct. 15 (NH). The season’s best count was of 26 passing the Cape May hawk watch Sept. 4 (JBo). Marbled Godwits were average on the coast, the best count being of six at the Line Is., L.I., Aug. 25 (*vide* TWB).

A new high for Ruddy Turnstone at J.B.W.R. was of 412 Aug 17 (AMo). Six Sanderlings furnished a big inland count at Conejohela Sept. 3 (RMS, DH). A bird carefully described as a juv. **Little Stint** was at J.B.W.R., Sept. 2 (†S. Howell, C. Downing), but could not be relocated. What may have been Delaware’s record count of White-rumped Sandpipers was 55 at

Bombay Hook Sept 27 (NH) Elsewhere the largest group known to us was of 70 at S. Cape May Meadows Sept. 20 (JDo). Singles were unusual inland at the Warren sod farms, Orange, N.Y., Oct. 4 (G. Pasquariello), Peace Valley, Pa., Sept. 4 (AM), and Conejohela Nov. 1 (EW, TG). It was another excellent season for Baird's Sandpiper. A record eight were at Green Lane, all juveniles, Aug. 31–Sept. 1 (GAF, GLF, RW, AM, B & NM), and for the 3rd consecutive season one was at Long Arm Res., York, Pa., Sept. 9 (DH). Twos and threes were widespread in coastal Long Island and New Jersey, remarkably concentrated in the period Aug. 25–Sept. 7, one remaining at J.B.W.R. until Nov. 8 (fide TWB). Curlew Sandpipers went unreported from New York, but about six in coastal New Jersey, Aug. 26 to Oct. 11 (RK, PDU et al.), and one from Kitt's Hummock, Del., Aug. 9 (WJW, ES), were above average. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were low, the only multiple counts being a group at the Warren sod farms, Orange, N.Y., that peaked at 12 Sept. 12 (JPT), and up to five at the S. Cape May Meadows Aug. 27–29 (PH, TRH). Ruffs are either much scarcer in fall than in spring, or less noticeable; only four or five singles were reported, all on the coast from Brig south.

Twenty-seven Long-billed Dowitchers at J.B.W.R., Aug. 13 (PAB) probably represented the often-overlooked early passage of adults. The later peak of juveniles produced a historic maximum there of 34 Oct. 18 (AMo). The only Wilson's Phalarope inland was at Deer Path Park, Hunterdon, N.J., Oct. 4 (J. DeMarrais). Although they were widespread in the usual coastal sites, up to nine at Brig in August and early September (JDo, m.ob.) made the only substantial group. Red-necked Phalarope numbers were rather low, with only about five on the coast. One at Pt. Lookout, L.I., Nov. 28 into early December was remarkably late (SW, AMo, m.ob.). The Am. Birds cruise counted four Red-necked Phalaropes at sea Sept. 25–27, but was too early for any major Red Phalarope flight [only two, Sept. 26–27]. Three single Red Phalaropes were on the Jersey shore Oct. 10–Nov. 14 (WJB, PAB, A. Keith, T. Halliwell et al.) and one at Cape Henlopen, Del., Oct. 12 (BFi).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS — The Am. Birds cruise found one juv. Long-tailed Jaeger between Block and Hudson Canyons Sept. 18 (ph. MO'B), and two probables; we also had a report of one off Montauk Aug. 22 (fide TWB). The Am. Birds cruise found no skuas of any kind, although one presumed S. Polar Skua and another unidentified skua were reported without details off Montauk Aug. 22 (fide TWB).

Only four Little Gulls and three Com. Black-headed Gulls were reported, all in November from the coast (NH, DWa, CS, AG et al.), well below 1970s levels. More Bonaparte's Gulls

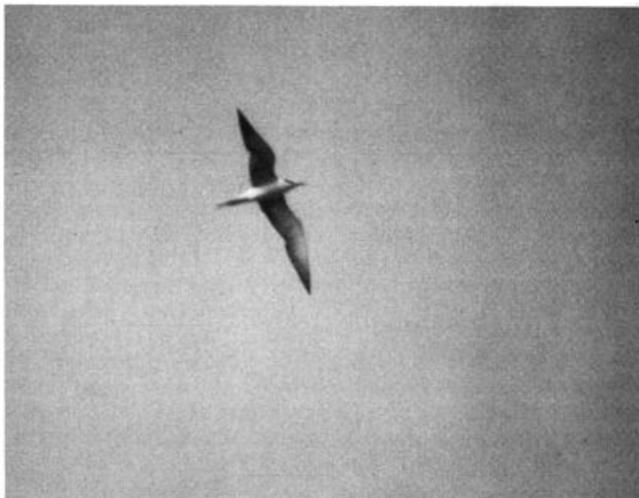


Juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger offshore near Block Canyon on the American Birds pelagic trip, Sept. 18, 1987. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

than usual appeared along interior river systems. One on the Susquehanna near Tunkhannock, Wyoming, Pa., Oct. 10 provided a first fall record there, although a few are regular in spring (WR). A flock swelled to 20 on the Hudson at Piermont, Rockland, N.Y. Oct. 24–Nov. 1, where they are "intermittent at best" (PDe). Only four Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from the coast, plus one juvenile near Hudson Canyon, Sept. 25 (D. Sibley, †MO'B). A brief report of ad. **Sabine's Gull** Sept. 17 over Hawk Mt., Pa. (†K. Grim, D. Niven) seems to rule out kittiwake. It would be a first there, although a steady trickle migrates through the Middle West in fall.

Caspian Terns were numerous on the coast, with an unprecedented 71 accumulated at Bombay Hook by Sept. 7 (EF). Several were at Green Lane and Conejohela in August and September. In addition to the usual late summer Royal Terns on the coast, 44 at Battery Park, New Castle, Del., Sept. 7 (L. Falk) were remarkably far up the Delaware R. Unprecedented numbers of Forster's Terns gathered along the Susquehanna R., probably originating from upper midwestern populations. The largest accumulation, at Conowingo Pond, on the Pennsylvania-Maryland line, peaked at about 2500 Sept. 16 (RMS). A single subad. **Bridled Tern** was in a warm water patch between Block and Hudson Canyons Sept. 18 (SRD, Am. Birds cruise, ph. †MO'B), furnishing one of a growing number of late-summer records independent of storms. Black Terns had another fairly good season, although far below the levels of a generation ago. About 15–20 were found on Long Island (SW), and the best day's count was of six in Delaware Sept. 7 (EF).

The only alcids reported were a Dovekie at Cape May Nov. 16 (K. Seager, fide DWa), and single Razorbills passing Avalon, Cape May, N.J., Nov. 25 & 26 (DWa).



Subadult Bridled Tern found between Block and Hudson canyons on the American Birds pelagic trip, Sept. 18, 1987. Photo/Michael O'Brien.

OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS — It was the 2nd promising fall for Snowy Owls in a row. The earliest appeared in Ephrata, Lancaster, Pa., in late October, and the same or another was at the Lancaster airport in early November (RMS). Another was at Grand View, Rockland, N.Y., Nov. 4 (fide PDe). Long Island reports began in late November. Banders at Cape May captured 94 owls this season, slightly fewer than last fall. Notable among them were a Long-eared Owl previously banded there in 1985, and a N. Saw-whet Owl previously banded there in November 1983 (K. Duffy).

The owl-banders at Cape May also caught an amazing 20 Whip-poor-wills in the nights of Oct. 7–9 (P. Hodgetts). Does this species migrate later than we supposed? An encouraging 110 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were counted passing Hawk Mt. (LG), the 2nd-best total since 1976. The steady increase of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the north of this Region is now

showing up in coastal migration. e.g., four at the Fire Island hawk watch, L.I., Sept. 25 (SW). The same day an estimated 12,000 N. Flickers passed that point (SW).

S.A.

(John Bull helped prepare this note). The season's most remarkable bird was a first-winter ♂ **Vermilion Flycatcher**, found Sept. 24 at Jones Beach S.P., L.I. (S. Sablove, P. Gorson) and widely admired the following day (ph. A. Dignan, AW et al.). This appears to be the first confirmed record for the n.e. United States. A pattern of vagrancy north and east of the breeding range is evident, however, for Vermilion Flycatchers winter regularly along the Gulf Coast and in Florida. Moreover, they have wandered often to the upper midwest, as far n. as Ontario. In the 1980s, *Am. Birds* published 8 records from Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa, all males but one, four in spring, three in fall, and one in early winter. A few have also reached the upper south (Tennessee, Kentucky). They have never wandered very far up either coast, however, and this seems to be the first record on the Atlantic coast n. of North Carolina (cf. AB 41:75), except for a hypothetical record for Plum Island, Mass., Oct. 22, 1954 (Griscom and Snyder 1955, *Birds of Massachusetts*).

Two **Ash-throated Flycatchers** were confirmed, one banded at Sandy Hook, N.J., Oct. 24–31 (JJB, HW, BK, ph. R. Ditch) and another seen at Brig, Oct. 31 (KKa, D. & J. Clark, H. Feinberg). Curiously, only a couple of W. Kingbirds were reported from Long Island (DY et al.) and about nine through the season at Cape May. A good four were found inland, however: three in n. New Jersey Oct. 4–Nov. 12 (W. Pritchard, B. Norris) and one at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 19 (WR).



Ash-throated Flycatcher at Sandy Hook, N.J., Oct. 31, 1987. Photo/Richard Ditch.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — Two, possibly three, Sedge Wrens, near-phantoms in this Region, were found: one at Cape May Sept. 11–15 (P. Kerlinger), and one at Gordon Pond, Sussex, Del., Nov. 15, with the same or another about one-half mi away Dec. 8 (NH). The first Marsh Wren ever recorded at Hawk Mt. was in a patch of cattails near the visitor's center Sept. 19 & 26 (LG). Thousands of Golden-crowned Kinglets were along the barrier beaches in early October. A Boreal Chickadee, the first in this Region for several years, was at a Phillipsburg, N.J., feeder Nov. 12 (R. Farley).

Two **Northern Wheatears** flew in off the ocean at Montauk Pt., L.I., Oct. 9 (PAB, W. Wander), but none followed this aus-

picious beginning. The only N. Shrike was at J.B.W.R., Nov. 15 (APE et al.). Six Loggerhead Shrikes between Sept. 5 and Oct. 16, four on the coast (AMo, JBo, R. & K. Smith) and two inland (Warren sod farms, Orange, N.Y., F. & W. Abbott, and Ridgefield Park, N.J., B. Perna), were a little less dismal than last year's poor showing.

Yellow-throated Vireos were unusually late at Cape Henlopen, Del., Oct. 3 (APE), Princeton, N.J., Oct. 13 (RJB), and Higbee Beach, Cape May, Oct. 16 (fide PS). So were five Golden-winged Warblers in September (B & NM, SW, PR et al.) and one at J.B.W.R., Oct. 3 (†SW). About seven Orange-crowned Warblers were above average. An "**Audubon's**" **Yellow-rumped Warbler** at Mt. Peter, Orange, N.Y., with many Myrtles, Oct. 17, was a bit early for this less-than-annual western irregular (†JPT). Banders at Island Beach S.P., Ocean, N.J., scored a double. A hatching-year ♀ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** Aug. 30 (ph. E & GM) furnished about the 9th state record. A hatching-year ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** Oct. 31 (ph. E & GM) was New Jersey's 6th. Both were heavy migration days; 50 Am. Redstarts and seven Yellow-breasted Chats were also banded there Aug. 30 (E & GM).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — An ad. ♂ **Western Tanager** was carefully described at Bovina, Delaware, N.Y., Aug. 16 (J. Ryan, B. Hamilton). A "Spotted" Rufous-sided Towhee was banded at Island Beach, N.J., Oct. 31 (E. & GM). About 16 Clay-colored Sparrows were above average, with an unusual four at Montauk Pt., L.I., Oct. 10 (PAB). All were on the coast except one at a feeder in Lakehurst, Ocean, N.J., Oct. 4 (R. Conn), and singles at Tinicum Nov. 1 (AG) & 24 (NP). Over one dozen Lark Sparrows, all from the coast (W. Agrabite, PH, JRH, BR, DS, RK, WJB et al.), were also more than usual. The only Henslow's Sparrow found this fall was at Cape May Nov. 2 (BMA). It was satisfying to have an absolutely water-tight **Le Conte's Sparrow**, banded at Sandy Hook, N.J., Oct. 17–26 (ph. BK), near where one had wintered in 1985. Two "Nelson's" Sharp-tailed Sparrows were carefully described at Rookery I., Washington Boro, Lancaster, Pa., Oct. 18 (EW, JG). The best western sparrow of this amazing season, however, was the ad. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** that allowed mass study at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Oct. 17–18 (E. Edelbaum, †SW, m.ob., ph. A. Dignan, AW, KKa). It was New York's 3rd, and about 10th for the Region.

At least six Yellow-headed Blackbirds, from Aug. 19 to Sept. 27, all near the coast (M. Sohmer, I. Cantor, L. Merriman, A. Hill, EF, JDo, FN, JBo et al.) were well above average numbers.

It was an uneven finch year. The only Pine Grosbeaks were 25 at Hawk Mt., Nov. 12 (LG). Red Crossbills turned up only near the pine barrens at Medford, Burlington, N.J. (13 Nov. 11, K. Tischner), and at Hawk Mt., Pa., after Nov. 23, building to 27 by Dec. 14 (LG). A few Com. Redpolls around Cape May reached 50 by the end of November (FN, JBo), but elsewhere they were found only at Rifle Camp Park, Passaic, N.J., Nov. 7 (P. Both). Pine Siskins poured down the outer beaches of Long Island and New Jersey by the thousands, along with Am. Goldfinches, Nov. 21–22 (perhaps 10,000, SW), and in "phenomenal" numbers in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). But even this movement brought only sporadic flocks to the s. parts of this Region. Evening Grosbeaks were a bit above average at Hawk Mt., and sporadic elsewhere.

UNCONFIRMED REPORTS — We list here records that may well be valid but for which we lack written or photographic evidence, or the confirmation of repeated observation. A White-winged Dove was reported without details from Cape May Oct. 7 (FN). A possible Bell's Vireo was studied carefully at Higbee Beach, Cape May, Aug. 24 (KKa, V. Elia), but was not heard or photographed.

OBSERVERS (Subregional compilers in boldface) — **Peter Bacinski** (PBa) (coastal NJ): 511 Prospect Place, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071, R.D. Barber, M.V. Barnhill, **Irving Black** (n.e. NJ): Eagle Rock Village, Bldg. 26, Apt. 8B, Budd Lake, NJ 07828, **R.J. Blicharz** (n.c. NJ): 827 Pennsylvania Ave., Trenton, NJ 08638, Jeff Bouton (JBo), Joseph Broschart (JBr), P.A. Buckley, Joe Burgiel (JBU), T.W.

Burke (s.e. NY: 235 Highland Ave., Rye, NY 10580), Richard Crossley, Richard DeConido, Peter Derven (PDe) (Rockland, NY: 70 Third Ave., Nyack, NY 10960), Jim Dowdell (JDo), S.R. Drennan, Peter Dunne (PDu), A.P. Ednie (New Castle and Kent, DE: 21 N. Wells Ave., Glenolden, PA 19036), Bruce Fetz (BFf), Ed Fingerhood, Bill & Sally Fintel, G.A. Franchois, W.W. Frech (Sussex, DE: 301 County Rd., Lewes, DE 19958), G.L. Freed, Padraic French, Tom Garner, Laurie Goodrich, Else Greenstone, Al Guarente, Greg Hanisek (n.w. NJ: RD 3, Box 263, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865), Jerry Haag, Dorothy Hartmann (DHa), Ed Hastings, Dan Heathcote, Armas Hill, Norm Holgersen, P. Holt, J.R. Hough, Phyllis Hurlock, Rich Kane, Kevin Karlson (KKa), Betty Knorr, Ken Kranick (KKr), Laurie Larsen, A.J. Lauro, Bob Machover (BMa), Eileen & Glen Mahler, R.E. Maurer, Fred Mears, J.K. Meritt (s.w. NJ: 809 Saratoga

Terrace, Turnersville, NJ 08012), August Mirabella, Arthur Morris (AMo), B.L. Morris (e. PA: 825 N. Muhlenberg St., Allentown, PA 18104), Brian Moscatello (BMo), Bill & Naomi Murphy, Frank Nicoletti, Michael O'Brien, Eleanor Pink, Nick Pulcinella, William Reid (n.e. PA: 73 W. Ross St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702), Paul Rodewald, John Ruscica, R.M. Schutsky, Steve Smith (SSm), Esther & Steve Speck, Clay & Pat Sutton, J.P. Tramontano (Orange and Sullivan, NY: Orange Co. Community College, Middletown, NY 10940), Ed Treacy, Henry Wallum, Stave Walter, Dave Ward (DWA), R.T. Waterman Bird Club (Dutchess, NY), W.J. Wayne, Rick Wiltraut, Eric Witmer, Al Wollin, David Young.—ROBERT O. PAXTON, 460 Riverside Dr., Apt. 72, New York, NY 10027, WILLIAM J. BOYLE, JR., 12 Glenwood Road, Denville, NJ 07834, and DAVID A. CUTLER, 1110 Rock Creek Dr., Wyncote, PA 19095.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

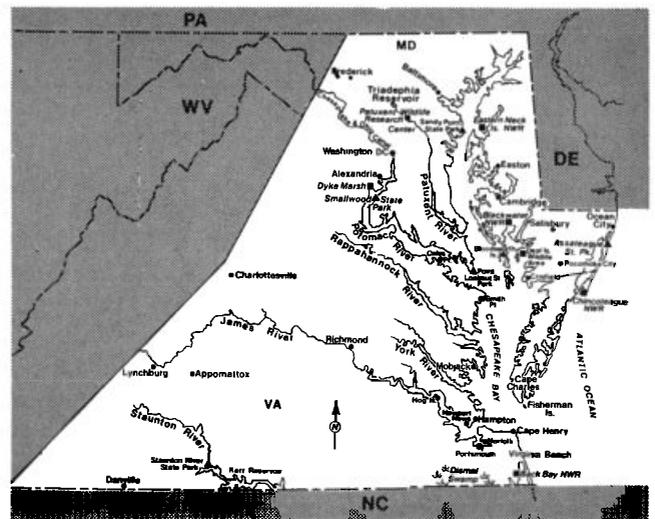
Henry T. Armistead

The severe drought of summer was little alleviated by the rains of September and November. Many reservoirs and ponds remained extremely low. Passerine migration was unremarkable in most areas. Reporting was good for piscivorous birds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, gulls, and terns. Major banding stations provided much of the most interesting land bird data. In the Baltimore-Washington area, freak snow storms took place November 11 and 21 but had small lasting effects. It was a mild, dry fall. Deviation from normal of temperature: August +1.5°F, September +1.4°, October -5.1°, November +1.8°; of precipitation: August -3.1 inches, September +2.0, October -1.3, November +0.8.

ABBREVIATIONS — Adv. = Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, Md.; Assat. I. = Assateague I., Md.; the Bay = Chesapeake Bay; Blackwater = Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Md.; C.B.B.T. = Chesapeake Bay Bridge & Tunnel, Va.; Chinc. = Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Craney = Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, Va.; Damsite = banding site at Tolchester Beach, Md.; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; Fish. I. = Fisherman's Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Va.; Hart = Hart & Miller Islands in the Bay, e. of Baltimore; Kipt. = Kiptopeke and the greater Cape Charles area, Va.; Susq. = the lower Susquehanna River s. of Conowingo Dam, Md. Place names in *italics* are counties; dates in *italics* indicate birds were banded.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — The first Red-throated Loons seen were four at Ocean City Oct. 11 (RFR). In the Choptank R. mouth, Talbot, Md., Spitzer estimated 200 Com. Loons Nov. 9, and 55 had already been there by Oct. 10 (CAS, CFS, HTA), these all seen by boat well offshore. Unseasonal were three at Kerr Res., Va., Aug. 25 (AB) and two summering birds at Loch Raven Res., n. of Baltimore (SWS). Good waterbird news continued to emanate from the beds of exotic *Hydrilla* in the Potomac R., s. of D.C., where 40 Pied-billed Grebes were counted Sept. 22 at Hunting Creek, Va., plus 60 on Nov. 23 (DFA). On Nov. 1, 45 Pied-billed were present from D.C. to Mt. Vernon (DC), with 14 in D.C., Sept. 27 (DC). Up to 28 were at Loch Raven Res., Nov. 15 (SWS). Single Horned Grebes at Blackwater Aug. 12 (HLW) and Bellevue, Talbot, Md., Aug. 23 (HTA) presumably were summering birds, and the best count for this still-troubled species was of 350 in Kent, Md., Nov. 24 (JG). Rarities included single Eared Grebes at Hart Aug. 30 (RFR, BD, JLS) and Chinc., Sept. 28 (CPW), as well as a W. Grebe at Loch Raven Res., Nov. 7-14 (SWS).

A pelagic trip 80 mi out from Virginia Beach Sept. 12 was highly successful with such as 142 Cory's and 33 Audubon's



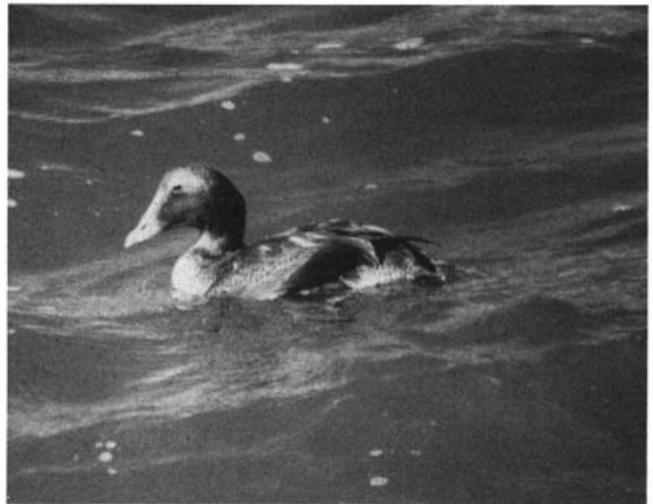
shearwaters plus 485 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (BP, BT, DFA, MRB, RLA, PM) in the vicinity of an area known as "The Cigar" near the North Carolina line. Small party initiatives such as this are encouraging in the face of the uncertain future of the classic forays by the masses out of Ocean City. Off Back Bay N.W.R., 660± N. Gannets were seen Nov. 9 (WSP). In the upper Bay the Am. White Pelican at Havre de Grace, Harford, Md., remained until Aug. 14 (WM, EMW, LMD, RFR, ph.) and a single present at Chinc. from mid-August through November was joined by a 2nd bird in early October which also remained through the period (m.ob.). The unprecedented breeding Brown Pelicans were successful in both Maryland and Virginia, with the Maryland birds s. of South Pt. having five young in 4 nests at least until September 12 (DB; 2 other nests failed); the Virginia birds on Metomkin I. had 22 large young in nests plus 150 adults present Sept. 5 (KT, MAB, BR, ph.), most of these young birds still lingering in the immediate area around their nests until at least as late as Oct. 10 (BR, MAB)! Counts of Brown Pelicans, while not as spectacular as in some autumns, were nevertheless still impressive with 150 at Kipt., Sept. 5 (HTA, JSG), 300 at Fish. I., Sept. 6 (FRS, JWD, MA, HTA et al.), 78 at Chinc., Aug. 24-25 (CPW), and a late bird at C.B.B.T., Nov. 22 (DFA). No reports were received for any farther up the Bay than New Pt. Comfort, n. of Hampton, where Bazuin saw 15 on Oct. 10. The best Maryland tally away from the nests was of 14 at Assat. I., Sept. 3 (MO) and the last report was of five at Ocean City Sept. 29 (RW).

An early Great Cormorant was at Kipt., Sept. 8 (HTA), with a maximum of 18 at nearby C.B.B.T., Nov. 22 (DFA). More unusual were Maryland birds at Hart Oct. 18–Nov. 1 (a single, RFR, EB, JLS), one to two at N. Beach, Calvert, Sept. 25–Nov. 5 (JLS), one on the lower Patuxent R., Md., at God's Grace Pt., Nov. 14 (JLS), and one at Hooper's I., Dorchester, Md., Nov. 21 (BO et al.) as well as two to three at Ocean City during November (RFR, MO et al.). About 16 pairs of Double-crested Cormorants had nests near Hopewell, Va., on the James R. (FRS), but no huge concentrations of migrants were reported although at Kipt. there were 1605 as early as Sept. 6 with 1635 there the next day (HTA), 307 at Cove Pt., Calvert, Md., Sept. 26 (JLS), and 13 lingered in D.C. until Nov. 3 (DC).

As usual many of the best numbers of herons were at Chinc. in spite of the dreadful drought; Wilds found 416 Snowy Egrets there Aug. 3–4 and 109 Great Egrets, 37 Little Blue Herons, 387 Glossy Ibises, and an imm. White Ibis Aug. 10–11, but with a bit more water remaining there longer into the summer these numbers would easily be bigger. Notable Great Blue Heron totals were of 96 at Hunting Creek Aug. 1 (VK), 50 at Hart Aug. 30 (RFR), and 71 at New Pt. Comfort Oct. 12 (JBB). On the Piedmont 20 Great Egrets and four Little Blue Herons were of interest at McKee-Beshers W.M.A., Md., Aug. 31 (LB), and two Great Egrets were still at Nokesville, Prince William, Va., Oct. 20 (fide KHB). Another Great Egret lingered at Upper Marlboro, Md., Oct. 15–Nov. 17 with a Green-backed Heron also there Oct. 14 (JLS). Nineteen Little Blue Herons at Kent I., Queen Annes, Md., Aug. 13 made a good total for the upper E. Shore (MW). A Tricolored Heron in the D.C.–Hunting Creek area Aug. 1–Sept. 5 was in the *Hydrilla* (DFA, DC). Cattle Egrets peaked at 501 in the Kipt. area Sept. 4 (JSG, HTA) with 25 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons there also. Sixty Black-crowned Night-Herons were at Deal Island W.M.A., Somerset, Md., Oct. 12 (RFR) & 31 (CS), and a latish Green-backed Heron was at L. Gaston, Va., Nov. 8 (AB). Three to four White Ibises were at Snowden, Amherst, Va., Aug. 6–17, for the 3rd record for the greater Lynchburg area (J & TD, BP et al.), an unusual location for them as it is an upper Piedmont locality. Single immatures were at Kipt., Sept. 1–2 (WPS et al.), associating with Cattle Egrets, and Hog I., Surry, Va., Aug. 12 (BW, BT et al.).

WATERFOWL — This fall's fancy duck was an imm. ♂ **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** shot by a hunter in King William, Va., Oct. 7 and now a specimen at Virginia Commonwealth Univ. (CRB). Available evidence favors a decision that this may be a valid extralimital record (CRB, RHR), but expert Ryan draws a legal analogy for such outré waterfowl stating there is often a large body of evidence, and information both pro and con, but few confessions (pers. comm)! If proven wild this would provide a first state and Regional record. Along these lines, a ♂ Cinnamon Teal was at Horsehead Sanctuary, Queen Annes, Md., Sept. 15–Nov. 15 (BJH, LMD, AJ, RFR, DC). For what it is worth, both these ducks were unbanded. Returning to a more mundane species, a flock of 210 Mute Swans was at Hooper's I., Aug. 9, in an area where they had never been seen until a few years ago (HTA), while 13 were seen in 4 lakes in c. Howard, Md., Oct. 31 (JS, MC). One to three Greater White-fronted Geese were in the Curles Neck-Presquile N.W.R. area n. of Hopewell, Va., Oct. 25–31 (DTS, FD, MRB). At Hart there were some impressive numbers of ducks, especially scaup (sp.) with 60 as early as Sept. 27 rapidly building up to 805 by Oct. 11 (mostly Lessers), 12,000 Oct. 18, and 18,000 by Nov. 15 (RFR, HK, EB, SR et al.). Early arrivals there were four Green-winged Teal and three N. Shovelers Aug. 9 (RFR, BD, MO). Notable maxima were 5000 Ruddy Ducks Nov. 1 and 450 N. Shovelers Nov. 8 (HK et al.). Farther s. on the Bay western shore at N. Beach, Stasz reported these high counts for divers Nov. 15: Greater Scaup 18,000, Lesser Scaup 6000, Com. Goldeneye 1000, Bufflehead 2500, and Oldsquaw 2500.

In spite of the drastic decline of Am. Black Ducks (cf. Sanctuary, Dec. 1987, p. 3–5; *Living Bird*, Autumn 1987, p. 22–23)



Common Eider (first-winter male) at Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., Nov. 22, 1987. Photo/David F. Abbott.

there were some excellent counts locally such as 3100 at Chinc., Nov. 29 (GLA, HTA) and 1200 at Eastern Neck N.W.R., Kent, Md., Nov. 30 plus 2700 Canvasbacks (SW). Peak counts of Am. Wigeon were of 2000 at favored Deal I., Oct. 12 (RFR) and 500 in the Piscataway Creek area, Md., on the Potomac s. of D.C., Oct. 11 (CSH), where 3000+ Canvasbacks were counted from a boat Nov. 15 (JB, DC) in a *Hydrilla*-infested area of Prince Georges. In D.C., the Georgetown Res. was unusually productive with a huge count of 975 Ring-necked Ducks Nov. 8 (RH), while 330 at the sewage ponds at Hurllock, Dorchester, Md., furnished an optimal count for the E. Shore the same day (RFR). Reese found four King Eiders at C.B.B.T., Oct. 30, and two Nov. 1, two to three Com. Eiders were there Nov. 15–30 (DTS, DFA, MRB, BP, ph.), and a Harlequin Duck Nov. 29 finished off the jetty duck grand slam for this prime site (LW, DSy). The Chester R., Kent, Md., provided fine counts of divers Nov. 18 with 1500 Oldsquaws and 500 Black, 250 Surf, and 50 White-winged scoters (JG). A King Eider was at Ocean City Nov. 28 (MO, PO). Although the *Hydrilla* beds developed a bit later this year than usual there still were good duck numbers there such as 100 Gadwall and 400 Blue-winged Teal Sept. 29 and 72 N. Shovelers Oct. 6 (DFA) plus 990 Ruddy Ducks Nov. 1 (DC). Although these waterfowl counts are all heartening, they may reflect local or temporary conditions since more broad-based surveys indicate serious continent-wide declines for many of these species.

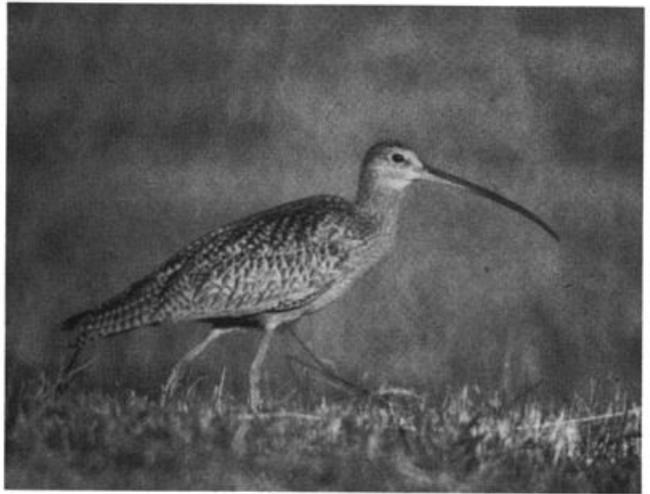
RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — Coastal raptor flights were below par. At Kipt., 11,062 hawks were seen in 404 hours Aug. 29–Nov. 17 (50 days of coverage in this period) for a mean of 27.4 birds per hour (vs. 39.5 in 1986, 58 in 1985, 72 in 1983, 96 in 1982). Good flights took place Sept. 19 & 25 and Oct. 2, 6, & 10. Peaks for selected species were 716 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 30 Peregrine Falcons Oct. 2, 154 Ospreys and 288 Am. Kestrels Sept. 25, 36 N. Harriers Sept. 19, 62 Merlins Sept. 22, 53 Cooper's Hawks Oct. 6, and 608 Turkey Vultures Oct. 22. Single N. Goshawks were reported Oct. 2 & 6, and an imm. Golden Eagle Oct. 24. Seasonal totals included 809 Ospreys, 323 N. Harriers, 4343 Sharp-shinned and 288 Cooper's hawks, 2765 Am. Kestrels, 403 Merlins, and 158 Peregrines (BW, MA, BR, DSy, DM et al.). At this same location 242 raptors were banded, including 41 Sharp-shinned Hawks Oct. 2 and 10 Cooper's Hawks plus three Peregrine Falcons Oct. 11 (CWH, RL, KB). About 4 mi to the s. at Wise Pt., 591 raptors were tagged, much lower than 1986, with 232 Merlins (50 on Sept. 18; only 23 seen at Kipt. then, suggesting the difficulty of censusing all hawks from a single spot in the Cape Charles area) and six Peregrine Falcons Oct. 11 (RC). A mile or so farther

south still on Fish I., 122 raptors were tagged, the lowest total in 6 years there, including 29 Cooper's Hawks (PSB). An imm. Swainson's Hawk just missed the nets there Oct. 3, furnishing the 3rd record for Virginia, while 700 Broad-winged Hawks (522 in one photo frame) soared overhead (TA, PSB). Up the coast at Assat. I., Md./Va., Ward et al. banded 112 Peregrine Falcons Sept. 18–Oct. 21 and saw 381, a season ranking only 12th out of the 18 they have operated there in terms of man-hours. Peak days were 14 on both Oct. 7 & 11. The top day for sightings was Oct. 11, with 38. A late Osprey was in Westmoreland, Va., Nov. 20 (JE). Bald Eagle numbers built up by the end of Nov. with 25+ on the Susq. including marked birds from New York and Tennessee (RMS), 24 on the Rappahannock R., Va. (WSP), 13 at Mason Neck N.W.R., Va. (EMW), and 17 at Blackwater (MO, PO). Immature N. Goshawks were reported from D.C., Nov. 4 (DC) and Rockville, Md., Nov. 13 (PO).

At Tilghman's I., Talbot, Md., 32 Red-shouldered Hawks were seen Nov. 15 plus 16 Red-tailed Hawks (one melanistic), an excellent total for the Maryland E. Shore (JGR). Broad-winged Hawks were seen by many in numbers Sept. 22–23 in the Baltimore–D.C. area such as 1700 over Ft. Hunt, Va., Sept. 23 (DFA), and late individuals were reported from Pt. Lookout S.P., Md., Oct. 24 (LMD) and Princess Anne, Md., Nov. 21 (SHD). Golden Eagles were more widely seen than usual with November birds at Talbot, Md. (JE), Susq. (EB), and Sunderland, Calvert, Md. (WKS), plus three at Blackwater (DC), and one was at Hart Oct. 25 (EB). Forty Wild Turkeys were at Stratford Harbor, Va., Oct. 15 (JE) and up to 28 were at Gloucester, Va. (TK). At L. Gaston one Virginia and two King rails plus three Soras were heard Oct. 11 and two Soras were at nearby Elm Hill W.M.A., deep in the Piedmont, Oct. 18 (AB). Thirty Soras were at Jug Bay, Md., Sept. 12 (JB) with 25 also on the Patuxent R., Sept. 5 (PN). American Coots peaked in *Hydrilla* areas of the Potomac with 1165 in the Piscataway Creek area Nov. 6 (CSH) and 1300 from D.C. to Mt. Vernon Nov. 1 (DC). A Sandhill Crane was heard calling 4 times high overhead at Bellevue, Md., Oct. 12 (GLA, HTA), recalling one heard 6 times at Stevenson, n. of Baltimore, Sept. 27, 1980 (JLS). In neither case were the birds seen. While of interest, such records are not acceptable to rarities committees.

SHOREBIRDS — Wilds continued her surveys at Chinc., completing 13 surveys Aug. 3–Oct. 27, all but 2 of them 2-day censuses. These showed a disheartening decline of many species, much of which was owing to the dried-up impoundments. She described as "pathetic" the numbers of Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Pectoral, White-rumped, Least, Semipalmated, and Stilt sandpipers, as well as Dunlin. Highs included 87 Whimbrels, 158 Greater and 82 Lesser yellowlegs, 132 Pectoral Sandpipers, and eight Am. Avocets Aug. 3–4; 764 Semipalmated Plovers, 415 Short-billed and 21 Long-billed dowitchers, 836 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 2066 Sanderlings, and eight Hudsonian Godwits Aug. 10–11; 214 Ruddy Turnstones, 23 Stilt Sandpipers, and a Ruff Aug. 17–18; 22 Piping Plovers, 79 Least Sandpipers, and two Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 30–31; nine Marbled Godwits Sept. 14–15; 117 Red Knots, and 62 White-rumped and 408 W. sandpipers Sept. 21–22; 14 Buff-breasted Sandpipers Sept. 28–29; 325 Black-bellied Plovers Oct. 5–6; two Baird's Sandpipers Oct. 12 (singles c. Aug. 30–Sept. 22); and 968 Dunlin Oct. 26–27.

By contrast, waders at Hart were spectacular. Counts were done on 17 dates Aug. 2–Nov. 15 (RFR, HK, BD, EB, PW et al.) with such as: 42 Spotted Sandpipers Aug. 2; 400 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 800 Semipalmated and 150 Stilt sandpipers Aug. 9; 200 Least Sandpipers Aug. 9 & 15; a Red Knot Aug. 23 and Oct. 3; 17 Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 23 and 16 on Aug. 30 (record Maryland counts); 400 Western, 28 Baird's (record Maryland count), and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper Aug. 30; two Am. Avocets Sept. 11; 120 White-rumped Sandpipers Sept. 20 (state record count); 26 Lesser Golden-Plovers Sept. 27; 60 Sanderlings Oct. 3; and 170 Pectoral Sandpipers Oct. 18 (Maryland record). A single Am. Avocet was present Sept. 6 & 20, six Wilson's



The much-observed Long-billed Curlew at Brandywine, Md., Sept. 1, 1987. Photo/David Czaplak.

Phalaropes Sept. 27, a Red-necked Phalarope Sept. 20 & 27, and Baird's Sandpipers thusly: seven Sept. 6, four Sept. 27, 10 Oct. 11, and a late one Nov. 1.

A state record 188 Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Kenne-dyville, Kent, Md., Oct. 4 (HM et al.). Stray Willets were at Riverville, Amherst, Va., Aug. 16 (BP, ph.) and at Hunting Creek Aug. 24–29 (EPW, HE). Upland Sandpipers were up with Maryland peaks of 13 at Easton Aug. 17 (HLW), 10 at Greensboro Aug. 20 (MWH), and 14 in Harford Sept. 4 (DK), plus nine at Wallops I., Va., Aug. 29 (CRV). One of the highlights of this fall was a Long-billed Curlew, tame and reliable on the playing fields of Gwynn Park H.S., Brandywine, Aug. 30–Sept. 14 (J & PW, m.ob., ph.), for the first Maryland record this century. Most unusual were 13 Hudsonian Godwits at Kent I., Md., Aug. 2 (LMD) and one was at Hog I., Oct. 31 (DTS) where there were two Marbled Godwits Aug. 10–12 (TA, BW, BT). One Hudsonian and six Marbled godwits were at Thoms Creek, Va., Sept. 6 (FRS et al.). At Oyster, Va., 75 Marbled Godwits were seen Oct. 10 (DFA), probably strays from Thoms Creek. Schwab counted 123 Willets and 4678 Sanderlings in the Back Bay-False Cape, Va., area Aug. 7. Five Sanderlings were unusual far inland at Kerr Res., Aug. 29 (AB). Four latish Least Sandpipers and 470 W. Sandpipers were at Chinc., Nov. 29 (GLA, HTA). Virginia also broke its record for White-rumped Sandpipers with 130 at Craney Sept. 26–27 (BP, RLAK, DLH). Ringler found a Baird's Sandpiper at Liberty Res., w. of Baltimore, Oct. 4. At Summit Hall Turf Farm, Montgomery, Md., two Buff-breasted Sandpipers and 13 Lesser Golden-Plovers were seen Sept. 26 (JB). Wilson's Phalaropes had a good fall here with two at Back R. Sewage Treatment Plant n.e. of Baltimore Aug. 2 (BD), seven on Big Bay Marsh, MD., Aug. 26 (DB), five at Hog I., Aug. 29 (DP, DTS), and six at Craney Sept. 19 (BP). Red-necked Phalaropes were seen more often than usual with September reports from Chinc. (PD) and Craney (BP) plus one at New Pt. Comfort Oct. 11–12 (JBB, ph.), two at Hurlock Oct. 12 (RFR), and a late bird at Denton, Md., Oct. 22 (MWH, AJF, RBF). Off Virginia Beach, seven Red-necked, two Red, and 21 unidentified phalaropes were seen Sept. 12 (BP, DFA et al.). The *Hydrilla* was less successful for waders than in some years. However, there were 25 Sanderlings there at Ft. Washington, Md., Sept. 2 plus a Whimbrel (RH), a Red Knot was at Hunting Creek Aug. 14 (JF), and latish birds there were three Least Sandpipers and a Pectoral Sandpiper Nov. 13 and a Stilt Sandpiper Oct. 27 (DFA).

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMERS — Unheard of was a Pomarine Jaeger at Kerr Res. far inland in Virginia Aug. 23 (AB). Off Virginia Beach the Sept. 12 pelagic party reported five Pomarine, three Parasitic, one Long-tailed, and 13 un-

identified jaegers, in addition to one Arctic and 10 Bridled terns up to 80 mi offshore (BP, DFA et al.). Hart was outstanding in the gull/tern league also with 770 Great Black-backed Gulls and 75 Least Terns Aug. 2, 8000 Ring-billed Gulls and 1500 Forster's Terns Aug. 9, 18 Royal Terns Aug. 16, 325 Caspian and four Black terns Aug. 23, five Lesser Black-backed Gulls Oct. 18 (four on Oct. 3 & 25), eight Royal Terns as late as Nov. 1, and two Black Skimmers Aug. 16–Sept. 6 (RFR, HK, BD et al.). Bass saw 50 Laughing Gulls hawking insects Sept. 13 in the Piedmont at Nokesville, where he finds them increasingly common. Single Franklin's Gulls were at Sandy Point S.P., Md., Oct. 3 (LMD) and in D.C., Sept. 13–16 (GG, DC, 3rd record, ph.). At Clarksville on the Kerr Res., 145 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen Nov. 15 (AB). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at 11 localities with four at C.B.B.T., Oct. 4–12 (BP, RLA), an early adult at Hart Aug. 9 (RFR), two at Susq., Nov. 17–24 (RMS), an adult at Blackwater Nov. 21–22 (DC, first refuge record), and one in D.C. for the 8th straight winter Nov. 10 (DC). An imm. Glaucous Gull at Chinc., Nov. 29 was unique and a late Com. Tern was also there then (GLA, HTA). At New Pt. Comfort, Bazuin saw 600 Great Black-backed Gulls Oct. 12, and 400 were on the Susq., Oct. 22 (EB).

At N. Beach, Stasz's best tern counts were of 320 Forster's Aug. 20, 83 Royals Sept. 13, and 257 Commons Sept. 20, and he saw a Sandwich Tern Aug. 20. Wilds' notable terns at Chinc. included 56 Gull-billed Aug. 3–4, two late Leasts Sept. 14–15, 102 Caspians Sept. 28–29, and 60 Blacks Aug. 10–11. At Chinc., Aug. 29–30, the eight commoner tern species were studied sitting on the same bar in Swan Cove (CPW, JB et al.). The high count in the Bay of Royal Terns was of 305 at Hooper's I., Aug. 9, accompanied by 24 Black Skimmers (HTA). The last Sandwich Terns were five at Fish. I., Oct. 3 (BP), 100 were at Back Bay Aug. 29 (BP), and two were at Pt. Lookout, Md., Aug. 29 (one there Sept. 1, MO, PO). Only a few years ago they were unknown in the Maryland section of the Bay. Now there are a few records almost every year. A Roseate Tern was reported from Chinc., Sept. 6 (MRB). Czaplak saw 233 Forster's Terns in D.C., Sept. 12, his best count for there. Black Terns were more widely seen than usual with 15 at Back Bay Aug. 2 (GTH), nine at Kerr Res., Aug. 23 (AB), one inland at Riverville, Va., Aug. 9–16 (BP), and a late bird at L. Elkhorn, Howard, Md., Sept. 21 (JO). The highest Black Skimmer totals were of 1000 at Ocean City Oct. 15–16 (LMD) and 600 at Fish. I., Sept. 6 (FRS, HTA et al.).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — Yellow-billed Cuckoos were seen at 5 places Oct. 11 or later with the last one Oct. 19 in Suffolk, Va. (PWS), and singles in Frederick (PN) and Kent, Md. (JG, PG), both Oct. 18, the latter banded. A N. Saw-whet Owl at Chinc., Nov. 8 (DC, ph.) was unusual for there, and one was at Damsite Oct. 30 (JG, PG). Three very late Com. Nighthawks were in D.C., Oct. 31 (GG). A huge Chimney Swift roost developed in D.C. at the Carnegie Institute Geophysical Laboratory with estimates ranging from 9000 to 20,000, mid-September to early October (v.o.), and Droegge saw 400 descend into an industrial chimney at Upper Marlboro, Md., Oct. 24. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds staged a good flight with 103 captured at Damsite Aug. 15–Oct. 5 (17 on Sept. 3; JG, PG), 30 at Eastern Neck N.W.R., Aug. 14 (JGR), 14 at Kipt., Sept. 7 (BW, GLA et al.), and a late female Oct. 23 and a later male Nov. 1 at Virginia Beach (TRW). Sykes saw seven Red-headed Woodpeckers at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, Oct. 23, and a flight of 12 passed over Kipt., Oct. 5 (DM). Only four Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen, the last one in D.C., Sept. 25 (GG). Four Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at Damsite Sept. 4 (JG). August 30 witnessed a big flight of Empidonax with 45 at Tilghman's I. (JGR et al.), four "Traill's" Flycatchers nearby at Bellevue (HTA; banded), and the season high, 14, banded at Kipt. (DS et al.). October 12 was a good day for E. Phoebes with 26 in one small area at Bellevue (HTA, GLA) and 14 seen in D.C. (DC). The usual big E. Kingbird flights at Kipt. did not materialize, the high count being of just 282 Sept. 4 (JSG, HTA).

A late Purple Martin was in Montgomery, Md., Oct. 6 (LB).

Davidson saw an albino Tree Swallow at Assat. I., Sept. 26, being harrassed by other Trees. An unprecedented flight of Cliff Swallows occurred Sept. 5–8 at Kipt. with daily totals of 140, 44, 171, and 31, probably one-third or less of those actually present (BW, HTA et al.), the previous Virginia coastal plain high being 28 in this same area. Late Barn Swallow singles were at Piney Run Park, Carroll, Oct. 17 & 25 (RFR), in Harford Oct. 12 (DK), and Denton Oct. 26 (MWH), these all in Maryland, and two at C.B.B.T., Nov. 15 (HL). At Tilghman I., Reese estimated 1000 Blue Jays Sept. 27, and the high Fish Crow tally was of but 480 at nearby Bellevue Oct. 10 (CAS, HTA). Up to 50 Brown Creepers were on Assat. I., Oct. 15–16 (LMD) and up to nine Winter Wrens were caught each day at Damsite Oct. 9–11 (JG, PG). Sedge Wrens were seen at only 6 places, the most interesting two at Elm Hill W.M.A., Oct. 18 (AB). The Grubers banded 120 Golden-crowned Kinglets (35 Oct. 26) and 144 Ruby-crowned Kinglets (22 Oct. 11) at Damsite. Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Sandy Point S.P., Nov. 12–18 (LMD, HLW, WK) and Susq., Nov. 15 (EB). Reese saw a flight of 250 E. Bluebirds at Tilghman I., Nov. 8. At 3 major banding sites of Adv., Kipt., and Damsite, thrushes peaked as follows: Wood Sept. 10–Oct. 8, Swainson's Sept. 23–27, Gray-cheeked Sept. 27–Oct. 8, Hermit Oct. 17–26, and Veery Sept. 10–11 (MD, WPS, JG). A late Wood Thrush was at Adv., Oct. 28, while the best Gray Catbird numbers were during Sept. 24–Oct. 11. Cedar Waxwings were widespread e. of the Bay for the entire period with highs of 1000 at Damsite Nov. 1 (JG) and 500 at Tilghman I., Nov. 8 (JGR). Loggerhead Shrikes were seen at only 3 places, one having impaled a Field Sparrow on barbed wire in Fauquier, Va., Aug. 4 (LK).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — Banding stations were the source of most information on the passerine flight. At Damsite 3469 birds of 102 species were banded on 37 days Aug. 1–Nov. 2 (JG, PG) during 15,187 net hours, notable days being Aug. 26 (140 birds of 34 species), Sept. 4 (222/38), Sept. 11 (241/44), and Oct. 9 (182/37). At Adv., 4187 birds of 89 species were banded Aug. 17–Nov. 1 including 26 warbler species, such as a Golden-winged Aug. 23 and an Orange-crowned Oct. 18 (MD et al.). At Kipt., 5400 birds of 98 species were banded Aug. 29–Oct. 24 in 10,053 net hours, including 33 species of warblers, with 21 days in which 20 or more species were banded. Best flight days were Oct. 1 with 370 birds of 35 species, Oct. 9 (339/35), Oct. 8 (248/34), and Sept. 24 (209/30), with good results on Sept. 2, 25, & 26 also (WPS, CWH, DS, FRS, KT, JHB et al.).

Late vireos included White-eyes in D.C., Oct. 29 (DC) and



Research in progress: Don Schwab banding a Northern Waterthrush at the big banding operation at Kiptopeke, Va., September 1987. Photo/G.L. Armistead.

Gloucester, Va., Oct. 24 (TK), a Solitary in Arlington, Va., Nov. 13 with five in. of snow on the ground (RAA), Philadelphia at Kipt., Oct. 11 (KT) and Pt. Lookout Oct. 10 (PO), and a Red-eyed at Chesapeake, Va., Nov. 1 (GMW). A Nashville Warbler at Stevenson, Md., Sept. 23 had been banded Apr. 28, 1983, at Driftwood, Tex. (BMR). A Black-throated Blue Warbler at Stevenson Nov. 3 was tardy (BMR). At Kipt., season highs for 13 warbler species were achieved Oct. 1, such as 43 Magnolias, 64 Black-throated Blues, and 87 Com. Yellowthroats (WPS et al.). Early N. Waterthrushes were detected at 4 places during the period Aug. 1-9 (v.o.). Thirteen Mourning Warblers were at Damsite Aug. 14-Oct. 9, with four Aug. 26 (JG). A Yellow-breasted Chat lingered until Nov. 28 at Columbia, Md. (MC). Golden-winged Warblers were reported from 6 localities, Orange-crowned Warblers from 9 (v.o.).

Late was a Summer Tanager at Newport News, Va., Oct. 10 (TRW), as was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Denton Oct. 24 (RBF). At Damsite, an extraordinary 78 Blue Grosbeaks and 371 Indigo Buntings (commonest species!) were banded, with a peak of 17 grosbeaks Sept. 20 and three as late as Oct. 16, while peak bunting days were Sept. 3 (61), Sept. 11 (39), Aug. 26 (34), Oct. 9 (29), and five as late as Oct. 11. Single Dickcissels were in Virginia at Curles Neck, Henrico, Oct. 4 (DP, DTS) and on C.B.B.T., Nov. 27-30 (C & MH, HCI). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Rockville, Md., Oct. 10-12 (MO, PO). Seldom reported except on CBCs, an early Savannah (Ipswich) Sparrow was at Chinc., Oct. 19 (CPW) and a late one had been reported at Ragged Island W.M.A., Va., Apr. 29, 1987, on the James R. about 20 mi from the coast (EMW, JT). Late Grasshopper Sparrows included one at Stevenson, Md., Oct. 29 (BMR), one at Kipt., Oct. 19 (WPS), and singles on C.B.B.T., Oct. 22 (JA), Oct. 30 (JGR), and Nov. 15 (HL et al.). A Henslow's Sparrow was detected in Rockville Oct. 9 (MO). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was at Elm Hill W.M.A., Oct. 25 for the 2nd Virginia Piedmont record (AB, ph.). Two Sharp-tailed Sparrows of the Nelson's race were at Fishing Creek Marsh, Calvert, Md., Sept. 26 (JLS). At Adv., 12 Lincoln's Sparrows were banded Sept. 25-Oct. 23 (three on Oct. 9; MD), two were at Piney Run Park Oct. 4 (RFR), two were in Howard, Md., Oct. 3 (fide JS), two were in Rockville Oct. 9 (MO), and two were at Damsite each day Oct. 9-11 (JG), while a late one was at L. Gaston, Va., Nov. 8 (AB).

Two Lapland Longspurs and seven Snow Buntings were at Craney Nov. 19 (MRB et al.). There was a big influx of Snow Buntings in mid-November with earlier sightings of 35 at Hart Nov. 8 (HK; 75 there Nov. 15, RFR), one at Bedford, Va., Nov.,

14-15 (C & MH), one at Kerr Res., Nov. 15 (AB), and numerous later reports. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at C.B.B.T., Sept. 18 (CB, HL et al.). As early as Aug. 2, a mixed blackbird flock estimated at 100,000+ was at Vienna, Md., at a marsh roost (RFR, HLW). Williams counted 148 N. Orioles at Kipt., Aug. 30. An unseasonal Pine Siskin was at Aldie, Loudoun, Va., Aug. 27-28 (RCp) and up to 250 were at Rock Hall, Md., Nov. 17 (JG); the first Evening Grosbeak report was at nearby Damsite with one Oct. 24 (JG), and Reese had 35 in Carroll, Md., Nov. 30. But generally the siskin-grosbeak flight was a light one, and scarcer northern finches were nonexistent.

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.

Most of Fall 1987 was rather dry in the Southeast, but September was quite rainy. The warmth of September gave way to a cool October; in fact, several cities had their coldest October ever. Many strong cold fronts pushed through the Region during the month.

Despite the seemingly excellent weather for creating large waves in October, such never really happened. Merrill Lynch summed up the season from his vantage point in North Carolina: "a dull season spiced by a few exciting finds . . . Northern Wheatear, Eared Grebe, etc. Passerine Neotropical migrants seemed to be in lower numbers, continuing a downward trend noticed for at least the past 5-10 years. Tanagers, orioles, grosbeaks, wood warblers, and thrushes all seemed to be fewer in numbers." There was the usual handful of exciting rarities, but the quantity of

migrants continues to be a major concern with each passing year.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in italics are counties

GREBES THROUGH STORKS — Two Red-necked Grebes were seen in flight at Bodie I., N.C., Nov. 13 (HL) for the only report. On the other hand, Eared Grebes were noted a remarkable 5 times: single birds at Plant Scherer in Monroe, Ga., Sept. 2 and Nov. 19 (TJ); at Lawrenceville, Ga., Sept. 25-26 (JV); at Atlantic Beach, N.C., Sept. 26 (*BH); and at Goldsboro, N.C., Sept. 17-Oct. 31 (ED et al.). The only notable shearwater report was of a late Audubon's off Mt. Pleasant, S.C., Nov. 8 (DF). Small numbers of Leach's and Band-rumped storm-petrels were seen on trips off North Carolina (see Table 1). A probable White-faced Storm-Petrel was seen on one trip, but there has been no conclusive record for this species in the Region since



1985. A tropicbird (sp.) was seen off Morehead City, N.C., Aug. 13 (DB); three ad. Masked Boobies off Oregon Inlet, N.C., Aug. 22 (BO, WI, m.ob.) was likely a record count for a Regional pelagic trip.

One of the more bizarre reports of the fall was of an Am. White Pelican that blew in to Hampstead, N.C., during a storm Nov. 9, landed on the post office roof, and could not lift itself off the steep roof (SC, KK, JN)! Onlookers tossed fish to the bird, which was photographed by local TV stations, and it was freed by wildlife officials Nov. 11 and flown to Texas for release. Other Am. White Pelicans were at Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., summer to Aug. 21 (MO, JF), at Hatteras Inlet, N.C., in November (CWi et al.), and at Williston, S.C., in early November (DA). Great Cormorant records along much of the coast are barely notable now in winter, although a first-year bird all summer at Cape Lookout, N.C. (PH, JF, BP-B), was definitely unusual. A remarkably late Anhinga was out of range Nov. 17 at Umstead S.P., N.C. (RSD), and the species was present in increased numbers at Augusta, Ga., with a peak of nine Oct. 1 (AW, VW).

The large late-summer roost at Augusta, Ga., contained a maximum of 3780 waders Aug. 17; 3000+ were Cattle Egrets, but also of interest were two Glossy Ibises Sept. 5 and eight Tricolored Herons Aug. 17 (AW). The usual handful of Snowy Egrets wandered into the Piedmont after the breeding season, with good counts of eight near Atlanta, Ga., in August (PM, TM et al.), five at Jordan L., Chatham, N.C., Aug. 26 (BW, MW), and four near Fayetteville, N.C., Aug. 5 (PJC). The only notable total of inland Tricolored Herons was of three near Columbia,

S C, Sept 13 (RC, GMcC) The only Reddish Egret reports were from Seabrook I., S.C.: one immature Sept. 13 and three immatures Sept. 17 (PN et al.). A count of 10 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Goldsboro, N.C., Sept. 20 (ED) was notable. The Wagners reported a roost at Jordan L. in August that contained over 140 waders of six species, including two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons Aug. 12.

The inland post-breeding dispersal of White Ibises was again mediocre; the better totals (all of immatures) were 12 at L. Hartwell, S.C., Aug. 29 (PW), 10-12 in s. Cabarrus, N.C., July to early September (fide DW), and eight at Jordan L., Sept. 1 (HL, ML, DC). Glossy Ibises generally stay along the coast after breeding, thus notable were four at Rocky Mount, N.C., Aug. 9 (ML) and two at Jordan L., Aug. 22 (HL). A pink-colored ibis was present at Charleston, S.C., Sept. 27-29 (AM, HE, fide CB); the bird was probably a White x Scarlet ibis hybrid. Always exciting in the Region, a Roseate Spoonbill appeared in South Carolina near the mouth of the Savannah R. and was present for several days (LL, H.H.A.S.). Far inland Wood Storks were unusual near Lawrenceville, Ga., Aug. 9 (HG), near the intersection of I-26 and I-95, S.C. (ST—no date), and near Fayetteville Sept. 17-21 (PJC). The post-breeding flock at Silver Bluff Sanctuary, Aiken, S.C., reached an excellent 124 birds this season (fide AW). Very rare on the North Carolina Outer Banks was a stork at Bodie I., late July to Aug. 7 (m.ob.) and at Pea I., Aug. 18 (AB).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES — A blue-phase Snow Goose surprisingly summered at L. Lanier, Ga. (JP), and a white-phase bird was rare in w. Mecklenburg, N.C., Nov. 22 (DW, HW). Quite early were two N. Shovelers Aug. 16 in Clayton, Ga. (PB). Male Eur. Wigeons were found at Pea I., Oct. 22 and Nov. 14-15 (RD, HL) and at Magnolia Gardens near Charleston Nov. 12 (CW). A high count for Georgia was of 2000+ Ring-necked Ducks at Peachtree City L. in late November (fide TM). Doerr discovered a ♀ Com. Eider at Long Beach, N.C., in late October, and it remained through the end of the period. Somewhat rarer was an ad. ♂ Harlequin Duck in Ocracoke Inlet, N.C., Nov. 19 (DD). Perhaps a unique feat was accomplished by Dean at Goldsboro this fall; he found all three scoters, with an Oldsquaw to boot, at a single inland site in the same season. He had a Black Oct. 31, up to three Surfs Oct. 12-28, and a White-winged Nov. 3-4, with an Oldsquaw Nov. 13-30. Other waterfowl of note were two Oldsquaws in n. Wake, N.C., Nov. 21 (RD, HL), 362 Hooded Mergansers in Monroe, Ga., Nov. 25 (T, A), and two early Ruddy Ducks at Raleigh, N.C., Oct. 3 (JM).

The hawk watch at Pilot Mountain S.P., N.C., was manned regularly this fall; an outstanding total of 11,724 Broad-winged Hawks was tallied in September, along with two each of Merlin

Table 1. Early fall pelagic observations off Oregon Inlet, N.C.

Species	8/8 (ML, HL, DC)	8/21 (WI, BO)	8/22 (WI, BO)	8/24 (WI, BO)	8/29 (DC party)	9/12 (WI, BO)	9/13 (WI, BO)
Black-capped Petrel	72	3	10		2	1	9
Cory's Shearwater	154	98	205	326	100	3	6
Greater Shearwater	9	3	8	15	1		
Audubon's Shearwater	72	25	105	94	35	11	1
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	518	81	118	26	200	90	108
Leach's Storm-Petrel	1					3	
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	1	5	4	2			1
Masked Booby			3				
Red-necked Phalarope		8			15	75	7
Red Phalarope	2						
Pomarine Jaeger	1						2
jaeger (sp.)	1					1	
Sabine's Gull							1
Arctic Tern			3				
Bridled Tern	10	3	3	8	7	20	3
Sooty Tern		10	24	10	5		

and Peregrine Falcon in that month (RS, J & PC *et al.*) Bald Eagle sightings continued their upswing in this decade, and a new post-breeding concentration site was reported, with 17 birds along the Wateree R. below Wateree Dam, Kershaw, S.C., in early August (JEC). Thompson noted major flights of Broad-winged Hawks at several sites in Polk, N.C., at the w. edge of the Region—2777 Sept. 24 at Saluda and 362 Sept. 23 at Warrior Mt. A total of 104 Broad-winged was seen in Lumpkin, Ga., Sept. 26 (PY). There were just 4 inland reports of Merlins, 3 in November; yet the far less common Peregrine Falcon was reported inland at least 8 times. Despite the numerous cold fronts, the falcon flight on the coast was just routine with no large counts.

Both records of Yellow Rails were inland, and perhaps both will provide means of finding this most elusive species. One was flushed by Williams and his dog from a field of tall crabgrass in Gates, N.C., Sept. 11, whereas another responded to Cely's rock clicking on the night of Oct. 29 in a grassy Carolina bay in e. Richland, S.C. It seems as though birders might be able to get Yellows to respond to such rock clicking and tape recordings on warm and calm evenings in fall and in spring while the birds are on their wintering grounds. Clapper Rails do migrate over inland sections of the Region, but few appear to land except when they reach coastal marshes. Both inland records were, as usual, of birds found dead, probably a result of nighttime migration collisions: Sept. 1 at Goldsboro (ED) and Sept. 21 in n. Wake, N.C. (RD). Well inland was an imm. Purple Gallinule Sept. 19–20 at Goldsboro (ED *et al.*). Piedmont records of Com. Moorhens were of one at Peachtree City L., Ga., Sept. 20 (PB, HG, TM) and one found dead in s.e. Greenville, S.C., in late October (*vide* PW). Despite the large numbers of Sandhill Cranes that migrate through c. Georgia, few cranes appear in North Carolina. This fall, though, that state had 2 records—four circling over Cape Hatteras point Oct. 29 (KT *et al.*), and one near Nebraska, Hyde, late October through November (LD, m.ob.) that fed on a grain in a pen with pinioned Canada Geese!

SHOREBIRDS — Davis had good totals of plovers at Falls L., near Durham, N.C., with peak counts of 10 Black-bellieds Oct. 8 and nine Lesser Golden-Plovers Sept. 4. He also had notable Golden counts of five at Falls L., Oct. 28 and four at nearby Jordan L., Sept. 9, plus a very late bird at Falls Nov. 12. A Piping Plover, not described, was reported inland at Albany, Ga., July 25 (AA); also in inland Georgia were single Am. Avocets in Laurens Oct. 10 & 21–25 (TKP). The only Whimbrel away from the coast was at Jordan L., Sept. 1–2 (DC, DS). Long-billed Curlews appeared generally at their usual few sites along the coast—Ocracoke I. (JF), Portsmouth I. (JF), and Shackleford Banks (ML, KL) in North Carolina, and Jekyll I. (TKP *et al.*) in Georgia. One of the best-ever Regional counts of Hudsonian Godwits was of seven birds at Pea I., Sept. 8–9 (SC), whereas one in a flooded pasture on Currituck Banks Aug. 23 (JF) was most surprising.

Very rare inland was a Red Knot at Jordan L., Aug. 22 (HL), and the best inland Sanderling totals were also at this lake, with seven Sept. 9 (RD). Notable "peep" tallies were of 100 Semipalmated and 75 Western sandpipers at Jordan L., Sept. 1 (DC, HL, ML) and 25 Semipalmateds and five Westerns in n.e. Gaston, N.C., Sept. 4 (DW). White-rumped Sandpipers, which seldom appear away from the coast in fall, were encountered inland 4 times: two at Falls L., Sept. 4 (RD), three at New Bern, N.C., Sept. 26 (BH), up to four at Goldsboro Sept. 27–Oct. 1 (ED), and two near Dublin, Ga., Oct. 21 (TKP). Single Baird's Sandpipers were found at Cape Hatteras point Aug. 23 (BO *et al.*) and Oct. 10–11 (CM, JF, JN), at a park in Charleston Sept. 3 (DF), in Gaston Sept. 4 (DW), and in Clayton, Ga., Sept. 19–20 (PB, HG, TM). A tally of 71 Pectoral Sandpipers was excellent at Winston-Salem, N.C., Aug. 9 (BP, RS). Among the many inland Dunlin reports, noteworthy counts included 65 at Falls L., Oct. 28 (RD) and 12 near Macon, Ga., Nov. 8 (TI).

An apparent Curlew Sandpiper was well described (white rump, some decurve near the tip of the bill) and photographed at Cabretta I., Ga., Oct. 4 (ph. SJC). There are 2 previous sight

records for the state, but no specimen or photograph. A series of color slides was sent to G Graves and R Clapp in Washington, D.C., who concurred that the bird was a Curlew. However, a single profile color print sent to this editor seems equivocal, and several birders, including myself, to whom I showed the print believe the bird is a Dunlin. The Georgia Bird Records Committee will have the final decision, hopefully with the full series of photos in hand. In North Carolina, where the species regularly occurs each summer and fall, single birds were seen at Bodie I., Aug. 7 (HL, MT) and Pea I., Aug. 23 (JF), as well as two summer holdovers at Portsmouth I., Aug. 1 (MO).

Inland totals of Stilt Sandpipers included 26 at New Bern, N.C., Aug. 9 (BH) and nine at Jordan L., Sept. 1 (HL, DC, ML), the species also appeared inland in Georgia at Laurens (TKP), Clayton (PB *et al.*), and L. Lanier (JP). The Buff-breasted Sandpiper situation is still gloomy, and birds were found at just 2 Regional sites. At Cape Hatteras point, up to four were present Aug. 2–28 (AB, SC, m.ob.) and two Oct. 11 (JF, JN), and up to nine were at the Gainesville, Ga., airport Sept. 8–10 (JP). Long-billed Dowitchers appeared inland only at Goldsboro (ED), Falls L. (HL, RD), and Jordan L. (HL). A Wilson's Phalarope was a good find at Goldsboro Sept. 17–24 (ED), but coastal birds were reported only from North Carolina. In addition to typical pelagic totals for Red-necked Phalarope, onshore birds were two at Cape Hatteras point Sept. 5 (JF) and one at Pea I., Oct. 4 (ML, ABr). A Red Phalarope, the rarest of the three phalaropes inland, was near Macon Oct. 25 (TI), and two Reds were very early off Oregon Inlet Aug. 8 (DC, HL, ML, MT).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS — The Pomarine Jaeger, unknown in inland North Carolina until several years ago, appeared at 2 such localities: singles were at Jordan L., Sept. 9 (RD, WI) and Goldsboro Sept. 18 (RD, DC, ED). Otherwise, jaegers were not recorded often on pelagic trips, but this can be explained partly because the heaviest movements of the birds are in October, when few birders were at sea this fall. The Goldsboro Wastewater Treatment Plant, where so many rare birds were found by Dean this fall, was home to Laughing Gulls Aug. 5–12 and Sept. 20. One of the few Com. Black-headed Gulls ever for South Carolina was an immature at Mt Pleasant Oct. 29 (PN). Also in that state was an early ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull Sept. 19 at N. Folly Beach (PN *et al.*), while three were somewhat early at Cape Hatteras point Oct. 1 (JF) November 27 was the only date when two scarce gull species were seen—a Glaucous Gull at Bodie I. (CWi) and a Black-legged Kittiwake at Cape Hatteras (JF). Despite the fact that **Sabine's Gull** is a pelagic migrant and there have been well over 100 pelagic trips taken off North Carolina in the past decade, one seen off Oregon Inlet Sept. 13 (WI, BO *et al.*) furnished just the 2nd pelagic record ever for that state and the first offshore in fall.

A few Caspian Terns stopped at inland lakes, as usual, with the best count being of 11 at Jordan L., Sept. 9 (RD). This summer and fall, Barron and Cooper noted several completely yellow-billed juvenile Sandwich Terns at Cape Hatteras, the site where ad. "Cayenne Terns" have been reported on 2 previous occasions. This perhaps casts suspicion on the previous Cayenne reports. However, do ad. Sandwich Terns in the United States ever have all-yellow bills? Do yellow-billed juv. Sandwiches retain this color when they reach adulthood? Roseate Terns appeared at this site on numerous occasions this summer, one was present Aug. 19 (SC). Roseates were reported at 2 other Regional sites, but the details were lacking or did not rule out Forster's Tern. Twelve Com. Terns at Falls L., Sept. 13 (HL) made a good inland total, as did 28 Forster's Terns at nearby Jordan L., Sept. 9 (RD). Two imm. Commons were carefully studied by Wilds and Fussell at Cape Hatteras Nov. 27, a late date for North Carolina. Also seen thoroughly were three Arctic Terns off Oregon Inlet Aug. 22 (BO, WI *et al.*). Two Sooty Terns were seen at Folly Beach, S.C., Aug. 8 (PN), along with three Bridled Terns, seldom seen from shore except during hurricanes. Sooty Terns, usually tough to find on late summer/

fall pelagic trips off North Carolina, were quite numerous this season off Oregon Inlet, whereas Bridled Terns were present in typical numbers (see Table 1). The best inland count of Black Terns was of 16 at Jordan L., Sept. 1 (DC, HL, ML).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS — For the 2nd consecutive fall, a **White-winged Dove** was detected on the North Carolina coast. Fussell watched one in flight at Ocracoke I., Aug. 21. The 6 reports of Black-billed Cuckoos included birds netted and banded Oct. 2 at Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (WP) and Oct. 15 at Jekyll I., Ga. (TM *et al.*). The first Georgia record of **Long-eared Owl** in approximately 25 years was furnished by one found dead Nov. 1 at Smyrna (*TM *et al.*). Unlike the situation in states to our north, where the species is a regular winter resident and can be found with purposeful search, these birds in this Region are usually found as road kills, and no one has seen birds by intentionally searching in stands of conifers. Notable counts of migrating Com. Nighthawks included 2400+ Sept. 1–3 in the foothills near Tryon, N.C. (ST) and 100+ along the coast at Seabrook I., S.C., Sept. 13 (PN *et al.*). *Archilochus* hummingbirds, all immatures or females, in late fall were found Nov. 21 near Roanoke Rapids L., N.C. (RY), at a feeder in Spring Hope, N.C., late November and later (WPa), and at a feeder in Greer, S.C., mid-September to Nov. 14+ (PW). Remarkably, there were 4 reports of Rufous Hummingbirds this season. All, however, were in ϕ plumage, so it is not 100% possible to prove that all were Rufous. Individuals were in Beaufort, N.C., Aug. 2–8 (J & PR, MM, ph. RiC), at Macon, Ga., Sept. 1 (*fide* RM), at Atlanta Nov. 20–30+ (*fide* TM), and at Johns I., S.C., Nov. 23 (BM, *fide* PN).

The only Olive-sided Flycatcher detected was at Goldsboro Oct. 5 (ED). In some falls, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers slip through the Region nearly without notice; fortunately, 1987 was not such a year. There were 9 reports, all but two seen between Sept. 23–Oct. 5. Willow/Alder flycatchers are difficult to identify in fall even in the hand, but Massey identified two Willows by sight and call at Wilmington Sept. 23. Five Least Flycatchers were seen and heard near Athens, Ga., Sept. 15–17 (PY), one was seen n. of Charlotte, N.C., Sept. 19 (DW), and individuals were banded Sept. 14 at Mt. Pleasant (WP) and Oct. 2 & 5 at Jekyll I. (DCo *et al.*). One of the better finds of the season was an imm. δ **Vermilion Flycatcher** at Mt. Pleasant, S.C., Oct. 7 (PN, CP, WP). All W. Kingbirds were coastal, as usual, and surprisingly all were seen in October. Five Gray Kingbirds at Jekyll I., Sept. 6 (PB) must have been birds that had nested there earlier in the year. Belatedly reported was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in early July at the Bennettsville, S.C., airport (*fide* JEC).

Excellent swallow totals in North Carolina were of 3000 Purple Martins Aug. 6 near Fayetteville (PJC) and 100,000+ Tree Swallows at Eagle I., near Wilmington, Nov. 6 (SC). Most autumns pass by without any late reports of N. Rough-winged Swallows; yet this season there were 4 post-September sightings—two Oct. 2 at Saluda, N.C. (ST), two Oct. 10 near Raleigh (HL), one s. of Raleigh Oct. 15 (JM), and one at Ben Hall L., Ga., Nov. 21 (TKP). A Cliff Swallow Oct. 29 (AW) at Augusta apparently was the latest ever for Georgia.

RAVENS THROUGH WARBLERS — Common Ravens tend to stay in the mountains just to the w. of our Region, but a few were encountered in the adjacent foothills—at Saluda and L. Adger in Polk, N.C., on several occasions (ST) and at Hanging Rock S.P., N.C., Oct. 17 (HL). A few Red-breasted Nuthatches were found in the Region, as always, but for all intents and purposes, the species simply never came south this fall. One of the few recent reports of Bewick's Wren was of one in Atlanta Oct. 4 (JC). Somewhat making up for the absence of nuthatches was the remarkable abundance of Golden-crowned Kinglets, especially in the s. one-half of the Region, where normally fairly common at best in midwinter.

S.A.

Spotted thrushes continue to disappear from the migration scene, apparently in line with the clearing of tropical forests. Ten years ago, thrushes made up a moderate portion of the fall migration in the East, but most active observers are now having difficulty finding even 25% of the numbers of thrushes they saw a decade ago. Is there any hope for a return to former numbers of Wood, Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes and Veeries?

The most exciting bird of the season was the imm. **Northern Wheatear** found by Fussell along the coast at Avon, N.C., Oct. 2 (ph. RD, ML, WI). This was the 3rd record for the Region and the 2nd for the state, but the first documented by photograph. As much as I would like to publish each record this fall of the uncommon Philadelphia Vireo, the 20 reports prohibit such a listing. The highest daily count was of three near Roswell, Ga., Sept. 26 (PM, TM). Despite the numbers of Philadelphia's, no Warbling Vireos were seen, clearly indicating that the species avoids the Piedmont and Coastal Plain of the Southern states in fall migration.

At most localities the warbler flights were rather disappointing, despite the many strong cold fronts. Single "Brewster's" Warblers were good finds at Augusta Aug. 18 (AW) and at Ocracoke I., N.C., Oct. 3 (HL, WI). Among early records for warblers were a Tennessee on Currituck Banks Aug. 23 (JF), a Nashville at Greensboro Aug. 21 (HH), a Black-throated Green at Umstead S.P., N.C., Aug. 16 (HL), and a Palm at Jekyll I., Aug. 12 (AW). Cerulean Warblers were encountered at only 3 sites: Tryon, N.C., Aug. 19–30 (ST), Lee, Ga., Aug. 8 (AA), and Atlanta vicinity (11 reports Aug. 1–Sept. 7, with six birds Aug. 1 by JC). An Ovenbird in Atlanta Nov. 12–30+ (PB *et al.*) was most unusual for the Piedmont.

Believe it or not, all four *Oporornis* species were reported this season! The rare Connecticut Warbler was seen only on Ocracoke I., Oct. 1 (JF) and at a birdbath near Marietta, Ga., Oct. 24 (NI); the secretive Mourning Warbler was seen near Tryon Aug. 19 (ST) and at Carolina Beach S.P., N.C., Oct. 2 (SC), and banded on Jekyll I., Oct. 7 (DCo *et al.*). Hopefully a correct identification was made of a **MacGillivray's Warbler** netted and banded, as well as photographed, at Jekyll I., Oct. 2 (DCo *et al.*). The identification was based on the "wing minus tail" difference (7 mm in the bird, compared to 10–18 mm for Mourning Warbler). It would seem that confirmation of the color photos might be necessary to place the species on the Official List for Georgia; nonetheless, this was the first report for the Region. An *Oporornis* at Atlanta on the very late date of Nov. 4 had a wide eye ring and was considered a possible MacGillivray's (RoM). The 10 reports of Wilson's Warblers were somewhat more than normal, but not normal was a Canada Warbler that hit a window and died at Hillsborough, N.C., Aug. 6 (DT).

TANAGERS THROUGH CARDUELINES — A Scarlet Tanager Nov. 22 near Ringwood, N.C. (ML) was extremely late. Except for a Dickcissel banded by Enders Oct. 3 in Halifax, N.C., all others of this species were calling fly-overs on the North Carolina Outer Banks, including a group of six circling over Pea I., Oct. 18 (RD, JF, JW). I suspect that most birders are unfamiliar with the "electric buzzer" call given by these birds overhead and that the species is not as rare a coastal migrant as the records indicate. There were approximately 6 coastal records of Clay-colored Sparrows, but just one inland, at Jordan L., Oct. 11 (HL). Lark Sparrows continued to be scarce as fall migrants, with only a report from Carolina Beach Nov. 9 (SC, JFP) to go with four from Pea I., Sept. 29–Oct. 29 (RD, JF, GH). Lincoln's Sparrows, highly overlooked again this fall, were noted in Georgia near Roswell Oct. 31 (PM, TM) and near Atlanta Nov. 9 (KB), and in North Carolina near L. Phelps Oct. 16 (RD) and L. Mattamuskeet Nov. 29 (HL, DC). Davis' extensive

coverage of Falls L. mudflats in late fall turned up a Lapland Longspur Oct. 28 and Snow Buntings Nov. 12 & 21. Other Laplands were as many as three at Cape Hatteras Nov. 15-27 (SC, JF), two Oct. 31 at Huntington Beach S.P. (RC), and one at the Gainesville airport Nov. 25 (JP). Snow Buntings were encountered on the coast only at Cape Hatteras, but one appeared on a dirt road in a clearcut near Roanoke Rapids L., N.C., Nov. 6 (RY).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Cape Hatteras point Sept. 6 (RA et al.) furnished the only report. Brewer's Blackbirds are giving me editorial headaches. Unlike the Yellow-headed, which regularly occurs in the Region by late July and seems to "peak" in September, the Brewer's is a late migrant, and probably most reports before late October are suspect. And some previous reports from November through the spring might well have been of Com. Grackles or Rusty Blackbirds. Observers should provide descriptions for any Brewer's outside of the regular wintering range in Georgia. The winter finch flight was a moderate one at best, and the flight even included three Red Crossbills Oct. 26 at Wilmington (GM), an unlikely locale for the species. The best numbers of Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks were in the western Piedmont.

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FLORIDA REGION

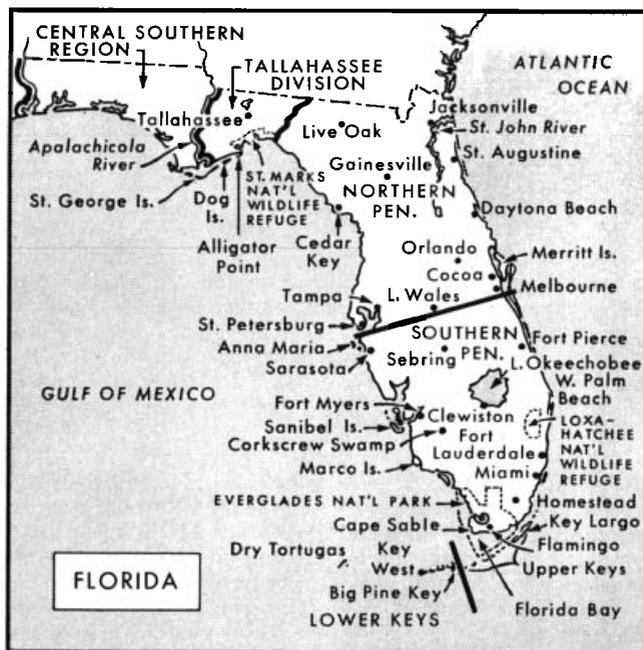
Lyn S. and Brooks H. Atherton

The weather patterns of this season belie the lackluster migration. Even Hurricane Floyd (October 9-13) was a fizzle. Floyd's circulation pattern produced the best day of banding for the Gulf coast but little discernible effect elsewhere. Cold fronts passed through the Region September 20-24, October 1-5, October 29, and November 22. However, little if any precipitation (and few birds) accompanied any of them. In fact, the total wet season rainfall in southern Florida was six inches below the historic average, while the Tallahassee Division reported no measurable rainfall during the entire month of October. The mainly ENE winds during the season apparently did affect the Jacksonville and Dade County areas where "better than usual" migrations were noted.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.S.M. = Clear Springs Mine, Polk County; E.N.P. = Everglades National Park; Tall. Div. = Tallahassee Division. Place names in *italics* are counties. Date with a "+" = recorded through the end of the period.

LOONS THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS — The only Red-throated Loon was at St. Marks Light, Nov. 29 (LH, WB). Common Loons were late or absent from much of the Gulf Coast, but were seen regularly during the latter part of the season off the Lake Worth Pier, unlike the past few years when numbers were well below normal along the s.e. coast (fide HPL). Palm Beach's 4th Horned Grebe was at Lake Worth Pier Nov. 20 (HPL). Lone Eared Grebes were at the s.e. Tallahassee sprayfield Oct. 13-14 (JMS, HMS) and near St. Marks Light, Nov. 13 (DS).

Seen 28 mi e. of Cape Canaveral were two Cory's Shearwaters Aug. 27, and eight Audubon's were 3 mi farther out Aug. 14 (JJ). Wilson's Storm-Petrels in unusually high numbers, 31 Aug. 14 and 43 Aug. 17 (JJ), were 31 mi offshore of the cape. Especially rare away from the Dry Tortugas, a White-tailed Tropicbird was 28 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral Aug. 30 (JJ). Brown Boobies, also a Tortugas specialty, roamed northward. An immature at Lake Worth Pier Oct. 11 (AW) was joined by another Oct. 14+ (EF, BH). Eight others headed S 100 yards



offshore of Dania Oct. 12 (ER). Northern Gannets moved past the Lake Worth Pier in good numbers, although the first arrivals on Nov. 6 were considered late there (fide HPL). The 1207 total included highs of 737 Nov. 18-20 and 209 Nov. 26 (HPL). Quite a surprise were three heading SW over Kendall, Dade, Nov. 27 (MC). Forty gannets at St. George I., Nov. 27 (LH, m.ob.) made a good count for the panhandle.

Five Am. White Pelicans at Cedar Key Aug. 5 (DTF) probably summered in the vicinity. Singles at Occidental W.M.A., Hamilton, Nov. 21-29 and at Lake City Nov. 11-30 were unusual for the n.c. peninsula area (PS). Even lone Anhingas are unusual in the Keys, so quite unexpected were 16 flying WNW over Big Pine Key Oct. 4 (G & HP, MB). Noticeable flights of

Magnificent Frigatebirds moved S over Plantation Key from the 2nd week of August through mid-September with a high of 200 Aug. 12 (JCO). One was inland over Loxahatchee N.W.R., Nov. 7 (BH), and five at Key West Nov. 22 (JO) were considered late although some non-breeders remain in winter as far n. as Tampa Bay.

WADERS THROUGH DUCKS — A “Great White” Heron at Fort Pierce Inlet Aug. 31 (JB) was well n. of its usual Florida Bay range. Duda Farms/Belle Glade had high numbers of herons and egrets Sept. 12 (EF, B & JH): 2000 Great, 1600 Snowy, and 500 Cattle egrets, 250 Little Blue and 75 Tricolored herons, and 150 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. Reddish Egrets again made noteworthy appearances in the Tall. Div. One was 30 mi inland in s. Leon Sept. 12 (TM), and eight—an unprecedented number—were at St. Marks Light Oct. 23 (DB). Their usual n. limit on the e. coast is Merritt I., so, in *Duval*, one at Guana S.P., Oct. 1 (DB) and two at Talbot Island S.P., Nov. 10 (GL) were notable. High ibis counts were of 800 White at Duda/Belle Glade Sept. 12 (EF, B & JH) and 410 Glossy at Clear Springs Mine Nov. 21 (CG). Even in the S. Pen., where Roseate Spoonbills breed, they are uncommon inland; therefore, one in the N. Pen. at Katherine Ordway Preserve near Melrose, *Alachua*, Sept. 9 (AM) was surprising. A Bald Eagle flushed 86 spoonbills at the Alafia R., Hillsborough Bay, Oct. 17 (RTP), a high number in fall so far north. *Palm Beach* had 1500 Wood Storks in a flooded field near South Bay Aug. 10 (ER) and 1100 at Duda/Belle Glade Sept. 12 (ER, B & JH), the latter count possibly including some from the former, considering the close proximity of the 2 locations. Storks are rarely encountered in the Keys, but one was at Key West Oct. 24 (MB) and another flew over Big Pine Key Nov. 7 (CK). Two Greater Flamingos, one “white” and the other “pink,” were at Duda/Belle Glade Aug. 15, and the latter remained through Sept. 12 (EF, BH, GH). One visited Virginia Key, *Dade*, Aug. 30 (MC), and five were at the more usual location offshore of Snake Bight Trail, E.N.P., Nov. 5 (DL et al.).

The only Greater White-fronted Goose was near St. Marks Light Nov. 1 (DS). Farther s. than usual were two early Snows at Merritt Island N.W.R., Oct. 28 (KB, MH) and another at Ft. De Soto P., Nov. 17 (LA, JD). Another was early at *Alachua L.*, Paynes Prairie S.P., Oct. 29 (RH). An imm. Brant on the *Banana R.*, Port Canaveral, Nov. 6 (J & SJ) was probably the same as one on the *Indian R.*, Cocoa, Nov. 20+ (HC, JJ). Another was at Merritt Island N.W.R., Nov. 12 (DC, PC).

On Nov. 22, 1063 ducks flying by the Lake Worth Pier included 276 Green-winged Teal, 116 Am. Wigeon and 366 Red-breasted Mergansers (HPL). Mottled Ducks seem to be increasing in numbers, although it may be that they are just more visible because their normal haunts—wilderness areas—are being destroyed by development. Their ability to adjust to suburban and urban areas, breeding in ponds surrounded by condos and other homes, may be their salvation—if they do not lose their “purity” by breeding with feral Mallards, a problem discovered in the St. Petersburg area. Ninety Mottleds, a very high count, were at C.S.M., Sept. 12 (PF). Also there were the following: two Mallards, considered wild and thus unusual so far south, Oct. 18; six N. Pintail, rare inland that far s., Nov. 11, and 1400 Blue-winged Teal Sept. 12 and 1320 N. Shovelers Nov. 22, both very high numbers (PF). The only Cinnamon Teal was near St. Marks Light Sept. 19 (S & CW). An ad ♂ Com. Eider at Hillsboro Beach, *Broward*, Sept. 7+ (m.ob.) was undoubtedly the same as one that spent last fall and winter (see AB 41:76 and 42:273) and, very possibly, summer there. An ad ♀ Oldsquaw at West Summerland Key Nov. 15 (WH, RS) was the Keys’ first-ever. Another female was shot by a hunter at Occidental W.M.A., Nov. 25 (PS). Scoters were again scarce although a ♀ Black was early at Jupiter Inlet Oct. 18 (TO). The largest number was 31 Blacks and two White-wingeds at Lake Worth Pier Nov. 22 (HPL). Noteworthy because scoters are rare in *Wakulla* was a ♀ Surf near St. Marks Light Nov. 4 (RW, KE). Ruddy Ducks are very rare breeders. Two adults and six

fledglings were still present at C.S.M., *Polk*, Aug. 8 (PF, see Summer Report) Another Ruddy at Duda/Belle Glade Aug. 22 (DL) was either early or may have summered (bred?) there

RAPTORS — In Florida, Ospreys usually migrate singly or in very small groups, but 20 were in a kettle with three Peregrines at Birch Park, Ft. Lauderdale, Sept. 24 (WG). Thirty-six migrating Am. Swallow-tailed Kites feeding over a newly-plowed field near Palatka Aug. 1 (LT) was considered an unusually large group that far n. in the peninsula (*vide* BPM) However, 1339 at a *Glades* location Aug. 4 (BAM) was unprecedented in the Region and must have been awe-inspiring (see *Florida Field Naturalist* Vol. 15, No. 4). Others lingered late with ones at Tavernier Oct. 1 and Key Largo Oct. 2 (WH) the latest. Since the 1986 discovery of breeding Black-shouldered Kites in w. *Broward*, sightings along the s.e. coast have increased. One headed S past Cape Florida Oct. 17 (BN) and two appeared to have taken up residence in a field w. of Ft. Lauderdale Nov. 22+ (BH, A & MG). South of their usual range in E.N.P., several Snail Kites frequented Taylor Slough Aug. 8–Oct. 7, and another was at Paurotis Pond Oct. 8 (SN). Mississippi Kites are rare s. of Gainesville, but singles were at Islamorada Sept. 21 (RB), Big Pine Key Oct. 10 (WH, MB), and Saddle Creek P., *Polk*, Oct. 12 (PF, m.ob.).

During migration, the Ankona Raptor Research Station in St. Lucie recorded 10 species of raptors (excluding residents, Bald Eagle and Osprey). Totals included: 33 N. Harriers; 1000 Sharp-shinned, 81 Cooper’s, and 50 Broad-winged hawks; 500 Am. Kestrels, 103 Merlins, and 56 Peregrine Falcons. The station’s highest count was on Oct. 18 when 433 hawks were tallied and 19 were banded (*vide* SB). From Big Pine Key to Key West, 270 Sharp-shinneds were tallied Oct. 4–10 (MB), and 500 headed S at Cape Florida Oct. 16 (DL). Since groups of migrant Red-shouldered Hawks are not normally encountered, 16 adults heading SW at L. Jackson, Tallahassee Sept. 20 (JEC) were most unusual. Two imm. Broad-winged Hawks were very early at Key West Aug. 9 (JO) and the Keys total of 913 was high for the Region. Two hundred moved through E.N.P., Oct. 17 (SN). Increased sightings of Short-tailed Hawks in E.N.P. were encouraging, with as many as nine found Nov. 8 (BN). The first Keys arrival was at Plantation Key Nov. 21 (WH). The Keys also had 22 Swainson’s Hawks Oct. 6–Nov. 24 (M & PB, WH, JO). Swainson’s are especially rare in the Tall Div., so one at Alligator Pt., Oct. 10 (MHI) was unexpected, as was another found drowned near St. Marks Light Nov. 28 (JEC), providing the first specimen for n.w. Florida (*vide* HMS). Four in a kettle flew over the Ankona Raptor Research Station Nov. 11 (SB).

The only Golden Eagle was an immature, surprisingly at the Royal Palm Visitor Center, E.N.P., Oct. 17 (SN), for just the 2nd park record. An Am. Kestrel was early at Key West Sept. 15 (JO, B & SS, AB), and 30 flew E at St. George I., Oct. 21 (HMS, RLW). The 130 Merlin and 141 Peregrine sightings represented an astounding increase over years past. Even without the Ankona Raptor Research Station’s data (a new reporting station), Merlin and Peregrine sightings increased dramatically—more than 300% and 255% respectively.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — The ever-elusive Yellow Rail was flushed at Paynes Prairie S.P., Nov. 5 (BPM, JTD). An exceptionally early Virginia Rail was at Merritt Island N.W.R., Aug. 6 (FF, MH) and another near St. Marks Light Sept. 6 (JD, KN) could have bred there. Rare in the Keys because of their affinity for fresh water were a Sora at Key West Nov. 21 (JO) and a Limpkin at Big Pine Key Oct. 3 (MB, CW).

An exceedingly high count of 150 Wilson’s Plovers was at West Summerland Key Nov. 17 (M & PB). Piping Plovers arrived in good numbers. One was very early at Key West Aug. 11 (JO). High numbers for the Keys were 11 at Ohio Key Oct. 24 (MB, CW) and 13 at West Summerland Key Nov. 28 (WH). They are rarely found on the s.e. coast, but three were at Port Everglades Aug. 30 (WG). Twenty Am. Oystercatchers near the FSU Marine Lab Nov. 14 (HMS) made a high number for

the Tall Div Although a few Black-necked Stilts winter in the Tampa Bay area, 12 at C S M., Nov. 30 (CG) were considered late there. Three at St. Marks Light Sept. 6+ (DY, m.ob.) were unusual for the Tall. Div., and 100 at Island 2D, Tampa Bay, Nov. 9 (RTP, BAM) was a high count. Three Am. Avocets were rare and early at Key West Aug. 11 (JO).

An Upland Sandpiper at Ft. De Soto P., Sept. 2 (LA) strayed from the usual course down the e. half of the S. Pen., and a White-rumped Sandpiper, rare in fall, visited Key West Sept. 15 (JO, B & SS, AB). A rare-anytime Baird's was at Duda/Belle Glade Sept. 12 (EF, B & JH), and a Pectoral Sandpiper lingered late at Tallahassee S.T.P., Nov. 14 (HMS). For the past few years, searches for the Purple Sandpiper at the usual haunts along the n.e. coast have proven fruitless, yet lone birds have appeared much farther s. This year it happened again. The 3rd Broward record was early at Hillsboro Inlet Nov. 4 (WG) and another was at Key West Nov. 18 (PM). A Curlew Sandpiper in first basic plumage fed in a flooded field at Homestead Oct. 3 (WS—doc. to F.O.S. Records Committee). Port Everglades had Broward's second ever Buff-breasted Sandpiper Sept. 19 (WG, FJ). Duda/Belle Glade's 12 Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 23 (EF, BH, WG) were the most at one location, but C.S.M. had 10 Sept. 19 (PF, m.ob.). Two in n. Jacksonville Aug. 30 (RKR) were unusual N. Pen. finds.

JAEGERS THROUGH SKIMMER — Rarely seen sitting in Florida, an imm. jaeger rested with Laughing Gulls at Ward's Bank Sept. 11 (MJW, LB). Only 81 jaegers, all immatures, were recorded at Lake Worth Pier, well down from last year's numbers there (HPL). An ad. Franklin's Gull was at Merritt Island N.W.R., Nov. 8 (DC, LS), and one in first basic plumage fed at the St. Lucie Landfill Nov. 16+ (H & WD). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Port Canaveral Nov. 15 (J & SJ), and seven scavenged at the Pompano Landfill Nov. 26 (WG, BH). The only Black-legged Kittiwake was offshore of Boca Raton Beach Nov. 26 (BH, MG). More active observers along the e. coast undoubtedly account for the increased sightings of Sabine's Gulls, formerly considered a very rare species. On Oct. 13, an immature was along the Indian R., Titusville (DC, JJ) and another flew about the Lake Worth Pier (EF, BH), the 2nd consecutive year one has appeared at the pier.

Key West's 150 Royal Terns Nov. 17 (JO) made an especially high number for the Keys. Excellent numbers for the s.e. coast were Lake Worth Pier's 66 Sandwich Terns Nov. 19 (HPL) and Delray Beach's 30 Com. Terns Oct. 15 (BH). Six Commons were late at Lake Worth Pier Nov. 12-27 (HPL). Seventeen Bridled Terns were 28 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral Aug. 17 (JJ) and a desiccated Sooty Tern was found in mid-August at Cape Florida (MC). Because of repeated harassment at a commercial pilot, most of the 75 pairs of Black Skimmers attempting to nest at Albert Whitted Airport in downtown St. Petersburg during August were unsuccessful (BAM).

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Rather unusual, 13 White-crowned Pigeons fed on white millet seed on the ground at Key West Nov. 8 (JO). White-winged Doves appeared at scattered locations. Four in the Keys Oct. 7-Nov. 27 (JO, SF) and two at Taylor Slough, E.N.P., Nov. 8 (BN et al.) could have been from the Homestead population. However, two in Franklin Oct. 9 (CHW), and ones at Ft. De Soto P., Oct. 25 (L & BA, JD) and at St. Petersburg in November (fide LH) were surely w. strays. Brightening the landscape in Dade were a Chattering Lory at Fuch's P., Nov. 22, and a Hispaniolan Amazon at another location Sept. 29 (BN et al.). Mitred Parakeets were discovered nesting on Key Biscayne Aug. 30 (MC). An unprecedented 10 Black-billed Cuckoos were at various locations throughout. One in n. Jacksonville Aug. 6 (RKR) was possibly the region's earliest ever. Others included five at Cape Florida Sept. 24 (ML), two at Ft. De Soto Sept. 25-Oct. 9 (LA, m.ob.), and the latest at Saddle Creek P., Oct. 25 (PF). The only Groove-billed Anis were at opposite ends of the Region, one near St. Marks Light Oct. 8 (JR) and the other at Cape Florida Oct. 18 (KS).

A Great Horned Owl at Ft. De Soto P., Sept. 21 (LA) was only the 2nd owl ever recorded in the park. Lack of habitat has made Burrowing Owls hard to find in Hillsborough, but 11 active burrows were discovered s. of Riverview Nov. 9 (RTP, BAM). There was an impressive migration of Com. Nighthawks through the n. portion of the Region the first week of September. South Jacksonville had 456 on Sept. 2-4 (JPC), several hundred moved through n.w. Gainesville and due w. of there along U.S. 19 on Sept. 2-3 (MK, B & LA), and 233 were counted near Tallahassee Sept. 3-6 (JW, TM). Eighty reached Key West Sept. 12 (JO). A calling Antillean Nighthawk, n. of the usual Keys breeding range, was at the Tamiami Campus of FIU, Dade, Aug. 4 (BN), and a vocal Whip-poor-will was very early at the Wakulla R., Aug. 12 (JE). For nearly a week in mid-October, an estimated 6000 Chimney Swifts used a school chimney as a staging point at Lake City (PS). In early November, a ♀ Selasphorus hummingbird was discovered at the same feeder in Tallahassee where it or another spent last fall (see AB 41:78—DY). Ironically, another ♀ Selasphorus was at the same Gainesville feeder it or another frequented last February-March (unpublished—DTF).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH MYNAS — A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was early in the Tall. Div. at Alligator Pt., Oct. 10 (CHW). Previously, there were only a few records of Downy Woodpecker at Ft. De Soto P.; however, at least four in various plumages strayed there Sept. 11-Oct. 26 (B & LA et al.). Except for two Acadian Flycatchers, a Yellow-bellied banded at a Casey Key station Sept. 25 (A & SS) was the only Empidonax banded there the entire season. Along the s.e. coast, it is unusual to hear calling Empids other than wintering Leasts, so, unexpected were two vocal Acadians at Cape Florida Sept. 26 (BN et al.). An imm. ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher was near St. Marks Light Nov. 29 (DP, JEP, m.ob.). The only W. Kingbirds outside the usual s. Florida wintering grounds were two at Ft. De Soto P., Oct. 12-13 (LA) and two at Alligator Pt., Nov. 14 (H & WD). The peak migration of E. Kingbirds moved through in early September with 2500 near St. Marks Light Sept. 6 (JD, KN) and 240 at Key West Sept. 6-12 (JO). They were "common" along the Broward coast during the month with 100 at Birch P., Sept. 7 (WG) the largest group. Lingering very late were three at Simmons P., Ruskin, Nov. 22 (FS). Late-nesting Gray Kingbirds fed fledglings at Honeymoon Island S.R.A., Sept. 12 (B & LA). Ten Scissor-tailed Flycatchers n. of the usual wintering range included six at Simmons P., Nov. 27 (FS).

In the Keys, the swallow migration began in early August with Purple Martins and Barn Swallows "pouring through" by Aug. 28, then slowing to a "trickle" by Sept. 4 (JO). Eight Cliffs at Saddle Creek P., Oct. 17 made a high count and 49 Barns there Oct. 31 was a large flock that late (PF). A Barn Swallow was quite late at St. George I., Nov. 28 (PF, LH, m ob). Blue Jays have not been confirmed nesting in the Keys, but sightings have increased in the Upper Keys and nesting is suspected on Key Largo. At least three were spotted at Plantation Key Sept. 6-21 (JCO). Golden-crowned Kinglets, regular only in the Tall. Div., pushed farther s. than normal. Gainesville had more than usual (fide BPM) and at least three landed at Ft. De Soto P., Oct. 30-Nov. 15 (B & LA et al.). One was at s Jacksonville Oct. 24 (JPC). After the fronts in November, Am Robins were abundant in Hillsborough (RTP). Gray Catbirds, earlier migrants, were also numerous. At Casey Key, 104 were banded Oct. 5-19 (A & SS), more than are sometimes banded in an entire year. The status of three Com. Mynas at Cocoa Beach Nov. 12 (JJ, FF, MH) was unknown.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Eleven Philadelphia Vireos included the earliest, at Honeymoon Island S.R.A., Oct. 2 (LA, JD) and the latest, in s. Leon Oct. 20 (TM). In Broward, Red-eyed Vireos were "abundant" and outnumbered all warblers on most field trips (fide WG). On Sept. 25, an estimated 500 warblers flew over Plantation Key and at least 13 species were identified including "several" Tennessees, four Cape Mays, and five Blackburnians (JCO). Rare for the Keys were three

Blue-winged Oct 10 (SF, CW). The only "Brewster's" hybrid was at Brooker Creek P., Pinellas, Sept 7 (B & LA). Rare on the e. coast and in the Keys, Golden-winged were in s. Jacksonville Sept. 5 (PP) and Oct. 5 (PA), Big Pine Key Oct. 2 (MB), and Cape Florida Oct. 4 (DL et al.). A Tennessee Warbler at Casey Key Sept. 21 (A & SS) was the second-earliest ever banded there. Orange-crowns were early at Cape Florida Oct. 4 (WS) and Alligator Pt., Oct. 8 (CHW). At least four Nashville Warblers visited Ft. De Soto P., Sept. 11–Oct. 5 (LA, m.ob.). Others were at Birch P., Oct. 6 (WG, JP), Cape Florida Oct. 10 (BN), and banded at Casey Key Oct. 18 (A & SS). Two Yellow Warblers were 25 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral Aug. 17 (JJ). Usually rare on the s.e. coast and in the Keys, a Chestnut-sided was at Islamorada Sept. 20, and Dade had three Sept. 26–Oct. 10 (BN, WS et al.). A Magnolia was early at Key West Sept. 26 (JO) and a Cape May was late at Paynes Prairie S.P., Nov. 8 (LLA). A high total for fall in the Tall. Div. was five Black-throated Blue Warblers Aug. 16–Oct. 17 (CHW, DS).

S.A.

The Brown-headed Cowbird has spread its breeding range s. rapidly, with parasitism of Prairie Warblers confirmed just this summer in Pinellas (see Summer Report). On Sept. 2 (M & RS) in adjacent Sarasota, late-nesting Prairies accompanied by a fledgling cowbird were discovered at Longboat Key. From breeding bird censuses taken this summer between Fisheating Creek and Homossassa, initial indications are that breeding Brown-headed prefer the coast (fide LH). Because Shiny Cowbirds had extended their range into E.N.P. within 2 years of their discovery in the Keys, it is conceivable that the breeding ranges of the two cowbird species will meet within the next few years and that both Prairie Warbler and Black-whiskered Vireo will be in grave danger of being extirpated from the state.

Alligator Pt.'s 200 Palm Warblers Oct. 8 (CHW) made a very high total. Bay-breasted Warblers are considered rare on the e. coast, so nine in e. Dade Oct. 4–16 (WS, BN et al.) and one in s. Jacksonville Oct. 8 (PA) were significant. Blackpolls are usually rare anywhere in the state in fall so 10 at Cape Florida Oct. 4–10 (WS, BN et al.) were most surprising. Ceruleans are also hard to find on the e. coast but one was at Colohatchee P., Ft. Lauderdale Aug. 22 (WG, FJ et al.) and a female was at Ft. George I., Duval, Aug. 25 (RKR). Prothonotaries were 18 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral Aug. 14 & 27 (JJ). A Worm-eating was early in s. Leon Aug. 13 (TM) and more than usual visited Gainesville in September and early October (fide BPM). Others were late in Dade Nov. 3 (VE) and E.N.P., Nov. 8 (SV). The only Swainson's Warblers were one at Cape Florida Oct. 1 (MW) and 10 at Birch P., Oct. 3 (WG, JP), undoubtedly the highest fall count ever at one location. An Ovenbird Aug. 13 (TM) in s. Leon was early there and Kentucky Warblers strayed unexpectedly over to the n.e. coast at n. Jacksonville Sept. 1 (RKR) and in n. St. Johns Sept. 6 (PP). Seven Wilson's at various locations throughout included the earliest, surprisingly at Islamorada Sept. 20 (ML et al.) and the latest, at Casey Key Oct. 18–20 (banded—A & SS). Canada Warblers were at St. Armand's Key, Sarasota, Sept. 16 (JEP), Key West Sept. 26 (JO), and Cape Florida Oct. 3–10 (BN et al.). Quite rare in the peninsula, Yellow-breasted Chats were at Honeymoon Island S R A., Oct. 2 (LA, JD) and at Casey Key Oct. 22–24 (banded—A & SS).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — An ad. ♂ W. Tanager was at Ft. De Soto P., Oct. 15 (JF, KN) and another was at Lake Worth Oct. 17 (TT et al.). Very early ad. ♂ Painted Buntings were at Hutchinson I., St. Lucie, Aug. 3 (JB), Ft. Pierce Aug. 5 (H & WD), and Saddle Creek P., Aug. 9 (TP). One at

Alligator Pt., Oct. 16 (CHW) was a fall rarity for the Tall Div. Oddly, the only Dickcissel was at Key West Sept. 16 (JO). For the first time in many years, sparrows were present in good numbers in most areas by the end of the season. Cape Florida had three Clay-colored Sept. 27–Oct. 17 (DJO, MW et al.). Key Largo one Oct. 12 (WH), St. Marks Light, two on Oct. 18 (PWS, NW, RC), and w. Broward, one on Nov. 22 (BH, A & MG). Six Lark Sparrows included the earliest, three near Homestead Sept. 3 (CM), and the latest, one at Boca Raton Nov. 22 (BH). Two Grasshopper Sparrows flew into a window at Islamorada Nov. 21 (LQ; * to Nat. Audubon), and one of two at Alligator Pt., Nov. 28 (JD et al.) was singing. Colohatchee P. had Broward's 2nd-ever Seaside Sparrow Aug. 23 (TH, TC, m.ob.). Irregular in fall and winter, a Fox Sparrow was at Tall Timbers Research Station Nov. 29 (PF, B & LC). Very rare on the c.e. coast, lone White-crowned Sparrows were at Ft. Pierce Inlet S.R.A., Oct. 10 (JB) and Merritt Island N.W.R., Oct. 24 (SM).

Interestingly, the only Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at opposite ends of the Region. Two were early at St. Marks Light Aug. 29 (DS) and Key West had a male Oct. 3 (JO). The only Bronzed Cowbirds were an immature and an ad. male at Flamingo, E.N.P., Oct. 30+ (BN, MW, m.ob.). Orchard Orioles, rare in the peninsula in fall, were at Cape Florida Aug. 30 (DJO), Ft. De Soto P., Sept. 16–17 (LA), and Sarasota Oct. 1 (GA). Another was quite late at Alligator Pt., Oct. 8 (CHW). Eight "Baltimore" Orioles at Key West Sept. 15–Oct. 6 (JO, B & SS, AB) was a very high number for the Keys. A "yellowish" ♂ House Finch at a Miami feeder in August had probably been caged (MF). The usually rare Pine Siskin was at Merritt Island N.W.R., Nov. 29 (DC), hopefully an indication of more to come!

ADDENDUM — Although in earlier years a number of Bell's Vireos were collected, especially in Dade, substantiated sightings anywhere have been very rare in recent years. However, one was banded and photographed at Casey Key Oct. 15, 1986 (A & SS).

CORRIGENDUM — A longspur originally identified as "Lapland" at Everglades N. P., Nov. 24–27, 1983 (AB 38:195), has been confirmed from photos as a **Chestnut-collared Longspur**, just the 3rd for Florida and the only one outside the Tall. Div. (fide HMS—ph. and doc. at E.N.P. and to F.O.S. Records Committee).

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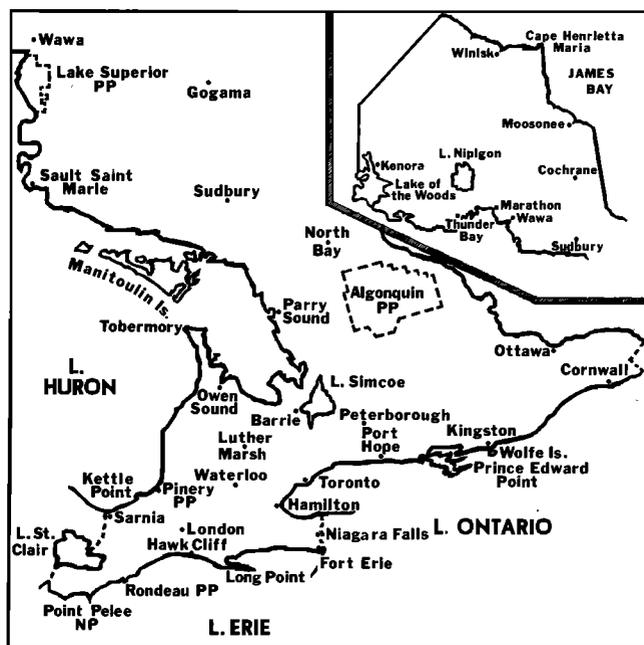
Ron D. Weir

Mild autumns like this one have become so frequent in recent years that they are becoming the norm. Lingering passerines once again set many record late dates. This season was characterized by the passage of many weak weather systems that failed to ground migrants most of the time. Excellent night flights were detected, but few groundings were discovered the following mornings as the migrants overflowed. The very early movement noted during late July continued into August, and at Pelee unusually large numbers of warblers were found August 8 that included 22 Tennessees, 22 Cape Mays, and 20 Blackburnians, among others. The period around October 12 saw the grounding of thousands of kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and sparrows along a front from Prince Edward Point west to Long Point. Large concentrations of waterfowl and shorebirds were observed along the lower Great Lakes, the latter aided by extremely low water levels. Raptor movement was heavy, and many new high count records were set. However, gull numbers were down sharply at Niagara, but the larids turned up elsewhere. Snowy and Boreal owls irrupted, as did Sabine's Gull, if the latter can be categorized as an irruptive. Three-toed Woodpeckers, Gray Jays, and Boreal Chickadees failed to move south from their breeding range. Outstanding sightings abounded and some of the rarities included Pacific Loon, gannet, Rufous Hummingbird, Cassin's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Great-tailed Grackle (new to Ontario). The season was most exciting. Read on.

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

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — The 210 Red-throated Loons were typical of the high numbers noted since 1982. A noteworthy concentration occurred again at Ottawa, where 121 were tallied Nov. 8 (BMD). The remaining birds appeared all along the lower Great Lakes Aug. 14–Nov. 28. One **Pacific Loon** was photographed at Baie D'Or, Bruce, Nov. 29 (MP). Another at Woodstock Nov. 6 (JMH) was convincingly described and compared with several accompanying Com. Loons. Common Loons appeared in enormous numbers, led by 1200 in Long Pt. Bay Oct. 15–18 (L.P.B.O.), 500 offshore Cobourg Oct. 22–28 (ERM), 395 at Pelee Oct. 15 (AW), 250 offshore Grimsby Oct. 25 (fide MPW), and 200 each at Whitby Oct. 17–28 (MJB, DDC) and Pt. Petre, Prince Edward, Oct. 31 (WB). Horned Grebes were reported in higher numbers than usual. The largest rafts contained 400 at Pelee Nov. 1 (AW), 350 and 100 at P.E. Pt., Oct. 24 & 17 respectively (K.F.N.), 87 and 75 at Presqu'île Oct. 7 & 15 respectively (AGC, J & JT), and 95 at Long Pt., Oct. 28 (L.P.B.O.). The two in Algonquin Nov. 2 set a latest record there (RGT). The 177 Red-necked Grebes were the most since autumn 1977 when 300+ were tallied. One in Algonquin Aug. 26 (JSk) was early, while 64 at Ottawa Oct. 20 (BMD) and 27 in one bay off Manitoulin I., Aug. 24 (JCN) formed the largest concentrations. Eared Grebes numbered six, raising to 14 the annual total for 1987, which compares with the 1972–1986 annual average of seven. Singles were at Toronto's E. Headland Sept. 5–Nov. 7 (fide CEG), Warton Sept. 18–20 (JWJ), Pelee Oct. 31 (AW), and P.E. Pt., Nov. 8 (K.F.N.). Two were at Strathroy Aug. 26 (JMcK).

Two imm. N. Gannets were reported. One travelled repeatedly along Toronto's waterfront west to Burlington Oct. 25–Nov. 8 (RCu, CEG et al.) and was last reported near Whitby Nov. 17–21 (DDC et al.). The 2nd was found grounded with a



broken wing near Ferguson Falls, Lanark, Nov. 29 (RD) and is now in the National Museum, Ottawa. Several flocks of Double-crested Cormorants, each with 1000+ birds, were reported along the lower Great Lakes, the largest of which contained 2500 at Hamilton Sept. 6 (GCo, CE). Washed up on the beach at Presqu'île Sept. 1 were 64 dead Double-crested, which had been stuffed into grain sacks (RDM). The 10 Least Bitterns noted were typical fall numbers. One was found standing in front of the door of the Sarnia post office Aug. 20 (YRT), perhaps pondering priority posting to ease the journey southwards? The Great Egret showing was poor everywhere. Only five were reported away from traditional sites along L. Erie, none of which was north or east of the Hamilton area. Hamilton's Snowy Egret was present Aug. 2–Sept. 23 (fide KAM) and the only other report was at Blenheim Oct. 20 (JV). Little Blue Herons average one sighting per 2 autumns, so this fall's four were most unusual. Singles were at Kingston Aug. 17 (RKE), Ajax-Whitby Oct. 18 (GCo et al.), and Port Stanley Oct. 22 (LS). An immature at Whitefish L. near Thunder Bay Sept. 25–26 was well n. of range and apparently injured (T. Ross). A Tricolored Heron in Whitby's Cranberry marsh Aug. 30 was only Ontario's 4th ever in autumn (JRN). A late surge of Cattle Egrets came into the south Oct. 18–Nov. 6 in their strongest autumn showing since 1980. Some 15 were in the extreme s.w., plus one each in Huron and Niagara, and six along L. Ontario's shore e. to Presqu'île. An immature lingered near Sudbury Nov. 1–3 for the area's first mainland record (E & MC, JCN). The 59 Green-backed Herons at Pelee Aug. 17 (AW) were by far the most reported. One imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron remained at Long Pt., Aug. 5–Sept. 13 (RCu et al.) and another was at Presqu'île Aug. 16 (MG, TFM). These were the 3rd and 4th in autumn for Ontario since the 1950s. Noteworthy late records among the herons involved an Am. Bittern at Haliburton Nov. 24 (MT), a Great Blue Heron in Algonquin to Nov. 30 (RGT), and single Green-backed Herons at Peterborough Oct. 21 (DCS) and Cambridge Nov. 11 (WFR).

WATERFOWL — The flight of Tundra Swans was weak in their traditional areas of the s.w., but a few stragglers were e. to Kingston Oct. 3 (LSF), Pembroke Oct. 31 (CM), and Wolfe I., Nov. 28 (JHE). The lone Greater White-fronted Goose at

Mono Mills, Peel, Oct 10 (G & JD) raised the year's total to only five. Snow Geese flew in high numbers led by 200 in Sarnia Oct. 25 (AHR, DFR), 58 near Floradale Nov. 1 (VEM, BEB), 53 in Bradley's marsh, Kent, Nov. 27 (PAW), and 43 at Rondeau Nov. 15 (KJB). An unbanded Ross' Goose accompanied neck-banded Canadas at Orillia Aug. 30–Sept. 23 (WEZ *et al.*) and it reappeared at Whitby's Cranberry marsh Oct. 1–Nov. 30 (*vide* MJB). Flocks of Brant totalling 1000 in Ottawa Oct. 24 (BMD) and 500 at Lakefield Oct. 29 (AGC) were the largest groups in their heavy flight. Peak concentrations of Canada Geese were 15,000 in Bradley's marsh, Kent, Nov. 24 (PAW) and 10,000 on Wolfe I., Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (K.F.N.). Three Wood Ducks in Algonquin Oct. 24 tied their latest date for the park (RGT). Single ♂ Eur. Wigeons were at Presqu'île Sept. 6–27 (RJP, JF *et al.*), Ottawa Sept. 26–Oct. 24 (RPH *et al.*), and Pickering Oct. 24–Nov. 1 (KR *et al.*). These brought the year's total to 11 birds, well above the annual average of four from 1980–1986.

Twelve King Eiders represented normal numbers for the south. The female at Kingston Oct. 6 set an earliest record (RKE), and the others appeared at Ottawa, P.E. Pt., Salem, Port Hope, Presqu'île, and Sarnia, Nov. 1–25. Four of the Kings at Presqu'île were shot by hunters (*vide* SML). The six Harlequin Ducks were below the autumn average of eight for 1980–1986. These were singles at Wildwood L., Oxford, Sept. 25 (JM *et al.*), Hamilton Oct. 12 (KAM), Erieau Oct. 28–31 (KJB, PAW), and Port Stanley Nov. 2 (GBo, RJK, MHF), plus an ad. male and imm. male offshore Etobicoke Nov. 21–30 (*vide* MPW, MD). A flurry of summering Oldsquaws was reported on the lower Great Lakes Aug. 11–31 at Presqu'île (J & JT), Whitby (MJB), Rock Point P.P. (RFA), Erieau (KJB), and Port Elgin (MP). Eight Barrow's Goldeneyes made a high number. Seven of these were in Ottawa Oct. 10 & 15, and Nov. 6, 8, 15–30, where the peak count Nov. 15 resulted in three males and two females (BMD). The only other report was of a female with an all-orange bill at P.E. Pt., Nov. 8 (MB, RDW). An imm. Hooded Merganser at Walpole I., Aug. 5 was considered most unusual for the date, and its origin was unknown (SAC, YRT).

Noteworthy concentrations among the waterfowl included 1000 Green-winged Teal and 2000 Am. Black Ducks at Oshawa's Second Marsh Oct. 10 and Nov. 7 respectively (GAS), 500 and 466 Am. Wigeon at Long Pt., Sept. 5 (L.P.B.O.) and Pelee Nov. 1 (AW), respectively, and 5500 Canvasbacks at Niagara Falls Nov. 14–15 (*vide* MPW). Others were 1000 Redheads near Ivy Lea Oct. 28 (N.L.B.C.), 2500 ♂ Black Scoters at Ottawa

Oct. 21 (BMD), and 10,000 Com. Mergansers at the Cornwall dam Nov. 27 (BMD, CT). Red-breasted Mergansers were especially numerous. The 6000 at Pelee Oct. 17 increased to 10,000 by Nov. 1 (AW). Some 8000 were tallied at Rondeau Oct. 31 (PAW), 5000 each offshore Winona Oct. 25 (RCu *et al.*) and Whitby Oct. 17–31 (*vide* MJB), and 2000 at Long Pt., Oct. 31 (L.P.B.O.).

RAPTORS —

S.A.

The 16,500 Turkey Vultures noted in the south exceeded last autumn's record-breaking 14,000, as the species' numbers continue to increase steadily. The total at Hawk Cliff (see Table 1) was an all-time high, but that at Holiday Beach was shy of last year's record. The one-day tally of 1166 at Hawk Cliff Oct. 10 exceeded the entire season's total of 10 years ago (DEF). The 836 past Erie Beach Oct. 12 were a high for that area (KJB). Seven records were noted at Algonquin Sept. 16–Oct. 11, where only 2 previous autumn occurrences were known (RGT). There were 49 counted in 2 hours along the L. Huron shore s. of Goderich Sept. 20 (WT), where raptor migration had been undetected previously. The 620 Broad-winged Hawks accompanying these vultures suggested the possibility of a regular annual flight down the L. Huron shoreline (JBM). Farther n. at Marathon, an imm. Turkey Vulture was found Oct. 3 (AW, NGE).

Record high counts of Osprey were made at both Hawk Cliff and Holiday Beach (Table 1), and with the 143 elsewhere constituted a very strong showing. Some 35 passed Pelee Sept. 19 (AW *et al.*). Bald Eagles were also in record numbers at Holiday Beach, and away from the lookouts listed in Table 1, 50 were noted in the south, typical of their strong showing in recent autumns. In spite of a record high count of N. Harriers at Holiday Beach, fewer than normal were found elsewhere. Northern Goshawks moved in about average numbers, although the 18 at Long Pt., Oct. 23 were atypical for a non-invasion year (L.P.B.O.). The 5000 Broad-winged Hawks over Melbourne, Middlesex, Sept. 16 (DM) and 4000 over Wheatley Sept. 19 (AW) were the largest groups reported for that week, which was marked by non-ideal weather for hawks. The main body

Table 1. Hawk totals at two Ontario stations, Autumn 1987, compared with the annual average from 1982–1986 inclusive.

Species	Holiday Beach P.P.		Hawk Cliff	
	1987 ¹	1982–1986 avg.	1987 ²	1982–1986 avg.
Turkey Vulture	9829	6325	5152*	2123
Osprey	190*	70	133*	69
Bald Eagle	49*	19	17	8
Northern Harrier	1084*	708	597	639
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18604*	13090	11206	7464
Cooper's Hawk	638	578	777	484
Northern Goshawk	44	40	26	29
Red-shouldered Hawk	1357*	951	227	96
Broad-winged Hawk	18376	52295	2847	2281
Red-tailed Hawk	9320*	5852	4075	2420
Rough-legged Hawk	246	105	77	8
Golden Eagle	58*	20	22*	6
American Kestrel	4839*	2961	2781	1728
Merlin	22	22	65*	20
Peregrine Falcon	20	17	31*	14
Unidentified	241	341	1456 ³	865
Totals	64917	83394	29489	18254

¹ (RLBe *et al.*, Aug. 8–Nov. 28, 97 days)

³ (includes one eagle sp.)

² (DEF *et al.*, Aug. 23–Nov. 28, 81 days)

*—Local record count.

of Broad-wingeds, numbering 16,657, passed Holiday Beach Sept. 22–25 (RLBe). Farther n., 115 were seen migrating near Thunder Bay Sept. 12–13 (NGE, BA), and 3349 and 427 were counted heading SE at Sault Ste. Marie Sept. 17 & 18 respectively (GR). The 9320 Red-taileds tallied at Holiday Beach were a record high, and 500 were seen in only 20 minutes over Toronto Oct. 22 (CEG). Rough-leggeds invaded in greater numbers than usual, and early arrivals reached Peterborough by Sept. 5 (M. Hill, DCS) and Oshawa Sept. 13 (AGC).

Numbers of Golden Eagles were up to 107 in the south. Their record high of 58 at Holiday Beach exceeded the autumn average of 40 birds in the entire province s. of Sudbury for 1978–1986. In addition to the lookouts listed in Table 1, Golden Eagles were reported at Cornwall, Presqu'île, Oshawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Long Pt., Woodstock, London, Stratford, and Forest, Sept. 22–Nov. 26. Early Merlins migrated at Bracebridge Aug. 5 (RLB et al.), Kingston Aug. 8 (K.F.N.), and Presqu'île Aug. 16 (SML), and their numbers were reportedly increased at several locations. Their cumulative total in the south was 177, which does not include numbers from Long Pt. that were unavailable. The 108 Peregrine Falcons in the south were below the 181 in 1986 and 220 in 1985 in spite of the record high 31 at Hawk Cliff. Whether this 3-year decline is an ominous setback, it is too early to know. Single Gyrfalcons passed Long Pt., Oct. 8 (IH et al.) & 19 (AB et al.). A white-phase bird was in the Sudbury area Nov. 21 (CGB).

QUAIL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Northern Bobwhite reports were of a male at Wildwood L., Oxford, Aug. 7 (JMH), 25 at Rodney, Elgin, through October (RCa et al.), and the normal numbers on Walpole I. throughout the period (SAC). Noteworthy rafts of Am. Coot were of 600 at Mountsberg Conservation Area, Halton (MLW), and 300 at Thunder Bay Oct. 27 (BA). The 63 Sandhill Cranes on Manitoulin I., Oct. 22–31, numbered only 57 when seen leaving the island Nov. 6 (JCN). Singles lingered near Ottawa to Nov. 8 (fide BMD), Cayuga Nov. 12 (BWD), and the Long Pt. area to Nov. 16 (MGar, TW), and two adults were at Pelee Nov. 21 (F & CO et al.).

Late sightings dominated the shorebird migration, and space limitations preclude listing all of them. Therefore, selections of latest-ever and near-record-late occurrences are given in Table 2. High counts of Lesser Golden-Plover were of 60 at Melbourne Aug. 30 (WRM) and 40 on Wolfe I., Sept. 20 (K.F.N.). The 258 Killdeer at Pelee Aug. 11 (AW) were staging for migration, and were the largest group reported. Two Am. Avocets



Willet at Camlachie, Ont., Aug. 7, 1987. Ontario occurrences of this species have been increasing. Photo/S. A. Connop.

made an average number for autumn. The first appeared at the Mitchell sewage lagoon Aug. 23 (MPD), and the 2nd at the Dundas marsh and e. Hamilton Bay Sept. 26–Oct. 13 (A. Epp, AT et al.). Unfortunately, the latter bird was found dead Oct. 13, apparently a victim of the avian botulism that also killed several hundred ducks there.

The 575 Lesser Yellowlegs in e. Hamilton Bay Aug. 15 (KAM, RCu) were noteworthy numbers, as were the 57 Spotted Sandpipers at Pelee Aug. 8 (AW). At least 11 Willets were found, exceeding the autumn average of eight from 1982–1986. One was near Camlachie, Lambton, Aug. 7 (ph.SAC), followed by three in e. Hamilton Bay Aug. 13–30 (DCa et al.). A single remained on Amherst I., Aug. 15–23 (WB et al.), and four frequented Long Pt., Aug. 17–Sept. 2 (L.P.B.O.). Another appeared at Pelee Aug. 23 (AW), and the single in Ottawa Sept. 5 was only the 7th ever there (BMD). The 33 Hudsonian Godwits furnished the lowest number in autumn since 1979. Their appearance was without any pattern, as birds were reported from

Table 2. Selected late dates for shorebirds in Ontario, Autumn 1987.

Black-bellied Plover	Presqu'île	Nov. 17	RDM
	Wheatley	Nov. 20	AW et al.
Lesser Golden-Plover	Wolfe I.	Nov. 8	K.F.N.
Semipalmated Plover	Presqu'île	Nov. 5	RDM
Killdeer	Manitoulin I. (M.I.)	Nov. 27	JCN
Lesser Yellowlegs	Woodstock	Nov. 2	JMH
Solitary Sandpiper	Thunder Bay	Oct. 20	AGH
Spotted Sandpiper	Thunder Bay	Oct. 5	AGH
	Hamilton	Nov. 1	R. Dobos
Upland Sandpiper	Thunder Bay	Sept. 21	fide NGE
Hudsonian Godwit	Providence Bay, M.I.	Nov. 1	CTB
Ruddy Turnstone	Thunder Bay	Nov. 3	BA
	Erieau	Nov. 29	PAW
Sanderling	Providence Bay, M.I.	Nov. 6	JCN
Semipalmated Sandpiper	Guelph Lake	Nov. 17	JEP
Least Sandpiper	Woodstock	Nov. 1	JMH
	Floradale	Nov. 2	VEM
Baird's Sandpiper	Ottawa	Nov. 1	BMD
	Guelph Lake	Nov. 20	JEP
Pectoral Sandpiper	Ottawa	Nov. 15	BMD
	Woodstock	Nov. 16	JMH
	Thunder Bay	Nov. 19	NGE
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Thunder Bay	Sept. 30	NGE et al.
Wilson's Phalarope	Whitby	Nov. 8	fide MJB

Sudbury to Ottawa to Pelee. However, five Marbled Godwits were found, one more than their autumn average for 1975–1986. Two lingered at Long Pt., Aug. 8–23 (HGC, RCu *et al.*). The singles were near Pinery P.P., Aug. 17 (AHR), Port Colborne Aug. 29 (DCa, BC), and Cranberry marsh Aug. 30 (MJB).

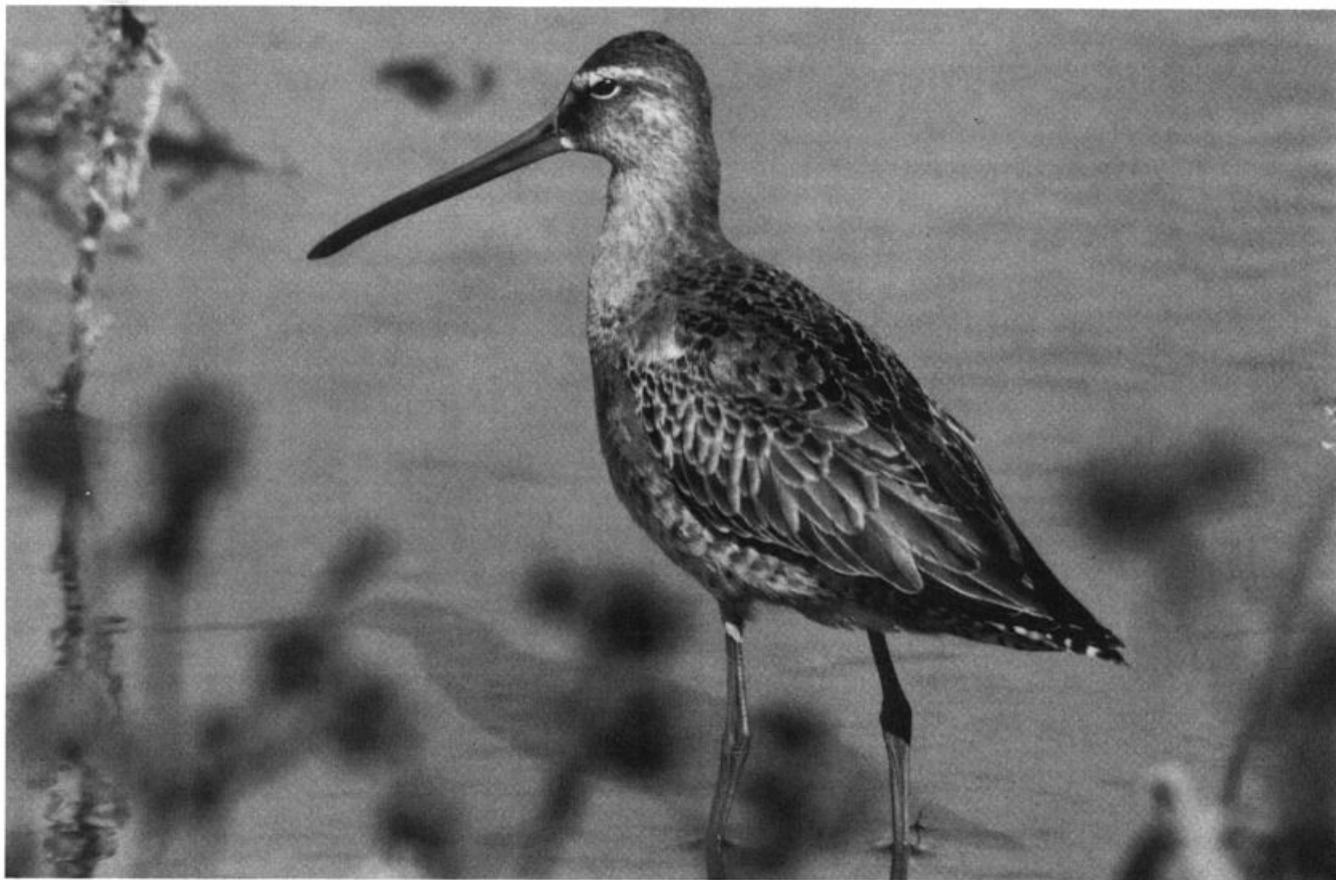
Western Sandpipers were well represented, at 28 birds, of which 12 were at Bright's Grove sewage lagoon Aug. 31 (AHR). For the 2nd consecutive autumn, a strong flight of White-rumped Sandpipers occurred in the south with 215+ birds. Flocks contained 40 at Presqu'île Nov. 5 (RDM), 32 near Whitby Sept. 22 (MJB, JMS), 27 in the Dundas marsh Sept. 18 (BJ, JO), and 20 on Amherst I., Sept. 20 (K.F.N.). The heavy flight of Baird's Sandpipers Aug. 20–Nov. 20 was perhaps unprecedented, at 210+ birds. The autumn average is 78. Noteworthy concentrations were of 26 at Long Pt., Aug. 28 (L.P.B.O.), 17 in the Dundas marsh Sept. 7 (KAM), 13 on Amherst I., Aug. 30 (K.F.N.), and 12 at Presqu'île Aug. 24 and Sept. 2 (KK, J & JT). The 13 Purple Sandpipers reflected a weak flight. Four of these were at Niagara Falls Nov. 8–21 (RFA, HGC, RLB), three at Erieau Nov. 28 were joined by another Nov. 29 (KJB, PAW), and one at Pelee Nov. 1 increased to two the following day (AW *et al.*). Singles were at Whitby Nov. 2 (MJB), Pelee I., Nov. 9 (PAW, MO), and Presqu'île Nov. 15–19 (RDM *et al.*).

Stilt Sandpipers rebounded only weakly to 79 in the s., well below their totals of 200+ in the autumns of 1983 to 1985. The easternmost occurrences were of singles at Ottawa Sept. 5–8 (BMD) and the Embrun sewage lagoon, Russell, Oct. 9 (BMD). Buff-breasted Sandpiper numbers were down everywhere. Only 19 were found in the s.w., highlighted by two at Guelph L., Sept. 19, one of which was still present Sept. 27 (MDC *et al.*). Elsewhere among the 10 reports were extralimital birds numbering three on Amherst I., Aug. 30 (K.F.N.), and singles at Presqu'île Aug. 30 (JEG, CEG), Pembroke Sept. 17 (CM, JMB), and Embrun Sept. 20 (BMD). The 30 Long-billed Dowitchers

were well above the autumn average of 20 from 1982–1986. These were found in the Ottawa area, Presqu'île, Whitby, Floradale, Guelph, Woodstock, and Pelee, Aug. 21–Oct. 27. A juvenile at Thunder Bay Sept. 30–Oct. 5 provided that area's first record (AW, DHE, NGE).

The 16 Wilson's Phalaropes in the Dundas marsh Sept. 5 made a large group for the late date (DG, WS). Red-necked Phalaropes totalled 39 (average 38), of which 24 were in the south (average 33). Sudbury hosted about 15 birds Aug. 21–Sept. 9 (JCN). Those in the south were well dispersed from Munster and Ottawa s. to Kingston, Whitby-Pickering, Niagara, Woodstock, Harrow, and Lambton north to Bracebridge and Burk's Falls Aug. 10–Sept. 17. Red Phalarope movement was fairly strong at 13 birds, which compares with a fall average of 10 since 1979. They were found at Presqu'île Sept. 3–7 (FL, J & JT *et al.*), Oct. 2, and Nov. 8–10 (RDM, BG), Ottawa Oct. 3–9 & 22 (TFMB, BMD), Niagara Falls Oct. 15–18 (GBe *et al.*), Deep River Oct. 22 (WW), P.E. Pt., Nov. 7–8 (VPM *et al.*), Bright's Grove Nov. 14–15 (DP, DFR), and Amherst I., Nov. 15–16 (FC, JCN *et al.*).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — The first of five Pomarine Jaegers, an average number for fall, appeared at Long Pt., Sept. 13 (L.P.B.O.). The others were at Hamilton Sept. 27 (CE), Kettle Pt., Oct. 12 (AHR *et al.*), and Sarnia Nov. 5 & 9 (DFR). The 24 Parasitic Jaegers Sept. 1–Oct. 24 were low numbers, and included two found dead at Long Pt., Oct. 10 & 14 (L.P.B.O.). The only Long-tailed Jaeger report was of an adult on Big Clear L., Arden, Sept. 4 (RS, *fide* RGT). Six Laughing Gulls were reported, double the autumn average. Singles were at Pelee Aug. 22 (AW), Long Pt., Aug. 23 and Sept. 3 (L.P.B.O.), Stoney Pt., Aug. 24 (WGW *et al.*), Burlington Aug. 28 (RCu), and Presqu'île Oct. 11 (ph RPH). The 15 Franklin's Gulls equalled their post-1976 average. Seven of these were at Pelee Aug. 24–Oct.



Long-billed Dowitcher (juvenile beginning molt to first-winter plumage) at Thunder Bay, Lake Superior, Ont., present Sept. 30–Oct. 5, 1987. Photo/Alan Wormington.

6 (AW), and others were singles at Fort Erie, sites from Grimsby along L. Ontario to Oshawa, and at Kingston. An immature at Woodstock Oct. 13–Nov. 9 furnished the 2nd record for Oxford (JMH). Little Gulls were in lower numbers for the 2nd consecutive autumn at L. Erie sites and at Niagara. Only 25 and six birds were reported, respectively. The 37 sightings along L. Ontario reflected a steady increase; the most easterly sightings were of five at Presqu'île Aug. 16–Nov. 18 (SML), four in the Kingston area Oct. 18–Nov. 21 (K.F.N.), and at Cobden, Renfrew, Oct. 17–18 (CM). Single Com. Black-headed Gulls were at Sandbanks P.P., Sept. 12–13 (CEG, JEG), Port Rowan Oct. 19 (DAS), Whitby Oct. 19 (AGC), and St. Catharines Oct. 21–Nov. 12 (KJR, MEF). Their average has been three per autumn since 1977. Numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls along the Niagara R. were down sharply, possibly as a result of a decline in their food supply. The maximum count in their nightly fly past Niagara-on-the-Lake was of only 14,000 (GBe). However, there was no shortage elsewhere. At Long Pt., the first wave passed Aug. 16–27, with 35,000 as the maximum total Aug. 18, and the 2nd wave moved over a more extended period Sept. 25–Nov. 9 with 12,000 the peak count Nov. 7 (L.P.B.O.). Top tallies were of 5000 and 11,000 birds at Pelee Aug. 11 and Sept. 13 respectively (AW). Excellent numbers were noted along L. Ontario all the way to Cornwall. At P.E. Pt., about one-third of the Bonaparte's were juveniles (RDW). The largest group of Herring Gulls reported was of 16,000 at Pelee Aug. 31 (AW). Nine Thayer's Gulls Oct. 19–Nov. 26 represented usual numbers, and the 10 Iceland Gulls from Oct. 18 onwards have become typical numbers during warm autumns.

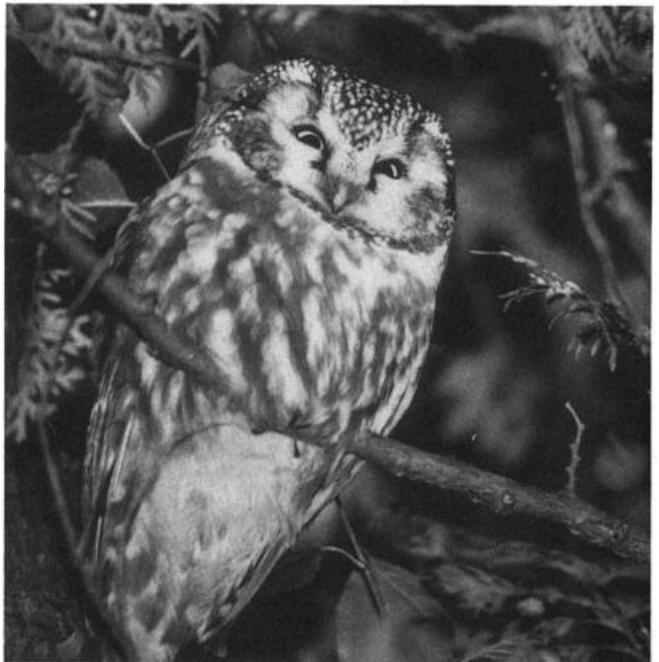
Sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls showed no signs of decreasing. Their post-1976 seasonal average has been 11, and this autumn's total was of 17 plus one hybrid. Seven were at Pelee Aug. 31–Oct. 29, including three adults Oct. 15 (KAM, AW), and four were at Ottawa Sept. 25–Nov. 21 (BMD, RJ). Singles were at Oliphant Sept. 19 (MP), Long Pt., Oct. 15 (L.P.B.O.), Cobourg Oct. 26 (RDM), Erieau Oct. 31 (PAW), Guelph Oct. 31–Nov. 8 (RVT et al.), and Wildwood L., Oxford, Nov. 10 (JMH). Another at Niagara Falls Oct. 21 was thought to be a hybrid Lesser Black-backed x Herring in 2nd-winter plumage (PJG et al.). Another interesting hybrid was the ad. Glaucous x Herring seen at the Lindsay dump Nov. 28 (RJP). The Glaucous Gull at Long Pt., Sept. 8 was that area's first ever for September (AB, MS). Leading totals among the increasing numbers of autumn Great Black-backed Gulls were 230 on Pelee I., Sept. 19 (DVW, LW), 110 in Wheatley harbour Oct. 6 (AW), 80 at Long Pt., Oct. 8 (L.P.B.O.), and 71 at Presqu'île Sept. 20 (CEG). A record-early juvenile appeared at Pelee Aug. 22 (AW). The Black-legged Kittiwake flight was a bust for the 2nd consecutive autumn, with only eight birds. These compared with the post-1977 average of 41 per autumn. Singles were at P.E. Pt., Nov. 8 (MB, RDW), Niagara Falls Nov. 14 (RFA et al.), Pelee Nov. 15 (AW), and Sarnia Nov. 26 (AHR, DFR). Two each were at Pelee Nov. 22 (AW, RPR) and Cornwall Nov. 27 (BMD, RRB).

S.A.

The number of **Sabine's Gulls** seen this autumn far exceeded their previous high of seven in 1984. The post-1976 average for this pelagic species had been only three birds per autumn. It is not clear what happened to push the 27 birds, all but one immatures, into s. Ontario. The parade began with an early arrival at Long Pt. Aug. 29 (L.P.B.O.). An unprecedented 12 were together at Hamilton Sept. 27 (JO et al.). These were followed by singles at Sarnia Oct. 3 (DFR), Presqu'île Oct. 5 (RDM), Long Pt., Oct. 7 (L.P.B.O.), Garden I., Oct. 10 (DVW, LW, IJ), Deep R., Oct. 10–11 (WW, JMB, CM), Oakville Oct. 10–11 (CEG), Cornwall Oct. 12 (TFMB, SG), Pelee Oct. 22 (AW), Wolfe I., Nov. 8 (FC et al.), and Port Hope Nov. 6 (D. Garrett). Two were along the Niagara R., Oct. 10–12 (fide MPW), and an immature plus the only adult reported were near Cobourg Oct. 12 (BCO, BG).

Late tern reports included a Caspian and a Common at Sarnia Nov. 1 (MMcE, DFR, W. Stone), 12 Commons in the Pelee area Nov. 1 (AW), and one Black Tern at Fort Erie Oct. 23 (TW, FW). Single Forster's Terns at Long Pt., Oct. 30 (AW) and Toronto's Humber Bay Oct. 31 (CEG et al.) furnished latest records for those locations. The seven Forster's from sites along L. Ontario were typical of the low numbers seen since 1984. Ontario's 5th **Razorbill** since 1972 was an immature at the Cornwall dam Nov. 27 (BMD, RRB).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A Black-billed Cuckoo at Lakefield Oct. 1 tied the latest departure there (TB). The 17 reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoos were normal numbers, but one was well n. to Moose Factory Sept. 12 for a first occurrence along the James Bay coast (SM). Another tarried at the Mississagi Light, Manitoulin I., Sept. 13–25 (JCH). A massive incursion of Snowy Owls spread throughout s. Ontario. The vanguard reached Thunder Bay Oct. 26 (fide NGE), Ottawa Oct. 29, and the L. Ontario shoreline Nov. 1. The 14 at Pelee Nov. 29 compared with the previous all-time high of two for the park (AW et al.). The N. Hawk-Owl at Ottawa lingered dangerously close to a highway Nov. 23–30 (fide BMD) and was the only one reported. A Short-eared Owl in Algonquin Oct. 16, a rarity for the park (RGT), was one of the few seen anywhere. Eight Boreal Owls in the south represented invasion numbers. The first was photographed at Ottawa Sept. 29 (PMD, CT). Singles were netted and banded at P.E. Pt., Oct. 23 & 28



Boreal Owl at Ottawa, Ont., Sept. 29, 1987. Photo/C. Traynor.

and Nov. 6 (K.F.N.). Sight records were of singles at Oshawa Oct. 23 (fide MJB), Amherst I., Nov. 14–15 (AS et al.), and Kanata Nov. 15 (RPH). Another landed aboard a Great Lakes freighter and ended up in Holland. This injured bird will be sent to The Owl Research and Rehabilitation Foundation, Vineland Station (KMCK). Some 299 N. Saw-whet Owls were netted and banded at P.E. Pt. during October, and the indices for adults and hatching-year birds showed an average migration (K.F.N.). At Long Pt., 195 were banded.

Migrating Com. Nighthawks were observed in numbers at several locations, led by 500 near Fort Frances Aug. 20 (DHE, SFP), 300 near Thunder Bay Aug. 15 (DHE), and 250 at Bellrock, Lennox & Addington, Sept. 5 (WB). Others were 200 at Lively Aug. 13 (JCN), 100 at Kingston Sept. 5–6 (K.F.N.), and 50 each at Lively and Garson Aug. 27 (JCN) and Miller L., Bruce, Aug. 26 (MP). The one at Southwold, Elgin, Oct. 12 was late (AW).

Also tardy were the single Chimney Swifts at Long Pt., Oct. 16 (L.P.B.O.) and Pelee Oct. 27 (GTH), and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Dwight Sept. 23 (RGT). A *Selasphorus* hummingbird with some reddish-brown back feathers, thought to be a Rufous Hummingbird, frequented a heated feeder at Batterssea near Kingston Sept. 16–Nov. 30 (Mr. & Mrs. Bennett) for that area's 2nd ever. Extralimital Red-bellied Woodpeckers numbered eight. A female and male were n. to Sudbury Nov. 13–30 (A & EG *et al.*) and Nov. 15–30 (DPe, CGB, JGL), respectively, for the n. mainland's 2nd and 3rd ever. Another male was well n. at a Sault Ste. Marie feeder from Nov. 9 (DD *et al.*). In the east, a male remained at a Westport feeder Sept. 14–Nov. 30 (C. & E. Cope) and a male and female visited feeders in Portland Oct. 25–Nov. 28 (*vide* MH). Singles were at Colpoys Bay, Bruce, Oct. 11 (DF) and near Cobourg Oct. 16 (HGC). The only Black-backed Woodpeckers noted out of range were singles at Ottawa Oct. 5 (BMD, DFB) and Nov. 8 (CT). An ad. Acadian Flycatcher was at Pelee Aug. 8 (AW). Late *Empidonax* flycatchers were a Yellow-bellied at Presqu'île Oct. 4 (E & JC) and a "Traill's" at Long Pt. Oct. 2 (L.P.B.O.). A thorough description was submitted of a possible Gray Flycatcher at Woodstock Aug. 12 (JMH); if accepted by the Ontario Bird Records Committee, it would be Ontario's 2nd ever. The previous bird was netted in Toronto Sept. 11, 1981. An E. Phoebe lingered in Algonquin to Sept. 29 (BM) for a latest ever, and a Great Crested Flycatcher there Sept. 6 tied the latest date (RGT). Western Kingbirds numbered two, one fewer than the fall average: one was at Pelee Sept. 22 (RBHS, ABL, TRC) and the other at Hamilton Sept. 26 (A. Epp, AT). Late E. Kingbirds were singles at Presqu'île Sept. 28 (SML) and Lively Oct. 5 (CGB). The peak tally of 25,000 Bank Swallows at Long Pt., Aug. 18 (L.P.B.O.) was lower than in the past few years. Late swallows included 250 N. Rough-wingeds at Niagara Falls Oct. 12 (*vide* RFA), a Bank Swallow at Pelee Oct. 22 (AW), a Cliff Swallow at Thunder Bay Sept. 13 (NGE, BA), and an ad. Barn Swallow at Pelee to Nov. 14 (AW).

CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — A Com. Raven in Presqu'île Nov. 5 was only the 3rd ever for the park (RDM), and the only Boreal Chickadee s. of the breeding range was at Pelee Oct. 16 (GTH). Tufted Titmice were scarce again with only three in the southwest Aug. 24–Oct. 31, but two were in Burlington Oct. 20 (MTh), one in Whitby Oct. 28–Nov. 30 (MC *et al.*), and one e. to Sandbanks P.P., Oct. 29–30 (DB, Y. Bree). Red-breasted Nuthatch migration was light everywhere, and the only noteworthy White-breasted Nuthatch was at Marathon Oct. 3 (AW, NGE). The 32 Carolina Wrens equalled the numbers from their last big autumn in 1974. Some 26 were in the s.w., topped by 16 at Pelee Aug. 8–Nov. 7 (AW), three in Niagara Oct. 28–Nov. 21 (BR, MEF, HGC), and singles n. to Isaac L., Bruce, Oct. 11 (BS) and e. to Port Hope-Cobourg Oct. 3 (ERM) and Seeley's Bay Nov. 27–28 (MK). Impressive numbers of kinglets were observed along the lower Great Lakes. At P.E. Pt., Oct. 12, 4000 Golden-crowneds and 3000 Ruby-crowneds were tallied as they streamed past the tip (K.F.N.). On the same day at Long Pt., 3000 Golden-crowneds and 2500 Ruby-crowneds were counted (JRH). Some 3900 Ruby-crowneds were at Long Pt., Oct. 21–23 (L.P.B.O.). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher n. to Marathon Sept. 26 provided the 2nd record for the Thunder Bay district (AW). Late gnatcatchers were at Winona Nov. 4 (GN) and Long Pt. Nov. 6 (L.P.B.O.).

The first autumn records of Mountain Bluebird since 1983 were of a well-documented female 50 km n. of Thunder Bay Oct. 15 (AGH) and another near Holmesville, Huron, Nov. 12 (T Lobb). A Townsend's Solitaire was near Sibley P.P., Sept. 19 (PAW), and another at Ottawa Nov. 8–14 was that area's 2nd ever (TD *et al.*). The main passage of Gray-cheeked Thrushes occurred at Kingston overnight Sept. 14/15 when 720 were detected by call during 6 hours (RDW), and at Long Pt. Sept. 24 when 80 were grounded (L.P.B.O.). Also moving at Kingston overnight Sept. 14/15 were 6600 Swainson's Thrushes (RDW). Late thrushes were a Veery at Whitby Oct. 18 (GAS) and a Wood Thrush at Long Pt., Oct. 17 (L.P.B.O.).

The Varied Thrush in Algonquin Nov. 22–30 was the first ever for the park (ph. RH *et al.*), and another, a male, was in Ottawa Nov. 22–28 (*vide* BMD). Late mimids were single Gray Catbirds at Long Pt., Nov. 16 (L.P.B.O.), Presqu'île Oct. 21 (SML), and Marathon Oct. 3 (NGE, AW), and a Brown Thrasher at Long Pt., Nov. 23 (L.P.B.O.). Early Water Pipits numbered 70 at Long Pt. Sept. 1 (L.P.B.O.). At the other extreme, the two in Algonquin Nov. 2 (RGT) and one in Thunder Bay Nov. 16 (BA) were late. Bohemian Waxwings were in low numbers, but early birds reached Foleyet, Sudbury, Aug. 23 (CWB) and Kingston Nov. 7 (MJE *et al.*). Five Loggerhead Shrike sightings consisted of a pair with two young in the Ottawa area Aug. 28 (BMD), and single birds near Presqu'île Aug. 24 (DVW), Melbourne Sept. 2 (DM), P.E. Pt., Sept. 12 (K.F.N.), and Schreiber, e. of Thunder Bay, Sept. 28 (ph. AW, NGE).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Single White-eyed Vireos were near Walsingham to Aug. 14, at Long Pt., Oct. 10 (L.P.B.O.), and at Pelee Oct. 24 and Nov. 7 (AW *et al.*). The Yellow-throated Vireo in Algonquin Aug. 25 was n. of range (MR, JSk), and a Solitary Vireo there Oct. 11 was late (DJM). Other late vireos were single Warblings at Pelee Oct. 3 (A & SH) and Long Pt., Oct. 12 (L.P.B.O.), and a Red-eyed in the Dundas marsh Nov. 1 (RCu *et al.*). Record setting late warblers, which were more numerous than usual, included single Golden-wingeds in Algonquin Sept. 5 (RGT) and at Kingston Sept. 20 (RDW), Orange-crowned and Nashville at Long Pt. Nov. 7 & 14 respectively (L.P.B.O.), N. Parula in Presqu'île Oct. 18 (MG), Yellow Warbler in Terrace Bay Sept. 28 (AW, NGE), Cape Mays at Strathroy to Nov. 30 (DEW) and Long Pt. to Dec. 7 (L.P.B.O.), and Black-throated Blue at St. Williams Nov. 6 (L.P.B.O.). Large numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers were noted, with maxima of 5000 passing P.E. Pt. in 2 hours Oct. 11 (K.F.N.), 1800 at Long Pt. Oct. 12 (JRH), and 1000 there Oct. 4 & 18 (L.P.B.O.). Few Pine Warblers are usually reported in autumn so this season's 35 were noteworthy. Virtually all were from lakeshore sites at Presqu'île, Long Pt., Kettle Pt., and Pelee, Aug. 23–Nov. 1. The four or five Prairie Warblers at Long Pt., Aug. 16–30, were unprecedented for autumn (L.P.B.O.) and none was reported elsewhere.

Other latest records included a Black-and-white Warbler at Pickering feeder to Nov. 17 (JSa), an Am. Redstart near Campbellville Nov. 7–28 (BKW), and an Ovenbird at Long Pt. to Oct. 21 (L.P.B.O.). The Worm-eating Warbler at Pelee Sept. 4 was the park's 6th in autumn (M. King) and a N. Waterthrush lingered there Nov. 7 (D & KM). Five Connecticuts at Presqu'île Aug. 18–Sept. 29 represented high numbers for this skulking species (*vide* SML), and two birds were in Ottawa Sept. 4 & 6, one of which was netted and banded (ph. RMP, BMD). Six nests of Hooded Warblers were located near Walsingham during August, from which 17 young were banded (MGar), and one bird there Sept. 21 was late (GEW). A Mourning Warbler in Rondeau Oct. 25 set a latest-ever record (PAW). Farther north, a tarrying Canada Warbler was stunned by hitting a window in Sault Ste. Marie Nov. 22 (J. Hunt). The first record of a Yellow-breasted Chat at Long Pt. occurred Nov. 16 when one hopped out of a car in the abandoned refuse dump at the tip of the point (*vide* GEW).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — The only Summer Tanager report was of an imm. male killed by a car at Peterborough Nov. 2 (DCS). Also at Peterborough was a late Scarlet Tanager Nov. 19 (JD). A ♂ N. Cardinal appeared in Algonquin Nov. 17–20 (RH, RDS, RGT) for the 2nd record ever; the previous sighting occurred in 1961. Three imm. ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Thunder Bay feeders Oct. 17–20, one remaining to Oct. 28 (NGE, ERA *et al.*). Three Dickcissel reports were one more than the autumn average: singles were at Wheatley Aug. 12–15 (SEW *et al.*), Meaford Oct. 9, killed at a window (PP), and Long Pt. Oct. 11 (RCS). Ontario's 5th Cassin's Sparrow was netted and banded at Long Pt. Aug. 15 (ph. GEW, BCo *et al.*) for the first occurrence there. Previous records have been in springs of 1967, 1984, and 1987 and autumn 1981. The



Golden-crowned Sparrow at Thunder Bay, Lake Superior, Ont., Oct. 1, 1987. Photo/Alan Wormington.

only Clay-colored Sparrow sighting was of a late bird at Dorion Oct. 11 (AWM, AW). One Field Sparrow remained at a Minden feeder to Nov. 29 (RJP). Single Lark Sparrows were at Aylmer Aug. 23-24 (GEW, BCo et al.), Long Pt. Oct. 3 (MD, DSp), and Pelee Oct. 3 (M & SK), which compares with one per autumn in recent years. One Grasshopper Sparrow was still singing on Amherst I., Aug. 30 (RDW), and another was in Presqu'île Sept. 2 (J & JT). Late singles were at Whitby Oct. 18 (GCo et al.) and Pelee Oct. 25 (AW). The three Le Conte's Sparrows, normal numbers, were in Thunder Bay Oct. 1 (AW) and Deep River



Female Great-tailed Grackle at Atikokan, Ont., Oct. 10, 1987. Photo/Alan Wormington.

Oct 10-11 and Nov 1 (WW, CM, JMB) However, five Sharp-tailed Sparrows made a low number. The birds were at Presqu'île Sept. 29 (RDM, DSh), P.E. Pt., Oct. 3 (RDW), Pelee Oct. 3 (RWW et al.), Oshawa Oct. 4 (fide MJB), and the Dundas marsh Oct. 16 (HGC). An imm. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** appeared in Thunder Bay Oct. 1 (ph. AW et al.) for the first time ever in n. Ontario. The 15 reports of Harris' Sparrows were confined to the Thunder Bay area Sept. 26-Nov. 22 (fide NGE). Early Lapland Longspurs in the south were at Port Perry Sept. 26 (DDC) and Presqu'île Sept. 27 (RDM). The 3000 Snow Buntings at Kingston Nov. 8 were recent arrivals [K.F.N.]. About 500 per hour during daylight arrived at Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 13-20 as though they had just crossed L. Ontario (GBe). These migrants then crossed the Niagara R. and flew W along the s. shore of L. Ontario.

An ad. E. Meadowlark was calling in Algonquin Nov. 2-5, where none had occurred later than Aug. 14 (RGT). A singing W. Meadowlark was in Woodstock Oct. 10 (JRH) and another bird was reported at Marathon Sept. 26 (AW). Out-of-range Brewer's Blackbirds were singles at P.E. Pt., Oct. 10 (JHE, RDW) and Peterborough Oct. 15 (DCS). Ontario's first **Great-tailed Grackle** was an ad. female in Atikokan Oct. 7-25 (ph. IKE, DHE et al.). There are 2 previous Canadian records, in 1979 and 1983. The Orchard Oriole at Rondeau Sept. 7 set a latest record for the park (PAW) and another was at Pelee to Sept. 12 (AW). A late N. Oriole at Winchester Springs, Dundas, Nov. 28-29 was captured for care during the winter and spring release (KO).

The flight of the winter finches was mixed. Pine Grosbeaks and redpolls reached Algonquin and s.e. Ontario by early November, but in low numbers. Purple Finch movement was heaviest e. of Toronto and hundreds passed P.E. Pt. in early October (K.F.N.). A House Finch nest containing young at Port Elgin Aug. 26 established a first nesting for Bruce (MP). Red Crossbill sightings were confined mainly to Long Pt. and Pelee, where 36 and 51 were seen Aug. 26-Nov. 9 and Nov. 1-27 respectively (L.P.B.O., AW et al.). Some 150 White-winged Crossbills were banded at Foleyet, Sudbury, Aug. 15 to early September, and these included females with brood patches (CWB). In the south, their appearance was in low numbers and without any pattern. The only group containing more than six birds was the flock at Whitby Oct. 19 (DDC). More Pine Siskins were noted than all the other finches combined, as they migrated S all along the lower Great Lakes. Peak flocks were of 2200 at Long Pt. Oct. 12 (JRH), 500 each at P.E. Pt., Oct. 11 & 12 (K.F.N.), and 450 at Pelee Oct. 28 (fide AW). An influx of Evening Grosbeaks reached the south in late October, but most were gone by early November.

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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

Douglas P. Kibbe

The fall season was relatively wet, but low water levels in the Great Lakes produced some of the best shorebird habitat there in a decade. September was particularly moist but remained unseasonably warm. Despite (or perhaps because of) the inclement weather, few groundings were observed (because observers were grounded?). October was cloudy and cool with occasional snow and, with wild foods generally in short supply, there were few late records; half-hardy species were down in numbers. Although snow continued to fall frequently throughout November, the month was the warmest and sunniest November in years.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Although L. Ontario continues to host by far the greatest Regional concentrations of loons, the 36 Commons in Dunkirk Harbor Oct. 27 [JG] set a local record. The increase in Double-crested Cormorants was evident throughout the Region with several area counts exceeding 100 birds. A Great Cormorant was reported Oct. 10 from Island Pond (fide V.I.N.S.). The tremendous increase in Double-crested Cormorants has heightened the likelihood of their occurring during the winter months, so winter records of either species should be detailed. Great Egrets staged an excellent showing. Only two made it to Vermont, but well over 2 dozen were reported from New York, including 23 at Iroquois N.W.R. (DG et al.). Two Snowy Egrets were seen on Grand Isle in August, as were one dozen Cattle Egrets (DH). Presumably all were local breeders on L. Champlain. Cattle Egrets were not noted far from their breeding sites until mid-October. An ibis, presumably Glossy, frequented Buck Pond Oct. 20–24 (MD, m.ob.). Few ibises have been reported in recent falls despite the success of Atlantic coast colonies. The documented occurrence of White-faced on the coast makes careful scrutiny of any *Plegadis* ibis essential.

Most dabbling duck counts, even those from c. New York, were unimpressive. An exception was a tally of 1070 Wood Ducks on Toad Harbor (FS). Missisquoi N.W.R. again proved to be the Region's best Ring-necked Duck staging area, with about 8,000. Montezuma N.W.R. was a distant 2nd, with 400. The usual smattering of King Eiders, Harlequin Ducks, and Barrow's Goldeneyes appeared on L. Ontario. The Connecticut River, one of the most productive areas aside from the Great Lakes for Barrow's Goldeneyes, hosted at least three near Vernon [JC]. An Oldsquaw at Braddock Bay Aug. 1 [CC et al.] and a Surf Scoter off Grand Isle Aug. 5 [CR et al.] were exceptionally early.

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS — Few fall hawkwatch totals were submitted, but those reporting generally had good numbers of the traditionally less common species, especially



Osprey, with peak flights in mid-September. Numerous eagles were reported including at least three Golden. A Bald Eagle was found shot in Vermont, indicating that additional public education is needed. Although 4 pairs are known to be nesting in New York, Vermont is still awaiting its first breeding pair. Golden Eagles were seen at Mendon Ponds Park (NB, MR), Dead Creek W.M.A. (J & MCD), and N. Thetford, Vt. (NM). A dark-phase Gyrfalcon was sighted Nov. 22 in Webster (DS, MT). The Red-shouldered Hawk seen Nov. 2 in Wayne Co., N.Y. (MD, DT) was relatively late, as was the Osprey at Braddock Bay Nov. 28 (fide R.B.A.). Two Sandhill Cranes were sighted in c. New York, Nov. 2 on Armitage Rd., Wayne Co., and an adult Oct. 15 in the Town of Vernon (FS).

An excellent array of shorebirds was reported as receding water levels coincided with migration for the first time in some time. Weather-induced groundings may have been a contrib-



Purple Sandpiper at Rochester, N.Y., Nov. 22, 1987. Photo/B. Keelan.

uting factor, since even the "rarest" of the shorebirds reported occur regularly in our airspace but usually overfly the Region. Better than average tallies included 200 Lesser Golden-Plovers Sept. 13 at Kindall, and nine Long-billed Dowitchers Oct. 8 at Salmon Creek (SC) and another dozen at Savannah Oct. 10 (DT). Vermonters had a better than average assortment of rarities in the L. Champlain valley including a Hudsonian Godwit on Grand Isle (OH), a Whimbrel at Blodgetts Beach (JM), two Willets on Gull Rock (JF), 4 sightings of Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Dead Creek W.M.A. (DC), and a Purple Sandpiper on Popasquash Island (RL, PT). All these species were, and are regularly, recorded in c. and w. New York during the fall. A Spotted Sandpiper seen through Nov. 23 at Hamlin Beach S.P. (m.ob.) might have been more exciting [the Common Sandpiper should be considered as a possibility whenever an out-of-season Spotted is observed] if it had not been injured and unable to migrate. A Red Phalarope that appeared at Irondequoit Bay Aug. 28 was the season's earliest.

LARIDS TO WOODPECKERS — Numbers of jaegers seen on the Great Lakes waterfront were unimpressive by most recent standards, although somewhat better than last year's. Better coverage of L. Champlain, including offshore areas, in recent years has revealed that this waterbody (the 2nd-largest lake in the United States after the Great Lakes) attracts virtually the same diverse assemblage of waterbirds that make that L. Ontario waterfront and Niagara River areas so popular with birders. This fall's L. Champlain notables included 11 sightings of at least seven Little Gulls, two Parasitic and two to three Pomarine jaegers, and two **Sabine's Gulls**, one of which remained Oct. 3-5 to eventually be photographed (RL et al.). There seems to be little reason to think these tallies, although unprecedented, are atypical. They are the result of far better coverage. Two imm. Sabine's Gulls were seen on L. Ontario Oct. 8 (TG), and Oct. 25 & 31 (FS), along with the normal complement of jaegers and Little Gulls. The Niagara River "frontier" hosted two Sabine's Gulls, a Franklin's Gull, Com. Black-headed Gull, and Laughing Gull. Another juv. **Laughing Gull** was present at Rochester during the latter half of August and early September (R.B.A.). Lake Ontario hosted the only Black-legged Kittiwakes, with at least one imm. bird present as late as Nov. 28 at Hamlin Beach (MD, MRo). A count of 34 Forster's Terns at Dunkirk Harbor Aug. 30 (DG) was by far the best tally for their species, as were 74 Caspian Terns at N. Irondequoit Bay Aug. 18 (CC).



Juvenile Laughing Gull at Rochester, N.Y., Aug. 29, 1987. Photo/B. Keelan.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Braddock Bay Oct. 28 (RO) was relatively late. Both Snowy and Short-eared owls were well represented but other owls were as usual underreported. The abundance of owls was credited to abundant prey. A Snowy in Vermont was believed to have been secondarily poisoned by one orchardist's efforts to control pine voles (AP). Common

Nighthawks remained scarce in New York, although 240 were seen Sept. 8 at Brattleboro, Vt. (JC). The peak count at Rochester was of only 50 (NI). A Whip-poor-will sighting Sept. 24 in w. New York (DG) was notable only because the species is seldom reported outside the breeding season; migrants could be present into October. Two intergrade N. Flickers were handled, one a road kill in Vermont (JA), the other netted and banded in c. New York (EB).

FLYCATCHERS TO WARBLERS — The bird of the year for many c. New York observers was the juv. **Gray Kingbird** discovered n. of Montezuma N.W.R. and present Oct. 31 through the first 4 days of November. This was the first inland New York sighting, all 5 previous records coming from Long Island. Although out-of-season occurrences frequently turn out to be vagrants from distant lands, it is safe to bet no one checked the Barn Swallow at Montezuma N.W.R. (DS) Nov. 1 closely to eliminate *Hirundo tahitica*. An estimated 2200 Purple Martins staged at Montezuma in late August (CC).

An exceptional tally of 40 Winter Wrens was made at Buck Pond near Rochester Oct. 4 (DT). Clearly this species has the capacity to rebound from past winter-induced population declines. The same observer also tallied an estimated 500 Ruby-crowned Kinglets there the same day, leading one to suspect a screech owl tape recording was involved. Regardless of the technique used to assemble this congregation, the numbers are exceptional and in marked contrast to many other small songbird counts. Flycatchers, thrushes and, in particular, warblers drew many comments regarding their scarcity. Unfortunately there are few data to substantiate a long-term decline in migrant numbers, but many long-time active observers are in agreement that such a decline is occurring. Despite this gloomy prognosis there were some interesting sightings including several Blue-winged Warblers, a "Brewster's," and a Golden-winged Warbler in September, a Prothonotary Warbler at Sodus Bay Sept. 19 (DT), and a Prairie Warbler at Selkirk Shores S.P. Oct. 5 (FS). A Yellow-breasted Chat was banded at V.I.N.S., Oct. 13 (CR) and a very late Yellow Warbler was seen Nov. 13 (FS). Fair numbers of Orange-crowned and Connecticut warblers were noted, mostly by banders. The peak warbler flight period reported in Vermont was mid-September (J & MCD), but it is likely that the majority of the warbler population had already passed quietly south by then and the observed peak was a local weather-induced phenomenon. A belated report was received of Vermont's 2nd Bay-breasted Warbler breeding confirmation (and first nest) at Moose Bog in Ferdinand in early July (GL).

SPARROWS TO FINCHES — The movement of sparrows was good in late September and early October, but Dark-eyed Juncos and Am. Tree Sparrows were poorly represented and no residue of half-hardy species was apparent in November.

S.A.

Rochester birders again succeeded in locating several Sharp-tailed Sparrows (MD et al.). This species probably stops regularly en route to its wintering grounds, but until recently it was considered impossible to find except as a rare tower kill. This fall at least five were noted from 3 sites in the period Oct. 3-18 (R.B.A.). Although these sites are restricted to one general locality, this is a reflection of observer effort, and other major wetlands throughout the Region doubtless occasionally host this extremely secretive species.

There were reports of several Dickcissels, including one in Brownsville, Vt. (AK). A "**Bullock's**" **Northern Oriole**, Vermont's first, frequented St. Johnsbury feeders in early November (PB, PG). By now the Rochester, N.Y., area birders have learned that Brewer's Blackbirds are regular stragglers, but it took a translocated Californian to locate one at Braddock Bay Oct. 11 (BK). Elsewhere they eluded detection.

Unless you love House Finches the finch picture was dreary,

although an early season flurry of White-winged Crossbill reports in Vermont raised hopes briefly. Elsewhere there were occasional crossbill and Com. Redpoll reports and local flocks of Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinches (especially in New York) but little promise of an invasion of other seed eaters even though hemlock cones were abundant.

EXOTICS — Finally, a Budgerigar in Shelburne in mid-September stood little chance of making it through the season, much less through the winter.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

It was generally a mild and pleasant fall season, but the birding was a mixed bag. Some places reported poor migrations, and no place had a banner migratory flight, but there were more real rarities found in this Region than in any other period in recent years. There are fifteen boldfaced records in the following account.

At Pittsburgh, August and September were normal in temperature but much wetter than normal. October was much cooler than normal and quite dry while November had normal precipitation but was much warmer than normal. At Knoxville the whole period was much drier than normal. Snow fell in the higher West Virginia mountains in early October but there were no general snowfalls through the end of the period.

As is usual in the Fall Season, many of the quantitative data came from the banding operations. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pennsylvania, 6866 birds were banded during the period (RM, RCL) and at Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, West Virginia, the total was 7911 (GAH). Both of these figures were close to the long-time averages. At Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, 753 birds were banded (JS), and at Norris, Tennessee, 715 (close to average) birds were banded (CN).

In the discussion of the banding data below birds are considered to be in average numbers if the number captured was within one standard deviation of the mean. Captures were considered to deviate from average numbers if the captures differed from the mean by one or more standard deviations. At Powdermill, 22 species were above the mean, 44 at or near the mean, and 11 below the mean (RCL, RM), while at Allegheny Front, 13 were above the mean, 10 at the mean and only three below the mean.

Hawk watching has been the principal activity of many birders in the fall, and this year data came from a number of stations. As a by-product of this work, the reader should note in the following accounts the large number of non-raptor records of interest reported from the hawk lookouts.

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.; G.S.M.N.P. = Great Smoky Mountains Nat'l Park; K.C.P.P. = Kyger Creek Power Plant, Gallia Co., Ohio; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., Pa.; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., Pa. Place names in italics are counties.



LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — The only Red-throated Loons of the season were two at P.I.S.P., Nov. 7 (JM). Common Loons were more common than in recent years with some high daily counts of 120 at Tuscarora Summit, Pa., Oct. 13 (CG), 87 at Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 14 (RFL, ML), 50 at Tellico L., Tenn., Nov. 22 (T.O.S.), and 50 or more per day at P.I.S.P. through October and early November (JM).

The movement of Horned Grebes was better than the average of recent years, with a high count of 75 at Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 1 (RFL, ML). Single Eared Grebes were at P.I.S.P., Sept. 12 (JM, RS) and Nov. 30 (JM). A **Western/Clark's Grebe** was seen at P.I.S.P. (2nd county record) Oct. 10 but the rough water prevented a good view of the bill region to separate the species (LM). Another *Aechmophorus* grebe was seen in Somerset, Pa., Nov. 1-3 but there was disagreement as to which species it was (RM, PS). Two **American White Pelicans** were at Sevierville, Tenn., Nov. 1-8 (JK). Double-crested Cormorant was again widely reported, indicating that this species continues its population increase.

An Am. Bittern at P.N.R., Aug. 14-18 was remarkably early for a migrant, but there is no evidence of nesting there (RM, RCL). The only other report came from Centre, Pa., Sept. 13 (JP). The only report of Least Bittern was from Chickamauga L., Tenn., Aug. 28 (WJ). A count of 24 Great Blue Herons at

B.E.S.P., Nov. 7 (CH) was unusually high. The Great Egret was reported from more places than usual and was in above-normal numbers with a high count of 20 at Glenwood Swamp, Cabell, W.Va., Sept. 24 (TI). An injured egret was captured at Montrose, W.Va., Nov. 25 and taken to a rehabilitation center (CS). The only reports of Little Blue Herons came from the Knoxville, Tenn., area (CN). A Tricolored Heron was seen at Prince Gallitzin S.P., Pa., Sept. 6 (MH). Cattle Egrets were reported from Elizabethton, Tenn., Sept. 5 (GE), Cranesville, Erie, Pa., Oct. 10 (SH, JS), near Erie, Nov. 3 (TK), and Roanoke, Va., four Oct. 30 (MD). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Kyger Cr., O., Aug. 9 (WA) and Nov. 4 (TI) were noteworthy.

The waterfowl flight was generally poor, with only the Knoxville, Tenn., area (CN) reporting a good movement. The flight of Tundra Swans was a little late and not very heavy at most places. High counts were of 400 at Mosquito L., O., Nov. 19 (CB) and 250 at P.N.R., Nov. 11 (RM, RCL). Migrating swans were seen from the hawk lookouts on Tussey Mt., Pa. (TD), and Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG). This has become a regular event in recent years. Significant numbers of Snow Geese flew by the Tussey Mt. lookout Nov. 21, but swirling snow prevented accurate counts (TD), and 121 were seen Nov. 5 at the Rockfish Gap, Va., lookout (YL). A Snow (Blue) Goose was at Kyger Cr., O., Nov. 29 (WA). Four Brant were at P.I.S.P., Nov. 2 (JM). At Pymatuning L., Pa., Canada Goose numbers peaked at 10,000 Nov. 22, down from last year's 12,000 (RFL).

Two unusual concentrations of Wood Ducks were reported: 125 near Avis, Pa., in late September (PS), and a flock of 61 at Black Moshannon S.P., Pa., Oct. 15 (MW). A King Eider was seen at P.I.S.P., Nov. 26 (LL). An imm. ♂ Harlequin Duck was shot on Presque Isle, Pa., Nov. 14, for the 4th Erie record (fide BH). A slightly oiled Oldsquaw was at P.I.S.P. at the remarkably early date of Aug. 12 (J & LM), and several were seen in Somerset, Pa., Nov. 20-28 (AM). Two scoters (sp.?) were seen from a fishing boat on L. Erie in mid-August, about 6 weeks early (JB). Black Scoters were at P.I.S.P., Oct. 8 and Nov. 16 & 30 (JM, LL). On Oct. 8 an impressive total of 457 Surf Scoters passed the tip of Presque Isle flying E (JM). A Surf Scoter was seen in Somerset, Pa., Nov. 6 (SS, BS). White-winged Scoters were at P.I.S.P. through most of November (JM), at Green Lick Dam, Fayette, Pa., Oct. 11 (E & MWa), Roanoke, Va., Oct. 29-Nov. 1 (MD, NM), and Somerset L., Pa., Nov. 20 (AM). A flock of 10 Com. Mergansers at P.I.S.P., Aug. 28 & 29, may have been a family group that had nested nearby (EK). A count of 1400 Hooded Mergansers at Pymatuning L., Nov. 22 was unusually high (RFL, ML).

RAPTORS — The hawk watchers on the mountain ridges had an average season, although the East River Mt., W.Va., count had its best season in the 14 years of operation (JP). Table 1 summarizes some of the more important counts. A Black Vulture was seen on Tussey Mt., Centre, Pa., Oct. 4 (GY), they were more numerous than usual in Shenandoah, Va. (DD), and 48 were reported in Claiborne, Tenn., Nov. 4 (GM). Bald Eagles were unusually numerous with reports from 15 locations besides the formal lookouts. The 14 at Tuscarora Summit (CG) and the 29 at Rockfish Gap, Va. (YL) represented record season counts. A total of 38 N. Goshawks was reported, with the Tus-

sey Mt. count of 16 (TD) the high Eight of these were seen away from the formal lookouts, with reports coming from as far south as Roan Mt., Tenn., Nov. 9 & 22 (FA, RK) and Ripshin L., Tenn., Nov. 15 (GE). Rough-legged Hawks were reported from Kinzua Dam, Pa., with four Oct. 23 (WH), Pymatuning L., Pa., Nov. 1 (RFL, ML), Blue Grass, Va., Nov. 6 (LT), and Rockingham, Va., Nov. 25 (R.B.C.), as well as three at the Tussey Mt. lookout (TD). A fantastic total of 54 Golden Eagles was counted this fall on Tussey Mt., Pa. (TD), while 39 each were listed at Bald Eagle Mt., Pa. (JP) and Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG); Rockfish Gap reported three (YL) and Peter's Mt., W.Va., reported one (GH).

Twenty-three Merlins were reported at the lookouts with Tussey Mt. having a count of 13 (TD), and there were 4 sightings at P.I.S.P., Sept. 6-Nov. 8 (JM), one at Meadville, Oct. 24 (RFL, ML), and one at Niles, O., Nov. 7-30 (CB). Twenty-eight Peregrines were listed at the lookouts with Tuscarora Mt., Pa., having the high count of 15 (CG). Other reports came from K.C.P.P., Aug. 8, visibly different from the one reported there in July (WA), 3 sightings at P.I.S.P. (JM), Roan Mt., Tenn., Aug. 22 (BHu), Shenandoah N.P., Sept. 29 (NS), Look Rock, Tenn., Oct. 3 (A & RH), Unaka Mt., Tenn., Oct. 19 (FA), and Chattahoochee N.F., Ga., Nov. 19 (HD).

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A Sandhill Crane (ph.) was present in the Mosquito L., O., area Oct. 10-17 (CB, LR). The only other report came from Tellico L., Tenn., where three were seen Nov. 22 (T.O.S.). A Virginia Rail at Tellico L., Nov. 22 (T.O.S.) was rather late. A fogbound Virginia Rail appeared at a parking lot on Afton Mt., Va., Sept. 12 during a hawk-counting seminar being held there (MM).

The shorebird flight was mixed. In the Huntington, W.Va., area, where 19 species were listed, it was very good until the 2nd week in September (WA, TI), and it was somewhat above average at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), but was disappointing at State College, Pa. (JP). At P.I.S.P. the shorebird habitat is deteriorating and the flight was poor (JM), as it was in Knoxville where the habitat was also limited (CN). There were, however, a number of "goodies."

Lesser Golden-Plovers were at P.I.S.P., Sept. 13-Oct. 11 (JM, EK), Stuart's Draft, Va., Sept. 6 & 21 (SR), K.C.P.P., Oct. 25 (WA, MG), Roanoke, Va., Oct. 28 & 29 (BHn, HT), and Erie Nov. 16 (RSw et al.). An American Avocet was found in Cocke, Tenn., Aug. 15 (JK). A Willet was present at P.I.S.P., Aug. 16-23 (JM et al.), and singles were present at K.C.P.P., Aug. 9 (WA, MG) and Nov. 4 (TI). The only reports of Upland Sandpipers came from Erie, Pa., in August (JM). There were 4 sightings of Whimbrel at P.I.S.P., Aug. 9-Sept. 8 (JM et al.). A Marbled Godwit (ph.) at Ashton, W.Va., Aug. 5 provided the first record for the state (WA). A Ruddy Turnstone at B.E.S.P., Sept. 1 (MC) furnished the only report of that species. Away from L. Erie the Red Knot is extremely rare, so a report from K.C.P.P., Aug. 22 (WA, MG) was noteworthy. Knots were present at P.I.S.P., Aug. 9-Sept. 12 (m.ob.). Sanderlings were reported from Kyger Cr., O. (TI), State College, Pa. (DB), and Roanoke (MD). Western and Baird's sandpipers were more widely reported than usual. A flock of 30 Stilt Sandpipers was seen at P.I.S.P., Aug. 9 (JM), single birds were at K.C.P.P. (ph.) Aug. 15 & 22-23 (WA et al.).

Table 1. Hawk Migration, Appalachian Region, Autumn 1987.

	Days Obs.	Sharp-shinned	Broad-winged	Broad-winged High (date)	Bald Eagle	Total
Bald Eagle Mt., Pa. (JP)	22	260	568	536 (9/29)	1	1415
Tuscarora Mt., Pa. (CG)	*	*	*	871 (9/18)	14	
Tussey Mt., Pa. (TD)	*	617	1675	*	8	3657
East River Mt., W.Va. (JP)	24	247	3889	1042 (9/23)	1	4253
Peters Mt., W.Va. (GH)	20	403	4770	953 (9/23)	1	5536
Rockfish Gap, Va. (YL)	62	1269	17119	*	29	19889

* Data not submitted



Baird's Sandpiper (front—with *Semipalmated Sandpiper*) at Kyger Creek, Ohio, August 1987. Photo/W. L. Argabrite.

and six were seen at Roanoke Aug. 21 (MD). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was present at P.I.S.P., Aug. 24–28 (B & FH, EK). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported from K.C.P.P., Aug. 15 & 22 (WA), in Mason, W. Va., Aug. 29–30 (WA), and at Stuart's Draft, Va., Sept. 22 (SR), while a Long-billed Dowitcher was identified at Pymatuning L., Pa., Aug. 19 (RFL, ML). A Wilson's Phalarope was at K.C.P.P., Aug. 23 (WA), a Red-necked Phalarope was at P.I.S.P., Aug. 15 (BSt), and a Red Phalarope was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 18 (LL).

GULLS TO SWIFTS — No sizeable gull flight occurred at P.I.S.P., but that location did turn up 3 good records. A Little Gull in fresh juv. plumage was there Aug. 23 (EK et al.). Where was this bird hatched? Adult Little Gulls were there Nov. 11 & 18 (JM) and Nov. 27 (EK). A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was present Nov. 28 (DF), for the 8th record for Erie, and even better was an imm. **Sabine's Gull** seen there Oct. 8 (JM), for the 2nd record for Erie.

Away from L. Erie, noteworthy records included 1200 Bonaparte's Gulls at Pymatuning L., Pa. (RFL, ML). Bonaparte's Gulls were also reported from Boone L., Tenn., Nov. 10 (RK), L. Julian, N.C., Nov. 21 (R & Y), and L. Tellico, Tenn., Nov. 22 (T.O.S.). A Great Black-backed Gull was at B.E.S.P., Sept. 21 (CH). Caspian Terns were below normal at P.I.S.P. (JM), but elsewhere there were more reports than usual: B.E.S.P., Aug. 3 & 5 (MW, JP), Kyger Cr., O., Aug. 15 (WA), Kingston, Tenn., Sept. 7 (AH et al.), and Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept. 10 (RK). At P.I.S.P., Forster's Terns outnumbered Commons with as many as 30 counted in one day (B & FH).

Both species of cuckoo seemed to be in somewhat better numbers than in recent seasons. There were 2 active nest sites of Com. Barn-Owls in the Elizabethton, Tenn., region (GE), and a one-month-old brood was found in Rockingham, Va., Sept. 3 (R.B.C.). At least one or two Snowy Owls were at P.I.S.P., from Nov. 7 to the end of the period (RSw et al.), and one was at Kane, Pa., Nov. 18 (LA). What was apparently a family group of Long-eared Owls was present at A.F.M.O., Oct. 17–20 (KF), and one was heard in Germany Valley, W. Va., Nov. 13 (RBa). Again this winter there was a concentration of Short-eared Owls on the recovered strip mines in Clarion, Pa., with 15 on one mine and eight on another (WF), and one was seen at State College, Pa., Nov. 23 (B & JP).

There were a number of reports of sizeable Com. Nighthawk migrations. Some high counts were of 2000+ at Princeton,

W. Va., Sept. 6 (JP), 1000 in Mason & Cabell, W. Va., Aug. 30 (WA), 700 at Gallipolis, O., Aug. 29 (WA), and 500 in Knox, Tenn., Aug. 25 (VD). One of the more interesting events of the season was the concentration of an estimated 15000 Chimney Swifts in the chimney of a church in Huntington, W. Va., Oct. 11–13. The pressure of this mass of birds forced many through an opening into the church basement and smothered others. A bander banded 277 and released some 1500 others before he ran out of bands. Large numbers of dead birds, reported from 600 to 1600, were removed from the bottom of the chimney (LW, TI).

HUMMINGBIRDS TO FLYCATCHERS — The record of the season (or the year) was of a **Green Violet-ear** (ph.) at a feeder in Asheville, N.C., Oct. 21–25 (m.ob., fide R & JY). Also noteworthy were the **Rufous Hummingbirds** at 2 locations, both Regional firsts. One appeared (ph.) at a feeder in Dalton, Ga., Aug. 27 (HD). This bird or another was seen at a different feeder in Dalton in late September (fide HD). At Roanoke, Va., a Rufous Hummingbird came to a feeder from Oct. 29 to Dec. 5, when it was found dead (MLG, fide BO). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were abundant at most places and were among the species banded at P.N.R. in well above average numbers (RM, RCL).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported in more than usual numbers from several places, including, as has been common in the past, good numbers flying by the hawk lookouts. Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Hartstown, Pa., Sept. 9 (RFL) and Kane, Pa., Nov. 22 (BHi) were north of the usual range. Another Regional rarity was a **Three-toed Woodpecker** Nov. 22 & 23 at the Tussey Mt., Pa., hawk lookout (TF, SD).



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Antietam Battlefield N.P., Md., Oct. 7, 1987. Photo/George M. Jett.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was considered to be the most numerous flycatcher seen at the Tussey Mt. hawk lookout (TD) and other reports came from Pipestem S.P., W. Va., Sept. 16 (JP), Roan Mt., Tenn., Sept. 12 and Watauga L., Tenn. Sept. 26 (GE), and Boaz, W. Va., Oct. 1 (M.B.C.). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported more commonly than usual, but other *Empidonax* flycatchers were scarce. A **Vermilion Flycatcher** (ph.) was at Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept. 26–28, for the first Tennessee record e. of Knoxville (RK). A W. Kingbird was seen at Stuart's Draft, Va., Sept. 6 (SR). There were 2 reports of **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** seen at Roanoke, Va., Sept. 27 (JV) and another was at Antietam Battlefield N.P., Oct. 3–18 (ph., m.ob., fide RR).

SWALLOWS TO VIREOS — There were large concentrations of Purple Martins at P I S P in late August and early September with as many as 1000 counted in one area (LM). From 500 to 700 Bank Swallows were at Gallipolis Locks, W.Va., all summer (WA). The relatively new colony of Cliff Swallows at Beech Fork S.P., W.Va., had 300-500 birds this year (WA). A Tree Swallow at P.I.S.P., Nov. 16 was extremely late (JM). Fifty Fish Crows were seen near Houserville, Pa., Oct. 18 (ES). This would be an unusual concentration so far from the Susquehanna valley. Although not unprecedented, Com. Ravens at Clarksville, Pa., Oct. 13 & 26 (RB) were well out of the known range. Also of interest was a winter roost of about 50 ravens in the Cheat Mts. of West Virginia, Nov. 22 (RBA).

The southbound migration of Red-breasted Nuthatches was very poor, and there were almost no reports of wintering birds at feeders. Carolina Wren continues to do well and reports came from several places in the north: Niles, O. (CB), Meadville, Pa. (RFL), Warren, Pa. (WH), and Erie, Pa. (JM). Once again there were no reports of Bewick's Wren. Marsh Wrens were found at McClintic Wildlife Area, Mason, W.Va., Sept. 6 (TI), Athens, W.Va., mid-September to mid-October (JP), Austin Springs, Tenn., Sept. 23-30 (RK), and B.E.S.P., Oct. 4 (EZ).

The Golden-crowned Kinglet flight started early and was very good at most places. The banding total at A.F.M.O. was 212, compared with a 7-year average of 88 (GAH). Most places reported a continuation of the scarcity of Swainson's and Gray-cheeked thrushes, with some observers reporting none, and the Norris, Tenn., banding station having its poorest year ever with only 22 banded (CN). On the other hand, the 410 banded at A.F.M.O. were essentially at the 7-year average (GAH), and at Elizabethton, Tenn., the numbers seen were above average. Hermit Thrush bandings at A.F.M.O. were well above average (GAH), but they were well below average at P.N.R. (RCL, RM).

The Shenandoah Valley has been the stronghold of the N. Mockingbird for this Region, so a report of possible decline at Waynesboro, Va. (RS), was unsettling. Single N. Shrikes were found at P.I.S.P. through November and at Waterford, Pa., Nov. 16 (JM). Several Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from Bath and Highland, Va. (LT), and two were reported from Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), the only reports of the season.

Philadelphia Vireos were more commonly reported by field birders than usual and at A.F.M.O. the 43 banded was 2 standard deviations above the 7-year average. The number of Red-eyed Vireos banded at A.F.M.O., 121, was also 2 standard deviations above the average.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — Most places reported a poor or at least sub-average warbler flight. At P.I.S.P., 6 experienced observers on Sept. 12 & 13 located no more than 15 individual warblers (JM). At A.F.M.O., warbler bandings were about equal to the 8-year average, but individual species varied widely: five were more than 2 standard deviations above the average, two more than one standard deviation above, four at the average, and only two below average by one or more standard deviations (GAH). Two species that showed decrease at A.F.M.O. were Cape May and Bay-breasted warblers. The collapse of these budworm specialists may reflect an abatement of the budworm infestation, but the 3rd specialist, the Tennessee Warbler, was in average numbers (GAH). Cape Mays were also well below average at P.N.R. Golden-winged Warblers were well above average at P.N.R. (RM, RCL), and at P.I.S.P. one banded Aug. 29 was the first one in the 25 years of operation there (RFL) and furnished only the 2nd county record.

Orange-crowned Warblers, usually very scarce in this Region, were reported in fair numbers with five being banded at the P.I.S.P. banding station (RFL). Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Green warblers were well above average numbers at both P.N.R. (RM) and A.F.M.O. (GAH).

Some unusual warbler dates were: Yellow-rumped Warbler at P.I.S.P., Aug. 20 & 23 (LM, JS)—dates early enough to suggest nearby nesting of this species, which is actively extended its breeding range; Magnolia Warbler at Lock Haven, Pa., Nov.

26-27 (CH); and Cape May Warbler at Markleton, Pa., Nov 17 (AW)

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were well above average at both P.N.R. (RM & RCL) and A.F.M.O. (GAH). At Norris, Tenn., Indigo Buntings were seen feeding fledglings Sept. 3 (CN). Blue Grosbeaks completed an above-average nesting season at Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), and were present at Knoxville until Oct 11 (AH), while a female seen just below the Tussey Mt. summit Sept. 16 was well n. of the known range (TD). There were unusual numbers of reports of Dickcissel: Kyger Creek, Ohio, Sept. 1 (TI), Botetourt, Va., Oct. 21 (BK), Rockingham, Va (R.B.C.), and Lock Haven, Pa., Nov. 23-25 (CH).

Most of the common sparrow species were in short supply. At P.N.R., the White-throated Sparrow bandings were the lowest in 10 years (RM, RCL). American Tree Sparrows seem not to draw many comments but the species has almost disappeared from n. West Virginia (GAH) and is scarce elsewhere. The Field Sparrow was again in small numbers. A Lark Sparrow was at Canfield, O., Aug. 26 (NB). The sparrow highlight of the season was a **Le Conte's Sparrow** (ph.) in Botetourt, Va., Oct. 21-28 (MP, PSp, BP). The only report of Lapland Longspurs came from P.I.S.P., where they were recorded as early as Sept 26 (JM). Snow Buntings were reported from w. Pennsylvania as early as the first week in October. More unusual were those as far south as A.F.M.O., Nov. 1 (KF) and on Unaka Mt., Tenn., Nov. 7 (GE). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at B.E.S.P., Sept. 17 (PS).

The only reports of Red Crossbills came from the high country where they may, occasionally at least, breed: Shenandoah Mt., Va. (LT), Cheat Mountains, W.Va. (RBA), Cashiers, N.C (DM), Roan Mt., Tenn., and G.S.M.N.P. (GE). Three White-winged Crossbills were seen flying by the Tuscarora Mt. hawk lookout, Oct. 30 (CG). Pine Siskins began to appear in numbers in early October in some places. Throughout the rest of the period they were patchily distributed over the Region, often appearing for only a few days at any one place, but occasionally in very large flocks. Evening Grosbeaks also appeared in early October, and were in scattered flocks throughout the Region, but no place had very large numbers and many places had none.

CORRIGENDA — I am advised that the record for Bridled Tern at Fishersville, Va. (AB 41:282) has been rejected by the Records Committee of the Virginia Society for Ornithology. The 14 Great Blue Heron nests at Cashiers Pond, N.C. (AB 41:430) should read one nest.

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Daryl D. Tessen

August and September were warmer than normal, with unusually high temperatures especially during early August and late September. Rainfall was below average for both months in Wisconsin and Minnesota but considerably above in Michigan, especially during August (2 to 8 inches surplus). October was a marked contrast, with exceptionally cold weather prevailing for most of the month. There were several strong cold fronts, missing during the preceding months, with December-like temperatures occurring during the middle of the month. Precipitation was more normal and even included a snowfall of one to one-and-one-half feet in localized areas of northern Wisconsin. With the exception of two brief cool periods, November saw a return to unusually mild weather. While the majority of the month was cloudy there was little precipitation, especially snow.

The fall migration elicited mixed comments from the Region's birders. The passerine movement continues to commence surprisingly early each year. There was movement already in late July, continuing with few interruptions through August and September. Many areas felt the thrush, vireo, and warbler flights were very poor, although there were a few exceptions noted (e.g., Minneapolis). The hawk flight was again disappointing. Shorebird movement was somewhat improved over last fall, especially in Wisconsin. Finches again were very disappointing.

Again this autumn there was only a limited number of rarities. This was especially in contrast to the past spring's impressive list. The best rarities included Yellow-billed Loon, Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and probable Cassin's Finch for Minnesota; Purple Sandpipers, Sabine's Gull, and (species), Black-headed Grosbeak, and Smith's Longspur for Wisconsin; and Plegadis ibis, King Eider, Swainson's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and California Gull for Michigan.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Red-throated Loons were found at 3 sites in Wisconsin and one in Michigan. Two **Pacific Loons** were recorded in Minnesota. The first was in the s.w. part of the state at L. Lillian Oct. 25 (RG) while the other remained at Duluth Oct. 17–Nov. 3 (KE et al.). A **Yellow-billed Loon** was found at Stoney Pt., Oct. 17 (KE et al.), providing Minnesota with its 2nd state record. Common Loon concentrations included 100+ at Saginaw Bay and Tawas Pt., Mich., during late October–early November. Early were seven Horned Grebes Aug. 4–5 in Bayfield, Wis. (SS). Impressive were the 300+ Nov. 7 at Tawas Pt., Mich. (RPl). There were substantial numbers of Red-necked Grebe sightings in both Wisconsin and Michigan, with the latest Nov. 20 at Port Huron, Mich., and Nov. 27 in Waukesha, Wis. (WM). Eared Grebes appeared with surprising frequency. Wisconsin had 3 different sightings, with a maximum of five birds (Goose Pond, Columbia, m.ob.). Michigan had 5 sightings, also with a maximum of five birds (Muskegon Wastewater System, m.ob.). Two W. Grebes were seen by Swengel Oct. 28 in Bayfield, Wis. An Am. White Pelican was in Eau Claire during mid-August (fide JP) while three summered at Beaver Dam L., Wis. (m.ob.). Very late were birds Nov. 26 in Jackson (RJa) and Nov. 28 at Lac Qui Parle W.A. (EL), Minn. There were several Double-crested Cormorants lingering into December at several Wisconsin sites.

A Great Egret at LaCrosse Nov. 19 was late (FL). Snowy Egrets were found at 5 Minnesota and 3 Michigan locations. Wisconsin recorded none. Michigan had the only Little Blue Heron sight-



ings. One was in Kalamazoo Aug. 3 (JG, DP), two at Pt. Mouille Game Area Sept. 6–9 (m.ob.), and one at Erie Metropark Oct. 1 (MK). There was an unusual number of November Cattle Egret sightings from all 3 states. The latest included Nov. 6 at Marquette, Mich. (NI), Nov. 11 at Grand Portage, Minn. (K & MH), and Nov. 14 in Green, Wis. (ML). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen until mid-September at one Michigan and 4 Wisconsin locations. A Plegadis ibis was observed at Quancassee State W.A., Mich., Oct. 8–17 (RW, TW et al.).



Unidentified Plegadis ibis (either White-faced or Glossy would be possible) in Tuscola County, Mich., Oct. 16, 1987. Photo/Robert Putman.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES — Two **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** appeared at Cosmos in mid-August, remaining until Oct. 3 (beginning of the hunting season, m.ob.). This was only the 3rd record for Minnesota. As usual the Tundra Swan concentrations were mainly along the Mississippi R., with 4000 and 6000 being noted in Vernon and Buffalo, Wis., respectively. Greater White-fronted Geese are rarely seen in the Region during the fall. But this year, individuals (max. five) were found at several Wisconsin sites, e.g. Horicon N.W.R.,

Green Bay, from late September to mid-October. Curiously, this species was almost totally absent in Wisconsin during the spring migration, when good numbers are normally seen. Snow Geese lingered at a few Wisconsin sites into December. Two **Ross' Geese** were observed in Minnesota. One was at Agassiz N.W.R., Sept. 20–Oct. 9 (JM) and the other at Rochester Oct. 29 into December (ph., JBo et al.). A flock of 29 **Brant** was observed migrating along L. Michigan at Harrington Beach S.P., Wis., by Hoffman on Oct. 10. There was the typical impressive buildup of Canada Geese in the Region, e.g. at Horicon N.W.R. Owing to the milder November weather than last autumn's, more substantial numbers (15,000–50,000) lingered at typical concentration sites into December.

There were several interesting duck concentrations this fall. For Michigan they included 5580 Green-winged Teal Oct. 21, 1870 Am. Black Ducks Sept. 24, and 25,335 Mallards Oct. 21 at Shiawassee N.W.R. (DJ); plus 3000+ Canvasbacks Nov. 21 on Hudson L., Lenawee (SSm), 2000 Redheads Oct. 11 at Nyanquing Pt., Bay (TW), 500+ Hooded Mergansers Nov. 24 also at Hudson L. (SSm), 3125 Com. Mergansers Nov. 19 at Shiawassee N.W.R. (DJ), 1000+ Red-breasted Mergansers Oct. 31 in Saginaw (CF), and 3970 Ruddy Ducks Oct. 8 at the Muskegon Wastewater System (JPo, GW). Minnesota tallied 9000 Ring-necked Ducks Oct. 20 at Agassiz N.W.R. Unusual sightings within this group included a ♂ Eur. Wigeon Nov. 7 at Horicon N.W.R. (BH) and a ♀ **King Eider** Nov. 21 at Sault Ste. Marie (RP). Harlequin Ducks were found in Minnesota with two Oct. 6 at Duluth (BE), and in Wisconsin with two at Manitowoc Oct. 14–16 (CS) and one at the unlikely spot of Goose Pond, Columbia, Nov. 7 (EH et al.). The scoter migration on the Great Lakes varied from average to below-average. There was a surprising number of inland sightings, especially in Minnesota. Maximum numbers included 20+ Blacks and Surfs and 125+ White-wingeds. Early were a Com. Goldeneye Aug. 1 at Point Mouille State Game Area, Mich. (JK), and a Bufflehead Aug. 7 at LaCrosse, Wis. (FL).

The hawk migration was again disappointing this autumn. For example, Hawk Ridge, Minn., tallied only 28,910, breaking the record low of just last year. Especially disappointing were the tallies for Broad-wingeds—12,632, Red-taileds—2060, Golden Eagles—six, and Peregrine Falcons—eleven. In the positive vein, good flights for Osprey—205, Am. Kestrel—880, and Merlin—141 (record high) were noted. In Wisconsin and Michigan the Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Kestrel, and Merlin flights were very good. On the negative side was especially the Broad-winged Hawk and to a lesser degree the Peregrine flights. Seven Golden Eagles were reported from Wisconsin, and 10 in Michigan. Interesting observations included a late Turkey Vulture at Cedar Grove Hawk Station, Wis., Nov. 5 (DB) and exceptionally tardy Ospreys there Nov. 20 (DB) and in Cook, Minn., Nov. 21 (BE). A Swainson's Hawk in Luce, Mich., Oct. 17 (DP et al.) and then Chippewa Oct. 18 (RP et al.) was unusual for the state. Minnesota recorded an impressive sight of 45 in a kettle over Wilkin Sept. 27 (S & DM). A Gyrfalcon was studied by Mattsson Oct. 27 at Agassiz N.W.R., the first Minnesota sighting in over 2 years. Most unexpected was the **Prairie Falcon** at Battle Creek Airport Aug. 16–19 (WW, RA, DP et al.). This represents Michigan's 3rd record. Expected was the Prairie Falcon that returned in November for the 6th consecutive year to its hay shed roost at Rothsay W.A., Minn. (m.ob.).

A Yellow Rail was flushed from the Kewaunee impoundment, Wis., Sept. 15 by Swengel. King Rails were observed during mid-August in Dane (SR) and Dodge (SS), Wis. Late was a Com. Moorhen Oct. 19 in Walworth, Wis. (PP). Peak Sandhill Crane numbers included 2311 Oct. 26 at Phyllis Handhule Sanctuary, Mich. (HW), and 1170 Oct. 24 at Crex Meadows W.A., Wis. (JH), where individuals lingered into December.

SHOREBIRDS — Two Lesser Golden-Plovers at Goose Pond, Wis., Nov. 8 were late (DT), but very late was the Killdeer at Duluth Nov. 30 (KE). Single Piping Plovers were found in Wisconsin Aug. 3 in Columbia (RH) and Sept. 20 at Manitowoc

(CS) There was an unusual number of Am. Avocet reports this fall. In Michigan single birds were found Aug. 8 at St. Joseph and Aug. 12 at Pentwater (PPa, MR), with two Aug. 15 at New Buffalo (WB) and in mid-September at Keweenaw Bay (JHy), with three present until Sept. 19 at Pt. Mouille S.G.A. (m.ob.). In Wisconsin one was at the Milwaukee impoundment Aug. 2 (GD) and four were in Columbia Oct. 12–18 (SR et al.) Late were a Greater Yellowlegs Nov. 4 in Chippewa, Wis. (JP) and a Lesser Yellowlegs Nov. 4 in Dane, Wis. (SR). Also tardy was a Nov. 6 Greater Yellowlegs at Grand Haven, Mich. (GW, ES). A partial albino Lesser Yellowlegs was found in Murray, Minn., Aug. 16 (m.ob.). Nine Willets were noted in Michigan, and four in Wisconsin including a late one Oct. 27 at Ashland (DV). Also late was a Spotted Sandpiper in the Saginaw Bay area until Oct. 21 (m.ob.).

All 3 states had Whimbrel sightings. Michigan's included one Aug. 30 at St. Joseph (KM) and one to two birds Sept. 5–9 at Pt. Mouille S.G.A. (m.ob.). For Wisconsin, two flew over Johnson's (RJ) home at Superior. The Oct. 16 individual at Duluth (m.ob.) represented the 2nd-latest Minnesota date. Single Hudsonian Godwits were at Cedar Grove, Wis., Aug. 22 (DB) and the Erie Power Plant, Mich., Oct. 10 (TWe). Marbled Godwits appeared at 3 Wisconsin sites, Aug. 2 at Milwaukee (GD), Aug. 12 at Horicon N.W.R. (SR, SS), and Aug. 15–18 & 21 at Superior (RJ, GD). In Michigan single birds were found Sept. 9 at Pt. Mouille S.G.A. (JK) and Warren Dunes (RS). Late was a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Milwaukee Nov. 4 (DC). About 20+ W. Sandpipers were recorded in Wisconsin Aug. 16–Oct. 25, the latter at Milwaukee (RH, SR et al.). In Michigan four were found including a very late individual Nov. 22 at the Muskegon Wastewater System (JPo et al.).

In Wisconsin there was an unusual number of White-rumped Sandpiper sightings with the latest Oct. 31 at Superior (DT, RJ). Very late was a Baird's Sandpiper Nov. 21 at the Muskegon W.S. (BB, DP). A Pectoral Sandpiper was late Nov. 16 in Chippewa, Wis. (JP). Single **Purple Sandpipers** in Wisconsin were found Oct. 14 at Sheboygan (D & MB) and Nov. 1 at Milwaukee (GD et al.). At Michigan's Quincassee State W.A., 1000 Dunlins were present Oct. 30 (RW). Some 25–30 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were recorded in Wisconsin between Aug. 1 and Sept. 5, and eight in Michigan Sept. 6–28. A Ruff was carefully studied by Janssen Aug. 1 at Minnesota's Carlos Avery W.A. No exceptional numbers of either dowitcher species were recorded. Red-necked Phalaropes were found in Michigan (20+ birds) and Wisconsin (10–15 birds).

LARIDS — Parasitic Jaegers were found in all 3 states. Individuals were present in Duluth and Superior until Oct. 24 & 29, respectively. Both are late dates. Additional Wisconsin sightings included Bayfield Aug. 3 (SS) and Ashland Oct. 3 (VA). In Michigan one was at Pt. Mouille S.G.A. Sept. 10 (m.ob.) and two at Port Huron Oct. 25 (MK). An unidentified jaeger was seen Sept. 11 at Keweenaw Bay (JC, RHe). A Laughing Gull was on L. St. Clair, Mich., Sept. 5 (MK). Three Franklin's Gulls were found in Michigan, while Wisconsin sightings were from 6 locales including 150 in Polk Sept. 26 (JHu). Little Gulls were found in all 3 states with two in Minnesota, four in Michigan, and 10–15 in Wisconsin. In the latter state they did not linger as long as usual at the typical L. Michigan sites.

Single **California Gulls** were found at Grand Marais, Mich., Oct. 17 (DP, BB) and Minneapolis Oct. 29–30 (SC). Thayer's Gulls were present in all 3 states during November. An Iceland Gull was seen Nov. 8 at St. Joseph (KM). Minnesota had only its 2nd state **Lesser Black-backed Gull** record when a 2nd-year immature was studied and photographed Nov. 28 at Grand Marais (KE, PE). Glaucous Gulls were noted in all 3 states during November. A Great Black-backed Gull was seen Nov. 21 along the Mississippi R. in Wabasha, Minn. (AMP). In Michigan sightings occurred in 7 counties, with a maximum of 1135 Nov. 21 in Monroe (TWe, MK). Michigan had two Black-legged Kittiwake sightings, Nov. 20 at Port Huron and Nov. 30 at St. Joseph (KM). A **Sabine's Gull** was on L. Lillian, Minn., Sept

12 (BL, RG). An immature was at Superior Oct 28–30 (RJ et al.) for about Wisconsin's 4th or 5th record.

At the Kewaunee impoundment, Wis., 225 Caspian Terns were counted Aug. 4 (DT). Exceptionally late were two Com. Terns at Sterling S.P., Nov. 11 (GH) and one at Erie Metropark, Mich., Nov. 21 (TWE, MK).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SHRIKES — On the Kuhn farm in Sheboygan an *ani* (sp.) followed the cows home during the late afternoon for one of Wisconsin's rare records. Also in Wisconsin two Com. Barn-Owls were heard and carefully studied at a Forest campground Aug. 10–13 (fide BR). Both Wisconsin and Michigan had a good influx of Snowy Owls commencing in late October. There were 3 N. Hawk-Owl sightings from Minnesota—Duluth, Aitkin, and Cook. Eleven Great Gray Owl reports were received from 6 n. Minnesota counties, above average. Eight Boreal Owls were banded at Hawk Ridge, tying their previous high, with the Oct. 10 bird tying the early arrival record. An additional individual was also noted in Duluth Oct. 28 (BE). The Com. Nighthawk flight was less impressive this fall with maxima of 9496 in Duluth Aug. 21 (KC) and 7500 Aug. 30 at Cedar Grove (DB). Late was a Chimney Swift in Duluth Oct. 17 (KE), but very late was one Nov. 2 at Ann Arbor (RWO).

A Red-bellied Woodpecker in Ashland, Wis., until Oct. 31 (DV) reflected the continuation of its northward expansion. A Three-toed Woodpecker was found in Cook, Minn., for the only Regional sighting. Black-backed Woodpeckers were found in 4 Wisconsin and 2 Michigan sites. Unbelievably late was a Great Crested Flycatcher Nov. 5 at Cedar Grove, Wis. (DB). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers appeared in Minnesota and Wisconsin with one Oct. 16 (CH) in Goodhue and one Oct. 17 in Ozaukee (JB), respectively. Late was a Purple Martin in Washtenaw, Mich., Oct. 3 (RWO). Tree Swallow concentrations ranged between 5000–10,000 at several Michigan and Wisconsin sites. Extremely late was one at Oconto Marsh, Wis., Nov. 21 (WM). The peak Blue Jay flight at Duluth was of 3400 Sept. 8 (PB). A Boreal Chickadee at Cedar Grove, Wis., Nov. 8 (DB) was far (!) south of its normal range. There was an encouraging number of Carolina Wren sightings this fall with no fewer than six Michigan and two Wisconsin birds. Hopefully this represents an improvement in this species' Great Lakes picture. A Golden-crowned Kinglet found in Dakota Aug. 7 (TT) represented the earliest s. Minnesota record. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher continues to spread N and W in Minnesota.

Three Townsend's Solitaires were found n. of Duluth during the latter one-half of the period. The peak Am. Robin flight was of 10,247 in Duluth Sept. 30 (MH). A Varied Thrush was in Jackson, Wis., Nov. 5 into December (TR), and one was in Macomb, Mich., Nov. 21–25 (HT). Four N. Mockingbirds were seen in Michigan. Several Brown Thrashers lingered into December in Wisconsin. The Water Pipit flight was poor this fall, but one Sept. 7 in Meeker, Minn., represented a record arrival date (SC). Bohemian Waxwings arrived early in the Region as evidenced by the record arrival dates of Sept. 12 at Copper Harbor and Sept. 22 at Duluth (PB, BE). Good numbers were found in the n. areas during November. Northern Shrikes appeared earlier than usual with below-average numbers noted. There were six Minnesota and one Wisconsin Loggerhead Shrike reports.

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — There was an unusual number of White-eyed Vireo sightings this fall. Michigan had six birds with the latest Oct. 24 at Mud L., Berrien (KM). Wisconsin had two birds, the latest Oct. 25 in Ozaukee (SR, RH et al.) The only Bell's Vireo sighting was of one Aug. 6 in Trempealeau, Wis. (FL). Late vireo sightings included a Solitary at Duluth Oct. 27 (BE) and a Philadelphia there Oct. 18 (PE).

There were several late/interesting warbler records during the period. They included a Nashville Warbler at New Buffalo, Mich., Nov. 14 (DP), Cape May at Duluth Nov. 13 (BE), and N. Waterthrush in Dakota, Minn., Oct. 24 (TT). Hard to explain was the Yellow-throated Warbler that appeared Sept. 18 at

Grass L., Jackson, Mich., and remained into December (DBr)! Other interesting observations included a ♂ Kentucky Warbler at Minneapolis Oct. 6 (SC), representing only Minnesota's 2nd fall record, and a Prairie Warbler at Muskegon S.P. Sept. 3 with another in St. Clair, Mich., Oct. 4 (RE). A ♀ Hooded Warbler was at Metrobeach Sept. 23 (DL) and one was banded at the Kalamazoo Nature Center (MC, DE). A Yellow-breasted Chat was found in Madison, Wis., Sept. 3 (EH). Other late sightings included a Pine Warbler at a Bay, Mich., feeder Nov. 27 (GP, EP) and a Connecticut Warbler at Minneapolis Oct. 14 (SC).

The summering *Hillsdale*, Mich., Summer Tanager was last seen Aug. 5 (JR). Most unusual was one that appeared at Port Huron Nov. 30+ (VM)! Very late Scarlet Tanagers were found in Minnesota—Nov. 11 in Cook (K & MH), and Wisconsin—Nov. 18 at Cedar Grove, Sheboygan (DB). The ♂ N. Cardinal at Bay Mills, Mich., Nov. 22 (LD) was n. of its usual range. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was found Sept. 23 in Waukesha, Wis. (VA). Dickcissels were still found during early August at 2 Wisconsin locales. Very late was a Nov. 8 Savannah Sparrow at Duluth (BE). At Milwaukee's impoundment Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found Sept. 20 (three) & 26 (one) and Oct. 24 (two) (GD, DW et al.). The Harris' Sparrow migration was considerably above normal in Wisconsin and Michigan, a pleasant contrast to last autumn. A Dark-eyed Junco August 3 in Anoka, Minn. (SC) set a record-early arrival date for that part of the state. Swengel had a leisurely study of a **Smith's Longspur** along the Bayfield beach Oct. 1. This represented one of the few records for Wisconsin. An out-of-range bird was seen Sept. 19 in Cook, Minn. (RG).

And yet another poor finch flight this autumn portended another bleak finch winter. When, oh, when will the Region finally see an adequate finch migration? The last was in 1982 Pine Grosbeaks were scarce, with only a few in the n. counties, the exceptions being birds in Anoka and Le Sueur, Minn. Purple Finches were scarce Regionally. Both Red and White-winged crossbills were present in better numbers. Of note was a White-winged family group of four, including a fledged juvenile being fed by the adults, Aug. 31 in Itasca (TT). Minnesota has no confirmed breeding records. Common Redpolls were scarce in both Wisconsin and Minnesota with better numbers (100–300 in flocks) found in Michigan. Evening Grosbeaks were found in fair numbers Regionally but few were lingering at the period's conclusion, a discouraging sign. The only three finches present in good numbers included House Finch (of course), Pine Siskin, and Am. Goldfinch. The House Finch continues to expand rapidly in Michigan and Wisconsin, with sightings in the latter now as far n. as Appleton and Shawano. It is just commencing to make inroads into Minnesota. Hundreds to thousands of Pine Siskins were found in several localized n. Wisconsin sites during November. Of special interest was a probable female or imm. ♂ Cassin's Finch Nov. 11–12 at Kienholz's feeder at Duluth. If the photographs and notes substantiate the initial identification it would represent Minnesota's first record.

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MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

Despite above-normal temperatures during all months except October, this fall's songbird migration was definitely early. Large numbers of migrant warblers, vireos, and flycatchers were evident by late August, while Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped Warblers, White-throated Sparrows, and other later migrants had returned by early September. These migrants did not linger and little migration was evident after early November. The combination of an early migration with favorable weather conditions did not produce any sizable flights or groundings, causing most observers to lament about the shortage of many species.

These above-normal temperatures were associated with below-normal precipitation, approaching drought conditions in several eastern states. The shortage of rainfall produced extensive mudflats in these states, but unusual shorebird concentrations appeared only in Illinois. Waterfowl populations remained low but other waterbirds were detected in expected numbers. As the season ended, above-normal temperatures and lack of any winter storms kept most water open and allowed a variety of waterbirds to remain in many areas.

For most observers, the season amounted to another dull migration with few rarities and low numbers of many expected species. A few rarities, such as Arctic Tern, Ancient Murrelet, Groove-billed Anis, and Rufous Hummingbirds, produced local excitement. Since very few northern species staged a noticeable incursion, the prospects for an interesting winter appeared dim.

ABBREVIATIONS — Spfld. = Springfield, Ill.; O.W.R. = Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O.; Say. Res. = Saylorville Reservoir, Ia.; L.C.W.R. = Lake Chautauqua Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Ill. *Italicized* place names are counties.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — The Red-throated Loon flight was fairly typical for recent years, with one Indiana, one Illinois, and 5 Ohio sightings, Oct. 28–Nov. 15. A Pacific Loon at L. Gage, Ind., Oct. 22–26 (†Haw, m.ob.) plus one or two near Big Lake S.P., Mo., Nov. 11–23 (BRo, DE, m.ob.) appeared in states where there had been relatively few previous records. In Illinois, where they have been reported annually since 1984, a single Pacific Loon was noted at Carlyle L., Nov. 6–26 (†RG, m.ob.). Early Com. Loons returned to Longview L., Mo., Sept. 9 (KBr) and Kentucky L., Ky., Sept. 10 (CP). Fall migrants were most numerous along L. Erie where as many as 100–200+ were regularly encountered Oct. 15–Nov. 10. Elsewhere their numbers were not impressive, with maxima of 47–52 in Iowa and Indiana plus 100 in s.w. Ohio and s. Illinois.

Pied-billed Grebes passed through most states in comparable numbers to those of 1986, with peaks of 295 at Montrose, Ia., Oct. 11 (RC), 155–161 at 2 Illinois locations, and 109 in Kentucky. Single Horned Grebes at Oakland, Ia., Aug. 16 (SD) and L. Waveland, Ind., Aug. 24 (AB) were quite early, but presaged an unimpressive fall movement. Sizable flocks appeared only in Indiana with 249 at Miller Beach Oct. 30 (KB) and 200 in Gibson Nov. 29 (DJ). After last year's influx, Red-necked Grebes returned to normal with single grebes in Ohio, Iowa, Indiana,



and 4 Illinois lakes, Oct. 18–Nov. 15. One at Carlyle L., Oct. 25 was unusual in s. Illinois (SR). Few Eared Grebes were detected in the w. states. Good numbers passed e. of the Mississippi R. including 2 Ohio, 4 Indiana, and 8 Illinois sightings, with maxima of three to five grebes. The earliest migrants returned to Illinois and Indiana Aug. 29–Sept. 5. Four W. Grebe reports from Iowa included an impressive 16 at Say. Res., Oct. 27 (SD). The only documented Illinois report was Nov. 12 and later at Carlyle L., where an unprecedented four Westerns and three additional *Aechmophorus* grebes were counted Dec. 5 (†RG, m.ob.). In n.w. Indiana, singles appeared along L. Michigan Nov. 1 & 13 (fide KB).

Miles from any sizable body of water, a first-year **Northern Gannet** discovered migrating S along I-65 in Simpson, Ky., Nov. 29 must have astonished the observer (†MB). The gannet was observed for nearly 20 minutes and was last seen flying into Tennessee. It provided Kentucky's 2nd record. Normal numbers of Am. White Pelicans moved through Iowa and Missouri



Eared Grebe at Fairport Harbor, Ohio, Nov. 22, 1987. Photo/Larry Rosche.

with several concentrations of 200–1150. Two Illinois reports included 31 pelicans at Mark Twain N W R during late September (HW). Farther e., single pelicans were detected at L. Cumberland, Ky., Oct. 24 (fide JEL), Long L., Ind., Oct. 29–Nov. 4 (BS, HR, m.ob.), and East Fork Res., O., Nov. 13–18 (MK, WR). Double-crested Cormorants appeared in the good numbers expected during recent years with maxima of 2000 at Carlyle L., Ill., Oct. 13 (LHa), 1400 at Say. Res., Oct. 14 (SD), and 1000 at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., Oct. 20 (KM). Concentrations of 150–500 cormorants were noted at 6 additional Illinois sites, while 95 at C. J. Brown Res., Oct. 11 were unusual for the interior of Ohio (CM, C & BB).

Fewer bitterns were reported this autumn. Ten Am. Bittern records included an impressive 15 at Big Wall L., Ia., Sept. 19 and a late bittern at Forney L., Ia., Nov. 21 (SD). Eleven Least Bittern sightings included a rather late individual at Springville Marsh, O., Oct. 25 (TB). Great Blue Herons were only locally abundant with a maximum of 900 at L.C.W.R., Aug. 8 (RP). Illinois also hosted the largest Great Egret concentrations with 600 at L.C.W.R., Sept. 2 and 400 at Rice Lake Conservation Area Sept. 29 (KR). Late migrants appeared along the Cuyahoga R., O., Nov. 27 (WH) and at Pekin, Ill., Dec. 1 (KR). Snowy Egrets continued their gradual improvement with at least 14 reports from all states except Indiana, including flocks of 50 at Horseshoe L., Ill., Aug. 23 (RG), 19 at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., Aug. 2 (SD, BB), and 18 at Ballard W.M.A., Ky., Aug. 29 (BP), plus a late migrant at Rathbun Res., Ia., Oct. 18 (RCu). Little Blue Herons were numerous only near the Mississippi R. with a maximum of 60 in w. Kentucky and 100 in s. Illinois. Elsewhere, scattered sightings included 50 at L. Shelbyville, Ill., Aug. 1 (RCh), five to 13 in s.w. Iowa, and seven in w. Indiana. A Tricolored Heron was unexpected in n.e. Ohio at Headlands S P., Aug. 9 (TK, J, MG), while the one at L. Calumet, Ill., was last observed Sept. 5.

Away from their nesting colonies, Cattle Egrets were surprisingly scarce, and the largest reported flocks only totalled 24–25 along L. Erie and in w. Kentucky. The latest egret remained in Illinois through Nov. 15. Fewer Green-backed Herons were reported as they continue to decline within the Region. The largest concentrations were of only 20 in Missouri and Illinois; one lingered at Berea, O., through Nov. 9 (RHa). No sizable flocks of Black-crowned Night-Herons were encountered although the expected small numbers remained at scattered localities through late November. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were noted at only 15 locations in all states including 18 at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., Aug. 2 (SD, BB), and one lingering at L. Calumet, Ill., through Nov. 1 (CMo). An ad. White-faced Ibis stopped briefly at Say. Res., Aug. 8 (†SD) while unidentified *Plegadis* ibises appeared at single locations in Iowa, Indiana, and Illinois, Sept. 13–Oct. 24.

WATERFOWL — As expected, the Tundra Swan migration produced scattered flights across the n. states during November. These flights included large movements across n. Ohio Nov. 10 & 18, 150 at Pigeon River W.M.A., Ind., Nov. 12 (fide Haw), 300–500 in Allamakee, Ia., Nov. 21–22 (MP, BPr, FLe), and 100 at Savanna, Ill., Dec. 2 (BSh). Single swans and small flocks appeared elsewhere in these states with a maximum of 50 in c. Ohio; none was detected in Kentucky or Missouri. A good fall flight of Greater White-fronted Geese passed through Illinois with sightings at 7 locations and a maximum of 53 in Will Oct. 16 (JM). One wandered E to O.W.R. during November. An early Ross' Goose returned to Rice L., Ia., Oct. 4 (JHa, RHw). The only extralimital Ross' Goose was discovered at Spfld., Nov. 24 (†H), although they have almost attained rare-but-regular status in Illinois. A Brant was captured at Red Rock Res., Oct. 4 and released the next day (†JD), providing one of few recent records for Iowa. A casual visitor to Illinois, another Brant appeared at Spfld., Oct. 7–25 (†H). The species was scarce along L. Erie with only one report of three Brant Nov. 21.

The duck migration was generally dismal in most areas, reflecting their relatively low continental populations. Fifty Wood Ducks represented an unusually large flock at Louisville on

the late date of Nov. 28 (JK). In Illinois, large numbers of waterfowl at Rice L. Conservation Area included 3500 Green-winged Teal, 1000 N. Pintail, and 1000 N. Shovelers Oct. 17 (RP). Cinnamon Teal are known mostly as spring migrants in this Region, and there are very few confirmed fall sightings. Hence, a closely-studied pair at Hartford Sept. 18 was unexpected, and provided only the 2nd recent fall record from Illinois (†RG). For the 2nd consecutive autumn, a ♂ Eur. Wigeon returned to Cook, Ill., Sept. 22+ (CMo, m.ob.). Other noteworthy waterfowl concentrations during a lackluster year included 2500 Am. Wigeon at Montrose, Ia., Oct. 11 and 9000 Canvasback there Oct. 6 (RC), plus 5000 Lesser Scaup at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., Oct. 27 (KM).

King Eiders were restricted to the Great Lakes with one at Michigan City, Ind., Oct. 29–Nov. 5 (LH, m.ob.), and two at Vermilion, O., Nov. 21 (J). Oldsquaws were generally scarce except for 101 at Wilmette, Ill., Nov. 8 (JL); inland Oldsquaws were encountered only at single locations in Ohio and Iowa, and 3 in Illinois. The scoter flight was fairly typical for recent autumns. In Iowa, increased coverage of large reservoirs is producing annual sightings of all three species, a pattern evident in other n. states for the previous 10 years. Black Scoters were rather scarce along both Great Lakes where five to 10 made up the largest flocks. As many as six Blacks were detected at 8 inland sites scattered across the n. states. Surf Scoters staged a remarkable flight past Beverly Shores, Ind., Oct. 11, when 178 were tallied (KB). This movement was not detected elsewhere. Groups of one to six Surfs appeared at 18 inland sites in all states except Kentucky. Casual migrants through w. Missouri, four or five Surfs were noteworthy at L. Jacomo Oct. 29 (TS). The Surf Scoters at Beverly Shores, Ind., Oct. 11 were also accompanied by 46 White-wingeds (KB). Small numbers of White-winged Scoters were noted elsewhere on the Great Lakes. Twenty inland reports from all states except Kentucky included a remarkable 29 at Say. Res., Oct. 28 (SD). An early Bufflehead returned to Big Creek L., Ia., Oct. 7 (MP, BPr). Concentrations of 100–200 Hooded Mergansers were reported from most states but were dwarfed by an exceptional 890 at Barkley L., Ky., Nov. 29 (BP). Ruddy Ducks at Champaign, Ill., Aug. 22 (RCh) and Kentucky L., Ky., Sept. 4 (CP) were thought to be early migrants.

HAWKS THROUGH CRANES — Unfortunately, last year's impressive hawk movements were not repeated this autumn. With better coverage, Black Vultures have been found to be fairly numerous in s.w. Missouri, where 23 were counted in roosts in Taney Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (PM et al.). A total of 728 Turkey Vultures was also tallied at the Taney, Mo., roosts (PM et al.), but only smaller concentrations were noted in the other states. Ospreys were widely reported and the largest flights totalled six to 14 individuals. Migrant Mississippi Kites were observed from the St. Louis area s. along the Mississippi R during August with a maximum of 14 near Big Oak Tree S.P., Mo., Aug. 14 (BR). Bald Eagles were noted in comparable numbers to those of 1986, while N. Harriers were decidedly scarce. No Accipiter movements were reported although Cooper's Hawks were widespread in generally improved numbers. It was definitely not a flight year for N. Goshawks with only 5 acceptable records from Illinois and Iowa.

Broad-winged Hawks staged a respectable movement Sept. 19–23 with the largest concentrations consisting of 2000 at Will, Ill., Sept. 21–22 (JM) and Rend L., Ill., Sept. 23 (TF), 1000 at Tyson, Mo., Sept. 19 (SR), and 500+ in the Cincinnati area Sept. 22 & 23 (JE, KF). Unusually late were a flock of 100 Broad-wingeds near Cincinnati Oct. 24 (BM) and one in DuPage, Ill., Nov. 7 (JL). Small numbers of migrant Swainson's Hawks were restricted to the w. states, where the species remained at George Wyth S.P., Ia., as late as Oct. 29 (FM). The earliest Rough-legged Hawk returned to Illinois Sept. 27 but only small numbers appeared by late November. An ad. Golden Eagle was unusually early at L. Calumet, Ill., Aug. 15 (JL). Six additional sightings from Iowa, Ohio, Illinois, and Missouri were

normal for recent years. Merlins were reported in slightly reduced numbers from last year and no flights were encountered. As has been the trend for several years, Peregrine Falcons continued their gradual improvement. They were most numerous along L. Michigan where many reports included a maximum of five in n.w. Indiana Oct. 3. A gray-phase Gyrfalcon graced Spfld., Oct. 20–24, to the delight of the multitudes observing this magnificent raptor (†H, m.ob.). It provided the 3rd local record, and upstaged the only Prairie Falcon, observed at the same location Nov. 9 (†H).

Rails passed through most states in expected numbers. The elusive Yellow Rail was recorded in Champaign, Ill., Sept. 9 (†JSm) and near Dayton, O., Sept. 23 (†DN), and a specimen was obtained at Cherokee, Ia., Oct. 20 (DBi). King Rails were limited to single reports from Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. Only Soras appeared in sizable concentrations, with 50+ at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo., Sept. 13–16 (KM) and large numbers at Big Wall L., Ia., Sept. 13, plus 2 November records in Iowa through Nov. 22 at Forney L. (SD, BB). Common Moorhens peaked with 25 in n. Illinois, and Am. Coots returned in generally reduced numbers, except in Iowa where 10,000–15,000 congregated at 2 locations.

Their traditional staging grounds, Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., Ind., hosted 12,500 Sandhill Cranes Oct. 17 (CK). Migrant cranes were scarcely detected elsewhere in Indiana and Kentucky, but several flocks of 75–100+ passed over n. Illinois, and 2 Ohio reports during November included 70 in Adams (BLU). Extralimital reports were limited to three at Rend L., Ill., Nov. 28 (TF), two in Polk, Ia., Nov. 1 (SD), and a pair at Ballard W.M.A., Ky. (no date provided—CW).

SHOREBIRDS — The shorebird migration was generally disappointing except at a few localities in c. Illinois. Lesser Golden-Plovers peaked with flocks of 114–273 in Indiana and Illinois, and the latest migrant remained at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., Nov. 21 (KM). A flock of 45 Semipalmated Plovers was unusually late at Spring Valley W.M.A., O., Oct. 25 (JS *et al.*), and one bird at Gibson, Ind., Nov. 1 was also tardy (DJ). Piping Plovers remained unchanged with only 8 reports, from all states except Kentucky. Fewer Am. Avocets were detected with sightings from 10 locations in all states through Nov. 5 in Iowa. Largest flocks comprised 17 at Say. Res., Nov. 5 (JSi, SD), 12 at Rice Lake Conservation Area, Ill., Aug. 15 (KR), and eight at Louisville Sept. 12 (LRa).

A late Greater Yellowlegs remained at Joliet, Ill., Dec. 5 (JM), while Lessers peaked with an estimated 15,000 at Rice Lake Conservation Area, Ill., Aug. 4 (KR). The Willet flight was mediocre, with 11 sightings from all states except Kentucky and a maximum of nine along L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana. As expected, most Whimbrels appeared along the Great Lakes, especially L. Michigan where nine gathered at Illinois Beach S.P., Ill., Sept. 1 (JL) and a very late Whimbrel remained at Miller Beach, Ind., Oct. 4–Nov. 22 (KB). Unusual away from the Great Lakes, a Whimbrel was discovered at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., Aug. 1–2 (†SD, RS). It was also a poor year for godwits. Hudsonians appeared only as singles or pairs along L. Erie. Inland Hudsonians were unexpected at Gibson, Ind., Aug. 23 (DJ) and Rend L., Ill., Oct. 23 (TF); they were also discovered at one Iowa site and 2 other Illinois sites through Nov. 10 at Pekin, Ill. (KR). Marbled Godwits were restricted to ones and twos scattered along both Great Lakes and at 2 inland Illinois locations.

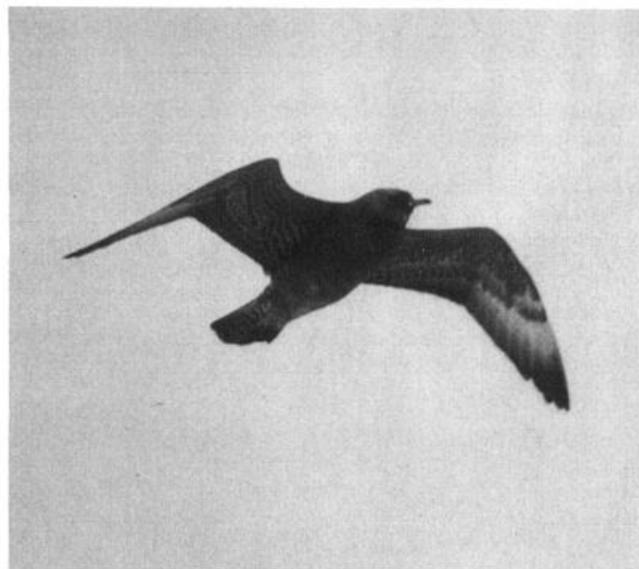
Groups of only one to five Red Knots were infrequently encountered along both Great Lakes, while inland records were limited to one to three at single sites in Ohio and Illinois. A flock of 28 Sanderlings in Carlisle Sept. 20 was unusual for Kentucky (BP) and they remained through Nov. 11 in s.w. Ohio. An exceptional 2000 Semipalmated Sandpipers massed at L.C.W.R., Aug. 2 (KR). The largest flocks of W. Sandpipers totalled 30+ at L. St. Mary's, O., Aug. 15 (C & LC), 25 in Gibson, Ind., Aug. 23 (DJ), and 19 in Madison, Ill., Aug. 28 (RG). Typically late migrants, single Westerns remained through Nov. 15 in Gibson, Ind. (DJ) and Nov. 22 at Kentucky L., Ky. (CP).

Late Least Sandpipers lingered in Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana through late November, with 50 still at Rend L., Ill., Nov. 29 (TF). An average flight of Baird's Sandpipers included maxima of 14–19 in Illinois and a late migrant at C. J. Brown Res., O., Nov. 29 (†DO). An unprecedented 20,000 Pectoral Sandpipers were estimated at Rice L. Conservation Area, Ill., Aug. 4 (KR). Late migrants remained until Nov. 20–21 in Ohio and Nov. 29 at Big Creek L., Ia. (SD). Purple Sandpipers were scarce along the Great Lakes with only one report from Ohio. Normal numbers of Dunlin included 285 in Lucas, O., on the late date of Nov. 20 (ET).

Stilt Sandpipers peaked with 400 at L.C.W.R., Aug. 2 (KR) and flocks of 25–58 at other localities in Illinois and Indiana. An incredible 257 Buff-breasted Sandpipers congregated at Riverton W.M.A., Ia., Aug. 2 (SD, BB). They were scarce in the other states, except in Illinois, where scattered sightings included several flocks of nine to 12. Long-billed Dowitchers were locally numerous with 200+ along w. Lake Erie, at Rice L. Conservation Area, Ill., Oct. 20 (KR), and 55 at L. Calumet, Ill., Oct. 4 (JL). Other reports included late migrants in Iowa Nov. 13–19. Sizable concentrations of Com. Snipe totalled 150–200 in Ohio and Illinois. Two late Am. Woodcock lingered at Cincinnati Nov. 30+ (W). Wilson's Phalaropes were unusually scarce with a maximum of 13 in c. Illinois; two exceptionally late Wilson's were discovered in Lucas, O., Nov. 20 (†ET). Red-necked Phalaropes were rather scarce except in Illinois, mostly observed as singles with a maximum of nine in Iowa. Red Phalaropes staged a good flight along L. Erie where one to two were detected at 7 locations Sept. 13+. An early Red also appeared at L. Calumet, Ill., Sept. 8 (JL—ph.). The only inland Reds were noted in Indiana with singles in Gibson Oct. 18 (D)—ph.) and Brookville Res., Oct. 31 (DS *et al.*).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Fewer jaegers were detected, especially along L. Michigan where fall migrants have been fairly prominent during recent years. The only Pomarine Jaeger was photographed at Miller Beach, Ind., Nov. 10 (BS, †KB *et al.*). Parasitics were acceptably identified only along the Great Lakes, with one at Chicago Sept. 19–20 (JL) and two adults at Huron, O., Oct. 3 (MG, †J *et al.*). Unidentified jaegers appeared at single inland lakes in Missouri, Ohio, Iowa, and Illinois, plus on 4 dates along L. Michigan.

Laughing Gulls returned to their expected low numbers after influxes the previous 2 autumns. There were only single sightings along both Great Lakes as well as inland reports of one to two at one Kentucky, 3 Ohio, and 3 Illinois locations. Franklin's Gulls were also observed in reduced numbers, attaining peaks



Juvenile Pomarine Jaeger at Miller Beach, Ind., Nov. 10, 1987
Photo/K. Brock.

of 6500 at Say. Res., Oct. 1 (SD, BB) and 675 at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo., Oct. 13 (KM). Farther e., largest flocks consisted of 33 in Illinois and nine to 10 in Ohio and Indiana. Little Gulls were quite scarce along the Great Lakes where the only one noted was at Miller Beach, Ind., Nov. 10 (KB, CF). Accidental inland, one appeared at Carlyle L., Ill., Oct. 23–30 (†RG, m.ob.), while another **Little Gull** at Thomas Hill Res., Mo., Nov. 1 provided Missouri's 3rd record (†BG, IA). The expected large concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls never materialized along L. Erie but unexpected numbers appeared elsewhere. Flocks of 772 Bonaparte's at Gibson, Ind., Nov. 27 (DJ), 572 at Say. Res., Nov. 2 (SD), and 350+ at Thomas Hill Res., Mo., during November (BG, IA) were exceptional for those states. Smaller flocks were widely noted. Indiana's first **Mew Gull** record was established by an adult at Michigan City Nov. 24 (†KB *et al.*). An estimated 20,000 Ring-billed Gulls in Seneca during late September constituted a remarkable inland concentration in Ohio (TB). A **California Gull** was photographed at Gibson Oct. 9–10, establishing Indiana's 3rd record of an increasingly regular visitor to this Region (†DJ).

At least five different Thayer's Gulls were discovered in the Chicago area Nov. 5+ but the only additional sighting was of one in Gibson, Ind., Nov. 1+ (DJ). The earliest Lesser Black-backed Gull returned to Headlands S.P., O., Sept. 21 (LR) and the expected small numbers were scattered along L. Erie into December. Inland Lesser Black-backed appeared at Spfld., Nov. 16 (†H) and Gibson, Ind., Nov. 27 (DJ). A few Glaucous Gulls returned to the Great Lakes Nov. 20+. Expected numbers of Great Black-backed Gulls were observed along the Great Lakes. Inland sightings included an adult at Rice L. Conservation Area, Ill., on the surprising dates of Aug. 22–26 (†JW, m.ob.) plus an immature at Say. Res., Nov. 7 (†SD). Black-legged Kittiwakes were scarce with only one report from L. Michigan and inland singles at Say. Res., Oct. 25–Nov. 2 (†SD, PMA *et al.*) and Spfld., Nov. 9 (H). Sabine's Gulls staged another good flight, highlighted by four at Vermilion, O., and three at Cleveland on Oct. 3 (m.ob.). Another appeared along L. Erie Oct. 25, and inland singles were detected at Horseshoe L., Ill., Sept. 19 (†RG *et al.*), Rice L. Conservation Area, Ill., Oct. 4 (†KR *et al.*), Deer Creek Res., O., Oct. 11–12 (†J, MG), Mark Twain N.W.R., Ill., Oct. 27 (SR *et al.*), and Brookville Res., Ind., Oct. 30 (DS *et al.*).

Caspian Terns have remained fairly stable in most states; this fall's migration produced concentrations of 335 at Waukegan, Ill., Sept. 4 (EW), 134 at Say. Res., Oct. 11 (SD, AF), and 50–105 at scattered sites elsewhere in the n. states. The plight of Com. Terns continues to worsen, and the largest flocks totalled only 250–600 along both Great Lakes. One of the most surprising sightings of the season, an ad. **Arctic Tern** was discovered at Gibson Aug. 20 (†DJ, †GB *et al.*). Photographs clearly established the bird's identity, providing Indiana's first confirmed sighting. Unlike Com. Terns, Forster's Terns are remaining stable if not increasing in the e. states. They were widely reported this year with a maximum of 400 along w. Lake Erie. Least Terns were most numerous near the Mississippi R. in w. Kentucky with 17 at Ballard W.M.A., Aug. 3 (JEL) and 14 in Fulton Aug. 11 (CP), and the breeding terns at Gibson, Ind., were last noted Aug. 21 (DJ). Extralimital Leasts appeared at Hoover Res., O., Aug. 31 (†J, MG), Louisville Sept. 1 (LRa), and L. Decatur, Ill., Sept. 27 (†MD). Migrant Black Terns were numerous only in Indiana with 455 at Michigan City Aug. 21 (KB) and 140 in Gibson Aug. 20 (DJ). Except for 174 at Keokuk, Ia., Aug. 18 (RC), largest flocks in the other states comprised only 20–40 terns. Another **Ancient Murrelet** visited the Region. This individual was carefully studied at Crystal L., Ia., Oct. 28 (†JHa), establishing the first record for Iowa.

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Continuing a trend of the previous few years, both cuckoos were reported in relatively low numbers. **Groove-billed Ani** appeared in the Region for the first time since 1983. A cooperative ani remained at Krumm W.M.A., Oct. 19–Nov. 25 (†DK, m.ob.), providing Iowa's first confirmed record. Another ani was captured

at Galesburg, Ill., Sept. 28 (†BSt). Normal numbers for recent years, the 5 Com. Barn-Owl reports from Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois included a nest at Red Oak, Ia. (E & EA *et al.*). Promising numbers of Snowy Owls appeared during November with 10 sightings in Iowa, 7 in Ohio, as many as three at 4 Illinois sites, and 3 reports from Indiana. Most remained along the n. boundary of the Region at the end of the month, although one had wandered to Florence, Ky., by Nov. 10 (LM *et al.*). The nesting Burrowing Owls at Mason City, Ia., were last observed Aug. 23 (MP, BPr, JD). An accidental visitor to Indiana, a **Burrowing Owl** was discovered at the U.P.S. facility in Indianapolis Oct. 3 (†KW, JB). It was presumed to be a wild bird despite rumors that U.P.S. may be using these owls as part of an underground network for overnight deliveries. The other migrant owls were rather scarce with only 4 reports of Long-eareds, 5 of Short-eareds, and 6 of N. Saw-whets, all from the n. states except for one N. Saw-whet Owl in n.w. Missouri. Common Nighthawks were generally observed in reduced numbers from last year, although 2000 passed through Will, Ill., Aug. 28 (JM). Late migrants remained at Cleveland Oct. 25 (RHa) and in Farmington, Mo., where three were observed Nov. 14 (SDi). The last Chuck-will's-widows departed from Kentucky and Illinois Sept. 13–16.

Chimney Swifts were well reported including Iowa roosts of 3800 at Fairfield (DP) and 6000 at Ames (PMA). They remained fairly late in most states with the latest swifts in Franklin, Ky., Oct. 31 (*fide* BP). Encouraging numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were noted in several states with peaks of 40 at Middlefork W.M.A., Ill., Sept. 7 (RCh) and 30 at Land between the Lakes, Ky., Aug. 4 (JEL). It was also a good year for **Rufous Hummingbirds** with 4 records, thankfully all of identifiable ad. males. In Iowa, a male returned July 29–Aug. 3 to the St. Olaf feeder where the state's first record was established last year (LS). Another Rufous was photographed at Clear L., Aug. 18 (RA). In Ohio, a Rufous delighted birders in Delightful, O., Aug. 23–28 (RHo, †m.ob.) and one appeared in Parma Nov. 8–10 (MC, †m.ob.). Migrant woodpeckers were generally observed in reduced numbers, especially Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, which were surprisingly scarce. Maximum counts of four to 10 sapsuckers appeared at only a few localities.

Flycatchers elicited few comments during an unremarkable migration. An E. Wood-Pewee at Spring Valley W.M.A., O., Oct. 24 was rather late (LG), but a November report from Missouri lacked details to eliminate all similar species. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers lingered in Illinois through Oct. 2–3 while an exceptionally late Least Flycatcher was discovered near Spfld., Oct. 26–Nov. 3 (†H). This individual was carefully studied and its identification was based on plumage characters as well as call notes. Extralimital W. Kingbirds were singles in Macoupin, Ill., Aug. 30 (†DC) and at Headlands S.P., O., Sept. 20 (†RHa). Fewer E. Kingbirds are detected each fall as this species continues its gradual decline. Largest reported concentrations totalled only 20–22 in Ohio. The only extralimital Scissor-tailed Flycatcher appeared in Wayne Aug. 16, providing Ohio's first record since 1970 (†CH).

The swallow migration was representative of recent years. Few Purple Martin roosts remain; the only reported concentrations consisted of 3000–5165 in the Chicago area (JL, EW) and 3000+ at W. Carrollton, O., July 28 (CM). Tree Swallow flocks of 60,000 at L.C.W.R., Sept. 18 (KR) and 10,000 in Gibson, Ind., Oct. 4 (DJ) dwarfed the concentrations reported in the other states. A late migrant remained in s.w. Ohio through Nov. 28. The largest N. Rough-winged Swallow flock consisted of 1000 in Gibson, Ind., Sept. 27 (DJ), while one in Sioux City, Ia., Oct. 25 was late (BLi). Bank Swallows peaked with 1500 in s.w. Indiana, a relatively small number when compared with the large flocks reported 20+ years ago. A flock of 250 Cliff Swallows in Fulton Aug. 29 represented a large number for Kentucky (BP *et al.*). The only sizable Barn Swallow congregation was of 3000 at L.C.W.R., Aug. 26 (RP). Small numbers remained through Nov. 7–8 in most states and until Nov. 18 at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo. (KM), plus Nov. 21 at Red Rock Res., Ia. (FM, T *et al.*).

CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Fish Crows summered at Ted Shanks W.M.A., Mo., where 12 remained Aug 17 (KM) A Red-breasted Nuthatch at Champaign, Ill., Aug. 23 (RCh) presaged a rather poor flight although small concentrations did develop at a few localities. Brown Creepers were rather scarce in all states except locally in Illinois. The wren migration was unremarkable. Winter Wrens were scarce except along the Great Lakes where peaks of 11–33 were encountered. The expected small numbers of Sedge Wrens were scattered across all states with maxima of 10–13 in Illinois. Unusual in Kentucky, one was discovered in Hopkins Aug. 25 (JH). Both kinglets returned in reduced numbers. The only sizable Golden-crowned Kinglet movements were noticeable in the Chicago area, where 128–150+ were noted Sept. 24–Oct. 2. Ruby-crowneds peaked with only 35+ along the Great Lakes, while 44 at Brickyard W.M.A., Oct. 6 constituted a good number for Missouri (MR). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher lingered at Headlands S.P., O., until the late date of Nov. 3 (LR).

The thrush migration was poor, with very few observed on the ground, and small numbers passing overhead at night. Only Hermit Thrushes approached respectable numbers with flights of 41 along L. Erie and 125 at Chicago Sept. 30 (JL). A late Wood Thrush remained in Dayton, O., Nov. 9–14 (DM). Mimids elicited few comments although 40 Brown Thrashers in Madison, Ill., Sept. 18 made a noteworthy fall concentration (RG). Water Pipits were rather scarce in most states. A Sprague's Pipit was located Oct. 7 in Holt, Mo., where they are casual migrants (MR). Good numbers of Cedar Waxwings appeared through October although their numbers were noticeably diminished by late November. Northern Shrikes were most evident in Iowa with 9 reports beginning Oct. 18. Smaller numbers appeared in the other n. states with 2–3 sightings in each during November. As usual, few Loggerhead Shrikes were detected anywhere during autumn.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — As has been true for the past several years, the vireo and warbler migration was well underway by late August. In fact, the largest reported movements were mostly prior to Sept. 10 with only scattered flights later in the month. Numbers were generally unremarkable, perhaps reflecting an early migration that many observers may have missed as well as weather conditions not conducive for the formation of large flights. Unusually early migrants and late stragglers were observed in their expected small numbers and provided the bulk of the reports for both groups.

A late White-eyed Vireo remained at Headlands S.P., O., Nov. 1 (J, MG), while a Solitary Vireo returning to St. Joseph, Mo., Aug. 31 was rather early (FL). Other late vireos included a Yellow-throated at Huntington, Ind., Oct. 20 (BMc) plus Red-eyes at Toledo, O., Oct. 25 (ET) and Indiana Dunes S.P., Ind., Nov. 12 (FK).

The few Golden-winged Warbler reports included an exceptionally late individual in Lucas, O., Nov. 21 (†TKe). A Tennessee Warbler was also late at Headlands S.P., O., Nov. 1 (J, MG). Fairly good numbers of Orange-crowned Warblers peaked with 29 at Brickyard W.M.A., Mo., Oct. 6 (MR). A N. Parula at Maumee, O., Oct. 16 (ET) was fairly late, but a Yellow Warbler at Headlands S.P., O., Nov. 1 (J, MG) was quite unexpected. Magnolia Warblers peaked with 50 at Chicago Sept. 7 (CMo) and Cape Mays staged another good flight along the Great Lakes. Unusual in Iowa, 8 reports of Cape Mays included a maximum of nine at Ames Aug. 23 (SD, PMa) plus migrants at Davenport through Oct. 24 (BBl, *vide* P). Another late Cape May was detected at Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., Ind., Oct. 31 (Haw *et al.*). Equally unusual in the w. states, Black-throated Blue Warblers appeared at 6 Iowa locations as late as Oct. 31 at Fairfield (DP). The only Missouri sighting was at St. Louis Sept. 26 (MRi, DB *et al.*). A Black-throated Blue at Champaign, Ill., Nov. 14 was very late (†RCh).

Indicative of the early migration, Yellow-rumped Warblers returned to the Chicago area by Aug. 18–21 (EW, JL) and to Iowa, Ohio, and Indiana by Aug. 23. A Black-throated Green Warbler was rather late at Spring Valley W.M.A., O., Oct. 23

(LG) while Prairie Warblers at Beverly Shores Sept 29 (LH) and Shades S.P., Oct. 3 (AB) provided unusual fall records for Indiana. Palm Warblers also returned early, appearing at Chicago Aug. 20 (HRy), with a maximum of 190 at nearby Evanston, Ill., Sept. 9 (EW). A Bay-breasted Warbler at Spfld., Nov. 13 (†H) was also late. Their numbers have declined somewhat during the past few years, and they are presently outnumbered by Blackpolls across n. portions of the Region. A Prothonotary Warbler at Busch W.M.A., Mo., Sept. 27 was fairly late (BRw *et al.*) while a Worm-eating Warbler at Porter Sept. 6 established n.w. Indiana's first fall record. The latest Ovenbird remained at Hidden Springs S.P., Ill., Nov. 10 (Kfo). Other tardy warblers included a N. Waterthrush at Chicago Oct. 30 (HRy) and a Kentucky Warbler at Spfld., Sept. 29 (H). Both Connecticut and Mourning warblers were detected in expected numbers, beginning with an early Mourning at Port of Indiana, Ind., Aug. 13 (KB). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Springville Marsh, O., Oct. 25 was late (TB).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Few observers commented on tanagers. A Summer Tanager at Cuivre River S.P., Mo., Oct. 30 was late (EL). More surprising was a **Western Tanager** in Mason, Ill., Sept. 9 (†KR), providing one of few records from Illinois. An exceptional 88 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were tallied at Fox Is., Ind., Sept. 22 (Haw), but only small numbers were detected elsewhere. The latest Blue Grosbeak remained at Longview L., Mo., Oct. 21 (KH, KBr). Few migrant Dickcissels were reported although one at Cleveland Sept. 14–19 established one of few fall records from n.e. Ohio (TL, RHa).

Sparrow totals improved somewhat as compared with last year's dismal flight, but their numbers remained unimpressive. American Tree Sparrows arrived quite late and were particularly scarce. The expected small numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows appeared e. to Illinois, where one to three appeared at 3 locations Sept. 23–30. Vesper Sparrows were locally encountered in unusual fall numbers with flocks of 13–20+ reported from several localities in Illinois and Ohio. The only vagrant Lark Sparrow unexpectedly appeared at O.W.R., Oct 4 (†TB). Grassland sparrows remained in below-normal numbers. Few reports of Grasshopper Sparrows included late migrants at Gibson, Ind., Oct. 20 (DJ) and Cleveland Oct. 22 (TL), while a late Henslow's Sparrow was discovered in Zion, Ill., Oct. 24 (RP). Le Conte's Sparrows were not detected e. of Illinois. More Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported as observers continue to search for this elusive but not necessarily unexpected species. Early migrants returned to Chicago and Michigan City, Ind., Sept. 7 (JL, LH), but most of the 13+ sightings occurred Sept. 19–Oct. 18. They were noted in all states except Missouri; one at Sloughs W.M.A., Oct. 11 was noteworthy for Kentucky (†BP, RCa).

Fox Sparrows were scarce except for flocks of 20–25 in Illinois, while Lincoln's Sparrows peaked with 22 in w. Missouri. Early White-throated Sparrows returned to Chicago Sept 7, and the largest concentrations totalled 150–250 along both Great Lakes. White-crowned Sparrows were numerous only in Ohio with 300 at Spring Valley W.M.A., Oct. 24 (JS, C & LC) and 235 banded at Cleveland Oct. 25 (JT, *vide* RH). A few Harris' Sparrows wandered E, with one to two at 6 Illinois locations Sept. 30–Oct. 25, plus Indiana reports of one near Lawrenceburg Oct. 18 (DS *et al.*) and two near Fort Wayne Oct. 25–29 (Haw). Dark-eyed Juncos also returned to Chicago by Sept. 7 and peaked with 500 in c. Illinois. Lapland Longspurs were generally encountered in relatively small numbers, except in Illinois, where 1000 congregated at Clinton L., Nov 8 (RP) and in Bond Nov. 20 (RG). As expected, few Smith's Longspurs were observed with one near Hollandburg, Ind., Oct 31 (AB) and six at Carlyle L., Ill., Nov. 6 (DJ). Normal numbers of Snow Buntings returned to the n. states with a maximum of 450 along L. Erie. Casual visitors to n.w. Missouri, they were discovered near Maryville with one to four Nov. 16–24 (DE).

No sizable Bobolink flocks were reported although stragglers remained as late as Nov. 1 at Headlands S.P., O. (J, MG). The only extralimital Yellow-headed Blackbirds were detected at



Harris' Sparrow at Chicago, Ill., Oct. 9, 1987. Photo/Jim Landing.

Spfld., Oct. 19 (H), and Cleveland Aug. 16 and Sept. 17 (RHa). Small numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds were scattered across most states. Flocks of 32 at Killdeer Plains W.M.A., O., Nov. 8 (J, MG) and 13 in Richland, Ill., Oct. 30 (LHa) were unusual for these localities. Continuing their expansion in the w. states, young Great-tailed Grackles at L. Contrary Aug. 3 established a new breeding location in Missouri (DE). Unusual in the s.e. counties, several Great-tailed Grackles were reported at Big Oak Tree S.P., Mo., Nov. 18 (SDi). In s.w. Iowa, a maximum of four Great-taileds was observed during August and one remained at Forney L., Nov. 22 (SD, BB). Orioles elicited few comments except for a "Bullock's" Oriole near Maysville, Ia., Nov. 21-22 (P) plus a late N. Oriole at Iowa City, Ia., Nov. 30+ (JF).

The winter finch movement was uneventful for the 2nd consecutive year. Purple Finches were scarce except for several flocks of 20+ in Illinois. Noteworthy in the w. states, House Finches were reported from 4 Missouri locations with a maximum of seven at Farmington (BL, SDi et al.). In Iowa, as many as six appeared at 7 localities w. to Story, with young seen at Mason City (JW). Red Crossbills staged a small movement Oct.

22-24+ with 3 sightings in Iowa, 6 in n.w. Indiana, and 6 in Illinois s. to Spfld. Largest flocks were composed of 14-30 crossbills. The only White-winged Crossbill appeared in DuPage, Ill., Nov. 21 (JHr). Common Redpolls were scarce with only a few reported from Iowa and Illinois. By far the most numerous winter finches, Pine Siskins returned to Illinois and Ohio Sept. 19-22 and were widely encountered by mid-October. Flocks of 50-70 siskins appeared in all states except Iowa with maxima of 500 at Clinton L., Ill., Nov. 7-8 (RCh) and 250 at Port of Indiana, Ind., Oct. 18 (KB). Small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks appeared in all states beginning in late October, usually as isolated individuals. The largest reported flock was of only 30 in n.w. Indiana.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Robert D. Purrington

It hardly seems fair to dismiss a season that generated some 1500 record cards to be summarized and interpreted as bland or uninteresting, but as usual many of these records were of local or state-wide interest only; the truth is that for the most part, landbird migration was generally found to be unimpressive. It was, furthermore, not a good fall for vagrant larids, boreal finches made only the most modest showing, and there was no tropical weather at all. The number of records of western vagrants was, however, no worse than average and there were, fortunately, several remarkable records to rescue the season from total mediocrity.

The weather was very dry over most of the Region during

the entire season: rainfall at Nashville, for example, was nearly 7 inches below normal for the period, and Birmingham ended November with a 14-inch deficit for the year. Almost inevitably, a dry fall—whether it is owing to a lack of significant frontal activity or to a succession of dry fronts producing persistent high pressure and light northerly winds, as was the case this fall—results in poor success in the field, especially with landbirds. Rare vagrants are another matter; their numbers are statistically insignificant compared with the vast hordes of common transients and their occurrence may or may not correlate with overall weather patterns (dry fall, wet fall, etc.).

It was, in short, a beautiful fall, with an October that finally lived up to expectations, but a season whose excitement lay in rarities rather than in large concentrations



of grounded migrants. Witness Mississippi's three additions to its avifauna: Black-chinned and Buff-bellied hummingbirds and Painted Redstart, and its first confirmed Purple Sandpiper.

The first important frontal passage to affect the entire Region reached the coast September 19; over 32,000 migrating Broad-winged Hawks were counted in central and southwestern Louisiana during the next five days. This, and the front of September 30, resulted in a number of unprecedentedly early records of landbirds. The early and frequent fronts, although dry, contributed to a large number of very early records.

This writer would like to commend contributors and especially the Contributing Editors for the increasingly high quality of documentation provided the Regional Editor. It is clear that the advent of state "Rare Bird Committees" has had a felicitous effect. The retiring Regional Coordinators, Steve Cardiff and Donna Dittmann, are also due a vote of thanks for their efforts to systematize the process of accumulation and interpretation of Regional bird records.

S.A.

It is with great sadness that we note the absence of the name of Robert J. Newman from these pages, for almost the first time in 40 years. Bob Newman was not only an influential ornithologist; he was a tireless field man and a wonderful companion both in the field (a great shot, too!) and over a bottle of scotch. I personally began birding regularly with Bob nearly 20 years ago, when he decided to "die with his boots on," and get back in the field, following serious heart problems. It was the start of the greatest birding blitz that Louisiana had ever seen, with Bob criss-crossing the state, covering tens of thousands of miles a year, in pursuit, first, of a yearly list of 300 species for Louisiana, which had never been accomplished before (he reached 326), and then of 400 species for the state, a goal that only declining health kept him from reaching. All of us who had the pleasure of Bob's companionship in the field will forever remember the great stories he told of other ornithologists—Sutton, Burliegh, Lowery, and others—of his Mexican exploits, and so on. We all will miss him, and when a Mountain Plover turns up in Louisiana, or a Black-headed Gull, the experience will seem a little incomplete without Bob there to see it, or perhaps to show it to the rest of us, he having found it.

ABBREVIATIONS — L.B.R.C. = Louisiana Bird Records Committee; LSUMZ = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology. Place names in *italics* are parishes (in Louisiana) or counties.

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA — The only report of a Red-throated Loon was of one in the Nashville area Nov. 8 (MLB); a Com. Loon on L. Pontchartrain at New Orleans Aug. 14 (NN) not only was present on a remarkable date, but transfixed the observer as it "lumbered" out of the water onto the beach, and then called. Notable concentrations of Pied-billed Grebes were seen in Cameron, La., Sept. 12 (SWC, DLD—98), L. Millwood, Ark., Sept. 27 (CM—256), and in Marshall, Ala., Oct. 25 (GDJ), DGJ—200). Eared Grebes were early in Jackson, Miss., Aug. 25 (JT, CD), Davidson, Tenn., Sept. 4–7 (JF), for the 4th Nashville area record, and Oktibeha and Clay, Miss., Sept. 7 (TS). One was seen as far east as Ft. Walton, Fla., Nov. 13 (RLB, JWB). A *Western Grebe* first seen on L. Millwood Aug. 29 (CM, m.ob.) was abnormally early, and furnished the 3rd record for the lake.

A Masked Booby that was brought to New Orleans' Audubon Zoo Bird Rehabilitation Center Oct. 21 had been captured at Delta N.W.R. The bird subsequently died, apparently of a systemic infection. The small imm. *solid* described from Curlew I., La. (in the Chandeleur Is. chain) was apparently also a Masked Booby (HHJ, PD, SK), although its length of "1½ times that of a Laughing Gull" is certainly too small. The bird could be approached to within 10 feet. What was evidently a sick or injured N. Gannet was seen from a distance of 4 feet on Romar Beach, Baldwin, Ala., July 29 (JC). Other records of gannets included one on the beach at Bay St. Louis, Miss., Sept. 4 (CC, CD, GM), apparently debilitated, early records Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at Ft. Morgan, Ala. (TAI), and the remarkable record of one flying along Interstate 65 in Simpson, Ky., 5 mi n. of the Tennessee border, Nov. 29 (MBr, KBr). Never one to let opportunity slip through his grasp, Braun followed the bird until it flew into Tennessee (presumably in Sumner or Robertson, or both). A definitive description was provided by this experienced observer.

The numerous records of Am. White Pelicans, especially from interior locations, indicated an unusually heavy movement toward their coastal wintering range, especially following the Sept. 19 frontal passage and in early October. The records included 1000+ on L. Whittington near Benoit, Miss., Oct. 24 (NH, EE), and groups at Vicksburg, Miss. (HM) and L. Millwood, Ark. (CM) near the end of the period. Double-crested Cormorants near Grand Isle, La., Sept. 2 (DM) were the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana. Coffey suggested that a concentration of over 5000 on L. Washington, Miss., Nov. 27 (RW) may have resulted, in part, from the recent increase in catfish ponds in the Yazoo—Mississippi Delta. There were several late reports of Anhingas from Louisiana Oct. 25–Nov. 9, but the species has been wintering in increasing numbers in the s. part of the state.

HERONS THROUGH STORKS — Great Egrets were seen in sizable numbers in the following inland locations: on the Mississippi R. in Bolivar, Miss., Aug. 22 (TS—400), L. Millwood, Ark., Sept. 6–7 (JCN, BS, CM et al.—200), and Humphreys, Miss., Nov. 27 (RW, m.ob.—250). Twenty-three in St. Clair Oct. 3 (GDJ) represented a good number for Alabama's Mountain Region. Also unusual were 65 Snowy Egrets in Lake, Tenn., Aug. 31 (WGC) and 10 in Washington, Ark., Sept. 13 (MMI, JCN) in the w. Ozarks. Tricolored Herons were noted at interior locations from n. Alabama to Arkansas. One in Shelby, Ala., Aug. 18 (GDJ) furnished the 2nd Mountain Region record. Arkansas records were from L. Chicot, L. Millwood, and Drew, Sept. 11–26. In reporting 4 records of Reddish Egrets from Cameron, La., during the fall, Dittmann and Cardiff commented that numbers were low this fall; in s.e. Louisiana, sightings were at least near normal levels and included at least two white-phased individuals (PW, CS, m.ob.). Neal reported over

3500 Cattle Egrets in Washington, Ark., Sept. 17 (JCN), and two on Nov. 28 were by 2½ weeks the latest ever there (JCN). Black-crowned Night-Herons were unusual in Lauderdale, Ala., Aug. 30–Oct. 15 (SW, DP, NP) and in Grenada, Miss., from Oct. 24 on (GK, SK, MD).

Records of late summer dispersal of White Ibises from interior parts of the Region included 22 in Butler and Crenshaw, Ala., Aug. 20–Sept. 17 (CK). Of 36 individuals reported, 32 were immatures. A single *Plegadis ibis* in Gulf, Fla., Sept. 15 (HS, JC) was unusual, these ibises being very rare in n.w. Florida; and while the report of a Glossy Ibis in Cameron, La., Nov. 24 (BH, KR) was not in itself unprecedented, it is worth emphasizing that in recent years this species has been found regularly in very small numbers in s.w. Louisiana. Evidently there was an exceptional dispersal of Roseate Spoonbills after the breeding season, which one hopes can be taken as an indication of breeding success. There were 3 records from Arkansas, including three in Chicot Aug. 25–26 (NH, JCH) and two in Pulaski Sept. 5 (WMS, WM), and there were inland Mississippi records Sept. 6 in Issaquena (TS, MH) and Sept. 14–19 in Caldwell (JB). A record of one in coastal Hancock, Miss., Aug. 7 (SM, *vide* JT) fit the pattern of records in coastal s.e. Louisiana: three Sept. 19 (PW, CS) and 33 Sept. 27 (GO, DC) at Grand Isle, and six on the latter date at Venice (RDP, NN), for the first *Plaquemines* record. Fourteen records of Wood Storks totalling 1101 individuals were received, all from Arkansas or the n. portions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama; observations spanned the period Aug. 15–Oct. 8. While the individual records are too numerous to list, observers are encouraged to continue to report all Wood Storks. There seem to have been no coastal records.

WATERFOWL — If the occurrence of a single Fulvous Whistling-Duck in Mobile Sept. 25 (GDJ, DGJ) was unusual, the presence of up to eight Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on L. Millwood, Ark., between Sept. 3 and Oct. 8 (CM *et al.*) was extraordinary—but not unprecedented. A Greater White-fronted Goose being attacked by a Red-tailed Hawk in Okaloosa Nov. 21 (DW, DN, HK) furnished the 5th record for the Florida section; a Canada Goose at the same location Oct. 12 (DW, DN, HK) was earliest ever by 3 days. Two Ross' Geese were carefully described from Holla Bend N.W.R., Nov. 28 (BL, PL). Single Green-winged Teal were early in Sumner, Tenn., Aug. 13 (SJS, BHS, JPC, DTC) and earliest ever by 2 weeks for the Mississippi coast in Hancock Oct. 2 (JT, CC, JP). Also early were N. Pintails at Grand Isle, La., Sept. 2 (GS, AS), and in Hancock, Miss., Sept. 19 (JT, GK, SK), the earliest ever by 11 days. A Cinnamon Teal shot near Lacombe Sept. 19 (CL, AL) provided one of only a handful of s.e. Louisiana records. A count of over 2500 N. Shovelers in Humphreys, Miss., during November (MH) was notable, and earliest ever for coastal Mississippi by 8 days were four to five Gadwalls Oct. 5 (JT, CC, AJ, BJ).

A Eur. Wigeon at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Nov. 21–25 (JCR, m.o.b.) furnished the 9th Tennessee record. American Wigeons were early in Jefferson, La., Sept. 8 (DM, Colbert, Ala., Sept. 19 (DJS), and Hancock, Miss., Oct. 2 (JT, CC, JP), this the earliest ever by 6 days. Also earliest ever for the Mississippi coast were two Canvasbacks Oct. 25 (JT) and two Redheads Oct. 11 (TS, JM), all in Jackson. In general, both species continued to be scarce. It was also a poor year for Oldsquaw, with few if any reaching the coast, but of course the species is notably erratic. Records of scoters included 4 reports of Black Scoters (six individuals) Oct. 23–Nov. 15, 9 records of Surf Scoters Oct. 11–Nov. 16, totalling 30 birds, and 4 records of 18 White-winged Scoters Oct. 24–Nov. 20. Not included in the above summary was a ♂ Surf Scoter at Ft. Pickens, Fla., Aug. 15 (RLB, JWB), surely one of the few summer records of any scoter for the Gulf coast. It was not clear from the report whether the bird might have been sick or injured. Reports of Hooded Mergansers included 660 on the Tennessee R. east of Waterloo, Ala., Nov. 29 (GDJ, DGJ).

DIURNAL RAPTORS — Unusual for Arkansas' w. and n. Ozarks were kettles of 30 Black Vultures Sept. 13 in Washing-

ton (JCN) and 16 Nov. 29 in Madison (DJ). Ospreys were represented by at least 78 sightings, including 26 seen during Louisiana hawkwatches in Calcasieu Sept. 21–Oct. 27 (AJE) and in Cameron Sept. 30–Oct. 3 (CF, KP). One on L. Millwood, Ark., Aug. 15 (CM) provided the 2nd record for that location. A migrating Am. Swallow-tailed Kite seen near Vicksburg, Miss., Sept. 13 (JB) was the first recorded in 3 seasons of fall hawkwatching there. Continued successful breeding by the Black-shouldered Kites in Hancock, Miss., was indicated by at least 16 observations of a minimum of five immatures (this writer's interpretation of the many records), including three begging young Aug. 29 (JT, m.ob.); only one adult was reported. As Toups says, "it's pretty clear they're here to stay." At least six others were reported in Cameron, La., between Oct. 24 and Nov. 15. In spite of frequent records in Cameron, there has been as yet no evidence of nesting. Reports of Mississippi Kites included 106 Aug. 14–25 at Vicksburg, Miss. (JB), 197+ in Lake, Tenn., Aug. 22 (BJS), 990 at Baton Rouge Aug. 15–30 (CF, JK, PM, KP—340 Aug. 16 and 554 Aug. 29), and 128 at Lake Charles Aug. 30 (CR). Single birds in Cameron (DL, SWC) and in Leflore, Miss. (MH) on Oct. 3 were very late.

There were 13 reports of 18 Bald Eagles, including one very early at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., Sept. 1 (TS), another arriving at Manchac W.M.A., La., near a known nest site Sept. 18 (SP, CB, BO'B), and another on Sardis L., Lafayette, Miss., which, on Oct. 2, was over a month earlier than previous records (GK). Two adults had returned to the "White Kitchen," St. Tammany, La., nest by Nov. 15 (JK, KO), and one on the same day in Humphreys, Miss. (JAJ, MH) furnished the first record there. Although there was some question about numbers of wintering N. Harriers by the period's end, the data were too sparse to allow any conclusion. The 33 recorded on a hawkwatch in Cameron, La., Oct. 3 (CF, KP) made a notable total. Louisiana hawkwatches Sept. 21–Oct. 31 counted 1700 Sharp-shinned Hawks, with peaks of 91 at Lake Charles Sept. 20 & 30, and 116 on Sept. 29 (AJE), and totals of 455 Sept. 30 and 585 Oct. 3 at Baton Rouge (CF, KP). Other reports included 40 during the season from middle Tennessee (*vide* SJS) and very early migrants Aug. 18 in Caddo, La. (JTM) and Sept. 1 in Jackson, Miss. (JT, CC, CD, CKe); there were 10 other sightings of 17 additional individuals from coastal Mississippi (*vide* JT). Ninety-six records of Cooper's Hawk included 43 on Cameron, La., hawkwatches Sept. 30–Oct. 3 (CF, KP) and 31 reports from middle Tennessee, mostly from Putnam and Stewart (SJS). The most notable records of this threatened species were of 23 seen by Feerick and Pyle in Cameron Oct. 3 and observations Aug. 18 at Logtown, Hancock, Miss. (JT, MPo) and a day later in Baldwin, Ala. (TR) which implied nesting. There are no nesting records for coastal Mississippi. The lone record of N. Goshawk was of an adult in Lawrence, Tenn., Oct. 6 (DJS).

Migrating Broad-winged Hawk totals were the highest ever at Baton Rouge and in Calcasieu, La., with fall totals of 18,845 (CF, KP, JK) and 16,050 (AJE), respectively. These figures included 11,390 at Baton Rouge Sept. 22 (CF) following a frontal passage, and 14,764 Sept. 20–23 in Calcasieu (AJE). Hawkwatch totals at Vicksburg, Miss., Sept. 8–Oct. 15 (JB *et al.*) reached 7927, with a peak of 4513 during Sept. 21–27, and the Cameron totals of 3349 Sept. 30–Oct. 3 (CF, KP) included 2126 on Sept. 30. Although there were 4 reports of Swainson's Hawks, details on three of the records ranged from none through ambiguous to marginally adequate. The latter observation, of a dark-phase individual in Baldwin Oct. 13 (ALM, ADM), would be the 9th coastal record for Alabama. Two or three were seen migrating with about 10 Red-tailed Hawks in Orleans Nov. 8 (RDP). A "Harlan's"-type Red-tailed Hawk was seen in St. Martin, La., Nov. 22 (DM). A total of 514 Am. Kestrels was counted by Feerick and Pyle in Cameron Sept. 30–Oct. 3, including 254 on the 30th and 246 on the 3rd; an estimated 870 were seen at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Oct. 10 (PT, BT, RAD). The 62 reports of Merlins, including 26 in Calcasieu Sept. 21–Oct. 27 (AJE), were encouraging, as were the 65 Peregrine Falcons reported. Sightings of the latter included 28 by Elswick in Calcasieu Sept. 21–Oct. 14, 14 Sept. 30–Oct. 3 in Cameron (CF, KP), and early

individuals Aug. 28 near Lonoke, Ark. (BL, PL) and Sept. 19 in coastal Lafourche, La. (PW, CS).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS—Two reports were submitted of Yellow Rails: one found many times between Oct. 4 & 17 at Cross Creeks N.W.R., Stewart, Tenn. (JCR et al.), and one Oct. 24 in Cameron (JTM). A Virginia Rail found dead in Fayetteville Aug. 31 (EA) provided the first August record for Arkansas. Toups thought all rails except Clapper very scarce, and this writer echoes her concern about the King Rail. Steadman characterized the Sandhill Crane migration in middle Tennessee as poor, although conceivably only later than normal; there were 5 records totalling 332 birds, Oct. 27–Nov. 19 (SJS, RH, MH, TW, BHS). One Sandhill Crane at Wheeler N.W.R., Ala., Nov. 27 (PHF, RMF) furnished the 4th Tennessee Valley record, all from that locality.

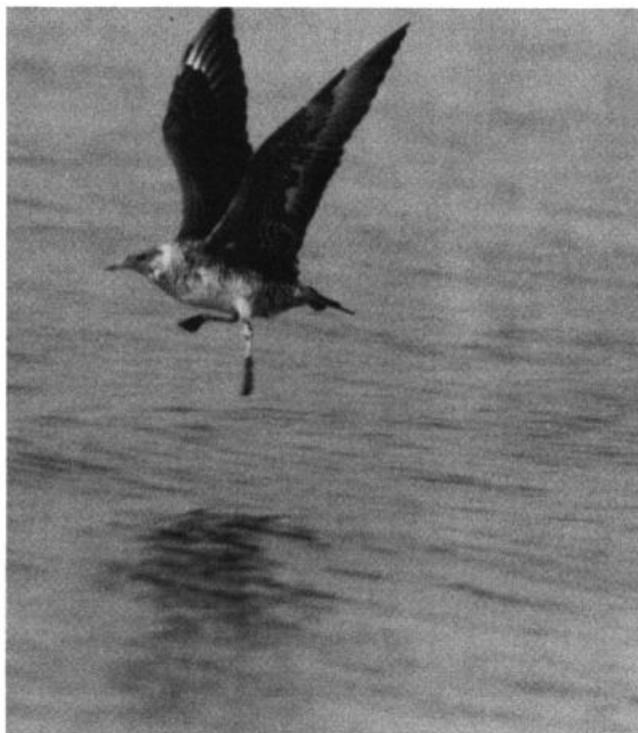
Records of Lesser Golden-Plover—rare in fall, especially as one moves W in the Region—were: Sept. 26 in Cameron, La. (MS, DH), Oct. 3 in Shelby, Ala. (GDJ), Oct. 13–27 at Noxubee N.W.R. (TS), Oct. 14 in Jackson and Oct. 29–Nov. 30 in Hancock, Miss. (JT, m.ob.), Oct. 23 in Jefferson Davis, La. (AS, GS), and Oct. 24 at Wheeler N.W.R. (ALM, ADM). There were more records of Snowy Plovers submitted from coastal beaches than usual, highlighted by 18 on Rutherford Beach, Cameron, Oct. 23 (SWC, DLD). The sighting of one on Fourchon Beach Oct. 3 (PW, CS, PS) was on a s.e. Louisiana beach where few have been found in recent years. While a count of 50 Semipalmated Plovers in Cameron Sept. 26 (MS, DH) was of interest, attention continued to focus on Piping Plovers, given the concern over their breeding numbers. Records from coastal areas, perhaps incomplete, included, at minimum, over 100 birds between Aug. 2 (Lafourche, AS, GS, JS—10) and Nov. 29. Peak numbers were 18 on Fourchon Beach, Lafourche, La., Nov. 22 (RDP, NN). There were 5 inland records of single birds Aug. 21–Nov. 14, 4 from Tennessee, and one from L. Millwood. The latter record, Nov. 14 (CM), was the latest ever for Arkansas.

While a group of 12 Black-necked Stilts in Lonoke, Ark., Aug. 23 (MV) was notable, raising the question of possible nesting in Arkansas, a count of 930 at Blakely I., Mobile, Aug. 29 (GDJ, DGJ) doubled the previous high for Alabama. One in Okaloosa, Fla., Aug. 1 (DW) was the earliest for the Florida section by 17 days. Among unusual fall records of Am. Avocet were single birds in Lauderdale Oct. 4 (TH, EH) for the 2nd record for n.w. Alabama, and Oct. 19–20 in Lafayette, Miss. (GK, SK). Similarly rare at inland localities were individual Willets in Colbert, Ala., July 11 (NP) and at Noxubee N.W.R., Miss., Aug. 17 (TS). Notable because of their relative rarity in fall were Whimbrels in Jackson, Miss., Aug. 20 and Sept. 27 (CD), while Long-billed Curlews were represented here by only a single report—of 350+ in Louisiana near Sabine Pass Oct. 25 (DM, MM). Marbled Godwits at Noxubee N.W.R. on Aug. 13 (TS, EF) and in Lonoke, Ark., Aug. 23 & 28 (MV, BL, PL) were unusual at these inland locations. A migrant Ruddy Turnstone in inland Caldwell, La., Aug. 29 (JB) was unusual; there were also records from Henry and Lake, Tenn. Five on the Gulf beach in Lafourche Aug. 2 (AS, GS, JS) were early.

Notable records of Sanderlings were also from inland localities, between Aug. 3 and Oct. 12, from Starkville, Miss., Benton, Ark., Bolivar, Miss., Shelby, Ala., and L. Millwood, Ark. Adding to the surprisingly meager information on fall departure of Semipalmated Sandpipers from coastal Louisiana was a record of one Oct. 4 in Cameron (DLD, SWC*), the last seen by these observers. This species will rarely be encountered on the Gulf coast after Oct. 15. The only report of White-rumped Sandpiper, a rare fall migrant, was Sept. 25 in Mobile, Ala. (GDJ, DGJ). Several records of Baird's Sandpipers were highlighted by one in Cameron Nov. 7 (DLD, SWC—*LSUMZ), the latest specimen for Louisiana. Pectoral Sandpipers reached coastal or near-coastal localities in August in good numbers as indicated by 600+ in a 20-mi census in s.w. Louisiana ricefields on the very early date of Aug. 9 (KVR, MS), and 250 Aug. 25 in Jackson, Miss. (JT, CD).

The first documented record of **Purple Sandpiper** for Mississippi was established Nov. 11–12 when one was found feeding on a gravel road along side a shallow pond in Hancock (JT, MB, BL, LS, SM, TS, CC, GM, CD). The bird allowed close approach and good photographs were obtained (JT, CD). Inland records of Dunlin included six in Madison, La. (near Vicksburg, Miss.) Oct. 24 (HM), a flock of 63 at Memphis, Tenn., the same day (JRW), and several in Newton, Miss., Nov. 1 (JM). Also interesting at inland locations were four Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Harpersville, Ala., Sept. 1 (GDJ, DGJ), one in Lafayette, Miss., Sept. 2 (GK, MD), and a late individual at Harpersville Sept. 20 (GDJ, DGJ). One in Cameron, La., Oct. 25 (DM) was extremely late. A **Ruff**, the first ever for w. Tennessee and the 2nd for the state, was seen in Shelby Sept. 7 (JRW, DAD). No details reached this writer. Late for Shelby, Ala., were five Long-billed Dowitchers Nov. 1 (GDJ, DGJ), while a Com. Snipe in Putnam, Tenn., Aug. 10 (SJS, BHS) was very early. A Wilson's Phalarope in Okaloosa, Fla., Nov. 23 (DW) was the latest ever for n.w. Florida by 15 days. There were 2 records of **Red Phalaropes**, Oct. 4 in Jackson, Miss. (ph. JT, GM, MB, CC, JP, CD, DP, m.ob.), for the 2nd coastal record and 5th for the state, and Oct. 18 at L. Millwood, Ark. (CM), the 6th record for that locality but the first since 1980.

LARIDS—A **Pomarine Jaeger** photographed in Henry Aug. 15 (JPC) probably furnished the first Tennessee record. Franklin's Gulls strayed somewhat e. of their normal migration routes, which normally bring them only as far e. as Arkansas and w. Louisiana. Interesting records included: St. Clair, in Alabama's Mountain Region, Oct. 3 (EGR, RRR), Hancock, Miss., Oct. 2–17 (JT, MD, JM, m.ob.), Oct. 11 & 29 in Henry, Tenn. (JCR), New Orleans, Oct. 13 (NN), Gulf Shores, Ala., Oct. 31 (TAI), Oktibbeha, Miss., Nov. 5 (TS), Panola, Miss., Nov. 18 (GK), and Jefferson, Ala., Nov. 19 (TAI). Peak fall counts were of 74 in Cameron, La., Oct. 3 (DLD, SWC) and 900+ on L. Millwood, Ark., Nov. 2 (CM, HP, MP). Bonaparte's Gulls were early in Crawford, Ark., Oct. 17 (DJ) and in Jackson, Miss., Oct. 25 (JT); one in Iberia, La., Nov. 18 (MJM) was the first noted on Spanish L. in at least 20 years. The sub-adult (3rd-



Subadult Pomarine Jaeger near Paris Landing, Henry Co., Tenn., Aug. 15, 1987. Apparently a first state record. Photo/J. Paul Crawford.



Great Black-backed Gull on Fourchon Beach, La., autumn 1987. Identification of this bird was controversial because it was small for Great Black-backed, but too heavy-billed and too dark above for Lesser Black-backed; both species are rare in Louisiana. Photo/Gwen Smalley.

summer?) black-backed gull found in June on Fourchon Beach, Lafourche, La., and identified as a Lesser Black-backed Gull, was present until at least Sept. 19 (PW, PS, NN, AS, GS, RDP). Further studies of the bird—and excellent photographs—led to the conclusion that this was Louisiana's first summer record of **Great Black-backed Gull** (fide SWC, DLD, JVR). The bird, while small, had a very dark mantle and flesh-colored legs and feet. There were 3 previous s.e. Louisiana records. The only record of Lesser Black-backed Gull for coastal Cameron, La., was of an adult Oct. 3 (SWC, DLD), in contrast to the rather numerous records of the previous 2 falls. Another adult at Gulfport, Miss., from Oct. 28 on (JT, m.ob.) was presumed to be the same individual that had been present for the previous 5 winters. Finally, old "one-foot", the renowned dark-backed gull the question of whose identity has enlivened these pages for so long, returned for the 10th consecutive year to Pensacola, Fla., Sept. 14 (RAD). No more theorizing will be ventured on this occasion. A Black-legged Kittiwake was seen at Vicksburg Nov. 30 (JB), establishing only the 6th inland Mississippi record, and a juv. Sabine's Gull was at L. Millwood, Ark., Sept. 26–Oct. 2 (CM).

Although Com. Terns were present in reduced numbers in coastal Louisiana, concentrations as high as 100 (mostly adult and first-summer) were seen in coastal Mississippi, including Horn I. One in Garland, Ark., Aug. 5 (BL, PL) was unusual, but fit the established pattern of occurrence in Arkansas. Among several inland records of Forster's Terns, late records Nov. 28 in Clay, Miss. (TS) and the following day in Humphreys, Miss. (MH), stand out. Increased attention to the status of interior populations of Least Tern has resulted in more complete reporting of early fall sightings in Arkansas, n. Louisiana, and n. Mississippi, especially near the Mississippi R. Reports this fall included the first 3 records for Starkville, Miss., Aug. 3–Sept. 10 (TS, MH), a comment that "it is the first season we have seen this species with such frequency" from John Battalio in the Vicksburg area (including Madison, La.), and sightings in Lonoke and Garland, Ark. Certainly the Madison records suggested breeding on Mississippi R. sandbars (HM, JB). A count of 6000 Black Terns on Horn I. and on the Gulf to the south on Aug. 20 (JT, CD, MB) represented the highest numbers ever for Mississippi; four in Jackson Nov. 16 (JT, MB) were the latest ever by 13 days.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Seven records of White-winged Dove, each of single birds, were received from s. Louisiana observers in response to a suggestion by Cardiff and Dittmann that numbers have been declining there. The report of 2 coastal Mississippi records was accompanied by a comment from Toups that they made a "rather poor showing this fall;" there was one Florida section record, Nov. 14 at Ft. Pickens (RAD). Inca Doves continue to be found in very small numbers in s.w. Louisiana, primarily in Calcasieu. Two in Johnson's Bayou, Cameron, Nov. 8 (DLD, SWC) were somewhat away from the present isolated population. Highlighting reports of Com. Ground-Dove were 12 sightings in coastal Mississippi Aug. 15–Nov. 3 (JT, m.ob.), including eight Oct. 15. One in Humphreys, Miss., Sept. 13 (MH) was the first for that area. According to James, Greater Roadrunners are showing an increase in Arkansas after a low in the late 1970s and early 1980s. This fall one was seen in Washington, Ark., Sept. 2 (DJ), and one in Bossier in n.w. Louisiana Sept. 17 (AE) provided the first summer record there since 1984. There continued to be very few records of Black-billed Cuckoos. Groove-billed Anis found their way into the Region in something like normal numbers, with records of single birds far from the coast at L. Millwood, Ark., Oct. 11 (CM, HP, MP, EP, ph.) and well east at Ft. Pickens, Fla., Nov. 27 (BS) being the most notable. Fifteen Com. Nighthawks at Fayetteville, Ark., Oct. 19 (DJ) were the latest ever for the n.w. Arkansas Ozarks. Also late was a Chuck-will's-widow at Grand Isle, La., Nov. 29 (PW, AS, GS, JS), but the species regularly winters in very small numbers in coastal Louisiana. A calling Whip-poor-will was at Gulf Breeze, Fla., on the early date of Aug. 30 (RLB), and six to 12 Whip-poor-wills at Gulf Breeze Oct. 9 (SD, LD, RAD) represented a maximum for the Florida section. Proving that Golden Silk Spider webs are hazards not only to birders in the coastal woods in late summer, three (Kersting, Sorrells, and Wallace) had the unusual experience on Sept. 5–6 of flushing first a Whip-poor-will and then a Chuck-will's-widow into spider webs—in each case, the birds were unable to extricate themselves without human intervention.

It was a spectacular season for **Buff-bellied Hummingbird**, with at least 17 reported from Louisiana by the end of November (NLN). According to Newfield, at least four of these were singing and probably ad. males, rather than the usual immatures. At least 4 records were of birds encountered away from feeders: Oct. 24 (CR, MJM et al.), Nov. 1 (JK, DH), and Nov. 1–30 (JK, KO, BC), all in Cameron, and Nov. 22 at Grand Isle (RDP). Most exciting was the first record for Mississippi, of a bird at a Bay St. Louis feeder from Nov. 26 into December (LS, JT, SH, DH, MH, NLN, m.ob., ph.). Also providing a first record for Mississippi was an imm. ♂ **Black-chinned Hummingbird** at the same Bay St. Louis feeder (LS), also from Nov. 26 on. The bird was seen by dozens of observers including Nancy Newfield, who banded the bird (ph. JT, MH). Newfield reported that numbers of Black-chinneds in s. Louisiana were higher than normal, including at least eight in the Laplace-Reserve area of St. John Oct. 26 to the end of the period (fide RJS, MW) and as many as six at Muth's feeders from Nov. 10 on. The migration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, especially in the 3rd week of September, was one of the heaviest ever reported (fide NLN). While there were fewer records of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds than usual until the end of November, Stein had logged a total of eight at Reserve feeders, two of which were banded by Newfield as Rufous. An unidentified *Selasphorus* at Fayetteville Aug. 26–30 (TG, DJ, JCN, NW, ChK, EA) furnished approximately the 6th record for Arkansas for the genus, and the first for n.w. Arkansas. Almost simultaneously a ♂ Rufous Hummingbird was in Columbia, Ark., Aug. 25–26 (CA). An ad. ♂ Allen's Hummingbird was present at a Baton Rouge feeder from Aug. 8 (JL, NLN, m.ob.) on (through the end of the year, at least), establishing the 9th record for Louisiana, and the earliest ever.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — There was an unprecedented invasion of coastal woods by Red-bellied

Woodpeckers, especially in s w Louisiana (JVR, SWC, DLD, m.ob.), from Oct. 4 on. As many as 30 were encountered at the L.O.S. meeting in Cameron Oct. 23–25. Downy Woodpeckers, which are also usually scarce in the coastal woods, made a similar if more modest showing; at least 23 were reported from Cameron by Cardiff and Dittmann. A Pileated Woodpecker in the coastal marsh of Plaquemines, La., Sept. 27 (NN, RDP), far from any heavy woodlands, was notable.

The 2 records of Olive-sided Flycatcher received were obviously not exhaustive, being of inland occurrences in Butler, Ala., Aug. 22 (CK), 4th for Alabama's Coastal Plain, and near Oxford, Miss., Aug. 31 (GK, SK). Given the declines indicated by the B.B.S. over much of its range, this species should be watched carefully and perhaps all sightings should be reported. A bird identified as a W. Wood-Pewee, carefully described, was seen in Cameron, La., Oct. 24 (RJS, MW). Of course, sight identification of this species away from its normal range is far from a trivial matter and the record will be passed on by the L.B.R.C. A bird identified as an E. Wood-Pewee at Ft. Morgan, Ala., Oct. 31 (TAI) was very late. Records of Empidonax flycatchers included a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded in Davidson, Tenn., Aug. 27 (DFV) and one calling at Noxubee N.W.R., Oct. 3 (TS), a late Acadian in Cameron Oct. 24 (SWC, DLD*), and a late Least Flycatcher in Cameron Nov. 8 (JVR*). Evidence through the end of the period indicated that E. Phoebes had reached the coast in exceptional numbers.

There were reports of at least 11 Vermilion Flycatchers, from Sept. 25 on. The latter record, of an ad. male on Ship I., Miss. (FM, DL, TSi), was the earliest ever for the state. An imm. male in Chicot, Ark., Nov. 23 (DRS) was notable. Two Brown-crested Flycatchers were reported from Louisiana: Oct. 10–11 at Grand Isle (AS, GS, CS, DM, MM, RDP)—the 11th record for s.e. Louisiana, to be submitted to L.B.R.C.—and Nov. 8 in Cameron (SWC, DLD*), the 5th specimen for Louisiana. A well-described Couch's/Tropical Kingbird, which did not call, was seen at Ft. Morgan Sept. 27 (RAD, MF), for the 2nd Alabama record. It was not a good year for W. Kingbirds, with only 4 records submitted, 2 each from coastal Louisiana and Mississippi. Late E. Kingbirds were seen in Shreveport Oct. 15 (JTM) and in Calcasieu, La., Oct. 24 (JVR, SWC, DLD). While a Gray Kingbird in Jefferson Davis Oct. 23–25 (AS, GS, m.ob.) provided the first fall record for Louisiana, one on the same weekend (Oct. 25) in Jackson (CD) was the latest ever for Mississippi by about 7 weeks!

There were 11 reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, all but one from coastal Louisiana. A record of young fledging Aug. 9 in Conway, Ark. (CBu et al.) was, by 21 days, the latest for the state. The coastal records spanned the period Sept. 20–Nov. 8. Although there had been no previous records of active Cliff Swallow nests in Arkansas, several were still active in Madison Aug. 12 (JCN). Perhaps the highest count ever for Louisiana was that of about 2000 Cliffs in Cameron Sept. 19 (DLD, SWC). A Barn Swallow in Hancock, Miss., Nov. 25 (JT, m.ob.) was very late.

CROWS THROUGH STARLINGS — Good numbers of Fish Crows were present in inland Alabama at Harpersville Oct. 3 (GDJ—45) and in Marion Oct. 20 (TAI, BHJ, FD—300); the latter was the largest concentration ever n. of the Gulf coast. Although Red-breasted Nuthatches made a very poor showing this fall, the only reports submitted were from the Gulf coast: a total of two Oct. 3–11 and one Nov. 2 in Orleans, one coastal Mississippi record Oct. 29, and two n.w. Florida sightings Nov. 2 & 15. Bewick's Wrens, on the other hand, had a good season, with middle Tennessee turning in 6 records from Aug. 2 on and 4 records from Louisiana, 3 of them in Cameron. Winter Wrens moved into the Region in unprecedented numbers, to judge by the number in s. Louisiana. Numbers built up quickly in mid-October, highlighted by one at New Orleans Oct. 12 (NN), earliest ever by one day for s.e. Louisiana, and a minimum of eight there Oct. 22 (NN). Sedge Wrens were early in Baton Rouge and in Cameron Oct. 3 (DV) & 4 (SWC, DLD), respectively, while one in Lafayette, Miss.,

Oct. 20 (GK) was unusual there Golden-crowned Kinglets began what was to be an excellent fall by arriving in coastal Mississippi Oct. 10 (JT, TS, JM), the earliest ever by 8 days, and Oct. 15 at Ft. Morgan, Ala. (GDJ, DGJ). Eleven in New Orleans on the still-early date of Oct. 22 (NN) also presaged the influx. Referring to the Florida section, Ballman said there were "great numbers everywhere." Remarkably early was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Biloxi Sept. 2 (MB), earliest ever by 20 days! Kinglets were also early in Cameron Sept. 20 (DLD, SWC) and at Ft. Morgan Sept. 23 (GDJ, DGJ).

While it was not a good fall for any of the migrant thrushes, there were some records of interest: a Veery in Cameron Oct. 24 (JVR) was late, and Swainson's Thrushes in Cameron Sept. 4 & 5 (GS, PW, AS) were early, as was one in Hancock, Miss., Sept. 12 (TS). A late Swainson's Thrush was seen in Cameron Nov. 8 (JVR) and late Wood Thrushes were in Cameron Nov. 14 & 15 (JK, KO, DLD, SWC). One at Grand Isle, La., Nov. 29 (GS, PW, AS, JS) stayed through December. An Am. Robin in New Iberia Sept. 6 (MJM) was the earliest there (in over 20 years) by nearly 2 months; as Cardiff and Dittmann suggested, local breeding ought to be checked. Extremely early were two imm. Cedar Waxwings in Iberville Oct. 25 (KVR), perhaps the earliest ever for Louisiana. European Starlings do not often appear in these pages, and one would like to be reporting declining numbers when they do. Unfortunately, the report is of a large flock estimated at 12,000 on the early date (for flocking) of Sept. 6 in Washington, Miss. (MD).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Reports of Bell's Vireos included single birds near Oxford, Miss., Aug. 29 (GK, SK), at New Orleans Sept. 24 (NN), and Sept. 26 at Cameron, La. (MS, DH) and on Ship I., Miss. (FM, DL). Extraordinarily early was a Solitary Vireo in Cameron Sept. 20 (DLD, SWC*); early indications were that the bird belonged to the Pacific coast race *V. s. cassinii*. A late Yellow-throated Vireo was in Cameron Oct. 25 (SWC, DLD). Records of Warbling Vireo included a very early one Sept. 6 in Cameron (KVR), and Philadelphia Vireos were earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana at Grand Isle Sept. 12 (NN, SN, AS, GS) and for coastal Mississippi Sept. 16 (CC, GM, MB).

Among the early records of warblers in the Region were Nashville Warbler Aug. 29 in Hancock, Miss. (JT)—earliest ever by 16 days, Chestnut-sided Warbler Sept. 3 in Hancock (JT, MB)—earliest ever by 3 days, Magnolia Warbler Aug. 30 in Colbert, Ala. (NP), Black-throated Blue Warbler Sept. 10 at Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. (DW), Black-throated Green Warbler Aug. 30 at L. Millwood, Ark. (CM), and Wilson's Warbler Aug. 30 in Caddo, La. (JTM). There were the following late, or latest ever, records of wood warblers: Blue-winged Warbler Oct. 16 in Iberville, La. (KVR), Nashville Warbler Nov. 14 in Cameron (SWC*), N. Parula Nov. 14 in Cameron (JK, KO), Cape May Warbler Oct. 27 in Davidson, Tenn. (latest ever for Nashville area), Black-throated Blue Warbler Nov. 9 in Cameron (TP, HM) and Nov. 21 at Ft. Pickens, Fla. (RAD), Kentucky Warbler Oct. 17 in Hancock (MD, JT), Hooded Warbler Nov. 9 in Cameron (TP, HM), Canada Warbler Oct. 29 at New Orleans (NN—latest ever for s.e. Louisiana), and Yellow-breasted Chat Nov. 9 in Cameron (TP).

A "Lawrence's" hybrid warbler in Bolivar Aug. 22 (TS, MH) was possibly the first for Mississippi. The 5 records of Cape May Warbler, extremely rare in the Region in fall, included the first Noxubee N.W.R. record, Oct. 8 (JM, MS, PE). Black-throated Blue Warblers made a good showing in coastal sections, as indicated by 15 records of at least 22 individuals from Sept. 10 to Nov. 14. There were 2 records of Black-throated Gray Warbler, Oct. 23 in Cameron, La. (BC) and Nov. 21 at Ft. Pickens, Fla. (OF, RAD). An imm. Townsend's Warbler at Oxford, Miss., Oct. 15 (MD) was, somewhat surprisingly, the 2nd for that area. A peak count of 100+ Palm Warblers was obtained Oct. 4 in Jackson, Miss. (JT, GM, MB), following a dry front. A Blackpoll Warbler in New Orleans Sept. 7 (NN) furnished only the 9th fall record for s.e. Louisiana, and the earliest ever. There were 8 reports of Mourning Warblers, Aug. 29–Oct. 11,

all but 3 from Arkansas or Tennessee, as befits this circumgulf migrant. One Sept. 5 at Lafitte NP, Jefferson, La. (DM), another Sept. 15 in Hancock, Miss. (GM, CC), and one Oct. 11 in Iberville, La. (SWC) were each well e. of the usual fall migration route of this species, which barely carries it into s.w. Louisiana. A careful and detailed description was received of a ♀ **MacGillivray's Warbler** seen and heard in Cameron Sept. 20 (SWC); there are three specimens for Louisiana. While 3 reports of Connecticut Warbler were submitted, none completely convinced this writer. (At the very least, details should be submitted, and a description that mentions nothing but a complete eye-ring leaves something to be desired.) Admittedly this is something of a Louisiana bias, since there is still no accepted record for the state. Surely the bird that crowns this entire report was the **Painted Redstart** seen in Hancock Oct. 5 (JT, AJ, BJ, CC, LS), the first ever for Mississippi! Although there are previous sight records for New Orleans and coastal Alabama, the writer has always been somewhat skeptical of the former; the present indubitable record, of a bird that must have flown or tree-hopped right past New Orleans birders, is somewhat comforting.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A Scarlet Tanager at Grand Isle Nov. 24 (PW, AS, GS, JS) was latest ever for s.e. Louisiana by nearly 2 weeks, but may have been wintering. The 5 records of W. Tanager submitted included a female in Crittenden, Ark., on the Tennessee border, on the early date of Aug. 22 (JRW, DAD). James and Neal (1986, *Arkansas Birds*) give 3 records, one in fall. The other records were from coastal Louisiana: Sept. 5 (PW) & 26 (MS, DH) and Oct. 24 (PW, CS) in Cameron, and Oct. 3 at Grand Isle (PW, CS). Quite late was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Cameron Nov. 14 (SWC). There was a single record of its western congener, Black-headed Grosbeak, Nov. 8 in Cameron (DLD, TP, SWC). The bird was an imm. male, excellently described. Although they were 2½ months apart, Painted Buntings in Washington, Ark., Aug. 30 (JCN) and in Iberville, La., Nov. 15 (JVR) were late for their respective areas. Among several records of Dickcissels submitted were four from coastal Mississippi Sept. 1–Nov. 5 (JT et al.) and one from Grand Isle, La., Sept. 13 (AS, GS, NN, SN), in each case localities where the species is rare at any season. A Dickcissel in Iberville near Baton Rouge Nov. 21 (DV) was also unexpected.

A "Spotted" Rufous-sided Towhee in Cameron Nov. 8 (DLD) furnished the first recent record of the western form, which—according to Lowery 1974, *Louisiana Birds*—was formerly a more frequent visitor to Louisiana. Chipping Sparrows reached the coast as early as Sept. 13 in Cameron (DLD, SWC) and Sept. 15 in Hancock, Miss. (GM, CC, MB), the latter the earliest ever there by 28 days. Of 9 records of Clay-colored Sparrows received, all but 2 were from coastal Louisiana and all but one were coastal. The earliest was one in Cameron Sept. 13 (SWC, DLD*), the latest Oct. 25 at Venice, *Plaquemines* (RDP, NN). The one coastal Mississippi record was Oct. 5 in Hancock (JT, AJ, CC, BJ), and a single bird at L. Millwood, Ark., Oct. 4 (CM) furnished the 3rd record there. The 5th record for Alabama of **Lark Bunting** was obtained when a ♀-plumaged bird was seen at Ft. Morgan Sept. 23–24 (GDJ, DGJ). A Savannah Sparrow was early in Perry, Ala., Sept. 13 (HHK, JH)—the earliest ever for the Coastal Plain—as was a Le Conte's Sparrow on Dauphin I, Ala., Oct. 10 (GDJ, A.O.S.), the earliest ever away from the Tennessee Valley. Two weeks earlier than any previous Alabama record was a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Dauphin I. on Aug. 23 (PHF). One in *Lafourche*, La., Sept. 19 (PW, CS) equalled the previous early date for s.e. Louisiana. Also early were Swamp Sparrows in Jackson, Miss., Sept. 25 (JT, MPo), earliest ever by 2 days, and Oct. 3 in Fayetteville, Ark. (JCN); a Lincoln's Sparrow in *Oktibbeha*, Miss., Oct. 1 (TS); and two White-crowned Sparrows in *Shelby*, Ala., Oct. 3 (GDJ), earliest ever for the Mountain Region. While a Dark-eyed Junco was early in *Colbert*, Ala., Oct. 5 (NP), 150 in Baton Rouge Nov. 5 (BC) represented a high concentration for such an early date. Among records of Lapland Longspurs to the end of the period, the

earliest was of one in Cameron Oct. 24–25, seen by almost the entire L O S.

There were 4 records of Bobolinks, which are rare in fall, all from coastal areas: Sept. 12–13 at Grand Isle, La. (AS, GS, NN, SN), Sept. 15 in *Gulf*, Fla. (JC, HS), Sept. 19 in *St. Charles*, La. (MW), and Oct. 25 in *Cameron* (SWC, DLD), perhaps the latest ever for Louisiana. There were 5 records of Yellow-headed Blackbirds: Sept. 21 and Oct. 25 in *Hancock*, Miss., Oct. 25 in *Cameron*, Oct. 29 at Ft. Morgan, Ala., and Nov. 19 in *Washington*, Ark. (JS). The 4 records of Bronzed Cowbird consisted of a fledged juvenile in *New Orleans*, where they have previously been known to breed, Aug. 1–5 (NN, SN), two *Cameron* records Oct. 24–25 (AS, GS, SWC, DLD, JVR) where numbers may be slowly increasing, and one at the other edge of the Region in *Gulf Breeze*, Fla., Nov. 29 (RLB, JWB). An ad ♂ Orchard Oriole present from at least Nov. 1 to the end of the period (BM, DM) at *New Orleans' Audubon Zoo* was evidently the same bird that wintered there last year. While 20 N. Orioles Aug. 30 at Ft. Morgan (GDJ, DGJ) and 28 there Sept. 10 (TAI) were notable as large concentrations for these early dates, one in *Cameron* Nov. 15 (SWC, DLD) was very late.

Purple Finches appeared in numbers in early to mid-October, as typified by 50 recorded in *Baton Rouge* Nov. 7 (BC), and then disappeared—at least as judged by subsequent south and central Louisiana experience. Records of House Finches continue to increase inexorably. This fall there were reports from *Craighead*, Ark., as early as Aug. 20 (KS), and there were sightings of one or two birds in *Oktibbeha*, *Tallahatchie*, *Adams*, and *Lafayette*, Miss., beginning Nov. 10. Although the only large concentration reported was of 100 in *E. Morgan*, Ala., Nov. 29 (GDJ, DGJ), Jerry Jackson reported them to be "really abundant" in *Starkville*, Miss. Two heard and seen flying overhead in *Baton Rouge* Nov. 22 (JVR) represented one of a very few Louisiana records. There was one report of Red Crossbill submitted, of nine in *Stewart*, Tenn., Nov. 8 (DWB). Pine Siskins staged a big movement into the south, beginning in mid-October and reaching near-coastal locations in Louisiana by Nov. 20. Two interesting records from Arkansas fell outside this pattern, one present in *Crawford* from early July to Aug. 22 (TCH, BB, DC) and one in *Logan* Aug. 9 (RT). It was also a good year for Am. Goldfinches, which pushed toward coastal areas in early October.

ADDENDA — Several Alabama breeding season records from 1987 were received that are important enough to mention briefly: 135 dowitchers (sp.) in *Mobile* June 20; Am. Avocet in *Mobile* June 20; Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in *Shelby* June 28; and Tree Swallow in *Mobile* June 7 (all GDJ, DGJ). Two pairs of Cliff Swallows nested in *Tuscaloosa*, Ala. (JCT), and Tree Swallows nested for the first time in Alabama's Tennessee Valley, records including June 4–July 5 in *Lauderdale* (DJS, MAB). Finally, the following records failed to reach this writer last fall and are included here: 7927 Broad-winged Hawks counted in 127 hours of hawkwatching in the *Vicksburg* area, fall 1986 (JB et al.); one Black-legged Kittiwake, for the 6th inland Mississippi record, Nov. 30, 1986 at *Vicksburg* (JB).

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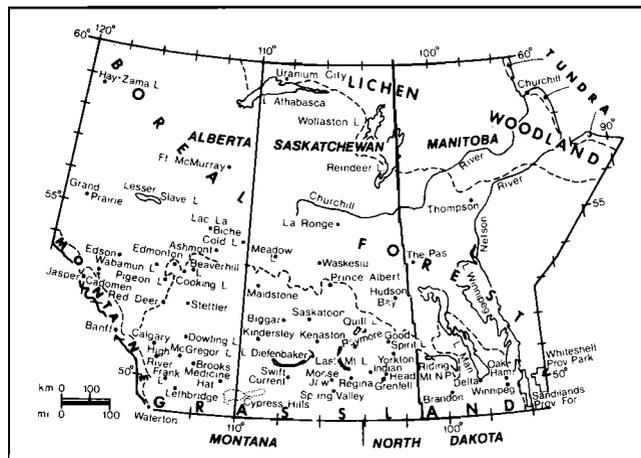
PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Wayne C. Harris

The fall weather was, finally, after several years, recognizable as being just that—fall, not summer or winter. Surprisingly, this weather lasted for the entire period. The season was characterized by warm temperatures and dry conditions throughout. There were virtually no storm fronts, and as a result there was an orderly though extended southward movement of birds, with relatively few concentrations. The weather was so reasonable in November that most of the medium and larger sized lakes were still wide open, including some of our more northern water bodies such as Lake Athabasca and Lac la Ronge. As a result, water-related species were still present in abundance.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL—Red-throated Loon sightings were all during the last one-half of October, when a single bird was found at Bradwell Res., s.e. of Saskatoon, and another at Eagle Lake near Strathmore, Alta., Oct. 18–26 (JAW, RS). At Churchill, Pacific Loon numbers peaked during the last one-half of August, with 30 on the 16th and nine on the 28th (BC). Inland, where generally rare, they were seemingly more common and certainly more widespread than usual with singles at Blackstrap L., Oct. 18–Nov. 2, Bradwell Res., Oct. 19–24 (both s.e. of Saskatoon), Regina Nov. 7, Seebe, Alta., Nov. 8, and Cold L., Alta. (SS, TR, JBS, RK). On Glenmore Res. at Calgary there were three Oct. 9–14 (AS). Saskatchewan's 6th Yellow-billed Loon record was furnished by a single at Saskatoon Oct. 28 (JAW, JBG). A Clark's Grebe at Patricia Beach Sept. 12 provided the only report of this newly "created" species (DF).

A late Manitoba record was of an Am. Bittern found near The Pas Nov. 15 (PR). Although it is not unusual to have the occasional Great Blue Heron reported in November, it is unusual to have so many. There were 7 widely scattered reports of singles, including one on the edge of the boreal forest at Prince Albert Nov. 29 (TES). The others were at Moose Jaw Nov. 2, Saskatoon Nov. 10, Somme, Sask., Nov. 16, Raymore Nov. 19, Oak Hammock Nov. 22, and n. of Regina Nov. 23 (LMK, A. Block, DB, WCH, KG). A count of 62 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Crane L., Sept. 4 was more than expected, especially in the southwest where this species is not as common as elsewhere (MAG). A single White-faced Ibis was found near Strathmore Sept. 4 and presumably the same bird again Sept. 20 (JBS, LG). There were 5 Great Egret reports from the Pinawa area, the last being Sept. 11 (PT). The only other report was of two at Last Mountain Lake N.W.R. (PT, ARS). Only a single Cattle Egret was reported, amazingly far north and late on Nov. 29 at Prince Albert (TES).



Most of the waterfowl species were still present in small numbers at the end of November. Exceptions to this were Canada Geese, Snow Geese, and Mallards, which were still being reported in numbers exceeding 1000 at several locations. Two Wood Ducks at Saskatoon Aug. 29 were n.w. of the normal range while one at Winnipeg Nov. 20 was later than normal (RCG, KMM, RFK). Large numbers of N. Shovelers are rarely reported, thus the 9850 Aug. 21 and 7000 Sept. 2 at Chaplin L., Sask., were of interest (MAG). The 30,000–60,000 Gadwall present at Kniwan L. near Grande Prairie may have been the largest concentration ever recorded in this Region (KRL). Peak numbers of Com. Eider at Churchill were Oct. 12, when 67 were seen (BC). Three Harlequin Ducks were at Oak Hammock Nov. 7–15 (RFK).

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS—Although there were more Turkey Vulture sightings than usual (20 on 10 dates) the most surprising was the late one seen near Scotfield, Alta., Nov. 11 (JAW). A flock of 300 Swainson's Hawks near Bracken, Sask., was the last and largest concentration noted, and the last date for the Region was a typical Oct. 3 (CFB, PLB). Peregrine Falcon sightings were down from last year with only 15 sightings. Gyrfalcons similarly were down with only 3 sightings outside of the Churchill region.

There would appear to have been a real population increase for Sandhill Cranes, as Saskatchewan shows continuing increases in fall staging counts. The Last Mountain–Kutawagan–Big Quill Lakes complex is still the most significant staging area, with an estimated 200,000+ birds, but the area along the

South Saskatchewan R from Saskatoon to the Alberta border shows continuing increases in staging cranes. An estimated 25,000 used the area downstream from Gardiner Dam, while upstream as many as 70,000 may have been present (WCH, MAG, SS). All of the latter are in an area that had some cranes 20 years ago, but only around 10,000, and the 200,000 in the former area also represent an increase of about 50% over the same period. Whooping Crane reports were all from Saskatchewan, as usual, and there appeared to have been 34 different individuals seen, including one still present near Blaine Lake Nov. 28.

Three Lesser Golden-Plovers were seen until Nov. 15 at Steinbach, the latest on record for Manitoba (DF). One of the more intriguing records, although the details were not 100% conclusive, was the report of a Spotted Redshank at Dalemead Res., 6 mi s.e. of Calgary, Sept. 19 (M. Harrison). The head and bill description were not detailed enough, but the field notes are convincing. There were 4 observations totalling five individuals of W. Sandpiper, somewhat more than usual of this species. There were two at Oak Hammock Sept. 12 and singles at Hecla I., Man., July 24, Hairy Hill, Alta., Aug. 19, and a late Nov. 1 at Patricia Beach, Man. (B. Shettler, RK, GoG, WN). A Least Sandpiper at Buffalo Pound Lake near Moose Jaw Nov. 14 was exceptionally late (PRK). Although the last sightings for most "peeps" are early to mid-October in the south, at Churchill on Hudson Bay the dates are later, as indicated by the presence of White-rumped Sandpipers to Nov. 3 and Baird's to Oct. 20 (BC). The report of two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at Beaverhill L., e. of Edmonton, from the end of September through the first week of October provided Alberta's 10th record (D. Dekker, E. Man). A Red-necked Phalarope at Redberry L., Sask., Oct. 23 was late for a species rarely seen past the end of September (EAD).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Parasitic Jaegers are rare in this Region away from their breeding range at Churchill, but they were present in numbers in the interior this fall. In Alberta there were four different individuals at Beaverhill L. in September, and singles at Calgary Sept. 5 and Cold L., Oct. 4, while in Manitoba singles were seen at Seven Sisters Sept. 18-19 and Oct. 11 (RK, AS, PT). In Saskatchewan there were singles at L. Athabasca Aug. 19, Turtle L., Sept. 2, Big Quill L., Oct. 17, Regina Nov. 4, and Raymore Nov. 17 (WCH, MC, CFB). There were single Thayer's Gulls at L. Athabasca Aug. 18, Churchill Aug. 24, Patricia Beach Oct. 10, Regina Oct. 16, and Oak Hammock Nov. 1, while there were two at Cold L., Oct. 28 and Patricia Beach Oct. 25 (DAW, BC, RP, BK, RK). The only Iceland Gull reports were from Churchill where singles were seen Oct. 5 & 10 (BC). Manitoba's 4th **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was a single seen at Seven Sisters Sept. 17 (PT). Glaucous Gulls peaked at Churchill Oct. 20, when 20 were seen, while inland there were singles at Winnipeg Oct. 25, Lac des Arcs, Alta., Nov. 8, Calgary Nov. 9, Saskatoon Nov. 16, and Cold L., Nov. 22 (BC, RP, JBS, PST, RK). Sabine's Gulls were reported from Lac du Bonnet, Man., one Sept. 2, Blackstrap L., one Sept. 25, and Redberry L., Sask., where a remarkable 26 were reported Oct. 25 (PT, JAW).

A rarity was the sighting of a Com. Barn-Owl at Regina Oct. 16 (BK). A Chimney Swift seen Aug. 30 near White Bear was well to the s.w. of its normal range in Saskatchewan (SOJ). Two Rufous Hummingbirds were seen at Moose Jaw Aug. 27 (SGW). At Blumenort, Man., a single Rufous Hummingbird appeared at a feeder Oct. 12 and remained until Nov. 5 when the feeder was removed (Minna Toews, DF, RP). An influx of Black-backed Woodpeckers may have been occurring in s.e. Manitoba, where 10 were seen Oct. 11, and 20 Oct. 18 (RP, WN, NC).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — An E. Wood-pewee was seen near Spring Valley Aug. 19 and at the same location a possible Acadian Flycatcher (only one previous record for the Region) was reported Aug. 29 (FB). A late E. Kingbird was seen near Prince Albert Sept. 28 (CD, GeG). The Scis-

sor-tailed Flycatcher near Sydney during the last one-half of July furnished the 5th sighting for s. Manitoba in the past 10 years (NS).

Reports of Gray Jays outside the boreal forest are of note for this usually sedentary species. There were singles seen in the Good Spirit L. area (WJA), Saskatoon (*vide* MDG), Dilke, Sask. (*vide* MB), Rivers, Man. (NS), and Moose Jaw (WP). In Alberta there was an apparent movement out of the mountains as singles were seen near Peace River Oct. 15 & 25, Grande Prairie Oct. 16, and another at a feeder at Beaverlodge during the first week of November (KRL). Counts at a large Am. Crow roost in Saskatoon provided some excellent evidence for the buildup of staging birds and then the abrupt departure that seems to be the norm in this area. On Aug. 21 there were 17,500; by Sept. 15 numbers had risen to 52,500, and they peaked Sept. 26 at 72,500. The next day 50% of them were gone and there were only 11,000 on Oct. 2. One week later only seven remained (JBG).

There were several reports of Mountain Chickadees in the Edmonton area, well outside this species' normal range in the mountains (MPM). At Lethbridge Aug. 21, Teresa Dolman awoke to an unusual bird song that proved to be Alberta's first **Carolina Wren**. The bird was seen several times that day and again the next, was heard singing on several occasions, and recordings of the bird's song were obtained. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** present at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary in Calgary from Oct. 23 to Nov. 30 provided Alberta's 2nd record and the Region's 5th (T. Korolvk). The bird was photographed on several occasions and had survived -10°C. The 222 E. Bluebirds reported from the Stonewall, Man., area between Aug. 17 and Nov. 1 represented the best numbers in many years from anywhere in this Region, and the apparent increase was also noted from several other areas in s. Manitoba including Milner Ridge and Birds Hill P.P. (KG, PT, GoG).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — A first-winter plumaged ♂ **Blue-winged Warbler** that showed up at Delta, Man., Nov. 7 and was seen by several other birders the next day (KH) furnished Manitoba's first record. There were unusually late Orange-crowned Warblers at Seven Sisters, Man., Oct. 24 and Oak Hammock Nov. 1 (PT, RK). Also later than usual was the Black-throated Green Warbler at Winnipeg Oct. 24 (RK) and a Blackpoll Warbler at Moose Jaw Nov. 4 (EWK). Other rarities included a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Calgary Sept. 21-29 (J. Moore) and single Pine Warblers at Spring Valley Sept. 4 and Calgary Sept. 29 (FB, RS). A **Townsend's Warbler** at Weyburn, Sask., Aug. 23 furnished the 4th record for that province (MDG).

A **Scarlet Tanager** seen at Calgary Nov. 13 and again Nov. 19 provided the 4th record ever for Alberta, and surprisingly the 2nd for November (*vide* RD). A Brown-headed Cowbird at Moose Jaw Nov. 1 was a month later than expected (WP). On the oriole front, a Bullock's Oct. 23 at Saskatoon was not only later than expected but much farther north than usually found (PON); however, the late date did not compete with that of the N. Oriole at Winnipeg Nov. 11 (J. Trojack). Last but certainly not least was Saskatchewan's first definite (there are two previous possible records) **Cassin's Finch**, recorded Aug. 30-31 at Saskatoon (JBG).

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

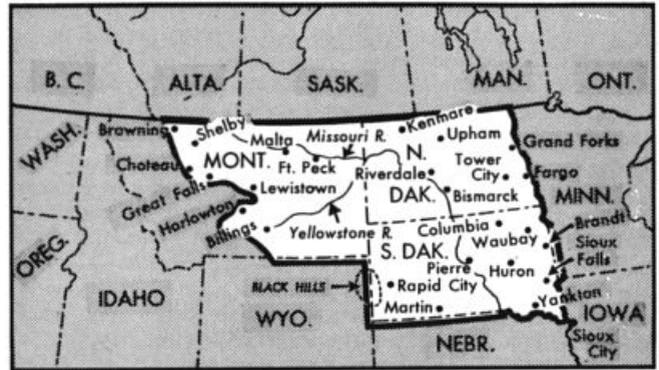
David O. Lambeth

The fall migration of 1987 was as extended as we can ever expect on the northern plains. Warbler migration, which began in July, was heavy in August; by the 20th, 11 species had set earliest-ever records in both North Dakota and South Dakota. Migrant sparrows also arrived early. Perhaps the early fall migration was owing to the mild spring, which had allowed passerines to reach their nesting grounds ahead of schedule. The months of September to November were uniformly mild and dry, and many species were observed in low numbers, perhaps because of the lack of grounding conditions. Temperatures in November decreased slowly and gradually so that open water remained over much of the Region until the end of the month. As a result, there were many late records—far too many to enumerate here. In fact, stragglers, including a number of passerines, were so late that much of the story must be deferred to the winter report and the accounts of the Christmas Bird Counts. Despite the many late records, however, some observers were impressed that the peak migrating populations of most species, waterfowl included, seemed to move through close to the normal time and well ahead of the conditions that would require their departure.

ABBREVIATIONS — Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — The 37 Com. Loons on L. Elwell near Chester, Mont., Sept. 12 (HM) furnished an exceptional number for this Region. The 22 Red-necked Grebes seen Sept. 5 in the Turtle Mts., N.D., included several young (RM). The 775 W. Grebes near New Town Sept. 26 established a new fall high for North Dakota (GB). A Clark's Grebe was reported from Meade, S.D. (NW). Three Least Bitterns were found Aug. 21 at Long Lake N.W.R., N.D. (SK, AMH), and two were in Clark, S.D., Aug. 28 (RB). Two Snowy Egrets were at Bowdoin Ref., Mont., Aug. 23–28. A Little Blue Heron was sighted Sept. 1 at Arrowwood N.W.R., N.D. (PVN), and one was in Brown, S.D., Sept. 4 (GP). Feeding with cattle in Day, S.D., Aug. 31 were 118 Cattle Egrets (DS). An imm. night-heron on the James R. in LaMoure, N.D., Aug. 27, was well described and identified as a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** (RH). A White-faced Ibis was at Long Lake N.W.R., Aug. 7 (MG), and the number at Bowdoin Sept. 11 exceeded 100 (CC).

Considering that counts of Snow Geese often exceed 100,000, Mallards and Canada Geese exceed 25,000 each, and those for



at least 10 other species of ducks are in the 1000–10,000 range, birders must expend considerable effort to find the rarities. Those found included 45 Ross' Geese at Bowdoin Nov. 16 (NP, JS), and five Cinnamon Teal at Long Lake Sept. 1 (MG). The latter species is rarely identified in North Dakota in fall, and the number exceeded the previous high in any season. The most surprising finds, however, involved a total of five **Harlequin Ducks** in North Dakota: the first at Kelly Slough Sept. 29–Oct. 11 (Vince Ames, Mike Jacobs, m.ob.), two on the Grand Forks lagoons Oct. 21–29 (DOL), a male in flight at Tewaukon N.W.R., Dec. 1 (DB), and one on L. Audubon Dec. 6 (GB). Why so many were found in one season is puzzling; prior to this season, there had been only 6 records for North Dakota and none since 1971, despite the fact that "sea ducks" have been intensively searched for in recent years. One **Oldsquaw** was at Ft. Peck, Mont., Sept. 20 (CC), and a male in Meade Nov. 14 provided the first w. South Dakota record outside of LaCreek N.W.R. (JB). A total of 10 Black Scoters in North Dakota Oct. 11–19 established a new high, and one of these was an ad. male photographed by GB. Approximately 20 Surf Scoters were also seen in North Dakota, including four at Fargo Oct. 17–Nov. 7 (RHO, GN, m.ob.). One Surf was at Ft. Peck Oct. 25 (CC), and one was in Perkins, S.D., Oct. 17–Nov. 2 (D & CG). The number of White-winged Scoters in North Dakota exceeded 20, including eight at Fargo in late October (GN et al.). For the 9th consecutive fall, a ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye was seen on Canyon Lake in the Black Hills (NW).

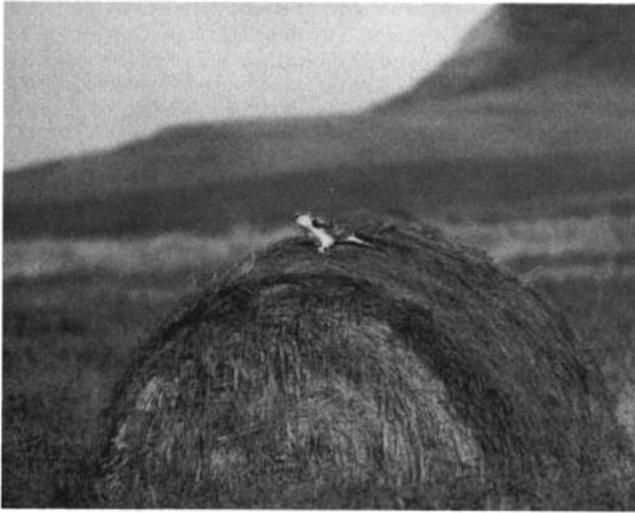
RAPTORS — A pair of Ospreys at Icelandic S.P., N.D., present throughout the summer, lingered through Sept. 14 (fide Henry Duray); a nesting has not been confirmed in North Dakota since 1973.

S.A.

A first state record is always one of the exciting events of the year. But what is to be made of not one, but seven, **Black-shouldered Kites** discovered Sept. 22 by Brian Stotts and Wayne Painter in McKenzie, N.D.? The area lies west of the N. Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P., and looks remarkably similar to the kites' breeding habitat in California. The seven consisted of two adults and five immatures—apparently a family group—that remained through at least Sept. 30, when the area was last checked. When presented with the evidence, Changing Seasons Editor Paul Lehman offered the opinion that it was less preposterous to believe the pair nested in the area than to think they dispersed as a family group more than 1500 mi from their known breeding range. The likelihood of the former becomes more plausible in view of the records this past spring in Illinois and Wisconsin. However, a search of the area for a nest in late November was unsuccessful.



Harlequin Duck at Kelly Slough Nat'l Wildlife Ref., N.D., Oct. 2, 1987. Photo/David O. Lambeth.



Juvenile Black-shouldered Kite in McKenzie County, N.D., Sept. 26, 1987. Photo/Gordon Berkey.

An ad. Bald Eagle at Minot Sept. 6 was extremely early, and another in Day, S.D., Sept. 7 was the earliest ever (JK). An excellent rodent (vole) population in the area of Lewistown, Mont., was believed to account for approximately twice the number of N. Harriers, Red-tailed and Ferruginous hawks, and Prairie Falcons usually seen there (LM). A total of 390 Broad-winged Hawks was observed passing over Day, S.D., Sept. 28 (DS).

PARTRIDGE THROUGH NIGHTJARS — Numbers of Gray Partridge seemed to be strongly increased, and the species was found in new places in Montana (fide CC). Sharp-tailed Grouse were displaying on a lek on Assiniboine Creek in Montana Oct. 14 (DP). An estimated 7500 Sandhill Cranes passed over Gregory, S.D., in 2 hours Oct. 18 (GS). Eight Whooping Cranes were near Pick City, N.D., Oct. 28 (DGP). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found Aug. 2 at both Fargo (MAB) and in Deuel, S.D., where it was the earliest ever (BKH). Fifty Hudsonian Godwits in a flooded field in Bottineau, N.D., Sept. 5 furnished an unprecedented number in fall for this Region (RM), and up to nine were present for several weeks at Grand Forks (DOL). Ten or more W. Sandpipers were in Meade, S.D., Aug. 16 (NW), and two were reported near Mandan Sept. 2 (RR). A well-described Red Phalarope in winter plumage was near Molt, Mont., Oct. 15 (Bill Roney, Jan & Jay Thom).

A jaeger in Brown Oct. 2 was identified as a Pomarine Jaeger (DT), and would provide South Dakota's 2nd record if accepted by the state's records committee. An adult, dark-phase Parasitic Jaeger captured and then drowned a shorebird in a bay of Devils Lake Oct. 3 (GB, RM), and an adult light-phase Parasitic was seen there the next day (DOL). At least 1700 Bonaparte's Gulls were at Devils Lake Oct. 17. Two adult and three imm. Thayer's Gulls allowed close study in Corson, S.D., Nov. 28 (D & CG). In North Dakota, an imm. Sabine's Gull was at the Grand Forks lagoons October 3 (DOL), one was flying over cropland in Traill Oct. 3 (DK), and an adult was near Hettinger, N.D., Oct. 18 (D & CG). Ten of North Dakota's 11 records have occurred in the past 8 years. The only Caspian Tern reported was in Codington, S.D., Sept. 18 (JG). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen Aug. 9 in Grant, S.D. (GP), and one was calling Aug. 22 in Marmarth, N.D. (D & CG).

An indication of how common the E. Screech-Owl may be in North Dakota was provided by responses to tape recordings Nov. 11 at 8 of 10 sites on the Turtle R. judged to have suitable habitat (DOL). The early fall showing by Snowy Owls may have been the best in a decade. A Barred Owl at Tewauckon Nov. 13 was a first for that refuge (DB, HH). There were 3 reports of Long-eared Owls for the Region. Approximately 15 Short-eared Owls were reported for North Dakota, most of them

in late November. In Brown, Tallman banded the first of five N. Saw-whet Owls Oct. 9, and he has now banded more in 2 years than there were records in South Dakota for the last 30! A Whip-poor-will was seen at Grand Forks Sept. 19.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Four Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen Aug. 16 in Lawrence, S.D. (NW). Possibly as many as five Red-bellied Woodpeckers were involved in numerous sightings in Fargo Sept. 17–Nov. 30 (MM, DLL et al.). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Lewistown Aug. 16 was considered unusual there (LM). A Pileated Woodpecker was seen again along the Yellowbank drainage in Grant, S.D. (BKH). The Purple Martin flock that stages at Grand Forks each fall peaked at 10,000 Aug. 20 (DOL). Exceptionally high counts of other swallows in North Dakota included 1950 Tree Swallows at Fargo Aug. 23 (GN), 5000 Banks at Grand Forks Aug. 29, and 8000 Cliffs at Salyer Sept. 15 (AV). Daily counts of corvids included 65 Pinyon Jays in the Larb Hills near Saco, Mont., Sept. 2 (JM), and 20 Clark's Nutcrackers in Custer, S.D., Aug. 18 (RP). A Gray Jay in Bismarck in mid-November was very unusual (fide RR). Common Ravens are now seen in n. areas of North Dakota each fall, but a report of one as far south as Brown, S.D., Nov. 9 was most unusual (SW). Red-breasted Nuthatches did not make a strong showing until rather late in the fall. The earliest-ever migrant Brown Creeper in South Dakota occurred Sept. 19 in Minnehaha (GP).

An Am. Dipper appeared Oct. 14 at the same state fish hatchery near Lewistown where one had been seen briefly last spring (LM). Following a most exceptional nesting season in North Dakota, several daily counts of 20–65 E. Bluebirds continued well into the fall. A daily count of more than 200 Mountain Bluebirds at Medora Sept. 11 was a new high for North Dakota (BCH). A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Ft. Peck Sept. 28 furnished the first fall observation there (CC), and this species is also scarce in fall in North Dakota. A total of 73 Swainson's Thrushes was banded Aug. 17–Sept. 13 in Jackson, S.D. (KG). A Varied Thrush was seen on the very early date of Sept. 18 in Sioux Falls (AH), and one was in New Town, N.D., Oct. 11–18. A N. Mockingbird was found in Eddy, N.D., Aug. 5 (RH). Both species of waxwings were flycatching near Grand Forks on the unusually late date of Nov. 11. Bohemian Waxwings appeared in Day Oct. 10, the earliest ever for South Dakota (DS).

VIREOS THROUGH FINCHES — The vireo migration seemed exceptionally poor, but a Solitary at Ft. Peck Sept. 26 became the 260th species on the local list (CC). A Yellow-throated Vireo in Marmarth Aug. 22 (D & CG) was easily the westernmost ever in North Dakota, and there are no records for Montana. The warbler migration, although very early, was a poor one in terms of diversity and numbers recorded for most species. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Ft. Peck Aug. 26 (CC); there are fewer than 10 records for Montana. A Cape May Warbler was in full song at the International Peace Gardens of North Dakota Sept. 5 (GB), and Black-throated Blues were seen in McHenry, N.D. Sept. 12 and Ward Sept. 17 (RM). Daily counts of 89 Orange-crowned Warblers Sept. 19 and 465 Yellow-rumped Warblers Sept. 27 were recorded, both in the Minot area.

A Scarlet Tanager near Hettinger, N.D., Oct. 25 was both very late and w. of the usual range (D & CG). A Black-headed Grosbeak at New Town Oct. 6 furnished the latest fall record for North Dakota by 11 days (BCH). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Rapid City Oct. 20 was South Dakota's latest ever (NW). As was the case with warblers, sparrow migration also began very early, setting new arrival dates of Sept. 6 & 7 for Fox and White-throated sparrows, respectively, in South Dakota (GP). A Dark-eyed Junco Aug. 22 at Grand Forks was North Dakota's earliest by 6 days. Chipping Sparrows in Codington, S.D., Nov. 7 (JG) and Grand Forks, N.D., Nov. 14 set new late dates for those states. A Baird's Sparrow Oct. 9 at Gascoyne Res. (D & CG) was late. A Swamp Sparrow in Ward Nov. 13 (RM) was also very late, and a daily count of 39 in the Minot area Sept. 27 was a remarkable number that far west (RM). Despite the mildness,

Am. Tree Sparrows were scarce in North Dakota at the end of the period—they sometimes overwinter in good numbers. Smith's Longspurs were found Oct. 4–18 in native grassland at Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., with one exceptionally high count of 85 Oct. 11 (RM, GB). Lapland Longspurs failed to appear in the usual numbers.

Perhaps no species is more associated with winters on the Great Plains than the Snow Bunting—which this fall, ironically, tied the earliest-ever arrival date of Oct. 7 for North Dakota. It was also ironic, when considering the mildness of this fall, to see very early indications of an irruption of finches (which, however, quickly sputtered out). For example, 10 Com. Redpolls in North Dakota Sept. 26 (D & CG) were the earliest ever by 4 days, and this was followed by additional observations in October. Yet redpolls were all but absent in the following weeks. Pine Grosbeaks were reported only from Grand Forks (EF). Red Crossbills appeared in a few locations in early August and were easier to find in the next few weeks than later on. White-winged Crossbills provided the most interest within the winter-finch group, appearing as early as Aug. 18 at Grand Forks (Pat Blank) followed by daily counts of 30 in November in the Denbigh Experimental Forest (REM) and in Grand Forks

(EF). However, the only report of White-wingeds in South Dakota was of three in Deuel Nov. 5 (BKH). Pine Siskins all but disappeared in August in North Dakota, only to reappear in numbers in October. Evening Grosbeaks first appeared Oct. 23–25 at several widely-spread locations in the n. part of the Region, and small numbers were present throughout November.

CITED OBSERVERS and AREA EDITORS (in boldface) — MONTANA—**Chuck Carlson**, Harriet Marble, Jack Millar, Larry Malone, Dwain Prellwitz, Neal Paisley, James Stutzman. NORTH DAKOTA—Donald Bozovsky, **Gordon Berkey**, **Mary Alice Bergan**, Eve Freeberg, Dave & Carolyn Griffiths, Mike Goos, Alice M. Hanley, Bernice C. Houser, Harris Hoistad, Donald Kubischta, Steve Knode, Donald L. Lamb, **David O. Lambeth**, Marcia Moos, Ron Martin, Gary Nielsen, Paul Van Ningen, Robert H. O'Connor, David G. Potter, Robert Randall, Anna Vos. SOUTH DAKOTA—Jocelyn Baker, Ralph Bryant, Dave & Carolyn Griffiths, John Gilmore, Ken Graupman, Augie Hoeger, Bruce K. Harris, John Koerner, George Prisbe, Richard Peterson, **Dennis Skadsen**, Galen Steffen, Dan Tallman, Sam Waldstein, Nat Whitney.—**DAVID O. LAMBETH**, 1909 20th Ave. S, Grand Forks, ND 58201.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Frances Williams

The fall season was mild and sunny with very little rain. A few of the minor frontal systems that crossed the Region brought rainfall and migrating passerines to some areas. The first, during the last week of August, resulted in the only noticeable warbler "wave" of the season. Banding stations at Heard Museum in McKinney, Texas, and at the Plano, Texas, Outdoor Learning Center, experienced banner days October 21–23 and November 11 and 23, all after cold fronts pushed through.

The build-up of populations of winter residents was slow, and at the end of the period observers in the western half of the Region were still awaiting the usual numbers of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings, bluebirds, towhees, and winter sparrows.

When Sophia Mery of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, died October 15, the Region lost a long-time dedicated birder and bander. Her contributions to the knowledge of Oklahoma birds are acknowledged in every major publication on the birds of the State.

ABBREVIATIONS — B.R.C. = Bird Records Committee; Buffalo L. = Buffalo Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Randall Co., Texas; F.F. = Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., Nebraska; G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountain Nat'l Park, Texas; Hagerman = Hagerman Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Grayson Co., Texas; T.C.W.C. = Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A & M University; T.P.R.F. = Texas Photo Record File at Texas A & M University. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL — A widespread movement of loons occurred the last week of October and the first week of November. At Oklahoma City, L. Hefner hosted a **Red-throated Loon** Nov. 4–6 and a **Pacific Loon** Nov. 8–30 (m.ob., ph. to Okla. B.R.C.). Also present were 18 or more Com. Loons. In Texas Nov. 8, 51 Com. Loons rested on L. Texoma and 30 on L. Tawakoni, Van Zandt, and one appeared in El Paso Oct. 29 (JD). A **Least Grebe** visited a ranch pond in Kinney, Tex., Oct. 9 (E & KM). A Horned Grebe arrived at Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Kans., Aug. 28 (TC). In the remainder of the



Region, Horned Grebes arrived with the loons. One at Midland Nov. 13 was farther w. than usual (RMS). A **Red-necked Grebe** visited Cedar Bluff Res., Trego, Kans., Nov. 7 (MM, SS). An ad. Eared Grebe accompanied two juveniles on a playa in Castro, Tex., Aug. 2 (KS). Horned, Eared, and Western grebes were all present on Branched Oak L., Lancaster, Neb., Nov. 22 (BJR). At L. Hefner, a W. Grebe accompanied a group of scaup and Ring-necked and Ruddy ducks Oct. 27–29 (MO et al.). At Midland, a W. Grebe Oct. 24–Nov. 1 was the first recorded there since 1978 (m.ob.). This species was also reported in Osage,

Douglas, and Jefferson, Kans., and in Washington and Cherokee, Okla. In Hudspeth, Tex., Western and Clark's grebes were side by side Oct. 29–Nov. 19 (BZ, JD).

American White Pelican flights were impressive throughout the Region. Peak numbers included 600 in Douglas, Neb., Sept. 12, 2000 in Osage, Okla., Oct. 18, and 2000 at Hagerman Oct. 25–Nov. 29. Groups at unusual sites included 15 at Kerrville, 120 in Terrell, Tex., Oct. 10, and 200 in Howard, Tex., Oct. 20. The population of Double-crested Cormorants is flourishing. About 6000 took 7 minutes to depart a roost at L. Tawakoni Nov. 22. Congregations of 1000 or more were estimated at Washington, Okla., Oct. 31 and L. Sam Rayburn, Nacogdoches and Angelina, Tex., Oct. 3. This species was much in evidence in w. Texas in November, with six or more visiting El Paso, Hudspeth, Randall, and Midland, and 100 in Howard. An Oliveaceous Cormorant provided a first record in Washington, Okla., Sept. 12 (DV) and one in Osage, Okla., Aug. 1 was also noteworthy (JH). One was photographed at El Paso Aug. 19 sitting next to a Double-crested (BZ). Small numbers of Oliveaceous Cormorants remained in Kerr, Tex., to Oct. 30 (TG) and L. Tawakoni to Nov. 15 (RK).

An early Am. Bittern was sighted in Wagoner, Okla., Aug. 12 (VJ), one landed in an urban backyard in Omaha Oct. 20 (AW), and one visited El Paso Nov. 21 (JS). A Least Bittern remained in Tarrant, Tex., Aug. 27–Sept. 6 (JK, TW). An amazing 44 Great Egrets were counted in El Paso Aug. 26 (BZ, JD). A Great Egret in Terrell, Tex., Oct. 10 provided an expected first record (NJ). Snowy Egrets, always rather scarce in Nebraska, were found in Lincoln Aug. 1 and Loup Sept. 6 (RCR, DJR). A Little Blue Heron in Stephens, Okla., Oct. 18 was late (JDT). This species is uncommon in w. Texas, but single birds were seen at Midland Aug. 22, Alpine Sept. 21, and Balmorhea L., Reeves, Sept. 26. Six Tricolored Herons visited Bell, Tex., Aug. 5–Oct. 6 (ML) and one was seen in Kerr Aug. 9–14 (MBo). A Cattle Egret appeared in F.F., Oct. 30 (BP, TB) and five lingered at Washita N.W.R., Okla., Nov. 12 (IB). A Black-crowned Night-Heron at Hagerman Nov. 21 was late (SB). In Nebraska, White-faced Ibises were noted in Dawes Aug. 8 (RCR), Sheridan Aug. 22 (RCR), and Douglas Oct. 10 (AW). High numbers of this species continued to be recorded throughout w. Texas, where they fed on fish in quickly drying playas. On the Edwards Plateau, a single White-faced Ibis was in Kerr Oct. 1 and nine were in Uvalde Oct. 10 (E & KM). A Wood Stork visited L. Sam Rayburn Oct. 3 (SL). A Roseate Spoonbill at Tulsa Sept. 7–10 was the first there since July 1960 (PS, JL). Spoonbills were also discovered on Toledo Bend Res., on the Texas-Louisiana line, Sept. 7 (DF) and in Bell Sept. 26–Nov. 1 (ML).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES — Eight Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks provided a first record in Van Zandt Oct. 16 (RK). Tundra Swans graced El Paso Nov. 21 (BZ) and Harvey, Kans., Nov. 19 (DSK). In n.c. Texas the first real taste of winter Nov. 17 brought a record number of Snow Geese for one day: about one-half dozen flocks comprising 200–2000 birds each. Canada Geese honked across the skies of Kerr on the early date of Sept. 1 (JM). Lone Ross' Geese visited DeSoto N.W.R., Neb., Nov. 10 (BJR) and Hagerman Nov. 8 (KH). The best birds of the season at Hagerman were two Brant Nov. 21–30 (m.ob., ph to T.P.R.F.). One pond in El Paso now has a population of about 30 Wood Ducks. Several Wood Ducks brightened a pond in the residential area of Midland. A Cinnamon Teal was carefully identified in Morrill, Neb., Aug. 22 (RCR, DJR). Greater Scaup were located at DeSoto Oct. 31 (SD), Pierce, Neb., Nov. 1 (MBr), Tulsa Nov. 29 (PWW), Bell Nov. 22, and Kerrville Nov. 12–30 (TG). A Lesser Scaup in Canadian, Okla., Aug. 29 was early (JG). Oldsquaws appeared in Pottawatomie, Kans., Nov. 16–30 (TC) and Oklahoma City Oct. 16 (JGN, JW). The only Black Scoter was in Trego, Kans., Nov. 7, and a Surf Scoter was there the same day (MM, LM, SS). Other Surf Scoters were reported at DeSoto Oct. 31–Nov. 14 (SD), Sarpy Nov. 1–22 (BJR), and Pottawatomie Oct. 17–Nov. 30 (TC). White-winged Scoters were found in Keith, Neb., Nov. 1 (RCR, DJR), Pierce Nov. 1 (MBr), Jackson, Kans., Nov. 10 (MM), and Oklahoma City Oct.

27 (MO, JGN). At Hagerman, 14 Com. Goldeneyes were counted Nov. 20 (KH). About 700 Buffleheads assembled on L. Hefner Nov. 19. A congregation of 55 Hooded Mergansers represented an unusual number of an uncommon species in the Wichita Mountains N.W.R., Okla., Nov. 23 (JMM, LEM), and nine at Midland Nov. 30 were also newsworthy. Others were sighted at Tulsa Oct. 31, El Paso Nov. 10–30, and Kerrville Nov. 16–30. Red-breasted Mergansers fished at Tulsa Nov. 14, Hudspeth, Tex., Nov. 19, and Midland Nov. 20.

Ospreys were widespread and common Sept. 6–Nov. 1, with five present at once Sept. 25 in Cherokee, Okla., and at Midland. **American Swallow-tailed Kites** graced Marfa, Tex., Oct. 15 (GW, PE) and Blanco, Tex., Aug. 29 (KB). A total of 77 Mississippi Kites sailed over Nacogdoches, Tex., Aug. 12–Sept. 2 (DW, SL). At least 10 N. Harriers visited Nacogdoches, where they are uncommon, Sept. 20–Oct. 21. A Harris' Hawk in El Paso Nov. 11 provided only the 2nd record there, although the species nests very locally in nearby Hudspeth (BZ). One in G.M.N.P., Nov. 25–26 was also unusual. In Uvalde, Tex., 14 Harris' Hawks were counted Nov. 5. A Red-shouldered Hawk caught a catfish in Tarrant, Tex., Nov. 29, and sat on a fence post to eat it (LH). Four Red-shouldered Hawks, two of which were immatures, were observed in F.F., Sept. 2–5 (BJR, BP). A Red-shouldered Hawk remained in Terrell, Tex., Oct. 10–Nov. 7. This species is extremely rare w. of the Pecos R. A residential area of Midland hosted a Red-shouldered Hawk Aug. 16 into December (AWe). The only Broad-winged Hawk flights reported were at Nacogdoches Sept. 20–25, with a peak of 1000+ birds Sept. 25. A Ferruginous Hawk visited Tulsa Nov. 14 (JA). Rough-legged Hawks were sighted at Tulsa Nov. 23, Dallas Oct. 24, G.M.N.P., Nov. 25, Deaf Smith, Tex., Nov. 28, and Midland Oct. 25. Two adult and two imm. Crested Caracaras were located in Van Zandt Nov. 10 (RK). Seven Peregrine Falcons were found in Texas, the earliest at Buffalo L., Sept. 2 and the latest in Real Nov. 18. A total of 17 Merlins was reported in the Region. One at Wichita Aug. 15 was extremely early (DSK). As about five million Free-tailed Bats emerged from Devil's Sinkhole S.P., Tex., Sept. 25, two Merlins grabbed 9 in half an hour (KB).

The Tarrant B.R.C. finally admitted Wild Turkey to the County list after wild birds had been found in 4 areas. Of 35 Montezuma Quail seen in the Davis Mts. in mid-November, 25 were birds of the year (ML). A Yellow Rail in Randall Aug. 15 provided a first record for the Texas Panhandle (KS). A King Rail was discovered at Midland Aug. 23 (RMS, m.ob.). Three Virginia Rails were in Garden, Neb., on the late date of Oct. 31 (RCR, DJR). This species was noted in Randall Oct. 14 and Muskogee, Okla., Oct. 29. Eight in Midland Aug. 23 may have included summer residents. A dozen Soras flew ahead of the observers and as many more called from the marsh near Amarillo Aug. 11 (KS, DM). A week later, dozens of Soras called in a marsh near Midland and many could be seen darting among the cattails. A Com. Moorhen was found in Randall Oct. 14, and one provided a first county record in Washington, Okla., Sept. 19 (DV, MD). Twenty Whooping Cranes rested at Quivira N.W.R., Kans., Oct. 21. A first-year Whooping Crane, identified by its band as a Wood Buffalo N.P. bird, foraged in a playa alongside a highway near Amarillo Nov. 1–30+. Its parents had not yet arrived at Aransas.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Uncommon fall sightings of Lesser Golden-Plover were at El Paso Oct. 22 (BZ, JD), Tarrant Oct. 22–23 (RDC, LH), Rogers, Okla., Sept. 5 (ED, MD), and Nowata, Okla., Oct. 10 & 29 (DV). A Snowy Plover remained at Midland Nov. 30. One was found at Kerrville, where the species is uncommon, Oct. 1. **Piping Plovers** were photographed at El Paso Aug. 18 (BZ) and Balmorhea L., Nov. 13 (ML), documenting unusual western appearances of this threatened species. Others were seen in Osage, Kans., Aug. 20 (MM), Canadian, Okla., Sept. 2–6 (m.ob.), Rogers and Nowata Aug. 8 (DV, JH), and Tarrant Aug. 8–9 (LH). At Midland, a Mountain Plover Nov. 4 provided the first record since 1977. Late Am. Avocets were noted in Carson, Tex., Nov. 15, Midland



Piping Plover at Balmorhea Lake, Texas, Nov. 13, 1987. Photo/Mark Lockwood.

Nov. 30, and Lancaster, Neb., Oct. 17 (JT). During August, Willets were recorded at Rogers, Tulsa, El Paso, Ochiltree, Tex., and Midland. One was observed at Kerrville Sept. 1. Late Upland Sandpipers were heard at Norman Sept. 29 (JG) and L. Tawakoni Nov. 8 (RK). Marbled Godwits were sighted at Tulsa Aug. 13, Rogers Aug. 2, and Midland Aug. 22. Ruddy Turnstones were located at Tulsa Aug. 14, Oklahoma City Aug. 27, Tarrant Aug. 8-9, and Toledo Bend Res., Sept. 2. Red Knots provided a 3rd county record at Tulsa Aug. 23 (PS, JL) and a 4th record at El Paso Aug. 20 (BZ, JD). This rare migrant was also found in Canadian Aug. 20 (MO). Six Sanderlings scurried along the shore of a rapidly drying playa at Midland Aug. 22-Sept. 20. Single birds were seen in Randall Oct. 3 and Bell Aug. 30. Dunlins were numerous and widespread in late October. (August records of this species should be thoroughly documented.)

Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen in Pierce, Neb., Sept. 12, Tulsa Aug. 13, Nowata Aug. 13, Midland Sept. 7, L. Tawakoni Aug. 5, and Todedo Bend Aug. 19 and Sept. 2 & 9. Up to five juv. Short-billed Dowitchers were carefully studied in Canadian Sept. 5-12 (JG, m.ob.). Single birds were found at Tulsa Aug. 25 (m.ob.), L. Tawakoni Aug. 5 (RK), Tarrant Aug. 30 (LH, m.ob.), and El Paso Oct. 23 (BZ, JD). American Woodcocks lurked in F.F., Aug. 5, Tulsa Nov. 14, Washington, Okla., Oct. 26, Johnson, Tex., Nov. 26, Tarrant Nov. 7, 14, & 15, Van Zandt Nov. 11, 14, & 17, and Kerr Oct. 27. One that came to a backyard in Wichita Falls Nov. 11 was much admired by local birders (MB). An unusual number of Red-necked Phalaropes congregated at El Paso Aug. 18-Oct. 5, with a high count of 40 Sept.



Red Phalarope (juvenile beginning molt to first-winter plumage) at Willow Creek Rec. Area, Pierce Co., Neb. Sept. 26, 1987. Photo/Mark Brogie.

16. Smaller numbers visited Pierce Sept. 24, Oklahoma City Oct. 9, Hagerman Oct. 4 and Midland Oct. 8. A Red Phalarope was found dead on a mountain highway in El Paso Oct. 28, providing a first county record [*T.C.W.C.]. Living Red Phalaropes were discovered in Pierce Sept. 26 (MBr) and Kimble, Tex., Aug. 29 (NJ).

A Laughing Gull at L. Hefner, Okla., Nov. 24-Dec. 2 provided a latest fall record (JGN). One in Tarrant Oct. 24-25 furnished a first county record (CH, KO, LH). An ad. Laughing Gull sitting on a rock in the Guadalupe R., Kerr, Tex., was photographed Dec. 1, providing the first documented record for the Edwards Plateau (TG). "Hundreds of thousands" of Franklin's Gulls massed over Oologah Res., Nowata, Oct. 17. Seven Franklin's Gulls in Kendall, Tex., Sept. 9 provided a first fall record, and nine appeared at Hudspeth, where the species is unusual in fall, Oct. 29. Bonaparte's Gulls were at Nowata Oct. 11, Tarrant Oct. 25, Hudspeth Oct. 29 and Nov. 19, and Midland Nov. 28. A California Gull was sighted in Lincoln Aug. 1 (RCR). Herring Gulls, always rare in w. Texas, were seen in Hudspeth Oct. 29 and Nov. 19, and Howard Nov. 10. A much-photographed Thayer's Gull remained at L. Hefner Oct. 2-Dec. 3. An amazing seven Sabine's Gulls were found in the Region: Lancaster, Neb., Oct. 10 (BP, BJR); Clay Sept. 26 (TC), Geary Oct. 8, Cheyenne Bottoms Oct. 9 (fide TC), and Osage Oct. 9 (DSK), all in Kansas; L. Hefner, Okla., Oct. 3-17 (JW, JGN); and Randall, Tex., Oct. 6-9 (DM). Caspian Terns were seen in Wagoner, Okla., Sept. 21 (JMcM), Tulsa Sept. 7 (m.ob.), and Tarrant Oct. 15 (RDC, DN). At L. Hefner, Com. Terns were observed Oct. 25-27 (JGN). A Black Tern at Midland Nov. 22 was extremely late (RMS).

DOVES THROUGH RAVENS — An Inca Dove at Wichita Nov. 8 was the first there since 1976 (DSK). In Tarrant, a Com. Ground-Dove was seen Oct. 21 (WC). A Groove-billed Ani visited Midland Nov. 13-22 (JMe). Three nestling Com. Barn-Owls were discovered in a granary being auctioned off in Rogers Nov. 20. An injured Flammulated Owl was picked up in El Paso Oct. 27, rehabilitated, and released in nearby mountains. The only Long-eared Owls reported were in Wagoner Nov. 13 and Wichita Nov. 15. Short-eared Owls hunted in Trego, Kans., Nov. 7, Washington, Okla., Oct. 11, Wagoner Nov. 9, Tulsa Oct. 25 and Nov. 14, and L. Tawakoni (no data given). The rarely-reported N. Saw-whet Owl was seen in Bellevue, Neb., Oct. 31 (RG) and El Paso Aug. 3 (ph. to T.P.R.F., BZ). More than 500 Com. Nighthawks were counted in Tulsa Sept. 17 and Washington, Okla., Sept. 19. Late records were set by single birds in Washington Oct. 22 (MD) and Ft. Worth Nov. 5 (WC). A Magnificent Hummingbird remained in G.M.N.P., Sept. 5. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was w. of the usual route of the species at Kickapoo Caverns S.P., Tex., Aug. 4-Sept. 10 (KB). Two Anna's Hummingbirds frequented feeders in El Paso Oct. 8-Nov. 30. Calliope Hummingbirds were numerous at El Paso from mid-August through mid-September with a very impressive high of 12 birds Sept. 17 (BZ). A single ♂ Calliope brightened Midland Aug. 14 (DK). A *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbird was discovered in Quartz Mountain S.P., Greer, Okla., Aug. 30 (SW). Rufous Hummingbirds were unusually far e. at Sumner, Kans., Sept. 1 (DSK), Tulsa Aug. 30-31 (JL, PS), and Bell Aug. 20 (ML). A Ringed Kingfisher visited the Kerrville sewage ponds Nov. 30 (TG, E & KM). The Acorn Woodpecker clan that formerly resided in w. Kerr has not been located in 3 years, despite intensive searching (E & KM). Acorn Woodpeckers provided 2nd county records at El Paso Oct. 14 (JD, BZ) and Midland Nov. 19-30 (JMe, m.ob.). A Red-bellied Woodpecker provided a first record in Palo Duro Canyon S.P., Nov. 4 (KS). Red-naped Sapsuckers were unusually abundant in El Paso and Hudspeth during October and November. Red-naped were more numerous than Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers at Amarillo, while the reverse was true at Midland. The only Williamson's Sapsucker reported was in G.M.N.P., Oct. 1 (OVO).

Willow Flycatchers were noted at Tulsa Aug. 30 (AH) and Wichita Mts., Aug. 5 (JG). A Least Flycatcher was photographed

at Hueco Tanks S P , Sept 1 (GL, ph to T P R F) Hammond's, Dusky, and Gray flycatchers were all reported in Morton, Kans , Sept. 5 (DVa). Hammond's Flycatchers were numerous at El Paso in September (BZ, GL). A vigorously singing Gray Flycatcher provided a first Texas Panhandle record at Buffalo L., Aug. 30 (KS) and one was found at El Paso Sept. 1 (BZ). Black Phoebes visited Odessa, Tex., Aug. 26, Midland Sept. 26, and Real, Tex., Oct. 16. Details of a sighting of an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** in Dawes have been submitted to the Nebraska B.R.C. If accepted, it will provide the first state record (RCR, DJR). Cassin's Kingbirds visited Midland Sept. 17 (JMe) and El Paso Sept. 23 (BZ, JD). In Bailey and Parmer, Tex., 3500 Cliff Swallows moved ahead of an approaching storm Aug. 23 (SW). A Barn Swallow nest containing three young was found in Valley, Neb., on the late date of Sept. 6 (RCR, DJR). A Scrub Jay in Greer Aug. 29 provided one of the few records in s.w. Oklahoma (SW). This species invaded El Paso in mid-September, building to a peak of 30 Oct. 15. Pinyon Jays flocked in G.M.N.P., Sept. 10–Oct. 15, and in the Davis Mts., Oct. 8. Clark's Nutcrackers visited G.M.N.P., Nov. 19 & 25 (DS). A Black-billed Magpie in Cowley Oct. 10 was far s. and e. of its normal range in Kansas (fide DSK). Wandering Chihuahuan Ravens were noted at Elk City, Okla., Oct. 1–Nov. 30 (IB) and Kerr Nov. 28 (E & KM). In El Paso, a Com. Raven Nov. 19 provided a first area record (BZ, JD).

CHICKADEES THROUGH VIREOS — Mountain Chickadees arrived in El Paso Oct. 13, and by Nov. 19 as many as 16 could be found. One was seen in Morton Nov. 23 (SC, RP). "Black-crested" Tufted Titmice were present in G.M.N.P., Oct. 28–Nov. 25 (SWa). Bushtits were found in Morton Nov. 23. Red-breasted Nuthatches were common in El Paso, Amarillo, and Midland, and one in Bell Sept. 16 provided an expected first county record (ML). Small numbers of White-breasted Nuthatches visited El Paso Oct. 20–Nov. 30. A Rock Wren bobbed along a cobblestone drive at L. Hefner Sept. 24, and one returned to the spillway of L. Tawakoni for the 3rd year Sept. 27. Good numbers of Carolina Wrens were present in F F during the season, but none could be found after a snowfall in late November. A Carolina Wren in Morton Oct. 10 was very far west (TC, SS), as were two in Randall Oct. 14 (KS). In Washington, Okla., two Winter Wrens went to sleep in a geranium basket and woke up inside a garage where the plants had been taken for shelter from frost Oct. 21 (MD). Early Winter Wrens included four in F.F., Sept. 26 and single birds in Tulsa Sept. 18 and Kendall, Tex., Sept. 19. There were numerous reports in November. Sedge Wrens were feeding young in Washington, Okla., Sept. 28 (DV), and those present in Linn, Kans., were also presumed to be nesting Sept. 19 (MC). A Sedge Wren at Lost Maples State Natural Area, Bandera, Tex., provided a first park record Nov. 5 (TG). An Am. Dipper was discovered in G.M.N.P., Oct. 24 (fide OVO). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Morton Nov. 23 was late.

Documentation of a sighting of a Mountain Bluebird in Rogers, Okla., Sept. 26 has been submitted to the Oklahoma B.R.C. (DV, JH). Townsend's Solitaires were reported only in Morton Nov. 23, Real, Tex., Nov. 12, and Midland Oct. 3. Wood Thrushes were unexpected in Washington, Okla., Sept. 7 (MD), Tulsa Nov. 28 (PS, JL), and Amarillo Nov. 10 (RS). Gray Catbirds lingered to Nov. 7 in Saunders, Neb. (TH), Palo Duro Canyon Nov. 24 (KS), and Amarillo Nov. 12 (RS). Five Sage Thrashers were seen in Cimarron, Okla., Oct. 3 (JDT). Long-billed Thrashers were surprise "invaders" of the Texas Edwards Plateau in November when they were found in Edwards (KB), Uvalde (E & KM), and Kerr (TG). Sprague's Pipits were discovered in the Davis Mts., Oct. 11 (GW) and Osage, Okla., Oct. 4 (DV, JH). A **Phainopepla** appeared in Morton Sept. 10, providing a first Kansas record (DVa). In Lancaster, Neb., a N. Shrike was located Nov. 5 (BJR), and three were in Morton Nov. 23 (SC, RP). A Gray Vireo was netted at Kickapoo Cavern Sept. 6 (KB). A Yellow-throated Vireo visited Tulsa Oct. 22 (PS, JL). The only Philadelphia Vireo reported was in Tarrant Sept. 16 (MR). A Red-eyed Vireo was observed at Buffalo L., Sept. 22 (KS).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES — A Tennessee Warbler wandered to El Paso Oct. 15 (BZ, JD). An early Orange-crowned Warbler appeared at F.F., Aug. 11 (RG). A late one visited a feeder in Comanche, Okla., Nov. 30 (JMM, LEM). A Magnolia Warbler bathed at Kerrville Sept. 1 (E & KM). Black-throated Blue Warblers graced F.F., Sept. 13 (CR) and Morton Oct. 10 (TC, SS). Black-throated Gray Warblers visited Midland Sept. 17, Hudspeth Aug. 26, El Paso Sept. 6 & 17, and G.M.N.P., Nov. 29. A Blackburnian Warbler brightened Kickapoo Cavern S.P., Sept. 20. Pine Warblers were seen at Omaha Sept. 2 and Midland Oct. 5. A **Prairie Warbler** photographed in Hudspeth, Tex., Nov. 19 provided a first area record (BZ, JD), and one at Hagerman Aug. 13 provided only the 2nd record there (KH). Palm Warblers were observed at Wagoner Sept. 29 (JMcM), Denton, Tex., Oct. 10 (GK), Nacogdoches Oct. 5 (DW), and Buffalo L., Oct. 28 (KS). A Blackpoll Warbler provided a 2nd record at El Paso Oct. 15. Also at El Paso, an Am. Redstart Nov. 10 was late. A Prothonotary Warbler was netted at Kickapoo Cavern Sept. 6 (KB). An early Ovenbird was found dead at Ft Worth Aug. 25, and seven Ovenbirds were banded during September in McKinney, Tex. Banders demonstrated that Mourning Warblers are more common than usually thought, as 19 were banded in McKinney and 18 in Plano during September. The only other reports were of one in Washington, Okla., Sept. 7 and one in Bell Aug. 30. MacGillivray's Warblers are usually easy to find in w. Texas, but none was seen in the Panhandle and only one at Midland. A Canada Warbler in Sheridan Aug. 22 provided a first record for w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). One visited Bell Aug. 30 (ML) and single birds were banded at McKinney and Plano.

In Chadron, Neb., a N. Cardinal made the rounds of various feeders during November. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were unusually common in Edwards and Bandera, Tex., during October. Black-headed Grosbeaks were late in Randall Nov. 7 and G.M.N.P., Nov. 19. A Lazuli Bunting visited Kerr Sept. 7 (JM). At Kickapoo Cavern, 133 Painted Buntings were banded in August. Cassin's Sparrows were rather far e. in Oklahoma City Sept. 12 (JG) and Bell Sept. 2 (ML). Chipping, Clay-colored, and Brewer's sparrows were very scarce throughout w. Texas. One Clay-colored Sparrow was discovered in Pierce, Neb., Sept. 12 (MBr) and several were reported from Dallas Oct. 21 (JP, PP). Lark Buntings were unusually abundant in s.w. Oklahoma (JDT). A Baird's Sparrow at Lost Maples Nov. 5 provided a first park record (TG). Le Conte's Sparrows were found in Douglas, Neb., Sept. 23–Oct. 12, Osage, Okla., Nov. 14, Tulsa Oct. 6 and Nov. 22, and Wagoner Nov. 21. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow lurked in Douglas Oct. 10. Fox Sparrows were seen at Elk City, Okla., Nov. 6 & 14 (IB), Palo Duro Canyon Nov. 11, and Buffalo L., Nov. 28. Harris' Sparrows appeared at Black Gap W.M.A., Brewster, Tex., Nov. 28 (BMcK). Yellow-eyed Juncos were reported in G.M.N.P. for the 3rd time; perhaps someone will eventually document this species for Texas with a photograph. Lapland Longspurs swirled across Osage, Okla., Nov. 10, and Tulsa Nov. 19 & 28. At least 200 Smith's Longspurs were at L. Tawakoni Nov. 29, 150 at Tulsa Nov. 19, and three in Osage Nov. 10. A Chestnut-collared Longspur provided a first park record at Hueco Tanks Oct. 19 (BZ). Other lone Chestnut-collareds were discovered at Tulsa Nov. 19 and L. Tawakoni Nov. 29. Snow Buntings arrived in Platte, Neb., Nov. 24 and Lancaster Nov. 30.

Great-tailed Grackles continue to expand their range in Kansas, as one in Riley Sept. 21 provided a first county record and 30 congregated in Douglas Oct. 17 (MM). In Kerr, Com. Grackles fed heavily on acorns Oct. 2 and Nov. 5 (JM). Very few Purple Finches were reported. A few Cassin's Finches had arrived in G.M.N.P. by Nov. 18. Red Crossbills arrived in El Paso on the early date of Sept. 29, and 10 were counted there Nov. 14. A single bird was seen in Amarillo Nov. 21–23 (PA), and five visited Bellevue Nov. 1 (LP). Three White-winged Crossbills were observed in Wayne, Neb., Nov. 29 (DSt), and 20 Com. Redpolls flocked in Knox, Neb., Oct. 7 (MBr). A November invasion of Pine Siskins occurred in the Texas hill country, and also in Bell and El Paso. Single Evening Grosbeaks

were discovered at Hagerman Nov. 21 and El Paso Oct. 14, two were in G.M.N.P., Aug. 4, and small numbers were seen in Randall Oct. 18–Nov. 30+.

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION

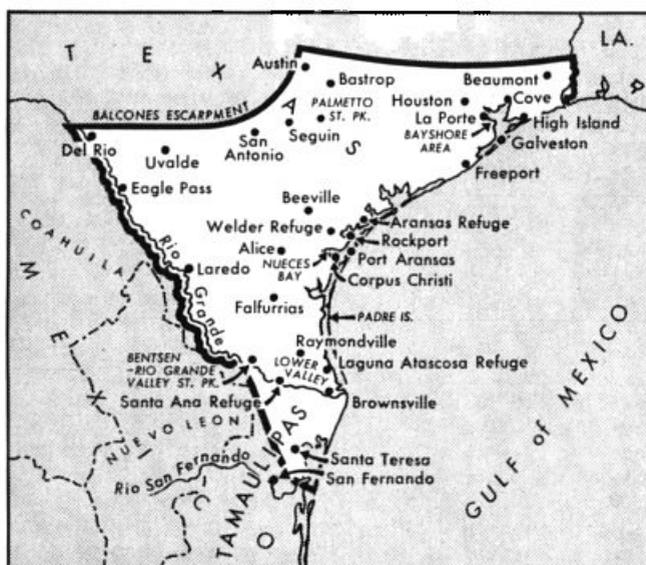
Greg W. Lasley and Chuck Sexton

Most contributors described the season as simply hot and dry. McAllen uncharacteristically recorded seven consecutive nationwide highs at 102–105 degrees F. in mid-September. Rainfall was far below normal Regionwide with only a few counter-examples such as a respectable 3.07 inches at Santa Ana in October and over 5 inches at Kickapoo Caverns August 28 to September 2. In the absence of favorable moisture Regionwide, such patterns led to a mosaic of ecological conditions which strongly affected local avian movements and shaped local observer opinion. For example, freshwater ponds in Rockport and Falfurrias were mostly dry most of the season, yet in between these localities, Lake Alice and ponds in Kleberg County filled up in early August and remained more or less full. Added to this “natural” mosaic, some refuges such as Attwater and Santa Ana flooded man-made ponds and marshes to enhance the habitat for the migration season and to counterbalance the dry conditions. On the other hand, we were distressed to learn that the productive Mission and McAllen sewage ponds were “almost gone” and provided little useful avian habitat. These facilities, like those in some other areas of this Region, are being phased out in favor of more “modern” methods of sewage treatment.

Periodic weak weather fronts shifted winds and brought light rains, such as around August 28–29, September 12–14, and September 20, but there were essentially no reports of major passerine concentrations or major hawk movements often associated with frontal passages. Most contributors thought the season was rather dull but felt it picked up in the latter one-half of November as wintering species began arriving in droves.

ABBREVIATIONS — Aransas = Aransas Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Bentsen = Bentsen Rio Grande State Park; Kickapoo = Kickapoo Caverns State Park; Laguna Atascosa = Laguna Atascosa Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; San Bernard = San Bernard Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; Santa Ana = Santa Ana Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; T.B.R.C. = Texas Bird Records Committee; U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS — A Pacific Loon was reported at San Antonio's Braunig L., Nov. 6 (WS). The first Com. Loons of the season were seen in Brazoria Nov. 9, and a compact flock of 19 was at Rockport by Nov. 16 (CC). Least Grebes were more plentiful in many parts of the Region this season, and



were especially numerous in Kleberg and at Santa Ana (SB, PP, JJ). A high count of 75 Least Grebes at Santa Ana was noted during August, and some attempted a late nesting. Most nests failed, however, owing to fluctuating water levels, but at least some were successful as young were seen during October (JJ). A Least Grebe in Kinney Oct. 4–14 (KB et al.) was out of place, and another at San Antonio's Mitchell L., Sept. 20 (DM) and Oct. 17 through the period (MH) was noteworthy. A group of 60 Pied-billed Grebes Nov. 24 in Kleberg was an unusual concentration for that area (SB, PP). Eared Grebes at Mitchell L. were considered to be down in numbers with peaks of only 20–30 reported. Three possible Cory's Shearwaters were seen off S. Padre I., Aug. 23 (TB), and a dead Cory's was found on N. Padre I., Nov. 3 (TA). A dead **Manx Shearwater** was found on Mustang I., Oct. 7 (TA); this will be the 4th state record if accepted by the T.B.R.C. Finishing out the list of dead seabirds was a Masked Booby also found by Amos on Mustang I., Oct. 25. Two N. Gannets were seen off Port Aransas Nov. 14 (CC et al.), and four were seen Nov. 29 between San Luis Pass and Surfside (MA). Northern Gannet, over the past 5 years, has evolved into a relatively common wintering bird along the U.T.C. Detection, however, is greatly affected by wind direction and the proximity of the clear water line to the shore (fide TE).

The Am White Pelican flock at Mitchell L increased from 180 Oct 12 (CBe) to 325 by Nov 1 (MH) after an unusually large number had summered there. Another impressive inland flock of 350 was on a small pond in Waller Nov. 1 (JM). Brown Pelicans continued an amazing recovery from their pesticide-induced decline of the late 1950s. Bartels reports she now counts them "by the 10s or 20s" along the Mansfield Channel, where only a few years ago a single bird was an event. On the U.T.C., three Brown Pelicans were reported from San Luis Pass Aug. 30 (DM), and by Sept. 30 the number at that location had risen to 91 (TE). By late November over 250 could be found in coastal Galveston (ML), and by period's end over 500 could be found in Galveston Bay. Unlike the past few years when most Brown Pelicans on the U.T.C. were imm. birds, this year a significant percentage were adult. Grantham reports that between Aug. 5-18, 42 pre-fledgling Brown Pelicans were transported for release to San Bernard by Nat'l Audubon workers in an attempt to establish a nesting colony in that area. Double-crested Cormorants were mentioned by many observers as being in unusually high numbers at many locations. Their numbers peaked at Mitchell L. at 3200-3500 in late November (MH, DM). In the Copano Bay area on the c. coast, Bender estimated 30,000+ Double-crested Cormorants moved by one location at dusk Nov. 1. Most unusual was a well-described Magnificent Frigatebird Sept. 12 over L. Travis near Austin (BWi), for an extremely rare inland record.

Unusual Am. Bittern records included one Oct. 30 in Kinney (KB) and another Oct. 31 in Kingsville (PP). Herons and egrets continued to nest into September along the coast after what was considered a poor nesting season overall (JG). On Sept. 1 at Green I., in the lower Laguna Madre, Grantham watched in surprise as a Great-tailed Grackle attacked a flying Little Blue Heron, driving it down into the vegetation and out of sight. About 20 additional grackles piled in following distress calls by the heron; the heron was not seen again. Mitchell L. did not experience a major influx of coastal long-legged waders this year, but had several interesting records nonetheless. A group of ten Tricolored Herons there Aug. 23 dwindled to four by Sept. 19 (MH). A Reddish Egret at Mitchell L., Aug. 22-23 (MH, WS) was noteworthy. A group of up to six Yellow-crowned Night-Herons fed on insects nightly during September in Ft. Clark, Kinney, prompting local residents to be concerned about "strange long-legged creatures lurking in the streets" (KB). An imm. White Ibis was discovered in Austin Aug. 21 (JA, GL) for about the 4th area record. White-faced Ibis numbers at Mitchell L. peaked at only 11 (MH), but the species was more numerous than normal on the U.T.C., both coastally and at inland paddyfields (TE). The 2000 in Chambers Sept. 12 (DM, RT) formed the largest single flock reported. Glossy Ibis is now being reported regularly from Cameron Parish, La., and it would be wise for *Plegadis* watchers on the U.T.C. to scrutinize these large flocks of White-faced for stray Glossies. The Roseate Spoonbill flock at Mitchell L. from the summer peaked at seven birds from early August until Sept. 19; the last one departed Oct 4 (MH, DM *et al.*). Wood Storks were mentioned by several observers as being more conspicuous this season than normal, but no one could top the 915 counted during August migrating over Laguna Atascosa (SL). A late flight of 35 Wood Storks over Baffin Bay Nov. 15 (AO) was notable.

WATERFOWL — In contrast to last fall, we received some good news on numbers of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks this season. Over 250 seen at Riviera Aug. 27 excited Kingsville observers, but this was topped by 500 on a single pond in s. Kleberg Sept. 5, and 600 at the same location Sept. 10 (AO, N & PP). Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were reported in excellent numbers. This species began a range expansion nearly a decade ago that continues today. Some especially notable reports included over 1000 in Harris Sept. 20 (SW), and 900 in Kleberg Oct. 31 (N & PP). Several pairs of Black-bellieds raised 2nd broods at Santa Ana and at Mitchell L. in August and September (TE, MH), and a pair with downy young at Welder Ref., Oct. 20 (CC), furnished a very late nesting record. Greater White-fronted

Geese made news at several locations with 18,000 in Chambers Oct 31 (DM) and 2500 in Kleberg (N & PP) the same date especially notable. Three apparently wild ad. Muscovy Ducks were seen flying over the Rio Grande in Starr Oct. 29 (KE). The seasonal status as well as the origin of these birds is still under investigation, and the Editors request thorough documentation on any report. An oft-repeated question among U.T.C. birders is—where are the ducks? As Mike Austin stated, "There are no ducks—no dabbling ducks, no diving ducks, no sea ducks as far as the Questar can see." Particularly alarming on the U.T.C. were low numbers of scaup, Gadwall, and Green-winged Teal. Northern Pintails, in low numbers there early in the season, apparently took advantage of recently-flooded rice fields after late November rains in Harris and Waller and were seen in high numbers there Nov. 28 (RP *et al.*). In contrast to the U.T.C., observers in other areas reported at least normal numbers of most ducks with N. Pintail being especially abundant in the Kingsville and Falfurrias area in late October (AO, N & PP); over 3000 were seen there Oct. 31. Cinnamon Teal showed up in Kleberg in much higher numbers than normal, O'Neil counted 35 at one location Sept. 5, the largest number he has seen at one time in 25 years of observations in the area. A Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal hybrid was a challenging surprise for birders at Brazos Bend S.P. (RF). An early Canvasback appeared at Rockport Sept. 4 (CC). Two Eur. Wigeons were reported without details at Laguna Atascosa Nov. 12. This is an extremely rare bird in Texas, and any reports should be well documented. A White-winged Scoter made an unexpected appearance at an Austin sewage pond Nov. 7 (BW, CBene), taking the place of the one or two Surfs that are usually found there each fall. A Red-breasted Merganser at Bolivar Flats Oct. 20 (DM) was notably early, but one observed Sept 24 in Waller (TE) was unprecedented.

RAPTORS — Large numbers of Turkey Vultures moved through the L.R.G.V., Sept. 26-27 (TE), and 3500 were seen passing over Brooks Oct. 25 in 50 minutes' time (AO). Hook-billed Kites were seen at their regular spots in the L.R.G.V. through the period, but the observation of juv. birds with adults at Bentsen during September (L & RG) and October (KE, JK) was especially interesting. A juv. Hook-billed was also noted at Santa Ana Sept. 19 (JI). There were several reports of Am Swallow-tailed Kites during August; three over Kingsville Aug 19 (N & PP) and an inland record in Blanco Aug. 29 (JE) were the most notable. The Black-shouldered Kite population seemed low in the Kingsville area during the period (N & PP), but the population moving onto the U.T.C. this season seemed higher than normal. A single field in Chambers had 13 Black-shoulders over it Oct. 4 (RU). The most notable reports of an otherwise unspectacular Mississippi Kite migration were 800-1000 over Kingsville Aug. 28 (N & PP), another 250 there Aug. 31, and 240 riding the edge of a thunderstorm over San Antonio Aug. 30 (MH). An early N. Harrier was at Brackettville Aug. 29 (KB), and an early Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen over Hays Aug. 5 (BA). From one to four Harris' Hawks were at Mitchell L. from Oct. 28 through the end of the period, a little farther north than they usually appear in any numbers.

Broad-winged Hawks were disappointing this season on the U.T.C.; no major flights were observed. With a lack of major frontal activity at the end of September it seems likely that the Broad-winged flight simply "sifted" through that area (TE). Elsewhere there were some good flights seen, but none of the spectacular numbers that have been reported in the past. At Kingsville, the Palmers observed 5000 Broad-wingeds Sept. 21-24, 3000 were counted at Sinton Sept. 22 (E & NA), 3500 were seen at Bentsen Sept. 20, and another 3000 were seen there Sept. 26 (GD). A flock of 10,000 Broad-wingeds was seen Sept 30 in Hidalgo (*vide* JI). White-tailed Hawks continue to increase on the U.T.C., but one on Galveston I., Oct. 24 (D & DW) furnished an unusual record. Three Zone-tailed Hawks were with the large flock of migrating Turkey Vultures over Falfurrias Oct. 25 (AO), a first for Brooks. Bryan observed a large number

of raptors in the air Oct 28 in n.e. Kinney Stopping to investigate he saw 50 Turkey Vultures, four Red-tailed Hawks, two Red-shouldered Hawks, two Harris' Hawks, two Zone-tailed Hawks, one Ferruginous Hawk, three Sharp-shinned Hawks, one Cooper's Hawk, and five Am. Kestrels from one spot at one time! A Merlin Sept. 11 in Karnes was early (WS). At a Falfurrias feeder Oct. 9, O'Neil watched a Merlin take a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, certainly one of the smaller prey items the "pigeon hawk" would go after! A single Aplomado Falcon was reported at Laguna Atascosa Nov. 16 (SL), most likely one of the birds that have been hacked there in the past 2 years.

TURKEY THROUGH SKIMMER — A bumper crop of Wild Turkeys and N. Bobwhite was reported by early this season from Kleberg, Kenedy, and Brooks and elsewhere (N & PP, AO *et al.*). Observers on the U.T.C. have learned that several species of rails can be observed by watching rice harvesters as they cut the last crop of the year in October. A rice harvester in Colorado, in less than 30 minutes, flushed four Yellow Rails, three King Rails, and two Soras (TE *et al.*).

On Sept. 19, four Sandhill Cranes at Santa Ana (JI) and 50 over Houston (JC) were way ahead of schedule. A family group of Whooping Cranes (two adults, one immature) was seen Oct. 26 at a stock pond in n.e. Travis, for a very rare Austin-area record (HB). A Whooper flock totalling 108 adults and 24 young reached the wintering grounds in and around Aransas between Oct. 23 and Dec. 10. Stehn reported that one subadult is wintering near Edna, Texas, and a juvenile is near Amarillo. Thus, the peak population of the Wood Buffalo/Aransas flock totalled 134. An apparent ad. Whooper wandered over Kingsville Nov. 28 (a possible overshoot?), 70 mi s. of Aransas (BHa, *vide* PP).

Two Black-bellied Plovers photographed at Canyon L., Nov. 30 (GL, WS), established a new late record for the Austin area. Lesser Golden-Plovers are quite rare in fall in this Region. Reports this season included one in Galveston Aug. 30 (MO), one in Chambers Sept. 9 (DM), six at Mitchell L. between Aug. 15 and Nov. 1 (MH), and two at Bayside Oct. 6 (CC). Little attention is being paid by some observers, however, to the possibility of the race *fulva* straying to the Region (TE). Staging Wilson's Plovers peaked Aug. 9 with 322 counted at San Luis Pass (TE). The high count of Piping Plovers was of 200 seen at Bolivar Flats Aug. 27 (BH), with 53 seen Oct. 9 on Mustang I. (CC) also noteworthy. Fifteen Mountain Plovers in a Mathis field Sept. 13 (OC) were unexpected. Amos reported that there was a major oiling of the beach at Mustang I., Nov. 3–5; his daily shorebird census along a 12 km length of Mustang I. revealed the following totals: 605 total shorebirds seen Nov. 2, two were oiled; 652 total Nov. 4, 287 were oiled; 603 total Nov. 6, 374 oiled; 825 total Nov. 8, 475 oiled; 557 total Nov. 10, 39 oiled. Sanderlings and Piping Plovers were particularly affected. By Nov. 10 many of the oiled birds left, and the tar on the beach was mostly covered by blown sand.

Late Semipalmated Sandpipers included one Nov. 19 in Kleberg (N & PP), and another at San Antonio Nov. 18–21 (MH). Two late Baird's Sandpipers were still at Mitchell L., Nov. 18 (MH). High counts of 350 Stilt Sandpipers at Anahuac Aug. 3, and another 350 at Mitchell L., Aug. 16 were noteworthy; nine were still present at period's end at the latter location. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were a little more conspicuous than normal at several inland locations; 24 were in s. Kleberg Aug. 20 (PP), and up to 16 were seen at Mitchell L., Sept. 6–16 (MH, CBe). Mitchell Lake's Ruff was present until Nov. 24, then disappeared, much as it had the year before. Two late Short-billed Dowitchers were calling at Mitchell L., Nov. 7 (MH). An Am. Woodcock at Aransas Pass Nov. 16 was unusual (E & NA), but even more surprising were three woodcocks (with 25 Com. Snipes) at Laguna Atascosa Oct. 13 (SL), rare visitors to the L.R.G.V. A late Wilson's Phalarope was noted Oct. 31 at Padre I. For the 2nd fall season in a row, Red-necked Phalaropes were more common and widespread than normal. One was at Austin Sept. 24 (EK), another in Corpus Christi Oct. 24 (GB, HF *et al.*), and at least seven individuals were present at Mitchell L. during the period (MH, DM).

A light-phase ad. Parasitic Jaeger at Surfside on the U.T.C., Nov. 29 (MA) was a good find. Laughing Gulls wandered inland to San Antonio with two juv. birds present Aug. 1–2, and one to two adults present Aug. 16–23 (MH, DM). The Lesser Black-backed Gull that has wintered at Port Aransas since 1983 did not disappoint us; it arrived in October for its 5th winter. A Sabine's Gull at the Bolivar Jetty Oct. 30 (EM) was only the 2nd reported from the U.T.C.; there are only 9 accepted Texas records for this species. A Gull-billed Tern at Warren L., Sept. 20 (SW) was inland from its normal range. A late nesting of 50 pairs of Royal Terns on Sundown I. in Matagorda Bay was egged in early August (JG). (See our summer report for more information on this increasing problem.) Clark counted approximately 2600 Sandwich Terns along a 3-mi stretch of Mustang I., Aug. 31, an exceptional number. Black Terns staged in the thousands at San Luis Pass during August, and moved through Port Aransas in good numbers during September with 2264 counted Sept. 1, 2564 counted Sept. 3, and approximately 2000 counted Sept. 17 (TE, TA, E & NA). The only successful nesting colony of Black Skimmers this year was in Corpus Christi along the Nueces Bay Causeway (JG). Some birds were just beginning to lay eggs Aug. 10, but many of these late nesters were wiped out by hard rains late in the month. The colony of about 50 pairs of skimmers finally produced 60 young.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Common Ground-Doves, which had been abundant in the Kingsville area this past spring and summer, became hard to find by late October (N & PP). In contrast, this species was plentiful on the U.T.C. during the season, the first birds arriving at San Bernard Sept. 20 (TE). The first flock of Green Parakeets of the fall came screeching over McAllen in the last week of August (SWe). A flock of about 30 was present there through the period. Two flocks of Green Parakeets totaling 32 individuals were seen in Brownsville Oct. 4 (JA). There were several reports of 32–35 Red-crowned Parrots in a flock in Brownsville from early October through the period. About 15 Red-crowneds were in Harlingen (OC), 20 in McAllen, and two in Weslaco (KE) during the season. The size of the flocks of both these species seems to increase each year. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo Nov. 18 in Rockport (CC) was the latest one reported. In a pattern similar to that of the Com. Ground-Doves, Groove-billed Anis departed the L.R.G.V. during October (GD, JI), and began showing up on the U.T.C. about the same time; Eubanks counted 32 Groove-billed Anis on Galveston I., Oct. 4. A group of eight Groove-billed Anis at San Antonio Sept. 8 (MH) was unusual. An Elf Owl at Falcon Dam Oct. 11 (ML) was a good find. Lesser Nighthawks were on the move in early October; 50 were seen over Zapata Oct. 9 (JA), and 150 over Mitchell L., Oct. 10 (MH, WS). Whip-poor-wills were still passing through Bastrop Oct 10–11 when three were counted (BF).

Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were regularly encountered at several L.R.G.V. locations during the period (OC *et al.*), but seemed to vacate Kingsville by mid-August (N & PP, SB). One Buff-bellied was in Live Oak Aug. 21–24 (J & SH), but the first influx of this species in Corpus Christi did not arrive until about the 3rd week of November (JG). A Buff-bellied in Del Rio Sept. 7 & 8 (GBo) was out-of-range. The Archilochus hummingbird migration was protracted and abundant all along the c. coast (KM *et al.*). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were especially abundant during September Regionwide; 125 at High I., Sept. 28 (DM) made a noteworthy tally. An ad. ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird flew into a car window near Mauriceville in Orange Oct. 19 (RPe), for a first documented area record (*to Texas A&M). An Anna's Hummingbird at San Antonio Nov. 13 (JG) was unexpected. A Green Kingfisher in San Antonio Nov. 1 (MH, WS) was the first there in a number of years, and one seen at Laguna Atascosa Nov. 16 (*vide* SL) was at an odd location. Two possible hybrid Golden-fronted x Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Goliad S.P. were reported Oct. 9–10 (GB, CC). A Downy Woodpecker was out of place in the Corpus Christi area, where one was seen Oct. 31 (JG), and another Downy in Weslaco Nov. 17 (KE) furnished a very rare L.R.G.V. record.

A Hairy Woodpecker was well described at Aransas Pass Oct 20 (E & NA), however, "most coastal reports are dubious as the species avoids the coastal hiatus and is almost exclusively restricted to the pine woodlands" (TE).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS — Calling birds thought to be W. Wood-Pewees at Bentsen Aug. 24 (GD) and at San Antonio Sept. 20 (MH) would represent very rare records for this Region. A late Least Flycatcher was at San Bernard Nov. 7 (TE). Vermilion Flycatchers were reportedly more common than normal in the Corpus Christi, Kingsville, and U.T.C. areas during the period (KM, N & PP, MA). The status of Ash-throated Flycatcher as a wintering species on the U.T.C. seems to be changing; this fall they were reported from numerous locations in Harris and Waller (TE). Great Kiskadees again wandered N of their typical range; one was seen Oct. 18 in Nueces (E & NA), and two were just w. of San Antonio in Medina Oct. 19 (fide EK). A Couch's Kingbird at San Bernard Oct. 4 was rare for the U.T.C., yet it was the 3rd in the past 2 years (TE et al.). A W. Kingbird in Corpus Christi Nov. 16 (KM) was late, but even later was one Nov. 28 in Harris (RP). Pinkston also had a very late E. Kingbird at Cypress Creek in Harris Nov. 28.

S.A.

What is going on with Cave Swallows? In the early 1970s, when Oberholser's *The Bird Life of Texas* was published, the late fall date known for this species was Oct. 5. Last year we reported on a few Cave Swallows that apparently wintered at San Antonio, and this season we had indications that this phenomenon was continuing, but on a larger scale. The last swallows to leave the Kingsville area departed Sept. 10 (PP), a typical date. Arvin was surprised Oct. 9 to find 50 Cave Swallows roosting in old nests under a culvert in Zapata where the species has nested for several years. Back to the northwest, Bryan found about 100 Cave Swallows still entering a cave at Kickapoo at dusk throughout October; they were last seen there Nov. 4. On Nov. 24, Heindel saw 100+ come down to drink at Mitchell L., where they skimmed the surface for several minutes and then "disappeared as quickly as they showed up, climbing out of sight." A group of 37 was counted entering a culvert in San Antonio at dusk Nov. 27 (WS) where, like those at Zapata, they were seen roosting in old nests. These birds were present through the rest of the month. Back at Mitchell L., 82 were counted Nov. 29 (DM). We will have more information on these birds in the winter report.

An unusual movement of Blue Jays was noted in Hays Oct. 7-8 when 5000± were counted in large groups moving SE to NW (BA). Elsewhere, a few Blue Jays wandered S with several noted in the Corpus Christi area Sept. 11 (JG) and Oct. 31 (E & NA) and one seen in Kingsville Nov. 6 (fide PP). Brown Jay is a permanent resident in the upper L.R.G.V., but a post-nesting flock of 40 at Rancho Santa Margarita was significant in its size (TE). Two Chihuahuan Ravens near Riviera Nov. 14 (AO) were locally unusual, as were single Com. Ravens Oct. 3 & 31 in Blanco (GLam, EK). Red-breasted Nuthatches were seldom seen, and Brown Creepers were scarce in most areas. However, a Brown Creeper at High I., Oct. 6 (DM) was an early portent of a good winter invasion on the U.T.C. (TE). Bewick's Wren, an uncommon species on the coastal plain of the U.T.C., has recently been found to be a major constituent of the huisache/mesquite woodlands in Waller. The 27 recorded there Oct. 27 (TE, JM), however, would indicate that the species is subject to significant migratory movements as well. Winter Wrens are unusual in the L.R.G.V., yet three were seen at Bentsen during November (L & RG) and two were at Rancho Santa Margarita Nov. 28 (MH). Golden-crowned Kinglets arrived early this season with individuals at High I., Oct. 11 (MM et al.), Austin Oct.

14 (GL, JA), and San Antonio Oct 22 (MH) furnishing the most notable dates. By season's end, however, the species had not been seen in Kingsville (SB). A Wood Thrush at San Antonio Oct. 14 (KH) provided a rare record, and a Sage Thrasher at Kingsville Sept. 22 (PP) was out of place. The front that pushed through at the end of September generated good numbers of Brown Thrashers on the U.T.C.; the count of 400 Sept. 30 (DM, MM) at High I. was an indicator of the extent of the movement. Muschalek reported six Long-billed Thrashers in early November from De Witt, at the n.e. fringe of the species' range. A Cedar Waxwing in Austin Oct. 8 set a new early arrival date for the area (EK).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — A Bell's Vireo at High I., Oct. 4 (SW) furnished one of only a few modern records from the U.T.C. The species nested commonly in the Houston area at the turn of the century. The Gray Vireos at Kickapoo mentioned in the summer report remained until Sept. 30 (KB). A new early fall record for San Antonio was set with a Solitary Vireo seen Aug. 29, and two Philadelphia Vireos there Oct. 25 were very unusual (MH). A Warbling Vireo Oct. 30 on the U.T.C. furnished a late record for that area (fide TE). Two Tennessee Warblers at High I., Aug. 30 (DD) constituted a new early arrival date for the U.T.C. Up to four Tropical Parulas were seen at Bentsen through November, the most reported in several years (L & RG, KE). A late Chestnut-sided Warbler in De Witt Nov. 8 (DM) was notable both for the late date and the inland location. Single Cape May Warblers, quite rare in fall, were seen at High I., Oct. 31 (BB), and in San Antonio Nov. 3 (MH). Black-throated Blue Warblers invaded the U.T.C. this season; the 13 recorded there between Sept. 19 and Oct 25 (fide TE) made the largest number the Editors can remember in a season in this state. Two more Black-throated Blues at Palmetto S.P., Oct. 31 (JS) provided a rare record for the Austin area. Townsend's Warblers in fall n. of the L.R.G.V. are noteworthy; the Townsend's found Oct. 10 near Utley was apparently a first for Bastrop (BF); others were seen Oct. 13 at Kickapoo (KB), and Nov. 9 at San Antonio (MH).

A Grace's Warbler at High I., Sept. 16 (DM) was a first for the U.T.C. and only the 2nd for this Region; unfortunately the bird was seen by only one observer and was not photographed. A rare (for Austin) Prairie Warbler was seen in Hays Sept. 4 (JGe), and the species was more plentiful than normal on the U.T.C., with nine reported between July 28 and Sept. 12 (TE). Rare fall Blackpolls were seen Oct. 5 & 25 in San Antonio (MH), and Oct. 31 at High I. (BB). A Cerulean Warbler at High I., Sept. 12 (DM) apparently provided the first fall report in this Region in the past 10 years. A Prothonotary Warbler netted at Kickapoo Sept. 7 (KB) was well w. of its normal range and another Prothonotary in Houston Oct. 23 (MM) was extremely late. A Worm-eating Warbler surprised Grantham at the Sabal Palm Grove in Cameron Nov. 5 for a rare record. A Gray-crowned Yellowthroat was reported at San Ygnacio Nov. 28 (WS, MH, † to T.B.R.C.). Unfortunately, we have received no written descriptions of subsequent sightings, and many oral reports indicate that most if not all of the later observations were influenced by "rare-bird-itis." Observers are reminded that there has not been a verified record of this species in the United States since 1927, and any report of such an occurrence will need thorough documentation and hopefully photographs in order to be accepted by the T.B.R.C. or these Editors. A count of 21 Yellow-breasted Chats at High I., Sept. 2 (DM et al.) was surprising for a species that is very rare in fall on the U.T.C.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — A Hepatic Tanager at San Antonio Oct. 19 was out of place, and a Summer Tanager there Nov. 1-9 was late (MH). A Scarlet Tanager Nov. 2 at San Bernard set a new late U.T.C. record (DM, MB). A **Crimson-collared Grosbeak** was at Bentsen Nov. 2-12 (L & RG, SR et al.), but proved to be quite elusive. The bird was finally tape-recorded by Rea and photographed by Wagner for what will be the 4th accepted Texas (and U.S.) record if accepted by the

T.B.R.C. Olive Sparrows seem to be encountered more often along the coastal bend area than in previous years, and seven at Bayside Aug. 27 (CC) made a large number for so near the coast. Green-tailed Towhee is always an exciting find on the U.T.C.; one found Nov. 8 at Galveston was frequenting the same spot as one observed there in 1982 (TE). Lark Buntings staged a major movement into the Region in late October, with small flocks as far s. as Kleberg by Oct. 29 (AO). By early November the species was moving onto the U.T.C., where it is very rare. One was seen Nov. 4 at San Bernard (BB, TE, JM), 15 were in w. Harris Nov. 28 (JB), and 37 were counted at Attwater Nov. 29 (JM).

A road-killed Fox Sparrow in Hays Oct. 12 (DC) established a new early record for the Austin area. Dark-eyed Juncos arrived in the best numbers in quite a few years Regionwide, with one at High I., Oct. 3 (BB) representing a very early date. There were 3 reports this season of Bobolinks, a species not expected in fall; one was at Austin Aug. 14 (GP), one in Bexar Oct. 6 (MH), and another in Corpus Christi Oct. 14 (CC). A group of Bronzed Cowbirds was well e. at Galveston Oct. 18 (BB); hopefully this is not an omen of things to come. Pine Siskins seemed to move deep into the Region rather early with 20 seen at Kingsville Nov. 19 (N & PP) and two seen at San Ygnacio Nov. 28 (MH, WS).

CORRIGENDA — A Ross' Goose Dec. 13, 1986, reported as seen at Canyon L., should have referred to Calaveras L. The following records published in previous reports have since been rejected by the T.B.R.C.: Little Gull at Freeport Feb. 16, 1984, Thayer's Gull

at Brownsville Mar. 21, 1985, Arctic Tern on U T C , Apr. 17–20, 1985, and Bridled Tern on S Padre I , Sept. 20, 1985

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION

We regret that at press time, we had not received the Northwestern Canada Regional Report.

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Thomas H. Rogers

The overall weather picture for the autumn season was one of extreme drought, most localities receiving little or no precipitation until mid-November. Temperatures, about normal in August, were unusually warm well into November. Most water bodies remained unfrozen. Vegetation dried up severely in many areas, reducing food supplies. Water levels were low, causing problems for waterfowl in some areas, but producing extensive mudflats that provided excellent feeding for shorebirds. Some reports indicated that arriving migrants were late and summer residents lingered past their usual departure times. Some birds were suspected of having passed over without stopping, resulting in poor showings.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.G. = Campground; W.M.A. = Wildlife Management Area; W.R.A. = Wildlife Recreation Area.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — A Red-throated Loon was sighted on Alturas L., s.e. of Stanley, Ida., Oct. 13 (MRC, FK) and one was on Hayden L., Kootenai Co., Ida., Nov. 26+ (PH). The first for Deschutes Co., Ore., was on Wickiup Res., Oct 25 and remained at least until Nov. 1 (TC, CM). Timothy L., Clackamas Co., Ore., had one Nov. 1 (PMu, LW). Single Pacific Loons were sighted at Vernon, B.C. (RRH) and Timothy L. (DL, PMu, LW) in November, and four were at Wickiup Res., Oct 25 (TC, CM). In Idaho, singles showed up on Hayden L., Oct 22–Nov. 3 (PH), at Massacre Rocks S.P. and at Twin Lakes near Preston (CHT, CW), and on Alturas L. (MRC, FK). In Washington, single birds were sighted at the Yakima R. mouth (REW), on L. Chelan (CK), and on L. Wenatchee (WD). Wickiup Res hosted 265 Com. Loons in October (TC, CM) and Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., had over 700 Nov. 4 (WRR). The only Yellow-billed Loon was one at Vernon Nov. 28 (PR). Noteworthy sightings were of two Red-necked Grebes on Alturas L. (MRC, FK), and single birds in the Hood River area (DL) and at Summer L. (CM), both in Oregon. Western Grebe populations remained

low at Malheur N.W.R., Princeton, Ore., with a peak of 125 Sept. 2. A few Clark's Grebes appeared at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, Ida. (WH, MK, LL, CV), at Wickiup Res. (CM), on Timothy L. (DL), and at Moses L., Wash. (EH, B & GR).

American White Pelicans in the Malheur-Harney Lakes Basin, Harney Co., Ore., peaked at 3335 birds Sept. 2. By Nov. 2 only 388 remained. Deer Flat N.W.R. had up to 130 and the Walla Walla R. mouth, Wallula, Wash., had 60. Potholes Res., Grant Co., Wash., had at least 225, including eight that had been marked with blue wing patagials at Stum L., w. of Williams L., B.C. (DL). A scattered few were noted elsewhere in n.c. Oregon and s.c. Washington. Double-crested Cormorants in the Malheur area reached their high of 362 Oct. 1. One on Douglas L., in the s. Okanogan Valley, B.C., was noteworthy (BH, SW), as were nine near Union Gap, Wash. (Y. V.A.S.) and one on the Snake R. near Silcott, Wash. (MK, PS, J & DP).

At least 160 Great Egrets were still in the Malheur-Harney Basin Sept. 2. Unusual were singles s. of Lowden, Wash. (fide SM), near New Plymouth, Ida. (C.B.), at L. Lowell, Deer Flat N.W.R. (BWh), and at American Falls Res., on the Snake R., Ida. (CHT). Malheur had 26 Snowy Egrets Sept. 2; none was seen there after Oct. 1. Bruneau Dunes S.P., near Mountain Home, Ida., had one Sept. 27, and the species was noted at Summer L., Sept. 24. A bird identified as an imm. Little Blue Heron at the mouth of the Grande Ronde R., Asotin County, was possibly e. Washington's first (AM et al.). A Cattle Egret near Sterling, Ida., Aug. 29 was the only one reported (CHT). Single Green-backed Herons appeared at the Hood R. mouth Aug. 30 (DAA) and at Ellensburg, Wash., Sept. 6 (EH).

WATERFOWL — The Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. population of Trumpeter Swans was about 250 (CDM), and Malheur had 50-55 (CDL). The Henrys Fork area of the Snake R. in s.e. Idaho had 333, including 15 neck-collared birds from the Northwest Territories, Nov. 27 (JS). A pair was suspected of having nested on the s.w. slope of Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore. (CC). Six showed up on Carty Res., Boardman, Ore., Nov. 19 (RK). It was a good autumn for seeing Greater White-fronted Geese. Summer L. had up to 450, and at least 400 were sighted in the vicinity of Burns, Ore. Over 300 stopped at Creston W.M.A., B.C., for an extended period. Fort Boise W.M.A., s. of Nyssa, Ore., had at least 250. McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., yielded 144 Sept. 27. Sunriver, Ore., counted an unusual 65 (TC, CM), and a few in Hood River Co., Ore., were rarities there (DAA, DL et al.). Three at Metcalf N.W.R., Mont., were notable (CP). Vernon had 12 Oct. 5 (RRH). Snow Geese were noted migrating mostly over Deer Flat N.W.R. At Malheur the birds arrived late and did not linger. Only 240 were found on the Nov. 2 aerial survey there. A Ross' Goose at Pine Hollow Res. was apparently the first for Wasco County, Ore. (DAA). About 4200 Canada Geese were using Malheur October-November, and at least 3000 were at Pine Hollow Res., Nov. 22. The peak of 3200 Canadas at Kootenai N.W.R. was a good showing there but the peak at Metcalf N.W.R. was low at 2000. Unusual were a "Cackling" Canada Goose at Drake Park in Bend, Ore. (TC), and 23 in the Upper Klamath L. area, Klamath Co., Ore. (EA).

About 45,000 waterfowl, nearly 80% Mallards, were observed at Carty Res., Nov. 19. The mild weather delayed duck migration at Kootenai N.W.R., where numbers varied between 9000 and 14,000 during September and October. Mallards peaked at 21,000 in late November there. Waterfowl, mostly Mallards and Am. Wigeon, at Columbia N.W.R., Wash., numbered over 80,000 in late November. Duck numbers at Malheur N.W.R. reached over 24,000 Oct. 1; Mallards at 8000, Green-winged Teal at 5800, Gadwall at 3350, and Am. Wigeon at 3200 made up the bulk of them. Wanapum Pool on the Columbia R. near Vantage, Wash., had 5000 Redheads and 2000 Canvasbacks Nov. 4. Metcalf N.W.R. reported that duck use was only about 10% of normal. The only Eur. Wigeon reported was a male at the Walla Walla R. mouth Nov. 25 (KK). A well-described ♂ Tufted Duck at Vernon, B.C., furnished the first



interior record for the province (PR). Notable were sightings of Greater Scaup at Massacre Rocks S.P. (CHT), Prairie City, Ore. (G.C.B.C.), and Wickiup Res. (TC). Single Oldsquaws at Lakeview (MA) and Summer L. (CM), Ore., and American Falls Res. (DB, BJ, BN, CHT) were rarities. A scattering of Surf Scoters, rare in the Region, was reported: in Idaho, two at Kootenai N.W.R. (LDN), and one on Little Redfish L., s. of Stanley (MRC, FK); in Oregon, two at Chickahominy Res., w. of Riley (F & WV), three on Haystack Res., s. of Madras (B & JB), one at Bend (TC), one on Thompson Res., Lake Co. (CM), one on Timothy L. (DAA, DL), one on Malheur L. (MD), and one s.e. of Princeton (GC); in Washington, one at the Walla Walla R. mouth and three on the Yakima R. Delta (REW). A few White-winged Scoters, mostly single birds, appeared in e. Oregon and c. Washington, and at L. Helena, Mont. (LMC). Columbia N.W.R. had a surprising 13 (WRR) and Hood River County had five (DAA, DL). A Hooded Merganser appeared at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab site, Arco, for the first sighting there (TR). Four Red-breasted Mergansers at Wickiup Res., Nov. 1 were the county's first (TC).

HAWKS THROUGH QUAIL — Two young Ospreys left their nest Aug. 23 on the Bureau of Land Management platform erected near Salmon, Ida., for the first confirmed fledging in that area in recent years (LHa). A very late bird was seen along the John Day R. n. of Mitchell, Ore., Nov. 15 (G.C.B.C.). A Black-shouldered Kite appeared along Jackson Cr., s. Malheur County, in September for one of few s.e. Oregon records (BK). No concentration of Bald Eagles occurred in the Glacier N.P.—Flathead R. drainage of n.w. Montana (PLW). The peak of only 47 in Glacier N.P. was the lowest since counts began in 1965—the previous low was 179. The near-total unexplained collapse of the Kokanee salmon population was the cause (RM). The Bald Eagle Project of Glacier N.P. is requesting detailed information on sightings of birds with red wing markers. Send observations to the project c/o Riley McClelland, West Glacier, MT 59936. Eight imm. Bald Eagles observed at Carty Res. presumably were taking advantage of the large waterfowl numbers (RK). A radio-equipped bird from Glacier N.P. found near Frenchglen, Ore., in November was located the next day near Cedarville, Cal. (CDL). Red-shouldered Hawks, very rare in s.e. Oregon, appeared at several localities: near Frenchglen



Immature Red-shouldered Hawk at Roaring Springs Ranch, s.e. Oregon, Sept. 26, 1987. Notice the crescent-shaped pale panels in the outer primaries. Photo/Jim Johnson.

(MS), at Malheur N.W.R. and Roaring Springs Ranch (TC, CM), in the Catlow Valley (DI), at Klamath Falls (PL), and at Paisley (SS). A concentration of 40 Swainson's Hawks, 30 of them dark-phased, was near Kahlotus, Wash., Aug. 27 (PL). A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was sighted w. of Spokane Nov. 28 (JA). A completely albino hawk w. of Basin, Mont., was suspected of being a Red-tailed (WHa). The annual hawk survey in the Henrys L. area of s.e. Idaho found only eight Ferruginous Hawks and only 61 Buteos in all (CHT). Field trips to the Lowden-Touchet area of Washington found far fewer hawks than last year (SM). Four sightings of single Peregrine Falcons and 2 of Gyrfalcons were reported.

A white breast feather and many tracks indicated that the introduced White-tailed Ptarmigans in the Wallowa Mts. of n.e. Oregon were doing all right there (KK). Several Wild Turkeys appeared near Sisters (BL) and near Black Butte Ranch (LR), Deschutes Co., Ore. A few were sighted in the John Day, Ore., vicinity (G.C.B.C.) A Mountain Quail showed up in a hunter's bag from the S. Fork of John Day R. (G.C.B.C.).

CRANES THROUGH TERNS — Lake Helena, near Helena, Mont., had about 100 Sandhill Cranes, the largest number ever reported for the area, Oct. 3 (GH). A vagrant Sandhill Crane appeared at Oden Bay, Pend Oreille L. in n. Idaho, in mid-October (SHS). American Falls Res. is a major staging ground for Killdeer; nearly 1000 congregated there during August (CHT). Low water levels at Malheur L. invited up to 21 Black-bellied Plovers, the largest number ever recorded there, and the 8th local record of a Lesser Golden-Plover. One of the latter at Reardan, Wash., was Acton's first there in 9 years' observing. Up to four appeared at the Walla Walla R. delta (KK, SM, AS). One at Hood River was Anderson's first there. A very few appeared at a few other spots in e. Oregon and Washington. Notable were up to six Black-necked Stilts at Reardan (JA, BW). American Falls Res. was a major stopping place for Am. Avocets, with a peak of nearly 2600 Aug. 18 (CHT).

An Upland Sandpiper was sighted at Knox Springs, 5 mi n.e. of Frenchglen (CC), and two appeared in the schoolyard in Seneca, Ore., the first week of August (G.C.B.C.). The Walla

Walla delta had three Whimbrels Aug. 30 (DG, AS) and the Springfield Bottoms on American Falls Res. had 3 sightings of single birds Aug. 2–Sept. 23 (BJ, CHT). A Hudsonian Godwit at Vernon Sept. 3–8 was the Okanogan Valley's first (BH, RRH, PR et al.) and a single bird was sighted at Summer Lake Wildlife Area Aug. 22–Sept. 17 (AA, MA, CC, CM, SSu). The Walla Walla delta turned up two Ruddy Turnstones and a Red Knot Aug. 30 (DG, AS, SS) and a Red Knot Oct. 10 (KK). Sanderlings, rare in the Region s. of Canada, showed up as singles at Fortine, Mont. (WW), at the Hood R. mouth (DL), at Hart L., Lake Co., Ore. (CM), and at Summer L. (CC). By contrast, Kamloops had high numbers, up to 45 (SR). Kahlotus L. had six Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 6 (DB) and four Aug. 27 (PL, BT) for that locality's first sightings. The only Stilt Sandpiper for e. Oregon was one at Summer L. (SSu). In e. Washington, where they are less rare, unusual numbers appeared at Reardan (11—JA, BW) and at the Walla Walla delta (10—DG, AS, SS). Real rarities were a Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Reardan (JA, BW) and another at Vernon (BH, PR). Even more remarkable was an imm. ♂ Ruff at Reardan Sept. 27 (JA, BW). Malheur had three Short-billed Dowitchers (CM) and Summer L., one (CC). In Washington, singles appeared near Lind (BT), at Potholes Res., Grant Co. (PL), at the Walla Walla delta (KK), and at Kahlotus L., Franklin Co. (PL, BT). Reardan had one to three Aug. 23–29 (JA, BW).



Adult Western Gull at American Falls Res., Idaho, Aug. 21, 1987. Photo/W. Edward Harper.

Single Parasitic Jaegers were observed twice at American Falls Dam (DS, CHT, BJ) and at the Walla Walla delta (AS). A Long-tailed Jaeger appeared at Haystack Res. for Jefferson County's first record (B & JB, W & RY). The Hood R. mouth reported one to four Mew Gulls on 2 dates in October and November (DL). One was seen in the Lewiston, Ida.—Clarkston, Wash., vicinity (CV) and another at Potholes Res. (EH). A Sabine's Gull was spotted 20 mi s. of Malheur N.W.R. headquarters Sept. 25 (CDL). A Tayer's Gull appeared in the Vernon area for the 3rd consecutive year (PR) and one was sighted at Hayden L. in n. Idaho (PH). The "resident" W. Gull at American Falls Res., found in a weak state Oct. 14, was collected for positive identification (CHT). Notable were Black Terns at Prairie City sewage ponds (G.C.B.C.) and a juv. bird at Haystack Res. (BB).

PIGEONS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A Band-tailed Pigeon was sighted in Big Cedar Canyon, 12 mi w.n.w. of Oakley, Ida., Nov. 25 (MRC, FK). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found in Sacajawea S.P. near Pasco, Wash., Sept. 20 (RJ). The species is very rare in e. Washington. An E. Screech-Owl was calling in the Little Belt Mts. in c. Montana Sept. 30–Oct. 1 (LKM). A Com. Barn-Owl at Vernon Oct. 6 was a rarity (PR). The only

Snowy Owl reported was one near Davenport, Wash., Nov. 29 (JA). A Burrowing Owl frequented old burrows at Vernon in late October (MC, PR). Apparently the only records for Oregon of **Boreal Owls** since 1902 were obtained, 17 individuals being found in Baker, Umatilla, Union, and Wallowa counties (BW). A Barred Owl was found at Delintment L., 35 mi n.w. of Burns, Sept. 11 for s.e. Oregon's first (CB), and one was seen in Oregon on Birch Cr. s.e. of Walla Walla, Wash. (AL). In Washington two were sighted at Loup Loup C.G., Okanogan Co. (EH), and one was found in Columbia County (BW). One was heard at Brisco, B.C., Sept. 10 (LH).

Six Black Swifts on Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore., Aug. 16 provided s.e. Oregon's 2nd record (MH et al.). A female or imm. hummingbird at Asotin W.R.A., Asotin, Wash., was believed to be a Black-chinned (DBe). Unusual also was a sighting of a Black-chinned at John Day and Prairies City (G.C.B.C.). Lewiston, Ida., had an Anna's Hummingbird Nov. 21 (HW, fide HG) and one appeared at Wenatchee, Wash., Nov. 13 (JT). A Broad-tailed was reported at Dog Cr. in the John Day area (G.C.B.C.).

An encouraging number of reports of Lewis' Woodpeckers came in from s. Idaho, e. Oregon, and e. Washington. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was identified in Yakima Nov. 26 (DG). Two Red-breasted Sapsuckers and a hybrid Red-breasted x Red-naped were found at Indian Ford C.G., n.w. of Sisters, Ore. (TC). One Red-breasted was spotted at Summer L., Sept. 22 and Nov. 30 (CM), and one was seen in Hood River County (DL, DAA). Especially noteworthy was one at Fields Spring S.P., Asotin Co., Wash. (MK, m.ob.). A Least Flycatcher was identified at Wanapum S.P. near Vantage, Wash., Sept. 7 (EH). A Black Phoebe was identified at Klamath Falls Nov. 29 (SF, PL). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher near Burns was s.e. Oregon's 3rd (M & SR). A migrating flock of Violet-green Swallows near Winthrop, Wash., Aug. 31 numbered 2000+ (EH).

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS—A few Blue Jays appeared: two at Bonners Ferry, Ida. (HWh), one at Culesac, Ida. (C.B.), one at Gardiner, Mont. (JWZ), one at Helena (CL, HZ), and one at Missoula, Mont. (LB). Bewick's Wrens appear to be spreading in s.e. Oregon, appearing along Cottonwood Cr., s. of Fields (CDL), at Roaring Springs Ranch (PP), near Lakeview (MA), and at Summer L. (DL). In Washington two were sighted in the Randle vicinity for a new locality (B & GR). Several observations of the species were again obtained in the Lewiston, Ida.-Clarkston, Wash., area. A sighting of Golden-crowned Kinglets in the Little Belt Mts. was unusual (LKM). Bluebird trail nest boxes in n. Idaho and w. Montana fledged over 2100 W. Bluebirds and about 5700 Mountain Bluebirds. Of these, 60 Westerns fledged in the Eureka, Mont., area, and nesting of this species was reported near Wolf Creek for the first time since the early 1930s (AAy, DHr). Varied Thrushes were "more abundant than usual" at Malheur, "sometimes abundant" in Lakeview, and "quite common" at Walla Walla.

Three sightings of single N. Mockingbirds were obtained in Helena (GM, JSm, CD). In Oregon one appeared w. of Paulina (GHa), one visited Malheur N.W.R. (CDL), and one was sighted at Paisley (SS). A Gray Catbird in Lake County, Ore., was noteworthy (DL).

Many a stray warbler visited the Region. A **Magnolia Warbler**, e. Washington's 2nd and the state's 6th, was observed at Vantage Sept. 6-7 (BT, PM, GW, m.ob.). Oregon had 2 sightings: at Fields Sept. 11 (PP) and at Malheur N.W.R., Sept. 24-27 (PP, JJ, SJ, DHe). Southeastern Oregon had several sightings of single Black-throated Blue Warblers, both male and female, Sept. 21-Nov. 14: at Malheur Headquarters's "oasis" (WHH, JJ, JG, SJ, DL, LW), at Summer L. (MSt), at Roaring Springs Ranch (TC), and at Three-mile Pond, 17 mi s. of that ranch (JJ, DHe, SJ, PMu, LW). One hit an Idaho Falls, Ida., window (EC) for the only other record. Malheur N.W.R. had a rare sighting of a Black-throated Green Warbler Sept. 21 (WHH). A Palm Warbler was identified at Lyon's Ferry, s. of Washtucna, Wash., for a rare sighting (D & JP). Sightings of vagrant Blackpoll Warblers



Female Eastern Bluebird at nest box in Bitterroot Valley, Mont. This bird paired with a male Mountain Bluebird and laid a clutch of eggs in June 1987. Photo/Chuck & Suzi Campbell.

were more common than usual: several at Malheur N.W.R. (TC, JG), one at Fields (MS), one at Roaring Springs Ranch (PMu, LW), one banded near Troy, Mont. (KB), and two near Vantage, Wash. (BT, PM, GW). A Black-and-white Warbler appeared at Malheur N.W.R. on 2 dates. An Am. Redstart was at Richland, Wash., for Woodley's 3rd record there. Malheur N.W.R. had another rarity, a **Prothonotary Warbler** (J & JC, T & AM), for s.e. Oregon's 3rd sighting. An Ovenbird showed up at Malheur (TC) and another was seen at Roaring Springs Ranch (MR). Surprising was a sighting of a N. Waterthrush at McNary Dam, Umatilla, Ore., Nov. 28 (KK). Montana's first **Painted Redstart**, photographed at Clinton, was seen Nov. 7-13 (D & RR).

GROSBEAKS THROUGH FINCHES—A ♀-plumaged Blue Grosbeak n. of Ola, Ida., made the first sighting for that area (CFZ). An Am. Tree Sparrow, rare in the Klamath Falls area, was sighted at Paisley Nov. 1 (SSu). A Le Conte's Sparrow showed up at Metcalf N.W.R., Sept. 15 (DH). Two Swamp Sparrows at Vernon Oct. 29-31 provided the 3rd record for the Okanogan Valley; at least one was still present Nov. 28 (MC, PR, WWe). A single bird at Klamath Falls was the county's first (SF, PL). A call note heard at Malheur Sept. 24 was believed to be that of a Swamp Sparrow by an observer very familiar with the species (WHH). A sprinkling of White-throated Sparrows appeared in the Okanogan Valley and in e. Oregon and Washington. A Golden-crowned Sparrow banded near Troy in September was of special interest (KB). A few Harris' Sparrows showed up in s. Idaho, w. Montana, e. Oregon, and e. Washington. One was at the Idaho Nat'l Engineering Lab, Arco, for the first sighting there (TR). A Lapland Longspur was spotted near the top of Steens Mt., Harney Co., Ore., Oct. 17 (DL, PMu). Two of these birds showed up on Stark Mt., 7 mi n.w. of Al-ber-ton, Mont., for that area's first sighting (VV). Unusual was the sighting of a ♂ Bobolink at Kootenai N.W.R., Aug. 12 (MN).

A Rusty Blackbird frequented a spot s. of Lowden, Wash., for at least 3 weeks beginning Nov. 1 (KK, DL, m.ob.), and two were sighted at nearby Whitman Mission Nov. 27 (BT, GW). Kamloops had one Oct. 24, feeding with Dunlin on mudflats (SR). A "Baltimore" Oriole frequented Malheur N.W.R., July 31 to at least Aug. 16 (TC, LC). A bird believed to be a Com. Grackle stayed in Prairie City for 4 days in early November (G.C.B.C.).

Three Purple Finches appeared in a Lakeview yard in mid-November (MA). The species was also reported in Oregon from the N. Fork of the Malheur R., from Prairie City, and from Strawberry Mt. s. of Prairie City (G.C.B.C.). A single Purple Finch was identified at Washtucna, Wash., Aug. 27 (PL, BT). Lesser Goldfinches visited Page Springs and Lakeview, Ore. (G.C.B.C., MA).

ADDENDA — A Great Egret stayed at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., for at least 10 days in May, 1987 (BW). About eight Yellow Rails were observed at Ft. Klamath, Ore., May 15, 1987 (PS). A breeding-plumaged ♂ Ruff was carefully identified near St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 27, 1986 (TWW, B & GRe, JRW). A Snowy Owl s. of Moscow, Ida., Apr. 2, 1987 was highly unusual (CHT, m.ob.). A Least Flycatcher was heard along the Wenatchee R., Wash., July 7, 1987 (JT), and a pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers fledged young near Wenatchee in 1987 (BJa). A ♂ Mountain Bluebird mated with a ♀ E. Bluebird in the Bitterroot Valley, Ravalli Co., Mont. They produced a clutch of eggs in June 1987, but no young fledged (C & SC).

CORRIGENDA — The three Snowy Plovers at Springfield bottoms (AB 41:464) were reported by Dave Burrup (DB, not DP). The British Columbia Black-necked Stilts (AB 41:464) were not the province's first; there are several records from the coast and at least 3 previous records from the interior. Also, there were nine at Okanagan Falls, not one, in late April (the 27th) (HM) and additionally, 14 were seen at Vaseux L. the same day (LHg). (All fide RJC). The Herring and Glaucous-winged gulls reported in AB 41:306 were not the first for the Walla Walla latilong. The thrasher referred to in AB 41:465 as having been seen in Boise during the winter was a Brown Thrasher, not a Curve-billed (CHT).

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MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

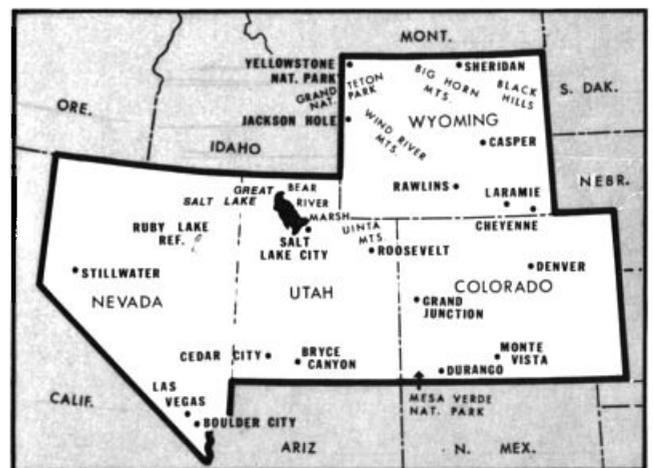
Hugh E. Kingery

This mild fall produced a strong migration of shorebirds, warblers, and coastal species (especially scoters), and an excellent count at the two Regional hawk watches.

Regional observers found 366 species, slightly above average, but Coloradans found 336 species, the highest fall count in 11 years. Other states' counts were Wyoming 261, Nevada 242 (both average), and Utah 195 (down).

ABBREVIATIONS — 1st lat = first record for the latilong (that piece of geography bounded by one degree of latitude and one degree of longitude).

LOONS TO EGRETS — An active Red-throated Loon visited Pueblo, Colo., Oct. 12-19 (†DS, m.ob.), and one was reported at Denver Nov. 20 (JR). The Regional count of 20 Pacific Loons exceeded the average; one at Great Salt Lake Nov. 24 furnished the first Utah report since 1985. Wyoming had two, and the remaining 17 occurred in e. Colorado Oct. 24+. High counts of Com. Loons turned up at Walker L., Nev., near Fallon (32 Oct. 7, LN), and n.e. Colorado (26 Oct. 30, JR). Total Regional count matched last year's except that Yellowstone N.P. had only 47, one-third of last year's count. Two reservoirs near Greeley, Colo., had 600 Horned Grebes Nov. 8. Western Grebes peaked Oct. 7 at Walker L. at 1593, high count for the Region; Sheridan, Wyo., had 400 Nov. 5., and Boulder County, Colo., tallied 1300 from Aug. 1-Oct. 31 (B.A.S.). Among the Westerns, Regional observers picked out about one per cent as Clark's.



Six Am. Bitterns reported this fall and 34 for the year both were half the numbers reported last year. Ruby Lake N.W.R., Nev., had an impressive 155 Great Egrets Oct. 1 (SB). Fish Springs N.W.R. turned in the high count of Snowy Egrets, 700 Aug. 5. An active flock of 65 stopped at Las Vegas Aug. 26 (VM). A Little Blue Heron stopped at Boulder, Colo., Sept. 27-Oct. 7 (B.A.S.), and a Tricolored Heron surprised the D.F.O. at Ordway, Colo., Sept. 5 (†M). The Cattle Egret that stayed at Cody Oct. 25-Nov. 27 (UK) was only the 7th for Wyoming

One at Delta, Colo., Nov. 5 got mixed up—it trailed after sheep instead of cows (MJ).

WATERFOWL — The Lahontan Valley, Nev., wetlands (mainly Stillwater Ref. and Carson L.) held 136,515 ducks Sept. 15 (including 75,770 N. Shovelers, 17,290 Green-winged Teal, and 9090 Ruddy Ducks), and 145,750 ducks Oct. 15, including 54,595 Shovelers, 35,475 Green-winged Teal, and 15,225 Canvasbacks—presumably its usual one-third of the Pacific Flyway's Canvasbacks (TB). (All of w. Nevada had 179,604 ducks on the Nov. 16–22 count—N.D.O.W.) Ducks on Alamosa and Monte Vista refuges peaked at 21,500 Nov. 1 (EM). Boulder County's top count was of 1994 Am. Wigeon in October.

Nevada's statewide count found 5614 Tundra Swans Nov. 16–22, 2500 of them at Stillwater (N.D.O.W.), down from the 3000–3500 that stopped there in the 1970s. Colorado had only one swan, at Delta Oct. 20 (MJ), but small flocks stopped in Wyoming and Utah. The Grand Teton N.P. area produced 16 Trumpeter Swan cygnets (six last year—DLo). The T.S.S. count of Trumpeters Sept. 15 tallied 540 in Wyoming/Montana/Idaho (the highest since 1968), but only an average 119 in Wyoming. By Nov. 15 the Yellowstone area had 647 Trumpeters, many of them migrants from Alberta and Northwest Territories (TM). Ruby Lake had 35, comparable to last year (SB). Two spent the fall at Dubois, Wyo., and one, probably from South Dakota, stopped at Sundance, Wyo., Nov. 18–20 (JA). Ruby L. reported drops in some waterfowl from average peaks: N. Pintails 675 (2988 average), Cinnamon Teal 1400 (5052), but somewhat better numbers of Gadwalls (5700) and Canvasbacks (2820).

Observers found 41 Greater White-fronted Geese, all in Colorado and almost 3 times last year's total, including 15 in n.e. Colorado Oct. 30 (JR) and 10 at Denver Nov. 14–17 (D.F.O.). At Carson L., Snow Geese peaked at 8000 Oct. 23 (ST); Jackson, Wyo., had 1000 Nov. 13 (BW). Observers reported only eight Ross' Geese, down from 23 last year. Wood Ducks have become regular in the Region in recent years; notable records this fall were of one in Yellowstone Sept. 17 (BH) and 43 at Fallon, Nev., Nov. 26 (PL).

Oldsquaws arrived in mid-November at Ruby Lake, Casper, Wyo., and Denver and Greeley, Colo. Coloradans marveled at seeing all three species of scoters at the same place at the same time near Wellington on Hamilton Res., kept warm by the Rawhide power plant. The tally included three ♀ Blacks Nov. 8–27, one to four Surfs Oct. 24–Nov. 19, and two to four White-wingeds Nov. 14–27 (†JC, WH, m.ob.). Yellowstone had all three scoter species too, but not at the same time: its first Black Scoter Nov. 8–17 (†TM, 1st Lat), and two Surfs (1st Lat) and four White-wingeds Oct. 22 (†TM). Surf Scoters stopped in all 4 states—one at Stillwater Oct. 27 (TB, LD), nine at Saltair, Utah, Nov. 6 (CK, JL), and one at Logan Nov. 9 (†KA, 1st Lat). Wyoming had four others Oct. 25–Nov. 27 at Sundance, Sheridan, and Rock Springs. One stopped at Grand Jct., Colo., Nov. 15 (CD, RL) and e. Colorado had eight Oct. 31–Nov. 28. Saltair had, at the peak, 13 White-wingeds Nov. 2 (CK), and Logan had one Nov. 24 (R & LR). Sheridan had the top Regional count of White-winged Scoters, 14 Oct. 26–28 (MR), and Sundance reported one to four Oct. 23–27 (JA). Besides the Rawhide group, Colorado had only three White-wingeds. Stillwater had 1600 Com. Mergansers Nov. 26 (PL) and Denver had 1200 Nov. 30 (JR).

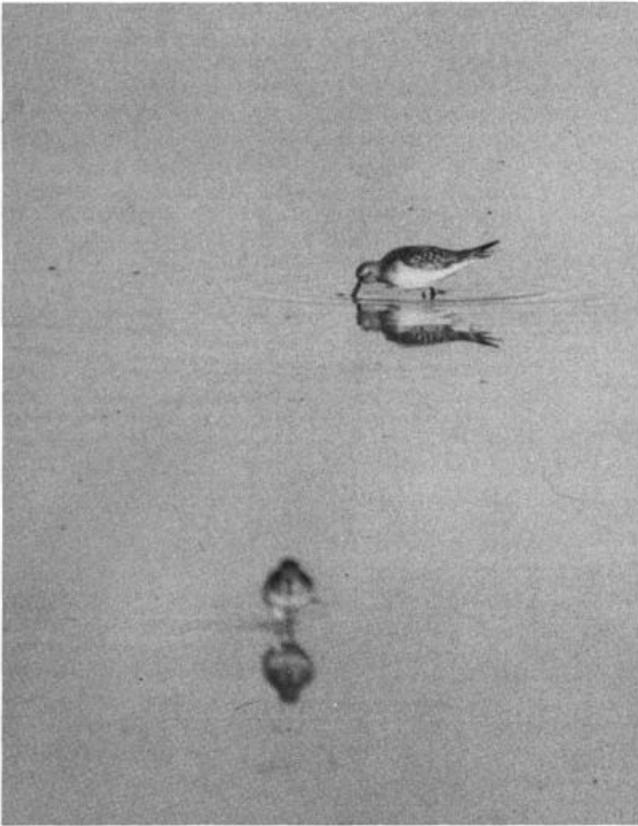
RAPTORS TO CRANES — The fifth year of the raptor count in the Goshute Range, near Wells, Nev., turned up 10,965 raptors, against an average of 8042 and previous peak of 9330. Sharp-shinned Hawks topped the list with 3672, followed by 2319 Red-taileds, 2059 Cooper's Hawks, 1106 Am. Kestrels, 211 Golden Eagles, 165 Turkey Vultures, and 118 N. Harriers (SH). Near Logan, Utah, the Wellsville hawk watch counted 2,942 raptors, about 10/hour. Most numerous, Am. Kestrels at 810, dropped 23% from the 1977–1979 observer-hour average. Sharp-shinned (795 counted) flew by at the same rate, but Cooper's (373) dropped 34%. Red-taileds (412) and N. Harriers (278) both increased 27%.

Pesticides killed two Merlins, a harrier, and a Red-tailed Hawk near St. George, Utah; U.D.W.R. will prosecute if it obtains sufficient evidence. Out on the plains by early September, Leatherman found single N. Goshawks at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland and Cheyenne Wells (near the Kansas line) Sept. 10. Nevada reported a remarkable *nine Red-shouldered Hawks*, from Las Vegas to Reno to the Goshutes. Then the Goshutes count produced an amazing 30 Broad-winged Hawks; the count had produced a total of 43 from 1983–1986. At Promontory, Utah, on the n. end of the Great Salt L., single Broad-wingeds were found Sept. 23 (KA) and Sept. 27 (†CK). At Anton, on the Colorado plains, 2500 Swainson's Hawks passed, stopped, and fed Sept. 19–24, the most 850 on Sept. 24; "100–200 would spend all day 'hawking' grasshoppers, others continued migrating" (BKW). The only other kettle of Swainson's reported (a mere 125 birds) swirled around Interstate 25 near Erie, Colo., Sept. 19 (HEK). One Ferruginous Hawk Sept. 3 and six Sept. 16 visited Jackson, Wyo., where they are infrequently seen (BR *et al*). Utah released 19 Peregrines from hack sites, but lost four of them. Two young fledged from the Hotel Utah site in Salt Lake City (RWT).

Yellowstone reported its first Gray Partridges since the 1960s, with observations of coveys at Mammoth and Tower in November. Sheridan counted an impressive 349 Wild Turkeys Nov. 5 (HD). A N. Bobwhite arrived at a Rock Springs, Wyo., coal mine on a coal car that had originated in Chicago; its trip ended in a Salt Lake City zoo (FL). Thousands of Sandhill Cranes moved over e. Wyoming and e. Colorado, most of them Oct. 8–19. Top counts came from Sundance (6000) and Cheyenne (4000), Wyo., and Wellington and Denver (both 1000) and Ft. Morgan (750), Colo. At Prewitt Res. near Sterling, Colo., 750 came in to roost Oct. 31. A flock of 300–500 that circled over Coaldale seemed to be trying to climb out of the Arkansas R. canyon to fly over the Sangre de Cristo Mts. into the San Luis Valley, where 6500 had gathered by Oct. 24. In w. Colorado the only large flock reported, 1500, flew over Collbran Sept. 5 (†ASH). Two Whooping Cranes stayed in Farson, Wyo., through September (FL), and one stopped at Yellowstone L., Sept. 5–6 (LJ); 21 went through the San Luis Valley during migration (EM).

SHOREBIRDS — The Region had a banner shorebird fall Carson L. produced a high and late count of 20 Black-bellied Plovers Nov. 19 (LN). Yellowstone reported one to four Aug 2–Sept. 30; about 25 were found in e. Colorado. Lesser Golden-Plovers stopped at 3 e. Colorado locations: one at Jackson Res near Brush Sept. 11 (JR), two Sept. 15 and three Oct. 3–7 at Prewitt Res. (JR, D. & JW, JC), and one or two at Denver Oct 10–Nov. 2 (JR). Great Salt L. had a high count of 42 Snowy Plovers Aug. 12; 2 eggs hatched Aug. 12–15, and the male attended the chicks through Sept. 13 (ES). A Piping Plover stopped at Casper Aug. 22–23 (†JLa *et al.*, ph.). At Carson L., Am. Avocets peaked at 4100 Sept. 14 (LN) and 350 still remained Nov. 27 (PL). (Even the 76 at Las Vegas Nov. 5 were considered extremely late—VM.) Greater Yellowlegs have more dependable staying power; the various November dates from Las Vegas, Denver, Boulder, and Julesburg seemed normal, yet the 130 at Lahontan Valley Nov. 26–27 seemed late and great (PL). Lesser Yellowlegs do not usually linger into November, but this year one to two did in Boulder, Denver, and Lahontan Valley. Rare any time, but especially in fall, Hudsonian Godwits stopped at Jackson Res., Aug. 23–25 (JR, D & JW) and Great Salt Lake Sept. 3, for Utah's 4th record (†ES).

Casper observers found three different Red Knots, Aug. 1 & 30 and Sept. 9–27 (M.A.S.), and n.e. Colorado had four knots in 4 locations Aug. 23–Sept. 13 (D.F.O.). Casper had a good count of 50 Sanderlings during September (M.A.S.). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was identified at Las Vegas Aug. 10–12 (MCR). A Baird's Sandpiper at Stillwater Nov. 26 was extremely late; North America has few later records (†PL, †SF, ph.). Even the six Baird's at Prewitt Res. Oct. 26 were late (†TJ). Lahontan Valley had a Regional record high count of Dunlins—120—



Juvenile Baird's Sandpiper at Stillwater, Nev., on the remarkably late date of Nov. 26, 1987. Photo/Paul Lehman.

on the late date of Nov. 26–27 (PL). Utah had a record high count of Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 13, with 32 at N. Salt L. (ES, MHa). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Casper Sept. 16 allowed at 5-minute look before it disappeared into tall grass (†V & JH). Short-billed Dowitcher reports came during August from Casper, Grand Junction, Whitewater, Colo. (six Aug. 14–15, †RL), and Jackson Res., singles Sept. 5 from Cheraw, Colo. (†MJ), and Weld County, Colo., Sept. 12–24. Carson L. reported 2150 Long-billed Dowitchers Sept. 4, and Brigham City, Utah, had 300 Sept. 24; other observers found flocks of up to 80 into early November. Red-necked Phalaropes seemed scarce, the largest groups being of 75 at Stillwater Sept. 3 and 50 at Casper in September. A Red Phalarope fed near the shore at Jackson Res., Sept. 14 (†JC, JH, JR); reportedly two stopped here Oct. 11 and one at Prewitt Sept. 30 (JR). Finally, a Nov. 26–27 trip to Lahontan Valley, Nev., revealed a remarkable collection of late shorebirds: four Mountain Plovers, four Spotted Sandpipers, 47 W. Sandpipers, 675 Least Sandpipers, 120 Dunlins, and 130 Long-billed Dowitchers (PL).

LARIDS — The Goshute hawk watch in Nevada even produced a jaeger: the observer, with Alaskan experience, saw it at 1000' and identified it, based on size and impression, as a Pomarine (†FT). Four Parasitic Jaegers came to Colorado: one to Antero Res. in the mountains Aug. 30 (†CDD), two to Denver, Aug. 22 and Nov. 22, and one to Ordway Sept. 8. An elusive Laughing Gull was seen at Ordway Sept. 6 (†MJ). Franklin's Gulls did not seem as numerous in e. Colorado as in some years: Boulder County's August to October count totalled only 1221 (B.A.S.). A Little Gull stopped at Denver Sept. 13–26, for the state's 4th documented record; it wore plumage transitional from juvenile to first-winter (JR, †HEK, m.ob.). Bonaparte's Gulls increased somewhat over last year, with three at Yellowstone Sept. 6 (S & LF), one to four at Sheridan Aug. 25–Oct. 31, three at Casper Nov. 15 (M.A.S.), and one to 35 at various places in e. Colorado Oct. 24+. A 4-hour observation

of a Great Black-backed Gull at Prewitt Res. resulted in a good description of a first-winter bird (†JC, JH). Colorado has one other documented record. The string of reports of Black-legged Kittiwakes—all the last week in November—seemed amazing. Las Vegas had its first since 1981, an immature Nov. 28–30 (VM, J & MC, KW). On Nov. 26, Dexter followed a kittiwake from Moab, Utah, 5 mi down the Colorado R. (†CD) to provide Utah with its "second record and first live one"—ES). Colorado had kittiwakes at Grand Jct. (†CD, RL, 1st Lat), Rawhide (JMm, JCh, DL, WH), and Prewitt (†JC, BPr). The Region's four Sabine's Gulls came to Denver Sept. 18 (JR), Greeley, Colo., Sept. 28 (JC), Westcliffe, Colo., Sept. 29 (DS), and Sundance, Wyo., Oct. 2–5 (JA). Caspian Terns peaked at 70 at Fish Springs N.W.R., Aug. 5 (CRD). One at Twin Lakes, Colo., Aug. 2–3 provided a 1st Lat (VZ). The handful of Com. Terns included seven at Yellowstone Aug. 26–Sept. 6 (JZ).

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS — A very late Band-tailed Pigeon was trapped and released at Lander, Wyo., Nov. 21 (WH, 1st Lat). A White-winged Dove had flown farther N than usual when seen at Black Rock, Utah (†MW, JMt). Cheyenne sported a Black-billed Cuckoo Aug. 26 (DBd). Strychnine-laced sunflower seeds found in a prairie dog colony at Casper revealed a food chain disaster to the Burrowing Owls nesting there (M.A.S.). Yellowstone had 7 reports of Great Gray Owls Aug. 5–Sept. 4 (JZ), plus another Oct. 2 (†AH). Exploration of desert oases in west-central Utah revealed 18 Long-eared Owls at 2 of them Sept. 19–20 (ES); another perished in a suburban patio in Denver (*D.M.N.H.). Short-eared Owl reports increased throughout the Region, mostly from non-standard locations; they may occur more widely than thought, but in places where bird watchers don't go. The total of 36 included 10 that flushed from the same juniper Aug. 20 and Sept. 5 at Mountain View, Wyo. (BPC), one at Salem, Utah, Sept. 27 (SBo), and several at N. Salt Lake, Antero Res., and Hygiene and McCoy, Colo. This fall observers found two Boreal Owls at Yellowstone Sept. 13 (†TM); one at Gould, Colo., Nov. 7 came to a suet feeder (BS).

Forty Black Swifts flew over a Monte Vista tennis court Aug. 21—in mid-serve—the largest migrating flock yet reported from Colorado (JJR). Five Black Swifts fed with Com. Nighthawks at Vernal, Utah, Aug. 16 (FL, 1st Lat). Janos reported three Chimney Swifts, identified by call, at Delta, Colo., Aug. 29 for the first w. Colorado record. On Oct. 9 a flock of 100 White-throated Swifts, maybe more, flew so high above the Ruby Lake marsh Baughman could barely see them. Two at the Book Cliffs near Palisade, Colo., made 2 close passes on the very late date of Nov. 15 (CD, RL). Observers in Pueblo and Boulder regarded them as hard to find in August. With two Anna's Hummingbirds all fall, Las Vegas now has records in every month (VM).

Lewis' Woodpecker reports increase each year. Fish Springs N.W.R. had it first since 1976, on Sept. 20 (CRD); at Buffalo, Wyo., they appeared in 4 new locations (BJ); one even showed up high in the Colorado Rockies on Boreas Pass (WWB). A backpacking tourist from the East marveled at 12 Red-headed Woodpeckers he saw at Devils Tower, Wyo.; "I never saw more than two together anywhere." (JB) All fall reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers came from Colorado, many of juveniles. One factor considered by the A.O.U. in re-splitting the sapsuckers was the time of acquisition of adult plumage: Red-naped molt into adult plumage in late summer/early fall, Yellow-bellieds wait until winter. On this basis, the juveniles seen in November are almost certain to be Yellow-bellieds. This fall, records (many of juveniles) came from Prewitt and Riverside reservoirs, Ft. Collins, Boulder, Denver, and Rye on the e. Slope, and from Delta and Grand Jct. on the w. Slope. An amazing report came from c. Utah: 100 Red-naped seen Oct. 6–10 in desert oases and riparian habitat (ES).

FLYCATCHERS TO KINGLETS — A late W. Wood-Pewee was spotted at Pueblo Oct. 9 (DJ). The Black Phoebe at Lahontan Valley was both n. of its usual range and late on Nov. 26 (PL). A Vermilion Flycatcher stayed at Pueblo Nov. 3–11 (AW, †DS,

m.ob.). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher that strayed N to Ft Collins Sept 19–20 was last seen perched on a weather vane on a hay barn (†BD, †DL, ph.). At Brigham City, Utah, on Aug. 10, 15,000 swallows—mostly Banks but with some Trees and N. Rough-wingeds—covered power wires and fence lines, and even perched on the ground (JN). Two Purple Martins stopped at Salem, Utah, Sept. 5 (SBo). Five Tree Swallows lingered at Stillwater Ref., Nov. 26 (PL). Last Barn Swallows were at 2 Denver locations Nov. 3 (TJ, JR).

Corvids dispersed to unusual places and in high numbers. Blue Jays pushed W in October: n. Utah had four in 4 places; two stopped in Jackson, Wyo., and Yellowstone had three (the last seen Nov. 30). At Ogden, Utah, 30 Pinyon Jays (rare there) and 25 Clark's Nutcrackers foraged together. The Indian Peaks fall count tally of 53 nutcrackers was their 2nd highest, and two to 16 were seen daily at Casper, where they are usually sporadic. A nutcracker fed six young at Fort Collins Sept. 6 (KC) At Cedar City, Utah, a flock of 1000 Am. Crows seen Oct. 25+ was triple the usual number (SH).

Mountain Chickadees declined on the Indian Peaks fall count, with 2.79/hour the lowest of the 6 annual counts (DB, DH) In Yellowstone they proved among the most common birds, with 101 observations of 961 birds (JZ). Grand Jct. had a large flock of 250 Bushtits Nov. 23 (CD, RL). A few montane species dropped down to Las Vegas and Denver: Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches, and Brown Creepers. More than the usual Winter Wrens appeared, on the Colorado plains at Denver, Masters, Ft. Morgan, Crook, and Bonny Res.; in the foothills at Westcreek, Colo.; and in Nevada at Dyer, Lahontan Dam, and Las Vegas. Sheridan had its 2nd documented Marsh Wren (†MO). American Dippers attended two fledglings at McCoy, Colo., on the late date of Sept. 11 (ME). Golden-crowned Kinglets showed up in a variety of places, from Las Vegas and Fallon to Yellowstone (16 observations of 67) to the Colorado plains (15 observations of 40).

BLUEBIRDS TO WAXWINGS — Eastern Bluebirds spread w to the Front Range cities of Sheridan, Cheyenne, Rye, Denver, and Ft. Collins, most in November. The Indian Peaks fall count recorded three Western and 93 Mountain Bluebirds, both high counts. The Goshutes, Nev., hawk count noted a regular flight of Townsend's Solitaires, about 20/day (FT). November Hermit Thrushes stopped in Las Vegas and Loveland, Colo. (F A C.). Varied Thrushes staged a mild influx. Nevada reported 10 during the period Oct. 15–Nov. 17 at Las Vegas, Dyer, Ruby Valley—and even one atop the Goshute Range, which fed at the camp of the hawk watchers Oct. 16–23 (†VF). Other records were of one at Rock Springs Oct. 15 (FL), two at Casper Oct. 22 (†BRe), and one at Denver Nov. 9–10 (†HO). Late Gray Catbirds popped up Nov. 19 at Greeley and Nov. 27 at Loveland (F A C.). A N. Mockingbird strayed up to Yellowstone Oct. 4–5 (†S & LF, †RR, ph.), and Sheridan now has 30 records with birds Aug. 23 and Sept. 4 (MO, JM). Brown Thrashers also made a strong westerly showing. Las Vegas had one Oct. 18–20 (J & MC, KW, VM); Yellowstone's first stayed Sept. 30–Oct. 3 (S & LF); singles strayed into the Colorado Rockies at McCoy Sept. 24 (ME) and Salida Oct. 1 (H.R.A.C.); and they bumped against the Front Range from Cheyenne to Denver and Evergreen. By the end of November, small flocks of Bohemian Waxwings, harbingers of a larger winter incursion, had reached as far south as Ft. Collins and Evergreen, Colo., into the mountains at Granby, Colo., across the Divide to Logan, and even into Nevada at Ruby Valley and Fallon.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Colorado observers reported three Solitary Vireos thought to be of the Cassin's race, and two of the Blue-headed form, the latter at Wheat Ridge Sept. 4–6 (DSc) and Last Chance Oct. 11 (†D & JW). A Yellow-throated Vireo stopped near Ft. Collins Sept. 27–28 (†WH *et al.*). Red-eyed Vireos stopped near Milford, Utah, Sept. 25 (†CK) and Green R., Wyo., Sept. 7 & 12 (FL).

Warblers performed spottily: good variety in Las Vegas and Denver, poor selection in Ogden, Logan, and Boulder. Among

the regulars, Orange-crowneds invaded Las Vegas Sept 15–30, with 100 noted, and 20 remained at Fallon on the remarkably late date of Nov. 27 (PL). Otherwise the late date (away from regular wintering areas in s. Nevada) was set by one Nov. 4 at Loveland (F.A.C.).

Among the reports of uncommon species were these: three Tennessee Warblers at Green River, Wyo., four at Sheridan, and six in e. Colorado; a Nashville in the LaSal Mts. near Moab Sept. 13 (CD, RL), one at Sheridan, and 10 in e. Colorado; two N. Parulas at Denver, and one at Las Vegas Oct. 25 (VM); and four Chestnut-sideds in e. Colorado Aug. 23–Sept. 27. Black-throated Blue Warbler reports were of five in s. Nevada, one at Beaver Dam Wash in s.w. Utah Oct. 7 (E & RS), three in Wyoming, six around Denver, and two at Salida Oct. 3–8. Blackpoll Warblers were seen in all 4 states; Black-and-white Warbler reports included Las Vegas Sept. 22 & 27, two in n. Utah Sept. 10 & 19, two at Casper Aug. 30, and 12 in Colorado, including two at Ft. Collins in November; four Am. Redstarts were seen in Las Vegas and Dyer, two in Utah, nine in w. Wyoming, and a Nov. 11–14 bird in Denver, not seen after a Nov. 15 snowstorm (HEK); an Ovenbird and a N. Waterthrush were at Dyer Sept. 10 (JD), and other N. Waterthrushes were three at Las Vegas, three in n. Utah, two in Wyoming, and five in Colorado including one at McCoy Aug. 12 (ME, *D.M.N.H.)

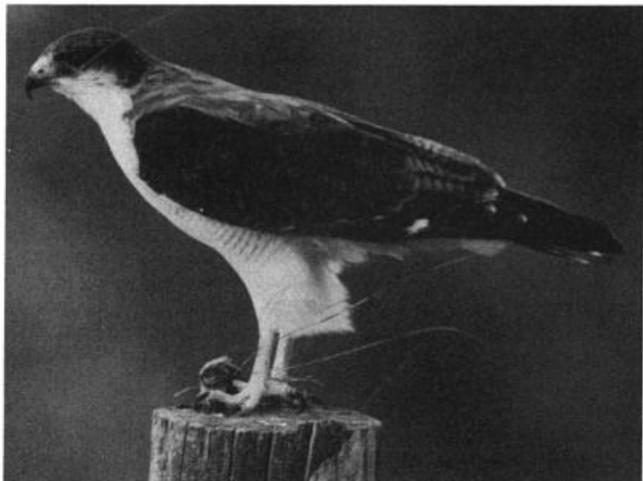
The rarities included the following (singles unless otherwise noted): Golden-winged Warbler at Denver Sept. 15 (JK, D & JW); Tennessee Warbler at Black Rock, Utah, Sept. 19 (ES), Magnolia Warbler Las Vegas Oct. 25–26 (VM, J & MC), plus six in Colorado; five Black-throated Green Warblers in e. Colorado, Blackburnians at Masters, Colo., Sept. 6 (†JC, JH), Denver Oct. 7 (†U & HEK), and s. Nevada's first since 1974 at Las Vegas Oct. 25+ (†VM); three November Palm Warblers in Nevada plus seven in Denver, Boulder, and Colorado Springs, Sept. 24–Oct. 20; a Kentucky at Las Vegas Sept. 8–10 (†JS *et al.*); a Hooded at Denver Aug. 15 (E & IH); and a Canada Warbler at Wheat Ridge Sept. 17 (TJ, D & JW).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES — Denver attracted three different Summer Tanagers Aug. 23–Oct. 11 (D.F.O.). Dyer had one Oct. 16 (JD, GM), and Las Vegas had a stray Scarlet Tanager Oct. 25 (†VM). At Ogden, Utah, the number of W. Tanagers banded almost doubled to 48 (MK). Denver continued to see N. Cardinals, a female Oct. 30 (EW) and, within a mile, a male Nov. 9+ (MKr). Lazuli Buntings banded at Ogden declined from 36 in 1986 to only five in 1987, all in August, while the 109 Rufous-sided Towhees compared with only 51 last year (MK) Field Sparrows moved into Colorado: 13 on the E. Slope visited Denver, Ft. Collins, and Ft. Morgan, and one crossed over the Continental Divide to Delta Nov. 13 (†MJ). A Lark Sparrow remained at a Denver feeder Nov. 12–Dec. 14 (DLA). Lark Buntings massed as usual in e. Colorado (1200 Aug. 15), but also crossed the mountains to McCoy Aug. 4–8 (ME), Eagle, Colo.—a surprisingly large flock of 40 on Aug. 28 (JM), and Nephi, Utah, two Aug. 23 & 24 (†JL). Fox Sparrows were found at Las Vegas (Sept. 18 and Nov. 14—VM), Dyer (Nov. 17, of a red or eastern race—JD), and Yellowstone (Sept. 19—†BSc). Swamp Sparrows poured into the Region, particularly e. Colorado. They also spilled over the mountains, to Capulin and Delta, Colo., Park Valley (†CK) and Gunlock, Utah (E & SM), and Las Vegas (VM) and Dyer, Nev. (JD). White-throated Sparrows likewise spread out throughout the Region—over 50 in Colorado, 10 in Wyoming, two in Utah, and three in Nevada White-crowned Sparrows stayed late in Lahontan Valley—1200 were counted Nov. 26 (PL).

A 60-mi route between Story and Powder R., Wyo., netted a count of 1000 W. Meadowlarks Sept. 9, suggesting that the n.e. Wyoming population has recovered from lows of a few years ago. A 100-mi trip from Strasburg to Idalia, Colo., counted 150 Oct. 11 (D & JW). Six Colorado locations reported Rusty Blackbirds, including 13 Oct. 11 at 2 Boulder County sites Sheridan counted 3000 Brewer's Blackbirds Sept. 9 (MC) and 2000 Com. Grackles Sept. 14 (HD). Fifty Great-tailed Grackles

at Ft. Garland, Colo., Oct. 11 demonstrated their increasing numbers [DJ]. At Yellowstone 53 observations of Red Crossbills totalled 504 birds, and Boulder County reported 151 over the fall, plus 48 on the Indian Peaks fall count [B.A.S.]. With them were two to 10 White-winged Crossbills in the Indian Peaks on 3 dates, and one in a Casper backyard Nov. 24 [M.A.S.]. Goldfinches and siskins seemed in short supply, but at Las Vegas the two Lawrence's Goldfinches provided the first record in s. Nevada since 1974 [VM, J & MC, KW, CL]. Evening Grosbeaks cruised through Colorado and Wyoming, with the largest flock a group of 600 Nov. 15+ at Penrose, Colo. [J & RW].

EXOTIC ? — The most-discussed bird of the year appeared in a high mountain valley n. of Gunnison, Colo., in mid-August (or at least was first found then) and stayed until Oct. 31 [RWM,



Portrait of the Red-backed Buzzard at Gunnison, Colo., Sept. 8, 1987. Far from its normal range, it attracted attention, admiration, and skepticism. Photo/Brian K. Wheeler.

DR). A ♀ Red-backed Buzzard (*Buteo polyosoma*), she allowed 100 observers excellent views as she soared over the valley, perched on haystacks and cottonwood trees, and subsisted in an environment probably similar to that of her native Andes in South America. The big question: did she arrive in Colorado by herself?

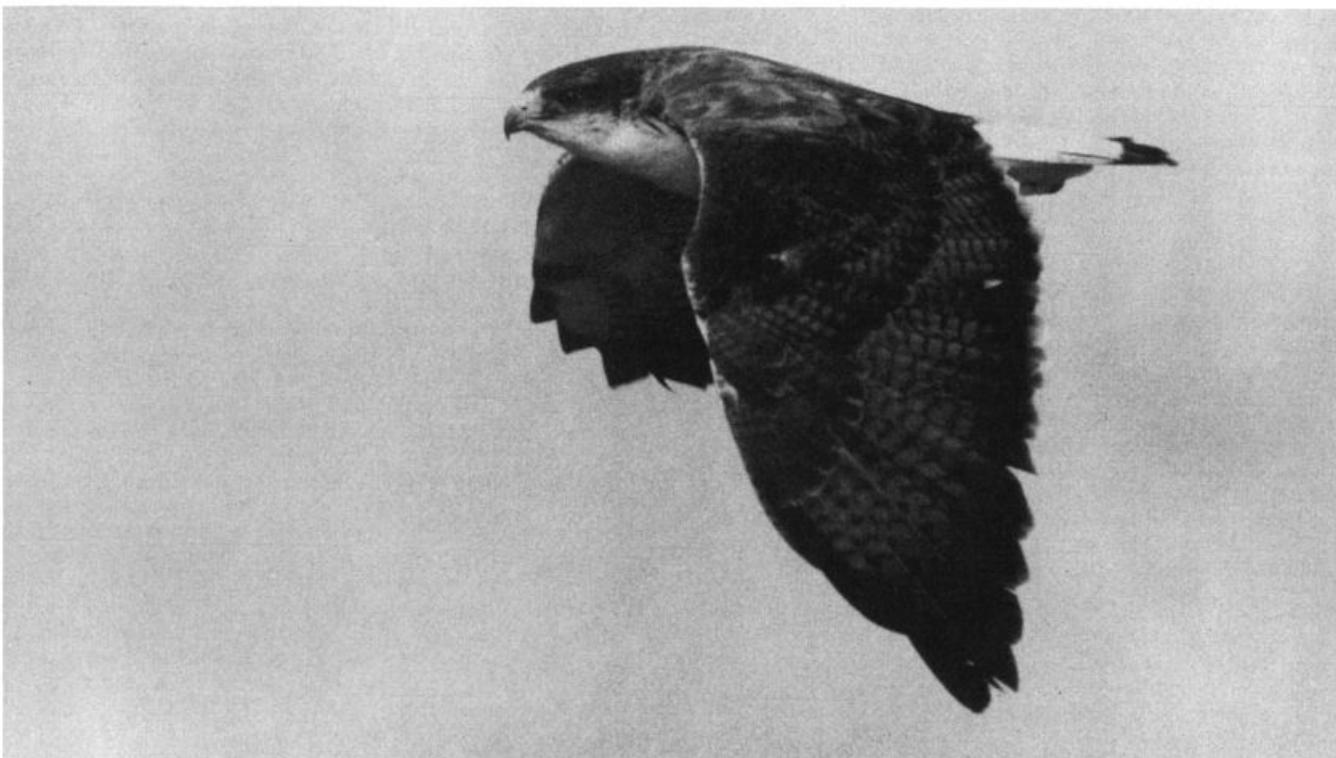
CON: With a normal range from Ecuador to Patagonia, the bird apparently has never been found n. of Colombia. Based on that information, out-of-state experts reject her as a naturally occurring bird; they believe that this essentially non-migratory bird would not, on its own, have traveled 5000 mi across the Equator to the Colorado Rockies.

PRO: Videotapes and excellent color photographs document the buzzard; raptor specialists who have viewed them state that they can see no evidence of a kept bird [JCg, BKW]. It had no band, no elongated beak typical of a caged bird. Although the C.D.O.W. had issued no permits, the U.S.F.&W.S. in Denver said it has no way to determine if a bird like this entered the country legally or illegally.

"The photos show old, pale, sun-faded red back feathers with new fresh darker ones interspersed. Only a wild bird subjected to the elements would possess this plumage. To have the feathers in this condition would take an entire molt cycle—12-15 months. On the greater wing coverts, only a few old feathers remain, but these are discolored brown (much wear) vs. a new blue gray. And, the old feathers are quite worn, but in a natural way—on the edges—i.e., wear typical of a bird that has been free-flying for quite a while. The four *B. polyosoma* ad. females of this light-morph plumage at the Am. Mus. of Nat. Hist. showed all the same characters.

"I have found absolutely nothing in favor of this being a captive bird. All points are in favor of it being a natural free-flying bird, and a very healthy one at that." [BKW]

The skeptics will probably prevail because without the bird in hand they cannot examine it. Even if the bird had spent a year around Gunnison, it may have accepted a lift to get there. The burden of proof rests on the proponents, and no one can prove absolutely that the buzzard arrived via her own wings.



Red-backed Buzzard in flight at Gunnison, Colo., Sept. 8, 1987. Understandably, the bird was initially misidentified as a White-tailed Hawk until experts (like this photographer) arrived on the scene. Photo/Brian K. Wheeler.

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SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona, Sonora

David Stejskal and Janet Witzeman

What makes for an exciting fall birding season in Arizona? It could be any one of a number of phenomena: an invasion of montane species to the lowlands, a better than average showing of eastern North American landbirds, a selection of vagrants from Mexico, or a prolonged migration of our regular transients. What would happen if all of these occurred simultaneously? The combination might produce one of the best fall seasons in recent memory. This was indeed the case during the fall of 1987. By the end of August, Arizona birders knew that this would be a fall to remember. And by late November, we were pleased to see that it was not yet over.

The editors received so many good records for the season (about twice the normal amount), our space limitations unfortunately necessitated the exclusion of some valuable records from this report. The following is a summary of the "best of the best" that we received.

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

CORMORANTS THROUGH RAPTORS — Olivaceous Cormorants put in a good showing this season with one at Guevavi Ranch near Nogales Aug. 29 (JB) and two more there Sept. 25 (N. Guthkelch). Two to three birds were also present in n.w. Tucson Sept. 15 into October (m.ob.).

Very surprising was an imm. Little Blue Heron at Ganado L., N.I.R., Aug. 23–Oct. 9 (RF, RN et al.). This provided not only one of the few fall records for the state, but also the first report for n. Arizona. Another immature was found at Menager's Dam, Tohono O'odham (formerly Papago) Indian Reservation, Sept. 20 (SL). An imm. Tricolored Heron, a very sparse fall visitor, was found at Green Valley s. of Tucson Nov. 6–11 (†DG, G. Porter et al.).

Intriguing was the report of a flock of eight Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at Prescott Nov. 13 (†BT). Most recent records for the state have come from the L.C.R. Small numbers of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were widely reported from s.e. Ari-



zona n. to the Phoenix region, with the only reported evidence of nesting being two adults with nine flightless ducklings s.e. of Phoenix Aug. 15 (DS). Individual Ross' Geese were found at Tucson from early October on (m.ob.), near Fairbank on the upper S.P.R. (with 46 Snows) Nov. 4 (DK), and at Sierra Vista Nov. 19 (TC et al.). Six Ross' flying with eight Snows at Topock Marsh Oct. 31 furnished the only sighting of multiple birds (DS, RN). A very early Greater White-fronted Goose (wild bird?) was found at Youngtown near Phoenix Aug. 24 (B. Richards). At the Buenos Aires N.W.R., where this species is proving to be a regular fall migrant, five were found Sept. 17 (CD). Another individual was in n.w. Tucson Oct. 29+ (DT et al.), and a flock of 12 was observed at Topock Marsh Oct. 31 (DS, RN). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon (without supporting details) at Montezuma Well near Camp Verde Nov. 17+ was a first for Yavapai County (CT et al.). An imm. ♀ Surf Scoter, a rare fall transient, was found at the Chandler sewage ponds Oct. 27 (DS), and another individual was in Tucson Nov. 17–19 (RD). Even rarer was an imm. White-winged Scoter (without supporting details) on a small pond at B.T.A., Nov. 26+ (JS et al.).

An Osprey at Wheatfields L., N.I.R., Oct. 26 was very late for that locality (GM). An ad. N. Goshawk in n. Phoenix Nov.

26+ furnished the only lowland report received for this species (DS) A Swainson's Hawk (age? details?) was reported from Tucson on the very late date of Nov. 13 (SGo). Early were one to two imm. Ferruginous Hawks Sept. 18 near Big L. in the White Mts. (GM), one in Tucson Sept. 23 (DT), and another at Picacho Sept. 24 (GM). The Tucson bird was the earliest ever for s.e. Arizona.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH OWLS — Four late Am. Avocets were found at Rucker L. in the Sulphur Springs Valley Nov. 27 (DH). Very intriguing was the godwit, sp., flushed from the side of the road near Portal Nov. 6 (†RM). Reported as a Hudsonian, the description received and the late date point to Black-tailed Godwit as actually being the more likely species! There are 3 acceptable records of Hudsonian for the state, all late April to late May, and no records of any kind for Black-tailed. Alas, we will never know its true identity. Two late Solitary Sandpipers, presumably attempting to overwinter, were observed on the Salt R. s.w. of Phoenix Oct. 21+ (DS, P. Stejskal). A Ruddy Turnstone, a very rare fall migrant in the state, was seen at P.R.D., Sept. 14 (PB, W. Beall). Another rare transient, a Red Knot, was found in Prescott Sept. 15 (BT). The only Sanderlings reported for the period were three to four juveniles at the Chandler sewage ponds Sept. 4–10 (DS, SGA) and another at Tsaille L., N.I.R., Sept. 24 (RD). Semipalmated Sandpipers were more widely reported than usual this season, with at least seven birds found: one juvenile at Ruthrauff Pond in Tucson Aug. 3–4 (RD, †KK), two birds at Willcox Aug. 21 (DK, †TC), another at Sierra Vista Aug. 27–Sept. 2 (†TC, DK), and three juveniles near Avondale Aug. 30–Sept. 4 (tph. DS). A Com. Snipe at Tucson Aug. 7 was very early (GM).

Four Heermann's Gulls, all during mid-late October, were reported for the period, with one found dead at the Snyder Hill ponds w. of Tucson Oct. 14 (* to U. of Ariz., fide TH), an adult at P.R.D., Oct. 24 (RF, RN), one at Willcox Oct. 25 (†A. Price), and another the same day at Ruthrauff Pond in Tucson (DT). An ad. Herring Gull, extremely rare away from the L.C.R., was found at Cholla L. w. of Holbrook Oct. 24 (RBr). Five Sabine's Gulls were reported, all in the n. half of the state, with an immature at Sunrise L. in the White Mts., Sept. 17 (TH, GM), an adult at Becker L., Sept. 19 and two immatures there the next day (RBr), and the last at Kayenta Sept. 27–29 (CL). A **Least Tern** was reported from Prescott Aug. 16 (fBT).

An Inca Dove at Willcox Oct. 13–17 was only the 2nd ever reported for the area (†M. Price). An ad. Yellow-billed Cuckoo feeding a fledgling Sept. 19 on the upper S.P.R. was evidence of later nesting than usual for the state (TC).

An ad. Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was feeding a begging juvenile in n.w. Tucson Aug. 8; there has been little evidence of breeding for this species in the state in recent years (ph. L. Rosche). Very interesting was the report of 10+ Short-eared Owls in suitable breeding habitat at Hart Prairie in the San Francisco Peaks region Aug. 24–Sept. 1 (J. Ganey, JC, H. Reiser). Also, a belated report was received of at least three more birds present in the same area during July–August 1983 (fide JC). The dates and location of these records strongly suggest breeding in the area; Short-eared Owl is not known to nest in the state. At least one adult and four juv. N. Saw-whet Owls were found at Rustler Park in the Chiricahua Mts. Aug. 22 (†M. O'Brien), providing the 2nd confirmed nesting record of this species for the Chiricahuas in recent years.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Vaux's Swift at Kayenta Sept. 12 was farther e. than usual and provided one of the few records of this species for the N.I.R. (CL). Three White-eared Hummingbirds were reported for the period: an imm. male on Mt. Lemmon in the Santa Catalina Mts., Aug. 12 to early September (m.ob.), a female at Portal Sept. 29 (RM), and a late individual Oct. 21 at Ramsey Canyon (T. Collazo). The Berylline Hummingbird found at Madera Canyon during July was last seen Sept. 7 (m.ob.). About one dozen Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were reported for the period, including a very late bird at a Tucson cemetery Nov. 27 (JB). An

imm ♂ Magnificent Hummingbird was found along the S Fork of the Little Colorado R. in the White Mts. Sept. 18 (GR). This species is infrequently reported from this area. At least one male and one ♀ Lucifer Hummingbird were present at feeders in Portal through late September (W & SS, m.ob.). Surprising was an ad. ♂ Lucifer in a Tucson yard during the first half of October (A. Cutler, SGo), representing one of the northernmost records ever. A Plain-capped Starthroat was found feeding on Agave blossoms on a hillside between Portal and Paradise in the Chiricahuas Aug. 21, and was last seen in the area Sept 2 (†DS, KK, RT et al.). Another individual was reported from Sunny Flat Campground in the Chiricahuas Oct. 6 (†B. Brown).

A ♀ Elegant Trogon was found away from its usual habitat, in cottonwood-willow riparian growth along the upper S P R near Hereford Aug. 26, nearly the same place where one had been found last fall (DK). An **Eared Trogon**, an extreme rarity (resident?) in the Chiricahuas, was found in Cave Creek Canyon Sept. 1 (†S. Linsley).

A Green Kingfisher was present at Guevavi Ranch Aug 21 through November (KK, DS, RT et al.), and another was at another location in Nogales Nov. 7 (JS). Again, as last year, a few Green Kingfishers were found on the upper S.P.R. Two individual females were present Sept. 14 through the period, and a male was found Oct. 17 (DK, TC). The observers feel that Green Kingfisher is now a rare but regular summer and fall visitor (breeder?) in the area, and that the species was probably overlooked because of the inaccessibility of this area prior to 1986.

Lewis' Woodpeckers were widely reported across the s. one-half of the state, with the earliest lowland record coming from n.w. Tucson Sept. 8–9 (DT). This year's major montane invasion also brought a few Acorn Woodpeckers to the desert, with a male at Chandler Aug. 23 to at least Sept. 24 (CB, DS), a female at B.T.A., Oct. 20–Nov. 3 (CT), and a flock of five to six birds at Estrella Mountain Park s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 12 (PB). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were more frequently reported than usual, with an early immature at Patagonia Sept. 22 (DK), another early ad. ♂ bird at Petrified Forest N.M., Oct. 5 (CK), another immature on the upper S.P.R., Oct. 22 (TC), and another bird (age?) at B.T.A. (L. Hatcher). Unfortunately, none of these sightings was accompanied by written details. A Red-breasted Sapsucker (of questionable lineage) was found at Catalina S.P., n.w. of Tucson, Oct. 4 into December (WD, EB), and another was at Kino Springs Oct. 17 (DH). Two Downy Woodpeckers on Mt. Graham in the Pinaleno Mts., Aug. 23, were at an unexpected location (GM). A ♂ N. "Yellow-shafted" Flicker at B.T.A., Oct. 10–20 provided one of the few actual reports for this [probably overlooked] form in the state during the past 10 years (CH, P. Gallagher, CT).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CREEPERS — Out of place was a Greater Pewee at B.T.A., Aug. 31 (CT), and another at Estrella Mt. Park from Oct. 31 on was evidently attempting to winter at this location again (RBr et al.). An early E. Phoebe was found near Hereford on the upper S.P.R., Aug. 26 (DK), and another was found at the base of Madera Canyon Nov. 28–29 (fide SGo). A late Dusky-capped Flycatcher was found at Patagonia Oct. 25 (DJ). Normally, this species is absent after late August. At least four E. Kingbirds, far more than usual, were reported for the period, including one between Portal and Paradise in the Chiricahuas Aug. 30–31 (RD), one at Perkonville on the Verde R., Sept. 2 (BT), one at Skull Valley near Prescott Sept. 5 (†L. Frederick, C. Berry), and another s of Elfrida Sept. 6 (R. Bailowitz, DD). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a rare vagrant to the state, was found at Show Low in the White Mts. Oct. 2, providing the first record for Navajo County (P. Scholten).

Steller's and Scrub jays were widely reported from the lowlands across the state from September on (m.ob.). This was the strongest showing for these two species in the lowlands in 15 years. Much more unusual was a flock of eight Gray-breasted Jays in Tucson Sept. 30 (S. Mills). Two old records from Tucson

(Apr 18, 1934, and Sept 30, 1956) are the only other lowland records for this species in the state. Pinyon Jays also appeared in the lowlands this fall with two in s.w. Phoenix Sept. 25 (DS), one in Tucson Oct. 3 (RBo), and another at B.T.A., Nov. 28 (DS). Remarkable was a flock of 19 Clark's Nutcrackers in n.w. Tucson Sept. 20 (W. Matheny).

Unprecedented was the sighting of a Mexican Chickadee in Guadalupe Canyon in the extreme s.e. corner of the state Sept. 4 (TC, RK). Small flocks of Mountain Chickadees invaded the lowlands of c. Arizona at several localities starting in October (v.o.). Red-breasted and White-breasted nuthatches were also widely reported in the lowlands of s. Arizona, beginning in late August-early September (v.o.). More unusual were reports of Pygmy Nuthatches in the lowlands of c. Arizona. A flock of four to five was present at B.T.A., Oct. 4+ (DS, SGa, CT), and a flock of 10-15 birds was in n. Phoenix Nov. 26+ (DS). An early Brown Creeper was found at Patagonia Sept. 2 (TC, RK).

WRENS THROUGH VIREOS — Winter Wrens were more widely reported than usual, with most reports coming from canyons in the s.e. mountains (v.o.). American Dippers were present again in Madera Canyon Oct. 4+ (B. Healey et al.), and in Ramsey Canyon Nov. 28 (RBo).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were also present in small numbers in the lowlands from October on (v.o.). Two lowland reports of Townsend's Solitaire were received, with one in e. Tucson Sept. 20 (C. Corchran) and another in n. Phoenix Sept. 28 (BD). Very unusual, if correct, was the report of two late Swainson's Thrushes (without supporting details) at Apache Spring on the w. side of the Whetstone Mts., Nov. 21 (SL). There are no Arizona records after the first week of November. Three Rufous-backed Robins were reported for the period, with one banded e. of Tucson Nov. 5 (C. Corchran et al.), one at Organ Pipe Cactus N.M., Nov. 22 (RBo), and another the same day, remaining through December, at B.T.A. (SGa et al.). Two Varied Thrushes, rare vagrants from the Pacific Northwest, were found for the period, with one at Granite Basin in Prescott Oct. 17 (RF, RN) and another at mile 78 in the Grand Canyon Oct. 23 (L. Stevens, fide JC). Unprecedented numbers of Gray Catbirds, normally very sparse transients away from the White Mts. region, were found in s.e. Arizona, with at least six individuals reported: one at Patagonia Oct. 3 (RS), with another or the same bird there Oct. 18 (B & JE); one s. of St. David on the upper S.P.R., Oct. 9 (TC); one at Tucson Oct. 25 (P. Jenkins); another the same day at Picacho Res. (C. Green); another in Tucson Nov. 11-15 (K. Nickey); and yet another at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum w. of Tucson Nov. 15 (DT). Three Brown Thrashers, more than usual, were found with one at Teec Nos Pos, N.I.R., Sept. 17 (GR), one at Patagonia Oct. 25 (DJ), and another near St. David on the upper S.P.R., Nov. 28+ (TC, DK).

A singing Bell's Vireo Oct. 16 on the upper S.P.R. was late (TC). A Gray Vireo in Chino Canyon Aug. 30 was out of place (TC, RK). Another reported (without details) from the upper S.P.R., Nov. 24, was not only out of place but was also remarkably late (TC). Two reports were received of the eastern "Blue-headed" form of Solitary Vireo on the upper S.P.R.: Sept. 26 (†DK) and Nov. 16 (†TC). There are only a few sight records of this form in the state. No fewer than three Philadelphia Vireos were present in the state this fall, with one at Becker L. (without supporting details) Sept. 5 (RF), one on the upper S.P.R., Sept. 27 (†TC), and another at B.T.A., Oct. 4 (†DS). Either a different bird or the same one was seen at B.T.A. again Oct. 23 (SGa). Philadelphia Vireo is a very sparse vagrant in the state. Four Red-eyed Vireos were found for the period Sept. 1-Oct. 15, evenly split between n. and s. Arizona.

WOOD-WARBLERS — A Tennessee Warbler, one of the more regular e. vagrants, was at Patagonia Oct. 10 (RS). A N. Parula, much rarer in fall than in spring, was at Pipe Springs N.M. on the Utah border Sept. 16 (GR), and another was on the upper S.P.R., Sept. 19-20 (TC, DK). At least four Chestnut-



Prothonotary Warbler at Phoenix, Ariz., Oct. 26, 1987. Photo/Robert A. Witzeman.

sided Warblers were found, about average for recent years. One early individual was found at Patagonia Aug. 22 (B. Scheibe). There had been no previous August records for the state. Another was caught by Amber the Cat in a Phoenix yard Nov. 12 (fide JW, DS, * to U. of Ariz.), another was found in another Phoenix yard Nov. 15 (M. Eubanks), and the last was in Tucson Nov. 17 (RD). At least three Magnolia Warblers were reported with one at Ganado Wash, N.I.R., Sept. 30 (†DS, SGa), another at B.T.A., Oct. 20 (†CT), and another s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 29 (†CB). Three Black-throated Blue Warblers were also found, with a female at Pipe Springs N.M., Sept. 17-18 (GR, JC), a male on the upper S.P.R., Sept. 25 (TC), and the last bird banded e. of Tucson Oct. 15-19 (CD). Two Black-throated Greens were found: one on the upper S.P.R., Sept. 21 (†DK) and another (with few details) in e. Tucson Nov. 7 (F. Hopf). Very exciting and long overdue was the **Pine Warbler** found in Benson (DJ, m.ob., ph.), providing the first documented record for Arizona. Evidently attempting to winter locally, the bird was glimpsed several times (beginning Nov. 6) before Jones identified it as a Pine in early December. A **Bay-breasted Warbler**, the first in the state in over 5 years, was found s.w. of Phoenix Oct. 21 (†DS, P. Stejskal). There are only about one dozen previous records for the state. A Blackpoll Warbler (without details), very sparse in the state, was found at Springerville Sept. 18 (GR). A ♀ Prothonotary Warbler was observed in Portal Sept. 7 (†D. & D. Lefkovitz) and another, apparently an ad. male, was in a n. Phoenix yard on the late date of Oct. 26 (BD et al., ph. RW). An Ovenbird was present at Sabino Canyon, Tucson, Oct. 14 (KK, LHK). A Louisiana Waterthrush (without details), possibly the same bird that has wintered here in the past, was at Patagonia Sept. 7 (RD). A very late MacGillivray's Warbler was found s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 23 (DS, SGa). A ♂ and ♀ Hooded Warbler were present at Patagonia Aug. 16-29 (†W.E. Harper, JS, JK et al.), and another late individual was s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 13 (†DS, SGa). An out-of-habitat Red-faced Warbler was found on the upper S.P.R., Aug. 4 (DK, DS), and another or the same was found s. of there the next day (TC).

Five Black-and-white Warblers, seven Am. Redstarts, and 15 N. Waterthrushes were found for the period.

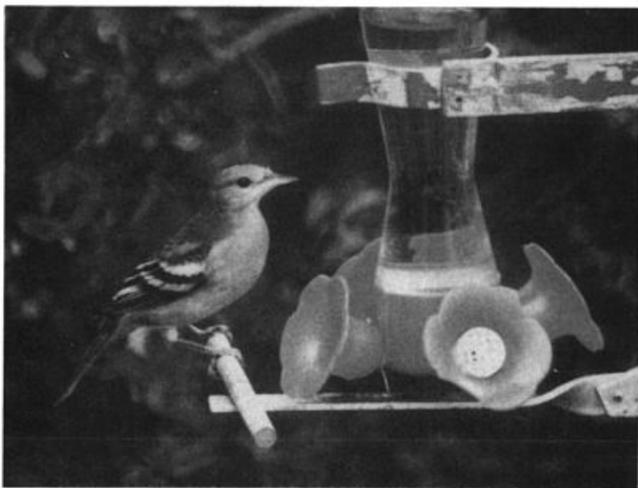
TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — An amazing three **Scarlet Tanagers** were reported for the period: one in Madera Canyon Aug. 28 (†TC, †RK), another on the upper S.P.R., Oct. 15 (†TC), and an ad. male at Madera Canyon Nov. 28-29 (J.

Halloway, m ob) There had been only about 10 records for the state prior to these.

A tame ad. Yellow Grosbeak, found on the unusual date of Oct. 27 in Tucson, is probably best regarded as an escaped cagebird, as it does not fit the established early June to mid-August pattern for s. Arizona (f). Notestine). Five Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported for the period, including a late male at Portal Nov. 29 (W & SS). A ♀ Painted Bunting was observed there Aug. 24 (fRM). Only two Dickcissels were reported, both in s.e. Arizona. One flew over the upper S.P.R. near Hereford Aug. 26 (DK), and another was found at Patagonia Oct. 3 (W. Russell).

A singing adult and a fledgling Cassin's Sparrow Oct. 21 were quite late for a recent nesting (TC). Three individual Clay-colored Sparrows were reported for the period, with one on the upper S.P.R., Sept. 16 (fDK), one e. of Show Low Sept. 20 (fRBr), and the last at Many Farms L. (without supporting details) Oct. 7 (CK). Fox Sparrows were more widely reported than usual, with the earliest being one on the S. Fork of the Little Colorado R., Sept. 20 (GR). Swamp Sparrows were reported less commonly, but 10 at Cholla L., Oct. 24, were very surprising (RBr). At least eight White-throated Sparrows were found, most in November, but one was early at Ganado L., Sept. 30 (DS, SGa). Two imm. White-crowned Sparrows in Kayenta Aug. 28 furnished the earliest lowland fall record for the state (CL). Five McCown's Longspurs flying over Sierra Vista Oct. 21 (TC) and two more near Winkelman on the lower S.P.R., Oct. 25 (DS) were in areas where the species is not known to winter. A single Chestnut-collared Longspur flying over Topock Marsh Oct. 31 was noteworthy (DS).

The only Bobolink reported was one at Becker L., Sept. 29 (DS, SGa). A late ♂ Hooded Oriole was at B.T.A., Nov. 22 (DH). A ♀ "Baltimore" N. Oriole, a very sparse vagrant to the state, was in Prescott Aug. 19-23 (ph. V. & E. Miller).



Female-plumaged "Baltimore" Northern Oriole at Prescott, Ariz., August 1987. Photo/Virginia and Earl Miller.

Cardueline finches were generally widespread and widely reported for the period. Small numbers of Purple Finches were found around Prescott Oct. 19+ (CT), five were in n.w. Tucson Nov. 11 (JB), one was at Apache Spring in the Whetstone Mts., Nov. 21 (SL), and three more were at B.T.A., Nov. 28-29 (CT, DS). Few Cassin's Finches were reported in the lowlands, with the most unusual being a ♀-plumaged bird at Katherine Landing, L. Mohave, Oct. 31 (DS, RN). Red Crossbill was widespread in the lowlands beginning in late October, with the most unusual again being one at Katherine Landing Oct. 31 (DS). Pine Siskins first appeared at a Portal feeder Aug. 11 (W & SS), and by early September they had appeared in the lowlands nearly statewide. Lawrence's Goldfinches also staged a minor invasion from the Prescott region to the upper S.P.R., mostly singles

and small flocks, but a flock of about 60 birds was near Chandler Oct. 27 (DS). An early Am. Goldfinch was found at B.T.A., Aug. 16 (CT). Evening Grosbeaks descended into the lowlands also in small numbers during October, with up to six birds present in a Phoenix yard (one ♀ bird present since July) Oct. 10-17 (L. Shaberly), four at B.T.A., Oct. 19, with only two present the following day (CT), and an injured bird found in Cave Creek n. of Phoenix Nov. 6 (K. Ingram).

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NEW MEXICO

John P. Hubbard

ABBREVIATIONS — Bosque Refuge = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Ref.; E.B.L = Elephant Butte L.; P.O. Can. = Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.; T or C = Truth or Consequences. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS — Small numbers of Clark's Grebes were at Red L., McKinley (DC), Charette L. (SW), Las Vegas (PS), and Zuni (DC) Aug. 10-Sept. 24, and at Evans L., Grant (RF), Hollomon L. (EW et al.), and L. McMillan (PS) Nov. 1-19; 70 were at E.B.L., Sept. 17 (PJ). A few late Westerns were near Farmington Nov. 13-14 (PJ); Miami L., Colfax, Nov. 17 (SW); and Storrie L., Nov. 21 (CR). In the n.e., small numbers of Am. White Pelicans were near Clayton (WC) and at Cherry, San Miguel, Ute, and Tucumcari lakes (DMac). Ten were also at Zuni Oct. 18 (DC), and there were singles in the Alamogordo area Sept. 19-Nov. 15 (EW et al.). Double-crested Cormorants were late at Morgan L., San Juan, Nov. 13 (PJ) and at Evans L., Nov. 1 (RF), while one was early at Clayton L., Aug. 27 (WC). Late egrets were a Great near Cliff Nov. 1 (RF) and a Snowy at Hollomon L., Nov. 7 (EW). Northerly was a Cattle Egret in Albuquerque Nov. 15 (BH), and peripheral were Black-crowned Night-Herons at Red L., Aug. 10-15 (DC). White-faced Ibis numbers were down; one was late at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Nov. 20 (KW). Sixty-plus Canada Geese were at Red L. Aug. 10 (DC). A few peripheral Snow Geese—along with two Ross' Geese—were near Farmington Nov. 13 (PJ); other Snows were at Dry L., Quay, Oct. 13 (DMac), and Sunland Park, Dona Ana, Nov. 12 (JD, BZ). Almost 60 Wood Ducks were reported, about half at the Rio Grande Nature Center Nov. 7-22, where at least four and a Mandarin are presumed residents (LG). Six to seven Wood Ducks were also near Farmington (PJ), Oasis S.P. (PS), and Randal's Pool, Dona Ana (JD, BZ), Oct. 1 or later. Early were 10 Lesser Scaup in the Chuska Mts., Aug. 17-18 (DC), while a Surf Scoter was near Luna, Catron, Oct. 31 (TM). Highs

for Hooded Mergansers were 16 near Las Vegas (PI et al.) and seven at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW) Nov. 15–27. An easterly Red-breasted Merganser was at Jal Nov. 10 (PS); another bird was at Hollomon L., Nov. 7 (EW). A brood of Ruddy Ducks was at Zuni Aug. 17 (DC).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS — Seventeen species and 3922 individual raptors were counted over the Manzano Mts., Aug. 25–Oct. 31 (JDa et al.), including 283 Turkey Vultures (the last on Oct. 2), 19 Ospreys (Sept. 3–30), 78 N. Harriers (the first on Aug. 26), 1623 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 679 Cooper's Hawks, four N. Goshawks (Sept. 5–15, plus one Oct. 6), seven Broad-winged Hawks (Sept. 9–28), 44 Swainson's (the last on Oct. 6), two Zone-taileds (Sept. 3 and Oct. 2), 455 Red-taileds, 21 Ferruginous (the first on Sept. 2), 82 Golden Eagles, 423 Am. Kestrels, and 17 Merlins (the first on Sept. 8). A Black-shouldered Kite was at Bosque Refuge Nov. 11, and four Mississippis were in Albuquerque Sept. 3 (B. Pidgeon). Vagrant Mississippis were at Maxwell N.W.R. on Sept. 5 (CR) and Owen's Farm, Dona Ana, Aug. 20 (BZ). Early N. Harriers were near the Big Hatchet Mts. Aug. 12–13 (JW) and Tularosa Aug. 15 (J & NH). An ad. Com. Black-Hawk was near Percha Dam, Sierra, where it is rare, Sept. 3 (G. Lasley et al.).

A brood of White-tailed Ptarmigans was on Pecos Baldy Peak, San Miguel, Aug. 22 (ph. DMac). Wild Turkey numbers were up in the Clayton area (WC) and s. Peloncillo Mts. (V. Pinto). Westerly N. Bobwhites persisted at Roswell (KW), L. McMillan (fide MA & BH), and Rattlesnake Springs (MF et al.). A hybrid Scaled x Gambel Quail was shot near Deming Nov. 14 (ph. W. Laughlin). A vagrant Com. Moorhen was at Hollomon L., Sept. 5 (EW et al.). Some 26,743 Sandhill Cranes were counted at Bernalillo, with 7395 the peak Nov. 8 (DS et al.). Passage at Clayton was Sept. 29–Nov. 9 (WC), and small numbers elsewhere in the n.e. included Raton to La Cueva and Dry L., Oct. 12–Nov. 17 (DMac et al.). Only 20 to 22 Whooping Cranes were expected in the state, following the fledging of only two young at Gray's L., Ida. (fide J. Lewis).

About 350 Mountain Plovers were near Moriarty Sept. 16 (fide JB), five near Los Lunas Oct. 13 (BO), and 20+ at Hollomon L. on Sept. 3 (BZ et al.). Late Am. Avocets were at Hollomon L. (fide RJ) and Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW) Nov. 21–27. Solitary Sandpipers were on the Jicarilla Reservation (PI et al.), at Taos-Dixon (JW), and at Maxwell-Springer (CR et al.). A brood of Spotted Sandpipers was at Chama Aug. 6 (LS), while early migrants were at Zuni Aug. 7 (DC). A juv. Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Hollomon L. on Sept. 3 & 28 (BZ et al.), and late Baird's were at Zuni (DC), near Durling's Farm, Dona Ana (JD, BZ), and Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW) Oct. 18–23. Reports of Pectoral Sandpipers came from Bosque Ref. (PJ, JS), Zuni (DC), and near Los Lunas (JB, BO) Oct. 15–29. Two Dunlins were at Laguna Grande Nov. 1 (CR); two westerly Stilt Sandpipers were at Bosque Refuge Sept. 21 (PJ). An imm. Short-billed Dowitcher was at Hollomon L., Sept. 28 (CA, EW).

Very unusual was an **American Woodcock** in Albuquerque Nov. 10 (ph. RT)—only the 3rd verified for the state. A few very late Wilson's Phalaropes were at Laguna Grande (CR), Hollomon L. (EW), and Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW) Nov. 2–13. A probable Parasitic Jaeger was at La Joya State Game Ref. on Sept. 10 (J. deBoer, RT) and a possible one at Heron L. on Sept. 5 (PS et al.). A first-winter **Laughing Gull** was at Caballo L. on Sept. 2 (BZ) et al.; ph. G. Lasley), a California Gull at Zuni Oct. 3 & 10 (DC), and an imm. Sabine's Gull at Hollomon L. on Sept. 21 (J. McNelly). An imm. Com. Tern was at Charette L. on Sept. 21 (SW), and late Forster's were at Bitter Lake N.W.R. (KW) and Caballo L. (PJ) Nov. 7–8.

PIGEONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Band-tailed Pigeons were common in the Sandia Mts. into early September (HS), while the latest in the Pinos Altos (D & MZ) and Manzano (PJ) mts. were Oct. 2–3. Highs for White-winged Doves were 20+ at Socorro Nov. 6 (PJ, JS), 22 at T or C Aug. 12–13—with a melanistic one there Aug. 17 (DM)—11 at Tularosa Nov. 11 (J & NH), and up to eight at Hollomon A.F.B. in August and



Male Ruddy Ground-Dove at Owen's Farm, Dona Ana Co., N.M., Oct. 22, 1987. Third for New Mexico, all at the same location. Photo/Barry Zimmer.

September (fide RJ). One was late at Redrock Nov. 3 (AF); a vagrant appeared at Jal Sept. 5 (JS). Up to eight Inca Doves were at Socorro (J. Johnson et al.), and up to three were at T or C through Sept. 30 (DM) and Tularosa-Alamogordo into November (fide RJ). Two at Redrock Oct. 18 increased to 12 by Nov. 30 (AF). A ♂ **Ruddy Ground-Dove** was at Owen's Farm Oct. 22–23 and another Nov. 10–12 (BZ et al.; ph.); this is the 3rd year of occurrence at this site, previous ones being in October 1984 and 1985. Up to three Com. Ground-Doves were there on Oct. 24 and Nov. 12 (BZ et al.; ph.). A Greater Roadrunner was at 9368 ft. in the Manzano Mts. Sept. 25 (PS); one was westerly at Zuni Sept. 10 and Oct. 4 (DC).

Surveys for **Boreal Owls** yielded one in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness Oct. 3, plus one or two Oct. 5 s. of Cumbres Pass (DS et al.), where they were first found earlier in 1987. Late Com. Nighthawks were at Cochiti Dam (CR) and Albuquerque (CH) Oct. 2–3; a Com. Poorwill was at Santa Fe Oct. 8 (JH). New Mexico's first breeding record for **Black Swift** was established by a juvenile near Fenton L., Jemez Mts. on Aug. 5; the bird was rehabilitated and later released (fide M. Peters). A moribund swift was found in Toltéc Gorge, Rio Arriba, Sept. 9 (fide C. Gayheart). Two westerly Chimney Swifts were at Albuquerque Sept. 5 (BO), while late White-throateds were at Villanueva S.P., San Miguel (CR), and Cochiti L. (F & RS) Sept. 26–28. A vagrant **Broad-billed Hummingbird** was at T or C Aug. 27–Oct. 10, plus a Magnificent, Aug. 20 (DM). The last Lucifer at P.O. Can. was Sept. 29 (RS). Very late were single Black-chinneds at T or C Oct. 24 (DM) and Rattlesnake Springs Nov. 8 (MF). Single Anna's Hummingbirds were at Silver City Aug. 1–Sept. 7 (D & MZ) and Las Cruces Sept. 18 (EW). An unidentified hummer was at Roswell Nov. 28–30 (fide KW).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH CORVIDS — Migrant Lewis' Woodpeckers were in the Manzano and the Sandia mts., Sept. 25–Oct. 1 (PS), and several were still near Raton Nov. 17 (SW). A Gila Woodpecker was near Cloverdale Oct. 24 (PJ). Unusual were an imm. Red-headed Woodpecker at Bandelier N.M., Aug. 28 (J. & M. Hirth), a Ladder-backed near Datil Aug. 29 (CR), and a Downy at Mangas Springs, Grant, Sept. 20 (RF). A probable Dusky Flycatcher was late at Glenwood Nov. 28 (JH et al.), while a Western, two Grays, and three Willows were banded at Albuquerque Aug. 23–Sept. 27 (CH et al.). Over 50 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were near Jal Sept. 12 (BO), two

were at Portales Oct. 14 (PS), and a vagrant was at Albuquerque Oct. 25 (fide MA & BH). Several Purple Martins at Mangas Springs Aug. 29 were local firsts (RF), while late swallows included N. Rough-wingeds at Bitter Lake N.W.R. on Nov. 15 (KW), Cave Swallows at Rattlesnake Springs Nov. 11 (MF), and Barn Swallows at Owen's Farm Nov. 10 (JD, BZ). A pair of Barn Swallows feeding young at Silver City Aug. 11 furnished the second nesting record for that locality (D & MZ); nine birds were seen flying over the Manzano Mts. on Sept. 19 (PI et al.).

Steller's Jays staged a lower-elevation invasion in the s.w.: small numbers appeared in the Glenwood-Silver City area beginning in late August (v.o.), and one was seen at Percha Dam Nov. 26 (LG). Scrub Jays also invaded, including in Sierra-Dona Ana (BZ et al.); other reports included two flocks at Silver City Sept. 18 (D & MZ) and a few birds at Alameda Sept. 8 (J. Phillips), Bosque Refuge Nov. 6-23 (PJ, JS), Columbus Oct. 18 (DM), and Tularosa Nov. 7 (J & NH). Fledgling Pinyon Jays were at Santa Fe Aug. 14-Sept. 26 (JH); peripheral reports of the species included Albuquerque (LG), Pleasanton (JH, CR), Mangas Springs (RF), and Silver City (RF). Notable numbers of Clark's Nutcrackers were in the Sandia (HS) and Manzano (JDa et al.) mts., especially in September; two were also near Burford L. (PI et al.) and one at 5650 ft. near Cochiti L. (F & RS) Sept. 21-22. A Black-billed Magpie near Dona Ana, Dona Ana, Aug. 12 (WE) was probably not of natural occurrence. American Crows were at Percha Dam Oct. 24 (LS), and peripheral Chihuahuan Ravens were near Los Lunas Sept. 27 (BO) and Pleasanton Oct. 12 (JH).

CHICKADEES THROUGH WAXWINGS — Moderate numbers of Mountain Chickadees invaded lower elevations, including southward to Redrock (PJ), the El Paso area (BZ et al.), Alamogordo (EW et al.), and Rattlesnake Springs (MF). Most arrivals were in late September to early October (v.o.), but the first at Mangas Springs was Aug. 15 (RF). Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a similar invasion beginning in early September (v.o.), and two Pygmy Nuthatches near Aztec Oct. 24 (fide AN) may have been caught up in that movement. Brown Creepers were more common than usual in the Farmington (AN), Albuquerque (RT), and Dona Ana (BZ et al.) areas. A Canyon Wren was at Columbus Oct. 18 (DM), a Bewick's at Bell L. Sept. 5 (JS), and a Marsh near Cloverdale Oct. 25 (PJ). Very rare in New Mexico, a **Carolina Wren** was at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 15-Nov. 3 (LG et al.). A possible Sedge Wren was at Espanola Oct. 3 (CR), while an out-of-habitat Am. Dipper was near T or C Oct. 24-Nov. 30 (A. Kotinek).

Golden-crowned Kinglets were more evident than usual in n. and w. montane areas, and lowland reports included Farmington (RC), Albuquerque (LG), and Bosque Ref. (PJ) beginning Oct. 18. A few W. Bluebirds were near San Marcial Sept. 17 (PJ) and Rattlesnake Springs Nov. 2 (CR). A late, probable Swainson's Thrush was at Rattlesnake Springs Nov. 2 (CR). Very rare in the state, a **Wood Thrush** was at Bitter Lake N.W.R. on Oct. 14 (KW). Early were two Gray Catbirds at Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 26-27 (MF), while late were ones near Magdalena Nov. 20 (PJ, JS), Silver City Nov. 27 (H. Williams), and Redrock Nov. 29 (RF). Also late were N. Mockingbirds at Farmington Nov. 14 (S. Carl) and near Magdalena Nov. 20 (PJ, JS), plus a Sage Thrasher at Zuni Nov. 21 (DC). Westerly Brown Thrashers were at Los Alamos Nov. 15-22 (M. Bunker), Santa Fe Oct. 15 (S. Boles), and n. of Silver City Oct. 27 (JW). A Crissal Thrasher banded in Albuquerque Oct. 22 (CH) was unusual. Cedar Waxwings occurred almost statewide, but they were late at Farmington (AN) and absent in Dona Ana (BZ et al.).

VIREOS THROUGH LONGSPURS — A vagrant Hutton's Vireo was at Owen's Farm Oct. 8 (BZ), while two near Kingston Sept. 28 (JD, BZ) were a local first. A Red-eyed Vireo was at Percha Dam Sept. 27 (BO), and a possible one was at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 10 (MF). A late Orange-crowned Warbler was near Redrock Oct. 24 (PJ), and a Nashville was at Dixon Aug. 19 (JW). Three Lucy's Warblers were at Percha Dam Sept. 3



Field Sparrow (center) at Owen's Farm, N.M., Nov. 12, 1987. Photo/Barry Zimmer.

(BZ et al.), and late Black-throated Grays were at Albuquerque (JDv) and Durling's Farm (JD, BZ) Oct. 12-13. Townsend's Warblers were widespread and fairly numerous in uplands, and one was at Bitter Lake N.W.R. on Sept. 16 (KW). Two Hermit Warblers were in P.O. Can., Aug. 8 (RS); one was a local first in the Magdalena Mts., Sept. 12 (PJ). Rarer warblers included a N. Parula at White Sands N.M. Sept. 19 (EW et al.), a Black-throated Blue at Albuquerque Oct. 9-13 (JDv), a Black-throated Green at Durling's Farm Oct. 13 (JD, BZ), a Prothonotary at Glenwood Sept. 29 (B. & F. Houser), and a probable Ovenbird at Percha Dam Nov. 26 (C. Dans, LG). Two Wilson's Warblers were late in Dona Ana Nov. 5 (BZ et al.). A Painted Redstart was at Silver City Aug. 18 (D & MZ), and an Olive Warbler was near Kingston Sept. 28 (JD, BZ).

A Scarlet Tanager was banded in Albuquerque Sept. 26 (CH); a male was reported at Tularosa Sept. 21 (J. Hutto). Unusual were two N. Cardinals at Rattlesnake Springs Nov. 3 (CR), and five Pyrrhuloxias were at Bosque Refuge Nov. 17 (PJ). Single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Albuquerque Nov. 8 (CH—banded), Bitter Lake N.W.R., Oct. 14-16 (KW), Silver City Sept. 3 (M. Zimmerman), and Owen's Farm Sept. 23 (JD, BZ). A vagrant Painted Bunting was at Mangas Springs Aug. 30 (RF); the only westerly Dickcissel was at Owen's Farm Sept. 23 (JD, BZ). Also westerly was a Brown Towhee at Horse Spring, Cañon, Oct. 23 (PJ), and a melanistic bird was at Mangas Springs Nov. 22-30 (RF).

Late were three Cassin's Sparrows near Laguna Grande Nov. 1 (CR), while 15+ Chipping and five Brewer's sparrows were at 12,500 ft on Lake Peak Aug. 19 (JH). A Clay-colored Sparrow was banded at Albuquerque Aug. 30 (CH), with the latest of the few in Dona Ana Nov. 10 (JD, BZ). A vagrant Field Sparrow was at Owen's Farm Nov. 10-30 (ph. BZ). A Black-chinned Sparrow was in Water Canyon, Magdalena Mts., Oct. 8 (JB, LG), and several were in Silver City Sept. 12-20 (D & MZ). Late was a Lark Sparrow at Owen's Farm Oct. 24 (BZ et al.); a Sage Sparrow was at 8000 ft in the Sandia Mts. Sept. 27 (HS). Westerly Lark Buntings were at Dixon (JW) and Albuquerque (CH, HS) in August. Single Grasshopper Sparrows were s. of Redrock Oct. 24 (PJ) and near Columbus Oct. 15-19 (DM). Reddish Fox Sparrows were at Glenwood Nov. 28 (JH et al.) and Durling's Farm Oct. 26 (JD, BZ), and a grayish one was in the Sandia Mts. on Nov. 22 (HS). Early Lincoln's Sparrows were at Albuquerque (CH) and Mangas Springs (RF) Aug. 29-30. White-throated Sparrows were fairly widespread in Dona Ana

beginning Oct. 26 (BZ et al.). Several McCown's Longspurs were near Los Lunas Oct. 13 (BO) and in s. *Dona Ana* beginning Oct. 20 (BZ et al.). Eleven Chestnut-collareds were at Albuquerque Nov. 23 (BO), and 15 birds probably of this species were w. of Magdalena Nov. 24 (PJ, JS).

MEADOWLARKS THROUGH FINCHES — One or two E. Meadowlarks calling in the Sandia Mts. area Nov. 14 & 21 (HS) were unusual. Late Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Zuni Nov. 4 (DC), while early were Brewer's Blackbirds at Bitter Lake N.W.R., Aug. 20–28 (KW). Fledgling Great-tailed Grackles were being fed on the Zuni Reservation Aug. 16 (DC); 24 birds were near Burford L. on Sept. 22 (PI et al.), and 85 were at San Rafael Nov. 22 (DC). Single Com. Grackles were at Farmington into September (RC) and at Carrizozo Sept. 3 (BZ et al.); hundreds were at Jal Nov. 10 (PS). A Bronzed Cowbird was at T or C Aug. 19 (DM), and an Orchard Oriole was banded at Albuquerque Aug. 23 (CH). Up to 60 Rosy Finches (mainly Gray-crowned, with some Black) were on Sandia Crest Nov. 8–13, and Cassin's Finches were common in the range in October and November (HS). A few Red Crossbills were in the n. mountains (v.o), and a vagrant pair was at Redrock Nov. 29–30 (AF, RF). Pine Siskins were mainly in montane/foothill areas, except for a few at Albuquerque Aug. 10 (fide MA & BH), Bosque Refuge Nov. 25 (PJ, JS), Bitter Lake N.W.R., Oct. 30 (KW), and Rattlesnake Springs Nov. 13 (CR). Irregular in New Mexico, three **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were near Cloverdale Oct. 24 (PJ) and 10 to 15 on Nov. 4–5 (fide MA & BH). A Lesser Goldfinch nest was at Mesilla Sept. 27 (BO). American Goldfinches were at Chama Aug. 1–21 and Rattlesnake Springs

Aug. 26 (fide MF), and a minor influx occurred later in *Dona Ana* (BZ et al.). Evening Grosbeaks were numerous in n. and c. montane/foothill areas, and dependent fledglings were near Los Alamos in August (B. Lewis, L. Thorn). Other notable records included a few birds at Jackson L., San Juan, Nov. 14 (PJ); Chama area Aug. 1–21 (LS); Burford L. area Sept. 3–6 (PI et al.); Espanola Oct. 3 and Nov. 8 (CR); Cochiti L., Oct. 31 (CR); Zuni Oct. 17 (DC); El Morro N.M., Nov. 23 (G. Stoltz); Pleasanton Nov. 27 (JH); Mangas Springs Nov. 27 (RF); High Rolls Oct. 23 (G. Smith); and Rattlesnake Springs Nov. 4 & 11 (MF).

ADDENDUM — The following were reported for the summer of 1987: a winter-plumaged Com. Loon at L. Roberts July 27 (C. Bender); a brood of Wood Ducks at E.B.L. (TM); a pair of Mountain Plovers with two small young s. of Hollomon L., June 24 (EW); and a ♀ **Broad-billed Hummingbird** at Las Cruces July 3–24 (ph. EW et al.).

OBSERVERS — Mary Arthur, James Black, Robert Carl, David Cleary, Wes Cook, James Daly (JDa), Jane Davis (JDv), Jeff Donaldson, Ralph Fisher, Mark Flippo, Alton Ford, Larry Gorbet, Bruce Halstead, John Hubbard, Charles Hundertmark, Joe & Nancy Hutto, Pat Insley, Robert Jenness, Philip Johnson, Don MacCarter (DMac), Doris Miller, Tim Mitchusson, Alan Nelson, Bruce Ostyn, Christopher Rustay, Robert Scholes, Lorraine Schulte, Hart Schwarz, John Shipman, Frank & Rita Slown, Dale Stahlecker, Paul Steel, Ross Teuber, Jack Whetstone, Sartor Williams III, Kathy Wood, Eleanor Wootten, Barry Zimmer, Dale & Marian Zimmerman.— **JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

ALASKA REGION

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

It was another mild autumn, right through the end of the period. The 1987 season was particularly wet in several coastal areas (e.g., Yakutat received 48 inches of rain during September), but there were few big storms and the hurricane-force winds frequent at this season were largely absent. There was no snow and there were few frosts along the Pacific coast.

Four species, including one family, were added to the Alaska List this season, two of them at Middleton Island, isolated in the northern Gulf of Alaska. Middleton continues to look like an Alaska parallel of Southeast Farallon Island, 2800 kilometers to the south and east, in the increasingly baffling array of species that turn up, currently totaling 200. If it were possible to emulate at Middleton the eight full years of data collection (2920 consecutive census days) performed 1968–1976 at the Farallons (DeSante and Ainley, 1980, *The Avifauna of the South Farallon Islands, California*, Studies in Avian Biol. 4), we might learn something important about bird movements over the eastern North Pacific.

ALBATROSSES THROUGH GROUSE — In this Region, Short-tailed Albatross is an annual visitant on pelagic waters of the n. Pacific Ocean and the s. Bering Sea. A banded immature fledged in April 1987 was hooked and drowned by longline halibut gear in the Gulf of Alaska, 12 mi e. of Middleton I., Sept. 30 (* to U.S.F.W.S., Anchorage, fide VMM). In



a related incident in 1983, another banded immature (*) was drowned in a pelagic gillnet in the Bering Sea. The high-seas fishery takes a substantial toll of birds, as is well known; these two were brought to the attention of authorities simply because they were banded albatrosses (i.e., large and conspicuous), not because they were recognized at sea to be examples of an endangered species. Single Buller's Shearwaters were seen well from the beach at Middleton Sept. 26 & 27 (RLS, MEI), and other shearwaters with gleaming white underparts seen from Middleton through early October may also have been of this species (MEI). The species is apparently an annual, rare fall migrant in the n. Gulf of Alaska, but it is not well known here.

Whooper Swans arrived on time at Amchitka I., c. Aleutians, where they are annual winter visitants; six birds Nov. 7 furnished the high count this period (DAD). An ad. ♂ Ring-necked Duck well-described at Amchitka Oct. 13 (†DAD) provided a 4th Aleutian (and 5th SW Alaska) record. Earliest Tufted Ducks were those reported Sept. 24 at Amchitka, where maximum was seven Nov. 10 (DAD); one male with Greater Scaup and Brant at Izembek N.W.R., Sept. 30 (CPD) furnished a 2nd local (and Alaska Peninsula) record. The latest Ruddy Duck report from Northway, where a pair nested this summer (q.v.), was of a single ♀-plumaged bird Aug. 22 (DWS).

For the first time in some years, Willow Ptarmigan invaded the lowlands of the e. Interior, beginning in early November, and the species was widespread in small flocks through the end of the period. Their presence in the lowlands—usually in conjunction with heavy snowfall, which did not exist this fall—was thought to be indicative of a peaking population cycle (RBW).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — There were many late departures among shorebirds. Nine Black-bellied Plovers lingered at Juneau as late as Nov. 11 (MEI); the species is exceptional anywhere in the Region after mid-October. One juv. Mongolian Plover at St. Paul I., Pribilofs, Aug. 30–Sept. 4 (RAS) was on schedule, the only report this season. A Semipalmated Plover at Juneau Oct. 17 (MEI) was weeks later than last year's Oct. 2 bird at Anchorage (AB 41:131). Arriving late were several additional reports of Terek Sandpipers for Summer 1987 (q.v.): one at Safety Sound inlet, Seward Pen., June 29 (FM, † ph.); up to three at St. Paul July 6–9 (RAS, ILJ, et al.); and one at Dooksook Lagoon, Nunivak I., July 29–30 (DAH, DK, BJM). One at St. Paul Aug. 17 (RAS, ILJ) provided the only autumn report.

Very late sandpipers included a Whimbrel (*hudsonicus*) at Middleton Oct. 4 (exceeded only by a longstanding Oct. 10, 1920, record at Glacier Bay—Bailey 1927, Auk 44:195). Bar-tailed Godwits departed Alaska Pen. staging areas on schedule Oct. 14–19 (BH, CPD), with one bird as late as Oct. 28 at Hook Lagoon (BH). This date is exceeded in Alaska only by a bird present at Adak I., c. Aleutians, Oct. 23–Nov. 20, 1982 (AB 37:213). Unparalleled were the numbers of Bar-taileds present at Anchorage, where one bird Aug. 13 (RLS), a 3rd local fall record, was joined by others until 134 birds were present Sept. 25–Oct. 10 (JMA, TGT). The last Bar-taileds at Anchorage were 74 Oct. 15 (TGT). It is of at least passing interest that no Bar-tailed Godwit was seen at Middleton. One Hudsonian Godwit accompanying the Bar-taileds at Anchorage Oct. 15 (TGT) eclipsed the Klawock record of Oct. 13, 1982 (AB 37:213).

An imm. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper observed well among 25 Pectorals near Dot Lake Sept. 10 (†MB) was a first for the Interior and one of few inland records in the State (see AB 38:235). Until recent years known in SE as a very rare fall migrant, Stilt Sandpiper was reported regularly in the Juneau area Aug. 16–Sept. 10, maximum 15 at the Mendenhall Wetlands plus several at Eagle R. mouth Aug. 22 (MWS, MEI). One Stilt Sandpiper was seen Aug. 29 at Kodiak, where the species has been almost annual in fall in recent years (RAM). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper still at Middleton Sept. 30 was record-late by a day. Long-billed Dowitchers were numerous at Juneau through mid-October, and three exceedingly late birds remained through Nov. 30 (MEI).

Two ad Com Black-headed Gulls were present at St. Paul Aug. 9–Sept. 5 (GVB, RAS, ILJ), one bird was seen at Homer Spit Aug. 17 (†DAH, DK), and, following several summer observations in the same area, a 2nd-summer bird was seen at Anchorage Aug. 27 (RLS). California Gulls returned to the Anchorage area after a one-year hiatus: two first-winter birds at the Municipal Landfill Sept. 20 (DWS), four together Sept. 22 (RLS), and three still present Oct. 4 (TGT).

This October's closure of Anchorage's Municipal Landfill—a major gull attraction in SC Alaska—in favor of a new garbage dump at another location was a milestone for gulls and for Anchorage birders. The latter were distraught, since the new dump is designed with overhead monofilament netting to repel birds, concentrations of which at the old location had become an aircraft hazard. The old dump had provided many interesting gull records, including the westernmost regular records of California and the easternmost of Slaty-backed.

An imm. Ivory Gull observed in Cook Inlet, at the mouth of Deep Cr., Nov. 7 († ph. RLS et al.) added to few past records on Alaska's Pacific coast, where the species is utterly out of place. An ad. Caspian Tern observed at Homer Spit Aug. 27 (†DAH, DK) was latest of the year (see Summer 1987).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WAXWINGS — An annual fall visitant in SE Alaska, Anna's Hummingbird is known from few records w. of that region, in SC (where casual, in fall) and in SW (where accidental, in fall). An ad. male was found Oct. 2 at an Anchorage feeder (EE, ME et al., DWS ph.), where it was joined by a ♀-plumaged bird Oct. 4–8 (m.ob.); the male was present through Nov. 17, when a heavy 3-day snowfall began (TGT). A Hammond's Flycatcher at Juneau Sept. 20 (*MEI) was one day off the departure record (AB 39:91). Nestling Barn Swallows being fed in a Cordova garage Sept. 15 (RF) were amazingly late. A rare fall visitant in the Interior, a Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen at Ester, w. of Fairbanks, Sept. 13 (DDG, JJ, RHM); a few migrants were noted in the Gulf of Alaska, including singles at Middleton, where the species is not unusual in autumn, Oct. 2 & 5.

A N. Wheatear at Middleton Sept. 28 (DDG, MEI) provided a first for that island and one of fewer than 6 records on the entire Alaska Pacific coast e. of the c. Aleutians (where the species is casual, at this season). A Mountain Bluebird at Middleton Oct. 1 (DDG, MEI) provided only the 2nd record—both at Middleton—on Alaska's Pacific seacoast (see AB 38:948), one at Juneau Oct. 31–Nov. 4 (STZ, MWS, MEI) was getting late. One Yellow Wagtail seen at Homer Spit Aug. 17 (†DAH, DK) and one at Anchorage Sept. 9 (RLS) provided the 4th and 5th SC Alaska records, all at this season. Two Red-throated Pipits at Middleton Sept. 25 and one Sept. 26 (DDG, MEI, RLS) furnished the only records there this fall; Middleton records of this bird span the period Sept. 12–27. Cedar Waxwings were feeding fledglings at Petersburg at the end of August, and 12 seen there Sept. 19 included four streaked young (PW). Two Cedar Waxwings at Middleton Sept. 24, while utterly out of place, nonetheless provided the 2nd record for the island (see AB 36:208); one imm. Cedar Waxwing observed at Fairbanks Sept. 1 (*DDG, BK) provided a first certain C Alaska record.

VIREOS THROUGH WEAVER-FINCHES — The latest Warbling Vireo was one seen at Mitkof I., SE Alaska, Sept. 27 (PW). A Philadelphia Vireo at Middleton Sept. 29 (*MEI, RLS) was quite extraordinary—2 of Alaska's 3 records are from here (see Moldenhauer and Tobish 1984, AB 38:988)—and provided a first specimen record for the State. Single Tennessee Warblers were seen at Middleton Sept. 29 (*MEI) and Oct. 1 (*DDG). A Northern Parula studied at close range in Middleton's dense *Salix/Rubus* thickets Sept. 23–24 (†MEI, †RLS) was a first for Alaska. Record-late was a Townsend's Warbler at Petersburg Oct. 21 (PW). Studied carefully Oct. 16 (†MB), a Palm Warbler near Dot Lake, in the e. Interior, furnished only the 3rd sighting

(each by a single observer) in the Region in 20 years. It was followed Oct. 31 by Alaska's first unassailable record of the species, an immature observed and collected (*MEI, MWS) at the Mendenhall Wetlands, Juneau. A **Mourning Warbler** observed Sept. 29 (*MEI, RLS) was yet another Alaska first at amazing Middleton Island.

Single juv. Chipping Sparrows at Middleton Sept. 24 & 26 (*DDG, MEI, RLS) were quite out of place and, like Middleton records of numerous other passerines, fit no understood pattern of movement. A **Swamp Sparrow** at Middleton Sept. 27 (*DDG) provided Alaska's 3rd record. Although two White-throated Sparrows arrived at the same Juneau feeder days apart, on Nov. 24 & 27 (MEI), there were no reports from other localities. At least two Harris' Sparrows at Middleton Oct. 5-6 (MEI) were new to the island, as was a ♀ Red-winged Blackbird there Sept. 28 (MEI).

A Brambling appeared briefly at an Anchorage feeding station Oct. 11 (TGT, DDG, JJ, LJO), for the 3rd local record and 2nd in autumn. This species seems to turn up somewhere in SC or SE Alaska every autumn. Ordinarily rare at the w. fringe of their range in Alaska, Red Crossbills were common all fall at Kodiak (RAM), and singles and small groups were reported from Seward (JMA) and Anchorage (DRH), where casual, into early October. At least one male in the Alaska Range foothills at Chelatna L. on Sept. 13 (WRJ) may have provided the northernmost Mainland Alaska record of Red Crossbill. (Although the species has been found slightly farther north, on St. Lawrence I., there are no other records anywhere in W Alaska, nor are there any from the Interior). Uncommon at Kodiak this period (RAM), White-winged Crossbills remained numerous and conspicuous in C Alaska throughout the season (m.ob.). Begging, recently-fledged young were being fed at Fairbanks at the beginning as well as at the end of August (DDG). Pine Siskins are normally absent from upper Cook Inlet by late October, but their numbers this season built to high late fall counts there by Dec. 1 (TGT, DFD). The species was scarce as usual in the Interior this autumn.

S.A.

A lone ♀ **House Sparrow** observed feeding in a backyard duck pen in Petersburg Oct. 23 (PW, ELY*) provided Alaska's first certain record of this family and species.

We note here that Godfrey (1986, *Birds of Canada*: 574) portrayed erroneously, by his broad-brush map, this species' breeding range reaching as far northwest as a 150-mi stretch of the British Columbia-Alaska boundary—where, in fact, the only appropriate habitat is in the towns of Stewart, B.C., and neighboring Hyder, Alaska—and he stated erroneously that it is a "Permanent resident breeding" at Porcher I. (where there is no record, *fide* RWC) and at Stewart (where it has indeed been recorded, but not breeding and not year-round—RWC). Alaska's first record might be appropriately compared, as a phenomenon, with the only record for any of British Columbia's northern offshore islands—a lone female at Cape St. James, Queen Charlotte Is., in October 1981 (*fide* RWC).

CORRIGENDUM — Because of the real possibility that a Bean Goose seen in flight under less-than-excellent conditions was misidentified as a Graylag Goose (8 photos [SL] examined by the writers and by NSP), Spring 1987 reference to *Anser anser* (AB 41:476) must be deleted.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.

The season was drier than ever, and warmer than usual. The recent drying trend in the Pacific Northwest continued in force. Less than half the normal rainfall fell on the Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver, British Columbia, weather stations this fall, and each month averaged 2-4°F warmer than usual.

Effects of this weather on the fall migration were difficult to determine. There was no noticeable change in the incidence of latest-ever sightings. The increased records of Bank Swallows, Pinyon Jays, Northern Waterthrushes, and several other species typical of the eastern one-half of the Northwestern states could be in response to the newly drier-than-usual conditions here. However, those visitors present in greater than normal numbers this fall were primarily from the south: Brown Pelicans, Great Egrets, and Elegant Terns; or from somewhere offshore: Flesh-footed and Buller's shearwaters, Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, and Cassin's Auklets.

There were fewer than usual Ruffs, or Siberian strays of any kind. At the same time there were more than usual vagrant species from the eastern United States. This season a birder was stationed for 75 days on a floating island, a

100-meter trawler 30-60 miles offshore Oregon, and recorded 18 species of passerines, including Black-throated Blue, Palm, and Blackpoll warblers, to add fuel to the ongoing discussion of the relative scarcity of those vagrants in the Region.

ABBREVIATIONS — S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia River, Ore.; V.I. = Vancouver Island, B.C. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — An ad. Yellow-billed Loon in Metlakatla Bay, Prince Rupert, B.C., Aug. 18 was earlier than usual (D. Bertram, MF), as were others near Ucluelet, V.I., Sept. 3 (DP) and at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Sept. 12+ (GA, m.ob.). A gathering of seven Com. Loons Oct. 20 on Timothy L. near the Cascade summit s. of Mt. Hood, Ore., had grown to a surprising 20 birds there Oct. 31 (DA, DL).

An estimated 2500+ Red-necked Grebes present Aug. 31 (PL) between Dungeness and Port Angeles, Wash., and about 10,000 W. Grebes on Bellingham Bay, Wash., in early October (TW) were the high counts of the migration. An ad. W. Grebe with a half-grown chick found Sept. 20 in Scoggins Valley Park, w. of Portland, Ore., could have indicated nesting in the area (VT, DL). However, ad. Westerns are known to both swim and fly with young aboard (e.g., Palmer 1962, *Handbook of N. Am*



Birds, p. 103), and this location is relatively near the Columbia R. and the eastside colonies. At least nine Clark's Grebes were reported. Surely this reflects increasing observer attention and knowledge. The earliest was seen Aug. 6+ in Tacoma, Wash. (†Jon Jensen, TB et al.) and Aug. 26 at Seaside, Ore. (TCr). Thereafter sightings were near Ilwaco, Wash., Sept. 20 (F. Brown), inland on Timothy L., Oct. 31 (DA, DL) and Agate L., Jackson, Ore., Nov. 5–15 (TCo), at Boiler Bay, Lincoln, Ore., Nov. 19 (BO), Ocean Shores, Wash., Nov. 20 (G & WH), and at French Beach P.P., V.I., Nov. 27 (M & VG).

There were reports from 16 pelagic trips: 9 out of Westport, Wash. (TW), 4 offshore Oregon, and 3 off s.w. British Columbia, and reports from an observer aboard a foreign fishing trawler offshore Oregon for 75 days (PS). A Laysan Albatross stayed close around that trawler Oct. 1–2 (PS) when it was 34–47 mi off Depoe Bay. Black-footed Albatross numbers peaked at 174 off Westport Sept. 13 (TW) and 184 off Lincoln Sept. 20–22 (PS). Counts of N. Fulmar peaked in October with 490 off Westport Oct. 4, 500 off Garibaldi, Ore., Oct. 10 (BO), and 1000 off Ucluelet, V.I., Oct. 10 (WW et al.). About 30 N. Fulmars were seen from shore Nov. 21 at the mouth of the Siuslaw R., Ore. (SH, P. Sherrell). The high counts of Pink-footed Shearwaters were of 366–793 during Aug. 29–Sept. 6 off Westport and 100 out of Garibaldi Sept. 6 (TCr, DL). The usual many thousand Sooties and 10 Short-tailed Shearwaters were noted. Eight Flesh-footed Shearwaters seen Oct. 4 off Westport furnished the highest fall count there in 19 years (TW). Seven other Flesh-footeds were scattered throughout the season and the Region. The 375 Buller's Shearwaters off Westport Oct. 4 made the highest count since 1977. Twenty Buller's were seen Oct. 10 off both Garibaldi (BO) and Ucluelet (WW et al.). The 800 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels seen off Westport Sept. 12, and 1500 Sept. 13, were both new highest-ever counts (TW). On Aug. 20–21, 375 Leach's Storm-Petrels were banded on Hunter's I., Curry, Ore. (JA, RL).

A group of 12 Am. White Pelicans stayed on Sauvie I., Ore., and adjacent Vancouver L. and Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash., Sept. 12–Nov. 13 (HN, WC, MHi). Four of these had blue shoulder ribbons indicating their origin at Stum L., just w. of the town of Williams Lake, B.C., almost due north of Portland (fide DL). One Am. White Pelican was at Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene,

Ore., Sept. 28 (TM) and five were at Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash., Oct. 4 (S. van Niel). Brown Pelicans moved N this season in larger numbers and stayed later than usual. Six hundred were on the Curry, Ore., coast Aug. 13 (PL) and 1800 were estimated there Sept. 18 (DFi, AC). About 3000 were around Willapa Bay, Wash., Aug. 28–Sept. 10 (G & WH, TB), and 200+ were still at Tokeland Oct. 30 (G & WH). Groups of 25–40 were still along the Oregon coast through the end of November. The most northerly report was of 25 at LaPush, Wash., Sept. 19 (E. Andresen). Brandt's Cormorants moved N in their usual numbers, with 500 at Cattle Pass, San Juan I., Wash., Sept. 19 and 3100 there Sept. 30 (ML). An ad. ♂ Magnificent Frigatebird stayed Aug. 15–20 at Yaquina Bay, Ore. (J. & M. Sheehy, Bob Olson, L. Osis et al.) for about the 10th record for Oregon (fide ME).

Even more Great Egrets were present in the Region than last year. Reports were received of possibly 190 birds from 17 Oregon locations and 115 from 17 Washington sites. As recently as 1985, the 15-year average for Washington was of about four per year for the fall season. Fifty were at Reedsport, Ore., Aug. 14 (PL), 40 were at Fern Ridge Res., Eugene, by Sept. 2 (SH), and up to 90 were on Ridgefield N.W.R., Wash., in late September (MHi). One was north to the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, B.C., Oct. 3 & 4 (B. Blomgren, L. Miller) and many stayed in both Washington and Oregon through the end of November. Five Snowy Egrets at the North Slough, Coos Bay, Ore., Sept. 5 (DFi, TL) made a normal count there. The first Cattle Egret appeared Oct. 14–Nov. 1 in Delta, B.C. (AS, m.ob.). Then one was in C. Saanich, V.I., Nov. 1–17 (fide DFr) and at Tofino, V.I., Nov. 21–25 (†Maggie Paquette). One was at Siletz Bay, Ore., Nov. 4 (DL), five were there Nov. 22 (NH, JJ), and two were near Raymond, Wash., Nov. 22–27 (BT et al.). Two adult and two imm. Black-crowned Night-Herons were at the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, B.C., by Aug. 18 (P. Gehlen) and an adult arrived at the Reifel I. roost site Sept. 19 (MG, JJ).

WATERFOWL — The first reported Tundra Swans were five noted Oct. 20 at Clear L. in the n. Oregon Cascades (DA) and one Oct. 27 on the Toketee R.D. in the s. Oregon Cascades (DFi). Arrival of both Tundra and Trumpeter swans was otherwise in early November as usual. Two ad. Trumpeters were at Agate L., near Medford, Nov. 5 (†TCo).

The first Greater White-fronted Geese were noted Aug. 25 in Oregon at Nehalem Bay (JE) and Sauvie I. (RSm). Migrant flocks of 30+ were observed taking flight after sunset Sept. 30 from Toketee L., e. Douglas, and heading S over the Oregon Cascades (DFi), and Oct. 4 headed S 30 mi offshore Westport (TW). Snow Geese arrived at Reifel I., B.C., slightly later than last year, with numbers building to 2000 by Oct. 17, 4000 Oct. 27, and the season's high there of 8000 Oct. 31 (JJ). A Ross' Goose strayed W to the Kirtland Road ponds, near Medford, Ore., Nov. 24 (BSt). A neck-collared "Cackling" Canada Goose was seen in Seattle Nov. 4–8 (KA, DB). Others were noted in n.w. Oregon and the Willamette Valley (fide HN). A few "Aleutian" Canada Geese were reported from Tillamook, Ore. (fide HN).

A ♂ Blue-winged Teal at the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, B.C., Nov. 11 (M. Schouten) was late. The usual concentration of N. Shovelers at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds reached 2000 there Oct. 25 (RHu, BSu); 400 were on the Sheridan, Ore., sewage ponds Sept. 22 (HN, JE). The first Eur. Wigeon reported were males Sept. 18 at Beach Grove, Delta, B.C. (BK), and Sept. 27 at Newport, Ore. (BBn, RG). The only Tufted Duck reported was the one considered to be a hybrid that returned to Green L. in Seattle Oct. 5+ (Ruth Taylor, EH, m.ob.). Seven Oldsquaws were noted in Oregon, slightly more than usual. Singles were inland to the Sheridan sewage ponds Nov. 3+ (JG, m.ob.) and to Big L., Linn, Oct. 24 (CM). There were also 20 Surf Scoters inland to 4 locations in w. Oregon. The annual gatherings of Barrow's Goldeneyes peaked at 1400+ Nov. 14 and 1200+ Nov. 27 at Capitol L., Olympia, Wash. (G & WH). A pair of Ruddy Ducks was noted on Swan L., Saanich, V. I., Aug. 12 (J. Tatum), but with no evidence of nesting. Female Ruddy Ducks with

week-old broods were noted Aug. 20 and Sept. 16 at the Everett, Wash., sewage ponds, a traditional breeding location (EH, Lee Jones).

VULTURES TO COOTS — The peak of Turkey Vulture migration over southern V.I. was Sept. 26–27 with counts of 230/day over Metchosin (A. Macleod, BBg). Interestingly, peak counts in Ashland, Ore., were Sept. 27–28, at 250/day (fide MM). Totals for the 2 areas were 1052 and 1679 individual vultures. A family group of two adult and four imm. Black-shouldered Kites was found Aug. 18+ at the Raymond, Wash., airport (†BT, AR, EH, m.ob.). Other juv. kites were noted at Nehalem meadows July 26 (JJ, OS) and Sept. 12 (a roadkill with primary feathers still sheathed, fide HN) and at Bandon, Ore., Aug. 13 (PL). Two other kites were in Washington and 32 were reported from 11+ Oregon localities.

Our rough index of Accipiter sightings was 91 Sharp-shinned, 86 Cooper's, and 21 N. Goshawks, about the same as for the last few years. Also as in previous years, the ratios of Cooper's Hawks to Sharp-shinned was greater in British Columbia (5:3) than in w. Oregon (1:3). Immature Red-shouldered Hawks were noted north to Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, Aug. 9 (TM) and Thornton Creek, near Newport, Aug. 27–Sept. 4 (DFa) and an adult was north to Tillamook Sept. 2 (TL, fide DFi). The 85 sightings of Merlins and 69 of Peregrines were spread throughout the season and the Region. Only three of the Peregrines were found away from the coastlines. Single very dark Gyrfalcons were seen Sept. 29 in Oregon (†HN) and Nov. 19 in Washington (†BT). Another sighting was Nov. 1 in the Vancouver, B.C., area (J. Williams). Six Prairie Falcon reports from Oregon, of which two were at traditional wintering areas, made a normal count. Nine Prairie Falcons were noted at Mt. Rainier N.P., Aug. 30–Oct. 18, also as usual. Two at Ocean Shores, Wash., Sept. 4 and one there Nov. 4 (both MC) were, however, quite surprising.

White-tailed Ptarmigan were reported from several locations on 4 mountains in the Washington Cascades. The high country was open late owing to the warm, dry autumn, and ptarmigan were seen Nov. 1 at Ptarmigan Ridge, Mt. Baker (BSu) and nearby Slate Peak (G. Walter). Far fewer Blue Grouse than usual were found in the Diamond Lake R.D. of e. Douglas, Ore. (DFi). Reports from Washington locations were in normal numbers. A Sora seen Oct. 16 in Courtenay, V.I., was both late and farther north than usual (B. Sedgewick, V. Chungranes). A migratory influx of Am. Coots brought the count on Diamond Lake from 400 Oct. 8 to 2000 Oct. 17, 6000+ Oct. 19–24, then 11,000 Nov. 7 (DFi).

SHOREBIRDS — Lesser Golden-Plovers were in the Region from Aug. 13 at Delta, B.C. (TP, L. Koch) to Nov. 21, also at Delta (fide DK). "Pacific" Golden-Plovers (*P. d. fulva*) were reported from Aug. 14 at Ocean Shores (MC) to Oct. 25 at Tillamook, Ore. (RSm) and Oct. 29 at Dungeness, Wash. (TCo). Twenty-five adults at Ocean Shores Aug. 18–30 (PL, BT) and 40+ juveniles there Oct. 10 (BT) furnished the high counts. Relatively few individuals were definitely reported to be of the nominate form, *P. d. dominica*. Identification of the two forms in fall remains neither simple nor widely attained. A group of around 20 Snowy Plovers seen at Bandon, Ore., to at least Oct. 9 contained three color-banded birds (Bill Stotz). Thanks to Frances Bidstrup of Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory, their histories are: one banded as a chick in Monterey, Cal., in 1985 and resident at Bandon since; an ad. female banded on a nest in Monterey in 1987; and one banded as a nestling in 1987 at Moss Landing, Cal.

A Greater Yellowlegs at Lightning Lake, Manning P.P., Aug. 23 (WW et al.) was unusual there. Gatherings of 80 Greaters at Blackie Spit, Surrey, B.C., Sept. 23 (WW) and 160 Lesser Yellowlegs at Reifel I., B.C., Aug. 22 (JI) furnished the high counts for the season. This year, as in the past 2, the number of Solitary Sandpiper reports was about triple the 1975–1984 average of 10/year. The small wintering flock of 12+ Willets was present at the mouth of the North R. on Willapa Bay,

Wash., Aug. 23+ (AR, m.ob.). Nine were at Newport, Ore., Aug. 30+ (R & JK, HN). A single Willet visited Emigrant L., near Ashland, Ore., Oct. 4–6 (MHo, MU, BSt).

Eighty Long-billed Curlews were at Tokeland on Willapa Bay, Wash., Aug. 18+ (BT, m.ob.). Fourteen other Long-billeds were reported at 9 locations from Boundary Bay, B.C., to Port Orford, Ore. An imm. Hudsonian Godwit was seen Aug. 15 at Iona I., near Vancouver, B.C. (MB). It or another was seen nearby on Boundary Bay Aug. 16 (EK) and almost daily thereafter (†WW, †PL, m.ob.). On Sept. 4 there were two Hudsonians present and on Sept. 14, three! (AS, m.ob.). One stayed to Sept. 23 (WW). A juv. **Bar-tailed Godwit** also present on Boundary Bay Aug. 21–23 (†MB, m.ob.) provided the 5th record for the Vancouver, B.C., area. An ad. Bar-tailed Godwit was observed at Tokeland Aug. 18 (PL, †BT, †AR, m.ob., ph. JGi), two unaged individuals were there Sept. 1 (†Craig Provost), and a juvenile was last seen Oct. 3 (†EH). These furnished the 17th and 18th records for Washington. An ad. ♀ **Bar-tailed Godwit** in worn breeding plumage was found Aug. 27 at Bandon, Ore. (†SH, †David Holway, DI, D. Kappan) and was seen through Sept. 2 (†JJ, ph., †PMu, m.ob.) for the first record for the state since August 1980. Five Marbled Godwits were on Boundary Bay Aug. 27 (Hue & JoAnn MacKenzie) and 37 individuals were reported from the Oregon coast. The flock of 40 Marbled Godwits at Tokeland in August grew to 200 by Nov. 19 (BT).

A gathering of 57 Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 7 on Sidney I., V.I., made a high count (J & RSa). One Ruddy was inland to the Forest Grove, Ore., sewage ponds Sept. 14–15 (JE, DL, VT). About 80 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, evenly divided among British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon. The only one away from the coastlines was in Corvallis, Ore., Aug. 24 (RHo). Nineteen of the Semipalmateds were seen in September, and one immature at Manzanita, Ore., Sept. 25 was the latest (BO, ph.). The 3000 W. Sandpipers at Boundary Bay, B.C., Sept. 9 (MG, WW), 3500 at Nehalem, Ore., Sept. 10 (JA), and 20,000 in a flock at Ocean Shores, Wash., Sept. 13 (EH) marked the peak of the migration. Eight of the 32+ Sharp-tailed Sandpipers reported were along the Oregon coast Sept. 26–30. Singles were in Kent, Wash., Sept. 3–4 (†MS, †EH, ph. G. Gerdt) and Seattle Sept. 14 (†Mark Egger, †S) for 2nd and 3rd King County records, and at the Courtenay, V.I., sewage ponds Oct. 1 (R. Fitzpatrick, E. Bowen). A continuous series of sightings at Reifel I., Delta, B.C., which could be very conservatively accounted for by 18 birds, extended from Sept. 4–Oct. 11 (JI), with a high of six present Sept. 27–28. Three others were at Ocean Shores, Wash., Sept. 15–Oct. 17 (MC et al.). An ad. Rock Sandpiper noted Aug. 18 on Lucy I., B.C., was very early (MF et al.). Elsewhere arrival was Oct. 18 on V.I., Oct. 22 in W. Vancouver, B.C., and Nov. 5–7 in Washington and Oregon.



Juvenile Ruff at Hecata Beach, Florence, Ore., Sept. 3, 1987. Photo/Craig Miller.

An imm. **Curlew Sandpiper** impeccably described and sketched was present Sept. 20 at Long Beach, Pacific Rim N.P., V.I. (†James Steele), for one of fewer than 10 records for the province. Reports of three others in Washington and Oregon had no accompanying details. The now usual 62 Stilt Sandpipers were reported, with 22 at Boundary Bay Aug. 16 (EK) and 12 at Crockett L., Whidbey I., Wash., Sept. 17 (F. Bird). Sixteen Buff-breasted Sandpipers were noted, about the same number as last year, Aug. 19–Sept. 18. Ten were in Oregon, and three at Warrenton, Ore., Sept. 6 (JG) made up the largest group. Only two Ruffs were reported, for the lowest count since 1984 and 1976, and down from 21+ last year. One was seen at Heceta Beach, Florence, Ore., Sept. 3 (CM, ph.); the other was at Iona I., B.C., Oct. 16–17 (MP, †AS). The 1550 roosting Long-billed Dowitchers Oct. 11 at Reifel I., B.C. (BT) and 1000+ at Sauvie I., Ore., Oct. 15 (HN et al.) furnished high counts. A Red-necked Phalarope at the Beaver Pond, Manning P.P., Aug. 22 was unusual there (A & HP). The usual few Red Phalaropes were around, from late August and mostly offshore, except for one still with some breeding plumage at Kent, Wash., Aug. 26 (†MS). November storms blew a few onshore, including singles inland to the Sheridan sewage ponds, Scoggins Valley Park near Portland, the Monmouth ponds, Fern Ridge Res., and Plat I Res. near Sutherlin, all Nov. 14–21 in Oregon.

JAEGERS TO PUFFINS — The usual 30–60 Pomarine Jaegers and five to 35 Long-tailed Jaegers were seen on each of the Westport pelagic trips (TW). The same numbers of Long-taileds, but fewer Pomarines, were noted from the fishing trawler offshore Oregon (PS). Parasitic Jaegers were widespread along the coast as usual. Twenty S. Polar Skuas were noted on 6 of the trips off Westport (TW), and about one every 2 days were seen from the trawler (PS).

About 95 Franklin's Gulls were reported, back up to normal levels after low counts the last 2 years. Eleven at Iona I., B.C., Aug. 26 (MF, MB) and 20+ at the Everett sewage ponds Oct. 6 & 25 (EH, BSu, RHu) were the high concentrations. A Little Gull in breeding plumage was noted Aug. 15 at Salt Spring I., V.I. (†DFr) and one in winter plumage was nearby Aug. 23 at Clover Pt., Victoria (KT). Others were found at Race Rocks, V.I. (MF), West Pt. in Seattle (DB, TB), and American L. in Tacoma (TB, W. Wilkins). A **Common Black-headed Gull** was seen Sept. 17 at Orcas I., Wash. (†Richard Ryan) and one was at Green L. in Seattle Oct. 5 (†EH, †NH), for the 3rd and 4th records for the state. A Ring-billed Gull at Prince Rupert, B.C., Aug. 13 (JC, MF) was farther north than usual, and a Thayer's

Gull at Lucy I., B.C., Aug. 18 (JC, MF, R. McMichael) was earlier than usual. About 26,000 California Gulls were noted Sept. 4 on the w. coast of V.I. (DP). An imm. Glaucous Gull present at Alsea Bay, Ore., on the unusual dates of Aug. 12–Sept. 29 (†JA) had most likely spent the summer in the area. Only four Glaucous Gulls were noted elsewhere: two on southern V.I., Oct. 22+ (DFr), and two in Portland Nov. 3+ (DI, B. Shelmerdine).

Elegant Terns made their first large-scale movement N into Oregon since the fall of 1983. Five adults were found at the mouth of the Siuslaw R., at Florence, Aug. 23 (†T & AM) and a few were seen there until Sept. 20. Six or seven were on Idaho flats at Newport Sept. 2–20 (HN, BBn, R & JK, m.ob.). A flock of 22 was at Charleston in Coos Bay Sept. 4 (DFi). Then, 120 were seen off the mouth of the Chetco R. at Brookings Sept. 16 (DI, PP). Three at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 30, were the northernmost reported, and the latest (PP).

High counts of migrant Com. Terns were of 100 at Coos Bay Sept. 4 (DFi), 800 at Sidney I., V.I. (J & RSa), 700 at Clover Pt., Victoria, Sept. 14 (RSa), 1000 from the San Juan I. ferry Sept. 17 (EH), 700 on the Spanish Banks, Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 22 (MP), and 500 near San Juan I., Wash., to Oct. 5 (ML). There were 5 reports, with at least minimum details, of Arctic Terns on shore Aug. 17–Sept. 20, at Kalaloch, Ocean Shores, and Westport, Wash., and at Florence and Bandon, Ore., and reports otherwise of 42 others. Wahl noted a normal 45 on 5 trips off Westport, and PS saw a few, plus a flock of 15 on Sept. 10 about 50 mi off Clatsop, Ore. Single Forster's Terns were identified Aug. 25 about 25 mi off Yaquina Bay, Ore. (JA, RL) and Oct. 24 in Oak Bay, V.I. (V. Ohman, †DFr et al.), the latter furnishing the 2nd record for Vancouver Island.

More dead Com. Murres than usual were found on Oregon and Washington coastal beaches during late July through September (JA, HN, TW). Four Marbled Murrelets were flying over the forest about 12 mi e. of Yachats, in the Siuslaw N.F. of Lincoln, Ore., Aug. 9 (RHo, AC). The first **Xantus' Murrelet** (*S. h. scrippsi*) seen from shore in Oregon was present off the Boiler Bay lookout Nov. 7–13 (†LW, †PMu, m.ob., ph. OS). Single Xantus' seen Sept. 12 and Oct. 4 at sea off Westport (TW) were the first there since fall 1984. Ten were noted Sept. 23 off Salt Spring I., southern V.I. (J & RSa). Widespread arrival of Ancient Murrelets was as usual in early November with 1500 seen Nov. 14 from the Victoria-Port Angeles ferry (KT et al.) and 25–100 south to Boiler Bay, Ore., Nov. 7+ (PMu, LW, m.ob.). Cassin's Auklet numbers returned to their pre-El Niño levels. There were 1200 noted Aug. 19 at the Swiftsure Banks, V.I.



South Polar Skua off Westport, Washington, Aug. 31, 1987. Photo/Peter Hunt.

(DFr), 300 there Aug 31 (DP), 200+ Sept 13 and Oct 4 out of Westport (TW), and 500 seen Oct. 10 from 3–10 mi off Garibaldi, Ore. (BO, DFj). A Horned Puffin was seen Aug. 21 in a Tufted Puffin colony on Hunter I., Curry (fJA, RL).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS — An ad. Barred Owl with two begging juveniles seen Aug. 24–26 at Watershed Park, N. Delta, B.C. (D. Wilson), furnished the first positive breeding record for the Vancouver area. The B.C. F.&W.S. owl survey crew found Barred Owls at 22 locations in s.w. British Columbia this season! An adult with a juvenile was along the Lilloet R. road Aug. 18 and 3 pairs were along the Elaho R., n. of Squamish, Oct. 1 (fide DK). Barred Owls were noted at the usual few locations elsewhere: two on southern V.I. and three in Washington. A Great Gray Owl was located Oct. 22+ (MU, m.ob.) near Howard Prairie L., Jackson, Ore., and a probable family group of four was seen there Nov. 6 (J. Babcock, TCo). Reports of 17 N. Pygmy-Owls, with none from s.w. British Columbia, indicated a return to normal levels after last year's incursion. A Burrowing Owl noted Nov. 2 along Boundary Bay furnished only the 3rd record for the Vancouver, B.C., area in the last 15 years (fGA et al.). The record of one on the beach at Florence, Ore., Oct. 13, 1985 (AB 40:323) actually referred to a Com. Barn-Owl, my mistake. On Nov. 20 a W. Screech-Owl came aboard the ferry at Tsawwassen, B.C., sat quietly across the Strait, and flew off at Salt Spring I. (D. Layard).

A Com. Poorwill found road-killed in Coquiltam, B.C., Oct. 1., and now specimen #14766 at the Univ. of British Columbia, provided the first record for the Vancouver, B.C., area (R. Wakelam). Eight Black Swifts at Forest Grove Sept. 14 (JE) and 15+ at Thornton Creek, near Newport, Sept. 19 (DFa) provided scarce migrant records in Oregon. Two were still in Victoria Sept. 30 (J & RSa). Four thousand Vaux's Swifts roosted in the chimney of the Newberg, Ore., Post Office Sept. 15–18 (HN). A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird at a Medford, Ore., feeder this summer stayed to Sept. 7 (Penny Stewart, fide MM). An ad. ♂ Rufous



Adult male Costa's Hummingbird at Medford, Ore., late summer 1987. Photo/Ira Updegrave.

Hummingbird was observed Aug. 19 about 10 mi offshore the w. side of V.I. (DFr et al.). Single Lewis' Woodpeckers were almost to the Oregon coast at Chitwood, near Newport, Aug. 22 (DFa) and Powers, along the Coquille R., Coos, Oct. 4 (Jack Thomas).

Latest flycatcher sightings were: Olive-sided, Sept. 16 on Sidney I., V.I. (J & RSa) and Sept. 17 in Eugene, Ore. (SH); W. Wood-Pewee, Sept. 26 at Toketee R.S., Ore. (DFj), and Oct. 2 at Ridgefield N.W.R. for the latest ever for Washington (G &

WH), Willow, Sept. 24 at Applegate, Ore. (John Keller), Hammond's, Sept. 26 at Toketee R.S. and Sept. 29 at Diamond L., Douglas, Ore. (both DFj); Dusky, Aug. 30 in Ashland (MM); and Western, Sept. 28 in Victoria (J. Gaskin) and Oct. 2 in Poulsbo, Wash. (J. Carson). Single Say's Phoebe appeared in Delta, B.C., Aug. 24 (AS, MF, TP) and Sept. 21 (JI, P. Marklevitz) and in McCleary, Wash., Aug. 27 (Jeff Wisman). The only **Tropical Kingbird** reported this fall was along the coast at LaPush, Wash., Oct. 10 (fSJ et al.) for the 7th record for the state. An E. Kingbird at Seaside, Ore., Sept. 10 (DI) and single W. Kingbirds at Bellingham, Wash., Aug. 24 (PL, TW, John Luther) and at Reifel I., B.C., Sept. 2 (JI) were unusual.

Purple Martins apparently departed early and without reported gatherings. A flock of 500+ Violet-green Swallows at the Toketee R.S., Sept. 24 grew to 1500+ Oct. 1 (DFj). On Oct. 7 only 400 remained, and all but two had departed by Oct. 11. Large numbers of Bank Swallows occurred again this year in the Vancouver, B.C., area, with 20 at Reifel I. Sept. 7 (JI) the high count. Three others were on southern V.I., six in Washington Aug. 30–Sept. 16, and nine in Oregon.

CORVIDS THROUGH WARBLERS — Three Blue Jays were found in Vancouver, B.C., during October (BK, fGA, JI, WW et al.) for the 5th–7th records there. Another stayed October through November in Port Townsend, Wash. (Bess Dickenson, m.ob.). Single Scrub Jays wandered well N of their usual range to Ft. Lewis, Olympia, and Bremerton, Wash. A flock of 40 Pinyon Jays was farther west than usual to the Acker Rock fire lookout, Tiller R.D., Douglas, Ore., Sept. 16 (fKevin Sands). Another Pinyon Jay was seen Oct. 4 at Howard Prairie L. (MHo) for, surprisingly, the first record for Jackson (fide MM). A Clark's Nutcracker s. of Bandon, Ore., Oct. 30, for the 2nd Coos record (C. Casseney, fide L. Thornburg), furnished the only report away from the mountains.

About 38 Mountain Chickadees reported after late September from lowland sites in the Vancouver, B.C., area were more than usual but not as many as last year (fide DK). Five were found in Seattle, also in late September, for the only other lowland report. Two Rock Wrens were at Emigrant L., Jackson, Ore., Oct. 20 (MM). Ruby-crowned Kinglets returned by Sept. 7 to W. Vancouver, B.C. (AP), Sept. 12 to Willapa Bay, Wash. (B. & G. Ramsey), and Sept. 27 to Ashland, Ore. (MM). Single N. Mockingbirds were at Coos Bay, near Medford, and in Ashland, Ore., and two were north to near Seattle Nov. 12–15 (fL. & M. Hatfield). A Sage Thrasher wandered west to Eagle Point, near Medford, Ore., Sept. 16 (H. Sands). Four Bohemian Waxwings were noted Aug. 19 at Washington Pass in the N. Cascades (R. Bradley), adding to growing hints of nearby nesting. A Loggerhead Shrike seen Sept. 6–10 in Vancouver, B.C., furnished the 10th record for the area (Daphne Solecki, fWW, m.ob.).

A Solitary Vireo seen Sept. 26 at Toketee R.S., Douglas, Ore. (DFj) was the latest of only six reported for the season. A Warbling Vireo killed at a window in Washougal, Wash., Sept. 29 (WC) and single Red-eyed Vireos in the Vancouver, B.C., area Sept. 7 & 11 (AP, BK) were later than usual. An imm. Yellow Warbler Oct. 11 at Reifel I. (BT) was the latest ever for the Vancouver, B.C., area. A Wilson's Warbler lingered to Nov. 4 in N. Vancouver (fide DK).

Twenty Palm Warblers were noted, more than usual. Fifteen of these were found at 13 Oregon coastal locations, Sept. 12+. The remaining five were on the Washington coast with one Oct. 11 at LaPush (fSJ) the farthest north. There were two N. Waterthrushes at Reifel I., B.C., Aug. 14–28 (JI, fBK et al.) and two at Jericho Park, Vancouver, B.C., Aug. 24–Sept. 12 (H. Hope, m.ob.), for the 3rd straight year of multiple fall occurrences in that area. Another was at the Snohomish sewage ponds Sept. 10, for the 12th record for w. Washington (R. Thorn).

A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Manning P.P., Aug. 22 (A & HP), furnished only about the 3rd park record. A bright ♂ **Blackburnian Warbler** was found Nov. 15+ near Nehalem, Ore. (fJJ, S. Jones, m.ob., ph. BO, HN, OS). A ♀ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was photographed Sept. 23 on board a trawler



Blackburnian Warbler near Nehalem, Ore., Nov. 29, 1987. Notably late in the season, and apparently a first for western Oregon. Photo/Bob O'Brien.

33 mi offshore Lincoln, Ore. (†PS). A fall-plumaged **Blackpoll Warbler** was closely studied Oct. 1–3 aboard that same boat 47 mi offshore Lincoln, Ore. (†PS). These birds provided the first, 4th, and 3rd records, respectively, for w. Oregon (fide ME).

Regrettably, two Tennessee Warblers, another Black-throated Blue Warbler, and another Blackpoll Warbler were reported without details.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES — Single W. Tanagers noted Oct. 5 in Vancouver, B.C. (MP) and Oct. 7 in Portland (D. Marshall) were later than usual. An imm. ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was observed Sept. 20 at the S.J.C.R. (†JJ). A ♀ **Dickcissel** was photographed Oct. 8 on Tatoosh I., Wash. (T. Wooten, B. Paine) for the 3rd record for the state. Three Clay-colored Sparrows were sighted in Oregon. One each was at the Wilson R. meadows near Tillamook Sept. 12 (JG, MHo), at Nehalem meadows Nov. 15–21 (JG, †LW, m.ob.), and at Coos Bay Nov. 16–17 (B. Griffin). There are (contra AB 40:324) at least 16 records now for w. Oregon (fide ME). A Grasshopper Sparrow at the Diamond L. sewage ponds, Douglas, Aug. 25 furnished one of very few records for w. Oregon (†DFi).

Eleven Swamp Sparrows, more than usual, were reported this season. Eight of these were in Oregon, with the earliest found Oct. 24 at the Diamond L. sewage ponds for the first record in the Cascades (DFi), and four found Nov. 15 at the mouth of the Wilson R. near Tillamook (JG, J. Kempe). Singles were at Nehalem (JG), the Eugene airport (†TM), and Sauvie I. (JJ, SH), Nov. 15–27. One in Seattle Nov. 20–23 (†KA, †DB, T. Haas) was the 16th for Washington. Two others were at Langford, V.I., Oct. 29–Nov. 2 (DFr, J & RSa) and in Port Alberni, V.I., Nov. 11 (S. McLure). Twenty-seven White-throated Sparrows, a normal number, were reported in 24 locations, Sept. 18+. Nineteen were in Oregon, including one that landed on the trawler 35 mi off Lane Sept. 30 (PS). Only three Harris' Sparrows were reported, Nov. 2–25, from Seattle and southern V.I.

Forty-plus Lapland Longspurs at the S.J.C.R., Sept. 30–Oct. 28, made the largest flock reported (RSm, PP, HN et al.). On Oct. 2 a **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was studied at length among a flock of pipits at the Diamond L. sewage ponds, Dou-

glas, Ore. (†DFi, Pam Udd). On Oct. 6 another Chestnut-collared was seen at the S.J.C.R. (†HN, JE, DL). These were the 3rd and 4th records for w. Oregon (fide ME). Two Snow Buntings at Ocean Shores Oct. 11 (Lola Smith) and one in Seattle Oct. 19 (DB) were early.

A ♂ Bobolink was seen Sept. 7 near Monroe (Bill Boyes) for only the 3rd fall record for w. Washington. All have been mid-August to mid-September. The last N. Orioles were seen Aug. 2 on Reifel I., B.C. (JJ), Aug. 16 in N. Saanich, V.I. (BBg), and Sept. 7 at Cape Blanco, Ore. (RSm). Two reports of Orchard Orioles were without details.

Two Pine Grosbeaks were noted Aug. 10 near Big L. at Santiam Pass in the Oregon Cascades, where the species is irregular (BBn, RG). A well-described Cassin's Finch seen Oct. 22 in Ambleside Park (†AS) furnished only the 7th record for the Vancouver, B.C., area, all of which have been since 1984 (fide DK). Small flocks of Red Crossbills appeared to be uniformly distributed over the Region. Groups of three to 20 White-winged Crossbills were noted at Rolley Lake P.P., on Mt. Baker, and near Mt. Rainier through the season. A Lesser Goldfinch among a large flock of Am. Goldfinches Sept. 20 near Warrenton, Ore., was much farther north than usual (JE). A single House Sparrow was seen Oct. 11 in Ucluelet, on the far side of V.I. (WW, MF et al.), where they are rare. *Birds of Pacific Rim N.P.* lists none there as of 1976.

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Kurt F. Campbell, Stephen F. Bailey,
and Richard A. Erickson

Someone flipped the rain switch in November, as the Region passed from a very dry spell into an unusually wet winter. A mild El Niño seemed correlated with the occurrence of various warm-water birds from the south, including Black-vented Shearwater, Red-billed Tropicbird, Red-footed Booby, and Xantus' and Craveri's murrelets, but strangely not Black Storm-Petrel. The shorebird season was fairly tame, at least for extreme rarities, while landbird vagrants as a whole gave us their best show since at least 1979. Amazingly, despite some 28 "boldfaced" records, only one was nominally new for the Region (and California): Crested Caracara, pending California Bird Records Committee review. Great Basin areas (especially the little-birded Crowley Lake) were especially productive of noteworthy records this season.

Observers for Golden Gate Raptor Observatory have initiated landbird counts in their daily censuses (compiled by CLF), to our great benefit. Also of future benefit, computerization has begun for the Regional files; interested parties are invited to contact us about this (write to KFC).

As this article is being finished, word comes to us of the tragic death of David Gaines. Dave, a past Regional editor, has been a guiding light (and warmth) in the fight to save Mono Lake, and a splendid birder and inspiration to hundreds for many years. We will miss his company, his bird finds (see this article for many), and his unflinching wisdom and joy.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.C.R.S. = Coyote Cr. Riparian Station (banding station in Santa Clara Co.); C.V. = Central Valley; Cyn. = Canyon; F.I. = S.E. Farallon I.; O.S.P. = Open Space Preserve; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with the Regional Editors. *Italicized* place names refer to counties. Use of "Period" and "Region" (capitalized) refers to these terms as defined for *American Birds*. All records from Palomarin and S.E. Farallon I. should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.).

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS — Four Red-throated and four Pacific loons inland were more than usual in fall. One alternate-plumaged Pacific was at L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Aug. 2 (RE), continuing the recent pattern there. A flight of 107,000 Pacific Loons passing Pigeon Pt., San Mateo, Nov. 15 (BS) was aptly termed a "major migration". Of 13 inland reports of Com. Loons (19 birds), most intriguing was one heard only, Aug. 14–15 at Snag L., Lassen N.P. (DCR *et al.*), potential breeding habitat.

A molting Horned Grebe on Eagle L., Sept. 5 (SFB) was early if it did not summer locally. A W. Grebe on 9700 ft Tioga L., Mono, Nov. 3 (DAG) probably equalled our Region's previous elevation record, set on the same lake Oct. 25, 1959. The Clark's Grebe seen flying NE 10.2 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos Sept. 19 (SFB) was startling not only for its location but also because *Aechmophorus* grebes are so seldom seen in flight. Despite their substantial migrations, of a cumulative 24,941 *Aechmophorus* surveyed in Santa Cruz this fall, only one was seen flying (DLSu).

Monterey recorded its first early fall Laysan Albatross Sept. 12 (DLSH) and its first from shore at Cypress Pt. Nov. 12 (SHa). Three Laysans were photographed together 17 mi w.s.w. of Pt. Pinos Nov. 15 (JM, AB, DLSH), and a single was at Cordell Bank Nov. 3 (D. Woodbury). Northern Fulmars remained scarce but widespread throughout the fall.

Flesh-footed Shearwater put in a strong appearance, with one to three seen on at least 11 Monterey boat trips Sept. 10–



Nov. 23 (DLSh, m.ob.), 4 sightings (five birds) in F.I. and Marin waters Sept. 19–Nov. 8 (P.R.B.O., DWm, ToJ), and singles offshore Humboldt Sept. 12 (GSL, fide S. Perry) and at Bodega Canyon Oct. 11 (RS). Incredible numbers of Buller's Shearwaters rafted just off the tip of Pt. Reyes. An estimated 700 there Sept. 18 (GEw) was unprecedented, but later numbers culminated with an astounding Regional record 7200 Oct. 27 (RS). Elsewhere high numbers were 500 at Pioneer Canyon, San Mateo, Sept. 6 (JM), 950 offshore Monterey Sept. 16 (RS), 1200 at F.I., Oct. 10, and 550 near Cordell Bank Marin/Sonoma Oct. 11 (RS). Short-tailed Shearwaters were more frequent than usual during early fall beginning Sept. 12 offshore Monterey (DLSh), but the maximum reported was of only 15 there Nov. 23 (DLSh). All three of these species visit us from Australasian breeding ranges. By comparison, the South American breeding Pink-footed Shearwater appeared in average numbers, and Sooty Shearwater numbers were normal to low. Sooty Shearwater breeds in both regions, but most of our birds may be of American origin. From n.w. Mexico, Black-vented Shearwaters irrupted in numbers second only to 1984 among recent years. Early single sightings in Monterey Bay Aug. 13 & 20 (DLSH) preceded normal arrival beginning Sept. 22 (DLSu). Monterey Bay boat maxima were 1350 Oct. 18 (SFB, DLSH) and 1400 Nov. 23 (DLSH). Nearby the highest reports were 500+ in 1.5 hours at Pt. Pinos Nov. 9 (REM) and 467 at Pigeon Pt., Nov. 18 (BS). Numbers dropped rapidly to the north, with highs of 15–20 at Pt. Reyes Oct. 22 (DAH *et al.*) and 23 at F.I., Oct. 30.

Again flocks of storm-petrels rafting off the edge of Cordell Bank were found to contain both Wilson's and Fork-tailed storm-petrels. Sixteen Wilson's and 40 Fork-taileds were n.w. of the Bank Aug. 15 (JM, SFB, DLSH). This is the 2nd highest number of Wilson's reported for W. Coast waters. Two Wilson's at Pioneer Canyon Sept. 6 (JM) were also in a large mixed flock. The only reports from Monterey Bay were of a Wilson's Oct. 4 (SMS, JML) and a Fork-tailed Sept. 28 (DLSH). A tally of 200 Ashy Storm-Petrels offshore Humboldt Bay Oct. 12 (SWH, GSL, JCS) was high for so far north. Ashies formed the bulk of the mixed flocks, with 1500 n.w. of Cordell Bank and 500 (not rafted) at Pioneer Canyon Aug. 15 (SFB, JM, DLSH), 4500 rafted at Pioneer Canyon Sept. 6 (JM), and 4500 at Mon-



Subadult white morph Red-footed Booby at Pedro Point, Pacifica, Cal., Aug. 15, 1987. Photo/Peggy Beckett.

terey Canyon Oct. 6 (RS). Pioneer Canyon is a new area for birders, so we do not know if the storm-petrel flocks there are annual or if many storm-petrels used this area instead of Monterey Canyon. The latter's famous flock formed late, was hard to find, and never reached its usual peak numbers, partly owing to the remarkable scarcity of Black Storm-Petrels. Only three near Cordell Bank Aug. 15 (SFB, JM, DLSh), 500 at Pioneer Canyon Sept. 6 (JM), and 800 at Monterey Canyon Oct. 3 (SFB, DLSh) represented the maxima for Blacks. Nevertheless, Least Storm-Petrel did appear, as one to three or more were in the Monterey Canyon flock Sept. 12–Oct. 6 (DLSh, SFB, JML, RS).

Two **Red-billed Tropicbirds** furnished the 6th and 7th Regional records. One was "outside F.I." Aug. 23 (P. Bellamy) and the other was s.e. of the Davidson Seamount, about 50 mi s.w. of Pt. Sur, Oct. 5 (DLSh, m.ob.). Records should be more frequent as we get far offshore into "albacore" waters.

Several **Red-footed Boobies** added spice to California waters this fall. Two birds at F.I. in 1975 had furnished the only previous state records. Comparison of photos may prove otherwise, but from the evidence at this writing it appears that there were two or three in this Region. A subad. white morph associated with the fishing fleet at San Pedro Pt., Pacifica, Aug. 14–17 (†ph. P. Beckett), where it delighted hundreds of birders (†m.ob.). Apparently the same bird was around fishing boats outside the Golden Gate Aug. 20, after which it spent the first half of September intermittently around boats at Pier 45, San Francisco (ph. L. Thompson, S. Williams). What may have been still the same bird landed on the R/V "Pt. Sur" about 12 mi w. of Moss Landing Oct. 8, and rode into Moss Landing Harbor before flying away for good (J. Klusmire ph. to C.B.R.C.). Clearly not the same bird was the imm. brown morph (?) attending the fishing fleet off Bolinas Bay and the Golden Gate Oct. 13–16 (M. Greco photos to C.B.R.C., †SEF). It rode boats into S.F. Bay before flying back out to roost overnight. It was on a sailboat inside S.F. Bay Oct. 17 (S. Pringle photos to C.B.R.C.), but the next day it was picked up at Aquatic Park, S.F., with a fishhook in its mouth. It spent the rest of the fall in rehabilitation centers (ph. JM). At this species often sits on boats, it seems unlikely that these birds had never done so. But, if they are considered "tainted" because they may have landed on boats on their way here, that means we can never call a Red-footed Booby "clean," as this species will always land on boats. These birds give added credibility to booby reports not published last summer (†† to C.B.R.C.).

Brown Pelicans in the Monterey area suffered extensive mortality, exceeding that observed during the 1983 El Niño (AB). By mid-September hundreds of apparently-starving pelicans were desperately scavenging filetted rockfish carcasses

and begging frozen anchovies in Monterey Harbor. The proximate cause of death for some birds was a cholera-like bacterium (Calif. Fish & Game). Although food shortage seemed clear, no other piscivores showed similar effects, leading to speculation that the anchovy schools were staying too deep for the pelicans to catch them (AB). Up to five adults regularly foraged up the Pajaro R. to 3.5 mi inland (DLSu et al.). Maybe related were 3 sightings (perhaps one bird) on inland reservoirs of Santa Clara, plus San Joaquin's first Brown Pelican, hand-tamed at the Mokelumne R. west of Thornton Sept. 26–Oct. 22 (†DGy).

HERONS, WATERFOWL — Significant egret concentrations were at the Cache Cr. settling basin, Yolo, Aug. 23 (DJo) and near the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 2 (HMR): 250+ Greats with 150+ Snowies at the former site and 300 Greats with 400 Snowies at the latter. A Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron at Charleston Slough Nov. 7–15 (†JY et al.) was at least the 3rd reported from south S.F. Bay. Little Blue Herons have summered almost regularly there since 1971; an adult was near Alviso Aug. 14 (SFB et al.). It was another poor season for Cattle Egrets. Up to six in s. Fremont Aug. 31–Oct. 14 (fide HG) were in an area where nesting has been suspected; two at F.I., Sept. 16 and four in the Arcata Bottoms Oct. 2 (JCS) were early on the coast; and 350 at the Modesto sewage ponds Oct. 4 (HMR) furnished the only high number reported. A Green-backed Heron seen 20 mi w.n.w. of Pt. Pinos Aug. 30 (RS et al.) was presumably the same one seen 7 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos the same day (JML et al.). The offshore waters of n. Monterey must now be among the most intensively-birded areas in our Region, at least in the fall. A White-faced Ibis at Zmudowski State Beach Sept. 26–Oct. 4 (RFT et al.) provided the only coastal report. In the C.V., 300–400 at the Cache Cr. settling basin Aug. 20 (GEW) made the highest count.

An ad. Tundra Swan at Tule Lake N.W.R., Sept. 7 was "flying well" and unseasonal (SFB). The Trinity R. below Willow Creek, Humboldt, was an odd place for a Greater White-fronted Goose Oct. 3–6 (T. Roelofs). Coastal goose reports were received of about 120 Greater White-fronteds, five or six Snows, and five Ross'. One of the Ross', at Stafford L., Marin, Sept. 24–Nov. 20, "appears to have summered there" (RS et al.). Tule Lake N.W.R., Siskiyou, produced another Emperor Goose, an immature present Nov. 6–13 (†BED et al.). Also at Tule L. were two adult and one imm. Brant Nov. 12–14 (BED et al.).

Migrant ducks were found Oct. 14 in the high Sierra (DAG) where few records exist. Tenaya L., Tuolumne (8200'), had a Green-winged Teal, two Gadwalls, an Am. Wigeon, two Com. Mergansers, and a Ruddy Duck. Siesta L., Tuolumne (8000'), had five Green-winged Teal, and Elery L., Mono (9500'), had a Lesser Scaup.

Conflicting reports were received on migrant vs. summering Green-winged Teal. One at Pescadero Marsh Aug. 10 was considered the first returnee (PJM), while an eclipse-plumaged male at Mountain View Forebay, Santa Clara, Aug. 31 (WGB) and a female at Moss Landing Aug. 7 (DR) were thought to be probably summering. Four more at Zmudowski State Beach Aug. 29 were still considered possible summerers (DR). The species returns as early as mid-July on the extreme n. coast (Erickson et al., 1984, *Birds of Redwood National Park*. Coastal Parks Assoc.). A ♂ **Baikal Teal** was shot by a hunter at Tule Lake N.W.R. (county?), Oct. 14. Color photographs on file at the refuge have been examined by BED, RE, and MFRb, and copies will be forwarded to the C.B.R.C. Five previous California records (3 Regional) are somewhat controversial as to the origin of the birds, but 4 of the 5 have been accepted by the C.B.R.C. as representing genuine vagrants.

Fifty thousand Gadwalls were estimated on Tule L., Sept. 7, when this species was the dominant duck in n.e. California (SFB). Among the many Eur. Wigeon reports, one at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin, Sept. 26 (DAH et al.) was early, and singles at Borax L., Lake, Nov. 4 (JiM), L. Combie, Nevada/Placer, Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (RAE), and Bass L., El Dorado, Nov. 15+ (†GEW) were at unusual locations.

Three Canvasbacks returned to the Stockton sewage ponds by Sept. 30 (DGY) and the first Ring-necked Ducks were likewise early at the Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 18 (DLSu) and the Modesto sewage ponds Sept. 19 (two—HMR). A Ring-necked at F.I., Oct. 7–8, the island's first ever, was the only other arrival of either species before mid-October.

At least eight Oldsquaws were found in Humboldt/Del Norte but only three were reported from Sonoma south. One at Caspar State Beach, Mendocino, Oct. 11 (KFC) was early; one at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou, late October to Nov. 8 (fide BED, MFRb) and two at Tule Lake N.W.R. (Siskiyou & Modoc) Nov. 14–28 (BED, RE, MFRb et al.) were inland. A Black Scoter at Manresa State Beach Sept. 10 was early, the earliest ever for Santa Cruz (DLSu). Arriving Surf Scoters were not detected among summering birds in Santa Cruz until Sept. 22 (DLSu). An estimated 110,000 Surf Scoters were along the n. side of Pt. Reyes Oct. 31–Nov. 25 (RS). Inland birds were at L. Herman, Solano, Oct. 21 (RAE), Indian Creek Res., Alpine, Oct. 24 (three—JSL), and Grant L., Mono, Oct. 24 (11—DAG). A ϕ White-winged Scoter was inland at Tule Lake N.W.R., Siskiyou, Nov. 27 (RE et al.). A Bufflehead in Santa Cruz Sept. 7 (RTb) was very early. Inland Red-breasted Mergansers were at "Alkalai Ponds", Mono, Sept. 13 (DAG), Crowley L., Mono, Sept. 26 (two—PJM, DAG), and Sailor Bar, American R., Sacramento, Nov. 15 (GEw).

RAPTORS — Golden Gate Raptor Observatory's counts of raptors passing Pt. Diablo, Marin, set seasonal record highs for 11 species: 75 Ospreys, 273 N. Harriers, 3574 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 193 Red-shouldered Hawks, 106 Broad-winged Hawks, five Swainson's Hawks, 3894 Red-tailed Hawks, 35 Ferruginous Hawks, 39 Golden Eagles, 388 Am. Kestrels, and 14 Prairie Falcons. In contrast, the 1382 Cooper's Hawks represented a very low total. A N. Goshawk there Sept. 24 was rare. Trans-Sierra vagrant Red-shouldered Hawks were found at Mono L. County Park Sept. 18–28 (†AME, PJM) and Benton Hot Springs Oct. 16 (GMcC), while one was near Grenada, Siskiyou, Aug. 12 (RE). Five dark-morph birds were among the 106 Broad-winged Hawks at Pt. Diablo Sept. 15–Oct. 24. This total presumably also included most of the five Broad-wingeds reported elsewhere in Marin Sept. 19–Oct. 21 and the three in San Mateo Sept. 14–Oct. 8. The three other Broad-wingeds all would have furnished first county records, but only one was documented: Caswell S.P., San Joaquin, Oct. 17 (first for C.V.—†DGY). A Swainson's Hawk at Monterey Bay Academy Sept. 10 (†DLSu) apparently furnished the only good recent Santa Cruz record. The 3894 Red-taileds at Pt. Diablo included 44 dark-morph birds, a dilute-pigment adult Aug. 11, a "Harlan's" Oct. 19, and a bird showing characters of "Kriders" Nov. 25 (CLF, m.ob.), an unprecedented spectrum for the Region. Four of the 35 Ferruginous Hawks there were dark.

A very wary **Crested Caracara** found near the dump s. of Mono L. Sept. 13 (RS) was seen in the area intermittently to Oct. 16 (†JLD, †GMcC, †PPP). This bird showed no sign of captivity, and its location proclaims it a better candidate for a wild vagrant than the presumed escapees on the California coast, but this issue will be debated by the C.B.R.C. Of 45 Merlins tallied at Pt. Diablo, three in early November were identified as of the pale prairie race *richardsoni*. Perhaps one of these was at Palo Alto Baylands Nov. 22 (†JM, †RSTh, †EDG).

QUAIL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — A "pure" albino California Quail was seen in Arcata Nov. 16 [C. Anderson]. A survey of 26 potential rail sites in Santa Cruz Oct. 28–Nov. 13 turned up birds at 22 locations, an impressive 190 Virginias and 49 Soras total, but no Com. Moorhens were found (DLSu). Some 300,000 Am. Coots were estimated on Tule L., Sept. 7 (SFB). Coastal Sandhill Cranes were near Ft. Dick, Del Norte, Oct. 26 (RSTr), Hayward Nov. 18 (RJR), and Elkhorn Slough, Monterey, Nov. 18–22 (fide DR). In the C.V., four at Creighton Ranch Preserve, Kings, Sept. 18 (RH) and 15 in Sacramento Sept. 20 (CSu) were early.

S.A.

The true relative status of the two forms of Lesser Golden-Plover remains unclear. Not long ago *fulva* was considered the far-less-common bird in California, at least during migration. On the coast this fall, 38+ birds were reported as *fulva*, 28+ as *dominica*, and 23+ unknown. All 20 birds from Del Norte, however, were reported as *dominica* (ADB), leaving only about eight other claimed *dominica* for the entire coast. In the C.V., *fulva* reports outnumbered *dominica* 11+:6+ (HMR, DGY et al.), so only e. of the Sierra/Cascade crest did *dominica* predominate. All birds there were identified as juv. *dominica*: one at Crowley L., Mono, Sept. 27 (GMcC); two at Lower Klamath N.W.R., Siskiyou Oct. 4 (RE, MFRb); and two at nearby Tule Lake N.W.R., Nov. 2–8 (BED). No ad. *dominica* were reported anywhere in the Region. Observers should report all observations of Lesser Golden-Plovers with as much detail as possible.

A Semipalmated Plover at the Hollister sewage ponds Aug. 21 furnished San Benito's first record (KVV, BHG). A juv. Mountain Plover at Crowley L., Sept. 23 (PP et al.) and two in s. Fremont Oct. 14 (R. Cimenov) were in unusual locations.

Fourteen Solitary Sandpipers were reported Regionwide. The most significant was San Benito's first at the Hollister sewage ponds Aug. 21 (KVV, BHG). Another county first there was the Willet Aug. 13–21 (KVV, BHG). Sacramento N.W.R. had 2400 Long-billed Curlews Sept. 15 (BED), but that number pales compared to 10,000+ at Kesterson N.W.R., Oct. 24 (RHG), the largest number ever reported in the Region. Three Ruddy Turnstones at the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 9 (ERC) and one at the Davis sewage ponds Sept. 12 (MP) furnished the only inland reports. Only 7 mi inland, the Salinas sewage ponds added Black Turnstone and Red Knot to their already long list of shorebirds with singles Sept. 5 (BHG, DR et al.) and Oct. 9–15 (SEF, PEL et al.) respectively.

Sanderlings continued to be unpredictable at the Modesto sewage ponds with up to three Sept. 13–20 and one Nov. 22 (HMR et al.). Another inland was in the Tulare L. basin, Kings, Aug. 23 (R. Saval). Of the 60+ Semipalmated Sandpipers found in August and September, three were in Siskiyou, six were in Mono, 10 were in the C.V., and the rest were along the coast. The only reported adult was at Mountain View Forebay, Santa Clara, Aug. 14–17 (†PLN). One hundred Baird's Sandpipers at Crowley L., Sept. 6 (GMcC) made the largest number ever reported in the Region. The only ad. Baird's seen were at Fremont Aug. 3 (RAE) and the Chico oxidation ponds Aug. 13 (JHS).



Juvenile Stilt Sandpiper at Bolinas, Cal., Sept. 9, 1987. Photo/Peter LaTourrette.

The season's only Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was in Eureka Sept. 16–25 (FJB et al.). Conversely, eleven Stilt Sandpipers provided our best showing ever, with one at L. Talawa, Del Norte, Oct. 1 (ADB, SDS), up to two in Eureka Aug. 20–30 (JCS et al.) with another very late there Oct. 20–21 (GSL), one at the Bolinas sewage ponds, Marin, Sept. 4–13 (ph. EDG et al.), one at Pescadero Marsh Sept. 13–21 (RSTh et al.), one apparently moving back and forth between lower Watsonville Slough (Santa Cruz's first) and Zmudowski State Beach Sept. 17–24 (RS, DLSu et al.), one at the Salinas sewage ponds Sept. 5 (BHG, DR et al.), and one at Metro Airport (Sacramento's first) Sept. 24–25 (†TDM et al.). The adult found at the Woodland sugar ponds, Yolo, July 29 was joined by a 2nd bird Aug. 5 (GFi).

Six Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found: one very late near Ft. Dick, Oct. 15–17 (†ADB); one at Abbott's Lagoon, Marin, Sept. 11–24 (ph. WEH, †JM et al.); another at nearby Spaletta Ranch, Pt. Reyes Sept. 6–7 (†DAH et al.); one at F.I., Sept. 8–14 (†GeM, †RPH, P.R.B.O.); and two at Año Nuevo State Reserve Aug. 27–31 (†M.A. Sidor, †SFB, †JM et al.). Only three Ruffs were found (cf. 13 last fall): Ferndale Bottoms, Humboldt, Sept. 10–17 (KI); an ad. female in the Slaughterhouse Pt. area near Vallejo, Napa/Solano, Aug. 4–Oct. 4 (MB et al.); and Woodbridge Road Ecological Preserve (Bract Tract), San Joaquin, Nov. 6–13 (†DGY et al.). An unusual late wave of migrant Short-billed Dowitchers was noted in Santa Cruz Nov. 4–12, with 25 birds at 4 sites, the only ones seen there after Sept. 29 (RAM, DLSu). Late phalaropes were found in San Mateo, a Wilson's at Pescadero Marsh Oct. 25 (DLSu) and a Red-necked at Princeton Marsh Nov. 8 (JM).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — A remarkable concentration of stercorarinines over the Monterey Seavalley Sept. 19 produced the highest counts for three species: 33 Pomarine Jaegers, 27 Parasitic Jaegers, 46 Long-tailed Jaegers, 10 Long-tailed/Parasitics, and 15 S. Polar Skuas (SFB, DLSh). The count for Long-taileds was eclipsed by 57 offshore Humboldt Bay Sept. 13 (GSL, SWH), these counts being the highest ever for California. That for skuas was the 3rd-highest ever. The only Parasitic away from tidewater was at Crowley L., Sept. 6 (LJP). Long-tailed Jaegers were reported from an unprecedented 28 boat trips Aug. 10–Oct. 12, 10 of them in double figures, with 31 near Pioneer Seamount Sept. 13 (AB, JML) forming another amazing concentration. Numbers of Long-tailed Jaegers correlated with those of their favorite host, Arctic Tern. Ashore, single Long-taileds were seen at Pt. Reyes Sept. 18 (GEW), an adult at Elkhorn Slough Oct. 3 (RS, m.ob.), an adult at Crowley L., Aug. 28 (ph. †JLD), and a juvenile at the Modesto sewage ponds Aug. 28–29 for the first C.V. record (†DGY, †HMR, ph. †ERC). Skuas were very frequent, being reported from 29 boat trips Aug. 15–Nov. 15, with multiples on 15 trips. Another was off Wilder Cr. Beach, Santa Cruz, Sept. 28 (†DLSu).

All 15 Franklin's Gulls Aug. 29+ were at sewage ponds and wildlife refuges, with 14 inland. Modesto sewage ponds hosted at least five Aug. 30–Nov. 11 (HMR, ERC, DGY), and one at Kelseyville sewage ponds Oct. 31–Nov. 26 was a first for Lake (JRW et al.). A Little Gull at Crowley L., Aug. 6–Sept. 28 (ph. †JLD, †GMcC, †HG, m.ob.) was the first e. of the Sierra in California. Perhaps of more interest, it molted straight from first-summer plumage into full adult winter plumage, so not all 2nd-winter birds are distinguishable. For the first fall in a decade, "the" ad. Little Gull failed to return to Stockton (DGY). Partial albinism is often seen in Heermann's Gull, with white primary coverts being most common. The 29 sightings of such birds during Santa Cruz surveys represented slightly more than one bird per thousand, with 12 individuals showing some white in flight feathers (†DLSu). All were adults in basic plumage. A Herring Gull at Crowley L., Aug. 31 (DAG) was early. A juv. W. Gull was well described at Modesto sewage ponds Sept. 19–27 (DGY, †HMR). Rather early was a first-winter Glaucous Gull at Baldwin Cr. Beach, Santa Cruz, Nov. 3 (†DLSu). Only nine Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported, Aug. 25–Nov. 16. Sabine's Gulls were well represented offshore (peak counts 45–65, Aug. 15–Oct. 10), ashore (6 reports), inside S.F. Bay (2),

and inland (4 reports). The latter six were. Palo Alto Sept. 26–Oct. 9 (G. Hoyt, †WGB, ph. A. Walther, m.ob.), Foster City Nov. 1 (MDa), Crowley L., Sept. 26–28 (at least five, including three adults—DAG, PJM), Modesto sewage ponds Oct. 11 (first for Stanislaus—†HMR, ph. ERC), Woodland Sugar Ponds Oct. 16 (†GEW), and Stockton sewage ponds Oct. 29–Nov. 10 (DGY, D. Wharton).

At Crescent City, Elegant Terns peaked Sept. 23 at 36 (ADB), a record count for Del Norte. Three Com. Terns at Stockton and Lodi sewage ponds Sept. 22–Oct. 6 more than doubled the records for San Joaquin (DGY). Up to six visited Crowley L., Aug. 28–Sept. 26 (JLD et al.). An Arctic Tern inside S.F. Bay at Hayward Oct. 22 (RJR) was unusual. A Least Tern at Rodeo Lagoon Sept. 13 (BIL, CLF, H. Brandt) provided one of few coastal records n. of San Mateo. An adult migrant at New Brighton State Beach, Santa Cruz, Sept. 16 flew off of the mainland at the south end of the trans-mountain flightline reported for Caspian Terns (DLSu) and speculated for Least last season!

A juv. Pigeon Guillemot was far off the continental shelf Marin or San Mateo Aug. 15 (SFB). Surprisingly, the northernmost report of Xantus' Murrelets was of the largest number, 16 offshore Humboldt Oct. 12 (JCS), and three were offshore Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Oct. 10 (KFC). In Monterey Bay area waters, there were up to six scrippsi Xantus' Murrelets through Nov. 15, one or two hypoleucus Aug. 13–Oct. 10, and two to seven Craveri's Murrelets Sept. 13–Nov. 15 (DLSh, m.ob.). Craveri's seen from Monterey shore were two off Cypress Pt. Oct. 21 (SHA) and four off Pt. Pinos Nov. 12 (†REM).

DOVES THROUGH SWIFTS — Seven White-winged Doves, all coastal Aug. 25–Nov. 5, made our best turnout ever (by one). Pending review by the C.B.R.C., the two **Black-billed Cuckoos** discovered (8th and 9th for the Region) match last fall's number. Immatures were on F.I., Aug. 26 (†PP) and later Pt. Reyes Sept. 12–17 (M. Butler, †CoB, †JM, DAH, m.ob.). Two Greater Roadrunners wandered from dry hills to the C.V. floor n. of Los Baños Aug. 13–Dec. 23 and Oct. 25–Nov. 27 (HMR, T. Poole, RbL et al.). Burrowing Owls were well-reported, including 12 coastal migrants Sept. 26+. A Spotted Owl along La Honda Rd., Aug. 31 (CGR), was unexpected; 20+ mi away on Sept. 8, one calling at Año Nuevo Pt. (GJS) was "[a] first for this location and one of very few San Mateo records [fide PJM]". Reportings of Short-eared Owls were near the highest ever for one season (41), but 75% were of singles, with only 2 reports of as many as five individuals. Nearly all reports were coastal; F.I. Short-eareds totalled a remarkable 17 individuals, including a very early bird Aug. 26 (subsequently Sept. 19+ for the Region). Also noteworthy for F.I. were five N. Saw-whet Owls, Oct. 15–Nov. 18.

A "resurgence in nocturnal visual and auditory detections" of Com. Poorwills at 5000+ ft. in Sierra N.F., Fresno, was noted



Black-billed Cuckoo captured for banding at the P.R.B.O. station on Southeast Farallon I., Cal., Aug. 26, 1987. Photo/Peter Pyle.

September/early October (JCL) At Ft Hunter-Liggett, Monterey, RLR conducts spotlight surveys for deer, and noted Com Poorwills this first half of November to be "ten times more abundant than in past" at this time. Neither of these Com. Poorwill reports gave numbers, however. A Chimney Swift over F.I., Aug. 30 (†PP—P.R.B.O.) was one of few documented at this season. Vaux's Swift reports were dominated by the 1661 counted passing Pt. Diablo Aug. 29–Oct. 17 (CLF *et al.*), the latter date quite late. Even later were two to three near Baldwin Cr. Beach Nov. 21 (DLSu), perhaps fitting better with winter than migration records.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS —

Three Black-chinned Hummingbirds were extralimital: Aug. 1–2 at Pacific Grove (JLD, †DR, RER), Aug. 5–6 at Lee Vining (JLD), and Aug. 28 at F.I. An Anna's Hummingbird at Lee Vining Aug. 6 (JLD) was strictly a vagrant for the Mono Basin; all such records are for fall. Eight coastal or late Costa's Hummingbirds were noted. Most noteworthy were one in *Del Norte* at Smith River Nov. 2–10 (ADB) and another three through the Region Nov. 14+. Rufous/Allen's hummingbird distribution remains problematic, with the last bird acceptably identified to species Aug. 9 (Rufous). Many "Selasphorus sp." were seen after this, including two after mid-October: San Francisco Bay N.W.R., Nov. 21 (ERi *et al.*), and Pt. Diablo Nov. 23 (CLF *et al.*).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were identified in Ben Lomond Oct. 19 (†RMrr) and Palo Alto Nov. 23 (A. Jasberg), the latter bird presumably a returnee (AB 40:325). These were only the 2nd and 3rd records for the Region earlier than December. Red-naped Sapsucker records w. of the Sierran crest also totaled two (both males): Rancho Del Oso, Santa Cruz, Sept. 26 (RMrr), and Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne, Nov. 15 (JW). A "probable only" Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsucker was described from L. Merced, San Francisco, Oct. 3 (†JM); another report of this form lacked details. Reports of "Yellow-shafted" N Flickers continue to greatly outnumber those of intergrades (by 5:1 this season), although this editor (and most critical observers) see many more intergrades (at least the reverse ratio). Observers should no more assume that flickers with yellow feather shafts are "pure" than that all yellow warblers are Yellow Warblers. Uncertain birds should be reported simply as "N. Flicker," or, "yellow/intergrade," etc. Reports of 12 Pileated Woodpeckers were very unusual. Some/most were well out of range, even flying through open country. Obviously this is not an irruptive species, so perhaps this was owing to the extensive summer fires.

Some 59+ migrant Willow Flycatchers probably represented an average fall turnout for recent years. Four straggled into October, with one very late at Patrick's Point S.P., Oct. 11–18 (D Oretsky, KI). A remarkable nine Least Flycatchers, Sept. 4–Oct. 20, were well above any previous seasonal total. Five were on F.I., two on outer Pt. Reyes, one was banded at Modoc N.W.R., Sept. 9 (†E. Bloom), and another was banded at Lanphere-Christiansen Dunes Sept. 17 (CJR). Seven Hammond's Flycatchers were coastal, Aug. 23–Oct. 13. Dusky Flycatchers are expected to be rarer (and earlier) coastally, but five were there Aug. 27–Sept. 16, including two banded at F.I. Continued caution is urged in identifying *Empidonax*! Seasonally rare, Gray Flycatchers were at Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne, Aug. 23 (JW) and F.I., Aug. 31. The season's only E. Phoebe was near Ettersberg, Humboldt, Nov. 1 (†Man Who Walks in the Woods). An impressive four Ash-throated Flycatchers straggled along the coast Oct. 11–31. Just above average numbers were 13 Tropical Kingbirds (coastal, Oct. 9–Nov. 30). Earlier and scarcer on the coast in fall than Tropicals, 10 W. Kingbirds represented a good showing there Aug. 7–Sept. 29. An amazing 15 E. Kingbirds (Aug. 21–Sept. 18) included an "unprecedented" five at F.I. and another five in Marin, as well as two in very unexpected areas: Hopland Field Station, Mendocino, Aug. 21 (†B. Keiffer) and Kaweah Oaks Preserve, Tulare, Sept. 14 (L. Wilson).

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES — A N Rough-winged Swallow at Woodbridge Rd. Ecological Preserve Nov. 14 (DGY) was quite tardy. Bank Swallows had a late contingent, with five birds Sept. 21+ including the last Oct. 7 at Moss Landing (REM). What was apparently Alpine's first Scrub Jay was at 9000 ft. at L. Winnemucca Sept. 12 (†HMR); it appeared more similar to the Great Basin race than to cismontane forms. Nine reports of Pinyon Jays (150+ birds) indicated above-average conspicuousness, and included 2 very rare coastal sightings: one on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 4–5 (JM) and four at Pt. Diablo Oct. 21 (CLF *et al.*) for the 3rd and 4th Marin records. Even more so, Clark's Nutcrackers were where the birders were, with reports of this less-gregarious bird totaling 114+ birds. Many were below usual elevations; the first far from usual haunts was on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 15–17 (RS, m.ob.). A Black-billed Magpie on Moseley Rd. Sept. 13 (RSTR) was *Del Norte's* 2nd, and another was in Tilden P., *Contra Costa*, Nov. 1 (*vide* HG). Forty-six Com. Ravens at Ben Lomond dump Nov. 24 (RMrr) made a "record Santa Cruz count" (*vide* DLSu); the species seems to be on a gradual increase in much of the Region.

A Mountain Chickadee at Hayward Regional Shoreline Nov. 21 (RJR) was a first for Alameda. What was apparently a partially albinistic Chestnut-backed Chickadee at Neary's Lagoon, Santa Cruz, Oct. 11 and Dec. 17 (†DLSu *et al.*) had a head pattern matching that of Mountain Chickadee. A Pygmy Nuthatch, coastal at King Salmon Aug. 22 (JCS, KVR, †GSL *et al.*), was *Humboldt's* first ever. Upslope drift after the breeding season is a well-established phenomenon for many species, but how long do birds remain at high elevations in fall? This season three Bewick's Wrens were reported at 5200–6000 ft on the w. slope of the Sierra Nov. 5–19 (JCS, JCL). At F.I., Marsh Wren sightings have averaged fewer than one per year, so six there Aug. 15–Nov. 4 were startling.

The Region's (and California's, and the Lower 48 States') 3rd **Dusky Warbler** was banded at our patented Siberian Vagrant Trap: F.I., Oct. 14 (†D. Beadle, †RPH—P.R.B.O.). Golden-crowned Kinglets were widespread but in low numbers, Sept. 30+. An exceptionally early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Año Nuevo Pt., Aug. 23 (GJS). At Pt. Diablo an impressive total of 145 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher sightings was made Aug. 1–Oct. 12 (CLF *et al.*). Most of the other 23 reports (37+ birds) were of November sightings. A light passage of W. Bluebirds was clearly noted at Pt. Diablo (Sept. 1–Oct. 30, CLF *et al.*) and in Santa Cruz (Aug. 15+, DLSu, m.ob.), and F.I. received one (its first ever!) Oct. 14–15. The first-ever record of Westerns for the Mono Basin was of two at Lee Vining Sept. 16–26 (L. Hug, DAG). As usual, the earliest reports of Mountain Bluebirds for the season were of single vagrants: Oct. 13 at both the Lorenzo Trail, Alameda (RJR), and along Roblar Rd., Sonoma (NTC). A Townsend's Solitaire on Sept. 26 was early (or a usual winter arrival date?) at the now-expected locale of Mt. Saint Helena, Napa (BDP). Unexpected solitaires were one on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 20 (RS, DWm), four at F.I., Sept. 11–Nov. 3 ("Average is less than one"), and one in *Del Puerto Cyn.*, Stanislaus, Nov. 29 (†HMR). The F.I. kept its firm grasp on the Region's **Gray-cheeked Thrush** records, with one Oct. 17–18 (J. Curson—P.R.B.O.) furnishing about the 8th island and 10th n. California record, pending judgment from the C.B.R.C.

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS — It seems that many more N. Mockingbirds than usual wandered N, and to the outer coast, with 15 such reports Sept. 26+. Seven Sage Thrashers (many) were away from the Great Basin Aug. 12–Nov. 15, and included one at 9600 ft near Ten Lakes, Yosemite N.P., Aug. 27 (†WGB) and another at Ackerson Meadow, Tuolumne, Aug. 23–24 (JW), both on the Sierran w. slope. Five Brown Thrashers equalled the total for the previous 7 falls combined, and tied the seasonal record (fall 1974). Four were coastward Sept. 25–Oct. 23 and another was at 7100 ft by Silver L., Mono, Nov. 29 (DAG). A **Bendire's Thrasher** near Acampo Oct. 31–Dec. 5 (GEw, †DGY, E. Dickey, m.ob.) was evidently a returnee, as one was here Dec. 21, 1985–Feb. 23, 1986; this is thus an extension of the Region's 6th record. A **Red-throated Pipit** at

Virgin Cr. Beach, Oct. 10–13 (†KFC, DT, D. Wharton et al.) was a Mendocino first, and about the Region's 10th. We have averaged one each fall through the 1980s. Still rarer was our 3rd **Sprague's Pipit** enjoyed Oct. 16 on F.I., whence our other records come as well (†J. Curson, †RPH).

Six Bohemian Waxwings at Lee Vining Nov. 30, and 12 seen there Dec. 8 (DAG), apparently furnished only the Mono Basin's 2nd record. Fifty Bohemians at Susanville Nov. 25 (PhR) were many for there. Cedar Waxwings were quite early in the S.F. Bay Area, with 15 in San Carlos Aug. 19 (PJM) for the first of 4 August reports. "Eastern" Solitary Vireos were at Inverness Oct. 1 (RS) and outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 8 (JM), with "Plumbeous" individuals at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 16–18 (T. Crisler, RFT et al.) and outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 23 (RS). Documentation was said to have been submitted to the C.B.R.C. for a **Yellow-throated Vireo** at the w. edge of Mono L. Aug. 26 (E. Strauss, *fide* DAG); we will await their judgment. There are fewer than 6 Regional records. A very late Warbling Vireo lingered at the n. interior locale of Davis Cr., Modoc, Oct. 28 (JCS). Two sub-regional editors commented on very low numbers in the C.V. this season. Two Philadelphia Vireos were a little below an average showing: Carmel R. mouth Sept. 17 (†DLSu) and outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 18 (RS et al.). Four Red-eyed Vireos (coastal, Aug. 28–Oct. 18) is roughly our average fall total, and includes an overdue first for Santa Cruz at New Brighton State Beach Sept. 11 (†DLSu).

WOOD WARBLERS — These put in a better vagrant show than we have witnessed since fall 1979. Owing to the necessary deadline constraints for this article, I have not attempted to total true records for most of the more common vagrant species, but have simply summarized "reportings" (many of which are duplicates). Those interested may write to me for true record counts, for more quantitative comparisons with previous years.

A **Golden-winged Warbler** on Dechambeau Cr., near Mono L., Aug. 16 (†JHH, J. Uyehara) was the Region's first in 7 years, and about 10th ever. Tennessee Warblers (41 reportings, Aug. 31–Nov. 21) were in only average strength. The farthest-inland record also tied for latest: one in Salinas Nov. 21 (KVV). Six Nashville Warblers in November were all coastal. Eight N. Parulas Aug. 29–Oct. 18 made the best Regional fall total since 1979, and included evidence of possible interior breeding: two birds were together at Rio Bravo on the American R. Parkway, Sacramento, Aug. 29 ("ad. & imm."—DoM, DLO), with the immature seen repeatedly through Oct. 16 (DoM, DLO, GEW et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warblers (40 reportings, Aug. 29–Oct. 28) were in above average numbers, and all coastward. Magnolia Warblers were numerous; among the 49 reportings were 2 exceptional records: a very late individual along Gazos Cr., San Mateo, Nov. 21 (B. Hopkins, B Sch), and one inland at Deadman Cr., Mono, Oct. 11 (DAG). The latter record was at least our 7th away from coastal counties. Four Cape May Warblers appeared: F.I., Sept. 18–20 and Oct. 9, and outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 7 (JMR) & 15–17 (RS, m.ob.). A very impressive 39 reportings of Black-throated Blue Warblers, Sept. 25–Nov. 13, were all coastal except one Nov. 1 at Dechambeau Cr., Mono (E. Strauss). Three subregional editors commented on low numbers of Black-throated Gray Warblers, with only three birds reported lingering into November. Seven Black-throated Green Warblers were identified in the Region, Oct. 9–31. All were coastal (none at F.I.!) except the last, Oct. 31 at Lee Vining (DAG). A sudden, clear drop in fall Blackburnian Warbler records occurred 1982–1986, with four/fall versus over ten/fall average in preceding years. This year's 8 records (coastal, Sept. 13–Oct. 31) may only reflect the good fall. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Stinson Beach Nov. 29 (†KH) fit the characters of the yellow-lored group (*D.d.dominica/stoddardi*), and was only 12 mi from the site of our only other such record (AB 39:208).

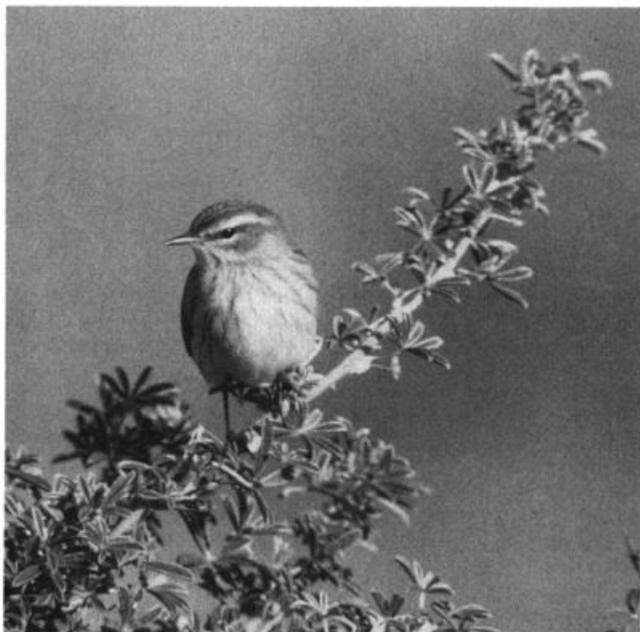
Currently the only C.B.R.C.-accepted records for **Pine Warbler** in the Region are 2 F.I. records (5 mainland records are under consideration), so three documented records this season



Exceptionally rare away from the coast, this Canada Warbler was found at Reichmuth Park, Sacramento, Cal., Sept. 7, 1987. Photo/W. Edward Harper.

were surprising. A well-studied bird was on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 15–17 (JMR, RS, †JM, †MJL, m.ob.), followed by one at F.I., Nov. 18 (†RPH) and, the real shocker, another studied briefly on the Sierran w. slope at Ackerson Meadow Nov. 22 (†JW). Ten Prairie Warblers (many) Sept. 6+ were coastal and included the return of last year's winterer, to Princeton Nov. 9–21 (†AME). Receipt of 196 reportings of Palm Warblers, that number including several summaries as single reportings, is nothing short of staggering. Probably over 300 were identified, making this our best fall ever for our most abundantly-reported landbird (the oxymoronic "most common vagrant"). Highlights: 73 at F.I., including an exceptionally early one Aug. 31–Sept. 1; a possible *D. p. hypochrysea* at outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 9 (RS) and a leucistic bird there Oct. 15 (RS); and three on seabird trips (m.ob.). Amazingly, not one was uncovered away from coastal counties. Of four Bay-breasted Warblers (Sept. 18–Oct. 25), three were in Marin, and F.I. had the other. Blackpoll reportings (97, Aug. 27–Nov. 3) included the F.I. total of 33 birds, and two away from coastal counties: Sept. 25, Lodi L. Wilderness Area (†DGY) and Sept. 29, Mono L. (PJM).

Black-and-white Warblers also showed strongly, with 73 reportings Aug. 20+. Three were in the interior: Aug. 25–27 at w. Mono L. (DAG), Aug. 26 at Reichmuth P., Sacramento (R. Haussler), and Oct. 12 at Lee Vining (DAG). Seventy reportings of Am. Redstarts apparently made only an average showing (all in coastal counties, Aug. 17–Oct. 18). Documented Worm-eating Warblers were at F.I., Oct. 16 (†RPH—P.R.B.O.) and Carmel R. mouth Oct. 25–Nov. 3 (KVV, †DR, RFT, BHG). The only Ovenbird not at outer Pt. Reyes or F.I. (out of eight, Sept. 4–Oct. 14) was one attending Humboldt State Univ., Sept. 4 (D. Leal). The 1982–1987 average (6.3) is only 5/8 that of the previous decade or so. The 26 reportings of N. Waterthrush (Aug. 26–Oct. 19) included 3 records away from the coast: C.C.R.S., Sept. 3 (*fide* LRM), Lundy Cyn., Mono, Sept. 14 (DSi), and on the Napa R. near Oakville Sept. 18 (*fide* HG). The two **Kentucky Warblers** were, amazingly, both away from the coast: w. Mono L. Aug. 13 (DAG) and an adult banded at C.C.R.S., Sept. 18–29 (ph. LRM). Four Connecticut Warblers were noted: C.C.R.S., Sept. 2 (ph. LRM), F.I., Sept. 21–24 (†RAE—P.R.B.O.) and Oct. 12 (†RPH—P.R.B.O.), and outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 9 (†RS). All four Mourning Warblers were on F.I.: Aug. 27–28 (†PP—P.R.B.O.), Sept. 13 (two; †RPH—P.R.B.O.), and Oct. 13 (†RPH—P.R.B.O.). A Com. Yellowthroat at Arcata Marsh Project Nov. 18 (FJB) was very late for the n. coast. The four Hooded Warblers were on the central coast Sept. 1–Oct. 8. Seven Wilson's Warblers lingered into November, with the latest, interior: Nov. 29 by Putah Cr., Yolo (MP). Canada Warblers favored 2 locales: F.I. (three, Aug. 27–Sept. 5) and Reichmuth P., Sacramento, Sept. 6–18 (R. Haussler, ph. WEH, PDG, m.ob.), the latter an ad. male, "likely the same bird as last year" (WEH). A late Yellow-breasted Chat was at Big Sur R. mouth Oct. 8 (†DEG).



Palm Warbler at Point Reyes, Cal., Oct. 10, 1987. Eastern vagrants turned up in remarkable numbers along the Pacific coast during autumn 1987. Photo/Peter LaTourrette.

TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS — Four Summer Tanager (F.I./outer Pt. Reyes, Oct. 15–30) were one more than average. **Scarlet Tanagers** were at Carmel R. mouth Oct. 11–17. (†PEL, †SEF, †DR, MFe, m.ob.—first for Monterey) and F.I., Nov. 16 (†RPH—P.R.B.O.). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were below normal, with two on F.I., three in Marin/S.F., and one inland: Modesto, Stanislaus (a county first), Aug. 17 (†HMR, SLR). A Black-headed Grosbeak, meanwhile, was well behind schedule Oct. 26 at Pt. Diablo (CLF et al.). Indigo Buntings, all coastal Aug. 20–Nov. 16 [late!], were in twice usual numbers, with nine records. A Dickcissel on F.I., Oct. 6 was unique this season. Single Green-tailed Towhees popped up Sept. 13 both in Carmel Valley (†S. Fried) and at Natural Bridges State Beach, Santa Cruz (†DEG), and Oct. 6 on F.I. A Rufous-sided Towhee far offshore from Humboldt Sept. 19 (fide GSL) again implies regular n. coast migration in this species (AB 39:100).

Non-Great Basin Am. Tree Sparrow records totalled a rather slight five, Oct. 16–Nov. 19. There were 44 reportings of Clay-colored Sparrow—clearly far above average, perhaps the best showing ever. One reporting was for 30 on F.I. All were coastal, Aug. 28–Nov. 8. Records of 12 Brewer's Sparrows (Aug. 15–Sept. 30) also were many. Included were firsts for Santa Clara and Santa Cruz and two more farther inland. Vesper Sparrows were well-reported away from breeding areas Aug. 28+, including one near Davidson Seamount, 30 mi off Monterey (SFB, DR, AB, MJL, m.ob.). Coastal vagrant Black-throated Sparrows were a widely-studied bird at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 11–24 (K. Ackerman, †MJL, m.ob.) and another at S.F. Bay N.W.R., Oct. 11–12. Black-throateds are rarely noted in migration in the interior, so three juveniles at Ackerson Meadow Aug. 25 (JW) were excellent. Three Sage Sparrows on the immediate coast were of indeterminate racial group: Elk's Head, Humboldt, Aug. 2 (†LPL, †GSL), S.F. Bay N.W.R., Sept. 5 (fide HG), and Año Nuevo Pt., Sept. 27 (GJS, DLSu). Also puzzling were 10 A. b. nevadensis/canescens at Modesto Res., Oct. 18 (HMR), north of known C.V. breeding. Based on lack of Saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.), this may be only a wintering site and not a breeding locale (AB 36:1014). Eight Lark Buntings were at least average, and contrasted with last fall's zero. Most noteworthy were singles at L. Crowley Sept. 23 (DWm, KHo) and Princeton Oct. 8–9 (BS, RSTh), the latter a San Mateo 3rd record.

Perhaps the season's best landbird was a **Baird's Sparrow**

studied near L. Talawa, Del Norte Sept. 18 (ADB). 10 days short of 18 years since our only other (F.I.), this was California's 3rd. Twenty Grasshopper Sparrows were reported this fall (15 on F.I.—“Way above average”). All were coastal. An astounding three **Le Conte's Sparrows** were identified, for unofficial 7th–9th Regional records (pending C.B.R.C. decisions): F.I. Sept. 18–19 and Sept. 20–24 (†RAE—P.R.B.O.), and Elk's Head, Humboldt, Oct. 10 (†KI). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Pine Gulch Cr., Nov. 7 (three; RS, DWm, JaW) and the s. end of Tomales Bay Nov. 23–Dec. 2 (RS, DWm), the latter declared “a new spot!” (RS). This is no longer a C.B.R.C.-reviewed species, but we continue to encourage documentation. The one dozen reports of Fox Sparrow included several with tentative I.D. to racial group; with caution, much can be learned on their comparative distributions here.

The 57 reportings of Swamp Sparrow were excellent, easily our best fall ever, and included 2 reports of “10+”. All were coastal (Oct. 14+) save three: Modoc N.W.R., Oct. 6 (banded, †E. Bloom), near Grenada, Oct. 7 (†RE) (“Siskiyou's second”—MFRb), and Woodbridge Ecological Reserve Nov. 11 (SHa). White-throated Sparrows were also far above average, the 55 reportings (considerably more individuals) Sept. 19+ near twice last fall's all-time high. Only five individuals were away from coastal counties, however. A Golden-crowned x White-crowned Sparrow hybrid visited F.I., Oct. 13–16. Four Harris' Sparrows were only average; three were coastal Oct. 19+, but one at Lee Vining Nov. 28 (DAG) was exceptional for Mono Basin. “Slate-colored” Dark-eyed Juncos were in average numbers, with 15 of 16 birds reported coastally. The first, on outer Pt. Reyes Sept. 17 (DAH—“pure looking”) was apparently the Region's earliest record by one day.

LONGSPURS THROUGH FINCHES — Single McCown's Longspurs were on outer Pt. Reyes Oct. 24–28 (JM, ALE, JMR, m.ob.) and Hayward Regional Shoreline Oct. 28–Nov. 5 (RJR, JMR, m.ob.). These were 3rd and 4th records for our coast, and should have been documented. Thirty-four reportings of Lapland Longspur [coastal counties Sept. 19+] included peak numbers at 3 locales of 10–12. Chestnut-collared Longspurs showed well coastally Sept. 26+, but the earliest records were on the Sierran w. slope (!): an imm. male at White Wolf, Yosemite N.P., Sept. 21 (†JW, S. Skiff), and two more at nearby Ackerson Meadow Sept. 24 (JW). A Snow Bunting was identified on Bear R. Ridge near Rio Dell, Humboldt, Nov. 29 and remained to Dec. 25 (†FJB, †GSL, †LPL, D. Anderson, m.ob.). An average turnout of Bobolinks was recorded, with 18 coastal individuals Aug. 26–Oct. 23 (10, including first and last, on F.I.). North coast Tricolored Blackbirds were eight at McKinleyville Oct. 3 (RLeV) and two at Ft. Dick Oct. 19–23 (ADB). A flock of 400 was n. of Irish Beach Oct. 11 (DT); we have few reports on their status in Mendocino. Passage of W. Meadowlarks at Pt. Diablo, Oct. 4–Nov. 29 (CLF et al.) totaled 157. This species is strongly migratory throughout our Region. Fifteen Yellow-headed Blackbirds were coastal Aug. 26–Nov. 1. A Rusty Blackbird at Half Moon Bay Nov. 18–22 (BS, CGR) was noteworthy, but one at White Slough W.M.A., San Joaquin, Nov. 29 (ph. †GWW) provided our 5th interior record. A **Great-tailed Grackle** at Los Baños W.M.A., Nov. 13–23 (refuge personnel, †PhR, BED, EHa) was the 9th for the Region (5th for the C.V.), with our first and 4th records extended to at least Nov. 17 (M. Mericle) as the S.F. pair continued to be reported. These two birds are now at least 9 and 8 years old. Seven Orchard Orioles (all coastal, Aug. 21–Oct. 28) compares well with the recent average of four to five. A ♀ Hooded Oriole in Capitola Nov. 11 (DLSu) was the latest by nearly 2 months, and should have been documented (AB 39:208). One of the five “Baltimore” N. Orioles was not coastal: Lodi L. Wilderness Area Aug. 18 (†DGY).

Five reports of Cassin's Finches were of 21 extralimital birds west of usual areas Oct. 16–Nov. 29, with 75 at Medicine L., Siskiyou (BY et al.) very many for there. More than 50 reportings of Red Crossbills (including several large summaries) elucidated a strong irruption (although short of that in 1984–1985).

Birds were at high and low elevations, with no strong geographic trend shown, but they appeared to peak in late October/early November. Not one report mentioned racial groups (AB 39:209). The few Pine Siskin reports were of high numbers, e.g., 794 passing Pt. Diablo Sept. 30–Nov. 15 (CLF *et al.*). Most of the 36 Lawrence's Goldfinches reported [many] were in Monterey. One at Gazos Cr. mouth Oct. 17 (PJM) furnished a "first outer coast record for San Mateo." The 358+ Evening Grosbeaks represented a moderately above-average influx; 75% were in coastal counties, with an impressive 138 in Marin.

ADDENDUM — An ad. ♂ Phainopepla was feeding four young one mi from Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve Aug. 3–Sept. 3, 1985 (D. Regnery, *vide* DLSu). This was a first breeding record for San Mateo, where there had been only 3 records of the species as of July 1984 (San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching, 1984).

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

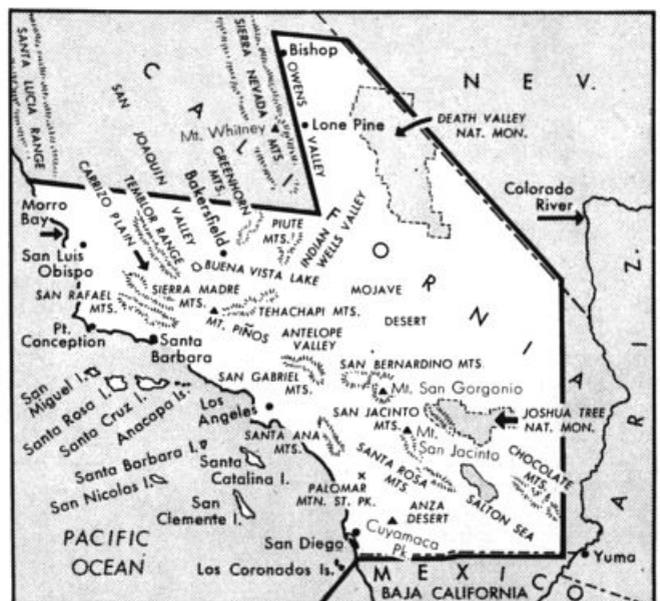
Guy McCaskie

This was the most exciting fall migration period in recent memory with 445 species reported. Members of the Corvidae were clearly on the move, along with chickadees and nuthatches, and a flight of finches produced some interesting reports. In addition, an exceptional number and variety of vagrants from the East made for some very exciting birding.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley; L.A.C.M. = Los Angeles County Museum in Los Angeles; L.S.U.M.Z. = Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology in Baton Rouge; 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; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.; U.C.S.B. = University of California in Santa Barbara. 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 STORKS — Three Pacific Loons on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Nov. 20 (CMcG) were inland. A Red-necked Grebe, rare in s. California, in Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 24 (TME) was the only one reported.

During a scientific survey of the oceanic waters off s. California and n. Baja California, Nov. 14–27, only 25 Black-footed Albatrosses were encountered, all being s. of Los Angeles Nov. 18–21 (RRV), but nine Laysan Albatrosses were seen, all n. of



Santa Barbara Nov. 24–27 (RRV), including one 10 mi off Goleta Nov. 24, five 75 mi w.s.w. of Pt. Conception Nov. 25, and one 30 mi off Oceano Nov. 27. A N. Fulmar off San Diego Sept. 5 (JLD) had undoubtedly summered locally, but 50 off Pt. Conception Nov. 25 (RRV) were winter arrivals. Ten Buller's Shearwaters off Morro Bay Sept. 26 (TME) were in an area where this species undoubtedly occurs regularly, but a Short-

tailed Shearwater 40 mi off Pt Conception Nov 25 (RRV) was the only one reported. One thousand Black-vented Shearwaters off Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbara Co., Nov. 1 (KH) and 2500 off Morro Bay Nov. 22–25 (TME) were the largest concentrations reported. Two Wilson's Storm-Petrels, a species now considered casual off California but proving to be annual in small numbers, were seen at a point about midway between Pt Conception and San Miguel I., Sept. 18 (RRV). Five Ashy Storm-Petrels over the Lawson Seamount s. of Santa Catalina I., Sept. 27 (BED) were unexpected at this time of year. Least Storm-Petrels were present off s. California in small numbers during September with five midway between Pt. Conception and San Miguel I., Sept. 18 (RRV), being the northernmost; two over the Tanner Bank off San Clemente, I., Sept. 26 (JKA) and another near Santa Barbara I., Nov. 15 (JLD) were in areas where few are found.

A Red-billed Tropicbird c. 150 mi off San Diego Sept. 9 (RRV) was the closest to shore of seven seen during a survey of the waters off s. California and n. Baja California in September. An ad. **Masked Booby** well seen in flight over San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego Co., Nov. 14 (LS) was only the 2nd ever to be reported in California, the first being an adult seen near San Clemente I., Jan. 10, 1977 (*W. Birds* 9:175–176, 1978). An imm. brown morph **Red-footed Booby** near Santa Barbara I., Oct. 11 (KLG) and another off the n. end of Santa Catalina I., Nov. 15 (JLD) were both photographed, and deemed to be different birds by those comparing the photographs. There is only one previous report of this species in s. California (AB 39:349, 1985); however, considering the number found along the California coast this year, it is clear that something, as yet unknown, stimulated a movement of these birds into the oceanic waters off California.

An ad. **Olivaceous Cormorant** at S.E.S.S., Aug. 15–29 (GMcC) could have been the bird frequenting the N.E.S.S. off and on since 1982, but was just as likely a new arrival. Two imm. Magnificent Frigatebirds at N.E.S.S., Aug. 15 (GMcC), another there Sept. 19 (REW), and three over Salton City Aug. 8 (RMcK) were the only ones reported.

The only Little Blue Herons found away from the San Diego area were an immature at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Aug. 22 (TEW) and another at S.E.S.S., Aug. 8 (REW). An ad. Reddish Egret on s. San Diego Bay Sept. 25+ (MS) was undoubtedly the same bird known to have spent the past 5 winters here. It is clear from the numbers of Cattle Egrets found away from areas of regular occurrence during late October, and throughout November, that this is the time these birds are migrating; six about 150 mi off Santa Barbara Nov. 23 (RRV) were clearly lost. A White-faced Ibis in Santa Barbara Sept. 7 (PEL) and another on Morro Bay Sept. 6 (BD) were both in an area where now considered rare. A Wood Stork near Oceanside Oct. 21 (SB) was the only one found away from the s. end of the Salton Sea.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — A flock of 24 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at S.E.S.S., Aug. 10 (JLD) was a large number, and one at McGrath L. near Ventura Aug. 5–7 (RJM) was along the coast. Three Tundra Swans in Goleta Nov. 20–21 (RPH), one in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles Co., Nov. 10 (DA), and one near Lakeview, Riverside Co., Nov. 17+ (AMC) were the southernmost of the few reported. Thirty Greater White-fronted Geese over Santa Barbara Sept. 24 (TEW) were early, and 18 flying over the open ocean off Huntington Beach Nov. 26 (LRH) were at an unusual location. Two Ross' Geese at Harper Dry Lake, San Bernardino Co., Nov. 18 (CD) were in an area where considered very rare. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon on Morro Bay Oct. 24 (TME) was the earliest of six reported this fall. A ♂ Ring-necked Duck at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Sept. 10 (JLD) was apparently a fall migrant, illustrating just how early some individuals are on the move. A ♂ Tufted Duck on Quail L., Los Angeles Co., Nov. 19+ (BED) was undoubtedly the same bird found here in other recent winters, and a male on L. Cachuma Nov. 30+ (PEL) was the first for Santa Barbara County. A Greater Scaup in Ventura Oct. 24 (JSR) was quite early and another at Death Valley Junction, Inyo Co., Nov. 14–

18 (REW) was at an unusual location. A ♂ Harlequin Duck at Bolsa Chica Nov. 14+ (LRH) was the same bird present here for the past 3 winters. Only four Oldsquaws had been found along the coast by the end of the period, but one was found inland on Klondike L., near Big Pine, Nov. 17 (JLD). A Black Scoter at Pt. Mugu Oct. 24 (JSR) was the earliest, and one to three at Huntington Beach Nov. 24+ (R & MW) were the southernmost, of the 15 reported. Two Surf Scoters on Diaz L., near Lone Pine, Nov. 9 (CMcG), another there Nov. 16–17 (JLD), and seven on L. Cachuma Nov. 20 (JLD) were inland.

An imm. Bald Eagle in Carpinteria Nov. 10 (PEL), another at Pt. Mugu Nov. 29+ (RJM), and a 3rd over Pt. Loma Nov. 16 (REW) were along the coast where now considered very rare. An imm. N. Goshawk at Oasis, Mono Co., Nov. 17+ (JLD) was in the n.e. portion of the Region where small numbers regularly occur at this time of year. Red-shouldered Hawks were widely scattered throughout the e. part of the Region e. of the species' breeding range, as indicated by reports of 15± from desert oases from Oasis south to N.E.S.S., Aug. 2+. Broad-winged Hawks were scarcer than expected with two over Pt. Loma Oct. 3 (REW), one near Malibu Nov. 7 (KLG), and a dark-phased individual in Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 14 (KJZ). An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk in Valley Center, San Diego Co., Sept. 24 (RMcK) was the only one reported. A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk photographed near Ridgecrest, Kern Co., Nov. 21–22 (DB) was only the 7th to be found in s. California. A Rough-legged Hawk at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 21 (EAC) was early, and another at F.C.R., Oct. 31 (REW) was at an unusual location. A Merlin at Morro Bay Sept. 13 (JS) was the earliest this fall. Of the 20± Peregrine Falcons reported, an adult at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 9 (EAC), an immature at N.E.S.S., Aug. 15 (GMcC), and another at S.E.S.S., Aug. 4–10 (CM) were the only ones away from the coast where many are hatched.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — A Sandhill Crane in Saticoy, Ventura Co., Nov. 22+ (JSR) was along the coast where considered casual. Of 70± Lesser Golden-Plovers reported Aug. 15+, 11 were identified as the form *dominica* between Sept. 22 and Nov. 17, including one inland at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 14 (CMcG) and single birds at N.E.S.S., Oct. 3 (RMcK) & 16 (FEB), and 56 others were identified as *fulva*, including up to 35 around Santa Maria, Santa Barbara Co., Sept. 1–Nov. 11 (CDB). An **American Oystercatcher** photographed on Pt. Loma with a Black Oystercatcher Sept. 11 (TEC) was only the 5th ever to be found on the mainland coast of California. Solitary Sandpipers appeared to be slightly more numerous and widespread than expected with 85± reported Aug. 1–Oct. 21 including six together at Galileo Hill, Kern Co., Sept. 6 (JW1). Away from the Salton Sea, where small numbers of Ruddy Turnstones regularly occur each fall, one was inland at Harper Dry Lake Aug. 20 (EAC) and another was on L. Hodges, San Diego Co., Aug. 14 (GMcC). Two Sanderlings at Harper Dry Lake Sept. 18 (EAC) were the only ones found inland away from the Salton Sea. Thirty-six juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were found Aug. 1–Sept. 11 including inland records of one on the Goose L. evaporation ponds near Wasco, Kern Co., Aug. 14 (MOC), five at Harper Dry Lake between Aug. 14 and Sept. 10 (EAC), one near Lancaster Aug. 8–10 (JLD), and two more there Aug. 17 (JA).

Approximately 250 Baird's Sandpipers found Aug. 1–Oct. 18 and 300± Pectoral Sandpipers Aug. 19–Oct. 26 were about average numbers, with two Pectoral Sandpipers at Harper Dry Lake Nov. 23 (EAC) being late. Three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, casual fall stragglers to s. California, were reported with a juvenile near Santa Maria Sept. 24 (PEL), another there Oct. 7 (KJZ), and the 3rd at S.C.R.E., Oct. 4–7 (RJM). A Rock Sandpiper at Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo Co., Nov. 23+ (CM) was undoubtedly the bird that spent the last 2 winters in this area. Away from the Salton Sea, single Stilt Sandpipers on the Goose L. evaporation ponds Aug. 1 (MOC) and Oct. 13 (SS), three near Santa Maria Sept. 3–8 (PEL) and another there Oct. 7 (PEL), one in Port Hueneme Oct. 24 (JSR), and an 8th in Chula Vista Nov. 19–20 (CGE) were all in areas where the species is con-

sidered casual. The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper to be found this fall was one near Santa Maria Sept 6 (A & JC). Six Ruffs were reported with one on Morro Bay Nov. 19+ (KJZ), a juvenile near Santa Maria Sept. 3-6 (PEL), another juvenile in Anaheim Sept. 15 (DRW), an adult on s. San Diego Bay Aug. 8+ (FEB), another adult near Imperial Beach Sept. 13+ (FEB), and the 6th inland on the Goose L. evaporation ponds Aug. 12-13 (MOC). Two Wilson's Phalaropes in El Centro Nov. 9 (GmC) were late.

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — Up to six Parasitic Jaegers at N.E.S.S., Sept. 3-Oct. 13 (SWC, CMcG) and one on L. Palmdale in the Antelope Valley Sept. 6 (KLG) were inland. A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger, casual inland, was at N.E.S.S., Sept. 19 (REW), a bird thought to be a one-year-old individual was there Sept. 30-Oct. 3 (JLD, RMcK, *L.A.C.M.), and what was probably a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger was at Lancaster, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 5-6 (RPo). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger in Bolsa Chica Sept. 30 (LRH) was on shore, and another near San Nicholas I., Nov. 20 (RRV) was very late.

Seven Franklin's Gulls along the coast between Aug. 24 and the end of the period were about average numbers. An imm. Little Gull photographed on Tulare L., Sept. 27 (CVP) was the first to be found in Kern County. Six Heermann's Gulls, casual away from the coast, were found inland with single birds in Brawley Sept. 3 (BED), at S.E.S.S., Aug. 4 (CM) and Sept. 5 (SWC, *L.S.U.M.Z.), at N.E.S.S., Aug. 9 (JLD) & 29 (GmC), and the 6th on L. Perris, Riverside Co., Oct. 23 (CMcG). A juv. Mew Gull in San Luis Obispo Aug. 20-24 (GPS) was one of the earliest ever for s. California. A Ring-billed Gull at Santa Barbara I., Nov. 15 (JLD) was one of a very few ever to be seen around the Channel Is. or elsewhere offshore. Fourteen Herring Gulls on the Salton Sea Sept. 19 (REW) were the earliest this fall, and eight on Harper Dry Lake Nov. 6 (EAC) were at an unusual locality. An imm. Thayer's Gull at F.C.R., Oct. 25 (PEL) was not only early, but also at a most unusual locality. Two juv. W. Gulls at N.E.S.S., Sept. 3 (SWC, *L.S.U.M.Z.) and an adult at nearby Salton City Nov. 14 (CDB) were inland, as was a Glaucous-winged Gull at S.E.S.S., Oct. 13 (CMcG). Up to three juv. Sabine's Gulls at N.E.S.S., Oct. 3-16 (RMcK, FEB) were the only ones found inland this fall; two juveniles near Santa Barbara I., Nov. 15 (JLD) were late.

A Marbled Murrelet in Goleta Nov. 28 (RPH) was s. of its normal range. A Xantus' Murrelet off San Diego Sept. 5 (JLD) and another near Santa Barbara I., Oct. 11 (KLG) were both of the s. form *hypoleuca*, rarely encountered in California waters. Craveri's Murrelets were somewhat scarce with two off San Diego Sept. 5 (JLD) and five off Avila Beach Sept. 8 (RRV) being the only ones reported. An Ancient Murrelet off Santa Barbara Nov. 24 (RRV) was the only one reported. A Tufted Puffin off Morro Bay Sept. 26 (BSc) was in an area where few have been found.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — As is apparently normal, a few Band-tailed Pigeons moved out of the mountains into the lowlands, as indicated by such sightings as single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 13-15 (D & MH) and in Huntington Beach Nov. 7-14 (BED) on the coast, and at Butterfield Ranch in the desert of e. San Diego County Nov. 14 (CDB). Eighteen White-winged Doves along the coast were as expected, with one in Oceano Oct. 9 (PEL) and another in San Simeon Oct. 1 (CM) being somewhat n. of where most are found, and one near Olancho, Inyo Co., Sept. 2 (HG) being well to the n. of its inland range. Two Inca Doves in Baker Nov. 18 (BED) were some distance to the n.w. of the species' range along the Colorado River. Common Ground-Doves continue to expand their range N along the coast, now being widespread in coastal Ventura County with up to 20 seen in a day around Oxnard during September (JSR), and reaching Santa Barbara County with one in Santa Barbara Oct. 13 (VP) and up to two in Goleta Sept. 29+ (JLD); one at Oasis Oct. 12 (JWi) was exceptionally far north. Two **Ruddy Ground-Doves** were found in the e. part

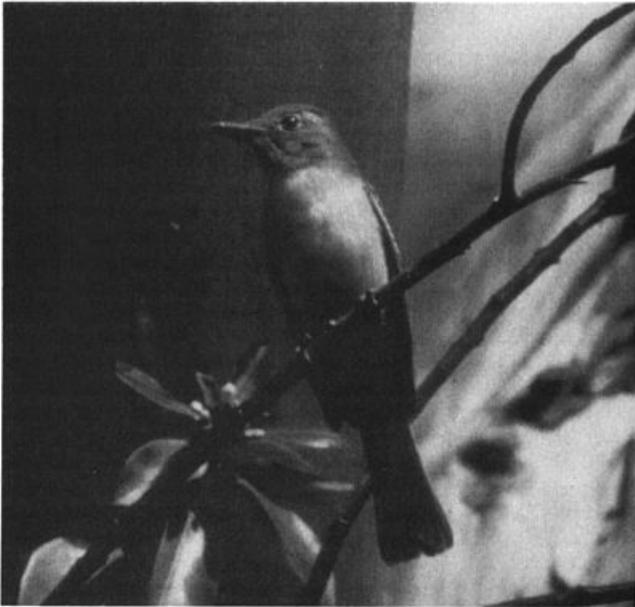
of the Region, with a female in Tecopa Sept 15-20 (JT) and a male at F C R , Oct. 17+ (BED), with the revelation that a male was in Tecopa Sept. 20-30, 1984 (JT), there have now been six of these birds found in California in recent years.

More than the expected numbers of Short-eared Owls were reported, with one at Harper Dry Lake Sept. 2 (SWC) and another at Stovepipe Wells near F.C.R., Sept. 19 (JLD) being the earliest. A N. Saw-whet Owl that struck a window in Northridge, Los Angeles Co., Sept. 9 (DR, *L.A.C.M.) was exceptionally early for the lowlands, where very few have been found. Four Com. Nighthawks on Table Mt. in the San Gabriel Mts., Los Angeles Co., Aug. 9 (JLD) gave us only the 2nd record for this well-worked area, indicating they were not nesting locally. Ten migrant Black Swifts were over Pt. Loma Oct. 3 (REW), another was there Oct. 11 (GmC), and single birds were seen over Port Hueneme Aug. 15 (JLD) and at N.E.S.S., Sept. 30 (JLD). A ♂ Broad-billed Hummingbird, very rare to casual in California, was in Ventura Nov. 22+ (VJK) and another was in Mission Viejo, Orange Co., Nov. 30+ (DRW).

Lewis' Woodpeckers were scattered throughout the Region in small numbers, even reaching the s. coast as indicated by one on Pt. Loma Oct. 1-14 (JO'B). Since Acorn Woodpeckers do not normally reach the s. coast, one on the Long Beach breakwater Oct. 17 (LRH) and five seen on Pt. Loma between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15 (REW), along with another out on the high desert at L. Palmdale Sept. 12 (KLG), indicated a movement of these birds. Four Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in the n.e. part of the Region with a male in Big Pine Nov. 17-28 (JLD), a juvenile at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nov. 27 (DRW), another juvenile at F.C.R., Oct. 6 (SS), and a male there Nov. 21 (MAP). A Red-naped Sapsucker in Morongo Valley Aug. 11 (JLD) was remarkably early for such a location. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker on Pt. Loma Oct. 11 (DMM), along with single males there Oct. 15-17 (FEB) & 20-22 (GJ), were along the coast where casual, and another in Yucca Valley, San Bernardino Co., Oct. 24 (CMcG) was on the high desert where rare.

A Ladder-backed Woodpecker at F.C.R., Sept. 20 (MAP) had wandered some distance from its normal range. Single Nuttall's Woodpeckers in California City Sept. 7 (RS) and Nov. 8 (MOC) were away from areas of normal occurrence. A Hairy Woodpecker in Long Beach Oct. 7 (BED) and another at the upper end of Newport Bay Nov. 17+ (LRH) were on the immediate coast, and single birds around California City Sept. 12-Oct. 3 (JLD) and Nov. 8 (MOC) were at desert locations. There was an obvious movement of White-headed Woodpeckers, normally sedentary, into the lowlands, with 10 found in the coastal lowlands between Vandenberg Air Force Base and Malibu after Aug. 24, one in the Santa Ana Mts. of Orange Co., Nov. 14+ (BED), up to two in the s. San Joaquin Valley near Bakersfield Oct. 10+ (MOC), and one on the high desert at California City Oct. 3 (JWi); without birds in hand to determine the racial identification, we are unable to tell where these individuals came from.

FLYCATCHERS — An *Empidonax* carefully studied and photographed in Carpinteria Oct. 16 (PEL) appeared visually perfect for a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**, but unfortunately remained silent. A "Traill's Flycatcher" at Oasis Sept. 6 (REW) was giving calls generally regarded as typical of the **Alder Flycatcher** (Birding 18:153-159, 1986), but some observers question whether the differences in the calls between Alder and Willow flycatchers are diagnostic. Both Yellow-bellied and Alder flycatchers are previously unrecorded in s. California, and these sightings may not be accepted by the C.B.R.C., or stand the test of time. However, it is important that observers document such records, for it is from such efforts that our knowledge of these flycatchers is gained. Least Flycatchers, formerly considered accidental in California, but now known to occur regularly in small numbers, were scarcer than expected with one at F.C.R., Sept. 5 (BED), another at Oasis Sept. 6 (REW), a 3rd in Ventura Sept. 16 (RJM), and somewhat late individuals in Huntington Beach Nov. 11 (LRH) and in nearby



Great Crested Flycatcher at Oceano Campground, Cal., Oct. 7, 1987. Photo/Kevin J. Zimmer.

Mission Viejo Nov. 30+ (DRW) being the only ones reported. An E. Phoebe, a very rare to casual straggler to California, was in California City Oct. 23-24 (PEL), another was in Irvine Oct. 28-29 (DRW), and a 3rd was on Pt. Loma Nov. 4-6 (GMcC). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Goleta Nov. 11-20 (RPH) was the northernmost of five found along the coast. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher in Mission Viejo Nov. 21+ (MMcD) was only the 8th ever to be found in s. California. A Great Crested Flycatcher, casual to accidental in California, was on Pt. Loma Sept. 25 (GMcC) and another was photographed in Oceano Oct. 6-7 (BSc). Fifteen Tropical Kingbirds along the coast between Sept. 15 and Oct. 20 were more than normally expected. A **Thick-billed Kingbird** near Tustin Nov. 4+ (LRH) was undoubtedly the bird that has spent the last 5 winters at this location. Ten E. Kingbirds along the coast between Aug. 30 and Oct. 3 were more than usual, but one at F.C.R., Sept. 5 (KR) was the only one found inland. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was at Ramer L. near S.E.S.S., Aug. 29 (AME) and another was at F.C.R., Oct. 24 (PEL).

JAYS THROUGH DIPPER — Most species of Corvidae occurring in California appeared to be on the move with Steller's Jays found in the lowlands of Inyo County, and Scrub Jays scattered throughout most of the e. portion of the Region. Flocks of Pinyon Jays were found out of range such as the 17 in Goleta Sept. 24 (PEL), 25 in Cuyamaca S.P. in the mountains of San Diego County Sept. 19 (SM), and the 75 in Quatal Canyon, n.e. Ventura Co., Oct. 11 (PU), as well as a scattering of individuals throughout the high desert. A Clark's Nutcracker at F.C.R., Sept. 19-20 (JLD), another at Barker Dam in Joshua Tree N.M., Aug. 30 (DMM), and 11 in Caruther's Canyon of the New York Mts., San Bernardino Co., Sept. 1-3 (RR) were all well out of range.

Starting in August there was a major movement of Mountain Chickadees into the coastal and desert lowlands and throughout the Region except for the extreme s.e. portion, with the largest numbers noted during September and October; noteworthy occurrences included three at F.C.R., Nov. 18 (BED), one at Harper Dry Lake Sept. 18 (CMcG), 25 at L. Palmdale Sept. 19 (KLG), one at Morro Bay S.P., Oct. 31 (CM), and six on Pt. Loma Sept. 7 (JLD). A Bushtit in Salton City Sept. 30 (JLD) was the first ever to be found in the lowlands of Imperial County.

Red-breasted Nuthatches, although scattered throughout the Region, were in lower than expected numbers in the lowlands,

indicating movements of this species are unrelated to movements of other Sittidae. White-breasted Nuthatches were widespread outside their normal breeding habitat after mid-August, being found throughout the high desert and along the entire coast; individuals at F.C.R., Sept. 11-19 and in nearby Shoshone Sept. 19 (JLD) were identified by call as being of the interior race *tenuissima*, while most of those along the coast were felt to be *aculeata*, indicating that birds from at least 2 distinct areas were probably involved in the flight. This fall marked one of the largest invasions into the lowlands by Pygmy Nuthatches on record, with many being found on the immediate coast after the first of August, such as the 16 on Pt. Loma Aug. 29 (REW), two in Long Beach Oct. 7 (BED), and up to 12 in Malibu during September (KLG); eight near Tustin Nov. 6-9 (BED) were the first ever to be found in Orange County. One in Inyokern, Kern Co., Sept. 2 (HG), one in Lancaster Nov. 27 (KLG), four to five in Palmdale Sept. 15-20 (JKA), and three to four in Yucca Valley Sept. 19-Oct. 24 (CMcG) were the only ones reported from the area e. of the mountains, indicating that few moved out into the deserts.

A scattering of Brown Creepers produced sightings from most well-worked sites on the high desert as well as from along the entire coast. As expected, small numbers of Winter Wrens were found throughout the high deserts, with one at F.C.R., Nov. 8-27 (KLG, JLD) felt possibly to be of the e. form *hiemalis* rather than the expected w. form *pacificus*; one near Anaheim Oct. 24 (DRW) and another on Pt. Loma Oct. 3-11 (REW) were unusually far south. An Am. Dipper in Santa Barbara Aug. 10 (BSm) was slightly out of range and early for such a locality.

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS — A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Huntington Beach Sept. 5 (LRH) was notably early for the coast. A Townsend's Solitaire at Galileo Hill in e. Kern County Aug. 29 (JWi) was unusually early for such a location, and single birds in Irvine Nov. 4 (DRW) and on Pt. Loma Oct. 10-13 (GMcC) were along the coast, where considered rare. A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** on Pt. Loma Oct. 2-10 (GMcC) was only the 2nd ever to be found in the Region, and the first ever to be seen by multiple observers, even though there now have been more than one dozen recorded in California. A light movement of Varied Thrushes scattered individuals throughout the high desert, with a somewhat early individual at Deep Springs Sept. 20 (AME), and along the coast to as far south as San Diego County with single birds seen on Pt. Loma Nov. 7-8 (REW) & 13 (REW).

Four Gray Catbirds were more than could be expected, with one at Scotty's Castle Oct. 16 (JLD) and another at nearby F.C.R., Nov. 7-8 (MT), a 3rd near Palm Springs Sept. 23 (TG), and the 4th along the coast on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Los Angeles Co., Oct. 16-18 (RH). A Sage Thrasher near Santa Maria Sept. 24 (JMcD) was the first to be found along Santa Barbara County's n. coast. A Brown Thrasher at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 17 (NBB) and another in Los Angeles County's Eaton Canyon Oct. 18 (HP) were the only ones reported.

All three species of *Motacilla* so far recorded in California were found, with a **Yellow Wagtail** at the mouth of Malibu Creek in Malibu Sept. 6 (WC, KY) being the 2nd ever to be found in s. California. An ad. **White Wagtail** in Oxnard Nov. 22+ (JSR) was the 2nd to be found in California, the previous occurrence involving an adult in San Luis Obispo County Oct. 9, 1983 (AB 38:247) and what appeared to be the same bird at the same location Oct. 5-8, 1984 (AB 39:104). An ad. **Black-backed Wagtail** in Port Hueneme Aug. 2-Sept. 7 (RJM) was the first to be found in s. California, although four unidentified imm. White/Black-backed wagtails have previously been reported. Small numbers of Red-throated Pipits were present along the coast as indicated by one at Morro Bay Oct. 9-17 (CM), single birds in Goleta Oct. 6 (JLD) & 15 (HPR), another near Oxnard Oct. 11 (RJM), and one to two near Imperial Beach Oct. 7-10 (REW), and one was inland at F.C.R., Sept. 19-20 (JLD). A Sprague's Pipit, very rare in California, was in Goleta Oct. 5 (CDB) and another was near Lakeview Nov. 3+ (CMcG).

A flock of 17 Bohemian Waxwings at Oasis Nov. 15 (MAP),

with one to two present there through the end of the period, indicated a movement of these birds. Northern Shrikes reached the extreme n.e. corner of the Region as indicated by the presence of an adult at Oasis Nov. 9 (CMcG), an immature there Nov. 15 (MAP), and another immature at nearby Big Pine Nov. 17–28 (JLD).

A **White-eyed Vireo** in Carpinteria Oct. 21–30 (RPH) was the first ever to be found in California in fall. A Bell's Vireo in Carpinteria Aug. 24–Sept. 1 (GT) had been color-banded as a fledgling along the Santa Margarita R. in San Diego County during the summer. Four Solitary Vireos of the eastern "Blue-headed" form, casual to accidental in California, were found, with one at Pismo Beach Oct. 1 (KJZ), another in Arcadia, Los Angeles Co., Nov. 14 (MK), and single individuals on Pt. Loma Oct. 10 (DP) & 18 (JB). A Plumbeous Solitary Vireo (*V. s. plumbeus*) in Cambria Sept. 12 (K & JH) was unusually far north for being on the coast, and another in Hart Park near Bakersfield Oct. 10 (MOC) was in the San Joaquin Valley. A Yellow-throated Vireo, casual anywhere in California, was in Goleta Nov. 18–19 (KB). Two Philadelphia Vireos were found with one in Oceano Nov. 1 (TME) and the other near Imperial Beach Oct. 23–29 (EB). More than the expected number of Red-eyed Vireos were reported with one in Carpinteria Aug. 31–Sept. 13 (GHR), single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 4 (JB) and Oct. 10–12 (MAP), one near Imperial Beach Oct. 18–20 (JO'B), a 5th inland at F.C.R., Sept. 20 (LK), another at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 17 (EAC), one more at L. Palmdale Sept. 6 (KLG), and an 8th near Palm Springs Oct. 2 (RMcK). A Yellow-green Vireo, a vagrant from the south, was at Big Sycamore Canyon S.P., Sept. 21–Oct. 4 (NM).

WOOD WARBLERS — An exceptional number and variety of wood warblers was found this fall, with 38 species reported. Of the regular vagrants, 28 Tennessee Warblers (all along the coast), 40 Black-and-white Warblers, 60 Am. Redstarts, and 33 N. Waterthrushes were reported. A Virginia's Warbler in Morro Bay S.P., Sept. 15 (TME) was the northernmost of the 18 found along the coast between Aug. 29 and Oct. 10, and one at S.E.S.S., Sept. 3 (CM) was at an unusual locality. Nine Lucy's Warblers along the coast between Aug. 30 and Nov. 19 were more than expected. Thirteen N. Parulas between Sept. 8 and Nov. 11 included one at Forrest Homes in the San Bernardino Mts., Nov. 11 (EAC). Twenty Chestnut-sided Warblers along the coast between Aug. 22 and Nov. 14, along with single birds inland at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 14 (EAC) and in Banning Nov. 17 (RMcK), made an unusually large number. Single Magnolia Warblers at Deep Springs Sept. 28 (PJM), at F.C.R., Sept. 20 (MAP), and on Mt. Pinos Oct. 11 (PU) were the only ones (of the 12 reported between Sept. 20 and Oct. 30) away from the immediate coast. A ♂ Cape May Warbler well photographed



Cape May Warbler at Galileo Hill, Kern Co., Cal., Sept. 25, 1987. Photo/John Wilson.

at Galileo Hill Sept. 25–26 (JW) was the only one found. A ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler found near Weldon, Kern Co., Aug. 12 (LH) had probably summered locally, and 21 reported from scattered localities throughout the Region between Sept. 19 and Nov. 7 made an exceptional number, considering the species' normal range. A Townsend's Warbler in the San Bernardino Mts., Aug. 2 (BAC) and another in Irvine Aug. 10 (DRW) were both unusually early. Nine Black-throated Green Warblers between Oct. 2 and Nov. 14 were only slightly more than average, but 16 Blackburnian Warblers (all coastal) between Sept. 17 and Nov. 11 were more than double the expected.

A Yellow-throated Warbler, very rare at any time in California, was well seen near Murrieta, Riverside Co., Sept. 8 (IPL). Single Grace's Warblers were found on Pt. Loma Sept. 27 (REW) and Nov. 11 (REW), and returning wintering birds were back in Santa Barbara Oct. 4+ (JEL), Ventura Oct. 25+ (RJM), and Newport Beach Nov. 22+ (BED). Three Pine Warblers, casual stragglers to California, were reported, with a male inland in Riverside Oct. 1 (DG) and single females along the coast near Imperial Beach Nov. 1 (GMcC) and in Gaviota Nov. 5 (PEL). Single Prairie Warblers near Oxnard Oct. 14–16 (RJM), in Huntington Beach Oct. 8–10 (DRW), and near Imperial Beach Oct. 10 (GMcC) made an average number. Some 125 Palm Warblers were reported including an exceptionally early individual at Arroyo de la Cruz, San Luis Obispo Co., Sept. 12 (TME), and individuals inland in Bishop Sept. 26 (PJM), near Olancho Sept. 17 (JLD), at F.C.R., Sept. 20 (JML), Galileo Hill Oct. 17–24 (RS), and Harper Dry Lake Oct. 1 (EAC). Five Bay-breasted Warblers were found with one inland at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 1 (EAC), one in Huntington Beach Oct. 12–25 (DRW), and three in the San Diego area between Oct. 1 & 12 (DP, FEB, REW). The number of Blackpoll Warblers found was much higher than expected with 90± reported including four inland in e. Kern County between Sept. 12 and Oct. 8 (JLD, JW), one at Death Valley Junction Sept. 11 (JLD), and another at Harper Dry Lake Oct. 14 (CMcG); one near Imperial Beach Nov. 26 (EC) was exceptionally late.



Worm-eating Warbler at Huntington Beach Central Park, Cal., Oct. 23, 1987. Photo/James R. Gallagher.

Six Prothonotary Warblers were reported with single birds inland at F.C.R., Sept. 5–11 (KR), Galileo Hill Oct. 2–3 (JW), Harper Dry Lake Oct. 9 (EAC), N.E.S.S., Sept. 3 (DLD), and S.E.S.S., Sept. 5 (MCM), and the 6th along the coast on Pt. Loma Oct. 25 (D & MH). A Worm-eating Warbler, another very rare straggler to California, was on Pt. Loma Oct. 17+ (JW) and another was in Huntington Beach Oct. 21+ (BED), both apparently attempting to winter locally. Seven Ovenbirds between Sept. 6 and Oct. 10 made close to an average number. A Connecticut Warbler, a casual fall and spring straggler to California, was photographed in Big Sycamore Canyon S.P., Sept. 27 (PEL). Three Hooded Warblers were found with a male

at Arroyo de la Cruz Nov 14 (GPS), another male in Montaña de Oro S.P., Oct 11 (JSR), and a female in Goleta Oct 13 (PEL) Four Canada Warblers were close to average numbers with single birds in Carpinteria Aug. 30–Sept. 6 (A & JC) and Oct. 11 (CDB), one in Huntington Beach Sept. 13–15 (BED), and the 4th on Pt. Loma Oct. 9 (REW). A Painted Redstart, always an exciting find here in California, was in Morongo Valley Sept. 14 (TEC), and single birds were seen along the coast on Pt. Loma Nov. 8 (RF), in Santa Barbara Sept. 21 (BSm), and in Montaña de Oro S.P., Sept. 10 (GPS), with one in Coronado, San Diego Co., Nov. 25+ (EC) attempting to winter locally.

TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — A ♀ Hepatic Tanager in Irvine Oct. 22 (DRW) was believed to be the individual present here during the past 3 winters, but single birds on Pt. Loma Oct. 15 (REW) & 29 (REW) were migrating. About 30 Summer Tanagers were found along the coast, with five more inland; virtually all collected along the coast have proven to be of the nominate form *rubra* from the East, but the *w. cooperi* nests in s.e. California, and tends to remain well into September before migrating; hence, it is unwise to speculate as to the racial identity of any given individual. A remarkable seven Scarlet Tanagers were found with single birds in Goleta Nov. 10–12 (CDB) and Nov. 12 (MH, *U.C.S.B.), one in Ventura Nov. 15 (JSR), another in Huntington Beach Nov. 8–15 (LRH), and single birds on Pt. Loma Sept. 29, Oct. 14–18, and Nov. 7 (all REW). Eighteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were slightly fewer than might be expected, as were also the 20 Indigo Buntings reported. Four Painted Buntings, an extremely rare vagrant to California, were found with one near Santa Maria Sept. 8 (GHR), another in Goleta Nov. 21 (HPR), one on Pt. Loma Oct. 4 (REW), and a male near Imperial Beach Sept. 13 (TEC). The only Dickcissels to be found were single birds in Goleta Sept. 19 (PEL), Sept. 27 (HPR), and Oct. 6 (PEL).

An Am. Tree Sparrow at Oasis Nov. 28 (BED) and single birds at F.C.R., Nov. 18 (JLD) & 27 (BED) were in the n.e. portion of the Region where small numbers probably occur regularly. Never before have so many Clay-colored Sparrows been found during a single fall season, 35± having been reported from along the coast and an additional 15± inland, with up to four together at Arroyo de la Cruz Oct. 10 (BSc) and at F.C.R., Oct. 17 (GMcC). A Brewer's Sparrow at Arroyo de la Cruz Oct. 10 (BSc) was only the 2nd ever to be found along the San Luis Obispo County coast. Twelve juv. Black-throated Sparrows along the coast in September were more than usual, and one in Goleta Nov. 20+ (RPH) appeared to be wintering locally. Ten Lark Buntings were found at scattered locations throughout the high deserts in the e. portion of the Region but one in Goleta Sept. 27–28 (PEL) and another in Irvine Sept. 1–4 (BED) were the only ones along the coast.

A Large-billed Savannah Sparrow, *P. s. rostratus*, now virtually accidental along the coast of California, was on Morro Bay Sept. 18+ (JS) and another was at N.E.S.S., Sept. 3 (SWC). A Grasshopper Sparrow at F.C.R., Oct. 25 (PEL) and another in Goleta Oct. 6 (CM) were both at unusual localities. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow, very rare in California, was on Morro Bay Oct. 24 (TME), and another in San Diego Oct. 8+ (RPa) was back for its 2nd winter at this locality. Swamp Sparrows were more numerous than usual with 50± reported after Oct. 14, and the same could be said for White-throated Sparrows with 40± reported after Oct. 14; but Harris' Sparrows were decidedly scarce, with only 10± reported, all in the n.e. portion of the Region. A Dark-eyed (Gray-headed) Junco in Goleta Nov. 22 (REW) was the northernmost of those found along the coast. Four McCown's Longspurs near Lakeview Nov. 14 (RMcK) were the only ones found. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were evidently well scattered throughout the Region with 90± reported from 10 localities after Oct. 6. Only three Lapland Longspurs were reported, with a remarkably early individual c 135 mi w.s.w. of Santa Rosa I., Sept. 14 (RRV), one near Oxnard Oct. 11 (RJM), and another in Goleta Oct. 15–16 (PEL).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — Single Bobolinks were found inland at Deep Springs Sept 27 (PJM), F C R., Sept 19–20 (CM), California City Sept. 12 (JLD), and Harper Dry Lake Sept. 24 (EAC), but only 40± could be found along the coast. A Rusty Blackbird photographed in California City Oct 16 (JWi) was a little early, but one in Malibu Nov. 29+ (KLG) was the only other one to be found. Six Great-tailed Grackles were reported from along the coast, indicating a continued expansion of the species' range. A Com. Grackle, a casual straggler to California, was in Baker Nov. 14 (MAP). Among the 10 Orchard Orioles reported were a female at F.C.R., Sept 5 and an ad. male in Santa Ysabel in the mountains of San Diego County Oct. 10 (BMcC). A ♂ N. (Baltimore) Oriole in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., Aug. 31 (DCH) was unusually early.

Two Rosy Finches in Westgard Pass in the extreme n.e. corner of the Region Nov. 17 (JLD) were at a locality where large numbers are occasionally encountered at this time of year. A few Purple Finches were seen at scattered locations in the n.e. portion of the Region, including a female at F.C.R., Nov. 18–21 (JLD) that showed the characteristics of the nominate form *purpureus*, a race only once confirmed to occur in California (specimen collected on Santa Rosa I. in late May). Up to eight Cassin's Finches on Cuesta Ridge Oct. 25–Nov. 10 (BSc) were the first ever to be found in San Luis Obispo County, and three seen on Pt. Loma between Oct. 3 & 28 (JLD, BED, REW) were on the immediate coast. A good flight of Red Crossbills scattered birds throughout most of the Region southward to San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange counties in November, with four in Yucca Valley Nov. 22 (CMcG), 15 at L. Mathews Nov 17 (AMC), and 23 in O'Neil Park Nov. 23 (DRW). Evening Grosbeaks were also on the move as indicated by 100+ on Pine Mt., Oct. 17–18 (KK), and small numbers on the immediate coast such as three around Oceano between Oct. 10 and 24 (JLD, JSR, BSc), one on Vandenberg Air Force Base Oct. 18 (KH), and 10 in San Diego between Oct. 14 & 19 (MC, REW, DH).

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Robert L. Pyle

Warm weather dominated the late summer season, with many new daily high temperature records set and the all-time high temperature of 94°F at Honolulu Airport equalled once and approached several times. Precipitation continued light through the summer, but picked up in late September to reach near-normal amounts for the remainder of the season. Resulting vegetation growth probably encouraged landbird nesting activity through the fall, but cumulative precipitation for the year remained below normal on Kauai, O'ahu, and leeward Hawai'i.

ABBREVIATIONS — F.F.S. = French Frigate Shoals; H. = Hawai'i I.; K. = Kaua'i I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = O'ahu I.; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on O'ahu; P.H.N.W.R. = Pearl Harbor Nat'l Wildlife Ref. on O'ahu; HRBP = Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photograph.

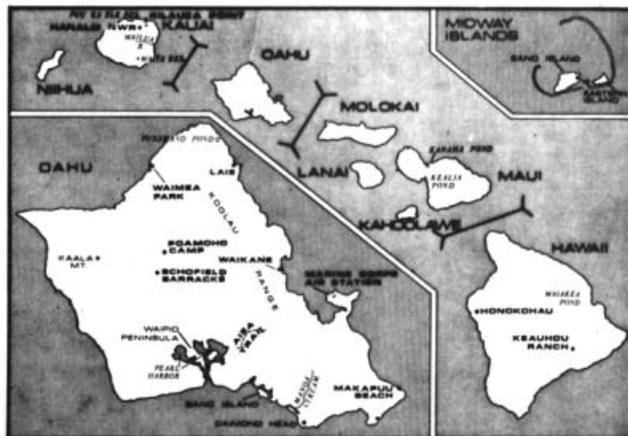
GREBES THROUGH SHEARWATERS — The new colony of Pied-billed Grebes at Aimakapa Pond, H., was thriving with at least 10 individuals present throughout the fall and 3 active nests at November's end (RD). The first Laysan Albatross returned Nov. 10 to the new, protected, nesting site at Kilauea Point N.W.R., Kauai. By the 26th at least 10 were back and courtship vocalization had begun (DM). The other colony across the island at Pacific Missile Range, Barking Sands, had four birds back by Nov. 17 (fide DM). On O'ahu, the first Laysan of the season was reported resting on the lawn of Kahuku High School Nov. 19 (PB).

By Nov. 20, two (Hawaiian) Dark-rumped Petrels ('Ua'u, *Endangered subspecies*) had been picked up in the shearwater aid program on Kaua'i (DM). The species apparently nests on that island, as a few immatures turn up every fall. On Maui, where the main colony has persisted near the summit of Haleakala Mountain, nine birds were picked up during 2 weeks in mid-October, mostly in the upper settled slopes around Makawao, Pukalani, and Kula. This was more pickups than in previous years, possibly owing to cloudy conditions, which may have caused more birds to become confused by lights as they left the nesting burrows and headed to sea (FD).

S.A.

Two skilled observers (PP, LSp) aboard a research vessel taking carefully standardized observational counts provided some rarely obtained data on bird occurrence in the deep pelagic waters near Hawaii. During a full day's travel Oct. 7 from 40 mi s.w. of Maui to 75 mi s.s.e. of South Pt., H., they recorded six (Hawaiian) Dark-rumped Petrels, two **Juan Fernandez Petrels**, 43 **Black-winged Petrels**, one Bulwer's Petrel, and four Newell's Shearwaters. Most of these were concentrated in the first 2-3 hours of the day, from s.w. of Maui to about 40 mi w. of Keahole Pt., H., except that a few of the Black-wingeds were scattered throughout the day. They also recorded 26 **Mottled Petrels**, one **Cook's Petrel**, two **Sooty Shearwaters**, and one **South Polar Skua**. These were concentrated in the late afternoon, s.e. of South Pt. Birds were much fewer in mid-day, although observations were continuous. A total of 24 **Wedge-tailed Shearwaters**, a more expected species, was counted throughout the day. The observers, among the most experienced in tropical Pacific pelagic observing, submitted full details on the identification criteria.

Observations of this kind provide important data for the given date on bird numbers and on the presence of species not normally encountered closer to shore. Very little observational data of any kind are available for the ocean areas in the 200-mile zone around Hawaii.



Wedge-tailed Shearwaters at Kilauea Point N.W.R., K., engaged in considerable secondary courtship and vocalizing, and even some burrowing, during October just before the fledglings began to depart (DM). On O'ahu, immature Wedge-taileds were found grounded in coastal areas in considerably greater numbers this fall. At least 85 were turned in to Sea Life Park between Oct. 2 and Dec. 3; most were banded and released (IS). The remains of 18 roadkills were found on the morning of Nov. 24 on Pali Highway within 200 m w. of the tunnel through the crest of the Koolau Mt. range (TP).

Another **Flesh-footed Shearwater** was reported 4 mi off Kailua-Kona, H., Nov. 20 (RD). The species may be occurring in Hawaiian waters more often than the 4 or 5 state records would indicate.

FRIGATEBIRDS THROUGH WATERFOWL — An ad. ♂ **Lesser Frigatebird** was reported again (Sept. 8, KM) at Tern I, F.F.S., where the species has appeared several times in recent years. Cattle Egrets on Hawai'i I. were apparently well down in numbers this fall. Fewer than 10 were reported at their traditional roost in Lokoaka Pond near Hilo, where extensive control measures have been taken in past years, and no more than five were found on the Kona side at Aimakapa Pond (RD). A **Green-backed Heron**, of which fewer than 5 valid records are known for Hawaii, was flushed, seen well and its call heard, at Olomana Golf Course near Waimanalo, O., late in the afternoon of Oct. 2 (AE).

Great Blue Herons, previously recorded fewer than one-half dozen times in Hawaii, staged a remarkable invasion of the islands this fall. An adult was found at Ki'i Pond, J.C.N.W.R., Sept. 10 (PB) and seen subsequently through the fall. Also on O'ahu at Waiawa Unit, P.H.N.W.R., two were seen together Oct. 12 (BE) and again Nov. 27 (SB). The Ki'i bird was also seen Oct. 12, suggesting that three separate birds were involved on O'ahu. Meanwhile, two first-year Great Blues were discovered at Kanaha Pond, M., Oct. 3 (RD), and were seen there again Nov. 11, 27, & 29 (DP, GH, PP). Also during this period a **Great Blue Heron** was seen 3 times during the week of Oct 12 at Lokoaka and adjoining small ponds near Hilo, H. (RW) Barring some remarkable inter-island commuting, at least five and perhaps six Great Blues reached Hawaii this fall, equalling if not surpassing the total number previously reported for the state.

The 5-year old colony of **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** at the n end of O'ahu continued to grow. Eighteen were at Ki'i Ponds, J.C.N.W.R., Oct. 22 (RLP); at adjoining Amorient Aquafarm, two adults were escorting at least five ducklings Nov. 7 (RLP). One or two **Hawaiian Geese** (*Nene, Endangered*) were seen repeatedly during October near Pu'u'anahulu, H. (RD et al.), and 3 to 5 pairs were reported there Nov. 19 (JL). Two were

seen at Kulani Correctional Facility, H., Nov. 23 (PP) In addition to the Canada Goose present for 2 years at Amorient Aquafarm, O., another small to medium-sized Canada turned up at adjacent Ki'i Ponds Nov. 7 (GH) and was seen occasionally there until it was found dead Dec. 1 (PP).

Laysan Ducks (*Endangered*) had a poor year at Laysan Island. No ducklings were observed to survive this year's breeding season, when extremely dry conditions caused the normally mile-long shallow hypersaline lake to shrink to 2 divided ponds. Brine flies, the main staple food of the ducks, were much reduced around the shoreline of the lake (AM, *vide* KM). Hawaiian Ducks (*Koloa*, *Endangered*) continued to increase on O'ahu, especially at Ki'i Ponds, J.C.N.W.R., where habitat conditions for breeding have been significantly improved over the past 2 years. Seventeen were counted at Ki'i and 13 at adjoining Amorient Aquafarm Sept. 25 (AE, RLP). Two *Koloa* were seen Sept. 26 circling over Kilohana Trail deep in the forest at the edge of the Alaka'i, K. (JL), and a pair was seen at Kanaha Pond, M., Oct. 3 (RD), an interesting island record. A fine ♂ Wood Duck at He'eia Marsh, O., Oct. 15 (TP) was presumably an escape.

Migrant ducks arrived this year on normal schedule from September to November. By season's end, numbers were higher than in recent years, perhaps owing to more normal rainfall this season and improved habitat conditions at Ki'i Ponds. Elsewhere, some high counts of N. Shoveler, the major component species, included 150–250 at Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 27 (PP, GH), 29 at Kanaha Pond, M., Nov. 27 (GH), 50+ at Aimakapa Pond, H., by Nov. 30 (RD), 30 at Waipi'o, O., Oct. 31 (AE), and 15 at Waiawa Unit, P.H.N.W.R., Oct. 12 (BE). Counts of N. Pintail, the 2nd major component species, included 40–50 at Kealia Nov. 27 (PP, GH) and 20 at Aimakapa by Nov. 30 (RD). Regular but scarcer migrant ducks recorded at one or more of the main pond areas this fall included Green-winged Teal, American and Eurasian wigeons, Ring-necked Ducks, Lesser and Greater scaup, and Bufflehead. Species more rarely recorded included an eclipse ♂ Cinnamon Teal with two Blue-winged Teal at Aimakapa Pond, H., Sept. 18–30 (RD), and an eclipse ♂ Garganey (Oct. 24 & 29) and a Canvasback (Nov. 5–7), both reported at Amorient Aquafarm, O. (GH). A ♀ **Common Merganser** found at Kealia Pond, M., Oct. 4 (RD) and still there Nov. 10 (DP) furnished the 2nd state record, preceded only by a female at the same locality 2 winters ago (same individual?).

RAPTORS THROUGH SKUAS — A harrier seen near Punamano Unit, J.C.N.W.R., Sept. 20 and a few times thereafter (JK, SB) was not confidently identified to species. Only the Northern Harrier has been recorded previously in Hawaii, as an accidental straggler. Twelve Kalij Pheasants were seen in the forest in the upper O'oma area on the w. slope of Hualalai Mt., H., Aug. 17 (AE), and about 12 were found across the island at Kulani Correctional Facility on the e. slope of Mauna Loa, H., Nov. 23 (PP). Groups of seven to 17 Wild Turkeys and 15–20 California Quail were observed repeatedly in mid-September at Paniolo Hale, Molokai (SW). At least 15 (Hawaiian) Com Moorhens (*Endangered subspecies*) at Ki'i Ponds, J.C.N.W.R., Sept. 25 (AE, RLP) made an unusually high count.

Good habitat conditions at the primary wetland areas resulted in fine shorebird observing this fall, although numbers of the common migrant species seemed not consistently higher than in the past few years. Among the common species, however, was an exceptionally satisfying array of less common and rare visitors. Some unusually high counts of less common but regular species included three Semipalmated Plovers at Kealia Pond, M., Oct. 4 (RD), seven Lesser Yellowlegs at Waipi'o, O., Sept. 4 (AE, RLP), and three Least and up to 20 Pectoral sandpipers at Waipi'o during mid-October (PD, AE). Single Black-bellied Plovers and W. Sandpipers were reported at numerous locations (JL, GH, RD, KN).

One Bristle-thighed Curlew was at Waipi'o Sept. 12 (PD). A single Bristle-thighed was seen well in flight over Ka'alu'alu on the coast e. of South Pt., H., Sept. 14 (LSt), and a total of five in 2 groups was found there Sept. 20 (MK). At Ki'i Ponds

and on the beach nearby, four were seen Oct. 12 and 10 together Oct. 19 (AE, RLP), exceptionally high counts for so late in the season. A (Eurasian) **Whimbrel** at Tern I., F.F.S., in mid-September (KM, KN) was seen well, heard calling, and photographed closely (HRBP #s 696 et al.) with Bristle-thighed Curlews for ready comparison. A Spotted Sandpiper was at Waipi'o Sept. 4 (AE, RLP) & 15 (PD), but could not be found Sept. 18 or thereafter. A Com. Snipe was reported at Amorient Aquafarm Oct. 29 (GH), and a juv. Baird's Sandpiper was at Waipi'o Aug. 12 & 13 (PD) and Sept. 4 (AE, RLP). A **Rufous-necked Stint** studied well at Waipi'o Sept. 4 (AE, RLP) provided the 4th state record. Also seen repeatedly at Waipi'o (PD, AE, RLP) were a Ruff (Sept. 4–29) and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper (Oct. 9–19, fewer than 6 state records).

A **South Polar Skua** carefully identified at sea 55 mi s.s.e. of South Pt., H., Oct. 7 (PP, LSp) furnished the first record of a skua confirmed to species in Hawaiian waters. Two previous sightings near Hawaii in the mid-1960s were not determined beyond "skua."

SANDGROUSE THROUGH FINCHES — Two Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse flew across the Hawaii Belt Road 2 mi s. of Waimea, H., in the usual sandgrouse area Oct. 12 (JL). Also, 2 flocks were seen Nov. 14 on the same road s. of its intersection with Waiakoloa Rd. (DP), which is well s. of where these birds have previously been reported. Single Mourning Doves were seen at 3 localities between Pu'u Wa'a Wa'a and Pu'u'anahulu, H., Aug. 18 (AE). A single (Hawaiian) Short-eared Owl (Pueo) at Ki'i Ponds Oct. 19 (AE, RD), and three there Nov. 5 and two Nov. 7 (GH), all at dusk, confirmed the continuing presence in that area of this species, now exceedingly rare on O'ahu.

Flocks of at least 23 and 21 Rose-ringed Parakeets were seen flying over upper Makiki Valley, O., Oct. 5 and Nov. 3 (JL), in the same locality where a pair was seen at a tree cavity last March. A flock of about 27–30 *Amazona* parrots, mostly Red-crowneds, seen near dusk flying to roost above Pearl City, O., Nov. 10 & 18 (TP), was probably the same flock mentioned in last spring's report. Free-flying cockatoos were reported on O'ahu on Halawa Ridge Trail Aug. 30 and in He'eia Marsh Oct. 15 (TP), and on Maui 3 times last Feb. 20–25 in the Pukalam area (FD). Single Peach-faced Lovebirds were seen in lower Makiki and lower Kalihi sections of Honolulu on the same day (Nov. 4, AE), and a free-flying Cockatiel was reported around He'eia Marsh Oct. 15 (TP).

A strenuous hike to the known nesting cave of Gray Swiftlets in upper Halawa Valley, O., Aug. 30 was rewarded with finding 17 fresh nests, of which 9 had eggs or chicks. About seven adults were seen (TP, DW). A **Belted Kingfisher** was seen well at Kahuwai Bay, on the w. coast of Hawai'i I., Sept. 20 (DE) Presumably the same bird was seen 20 km to the s. at Aimakapa Pond in the morning of Sept. 26 (BM), but could not be relocated there later that afternoon (RD). All but one of the 6–8 prior records of this species in the state have been on Hawai'i I.

A Red-vented Bulbul was reported in early October in Waiakea-uka at Hilo, H. (RW), but the report has not yet been confirmed. These bulbuls are abundant throughout O'ahu, but only a very few scattered sightings have yet been reported from other islands. Melodious Laughing-thrushes, now difficult to find on O'ahu, were heard at 2 locations on upper Halawa Trail Aug. 30 (TP). About six Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrushes were found along lower Anahola Valley Rd., K., Nov. 19 (DP) and again Dec. 2 (PP). Although apparently well-established in small numbers on Kaua'i, this species wanders irregularly in small groups which are found only fortuitously. Red-billed Leiothrix, formerly abundant in the forests but reduced to near extirpation on O'ahu over the past 20 years, now seem to be coming back. Sightings have slowly increased during the past 2 years, and this fall they were reported widely in s.e. O'ahu on Aiea Trail (AE), upper Halawa Ridge Trail (TP), Makiki Valley (AE), Kuliouou Valley (eight to 12 birds, BS) and Waimanalo (PD). The Honolulu Christmas Bird Count total in late December was by far the highest in 20 years.

Yellow-faced Grassquits continue to survive on O'ahu. One

was seen Aug 16 on Aiea Ridge Trail one mi above the Loop Trail (GH), 11 were found in traditional areas along Manana Trail Aug. 20 (GH) and one was seen Oct. 15 in a yard below the beginning of Manana Trail (PD). A male and ♀ Saffron Finch seen in the Makalapa housing area near Salt Lake, O., Sept. 15 (BE) and an immature reported in Ala Moana Park Sept. 26 (GH) may have been recent escapes, as no others have been reported in recent years and the population on O'ahu a decade ago was very small.

DREPANIDS — A ♀ Palila (*Endangered*) was observed feeding in naio near Pu'u Ahumoa on Mauna Kea at about 1800 m, the lowest elevation recorded for this species in recent years (JW). Common 'Amakihi also continue to be reported at lower elevations, the most recent being near Makiki Valley pumping station, O., Oct. 5 (JL) and in lower 'Iao Valley, M., Nov. 10 (DP). A small population of 'Akiapola'au (*Endangered*) persists on the s.w. slope of Mauna Kea above Pu'u La'au, near 2450 m elevation (JW). Most of the current range of this species is on the wetter eastern slopes of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa.

A mixed flock of about 50 Hawai'i Creepers and Hawai'i 'Akepas (both *Endangered*) was observed in the upper reaches of Hakalau N.W.R., H., Aug. 16 (JL). Two days later one to two Kaua'i Creepers and three to four Kaua'i 'Akepas were found along Pihea and Kilohana Trails near the Alaka'i, K. (JL). On O'ahu an estimated 100+ 'Apapane along Aiea Trail Oct. 31 made a high count. Most were in flowering Eucalyptus and many were singing (AE).

All forest bird species are reported to be in very low numbers this fall within the Ola'a forest section of Hawaii Volcanoes N.P. (*vide* JW).

WEAVERS, ESTRILDIDS — A fine ad. Yellow-crowned Bishop (presumably escaped) was observed Oct. 31 near Walker Bay on Waipi'o Peninsula, O. (AE). Bishops have been seen in the Waipi'o area several times over the past 10–15 years. Currently the best spot for finding introduced estrildids and less common finches is in the Pu'u'anahulu area of Hawai'i I., n. of Pu'u Wa'a Wa'a Ranch. During dry conditions in mid-August, a water trough there drew hundreds of Warbling Silverbills, lesser numbers of Red Avadavats, Nutmeg Mannikins, Saffron Finches, and Yellow-fronted Canaries, and a few Red-cheeked Cordonbleus and Lavender Waxbills. A major find among them involved **Black-rumped Waxbills**, a species unreported anywhere in the islands since a small breeding population at Diamond Head, O., died out about 10 years ago. Three were found there Aug. 8 (JL), four were seen and photographed Aug. 10 (RD), six were there Aug. 17 (JL), and four Aug. 20 (AE). None was seen thereafter when some fall rains returned, the trough was emptied, and the birds dispersed

somewhat. But all other species were readily found in the area Oct. 18 & 19 (AE *et al.*). In another part of the Pu'u'anahulu area, 20 Red-cheeked Cordonbleus were observed Aug. 18 (AE), an unprecedented high count for this species which has been reported only from this area in the past decade.

Two ad. Orange-cheeked Waxbills were observed feeding at least three fledglings in mid-September on the Honolulu Zoo grounds near Diamond Head, O. (MO). A few individuals are occasionally reported in this area, probably remnant individuals from the population that was breeding there a decade ago. Across the island on the windward side, one and probably three Orange-cheekeds were observed again at Ho'omaluhia Park in Kane'ohe (JL) not far from the Bay View Golf Course where the other known population of the species has persisted for a number of years.

Red Avadavats, long established on O'ahu and recently established and increasing rapidly on Hawai'i I., have now reached Maui. Two males and three females were observed well Nov. 19 at about 1800 ft elevation on Olinda Rd. below Olinda (FD). On Kaua'i, where Java Sparrows have recently become established, a pair was observed carrying nesting material into a monkeypod tree in Lihue Aug. 10 (RR).

PALMYRA ATOLL — A biologist (SF) from the U.S.F. & W.S. made a survey visit Sept. 18–26 to Palmyra Atoll, an uninhabited, rarely-visited, U.S.-owned atoll in the Line Islands group some 1300 mi s. of Honolulu and 150 mi n.w. of Christmas Island. The 10 species of seabirds known to be resident there, and four common migrant shorebirds, were found in numbers more or less consistent with the findings of a few visits in the mid-1960s and earlier. Most numerous were the 260,000± Sooty Terns in 3 colonies, 6500± Red-footed Boobies (largest colony in the central Pacific), and 3500± Black Noddies. The 201 Bristle-thighed Curlews far outnumbered other migrant species. Less common visitors found were three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, one ♂ Lesser Frigatebird, and one Cattle Egret, the last providing a first record for Palmyra.

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WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton

Climate during the season was dominated, as might be expected, by hurricanes: Emily and Floyd. The former slashed through the Lesser Antilles as a tropical storm and quickly formed into a major cyclone during a weekend in late September. Emily smashed into Hispaniola west of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, became a disorganized low after its strength was knocked down by the island's 10,000-foot peaks, and reorganized after it skipped over Great Inagua and the Turks and Caicos Islands later to level Bermuda. Floyd managed to avoid most of the An-

tilles as it wandered in the western Caribbean, glancing off western Cuba and slipping through the Florida Keys, perhaps in search of the Gulf Stream's ambient moisture.

Rainfall measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, showed that August was -46%, September was -54%, October -26%, and November +75%, for a net -15% rainfall for the period.

El Yunque, a 28,000-acre Biosphere Reserve also known as the Caribe National Forest in eastern Puerto Rico, may be facing a transfer from federal to Commonwealth jurisdiction in the next eight years if the Commonwealth makes a commitment to preserve the forest. However, some con-

cern has been expressed by island forestry and natural resources experts that the Puerto Rican government does not have the commitment to identify the forest as important, nor does it follow that the best interests of the forest coincide with the government's priorities. Also in eastern Puerto Rico, the administration's Planning Board rejected a proposal to develop 1100 acres of the island's largest mangrove forest for luxury housing. On Puerto Rico's south shore a Club Med proposal to develop a resort near Guanica State Forest, a rare dry tropical forest, is continuing as planned.

Finally, a Guyanese resident alien posing as an ornithologist was charged with the dealing of illegally imported rare psittacines (46). The trafficking of the birds took place, in part, between Tortola, British Virgin Islands, and St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands, in September and October 1987.

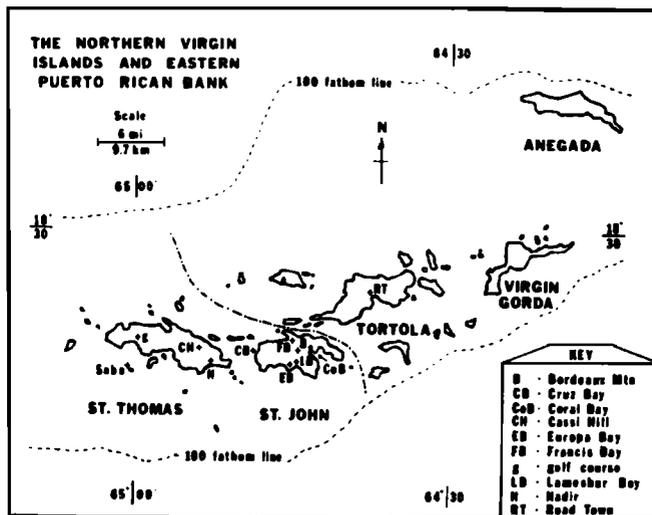
ABBREVIATIONS — D.R. = Dominican Republic; P.R. = Puerto Rico; T.C.I. = Turks and Caicos Islands.

GREBES THROUGH TERNS — Five Least Grebes were noted on e. Providenciales, T.C.I. (RLN, BA, NC), Sept. 27, and a single record came from W. Caicos Sept. 28 (RLN, NC). Another five were seen in various areas of greater Santo Domingo, D.R., Nov. 6 (RW, HH). Two Least Bitterns were observed near Neiba, D.R., Nov. 2 (RW). Some 38 Greater Flamingos were seen at W. Caicos Sept. 26 & 28, and 18 at Middle Caicos Oct. 5 (RLN, NC). On N. Caicos, two old nesting colonies were discovered partially 'fossilized' by the extremely dry and hypersaline substrate and disuse (RLN, NC, PR). The nest mounds numbered 6000-7000 by our estimate. Norton and Clarke found dog tracks and human-related refuse near and in the colony boundaries, which may explain in some measure the colony abandonment. Flamingos in the T.C.I. are now but a specter of the once-great flocks recalled by local interviews (RLN). Greater Flamingos (72) were also noted Nov. 2 at Lago Enriquillo, D.R. (RW).

Fifteen West Indian Whistling-Ducks were carefully noted at a small *Typha*-filled pond on N. Caicos, T.C.I. (RLN, NC), Sept. 30, representing one of the few records of this rare and threatened species from the Caicos Is. On W. Caicos a Green-winged Teal was noted among White-cheeked Pintails Sept. 28 (RLN), for the first record in the T.C.I. White-cheeked Pintails numbered 130 at a salt pond on N. Caicos Oct. 4 (RLN). A N. Shoveler (RW) was noted at St. Croix Oct. 4. A single Ruddy Duck was noted at Providenciales, T.C.I., Sept. 27 for perhaps the first record there (BA, RLN).

An unconfirmed report of a Bald Eagle (*fide* RG) in the s. Bahamas by a forestry worker was of interest. A sight record had been reported from P.R. in 1975. The resident Osprey (*P h ridgwayi*) in the West Indies has a nearly completely white head, which may confuse the uninitiated observer in the tropics. An ad. Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed feeding on a Scaly-naped Pigeon on St. John Nov. 7 (RA, DE). This is the first record of any *Accipiter* from the V.I., and of this species east of P.R. proper. Sharp-shinneds (*Accipiter s. striatus*) are frequent migrants to Bermuda, which lies on the same meridian as the V.I. A single Ridgway's Hawk was seen near Bayahibe, D.R., Nov. 6 (RW), in lowland habitat, unlike the moist forest biome described by Wetmore and Swales (1937). Peregrine Falcons were noted from Sept. 30, at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R. (earliest recorded there—PM), to St. Croix Oct. 18, where RW believed the date was also early for that area. A Merlin was noted Oct. 7 (PM) at Cabo Rojo N.W.R. for what was believed to be the earliest fall date there.

A Clapper Rail was seen at Great Pond, St. Croix (FS), Aug. 10 for one of the few records from that island. A road-killed Sora found Sept. 27 (RLN, BA, NC) at Providenciales, T.C.I., apparently established a record for that island, and a live bird seen Sept. 28 on W. Caicos was new for that island (RLN). An Am. Coot was observed (PWS) in the company of several Ca-



ibbean-type coots Oct. 10 in Santo Domingo's Parque Zoológico, where one individual "seemed intermediate." On St. Croix a Lesser Golden-Plover was noted near Alexander Hamilton Airport Oct. 12 (RW, FS). A single Piping Plover was noted Sept. 28 at W. Caicos, T.C.I., an island of extraordinary and diverse wetlands (RLN). At Parque Zoológico, Santo Domingo, D.R., on Oct. 23, PWS and SAS observed 'several' Solitary Sandpipers, and on Sept. 28 a single bird was noted at W. Caicos (RLN) for a first record there. A Baird's Sandpiper was observed Sept. 3 at St. Croix (FS), where the species is infrequently recorded. Pectoral Sandpipers were noted (RLN, NC, BA) in 3 locations in the T.C.I. (W. Caicos—20, Providenciales—seven, and N. Caicos—one), Sept. 28-Oct. 1, providing new records. A large number (120+) of Pectoral Sandpipers was noted Sept. 30 at Lajas, P.R. (PM). Stilt Sandpipers were observed (RLN) in new locations in the T.C.I. (W. Caicos—40, Providenciales—12, N. Caicos—30, and Middle Caicos—eight). Short-billed Dowitchers (36) seen Sept. 28 (RLN) at W. Caicos were also considered records there, as was a Com. Snipe seen Oct. 2 at N. Caicos. A Com. Snipe at Lajas, P.R., Sept. 30 was considered early (PM).

Three Ring-billed Gulls were noted at Charlotte Amalie Harbor (RLN), St. Thomas, from mid-October through November, and a single Ring-billed was noted (FS) at St. Croix Nov. 24. Wauer noted six Caspian Terns at Lago Enriquillo, D.R., Nov. 2, and three near Boca Cachon Nov. 3. Sandwich Terns (120) were noted Sept. 28 at W. Caicos, where an intergrade Cayenne-Sandwich Tern was also seen (RLN). This represents the first report of an intergrade seen n. of the Puerto Rico Bank. A Sandwich Tern was noted by RW on Nov. 1 at Barahona, D.R. An occurrence of Com. Tern Sept. 28 (RLN) at W. Caicos represented the first fall date for the T.C.I. and first record for that island. Least Terns (35) were also noted at W. Caicos Sept. 28 (RLN, NC). A dead Sooty Tern found Oct. 3 in a saltpan drainage canal at Grand Turk, T.C.I. (RLN) may represent the first record from that island. A Black Tern was noted Sept. 3 (FS) at St. Croix for one of the few records from the P.R. Bank.

DOVES THROUGH SPARROWS — Only a single Plain Pigeon was noted (RW) in the foothills of Barahona, D.R., Nov. 5. The Plain Pigeon is listed in P.R. as an endangered species. P.W. Smith found the Eur. Collared-Dove to be abundant throughout Alicetown, Bimini, Sept. 19, and reported that this was a new record for the island. A Key West Quail-Dove was noted Oct. 24 near Bayahibe, D.R. (PWS, SAS), and RW observed seven Ruddy Quail-Doves there Nov. 6. A Ruddy Quail-Dove was noted Nov. 23 in dry forest in s.w. Puerto Rico, considered by PM to be a rare habitat for the species. Recent sightings in the Virgin Islands, considered to be rare habitat for Ruddy Quail-Doves, suggest a local population explosion. A

flock of 25 Hispaniolan Parrots was observed at length (PWS, SAS) near Constanza, D.R., Oct. 26. Wauer observed eight near Duverge, Sierra Baoruca, and 21 near Aguacate, D.R., Nov. 4. A Least Pauraque was noted Nov. 3 near Boca Cachon, D.R. (RW, *vide* FS), for one of the few reports of this species. A 2nd report of Chimney Swift from the V.I. was observed (RW) at St. Croix Oct. 22. McKenzie reported a *Chaetura* (sp.) Oct. 13 near Lajas, P.R., but could not confirm the possibility of Chimney Swift.

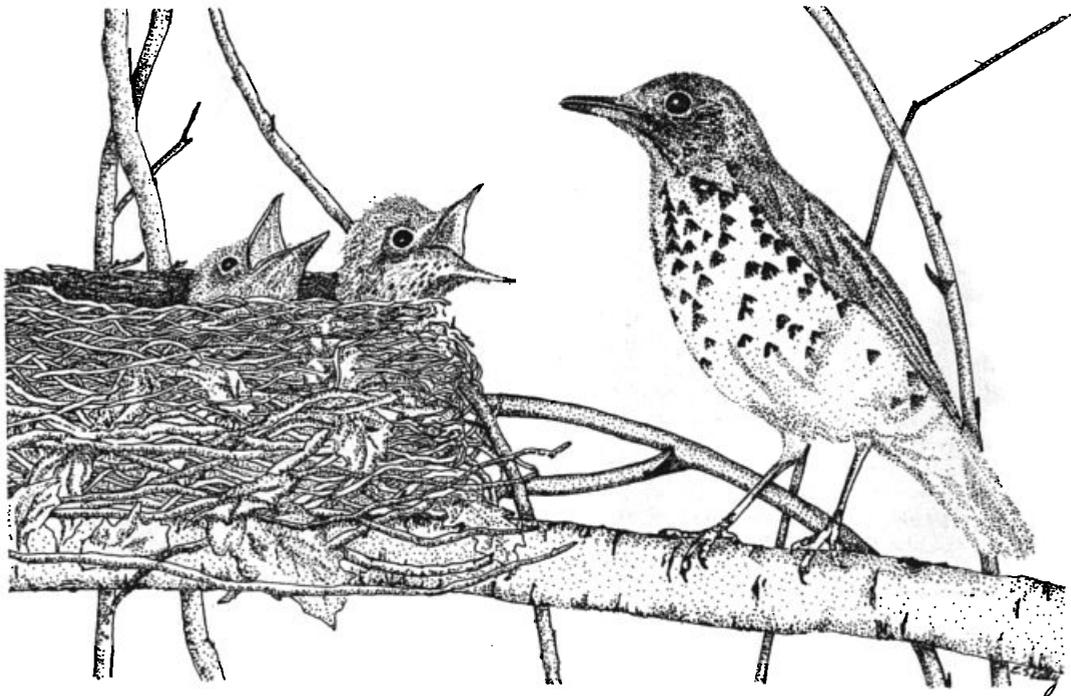
Three Hispaniolan Trogons were observed Oct. 31–Nov. 4 near Constanza and Aguacate, Sierra de Baoruca, D.R. (RW). A Great Crested Flycatcher was observed at Bayahibe Nov. 6 (RW), providing the first record for Hispaniola. Two Greater Antillean Pewees were observed at Providenciales, T.C.I., Sept. 29 (RLN, BA), only few days after Hurricane Floyd passed over Hispaniola, where the species is common. This was the first report of the species in the Turks and Caicos Is. and the s. Bahamas. A pair of Golden Swallows was noted Nov. 4 (RW) near Aguacate, D.R., providing one of the few recent reports of this species endemic to Hispaniola and Jamaica. Cliff Swallows were noted foraging with large numbers of Barn Swallows at Caneel Bay, St. John, Nov. 10 (RA, DE). P.W. Smith observed eight Eur. Starlings on North Bimini Sept. 19 and suggested that the numbers may be limited by absence of nesting sites. In the Cabo Rojo area, Sept. 9 through Oct. 22, PM observed Eur. Starlings numbering one dozen in September and three juveniles(!) in October, which strongly suggests nesting in w. Puerto Rico.

A Red-eyed Vireo was noted at close range (RLN) at N. Caicos Oct. 1, for the first report from that island, and PM noted one Oct. 9 at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R. The wood warblers were evident throughout the Region in great diversity, particularly in the n. Bahamas. A Nashville Warbler was observed at Providenciales, T.C.I., Sept. 29 (BA, RLN). At N. Caicos, a Nashville and a Mourning Warbler were carefully noted near Bellfield Landing Sept. 30 (RLN), providing new location records. At Grand Bahama Island, Wilkinson observed 22 species in 4 days, Oct. 9–12; of particular note were one Tennessee, two Chestnut-sided, and two Bay-breasted warblers. Chestnut-sided Warblers were noted at St. Croix (RW) Oct. 11 and on St. John (RA, DE) Nov. 17. In the D.R., Wauer noted two Pine Warblers and a Wilson's Warbler Nov. 4 near Aguacate. Smith reported the first records of Wilson's Warbler and Yellow Warbler (D.

p. *gundlachii*) from Bimini Sept. 19. A Kirtland's Warbler has again been reported from the Bahamas, this one from Abaco Nov. 13 (RG). Greater observer awareness and effort has been responsible for helping to describe this endangered species' winter habitat and range. Blackpoll Warblers were seen at West and N. Caicos Sept. 28 and Oct. 2, providing the first records for the Caicos Is. (RLN). Sladen reported that warblers were conspicuously absent from St. Croix throughout September, but Wauer noted a passage of several species by Oct. 10–12 including a Kentucky Warbler Oct. 11. A Connecticut Warbler was carefully noted Oct. 18–24 near Lajas, P.R., for one of the few reports from the P.R. Bank (PM).

A ♀ Scarlet Tanager was observed Oct. 9–17 at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., P.R. (PM). Blue Grosbeaks were common migrants in the T.C.I. in late September and early October with six noted at Providenciales Sept. 28 (BA, RLN) and eight noted at Middle Caicos Oct. 3 (RLN) for a new record there. A Blue Grosbeak was seen Sept. 20 (PM) at Cabo Rojo N.W.R., and two Blue Grosbeaks were noted at Sandy Point N.W.R., St. Croix, Oct. 12 (RW). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak seen Oct. 5 (RLN) furnished perhaps the 4th record on Great Turk, T.C.I. A Chipping Sparrow was observed at South Bimini (PWS, SAS) Sept. 19, for the first report from that island group and perhaps only the 4th record from the Bahamas. Four Red-winged Blackbirds were noted at Grand Bahama I., Oct. 9–12 (MW). A Shiny Cowbird was noted (RW) at Puerto Viejo Marsh, D.R., Nov. 5. Northern Orioles were noted from Bimini Sept. 19 (PWS, SAS) for a new record, on Grand Bahama I., Oct. 10 (MW), and commonly, up to seven, this season at and near Cabo Rojo N.W.R. (PM). Eight Antillean Siskins, endemic to Hispaniola, were observed Nov. 4 in pine forest near Aguacate, D.R. (RW). House Sparrows have become established at Alicetown, Bimini (PWS, SAS) as noted Sept. 19 and at Deep Water Bay, Grand Bahama I. (MW), and were also noted at Santo Domingo (PWS) Oct. 23 although not commonly.

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Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*). Illustration/Elizabeth Kelly.