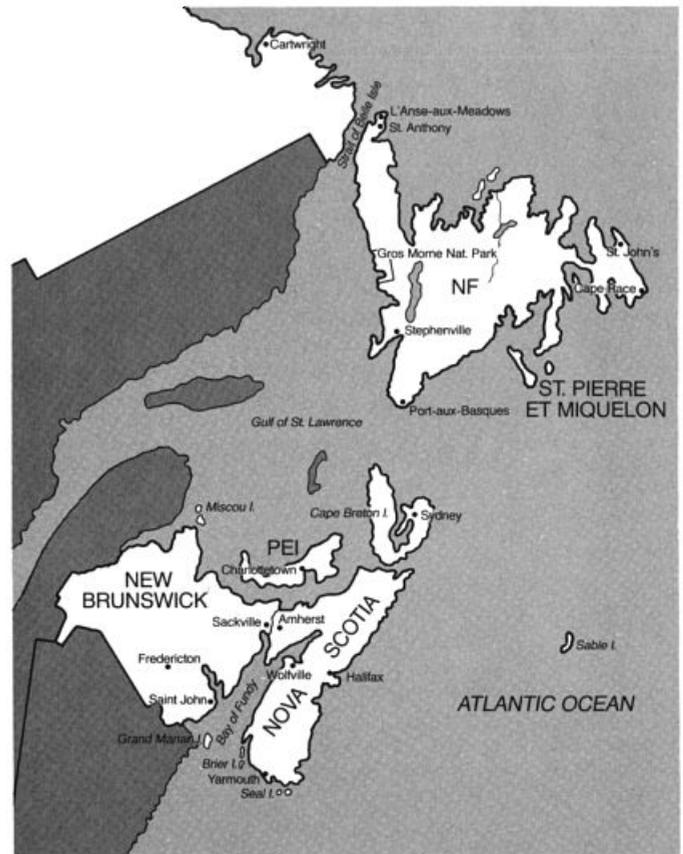


# The Autumn Migration

August 1 - November 30, 1988

## ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish



It was a mild fall with an abundance of southwest and west winds and generous amounts of rainfall. An exceptionally heavy crop of cones and wild fruits across the Region failed to produce any exceptional influxes of finches, robins, or waxwings.

It was a good season for the vagrant hunter who is now staying home to hunt. Some islands (namely Grand Manan Island in New Brunswick, Brier, Bon Portage, and Sable islands in Nova Scotia, Ramea Island in Newfoundland, and St. Pierre et Miquelon) have long been known for their capacity to concentrate vagrant birds. It is only over the last four or five years that the potential of vagrant birding at coastal mainland locations has been fully realized.

Hatlen's Point, 15 kilometers from Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Cape Spear, ten kilometers from St. John's, Newfoundland, have proven to be vagrant-island-like birdwatching on a smaller scale. Neither location looks like much on the map or on site but both are on the outer coast, contain

slightly lusher habitat than their surrounding areas, are easily covered from roadsides, and most importantly are close to the two main concentrations of birdwatchers in the Region. These two sites can be visited several times per week throughout the migration season, whereas the islands usually require an extended weekend trip and so are visited only a few times per season. This combination of factors resulted in a longer list of vagrants from Cape Spear and Hatlen's Point than from the offshore islands this fall. The cities of Halifax and St. John's themselves become strategic for vagrants in November, when the lingering waifs are concentrated in the richly-vegetated residential areas.

It was a fall rich in vagrants, with birds coming from all areas of the check-list, including several provincial firsts. The grab bag included three species of hummingbird, three species of tanager, 36 species of warbler, and 39 species of shorebird.

Reporting was good to excellent from New Brunswick,

Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and St Pierre et Miquelon, but nil from Prince Edward Island.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — S.P.M. = St. Pierre et Miquelon.

**LOONS TO HERONS** — A Red-throated Loon in breeding plumage Aug. 21 at Broad Cove, NS, was probably a non-breeding summerer (SJF). Seventy-five Com. Loons Sept. 30 at Chebucto Head, NS, was the largest number reported (BD). Red-necked Grebe and Horned Grebe were reported as scarce in Nova Scotia, with no counts above eight (*vide* LPMP), but there were 23 Red-neckeds at Miquelon, S.P.M., Oct. 4 (RE). Pied-billed Grebes in Newfoundland, where they are scarce fall visitants, were a total of three from eastern localities Sept. 5–Nov. 30 (*vide* BMT).

A Cory's Shearwater 35 km n.w. of Yarmouth, NS, Aug. 7 (ST) and several s. of Halifax, NS, in late August (PM) were the only reports of this uncommon shearwater. Two hundred Sooty Shearwaters Sept. 19 east of Grand Manan I., NB, were considered good numbers locally for fall (DSC). Manx Shearwaters were still prospecting on Grand Columbiar I., S.P.M., where several were heard and a pair was seen entering a crevice on the night of Aug. 1 (RE *et al.*). There were hundreds of Wilson's Storm-Petrels at sea off Grand Manan I., NB, Sept. 10, but none after Sept. 15 (JW, DSC). Two thousand of the more widespread Leach's Storm-Petrel were seen from the Port aux Basques to N. Sydney ferry Aug. 21 (ST).

Double-crested Cormorants are only locally common in Newfoundland, where 25 at Renew's Aug. 27 made a high count (BMT). They are so abundant in the s. part of the Region that they are almost ignored, yet there were reports of south-bound flocks totalling 900+ Oct. 4 at Mary's Pt., NB (DSC), and 600 Oct. 8 at Seal I., NS (m.ob.).

A Least Bittern landed on a fishing boat in Georges Brook, s. of Nova Scotia, Aug. 13 (*vide* IAM). A Great Blue Heron Nov. 5–11 at St. Pierre, S.P.M., was a vagrant (RE *et al.*). Single Great Egret reports were: Aug. 21 at Mary's Pt. and Sept. 11 at Mazerolle Settlement, NB (*vide* DSC); Aug. 13 at W. Advocate (BMy) and Oct. 19 at Glace Bay, NS (*vide* IAM); and Oct. 14 at Langlade, S.P.M. (RE). The only Snowy Egrets were two Sept. 11 at Lower W. Pubnico and one Oct. 29 near Yarmouth, NS (*vide* IAM). Single Little Blue Herons were at Cole Harbour Sept. 3 and at Lower W. Pubnico, NS (*vide* IAM). There was a flight of Cattle Egrets into New Brunswick, with one Oct. 29 at Whitneyville, Northumberland (H. Walker), one Nov. 4–13 at Nackawic (B. Squires *et al.*), one Nov. 3 joined by another Nov. 6 with both remaining to Nov. 22 at Sackville (ST *et al.*), one Nov. 8–17 at Rexton (H. Collins), one Nov. 9 at Dorchester (ST), and one Nov. 16 at Fredericton (D. Gibson). Oddly, none was seen in Nova Scotia, but one was in Newfoundland at Bay Bulls Nov. 10–12 (RB *et al.*). The only Green-backed Heron was seen Oct. 15 at W. Chezzetcook, NS, and the only Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was present Aug. 24–Sept. 4 at Pubnico Pt., NS (*vide* IAM).

**WATERFOWL TO CRANES** — The only Snow Geese reported were one Oct. 10 at Seal I., NS (m.ob.) and two Oct. 22 at Grand Manan I., NB (BMy). Reports of 1000–2000 Canada Geese at several locations in Nova Scotia were normal. A Eur. Green-winged Teal Nov. 27 at St. John's, NF, was the only one reported (BMT). Eight hundred fifty Am. Black Ducks Nov. 13 at Martinque Beach, NS, represented a large concentration (BMy). Two N. Shovelers Sept. 21 at Grand Barachois, S.P.M., were unexpected (*vide* RE). Three imm. N. Shovelers on Seal I., NS, in mid-August represented a new nesting locality for this very local and uncommon duck (IAM). Gadwalls continue to slowly increase in the Region, with reports of two in New Brunswick and 10 from 5 localities in Nova Scotia (*vide* LPMP). In contrast to recent falls, no Eur. Wigeon were reported. Good counts of Am. Wigeon were of 40 Sept. 25 at Amherst, NS, and 80 Oct. 24 at Debert, NS (BMy). A Harlequin

Duck reported at Gabarus, NS, Aug. 27 was very early (*vide* LPMP). The only other Harlequins reported were one Oct. 15 at Brier I., NS (BMT), two Nov. 17 at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (RE), and one Nov. 10–30 and two Nov. 26 at Cape Race, NF (BMT). Totals for Ruddy Duck were nine in New Brunswick and two in Nova Scotia.

If an organized hawkwatch were conducted on the islands off s.w. Nova Scotia, where there is a steady flow of migrating raptors, the fall's totals would likely be as impressive as some of those from hawkwatches in the n.e. United States. The highest one-day counts of the most common species from Nova Scotia were as follows. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 40 Oct. 9 on Seal I., and 300+ Oct. 16 and 100+ Oct. 17 on Brier I., Broad-winged Hawk: 300 Sept. 24 and 40 Oct. 16 on Brier I., Am. Kestrel: 40 Oct. 9 & 13 on Brier I.; Merlin: 30 Oct. 8 on Seal I. (*vide* IAM).

In a less majestic moment an ad. Bald Eagle Nov. 7 at Glace Bay, NS, was seen "in the water up to its neck, heaving and wallowing. After a struggle it carried a small fish ashore and stood stomping on it until it was subdued" (S. MacLean). The true status of Cooper's Hawk in the Region is complicated by identification difficulties. Three were reported without details in Nova Scotia during September. Peregrine Falcons should be reported in 2 categories, released birds and wild birds. Under released birds we have frequent August sightings around shorebird concentrations at Mary's Pt., NB, near the previous years' release at Fundy N.P. An ad. male released 5 years ago at Blomidon Park, NS, was harassing two of this year's released young. Naturally wild Peregrine Falcons included eight from New Brunswick, 14 from Nova Scotia, and one each from Newfoundland and S.P.M. Two Gyrfalcons at one location would be exceptional anywhere south of the n tip of Newfoundland, but two at Cherry Hill, NS, on the very early date of Sept. 30 were extraordinary (JLC, JSC).

Newfoundland's 2nd-ever **Clapper Rail** was a very obliging individual at St. John's Oct. 8–16 (MP *et al.*). An out-of-place Com. Moorhen was in downtown Halifax, NS, Oct. 24 (*vide* IAM). Now occurring annually in the Region, Sandhill Cranes reported were singles July 24–31 at Brule Pt., Colchester, NS (*vide* IAM) and Oct. 8 near Chipman, NB (*vide* DSC).

**SHOREBIRDS** — A Northern Lapwing Nov. 10–13 at Ferryland, NF, made this the 11th year in this century that this species has been known to occur in the province (KK, BMT, DP). Probable remnants of the spectacular spring flight of **Greater Golden-Plovers** were single adults Aug. 12 on Funk I., NF (RE, WAM) and Oct. 15–21 at Hartlen's Pt., NS, for a first provincial sighting (DM, PM, IAM *et al.*). Large concentrations of Lesser Golden-Plovers were of 500 Aug. 27 at Cape Race, NF (BMT), 120 Sept. 27 at Miquelon, S.P.M. (RE), 160 Sept. 29 at Sydney airport, NS (BMy), and 280 Oct. 1 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (BMy). Lingering Lesser Golden-Plovers were three Nov. 10 at Cape Race, NF (BMT), and 55 Nov. 23 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (BD). Two hundred fifty Semipalmated Plovers Aug. 1 at Matthews Lake, NS, gave an idea of the abundance of this species in the Region (BMy). Most Piping Plovers leave the Region by late August, so one Sept. 11 at Grand Manan I., NB (JW) and one Oct. 2 at Cherry Hill, NS (JT) were late.

An **American Avocet** was shot at Lower W. Pubnico, NS, Oct. 1 for about the 8th provincial record (TCD'E). A **Common Greenshank** Sept. 24–Oct. 1 at Cherry Hill, NS, was a provincial first, and a Regional as well as Canadian second (JLC, JSC, SJF *et al.*). Newfoundland just catches the edge of Lesser Yellowlegs southbound migration, with numbers variable from year to year. Counts of 12 Aug. 11 at Riverhead, Conception Bay, 17 Aug. 21 at Eddie's Cove East, and 17 Aug. 27 at Cape Freels indicated a good year (RB). Two late Lesser Yellowlegs were at Cherry Hill, NS, Nov. 11 (JSC). A post-breeding concentration of the locally-breeding, early-depart-

ing Willet was of 60 Aug 1 at Matthew's Lake, NS (BMy). A late local migrant was one Oct. 2 at Rose Bay, NS, but more seasonal was a Willet of the western race Sept. 25 at Cherry Hill, NS (IAM). The only Upland Sandpiper was at Sober I., NS, Sept. 28 (BMy). Largest counts of Whimbrel were of 70 Aug 10 at S.P.M. (RE) and 90 Aug. 27 at Cape Race, NF (BMT). Hudsonian Godwit reports were more numerous than normal in Nova Scotia with the highest count, not particularly high, being of 32 Sept. 5 at Cole Harbour (IAM). A flock of 70 in August at Sackville, NB (ST), and five Oct. 8 at Bellevue Beach, NF (RB), were nice counts for their respective provinces.

Reports of Semipalmated Sandpipers from the famous staging areas included "flocks estimated at a half million covering Evangeline Beach, NS" Aug. 6 (JT) and 250,000 Aug. 3 and 150,000 Aug. 7 at Mary's Pt., NB (DSC, MM). There were more W Sandpiper reports than usual with a minimum of two adults and two juveniles at Mary's Pt., NB, between Aug. 13 and Sept. 25 (DSC, MM); one Aug. 31 and another Oct. 21-22 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (FLL, PM, JT); one Sept. 15 at Kilbride, NF (BMT); and one Sept. 24 at Grand Barachois, S.P.M. (RE). An ad **Little Stint** Aug. 3 at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan I., NB, was convincingly described in detail (Roger Taylor, Roy John et al.). Unfortunately, only vague details were received for another reported Sept. 17 at Cherry Hill, NS. There are 2 previous records of Little Stint for the Region: one June 30-July 4, 1980, at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan I., NB, and one Oct 23-25, 1983, at Hartlen's Pt., NS.

Two hundred White-rumped Sandpipers Oct. 26 at well-watched Mary's Pt., NB, represented a local high count (DSC, MM). Eight Nov. 26 at Cape Race, NF, were indicative of how late this species migrates (BMT). It was a fairly good fall for Baird's Sandpiper with three in New Brunswick, 15 in Nova Scotia, and four in Newfoundland. It was also a fairly good fall for Pectoral Sandpiper with a maximum count of 100 Oct. 15 at Conrad's Beach, NS (WAM), and last departures being one Nov. 10 at Cape Race, NF (BMT), and three Nov. 11 at Cherry Hill, NS (SJC). Stilt Sandpipers were on the low side with one in New Brunswick, five in Nova Scotia, and one in Newfoundland. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were also low with five in Nova Scotia and one in Newfoundland. All three Ruffs were in Nova Scotia, with singles seen Sept. 5 at Lawrence-town Lake (FLL), Sept. 7 at Yarmouth (FLL), and Oct. 2 at Cherry Hill (BMy). The only Long-billed Dowitcher was found Oct 2 at Crescent, NS (JSC). Wilson's Phalaropes in Newfoundland were one Aug. 19 at Spaniard's Bay and one Sept. 28 at St. John's (RB).

**JAEGERS TO ALCIDS** — The only jaeger report of significance was that of a Long-tailed Jaeger south of Halifax in late August (PM). A well-described Great Skua was seen s. of Grand Manan I., NB, July 13 (VENT). A S. Polar Skua was collected s. of Halifax in late August (PM). Unidentified skuas seen off s.w. Nova Scotia Sept. 20 were two on LaHave Beach and six on Baccaro Bank (Bud Lehnhausen).

The only Laughing Gull reported was an adult at Miquelon, S P M., Sept. 16 (RE). Two Little Gulls Sept. 8 were at Deer I., NB, where the species is more regular than anywhere else in the Region (ST). Five adult and three juv. Com. Black-headed Gulls Aug. 20 at Cape Freels, NF, could have been from the known breeding station 50 km to the west at Ladle Cove or, as has been suspected for several years, from an undiscovered local breeding site (BMT). Fifteen adults and one-year-old birds at Bellevue Beach, NF, Aug. 21 were at another location where breeding is suspected (BMT). A half-dozen or so adult and one-year-old Black-headed also summered on the W. side of Conception Bay, NF (RB). The largest concentration of Com. Black-headed Gulls at any one location in North America occurs each November at St. John's, NF, where the peak number this year was 91 on Nov. 8 (BMT). Three Bonaparte's Gulls on the Avalon Pen., NF, was about average (RB, BMT).

The Mew Gull molting into 2nd-winter plumage at Bellevue Beach, NF, Aug. 21 and Sept. 4 was probably the same bird as present last winter and spring (BMT). An adult was there Oct. 8 (RB). An ad. Mew Gull appearing in St. John's Oct. 20 and remaining into December was returning for the 3rd consecutive fall (MP et al.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls over the period were a high total of 10 (six adults, one first-winter, two 2nd-winter, and one 3rd-winter) from the Avalon Pen., NF (RB, BMT); one Nov. 17 at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (RE); one adult Aug. 21 at N. Sydney, NS (ST); and one adult Oct. 8 at Mary's Pt., NB (DSC). Suspected Lesser Black-backed Gull x Herring Gull hybrids were single adults returning for the 4th consecutive summer to Renew's, NF, and the 4th consecutive fall and winter to Carbonear, NF (BMT). A Sabine's Gull was reported s. of Halifax in late August (PM).

Fifty Caspian Terns Aug. 20 at Middle Arm, NF, were post-breeders from the Wadham I. breeding colony (BMT). Critically-identified late Com. Terns were two Nov. 12 at Lawrence-town, NS (BD, BMy), and one Nov. 10 at Ferryland, NF (KK, BMT). A surprising 50 terns, probably Commons, were at Stephenville Crossing, NF, on the late date of Oct. 29 (MP). In keeping with the recent trend there were Forster's Terns in the Region: one Oct. 2 at Lunenburg, NS (IAM, BMy), two Oct. 23 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (BD), and one Nov. 12 at Lawrence-town, NS (BD, BMy). A **Forster's Tern** Nov. 5-12 at Ferryland, NF, furnished a 3rd provincial sighting (RB et al.).

A breeding-plumaged Dovekie Aug. 1 at Langlade, S.P.M., was a reliable summer sighting (RE et al.). At the same locality, the first fall migrants were noted Oct. 18.

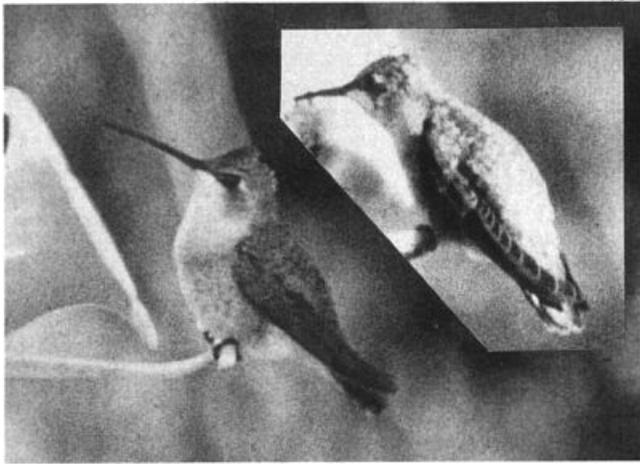
**DOVES TO WOODPECKERS** — Out-of-place Rock Doves were a banded individual June 12-15 on Sable I., NS, and three Aug. 8 on Seal I., NS (fide IAM). There were fewer Yellow-billed Cuckoos than the recent very high fall totals. This fall's totals were two in New Brunswick, seven in Nova Scotia, four in Newfoundland, and one at St. Pierre et Miquelon. After 2 consecutive Snowy Owl invasion winters, it was no surprise to have a poor fall. A peak count of three at the St. John's, NF, garbage dump, compared to 50 in the fall of 1987, tells the story. One over-summered near a tern colony at Cape Sable I., NS (fide IAM). A family group of five N Hawk-Owls Aug. 14-24 near Fundy N.P., NB, provided one of the few nesting records for the province (RW et al.).

#### S.A.

It was a long shot, but after years of keeping his Halifax backyard hummingbird feeder going until freezeup, hoping for that late vagrant hummingbird, Ian McLaren has done it, with a ♀-plumaged **Black-chinned Hummingbird** Nov. 15-23. It was photographed and studied at very close range.

The bird was described as clearly an *Archilochus*; grayish white below, with little or no hint of buffy, unlike the Ruby-throated Hummingbird female, and no rufous anywhere. It appeared somewhat larger than a Ruby-throated with an outstandingly long and decurved bill. Measurements taken from photographs of the bird on the feeder suggest that the culmen length was 22 mm. The range in culmen length of ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird is 19-22 mm, vs 15-19 mm for ♀ Ruby-throated. Its throat was lightly streaked (said to be generally less so in Ruby-throated). The forehead was grayish brown as in the Black-chinned, not greenish as in the Ruby-throated female. The back was grayish or bluish green not bright green as are typical Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (IAM et al.).

There is one previous sighting from the Region, of an ad. male May 30, 1964 in Antigonish, NS. There is a late November specimen from Massachusetts and a number of late fall and winter records from Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana.



Female Black-chinned Hummingbird in Halifax, Nova Scotia, November 1988. Using the 60 mm plastic flower as a standard, its culmen length can be estimated as  $21 \pm$  mm, and the inner web of the strongly curved outer primaries as  $3+$  mm, both indicating this species rather than Ruby-throated. Photograph/Ian McLaren and (inset) Peter MacLeod.

Almost pale by comparison was an ad. ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** Aug. 13–15 at St. Anthony, NF (Dorothy Sutcliffe). This furnished the 2nd record for Newfoundland and 4th for the Region, all in August; three were adult males.

Following close on the tail of St. Pierre et Miquelon's first **Chuck-will's widow** in April of this year, Newfoundland had its first on Oct. 11 at Ferryland. It was picked up alive but dying, and 4 days later it was deposited in the Newfoundland Museum (J. Maunder). This constitutes the 9th record for the Region. A chimney in Wolfville, NS, was home to 495 Chimney Swifts in early August (JWW).

An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker Nov. 16 at St. Pierre, S.P.M., furnished a 2nd island sighting and the only report in the Region (RE et al.)! Now annual in the Region, a Red-bellied Woodpecker was at a feeder in Waverley, NS, Oct. 16 into December (LPMP et al.).

**FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES**—A Regional total of seven W. Kingbirds (two in New Brunswick, five in Nova Scotia) Sept. 27–Nov. 10 was a little above average. A **Say's Phoebe** Oct. 15–16 at Cape Spear, NF, was a provincial first (KK, DP, RB, MP). There was a rumor of another somewhere in Nova Scotia in September. There are at least 8 records for the Region. A Purple Martin was out of range at Cape Spear, NF, Sept. 26 (BMT). Continuing a bizarre trend, Cliff Swallows—rare at any time in Newfoundland—were again seen in October, well after the breeding stock in the other 3 provinces of the Region had migrated. This fall St. John's had one Sept. 20 and two Oct. 3 (BMT). Late Barn Swallows in Nova Scotia were one Nov. 7 at Rockingham (BD), one Nov. 12 at Brier I. (RBS), and one Nov. 16 at Canning (JWW).

A **Black-billed Magpie** at a garbage dump near L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF, from early October to mid-November was perhaps the best candidate for a truly wild vagrant in the Region (Lloyd Decker, BMT). It was wary, appeared healthy, and no signs of captivity were detected. The sparsely-populated and relatively remote northern location at the tip of a large peninsula, where there is an impressive history of long-distance vagrants occurring, further builds a case for it being a naturally occurring bird. Previous records of magpie in the Region include one each in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. Large roosts of Am. Crows occurred in Nova Scotia with 5000 at Mt. St. Vincent University (BD) and 10,000 at Boot I., Grand Pre (JWW), both in early November.

No large migrations of Red-breasted Nuthatches were

noted, suggesting that they stayed home this winter to enjoy the bountiful cone crop. The only House Wren reported was one Oct. 15 at Brier I., NS (ST). The most noteworthy of the three Marsh Wren reports was a late individual Nov. 16 at Sackville, NB (ST). There was a general impression across the Region that numbers of Golden-crowned Kinglets were high. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers Nov. 6 at Cape Broyle, NF (BMT), and Nov. 15–25 at Barrington, NS (BJS), were fewer than expected for this routine vagrant.

Occurring once or twice per fall but at random locations in the Region, a N. Wheatear was at Middle W. Pubnico, NS, Sept. 12–15 (A. D. Entremont et al.). There were fewer reports of the scarce E. Bluebird from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in fall migration than during the breeding season. A Wood Thrush Aug. 31 at Brier I., NS, furnished one of the few fall records for the Region (ST). The lack of reports of large numbers of Cedar Waxwings suggested that they chose to remain in the Region to feed on the exceptional abundance of wild fruit available. The only Bohemian Waxwings were 100 in late November at Goose Bay, Lab. (Dorothy Sutcliffe). Northern Shrike numbers were low across the Region.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS**—Late Solitary Vireos were singles Nov. 1 at Halifax, NS (BD), and Nov. 9 at St. John's, NF (MP). Newfoundland's 3rd **Yellow-throated Vireo** Sept. 12 at St. John's was the only one reported in the Region (BMT). The only reports of the scarce Warbling Vireo were from Nova Scotia: one Oct. 1 at Hartlen's Pt. (BMy), one Oct. 10 at Seal I. (BMT), and one Oct. 15 at Brier I. (BMT, ST). A late Philadelphia Vireo was at St. John's, NF, Oct. 28 (DP). Although common in much of the Region, Red-eyed Vireo is scarce in Newfoundland, where a total of 12–15 seen Sept. 5–24 around St. John's was a record high number (BMT et al.). A late Red-eyed Vireo was at Hartlen's Pt., NS, Nov. 5 (BMy).

One to three Blue-winged Warblers were present Sept. 6–24 at Hartlen's Pt., NS (m.ob.). A stunning ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** photographed Sept. 15 at Cape Spear, NF, was a provincial first (BMT). A "Brewster's" Warbler reported from Miramichi R., NB, Aug. 21 was the first sighting of such a hybrid in the Region (Page Brown). Typical reports of the scarce Orange-crowned Warbler were of two each at Halifax, NS, and St. John's, NF, through November. Chestnut-sided Warbler continued to challenge its "very rare" status in Newfoundland with different singles at Cape Spear Sept. 7 & 15 (BMT). Another was rare at St. Pierre, S.P.M., Sept. 10 (RE). A **Townsend's Warbler** Nov. 20 into December at St. John's, NF, was the province's 2nd and Region's 5th ever (BMT). Two Blackburnian Warblers Oct. 8 were rare as far east as Miquelon, S.P.M. (RE). Annual but always exciting to find in the Region, Yellow-throated Warblers were: one Aug. 15–16 at Lower W. Pubnico, NS (D. D'Entremont), one Nov. 26 at Brigus, NF (C. Jarrett), and one Nov. 14 & 20 at St. Pierre, S.P.M., for a first local sighting (RE, AD).

Prairie Warblers were present in expected numbers Aug. 7–Oct. 15 with two in New Brunswick, 15 in Nova Scotia, and three in Newfoundland. The rare **Cerulean Warbler** was at Hartlen's Pt., NS, Sept. 6–10 (FLL et al.). Not as rare but as far out of range was a Prothonotary Warbler banded on Bon Portage I., NS, Oct. 8–10 (fide JWW). A **Worm-eating Warbler** Sept. 10 at St. Pierre, S.P.M., was a first for the French islands (RE). Secretive, rare, and loaded with potential identification pitfalls, a Connecticut Warbler was well observed by many Sept. 10 at Hartlen's Pt. NS (BMy et al.). A ♂ Hooded Warbler was at Hartlen's Pt. Sept. 24 (PM). Canada Warblers, rare east of Nova Scotia, were singles Sept. 7 at Cape Spear, NF (BMT), and Sept. 10 at St. Pierre, S.P.M. (RE). Totals for Yellow-breasted Chat were six in Nova Scotia and three in Newfoundland.

Despite the rather mild November, late warblers were not as plentiful as in some recent years. The list of late warblers is as follows. Nashville Warbler: one Nov. 12 at Halifax, NS (BMy). Northern Parula: two Nov. 9 at Barrington, NS (SS),

### S.A.

Something peculiar happened in the world of Pine Warblers. In Nova Scotia, where it is a scarce annual late fall vagrant, there were "20 reports" including a flock of 12 in late November in Halifax (m.ob.). In Newfoundland, where there were just five previous sightings, there were at least eight through November at St. John's (m.ob.). A possible explanation for the unprecedented displacement of so many Pine Warblers would be a storm with strong SW winds during a major wave of migrating Pines in the n.e. United States. The first Pine Warblers were singles in Nova Scotia during the 2nd week of October. It was not until early November (when birdwatchers begin turning their efforts towards the cities) that the first small flocks were discovered, suggesting that most of them arrived in October.

For the few birdwatchers covering the Region to have seen this number of Pine Warblers, the actual total involved in this suicidal movement must have been staggering—enough to affect the breeding population somewhere?

one Nov. 14–16 at Canning, NS (JWW), and one Nov. 23–Dec. 2 at St. John's, NF (Bmt). Yellow Warbler: one Nov. 7 and a different one Nov. 8 at St. John's, NF (Bmt). Magnolia Warbler: one Nov. 22 at Halifax, NS (fide RBS). Black-and-white Warbler: one Nov. 6 at St. John's, NF (RB). Wilson's Warbler: one Nov. 2 at St. John's, NF (DP).

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES**—Although suspected of nesting in Nova Scotia for years, the first nest of Scarlet Tanager was only discovered this summer at Kentville (RBS et al.). Nova Scotia's 9th or 10th **Western Tanager** was an ad. male Sept. 20 at Brier I. (PM), and Newfoundland's first was an imm. male Nov. 20–25 photographed at St. John's (Bmt). There were single Summer Tanagers Sept. 19 at Grand Manan I., NB (DSC et al.) and mid-September at Hartlen's Pt., NS (PM). Single Blue Grosbeaks were seen Sept. 25 at Mary's Pt., NB (DSC et al.), and Oct. 22 at Overton, NS (fide DSC). Indigo Bunting numbers were low with eight in Nova Scotia and three in Newfoundland. Dickcissels were in the lowest numbers, with six in New Brunswick and one each in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

A wave of eight Rufous-sided Towhees Oct. 10 on Seal I., NS, furnished the only report of this scarce non-breeding migrant (m.ob.). A rather high total of seven Clay-colored Sparrows was seen Sept. 3–Oct. 30 across the Region with two in New Brunswick, four in Nova Scotia, and one in Newfoundland. In contrast, only one Field Sparrow was reported, Oct. 14 at Brier I., NS (fide DAC). A Regional total of 14 Lark Sparrows was probably a record high with two in New Brunswick, nine in Nova Scotia, one in St. Pierre et Miquelon, and two in Newfoundland. Eleven occurred in September and the latter three in October. No Grasshopper Sparrows, a regular fall vagrant, were reported. Surprising in light of its abundance as a breeder in Nova Scotia, a **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** Oct. 22–29 at Renew's, NF, provided only a 2nd provincial sighting (Bmt et al.). Perhaps more surprisingly, it appeared to be *A.c. caudacutus*, the subspecies breeding in n.e. United States, not *A.c. subvirgatus* which breeds in the maritime Provinces.

The most noteworthy of the three Yellow-headed Blackbird reports was one ad. male Oct. 18–Nov. 10 at Renew's, NF, for one of the few provincial records (RB et al.). Presumably correctly identified Brewer's Blackbirds were one Sept. 5 at Broad Cove, NS (SJF, BH) and two Sept. 20 at Brier I., NS (PM). Fifteen to 20 N. Orioles September to November in the St. John's, NF, area was above average for this, the most commonly seen vagrant in the province (fide Bmt). Up to 13 at once were seen at Hartlen's Pt., NS, in September (PM).

Excitement was created by the appearance of a **Common Chaffinch** Nov. 19 into December at a cemetery in Halifax, NS (DAC et al.). The photographic records from the Region are of one Feb. 25, 1967 at St. John's, NF, and one in early April 1987 at Alma, NB. Whether these birds flew across the Atlantic Ocean on their own, were partly or wholly ship assisted, or were locally escaped caged birds, is open to debate.

Only White-winged Crossbills appeared to be taking advantage of the Regionwide heavy cone crop. They were widespread in fair to good numbers. The only really large flock reported was of 300 Nov. 12 at Martinique Beach, NS (BD, BMy). American Goldfinches were common throughout Nova Scotia. A lack of Pine Siskins was reported from Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Purple Finches, Red Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks, Com. Redpolls, and Red Crossbills were in low to fair numbers in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. House Finches were reported only from New Brunswick where there were 25 Sept. 4 at St. Stephen (BD) and five mid-October to Nov. 30 at Moncton (fide DSC).

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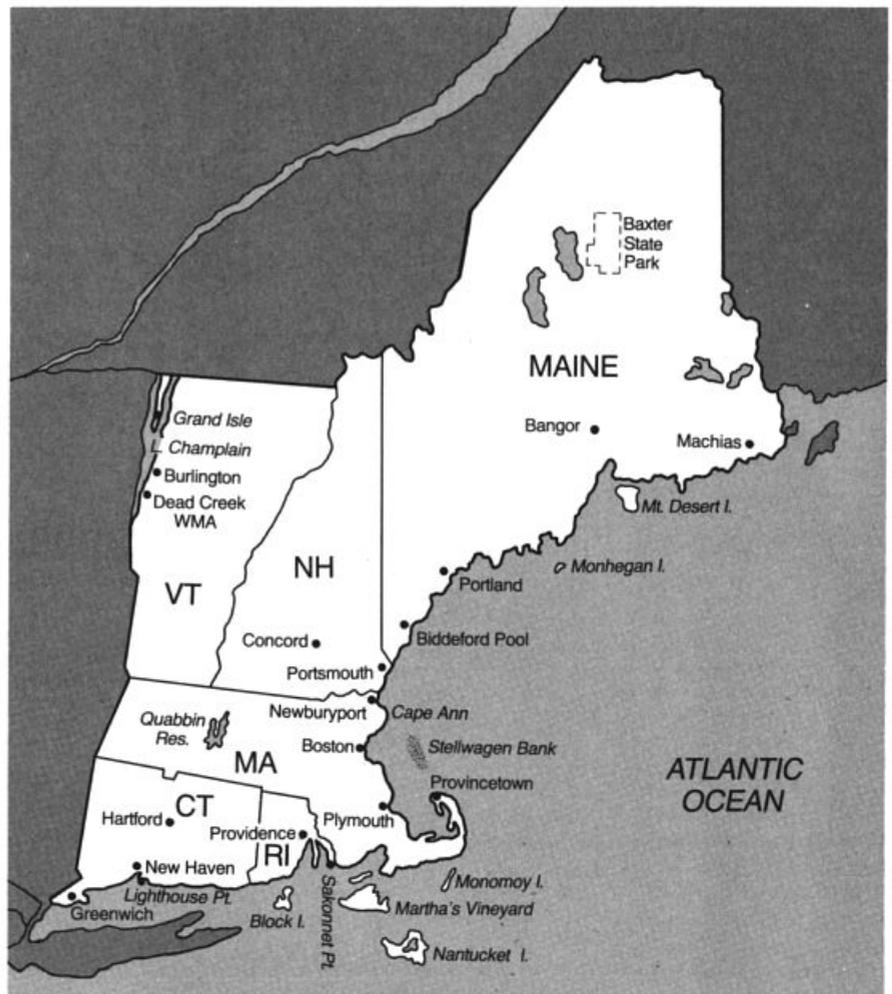
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## American Birds BIRDATHON / 89

## NEW ENGLAND REGION

Charles D. Duncan



The weather in August continued the pattern begun in the remarkable summer of 1988: hot and oppressively humid. Tropical Storm Alberto hit eastern Maine August 7 with heavy rains and 40 mile per hour winds. The continuing warm, moist air formed a depressingly thick and persistent fog over the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy, discouraging pelagic birders. Who knows how pelagic birds are affected by weeks of zero visibility conditions? In any event, several changes in the normal patterns of pelagic distribution were observed. Relief came first to southern New England, with cold fronts August 16 and 21, and followed a week later farther north. On August 30, Tropical Storm Chris moved up the coast from the Carolinas, again bringing heavy rain to Maine. September brought the sort of weather New England birders crave: cool, dry air with plenty of cold fronts and northwesterly winds, ideal for observing raptor and passerine migrations. Below-freezing temperatures hit northern Vermont by the month's end. October too had several days of northwesterly winds and was unseasonably cold and dry. Snow fell in northern Vermont on October 8 and 9. A major storm, with heavy rain from Gulf and Atlantic moist air, struck the coast October 21 and 22. November was warmer and milder than usual and remained snow-free in most places.

It was not a bad season of birding, offering a few interesting vagrants from the south and from Greenland; a rather good mix of oceanic species out of range, either inland or extralimitally north; exciting flights of hawks; and quite a few species from a variety of taxa, staying [or

returning in the case of reverse migrants] unusually late. On the the hand, irruptive boreal species, whether raptors, waxwings, or finches, were almost nonexistent as were western strays, although a Say's Phoebe was the exception that proved the rule.

Other rarities and firsts included a Brown Pelican and a Magnificent Frigatebird, a Barnacle Goose, three Merlin nests, a Black Rail, an Allens's Hummingbird, a Say's Phoebe, a Le Conte's Sparrow, and a pink-sided "Oregon" Junco.

This season's report, the first I have written, was distilled from about a thousand records of uneven content and quality. Perhaps it is useful to begin by reminding readers and especially observers what should be involved. The easiest to consider and therefore most useful in any analysis are those reports scrutinized at the state level and submitted to the editor promptly. Such schemes are in place for Maine (*Maine Bird Notes*, Jody Despres, editor, Rt. 1, Box 825, Turner, ME 04282); New Hampshire (*New Hampshire Bird Records*, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, P.O. Box 528-B, Concord, NH 03301); Rhode Island (*Field Notes of Rhode Island Birds*, David L. Emerson, editor, 1144 Burt St., Taunton, MA 02780); and Vermont (*Records of Vermont Birds*, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, P.O. Box 86, Woodstock, VT 05091). Readers are urged to contact these organizations for information about reporting observations or subscribing to the state journals. Contributors to other journals or record-keeping schemes should be aware that their submissions, for whatever

reason, have not been forwarded. In the case of western Massachusetts, a summary of sightings was received less than five days before this report was due at the *American Birds* offices. It should be apparent that this does not allow adequate time for consideration of these sightings. A few of the most important have been included. The same can be said for August submissions to the publication *The Bird Observer*, which arrived the same day. Connecticut, sadly, received coverage from only one resident and one observer who visited for one or two days.

Individual reports, of course, are also useful, even necessary for those areas without a functional record-keeping scheme. The best contain lists of birds in taxonomic order (not lists of birds seen each day), a statement of the significance of the record ("high," "late," "first ever here," for example) and a description, perhaps brief, perhaps very detailed, of any unusual or rare sightings. A general rule if it's worth mentioning to a friend, it's worth adding documentation. Monthly submissions are much, much easier to manage than an entire season's sightings sent all at once, and are strongly encouraged. Readers who keep their sightings in an electronic database are asked to write to this editor naming the program and hardware used, along with the format of the database. Attempts to allow electronic submission of data in standard format are currently under way.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.N.C.U. = Cutler Naval Communications Unit, ME; P.M.N.W.R. = Petit Manan Nat'l Wildlife Ref., ME, V.I.N.S. = Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock, VT

**LOONS TO STORM-PETRELS** — The largest concentration of Red-throated Loons was of only 44, a small fraction of typical maxima, seen from Rockport, MA, Oct. 22, during an intense northeasterly storm (RH). The only other notable report was of one inland at Bridport, VT, Oct. 7 (RL). Arctic/Pacific Loon continued its (their?) pattern of almost annual occurrence, this time with a pair of birds carefully studied at Ragged Neck S.P., Rye, NH, Nov. 14 (DA, TA, LH). Arctic/Pacific Loon may show a degree of site-fidelity in New England, as this locality is less than 10 mi from Kittery Pt., ME, where Arctic or Pacific loons have occurred 3 times over the years since 1974. (A similar pattern has developed in the winter season at Monhegan I., ME, where Arctic/Pacific loons have been found 4 of the past 6 years). The distinction between these recently split species remains one of the most challenging of North American field problems. The migration of Com. Loon was apparently an extended one, as a peak of 46 was observed in Massachusetts Sept. 24 at Plum I. (RH), whereas Vermont's peak of 73 at Grand I. did not occur until Nov. 12 (RL).

Pied-billed Grebe, considered to be recovering from low numbers of a decade ago, was thought to be more scarce than usual on Cape Cod this year (BN). Twenty-five at Eastons Pond, RI, Oct. 29 (RB, DE) constituted that state's highest count this fall. In Vermont the total of all reports for the season was 22 (where 35 would be typical of recent years), and there were seven in New Hampshire. A single was found Sept. 14 at Roque Bluffs in e. Maine, where the species is quite uncommon (TP). Red-necked Grebe arrived in Maine in exceptional numbers in mid-November with counts of 160 at Biddeford Pool on the 12th (KD), 87 at P.M.N.W.R. on the 16th (RW), and 98 at C.N.C.U. in e. Maine on the 25th (CD). Inland a maximum of nine was found at Addison, VT, Nov. 3 (RL). The venerable W. Grebe first discovered in 1977 was seen again at Georgetown, ME, Nov. 27 (GC).

Northern Fulmar, which was reported in totals reaching 1000 during the mid-1970s, has apparently become scarcer since then. It went unreported this season. Cory's Shearwater also showed a change in status this season compared to that of a decade ago. It is a species of warm-water currents, which

in this Region generally means transient Gulf Stream eddies and warm-core rings. Thus it is unusual that this season's reports were of birds well to the north of the traditional areas of maximum abundance off Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The first was seen Aug. 5 from a whale watch near Mt. Desert Rock, ME (BA *et al.*), and another was seen 2 days later from the M.V. *Bluenose* between Bar Harbor, ME, and Yarmouth, NS (KD). Six were seen the following week from the M.V. *Scotia Prince* between Portland, ME, and Yarmouth Aug. 14 (REa, CL). Between eight and 15 were found 15 mi offshore from Harpswell, ME, Aug. 17 (BBa), and another was seen from the *Bluenose* Aug. 27 (SMr). The maximum for Massachusetts was only four, seen on Stellwagen Bank Sept. 18 (VF). None was seen in Rhode Island waters, where hundreds were once found. Greater and Sooty shearwaters were seen in reasonable numbers in August at Stellwagen Bank (*vide* GE), but at Coxs Ledge, RI, they were in very short supply, with Emerson commenting that he could not remember a season with so few reports of shearwaters and storm-petrels. Again concentrations were north of these areas. For Greater Shearwater, 50 were found around Mt. Desert Rock, ME, Aug. 9 (BA *et al.*); eight were seen Aug. 13 between Cutler, ME, and Machias Seal I., NB, where they are normally absent (CD *et al.*); and 111 were observed from the *Bluenose* Aug. 27 despite heavy fog (SMr). Seventy-five were found Sept. 18 at Stellwagen Bank, MA (VF), though they were absent from there only 8 days previously (JB). The maximum number of Sooty Shearwaters was 100 at Stellwagen Aug. 7 (*vide* GD), followed by 75 seen Aug. 13 a few miles south of Cutler, ME, where one or two might be expected (CD *et al.*). Manx Shearwater was considered in "good numbers" at Stellwagen Bank with counts of over 100 during August (BN) and of 35 Sept. 18 (VF). Other notable concentrations were of 25 between Cutler, ME, and Machias Seal I. Aug. 13 (CD *et al.*) and 100 near Jordan's Delight I., off Milbridge, ME, Aug. 16 (TG). One seen at Coxs Ledge, RI, Sept. 18 was considered unusual there (DFi). These totals rival anything previously seen in New England waters. Wilson's Storm-Petrel was uniformly scarce at Stellwagen Bank (JB) the peak of 300 Aug. 14 was the lowest since 1981 (*vide* GE). The maximum of 206 at Mt. Desert Rock, ME (BA *et al.*), Aug. 6 was about one-fourth of the typical high count there.

**GANNET TO IBISES** — The migration of N. Gannet peaked in late October and early November. On Oct. 22 during an intense storm, observers at Rockpoint, MA, estimated 1000–1200 moving by; on Nov. 6, 1000 were seen from Bald Head, Ogunquit, ME, in 30 minutes (KD). The following day 800 were observed in a "continuous passage south" at Chatham, MA (VF). Remarkable was a **Brown Pelican** photographed flying just off the beach at Ninigret N.W.R., RI, Nov. 18, the day after a SE storm (AF). Vermont's 3rd **Great Cormorant** was an immature, admirably documented with a written description and sketch, at Vernon Nov. 16. The bird was seen again 2 days later at nearby Hinsdale, NH (JC, AK). Less unusual reports were of a bird at Little Duck I., ME, on the slightly early date of Aug. 16, and a bird at Sheepscot, ME, about 25 mi inland, considered a local first, on Nov. 27 (JH). Rhode Island's 6th **Magnificent Frigatebird**, the first since 1973, was a female photographed Oct. 15 (FG, JDa).

Concern has been expressed in these pages the past 2 fall seasons over the lack of Am. Bittern reports in the s. portions of the Region. This season there were 7 from Vermont, 9 from New Hampshire, 2 from Rhode Island, and 4 from Massachusetts. In Maine the species is found often enough that only unusual dates or locations seem to be reported. The sole report from Connecticut was of a late individual seen at Stratford Nov. 19 (SKo). Least Bittern went entirely unreported. It would be of use if observers would make an effort to search for and report "low visibility" species such as these marsh-dwellers. Great Egret seems to be prospering in the Region, which it colonized only recently. Ten at Monomoy, MA, provided the peak count at that location (BN), and 94 were

counted at Plum I, MA, Aug 16 (*fide* GE) Fifty-one at Seapowet Marsh, RI, Aug. 29 was reflective of a successful breeding season there (DE). Vermont's total of all sightings was five. A single at Woolwich, ME, Aug. 16 was slightly north of the species' normal limits (MP). Snowy Egrets peaked at 1076 at Plum I. Aug. 16 (*fide* GE) but were scarcer than normal at Appledore I., ME, with a high of only 50, compared to 250 the previous year (DHm). The only report of Little Blue Heron north of the breeding grounds in s. New England was of a late individual on Monhegan I., ME, Nov. 6 (BBo). Tricolored Heron is a rare breeder in the Region, occasionally arriving here as a postbreeding wanderer as well. This season's reports were of one or two on Monomoy I., MA (BN); one near Bucksport, ME, Aug. 13 (DF); and one at Quonchohtaug, RI, Sept. 28 (SH). A Cattle Egret was found Oct. 31 in W. Bethel, 60 mi inland in the mountains of w. Maine (CG, *fide* WH). Most of this season's reports of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron were of immature birds: one at Scarborough, ME, Aug. 3 (KG, GC); one at Appledore I., ME, Sept. 2 (SS); and five at Block I., RI, Sept. 11 (CR, REN). One at Monhegan, ME, Nov. 26 was late enough that I would have liked to have read supporting documentation. In Massachusetts two adults were seen with an immature at Plum I. Aug. 3, an immature was at N. Monomoy Aug. 6, and two were at Squantum Aug. 17 (*fide* GE). High numbers of Glossy Ibises were 60 at Seapowet Marsh, RI, Aug. 1 (REm) and 52 at Plum I., MA, Aug. 16 (*fide* GE), indicating successful breeding.

**WATERFOWL** — Tundra Swan is a rare but regular visitor to New England. This season's reports were of two at L. Spofford, NH, Nov. 7 (JC) and seven at Franklin, VT, Nov. 25 (PM). There were 3 reports of Greater White-fronted Goose. The first was at Cherry Hill Res., West Newbury, MA, present from Oct. 15, considered to be from one of the North American breeding populations (RH). Two were seen Nov. 25 at New Bedford, MA, and were considered to be of the race breeding in Greenland (JC, BGH). The last report, also of a Greenland race bird, was of "an adult in perfect plumage" at Matunuck, RI, Nov. 27 (RC, DK). Snow Geese migrate through the w. portions of New England, avoiding the coast. Thus the addition of Vermont to the Region may give a much clearer picture of their movements. The Vermont reports included high counts of 1500 at Grand I. Oct. 17, 400 at Shelburne Beach Oct. 30, 2000 at Shelburne Beach Nov. 5, 2800 at Dead Creek W.M.A. the next day, and 2200 at I. La Motte and 1000 at Dead Creek W.M.A. Nov. 12. The maximum, however, was of 5000 Nov. 22 at Dead Creek. When one eliminates the weekend bias of observation time, we are left with a steady diurnal movement of perhaps 7000–20,000 birds per week for 5 weeks. To this we must add the intriguing observation, made at Missisquoi N.W.R. by U.S.F.W.S. employees working law-enforcement duties, of "continuous series of Snow Goose flights from 8:30 p.m. to 4:00 a.m." (JG). Overall, a staggering number of these geese were flying past the L. Champlain area. A single **Barnacle Goose** was seen with the two Greater White-fronted Geese mentioned above at Acushnet R. in New Bedford Nov. 25. The presence of two birds with proven origins in Greenland lends credence to the possibility that the Barnacle Goose was a wild bird (JC, BGH).

A flock of 650 Green-winged Teal found on Monomoy I. Nov. 5 represented the "highest count by far" for this spot, the only place on Cape Cod where the species is found regularly (BN). Both Am. Black Duck and Mallard were considered to be in healthy numbers at Monomoy I. this fall, the latter reaching a peak of 30 birds where it was quite scarce 10 years ago (BN). A few N. Pintails were found in regions of Maine where they are generally scarce. Two were at Sweden Sept. 20 (PR); two were shot on opening day, Oct. 10, at Belgrade (DM); and three females or immatures were at C.N.C.U. on the following day (IB, CD). Blue-winged Teal were scarce in Rhode Island, less numerous than Green-wingeds, whereas the opposite is usually the case (DE). There were 12 reports of N. Shoveler Oct. 5–27 for Rhode Island,

where the species is a rare transient (*fide* DE) Gadwalls were low at Monomoy with a maximum of 40 Sept. 25 (BN), but in states where they are not regular there were 2 reports totaling three birds from Maine and 3 reports totaling five birds from Vermont. Four reports of Eur. Wigeon, 2 each from Rhode Island and Massachusetts, were perhaps a trace below average. Peak numbers of Am. Wigeon on Monomoy I., MA, reached only 40, well below normal (BN). The 850 at E Providence Res. was down slightly from previous highs (DE)

There were 4 Canvasback reports: one at Seabasticook L., ME, Nov. 5 (BWS); one each from S. Hero (RL) and Rockingham (AD), VT, in mid-October; and one from Franklin, NH, Nov. 30 (KE). Twenty-five Redheads at Monomoy represented a good count for an area where they are not regular (BN). Ring-necked Ducks were up to something. One found at Cumberland Res., RI, Aug. 23 was the earliest ever there (REN). They were judged to be low in Errol, NH (TR), and in w. Massachusetts they were present in numbers less than half their 6-year average (*fide* SKe). At Monomoy, however, 300 was by far the highest number seen at that spot (BN) Six Greater Scaup inland at Sabattus Pond, ME, Nov. 22 & 24 was an uncommon event (JD). Surprisingly, Com. Eider, the most marine of our ducks, was reported at several inland localities in Maine, 15 were found at Umbazooksus L. Aug. 15 (WN), 130 migrants were seen at Brewer Oct. 31 (ML); and 200 were reported seen at Moosehead L. Nov. 21 (WN). In c. Massachusetts one was at S. Quabbin Oct. 8 (*fide* SKe). Twenty were reported without details by a district wildlife biologist from Missisquoi Bay, VT, Oct. 22. The only King Eider reports were of one each at the traditional localities: Sachuest Pt. and Little Compton, RI. The maximum of Harlequin Ducks was 11 at Sachuest Pt. Oct. 30. Three Oldsquaws at Shelburne Beach, VT, throughout November were rare. For Vermont there were 3 reports of Black Scoter, totaling 42 birds; 4 of Surf Scoter, totaling 36 individuals; and 8 of White-winged Scoter, totaling 48. Most of these were associated with L. Champlain, not surprisingly. These species drew little comment from more traditional areas, although the 15,000–20,000 White-winged Scoters off S. Monomoy I., MA, throughout November (BN) represented a higher count than any previously reported in these pages.

A Barrow's Goldeneye seen at Roque Bluffs, ME, Aug 14 was quite early (TP, JA). It was described as a female but with a white crescent behind the bill. Almost certainly it was a male in eclipse, a plumage seldom seen in this Region. A male was seen from Oct. 29 through the end of the period at Burlington, VT, where the species is quite rare (m.ob.). One at the Connecticut R. dam in Vernon, VT, Nov. 16 was considered a returning individual (JC). This species used to occur below the Bangor dam on the Penobscot R. in Maine in considerable numbers. Since the dam was breached, the concentration has dispersed. Only one was seen along the river (at the Veazie dam this time), on Nov. 26 (CD). Another was at Sachuest Pt., RI, Nov. 27 for the 2nd year (GS). Mergansers were found in good numbers with 56 Hoodeds at Franklin, NH, Nov. 30 being more than usual (KE). Reports of Com Merganser from 3 Vermont localities totaled 1000 individuals, and 500 were found at 2 w. Maine ponds Nov. 25. In w. Massachusetts observers found 627, about 60% above recent averages. Red-breasted Merganser was considered to have exploded at Shelburne Beach, VT, with 500 there Oct. 31

**RAPTORS TO CRANES** — Turkey Vulture has recently become well established in the Region. Hawkwatchers at Mt Agamenticus, ME, tallied 100 for the season, and New Hampshire observers counted 84. The last one seen was on Nov 12, at Turner, ME (JDe). These figures should be compared to those of 1977, when 82 were reported for the entire Region Equally positive are the trends for Osprey. Again compare this year's best day (Sept. 15) of 133 at Mt. Agamenticus with that of 1982's 105 or the season total of 686 at South Harpswell, ME, with the 1984 "best ever at this site" of 325. This year's one-day maximum there of 206 also occurred Sept. 15 (GA)

In all, Maine, New Hampshire, and w Massachusetts hawk-watchers counted 2360 Ospreys (*fide* SMr, SKe). Systematic counts were not received for other areas. The best site for observing Bald Eagle migration this year was Mt. Desert I., ME, where 56 were seen Sept. 11–Oct. 12, with a best day of 11 on Sept. 25. There were 43 reports from w. Massachusetts, 6 from Vermont, 2 from Rhode Island, and 2 from Cape Cod. Northern Harrier moved from the end of August until the first week of November with peak days in mid-September. A total of 495 was seen at the Maine, and New Hampshire, and w Massachusetts hawkwatches. Sharp-shinned Hawk was scarce on Cape Cod, one active observer seeing only four or five for the entire season. Nonetheless, hawkwatchers elsewhere had extraordinary totals with 3255 seen at S. Harpswell Sept. 10–Oct. 30. This was the 2nd highest total there in 20 years of study. The single best day's count was of 582, again on Sept. 15 (GA). A total of 7697 was found at the Maine, New Hampshire, and w. Massachusetts hawkwatches. Cooper's Hawk too was found in reasonably good numbers with 152 seen at these same hawkwatches, more than half of these passing through w. Massachusetts (*fide* SMr, SKe). This ratio of one Cooper's to every 50 Sharp-shinneds compares remarkably with an estimate of 1:53 made in this column for the 1977 season. The ratio is highest inland and lowest coastally, indicating that Cooper's Hawks may be coming from fewer eastern and more inland, northerly points. Northern Goshawk showed no particular signs of an invasion. Fifty-five were seen at the hawkwatches (*fide* SMr, SKe), and one reached Rhode Island on the early date of Sept. 2 (SMI).

Maine and New Hampshire counted a rather high 26,123 Broad-winged Hawks Aug. 30–Nov. 9 (*fide* SMr). Typically the bulk of the Broad-winged Hawk migration is observed at w. Massachusetts localities. There, this year's total was slimmer than usual, being only 8794 (*fide* SKe), though Mt. Wachusset's counts seem not to have been included. Single-day counts in w. Massachusetts have been this high in past years. Rough-legged Hawk was generally scarce with only 13 individuals scattered throughout the Region. The earliest were singles in New Hampshire Sept. 11 & 12. There were 4 reports of Golden Eagle: two at Waterford, ME, Sept. 24 (*fide* PR); one at Roque Bluffs, ME, Oct. 1 (TP); one at Dorset, VT, Oct. 9 (BG), and one at Trustrom Pond N.W.R., RI, Nov. 3 (SH). In addition, late reports of 10 (without descriptions) in w. Massachusetts Oct. 10–Nov. 15 (*fide* SKe), and one at Hinesburg, VT, with good details (MCB) were received. The Regional total of 16 represents the highest ever.

There were 3618 Am. Kestrels seen at the hawkwatches in Maine, New Hampshire, and w. Massachusetts, with peaks Sept. 11–15 in the first 2 states and a week later in Massachusetts. **Merlin** was confirmed as a breeding bird in Maine, the first New England state so honored. Last season's report described a nest believed to be that of a Merlin, occupied and then abandoned at C.N.C.U. in e. Maine. Observers were therefore delighted to find three Merlin, at least two of them this year's hatch, at the same site Aug. 10, perhaps a result of 2nd nesting (CD, WP *et al.*). Simultaneously, a nest was observed by a Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife warden to fledge too young at Spencer Pond near Mooshead L. (RJ). Just 6 mi beyond the limits of this Region, four young Merlins, including one with a still-downy crown, were photographed for over an hour Aug. 12 at Campobello I., NB, where an adult had been heard in early July (CD, WP *et al.*). A total of 438 migrant Merlins was observed at the hawkwatches (*fide* SMr, SKe) with a one-day maximum of 58 at S. Harpswell Sept. 15 (GA). These figures are rather typical of the past several seasons. There were 6 Peregrine Falcon reports from Vermont, the last being suspiciously late on Nov. 25. Elsewhere totals were at best unspectacular by recent standards with a season total of 24 at S. Harpswell (GA), 21 at scattered Maine localities (*fide* JDe), 19 in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SKe), only five at the New Hampshire hawkwatches (*fide* SMr), and only four in Rhode Island (compared to 22 in

1987). There were 2 Gyrfalcon reports, both from Maine. The first was of a "pearl-gray" individual seen at S. Harpswell Oct. 19 (GA), and a white-morph bird was reported from Burying I., Franklin, Nov. 14 (SP).

A Yellow Rail, that rare and secretive migrant through the Region, was seen Nov. 21 at Chatham, MA (BN). Even rarer was Rhode Island's 3rd **Black Rail**, the first since 1975, flushed 3 times from a hayfield at Quicksand Pond (CM). Clapper Rail continued to be hard to find in the Region. This year's only reports were of one at S. Dartmouth, MA, Aug. 23 (*fide* GG) and one at Quonchontaug, RI, Sept. 7 (REn). One Com. Moorhen was reported from the E. Providence (RI) Res. Sept. 19. From Vermont there were reports totaling 17, and four from w. Massachusetts. American Coot was thought to be in very low numbers on Cape Cod, discouraging in that the species had been recovering from a low point since about 1983. Three reports, of four individuals, were received from Vermont. A late report of 28 individuals from 9 sightings was received from w. Massachusetts (*fide* SKe). Sandhill Crane is now found annually in low numbers. This season there were 2 reports from Maine and one from Massachusetts, the earliest Aug. 1 at Dresden, ME, and the latest seen until Sept. 24 at Otisfield, ME (*fide* JDe).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Overall impressions of the shorebird migration varied. On Cape Cod, Nikula commented on the low numbers of virtually every species this fall but suggested that the increased amount of habitat available from "the infamous Chatham breach" might simply be making the area harder to census properly. By contrast, Chris Raithel in Rhode Island wrote that there was both good variety and good numbers at Napatree Pt. during August with 207 Short-billed Dowitchers there Aug. 5 leading the way (*fide* DE). The largest flock of Lesser Golden-Plovers was of 40 at Turner, ME, Oct. 15, part of a state total of 62 for the season. Twenty-three Am. Oystercatchers at Napatree, RI, was a typical number, as was the total of 30 at N. Monomoy, MA. A Greater Yellowlegs at Lonesome L. at 2750' elevation in the New Hampshire mountains Oct. 7 was a rare find (TR). The maximum count of 546 Whimbrels at their nocturnal roost on N. Monomoy I., MA, Aug. 7 was one of the highest counts there (BN), 2nd behind last year's 675 and way above average. Hundreds were heard overhead just after midnight on Sept. 6 at Roque Bluffs, ME (TP). Hudsonian Godwits elicited much comment this year. Nikula considered them "somewhat below recent norms" with a maximum of 80 on Monomoy, still the highest count in the Region. Scarborough Marsh, ME, held 32 Aug. 7 (BWS), and Plum I., MA, had 24 Aug. 20 (JB). Thirty-eight were at Ninigret Pond, RI, Sept. 5, and an additional bird was at Quicksand Pond, RI, the same day, following an easterly storm Sept. 4 (*fide* DE). It is now generally recognized that the majority of the 10,000 or so birds that assemble in James Bay, Canada, may fly nonstop to their wintering grounds in South America, accounting for the former presumption of great rarity for the species. Thus, unusual concentrations in New England tend to be associated with contrary weather conditions. Perhaps the most unusual this year were the four in Vermont—two at Shelburne Beach from Oct. 30, with one still being seen Nov. 11, and two at Dead Creek W.M.A. Nov. 10–11 (m.ob.)—and singles inland in w. Massachusetts Oct. 12 & 22 (*fide* SKe).

A Bar-tailed Godwit present from last season stayed at Chatham and N. Monomoy until Aug. 13 (*fide* GG). Nine Marbled Godwits were reported, including one Aug. 28–Sept. 5 at Hampton, NH, where the species is considered "especially rare" (PL). Western Sandpiper reports totaled a reasonable 175. Three were reported from Vermont, where the species is quite rare, but the description of two left me unconvinced, as it focused solely on bill length and shape. High counts elsewhere were of 50 juveniles on the New Hampshire coast Sept. 3 (PL *et al.*) and that number again Sept. 12 at Eastham, MA (BN). It was a poor year for Baird's Sandpiper with only 21

reports, though 4 of these were from the L. Champlain areas of Vermont, where the species is a rare transient, and seven were from E. Quabbin and Longmeadow, MA. Thirty to 40 in the rest of New England would be more typical than this year's 10. Nine Purple Sandpipers, very rare visitors to Vermont, were found and handsomely photographed at Grand I., VT, Nov. 6 (DHg). Like Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper had a thin year in New England—its 3rd straight—with a total of 21 records. Forty to 60 would be average. A Long-billed Dowitcher seen Sept. 24 at Grand I., VT, where it is rare, was fortunately identifiably photographed (DHg). Wilson's Phalarope has been scarce the past several years in the Region. This year "several" were seen at Monomoy (BN); seven were in Maine, including one inland at Seabrook L. Oct. 1 (WS); and one was unusually far east at C.N.C.U. Aug. 31 and Oct. 1 (CD). Rhode Island had one juvenile at Charleston Breachway Sept. 2 (PL). There was one at Burlington, VT, Aug. 24 (DC) and one at E. Quabbin, MA, Aug. 20 (*vide* SKe). A Red-necked Phalarope was found at Burlington, VT, where it is rare, Aug. 24 (Dca), and one was reported without details at E. Quabbin Aug. 19, as was a Red Phalarope at Cheshire, MA, Oct. 10 (*vide* SKe). Twenty-eight Red-neckeds were found off Block I., RI, Sept. 6 (DFi).

#### S.A.

For years the rich waters sometimes called Passamaquoddy Bay and sometimes Head Harbour Passage, between Eastport and Lubec, ME, and Campobello and Deer Is., NB, were the largest staging area in the Atlantic for Red-necked Phalaropes. The birds gathered here in late July and August in numbers estimated in the hundreds of thousands to 2 million. Their abundance can be understood by considering a couple of years in the late 1970s and early 1980s when concentrations in the tens of thousands, or in one case, three hundred thousand were described as "fewer than normal." For the past 3 years, however, the numbers have been declining essentially by an order of magnitude annually. Only 8000 were found in 1986 and these only in July. In 1987 the maximum was 2000, and for this season it was 200. Despite excellent coverage, the species was not found at all on many days (CD, BH). One observer said that he could understand for the first time how people must have felt the first couple of years after the demise of the extraordinarily numerous Passenger Pigeon.

After it leaves the Bay of Fundy area the movements of this species, including its major wintering areas, are not well known, so there is no other easy area to census them. Preliminary measurements of surface plankton density have been taken this year to examine whether the crash is related to local food resources (the birds feed here on a copepod called *Calanus*). Perhaps the huge concentration has dispersed to a number of secondary areas. Please write if you have comparable data from the years of historic abundance, or sightings of substantial flocks of Red-necked Phalaropes that may have been previously unreported. Red Phalaropes, which stage only 40 mi away on the Nova Scotia shore of the Bay, have apparently continued there undiminished.

**JAEGERS TO ALCIDS**—There were few reports of jaegers, including only three Pomarines and 11 Parasitics, other than 31 seen during an Oct. 8 storm at Sandy Neck, Barnstable, MA, that were considered to be mostly if not all Parasitics (BN). Another unidentified jaeger, a juvenile, was seen at Seabrook Harbor, NH, where any jaeger is unexpected (SMr). Three skuas were found, a S. Polar 15 mi south of Harpswell, ME, Aug. 17 (BBa) and two unidentified birds, one from the M.V. *Scotia Prince* Aug. 14 (REa, CL) and the other in a thick fog from the M.V. *Bluenose* Aug. 27 (SMr).

Five Little Gulls were found at various Maine localities, including the first for the Is of Shoals Sept 7 (DHm *et al*). One at New Hampshire's Hampton estuary Sept. 5 (PL) could easily have been the same individual. Eight were seen in Vermont around L. Champlain, where the species is now understood to be regular. Vermont had its first **Common Black-headed Gull**, well documented with descriptions and a fine sketch, Oct. 29 at Addison on L. Champlain (WE, NM, RL). Coupling these last 2 species with a Sabine's Gull seen the same day as the Com. Black-headed Gull, it cannot be doubted that Champlain's ability to attract oceanic species is surpassed only by the Great Lakes and the ocean itself. Elsewhere, Com. Black-headed Gull reports totaled 6 in Rhode Island, the earliest being at Weekapaug, a regular locality for the species, Sept. 2. The first Iceland Gull of the season was a first-winter bird at the Connecticut R. in Vermont seen Nov 4 (DCr, LB). A Glaucous Gull was present at Pt. Judith, RI, Nov. 16 (DK). In other states these white-winged gulls went unmentioned. A presumed Great Black-backed x Herring Gull hybrid was an unusual find at Monomoy Sept. 25 (BN). Black-legged Kittiwake departed from its typically pelagic habits several times this fall. One was found, apparently healthy, on Pine Pt. Beach, Scarborough, ME, Aug. 27 (GC). An immature was found sitting in a bush 75 mi inland at Marlow, NH, Nov 20. It was rehabilitated, shown the error of its ways, and released on its own recognizance at Plum I. 4 days later (*vide* DD). Two other immatures were found in Vermont also on Nov. 20, one at Rockingham (LB) and one at L. Fairlee (WE, NM). The simultaneous presence of three imm. kittiwakes, all far from the sea at 3 localities near the Connecticut R and within 50 mi of one another, begs for an explanation. There were 6 reports of Sabine's Gull, more than in the past few years but not atypical of 5–10 years ago. The most unusual were the Vermont record mentioned above and one at Maine's inland Sabbatus Pond Sept. 10 (PV).

Caspian Tern has an odd breeding distribution, with populations nesting north and south of us but not in New England. The sightings within the Region are hard to ascribe to either group unambiguously. This season there were 2 reports from Rhode Island in early September (*vide* DE), one from Chatham, MA, of two birds in mid-August (*vide* GG), and six were seen "during a NE blow" Oct. 5 at Barnstable, MA (RPe). This is a quite low total for the Region, for the 2nd consecutive year, as 20–40 are often seen in a season. Similarly, Royal Tern reports were few, of one bird Aug. 4 at Ninigret Pond, RI (DK, DFi) and two in e. Massachusetts in August (*vide* GG), indicative of little postbreeding dispersal northward. Roseate Terns are often found, in a ratio of about 1:2 with Common Terns, in large numbers in early September at a nocturnal roost on Monomoy I., MA. This year the total concentration was down somewhat, to about 10,000 birds of unspecified species ratio (DHu). Nonetheless, a count of 105 Roseates at Pine Pt., ME, Sept. 4 furnished a near record for that state (PL). Four Forster's Terns were found at 3 s. Maine localities in August, two were at New Hampshire's Hampton Estuary (where they are annual) Sept. 5 (PL), and 12 were found at Newburyport Harbor, MA, Sept. 21 and Oct. 15. A group of 17 at Monomoy I. Sept. 25 (BN) was well below the numbers seen in many years there. A Least Tern seen in Maine, at C.N.C.U. Aug 31, was a very rare find that far east, as the bird is almost unknown in nearby New Brunswick (CD). One at Monomoy Sept. 25, a juvenile, was quite late (BN). Black Tern was scarce "once again" at Monomoy with only four being seen. Higher counts in 1986 were thought to have been associated with Hurricane Charles, and the 20 found in 1987 may have been an echo of that event. Similarly, Black Skimmer was considered scarce with the only Massachusetts reports being of local breeders, and only one Rhode Island report, on Aug. 29 at Napatree (CR).

Fall season alcid reports for the entire decade have been characterized as "low again." Dovekie reports were of 78 seen in an easterly gale (with four Razorbills) at Rockport, MA, Oct. 22 (RH); one at Pt. Judith, RI, Nov. 28 (*vide* DE); and,



*Dovekie found ten miles inland near Machias, Maine, October 29, 1988. Photograph/Charles D. Duncan.*

informally, "some" seen near Freeman Rock south of Jonesport, ME, with a very sizable group of Razorbills—perhaps 200—by a boat captain during November (John Norton, *vide* CD). A single Dovekie was picked up Oct. 29 on a railroad trestle by a hunter in Whitneyville, ME, 10 mi from the open ocean, put in his pocket, and taken to the local wildlife rehabilitator. The bird died of starvation before it could be returned to the sea. A report of a Dovekie much farther inland, at Gill, MA, Oct. 22, is the sort of thing that ought to have been accompanied by substantiating details but was not. A Com. Murre in breeding plumage, found 5 mi south of Little Duck I., ME, Aug. 4, was a rarity (BA *et al.*). Rarer yet was an Atlantic Puffin at Wilson Pond, Wilton, ME, 60 mi inland, at an elevation of 570' (TD).

**OWLS TO FLYCATCHERS** — Common Barn-Owls have declined over much of their range and are seldom reported from anywhere in New England anymore. Thus two adults reported from Nantucket Aug. 30 represented an especially good find (*vide* GG). A Great Horned Owl was found on S. Monomoy I., where they are quite rare. Appearing very pale from a distance, the bird was considered perhaps from one of the more northerly breeding races (BN). One at Portland, ME, Nov. 12 was caught in some sort of primal struggle, harassed by crows while holding a decapitated Barred Owl in its talons (REa, CL). Short-eared Owls were thought to be scarce at Monomoy I., MA, this fall (BN). In Rhode Island one was found at Galilee Nov. 23, and three were at Sachuest Pt. Nov. 26 (where there had been one Nov. 4 & 11) (*vide* DE).

Migration of Com. Nighthawks was carefully monitored in w. Massachusetts; the total reached 10,512, about 10% above the 6-year average. The peak of 3547 at Northampton came Sept. 2-3 (*vide* SKe). In New Hampshire, the migration curiously showed 2 distinct peaks, one earlier, on Aug. 25, and the other on the slightly late date of Sept. 17, when 100 were seen at Concord (*vide* DD). Even later were 20 at Trustrom Pond N.W.R., RI, Sept. 28 (CS). Although no details were sent in, apparently an imm. ♂ **Allen's Hummingbird** was netted Aug. 26 on Nantucket. Its corpse was sent to experts in the w. United States who identified it on the basis of mensural characters (*vide* RS), as this species is virtually identical in plumage to its congener, Rufous Hummingbird. This would establish the first record of the species in the East away from the Gulf states.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers sometimes slip through the Region virtually unnoticed. There were 6 reports of migrants from Vermont during the period Sept. 11-23 and one from Connecticut Oct. 1. Interesting in view of the species' general lack of visibility was the report that Monhegan I., ME, was "crawling with them" Oct. 1 (WH *et al.*). Three-toed Woodpeckers are only rarely reported. One was at Spider L., T9R11,

Oct. 21 (TS) (for those uninitiated in the ways of Maine's unorganized townships, this is Township 9, Range 11). Northern Flickers seemed to be in healthy numbers with 15 banded at Woodstock, VT, including one intergrade bird Sept. 21, which is considered a good total. Twenty-three were found at Walden, VT, Aug. 7 (JM). At Appledore I., ME, 30 were banded Aug. 16-Sept. 16, representing a two-and-a-half-fold increase in yield per net-hour of effort over the previous high (DHm).

*Empidonax* flycatchers are not rare birds in New England, so it is always a surprise how few are reported during migration. The most reliable estimates of abundance come from the few long-term banding stations submitting data. This year's total of 64 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded Aug. 19-Sept. 16 at Appledore I., ME, was a good count, well above those of several recent years. At Vermont Institute of Natural Science at Woodstock, 24 "Traill's" Flycatchers (*i.e.*, Alder or Willow) were banded through Sept. 22 for a high total there. At Appledore, 51 were banded, again a healthy figure. There too, 76 Least Flycatchers were caught, slightly above average (DHm). The sole report of an Acadian Flycatcher was of one at Tiverton, RI, Aug. 10 (REn). **Say's Phoebe** occurred each fall in the Region from 1976-1980 with five seen during 1977. Since those days, there has been none, apparently, until one was found on Monhegan I., ME, this year Oct. 26 (BBo). Western Kingbirds put on only a rather small-scale show with three or four on Cape Cod, four in Maine, and two in Rhode Island. The last one departed Monhegan I., ME (or maybe this life altogether), Nov. 23 after having been there all month. An E. Kingbird was slightly late at Kennebunk Beach, ME, Oct. 3 & 4 (JF). Banding totals for this species at Appledore showed a yield per net hour less than one-third of the recent 5-year average (DHm, JDe).

**LARKS TO GNATCATCHERS** — This season's "Man Bites Dog" Award for Unusual Behavior goes to a flock of 300 Horned Larks seen chasing a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Turner, ME, Oct. 13. The observer did, however, admit "it's hard to prove intent" (JDe *et al.*). Purple Martin received favorable mention with a flock of 34 Sept. 5 at Appledore I., where it is rare. An astonishing migration of Tree Swallows was observed this season at Plum I. and Monomoy I., MA. Forty thousand were estimated at the Hellcat Swamp roost on Plum I. Aug. 7 (RH), and tens of thousands were seen on Plum I. on the 20th. By Sept. 4, Jim Berry was able to say, "Often I have estimated clouds of this species in tens of thousands, but this time I was more astounded than ever and made the quantum leap to 'hundreds of thousands.' There could easily have been a million or more. These clouds of swallows were hundreds of yards thick if not a mile, and they could fly past you for minutes on end." By Sept. 10 only about 1000 were here, but on the 20th, 15,000 were estimated at Monomoy (BN). As if this were not enough, 300 appeared at Sachuest, RI, on the late date of Nov. 4, and 500 were seen the next day at Sakonnet Pt., RI. These numbers of birds at these late dates, perhaps storm-driven or maybe reverse migrants, were beyond the bounds of any in memory for Rhode Island (DE). The last one seen was on Nov. 29 (JZ). Exceptionally late Barn Swallows, perhaps also reverse migrants, were two immatures at C.N.C.U., ME, Nov. 13 (IB, CD) and one at Martinsville, ME, 2 days later (MP).

Eleven Gray Jays were reported from Vermont's Northeast Kingdom in late October and early November, but the species was otherwise unmentioned. My impression is that they have become rather scarce at least in the usual spots in e. Maine. Five thousand Am. Crows were seen migrating past Fuller Mt., VT, Oct. 19 & 20 (JMD). Northern Ravens first were seen in any numbers in w. Massachusetts during the early 1980s. A measure of their success is shown by the 56 birds seen in 19 sightings there this season (*vide* SKe).

Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers in the Region fluctuate greatly. This year they were very scarce on Cape Cod, and at

Appledore the season total of 14 banded Aug 19–Sept 16 indicated “a near non-flight year again” (DHm). Carolina Wren seems to be increasingly common in the Region, with two in n.e. Massachusetts, six in Maine with one north as far as Skowhegan, and three in Vermont. A House Wren was late at Peabody, MA, Nov. 24 (RH). Rhode Island’s total of 14 Winter Wrens was the highest count there in a dozen years (*vide* DE). A rare Sedge Wren was found at Peabody, MA, Sept. 28 (RH). Golden-crowned Kinglets were widespread and numerous on Cape Cod but did not furnish any exceptional counts (BN). Thirty were seen at Oxbow N.W.R., MA, Sept. 23, and 20 at Bayside Park 2 days later provided the maximum for Vermont. The major migration must have happened slightly later, however, as 44 were at Oxbow N.W.R. Oct. 13; 18 were in an E. Machias, ME, yard on the 14th, when one or two would be more typical; 50 were at Winter Harbor, ME, on the 15th; and 200, trying for the highest total in 12 years, were banded at Block I., RI, also on Oct. 15. Ruby-crowned Kinglet was banded in high numbers at V.I.N.S. at Woodstock, VT, this year, 49 having been captured through Oct. 28. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at P.M.N.W.R. in e. Maine Nov. 5 was out of range both temporally and geographically.

**THRUSHES TO SHRIKES** — A total of four N. Wheatears was the highest since a remarkable 11 were seen in the Region (which then included the Canadian Maritimes) in 1977. This year’s were one at S. Wellfleet, MA, Sept. 12 reported by an unknown visiting birder (*vide* BN); one at Schoodic Pt., ME, Sept. 17 (DMc); an immature photographed at Peterborough, NH, the following day, present to Sept. 22 (RFR, DR *et al.*); and finally an ad. male photographed at S. Harwich, MA, Oct. 3–4 (DS *et al.*). Encouraging comments were widely made about E. Bluebird numbers. New Hampshire’s total of 72 was considered high (*vide* DD). Vermont recorded 116, including local highs of 32 at W. Windsor (FGH); 26 at Chester—the highest ever there—(CA); 23 at Dorset, the 2nd best year since careful records were started in 1977 (BG); and my favorite, 15 crammed together in a single birdhouse Oct. 15 at S. Pomfret (GB). Other maxima were 32 at Greene, RI, Oct. 6 (JZ) and 12 at Wilton, ME, Nov. 6 (SF). A Townsend’s Solitaire, a rare vagrant in New England, was seen at Monhegan I., ME, Oct. 27 & 31 (BBo).

As with flycatchers, banding totals for thrushes give the truest picture of migration dates and abundances. Banders at V.I.N.S. caught 18 Veeries through Sept. 16 along with an equal number of Gray-cheeked Thrushes, both being good totals. By contrast, the count of 17 Veeries banded at Appledore through Sept. 16 was well below average (DHm). Gray-cheeked Thrushes are uncommon migrants through the Region and rare breeders in the mountains of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The particular race breeding here is called “Bicknell’s” Gray-cheeked Thrush. An individual trapped at Manomet Bird Observatory Aug. 16 had originally been banded there July 7. One wonders how it spent the days in between. Twenty-nine Swainson’s Thrushes banded at V.I.N.S. reflected a 3rd consecutive year of constancy. Eleven banded at Appledore was a little on the low side. Ninety-three Hermit Thrushes, twice the previous high total, were caught at V.I.N.S. The sole member of this species banded at Appledore was an early individual on Sept. 3, an adult in full body and flight-feather molt (DHm). Gray Catbird was caught in record numbers, 115 to be precise, at V.I.N.S.; 433 at Appledore was about average or a trace below. Brown Thrasher reports were not many: eight birds in Vermont; nine birds in Rhode Island including seven at Block I. Sept. 30–Oct. 2 (RFx *et al.*); 24 in Massachusetts, including a high of 18 at Plum I. Aug. 27 with six at nearby Ipswich Sept. 7; and three from Maine, including one both late and extralimitally east at E. Machias Oct. 7–14 (IB, PD, CD). Comment was made in this column in 1986 that this species may be declining in New England, so observers should take note of local popula-

tions and their movements. Cedar Waxwings must have experienced some degree of nesting failure this year. The banding total of 53 at V.I.N.S. was “much lower” than in the 2 previous years, and observers in Tenants Harbor, ME (RPa), and Weybridge, VT (MN), noticed late nesting activities. In the case of the Maine birds, three nestlings were noted on the remarkable date of Sept. 7, although they were dead 2 days later. Bohemian Waxwings sometimes arrive in the Region by early or mid-October. This year the only reports were of one in s. Maine, at N. Berwick Nov. 11, and of a small flock heard in Machias, ME, Nov. 19 (NF). An incursion year it wasn’t. Exactly the same statement can be made for N. Shrike. Three were noted in Vermont, the earliest at Island Pond Oct. 23 (DC *et al.*). Only two were found in Maine, including one at Martinsville believed to have been banded there in April, and three were reported from w. Massachusetts Nov. 5–27 (*vide* SKe).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Three Yellow-throated Vireos at Appledore I. provided a good total for this rare island wanderer (DHm). So too did the 15 Philadelphia Vireos netted there Sept. 1–10. Elsewhere, a few records received without comment seemed typical. Red-eyed Vireos were in good numbers at V.I.N.S. with 45 banded. At Appledore they were about 20% below the average yield per net-hour of effort of the past 2 years. The latest reported was just a tad late, on Oct. 17, at Cape Elizabeth, ME (KG). An amazing 38 Blue-winged Warblers were banded at Appledore Aug. 19–Sept 16, double the previous yield per net-hour high. Even rarer were the Golden-winged Warblers found the first week of September at Portland, ME (REa), and Kingston, RI (DK), and the “Lawrence’s” hybrid at Albion, RI, Aug. 9 (REN). Tennessee Warblers were slightly late at Monhegan I., ME, Oct. 26 (BBo), and Kingston, RI, Oct. 28 (DK). Orange-crowned Warbler was more scarcely reported than normal with two seen in Vermont and one reported from Massachusetts. A N. Parula and a Magnolia Warbler at P.M.N.W.R. Nov. 4 were late by about a month (RW). Chestnut-sided Warbler more than doubled its previous high at Appledore I. with 38 banded through Sept. 16. Yellow-rumped Warbler was banded in about one-third the normal numbers at V.I.N.S., although 20 at Biddeford Pool, ME, Nov. 27 (KD) prefigured some winter season holdovers. A “yellow-lored” Yellow-throated Warbler (in other words, a *dominica* race bird, wintering in the West Indies) was a good find on Appledore I. Sept. 4, furnishing only the 2nd record there (DHm). Bay-breasted Warbler was “a cause for concern” at Appledore with only 17 banded. Curiously, Blackpoll Warbler, which is also a boreal breeder but a longer distance migrant (and therefore ought to be at greater risk from changes in tropical forests), increased to a new high of 36, a 40% better yield per net-hour than the previous high. Similar trends were seen by observers in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SKe). So much for simple solutions to questions as complex as the movements and abundances of birds.

Also setting new banding highs at Appledore were 293 Am Redstarts and 335 N. Waterthrushes. A Prothonotary Warbler, rare but regular in New England, was banded at Wellfleet, MA, Sept. 10 (*vide* BN) for this fall’s only record. Nine Worm-eating Warblers were found, a rather good total. Interesting was one (of five) caught at Kingston, RI, which had been banded there in 1982 (DK). A single Kentucky Warbler, another of the “southern warblers,” was found Sept. 3 at Marblehead Neck (PL), where it had been discovered previously by others. Two imm. Connecticut Warblers were banded, one at Woodstock, VT, Sept. 8 (CRi), the other at Northbridge, MA, 2 days later (MB). The species has been trapped at the latter locality for three consecutive years now. Four others were reported from w. Massachusetts Sept. 18–Oct. 7 (*vide* SKe). Ten Hooded Warblers were reported, a good total for another “southern warbler.” The season’s eight Yellow-breasted Chats were, if anything, fewer than average.

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — Workers at V.I.N.S. banded 29 Scarlet Tanagers, a good total, through Oct. 6, although they didn't seem able to get rid of one imm. male first trapped Sept. 12 and retrapped several times to Nov. 9. It did allow close charting of his premigratory weight gain. In summary, his weight held virtually constant to Nov. 4; then in the last 5 days he put on 3.5 grams (CRi). Equally late was one seen on Monhegan I. ME, through Nov. 6 (BBo). The sole W. Tanager was one at Cambridge, VT, Nov. 19, adequately described as an imm. male (JRG). Remarkably late but sadly unidentified as to species was a first-fall ♀ *Pheucticus* sp. seen briefly in a high wind on a cobble beach at C.N.C.U. in e. Maine Nov. 25. Either Rose-breasted or Black-headed Grosbeak is possible given the date (CD). Dickcissel hit a low in the Region in 1981 from which it has been recovering somewhat. This year's 15 or so records were slightly fewer than in the past couple of years. Six at Trustrom Pond N.W.R., RI, Aug. 18 were considered a good sign, however (*vide* DE). Rufous-sided Towhees reached e. Maine, where they are decidedly uncommon. One was found at Roque Bluffs Oct. 8 (TP), and the same or another was found at E. Machias 8 mi away 6 days later (IB, CD).

Three Chipping Sparrow reports totaling four birds were received for November, the latest from Portland, ME, on Nov. 22 (REa). Clay-colored Sparrow is another rare but regular vagrant from the west in New England. If complete, this year's total of 2 records represents an unusual degree of scarcity for this species. Field Sparrows were late at Peabody, MA, with 39 seen—25 in a single flock—Nov. 24 (RH). Lark Sparrow often follows the pattern of Clay-colored Sparrow, so it is perhaps not surprising that the number of reports was rather low, five birds at 4 localities in Maine and Massachusetts Aug. 25–Oct. 27. Ipswich race Savannah Sparrows were seen at Portland, ME, Nov. 4 (REa) and at Milford Pt, CT, Nov. 26, the latter report being of two individuals (SKo). Since this interesting form was lumped, it has gone unreported in these pages, an unfortunate trend. A Grasshopper Sparrow at Peabody, MA, Nov. 24 was both rare and late (RH). Vermont's first **Le Conte's Sparrow**, on Oct. 10, was documented with a written description and a sketch (NMJ); however, since only one observer was involved and there is no photo, the official status has to be "hypothetical." Twenty Seaside Sparrows at Plum I. Sept. 20 provided an excellent total there (RH). One on Sept. 25 at the n. edge of the species' range, at Scarborough Marsh, ME (CD), where the bird has been found the past 3 years, continued to tantalize Maine observers with the possibility of breeding. More likely, given the apparent lack of territoriality observed and the degree of scrutiny this area receives in the breeding season, is that birds seen here are nonbreeders or part of a postbreeding dispersal. Sparrows banded in high numbers at V.I.N.S. were: Song (115), Lincoln's (39), Swamp (35, the highest ever there), White-throated (197), and White-crowned (42, 4 times the previous high). Elsewhere also, White-crowned Sparrows were in good numbers, this being a boom-or-bust migrant in New England.

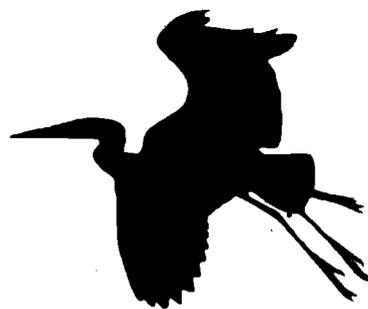
Dark-eyed Juncos were not reported in the impressive numbers seen last year. However, a bird appearing to be of the "pink-sided" race of the "Oregon Junco," from the c. Rockies, at S. Portland, ME, Nov. 8 was a rarity (KG). A Snow Bunting in alternate plumage, present since July, was a curiosity at Martha's Vineyard. An E. Meadowlark at Cutler, ME, Nov. 13 was late and unusually far east (IB, CD). It was examined closely enough by sight and sound that the possibility of a vagrant W. Meadowlark was eliminated. The sole reports of Yellow-headed Blackbird were of one or two of unmentioned sex and age at the beginning of October at Deerfield, MA (*vide* SKe), and one at a feeder on Cape Cod in mid-month (*vide* BN). Regional totals often have reached double figures, although this species follows the pattern of scarcity set by other western vagrants for the 2nd consecutive year. Brewer's Blackbird continues to be found annually; this season's birds were a "female-type" photographed at Chatham, MA, Oct. 15

(BN) and another without details or description from N. Quabbin, MA, Oct. 18 (*vide* SKe). Northern Orioles set records with 19 banded at V.I.N.S., the last (a retrap) on Aug. 26, and 46 at Appledore I., ME (versus a previous high of 33) Aug. 19–Sept. 16. One at E. Machias, ME, Nov. 20 was either very late or a reverse migrant (IB, CD, PD). House Finches were commented on, not entirely admiringly, only from Vermont, where 40 at Randolph, including an orange variant Nov. 10, were said to be taking over the feeders (EMC). The same must have been occurring at Grand I., where a feeder reached a maximum of 120 Nov. 1 (RL).

Both species of crossbills were almost nonexistent with maxima of five Reds at T7R17, Maine (DM), and 50 White-winged at T16R9 WELS (this even more arcane designation is Township 16, Range 9 West of the Easterly Line of the State) in the extreme n. portion of Maine (JPH). Numbers of Pine Siskins were noted on Monhegan I., ME, Nov. 14 (BBo), but the only other report was of one at Duxbury Beach, MA, Aug. 19. Evening Grosbeak was the other winter finch reported, not arriving until mid-November if at all and only in greatly reduced numbers.

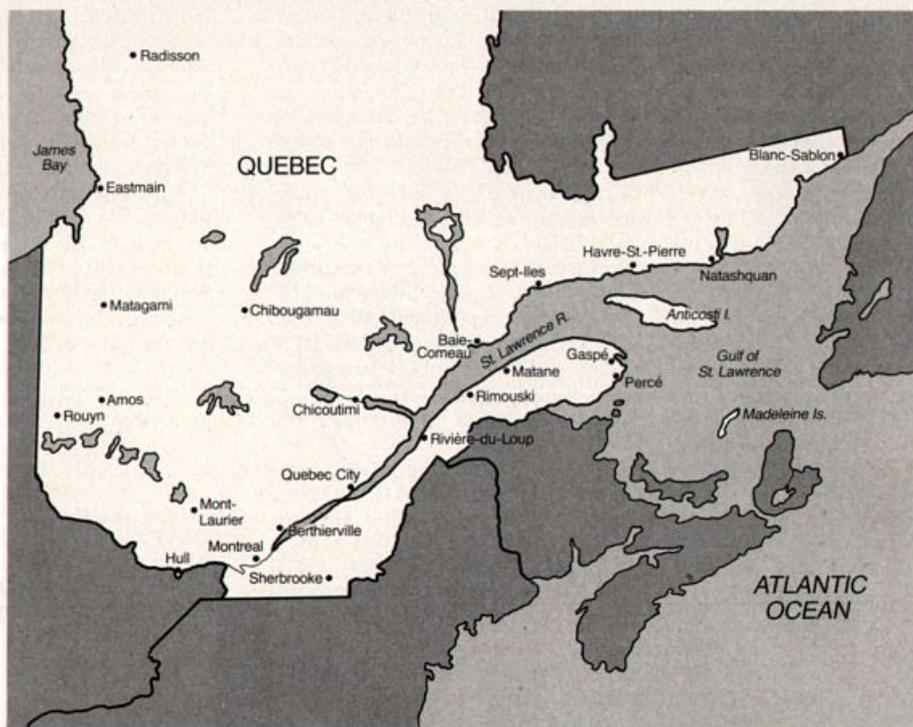
#### **SUBREGIONAL COMPILERS (BOLDFACE) AND CITED OBSERVERS**

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## QUEBEC REGION

Yves Aubry,  
Michel Gosselin, and  
Richard Yank



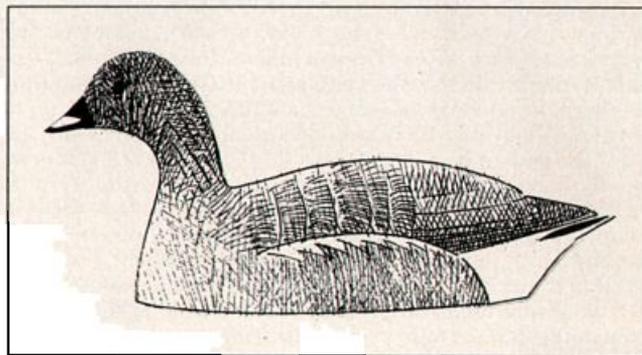
August was quite warm across most of the province. Precipitation was variable, however, reaching twice normal levels in the north and south while being slightly below normal in central Quebec. Seasonable temperatures prevailed during September, with most areas experiencing below-average precipitation. Southern Quebec was cool and wet in October, while the north was warmer and dryer than usual. November averaged warmer and wetter than normal, bringing a series of low-pressure systems during the first three weeks.

Regular migrants drew little comment from contributors this fall. Nonetheless, an exceptional number and variety of vagrants made for a truly remarkable season.

**LOONS TO WATERFOWL** — An ad. Pacific Loon was seen Aug. 27 (JLb) off Akulivik, on Hudson Bay, where the species is expected but infrequently reported. While numbers were typically low, a good assortment of tubenoses were found in the St. Lawrence Estuary this fall: five N. Fulmars Oct. 28 (GG, DR), two Greater Shearwaters Aug. 3 (GG, JPO), a Sooty Shearwater Oct. 28 (GG, DR) & 30 (JPO, ML), a Manx Shearwater Aug. 14 (JLc), and two Wilson's Storm-Petrels Aug. 3 (GG, JPO), all from the Matane ferry, while the Trois-Pistoles ferry produced a Sooty Shearwater Sept. 27 (AB) and single Manx Shearwaters Aug. 3 (MB, IC, LI) & 21 (GG, JH). Seldom wandering inland, a Leach's Storm-Petrel astonished observers at a Victoriaville reservoir Sept. 17 (MGr, LH). Great Cormorants also moved up the St. Lawrence R., with one each at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 10 (GG, DR) and Victoriaville Sept. 27–Oct. 3 (MGr, LH). Noteworthy among the few southern waders to venture into our area were a Great Egret at Rimouski Oct. 23 (GG, DR), a Little Blue Heron seen at Cacouna Aug. 2 (GLr), and a *Plegadis* ibis that stopped at Longueuil Sept. 4–11 (DD, DA). Cattle Egrets were also observed with two at Granby Aug. 16–23 (CM, ACT), and singles near Matane Sept. 16–19 (DG, CGa, BSP) and at Sainte-

Thérèse-de-Gaspé Nov. 12–24 (ACr).

Cap-Tourmente hosted yet another rarity Oct. 6–21, an ad **Pink-footed Goose** (CF, m.ob., ph. N.M.N.S.), the 2nd ever recorded in Canada (see AB 34:755). An unprecedented total of more than 400,000 southbound Snow Geese was tallied (fide ARE) along the St. Lawrence Estuary; and four, including two blue-morph birds, showed up at Havre-aux-Basques Oct. 21–28 (BL), farther east than usual, where one had also been present Sept. 4 (RN). Two **White-cheeked Pintails** turned up at Saint-Denis, Kamouraska, in early July (RBy); this is the first time the species has been reported in the province [although questions about origins remain]. A high count of 50 Gadwalls at Havre-aux-Basques Aug. 27 (PF, JGa) indicated that this recent arrival is increasing in the Madeleine Islands. The species was successfully introduced on nearby Prince Edward I. in 1985. A Harlequin Duck was noteworthy at Longueuil Oct. 22 (JA *et al.*). Equally rare in s.w. Quebec, five Com. Eiders were reportedly shot on L. Saint-Pierre, well w.



*Pink-footed Goose at Cap-Tourmente, Quebec, October 8, 1988.*  
Drawing/Michel Gosselin.

of their normal migration route, on the first days of the hunting season Sept. 17–18 (*fide* DJ). One remained there Sept 19 (Ra, ACT) and a male was found at Victoriaville Oct. 5 (JP, RDe). Twelve Ruddy Ducks represented an above-average showing, with one at Fatima Aug. 28–Sept. 27 (PF, JYT) especially notable.

**VULTURES TO SHOREBIRDS** — A **Black Vulture** appeared at the Saint-Majorique (Gaspé) dump Oct. 10, only to be killed by a hunter Oct. 14 (RLe, AB, \* N.M.N.S.). It is worth noting that undocumented reports of this species were received from nearby Forillon May 20, 1988 (MSA), and Aug. 2, 1984 (JY). A Turkey Vulture strayed to the Matane R., Aug. 2, where it was found injured Aug. 10 (DG). Twelve Gray Partridges at Katevale Aug. 8 (PBo) were at the edge of their range. In w. Quebec, three Sandhill Cranes stopped at Nédelec Sept 12 (RBé) and a group that gathered at Val-Senneville peaked at 28 birds Sept. 16 (*fide* GT). This area is proving to be a regular fall staging area for small numbers of cranes. Three northbound cranes were spotted at Barraute in May (*fide* AGB). Elsewhere, the only report was of a lone adult that stayed at Varennes Sept. 1–11 (JGi, m.ob.).

The only Willet to be reported was at Pointe-aux-Loups, Madeleine Is., Sept. 5 (DC), while an impressive shorebird concentration that included an estimated 1000 Whimbrels and 400 Hudsonian Godwits occurred at nearby Havre-aux-Basques Aug. 2 (FG, CR). The Montreal area hosted an above-average 16 Hudsonian Godwits (*fide* PBa), and one remained at La Baie until Nov. 19 (HS *et al.*) to set a new late departure record. The only Marbled Godwit of the season frequented the shoreline at Bergeronnes Sept. 5–21 (JI, AB *et al.*). Carefully identified were an ad. W. Sandpiper at Rivière-Ouelle Aug 27 (JPO, ML) and a juvenile at Cacouna Sept. 11 (Ca, ACT, JPO). A molting ad. **Temminck's Stint** was reported from Cacouna Aug. 5 (JPO). The bird was identified mainly by its call and white outer tail-feathers as it chased Semipalmated Sandpipers on the mudflat. Other details of plumage and structure, such as shorter greenish legs, small pointed bill, gray back, and gray breast were also stressed. There is as yet no substantiated record of this species for E. North America. A juv. **Curlew Sandpiper** was an excellent find at Pt. Paradis Sept 16–18 (GCy, v.o.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers made their best showing since 1984, with singles observed at 5 different locales Aug. 7–Sept. 8. Extralimital Wilson's Phalaropes were lone birds at Saint-Fulgence Aug. 12–16 (LI *et al.*) and Fatima Sept 22 (PF), and up to three at Havre-aux-Basques Aug. 15–27 (PF).

**JAEGERS TO TERNS** — An imm. Parasitic Jaeger observed at Beaconsfield Sept. 12–18 (PT), another at Victoriaville Oct. 4–5 (JP, FH), and an unidentified jaeger noted off I. aux Fermiers Sept. 5 (DD) constituted our only sightings from w. Quebec. A dark, uniform brown skua described off Blanc-Sablon Aug. 8 (FD, RDi) represented the Province's first report of a **South Polar Skua**. Rarer larids included two Laughing Gulls at Saint-Siméon Oct. 2 (GSe), a first-year Franklin's Gull at Victoriaville Oct. 11–31 (JP), and an imm. Little Gull at Saint-Gédéon Aug. 27–Sept. 5 (CGi, MSA, CC, GSA) that provided a 2nd record for this inland site. Observers encountered no fewer than 11 Com. Black-headed Gulls along the St. Lawrence R., as well as a flock of 30 at Havre-aux-Basques, Oct 25 (PF). A count of 200 Bonaparte's Gulls was made at the Beauharnois dam Nov. 6, with immatures more numerous than adults. Since 1984 the number of birds stopping there is increasing, with 20 birds considered typical during the period 1969–1980 (see *Tchebec* 14:20–36). Recent records suggest two distinct peaks, one in August and a 2nd, more significant one, in early November (PBA).

## S.A.

A "melanistic" ad. Black-legged Kittiwake, seen at Les Escoumins Aug. 30 (MGo *et al.*), had a wholly silver-gray coloration, matching the normal mantle color and sharply contrasting with the bright yellow bill. The wingtips were normal, but small white patches were present at the bend of the wing—an aberration frequently seen in gulls, especially Heermann's Gull (*Birding* 12:87). This kittiwake thus offered a rare case of combined melanism and albinism, a combination also reported for the Com. Black-headed Gull (*Brit. Birds* 55:435); melanism, in contrast to albinism, rarely occurs in gulls. A sooty Black-legged Kittiwake, reported in *Brit. Birds* 81:181, may have involved a soiled bird. The present bird, however, with its smooth silver appearance, was certainly not soiled, and presented a curious resemblance to a dark-morph fulmar. Dark morphs commonly occur in seabirds such as jaegers and fulmars, and the ratios of such birds deserve monitoring.

Another first for the Region, an ad. **California Gull** reported from Aylmer Nov. 12 (JD), was likely the bird seen earlier at Ottawa (see Ontario Region report). It was identified by its darker mantle and smaller size (compared to nearby Herring Gulls), greenish-yellow legs, dark eyes and bill-spot. An ad Thayer's Gull was also identified during the same visit. No longer surprising, at least six Lesser Black-backed Gulls were sighted at scattered localities this fall. Great Black-backed Gulls are increasingly seen inland, away from the St. Lawrence R., as illustrated by the group of 100 at the Chicoutim dump Oct. 29 (CC, GSA); by contrast, Browne tallied only 11 birds in the Saguenay region during the period 1956–1963 (*Can. Field-Nat.* 81:50–62).

A juv. Sabine's Gull off I. aux Basques Oct. 10 (LM *et al.*) was not unexpected; however, two others on L. Magog the previous day (PBo) furnished a first local record for this rare but regular inland migrant. A record late Caspian Tern remained at L'Isle-Verte Oct. 26 (JPO), and a Roseate Tern was still at Fatima Sept. 11 (PF). A winter-plumaged Forster's Tern was observed at Les Escoumins Sept. 11 (PSm *et al.*), while on Aug. 25 two Black Terns showed up at Pointe de l'Est (ASP, JM), Madeleine Is., where the species is a casual visitor.

**DOVES TO SWALLOWS** — A **White-winged Dove**, described from Chandler Aug. 21 (JRL, CP), represented the first report of this species for the Province, and seemed to fit well within the pattern emerging from the few Maritime Region records. Only three Yellow-billed Cuckoos made for a modest fall incursion by this species. A Com. Barn-Owl was apparently seen at Léry in late August (PA, RC), while a belated report was submitted of another at Rockburn in October 1987 (GCa). Snowy Owls at Barachois Aug. 4 (DM) and Melocheville Aug. 10–14 (GZ) certainly had summered s. of their breeding range. With the exception of a Great Gray Owl at L. Dontenwill, Pontiac, Oct. 16–19 (RLD) and a Boreal Owl on I. des Soeurs Nov. 12 (GZ *et al.*), no early influx of northern owls was evident. Locally rare was a ♂ Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Cap-aux-Meules, Madeleine Is., Aug. 9 (FG, CR), while a female at Lachute Oct. 16 (BB, PBA), also presumed to be a Ruby-throated, tied the Region's previous late departure record.

A Red-headed Woodpecker at La Malbaie Oct. 27 (RLa) was farther north than usual; now annual, Red-bellied Woodpeckers ventured to Neuville Nov. 13–30 (PO) and Caplan Nov 14–20 (LP). Flycatchers supplied their share of the excitement this fall with a **Say's Phoebe** at Cap-Tourmente Oct. 1 (DL, DB), a W. Kingbird (that eventually fell prey to a cat) at Baie-Comeau Oct. 24–Nov. 22 (RBn), and the Region's 2nd **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Port-Menier Sept. 4 to mid-October (RP, GLp, PSA, m.ob.)—a striking adult seen by most who made the trip to Anticosti Island. An E. Wood-Pewee at Fatima Aug

21 (ARi) added to the few Madeleine Is. records, but Barn Swallows are reportedly difficult to find on the archipelago, as five at Havre-aux-Maisons Aug. 7 (DL) provided the only sighting for 1988. On Oct. 15, two Cliff Swallows at Mingan (SP et al.) were n. of their usual range.

**TITMICE TO FINCHES** — A report of two Tufted Titmice was submitted from Léry in late August (RM), and a White-breasted Nuthatch was again found at Jonguière Oct. 19 (NB); the latter species is proving to be an uncommon resident in the L. Saint-Jean area. A Carolina Wren appeared at Saint-Placide Nov. 27 (JW), while a Marsh Wren was record late at Katevale Oct. 30 (PBo). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, rare but regular fall vagrants, showed up in above-average numbers with singles at Sainte-Foy Aug. 19 (ML) and Sept. 10 (LM et al.), Rimouski Sept. 18 (GG, DR), and Barachois Oct. 8 (PP, JLi, MSm). Migrating N. Wheatears did not pass unnoticed, with singles at Barachois Aug. 4 (PP), Moisie R., Oct. 2 (CB et al.), and La Pocatière Oct. 14–18 (RBo et al.). A **White-eyed Vireo**, Quebec's 7th or so, was a surprising find at Saint-Lazare Sept. 24 (DS et al.). Three Prairie Warblers appeared this fall, more than in any previous year, at Rimouski Sept. 10 (GG, DR), Cap-Tourmente Oct. 20 (GG), and Sainte-Foy Nov. 1 (LM, CN); all were apparently immatures. A stray Yellow-breasted Chat was discovered at Pointe-au-Père Aug. 11 (JRP).

The Region's 7th **Blue Grosbeak** was a first-fall bird seen by many on I. des Soeurs Oct. 30–Nov. 6 (FP, m.ob., ph.). The origin of an adult picked up in poor condition at Longueuil in late November (*fide* DD) was rendered suspect by the discovery that a local pet-store had been illegally selling Blue Grosbeaks. The fall dispersal also brought a Dickcissel to a Katevale feeder Nov. 9–Dec. 5 (CH, v.o.) and an ad. Clay-colored Sparrow to Rimouski Sept. 29 (GG). Late were two Vesper Sparrows seen at Maniwaki Nov. 27 (RLD), while a Grasshopper Sparrow, still at Saint-Constant Oct. 1 (PBa), broke the previous late departure record. Providing yet another first for Quebec, a ♀ **Smith's Longspur** could be found at Pointe-au-Père Sept. 12–15 (GG, DR, v.o.). Vagrant icterines included an imm. ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird present at Baie-Comeau Aug. 5–8 (RBn), and single N. Orioles that visited Tadoussac Nov. 12–20 (YD), Rimouski Nov. 22 (DR, GG), and Havre-Saint-Pierre Nov. 28–30 (SP). Two House Finches had reached

Maniwaki Oct. 11–Nov. 20 (GB), continuing their northward range expansion, but conversely, a lone House Sparrow at Cap-aux-Meules Nov. 19 (PF) was apparently the only one to be found on the Madeleine Is. this fall.

**ADVENTIVES** — An Eastern White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) recorded in the Marsoui area Sept. 8–Oct. 8 (JLr et al.) had apparently escaped from the Montreal Zoological Gardens in July—more than 700 km away (JPD). A pelican of similar description was reported from La Pocatière Sept. 4 (GF), halfway between the 2 localities. More surprisingly, the bird reappeared in the Montreal area Oct. 10 (EF) after a failed attempt to capture it at Rivière-à-Claude; it was finally captured Oct. 14 when it went to roost with a flock of barnyard turkeys in Howick, near Montreal (JPD)!

**ERRATUM** — A Barn Swallow reported from Inukjuak (A.B. 40:1181) was in fact a Bank Swallow.

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## HUDSON/ DELAWARE REGION

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David A. Cutler



Many observers, especially in the northern part of this Region, called the 1988 fall migration lackluster, "grim," "one of the poorest migrations anyone can remember." All the different kinds of lows—cyclical, structural, or accidental—seemed to coincide. Ducks suffered from midwestern drought and loss of habitat. Most hawkwatch counts slipped below those of last year. Passerines were not very abundant, except on several coastal big days, possibly because food supplies were limited by the cold spring and by drought. And the early onset of cold (it was the coldest October since 1926 at Rochester) got rid of most half-hardy lingerers. Cycles for eruptive species like Red-breasted Nuthatch and vole-feeding raptors—Rough-legged Hawk, winter owls—were all at their low point. Winter finches were almost nonexistent.

Of course some very good birds were reported, among them Pacific Loon, Clark's Grebe, Northern Wheatear, Mountain Bluebird, and Townsend's Warbler. And there were some spectacular big days, especially in the southern part of this Region. The cold front of September 11 brought 18 species of warbler to Rye, New York (RJK), 16 species of warbler to Pennypacker Park, Burlington County, New Jersey (W. Tannery), and Moscatello's "best warbler fallout at Cape May since 1982," with 26 species of warbler, "dozens" of *Empidonax*—and a Northern Wheatear. At mid-morning that day, Fintel observed a "large flight of warblers" from a boat 15 miles off Indian River Inlet, Delaware; a Bay-breasted Warbler landed aboard. On October 30 "millions" of birds were at Cape May, including hundreds of American Woodcock, waxwings, Hermit Thrushes, sparrows, and goldfinches, and thousands of kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers (VE, RDB, PKe). "I dare you to put up your binoculars anywhere and not see a bird," said Barber. The same day at Gilgo Beach, Long Island, kinglets, creepers, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were hitting banding nets at the phenomenal rate of over 10 per net hour (ROP).

**ABBREVIATIONS**—Bombay Hook = Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, DE; Brig = Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Atlantic, NJ; Dunkirk = Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua, NY; Green Lane = Green Lane Res., Montgomery, PA; J.B.W.R. = Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City, Kaiser-Manitou = banding station near Greece, Monroe, NY; LI = Long Island, NY; S.C.M.M. = South Cape May Meadows, Cape May, NJ. Place names in italics are counties.

**LOONS TO CORMORANTS**—An ad. Pacific/Arctic Loon was widely observed on the newly opened Merrill Creek Res., Warren, NJ, Nov. 15–20 († GH, m.ob.). It provided about the 6th or 7th state record. Round Valley Res., Hunterdon, NJ, is a special Com. Loon staging area, perhaps because fish stocking holds migrants there. This fall's peak there was of 120 on Oct. 29 (RK), a total hard to match elsewhere in this Region. In a season without many Horned Grebes, 28 on L. Champlain at Westport, Essex, NY, Nov. 7 (G. Carleton) were exceptional. An *Aechmophorus* grebe in Indian R. Inlet, DE, Nov. 26 was carefully identified as **Clark's Grebe** (G. Hess, J. Swertinski), the less expected of the two western species as stragglers to this coast, providing the first Regional record of this newly-recognized species. Tubenoses were hard to find; a pelagic trip off Montauk Pt., L.I., Aug. 20 produced only Wilson's Storm-Petrels (SW, RJK).

During this fall's 324-hour seawatch at the n. end of Avalon, Cape May, NJ, 8208 N. Gannets on Nov. 14 made Ward's best gannet day ever; 38,856 had passed by the end of November. After their 5th consecutive influx last summer, Brown Pelicans remained later than ever. The CBS traffic helicopter reported a pelican (species undetermined) flying west over

Manhattan Sept. 1 (*vide* SS, AW), and eight Brown Pelicans were still at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., Sept. 18 (M. Cooper). The last individual was seen in mid-November at Hereford Inlet, Cape May, NJ (DWa, DWi), their apparent heartland in this Region. Seven Great Cormorants were established once again up the Delaware R. as far as Riverton Nov. 20 (TBa), and two were far up the Hudson near West Point Oct. 21 (ET). Peak passage of Double-crested Cormorants at the Avalon, NJ, seawatch was 11,487 on Oct. 19 (75,702 for the season, DWa)

**HERONS TO WATERFOWL**—A Great Egret around Oswego, Broome in August (R. Marsi, D. Clements) and a Cattle Egret in Oswego Nov. 15 (FGS) were among the few wandering herons this season in upstate New York. A Green-backed Heron was exceptionally late at Dunkirk Nov. 26 (JG, Jr.). In n.e. Pennsylvania, more herons than usual profited by low water conditions. An imm. Snowy Egret Aug. 11 at Tunkhannock made a 2nd county record for Wyoming, PA (WR). Out of four imm. Little Blue Herons at Green Lane after Aug. 19 (GAF), one remained quite late until Oct. 2 (KC).

White Ibises were rather widespread again. In addition to single immatures around Brig, Cape May, Bombay Hook, and Pickering Beach, DE in August, and what may be another at Cape May in late September, a much more unusual one was at Middle Creek W.M.A., n. Lancaster, PA, Aug. 4–10 (EW *et al.*) and another established a first county record far up the Susquehanna R. at Wyoming, Luzerne, PA, Aug. 10–15 (WR). Single *Plegadis* ibises, presumed to be Glossy, wandered all the way to Appalachia, Broome, NY (JGL) in August and to Lake Erie at Dunkirk Oct. 2–3 (JG, Jr. and Sr.).

Single Greater White-fronted Geese, mostly attributed to the Greenland race, were at Perch River W.M.A., Jefferson, NY, Oct. 8 (L. Chamberlain), Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee-Orleans, NY, Nov. 8 (WW), Mecox Bay, L.I., the same day (PG), and Bombay Hook in October and November (NH *et al.*). A number of observers picked out single Ross' Geese among the great Snow Geese flocks at both Brig and Bombay Hook in November—now regular, but unimagined a decade ago.

Duck numbers were low everywhere, in keeping with the national trend. Eleven drake Eur. Wigeon were about par for this extended Region. Seven were at usual coastal sites on Long Island, and at Bombay Hook and Brig; more unusual were two inland at L. Musconetcong, Morris, NJ (B. Heuneman), and singles at Montezuma N.W.R., at the n. end of L. Cayuga, NY, and Mannington Marsh, Salem, NJ (S. Forte, JKM). A lone ♀ Surf Scoter at Muddy Run Nov. 19–22 furnished only the 4th Lancaster record (RMS), this being the least frequent scoter inland by far. The most notable groundings of sea ducks inland were of 15 Com. Goldeneyes, a record 93 Buffleheads, and a Red-breasted Merganser at Green Lane Oct. 30 (KC, GAF, GLF), and 170 Black, three Surf, and 25 White-winged scoters Nov. 3 at L. Placid, NY (B. Hagar). The peak scoter flight past the Avalon, NJ, seawatch was of 24,560 on Oct. 21—mostly Black and Surf, White-winged generally wintering farther north (DWa).

**RAPTORS**—Although no Black Vulture nest has yet been discovered north of the recently established n.w. New Jersey population, record numbers at hawkwatches suggest that something is going on in New York State. Three at the Upper Montclair hawkwatch, Essex, NJ (EG) and 13 at Cape May both set records, by a wide margin. High numbers at Mt. Peter (peaks of six Oct. 21 and five Oct. 24, Highlands Aud. Soc.) and at Bear Mt. (peak of three Oct. 2, ET), both in Orange, NY, point the finger toward the Catskills. A record 515 Turkey Vultures passed Montclair, and 853 at Cape May made the 2nd highest total in the modern count there, although over a thousand were counted some falls in the 1930s.

Urban hawkwatching caught on in a big way this season. Two new watches were established at the edge of this Region's

2 biggest cities Militia Hill, Fort Washington S P, near Philadelphia (B. Kershner, M. Klauder, BMu *et al.*), and Pelham Bay Park, n.e. Bronx, New York City (R. DeCandido, SW). Daily coverage showed that major hawk movements can overfly the most intensely built-up areas. The Philadelphians counted 923 Broad-winged Hawks Sept. 14, for example, and five Bald Eagles and two Golden Eagles for the season. The Pelham Bay count, strategically located where Long Island sound reaches its w. end at the lower Hudson highlands, was particularly rich in Ospreys (1447 for the season). Pelham Bay's most dramatic day was Sept. 15, when 6030 Broad-winged Hawks passed overhead.

#### S.A.

In general, many hawks seemed down, but when compared with the whole decade, totals were average to good. Cape May, for example, had only about half as many Ospreys as last year (2823), after 10 years of dramatic gains, but Ospreys held about even elsewhere. Hawkwatch counts of Bald Eagles generally slipped a bit, although so many of these birds appeared away from hawkwatches that we still have a general impression of increase. Sharp-shinned Hawks are in a genuine slide. After the boom of the previous 15 years, a downturn since the mid-1980s can now be called a trend. This fall Sharp-shinneds ran about 15–20% below the historic highs of the late 1970s on the ridges, and nearly 50% below the peaks of the early 1980s on the beach. Cape May's total of 20,911 was a shade above last year's, but less than half the peak count in 1984. The severity of the coastal decline is bad news because this species' coastal passage is much greater than its mountain one. Cooper's Hawks were everywhere below last year's high figures, but the immense variation in ratios between Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks from one hawkwatch to another (as high as one Cooper's Hawk for every 8.3 Sharp-shinneds at Cape May, and as low as one for every 189 Sharp-shinneds at Fire Island) makes us reluctant to draw conclusions.

Northern Goshawks were low everywhere (Hawk Mt.'s 50 was barely a tenth of the great flight year of 1972), but one in Central Park, Manhattan, from late November on, gave a special treat to large numbers of people.

Among Buteos, Red-shouldered Hawks ran up good totals of 364 at Hawk Mt. and 160 at Upper Montclair, but nothing elsewhere suggested any reversal in this species' long decline. The Broad-winged Hawk flight began early. September 12 was Hawk Mt.'s biggest day (1184, LG). There were still birds left for a strong late peak Sept. 21–22 (e.g., 2259 Sept. 21 at Hook Mt., Rockland, NY, and 1500–2000 along Delaware Bay at Bivalve, Cumberland, NJ, Sept. 22, RDB). The biggest push came Sept. 14–16, and passed in a rather narrow band across thickly settled s.e. New York and n.e. New Jersey, giving the new urban hawkwatches most of the excitement and missing the inland ridges as well as Cape May. It began on a clearing cold front Sept. 14 (923 in Philadelphia, 9488 at Hook Mt., in sight of New York City on the w. bank of the Hudson). The next day's flight path was more southerly (6030 at Pelham Bay, but almost none 15 mi n.w. at Hook Mt.). Then, on Sept. 16, a huge flight appeared in s.w. Connecticut (13,082 at Greenwich), and evidently joined with others coming down the Hudson (1726 at Hook Mt., but almost none at Pelham Bay!) to form an awesome mass of 17,420 Broad-winged Hawks passing over Upper Montclair, NJ. The spectacle astonished and moved the crowd gathered that very afternoon to dedicate the Montclair sanctuary to the memory of the late Andrew Bihun, Jr. (EG). This dense network of hawkwatches around New York City showed how easily the Broad-winged Hawk kettles can slip between them, and how the flight paths vary from one day to the next. Radar, anyone?

At least five Swainson's Hawks were more than usual. A light morph immature passed Raccoon Ridge, Warren, NJ, Nov. 8 (TL) and the same bird, or another very much like it, was 70 mi downridge at Hawk Mt., PA, the next day (LG), along with the season's biggest passage of Red-tailed Hawks, 539. Swainson's Hawks passed the Cape May hawkwatch Sept. 26, Oct. 6, and Nov. 9, and some seen nearby may have been different; an all-dark *Buteo* high over Pelham Bay Sept. 24 was possibly a Swainson's († SW). Individual Golden Eagles were very widely reported, and the season's 19 at Cape May set a record. On the ridges, Golden Eagles did not repeat last fall's extravaganza, but numbers like 66 at Hawk Mt. (LG) and 47 at Raccoon Ridge (TL) were still above the long plateau of the middle 1980s.

The Am. Kestrel picture was mixed. Their numbers had been declining steadily since reaching peaks inland in the late 1970s and along the beach in the early 1980s. Last year's upturn was not sustained everywhere. Hook Mt. and Mt. Peter had counts above the ten-year average, but Cape May and Fire Island were both far below last year. Merlins set records at Fire Island (1342) and Montclair (54), but interrupted their decade of steady expansion almost everywhere else. Peregrines were well below last year (although still far above a decade ago); this reflected breeding conditions in the Arctic rather than locally, of course. A gray morph imm. Gyrfalcon harrassed a Red-tailed Hawk close by the Hawk Mt. watch Nov. 10, for the 6th confirmed record there (LG), and a dark Gyrfalcon passed Raccoon Ridge Nov. 19 (TL).

**TURKEY TO SHOREBIRDS** — Wild Turkeys are doing well at the edge of suburbia. In s.e. New York up to 40 were in Dutchess, and the Orange population overflowed into n. Rockland, where they had been shot out by 1820 (PDe). In suburban New Jersey, Wild Turkeys were present almost within sight of Manhattan in the Hudson Highlands (IB), close to Princeton (RJB), and close to Camden (JKM). Hawk watchers at Fire Island Light were astonished to see a Yellow Rail drop in to the shrubbery in strong NW winds Oct. 13 († DM, m ob). An imm. Black Rail, almost never encountered in fall migration, was found road-killed near Red Mill Pond, DE, Oct. 6 (WWF). Four single Sandhill Cranes were about par: in Carrollton Twp., Cattaraugus, NY, Sept. 13–22 (J. VanSkoy), one soaring in a thermal Sept. 16 over Hatfield Swamp, Essex, NJ (F. Weinfeldt), and at Cape May Sept. 29–30 and Nov. 21–22 (JBo, DSi, CS).

Fall shorebird passage fluctuated with man-made conditions to a point that made generalizations difficult. Brig was "a desert" in September because of pro-duck management practices, and J.B.W.R. shorebirds were 86% below normal late in the season because the East Pond's famous flats were drowned by late October rains (AM, DM). At Bombay Hook, by contrast, water levels were excellent late in the season.

Lesser Golden-Plover concentrations on pastures and sod-farms were not exceptional, the biggest being 95 at Batavia and Oakfield Twps., Genesee, NY, Sept. 5 (DE) and 97 near Cutchogue, eastern L.I., Sept. 7 (PG). Drought-induced low water produced some good shorebird records from the Great Lakes shore of n.w. New York. Five Willets were good there two around Buffalo Aug. 15 and Sept. 7–Oct. 2 (WW, MG), and singles at Irondequoit Bay Aug. 26–27 (S. Carlson, ph B Keelan), Braddock Bay Aug. 27 (MG), and Ontario Beach, Monroe, Sept. 3 (KCG, R. Oswald). These birds were certainly western *inornatus*, rather than the Atlantic coastal nominate race.

Upland Sandpiper numbers continued discouraging, except for a couple of good-sized migratory assemblages in s.e. New York: 49 at the Warren Turf Farms, in s.w. Orange, NY, and 40 near Riverhead, L.I., both Aug. 21 (*vide* TWB). The best New Jersey total known to us was of only 15 at Columbus Aug. 25 (WD, J. Palumbo), and the best in Delaware a measly eight at Red Mill Aug. 20 (WWF), although there had been up to 20 at the Wilmington Airport in late July.

There were only fair numbers of the more sought-after shorebirds, although drought-exposed edges made possible some good inland records. The best coastal concentrations of Hudsonian Godwits were a good 33 migrants pausing at the S.C.M.M. in the early morning of Sept. 5 (PHo), and 18 at Bombay Hook Oct. 28 (NH). Two Hudsonian Godwits at Green Lane, one Oct. 29 (GLF) and another late (with an injured foot) Nov. 5–8 (KC, m.ob.), were only the 3rd and 4th for the Allentown area. Up to five used drought-exposed mudflats on Irondequoit Bay Sept. 5–Oct. 24 (J. Skelly, M. Reinhardt). One was late there Nov. 12, and another record-late at Braddock Bay Nov. 22–30 (F. Nicoletti, m.ob.). Marbled Godwits were widely distributed in small numbers on the coast. The biggest concentration was of only four at J.B.W.R. Sept. 5–8 (AM, DM). One at Irondequoit Bay Aug. 31–Sept. 24 (M. Davids, † CC, J. & S. Skelly) was the first in the Rochester area since 1984.

White-rumped Sandpipers were unremarkable on the coast, but one at Wilkes-Barre, PA, Oct. 7 was only the 4th or 5th locally (WR), and individuals at Green Lane after Sept. 30 included one very late on Nov. 7 (*vide* BLM). Single Baird's Sandpipers turned up in unusual places where drought-exposed lake edges grew up in fine grass, such as L. Tappan, Rockland, NY, Sept. 1 (PDe). Elsewhere we received reports from only 7 other localities, no doubt an incomplete record. The only places with more than one at a time were a sodfarm near Riverhead, L.I., with three Aug. 12 (*vide* TWB), S.C.M.M. with two Aug. 16–19 (DSi), and Green Lane with two Aug. 24 (GLF *et al.*, ph. RWi). Curlew Sandpipers were low again, with only singles at Brig and Bombay Hook in August (T. Young, F. King, DSi, M. Heindell). Stilt Sandpipers built to a locally unusual peak of 46 on exposed flats in s. Irondequoit Bay Sept. 4 (M. Reinhardt, m.ob.). On the coast, the best count was a fairly good 100 at Primehook N.W.R., DE, Sept. 13 (WWF). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were quite widely reported in ones and twos, from the Great Lakes shore in Chautauqua and Monroe, NY, Aug. 21–Sept. 5 (ph. B. Robinson, KCG, B. Oswald, *et al.*), down the Susquehanna R. (one Aug. 21, Conejohela Flats, Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA, EW), through the lower Hudson Valley (a few at the Orange sod farms, JPT) to J.B.W.R., Brig, and S.C.M.M. on the coast. Numbers were low, however. The best counts were of only five Aug. 28 at the Columbus sod farm, Burlington, NJ (WD), four at Mecox, L.I., Sept. 9 (J. Bull), and up to three at a time, Aug. 12–Sept. 1, at sod farms near Calverton and Riverhead, L.I. (RJK, SW *et al.*).

The Ruffs previously reported at Bombay Hook through July dwindled to three by Aug. 4 (Bmi), and elsewhere we knew only of a fading dark male at S.C.M.M. at the end of August (AC, L. Lewis, G. Saunders). An ad. Long-billed Dowitcher at Green Lane Aug. 24–27 (ph. † RWi, m.ob.) provided



Adult Long-billed Dowitcher at Green Lane Reservoir, Pennsylvania, August 25, 1988. Photograph/Rick Wiltraut.

a rare Pennsylvania record. A juvenile at J.B.W.R. Aug. 27 was one of the earliest on record for e. North America, the first juveniles usually arriving only in mid-September († PL). Wilson's Phalaropes built up only modestly to six at J.B.W.R. (PL) and 11 at both Brig (RK) and Bombay Hook (Bmi) in early August. Curiously, despite what would seem to have been ideal conditions, the only inland record was of one near Rochester, NY, Aug. 6 (KCG, B. Oswald). About a dozen single Red-necked Phalaropes were found, without apparent pattern. Singles arrived early at Brig Aug. 20 (F. Lesser, A. Majewski) and at Buffalo Aug. 26 (Yoerg). The only inland record was at Green Lane Oct. 12 (ph. RWi). The others were scattered about equally on the Great Lakes shore and the coast (FGS, WD'A, MO'B, RC, PBa, T. Fitcher *et al.*). Red Phalaropes were much more frequent on the Great Lakes shore (seven, Oct. 13–Nov. 29, FGS, CC, R. O'Hara, JG, Sr., Mahoney) than on the coast. The only coastal records were of two in Delaware at Gordon's Pond, Sussex, Oct. 30 (NH), and Bombay Hook Nov. 6–7 (C. Perry, Bmo, APE, ph.). A Red and a Red-necked Phalarope were photographed in the same frame on the L. Erie shore in Sheridan Twp., Chautauqua, NY, Oct. 16 (ph. JG, Jr.).

**JAEGERS TO SKIMMER** — Nineteen Parasitic Jaegers at Derby Hill, Oswego, NY, Oct. 11 made a poor to middling peak day by recent standards and reached barely a tenth of historic peak days in 1973 and 1979 (GAS). Away from that famous e. Lake Ontario concentration point, a Parasitic Jaeger at Bachelona Harbor, Chautauqua, Sept. 5 (R. Sundell) and three juv. Pomarine Jaegers reported from the Moses-Saunders Dam, in the St. Lawrence R., Nov. 9 (BDiL) were noteworthy. Ward counted 51 jaegers passing the Avalon, Cape May, NJ, seawatch during November, all Parasitics as far as species could be determined.

The Niagara R. is the gull capital of this Region, and perhaps of the United States. Thirteen species were found there in November. One Laughing Gull was among them, at Tiffit Farm, Nov. 8 (W. Bogachi). This species was also found at 2 other Great Lakes shore sites, where it is rare: Canadaway Cr. Nature Sanctuary, Chautauqua, Aug. 15 (JG, Jr.), and Russell Station, Monroe, Sept. 11 († FD). There were 7 reports of Franklin's Gull in the Niagara R., but none elsewhere in this Region. Twelve Little Gulls were at the mouth of the Niagara R. Nov. 12 (WD'A), and there were 13 other reports in the river and from Dunkirk in October alone (RA). In the St. Lawrence R., six were at Moses-Saunders Dam Sept. 10–11 (BDiL). The coast, however, had mostly singles, the best count being of three adults in Jones Inlet, L.I., Nov. 28 (J. Bloss). One very early immature at Brig Aug. 22 (B. Conn, B. Mahey) must have been born in North America. Unlike Little Gulls, whose North American population centers on the Great Lakes, the distributional roots of Com. Black-headed Gulls are n. Atlantic. The only one away from the coast was at Moses-Saunders Dam, in the St. Lawrence R., Nov. 27 (BDiL), for the 2nd area record (KLC). They were not particularly numerous on the coast, with only four on Long Island, two in coastal New Jersey (BMo, F. Mears, Bmi), and one at Gordon Pond, Sussex, DE (NH).

We know of one Lesser Black-backed Gull from L. Erie, at Dunkirk, Nov. 20 (RP) and another from L. Ontario, Porter Twp., Nov. 25 (WD'A), but only about eight from the coast, where they are certainly under-reported now. They have become annual up the Raritan R., near Johnson Park, Middlesex, NJ (one Nov. 12, TBa). About five Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported after mid-October from the Great Lakes shore of New York where they are regular in small numbers (KCG, RP, WD'A *et al.*), and a notable three immatures were in the St. Lawrence R. at the Moses-Saunders Dam Nov. 9 (BDiL). Five Sabine's Gulls were all in the Niagara area, Sept. 20–Oct. 30 (WD'A, JG, WW, D. Suggs, F. Rew).

Caspian Terns massed along the Delaware R. Valley this fall, perhaps as a consequence of increased breeding in the e.

Great Lakes, reported in this column last summer. They built up on a spoil bank off Salem, NJ, to an unprecedented 200 by Sept. 10 (C. Githens). The annual post-breeding Royal Tern conclaves reached 80 at Shinnecock, L.I., Oct. 8 (MO'B) and about 1000 at Cape May Pt. Oct. 22 (VE, RDB). Post-breeding Sandwich Terns increased to an "amazing" 14 in Hereford Inlet, Cape May, NJ, by mid-August (MF, BMi), but none seems to have reached Long Island. An imm. Arctic Tern reported at Hereford Inlet, Cape May, NJ Aug. 11 (DSi, MF) was noteworthy. Migrant Forster's Terns reached unprecedented numbers on w. Long Island, with over 100 at Jones Beach S.P. Oct. 16 (SS, AW). For the 2nd year in a row a group was in the Hudson R. near West Point, 27 strong on Oct. 21 (ET), probably migrants from the Great Lakes. The best migrant concentrations of radically declining Black Terns were 31 at Salmon Creek, near Rochester, Aug. 20 (where there might once have been thousands), and 12 in early August in the the Ted Harvey W.M.A., DE, accompanying the White-winged Tern discussed in the summer's column. Black Skimmers no longer breed at J.B.W.R., but much of the Long Island (and northward) population must have assembled there to produce a count of 466 Oct. 8 (AM). In coastal New Jersey they built to 1000+ in Hereford Inlet Aug. 22 (MF).

**ALCIDS TO HUMMINGBIRDS** — Two fly-by large alcids Nov. 13 (J. Connor) & 16 (DWA) passing the seawatch at Avalon, Cape May, NJ, the former identified as a Thick-billed Murre, were the only ones reported.

The owl banding project at Cape May caught 156 owls Oct. 8–Nov. 22, the most since 1981. They included a meagre 14 Com. Barn-Owls, a prodigious 55 Long-eared Owls, and a good 87 N. Saw-whet Owls. One imm. ♀ Barn-Owl came aboard a fishing boat 50 mi e. of Cape May Sept. 9, tired and hungry enough to be caught (E. Riccio). Following last fall's fair-sized invasion, only four Snowy Owls had shown up by the end of the season, two in the St. Lawrence area of upstate New York and two on Long Island (J. Clinton, TWB). Single migrant Short-eared Owls passed over the Pelham Bay hawkwatch at mid-day Oct. 23 (SW), and the Raccoon Ridge hawkwatch Oct. 26 (TL).

Observers in e. Pennsylvania lamented the "continued decline" of Com. Nighthawk (BLM), and the biggest day at Hawk Mt. had only two Sept. 8 (LG). On the other hand, we received reports of more major migrant flocks than usual, suggesting that there are still healthy populations of Com. Nighthawks north of us. We had counts in the 300 range from the Niagara R., Dunkirk, and Greece, *Monroe*, in n.w. New York, all Aug. 31–Sept. 2 (MG, JG Jr., FD), and another of 310 from Lyons, Somerset, NJ, Aug. 30 (SSo). The most impressive flight was of 1200 over the Upper Montclair hawkwatch Sept. 1 (EG). Further evidence of late-migrating Whip-poor-wills was provided by captures by the owl banders at Cape May Oct. 19 and Nov. 21, and one found dead the latter day at New Suffolk, L.I. (PG).

Intriguing reports of very late swifts, presumed to be Chimney Swifts, were received from Bake Oven Knob, PA, Nov. 2 (R. Barnes, F. Brock), and Cape May Nov. 7 (DSi) & 12 (RDB). A so-so 91 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds passed Hawk Mt. during the season (LG), our best barometer for this species.

**FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES** — A record-late imm. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at Gilgo Beach, L.I., Nov. 12 († ROP, ph. S. Plimpton, reviewed by W. Lanyon); a Nov. 2, 1980 specimen also exists from Long Island, suggesting that this species has to be considered as well as western stragglers when late *Empidonax* are encountered. Western Kingbirds were very low. Only about five were found in s.e. New York and only about seven passed Cape May. One at Henlopen S.P., DE, Sept. 12 was observed feeding on Virginia Creeper berries

(WWF). The only inland record was at Avon, Livingston, NY, Sept. 5 (J. & A. Foster), the 7th for the Rochester area. The usual thousands of E. Kingbirds migrated along the coast at the end of August, and one was exceptionally late on the L. Erie shore at Dunkirk Oct. 16 (RP).

A total of 27 Com. Ravens for the season at Hawk Mt., with six on Oct. 8 (LG), and five over Mt. Peter, Orange, NY, Oct. 29 (JPT) were continued signs of this species' return along the ridges. They are now encountered fairly regularly on the Allegheny plateau, *Allegheny* and *Cattaraugus*, NY (SWE). Carolina Wrens have rebounded so vigorously from their freeze-out of the late 1970s that they were found this fall all the way to the n. tip of New York, at Eldorado Shores, Jefferson, Sept. 29 (R. Brouse) and at Louisville, St. Lawrence, Nov. 13 (M. Badger). Following last summer's influx, Sedge Wrens remained at S.C.M.M. at least into early October. Two juveniles there Sept. 30 apparently confirm New Jersey's first breeding record in recent times (PD). Two were also at Brig Sept. 4–Oct. 2 (J. Danzenbaker, P. Guris), and two exceptionally at Hook Mt., Rockland, NY, Sept. 23 (P. French).

An imm. **Northern Wheatear**, believed to belong to the Greenland race, was widely admired at Cape May Sept. 11 (P. Rodewald, ph. S. Lafrance, ph. KS, m.ob.). This species is now annual in this Region. We have been neglecting E. Bluebirds since the recovery, but the Dutchess, NY, bluebird trail that raised 609 young in 131 boxes (M. Van Wagner *et al.*) should not pass unmentioned. A ♀ **Mountain Bluebird** was with E. Bluebirds at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Nov. 12 († DSi, VE) for New Jersey's 2nd record. Other than a scattering of N. Shrikes in n. New York, we knew of only one, in Dutchess, NY, in late November (R. Oswald, J. Key). Only five of the endangered Loggerhead Shrike were reported, characteristically early: one at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Sept. 6 (J. Bull) and four in New Jersey, Aug. 22–Sept. 28 (RJB, B. Conn, B. Maher, D. Freeland, B. Hardiman).



*Northern Wheatear at Cape May, New Jersey, September 11, 1988. Photograph/Serge Lafrance.*

**VIREOS TO FINCHES** — A White-eyed Vireo was carrying food Aug. 2 in Pomfret Twp., Chautauqua, NY (TDM), outside any breeding area documented during the New York atlas project. More Philadelphia Vireos were seen away from the barrier beach than usual, with six in w.c. New York Sept. 12 (FGS), and up to two a day several times in September in the Unami Valley, n. Montgomery, PA (GLF, BMu).

A Blue-winged Warbler, normally one of the earliest summer breeders to depart, was banded unusually late Oct. 20 at Kaiser-Manitou (EB). Golden-winged Warblers were more conspicuous at Cape May than usual, with up to five at Higbee's Beach some days in early September (PHo, m.ob.). Over a dozen Orange-crowned Warblers, more than normal, were widely distributed: two in n.w. New York (KCG, EB),

one in n e Pennsylvania (WR), two in s e New York, and the rest in New Jersey, all after Oct. 12 except one exceptionally early at Clinton, Hunterdon, NJ, Sept. 6 (J. DeMarrais). Most of the spruce-breeding warblers seemed scarce, especially Cape May Warblers. The exception was Yellow-rumped Warbler, which nowadays seems to outnumber all other species of warbler put together. Schutsky estimated 500 in 2.5 hours Oct 17 at Muddy Run, Lancaster, PA, about 1000 were at Medford W.M.A., Burlington, NJ, Oct. 16 (WD), and a prodigious 15,000 were guesstimated at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Oct 4 (RC, DWi, J. Hough). An imm. ♀ **Townsend's Warbler**, New Jersey's 7th and the 2nd year in a row, was at Cape May Nov 11 (†DSi, ph. CS).

A Yellow-throated Warbler was late at Sandy Hook, NJ, Oct 15 (BMo). A Prairie Warbler banded Sept. 10 near the L. Ontario shore at Kaiser-Manitou (ph. KCG), for the 2nd Monroe fall record, could have originated either in the pioneering upstate populations mentioned in the summer column, or in the Ontario outpost. Cerulean Warblers, among the breeding species least often seen in fall, were at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, Aug. 9 & 16 (DSi), and three were reported singing at Gladstone, Somerset, NJ, Aug. 20 (SSo). American Redstarts, by far the most numerous warblers in early fall along the barrier beach before the Yellow-rumped Warblers arrive, were more than a thousand strong at Higbee's Beach Aug. 16 (DSi, RC, DWi *et al.*), and "thick as flies" in Mercer Co. Park, NJ, in September (RJB). Prothonotary Warblers were also unusually visible at Cape May, where four were found at the Beanery Aug. 12 (PHo). A Kentucky Warbler was well n. of known breeding range at Fort Niagara S.P. Sept. 5 (WD'A). Among scattered inland reports of Connecticut Warbler (EB, TBa), three at Macungie, Lehigh, PA, Sept. 26 (RWi) made a remarkable count for what is usually considered a predominantly coastal migrant. An ad. ♀ Wilson's Warbler banded Aug 27 at Kaiser-Manitou was recaptured 3 days later about 250 mi due east at Grafton, VT (KCG).

Two Blue Grosbeaks Oct. 2 at the Fire Island hawkwatch (AM) were typical of this species' northward dispersal along the coast after breeding (like Yellow-breasted Chats). After last summer's incursion, more Dickcissels than usual migrated down the beach; 35 were recorded at Cape May during the season. Clay-colored Sparrows were commoner than usual, perhaps reflecting eastward expansion of the breeding range. We have excellent documentation for five different individuals Sept. 27–Oct. 20 on e. Long Island (ph. MO'B), among other coastal records, and about 17 were recorded at Cape May. Three were more unusual inland in Morris and Hunterdon, NJ, Sept. 25–Oct. 30 (KK, AC, E. Patten). Only about six Lark Sparrows were reported from the coast, all in New Jersey in September (RK, H. Wallum, AC, PHo, KK, RC, DSi), but one was much more unusual inland at W. Freehold, Monmouth, NJ, Aug. 22 (J. Peachey). A record 200 Savannah Sparrows were counted at Green Lane Oct. 5 (GLF). Among about five Henslow's Sparrows noted, one at Jones Beach S.P., L.I., Sept. 29 was impeccably described (†RJK). One or two Sharp-tailed Sparrows of undetermined race in Monroe, NY, in late September and early October (†CC, †S. Carlson) added to recent observations on the L. Ontario shore where it now seems regular in small numbers. Lincoln's Sparrows must have had a good year. They were found in many locations where they are rarely seen, and sometimes in twos (Wilkes-Barre, PA, Oct. 7, WR) and threes (Green Lane, Oct. 9, GLF). An astonishing 32 were found during the fall in the Lyons-Gladstone section of Somerset, NJ (SSo). White-crowned Sparrows were above normal on the coast, all the way to Delaware, although not inland. A Dark-eyed Junco of the "Oregon" or "pink-sided" race was at a feeder at Owl's Head, Franklin, NY, Oct. 24–28 (J. Trzeciak), and an "Oregon" form in Irondequoit, Monroe, NY, Nov. 12 (†B. & B. Powell); these forms probably go underreported now.

An imm. ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird that passed the Fire Island hawkwatch Sept. 2 (AM, A. Lauro), another imm. male

around Cape May in late August (DSi, VE, L. Lewis, G. Saunders), and a female at Brig in early October (JB, J. Connor, P. Plage) were the only ones reported. Four ♀ Brewer's Blackbirds were at Cape May Oct. 29–Nov. 2 (RDB, DSi, CS, JKM, JDo, E. Manners) for one of the very few fully confirmed New Jersey records. One was reported at Deposit, Otsego, NY, at the end of November (*vide* L. Bemont).

Winter finches were in deep post-invasion shadow. Bucking the trend, a flight of 70 Red Crossbills in 4 flocks came over Sunrise Mt., Sussex, NJ, Oct. 31 (RK, H. Wallum), and a group of 50 Pine Siskins visited a feeder in Lawrence, L.I., Nov. 8 (H. Herschbein). Otherwise, siskins were found only sporadically, and Evening Grosbeaks fell to their lowest numbers in this generation. Other winter finches were virtually nonexistent.

**EXOTICS** — The Chilean Flamingo reported last season around Mecox and Montauk Pt., L.I., remained through November (ES, SW, m.ob.). A flamingo of undetermined species was at Cape May Aug. 8 (N. Erickson). A pair of Trumpeter Swans introduced at Squibb L., Lawrenceville, Mercer, NJ, nested and fledged one viable young (RJB), conceivably the beginning of another feral swan population. The Black Swan at Cape May and the Bar-headed Goose at Bombay Hook Nov 21 (NH) were of course escapees.

Monk Parakeets were reported from several places, including Hawk Mt.; a nesting pair at Pelham Bay park, New York City, after Aug. 22 (D. Kunstler) showed that earlier eradication programs have not succeeded.

**UNCONFIRMED REPORTS** — A probable Spotted Redshank was studied at Bombay Hook Nov. 11 by a group from the Brooks Bird Club of Wheeling, WV, including persons familiar with this species in Europe. We received a narrative report (C. Slater) which mentioned all major fieldmarks except the call, but we have no independent sightings of this bird or further evidence such as a photo.

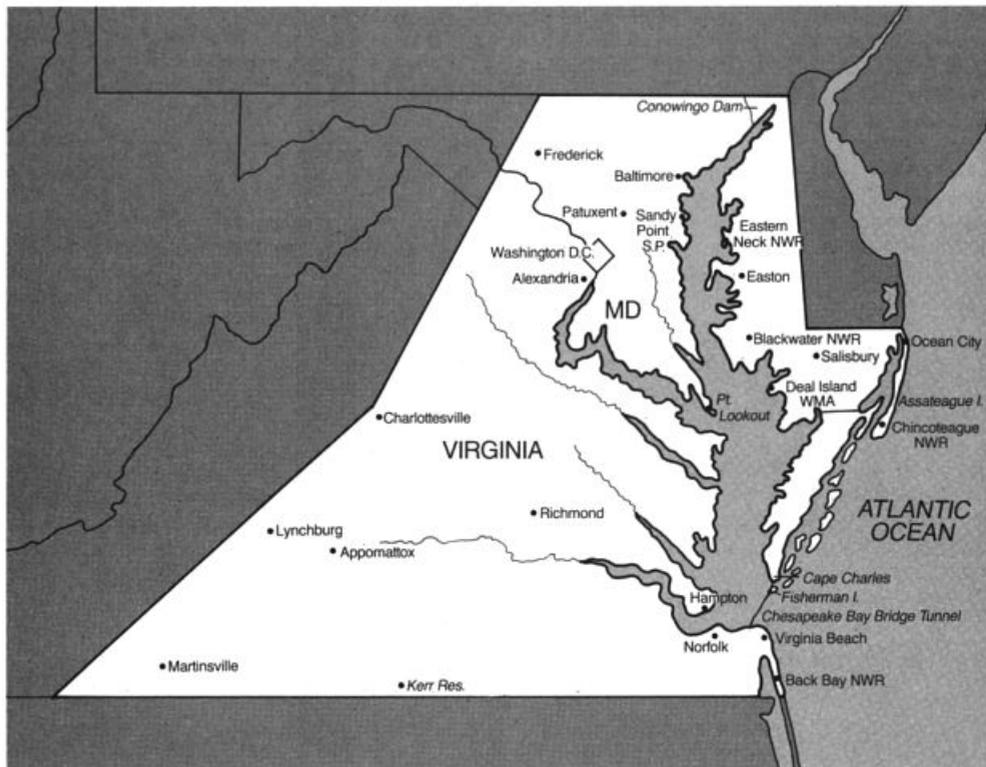
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## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

**Henry T. Armistead**  
(Summer 1988 Report)



**A**s the summer developed, drought and severe heat returned once again. Several coastal storms, with high water and wind, were destructive to colonial waterbirds. Dickcissels staged a major invasion. The event of the decade (century?) was the discovery, *within one hour*, of a Black-shouldered Kite, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher (plus two singing Dickcissels) in the same field at Sandy Point near Rustic, Virginia, west of Williamsburg next to the confluence of the James and Chickahominy rivers on June 5. Two of these were new state birds. On June 7 an unidentified ani was seen here. The presence of these early June birds may have been related to southwest winds in late spring. The later Dickcissel invasion with a minor one of Sedge Wrens, Bobolinks, and Henslow's Sparrows might be attributed to the severe Midwest drought. Departures from normal of temperature: June  $-0.1^{\circ}\text{F}$ ., July  $+2.6^{\circ}$ ; precipitation: June  $-1.6$  inches, July  $-0.2$  inches.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Blackwater=Blackwater Nat'l Wildlife Ref., MD; the Bay=Chesapeake Bay; Chinc.=Chincoteague Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA; Craney=Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA; D.C.=Washington, D.C.; Deal I.=Deal Island Wildlife Management Area, MD; Fish. I.=Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA; H.M.C.P.=Huntley Meadows County Park, Fairfax, VA. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS TO IBISES** — Pied-billed Grebes bred again at H.M.C.P. with three young birds there during June (EMW, RAA); at their Deal I. stronghold, 21 were seen July 24 (HTA) and 26 on July 30 (MO, LMD). Truitt encountered six Cory's Shearwaters and a Greater Shearwater plus 60 Wilson's Storm-Petrels June 10 out from Wachapreague, VA. Nine Wilson's got all the way up the Bay to Maryland waters off Pt. Lookout June 5 (BY), and close by but in Virginia, Portlock saw 14 about 5 mi e. of Reedville June 13 and one near remote Watts I. June 22. They were widely reported close to the beach and in inlets of islands of the Virginia E. Shore (BT, MA). A pelagic trip June 12 out of Rudee Inlet, VA, produced two Manx, 145 Cory's, 260 Greater, and 65 Sooty shearwaters, plus 210 Wilson's Storm-Petrels (BP, DTS, MB, BPe, BW, MP), most 50–55 mi out.

An Am. White Pelican was at Smith I., MD, May 15 at precisely the same spot as in 1987 (JM) and one was seen on Metomkin and Hog islands, VA, on the E. Shore during June (BW, BT). Brown Pelicans did not breed again in Virginia this summer, but up to 19 nests were found at the same Maryland colony s. of Ocean City as in 1987, with five birds still on eggs at the end of July (GDT, JM). This was the 2nd year of breeding in the Region. Numbers in Virginia continued to be impressive with 200 at New Pt. Comfort in late May (MAB), 133 there June 27 (JBB), 100 at Craney June 10 (JFT), 44 at Back Bay N.W.R. July 21 (DS), 50 off Lynnhaven Inlet during the period

(RJT), 33 in Wachapreague Inlet July 29 (GR), and three up the Bay at Watts I. June 22 (WP). Their Metomkin I. nesting site of 1987, as well as the heronry there, was severely damaged by an April storm (BT). Double-crested Cormorants nested again on the James R. near Hopewell, VA, with 58 there July 17 plus  $10 \pm$  nests. In Dorchester, MD, 140 were at Hoopers I. July 10 and 125 were at Bloodsworth I. June 22 (GLA, HTA), while inland, four frequented L. Gaston, VA (AB).

Least Bitterns were common at H.M.C.P.; 3 nests there June 29 held 4, 4, and 5 eggs, and another held two young (COH, RAA). Six Least Bitterns were heard on salty Watts I. June 22 (WP). The Bloodsworth I. Great Blue Heronry had about 127 pairs June 22, many of these nesting on platforms erected for them by the state at this naval bombing range (HTA, GLA). About 600 pairs of Great Egrets bred in the largely urbanized greater Hampton Roads, VA, tidewater area (SR). Good counts at Deal I. were of 200 Snowy Egrets and 80 Little Blue Herons July 30 (MO, LMD), and 45 Green-backed Herons, 110 Great Egrets, and 160 Glossy Ibises July 24 (HTA), most probably from colonies in the central Bay on Smith I. The famous Black-crowned Night-Heron colony at the National Zoo in D.C. produced 39 fledglings seen June 18 (DC). Immature White Ibis singles were in Maryland at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel July 28 (LJ) and in Virginia at H.M.C.P. July 31 (*fide* RH), near Culpeper July 22 (GG), and at Ivy Creek, Bedford, Aug. 3 (CH). Possible breeding birds included two at Hog I. June 18 (BT) plus four at Fish. I. in June (BW), these all on the Virginia E. Shore. On Assateague I., MD, 200 Glossy Ibises were seen July 30 (MO).

For the 14th consecutive year, colonial waterbirds were surveyed on the Virginia E. Shore barrier islands from Assawoman south to Fish. I. (BE *et al.*). Large mixed heronries were on Hog, Wreck, and Fisherman islands, the former big one on Metomkin I. having been wiped out by the April storm mentioned above. Numbers of ad. birds seen on this survey included 111 Little Blue Herons, 123 Cattle Egrets, 313 Snowy Egrets (these three species all very low), 423 Great Egrets, 254 Tricolored Herons, 314 Black-crowned and 24 Yellow-crowned night-herons plus 304 Glossy Ibises (these latter four species all in the lowest numbers in 14 years), plus the White Ibis mentioned previously, this species being present 8 of the 14 years. Great Blue Herons do not nest on the Region's barrier



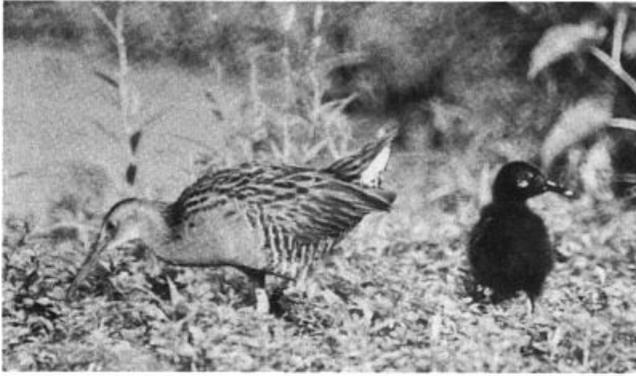
Adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Huntley Meadows County Park, Virginia, June 11, 1988. Photograph/Ed Regan.

islands. Numbers of breeding herons on the islands of the central Bay continued low, with Cattle Egret and Glossy Ibis still in decline (HTA). Some 150 Cattle Egrets at Massey, Kent, MD, July 2 probably represented birds from the Pea Patch I., DE, colony (RFR).

**WATERFOWL** — Mute Swans are still out of control on the central Bay in Maryland with such tallies as 107 at Eastern Neck N.W.R. June 8 (JG) and a whopping flock of 256 at Hooper's I. July 10 (HTA, GLA). However, another year of drought combined with control measures were the probable reason for the reduced total of only seven seen at Chinc. June 7 (FRS, JWD). A total of 315 Canada Geese at Blackwater July 10 (HTA, GLA) may have been swollen owing to 75 transplanted individuals shipped there from the Patuxent W.R.C. area in June (SD) in an attempt to give the Laurel, MD, golf courses some relief. A ♂ N. Shoveler was present in Columbia, MD, during June and early July (ES, MM, JS). Interesting summer diving ducks were 12 Canvasbacks, two Lesser Scaup, and nine Ruddy Ducks at Hart-Miller Is. e. of Baltimore June 13 (SWS), single Com. Eiders on the Virginia E. Shore at Wreck I. June 20 (BA, RB, JV) and Ship Shoal I. July 22 (BT), two Black Scoters at Bellevue, MD, on the Bay July 2 (FRS), and an unusual number of reports of White-winged Scoters in the 3 adjacent Maryland Bay counties of Kent, Queen Annes, and Talbot (JG, LMD, JGR). Near the North Carolina border a Com. Merganser at Kerr Dam July 17 into August was unusual (AB).

**RAPTORS TO CRANES** — Ospreys continue to attempt to nest farther up estuarine rivers, such as the Potomac, where there was an unsuccessful nest in D.C. in June (DC). A nest with young was found up the James R. upstream from Richmond on the Piedmont in w. Henrico July 10 (FRS). Breeding success in the Bay in Maryland was improved from the previous several years but still with considerable starvation of young (PRS). In Virginia, Ospreys averaged only 1.01 young per nest, compared with 1.5 for Bald Eagles (MAB). However, 22 nests produced 31 young at Blackwater (HN) and 12 others nearby produced 10, while June 22 on Bloodsworth I., 39 nests were seen (HTA, GLA), these all in Dorchester, MD. New to Virginia and the Region was an ad. **Black-shouldered Kite** well seen at Rustic June 5 (BW, BA, JV, BTa, RB *et al.*), flying and perched and then diving at a Bald Eagle as it flew out of sight. Reports of Mississippi Kites included one in D.C. at Georgetown Res. June 5 (DC), one near Culpeper, VA, July 22 (GG), and at least two along the Meherrin R., Greenville and Southampton in s. Virginia, a mile from the North Carolina border, June 11 (RPR, CP). There are no Regional breeding records, but they do nest along the Meherrin R., NC, not far from the site of the latter observation.

Bald Eagles had another successful year in Maryland with 95 active nests producing 135 young, hotbeds of activity including Dorchester (22 nests, 34 young); Charles (16/19); Kent (9/13); and Talbot (7/14) (GDT), and 6 active nests were on Aberdeen Proving Grounds (DLK). Byrd saw a maximum of 70 at the big summer roost on the James R. near Hopewell, VA, during July, and 21 were in the Horsehead Cliffs-Rappahannock R. area, VA, June 7 (WP). Five N. Harriers were at Deal I. June 10 (LMD) and July 24 (HTA) with other probable breeding birds at Elliott I. (HLW) as well as S. Marsh & Bloodsworth Is. June 22 (GLA, HTA), these all in Maryland. On the Virginia E. Shore, presumed breeders were on Wreck, Myrtle, Cobb, and Hog islands (BT, BW *et al.*). In recent times, Peregrine Falcons first began producing young in Virginia in 1982. This year attempted breeding at 10 sites resulted in 12 fledglings from just 3 of these nests (RC), while in Maryland 7 nests produced 16 young (GDT). The most successful nests in both states in 1988 were clustered around the central Bay area.



Adult King Rail with downy young at Huntley Meadows County Park, Virginia, July 13, 1988. Photograph/Ed Regan.

Wierenga's intensive nocturnal surveys in the Elliott I., MD, area found Black Rails in 15 discrete areas, probably representing as many pairs. This species' numbers this year at that prime spot were disappointing. Four families of King Rails were at H.M.C.P. (six, six, five, and two young), many of these birds being extremely tame (EPW, EFR, KH, KK *et al.*, ph.), helping to sate D.C. observers' lust for the palustrine and the cryptic. Single Am. Coots were at D.C., Deal I., Hunting Creek, VA, and Hart-Miller Is., but there was no sign of breeding (DC, LMD, EMW, SWS). A Sandhill Crane was at Poolesville, Montgomery, MD, the entire period, following horses like a Cattle Egret (LD, DC, RFR, m.ob., ph.). Unfortunately this resulted in several incidents of intrusive trespassing. Do it and view it the right way or don't go at all. What is the great urgency anyway? Uncontrollable neurosis?

**SHOREBIRDS** — Lowering of water at the huge Deal I. impoundment in late July attracted these waders seen July 30: five Black-necked Stilts, 110 Greater Yellowlegs, 700 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 2500 Semipalmated, 200 Western, 100 Least, 540 Pectoral, and 29 Stilt sandpipers, plus 130 Short-billed Dowitchers (LMD, PO, MO) vs. only two Black-necked Stilts, one Am. Avocet, 45 Greater and 110 Lesser yellowlegs, 35 Least and 15 Pectoral sandpipers, and 70 Short-billed Dowitchers July 24 when the water was still quite high (HTA). The Virginia E. Shore barrier island survey turned up 119 Piping Plovers (on 9 islands; most since 1983), 32 Wilson's Plovers (7 islands), and 1001 Am. Oystercatchers (15 islands) (BW, BA, JV, RB *et al.*). These represent, as usual on this survey, counts of ad. birds seen in late June.

At Back Bay N.W.R.-False Cape S.P., VA, Schwab saw two unseasonal Dunlins July 28 plus 1822 Sanderlings. Another off-season Dunlin was at Craney July 23 (TP), where Wolfe found 17 Am. Avocets and seven Wilson's Phalaropes July 4. Early arrivals included a Solitary Sandpiper at Loch Raven Res. n. of Baltimore July 2 (SWS), a Whimbrel at Hog I. June 29 (BT), and a W. Sandpiper at Bethel Beach, VA, July 1 (JBB). A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Hart-Miller Is. on the odd date of June 13 (SWS). Truitt caught and released unharmed a Red Knot on Cobb I. June 12 and saw 25 at Ship Shoal I., VA, June 20. A Semipalmated Plover June 18 at Elliott I. was late (RFR, HLW, JAB) as were six White-rumped Sandpipers there June 15 (HLW). Dyke observed five Hudsonian Godwits, an Am. Avocet, and two Wilson's Phalaropes at Chinc. July 31, but this summer's severe drought dried up most impoundments here, making shorebirding unrewarding. Marbled Godwits were seen on the lower Virginia E. Shore islands with three at Thoms Creek along with three Whimbrels and 18 Short-billed Dowitchers June 29 (WP), four at Godwin I. July 3, and 14 nearby at Ship Shoal I. July 22 (BT). Six Upland Sandpipers were present at Lucketts, VA, during June, and two adults with two young were at Remington, VA, in mid-June (VK). Five pairs of Am. Oystercatchers were at Watts I. June 22

(WP) but reports elsewhere in the central Bay islands lacked records of eggs or young (HTA).

**GULLS TO SKIMMER** — A breeding-plumaged Franklin's Gull was at the D.C. Naval Research Laboratory June 30 and July 1 with an equally unusual breeding-plumaged Bonaparte's Gull nearby (DC). Another breeding-plumaged Franklin's was at Sandy Point S.P., MD, July 15 (LMD). At Kerr Res., VA, near the North Carolina border, 25 Ring-billed Gulls were seen June 5 (AB), mostly young birds; and as early as June 27, 100 adults were already in D.C. (DC). Three pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls were at Watts I. June 22, where a nest with 4 eggs was found (BP), about 20 mi s. of Smith I., MD, where 20± pairs usually nest each summer. Beach and marsh ground-nesting colonial waterbirds were subjected to several destructive storms, such as in late April, the night of June 3-4, and at the end of June also (BT, BW). In addition, a violent wind storm developed in the central Bay near the Virginia/Maryland line June 26, with winds reaching 90-110 m.p.h., undoubtedly damaging some large tree stick nests of raptors and herons. The Virginia E. Shore barrier islands survey found these numbers of ad. birds: Laughing Gull 20,680 (all on Wreck I.); Herring Gull 3959 (6 islands); Great Black-backed Gull 280 (5 islands; 3rd highest in 14 years); Gull-billed Tern 498 (8 islands); Com. Tern 2885; Black Skimmer 4448 (10 islands; best numbers in 4 years for previous three species); Least Tern 731; Royal Tern 3656 (2nd lowest in 14 years); Sandwich Tern 24 (14th straight year); Caspian Tern eight (14th straight year; ties high count also achieved previous 2 years; found on Little Cobb and Ship Shoal Is.) (BW *et al.*). One Caspian nest on Little Cobb I. June 20 had been washed away by June 28 (BT).

Banding by Weske *et al.* was again conducted as it has been since 1973, with the big Royal Ternery on Metomkin inactive for the first time. Results were considered mediocre owing to this, the effects of storms, and increasing gull predation (JSW, JHB, DS, CRV). Banding totals of Royal and Sandwich terns respectively were 3773 and 22, with this breakdown: 2365/13 for Fisherman I.; 939/9 unnamed new sandbar island between Assateague and Wallops Is.; 469/0 Shanks I. area. This latter island is a sometime central Bay site near the Maryland line, usually with little breeding success. The big influx this year may have been owing to birds relocating from Metomkin I. These two species were not found nesting in Maryland. All gulls and terns nested late, sometimes relocating because of storm damage to earlier colonies (JSW, BT). Unusual were breeding Laughing Gulls on the Bernard Is., VA, far up the Bay near Guilford (JSW). Inland 12 Caspian Terns were of interest at Triadelphia Res., MD, July 31 (MC), as was a Com. Tern far inland at S. Boston, Halifax, VA, June 20 (*vide* SR) and a pair of Least Terns that again attempted to breed on top of the Kennedy Center in D.C. (DC, RH). A large colony of 135 pairs of Least was unsuccessful owing to storm damage in late July near Hooper's I. (JM). The high Black Tern count was of only 30 at dried-out Chinc. July 31 (SHD), while a late migrant was off Pt. Lookout, MD, June 4 (DCy), and an early one at Godwin I., VA, July 3 (BT).

**CUCKOOS TO SHRIKES** — Black-billed Cuckoos, rare on the coastal plain in summer, were reported from 6 localities (GG, MO, RFR, EMW). An *ani* (sp.) was described well from Rustic, VA, June 7, most likely a Groove-billed, but not seen closely enough so the observer felt he was able to differentiate (ESB). Bass banded 53 young Com. Barn-Owls in 15 nests in the Nokesville, VA, area by July 30, most in nest boxes. Fifteen nest boxes erected over the waters of Fishing Bay at Elliott I. attracted at least 3 nesting pairs (HLW). Most unusual anywhere in the Region in summer, a Short-eared Owl was flushed from a salt marsh at Winter Harbor, Mathews, VA, July 2 by Bazuin. A Com. Nighthawk nest was found on the

ground at Wreck I. June 20 with two young (RB, BA, JV). Piedmont Chuck-will's-widows were found in June in 3 Virginia counties: Rappahannock, Campbell, and Prince William (GG, KHB, JD). This species seems to be spreading W and N somewhat, possibly displacing Whip-poor-wills. Twelve Red-headed Woodpeckers were at Sky Meadows S.P., Fauquier, VA, June 18 (VK). As part of the spinoff from the Rustic rarities, several persons visited the Waverly and Wakefield, VA, areas where there are a few Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, with some success, such as three seen at Wakefield June 18 (MR).

A Willow Flycatcher was at Rustic June 17 (RAA) and a singing bird was at Grand View, Hampton, VA, June 11 (BTa), both far south of where breeders are expected. Czaplak found three of this species in D.C. June 4, and Droeger's singing bird at Eastern Neck N.W.R., MD, June 18 was new for this refuge. At Rustic, VA, the state's 12th Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and first **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** were discovered June 5 (BW, BTa,



*Summer excitement: Fork-tailed Flycatcher near Rustic, Virginia, June 10, 1988. Photograph/Tom Armour.*

BA, RB et al., ph.). On a whim, birders went to a field there where a non-birder had reported seeing a "long-tailed flycatcher-type bird," first seen June 3 (HP); this turned out to be the Fork-tailed Flycatcher, which was seen by scores of people at least until Aug. 1, many seeing it in less than a minute after their arrival from places such as Denver, New England, Los Angeles, and Ohio. One reason for its extended stay was its extreme molt (JSp). It was believed to be of the southern race, *Tyrannus savana tyrannus*, as is usually the case with North American strays of this species. The Scissor-tailed was seen on only one other day, reappearing July 16. The property owners set out a log book for visitors to sign and were otherwise more helpful than was reasonable to expect. Unfortunately, not all the visitors were, leaving gates unlatched so livestock got loose.

Purple Martins had a "reasonably good" breeding season but there was more mortality than usual owing to the heat, which was extreme this summer (MKK). Tree Swallows continued to expand with the first *Albemarle*, VA, breeding record a nest with five eggs June 8 w. of Charlottesville (CES). Bank Swallows massed in mid-summer as usual with 1300 at Eastern Neck N.W.R. by July 13 (MPl), 950 at Hurlock, MD, July 30 (MO, LMD), and 1460 on the James R. at Hopewell Aug. 7 along with five Cliff Swallows (FRS). Two Cliffs in w. Mathews, VA, July 2 (JBB) were most unusual at this date far out on the coastal plain. A Brown-headed Nuthatch on James I., MD, was odd June 21 for this usually sedentary species (GLA, HTA). A Brown Creeper at Nassawango Creek, MD, July 2 (MO) provided the only report, representing a slight decline from the records of previous summers. The only Sedge Wren reports were of two at Elliott I. July 28 (DSy) and one at Union Mills, Carroll, MD, July 28 (SD) which was singing. A

Golden-crowned Kinglet was at the Hanover Watershed just s. of the Pennsylvania line in Carroll, MD, June 11 (RFR), where they have been found before in summer. An errant Swainson's Thrush was at Rockville, MD, June 26-27 (PO), and one was banded June 10 in Fairfax, VA (EP). Usually they are not found Regionally past the first few days of June. Cedar Waxwings were widely reported, including successful nesting as far south as S. Hill, VA, near the North Carolina border (AB) and at such oddball locations as Elliott I., where nine were seen June 18 (HLW). Loggerhead Shrikes were seen at only 3 localities, but there were at least 5 pairs in Mecklenburg, VA (AB). However, their Regional status as a breeder still seems to be precarious.

**VIREOS TO HOUSE SPARROW** — Scott found a Solitary Vireo in s.e. Brunswick, VA, far s.e. on the Piedmont n. of Kerr Res. July 15, their normal breeding range being much farther to the northwest. At Lynchburg, VA, the annual "Christmas Bird Count in June" tallied 23 Yellow-throated, 13 Warbling, and 137 Red-eyed vireos June 4 (MPM et al.). A Black-throated Green Warbler was in the Nassawango R. watershed near the lower Pocomoke R., MD, June 25 (SHD) the least, for single Cerulean Warblers were Fontaine Creek, Greenville, VA, near the North Carolina border June 12 (RPR, CP) and w. of Ocean City, MD, June 2 (GG), neither near any known breeding areas. Very late was a singing Mourning Warbler at Eakin Park in c. Fairfax, VA, June 11 (KK).

A pair of Summer Tanagers was at Prettyboy Res. in n. Baltimore, MD, late May-early June (PNe, RFR). They are rare this far n. and into the Piedmont in Maryland, and their presence may have been owing to gypsy moth devastation in this watershed. A pair at Denton, MD, June 28 had these moths laying egg masses on their nest in a hickory tree (RBF).

#### S.A.

Many referred to this as a Dickcissel Summer. Let's see why. I plotted all the reports I received on a map. It is safe to assume I got reports of, at most, 75% of the birds actually seen. Even so, certain areas on the map look like they have measles, especially w. of the Kerr Res., s. of Richmond, s.w. of Lynchburg, n. and w. of D.C., and around Chestertown, MD. There are 37 dots on the map. In a normal summer, from one to four Dickcissel reports are received, sometimes none. Among the most extraordinary reports were 14 singing males in w. Campbell, VA, June 30 (*fide* JD), nine birds at Elm Hill W.M.A. near Kerr Res. in July (AB), six territorial birds near Nokesville, VA, in July (KHB), eight in Fauquier-Rappahannock, VA (EPW, NS), 10 at Golts, Kent, MD, July 9 (LMD), and six males at Rustic, VA (KHB). These birds were not just whistling Dixie either. A fair number of them nested and raised young. Many observers favored the theory of a Dickcissel he-gira caused by the terrible Midwest drought. Others believed the cause was related to weather systems and their winds. This is a complex species with unstable breeding populations even where it is normally common, and many polygamous males, yet it has been proposed that males survive better on their Venezuela wintering grounds (*Am. Birds* 31; 923-932, 1977). Most reports here show males outnumbering females out of proportion even considering that they are more conspicuous because they are singing, brighter, and more liable to be out in the open. Throw in the fact that the species is supposed to be declining and one is confronted with a real mystery, or several.

Out of season and out of touch was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at H.M.C.P. June 25 (RAA). The relative abundance of Indigo Bunting vs. Blue Grosbeak far west on the Piedmont was indicated by counts of 227 and 14, respectively, in the Lynchburg, VA, area June 4 (MPM *et al.*).

Perhaps also displaced by the drought were some Henslow's Sparrows, such as one in *Campbell*, VA, June 25–July 11 (*fide* JD) and 10 singing birds at S. Boston, *Halifax*, near the North Carolina boundary (RMS). Another was at Dulles International Airport, VA, July 16 singing in 100°F weather at noon (BTa). Elliott I., MD, which usually has a half dozen pairs, had only a single pair seen and heard June 18–July 28 (EMW, JAB, DSy *et al.*). Counts of Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at record levels with 151 at Elliott I. June 30 (MO), 28 at Rumbly Pt., Somerset, MD, July 1 (MO), and 33 plus 205 Seaside Sparrows at Deal I. July 24 (HTA). Swamp Sparrow investigation continued on the Bay with at least 100 birds found at Black Marsh e. of Baltimore in early June (SD, RG), apparently their stronghold here, although they are much commoner just out of the Region along Delaware Bay. Vagrant White-throated Sparrows included singles at Locustville, VA, in June (GR) and in Alexandria, VA, June 23 (RW), and a Dark-eyed Junco was reported at Chesapeake, VA, July 6 and Aug. 3 (RJT).

More Bobolinks than usual were seen, perhaps another displaced Midwest species, with one at Blackwater July 10 (GLA, HTA), six to 18 in *Campbell*, VA, July 10–Aug. 1 (the flock including six Dickcissels on the latter date!), seven at Sandy Point S.P. July 11 (with a Cedar Waxwing in the flock!; LMD), a very early bird near Rustic July 4 (JLS, RFR), and 15 in Caroline, MD, July 13 (JGR). An apparent pairing of a ♂ "Bullock's" x "Baltimore" N. Oriole with a ♀ "Baltimore" Oriole resulted in one oriole and one Brown-headed Cowbird offspring at Williamsburg (TA, ph.). Pine Siskins are almost unheard of here in summer. This year one was at Ocean City July 3 (RH), one was at Bowie, MD, in mid-June (*fide* MKK), and eight declined to one at Bethesda, MD, June 1–14 (DH) while another was elsewhere in Bethesda June 18 (JW). To end on a lugubrious note, we have the report of a House Sparrow killing Tree Swallow nestlings in a bluebird house

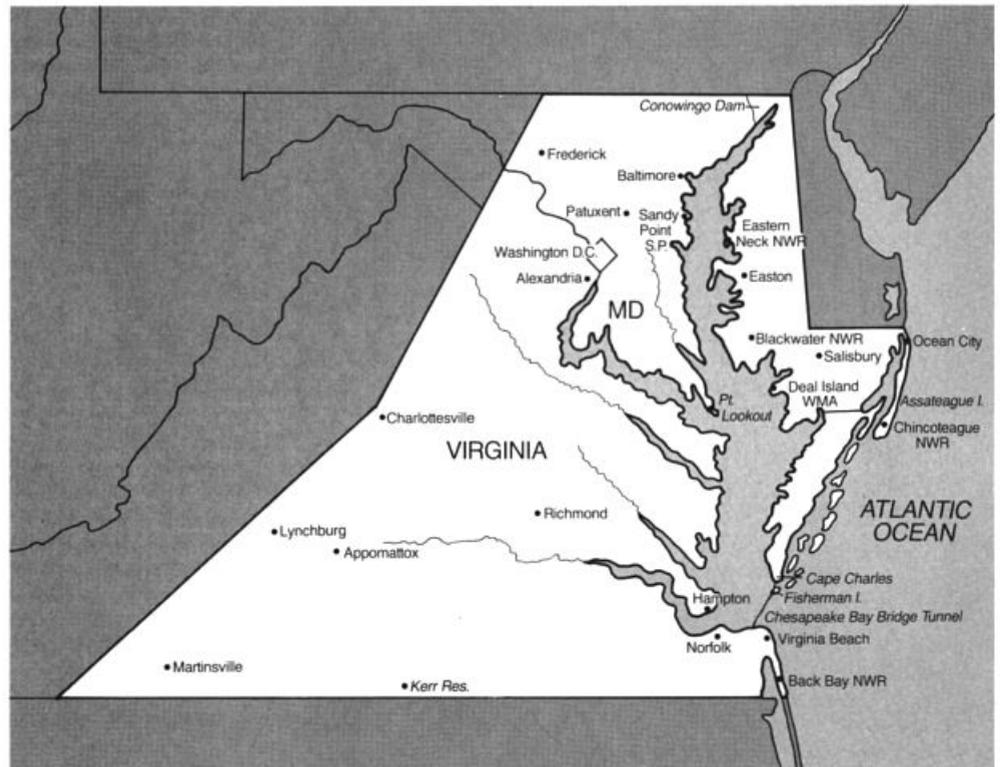
at Jug Bay on the Patuxent R., MD, June 25 (JAB *et al.*). Truly, it is a jungle out there.

**CORRIGENDA** — AB 42:418 (reporting on Spring 1988), under Bald Eagle: nests in Dorchester, MD, numbered 22, not 24. Seen on the Susquehanna R. Mar. 18 were 10 birds, not 10 nests. Aerial surveys by the states of Maryland and Virginia continue to furnish most of the information on nesting success, as they have since 1977.

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## MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Henry T. Armistead



**S**ummer's severe drought continued through October. August continued with extreme heat also. Washington had 59 days over 90°F, seven over 100°. Impounded areas remained dry, and herons were in low supply. Passerine migration was uneven with major banding stations furnishing much of the data. Reporting was good for piscivores, pelagics, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, gulls, terns, and the scarcer sparrows, with some of the best birding for ducks and shorebirds provided by either unnatural or temporary conditions. Most of the fall was cool and dry. Deviations from normal temperatures (November details unavailable at time of writing): August, +2.9°F; September, -2.0°; October, -5.2°. Deviations from normal precipitation: August, -1.2 inches; September, -1.5 inches; October, -1.1 inches. November was warmer and wetter than usual.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Adv. = Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, MD; Assat. = Assateague I., MD; Back Bay = Back Bay Nat'l Wildlife Ref., VA; 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., VA; Craney = Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA; Damsite = Damsite Banding Station, Tolchester Beach, MD; D.C. = Washington, D.C.; Deal I. = Deal Island Wildlife Management Area, MD; Fish. I. = Fisherman Island Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, VA; Hart = Hart & Miller Is. in the Bay east of Baltimore; Kipt. = Kiptopeke-Cape Charles area, VA; Susq. = the lower Susquehanna R. south of Conowingo Dam, MD; dates in *italics* indicate the birds were banded.

**LOONS TO IBISES** — On Nov. 26 at Assat. 200+ Red-throated Loons were seen (PJO, LMD, MO), and 75 were at Chinc. Nov. 27 (DC). Spitzer conducted counts of Com. Loons in the lower Choptank R., MD, where, in conjunction with the common gull species, bluefish, and striped bass, they form large assemblages with elaborate group-feeding behavior, until now an almost unknown phenomenon. His maxima included loose aggregations of 125 Oct. 17, 195 Oct. 27, 600 Oct. 31 (1300+ total in the general area), 325 Nov. 9, 440 Nov. 12, 205 as late as Nov. 23, and a group of 52 Dec. 7, indicating an abundance and density of schooling fish in this estuary. He has found this phenomenon to exist to a lesser extent in mid-April also. Czaplak furnished 2 grebe high counts with 78 Pied-billeds in *Hydrilla* on the Potomac R. Oct. 30 and 80 Horneds nearby in D.C. Nov. 16. Dick saw three Red-necked Grebes at Chinc. Nov. 19.

A pelagic trip off Ocean City Aug. 21 turned up 10 Cory's, a Manx, and 34 Audubon's shearwaters plus 227 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, many of these in Virginia waters but one of the Cory's and six Audubon's seen in Maryland (HLW, LMD, MO et al.). Patteson's pelagic trips out from Virginia Beach yielded an Audubon's and 119 Cory's shearwaters plus 338 Wilson's and seven **Band-rumped Storm-Petrels** (new to the Region) Aug. 14 (BP, ESB, GP et al.), and 56 Cory's and 36 Audubon's shearwaters were found Sept. 10 (BP et al.). The Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were seen about 100 mi offshore very close to North Carolina waters. In this same area a **tropicbird** (sp.) was seen in early August (Capt. Mike Romeo, *fide* BP), and a **White-tailed Tropicbird** was reported Sept. 17 (Capt. Dave Eason, Meg Denning, *fide* BP). Clearly the sea off this Region in late summer remains something of a frontier. On Nov. 26, 500 N. Gannets were seen from Assat. (PJO, LMD, MO), and 150 were at Chinc. (DC). One to two Am. White Pelicans were at Chinc. the entire period (m.ob., ph.), and the same two were seen also at nearby Wallops I. Oct. 5 (CRV). Brown Pelicans continued their very strong showing, lingering later than ever in Maryland with 26 at Assat. Oct. 10 (PJO) and eight at Ocean City Nov. 11 (LB) with one still there Nov. 26 (LMD, GG, MO). In Virginia they peaked as usual at Fish. I. with 420 there Aug. 30 and Sept. 1 & 2 (FRS, JHD, GLA,

HTA) and 225 at nearby Kipt. Sept. 1 (HTA, GLA). Other notable counts included 96 at the York R. mouth Aug. 3 (ESB), 300 at Wallops I. Sept. 22 (CRV), and 55 at Dawson Shoals north of Parramore I. Aug. 28 (HTA, GLA, GR). Late birds included two at Chinc. Nov. 25 (DC), 64 at Back Bay-False Cape S.P. Nov. 25 (DS), and seven at Fish. I. Nov. 29 (RL).

Early Great Cormorants were singles at C.B.B.T. Aug. 29 (DTS), at Craney Sept. 29 (TRW), and at Ocean City Oct. 6 (LB) with highs of 14 at C.B.B.T. Oct. 23 (BP, RLA) and eight at Lower Machodoc Cr., VA, on the lower Potomac Nov. 16 (JE). Best Double-crested Cormorant tallies were unexceptional totals of 1650 as early as Sept. 3 at Kipt. (HTA, GLA), 1400 at Ocean City Nov. 6 (RFR), 2675 at Wallops I. Oct. 26 (CRV), and 2800 at Hampton, VA, Nov. 15 (SR). Spectacular was an ad. ♂ **frigatebird**, undoubtedly a Magnificent but not unequivocally identified as such, seen at eye level from a 9th floor Alexandria, VA, office Oct. 30 at 11:30 a.m. (MA) as well as at D.C. an hour later feeding close to the stern of a boat (RAC, JPW, et al., ph.) for a first D.C. record.



*Adult male frigatebird (probably Magnificent) over Washington October 3, 1988. First record for District of Columbia. Photograph/Rodney Coggin.*



*Two immature White Ibises (of three present) on the James River in Bedford County, Virginia, August 17, 1988. Photograph/Thelma Dalmas.*

The best Great Blue Heron counts were associated with unnatural phenomena: 77 in *Hydrilla*-infested waters around Hunting Creek, VA, south of D.C. Aug. 19 (JSG) and 125 below Conowingo Dam at Susq. Oct. 22 (EBM). A Tricolored Heron in the Piedmont at Loch Raven Res. north of Baltimore Aug. 5-26 was unusual (SWS). At Kipt. Aug. 31 were 675 Cattle Egrets coming from their Fish. I. roost (GLA, HTA). Minor rarities were three late Green-backed Herons from the Mary-

land Piedmont at Prince Georges (PN) and Piney Run Park Carroll (DH), Nov. 5 plus one at Howard Nov. 11 (JF). There was a considerable influx of White Ibises with birds in 3 Maryland counties west of the Bay: one at Harford Glen, Harford, Aug. 1 (DLK); one-two at Pt. Lookout, St. Mary's, Aug. 1-Sept. 6 (PC, PN, MO, ph.); and one at Snydersburg, Carroll, Aug. 14 (RFR); all were immatures. Piedmont Virginia birds were one at Nokesville Aug. 29 (KHB) and three Aug. 12-26 near Big. I., Bedford (J & TD, ph.), where three also appeared in August 1987. Others were in more expected coastal sites, such as Hog I., Surry (BP, FD), Fish. I. (BP, DTS), Back Bay (DTS), and Norfolk (DTS), most of these just before Labor Day. Otherwise the heron tribe made a poor showing, the impoundments at Chinc. being severely dry.

**WATERFOWL** — The unnatural was also responsible for the best concentrations of waterfowl. *Hydrilla verticillata*, the East Asian exotic waterplant, had spread to occupy approximately 3900 acres of the Potomac south of D.C. in 1987 and a bit more than in 1988, but it is limited by water salinity and opaqueness (CS), and some is so far from shore that a complete census is impossible without a boat (CS, JSG, DC, JAB et al.). The other unnatural setting is the huge impounded spoil area of Hart & Miller Is. in the Bay east of Baltimore, where counts were made on 9 dates this fall (RFR, HK, SRi, BD, EBm et al.). Among the most interesting Hart counts: 13 N. Shovelers, five Canvasbacks, 74 Ruddy Ducks Aug. 21, the latter two species summering birds; 125 N. Shovelers Aug. 28; 400 Shovelers Oct. 16; 10,000 scaup (sp.) Oct. 23 plus two early Canvasbacks; 1600 Green-winged Teal, 20,000 scaup (sp.), and 500 Ruddy Ducks Oct. 30. Notable Potomac R. *Hydrilla* waterfowl were 600 Green-winged Teal Oct. 15 (VK) at Hunting Cr. with 360 Am. Black Ducks, 735 N. Pintails, and 1410 Ruddy Ducks there Nov. 19 (DC). At Piscataway Cr. there were up to 430 Blue-winged Teal in late September (CS); up to 1000 Am. Wigeon during the period (CS); 2000 each of Canvasbacks, Lesser Scaup, and Ruddy Ducks with 300 Buffleheads Nov. 6 (JAB, TW); 350 Ring-necked Ducks Nov. 27 (PN); and 90 N. Shovelers Oct. 30 (DC). In adjacent D.C. were these birds: a Brant, Nov. 18 (BM); 520 Mallards Nov. 1 (DC); 650 Ring-necked Ducks Oct. 26 (DC); and five Black Scoters (rare here; DC) Nov. 1. At inland Piney Run Park in Piedmont Maryland, 155 Buffleheads Nov. 18 and 90 Hooded Mergansers were good totals (RFR).

Mute Swans continued to increase at their staging area in the Bay at Hooper's I., MD, with 285 there Nov. 6-26 (HTA, GLA). Single Greater White-fronted Geese were at Chinc.



Adult Greater White-fronted Goose at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland, October 23, 1988. Photograph/George Armistead.

Nov. 19 (TD) and at Blackwater Oct. 23-29 (GLA, HTA ph) along with five "Hutchins'" Canada Geese. Wierenga also saw five "Hutchins'" at Sandy Point S.P. in November. On Nov. 26, 1200 "Blue" Snow Geese were at Blackwater, up from 475 there Oct. 23, 1000 Nov. 6, and 1090 Nov. 11 (HTA). A probable Ross' Goose flew over Kipt. with Snow Geese Oct. 15 (BP, DTS, BW). At Eastern Neck N.W.R., MD, 22 Brant were unusual for the upper Bay Nov. 25 (SW) as were 50 nearby at the Annapolis Bay Bridge Oct. 12 (JAB, TW). At Deal I. 1000 Blue-winged Teal were estimated Aug. 26 (MO, GG), and up to 2500 Am. Wigeon were there Oct. 21-Nov. 6 (SHD, RFR) with a Eur. Wigeon present Oct. 10-Nov. 5 (RFR, PJO, CRV, SHD). A Eur. Wigeon was also at Hog I., Surry, VA, Nov. 19-21 (SR, BW). Bjerke estimated 15,000 scaup (sp.) at Eastern Neck Nov. 13. Rarer ducks included four Com. Eiders at Chinc. Nov. 25 (DC) and a Harlequin Duck at C.B.B.T. Oct. 22-Nov. 20 (GP, DFA).

**RAPTORS TO CRANES** — On Assateague, Ward et al. banded Peregrine Falcons for the 19th consecutive year, capturing 135 Sept. 18-Oct. 20, and observing a total of 475 in 672 man-hours. At Kipt. the hawk watch operated on 53 days for 426.2 hours, sighting 12,878 birds of 15 species Sept. 3-Nov. 18, for an average of 30.2 raptors per hour, up from 27.4 in 1987 but still below most other recent years (BW, DSy, DM, et al.). Good days were Sept. 14 (389 birds of 7 species), Sept. 24 (1012 birds, including 50 N. Harriers, 493 Am. Kestrels, 80 Merlins), Sept. 29 (1366 birds; 123 Ospreys, 760 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 38 Peregrine Falcons), Oct. 6 (713 hawks, including 78 Cooper's), Oct. 16 (506 birds), and Oct. 27 (457 birds, including a Golden Eagle). Other birds of note here were two Golden Eagles Oct. 12, 101 Sharp-shinned Hawks as late as Nov. 4 plus a N. Goshawk, 62 Merlins Sept. 23 and 18 Oct. 21, 55 Ospreys as late as Oct. 22, and 48 Sharp-shinned Hawks Nov. 11. A total of 178 Sharp-shinned Hawks was banded here, including 31 Oct. 16 (out of 309 seen that day!). Just south of Kipt. at Wise Pt., Cashwell banded 562 raptors Sept. 11-Oct. 27, including 179 Merlins, 50 Cooper's, and 301 Sharp-shinned hawks, notable days being Sept. 23 (33 Merlins) and Sept. 29 (40 Sharp-shinned and eight Cooper's hawks plus 17 Merlins). Another mile or so farther south still on Fish. I., Lukei, banding on 41 days Oct. 5-Dec. 21 tagged 169 raptors, including 33 Cooper's and 60 Red-tailed hawks, and also had Golden Eagles briefly visit his lures Nov. 12 & 22. Other raptor records of interest in the greater Kipt. area were of an early Merlin Aug. 29 (FRS), 225 Turkey Vultures Oct. 29 (MA), and a Golden Eagle Oct. 24 (DD).

Bald Eagle numbers were already building at period's end with up to 25 at a roost near Pocomoke City, MD, in late



Immature Golden Eagle at Georgetown Reservoir October 22, 1988. First record for District of Columbia. Photograph/Dave Czaplak.

November (CRV), 18 plus a Golden Eagle in sight at one time, 10 30 a.m. Nov. 3 at Susq. (RMS); 15 at the end of November along the Potomac south of D.C. (CS); and 21 in s. *Dorchester*, MD, Nov. 6 (plus a Golden Eagle) and Nov. 11 (HTA, GLA). A N Goshawk was in D.C. Oct. 27 (DC). Additional Golden Eagles were singles at D.C. Oct. 22 (DC, GG, TW, ph., new for there); Ft. Smallwood Park southeast of Baltimore Oct. 29 (HLW); Prince George, VA, Nov. 14 (MB); and Brandon Plantation, VA, Nov. 18 (FD), for a better than usual showing for this species, especially the records in the s.e. part of the Region.

Very late breeding records (all in Maryland) involved eight young Ring-necked Pheasants in *Harford* Sept. 3 (DLK) and a pair of N. Bobwhite with five downy chicks Oct. 29 near St. Michaels (JGR); this latter species was still singing at nearby Bellevue as late as Sept. 18 (HTA). Up to 26 Soras were on the upper Patuxent R., MD, Sept. 17 (JAB, HE). On Nov. 26, 1500 Am Coots were in the *Hydrilla* on the Potomac (JSG), and five at Smith I., MD, in the c. Bay Aug. 10 were odd (PN). The Sandhill Crane seen earlier at Poolesville, MD, was present throughout the period (RAA, MO).

**SHOREBIRDS**—The best shorebirding was at Hart, where all but two of the shorebird species known from Maryland have now been seen. Highlights were: 1000 Semipalmated Sandpipers and 200 Pectoral Sandpipers Aug. 14; 850 Lesser Yellowlegs, 20 Ruddy Turnstones, and eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers Aug. 21; four Red Knots, 150 W. Sandpipers, 15 Baird's Sandpipers, a Ruff, and one Red-necked, one Red, and 20 Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 28; four Am. Avocets and a Hudsonian Godwit Sept. 5; 62 Lesser Golden-Plovers Oct. 2, 20 White-rumped and 150 Pectoral sandpipers Oct. 16 (young Pectorals peaking 2 months after the adults of Aug. 14), 100 Sanderlings and 425 Dunlin Oct. 23. Other records of interest here were: 500 Lesser Yellowlegs Aug. 28; 100 Least Sandpipers Aug. 14 & 28; eight Baird's Sandpipers Aug. 21, five Sept. 5, one Oct. 2, and three Oct. 16; 30 Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 14 & 21; six Buff-breasted Sandpipers Aug. 28; 14 Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 14, 20 Aug. 21, 15 Sept. 5, and 10 Oct. 2, and the Red Phalarope, which was present Aug. 14–Oct. 2 (RFR, HK, EBm, SRI, BD, *et al.*). Across the Bay on Kent I., Ricciardi saw these waders: 150 Lesser Yellowlegs, 13 Wilson's Phalaropes, and 45 Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 3; 56 Stilt Sandpipers and 18 Wilson's Phalaropes Sept. 11; 45 Stilt Sandpipers and 16 Wilson's Phalaropes Sept. 18; and 66 Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 24. Farther south but still on the Maryland Eastern Shore at Deal I., lowering water in that huge impounded area was responsible for unprecedented numbers of shorebirds there (MO, PO, GG): 230 Semipalmated Plovers, six Black-necked Stilts, 195 Least, 460 Pectoral, and 230 Stilt Sandpipers, 27 Long-billed Dowitchers, four Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 7; 683 Lesser Yellowlegs, 900 Pectoral Sandpipers, five Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 13; plus much smaller numbers Aug. 26 (see summer report for the huge July 30 totals). Eleven Wilson's Phalaropes were here Aug. 20 (LMD, HLW). Rounding off a superlative fall for Wilson's Phalarope were nine at Craney Aug. 6 (TMP), four along the Potomac in Maryland south of D.C. Aug. 20 (JAB, MO), five across the Potomac from here at Hunting Cr. Sept. 23 (RFR), even two in D.C. Sept. 17 (DC), plus "many" at Chinc. Sept. 11 (*v.o.*).

Schwab's beach surveys at Back Bay–False Cape S.P., VA, yielded accurate counts of the erratic Sanderling, ranging from two Nov. 25 to 4681 Aug. 3, 5604 Aug. 24, and 5913 Aug. 10, plus 10 aseasonal Dunlin and a Marbled Godwit Aug. 10, 140 Willets Aug. 24, and 483 Semipalmated Sandpipers Sept. 14. The high for Am. Avocets at favored Craney was 57 Sept. 16 (TMP), a fraction of what the count used to be here 10 years ago. Others were singles in Maryland at Deal I. Sept. 25 (SHD) and Big Bay Marsh in coastal Worcester Aug. 4 (DW, MV) and in Virginia at Wallops I. Aug. 27 (CRV) plus six at

Chinc. Sept. 13 (JL). Late Spotted Sandpiper singles in Maryland were at Myrtle Grove W.M.A. Oct. 30 (LMD) and Denton Nov. 3 (MWH). Still rare in Virginia, an imm. Long-billed Curlew was at the Chinc. causeway Oct. 1 (BP, FD, DTS). All Hudsonian Godwit reports save 2 were in late August, such as eight plus seven Marbled Godwits at Chinc. Aug. 26, where two Marbleds were seen Nov. 27 (DC). Forty Marbled Godwits were seen from the town of Oyster, VA, Oct. 8 (BP, DTS), but their prime location at nearby Thoms Cr. yielded only 17 Sept. 2 and 14 Sept. 4 (HTA).

Interesting inland shorebirds were a Red Knot at Triadelphia Res., new for Howard, Aug. 27–30 (NM) plus a Sanderling there Aug. 28 (JS, JF); a Sanderling at Loch Raven Res. north of Baltimore Oct. 14–16 (SWS); and these birds in the Nokesville, VA area: 12 W. Sandpipers Aug. 31, a Baird's Sandpiper Sept. 12–13 (ph.), A Dunlin Sept. 1, one–two Stilt Sandpipers Aug. 14–29, and a Long-billed Dowitcher Aug. 26 (KHB). In Kent, MD, at Remington Farms good counts were of nine Hudsonian Godwits, 500 Pectoral Sandpipers, and 117 Lesser Yellowlegs Sept. 22 (J & TG). Late were two Pectoral Sandpipers and a Lesser Golden-Plover at Summit Hall Turf Farm, MD, near D.C. Nov. 11 (HE). Unique was a Curlew Sandpiper with two Baird's Sandpipers at Craney Oct. 3 (MB). A Ruff was at Deal I. Aug. 10 (BM). Pelagic phalarope sightings included five Red-neckeds off Ocean City Aug. 21 (LMD, PJO) and, off Virginia Beach, 50 Red-neckeds Aug. 13, 31 Red-neckeds and six Reds Aug. 14, 36 Red-neckeds Sept. 3, and two Reds Sept. 10 (BP, MB *et al.*). Other Red-necked singles were at Hog I., Surry, Aug. 31 (BP) and Craney Sept. 15 (BP, FD). Waders of note in the D.C. area were 15 White-rumped Sandpipers at Hunting Creek, VA, Oct. 15 (VK); 14 Pectorals across the Potomac from these at Piscataway Cr. Nov. 16 (JAB, GK); and 81 Pectorals and 80 Dunlin at Hunting Cr. Oct. 30 (DC). In D.C., Czaplak saw three Lesser Golden-Plovers Sept. 4, a Ruddy Turnstone Aug. 20, and five Sanderlings Oct. 30.

**JAEGERS TO SKIMMER**—An ad. Pomarine Jaeger was at C.B.B.T. Oct. 15 (BT) and an immature there Oct. 1–8 (BP, FD, DTS), and at sea an adult was off Virginia Beach Sept. 10 (BP, ESB, MB *et al.*). Single jaegers (sp.) were at D.C. Sept. 22 (DC) and at Assat. Oct. 9 (RFR) and Nov. 26 (PJO *et al.*) Highlights at Hart were five summering Bonaparte's Gulls Aug. 21, a Franklin's Gull and 500 Great Black-backed Gulls plus 300 Caspian and 750 Forster's terns Aug. 28, 250 Caspian Terns Sept. 5, six Black Terns Sept. 11, and six Caspian plus seven Royal terns as late as Oct. 30 (RFR, HK, *et al.*). Along the beach at Back Bay were three Roseate Terns Aug. 24, 1000 Great Black-backed and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls Sept. 14, single late Sandwich Terns Oct. 12 & 14, and 136 Royal Terns Nov. 9 (DS, TMP). Of the scarcer gulls a Franklin's was at Craney Aug. 19 (TRW), a Little Gull at Chinc. Nov. 26 (DC), and a Black-legged Kittiwake in the c. Bay near Bellevue, MD, Oct. 9 (HTA *et al.*), all immatures. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen at a minimum of 8 places with maxima of nine to 10 at C.B.B.T. Oct. 8–23 (BP, DFA, RLA, *et al.*), and one was in D.C. Nov. 17–20 for the 9th straight year (OJ, DC). Up to 450 Great Black-backed Gulls and one Lesser Black-backed Gull were in fresh water at Susq. Nov. 30 (EBm). Laughing Gulls continued to increase in Piedmont areas with 187 at Centennial L. Oct. 15 (JS, JF), 300 at Green Manor Turf Farm Sept. 25 (RFR, EBm) in Howard, and small numbers in Carroll Oct. 22–Nov. 19 (RFR), these all in Maryland.

A Caspian Tern at Ocean City Nov. 6 was late, but 175 Royal and 600 Forster's Terns were not (RFR). Royal Terns lingered until the end of the period with three at both Ocean City (LMD) and Assat. I. (MO) Nov. 26 and five at Chinc. Nov. 25 (DC). Good counts were of 300 Royals at Pt. Lookout, MD, in the c. Bay Sept. 6 in company with 1000 Common and six Black Terns (MO). Scott counted 56 Sandwich Terns at C.B.B.T. Aug. 29, and a latish one was there Oct. 12 (SR); a truly late individual was reported at Chinc. with 76 Royal

Terns Nov. 6 (RH). Still notable in the Maryland part of the Bay, one-two were in St. Mary's at Pt. Lookout and Scotland Beach Aug. 10–Sept. 2 (PN, JB, LMD). Extraordinary was a severely late Com. Tern at Susq. Nov. 30 with 75 Forster's Terns there the same day (EBm). At sea two Bridled Terns were seen Aug. 14 and 12 Sept. 10 off Virginia Beach 100 mi offshore, both dates exceeding the period of occurrence indicated in *Virginia's Birdlife* (2nd ed., June 1987; BP, ESB et al.). Black Terns were more widely reported than usual with 25 at L. Anna, VA, Aug. 25 with five Com. Terns (MB) and 13 over *Hydrilla* at D.C. Sept. 10 (DC). Three Black Skimmers lingered until Nov. 26 at Ocean City (LMD, MO), and 600 were at Craney Oct. 3 (MB) with but 330 at remote Dawson Shoals, VA, Aug. 28 (HTA, GLA, GR).

**DOVES TO SHRIKES** — A White-winged Dove at Patuxent Naval Air Station Nov. 4 furnished only the 2nd Maryland record (MB, KR, ph.). Two exceptionally late reports of cuckoos were received, of a Black-billed at Denton Nov. 10 (RBF) and a Yellow-billed at Gilpin Pt. Nov. 12 (DH), both in Caroline, MD. Twenty-five Yellow-billeds, a record number, were banded at Kipt. Sept. 7–Oct. 12 (WPS et al.). On Assat. owlers found one each of Com. Barn-Owl, Long-eared Owl, and N. Saw-whet Owl Nov. 26 (PJO, MO et al.); other Saw-whets were at D.C. Nov. 23 (DC) and Beltsville, MD, Nov. 2 (DCr). Owl reports were few, with a high of only five Short-eared Owls at Elliott I., M, Nov. 6 (GLA, HTA). There were 7 reports of late Com. Nighthawks in 6 localities Oct. 15–Nov. 25 (one in Baltimore, DHT), and 280 plus 2000 Chimney Swifts were in D.C. Sept. 1 (DC). Late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported in Maryland at Kinnard's Pt. Nov. 8 (SH) and near Mt. Vernon, VA, Nov. 2 (MR). Why so many records of late landbirds? A Rufous Hummingbird was seen at Newport News Nov. 21 and later (BF), and another was captured, banded (Nov. 16), and diagnosed as an imm. male at Takoma Park, Prince Georges, MD, Nov. 9 into January 1989 (SP, MKK, OJ, RAA, m.ob., ph.). One is now tempted, if you throw in *Selasphorus* (sp.) records, to consider this species regular in the Region in fall and early winter.

Single presumed intergrade N. Flickers were reported from C.B.B.T. Sept. 17 (SR) and at Damsite Sept. 26 (J & TG). Only three Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen, one of these at D.C. Aug. 19 (DC, ph.). At Damsite 43 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded, including 10 Sept. 16 (J & TG); the same day the peak number, only three, were at Kipt. (FRS); and one was early Aug. 5 at Patuxent W.R.C., Laurel, MD, where there was also an early "Traill's" Flycatcher Aug. 2 (DDn). At Kipt., 48 "Traill's" were banded, including eight on both Sept. 11 & 15 (FRS). There was a large influx of migrant empids into the Region Aug. 31, noticed both at Tilghman I., Talbot, MD (JGR), and Kipt. (HTA). A late E. Wood-Pewee was at Nokesville Oct. 23 (KHB). The only W. Kingbird seen was at False Cape S.P. Oct. 9 & 22 (RM, BP). On Aug. 31 at Kipt., 2570 E. Kingbirds were flying N along the Bay edge, for a record Regional count by over 700 birds (HTA, GLA), and a late one was in Howard Oct. 16 (DH). Lukei estimated 2,500,000 Tree Swallows passing over Fish. I. this fall, many concentrated in the period Oct. 8–12; nearby at Kipt., 1800 Barn Swallows were reported Aug. 29 (HTA).

Bill Williams saw the best Blue Jay flight in several years at Kipt., the peak day being Oct. 16 with 1990 jays; other high counts were 677 Oct. 8, 1034 Oct. 9, and 1101 Oct. 15. Ringler saw 2600 Fish Crows at Deal I. Nov. 6, and 1600 were there Nov. 26 (GLA, HTA); 850 were in s. Dorchester, MD, Nov. 6 (GLA, HTA) and 620 at Kipt. Sept. 3 (GLA, HTA). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce and erratic; many active observers did not see any. The star rarity was a **Rock Wren** at C.B.B.T., VA, Oct. 29–30 (CT, BP, BT, DTS, FD et al., ph.), new to the Region and almost without precedent as an accidental on the Atlantic Coast, which made itself at home briefly on the massive rock areas surrounding 8-acre island no. 2 of this



*Far out of range but in the right habitat, this Rock Wren at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel October 29, 1988, provided a first record for Virginia. Photograph/Brian Pateson.*

bridge several miles from the closest fast land. Also very rare now, a Bewick's Wren was in Arlington, VA, Sept. 11 (RB, *fide* CPW). A Sedge Wren was in D.C. Oct. 4 (DC, ph.), for the first documented record there since 1935. A House Wren northwest of Baltimore Nov. 11 was late (BMR) and a Winter Wren at Damsite Sept. 14 early (J & TG).

The Grubers encountered a huge kinglet flight at Damsite Oct. 30: 101 Golden-crowneds were banded and 106 released unbanded; 92 Ruby-crowneds were banded and 212 released; and 12 Winter Wrens were also banded. In two counties south of Damsite at Tilghman I., Reese also witnessed a fallout of thousands of birds Oct. 30 and saw 150 Hermit Thrushes, 1500 Am. Robins, and 900 Cedar Waxwings; 150 E. Bluebirds passed over there Nov. 16 with 1500 Am Robins (JGR). The thrush flight was poor with no correlation at all among the 4 major banding stations of peak numbers. A late Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Adv. Oct. 26 (MD), and a Swainson's Thrush at Damsite Oct. 30 was also tardy (J & TG). A Water Pipit at D.C. Sept. 29 was early (DC). Only two Loggerhead Shrikes were seen, both in Virginia (MB, RAA).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Reese noted a small early flight at Tilghman I. Aug. 7, including a N. Waterthrush, seven Am. Redstarts, eight Yellow Warblers, and a Black-throated Blue and two Black-and-white Warblers. A massive flight took place Aug. 31 at Kipt. involving over 1000 birds of 17 warbler species, including one Golden-winged Warbler (HTA, GLA). On such occasions here, as birds fly one way through a gap in the trees north along the ridge line on the edge of the Bay in back of America House motel, they can actually be counted fairly accurately. Most Philadelphia Vireos were seen Sept. 10–11, but a very late one was at Rockville, MD, Oct. 23 along with an Orange-crowned Warbler (PJO), for which most records were from Oct. 19–23 (v.o.). A late Nashville Warbler was at Assat. Nov. 12 (HLW, LMD), and one was in D.C. Nov. 1 (BM). At Pt. Lookout Sept. 6, 150 Am. Redstarts and 40 Black-and-white Warblers were seen as were a Yellow Warbler and a Magnolia Warbler both of which were caught in garden spider webs (MO)! Late Blackpoll Warblers were at Damsite Oct. 24 (J & TG) and Kipt. Oct. 26 (WPS). Also late were Ovenbirds in Howard, MD, Nov. 6 (NM) and at Denton, MD, Nov. 8 (EPr).

At Kipt. 6493 birds of 98 species were banded Sept. 3–Oct. 29 in 9338 net-hours, including 30 warbler species, marking the 26th year of operation here and possibly the last, unless long-threatened development can be held at bay (WPS, FRS, DS, KT, JHB et al.). Best birds were a Louisiana Waterthrush Sept. 23 and a Warbling Vireo Sept. 7 (both rare on the coast in fall) plus Philadelphia Vireos on 3 dates, a Golden-winged

Warbler Sept. 19, and strong flights of birds Sept. 15 and Oct. 12. At Adv. 5191 birds of 95 species were banded Aug. 15–Oct. 31. Twenty-nine warbler species were banded, including 11 Canada Warblers Aug. 22 and a Golden-winged Sept. 11, when there was a good flight with 13 Tennessee Warblers also captured. At St. Timothy's School at Stevenson, northwest of Baltimore, Ross banded 2146 birds of 87 species Aug. 2–Nov. 16 in 5093 net-hours, including 30 warbler species, one an Orange-crowned Oct. 19. At Damsite 4836 birds of 101 species, including 30 warbler species, were banded on 33 days Aug. 1–Nov. 6 in 13,720 net-hours [J & TG *et al.*]. Best days based on net-hour captures were Aug. 31, Sept. 7, and Oct. 7, 17, 22, & 30. Impressive one-day capture totals were 30 Tennessee Warblers Sept. 6 (29 Sept. 11), 16 Cape May Warblers Sept. 11, 33 Black-throated Blue Warblers Sept. 26, eight Chestnut-sided Warblers Sept. 1, and 17 Canada Warblers Sept. 6. At McKeldin in Carroll, MD, Sept. 12 Ringler had a good flight, including a Philadelphia Vireo and 15 Tennessee, five Chestnut-sided, six Black-throated Green, eight Blackburnian, one Yellow-throated, and 12 Bay-breasted warblers. Seldom seen in fall, a Cerulean Warbler was in Howard, MD, Sept. 11 (SA).

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — At Tilghman I. 15 Scarlet Tanagers were seen Sept. 12 (JGR). Peak counts of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were of 12 at both St. Michaels, MD, Sept. 22 (JGR) and Triadelphia Res., MD, Sept. 18 (SA). After a banner breeding season it was odd that the only report of Dickcissels was of two at Rustic, VA, Sept. 17 (SR). In Maryland single Clay-colored Sparrows were at Assat. Oct. 10 (PJO) and at Loch Raven Res. Oct. 15 (EBm); one in D.C. Oct. 19 provided the 2nd record there (DC). Singles were also seen on C.B.B.T. through October (BP, FD, BT, SR *et al.*), and nearby at Kipt. this species was banded Sept. 18 and Oct. 11 & 27 (WPS *et al.*). One to two Lark Sparrows were at Chinc. Aug. 27–Sept. 11 (CPW, JAB, DC, BT *et al.*), and one was on C.B.B.T. during September (BP, GP, DTS). In addition to the Rock Wren and six Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Oct. 30 was Sparrow Appreciation Day on C.B.B.T. with at least 11 species seen, including a Clay-colored, Grasshopper, and Le Conte's (MB *et*



*Clay-colored Sparrow, a stray from the Midwest, at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, Virginia, October 31, 1988. Photograph/E. S. Brinkley.*

*al.*); a Henslow's had been there Oct. 8 (BP, DTS, ph.). A Henslow's was at Lucketts, VA, Oct. 15 (RAA), and three singing birds were at Morgan Run, Carroll, MD, Aug. 4–20 (MW, RFR). Single Sharp-tailed Sparrows, apparently of the race *nelsoni*, were at Howard Oct. 9–10 (SA; first species county record), Adv. Oct. 3 (MD, ph.), and C.B.B.T. Oct. 13 (BP, FD, DTS), and two were at Chinc. Nov. 25 (DC, ph.). Most of the many Lincoln's Sparrow records fell Oct. 13–23. Czaplak saw 12 in D.C. with four on Oct. 13 and three on Oct. 20. Ross banded two at Stevenson, MD, Oct. 14. Donald banded 11 at Adv., including three on Oct. 19. Four Lapland Longspurs were at New Design Rd., Frederick, MD, Nov. 5 (LMD, HLW), two at Craney Nov. 15 (SR), and two at Summit Hall Turf Farm Nov. 25 (MO). Two Snow Buntings at Hart Oct. 16 were the 2nd earliest ever for Maryland (RFR *et al.*), and up to 23 were at Craney Nov. 25 (SR).

No outstanding Bobolink flights were seen, but 2075 were at Kipt. Aug. 30, and 110 N. Orioles were there Aug. 31 (HTA, GLA). There was only one Yellow-headed Blackbird sighting, of a female at Blackwater Aug. 13 (MO). Two Brewer's Blackbirds were mist-netted on Fish. I. Oct. 29 (RL), and from seven to 19 (new state high count) were at Shipp's Cabin Rd. west of Back Bay Nov. 20–25 (BP, GP, BT). Part of the huge fallout of migrants Oct. 30 at Tilghman I. included 700 House Finches, 600 Am. Goldfinches, and 300 Song Sparrows; 600 House Finches were there Nov. 6 (JGR). Also on Oct. 30, 500 House Finches and 700 Dark-eyed Juncos were at Damsite (J & TG), and 700 House Finches were north of Rock Hall, Kent, MD, Nov. 7 (J & TG) with 150 Nov. 26 even in s. Dorchester, MD (GLA, HTA), a remote, marshy peninsular area where they were uncommon until a few years ago.

**OBSERVERS** — D.F. Abbott, Margaret Abbott, R.A. Anderson, R.L. Anderson, G.L. Armistead, Scott Atkinson, K.H. Bass, J.A. Bjerke, Eirik Blom (EBm), Mike Boatwright, Larry Bonham, Jim Boxwell, E.S. Brinkley, Ralph Browning, Mike Bryan (MBn), Ernie Burns, J.H. Buckalew, M.A. Byrd, David Carr (DCr), Rudy Cashwell, Martha Chestem, Jane Church, R.A. Coggin, Patty Craig, David Czaplak (D.C. area), John & Thelma Dalmas, L.M. Davidson, Doug Davis, Deanna Dawson (DDn), Fenton Day, J.H. Dillard, Tom Dick, Bob Dixon, Margaret Donald (Adv.), Sam Droege (Patuxent W.R.C.), S.H. Dyke, S.B. Eccles, Jeff Effinger, Howard Elitzak, Jane Farrell, Bettye Fields, A.J. Fletcher (Caroline, MD), R.B. Fletcher, J.S. Gottschalk, Greg Gough, Jim & Trish Gruber (Damsite), Charlie Hacker, Daniel Haft (DHT), Mike Haramis, Dave Harvey, M.W. Hewitt, Robert Hilton, Steve Hitchner, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, J.E. Johnson, Hank Kaestner, Teta Kain (C.B.B.T.), Greg Kearns, Kerry Kirkpatrick, Valerie Kitchens, D.L. Kirkwood, M.K. Klimkiewicz, Reese Lukei, Joan Lytzen, Nancy Magnusson, Elwood Martin, Doug Miller, Dorothy & Mike Mitchell, Randy Moore, Bill Murphy, J.M. Nicolich, Paul Nistico, Marianna Nuttle, Michael O'Brien, P.J. O'Brien, Peter Osenton, T.M. Padgett, Sam Pancake, F.L. Parks, Brian Patteson (Virginia), Myrna Patteson, Elizabeth Peacock, Grayson Pearce, Essie Pepper (EPr), Carl Perry, Matthew Pettigrew (MPw), Kyle Rambo, J.G. Reese (Talbot, MD), George Reiger, Sue Ricciardi (SRi), Sue Ridd (SRd), R.F. Ringler (Maryland), B.M. Ross (St. Timothy's Banding Station), Stephen Rottenborn, Michael Rowe, R.R. Runkles, R.P. Russell, Eugene Sankey, R.M. Schutsky, Don Schwab, F.R. Scott, D.T. Shoch, Dorothy Silsby (DSy), S.W. Simon, W.P. Smith (Kipt.), Jo Solem (Howard, MD), P.R. Spitzer, Chris Swarth, Brian Taber, Karen Terwilliger, R.J. Tripician, Craig Tumer, C.R. Vaughn, Mark Vekasy, David Walbeck, Tony White, H.L. Wierenga, C.P. Wilds (D.C. area), Bill Williams (Kipt.), J.P. Williams, G.M. Williamson, E.M. Wilson (D.C. area), T.R. Wolfe, Steve Wonderly, Mark Wright.—HENRY T. ARMISTEAD, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

## SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.  
(Summer 1988 report)



The weather for the summer was near normal, in terms of temperature. However, much of the Region experienced drought conditions, particularly the western Piedmont. Landbird reproduction did not seem to be noticeably affected by reduced rainfall, but some heronries, especially in Georgia, fared poorly because ponds where the colonies were located dried up, thereby enhancing predation of eggs and nestlings as well as forcing adults to forage farther from the colonies. Breeding Bird Atlas projects in North Carolina and South Carolina got into full swing for their first complete nesting seasons, and a number of notable finds resulted from this work. I want to encourage all "atlassers" to report noteworthy breeding records from their atlas blocks to me, as well as submitting their completed atlas block cards (with details as necessary) to the atlas coordinator in their state or region. It is difficult to obtain suitable *American Birds* material from atlas cards, since exact locations are not listed on the cards, nor is information on the number of individuals generally presented on the cards.

**LOONS TO ANHINGA** — Two Com. Loons spent most of June on L. Lanier, GA, and three were present July 25 (JP), whereas one at Goldsboro, NC, June 15–16 (ED) was also notable. A few Pied-billed Grebes appeared in summer at several Georgia Piedmont locales, but no evidence of breeding was noted. On the other hand, M. Lynch found at least 12 nesting pairs, plus many young, at several limesink ponds near Newton, GA, in June and July; this area lies in the Coastal Plain, where nesting is somewhat regular, but it is not clear how frequently the birds utilize this type of habitat. Pelagic birding was rather limited this summer, for no apparent reason. An Audubon's Shearwater was seen from shore at Frisco, NC, July 22 (JF), another Audubon's and at least 10 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen off Jekyll I., GA, June 11

[A.A.S.), and a Leach's Storm-Petrel was a good find June 29 off Charleston, SC (DF, BK).

American White Pelicans in North Carolina are often seen with Brown Pelicans, even at nesting colonies, and this season a White appeared at a new site—a Brown colony inside Oregon Inlet June 27 (HW, MW) through much of July (AF). Brown Pelicans in North Carolina continue to increase as breeders, particularly in the Oregon Inlet area, where 961 nests were counted June 7 (JFP). Great Cormorants continue to linger later into the spring before heading north, and two were still present at Masonboro Inlet, NC, June 1 (SC). Post continues to find new nesting colonies of Double-crested Cormorants in South Carolina. He noted 3 active sites on L. Moultrie, with a new one found Aug. 27 near Pinopolis that contained 37 nests. The best non-breeding inland counts were of 100 at Falls L. near Durham, NC, July 18 (RD) and nine at L. Oconee, GA, June 18 (PY). Five Anhingas soaring over N.C. 11 at the Roanoke R. in Martin, NC, June 4 (ML) seemed to suggest local breeding, perhaps in one of several heronries present along this river. This species is clearly expanding its breeding range northward, and is now nesting in that state in several sites in the n. Coastal Plain.

**WADERS** — The only extensive survey of coastal waterbirds was that by Parnell, who qualitatively surveyed most of North Carolina's nesting sites. He noted significant declines (since the last extensive survey in 1983) in breeding numbers of Snowy Egrets, Tricolored Herons, Little Blue Herons, and Glossy Ibises. Perhaps some of these birds are now nesting in larger numbers north of the Region. This certainly seems the case with the Glossy Ibis, which has declined precipitously in the southern Atlantic states in the last decade, perhaps pushed northward (where increasing) by White Ibises or Cattle Egrets. The drought that inflicted much of the South caused complete failure of many heronries in the Midville, GA, area, because the ponds had dried up; as a result, heavy

usage of a summer roost site at nearby Augusta was noted (AW)

Two Am. Bitterns were at Goldsboro, NC, on the very early date of July 28 (ED). Perhaps the 2nd Piedmont record for Georgia of "**Great White**" Heron was furnished by one 5 mi s of Canton July 4 (PM, TM). As expected, a few Snowy Egrets were detected in the Piedmont as post-breeders, whereas four in the interior Coastal Plain near Newton, GA, June 1 might have been nesting locally (ML). An excellent find for North Carolina was an immature or subad. Reddish Egret at Corn-cake Inlet near Ft. Fisher July 1-31 and later (JF *et al.*), and another imm. Reddish was at Bear I., SC, July 30 (PN, CW). A good count of non-breeding Cattle Egrets was of 175 at Fayetteville, NC, July 6 (PJC). Intriguing were reports of Black-crowned Night-Herons in the Carolinas from inland sites, where not known to breed in those states. An adult was at a heronry at Bird I. on L. Marion, SC, June 25 (LG), whereas two immatures "barely able to fly" were at Falls L. near Butner, NC, July 18 (RD). Neither of these records confirms breeding, but the sites should be checked in 1989 for Black-crowneds. Two successful nests of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were reported by Compton from downtown Charleston (Hampton Park).

One wonders where all the tens of thousands of White Ibises that formerly nested at Drum I., SC, are now breeding, and Post found no ibis production at another former state stronghold at Pumpkinseed I. Some of these birds have undoubtedly shifted inland, because the former moderate-sized colony far inland at Boykin contained a whopping 3745 nests this season (MD). I would not be at all surprised to see this species beginning to breed in numbers in Virginia and Maryland in the next few years, considering their northward expansion in this Region and their dismal failures in South Carolina in the last 2 or 3 years. A good inland count of non-breeding Whites was of 21 in flight over Goldsboro July 21 (ED). The only far-inland Glossy Ibises were at Jordan L., NC, with up to two July 20-29 (RD, KL, MG, SG). The Millen, GA, Wood Stork colony contained 101 nests June 2, but only 25 young were raised (*fide* AW). No information was available on the success of the other stork colonies in Georgia and South Carolina. One wonders if 400+ storks, an outstanding number, at a non-breeding site on Marys I., Colleton, SC, in mid-June (ML, TMu) was a sign of high nesting failure. We should hope that a high percentage of these birds were young-of-the-year, but the ratio of adults to immatures was not given

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS** — Possibly never before reported in summer in the Region, a Greater White-fronted Goose was very late in departing Eufaula N.W.R., GA, June 3 (DR). Also straggling into summer were single Gadwalls at Darien, GA, June 12 (HG, PB, TM) and near Fayetteville, NC, June 13 (PJC, JC). Lingering divers included a Redhead near Otway, Carteret, NC, June 27 (RB), seven Ring-necked Ducks at Peachtree City L., GA, June 4 (PB) and another near Forsyth, GA, July 16 (TJ), and a Lesser Scaup at Shamrock L. near Atlanta, GA, July 2-9 (*fide* TM). Belatedly reported was an imm ♂ Harlequin Duck at Ft. Macon S.P., NC, on the extremely late dates of May 23-24 (ph. SH). A pair of Ruddy Ducks was present all summer near Macon, GA, but nesting was not found (TI), and another non-breeding pair was at Goldsboro through July 4 (ED). This species has nested in North Carolina, but Georgia has no nesting records for Ruddy Duck

Inland Ospreys nested in North Carolina at sites reported in previous years, but six nests were found at Jordan L. (RJH) and another was found at nearby Falls L. (BW, MW). The only inland nesting report for Georgia was of one nest at L. Oconee (PY). As many as two Am. Swallow-tailed Kites were in the Georgia Piedmont at Conyers July 31-Aug. 4 (FM), and another was farther south at Bolingbroke, Monroe, in July (TJ,

JO). Of course, the species was reported from that state's Coastal Plain—where nesting occurs—on a handful of occasions. Glover reported that Mississippi Kites were a "very common sight" this summer at Lugoff, SC, which lies along the n. edge of the breeding range. A new nesting site for Bald Eagle in North Carolina, where there were just 2 previous active nests, was reported in Beaufort near Pamlico R. (*fide* TH). A good count of seven post-breeding Bald Eagles was present July 23 at L. Oconee (PY), and several dozen continued to be seen in summer at Jordan L., one of the larger post-breeding roost sites in the Atlantic states. Northern Harriers, rare nesters in North Carolina, were again reported at their 3 usual sites of known or suspected breeding—several places at Ocracoke I. in June (JF, HW), Pea I. from late May to early July (RD), and Cedar I. June 4 (JF).

Accipiter reports that might indicate nesting were in short supply: an ad. Sharp-shinned Hawk mobbing a Red-tailed Hawk at Tryon, NC, June 19 (ST) and a Cooper's Hawk near Norfleet, Halifax, NC, June 9 (ML) at the same site where one was seen in early May. Notorious for their late spring migrations, especially of year-old birds, a kettle of 15 Broad-winged Hawks was detected at Cedar I., NC, where they do not breed, on June 8 (JF). This species is an uncommon breeder in the Region, but it was called "quite common" in s.e. Greenville, SC, this summer (PW). Notable in the Coastal Plain, where Broad-winged is poorly known as a breeder, were a pair June 1-14 along Ichauwaynochaway Cr., Baker, GA (ML) and an individual June 21 along U.S. 17 near Osborn, w. Charleston, SC (ML). American Kestrels are very rare breeders in the Coastal Plain, so of interest was a pair feeding three fledglings June 3, in a commercial area in Goldsboro (ED). Kestrels were seen regularly in w. Ft. Bragg, NC, where they are known to nest (JHC), but one in dune habitat at Huntington Beach S.P., SC, June 28 and July 20 (LG, KC) was undoubtedly a non-breeder.

**RALLIDS, SHOREBIRDS** — A Black Rail heard calling at 8 a.m. (a most unusual time!) at Cape Lookout, NC, July 5 (JF, BH) provided a new summer site for the species, although Fussell indicated the habitat may not be suitable for successful nesting. A good count of six calling Virginia Rails was noted at Wanchese, NC, July 1 (HL, MT) during a Black Rail "expedition," and another Virginia was heard calling near Otway, NC, June 27 (RB). Field work in the coastal marshes of the Region is badly needed, because these two rails, among many other marsh species, are undoubtedly more widespread than records would indicate. The waste treatment ponds at Goldsboro had moorhens and coots galore this summer—7 or 8 pairs of Com. Moorhens producing about 75 young, and 5 pairs of Am. Coots producing about 45 young (ED). Inland coots in Georgia, none of which were nesting, were two at Sweetwater Creek S.P., June 18 (PB), two near Rum Creek W.M.A., July 16 (TJ), and one at Macon July 17-31 and later (TI).

Fussell twice encountered Lesser Golden-Plovers, one in basic plumage at Pea I., NC, June 11 and one in near-breeding plumage near Ocracoke, NC, July 25. A detailed survey of nesting Piping Plovers in North Carolina (DC *et al.*) yielded at least 40 pairs, the highest ever reported; however, no coast-wide survey had ever been made previously, and birds were recorded at only one or 2 previously unknown sites. Quite unusual inland, especially at a farm pond, were three Am. Avocets 9 mi n. of Hillsborough, NC, July 10 (BG), and another avocet was notable at Huntington Beach S.P. June 29 (TP) and July 19 (LG, KC, THa). A Lesser Yellowlegs in Clayton, GA, June 25 (PB) was quite early, and two Willets were a good inland find at L. Marion, SC, June 25 (LG). The only inland southbound Upland Sandpipers encountered were at airports one at Gainesville, GA, July 27 (JP), and three w. of Sumter, SC, July 15 (LG). A Marbled Godwit was an early arrival July

9 at Jekyll I., GA (JT) Notable shorebirds in inland Georgia included two Sanderlings at L. Oconee July 23 and one July 30 (PY), a White-rumped Sandpiper at Pendergrass July 30 (JP, JCa), and a very late (?) Pectoral Sandpiper in Clayton June 4 (PB). Always a noteworthy find, a Curlew Sandpiper in breeding plumage was present at Pea I. July 4 (RD) to July 29 (TP). The same pond that held the Curlew Sandpiper also was home to a ♀ Ruff June 11 (JF). Notable at Jordan L. were six Stilt Sandpipers July 30 (HL), the best inland count for the summer, and a Wilson's Phalarope there July 20 (RD). Rather early at Pea I. July 2 were three Stilt Sandpipers and three Wilson's Phalaropes (HL, MT). A Wilson's at Huntington Beach S.P., July 19 (LG, KC) was notable for South Carolina.

**LARIDS**—Parnell's colonial waterbird survey on the North Carolina coast showed a general downward trend since 1983 for birds nesting in early succession habitats (bare sand and sparse grass), owing mainly to disposal of dredge spoil by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offshore or on diked spoil sites rather than on undiked islands. There is now the "dangerous" trend in that state for species such as Black Skimmers and Gull-billed, Common, and Least terns to nest on barrier beaches—their original habitat before dredge spoil islands were created—where disturbance by humans and mammalian predators can be very high.

Bonaparte's Gulls were late in North Carolina at Eagle I., June 1 (SC) and Bodie I., June 25 (JF). A Herring Gull on L. Lanier, GA, June 11 (JP) was out of season; and at St. Simons I., GA, an imm. Great Black-backed Gull was present most of June, and four adults were there July 12 (D & PMcC). A few Caspian Terns were found in July at both Jordan and Falls lakes (BW, MW *et al.*). For the 2nd consecutive summer, Roseate Terns were found, non-breeding, at Cape Hatteras Point, NC, with one adult July 3 (DC) and two adults the next day (RD); two more adults were at Bald Head I., NC, July 14 (DC). The best inland count of Com. Terns was of seven at Jordan L., July 23 (ML, KL), whereas just two inland Forster's Terns were found, at Peachtree City L., June 4 (PB) and at Augusta, GA, July 11 (CB). Holmes found 12 adult and three downy young Least Terns nesting well inland at New Bern, NC, June 26; this appears to be a new nesting locale. A Least was rare inland near Goldsboro June 18 (ED).

Sooty Tern was reported as nesting on Raccoon Key in Cape Romain N.W.R., SC, this summer (*vide* DRa), for perhaps the 3rd breeding record for the state, but no details were available. As far as is known, none of the 6 or so nests for Sooty in the Region have been successful. Again this year, a Sooty spent much of the summer in the tern colony at Cape Hatteras but did not nest (DC *et al.*). A good spring count of Black Terns was of 18 off Bald Head I., NC, June 5 (GM, JPe), whereas 41 at Jordan L. July 20 (RD) represented an excellent count for this declining species.

**DOVES TO SHRIKES**—Common Ground-Doves have declined in recent years in North Carolina as breeders. One of the better recent counts was of four (a family group?) at Sunset Beach July 30 (ED), and one was far inland in c. *Halifax*, NC, July 1 (FE). Migrating Black-billed Cuckoos were encountered at Goldsboro June 7 (ED), at Pea I., June 11 (JF), and Bear I., SC, July 28 (DF).

There was near unanimous agreement of a decline in numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds over much of the Region. It is questionable if the drought played a part in the reduced numbers. The first Piedmont summer record in many years of Willow Flycatcher in Georgia was of a singing bird along the Chattahoochee R. n. of Atlanta June 19 (KB). Again this year, S. Thompson had a ♂ Least Flycatcher on territory at Tryon, NC, June 19; this is the only site in the Region where the species is present in summer. A Gray Kingbird was a spring overshoot near Atlantic Beach, NC, May 22 (SH), whereas there were several records from Jekyll I., GA (PR, DW, D & PMcC) of possible breeders. Probably the best breed-

## S.A.

A major population shift in Whip-poor-wills is occurring in the Region and perhaps in the East. Many birders to our north have seen a decline in numbers of the species, whereas in the last 10 years there has been a distinct increase in numbers in the Coastal Plain in the Carolinas. Formerly rare or absent in the lower Coastal Plain in summer, the birds are now locally common, but Chuck-will's-widows are apparently not being displaced. An excellent 14 Whips, and just two Chucks, were heard calling June 15 in the Green Swamp, NC (JN,GM), and three Whips and no Chucks were heard at 3 stops near Old Dock, NC, June 26 (HL). A population was noted also near McClellanville, SC, in June and July (PN, MB); the species was previously unknown in that state's lower Coastal Plain in summer.

ing record for the season was Georgia's first nest of **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**. A pair raised one young near Cartersville (M & CH) for the 2nd Regional nesting, the first being of a pair for consecutive seasons in the early 1980s in the South Carolina Piedmont. Other Scissor-taileds in Georgia were one n e of Columbus June 4 (NI, BB, PF) and one at Adairsville July 3 (RW).

There were 2 strongly suggestive nesting records of **Tree Swallows** at new Piedmont sites. In North Carolina, where previously documented breeding just in the mountains, adults were seen at Jordan L. near snags in the lake in late May and early June, and 10 young were seen with adults in the snags June 18 (MG, DS). Likewise, Yawkey saw adults at 3 places at L. Oconee, GA, June 10; one or two repeatedly entered a hole in a snag. One of the largest flocks of Bank Swallows reported in recent years was of 700+ at Eagle I., NC, July 15 (JN). Probably a new nesting site for Cliff Swallow was detected at L. Oconee, where 3 nests were found under the Hwy 44 bridge June 18 (PY); adults were also at 2 other bridges that day. Near Greensboro, NC, a flock of 25 Fish Crows was found at an apparent roost on several days in June (HH), and Hendrickson had a few other records near that city, where breeding has not yet been reported.

Within the past 10 years, a few apparently territorial House Wrens have been found at recently burned pocosins in e North Carolina. No one could have anticipated what Cooper found at Holly Shelter Game Land, Pender, NC, which was severely burned in 1986. On June 6, he had 18 singing birds in 10 miles of driving, and on June 17 he had 37 more singing birds in a different section of the area! Although the wrens were previously known to winter commonly in pocosin edges, one must wonder what the species finds so fascinating about burned shrub habitats in summer, especially as most wrens in the Region nest in farmyards and in residential yards.

Wood Thrush breeding numbers continue to decline, based on comments from many observers, a possible indirect consequence of loss of habitat on the wintering grounds. Certainly not losing habitat is the Am. Robin, and it continues to expand coastward; robins were reported to be occurring throughout North Charleston as well as a few places on the peninsula in Charleston (StC). As usual, there were many summer records of Cedar Waxwings from Piedmont North Carolina, but the only nest record came from Polk, where a pair was nest-building at Green Creek June 11 (ST). Dunning reported very few Loggerhead Shrikes in the s. half of South Carolina, never more than one shrike in 500-1200 mi of driving. The species continues its decline in n. half of North Carolina, and the birds are not faring much better in the s. half, either.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS**—Perhaps the first Sandhills summer record for Solitary Vireo in over 5 years was of two noted singing in open longleaf pine woods e. of Montrose, Hoke, NC, June 30 (JHC, LM). A **Warbling Vireo** seen and heard singing in Beaufort, NC, July 25 (LC) was an absolute fluke, perhaps

being an early fall "vagrant" The species does not presently nest in the Region, nor does it even occur on the coast as a migrant. Northern Parulas were considered more numerous in the Atlanta area than usual, where they are usually scarce (TM) Ridiculously early was an ad. ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler July 8 at Pendergrass, GA (JP), whereas a Blackpoll Warbler was collected on the late "spring" date of June 15 at Kingstreet, SC (SR). Simon Thompson again had a Cerulean Warbler on territory at Tryon, which lies essentially along the Blue Ridge (where the species nests at a few North Carolina sites). The earliest southbound Cerulean was noted July 9 in Dawson, GA (JP).

Worm-eating Warblers have been found to be locally common in some of North Carolina's pocosins and bay forests. Emphasizing this was a count of 12+ in a 2-mi stretch of road through dense pine stands in n. Brunswick June 11 (JN). Other notable Worm-eatings in that state's Coastal Plain were territorial singers near Autryville, Cumberland, June 14 (PJC) and in e. Edgemore May 30 (ML). For the 6th summer in a row, Swainson's Warblers were nesting in the e. Piedmont near Chapel Hill, NC, with one pair and two other singing males this summer (HW). Another was on territory through June in Tryon (ST), and one (a breeder?) was noted in Dawson, GA, July 9 (JP, JCa). Breeding Bird Atlas work in the e. Coastal Plain of South Carolina has shown a definite increase in breeding Ovenbirds (JEC). A N. Waterthrush was early July 25 near Thomasville, GA (LN), whereas a Canada Warbler at Saluda, NC, June 4 (ST) was apparently a late migrant.

**BUNTINGS TO FINCHES** — Painted Buntings have a spotty and poorly-known distribution in the South Carolina Coastal Plain. Apparently a new site was Moncks Corner, where one was singing June 20 (BD).

#### S.A.

Dickcissels made news again in the Region, thanks in part to the North Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas. Apparently the first-ever suggestion of breeding of the species in the lower Coastal Plain of that state was the discovery of approximately four males singing in mainland Dare June 13 (EP) to early July (DC). The same number of birds were on territory at Goldsboro, in the w Coastal Plain, June 7-21 (ED). In South Carolina, approximately 3 pairs were found in n. York June 28 and a nest with eggs was discovered July 1 (TP). The out-of-range Dickcissels at Mount Pleasant, SC, first found in May, nested successfully this summer (TAB). Another Dickcissel near Duluth, GA, in May was seen into June, but no evidence of breeding was noted (JV); and a male was also near Athens June 4 (BD). Did the severe drought in the Midwest drive Dickcissels east of the Appalachians?

Rarely reported from most of its former Piedmont range, a family group of Bachman's Sparrows was noted near Athens, GA (BrW). Always of interest are summer records of the highly disjunct breeding population of Lark Sparrows; this season featured one near Emery, Montgomery, NC, May 15 (JHC, JL), a new locale, if indeed this is a nesting site. Many of the sites occupied by territorial Henslow's Sparrows in the North Carolina Coastal Plain in 1984-1985 have now been abandoned as the pine saplings have become too high. Birds are undoubtedly shifting to adjacent, younger-aged clear-cuts, and such appears to be the case with new colony sites near former ones in n c. Brunswick (JN) and e. Martin (ML).

A ♀ Yellow-headed Blackbird was a rarity near Fayetteville July 25 (PJC). Post again found Boat-tailed Grackles nesting inland at L. Moultrie, SC, with 15 nests this year. Noteworthy was a ♂ N. (Baltimore) Oriole seen several times in June n. of

Atlanta (NJ) At New Bern, NC, House Finches were found nesting in June (RB), and Boyd also noted several pairs and many immatures of Am. Goldfinches at feeders in that town, which lies along the edge of the breeding range.

**ADDENDUM** — An ad. Harris' Sparrow was observed at Americus, GA, Nov. 22, 1986 (JG, TC, LL) for about the 8th state record (Oriole 51:71).

**EXOTICS** — Two Monk Parakeets were noted at Ft. Macon S.P., NC, throughout the summer (SH, THo). A Village Weaver, perhaps having arrived by boat from the West Indies (where an abundant introduced species on Hispanola), was at a feeder July 25-29 on Seabrook I., SC (Chi, fide WP).

**OBSERVERS** — Atlanta Audubon Society, T.A. Beckett, Clarence Belger, Mark Bevan, Ken Blackshaw, Rich Boyd, Barbara Brigham, Patrick Brisse, Kevin Calhoun, Derb Carter, J.H. Carter III, Jack Caruso (JCa), J.E. Cely, Terry Chesser, Steve Compton (StC), Sam Cooper, Larry Crawford, Jim Crutchfield, P.J. Crutchfield, Ricky Davis, Eric Dean, Mark Dodd, Barny Dunning, Frank Enders, Pat Fincher, Allen Foreman, Dennis Forsythe, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Lex Glover, Maurice Graves, Steve Graves, Joe Greenberg, Barbara Grubb, R.J. Hader, Tom Hankins (THa), Mike & Cathy Harris, Scott Hartley, Herb Hendrickson, Tom Henson, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hipp (Chi), Bob Holmes, Tim Hoss (THo), Nancy Iha, Ty Ivey, Nanette Johnson, Terry Johnson, Bruce Krucke, Jackie Lape, Liz Lathrop, Harry LeGrand, Karen Lynch, Merrill Lynch, Greg Massey, Dennie & Pam McClure (D & PMcC), Laurie McKean, Francis Michael, Peggy Moore, Terry Moore, Tom Murphy (TMu), Jeremy Nance, Leon Neel, Perry Nugent, Jim Ozier, John Paget, J.F. Parnell, Jim Pearson (JPe), Taylor Piephoff, Will Post, Eloise Potter, Paul Raney, Donna Ratledge (DRa), Samuel Rodgers, Dean Rundle, Douglas Shadwick, John Thompson, Simon Thompson, Mike Tove, Joel Volpi, Bill Wagner, Margaret Wagner, Charlie Walters, Anne Waters, Bryan Watts (BrW), Richard White, Haven Wiley, Minna Wiley, Dick Williams, Peter Worthington, Peter Yawkey.—**HARRY E. LeGRAND, JR., 331 Yadkin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.**



# FLORIDA REGION

Lyn S. and  
Brooks H. Atherton



The season was typically warm and dry, resulting in few observable movements. There were but two notable weather events. First was an extended inundation of central Florida during the first week of September. Rainfall amounted to fourteen to twenty inches in the Tampa Bay area, causing major flooding. This storm was the result of a cold front stalled across north-central Florida and of a tropical depression in the Gulf of Mexico that pumped vast amounts of moisture inland. This caused both a major "fall-out" in Pinellas County and a very visible movement of some diurnal migrants at various coastal and interior locations. The second major event was Tropical Storm Keith, which crossed Florida west to east on November 22–23. However, there were few notable sightings or movements associated with the storm. The first strong cold front arrived November 28th, dropping overnight temperatures below fifty degrees in the peninsula, thus breaking the late fall warm spell.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — B.B.C.F.S.R.A. = Bill Baggs-Cape Florida State Recreation Area; C.S.M. = Clear Springs Mine, Polk; E.N.P. = Everglades Nat'l Park; Tall. Div. = Tallahassee Division. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS** — Observers from widespread locations on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts reported higher than usual numbers of Com. Loons, giving hope that the species has finally recovered from the massive losses in the winter of 1983–1984. Visiting Swedish birders (names unknown) discovered the prize of the season, a **Least Grebe** at Blue Hole, Big Pine Key, Oct. 3–23 (MB, PB, WH, † ph. B & LA). The only previous one in Florida was of questionable origin. The earliest-ever Tall. Div. Eared Grebe surfaced at Tallahassee Aug. 29 (JEC). Five Cory's Shearwaters were 25 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral Nov. 14 (JJ), and an Audubon's Shearwater and a Brown Booby were 28 mi e. of the cape

Sept. 10 (J) *et al.*). Another Audubon's flew by the Lake Worth Pier Oct. 28 (HPL). The pier is excellent for viewing migrating seabirds and ducks, especially during NE winds. There was a "decent" migration of N. Gannets there with a high of 104 on Nov. 25 (HPL *et al.*).

Three hundred Am. White Pelicans soaring over St. Marks Light Oct. 8 (DB) represented a surprisingly large flock. "Whites" are rare along the n.e. coast and in the Keys, so one at Mayport Oct. 26 (RL, MD) and two at Cudjoe Key Nov. 24 (BS) were unexpected. Very late-nesting Brown Pelicans with large downy young were at the Alafia Bank, Hillsborough, during the first week of September, but the torrential rains probably halted rearing of the young (RTP). The only inland sightings were at Archbold Biological Station, Highlands, Sept. 6 (M & ND) and in s. Polk Nov. 27 (PF, CLG). At B.B.C.F.S.R.A., late-nesting Double-crested Cormorants still occupied 2 nests Oct. 28 (JB, ER) with two young in one nest. Adverse weather produced many inland sightings of Magnificent Frigatebirds, especially Sept. 6, when 23+ moved over Gainesville (SN), seven found L. Brooklyn, Clay (MJW), and 45 hovered over Odessa (GP). On Nov. 23, Archbold Biological Station had four (FEL, v.o.) and Auburndale one (HB). Another, quite late in the Tall. Div., soared over the St. James Aquatic Preserve Nov. 26 (BHS).

**WADERS TO DUCKS** — Rare in the Keys, a Least Bittern was at the Key West Golf Course Nov. 10 (CW). Great Blue Herons had begun nest-building in the Sarasota Bay colonies by Nov. 7 (RTP, BP), and a "Great White" Heron at St. Marks N.W.R. Nov. 9 (A & DF) was well n. of the usual Keys and Florida Bay range. Reddish Egrets are not known to breed n. of the Tampa Bay area, so one at Cedar Key Aug. 13 (MR) was considered a rare find, although the comment on several at the coast in the Tall. Div. during the period was that the species is "regular now" (HMS). Cattle Egrets abound in the S. Pen., but 1500 in 3 flocks between Clewiston and Avon

Park Oct 14 (HMS) made a high count A "red" ibis in the Rookery Bay and Marco I area during the period was thought to be a "very bright first cross hybrid" of Scarlet and White ibises, as it had some white feathers in the back and appeared not quite deep enough for a "pure" Scarlet (TB, v.o.). Fourteen Roseate Spoonbills at Zellwood Sept. 3 (PF) was a high number inland, and an immature was late at Cedar Key Nov. 15 (DCH). Large aggregations of Wood Storks were 500 at South Bay Sept. 2 (JB, ER) and 640 at Zellwood Sept. 3 (PF). Not every birder who survives the onslaught of mosquitoes along Snake Bight Trail, E.N.P., is rewarded with Greater Flamingos upon reaching the bight. However, as many as 28 flamingos there Oct 22–Nov. 30 (AS, m.ob.) was a grand prize!

The main farm fields at Zellwood, a confirmed breeding area for Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, had a good count of 150 on Sept. 3 (PF). At least in fall, from Cape Canaveral southward some migrate offshore along the Atlantic Coast, where 53 passed the Lake Worth Pier Nov. 3–24 (HPL). Snow Geese appeared at various locations outside the Tall. Div. (where they are uncommon but regular), the most notable being the southernmost, one at the n. end of L. Okeechobee Nov. 19 (VF), and the highest count, of 14 at Haines City Nov. 26 (CLG). The only Brant was at St. Marks Light Nov. 27 (LH, JD, RC, v.o.).

Possibly earliest-ever for the Tall. Div., an Am. Black Duck was near St. Marks Light Sept. 19 (BHS). Two Blue-winged Teal were early at Tallahassee Aug. 12 (HMS), 16 at Key West Aug 17 (JAO) made a high count for the Keys, and 52 at Ft. De Soto Park Sept. 6 (B & LA, AM, SD) made an exceptionally high number there. A N. Shoveler at Tallahassee Aug. 29 (JEC, NW) was the Tall. Div.'s earliest-ever, and two were quite early at Ft. De Soto Sept. 6–8 (LA, v.o.). There has been a continuing and drastic decline in the numbers of Gadwall arriving at C.S.M., from "hundreds" in years past to only two Nov. 27 (PF, GLG). An early Ring-necked Duck was near St. Marks Light Oct. 10 (BHS); and in the Keys, where sightings are unusual because suitable habitat is scarce, six were at Big Pine Key and one was at Key West Nov. 7 (MB, CW). The Blue Hole at Big Pine Key is a very small fresh-water pond surrounded by palmettos and long-leaf pines, so rather surprising was a Lesser Scaup there Nov. 6–30 (MB, CW). The only Oldsquaw was at C.S.M., Nov. 30 (PF, PT), the first ever for Polk. Hopefully, scoters—conspicuous by their absence—were just delayed farther north. The only arrivals were Black Scoters: four, ironically farther s. than usual, at Key West Nov. 22 (JAO), and two at Alligator Point Nov. 24 (BHS). Early and rather far south were a Bufflehead at Tierra Verde Nov. 11–30 (LA, JD, AM, v.o.) and two at C.S.M., Nov. 27 (PF, CLG). There was a "good migration" of Red-breasted Mergansers past the Lake Worth Pier in November, with 175 a high tally on Nov. 25 (HPL, TT). A Ruddy Duck at South Bay Sept. 2 (JB, ER) was early or, possibly, could have bred in the area, but disturbing was that 7000 wintering in s. Polk Nov. 27 (PF, CLG) signified "a dramatic decrease from a few years ago when 100,000 was usual."

**RAPTORS** — The raptor migration was especially noticeable in E.N.P. and the Keys where Turkey Vultures and Sharp-shinned, Broad-winged, and Swainson's hawks moved through in relatively large numbers. Bahia Honda Key had 250 Turkey Vultures Oct. 23 (WH), 1614 associating with other raptors migrated through the Flamingo area, E.N.P., Nov. 7 (SW), 130 soared over Key West Nov. 8 (JAO), and 630 were at Upper Matecumbe Key Nov. 14 (SW). Presumed residents, vocal Ospreys soaring over Key West Aug. 28 (JAO) were pair-bonding and another was standing on the rim of a nest at Big Pine Key Oct. 16 (HMS), but 20 others were migrating S at Key Largo Sept. 5 (WH). By the end of the period, Am. Swallow-tailed Kites at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Collier, had been present for 213 days of 1988, the most days per year recorded there in over 20 years (fide TB). Black-shouldered Kites, confirmed breeding in Broward in 1986 and

in E.N.P. in 1988 (see Spring Report), appeared at various locations in s. Florida. Of five in rural Dade, two in the e. Everglades Aug. 4 (JSP) were reported by "locals" to have been present for some time. In E.N.P., one was at Long Pine Key Oct. 30 (DJO, SO, JV) and another was at Flamingo Nov. 18 (SW). South of their usual range, 20 Snail Kites were at the C-111 Canal between Key Largo and Florida City Oct. 8 (WH), and 50 Mississippi Kites over Paynes Prairie Aug. 2 (CP, JW) made a very high count in the peninsula.

An ad. ♂ N. Harrier at Florida City Aug. 18 (JCO) was considered "very early" there, although the first harriers arrive in the N. Pen. about then. Most notable of the Broad-winged Hawk flights was a movement of 2500 in 2 hours at Big Pine Key Oct. 20 (JB, ER, KR). Good news was Ogden's report that Short-tailed Hawk numbers in E.N.P. appeared to be about the same as when he conducted surveys in the early 1970s. And there were more reports from s. Florida than usual, including 10 tallied during a trip through the park and along the s.e. coast Nov. 6–19 (SW). Not one Swainson's Hawk was detected n. of Dade, yet more than ever moved through E.N.P. and the Keys. The highest one-day total was of 60 in the Keys Oct. 30 (WH), and several reported flights of 20+ there and in E.N.P. during October and November (SW, v.o.) A "very small" Am. Kestrel e. of Bradenton Sept. 3–5 (RTP, BP) was early or possibly of the local race, but 188 in the Keys Oct. 5–30 (WH *et al.*) were definitely migrants. There were few reports of Merlins and Peregrines other than in the Keys, where 60 Merlins and 66 Peregrines were tallied Sept. 21–Nov. 8 (WH, JAO, v.o.). Peregrines are usually coastal migrants, so one at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Oct. 28 (v.o.) was one of few ever there.

**RAILS TO ALCIDS** — Madison's 15 Soras Oct. 6 (BHS) was a high count, and two others plus two Purple Gallinules and six Com. Moorhens were notable in the Keys at Stock I Nov. 18 (JAO), because limited freshwater habitat makes those species Key rarities. Rare in the Tall. Div., 35 Sandhill Cranes stopped near Posey's Tower Pond, St. Marks N.W.R., Oct. 13 (KK). Unusual so far inland, six Black-bellied Plovers at C.S.M. Oct. 30 (PF, PT) made Polk's highest-ever count. Very unusual on the Gulf coast in fall, up to eight Lesser Golden-Plovers were at Ft. De Soto Sept. 6–10 (B & LA, AM, SD, m.ob.). Late ones were at Tallahassee Nov. 4 (JEC), Merritt Island N.W.R. Nov. 19 (TR), and Long Boat Key Nov. 23 (JP). The highest Snowy Plover count in the Tall. Div. in recent years was of 31 at Alligator Pt. Nov. 10 (BHS), and 30 Wilson's Plovers at Matanzas Inlet Aug. 2 (BPM, JTD) was an unusually large flock for the n.e. coast. Rarely encountered on the s.e. coast or in the Keys, two Am. Oystercatchers visited Ohio Key Oct. 16 (DL).

At C.S.M., 125 Am. Avocets Sept. 11 (PF) and 720 Lesser Yellowlegs Aug. 20 (PF, DF) were excellent totals. In Pinellas, where usually one or two Solitary Sandpipers equals a good count at one location, at least nine at Ft. De Soto Park Sept. 9 (B & LA, AM, SD) and seven at Honeymoon I. Sept. 10 (B & LA, JB) were forced down by the weather. The largest flock of Upland Sandpipers numbered twelve at South Bay Sept. 2 (JB, ER), and one that perched on a car roof for several hours at Cedar Key Sept. 6 (DCH, BW) was only the 2nd ever for Levy (*fide* BPM). Cedar Key had its first-ever Long-billed Curlew Sept. 23 (DCH, MH), and a Sanderling at Tallahassee Sept. 6 (HMS) was a rare Tall. Div. inland discovery. Ft. De Soto Park had 83 Pectoral Sandpipers Sept. 6 (LA), an unprecedented number there and an unusually high number anytime in Pinellas. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were hard to find in their usual inland haunts, but some made rare appearances in the Tall. Div. and at the coasts. The largest flock was of five at Ft. De Soto Park Sept. 9–10 (B & LA, m.ob.), and the latest ever for the Region were four at Tallahassee Oct. 26 (HMS). The only Ruff was at Zellwood Aug. 6 (MH, JE), and a Com. Snipe at Stock I. Nov. 18 (JAO) was an unexpected Keys

migrant The few Wilson's Phalarope sightings were of one or two birds, other than 15 at C.S.M. Sept. 11 (PF). Twenty mi offshore of Cape Canaveral were 150 Red-necked and 300 Red phalaropes Sept. 10 (JJ, DC, v.o.). Unusual onshore were lone Red-neckeds at C.S.M. Sept. 11 (PF) and Merritt Island N.W.R. Sept. 12 (JB, RP).

Twenty-one Pomarine, six Parasitic, and 31 unidentified jaegers were 28 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral Oct. 30 (JJ, DC, v.o.), and 157 jaegers were recorded during November from the Lake Worth Pier, with a high of 116 on Nov. 19 (HPL, TT). A light morph **South Polar Skua** flew within 50 feet of the pier Nov. 28 († HPL, † BVM) and was carefully studied through a scope for 10 minutes as it landed 150 feet from the pier and drifted north. The most notable of several Lesser Black-backed Gulls was a very early adult at Matanzas Inlet Sept. 8 (JCB), and the only Black-legged Kittiwake was 20 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral Nov. 14 (JJ). Very rare anytime in Pinellas, a Gull-billed Tern was at Ft. De Soto Sept. 6–7 (B & LA, AM, v.o.). Although Sandwich Terns were formerly very rare in Polk, C.S.M. had 78 on Aug. 20 (PF), possibly post-breeding wanderers from the Tampa Bay colonies that have likewise increased over the past few years. As dusk approached on Oct. 18 over 1000 Com. Terns came in to rest at Honeymoon Island S.R.A. (LA, JD), and 1200 migrated 20 mi offshore of Cape Canaveral Nov. 14 (JJ). Hopefully, a Dovekie that flew by the Lake Worth Pier Nov. 25 († HPL) was not the same as a dead one retrieved from the Ft. Lauderdale Wild Animal Care Center Nov. 28 (\* to F.A.U.).

**PIGEONS TO HUMMINGBIRDS** — White-crowned Pigeons rarely stray far from the immediate coast, so three at Kendall Nov. 13 (SW) were surprising. Submitted too late for the Summer Report were discoveries of a roost harboring both Eurasian Collared-Doves and White-winged Doves at Sebring June 6 and of one with 12 White-wingeds at Avon Park June 20 (BM). Another mixed-species roost was discovered at Haines City this fall (CLG). No details accompanied the report of a "Ringed Turtle-Dove" at St. Marks Light Oct. 4 (CG), but collared-doves have been found farther w. at Destin and are expanding rapidly, making the latter a more plausible identification. Numerous reports of lone White-wingeds scattered throughout the Region probably involved some w. strays, although the species also seems to be expanding its range, albeit rather slowly. Eight Black-billed Cuckoos at Ft. De Soto Sept. 7 (LA, AM) was an unprecedented number at one location, yet only four Yellow-billed were found. The only other Black-billed outside Pinellas were at B.B.C.F.S.R.A. where five were tallied Aug. 28–Sept. 28 (DL, KS, MW, VE *et al.*). At least four calling Mangrove Cuckoos at Cockroach and Little Cockroach bays in Hillsborough Aug. 4 (GP, DG) indicated a strong possibility of nesting (see Summer Report), but six (an unusually high count) at B.B.C.F.S.R.A., Sept. 21 (MW, VE) were migrants.

A downy young Com. Barn-Owl was turned in to the Ft. Lauderdale Wild Animal Care Center Nov. 14 (JB, ER). At Ft. De Soto Park, its first-ever Osprey nest built last spring and apparently taken over by a pair of Great Horned Owls (also a park first, see 1987 Fall Report) was blown down by Tropical Storm Keith, quashing hopes that the owls would successfully nest in the park. A Burrowing Owl Oct. 19 at the Key Deer Ref., Big Pine Key (DH, TW), was possibly a wanderer from Marathon, where the species breeds. From Jacksonville to Lake Placid came reports of skies filled with Com. Nighthawks during early September's bizarre weather. At Gainesville Sept. 6 (JH), 1200 flew over at the rate of 100/minute, and in Pinellas a scheduled count Sept. 10 (PGT, m.ob.) produced 2011. A Whip-poor-will calling at Sopchoppy Aug. 27 (BHS) was thought to be the Tall. Div.'s earliest-ever. Rarely heard in s. Florida, two were "whipping" at s. Miami Oct. 20 (BN), and two others were banded at Casey Key Oct. 9 & 28 (A & SS).

Adult ♂ Rufous Hummingbirds were at Ft. Pierce Sept. 22

(H & WD) and at Snake Bight Trail Oct. 22 (KS, PB), but the identity of two other *Selasphorus* was uncertain: an immature or female at a Tallahassee feeder Oct. 20–Nov. 30 (DY) where it or similarly-plumaged ones have spent the past 2 winters, and one with both rufous and green on the back at a Cedar Key feeder Oct. 25–29 (DTF, DCH) where a probable ♂ Allen's fed last spring (see Spring Report).

**FLYCATCHERS TO WAXWINGS** — An astounding 57 E. Wood-Pewees at Ft. De Soto Park Sept. 7 (B & LA, AM) were the most ever there, and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary had more than usual during the last 2 weeks of September. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was banded at Casey Key Sept. 20 (A & SS), and calling Least Flycatchers were at 2 locations. Ft. De Soto Park had four Sept. 9 (B & LA, LH, m.ob.—ph, videotaped and recorded), and St. George I. hosted one Sept. 10 (HMS) and three Sept. 25 (LA, LH, v.o.). A **Say's Phoebe** at St. George I. Sept. 10 (JEC) was only the state's 5th. A ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher near St. Marks Light Sept. 28 (CG) was outshined by a male that returned by season's end to its 1987 winter home at Sun City (FS, m.ob.). Although rare but regular along the coasts, W. Kingbirds are most unusual inland. Three were at Canal 1 and State Rd. 832, Hendry, Oct. 19 (HMS), one was flying N at Newnan's Lake, Alachua, Oct. 22 (MR), and another stopped at Southport, Osceola, Oct. 23 (CLG). The inclement weather at the peak of the E. Kingbird migration forced down thousands with high totals of 865 at Jacksonville Sept. 1 & 7 (JPC), 681 at Winter Haven Sept. 8 (PF), and 1200 near Lake Placid Sept. 8–9 (FEL). Especially rare in the interior, six Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were in s. Polk during the latter part of the season (v.o.) and another was at Cannon Hammock Park, Hendry, Nov. 4 (JB, ER). One at Cedar Key Nov. 6 (RKR) was the first there since May 1983 (*vide* BPM).

An impressive 2000 N. Rough-winged Swallows fed at Loxahatchee N.W.R. Nov. 15 (VF), the Tall. Div. had a high count of 18 Cliff Swallows near St. Marks Light Aug. 30 (BHS), and windy weather grounded a late Cave Swallow at Key West Sept. 13 (JAO). There are a few summer records for Blue Jay at St. George I. at the e. end, but breeding has not been confirmed. Because of the early date, five at the w. end Aug. 11 (BHS, RW) were thought to be a resident group possibly evolving from jays at the e. end. A Carolina Chickadee discovered at the island on the same date was one of few ever there (BHS, RW). Golden-crowned Kinglets arrived early and "in large numbers" in the Tall. Div. (HMS, DY), and were even considered "fairly common" by season's end as far south as Gainesville (BPM). Twenty Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at one site at Key West Aug. 14 (JAO) was amazing. A Swainson's Thrush banded at Casey Key last May returned to the nets Oct. 10 (A & SS), and a Wood Thrush was late at Jacksonville Oct. 22–24 (JPC). Unprecedented early arrivals were 50 Am Robins at Gainesville Sept. 6 (TAW) and a total of four robins and six Gray Catbirds at St. Marks Light near Sopchoppy Sept. 19 (BHS). Another very early arrival involved two Cedar Waxwings at Key West Oct. 11 (JAO).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A rare Bell's Vireo banded at Casey Key Oct. 1 (A & SS) was only the 2nd for the station (see 1987 Fall Report Addendum) and one of few for the Region in recent times. Philadelphia Vireos were even more scarce than usual with only four reliable reports. The earliest visited Dunedin Hammock in Pinellas Oct. 1 (B & LA *et al.*) where the species is a rare but regular fall migrant. Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary had its first-ever Oct. 8 (LR), and others

were quite rare at Ft Pierce Oct 13 (H & WD) and in the Tall Div at Alligator Pt, Oct 19 (BHS) Red-eyed Vireos numbered in the hundreds at Ft. De Soto Park Sept. 7 (B & LA, AM, SD) although they were moving through the vegetation so rapidly that it was impossible to get an accurate count, and a total of 187 still remained at several locations in Pinellas Sept. 10 (LH, m ob.). The decline in territorial Black-whiskered Vireos and Prairie Warblers continues to push rapidly southward. For the first time, there was "none seen, heard, or banded this spring, summer, or fall" at Casey Key (A & SS) where both species were previously common. There was no mention of suspected cause, although Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism appears to be the main factor farther north (see 1987 Fall Report).

A late Blue-winged Warbler at Merritt Island N.W.R. Oct. 26 (DS) was an e. coast rarity. Pinellas had a total of three "Brewster's" hybrids Sept. 7-10 (B & LA *et al.*, JF, KN); one at B B C.F.S.R.A., Sept. 24 (MW) was thought to be a Dade first. Exceptional at one location, B.B.C.F.S.R.A. had five Nashvilles Sept 19 (DL). The only others were at St. George I. Oct. 4 (JEC, JMS) and Oct. 22 (SC). High warbler counts included 53 Blackburnians, 49 Prothonotaries, 32 Worm-eatings, 57 N. Waterthrushes, and 38 Hoodeds at Ft. De Soto Park Sept. 7 (B & LA, AM, SD), and 14 Golden-wingeds, nine Chestnut-sideds, 11 Ceruleans, and 72 Black-and-whites in Pinellas Sept. 10 (B & LA, LH, m.ob.). Early were a Magnolia Warbler at Ft. De Soto Park Sept. 7 (B & LA *et al.*), a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Casey Key Aug. 27 (A & SS), and a Palm Warbler at St. George I. Sept. 10 (HMS). Late migrants included a ♂ Black-throated Blue at s. Jacksonville Nov. 7-9 (JPC), a Bay-breasted at Casey Key Nov. 23-25 (A & SS), and an Am. Redstart inland at Homestead Nov. 13 (JCO). Ceruleans appeared in greater numbers than usual, including six on the s.e. coast where they are normally rare (m.ob.). All six Swainson's Warblers were in Pinellas and at Casey Key including the earliest at Dunedin Hammock Park Aug. 21 (LA) and the latest at Casey Key Sept. 14 (A & SS). A Connecticut Warbler at B B C.F.S.R.A., Oct. 2 (ALo) was a very rare fall find and, rather rare anytime, ♀ Mourning Warblers were at Ft. De Soto Park Sept. 9 (LA, m.ob.) and at Birch S.P., Ft Lauderdale, Sept. 18 (WG *et al.*). The only Wilson's were at Ft. De Soto Park Oct 22 (LA) and Gainesville Nov. 11 (MH), and the earliest of five Canada Warblers visited Ft. De Soto Park Sept. 7 (LA, SD, AM) and the latest was at B.B.C.F.S.R.A., Sept. 23 (DL). The only Yellow-breasted Chats were rare fall migrants in the Tall Div. at St. George I. Sept. 25 (LA) and at Mashles I. Oct. 16 (BHS).

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — Two Blue-gray Tanagers frequenting a Kendall neighborhood in September were thought to be recent escapees, but a ♀ Stripe-headed Tanager at B B C.F.S.R.A., Sept. 5 (KS *et al.*) was apparently a Bahamian stray Early migrants in the S. Pen. were a molting Summer Tanager at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Aug. 22 (PH), and an Indigo Bunting at Casey Key Oct. 1 (A & SS). Clay-colored Sparrows at Markham Park, Broward, Oct. 7 (JB, ER), at n. Key Largo Oct. 16 (WH), and at Taylor Slough, E.N.P., Nov. 7 (SW), and Lark Sparrows at Cedar Key Sept. 9 (BPM, JTD, PL), at Ft De Soto Park Oct. 29 (LA, JD), and at St. George I. Nov. 16 (JEC) were rarely encountered w. strays. Grasshopper Sparrows are very rare in the Keys, but one of three was singing atop a tombstone at the Key West Cemetery Nov. 5 (K & TI)! Another rare visitor, Lincoln's Sparrow, was at Paynes Prairie Nov 23 (ML), at St. George I. Oct. 4 (JEC), and near Tallahassee Nov 7 (TM). A White-crowned Sparrow at St. George I. Oct. 4 (JEC, JMS) tied the earliest Florida record, but was almost upstaged by one at Key West Oct. 6 (JAO) that was not only very early, but unusually far south. Also farther s. than usual were one at Long Pine Key, E.N.P., Oct. 30 (DJO *et al.*), four w of West Palm Beach Nov. 9 (KG), and another in the Keys at Grassy Key Nov. 13 (MB, AW, CW).

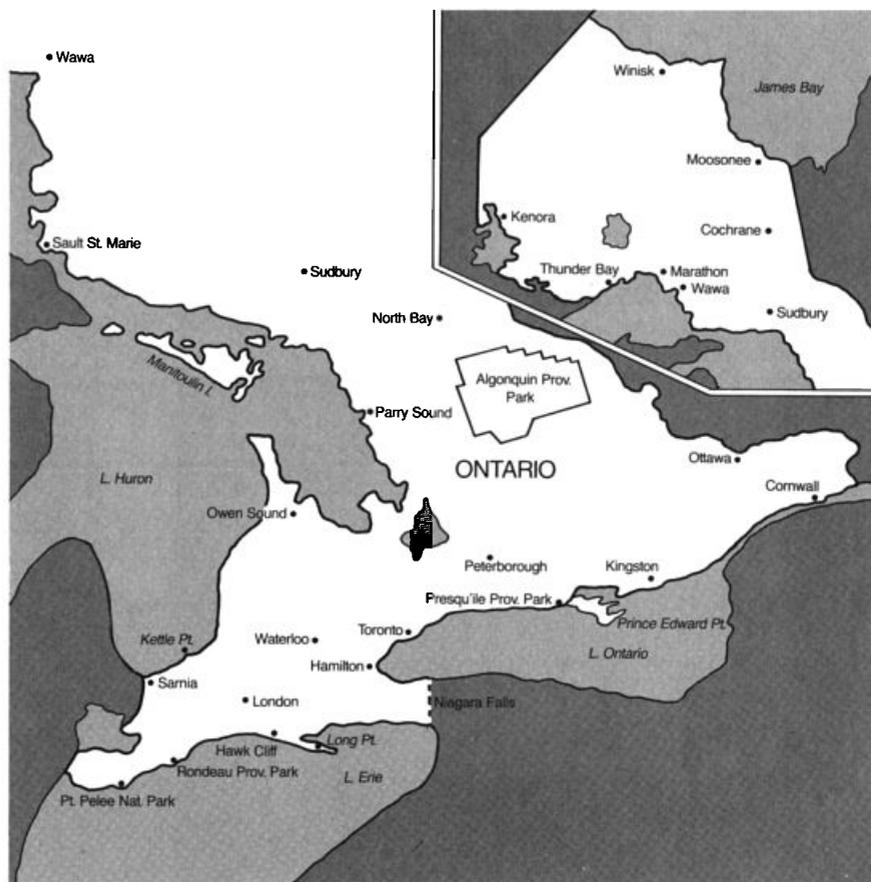
Cedar Key had an imm ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird Sept 18, and immatures and ad females were there Sept 24-25 (DCH). Early so far south, an imm. Yellow-headed Blackbird was at a Key West feeder Sept. 14, and an immature and female were feeding there Oct. 7 (JAO). An ad. ♂ Yellow-headed and a male and two ♀ Bronzed Cowbirds were at a dumpster on Key West Nov. 5 (K & TI). A Shiny Cowbird that frequented a n. Jacksonville feeder during the summer (see Summer Report) remained through the end of August (*vide* PP). At least six males and an undetermined number of females and immatures were flocking with a large concentration of Brown-headed Cowbirds in Dade near E.N.P., Aug. 12 (CM), and up to 11 visited a Key West feeder Aug. 31-Oct. 9 (JAO). Orchard Orioles are usually gone by the end of August, but one lingered at St. George I. Sept. 10 (HMS). A "pink" House Finch w. of West Palm Beach Sept. 30 (AL), the 3rd such on the s.e. coast, was thought to be an escapee although some of many that appeared in Tallahassee last winter remained through the summer. However, no breeding was confirmed there. Normally mid-October arrivals in the Tall Div., two Am. Goldfinches near St. Marks Light Sept. 19 (BHS) and 10 in Tallahassee Sept. 24 (DY) were unexpected, but were thought to be a result of a southward expansion of the breeding range.

**CORRIGENDA** — What was reported to be the first n.w. Florida specimen of Swainson's Hawk (AB 42:61) was reexamined and determined to be a Red-tailed Hawk (*vide* HMS). A hummingbird in Tallahassee erroneously reported to have been confirmed by Nancy Newfield as a Black-chinned (AB 42:255) was actually confirmed by Newfield and other experts as an Anna's Hummingbird, the state's first. The 1988 Spring Report (AB 42:425) correctly reported the Anna's but did not clarify that it was the same as the purported Black-chinned.

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# ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir



Observers at Pelee and Sarnia experienced an outstanding migration, while those from other areas described the passage as mediocre to poor, undoubtedly influenced by the presence or absence of rarities and high tallies. When all the Regional reports were integrated, the autumn season proved impressive. August was highlighted by exceptional shorebird finds in the extreme southwest and along the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. During September, heavy overflights by passerines resulted in very few groundings, and Broad-winged Hawks moved on schedule mid-month. Hurricane Gilbert helped produce two new species for the province, Magnificent Frigatebird and Bridled Tern. October's heavy hawk flights brought record numbers of vultures, Cooper's Hawks, and Merlin to Holiday Beach, where the hawk watchers tallied the lookout's one millionth raptor. Golden Eagle movement was widespread late in the month, and storms on the Great Lakes forced jaegers toward shore, where they could be viewed from land. November's milder than usual conditions in central and northern Ontario led to lingering waterfowl and a later freeze. An impressive list of rarities was accumulated this fall. Some 15 are boldfaced in the following account, of which two are first-time occurrences, and two are second records. Northern owls, woodpeckers, and finches failed to irrupt, presumably because their food supply remained adequate.

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

**LOONS TO IBISES** — Red-throated Loon numbers remained high at 160 in the south with the 60 at Kettle Pt. Nov. 11 providing the largest concentration (AHR). The only large

group of Com. Loons contained 250 birds off Whitby's Cranberry marsh Oct. 16–17 (*fide* MJB) in that species' weak flight. Horned Grebes were reported scarce everywhere except along Manitoulin I., where 100 fed Sept. 26 (JCN), and at the e. end of L. Ontario, where peak tallies were of 189 at Presqu'ile Oct. 19 (SML) and 110 at P.E. Pt. Nov. 10 (K.F.N.). At least 291 Red-necked Grebes were reported in the south, which compares with the record set in autumn 1977. The 100 and 124 off Manitoulin I. Sept. 15 and Oct. 15 (JCN, CTB, JGL), respectively, represented the largest groups. The ad. Eared Grebe at the Lindsay sewage ponds remained until Oct. 2 (RJP, RGT *et al.*), and singles at Kettle Pt. Oct. 23 (SAC *et al.*) and Nov. 13 (AHR) raise to five the total for the year (the 1972–1987 annual average is seven). A possible W. Grebe was seen in flight at Presqu'ile Nov. 11 (AGC).

At least three **Northern Gannets** were at the w. end of L. Ontario, a favored site during autumn for this Ontario rarity. Two in 3rd-year plumage ranged from Bronte to Oakville Oct. 2–6 (D. Perks, DSa), and a first-year bird appeared at Hamilton Beach Nov. 6 (AJ *et al.*). Postbreeding concentrations of Double-crested Cormorant were impressive, indicative of the species' recovery. These included 3200 at Pelee Sept. 11 (PY, AW, WFS), 3000 each at P.E. Pt. Sept. 5 (K.F.N.) and Presqu'ile Sept. 21 (J & JT), and 1500 in e. Hamilton Bay Aug. 21 (RDO).

Ontario's first **Magnificent Frigatebird** was probably propelled by hurricane Gilbert from its tropical oceanic haunts to appear in the Sarnia–Port Huron area Sept. 28. Alert observers recorded the field marks and obtained a diagnostic photograph as the bird chased gulls (AHR, DFR *et al.*). The postbreeding wandering by the Great Egret was strong, and at least 24 birds were away from the traditional southwest. Singles reached the Saugeen Indian Reserve Aug. 10 (JWJ) and Kingston Aug. 3 (MJE), seven were near Brighton Aug. 9 (SML, IR), and three were near Grafton Sept. 25 (ERM). The only Snowy Egret reported was at Pelee Sept. 2–10 (AW) for one of only a few fall occurrences there. Single Little Blue Herons

Although passing south of the Region, the likely effects of Hurricane Gilbert brought 3 reports of frigatebirds, most of which were clearly identified as **Magnificent Frigatebirds**. A male and female were watched soaring for 4–5 hours until dark with or near 50–60 Turkey Vultures at the Great Salt Plains N.W.R., *Alfalfa*, OK, Sept. 22 by Steve Metz. Lucky Steve and company noted a ♀ frigatebird, perhaps the same female seen at the Salt Plains, about 100 mi to the east of Oologah Sept. 25. Another sighting of a ♀ frigatebird, most probably a Magnificent, was made Oct. 10 south of Hill City, Graham, KS, by Scott and Diane Seltman. These furnished the 6th through 8th records of frigatebirds (mostly or most likely Magnificent) in Oklahoma and the 3rd record of frigatebird for Kansas. One recent specimen of a Great Frigatebird is known from Oklahoma.

were at Kettle Pt. Aug. 11 (AHR) and London Sept. 11 (LC). Since 1981, sightings of this species have averaged one per autumn. Only four Cattle Egrets were noted, which continued the erratic autumn showing by this species. The adult at Wildwood L., Oxford, Sept. 9 provided the 2nd record for the county (JMH). Singles were on Barrie I. near Manitoulin I. Oct. 14 (RCa), at the Wiarton lagoons Nov. 24–26 (JWJ *et al.*), and near Walsingham Nov. 27–Dec. 2 (MWD *et al.*). An imm. ibis (sp.) was at Long Pt. Aug. 19 (JMH) for the area's 2nd ever in autumn, and another ibis (sp.) appeared at Holiday Beach Oct. 23 (AC *et al.*). Some 16 ibises have occurred during the past 13 autumns.

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS** — Single Greater White-fronted Geese appeared with Canadas at Ottawa Oct. 8–Nov. 30 (JVG, WEG *et al.*) and near Wiarton Oct. 18 (PDM). The species is extremely rare during autumn anywhere in the south. The Snow Goose flight was again strong. The largest flocks contained 1600 at Guelph L. Oct. 30 (RVT) and 600 over Hawk Cliff on the same day (DAM). However, Brant numbers were lower. The 500 at Ottawa Oct. 30 (BMD) were the largest number by far reported, and one straggler was at Pelee Oct. 30 (JBa, DShr). The 6000 Am. Black Ducks at

Wildwood L., Oxford (JMH), were noteworthy for this declining species. Record high tallies included the 650 Blue-winged Teal at Pelee Aug. 31 (AW, RGF) and 318 N. Shovelers Oct. 13 and 223 Gadwall Oct. 8 in Ottawa (BMD). The ♂ Eur Wigeon in Ottawa Sept. 11–Oct. 29 (TFMB, GP *et al.*) raised the year's total in Ontario to five, equaling the 1980–1987 annual average. The strong migration of Am. Wigeon was highlighted by several thousands at Long Pt. Nov. 6 (L.P.B.O.), 500 at Kingston Oct. 9 (JHE), and 435 in Ottawa Oct. 8 (BMD).

The ♀ King Eider at Niagara Falls Nov. 11–27 (*fide* RFA) and the imm. male at Presqu'île Nov. 13 & 19 (TFMB) were the only two reported. An average of 12 had been noted 1982–1987. For the 2nd consecutive fall six Harlequin Ducks were noted, fewer than the 1980–1987 average of eight. The female at Pelee Oct. 30 was the 6th ever there (AW), and another on Manitoulin Nov. 26–28 was the island's 5th (CTB, JCN). Other singles were females at Port Hope Nov. 9–10 (ERM) and Kettle Pt. Nov. 16 (JMH, JH) and males at 2 sites in the Toronto area Nov. 10 & 12 (LF, RLB). Record high counts of scoters at Pelee were of 51 Blacks and 95 Surfs Oct. 20 (AW). The 2 reports of Barrow's Goldeneye were half the 1982–1987 fall average. A male and female were in Ottawa Oct. 23 & 30 (BMD), respectively. Red-breasted Merganser numbers were high again. Peaks included the 32,000 at Pelee Oct. 30 (AW, KJB) and 300 off Oshawa and Whitby Oct. 18–27 (*fide* MJB). Two interesting reports were received of rare hybrids involving a Ring-necked x Wood Duck at Ottawa Oct. 13 (BMD) and an ad. ♂ Barrow's x Common Goldeneye at Cornwall (BMD, PRM). Several late dates were set by ducks lingering within Algonquin and included a Black Scoter Nov. 4 (MR, RGT), a Green-winged Teal, two White-winged Scoters, a Red-breasted Merganser, all Nov. 11, and a Ring-necked Duck Nov. 18 (MR, RAB).

Turkey Vultures continued to show increased numbers led by the record 12,365 at Holiday Beach (RLBe). Late individuals were at Pelee Nov. 30 (AW, KJB *et al.*) and at Long Pt. Dec. 4 (C & SW), where a tardy Osprey appeared Nov. 25 (RR, RDM). The imm. **American Swallow-tailed Kite** at Pelee Aug. 16–Sept. 5 (ph. JCP, GAP, JWP *et al.*) was the area's first ever in autumn and Ontario's 5th since 1978. Apparently the same individual was at Holiday Beach Aug. 25 (MAK, CS). In the south away from lookouts at Hawk Cliff and Holiday Beach, the 40 Bald Eagles constituted an average number for recent years, and the 31 N. Goshawks were typical of a nonirruptive year. The main group of 24,058 Broad-winged Hawks at Holiday Beach passed Sept. 13–15 (RLBe *et al.*). A Swainson's

**Table 1. Hawk totals at two Ontario Stations, Autumn 1988, compared with the annual average 1982–1987 inclusive.**

	Holiday Beach P.P.		Hawk Cliff	
	1988 <sup>1</sup>	1982–1987 avg.	1988 <sup>2</sup>	1982–1987 avg.
Turkey Vulture	12365*	6909	3839	2628
Osprey	97	90	71	80
Bald Eagle	37	24	30	10
Northern Harrier	1004	771	635	632
Sharp-shinned Hawk	16157	14009	7307	8088
Cooper's Hawk	903*	588	487	533
Northern Goshawk	14	41	5	29
Red-shouldered Hawk	1092	1019	243	118
Broad-winged Hawk	27420	46642	16190	2375
Red-tailed Hawk	7353	6430	2169	2696
Rough-legged Hawk	104	129	20	20
Golden Eagle	35	26	18	9
American Kestrel	3571	3274	2229	1904
Merlin	42*	22	50	28
Peregrine Falcon	15	18	13	17
Unidentified	172	324	1247	964
Totals	70381	80316	34559	20127

<sup>1</sup> (RLBe *et al.*, Aug. 25–Nov. 30, 92 days).

<sup>2</sup> (DEF *et al.*, Aug. 27–Nov. 30, 79 days).

\* Local record count.

Hawk at Long Pt Sept 22 (RR, DSh) was that area's 2nd ever. Ten have been seen in Ontario since 1981; six were in autumn. The 76 Golden Eagles in the south were above the 1978-1987 fall average of 47. In addition to those tallied at the lookouts listed in Table 1, birds were in Algonquin, Ottawa, Cornwall, Kingston, P.E. Pt., Carrying Place, Presqu'île, Peterborough, Toronto, Long Pt. area, Rondeau, Port Alma, Prairie Siding, and Pelee Sept. 16-Nov. 30. Peregrine Falcons numbered 96 in the south, as their decline continued steadily from a high of 220 in 1985.

**RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS**—The first autumn reports since 1984 of the elusive Yellow Rail were of singles in Oshawa's Second Marsh Oct. 2 (J & SM) and at Pelee Oct. 5 (BDR). Sightings of Sandhill Cranes continued to increase. Some 52 passed Hawk Cliff Nov. 21 (DAM, DEF, SEF). The adult at Pelee tarried Oct. 20-Nov. 2 (AW *et al.*) and was followed by two others there Nov. 26-27 (JNF, JMS *et al.*). Extralimital migrants to the east were three near Brighton Aug. 28-Sept. 11 (HS) and one each at Lakefield Sept. 9 (DCS) and Cobourg Sept. 24 (ERM).

The extensive mudflats at Pelee's Hillman Marsh attracted many waders and led to record high counts for 7 species and record late dates for 7 species. Among the high tallies were 191 Semipalmated Plovers and 1049 Lesser Yellowlegs Sept. 4, six W. Sandpipers Aug. 16, 1300 ad. Pectorals Aug. 20, 1075 Dunlin Oct. 28, 108 Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 4, and 27 Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 26 (AW *et al.*). The 21 Ruddy Turnstones there Nov. 1 constituted a high number for the late date (MPW).

The 60 Black-bellied Plovers over Algonquin Sept. 3 were noteworthy (RGT), and the 185 Lesser Golden-Plovers at Ottawa Sept. 5 (BMD) represented the largest number noted. The lone Am. Avocet record was at Holiday Beach Sept. 20 (AC *et al.*) for a first local sighting. Up to four Willets remained at Pelee Aug. 7-Sept. 4 (AW *et al.*), and singles were at Hamilton Aug. 20 (GN), Long Pt. Aug. 26 (RBU), Clarkson's Rattray Marsh Aug. 28 (KM), Rondeau Sept. 17 (PT), and Presqu'île Oct. 23 (G & TM) for more than the 1982-1987 fall average of eight. The 400+ Hudsonian Godwits Aug. 18-Nov. 7 provided the highest tally in the past 2 decades. Although an impressive flock of 298 was at the Embrun lagoons, Russell, Sept. 4 (BMD *et al.*), the remaining sightings were well distributed throughout the south. Accompanying this strong flight were 10+ Marbleds (the autumn average is four since 1974). Four were at Hamilton Oct. 15 (CEG), and two each visited Pelee Sept. 2-17 (AW *et al.*) and West Lorne Nov. 3 (HLL). Singles appeared at Pelee Aug. 26-Sept. 1 (AW *et al.*), P.E. Pt. Sept. 5 (RDW *et al.*), and in the Pickering-Oshawa marshes Sept. 24-Nov. 13 (BH). The 27 W. Sandpipers in the

south Aug 1-Dec 1 represented a typical number for recent autumns, but the White-rumped Sandpiper flight was weaker at 69 birds. The number of Baird's Sandpipers (145+) Aug 5-Nov. 19 was above the 1982-1987 fall average of 100 but well below the 210 of last autumn.

Two outstanding wader rarities also appeared at Pelee. The first was an ad. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** in alternate plumage Aug. 20 (ph. LHF, WHF, TS, AW)—Ontario's 2nd ever. The previous migrant was at Dundas in 1975, Nov. 26-Dec. 5 (*fide* RDJ). The 2nd rarity was the much sought after **Curlew Sandpiper** that remained Aug. 7-8 (RCS *et al.*) to provide Pelee's first ever and Ontario's 6th autumn record. Forty-three Purples were present Oct. 30-Nov. 27 at Ottawa, P E Pt., Presqu'île, Port Hope, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Erieau, and Pelee (the 1982-1987 fall average is 24). Distributed widely were the 222+ Stilt Sandpipers in a flight similar to the very strong showing in 1983. For the 2nd consecutive autumn the flight of Buff-breasted Sandpipers was poor. Among the seven extralimital migrants were two each in Ottawa Aug. 28 (BMD *et al.*) and near Port Hope Sept. 7-8 (ERM) and singles at Presqu'île Aug. 29 (DW *et al.*), Amherst I. Sept. 10 (K.F.N.), and Oshawa Sept. 10-13 (GAS, MK *et al.*). Three Ruffs were reported, a high tally for this rare autumn visitor. They were a male and female in alternate plumage at Pelee Aug. 5 (JBa) & 20-23 (TS *et al.*), respectively, and a female in e. Hamilton Bay Oct 7 (BWy). Long-billed Dowitchers Aug. 11-Oct. 16 were widespread in an above-average flight of 34 (the 1982-1987 average is 22). Red-necked Phalaropes were also in above-average numbers with 47 in the south (*cf.* 31 for 1982-1987) and 36 at Pelee Aug. 16-Oct. 30 (AW *et al.*). However, the flight of the Red Phalarope was about average with 11 birds in the south Sept. 5-Nov. 3. Singles were at Ottawa, Presqu'île, Hamilton Bay, Niagara Falls, Strathroy, and Pelee, but five were tallied during a pelagic trip on L. Ontario off Hamilton Sept. 24 (RCu *et al.*).

**JAEGERS TO ALCIDS**—Jaegers flew in their best numbers since 1983. The 20 Pomarine Jaegers were 5 times the 1978-1987 fall average of four birds, led by seven along Hamilton Beach Oct. 30-Nov. 16 (*fide* KAM), three each at the Cornwall dam Nov. 9 (BMD) and Sarnia Nov. 21 (DFR). Singles were at Long Pt. Sept. 14 & 20 and Oct. 3 (GEW *et al.*), only the 3rd, 4th, and 5th there, and at Pelee Oct. 2 (AW *et al.*) for a 2nd area record. The remainder were two offshore Hamilton Sept. 24 (RCu *et al.*) and one at Kettle Pt. Sept. 5 (AHR). Some 43 Parasitic Jaegers were noted Sept. 5-Nov. 30 with 20 at Sarnia (DFR), 17 at Hamilton (KAM), and four at Long Pt. (JAH *et al.*). Singles were at Sauble Beach Oct. 28 (PDM) and Beaverton Oct. 29 (RGT, RJP). This species' 1978-1987 fall average is 27 birds. Twelve Franklin's Gulls repre-

**Table 2. Record late dates for shorebirds in Ontario, Autumn 1988.**

Killdeer	Thunder Bay	Nov. 22	SO
Greater Yellowlegs	Presqu'île	Nov. 12	TFMB
	Oxley, <i>Essex</i>	Nov. 26	AW
	Kingston	Nov. 26	K.F.N.
Ruddy Turnstone	Pelee	Nov. 13	AW, STP <i>et al.</i>
Red Knot	Pelee	Oct. 28	AW
	Presqu'île	Nov. 12	RLB
White-rumped Sandpiper	Pelee	Nov. 13	AW <i>et al.</i>
	River Canard, <i>Essex</i>	Nov. 23	JL
	Dundas	Nov. 27	RCu
Baird's Sandpiper	Pelee	Oct. 18	AW
	Presqu'île	Nov. 19	TFMB
Stilt Sandpiper	Pelee	Oct. 27	AW <i>et al.</i>
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Pelee	Oct. 30	AW
Wilson's Phalarope	Pelee	Oct. 20	AW <i>et al.</i>

sented an average number, and all but three were along the Niagara R. Sept. 20–Nov. 23. Singles appeared at Port Stanley Aug. 29 and Sept. 4 (HLL, MSS, MHF), Long Pt. Sept. 15 (JAH, DH), and Holiday Beach Oct. 15 (RLBe, EC, A. Weir). Little Gull numbers rebounded following 2 autumns of low tallies. At Long Pt. high counts were recorded Sept. 15–Nov. 30 with a peak of 266 Nov. 6 (RR *et al.*), which may stand as a record for North America. Some 30 were away from the southwest Sept. 4–Nov. 27 at Oshawa; Beaverton; Sandbanks P.P., Prince Edward; Presqu'île P.P.; Cornwall; and Pembroke. One suddenly appeared in Moosonee Nov. 16 (WH). Single Com. Black-headed Gulls were at Long Pt. Sept. 18 (RDM, BC), Cornwall Nov. 3–27 (BMD), and Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 23–25 (AGC, HGC), equaling the 1978–1987 fall average of three.

A strong flight of Bonaparte's Gulls was highlighted by 28,000 flying past Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 12 (GBe), 5000 each at Long Pt. Sept. 20 (RR) and Pelee Oct. 20 (AW), and 1500 at the Cornwall dam Sept. 4 (BMD). Ontario's 6th **California Gull** was an adult in winter plumage at the Nepean Dump Oct. 13–15 (BMD, SG, RPH, LN) for the first for the Ottawa area. The largest flocks of Herring Gull migrants noted were 65,000 at Guelph L. Nov. 14 (RVT, JEP) and 32,000 at Wildwood L., Oxford, Oct. 26 (JMH, JSk). Low numbers of Iceland (12) and Glaucous gulls (23) were reported from Oct. 13.



*Iceland Gull in fresh first-winter plumage at Thunder Bay, Ontario, November 5, 1988. Photograph/N. G. Escott.*



*Juvenile Sabine's Gull at Fort Erie, Ontario, November 12, 1988. Photograph/Brian Keelan.*

#### S.A.

The 29 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the period were the most ever as their post-1983 climb in all seasons continued. Of the 21 whose ages were reported, nine were in ad. plumage, four in that of 3rd winter, three in 2nd winter, four in first winter, and most significantly, one still in juv. plumage. The appearance of this juvenile at Pelee Aug. 18 (AW) was the first ever noted in Ontario and strongly suggests it was hatched somewhere in North America. The juv. plumage of this species is normally retained for only a few months from the time of hatch. The other individuals were at Ottawa, Presqu'île, Peterborough, Whitby, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Guelph L., Wildwood L., Long Pt., Pelee, Holiday Beach, and Kettle Pt. Aug. 1–Nov. 30.

Sightings of the 24 Black-legged Kittiwakes were restricted to traditional sites. Eight were at Kettle Pt. Sept. 5–Oct. 30 (AHR) with four in Sarnia Nov. 11–21 (DFR, SAC), five at Hamilton Beach during October and November (*fide* KAM), six at the Cornwall dam Nov. 3–13 (BMD), and one at Ft. Erie to Niagara Falls (GBe, WD *et al.*). The 1977–1987 fall average is 38 sightings. For the 2nd consecutive autumn Sabine's Gulls were numerous at 22 but below last fall's record of 27 (the 1977–1987 fall average is only five!). The species first appeared at Beaverton, Durham, Sept. 6 (AGC) and was last found at Ft. Erie Nov. 13 (*fide* RFA). The Hamilton area hosted 12 immatures, Niagara Falls four, Cornwall three, and Kettle Pt. and Lindsay one each. An imm. **Ivory Gull** was viewed at close range in Moosonee Nov. 19 (WH) for this species' 3rd provincial record since 1979.

An imm. **Bridled Tern** at Long Pt.'s tip Sept. 20 was probably a spin-off from Hurricane Gilbert and constituted Ontario's first ever (JAH, DH, JCh). Another rarity, an ad. **Sandwich Tern** at Niagara-on-the-Lake Oct. 7 was nicely described (GBe). Perhaps the same bird from the spring and summer sightings on L. Ontario was involved. Impressive flocks of Com. Terns contained 5500 birds at Long Pt. Sept. 30 (GEW *et al.*) and 1500 on Amherst I. Sept. 10 (K.F.N.). Late Commons were on Wolfe I. Nov. 5 (WJP *et al.*), Long Pt. Nov. 10 (RDM), and Whitby and Sarnia Nov. 12 (DDC, DFR). Other noteworthy tern sightings were of single Arctics at Ottawa Sept. 4–5 (RAB *et al.*) and Woodstock Oct. 10 (JMH, JSk), two Forster's each in the Whitby area Sept. 12 (BH, KH) and Presqu'île Sept. 13 (J & JT) with singles at Ottawa Sept. 5 (BMD *et al.*) and Pickering Aug. 15 (BH). A **Dovekie** was found alive, but dying, at St. Catharines Oct. 23 (JBU, RDJ) and is now in the Royal Ontario Museum. Six are known in Ontario from 1924 to 1963, the year of the last occurrence.

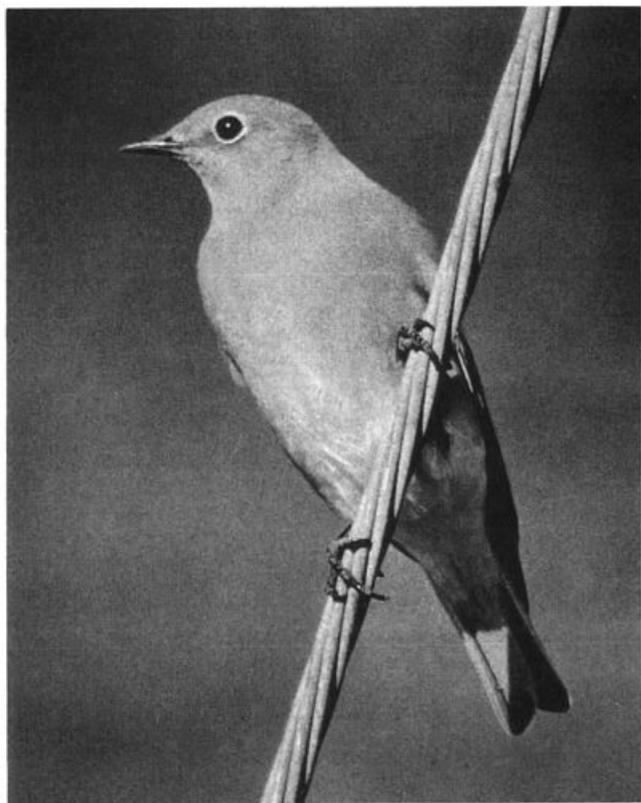
**PIGEONS TO SHRIKES**— One **Band-tailed Pigeon** remained in Wabigoon Oct. 26–Nov. 5 (JJ, *fide* RDJ) for Ontario's first since 1981 and 7th since 1930. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Thunder Bay Aug. 5 (KC) was the area's first in 4 years, and another was north to Sudbury Sept. 24 (CGB). Ontario's 5th **Groove-billed Ani** was at Bright's Grove Oct. 9–13 (ph. BW, GEW *et al.*). Single Great Gray Owls were south of range in Algonquin Sept. 5 (ph. GF *et al.*); near Eganville, Renfrew, Oct. 22 (DF); and Orillia Nov. 22 (CC). The only Boreal Owl reported was netted Nov. 12 at P.E. Pt. (CF), where 204 N. Saw-whets were banded in an average flight (K.F.N.). Another 91 were ringed at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.). An imm. ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** tarried at Waterford near Long Pt. Nov. 7–15 (BD). The only out-of-range Red-headed Woodpecker was the immature at Marathon Oct. 6–8 (AW *et al.*), and a N. Flicker (Red-shafted) was east to Thunder Bay Nov. 18–30 (NGE). Five W. Kingbirds were found, exceeding the 1982–1987 fall average of three. Singles were at Deep R. Aug. 24 (W & PW),

Toronto's e. Headland Aug. 25 (IR, AJ), Long Pt. Aug. 31 (TW et al.), Rock Point P.P. Sept. 11-12 (DC, RWK), and along Toronto's Ashbridge Bay Oct. 4 (DD). The ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher along the n. boundary of Algonquin, Nipissing, Aug. 2-3 (ph. WC, MKo) was Ontario's first for 1988. Three per year are the 1982-1987 annual average. Among latest departure dates were the Chimney Swift at Presqu'île Oct. 27 (DEP); Ruby-throated Hummingbird Sept. 30 and Great-crested Flycatcher Sept. 22, both at Thunder Bay (SVP, NGE); E. Wood-Pewee Oct. 22, N. Rough-winged Swallow Nov. 11, and Bank Swallow Oct. 22, all at Pelee (AW, STP, MPW et al.); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Toronto Oct. 16 (DL); Least Flycatcher Oct. 16, E. Kingbird Sept. 25, and Cliff Swallow Nov. 2, all at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.); Tree Swallow at Blenheim Nov. 27 (SC); and N. Rough-winged Swallow at Niagara Falls Nov. 12 (GBe, WD et al.).

The only Gray Jay south of range appeared near Wellington, Prince Edward, Nov. 24 (KJ). Three Com. Ravens were over Whitby Oct. 3 (DDC et al.), and two migrated with raptors at P.E. Pt. Oct. 29 (RDW). The only Tufted Titmouse sightings were of singles at Pelee Aug. 15-18 (DC et al.) and Leamington Oct. 31-Nov. 9 (GAP et al.) and four at feeders in the Burlington-Waterdown area during November (fide KAM). Red-breasted Nuthatch movement was light in the south, and the 20 reports of White-breasted Nuthatches at Thunder Bay Sept. 3-Nov. 30 reflected a mini-invasion (fide NGE). Since 1985, Carolina Wren numbers have risen steadily in all seasons, and this autumn's 55 maintained that trend. Some 44 and four were in the traditional southwest and Niagara, respectively. The seven elsewhere were two in Ottawa mid-November (fide BMD) and singles at Howdenvale, Bruce, Aug. 28 (JW); Kingston Sept. 2-Nov. 30 (VPM); Presqu'île Sept. 3-Nov. 12 (J & JT et al.); Port Hope Sept. 11 (ERM); and north to Marathon Oct. 8 (SVP, JLO et al.). A ♀ Mt. Bluebird tarried at Rosspoint Oct. 6-7 (SM, JWF et al.). At least four Gray-cheeked

Thrushes (Bicknell's race) were banded at Long Pt. Sept. 6-Oct. 8 (L.P.B.O.), and the largest group of Am. Robins reported were of 5000 on Amherst I. Oct. 29 (GY et al.). Two Varied Thrushes were at Wabigoon Oct. 26-early November (ph. LCa, RDJ). The vanguard of a weak flight of Bohemian Waxwings reached Thunder Bay Oct. 16 (fide NGE), Peterborough Oct. 21 (JSa), and Whitby Oct. 28 (MJB et al.). Single N. Shrikes were early near Kingston Oct. 10 (RDW) and at Toronto Oct. 16 (DP). Eight Loggerhead Shrikes were reported in the south Aug. 19-Nov. 6. Late departures in this group included the House Wren at Pelee Nov. 26 (AW, MLC), Gray Catbirds at Whitby Nov. 27 (fide MJB) and Atikokan Nov. 19 (DHE), and Brown Thrasher at Atikokan Nov. 20 (FK).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — The Yellow-throated Vireo at Cambridge Oct. 3 (NT) was late for Waterloo, and the ad. Philadelphia Vireo at Walsingham Aug. 9 (JMH) was early for the Long Pt. area. Blue-winged Warblers numbered up to 10 per day during August at Walsingham (L.P.B.O.), where single "Brewster's" hybrids were banded Aug. 12 & 26 (JMH, PC), and an ad. ♂ "Lawrence's" hybrid was seen Aug. 10 (JMH). The Nashville Warbler at Long Pt. Nov. 26 represented a record late departure (JSK, RSK), and the latest Black-throated Blue Warblers were singles at Thunder Bay Nov. 7 (BA) and Woodstock Nov. 7 (JMH). Single Yellow-throated Warblers turned up in Toronto's High Park Sept. 17 (GC) and at Niagara Falls Nov. 12 (C & SW). Nine have been found during the past 7 autumns. Three Prairie Warblers were noted at Pelee Aug. 18 (AW), Pickering Aug. 29 (MJB), and Rondeau P.P. Sept. 23 (MWD). Record late Am. Redstarts were singles at Pelee Nov. 13 (AW) and Long Pt. Nov. 15 (L.P.B.O.). The juv. Worm-eating Warbler banded at Walsingham Aug. 26 (JMH, PC, DSG) was of special interest, since Ontario is still without confirmed breeding for this species. One N. Waterthrush on Manitoulin I. Oct. 2 (CTB) provided a late record, as did the Hooded Warbler Sept. 28 at Walsingham, where 68 Hoodeds were banded up to Sept. 15 (L.P.B.O.).



Female Mountain Bluebird at Rosspoint, Lake Superior, Ontario, October 6-7, 1988. Photograph/Alan Wormington.



Dickcissel at Sudbury, Ontario, September 22, 1988. Photograph/C. G. Blomme.

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — One Summer Tanager was in the Thunder Bay area Oct. 16 (AGH et al.), and another visited a feeder in N. Bay Dec. 4 (ph. RT). Only 3 autumn records are known for Ontario since 1979. Late Scarlet Tanagers were a female at Dwight Oct. 23-24 (DT, RGT) and one

at a Thunder Bay feeder Nov. 7 (BA). The 16 N. Cardinals at Thunder Bay late in the period constituted an invasion (*fide* NGE) when compared with the usual one every 3 or 4 years. The latest of several tardy Indigo Buntings was a single at Thunder Bay Oct. 23 (HGE). Following this past summer's Dickcissel invasion, 14 were noted in the extreme southwest Aug. 12–Sept. 18 (AW *et al.*, JMH), and a female remained in Sudbury Sept. 15–23 (ph. D & SL, CGB *et al.*) for that area's 3rd ever. Among late sparrows were the Chipping at Presqu'île Nov. 11 (BC), Clay-colored at Marathon Oct. 6 (NGE *et al.*) and Cabot Head Oct. 7 (TC), and a Vesper at Thunder Bay Nov. 5 (SVP). The imm. ♂ Lark Bunting at Pelee Aug. 29 (AW *et al.*) was that area's first in autumn and Ontario's first in fall since 1983. The two Henslow's Sparrows reported were at P.E. Pt. Aug. 23 (MWD) and Presqu'île Sept. 11 (J & JT). A strong flight of Sharp-taileds was noted Sept. 16–Nov. 11. The 18 birds were at Deep R.; Embrun, Russell; Amherst I.; Presqu'île; Oshawa; Toronto; Dundas; and Pelee. Late were the singles at Pelee Nov. 9 (AW) and Mississauga Nov. 11 (MM). An imm. **Golden-crowned Sparrow** at Long Pt. P.P. Oct. 20 (ph. JMH, WL, RCh) was the first for Long Pt. and 6th for Ontario.

Extremely late were the single Bobolinks at Rosspoint Oct. 7 (AW *et al.*) and Marathon Oct. 6–8 (AW, JLO, TRS *et al.*). Only three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted at Long Pt. Aug. 13 (AMT), Walsingham Aug. 15 (RDM), and Pelee Aug. 15 (CML, DC). Ontario's 2nd **Great-tailed Grackle** was ensconced at Port Rowan Nov. 19–Dec. 4 (DAS, SLH *et al.*). This occurrence was only 13 months after the province's first ever. The largest flocks of Com. Grackles were of 50,000 at Ingersoll in late September (DBu). Some 15,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds flew off S from Pelee's tip Oct. 23 (AW, STP). Tardy N. Orioles were at Long Pt. Oct. 15 (L.P.B.O.) and Thunder Bay Oct. 19 (E & RB).

Finches failed to irrupt from the breeding areas in any numbers. The flight of Purple Finches was light everywhere in the south except at Holiday Beach, where 1095 passed Sept. 7–Dec. 1 (*fide* AC). The five House Finches at a Sudbury feeder Nov. 11–30 (D & SL) caused great excitement there as the species continued its spread N. Only six Red Crossbills were noted south of the boreal forest Aug. 31–Oct. 29. White-winged Crossbills remained common from Marathon east to Matachewan and Algonquin, but south of this axis very few were reported. Common Redpolls reached areas from Matachewan west to Thunder Bay Oct. 11–16, and the only others reported were a few at Dwight and Algonquin Oct. 23 (RGT) and five passing P.E. Pt. Oct. 23 (JHE, RDW). Pine Siskins were widespread but in low numbers. Evening Grosbeaks remained in the nesting forests except for a few isolated flocks in the south during late November.

**CORRIGENDA** — AB 42:259 column 2, line 8, replace Beachburg by Beachburg; AB 42:260 column 2, line 24, for Rose-breasted Grosbeak delete "Two others . . . in early December"; AB 42:427 column 1, line 50, for Eared Grebe replace Apr. 21 (R. Bon) by May 8 (R. Bullman); AB 42:428 column 1, line 55, for Willet replace Long Pt. May 17 and June 5 (L.P.B.O.) by Long Pt. May 17, June 5 & 8 and two on June 9 (TW, JHu); AB 42:428 column 2, line 56, for Bonaparte's Gull replace 1800 immatures by 2100 immatures; AB 42:429 column 1, line 45, for Tufted Titmouse add "and one at Long Pt. May 22 (RDM *et al.*)"; AB 42:431 column 1, line 9, add "Three Ruddy Shelducks were at Long Pt. June 10 (JHu)."

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## American Birds BIRDATHON / 89

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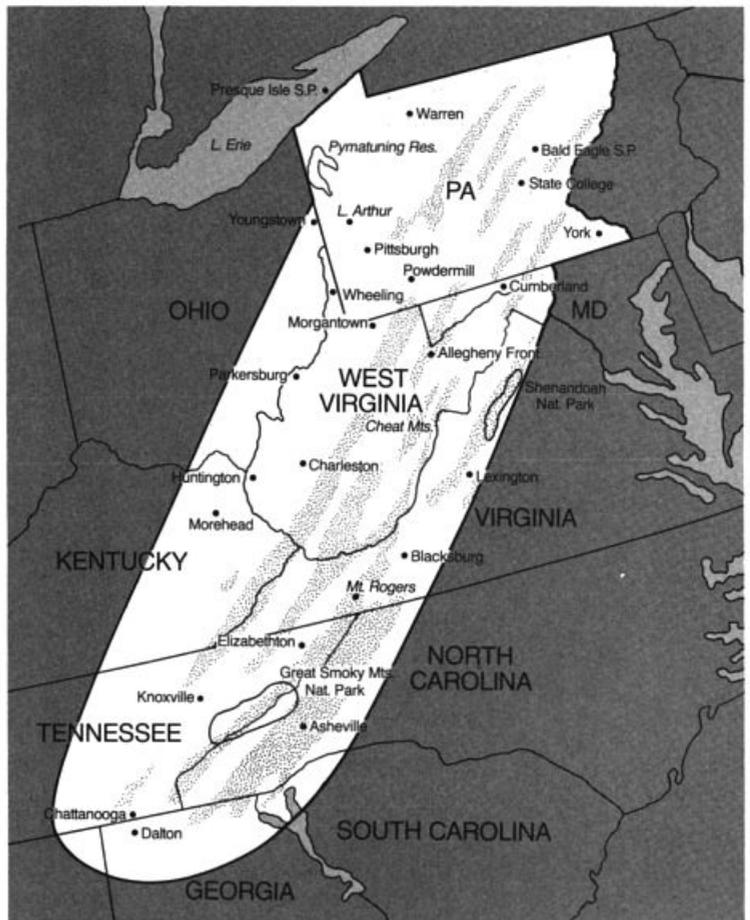
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## American Birds BIRDATHON / 89

# APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall



It was an undistinguished season. Some contributors felt that it was the poorest migration they can remember, and while many did not report things quite so bad, none found it to be a good season. The summer's drought continued into early August and was finally broken by heavy rains in mid-month. Even so, August wound up drier and hotter than normal. September had near normal temperatures and was slightly drier than usual, both at Pittsburgh and Erie. The normal mild dry weather of October was replaced with low temperatures and plenty of rainfall, but in November warmer conditions returned and rainfall was about normal. Except in the mountains, there were no snowfalls during the period.

The path of the frontal systems and the accompanying winds was not the usual one, and so migration paths may have been altered. Few pronounced fronts moved through, and there were few groundings of large numbers of birds. Despite the general low numbers of most species, an unusual number of rarities and near-rarities were reported, providing several new state and locality records. By the end of the period most observers reported very low wintering populations and low species diversity at feeders. There was no sign of a "Northern Finch" invasion.

As usual the full-time banding stations contributed many of the data. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pennsylvania, 6221 birds were banded compared with an average of 7882; at Allegheny Front Observatory, West Virginia, 6518 were banded compared with an average of 8076; at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, 653 birds were banded; at Norris, Tennessee, 644, and at Austin Springs, Tennessee, the 430 birds banded were slightly below average. In the accounts that follow, species are considered in average numbers if the number captured deviates from the mean by less than one standard deviation

of the mean and are in above- or below-average numbers if the deviation is more than one standard deviation above or below the mean.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — A.F.M.O. = Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant/Tucker, WV; B.E.S.P. = Bald Eagle State Park, Centre, PA; Ch.N.F. = Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest, GA; C.F.H. = M.E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan, KY; K.C.P.P. = Kyger Creek Power Plant, Gallia, OH; P.N.R. = Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland, PA; P.I.S.P. = Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA. Place names in italics are counties.

**LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS** — Two or three Red-throated Loons were seen at P.I.S.P. Oct. 30 (JM), and singles were reported from L. Somerset, PA, Nov. 13 (RM) and from Boone L., TN, Nov. 5-6 (RK). The flight of Com. Loons was the best in several years with many sightings throughout the Region. At P.I.S.P. 40-50 could be seen in a couple of hours in early November (JM), and 135 counted at Boone L., TN, made the 3rd largest flock on record there (BC). As usual some of the hawk-watch stations also counted loons. At Rockfish Gap, VA, 10 were counted on both Oct. 29 & 30 (SR), and at Tuscarora Mt., PA, 176 were seen Nov. 11 (CG). Horned Grebes were reported more widely than normal, but the flight at P.I.S.P. was considered poor (JM). Red-necked Grebes were seen at P.I.S.P. Nov. 3 (JM) & 12 (EK).

The Double-crested Cormorant outbreak continued, and the species was reported from all parts of the Region in locally impressive numbers. The Tussey Mt., PA, hawk counters saw a flock of 50 fly by Sept. 6 (TD). The highlights of the season were the 3 records of **Magnificent Frigatebird**. One was seen at Cherokee L., TN, Sept. 24 (ph. JH) for a first state record; one was seen flying up the Ohio R. at Cabell, WV, Sept. 29 (BT, MZ) for another first state record. These two birds occurred shortly after Hurricane Gilbert, but a later record was



Female Magnificent Frigatebird picked up in Wythe County, Virginia, October 13, 1988. Photograph/Mark Stanley.

of one found in poor physical condition near Wytheville, VA, Oct. 13 (ph. MS) for a first state record away from the ocean. This bird was cared for at a rehabilitation center and then airlifted to Florida for release.

**HERONS TO WATERFOWL** — American Bitterns were reported from Austin Springs, TN, Sept. 19 (RK); L. LeBouef, PA, in August (AE); and P.I.S.P. Oct. 8 (JM). The only report of Least Bittern was from the C.F.H. Sept. 4 (BP, DP). Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets were more widely reported and in greater numbers than usual. No doubt the limited number of ponds served to concentrate these herons. In Mercer, PA, 426 Great Blue Heron nests produced 938 fledglings (EB). The only reports of Little Blue Herons came from McMinn, TN, Aug. 28 (AH, RH) and from Morehead, KY, Oct. 23 (FB). Two Tricolored Herons were seen in Cumberland, PA, Aug. 14 and one there Aug. 20 & 21 (SSt). Cattle Egrets were seen at Austin Springs, TN, Sept. 6 (RK) and at Jennerstown, PA, at an unusual date of Nov. 19 (fide TD). Most remarkable were the 2 flocks of 32 and 16 **Glossy Ibises** seen flying S at the Tussey Mt., PA, hawk lookout (TD).

This Region is not noted for having large waterfowl flights, but the consensus this year was that the flight varied from fair to very poor, or as one contributor said, it was "unnoteworthy." The Tundra Swan flight was somewhat late, and no one reported any very large flocks. Single imm. swans on the Watauga R., TN, Oct. 30–Nov. 8 (GE) and in Meigs, TN, Nov. 12 (AH, RH) were well out of the usual flight path. A Mute Swan was at Pymatuning L., PA, Oct. 23 (RFL, ML). Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in Gallia, OH, Oct. 2–9 (WA); McClintic Wildlife Station, WV, Oct. 19; and Gallipolis Dam, WV, Oct. 25 (five, TI). Snow Geese were reported from 9 locations, from L. Erie in the north to Fincastle, VA, in the south. The hawk watchers on Tussey Mt., PA, saw eight on the very early date of Sept. 17 (TD). Canada Geese are now ubiquitous throughout the Region. At the Pymatuning Game Management Area, PA, 2500 were present Sept. 11, and the number had increased to 14,000 Nov. 18 (RFL). At P.I.S.P. four–six Brant were present Nov. 2–8 (SH), and one was seen Nov. 5–6 at Chickamauga L., TN (KD).

Dabbling ducks were in fair numbers while the divers were generally scarce, but most reporters failed to comment on comparative numbers. The Hooded Merganser was widely reported and was in good numbers with a count of 1600 at Pymatuning L., PA (AM). Some other high counts were: 115 Blue-winged Teal at the C.F.H. Sept. 4 (BP); 1000 Lesser Scaup

at P.I.S.P. Oct. 26 (JM); 10,000–15,000 Com. Goldeneyes at Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 18 (ML, RFL); 200 Ruddy Ducks on Edinboro L., Erie, PA, in late October (JHi); and 2500 transient Red-breasted Mergansers at P.I.S.P. Nov. 12 (DS). The only Oldsquaw reports came from Tamarack L., PA, Oct. 29 (ML, RFL); Colyer L., PA, Nov. 3 (KJ, JJ); and Shawnee S.P., PA, Nov. 12 (RR). Black Scoters were at Pymatuning L. Oct. 22 (AM) and at P.I.S.P. Oct. 23 (JM); Surf Scoters were at P.I.S.P. from Oct. 12 to the end of the period with 24 being counted Nov. 12 (EK) and at Koon L., PA, Nov. 12 (RR). White-winged Scoters were reported from P.I.S.P. from October to the end of the period (JM); Somerset, PA, Oct. 26 (AM); Rocky Gap L., MD, Nov. 12 (RR); and the Ohio R. in Wood, WV, Nov. 14 (LR, RJ).

**VULTURES TO CRANES** — Black Vultures were seen at the C.F.H. Sept. 16–Oct. 14, when 60 were counted (FB); at Tussey Mt., PA, as late as Oct. 4 (TD); and very late and north of the usual range at New Cumberland, PA, Nov. 27 (SSt). A count of 1000 Turkey Vultures at Townsend, TN, Oct. 10 (HW) was noteworthy.

Based on the total number of migrating raptors reported, the mountain hawk-watching stations had a below-average year (although North River Mt., WV, reported its 2nd best year—JPh). This resulted mostly from a reduction in the Broad-winged Hawk count, since several other species were in unusually high numbers. Table 1 summarizes some of the counts that submitted data. Ospreys were in good numbers at the lookouts and were also widely reported in the lowlands. At Peters Mt., WV, the count of 46 was more than double the usual numbers (GH), and 165 were counted at Rockfish Gap, VA (YL). A **Mississippi Kite** was seen at Harvey's Knob, VA, Sept. 20 (MD).

A total of 95 Bald Eagles was reported from 22 different locations. There were far more than the usual number of N. Harriers. Ten N. Goshawks were seen during the season at Bald Eagle Mt., PA (JP); two were seen at Harvey's Knob, VA (fide BK). Other reports were of singles at 4 locations in e. Tennessee (RK). Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks were both in good numbers. Rough-legged Hawks were seen as far south as Mason, WV, Oct. 18 (TI) and Harvey's Knob, VA, Nov. 28 (SN). Other records were from Erie (JM) and Warren, PA (CP, MB). A total of 76 Golden Eagles was reported from 17 different locations. Most remarkable was the count of 24 at Bald Eagle Mt., PA, Nov. 21 (JP).

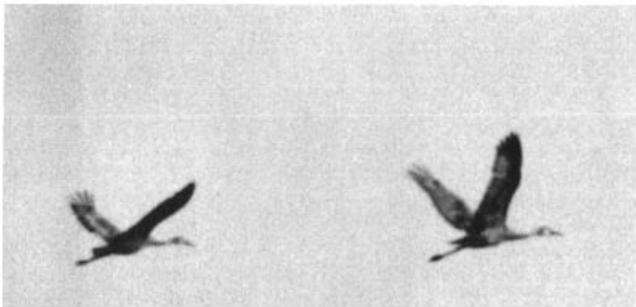
There were many more than the usual number of reports of Merlins, both from the formal hawk watches and from other locations. Four hawk-watching stations listed 20 Peregrines, and 10 more were reported from 6 other locations. A white-morph **Gyrfalcon** was seen at Tussey Mt., PA, Nov. 16 (TD).

A Ruffed Grouse in the Ch.N.F. Oct. 28 (HD) was near the s. limit of the range, and N. Bobwhites were reportedly becoming more numerous there above 3000 ft (HD). A dead **Clapper Rail** was picked up in Latrobe, PA, Sept. 13 for a first w. Pennsylvania record (fide RM). Soras were reported from Mahoning, OH, Aug. 27 (NB) and Wood, WV, Sept. 18–20 (JE). Reports of Com. Moorhens came from Mahoning, OH, Aug. 27 (NB); Hartstown, PA, Sept. 18 (fide RFL); McClintic Wildlife Station, WV, Aug. 20 (WA); and Huntington, WV, Nov. 3–19 (WA, MG).

From Nov. 2 to Dec. 7, 16 flocks of Sandhill Cranes totaling about 800 birds were reported from 8 e. Tennessee counties (CN). Cranes were also reported on several occasions from Murray, GA, Oct. 10 and Nov. 14 and at the Ch.N.F. Nov. 8 & 17 (HD). Cranes visit these locations regularly, but more unusual were the two adults that were present in Erie, PA, from late July to Sept. 10 (BS, RW) and one at the Pymatuning Game Management Area Oct. 30 (BD) and possibly the same bird there Nov. 25 (AM).



*Merlin captured for banding at Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, West Virginia, September 15, 1988. Photograph/Mike Griffith.*



*Sandhill Cranes in Erie County, Pennsylvania, September 10, 1988. Photograph/Barbara Snyder.*

**SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS** — The shorebird flight was on the low side. Some ponds had dried up completely, and even the receding water levels in L. Erie did not produce many birds. There was, however, a nice total species list with a full complement of some unusual species. Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported from P.I.S.P. and another Erie location (scarce) (JM); from New Hope, VA, Aug. 25 (SR); from Austin Springs, TN, Sept. 20–25 (RK); Boone L., TN, Oct. 1 (MDi) for the 6th and 7th records from that area; and from K.C.P.P. Nov. 2 & 9 (WA, MG). Piping Plovers were seen at the Kingston Steam Plant, TN, Aug. 19–20 (MA, BS) and at Boone L., TN, Sept. 14–16 for the first local record (RK). There were 2 reports of

Am. Avocet, at C.F.H. Sept. 4 (BP) and at Austin Springs, TN, Sept. 23 (BC et al.).

The only Willet report came from K.C.P.P. Aug. 14 (WA). The L. Erie shore at P.I.S.P. provided the only reports of Whimbrels, Aug. 11–Sept. 17, with 10 Sept. 5 (JM); Hudsonian Godwit, Sept. 5 (JM et al.); Ruddy Turnstone, 35 Aug. 6 (EK) and 30 Sept. 5 (DS); and Red Knot, Aug. 6, Sept. 5, and Oct. 3 (JM et al.). Unusual at inland locations, Sanderlings were reported from B.E.S.P. Aug. 27 (GS, PS); Pymatuning L., PA, Aug. 21 and Sept. 11 (RFL); Watauga L., TN, Aug. 27 (FA); Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, TN, Sept. 1 (CN); and Chickamauga L., TN, Nov. 6 (late; AH, RH). Both Baird's and Western sandpipers were unusually numerous for the Region. Other unusual records from P.I.S.P. and Erie were of White-rumped Sandpiper, Sept. 5 and Oct. 9 (JM, EK, DS); Purple Sandpiper, Nov. 29 (BC); Stilt Sandpiper, Aug. 18–Sept. 18 (JM); and Long-billed Dowitcher, Oct. 8 (JM). A Stilt Sandpiper was also seen in Warren, PA, Sept. 7 (JM), and another Long-billed Dowitcher was at Pymatuning L., PA, Sept. 11 (RFL). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery, TN, Aug. 18 (BF).

Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from Siegel Marsh, Erie, PA, Aug. 16 (JM); Roanoke, VA, Aug. 23 (MD); Pymatuning L., PA, Sept. 4 (RFL); and K.C.P.P. Oct. 3 (late; WA). A Red-necked Phalarope was at P.I.S.P. Sept. 23 (BC, LM), and single Red Phalaropes were there Oct. 13 & 29 (JM, EK).

The L. Erie shore at P.I.S.P. was not as productive for unusual gull records as in some years but did turn up a Parasitic Jaeger Oct. 30 (JM, SS) for the 10th county record; a Franklin's Gull Oct. 28 & 29 (JM, EK); and a **Thayer's Gull** Nov. 11 (JM), the latter providing a first fall record and 12th overall for the state. Single Little Gulls were also present at P.I.S.P. Sept. 25 and Oct. 1 & 28 (JM, JB). The only reports of Bonaparte's Gulls came from Pennsylvania, from B.E.S.P. Aug. 6 (GS, PS) and Oct. 22 (HH) and Colyer L. Aug. 7 (KJ, JJ), with a concentration of 2500 at Pymatuning L. Nov. 6 (ML, RFL). Ring-billed Gulls Aug. 20 and Herring Gulls Sept. 25 at Austin Springs, TN, were both early (RK). There were 4000 Ring-billed Gulls at Pymatuning L., PA, Oct. 23 (ML, RFL). Most remarkable for the landlocked south was a Black-legged Kittiwake at Ft. Loudon Dam, TN, Nov. 30 (RC, DSi).

Caspian Terns were reported from Cumberland, PA, Aug. 20 & 21 (SSt); B.E.S.P. Aug. 20 (GS, PS); Botetourt, VA, Sept. 5 (BK); S. Charleston, WV, Sept. 25 (21 birds); and K.C.P.P. Oct. 3 (late; WA); Watauga L., TN, Aug. 21; and Austin Springs, TN, Sept. 15 & 26 (RK). In the past Forster's Tern has been rare in this Region, but in recent years there have been an increasing number of records. This year they were reported from P.I.S.P. and Edinboro L. in Erie (JM, JH), B.E.S.P. (MC), and L. Arthur, PA (fide JG), and there were 4 records in e. Tennessee (RK, FA).

**DOVES TO WOODPECKERS** — Mourning Doves remained abundant throughout the Region. At Morehead, KY, young fledged at the late date of Sept. 17 (FB). Neither species of cuckoo was evident in any numbers. The only reports of Com. Barn-Owl came from Johnson City, TN, where the species is regular (RK), and from Knox, TN, where young left the nest in mid-August (JBO). A Short-eared Owl was seen at P.I.S.P. Oct. 19 (JM) and by the end of the period seven were present in 3 locations on the recovered strip mines of Clarion, where they nested this past summer and wintered in numbers last year (WF). A N. Saw-whet Owl was seen in Centre, PA, Nov. 25 (JP), and a remarkable 36 Saw-whets were netted and banded in the Finzel Swamp, Garrett, MD, during the season (JM).

There were a few concentrations reported, but the flight of Com. Nighthawks was not very heavy. One nighthawk at Johnson City, TN, Nov. 4 (RK) was very late, as was a Chimney Swift in Wayne, WV, Oct. 11 (TI).

Of great interest were the single **Rufous Hummingbirds** found at Bridgewater, VA, Aug. 15–18 (ph., R.B.C.); Salem,

VA, Nov 1–Dec 12 (ph, BK et al), and at Parsons, WV, mid-October to at least Dec. 21 (ph., EH, JC). The Virginia records were the first from west of the Blue Ridge, and the West Virginia record was a first for the state. The nearly vanished Red-headed Woodpecker was found in Mahoning, OH (NB); Rockingham (R.B.C.) and Highland (LT), VA; and Blount (AH, RH), and Claiborne, TN (GM).

**FLYCATCHERS TO KINGLETS** — Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported at P.I.S.P. Aug. 27 (MV) and Sept. 3 (EK); at Erie N.W.R., PA, Sept. 5 (MT); and at P.N.R. Sept. 10 & 24 (banded; RM, RCL). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported more commonly than usual, even considering the possibility of error in sight records of this species in the fall. Least Flycatchers in Centre, PA, Sept. 25 & 26 were considered late (JP), but one was banded at P.N.R. Oct. 29 and recaptured there Nov. 23 & 27 (RCL, RM). This latter bird was carefully identified in view of the possibility that very late *Empidonax* flycatchers are often western species. At B.E.S.P., 17 E. Kingbirds were seen at one time on Aug. 27 (PS, GS).

All swallow species were in unusually low numbers in the Knoxville region (CN). Some rather late swallow dates were: Purple Martin at Elizabethton, TN, Sept. 23 (GE) and Sept. 24 in Blount, TN (AH); N. Rough-winged Swallow Oct. 25 at Pt. Pleasant, WV (TI); Bank Swallow at Cheshire, OH, Oct. 22 (MG); and Tree Swallows at Deep Creek L., MD, Nov. 11 and Washington, MD, Nov. 13 (RR).

At A.F.M.O. the Blue Jay migration was late, and numbers were much lower than normal (GAH). The Fish Crow continued to increase along the Potomac and in c. Pennsylvania. Twenty-five were seen at Walnut Springs, Centre, PA, Sept. 26 and 63 over the Penn State campus Oct. 14 (ES), and 500 were seen in Washington, MD, Nov. 11 (RR). A Com. Raven at Austin Springs, TN (elevation 1400 ft) was unusual (RK), and records in Warren Aug. 30 (CP) and Sept. 3 (WH) indicated further expansion in that area.

There was no major irruption of Black-capped Chickadees to the south. The southbound flight of Red-breasted Nuthatches was very light, and with the exception of a report of 68 wintering on one farm near Harrisonburg, VA (R.B.C.), very few were wintering in the lowlands. On the other hand the movement of Brown Creepers was extensive, and many remained into the winter. Carolina Wrens have made a good recovery, and going into the winter populations were high. Records came from Meadville, PA (RFL); Niles, OH (CB); and Warren, PA (WH) in the n. part of the Region. Winter Wrens moved S in good numbers as evident from the record 35 banded during the season at P.N.R. (RM, RCL) and the record 37 banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH). At both P.N.R. and A.F.M.O., Golden-crowned Kinglets were caught in well above average numbers.

**THRUSHES TO WARBLERS** — The Hermit Thrush was in good numbers at most places with record high captures at both the Norris Banding Station (CN) and A.F.M.O. (GAH). At Norris, Gray-cheeked Thrushes were in above-average numbers, and Swainson's Thrushes were in average numbers, although double last year's captures (CN); at A.F.M.O., Swainson's Thrushes were above average and up 35% over last year, and Veeries were in record high numbers. But away from the banding stations, Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, and Wood thrushes were unreported at some locations and in very low numbers at others, and at P.N.R., Swainson's Thrushes were below average (RM, RCL). Such data should give pause to

those attempting to correlate banding data with true abundance.

The large flocks of Cedar Waxwings that usually fly over A.F.M.O. were not in evidence this year, and no great concentrations were reported elsewhere. Waxwings were feeding young on Roan Mt., TN, Sept. 10 (RK). At P.I.S.P. a lucky observer witnessed the rare occurrence of a N. Shrike arriving from Canada over L. Erie on Nov. 12 (DS). The only other N. Shrike was at B.E.S.P. Nov. 29 (PS, GS). There were 20 sightings of Loggerhead Shrikes in the Harrisonburg, VA, area (R.B.C.) and 5 sightings near Monterrey, VA (LT), but only 7 reports in the Elizabethton, TN, area (RK). At Clarksville, PA, an estimated 50,000 Eur. Starlings passed over the observer during an evening roosting flight (RB).

A White-eyed Vireo banded at P.I.S.P. Oct. 1 (JeS, JiS) was very rare there, and another was seen at B.E.S.P. Aug. 31 (GS, PS). Numbers banded were above average at P.N.R. but only about half the long-term average at Norris (CN). A Warbling Vireo banded at P.N.R. Oct. 6 was somewhat late (RM, RCL). The 60 Philadelphia Vireos banded at A.F.M.O. made a record high count (GAH), but at Norris only one was banded and there was only one other report from the Knoxville area (CN). Red-eyed Vireos were banded at A.F.M.O. in record high numbers (GAH), but they were low at Norris, and none was recorded on the Knoxville area Fall Count (CN).

All reporters felt that the warbler flight was poor, and the banding stations agreed. At A.F.M.O., warblers as a group were down 25% from the long-term average, although for only 3 (Bay-breasted, Wilson's, and Com. Yellowthroat) were the differences more than one standard deviation (GAH). At P.N.R., however, 4 species (Blue-winged, Golden-winged, Nashville, and Black-throated Blue) were significantly above the average and 7 (Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian, Prairie, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, Canada, and N. Waterthrush) were below. The only report of a big fallout came from the Blue Ridge Parkway, VA, Aug. 24 (RS). The usually rare Orange-crowned Warbler was unusually numerous and widespread. There were also, as usual, a number of late "Last Seen" dates with several species still present in the Region in the 3rd week of October.

**GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES** — Blue Grosbeaks were reported from Lyndhurst, VA, Aug. 3 (RS) and Ashton, WV, Sept. 29 (TI). The Dickcissels reported earlier in the summer had all gone by the first of the period, but one was seen at Ashton, WV, Sept. 29 (TI). American Tree Sparrows continued to be very spottily distributed. An early arrival was at C.F.H Oct. 14 (FB). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported from Coneaut Marsh, PA, Oct. 9 (EK, MV); Ashton, WV, Sept. 29 (TI), and Austin Springs, TN, Oct. 1 (RK). White-crowned Sparrows were banded in unusually high numbers at P.N.R., and the arrival there was Sept. 17 (2 weeks early) (RM, RCL). White-throated Sparrows were in low numbers at many places. The only report of Lapland Longspurs came from P.I.S.P. Oct. 5–Nov. 28 with a high count of 15–20 Oct. 16 (JiS). Snow Buntings staged a good migration at P.I.S.P. with an estimated 400 birds seen Nov. 12 (DS). In addition to the records in the north, buntings were seen as far south as Somerset, PA, Nov 7 (AM) and Finzel Swamp, MD, Nov. 9 (JMc) and the hawk lookouts on Tussey Mt. Nov. 8 (TD) and Tuscarora Mt. Nov 4 (CG).

Northern finches were close to being totally absent. Purple

**Table 1**

	Days	Sharp-shinned	Broad-winged Hawk	Broad-winged High (Date)	Bald Eagle	Golden Eagle	Total
Bald Eagle Mt., PA (JP)	24	94	223	139 (9/21)	3	37	1011
East River Mt., WV (JPh)	32	166	3632	1362 (9/18)	1	1	3975
Peters Mt., WV (GH)	24	5	3149	1636 (9/16)	1	7	3545
Rockfish Gap, VA (YL)	94	2144	14185	*	14	8	19143

Finches were in small numbers, and Red Crossbills were reported from only the more or less permanent stations on Shenandoah Mt., VA (R.B.C.), and Ch.N.F. (HD). There were only 4 reports of Pine Siskins: Wood, WV, Nov. 17-19 (JCl); Townsend, TN, Oct. 29 (*fide* JBO); one found dead in Rockingham, VA (R.B.C.); and a single at a feeder in Union City, PA (*fide* JM). Six Evening Grosbeaks were seen at Harrisonburg, VA, Oct. 16 (R.B.C.), and a few were present at Pigeon Forge, TN, in late November (*fide* JBO) but they were not reported elsewhere.

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## WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen



The summer drought and heat continued unabated into August. The combination of lack of rainfall with 100° days was staggering. Mercifully during the 3rd week of August, a cold front with rain and cool temperatures swept through the Region signaling a changing weather pattern. Increasingly during the remainder of August and through September, cold fronts passed through bringing decreasing temperatures and increasing rainfall. The hot periods during September were brief. By October, temperatures turned abnormally cold with substantial snowfall occurring in the northern sections at the month's conclusion. November temperatures averaged closer to normal, but precipitation remained above normal. Snowfall during

November was considerable, particularly in Minnesota, where a foot of snow blanketed the state except in the northwest and southeast corners. Amazingly, a few areas in the Region actually recorded one of their wetter autumns. As a result of this precipitation the drought was broken in many but not all areas. Adequate winter snows and spring rains will still be needed to bring water table and lake and river levels back to normal.

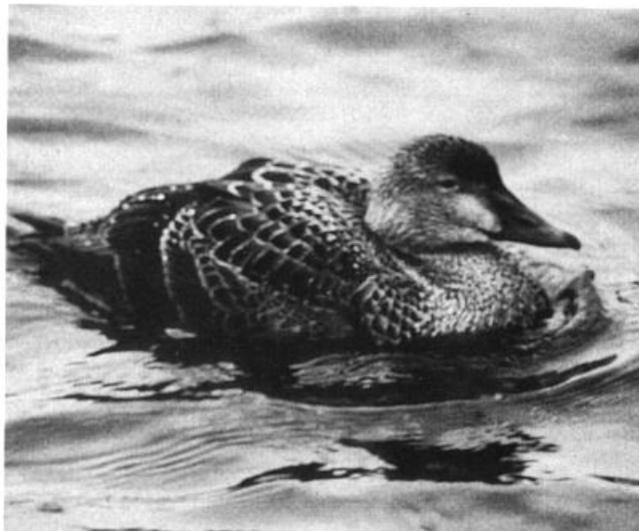
This year's autumn migration was markedly improved over migrations of the past few years. Better passerine waves were noted, undoubtedly related to the cold fronts between mid-August and mid-October. The shorebird migration was excellent, unfortunately due to the quality

habitat created by the drought. The raptor migration was much improved from last year but still below average. Unbelievably, winter finches were even more scarce than they were last year. Especially in the southern half of the Region almost none could be found during November, except of course for numerous House Finches and American Goldfinches and a few Pine Siskins.

Undoubtedly because of the persisting drought and then significant cold fronts, an excellent number of rarities were seen with all three states well represented. The Magnificent Frigatebirds that were deposited here by Hurricane Gilbert certainly represented the highlight. No fewer than five confirmed individuals were found in the Region between late September and mid-October. Other notables included Wisconsin records of Mississippi Kite, Ferruginous Hawk, two Gyrfalcons, Red Phalarope, Royal Tern, and Western Tanager; Minnesota had King Eider, Long-billed Curlew, two Lesser Black-backed Gulls, two Burrowing Owl families, Say's Phoebe, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Michigan's highlights included Curlew Sandpiper, Pomarine Jaeger, three Lesser Black-backed Gulls, two Rufous Hummingbirds and a *Selasphorus* sp., Rock Wren, and probable Mew and California gulls. Also noteworthy was the unusual number of Harlequin Ducks (17-20) recorded Regionwide.

**LOONS TO HERONS**—Five or more Red-throated Loons were recorded in both Wisconsin and Michigan between late September and mid-November. A **Pacific Loon** was observed at Duluth Oct. 21 (KE). A possible Pacific was observed in Bayfield, WI, Oct. 26 (SS). Impressive were 1000+ Com. Loons tallied Oct. 24 at Tawas Point S.P., MI (RW, RP). Early were 10 Horned Grebes Sept. 7 in Delta, MI (CT), and one Sept. 14 in Chippewa, WI (JP). Six Eared Grebes were observed in Michigan Aug. 27-Oct. 1. Wisconsin recorded four W. Grebes with one Oct. 2 in Vilas (BG), two Oct. 28 in Ozaukee (DG), and one very late individual Nov. 19-25 at Manitowoc (CS). A Double-crested Cormorant at Duluth Nov. 30 was very late (KE). Thanks to Hurricane Gilbert, the bird of the season was the **Magnificent Frigatebird**, which appeared in all 3 states! The first individuals were observed in late September with an immature at Superior, WI, on the 28th (DS) and another immature at Port Huron, MI, also on the 28th (AR, DR, ph.). These were followed by sightings of single ad. birds in Michigan's Warren Dunes Oct. 2 (JPr, JW) and Leeland Oct. 16 (HW) and in Minnesota's Dakota Oct. 1 (TT). For Michigan and Minnesota the sightings represented first state records. For Wisconsin it was the 2nd record, the first having been in 1880! Six Snowy Egrets were found in Michigan Aug. 1-Sept. 6. Single Little Blue Herons were recorded in Michigan at Point Mouillee S.G.A. Aug. 27 (RPu) and Van Buren Aug. 22-Sept. 4 (DE et al.). One was in Sawyer, WI, Sept. 18-19 (MH). Six Tricolored Herons were observed by Martinus Aug. 31 in Holland, MI. Seven Cattle Egrets were present in Michigan, but none was reported in Wisconsin or Minnesota. The Green-backed Heron Nov. 3 at Manitowoc was late (CS). Three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found at Milwaukee Sept. 9-Oct. 3 with single birds at 3 Michigan locations Aug. 7-19.

**SWANS TO RAILS**—Early Tundra Swans included single birds at LaCrosse, WI, Aug. 14 (FL) and Point Mouillee S.G.A., MI, Aug. 21 (TS, JF). Peak numbers included an impressive 13,000 along the Mississippi R. backwaters, mainly at Weaver, MN, Nov. 19-20 (m.ob.), with 2000 in Trempealeau, WI, Nov. 24 (TH) and 1000 at Nyanquing Wildlife Area, MI, Nov. 25 (RW, CF). There were scattered lingering groups into December in all 3 states. The rare-in-fall Greater White-fronted Goose was found in Wisconsin (six+ birds) and Michigan (one). Early were two Snow Geese Sept. 3 at Shia-



*King Eider at Grand Marais, Minnesota, October 30, 1988. Photograph/Warren Nelson.*

wassee N.W.R., MI (RW). Two **Ross' Geese** were found in Minnesota with one Sept. 30 at Minneapolis (SC et al.) and the other Nov. 22 at Rochester (PP). Canada Geese peaked at Horicon N.W.R., WI, at 201,000+ Oct. 17 (BV) with 423,500+ in the e. half of the state on that date. Also at Horicon N.W.R. the Mallard peak of 139,200 in early November constituted a record (BV). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon spent Oct. 21-Nov. 13 in company with Am. Wigeons on a lake in Dunn, WI (JP et al.). The ♀ **King Eider** that was present in Grand Marais Oct. 30-Nov. 2 (SC, KE et al.) represented the first Minnesota record for this rare species since 1976. Unprecedented was the number of Harlequin Ducks found in the Region this fall. Michigan had nine birds, Wisconsin six to eight, and Minnesota two. Sightings commenced in mid-October and continued until the end of November. What caused this "explosion"? Regionally the scoter migration varied from slightly below to above average. Unusual was the earliness of arrivals: six dark scoters (sp.) Aug. 28 at Concordia College, Ozaukee, WI (BC), and a dead White-winged Sept. 7 on the beach near Ford R., MI (CT).

A tardy Osprey was at Cavanaugh L., Washtenaw, MI, Nov. 7 (DBr). A **Mississippi Kite** was observed by Cowart migrating along the L. Michigan shoreline at Concordia College, WI, Sept. 20. At the Cedar Grove Hawk Banding Station, WI, 1228 Sharp-shinned Hawks were tallied Sept. 23 (DB et al.). Unprecedented, especially in Minnesota, were the number of Swainson's Hawk sightings. At Hawk Ridge 35 were counted during the season, including 32 Sept. 9! Wisconsin's records included three at Cedar Grove (one Aug. 29 and two Sept. 12, DB) with single birds at Concordia College Sept. 20 (BC) and a very late date of Oct. 29 (DG). In Michigan one was seen Sept. 13 at the Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory (RP). A **Ferruginous Hawk** was caught and banded by Jones Oct. 8 at Harrington Beach S.P. This represented about only the 10th Wisconsin record. In Minnesota it was found in Wilkin Sept. 21 & 25 (S & DM). Very early were single Rough-legged Hawks in Michigan's Alcona Aug. 22 (RP) and Wisconsin's Crex Meadows Wildlife Area Aug. 23 (LS) and Langlade Sept. 3 (BP).

An impressive Golden Eagle migration was noted with 26 in Minnesota (Hawk Ridge), 23 in Michigan, and 10+ in Wisconsin. Again this fall an excellent Merlin migration was recorded. Movement commenced early with the peak occurring during late September to early October. For the Peregrine Falcon the migration was termed average Regionally. Single **Gyrfalcons** were found in Wisconsin at Milwaukee Oct. 4 (WM) and Concordia College Oct. 28 (RS). Minnesota had an impressive eight Prairie Falcons. In the w.c. region these

included five, of which one was the now infamous female that had returned for the 7th consecutive year to Rothsay W.M.A. (S & DM). One of the remaining birds was found unusually far east, in *Olmsted* Oct. 26 (JB). Other interesting records from Hawk Ridge included 279 Osprey (record); 12,303 Sharp-shinned Hawks; 91 Cooper's (2nd highest); 18,868 Broad-winged Hawks; 1325 Am. Kestrels (record); with a total seasonal count of 38,867, which was below average but better than 1987. Two King Rails were heard at one of Wisconsin's nesting sites—Waunakee Marsh—Sept. 6 (AS).

**SHOREBIRDS** — The excellent shorebird habitat created by the summer's drought continued during August, especially in Wisconsin. For example, concentrations of several hundred were rather common with a few locales, e.g., Horicon N.W.R., lower Green Bay, and s. *Columbia*—n. *Dane*, recording 1000–3000 birds (m.ob.). Tardy Black-bellied Plover dates included Nov. 11 at Oak Grove, MI (JS), and Nov. 13 at Sheboygan, WI (DT). The only fall Piping Plover sighting was of one Aug. 13 at New Buffalo, MI (KL). All 3 states recorded Am. Avocets: four were in Minnesota's *Hennepin* Aug. 10 (SC); in Michigan three were at Whitefish Bay Sept. 8 (RP, JFa) with one Sept. 10 at Point Mouillee S.G.A. (DBr, BB); in Wisconsin one was in s. *Columbia* Oct. 3–8 (AS et al.). Late was a Greater Yellowlegs at Manitowoc Nov. 14 (CS), but very late was one at Metrobeach Nov. 27 (DL). Impressive was the 1500 Lesser Yellowlegs at Horicon N.W.R. Aug. 14 (DT). Late was one Nov. 11 at Oak Grove, MI (JS). Exceptionally late was a Solitary Sandpiper Nov. 16 at Manitowoc (CS). Seven Willets were found in Wisconsin with one in Michigan, all in August. Dates of Whimbrel sightings in Wisconsin included Aug. 3 in Milwaukee (RS et al.), Aug. 24 at Superior (R), and Sept. 5 at Manitowoc (CS). In Michigan observations were of two Aug. 27 at Point Mouillee S.G.A. (RPu) and of one Sept. 10 at Tawas Point S.P. (RP, MP) with an injured individual there Oct. 22–Nov. 11 (m.ob.). Outstanding was the **Long-billed Curlew** found by Kienholz Oct. 9 in Pope, MN.

Unusual were the 10 Michigan counties reporting Hudsonian Godwits, which included a maximum of nine Aug. 23 at Benton Harbor (KM). Single Marbled Godwits were found in Wisconsin Aug. 17 at Milwaukee (PS) and Sept. 3 in s. *Columbia* (FF). Red Knot sightings totaled 19 birds in Michigan with 15 in Wisconsin, including a very late individual Nov. 10 at Sheboygan (SR). Western Sandpipers were recorded in Wisconsin (10–15 birds) and Michigan (six birds). There were surprising numbers of White-rumped Sandpiper sightings in both Wisconsin and Michigan. Peak Pectoral Sandpiper numbers included 350 at Horicon N.W.R. Aug. 14 (DT) and 500 at Shiawassee N.W.R. Sept. 10 (TW). Michigan had 2 Purple Sandpiper sightings: one Oct. 29 at Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory (BGr, JG) with two Nov. 13 at Benton Harbor (LD). In contrast to last fall these were the only observations. Dunlins were still present at the end of the period at Milwaukee (DG). Providing Michigan with only its 3rd record was a **Curlew Sandpiper** at Point Mouillee S.G.A. Aug. 22–24 (DBr et al.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers had a good migration in all 3 states: Michigan, 13 birds; Wisconsin, 20 birds, and Minnesota, a peak of 30 birds in *Dakota* Aug. 4 (JD). Two **Ruffs** appeared in Minnesota, in *Hennepin* Aug. 9–14 (SC et al.) and *Scott* Aug. 21 (RG). The Red-necked Phalarope migration was above average this autumn. Outstanding for Wisconsin was a **Red Phalarope** feeding with Bonaparte's Gulls along the Milwaukee lakeshore Nov. 19 (BC). Unfortunately, by the time other birders were notified it had disappeared.

**LARIDS** — A Pomarine Jaeger was found in Michigan's *Berrien* Oct. 1 (RA, DP, TL et al.). Besides the aforementioned Pomarine, Michigan birders found seven additional jaegers for one of their best totals ever. Five were identified as Parasitic—in *Berrien* (two, DP, RA, WB, RSm), *St. Clair* (one,

JF), *Allegan* (one, JWi), and *Van Buren* (one, LD)—and two were unidentified, both in *Berrien*. The observation period was Oct. 1–Nov. 21. Minnesota had its usual Parasitic Jaeger sightings at Duluth with a maximum of four birds between September and mid-October.

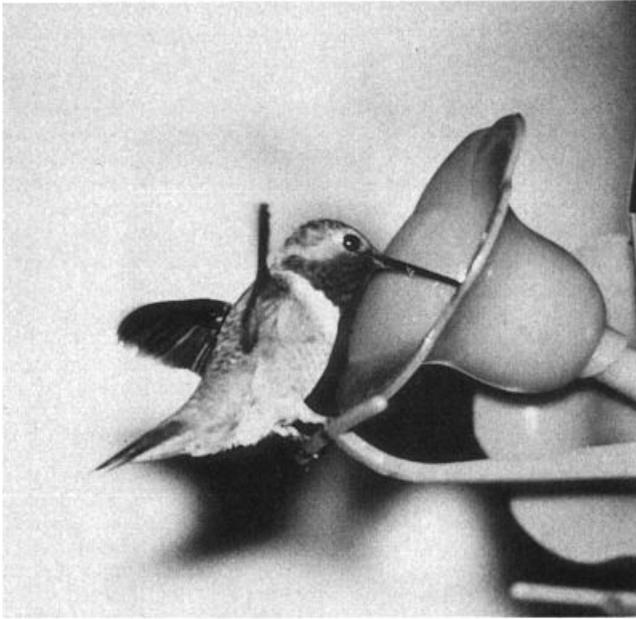
Two Laughing Gulls were found this fall, both in Michigan, at Muskegon S.P. in October (BBo) and *St. Joseph* Oct. 23 (JG). Franklin's Gulls were unusually scarce in Wisconsin (four birds) and Michigan (one). Little Gulls, as during the summer, were not as reliable along L. Michigan as in previous autumns. Wisconsin had about 10 birds with none after August, and Michigan had about five birds, from October to mid-November. A probable first-winter **Mew Gull** was observed by Plank (RP) and Smith (RSm) Oct. 23–29 at Tawas Point S.P. If accepted by Michigan's records committee, it will constitute the 2nd state record. A first-winter **California Gull** was observed by Miller Nov. 11 at New Buffalo, MI (being reviewed by the records committee). A Thayer's Gull was at Tawas Point S.P. Oct. 23 (RP). And here come the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** sightings. This species was suddenly seen with increasing frequency as witnessed by the following records. Michigan had three individuals with the Warren Dunes individual present until Aug. 22 (KM), an adult at New Buffalo Aug. 20 & 22 (RSm, JGa, KM), and a 2nd-winter bird at Tawas Point S.P. Oct. 22–29 (RP, MP). In Minnesota an adult was in *Hennepin* Sept. 13–18 (m.ob.), and a 2nd-winter bird was at Duluth Oct. 24 (KE et al.). Glaucous Gulls were found mainly during November in Michigan (five) and Wisconsin (two). Seven Michigan counties had Great Black-backed Gulls including 100+ at Lake Erie Metropark (NF, TL) Nov. 7. All 3 states recorded Black-legged Kittiwakes. Michigan had five birds, and single sightings occurred in Minnesota Nov. 8 at Hastings (JD) and Wisconsin Nov. 15 at Menominee (JP).



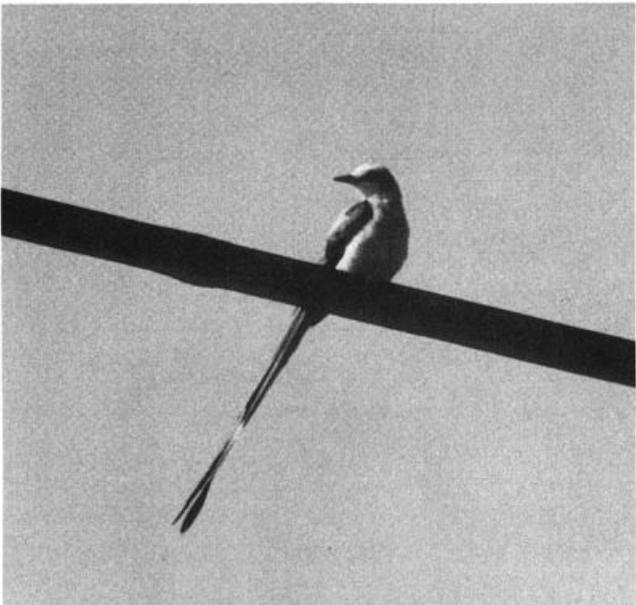
*Black-legged Kittiwake in first-winter plumage at Black Dog Lake, Minnesota, December 4, 1988. Photograph/Warren Nelson.*

Impressive were the 500+ Caspian Terns Sept. 18 in Aitken, MN (WN). Wisconsin had only its 3rd **Royal Tern** record with the appearance of one at Milwaukee's Coast Guard Impoundment Aug. 2–3 (PS, DG, RS, MD). Remarkably late, if correctly identified, were single Com. and Forster's terns Nov. 28 at Point Mouillee, S.G.A., MI (DBr).

**CUCKOOS TO GNATCATCHERS** — Snowy Owls were very scarce in all 3 states in contrast to last autumn. Two N. Hawk-Owls were found in Minnesota during November. Es-



Male Rufous Hummingbird at Lake Linden, Michigan, August 11, 1988. This individual had scattered green feathers on the back, a sometimes misleading (but not unusual) condition in males of this species. Photograph/Bill Bouton.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Ely, Minnesota, August 1988. Photograph/Kim Eckert.

caping detection during the summer were 2 **Burrowing Owl** family groups in Minnesota. One with 7 members was in Yellow Medicine, and the other with five members was in Traverse. Both sightings occurred during early September. A good fall for Great Gray Owls was recorded in Minnesota with 9 n.e. locations reported. Also in Minnesota three Boreal Owls were found: at Hawk Ridge Oct. 29 and Nov. 10 and at Cook Nov. 29 [K & MH]. Banders in Wisconsin had a field day with N. Saw-whet Owls. More than 1000 were banded, of which 800+ were by Erdman in s. Oconto.

Outstanding were the first and 2nd Michigan records of ♂ **Rufous Hummingbirds**. The first was in Rabbit Bay, Houghton, Aug. 7-11 [BW, MW, LB]. The 2nd was at W. Branch, Roscommon, from September to Oct. 21 [EL]. In addition an

unidentified *Selasphorus* sp. was present in Berrien from Sept. 7 into December (!) [RSm, PC et al.]: All three birds were photographed. The Red-bellied Woodpecker's northward expansion continued as indicated by birds present at 4 feeders in n.e. Minnesota. There were several Black-backed Woodpecker sightings in Wisconsin and Michigan (average). However, Minnesota experienced an unusually poor fall as evidenced by only one sighting at Duluth.

Tardy flycatcher sightings included an E. Phoebe at Madison, WI, Nov. 20 [PA]; a record late Great Crested Flycatcher in Lake, MN, Oct. 29 [KE]; and an E. Kingbird at Metrobeach, MI, Sept. 27 [DL]. Interesting observations included a **Say's Phoebe** Sept. 26 in Olmsted [JB] and a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** Aug. 2-8 near Ely [ZT et al.], both in Minnesota. Wickstrom counted 15,000 Tree Swallows Sept. 17 at the Muskegon Wastewater System. Remarkable and absurd was a N. Rough-winged Swallow present at least until mid-December (!) in Michigan's Berrien [RSm]. More reasonable was a Barn Swallow in Ozaukee, WI, Nov. 5 [GW]. The Centennial, MI, **Rock Wren** remained until Aug. 4 [PC]. The Carolina Wren appeared finally to be making a comeback as witnessed by five in Wisconsin, four in Michigan, and one in Minnesota this fall. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher continued to expand into n. and w. Minnesota.

**THRUSHES TO WARBLERS** — Four Mt. Bluebirds were present in Minnesota this fall, including three together at Grand Marais Oct. 30-Nov. 2 [KE et al.]. Single Townsend's Solitaires were in Minnesota's Aitkin Oct. 4 [SC] and Wisconsin's Pierce Nov. 24-25 [TSo]. Late were several Gray-cheeked and Swainson's thrushes Oct. 16 at Harrington Beach S.P., WI [DT]. Early was a Swainson's in Sauk, WI, Aug. 10 [EH]. Remarkably early, by 23 days, was a Hermit Thrush Aug. 6 in Anoka, MN [G. At Duluth's Lakewood Pumping Station 62,700 Am. Robins were counted migrating S Oct. 1. Varied Thrushes were found in Minnesota (six) and Wisconsin (two) commencing in November. A N. Mockingbird was in Kalamazoo, MI, Aug. 9 [RA]. Peak Water Pipit numbers for Wisconsin included 45 in Columbia Oct. 22 [DT] and 40+ at Milwaukee Nov. 6 [BC]. There were a limited number of Bohemian Waxwing sightings commencing in late October. Northern Shrike sightings were below average. A Loggerhead Shrike remained until Sept. 11 in Huron, MI [ME].

Five White-eyed Vireos were in Hillsdale, MI, Sept. 3 [JR] with one at L. Geneva, WI, Sept. 17 [DT]. A Bell's Vireo was observed Aug. 21 in Monroe, WI [CR]. An Oct. 20 Red-eyed Vireo at Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory, MI, was late [LD]. At Duluth's Lakewood Pumping Station 29,330 warblers, mainly Yellow-rumpeds and Palms, were counted Oct. 1. A Worm-eating Warbler was in Manitowoc Sept. 2 [CS]. The Louisiana Waterthrush in Kittson Aug. 9 [AB] furnished the northernmost record for Minnesota. Kentucky Warblers were still at Wyalusing S.P., WI, Sept. 3 [D & MB] with one at Grand Rapids, MI, Sept. 12 [JW]. Late was a Com. Yellowthroat at the Kalamazoo Nature Center Nov. 18 [JG]. Three Hooded Warblers were still in Sauk, WI, Aug. 10 [EH] with one in Hillsdale MI, Sept. 24 [JR]. The only Yellow-breasted Chats were seen in Michigan with one Aug. 27 in Hillsdale [JR], two Aug. 28-Sept. 3 at Metrobeach [DL]; and three into early October (late) at the Kalamazoo Nature Center [JG].

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — There were two interesting tanager observations in Wisconsin. A Summer Tanager came to Vincent's feeder in Polk Nov. 5-24. A **Western Tanager** was observed along a bike path in n. LaCrosse Oct. 7 [NZ]. Northern Cardinals were found unusually far north as evidenced by one at Isle Royale N.P. Oct. 20 (for a 2nd park record, CM) and five in Minnesota's Cook. Very late was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak coming to a Winona feeder Nov. 11



*Black-headed Grosbeak at Aitkin, Minnesota, November 25, 1988. Photograph/Warren Nelson.*

into December. A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was present Nov. 19–26 at an Aitkin, MN, feeder, where it was seen and photographed by many birders. After the record summer invasion of Dickcissels a few lingered into August.

Tardy Lark Sparrows were found in all 3 states. Singles were at Copper Harbor, MI, Oct. 4 (LB); in Cook, MN, Oct. 7 (K & MH); and in Dane, WI, Oct. 9–29 (PA). A **Lark Bunting** was seen Aug. 25 at Two Harbors, MN (JL). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found in Minnesota's Hennepin Sept. 5–6 (GP et al.) and Duluth Sept. 8 & 24 (MHe, PB et al.), and in Wisconsin several were present at Milwaukee's Coast Guard Impoundment Sept. 12 (PS et al.). The Harris' Sparrow migration this fall was closer to average in contrast to the outstanding 1987 movement. Early for s. Wisconsin was a Dark-eyed Junco in Manitowoc Sept. 6 (CS). Smith's Longspurs were found at 3 Minnesota sites: Duluth Sept. 23 (KE), Rothsay W.M.A. (three) Oct. 14 (SC), and in Cottonwood during late October (m.ob.). A few Snow Buntings commenced appearing during late September–early October with a good movement

in all 3 states, for example, 1700 counted along Minnesota's N. Shore Oct. 29. A N. (Baltimore) Oriole was present into December at the Sarett Nature Center, MI (CN).

The winter finch migration was the poorest it has been in years. Almost no Pine or Evening grosbeaks, Red or White-winged crossbills, or Com. Redpolls were reported Regionally. Isolated exceptions included daily flocks of 30–40 Red Crossbills at Isle Royal N. P. (CM), adequate numbers of White-winged Crossbills along the N. Shore, MN, and 1500 Evening Grosbeaks Oct. 15 at Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory (fide BGr). A Com. Redpoll at Duluth Oct. 4 tied for the record arrival date (DBe). A Hoary Redpoll was at Whitefish Pt. Bird Observatory Oct. 30 (JR). Pine Siskin numbers were greatly reduced from last autumn's record movement. Of course the one opposing trend in this picture involved the House Finch, which is now commencing to expand into Minnesota, particularly in the Twin Cities.

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## MIDDLE- WESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

**Bruce G. Peterjohn**



The rains finally came in August, too late to be of value for nesting birds and not enough to fill marshes and ponds desiccated by the summer's drought. Hurricane Gilbert brought badly needed moisture to some areas in September, but rainfall remained spotty through October. Only November was accompanied by above-normal precipitation in every state. Temperatures remained unusually hot during August but returned to normal or below-normal averages in other months. As the season ended, most areas were no longer experiencing drought conditions although complete recovery may require at least a year of above-normal precipitation.

Perhaps as a result of the drought, the songbird migration was exceptionally early. The largest warbler flights were mostly prior to September 10, and even the later migrants had largely passed through the Region by late October. Shorebirds also migrated early although stragglers were detected in several areas. While a few ducks appeared very early, the majority of the waterbird migration was on time.

In general, the fall migration was not impressive. The expected species were detected, but with few exceptions numbers were relatively low and detectable flights were very locally distributed. However, an exceptional variety of rarities partially compensated for the lackluster movements of expected species.

Unfortunately, the Illinois report was not received in time to be incorporated in this seasonal summary. Except for the observations of a few individuals, the following summary contains no information from Illinois.

**ABBREVIATIONS**— Say. Res. = Saylorville Res., IA; U.S.W.R. = Union Slough Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, IA; O.W.R. = Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, OH; S.L.W.R. = Swan Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, MO. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS**— A normal Red-throated Loon flight was composed of reports from 3 L. Erie locations with a total of three on L. Michigan and inland singles at



*Red-throated Loon at Headlands State Park, Ohio, November 30, 1988. Photograph/Tom LePage.*

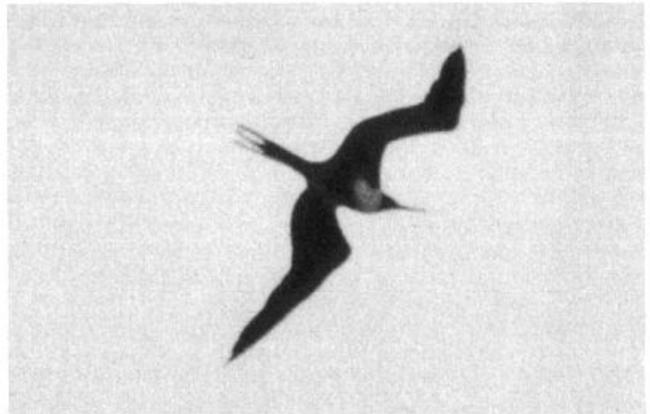
Gibson, IN, Oct. 19 [DJ, GBo] and Say. Res. Nov. 16 [†SD, †MP et al.]. A casual fall visitor to Iowa, the only Pacific Loon was documented at Lake Manawa S.P. Oct. 23–28 [†B & LP et al.]. The earliest Com. Loon returned to L. Michigan Sept. 10. Their fall flights were heaviest along the Great Lakes with maxima of 952 near Michigan City, IN, Nov. 19 [DW et al.] and 250 at Cleveland Nov. 21 [J & DH]. The largest inland flocks totaled 46–81.

Pied-billed Grebes were relatively scarce with no more than 35–52 reported from any state. Horned Grebes appeared in fair numbers, peaking with 300 in Gibson, IN, Nov. 20 [DJ, GBo]; 161 in w. Kentucky Nov. 13 [BP]; and flocks of 50–110 along the Great Lakes. A juv. Red-necked Grebe in Cerro Gordo, IA, Aug. 4 was exceptionally early [J & JW], but 4 reports from the Great Lakes and another from Iowa indicated a typical fall flight. The earliest Eared Grebe returned to Iowa Aug. 26, and expected numbers elsewhere included 5 sightings in Ohio and one in Indiana. Western Grebes were restricted to the w. states with a maximum of four at Say. Res. and singles at 2 w. Missouri lakes.

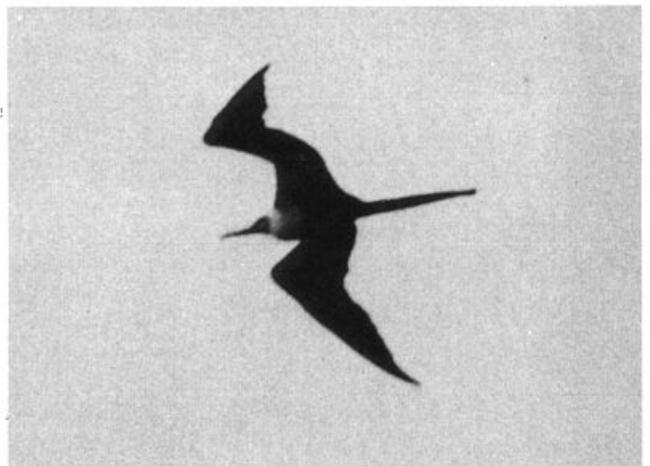
A casual visitor to L. Erie, an imm. N. Gannet was observed at Huron Nov. 11–19 [†m.ob.]. Impressive numbers of Am. White Pelicans passed through Iowa, where as many as 6000+ were estimated at Say. Res. Sept. 15–Oct. 1, and flocks of 300–

#### S.A.

In addition to bringing some badly needed rain, Hurricane Gilbert also scattered **Magnificent Frigatebirds** across several states. Iowa's first confirmed record was provided by an ad. female observed at Clear L. Sept. 25–26 [†J & JW, m.ob.]. This same female may have briefly visited Red Rock Res., IA, Oct. 2 [†DDe], where an ad. male was observed Oct. 3 [†DY, GB]. An ad. female photographed at Longview L. Sept. 27–28 [†CH, m.ob.] established the first unequivocal record for Missouri. Along L. Michigan at Michigan City an imm. frigatebird Sept. 30 [†LH et al.] and an ad. male Oct. 4 [†KB] provided Indiana's first sightings since 1957.



*Female Magnificent Frigatebird at Clear Lake, Iowa, September 26, 1988. Photograph/T. H. Kent.*



*Magnificent Frigatebird over Michigan City Harbor, Indiana, September 30, 1988. Photograph/Ken Brock.*

1300 appeared at 2 other locations. Similar numbers did not appear in Missouri. A pelican wandered E to Eagle Creek Res., IN, Oct. 24–25 (CK et al.) and two to L. Cumberland, KY, Oct. 25 (fide LA); they are casual fall migrants through both states. Double-crested Cormorants remained plentiful, peaking with 2250 at Say. Res. Oct. 1 (SD et al.). Counts of 243 cormorants along L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana Oct. 1 (LH, HD); 122 at L. St. Mary's, OH, Oct. 7 (DD); and 90 at L. Barkley, KY, Oct. 19 (BP et al.) were noteworthy for those locations.

**HERONS, IBISES** — Bitterns suffered during the drought, and there were only 7 American and 2 Least bittern reports this autumn. Other herons fared better, and sizable concentrations appeared at some drawdown lakes. Flocks of 416 Great Blues at U.S.W.R. Aug. 17 (SD, AF) and 200 near Lawrenceburg, IN, Aug. 8 (RA) were locally exceptional. Great Egrets were widely distributed, including flocks of 180–227 in Ohio, Iowa, and w. Kentucky. Snowy Egrets wandered to 5 locations in Iowa, but there were few other reports away from established colonies. The largest flocks totaled 10–12 Snowies in w. Kentucky. Few Little Blue Herons appeared away from the Mississippi R. valley with only widely scattered singles and maxima of nine in Iowa and w. Indiana. Cattle Egrets remained numerous along the Mississippi R. with maxima of 60–70 in w. Kentucky. Their numbers are declining elsewhere, and the only flocks totaled 12 in Iowa and six along w. Lake Erie. Stragglers lingered through Nov. 13–21 in Iowa and Indiana. Green-backed Herons suffered during the drought. Migrants were scarce in most areas except for 25 at Louisville Aug. 26 (BP). The expected concentrations of Black-crowned Night-Herons developed at traditional locations, and 76 at St. Louis Aug. 21 (DA) were locally noteworthy. Small numbers of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were detected at only 7 locations, including a late adult in Buchanan, MO, Nov. 11 (LGa). All *Plegadis* ibises remained unidentified with six or fewer at 5 Iowa locations and 2 reports along L. Erie, where one remained through Nov. 11.

**WATERFOWL** — An early Tundra Swan returned to Vermilion, OH, Oct. 3 (KA), but their large flights bypassed the Region. The largest L. Erie movement totaled 300 Oct. 29, but only six or fewer swans were infrequently encountered elsewhere along their traditional migration corridor. Single Trumpeter Swans were claimed from Ohio, Missouri, and Iowa, no doubt individuals that wandered from reestablished populations in nearby states and provinces. Geese seemed unaffected by the drought and passed through most states in expected numbers. Greater White-fronted Geese were restricted to the w. states. A Snow Goose at Tannanbaum L. Aug. 11–Sept. 3 (ABr) provided one of few summer records from Indiana. Two Iowa reports of Ross' Geese included 19 mixed among a large Snow Goose flock at DeSoto N.W.R., IA, Nov. 11 (SD). A Ross' Goose at Busch W.M.A. Nov. 11 (HF et al.) was unusual in e. Missouri. The expected small numbers of Brant passed along L. Erie with 6 reports of six or fewer individuals during November.

The duck migration was generally dismal. Except at a few traditional staging areas in Iowa and Ohio, migrants were noted in low numbers if any appeared at all. Several record early arrivals were no doubt birds that were unable to nest this year. A flock of 3000 Blue-winged Teal were unexpected on the Mississippi R. at Montrose, IA, Oct. 1 (RC). A ♂ Eur. Wigeon returned to Cook, IL (CM, JL), for the 3rd consecutive autumn, and a red-phased female in Erie Oct. 22 (†), MG) provided one of the few fall records for Ohio. Canvasbacks also staged at Montrose, IA, with 25,000 Oct. 31 (RC). An early Ring-necked Duck returned to Pulaski, KY, Sept. 10 (JE). A flock of 16 Greater Scaup at Maryville Nov. 17 (DE) represented a notable concentration for n.w. Missouri. Expected small numbers were reported from other inland locations.

The sea duck flight was not impressive. Only one King Eider was reported from L. Erie. Normal numbers of Harlequin Ducks consisted of singles at 2 L. Erie sites and one or two at 2 locations on L. Michigan. Oldsquaws peaked on L. Michigan with 110 at Kenilworth, IL, Nov. 24 (JL). Small numbers appeared elsewhere, including a total of 6 inland reports from Iowa, Kentucky, and Indiana. When compared with numbers from the past few years, Black Scoters were scarce. The largest flocks totaled eight to ten to L. Erie, and inland reports were limited to three or fewer at one Ohio and 2 Iowa locations. Surf Scoters returned by Oct. 2–3, peaking with only six along the Great Lakes and an incredible 22 along the Ohio R. at Six Mile Is., KY, Oct. 27 (BP et al.). Of 9 other inland records, single Surfs at Maryville Oct. 20 (DE) and Terre du Lac Nov. 3 (HEF) were casual visitors to Missouri. No more than five White-winged Scoters were detected along the Great Lakes and at a total of 12 inland locations from every state except Kentucky. A Bufflehead at Kentucky L., KY, Oct. 18 (BP et al.) and a Hooded Merganser in Barren, KY, Oct. 19 (MS) were exceptionally early. Mergansers developed some noteworthy local concentrations, including 500 Hoodeds at L. Barkley, KY, Nov. 26 (BP); 8000 Commons at Say. Res. Nov. 30 (SD); and 100,000+ Red-breasteds along c. Lake Erie during November.

**HAWKS TO CRANES** — The s.w. Missouri vulture roosts in Taney and Stone peaked with 40 Blacks Nov. 24 and 879 Turkeys Oct. 29 (PMA et al.). Turkey Vultures were plentiful elsewhere with roosts of 80–350 reported from the other states. Ospreys were widely reported with a maximum of 18 in Jefferson, MO, Sept. 24 (PH). Two November sightings included a very late Osprey at Eagle Creek Res., IN, Nov. 25 (SJ). Only small numbers of Mississippi Kites were noted within their traditional range along the Mississippi R. Bald Eagles continued their recovery. Thirteen at O.W.R. Sept. 4 and seven different eagles visiting L. Rockwell during the period (LR) were indicative of improved numbers in Ohio. As expected, larger numbers appeared farther west. The only sizable Sharp-shinned Hawk flight totaled 73 at Grammar Grove, IA, Sept. 30 (BPr). Cooper's Hawks were widely observed with maxima of six to 12 in different states. At the low end of their cycle, N. Goshawks were unreported. The Broad-winged Hawk movements were relatively poor with maxima of 497 in St. Louis (JZ, BR) and 322 in Jefferson, MO (PH), Sept. 24; 252 at Grammar Grove, IA, Sept. 30 (BPr); and 150 at Dayton, OH, Sept. 15 (SU): our largest fall flights usually number in the thousands.

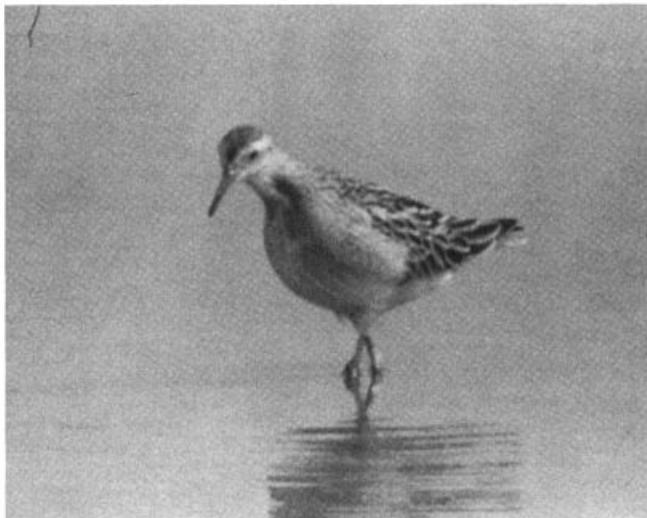
Generally considered uncommon-to-rare fall migrants through the w. states, Swainson's Hawks were discovered in unprecedented numbers in n.w. Missouri with 24 in Holt Sept. 24 and 159 in Holt and Atchison Sept. 25. These hawks were all noted over farm fields that were being harvested (MR), habitats that normally receive scant attention from birders. If these observations are indicative of normal migration patterns, Swainson's Hawks may be more numerous migrants through portions of Missouri and Iowa than previous records suggest. An early Rough-legged Hawk returned to South Bend, IN, Sept. 22 (A & DS). Except for a flight of 22 Rough-leggeds at Beverly Shores, IN, Nov. 18 (LH et al.), only small numbers were detected. The 13 reports of Golden Eagles from every state except Ohio represented nearly double the normal fall total but reflected similar increases elsewhere in e. North America. The status of Merlins and Peregrines is difficult to assess since many reports are accompanied by less than convincing details. While both species appeared to be increasing, the improvement in Peregrine numbers was most noticeable. The earliest "migrant" was noted at Cleveland July 31, and 40+ reports included at least 10 along L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana. The only acceptable Prairie Falcon report was from n.w. Missouri in November.

Rails were markedly reduced, no doubt reflecting the effects of this summer's drought. The only King Rail detected

was along w. Lake Erie, and Virginia Rails and Soras were noted in very small numbers. Fewer Com. Moorhens were also reported. Only the resilient Am. Coot seemed to be doing fairly well with maxima of 5000–7500 in Indiana, Kentucky, and Iowa. At least 12,000 Sandhill Cranes gathered at their Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., IN, staging grounds Oct. 22 (CK). Their passage through adjacent states produced at least 8 Ohio sightings with a maximum of 150 at Sycamore S.P. Nov. 21 (MN). Single cranes at Say. Res. Nov. 25 (R & PA) and East Okoboji L. Nov. 28 (ETH) were casual visitors to Iowa.

**SHOREBIRDS** — Low water levels provided favorable habitats for shorebirds in every state. Black-bellied Plovers were scarce but lingered through Nov. 25 at L. St. Mary's, OH (DD). Lesser Golden-Plovers were more widely distributed with a maximum of 300 at U.S.W.R. Oct. 2 (MK) and smaller numbers elsewhere. A total of 11 Piping Plover sightings from every state represented a slight increase from previous years. Let's hope this trend continues. A mediocre Am. Avocet flight produced 7 records from the n. states. The largest flocks totaled 24 at Say. Res. Sept. 4 (SD) and 7 in Gibson, IN, Sept. 25 (DJ, GBo). Greater Yellowlegs remained until Nov. 25–28 in every state. Lesser Yellowlegs peaked with 6000 at U.S.W.R. Aug. 28 (SD, JSi) and 1315 at L. Calumet, IL, Aug. 13 (JL); a late migrant was noted at Big Creek L., IA, through Nov. 25 (AJ). An impressive 168 Solitary Sandpipers gathered at U.S.W.R. Aug. 1 (SD, JSi). The below-normal Willet migration produced 11 records, including a late individual at Miller Beach, IN, Oct. 2 (SB). The 92 Spotted Sandpipers at Gibson, IN, July 31 (DJ, GBo) represented an unusual fall concentration. Migrant Whimbrels were restricted to the Great Lakes with one L. Michigan report and several at Cleveland, where 30 at Headlands S.P. Sept. 5 (RH) established the largest fall flock for Ohio. Small numbers of Hudsonian Godwits visited L. Erie through Nov. 2. Casual fall migrants away from the Great Lakes, single Hudsonians were reported from Big Lake S.P., MO, Oct. 4 (MR); Eagle Creek Res., IN, Oct. 5–14 (TKe, m.ob.); and U.S.W.R. Oct. 20 (MK). An above-normal movement of Marbled Godwits produced 5 sightings along L. Erie plus 4 inland records from Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois. A late Ruddy Turnstone remained at Huron, OH, through Nov. 17–21 (m.ob.).

It was a good year for Red Knots. Great Lakes reports included flocks of 6–12 and a late migrant at Willow Point W.M.A., OH, Oct. 31 (KA). Most noteworthy of 6 inland reports from every state were three knots in St. Francois, MO, Aug. 23 (HF) and singles at U.S.W.R. Aug. 5 (†SD) and Ballard W.M.A., KY, Aug. 29 (BP). Sanderlings were rather scarce;



*Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in Gibson County, Indiana, October 2, 1988. Photograph/Michael R. Brown.*

their numbers have substantially declined within the past decade, and remaining populations warrant increased attention. Exceptional concentrations of “peeps” gathered at inland locations, including 2500 Semipalmated Sandpipers at S.L.W.R. July 31 (RB). Flocks of 60 W. Sandpipers at S.L.W.R. Aug. 12 (TB, WL); 35 in Carlisle, KY, Aug. 14 (BP, DP); and 24 at Gibson, IN, Aug. 14 (DJ, GBo) are representative of the numbers that can appear in most states. Least Sandpipers also gathered at S.L.W.R. with 1000 on July 31 (RB). One at Gibson, IN, Nov. 27 (DJ, GBo) was late. Baird's Sandpipers peaked with 70 at U.S.W.R. Aug. 28 (SD, JSi). Pectoral Sandpipers were universally plentiful, but 11,800 at U.S.W.R. Aug. 5 represented easily the largest concentration reported. A late migrant was noted at Say. Res. through Nov. 20 (SD). Indiana's first **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** delighted observers at Gibson Sept. 23–Oct. 6 (†DJ, m.ob., ph.). Another juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was briefly observed near Davenport, IA, Sept. 30 (†P, †BB), establishing a 2nd sight record for Iowa. Regular migrants along both Great Lakes, Purple Sandpipers were detected at one L. Michigan and 2 L. Erie sites during November. A Purple Sandpiper at L. St. Mary's, OH, Nov. 12 (†GL, †LW) established Ohio's 2nd inland record.

Stilt Sandpipers were locally numerous with 320 at U.S.W.R. Aug. 28 (SD, JSi) and 52–65 along L. Erie and in w. Indiana. Buff-breasted Sandpipers peaked with 77 at U.S.W.R. Aug. 17 (SD, AF) and 25 at S.L.W.R. Aug. 12 (TB, WL). Flocks of 16 in Fulton Aug. 28 and 10 in Carlisle Aug. 28–29 (BP) were noteworthy for Kentucky. A juv. Short-billed Dowitcher in Erie, OH, Oct. 22 was late (J, MG). Long-billed Dowitchers were locally numerous with 275–300 along w. Lake Erie during September. Flocks of 78 at U.S.W.R. Oct. 13 (MK) and 52 at Say. Res. Oct. 2 (SD, AF) were unprecedented for Iowa. The only sizable flock of Com. Snipe totaled 400 at Riverton W.M.A., IA, Oct. 15 (SD). Wilson's Phalaropes improved somewhat with maxima of 12–27 in the w. states and nine along L. Erie. Red-necked Phalaropes were generally scarce except for 38 at U.S.W.R. Aug. 28 (SD, JSi). An average number of Red Phalaropes included 4 reports along L. Erie plus inland singles in Sullivan, IN, Oct. 2 (ph. MB); Brookville Res., IN, Nov. 5–12 (DS, JO); and Pymatuning Res., OH, Nov. 6 (RHa). Another **Red Phalarope** at Say. Res. Sept. 30–Oct. 3 (†SD, †BE, m.ob.) provided a long-overdue first record for Iowa.

**JAEGERS TO TERNS** — Pomarine Jaegers staged an unprecedented movement along L. Erie. First noted Oct. 22, they peaked during late November with maxima of four+ at Avon L. Nov. 25 (KA) and three+ at Cleveland. The 9 reports from the lakefront involved at least 15–20 Pomarines. Several wandered inland with one at L. Decatur, IL, Oct. 10–16 (RS, JM, ph.), and two **Pomarine Jaegers** at Say. Res. Sept. 28–Oct. 2 (†SD, m.ob., ph.) established Iowa's first record. Parasitics were positively identified only along L. Erie, where singles were reported on 6 occasions. There were 9 other reports of unidentified jaegers from Ohio and 3 from Indiana.

A typical fall complement of Laughing Gulls consisted of four L. Erie singles through Nov. 27 at Eastlake (RH), three w. Kentucky singles through Oct. 2, and one at Gibson, IN, Sept. 11 (DJ, GBo). Franklin's Gulls were abundant in the w. states with 20,000+ at Say. Res. Oct. 1 (BE), 2000–3000 elsewhere in Iowa, and 1500+ at Big Lake S.P., MO, Oct. 4 (MR). Only small numbers appeared farther east with a maximum of 10 in Indiana. Single Little Gulls were scattered along L. Erie, mostly during November, and produced L. Michigan sightings at Michigan City, IN, Oct. 29 (KB et al.) and Chicago Nov. 18 (JM). If it visited Missouri's portion of the Mississippi R., an ad. **Common Black-headed Gull** at Alton, IL–MO, Sept. 10–25 established that state's 2nd record (DB et al.). This same individual was rediscovered at L. Clinton, IL, Oct. 16 (RS, m.ob., ph.). Bonaparte's Gulls were plentiful on the Great Lakes and produced noteworthy inland flocks of 1340 at Say. Res. Nov. 9 (SD) and 400+ at Kentucky L., KY, Nov. 13 (BP). Two California Gulls were identified on L. Erie, where they



*Adult Little Gull on Lake Michigan off Waukegan, Illinois, November 18, 1988. This classic flight shot shows the blackish underwing and smooth gray upperwing, set off by striking white wingtips. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.*

may be regular visitors: a first-year gull in Lake Oct. 30–Nov. 6 (†J, †MG et al.) and a second-year at Cleveland Nov. 11 (†J & DH). Another first-year **California Gull** remained at Gibson Oct. 1–Nov. 30 (DJ, GBo, ph.), providing Indiana's 4th record.

Thayer's Gulls returned to the Great Lakes Nov. 5–6 with scattered singles later in the month. Inland, Thayer's Gulls were limited to one at Gibson, IN, Nov. 6 (DJ, GBo) and one at 2 w. Kentucky lakes, beginning Nov. 12–13 at Kentucky L. (BP). An early Iceland Gull was photographed at Michigan City, IN, Nov. 19 (KB et al.). Increased numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls on L. Erie included a maximum of four at Lorain Nov. 6 (J, MG). Inland singles were identified along the Maumee R. in Lucas, OH, Aug. 17–Nov. 19 (†TK); at Gibson, IN, Oct. 1–Nov. 30 (GBo et al., ph.); and Kentucky L., KY, Oct. 2–Nov. 27 (BP, DPa, ph.). Glaucous Gulls were scarce with only one report from Iowa. Unlike in the past few years Great Black-backed Gulls were restricted to the Great Lakes and included only one report from L. Michigan. It was an exceptional fall for Black-legged Kittiwakes. Five Great Lakes reports included a maximum of six at Wilmette, IL, Nov. 20 (JL). Inland singles at 3 locations in Iowa, 2 in Indiana, one in Illinois, and along the Mississippi R. at Alton, MO–IL, represented above-normal numbers. Sabine's Gulls returned to normal with 3 L. Erie sightings, including a late migrant at Huron Nov. 20 (MG, J et al.). Inland singles were reported from Rice L., IL, Sept. 10 (JL); Gibson, IN, Oct. 1 (SJ et al.); and Say. Res. Oct. 20 (†SD, †RM).

Terns received mixed reports. Caspians peaked with 448 at Say. Res. Sept. 15 (SD) and 40–99 along the Great Lakes but were scarce at some localities. Common Terns gathered into some noteworthy flocks on the Great Lakes with 3700+ in Lucas, OH, Sept. 18 (J, MG) and 1200 at Beverly Shores, IN, Sept. 4 (KB). Late migrants remained at Gibson, IN, through Nov. 20 (DJ, GBo) and Eastlake, OH, until Nov. 27 (J & DH). Forster's Terns were widely reported with maxima of 600 along w. Lake Erie and 300 on L. Michigan. Small numbers of Least Terns were reported within their traditional range along the Mississippi R. and in w. Iowa. Six Least at Burlington Aug. 3–7 (CF) were unexpected in e. Iowa. The Black Tern migration was very poor, especially along the Great Lakes, where no flocks were encountered. The largest inland concentrations totaled 60–89 in Kentucky, Iowa, and Indiana.

**CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS** — Both cuckoos remained scarce except for 23 Yellow-billed at O.W.R. Aug. 7. One

Greater Roadrunner in Taney provided the only s.w. Missouri report (PMa, TB). Single Com. Barn-Owls were discovered in Iowa, Missouri, and Kentucky, normal numbers for recent years. The Snowy Owl flight was very poor with only single records along the Great Lakes in Ohio and Indiana. A Long-eared Owl found dead at Cleveland Aug. 26 (WK) was probably a summer resident; the only migrants detected were at 3 Iowa locations. Short-eared Owls were widely reported from every state except Missouri. Ten in a reclaimed strip mine in Ohio Nov. 27 (KC, AW) represented a large number for Kentucky. The 5 N. Saw-whet Owl sightings were restricted to Iowa and Ohio. Common Nighthawks staged a remarkable flight through n.e. Ohio on the evening of Aug. 27 with 3500+ estimated at L. Rockwell (LR), 2000+ in Summit, and 1190 over Shaker Heights (VF). Few flocks exceeded 100 nighthawks elsewhere. Four very late nighthawks were discovered Nov. 9 at Indianapolis, where two remained through Nov. 23 (MZ); another flew over Dayton, OH, Nov. 13 (AB). The submitted details do not conclusively identify these individuals, which are probably best treated as unidentified nighthawks. Chimney Swifts departed early with few sightings after Oct. 1. Missouri's first **White-throated Swift** was discovered hanging on an elevator wall in a Cape Girardeau concrete plant Nov. 7. This injured swift died in captivity the next day (fide JWi). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were scarce after the drought, and most departed before September. A few stragglers were reported, but none was conclusively identified.

The woodpecker migration was lackluster. Red-headed disappeared early, and sapsuckers were scarce with a maximum of 10 along L. Erie. Pileated Woodpeckers continued their w. expansion in Iowa with sightings from Algona Sept. 23 (MK) and Emmet Nov. 18–20 (fide DH). The flycatcher migration was also mediocre. A seasonal total of 15 Olive-sideds in n.w. Indiana was certainly above normal (fide KB). A late E. Wood-Pewee was identified by calls at Headlands S.P. Oct. 22 (RH). Most resident *Empidonax* flycatchers departed early, and migrants were scarce. An *Empidonax* flycatcher at Magee Marsh W.M.A., OH, Aug. 20–22 gave an unfamiliar, partial song. Detailed descriptions, corroborated by a series of photographs, plus the bird's diagnostic tail movements were consistent with a **Gray Flycatcher** (†J, †MG et al.), establishing a first Ohio record and the 3rd report east of the Mississippi R. Full details are in preparation. An E. Phoebe at Say. Res. Nov. 12–13 (AJ) was late for Iowa. Western Kingbirds were unreported away from their breeding range at the w. edge of the Region. The E. Kingbird migration peaked early with 147 at L. Rockwell, OH, Aug. 9 (LR) and 34 along w. Lake Erie Aug. 7. One remaining in Jefferson, KY, Oct. 13 was fairly late (BS). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers did not wander from their normal range in Missouri, where their fall migration peaked with 40–68 daily Sept. 24–28.

The swallow migration conformed to expected patterns. Roosting Purple Martins totaled 5000 near Lawrenceburg, IN, Aug. 8 (DS, JO); 3400 on South Bass Is., OH, Aug. 28 (KA); 2000 at Chicago Aug. 19 (JL); and 1500 in Gibson, IN, July 31 (DJ, GBo). Tree Swallows peaked with 10,000 at U.S.W.R. Aug. 28 (SD, JSi) and 6000 in Gibson, IN, Oct. 11 (DJ, GBo). A N. Rough-winged Swallow at Busch W.M.A., MO, Oct. 25 (JZ) was fairly late. Bank Swallow numbers improved somewhat with flocks of 2000–3000 in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. The only Cliff Swallow flocks reported were from Iowa, and migrant Barn Swallows were abundant only in w. Missouri during late September.

**CORVIDS TO SHRIKES** — The largest Am. Crow roosts totaled 3500 in Lucas, OH (TK), and 3000 in Ames, IA (JD). Migrant Fish Crows were reported only along the Mississippi R. in w. Kentucky. It was another poor year for Red-breasted Nuthatches with small numbers of reports from each state.

Brown Creepers received mixed reports with a maximum of 20 along L. Erie. The only August creeper reported was from n e Indiana, where they are not known to nest. A **Rock Wren** returned to Say. Res. Nov. 8–28 (†SD, m.ob.), most likely the same individual noted there last year. Accidental anywhere in this Region, another **Rock Wren** was discovered at Chicago Oct 8–10 (CM, m.ob., ph.). Carolina Wrens improved in most n areas; six in Lee Aug. 6 were noteworthy for s.e. Iowa (RC), and many were noted in n.e. Ohio. Migrant wrens elicited few comments. Winter Wrens were scarce except along L. Erie, where as many as 35 were reported. The unpredictable Sedge Wren staged a minor movement into Kentucky and Indiana during August, producing 6 records with a maximum of 11 at Atterbury W.M.A., IN (SJ, JW). Migrant Marsh Wrens were numerous only in the w. states, including 19 near Big Lake S.P., MO, Sept. 25 (MR). Both kinglets were locally distributed, generally most numerous along the Great Lakes. Golden-crowns peaked with 75–100 in Ohio and Indiana; 250 Ruby-crowns gathered at Headlands S.P., OH, Oct. 8 (LR). An early Ruby-crowned returned to Fairfield, IA, Aug. 20 (DP).

Migrant thrushes continued their poor showing. Veeries were universally scarce, and Gray-cheekeds were regularly observed only along the Great Lakes. Swainson's peaked with 150–180 along w. Lake Erie in early September, but only small numbers appeared elsewhere. Early migrants included Swainson's at Cleveland Aug. 2 (RHa) and Danville, KY, Aug. 25 (FL) and a Hermit at South Bass Is., OH, Aug. 22 (KA). Hermit Thrushes were also scarce; the largest flights totaled 35–40 along L. Erie. A roost hosting an estimated 100,000+ Am. Robins must have been impressive in Taney, MO, during November (PMA, JH). Migrant catbirds and thrashers were noted in reduced numbers, and Water Pipits were generally scarce. Cedar Waxwings were widespread through October. They were more locally distributed during November, although flocks of 290–500 appeared in portions of Ohio and Indiana. Reduced numbers of N. Shrikes consisted of single reports from Ohio and Illinois and 4 in Iowa. Loggerhead Shrikes were observed in expected numbers within the s. portions of the Region.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — The southward movements of both groups were not impressive, although some local concentrations were encountered. Their passage was decidedly early with many arrival dates during the first half of August. The most surprising aspect of this movement was the number of "southern" species appearing north of their normal range, a phenomenon usually associated with spring in this Region.

Vireos were generally scarce. The resident Bell's Vireos in Union, KY, remained through Aug. 26 (BP); one at Alum Creek Res. Sept. 4 (†) established one of few fall reports for Ohio. The only lingering vireo was a Philadelphia in Madison, KY, Oct. 26 (GR).

Six Golden-winged Warblers at Dayton Aug. 29 constituted an excellent fall total for Ohio (C & BB). Two "Lawrence's" and one "Brewster's" hybrids were reported this autumn. Early Tennessee Warblers returned to New Haven, IN, July 31 (Haw) and U.S.W.R. Aug. 1 (SD, JSi) and peaked with 100 at L. Waveland, IN, Aug. 30 (ABr). An early Nashville also returned to U.S.W.R. Aug. 1. Four late Yellow Warblers were discovered Nov. 9 at Cleveland, where one remained through Nov. 12 (WK). Both Chestnut-sided and Magnolia warblers returned to w. Lake Erie Aug. 8, and the latter species peaked with 100 there Sept. 6 (KA). It was another good year for Cape May Warblers. The earliest migrant was noted Aug. 2 at Ames, IA, where seven Aug. 22 represented a good number for Iowa (SD). This species was also numerous along L. Erie. A rare migrant through the w. states, a Black-throated Blue Warbler was noted at Big Lake S.P., MO, Oct. 5 (MR), and singles appeared at 2 sites in Iowa. A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Lylah's Marsh, IA, Aug. 6 was exceptionally early (MH). They

returned to L. Erie by Aug. 20, and large flights passed through every state during October. Late Black-throated Greens remained until Nov. 4 at Shaker Heights, OH (VF), and Oct. 30 at Gibson, IN (DJ, GBo). A Blackburnian Warbler at Ames, IA, Aug. 2 was also early (SD). Yellow-throated Warblers paid unexpected fall visits to South Bass Is., OH, Aug. 27 (KA) and Fox Is. Nature Preserve, IN, Sept. 6 (Haw). Both sites are north of their normal breeding range. Equally unexpected were fall Prairie Warblers along the Great Lakes with two at Chicago Sept. 25 (JL) and one at Headlands S.P., OH, Oct. 8 (RH).

Other early migrants were a Palm at Louisville Sept. 4 (BP) and a Bay-breasted at U.S.W.R. Aug. 5–9 (SD). Blackpoll Warblers were numerous along L. Erie, where several flights involving 75–110 were encountered. The 44 Black-and-white Warblers at South Bass Is., OH, Sept. 4 (KA) was remarkable for fall, and a late migrant remained in Clinton, OH, through Oct. 25 (LG). Wandering Worm-eating Warblers appeared at 3 Indiana locations north to the Indiana Dunes Sept. 14 (BSq). Extralimital Kentucky Warblers were detected at one Iowa and 3 n. Ohio locations Aug. 22–Sept. 5. The expected small numbers of Connecticut and Mourning warblers passed through every state, beginning with an early Mourning at Port of Indiana, IN, Aug. 6 (KB et al.). A late Hooded Warbler was noted in Parke, IN, Oct. 4 (ABr).

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — A Summer Tanager on South Bass Is. Aug. 22 provided one of few fall records for n Ohio (KA). Most grosbeaks slipped through this Region unnoticed although a late Rose-breasted remained at a Columbus feeder through Nov. 9 (EL). A singing Blue Grosbeak at Salamanie Res. Aug. 13 was unusual in n.e. Indiana (Haw) and indicative of its range expansion in the Great Lakes states. Indigo Buntings left early, peaking with 75 at O.W.R. Aug. 7.

The sparrow migration was dismal, even along both Great Lakes. Normally restricted to the w. edge of the Region, a "Spotted" Rufous-sided Towhee was an exceptional find at Shades S.P., IN, Nov. 16 (†ABr). A late Chipping Sparrow was noted in Lucas, OH, Nov. 20 (ET). Clay-colored Sparrows were scarce in the w. states and wandered E to n.w. Indiana, where one was noted at Beverly Shores Oct. 8 (KB et al.). After a poor showing this summer grassland sparrows were almost nonexistent as fall migrants. Casual fall migrants east of Illinois, single Le Conte's Sparrows were discovered at Hammond, IN, Sept. 30 (KB, CFi); Parke, IN, Sept. 30–Oct. 15 (ABr), Sloughs W.M.A., KY, Oct. 9 (BP et al.); and Erie, OH, Nov. 9 (TL). One or two Sharp-tailed Sparrows appeared at 7 locations, a normal number of fall reports for recent years. They were found in every state except Kentucky. Fox Sparrows were generally scarce with maxima of 10–25 in Indiana and Ohio, and Lincoln's Sparrows peaked with 20 in Missouri. A White-throated Sparrow at U.S.W.R. Aug. 5 was exceptionally early (SD). Their largest movements totaled 150–180 in Iowa and Ohio, but much smaller numbers were reported elsewhere. The only sizable flight of White-crowned Sparrows produced 628 at Cleveland Oct. 19 (WK), but they were scarce at other locations. Harris' Sparrows appeared E to n.w. Indiana, where singles were observed on 4 occasions, including an early migrant at Hammond Sept. 13 (Haw). Dark-eyed Juncos were scarce except for 730 tallied at Cleveland Oct. 19 (WK). The earliest Lapland Longspur returned to Holt, MO, Oct. 5 (MR). Their fall movement was unimpressive; flocks numbering 300–525 were reported from Iowa, but there were only small numbers elsewhere. An early Snow Bunting appeared in s.e. Indiana near Lawrenceburg by Oct. 23 (AFu). The Great Lakes movement of Snow Buntings peaked during November with 920 at Michigan City, IN, Nov. 18 (LH) and 300–400+ along L. Erie on several dates.

Bobolinks suffered during the drought, and few migrants appeared in the state. A W. Meadowlark at a known summering location, Killdeer Plains W.M.A. Oct. 2, provided one of few fall records from Ohio (DO). The only extralimital Yellow-headed Blackbirds were singles at Cleveland Sept. 1 (J & DH)

and St. Francois, MO, Sept. 14 [HF]. The few reports of Brewer's Blackbirds included flocks of 20 in St. Joseph, IN, Aug. 29 [M & VI] and six near Whitehouse, OH, Nov. 10 [ET]. Great-tailed Grackles were "conspicuously absent" in w. Missouri after this summer's drought. Migrant orioles received few reports except for a late Northern at Sycamore S.P., OH, Nov. 24 [C & BB, MN].

The winter finches decided to stay in the n. forests this year. Even Purple Finches were scarce with only a few individuals and small flocks appearing in each state. House Finches continued to increase in the w. states with as many as 54 counted at Des Moines, IA, Nov. 28 [MT]. Small numbers were detected in Missouri at Columbia and St. Joseph. Crossbills were limited to a flock of eight Reds in n.w. Indiana Oct. 8 and a single White-winged in Iowa Nov. 13. Redpolls were unreported. Pine Siskins appeared at a few locations in every state except Indiana, but the largest flock totaled only 15. Single Evening Grosbeaks in LaPorte, IN, Sept. 15 [SB] and near Dayton, OH, Sept. 18 [JS] were remarkably early, especially since there were virtually no other reports.

**ADDENDA** — Two late reports from the breeding season warrant mention. A breeding pair of Sandhill Cranes were discovered in Wayne, OH, in an area where nesting was suspected in previous years (*fide* DC), representing Ohio's first confirmed nest since 1926. In Indiana an intensive survey for Loggerhead Shrikes uncovered 167 adults, including at least 61 pairs. Most were found in the s. third of the state, primarily the s.w. counties of Daviess, Dubois, Spencer, and Pike (*fide* KBU). These results substantially expanded the known shrike population in that state.

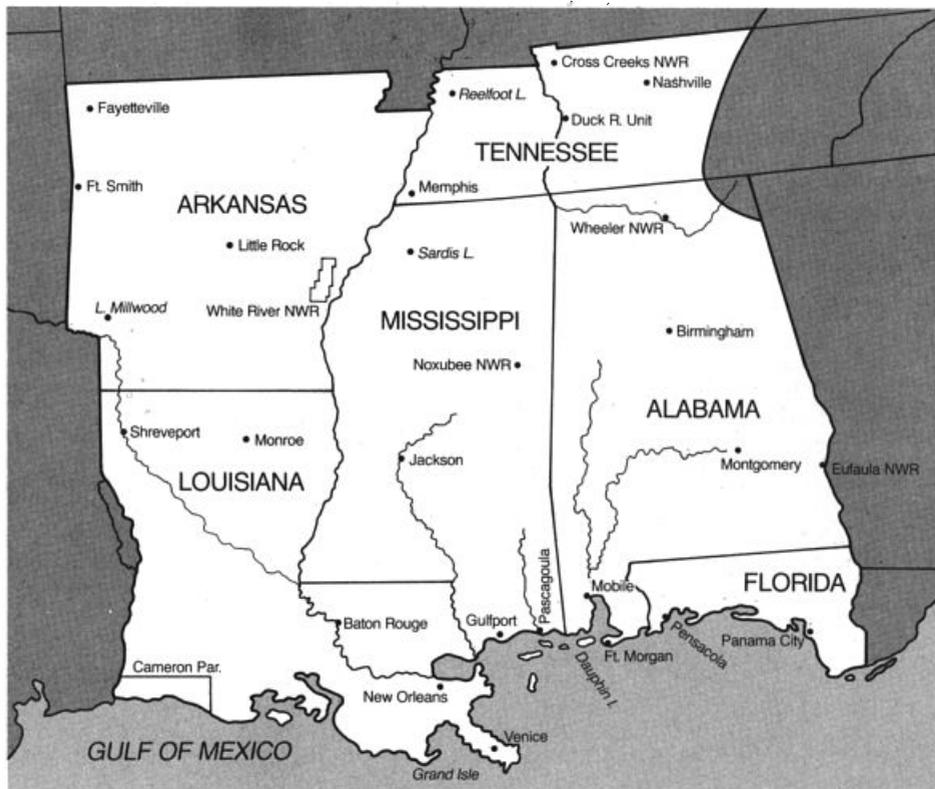
Unfortunately, the Illinois report was not received in time to be incorporated in this summary. The following records were most noteworthy: imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** at Chicago Sept. 28 [D. Pontius *et al.*]; single Ruffs at Horseshoe L., Aug. 17–25 [R. Goetz *et al.*], Rice L. Conservation Area July 30–Aug. 3 and Aug.

20–Sept. 3 [S. Bailey *et al.*], and Sanganois Conservation Area Sept. 8 [K. Richmond]; six imm. Sabine's Gulls at Springfield Sept. 18–21 [D. Bohlen]; a *Selasphorus* hummingbird near Macomb Aug. 29–31 [E. & E. Franks]; and a very late Barn Swallow at Springfield Dec. 10 [D. Oehmke].

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## CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Robert D. Purrington



Several things immediately stand out about this fall season, which in a number of respects was quite remarkable. It was marked, for example, by the return of tropical weather for the first time in several years, and although only a modest number of exciting records resulted, there were other interesting distributional records plausibly attributable to the tropical weather. This fall, as well, followed the great drought of the summer of 1988, and while fall migration does not offer much opportunity to quantitatively judge the effect of a summer drought on breeding success, the dry weather, which affected much of the southeast, did have its effects on the observation of water birds. The manifestations were mainly superficial, involving concentration of herons and shorebirds at available water; the more profound effect, if any, will emerge later. And water conditions were mixed: at the beginning of the summer Birmingham was 15 inches below normal, but New Orleans was on its way to one of the wettest years on records.

Initiating the onslaught of tropical weather was Beryl, which went onshore near New Orleans August 8. Hurricane Florence struck on September 2, and the effects of Gilbert hit the coast on September 16. A number of records of normally coastal or quasi-pelagic species were obtained from the coast to well inland as a result of the 3 storms.

Only during the past decade, and primarily in Louisiana, has the scale of raptor movements through the Region become apparent, and although a number of observers have been involved—all mentioned in this report in the past—we must, in particular, mention the names of Louisiana observers McKenzie and Feerick. Through their work and that of the people they have influenced, it has become apparent—much to the surprise of some longtime Louisiana birders—that some of the largest hawk movements on the continent pass through Louisiana. Many of these birds are circumgulf migrants, and so must assuredly pass through Texas in the end, but the reader who examines below the descriptions of raptor movements in southwestern Louisiana can hardly fail to be impressed. And there were important hawk movements in other parts of the Region as well.

What might eventually become the real story of this fall and the recent past and near future—or which may turn out to be a short-term fluctuation—were the generally small movements of regular passerine migrants. This is so strongly weather dependent that results from a single season obviously cannot be counted a trend; and yet we sense, writing in these pages each fall, that we are seeing the irreversible decline of North American passerine populations. Some species are doing well to be sure, and there may be more individual birds in North America than ever before. But if we look at the populations of thrushes, vireos, warblers, tanagers, and orioles, all strongly migratory insectivorous species, many of whom winter in the Central American tropics, there should be cause for alarm. This fall there were few thrushes, not many concentrations of *Dendroica* warblers—few Red-eyed Vireos, even. The number of records of vagrants is certainly not on the decline, and this season there were several remarkable records. Increasingly, however, fall trips to the coast are made rewarding by discoveries of vagrant gulls, or a western vagrant or two, rather than by the vast numbers of Orchard Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Red-eyed Vireos, etc., that we once saw.

To be sure, this was a fall with only about 2 weeks of interesting weather, mainly in early October. There were reports in that period of large movements. Of the hawk migration associated with the front of October 1–2, much will be said below. Duncan said of the first week in

October “It was wonderful, birds, birds, and more birds . . . It seems as if North America was emptied of its migrant birds during that wonder week, for the rest of the season was rather lackluster.” Barbara Stedman described an estimated 10,000 passerines flying past her hawk-watch site in 2 hours on October 13. “They were flying north into strong winds,” she wrote. It is, of course, a sign of age that we find that things just aren’t like they used to be, and without hard data that charge may be credible. Furthermore, this was a great drought year, and such effects, if they contributed to the phenomenon described here, may be temporary. Only time will tell whether this is fact or fancy, but perhaps we should act as though it is the former in the hope of effecting some change in the conditions that may be causing the decline, whether on the breeding or wintering grounds. According to Vogt, the wild food crop in middle Tennessee was exceptional.

Reports were received on a total of 220 species.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — A.O.S. = Alabama Ornithological Society; \* = specimen to L.S.U. Museum of Zoology.

**LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS** — Reports of Com. Loons Oct. 26–Nov. 8 from Shelby and Marshall, AL, to Clark, AR, and Sardis L., MS, totaling 178 individuals, helped document their migratory movements through the Region. Eared Grebes appeared early in Jackson, MS, Aug. 12 (JT, MB, MPo, SM)—the earliest ever by 2 weeks—and in Mobile, AL, Aug. 28 (GDJ). Another on the latter date was seen in Lowndes, MS (TS). November records from Jefferson, AL (TAI), and Washington, AR, were notable, and 10 in Mobile, AL, Nov. 12 (RAD) represented a large number for a species rare this far east. The only report of a W. Grebe was from inland L. Millwood, AR, Nov. 12–26 (CM, HP, MP). An **Audubon’s Shearwater** in Long Beach Harbor, Harrison, MS, Aug. 9 (JT, TS, MFH) furnished the first report for the state. Hurricane Beryl had just moved ashore near New Orleans. Convincing details were submitted. Three small shearwaters seen about 35 mi SSE of Grand I. Oct. 10 (m.ob.) were probably Audubon’s as well. An ad. Masked Booby on L. Pontchartrain Aug. 15, following Beryl (RDP), provided the first record for the vicinity of New Orleans. Reports of N. Gannets included these unusual sightings: distinct individuals in Harrison, MS, Aug. 8 & 9 (GM, TS, MFH) and one at St. Vincent I., Franklin, FL, Aug. 18 (BHS).

Records of Brown Pelicans included a high of 750 in Franklin, FL, Sept. 23 (BHS) and sightings in Cameron between August and November, highlighted by 118 there Aug. 20–21 (SWC, DLD, CAM); these were by far the highest numbers seen in that part of the state since the species was reintroduced into Louisiana. Early Double-crested Cormorants were seen in Jefferson, AR, Aug. 13 (RHD, MML) and Sept. 10 at New Orleans (AS, GS, MM). High numbers were recorded in Crawford, AR, Oct. 20 (JCN—500+); in Pulaski, AR, the next day (MP, HP—1500); and in Shelby, TN, Nov. 7 (WGC—300). The several records of Magnificent Frigatebirds received included 20 in St. Tammany-Orleans Aug. 9 (RDP), the day after Beryl; sightings in St. John the Baptist and at Baton Rouge Sept. 10 (SGP, SWC, DLD, JVR, CAM), which apparently resulted from Hurricane Florence; a single bird well inland in Lafourche Sept. 17 (PW, CS), the day after Hurricane Gilbert; and records from L. Millwood, AR, Sept. 24 (DH, CM) and Columbia, TN, Sept. 27 (WNJ), the latter providing the 2nd **Magnificent Frigatebird** record for Tennessee. While the latter records were probably due to Gilbert (or Gilbert and Florence), what a frigatebird was doing over Baton Rouge Oct. 28 (JN) is anyone’s guess.

**EGRETS TO STORKS** — Large numbers of Great Egrets at L. Millwood and in Tipton and Shelby, TN, Aug. 28–Sept. 13 may have been concentrated by drought conditions (CM) but may have been influenced by tropical weather along the

coast as well Tricolored Herons in Shelby, TN (JW, DD), Baton Rouge (DLD, SWC), Chicot, AR (DRS), L. Millwood (CM, HP, MP) and Crittendon, AR; Concordia, LA (DWG); and Yalobusha, MS (GK, SK), may have been due, at least in part, to Beryl, Florence, and Gilbert. White and Plegadis ibises also retreated inland from coastal storms; this fall there were 5 Arkansas records of White Ibis Aug. 3–Sept. 8 and one in Maury, TN, Sept. 3–Nov. 12 (ARL, OBL). Another was in Yalobusha, MS, Sept. 1 (GK, SK). Single Glossy Ibises were seen in Sumner, TN, Sept. 2 (DJS) and at L. Millwood, AR, Sept. 24 (CM, HP, MP, DH). As many as five Plegadis ibises were present in Madison, AR, Sept. 23–Oct. 2 (MML).

Roseate Spoonbills scattered widely to inland locations and east along the coast Aug. 1–Oct. 16. Records on Aug. 17 in Lafayette (JW, CB, DP) and the following day in Concordia, LA (DWG), may have been hurricane related, as most certainly was a Sept. 18 sighting in St. Bernard (GO) following Gilbert. Other records included one Sept. 7–24 at L. Millwood (CM, m.ob.) and another in Mobile Sept. 24 and Oct. 13 (GDJ, DGJ). Spoonbills were present in coastal Lafourche Aug. 8–Oct. 30, having become almost regular in fall in small numbers. Thirty-one records of Wood Storks totaling 1313 birds were received from all parts of the Region—far more than I have received in any previous fall. How much of this results from increased awareness of this species' endangered status, how much from the effects of storms, can only be conjectured. Late records were of one soaring with Am. White Pelicans over Grand I., LA, Nov. 6 (JH); one in Phillips, AR, Nov. 13 (DE, PT); and of another in Cameron, LA, Nov. 20 (SWC, DLD).

**WATERFOWL** — Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were seen in Pulaski, AR, Sept. 6 (HP, MP), and up to 23 were at L. Millwood Oct. 14–15 (HP, MP, CM). The latter represented the 3rd record for the lake of a species whose present wild distribution is hard to characterize. While 13 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in Vermillion, LA, Nov. 13 (KVR) were late, 36 Greater White-fronted Geese in Lafayette, MS, Sept. 23 (GK, VT) were earliest ever by some 6 weeks; an immature in Morgan, AL, Oct. 25 (AM, HF) was the earliest ever for the Tennessee Valley. Two Nov. 7–8 in Harrison, MS, (NA, JT, GM, MB, JP) were considered rare there. A Snow Goose, far out of season near Lafayette, LA, Aug. 17 (JW, CB, DP), was most likely a cripple. The 11 records of Ross' Geese submitted from Louisiana Nov. 5–27 dramatize the apparently regular presence of this species in the rice fields of s.w. Louisiana in winter. Perhaps this is too strong a statement to make after 2 winters in which they could be easily found; future field work will settle the issue. Some of the increase in reports clearly comes from increased confidence of observers in identifying small "Snow" geese on the wing as Ross's, although most of the records in question represent birds observed on the ground. All but 2 of this fall's records came from the rice fields of Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Vermillion, and Cameron, the exceptions being five (four adults, one immature) at Holla Bend N.W.R., AR, Nov. 27 (CM) and two in Oktibbeha, MS, Nov. 13 (MFH). Records of Canada Geese came from Arkansas and Louisiana between Oct. 17 and Nov. 27 and were mostly of Lesser Canada Geese. They included 319 in Washington, AR, Nov. 20 (MML) and 250 in Jefferson Davis, LA, Nov. 27 (SWC).

Green-winged Teal and N. Pintails both arrived in numbers made unusual by their recent scarcity; pintails especially were present in coastal s.e. Louisiana in greatly increased numbers. A by-product was an early record of Green-winged Teal in Perry, AL, Sept. 5 (GDJ, DGJ) and early single pintails in Jackson, MS, Aug. 12 (JT, MB, MPo, SM)—earliest ever by 2 months—and Aug. 15 at Wheeler N.W.R., AL (GDJ, HHK). A Gadwall in Mobile Aug. 28 (GDJ) was early, and three in Hancock, MS, Oct. 12 (JT, JP) were the earliest ever there. American Wigeon were reported in relatively low numbers compared to recent years.

At the end of the period Greater Scaup were being found to represent an unusually high percentage of scaup on L. Pontchartrain near New Orleans, something like 10%–20% or more versus the usual 2%–5% (MM, NN, DPM, RDP) Two Oct. 26 in Shelby (GDJ, DGJ) were the earliest ever for the Mountain Region of Alabama; two in Webster, MS (TS), were unusual as were 10 in Oktibbeha, MS, Nov. 21 (MFH). There were only a few records of Surf Scoters, highlighted by one in Cameron Aug. 20 (SWC, DLD, CAM), which may have been present earlier in the summer. One in Oktibbeha, MS, Nov. 22 (TS, MP) represented the 2nd area record. A Black Scoter was in Colbert, AL, Nov. 6 (TMH). In Washington, AR, two Com. Goldeneyes Oct. 30 (MML) were the earliest ever for the state. Also early were Ruddy Ducks in Dyer, TN, Aug. 2 (WGC) and in Baton Rouge Sept. 10 (JVR, CAM, SWC, DLD) The latter was the earliest ever by 3 weeks.

**DIURNAL RAPTORS** — Dominating the reports of 21 species of raptors received were the hawk-watch results of Feerick, McKenzie, and others. The report submitted by these 2 observers was so rich with information that it is difficult to know how to summarize it. At the very least, the results of this fall's studies of hawk migratory movements show that Louisiana has become one of the most important hawk-watching states in the country (indeed, possibly number one this fall), which presumably means that it ranks at the top as an avenue for raptor movements. This fall 94,176 raptors were counted, more than doubling the previous high; the number of hours of observation increased, from 257 to 309. Some of the daily highs were unprecedented: 57,547 individuals Oct 3 in Cameron, nearly 6 times the previous daily high set in 1987; 84,270 Broad-winged Hawks for the fall and 57,547 Oct 3, the latter compared to a previous daily total of 11,000. Quite clearly the vigorous cold front of Oct. 1–2 stimulated the largest hawk flights, resulting in the spectacular results of the next 2 days in Cameron. Most Broad-winged were observed coming out of the gulf, directly into the wind, apparently working their way back to land after riding the north winds out over the water. Interestingly, one observer (AE) looking for migrating raptors Oct. 2, some 20 mi north of Cameron, failed to see any large movement to the south. As McKenzie and Feerick put it, "the more hours we spend watching hawk migration in Louisiana, the more unanswered questions appear." At Baton Rouge, 16,659 Broad-winged Hawks were counted between Sept. 20 & 27 (PMcK, CF). Will Louisiana emerge as the number one hawk-watching state as Feerick and McKenzie suggest? The answer will come from continuous coverage, which these observers hope to provide from Sept. 20 to Oct. 10 at Cameron's E. Jetty. More about these hawk-watching results in the species accounts.

There were a dozen reports of Black-shouldered Kites submitted, involving seven different individuals in s.w. Louisiana Oct. 22–Nov. 27, as many as five in coastal Mississippi Oct 14–Nov. 14, and two Nov. 16 in s.e. Louisiana (RDP, NN), where there have not been recent records. The first modern reports of Black-shouldered Kites came from Louisiana 12 years ago and now they are established, if somewhat tentatively, in the s.w. counties of Louisiana and Mississippi. Reports of Mississippi Kites included 70 Aug. 1–28 at Vicksburg, MS (JTB), and 811 over Baton Rouge, including 705 between Aug. 13 & 21 (CF, PMcK). There were 11 reports of Bald Eagles, totaling 25 individuals; all but one of the aged birds were immatures. Northern Harriers were early in Cameron, LA (DLD, SWC), and in Yalobusha, MS (GK, SK), on Aug 21 and in Terrebonne, LA, on Aug. 27 (RSB, EJB). At St. Joe S P, FL, hawk watching yielded a total of 1325 Sharp-shinned Hawks on 4 dates between Sept. 30 and Oct. 13 (BHS), 103 were counted in Baldwin, AL, Sept. 30 and 95 Oct. 5 (VBF), all flying N. Feerick and McKenzie counted 3121 at Cameron Oct. 3; the Louisiana total was 6400 for the fall. One seen in Hancock, MS, Aug. 28 (JT) was earliest ever. A Cooper's Hawk near Grand I., LA, on the early date of Aug. 8 (MM, RDP) was

unusual, although there have been recent summer records in s.e. Louisiana; Barbara Stedman counted 20 at St. Joe S.P. Sept. 30–Oct. 13, and Feerick and McKenzie counted 133, topped by 53 Oct. 3 in Cameron, LA.

In addition to the spectacular totals given below, Battalio and others counted 3193 Broad-winged Hawks at Vicksburg Sept. 4–Oct. 3, and 880 in Madison, MS, Oct. 3. Alabama's highest numbers were 250 Oct. 5 and 106 Oct. 8 in Baldwin (VBF). McKenzie and Feerick summarized records of 68 Swainson's Hawks in Louisiana, including 33 Oct. 5 near L. Charles (AE). This list did not include eight seen flying upriver (N) from Venice, LA, Nov. 6 (RDP, NN) into the wind. The same observers had 77 Red-tailed Hawks flying upriver on that date, and in Baldwin, AL, 72 were seen Nov. 12 and 199 were seen on the 18th (VBF), all flying N. On Nov. 22, 230 were counted from the n. shore of L. Pontchartrain at Goose Point (AS, GS, CK). Individually, the most interesting raptor observation was of a **Ferruginous Hawk** in Cameron Oct. 22 (MM, GS, AS). There are few legitimate Louisiana records. Two records of Rough-legged Hawks were submitted: Nov. 5 in Marshall, AL (AM, AS), and Nov. 22 in St. Tammany (AS, GS, CK); there are 8 previous records for s.e. Louisiana. The 3 reports of Golden Eagles were Oct. 4 in Cameron (SWC, DLD), Nov. 10 in Kemper, MS, and Nov. 21 at Ft. Morgan (RAD). For the 5th year in a row a Prairie Falcon returned to the Guntersville Dam, Marshall, AL, area, this time on Nov. 16 (AM, HF). Details were unquestionable. Previous records were all in winter. Records of 14 Merlins were submitted, and there were 16 reports of Peregrine Falcons, including a total of seven seen by Stedman Sept. 29–Oct. 14 in Gulf and Franklin, FL.

**GROUSE TO SHOREBIRDS** — Ruffed Grouse, a species that does not usually find its way into the fall report, were reported from Newton, AR, where three were seen Oct. 9 (MWi), and from Davidson, TN, Nov. 18 (WAJ). The Arkansas record comes 6–7 years after a release in that area. In the past, Yellow Rails have been found in s. Louisiana primarily during hay-mowing operations; this fall it was found that they are at least locally common in the rice fields below U.S. 90 and can be seen during rice harvesting. On Nov. 15, Cardiff, Dittmann, and Marantz saw a minimum of nine and captured one by hand (later released). Other trips to the rice fields met with similar success. An estimated 200 Clapper Rails were seen in Hancock, MS, Sept. 11, following Hurricane Florence. Many were swimming in the waters of Mississippi Sound, and there were numerous road kills (JT). A Sora in Lonoke, AR, Aug. 7 (HP) was early there. The only report of Sandhill Cranes was of one at Ft. Morgan, AL, Sept. 21 (PB).

Inland sightings of Black-bellied Plovers included one in Howard, AR, Sept. 17 (BL, PL); up to seven on the Mississippi R. in Dyer, TN, Oct. 27 & 31 (WGC); and 14 in the Morganza Spillway, LA, Nov. 5 (DWG). Lesser Golden-Plovers, which are rare in the Region in fall, were in Shelby, AL, Sept. 7 (GDJ, DGJ); at Grand I., LA, Sept. 17 (PW, CS); in Cameron, LA, Oct. 22 (MA, RJS); and in Morgan, AL, Oct. 25 (AM, HF). There were also 3 records from n. Mississippi: Sept. 27–28 and Oct. 11 (TS). An impressive total of 150 Semipalmated Plovers on the Mississippi coast Aug. 8 (JT, GM) were thought to have been influenced by Beryl. Reports of 140 Piping Plovers were received from coastal observers; 122 of these were from Louisiana. Records spanned the period Aug. 11–Nov. 26. The latter record, from Cape San Blas, FL, included two color-banded birds among the 15 seen (BHS, RH, AH). There were also inland records of single individuals in Vermillion, LA, Sept. 17 (BF, CB) and at L. Millwood, AR, Sept. 22 (CM, HP, MP, EP).

Two reports of Am. Oystercatchers were submitted: three in Hancock, MS, Aug. 9 (JT, MFH, TS), the earliest ever by nearly 2 months and probably a result of storm tides raised by Beryl on the nearby islands of Louisiana; and 37 on St. Vincent I., Franklin, FL, Oct. 21 (BHS). A Black-necked Stilt in Okaloosa, FL, Sept. 1 (RAD) furnished the 2nd September

record there; 281 Am. Avocets in Mobile Sept. 24 (GDJ) made a high count for the Alabama gulf coast. Late were a Willet in Clark, AR, Oct. 7 (WFK); a Spotted Sandpiper Oct. 13 in Washington, AR (MM); and an Upland Sandpiper in Cameron, LA, Oct. 22 (DLD). Of Whimbrels, usually scarce in fall, there were about a dozen records, Aug. 8–Nov. 5, all from the coast. A very early individual was in Lafourche, LA, Aug. 8 (RDP, MM); another was there Sept. 11 (RDP, NN); and one in Hancock, MS, Aug. 8 (JT, GM) was the earliest ever there in fall. A Long-billed Curlew in Hancock Aug. 9 (JT, TS, MFH) was unexpected, and possibly due to Tropical Storm Beryl. The species is rarely found east of s.w. Louisiana.

Two Ruddy Turnstones at Starkville, MS, Aug. 17–22 (MFH, TS) were the first for the area. A Red Knot in Marshall, AL, Sept. 13 (TAI, FD) represented the 6th Tennessee Valley record. Inland reports of migrating Sanderlings came from Crawford, AR, Aug. 11 (KMcG); L. Millwood Sept. 4–24 (CM, m.ob.); Sept. 5 & 7 in Dyer and Lake, TN (WGC); in n. Mississippi Sept. 10, 11, & 15 (WMD, GK, TS); and in Garland, AR, Sept. 24 (BL, PL). Semipalmated Sandpipers in Cameron Oct. 16 (SWC, DLD, DPM) were slightly late. Peak numbers of W. Sandpipers in Mobile, AL, were 2420 Aug. 28 (GDJ); a White-rumped Sandpiper there Aug. 24 (GDJ) was unusual for fall. One at Starkville Aug. 17 (MFH, TS) provided the first record in fall for n.e. Mississippi. Early at New Orleans Sept. 4, just after Hurricane Florence made landfall, was a Dunlin (AS, GS). Stilt Sandpipers were quite late in Okaloosa, FL, Nov. 17 (RLB); in Mobile Nov. 19 (RAD); and in Vermillion and Jefferson Davis, LA, Nov. 27 (SWC, DLD). Recent winter records from the rice fields in that area suggest that these birds may have been wintering.

Records of Buff-breasted Sandpipers included two in Harrison, MS, Aug. 8 (GM, JT), the earliest there; inland records from Shelby, AL, Aug. 31 (GDJ, DGJ) and Benton, AR, Sept. 11 (JCN); and several records from Starkville and Oxford, MS (TS, MFH, MC, GK, SK). One on the gulf beach in Lafourche, LA, Sept. 5 (RDP, GC) was unusual. A Pectoral Sandpiper in Vermillion, LA, Nov. 15 (JW, CB, DP) was extremely late. **Ruffs**, extremely rare anywhere in the Region, were reported from coastal Mississippi Aug. 20 (JT, MB, MPO); in Memphis, TN, the following day (MWa, VR) for the 2nd accepted record for the state; and in the rice fields of Vermillion, LA, where two were seen between Oct. 23 and Nov. 4 (m.ob.). There were about 5 previous Louisiana records. A Long-billed Dowitcher in Okaloosa, FL, Sept. 15 (RAD) furnished the first September record of a species that is uncommon in winter east of coastal Mississippi and is casual in the Florida peninsula in fall. All three phalaropes were seen in n.e. Mississippi, highlighted by Starkville records of a Red-necked Phalarope Sept. 11 (MFH, TS) and a Red Phalarope Oct. 14 (MFH, TS, DR, ph.).



*Red Phalarope in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, October 14, 1988. Photograph/Dave Richardson.*

**LARIDS**— An imm. Parasitic Jaeger harrasing Forster's Terns on Guntersville Res. Sept. 5 (JMH), seen as close as 50 ft, furnished the first inland record for Alabama. Five inland reports of Laughing Gulls, all conceivably storm related, were received: Aug. 7 in Lonoke, AR (HP, MP); Aug. 18 at L. Millwood (CM); Sept. 6 in Chicot, AR (DRS); Sept. 10 in Baton Rouge, LA—just after Florence—and Oct. 14 at L. Millwood (CM, HP, MP, EP). Reports of Franklin's Gulls included up to 1800 at L. Millwood (CM, m.ob.); four on Guntersville Res., AL, Sept. 27 (AM, MMcD); and small numbers in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi in October. Two Nov. 20 in Cameron (SWC, DLD) were very late. At least four California Gulls occurred on Rutherford Beach, Cameron, LA, Oct. 16 & 23 (SWC, DLD, DPM). The species has been recorded every year since the fall of 1985. A large dark-backed gull in Cameron Oct. 23 (DLD, SWC) was thought possibly a Herring x Great Black-backed. The bird, which was the size of a ♂ Herring Gull, had a mantle no darker than that of a Laughing Gull and legs of a very pale flesh color. There were reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls from Fourchon Beach, Lafourche, LA, Oct. 9 (DPM, RDP); at least four in Cameron Oct. 16–Nov. 5 (m.ob.); and one in Harrison, MS, from Nov. 5 on (JT, m.ob.), probably representing the 7th successive visit of the same individual. The only record of a Great Black-backed Gull was of one seen standing beside the Lesser Black-backed mentioned above on Fourchon Beach Oct. 9 (RDP, DPM). This bird, which provided the 8th record for s.e. Louisiana, all since 1981, was also seen Oct. 29. There were two **Sabine's Gulls**, Aug. 9 at Clermont Harbor, Hancock, MS (MFH, JT, TS), for the 2nd record for the state, and Sept. 17–23 at L. Millwood, AR (CM, HP, MP, EP).



*Sabine's Gull at Clermont Harbor, Mississippi, August 9, 1988. Second state record. Probably in first-summer plumage, this bird has smaller white primary tips than the adult and an incomplete black hood. Photograph/M. F. Hodges, Jr.*



*Sooty Tern in coastal Mississippi August 9, 1988. Photograph/M. F. Hodges, Jr.*

Hurricane Florence was likely responsible for the appearance of two Com. Terns in Baton Rouge Sept. 10 (CAM, JVR); 180 were at coastal Ft. Morgan, AL, Sept. 25 (GDJ, DGJ). While three in Cameron Nov. 20 (DLD) were late, the species does winter in small numbers on the Louisiana coast. Least Terns in Baton Rouge Aug. 9 (MS, DLD) and Sept. 10 (JVR, CAM) were probably storm driven. Nine Bridled Terns were seen on a pelagic trip out of Orange Beach, AL, Aug. 27 (GDJ, A.O.S.), between 45 and 60 mi offshore. Twelve Sooty Terns on Hancock and Harrison, MS, beaches Aug. 9 (JT, TS, MFH—ph.) were a product of Beryl and probably from the Louisiana colony on Curlew I.

**DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS**— Among the unusual records of White-winged Doves, the report of one Aug. 1 at Ft. Morgan, AL (PB), stood out. One to two birds had been present "all summer" (TAI), and the possibility of nesting is real. White-winged Doves nested at Delta N.W.R., LA, in the early 1970s. An Inca Dove at Arkadelphia Sept. 20–26 (HFi, DH et al.) provided the 7th Arkansas record and 3 weeks earlier than previous occurrences. Records of Com. Ground-Doves included three in Lafourche, LA, on the early date of Sept. 11 (RSB, EJB); one in Montgomery, TN, in October (DWB) for approximately the 10th state record; and at least 5 Louisiana sightings. Groove-billed Anis were scarce in Louisiana this fall and went unreported elsewhere. The only reports were of single birds (!) at Cameron Sept. 30 (DP, CB) and Oct. 10 (RJB). A Flammulated Owl brought Nov. 23 to New Orleans' Audubon Zoo Bird Rehabilitation Center, where it soon died, unfortunately showed unequivocal evidence of having been in captivity. It had been found in Lafitte N.P. A Long-eared Owl found dead in Craighead, AR, Dec. 6 (NL) furnished one of only a dozen records for the state in the last quarter-century. Short-eared Owls arrived early in the Nashville area Oct. 2 (CGD), the earliest ever there, and there were other Tennessee records, on Oct. 17 (BL, PL) in Garland and Oct. 24 in Stewart (JCR).

One or two *Chaetura* swifts in LaPlace, LA, from Oct. 31 on (RJS, MW) proved later to be Vaux's. Reports of at least seven Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were submitted, one from coastal Mississippi, the others from Louisiana. Single birds arrived at 3 s.e. Louisiana feeders Oct. 19–22 (RJS, DPM, NN). Reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds included a late fledgling Aug. 30 in Conway, AR (LM, LF), an estimated 100 at 9 feeders at one residence in Conway Aug. 11 (VC), and 75–100 there Aug. 24 (RC). The species lingered to Nov. 14 in Davidson, TN (AB), and was present in Reserve, LA, from Nov. 26 to the end of the period (RJS), evidently wintering. Although neither Black-chinned Hummingbirds (which recently have vied with Rufous as the most common hummers at s. Louisiana feeders) nor Rufous Hummingbirds were especially common, there were several records of each in Lafayette, Baton Rouge, Reserve, and New Orleans. An Archilochus hummingbird, thought to be a Black-chinned, was in Hancock, MS, Nov. 8–9 (JT). Maximum numbers of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were seven at feeders in the Reserve-Laplace-Norco area of s.e. Louisiana in October and November (RJS, MA, NLN). Especially interesting were a ♂ Rufous at Searcy, AR, Aug. 9 (RC, FM) and a female in Desoto, MS, Sept. 10 (WMD), providing the first record for n.w. Mississippi.

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were early in Jefferson, AL, Sept. 9 (AR) and at Gulfport, MS, Sept. 25 (JT), the latter being the earliest ever by 2 days. A N. Flicker picked up at the WSMV tower in Davidson, TN, Sept. 14 (DFV) was at least an intergrade, if not a pure "Red-shafted" flicker, according to Richard C. Banks.

**FLYCATCHERS**— Olive-sided Flycatchers were somewhat scarce, with 9 reports reaching this writer; 5 came from n. Mississippi. Eight reports of identified *Empidonax* flycatch-

ers were received, of 3 records of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, only one was a calling bird, on Oct. 4 in Lafitte N.P. (DPM). The 4 records of Alder Flycatchers from coastal Alabama (one) and Cameron, LA (3), were all of calling birds, although only the latter reports actually described the call (SWC, DLD, CAM) It was estimated that as many as 32 Alder Flycatchers were present in 3 Cameron localities Aug. 20–21. A late Least Flycatcher was collected in Cameron Nov. 20 (SWC, DLD\*). A Say's Phoebe was seen at E. Jetty, Cameron, Oct. 1 (JS, CS et al.) Of 7 sightings of Vermilion Flycatchers Sept. 25–Oct. 22, 4 were from coastal Louisiana and one each came from Ft Morgan, AL, Ft. Pickens, FL, and Noxubee N.W.R., MS—for the first record there (Sept. 25, TS, MC, JB). A well-described Myiarchus flycatcher seen in Hancock, MS, Nov. 5 (GO, DC et al.) was evidently an Ash-throated Flycatcher. Everything in the description suggested Ash-throated, but the undertail pattern was not seen. A **Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher**, the 2nd for Alabama, was present at Ft. Morgan Sept. 27–Oct. 3 (JF, HF, m.ob., ph.). At least as exciting, and furnishing the first Alabama record, was a calling **Couch's Kingbird** at Ft. Morgan Oct. 4 (KW, JPF); a description of the call did not reach me. Standing out among the 7 reports of 15 W. Kingbirds were two from Shelby, TN: Sept. 20–29 (JW, m.ob.) and Nov. 1 (MWA, CB). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Lafayette, MS, Aug. 25 (VT) provided the first area record; the earliest ever for s.e. Louisiana was one Sept. 25 in St. Tammany (AS, GS); one in Baxter, AR, Oct. 2 (PEH) was the first ever there; and one at Starkville, MS, Sept. 28 (RO, VO) provided the 2nd record there. Single birds at Pensacola, FL, Oct. 21 (BT) and in Okaloosa, FL, Oct. 30 (RLB, JWB) were also unusual.

**LARKS TO WAXWINGS**—Horned Larks, scarce in s. Louisiana in winter, were seen on 2 occasions in plowed fields in Lafayette and Vermillion, Nov. 4 & 13 (KVR). On the heels of the important frontal passage of 2 days before, Cardiff and Dittmann estimated on the order of 3000 N. Rough-winged Swallows per minute flying by for 4 hours, or about 72,000 individuals, in coastal Cameron, LA, Oct. 4. Late were two near Delta, LA, Nov. 27 (JTB), as was a Bank Swallow there on the same day; two in New Iberia, LA, Nov. 21 (MJM) were also late. Very early, on the other hand, was a Bank Swallow in Washington, AR, Aug. 13 (MMI). All reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches from the s. part of the Region were of October arrivals with none reported thereafter. Earliest were Oct. 4 in Cameron, LA (SWC), and Oct. 8 at Grand I., LA (PW, CS). The only other reports were of an early arrival in Garland, AR, Sept. 9 (BL, PL) and a lone bird (the only one for the fall) near Oxford, MS, Oct. 15 (GK). As is often the case, Brown Creepers appeared early and then were scarce, at least near the coast. One in Madison, AR, Oct. 2 (MML) was the earliest ever for the w. Arkansas Ozarks.

It hardly needs to be pointed out to anyone who was in the field that it was a banner year for Golden-crowned Kinglets. They were abundant everywhere, and as is often the case in a good year there were many early records, with many reaching the gulf coast Oct. 10–13. The bird of the season was surely the **Northern Wheatear** at Ft. Morgan Oct. 2–3 (GDJ, DGJ), the first ever for Alabama (in a 3-day period Ft. Morgan had Wheatear, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and Couch's Kingbird!) A very detailed description was submitted, and the bird was photographed the 2nd day.

All migrant thrushes were scarce, at least as indicated by reports submitted and my own field experience. There were 2 early records of Veeries, both on Sept. 5, in St. Tammany, LA (DC, GO), and in Baldwin, AL (VBF). A Swainson's Thrush at Ft. Morgan Nov. 29 (RAD) was the latest for Alabama except for a Dec. 21, 1985, record. Only one was reported from n. Mississippi this fall. Remsen reported an unusual sighting of a flock of Am. Robins flying over Port Allen, LA, Aug. 7, much like a winter movement. If that seemed to presage a large movement of robins into the s. part of the Region, such was not to be the case; as of the end of the period robins were

scarce. Peak migratory movements of the standard mimic thrushes in coastal Mississippi were around Oct. 12 (JT), hundreds of mockingbirds, thrashers, and catbirds were noted. Cedar Waxwings were early in Okaloosa, FL, Oct. 8 (JP, KW, RAD) and in Cameron, LA, Oct. 22 (SWC, DLD).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS**—While a Solitary Vireo (*V. s. solitarius*) in Cameron Oct. 4 (SWC\*) was quite early, a Warbling Vireo at Ft. Pickens Oct. 3 (RAD) furnished only the 6th fall record for the Florida section. Although strictly speaking outside the fall migration season, a Black-whiskered Vireo on Grand I. July 16 (DPM, GS) was further evidence of possible nesting at that location; the bird did not sing. There are 4 other breeding-season records for s.e. Louisiana but no conclusive evidence of nesting. A Golden-winged Warbler in Washington, AR, Sept. 25 (CKe) provided only the 2nd fall record for the w. Arkansas Ozarks. Among several late records of Tennessee Warblers were four at Cameron, LA, Nov. 20 (SWC\*, DLD). Early there, however, was an Orange-crowned Warbler Oct. 5 (DLD, SWC). There was only one report of Nashville Warbler in s.e. Louisiana, of one Oct. 14 in New Orleans (NN).

A wagering person would have given odds that it would be many years before a **Tropical Parula** would again turn up in Louisiana, following the record of December 1983; he would have been the poorer for his confidence: an imm. male was collected in Cameron Oct. 22 (SWC, DLD)! Magnolia Warblers were early in Hancock, MS, Aug. 31 (JT, CC, GM, JP)—the earliest ever by a week—and in Greene, AL, Sept. 5 (GDJ, DGJ). The records of Cape May Warblers, which are rare in fall in the Region, were of a female in Cameron Oct. 4–5 (SWC\*) and one thought to be an imm. female in Oktibbeha, MS, Oct. 11 (TS). Records of Black-throated Blue Warblers included the 5th record for the Tennessee Valley, in Decatur, AL, Sept. 24 (CBu); one in New Orleans Oct. 13 (NN); and 2 reports from Waveland Lagoon, Hancock, MS, Oct. 15 (TS) and Nov. 5 (DC). A Black-throated Gray Warbler in Cameron Nov. 6 (DLD, SWC, CAM) furnished one of only a few records in Louisiana in recent years. Single Black-throated Green Warblers at different Cameron locations Nov. 20–21 (SWC, DLD) were late.

One of the few concentrations of transient warblers reported this fall was of 20 Blackburnian Warblers in New Orleans Sept. 30 (NN), just ahead of a strong front. Very late in Cameron was a Prairie Warbler Nov. 20 (SWC, DLD). The most interesting Palm Warbler reports were of one at Ft. Chaffee, AR, Sept. 26 (JCN) and 200+ in St. Joe S.P., FL, Oct. 13 (BHS). Thirty to 40 Black-and-white Warblers were seen in Hancock, MS, Sept. 7 (JT, CC, JP). There were 2 reports of Connecticut Warblers, both from Shelby, TN, on Sept. 15 (MWA, VR) and Oct. 15 (JW, DS). Good descriptions were provided. The 2 reports of its congener, Mourning Warbler, were of one in Lafayette, MS, Aug. 29 (GK, VT) and of one thought to be an imm. female at Ft. Morgan, AL, Sept. 5 (TS). Combination of call, narrow eye-ring, and yellow wash on throat would generally rule out Connecticut and MacGillivray's. A ♀ Wilson's Warbler in Hancock, MS, Sept. 2 (JT) was the earliest ever by 10 days, and two were early in Cameron, LA, Sept. 5 (RJB).

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES**—A lingering ♀ Summer Tanager was in Cameron, LA, Nov. 20 (SWC), and Indigo Buntings were late there as well Nov. 20–21 (SWC, DLD), when up to 11 were seen. Dickcissels in Lafourche, LA, Aug. 8 & 11 (RDP, MM, DPM, NN) were early, perhaps indicative of some nearby nesting. Although no Clay-colored Sparrows were seen in s.e. Louisiana, where they are expected in early October, there

were reports from Ft. Morgan, AL, where two were seen Sept. 24–25 (GDJ, DGJ) and one Oct. 13 (GDJ), and three were seen in Cameron Oct. 22 (SWC, DLD). One identified as an immature was in Jackson, MS, Oct. 23 (WMD). There were 7 records of Lark Sparrows Aug. 13–Oct. 16, all near the coast. Grasshopper Sparrows were late in departing in Madison, AR (Aug. 8, MMI) and in Washington, AR (Aug. 18, JCN, CR), but early in reaching coastal Hancock, MS, Oct. 12 (JT, JP). Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Sebastian, AR, Sept. 5 (KMcG) and in Benton, AR, Oct. 1 (MMI) were unusual, and 10 in Cameron Oct. 5 were early. Also early were two Lincoln's Sparrows in Cameron Oct. 5 (SWC) and three Swamp Sparrows there Oct. 4–5 (SWC). A White-throated Sparrow in Washington, AR, Aug. 13 (JCN, CKE, JHu) was "very much out of season." The species was early in reaching s.e. Louisiana Oct. 9 & 10 (DPM, RDP); five White-crowned Sparrows at St. Joe S.P., FL, Oct. 4 (BHS) were early, and unusual. A Harris' Sparrow in Benton, AR, Oct. 15 (MMI) was earliest ever for the state. Although Dark-eyed Juncos did not reach the coast in numbers, a few were very early: Oct. 4 in Cameron (DLD) and Oct. 7 in Franklin, FL (BHS). The only report of longspurs was of five Laplands in Benton, AR, Nov. 27 (JCN).

Bobolinks, rare in the Region in fall, were seen in Washington, AR, Aug. 21 (JCN); on Grand I., LA, Sept. 17 (CS, PW); and in Cameron Oct. 4 (SWC, DLD). A W. Meadowlark in full song was an unusual discovery near Duson in Lafayette Nov. 4 (KVR); the species is rare in s. Louisiana. The 9 reports of 13 Yellow-headed Blackbirds came from coastal areas of the Region, from s.w. Louisiana to the Florida peninsula, plus one record came from Starkville, MS, Sept. 20–21 (TS, MFH, MC, JB). Farthest east were single birds at Ft. Morgan, AL, Sept. 6 and at Gulf Breeze, FL, Sept. 22 (RAD). At least 2 of the records were of birds visiting feeders, including one in Jefferson, LA, Oct. 5–12 (RM). Tying the earliest date for the state was a ♀ Brewer's Blackbird in Cameron Oct. 5 (SWC). One to two Bronzed Cowbirds on Fourchon Rd. in Lafourche, LA, Sept. 17–Oct. 24 (PW, CS, DPM) apparently furnished the first records for the Grand I. vicinity. An ad. ♂ Orchard Oriole at a New Orleans residence from Nov. 24 on (DPM) may have been the same bird that overwintered last year as an imm. male. At the end of the period, Muth also had a ♀ "Bullock's" and an ad. ♂ "Baltimore" oriole apparently overwintering at his syrup feeders.

After last year's numerous out-of-range records, the 2 reports of House Finch submitted extended the known wintering range very modestly. Most interesting were six in Washington Nov. 28 (MMI), for the first n.e. Arkansas record. A remarkably early Am. Goldfinch was seen in Lafayette, LA, on the amazing date of Sept. 3 (JM); quite early as well were two on the coast in Gulf, FL, Sept. 24 (BHS). No reports of Purple Finches or Pine Siskins were submitted.

**NOTES TO OBSERVERS**—While most observers submit detailed descriptions of rare vagrants, a few still do not. The Regional Editor needs as much information as possible to evaluate a record, especially since, in some cases, the contributing editors fail to pass judgement.

**CORRIGENDA**—The Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at L. Millwood, AR, reported in the Spring 1988 issue, were first seen Aug. 3, 1987, not Sept. 3. The Osprey seen Aug. 15, 1987, furnished the 2nd August record for the lake, not the 2nd record.

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## American Birds **BIRDATHON / 89**

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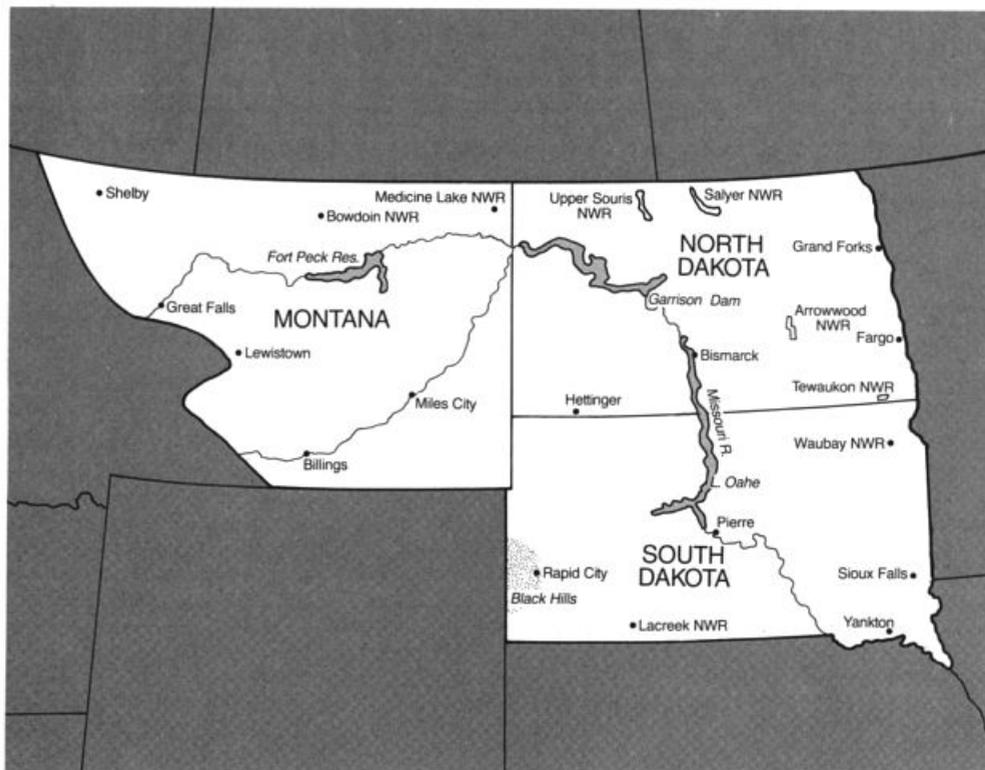
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## American Birds **BIRDATHON / 89**

# NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

David O. Lambeth



This season was variously described as “almost birdless,” “absolutely dismal,” and “kind of a bummer.” Area editors agreed that the numbers of passerines, especially sparrows, were generally low, and that most species arrived, peaked, and left early. There were a number of rarities, however, including first state records for Mew Gull and Little Gull in North Dakota.

Most observers attributed the dullness of the season to the drought, the worst in 50 years. A year ago, lakes in eastern South Dakota were at their highest levels in years, yet most small wetlands were bone-dry by this fall. In northeastern Montana, drought conditions persisted for the seventh consecutive year. On the Missouri Coteau, the pothole country of the Dakotas, 90% of the wetlands were dry. The reservoirs behind the mainstem dams on the Missouri River dropped several feet during the year, exposing vast areas of the lake bed.

To what extent should the dullness of the season be attributed to the drought? Obviously, waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds had to either concentrate in the wetlands that remained or continue their migration without stopping. But what about passerines and their requirements? The fruit crop was patchy; for example, crabapples and mountain ash berries were nearly absent in one area while a nearby area would have near-normal amounts. The quantity and quality of seeds was much harder to assess but was likely poor. One can only guess what the insect populations may have been although the lack of mosquitoes was obvious. And what did creepers, nuthatches, and warblers find or fail to find as they foraged? Berkey thought that passerines concentrated near water although he believed flocks generally moved on within a few hours.

Carlson was surprised at how few passerines were present in riparian areas near water at Ft. Peck, Montana. Generally fair weather undoubtedly allowed many birds to move through quickly. However, there is the nagging suspicion, not easily substantiated, that the nesting season may have been a poor one and that consequently, numbers were truly down.

**LOONS TO WATERFOWL** — Common Loons peaked at 25 on Nelson Res., MT, Oct. 18 (DP). Up to 3500 Am. White Pelicans used impoundments at Arrowwood N.W.R., ND, during August (PV). Four Double-crested Cormorant young remained on the nest at Bowdoin N.W.R., MT, on the late date of Sept. 8 (DP). An estimate of 5500 cormorants on one small bay of Devils Lake Sept. 25 established a new high count for North Dakota (DOL). Late migrants included an Am. Bittern at Fargo, ND, Nov. 17 (VS), and a **Little Blue Heron** in Day, SD, Nov. 8 (MG). The 2nd North Dakota site for nesting Snowy Egrets (four adults and six flightless young, ph.) was confirmed at Dewald Slough in Kidder Aug. 7 (GBB, REM). Also present were 200+ Black-crowned Night-Herons including many young, 12 adult and eight imm. Cattle Egrets, and a Least Bittern.

A hunting season for Tundra Swans was tried in North Dakota. High counts for swans in e. North Dakota included 3500 at Arrowwood (PV), 6000 at Stump Lake (DOL), and 1500 on Devils Lake (GBB), all in late October. At LaCreek N.W.R., SD, 58 Trumpeter Swans were counted Nov. 27 (R & DR). A total of 15 Ross' Geese was seen in n.c. North Dakota in October (REM, GBB), and one was found at Nelson Res., MT, Oct. 25 (DP, KS). Northern Pintails were specifically noted as low by some observers, but nearly 6000 were at Bowdoin Sept. 14 (DP). Perhaps another reflection of the concentrating effect of the drought was the count in October of 6500 Can-

vasbacks at Arrowwood, the highest number there in recent years (PV). The most unusual duck of the season was a Red-crested Pochard in a flock of Redheads near Ft. Totten, ND; it was found Oct. 8 (PS, SL) and identified Oct. 9 (GBB, REM). Given the remote location, the possibility of this bird being a true vagrant was considered; however, this species is commonly kept in captivity.

Diving ducks generally arrived late, but a number of rarities were among them. A **Harlequin Duck** was on the Minot lagoons Sept. 30 (REM). An Oldsquaw on Canyon Lake Nov. 24 furnished only the 2nd record for the Black Hills of South Dakota (NW, LB, ES). There were six Oldsquaws sighted in North Dakota Oct. 4–Nov. 13, including three at Grand Forks Nov. 6 (EF). A Surf Scoter at Minot Sept. 21 was the earliest for the state by 6 days (GBB) while the first of 20 White-winged Scoters seen in the Region were found Oct. 19 at Grand Forks. An estimate of 3000 Com. Mergansers near New Town Nov. 25 was a new high for North Dakota (REM).

**RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS**—A total of 15 Ospreys was reported for the Region. There were 2 sightings of N. Goshawk in e. South Dakota (BKH) and at least 3 in n.c. North Dakota (REM, RKM). Carlson feels that the status of Broad-winged Hawk in Montana has changed from extremely rare to unusual during the last 10 years; six were sighted at Bowdoin Sept. 14 (KS). Three exceptional counts of Swainson's Hawks were made in South Dakota: 112 on the ground in Faulk Sept. 13 (MM), 300 kettling over Fall River Sept. 18 (RP), and 400 on the ground in Stanley Sept. 24 (EM). Rough-legged Hawks were scarce this season. A dozen sightings of Peregrines were reported.

There was a general consensus that the numbers of Gray Partridges were up while Ring-necked Pheasants and Sharp-tailed Grouse were down. Greater Prairie-Chicken sightings included up to 20 near Wyndmere, ND. (JL), and smaller numbers in South Dakota at Sand Lake N.W.R. (DH) and in Deuel.

Seventy Semipalmated Plovers were at Arrowwood Aug. 10 (PV), and 2220 Am. Avocets were counted Sept. 9 at Long Lake N.W.R., ND (MR). Fifteen Long-billed Curlews were seen Aug. 6 at Ft. Peck (CC). A Ruddy Turnstone and a Red Knot at Ft. Peck Sept. 10 were unusual there, as were two Short-billed Dowitchers found Aug. 14 (CC). There were three reports of White-rumped Sandpipers in North Dakota with three seen Nov. 5 (GN) being the latest ever. A Pectoral Sandpiper at the base of Oahe Dam, SD, Nov. 26 was extremely late (R & DR). A Short-billed Dowitcher identified by call Oct. 2 at upper Souris N.W.R., ND, was the latest ever, while an estimate of 9000 Long-billed Dowitchers at Salyer N.W.R. Aug. 28 established a new high for the state (REM, GBB). American Woodcocks were seen Aug. 26 in Grand Forks and Sept. 15 in Fargo (RK) where not unexpected, but the one seen (TH) Nov. 6 in Mandan, ND, was definitely w. of range.

**GULLS TO NIGHTJARS**—A **Little Gull** in first-winter plumage at Garrison Dam Nov. 27 provided both a first North Dakota and first Regional record (REM, GBB et al.). A juvenal-plumaged **Mew Gull** first found Sept. 18 at Garrison Dam was molting into first-winter plumage when last seen Nov. 13 (GBB, REM). The bird, North Dakota's first, was studied by several observers in the presence of Ring-billed Gulls of all age classes. An ad. **Mew Gull** was seen at the same location Nov. 27 (GBB, REM); both Mew Gulls were of the North American subspecies. One or more **Black-legged Kittiwakes** were in Yankton, SD, Nov. 25–30 (WH). An ad. **Sabine's Gull** Sept. 17 at Belle Fourche Res. provided South Dakota's 5th record (PFS). A Caspian Tern was photographed at Grand Forks Sept. 10 (DOL), and three were seen Sept. 11 in Deuel (BKH).

Imagine, if you will, an E. Screech-Owl duetting with the neighbor's goat at Sawyer, ND, Aug. 6 (REM)! The number of



*Little Gull in first-winter plumage (showing the striking wing pattern of this age group) at Garrison Dam, North Dakota, December 3, 1988. First state record. Photograph/David Lambert.*



*First-winter Mew Gull at Garrison Dam, North Dakota, November 3, 1988. First state record. As expected, the bird appears to be of the North American race; the European form, a stray to this continent, would show less black in the tail in this plumage. Photograph/Gordon Berkey.*

Snowy Owls was considerably below average. A Barred Owl was found Sept. 3 in Minnehaha, SD (AH), and another was at Fargo Nov. 10 (LF). The total number of Short-eared Owls reported was 23, and the only Long-eared Owl seen was at Tewaukon N.W.R., ND, Oct. 20 (MSt). Tallman banded seven N. Saw-whet Owls in his backyard in Aberdeen, SD; four of these were banded Oct. 2. A Saw-whet was seen Oct. 14 sitting on the ground in broad daylight in Renville (DD), and one was heard at Fargo Nov. 19 (AL). Approximately 1500 Com. Nighthawks were seen in 2 highway miles near Edinburg, ND, Aug. 20 (DD). A Whip-poor-will was found in Fargo Sept. 4 (LF), and another was banded in Jackson, SD, Aug. 25 (KG); the species is considered accidental in the w. half of South Dakota.

**HUMMINGBIRDS TO WAXWINGS**—Rufous Hummingbirds were seen in South Dakota in Pennington Aug. 2 (NW) and in Custer Aug. 26 and Sept. 8 (MP). It was a good fall for seeing Red-bellied Woodpeckers; there were 7 reports with the one in Hettinger, ND, Nov. 6 & 22 being the most out of range (D & CG). Most of the sightings were in late October and early November. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded in Jackson Aug. 24 was South Dakota's earliest (KG)

while one seen at Hope Oct 1 was North Dakota's latest by 12 days (DK). An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** at Ft. Peck Aug. 27 was carefully observed and described (CC). A group of six Cassin's Kingbirds in the ponderosa pine country of Todd, SD, Sept 18 was very far east (R & DR). Several observers commented on the scarcity of swallows, but there were several large flocks of Bank Swallows at Devils Lake Aug. 13 including one that exceeded 35,000 (SL).

A Gray Jay was seen Nov. 6 in Mountrail, ND (DD). Common Ravens were seen in North Dakota Oct. 8, at Sully's Hill (PS, DOL), setting a new early date, and Oct. 23 in Bottineau (GBB). Red-breasted Nuthatch was nearly a "no-show" with perhaps the lowest number in the last 10 years. A Brown Creeper Aug. 10 in Brookings, SD (GF), may have been on breeding territory since migrants are not expected before mid-September. Winter Wrens were seen Sept. 30 in Brown, SD (DT) and Oct. 9 at Sully's Hill (REM), and one was rather far west at Hettinger, ND, Oct. 26 (D & CG).

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was present in Brookings, SD, Aug 30 (BJR). Very good details were received for a **Western Bluebird** at Bismarck (DR); this species is not on the North Dakota list but three documented sightings await review by the ND Records Committee. A Townsend's Solitaire at Ft. Peck Aug. 31 was quite early (CC) while one at Grand Forks Oct 17-25 was rather far east. A Wood Thrush at Bismarck Oct 12-15 was a very rare sighting for the fall season (DR). A road-killed N. Mockingbird was found in Fall River, SD, Aug. 8 (RP), and a live one was present at Grand Forks Oct. 25-Nov 17 (DOL). A Sage Thrasher Sept. 16 in Fall River was South Dakota's latest ever (RP), and one was near Jordan, MT, Sept 13 (LM). Bohemian Waxwings were described as abundant in late November at Lewistown and Bowdoin, but very few reached the Dakotas.

**VIREOS TO FINCHES** — A family group of seven Bell's Vireos was found near Williston, ND, Aug. 18 (TW). Philadelphia Vireos were inexplicably more common than usual at Minot where they were seen on 12 different dates (REM, GBB). A **Blue-winged Warbler** photographed at Grand Forks Aug 31 provided North Dakota's 3rd record (DOL), and the 4th record was of an immature found in Minot Sept. 24-25 (GBB, REM). The only Golden-winged Warbler reported was in Brown, SD, Sept. 16 (DT). A N. Parula in Hughes, SD, Sept. 9 was considered to be very early (BKH). A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at Ft. Peck Sept. 10 furnished about the 7th record for Montana (CC). Black-throated Blue Warblers appeared Sept 16 in Brown, SD (DGP), Sept. 20 in Minot (REM, GBB), and Sept. 22 in Grand Forks (DOL). A Pine Warbler in Roberts, SD, Aug. 8 was very early as well as being unusual for this Region (BKH). A **Hooded Warbler** in Hettinger, ND, Sept. 20 (D & CG) provided the 2nd record for western North Dakota and also the first fall record for the state.

The low numbers recorded for sparrows and finches contributed heavily to the feeling, especially among feeder watchers, that this season was "birdless." One finch that came South in decent numbers and also provided a clue that the nesting season may have been poor was the Purple Finch; Berkey noted that red-plumaged males made up nearly 50% of the flocks, which normally contain predominately brown birds (females and immature males).

Graupman banded 129 Rufous-sided Towhees, 208 White-crowned Sparrows, and 173 Harris' Sparrows in Jackson, SD. A Lincoln's Sparrow in Fargo Nov. 13 set a new date for the state (CS). A Dark-eyed Junco at New Town Aug. 20 was North Dakota's earliest ever by 2 days (BCH), and a White-throated Sparrow in Brown, SD, Sept. 4 (DT) established a new early date for that state. Three Lapland Longspurs in Butte, SD, Sept. 17 provided the 2nd-earliest arrival date for South Dakota (PFS). A flock of 50 Smith's Longspurs was seen

Oct 9 in a grazed pasture at Devils Lake, ND (REM, GBB), and there were additional sightings Oct. 7 at Minot, Oct. 16 near Grand Forks (DOL, SL), and Oct. 21 & 28 in Deuel, SD (BKH). A Purple Finch photographed at Bowdoin Oct. 25 was a first for latilong L9 in Montana (JM). A **House Finch** was seen Sept. 17 in Brown, SD (DGP), and up to three remained throughout the period near the presumed nest site in Fargo (MS). Species for which almost no reports were received included Pine Grosbeak, both crossbills, both redpolls, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak.

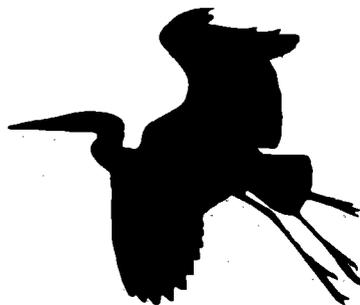
**CORRIGENDUM** — AB 42:452, Piping Plovers arrived at Nelson Res. on April 20, not April 12.

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## American Birds **BIRDATHON/89**

**Pledge today!!!**



# SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski



**W**eather conditions moderated over much of the Region from the dryer than normal conditions of spring. However, falls are typically dry, so that the impact of earlier drought conditions were still much in evidence. Ponds were still down or dry in much of the Region; many streams were reduced to pools, if that. In some cases this made for excellent mud flats and super shorebirding. These conditions may also have concentrated birds in fewer locations, making the “scoops” easier to find. Atypically, the normally driest Oklahoma panhandle was still wetter than normal, providing for some good playa ponds.

However, insect production and seed crops were also probably reduced in dryer areas. A number of observers complained that many land birds were not as common as in other years. Because this has been the story for several seasons and years, bird populations may be at low points in their cycles.

Hurricane Gilbert missed the southern Great Plains, much to the dismay of the drought-stricken. Nonetheless, more than a couple of frigatebirds appeared. In addition, some weather systems seemed particularly amenable to producing good numbers of birds, particularly waterfowl at the end of October.

**ABBREVIATIONS**—Cheyenne Bottoms = Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS; L. Hefner = Lake Hefner, Oklahoma, OK; Oologah = Oologah Res., Rogers, OK. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS TO WATERFOWL**—A Red-necked Grebe was documented from Offutt Base L., Sarpy, NE, Nov. 17 (JT). About 2000 W. Grebes were present Oct. 9 at L. McConaughy, Keith, w. Nebraska, a major staging area. In contrast, six W.

Grebes were reported from e. Nebraska (*vide* BP, LP). Two Western Grebes and a **Clark's Grebe** were present at L. Hefner Oct. 25–Nov. 10 (JW *et al.*). Another Western was noted there Nov. 23 (JGN). The observation of the Clark's Grebe may provide the first record for Oklahoma, pending favorable review by the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee.

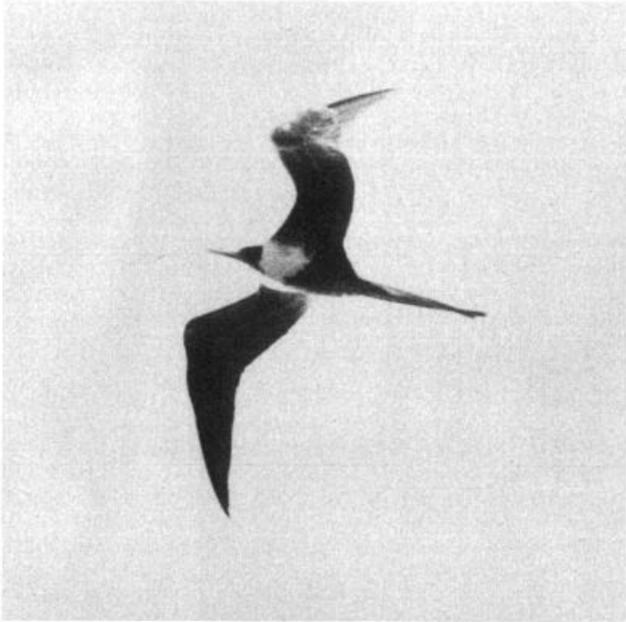
The invasion of wandering herons noted in Nebraska during the summer tailed out with some of the highest concentrations ever noted. These included 35 Great Egrets, 30 Snowy Egrets, and five imm. Little Blue Herons at Harlan County Res. Aug. 9–14 (RCR, DJR). Several Great Egrets lingered in Oklahoma. Almost 30 were noted Oct. 31. One was still present as late as Nov. 9 (JGN *et al.*), and eight were present at Muskogee, OK, Nov. 15 (JM, ES). A Snowy Egret in Tulsa Oct. 18 set a local record for late departure (AR *et al.*). Also lingering was an ad. Little Blue Heron noted Nov. 13 in Kiowa, OK (SO).

Possibly an artifact of Hurricane Gilbert, an ad. White Ibis was located at Oologah Sept. 25 & 27 (JCH, MD *et al.*). A pre-hurricane wandering **Wood Stork** photographed at Scott L., Scott, KS, Aug. 21–22 (TS, SN *et al.*) provided only the 6th Kansas record.

With attempts at reintroducing Trumpeter Swans to the north, all swans in the Region should be scrutinized. A record of a Trumpeter Swan identified at Branched Oak L., Lancaster, NE, Nov. 13 (TL) was submitted to the Nebraska Ornithological Union Records Committee. Another Trumpeter Swan Sept. 16 in Cherry, NE, may have originated from a semi-tame flock in adjacent South Dakota (RCR, DJR).

The first Ross' Geese appeared in Sequoyah N.W.R., OK, Oct. 27 (SM). The only report of Am. Black Duck came from Douglas, KS, Nov. 12, when three were observed (BH). A flightless ♀ Gadwall was noted Aug. 2 in Cimarron, OK (JAG), where it likely summered. Among the real surprises of the

Although passing south of the Region, the likely effects of Hurricane Gilbert brought 3 reports of frigatebirds, most of which were clearly identified as **Magnificent Frigatebirds**. A male and female were watched soaring for 4–5 hours until dark with or near 50–60 Turkey Vultures at the Great Salt Plains N.W.R., *Alfalfa*, OK, Sept. 22 by Steve Metz. Lucky Steve and company noted a ♀ frigatebird, perhaps the same female seen at the Salt Plains, about 100 mi to the east of Oologah Sept. 25. Another sighting of a ♀ frigatebird, most probably a Magnificent, was made Oct. 10 south of Hill City, Graham, KS, by Scott and Diane Seltman. These furnished the 6th through 8th records of frigatebirds (mostly or most likely Magnificent) in Oklahoma and the 3rd record of frigatebird for Kansas. One recent specimen of a Great Frigatebird is known from Oklahoma.



*Female Magnificent Frigatebird at Great Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma, September 22, 1988. Photograph/ Steve Metz.*

fall season was a well-documented ad. ♂ **Garganey** Oct. 23 in Miami, KS (LM).

A Greater Scaup was noted Oct. 30 in Tulsa (JCH et al.). Early were two Ring-necked Ducks Sept. 23 at Cimarron (JAG), and six Red-breasted Mergansers Oct. 30 from Hulah Res., Osage, OK (RP).

Among the "sea-duck" finds this season were two Black Scoters Nov. 13–14 (BP et al.) and a White-winged Scoter Oct. 29 (AG) in Sarpy, NE. Also, a Surf Scoter was observed at Keith, NE, Oct. 9 (RCR, DJR), and three were discovered in Tulsa Oct. 30 (JCH et al.) with an additional bird noted on L. Hefner Nov. 4 (MO). More regular, Oldsquaws were reported Nov. 17 from Cedar, NE (DSt), and Nov. 24 in Douglas, KS (LM, MM).

**RAPTORS TO CRANES** — An **American Swallow-tailed Kite** was observed among the Mississippi Kites near Guymon, Texas, OK, Aug. 17 (KS). This may be one of the birds cross-fostered by Mississippi Kites in Kansas some years earlier. A Black-shouldered Kite, rare in the Region, was noted in Greer, OK, Sept. 2 (WW). The northernmost Mississippi Kites were two seen in Hamilton, NE, Aug. 9 (PB).

Late August sightings of Cooper's Hawks across the Region may have been of migrants or breeders. Flocks of 40–100 Swainson's Hawks were noted Sept. 24 in the Oklahoma

Panhandle (WAC, PF, JAG) and Hamilton, KS (MJ). Many were simply standing on the ground in plowed fields. In one group of 47, five were dark-morph individuals (JAG). Seven Merlins, seven Peregrines, and eight Prairie Falcons were reported this season. An additional four Prairie Falcons observed in s.w. Kansas Aug. 19 (SS) were undoubtedly residents.

Never an expected species, a Virginia Rail was observed Oct. 24 in Muskogee, OK (JN et al.). A Sandhill Crane in Muskogee Nov. 4 (TA) was east of normal occurrences. With the increase in Whooping Crane numbers, observers have a better chance of seeing them. This may have contributed to the 4 observations of two to three birds each made in *Alfalfa*, OK, Oct. 17 (early, MO, SM, JW); *Tillman*, OK, Oct. 27 (CE); *Payne*, OK, Oct. 30 (RR et al.); and *Oklahoma* Nov. 1 (JW, MO).

**SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS** — Three to four Piping Plovers were noted Aug. 2 & 6 and Sept. 4 at Oologah. Very large numbers of Upland Sandpipers migrate through the Region. About 300 were counted Aug. 3 in a mowed alfalfa field in Hall, NE (PB). Nonetheless, a number of observers are concerned over what are perceived to be declining numbers, perhaps part of a long-term trend or possibly just drought related.

Very rare in the spring, and even more so in the fall, a Whimbrel was photographed at Oologah Sept. 5–17 (MG, SM). Also rare in the fall, a Hudsonian Godwit was observed there Sept. 4 (RP). A Pectoral Sandpiper at Coffey, KS, Nov. 25 (LM et al.) was late. Buff-breasted Sandpipers occurred at their usual times: this year from Aug. 2 (*Tulsa*) through Sept. 15 (Cheyenne Bottoms). Five juv. Short-billed Dowitchers were noted Aug. 2 in Jefferson, KS (LM, MC); one was found Sept. 17 at Oologah Res., Rogers (JCH et al.). Exactly 31 Red-necked Phalaropes were noted (many photographed) Sept. 20 on a playa pond in Texas, OK (SM), where the species is rare but probably regular; one was also observed Sept. 17 at Oologah (JCH et al.).

The only report of a Parasitic Jaeger was of one at Clinton Res., Douglas, KS, Nov. 13 (GP, BH). Laughing Gulls are rare but regular during the fall in c. Oklahoma. A juvenile was photographed Aug. 3–30 at L. Hefner (MO, JGN et al.). Possibly the same bird was observed Sept. 23–Oct. 12 (JW, JGN).

How do you count 300,000–400,000 Franklin's Gulls? Ask Lloyd Moore, Mike McHugh, and Bob Fisher, who reported that many from lakes in 3 e. Kansas counties Oct. 2. About 25,000 Oct. 9 at Oologah (JCH, DV) paled by comparison. A Little Gull was reported from Jefferson, KS, Oct. 8 (DL). A Bonaparte's Gull Sept. 25 at Oologah was early (JW).

Among the species becoming more frequently reported but mostly undocumented, a first-winter Thayer's Gull was noted at Cheyenne Bottoms on the early date of Oct. 16. A very early Glaucous Gull arrived Nov. 11 at L. Hefner (SM et al.).

Reports for imm. **Black-legged Kittiwakes** have increased in the last few years. This season was exceptional with three: one observed Oct. 30 at the Offutt Base Lake, Sarpy, NE (DB et al.); one Nov. 12 in Trego, KS (SS et al.); and one at Lancaster, NE, Nov. 24 (JJ). And imm. Sabine's Gulls also seem to be more frequently reported recently. This season one was photographed Sept. 15 on a playa lake in Texas, OK (SM). Others were observed Sept. 23–Oct. 3 at L. Hefner (JGN, JW) and in Osage, KS, Oct. 2 (LM et al.). Common Terns windowed their passage through n.e. and c. Oklahoma from at least Sept. 17 to Sept. 27.

**DOVES TO SWALLOWS** — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was observed as late as Oct. 25 in Tulsa (AR et al.). A Burrowing Owl with an injured wing was found Oct. 28 in Tulsa, where it is rare (AGo). A Long-eared Owl discovered Aug. 12 in Stanton, KS (SP et al.), was probably a summer resident. Up to 13 Long-eared Owls were found at a regular winter roost

in Douglas, NE (JT) Two N Saw-whet Owls were banded in Madison, NE, Oct 20–21 (JD)

Three Com. Nighthawks were observed on the very late date of Nov. 4 in Johnson, KS (MM). Common Poorwills were noted east to Hodgeman, KS, Oct. 15 (LM, SS) and Oklahoma Sept. 30 (dead on road, JGN).

Most unusual was a report of a bird identified as a ♀ Broad-tailed Hummingbird coming to a feeder in Haskell, KS (m.ob.; documented?!). Rufous Hummingbirds, regular but rare as fall migrants, were noted in Kearny, KS, Aug. 12 (LM *et al.*) and in Dawes, NE, Aug. 15–31 (RCR, DJR).

A sapsucker Sept. 24 in Cimarron, OK, was clearly identified as Red-naped (JH *et al.*). Specimens of this recently delimited species from Oklahoma all come from the Black Mesa country in late September and early October before Yellow-bellieds arrive. However, Yellow-bellieds do occur to the w. borders of the Region.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted as late as Sept. 22 in Douglas, NE (TB). A "Traill's" type flycatcher heard singing twice in Sarpy, NE, Aug. 10 was identified as an Alder (BP). A Say's Phoebe was observed Sept. 23 somewhat east for the species in Cedar, n.e. Nebraska (DSt). Reports without details of Dusky, Hammond's and Western flycatchers were received from several observers in w. Kansas. However, details were provided for an observation of a **Gray Flycatcher** in Morton, s.w. Kansas, Sept. 17 (SS, DS, MR). A roost of E. Kingbirds in Washington, OK, contained 300+ birds Aug. 26 (MG, DV). Two Cassin's Kingbirds were still in Dawes, NE, Sept. 20 (RCR *et al.*), and at least six were noted in Cimarron, OK, Sept. 24–25 (JAG *et al.*). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Sept. 10 in Keith, NE, was north of its expected range (RCR, DJR).

East of their normal migration corridors were seven Violet-green Swallows in Kearny, KS, Aug. 11 (SP). About 35,000–40,000 Barn Swallows were staging for migration along the Melvern R. in Osage, KS, Oct. 2 (LM *et al.*). They were last noted Oct. 21 (late) in Sarpy, NE (AG); Nov. 12 at Cheyenne Bottoms (DBr *et al.*); and Nov. 19 (very late) in Tulsa (TM). A roost of 10,000 Purple Martins was observed Aug. 3 in Washington, OK (MD *et al.*). Perhaps the breeding season was not so bad. One was seen on the very late date of Nov. 13 in Wagoner (JN, MN).

**JAYS TO VIREOS** — A Sedge Wren nest containing 3 eggs was discovered Aug. 23 in Hall, NE, where 32 singing males were also counted (PB). Four Sedge Wrens, probably summer residents, were noted Aug. 7 in Douglas, NE (BP *et al.*). Other reports during August were from Quivira (DK); Douglas, KS (RB); and Rogers and Nowata, OK.

A Gray Catbird Nov. 12 in Sarpy, NE (DaS), was very late. Mountain Bluebirds invaded with hundreds in w. Kansas by the end of November (SS). They were observed east to Oklahoma Nov. 5 (JW) and Coffey, KS, Nov. 25 (LM *et al.*). A **Varied Thrush** was reported in Douglas, KS, Nov. 15 (RRu, *fide* LM). Sprague's Pipits peaked with six to eight birds noted in Holt, NE, at the end of September (LB), about a month earlier than in Oklahoma.

A N. Shrike was reported for the very early date of Oct. 15 in Morton, KS (LM, SS). Others were seen before the end of October in Cedar, NE (DSt), and the Oklahoma Panhandle (JS). At least six others were reported for November.

The uncommon Philadelphia Vireo was observed Aug. 28 (early) in Linn, KS (LM *et al.*), and exceptionally west in Cimarron, OK, Sept. 24 (JAG). A very late Solitary Vireo was spotted in Tulsa Nov. 27 (JC).

**WARBLERS TO FINCHES** — The Region is not a very good place for warblers. Among the finds of the season, a Blue-winged Warbler Aug. 28 in Sarpy, NE, was most unusual

(AG, RW) Also unusual was a Townsend's Warbler Sept 17 in Morton, KS (*fide* SS) And observers were certainly surprised to find a very yellow Palm Warbler (perhaps of the eastern race) Nov. 12 at the Foss Res. campground, Custer, OK (KDS *et al.*). A Palm Warbler was noted far west in Sheridan, NE, Oct. 1 (RCR, DJR), and another was noted Oct 30 in Washington, NE (JJ). Other less common warblers observed were a Magnolia Aug. 28 in Linn, KS (LM *et al.*), Blackburnians Aug. 20 at Sarpy, NE (BP, LP), and Sept. 24 in Fontenelle Forest (DR, RRo); and a Yellow-throated Warbler in Tulsa Oct. 10 (PS, JL).

Not often seen or sought after in the fall, a Cassin's Sparrow was flushed from open grassland in Cimarron, OK, Sept 24 (JAG). Perhaps as elusive, a Baird's Sparrow was noted in Rush, KS, Oct. 27 (SS, DS). And, one to two Sharp-tailed Sparrows were observed Sept. 17–Oct. 8 in Rogers, OK (JCH *et al.*).

A number of Emberizids arrived early this fall. White-crowned Sparrows were present in small numbers by Sept 23 in Cimarron, OK (JAG), and a Song Sparrow was seen there Sept. 25 (JAG). A Chestnut-collared Longspur Sept. 24 in Cimarron, OK (JAG), was almost a month ahead of normally recorded arrival times. Snow Buntings were noted in Pierce, NE, Nov. 6 (MB).

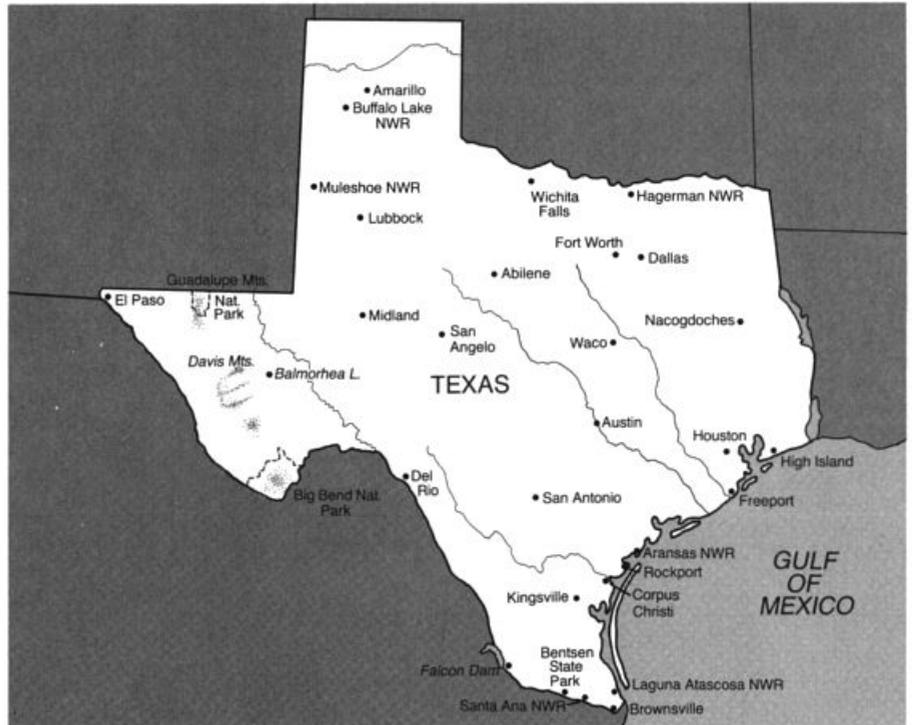
House Finches continued to close the gap between east and west. Perhaps from the the east, a pair was seen Oct. 20 in Omaha, Douglas, NE (BW), and one was noted at Ft. Gibson, Muskogee, e. Oklahoma, Nov. 9 (JM). Several were noted at feeders in Johnson, e. Kansas, Oct. 26–Nov. 12, and sightings continued to increase in the Kansas City area (*fide* LM) Up to six were noted in Tulsa (E & KH). From who-knows-which-direction, they were also appearing in Wichita and s.c. Kansas (DK).

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## TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and  
Chuck Sexton



**W**e have an archetypal Texas fall to tell about: the season was uneventful weatherwise except for a severe drought and a hurricane! The first fall front pushed through the state August 26–30. Most of the half-dozen or so subsequent fronts provided little moisture to the state but some, as on November 15–20, brought extremely windy conditions. Strong cold fronts in early and late October brought waves of raptors and waterfowl, respectively, to and through the state. That mid-November front provided the first freeze for north and northwest Texas but by the end of the period (and the year), the freeze line had not reached south of Austin.

Overall, we saw a repeat of past opinions: the lack of significant wet fronts resulted in a passerine migration that was considered one of the worst in memory in north-central Texas and the Trans-Pecos. Seyffert described the passage of birds in the Panhandle as “a seepage rather than a flow.” The same was spoken of the coastal bend and south Texas. Yet, perhaps related to these same conditions, waterbirds [particularly shorebirds and gulls] provided most of the season’s excitement with numerous rarities and high numbers of common species. In the Trans-Pecos, High Plains and most of the Panhandle, the lingering results of the moist summer (e.g., great food crops) were evidenced by vast numbers of migrant and wintering sparrows.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — G.M.N.P. = Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park; L.R.G.V. = Lower Rio Grande Valley; T.B.R.C. = Texas Bird Records Committee; T.C.W.C. = Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection (Texas A&M Univ.); T.O.S. = Texas Ornithological Society; U.T.C. = Upper Texas Coast. Place names in *italics* are counties. The following are shortened names for the respective state or national parks, national wildlife refuges, etc.: Aransas,

Attwater, Bentsen, Big Bend, Goose I., Hagerman, Hueco Tanks, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Muleshoe, Santa Ana, and Welder.

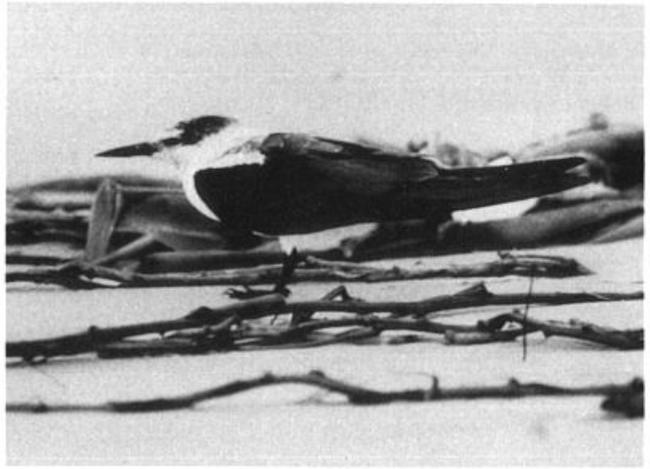
**UNDOCUMENTED RARITIES** — We were again somewhat distressed to receive second and third-hand news (even one first-hand report) of rarities with little or no documentation. The track record of Texas (and visiting) birders is getting better, but there were rumors and reports of Collared Forest-Falcon, Aplomado Falcon, Gray-crowned Yellowthroat, Greater Pewee, Crimson-collared Grosbeak, and Blue Bunting, among others, all without documentation. The shame is that if any of these sightings were real, a great disservice to Texas ornithology and to the birding community has been done by observers who chose not to make the effort at documentation. For anyone who wants to but feels ill-prepared to properly write up a description of a rarity, we stand ready to provide any necessary guidance and assistance.

**THE DROUGHT** — “Dry, dry, dry” reported Eubanks. The Palmers remarked, “We are getting tired of having summer weather from March through November.” The unabated drought over two-thirds of the state commonly left rainfall totals 30-60% below normal. Austin was suffering through the 7th driest year in 150 years. Houston ended the year with its 2nd lowest annual rainfall total in history. There was essentially only one freshwater pond left in the Rockport/Aransas Pass area; ponds and lakes were drying out even in normally wet areas of e. Texas. Only periodic local showers, some from Tropical Storm Beryl in August, provided temporary relief on the U.T.C., and elsewhere such as in Starr, Live Oak, and Kinney (15” in August). Hurricane Gilbert’s effects on rainfall totals were relatively trivial and localized. The drought’s more obvious results on avian distribution included

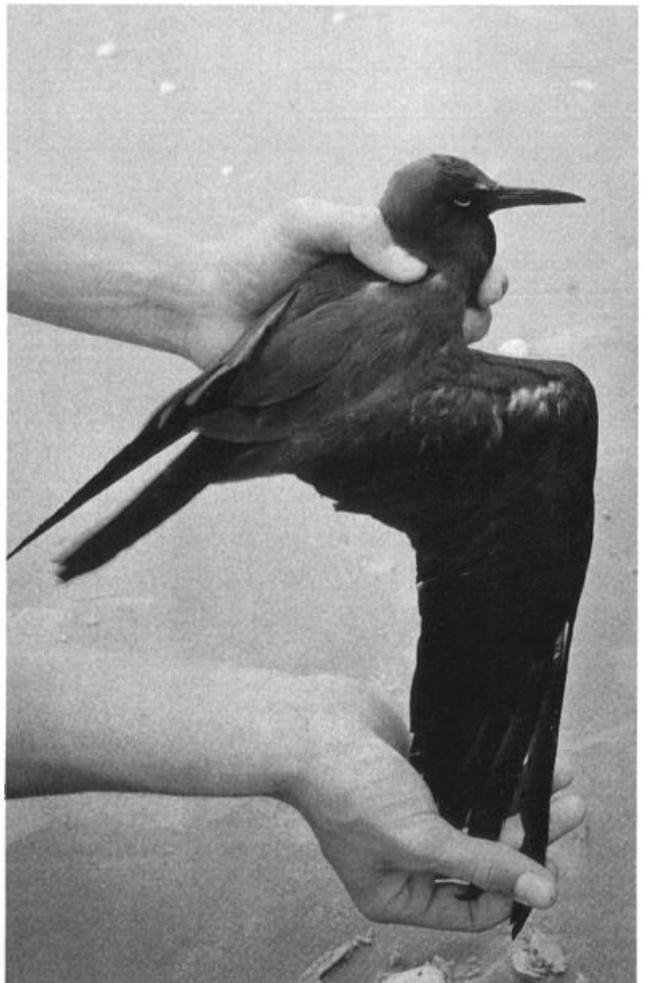
delayed or deferred nesting of waterbirds at inland locations (e.g., Santa Ana); local redistribution of such species as Great Kiskadee and Green Kingfisher; and a shift of many coastal migrant waterfowl to saltwater areas from their preferred freshwater haunts. Unprecedented numbers of herons and egrets took advantage of the lower water levels as they foraged on the vast flats and receding shorelines of impoundments such as L. Sam Rayburn (DW). Many observers attributed numerous "very early arrivals" (e.g., Sandhill Cranes, waterfowl, some sparrows) to drought conditions, but this may be a larger regional pattern than we can explain with confidence from our vantage point.

**HURRICANE GILBERT**—Gilbert gained hurricane strength in the Caribbean on Saturday, Sept. 10 as his short-lived predecessor Florence was dissipating over Mississippi. By Tuesday, Sept. 13, Gilbert was rated as the most intense storm ever in the Western Hemisphere with a central barometric pressure of 26.13 inches. Gilbert plowed across Cozumel I. and the Yucatan Peninsula Wednesday the 14th with central winds of 160–200+ m.p.h. The first hurricane-spawned thunderstorms hit the Texas coast on Thursday. Gilbert blasted into the Mexican coast at 4:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 16, about 120 mi s. of Brownsville with 120 m.p.h. winds. Maximum winds reached 82 m.p.h. at S. Padre Island and 71 m.p.h. in Brownsville. Unexpectedly, Gilbert quickly dissipated to a tropical depression as it moved up over Del Rio and thence northward across the state. Anticipated torrential rains and flooding never materialized in the Hill Country. The largest rainfall totals associated with Gilbert were in the 2- to 3-inch range in Brownsville, Port Aransas, Kingsville, Midland, and Wichita Falls, altogether a disappointment given the intensity of the oncoming storm just days earlier.

Although Gilbert caused a few remarkable avian occurrences, reports of hurricane waifs were slow in accumulating; attributing some of these to Gilbert remains arguable in light of other avian movements already underway by late summer. Sites such as Bolivar Flats on the U.T.C. hosted spectacular numbers of shorebirds, gulls, and terns. These birds had been halted in mid-migration and/or pushed northward to the U.T.C. as Gilbert flooded low areas further south on the coast (TE). A Brown Pelican at L. Waco Sept. 21 provided a first McClennan record (FB), but another "bedraggled" Brown Pelican had already found its way to L. Tawakoni, Raines and Van Zandt, Aug. 15, long before the storm, and remained through Nov. 20 (RK, GH, JN, AV, KN). An Anhinga, surely storm-aided, was found at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend Sept. 17 (†R & LG). The hurricane blew dozens of Magnificent Frigatebirds inland as far as Falcon Res., Kingsville, Alice, and Victoria; at least a few of these birds took a few weeks to make their way back to the coast. Since frigatebird numbers had been exceptionally high along the coast before the storm, we could not necessarily ascribe a distant origin to any of these strays. An imm. Reddish Egret that rested and fed on Town L. in downtown Austin Sept. 19–Oct. 17 (†VEM et al.) can probably be included with the hurricane-aided crowd. Roseate Spoonbills had already built up to a dozen at San Antonio in late summer (m.ob.) suggesting an unusual inland push, thus hurricane "strays," if they were such at all, had a head start by the time Gilbert came along. Spoonbills showed up in Bentsen Sept. 24–Oct. 6 (R & LG) for a new park record; McClennan Sept. 17–21 (JH, DD; first county record); and Jones Sept. 17–25 (two immatures—TR, fide BH; 2nd county record). A spoonbill documented in Midland Sept. 16–17 (GG, RMS, m.ob., ph.; first county record) had reportedly been around for 2 weeks before being discovered by birders. Eubanks estimates the Galveston Bay population of Am. Oystercatcher does not exceed 100 birds, thus most of the 500+ oystercatchers seen on Bolivar Flats Sept. 24 (RMo, DP) were likely to have originated to the s. of the U.T.C. where Gilbert's storm tides had flooded coastal areas several days earlier.



*Bridled Tern on Mustang Island, Texas, September 17, 1988. First documented record for the state (after many years of hypothetical status). Photograph/A. F. Amos.*



*Immature Brown Noddy found on South Padre Island, Texas, September 18, 1988. Second state record. Photograph/Alan Wormington.*

**Bridled Terns** were resolutely documented for the first time in Texas. Amos found a dead Bridled (\*to T.C.W.C.) and saw three others alive (ph.) on the beach at Port Aransas Sept. 17. Fisher found a single Bridled at Bolivar Flats on the same day. On the 18th, Wormington and Pike described an imm. Bridled on s. Padre I. at the Cameron/Willacy line. The L.R.G.V. alert tape reported another imm. Bridled on Boca Chica beach Sept. 21, but we received no further details on that bird. A hurriedly-arranged pelagic trip off Freeport Sept. 25 discovered as many as 25 more Bridleds 10–50 mi offshore (†MA, †PG, JB, RT). Most or all of these were immatures. Sooty Terns were uncharacteristically sparse, considering the conditions. An ad. Sooty was at Bolivar Sept. 17 and an immature was found at Rollover Pass the same day (DF). Another Sooty was captured at Beach City, Chambers, Sept. 19, rehabilitated and released Oct. 24 at nearby Baytown (JTv). The carcass of a Sooty was photographed on a Freeport beach Sept. 23 (AW). The only inland report of a Sooty was of an adult photographed at Mitchell L. in San Antonio Sept. 19–20 (ph. WS, †JM, RH). Pike and Wormington discovered and photographed an injured **Brown Noddy** on s. Padre I., Sept. 18. There is only one previous accepted report of this species in Texas (Aug. 31, 1979, on n. Padre I.).

Premier among the hurricane waifs was a “probable” **Green-breasted Mango** (*Anthracothorax prevostii*) that visited 2 hummingbird feeders in residential Brownsville Sept. 14–23 (ph., †MB), representing a first report of the species and genus in the U.S. The photos by Baldwin clearly show an imm ♂ *Anthracothorax* sp. which would quickly be deemed *A. prevostii* in adjacent n.e. Mexico or on the Yucatan Peninsula (which Gilbert had just crossed). Unfortunately, there is a question as to whether the very similar Black-throated Mango (*A. nigricollis*) of Panama and n. South America, or Green-throated Mango (*A. viridigula*) of n.e. South America, can be ruled out from the photos. Gilbert was apparently at least 200 mi n. of the range of the latter two species when at tropical storm and hurricane strength, thus *prevostii* is certainly the most likely candidate. Other mango spp. of Jamaica and Hispaniola, which were directly in Gilbert’s path, are easily ruled out by plumage characteristics.

**LOONS TO STORKS** — A Pacific/Arctic Loon at L. Balmorhea Oct. 5 provided about the 6th Trans-Pecos record (ML, JS). Other Pacific/Arctics were at Spence Res., Coke Nov. 11 (†ph. MH; first area record), and Port Aransas Nov. 14 (TA, \*to T.C.W.C.). A Com. Loon near Amarillo Nov. 25 and another on L. Meredith, Hutchinson, the next day were the first recorded there since 1984 (KS). Fifty-three Com. Loons represented a very large migration group at Goose I., Nov. 14 (D & RMel). An incredible five **Red-necked Grebes** on Boles L., Lubbock, Sept. 23 (†WO, GJ) was the most ever reported together in Texas. On Aug. 7, an ad. Eared Grebe with a chick on its back provided a first nesting record for Armstrong (KS). Western Grebes were widespread in El Paso, Hudspeth, and Reeves throughout the period (BZ, ML, CC, JS). Other Westerns were in Mitchell Nov. 13 (MH; first county record?), at San Antonio’s Calaveras L., Nov. 12 onward (WS), and at L. Benbrook Nov. 26 (a “Western/Clark’s”, EW). Two Clark’s Grebes were photographed at L. Balmorhea Oct. 19–Nov. 28 (ML).

An all-dark shearwater seen in the Gulf off s. Padre I., Oct. 11 (TA) was thought to be a Sooty although the underwings could not be seen well; the species is reported only once or twice per decade in Texas waters. An Am. White Pelican Aug. 4 at Austin provided a first August record for the area (GL, GLm). A noteworthy concentration of 24 White Pelicans visited L. Balmorhea Oct. 19–21 (ML). Post-nesting Brown Pelicans invaded the U.T.C. once again. Peak counts were of 209 at Bolivar Flats Aug. 20 (BGr), and 350 at San Luis Pass Nov. 12 (TE). Double-crested Cormorants were “late and in low numbers” in e. Texas (DW) but not so in Austin and on

the c. coast where they seem to be increasing (m ob.) Groups of 55 (Sept. 9) and 43 (Nov. 8) Double-crested in El Paso and Hudspeth were “phenomenal” for extreme w. Texas (BZ et al.), and 24 near Amarillo Oct. 29 made the largest group ever reported from the n. Panhandle (KS). There were 8 reports of a total of 23 Olivaceous Cormorants from n.e., n.c., and far w. Texas Aug. 2–Oct. 29, most notably a new Midland record Oct. 13–14 (FW, m.ob.). Three Magnificent Frigatebirds at Goose I., Nov. 13 (B. & A. Guldi, *fide* D & RMel) were a bit late.

Four Am. Bitterns were noted Sept. 10–Oct. 26 in the High Plains and Panhandle, where they are not found every year (CSt, VB, KS). Another was out-of-place in Alpine Oct. 27 (ML). Herons and egrets made impressive showings inland virtually statewide. Groups of 10–20 Great Egrets were reported in Lubbock and Amarillo (m.ob.); Greats peaked at 155 at L. Sam Rayburn Oct. 28 (DW). Snowy Egrets peaked at the latter locale at 75 on Sept. 22; there were also unusual concentrations at White Rock L. in Dallas in late September and an errant individual at Muleshoe Sept. 24 (L.E.A.S.). An imm. Little Blue Heron was in Armstrong Aug. 7 (KS). Notable Tricoloreds include small numbers at L. Sam Rayburn Aug. 28–Sept. 22 (*fide* DW), two at L. Balmorhea Aug. 4 (MH), and single birds at Rio Grande Village Aug. 1 (m.ob., ph.) and G.M.N.P. (date?, BW; first park record). A rare Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at L. Balmorhea Oct. 2 (ML). First November area records were provided by groups of 52 White-faced Ibises at Tornillo Lakes Nov. 8 (BZ) and four birds at Feather L. (El Paso) through the month (JSp). Roseate Spoonbills made news before and after Hurricane Gilbert. Flocks were at L. Sam Rayburn Aug. 28–Oct. 28, peaking at 20 on Oct. 3 (LD, m.ob.). In n.c. Texas, six to seven spoonbills were at Cedar Creek L. most of August and a bird at L. Tawakoni Aug. 20 provided a first lake record. A spoonbill at L. Palestine Sept. 11 (GS) was a rare find as was another in Hays Oct. 8 (LBu). Sizable groups of Wood Storks included 32 at Cedar Creek L., Sept. 12 (RB), 160 in Jefferson Aug. 27 (BG), and 900 Oct. 2 at a more expected location on the Nueces R. (CC et al.). Late Wood Storks were at San Antonio Nov. 19 (BA) and near Port Isabel Nov. 23 (*fide* PM).

**WATERFOWL** — Geese and ducks were reportedly scarce in e. Texas but reports elsewhere were mixed. On Oct. 12, three stray Greater White-fronted Geese reached L. Balmorhea (ML). By late November, large numbers of White-fronteds were moving into s. Texas (m.ob.). The Snow Goose migration “captured everybody’s attention” over Edgewood Oct. 28 (RK, *fide* WP) but only low numbers eventually reached as far south as Kleberg (P & NP). Noteworthy Ross’ Geese included a not-unexpected first Rains record at L. Tawakoni Nov. 27 (RK, GH, JN, RR), another bird near Lorenzo, Crosby, Nov. 23 (ML), and a westerly bird at L. Balmorhea Nov. 28–30 (ML). A wild-acting ad. Muscovy Duck was seen sporadically at Santa Margarita Ranch and nearby Salineño in Starr Oct. 9–22 (with two immatures on the 19th, †KZ; †MH). A wild phenotype Muscovy at Santa Ana in November acted very tame and was considered feral (*fide* JI).

A group of 600 Mottled Ducks at Laguna Atascosa Sept. 4 was impressive (OC). An unprecedented concentration of 350 Ring-necked Ducks was recorded at Ft. Hancock Res. (Hudspeth) Oct. 13 (BZ). A ♀ Surf Scoter unable to fly was found on a five-foot diameter pond in Alpine Oct. 27 (ph. ML); the bird was transported to a nearby sewage pond. Another Surf Scoter was in Big Spring Nov. 13 for a first Howard record (ph. MH). A rare Com. Goldeneye was photographed in El Paso Nov. 30 (BZ). A collection of about 1000 Buffleheads Nov. 27 at Drum Pt., Kleberg, was notable (P & NP). There were 3 Trans-Pecos reports of Hooded Mergansers Nov. 3–30, and up to 23 Hoodeds in Lubbock Oct. 31–Nov. 16 (DS) with a remarkable 75 there Nov. 23 (JSn). Red-breasted Mergansers, casual in the South Plains and Trans-Pecos, were at Ft. Hancock Res., Nov. 8 (a flock of 11, BZ), and near Lubbock Nov. 23–24 (ML).



*Surf Scoter at Alpine, Texas, October 27, 1988. Very rare in western Texas. Photograph/Mark Lockwood.*

**RAPTORS** — The hawk migration was “nothing short of phenomenal” in n.c. Texas and in the coastal bend. American Swallow-tailed Kites were found in unprecedented numbers this fall. An early Swallow-tailed was at Welder Aug. 26 (CC); thereafter, at least 11 individuals were found by ones and twos from Chambers to Brooks Sept. 11–Oct. 6 (m.ob.). The Mississippi Kite migration was well-documented. Wolf noted a first peak in Nacogdoches Aug. 15–16 (of adults) and a 2nd peak Aug. 24 (57 birds, 80% imm.). Peak counts in the coastal bend included 144 at L. Corpus Christi Aug. 22 and 210 at Welder Aug. 26 (HF, CC). A stunning concentration of 2000–3000 Mississippi was videotaped at Bentsen Sept. 4 (HWi). A late group of 275 Mississippi passed over Falfurrias Sept. 29 (AO). Two separate ad. Bald Eagles were noted on the Nueces R. on hawkwatches Oct. 2 & 6 (fide JE). O’Neill documented a 2nd Com. Black-Hawk for Brooks Oct. 30 (†AO). A first October area record of Harris’ Hawk was made in Crosby and Lubbock Oct. 3–7 (KH). An ad. Gray Hawk Sept. 9 in Falfurrias provided a 3rd Brooks record (AO). An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk entertained birders in Rio Grande Village Aug. 1–21 (DDe, BZ, m.ob.).

Aside from an early 3000 on Sept. 11 (HF), the Broad-winged Hawk migration in coastal s. Texas mostly raced through Sept. 24–Oct. 4 when nearly 190,000 hawks were counted. The biggest flights included 31,000 on the 24th at Hazel Bazemore Park at Corpus Christi (JE); 45,000 Sept. 29 at Falfurrias (AO); 20,460 in Corpus Sept. 30 (JE); 35,000 in s. Duval Oct. 2 and another 40,000 in s. Jim Wells Oct. 4 (both AO). Wow! It’s hard to compete with numbers like that; however, 915 Broad-winged at L. Tawakoni Oct. 1 (RK, JN, AV) constituted the largest count ever for that region. Interestingly, the Broad-winged migration was deemed “very poor” in e. Texas (DW) and only a single Broad-winged was noted in the Panhandle, at Buffalo L., Aug. 28 (KS). In the Panhandle, Swainson’s Hawks began moving south quite early in mid-August but the only flight involving “thousands” was observed Sept. 28 in Dawson (FE, JE). In fact, Swainson’s uncharacteristically peaked at the same time as Broad-winged Oct. 1–2 in c. and s. Texas (m.ob.). Five thousand Swainson’s moved through Kerrville Oct. 1 (N & DJ); 2000 more were over Mitchell L. the same day (MH). Nearly 2000 Swainson’s over Hazel Bazemore Park on Oct. 2 (JE) and another 3000+ in San Patricio the same day (N & EA) were large numbers for the coastal bend hawkwatch.

A Crested Caracara was a bit out-of-place in w. McClellan Nov. 16 (C.T.A.S.); the species was particularly conspicuous across northern s. Texas all fall (m.ob.). The most notable of a small handful of inland Merlin reports was a 2nd Walker record in Huntsville Sept. 13 (RMO). A Prairie Falcon over Victoria Oct. 23 was a very rare find (D & RMel); another Prairie Falcon returned to Attwater by late November (fide CF).

**PHEASANTS TO SHOREBIRDS** — A Ring-necked Pheasant in Dog Canyon (G.M.N.P.) Nov. 10 was a first for the park (RRe). Lesser Prairie-Chicken continued to be seen at Muleshoe (DC, DHa), apparently reoccupying its former range. Three Montezuma Quail at Balmorhea S.P. represented a first Reeves record (JS et al.). It was not until the first week of September that Com. Moorhens brought off their first broods of the season at Santa Ana (JI). A total of 136 Whooping Cranes (117 ad., 19 young) had returned to Aransas by the end of the period; about 145 are expected. There was much excitement over a pair of Whoopers seen trailing a flock of Sandhills Nov. 3 s.e. of Decatur (KG) and just minutes later over w. Ft. Worth (JJ et al.). This event provided a first Wise record and about the 2nd modern Tarrant record. For the 2nd year in a row, an ad. Whooper moved w. of the usual route to show up in s.w. Ochiltree Oct. 31 (JA, RAs).

Interesting shorebird records abounded statewide. A flock of 4000 Black-bellied Plovers on Bolivar Flats Oct. 15 was the largest single group in recent memory (TE). A single Black-bellied at L. Sam Rayburn Oct. 28 was a rare find for e. Texas. Lesser Golden-Plovers were unusually common. Interesting records of Golden included birds at L. Benbrook Aug. 14–18 (CH), Hagerman Sept. 10 (RR), Midland Nov. 12 (4th fall record; FW et al.), Lubbock Aug. 26 (CSt) and Oct. 1 (three birds; first October record, CSt), and a remarkable four birds at L. Balmorhea Oct. 19 (about the 5th Trans-Pecos record; ML). A late Golden at Mitchell L., Nov. 13–26 was carefully confirmed as *P.d dominica* (ph. WS); observers should continue to be alert to the possibility of a vagrant *fulva* showing up. A tally of five Snowy Plovers at Hagerman Sept. 10 was extraordinary (RR).

Adamcik reported a single Hudsonian Godwit at Attwater Sept. 12, for a rare fall record for Texas. A Ruddy Turnstone in El Paso Sept. 26–Oct. 10 provided a 2nd Trans-Pecos fall record (ph. BZ, KZ et al.). Single Sanderlings in Lubbock Sept. 3 (CSt) and in Carson Sept. 13 (FC) were rarities. Two juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were studied at L. Balmorhea Aug. 10 (CM). Wolf noted peak W. Sandpiper movements in e. Texas Aug. 30 and Oct. 28. Eubanks witnessed a similar pattern on the U.T.C., with high counts of 6000 at Bolivar Flats Aug. 21, and 5000 there Oct. 15. Interior Dunlins were noted at L. Balmorhea Oct. 21 (ML), Nacogdoches Oct. 28 (DW), and El Paso Nov. 30 (very late, BZ). Two Stilt Sandpipers at L. Balmorhea Aug. 4 were rare finds there (MH). North-central Texas had high counts of 26 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Hagerman Aug. 27 (RR, BG) and 35 e. of Ft. Worth Sept. 3 (JWS, m.ob.). A Ruff was described from Austin Aug. 20 (†CB, m.ob.) and another returned to Mitchell L., Aug. 29–Oct. 5 for its 3rd fall (ph. WS, MH, m.ob.). Short-billed Dowitchers, rare in the w. one-third to one-half of Texas, were in Tarrant (Sept. 3, 4th county record, LH), L. Balmorhea (Aug. 4, first area record, MH), and El Paso (Sept. 14–Oct. 10; BZ, SWi, KZ). Waller and El Paso each held late Wilson’s Phalaropes in the last few days of November. Red-necked Phalarope numbers were again high in the west. Over 200 were in El Paso in late September (BZ). From two to 17 were seen daily in Lubbock Sept. 19–29 (CSt) and another 17 were at Muleshoe Sept. 24 (L.E.A.S.). Another dozen Red-necked were scattered the length of the state in September and early October with an early bird Aug. 5–6 at Mitchell L. (WS, MH). The most exciting shorebird in the rich fall season in the far west had to be a Red Phalarope near Socorro (El Paso) Oct. 3–5 (ph. BZ, SWi), a 2nd Trans-Pecos record.

**GULLS TO PARROTS** — An ad. Bonaparte’s Gull showed up at Rockport Oct. 21, a month and one-half early (CC). A California Gull, accidental in Texas, was discovered at Ft. Hancock Res., Nov. 5 (L. Jordan) and remained there until at least Nov. 8 (BZ). A probable ad. Thayer’s Gull was at Waco Aug. 5–24 (ph. JMu); we have averaged about 2 reports per year of this species over the last decade, but this is the

first ever reported in August († to T.B.R.C.). "The" Port Aransas Lesser Black-backed Gull returned for its 6th season Oct. 25 (TA, GL, m.ob.). A different ad. Lesser Black-backed had made an appearance on Mustang I. on Sept. 27 (TA) and may have been the individual photographed by Heindel Oct. 9, and reported [without details] farther south on Padre I. later in October. Heindel also reported a "mystery" dark-backed gull at the Corpus Christi harbor Oct. 12 which has been seen sporadically for 4 or 5 winters; Western Gull is being considered as a possibility (MH). An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake which blew past in a thunderstorm at the S. Padre I. jetty Oct. 29 (MH) was one of few adults ever reported in the state. Incredibly, three different Sabine's Gulls wandered into the Trans-Pecos: one was in e. El Paso Sept. 10-12 (SWi et al., ph. BZ), another at Ft. Bliss sewage ponds Sept. 23-24 (BZ, YZ ph.), and a 3rd at L. Balmorhea Oct. 5 (ph. ML). Two Sabine's were also reported on L. Buchanan in c. Texas Sept. 25 (ES).



*Juvenile Sabine's Gull in El Paso County, Texas, September 12, 1988. Photograph/Barry R. Zimmer.*

Caspian Terns were widespread in e. Texas: an early pair was at L. Somerville Aug. 6 with others at Lake O'the Pines and L. Sam Rayburn through September and October (m.ob.). Sixteen Com. Terns at L. Somerville also on Aug. 6 made a rare inland concentration (SWm). There were only 3 inland reports of Least Terns: at Hagerman, L. Sam Rayburn, and in Waller. Impressive coastal tern concentrations included 2000 Least and 8000 Blacks at San Luis Pass Aug. 20 (TE); 325 Gull-billed near Port Isabel Sept. 19 after Gilbert (SP, AW); and 13,500 Blacks on Padre I. Sept. 22 (SP, AW), another probable hurricane "pile-up".

Wolf discovered a White-winged Dove in Nacogdoches Oct. 25 for a first county and 2nd e. Texas record. Another stray White-winged was found in McKinney Nov. 7 (†RR). Two Inca Doves, n. of their normal range, were in Randall Oct. 15-16 (SBo) and another was found dead in Amarillo Oct. 24 (MMy). A White-tipped Dove heard at Hazel Bazemore Park in Corpus Christi Oct. 11 & 24 undoubtedly represented a new range extension (Jsw, CC). Green Parakeet numbers built up from about a dozen to a peak of 30-35 in McAllen by the end of the period (SW). A pair of Greens flew over Santa Ana Aug. 25 (FM). A new "arrival" was a presumed-escapee Red-masked Parakeet (*Aratinga erythrogenys*) flying with the McAllen Greens Nov. 6-27 (†SW). The species is native to Peru and Ecuador. About 30 Red-crowned Parrots were regularly noted in Harlingen (OC) and the Brownsville flock was estimated to peak at over 100 in October.

**OWLS TO WOODPECKERS** — An apparent N. Pygmy-Owl was heard in Dog Canyon (G.M.N.P.) Sept. 10 (J. Lynne, J. Redden, *fide* OO). This was a 2nd park record and one of about a dozen reports (only one accepted record) for Texas. A Barred Owl was notably far s. in Kingsville in early October (*fide* P & NP). A road-killed Barred in e. Kinney Oct. 25 provided a first specimen for the county (\*to T.C.W.C., KB); others were heard at nearby Brackettville Nov. 27-28 (GL, CJo) at the w. edge of the species' range. A Long-eared Owl in Keene Oct. 30 (CE) represented a new Johnson record for this casual n.c. Texas species. A Whip-poor-will was found Aug. 31 in Kerr (JMa) where the species is very rare.

If you thought hummingbird identification was difficult, consider the full albino reported Aug. 14-15 at Possum Kingdom Reservoir (JR)! Two Black-chinned Hummingbirds, rarities on the U.T.C., showed up early in Houston Aug. 15-26, and one in Lubbock Oct. 13 was late (WO). Two separate ♂ Anna's were found in Lubbock in September (VW, CA, m.ob.); these provided the 3rd and 4th area records. Another Anna's was reported in Del Rio Oct. 2 (VH), and yet another frequented an El Paso yard Oct. 23-Nov. 30 (BZ, YZ). The most notable Calliope record was of a male in Lubbock July 30 (CSt). Rufous Hummingbirds were widespread and numerous in central, coastal, and s. Texas; at least 20 individuals were reported Aug. 18 through the period.

A small northward invasion of Ringed Kingfishers may have been related to torrential rains from Gilbert in Mexico which created unsuitable feeding conditions (muddy, high water) on the Rio Grande and other rivers in n.e. Mexico. A Ringed was briefly sighted on Town L. in Austin Sept. 26 (VEM et al.) and later a pair was present Oct. 13 through the period (m.ob.). Another Ringed was seen at Choke Canyon Res., Live Oak, Oct. 22 (*fide* AO), and an out-of-place Ringed was at Brackettville, Kinney, Nov. 12 and later (P & NP, KB). A well-described Lewis' Woodpecker near Gordon, Erath, Oct. 30 (KM, *fide* WP) was the only one reported. Out-of-place Acorn Woodpeckers were observed in Kerrville Aug. 20 (N & DJ) and in w. Kerr Sept. 25 (MB, *fide* E & KM). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was also out of range in Lubbock Sept. 11 (CA). Observers are increasingly paying attention to, and struggling with the identification of, Red-naped Sapsuckers. A few were noted in the South Plains and Trans-Pecos, and one was reported at Santa Ana Oct. 30 for a first refuge record (*fide* JI). A Williamson's Sapsucker studied by T.O.S. members Nov. 4 in the Davis Mts. was the only one reported.

**FLYCATCHERS TO PIPITS** — An early Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was netted at Plano Aug. 10 (AV). Alder Flycatchers were identified by voice Aug. 27 in Lee (HB) and Sept. 10 in Kendall (E & SW); the "Traill's" complex are infrequently identified to species in most cases in Texas. A calling Hammond's Flycatcher was studied in detail Oct. 10 in Corpus Christi (MH). This species is not generally expected e. of the Trans-Pecos region but should be watched for in fall along the coast. An *Empidonax* in a Lubbock yard Aug. 30-Sept. 1 (WO, GJ) was thought to be a Dusky. This is an undocumented species in the Texas Panhandle but has been collected in the Oklahoma Panhandle (*fide* KS). A late Gray Flycatcher was in El Paso Oct. 3 (BZ). Finishing out our list of unexpected *Empidonax* was a report of a Western Flycatcher Sept. 4 & 11 in Kingsville (P & NP). Although all sight records of out-of-range *Empidonax* must be viewed with caution, the above records were all carefully described. An E. Phoebe at El Paso Oct. 18 (BZ) was unusually far west, and a Say's Phoebe at Aransas Nov. 20 (B) et al.) was unexpected. An Ash-throated Flycatcher in Victoria Aug. 30-Sept. 22 (D & RMe) was perhaps out of its regular range as was a Great Kiskadee at San Antonio's Mitchell L., Oct. 15 (PG, SH). A Cassin's Kingbird photographed in Waller Nov. 5 (LA, PG) provided the 6th



*Thick-billed Kingbird at Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend National Park, August 20, 1988. Fourth Texas record. Photo-graph/Greg Lasley.*

record for the U.T.C. A **Thick-billed Kingbird** discovered at Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend Aug. 5 (RT et al.) was later photographed and tape-recorded (GL et al.) for the 4th accepted state record. The bird was reported sporadically through Sept. 18. This fall the E. Kingbird migration peaked in e. Texas Aug. 30 with 305 at a roost in Nacogdoches along with 132 Scissor-taileds (DW).

Purple Martins were found nesting in Lubbock as late as Aug. 7 (MSW) and five over Vega in Oldham Aug. 31 were well w. of their normal range (new county record; PA, RS). A flock of six Violet-green Swallows in Cochran Aug. 27 (SWm) represented one of only a few Panhandle sightings. A group of 1000 Cave Swallows over L. Balmorhea Oct. 12 was impressive both in number and date (ML). The first refuge records for Cave Swallows at Santa Ana were provided by several individuals seen there during September (fide JJ). The species was still present in Kinney through at least Nov. 17 (KB). A very impressive group of 10,000 Barn Swallows migrated over the Guadalupe R. delta Oct. 15 (D & RMe). A movement of 400–800 Blue Jays at Edgewood and L. Tawakoni in n.c. Texas Oct. 1–2 was notable but no “invasions” were reported elsewhere. Out-of-range Blue Jays were at Alpine during September and October (fide JS) and at Kingsville and Corpus Christi during September (JG), and up to six (probably residents) were in Rocksprings all period (KB). A Brown Jay at Santa Ana Sept. 17 (fide JJ) provided a rare record away from their usual haunts 70 mi upriver. Seyffert was surprised to find a group of 22 Pinyon Jays at L. Meredith in Potter Sept. 23. A Fish Crow in Huntsville Oct. 6 (DP) furnished only the 3rd Walker record. A Verdin at Aransas Oct. 10 & 15 was apparently building a roost nest (JW, BJ); there are only a few previous records for the species in that area.

Red-breasted Nuthatches went virtually unreported except for single birds at Buffalo L. in September and Lubbock in November. A White-breasted Nuthatch took up residence at an Amarillo yard Oct. 14–Nov. 30 (KS) as did two at L. Tanglewood in Randall (TJ). A Cactus Wren Aug. 20 in Coryell (SWm) was a first for the county, slightly n.e. of the species’ regular range. A single Rock Wren was way off course on Matagorda l., Oct. 30–Dec. 2 (ph. JG, et al.). There was a minor movement of Carolina Wrens into s.w. Texas this fall; a bird at Rio Grande Village Aug. 1 (BZ, DDe) apparently remained until at least Nov. 8 (CC). Also rare in the Big Bend region were four Witner Wrens Nov. 8–11 (CC). A Sedge Wren at Anahuac Aug. 13 (MA et al.) was an early arrival for the U.T.C.

For the 2nd year in a row, McKittrick Canyon in G.M.N.P. hosted an **American Dipper** (†BW) but only on a single date, Oct. 23; Texas has now had 5 reports in the 1980s. Golden-

crowned Kinglets gave signs of an invasion year nearly state-wide. There were early individuals in late September in c. Texas and substantial numbers reached into s. Texas and the L.R.G.V. by early November (m.ob.). Up to 12 W. Bluebirds were at Kickapoo from Nov. 5 onward (KB), well e. of their normal winter range. A few dozen Mountain Bluebirds were found Nov. 11–13 at Colorado City and Robert Lee, where they are sparse and irregular (MH). The Veery is very unusual in fall in Texas, usually migrating well to the east. Three observed at High Island Sept. 18 were likely to have been pushed west by the winds of Hurricane Gilbert that had swept the Caribbean the previous week (TE, BB). *Catharus* thrushes were conspicuously absent from the Panhandle where Seyffert recorded no Swainson’s and only one Hermit during the period. Few reporters mentioned these species elsewhere. Clay-colored Robins were sighted sporadically through the period at Santa Ana and Bentsen, and Am. Robins were sparse to absent in most areas of coastal and s. Texas. An exceptionally early Sage Thrasher was at El Paso Sept. 8 (BZ); the species was common Oct. 20 through the period at Kickapoo, where it had been absent the previous winter (KB). A Long-billed Thrasher along the Pecos R. s. of Pandale Nov. 12 (P & NP) was a bit out-of-range as was a Crissal Thrasher Nov. 13 at L. Thomas near Snyder (MH). A Sprague’s Pipit in Chambers Oct. 3 (MA) was early for the U.T.C. The species was recorded for the first time at L. Tawakoni where three to six were present Nov. 3–27 (m.ob.).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS**—A Solitary Vireo near Tivoli Sept. 5 was very early (CC, B & DB). A bird identified as a “Cassin’s” Solitary Vireo was photographed at Corpus Christi Oct. 12 (MH); this race has apparently not been documented outside of the Trans-Pecos region. A Yellow-throated Vireo Aug. 10 provided a first G.M.N.P. record (†CM). A Philadelphia Vireo Aug. 31 in Lee (HBr) and three Warbling Vireos banded at Driftwood Sept. 23–25 (DCo) provided rare Austin area fall records. The pair of Yellow-green Vireos at Laguna Atascosa were last reported with their brood of up to three on Aug. 6 (P & NP, JKi, KE, CH).

A Tennessee Warbler banded at Kickapoo Oct. 10–12 (KB) furnished a rare record for that area, and a late Tennessee was in Ft. Worth Oct. 23 (CH, RDC, EW). The Lucy’s Warblers at Cottonwood Campground in Big Bend were reported through Aug. 21 (m.ob.). A N. Parula in Lubbock Oct. 6 (AWF) provided a first October area record. Even more remarkable was a Tropical Parula Nov. 27–Dec. 3 in Corpus Christi (JGr, CC, m.ob.), for a 2nd area record. The only report of a Cape May Warbler, very rare in fall, was at High Island Sept. 25 (MBr, DM). A Townsend’s Warbler at Goose I. on Sept. 13 (†CC) furnished the first fall record for the coastal bend. A late Golden-cheeked Warbler was at Wimberley July 25 (L & SF). A Palm Warbler at San Angelo Nov. 8 (MH) was probably a first for the Concho Valley, and a Bay-breasted Warbler in Dallas Oct. 12 (BG) provided a rare fall record. A Blackpoll at Corpus Christi Nov. 21 (JGr) was a very late rarity. A Prothonotary Warbler in Jefferson Nov. 20 (TE) was also very late. Accepted records of **Connecticut Warblers** in Texas are few, but three this fall were all documented for review by the T.B.R.C. The first of these was netted, measured, photographed, and banded at Plano in Collin Sept. 5 (AV, BG). Others were described in Falfurrias Sept. 12 (†AO) and in Corpus Christi Oct. 10 (†MH). Constituting a 5th fall record for Dallas, a Hooded Warbler was seen there Sept. 14 (fide WP). An imm. **Red-faced Warbler** was identified at Boot Canyon in Big Bend Aug. 8 (†CCa); this species is extremely rare in Texas, but this record reflected the best time and place to hope to find one. Speaking of w. Texas specialties, a stray Painted Redstart visiting a bird bath at Sisterdale in Kendall Sept. 8 was a delightful and very rare find for the Hill Country (E & SW et al.).

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — Only a single W Tanager was reported this fall in Midland where they are normally rather common. A Western at Wimberley Sept. 3 (L & SF) provided a first Austin area September record. An Indigo Bunting was at G.M.N.P. on Aug. 10 (CM) while two Painted Buntings in n. El Paso Sept. 14 were a bit n.w. of their known breeding range (BZ). An Olive Sparrow banded at Kickapoo Aug 30 (KB) was at an elevation of 1750 ft., an unusual record for this "lowland" species. An eastern "unspotted" Rufous-sided Towhee was banded at Plano Oct. 19 where the race is rare (AV). Green-tailed Towhees, *Spizella* sparrows, Lark Buntings and White-crowned Sparrows were all particularly abundant at Hueco Tanks this fall (BZ). Much the same situation was also apparent in Midland and most of the Panhandle (m.ob.). Cassin's Sparrows, which normally depart the Trans-Pecos in September, were widespread there in small numbers through November (BZ). An early Clay-colored Sparrow was netted at Kickapoo Aug. 30 (KB); the species was absent the previous fall. The brushlands of s. Texas most certainly were teeming with Lark Buntings in early November when flocks of thousands were noted in Kleberg, Brooks, and Starr (m.ob.). An early Le Conte's Sparrow was in Nacogdoches Oct. 28, and another noteworthy record was provided by three Le Conte's at L. Tawakoni Nov. 27 (RK *et al.*). Lincoln's Sparrows arrived early in the Panhandle (early September), the coastal bend (late September), and elsewhere (m.ob.). Swamp Sparrows were seen in record numbers in both El Paso and Jeff Davis (BZ, ML). White-throated Sparrows were also early in Nacogdoches Oct. 5 (SL), and White-throateds in G.M.N.P., Nov. 11 & 14 were noteworthy (OO). Yet another early bird was a Lapland Longspur in Tarrant Nov. 5 (GK, JWS, BS). Chestnut-collared Longspurs at Hueco Tanks Oct 3 & 19 represented only the 2nd and 3rd park records (BZ)

Rains had its first record of Bobolinks when four birds showed up Aug. 31, an uncommon fall occurrence for the state (TG). A Rusty Blackbird at Midland Nov. 20 (J & DMer, m ob ) was considered accidental. Grackles, cowbirds, and starlings were described as "super-abundant" at roosts in Austin, San Antonio, Kingsville, and elsewhere, creating increasing nuisance conditions in some urban areas. Purple Finches were completely absent from n.c. Texas this period, but one at Austin Oct. 2 (PK) provided a new early arrival date for that area. Four Pine Siskins at an Austin feeder Sept. 18 (MBi) were also very early. Family groups of Lesser Goldfinches were noted well into September in Randall (KS, TJ) and the species was unusually common in El Paso during October and November (BZ). An Evening Grosbeak at G M N.P. on Nov. 15 was the only one reported (RRe).

**ADDENDA** — A probable Band-rumped Storm-Petrel landed on a boat 75 mi off Port Aransas June 11, 1988. The bird was brought to shore, photographed, and released the next day (TA). The record is being reviewed by the T B R.C.; there are only 3 accepted records (all specimens) out of the 7 previous reports of this species in Texas. A belated report of a House Finch June 14-18, 1988, at Lufkin in Angelina provided a significant first record for e. Texas.

**CORRIGENDUM** — Delete the record of Cory's Shearwater on Mar. 12, 1988; AB Vol. 42 (3), p. 458.

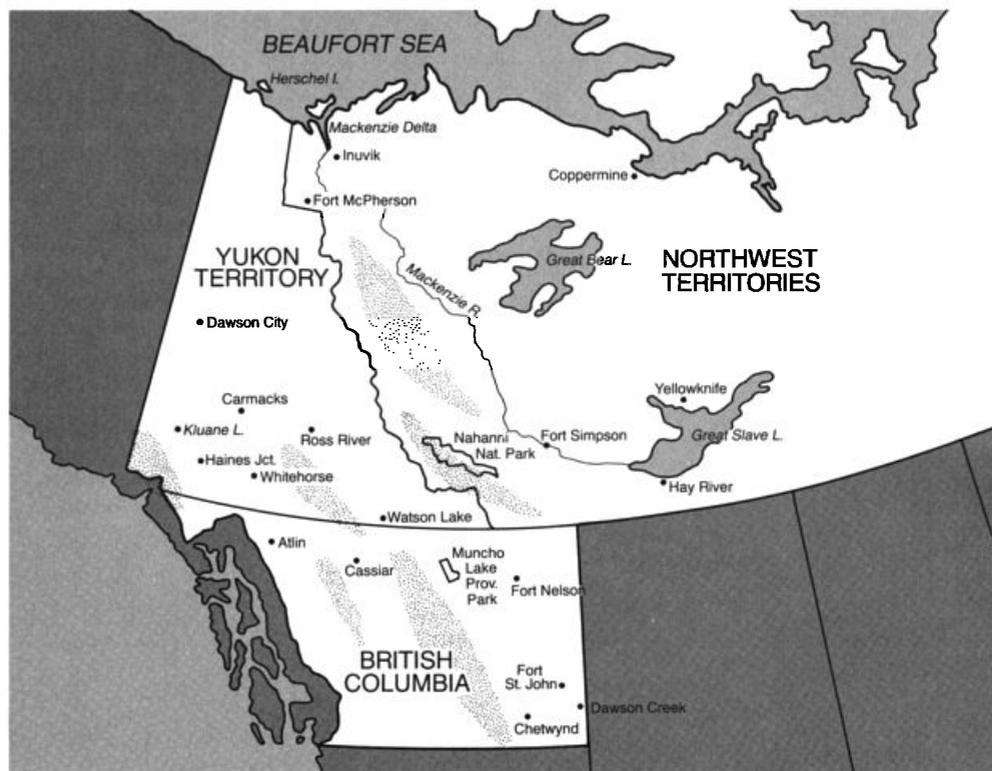
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# NORTH- WESTERN CANADA REGION

Chris Siddle



**F**all was mild in northern British Columbia and the southern Yukon, as it has been for the past three years. Coverage was uneven. The south end of Kluane Lake, Yukon, and Fort St. John, British Columbia, were birded the most heavily. Unfortunately the data for Whitehorse, Yukon, was held up in the mail and could not be included in this report.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — F.S.J. = Fort St. John; NWT = Northwest Territories; YT = Yukon Territory.

**LOONS TO HERONS** — Red-throated Loon sightings included a record of an adult and a fledged young 17 mi southeast of Whitehorse Sept. 24 and a late record of three unaged Red-throateds on the Yukon R. Oct. 17 at the same locale as above (JH). Another Red-throated was seen at the s. end of Kluane L. Sept. 1 (SC). An unaged bird was on Charlie L. Oct. 23 (CS).

Two Pacific Loons were on Jenny L., Kluane N.P., Aug. 29–30 (SC). An ad. Pacific Loon in breeding plumage was on the N. Lagoons, F.S.J., Oct. 7, and one to three others, in imm. plumage, were on Charlie L. Oct. 13–23 (CS).

Pied-billed Grebes are rare in the Peace R. area, BC. An adult with a striped-faced juvenile on a pond just north of F.S.J. Aug. 15 was of note, as were two juveniles at the S. Lagoons, F.S.J., Sept. 3 (CS). Two juv. Horned Grebes were seen near the s. end of Kluane L. Aug. 28 (SC). A late Red-necked Grebe was on the Yukon R. 17 mi southeast of Whitehorse Nov. 10 (JH). Two imm. Great Blue Herons, vagrants to the Peace R. region, appeared at the N. Lagoons, F.S.J., Aug. 13 and were rediscovered at a pond north of F.S.J. Aug. 15 (CS).

S.A.

Since the taxonomic split of Pacific Loon from Arctic Loon, some birders have been taking 2nd looks at "Pacific"-type loons. A pair of Arctic Loons (*Gavia arctica*) was tentatively identified (BO, CB, PL, DW) on a small lake 40 km south of the MacKenzie Hotel, Inuvik, Aug. 16 & 17. Notes provided by BO stressed the brilliant, iridescent Kelly green throat patches, the velvety tannish-gray napes and crowns, the dark symmetrical bills, the vertical neck stripings that did not extend to either the rear or the front of the necks, and the rows of white rectangles on the anterior two-thirds of the backs. The adults engaged in pair bond reinforcement (repeated bill dippings) and fed a chick of 3/4 size. Unfortunately the field marks that would differentiate the 2 species have yet to be fully established, and even current theories have not been widely distributed to North American observers.

Some Alaskan observers suggest that a few Pacific Loons can also show greenish-tinged throats (see Johnsgard 1987). If this record proves to be valid, this sighting would represent Canada's first breeding record for the Arctic Loon. Obviously all birders traveling in the Arctic, especially along the Dempster Hwy, are urged to take (and make) special note of any Pacific-Arctic type loons.

**WATERFOWL** — The Peace River's first Tundra Swan of the fall was an adult type with two Trumpeter Swans at the N. Lagoons, F.S.J., Sept. 17, a problematic date, since this could have been one of the six Tundras that summered at

nearby Cecil L. (CS). The first flock of Tundras passing the Yukon R. 17 mi southeast of Whitehorse was on Sept. 26 (JH). On Oct. 15 225 swans (both species) were at the Nisutlin R. delta, Teslin L., YT. The last flocks of Yukon swans were seen on Nov. 5 (PS, DR).

Three adult-type Trumpeter Swans were seen at the N. Lagoons, F.S.J., Aug. 12 (CS), and three were noted at Mush L. south of Haines Jct. Aug. 20 (NF). Flocks of 10, 20, 17, 18, and 19 Trumpeter Swans were counted flying SE along the Yukon R. 17 mi southeast of Whitehorse during the early evening of Oct. 12 (JH). The latest Peace R. record was of two Trumpeters with a Tundra at McQueen Slough, Dawson Creek, Oct. 16 (CS).

Greater White-fronted Geese can be very early fall migrants, often appearing in the Peace R. region of British Columbia by late August. This year's data fall neatly into place. Five flocks (of 200, 200, 100, 75, and ?) were migrating at high altitudes about 20 mi south of Finlayson L. (between Ross R. and Watson L.) Aug. 29 (JH). On the Nisutlin R. delta, YT, 150 Greater White-fronteds congregated Sept. 3 (JH). About 35 Greater White-fronteds were spotted on Boundary L. east of F.S.J. Aug. 20 (SZ). Forty were present on ploughed fields east of F.S.J. Sept. 4 (CS). "Hundreds" of Snow Geese and Brant were seen at the Firth R. delta, North Slope, YT, Sept. 11 (AL). Two vagrant Snow Geese appeared at the F.S.J. N. Lagoons Oct. 1 (LS).

A drake Am. Black Duck with a flock of 150 eclipse-plumaged ♂ Mallards stood out like a sore thumb at the F.S.J. N. Lagoons on Aug. 13 (CS). The bird's uniformly dark body feathers with their pale fringes and its contrasting pale face and dark cap-nape and dark eye-line were noted. This furnished a first fall record for the F.S.J. region, where the Am. Black Duck has been seen twice before on spring dates. A raft of 40 Oldsquaws was seen on a small pond along the S. Canol Rd., YT, Sept. 23 (MN, VN). Common Eiders were seen on Herschel I. Aug. 11 (ML).

**OSPREY TO GROUSE** — Ospreys are virtually absent from the Peace R. region of British Columbia, probably because of the muddy conditions prevalent in most creeks. A migrant ad. male over the N. Lagoons, F.S.J., Sept. 25 provided the first fall record (CS). A juv. Bald Eagle took its first flight from the nest at Reindeer Station, NWT, Aug. 16 (BO). The flight was successful, but the landing was not. The eagle flew into a hillside at a "thunderous" (BO's adjective) clip. An ad. Bald Eagle was seen at the s. end of Kluane L. Aug. 29 and Sept. 2 (SC). At least one adult and one juvenile remained feeding on the remains from a moose kill near the mouth of the Halfway R. west of F.S.J. right into December (CS). An ad. Bald Eagle was seen at the junction of Sheep Cr. and the Firth R., YT, Sept. 6-8 (AL). An adult was along the Dempster Hwy between Kilometers 75 and 120 on Sept. 25 (MN, VN). A late Yukon record was of an ad. Bald Eagle along the s. shore of Kluane L. Nov. 19-25 (MN). An immature attended a road kill with Com. Ravens north of Carmacks, YT, Nov. 10 (WN).

Sharp-shinned Hawks are uncommon spring migrants and fairly rare summer breeders but become common enough fall migrants that one to two birds are seen daily in the Peace R., BC, area. CS noted that the first fall migrant was recorded Aug. 6 with an abrupt falling off of numbers after Sept. 18. There was only one October record, of a single at Mile 122 of the Alaska Hwy Oct. 3 (TG). Northern Goshawk numbers remained low except in certain locales. An ad. goshawk was seen along the S. Canol Rd., YT, Sept. 23. Another adult and four immatures visited the Arctic Institute of North America at the s. end of Kluane L. from September through November. Two imm. goshawks attacked a small flock of Rock Doves kept by the institute (MN, VN). Three N. Goshawks were seen between Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge, BC, during the last week of September (TG).

"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks appeared as migrants near F.S.J. from Sept. 11 until at least Oct. 2 with the maximum of

three seen on one morning, Sept. 18 (CS). "Harlan's" Hawks were also seen daily at the s. end of Kluane L. Four were seen Sept. 2. All the Kluane birds were of the dark morph except one (SC). Rough-legged Hawks lingered Sept. 17-Oct. 30 with up to three seen a day near F.S.J. The latest fall date was provided by an immature on Nov. 27 (CS).

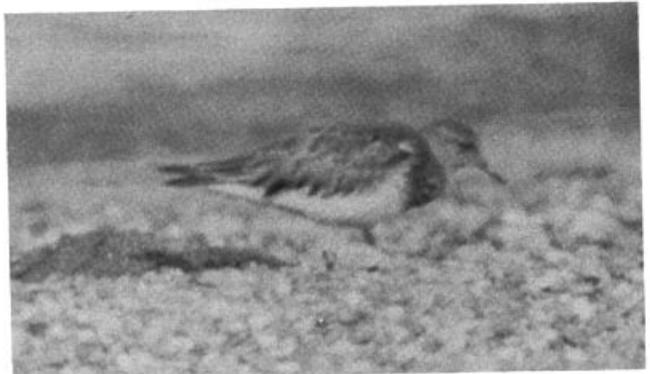
A Peregrine Falcon was seen above Sheep Cr. near the s. end of Kluane L. Aug. 21 (NF). A migrant Peregrine passed high over the N. Lagoons, F.S.J., Sept. 26 (CS). An ad. Gyrfalcon was at Tombstone Mt. at Kilometer 160 of the Dempster Hwy Aug. 2 (ML). Another Gyr was seen along the Dempster, 2 km south of the Arctic Circle, Nov. 13 (WN).

Spruce Grouse were noted to be more numerous this fall than in many past seasons. One to four were seen daily around Kluane L. Aug. 23-30 (SC). A male of the nominate race was at the foot of Pink Mt., 20 km west of Mile 147 of the Alaska Hwy, Aug. 19 (CS), and TG noted four to five between Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge in late September. Four Spruce Grouse were noted at the n. end of the Butler Range of mountains, north of Hudson Hope, Sept. 17-18 (GP). One White-tailed Ptarmigan was photographed at Summit L., Mile 392, Alaska Hwy, Sept. 3 (GRL), and Rock Ptarmigan remained easy to find in small numbers atop Pink Mt., 33 km west of Mile 147 of the Alaska Hwy. The fire lookout and summit of the mountain are easily accessible by car for most birders who want Rock Ptarmigan for their lists.

**CRANES TO OWLS** — Sandhill Crane migration was well marked this fall. The earliest flocks were heard above Kluane L. Aug. 15, though numbers involved were not mentioned (MN). Cranes were first noted at F.S.J. Sept. 10 (31 birds—CS) and peaked at 1000 birds north of Cecil L., F.S.J. area, Sept. 18 (WF). The nocturnal calls of Sandhill Cranes were noted by Hudson Hope residents all through the night of Sept. 14-15 (GJ). Some 900+ Sandhills were seen near Carmacks, YT, Sept. 23-24 (MN, VN).

Upland Sandpipers were uncommon but conspicuous migrants in the Peace R. region. The first birds were five at the N. Lagoons, F.S.J., Aug. 14, followed by a single there Aug. 15, one at One Island L. south of Dawson Cr. Aug. 16, and singles at F.S.J. Aug. 18, 22, & 26. The only Yukon record received was of one on Bear Mt., Alaska Hwy, Aug. 24 (XL). A late juv. Hudsonian Godwit visited the N. Lagoons, F.S.J., Sept. 25-26 (CS). A **Black Turnstone**, up to this point listed as only a sight-recorded bird for the Yukon, was photographed Aug. 28 at the s. end of Kluane L. for a first photo-documented record (SC, JS). For the 3rd fall in a row, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers occurred at the F.S.J. sewage lagoons, with one juvenile at the N. Lagoons Sept. 18 and another photographed at the S. Lagoons Oct. 9 (CS).

About 2000 adult and juv. Bonaparte's Gulls annually visit Charlie L. in mid-July and depart by early October. This fall the birds followed their usual pattern, the last record being of 550 Oct. 9 (CS). The only rarity noted was an ad. Sabine's Gull on Charlie L. Sept. 17 (CS, JJ). One first-winter Com.



*Black Turnstone at Kluane Lake, Yukon. First photographic record for the Yukon Territory. Photograph/S. G. Cannings.*

Tern lingered at the n. end of Charlie L. until at least Oct. 2 (CS).

One Snowy Owl was at the Firth R. delta Sept. 11 (AL). No others were reported from the Region this fall. Northern Hawk-Owls were more common than usual. At least five frequented the s. end of Kluane L., seen daily by staff of the Arctic Institute of North America. Xavier Lambim, a researcher, walked up to an imm. hawk-owl while radio-tracking voles and pulled a radioed vole out of the owl's talons. Only when the owl flew off did the researcher realize that a 2nd radioed vole was inside the owl (SC)! Northern Hawk-Owls began to appear in the Peace R. area as early as late September, when one was at the N. Lagoons, Sept. 26 (CS). A small influx occurred in November with one seen between Chetwynd and Dawson Cr. about Nov. 15 (LS), another at Mile 54 of the Alaska Hwy Nov. 20, and four along the Upper Cache Rd. about 40 km west of F.S.J. Nov. 26 (KB, CS).

Three Great Gray Owl reports were received; one was at Mile 122, Alaska Hwy, Oct. 3; one was at Mile 101 Sept. 21 (both TG); and one was accidentally killed in a leg-hold trap northeast of Hudson Hope in mid-November (JJ). Short-eared Owls were widely reported in mid-fall. Ten were scattered over farmland north of F.S.J. Nov. 11 (CS); two were at the Buckinghorse R. along the Alaska Hwy between Ft. Nelson and F.S.J. Sept. 19 (TG); and one was at the Dawson City airport Nov. 10, a late date for the Yukon (WN).

**FLYCATCHERS TO FINCHES** — A migrant Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Beaton P.P., Charlie L., Aug. 20 for a first Peace R. area fall record (CS). Horned Larks are rare migrants in the Peace R. area. Twenty-two were at the N. Lagoons, F.S.J., Sept. 10 as were 18 Sept. 18 (CS). Twenty were on the summit of Pink Mt. Sept. 5 (PK).

Dedicated birders once again tracked down Siberian Tits near Reindeer Station, where the Caribou Hills are adjacent to the Mackenzie R., NWT. Small numbers were seen on both Aug. 13 & 14 (BO, DW et al.). A late Cliff Swallow was at

Kluane L. Sept. 1 (SC), which may not be surprising considering that SC also found nestlings there Aug. 21. A Brown Creeper, recorded for the 3rd winter in a row, was seen at Stoddart Cr., F.S.J., Nov. 19 (CS). A late Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Kluane L. Sept. 30 (MN). A juv. N. Wheatear was 70 km south of Inuvik along the Dempster Aug. 16 (BO, DW). A late Am. Robin was seen near Crestview, Whitehorse, YT, Nov. 17 (PS). An early arriving N. Shrike was an immature at F.S.J. Sept. 17 (CS).

Cape May Warblers were recorded twice: a female was seen at Charlie L. Aug. 11 (CS) and a male there Aug. 21 (SZ). A Townsend's Warbler appeared at Charlie L. Aug. 20 (CS), and Black-throated Green Warblers were much more frequent in the Peace area with seven migrants found in Beaton P.P. on Aug. 11, five on Aug. 14, a male on Aug. 15, and an immature on Aug. 20 (CS). Blackpoll Warblers were unusually scarce in the Peace area with two seen at Charlie L. Aug. 15 (CS). Ovenbirds normally get very scarce in August. This August was no exception. Only one Ovenbird was seen, at St. John Cr., F.S.J., Aug. 4 (CS).

Redpolls were uncommon this fall. Nine Commons were at Beaton P.P., Charlie L., Oct. 2 (CS). Pine Siskins declined around F.S.J. from "frequent" in small flocks to nonexistent after the last single was seen Oct. 29 (CS). The first Snow Buntings arrived in the F.S.J. area Oct. 16, when 70 were seen near Charlie L. (RK).

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# NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN— INTER- MOUNTAIN REGION

Thomas H. Rogers



Severe drought plagued most of the Region during the autumn until early November. Many water-related birds suffered, but exposed mud flats attracted good numbers of migrating shorebirds in many places. Some small land birds were reported to be in decreased numbers in the Troy, Montana, and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, areas.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Hq. = Headquarters.

**LOONS TO CORMORANTS** — A Red-throated Loon appeared at Wickiup Res., Deschutes, OR, Nov. 4 (CM), and another was at the Yakima R. delta, WA, Nov. 8 (REW). A Pacific Loon was sighted on Hayden L., Kootenai, ID, Oct. 30–31 (PH), and one was found on Silver L., Spokane, WA, Oct. 30 (JA). One in summer plumage was at Kamloops, BC, Oct. 1 (SR), and one associated with Com. Loons and a Yellow-billed Loon on Tugulnuit L., Oliver, BC, Nov. 12 (RC). An adult and an imm. Red-necked Grebe were at Harriman S.P., Island Park, ID, Aug. 21, indicating that at least one pair bred there successfully (CHT). At least 9 pairs of the species, with eight young, were on Spectacle L., Okanogan, WA, Aug. 10 (RF). Unusual was the sighting of one Oct. 30 and Nov. 5 at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, WA (KK, MD). Eared Grebes at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, WA, raised at least five young for the first documented production since 1963 (WRR). Seventy-five pairs of Eared Grebes produced 40 young at Malheur N.W.R., Harney, OR, where high water levels have greatly reduced nesting habitat. Only 5 pairs of W. Grebes were there, producing no young. A nesting colony of W. Grebes on Banks L. at Steamboat Rock, Grant, WA, contained 139 adult and 74 imm. birds Aug. 19 (RF). Potholes Res. south of Moses L., WA, had 300+ Westerns Aug. 29. Fourteen of 22 grebes at s. Idaho's American Falls Dam Sept. 16 were Clark's (CHT). Moses L., WA, had 25+ of the species with two or three birds still on nests Aug. 25 (EH) and one still there Sept. 16 (LT). Malheur N.W.R. still had a half dozen the next day (TC, DS). One was at Wallula, WA, Oct. 2 (REW), and another was at McNary Dam on the Columbia R. near Umatilla, OR, Nov. 20 (PS).

The peak count of Am. White Pelicans at American Falls Res was of 950, and of 350 at Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, ID. Malheur N.W.R. had several hundred during the fall; Malheur L. still had 11 on Nov. 28. The N. Potholes south of Moses L. had up to 500 (JT), and some were expected to winter again on the Columbia R. in the Wallula vicinity (MD). Cold Springs N.W.R., Hermiston, OR, had 105 (TG). One appeared at Long L. east of Ephrata, WA, Aug. 4 (MW). The Lewiston, ID, vicinity had one pelican Sept. 11 and during most of October (CB). Coeur d'Alene, ID, was visited by one with a blue wing marker Sept. 14 (HC, SS).

Double-crested Cormorant numbers at Malheur N.W.R. have declined 40% since 1986 because of decreased water levels. They totaled 665 pairs this year, with about 489 young produced. More than 40 were reported at the N. Potholes Aug. 8 (RF), and 30 were feeding on sunfish stranded by lowering pond levels at Columbia N.W.R. Oct. 14 (WRR). Up to 43 were counted at the Yakima R. mouth (REW). Bruneau Dunes S.P., Bruneau, ID, counted 15 Nov. 12 (AL). The species seems to have become regular in the Lewiston-Clarkston area, where up to four at a time were seen (m.ob.).

**HERONS TO IBISES** — Great Blue Herons numbered 40–45 at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, where low water levels made food easily available. Five to 10 would be normal there. At least 15 Great Egrets were at the N. Potholes Sept. 11 (JW). The species at Malheur N.W.R. had its worst production year since the drought of the 1930s; only 18 pairs were counted, and no young were produced. The top count for the species at Springfield Bottoms, American Falls Dam on the Snake R., ID, was of 13, a marked increase (CHT). Mud Lake W.M.A. and Camas N.W.R., Hamer, ID, had 10 and nine, respectively, Sept. 4 (MC, FK). The Asotin-Clarkston, WA,

vicinity had up to three in mid-October (JB, LL, LP, CV). Columbia N.W.R. had a record 67 Great Egrets feeding on stranded sunfish Oct. 14. Malheur N.W.R. had no Snowy Egret pairs this year because high water flooded emergent nesting cover. Cattle Egret numbers at Springfield Bottoms were down, the highest number nine (BJ). Three were sighted at Bear Lake N.W.R. Sept. 14 (BW). One appeared at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, MT, Oct. 28 (JR), and one accompanied cattle in a pasture southwest of N. Potholes Res. Nov. 2 (GS). A Green-backed Heron was sighted at the Yakima R. delta Sept. 26–Oct. 8. The species is very rare in that vicinity (REW). One in Bend, OR, Sept. 16–22 made the county's 2nd record (EM). Floodwaters at Malheur N.W.R. greatly reduced nesting attempts of Black-crowned Night-Herons; only 45 pairs attempted, with zero success. A lone bird appeared at Lewiston Oct. 24 (LL), and Kamloops, BC, had an adult and an imm. bird, both having arrived in late July (SR). White-faced Ibises at Malheur did very well, having shifted their nesting colonies to the Blitzen Valley. They produced 1875 young.

**WATERFOWL** — Tundra Swans moved through in good numbers, the largest concentration 1000 at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, MT. Their numbers at Kootenai N.W.R. were 3–4 times the usual, peaking at 130. At Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., 58 of 113 juv. Trumpeter Swans counted in early July survived to fledge. Off the refuge in the Centennial Valley only 17 survived, probably because of drought conditions. Up to 40 Trumpeters visited L. Helena, MT, at October's end (BK). Harriman S.P. sighted seven, and Bruneau Dunes S.P. had 10 (AL). The Columbia R. near Pasco had four and Kahlotus L., Kahlotus, WA, two (MD). One of five "possible" Trumpeters on Moses L. Nov. 10 wore a plastic collar (WRR).

Nearly all the Greater White-fronted Geese moved through e. Oregon. They arrived at Malheur N.W.R. 1800 strong Sept. 7 (rather late). The next largest number, 250, was at Summer L., OR, Sept. 11. Small numbers of Snow Geese were sighted in e. Oregon and Washington and s. Idaho. A goose suspected of being a Snow x Canada hybrid accompanied Canadas at Walla Walla Nov. 5 (ph. MD). Canada Geese reached an all-time high of over 125,000 at Columbia N.W.R. Deer Flat N.W.R. had 7200, and Stratford L., Grant, WA, hosted "a few thousand." Peak numbers at Kootenai N.W.R., however, were only about two-thirds of last year's count. A "Cackling" Canada Goose was sighted at Burns, OR, Sept. 7, an early date (GI).

Wood Ducks seemed to be responding very well to the placing of nest boxes in the Tricities (Pasco-Kennewick-Richland), WA, area for 75 were counted along the Snake R. near Burbank (DL). Their numbers reached 80 in the Lewiston area. Up to eight were noted at Malheur N.W.R. (AH, LH), and one at Red Rock Lakes was a rarity (JB). At Bend, OR, 19 made an all-time high for Wood Ducks (TC). Duck numbers in the n. Columbia Basin (including Columbia N.W.R.) were down 44% from the long-term average. However, the aerial survey there estimated 150,200 Mallards Nov. 23 (U.S.F.W.S., W.D.W.). That species numbered over 31,000 at Deer Flat N.W.R. in November. Conversely, waterfowl fared poorly at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., where flightless ducks wandered along roads and through fields seeking water. Over 18,000 ducks spent October and November at Kootenai N.W.R., and Mallards peaked there at 24,000 in November. The high numbers there were believed to be the result of drought-limited habitat elsewhere. Gadwall numbers in the n. Columbia Basin were estimated at 10,500; Am. Wigeon, 18,000; and Canvasback, 660 (U.S.F.W.S., W.D.W.).

A Greater Scaup was reported at Hatfield L., Bend, Sept. 25. The species is very rare in Deschutes (TC). Haystack Res. south of Madras, OR, had one Nov. 12 (TC, CM, LR). Up to three Oldsquaws appeared at the Yakima R. delta (REW), and two were seen at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, WA, the same

day (MD, REW) An imm male was taken by a hunter on the Snake R. near Pocatello, ID, in late November (JB, CHT). A very few Surf Scoters appeared at and near the Yakima R. delta (REW); on Lenore L., Grant, WA (JA); near Ellensburg, WA (SRa); at Columbia N.W.R. (WRR); and at Haystack Res. (TC, CM, LR). Likewise, a very few White-winged Scoters were sighted near Preston, ID (DT); at Frenchtown, MT (DH); at the Yakima delta (REW); and on L. Lenore (JA). A Red-breasted Merganser was reported at Bend Nov. 3 (CM) and on Banks L., Grant, WA (NL). Ruddy Ducks appeared in unusual numbers at the Yakima delta, 186 by actual count Sept. 22 (REW), and an impressive 500 were at Abert L., Lake, OR.

**VULTURES TO GROUSE** — A Turkey Vulture, rare in the Fortine, MT, vicinity, was at Dry L. Sept. 27 (WW). A Black-shouldered Kite was seen many times Aug. 12–Nov. 9 at Klamath Forest Marsh N.W.R. for Klamath's 2nd record (SSu). Very few Bald Eagles gathered at Glacier N.P.'s lower McDonald Cr., MT, the result of a catastrophic collapse of the Kokanee salmon population in the Flathead R. drainage. Many apparently were diverted to L. Kocanusa upstream from Libby, MT, where 83 adult and 83 imm. birds were counted. The salmon run was good there (*vide* MSw). An "incredible" 22 were at Wickiup Res. west of La Pine, OR, Nov. 4 (CM). A Bald Eagle nest at Deer Flat N.W.R. fledged one young (BWh). In s.e. Idaho the top number for Swainson's Hawks was 109 near Rockland (CHT), and for Ferruginous Hawks, 37 in the Henrys L. area, ID, Aug. 27 (MDe). Single late birds were seen at Seneca, OR, Oct. 30 (CO, MO); south of Burns, OR, Oct. 3; and near Princeton, OR, Nov. 27 (BH). A Rough-legged Hawk was seen well near Rockland on the surprising date of Aug. 4 (FR, TS), and a very early one was reported near Moscow, ID, Aug. 29 (*vide* SHS). A phenomenal 39+ sightings of Merlins came in and a very good 13 of Peregrines, some due to hackings in the Boise, Helena, and Spokane areas. Four Gyrfalcon and 14 Prairie Falcon sightings were received. A 4.5-hour hawk watch at Red Top Mt. northeast of Cle Elum, WA, Oct. 1 yielded one Turkey Vulture, 14 Sharp-shinned and 17 Cooper's hawks, six accipiters sp., five Red-tailed Hawks, one Golden Eagle, and one Am. Kestrel (K.A.S., SH *et al.*).

Spruce Grouse, some with young, were seen on Chelan Mt., Chelan (EP); Red Top Mt. (TB); and Tiffany Mt., Okanogan (GG), WA. Three White-tailed Ptarmigan were observed on Tiffany Mt. Aug. 9 (GG). A Sage Grouse with seven chicks was found along Waterman Flat road, Wheeler, OR, Aug. 26 (PS).

**CRANES** — Only six "Greater" Sandhill Cranes were known to have fledged at Malheur N.W.R.; several young were found dead, two from gapeworm infections. The refuge is no longer the major autumn staging area for this subspecies for the Pacific flyway because of past disturbance, roost site drying, and poor grain crops. Most of the northern-nesting "Little Brown" Sandhill Cranes flew over the refuge without stopping at their traditional site. Sandhills migrating over Columbia N.W.R. reached their peak Sept. 27, when 650 spent the night there. Some 250 Sandhills were at L. Helena Sept. 23 for the highest number ever there (BK). Young cranes were reported in the Helena Valley during the summer (JV). An aggregation of 120 appeared between Townsend and Toston, MT, Oct. 8 (GB, SB), and an increase was reported for the Twin Bridges, MT, area (NS). Carey, ID, reported five (DJ) and Jordan Valley, OR, three (AL). One at Bonners Ferry was noteworthy (RDC). Sandhills in Grays L. valley, ID, started flocking by mid-July, a month earlier than normal, and peaked at 3194 Sept. 6 (RD).

Of the 12 Whooping Crane eggs shipped to Grays L. from Canada, 10 hatched but only two survived to fledging, the lowest production since surveys were started in 1969. Blame was placed on the drought-caused scarcity of food. The seven

adult and two imm Whoopers had migrated by Sept 28 (RD). One made a rare appearance at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. Aug 25 (JB).

**PLOVERS TO MURRELETS** — Black-bellied Plovers and the scarcer Lesser Golden-Plovers moved through the Region in small numbers, except for the Pocatello vicinity, where the former peaked at 115 and the latter at eight (CHT). Summer Lake W.M.A., Lake, OR, still had 44 Snowy Plovers Sept 2 for the only report (CCa). Single Semipalmated Plovers appeared at the Coeur d'Alene R. (ES, SHS) and at Bend (TC), and two were sighted at John Day Fossil Beds, OR (PS). A very few were in the American Falls Res. vicinity (CHT) and at Deer Flat N.W.R. (DT).

American Avocets peaked at 1252 at Springfield Bottoms Aug. 5 (BJ) for the only report. An Upland Sandpiper was sighted Aug. 20 at Reardan, WA, a very unusual spot for this species, which is rare in the Region (JA). The only Whimbrel reported was one at Summer L. Sept. 23 (CM). Malheur N W R had a Marbled Godwit Aug. 24 (SF). Four Ruddy Turnstones were observed at Columbia N.W.R. Sept. 1–6 (WRR), and Blackfoot Res., Caribou, ID, had two Aug. 16 (RD). A Red Knot appeared near Aberdeen, ID, in early August (DB). Deer Flat N.W.R. had three Sanderlings Sept. 13 (DT); American Falls Res., two, Sept. 23 (CHT); and Reardan, two, Sept. 13 (JA) Mann's L., Lewiston, had eight Sept. 17 (MK, LP, CV) Two were near Sisters, OR, Aug. 5 for the 3rd county record (LR) Kamloops had a big 20 Sanderlings, Sept. 17–18 (SR). A rare sighting at Kamloops, BC, was of a juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** Sept. 18 (ph. RH). Also very unusual was a Stilt Sandpiper there Sept. 4 (SR). The species made a very poor showing at Reardan with only one seen Sept. 4–5 (JA). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Reardan Sept. 18 was a decided rarity (JA, JW) A Short-billed Dowitcher at Fortine Aug. 25 was apparently the latilong's first (WW). A Red Phalarope appeared at the Walla Walla R. delta, Wallula, WA, Aug. 16 for one of only about 6 records for the area (TG).

Flathead L., MT, had a **Long-tailed Jaeger** Sept. 30 (DH) The large Franklin's Gull colony at Red Rock Lakes N W R had its 2nd consecutive year of reproductive failure owing to the drought, but the birds at Malheur N.W.R. found alternative nesting areas. A real rarity was a 2nd-winter Heermann's Gull at Klamath Falls, OR, Oct. 18 (LLe). A Mew Gull appeared at Lewiston Nov. 25–26 (LL, DP, JP). Lake Chinook, Jefferson, OR, had two Herring Gulls Nov. 6–12 (TC, CM, LR). Two Mew Gulls and a 3rd-year Glaucous-winged Gull appeared at Kamloops Aug. 28 (SR). One of the latter was found along the Columbia, R., Sherman, OR, Oct. 13 (CM), and a Glaucous Gull appeared at McNary Dam Wildlife Area, Umatilla, OR, Nov. 5 (PM, LW). Notable were single Sabine's Gulls at Summer Lake W.M.A., OR (MA, CM); at Bend (CM); at Pine Hollow Res., Wasco, OR; near Sisters (LR); and at Reardan (JA, JW)

Caspian Terns apparently did not nest at Malheur N W R because low water levels exposed their nesting sites, but a few young birds did appear in the area. An adult and two imm. birds were sighted at Lewiston Sept. 1 (LL), and one was there Sept. 9 (MK, LP, CV). Over 50 were foraging in the N Potholes area Aug. 29 along with more than 300 Forster's Terns (RF). One appeared at Mann's L., Lewiston, Aug 19 (C.B.). Common Tern numbers peaked at 100 near American Falls Res. Bend had two Com. Terns Sept. 19, and four were at Wickiup Res. west of La Pine Sept. 28 (CM). Extraordinary was an **Ancient Murrelet** on the Columbia R. at Vantage, WA, Oct. 31 (MD).

**OWLS TO HUMMINGBIRDS** — An injured Com. Barn-Owl was found in the Rathdrum, ID, vicinity for the latilong's first (JM). Unusual were single birds in Blalock Canyon south of Blalock, OR (PS), and at Vantage, WA (RHu). Flammulated Owls were found in the Missoula, MT, vicinity, where they

are believed to be breeding (PLW), at Coeur d'Alene (GH), and at Blewett Pass west of Wenatchee, WA (MO). The only Snowy Owl reported was one at Grays Lake N.W.R. Nov. 13 (RD). Revelstoke, BC, had two N. Hawk-Owls Oct. 20 (MB). Two Barred Owls were found in the Blue Mts. of n.c. Oregon Oct. 29 (JJ, PS, BWi, TW), and one visited a residential yard in the Spokane Valley Oct. 9 (ph. BMi, THR). A Great Gray Owl with a begging young was observed at Island Park, ID, Sept. 16 (BW), and one was found in Wallowa, OR, Nov. 5 (DM). At Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. the birds were seen regularly (JB). One was near Kamloops Oct. 21 (MB, RH), and one was sighted north of Fortine Aug. 10 (*fide* WW). Single Boreal Owl sightings in Kittitas and Okanogan, WA, extended the species' known range to the Cascade Mts. (EH, CM, DG, AS, SS). One was reported in n.w. Wallowa, OR (DHe, PS). A N. Saw-whet Owl was at Malheur Hq. Oct. 14 (CDL). One was found dead in Bend Nov. 20 (FV) and another at Deschutes S.P., Sherman, OR, Nov. 12 (DA). A road-injured one was picked up at Priest L., ID, for rehabilitation (*fide* SHS).

Two White-throated Swifts were at Maupin, OR, where they are rare, Aug. 7 (DLu, VT). An imm. Anna's Hummingbird appeared at a feeder at Silver L. Ranger Station, Lake, OR, Sept. 5-14 (SS). At Bend the birds were last seen Nov. 22, an all-time late date there (TC). An adult-plumaged male showed up at a feeder north of Spokane in October and was still there Dec. 14 (JA). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was sighted east of Mitchell, OR, Aug. 20 (PS).

**WOODPECKERS TO WARBLERS** — Single Red-breasted Sapsuckers appeared in La Pine (HH) and near Bly, OR (PM, LW). A Red-breasted and a Red-breasted x Red-naped hybrid were sighted at Frenchglen, OR, Sept. 22 along with three Red-naped and a ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker (CDL). Malheur N.W.R. had a "Yellow-shafted" N. Flicker Sept. 16 (PS *et al.*), and one was seen on Steptoe Butte, Whitman, WA, Sept. 24 (MK). An albino Barn Swallow was seen at Fortine, where a brood of albino young was raised 2 years ago (WW).

A Blue Jay sighted at Grant Cr. northwest of Missoula in October reportedly had been there for 13 months (JD). A Scrub Jay at Lyle, WA, Nov. 12 made a rare sighting (DLu, VT). A much-displaced Yellow-billed Magpie [escaped from captivity?] was identified along the Spokane R. west of Coeur d'Alene, ID, Sept. 22 (EB, RB). A vagrant Bewick's Wren was sighted near Tygh Valley, OR, Aug. 7 (DL, VT). A Winter Wren at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. Oct. 15 provided a latilong first (JB). A Veery sighting at Malheur N.W.R. was decidedly unusual (AC). Three Gray Catbirds were sighted in Richland Aug. 4 for the 2nd sighting there after 17 years (REW). Malheur Hq. had a N. Mockingbird Oct. 10 (SF), and two appeared west of Helena Sept. 10 (JS). A carefully described bird that was thought to be an imm. Yellow Wagtail was observed near Bonners Ferry Sept. 5 (RDC). [This would be a first for Idaho and for the Region, but the identification is difficult and there are almost no records south of Alaska.] A flock of Bohemian Waxwings at Fortine Nov. 13 provided Weydemeyer's latest arrival date there. No other reports of the species were received.

Malheur N.W.R. had a visit from a Tennessee Warbler Sept. 16-17 (TC, JG, DS). A very late Orange-crowned Warbler was sighted at Ft. Walla Walla Natural Area, WA, Nov. 23 (MD). Fields, OR, hosted a Virginia's Warbler Sept. 15 (*fide* TC). Single Chestnut-sided Warblers were sighted at Malheur Hq. Sept. 8 (MSm) and at Frenchglen Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (JJ, SJ). The Black-throated Blue Warbler is "becoming a regular autumn migrant" in s.e. Oregon (CDL). Single birds were sighted at 2 places on Malheur N.W.R. (RH, MK, PS, CV) and at Frenchglen (JJ, SJ) and Fields (MS) between Sept. 16 and Oct. 16. At Malheur N.W.R. two Black-throated Gray Warblers appeared Sept. 15 (MK) and one, Oct. 22 (LR); a Bay-breasted Warbler was there in mid-September (TC, JG, DS) and a Blackpoll Warbler Sept. 3-4 (JJ). Frenchglen had a Black-and-white Warbler Sept. 24. Mullan Rd. between Missoula and French-



*Chestnut-sided Warbler at Frenchglen, Oregon, October 1, 1988. Photograph/Tom Crabtree.*



*Bay-breasted Warbler at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon, September 17, 1988. Photograph/Tom Crabtree.*

glen, MT, had an Ovenbird Oct. 13 (DH). Malheur had one Sept. 3-4 (JJ, SJ) and a N. Waterthrush the day before (SJ). The Davenport, WA, cemetery was visited by a N. Waterthrush Sept. 17 (JA). A **Canada Warbler** was at Malheur N.W.R. for Oregon's 2nd record (ph. JJ, JC, JuC).

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — A bright ♂ Summer Tanager was at Malheur N.W.R. Sept. 30 (MSm). Central Oregon's 2nd record of Clay-colored Sparrow was provided by a bird near La Pine Oct. 29 (HH). A Lark Bunting appeared along Hwy 23, n.w. Whitman, WA, Aug. 20 (DP, JP). Richland had a Swamp Sparrow Nov. 30 (REW). A very few White-throated Sparrows were reported from s. Idaho, e. Oregon, and e. Washington. The only Golden-crowned Sparrow sighting was at Bruneau Dunes S.P. Oct. 16 (ST). Two Harris' Sparrows were banded at Pocatello in early October (JJe). At least 20 Lapland Longspurs accompanied Horned Larks at Banks L., Grant, WA, Oct. 23 (JA), and one appeared at Fortine Nov. 12 (WW).

Two Rusty Blackbirds fed with Brewer's Blackbirds at Kamloops Nov. 26 (RH). Reardan had a Com. Grackle Aug. 21 (BW). Rosy Finches were wintering on cliffs near Discovery S.P. southeast of Boise (DJ). Three "Black" Rosy Finches were sighted in Swan Valley, Bonneville, ID (MC, FK). Pine Grosbeaks were sighted in the Little Belt Mts. north of White Sulphur Springs, MT (LM); in the Blue Mts., n.c. OR (PS, TW); and at Squaw Springs C.G., n.w. Wallowa, OR (PS). Two Purple Finches were sighted at Bend Sept. 16 (TC, DS) and at Tumalo S.P. north of Bend Sept. 10 (CM). A female was sighted at Malheur Hq. Oct. 16 (SSu). A ♂ Cassin's Finch at Richland Nov. 30 was unusual (REW). Twenty White-winged Crossbills appeared Oct. 24 in Rattlesnake Cr. valley north of Missoula

(PLW). Lesser Goldfinches have been regular at Pocatello since their first breeding record there this summer (CHT). Page Springs had a male Sept. 15–16 (MK, PS, CV), and one was reported at Reardan Aug. 12 (MH).

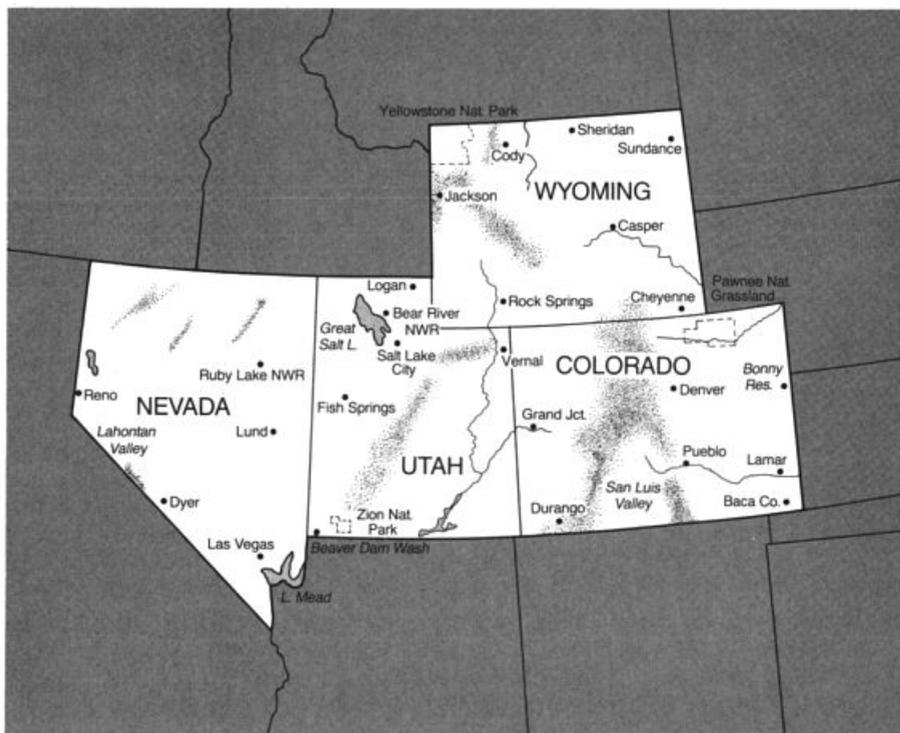
**ADDENDA** — An imm. **Little Blue Heron** photographed at Sandpoint Oct. 31, 1986, was n. Idaho's first and the state's 2nd (NB, PRS). A **Band-tailed Pigeon** was observed at Coeur d'Alene L. Apr. 28–30, 1988 (HA, LC, BM, MM). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was sighted May 25, 1988, at Elkhorn C.G. south of Unity, s. OR (CC, MC). Over 100 **Bobolinks** were found along the road between Hereford and Bridgeport, OR, May 23, 1988, for what is probably the largest population of the species in the state (CC, MC). A **Com. Grackle** was identified at Bonners Ferry May 22, 1988 (RDC).

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## MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

Hugh E. Kingery



**T**he Region this fall had a slightly higher species count than average; remarkable counts of water and shorebirds from central Nevada; a fair flight of coastal species, such as Pacific Loon, scoters, and Red Phalarope; a diversity of gulls and two new birds for Colorado; and many second to tenth records (noted in boldface).

One place definitely did not have a "normal" fall—Yellowstone National Park. Zarki reports, "Throughout much of the fire season, visibility was absolutely terrible with thick smoke making all birdwatching except of those birds at close distances nearly impossible. Damage to birdlife by fire was generally minimal. A few unfledged

Osprey were overrun by fires while still in the nest, but the worst of the fire activity occurred after nearly all birds had fledged their young. In late October, I found a dead Hammond's Flycatcher that appeared to have been asphyxiated by smoke. It was hanging upside down in an unburned sagebrush where ground fire had moved through quite rapidly . . . Raptors were everywhere this fall as much ground cover was removed making it a relatively easy matter to locate rodents and other small mammalian prey.

"While it has been very popular to declare that Yellowstone has been irreparably damaged by this summer's fires, I'd like to ask that, ornithologically speaking, we exercise a lot of caution before making any such statements. Obviously there has been significant habitat alteration. What effects this alteration will have on bird populations [are] yet to be determined."

The Region reported 372 species, 11 over the 11-year average: 334 in Colorado (average 320), 261 in Wyoming (255), 258 in Utah (231), and 257 in Nevada (243).

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Lahontan Val. = Stillwater N.W.R., Carson L., Walker L., and Fallon, NV; S.S.G.L. = South shore of the Great Salt L.; † = written description submitted to state or local records committee; # = no written description; 1st Lat = first latilong record; a latilong is outlined by one degree of latitude and one of longitude and measures about 50 × 70 miles.

**LOONS TO IBISES** — An average complement of Pacific Loons visited the Region with 10 in Colorado, seven in Wyoming, and one that dove into L. Powell in Arizona and surfaced in Utah (†RC). On Walker L., NV, Neel on Oct. 16 counted an unprecedented 656 Com. Loons—more than the entire Region has recorded for the last 3 years combined! Spillovers included 25 at Pyramid L., NV, Oct. 27 and one at Ash Meadows N.W.R., NV, Oct. 29 (PL). Other high counts were of 24 at Sheridan, WY, Oct. 28 and 18 at Sundance, WY, Oct. 29. A well-described **Yellow-billed Loon** was found at Wheatland, WY, Nov. 22 († & VH) for Wyoming's 3rd record. Another **Yellow-billed Loon** settled in at Rawhide Power Plant near Wellington, CO, Nov. 5 (†DL, †WH et al., ph.) and showed signs of staying all winter.



*Yellow-billed Loon (foreground) with Common Loon, both in first-winter plumage, at Rawhide Power Plant, Colorado, November 25, 1988. Photograph/Laurens R. Halsey.*

Counts of Horned Grebes dropped substantially, from hundreds to a top count of 17 at Sheridan Oct. 23, and otherwise ones and twos. Ten Red-necked Grebes included the first n. Nevada record, at Walker L. Oct. 16 (LN); one at Rock Springs, WY, Sept. 21–22 (†FL); two at Sundance; five at Yellowstone N.P.; and one at Rawhide Nov. 29 and later (†WH, DL). Like the Horneds, Eared Grebe numbers plummeted, although Rock Springs had 130 Nov. 19 and Pueblo, CO, reported 100 Nov. 20. Yellowstone's Am. White Pelicans fledged 485. Pelicans ranged all over n.e. Colorado with 100–800 reported from many reservoirs into October. Nevada recorded its first **Brown Pelicans** in 14 years; three Sept. 1 stayed into December (†VM).

Big counts of migrating Double-crested Cormorants were of 608 in August at Stockton, UT; 625 at Walker L. Oct. 16; and 320 at Ordway, CO, Nov. 5. The **Olivaceous Cormorant** that had arrived at Lamar July 17 (see previous issue) stayed through Sept. 24 (MJ). The Carson L.–Stillwater Refuge complex boasted 80 Great Egrets Aug. 10–12 (PL); Colorado reported 25 for the season—3 times last year's number. Two Little Blue Herons stopped in s.e. Colorado: one Aug. 12 at John Martin dam (MJ) and one Sept. 3 at Lamar (SS). Logan, UT, reported 130 Cattle Egrets Aug. 17, and late ones included a cold, miserable bird trying to stay out of the wind at the Black Butte mine near Rock Springs, WY, Nov. 3 (FL) and two at Arches N.P. Nov. 23 (NB, 1st Lat). White-faced Ibises at Carson L. failed to breed because of lack of water delivered to the lake; 2000 remained there Aug. 10–12, however (PL).

**WATERFOWL, RAPTORS** — Numbers of migrating waterfowl dropped at most locations. Disease hit them as well—botulism killed 16,000 ducks in the Stillwater area (most at private duck clubs) (TB, ST, LN). Cholera killed ducks at Monte Vista N.W.R., CO: raptors preyed on them, but biologists felt the raptors were not especially susceptible to the disease (RS). The Tundra Swan migration plummeted. At Stillwater the peak of 2500 was down 6000 from 1987 and 13,000 from 1986. Trumpeter Swans produced seven cygnets at Yellowstone and 20 in Jackson Hole; the Ruby Lake population held at a normal 20. A **Trumpeter Swan** visited Pueblo,



*Trumpeter Swan with four Tundra Swans at Pueblo, Colorado, November 27, 1988. Note the Trumpeter's slightly larger size, heavier bill, and thicker neck in this direct comparison. Photograph/David R. Roscover from the Pueblo Chieftain.*

CO, in November with four Tundras; the photographs compare their respective conformations. Colorado reported only 17 Greater White-fronted Geese, but Yellowstone had one Nov. 1 (†TM) and Ash Meadows N.W.R., NV, had one Oct. 29 (PL et al.). Sheridan, Casper, and Sundance reported 1000–3200 Snow Geese, an increase over past years. The Stillwater area peaked at only 1850 Snow Geese, down by two-thirds.

Greater Scaup included two at Ash Meadows (PL et al.), two at Yellowstone (†TM), and one in Grand Junction, CO (CD, RL, 2nd Lat). A dozen Oldsquaws included one banded at Stillwater Nov. 10; birds at Rock Springs, Yellowstone, and Casper; and six in e. Colorado. The fall brought one Black Scoter, to Denver Nov. 2 (‡JR); 18 Surfs including three at 2 locations near Monte Vista, CO (†JJR, RS, 1st Lat); and 14 White-wingeds in Wyoming and Colorado. Hooded Merganser counts included 50 at Boulder Oct. 29, 21 at Sheridan Nov. 13, and eight at Reno Nov. 14. Peak counts of Com. Mergansers came Nov. 26 with 2000 at both Prewitt and Julesburg reservoirs in n.e. Colorado. Pueblo reported 50 Red-breasted Mergansers Nov. 4–5, and Ash Meadows had 11 Oct. 29.

At Canon City, CO, the Wattses saw 32 Turkey Vultures Sept. 16—in the Arkansas R., bathing! Ospreys made 66 nest attempts in Yellowstone; their success was unknown (JZ). Colorado's peak nesting site, Granby Res., had 19 nests (DJ). The fires had little effect on Yellowstone's Bald Eagle nesting, as the eaglets had already fledged; but the fires did burn 4 nests (JZ). In Colorado 8 pairs of Bald Eagles nested; they fledged eight young. Only one nest was unsuccessful, of a young pair at Barr L. (GC). Observers saw many more N. Harriers, e.g., D.F.O.'s total of 51 through the fall (cf. 8–19 each of the last 3 years). Near Anton, CO, Sept. 20–27 Wheeler counted 1750 Swainson's Hawks, the most ever reported from the Region. He saw a group of 600 near Lamar, CO, Sept. 27, and on the same day another party counted 500 nearby in Baca and Bent, CO (JC, JH). Red-tailed Hawks counted by D.F.O. also increased, to 84 (23–48 the last 3 years). Yellowstone sported a kettle of 40 Ferruginous Hawks Sept. 7 (TM), and, beginning in October, observers all over Colorado commented on their abundance. Denver's observations doubled to 29, and Boulder's came to 38 in November. Near Searchlight, NV, the count of 14 imm. Golden Eagles on Nov. 11 was high (VM). In Colorado 24 Peregrine pairs fledged 50 young, and 7 hack sites fledged another 26.

**GROUSE TO SHOREBIRDS**—Colorado picked up its first confirmed record of **Ruffed Grouse** when a hunter shot one half a mile from the Utah line near Dinosaur N.M.; another was nearby (RH). Fish Springs on Oct. 27 conducted a tape recorder survey for rails and counted 32 Virginias and four Soras (JE). Carson L., NV, had seven Com. Moorhens Aug. 10–12 (PL). At Yellowstone, a **Common Moorhen** Aug. 13 (†JZ) provided Wyoming's 2nd documented record. Stillwater reported 50,000 Am. Coots Aug. 11.

In the San Luis Valley, CO, 17,000 Sandhill Cranes passed through during the fall. In October observers saw big flocks in e. Wyoming (1000–2000 at Sheridan, 3000 at Sundance) and e. Colorado (4000 at Barr L. near Denver, 1500 at La Junta, 1000 at Pueblo). The total reported from the Region exceeded 31,500, although some observers may have seen the same birds as they migrated S. Fifteen Whooping Cranes moved with the San Luis Valley Sandhills (RS); the last 2 years, 21–22 have passed through.

Most observers saw few shorebirds, although the thousands at Sundance peaked at 3 times the 1987 totals. Despite this dearth, Nevada turned up the highest one-day totals of 2 species ever reported from the Region: 12 Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 11 at Carson L. (PL) and 200 Sanderlings Sept. 2 at Humboldt W.M.A. (LN).

The Region reported 31 Black-bellied Plovers (half the usual) topped by birds at Yellowstone Aug. 14 and Sept. 10 (†BSc, †JHu) and only two Lesser Golden-Plovers; one Aug. 11 at Carson L. (fulva, †PL) and one at Casper Sept. 22 (†JH).

Healthy counts of Snowy Plovers included 33 in the Lahontan Val., NV, Aug. 10–12; 20 Sept. 2 at Humboldt W.M.A., NV, 50–75 at the S.S.G.L. Sept. 11; and 20 near Lamar, CO, Sept. 3 with a peak of 13 at Fish Springs Aug. 17. August 10–12 the Lahontan Val. attracted 25,000 Am. Avocets (PL); Humboldt W.M.A. had 6500 Sept. 2 (LN); and S.S.G.L. had 3000 Sept. 25 (P & TS). A Ruddy Turnstone stopped at Colorado City, CO, Sept. 3–10 (DS). Wyoming reported four Red Knots: two at Rock Springs Aug. 28 (†FL, 1st Lat), one at Yellowstone Aug. 16 (†BS, 1st Lat), and one at Casper Aug. 17 (JH). Semipalmated Sandpipers stopped in August at Las Vegas, Dyer, and Lahontan Val. (13 Aug. 10–12, with 10,000 Westerns, 2500 Least, and 50 Baird's, †PL), NV; one–six were in other sites, 30–31 were with 100 Westerns at Rock Springs Aug. 2 & 20 (FL), and 20 were at Lamar Sept. 3 (SS). Humboldt W.M.A. had 3900 Westerns, Least, and Dunlins Sept. 2 (LN).



*Juvenile Short-billed Dowitchers (of 14 present) at Dyer, Nevada August 13, 1988. Photograph/Paul Lehman.*

Forty Pectoral Sandpipers stopped at Logan Sept. 11 (KA). The highest count of Stilt Sandpipers was of 86 Sept. 9 in Weld, CO (WH). Short-billed Dowitcher reports included 2 adults at Carson L. Aug. 10 (PL), 14 juveniles at Dyer, NV, Aug. 13 (†PL et al.), two at Casper Aug. 25 (JH), and several Oct. 18 at Fallon (LN). Lots of Long-billed Dowitchers stopped in Nevada Aug. 10–Sept. 2: 20,000 at Carson L., 9200 at Stillwater, and 10,000 at Humboldt W.M.A. The Region reported an amazing 10 **Red Phalaropes**—over twice the total of any other fall. They included eight in Colorado, Wyoming's 3rd at Riverton Oct. 18–19 (†SF), and one at Ash Meadows, NV, Nov. 26 (†PL); Nevada has fewer than 10 records.

**JAEGERS TO TERNS**—Colorado had an amazing year for Larids, with reports of 12 gull species. A Pomarine Jaeger was at Greeley, CO, Oct. 3–7 (‡JH). The **Parasitic Jaeger** at Riverton gave Wyoming its 4th record (†SF). Colorado had two Parasitics, at Denver Oct. 28 (DHo) and Pueblo Nov. 11–13 (†DS). The Colorado gull saga begins with three **Little Gulls** that doubled, almost, the total number of state records: Union Res. Oct. 6–7 (†DL), Denver's Cherry Creek Res. Nov. 12–13 (‡WL, ‡JR), and Denver's Sloans L. Nov. 19–28 (‡D.F.O.). The Region's first **Common Black-headed Gull**, a red-billed, red-legged adult, stayed only briefly at Cherry Creek Res. Oct. 8–9 (JR, ‡DM). An animated bird, it twirled at times like a

feeding Wilson's Phalarope. The Region hosted the most Bonaparte's Gulls since 1979: three in Nevada and in Utah; 29 in Wyoming, including 14 Oct. 23–28 at Sheridan; and 208 in Colorado, including 80 at Pueblo Nov. 11 and 40 at Cherry Creek Res. Oct. 23. Documented **Mew Gulls** were at Fruita, CO, Nov. 20 (†RL, CD, ph., 1st Lat) and Cherry Creek Res. Oct. 9 (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*, JR, †DM). Another, a first-year bird, stopped at Las Vegas Sept. 18. At Yellowstone 145 pairs of California Gulls produced 240+ fledglings. A rare Glaucous Gull stopped at Stillwater Nov. 1 (TB et al.). Colorado doubled its inventory of **Great Black-backed Gulls** with one at Lamar Sept. 3 (†SS) and one at Cherry Creek Res. Nov. 2 (†JR to D.F.O.). The state reported four Black-legged Kittiwakes Nov. 20–30: two at Rawhide, one at Ft. Collins, and one at Cherry Creek Res. (RLz). A good flight of Sabine's Gulls, Sept. 13–Oct. 9, included two at Casper, one at Riverton, one at Yellowstone, plus 20 in Colorado. The Colorado birds included 1st Lat records at Colorado City and Lamar. At Yellowstone 24 pairs of Caspian Terns fledged 23 ternlets. The recent article in *American Birds* on Least Terns (AB 42:195) omitted the small nesting population along Colorado's Arkansas R.; August counts at Rocky Ford produced six adults and eight juveniles and at Lamar, two adults and one juvenile (MC, MJ).

**DOVES TO RAVENS**—Three Inca Doves at Indian Springs, NV, extended their range N 75 mi from Boulder City (PL). Northern Pygmy-Owl reports came from Reno; Logan and Vernal, UT; Harriman, WY; and Ft. Collins. A family group of eight was at Mesa Verde N.P. At Centennial, Wyoming confirmed **Boreal Owl** breeding for the first time, with an adult and a juvenile seen Aug. 1 & 12; the adult fed a vole to the juvenile on the latter date (J & VH, †SF). Other Boreal records came from Yellowstone and Grand Junction, Gunnison, and Long Draw Res., CO. Two weekend searches of the High Uinta Wilderness in n.e. Utah failed to turn up any Boreals (CK, ES). A Magnificent Hummingbird summered at Buena Vista for the 2nd year (BWp). Hummingbirds peaked Aug. 11 at Springdale, UT, with 775 Black-chinned (JG). An **Anna's Hummingbird**, Utah's 3rd, visited a Salt Lake City feeder September–November but will winter in an aviary (†CK, †ES). Rufous Hummingbirds increased, perhaps because of drought-induced poor natural food crop (FL); one feeder north of Cortez, CO, had 30 going through a gallon of syrup daily. A Red-breasted Sapsucker was at Fallon, NV, Sept. 19 (LN).

At Eagle, CO, W. Wood-Pewees fledged young rather late, Aug. 24 (JM). At Denver a calling E. Wood-Pewee stayed Aug.



*Boreal Owl at Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, October 5, 1988. Photograph/Jeff Wert.*

4–18, and another called at Prewitt Res. near Brush Aug. 21 (†JC, JH). Eastern Phoebes wandered to Las Vegas Oct. 30, the first in 9 years (KW, VM), and to Ridgway, CO, Sept. 11 (CD et al.). Both an Ash-throated Flycatcher and a Great Crested Flycatcher were in s.e. Colorado Sept. 2, at Holly (1st Lat) and Lamar (2nd Lat), respectively (†SS). A 1st Lat Great Crested visited Grand Junction Sept. 25 (†CD). A swarm of swallows—15,750, mostly Banks but some Trees and Barns—gathered at the Bear R. Flats near Brigham City, UT, Aug. 9 (JN). Carson L. Aug. 10–11 sported 1200 Trees and 1000 Banks. Clark's Nutcrackers increased on the Indian Peaks, CO, Fall Count: the 124 Sept. 11 were tallied at 1.6/hr cf. a previous high of .64/hr. At Ruby Valley, NV, Am. Crows were way up (e.g., 300 Oct. 5), perhaps due to a bumper pinyon nut crop (CB). Nearby Ruby Lake Ref. had 200 Com. Ravens in November, and Fish Springs N.W.R. had 300 ravens coming into a roost. At Cortez, CO, the ravens go into the mountains for hunting season, then return to town and the menu offered by McDonald's and the dump (LB).

**WRENS TO WARBLERS**—A Carolina Wren (Colorado's first in 10 years), found Sept. 2 at Holly, remained into December (†SS, m.ob.). A Winter Wren at Ruby Valley Oct. 9–12 furnished the first n.e. Nevada record (CB), and one at Riverside Res. near Masters, CO, Oct. 4–11 provided a 1st Lat (JC). An Am. Dipper, far out on the plains at Ft. Morgan, CO, Nov. 1, also represented a 1st Lat (BR). In Grand, CO, 20/day was a typical count of Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Boulder reported 59 in November. Boulder also reported all 3 species of bluebirds in October, including six Easterns Oct. 29. An Eastern was at Colorado City Nov. 19 (DS). The well-described W. Bluebird at Yellowstone Sept. 5 furnished the park's first record in the 1980s (TM). A Hermit Thrush had moved to the 12,000-foot summit of Bowen Mt., Grand, CO, Aug. 30 (DJ). A Wood Thrush (or maybe two) was in Boulder Sept. 28–Oct. 27 (JP, MJ). A smattering of Varied Thrushes appeared at Las Vegas; Ruby Valley; Yellowstone; Cody, WY (1st Lat, †FO); and South of Grand Junction (1st Lat, CD). The Gray Catbird at Arches N.P., UT, Oct. 8 was the first for the park (NB). Two Solitary Vireos with yellow flanks and yellowish backs were thought by the observers to be of an eastern race, at Holly, CO, Sept. 4 (MJ) and Denver Oct. 18 (HK).

Warbler numbers and variety suffered this fall. Green R., WY, reported the only sizable flock of migrating warblers—50 Orange-crowns and 70 Yellow-rumps Sept. 24. Colorado tallied 112 Townsend's, Utah had 28, and Wyoming, 35.

Rare warblers included: two Golden-winged Warblers at Denver (Aug. 22–Sept. 4, DN; Sept. 24–25, DHO); Utah's 3rd **Black-throated Blue Warbler** Sept. 24 at Beryl (†CK, ES, RS); Wyoming's 6th **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Green R. Sept. 4 (†SF); Utah's 5th **Palm Warbler** Sept. 29 at Fish Springs (†JE); and a Kentucky Warbler at Boulder Oct. 14 (†JP).

Semi-rarities included Tennessee, one at Sheridan and six in Colorado; 16 Nashvilles; a N. Parula at Las Vegas Aug. 28; five Chestnut-sideds in Colorado; a Magnolia at Rock Springs and six in Colorado; more Black-throated Blues, one in Nevada, five in Wyoming, and eight in Colorado; five Blackburnians in Colorado, including one at Vail Sept. 20 (B), 1st Lat; two Pine Warblers, in Boulder and Pueblo; two Bay-breasteds in n.e. Colorado; three Blackpolls and nine Black-and-whites in Colorado; Am. Redstarts, five in Nevada, two in Utah, and one in Yellowstone; 12 Ovenbirds and 14, N. Waterthrushes; and a singing Hooded Warbler in Boulder Aug. 18–Sept. 12 (B.A.S.).

**TANAGERS TO SPARROWS**—Denver had two Summer Tanagers Aug. 17–Sept. 17, and one was at Holly, CO, Sept. 11. A Scarlet Tanager stopped at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland Sept. 17 (D.F.O.). At Ogden, UT, Killpack banded 75 W. Tanagers, 26 Black-headed Grosbeaks, and 51 Lazuli Buntings, the last two 3 and 10 times his 1987 efforts, respectively. At Holly observers found N. Cardinals Sept. 24 and Nov. 27 (SS, MJ). A Blue Grosbeak summered at Hulett in n.e. Wyoming (fide

BH). September 25 saw Field Sparrows at Denver and Two Buttes, CO [NE, JC, JH]. Observers reported good numbers of Vesper Sparrows; D.F.O. reported 100 in n.e. Colorado Sept. 17. A Lark Bunting strayed W to Fish Springs Aug. 26 [JE]. Sheridan tallied a peak of only 11 Savannah Sparrows; they appear to have declined drastically after a peak in 1979 of 231 [HD]. A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Golconda, NV, Aug. 4 [JL]; lots of juveniles spent August at Sundance; and a brightly colored bird thought to be of the e. race *pratensis* confused observers at Holly Sept. 24 [JC, MJ]. A **Henslow's Sparrow** was described well from Julesburg, CO, Aug. 21 for a 2nd Colorado record [†JC, BP].

A **McCown's Longspur** appeared at Fish Springs Oct. 5 for Utah's 3rd record [†JE]. Two Lapland Longspurs at Las Vegas were s. Nevada's first since 1979 [VM], and two at Fish Springs Nov. 5-8 provided a 1st Lat. The Chestnut-collared Longspur in Baca Aug. 2 was early [†JAG]. Twenty early Snow Buntings arrived in Jackson Nov. 8, and singles arrived in Logan and Cheyenne Nov. 12. A flock of 200-300 Com. Grackles Sept. 24 at Green R., WY, reminded Luke that a few years ago they were uncommon. Among the few Red Crossbills reported were adults with young at Story, WY, Aug. 22 [MCo] and 10 at Reno Nov. 12 [EK]. Cedar City reported 200-300 Pine Siskins in November, up 50% from normal, but all other reporters said siskin numbers were way down. And finally, only in Yellowstone: a flock of House Sparrows seen Nov. 20-21 merited a rare bird report [J & JS]!

**EXOTICS (Chapter 4)** — In Chapter 3 the Red-backed Buzzard of Gunnison, CO, mated with a Swainson's Hawk and produced a youngster. The young one left the nest Aug. 12. It and the ♂ Swainson's were banded Aug. 13, but the buzzard avoided the trap. Many observers saw the trio during this period; Oct. 8 the immature fed on a freshly killed Mallard drake. Last sighting of the buzzard was Oct. 27 [RM, DR, J & RC]. The young was "handsome with dark chocolate splotches on the upper breast, the abdomen clear light buff, with light

streaking on the sides. It had a dark back, the upper part with buff margins" (DR).

**CORRIGENDA** — The Glossy Ibis reported from Greeley, CO, provided Colorado's 2nd, not first, record (AB 42:467). The picture of a Black-legged Kittiwake that appeared in the Spring Southern Great Plains report (AB 42:455) was miscaptioned. Although Joe Ten Brink did submit 3 excellent pictures of a kittiwake at Greeley, this picture was not one of them. And the observer who provided documentation for Colorado's 2nd Great Black-backed Gull was DWa (Doug Ward), not DWA [AB 42:468].

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## SOUTHWEST REGION

### Arizona

Gary H. Rosenberg and David Stejskal



In some ways this fall was very similar to last fall with a better than average selection of "eastern" migrants, rare shorebirds, and wanderers from the south. In contrast, montane species were virtually nonexistent in the lowlands after last year's invasion. The event of the season was the long-awaited occurrence of Glaucous Gull in the state. Excellent coverage of the upper San Pedro River, as well as frequent trips to the northeast portion of the state, contributed greatly to the high number of rarities reported this season. As with last year, we received so many records that we simply could not write about them all.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — B.T.A. = Boyce Thompson Arboretum; L.C.R. = Lower Colorado River; P.R.D. = Painted Rock Dam; S.T.P. = Sewage Treatment Plant; S.P.R. = San Pedro River. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS TO WATERFOWL** — A Pacific Loon at P.R.D. Oct. 8 (DS) represented one of few records away from lakes on the Colorado River. During the past 10 years, four loon species have been seen on this reservoir. A Horned Grebe at Many Farms L. Oct. 2 (DS *et al.*) provided only the 5th or 6th record for Apache. Also of interest was one at Watson L., near Prescott, Nov. 30–Dec. 1 (CST). Our knowledge of the distributions of both Western and Clark's grebes in Arizona is still in the learning stage; this fall we added yet another piece to the puzzle. One ad. Clark's with two chicks found on Many Farms L. Aug. 28 (GR *et al.*) and at least six adults with two young there Oct. 1 (DS *et al.*) established the first nesting record for this species in Apache. Also present on this lake during this period were several pairs (with young) of W. Grebes. Both Western and Clark's grebes were previously unknown as breeders away from P.R.D. and lakes along the Colorado R. Non-breeding records for Clark's Grebe included one at the Snyder Hill S.T.P., Tucson, Sept. 16 (WD) and one at Peck's L. Oct. 26 (Virginia Todd). A W. Grebe was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. Oct. 17 (TC).

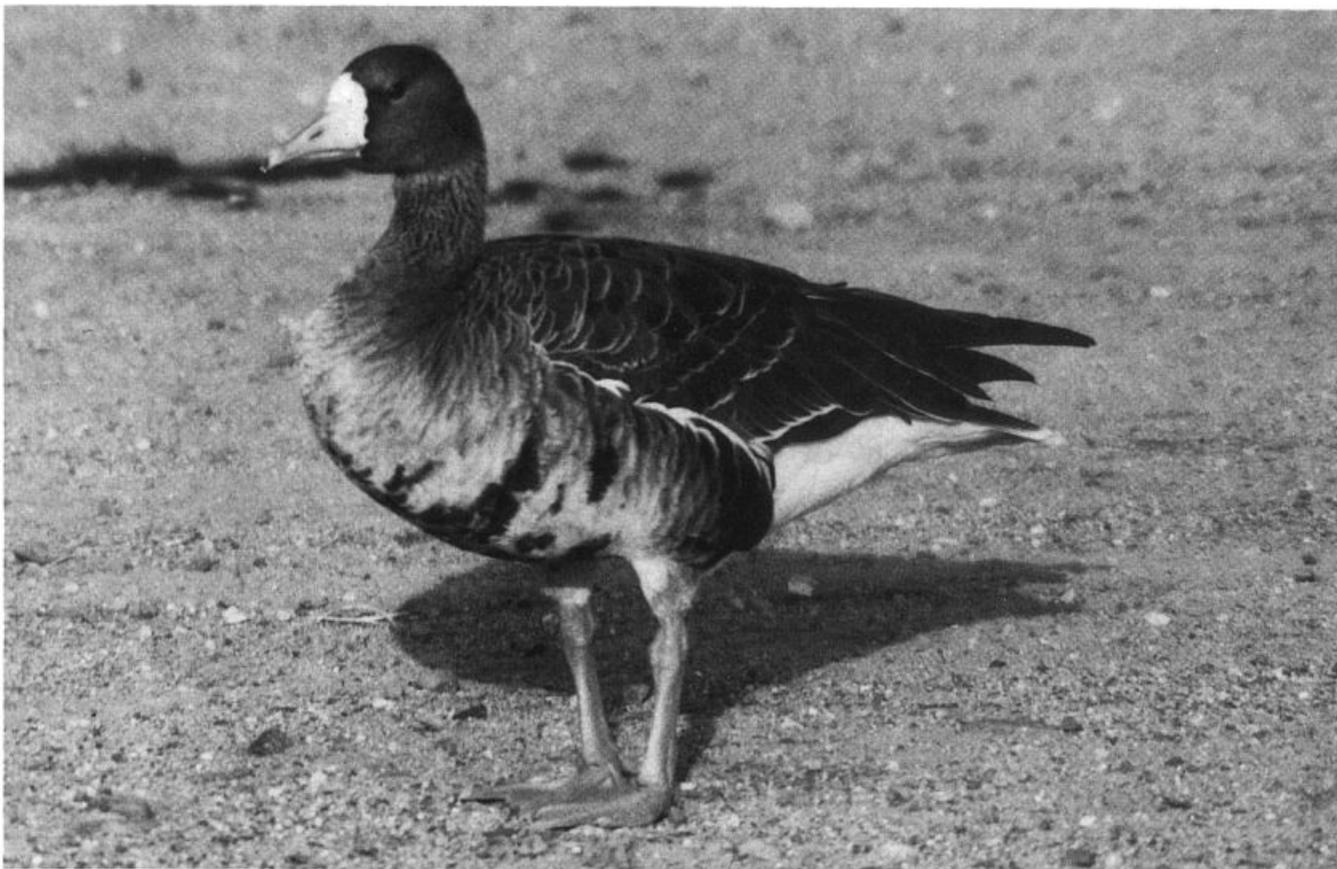
Brown Pelicans were found in 3 locations this season. An immature was at P.R.D. Aug. 17 through the end of the month (RN *et al.*), one was along the Granite Reef Aqueduct, w. of

Centennial Wash, Aug. 23 (R. Christofferson), and another immature was on Alamo L. Sept. 21–Oct. 10 (R. Hall *et al.*). Only one Magnificent Frigatebird was found; a male at Tucson Sept. 21 (J. Logan) furnished only the 3rd local record and one of only a few away from the L.C.V. and P.R.D. An early Am. Bittern was at Peck's L. Aug. 26 (AG *et al.*), whereas a Least Bittern at Picacho Res. Nov. 27 (DS, RF) was very late. Great Egrets were seen in several odd localities; one at Many Farms L. Aug. 28–Sept. 4 provided one of only a few n.e. Arizona records, while one on the Verde R. near Clarkdale Sept. 21 (VG) and one at B.T.A. Oct. 10 (CST) both made first local records. An imm. Tricolored Heron near Palominas Aug. 24–Sept. 1 (ph. DK, TC) was the only one reported from Arizona this fall. An immature **Reddish Egret** at P.R.D. Oct. 10 († SG, DS) provided only the 6th record for Arizona. Cattle Egret staged a mini-invasion into the Southwest this fall with multiple observations occurring in 5 northern Arizona localities. The highest concentration was found in s.w. Phoenix with 60 along the Salt R. Nov. 17 (DS).

A report of four ad. White Ibises flying up the Santa Cruz R. in Tucson Aug. 1 († R. Perrill, *fide* GM) was astonishing, considering there are only about 5 previous records for Arizona. Wood Storks were again sighted along the Gila River with 4 immatures at P.R.D. Aug 17 and later (RN *et al.*, ph. DS); although rare in the state, this wanderer from Mexico appears almost annually.

Only two reports for Tundra Swan, a sparse fall migrant throughout the state, were received: one at Lake Montezuma Nov. 17 (AG) and another in Tucson Nov. 19 (L. Rogers). Twelve reports of Greater White-fronted Goose, totalling 115 individuals, were received including a high count of 50 in Tucson Sept. 18 (S. Levy) and three at Ganado L. Sept. 17 (CB); there are very few records for this species from n.e. Arizona. One found in Palominas Sept. 22 (DK, TC) took up residence with a flock of domestic geese and was still present at the end of the period. The only Ross' Goose of the season was one at the Gilbert S.T.P. Nov. 20 and later (SG).

Two different ♂ Eur. Wigeon were found at Black Mesa, near Kayenta, one Oct. 19 and the other Nov. 10–27 (CL). It is becoming clear that this species is a rare but regular migrant/



Greater White-fronted Goose at Palominas, Arizona, October 14 1988 Photograph/Troy E Corman

winter visitor in Arizona, wherever there is a concentration of Am. Wigeon. Two Greater Scaup were found away from the L.C.R.; one imm. male was at P.R.D. Oct. 27 (DS) and a female was at Buenos Aires N.W.R. Oct. 31 (JK). Five were found above Imperial Dam n. of Yuma Nov. 23 (PL); it has been shown that Greater are regular winter residents throughout the L.C.R. valley. An Oldsquaw present at Buenos Aires N.W.R. Nov. 19 until the end of the period (RF, RN, m.ob.) furnished one of only a few s. Arizona records. The only scoter reported this season was a ♀-plumaged Surf Scoter at the Gila Bend S.T.P. Nov. 6 (D. Kibbe). A ♀ Bufflehead was found on a small pond s. of Gray Mt. (n. of Flagstaff) Aug. 4 and later (DS et al.); this species is casual in Arizona in summer. One of the ♀ Red-breasted Mergansers found at Kayenta last May was still present Aug. 29 (CL et al.). One was at Watson L., Yavapai, Nov. 21–Dec. 17 (CST) and two females were in Tucson Oct. 25 (GM et al.), with one still present there Nov. 6 (JK). At least six Hooded Mergansers were found statewide during November. A very late large concentration of 30 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was present at Kino Springs near Nogales Nov. 13 into December (JH, GR).

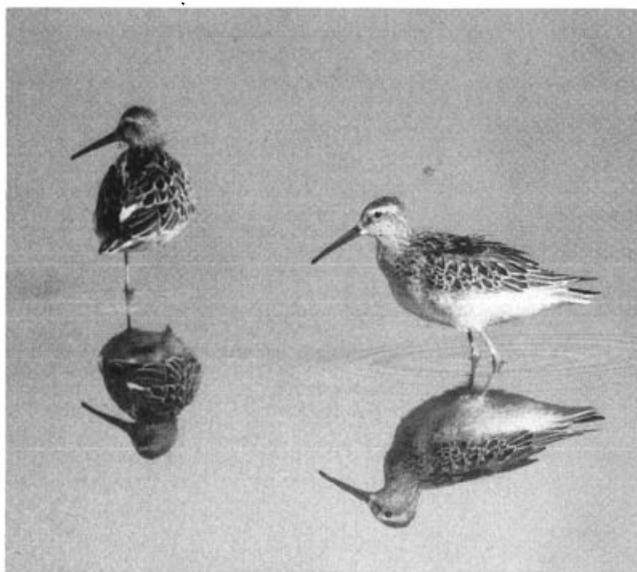
**RAPTORS TO CRANES** — After many years of absence in the Phoenix area, two Black Vultures were seen along the Salt R. Oct. 23 (DS) where they used to be rare but regular fall and winter visitors. Bald Eagles, unusual in s. Arizona, were seen in 2 localities: one at Buenos Aires N.W.R. Nov. 6 (E. Tuttle) and an adult Nov. 30 n. of Elfrida in the Sulphur Springs Valley (GR). Three migrant Com. Black-Hawks were seen along the upper S.P.R. between Sept. 19 and Oct. 11 (TC, DK), and another was along Sonoita Cr. above L. Patagonia Sept. 21 (GM, GG); both these localities are historical nesting areas for this species. Two Harris' Hawks in the Verde Valley near Clarkdale Sept. 9 (VG) may have represented the first 20th century record for the valley and for this far north. An ad. Broad-winged Hawk was seen migrating with Swainson's Hawks near the Rt. 90 crossing along the upper S.P.R. Sept. 18 (†DK et al.). More outstanding was a **Red-shouldered Hawk** in the new Hassayampa Preserve near Wickenburg Nov. 3–16 (J. Cooper et al.). This represents about the 10th Arizona record. A Crested Caracara at Aguirre L., Buenos Aires N.W.R., Sept. 18 (SG) was a bit farther east than regularly seen. Unusual anywhere in Arizona away from nesting areas was an ad. Mississippi Kite s. of Charleston on the upper S.P.R. Aug. 20 (DK). Although still rare, it is clear that Black-shouldered Kite has become at least a regularly occurring raptor in s. Arizona. We feel listing of specific records is too space-consuming and will summarize them hereafter. At least five were seen irregularly throughout the period.

Interesting was a Clapper Rail at Picacho Res. Aug. 7 (DS); it has been found only intermittently at this locality, although a healthy population occurs in marshes along the Colorado River. Sandhill Cranes were found in several interesting localities. One at Watson L., near Prescott, Sept. 28–Oct. 13 (K. Wingert) provided only the 4th Yavapai record, about 100 were seen near Gillespie Dam on the Gila R. Oct. 29 (M. Eubanks), and eight were at the Buenos Aires N.W.R. Nov. 13 (RD).

**PLOVERS TO TERNS** — Black-bellied Plovers, normally very uncommon migrants in the state, were seen with greater frequency than usual. An adult was at Watson L., Yavapai, Aug. 20 (A. Gaither), a juvenile was at Firebird L., s. of Phoenix, Sept. 21 (DS), another juvenile at Many Farms L. Oct. 2 (DS et al.) provided one of the few n.e. Arizona records, one was in s.w. Phoenix Oct. 18–23 (DS), and two were at the Chandler S.T.P. Oct. 18 (DS). Most unusual was an adult Lesser Golden-Plover (*P. d. dominica*) still in alternate plumage at Many Farms L. on the early date of Aug. 28 (CL, GR, DS, JK) and another in juvenal or basic plumage there Sept.

17 (CB et al.) providing only the 2nd and 3rd records for n.e. Arizona. At least 20 Snowy Plovers were seen statewide between Aug. 11 and Oct. 15 including a high count of 10 Oct. 6 at Topock, L.C.R. (DS), and two Aug. 28 at Many Farms L. (GR et al.) where they are quite uncommon. Solitary Sandpiper, normally an uncommon migrant throughout the state, appeared more common than usual in August with a high count of 20 seen in n.e. Arizona Aug. 25–29 (GR et al.). One in s.w. Phoenix Oct. 23 until the end of the period (DS) provided one of the latest records for the state. The shorebird of the season was a juv. **Upland Sandpiper** at Snyder Hill S.T.P., Tucson, Sept. 25 (†DS, JC, GW) establishing only the 3rd record this century. The bird was seen leaving the ponds at dusk and unfortunately was not seen again.

Eight Long-billed Curlews at Gilbert Nov. 20 (SG) were late, perhaps wintering locally. Marbled Godwits were very scarce this fall with only 2 reports: one at Willcox Aug. 22 and another in n.e. Arizona Aug. 28 at Many Farms L. (GR et al.) where there are hardly any records. For the 2nd straight year, records of Semipalmated Sandpipers were more numerous than usual, with 6 records in all. One at Willcox Aug. 2 (†GR), one at Sierra Vista S.T.P. Aug. 10–Sept. 1 (†TC, †DS, JC et al.), one at Kayenta Aug. 29 (ph. GR, ph. DS, JW, RW), one at the Gila Farms pond Aug. 30 (ph. DS), and one at Many Farms L. Sept. 13 (GR et al.) were all juveniles. Sanderling records for this season included an adult at Sierra Vista S.T.P. Aug. 10–11 (DS, JC et al.), another adult at Many Farms L. Aug. 28 (DS et al.), a juvenile at Sierra Vista Sept. 6 (TC), two at Snyder Hill S.T.P. Sept. 10–11 (J. Higgins), and a high concentration of five juveniles at Sierra Vista Sept. 22 (†TC).



*Juvenile Stilt Sandpipers at Kayenta, Arizona, August 29, 1988. Rare in northern Arizona. Photograph/Gary H. Rosenberg.*

Pectoral Sandpiper records included a very early adult at Sierra Vista Aug. 11 (C. Vogel, DS, JC et al.) and a juvenile at Avondale Aug. 13–17. An adult in s.w. Phoenix Nov. 17 (DS, D. Kibbe) was very late; there is only one verified winter record for the state. It was not long ago that Stilt Sandpipers were considered very uncommon in Arizona, particularly in the n.e. part of the state. Nine records, 5 in the northeast, totalling 36 individuals, including a high count of 18 at Many Farms L. Sept. 10 (CL, GM et al.) suggested that this species is not as rare in the state as we had previously thought. One in Mesa Oct. 29 (DS) was extremely late. Similarly, more Short-billed Dowitchers than usual were seen: two were at Phoenix Aug. 20, one at Phoenix Aug. 30, one at Phoenix Sept. 21, one at Phoenix Oct. 4, four at Topock marsh, L.C.R., Oct. 6, and a late individual was at Phoenix Oct. 15 (all DS). Two Red

Phalaropes, scarce fall migrants, were at the n end of L. Havasu Oct 20 (SG, DS)

The only Bonaparte's Gulls reported away from the L.C.R. were two at Buenos Aires N.W.R. Oct. 31 (JK), an adult at Cow Springs L., n. Arizona, Nov. 13 (CL), and one at Peck's L. Nov 17 (AG). Franklin's Gull was also scarce this fall with the only records being of two first-winter birds at L. Havasu Oct 20 (DS, SG) and a very late adult at Gila Farms pond, Phoenix, Nov. 27 (DS, RF). Heermann's Gull, a rare and irregular visitor to s. Arizona, made a better than average showing this season with an adult at P.R.D. Oct. 14 (DS) and another at Buenos Aires N.W.R. Oct. 15 (R. Duerkson). Both California and Herring gulls are sparse migrants away from the Colorado River. One ad. California was at P.R.D. Oct. 10 (SG *et al.*) and another was at the Sierra Vista S.T.P. Nov. 10 (TC) Also at Sierra Vista S.T.P. was an ad. Herring on Nov. 4 (TC, DK). Another was at Nogales S.T.P. Nov. 17 (D. Garver). The gull event of the year was the arrival of Arizona's first **Glaucous Gull**, a first-winter bird that visited a small pond in Scottsdale Nov. 17–Dec. 4 (Beth Kolson, m.ob., ph. GR). Arizona was one of the last states in the lower 48 to record this species. Sabine's Gull continues to be a rare but regular fall migrant in Arizona with one juvenile at the Granite Reef Aqueduct, w. of Centennial Wash, Sept. 7 (ph. R. Christoffer-son, C. Heath), one found dead in Tucson Sept. 24 (P. Simin-ski), and a 3rd in the White Mts. (date ?) (DD).

Caspian Terns were seen in good numbers away from the L C R four were seen at Alamo L. Sept. 21 (TG *et al.*), two were at L. Patagonia Sept. 21 (GG, GM) for only the 2nd local record, and four were at P.R.D. Sept. 22 (DS) where they appear to be fairly common visitors. Only two records of Com. Tern were reported; one was at Sierra Vista Sept. 1 (TC) and two were on L. Powell near the Utah border Sept. 12 (GR *et al.*) Thirty-eight Forster's Terns at Lake Havasu City Nov. 25 (PL) made an unusually high concentration for such a late date

**CUCKOOS TO HUMMINGBIRDS** — A Greater Roadrun-ner seen at 6700 feet on Black Mesa, s. of Kayenta, Nov. 29 (CL) was at an unusually high elevation for n.e. Arizona, where there are still no confirmed nesting records. Unusual was a Flammulated Owl picked up in a weakened condition in n w Phoenix Oct. 16, brought to a wildlife rehabilitation center and later released Oct. 22 in good condition. Amazingly, this is about the 5th such occurrence of this typically montane species in the Phoenix area. Seemingly out of place was a Spotted Owl found perched in a willow above the dam in Sabino Canyon Oct. 17 (KN). Much to the enjoyment of many observers, it remained there throughout the period. Very early were two to three Short-eared Owls at Hart Prairie, San Francisco Peaks, Aug. 1 (DS, JC *et al.*); it is possible that this record represents local nesting as opposed to early mi-grants Also early was another at Moaning L., near Chinle, Aug 27 (GR, JK). There are very few records for the northeast. Late and out of place was a Lesser Nighthawk at Portal Oct. 28 (RM).

Of interest was yet another sight record of *Black Swift*, a species that is still on the state's hypothetical list. Two were well described, in direct comparison with Vaux's Swift, from near Hereford, upper S.P.R., Sept. 22 († DK). It is only a matter of time before definitive documentation is obtained for this apparently rare transient in Arizona. Unusual and late was a Violet-crowned Hummingbird at a Tucson feeder Oct. 30 (L. Kuhn) Several extralimital Magnificent Hummingbirds were reported this fall; one was along the w. fork of Oak Cr. Canyon July 10 (G. Romig), two males and a female were again at Greer Aug. 6–7 (TG, B. Larson) where they appear to be regular late summer visitors, and a male and female were at Globe through Sept. 23 (R. & C. Mckusick, K. Condit). Lucifer Hummingbirds were at Portal again this fall with a male and female at the Spoffords' feeder Aug. 22–Sept. 1 and another female was there Sept. 28–Oct. 7 (W & SS). Very late were ♂

Black-chinned Hummingbirds at Prescott feeders Nov 23 & 26 (L. Ostrom, S. Harris) Also very late were ♂ Rufous Hum-mingbirds at Portal Oct. 23 through the end of the period (W & SS, RM), and at Prescott Nov. 23 (L. Ostrom) and another there Nov. 24–26 (S. Harris); there are very few early winter records for Arizona.

**TROGONS TO SHRIKES** — The northernmost record of Elegant Trogon was obtained when a male was found in Jackson Canyon, a side canyon of Aravaipa Canyon, Sept. 23 (T. Collazo). Belted Kingfisher apparently nested for the first time in Yavapai this summer at 2 localities near Prescott, with 2 pairs present all summer and two juveniles seen Aug 21 & 27 (CST). One ♂ Green Kingfisher remained along the upper S.P.R. until at least Oct. 14 (TC). An E. Phoebe at the B.T.A. Nov. 22–Dec. 8 (CST) furnished a first local record Three Thick-billed Kingbirds found along Sonoita Cr. above L. Patagonia Sept. 21 (GM) were within the species' regular nesting range but later than normally reported. A Tropical Kingbird at Picacho Res. Aug. 7 was well north and west of its normal nesting range. The only E. Kingbird reported this season was one on Black Mesa, near Kayenta Aug. 29 (CL).

A Winter Wren found at Picacho Res. Nov. 27 (DS, RF) was heard giving a "Song Sparrow" type call note which is sugges-tive of eastern forms, as opposed to western birds that sound more like Wilson's Warblers. There is still no specimen of the e. race *hiemalis* from Arizona, but it may occur in the south-ern and eastern portions of the state. A Golden-crowned Kinglet at the B.T.A. Nov. 6 (CST) was at a much lower elevation than normal. Six Mountain Chickadees at Florida Saddle Nov. 12 (JK) may represent the first record of this species from the Santa Rita Mountains. Always an exciting bird to find in Arizona was a ♀ Varied Thrush at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (m.ob). Eastern Bluebird staged a mini-movement with a male found at the B.T.A. Nov. 13 († CB, CH) and another s.w. of Hereford, upper S.P.R., Nov 21 (TC). The arboretum bird established the northernmost Arizona record for this species. Two Sage Thrashers 2 mi e of Valle, s. of the Grand Canyon, Aug. 4 (DS *et al.*) in good sage habitat were thought to be nesting locally, but one in sparse ponderosa pine habitat along the south rim of the Grand Canyon Aug. 4 (DS) was thought to be an early migrant The only Brown Thrasher of the season was one at Portal Nov. 20 through the period (W & SS). Northern Shrike, nor-mally believed to be a rare but regular winter visitor in the northern portion of the state, made an extremely good show-ing this fall with eleven individuals seen in the Kayenta/Black Mesa area, Navajo, beginning Oct. 21 (CL).

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — Two Red-eyed Vireos were re-ported; one was at the B.T.A. Sept. 24 (CB) and another was above the dam at Sabino Canyon (WR). A Warbling Vireo at the B.T.A. Nov. 22 (CST) provided one of the latest fall records for the state. This fall brought 2 reports of migrant Gray Vireos, a species that both breeds and winters in Arizona, but is very rarely seen during migration. Four were found along the upper S.P.R. between Sept. 13 & 22 (TC, DK), all in mesquite habitat, and one was reported from Petrified Forest N.P. Sept. 16 (SG), representing what may have been a first Apache record.

It was an excellent season for unusual warblers throughout the state. A ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** found at Montezuma Castle N.M. Sept. 1 († J. Payne *et al.*) and another s. of Charles-ton, upper S.P.R., Sept. 25 († DK) furnished only the 10th and 11th records for the state. Chestnut-sided Warblers seen this fall were singles s. of St. David Sept. 7 and another (same individual?) at the same locality Sept. 19 (TC), along the Salt R. in s.w. Phoenix Nov. 17 (D. Kibbe, DS), and a 4th at Parker, L.C.R., Nov. 11–20 (RF, RN, DS). An imm. ♀ **Cape May Warbler** found at Parker Oct. 6 († DS) provided only the 2nd record for

the L.C.R. and the 10th record for Arizona Black-throated Blue Warbler continues to be a rare but regular fall migrant throughout the state. This fall 7 records were obtained; individuals were at Kayenta Sept. 13 (GR), at Eagar Sept. 17 (RF), at Navajo Oct. 1 (DS, RF), at Tucson Oct. 22 (C. deWaard), and at Camp Verde Nov. 12 (C. Byler), and two were at Prescott Oct. 22 (CT). Only one Black-throated Green Warbler was sighted this fall, at Patagonia Nov. 12 (DJ), for one of only a few recent records of this warbler that appeared more regularly in the 1970s. Arizona's 14th Yellow-throated Warbler remained at Kino Springs, near Nogales, Sept. 18–Oct. 2 (DJ). Another Blackpoll Warbler was found at Springerville Sept. 16 († GR, † JK), 2 days earlier than last year's and at almost the exact locality; there are about 20 records for the state. The only Black-and-white Warblers found were singles at Parker and on the S.P.R. In recent years, Am. Redstart has proven to be a not-so-rare migrant throughout the state; this fall there were 15 records in all, from Aug. 7 to Oct. 20. A Worm-eating Warbler in a Tempe yard Nov. 22–23 († K. Groschupf) provided one of the latest fall records for the state; amazingly, there are now about 28 records for Arizona. As with Am. Redstart, N. Waterthrush has been found to be an uncommon migrant. This fall produced 12 records between Aug. 25 and Sept. 17. The warbler events of the fall involved two well-described imm. ♀ **Mourning Warblers**, representing what will probably be only the 3rd and 4th records for the state; one was along the upper S.P.R. 2 mi s. of Charleston Sept. 25 († DK), and the other was at Navajo, Apache, Oct. 1–2 († DS, † SG, † RF et al.). At an unusually low elevation were five Painted Redstarts along the upper S.P.R. between Sept. 13 and Oct. 6 (TC, DK).

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — For the 2nd year in a row, Scarlet Tanager was reported from the upper S.P.R. s. of Charleston Oct. 8 († DK) with another found at Sanders in n.e. Arizona Oct. 9 († DK, RF); there are about 15 records for the state. A ♀ W. Tanager at the B.T.A. Nov. 22 (CST) was very late, as there are very few verified winter records. Of interest was a lowland record of Hepatic Tanager found along the lower S.P.R. s.e. of San Manuel Nov. 11 (GM). Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found this fall: one at the Petrified Forest N.P. visitor center Oct. 3 (JC), one imm. male at Portal Oct. 1–9 (found dead Oct. 9, W & SS), and a late individual at the B.T.A. Nov. 22–23 (CST). No fewer than five Painted Buntings were found statewide between Aug. 25 and Oct. 6; the upper S.P.R. produced multiple records for the 2nd straight year.

Three sightings of Dickcissel were reported, all from the upper S.P.R. One was s. of Charleston Sept. 25, one was n. of Hereford Sept. 26, and the 3rd was near Fairbank on the late date of Oct. 27 (all DK). The first Yavapai breeding record of Cassin's Sparrow was substantiated when four males and two females were seen Aug. 1 and two juveniles were found Aug. 31 seven mi e. of Prescott (CST). A greater than average number of Clay-colored Sparrows were reported, mainly from the upper S.P.R.: one was near Hereford Sept. 14 († TC), one was n. of Fairbank Sept. 22 († TC), one adult was near Hereford Oct. 7 († TC), another immature was near Hereford Oct. 11 (DK), and an immature was well described from Nogales Nov. 25 († C. McGaugh). Two pairs of Sage Sparrows found s. of Gray Mountain (n. of Flagstaff) Aug. 4 (DS et al.) may have bred locally; this locality is west of known nesting areas in the state. Three rare but regular sparrows put in average showings this fall; five Fox Sparrows, at least 10 White-throated Sparrows, and five Golden-crowned Sparrows were found statewide.

After going many years unrecorded in the state, **Common Grackles** are becoming more regular; this fall one was reported from Buenos Aires N.W.R. Nov. 24 († JK), one ad. male



*Common Grackle at Portal, Arizona, November 25–27, 1988. Photograph/C. B. Schaughency.*

was found at Portal Nov. 25–27 (ph. B. & M. Schaughency, † RM), and another male was found at Kayenta also on Nov. 25 (CL). A ♂ Rusty Blackbird was seen along the L.C.R. across from Blythe, CA, Nov. 25–26 (ph. PL). Two very late Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen in n.e. Arizona at Kayenta Nov. 6 (CL, CH). An unusually low elevation record of Red Crossbill was provided by six at B.T.A. Oct. 25–26 (CST).

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## New Mexico

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### John P. Hubbard

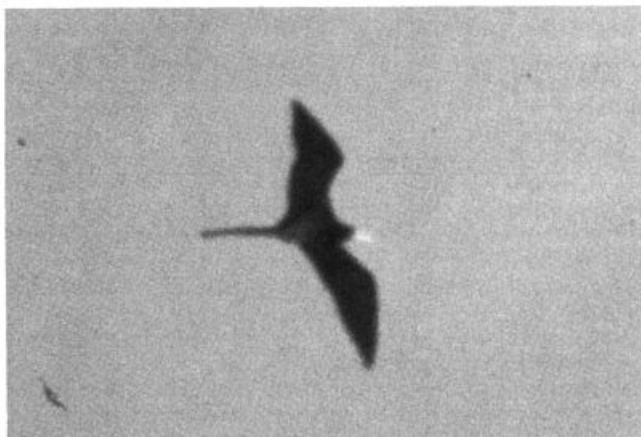
**ABBREVIATIONS** — Bandelier = Bandelier Nat'l Monument; Bitter Lake = Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; Bosque Refuge = Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; C.C.N.P. = Carlsbad Caverns Nat'l Park; E.B.L. = Elephant Butte Lake; L.V.N.W.R. = Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Refuge; T/C = Truth or Consequences. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS TO RAPTORS** — A Pacific Loon was at Las Cruces Nov. 19–30 (EW et al., ph. BZ). The summering Com. Loon was still at Bitter Lake in early August (ph. PKJ), while seven birds were reported in the n.c. area Oct. 2–Nov. 14 (v.o.). Early were three Horned Grebes at L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 28 (CR), and the only other report was of two in upper E.B.L. Sept. 29 (PJ). At least 300 Eared Grebes and 160 active nests were at Zuni Aug. 1 (DC), by which time early migrants were

already at Bosque Refuge (PJ, JS) and Bitter Lake (BR). Aechmophorus grebes were fairly widespread with three early birds (Westerns) at Bosque Refuge Aug. 2 (PJ, JS) and late birds at Zuni (DC) and n.e. lakes in November (CR et al.). American White Pelicans were recorded from early August mainly through mid-October (v.o.); notable records included three birds at Bluewater L. Sept. 28 (JT); 25+ near Tularosa Sept. 5 (J & NH); and singles at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 24 (CR), Albuquerque Sept. 7 (LG), and Holloman Lakes, Otero, Nov. 15 (J. Bickle). Very unusual was an ad. Olivaceous Cormorant at Bitter Lake Nov. 4 (D & JH), and a high count of 45 Double-crested Cormorants was at L. McMillan/Avalon Oct. 8–12 (SW).

#### S.A.

Reports of single frigatebirds at 3 localities 60–125 mi apart in s.e. New Mexico doubled the previous records total for the state, which were from Oct. 4–6, 1955 (ad. ♀ Magnificent photographed at Bitter Lake); Oct. 1, 1967 (ad. ♀ Magnificent found dead near Silver City); and Feb. 1, 1969 (imm. bird at Las Cruces). This season's reports, each of an ad. male apparent **Magnificent Frigatebird**, were at L. McMillan Oct. 5–10 (M. Flippo et al., ph. SW), near Portales Oct. 13 (B. & G. Kimsey), and at Bitter Lake Oct. 23 (G. Knadle et al.). All of these reports may have been of the same bird, given the remarkable flying ability of frigatebirds; however, given the dearth of birders in s.e. New Mexico, more likely at least two and probably three different individual birds were present.



Adult male frigatebird, probably Magnificent Frigatebird, at Lake McMillan, New Mexico, October 8, 1988. Photograph/Steve West.

An ad. Tricolored Heron at L. McMillan Sept. 18 (MM, SW) furnished the only report. Cattle Egrets outside the usual range were near Clayton in September (WC), at Zuni (one-two) Nov. 20 (DC), and near Tularosa Oct. 8 & 14 (J & NH). An early Black-crowned Night-Heron was at Zuni Aug. 3 (DC), and two late White-faced Ibises were at Holloman L. Oct. 23 (CR). Still unverified in the state, a Fulvous Whistling-Duck was reported without details at Bitter Lake Aug. 25 (BR). Also unusual was a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at L. McMillan Sept. 4 (SW). Eight to nine Ross' Geese were at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 6 & 24 (CR et al.), and also notable were two Snow Geese at Las Cruces Nov. 29 and eight Canada Geese at nearby La Mesa Nov. 29 (BZ). Early were single Canvasbacks at Bosque Refuge Aug. 2 (PJ, JS) and Bitter Lake Aug. 5 (BR). Three young Ring-necked Ducks reported at Bitter Lake Aug. 5 (BR) apparently represented the first breeding record for the state; a bird at Bosque Refuge Aug. 2 (PJ, JS) was early. Two fairly well detailed female/imm. Surf Scoters were in lower E.B.L. (A. & G. Kotinek). A ♀ Ruddy Duck with four small young was at Quemado L. Sept. 9 (JH).

Raptors were counted in migration over the Manzano Mts. Aug. 29–Oct. 31; 3511 birds of 18 species were recorded (GV et al.). Among the highlights were 466 Turkey Vultures; 78 N. Harriers; 67 Golden Eagles; 385 Am. Kestrels; 12 Merlins; and 1122 Sharp-shinned, 611 Cooper's, 10 Broad-winged, 486 Red-tailed, and 21 Ferruginous hawks. A Turkey Vulture at Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy, Sept. 17 (PJ, ph. JS) sported a partially albino wing-patch, creating the initial illusion that it might be the state's first documented Black Vulture! An ad. probable **Gray Hawk** was at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 17 (PJ), and a possible Red-shouldered Hawk was there Oct. 1 (SW). Also notable were two Mississippi Kites near Socorro Sept. 6 (PB), an ad. N. Goshawk at T/C Sept. 3 & 26 (DM), and a Harris' Hawk at Bosque Refuge Sept. 24 (RT et al.).

**RAILS TO SWIFTS**—An ad. Virginia Rail with two downy young was at Zuni Aug. 27 (DC). Early were two Sandhill Cranes at Redrock, Grant, Sept. 30 (RF), and peripheral were a few birds over Hondo Canyon, Sandia Mts., Nov. 17 (HS), Mangas Springs Nov. 5 (RF), and Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 16 (fide CW) & 21 (CR). The first Whooping Crane at Bosque Refuge returned Oct. 31; eight birds were there by Nov. 30 (J. Taylor). Late was a Semipalmated Plover at L.V.N.W.R. Oct. 29 (CR), and 250+ was the high count for Mountain Plovers near Moriarty Sept. 18–19 (PS et al.). Late was a Solitary Sandpiper at Holloman L. Oct. 15 (O.C.B.C.). Upland Sandpiper numbers were up in Eddy, with the last date being Sept. 23 (SW); westerly were two–three birds near Los Lunas Aug. 16 (BO) and near Tularosa Aug. 10–11 (J & NH). Large flocks of Long-billed Curlews were present in Eddy, with the maximum count of 326 birds near Otis Sept. 11 (MM, SW); the latest report was of two birds near Tularosa Oct. 21 (J & NH). The latest Pectoral Sandpipers were nine at Holloman L. Oct. 23 (CR), and the only Dunlin was one at Bosque Refuge Oct. 27 (LG et al.). Up to 500 Red-necked Phalaropes were reported at Bitter Lake Aug. 5–8 (PKJ), with the only other report being of a bird at Holloman L. Sept. 22 (BZ); a very late Wilson's was at Tyrone Nov. 17 (RF).

An ad. **Pomarine Jaeger** was fairly well described at Bitter Lake Aug. 14 (G. Joiner, W. Oesterreich) for about the 3rd reliable record for the state. A juv. plumaged **Little Gull** was at Holloman L. Sept. 22–24 (BZ et al., ph.) for the 2nd state and first verified record for New Mexico. Somewhat late were two Franklin's Gulls there Oct. 23; also notable were a Bonaparte's Gull at Charette L., Mora, Nov. 14 (CR) and two Sabine's Gulls at Bluewater L. Sept. 21 (JT). Single California Gulls were at L.V.N.W.R. Oct. 1 (CR) and Bluewater L. Sept. 21 (JT), and two Ring-billeds were at Quemado L. Sept. 9 (JH). An imm. Com. Tern was at Bernardo State Game Refuge Sept. 29 (BO et al.), and one was at L. McMillan Sept. 18 and Oct. 5 & 10 (CR, SW). Somewhat late were four Forster's Terns at Caballo L. Oct. 12 (JH et al.); early were four to eight at Zuni Aug. 8–9 (DC). A pair of ad. Least Terns with two dependent young was at Bitter Lake Aug. 8–14 (PKJ).

The latest Band-tailed Pigeons in the Sandia Mts. were on Nov. 13 in Juan Tabo Canyon (HS). White-winged Dove populations were apparently at Socorro (PJ, JS), Alamogordo (RJ et al.), Carlsbad (SW), and perhaps Percha Dam (DM et al.) and Tularosa (J & NH). However, the population at T/C declined from 20 on Aug. 19 to two when last noted Oct. 10 (DM). Unusual was a bird reported about 30 mi south of Clayton in August (fide WC); late was one at Mangas Springs Nov. 23 (RF). Inca Doves persisted in small numbers at Socorro (PJ, JS), T/C (DM), and Alamogordo (RF et al.), and a vagrant was at Santa Fe Oct. 16–Nov. 21 (LH et al.). Unusual was a **Groove-billed Ani** near Socorro Nov. 4–18 (PB et al.). A family of Spotted Owls was observed on the Zuni Reservation Aug. 18–20 and Sept. 2–18 (ph. DC, JT); also notable were single birds in upper Juan Tabo Canyon, Sandia Mts., Oct. 13 (F. Hayes, HS) and southwest of Mule Cr., Grant, Nov. 13 (P. Knight). A **Boreal Owl** photographed on Canjilon Mt., Rio

Arriba, Sept. 24 (DS) extended the range of this species southward in the San Juan Mts. approximately 30 mi south of the Colorado line. Single N. Saw-whet Owls in the vicinity of Pecos Aug. 7 (N. Maktima, ph. JH) and Sept. 26 (CR, DS) were in an area where the species is expected but rarely reported. A late nighthawk near T/C Oct. 29 (S. Hoffman, DS) was probably a Lesser; three Com. Poorwills were calling near Carlsbad Oct. 26 (SW). A pair of White-throated Swifts was still feeding young in the Sandia Mts. Aug. 12 (HS), and thousands flew over Capillo Peak in the Manzano Mts. Sept. 20 (PS).

**HUMMINGBIRDS TO GNATCATCHERS** — Unusual were a ♂ Blue-throated Hummingbird near Silver City Oct. 18 (M. O'Byrne) and a female apparently of that species at Las Cruces Aug. 31 (EW, T. Wootten). A female/imm. presumed Magnificent Hummingbird was at Cedar Crest Aug. 26 and Sept. 5–11 (E. Carlson *et al.*). The last Lucifer Hummingbird in Post Office Canyon in the Peloncillo Mts., *Hidalgo*, was on Sept. 13 and an Anna's was present there throughout the period (R. Scholes). Single ♂ Anna's Hummingbirds were also at Los Alamos Aug. 21–22 (C. & T. Jervis) and Zuni Aug. 17 (JT). A ♂ **Elegant Trogon** was reported Sept. 3–5 in Pueblo Park in s.w. Catron (D. Goodfellow, *vide* D. Krueper), where it would be a vagrant. Early-August Belted Kingfishers at Zuni (DC), Bosque Refuge (PJ, JS), Bitter Lake (BR), and Rattlesnake Springs (*vide* CW) were probably migrants. Up to 50 Lewis' Woodpeckers per day were flying S over Capillo Peak in the Manzanos; where the birds were bound is a mystery, as no reports were received to indicate that such numbers invaded s. New Mexico. An Acorn Woodpecker was also on Capillo Peak Sept. 2 & 18 (GV), and a migrant Downy was at Bitter Lake Oct. 19 (CR). One to two Hairy Woodpeckers were in the San Marcial area Aug. 2 and Sept. 29, and two were near San Antonio Sept. 29 (PJ, JS).

Somewhat late were a W. Wood-Pewee and a Hammond's/Dusky Flycatcher at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 20 (CR). Easterly were two Cassin's Kingbirds at Grulla N.W.R., *Roosevelt*, Sept. 23 (PH, ph. JS); one at Owen's Farm, *Dona Ana*, Sept. 9 was in an area where the species is seldom encountered (BZ). Westerly were single E. Kingbirds near Stanley (PS) and Socorro (PB) Sept. 3–6. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were fairly common in the southeast, including two birds north of Roswell Sept. 17 and several near Portales Sept. 16 & 23 (PJ, JS); however, the species continued to be rare in the vicinity of Carlsbad (SW). Thousands of Violet-green Swallows were migrating S over Capillo Peak in the Manzanos Sept. 20 (PS). At Carlsbad Caverns a presumed Cave x Barn Swallow was banded Sept. 12, a Cliff Swallow (rare at the site) present Oct. 12, and the last Cave Swallow noted Nov. 5 (SW).

Westerly was a Blue Jay at Santa Fe Oct. 20–Nov. 23 (LH), while also worth noting were several Clark's Nutcrackers in the Zuni Mts. area Aug. 13–17 (JT) and Oct. 8 (DC) and a Pinyon Jay at C.C.N.P. Oct. 20 (*vide* CW). Well south of the usual range was an Am. Crow at Carlsbad Nov. 10 & 20 (SW); also notable was one in shrubby grassland 16 mi west of Sumner L. Oct. 19 (JH). Five Black-capped Chickadees were in Bandelier Oct. 28 (CR), a Mountain Chickadee was at Holloman L. Nov. 6 (K & RJ), and two Bridled Titmice were near Kingston Oct. 23 (CR). More Winter Wrens were reported than usual, including one to two at Bandelier (CR), Sandia Mts. (HS *et al.*), Sumner L. (JH), San Mateo Mts. Nov. 12 (PJ), and Rattlesnake Springs (CR) Oct. 15–Nov. 27. A late House Wren was in the Sandias Nov. 18 (HS); early were one to two Marsh Wrens at L.N.V.W.R. Aug. 28 (PI, CR) and Zuni Sept. 3 (DC). One to two Golden-crowned Kinglets were near L. Roberts, Grant, Oct. 23 and at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 20 (CR); late was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Zuni Oct. 29 (DC).

**THRUSHES TO WARBLERS** — Westerly E. Bluebirds were one to three near Socorro Nov. 19–21 (PB) and about 15 at Percha Dam Nov. 26–27 (LG *et al.*). The few southerly-

dispersing Mt. Bluebirds included three–four at Mangas Springs Nov. 24 (RF) and Carlsbad Oct. 28 (SW). A Swanson's Thrush at Zuni Aug. 28 (DC) was early; late was one at Bandelier Sept. 30 (CR). Notable Gray Catbirds were singles at Zuni Aug. 18 (JT) & 28 (DC) and at Roswell Oct. 10 (M. Peckinpaugh). Westerly Brown Thrashers were singles at Socorro Oct. 22–Nov. 16 (PB) and Las Cruces Nov. 18 (EW), and high (10,000 ft) for the Region were four Water Pipits on Sandia Crest Sept. 23 (PS). Cedar Waxwings were generally sparse, with the earliest being two at Santa Fe Sept. 25 (CR) and the most southerly one near Three Rivers Nov. 19 (O.C.B.C.). Six N. Shrikes were reported, all in the Sangre de Cristo Mts. region except for one at Zuni Nov. 12 (DC).

Late singing were two Gray Vireos at Glenwood Sept. 8 (JH, JS), and late lingering were one to two Solitary Vireos at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 20 (CR) and Percha Dam Oct. 24 (PJ). Rarer vireos were a **White-eyed Vireo** at Zuni Aug. 12 & 17 (JT), Red-eyed Vireo at L.V.N.W.R. Oct. 1 (CR), and single **Philadelphia Vireos** at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 24 (PJ, JS) and Oct. 20 (CR). Two Red-faced Warblers were in Beartrap Canyon in the San Mateo Mts. Aug. 2 (PJ), in which range the species occurs only locally. One to two late Orange-crowned Warblers were at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 21 (CR), Mangas Springs Nov. 1 (RF), and Socorro Nov. 14 (PB). Also late were a MacGillivray's Warbler at Albuquerque Nov. 2 (RT) and a Com. Yellowthroat at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 21 (CR). A few Nashvilles were at Zuni (DC, JT) and Cedar Crest (PS) Aug. 18–Sept. 21, with a late one at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 21 (CR). Easterly were single Virginia's and Black-throated Gray warblers at Boone's Draw, *Roosevelt*, Sept. 23, plus up to eight Townsend's Warblers Sept. 16 (PJ, JS). More Hermit Warblers than usual were reported, with one to two in the Mogollon Mts. (JH, JS), Pinos Altos Mts. (RF), at Mangas Springs (RF), and northerly in the Zuni Mts. (JT) Aug. 16–Sept. 17. Very rare vagrants to the state were a probable Louisiana Water-thrush at L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 20 (PI, CR) and a **Pine Warbler** near Socorro Sept. 14 (PB). Other rare species included a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Albuquerque Oct. 30–Nov. 2 (RT), Black-throated Blue at Bandelier Sept. 30 (CR); Prothonotary at Zuni Aug. 12–14 and two Aug. 27 (ph. DC, JT); and Hooded Warbler in Albuquerque Oct. 12–13 (RT) and in Hondo Canyon in the Sandia Mts. Nov. 6–25 (G. Parker *et al.*).

**TANAGERS TO FINCHES** — Late were three W. Tanagers at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 21 (CR). Very unusual was a ♂ N. Cardinal at Albuquerque Aug. 19 (S. Bannock), and up to three persisted at Rattlesnake Springs (v.o.)—including a first-year male Oct. 21 (CR). Northerly were single Pyrrhuloxias near Socorro Oct. 15–Nov. 30 (PB) and Mangas Springs Nov. 13 (RF). Very late was a ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak at Santa Fe Nov. 22 (R. Goodman); early was a singing ♂ Lazuli Bunting at Mangas Springs Aug. 3–5 (RF). Westerly was a Dickcissel near Socorro Sept. 5 (PB). An ad. Brown Towhee was feeding two fledgling Brown-headed Cowbirds at Santa Fe Aug. 13 (JH). High numbers of emberizine finches were present in the period in *Dona Ana*, especially Green-tailed Towhees, Lark Buntings, White-crowned Sparrows, and *Sprizella* sparrows (BZ). Late were one to three Cassin's Sparrows at L. McMillan and Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 19–21 (CR), and one at Zuni Aug. 16 (JT) was westerly; a Rufous-crowned Sparrow was below Elephant Butte Dam Oct. 12 (JH). Southerly was an Am. Tree Sparrow at Zuni Nov. 27 (DC), westerly were two Clay-colored banded at Albuquerque in September (*vide* Bosque Bander), and northerly was a Field Sparrow at Boone's Draw Oct. 20 (JH). An adult and a grown juv. Grasshopper Sparrow were at L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 28 (CR), other reports included one–two birds at L. McMillan Oct. 10 (CR) and near Rattlesnake Springs Nov. 3 (D & JH). Early was a Song Sparrow at Zuni Aug. 12 (JT); late were a Lark Sparrow at Bitter Lake Oct. 29 (SW) and a Lincoln's at Taos in mid-November (JD). Probably wintering were five Black-throated, three Sage, and single Song and Fox sparrows in Juan Tabo

Canyon in the Sandia Mts. Nov. 29 (HS). A Swamp Sparrow was at Taos Nov. 19, and a Harris' Sparrow was near Socorro Nov. 21 & 24 (PB). At least 150 McCown's and about 250 Chestnut-collared longspurs were near Los Lunas Nov. 10 (BO), and 19 McCown's were in s. Dona Ana Oct. 26 (BZ).

Several E. Meadowlarks were in the Embudito Canyon area of Albuquerque Oct. 16 (HS), and a few tardy Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in the Las Vegas area (CR) and Zuni (DC) in November. A Great-tailed Grackle was at Taos Nov. 19 (JD, CR), several were at Zuni Aug. 13 (JT) and Nov. 20 & 28 (DC), and 81 were near Gallup Aug. 15 (JT); a Com. Grackle was at Zuni Sept. 22 (JT). Late were two Brown-headed Cowbirds near Las Vegas Oct. 29 (CR), plus a pair of Scott's Orioles on Owen's Farm through the end of the period (JD, ph. BZ).

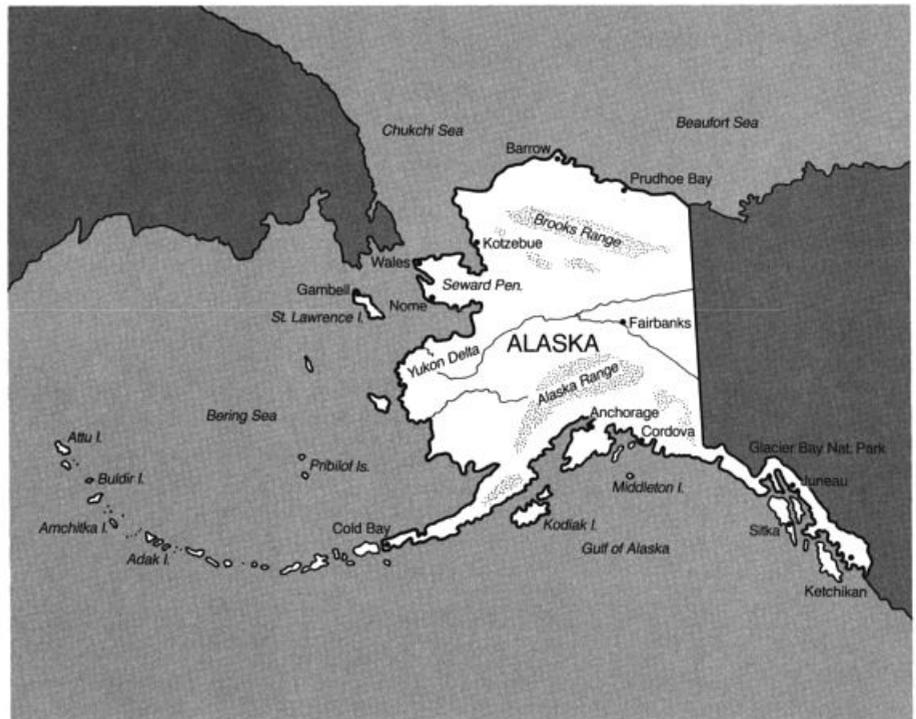
Relatively few Cassin's Finches were reported, with lower-elevational records including a few birds at Zuni Sept. 10 (DC), Mangas Springs Oct. 15 and Nov. 24 (RF), and Alamogordo Nov. 26 (GS). Red Crossbills were reported only in montane areas, including four at Zuni Aug. 3 (DC), about 40 on Capillo Peak in the Manzano Sept. 15 and Oct. 6 (PS), and about four near L. Roberts Oct. 23 (CR). Pine Siskins were fairly widespread, but numbers were generally only moderate

(v.o.). A grown juvenile was at Santa Fe Aug. 6-7 (JH). Young Lesser Goldfinches were being fed by an ad. female at Las Cruces Oct. 6-7 (EW). Early were four Am. Goldfinches at Zuni Aug. 13 and one at Alamogordo Aug. 14 (GS). Evening Grosbeaks were moderately common in much of Santa Fe through late September and in diminished abundance in adjacent montane areas through late November (v.o.). Elsewhere, there were reports from such n. montane-piedmont areas as Taos (JD, CR), Espanola (CR et al.), Los Alamos (CR), and Pecos (CR), plus a few birds at Zuni Oct. 22 and Nov. 5 (DC) and near Cloudcroft in August (N. Dobbins).

**CITED OBSERVERS** — Pat Basham, Wes Cook, David Cleary, Jeff Donaldson, Ralph Fisher, Jr., Larry Gorbet, Lois Herrmann, Dick & Jean Hoffman, John Hubbard, Joe & Nancy Hutto, Pat Insley, Kay & Robert Jenness, Philip Johnson, Peter Jungemann (PKJ), Doris Miller, Mike Medrano, Bruce Ostyn, Otero County Bird Club (O.C.B.C.), Betsy Rosenbaum, Christopher Rustay, Hart Schwarz, John Shipman, Gerri Smith, Paul Steel, Ross Teuber, John Trochet, Gordon Vickery, Steve West, Eleanor Wootten, Christina Wright, Barry Zimmer.—**JOHN P. HUBBARD, 2016 Valle Rio, Santa Fe, NM 87501.**

## ALASKA REGION

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



It is with not a little anxiety that we take over the Alaska report from Daniel Gibson, who has labored hard at the task for 22 years. We cannot pretend to fill the void that Dan leaves after certainly one of the longest tenures as a Regional Editor. Dan shouldered the challenge, in 1966, of summarizing reports from fewer than a dozen observers, from a Region larger than any other, at a time when Alaskan ornithology was in a fledgling and pioneering stage. Driven by an enthusiasm and standard for documentation that is still unparalleled, Dan has, over the past

22 years, defined the framework of Alaskan ornithology and record-keeping. His unique and articulate writing style graced the Alaska Region summaries over the years and provided readers with certainly some of the most exciting reports from the continent.

Along with Brina Kessel, Dan will now devote even more time to finalizing a book on bird distribution in Alaska. We will continue with Dan's standards for acceptance of records; out of necessity we cannot accept a sight record of any species that is listed on the Alaska checklist

as rare, casual, or accidental without substantiating details. Our knowledge of the state's avifauna is still in a pioneering stage and no amount of detail or documentation is too much.

Autumn 1988 was mild, stormy and snowy, and dull. Freeze-up was early and fast on the Arctic coast. Elsewhere it appeared that the fall's weather had little bearing on bird migration since a long mild summer allowed for an early and successful breeding season almost statewide. Indeed, many observers noted late broods of passerines and waterfowl into September; double-brooding and successful replacement clutches are not common in Alaska.

Fall passerine migration began and peaked early and was uneventful. Concentrations of southbound migrants were sporadic and the only noteworthy highlights of such came when freeze-up hurriedly arrived in mid-October on the mainland and in the Bering and Chukchi seas. Southeast Alaska's weather was abominable as rain and often heavy winds occurred on all but 19 days between July 1 and November 30. Heavy snowfalls persisted in Upper Cook Inlet and into the Susitna Valley in November, and record snows occurred in that month in Southwest Alaska between the Bristol Bay coast (Dillingham) and the Chigmit Mountains.

Two species were added to the Alaska list this season, from two isolated islands: one from Middleton Island, where we have come to expect such activity, and one from seldom-visited Little Diomed Island.

**GREBES TO HERONS** — Single Pied-billed Grebes were found at Juneau Sept. 11–Oct. 2 (MEL, STZ) and near Petersburg Oct. 8 (PJW). This species is rare but annual in fall in SE Alaska n. to Juneau. Western Grebes were present at traditional locations around Mitkof I. throughout the period in average numbers; maximum was 95 Sept. 25 (PJW).

Short-tailed Albatross records were about normal for the fall season; single subadults were reported in the Aleutians near Agattu I. Aug. 8 (JW, JP, AM), near Unalaska I. Aug. 15 (JW, JP, AM), and offshore of Seguam I. Sept. 13 (DB, HD). A first-year bird was described from fishing grounds at the continental shelf 30 mi east of Ugak I. off the e. end of the Kodiak Archipelago Sept. 7 (JBA). Single Mottled Petrels were noted in 100+ fathom waters e. of Kodiak where the preponderance of our records are found, Aug. 16 & 19 (JBA). At least four were together in 20–30 fathoms of water over the continental shelf e. of Cape Chiniak, Kodiak I., Oct. 3 (JBA, RAM).

Single wandering Great Blue Herons appeared at Seward Sept. 4–Nov. 12 (RLS, TGT) and in the town of Kodiak Nov. 5 through the period's end (*fide* RAM). These birds generally remain to winter.

**WATERFOWL** — Whooper Swans arrived late this season at traditional wintering areas in the c. Aleutians. Two birds each at Amchitka I. Nov. 23 (DAD) and at Adak I. Nov. 30 (JF, GVB, MB) provided the only reports. An ad. Trumpeter Swan at Kodiak I. Oct. 21–29 (†RAM) furnished that Archipelago's first fall and 3rd overall record (exclusive of bone remains from midden sites identified by Friedmann, 1935, The birds of Kodiak Island, Alaska. *Bull. Chicago Acad. Sci.* 5:13–54). An aerial survey of Emperor Goose staging areas in SW Alaska (minus the Aleutian Is.) produced a peak count of 76,165 birds in mid-October (RK); the species arrived early at Cold Bay Aug. 23 (CPD). Peak counts of geese at Cold Bay, Alaska Pen., included 142,083 Brant (above average) Oct. 11, and 45,231 Canada Geese (*B. c. parvipes*) (below average) Oct. 18 (CPD). The late-period count of presumed overwintering Brant totaled an above-average 9150 birds Nov. 29 (CPD).

An ad. ♂ **Wood Duck**, apparently in late eclipse plumage (and showing no sign of captivity), was shot by hunters Sept. 11 along Eyak River, Cordova (*fide* MEL, ph.). Two single

reports from last winter (q v) were the only records of this species for the State since 1976. Eurasian Wigeon made a broad showing this fall across the State in high numbers. A total of 83 at Amchitka I. in mid-November furnished a new high count for Alaska. The species peaked at 25 at Cold Bay Sept. 27 (MRN), while apparently the same drake returned to the area it has wintered the previous 3 years at Petersburg Nov. 24 (PJW). Canvasbacks were described from the Aleutians, where the species is distinctly rare but annual in winter, single drakes were at Shemya I. Nov. 10 (GVB) and at Amchitka I. Nov. 2–16 (DAD). Following a summer of fairly common and widespread occurrence in the Southcoastal region, Redheads were more common than ever there this fall. Anchorage birders tallied a record high nine at nearby Elmendorf Air Force Base Oct. 14 and three remained through Oct. 17 (DFD). A single drake near Kodiak Aug. 2 furnished a most unusual summer record there (JBA, RAM). Ring-necked Duck was also more widespread and common this season between SC and SE Alaska. Twenty-eight in one group at Anchorage was a new SC Alaska high; a single female remained through the period's end in Anchorage (TGT). Normal Alaska summer populations of both these species were evidently supplemented by drought-displaced N. Prairie birds.

Steller's Eiders arrived quite early at the normal southerly edges of the species' winter range, Oct. 5 at Kodiak (RAM) and Oct. 10 at Seward (eight females, DWS). A female offshore at Sitka Nov. 6 (†DWS) provided a 3rd local record. Steller's Eider is casual in fall and rare in winter in SE Alaska. One female-plumaged Hooded Merganser at Anchorage during freeze-up on Oct. 15–16 (JMA, RLS, TGT) furnished the only extralimital report this season.

**RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS** — Although the spring migration route of Swainson's Hawk into the e. Interior is predominantly north of the Wrangell Mts., fall immatures apparently wander casually west of the Copper R. system to the N. Gulf Coast. This fall one immature was noted moving S with other raptors in a Chugach Mts. pass near Sheep Mt. Sept. 11 (RD) and two were found at Gustavus, at the n. end of SE Alaska, Aug. 30 (BBP). There are no records in the SE region south of Glacier Bay N.P.

Willow Ptarmigan were apparently in the high portion of the population cycle near n. Kotzebue Sound, where several flocks of 1000+ birds were observed on intertidal flats in September (WRU). Local numbers remained high into late November there. Although records exist from as far down the Yukon R. as Holy Cross, a Sharp-tailed Grouse near Galena Nov. 14 (TOO) was a first for that area in over 40 years. The species is regular west in C. Alaska to Lake Minchumina and North Fork of the Kuskokwim R. headwaters. American Coot was on time and in average numbers in SE Alaska, with a maximum of 10 at Blind Slough near Petersburg Nov. 20 (PJW). One present at Homer in late October (DE) furnished the only SC Alaska record this season.

The only report of Mongolian Plover this fall came from Buldir I., where one was present Aug. 25–27 (HD). A juvenile "ringed" plover at Buldir I. Aug. 21–25 (HD) could not be identified; both Common Ringed and Semipalmated plovers have occurred in the W. Aleutians in autumn. A Lesser Yellowlegs near Cordova Oct. 22 (REF) provided one of our latest records; the majority of birds have departed the Region by mid-September. Bar-tailed Godwits continued to be found east of what had been considered the species' normal fall staging areas on the Alaska Peninsula. Up to three were present intermittently at Anchorage Aug. 27–Sept. 18 (RLS, JMA), for a 4th local fall record, and six were at the w. end of the Copper R. Delta Sept. 26 (PGM). Long-toed Stint made a good showing in the W. Aleutians this fall; a single was found at Buldir I. Aug. 7–8 (JW, DB), two were there Aug. 10 (AM, GVV, JW), and up to two were present Aug. 20–Sept. 5 (HD). Although the species is probably annual in fall in the W. Aleutians, these reports are only the 2nd from fall since 1978

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers made a synchronous showing in Cook Inlet, away from the immediate Gulf Coast, where a single was near Anchorage Sept. 17 (4th Upper Cook Inlet record) and 10 were at the Kasilof R. mouth Sept. 18 (MAM). One Stilt Sandpiper at Anchorage Sept. 3 was a first in fall there (DWS) and two at Seward Sept. 4 (DWS) were also new to Resurrection Bay. Stilt Sandpiper should now be considered a rare but annual fall migrant on N. Pacific coast between Kodiak I. and SE Alaska. A juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Buldir I. Sept. 6-8 (HD) furnished a first island and 5th Aleutian record, all of which have been in September. Elsewhere, single juveniles were reported from Juneau Aug. 27 (MEI), Petersburg Sept. 3 (PJW), Glacier Bay N.P. Sept. 9 (BBP), and Middleton I. Sept. 15-17 (MEI).

**LARIDS**—A Slaty-backed Gull in 2nd-summer plumage at Middleton I. Sept. 15 (MEI) furnished that island's first report and the only Gulf of Alaska record this season. A fall bird at Cordova is Alaska's easternmost report. Cook Inlet observers noted a definite change in this fall's Glaucous-winged and Glaucous-winged x Herring Gull populations. From Anchorage to Homer, juvenile birds were scarce all season (RLS, MAM, GCW *et al.*). Fall concentrations of gulls at Anchorage have ended after the 1987 closure of the main landfill. This fall's only notable concentrations came from the Kenai R. mouth canneries, where MAM noted her highest numbers ever (but with few juveniles). What the long-term effects of this lost food source will be on Cook Inlet gull colonies, and on the recently annual appearances of California and Slaty-backed gulls at Anchorage, is yet to be determined. Ivory Gulls appeared in areas away from the Chukchi Sea, where they are distinctly uncommon, this fall. One on Norton Sound off Pastol Bay Sept. 26 (CH) was extremely early at that latitude and furnished one of few s. Norton Sound records. Another, photographed at a fish hatchery 25 mi from the coast on the Noatak R. Oct. 10 (ph. PR), may have provided Alaska's first inland record. Up to eight Ivory Gulls were attracted to a whale carcass (along with up to 20 Ross's Gulls) at Kaktovik Sept. 28 (PDM).

After years of speculation, **Caspian Tern** undoubtedly nested successfully at least in the Copper R. Delta this year. A "group" of up to 20 birds was present at the delta and nearby Orca Inlet near Cordova from mid-May through early October. The last report of an adult Oct. 8 (REF) was record-late. This summer flock included two flying juveniles Aug. 12 (PGM) and four young being fed salmon smolt by adults at the Cordova boat harbor Sept. 2 (MEI). Another adult with a begging juvenile appeared at Petersburg Sept. 9 (PJW).

**DOVES TO STARLING**—Rare but annual in fall, single Mourning Doves were found at Cordova Oct. 20 (REF), Mitkof I. Sept. 5 (PJW), and near Juneau Sept. 6-20 (MEI, SZ, MWS). A calling W. Screech-Owl at Gustavus Aug. 16 and Sept. 12 (BBP) was in the transition zone between known nesting areas and areas where the species has occasionally dispersed in fall (Copper R. Delta). Northern Pygmy-Owl was more common than usual in SE Alaska; two were on Mitkof I. in September (PJW) and up to six were in the greater Juneau area in late November (m.ob.).

Up to three unidentified hummingbirds were reported as Anna's Hummingbirds without details in the Anchorage area this season. The latest remained at nasturtiums to Oct. 5 (*vide* RLS). After early August most hummingbird reports from SC Alaska have been of Anna's. The only SE report of an Anna's was of one at a Juneau feeder Sept. 10-Oct. 11 (GVV, MEI). Unusual was a tardy Rufous Hummingbird at a Gustavus feeder through the end of the period (BBP). Interesting records

of Horned Lark west of what is thought to be the species' normal migration range were of single birds at Nunivak I., for a 2nd island record, Sept. 8 (BJM) and at Cold Bay Oct. 21 (+MRN). Alaska's first fall record of *Least Flycatcher* was furnished by one found at Middleton I. Sept. 23 (\*MEI). Whether this individual came from the upper Copper R. drainage and the Interior (where most State records occur) or from farther to the southeast makes for interesting speculation.

Observers at Little Diomed I. were more than a little startled when the chickadee they pursued around old building foundations near Diomed village turned out to be a **Great Tit** (*Parus major*) Sept. 2 (+JW, PGR, HH, DMT). Populations of this colorful parid are found in n.e. Asia north only to the c. Kurile Is. and at similar latitudes in Amurland. An Am Robin at Adak I. Nov. 11-14 (+GTM) furnished a 2nd Aleutian record; a specimen from Amchitka I. in fall is the only other documented report. An estimated 1000 Yellow Wagtails counted along the coast road east of Nome Aug. 8 (RAM) constituted a record count for the State. Probably the same Cedar Waxwing was in the berry thickets at Middleton I. Sept. 17 & 24 for a 3rd island (and 4th SC Alaska) record. One Eur Starling at Seward Nov. 12 (RLS, TGT) provided the only extralimital report.

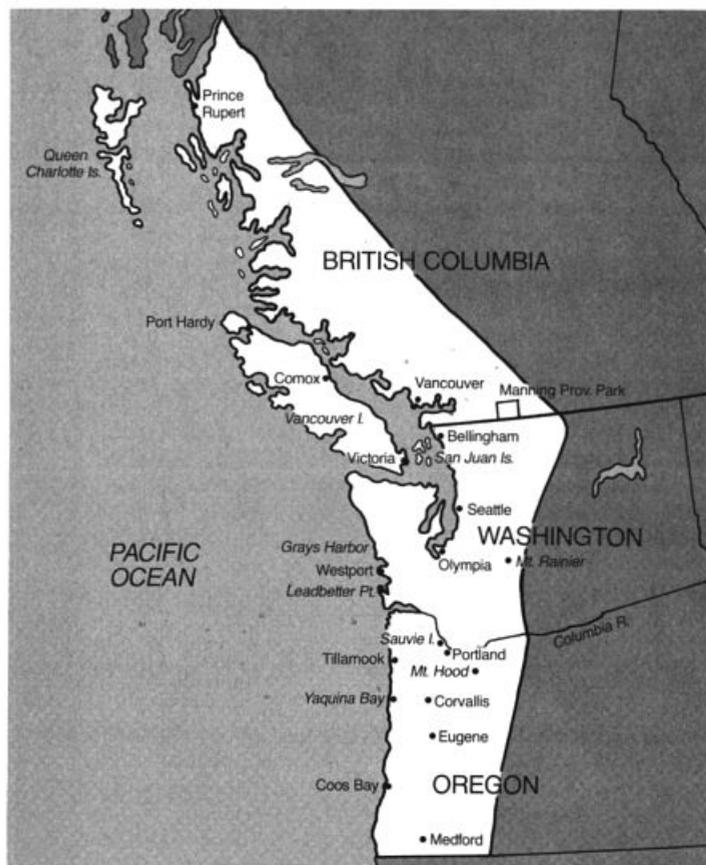
**EMBERIZIDS**—A late movement of passerines at Middleton I. Sept. 22-23 included the island's 3rd Tennessee Warbler and 2nd Magnolia Warbler on the 23rd (\*MEI). More surprising was an imm. **Prairie Warbler** at Middleton Sept. 22, Alaska's first (\*MEI). The closest record to Alaska of which we are aware, also a fall immature, had been Sept. 27, 1981 at Yaquina Bay, OR (AB 36:211). Late warbler sightings of note included a single Orange-crowned at Anchorage Nov. 20+ (JCH) and a Wilson's also at Anchorage Oct. 28 (HF), both record late for the area by more than 2 weeks.

Pushing hard to become the State's first winter record was a juv. Chipping Sparrow present in a junco/sparrow flock near Juneau into early December (MWS). For the 2nd straight fall an imm. White-throated Sparrow turned up at Seward, this year on Nov. 2 (TGT, RLS). No others were reported from the Region. Two independent reports with convincing details of a **meadowlark sp.**, SC Alaska's first, in an e. Anchorage neighborhood Nov. 12 & 15 (+DG, GB) only teased local observers. The bird was not seen after Nov. 15 when successive snowstorms ensued. Western Meadowlark has been substantiated in Alaska by two specimens; there are now 5 sight records of *Sturnella sp.* for Alaska. White-winged Crossbills were generally quite scarce throughout the Region this season; only small flocks were seen irregularly at most localities. Flocks of 15-30 were not uncommon, however, at the n.w. limits of the species' range in the upper Kobuk and Noatak R. valleys in November (WRU). Red Crossbills were reported only from Mitkof I. (PJW) and Kodiak (RAM). Common Redpolls were equally localized and scarce until late November when about average winter numbers appeared on the Kenai Pen. and into Upper Cook Inlet (GCW, m.ob.). Redpoll numbers were way down from fall 1987 in the Fairbanks area (PDM). Pine Siskins vanished quickly from most sections of the Region by late September, except at Kodiak, where RAM felt they were more common than usual.

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# NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.  
(Summer 1988 report)



Temperature and rainfall at the Seattle and Portland weather stations this season were just tiny fractions above the long-term averages. However, two-thirds of that rain fell during June 1–10 and marked an end to the wet spring. The rest of the season was very dry and very warm.

The report from southern Vancouver Island was again unavailable. However, Stuart Johnston camped and birded four weeks in the Queen Charlotte Islands and the north-western tip of Vancouver Island. His extensive report provided much new distributional information.

**ABBREVIATIONS**—Q.C.Is. = Queen Charlotte Is., BC; S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., OR; V.I. = Vancouver I., BC. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS TO HERONS**—Common Loons nested in w. Washington this year! The sites were on Chester Morse L., in the restricted King Co. watershed (*fide* Harold Laws) and Hozomeen L., e. of Ross L., Whatcom (D. Drummond, J. Bjorklund). Also, a yodeling bird was heard June 11 on Rattlesnake L., King (RT), and a winter-plumaged bird was seen June 11 on Swift Res., Lewis, WA (D. Anderson, DL). The usual few were seen during June on bays and inlets throughout the Region, and 15 were back to Griffin Bay, San Juan I., July 8 (ML). A pair of Red-throated Loons was acting as if territorial June 25 at Cluxewe Wildlife Area, Port McNeill, V.I. (SJ). Another pair was heard July 7 at nearby Alert Bay (SJ). A flock of 70 Pacific Loons at the S.J.C.R. July 9 and later (JJ) was unusual. Thirty off Whidbey I., WA, July 30 (FB) were also early. The Yellow-billed Loon found in May on Timothy L., south of Mt. Hood, OR, stayed through June 4 (+DL).

A Clark's Grebe found on that same Timothy L. June 14 (Phil Pickering, *fide* HN) was anomalous. A few breeding-plumaged Red-necked Grebes were seen June 24–July 6 at Port Hardy, Port McNeill, and Malcolm I., on or near north-western V.I. (SJ), but no further breeding evidence was obtained. A Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage July 23 at the S.J.C.R. (JJ, Bob O'Brien), and single Horned Grebes July 24 at Penn Cove, Whidbey I., WA (RT) and July 30 at Beach Grove, Delta, BC (DT), were each very early. About 500 W. Grebes were on Bellingham Bay, WA, June 5 and 300+ were still there June 13, but none stayed through July (TW). Another 70 were at Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC, June 12 (WW) and 200+ were at Seaside, OR, July 23 (DL, J. Biewener) for larger than usual numbers present this season.

Pelagic trips off Westport, WA, found 193 Black-footed Albatrosses July 23, and 149 Pink-footed Shearwaters July 5, for higher than usual counts (TW). However, only three N. Fulmars seen on each trip were many fewer than usual.

A thorough survey found no Double-crested Cormorants nesting in the San Juan Is., WA (ML). There had been 372 nests at 3 locations there in 1983, followed by either complete nest failure or no attempts in 1985–1987 (ML). Perhaps they were just moving north, as the nearby colony on Mandarte I., BC, has been growing steadily with about 1000 birds and 300 nests this season (ML). There were, however, 158 nests of Pelagic Cormorants at 9 locations in the San Juans, with another 400 on Mandarte I. (ML). This species prefers the steep, less-accessible sides of cliffs and rocks.

A few Great Egrets were reported, as usual, but no breeding activity was noted. None returned to the large Great Blue Heron rookery on Samish I., WA, where several spent the season last year (V. Clark). Several ad. Black-crowned Night-Herons frequented the Astoria sewage ponds through the season (MPa), and two adults were seen in Seattle July 4 (RT), but no nesting was observed.

**GEESE TO CRANES** — A few Brant occasionally summer along the outer coast, but 22 at Alsea Bay, OR, June 8 (RL), 19 near Port McNeill, V.I., June 24–26, including a color-banded bird (SJ), and 40 at Bandon, OR, July 9 (VT) were large numbers. Eight ♂ Blue-winged Teal were at the Snohomish, WA, sewage ponds June 5 (DP), 40 were at Iona I., near Vancouver, BC, June 16 (GT), and five males and three females were north to the Hiellen R. mouth, near Masset, Q.C.Is., June 13 (SJ). Broods of Cinnamon Teal were noted in Auburn, WA (Thais Bock), and north to Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, BC (WW). A pair of N. Shovelers at Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary, Masset, Q.C.Is., June 13 (SJ), and a pair of Canvasback at the Sunshine Valley ponds e. of Hope, BC, June 6 (WW), were both west of the usual breeding ranges of these ducks. A ♂ Eur Wigeon seen June 8 on Reifel I., BC, was late (JI). A brood of Am. Wigeon and one of Redhead seen July 17 at the Kent ponds, King, WA (EH), were among very few such records. Six males and four ♀ Redheads and a ♂ Canvasback were west to Delkatla, Q.C.Is., June 13–18 (SJ). Two broods of Ring-necked Ducks, rare nesters in Washington, were found May 30–June 1 on Ft. Lewis, Pierce (GW). Several groups of Greater Scaup lingered, with 50 at English Bay, Vancouver, BC (WW), 25 at Delkatla, Q.C.Is. (SJ), and eight at Dungeness, WA (Dory Smith), all June 12–18.

The return of Surf and White-winged scoters was widely noted in Washington and Oregon June 26–July 10. A pair of Com Goldeneyes with one young were seen July 18 on Chenamus L., in the Indian Heaven Wilderness, Skamania, WA (WC), for one of few nesting records for the state. Six ♀ Com Goldeneyes were noted June 10–20 on Graham and Moresby islands, Q.C.Is. (SJ), where they have not yet been found breeding. A few ♀ Buffleheads were scattered south to the Warrenton, OR, ponds (MPa), but no nesting activity was noted. Numerous broods of Com. Merganser were found in the Q.C.Is. and the north end of V.I. (SJ).

A nest of Black-shouldered Kites was finally found in Washington (Dave Batchelder). It held three young and was near the Raymond airport, where a small group of kites appears to be resident. A single kite was north to the Kent, WA, ponds July 2–3 (Bob Chadwick, Hal Fray, Bill Odekirk) for the first King record. Northern Harrier nests were located on Lopez I., WA (RW, Bob Myhr) and near Steigerwald L., Clark, WA (WC).

An imm. Sharp-shinned Hawk seen July 24 near Fish L., Jackson, OR (HS) furnished the only report. Eleven Cooper's Hawk sightings were spread from Ashland, OR, north to Duncan, V.I., and Reifel I., BC, with no nests reported. Merlins were found "surprisingly often" June 29–July 11 at Malcolm I., off n. V.I., and at the mouths of the Nimpkish, Kokish, Salmon, and Campbell rivers on V.I. (SJ). They were often seen carrying small sandpipers inland. Single Merlins were seen nearby at Iona I. July 10 (MPr) and Boundary Bay, BC, July 12 (Xavier Lambin). Single Merlins seen in Seattle June 30 (RT) and in Edmonds July 9 (Todd Hass) were far from known breeding sites. Several Peregrine Falcon nests in Washington successfully fledged young, continuing the dramatic recovery of this species.

The recent dry summers are believed to be the reason for N Bobwhites becoming "increasingly common" on Ft. Lewis and adjacent Pierce, WA (GW). A pair of Sandhill Cranes nested after May 10 on the Butte Falls R.D. of the Rogue River N F in s. Oregon (OS, Ed Abbott). This is just west of the small breeding population in e. Oregon. Three pairs of cranes were also noted in the Q.C.Is. June 11–15 (SJ).

**SHOREBIRDS** — Snowy Plovers nested successfully again at their northern outpost at Ocean Shores (GG). This area has recently been posted off-limits to ORV traffic. Many pairs of Semipalmated Plovers were observed June 11–17 on Graham I., and about 7 pairs, including one with a chick, June 19–20 on Moresby I., both in the Q.C.Is. This marks the species' southernmost regular nesting location (SJ). Four Semipal-

mated Plovers at Tillamook June 25 (HN), three on Boundary Bay, BC, June 26 (BK, LM), and eight on Leadbetter Pt., WA, June 27 (RT) may have been summering birds. Definite migratory influxes were noted on the outer coast July 15–19 (G & WH, MPa). A Killdeer nest seen near Masset apparently established the first breeding record for the Q.C.Is., and other Killdeer were noted there at Cape Fife, Rose Spit, and Sandspit airport (SJ).

A pair of Black-necked Stilts found June 1 on the Nisqually N.W.R., WA (E. & T. Norwood) stayed the entire season, but no further evidence was obtained for a potential first nesting record for w. Washington. The Am. Avocets found in May on the Serpentine Fen, Surrey, BC, were discovered June 9 to have 2 nests with 4 eggs each (WW, Doug Wilson) for the first Vancouver area breeding record. Young hatched in both nests but none was fledged, probably owing to raccoon predation (*fide* DK).

Sightings of one or two Greater Yellowlegs were made June 16–28 at Iona I., BC (BK, LM), Baskett Slough N.W.R. (Barb Bellin), and coastal Oregon (HN). The first flocks were of 18 at the Serpentine Fen June 28 (H & JM), four at Agate L., Jackson, OR, June 29 (OS), and 15 at Reifel I., BC, July 1 and later (JI). The first juveniles noted were at the S.J.C.R. July 23 (JJ). The only Solitary Sandpiper reported was at the Warrenton, OR, ponds July 19–24 (MPa). A Willet was flushed July 6 from the Nimpkish R. mouth, northwest V.I. (†SJ), well west of the usual migratory path. The same day a flock of 18 was first noted back to Seal Rock, OR (ME, D. MacManiman).

Two Wandering Tattlers lingered in Tillamook, OR, until June 8 (RL, JA). The first returning birds were noted July 16 at the S.J.C.R. (JJ). Groups of 20+ Whimbrels stayed through June at Bandon, OR (LT, HN), and at Ocean Shores, WA (G & WH, BM). About 600 had returned to Ocean Shores by July 13 (GG). Single Marbled Godwits were noted June 14–16 in Surrey, BC (RB, H & JM) and June 17 at Ocean Shores (G & WH). Six had returned to the "wintering" sites at Tokeland, WA, by July 9 (Murray Hansen, G & WH).

A Black Turnstone was seen June 1–3 in a flooded, plowed field at the Serpentine Fen (†H & JM) for the first June record for the Vancouver, BC, area. Six in alternate plumage, though presumably migrants, were noted June 19–20 at Sandspit, Moresby I., Q.C.Is. (SJ). Arrival farther south was June 26 on Smith I., w. of Whidbey I., WA (R. McCloskey) and July 8 at Bandon, OR (LT). The first Surfbirds were noted July 7 on San Juan I., WA (ML), and July 16 at Seal Rocks, OR (P. Reed, *fide* DF). A subad. Red Knot seen July 4–5 on False Bay, San Juan I., WA (Greg Ruiz, Frank Pitelka, Herb Wilson, ML) furnished a first county record.

About 25 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, away from the extensive Iona I. ponds. A very early one at Tillamook Bay, OR, July 2 (JJ) was the first of about 14 Oregon sightings. Four were on far northwest V.I. July 4–11 (†SJ). At Iona I., one appeared June 25, numbers increased to 20–25 during July 1–4, and 85 were present July 5 (MPr). Arrival of W. Sandpipers was marked by 150 at Iona I. June 25 (MPr) and eight at the Kirtland Road ponds, Medford, OR, the same day (OS). About 650 were at Crockett L., Whidbey I., WA, June 27 (FB) and 1000 were at Tillamook, OR, July 2 (JJ, JGi). Numbers at Iona I. increased to 5000–10,000 June 29–July 2 (MPr *et al.*). The high counts were of 35,000 on Boundary Bay, BC, July 10–11 (BK, H & JM *et al.*), 2000 at Ocean Shores July 13–15 (GG, G & WH), and 1000 at Warrenton and the S.J.C.R. July 13–18 (HN, MPa). With these flocks were a breeding-plumaged **Rufous-necked Stint** at Iona I. June 26–July 5 (†MPr, †BK, †WW, m.ob.) for about the 5th record there, and a breeding-plumaged **Little Stint** on nearby Boundary Bay July 10 (†BK, †Frank Walker, LM *et al.*) for only the 2nd accepted Vancouver area record.

Least Sandpipers show a different migratory pattern, with high counts of 1500 at Tillamook, OR, July 2 (JJ, JGi), 1000 at the S.J.C.R. July 6 (HN), 200 at Ocean Shores July 13 (GG), and only 12 at Iona I. July 1 (MPr). Least Sandpipers also nest in the Region. Several were displaying at Delkatla near Mas-

set, Graham I., Q.C.Is., June 18 (SJ)

Single Baird's Sandpipers June 20 at Sandspit, Q.C.Is. (SJ), June 25 at the Cluxewe R. mouth, Port McNeill, V.I. (SJ), and June 28 at Iona I. (RP) were early. Single Stilt Sandpipers in non-breeding plumage were noted at Warrenton, OR, July 4-5 (MPa, HN) and Bandon, OR, July 9 (VT). Other ad. Stilts were at Warrenton July 13-23 (HN, †DL, m.ob.), Auburn, WA, July 30 (JGa, FB), and Nehalem, OR, July 31 (†DL, JJ, JGi). About 1500 Short-billed Dowitchers at Ocean Shores July 13 (GG) made the high count. Groups of four to six Wilson's Phalaropes were noted during June at Iona I. (GT *et al.*), Swifts Bay pond on Lopez I., WA (RW), N. Portland (JJ, HN), and the Kirtland Road ponds in Medford, OR (OS), but as usual no nesting evidence was obtained.

**SKUAS TO PUFFINS** — A S. Polar Skua seen July 5 well offshore Westport, WA (TW), was early, and six there July 23 were more than normal for the season. The first juv. Franklin's Gulls arrived July 17 at the S.J.C.R. (L. Weiland, P. Muller) and July 23 at Sauvie I. (JJ, JGi) and represented fewer than usual records. Thirty-six Bonaparte's Gulls lingered at the Medford ponds until June 3 (OS, HN), 200 were at Iona I., BC, until June 9 (MPr), and about that number stayed all summer at Bandon, OR (LT), and San Juan I., WA (ML). Migratory influxes of several hundred were noted July 10-17 at Sayward, V.I. (SJ), Kent, WA (EH), and Waldport, OR (L. Landis, *fide* DF). Movement of up to several hundred Heermann's Gulls was observed July 5 off San Juan I. (ML), and July 20-25 at Ilwaco, WA (Rich Hoyer, Jr.) and Newport, OR (DF). Returning Ring-billed Gulls were first noted July 7 at both San Juan I., WA (ML), and the Nimpkish R. mouth, V.I. (SJ). Five California Gulls seen June 16 at Rose Spit, Graham I., Q.C.Is., were apparently summering, as were the 100+ at several locations near Port Hardy, V.I., June 23-29 (both SJ). Widespread arrival in the Region was in mid-July. Eleven hundred Glaucous-winged Gull nests were counted in the San Juan Is. (ML). This is about the same number as last year. Another 1000 were on nearby Mandarte I., BC (*fide* ML). About 80 subad. Black-legged Kittiwakes were present June 16 at the tip of Rose Spit, n.e. Graham I., Q.C.Is. (SJ). The nearest colony is apparently near Sitka, AK, about 250 mi to the north.

The numerous Caspian Terns in the Region appear to have established a new nesting colony, on Miller I. in the Lewis and Clark N.W.R. just upriver from Astoria, OR (HN, MPa). Two Caspians were north to Rose Spit, Graham I., Q.C.Is., June 16 (SJ), where a few had been seen last year as well (Mary Morris). Sixty-seven at Brunswick Pt., Delta, June 11 (MPr) made the high count for s.w. British Columbia. Surely there is an acceptable tern island somewhere in the Fraser R. delta. A Com. Tern was at Iona I., BC, June 25 (MPr), an unusual date. A Forster's Tern at the Serpentine Fen, BC, June 15 (†JM) furnished the first June record and only about the 10th overall for the Vancouver area.

At least 3 pairs of Arctic Terns nested on the future Navy Home Port site in Everett, WA (JC, m.ob.), and 2 pairs were feeding young fledglings there June 23 (Mike Mallee). However, the entire area was opened to July 4th parking, and there were no subsequent sightings. JC has organized a team to clear nest sites on nearby Jetty I. and entice the birds back there (see AB 33:144-145, 1979) next May with decoys and tape-recordings.

The nest of a radio-tagged Marbled Murrelet was found in mid-June about 12 mi up the Umpqua R., Douglas, OR (Kim Nelson, *fide* EC). The Wash. Dept. of Wildlife fielded a survey team of observers who listened before dawn for murrelet flight calls near tall timber (Barry Troutman, EC). Numerous sightings included several around Lake Twentytwo on Pilchuck Mt., about 22 mi e. of Everett, Snohomish (F. Sharpe, N. Talayco). Two "hatching-year" Ancient Murrelets were noted July 5 offshore Westport (TW), and seven Ancients were seen July 12 from shore at Boiler Bay, OR (S. Malone, *fide* HN). Presumably these birds were nesting in the Region, but

where? Two or more pairs of Tufted Puffins finally began nesting activity in mid-June at the Cape Meares, OR, colony (HN). A Horned Puffin was found again June 15 on Hunter's I., Curry, OR, where one was also seen in 1983 and 1987 (RL, JA, *fide* ME).

**DOVES TO THRASHERS** — Mourning Doves are "becoming increasingly common" in the open prairies around Ft Lewis, WA (GW). Barred Owls were found in numerous locations in w. Washington this season (TW). Barreds have replaced Spotted Owls on Long I., Willapa N.W.R., WA (J Atkinson) and appeared to be doing the same along Ross L., Whatcom (Bob Kuntz). The pair at Discovery Park in Seattle fledged two young in June (DB, RT). A pair of N. Saw-whet Owls fledged three young near Winslow, Bainbridge I., Kitsap, WA (Ian Paulsen).

Comments about Com. Nighthawks in w. Washington ranged from "none" to "fairly common" with no detectable pattern. However, SJ camped along northern V.I. June 24-July 13 and heard only four. Six Black Swifts were present at their outpost at Salt Creek Falls, east of Oakridge, OR (*fide* ME). A Lewis' Woodpecker found July 15 near Mingus Park, Coos, OR (Ben Fawver), was unusual there. Nests of Red-breasted Sapsuckers were found June 8 along the Skeena R. n.e. of Terrace, BC, and June 11 & 14 on Graham I., Q.C.Is. (SJ). A pair of Three-toed Woodpeckers was seen July 2 at the now-regular location along Howe Sound Trail, W. Vancouver, BC (T. Plath, L. Koch).

The Dusky Flycatcher found in May on a clearcut near Scoggins Valley Park, Washington, OR, was still present June 9, and another was located on a clearcut near Scappoose, OR, June 12 (both JE, *fide* HN). A Least Flycatcher was found June 19-July 1 at Pitt Meadows, BC (†Carlo Giovanella, H & JM) for about the 6th record for the Vancouver area. A pair of W. Kingbirds was acting as if territorial when seen June 6 and July 14 on an Impact Zone at Ft. Lewis, WA, but no nest or young were located (GW). A family group of six Purple Martins seen July 11 on marina pilings on Tyee Spit, Campbell River, V.I. (SJ) represented a slight northward range extension. This species "did well in martin and wood-duck boxes this year" on Ft. Lewis, WA (GW), and two to 15 pairs were reported from 7 other sites.

A Rock Wren stayed May 21-June 6 at Mt. Tuam Lookout, Saltspring I., off southern V.I. (VO *et al.*). Other Rock Wrens were noted in June on Goat I., in Skagit Bay, WA (J. Wiggers, *fide* TW), s.e. of Greenwater, in Pierce, WA (J. TerLouw), and on the n. slope of Mt. St. Helens (RT). A Bewick's Wren was singing July 12 in Campbell River, V.I., at the n.w. limit of its range (SJ). Continuing their expansion in w. Washington, House Wrens were on territory in Bellingham June 12 (TW) and a pair nested successfully in Discovery Park, Seattle (†DB). Two ♂ Ruby-crowned Kinglets were noted July 9 on Howe Sound Trail, W. Vancouver (DT), for only the 2nd breeding-season record for the Vancouver, BC, area. No Ruby-crowneds were found in the Q.C.Is. June 11-21 (SJ).

A dozen W. Bluebirds were observed June 6 nesting on the Mt. Tuam Lookout, Saltspring I., off southern V.I. (VO) GW banded 600 of the 694 W. Bluebird fledglings this year from the 215 pairs on Ft. Lewis, WA. A record 270 fledglings were banded on the Corvallis, OR, trail despite large losses during the wet May (M & EE). Single N. Mockingbirds appeared June 12-14 at Vernonia (JE) and Portland (D. Baccus, A. Miller), OR, and Sedro Woolley (TW) and the Nisqually N.W.R. (†C Bowers), WA. Another was seen July 21 on Reifel I., BC (K Wiebe). A vagrant Sage Thrasher was noted June 2 on Tatoosh I., off the n.w. tip of Clallam (Tim Wootten, ph., Bob Paine) for the 7th record for w. Washington.

**WARBLERS TO FINCHES** — A singing ♂ Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen July 2, and possibly heard July 8, along Rough Bay on Malcolm I., off the n. side of V.I. (SJ). A singing ♂ Palm Warbler was found June 17 near Naches Pass, in King, WA (†DB) for only the 2nd June record for the state. Three

**Ovenbirds** were found this season. Each was heard and not seen! One was along the Semiahmoo Trail, Surrey, BC, June 12 (†H & JM), another was along Salt Creek off Hwy 140 e. of Eagle Point, Jackson, OR, June 18 (JJ, JGi), and the other was along Bay Ocean Spit at Tillamook, OR, July 18 (DL). A Northern Waterthrush seen June 3 in Jericho Park furnished the first summer record for the Vancouver, BC, area (†AS). An ad. ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** found July 8 near Port Orford (C. Miller) furnished the 5th record for w. Oregon.

A singing ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** observed June 23 at Port Hardy, V.I., and singing Rufous-sided Towhees at Port Hardy and Sayward, V.I., and on nearby Malcolm I., June 23–July 11, were all farther northwest than the known range there (SJ). A pair of **Lazuli Buntings** was observed mating June 23 in N. Vancouver, BC (H & JM), where the species is rare. Nesting was more widespread than usual in the s. Puget Sound area (JGa, GW) and numerous wandering males were reported in w. Washington (TW, DP, T. Hahn), and coastal and s. Oregon (DF, R. Skibby). Single **White-winged Crossbills** were noted June 6 in Jericho Park (AS) and June 23 in Mt. Seymour P.P. (H & JM), Vancouver, BC.

A **Savannah Sparrow** was singing June 15 on Rose Spit, Graham I., Q.C.Is. (SJ) where their breeding status is not clear. A few **Grasshopper Sparrows** returned in late May to their nesting outpost near Medford, OR (HS). A **Fox Sparrow** was on territory in Cypress P.P., W. Vancouver, June 11–30 (S. Cannings, †R. Cannings) for the first summer record for the Vancouver area. Presumably it was of the Cascades subspecies *olivacea*. A singing **Fox Sparrow** at Pt. Grenville, WA (BM, R. Egbert), marked the s. limit of the outer coastal form *fuliginosa*. Several **Lincoln's Sparrows** were found in appropriate wet, boggy habitats on Graham I., Q.C.Is., June 11–18 (SJ) and at Manning P.P. June 3–6 (WW). Nesting **White-crowned Sparrows**, all with the pale lores of the race *pugetensis*, were slightly n.w. of their known range to several sites between Nimpkish L. and Sayward, V.I., July 9–10 (SJ).

About 100 **Tricolored Blackbirds** were present in Medford, OR, in early June (HS). Small nesting colonies of **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were noted at 5 locations in the Vancouver,

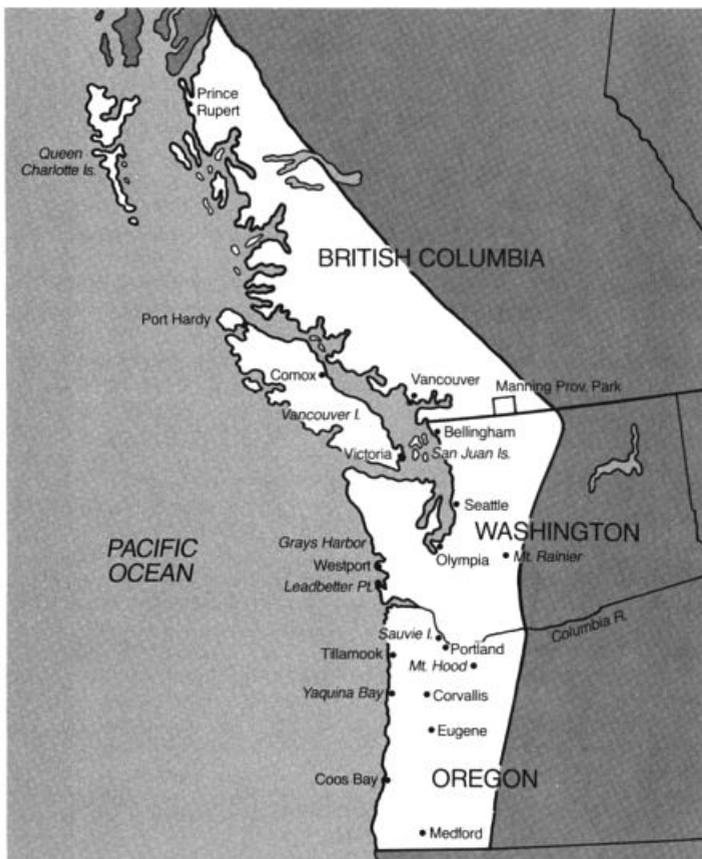
BC, area (AS, MPr, H & JM et al.), near Ferndale, **Whatcom**, WA (C. Bens), and at Forest Grove (JE) and Finley N.W.R. (Al McGie), OR. The colony at Ridgefield N.W.R., WA, has grown to "substantial size" (M. Hills). The nearby colony in N. Portland dried up and was abandoned by early June (JJ, HN). **Wandering Yellow-headed Blackbirds** were widely reported elsewhere as usual. **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were absent this year from the Magnolia Bluff area of Seattle (G. Eddy) and Mt. Pleasant, near Washougal, **Clark**, WA (WC), where they have been regular in past years.

A pair of **Pine Grosbeaks** was noted July 8 near Bald Mt., w. of Mt. Hood, OR (Bill Shelmerdine) where they are very scarce. Several ad. **House Finches** and begging juveniles were noted July 6–11 in Port McNeill and Sayward, V.I. (SJ), slightly west of their previously known range. **Red Crossbills** were reported as numerous this season in the Q.C.Is. and on northwest V.I. (SJ), in the Vancouver, BC, area (AS, WW), in lowland w. Washington (TW, DP, T. Hahn), and coastal and s. Oregon (DF, R. Skibby). Single **White-winged Crossbills** were noted June 6 in Jericho Park (AS) and June 23 in Mt. Seymour P.P. (H & JM), Vancouver, BC.

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## NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

**Philip W. Mattocks, Jr.**



**W**hen the storm fronts came in off the North Pacific in late fall, it was hard to remember that this Region was in a long-term drought situation. November of 1988 in Seattle was wetter than any November in 24 years, which brought the reservoirs back up to almost full. Precipitation for the remainder of the season was well below the long-term averages.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — Q.C. Is. = Queen Charlotte Islands, BC; S.J.C.R. = South jetty of the Columbia R., OR; V.I. = Vancouver Island, BC. Place names in *italics* are counties.

**LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS** — Thirty Com. Loons were gathered Oct. 29 at their recently-discovered stopover on Timothy L. in the Oregon Cascades (DL, DA). Hundreds were noted moving S Nov. 12 along the coast at Boiler Bay (PMu, LW) and Cape Arano (LT), OR. The first of the usual five Yellow-billed Loons were on schedule Oct. 7–12 in C. Saanich, V.I. (R. Kluake) and Oct. 14–30 near Port Gamble, WA (KA, m.ob.). Another seen Oct. 29 on L. Meares, near Tillamook, OR (RG *et al.*), was the farthest south.

A Pied-billed Grebe was north of its usual range to Masset, Q.C.Is., Sept. 24 and later (MHe, ph.). An ad. Pied-billed was found on a nest with eggs Nov. 3 in Jericho Park, Vancouver, BC, and was seen the next day with two downy young (Herb Hope). Sixty Red-necked Grebes were back to Island View Beach, C. Saanich, V.I., by Aug. 4 (WW); 150 were there Oct. 2 (J & RS). First reports from coastal Oregon were Oct. 26–30 at Tillamook (CR) and Bandon (LT). A flock of 57 Eared Grebes seen Nov. 11 on Diamond L., just n. of Crater Lake N.P., was by far the largest seen there in years (DFi). Two adult W. Grebes with two young birds riding on their backs were seen Sept. 14 at Reifel I., Delta, BC (WW). A Clark's Grebe studied Nov. 6–16 at Stanley Park (†DT, †BK *et al.*) furnished only the 3rd record for the Vancouver, BC, area. Six Clark's were noted in w. Oregon: two on the coast, two near Portland, and two on Timothy L. near Mt. Hood.

Reports were received from 10 pelagic trips: 7 out of Westport, WA, Aug. 13–Oct. 8 (TW), and others out of Coos Bay, OR, Sept. 11, and Garibaldi, OR, Sept. 17 & 18. Black-footed Albatrosses were found in the usual numbers. A Laysan Albatross was noted Oct. 1 & 4 about 70–90 km off the west coast of V.I. (KM). The 6 trips out of Westport in August and September noted a total of only 10 N. Fulmars. On Oct. 8 about 135 were seen on that route. The next highest count was of 10 seen in the Juan de Fuca Strait Nov. 6 (KT *et al.*). The 226 Pink-footed Shearwaters seen Aug. 20 off Westport and 50 w. of Florence, OR, Sept. 3 (TT, *fide* DFa) were lower counts than usual. The latest reported were 20 seen from shore at Boiler Bay, OR, Nov. 12 (PMu, LW). Seven Flesh-footed Shearwaters were noted, a usual number, Aug. 13–Oct. 8 out of Westport. The 448 Buller's Shearwaters counted Sept. 12 out of Westport were more than last year's high count. Also, 150 Buller's were noted off Garibaldi, OR, Sept. 17 (JJ), 230 were still off Westport Oct. 8 (TW), and an amazing 200 were seen from shore at Boiler Bay Oct. 15 (PMu, LW).

The usual token few Short-tailed Shearwaters were seen among the hordes of Sooties, with one photographed at close range Sept. 12 off Westport (George Gerds *et al.*) and another seen there Oct. 8 (TW). One was at the Ocean Shores, WA, jetty Oct. 2 (Richard Johnston). Then in November singles were noted at Ocean Shores (in hand—†BM) and at Cape Arago, OR (LT), four were at Cape Meares, OR (PP) and the S.J.C.R. (PP), and up to 15 were at Boiler Bay (Tom Love, PP, JG *et al.*). Short-taileds have been shown to be the more expected dark shearwater inshore in late fall here. However, it must be noted that all but two of these were reported without details, and many seabird experts consider underwriting pattern to be insufficient to separate Short-taileds from Sooties. Counts of 706 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels Aug. 13 off Westport and 812 there Sept. 12 continued the pattern of high

fall counts since 1985. Eight Leach's Storm-Petrels seen from shore at Boiler Bay, OR, Nov. 6 were unusual (JG, NL, John Kempe).

A single Am. White Pelican with a blue wing tag was seen repeatedly Sept. 1–30 at successively more southerly locations along Puget Sound. Presumably the bird was from the Stum L., BC, colony, which is due north. Fifty Am. White Pelicans stopped over during September on Hyatt L., e. Jackson, OR (Ray Skibby). High counts of Brown Pelicans were down slightly from last year to 1100+ at Tillamook Bay Aug. 24 (HN, est. to be 25% adult, 25% first-year, and 50% 2nd or 3rd year) and 600 at Ocean Shores, WA, Sept. 17 (Ken Brown, RTh). The count at Ocean Shores was reduced to only four birds present Sept. 24 (RTh) after the passage of a cold front. The latest reported were near Long Beach, WA, Oct. 28 (*fide* WC) and at Boiler Bay and Cape Arago, OR, Nov. 12 (PMu, LW, LT).

A **Magnificent Frigatebird** appeared over Tacoma, WA, Oct. 7–8 (†Walt Adams, †Jeff Zimmerman) for only the 2nd state record. It then stayed Oct. 11–17 around Pt. No Point, Kitsap (†Vic Nelson, ph., m.ob.). Presumably the same bird was seen Oct. 22 at the Copalis R. mouth on the outer coast (†Jim Cabbage, Lea Mitchell), Oct. 29 at Tokeland (BM *et al.*), and Oct. 31 on a piling on the Astoria bridge over the Columbia R. (AR).

**EGRETS TO PTARMIGAN** — About 32 Great Egrets were reported in Washington this season, from 5 locations. Twenty of these were at Ridgefield N.W.R. Aug. 25 (MHi) with fewer present later. One reached Richmond, BC, Nov. 19–27 (N Smith, T. Currie *et al.*). Three Snowy Egrets were along the Oregon coast, and a lone Cattle Egret was at Drift Creek, Lincoln, OR, Nov. 19 (JJ, NL). An imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron arrived early at Ocean Shores Aug. 6 and an adult was nearby at Hoquiam Aug. 12 (both MC). One and two others were at White City, OR, Aug. 25 (Otis Swisher), in Langley, BC, Aug. 30 (Ken Summers), and at Siletz Key, on the Oregon coast s. of Lincoln City, Sept. 4 (RG, BT). The first of six adults returned to the Reifel I., BC, roost Sept. 14 (WW).

The first returning Tundra Swans were noted Oct. 27 on Tillamook Bay, OR (R. Lowe, *fide* DFa), and Oct. 29 in the Oregon Cascades on Timothy L. near Mt. Hood (DL, DA) and at Breitenbush L. near Santiam Pass (F. Schrock). Nine Trumpeter Swans were south to near Monmouth, OR, Nov. 15 and later (RG, BB *et al.*) and one was nearby at Finley N.W.R. Nov. 20 (M & EE, T & AM). Daily censuses at Reifel I., BC, showed that 3000 Snow Geese arrived Oct. 8 and 10,000 were there Oct. 17 and later (JJ). Single Ross' Geese were found Oct. 5 at the Hoquiam sewage ponds for the 6th record for w. Washington (R. & F. Carlson, ph.) and Nov. 4–22 near Tillamook, OR (CR, HN).

Among the many teal and N. Shovelers at the Nehalem sewage ponds Sept. 17 there was also a ♂ **Garganey** (†JJ, ph., NL) for the first record for Oregon. The bird stayed to at least Sept. 20 (†DL, †PMu, †JG, †SH, M & EE, m.ob.). The N. Shoveler count at the Nehalem ponds peaked at 600 on Oct. 5 (HN) and 500 were on the Monmouth, OR, ponds Sept. 19–20 (RG) for the season's high counts. The first returning Eur. Wigeon were somewhat later than usual: Sept. 24 at Beach Grove, Delta, BC (G. Ansell, BL) and Oct. 9 at Siletz Bay, OR (JJ). Reports were widespread as usual thereafter.

Returning Canvasbacks were first noted Oct. 11 at Nehalem Bay, OR (DI, *fide* HN), Oct. 17 at Kent, WA (Jan Wiggers) and Saanich, V.I. (DFr), and Oct. 21 at Masset, Q.C.Is. (MHe). The 30+ Redheads, 800+ Lesser Scaup, 150 Com. Goldeneyes, and 1000 Buffleheads, on Diamond L., OR, Nov. 11 were the largest concentrations reported for each (DFi). Three of the four

Oldsquaws reported from Oregon this fall were found on sewage ponds, at Nehalem, Brownsville, and Cannon Beach. About 200 Barrow's Goldeneyes were gathered on Nov. 11 on Diamond L. (DFi) and a relatively low count of 791 Barrow's was made Nov. 26 on Capitol L. in Olympia, WA (G. & W. Hoge).

The count of 950 Turkey Vultures during September–October in the Medford–Ashland, OR, area was lower than usual (*fide* ES). Juvenile Black-shouldered Kites were noted at the Raymond, WA, airport (m.ob.) and the Nehalem meadows, OR (DI, Tom Crabtree) through the season, and near Cathlamet, WA, Sept. 18 (Ruth Taylor). Single kites appeared on the Nisqually N.W.R. (J. Stewart, J. Davis *et al.*), along Hylebos Creek, Pierce (R. Vimont, *fide* TB), and on the Ridgefield N.W.R. (MHi) to add to increasing numbers of Washington records. About 32 were reported from 14 Oregon locations.

Accipiter reports totaled 71 Sharp-shinned and 70 Cooper's, quite a bit lower than usual. The normal number of 25 N Goshawk sightings included one identified from a belly feather found in a Corvallis parking lot (John Bull—Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.)! An injured imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** was found almost dead near Cathlamet, WA, Sept. 9 (R. Vetter, A. Clark) for the 2nd record and first specimen for the state (now #42969 at the U.W. Burke Museum). Another imm. Red-shouldered was north to the Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene, OR, Sept. 20 (SH), and adults were at Newport, OR, Oct. 30 (R & J. Krabbe, *fide* ME) and Cape Meares Nov. 26 (V. Teale). A Rough-legged Hawk seen closely Nov. 26–29 at Delkatla Sanctuary, Masset, was the first for the Q.C.Is. (Kathleen Fry, †MHe).

The 91 sightings of Merlins and 53 of Peregrines were spread as usual through the season. A pair of Merlins was observed together Sept. 27 near the Toketee R.S., Douglas, OR (DFi). A Peregrine over South Sister Aug. 27 (I. & S. Bachhuber) and one over Toketee R.S. Nov. 12 (DFi), both in the Oregon Cascades, were the only reports away from the coasts. Single Gyrfalcons were noted in Delta, BC, and on the Samish flats and at Ocean Shores, WA. A Prairie Falcon was seen in the Coast Range of s. British Columbia (Frank Walker), and eight were in the Cascades of Washington and Oregon from late August to early October. Then from late October on, one was on the flats of Delta, BC, for only the 2nd Vancouver area record (†BL, †BK, m.ob.) and another was on the Samish flats, WA (P. DeBruyn, B. Gaussoin, *fide* TW).

A female and six imm. **Rock Ptarmigan** were found this season on Mt. Steele just n.w. of Vancouver, BC (*fide* DK). A female was seen Aug. 12 nearby on Mt. Strachan (F. McLeod, †L Taylor). These are the southernmost known breeding locations for the species. Interestingly, these mountains have no convincing record of White-tailed Ptarmigan (*fide* DK), which is regular 100 mi to the east at Manning P.P.

**SHOREBIRDS**—The peak of the Black-bellied Plover migration was marked by counts of 3000 on Boundary Bay, BC, Aug. 26–Sept. 13 (MPr, Mike Denny), 500 at Tillamook Aug. 31 (JE, HN), and 2500 at Ocean Shores Sept. 13 (EH). About 251 Lesser Golden-Plovers were reported, 18% as *dominica*, 29% as *fulva*, and 53% not specified. The latest *dominica* were Sept. 24–27 at Delta and Victoria, BC, and Ocean Shores, WA; the latest *fulva* were Sept. 29 at Victoria, Oct. 26 at Ft. Flagler, WA, Nov. 13 at Delta, BC, and Nov. 24 at Siletz Bay, OR.

Single Am. Avocets, scarce visitors to the Region, were found Aug. 27 in N. Vancouver, BC (K. Bell), Aug. 28 near Brownsville, Linn, OR (JJ, JG), and Sept. 15–18 and Oct. 12 on Sauvie I., OR (JJ, DI). Gatherings of 100 Lesser Yellowlegs at Reifel I., BC, Aug. 23 (JI), 60 at the Kent ponds, WA, Aug. 30–31 (MS), and 50 at the S.J.C.R. Aug. 3 (JE) were the high counts. A possible **Wood Sandpiper** was observed at Tokeland, WA, Oct. 9 (†Ken Brunner, ph., †MS). The excellent description and blurred photographs are being examined elsewhere. It would be a first Regional record. The tally of 23

Solitary Sandpipers continued the trend of the last 3 years, being in much higher numbers than in the previous decade. Two at Reifel I., BC, Aug. 8–10 (JI) and two at Sauvie I., OR, Aug. 26 (Bill Shelmerdine) were the only non-solitary sightings. Three Willets were farther n.w. than usual at the Courtenay, V.I., sewage ponds Oct. 8 (N. Winchester, K. Nelson).

A Long-billed Curlew stopped at Sauvie I., OR, Aug. 25 for the first *Multnomah* record (JJ, D. Bailey). Twenty Long-billeds were at their wintering site at Tokeland, WA, Sept. 4 and later (Scott Ray, m.ob.). Single Hudsonian Godwits were noted Aug. 16–20 at Beach Grove, Delta, BC (MPr *et al.*), Aug. 31 at the S.J.C.R. for the 8th record for Oregon (†MPa), and Oct. 2 at 112th St. on Boundary Bay, BC (BK). A winter-plumaged Bar-tailed Godwit (*L. l. baueri*), believed to be a female based on bill length, stayed Sept. 10–Oct. 11 at Tokeland, WA (Tulley Hammill, †PWM—finally, †HW, m.ob.) for the 19th state record. Marbled Godwit numbers at Tokeland reached 160–190 Sept. 12 and later (HW, m.ob.). Single Marbleds were noteworthy at Sauvie I. Aug. 20–25 (JJ) and on Boundary Bay, BC, Sept. 25 (RT0).

Sixty Ruddy Turnstones on Dungeness Bay, WA, Aug. 2 (DS) and 30 at Bandon, OR, the same day (TB) were the high counts. About 50 Red Knots were reported. Eight at Ocean Shores Aug. 24 (E. Peaslee) and 10 at Bandon Aug. 28 (JJ) were the high counts. The only Sanderling noted away from the coast was a juvenile at Morgan L., near Salem, OR, Aug. 30–31 for the 2nd Polk record (RG). Very large numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers were again found on the Iona I., BC, sewage ponds. About 168 juveniles were there Aug. 1 and 120 were counted Aug. 5 (both MPr). Elsewhere six at Crockett L., Whidbey I., WA, Aug. 7–21 (BS, Fred Bird), and four or more at the S.J.C.R. during August (HN) were the high counts. Several reports of Rufous-necked Stints either had no details or were not convincing. Ten thousand W. Sandpipers were at Iona I. Aug. 1 (MPr) and 15,000 were at the n. end of Camano I., WA, Aug. 14 (RTh). Numbers dropped after that with 800 on Boundary Bay Oct. 1 (WW, DK, Jim Tucker), and 400 at Tillamook, OR, Oct. 5 (HN) being late concentrations. As usual, Least Sandpipers favored the Oregon coast. Counts of 800–1000 were at Tillamook Aug. 10–Sept. 13 (HN) and 500 were at Siletz Bay during September (JE, DI).

The passage of Baird's and Pectoral sandpipers appeared normal. About 33 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were noted. Eight were at Reifel I., BC, Oct. 1–2 (WW, DK *et al.*) and three were at Ocean Shores Sept. 25 (MC). The five in Oregon were present Sept. 7–28, and one at the Aberdeen, WA, sludge ponds Oct. 16 with 200 Pectorals was the latest (†HW). The arrival of Rock Sandpipers in British Columbia and Washington was on schedule in late October. Only 15 Stilt Sandpipers were found, many fewer than usual. Two were in Oregon at Sauvie I. Sept. 3 (JJ, NL), two were at Masset, Q.C.Is., Sept. 24 (†MHe), two were in Washington, and the remainder were in the Vancouver, BC, area, Aug. 10–Sept. 22. At least 20 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported, more than in most recent years. From Sept. 7–28 there were almost daily sightings at the end of 72nd St. on Boundary Bay in Delta, BC. The high count there was of seven Sept. 16–22 (BK, MPr). One at Clatsop Beach, OR, Oct. 17 was the latest ever for Oregon by about 2 weeks (BO, ph.). Only four Ruffs were noted; three in the Vancouver, BC, area Aug. 5 & 7 and Sept. 22, and one in Victoria Aug. 30. These were fewer than the average of 9/year for the preceding decade.

Several hundred Red Phalaropes were noted on the August and September pelagic trips out of Westport (TW). In early November the first big storm of the season blew them inshore in many locations, mostly in w. Oregon. Two hundred were in Coos Bay Nov. 6 (SH, LT), 85 were counted in the Tillamook area Nov. 4–8 (CR), and 60 were in the harbor at Ilwaco, WA, Nov. 11 (Jeff Skriletz). Inland sightings included one to two Nov. 3–4 at Toketee L. in the Oregon Cascades (DFi), 19 on the Sheridan, OR, ponds Nov. 4–10 (BT, JG *et al.*), and one to three at the Monmouth, OR, ponds (RG), near Finley N.W.R.,

OR (ME), and at Steigerwald L., Clark, WA (Fred Zeillemaker), Nov 6–11

**JAEGERS TO ALCIDS** — The August-September trips out of Westport found only seven Pomarine Jaegers each, many fewer than usual (TW). Interestingly, the counts of Long-tailed Jaeger on these trips were much higher than usual, with 100 seen Aug. 20 and an exciting 193 there Aug. 27. One juv. Long-tailed was seen just off San Juan I., WA, Aug. 24 (TW, †DP). Five S. Polar Skuas were seen off Westport Aug. 20–Sept. 12 (TW), one was 18 mi off Florence, OR, Sept. 9 (TT, *fide* DFa), and another was 40–90 km off western V.I. Oct. 1–4 (KM).

About 50 Franklin's Gulls were reported; as usual, all were immatures. Eight at Jericho Park, Vancouver, BC, Aug. 18 (RTo) and five at the Kent, WA, ponds Sept. 17 (Tom Weir, R. & P. Sullivan) were the high counts. At least three ad. Little Gulls were present on Puget Sound, as single birds were seen at Oak Bay, V.I. (Jeff Gaskin, KT), Pt. Roberts (†BL, R. Chaundy), and Seattle (Dale Herder), all Sept. 10. Single adults were sighted in Seattle and Everett on 6 other dates, Sept. 6–Oct. 4, and at Saanich, V.I., Aug. 27 (Mike McGrenere) and Salt Spring I., BC, Oct. 30 (DFr). A **Common Black-headed Gull** appeared Nov. 3–7 in Vancouver, BC (†RC, †MPR, W. Campbell, D. Huggard) for only the 2nd record for that area. All three of these species associate with flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls, of which the high counts were 2000 at Beach Grove, Delta, BC, Oct. 10 (BL) and 3000 at Pt. No Point, Kitsap, WA, Oct. 22 (RT). By early November almost all the Bonaparte's had left the Region. The only Glaucous Gulls noted were a 2nd-year bird at Masset, Q.C.Is., Sept. 24 (MHe) and a first-year bird at Boiler Bay, OR, Nov. 10 (CR).

High counts of Com. Terns were of 2500 at Oak Bay, V.I., Aug. 25 (RS) and 600 in Vancouver, BC, Sept. 6 (MP). Late Arctic Terns were noted Sept. 25 at the Nehalem sewage ponds, OR (†M & EE, T & AM), Sept. 27 in Vancouver, BC (MPR), and a juvenile Oct. 10–14 in Edmonds, WA (†TH, John Townsend, KA). The latter sighting was near the location of the southernmost breeding outpost of the species.

A few Ancient Murrelets were about Gonzales Pt., Victoria, V.I., on the early dates of Sept. 29 and later (RS). One crashed into a tree and was found dead Nov. 11 at the Marblemount R.S., Skagit, WA, about 40 mi inland from Puget Sound (Gary Mason, *fide* Bob Kuntz, \*U.W. Burke Museum). Two **Xantus' Murrelets** were noted Aug. 26 about 130 km off the w. coast of V.I. (KM). Another Xantus' Murrelet was observed Oct. 31 about 60 km off V.I. (48°22' × 125°51', or 85 km due w. of Cape Flattery, WA) on a Canadian Wildlife Service survey (†MB). A **Parakeet Auklet** was seen Oct. 27 by MB on the same C.W.S. survey about 120 km off V.I. (48°19' × 127°10'). Fewer Cassin's Auklets were found than last year. Pelagic trips off Westport in September and October found only a few dozen each, and just one to two were seen off Garibaldi, OR, Sept. 17–18 (JJ, BO).

**PIGEONS TO SWALLOWS** — A flock of 100 Band-tailed Pigeons at Thornton Creek, near Newport, OR, Oct. 14 was "somewhat late" (DFa). The only Snowy Owl reported was at 72nd St. on Boundary Bay, Delta, BC, Nov. 13 and later (L. Esralson, m.ob.). The 34 N. Pygmy-Owls reported was a high count, but only a very few were lowland sightings. The 13 Barred Owl reports were all from southern V.I., the Vancouver, BC, area, and Whatcom, WA. A Great Gray Owl was seen Aug. 19 on the Toketee R.D., e. Douglas, OR (D. Knutsen, *fide* DFi). Three Great Grays were noted at their usual haunts in e. Jackson, OR (M. Moore, T. Corman).

One wonders about the likely fledgling success of a Com. Nighthawk flushed Aug. 15 from a nest with 2 eggs on Sidney I., BC (J & RS). Flocks of 50 Black Swifts were noted Sept. 2 in Cypress P.P., BC (DT) and Sept. 18 at Courtenay, V.I. (K. & N. Morton), and two were seen Sept. 26 over Toketee L., OR

(DFi), where they are rarely-seen migrants. Thousands of Vaux's Swifts were migrating S over Bellingham, WA, Sept. 20 (TW), 200 roosted in the chimney of the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis, OR, Sept. 24 (the Cromacks), and the last ones noted were in Medford, OR, Sept. 27 (M. Bell, *fide* ES).

A Costa's Hummingbird was present from early November on at a Coos Bay feeder (Nancy Prince, m.ob.) for the first record for Coos and the 9th for w. Oregon. An increase in reports of Black-backed Woodpeckers in the Oregon Cascades included one to two near Serene L., Black Crater at McKenzie Pass, Davis L., Crescent L., 7 sites on the Toketee R.D., and on Mt. McCloughlin. Seven "Yellow-shafted" N. Flickers and several other hybrid flickers were noted throughout the Region. Pileated Woodpeckers are seldom commented on here, but with the usual 54+ reports in hand from throughout the Region, they are doing well.

Latest flycatcher sightings were: Olive-sided, Aug. 21, Reifel I., BC (JJ) and Sept. 17 on San Juan I., WA (EH); W. Wood-pewee, Sept. 10 on Tatoosh I., WA (HW), Sept. 16 in Vancouver, BC (RC), and Sept. 24 at Baskett Slough N.W.R., OR (S Keightley); Willow Flycatcher, Sept. 16 at Toketee R.S. (DFi) and Oct. 3 in Harbor, Curry, OR (RE, AB, GL); Hammond's, Sept. 25 at Pt. Roberts, WA (Tom Hanrahan, BL); and Western, Sept. 15 at Eugene, OR (SH). A Least Flycatcher was reported from the S.J.C.R. with no details. A W. Kingbird was west to Jordan River, V.I., Sept. 18 (KT), and an E. Kingbird was at Ecola S.P., Cannon Beach, OR, Aug. 29 (Jan Kapan, *fide* HN).

Seven Tree Swallows lingered at Reifel I., BC, until Oct. 27 (H. & JM), with one still there Nov. 11 (JJ). A flock of 500 Violet-green Swallows over Toketee L., OR, Oct. 10 was late (DFi). About 44+ Bank Swallows were noted. These high numbers have become usual in the last few years. One at the Nehalem sewage ponds, OR, Sept. 25 (EE, TM) was the latest A Cliff Swallow at Sauvie I. Nov. 20 provided the first November record for Oregon (JG, JJ, DP). More than 300 Barn Swallows were still present Sept. 13–14 at Tillamook, OR (HN), and at Steigerwald L., Clark, WA (WC). Five in Portland Nov. 12 (JJ) and six at Reifel I., BC, Nov. 22 (JJ) were the last lingerers noted.

**JAYS TO CROSSBILLS** — A Scrub Jay was west to Grays River, Wahkiakum, WA, Oct. 26 (Bob Pyle, *fide* AR) for one day only. Single Rock Wrens were noted Nov. 13–20 in a quarry at Yaquina Head, OR (JJ, K. Liska) and Nov. 29–Dec. 1 along the breakwater at Wreck Beach, Vancouver, BC (M Gebauer, †MPR). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was in heavy Ceanothus brush near the Toketee R.S., OR, Aug. 12 (DFi). This is north of its usual range in *Josephine* and *Jackson*. A stray Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen Nov. 10–12 along Thomas Creek, e. of Scio, Linn, OR (Pat Waldron, M & EE, ph.). Another was reported from the S.J.C.R. with no details.

On Oct. 1 an imm. **Northern Wheatear** was seen in a field near the entrance to Finley N.W.R., Benton, OR (†Hendrik Herlyn) for only the 2nd record for the state. A Wrentit was a little farther north than usual in the Willamette Valley at Baskett Slough N.W.R. Aug. 5 (BB). Single N. Mockingbirds were seen Aug. 2 at Lena L., at 1750' on the e. slope of the Olympic Mts., Wash. (MC) and Oct. 2 at Siletz Key, n. Lincoln, OR (PP, *fide* DFa). A **Brown Thrasher** was seen Oct. 13 on the n. shore of Orcas I., WA (†E. & T. Norwood) for only the 2nd documented record for the state. An imm. White/Black-backed Wagtail was seen briefly Sept. 11 at Jordan River, V.I. (KT). The first N. Shrikes arrived on schedule Oct. 2 in Delta, BC (CG), Oct. 4 on Sauvie I., OR (DI), and Oct. 6 near Sequim, WA (SS). A Loggerhead Shrike found Oct. 23 in Redmond (†James West) furnished the 2nd fall record for w. Washington.

Single Solitary Vireos at Jericho Park, Vancouver, BC, Sept. 25 (RC) and at Comox, V.I., Oct. 5 (Brent Diakow) were very late, as were single Warbling Vireos in Vancouver, BC, Sept. 27 & 30 (BL, BK). A ♂ **Black-throated Blue Warbler** seen closely Nov. 3 at Ruby Beach, Jefferson, WA (†Marcus Roening) provided the first record for the state. Single **Magnolia Warblers** were seen Sept. 10 at the S.J.C.R. (†JG) for the 3rd



**O** utstanding rarities took the spotlight in the fall of 1988. Northern Monterey County was the focal point of activity with three first state records, all of Asian origin, and numerous lesser rarities August 28–October 9. Not since the 1960s, when the wealth of eastern vagrants was first being realized at the Tijuana River Valley and the Farallon Islands, have so many state records been found in such a small area and short time period. The difference is that the birds involved 20 years ago are now considered almost routine. Claims that Monterey County is now the “center of the birding universe” are extreme, but it will probably be a long time before any other area of California can match this fall’s performance.

Virtually all “southern” seabirds were in relatively low numbers: Black-vented Shearwater, Black and Least storm-petrels, Brown Pelican, Heermann’s Gull, Elegant Tern, and Xantus’ Murrelet. Also low were *Podiceps* grebes, Arctic (and Common?) Tern, and Ancient Murrelet. All other shearwaters, Ashy Storm-Petrel, Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers, Sabine’s Gull, and Craveri’s Murrelet were in normal numbers. Above normal were albatrosses, Long-tailed Jaeger, South Polar Skua, Caspian Tern, and Tufted Puffin.

Among landbirds many insectivores remained late, owing perhaps to the mild weather (drought). Montane irruptives were scarce or virtually absent along the coast and Central Valley: Red-breasted Nuthatch, thrushes, and finches. The notable exceptions were Lewis’ Woodpecker and Golden-crowned Kinglet. The vagrant season was very good in terms of quantity and quality.

We are grateful to Kurt F. Campbell for compiling the landbird reports for Yee’s analysis.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — C.B.R.C. = California Bird Records Committee; C.C.R.S. = Coyote Creek Riparian banding Station, Santa Clara; C.V. = Central Valley; F.I. = Southeast Farallon Island; G.G.R.O. = Golden Gate Raptor Observatory; S.F. = San Francisco; ph. = photo on file with Regional Editors. All records from S.E. Farallon I. and Palomarin should be credited to Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.).

**LOONS TO PELICANS** — An emaciated imm. Yellow-billed Loon was found dead near Trinidad, *Humboldt*, Nov. 2 (S. Shannon, \*H.S.U., ph. GSL, ph. LPL). About 12 Laysan Albatrosses at Cordell Bank, *Marin*, Nov. 26 (R. Norden) lingered to the point of boring some birders (!). Four Wilson’s Storm-Petrels were in Monterey Bay Aug. 21 (DGY, DLSh), after which one to two were seen through Oct. 16 (DLSh, m.ob.). Another Wilson’s was at Cordell Bank Oct. 23 (KFC). Very unusual was the Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel over S.F. Bay at Hayward Shoreline, *Alameda*, Aug. 28 (RJR). Although a few were offshore Monterey this fall, there was no other onshore movement or wreck. Nearly as notable was the Leach’s Storm-Petrel only 4 mi off Pt. Pinos Oct. 1 (JLD), as this species is almost unknown close to the mainland in c. California. Estimates of Least Storm-Petrels in the Monterey Bay storm-petrel flocks Aug. 21 ranged from three (DLSh) to 10 (DGY), with only one to two on 4 dates through Oct. 16 (DLSh, SFB). Never reaching their fall numbers of the past few years, Brown Pelicans also departed much earlier. By October they were gone from *Santa Clara* (PMB, WGB) and down to double-digit high counts on the *Santa Cruz* coast compared to thousands in October 1987 (DLSu).

**HERONS TO WATERFOWL** — A Snowy Egret x Little Blue Heron at Charleston Slough, *Santa Clara*, Aug. 7–Nov. 24 (PJM, +WGB, +Tovar, m.ob.) furnished at least the 4th south S.F. Bay record. A pair of ad. Little Blue Herons with a just-fledged juvenile near Alviso, *Santa Clara*, Aug. 5 (P. Woodin) furnished the first proof of successful nesting of a pure pair

of this species in the Region (Morlan & Erickson 1988 Supplement to *The Birds of Northern California* Golden Gate Aud Soc.). Probably this same immature was seen at Alviso Sept 17 (†JM), and an adult was seen at Hayward Shoreline Sept 11–12 (T. Condit, RJR).

Cattle Egret breeding numbers in the San Joaquin Valley were down slightly and only small numbers were recorded dispersing coastally north to *Del Norte*, in keeping with the downward trend the past 3–4 years. On the other hand, White-faced Ibises continued their remarkable expansion with 715 in one small field at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Aug. 12 (RE, MFRb) coming from the estimated “total refuge population of over 1000 birds” (MFRb). Elsewhere the peak count reported from the C.V. was of 300 near *Davis, Yolo*, Aug. 25 (MP).

A fair coastal movement of Greater White-fronted Geese was recorded with the high count at L. Earl, *Del Norte*, Oct 1, where a flock of 43 included two “Tule” Geese (†ADB) for the first coastal record north of *Alameda*. Ring-necked Ducks returned early with 4 reports from the s. half of the Region Sept. 4–18. State record counts of Harlequin Ducks (43) and Black Scoters (250) were obtained at Pt. Saint George, *Del Norte*, Oct. 24 and Nov. 14, respectively (ADB).

**RAPTORS** — Despite much early-season fog, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory’s migration counts at Pt. Diablo, *Marin*, Aug. 3–Dec. 11 scored new season highs for eight species 102 Ospreys, 438 N. Harriers, 3887 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 11 N Goshawks, 69 Rough-legged Hawks, 65 Merlins, 28 Peregrine Falcons, and 17 Prairie Falcons. This contrasted with low totals of 1266 Cooper’s Hawks and 295 Am. Kestrels.

Goshawk dates at Pt. Diablo spanned Aug. 6 to Nov. 27, with an astounding five on Oct. 19 (G.G.R.O.). Perhaps the latter count included some duplication of a bird returning to the observation point, as hawks commonly circle back at Pt. Diablo. One also worries that novice hawkwatchers/banders may have misidentified some of the 11 goshawks. Of 60 Broad-winged Hawks passing Pt. Diablo Sept. 13–Nov. 28, 12 did so on the first day (G.G.R.O.). Five other Broad-winged in *Marin*, *San Mateo*, and *Santa Cruz* were detected Sept. 8–Nov. 29. As in the good old days there were large feeding flocks of Swainson’s Hawks in C.V. fields. Near Patterson, *Stanislaus*, 85 were counted Aug. 3 (HMR, SLR, J. Obers). *Yolo* produced many high counts, including 46 near *Woodland* Aug. 6 (BED, PBS), 100 near *Davis* Sept. 4–7 (DES, AMF), and 200+ near *Davis* Sept. 25 (TCo). A dark-morph Swainson’s Hawk at *Staten I*, *San Joaquin*, Nov. 20 was late (RbL, RAR *et al.*). The 75 dark-morph Red-tailed Hawks passing Pt. Diablo represented 2 12% of the total 3542 (G.G.R.O.). An imm. Ferruginous Hawk at *Big L*, *Shasta*, Aug. 15 (SFB) was the earliest of various “early” records. Rough-legged Hawks staged their biggest irruption in more than 15 years, beginning with an early bird Oct 7 at *Carmel* (DGY). The 69 at Pt. Diablo was 4 times the previous high of 17 in 1984 (G.G.R.O.). Ten even reached F.I. (P.R.B.O.) The American Canyon Rock Quarry, *Napa*, certainly attracts Golden Eagles; 11 were together there Oct. 27 (CLO).

**MOORHEN TO SHOREBIRDS** — A Com. Moorhen at June L., *Mono*, Sept. 23 (LJP *et al.*) and a Sandhill Crane at the Mad R. mouth, *Humboldt*, Nov. 6 (RLeV *et al.*) were east and west of their normal Regional ranges respectively.

Reports were received of 90+ Lesser Golden-Plovers on the coast and 20+ inland. The forms *dominica* and *fulva* were identified in about equal numbers on the coast, but *fulva* outnumbered *dominica* by almost 4:1 at traditional wintering sites while *dominica* was on top nearly 2:1 elsewhere. Inland birds were divided nearly 2:1 in favor of *dominica*, with *fulva* identified only at traditional wintering sites in *San Joaquin* and *Stanislaus*. Eight hundred “exhausted” Semipalmated Plovers at L. Talawa, *Del Norte*, Sept. 2 (ADB) made a large migratory concentration. In *Santa Cruz*, migration was re-

corded later than expected with a peak count of 75 at the Pajaro R. mouth Oct. 29 (CKf, RAM) and stragglers noted to Dec 7 (DEG). Point Reyes hosted its 2nd juv. **Eurasian Dotterel** only 2 years after the first. Unlike its predecessor, this one proved very difficult to find during its Sept. 10–13 visit and was seen by only a fortunate few (MJL, ph. Sandy Komito). The only other state record is from nearby F.I.

The Region's 2nd **Spotted Redshank** (California's 4th) was at Staten I., *San Joaquin*, Nov. 19–20 (MJL, †TDM, †JM *et al.*). The late date and prime habitat (witness 10,000+ Long-billed Dowitchers there Oct. 22—MJL) certainly suggested the possibility of wintering, as has occurred in Oregon (S. Jetty, Columbia R., Feb. 21–Mar. 15, 1981). A count of 120+ Lesser Yellowlegs at L. Earl, *Del Norte* Sept. 1 (ADB) is the highest Regional count since 1977, when 186 were seen at adjacent L. Talawa on Aug. 22. Wandering Tattlers were found inland at the Salinas sewage ponds (three Sept. 20—BHG) and the Hollister sewage ponds Oct. 8 (*San Benito's* first—RE, †MFRb).

Certainly the season's most observed bird was the ad. **Terek Sandpiper** at Carmel River State Beach Aug. 28–Sept. 23 (E.M. Wilson, B.R. Harriman, ph. m.ob.). The only other North American record outside of Alaska was in British Columbia the previous fall. The Region's 4th **Hudsonian Godwit** (a juvenile) at Carmel River State Beach Aug. 28 (SEF) was found as a direct result of the Terek Sandpiper. To the delight of many observers, apparently the same godwit settled in at the Salinas R. mouth Sept. 4–Oct. 3 (ph. †WEH, SMS, ph. m.ob.), where it in turn resulted in the finding of the Region's 5th **Bar-tailed Godwit** (a juvenile) Sept. 11 (†SFB *et al.*). Another **Bar-tailed Godwit** followed soon thereafter at Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, Sept. 20 (†KFH).

A Sanderling at the Sacramento Metro Airport sewage ponds Sept. 6 (†TDM) was *Sacramento's* first, and one of eight interior birds this period. Over 40 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported in August and September with one in Siskiyou, six in the C.V., and the rest coastal. Another discovery by Terek Sandpiper "chasers" was California's first **Long-toed Stint**. The well-marked juvenile was thankfully easy to see at the Salinas sewage ponds Aug. 29–Sept. 2 (B.E. Daniels, †MAP, m.ob.). Seven Sharp-tailed Sandpipers along the coast Sept. 18–Oct. 23 represented a moderate showing. Fourteen Stilt Sandpipers topped last fall's record 11. All were coastal Aug. 7–Oct. 27 except for one at L. Shastina, Siskiyou, Sept. 22–26 (RE, †MFRb) and one at the Ceres sewage ponds, *Stanislaus*, Sept. 23 (HMR).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers continued to grace the Region, with at least 15 found this season. Three or more were at lakes Talawa/Earl, *Del Norte*, Aug. 29–Sept. 12 (ph. †ADB *et al.*), *Alameda's* first was at Hayward Shoreline Sept. 18–19 (†PEG, †RJR, †JM *et al.*), and, surprisingly, two were inland: L. Shastina Sept. 16–17 (†MFRb, ph. RE) and the Hollister sewage ponds, *San Benito's* first, Sept. 30 (†KVV). The rest were at Pt. Reyes, where up to nine were at the Spaletta Ranch/plateau Sept. 9–13 (RS, †DAH, †JM, †MAP *et al.*). Additional sightings at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 15–18 (one—DWM *et al.*) and the Hall Ranch Sept. 17 (two—J. McCormick) may have involved these same individuals. Ruffs were found at Laguna Cr Marsh, *Santa Cruz*, Aug. 23–Sept. 2 (DEG *et al.*), Bodega Harbor Oct. 22–30 (L. Cumrack, ph. DN *et al.*), and Staten I., *San Joaquin*, Nov. 25 (DGY).

Red Phalaropes were reported primarily in 2 major waves nearly 3 months apart! Up to 5000 were in the vicinity of F.I. in mid-August (P.R.B.O., ToJ) and 1000 were on Monterey Bay Aug. 26 (SFB). Later, 750–2000 were at Cordell Bank Oct. 30 (SFB, RS *et al.*), hundreds were in the vicinity of Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino*, Nov. 10–12 (DT), 1600 were on Monterey Bay Nov. 14 (AB), and 3000+ were at the Smith R. estuary, *Del Norte*, Nov. 17 (ADB, PFS). One was seen inland, at Mono L. Sept. 25 (JRJ).

**JAEGERS TO ALCIDS**—Seventeen boat trips found Long-tailed Jaegers off c. California Aug. 11–Oct. 9, with 54

over Sur Canyon, *Monterey*, Sept. 10 (DLSh) almost equaling 1987's record count of 57. South Polar Skuas were nearly as abundant as last year, with 22 boats finding them Aug. 27–Oct. 23 and multiples on 15 trips. The high was 11 offshore *Monterey* Sept. 11 (DLSh, JiD).

Only two Franklin's Gulls were found in the C.V. (both at Stockton sewage ponds—DGY), but six appeared along the coast; two to four were at Crowley L. and/or Mono L., *Mono*, and one visited Prosser L., *Nevada*, Aug. 15 (MDH). The latter areas reflect the increasing trend of this gull in e. California. A first-year Little Gull in Monterey Bay Oct. 16 (DaS, AB, †RER) preceded an adult at Lodi sewage ponds Nov. 16 (†DGY). The ad. Com. Black-headed Gull at Hayward Shoreline, *Alameda*, Aug. 28 (†RJR) was the first in the Region since February 1986, when the long-time Stockton adult was last seen. Single first-year Glaucous Gulls cruised the waters from F.I. to Fanny Shoal, *Marin*, Oct. 24–30 (P.R.B.O., †W. Keener, ph. C. Coccoli) and soared over Watsonville, *Santa Cruz*, Nov. 20 (DLSu). Between two and six Sabine's Gulls frequented Crowley L. and/or Mono L., *Mono*, Aug. 6–Oct. 11 (ES, m.ob.), and others were inland at Tule L., Siskiyou, Oct. 18–23 (ph. RE, MFRb) and Martinez, *Contra Costa*, Oct. 26 (C. Cutler). Sabine's Gulls ashore in *Humboldt* were at Arcata Oct. 14 (†FJB) and Trinidad Nov. 9 (RAE, GSL), the latter being late.

An ad. Royal Tern at Sunset State Beach, *Santa Cruz*, Aug. 29 (DLSu) was well north of its current range. Despite the low numbers of Elegant Terns in the S.F. Bay area, 30 were unusually far inland at Baumberg Tract salt ponds, Hayward, Aug. 20 (SFB). Annually during July–August, 1000+ Black Terns appear in the Klamath Basin, Siskiyou and Modoc (MFRb), making this the only part of our Region where this species remains numerous. We welcome any counts of this species. Again on Aug. 12 an ad. Black Skimmer was found at Pajaro R. mouth, *Santa Cruz* and *Monterey* (DLSu). A Thick-billed Murre flying S past F.I. Oct. 29 was convincingly compared with the Com. Murres it had joined (†PP). The last 1988 Horned Puffin was near F.I. Sept. 17 (ToJ).

**DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS**—For the 3rd fall in a row our coastline was graced with seven White-winged Doves Aug. 26–Oct. 22. Prior to 1985, our Region had totaled only about 30 of these doves! A vagrant Lesser Nighthawk at Petaluma Nov. 20 (†DN) provided *Sonoma's* 2nd record. There is none yet for counties to the north. There was nothing vagrant about Com. Nighthawk in *Mono*, as 250 were at Crowley L. Aug. 13 (PEL). One at Dechambeau Cr., *Mono*, Sept. 18 (ES) was the latest ever for the Mono Basin (Gaines 1988, *Birds of Yosemite*, Artemisia Press). Reports of this species past mid-September are extremely rare, but a just-fledged bird from a closely watched nest at Arcata Oct. 3 (C. Ogan) may suggest something about the origin of these late birds. Amazing were 17 Black-chinned Hummingbirds at C.C.R.S. July 27–Sept. 28 with breeding detected nearby (no details on the breeding). The few migrant reports of this species through the immediate S.F. Bay area have always been considered extralimital, while breeding records appear to be nil. Explanations are few... perhaps the drought, or identification problems when not in the hand?

Two more counties tallied first records of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: *Stanislaus* at Frank Raines Park Oct. 8–9 (†HMR, SLR, ERC) and *Solano* at Gates Canyon Road Nov. 19 (†MBG). They may prove as regular as Red-naped Sapsucker w. of the Sierran crest as we learn to distinguish between the two; e.g., the only extralimital Red-naped reported was from Ft. Mason, S.F. Oct. 11 (M. Butler).

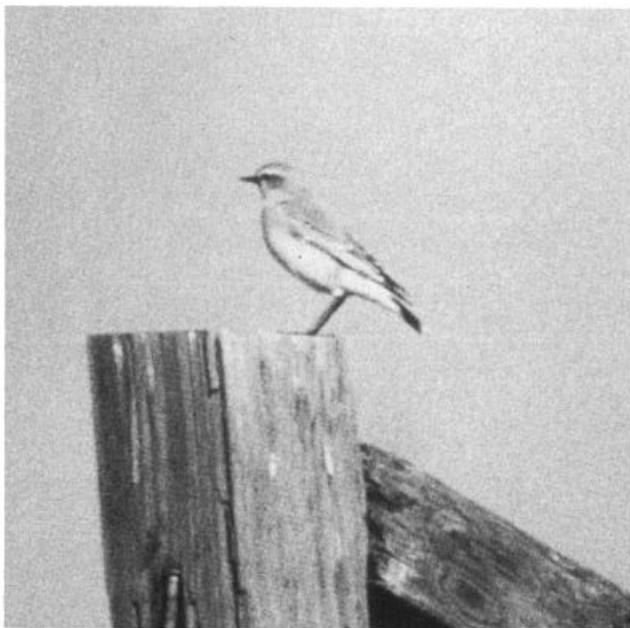
A pair of *Contopus* flycatchers lingered long enough to be Thanksgiving treats in *Santa Cruz* as our latest-ever Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Palm Beach Grove Nov. 25 while a wood-pewee sp. at Corralitos Cr. Nov. 26 was the Region's 2nd latest (both †DLSu). A well studied *Empidonax* at Pt

Saint George, Del Norte, Sept. 13 was strongly felt to be a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (†ADB). However, the C.B.R.C. has accepted only two previous birds netted on F.I. In addition to four Least Flycatchers on F.I. Sept. 2–24, four were in Marin Sept. 9–21, the C.V.'s first was at Lodi L., San Joaquin Sept. 5 († DGY), and one was near Ferndale, Humboldt, Oct. 16–19 (GSL, FJB, †RAE). Significant among 12 Hammond's Flycatchers were the first fall records for Monterey: Carmel R. mouth Sept. 16 († BGE) and Pacific Grove Sept. 17–18 († DR, RER, RFT). An impressive 400 W. Flycatchers were banded at C.C.R.P. Aug. 1–Oct. 15 with a peak in mid-September. One at Lodi L., San Joaquin, Nov. 30 (DGY) was late. Cornering all three of our E. Phoebes was F.I. with arrivals Sept. 24, Oct. 20, and Nov. 16.

An Ash-throated Flycatcher on F.I. Nov. 20 was the latest ever there. Very rare **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at Creighton Ranch, Tulare, Oct. 7–10 († RH) for the state's first interior record, and at the Carmel R. mouth, Oct. 9 († MCM et al.). Kingbirds staged a royal gathering in the Region as a record high 35 Tropicals Sept. 16–Nov. 18, eight coastal West-erns Aug. 26–Oct. 12, and 11 coastal Easterns Aug. 29–Oct. 1 were observed.

**SWALLOWS TO VIREOS** — Staging fall Bank Swallows are rarely encountered, so 500 at n. Crowley L., Mono, Aug. 23 (PJM) were noteworthy. One at F.I. Oct. 27 was very late. A Barn Swallow at Tule L. Nov. 8 (RE) was Siskiyou's latest ever. A Yellow-billed Magpie at Spring Valley, Lake (county first), Nov. 17 (JPM) was joined by another Dec. 2 (JRW, N. White). A Rock Wren at the Modesto Sewage Ponds, Stanislaus, Oct. 2 (HMR) was unusual for the C.V. floor, while a Canyon Wren at Pine Canyon Sept. 14–27 (KGH, RJR) was the first seen on Mt. Diablo, Contra Costa, in about 40 years (KGH).

The state's 3rd **Northern Wheatear** (first since September 1977) brought the mobs to the Sacramento Valley near Kirkwood, Tehama, Oct. 13–15 (SAL, ph. †m.ob.). Yet another was on F.I. Nov. 6–10 († RPH), the site of the state's first in June 1971. **Veery** and **Gray-cheeked Thrush** were dealt to us in mixed pairs on Pt. Reyes as one of each was present Oct. 7 († RS, †BiL) and Oct. 15 († DDeS et al.). There are fewer than 10 acceptable sightings of each for the Region.



*Northern Wheatear near Orland, Tehama County, California, October 14, 1988. Photograph/Jon L. Dunn.*



*Brown Thrasher at Point Reyes, California, October 16, 1988. Photograph/Peter LaTourrette.*

Mimicking last fall's high numbers, five Brown Thrashers were seen: Mono L. Aug. 10 (DAsh) and four coastal birds Sept. 23–Nov. 30. The **Bendire's Thrasher** returned to the same hedgerow near Acampo, San Joaquin, Oct. 15 and later (DGY) for the 3rd time in 4 years. Arguably the best among Monterey's potpourri of Siberian strays was North America's first **Gray Wagtail** s. of Alaska at the Salinas R. mouth Oct. 9–10 (DaS, ph. †m.ob.). For the 4th fall out of the past 5, Red-throated Pipit was observed: one at the Salinas R. mouth Oct. 3 († G. Rosenberg) and singles at F.I. Oct. 6–7 & 27 (both †PP).

Sorting out Solitary Vireos this fall revealed two coastal "Eastern" birds and three of the "Plumbeous" form. Three Philadelphia Vireos were found along the coast: Carmel Oct. 3 (DaS, RS, †JLD) and two at Pt. Reyes Sept. 22 († ScC) and Oct. 8 († GF, †KH, †DAH). Three **Yellow-green Vireos** constituted our first multiple-sighting season of this straggler from the south. Singles were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 30 (ph. PLaT), Pacific Grove Oct. 9–12 († ph. SEF, ph. †m.ob.), and F.I. Oct. 25 († PP).



*Yellow-green Vireo at Pacific Grove, California, October 9, 1988. Photograph/Shawneen Finnegan.*

**WOOD WARBLERS**—For the 2nd straight fall many vagrant warblers were seen in above-average numbers Tennessee, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Palm, Black-and-white, Am. Redstart, Ovenbird, and N. Waterthrush. September appeared to be the peak period of movement and, as usual, most were along the immediate coast unless otherwise noted.

Single Virginia's Warblers were at F.I. Sept. 8–9 & 13 with additional ones in Pescadero, *San Mateo*, Oct. 10–11 († RSTh, DK) and Palm Beach Grove, *Santa Cruz*, Oct. 5–6 († CKf, ELb). A very rare Lucy's Warbler was at F.I. Nov. 1–2. We have averaged fewer than one per year this decade. Only three N. Parulas Sept. 9–Oct. 10 illustrated their scarcity in fall compared to spring.

An interior Magnolia Warbler was banded at Modoc N.W.R. Oct. 10 (C. McMarthy). Cape May Warbler was not reported, for the first fall in over 18 years! This is consistent with the species becoming an increasingly rare vagrant in the state, despite good numbers last fall. A Black-throated Blue Warbler was slightly inland at Sunnyvale, *Santa Clara*, Sept. 25 (PJM). A fascinating bird thought to be a "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler x Townsend's Warbler hybrid was closely monitored at Pt. Reyes Oct. 8–10 († DAH, †KH, †RAE *et al.*). There appear to be few records of this blend.

Four Black-throated Green Warblers Oct. 15–27 did not represent unusual numbers, but 14 Blackburnian Warblers Sept. 16–Oct. 23 and 13 Prairie Warblers Sept. 7–Oct. 28 made the highest fall totals in 8 years. As usual, F.I. had the squeeze on Bay-breasted Warblers, with two Sept. 24 & 26, while Pt. Reyes had the other one Oct. 8 (DAH). The ad. ♀ Black-and-white Warbler that was banded at Modoc N.W.R. in July was seen again Aug. 21–27 (JSC, ECKb). Of interest was the ♂ Am. Redstart returning to winter in Pescadero from Oct. 29 on (RSTh, SEF). Our lone Prothonotary and Worm-eating warblers were at Pt. Reyes Sept. 29 († ScC) and Sept. 9 (KH, †PP, ph RS), respectively. A N. Waterthrush was inland at Manzanita L., *Shasta*, Aug. 15 (DPM). The Region scored **Kentucky Warbler** for the 2nd straight fall with one at F.I. Sept. 9–10 († ph. SFB). Our solo Connecticut Warbler was netted at Lanphere Dunes, *Humboldt*, Sept. 9–16 (JCS, †GSL *et al.*). This represents our first acceptable record for the n. coast. Three Mourning Warblers were noted: F.I. Aug. 30 († ph. PP) and Sept. 8–10 († ph. SFB), and the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 8 († DR *et al.*). A late MacGillivray's Warbler was at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, Oct. 30–Nov. 4 (PJM). Three Hooded Warblers Aug. 21–Sept. 26 and six Canada Warblers Aug. 22–Oct. 26 were slightly more than average.

**GROSBEAKS TO FINCHES**—Only three coastal Rose-breasted Grosbeaks trickled through, Aug. 1–Sept. 13, with an apparent Rose-breasted x Black-headed Grosbeak hybrid noted on F.I. Oct. 21. A lingering Lazuli Bunting was at Almaden Res., *Santa Clara*, Nov. 15 († JMa). An ad. ♂ Indigo Bunting found near Laird Slough, Stanislaus (county first), Aug. 2–7 († HMR *et al.*) in the company of nesting Lazulis led to the discovery of an ad. ♀ Indigo there Aug. 4–13 († HMR, † DGY). An additional inland bird was near Woodland, *Yolo*, Aug. 9 (M. Crawford), while one at F.I. Nov. 20 was very late. An apparent Lazuli x Indigo Bunting hybrid was studied at Bolinas Lagoon Aug. 27 (RMS).

A deceased Dickcissel was found at Alpine L., *Marin*, Sept. 19 (R. Brown), and live ones were at F.I. Sept. 2 (two) & 30. A wayward Rufous-sided Towhee was among the pelagics 41 mi s.w. of Pt. Pinos Sept. 24 (DR, DLSu) when it boarded a research boat. A very rare Cassin's Sparrow was at F.I. Sept. 13 († DDK) where all previous fall records were produced.

Ten coastal Lark Buntings Aug. 27–Sept. 11 were balanced by three in the Mono Basin: one at Crowley L. Sept. 24 (HG *et al.*) and two at Mono L. Sept. 25 (*fide* ES). Two Grasshopper Sparrows on Sonora Rd., e. Stanislaus, Oct. 15–16 (HMR, SLR) were at an unusual locale, while three Sharp-tailed Sparrows

Oct. 25–Nov. 24 were at coastal estuaries. A White-throated Sparrow at Pt. Reyes Sept. 4 (T. Babineaux) was very early. Our two Harris' Sparrows were singles at the Pier 98 Landfill, S.F., Oct. 23 and later (ASH, m.ob.) and along Hayward Shoreline, *Alameda*, Nov. 17 (RJR). Two very rare "Gray-headed" Juncos were well studied and considered "pure": McKinleyville, *Humboldt*, Oct. 7 and later (RLeV, †RAE, †GSL *et al.*) for a first for the n. coast, and Moraga, *Contra Costa*, Nov. 19–25 (GA, †JM, m.ob.).

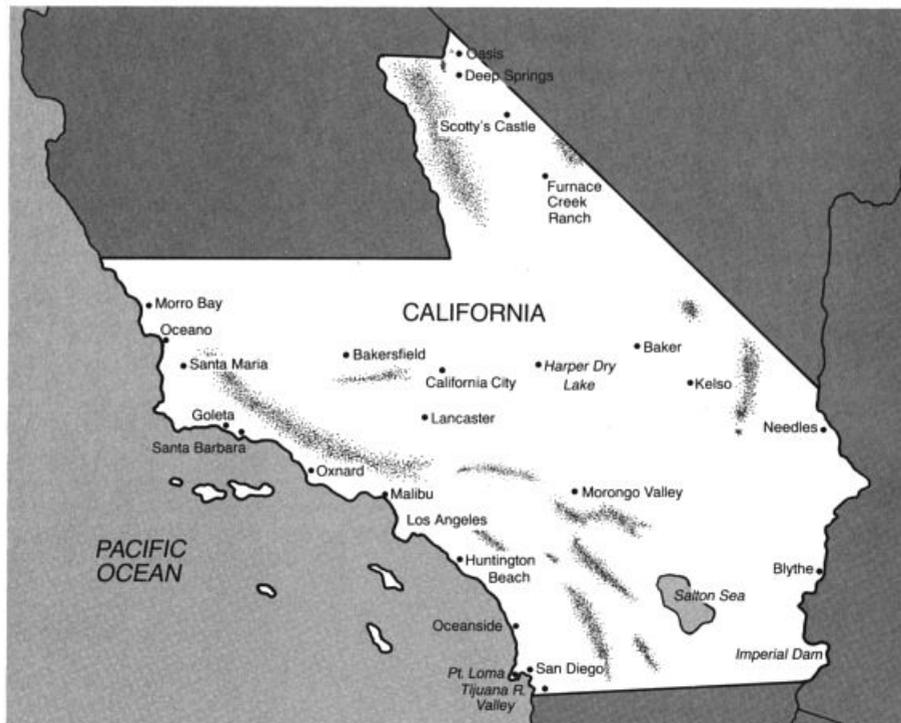
A Lapland Longspur near the confluence of Pescadero Cr. and the Pajaro R., *Santa Clara*, Oct. 15 († DLSu) was slightly inland and furnished a county first. Farther inland, a Chestnut-collared Longspur in the Panoche Valley Oct. 29 (DSg) was San Benito's first. The Region's (and the state's) 2nd **Rustic Bunting** was enjoyed by a handful of people along Pilarcitos Cr. in Half Moon Bay Nov. 25–27 († DK, †JM, †MAP, †DR, †RSTh). A Snow Bunting was at F.I. Oct. 27 († PP). Twenty-three Bobolinks lined the coast Aug. 25–Oct. 20 including two in the south S.F. Bay system. Interesting were four near Cedarville, *Modoc*, Aug. 15 (†TDM, AM) and one at Manzanita L., *Shasta*, Aug. 15 (DPM). The former locale was near the area where breeding has been strongly suspected. Our lone Rusty Blackbird was at Pt. Reyes Oct. 7 (RS, BIL). **Del Norte's 2nd Common Grackle** was in Crescent City Nov. 10–12 (ADB, †RAE, †LPL *et al.*). Five coastal Orchard Orioles Sept. 13–Oct. 30 included what was apparently last year's male returning to Pacific Grove Oct. 10 and later (N. Bain, m.ob.). Evening Grosbeak was ever the enigma: rarely encountered except for "hundreds" around Markleville, *Alpine*, Oct. 23 (WEH).

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# SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie



None of the storms that regularly form in the Gulf of Alaska and move southward along the Pacific Coast reached southern California with significant strength, leaving the Region with below-average rainfall going into the winter season. Pelagic birds appeared scarce off the coast, particularly off the southern portion of the Region. Nothing exceptional was to be found among the waterfowl, but shorebirds passed through the Region in better than average numbers, and with an interesting variety of rarities among them. Numbers of our regularly occurring West Coast migrants appeared to be significantly lower than normal with wintering species like Yellow-rumped Warblers scarcer than normal. There was little indication of a movement of mountain species into the lowlands as occurred a year ago, and American Robins and Cedar Waxwings failed to arrive in force from the north. However, we were treated to an exciting variety of rarities that included vagrants from Asia and western Mexico along with those from the eastern United States.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — F.C.R. = Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo; H.D.L. = Harper Dry Lake, northeast of Barstow, San Bernardino; N.E.S.S. = north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside; S.B.C.M. = San Bernardino County Museum, Bloomington; S.C.R.E. = Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura; S.E.S.S. = south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial. Place names in *italics* are counties. 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 TO FRIGATEBIRDS** — Two Pacific Loons, rarely found inland, were on Quail L., Los Angeles, Oct. 27 (MH). Up to three Com. Loons at F.C.R. Oct. 22–29 (MAP) were at an unusual locality. A **Least Grebe** near Niland, Imperial, Nov. 19 to the end of the period (JM) gave us the first documented occurrence of this species in California since 1946, when the finding of six adults and three young along the Colorado R. immediately below Imperial Dam in October added the species to the State list. Two Horned Grebes, rare inland, at China L., Kern, Oct. 19 (DVB) were followed by two



*Least Grebe near Niland, California, November 22, 1988. Second state record. Photograph/Gerald Maisel.*

more on Tinnemaha Res., Inyo, Nov. 19 (GMcC), 10 at L. Silverwood, San Bernardino, Nov. 9 (CMcG), and another at N.E.S.S. Nov. 25 (DS).

Cook's Petrels were again found off the coast with 55 between Aug. 11 & 18 (RRV) and 13 on Oct. 13 & 14 (BL), all well beyond 100 mi from shore. A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare in s. California waters, was seen off Morro Bay Sept. 24 (BS), and another was near San Nicolas I., Oct. 18 (RRV). Thirty Buller's Shearwaters off Morro Bay Sept. 24 (TME), four there Oct. 22 (BED), and 60 off Oceano Oct. 25 (RRV) were all in an area where this species undoubtedly occurs regularly in fall. Six Short-tailed Shearwaters, somewhat sporadic in s. California waters, were in the San Pedro Channel off Long Beach Nov. 20 (KLG), and another was near Santa Cruz I. Nov. 27 (BA). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel, casual in s. California waters, was seen a few miles south of Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara, Aug. 20 (RRV); another was found about 30 mi west of San Diego Aug. 28 (GMcC); and what may well have been the same individual was in the same area Sept. 10 (WR).

The only Red-billed Tropicbirds reported were all well offshore with four about 100 mi off the coast and west of the Channel Is. between Aug. 14 & 19 (RRV) and another in the same general area Oct. 21 (RRV). An ad. **Brown Booby** attracted to a Los Angeles Audubon Society pelagic boat trip 2-3 mi southeast of Santa Barbara I. Oct. 15 (JKA) could have been the same bird seen in this area Oct. 29, 1983 (*Am. Birds* 38:246, 1984) and Mar. 25, 1984 (*Am. Birds* 38:958, 1984) since the only other recorded occurrence of this species in s. California waters is of one remaining around San Miguel I. for 7 years in the 1960s. An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird over San Diego Sept. 6 (JR) was the latest reported this year.

**HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS** — An imm. Little Blue Heron at Pt. Mugu, Ventura, Aug. 21 (RJM) and another on L. Elsinore, Riverside, Aug. 29 (RMcK) were the only ones found away from coastal San Diego. An imm. Tricolored Heron on s. San Diego Bay Nov. 28 through the end of the period (EC) was the first to be found locally in 2 years, this species being now much rarer in s. California than it was 20 years ago. An ad. Reddish Egret on s. San Diego Bay Sept. 11 through the end of the period (GMcC) was the same bird with a slightly deformed upper mandible that has spent the past 6 winters on San Diego Bay; an immature first seen at the nearby Tijuana R. mouth Aug. 3 (PP) and another immature first seen at the San Diego R. mouth Nov. 20 (BF) both appeared to be wintering locally. Twenty-two White-faced Ibises near Santa Maria Oct. 7-8 (PEL) constituted a large number for this area, and three in El Monte Nov. 12 (JS) were at an unexpected locality.

Seventy Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were still present at S.E.S.S. Aug. 21 (GMcC), but all had departed shortly thereafter, two photographed at Edwards, Kern, Aug. 20 (MH) gave us the 7th record for interior s. California away from the Salton Sea. As normal a few Tundra Swans reached the n. portion of the Region in November with up to 40 on Tinnemaha Res. after Nov. 11 (JLD); one in Tecopa, Inyo, Nov. 20 (RMcK); and four on Morro Bay Nov. 18 (LT). Since Greater White-fronted Geese are now quite scarce along the coast, five over Morro Bay Oct. 24 (PG), one at the Ventura R. mouth near Ventura after Sept. 29 (RJM), nine near Oxnard Oct. 23 (JSR), 10 flying past Malibu (RSt), and six at Seal Beach Nov. 18-19 (LRH) were all of interest. A Ross' Goose, also scarce along the coast, was at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, Santa Barbara, after Nov. 26 (MAP).

Six Wood Ducks at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Nov. 27 (PEL) were certainly at an unusual locality. A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal in Goleta after Nov. 24 (AB) was undoubtedly the same bird that has spent the past 7 winters at this locality. At least 12 Eur. Wigeon had been found in the Region by the

end of the period, including a somewhat early female photographed at F.C.R. Oct. 13 (JLD) and a male at China L., Kern/San Bernardino, Oct. 9-15 (RAH). The only Oldsquaws reported were one at Cayucos Nov. 15 (TME), two at the Santa Ynez R. mouth after Nov. 29 (AA), one in Santa Barbara after Nov. 27 (BA), and a 5th at Pt. Mugu Nov. 20 (JSR). Twenty Black Scoters off the s. portion of Vandenberg A.F.B. after Nov. 28 (KH) represented a large number for s. California. A ♀ Surf Scoter at N.E.S.S. Nov. 20-26 (MAP) and a White-winged Scoter at Edwards Nov. 26 (MH) were the only scoters found inland. A ♂ Hooded Merganser near Niland Nov. 20 (REW) and a ♀-plumaged bird near El Centro the same day (GMcC) were relatively far south.

The only Broad-winged Hawk reported was an adult in Cambria, San Luis Obispo, Oct. 16 (KAH). A migrant flock of 50-60 Swainson's Hawks near Claremont, Los Angeles/San Bernardino, Oct. 22 (JTB) and a similar sized flock at Warner Springs, San Diego, Oct. 29 (DMcK) were some of the largest such flocks noted in recent years; one over L. Cachuma, Santa Barbara, Oct. 29 (JS) and another near Imperial Beach Oct. 26 (MAP) were along the coast, where now considered casual. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk, a casual straggler to the coast of s. California, was present near Laguna Beach Oct. 22-30 (BB).

A "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk, a race recorded in s. California about a half-dozen times, was carefully studied at F.C.R. Oct. 28-29 (AB); another was just to the north of Big Pine, Inyo, Nov. 11 (JLD); and a 3rd was with a melanistic Red-tailed Hawk at Oasis Dec. 3 (MAP). Ferruginous Hawks appeared to be more numerous and widespread than normal with an adult near Big Pine Aug. 14 (TH) being the earliest ever for the Region. Rough-legged Hawks reached the n. portions of the Region in November —with five in the Deep Springs/Oasis area Nov. 2 (REW), three along the n. coast of San Luis Obispo Nov. 18 (GPS), and one near Santa Maria Nov. 5 (AB)—but went unreported farther south.

**CRANES, SHOREBIRDS** — A Sandhill Crane at F.C.R. Oct. 22 (MAP) was at a most unusual location. Ten Lesser Golden-Plovers of the North American form *dominica* were found between Sept. 10 and Oct. 24, including one inland at H.D.L. Oct. 9 (EAC, \*S.B.C.M.), and 43 birds of the Asiatic form *fulva* were found after July 31, including a somewhat early adult near Santa Maria July 31-Aug. 19 (KAH) and another inland at H.D.L. Oct. 17 (EAC, \*S.B.C.M.); the North American birds are scarce fall migrants primarily along the coast, whereas the Asiatic birds are fall migrants and winter visitors, almost exclusively along the coast. Two juv. Mountain Plovers in Lancaster Sept. 2 (JLD) were unusually early, and one on the open beach just north of Morro Bay Oct. 3 (NM) was at an unusual locality. An Am. Oystercatcher on San Nicolas I. Sept. 18-Nov. 10 (TM) had probably been present since at least Sept. 12, 1987, since undocumented reports from various points around the island have persisted since that time, and individuals on other of the Channel Is have remained for extended periods of time (e.g., one on Anacapa I. May 1964-Oct. 1980). A Black Oystercatcher in Seal Beach Aug. 13 (JBo) was one of a very few ever to be found in Orange.

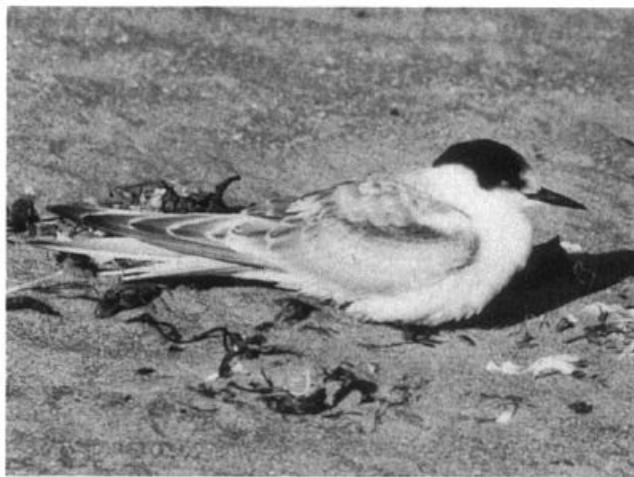
One hundred Solitary Sandpipers were found at various locations within the Region up to Oct. 8 indicating a good movement of these birds through the Region. A Wandering Tattler at S.E.S.S. Aug. 6 (KR) was only the 6th to be found inland in fall. A **Little Curlew** found near Santa Maria Sept. 23 (MJL) was seen again briefly Sept. 24 but not thereafter despite much searching; this was the 2nd ever found in North America (Lehman and Dunn, *Am. Birds* 39:247-250, 1985) and was within 10 mi of the fields frequented for 4 weeks by the 1984 bird. A juv. **Hudsonian Godwit** on San Nicolas I. Sept. 5-16 (TM) was photographed and was only the 4th ever to be found in s. California. Two juv. Ruddy Turnstones in Lancaster (JLD) and four Red Knots near San Jacinto (RMcK) Sept. 2 and another Red Knot in California City, Kern, Sept.

22 (MH) were the only individuals of these 2 species found inland away from the Salton Sea. About 20 Sanderlings found at various locations in Inyo, e. Kern, and San Bernardino Sept. 4–17 were all juveniles, indicating this is the time the young of this species move through our Region. Twenty-five juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers between Aug. 3 and Sept. 5 were fewer than reported last year; these included four together on Tinnemaha Res. Aug. 14 (JLD); one on Owens L., Inyo, Aug. 14 (JLD); one at H.D.L. Sept. 4 (EAC, \*S.B.C.M.); one near Chino, San Bernardino, Aug. 23 (MAP); and another at S.E.S.S. Aug. 21 (GMcC)—all inland. A Little Stint in basic plumage at H.D.L. Nov. 21 (EAC, \*S.B.C.M.) was totally unexpected considering the location and time of year, and added another individual to the remarkable list of Asiatic shorebirds found in California this fall, this being the 4th ever to be found in the state.

The count of at least 270 Baird's Sandpipers Aug. 1–Sept. 28 was about average; one at N.E.S.S. Nov. 20 (REW) was exceptionally late. Early Pectoral Sandpipers in Lancaster Aug. 13 (MMT) and at Edwards Aug. 14 (MH) were followed by 415 ± during September and October, including 75 along the coast near Santa Maria Sept. 24 (PEL), 35 inland at H.D.L. Oct. 5 (EAC), a late individual at S.E.S.S. Nov. 20 (REW), and another still present in Irvine Dec. 1 (DRW). A Stilt Sandpiper near Delano, Kern, Aug. 21 (RSa); one in Baker Sept. 4 (EAC); two more at H.D.L. Sept. 4 (EAC); and one in Long Beach Aug. 11 (BED) were the only ones found away from the Salton Sea, where up to 75 were seen during the period. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a casual straggler to s. California, was photographed at Edwards Sept. 5 (JLD), another was on San Nicolas I. Sept. 5–11 (TM), and a 3rd was on Morro Bay Sept. 10 (RZ). A ♂ Ruff on s. San Diego Bay after Aug. 7 (BP) was the same bird initially found here in October 1982 and has spent the past 6 winters on the bay; another ad. male was near Delano Aug. 21 (JLD), a juvenile was in Malibu Aug. 22–Sept. 3 (KLG), one was at Edwards Sept. 10 (MH), another was in Pico Rivera, Los Angeles, Nov. 20–23 (JS), and a male and female together in El Centro after Nov. 20 (GMcC) appeared to be wintering locally. A molting juv. Red Phalarope photographed at Galileo Hill in extreme e. Kern Sept. 2 (JLD) was at a most unexpected locality.

**JAEGERS TO ALCIDS** — Fifty-five Pomarine Jaegers in the San Pedro Channel off Long Beach Nov. 20 (KLG) represented a relatively large number. A Parasitic Jaeger at N.E.S.S. Sept. 13 (JLD) was the only one reported inland, but coverage of this area was less than in recent years, when small numbers have been found. An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger along the Santa Ana R. in Anaheim Aug. 14 (DRW) was about 18 mi upriver from the coast. Five S. Polar Skuas were reported with two off Morro Bay Sept. 24 (BS), one about 100 mi west of Santa Rosa I. Oct. 21 (RRV), one near San Nicolas I. Aug. 16 (RRV), and another just to the north of that island Oct. 18 (RRV).

An ad. Laughing Gull, casual along the coast, was in Anaheim Aug. 16–Sept. 3 (DRW). Franklin's Gulls were a little more numerous than normal with 17 reported, including an early juvenile at N.E.S.S. Aug. 6 (MAP) followed by another in Malibu Aug. 9 (KLG), two together on Tinnemaha Res. Aug. 14 (PEL), and a somewhat late immature at N.E.S.S. Nov. 20–26 (MAP). An ad. Little Gull, casual in California, at N.E.S.S. Sept. 13 (JLD) appeared to be moving south through the area with a migrant flock of 25 Bonaparte's Gulls. A Heermann's Gull on Bouquet Canyon Res. near Saugus, Los Angeles, Oct. 29 (CY) was some 40 mi inland from the coast. A Mew Gull at N.E.S.S. Nov. 19 (EAC) was the only one found far inland. A Herring Gull, a rare but probably regular migrant through the n.e. portion of the Region, was at China L. Nov. 18 (RAH). Two first-winter Thayer's Gulls at S.E.S.S. Nov. 11 (MAP) and an adult there Nov. 21–25 (JLD) were inland. A first-winter W. Gull carefully studied at S.E.S.S. Nov. 11 (MAP) was one of a very few ever found away from the immediate coast. Single first-winter Glaucous-winged Gulls



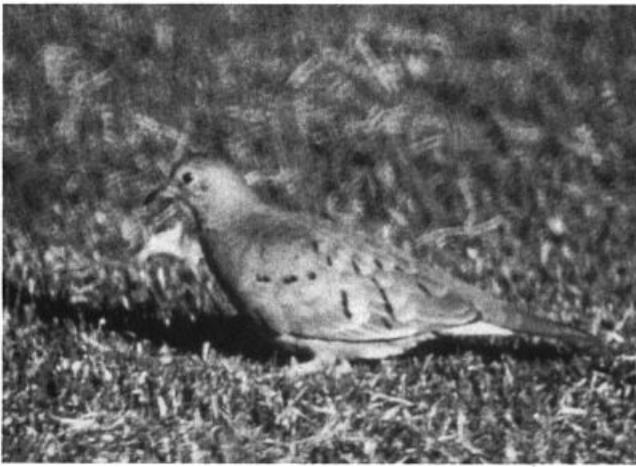
*Juvenile Arctic Tern on shore at Cayucos, California, September 17, 1988. Photograph/Tom Bronstad.*

on L. Perris, Riverside, Nov. 25 (MAP); at N.E.S.S. Nov. 25–26 (DRW); and at S.E.S.S. Nov. 11–26 (GMcC) were also well inland. A somewhat early Glaucous Gull was seen off San Diego Nov. 22 (DP). A first-year Black-legged Kittiwake in Lancaster Nov. 22 (JLD) was the first to be found inland away from the Salton Sea and the Colorado R. An unexpected nine Sabine's Gulls were found inland with an adult on Tinnemaha Res. Aug. 12–14 (TH), single juveniles at China L. Sept. 11 (RAH) and Oct. 2 (RAH), an adult in Lancaster Sept. 2 (MH), a juvenile on L. Palmdale, Los Angeles, Oct. 8 (JKA), an adult at H.D.L. Oct. 9 (EAC), a juvenile at N.E.S.S. Oct. 2 (RPH), another on L. Morena, San Diego, Oct. 2 (BMcC), and a juvenile seen flying west along the Tijuana R. near Imperial Beach the same day (RRV).

Three Com. Terns on Klondike L., Inyo, Sept. 13 (JLD); three more on Tinnemaha Res. Aug. 13–14 (MH); and single individuals in California City Sept. 25 (JWi), at H.D.L. Sept. 22 (CMcG), and on nearby Silverlakes the same day (AM) were all in the high desert area of the e. portion of the Region, where this species has been considered rare. An Arctic Tern was photographed onshore at Cayucos Sept. 17 (TB), another was on the beach in Goleta Sept. 28 (AB), and one staying around a fishing barge 1½ mi off Redondo Beach Oct. 2–9 (AH) was exceptionally close to shore. Two Black Skimmers at the Santa Ynez R. mouth Aug. 15 (H & OC) were the northernmost reported.

A Marbled Murrelet in Santa Barbara Aug. 23–Sept. 9 (FS) was south of its normal range. Three Craveri's Murrelets off San Diego Aug. 28 (GMcC) were the only ones reported. A Tufted Puffin, very rare in s. California waters, was 10 mi off Pismo Beach Oct. 25 (RRV).

**DOVES TO WOODPECKERS** — A Band-tailed Pigeon in California City Sept. 18 (JWi) was at an unusual location. The presence of a Spotted Dove at F.C.R. Oct. 21 (REW) indicated this introduced bird will move long distances on occasion. A White-winged Dove in Cayucos Aug. 19 (MM) was the northernmost of 20+ found along the coast. The presence of a Rufous Turtle-Dove (*Streptopelia orientalis*) of one of the eastern races with a gray tip to the tail at F.C.R. Oct. 29 (JLD) was of interest considering the number of Asiatic birds found in California this fall, and the distance this location is from a potential source for escapees; however, the previously reported bird of this species on St. Paul I. in the Pribilofs (*Am Birds* 38:1053, 1984) was considered an escaped caged bird. Two Inca Doves at F.C.R. Oct. 21–Nov. 3 (REW) were as far northwest as the species has ever been found. **Ruddy Ground-Doves** put in another appearance this fall. A



*Female Ruddy Ground-Dove at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, California, November 12, 1988. Photograph/Jon L. Dunn.*

male was found by 2 visiting birders from Massachusetts in the Tijuana R. Valley near Imperial Beach Oct. 12–20 (GMcC); a female was at the same location Oct. 22–24 (EP); a male was at F.C.R. Oct. 21–Nov. 3 (REW); and up to three females were there Nov. 3 through the end of the period with three photographed Nov. 12 (SFB, JLD) and two still present Dec. 3 (GMcC). These support the theory that this species is expanding its range with individuals pushing northward in the fall as did the Inca Dove some 100 years ago, though it is not clear that the northward movement of Inca Dove took place in fall. A **Groove-billed Ani** photographed at Galileo Hill Oct. 14–15 (JWi) was a straggler from w. Mexico and only the 4th ever found in California.

Observers along the coast reported more than the average number of Short-eared Owls during October and November, including single birds more than 100 mi off the coast Oct. 21 & 24 (RRV), suggesting some sort of a movement by this species. A Lesser Nighthawk at Desert Center, Riverside, Nov. 26 (JLD) was unusually late. Three Chimney Swifts over Long Beach Sept. 3 (JKA) had probably summered in the area. A Vaux's Swift over Malibu Aug. 28 (KLG) was a very early fall migrant. An ad. **Red-headed Woodpecker** photographed in Goleta Sept. 14 and present through the end of the period (KB) was the 2nd found in the Region and the 3rd ever in California. The first was reported at S.E.S.S. July 17–Aug. 22, 1971 (Calif. Birds 3:23–24, 1972), and the other at the extreme opposite corner of the state on Pt. St. George June 9, 1986 (Am. Birds 40:1252, 1986). An Acorn Woodpecker in Ridgecrest, Kern, Sept. 16 (DM) had flown a considerable distance across the desert. An ad. ♀ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a species proving regular in limited numbers as more observers become familiar with its diagnostic marks, was at Scotty's Castle at the n. end of Death Valley Oct. 13 (GR). A Red-naped Sapsucker on Santa Cruz I. Oct. 30 (MAH) was at an unexpected locality. A ♀ Williamson's Sapsucker at Butterbrecht Springs north of California City Sept. 30 (MH) was in the high desert, where unusual. A Hairy Woodpecker near Imperial Beach Aug. 27 (BED) was at an unusual locality. A White-headed Woodpecker in California City Sept. 16 (JWi) was the only one found away from the mountains this fall.

**FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS**— A calling W. Woodpeewee carefully identified near Imperial Beach Oct. 20–21 (EC) and another on Pt. Loma, San Diego, Oct. 22–24 (GMcC) were both very late. A Least Flycatcher in Goleta Oct. 13 (PEL) and another on Pt. Loma Sept. 11–14 (JLD) were the only ones identified this fall. A W. Flycatcher at F.C.R. Oct. 29 (DRW) was late for the n. interior. Six E. Phoebes were found with one at Morro Bay Nov. 5 (EB), one in Goleta Oct.

17–21 (PEL), a wintering bird in Santa Barbara after Nov. 8 (TEW), another at S.C.R.E. Oct. 30 (JSR), a 5th in Newport Beach Nov. 17 (LRH), and the 6th inland near Riverside Nov. 21 (MAP). The only Vermilion Flycatchers found along the coast were single birds in Goleta Oct. 25–29 (JBi), at Pt. Mugu Oct. 20 (RJM), in Irvine Oct. 15 through the end of the period (AK), and near Imperial Beach Oct. 9 (REW). A Great Crested Flycatcher at H.D.L. Sept. 14 (EAC, \*S.B.C.M.) was the earliest by 2 weeks for this Region and the first inland. A Brown-crested Flycatcher at Deep Springs, Inyo, Oct. 19 (REW) was far to the north of its limited range in California. At least 22 Tropical Kingbirds were found along the coast after Sept. 25, indicating more than the average number moved northward from breeding areas in w. Mexico.

A **Thick-billed Kingbird** near Tustin after Nov. 29 (DRW) was returning to spend its 7th winter at that location. An E. Kingbird at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Sept. 3 (JLD) was the only one found in the e. part of the Region, but six were found along the coast with single individuals on San Nicolas I. Aug. 20 (TM) and Sept. 5 (TM), in Goleta Sept. 12 (PEL), Santa Barbara Sept. 5 (BH), S.C.R.E. Sept. 3–5 (RPH), and at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego, Sept. 12 (RP). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a casual straggler to California, was photographed near San Luis Obispo Aug. 17–26 (VH).

Single Purple Martins at Galileo Hill Sept. 10 (RSa) & 25 (JWi) were in the n.e. portion of the Region, where rare, and two near Santa Maria Sept. 25 (BS) were late.

**TITMICE TO VIREOS**— As many as six Plain Titmice present in the California City/Mojave area after Sept. 30 (MOC) were the first ever found in this portion of the high desert, a considerable distance from the species' normal range. A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Nov. 20–26 (BED) was in an area where this species is considered rare during "flight years" so was totally unexpected considering how few were found elsewhere in the Region. Since W. Bluebirds are quite rare and very local in the n.e. portion of the Region, the presence of five at Oasis Nov. 2 (REW) was of interest. A Swainson's Thrush, unexplainably rare in the e. portion of the Region in fall, was at Galileo Hill Sept. 4 (JLD) and showed characteristics of the Great Basin race *almae*. A Varied Thrush on Pt. Loma Oct. 18 (B & IM) was quite far south, especially so for a fall during which very few were found anywhere in the Region.

Three Gray Catbirds, casual stragglers to California, were found: one was in the n.e. portion of the Region at F.C.R. Oct. 21–22 (REW); another was in the mountains at Paso Picacho Campground, San Diego, Oct. 29 (DA); and the 3rd was on the coast on Pt. Loma Oct. 1–26 (DH). The only Brown Thrasher reported was one in Huntington Beach Oct. 23 (HL), and the only Bendire's Thrasher found along the coast was one in Gaviota, Santa Barbara, Sept. 16 (PK). An ad. **White Wagtail** near Oxnard Oct. 16 through the end of the period (RJM) was obviously the same bird present there last winter, frequenting the same quarry used a year ago. As is now expected, a few Red-throated Pipits were present along the coast with two around Santa Maria Oct. 16 (PEL), at least four in Goleta Oct. 2–27 (SEF, HPR), one near Oxnard Oct. 11–15 (JSR), two near Imperial Beach Oct. 3 (JO'B), and one about 100 mi west of Santa Barbara I. Oct. 21 (RRV). Ten Bohemian Waxwings, sporadic wanderers to s. California, were at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nov. 19 (RMcK). Northern Shrikes may have pushed farther south than normal since four were found in the n.e. portion of the Region with an adult in Big Pine Nov. 11 (JLD) and immatures at Deep Springs Oct. 30–Nov. 2 (CMcG) and at F.C.R. Oct. 29 (BED) and photographed at Galileo Hill after Nov. 6 (JWi).

A **White-eyed Vireo** on Pt. Loma Oct. 16–25 (JO'B) was only the 2nd ever found in California in fall. A Bell's Vireo in Goleta Oct. 22–23 (HPR) had been banded as a fledgling along the Sweetwater R. near San Diego in 1987, and one on Pt.

Loma Oct 10 (REW) was felt to be of the nominate race *bellii* from the e. United States. A Gray Vireo on San Nicolas I. Sept. 5 (TM) is one of a very few ever found along the coast. A Yellow-throated Vireo, casual to accidental in California, was near Oxnard Sept. 24 (JSR). Two Philadelphia Vireos were found with one inland at Galileo Hill Oct. 19 (REW) and the other along the coast in Huntington Beach Oct. 5 (JBo). Two Red-eyed Vireos at Zzyzx, San Bernardino, Sept. 15 (GPS) were in the n.e. part of the Region, where small numbers probably occur every September, but single birds in Carpinteria Sept. 1-5 (RH), in Huntington Beach Oct. 5 (BED), and on Pt. Loma Oct. 2 (REW) were along the coast where considered very rare. A remarkable six Yellow-green Vireos were found. Along the coast, single birds were in Goleta Sept. 24 (HPR), Irvine Oct. 1 (DRW), La Jolla Oct. 21-23 (JO'B), Pt. Loma Oct. 12 (REW), and near Imperial Beach Sept. 25-26 (DMM); the 6th, at H.D.L. Oct. 2 (EAC, \*S.B.C.M.), gave us our first truly inland record.

**WOOD WARBLERS** — Even though numbers of the regularly occurring W. Coast migrants were low, all the regular vagrants were reported along with a number of truly eastern species to give us a total of 41 species found in the Region during the period.

A ♂ Blue-winged Warbler, exceptionally rare in California, was at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Sept. 13 (JLD), and another male was in Long Beach Sept. 17-18 (SD). A ♂ Golden-winged Warbler, another very rare straggler to California, was in Irvine Sept. 30-Oct. 1 (RH) with a 2nd male there Oct. 25-30 (DRW). Eighteen Tennessee Warblers along the coast after Sept. 11 represented an about-average number, but one at F.C.R. Oct. 23 (DR) and another in Banning, Riverside, Oct. 11 (RMcK) were the only ones found inland. Only nine Virginia's Warblers were reported from along the coast with single birds in Montaña de Oro S.P. Sept. 8 (AB) and Sept. 18-20 (KAH) the northernmost, far fewer than would have been expected 20 years ago. Single Lucy's Warblers at Gaviota, Santa Barbara, Aug. 15 (H & OC), in Goleta Oct. 12 (PEL), and near Imperial Beach Oct. 8-9 (JO'B) were along the coast, where considered very rare, and one at F.C.R. Sept. 3 (MAP) was late for an inland locality. Four N. Parulas along the coast Sept. 18-Oct. 26 along with three inland Sept. 3-Oct. 20 were about average. The Chestnut-sided Warbler that summered in Irvine remained through Aug. 22 (DRW), seven were found along the coast Sept. 19-Oct. 24, and one was inland at Butterbrecht Springs Sept. 9-10 (MH). A count of fourteen Magnolia Warblers Sept. 13-Oct. 17 was about average. Black-throated Blue Warblers were more numerous than expected with 20 found Sept. 18-Nov. 25, but with 12 of these on Pt. Loma Oct. 1-Nov. 5. All eight of the Black-throated Green Warblers reported Sept. 15-Nov. 19 were along the coast. A count of thirteen Blackburnian Warblers along the coast Sept. 16-Nov. 20 was about average. The only Grace's Warbler was one in Ventura after Nov. 6 (JSR) returning for its 5th winter. Three Pine Warblers, rare vagrants in California, were found around San Diego: a female was near Imperial Beach Oct. 22-23 (REW), a male was on Pt. Loma Oct. 24-25 (PU), and another male was in Presidio Park Nov. 6-7 (GMcC).

A Prairie Warbler was on San Nicolas I. Sept. 18 (TM); others were along the coast in Cambria Oct. 15 (KAH), at Montaña de Oro S.P. Sept. 20 (TME), and near Imperial Beach Sept. 25 (DP); and a 5th was photographed at Imperial Beach Oct. 6-9 (LW) to give us an average number. About 50 Palm Warblers were found after Sept. 22, including a yellow individual apparently of the eastern race *hypochrysea* on Vandenberg A.F.B. Nov. 21 (KH), and single birds at Deep Springs Oct. 19 (REW), Death Valley Jct. Oct. 8 (BED), China L. Oct. 1 (RAH), at Galileo Hill Sept. 23 (MH), and at Thousand Palms Oasis, Riverside, Oct. 19 (RMcK) were inland. The only Bay-breasted Warbler was one photographed at the Ventura R. mouth Oct. 1 (JSR). Twenty-seven Blackpoll Warblers Sept. 8-Oct. 26 were fewer than expected but included single birds

at F.C.R. Sept. 17 (BED), California City Sept. 9 (JWi), and H.D.L. Sept. 17 (EAC) that were inland. An imm. ♂ Cerulean Warbler in Irvine Oct. 1-3 (BED) was only the 9th ever found in s. California. Twenty-eight Black-and-white Warblers after Aug. 20 and 50 Am. Redstarts after Aug. 19 were both fewer than expected.

Three Prothonotary Warblers were found with one on San Nicolas I. Aug. 18-30 (TM) and others along the coast in Morro Bay Sept. 4 (GPS) and in Oceano Nov. 12 (MTH). A Worm-eating Warbler, another very rare straggler to California, was inland at Oasis Nov. 2-11 (REW), and another was on the coast in Coronado, San Diego, Sept. 22 (EC). Ovenbirds were relatively numerous with 13 found Sept. 17-Oct. 13 and an unusually late individual in Oceano Dec. 2 (KZ). Only 19 N. Waterthrushes were reported with most between Aug. 27 and Sept. 19. A ♀ Kentucky Warbler on Pt. Loma Oct. 12 (JWo) was about the 12th found in s. California in fall. A very cooperative Connecticut Warbler, a casual fall vagrant, was in Montaña de Oro S.P. Sept. 23-25 (GPS). A Mourning Warbler, always a challenge to identify in California, was in Goleta Sept. 15-16 (PEL), and another remained in Huntington Beach Sept. 5-20 (LRH). Four Hooded Warblers, rarer in fall than in spring, were a male at F.C.R. Sept. 3 (BED), a female in California City Oct. 8-14 (JWi), another female in Irvine Oct. 23-30 (MH), and a singing male on Pt. Loma Sept. 11 (JLD). Seven Canada Warblers were reported from along the coast Sept. 8-Oct. 18, slightly more than expected. A Painted Redstart in Santa Maria after Oct. 22 (KH) was undoubtedly the same bird that spent last winter at that location, and another was on Pt. Loma Oct. 2-5 (JO).

**TANAGERS TO ORIOLES** — A ♂ Hepatic Tanager on Pt. Loma Sept. 10-18 (JO) and a ♀-plumaged bird at F.C.R. Oct. 23 (DR) were fall vagrants, but a male in Santa Barbara after Nov. 5 (KB) was apparently the same bird that had spent the past 6 winters there. Twenty Summer Tanagers along the coast Aug. 24-Nov. 17 appeared to be about average. Three Scarlet Tanagers, a species that for some unknown reason occurs much more frequently in extreme s. California than anywhere else in the state, were found on Pt. Loma with single birds there Oct. 16 (REW), Oct. 23-30 (DB), and Oct. 29 (REW). Twenty-three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Aug. 8-Nov. 12 were about average, but 19 Indigo Buntings Aug. 17-Nov. 5 were fewer than expected. A female-plumaged Painted Bunting in Cambria Sept. 18-20 (GPS), another photographed in Montaña de Oro S.P. Sept. 29 (GH), and a 3rd in Goleta Nov. 4-5 (PEL) were all assumed to be genuine vagrants, but the presence of an ad. male in Huntington Beach Nov. 11-12 (BED), with orange rather than red on the underparts that matched the coloration of known caged birds, clearly shows that some found in California are escapees. The only Dickcissel found this fall was one at Galileo Hill Sept. 5-10 (JWi, ph.)

A Rufous-crowned Sparrow banded at Dripping Springs in the Granite Mts. of e. San Bernardino Nov. 12 (BC) was of the interior race *scottii* about whose range we still know very little. About 30 Clay-colored Sparrows were reported, including an unusually early individual in Goleta Aug. 20-Sept. 2 (PEL) and a late bird inland at Galileo Hill Nov. 26 (MH). Since Black-throated Sparrows are very rare stragglers to the coast, single birds in Goleta Sept. 16-18 (CMcG) and on Pt. Loma Oct. 1-3 (REW) were of interest. Six Lark Buntings were found at widely scattered localities in the interior Aug. 30-Sept. 10, but the only ones found along the coast were single birds in Goleta Sept. 12 (PEL), Oct. 6-12 (PEL), and Oct. 22-23 (HPR), and another near Oxnard Sept. 17-18 (RJM). Totally unexpected was an influx of Large-billed Savannah Sparrows *A. s. rostratus* to the coast, particularly around San Diego Bay, as indicated by a count of 14 around the mouth of the



*Le Conte's Sparrow at China Lake, California, December 3, 1988.*  
 Photograph/Rick Hallowell.

Sweetwater R. Sept. 3 (PU) and single birds identified on Upper Newport Bay, Orange, Nov. 9 (KLG) and Nov. 24 (BED), one at Seal Beach Nov. 22 (LRH), and two at S.C.R.E. Sept. 23 (RJM), for the first such influx in more than 30 years.

A **Le Conte's Sparrow** photographed at China L. Nov. 27 (RAH) was only the 6th ever found in s. California; it appeared to be attempting to winter. Unprecedented was the occurrence of single Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Goleta Oct. 4-6 & 17 (PEL), in Santa Barbara Oct. 2-4 (AB), and at S.C.R.E. Sept. 29-30 (RJM); these were the first ever found along the coast away from tidal marshes, and they established the earliest dates for occurrences in fall; three together in the tidal marshes of Morro Bay Nov. 12 (TME) fit the pattern of previous occurrences. Swamp Sparrows were relatively numerous with 25 found at scattered localities throughout the Region after Oct. 16. Twenty White-throated Sparrows were fewer than normal, and no Harris' Sparrows were reported. A McCown's Longspur at F.C.R. Oct. 20-22 (REW) was the first for that locality, and another near Cantil Nov. 25-30 (MH) was the first for Kern. Single Lapland Longspurs near Santa Maria Oct. 16 (PEL) and in Goleta Oct. 20 (PEL), two near Oxnard Oct. 13 (RJM), and one or two near Mission Viejo Nov. 13-20 (RRV) were along the coast, and single birds at F.C.R. Oct. 20-22 (REW) and near Needles Nov. 25 (PEL) were inland. A total of 45 Chestnut-collared Longspurs were reported, including up to 25 near Cantil after Nov. 25 (MH) and one on Pt. Loma Oct. 22-23 (JM).

Some 60 Bobolinks were found along the coast Sept. 7-Oct. 16, but single birds at F.C.R. Sept. 3 (BED) and Oct. 8 (BED) and four in the Galileo Hill/California City area Sept. 5-15 (JWi, MOC, JLD) were inland. As usual a few Rusty Blackbirds reached our area with one at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley Oct. 21-Nov. 12 (REW), another at nearby Panamint Springs Nov. 27 (PEL), one photographed near Blythe Nov. 24-26 (PEL), and three on San Nicolas I. Nov. 9 (TM). Great-tailed Grackles continued to attract attention by their presence along the coast with one in Oceano; three together at L. Casitas, Ventura; another in Ventura throughout the period; and up to 20 near Imperial Beach during November. Only

four Orchard Orioles were reported with a one-year-old male inland at Stovepipe Wells Aug. 13 (JLD) and single birds along the coast, in Goleta Nov. 1 (PEL), Irvine Nov. 27 (LRH), and near Imperial Beach Sept. 25 (RRV). Seven N. (Baltimore) Orioles were found, including a female inland at Finney L. near S.E.S.S. Sept. 13 (JO).

**CORRIGENDUM** — The hummingbirds reported in Redlands and near Hesperia in the Spring Migration Report (Am. Birds 42:432, 1988) were Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, not Broad-billed Hummingbirds as published.

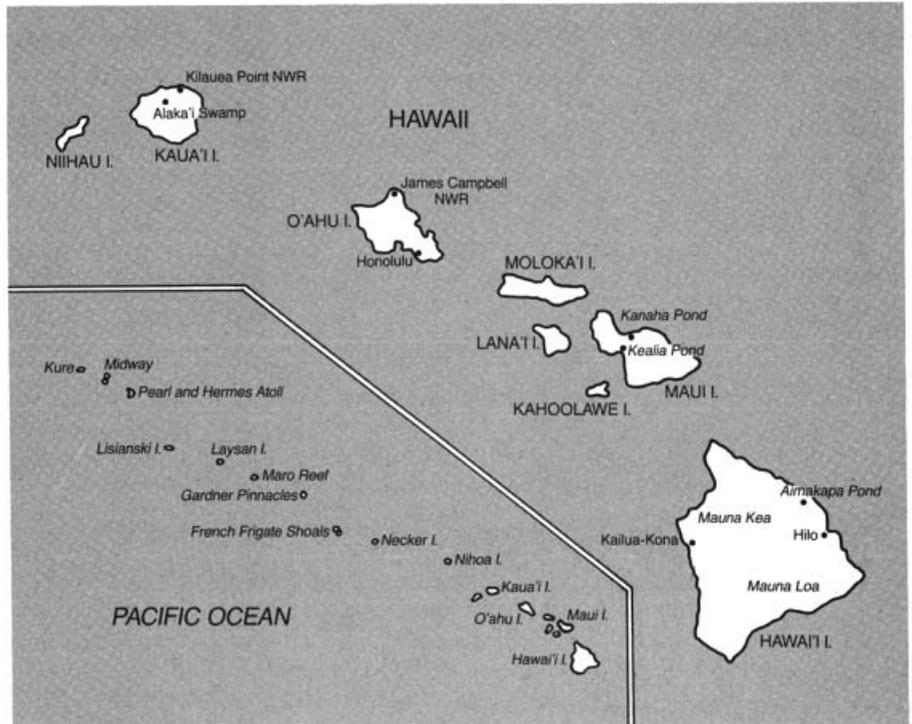
**ADDENDA** — A report of a breeding-plumaged Horned Grebe at Rancho de Nada near Cantil, Kern, May 20 (JLD) and an ad. W. Gull at Edwards, Kern, Apr. 17 (MH) were inadvertently omitted from the Spring Migration Report; a report of the presence of up to six Pinyon Jays at S.E.S.S. Apr. 14-July 13 (Bill Henry) was only recently received; these were undoubtedly birds remaining from the winter.

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# HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle



Good fall rains, particularly on Kaua'i and Maui, brought 1988 totals to above normal at almost all stations on those islands. But all stations on O'ahu and many on Hawai'i remained below normal. A Great Crested Tern on O'ahu provided the first record of this species for Hawaii and for the A.O.U. Check-List area.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — H. = Hawai'i I.; K. = Kaua'i I.; M. = Maui I.; O. = O'ahu I.; HRBP = prefix for Hawaii Rare Bird Documentary Photograph numbers; J.C.N.W.R. = James Campbell Nat'l Wildlife Ref., O'ahu; K.M.C.A.S. = Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station, O'ahu; K.P.N.W.R. = Kilauea Point Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Kaua'i.

**GREBES TO STORM-PETRELS** — The naturally established population of Pied-billed Grebes at Aimakapa Pond, H., continues to grow. Twelve individuals are now on the pond, and 5 active nests were recorded during this season (RD). The first Laysan Albatross returned to K.P.N.W.R. Nov. 15 (TO). By mid-December, 18 nest attempts had been made at Kilauea Pt., and 7 more at Crater Hill and Mokolea Pt., which were added to the Refuge this year. Four nests were started at nearby Kepuhi Pt. (DM). Also on Kaua'i, Laysans were first noticed across the island at Pacific Missile Range Nov. 16 this year (TO), but population build-up and nesting there are being discouraged because of interference with Range operations. On O'ahu they were first seen at Dillingham airstrip Nov. 27 and across the island at K.M.C.A.S. Nov. 28 (TO). The continuing increase each year in numbers of these albatrosses and their spread southeastward through the main islands suggests that the new Nature Conservancy

Preserve at Mo'omomi Dunes on Moloka'i, a seemingly ideal nesting area for Laysans, could become the next protected site for establishment of a successful nesting colony.

The build-up of nesting populations of Pied-billed Grebes and Laysan Albatrosses in the main islands from the first founding explorers a decade or two ago has been very well-documented, and provides instructive examples of how vagrant or occasionally visiting species can colonize these isolated mid-ocean islands.

Shortly after dawn Oct. 9 a petrel flew into the bridge of a cruise ship as it entered the harbor at Kailua-Kona, H. It was taken to a veterinarian, identified as a **Mottled Petrel** (RD) by a skilled seabird observer, and successfully released Oct. 12 at nearby Kukio Beach. Another bird identified as a Mottled Petrel (AE) was glimpsed as it crossed the bow of an inter-island ferry between Moloka'i and O'ahu Oct. 19. Mottled Petrel is reported rarely, but more frequently than other non-breeding petrel species in near-shore waters. Three late Wedge-tailed Shearwaters were still present in the K.P.N.W.R. nesting colony Nov. 22 (fide DP). A Newell's Shearwater on the ground at K.P.N.W.R. Aug. 7 (BE) represented an early date for these to be moving out from their mountain nesting areas.

Band-rumped Storm-Petrel is an enigma in Hawaii. An endemic Hawaiian race was described from juveniles collected off Kaua'i in the 1890s, but no nests have been found, and the race is not considered valid. The few reports of the species in Hawaii over the years have been mostly of individuals heard at night. Thus, the three specimens collected in Hawaii this season were remarkable. One imm. female flew onto a fishing boat off Kane'ohe, O., Nov. 1 (AE). One was found in early November at Kulani Correctional Center, H., on the slopes of Mauna Loa more than 20 km from the sea, and later died at Pana'ewa Zoo in Hilo (RD, AE). A 3rd was turned in to the shearwater aid program on Kaua'i (fide AE).

**FRIGATEBIRDS TO DUCKS** — A sighting Sept. 14 of five Great Frigatebirds in the air inland above Kainaliu, Kona, H., at 1500' elevation (BM) furnished an interesting locality record. A Great Blue Heron Sept. 20–22 and an imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron Aug. 10–19 at Tern I., F.F.S. (fide KM) were among the very few (if not the first) reports of these species in the Northwestern Hawaiian Is. Two wandering Cattle Egrets were also at Tern I. until Sept. 1 (fide KN), and then two appeared farther out the chain at Laysan I. Sept. 19–20 only (JM).

A high count of 26 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks was reported at Amoriant Aquafarm, O., Oct. 9 (RLP), and on the same date BE saw 2 broods totaling 10 ducklings there. This is another species that has successfully established itself in Hawaii over the past decade. A small Canada Goose of undetermined race first seen at the east ponds of Amoriant Aquafarm Oct. 22 was joined by a Lesser Canada in late November (GK, AE, RLP), both different from the "Taverner's" Canada Goose resident for a couple of years at the west ponds of Amoriant. Another small Canada Goose, probably *hutchinsii*, was seen from Oct. 8 through the fall at Waiakea Pond in Hilo, H.

Northern Pintails and N. Shovelers, which make up the overwhelming bulk of migrant ducks, arrived this fall in numbers well below normal. But there was great diversity in the scarcer species showing up in ones or a few individuals. Green-winged and Blue-winged teal and both wigeons were at their usual haunts on O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i, and single ♀ Green-wingeds turned up at Tern I., F.F.S., Nov. 7 (fide KM) and at Laysan I. Nov. 9 (JM, PH). Up to three Garganeys were seen in or near J.C.N.W.R. from Oct. 9 onward (AE), one arrived at Aimakapa Pond, H., Nov. 5 (RD), and one to two were at Laysan I. Sept. 29–Nov. 8 (JM, PH). A Canvasback and a Tufted Duck were reported in or near J.C.N.W.R., and a fine breeding-plumaged ♂ Redhead observed at Loko Waka Pond near Hilo, H., Nov. 16–26 (HK, DP, RD) furnished one of very few state records for the species. A ♀ Common Goldeneye seen at Laysan I. Nov. 5–13 (ph. JM, PH) furnished only the 2nd record for the state. And finally, a ♀ Common Merganser was found Oct. 18 (AE, RD, RLP) and Nov. 15 (DP) at Kealia Pond, M., the same spot where the first and 2nd records for the state occurred within the past 3 years.

**RAPTORS TO TERNS** — A Northern Harrier, a species recorded no more than 5 times in the state, was observed well in flight over Mahana, w. of the airport on Moloka'i, Nov. 6 (Tod Lum, fide TP). Gambel's Quail were seen commonly on Kaho'olawe I. during several visits in August and September (BE), and three were found Oct. 16 along Mana Rd. on the s.e. slope of Mauna Kea, H. (AE, DJ), where they have been reported previously in the past year or two. Single Hawaiian (Am.) Coots (Endangered) turned up at Tern I., F.F.S., during August (KM) and at Laysan from mid-September to mid-November when the observers departed (ph. JM). Coots are rare wanderers in the Northwestern Hawaiian Is.

A Gray-tailed Tattler at Amoriant Aquafarm, O., was seen well and heard calling by numerous observers on many visits from Aug. 7 (AE, RLP) through season's end. A 2nd Gray-tailed was at Aimakapa Pond, H., Aug. 7–Sept. 24 (RD). The only prior record of the species in the main Hawaiian Is. was of the bird at J.C.N.W.R., adjacent to Amoriant Aquafarm, in April 1988. A Marbled Godwit (3rd state record, HRBP-796 et al.) was found on a large lawn bordering Waiakea Pond in Hilo, H., Oct. 2 (BM) & 3 (ph. RD, RLP), but could not be found thereafter.

Of 150 Bristle-thighed Curlews banded at Laysan I. Aug. 30–Nov. 14, almost all were still present in mid-November. Ratios of marked to unmarked birds sighted suggested a total island population of 300–350 birds (JM, PH). One bird captured at Laysan Sept. 13 had been banded in April 1988 in the Yukon Delta, AK. Three Bristle-thigheds on the beach at



*Marbled Godwit (with Lesser Golden-Plover) at Waiakea Pond, Hilo, Hawaii, October 3, 1988. Third state record. Photograph/Reginald David (HRBP #797).*



*Juvenile Red Knot at Waipi'o Peninsula, O'ahu, Hawaii, September 14, 1988. Rare visitor to Hawaii. Photograph/Peter Donaldson (HRBP #806).*

Kawa'aloa Bay, Molokai, Aug. 18 (JA) and one at Hanawi high on the slope of Haleakala Mtn., M., Aug. 30 (RD), furnished interesting locality records.

Impressive numbers of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers reached the islands this fall. Three favored localities on O'ahu had up to five to seven birds from Oct. 6 through November. At Kealia Pond, M., an unprecedented 39 were counted Oct. 17 & 18 (AE). Sharp-taileds were at Laysan I. through the fall with a high count of 15 on Oct. 18 (JM, PH). Pectoral Sandpipers were present in good numbers at all these localities for ready comparison. Other unusual shorebird species recorded this fall included Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper (on Kaho'olawe and Laysan), Eurasian Whimbrel, Red Knot (Maui Sept. 4, O'ahu Sept. 6–Oct. 15 HRBP-806, 807), Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers, Ruff (Maui, F.F.S., Laysan), and Red-necked Phalarope (Laysan).

A Great Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*) was discovered at Pa'akai Pond, K.M.C.A.S. Oct. 21 (RLP) and was seen by numerous observers through December (HRBP-800 et al.). This was the first occurrence of this species in Hawaii, and apparently the first for the A.O.U. Check-List area. Crested Terns are resident on tropical islands from the central Pacific westward to Africa. Excellent photos have been obtained; further details will be published later. A Com. Tern was seen

well at Kī'i Pond, O., Nov. 19 & 26 (AE, BE et al.). At least six to eight White Terns were found in Kapiolani Park, O., Nov. 11; two were incubating single eggs on large limbs of casuarina trees at the s.e. end of the park (DP).

**OWLS TO ESTRILDIDS** — Two Hawaiian (Short-eared) Owls were seen hunting in Lualualei Valley Aug. 30 (BE) and one was at Waipi'o Oct. 12 (PD), both on O'ahu where this endemic Hawaiian race is becoming very scarce. One was also seen Nov. 14 on uninhabited Kaho'olawe I. west of Maui (BE). Single Short-eareds observed at Laysan I. Nov. 10 (JM, PH) and at Tern I., F.F.S., Dec. 4 (fide KM) might have been stragglers from the north rather than Hawaiian birds. An arduous hike Oct. 23 to the traditional nesting caves of Gray Swiftlets at the headwaters of N. Halawa Stream, O., was rewarded with sightings of three adults, four juveniles in nests, and 13 nests already empty (TP). Six Japanese Bush-Warblers heard singing near Punamano Pond, O., Nov. 11 (DP) were interesting for this date and locality within a mile of the coast. A group of five Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrushes on Haiku Rd., K., Oct. 10 included one pair feeding a fledgling (AE). Two Red-billed Leiothrix at Crater View

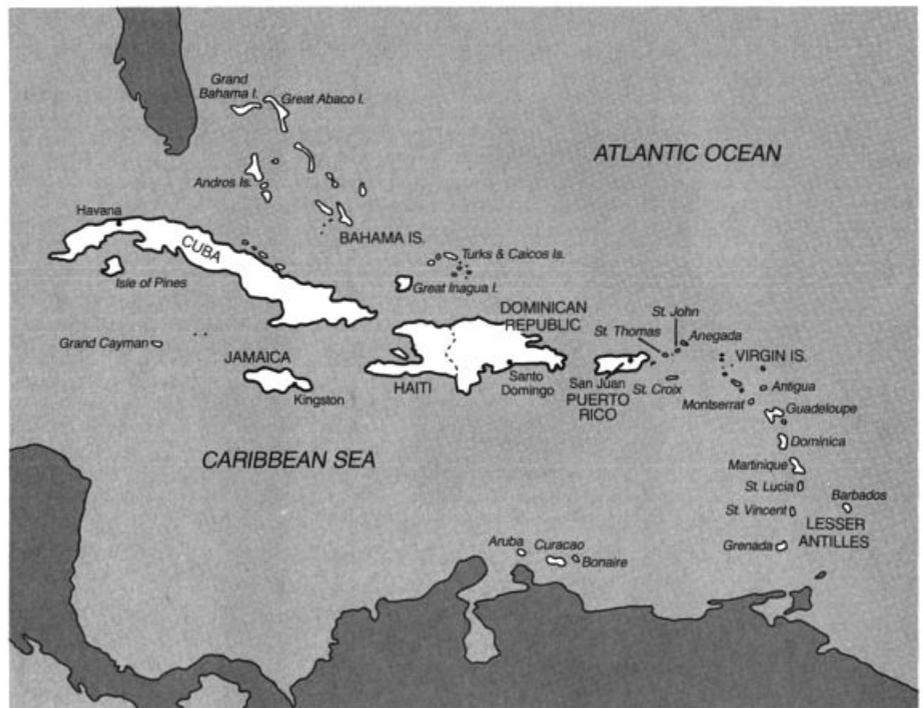
Overlook high on 10,000' Haleakala Mt., M., Nov. 14 seemed well out of their usual range and habitat (DP).

Red-crested Cardinals continue to increase on Maui, with reports this season from Haiku and upper Kula (fide FD). The ♂ Great-tailed Grackle was seen again in Sand I. Park, O., in late August and early September (AE). A total of 16 Black-rumped Waxbills was found Oct. 12 in a mixed flock of estrildids at Puu Anahulu Ranch, H., the only locality now known for this rare species in Hawaii (AE, DJ). Warbling Silverbills were seen commonly on Kaho'olawe I. during several visits in August and September (BE), and a group of nine to 12 was found on Lana'i I. Aug. 23 (SS).

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## WEST INDIES REGION

Robert L. Norton



**R**ainfall in the Region (as measured at Cruz Bay, St. John, in the United States Virgin Islands) increased substantially as a result of a series of tropical waves, depressions, and hurricanes.

Florence, the sixth storm of the season, reached hurricane status in the Gulf of Mexico by early September; it was quickly followed by hurricane Gilbert, which formed southwest of Puerto Rico and raced toward Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. Tropical storm Joan glanced off Gren-

ada and slipped along the northern coastal islands of South America, later to become a hurricane in mid-October. It was shortly after this storm that the African migratory locust was discovered virtually throughout the Lesser Antilles, from Grenada to the Virgin Islands. The season also produced Black-tailed Godwit, two Gray Herons, and the nominate race of Osprey, all of which may have arrived by the same route as the African insect. These lend greater credence to the idea that the Lesser Antilles

may serve as the portal for trans-oceanic invasions of African birds, such as Cattle Egret, Western Reef-Heron, Little Egret, and possibly others.

Shorebird watching at the Southeast Peninsula of St. Kitts proved to be extraordinary during the fourth week-end of September, perhaps as a result of Gilbert. Twenty-five species of shorebirds were observed in two days (RLN). Birds observed there included ten new records for the island and one for the Region.

It was disturbing to learn that Graeme Hall Swamp on Barbados is in danger of being sold for commercial development. Immediate international concern should be voiced for this extraordinary wetland, which has provided some unprecedented records for the West Indies over the last few decades. Correspondence may be forwarded to this editor.

**ABBREVIATIONS** — U.S.V.I. = United States Virgin Islands.

**HERONS TO TERNS** — Two **Gray Herons** were carefully identified at Graeme Hall Swamp, Barbados, Nov. 8 (PWS, SAS). This widespread Old World species is casual to accidental as a visitor to the Antilles. Full details are expected elsewhere. On Nov. 16 a brief search was made for Little Egret and W. Reef-Heron at sites described by PWS in 1985 at Vieux Fort, St. Lucia; the search was unsuccessful (RLN, RD). Eight Lesser Scaup observed at Vieux Fort Nov. 16 furnished a first record for St. Lucia (RLN, RD). An Osprey carefully observed during late October and early November at Gros Islet, St. Lucia, was thought to be of the nominate race *P. h. haliaetus* from the Old World (SA). Atkins, familiar with this subspecies from residency in West Africa, reported that it appeared shortly after tropical storm Joan. I saw it at close range at Reduit, St. Lucia, Nov. 17, and noted its light brown breast shield and its apparently slighter build than *carolinensis*. A Peregrine Falcon seen at St. Croix Sept. 19 was early, and one at White House Bay, St. Kitts, Oct. 24 may have been the earliest ever for that island (RLN).

Three species of godwits were recorded from the Region within 3 weeks of Gilbert's passage through the Caribbean. A Marbled Godwit and eight Hudsonian Godwits were seen at St. Croix Oct. 2-5 (RW, FS *et al.*). And a **Black-tailed Godwit** in fading alternate plumage was carefully studied at Cockleshell Bay, St. Kitts, Sept. 23 (RLN) for a first record for the West Indies. Some details of plumage suggested the race *L. l. islandica*. The first Solitary Sandpiper for St. Kitts was recorded Oct. 24 (RLN). A 2nd-year Ring-billed Gull and a first-year Herring Gull were seen at Basseterre, St. Kitts, Oct. 23-24 (RLN), furnishing the first reports from that island. An imm Ring-billed was seen Nov. 8 at Rabacca, St. Vincent (PWS, SAS). On Nov. 17, a 2nd-year Herring Gull being pursued by frigatebirds off Cas en Bas (RLN) furnished a first record for St. Lucia. Hundreds of Brown Noddies were noted in migration off the n.e. coast of Martinique Sept. 2 (RW, RLN). Three juv. Common Terns were seen Nov. 6 (PWS, SAS) at Rabacca, St. Vincent.

**PARROTS TO COWBIRDS** — The St. Lucia Parrot is apparently making a significant comeback. Butler (1987) reported that the estimated population had reached about 200-250. Four parrots were heard and two were possibly seen near Millet, St. Lucia, Nov. 18 (KG, RLN, CP). Fifteen St. Vincent Parrots were seen Nov. 5 from the "parrot bench" at Vermont Nat'l Reserve, St. Vincent (PWS, SAS). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was identified Nov. 12 near the Lucayan N.P., Grand Bahama (RR); the species is not often reported in this Region. Bare-eyed Thrush, a recent (1951) arrival in Martinique from

St. Lucia, was reported to be rare in Martinique as recently as 1971 but has since been found to be widespread there. Wauer and Norton found it common this season in lowland and coastal forest in e. and s. Martinique, where agriculture and charcoal production may have provided an avenue for wider distribution. It is uncertain whether Bare-eyed Thrush may continue to extend its range north, i.e. to Dominica and Guadeloupe.

Blackpoll Warblers in migration were noted on the Southeast Peninsula of St. Kitts Oct. 23-24 (RLN). Two Bobolinks seen at the Great Salt Pond, St. Kitts, were the first recorded for that island. The endemic Martinique Oriole was not encountered in the drier southern areas of Martinique, where it had been expected (RW, RLN). Another one-island endemic, the St. Lucia Oriole, appears to be most numerous at higher elevations; possibly the parasitic Shiny Cowbird is having a greater impact at lower elevations. A fledgling Shiny Cowbird was being fed by a Tropical Mockingbird Nov. 4 at Kingston, St. Vincent (PWS, SAS).

**EXOTICS** — Village Weavers have established a colony on St. Pierre near Fond Corre, Martinique. At least 24 seen there (RW, RLN) provided a first report for the island and possibly for the Lesser Antilles. Red Bishops were encountered frequently in the area of Fort-de-France's airport (RLN, RW). Wauer reported a ♂ Red Bishop seen during August near South Gate, St. Croix. A single Bronze Mannikin was noted in the sugarcane/grassland edge of Genipa, Martinique.

**ADDENDA** — Seabirds of the Culebra archipelago were studied during the summer of 1988 (JB, MG, JS). They reported stable numbers of small breeding groups of Audubon's Shearwaters (11 pairs), Red-footed Boobies (2 pairs), and Masked Boobies (3 pairs). A Solitary Sandpiper seen July 14 and a 2nd-year Ring-billed Gull seen July 24, 1988, represented first summer records of these species for St. Croix (FS). House Sparrows (first recorded on Hispaniola in 1978) were seen at a nest in a utility pole cavity in Puerta Plata, Dominican Republic, on Feb. 22, 1988 (M & JJ).

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